

Pål Jönsson Mullica

the Finn and his Descendants

Three and a half centuries ago, in 1654, the ship *Eagle* arrived in New Sweden, carrying many Finns. Among them was the large family of Pål Jönsson Mullica. Generally known as Pål Jönsson, his Finnish surname (Mullikka) rarely appeared in the records. On one occasion he was called "little Pole," leading one genealogist to claim he was the first of Polish birth to come to America. However, records show that he came originally from Mora in Hälsingland, but probably had moved to western Sweden prior to being recruited by Captain Sven Skute to come to America.

Many passengers died during the trans-Atlantic voyage of the *Eagle* and Pål Mullica was himself in poor health, so that his family initially had to be supported by charity. After the Dutch takeover in 1655, the family was living on the southwest side of the Christina River, obliquely opposite Fort Christina. In June 1656 Margareta, the wife of Pål Jönsson the Finn, complained to the Dutch court at Fort Casimir (present New Castle) that Anders the Finn was threatening to take her grain from the field and secured an injunction from the court, prohibiting further molestation. This land was being rented on half shares.

Indian Point

Soon, however, Governor Stuyvesant granted Pål Jönsson his own land on the north side of the Brandywine at the mouth of Skilpot Creek. This tract was known as Wild or Indian Point, and finally patented to Pål Jönsson on 7 April 1661.

Before this patent arrived, Pål Jönsson had already moved to Cecil County, Maryland, with his wife and younger children, leaving his eldest children behind to manage the land at Indian Point.

None So Good In Finland

On 29 July 1661, Maryland granted Pål Jönsson denization, allowing him to secure land in present Cecil County. He selected a site on the north side of the Sassafras River, which he called, "None So Good in Finland." Unfortunately, Pål Jönsson Mullica died before

this land was surveyed and patented.

On 14 April 1664, Rev. Lars Lock convened the widow and heirs of Pål Jönsson at the Crane Hook church and drafted an agreement for the division of his property. The land at Indian Point was to be divided between the widow Margareta Andersdotter and her son-in-law Hans Peterson. "None So Good in Finland" was to be divided among the youngest daughters.

After the death of Pål Jönsson, his widow Margareta Andersdotter married the widower Anders Mattsson, who had been a passenger on the ill-fated *Golden Calf*, which had arrived near Manhattan in 1655. Eventually he rejoined his countrymen (including his brother Matthias Mattsson) on the Delaware and on 14 November 1668 received a patent from the English for Margareta's half of Wild Hook. Anders Mattsson died within a few months after this patent was issued. His son, by the same name, thereafter moved to Maryland.

The Long Finn Rebellion

In late 1669, Margaret Andersdotter, now twice a widow, and her children living in New Castle County became active in the Long Finn Rebellion – a plot to take up arms against the English when (as was erroneously expected) a Swedish fleet would sail up the Delaware River to re-establish New Sweden.

The plot was discovered and quashed by Peter Cock, then chief justice of the Swedish court at Upland. As a result of her involvement, Margaret was fined 100 guilders. On one fine list, she was listed as "Margaret Matson, widow." On the other she was named as "Paul Johnson's wife."

The last mention of Margareta Andersdotter was in a deed dated in September 1674 when she sold her half of "Wild Point" to her grandson Paul Månsson, who on the same day reconveyed the same to her son-in-law Hans Peterson.

Paul Jönsson Mullica and Margaret Andersdotter had ten children, all of whom appear to have been born in Sweden:

1. — **Pålsdotter**, became the first wife of Måns Pålsson by 1654. He was also a Finn arriving on the *Eagle* in that year and initially settled in "Finland," the area just north of Naaman's Creek in present Delaware County, PA. She had two children before her death c. 1658 – Paul Månsson and Margareta Månsdotter.

2. **Elisabeth Pålsdotter** became the sec-

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