

THE BLAUVELT NEWS

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Clear Sailing at the 79th ABD Reunion

No Rough Seas and ...

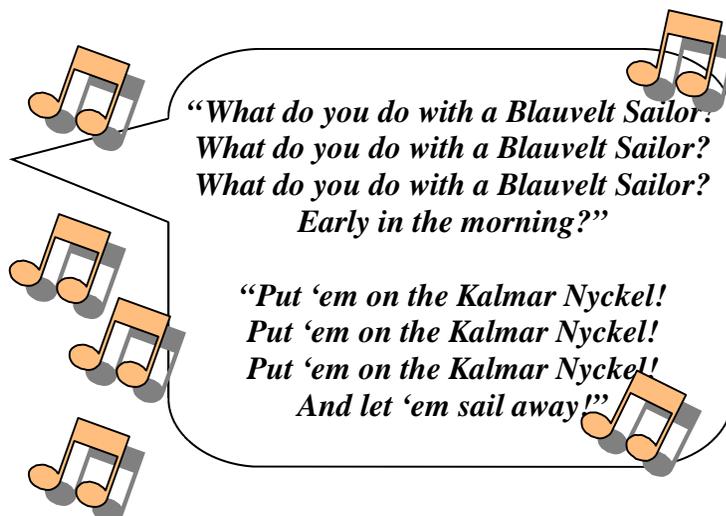
No Hurricanes!



Wilmington, Delaware, the site of the ABD's 79th Annual Meeting and Reunion, and home port of the Tallship Kalmar Nyckel was the perfect place the weekend of September 17th for Blauvelt Cousins to join together once again for some fun and family business. The weather was fine. Thankfully there were no hurricanes on the horizon.

There's nothing like a good welcome party with "pirate fun" to start the festivities. Our pirate mates from the Kalmar Nyckel joined us Friday evening where the singing of sea chanteys filled the room.

Our Friday Night Get-Together continues to be a fun evening as we enjoy each other's company and have the opportunity to just relax. We remember when Eleanor Clark started this Friday night tradition about 25 years ago, when she invited everyone to a coffee hour in her hotel room. Things certainly have changed since then! One single room is no longer large enough to hold all our enthusiastic attendees.



Saturday's activities started early as the shuttle bus brought attendees to the Old Swede's Church from the hotel at 8:15 AM for tours of this historic site.

As we prepared for our Annual Meeting inside Old Swede's Church, one could feel we were someplace special. The rock flooring, the beautiful stained glass windows, the huge oak pulpit towering from the side wall, the wooden pews with doors to keep the heat in during the winter and a staircase from the outside door going to the balcony, all contributed to a sensation of special historic importance.



In the balcony was the magnificent pipe organ built by the Austin Company of Hartford, Connecticut. Its

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913 pipes were ready to provide majestic sounds for our meeting. President Bob Brower introduced Dr. Norman Thompson, who began our meeting with a wonderful presentation and recital so we could hear the glorious sounds of this organ.

As the meeting started with the “Dutch Hymn of Thanksgiving” and “America” led by Frances Riley-Blauvelt, the group sang with much vigor accompanied by the organ. It certainly makes a huge difference with music and the sound of robust Blauvelt voices!

Our meeting included a discussion by Raymond Nichols, archivist at Old Swede’s Church and some informational background by Al Ostrand, from the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation. Both speakers were very interesting as we learned how the Kalmar Nyckel and Old Swede’s Church were a significant part of the early Swedish settlement in what is now Delaware.

As the new Board of Directors took office, the gavel was passed from Robert C. Brower, President 1998 to 2005 to Thomas J. Blauvelt, our new President.



Presentations were made to Bob Brower, along with Ralph and Frances Blauvelt for their services to the ABD over these many years, The gifts presented are only a small token of our sincere appreciation for all the contributions they all made.

With the close of the 79th Annual Meeting, it was time to enjoy a “Family Picnic” at the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard just a few blocks away. It was hot dogs, hamburgers and all the picnic “fixins!” Prizes were awarded to Mildred Saderholm of Lake Ridge, Virginia, the oldest attendee, Korinne Hennelly, of Yonkers, New York, the youngest in attendance and to Helen and Herb Smith, who traveled the farthest, from Georgetown, Texas. Rick Blowers from Blue Springs, Missouri won the Door Prize. This year’s ABD Raffle winner was Ed Westerfield, from Wheaton, Maryland. Ed won the print of “Reflections at Dawn” by Nicholas P. Santoleri. *Congratulations to all!*

Well, the afternoon was hot and humid! A great afternoon for a sail aboard the Kalmar Nyckel. We watched her being built, from the first rib to her finished and graceful status as Delaware’s Tall Ship.



We watched her as she sat in port at the shipyard being Christened, and yes, we boarded her in Lewes, Delaware... but we had never sailed on the Kalmar Nyckel. The day finally came that we were able to go aboard and go for a sail on the Christina River toward the Delaware. We watched the main sail being hoisted and knew we were not dreaming! As we looked up, there was the Blauvelt Coat of Arms Banner flying high along with the other flags and banners of the ship. It was a real “*explosive*” time enjoyed by all “*Blauvelt Cousins.*”



Our Saturday evening banquet gave everyone time to relax, catch up on stories of the day and the past year and another opportunity to enjoy each other's company.

We



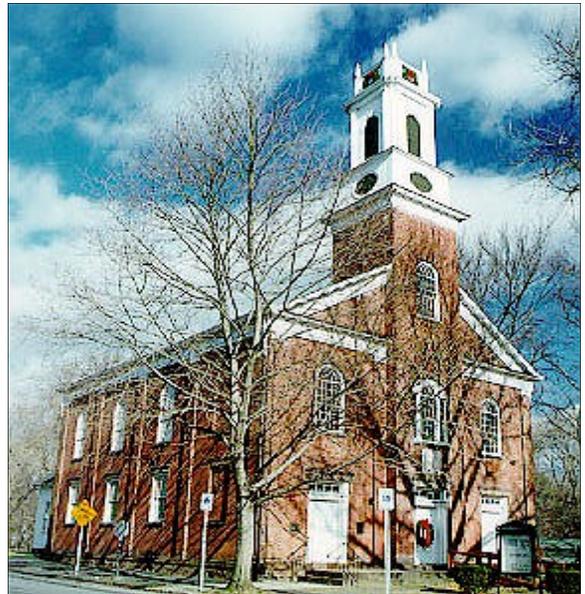
even brought back an old family tradition from early reunions of measuring some of those famous Blauvelt noses! The winner of the biggest proboscis was Rick Blowers! The one doing the measuring is Linda Peterson.



Frances Riley-Blauvelt played the piano and Judy Lupas led us in a good old fashioned "sing-a-long."

Now the 79th Blauvelt Annual Meeting and Reunion is a memory. With our goodbyes came the most important statements made by the Blauvelt Cousins, "See you next year at the 80th!"

The 80th Annual Meeting and Reunion will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2006 in Tappan, New York. We hope to see you at this historic reunion as we return to the birthplace of the Blauvelt Family in America.



The Tappan Reformed Church
Tappan, New York

Gerrit Hendricksen and Maria Lamberts Moll

Married on 7 May 1646 in the New Amsterdam (NYC) Dutch Church.

Their children:

Hendrick Huybert Johannes Margrietje Abraham Isaac Marritje