

The High Family's Swedish Ancestors

Volume Eight: The 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

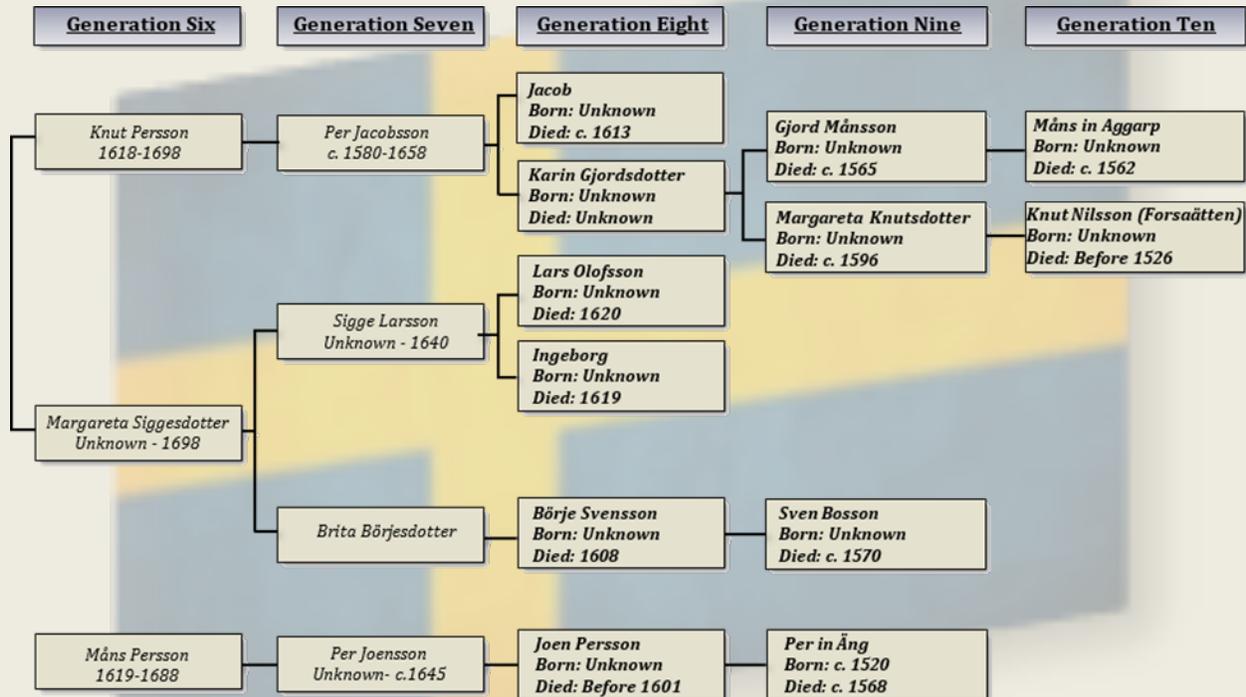


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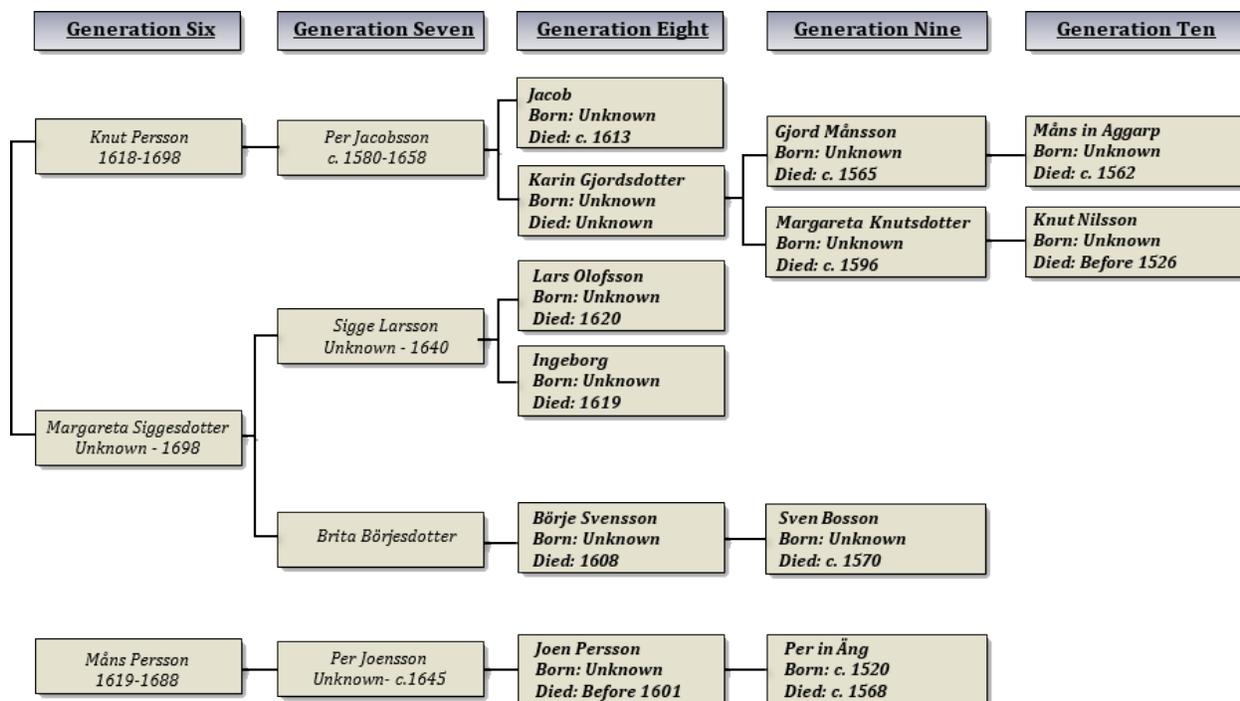
Discovering the 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

By Jeffrey High – January 5th, 2020

The 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

I learned about the identities of a few of Sven Hög's 16th century ancestors throughout 2012 to 2016. Although many of Sven's 4th and 8th great-grandparents also lived during parts of this century, Sven's 5th, 6th, and 7th great-grandparents are the main generations who lived during this time. If Sven didn't have any duplicate ancestors (ancestors who can be traced through more than one line) among these generations, then he had 128 5th great-grandparents, 256 6th great-grandparents, and 512 7th great-grandparents. Despite this vast amount of ancestors, only a handful of them have been identified. This is because no church records existed during this time.

The only records that pertain to these ancestors are landscape documents, a few court records, and a few letters. These records only listed landowners and rarely mention the names of any women. Sadly, the names of only three of Sven's female 16th century ancestors are known. During this phase of my research, I relied upon Riksarkivet, Sweden's National Archives, for finding and obtaining images of the records related to Sven's 16th century ancestors.



This chart shows the known ancestors of Sven Hög who lived during the 16th century

Discovering the 5th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

In 2012 and 2013, I discovered the identities of six of Sven Hög's 5th great-grandparents: Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter, Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg, Börje Svensson, and Joen Persson.

In June of 2012, I identified the first of Sven's known 5th great-grandparents, Joen Persson. I obtained information about Joen from the same website¹ where I learned about Bengt Månsson Engdahl, his great-grandson. According to this site, Joen was a farmer and soldier from Äng, Barkeryd Parish who died sometime after 1592.

I learned about Sven Hög's other 5th great-grandparents: Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter, Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg, and Börje Svensson, in July of 2013 from the same website where I learned about their great-granddaughter, Sara Knugtsdotter.² According to this site:

- Jacob was a cavalry rider from Aggarp, Björkö Parish who died in 1614.
- Lars Olofsson was a second lieutenant in Småland's Cavalry from Ödhult, Östra Årena Parish who died in 1620. His wife Ingeborg died in 1619.
- Börje Svensson was a juror from Järeda Mellengård, Järeda Parish who died around 1608.



An email I received from Sweden's Nation Archives informing me where I could find a record about Börje Svensson from 1589 – December 20nd, 2016

¹ <http://www.tonnquist.se/start-eng.htm> - Accessed July, 2012

² http://www.slaktforskning.thorstensson.se/slaktdata/Hanna_Johansson/pafbe67da.html - Accessed August 27, 2013

8.0. Discovering the 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

I conducted most of my research on Sven's 5th-great-grandparents in 2016. During the autumn of that year, I spent several hours searching Riksarkivet's website and obtaining images of several landscape documents that listed them. I obtained a couple of court records associated with Börje Svensson in December of 2016 and September of 2017 by contacting the Regional Archives in Vadstena.

Timeline of Research on the 5th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

November, 2011	I find a website that mentions Joen Persson. At the time, however, I'm unaware of his relation to the High family.
June 18, 2012	I discover that Joen Persson was a 5 th great-grandfather of Sven Hög.
July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter, Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg, and Börje Svensson.
July, 2015	I find a website that contains information on Jacob that was originally printed in Gustaf Elgenstierna's <i>The Introduced Swedish Nobility</i> .
June 27, 2016	I obtain images of the article "Jacob Hårds (af Segerstad) morfar Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden" by Stig Östenson, which provides information on Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter, Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg, and Björje Svensson.
October - November, 2016	I obtain images of several landscape documents associated with Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter, Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg, Börje Svensson, and Joen Persson.
December 22, 2016	I obtain images of a court record from 1589 which mentions Börje Svensson.
September 13, 2017	I obtain images of a court record from 1594 which mentions Börje Svensson.
September 28, 2017	I obtain images of pages of the book <i>Karlskrona Grenadjärregementets Historia I: Smålands Rytarre (1543-1629)</i> by Ivar Hult, which provides information on Småland's Cavalry's involvement in the Nordic Seven Years' War, the Livonian War, and the War Against Sigismund.

Discovering the 6th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

I discovered the identities of four of Sven Hög's 6th great-grandparents in 2012 and 2013: Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter, Sven Bosson, and Per in Äng.

I discovered Per in Äng from the same website I learned of his son, Joen Persson.³ This website stated that Per was a farmer and soldier from Äng, Barkeryd Parish who died sometime around 1568.

I learned of Sven's other three 6th great-grandparents, Gjord Månsson, Margareta Knutsdotter, and Sven Bosson, from the same website where I learned about their great-great-granddaughter, Sara Knutsdotter.⁴ According to this website:

- Gjord Månsson was a bailiff who lived at Hofgården, Hov Parish, Östergötland in the 1550s and Aggarp, Björkö Parish in the 1560s.
- Margareta Knutsdotter, Gjord's wife, hailed from nobility. Her father was Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten). After Gjord's death, Margareta continued to live at Aggarp until her death in 1597.
- Sven Bosson was a farmer who lived at the village Järeda in Järeda Parish. He was listed there from 1544 to 1569.

 Re: [Request ID :##9877##] : Vd: Looking for a record on Margaret Kn...

 Riksantikvarieämbetets arkiv, ATA <ata@raa.se>
 Friday, December 2, 2016 at 5:48 AM
 To: Jeff High
 📎 scan_2016-12-02_10-13-46r.1.pdf (3.1 MB) Preview

→ You forwarded this message on 12/2/16, 5:50 AM. Show Forward

→ You forwarded this message on 12/9/16, 4:38 AM. Show Forward

Action Items Manage Add-ins...

Hello Jeff,
 attached to this e-mail you can find three pages från Leonard Fredrik Rääfs diplomatarium (Leonard Fredrik Rääfs samling, serie F1 volym 5, is the information you can refer to, and the diplomatarium is in the Archives of the Swedish National Heritage Board).

Regards,
 Ylva Larsson

An email in which Sweden's National Archives sent me images of a letter from 1576 that mentions Margareta Knutsdotter – December 2nd, 2016

³ <http://www.tonnquist.se/start-eng.htm> - Accessed June 18, 2012

⁴ http://www.slaktforskning.thorstensson.se/slaktdata/Hanna_Johansson/pafbe67da.html - Accessed August 27, 2013

8.0. Discovering the 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

I started conducting research on Sven's 6th-great-grandparents in June of 2016. On June 1st, I found the website of my distant relative Martin Brant, which stated that Per in Ång was killed "for being used by enemies of the kingdom."⁵ Near the end of June, I read the article "Jacob Hårds (af Segerstad) morfar Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden" by Stig Östenson, which provided information on Gjord Månsson, Margareta Knutsdotter, and Sven Bosson. This article was particularly helpful in providing evidence that Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter were the maternal grandparents of Per Jacobsson and listed the sources for a couple of records that mention Margareta Knutsdotter.

In November and December of 2016, I collected images of several landscape documents associated with the 6th great-grandparents of Sven Hög. During this time, I also obtained images of two records from the 1570s that mention Margareta Knutsdotter.

<u>Timeline of Research on the 6th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög</u>	
November, 2011	I find a website that mentions Per in Ång. At the time, however, I'm unaware of his relation to the High family.
June 18, 2012	I discover that Per in Ång was a 6 th great-grandfather of Sven Hög.
July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Gjord Månsson, Margareta Knutsdotter, and Sven Bosson.
June 1, 2016	I find a website that states Per in Ång was killed for "being used by enemies of the kingdom."
June 27, 2016	I obtain images of the article "Jacob Hårds (af Segerstad) morfar Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden" by Stig Östenson, which provides information on Gjord Månsson, Margareta Knutsdotter, and Sven Bosson.
November, 2016	I obtain images of several landscape documents associated with Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter, Sven Bosson, and Per in Ång.
November 29, 2016	I obtain images of a Klagomålsregister from the 1570s that mentions Margareta Knutsdotter.
December 2, 2016	I obtain images of a letter from 1576 that mentions Margareta Knutsdotter.

⁵ <https://brandt.slektforskning.se/Per-115da6f9> - Accessed June 1, 2016

Discovering the 7th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

I was only able to discover the identities of two of Sven Hög's 7th great-grandparents, Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) and Måns in Aggarp. In July of 2013, I discovered the identity of Knut Nilsson from the same website that I learned about Sara Knutsdotter, Knut's 3rd great-granddaughter.⁶ In June of 2016, I learned about the identity of Måns in Aggarp from the article "Jacob Hårds (af Segerstad) morfar Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden" by Stig Östenson. This article also provided information on Knut Nilsson and listed two articles that contained more information about him, as well as the sources for a Klagolmålregister record and a letter that mentioned his children.

Near the end of 2016, I obtained three articles that mentioned Knut Nilsson: "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönssons (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led" by Jan Eric Almquist, "Vapenlikhetsfällan. Vapen- och sigillbruk under svensk medeltid," by Kaj Jansson, and "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk förfalskningshistoria från 1400-talet" by Jan Liedgren. These articles listed the sources for most of the letters that mention Knut Nilsson. I collected images of these letters in January of 2017.

In September of 2018, I found images of two landscape documents that list Måns in Aggarp. In December of 2019, while searching through the SDHK database online, I found two more letters that mentioned Knut Nilsson, one from 1500 and one from 1506.



An email in which Sweden's Nation Archives informing me where I could find four of the letters that mention Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) – January 9th, 2017

⁶ http://www.slaktforskning.thorstensson.se/slaktdata/Hanna_Johansson/pafbe67da.html - Accessed August 27, 2013

8.0. Discovering the 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Timeline of Research on the 7th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
June 27, 2016	I discover the identity of Måns in Aggarp from the article “Jacob Hårds (af Segerstad) morfar Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden” by Stig Östenson. This article also contained information on Knut Nilsson.
November 29, 2016	I obtain images of a Klagomålsregister record from the 1570s that mentions the Knut Nilsson’s children.
December 2, 2016	I obtain images of a letter from 1576 that mentions Knut Nilsson’s children.
December 20, 2016	I obtain the article “Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönssons (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led” by Jan Eric Almquist, which contains information on Knut Nilsson, his maternal ancestors, and lists the sources for four letters that mention him.
December 22, 2016	I obtain a scholarly publication by Kaj Jansson called “Vapenlikhetsfällan. Vapen- och sigillbruk under svensk medeltid,” which contains information on Knut Nilsson and his paternal ancestors.
December 28, 2016	I obtain the article “Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk förfalskningshistoria från 1400-talet” by Jan Liedgren, which lists the source of a letter from 1508 that mentions Knut Nilsson.
January 9, 2017	I obtain images of four letters that mention Knut Nilsson from Riksarkivet’s SDHK collection.
January 23, 2017	I obtain images of a letter from 1508 that mentions Knut Nilsson and information about Knut Nilsson from the book <i>Svenska medeltidsvapen</i> .
January 24, 2017	I obtain a transcript of a lost testimony document from 1500 that mentions Knut Nilsson.
September 18, 2018	I obtain images of two landscape documents that mention Måns in Aggarp.
December 1, 2019	I discover two more letters that mention Knut Nilsson from 1500 and 1506.

Pedigree Collapse Within Sven Hög's 16th Century Ancestors

It's very likely that there was some degree of pedigree collapse within the 16th century ancestors of Sven Hög. Pedigree collapse occurs when individuals have common ancestors within a relatively recent generation, which leads to a reduction in the number of unique ancestors. This usually occurs in communities where people often married within the same social or geographical group, which was quite common in rural Sweden during Sven Hög's time. Pedigree collapse most likely started occurring within the 4th to 6th great-grandparents of Sven Hög. Without pedigree collapse, Sven would have had 64 4th-great-grandparents, 128 5th-great-grandparents, and 256 6th-great-grandparents. However, with pedigree collapse, these numbers would probably be lower because some ancestors would appear in multiple places on the family tree due to intermarriage among relatives, reducing the number of unique ancestors.

Here are some hypothetical numbers of the amount of 16th century ancestors Sven Hög may have had, focusing on Sven's 5th, 6th, and 7th great-grandparents and considering mild, moderate, and severe degrees of pedigree collapse:

1. **5th Great-Grandparents (Typically 128 unique without collapse):**
 - **Mild Collapse:** 110 unique ancestors, 18 duplicates
 - **Moderate Collapse:** 90 unique ancestors, 38 duplicates
 - **Severe Collapse:** 70 unique ancestors, 58 duplicates
2. **6th Great-Grandparents (Typically 256 unique without collapse):**
 - **Mild Collapse:** 200 unique ancestors, 56 duplicates
 - **Moderate Collapse:** 150 unique ancestors, 106 duplicates
 - **Severe Collapse:** 120 unique ancestors, 136 duplicates
3. **7th Great-Grandparents (Typically 512 unique without collapse):**
 - **Mild Collapse:** 300 unique ancestors, 212 duplicates
 - **Moderate Collapse:** 220 unique ancestors, 292 duplicates
 - **Severe Collapse:** 180 unique ancestors, 332 duplicates

Breakdown:

- **Duplicates:** These are the ancestors who appear more than once in the family tree. For example, if Sven's parents were first cousins, then both sets of their parents would appear twice, causing duplication and reducing the total number of unique ancestors.
- **Unique Ancestors:** These are the distinct ancestors that occur only once in a family tree. Pedigree collapse reduces this number as certain individuals occupy multiple slots in a family tree.

8.0.1. Adjusted Dates for Events Associated with the 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Acknowledgements

I want to thank a number of people for assisting me in discovering information about the 4th great-grandparents of Sven Hög and Anna Stina Johansdotter:

- **Arkiv Digital** for providing me with the images of the church records from Målilla Parish which show the years that Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg died.
- **Britt-Marie Kronstad Wallin**, my eighth-cousin, for sending me images from the article “Jacob Hårds (af Segerstad) morfar) Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden” by Stig Östenson that contained information about Jacob and Karen Gjordsdotter, Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg, Börje Svensson, Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter, Sven Bosson, Måns in Aggarp, and Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
- **Carin Henrysson** for sending me several pictures of Aggarp, the farm where Jacob and Karen Gjordsdotter, Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter, and Måns in Aggarp lived.
- **Christina Tuve**sson Lindaryd, a Swedish genealogist, for writing the short stories “The Invasion of Målilla Parish” and “King Gustaf I Vasa’s Visit to Hofsgård” and sending me articles that mention Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
- **Kaj Janson**, a Swedish historian and genealogist, for providing me with information on Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
- **Magnus Tonquist**, a Swedish historian and genealogist, for transcribing and translating a most of the records associated with the 16th century ancestors of Sven Hög and writing the short story “Knut Nilsson’s Early Days as a Squire.”
- **Martin Brant**, a distant Swedish relative, for providing with information related to Joen Persson and Per in Äng.
- **Rhonda Serafini**, a Swedish genealogist, for writing the story “Jacob’s War Stories” and helping me with the transcription and translation of a letter from 1506 that mentioned Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
- **Riksarkivet** (The Swedish National Archives) for providing me with the images for several landscape documents, the Klagomålsregister record, the letter from 1576, and four of the letters which mention Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
- **Thomas Heed Miskar**, a Swedish historian and genealogist, for providing me with images of several pages from the book *Karlskrona Grenadjärregementes Historia I: Smålands Rytarre (1543-1629)* by Ivar Hult, for writing the short story “Lars Jacobsson is Knighted by Gustaf II Adolf,” and for helping me transcribe and translate several letters related to Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
- **University of Linköping** for sending me an image of the letter from 1506 that mentions Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).
- **University of Uppsala** for sending me an image of the letter from 1508 that mentions Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten).

Adjusted Dates for Events Associated with the 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Events in the Lives of Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter		
Event	Date of Event (Julian Calendar)	Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)
Lars Jacobsson Björnram, Jacob and Karin's son, is knighted by King Gustaf II Adolf.	February 22, 1632	March 4, 1632

Events in the Life of Börje Svensson		
Event	Date of Event (Julian Calendar)	Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)
Börje Svensson appears at Aspeland District Court to testify that he purchased the farm Järeda Mellansgård.	May 16, 1589	May 26, 1589
Börje Svensson appears at Aspeland District Court on behalf of his wife to testify that she sold her land at Östergården in Misterhult Parish.	November 6, 1594	November 16, 1594

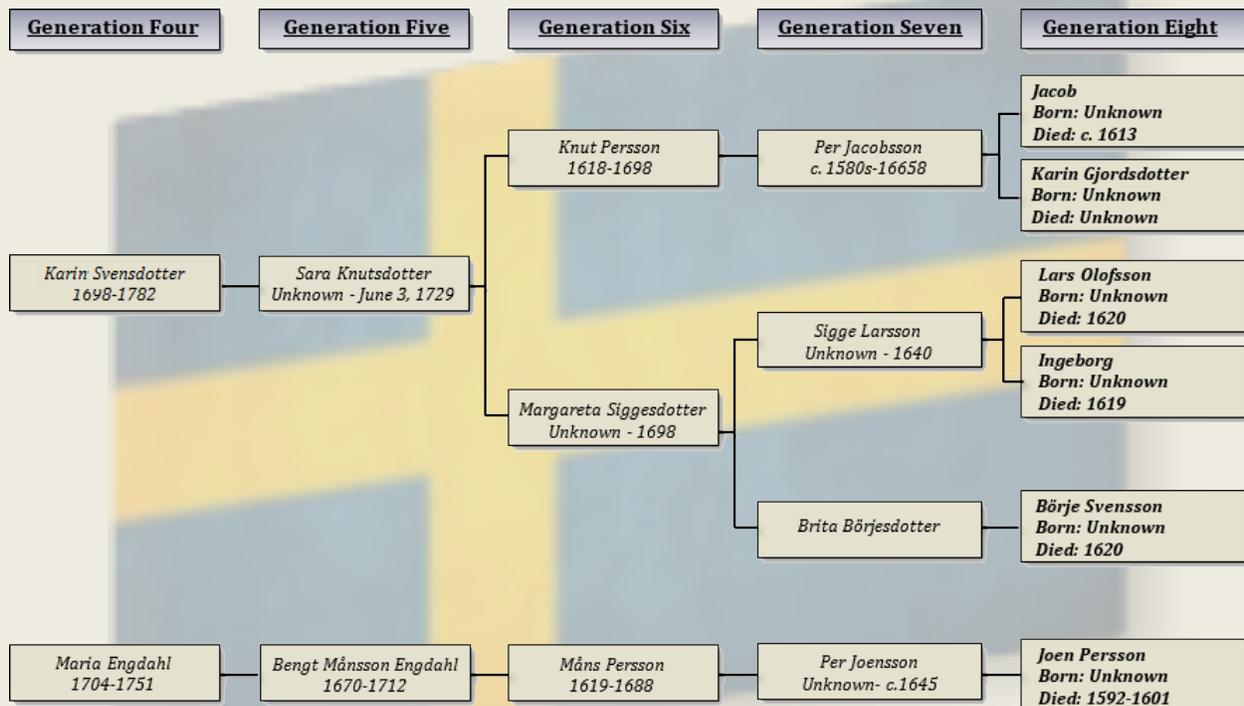
Events in the Life of Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter		
Event	Date of Event (Julian Calendar)	Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)
Margareta Knutsdotter is listed in a letter in which she agrees to cede the land she inherited from her brother Halvard Knutsson to the family of her late brother Lars Knutsson.	March 15, 1576	March 25, 1576

8.1.0. Understanding the Times the 5th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög Lived In

Events in the Life of Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten)		
Event	Date of Event (Julian Calendar)	Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)
Knut Nilsson writes a letter declaring his inheritance from his maternal uncle Knut Arvidsson.	January 3, 1496	January 13, 1496
Knut Nilsson writes a letter about his brother Halvid Nilsson's inheritance.	March 25, 1498	April 3, 1498
Knut Nilsson is listed in a letter that contains his seal.	February 27, 1506	March 9, 1506
Knut Nilsson writes letter stating that he had sold land he inherited from Per Dagsson and Helena to Anna Karlsdotter.	April 19, 1506	April 29, 1506
Knut Nilsson writes letter stating he sold land from his paternal inheritance to Anna Karlsdotter.	June 12, 1508	June 22, 1508
Knut Nilsson is listed in a letter that contains his seal.	January 2, 1509	January 12, 1509

Generation Eight

The 5th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



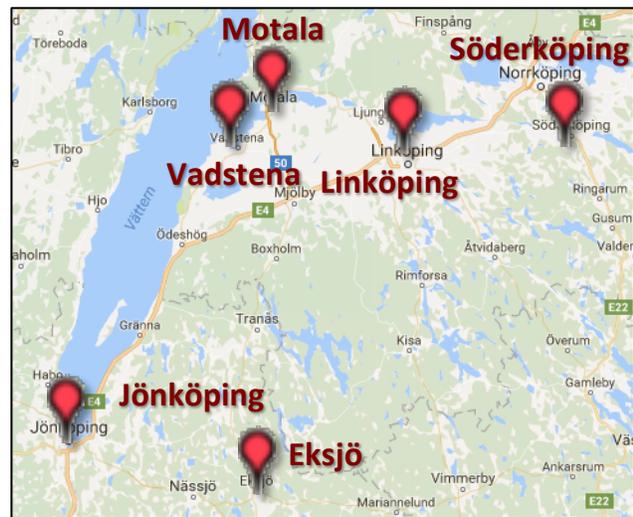
1540-1620

8.1.0. Understanding the Times the 5th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög Lived In

Understating the Times that Sven Hög's 5th Great-Grandparents Lived In

The generation of Sven Hög's 5th great-grandparents lived in the early Vasa Era. Most of Sven's ancestors from this generation were born in the mid-16th century and died in the early 17th century. When this generation was growing up, Gustaf I Vasa was the king of Sweden. During his reign, Sweden underwent several radical social and political reforms. Perhaps the greatest change he brought to Sweden was breaking away from the Catholic Church and establishing Lutheranism as the country's official religion. Gustaf I was largely known as a tyrant and much of the Swedish population rebelled against him. In the early 1540s, an uprising known as the Dacke War occurred in Småland, in which Vasa's forces devastated the countryside. During the childhood of Sven's 5th great-grandparents, Småland was still recovering from this destruction.

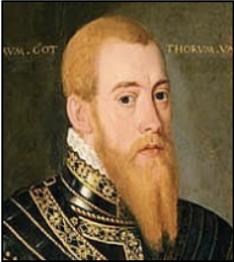
Throughout the late 16th century and early 17th century, Sweden was constantly at war. During this period, Sweden was involved in the Nordic Seven Years' War, the Livonian War, the War Against Sigismund, the Polish-Swedish War (1600-1611) and the Kalmar War. Since all four of Sven Hög's known 5th great-grandfathers, Jacob, Lars Olofsson, Börje Svensson, and Joen Persson, served in the military, these wars must have had a deep impact upon their lives. It's very likely that at least one these four sustained permanent injuries from being involved in these wars. It's also possible that their wartime service helped elevate their social status.



Map showing the major towns in Småland and Östergötland that were burned during Rantzau's raid during late 1567 and early 1568

These wars must have also significantly affected the lives of Sven's ancestors who didn't serve in the military. During the Nordic Seven Years' War and the Kalmar War, Sweden was invaded by Danish forces. During late 1567 and early 1568, a massive Danish offensive known as Rantzau's Raid occurred, in which Danish troops ravaged the countryside of Småland and Östergötland. Several of Sven's 5th great-grandparents probably had their farms burned down during this raid. In January of 1612, Sweden was again attacked by the Danes during the Kalmar War. One of Sven's 5th great-grandfathers, Lars Olofsson, had his farm burned down by Danish soldiers during this raid. Although Sweden was beginning to emerge as a formidable empire by the beginning of the 17th century, it came through a large sacrifice which cost thousands of lives.

Timeline of Swedish History: 1540-1600

1541	The Vasa Bible, the first Bible in the Swedish language, is written.	
1542	Start of Dacke War.	
1543	End of Dacke War. In its wake, Småland is devastated.	
1555	Start of the Livonian War.	
1560	Eric XIV becomes King of Sweden.	
1563	King Erik calls a riksdag in Arboga, which establish royal oversight of duchies and forbid diplomacy by dukes.	
1563	Start of the Nordic Seven Years War.	
1567	Four members of the noble Sture family are tried before the Royal High Court on charges of high treason and executed.	
1568	Johan III becomes King of Sweden.	
1570	End of the Nordic Seven Years' War.	
1583	End of the Livonian War.	
1590	Start of the Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595).	
1592	Sigismund becomes King of Sweden	
1593	The Church of Sweden adopts Lutheranism at the Uppsala Synod.	
1595	Start of the Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595).	
1596-1598	Sweden suffers a couple years of crop failure.	
1598	Start of the War Against Sigismund.	
1599	End of the War Against Sigismund.	

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter
fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter

Name	Jacob	Name	Karin Gjordsdotter
Born	1540s or early 1550s	Born	1540s-1550s
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Died	c. 1613	Died	After 1591
Place	Björkö	Place	Björkö
Occupation	Cavalry rider	Occupation	Housewife

Children of Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Lars	1570s	Björkö	1654	Björkö
Per	c. 1580	Barkeryd	December 25, 1658	Björkö
Malin?	1570s-1580s	Björkö	Unknown	Unknown

Early Years (1540-1580)

Jacob, Per Jacobsson's father, was probably born in the 1540s or early 1550s.⁷ It's unknown where he was born. His surname and the names of his parents are also unknown. He was probably born somewhere in the province of Småland.

The Name "Jacob"

The name "Jacob" (*Yáh-cub*) is of Hebrew origins. In the Book of Genesis, Jacob was the third patriarch. Although its meaning has been disputed, one theory is that it means "may he protect." The Name Day for Jacob in Sweden is July 25th.

In 1540...

- The King of Sweden was Gustaf I Vasa, the King of France was Henry II, and the King of England was Henry VIII.
- Europe suffered from a seven-month heatwave and drought.
- The first Swedish almanac was published.
- The monarch of Sweden was designated as a hereditary position rather than elected one.
- Swedish Church clergy Olaus Petri and Laurentius Andreae were tried for treason and sentenced to death, although both were later pardoned.

⁷ According to Adelsriksdagarna 1634-1635. Prot. m.m. III R 8, Jacob served in the military under King Eric XIV. Since Eric XIV was deposed of the crown in 1568, Jacob must have been old enough to enlist in the service in the late 1560s, which means that he was probably born in the 1540s or early 1550s.

Nothing is known of Jacob's youth. However, he grew up in the mid-16th century, a time when Småland was recovering from the Dacke War (1542-1543), in which King Gustav Vasa's forces pillaged thousands of churches, farms, and homesteads across Småland, leaving it devastated.

What was Jacob's Surname?

There is some debate on what Jacob's surname is. In most of the family trees online that include Jacob, his surname is listed as "Jonsson." In the book *Krigare, godsägare, fattighjon - Björnramarna i Småland och deras släktingar i Tjust och i Östra härad* by Jean Silfving, Jacob's surname is listed as "Pedersson." However, none of the known records that mention Jacob list his surname, so it is unknown.

Sometime in the 1560s, Jacob enlisted in the service as a rider for Småland's Cavalry.⁸ At this time, the regiment was fairly new, as it was founded in 1543.

The Reign of Erik XIV (1560-1568)

Erik XIV was born on December 13, 1533. He was the son of King Gustaf I Vasa and Catharina of Saxe-Lauenburg. Erik became King of Sweden on September 29, 1560. He was married to Karin Månsdotter. During Erik's reign, he sought to expand Sweden's influence in the Baltic region. These ambitions led Erik into conflict with his cousin Frederick II of Denmark, resulting in the Nordic Seven Years' War (1563-1570). Erik was personally involved in several battles in this war, but his efforts were largely unsuccessful. Many of Erik's orders were unrealistic because of restraints on time and resources and were ultimately never executed. Sweden was also involved in the Livonian War (1558-1683) against Russia during Erik's reign.



Portrait of Erik XIV
by Domenicus Verwilt

Erik's domestic policies were strongly opposed by the Swedish nobility, including Erik's half-brother, who later became King Johan III. As Erik's reign progressed, he showed increasing signs of insanity and he was constantly paranoid of others plotting against him. In 1567, Erik had the noble Sture family tried of high treason and he personally executed Nils Svantesson Sture with a dagger. In the fall of 1568, the nobility rebelled against Erik, and he was dethroned and replaced by his brother, Johan III. He was subsequently imprisoned in Örbyhus Castle, where he was poisoned to death on February 26, 1577.

⁸ According to *Adelsriksdagarna 1634-1635*. Prot. m.m. III R 8, Jacob served in the military under King Eric XIV. Since Eric XIV was deposed of the crown in 1568, Jacob must have enlisted in the 1560s.

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

The first military conflict that Jacob was involved in was the Nordic Seven Years' War (1563-1570), a war that pitted Sweden against a coalition of Denmark–Norway, Lübeck, and Poland.

The Nordic Seven Years' War (1563-1570)

The Nordic Seven Years' War was a war that lasted from 1563 to 1570 which pitted Sweden against an alliance of Denmark–Norway, Lübeck, and Poland. This war was caused by the tensions that arose over Sweden's departure from the Danish-ruled Kalmar Union, which occurred in 1523. In August of 1563, Denmark declared war on Sweden. On September 4, 1653, Danish King Fredrick II's army invaded the Swedish fortress at Älvsborg. During the next seven years, Sweden's army launched several invasions in the Danish provinces of Halland and Skåne (now part of southern Sweden), while Danish forces invaded the Swedish provinces of Dalsland, Öland, Östergötland, Västergötland, and Småland. Sweden also launched attacks in eastern Norway during this war. Although the Danish army (primarily consisting of mercenaries) was largely superior to Sweden's peasant army, problems arose when they refused to march because of not being paid. By 1568, Erik XIV of Sweden had gone insane, halting the war efforts. By 1570, both Danish and Swedish forces were exhausted. In September of that year, peace negotiations between the two sides began in the city of Stettin. On December 13th of that year, the Treaty of Stettin was signed, officially ending the war.



Engraving of Fredrick II of Denmark's Conquest of Älvsborg – September 4th, 1563

During the 16th century, Småland had two cavalry banners, or units of 300 riders: West Småland's banner and East Småland's banner. For most of his military career, Jacob was probably part of East Småland's banner.

Ryttarfanorna – Cavalry Banners

Before King Gustaf II Adolf reorganized Sweden's military into regiments and companies in 1628, it was organized into units of *fanorna*, or banners. While the infantry was organized into *fähnlein*, or units of 500 soldiers, the cavalry was organized into units of 300 riders, which was called a *fana*, or banner. Sweden's military had been organized into banners since the Middle Ages, which functioned as both administrative and tactical units. During the reign of Erik XIV, a permanent division was made in the banners. The Swedish Cavalry was now primarily organized into eight banners, which included one from Upland, two from Småland, one from Östergötland, two from Västergötland, and two from Finland. In addition to this, there were two banners for the king's riders, duke's banners, the noble banner, and banners for foreign units. Like the latter units of companies, banners were led by captains, who were assisted by lieutenants.

By the summer of 1563, tensions were brewing between Sweden and Denmark, leading into the Nordic Seven Years' War. On August 9th of that year, Denmark declared war on Sweden. On September 15th, King Erik XIV arrived at the city Jönköping to take personal command of the Swedish army. Three days later, Danish forces led by King Fredrik II invaded the fortress of Älvsborg in southwest Sweden. Around this time, there were several riots throughout southern Sweden. On September 28th, Erik XIV sent the riders of Småland's banners to the district of Sunnerbro in southwest Småland to quell some unrest. Småland's riders later met up with Erik's army at the coastal city Halmstad in the province of Halland. On November 5-6th, the Swedish army invaded Halmstad. Two days later, the Danish army arrived at Halmstad and took back the city, while the Swedish forces fled north. Rather than pursue the fleeing Swedish soldiers however, the Danish army returned to the province of Skåne.⁹

***Karlskrona Grenadjärregementes Historia I: Smålands Rytarre (1543-1629)* by Ivar Hult**

Karlskrona Grenadjärregementes Historia I: Smålands Rytarre (1543-1629) (*Karlskrona's Grenadier Regiments History I: Småland's Cavalry (1543-1629)*) is a book by Ivar Hult (1865-1931) that was published in 1913. This book gives a detailed history of Småland's Cavalry from the years 1543 to 1629. Pages 25-38 of this book describe Småland's Cavalry's involvement in the Nordic Seven Years' War (1563-1570), the Livonian War (1570-1595), and Sigismund's War (1598-1599).

⁹ Hult, page 25

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm



Map showing the southern provinces of Sweden that were involved in the Nordic Seven Years' War

On January 12, 1564, Nils Pedersson Silversparre, the former captain of East Småland's banner, led the riders of Småland's banners on a raid through the province of Blekinge and the district of Göinge in Skåne. After this, Småland's riders returned home. On June 4th, 300 riders from Småland's banners met up with Erik XIV's main army at the city of Jönköping. Here, the banners received a joint commanding officer, Knut Håkansson Hand. Småland's riders were then sent to guard the border at Sunnerbo. On July 26th, Daniel Rantzau, the Danish commander, led a raid into Sunnerbro, prompting Hand's army to return to the province of Halland.

In August of 1564, Erik XIV ordered the Swedish army to reunite in Kalmar and Blekinge. Around this time, Captain Anund Stensson led the riders of Småland's banners to the island of Öland, which they drove out the Danes. Shortly after this, both banners of Småland's Cavalry met up with Erik's army in Kalmar and participated in raids in Blekinge. On October 6th, 100 of the riders in Anund Stensson's banner were sent to Öland, while Småland's riders that were under the banner of Captain Per Christersson were sent to Sunnerbo. On December 7th, Erik XIV ordered both of Småland's banners to meet at the city of Jönköping and accompany commander Klas Horn in a raid through Halland and Skåne.¹⁰

Anund Stensson

Anund Stensson was born sometime in the early 16th century. He was the son of Sten Bengtsson. Stensson was first mentioned in 1560. By 1564, he was captain of East Småland's banner, and was its commander during the Nordic Seven Years' War. By 1567, he was a District Chief in Hulterstad City, Möckleby District, and Öland. Stensson owned a manor in Stävlö Åby Parish, Småland. In 1570, he was married to Estrid Nilsson, the daughter of Privy Council Nils Krumme and Margareta Siggesdotter. Stensson died around 1581. He was buried in the graveyard of Västerlång Church in the province of Södermanland.

Source: https://www.adelsvapen.com/genealogi/Tillbakascende_ulv. Accessed July 2, 2017

¹⁰ Hult, pages 26-27

On January 21, 1565, Anund Stensson's banner was stationed at the town Ljunga in the province Östergötland. At this time, there were 176 riders in the banner. By the end of February, the banner marched to Kalmar Castle, where they received clothing for 133 riders on March 2nd. Around this time, Stensson temporarily resigned from command and he was replaced by Bengt Bagge.

On June 15th, Daniel Rantzau launched a successful raid into the province Västergötland. Nils Silfversparre subsequently led Småland's riders to southern Västergötland to launch a counterattack against Rantzau's forces. On August 3rd, Småland's riders, who were led by Bengt Bagge, met up with King Erik's army at Skara, a city in Västergötland. On August 7th, Erik's army marched from Skara to the fortress Älvsborg. Rantzau's forces subsequently retreated to Skåne. Erik's army proceeded to march through Halland, while Knut Håkansson Hand once again took command of Småland's riders. On August 22nd, Småland's riders helped defend the city of New Varberg from Danish invaders who succeeded in capturing it six days later. After Småland's riders evacuated from New Varberg, they burned a bridge located on a major road that led to Skåne, before meeting up with the main Swedish army that was commanded by Nils Boje.

By October of 1565, Boje's army was stationed at Axtorna, a town in Halland. On October 20th, Rantzau's army and Swedish forces clashed near Axtorna and the Swedish army was dealt a crushing defeat. During this battle, Knut Håkansson Hand was killed. After the Battle of Axtorna, the Swedish army marched to Västergötland, while Rantzau's army returned to Skåne.¹¹

The Battle of Axtorna

On October 20, 1565, an army of 11,000 Swedes clashed with an army of 7,500 Danes near the town of Axtorna in the province Halland. Once Swedish intel learned that the Danish forces were approaching from the south, the Swedish army launched an attack on them. During this battle, Danish commander Daniel Rantzau took advantage of the weakness of the Swedish army's extended battle lines. With the might of his superior cavalry, Rantzau was able to overcome the Swedes. Around 4,000 men were killed during the Battle of Axtorna.



Sketch of the Battle of Axtorna

¹¹ Hult, page 27

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

In January of 1566, the riders in Småland's banners took part of a short raid in Göinge. After this, they met up with the army of Swedish commander Charles de Mornay. During the next few months, Småland's riders weren't involved in any conflicts. On July 10th, the riders were ordered to march to Bogesund, but these plans changed after Daniel Rantzau launched a raid through the province of Västergötland, pillaging and burning several towns. On June 26th, King Erik ordered that Småland's riders once again accompany Charles de Mornay's army. A week later, de Mornay's army arrived at Alingsås District in Västergötland.

Charles de Mornay (1514-1574)

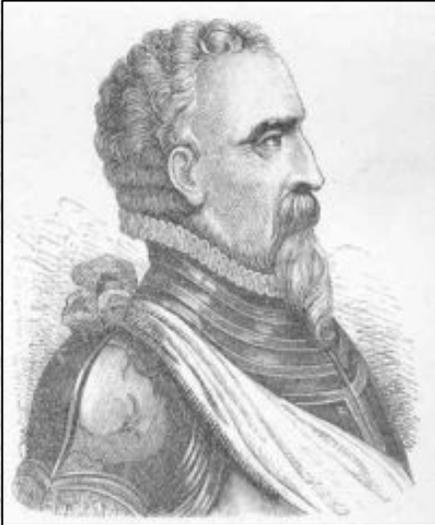
Charles de Mornay was born around 1514 in France. He was of a distinguished French lineage and was a Huguenot (a French Protestant). By 1557, he was living in Sweden, and was a diplomat for King Gustav Vasa. When Gustav's son Erik XIV became king in 1560, de Mornay became one of his closest advisors. In 1562, de Mornay became one of Sweden's chief military commanders. He led several campaigns during the Nordic Seven Years' War and Livonian War. In 1566, he was taken prisoner by the Danes. He returned to Sweden in 1571 and swore allegiance to King Johan III, who took the throne in 1568. In 1574, de Mornay was involved in a plot against Johan III and was executed for his treason.

On August 12, 1566, Småland's riders were stationed near Alingsås. In the beginning of September, Småland's riders followed commander Klas Horn's army towards Halmstad. On October 1st, the riders returned to Småland.

On January 7, 1567, King Erik ordered that the riders in Småland's banners be sent to Västergötland. On February 11th, however, the king ordered that Småland's forces protect Småland's borders instead. Everything remained quiet in Småland, however. Anund Stensson's banner later arrived at Kalmar Castle where they received wages for 137 riders.

