



# PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS

The New Sweden settlers began a peaceful trade with nearby Indian tribes, but they suffered a significant setback in August 1638, when Peter Minuit died in a Caribbean hurricane while trying to sail back to Sweden. His colony soldiered on for the next couple years, surviving on corn and other goods bought from the Indians and the nearby British and Dutch. Nevertheless, it remained little more than a far-flung outpost until 1643, when a formidable Swedish military officer named Johan Printz took over as governor.

A giant bear of a man—his 400-pound frame earned him the nickname “Big Belly” from the Indians—Printz was also a shrewd leader who was determined to extend the reach of his colony. Shortly after his arrival, the Swedes reinforced Fort Christina and established Fort Elfsborg and Fort New Gothenburg, two additional bastions on the Delaware River. They also increased their trade with the Indians and began growing food and tobacco crops on plantations.

The vast majority of New Sweden’s settlers were natives of Sweden and Finland, and they introduced Lutheran Christianity and several Scandinavian customs to the New World. Perhaps most influential was their habit of building log cabins, which later became a fixture of North American architecture. Johan Printz built a two-story log dwelling known as “Printzhof” near Philadelphia, but most of the colonists’ cabins were more humble affairs. One example located in Gibbstown, New Jersey, dates to as early as 1638 and is considered the oldest surviving log cabin in the United States. Despite Printz’s early improvements, the New Sweden colony never became as prosperous as its Dutch and English competitors to the north and south. Part of the problem was a near-constant lack of manpower and government support.



The colony’s population was often less than 200, and interest in immigrating was almost nonexistent back in Sweden. Settlers were so hard to come by that the Swedish crown eventually resorted to forcing petty criminals and military deserters to serve, but the colony was still largely neglected.

“I look at myself at least 100 times a day in this mirror,” Governor Printz wrote in 1644, “God knows with what doubts, for I sit here alone and there are hardly 30 men, of all that are here upon whom I can rely.”

The colony’s troubles only mounted in 1647, when a headstrong Dutchman named Peter Stuyvesant took over as director-general of the neighboring settlement of New Netherland. Under his rule, the Dutch took a more hard-nosed approach to the Swedish interlopers by restricting New Sweden’s access to the Delaware River and squeezing it out of the fur trade. In 1651, meanwhile, the Dutch built a stronghold called Fort Casimir only a few miles away from Fort Christina.

Even as the Dutch applied pressure from the outside, New Sweden also suffered from internal turmoil. Colonists were deserting the settlement in droves, and many others had grown dissatisfied with Printz’s iron-fisted rule. Having served for a decade, the hulking governor finally stepped down in 1653 and returned to Sweden. His replacement, Johan Rising, arrived the following year along with several hundred new colonists. Rising had orders to avoid “danger and hostility” with the Dutch, yet shortly after his arrival, he seized Stuyvesant’s Fort Casimir, which the Swedes renamed Fort Trinity. The ill-advised attack proved to be New Sweden’s undoing. Just a year later in August of 1655, Stuyvesant retaliated by sailing seven ships and several hundred troops up the Delaware. In short order, his superior Dutch force recaptured Fort Trinity and secured the surrender of Fort Christina and several other Swedish holdings on the river. Having survived for some 17 years, New Sweden ceased to exist as an independent settlement.

Sweden never again had an American colony after 1655, but its short-lived enterprise left a mark on the Delaware River Valley. Many Swedes and Finns continued to live in the area after the Dutch annexation, and they remained

a major demographic force up until the English took over and set up the Pennsylvania colony in the 1680s. Even as late as the 1750s, visitors reported that the Swedish language was still being spoken in the region. Despite its failure, New Sweden would prove to be only the first chapter in the history of the Swedes in North America. While Scandinavian immigration to the colonies slowed to a trickle during the 1700s, it surged again during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when some 1.3 million Swedes relocated to the United States.

