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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

FBI returns stolen revolver to the American Swedish Historical Museum December 17, 2021



Philadelphia, PA- Today the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM) retrieved an 1861 Colt Revolver that had belonged to Swedish immigrant Major Nere A. Elfving, who fought in the American Civil War. The revolver was part of a 50-year-old cold case that was cracked by the FBI in 2019. It was stolen from ASHM in the 1970s, by Thomas Gavin, who was recently convicted of a series of thefts in the 1960s and 70s. ASHM was joined by museum representatives from the Landis Valley Museum, Museum of the American Revolution, York History Center, Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, and The Hershey Story Museum today for the Repatriation Ceremony at the Museum of the American Revolution. The artifacts were recovered through the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Art Crime Team - Philadelphia Division, the United States Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the Upper Merion Township Police Department. ASHM is glad to have this artifact returned to our collection as it is one of the few pieces related to Scandinavian involvement in the Civil War.

About ASHM:

Visit the American Swedish Historical Museum to learn the forgotten history of Swedes in Philadelphia. Built in 1926 during the sesquicentennial, the museum's unique interior is divided into a dozen galleries designed to highlight Scandinavian influences in America. The galleries explore a range of topics including the New Sweden Colony, women's history, scientific innovations, and Swedish craft arts such as glass making and woodworking. ASHM hosts a variety of programs from Swedish holiday celebrations like Midsommarfest and Lucia, to history lectures, an ABBA Dance Party, virtual tours, and family programs like Toddler Time.

Visit our website www.americanswedish.org to learn more.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's NRG/Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance or SEPTA's Route 17 (to Pattison) can bring you right to the Museum.

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