On October 20, 1567, the Danish commander Daniel Rantzau led an army of 6,000 men from Halmstad toward Jönköping, threatening Swedish defenses in Småland. In response, Nils Silfversparre mobilized the local forces and called reinforcements from Västergötland to defend Jönköping. Despite their efforts, Rantzau encountered little initial resistance. On November 2nd, Swedish troops engaged the Danes near Jönköping but were forced to retreat. The Danish army then attacked Jönköping, setting the city ablaze. Determined to halt the invasion, Swedish forces under Silfversparre and Stenbock pursued Rantzau's army as it marched north. Near Gränna, Stenbock's forces engaged the Danes, while Silfversparre launched a surprise attack. However, after intense fighting, Rantzau managed to break through both Swedish forces by November 10th, continuing his advance.

In December of 1567, Rantzau's army marched to the city Söderköping in Östergötland, which they proceeded to pillage and burn. On December 5th, Swedish commander Brynte Lillie launched a failed attack on Rantzau's army. After this, Nils Silfversparre and Brynte Lillie's forces were sent to Gränna to help guard against the Danes.¹²



Sketch of Daniel Rantzau

Rantzau's Raid

During the fall of 1567 and winter of 1568, Danish commander Daniel Rantzau led his troops upon a raid through Småland and Östergötland, leaving destruction in their wake. In October of 1567, Rantzau led an army of 8,500 from Halmstad along the road Nissatigen into Småland. Despite difficulties presented by crevices, ice blocks, and bridges that had been torn down, Rantzau's forces arrived in the city of Jönköping and proceeded to pillage and burn it. Rantzau's troops then marched along the road Västra Holavedsvägen into Östergötland, burning all farms and villages along the way. During this raid, the Danes burned down the town Vadstena, the monastery Alvastra, and king's estate Motala.

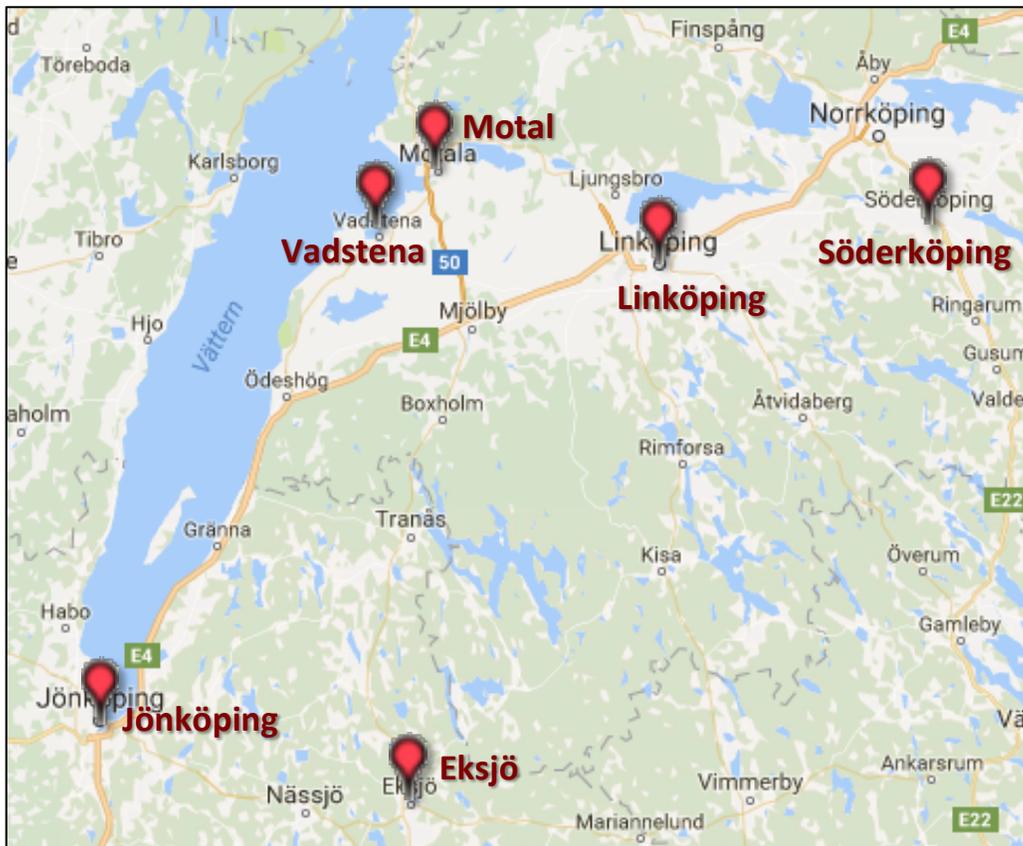
Near the end of 1567, Rantzau's army arrived at the city Linköping in Östergötland, and raided the city's grain and malt supplies. The army then advanced to the city Söderköping and pillaged it. The aristocrats of Söderköping offered to pay a ransom to the Danes to avoid burning the city, but the Swedish cavalry soon arrived at the city and punished its residents for offering this ransom by burning their farms. Throughout the countryside of Östergötland, Danish soldiers made farmers pay six daler for sparing their farms. The Swedish military saw this act as treason and executed 78 farmers for this offense.

By the time that Rantzau's army had raided Söderköping, the Swedish army had burned the city Linköping and the southern part of Norrköping and destroyed all of the bridges over the Motala River to prevent further raids by the Danes. Upon learning that the main Swedish army was advancing from Norrköping, Rantzau's army retreated along the Östra Holavedsvägen road. During their retreat, Rantzau's army marched through Såby Parish and burned most of the farms there. Here, they were involved in a skirmish with Swedish soldiers and captured two Swedish generals, Sten Axelsson Banér and Hogenskild Bielke. While camping along the frozen Lake Nommen in Såby, some of Rantzau's men and artillery fell through the ice. In February of 1568, Rantzau's army burned the city Eksjö before returning to the Danish-controlled province of Halland. Rantzau's raid cemented Rantzau as one of the most brilliant military leaders of his time.

¹² Hult, page 29

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

At the start of 1568, the Swedish army gathered near Norrköping to drive back Rantzau's forces. On January 24, 1568, Rantzau's army began their retreat along the Östra Holavedsvägen road. Along the way, they passed through the city Eksjö and burned it, before proceeding to the city Värnamo. On February 2nd, King Erik called upon Anund Stensson's banner to march towards Jönköping and intercept Rantzau's army. Rantzau's troops reached Danish territory on February 14th, before they could be intercepted. On February 23rd, both of Småland's cavalry banners met up with Erik's army at the village Skatelöv near Växjö. Shortly after this, Småland's riders participated in a brief raid in the region Östra Göinge in Skåne, before returning to Kronoberg on March 1st. It's likely that Småland's riders also participated in Brynte Lillie's rescue expedition to Västergötland in early 1568. During the spring of that year, the riders stayed home for a few months.



Map showing the major towns in Småland and Östergötland that were burned during Rantzau's raid

In June, King Erik's brothers Johan and Karl launched a rebellion against Erik, who had gone insane. Both of Småland's cavalry banners played a part in this revolt. At this time, there were 130 riders in Anund Stensson's banner and 182 riders in Peder Arvidsson's banner. In the autumn of 1568, Erik XIV was taken captive and his brother Johan III succeeded him as king. By this point, both Sweden's and Denmark's armies were exhausted.¹³

¹³ Hult, pages 30-31

In the early spring of 1569, Peder Arvidsson's West Småland's cavalry banner was sent to Estonia, while Anund Stensson's East Småland's cavalry banner remained in Sweden. At this time, there were 155 riders in Stensson's banner. On September 22nd, Stensson's banner was ordered to meet up with Duke Karl's army at Jönköping. During the latter part of October, the banner accompanied Karl on his raid through Skåne. On November 2nd, Karl's army arrived at Urshult in southern Småland and proceeded on a raid through Västergötland. By the end of the year, the riders in Småland's banners returned home.

In early 1570, both of Småland's banners temporarily united under a single banner under Anund Stensson's command. There were 322 riders in this banner. On March 2, 1570, King Johan III ordered Småland's riders to meet up with Erik Stenbock's army and launch a counterattack on the Danes, who were invading southern Kronoberg. By the time that Stenbock's army arrived in southern Kronoberg, however, the Danes had already returned to Skåne. In the middle of April, Småland's riders returned home. By this point, Småland's banners lacked a lot of resources and requested for their supplies to be replenished. On April 29th, however, Johan III denied this request. On December 13th, the Treaty of Stettin was signed, officially ending the war.¹⁴ Although it's unknown whether Jacob participated in the entirety of the Nordic Seven Years' War, he was certainly involved in some of it.

The Treaty of Stettin (1570)

On December 13, 1570, the Treaty of Stettin was signed in Stettin, West Pomerania, ending the Nordic Seven Years' War. This treaty was mediated by Maximilian II, the Holy Roman Emperor. In this treaty, Sweden and Denmark agreed on the following terms:

- Danish King Frederik II renounced all claims to Sweden.
- Swedish King Johan III renounced all claims to the Danish provinces of Blekinge, Halland, and Skåne and the Norwegian-Danish province of Gotland.
- Sweden had to pay 150,000 riksdaler for the ransom of Älvsborg Castle. To afford this hefty fee, Sweden placed high taxes on all moveable property, further impoverishing the population that had been ravaged by war. Furthermore, citizens of unburned towns had to pay one twelfth of what they owned, peasants had to pay one tenth, and residents of towns that had burned had to pay one eighteenth.
- Sweden had to pay 75,000 riksdaler to Lübeck.
- Sweden had to turn over its possessions in Livonia to the Holy Roman Empire.

After the Treaty of Stettin, Denmark emerged as the dominant power in Northern Europe, although it failed to restore the Kalmar Union. The dispute between Sweden and Denmark would continue for the next 150 years, lasting until the end of the Great Northern War in 1720.

¹⁴ Hult, page 32

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

Not too long after the Nordic Seven Years' War ended, Sweden became involved in the Livonian War, a war against Russia that mostly took place in modern-day Estonia and Latvia. Jacob also participated in this war.

On August 21, 1571, King Johan III ordered Anund Stensson's banner to go Finland. At this time, there were 256 riders in Stensson's banner, which gathered at Söderköping before departing. Over the course of the next year, the number of riders in Stensson's banner grew to 319. On October 16, 1572, Lieutenant Per Jonsson Gyllensparre's West Småland's banner were also sent to Finland. At some point, both of Småland's banners returned home for a short period of time.¹⁵

Sweden's Involvement in the Livonian War (1570-1583)

From 1570 to 1595, Sweden was involved in the Livonian War, a war involving an alliance between Denmark-Norway, Poland-Lithuania, and Sweden against Russia and the Kingdom of Livonia for the control of Old Livonia (which today consists of Estonia and Latvia). This war began in 1558 when Russia first invaded Livonia. In 1570, Russia demanded that Swedish forces abandon their claim to Reval Castle in Estonia, provide Russia with 200-300 cavalry riders, and pay them 10,000 riksdaler. King Johan III refused these demands, leading Sweden to war with Russia.



Map of Livonia in 1573

During the early 1570s, Swedish forces in Estonia defended Sweden's fortresses from Russian soldiers. In 1573, the Russians' advances against Sweden concluded after the siege of Weissenstien. In 1577, Sweden entered into an alliance with Poland-Lithuania against Russia. Throughout the late 1570s, Swedish and Polish forces laid siege to several Russian fortresses in Livonia. In 1579, the Swedish military laid siege to the Livonian city Narva but failed to take it. Shortly after this, Pontus de la Gardie was appointed as the commander-in-chief of Sweden's military. During the early 1580s, Swedish forces invaded the towns Ivangorod, Jama, Keholm, Koporye, Padis, Narva, and Wessenberg. In 1583, the Treaty of Prussia was signed, declaring a truce between Russia and Sweden. During this truce, Sweden demanded much of Russia's land in Livonia and Russia agreed to cede the northern part of Livonia to Sweden. Although this truce was initially supposed to last only three years, it was extended until 1590.

¹⁵ Hult, page 33

In the summer of 1573, the riders of Småland's banners were ordered to return to Finland, but this order was recalled on September 25th. For the next few years, Småland's riders stayed at home. On September 10, 1578, approximately 500 of Småland's riders met up under the command of Jöran Prijssom to depart for Finland. Over the next few months, around 100 of Småland's riders were sent back to Småland. For the next two decades, the number of riders in Småland's banners would remain at around 400.¹⁶



Hofsgård, Höv Parish, Östergötland County
Where Karin Gjordsdotter may have been born

Sometime in the 1570s, Jacob was married to Karin Gjordsdotter.¹⁷ Karin was probably born sometime in the 1550s. Her father was Gjord Månsson and her mother was Margareta Knutsdotter.¹⁸ Since Karin's father Gjord was listed as living at Hofsgård, a farm that was owned by the Crown in Höv Parish, Östergötland in the 1550s¹⁹, it's possible that Karin was born there. Gjord was a sheriff who upheld the law in his district and collected taxes for the Crown.

Karin's mother Margareta was of nobility and came from the Forsaätten Dynasty.²⁰ Because of this, Margareta's family were both wealthy and socially affluent. Karin's maternal uncle Lars Knutsson served as a secretary for King Erik XIV. Karin had at least one brother whose name is unknown. By 1562, Karin's family moved to Aggarp²¹, the farm in Björkö Parish where her paternal grandfather Måns had resided in the mid-16th century.

¹⁶ Hult, page 33

¹⁷ Karin is listed as Jacob's wife in Vol. 1591:4, Image 16.

¹⁸ In 1591, Karin received a Royal Letter to be exempt from taxation at Aggarp, Björkö (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1591:14, Image 16). In 1590, a woman named Margareta from Aggarp also received a Royal Letter (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1590:7, Image 73). This record states that Margareta was the sister of Lars Knutsson, so her surname must have been "Knutsdotter." Since the rights of Royal Letters usually extended through one's children, Karin must have been Margareta's daughter. From 1566 to 1591, Margareta is frequently listed at Aggarp (usually as an unnamed widow, as in Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1566:18, Image 18.) From 1562 to 1565, a man named Gjord was listed at Aggarp (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1565:1, Image 19), so he must have been Margareta's husband. Swedish genealogists have identified Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter as the same two that were mentioned living at the king's farm Hofsgård, in Höv Parish, Östergötland County in the 1550s. Gjord and Margareta are both mentioned in a letter from 1576 (Leonard Fredrik Rääf samling, Series F1, Vol 5). Thus, since Gjord Månsson was Margareta Knutsdotter's husband, he must have been Karin's father.

¹⁹ Landskapshandlingar Östergötlands handlingar Vol. 1554:16, Image 151

²⁰ In 1576, Margareta was listed as the sister of the late Halvard Knutsson, who owned the estate Forsa in Bollebygd Parish. (Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576). Patronymic tradition tells us that Margareta and Halvard's father's name was Knut, and a squire named Knut Nilsson was listed as the owner of Forsa in 1506 (SDHK No: 35359 – February 27, 1506). Since Knut Nilsson lived a generation before Halvard and was the previous owner of Forsa, he must have been the father of Margareta.

²¹ Karin's father Gjord is listed at Aggarp in 1563 in Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1563:26, Image 90.

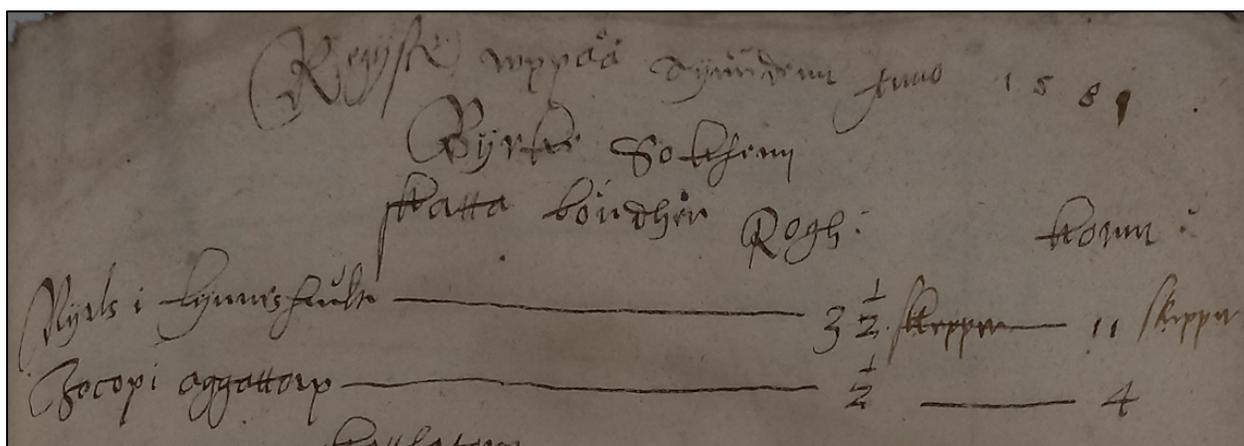
8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter
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Raising a Family at Aggarp (1580-1602)



Aggarp, Björkö Parish – Where Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter’s family lived in the late 16th century and early 17th century

Although it’s unknown where Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter lived during their first years of marriage, it’s possible that they lived at Aggarp, Björkö Parish. By 1581, they were living at Aggarp²² and remained there for the rest of their lives. Jacob and Karin had at least two sons, Lars and Per.²³ Jacob and Karin attended Björkö Church. From 1557 to 1583, the church’s vicar was Knut Olsson.



Landscape document of Jacob at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1581

Transcription:

Regijster wppå Tijundenn Anno 1581
 Byrke Sokhenn
 Skatte böndher Rogh: Kornn:
 Nijls i Lynenshult 3½ skäppor 11 skeppor
 Jacop i Aggatorp ½ 4 "

Translation:

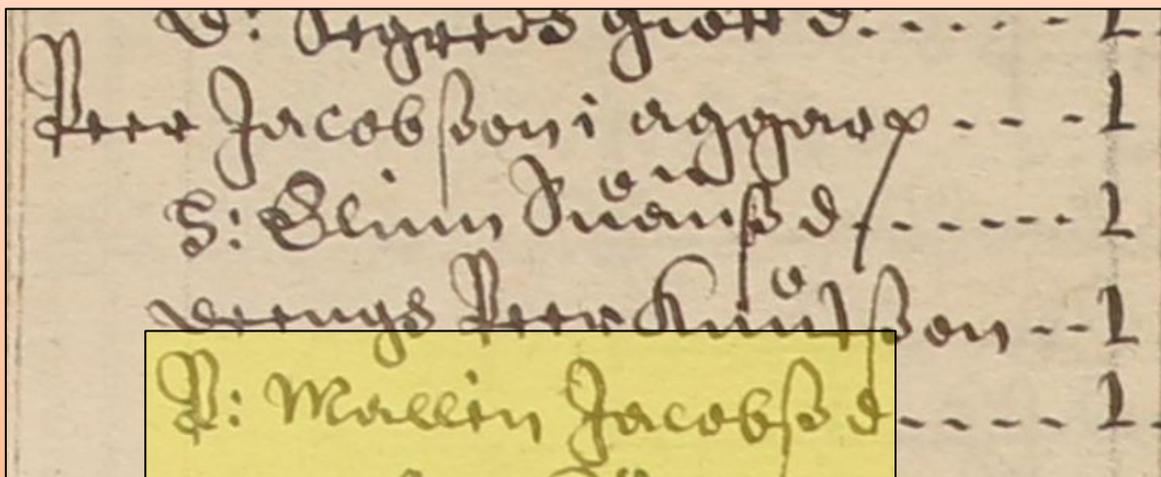
Tithes Register of Year 1581
 Björkö Parish
 Taxed farmer Rye Barley:
 Nils in Lynenshult 3½ bushels 11 bushels
 Jacob in Aggarp ½ bushel 4 bushels

²² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1581:5, Image 39

²³ Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *The Introduced Swedish Nobility*. 1925-36, Vol. VIII, No. 214

Did Jacob and Karin Have a Daughter Named Malin?

Several Mantalslängder records show that a woman named Malin Jacobsdotter lived at Aggarp in the 1640s, during the same time that Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter's son Per Jacobsson lived there. In all these records, Malin is listed as an unmarried maid. Since patronymic tradition tells us that Malin's father was Jacob and older unmarried women in Sweden usually lived with their siblings, it's likely that she was Jacob and Karin's daughter. Although it's very likely that Malin was Jacob and Karin's daughter, there is no concrete proof of this.



Mantalslängd that shows Malin Jacobsdotter at Aggarp, Björkö in 1645

Source: Mantalslängder 1642-1820 Kronoberg County, Year: 1645, page 147

In October of 1580, most of the riders in Småland's banners were shipped to Finland under the command of Erik Stenbock. In November, Småland's riders joined up with Pontus de la Gardie's army near the border of Russia. At this time, there were 438 riders in Småland's banners. In early 1581, Småland's riders accompanied de la Gardie's army from Viborg over the Gulf of Finland to the estuary of Estonia-Ingermanland. In March of 1581, de la Gardie's army captured Russian fortresses at Wesenberg and Tolsborg. Soon after this, de la Gardie returned to Sweden.²⁴



Wessenberg Castle, Estonia

²⁴ Hult, page 34

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

In July of 1581, Karl Horn gathered the Swedish army together at Wesenberg and marched towards Estonia. In early August, de la Gardie arrived with reinforcements from Sweden and summoned Karl Horn's army. After the two armies merged, they marched to the city of Narva in northeast Estonia. On September 6th, the Swedish army laid siege to Narva and captured it. After Narva was captured, Swedish forces proceeded to invade the city of Ivangorod and Jama Castle. After this, Småland's riders returned with de la Gardie's army to Reval Castle where they spent the winter.

The Siege of Narva (1581)



Narva Castle, Estonia

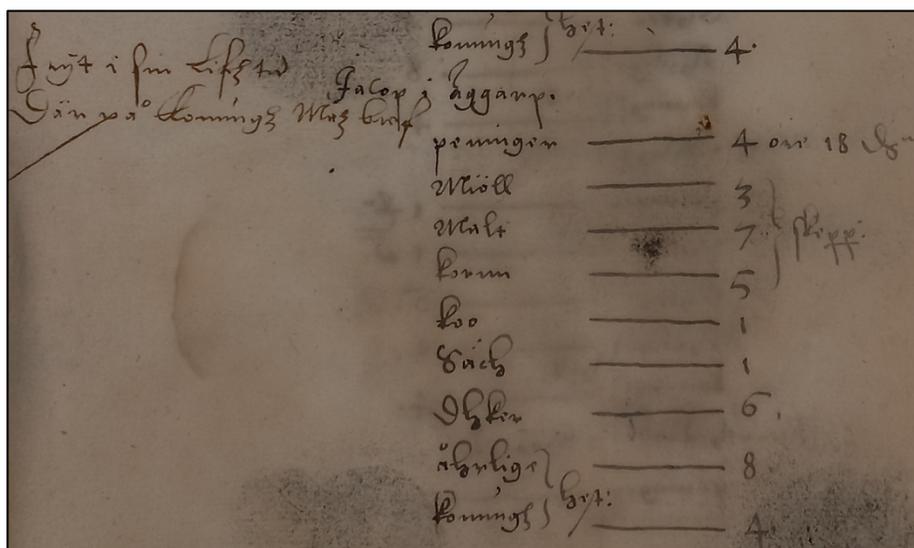
On August 29, 1581, an army of 10,000 Swedish soldiers, led Pontus de la Gardie, arrived at Narva in northeast Estonia. At this time, Narva was an important trading city that was controlled by Russia. On September 17th, the Swedish army stormed Narva, which was defended by 8,000 Russian soldiers, and conquered it. The majority of the Swedish army attacked Narva from both the east and west sides. During this invasion, several Swedish soldiers looted the city. Two years later in 1583, Narva was officially ceded to Sweden during a truce with Russia.

During the spring of 1582, Småland's riders marched with the Swedish army east of Narva to pursue a retreating faction of Russian soldiers. At Jamagrod, the Swedish army clashed with Russian forces in a conflict that Småland's riders were in the forefront of. After this conflict, the Russian soldiers retreated further to Novgorod while the Swedish army returned to Reval Castle. By August 2nd, there were 432 riders in Småland's banners. Sometime in the summer of 1582, de la Gardie returned to Sweden. By the end of September, de la Gardie returned to Estonia with reinforcements. Småland's riders marched with de la Gardie to Narva shortly after this. During the fall of 1582, Småland's banners lost 20 horses. By the end of 1582, Sweden's involvement in the Livonian War was nearing an end and Småland's riders returned to their homes in Sweden.

On August 10, 1583, the Treaty of Plussa was signed, declaring a truce between Sweden and Russia.²⁵ Sometime in 1583, Michael Eriki became the vicar of Björkö Church.

²⁵ Hult, page 34

Jacob remained at Aggarp with his family for the remainder of the 1580s. In 1590, his family received a Royal Letter to stay at Aggarp free of taxation.²⁶



Landscape document of Jacob at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1590

Transcription:

Translation:

*Frjt i sin Lifztid Jacop i Aggarp
där på Konungh Maiz bref*

*...in his lifetime Jacob in Aggarp
Given a Royal Letter*

*peninger _____ 4 öre 18 p(enninga)r
Miöll _____ 3 skepp.
Malt _____ 7 skepp.
Kornn _____ 5 skepp.
Koo _____ 1
Sädh _____ 1
dker _____ 6
Ahrliche (hest) _____ 8
Konungs(hest) _____ 4*

*Cash _____ 4 öre 18 penningar
Flour _____ 3 bushels
Malt _____ 7 bushels
Barley _____ 5 bushels
Cows _____ 1
Seed _____ 1
Working days _____ 6
Annual horses _____ 8
King's horses _____ 6*

From 1590 to 1595, Sweden was once again at war with Russia during the Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595). During this time, several of Småland's riders were sent to Estonia to fight against Russian forces. Jacob probably also fought in this war as a middle-aged cavalry rider. Jacob's sons, Lars and Per, were probably interested in hearing about his war stories.

²⁶ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1590:7, Image 73

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

Jacob's War Stories*

“Jacob hastily prepared for his departure to Estonia. It was 1590 and he had received his orders to take part in the Russo-Swedish War just days before. His wife Karin tried to busy herself around the cottage to keep her mind occupied, but it was of no use. She would miss him terribly and feared for his safety. She didn't want to raise their children Lars, Per, and Malin alone. The boys, both preteens, were fascinated by their father's war experiences and hoped one day to be just like him. That morning, the boys eagerly listened to their father's war stories.

'Years before you children were born, in 1563,' Jacob began, 'Denmark had declared war on our fatherland in the Nordic Seven Years' War. Our regiment nobly rode into battle but soon we were hungry, cold, exhausted, and our entire army was most always outnumbered by the powerful Danes. But we held our own until we made peace on that cold day in December of 1570.'

'Then came the Livonian War in 1570,' Jacob continued, 'Russia had placed demands on Sweden to which our king refused, and Russia declared war on us. As time went on, my regiment and the others fought side by side with Danish, Norwegian, Polish, and Lithuanian troops against the Russians and Livonians. Our powerful Swedish troops invaded many towns, and a truce was finally called in the summer of 1583, back when you boys were very small.'”

*A work of creative fiction by Rhonda Serafini

The Only Mention of Karin Gjordsdotter

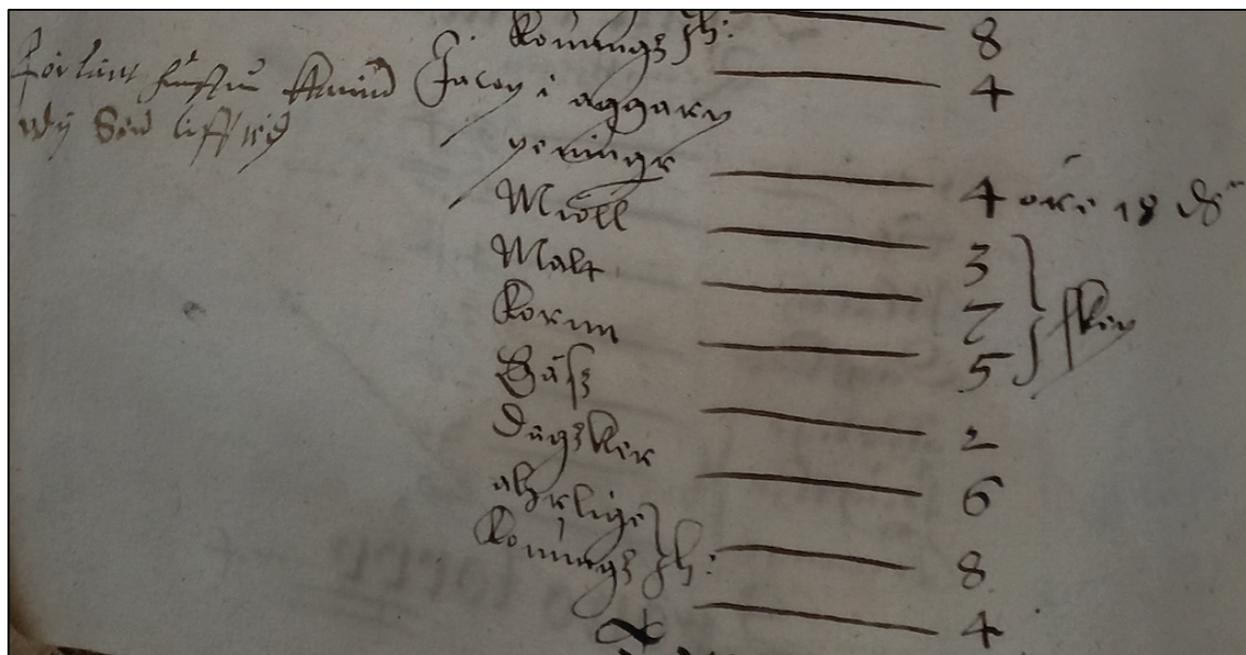
The 1591 landscape document is the only known record that mentions Karin Gjordsdotter. In this record, she is listed as Jacob's wife and is noted to have received a Royal Letter which allowed her to live at Aggarp exempt of taxation in her lifetime. Since Margareta Knutsdotter of Aggarp also received a Royal Letter in 1590¹, she must have been Karin's mother. Although Karin's surname isn't given in this record, it can be assumed that it was “Gjordsdotter,” since Gjord Månsson was Margareta Knutsdotter's husband² and thus, Karin's father. This record is of crucial importance for genealogical evidence, as it links the High family's Swedish ancestors to medieval nobility.

¹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1591:14, Image 16

² Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576

In 1591, Karin Gjordsdotter received a Royal Letter to stay at Aggarp free of taxation.²⁷ The following year, Sigismund, the son of Johan III, became the King of Sweden.

²⁷ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1591:4, Image 16



Landscape document of Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1591

Transcription:

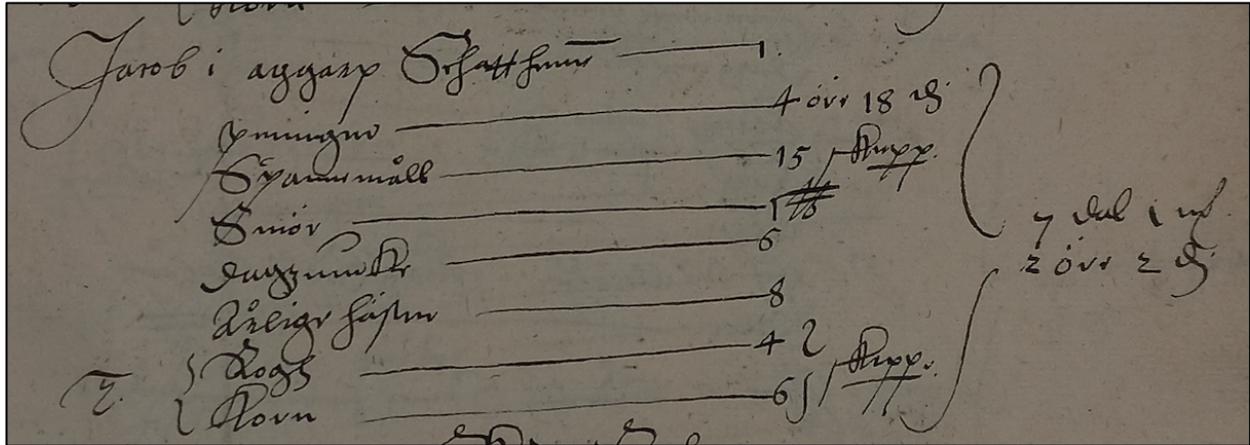
Förlänt hustu Karind Jacop i Aggarp
edi sin lifstijd peninge _____ 4 öre 18 p(eninga)r
Miöll _____ 3 skep
Malt _____ 7 skep
Kornn _____ 5 skep
Sädh _____ 2
dagzken _____ 6
Ahrliche _____ 8
Konungs _____ 4

Translation:

Give to wife Karin Jacob in Aggarp
in her lifetime Cash _____ 4 öre 18 penningar
Flour _____ 3 bushels
Malt _____ 7 bushels
Barley _____ 5 bushels
Seed _____ 2
Working days _____ 6
Annual horses _____ 8
King's horses _____ 4

**8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter
fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm**

In 1593, Nicolaus Nicolai became the vicar of Björkö Church. In 1598, Jacob was part of Arvid Drake's banner.²⁸ The same year, the riders of Småland's banners took part in Sigismund's War, a rebellion against King Sigismund that was led by Duke Karl, Sigismund's uncle. During this short war, Sigismund was deposed and Karl succeeded him as the king.



Landscape document of Jacob at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1598

Transcription:

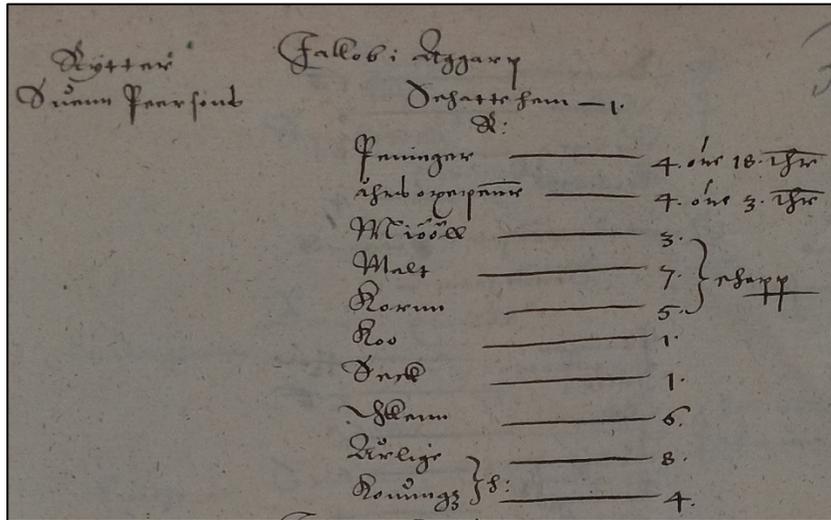
<i>Jacob i Aggarp Schattehemm</i>	<u>1</u>	
<i>peningar</i>	<u>4 öre 18 p(eninga)r</u>	
<i>Spannemål</i>	<u>15 skepp.</u>	
<i>Smör</i>	<u>1 #</u>	<i>7 dal 1 m(ar)k</i>
<i>Dagsuerke</i>	<u>6</u>	<i>2 öre 2 d p(enniga)r</i>
<i>Åhrlige hästar</i>	<u>8</u>	
<i>Rogh</i>	<u>4 skepp.</u>	
<i>Korn</i>	<u>6 skepp.</u>	

Translation:

<i>Jacob in Aggarp Taxed homestead</i>	<u>1</u>	
<i>Cash</i>	<u>4 öre 18 p(eninga)r</u>	
<i>Grain</i>	<u>15 bushels.</u>	
<i>Butter</i>	<u>1 pound</u>	<i>7 daler 1 mark</i>
<i>Working days</i>	<u>6</u>	<i>2 öre 2 pennigar</i>
<i>Annual horses</i>	<u>8</u>	
<i>Rye</i>	<u>4</u>	
<i>Barley</i>	<u>6 bushels</u>	

²⁸ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1598:8, Image 46

In 1602, Jacob was part of Sven Persson's banner.²⁹



Landscape document of Jacob at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1602

Transcription:

<i>Ryttar</i>	<i>Jacob i Aggarp</i>
<i>Suenn Perssons</i>	<i>Schattehem(man) 1</i>
	<i>peninger</i> _____ <i>4 öre 18 p(enninga)r</i>
	<i>Åhrs Oxepennr</i> _____ <i>4 öre 3 p(enninga)r</i>
	<i>Miöll</i> _____ <i>3 skepp</i>
	<i>Malt</i> _____ <i>7 skepp</i>
	<i>Kornn</i> _____ <i>5 skepp</i>
	<i>Koo</i> _____ <i>1</i>
	<i>Seedh</i> _____ <i>1</i>
	<i>dkenn</i> _____ <i>6</i>
	<i>Åhrlige</i> _____ <i>8</i>
	<i>Konungs</i> _____ <i>4</i>

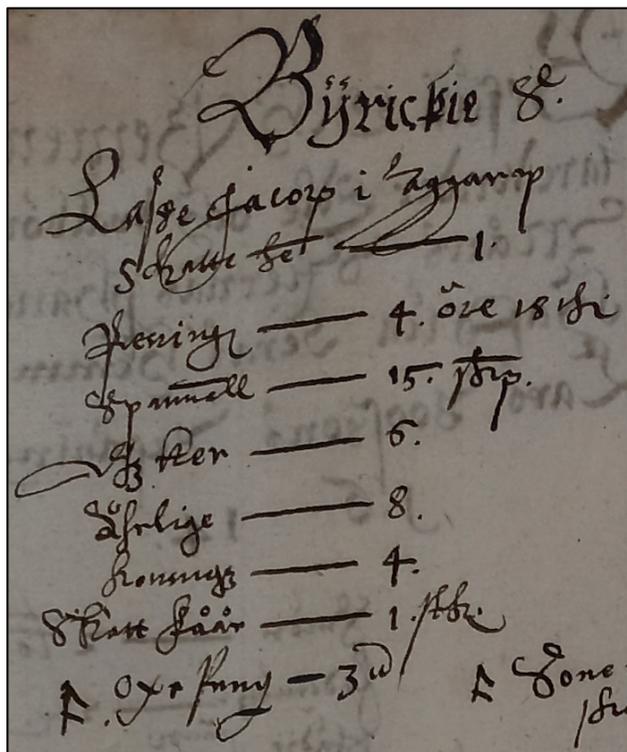
Translation:

<i>Cavalry Rider under</i>	<i>Jacob in Aggarp</i>
<i>Sven Persson's banner</i>	<i>Taxed homestead 1 mantal</i>
	<i>Cash</i> _____ <i>4 öre 18 penningar</i>
	<i>Annual oxen money</i> _____ <i>4 öre 3 penningar</i>
	<i>Flour</i> _____ <i>3 bushels</i>
	<i>Malt</i> _____ <i>7 bushels</i>
	<i>Barley</i> _____ <i>5 bushels</i>
	<i>Cows</i> _____ <i>1</i>
	<i>Seed</i> _____ <i>1</i>
	<i>Working days</i> _____ <i>6</i>
	<i>Annual horses</i> _____ <i>8</i>
	<i>King's horses</i> _____ <i>4</i>

²⁹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1602:14, Image 158

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter
fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

The Fate of Lars Jacobsson Björnram



Landscape document of Lars (Lasse) Jacobsson
at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1614

Around 1602, Jacob and Karin's son Lars Jacobsson enlisted in Småland's Cavalry.³⁰ Sometime in the 1600s or early 1610s, Lars was married to a woman named Christina Nilsdotter Björnram, whose family was of nobility. Lars and Christina had at least three children: Jacob, Per, and Maria.³¹ After Jacob's death in 1613, Lars inherited Aggarp.³² On November 6, 1623, Lars appeared at Östra District Court in the village of Vetlanda and transferred the ownership of half of Aggarp to his brother Per for 82 daler. Shortly after this, Lars moved to the farm Skärsboda, located just west of Aggarp.³³

Transcription:

Björckie S.
Lasse Jacop. i Aggarp
Schatte hm. 1
peninger _____ 4 öre 18 p(enninga)r
Spannemäll _____ 15 skp
dker _____ 6
Ahrlige _____ 8
Konungs _____ 4
Skatt fåår _____ 1 stk
Oxe peng - 3 d

Translation:

Björkö Parish
Lasse Jacobsson in Aggarp
Taxed homestead 1 (mantal)
Cash _____ 4 öre 18 p(enninga)r
Grain _____ 15 skp
Working days _____ 6
Annual horses _____ 8
King's horses _____ 4
Taxed sheep _____ 1 piece
Annual oxen money _____ 3 öre

By 1629, Lars was living at the estate Sjöryd in Björkö and had been promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant. By this time, he owned the farms Ryd, Styggstorp, Kvarnabol, Boda, and Källeryd, all in Björkö Parish.³⁴

³⁰ According to Adelsriksdagarna 1634-1635. Prot. m.m. III R 8, Lars had served in Småland's Cavalry for 30 years in 1632, which indicates that he enlisted around 1602.

³¹ Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *The Introduced Swedish Nobility*. 1925-36, Vol. VIII, No. 214

³² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1614:14, Image 68

³³ Göta Hovrätt - Advokatfiskalen Jönköping County, Vol. EVIIAAAC:3 (1619-1630), Image 2200

³⁴ Silfving, page 38

In 1630, Lars was mustered into Östra District's Company, which was commanded by Per Brahe, the commander of Småland's Cavalry. By this time, he had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. From 1630 to 1634, Lars served in Germany during the Thirty Years' War. He fought in several major battles, including the Battle of Breitenfeld and the Battle of Lützen. At the Battle of Breitenfeld, Lars's company was personally led by Gustaf II Adolf, the King of Sweden. Lars's performance in battle must have impressed the king, who knighted Lars on February 22, 1632.³⁵ Two years later in 1634, Lars took his wife's surname "Björnram" and his family (the noble Björnram family of Helgås) was admitted into the House of Nobility at No. 204.³⁶

Lars Jacobsson is Knighted by Gustaf II Adolf*

During the winter of 1632, the Swedish King Gustaf II Adolf and his army were in the southern part of Germany. On February 22, 1632 Gustaf II Adolf knighted Lars Jakobsson at 'Römer,' the old town hall in Frankfurt am Main. Lars's company, Östra District, was personally led by Gustaf II Adolf in the successful Battle of Breitenfeld in 1631, and Lars and his men greatly impressed the king during their efforts. Lars's brother Per Jacobsson, a lieutenant for the Uppvidinge Company, also attended the ceremony.

The Nobility letter that Lars received stated that Lars's father had been in service under the Swedish kings Erik XIV and Johan III. It also mentioned that Lars himself had been in service during the last 30 years, and he had also served under Gustaf II Adolf's father Karl IX. Lars's mother was said to come from nobility and Lars himself was married to a noble woman, Christina Nilsson Björnram. The shield that was given to him showed a pair of brown crossed bears arms.

The ceremony was very solemn. The King was very dependent on the noble families as they were the officers that led the troops during war. They were a very important category of men who deserved the most respectful treatment. They risked their blood and life for Sweden, as they always were always in front of their men during the battles, leaving them exposed to the enemy's fire.

Lars could now return home knowing that he and his wife's properties would be inherited by their children, as well as the family name Björnram af Helgås. Lars Björnram of Helgås and his family were inducted into the Swedish House of Nobility as number 204 on July 14, 1634.

*A work of creative fiction by Thomas Heed Miskar

³⁵ Silfving, page 38

³⁶ Adelsriksdagarna 1634-1635. Prot. m.m. III R 8

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter
fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

**Translation of the Record of Lars Jacobsson Björnram's Induction into
the Swedish House of Nobility**

"the Lieutenant of a Company of Småland's Riders, the honorable and stout-hearted Lars Jacobsson at Helgås. Not only of nobility on his mother's side (the family Krumme) but also married to a woman of the Björnram family. Already his father served the Swedish Crown during the reins of King Erik XIV and King Johan III, and now he himself has served more than 30 years as a soldier. He has served so well that he has deserved the freedom and conditions that his mother's and wife's ancestors got. When we now look upon his father's as well as his own long, faithful and indefatigable service, by which both have striven after gaining improvement of their status and conditions, we have no doubts about giving him and his descendants this Charter. We therefore give him and all his direct heirs, male and female, the following Coat of arms: a green shield with two brown bear-paws laid crosswise, above it an open joust-helmet on top of which there is a cuckoo between a pair of eagle-wings."

