

# HOLY TRINITY (OLD SWEDES) CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.

THE HENDRICKSON HOUSE / 606 CHURCH STREET / WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

October 30, 2000

Mr. David Miles Vardiman  
707 East Fullview Ave.  
Woodland Park, CO 80863

Dear Mr. Vardiman,

I have received a copy of your e-mail letter from Jo Thompson, our director. I see she has given you some answers to questions you asked, but I think I can help clarify some things.

Andrew Hesselius was married at Old Swedes Church on May 3, 1713, the same day that he took over the regular pastorate from his predecessor, Eric Bjork, the first pastor. His last service was on September 15, 1723 when he handed it over to his brother, Samuel Hesselius, whose farewell sermon was preached on Oct. 10, 1731.

I have enclosed an enlarged copy of an early map of the northern part of Delaware, which shows some of the Hundreds which are pertinent to the Vardiman history. Appoquinimink Hundred is in the lower part of the map. Blackbird Creek runs right through the middle of it and Appoquinimink Creek is its northern boundary. As near as I can determine, there were no churches within those boundaries in the early 1700s, but there were two churches which still exist just to the north of Appoquinimink Creek. One was the Presbyterian church called Old Drawyers which was situated near Drawyers Creek next north of Appoquinimink Creek.

Regular services are no longer held in Old Drawyers, but they do have an annual service. We have in our library here at the church, a book which Old Drawyers church published during one of their anniversaries, containing vital records of the church members. The name Vardiman (or its variants) does not appear anywhere in this book.

The other church mentioned above was Old St. Anne's Protestant Episcopal Church in Middletown. The first church was built there in 1705, the present church being constructed in 1768. It is still an active church. I called to ask them if they still have old records. They said they did, but they are somewhat difficult to use, but they would be glad to try to look up whatever I needed. I suggested that I would have you get directly in touch with them. The address is: St. Anne's Church, PO Box 421, Middletown, DE 19709. Their phone number is 302-378-2401.

The only other early churches in that general area were a Presbyterian church and an Episcopal Church in St. Georges, and two Friends Meetings, one at Port Penn and one at Smyrna, but none of these churches are standing any longer, and they are all somewhat

away from Appoquinimink Hundred.

Two other places to look for Delaware records are:

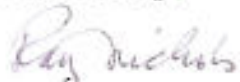
Historical Society of Delaware  
505 North Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801-3091  
Phone: 303-655-7161

Delaware Public Archives  
Hall of Records  
Dover, DE 19901  
Phone: 302-739-5318  
FAX: 303-739-2578

A book called "Ship Passenger Lists, Pennsylvania and Delaware (1641-1825)" has been published by Family Line Publications. I have not found it to be very helpful, by itself, for many of the listings are just names of other publications without giving any detailed excerpts. In the preface of this book which was written in 1980, they mention an important impending publication of P. William Filby's "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index" by Gale Research. If this is now available, it sounds like it might be helpful to you.

Let me know if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,



Ray Nichols  
Archivist



NOTE: This map was drawn using the tools of the day and is good for 1796 but not as accurate as later ones, e.g. some of the labels for WhiClay, Redlion and LewesR Hd are outside their boundaries. For a quite accurate "old" map, consult the 1868 Beers Atlas.

