

**THE STORY OF NEW SWEDEN: AS
TOLD AT THE QUARTER CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING
OF THE SWEDISH COLONY IN THE
WOODS OF MAINE JUNE 25, 1895**

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WILLIAM WIDGERY THOMAS JR. & STANLEY J. ESTES

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HON. WILLIAM WIDGERY THOMAS, JR.

THE FOUNDER OF NEW SWEDEN.

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OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE SWEDISH COLONY
IN THE WOODS OF
MAINE

JUNE 25, 1895



PORTLAND, MAINE
LORING, SHORT & HARMON
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W. W. Thomas, Jr

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NEW SWEDEN

QUARTER-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

1870.

JUNE 25.

1895.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1895, was a day of jubilee in New Sweden. On that day, Maine's Swedish settlement celebrated the twenty-fifth year of its existence — the quarter-centennial anniversary of the day when the first little Swedish colony of Maine sailed from old Sweden, to make a new home in the primeval forests of the Pine Tree state.

The day dawned gloomily. A dull rain fell from a leaden sky and the cold north wind blew. But the rain soon ceased, though threatening clouds still obscured the heavens, and the wind dropped to a refreshing summer breeze.

At an early hour all roads leading to New Sweden were crowded with carriages and pedestrians. Along the smooth, level turnpike from Caribou rolled a continuous procession of hundreds of vehicles. Among

those driving toward the Swedish settlement were American and Swedish farmers, with their wives and children, from all the country round about; Swedes from every section of Maine and from several of the other New England states, and distinguished visitors and honored guests from many of the cities and towns throughout our commonwealth.

Most of the latter had arrived at Caribou the previous evening. They had come over the Maine Central, and the new Bangor and Aroostook railroads, on the first through express train from Portland to Caribou, and had accomplished the entire journey in ten hours. Attached to this train was a special Pullman car, kindly placed at the disposition of the guests of New Sweden by the courtesy of Payson Tucker, Esq., the genial vice-president and general manager of the Maine Central road. This car was under the charge of Col. Henry S. Osgood, who left nothing undone for the comfort of the guests.

After driving five miles from Caribou, the long line of carriages reached the border of our Swedish colony; but it was difficult to discern where the American settlements ceased and the Swedish began. The belt of forest dividing them had been cut through, and the little clearings of the earlier Swedish settlers, which, a few years ago, only notched the forest here and there along the wood roads, had been enlarged till one clearing met the other, and the visitors now drove through continuous fields, dotted with Swedish cottages, and green with the growing crops. Most