- Adelsriksdagarna 1634-1635. Prot. m.m. III R 8

**The Record of Lars Jacobsson Björnram's Induction into the
Swedish House of Nobility**



The Björnram family crest

In 1634, Lars Jacobsson Björnram received a letter that inducted his family into the House of Nobility. This letter included the Björnram family crest, which includes a green shield with two bear paws, a helmet, and a bird. Unfortunately, this letter was lost ages ago. Its transcript was persevered, however, and was certified by his friends and relatives: Axell Rääf (of Salshult), Joran Trulzon Kåse (from Raby in Marbäck Parish) and his brother-in-law John Ulff. *Ridarhuset*, the Swedish House of Nobility, has the transcription of the record and a drawing of the Björnram family crest.

Source: Silfving, page 39

Timeline of Events in Lars Jacobsson Björnram's Life

- 
- 1602 Lars enlists in Småland's Cavalry around this time.
 - 1610 Lars is first recorded as a cavalry rider under Captain Peder Michelson's banner.
 - 1622 Lars appears at Östra District Court in Vetlanda to testify that the sons of his neighbor Per in Pallarp took out the eye of one of his horses.
 - 1623 Lars appears at Östra District Court in Vetlanda and obtains the rights of half of Aggarp for his brother Per Jacobsson. Shortly after this, Lars moves to the farm Skärsboda.
 - 1629 Lars is listed as a second lieutenant under Count Per Brahe's banner and now inhabits the manor Sjöryd in Björkö Parish. He also owns the farms Ryd, Styggstorp, Kvarnabol, Boda, and Källeryd, all in Björkö.
 - 1630 Lars is mustered into Östra District's Company, commanded by Per Brahe. For the next four years, he is in Germany serving in the Thirty Years' War.
 - 1632 On February 22nd, Lars is knighted by King Gustaf II Adolf at Frankfurt, Germany.
 - 1634 Lars adopts his wife Christina Nilsson's surname "Björnram" and his family (the noble Björnram family of Helgås) is admitted into the House of Nobility at No. 204.
 - 1636 Lars exchanges land at Rödjenäs, Pallarp, and Äppleskog in Björkö Parish, for land at Attarp, in Barkeryd Parish and Solbergavägen in Habo Parish.
 - 1639 Lars obtains the farms Djuvnäs, Jutegården and Sickelås, all in Björkö Parish.
 - 1640 Lars sells the farms Äppleskog and Tällervd in Björkö to Johan Hård of Segerstad.
 - 1642 Lars attends the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm and signs the Estates order.
 - 1654 Lars Jacobsson Björnram dies.

Source: Silfving, pages 37-42

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

Lars Jacobsson Björnram acquired several more estates during the 1630s. Sometime this decade, he acquired the manor Rödjenäs in northern Björkö. In 1636, he exchanged some land at Rödjenäs, Pallarp, and Äppleskog in Björkö Parish, for land at Attarp, in Barkeryd Parish and Solbergavägen in Habo Parish. Three years later, he obtained the farms Djuvnäs, Jutegården and Sickelås, all in Björkö Parish. In 1640, Lars sold the farms Äppleskog and Tällervd in Björkö to Johan Hard of Segerstad.



Rödjenäs, Björkö – The estate that
Lars Jacobsson Björnram owned in the 17th century

Lars's son Jacob also enlisted in Småland's Cavalry. He married his maternal cousin Catharina Eketrä and died in the Battle of Warsaw on July 18, 1656. Lar's son Per inherited Rödjenäs after Lar's death in 1654. In 1649, Per married Carin Årrhane. Per died in Klockegården, Björkö Parish in 1698. Lars's daughter Maria married cavalry rider Hans Hansson, who died in battle in Poland during the Second Northern War. Maria was later married to a farmer from Pallarp named Sven Persson.³⁷

Children of Lars Jacobsson and Christina Nilsdotter Björnram

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Jacob	1610s-1620s	Björkö	July 18, 1656	Warsaw, Poland
Per	1610s-1620s	Björkö	1698	Björkö
Maria	1610s-1620s	Björkö	Unknown	Unknown

The Legal Dispute Between Per Björnram and Maria Larsdotter

After the death of Lars Jacobsson Björnram in 1654, two of his children, Per and Maria, were involved in a legal dispute over the settlement that their parents left them. According to Maria, their parents left her with the estate Pallarp in Björkö, but she later waved the rights of half of the farm to Per with the conditions that he would maintain its rights as a manor. Per didn't uphold this promise, however, causing Maria to regret her decision. Per refused to comply with her and wanted to cancel his earlier agreement. He even accused Maria of being a witch and claimed that she had bewitched his fishing area by drowning a kitten in it. Maria argued that this was done because there were too many kittens on the farm.

Source: Silving, page 43

³⁷ Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *The Introduced Swedish Nobility*. 1925-36, Vol. VIII, No. 214

The Mora Witch Trial

Throughout the Early Modern Era (1450-1750) there were various waves of witch hunts in Europe in which thousands of women were accused of witchcraft and sentenced to death. In Sweden, the amount of witch trials hit its zenith in the mid-17th century. One of the most famous witch trials that occurred in Sweden during this time is the Mora witch trial.



Illustration of the Mora witch trial -1670

In 1667, a boy named Mats Nilsson from Dalarna claimed to have seen a girl named Gertrud Svensdotter leading goats over the Eastern Dalälven by walking over the water. Gertrud was soon interrogated by the priest Lars Elvius, and she claimed that a neighbor named Märet Jonsdotter had taught her magic that came from the Devil. After Gertrude's confession, Märet Jonsdotter was apprehended and Gertrude accused seven other women of witchcraft. At the start of the Mora witch trials in September of 1668, Märet denied all accusations against her, but Gertrude, Gertrude's father Sven, and Märet's own siblings testified against her. During the trial, a widow named Karin and eight other people were also accused of witchcraft.

Word of this trial soon caused hysteria in nearby parishes and dozens of other people were also accused of witchcraft. From 1668 to 1678, around 280 people were sentenced to death because of witchcraft. Due to a legal technicality, however, Märet and the others associated with her were unable to be executed until they confessed. Sometime before September 25, 1672, Märet Jonsdotter and 32 others were executed. The witch hysteria continued to stir across Sweden until the execution of Malin Matsdotter in Stockholm in 1676. After this, the government ordered parish priests to declare that all witches be banished from the country forever.

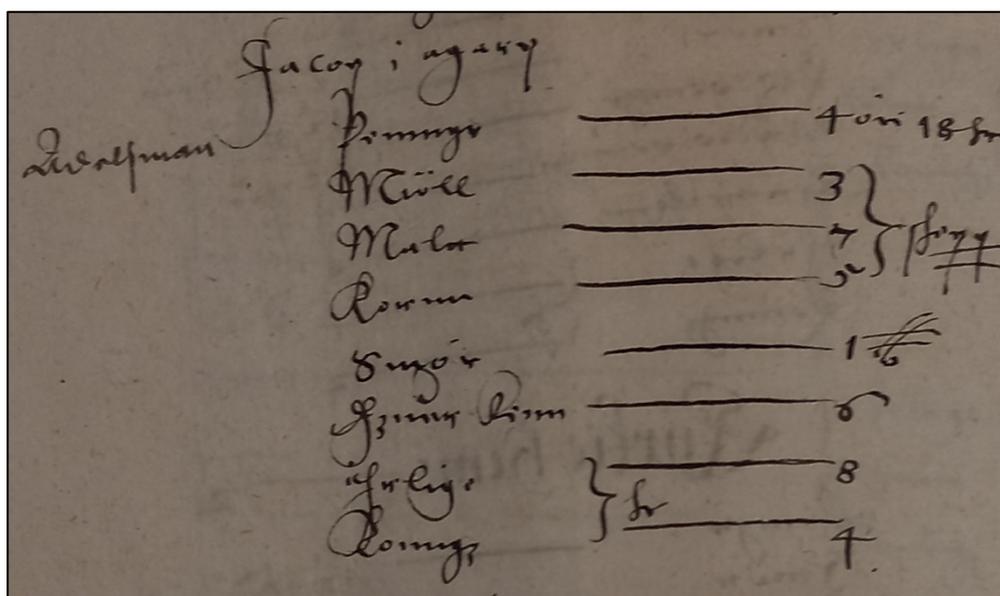
On February 23, 1642, Lars was present at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm and signed the Estates order. Lars was unable to attend the Swedish Parliament on July 4, 1650 because as he was listed as being crippled with old age. Sometime in 1654, Lars Jacobsson Björnram passed away. He was buried in the cemetery of Björkö Church.³⁸

³⁸ Silfving, page 42

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter
fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

The Final Days of Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter (1602-1613)

In the 1600s, Sweden was involved in the Polish-Swedish War (1600-1611). During this war, several of the riders in Småland's banners were sent to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Since Jacob was probably in his fifties by this point, it's unknown if he participated in this war. In 1604, Jacob was part of the *adelsfanan*, a banner associated with Swedish nobility.³⁹



Landscape document of Jacob at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1604

Transcription:

Translation:

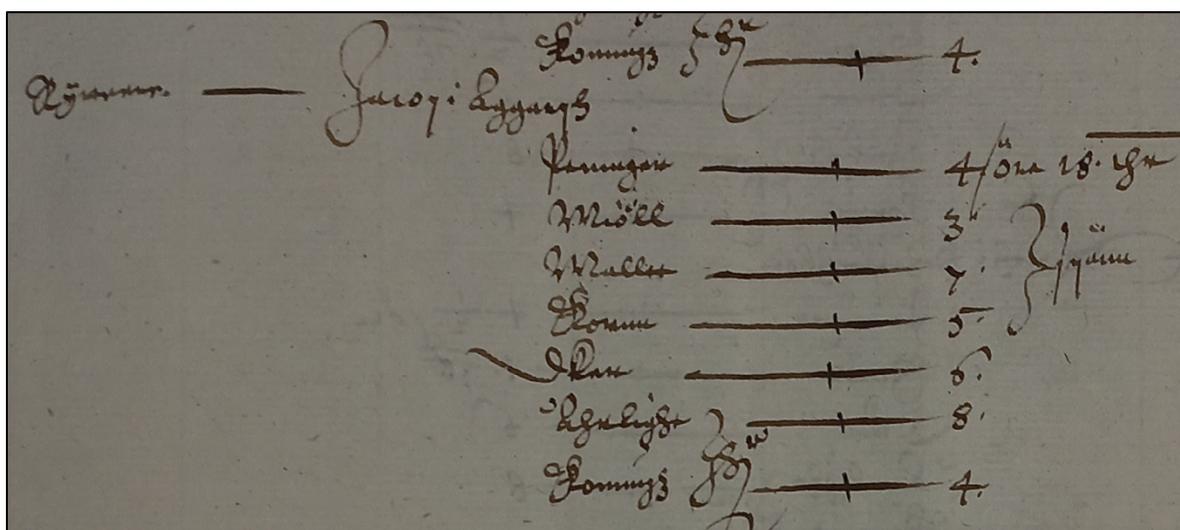
	<i>Jacob i Aggarp</i>		<i>Jacob in Aggarp</i>
<i>adelsfanan</i>	<i>peninger</i> _____ 4 öre 18 p(enninga)r	<i>Noble banner</i>	<i>Cash</i> _____ 4 öre 18 penningar
	<i>Miöll</i> _____ 3 skp		<i>Flour</i> _____ 3 bushels
	<i>Malt</i> _____ 7 skp		<i>Malt</i> _____ 7 bushels
	<i>Kornn</i> _____ 5 skp		<i>Barley</i> _____ 5 bushels
	<i>Smör</i> _____ 1 #		<i>Butter</i> _____ 1 pound
	<i>Dagsverken</i> _____ 6		<i>Working days</i> _____ 6
	<i>Ahrlige</i> _____ 8		<i>Annual horses</i> _____ 8
	<i>Konungs</i> _____ 4		<i>King's horses</i> _____ 4

Adelsfanan – Nobility Banner

Adelsfanan (Nobility banner) was a cavalry banner that was associated with the Swedish nobility. It was first formed by members of the Swedish nobility in 1280 that were ordered to assist the king. In 1571, this banner became known as the *adelsfanan*. During the reign of King Gustaf II Adolf, there were three *adelsfanan* units in the Swedish military. In 1743, the Swedish military stopped having *adelsfanan* units.

³⁹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1604:3, Image 124

In the early 1600s, both of Jacob and Karin's sons, Lars and Pers, followed in their father's footsteps and enlisted in the cavalry. Lars was married to a woman named Christina Nilssondotter Björnram and had at least three children with her: Jacob, Per, and Maria. Per was married to a woman named Elin Svensdotter and had at least five children with her: Nils, Anna, Jacob, Margareta, and Knut.⁴⁰ Both Lars and Per remained at Aggarp throughout the 1600s and 1610s. In 1611, Sweden became involved in the Kalmar War against Denmark. Although most of Småland's cavalry riders fought in this war, Jacob was now probably in his sixties or early seventies and was too old to fight. Jacob was last recorded as being alive in 1613.⁴¹ He probably died sometime that year, as his son Lars was listed as the proprietor of Aggarp the following year⁴² and no further records for Jacob can be found.



Landscape document of Jacob at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1613

Transcription:

Translation:

Ryttar -- Jacob i Aggarp

Cavalry Rider -- Jacob in Aggarp

peninger _____ 4 öre 18 p(eninga)r
 Miöll _____ 3 skp
 Malt _____ 7 skp
 Korn _____ 5 skp
 dken _____ 6
 Ahrlige _____ 8
 Konungs _____ 4

Cash _____ 4 öre 18 penningar
 Flour _____ 3 bushels
 Malt _____ 7 bushels
 Barley _____ 5 bushels
 Working days _____ 6
 Annual horses _____ 8
 King's horses _____ 4

It's unknown when Karin Gjordsdotter died. While it's likely that she survived Jacob and lived until the 1620s, it's also possible that she died sometime shortly after 1591, the only year that her name is recorded.

⁴⁰ For more information on the fate of Per Jacobsson, see The High Family's Swedish Ancestors – Volume Seven: The 4th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög and Anna Stina Johansdotter, page 1109.

⁴¹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1613:9, Image 16

⁴² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1614:14, Image 68

8.1.1. Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter
fm fm mf ff and fm fm mf fm

Trivia on Jacob and Karin Gjordsdotter

1. In what decade did Jacob enlist in the cavalry?
2. What was the first war that Jacob served in?
3. Who was the king of Sweden when Jacob enlisted in the cavalry?
4. What was the name of Karin Gjordsdotter's father?
 - a. Gjord Bengtsson
 - b. Gjord Månsson
 - c. Gjord Nilsson
 - d. Gjord Svensson
5. What was the name of Karin Gjordsdotter's mother?
 - a. Brita Knutsdotter
 - b. Malin Jonsdotter
 - c. Elin Svendsdotter
 - d. Margareta Knutsdotter
6. What was the name of the parish that Jacob and Karin raised a family at?
 - a. Björkö
 - b. Järeda
 - c. Målilla
 - d. Tveta
7. What was the name of the farm that Jacob and Karin raised a family at?
8. What was the name of Jacob and Karin's possible daughter?
9. What surname did Jacob and Karin's son Lars take after he became nobility?
10. Around what year did Jacob probably die?

Answers: 1. The 1560s 2. The Nordic Seven Years' War 3. King Erik XIV 4. b 5. d. 6. a, 7. Aggarp 8. Malin 9. Björnram
10. 1613

Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg

Name	Lars Olofsson	Name	Ingeborg
Born	1540s or early 1550s	Born	1540s-1550s
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Died	1620	Died	1619
Place	Målilla, Kalmar	Place	Målilla, Kalmar
Occupation	Cavalry rider	Occupation	Housewife

Children of Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Sigge	1570s	Unknown	May, 1640	Målilla, Kalmar

Lars Olofsson, Sigge Larsson's father, was probably born in the 1540s or early 1550s.⁴³ His father's name was Olof and his mother's name is unknown. While it's unknown where Lars was born, it's likely that he was born somewhere in Kalmar County, which was part of the province Småland in the 16th century.

Nothing is known of Lars Olofsson's life prior to 1587. He probably enlisted in Småland's Cavalry sometime in the 1560s or 1570s. It's possible that he served in the Nordic Seven Years' War and the Livonian War. Around this time, he was probably married to a woman named Ingeborg.⁴⁴ They had at least one son named Sigge.⁴⁵ By 1587, Lars's family lived at Ödhult, a farm in northern Målilla Parish, Kalmar County.⁴⁶



Ödhult, Målilla - Where Lars Olofsson lived from 1587 to 1620

The Name "Lars"

The name "Lars" is short for the Latin name *Laurentis*. The name started appearing as a nickname in Sweden in the 1300s and regular name in 1524. Other variations of the name include "Lasse" and "Larssa." The Name Day for Lars in Sweden is August 10th.

⁴³ This estimation is based on the fact that Lars's son Sigge was probably born in the 1570s and Lars was born a generation earlier than Sigge.

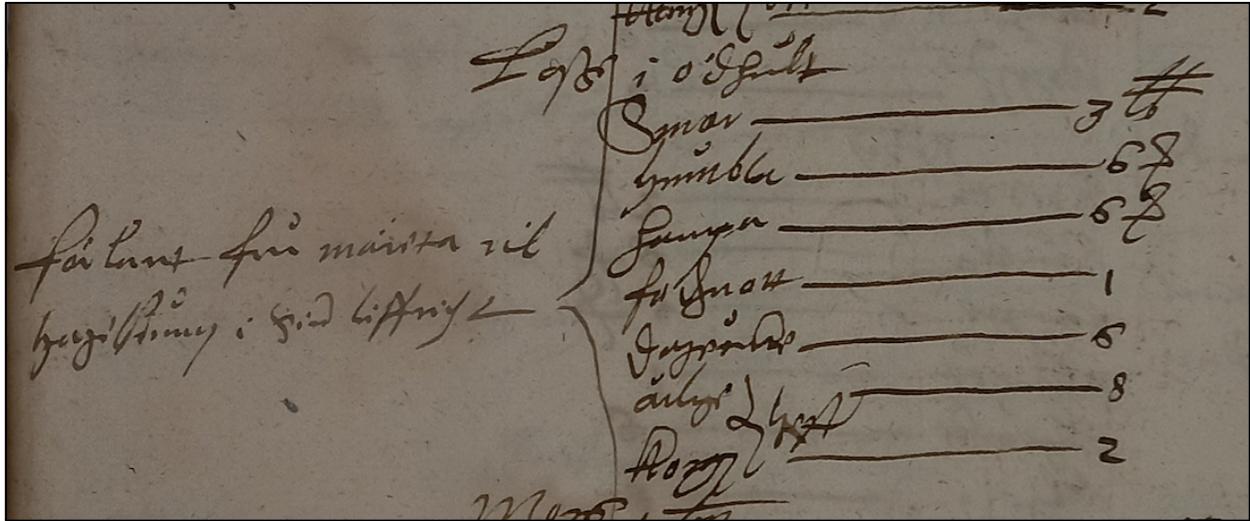
⁴⁴ Ingeborg is listed as Lars's wife in Målilla med Gårdveda Church Archive, Vol. C:1 (1632-1698), page 16.

⁴⁵ Sigge is listed as Lars's son in Målilla med Gårdveda Church Archive, Vol. C:1 (1632-1698), page 22.

⁴⁶ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1587:1, Image 102

8.1.2. Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg
fm fm mm ff and fm fm mm fm

In 1587, Lady Märita, a young noble woman, was listed as a guest at Ödhult. That year, Lars's farm yielded three pounds of butter, six markers of hops, and six markers of hemp. There were ten horses at Ödhult that year, two of which belonged to the King.⁴⁷



Landscape document of Lars (Lasse) Olofsson at Ödhult, Målilla Parish - 1587

Transcription:

Lasße i Ödhult

Smör	_____	3 #
Förlent fru Merita til	Humbla	_____ 6 \$
gästning i sin lifstidh	Hampa	_____ 6 \$
	Dodhrett	_____ 1
	Dagwke	_____ 6
	Åhrlige	_____ 8
	Kongs	_____ 2

Translation:

Lasse in Ödhult

	Butter	_____	3 pounds
Given to Lady. Märita	Hops	_____	6 markers*
guest in her lifetime	Hemp	_____	6 markers
	Fodder money	___ 1	(daler)
	Working days	___ 6	
	Annual horses	___ 8	
	King's horses	___ 2	

* marker = 1.2 kg

⁴⁷ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1587:1, Image 102

Since Sweden wasn't involved in any wars during the late 1580s, Lars remained at Ödhult during this time and focused on farming there.

Ödhult

Ödhult (Úd-húlt) is a town in northern Målilla Parish that is located a couple of miles north of the village of Målilla. Ödhult was first mentioned in 1320 in a letter that stated that Birgitta Birgersdotter had inherited *Øahult* from her mother Ingeborg Bengtsdotter. From 1447 until at least 1560, two of the farms at Ödhult belonged to the monastery in Vadstena. In the late 16th century, Ödhult was a rusthåll, or farm where cavalry riders lived. In 1922, a train station opened at Ödhult.



Train station at Ödhult

Lars was part of East Småland's cavalry banner. In 1590, tensions were again brewing between Sweden and Russia, leading into the Russo-Swedish War of 1590-1595. On October 16th, 1590, Småland's banners were sent to Estonia, where they remained in the camp at Wittenstein for the remainder of the year. At this time, there were 367 horses in the banners.⁴⁸

The Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595)

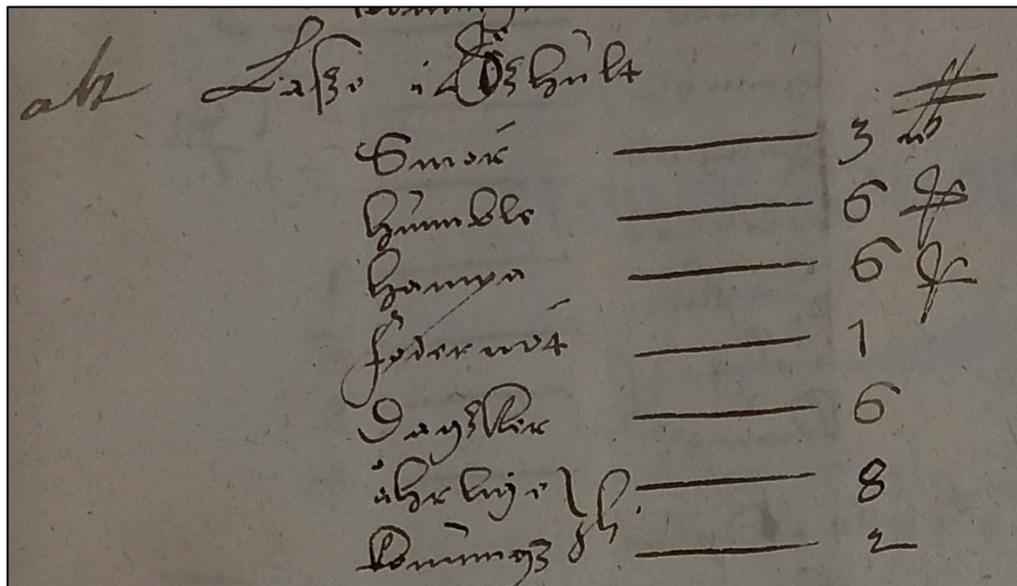
The Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595) was a war between Sweden and Russia that was instigated by Russian tsar Boris Godunov, who hoped to regain the Duchy of Estonia that Sweden won from Russia during the Livonian War. On January 18, 1590, Godunov led an army into Estonia and laid siege to the Swedish castle at Narva. Over the course of two weeks, Russian forces attacked several other Swedish fortresses in Estonia. On February 25th, Swedish governor Klas Henriksson Horn signed a truce which surrendered the territories of Jama, Koporye, and Ivangorod. In the summer of 1591, Swedes attacked the Estonian town Gdov and captured a local governor, Prince Vladimir Dolgorukov. Meanwhile, Swedish and Russian forces also clashed multiple times in East Karelia in Finland. While Russian Prince Volkonsky was sent to pacify East Karelia, Russian generals Bogdan Belsky, Fyodor Mstislavsky, and Prince Trubetskoy devastated Finland. In May of 1595, the Treaty of Teusina was signed, ending the war. This treaty restored all the Estonian lands to Russia that Sweden had gained in the Truce of Plussa at the end of the Livonian War.

⁴⁸ Hult, page 36

8.1.2. Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg
fm fm mm ff and fm fm mm fm

On January 16, 1591, Småland's banners went on a raid toward the city Novgorod. After Grip's army met up with Finnish troops at the town Korporie, Grip sent out A reconnaissance party of 300 horses which was followed by Småland's riders. Once Grip's army reached Novgorod, he turned around because of the bitter cold weather. Småland's banners subsequently marched towards Finland and arrived at the town Viborg on March 1st. During the winter of 1591, Småland's banner had lost 56 horses.

Småland's riders remained at Viborg during the spring and summer of 1591. On August 28th, there was a muster at Viborg, led by commanders Sten Fincke and Nils Olsson. The banners had 315 horses at this time. Shortly after this, Småland's riders then joined commander Klas Fleming in a march against Novgorod. In October, Fleming's army traveled north and Småland's riders returned to Viborg, where they stayed for the rest of the year.⁴⁹ It's extremely likely that Lars Olofsson participated in the Russo-Swedish War of 1590-1595.



Landscape document of Lars Olofsson at Ödhult, Målilla Parish - 1591

Transcription:

Translation:

R(yttare) alt Lasse i Ödhult

Smör _____ 3 #
 Humble _____ 6 mark
 Hampa _____ 6 mark
 Fodernöts _____ 1
 Dagsken _____ 6
 Åhrlige _____ 8
 Konungs _____ 2

Rider all

Lasse in Ödhult

Butter _____ 3 pounds
 Hops _____ 6 marks
 Hemp _____ 6 marks
 Fodder money ___ 1 (daler)
 Working days ___ 6
 Annual horses ___ 8
 King's horses 2

⁴⁹ Hult, pages 37-38

Volume Eight Generation Eight



Viborg Castle, Russia

The 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög The 5th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

During the first half of 1592, Småland's riders were stationed in Pyttis, a province in southeast Finland. During this time, some of the riders returned to Sweden to bring back more horses. By September, Småland's banners were at full strength and were accompanied by the riders from Östergötland and Västergötland. In November and December, Småland's riders were once again stationed at Viborg. At this time, the banners had 360 horses.⁵⁰ On November 17, 1592, Sigismund became the King of Sweden.

The Reign of Sigismund (1592-1599)

King Sigismund (1566-1632) ruled over Sweden from 1592 to 1604. He was the son of King Johan III and his wife Catherine Jagiellon. In 1587, he was elected as the ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. On November 17, 1592, Sigismund became King of Sweden. The same year, he was married to Anne Hapsburg. As ruler of both Sweden and Poland-Lithuania, Sigismund sought to create a union between the two countries. Sigismund appointed his uncle Duke Karl to rule as his regent in Sweden while he remained in Poland. In 1595, tensions arose between Karl and Sigismund after Karl called a Parliament without Sigismund's consent. In early 1598, Duke Karl assembled an army of 5,000 men to revolt against Sigismund, leading Sweden into a civil war. By September of that year, Sigismund's forces had been defeated. On July 25, 1599, Sigismund was officially deposed of the Swedish throne. Sigismund remained the ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth until his death in 1634.



Portrait of Sigismund
by Pieter Soutman

In May of 1595, the Treaty of Teusina was signed, ending the Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595). Småland's riders subsequently returned to their homes. Lars Olofsson was undoubtedly glad the war had ended.

⁵⁰ Hult, page 38

8.1.2. Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg fm fm mm ff and fm fm mm fm

Lars was likely dismayed that peace in Sweden didn't last long. During the late 1590s, tensions mounted between King Sigismund and his uncle Duke Karl, who was the regent of Sweden. In February of 1598, Karl gathered an army of 5,000 men to attack Sigismund's forces, leading into a civil war called the War Against Sigismund.

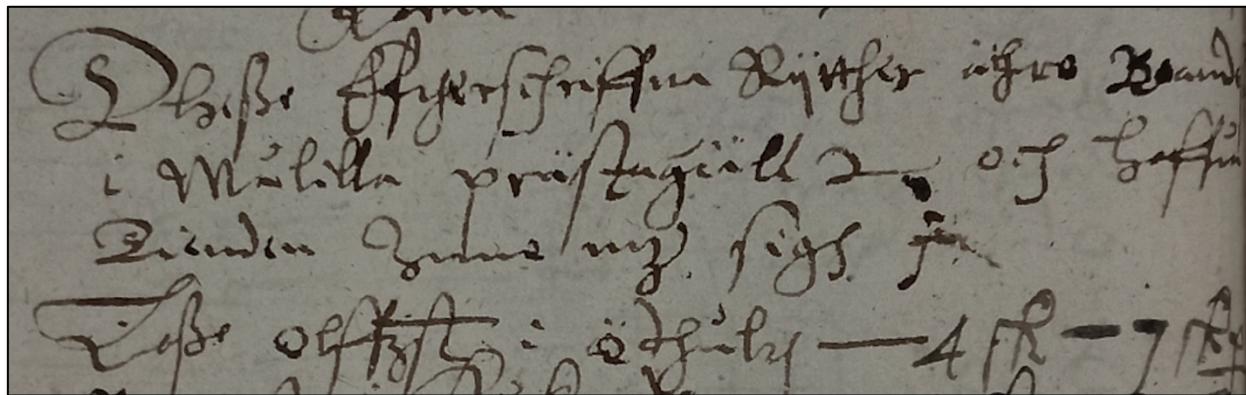
The War Against Sigismund (1598-1599)

The War Against Sigismund was a Swedish civil war that occurred during 1598 to 1599 between the armies of King Sigismund III and Duke Karl. Duke Karl hadn't approved of his nephew Sigismund's ascension to the throne in 1592 and tensions between the two mounted throughout Sigismund's reign. In February of 1598, Karl organized an army of 5,000 men, most of whom were German and Hungarian mercenaries. By this time, he had gained the support of much of Sweden. In May of that year, Sigismund's army arrived at Blekinge County in southern Sweden. On August 1st, Sigismund's army conquered Kalmar Castle. On September 8th, Sigismund's army defeated Karl's army at the Battle of Stegeborg. A few weeks later on September 25th, Karl's army won a decisive victory over Sigismund's army at the Battle of Stångebro. After the battle, Sigismund was forced to agree to the send home his entire army. Several of Sigismund's Swedish supporters were captured and later executed at the Linköping Bloodbath of 1600. In 1599, Sigismund planned to return to Sweden, but his plans never came to fruition. For the first few months of that year, Karl's army attacked the Swedish cities that were still under Sigismund's control. In the spring of that year, they assaulted Kalmar Castle. After this, Karl's forces attacked Sigismund's strongholds in Finland. On July 25th, the Swedish Parliament deposed Sigismund as King of Sweden. By September of 1599, all of Sigismund's forces had either been killed or detained, ending the war.

In the summer of 1598, King Sigismund's forces arrived in Småland. On August 1st, he gathered Småland's riders at Kalmar, who were under the command of Arvid Drake. At this time, there were 370 horses in Småland's banners. On August 10th, Småland's riders marched with Sigismund to Stegeborg Castle in Östergötland. Less than a month later on September 8th, Duke Karl's army attacked Sigismund's army at the Battle of Stegeborg. Sigismund's forces withdrew from Stegeborg on September 21st and they proceeded towards Linköping. On September 25th, Karl's army attacked Sigismund's army near Stångån River in Linköping. During this battle, Sigismund's forces were overwhelmed by Karl's army. Småland's banners fled, refusing to participate anymore in the battle, and Sigismund ultimately surrendered. Although Arvid Drake had been loyal to Sigismund, he joined Karl's army shortly after Sigismund returned to Sweden. In early 1599, Småland's riders accompanied Karl's army as they laid siege to Kalmar Castle. On May 12th, Småland's riders returned to their homes. Sigismund was officially deposed of the Swedish Crown on July 25th, and Duke Karl became King of Sweden. Lars Olofsson most likely participated in the War Against Sigismund.⁵¹

⁵¹ Hult, page 39

In 1600, Lars, paid tithes of four bushels of rye and seven barrels of barley.⁵² The same year, Sweden became involved in the Polish-Swedish War (1600-1611) against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.



Landscape document of Lars (Lasse) Olofsson at Ödhult, Målilla Parish - 1600

Transcription:

*Theße Eftherschiffne Rytther ähro Boend(e)
i Målilla prästagiäll ? och haffuer
tienden Inne mz sigh ?
Lasse Olofsson i Ödhult 4 sk (Rog) 7 skr (Kornn)*

Translation:

*The Cavalry rider below is living in
Målilla Parish and has
tithed the following:
Lasse Olofsson in Ödhult Rye: 4 bushels Barley: 7 barrels*

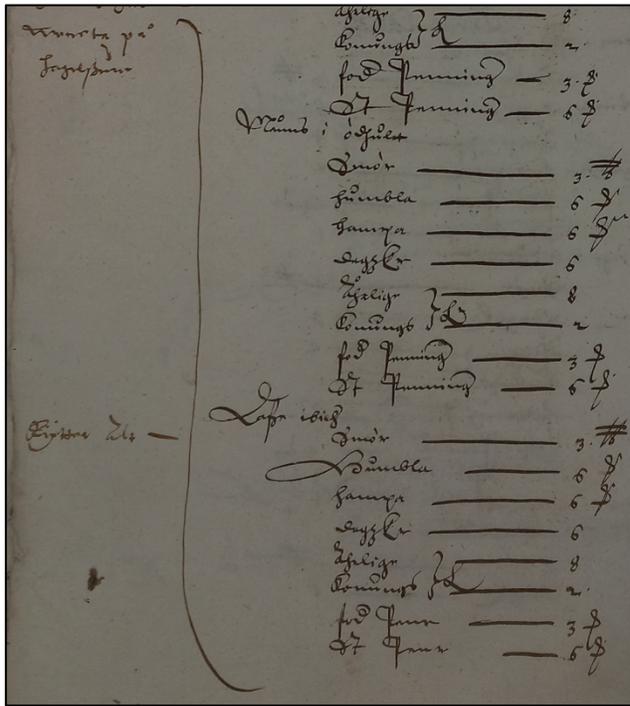
In 1600, Sweden became involved in the Polish War (1600-1629). In June of 1601, the riders of Småland's banners arrived in Pärnu, Estonia, where they accompanied Duke Karl's army. On August 30th, they laid siege upon the fortress of Riga. After this, several of the riders in Småland's banners traveled to Reval Castle.

By late January of 1602, some of Småland's riders were in Finland. During the winter months of 1602, Småland's riders returned to their homes. On July 2nd, West Småland's banner was ordered to go to Livonia. On February 6, 1603, Småland's banners were present at the parliament in Norrköping. On May 12th of the year, Småland's banners met at Nyköping Castle.⁵³ It's likely Lars was present.

⁵² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1600:15, Image 35

⁵³ Hult, pages 39-40

8.1.2. Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg
fm fm mm ff and fm fm mm fm



Landscape document of Lars (Lasse) Olofsson at
Ödhult, Målilla Parish - 1604

By 1604, a man named Måns also lived at Ödhult.⁵⁴ On May 14, 1605, Småland's banners were ordered to return to Livonia. On August 22nd of that year, the Swedish army arrived at Pänua. On September 17th, Småland's riders participated in the Battle of Kirkholm, where they fought against the Polish army commanded by Jan Karol Chodkeiwicz. During this battle, Chodkeiwicz's army deployed superior military tactics that decimated the Swedish army. Over a third of the Swedish army were killed or taken prisoner during this battle. In October of 1605, Småland's riders returned home.⁵⁵

Transcription:

För... Fru
Marta på
Hagelßum

Måns i Ödhult

Smör _____ 3 #
Humbla _____ 6 d
Hampa _____ 6 d
Dagsken _____ 6
Åhrlige _____ 8
Konungs _____ 2
Fod pennig _____ 3 d
St. pennig _____ 6 d

Rytter alt

Lasse ibdm

Smör _____ 3 #
Humbla _____ 6 mark
Hampa _____ 6 mark
Dagsken _____ 6
Åhrlige _____ 8
Konungs _____ 2
fd peninge _____ 3 d
St. peninge _____ 6 d

Translation:

For Lady
Marta of
Hagelsum

Måns in Ödhult

Butter _____ 3 pounds
Hops _____ 6 mark
Hemp _____ 6 mark
Working days _____ 6
Annual horses _____ 8
King's horses _____ 2
Fodder money _____ 3 daler
Hired oxen _____ 6 daler

Rider all

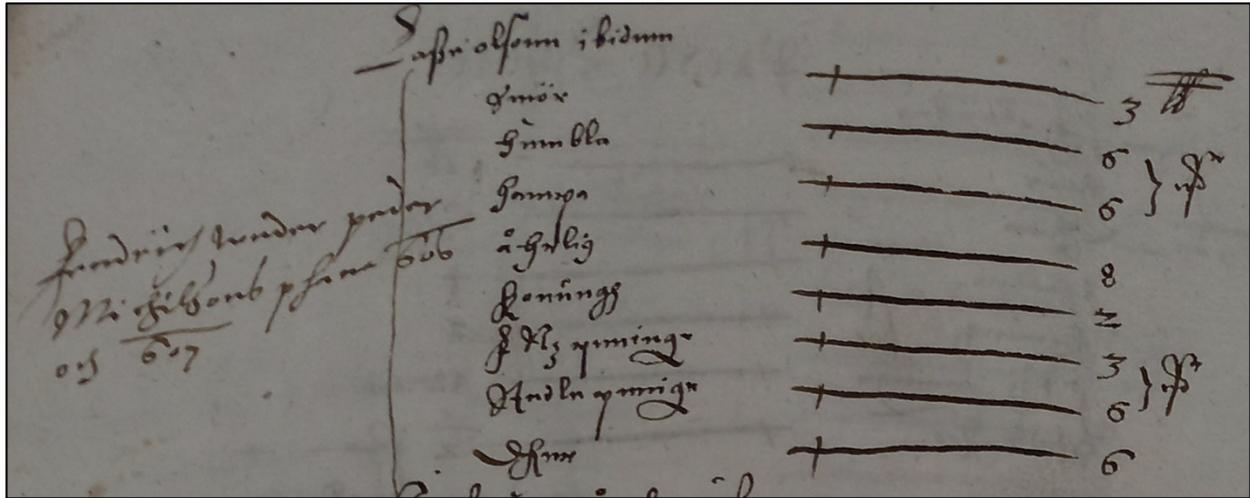
Lasse in the same place

Butter _____ 3 pounds
Hops _____ 6 mark
Hemp _____ 6 mark
Working days _____ 6
Annual horses _____ 8
King's horses _____ 2
Fodder money _____ 3 daler
Hired oxen _____ 6 daler

⁵⁴ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1604:1, Image 23

⁵⁵ Hult, pages 40-41

By 1606, Lars Olofsson had been promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant. At this time, he served under Pader Michelsson's banner.⁵⁶



Landscape document of Lars (Lasse) Olofsson at Ödhult, Målilla Parish - 1606

Transcription:

Lasse Olofsson ibidem

	Smör _____	3 #
	Humbla _____	6 mark
<i>Fendrik under peder</i>	Hampa _____	6 mark
<i>Michilssons phana (1)606</i>	Åhrlige _____	8
<i>och (1)607</i>	Konungs _____	2
	K Mz peninge _____	3 d
	Stedle. peninge _____	6 d
	sken _____	6

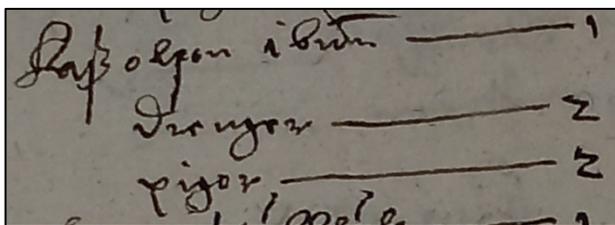
Translation:

Lasse Olofsson in the same place (Ödhult)

	Butter _____	3 pounds
	Hops _____	6 mark
<i>Second Lieutenant under Peder</i>	Hemp _____	6 mark
<i>Michelsson's banner in 1606</i>	Annual horses _____	8
<i>and 1607</i>	King's horses _____	2
	King's money _____	3 daler
	fee money _____	6 daler
	Working days _____	6

⁵⁶ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1606:7, Image 28

8.1.2. Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg
fm fm mm ff and fm fm mm fm



Landscape document of Lars (Lasse) Olofsson at Ödhult, Målilla Parish - 1609

Transcription: :

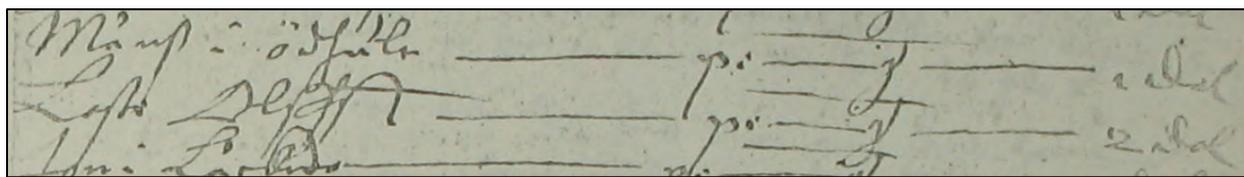
Lasse ibdm _____ 1 dal
dregnor _____ 2
pigor _____ 2

Translation

Lasse Olofsson in the same place (Ödhult) 1 daler
famhands _____ 2
maids _____ 2

Sometime during the 1600s, Lars and Ingeborg's son Sigge was married to a woman named Brita Börjesdotter. The two resided at the farm Östra Årena in Målilla Parish, where they raised a family. Sigge and Brita had nine children: Börje, Olof, Nils, Lars, Margareta, Ingeborg, Anna, Brita, and Kerstin. Sigge followed in his father's footsteps and also served in Småland's Cavalry.⁵⁹

Lars Olofsson regularly paid tithes to Målilla Church. In one church record, he is recorded as tithing one daler to the church.⁶⁰



Record of a tithe Lars (Lasse) Olofsson paid to Målilla Church

Transcription:

Translation:

Måns i Ödhult _____ penningr _____ 1 dal Måns in Ödhult _____ cash _____ 1 daler
Lasse Olofsson _____ penningr _____ 1 dal Lasse Olofsson _____ cash _____ 2 daler

⁵⁷ Hult, pages 42-43

⁵⁸ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1610:22, Image 111

⁵⁹ For more information on the fate of Sigge Larsson, see The High Family's Swedish Ancestors – Volume Seven: The 4th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög and Anna Stina Johansdotter, page 1200.

⁶⁰ Målilla med Gårdveda Church Archives, Vol. C:1 (1632-1698), page 1

In 1611, Sweden became involved in the Kalmar War when Denmark-Norway declared war on Sweden. In January of 1612, Danish troops marched through Målilla Parish and burned Målilla Church, the parish vicarage, and most of the farms in the parish, including Ödhult.⁶¹

The Invasion of Målilla Parish*

Lars Olofsson sat down on his stairs, silently looking out over the fields of Ödhult. Behind him were the ruins of his house. He saw his friend and neighbor Måns approaching and made room for him on the stairs.

"You are sitting here alone? Where is Ingeborg?" asked Måns.

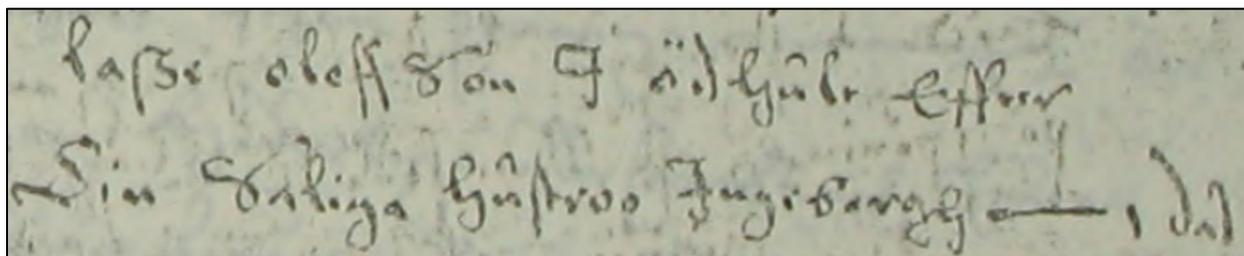
"We are moving into that small cottage west of our house, it seems to be the only one that was not destroyed by the Danes. Sigge's house in Östra Årena was burnt down too, but what's worse is that we don't know where he is. He went down to the Danish border with his regiment. I should be there too, fighting Rantzau and his troops; it's not fair to stay here after all my years with the cavalry," Lars replied.