*Thanks to Ron Mitchell for submitting this article.*

## Ground-breaking documentarian DA Pennebaker dies

By Richard Phillips

10 August 2019



[Credit: David Shankbone]

D.A. (Donn Alan) Pennebaker, one of the masters of American contemporary documentary filmmaking, died last week, a few weeks after his 94th birthday.

Known as “Penny” to his family and colleagues, Pennebaker leaves behind a legacy of more than 40 films and an enormous archive of unreleased material that will hopefully be seen in future releases by Chris Hegedus, his wife and life-long artistic collaborator. Born in Illinois in 1925, the son of a commercial photographer, Pennebaker served in the Navy during World War II. After the war he studied and worked as an engineer before directing his first film—*Daybreak Express*—a five-minute work about a subway station in New York and set to music by Duke Ellington—in 1953.

As the 1998 article below explains, it was the beginning of a more than 60-year career and one that set new standards in documentary filmmaking. Pennebaker pioneered the use of handheld cameras and eschewed narrations or editorial comment to achieve an immediacy and closeness not previously achieved in documentary filmmaking.

With early collaborators—*LIFE* magazine editor and journalist Robert Drew and Richard Leacock—he developed “observational” political documentaries that in the beginning were sold to the television networks. *Primary* [1960], the first of these films, covered the Democratic primary race that year between John F. Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey in Wisconsin.

The reserved and quietly spoken Pennebaker will probably be most remembered for his music documentaries, which charted the emergence of contemporary rock, particularly during the mid-1960s and early 1970s. These are important cultural records of that period.

Pennebaker’s *Monterey Pop* (1968) and the performances of Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Otis Redding, the Mamas & the Papas, Jefferson Airplane, The Who and others are some of the most electrifying live performances captured on film from that era.

Behind-the-scenes tour footage and concerts by Bob Dylan (*Don’t Look Back* [1967]), John Lennon (*Sweet Toronto* [1971]) and David Bowie (*Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* [1973]) and a long list of other musicians, including Depeche Mode, Little Richard and Chuck Berry, were filmed by Pennebaker.

The recipient of numerous awards, Pennebaker was given a lifetime achievement Oscar in 2013, in recognition of his contribution to documentary filmmaking.

### Reunion Recap

For those of you who attended the reunion, thank you very much for coming. It was wonderful meeting so many cousins that I had not previously known. What a fantastic cross-section of America the family has become. We covered both coasts, from the folks who came from California and Washington state to the families from New England all the way down the coast to Florida. Middle America was represented by families from Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Missouri and Wisconsin. The south was represented by families from Virginia, North and South Carolina and Alabama. I’m sure I’ve missed some states in between. I also have to thank the family who came all the way from Australia.

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All three day's events went as planned, except for some very hot and humid Pennsylvania weather during the picnic. Everyone seemed to have a great time!

A special thanks to the members of the organizing committee: Sandy Pennypacker, Mary Bullock, Tom Armstrong, Sue Costantini, Ed Pennypacker and Ron Pennypacker. A job well done!

There will be additional reunion pictures and commentary on the family web site in the coming months. I'm still recovering from the reunion planning and need to gather material and pictures, not to mention that the program I use for the web site has been discontinued by Apple.



Anyone who has pictures from the reunion that you would like to share, please send them to Bruce at, [pannebakkerfa@gmail.com](mailto:pannebakkerfa@gmail.com). Please include names of those pictured as best as you can. Also, please send and comments, reactions or impressions from the reunion. We have discussed putting together a booklet similar to the 1877 reunion booklet and we need your input.

Several people have asked why there have been no newsletters since December of 2018. The answer is that I have been all-consumed with reunion planning. This is the first of the regular quarterly newsletters.

Please help me out by submitting family related articles, obituaries, births, graduations, marriages, etc. If you come across an article that you think would be of particular interest to the family, please submit it.

You may notice that the Board of Directors has changed. The previous Board was made up of the organizing committee of the 1999 reunion. The new Board is the organizing committee from 2019.

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# *Pannebakker Family Association*



The Pannebakker Family Association is an outgrowth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699. In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."