



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number: 075**

**Name:** Rambo, Brita Mattsdotter

**Dates:** Birth: 1630 Vasa, Finland

Death: 12 Oct 1693, Philadelphia, PA

**Colonial Society:** PA

**Date added to ROA:** 8.23.2023

**Service:** Historic Founder, New Sweden (Passyunk, present-day Philadelphia)

**Authority:** Craig, Peter Stebbins, *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware*, (Winter Park, FL: SAG Publications, 1993), 26-27, 161.

### **Biography:**

Brita Mattsdotter was thought to have arrived in New Sweden as a servant to the commander of the Swedish fort. By April of 1647, she married Peter Gunnarson Rambo, one of the first Swedish settlers of the region, who became a prominent leader and landowner. She went to live on her husband's farm in Kingsessing, located in present-day Philadelphia. She gave birth to eight children, 4 girls and 4 boys, all living to adulthood except one daughter who died age eight. Brita and her family were Lutherans who supported the local Wicaco church, which is known today as Gloria Dei- Old Swedes, part of the National Park system in Philadelphia.

Both Brita and Peter are believed to be buried at Gloria Dei.

Peter was selected to serve as a magistrate of the local court in 1656, and would hold office for 29 years, ultimately under Swedish, Dutch, and English rule. While women were not considered at the time, her husband and sons (of age) were naturalized as English citizens, so they would be recognized for owning land and serving in the Pennsylvania Assembly.

Brita's son Gunnar was on the jury of Margaret Matson's witchcraft trial (another NSCDA Founding Female) which was overseen by William Penn.

In 1693 Peter Rambo wrote his sister, back in Sweden, a letter, which is preserved in the Royal Archives in Stockholm. They had not communicated in over 50 years. At age 81, he shared details of his forty-six years of "harmony and love" with Brita and that their children were all settled "in plenty" and that from their lineage there were at that time thirty-seven souls living of his children's children.