"Sigge will soon return, I am sure. At least nothing happened to the rest of you. I heard so many stories about the Danes and how they not only burnt down farms, but also killed farmers in other parts of the country. By the way, I met the vicar's maid the other day. She says he is slowly dying. When the Danes burnt down both church and vicarage, it was simply too much for him," said Måns.

Måns stopped talking. The two men sat there, side by side, looking over the fields, thinking: "Danes, Danes, always these Danes!"

*A work of creative fiction by Christina Tuvevesson Lindaryd

In 1619, Ingeborg died and was buried in the cemetery of Målilla Church. Lars paid a daler for her burial costs.⁶²



Record of a fee Lars (Lasse) Olofsson paid to Målilla Church for Ingeborg's burial in 1619

Transcription:

*Lasse Olofsson i Ödhult efter
sin saliga hustru Ingeborg__1 dal*

Translation:

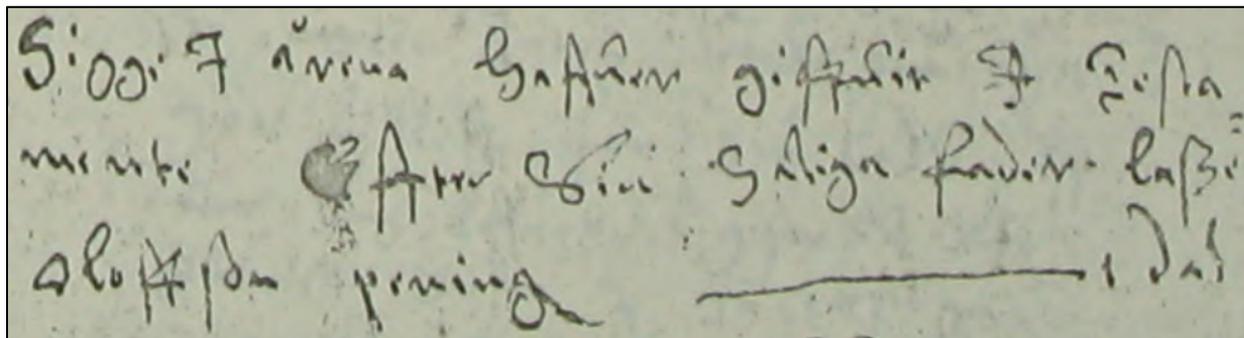
*Lasse Olofsson in Ödhult after
his late wife Ingeborg__1 daler*

⁶¹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1613:2, Image 20

⁶² Målilla med Gårdveda Vol. C:1 (1632-1698), page 16

8.1.3. Börje Svensson fm fm mm mf

Lars only survived his wife by a year and died in 1620. He was buried in the cemetery of Målilla Church. His son Sigge paid a daler for his burial.⁶³



Record of a fee Sigge Larsson paid to Målilla Church for Lars (Lasse) Olofsson's burial in 1620

Transcription:

Sigge i Årena hafwer gifwit delamente efter sin saliga fadir Lasse Olofsson pening _____ 1 dal

Translation:

Sigge in Årena has given a fee after his late father Lasse Olofsson cash _____ 1 dal

Trivia on Lars Olofsson and Ingeborg

1. What year is the first known record of Lars Olofsson from?
2. What was the name of the parish that Lars and Ingeborg's family lived at?
3. What was the name of the farm that Lars and Ingeborg's family lived at?
4. What rank did Lars Olofsson obtain in the cavalry?
5. What year did Ingeborg die?
6. What year did Lars Olofsson die?

Answers: 1 1587 2. Målilla 3. Ödhult 4. Second Lieutenant 5. 1619 6. 1620

⁶³ Målilla med Gårdveda Vol. C:1 (1632-1698), page 22

Börje Svensson

Name	Börje Svensson
Born	1540s
Place	Järeda, Kalmar
Died	c. 1608
Place	Järeda, Kalmar
Occupation	Soldier and Juror

Children of Börje Svensson

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Olof	1570s-1580s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Jonas	1570s-1580s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Brita	1570s-1580s	Järeda, Kalmar	Unknown	Målilla, Kalmar

Börje Svensson, Brita Börjesdotter's father, was probably born in the 1540s.⁶⁴ His father was Sven Bosson⁶⁵ and his mother's identity is unknown. Börje grew up at the village Järeda in Järeda Parish. Börje's father Sven was a farmer at Järeda. During the late 1540s, Börje's uncle Joen Bosson also lived at Järeda.



Aerial view of the village Järeda, Järeda Parish -
Where Börje Svensson lived in the late 16th century

The Name "Börje"

The name "Börje" (Búr-yèh is an old Nordic name. It is a short form of the name *Birger*, which means "to save or protect." This name has been in use in Sweden since late medieval times. The Name Day for Börje in Sweden is June 9th.

⁶⁴ This estimation is based on the fact that Börje is listed is first mentioned in 1570 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1570:5, Image 80) and he was probably in his twenties at this time, making him born in the 1540s.

⁶⁵ Patronymic tradition tells us that Börje's father was Sven and the farmer who owned the farm Järeda before Börje was named Sven Bosson (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1544:8, Image 12). Thus, he must have been Börje's father.

8.1.3. Börje Svensson fm fm mm mf

Sometime in the 1560s, Börje Svensson enlisted in the Swedish military.⁶⁶

Järeda Parish



Järeda Church

Järeda (Yár-ay-da) is a parish in Kalmar County. Järeda has medieval origins. Its name derives from the village of the same name. Järeda Parish is 80.82 square kilometers, of which 77.53 are land. Järeda is located near the Emån River and consists of cultivated countryside in a narrow valley surrounded by hilly forested area and small lakes. Järeda used to be part of Aspeland District. In 2016, it became part of Järeda District. In 2000, the parish had 743 inhabitants.

The Reign of Johan III (1568-1592)

King Johan III Vasa (1537-1592) ruled over Sweden from 1568 to 1592. He was the son of King Gustav Vasa and his second wife Margaret Leijonhufvud. He was married to Catherine Jagiellon, a Polish princess, in 1562. In 1568, he launched a rebellion against his brother King Erik XIV, who was ultimately deposed of the throne. After Erik was deposed, Johan succeeded him as King of Sweden. Once he became king, he killed most of Erik's followers and initiated peace talks with Denmark and Lübeck to end the Nordic Seven Years' War. During the early 1570s, Sweden was part of the Livonian War. Unlike his brother Erik, Johan favored the nobility and extended their rights.

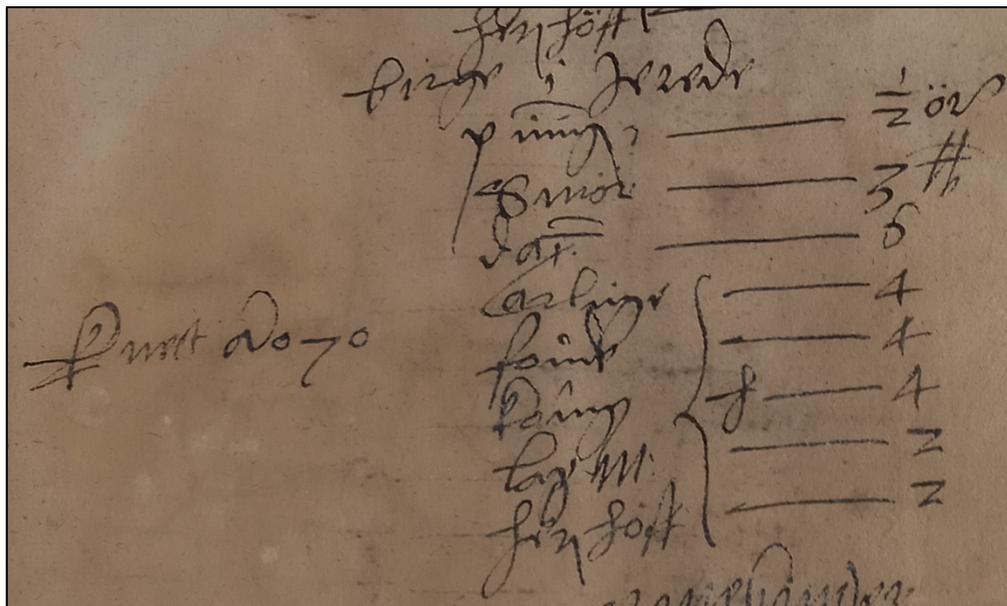


Portrait of Johan III by
Johan Baptistavan Uther

Unlike his father, Johan III was sympathetic to the Catholic Church and was influenced by his Catholic wife. He sought to reconcile differences between Catholicism and Lutheranism. In 1577, he introduced his own liturgy, the Red Book, into the Swedish Church which restored earlier Catholic liturgy that was removed when Sweden converted to Lutheranism. This caused friction between himself and the Swedish nobility and clergy. Johan III died at Stockholm Castle on November 17, 1592.

⁶⁶ Börje was listed as a soldier in 1570 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1544:8, Image 80).

Around 1569, Börje's father Sven Bosson died.⁶⁷ By 1570, Börje was the owner of Järeda.⁶⁸



Landscape document of Börje Svensson at Järeda Mellengård, Järeda Parish - 1570

Transcription:

	<i>Birge i Jerede</i>	
	<i>pening</i> _____	<i>1/2 öre</i>
	<i>smör</i> _____	<i>3 #</i>
	<i>dax</i> _____	<i>6</i>
<i>Knecht ano (15)70</i>	<i>Ahrliche</i> _____	<i>4</i>
	<i>frälse</i> _____	<i>6</i>
	<i>Konungs</i> _____	<i>4</i>
	<i>Lag m</i> _____	<i>2</i>
	<i>Heste hött</i> _____	<i>2</i>

Translation:

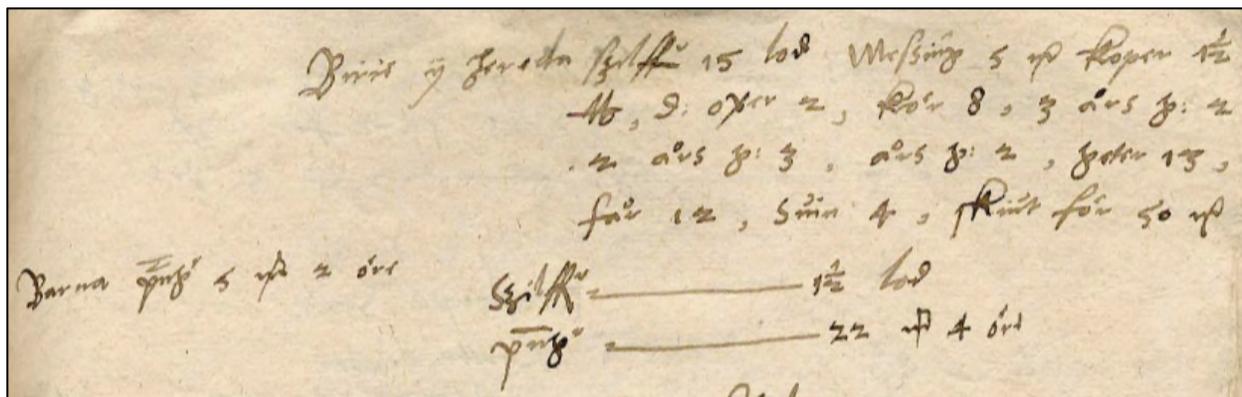
	<i>Börje in Järeda</i>	
	<i>cash</i> _____	<i>1/2 öre</i>
	<i>butter</i> _____	<i>3 pounds</i>
	<i>Working days</i> _____	<i>6</i>
<i>Soldier in 1570</i>	<i>King's horses</i> _____	<i>4</i>
	<i>Nobility horses</i> _____	<i>6</i>
	<i>King's horses</i> _____	<i>4</i>
	<i>Law man's horses</i> _____	<i>2</i>
	<i>Horse hay</i> _____	<i>2</i>

⁶⁷ Sven Bosson was listed for the last time in 1569 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1544:8, Image 80), so he must have died shortly after that.

⁶⁸ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1570:5, Image 80

8.1.3. Börje Svensson fm fm mm mf

It's likely that Börje served in the Nordic Seven Years' War and in the Livonian War. In 1571, he had to pay a large fee for the Älvsborgs lösen.⁶⁹



Älvsborgs lösen record of Börje Svensson at Järeda, Järeda Parish - 1571

Transcription:

<i>Birie ii Jereda</i>	<i>Silffuer 15 lod Meßing 5 mk koper 1½</i> <i>#,d: oxer 2, kör 8, 3 åhrs, g:2</i> <i>2 åhrs g:3, åhrs g:2, geter 13,</i> <i>får 12 Suin 4, skiut för 50 mk</i>
<i>Barna peng 5 mk 2 öre</i>	<i>Silff _____ 1½ lod</i> <i>penng. _____ 22 mk 4 öre</i>

Translation:

<i>Börje in Järeda</i>	<i>15 lod silver, 5 marker brass, 1½ pound copper</i> <i>2 drag oxen, 8 cows: 2 are 3 years old,</i> <i>3 are 2 years old, 2 are yearlings, 13 goats,</i> <i>12 sheep, 4 pigs, conveyance for 50 marker</i>
<i>Children's money 5 marker 2 öre</i>	<i>Silver _____ 1½ lod</i> <i>Cash _____ 22 marker 4 öre</i>

1571 Älvsborgs lösen - Älvsborg's Ransom of 1571

On September 4, 1563, Danish forces conquered the Swedish fortress of Älvsborg during the Nordic Seven Years' War. After the war ended in 1570, Sweden agreed to pay a hefty ransom for Älvsborg to be freed. Over the next three years, the Swedish population had to pay a special tax to help pay for this. Swedish farmers had to pay a tenth of their property, cash, and livestock. *Älvsborgs lösen* records show who were taxed during this time and how much they were taxed.

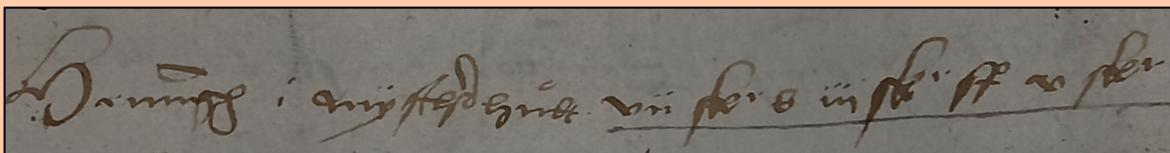
⁶⁹ Älvsborgs lösen 1571 SE/RA/5116/7, Image 410

Sometime during the 1570s, Börje was probably married. Unfortunately, no record of Börje's wife's first name exists. After Börje was married, his wife lived with him at the farm Järeda. The two had at least one daughter named Brita and at least one son named Olof.⁷⁰ Every Sunday, Börje's family attended services at Järeda Church, which was located just north of where they lived.

Hemming in Misterhult Storgård

In the article "Jacob Hård (af Segerstad) morfar Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden," Stig Östensson provides a theory that Börje Svensson's wife was a granddaughter of a farmer named Hemming who lived in the early 16th century. Hemming was listed as the owner of the farm Misterhult Storgård in Misterhult Parish in the first recorded Landscape Document from 1533.¹ He had at least one daughter named Karin who married a man named Ravel Hansson. Hemming owned Misterhult Storgård until 1553.² By 1554, Hemming's son-in-law Ravel was listed as the owner of Misterhult Storgård³, indicating that Hemming had died.³

Östensson's theory is based on a court record from November 6, 1594, in which Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson purchased the farm Östergården in Misterhult Parish from Börje Svensson and Germund Persson.⁴ This record states that this transaction was made on behalf of the wives of the four men involved. The unnamed wives of Börje Svensson and Germund Persson agreed to sell Östergården to Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson, who were respectively married to Marit Ravelsdotter and Kirstin Ravelsdotter, the granddaughters of Hemming in Misterhult. Since land transactions were frequently made between relatives and much of Misterhult Parish was owned by Hemming in the early 16th century, Östensson suspects that Börje Svensson's wife was a cousin of Marit and Kirstin and was also a granddaughter of Hemming.



Landscape Document of Hemming at Misterhult, Misterhult Parish in 1533

Transcription:

Hemming i Mijstershult vii skr iii skr ff v skr

Translation:

Hemming in Misterhult 7 bushels, 3 bushels

¹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1B (1533-1537), Image 18

² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1553:6, Image 26

² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1554:3, Image 49

² Kalmar County Administration, Country office filing, Vol. G VIIa:23(1689-1690), pages 427

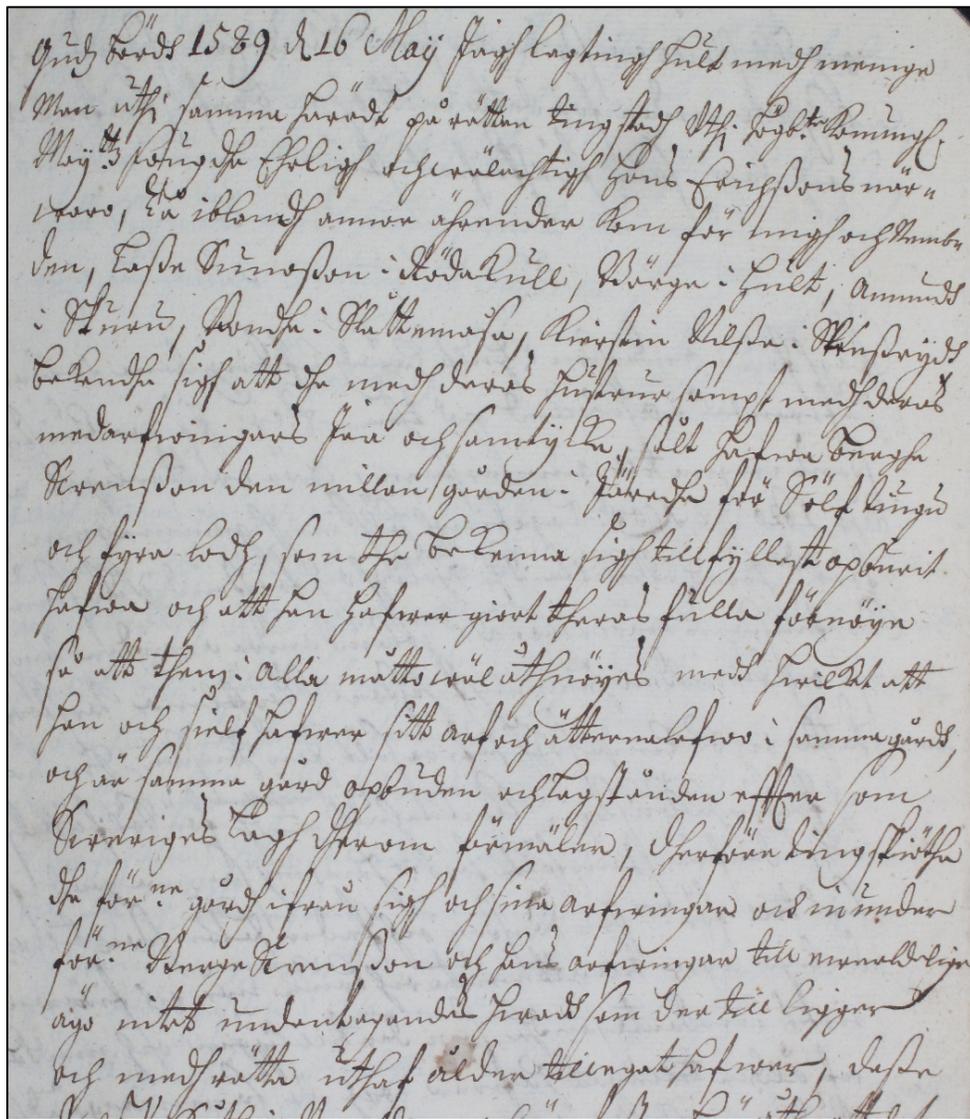
⁷⁰ Östensson, page 260

8.1.3. Börje Svensson
fm fm mm mf



Mellangården, Järeda Parish

On May 16, 1589, Börje Svensson appeared at Aspeland District Court, which was presided over by Hans Eriksson. During this hearing, Lars Sunesson in Rödakull, Börje in Hult, a man named Amund, a farmer in Slättamåssa, and a woman named Kerstin Nilsson in Stensryd testified that they had sold Börje Svensson the farm Mellangården in Järeda Parish for 24 lod silver.⁷¹



Court record of Börje Svensson obtaining Mellengård, Järeda Parish
May 16th, 1589

⁷¹ Kalmar County Administration, Country office filing, Vol. G VIIa:23 (1689-1690), pages 334-335

Transcription:

*Guds bördh 1589 d. 16 Maj Jagh lagtingh huld medh menige
Man uthi samma häradt på rättan tingstadh uthi Högb^{te} Konungl.
Mayt^z fougde Ehrligh och wälachtigh Hans Erichßons när-
waro, Tå iblandh annor ährender kom för tingh och Nemb-
den, Laße Suneßon i Rödakull, Börge i Hult, Amundh
i St..., Bondhe i Slättamåsa, Kierstin Nilßa i Stenßrydh
bekendhe sigh att dhe medh deras hustrur sampt medh deras
medarfwingars Jaa och samtücke, sålt hafwa Benghe (sic)
Swenßon den millan gården i Järedha för Sölf tiugu
och fyra lodh, som the bekienna sigh tillfillest opburit
hafwa och att han hafwer giort theas fulla förnöye
så att then i alla måtto wäl åthnöyes medh hwilket att
han och sielf hafver sitt arf och ätternalefwo i samma gårdh,
och är samma gård opbuden och lagstånden effter som
Sweriges lagh dherom förmäler, dherföre tingh skiöthe
dhe för^{ne} gårdh ifrån sigh och sina arfwingar och inunder
för^{ne} Benghe (sic) Swenßon och hans arfwingar till ewerdeliga
ägo intet undantagandes hwadh som der till ligger
och medh rätta uthaf ålder tillegat hafwer...*

Translation:

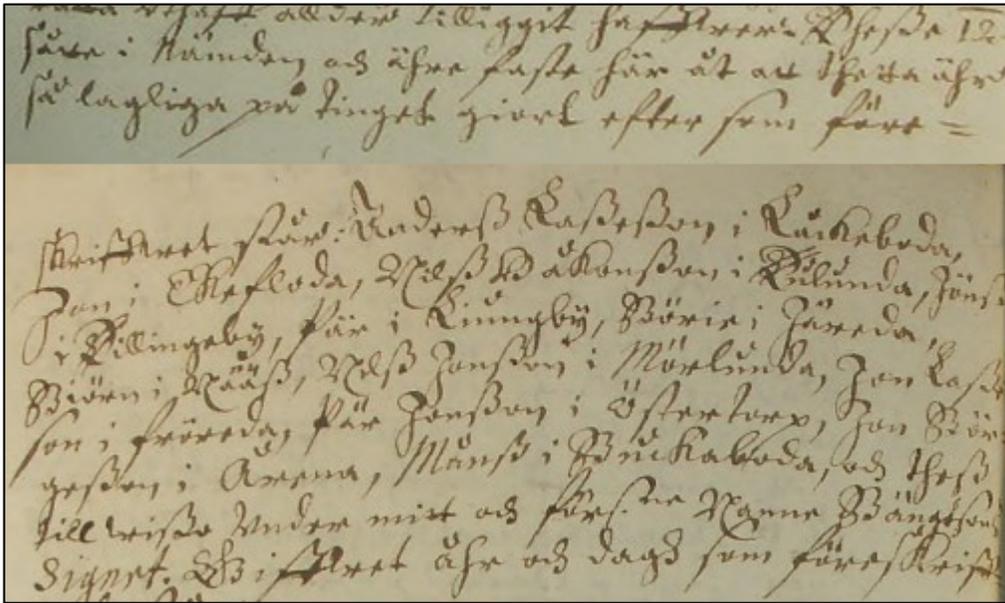
*that I in on May 16th, 1589 A.D. in the presence of the
marshal Hans Eriksson, held a public court session at
the ordinary court venue. Among others, the following
case was brought to court: Lars Sunesson in Rödakull,
Börje in Hult, Amund in St..., Bonde in Slättamåssa,
Kerstin Nilsdotter in Stensryd came for court and told
that they, with the approval and assent of their wives and
their fellow heirs had sold to Börje Svensson the farm
Mellangården in Järeda for 24 lod silver, which
they admit to have received all of and thus they are
absolutely satisfied. The farm is legally sold and the deal
is formally registered according to Swedish law, thus the
Court should confirm that the farm from now belongs
to Börje Svensson and his heirs forever.*

An Error on the 1589 Court Record that Lists Börje Svensson

There is an error on the 1589 court record that mentions Börje Svensson. This record incorrectly refers to Börje as “Bengt” (spelled *Benghe* in the record). However, since no landscape documents show that a man named Bengt lived at the farm Järeda during this time, the transcriber of this record must have made an error and referred to Börje Svensson as Bengt Svensson.

8.1.3. Börje Svensson fm fm mm mf

By the 1590s, Börje was a juror for Aspeland District. Börje had to attend three court sessions a year, which were held every few months. These sessions lasted for two days and consisted of numerous legal cases, most of which involved land disputes or petty offenses. Börje sat through these hearings with 11 other jurors and they deliberated over the various cases that they heard.⁷²



Excerpt from a court record that lists Börje Svensson as a juror– November 6th, 1594

Transcription:

.....Theße 12
sätte i Nämnden och ähre faste här ått att thette ähr
så lagliga på tinget givet efter som före-
skrifwet står: Anderß Laßesson i Låckeboda,
Jon i Ekefloda, Nilß Håkonßon i Tulunda, Jönß
i Tillingebÿ, Pär i Liungbÿ, Börje i Järeda,
Björn i Näß, Nilß Jonßon i Mörlunda, Jon Laße-
son i Fröreda, Pär Jonßon i Östertorp, Jon Bör-
jesson i Årena, Månß i Buckaboda, och theß
till wißo Under mitt och förs^{ne} Manne Bängtßons
signet.

Translation:

These 12 ordinary jurors attest the above written: Anders Lassesson in Lockebody, Jon in Ekefloda, Nils Håkansson in Tulunda, Jöns in Tillingeby, Per in Ljungby, Börje in Järeda, Björn in Näs, Nils Jonsson in Mörlunda, Jon Lassesson in Fröreda, Per Jonsson in Östertorp, Jon Börjesson in Årena and Måns in Buckaboda; and this under my and Manne Bengtsson's seals

⁷² Kalmar County Administration, Country office filing, Vol. G VIIa:23(1689-1690), page 427

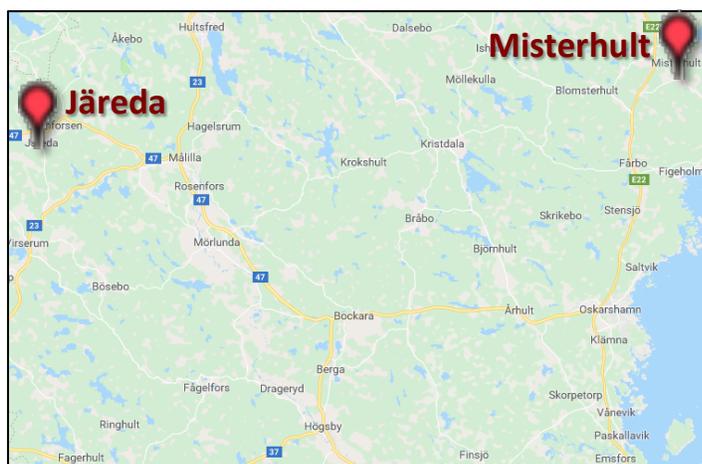
Volume Eight Generation Eight

In addition to owning the farm Järeda, Börje Svensson also owned the farm Prästnäs that he inherited from his father Sven Bosson.⁷³ Prästnäs was located less than a half mile north of the village of Järeda.

The 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög The 5th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



Prästnäs, Järeda Parish



Map showing the locations of Järeda Parish and
Misterhult Parish

On November 6, 1594, Börje appeared at Aspeland District Court in the presence of the Crown's Marshal Manne Bengtsson. During this hearing, Börje and a man named Germund Persson from the farm Boda met on behalf of their wives to sell their land at the farm Östergården in Misterhult Parish to Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson for 50 lod silver. Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson were respectively married to Marit Ravelsdotter and Kirstin Ravelsdotter, the probable cousins of Börje's wife.⁷⁴

County Office Filing Records

County Office filings records were kept in every county in Sweden during the late 16th century. These records started being recorded during the reign of King Gustav Vasa. County Office filings were written as a taxation record. It was drawn up when a "skattegård" (a taxed farm) changed owners. Such a record could also be used as an annex in court records, if the sale or shift of a property was questioned. During the 1690s, these records were transcribed and made public.

⁷³ Östenson, page 260

⁷⁴ Kalmar County Administration, Country office filing, Vol. G VIIa:23(1689-1690), pages 427

8.1.3. Börje Svensson
fm fm mm mf

mitt öfver bref, att äfva rätts Börd bydd 1594.
Den 6. Novembri i ägde laga ting föll med mening
man i samme Börd på nämnan tingstads, i Börd.
Kungl. Maj. B. Hållningman aflygd och förs
ständigs Hanna Bårdson nästare, till blanda
annan ärenden som för mig och nämnan Börd
Börnsön i Järnsda och Bördminds försön i Börd
där på bäggas Börd Bördsonerna, och ting
skulle Olof Mårtensson och Anders Bördson
falsklyan för öfver gårdar i Misterhult, som för mig
hän föll fastän för samtliga lods föll, och där sig
andra falsklyan gårdar fastän för mig med bäggas
yng Bördsoner förestånd och Kristin Bördson
och Bördson, och äfva för samtliga Bördsoner, för mig
Bördson, för mig Olof Mårtensson skall befälas till
Bördson och försön Anders Bördson, om Bördson
Bördson för mig Bördson; och för Bördson fastän
Olof Mårtensson för mig Bördson, Bördson i Järns-
da Bördson och för mig Bördson för mig Bördson
föll, efter som föll. Äfva, och äfva samme gård bäggas
Bördsoner fastän och Bördson, och äfva Bördson
där och Bördsoner efter som i Bördson Bördson
om för mig. Bördsoner af Bördsoner samme Mister-
hult gård ifrån sig och fjerna Bördsoner och
inmör för mig Olof Mårtensson och Anders
Bördsoner och bäggas Bördsoner fastän och för
den nämnan Bördsoner till nämnan ägare
medt att för tillägen som hän till Bördsoner och medt
nästa Bördsoner till Bördsoner Bördsoner
fälla i nämnan Bördsoner

Excerpt from a court record of Börje Svensson selling his land at Östergården, Misterhult Parish
November 6th, 1594

Transcription:

.....1594
d. 6 Novembris iagh laga tingh hölt medh menige man i samme Häradh på rättan tingstadh, i Högb^{de} Kungl. Maj^{ts} Befallningsman Ährligh och förståndigh Manne Bängtsson närwaro, tå iblandh annor ärender kom för migh och Nämnden Börje Swänsson i Järeda och Girmund Pärsson i Boda, på bägges theras Hustrurß wängna, och tingskötte Olof Mårtensson och Anderß Gummaßon halfwan then Östre gården i Misterhult, som the them sålt hafwa för fämtijo lodh sölf, och dän andre halfwan gården hafwa the ärft medh bäggeß theras hustrur Mariedh och Kirstin Rafwalß döttrar, doch ähro the så samß wordne, för Rätte, förs^{ne} Olof Mårtensson skall behålla tuedelene och förs^{ne} Anderß Gummaßon en triding Uthi allan förs^{ne} Gårdh; och för dän skull hafuer Oluf Mårtensson then mäste delen Utlacht i samme Sölf och then andre mindre som mindre hafuer fått, efter som förb^{te} ähr, Och ähr samme Gårdh bägges theras hustrurß Arf och ättestue, och ähr Upbuden och lagstånden efter som i Swerigeß Lagh thärom förmäls. Därför afhända the samme Misterhult gårdh ifrån sikh och sijna arfwingar, och inunder förs^{ne} Oluf Mårtensson och Anderß Gummaßon och bäggeß theras hustrur och efterkommande arfwingar till ewärdlige äger medh alle the tillägor som thär till ligger och medh rätta Utaf ållder tilliggit hafwer

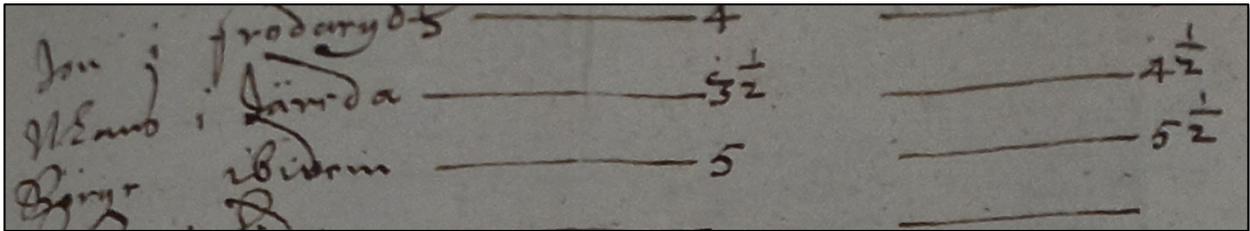
Translation:

On November 6th, 1594, I held a public District Court session at the ordinary court place, in the presence of the Crown's marshal, the honest and prudent Manne Bengtsson. Among other cases Börje Svensson in Järeda and Germund Persson in Boda appeared at court on behalf of their wives. They made public that they had sold half of the farmstead Östergården in Misterhult to Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson for 50 lod silver. The other half of the farm they had inherited from their wives Marit and Kirstin Ravalsdöttrar. They have agreed that Olof Mårtensson shall receive two thirds of the estate and Anders Gummesson one third of it. For this Olof Mårtensson has paid the largest part of silver and the other one less. The sale was preceded according to Swedish law. The actual farm with all its land in Misterhult is from now on belonging to Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson and their wives and heirs for eternal times.

8.1.3.1. Aspeland District Court Records that Mentions Börje Svensson - May 16th, 1589

Sometime in the 1600s, Börje's daughter Brita was married to Sigge Larsson. After they were married, Brita and Sigge raised a family at Östra Årena in Målilla Parish. Brita and Sigge had nine children: Börje, Olof, Nils, Lars, Margareta, Ingeborg, Anna, Brita, and Kerstin.⁷⁵

The last known record for Börje Svensson is from 1608, so it's likely that he died around this time. He was probably buried in the cemetery of Järeda Church.⁷⁶



Landscape document of Börje Svensson at Järeda, Järeda Parish - 1608

Transcription:

Jon i Froderydh _____ 4
Måns i Järeda _____ 3½
Börje ibiden _____ 5

Translation:

Jon in Froderyd _____ 4
Måns in Järeda _____ 3½
Börje in the same place _____ 5

Trivia on Börje Svensson

1. What was the name of Börje Svensson's father?
2. What parish did Börje Svensson live in?
3. What is the first year that Börje Svensson is mentioned in?
4. What was Börje's occupation in the 1570s?
5. What position did Börje hold in the 1590s?
6. What farm did Börje and his wife sell in 1594?
7. What year did Börje Svensson die?

Answers: 1 Sven Bosson 2. Järeda 3. 1570 4. Soldier 5. Juror 6. Östergården 7. 1608

⁷⁵ For more information on the fate of Brita Börjesdotter, see *The High Family's Swedish Ancestors – Volume Seven: The 4th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög and Anna Stina Johansdotter*, page 1200.

⁷⁶ *Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1608:16*, Image 210

Transcription:

Kongl. Maj^{tz} tillswarige vår allernådigste Herres och Kongz Underdånige tienare och fougðhe udj Östre Heretß Jöns Michel Sifridßon till Fagerhult sittianðes uthj Heredshöfdinge slotdt uthj Aßbolandh på dhen Edla och Wälbördige Måns Jöran Stak..., bekiennes och giöre witterligit medh detta mitt opne bref, att åhr effter

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Guds bördh 1589 d. 16 Majj Jagh lagtingh huld medh menige Man uthi samma häradt på rättan tingstadh uthi Högb^{te} Konungl. Mayt^{tz} fougðhe Ehrligh och wälachtigh Hans Erichßons närwaro, Tå iblandh annor ähreder kom för tingh och Nembden, Laße Suneßon i Röðakull, Börge i Hult, Amundh i St..., Bondhe i Slåttamåsa, Kierstin Nilßa i Stenßrydh bekendhe sigh att dhe medh deras hustrur sampt medh deras medarfwingars Jaa och samtücke, sålt hafwa Benghe⁷⁸ Swenßon den millan gården i Järedha för Sölf tiugu och fyra lodh, som the bekienna sigh tillfyllest opburit hafwa och att han hafwer giort the ras fulla förnöye så att then i alla måtto wäl åthnöyes medh hwilket att han och sielf hafwer sitt arf och ätternalefwo i samma gårdh, och är samma gård opbuden och lagstånden effter som Sweriges lagh dherom förmäler, dherföre tingh skiöthe dhe för^{ne} gårdh ifrån sigh och sina arfwingar och inunder för ^{ne}Benge Swenßon och hans arfwingar till ewerdeliga ägo intet undantagandes hwadh som der till ligger och medh rätta uthaf ålder tillegat hafwer, deße Folkh såtho i Nembden och äro faste här åth, att det är så lagliga på tinget giordt effter som för^t står, Anders Larßon i Lärkebodha, Laße i Stenßöö, Benge Kuseßon i Ageby, Håkan i Stennaskiälla, Olof Carlßon i Måßebodha, Biörn i Nääs, Marius i Bäckeby, Erich i hüggeßebodha, Per Swensson i Häggarp, Nils Jönßon i Mörlundha, Olof Mårtenßon i Misterhult och Jön i Ekesbodha

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och theß till wiße under för^{de} Hans Erichßons och mitt Signete undan för dette mitt opne bref skrifwit åhr och dagh som föreskrifwit står.

⁷⁸ Here, this record erroneously lists Börje Svensson's name as "Benghe," an old variation of the name "Bengt."

Translation:

The Crown's accountable, our Most Gracious Sovereign's and Majesty's most obedient servant and marshal in the Östra District Jöns Michael Sigfridsson of Fagerhult, visiting the home of the District Judge of Åsboland District, the noble and honorable Måns Göran Stak..., hereby announces by this public letter,

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that I in on May 16th, 1589 A.D. in the presence of the marshal Hans Eriksson, held a public court session at the ordinary court venue. Among others, the following case was brought to court: Lars Sunesson in Rödakull, Börje in Hult, Amund in St..., Bonde in Slättamåssa, Kerstin Nilsson in Stensryd came for court and told that they, with the approval and assent of their wives and their fellow heirs had sold to Börje Svensson the farm Mellangården in Järeda for 24 lod silver, which they admit to have received all of and thus they are absolutely satisfied. The farm is legally sold and the deal is formally registered according to Swedish law, thus the Court should confirm that the farm from now belongs to Börje Svensson and his heirs forever. The following persons were jurors: Anders Larsson in Lärkeboda, Lars in Stensö, Bengt Kusesson in Ageby, Håkan in Stenaskälla, Olof Carlsson in Måssaboda, Björn in Näs, Marius in Bäckaby, Erik in Hyggesboda, Per Svensson in Häggarp, Nils Jönsson in Mörlunda, Olof Mårtensson in Misterhult and Jon in Ekesboda.

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The seals of me and the previous mentioned Hans Eriksson assure that this my public letter is written and dated as above.

Transcription:

.....1594

d. 6 Novembris iagh laga tingh hölt medh menige man i samme Häradh på rättan tingstadh, i Högb^{de} Kungl. Maj^{ts} Befallningsman Ährligh och förständig Manne Bängt^{son} närwaro, tå iblandh annor ärender kom för migh och Nämnden Börie Swän^{son} i Järeda och Girmund Pär^{son} i Boda, på bægges theras^u Hustrur^u wängna, och tingskötte Olof Märten^{son} och Ander^{son} Gumma^{son} halfwan then Östre gården i Misterhult, som the them sålt hafwa för fämtijo lodh sölf, och dän andre halfwan gården hafwa the ärft medh bægges^u theras^u hustrur Mariedh och Kirstin Rafwal^{son} döttrar, doch ähro the så sam^u wordne, för Rätte, förs^{ne} Olof Märten^{son} skall behålla tuedelene och förs^{ne} Ander^{son} Gumma^{son} en triding Uthi allan förs^{ne} Gårdh; och för dän skull hafuer Oluf Märten^{son} then mäste delen Utlacht i samme Sölf och then andre mindre som mindre hafuer fått, efter som förb^{te} ähr, Och ähr samme Gårdh bægges^u theras^u hustror^u Arf och ättestue, och ähr Upbuden och lagstånden efter som i Swerige^u Lagh thärom förmäls. Därför afhända the samme Misterhult gårdh ifrån sigh och sijna arfwingar, och inunder förs^{ne} Oluf Märten^{son} och Ander^{son} Gumma^{son} och bægges^u theras^u hustror och efterkommande arfwingar till ewärdlige äger medh alle the tillägor som thär till ligger och medh rätta Utaf ållder tilliggit hafwer. The^{se} 12 sätte i Nämnden och ähre faste här åt att thette ähr så lagliga på tinget givet efter som före-

skrifwet står: Anderß Laßeßon i Låckebody,
Jon i Ekefloda, Nilß Håkonßon i Tulunda, Jönß
i Tillingebÿ, Pär i Liungbÿ, Börje i Järeda,
Björn i Näß, Nilß Jonßon i Mörlunda, Jon Laße-
sson i Fröreda, Pär Jonßon i Östertorp, Jon Bör-
geßon i Årena, Månß i Buckaboda, och theß
till wißo Under mitt och förs^{ne} Manne Bängtßons
signet. Gifwet åhr och dagh som föreskrif-
wet står.

Translation:

On November 6th, 1594, I held a public District Court session at the ordinary court place, in the presence of the Crown's marshal, the honest and prudent Manne Bengtsson. Among other cases Börje Svensson in Järeda and Germund Persson in Boda appeared at court on behalf of their wives. They made public that they had sold half of the farm-stead Östergården in Misterhult to Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson for 50 lod silver. The other half of the farm they had inherited from their wives Marit and Kirstin Ravalsdöttrar. They have agreed that Olof Mårtensson shall receive two thirds of the estate and Anders Gummesson one third of it. For this Olof Mårtensson has paid the largest part of silver and the other one less. The sale was preceded according to Swedish law. The actual farm with all its land in Misterhult is from now on belonging to Olof Mårtensson and Anders Gummesson and their wives and heirs for eternal times.

These 12 ordinary jurors attest the above written: Anders Lassesson in Lockebody, Jon in Ekefloda, Nils Håkansson in Tulunda, Jöns in Tillingebÿ, Per in Ljungby, Börje in Järeda, Björn in Näß, Nils Jonsson in Mörlunda, Jon Lassesson in Fröreda, Per Jonsson in Östertorp, Jon Börjesson in Årena and Måns in Buckaboda; and this under my and Manne Bengtsson's seals.
Given the year and day earlier mentioned.

8.1.4. Joen Persson
fm mm ff ff

Joen Persson

Name	Joen Persson
Born	1540s
Place	Unknown
Died	Before 1601
Place	Barkeryd
Occupation	Cavalry rider and farmer

Children of Joen Persson

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Anders	1570s-1580s	Barkeryd	1620s	Barkeryd
Per	1570s-1580s	Barkeryd	1645	Barkeryd

Joen Persson, Per Joensson's father, was probably born sometime in the 1540s.⁸⁰ His father was named Per⁸¹ and his mother's name is unknown. By 1552, Joen's family were living at Äng, a village in central Barkeryd Parish.⁸² Every Sunday, Joen's family attended Barkeryd Church. During this time, the vicar of the church was named Gödeke.



Äng, Barkeryd Parish – Where Joen Persson and his family lived in the 16th century

In the 1560s, Joen grew into adulthood. It's possible that around this time, he enlisted in Småland's Cavalry.⁸³ From 1563 to 1570, Sweden was involved in the Nordic Seven Years' War against a coalition of Denmark-Norway, Lübeck, and Poland. It's likely that Joen served in this war. During late 1567 and early 1568, Småland was ravaged by Danish forces under the command of Daniel Rantzau.

