

August 9, 2003

**TO:** Members and officers of Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc. and the New Sweden Historical Society

**RE.:** Possible merger between Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc. and the Sons and Daughters of New Sweden (also known as "the New Sweden Historical Society")

During the winter and spring of 2003, a committee of four persons met to discuss the ramifications of a possible merger between Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc. and the Sons and Daughters of New Sweden (also known as "the New Sweden Historical Society"). The committee members were chosen to represent the interests of both societies. The members were Alan Kampe (who holds membership in Maine's Swedish Colony only), Janice McDougal (who holds membership in the New Sweden Historical Society only), and Alwin Espling and Daniel Olson (who hold memberships in both groups).

We the members of this committee have discussed the advantages of a merger. We feel that a merger would be beneficial to both groups, and to the community at large.

As part of our discussions, we studied the constitutions and bylaws of both groups. Both documents contained worthwhile concepts and ideas. We are submitting a draft of a proposed constitution for a merged group. This draft of a constitution incorporates concepts and wording taken from both constitutions. A copy of this proposed constitution is available upon request.

One of the major benefits of a merger that we identified would be the elimination of the duplication of efforts currently caused by having two societies with such similar interests. Given the limited size of our community, this duplication of efforts makes it more difficult to recruit volunteers for events and projects than if there were only one group. Also, the fact that there are currently two very similar groups is a cause of considerable confusion to visitors in this area as well as to residents.

One of the greatest challenges in a possible merger would be to find a satisfactory way to include (or transfer) the memberships of those who are already members in the existing groups into the new, merged group. The difference in membership dues between the two groups makes this a potentially sensitive issue. In the draft of a proposed constitution, we have tried to present a satisfactory solution to this concern that will provide for the future growth and strength of a new, merged group.

This proposed constitution is being presented at the autumn 2003 annual meetings at both groups, and a vote may be taken on whether or not to further pursue the issue of a merger at the next regular meetings.

We urge the members and the officers of both Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc. and the New Sweden Historical Society to give careful consideration to the possibility of a merger. Merging these two groups would present challenges. However, we feel it would be even more difficult in the long run for both groups to never explore a merger, and to simply continue as two separate entities.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2003 Merger Exploration Committee

Alwin Espling

Allan Kampe

Janice McDougal

Daniel Olson