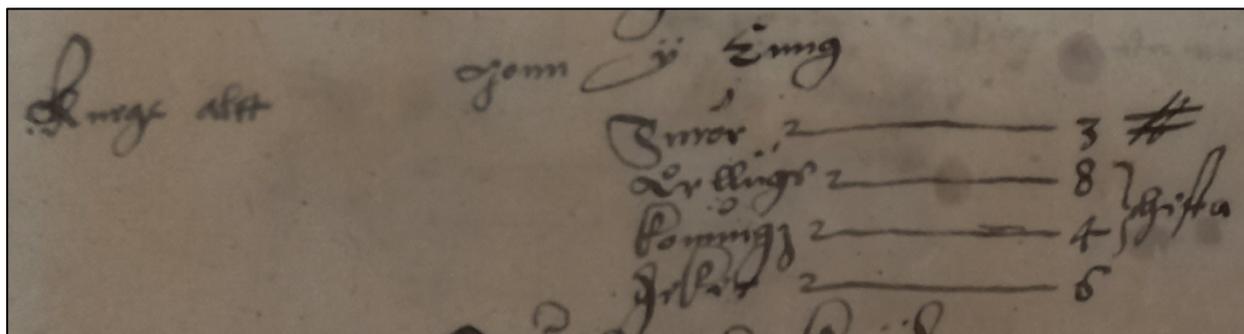
⁸⁰ This is based on the fact that Joen is first mentioned in 1569 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1569: 7, Image 22) and he was probably in his twenties at this time.

⁸¹ Patronymic tradition informs us that Joen's father was named Per.

⁸² Joen's father Per is listed at Äng in Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1552: 15B, Image 14.

⁸³ Joen is listed as a rider in 1585 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1585: 1 Image 67). Since most people enlisted in the military in their twenties, Joen probably enlisted in the 1560s.

Joen Persson was probably married sometime in the 1560s. The identity of his wife is unknown. By 1569, Joen's father Per had died, and Joen became the owner of Äng. During that year, Joen's farm produced three pounds of butter, had eight annual horses and four king's horses, and the inhabitants of Äng were required to work six days a week.⁸⁴



Landscape document of Joen Persson at Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1569

Transcription:

Translation:

<i>Knicct allt</i>	<i>Jonn y Enng</i>		<i>Rider all</i>	<i>Jon in Äng</i>
	<i>Smör</i> _____	<i>3 #</i>		<i>Butter</i> _____
	<i>Ahrlige</i> _____	<i>8</i>		<i>Annual horses</i> _____
	<i>Konungs</i> _____	<i>4 Hista</i>		<i>King's horses</i> _____
	<i>dken</i> _____	<i>6</i>		<i>Working days</i> _____

Joen and his wife had at least two sons named Per⁸⁵ and Anders⁸⁶. It's also possible that he had a son named Lars.⁸⁷ Joen's children were probably born during the 1560s and 1570s. During the 1570s, a man named Mats served as the vicar of Barkeryd Church.

In 1570, the Northern Seven Years War ended when the Treaty of Stettin was signed. Shortly after this, Sweden entered into the Livonian War, a war against Russia that mostly took place in modern-day Estonia and Latvia. It's also possible that Joen served in this war, but no evidence can be found which confirms this.

⁸⁴ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1569: 7, Image 22

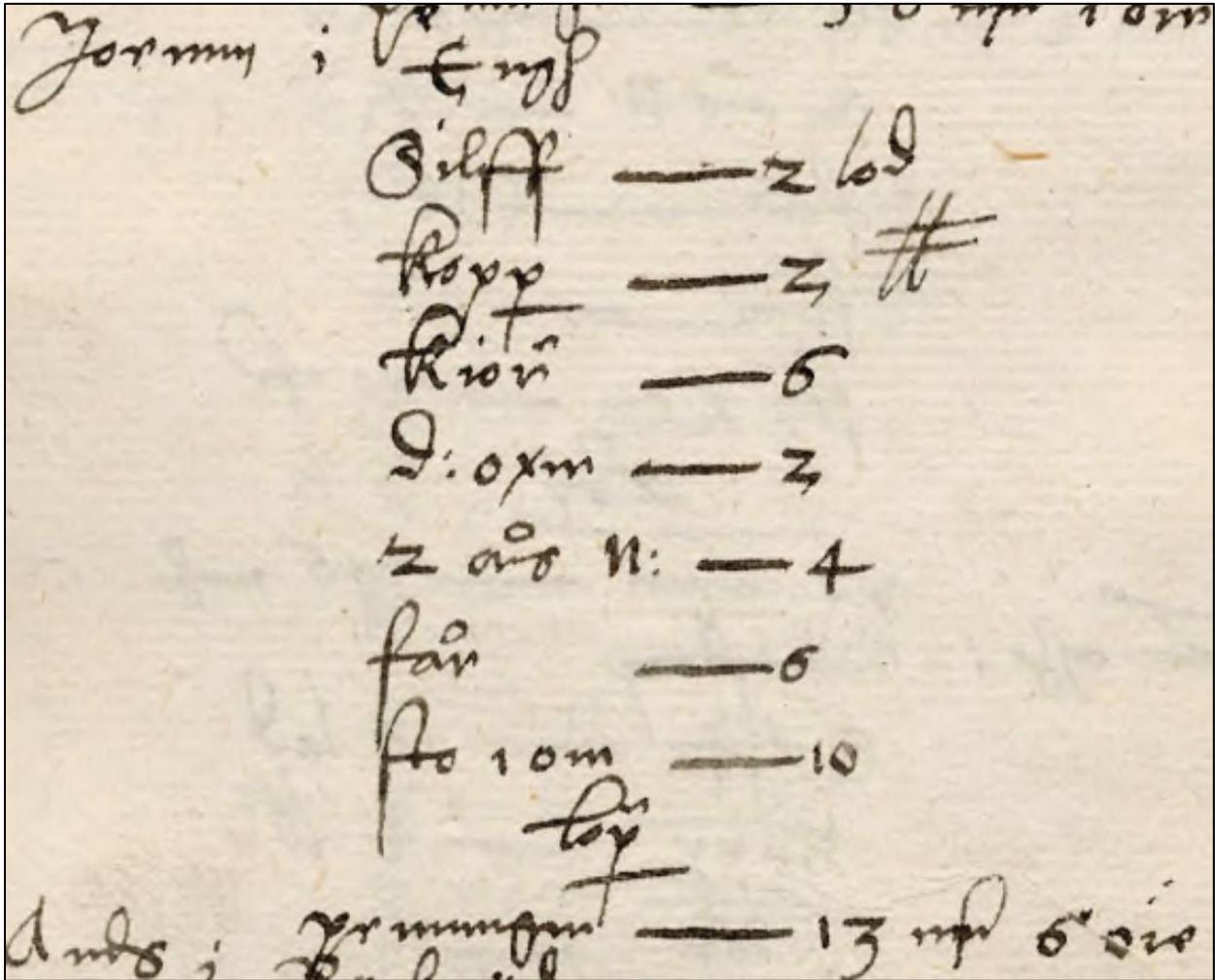
⁸⁵ In 1606, a Per Joensson was listed as the owner of Äng and patronymic tradition informs us that his father's name was Joen, so Joen Persson must have been his father. For information on the fate of Per Joensson, see The High Family's Swedish Ancestors – Volume Seven: The 4th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög and Anna Stina Johansdotter, page 1243.

⁸⁶ Since Anders is listed as Per Joensson's brother in a court record from 1643, he must have also been a son of Joen Persson.

⁸⁷ A man named Lars is listed as the owner of Äng in 1605 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1605: 9, Image 19), so it's possible that he was Joen's son.

8.1.4. Joen Persson
fm mm ff ff

In 1570, Joen was taxed 2 lod in silver, 2 pounds of copper, and 13 marker and 6 öre as part of the Ålvsborgs losen. At this time, he also owned six cows, six draught oxen, six sheep, and a tenth-month old filly.⁸⁸



Ålvsborgs losen record of Joen Persson at Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1571

Transcription:

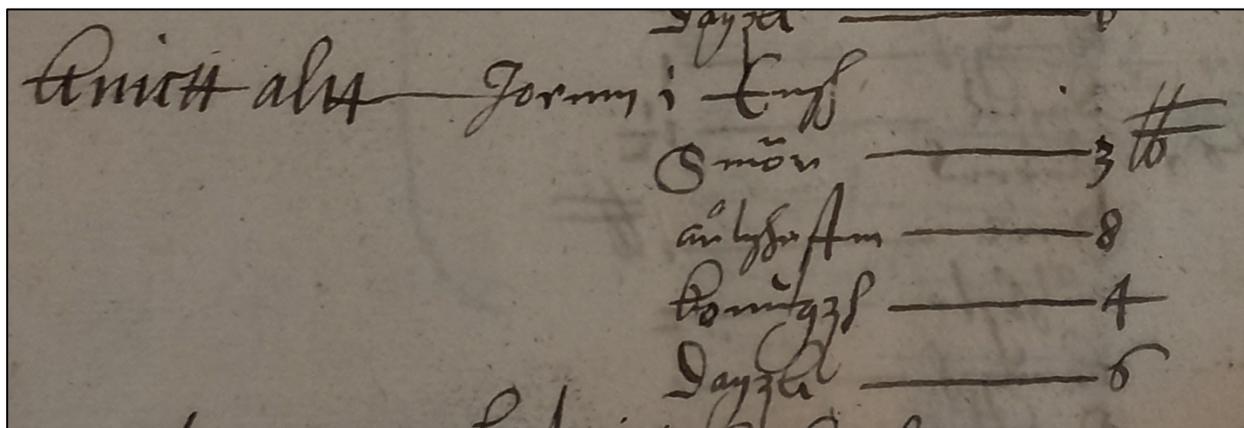
Joenn i Engh
 Silff _____ 2 lod
 kopp _____ 2 #
 kiör _____ 6
 d:oxer _____ 2
 2 års 11: _____ 4
 får _____ 6
 sto 10m _____ 10
 löp(er)
 Penninger _____ 13 mk 6 öre

Translation:

Joen in Äng
 Silver _____ 2 lod
 Copper _____ 2 pounds
 cows _____ 6
 draught oxen _____ 2
 2 years old: _____ 4
 sheep _____ 6
 filly 10 month _____ 10
 Fee:
 Cash _____ 13 marker 6 öre

⁸⁸ Ålvsborgs lösen 1571 SE/RA/5116/9, Image 38

In 1579, Laurentius Andreae Sr. became the vicar of Barkeryd Church. During the 1580s, Joen Persson was probably in his forties. In the 1585 Landscape document, Joen was listed as a rider.⁸⁹



Landscape document of Joen Persson at Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1585

Transcription:

Translation:

Knictt allt Joenn i Engh

Smör _____ 3 #
Åhrlige hester _____ 8
Konungs h(ester) _____ 4
dagske _____ 6

Rider all Jon in Äng

Butter _____ 3 pounds
Annual horses _____ 8
King's horses _____ 4
Working days _____ 6

Knictt Allt – “Rider All”

Knictt Allt was a term that was used to denote cavalry riders in 16th century Swedish records. The literal translation of this term is “rider all.” These riders probably received the equivalent of butter, fodder, and labor assistance.

Other Farmers in Barkeryd Parish in 1585 Included:

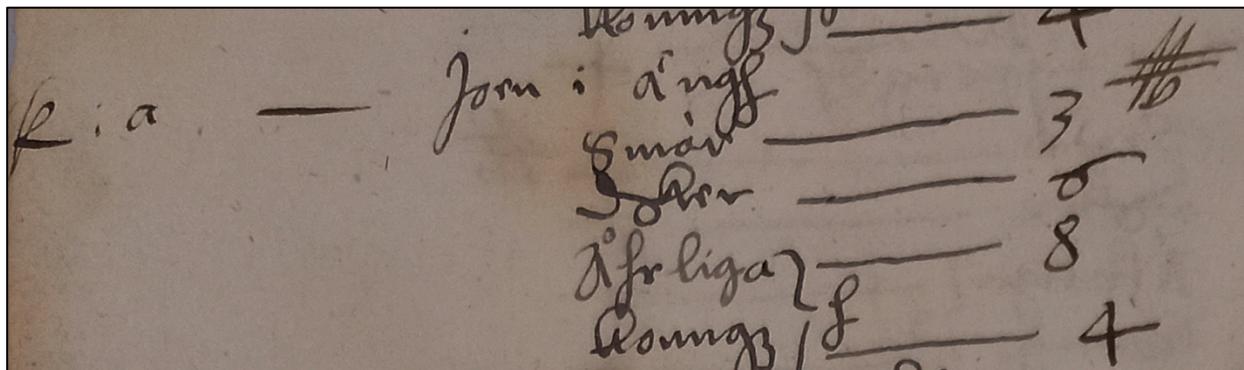
Brodde in Boarp	Staffan in Rodja	Lasse in Esperyd	Bengt in Lättarp
Peder in Källeryd	Anders in Kramsäng	Sven in Valstorp	Erik in Törsbo
Joen in Hulu	Torsten in Kulebo	Anders in Gransäng	Olof in Broddarp
Mattis in Havrida	Joen in Juvarp	Joen in Rya	Lasse in Barkeryd

Source: Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1585: 1 Images 66-67

⁸⁹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1585: 1 Image 67

8.1.4. Joen Persson fm mm ff ff

In 1590, Sweden became involved in the Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595). It's quite likely that Joen Persson fought in this war. The last known record for Joen is from 1592.⁹⁰ It's possible that he died in the Russo-Swedish War (1590-1595) or of natural causes at Äng during the 1590s.⁹¹



Landscape document of Joen Persson at Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1592

Transcription:

K:a -- Joen i Äng
Smör _____ *3 #*
dken _____ *6*
Åhrlige h(ester) _____ *8*
Konungs h(ester) _____ *4*

Translation:

Rider all -- Joen in Äng
Butter _____ *3 pounds*
Working days _____ *6*
Annual horses _____ *8*
King's horses _____ *4*

Missing Landscape Documents from Tveta District

Unfortunately, the landscape documents for Tveta District (the district that contains Barkeryd Parish) are missing from 1593 to 1600. Thus, it's impossible to deduce the specific year in which Joen Persson died.

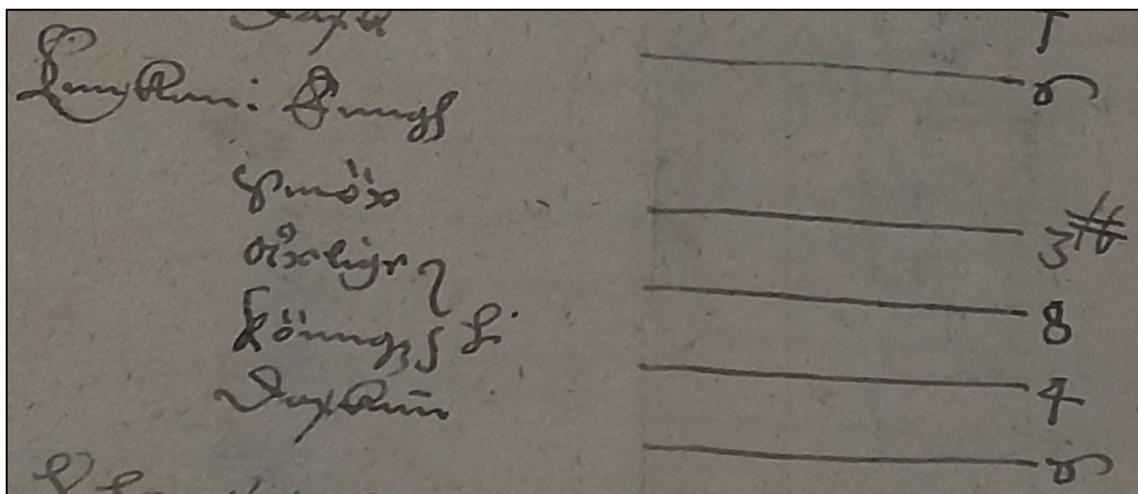
The Famine of 1597

In 1597, Sweden suffered a crop failure. This led to widespread famine across the country that lasted into 1598. Thousands of Swedes died of starvation during this time. Farmers had to ration their food and in times of emergency, slaughter one of their cattle for food.

⁹⁰ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1592:1, Image 210

⁹¹ In the landscape document from 1601 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1601:16, Image 112), Joen is no longer listed at Äng, but rather an unnamed widow is living there, inferring that Joen died sometime between 1592 to 1601.

After the death of Joen Persson, his wife inherited the ownership of Äng.⁹² By 1605, a man named Lars owned Äng.⁹³ This implies that Joen's widow had either died by this time or had sold Äng to Lars.



Landscape document of Joen Persson's widow at Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1601

Transcription:

Translation:

Enkan i Engh

Widow in Äng

Smör _____ 3 #
Åhrlige h(ester) _____ 8
Konungs h(ester) _____ 4
daxken _____ 6

Butter _____ 3 pounds
Annual horses _____ 8
King's horses _____ 4
Working days _____ 6

Trivia on Joen Persson

1. In what decade was Joen Persson probably born?
2. What parish did Joen Persson live in?
3. What farm did Joen Persson live at?
4. What is the first year that Joen Persson is mentioned in?
5. What was Joen's occupation?
6. What is the last year that Joen Persson is mentioned in?

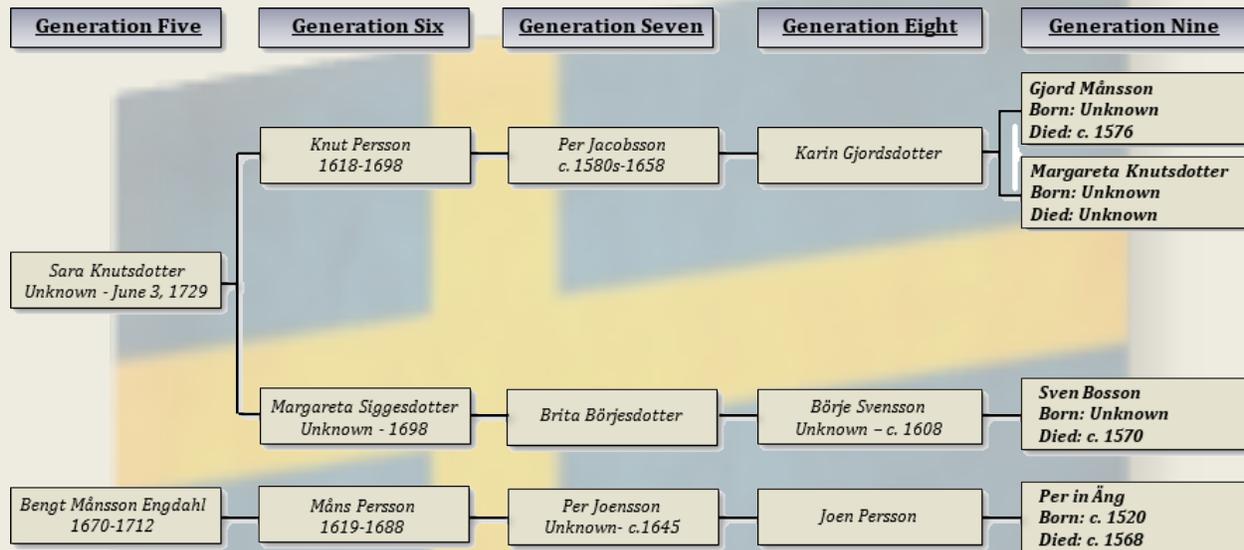
Answers: 1 1540s 2. Barkeryd 3. Äng 4. 1569 5. Farmer and cavalry rider 6. 1592

⁹² A unnamed widow is listed as the owner of Äng in 1601. (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1601: 16, Image 112)

⁹³ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1605: 9, Image 19

Generation Nine

The 6th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



Understating the Times that Sven Hög's 6th Great-Grandparents Lived In

Most of the 6th great-grandparents Sven Hög lived during the early to late 16th century. During this period, Sweden underwent some of the most drastic social and political changes in its history. When most of Sven's 6th great-grandparents were born, Sweden was part of the Kalmar Union, a union of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (which included Finland), that was controlled by Denmark. During this time, the official religion of Sweden was Catholicism, so Sven's 6th great-grandparents were brought up in the Catholic faith.

In 1521, massive changes come afoot to Sweden when the Swedish War of Liberation, a civil war in which Sweden gained its independence from the Kalmar Union, began. In 1523, Sweden officially broke away from the Kalmar Union and Gustav Eriksson Vasa was crowned King of Sweden. Although much of the Swedish population welcomed Vasa's reign and celebrated Sweden breaking away from the Kalmar Union, their joy was short lived. During his reign, Gustav passed several reforms which were largely unpopular with the Swedish population. In 1527, Sweden broke away from the Catholic Church and Lutheranism became the official religion of the country. Two years later, the Reduction of Gustav began, in which the Crown seized all the Church's assets. During the next decade, the king's forces pillaged all the parish churches throughout Sweden and confiscated most of their gold, silver, and sacred relics. This act was seen as a grievous insult to most of the Swedes, especially since very few of them were in favor of departing from Catholicism in the first place. In addition to this, Gustav levied hefty taxes throughout the country, which infuriated thousands.

Gustav Vasa's tyrannous reign was met with several revolts throughout Sweden. Perhaps the greatest of these revolts, the Dacke War, occurred in Småland during 1542 to 1543. In 1542, a yeomen named Nils Dacke organized an army against the king's rule. Although Dacke's army won numerous victories against Gustav's forces in 1542, Vasa sent a much larger army to Småland in 1543 which crushed Dacke's forces and subsequently ravaged hundreds of farms and churches throughout Småland. It is extremely likely that several of Sven Hög's 6th great-grandparents had their farms burned down by Vasa's forces during this time.



Statue of Nils Dacke in Virserum, Sweden

8.2.1. Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter
fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m

Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter

Name	Gjord Månsson	Name	Margareta Knutsdotter
Born	1500s -1520s	Born	1510s -1520s
Place	Unknown	Place	Västergötland
Died	c. 1566	Died	c. 1597
Place	Björkö	Place	Björkö
Occupation	Bailiff and farmer	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Son	1540s-1550s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Karin	1540s-1550s	Unknown	Unknown	Björkö

Gjord Månsson, Karin Gjordsdotter's father, was born sometime in the early 16th century.⁹⁴ He was probably born somewhere in the provinces of Östergötland or Småland.⁹⁵ Gjord's father was named Måns⁹⁶ and his mother's name is unknown.

The Name "Gjord"

The name "Gjord" (*Yör*) derives from Old German and is a Scandinavian form of the name Godfrey. The following names are similar to Gjord: Cord, Card, Georgdi, Georg, Gjorn, Gordy, Kord, and Njord. Today, Gjord is not a common name.

In 1510...

- Svante Nilsson (Sture) was the regent of Sweden, Henry XIII was the King of England, and Louis XII was the King of France.
- German clockmaker Peter Henlein constructed the first modern clock.
- The first known influenza pandemic originated in Asia.
- The construction of the bell tower St Mark's Campanile was completed in Venice, Italy.
- Sunflowers were introduced to Europe from North America.



⁹⁴ Since Gjord is listed as a bailiff in 1554 (Landskapshandlingar Östergötlands handlingar, Vol. 1554: 16, Image 151) he must have been at least in his thirties during this time.

⁹⁵ This is based on the fact that all of the records that mention Gjord come from Östergötland and Småland.

⁹⁶ Patronymic traditions informs us that Gjord's father was named Måns.

Gjord probably grew up in the 1520s. During this time, Sweden was part of the Kalmar Union, which consisted of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, and was ruled over by the Danish monarchy. Gjord's youth was a troubled time of uncertainty and was a power struggle between various rulers. It's possible that the first king that Gjord remembered was Kristian II, the last Danish king to rule over Sweden.

The Reign of Kristian the Tyrant (1520-1521)



Painting of Kristian the Tyrant
by an unknown artist

King Kristian the Tyrant (1481-1559) was the King of Denmark and Norway from 1513 to 1523 and the King of Sweden from 1520 to 1521. He was the eldest son of King Hans of Denmark and belonged to the House of Oldenburg. Kristian passed stricter rules as king and ruthlessly fought to maintain the Kalmar Union. From 1518 to 1523, Kristian's forces waged war against Sweden, capturing the country in 1520. In November of 1520, Kristian had 80-90 people executed during the Stockholm Bloodbath, most of whom were nobility who were loyal to Sten Sture the Younger, the former regent of Sweden who was killed in battles earlier that year. After this massacre, Kristian had Sture's corpse exhumed from the ground and desecrated it by burning it at the stake.

After the Stockholm Bloodbath, Sture's widow, Christina Gyllenstierna, helped lead a resistance campaign against Kristian's tyrannical rule. In January of 1521, Gustav Erickson Vasa, a nobleman (and later the King of Sweden) who had fought for the Swedish resistance, launched a rebellion against Kristian called the Swedish War of Liberation. Throughout the early part of 1521, Gustav led several successful attacks against various cities that were occupied by the Danes. The same year, Kristian returned to Denmark, where he passed several sweeping reforms that limited the power of the higher clergy members.

By this point, the whole of Sweden was in open revolt against Kristian's rule, while Denmark and Norway were taxed exorbitantly to fund the Danish army. The people of Jutland in northern Denmark eventually rebelled against Kristian, leading to his wane in power. On January 20, 1523, Kristian's uncle, Fredrick of Holstein, took the Danish throne from Kristian. Kristian was subsequently exiled from Denmark. During his exile, he corresponded with Martin Luther and even became a Lutheran for a short period of time. He reverted back to Catholicism, however, once Gustav Eriksson Vasa (now King Gustav Vasa of Sweden) and King Fredrick of Denmark became Lutherans. In the early 1530s, Kristian led one more attempt to take back Denmark, which failed. For the last 27 years of his life, Kristian was kept as a prisoner. He died on January 25, 1559 in Kalundborg Castle.

8.2.1. Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m

During Gjord's youth, northern Europe was becoming increasingly divided over the emergence of Protestantism. When Gjord was young, he attended a Catholic church, as did the rest of Sweden. However, he lived in the early days of the Reformation, when northern European countries gradually broke away from the Catholic Church and converted to Protestantism.

The Reformation

The Reformation was a time in the 16th and 17th centuries when most of northern Europe broke away from the Catholic Church and became part of the newly founded dogma of Protestantism. The Reformation began in 1517 when Martin Luther, a former German monk, posted the 95 Theses on the door of the cathedral at Wurts. Luther criticized the sale of indulges, or offerings congregation members could pay the church to save their souls from damnation. He also insisted that the Pope had no authority over Purgatory, questioned the merits of saints that had no Biblical basis, and declared that true salvation could only be found through faith in Christ, not good works. Luther's influence spread across Germany and was extremely divisive. The newly developed printing press that was invented by Johannes Gutenberg was used to print several Bibles in the vernacular language.



Martin Luther (1483-1546)
The Founder of Lutheranism

Protestantism soon spread throughout northern Europe and its influence was furthered by theologians such as John Calvin. The largest initial groups of Protestants were Lutherans and Calvinists. Lutheran churches were mostly found in Germany, the Baltics, and Scandinavia, while most Calvinists were in Scotland. The Reformation influenced England to also break away from the Catholic Church in 1534, leading to the founding of the Church of England. Meanwhile, France and southern Europe remained Catholic. For over a century, the Reformation led to countless conflicts throughout Europe, culminating in the Thirty Years' War during the early 17th century.

Since Gjord eventually married into nobility, he probably came from a family that had social prominence. He most likely had several siblings, but their names are unknown. Unlike the majority of the Swedish population at this time, he was mostly likely literate at a young age.

From 1520 to 1523, Sweden was involved in the Swedish War of Liberation in which future king Gustav Vasa launched a successful campaign against the Kalmar Union, freeing Sweden from their rule.

In 1523, Sweden broke away from the Kalmar Union and Gustav Vasa was crowned king. During Gustav's reign, the political, religious, and social landscape of Sweden was completely transformed as Sweden broke away from the Catholic Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church became the nation's official religion. Throughout this period, the king's forces seized all the country's churches of all their wealth and invested it within the nation's treasury. Gustav also redistributed large amounts of the land property that Swedish nobility and farmers owned. Although Gustav was largely responsible for transforming Sweden into a powerful nation, it came largely at the expense of the Swedish people, including Gjord's family.

Gustav Vasa's Greed for Swedish Land



Portrait of Gustav Vasa
by Jakob Brinckes – 1542

“His miserliness and avarice for land seems to have been pathological. He only had to be seized with desire for some fertile acres...to become immediately be possessed by them. In his day the ownership was not fixed by law, once and for all. Ownership was a matter of interpretation. Gustav never passed up an opportunity to acquire a good homestead. Further...he claimed that all common lands were crown property.”

Moberg, Vilhelm. *History of the Swedish People*, page 172

By 1540, Gjord was an adult and he probably served in the military.⁹⁷ In the early 1540s, thousands of Swedes from Småland openly revolted against Gustav Vasa's rule, emanating in the Dacke War (1542-1543). In June of 1542, Nils Dacke, a yeoman from Småland, launched a revolt against the Crown. Soon, all of the other southern provinces of Sweden revolted against the king. In early 1543, King Gustav sent an army (consisting largely of German mercenaries) into southern Sweden which devastated Dacke's peasant army and ravaged the countryside of Småland. It's unknown if Gjord was involved in the Dacke War.

By this time, Gjord's father Måns owned the farm Aggarp in Björkö Parish, Småland, which Gjord eventually inherited.⁹⁸ It's unknown what role Gjord played in the Dacke War or what his thoughts were on Gustav's policies. Since he later served as a crown bailiff, he must have had Gustav's trust.

⁹⁷ Gjord is listed as a shooter in Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1563:26, Image 90

⁹⁸ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar, Vol. 1543:2B, Image 48

8.2.1. Gjörd Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m

Margareta Knutsdotter, the mother of Karin Gjordsdotter, was born sometime in the 1510s or 1520s in the province of Västergötland. Her father was Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten)⁹⁹ and her mother's identity is unknown. Margareta's father Knut Nilsson was of nobility and came from the Forsaätten clan. He served as a squire and resided at the farm Forsa in Bollebygd Parish¹⁰⁰ and Bosgård in Finnekumla Parish¹⁰¹. Since Knut owned several farms throughout southern Sweden, he must have been quite wealthy. Margareta had two brothers, Halvard and Lars, and a sister named Brita.



Map showing the different locations in Sweden associated with Margareta Knutsdotter

The Name “Margareta”

“Margareta” (*Máh-gah-rée-táh*), one of Sweden’s most common female names, is of Greek or Latin origin, and derives from a Persian word that means “gem.” The earliest known woman to have that name in Sweden was the daughter of 9th century King Inge the Elder. It was a popular name for Swedish queens, princesses, and female members of nobility. Variations of the name include: “Greta,” “Maggie,” “Margaret,” “Marit,” and “Martha.” The name day for Margareta in Sweden is July 20th.

Margareta’s childhood was similar to other girls in the Swedish countryside during the early 16th century and she probably helped with household chores. Like the rest of Sweden at this time, she was brought up in the Catholic faith. Unlike most Swedes during this era, she could probably read and write because of her family’s noble status. Margareta’s father Knut Nilsson probably died sometime in her childhood, as he died sometime before 1526.¹⁰² It’s possible that she didn’t even have too many memories of him. After Knut’s death, Margareta was probably raised by her mother. She may also have lived with one of her two brothers Lars or Halvard at one of their estates once she was older.

⁹⁹ In 1576, Margareta was listed as the sister of the late Halvard Knutsson, who owned the estate Forsa in Bollebygd Parish. (Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576). Patronymic tradition tells us that Margareta and Halvard’s father’s name was Knut, and a squire named Knut Nilsson was listed as the owner of Forsa in 1506 (SDHK No: 35359 – February, 27 1506). Since Knut Nilsson lived a generation before Halvard and was the previous owner of Forsa, he must have been the father of Margareta.

¹⁰⁰ Knut is listed as the owner of Forsa, Bollebygd Parish in 1506 (SDHK No: 35359 – February 27, 1506).

¹⁰¹ Knut is listed as the owner of Bosgård, Finnekumla in 1508 (SDHK No: 36200 - June 12, 1508).

¹⁰² Since Knut Nilsson is not listed anywhere in the äldsta rusttjänstlängderna (1526-28) records, he must have died before 1526.

Fact or Fiction: Margareta Knutsdotter Hailed from the Krumme Clan

Claim: According to the record of Lars Jacobsson Björnram's induction into the House of Nobility from 1634 (Adelsriksdagarna 1634-1635. Prot. m.m. III R 8), Lars's mother had roots to the Krumme Clan. This infers that Margareta Knutsdotter (Lars's maternal grandmother) came from the Krumme family, who owned several estates in southern Sweden in the 15th and 16th centuries.

False: As Stig Östensson points out in the article "Jacob Härds (af Segerstad) morfar Jacob Åbrant och dennes släktskapsförhållanden," numerous records (mainly Leonard Fredrik Rääf samling, Series F1, Vol 5 and Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1591:4, Image 236) show that Margareta Knutsdotter hailed from the Forsaätten Clan, not the Krumme. Östensson explains the reasons for this misunderstanding, explaining that both Lars Jacobsson Björnram and Margareta Knutsdotter were misinformed about their noble heritage. Margareta's father Knut Nilsson of the Forsaätten Clan died early in her childhood and she probably didn't know much about her paternal side. The noble traditions that Margareta passed down to her descendants must have come from her the side of paternal grandmother, Brita Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna).

Malin Henriksdotter in Fyllinge, one of Margareta's second cousins on this side, was married into the Krumme family. It's likely that since Margareta had relatives that were married into the Krumme family, her grandson Lars Jacobsson Björnram mistakenly believed that his grandmother was also part of the Krumme family.

By the 1540s, Margareta had reached adulthood. She was probably married to Gjörd Månsson during the latter part of this decade.¹⁰³ The two were likely married at a church somewhere in the province of Västergötland, possibly at Bollebygd Church.

What were the Circumstances Behind Gjörd and Margareta's Marriage?

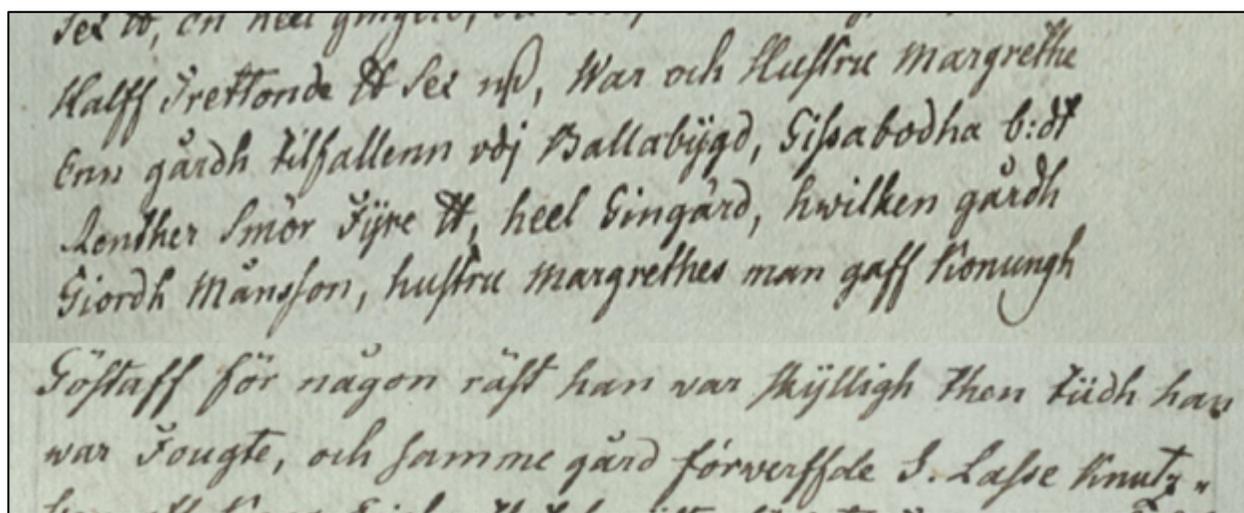
Since both Gjörd Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter came from a higher social status in Sweden, their marriage must have been arranged. Thus, it's likely that their families knew each other. Since Margareta's father Knut Nilsson died at least two decades prior to their marriage, it's likely that Margareta's brothers Lars and Halvard had social connections to Gjörd Månsson's family. During this time, marriages among the European upper class didn't stem from love, but out of the need to forge and maintain social alliances between socially elite families.

Gjörd and Margareta's first meeting was also arranged. It's unknown how Gjörd and Margareta's families knew each other. However, both families had connections to the Crown; Margareta's brother Lars later served as a secretary to King Erik XIV, son of Gustav, while Gjörd served as a crown bailiff under Gustav. Thus, it is possible that the King himself had a hand in arranging their marriage.

¹⁰³ Gjörd is listed as Margareta's husband in Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576.

8.2.1. Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m

It's extremely likely that Gjord and Margareta's marriage contract included the agreement that Gjord would inherit the land that Margareta owned. A record from 1576 mentions that Gjord owned a farm called Gissaboda (known today as Gesebol) in Bollebygd Parish that he later handed over to King Gustav as a payment for a debt.¹⁰⁴ Since Margareta's family owned land in Bollebygd, it's very probable that she owned this land and that Gjord acquired it through their marriage.



Excerpt from a letter that mentions Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter – March 15th, 1576

Transcription:

.....och hustru Margrethe
enn gårdh tilfallen udi Ballabygd, Gissabodha, b:dt
renther smör fyre # heel gingård, hvilken gårdh
Giordh Månsson, hustru Margrethes man gaff Konungh
Göstaff för någon räst han var skylligh then tiidh han
war fougte.....

Translation:

.....and wife Margareta
had also received a farm called Gissaboda in Bollebygd, with the
revenue of four pounds of butter and what was
afforded at a Royal visit. This farm was given by
Gjord Månsson, Lady Margreta's husband, to King
Gustav as a payment for a debt from the time he
was a bailiff.

¹⁰⁴ Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576



Gesebol, Bollebygd Parish – one of the farms that Gjord and Margareta owned in the 16th century

It's unknown where Gjord and Margareta spent the early years of their marriage. They probably lived at an estate somewhere in Västergötland, Småland, or Östergötland. Gjord and Margareta had at least two children: a daughter named Karin¹⁰⁵ and a son whose name is not known¹⁰⁶. Their children were probably born in the late 1540s or 1550s.

Leonard Fredrick Rääf's Collection

The most informative record on Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter is a letter that is saved in Leonard Fredrick Rääf's Collection. Leonard Rääf (1786-1872) was a Swedish folklorist and historian from Östergötland. Rääf spent much of his life collecting and transcribing medieval manuscripts. He published six volumes of these manuscripts, which are collectively known as *LF Rääfs diplomatarium*.

The document in Rääf's collection that mentions Gjord and Margareta is a letter that was written at Torsboda, Bollebygd Parish on March 15th, 1576. This letter was written recently after the death of Margareta's brother Halvard Knutsson, and mentions that Halvard's siblings were Britta Knutsdotter, the late Lars Knutsson, and Margareta Knutsdotter. The letter proceeds to list the land and commodities that Lars's siblings had inherited. This is the only known record which shows that Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter were married.

The original document was recorded on parchment and was kept at the farm Millingetorp in Kisa Parish, Östergötland. It contained six seals, the first of which was pressed into red wax on white and the others pressed into green on white, hanging on parchment strips. The letter was signed by Olof Gustavsson Stenbock, Sven Knutsson Ribbing, Nils Pedersson Lilliehöök and Per Karlsson Store.

¹⁰⁵ In 1591, a woman named Karin (who was the wife of a cavalry rider named Jacob) was listed at Aggarp as free of taxation (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1591:14, Image 16). Since Margareta Knutsdotter was listed at Aggarp under the same conditions the same year (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol.1591:14, Image 236) she must have been Karin's mother.

¹⁰⁶ A record from 1570 shows that Margareta Knutsdotter had a son (Strödda räkenskaper och handlingar t.o.m. 1630, Series 15 Klagomålsregister 1550-talet-1628, Vol. 3:2).

8.2.1. Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m

Sometime in the 1540s or early 1550s, Gjord Månsson was appointed to be a crown bailiff who regularly collected taxes from farmers and upheld the law within his area.¹⁰⁷ With the recent atrocities that were committed by Gustav's forces against the people of Småland during the Dacke War, Gjord was probably resented and hated by a several farmers who felt that he was a traitor to the Swedish people. It's very likely that sometimes when he collected taxes from farmers that he was met with resistance.

By 1554, Gjord Månsson's family were living at Hofsgård, a royal farm located in Hov Parish, Östergötland County.¹⁰⁸ While he stayed at Hofsgård, Gjord had to ensure that it was well maintained. Occasionally, Hofsgård was inspected by the king's officials (who may have even been accompanied by Gustav himself). If there were any damages to the property at Hofsgård, Gjord would likely be charged for them.

Royal Farms

Kungsgårda, or royal farms, were large farms in Sweden that were owned by the Crown. Whenever the king or his emissaries traveled outside of Stockholm to other parts of Sweden, they stayed at these farms. Royal farms were established in Sweden in the Middle Ages as part of the Uppsala öd. They were resided at by crown bailiffs, who were responsible for maintaining them. A marketplace was frequently located by a royal farm, and a monastery was sometimes near them as well. Royal farms were regularly inspected by the king's officials to ensure that they were well maintained.

Hofsgård

The royal farm of Hofsgård (Hóhvs-gord), located near Lake Tåkern in Hov Parish, Östergötland County, was originally built during the mid-13th century and was owned by Birger Jarl, a prominent Swedish statesman. In 1521, Hofsgård was owned by King Kristian the Tyrant. That year, the forces of future King Gustav invaded Hofsgård during the Swedish War of Liberation. During Gustav's reign, various bailiffs resided at Hofsgård. When Gustav died in 1560, his son Duke Magnus inherited Hofsgård.

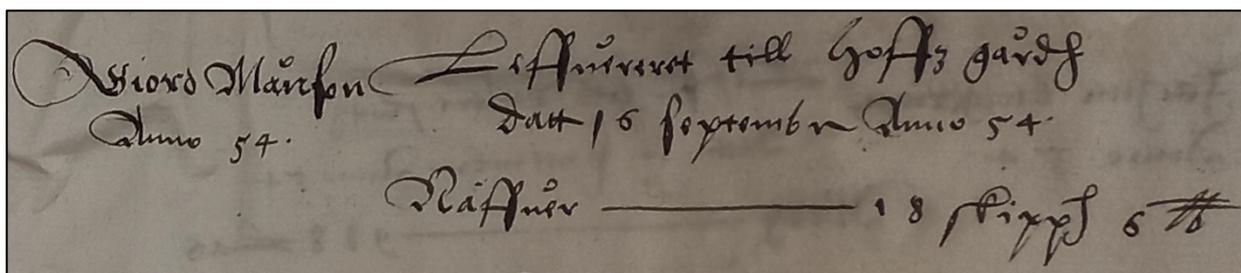


Hofsgård, Hov Parish, Östergötland

¹⁰⁷ Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576 mentions that Gjord was a bailiff.

¹⁰⁸ Landskapshandlingar Östergötlands handlingar Vol. 1554: 16, Image 151

Gjord and Margareta's family resided at Hofsgård throughout much of the 1550s. On September 15, 1554, Gjord was listed as delivering 18 bushels and six barrels of birch bark to Hofsgård.¹⁰⁹



Landscape document of Gjord Månsson at Hofsgård, Hov Parish, Östergötland - 1554

Transcription:

Gjord Månsson Leffuereret till Hoffz gårdh
Anno 54 den 15 September Anno 54
Näffuer _____ 18 Skippd 6 #

Translation:

Gjord Månsson delivered to Hofsgård
Year 1554 the 15th of September 1554
Birch bark ___ 18 bushels. 6 barrels

Den civila lokalförvaltningen i Sverige (1523-1620) by J.E. Almquist

Den civila lokalförvaltningen i Sverige (1523-1620) ("The Civilian Local Management in Sweden (1523-1620)") was written by Swedish historian Johan Axel Almquist (1870-1950) and published between 1917-1923. This work contains information on the numerous farms in Sweden and the local officials who lived at them during the early Vasa Period. On page 355, Almquist lists the names of the farmers who lived at Hofsgård from 1553 to 1570:

Mårten Jöransson	1553-1554
Gjord Månsson	1554-1559
Håkan Larsson	1559-1560
Lars Svensson	1560-1561
Björn Andersson	1562-1566
Lars Nilsson	1567-1570

¹⁰⁹ Landskapshandlingar Östergötlands handlingar Vol. 1554: 16, Image 151

8.2.1. Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m



Hov Church - Where Gjord and Margareta attended church in the late 1550s

While Gjord and Margareta lived at Hofsgård, they were among the most prominent people that lived in Hov Parish. Every Sunday, they attended services at Hov Church. Because of their social status, they sat near the front of the church. By this time, the official religion of Sweden had changed to Lutheranism.

King Gustav Vasa's Visit to Hofsgård*

"Is everything ready?" Gjord looked around to see that everything looked clean and tidy. His wife Margareta nodded, indicating everything was ready for the king's arrival.

King Gustav spent a lot of time in the area; Vadstena was an important part of the country. Now the king had invited himself to Hofsgård and intended to stay overnight. Gjord didn't really know why; Hofsgård was only an hour south of Vadstena where the king had his own house. On the other hand, a royal farm like Hofsgård was obligated to provide housing for the king whenever he wanted.

"Why is he coming?" Gjord's wife Margareta looked at her husband. "Isn't he satisfied with the way you handle things? Does he want to replace you by a new bailiff?"

"Don't worry," Gjord replied, "he is probably just curious to see what the farm looks like, he hasn't visited for years." But he didn't feel as sure as he pretended to be.

Now they heard the carriages roll into the yard. Margareta pressed her husband's hand and they went out to greet the king. He looked old and had problems getting out of the carriage, but he gave a friendly smile when shaking hands with Gjord and Margareta. He looked out over the fields and over Lake Tåkern: "Ah, this is a beautiful part of the country, yes indeed it is. I wanted to see this once more in my life."

While the king went to his room to prepare for dinner, Margareta went to the kitchen to check that everything was in order. Most of the delicacies came from Hof and the lake nearby: a swan, some ducks, and a huge pike. Then there were quails and pies and stews and a lot more. It looked good and Margareta felt she wasn't worried anymore. Her husband was right; the king was old and wanted to see this place once more. Filled with confidence, she went out to the dining room, ready to welcome the king to her table.

*A work for creative fiction by Christina Tuveßon Lindaryd

In 1559, Gjord's service at Hofsgård ended, and he and Margareta's family moved to another farm, possibly somewhere in Östergötland.¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰ Almquist, *Den civila lokalörvalningen i Sverige (1523-1620)*

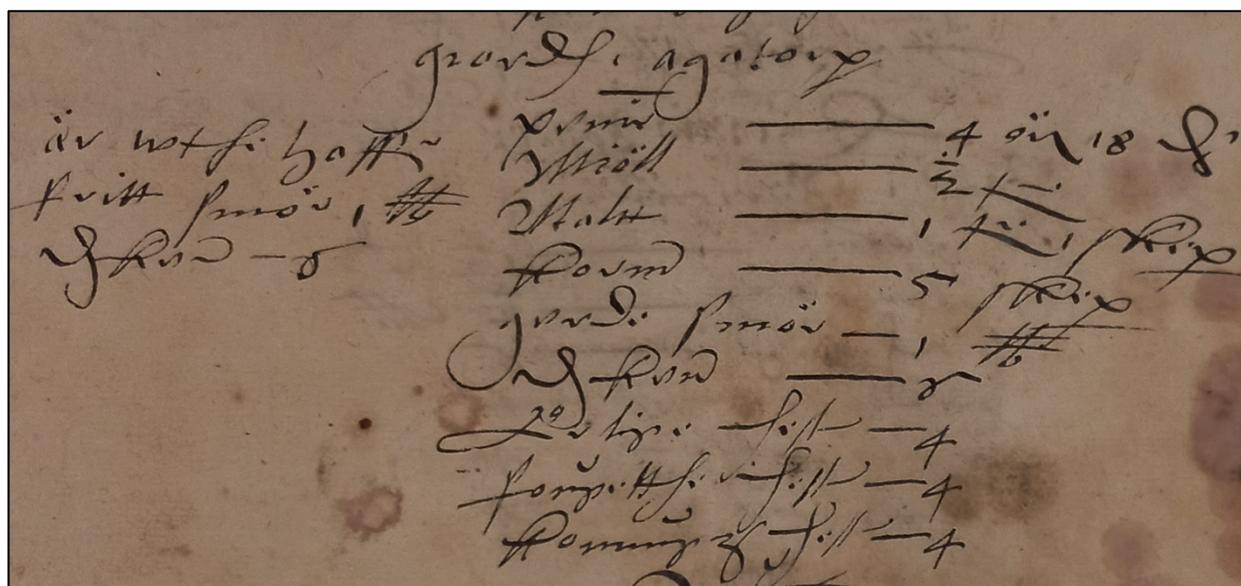
**Volume Eight
Generation Nine**

**The 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög
The 6th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög**

Around 1562, Gjord's father Måns died. After Måns's death, Gjord inherited his farm Aggarp in Björkö Parish.¹¹¹ Gjord spent his final days at Aggarp. In 1563, he paid one lispund of butter in taxes to Hofsgård.¹¹² Gjord and Margareta's family were among the most socially prominent citizens of Björkö Parish, just as they were in Hov Parish.



Aggarp, Björkö – Where Gjord and Margareta's family lived in the late 16th century



Landscape document of Gjord Månsson at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1563

Transcription:

Giordh i Agatorp
 Är wthi Hoffg peni. (nger) ___ 4 öre 18 pr.
 Kvitt. Smör 1# Miöll ___ 1/2 tna
 dken 6 Malt ___ 1 tna 7 skiep
 Kornn ___ 5 skiep.
 grede smor ___ 1. #
 dken ___ 6
 Ahrlige h. ___ 4
 Fougde h. ___ 4
 Konungs h ___ 4

Translation:

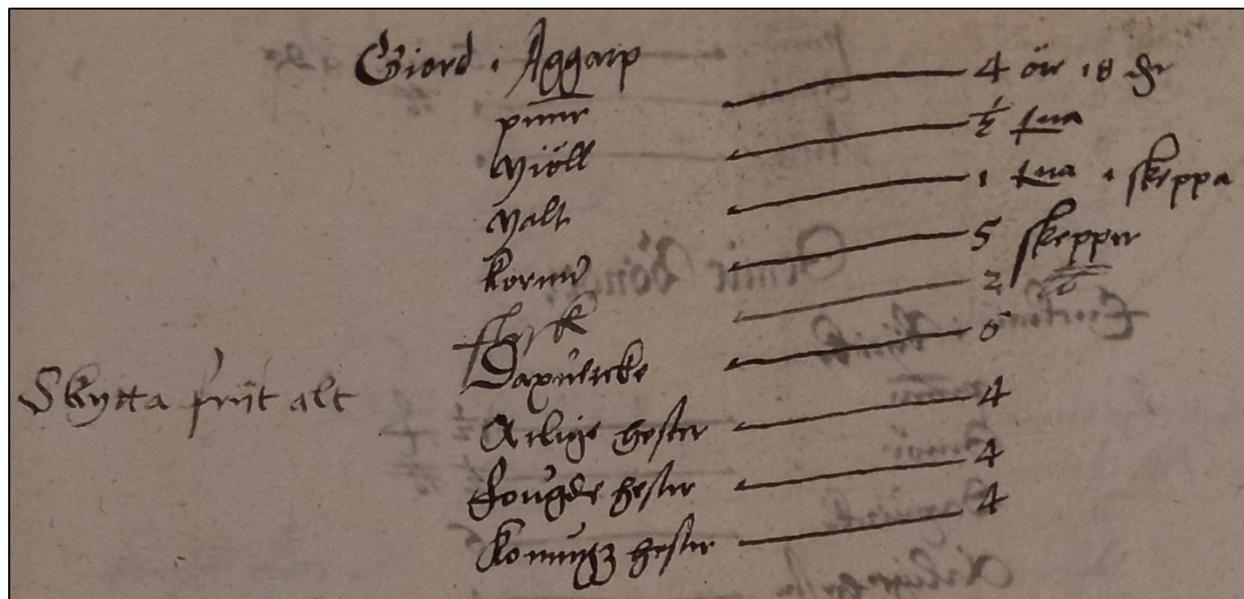
Gjord in Aggarp
 To Hovgård he has paid Cash ___ 4 öre 18 penningar
 1 lispund butter Flour ___ 1/2 barrel
 working days 6 Malt ___ 1 barrel 7 bushels
 barley ___ 5 bushels.
 cream butter ___ 1 pound
 working days ___ 6
 King's horses ___ 4
 Marshal's horses ___ 4
 King's horses ___ 4

¹¹¹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1562:11

¹¹² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1563:26, Image 90

8.2.1. Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m

In 1563, Sweden entered into a war with Denmark called the Nordic Seven Years' War. Since Gjord served in the military, it's possible that he served in this war. In 1565, Gjord was listed as a shooter at Aggarp who was free of any debt.¹¹³ Sometime that year, Gjord died and Margareta inherited the ownership of Aggarp.¹¹⁴



Landscape document of Gjord Månsson at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1565

Transcription:

Gjord i Aggarp
 penn. (nge)r _____ 4 öre 18 pr.
 Miöll _____ 1/2 tna
 Malt _____ 1 tna 1 skeppa.
 Kornn _____ 5 skepp.
 Flesk _____ 2. #
 Skytta frit alt dagwerke _____ 6
 Ahrliche hestar _____ 4
 Fougde hestar. _____ 4
 Konungs hestar _____ 4

Translation:

Gjord in Aggarp
 Cash _____ 4 öre 18 penningar
 Flour _____ 1/2 barrel
 Malt _____ 7 skepp.
 Barley _____ 5 skepp.
 Pork _____ 2. lipsund
 Shooter Working days _____ 6
 Free from debt Annual horses _____ 4
 Marshal's horses _____ 4
 King's horses _____ 4

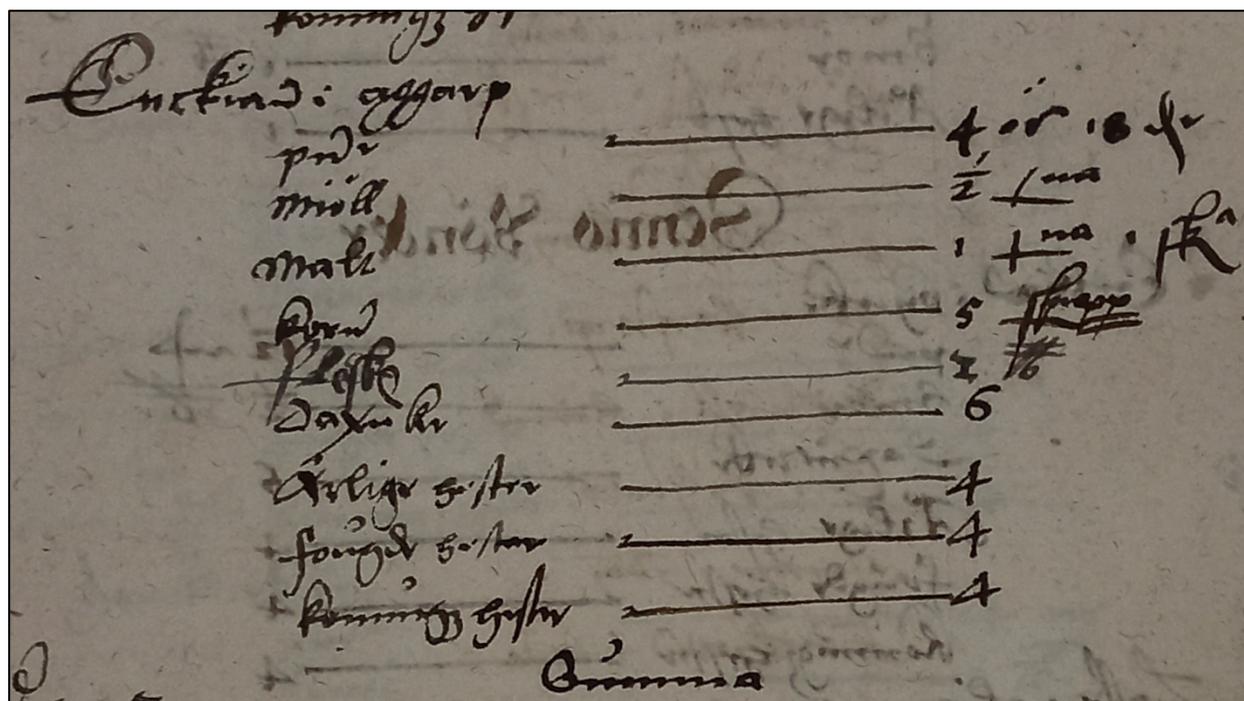
Fogde hästar - Marshal's Horses

Fogde hästar, or "marshal's horses," were horses that were owned by a *fogde*, or a representative from the king, who was responsible for collecting taxes. These officials had horses that were looked after by trustworthy farmers in their area.

¹¹³ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1565:1, Image 19

¹¹⁴ Since a widow (presumably Margareta) is listed as the owner of Aggarp in 1566 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1566:18, Image 18) Gjord must have died sometime in 1565.

After Gjord's death, Margareta Knutsdotter lived at Aggarp intermittently. Several cavalry riders also lived at Aggarp as well during the late 16th century. Margareta was listed (as an unnamed widow) in the land register at Aggarp during 1566-1571. On December 8, 1569, she received a Royal Letter to live at Aggarp free of taxation.¹¹⁵



Landscape document of Margareta Knutsdotter at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1566

Transcription:

Translation:

Enckian i Aggarp

peni. (nger) _____ 4 öre 18 pr.
Miöll _____ 1/2 tna.
Malt _____ 1 tna 1 ska.
Kornn _____ 5 skiapp.
Flesk _____ 2. #
dagzken _____ 6
Ahrlige hästar _____ 4
Fougde hästar _____ 4
Konungs hästar _____ 4

Widow in Aggarp

Cash _____ 4 öre 18 penningar
Flour _____ 1/2 barrel.
Malt _____ 1 barrel 1 bushel
Barley _____ 5 bushels.
Pork _____ 2. #
Working days _____ 6
Annual horses _____ 8
Marshals' horses _____ 4
King's horses _____ 6

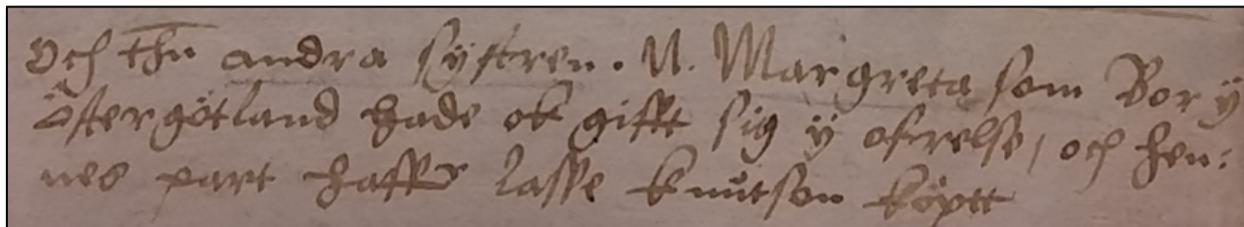
Women in Landscape Documents

Women are rarely mentioned in Swedish landscape documents. When they are mentioned, it is often as an unnamed widow. The women whose names were mentioned in landscape documents were almost always from the upper class.

¹¹⁵ Östenson, page 262

8.2.1. Gjerd Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m

During the early 1570s, Margareta lived somewhere in Östergötland.¹¹⁶ By this time, both of her brothers Halvard and Lars had passed away.



Klagomålregister record that mentions Margareta Knutsdotter – 1570s

Transcription:

Och then andra systeren, N. Margreta som bor i Östergötland hade ok gifft sig i ofrelse, och hennes part haffuer Lasse Knutsson köptt

Translation:

His other sister named Margareta, who lives in Östergötland, had also married to a commoner. Her part was bought by Lasse Knutsson

Östergötland

Östergötland (Úh-ster-yáht-lahn) is a traditional Swedish province located in the southeastern part of Sweden. During Sweden's administrative reorganization in 1634, it became part of Östergötland County. Östergötland borders the counties of Jönköping, Kalmar, Södermanland, and Örebro. To the west of it is Lake Vättern and to the east of it is the Baltic Sea. Linköping is the seat of the Governor of Östergötland County's residence and is also the largest city in the county. In 2017, the population of Östergötland County was 456,550.



From 1573 to 1575, a cavalry rider named Nils lived at Aggarp. Margareta was listed again at Aggarp during 1575 to 1580.¹¹⁷ On March 15, 1576, Margareta was present at Torsboda, Bollebygd Parish with her sister Britta and the children of her late brother Lars to discuss the inheritance left by her late brother Halvard Knutsson. At this meeting, Margareta declared that she had inherited some butter and eels from Halvard and agreed to bequeath some of her land to her nephew Knut Larsson and niece Beata Larsdotter.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁶ Strödda räkenskaper och handlingar t.o.m. 1630, Serie 15 Klagomålsregister 1550- talet-1628, Vol. 3:2

¹¹⁷ Östenson, page 264

¹¹⁸ Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576

forb:te hustru Margrethe inthet mhere igen, ähn thet
hon ärfvde effter sin broder Salige Halward Knutzson
belöper sigh på en systers partt medh smör och gingär,
der sampt någre Ålar som wore recknade bådhe systers-
ne till för ett halft # smör, halff siette # sex nß med
alle wise partzeler som bör recknas vdi sjskenne-
skiffte. När allt sådant godz skiffth och bytt war,
upstodh then Erlige och Wälbyrdige Qwinne Fru Anna
Lars Knutzsons effterleffwerske på siine barns wegne
och sporde bådhe hustru Britha och hustru Margrethe
till, om the wille medh En godh wilie sälie henne the-
res anpart som the ärfvt hade effter theres förälder,
och theres broder Halward Knutzson, then till swaradhe
the att wilie helst vplatha henne samma godz till the-
res broders son Knut Larsson och Beata Larsdötter,
them och theres effterkommende till ewärdelige äge

Excerpt from a letter that mentions Margareta Knutsdotter ceding her land – March 15th, 1576

Transcription:

forb:te hustru Margrethe inthet mhere igen ähn thet
hon ärfvde effter sin broder salige Halward Knutzson
belöper sigh på en systers partt medh smör och gingär-
der sampt någre Ålar som wore recknade bådhe systers-
ne till för ett halft # smör, halff siette # sex nß med
alle visse partzeler som bör recknas vdi sjskenne
skiffte. När allt sådant godz skiffth och bytt war
upstodh then Erlige och Wälbyrdige Qwinne Fru Anna
Lars Knutzsons effterleffwerske på siine barns wegne
och sporde bådhe hustru Britha och hustru Margrethe
till, om the wille medh En godh wilie sälie henne the-
res anpart som the ärfvt hade effter theres förälder,
och theres broder Halward Knutzson, then till swaradhe
the att wilie helst vplatha henne samma godz till the-
res broders son Knut Larsson och Beata Larsdötter,
them och theres effterkommende till ewärdelige äge

Transcription:

Thus, Lady Margreta had nothing
more than she had inherited from her late brother
Halvard Knutsson, which is a sister's part with butter
and what was afforded at a Royal visit plus some eels
which were counted as ½ pound butter, half sixth pound
six lod, with all parts that should be counted for in a
siblings' distribution. When all distributed and settled,
the honorable and noble woman Lady Anna, Lars
Knutsson's widow, rose on behalf of her children and
asked both Lady Brita and Lady Margreta if they with
good intention could sell their parts of what they had
inherited from their parents and their brother
Halvard Knutsson. To this they answered that they
would like to yield that estate to their brother's
son Knut Larsson and Beata Larsdotter for them
and their descendants to possess for eternity.

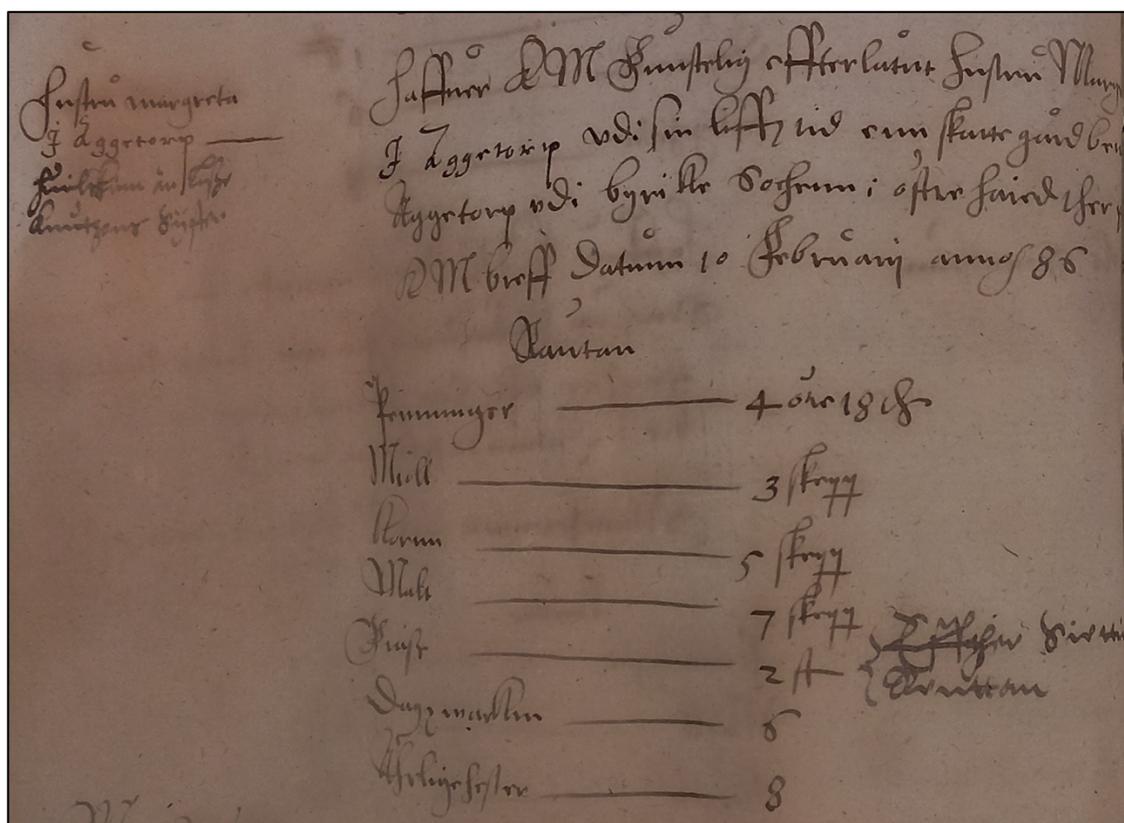
**8.2.1. Gjörd Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter
fm fm mf fm f and fm fm mf fm m**

Margareta's children grew into adulthood during the 1570s. Sometime that decade, her daughter Karin was married to a cavalry rider named Jacob.¹¹⁹ Jacob lived at Aggarp from 1581 to his death in 1613. Karin had at least two sons with Jacob, Lars and Per.¹²⁰ During 1583 to 1586, a cavalry rider named Gumme also lived at Aggarp.¹²¹

"Margareta" – A Popular Name Among Margareta Knutsdotter's

Several of Margareta Knutsdotter's female descendants were also named Margareta. For example, two of her grandsons that hailed from Aggarp, Lars and Per, had daughters that they named Margareta. One of Per's sons, Knut Persson, was likely named after Margareta's father, Knut Nilsson.

On February 1, 1586 Margareta received a Royal Letter to live at Aggarp free of taxation for the remainder of her life.¹²²



Landscape document of Margareta Knutsdotter at Aggarp, Björkö Parish - 1591

¹¹⁹ Karin is listed as Jacob's wife in *Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar* Vol. 1591:14, Image 16.

¹²⁰ Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *The Introduced Swedish Nobility*. 1925-36, Vol. VIII, No. 214. For more information on the fate of Karin Gjördsdotter, see page 1293 of this volume.

¹²¹ Östenson, page 264

¹²² *Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar* Vol. 1591:4, Image 236

Transcription:

*Hustru Margareta Haffuer KM Gunstelig efftelåtet hustru Margareta
i Aggetorp__ i Aggetorp vdi sin lifftid enn skatte gård bru...
Hwilkien är Laße Aggetorp vdi byrikie sochenn I öster hared ther...
Knutssons systar KM breff datum 1o Februarij anno 86*

Räntan

*Peninger_____4 öre 18 lod
Miöll_____3 skepp.
Kornn_____5 skepp.
Malt_____7 skepp.
Giäß_____2 st.
dagswerke____6 Effther sietti(e)
Ahrlige heste__8 räntan*

Translation:

*The wife Margareta His Royal Majesty has kindly allowed Lady Margareta
in Aggarp in Aggarp to use the farmstead
who is Lasse Aggarp in Björkö Parish in Östra District, for the rest of her life
Knutsson's sister in a Royal letter dated February 1st, 1586*

The interest

*Cash_____4 öre 18 lod
Flour_____3 bushels
Barley_____5 bushels
Malt_____7 bushels
Geese_____2. After the sixth
Working days__6 interest rate
Annual horses__8*

Margareta spent the rest of her days at Aggarp, where her daughter Karin also lived with her husband Jacob and children. By the 1590s, she was probably in her 70s. From 1586 to 1597, Margareta kept the interest from Aggarp. However, in 1597, the interest from Aggarp instead went to Lady Agneta Arentsdotter (Örnflycht), a noblewoman from the province of Södermanland, indicating that Margareta had died.¹²³ Margareta was probably either buried in a vault in Björkö Church or in the church's cemetery.

¹²³ This fact is stated in Östenson, page 271 Endnote 40

8.2.2. Sven Bosson
fm fm mm mf f

Trivia on Gjord Månsson and Margareta Knutsdotter

1. What decade was Margareta Knutsdotter probably born?
2. What was the name of Margareta Knutsdotter's father?
 - a. Knut Arvidsson
 - b. Knut Månsson
 - c. Knut Nilsson
 - d. Knut Svensson
3. What province was Margareta Knutsdotter born in?
4. What was Gjord Månsson's occupation?
 - a. Bailiff
 - b. Cavalry rider
 - c. Shooter
 - d. All of the above
5. What province did Gjord and Margareta's family live in during the late 1550s?
 - a. Småland
 - b. Östergötland
 - c. Västergötland
 - d. None of these
6. What was the name of the farm that Gjord and Margareta's family lived at in the late 1550s?
7. What was the name of Gjord and Margareta's daughter?
8. What farm did Gjord and Margareta live at in the 1560s?
9. What year did Gjord Månsson die?
10. What year did Margareta Knutsdotter die?

Answers: 1. The 1520s 2. c 3. Västergötland 4. d 5. b. 6. Hofsgård 7. Karin 8. Aggarp 9. 1565 10. 1597

Sven Bosson

Name	Sven Bosson
Born	1500s -1520s
Place	Unknown
Died	c. 1569
Place	Järeda, Kalmar
Occupation	Farmer

Children of Sven Bosson

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Börje	1540s	Unknown	1608	Järeda, Kalmar

Sven Bosson, the father of Börje Svensson, was born sometime in the early 16th century. He was probably born somewhere in Småland.¹²⁴ His father's name was Bo¹²⁵ and his mother's name is unknown. Although Sven grew up in the Catholic faith, Sweden broke away from the Catholic Church and converted to Lutheranism during his lifetime.

The Protestant Reformation in Sweden

During the early 16th century, much of northern Europe broke away from the Catholic Church and converted to Protestantism, following the teachings of Martin Luther. Shortly after King Gustav Vasa was crowned King of Sweden in 1523, he was influenced by Laurentius Andreae and Olaus Petri to convert to Protestantism. In 1527, the Riksdag of Västerås was held, removing the fundamental Catholic doctrines from the Swedish Church and establishing the monarchy as its head. Shortly after this, the Reduction of Gustav occurred, in which the church's assets in Sweden were seized by the Crown. At the Örebro Synod in 1529, Catholic rituals, such as the worship of saints and pilgrimages, were discouraged from being practiced in Sweden. The following year, King Gustav appointed Laurentis Petri the Archbishop of Uppsala without the Pope's consent, causing an open rift between Sweden and Rome. In 1536, the final break between Sweden and the Catholic Church occurred with the abolition of Canon Law. In 1541, the Vasa Bible, the first Bible to be printed in the Swedish vernacular, was published.

Sweden's conversion to Lutheranism was largely unpopular with the country's inhabitants, leading to several revolts throughout the countryside, including the Westrogothian rebellion, the Dalecarlian rebellions, and the Dacke War. At the Uppsala Synod of 1593, Protestantism, in accordance with the Augsburg Confession, was adopted as a state religion in Sweden.

¹²⁴ This is based on the fact that all of the records that mention Sven come Småland.

¹²⁵ Patronymic tradition informs us that Sven's father was named Bo, since his last name was "Bosson."

8.2.2. Sven Bosson fm fm mm mf f

Little is known about Sven's youth. He had at least one brother named Jon. It's likely that Sven's father Bo was a farmer. During most of Sven's life, Sweden was ruled by King Gustav Vasa, who had helped liberate Sweden from the Kalmar Union. Under Gustav's rule, numerous political and cultural reforms took effect that fortified the Crown's power. During the early 1540s, a large revolt against the Crown known as the Dacke War occurred in Småland.

The Reign of Gustav Vasa (1523-1560)



Painting of Gustav I by
an unknown artist

King Gustav Vasa (1496-1560) was probably born in 1496. He was born as Gustav Eriksson Vasa and was the son of Erik Johansson Vasa and Cecilia Månsdotter Eka. In 1518, Gustav Eriksson and five other men were taken prisoner by the forces of King Kristian II, who attempted to sway their allegiances from his rival Sten Sture the Younger. Shortly after Gustav escaped from imprisonment in 1519, he traveled to the province of Dalarna, where he gathered support for a rebellion against the Kalmar Union and Kristian the Tyrant's rule over Sweden. In 1520, Gustav was elected as the regent of Sweden. During the next three years, he led Sweden's rebellion against the Kalmar Union during the Swedish War of Liberation. In June of 1523, the Privy Council elected him King of Sweden. On September 1, 1524, the Treaty of Malmö was signed, in which Denmark accepted the autonomy of Sweden and the War of Liberation ended.

Gustav reigned for 37 years and is known as the "father of modern Sweden." During his reign, he passed numerous legal, political, and religious reforms that radically altered the social landscape of Sweden. Under the influence of Laurentius Andreae and Olaus Petri, Gustav led Sweden to break ties with the Catholic Church and convert to Protestantism. In 1527, the Reduction of Gustav began, in which Gustav ordered that the majority of the church's property be seized by the Crown. Throughout the 1530s and 1540s, the king's forces marched across Sweden and confiscated money and precious artifacts from every parish church. The landholdings of thousands of farmers were also redistributed during Gustav's reign, incurring their anger.

Gustav was known as a very power-hungry and ruthless monarch who sought to crush anyone who defied him. During his first decade in power, there were three revolts in Dalarna. In 1542, a yeoman named Nils Dacke led a rebellion in Småland, known as the Dacke War, which Vasa's forces crushed.

On September 29, 1560, Gustav died at Stockholm. He was buried at Uppsala Cathedral.

**Volume Eight
Generation Nine**

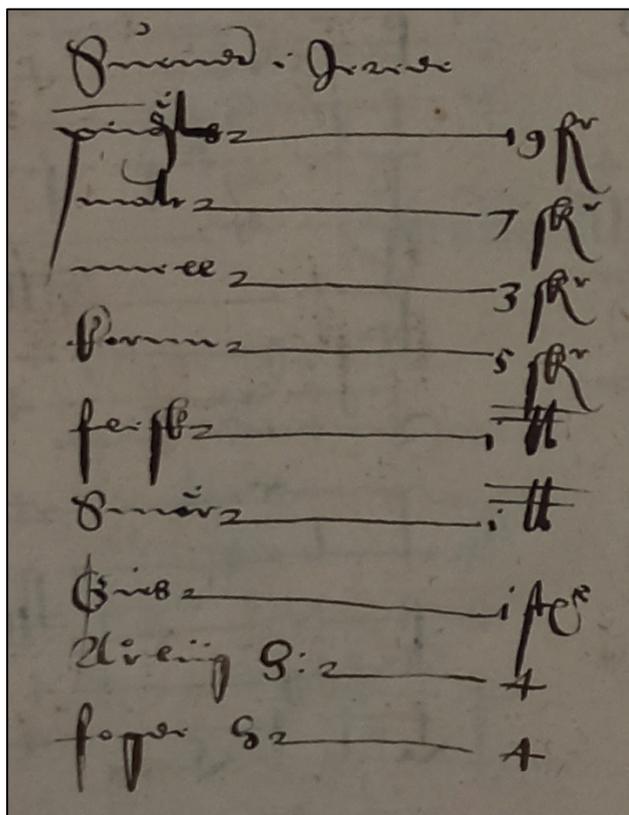
Sven was married sometime in the 1530s or 1540s. He had at least one son named Börje.¹²⁶ By 1544, Sven's family was living at the farm Järeda in Järeda Parish.¹²⁷

During the early 1540s, Småland was ravaged by Gustav's forces, who attacked and pillaged hundreds of churches and farms throughout the countryside during the Dacke War. It's unknown how Sven Bosson fared during this time.

**The 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög
The 6th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög**



Järeda, Järeda Parish – Where Sven Bosson lived from at least 1544 to 1569



Landscape document of Sven Bosson at Järeda, Järeda Parish - 1544

Transcription:

Suen i Järeda
 Penning _____ 19 sk
 Malt _____ 7 sk
 Miöll _____ 3 sk
 Kornn _____ 5 sk
 Flesk _____ 1 #
 Smor _____ 1 #
 Giäß _____ ?
 Ahrlige h. _____ 4
 Fogde h _____ 4

Translation:

Suen in Järeda
 Cash _____ 19 penningar
 Malt _____ 7 bushels
 Flour _____ 3 bushels
 Barley _____ 5 bushels
 Pork _____ 1 pound
 Butter _____ 1 #
 Goose _____ 1 st
 Annual horses _____ 4
 Marshal's horses _____ 4

¹²⁶ Börje Svensson is listed at Järeda in 1570 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1570:5, Image 80) Since Patronymic tradition informs us that Börje's father was named Sven and Börje is listed at Järeda immediately after Sven's death, he must have been his son. For information on the fate of Börje Svensson, see page 1334 of this volume.

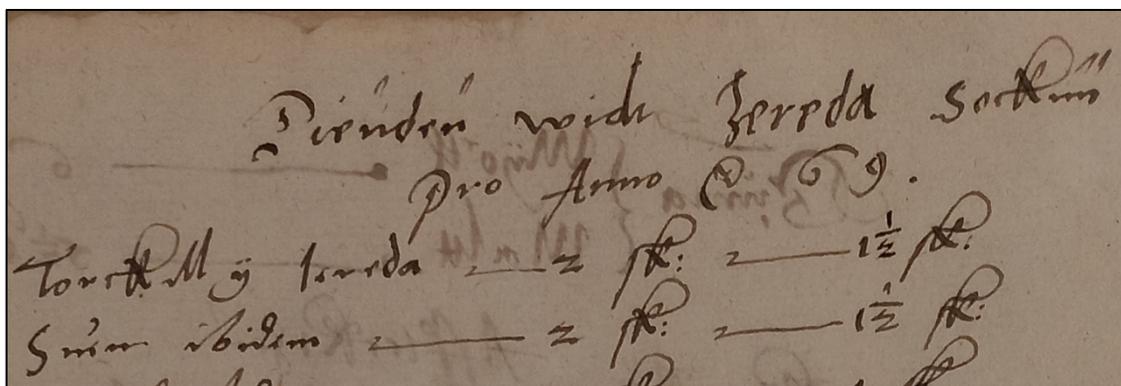
¹²⁷ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1544:8, Image 12

8.2.3. Per in Äng fm mm ff ff f

Sven Bosson also owned some land at Prästnäs, which was located less than a half mile north of the village of Järeda.¹²⁸ Sven probably lived at Järeda for the remainder of his life. Sven was listed for the last time there in 1569¹²⁹, indicating that he probably died around that year.



Prästnäs, Järeda Parish – Where Sven Bosson owned land in the mid-16th century



Landscape document of Sven at Järeda, Järeda Parish - 1569

Transcription:

*Tienden wids Järeda Socken
Pro Anno (15)69
Toskull y Järeda _____ 2 sk _____ 1½ sk
Suen Ibiden _____ 2 sk _____ 1½ sk*

Translation:

*Tithes from Järeda Parish
For the Year 1569
Toskull in Järeda _____ 2 bushels _____ 1½ barrel
Suen in the same place _____ 2 bushels _____ 1½ barrel*

Trivia on Sven Bosson

1. What parish did Sven Bosson live in?
2. What is the first known year that Sven Bosson is mentioned in?
3. What is the last known year that Sven Bosson is mentioned in?

Answers: 1 Järeda 2. 1544 3. 1569

¹²⁸ Östenson, page 259

¹²⁹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1569:18, Image 61

Per in Äng

Name	Per
Born	1500s -1520s
Place	Unknown
Died	1568
Place	Unknown
Occupation	Farmer and soldier

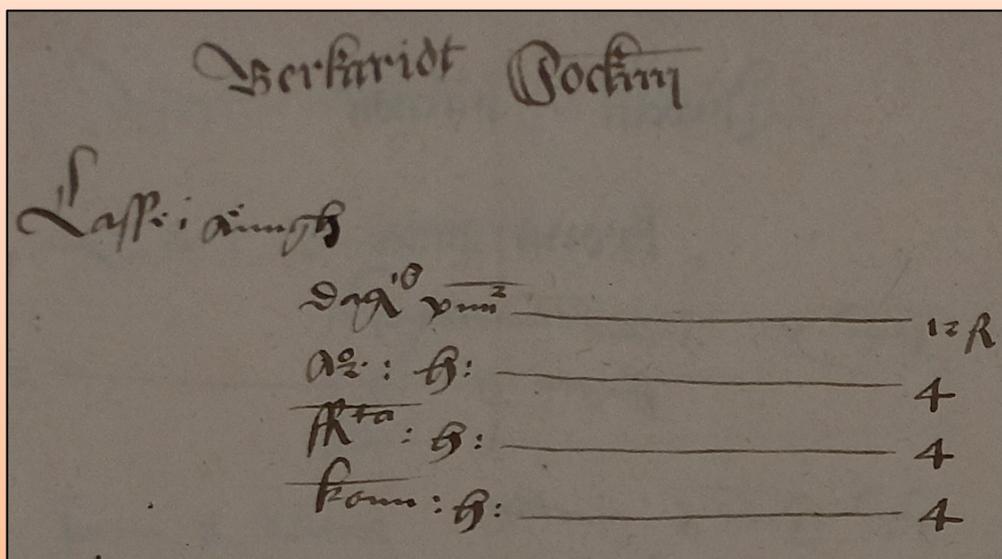
Children of Per in Äng

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Joen	1540s	Unknown	Before 1601	Barkeryd

Per, the father of Joen Persson, was born around 1520.¹³⁰ His surname, the identifies of his parents, and the location of where he grew up are unknown.

Lasse in Äng – Per’s Possible Father

In the 16th century, farmers often inherited the farms they owned from their father. Landscape documents show that the farmer who owned Äng before Per was named Lasse* (a variation of the name Lars). It’s possible that he was Per’s father and that Per’s surname was “Larsson.”



Landscape document of Lasse in Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1542

* Lasse is mentioned for the first time at Äng in 1542 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1542: 6, Image 131) and for the last time in 1549 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1549: 14, Image 25).

¹³⁰ According to <http://www.tonnquist.se/start-eng.htm>, Per was born in 1520

8.2.3. Per in Äng fm mm ff ff f

For most of Per's life, Sweden was ruled over by King Gustav Vasa, who drastically altered the country's social and political landscape. During Gustav's rule, Sweden converted from Catholicism to Protestantism and the majority of the country's churches were pillaged by the Crown. In 1542, the Dacke War occurred, in which, hundreds of farmers in Småland revolted against the Crown. The following year, King Gustav sent an army to punish the wayward peasants. Hundreds of farms across Småland were subsequently pillaged and burned. It's unknown if Per was involved in the Dacke War at all.

The Dacke War

Throughout 1542 to 1543, a peasant uprising known as the Dacke War occurred in Småland. During the reign of King Gustav, the Swedish population was burdened with heavy taxes and the church's assets were confiscated by the Crown. In the summer of 1542, a yeoman named Nils Dacke organized a small army in Småland that revolted against the country's heavy taxes and departure from the Catholic faith. Several bailiffs in Småland were subsequently assaulted and killed. Gustav responded by sending a military force that his father-in-law Gustav Olofsson Stenbock the Younger commanded. Stenbock's forces were defeated by Dacke's soldiers, and other military attempts also failed. On November 8th, a ceasefire was signed, briefly pausing the conflict.

Dacke's success against the Crown's forces was short lived. Gustav ordered that all supplies be cut off from Småland, which weakened the rebellion. All types of propaganda against Nils Dacke was sent out, labeling him as a heretic and traitor. In January of 1543, Gustav organized a much larger army, which largely consisted of German mercenaries, to defeat Dacke's forces. This time, his army attacked from both Östergötland and Västergötland. In March, Dacke's men were defeated in battle and Dacke subsequently escaped. Dacke was later killed that summer and his body was posthumously quartered. Gustav's punishment against the rebellion was harsh, and the leaders and priests who supported it were all executed. Hundreds of farms, churches, and villages were ravaged during the Dacke War, and it took Småland years to recover from its devastation.

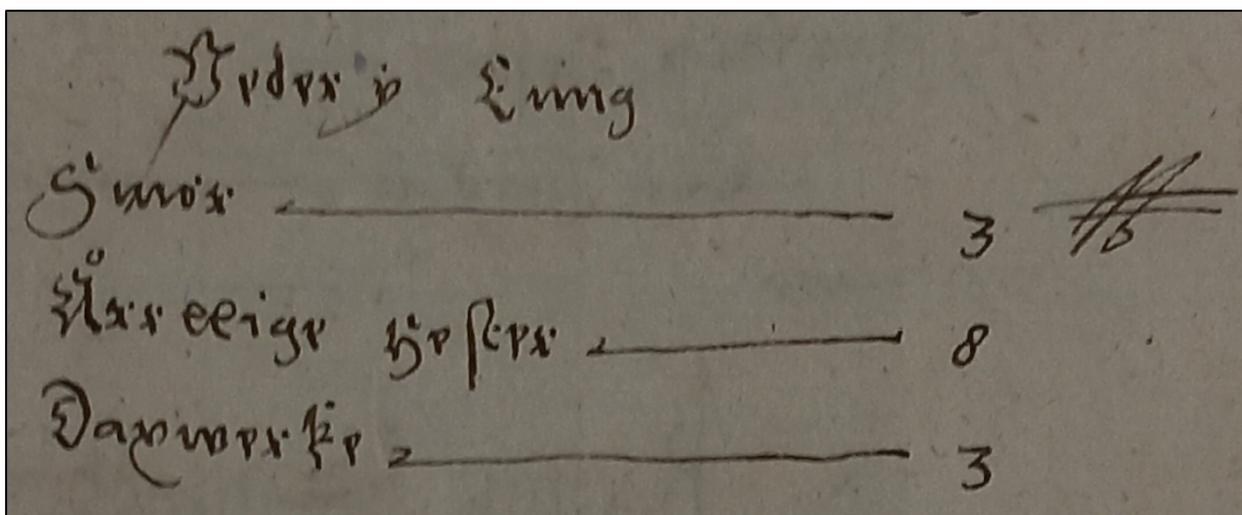


The army of Gustav on its way to fight Nils Dacke's rebels

Per was probably married sometime in the 1540s. The name of his wife is unknown. They had at least one son named Joen.¹³¹ By 1554, Per was living at Äng, a farm in central Barkeryd Parish.¹³² Per's family attended services at Barkeryd Church.



Äng, Barkeryd Parish – Where Per and his family lived in the 16th century



Landscape document of Per (Peder) in Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1554

Transcription:

Peder i Eng
Smor _____ 3 #
Årlige hästar _____ 8
Dagsverken _____ 3

Translation:

Peder in Äng
Butter _____ 3 pounds
Annual horses _____ 8
Working days _____ 3

¹³¹ Joen Persson is listed as the owner of Äng in 1569 (Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1569: 7, Image 22), the year after Per's death. Since patronymic tradition tells us that Joen's father was Per, his father must have been the same person. For information on the fate of Joen Persson, see page 1353 of this volume.

¹³² Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1554: 19, Image 22

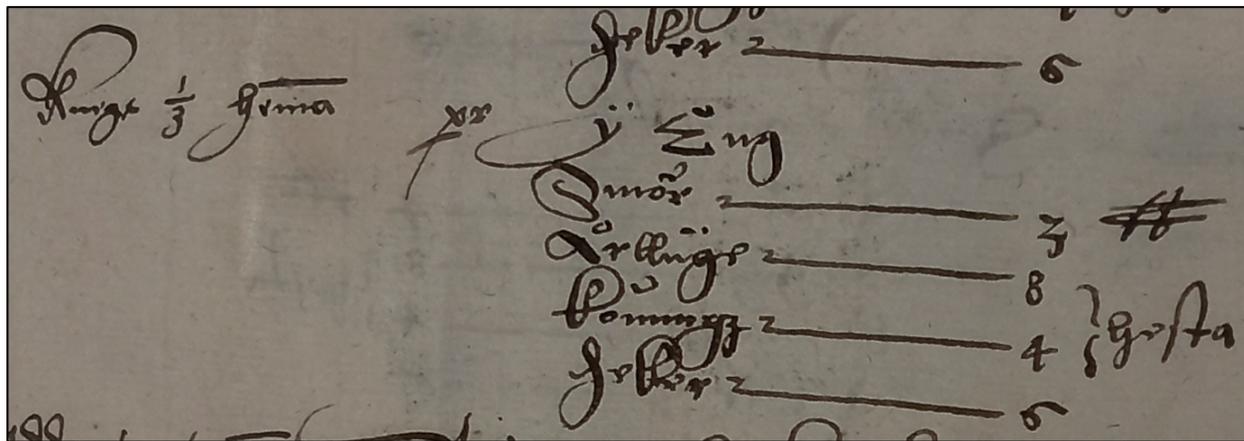
8.2.3. Per in Äng
 fm mm ff ff f

Per lived at Äng for the remainder of his life. In addition to being a farmer, Per was also a soldier.¹³³ Since Sweden wasn't engaged in any wars during the 1550s, he didn't serve in any combat during this time.

Svenska Släktkalendern (Swedish Family Calendar)

The Swedish Family Calendar (SSK) is a reference work that provides basic genealogical information on nearly 3,000 families. It has been published since 1885 and new volumes are released every two years. Information on the different families has been compiled and submitted by family descendants. The introduction to each family article describes the family's oldest known origins. The SSK contains available information on family member's full name, date of birth, occupation, marriage, children, and place of residence. It also includes references to literature, a description of possible family arms, mention of any family association, and references to where the family archives or family investigation are available. Family information is occasionally updated. The SSK can be found online at <http://www.svenskaslaktkalendern.se/>.

In 1563, Sweden entered into the Nordic Seven Years' War against Denmark. It's likely that Per served in this war. Per was listed at Äng for the last time in 1568¹³⁴ so he must have died around this time.



Landscape document of Per in Äng, Barkeryd Parish - 1568

Transcription:

Kunga 1/3 hema. Per j Eng
 Smör _____ 1/2 #
 Ärlige _____ 8 hästar
 Konung hästar _ 2
 dax _____ 6

Translation:

Crown 1/3 farmstead Per in Äng
 Butter _____ 1/2 pound
 Annual horses _ 8
 Royal horses _ 2
 Working days _ 6

¹³³ Svenska Släktkalendern (Swedish Family Calendar), Vol. 1927, page 50

¹³⁴ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1568: 11, Image 26

How Did Per in Äng Die?

Although it's unknown how Per in Äng died, his death was most likely related to the Nordic Seven Years' War that Sweden was involved with during 1563 to 1570. According to the Swedish Family Yearbook, Per was a soldier. Thus, he must have served in the Nordic Seven Years' War. In the winter of 1568, Danish commander Daniel Rantzau led his army through Småland after launching a successful raid known as Rantzau's Raid. During this raid, Rantzau's forces burned and pillaged numerous farms across the countryside. A number of peasants who sought to defend their parishes were killed during this raid. The numerous families whose farms were destroyed by Rantzau's forces had little to no resources to support themselves, and many of them starved to death. It's possible that Per was either killed in combat during the Northern Seven Years War or died of starvation because of it.

According to the Swedish Yearbook, Per "came to be used by the enemies of the king," which led to his death.* Keeping in mind that Sweden was at war with Denmark at this time, one can assume that the "enemies" that were referred to here were the Danes. During Rantzau's Raids, Danish soldiers forced several farmers in Småland to pay them six daler or else burn their farms. Some of these unfortunate farmers were deemed traitors to Sweden and 78 of them were executed for this offense. Perhaps Per was one of these farmers.

* Svenska Släktkalendern (Swedish Family Calendar), Vol. 1927, page 50

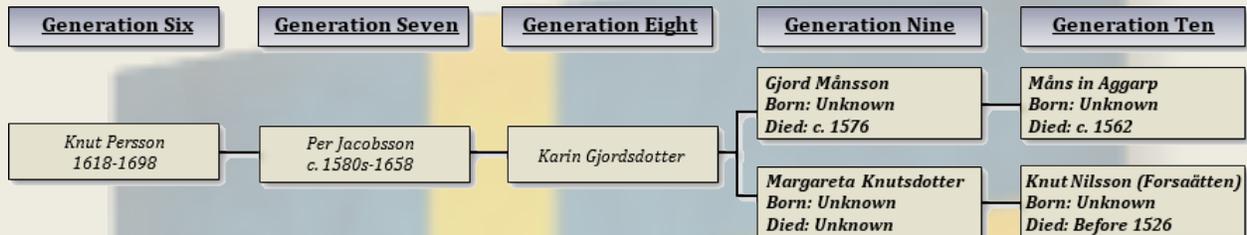
Trivia on Per in Äng

1. What was the name of the parish that Per lived?
2. What was the name of the farm that Per lived?
3. What year is the earliest known year that Per is mentioned?
4. Around what year did Per die?
5. Per probably died in which war?

Answers: 1. Barkeryd 2. Äng 3. 1554 4. 1568 5. The Nordic Seven Years' War

Generation Ten

The 7th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1470-1562

Understating the Times that Sven Hög's 7th Great-Grandparents Lived In

Most of the 7th great-grandparents of Sven Hög lived during the late 15th century until the mid-16th century. The period that this generation lived in was very different than the era their grandchildren lived in during the late 16th century. During the late 15th century and early 16th century, Sweden was part of the Kalmar Union, a union of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (which included Finland), that was controlled by Denmark. During this time, anti-unionist sentiment against the Kalmar Union grew, increasing hostilities between Sweden and Denmark. This era was subsequently filled with multiple military conflicts between Sweden and Denmark.



Map of the Kalmar Union

For most of the late 15th century and early 16th century, Sweden was ruled over by a series of regents who sought to break away from the Kalmar Union. In 1470, Sten Sture the Elder became the regent of Sweden. During 1495 to 1497, Sweden was at war against an alliance between Denmark and Russia. On October 6, 1497, Danish forces defeated Sweden's army at the Battle of Rotebro and King Hans of Denmark was crowned as King Johan II of Sweden. His reign over Sweden only lasted a few years, however, and he was deposed in 1503 after the War of Deposition Against King Hans. In 1504, Svante Nilsson (Sture) became the regent of Sweden and he continued Sweden's insurgency against the Kalmar Union. Shortly after Svante Nilsson's death in 1512, Sten Sture the Younger became regent and he likewise continued Sweden's fight for independence. In 1520, Sten Sture the Younger was killed in battle and Danish King Kristian the Tyrant took the Swedish throne. By this point, anti-unionist sentiment had grown to unparalleled levels in Sweden.

In 1521, future king Gustav Eriksson Vasa led the Swedish resistance against the Kalmar Union during the Swedish War of Liberation. In 1523, Sweden finally won its independence from the Kalmar Union and Gustav was crowned king of Sweden. The numerous wars between Sweden and Denmark during this period brought several Danish invasions to Sweden, and several of Sven Hög's 7th great-grandparents were probably involved in Sweden's insurgency against Denmark. It's likely that at least one of Sven's known 7th great-grandparents, Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten), fought in Sweden's wars against Denmark.

8.3.1. Måns in Aggarp
fm fm mf fm ff

Timeline of Swedish History: 1480-1540

1483	The Council of the Scandinavian kingdoms draft the Kalmar Recess, an attempted constitution.	
1495	Start of the Russo-Swedish War (1495-1497)	
1497	End of the Russo-Swedish War (1495-1497). Afterwards, King Hans of Denmark is coronated as the King Johan II of Sweden.	
August, 1501	Regent Sten Sture the Elder resumes control over Sweden.	
September, 1501	Start of Danish-Swedish War (1501-1512)	
1504	Regent Svante Nilsson takes over control of Sweden.	
1512	End of Danish-Swedish War (1501-1512)	
July, 1512	Regent Sten Sture the Younger takes over control of Sweden.	
1520	King Kristian the Tyrant is coronated King of Sweden. A week later, 82 followers of Sten Sture the Younger are executed in the Stockholm Bloodbath.	
1521	Start of Swedish War of Liberation.	
1523	The Swedish War of Liberation ends and Gustav Vasa is coronated as the King of Sweden.	
1524	The Treaty of Malmö is signed, in which Denmark-Norway recognizes the independence of Sweden.	
1534	Start of the Danish Count's Feud.	
1535	The Swedish Church breaks ties with Rome.	
1536	End of the Danish Count's Feud.	

Måns in Aggarp

Name	Måns
Born	1470s -1490s
Place	Unknown
Died	c. 1562
Place	Björkö
Occupation	Farmer

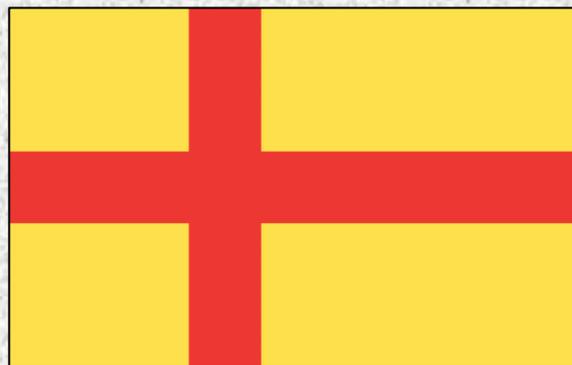
Children of Måns in Aggarp

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Gjord	1500s-1520s	Unknown	c. 1565	Björkö

Måns, the father of Gjord Månsson, was most likely born sometime in the late 15th century.¹³⁵ His surname, the identities of his parents, and the location of where he grew up are unknown. During the first half of Måns's life, Sweden wasn't an autonomous nation, but rather belonged to the Danish-ruled Kalmar Union, a union of three kingdoms that included Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (which included Finland).

Kalmarunionen - The Kalmar Union

The Kalmar Union was a union between the three kingdoms of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (which included Finland) that lasted from 1397 to 1523. The union first occurred in 1397 when King Erik of Norway was coronated king of Denmark and Sweden. The main reason for the union was to block Germanic expansion into the Baltic region. Although all three countries were legally separate states, they were led by a common monarch.



Flag of the Kalmar Union

The Kalmar Union was primarily supported by the royalty, who sought to expand their influence, but unpopular with the peasants, who were unhappy with the higher taxes they had to pay. The council of the union's three countries were initially unionists who supported the union, but later became more nationalistic, and sought to break away from the union. In 1521, the Swedish War of Liberation began and the Swedes revolted against being part of the union. On June 6, 1523, the Kalmar Union was dissolved and Sweden became an independent nation.

¹³⁵ This estimation is calculated by placing Måns's birth a generation before that of Gjord Månsson, who was probably born sometime between 1500 and 1520.

8.3.1. Måns in Aggarp fm fm mf fm ff

Måns probably grew up in the upper-middle class. Although his family wasn't of nobility, they probably owned a decent amount of land. It's likely that Måns's family had nationalistic leanings and wanted to break away from the Kalmar Union. For the first half of Måns's life, Sweden was ruled over by a series of regents who favored the notion of Sweden being an independent nation. When Måns was born, the regent of Sweden was probably Sten Sture the Elder.

The Rule of Sweden's Regents (1470-1497 and 1504-1520)



Sten Sture the Elder

Sten Sture the Elder (1440-1503), a Swedish statesman, was elected as the Lord Protector and Regent of Sweden in 1470. Following his appointment, Sven was a staunch supporter of the nationalist movement. In 1471, Sten's forces defeated Danish King Kristian's soldiers at the Battle of Brunkeberg, significantly weakening the Kalmar Union. Sture ruled as regent until 1497 and was rather popular with Sweden's peasants. From 1497 to 1501, Sweden was ruled over by Danish King Hans. Sven resumed control of Sweden in 1501 and ruled until his death on December 14, 1503.

On January 21, 1504, Svante Nilsson (Sture) (1460-1512) was elected as the Lord Protector and Regent of Sweden. Nilsson had been a member of the Swedish Privy Council since at least 1482 and originally opposed Sweden leaving the Kalmar Union. He later changed his mind and supported Swedish nationalism. Svante was a much weaker ruler than his predecessor, and he made several concessions to the Swedish Riksdag. On January 2, 1512, Svante Nilsson died. He was succeeded by Eric Trolle, who ruled over Sweden for the first part of 1512.



Svante Nilsson



Sten Sture the Younger

Sten Sture the Younger (1493-1520) was the son of Svante Nilsson and Iliana Gädde. On July 23, 1512, Sten became the Lord Protector and Regent of Sweden at the young age of 18. Although Sten promised to continue to negotiate with the Kalmar Union before he was elected, he was heavily in favor of Swedish independence. He took the surname Sture as a symbol of Swedish independence and a reminder of the reign of Sten Sture the Elder. In 1513, Kristian became the King of Denmark and he sought to silence Swedish nationalistic sentiment. In 1518, he launched an invasion of Sweden. On January 19, 1520, Sten Sture the Younger was killed at the Battle of Bogesund and Kristian took control of Sweden.

Måns most likely reached adulthood by the first decade of the 1500s. He was married and had at least one son named Gjord.¹³⁶ Måns probably spent most of his adult life farming. During the early 1500s, nationalistic sentiment was strong in Sweden. From 1521 to 1523, future king Gustav Vasa led a revolt known as the Swedish War of Liberation. On June 6, 1523, Sweden won its independence from the Kalmar Union with the coronation of Gustav.

Befrielsekriget - The Swedish War of Liberation (1521-1523)



“Gustav Vasa Addressing the Dalecarlians in Mora” Johan Gustav Sandberg

The Swedish War of Liberation (also called the Swedish War of Succession) was a civil war that was fought between 1521 to 1523, in which Sweden gained its independence from the Kalmar Union. By 1521, tensions were strong against the reign of Kristian the Tyrant, who had imposed high taxes on the peasants and executed several nobles during the Stockholm Bloodbath of 1520. In late 1520 and early 1521, future king Gustav Vasa gathered support against the Crown in the province of Dalarna.

In February of 1521, Vasa’s marched from Mora with 100 men and sacked the town Kopparberg. When Kristian heard of Vasa’s rebellion, he sent a force from Landknechten to crush it. In April, Vasa’s army defeated the king’s forces at Brunnbäck Ferry. By the end of the month, Vasa’s forces controlled Dalarna, Gästrikland, Närke, and Västmanland. Vasa’s army continued south towards the town Västerås, which they sacked on April 29th. After conquering Västerås, Vasa’s troops marched to Uppsala, which they captured on May 18th. By this time, word of Vasa’s military victories had traveled all over Sweden, prompting the Sture family to join the revolt.

No major battles occurred between Gustav’s army and Kristian’s forces in 1522. By 1523, Kalmar and Stockholm were the only remaining Danish strongholds in Sweden. On May 27, 1523, Vasa’s army captured Kalmar, leaving Stockholm as the remaining Danish-controlled city in Sweden. During June 16-17th, Vasa’s forces laid siege to Stockholm. Although the Danes called for reinforcements, none came, and they were forced to negotiate a surrender to Gustav Vasa. On June 6th, Vasa, was crowned King of Sweden and on June 17th, the capitulation of Stockholm was signed. Vasa was able to enter the city on Midsummer’s Day. After Stockholm was conquered, Sweden was able to leave the Kalmar Union and be an independent nation.

¹³⁶ Gjord Månsson is listed as the owner of Aggarp, the farm that Måns owned from 1544 to 1561 in *Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar* Vol. 1562:11. Since patronymic tradition informs us that Gjord’s father was named Måns, it’s very likely that it was the same person. For information on the fate of Gjord Månsson, see page 1361 of this volume.

8.3.1. Måns in Aggarp fm fm mf fm ff

It's unknown if Måns had any role in the Swedish War of Liberation. After Sweden left the Kalmar Union, most of the Swedes were happy and celebrated their country's newfound sovereignty. However, most of their excitement was short lived after Gustav was crowned. Shortly after he became king, he decreed that Sweden's national religion change from Catholicism to Protestantism. Subsequently, all of the Church's assets were seized by the Crown after the Reduction of Gustav was passed. The confiscation of the sacred relics from parish churches wasn't only an affront to the clergy, but to the parishioners as well. Undoubtedly, the church that Måns's family attended was also pillaged by Gustav's soldiers.

The Effect That the Reduction of King Gustav Had on the Peasants

“Not a single parish church was left untouched. Down the centuries, generation after generation, men had made great sacrifices to enhance the temples which were their parish's place of assembly. Now, the king's men came and took from them their bridal crowns, their candlesticks, their chalices, their altar cloths, their monstrances, their images of the Virgin and other treasures, sacred to the common people. Through the ages these objects had been inextricably involved in people's holy days and festivals, in their spiritual life. It is calculated that 80% of the silver in the parish churches of Småland, 3,700 kilograms, were taken away. The loss of these gleaming treasures, which had helped to brighten their dark churches, left a great gap. Only the bare walls were left. It was a gross outrage to the country folk...In their eyes the king's proceedings were nothing but barefaced robbery, an act of burglary committed against their temples.”

Moberg, Vilhelm. *History of the Swedish People*, page 166

Although Sweden wasn't involved in any major foreign conflicts during the reign of Gustav, they did assist Kristian III of Denmark in the Count's Feud, a civil war in Denmark in the 1530s between Catholics and Protestants.

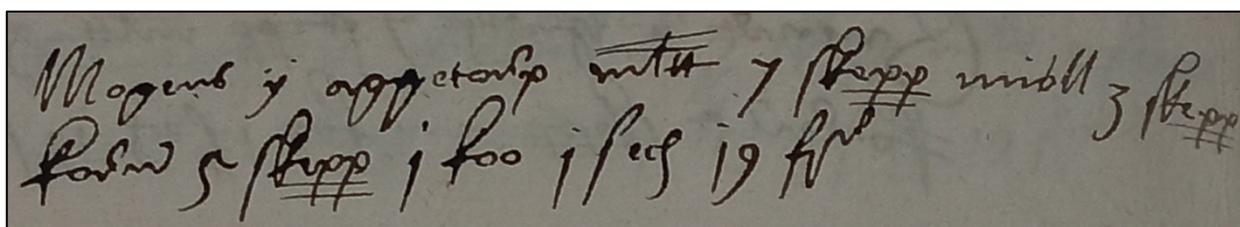
Sweden's Involvement in The Count's Feud

The Count's Feud was a civil war in Denmark that occurred during 1534 to 1536 that was fought between Catholics and Protestants. In 1534, Kristian III, a Protestant, was elected King of Denmark. Duke Kristian of Gottorp, a Catholic loyal to the former king Kristian II, opposed Kristian III's election and led a revolt against it. King Gustav sent a Swedish army to support Kristian III that invaded Skåne. In January of 1535, the Swedish army attacked the Danes at the city Helsingborg which supported Duke Kristian and burned it to ashes. In 1536, Duke Kristian's forces surrendered to Kristian III, leading Denmark to become a Protestant country. The Count's Feud was the first time that Swedish soldiers invaded Skåne, but certainly not the last as they would invade it again several times in the future.



Aggarp, Björkö Parish, - Where Måns lived in the mid-16th century

By 1543, Måns's family were living at Aggarp, a farm in northern Björkö Parish.¹³⁷ During this time, the Dacke War was going on in Småland in which hundreds of farmers protested King Gustav's unreasonable taxes and his decision to convert to Protestantism. In the winter of 1543, Gustav sent a large army to Småland to quell the revolt. Subsequently, hundreds of farms, villages, and churches across Småland were burned and pillaged.



Landscape document of Måns (Mogens) at Aggarp, Björkö Parish, - 1543

Transcription:

*Mogens ij Aggatorp, maltt 7 skepp mioll 3 skepp
Korn 5 skepp 1 koo 1 sech 19 fdr*

Translation:

*Måns in Aggarp, 7 bushels of malt 3 bushels of flour
5 bushels of corn, 1 cow 1 sack 19 fodder*

Gustav Vasa's Message to the Smålanders During the Dacke War

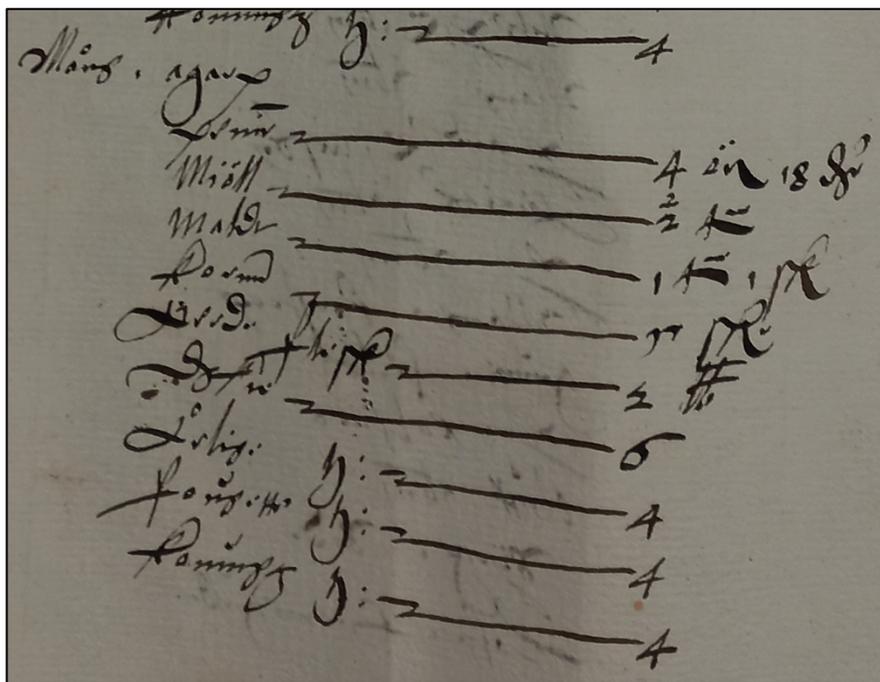
"You want it like old times, do you? What were the old times? With 400-600 soldiers when the land lay open to invaders, merchants were robbed of ships and goods, people thrown overboard and drowned like dogs, fishing stopped, cattle taken, houses burned? Is it such old customs? Now we have 4,000 - 6,000 soldiers, with deadly guns and swords, harness and horses, good ships, and sailors. And no one has lost even a chicken. We hope people are not ungrateful for these new customs."

- Svalenius, *Gustav Vasa*, page 236

¹³⁷ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1543: 2B (1543), Image 48

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten)
fm fm mf fm mf

Måns was last recorded at Aggarp in 1561.¹³⁸ It's likely that he died the following year. He was probably in his 70s or 80s at the time of his death.



Landscape document of Måns at Aggarp, Björkö Parish, - 1561

Transcription:

Måns i Aggarp

peni.(nger) _____ 4 öre 18 pr.
Miöll _____ 1/2 tna
Malt _____ 1 tna 1 skep
Kornn _____ 5 skep.
grede smor _____ 1. #
dken _____ 6
Ahrlige h. _____ 4
Fougde h. _____ 4
Konungs h _____ 4

Translation:

Måns in Aggarp

Cash _____ 4 öre 18 penningar
Flour _____ 1/2 barrel
Malt _____ 1 barrel 1 bushel
barley _____ 5 bushels.
cream butter _____ 1 pound
working days _____ 6
King's horses _____ 4
Marshal's horses _____ 4
King's horses _____ 4

Trivia on Måns in Aggarp

1. What is the first known year that Måns is mentioned in?
2. What is the last known year that Måns is mentioned in?

Answers: 1 1543 2. 1561

¹³⁸ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1561: 4 (1561), Image 25

Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten)

Name	Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten)
Born	1460s-1470s
Place	Unknown
Died	Before 1526
Place	Unknown
Occupation	Squire

Children of Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Lars	1490s-1510s	Unknown	c. 1565	Unknown
Halvard	1490s-1510s	Unknown	c. 1576	Unknown
Margareta	1510s-1520s	Unknown	1597	Björkö
Brita	1510s-1520s	Unknown	After 1576	Unknown

Early Years (1470-1500)

Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten), the father of Margareta Knutsdotter, was probably born sometime in the 1460s or 1470s.¹³⁹ His father was Nils Halvidsson (Svin)¹⁴⁰ and his mother was Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre over Stjärna)¹⁴¹.

Knut Nilsson's Name

Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) is also known as Knut Nilsson (till Forsa) or Knut Nilsson (Bölja under Halv Stjärna). The name "Forsaätten" is derived from the manor Forsa in Bollebygd Parish that Knut lived at in the early 1500s. The names "till Forsa," "Forsaätten," and "(Bölja under Halv Stjärna)" have been adopted by genealogists to identify Knut and weren't used by him. Knut was named after his maternal grandfather Knut Arvidsson (Sparre over Stjärna).

In 1470...

- Sven Sture the Elder became the regent of Sweden, Edward IV was the King of England, and Louis XI was the King of France.
- The first contact between Europeans and the Fante nation of the Gold Coast occurred when some Portuguese landed in Ghana and met the King of Elmina.
- The War of the Roses waged in England between the House of Lancaster and the House of York.

¹³⁹ Since Knut Nilsson was mentioned in a letter in 1496 (SDHK No. 33333 – January 3, 1496), he was probably at least in his twenties at the time, meaning he was probably born in the 1470s.

¹⁴⁰ Nils Halvidsson is indirectly listed as Knut's father in a letter from 1508 (SDHK No. 36200 - June 12th, 1508).

¹⁴¹ *Knut Håkansson Hands redogörelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) släkt.*, Kungila biblioteket, H.h. 2, Image 5

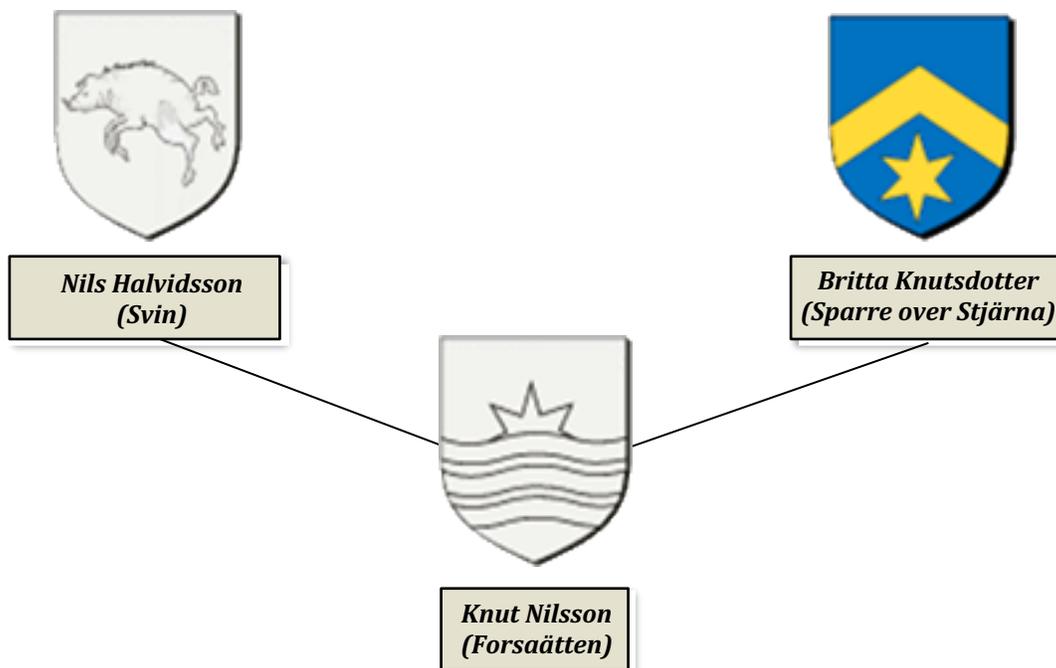
8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) fm fm mf fm mf

It's possible that Knut was born at the farm Djulfors in Stora Malm Parish, Södermanland Province. Knut's family had lived here for four generations. Knut's father Nils Halvidsson (Svin) grew up at Djulfors¹⁴² and Nils's father Halvid Andersson (Svin)¹⁴³ and maternal grandfather Nils Fos¹⁴⁴ also lived there. It's also possible that Knut grew up somewhere in the province of Västergötland, as his mother hailed from that region, but it's more likely that he grew up in Södermanland.



Djulfors, Stora Malm Parish, Södermanland Province
Where Knut Nilsson might have grown up in the
late 15th century

Knut Nilsson came from the class of nobility and both of his parents came from noble lineages. His father Nils Halvidsson came from the Svin family, while his Britta Knutsdotter came from the Sparre over Stjärna family. Thus, Knut's family was much wealthier than most of the Swedish peasants who were alive at the time.



Both of Knut Nilsson's parents came from nobility

Knut had at least one brother named Halvid.

¹⁴² Nils Halvidsson (Svin) is listed at Djulfors in 1466 (SDHK No. 28552 – March 1, 1466).

¹⁴³ Halvid Andersson (Svin) is listed at Djulfors in 1440 (SDHK No.23473 – March 8, 1440).

¹⁴⁴ Nils Fos is listed at Djulfors in 1399 (SDHK No. 15116 – June, 1399).

As members of nobility, Knut's family enjoyed a number of social and economic privileges and were exempt from paying taxes. Knut's family owned several farms and they were one of the wealthiest and most prominent families in their parish. Because he came from nobility, Knut was literate, unlike most of the Swedish population during the late 15th century.

Frälse – Nobility in Sweden

Frälse, (also called *adel*) or nobility, was a higher social class in Sweden that received various social and economic privileges, such as being exempt from taxation. An *adelsman* was a nobleman and an *adelsdam* was a noblewoman. The institution of nobility arose in Sweden in 1280 when King Magnus Ladulås declared that noblemen who could afford to contribute a rider to the cavalry would be exempt from taxes like clergy were. In the Middle Ages, Swedish nobility was divided into the lords of the Privy Council, knights, and squires. Each noble family had a coat of arms that was used to represent them. Members of nobility had titles after their names. Unlike English nobility, Swedish nobility had no hereditary fiefs and feudalism never existed in Sweden. In 1561, the Class of Lords was added to nobility, consisting of barons and counts. No hereditary title of nobility has been granted in Sweden since 1902.



Nobility coat of arms roll
from Hyghalmen, Germany

During Knut's life, Sweden was part of the Kalmar Union, a union of three kingdoms which also Denmark, Norway, and Finland (which was part of Sweden at the time).

The Kalmar Recess

The Kalmar Recess was an agreement between the councilors of Sweden and Denmark-Norway that was held in the city Kalmar on September 7, 1483. This agreement involved various conditions for the Kalmar Union and King Hans of Denmark to also be King of Sweden. These conditions drew heavily on the assurances that King Hans made earlier that year. The Kalmar Recess also discussed the conditions for which a member of nobility could become the regent of Sweden and it reaffirmed the nobility's status of being exempt from taxation.

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf

When Knut was teenager, he was probably appointed as a *väpnare*, or squire.¹⁴⁵ A squire was a rank of nobility that was under the rank of knight. As a squire, Knut served in the military and had his own armor and horse.

Väpnaren - Squires



A *väpnare*, or squire, was a title of nobility in the Middle Ages whose rank was under knights. During the Middle Ages in Europe, squires were shield bearers for the knights they served under. Boys typically became squires at the age of 14. Squires performed a number of duties, including: looking after a knight's armor, shield, sword and horses; accompanying a knight to battle and tournaments; guarding prisoners; and ensuring an honorable battle for a knight. Squires had the opportunity to prove themselves in battle; if they proved their valor on the battlefield, squires could be knighted.

By the latter Middle Ages, squires could be defined as gentlemen with their own coat of arms. They typically owned multiple estates of land, lived in a manor house, and had numerous maids and servants working for them.

Knut Nilsson's Early Days as a Squire*

In his training to fully become a knight and bearer of chivalry, Knut Nilsson had become a squire at the Öresten fortress on the border to Denmark. One of the captains there was Arvid Knutsson (Sparre over Stjärna), who also was a maternal uncle of Knut's.

The days were filled with various activities. In addition to daily weapons drills (sword, spear, bow, etc.) and riding, Knut was also in command of a small group of soldiers. Their duties included patrolling the border to detect or prevent any illegal trespassing by smugglers or foreign troops. When not on patrol, they could be assigned to gather fodder for the horses, as well as other supplies.

During his off-duty hours, Knut spent his time with reading, writing, and learning how to behave as a cavalier.

*A work of creative fiction by Magnus Holmqvist

¹⁴⁵ Knut is listed as a squire in SDHK No. 33333 – January 3, 1496

By the 1490s, Knut had reached adulthood. In 1495, Sweden entered into war against an alliance between Denmark and Russia. Since he was a squire, it's very likely that Knut served in this war.

The Russo-Swedish War of 1495-1497

The Russo-Swedish War of 1495-1497 pitted Sweden against an alliance between Grand Prince Ivan III of Moscow and King Hans of Denmark. At this point, Sweden was ruled by the Sture family and had temporarily broken away from the Kalmar Union. In an attempt to regain control over Sweden, King Hans agreed to concede some of the lands in Finland to Prince Ivan III if he aided Denmark in attacking Sweden.

The war began when Ivan III sent forces to lay siege on the Swedish castle of Viborg. The siege ended when a Swedish castellan set his supply of powder on fire, scaring the Russian army to leave. The following year, Russia resumed its attack on Sweden and ravaged much of Sweden's lands in Finland. In retaliation, Sten Sture the Elder, the regent of Sweden, sent Svante Nilsson and an army of 2,000 to take the Russian fortress Ivangorod. On October 6, 1497, Danish forces defeated Sweden's army at the Battle of Rotebro. Shortly after this, Sten Sture surrendered and Hans became crowned as Johan II of Sweden. After this, tensions between Sweden and Russia were halted until 1508, when the two countries signed a peace treaty that lasted 60 years.

In 1497, Sweden surrendered to Denmark and Danish King Hans was crowned as King Johan II of Sweden. Knut was undoubtedly unhappy with this.

The Reign of King Johan II of Sweden (1497-1501)



Sculpture of King Hans
(Johan II of Sweden)

King Johan II of Sweden was the title that King Hans of Denmark took when he took control of the Swedish throne in 1497. Hans was born in 1455. He was the son of Danish King Kristian I and Dorothea of Brandenburg. In 1481, he became King of Denmark. Two years later, he also became King of Norway. In 1495, Hans's army attacked Sweden. On October 6, 1497, his army defeated the army of Sten Sture the Elder, the regent of Sweden, and Hans assumed the Swedish throne. Johan only ruled over Sweden for four years. In August of 1501, Sweden renounced Johan as king. By this time, the Swedish resistance against the Kalmar Union had grown strong again, and Sten Sture the Elder resumed his role as the regent of Sweden. Hans's armies waged war against Sweden until 1509, Hans was declared King of Sweden in principle, but forbidden to ever step foot in the country again. Hans died on February 20, 1513.

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf

During the late 1490s, Knut Nilsson spent some time at Öresten, a fortress in Örby Parish, Västergötland Province, where he was in service to his maternal uncle, Arvid Knutsson (Sparre over Stjärna). At this time, Arvid Knutsson was the chief of Öresten. Arvid was probably appointed to this role by Sten Sture the Elder. On January 3, 1496, Knut Nilsson wrote a letter where he stated that he had lawfully received an inheritance from Arvid.¹⁴⁶ In this letter, he stated that Mats Matsson the Elder (a brother of the District Chief in Åstered), Knut Ribbing (a District Chief in Mark District), Tord Esbjörnsson in Torestorp, and the honest man Staffan in Örby had attested to his inheritance with their seals.



Letter that Knut Nilsson wrote on January 3rd, 1496
Seals: 1. Mats Matsson 2. Knut Ribbing 3. Tord Esbjörnsson 4. Staffan in Örby.

¹⁴⁶ SDHK No. 33333 – January 3, 1496

Transcription:

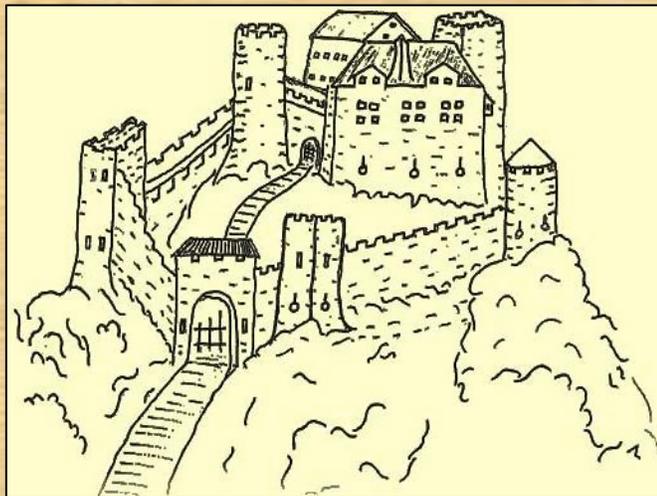
Jagh Cnwdh Nielsß aff wapn gör witterligt med teß mith opne breff teß jagh uth i dagh h(er) paa örsten war til regenskaph med mijn moderbrodher velburdigh ma(nd) arffuid knudsß hoffuidsma(nd) paa örsten Tha giorde ha(n) mik got ved regenskap for ale oppebyrdh som han haffu(er) oppebört aff alt mith arffue gotz til then(n)e dagh paa mik fullelig alth nog Ity lather jagh for m... arffuid knudsß ok hans arffue frij gwit ok lapp for mik ell(e)r mijne arffue for alt yth(e)rmere til tal th(e)r om. Tiil yth(e)rmere wisse ok tesbetthre forwaring bad jagh erlige ok velb(ur)dige madz madzon gla som er brodh(e)r bwdh h(e)redzhöffding i aasth(e)red (,) knwdh ribbing h(e)redzhöffding i mark (,) tordh Ezbiörnsß i toredstorp ok beskeden ma(nd) h(err) staffen i örbÿ ath the Indzegla(t) nedha(n). För th(e)ß breff medh(a)n Jag ey selff Indzegle haffuer ... In casto örsten Anno dnj

Translation:

I, Knut Nilsson, squire, announce by this, my open letter, that today at the fortress Öresten, I received accounts from my maternal uncle, the honorable Arvid Knutsson, captain at Öresten. He has accounted for every collection from my hereditary estates made to date. From my, and my heirs' side, there shall be no future arguing about this against Arvid Knutsson and his heirs. To assure this, I have asked these honest and honorable men to attest this letter: Mats Matsson the Elder (brother of the District Chief in Åstared), Knut Ribbing (District Chief in Mark), Tord Esbjörnsson in Torestorp, and the honest man Staffan in Örby. They have attested the letter by placing their seals below, since I do not have a seal of my own. Written at the fortress Öresten in the Year of Our Lord, 1496.

Örestens fästning (The Eagle's Fortress)

Örestens fästning (the Eagle's Fortress) is located in the town of Skene in Västergötland, Sweden. It was established as a castle to guard Sweden's western border from Danish invaders and was probably constructed shortly before 1366. The fortress is strategically located upon a high cliff, making it hard to attack. In 1435, the fortress was ravaged during an insurgency and had to be repaired. By 1521, the castle had been invaded twice and was abandoned.



Sketch of Öresten fästning by Paul Dolstein

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten)
fm fm mf fm mf



By 1498, Arvid Knutsson had died. On March 25, 1498, Knut wrote a letter declaring that he had come to an amicable agreement with Arvid's children regarding the hereditary estate for his brother Halvid Nilsson that he received from their father Nils Halvidsson and the interest that Arvid Knutsson received from this estate. This letter was written at Torpa in Länghem Parish, Västergötland, the estate where Arvid Knutsson had lived.¹⁴⁷

Torpa – Where Knut Nilsson's maternal uncle Knut Arvidsson (Sparre over Stjärna) lived



Letter that Knut Nilsson wrote on March 25th, 1498

- Seals: 1. Broder Eriksson Buth 2. Lasse Nilsson Skume 3. Priest Jöns Eskilsson in Sexdrega
4. Tord Björnsson

¹⁴⁷ SDHK No. 33590 – March 25, 1498

Transcription:

*Jak Knwth Nielsß aff wapn göör withelikith, mz teß mith närvarande opna breff
Ath jak haffwer giorth eth wenlikth ok kerlikth myne meth min moders
brodthers barn knwth arffwedsß ok hans medsyskone om naagon wp-
byrdh som theras käre fader arffwidh knwtsson wpbar paa min brodtherss
wegna Halwaardh Nielsß gwdh beggiss tera syäl nadhe om landgille gen-
gerdh sakör ok hwath det teß (slag) helsth kwnne wara som ha wpbwrih hadhe
thz haffwe the giorth mek eth wenlik myne ffor saa ath mik aldetid wek
aathnöyes ok är wij alle oefforenthe thr om I hwt ath det thz helsthe ka(n) wid
Thy giffwer Jak fornämnde Knwth arffwidsß ok hans medsyskene ok theres arffwi-
nge ffrij ath ledwgh ok löss for all ythzm.. (yttermera) tiltal ellr rekeskap eptr thene
Dagh baadhe ffor mik ok mijna arffwinge Tyl ytremere wisse ok beethre ffor-
waringe bedh Jak ärlighe ok welbyrdwge mends insigle som är Broder
bwth j bragnem lars skwme tordh björsß wepnr ok hedrlige man h(err) Jöns
I sexdrega ath dhe hengha tehrss insigle nädhn ffor thete breff medhn Jak ey
insigle haffwer. Scpt(um) torppa Anno Dni (domini) mcdxcviii Dmca (Dominica) letare*

Translation:

*I Knut Nilsson, Squire, announce by this open letter
that I have made a friendly and honest deal with my
maternal uncle's son Arvid Knutson and his siblings
on the account of my brother Halvard Nilsson, God bless his soul, concerning
Arvid Knutsson's collected interests from his (Halvid Nilsson's)
hereditary estates. There shall be no arguing about this in the
future, not from me or my heirs, nor from my cousins or their heirs.
Written at Torpa in the Year of Our Lord 1498 on Letare Sunday (May 25th).*

Knut Nilsson's Coat of Arms

Knut's coat of arms is called "bölja under halv stjärna," which translates to "waves under half star," It consists of the top half of a six-pointed half star which is above three waves. Surprisingly, Knut's coat of arms was different from his father Nils Halvidsson (Svin), which was of a swine. Knut's coat of arms was inspired by that of his maternal side, which consisted of a chevron above a six-pointed star.



Knut Nilsson's seal
with his coat of arms

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) fm fm mf fm mf

Raising a Family at Bosgård and Forsa (1500-1508)



Torsbo, Gällstad Parish – The farm where Knut Nilsson’s wife may have grown up

Knut and his wife had at least four children: Halvard, Lars, Brita, and Margareta who were probably born during the 1500s to 1520s.¹⁴⁹



Map showing the main farms associated with Knut Nilsson and his wife

Sometime in the 1490s or 1500s, Knut was married to an unknown woman who probably hailed from nobility. Since both were from nobility, their marriage was probably arranged by their parents. Knut’s wife may have grown up at Torsbo, a farm in Gällstad Parish, Västergötland.¹⁴⁸ The two were probably married in a church where they received the Catholic sacrament of marriage.

Raneke’s Theory on Knut Nilsson’s Father-in-Law

In the publication *Svenska medeltidsvapen 11* (“Swedish medieval weapons”) by Jan Raneke, Raneke suggests that Knut Nilsson’s wife was the daughter of a sheriff named Henry Tysk. He theorizes this because Knut’s son Halvard Knutsson owned the farm Torsbo and was listed as having inherited half of his land from his mother. Since Henry Tysk was the owner of Torsbo in the mid-16th century, Raneke thinks that he was probably Knut’s father-in-law. However, Swedish research Stig Östensson has pointed out that this is highly improbable due to chronological reasons. Since Tysk is listed as the owner of Torbo from 1532 to 1555, he was too young to be Knut’s father-in-law.

¹⁴⁸ Strödda räkenskaper och handlingar t.o.m. 1630, Series 15 Klagomålsregister 1550s--1628, Vol. 3:2 states that Knut Nilsson’s son Halvard Knutsson had inherited the farm Torsbo from his mother.

¹⁴⁹ In Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576, Halvard Knutsson was listed as having inherited Forsa, the farm that Knut Nilsson owned was listed at in 1506 (SDHK No. 35359 - February 27, 1506) and Brita Knutsdotter was recorded as having inherited the farm Bosgård that Knut was listed at in 1508 (SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508). The combination of these facts and patronymic tradition tells us that Knut must have been their father. Since Margareta and Lars were mentioned as Halvard and Brita’s siblings, they also must have been Knut’s children.



Bosgård, Finnekumla Parish – A farm that Knut Nilsson owned and lived at in the 1500s

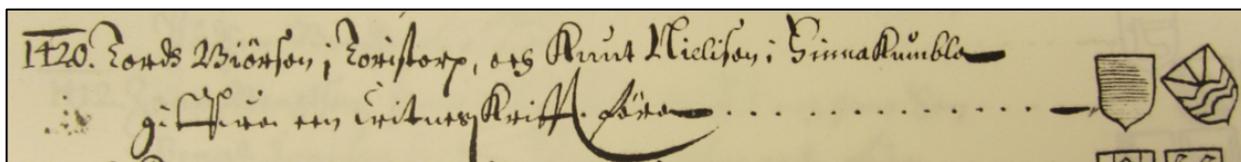
In 1500, Knut Nilsson and a man named Tord Björnssohn issued a lost witness document, in which Knut was listed as living in Finnekumla Parish, located in southern Västergötland, the area his mother hailed from.¹⁵⁰ It's likely that he was living at the farm Bosgård, since he is listed there in 1508.¹⁵¹

Finnekumla Parish

Finnekumla (Fí-nay-kúem-lah) Parish is located in southern part of Västergötland. It is 25.8 square kilometers, of which 17.8 square kilometers are country. The parish consists of farmland and marshes to the south. Finnekumla has medieval origins. The name “Finnekumla” was first recorded in 1413 and derives from the words *Finne* (“runaway hunters or fishermen”) and *kummla* (“grave or memorial.”) In 2000, there were 246 inhabitants living in Finnekumla.



Finnekumla Church



Transcript of a record that mentions Knut Nilsson living in Finnekumla Parish – 1500

Transcription:

*1420 (sic) Tord Björnssohn i Torstorp och Knut Nilsson i Finnekumla
giffua en witenesskrift före...*

Translation:

*1500 Tord Björnssohn in Torstorp and Knut Nilsson in Finnekumla
gave witness before...*

¹⁵⁰ Regest i B 22, pag. 77

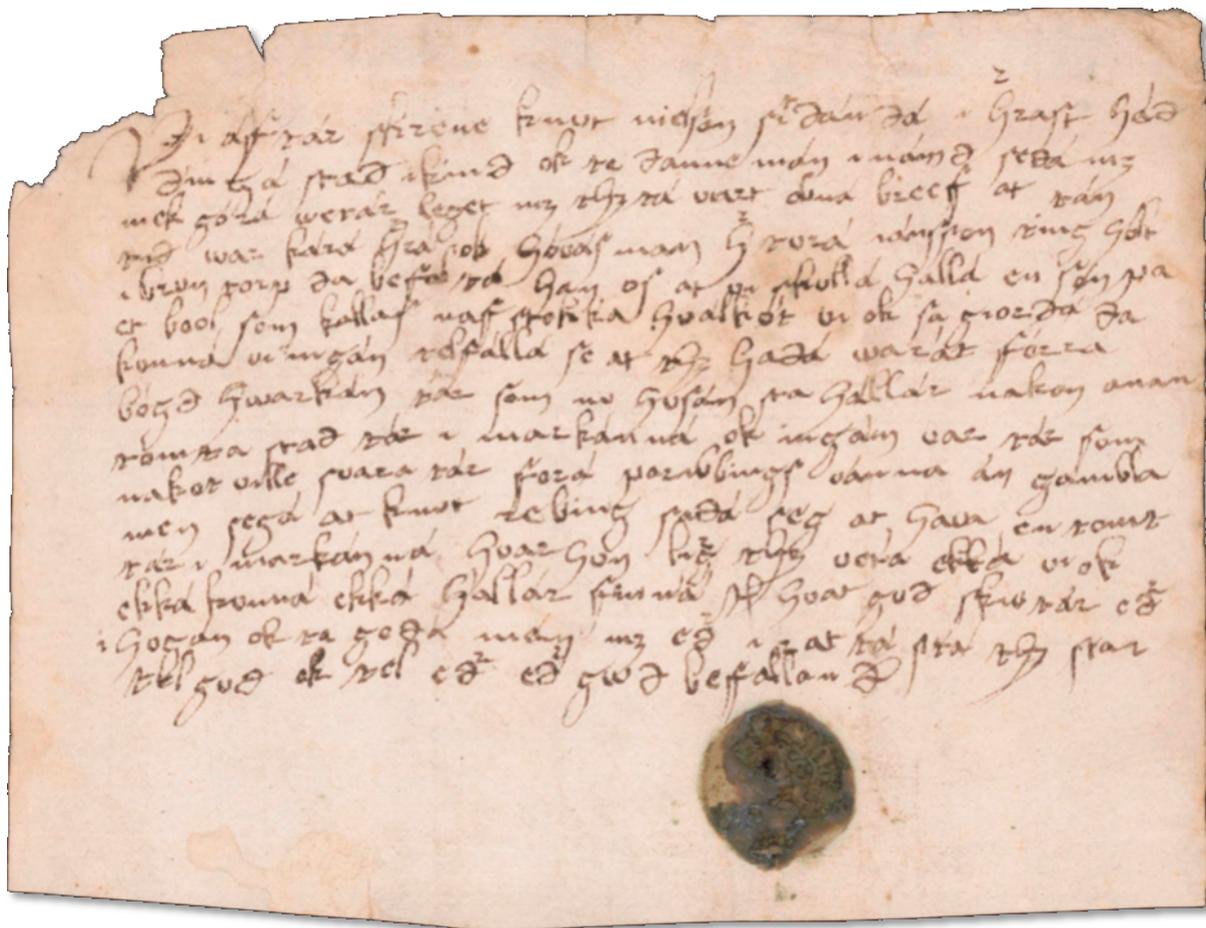
¹⁵¹ SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten)
fm fm mf fm mf

Förlorad Vittnesskrift - Lost Documents

Förlorad Vittnesskrift are Swedish records that have been lost. Although many Swedish medieval letters have been lost over the course of time, several of them were transcribed during the 17th to 19th centuries. A transcription of the document which shows Knut Nilsson living in Finnekumla Parish in 1500 can be found in Request i B 22, page 77. This record erroneously states that this record is from 1420, even though it is from 1500.

By 1500, Knut Nilsson had gained legal authority in Kind District. Sometime that year, he and the members of the commission court for Kind District were gathered together in Brunstorp, the location of Kind District's courthouse. Captain Sir Ture Jönsson, who presided over the meeting, ordered the inspection of a farm called Naff Stokka. However, this farm couldn't be found and the only trace of it that could be found was from the statement of some old men, who remembered that a nobleman named Knut Ribbing had once mentioned that he owned land there.¹⁵²



Letter that mentions Knut Nilsson – 1500

¹⁵² SDHK No. 36200 – 1500 (Without a date)

Transcription:

*Vi æftær skrene knut nielson sidandæ i hratz hød
dinga stad i Kind ok te danne mæn i næmd sedæ mz
mek gøra wetær leget mz thessæ vart obnæ breeff at tæn
wid war kæræ Hra ok Høvæs man h turæ iønsson ting hølt
i brun torp da befaltæ Han os at vi skullæ hallæ en søn pa
et bool som kallas naff stokka hvælkøt vi ok sa giordæ da
kunne vi intæn telfællæ se at thz hadæ waræt förræ
bøgd hwarkæn tær som nu husæn sta hællær nakon anan
tomta stad tær i markæn uar ok ingæn var tær som
nakot ville svara tær foræ pa ribbings vænna æn gambla
men segæ at knwt rebing sadæ seg at hava en tomt
tær i markæn mæn hvar hon legat thz voræ ekkæ vi ok
ekkæ kunne ekkæ hallær hvat gud slwtær edr
i hogæn ok ta godæ mæn mz edr ... ta sta thz star
tel gud ok tel edr edr gwd befallande*

Translation:

We, undersigned Knut Nilsson, sitting in the District Chief's townhall in Kind, and the farmers of the court commission, make public with this, our open letter, that when our honored master and Captain Sir Ture Jönsson presided at the court session in Bruntorp, he ordered us to inspect a settlement called "Naff Stokka." This we did, but could find no trace of where it should have been situated, neither where the present settlement is, nor anywhere else; and there was no one who could tell anything about it on behalf of the Ribbing family. There were some old men though, who remembered that Knut Ribbing had said that he had a piece of land there. But they could not point out the site. ... What God resolves in your minds and good men with you ... then let it stand firm before God and before you, entrusting it to God.

Häradsrätt - District Courts

Häradsrätt, or district courts, have been established in Sweden since at least the early 13th century. Every district in Sweden had a court that held sessions every few months in a specific venue. District Court sessions were presided over by a *Häradshövning*, or District Chief, and a committee of 12 jurors. During the 12th through 15th centuries, the District Chief and committee members usually hailed from nobility. During district court sessions, a variety of different cases were held, most of which involved land disputes and transactions.

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf

In January of 1501, King Johan II, better known as King Hans of Denmark, was deposed from the Swedish throne by a group of Swedish councilors. Over the next two years, Sten Sture the Elder (who had resumed his role as regent of Sweden) led an insurrection against the Kalmar Union. It's extremely likely that Knut Nilsson served in this rebellion. In the summer of 1502, the castle at Öresten was invaded by Danish soldiers. Since Knut had spent time at Öresten in the 1490s, it's probable that he was present. Hostilities between Denmark and Sweden ceased in 1503. In late 1503, Sten Sture the Elder died.

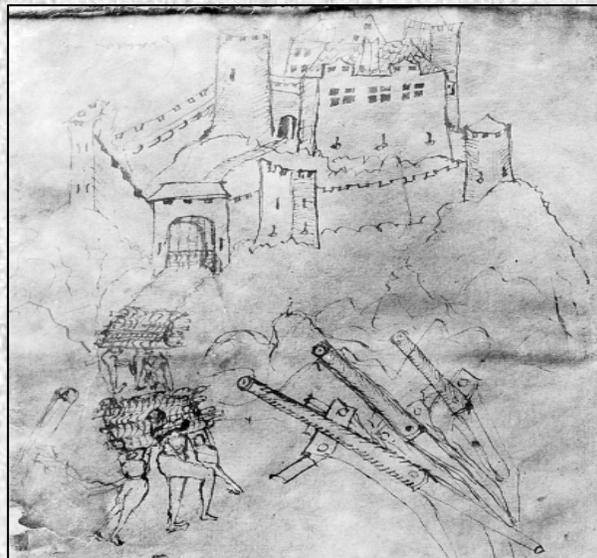
The War of Deposition Against King Hans (1501-1503)



Sketch of Swedish peasants fighting German mercenaries in 1501 by German engineer Paul Dolhstein

The War of Deposition against King Hans was a Swedish insurgency against King Hans of Denmark (also known as King Johan II of Sweden) that lasted from 1501 to 1503. In January of 1501, a group of councilors deposed Hans from the Swedish throne. On August 10, 1501, the castle Örebro was invaded by Swedish peasants and Jöns Falster, the Danish nobleman who owned the castle, was killed. Subsequently, Hans returned to Sweden to mobilize an army while his wife, Kristina of Saxony, remained in Stockholm. In October, an army of Swedish rebels invaded Stockholm.

In the summer of 1502, Hans's Danish army retaliated and burned down Älvsborg Castle, the fortress Nya Lödöse, and the fortress at Öresten in Västergötland. Sten Sture the Elder, Sweden's regent, responded by invading Turku, Viborg, and Savoy in Finland. In the spring of 1503, Sten Sture's army destroyed Lyckå Castle in Blekinge, while the army of Swedish noble Hemming Gadh invaded Kalmar. Sture's army next entered Norway but failed to accomplish anything of significance there. Shortly after Sture's death in 1503, hostilities between Denmark and Sweden halted.



Sketch of Danish soldiers marching upon Öresten fortress in 1502 by Paul Dolhstein

On January 21, 1504, Svante Nilsson (Sture) was elected as the new regent of Sweden. As regent of Sweden, Svante Nilsson took over Sten Sture the Elder's role as the leader of Sweden's rebellion against the Kalmar Union. For the next eight years, he led a series of attacks against Danish-ruled cities and fortresses in Sweden. It's likely that Knut Nilsson participated in some of these battles. Since he was a noble, Knut was probably a strong supporter of Svante Nilsson.

Svante Nilsson Sture's War Against Denmark (1504-1512)

Shortly after Svante Nilsson (Sture) was elected regent of Sweden in 1504, he continued Sweden's insurgence against the Kalmar Union. He sent some soldiers to march upon Kalmar Castle and other soldiers to defend Borgholm Castle in Öland, Sweden. In May of 1504, a year-long peace treaty was signed between Denmark and Sweden. In June of 1505, Sweden refused to renegotiate with Denmark. Denmark responded by sending ships to raid the west coast of Sweden. For much of 1506, the Swedish army rested. Later that year, they laid siege to Kalmar Castle, which they invaded in October.



A war scene from the cover of a historical novel about Svante Nilsson by Carl Blinks - 1889

In June of 1507, Denmark's navy attacked and burned the Swedish cities Kastelholm and Åland. By the end of 1507, the Swedish fortress Nya Lödöse was also burned. In February of 1508, Swedish soldiers marched to Skåne, where they burned the town Vä. By this time, the war between Sweden and Denmark had crippled both countries' economies. On October 17, 1509, a peace treaty was signed between Sweden and Denmark, in which Sweden agreed to pay an annual tribute to King Hans of Denmark.

In 1510, Sweden resumed its war with Denmark after the country Lübeck (located in present day Germany) had switched sides and allied themselves with Sweden. In August of that year, the Danish and Swedish armies clashed at Fante Håla. During this battle, Åke Hansson, one of Sweden's main generals, was killed. In the end of September, Sweden entered into an alliance with Lübeck, which put an end to the Danish naval rule.

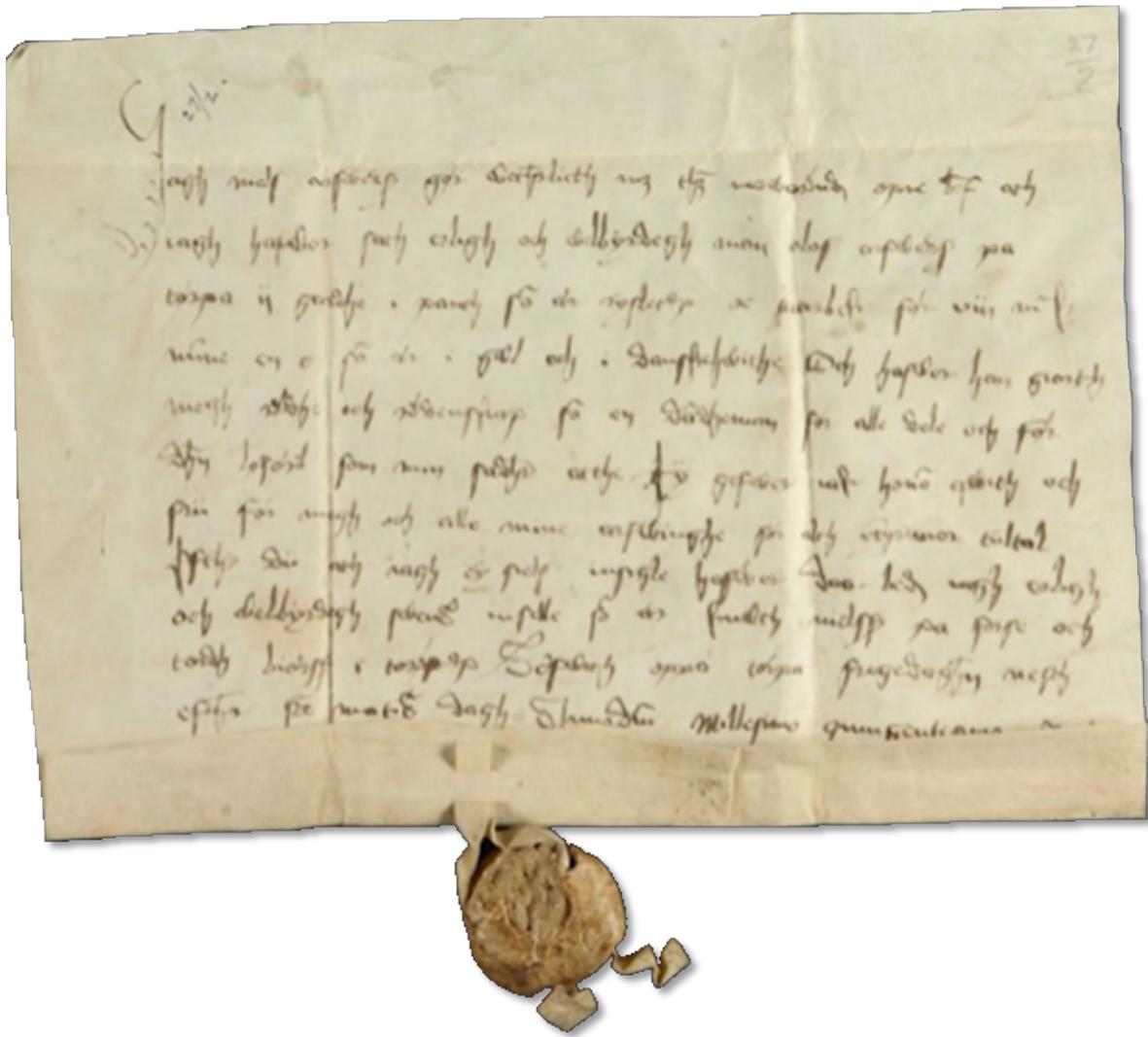
In January of 1511, King Hans's army entered Västergötland via Norway, prompting the Swedish army that was led by Sten Sture the Younger to retreat to Värmland. Hans's army proceeded to attack Läckö Castle, Skara, and Jönköping. That spring, the Danish navy ravaged the Swedish coast again. On January 2, 1512, Svante Nilsson died, bringing his war against Denmark to an end.

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf

On February 27, 1506, Knut's seal was placed on a letter that showed that he was living at the farm Forsa in Bollebygd Parish, Västergötland. In this letter, the seals of Knut and Tord Björnsson in Toretorp were included to verify that Knut's maternal cousin Nils Arvidsson sold the farms Rysletorp and Marbäck to his brother Olof for 118 Marks.¹⁵³



Forsa, Bollebygd Parish - Where Knut Nilsson lived in the 1500s



Letter that mentions Knut Nilsson – February 27th, 1506
Seals: 1. Knut Nilsson 2. (missing) Tord Björnsson

¹⁵³ SDHK No: 35359 - February 27, 1506

Transcription:

Jagh niels arfwedß gör wetherlicth mz thz nedwarende opne bref ath iagh hafwer sath erligh och welbyrdegh man olof arfwedß pa törpa ij gardhe i panth so(m) ær rysletorp oc marbek för viij mkr m...i en c so(m) ær i gwl och i Danski hwithe Wch hafwor han giorth megh vidhe och videnskap so(m) en dademan för alle dele och för dhen lösorit som min fadher atthe. Ty gefwer iak hono(m) qwith och frii för megh och alle mine arfwinghe för alth ythermer tiiltal efther dii ath iagh ey sielf insigle haffwer Jag bed megh erligh och welbyrdigh swenders insille so(m) ær knwth nilsß pa forse och tordh biørsß I toretorp. Scrjweth oppa törpa freyedaghen nesth efthr skt matis dagh ... millepeno qum... ..

Translation:

*I, Nils Arvidsson, announce by this open letter, that I have pledged 2 farmsteads (Rysletorp and Marbäck) for 118 mark (of which 100 are in gold and Danish whites) to the honest and honorable man Olof Arvidsson at Torpa. I know him as an energetic and word keeping person, who well has accounted for my paternal hereditary estate, thus I declare us being quits and even and there shall be no further comments or complaints from me or my heirs. Since I don't have a seal of my own, I have asked two honest and honorable squires to confirm the letter by putting their seals on it: Knut Nilsson at Forsa and Tord Björnsson in Toretorp.
Written at Torpa on Friday after St Mathi's Day (February 27th) ... 1506*

Bollebygd Parish

Bollebygd (Bóa-le-béegd) Parish is located in southern Västergötland a few miles west of the city of Borås. It is 182.5 square kilometers, of which 165.2 square kilometers are country. The parish consists of a valley with farmland, tall forests, and marshes. Bollebygd has medieval origins. Its name was first mentioned as "Ballabu" in 1245. In old times, Bollebygd was part of Mark District. In 2016, Bollebygd District was formed. In 2000, there were 6,372 inhabitants living in Bollebygd.



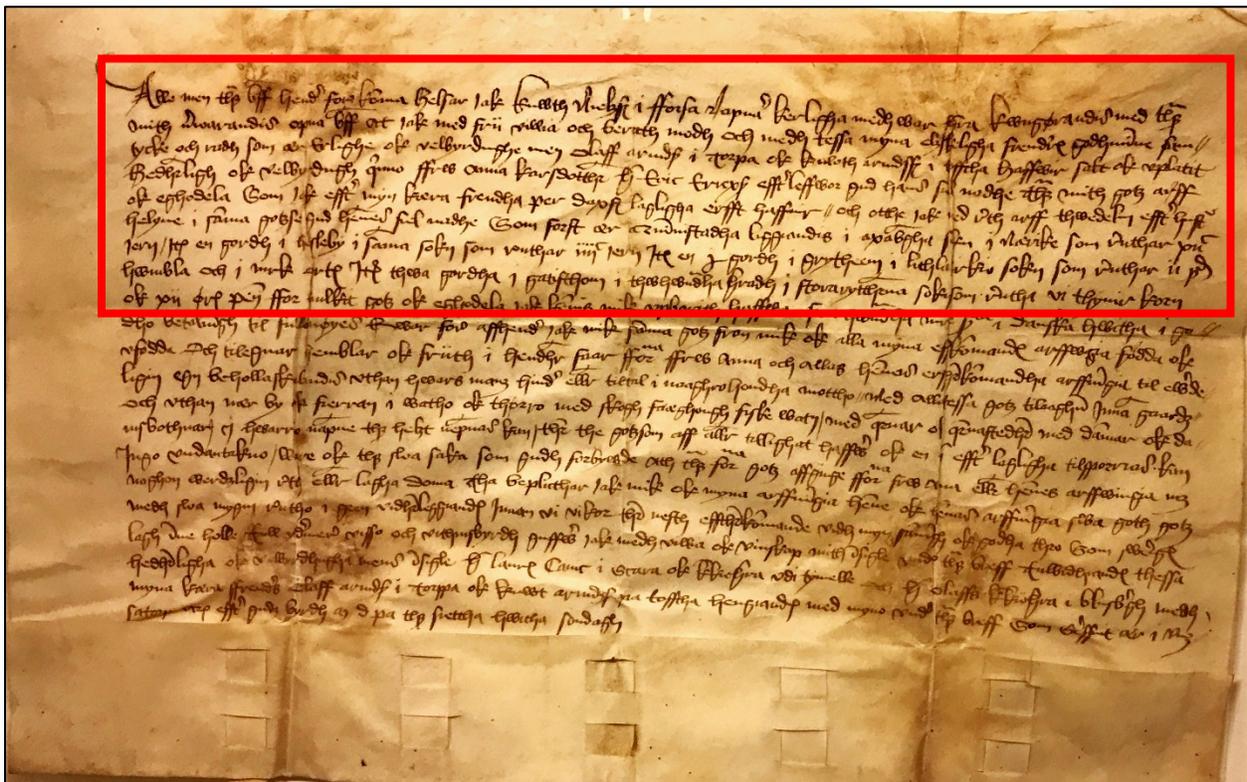
Bollebygd Church

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf



Map showing the farms in Örebro County that Knut Nilsson sold to Anna Karlsdotter in 1506

On April 19, 1506, Knut sold three of the farms that he owned in Örebro County to Anna Karlsdotter, the widow of Erik Eriksson: Kvinnersta and Hesteby in Axberga Parish, Grythem in Lillkyrka Parish, and Gåvestad in Rytterne Parish for 400 Swedish marks. Knut had inherited these farms from his relatives Per Dagsson and a woman named Helena. It's possible that Helena was Per Dagsson's wife and she may have been Knut's aunt. The letter which listed this transaction included Knut's seal, as well as the seals of two of his maternal cousins, Olof Arvidsson and Knut Arvidsson.¹⁵⁴



Letter that Knut Nilsson wrote on April 6th, 1506
(The transcribed and translated portions for this letter are highlighted)
Seals: (All missing and order unknown) – Knut Nilsson, Olof Arvidsson, Knut Arvidsson

¹⁵⁴ SDHK No: 35395 - March 1, 1506

Transcription:

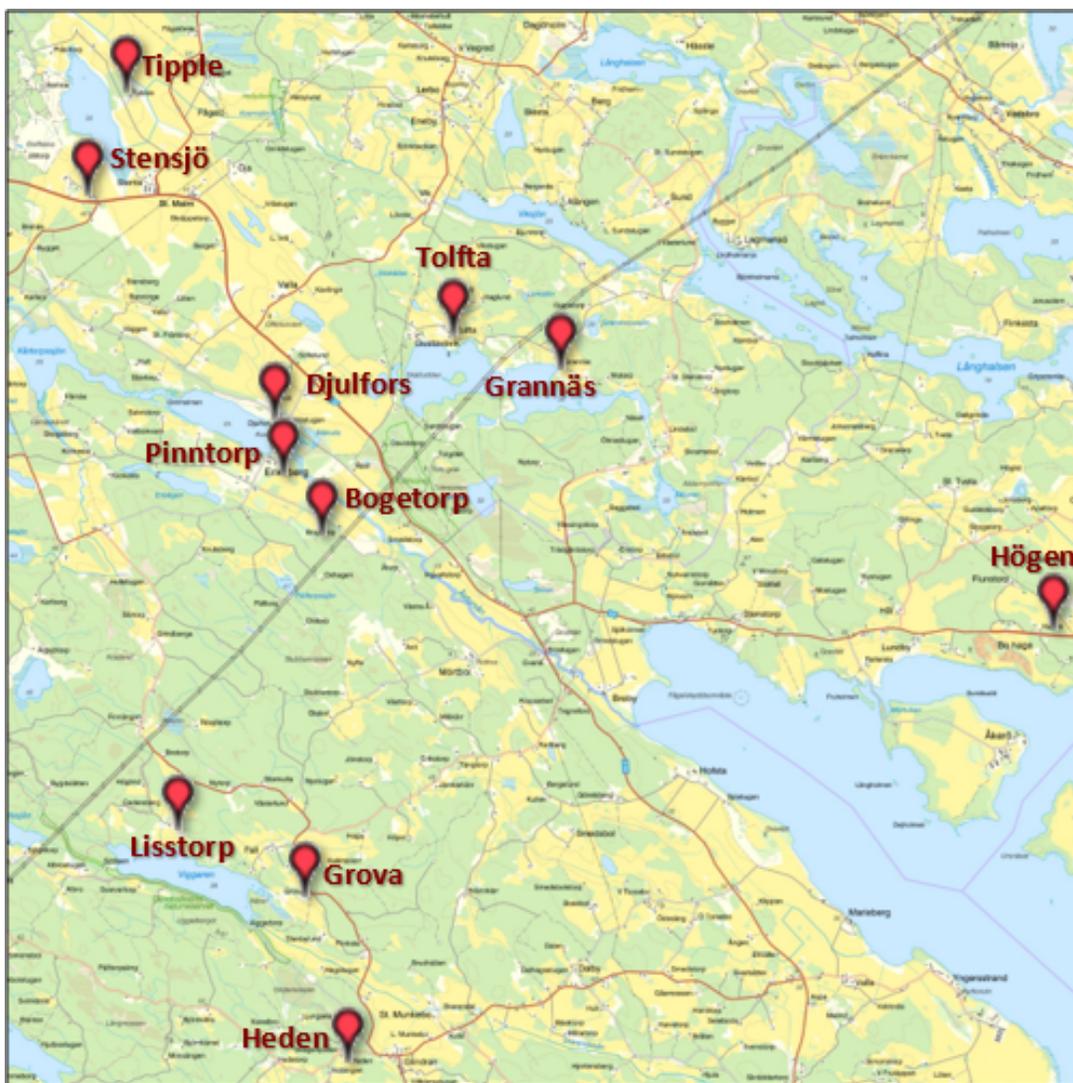
*Alle mon thetta breff hender fore komma Helsar jak
Knut Nielzson i fforsa vapnare kerligha medh war
herra kwngörandis med thetta mith nerwarandis op-
na breff at jag med frij villia och berath modh och
medh tessa myna elzskeligha frendirs godhminne sam-
tycke och radh som aer erlighe ok velbyrdughe men
Olaff arvidson i Torpa ok Knuth arvidsson i Tofftha
haffvir salt ok vplatit Hedherligh och velbyrdugh
quinna ffrw Anna Karlsdotther her Eric Ericssons eff-
terleffwor gud hans siel nadhe Thette mith gotz arff
ok eghodela som jak efter myn kara frendha per
daxson lagligha erfft haffuier,, och otthe jag med reth
arff Thwedelin efter hustru helyne i samma gotzse
gud hennes siel nadhe Som forst aer quinnistadha
liggiandis i axabergha sokn j Naerike som renthar
XII C jern, jtem en gordh i hesteby i samma sokn som
renthar VIII C jern, jtem en j gordh i grytheems i lith-
lakirkio sokn som renthar II pundh humbla och I
mark örtug jtem thwa gordha j gatisthem i thu-
hundradha heradh j stora ryttherna sokn... ..*

Translation:

*[To] all men that read this letter, I, squire Knut Nilsson
in Forsa, in love with our Lord, attest with this open letter
that in good memory of my beloved friend that I freely
and deliberately consented and advised the honest and
honorable men Olaff Arvidson in Torpa and Knut Arvidsson
in Tofta, who have sold and made available to the honest
and honorable woman Mrs. Anna Karlsdotter the widow of
Herr Eric Ericsson, God have mercy on his soul, my property
inheritance and belongings from my dear relative Per Dagsson,
which I have lawfully owned and inherited half of from his wife
Helena in the same property, God have mercy on her soul, first
the farm Kvinnersta located in Axberga Parish in Nerike (Örebro)
that renders an interest of 12 centner iron, a farm in Hesteby in
the same parish which renders 4 center iron, one farm in Grythem in
Lillkyrka Parish which renders 2 pounds of hops and 1 mark örtug,
and two farms in Gåvestad in the 200th District in Stora Ryttherna Parish...*

By 1508, Knut's father Nils Halvidsson had passed away and Knut inherited at least 23 farms from his estate, including Djulfors, Pinntorp (a castle now called Eriksberg), and numerous farms throughout Södermanland. Sometime in the 1500s, Knut's farm at Bosgård was ravaged by Danish invaders during Svante Nilsson's War Against the Danes. It's unknown if Knut was present at Bosgård during this time, or if he was at another farm. It's also possible that Knut's home at Forsa was damaged during this war.

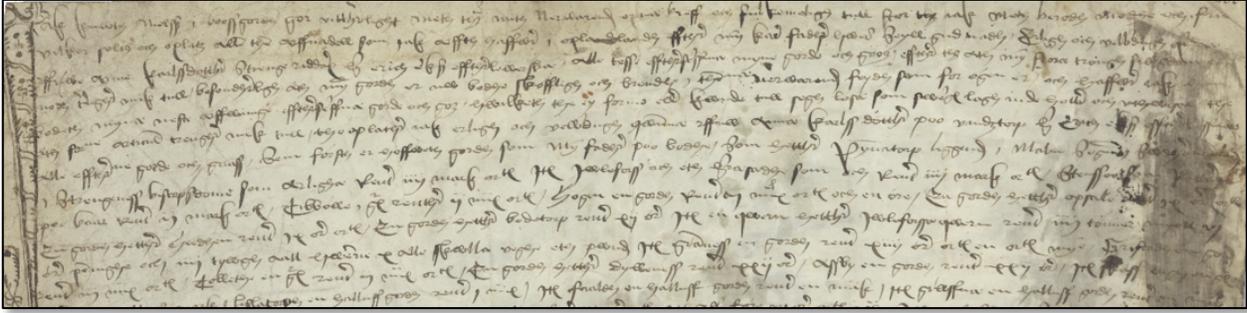
The damages to Bosgård forced Knut to sell 23 farms from his paternal estate to have enough money to repair his home. On June 12, 1508, he sold these farms to Anna Karlsdotter in Vinsarp, which included Djulfors, Pinntorp, Stensjö, Tibble, Högen, Upsala, Heden, Bogetorp, Djulfors's Mill, Grannäs, Erestad, Tolfta, Dillnäs, Åsby, Staväng, Lisstorp, Grova, Tortrygteg, Vik (in Lerbo Parish), and Väderskäl (in Vadsbro Parish). At this time, Knut was residing at Bosgård.¹⁵⁵



Map showing several of the farms Knut Nilsson owned in Stora Malm Parish

¹⁵⁵ SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf



Excerpt from a letter that Knut Nilsson wrote on June 12, 1508

Transcription:

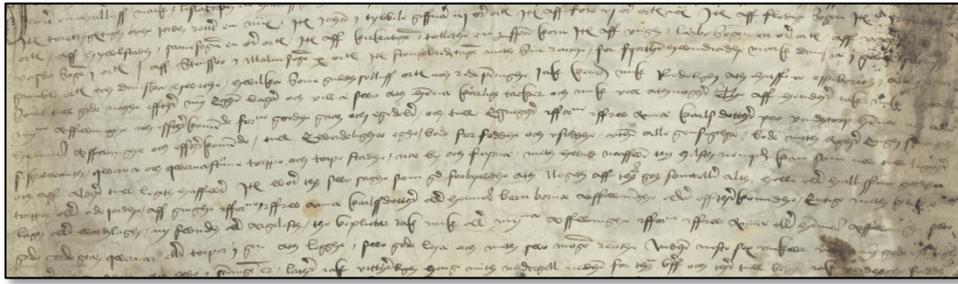
*Jak knwth Nielsson j boosgordh gør vitherligt meth thette mith Nerwarendes
opnæ breff och fulkomeligh tiill stor thet iak meth berodh modhe och frii vilkor
selier och oplater allen then arffuædell som jag arffth haffwer j oplandh
effther mijn kare fadher hwes Seyll gud madh, Erligh och velbyrdugh quinna
ffrwe Anne Karlsdotther Strengre riddares herr erich erikssons efftherlewerskæ
alle tesse efftherskreffnæ mijne gorde och gooz, effther thet ath mijn storæ
trongh siwgdom och nødth tuingher mik tiill, besondherligh ath mijn gordh er,
nw bodhe skøffligh och brenth j thennæ nerwarandes feydh som for øgen er,
och haffwer iak hem bodhet mijne neste arffwinge efftherskreffnæ gorde och
goz, hwilketh the ey formo eller kwnde tiill sigh løsæ som sweriges lagh indeholl-
der och vthwiser the ath for skreffne articulus trengher mig tiill, tho oplather
iak erligh och velbyrdugh qwinnæ ffrw Annæ Karlss dotther poo vindztorp
herr erich erikssons efftherleffua alle efftherskreffne gorde och gaass, Som*

Translation:

I, Knut Nilsson at Bosgård, announce by this open letter that I deliberately and of my own free will, sell my hereditary estate after my beloved father, God have mercy on his soul, to the honest and honorable woman Lady Anna Karlsdotter, widow after the strict knight Sir Erik Eriksson, all the following estates and farms. The reason for the sale is, that the estate where I live has been ravaged and burned in the ongoing feud (between Sweden and Denmark). According to Swedish law, I have first offered the following estates and farms to my heirs to buy. But since they couldn't or wouldn't, I sold to the honest and honorable woman, Lady Anna Karlsdotter at Vinsarp, Herr Erik Eriksson's widow, the following estates and farms:

Pintorpafrun – The Mistress of the Pintorp Estate

A transcription of the letter that Knut Nilsson wrote on June 12, 1508 can be found in the book *Pintorpafrun* ("The Mistress of the Pintorp Estate") by Imber Nordin-Grip (1899-1963), which is a collection of historical facts and myths about an allegedly wicked mistress who owned the estate. In once version of this legend, the mistress is called Lady Anna, whose named derived from Anna Karlsdotter who bought Pintorp from Knut Nilsson in 1508. There was also a woman named Anna who lived at Pintorp 200 years later and may have been the evil mistress that is discussed in this book.



Excerpt from a letter that Knut Nilsson wrote on June 12, 1508

Transcription:

førsth er hoffweth gordh som Mijn fadher poo bodhe, Som hetther Pynnatorp liggandes j Malm Sogen j Swdhermanlandh j Strengeness biscopsdome som arlighæ Renther 4 mark ortogh Jtem Jwleforss och eth Herræsadhe, som och Renther 4 mark ortogh, Stensøo som Rentten poo baar Renther 2 mark ortogh Tibbølle, gordh renther 2 mark ortogh. Høgen en gordh Renther 2 mark ortogh och en øre, En gordh hetther opsale renther 9 øre ortogh, En gordh hetther Heedhen renther 9 ore ortogh, En gordh hetther bodetorp renther 12 øre Jtem En qvern hetther Jwleforssæ qvern renther 4 tønner miøll 6 øre pennighe och 4 tywgh aall hwerie 10 alle skwlla veghe eth pwndh Jtem granness en gordh, renther 14 øre ortogh en ortogh myne, Erestadh en gordh renther 3 mark ortogh, Tollethe en gordh renther 2 mark ortogh, En gordh hetther dylleness renther 22 ore, Assby en gordh renther 22 øre, Jtem skaff engh en gordh renther en halluff mark, lislatorp en haluff gordh renther 1 mark, Jtem faaldh en halluff gordh renther en mark, Jtem grwffuæ en halluff gordh renther en mark Jtem toretrygthegh ødhe jordh renther en mark, Jtem johan j tybbele giffuar 3 øre ortogh Jtem aff føre 6 ore ortogh etc. (?), Jtem aff flode Sogen Jtem j jrestadh 1 ore ortogh, aff hywlstadh j same sogen en øre ortogh, Jtem aff kirkætegen j Tollethe en ½ span korn Jtem aff viigh j lærbo Sogen en øre ortogh, aff vedher-skell (?) j vasbo Sogen 1 ortogh, aff Stensøo i Malm sogen 9 ½ ortogh, Jtem stongebredhtange meth Sin renthe, for fyrorten hwndrædthe mark Danskæ j gwll halluff gamble ortogh och Danske hwithe, hwilkæ Some guldh sølluff ortogh

Translation:

First is the main estate, where my father used to live, it is called Pinnatorp and situated in Malm Parish in the Province of Södermanland in the episcopate of Strängnäs. It yields yearly 4 mark örtug; the estate Djulfors, which also yields 4 mark örtug; Stensjö yields 2 mark örtug; the farm Tibble yields 2 mark örtug; one farm in Högen yields 2 mark örtug and 1 öre; a farm called Upsala and yields 9 öre örtug; a farm called Heden yields 9 öre örtug; a farm called Bogetorp yields 12 öre; a flour mill called Djulfor's mill yields 4 barrels of flour and 6 öre in cash, and 4 score of eel (10 eels should weigh at least 1 pound); a farm called Grannäs yields 14 öre örtug; a farm called Erestad yields 3 mark örtug; a farm called Tolfta yields 2 mark örtug; a farm called Dillnäs yields 22 öre; a farm called Åsby yields 22 öre; a farm called Staväng yields ½ mark ; half of the farm Lislatorp yields 1 mark ; the other half yields 1 mark; half of the farm Grova yields 1 mark; Tortrygteg, a deserted place, yields 1 mark; Johan in Tibble pays 3 öre örtug; Järestad in Floda parish yields 1 öre örtug; Djulstad in the same parish 1 öre örtug; the Church-allotment in Tolfta ½ bucket barley; Vik in Lerbo Parish yields 1 öre örtug; Väderskäl in Vadsbro Parish 1 örtug; Stensjö in Malm Parish 9 ½ örtug; for fourteen hundred Danish mark, half of it in "old örtug" and half of it "Danish white" (silver coins), the money which I have received consisted of gold and silver coins, and I give her my gratitude. Hereby I waive the right...

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) fm fm mf fm mf

Anna Karlsdotter (Vinstorpaätten)

Anna Karlsdotter was a Swedish noblewoman and landowner who lived during the late 15th century and early 16th century. She was born sometime during the late 15th century. Her parents were Karl Bengtsson (Vinstorpaäteen) and Katrina “Karin” Lagesdotter (Sparre of Vik). Anna had a younger brother named Örjan Karlsson who was a knight. On June 29, 1488, Anna was married to Erik Karlsson (Vasa), the lord of Stäkeholm and Rumlaborg. Erik was also a cousin of Erik Johansson (Vasa), the father of King Gustav Vasa. Anna had five children with Erik. Erik was killed on March 20, 1491 after he was shot by the priest Sigröd Johannis near Strängäs. In 1492, Anna was married for a second time to Erik Eriksson (Gyllenstierna) the Younger with whom she had seven children. Erik was killed on July 19, 1502 by a group of farmers from Västergötland who were angry that he had capitulated the fortress Älvsborg to the Danes.

Anna was the last member of the Vinstorpaätten Dynasty. She lived at the farm Vinstorp near Ulricehamn, Västergötland. In 1508, she bought the farm Pinntorp in Södermanland from Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten), which later became known as Eriksberg. Anna ruled Pinntorp with “a powerful hand” for nearly 50 years and acquired various farms in Västergötland. She was involved in various land disputes during her life, even with the National Council. Although some historians have suggested Anna as the model for the “mistress of Pinntorp,” a cruel woman who tortured villagers on her estate, there is no evidence to support this.



The coat of arms for
Anna Karlsdotter (Vinstorpaätten)

In 1520, Anna loaned money to her son-in-law Erik Abrahamsson (Leijonhufvud), who was executed in the Stockholm Bloodbath. Ebba Eriksson, Anna’s daughter who was married to Erik Abrahamsson, was the mother of Margareta Eriksson (Leijonhufvud), the second queen of King Gustav Vasa. Anna was a strong supporter of Gustav and she received various benefits from him, such as additional land. Anna died sometime in 1552. She was buried in Dalum Church.

Source: www.culturum.se/Mathis/1Winsarp.htm – accessed December 30, 2019

The Fates of Knut Nilsson's Children

Knut's four children all inherited different land from him. Knut's son Halvard ended up inheriting half of his land from his unknown mother. Halvard inherited his father's estate Forsa, as well as the farm Torsbo in Gällstad Parish, Västergötland.¹⁵⁶ Halvard married a woman named Brita Knutsdotter, who inherited his land after his death.¹⁵⁷ By 1550, Halvard was serving as the Chief Deputy of Redvag District. From 1560 onwards, Halvard and Brita lived at Torsbo. Halvard died sometime around 1573 or 1574.¹⁵⁸

Lars Knutsson, Knut's other son, married a noblewoman named Anna Hansdotter. Lars and Anna lived at the farm Aboö in Rönö District, Södermland. The two had at least two children: Lars and Beata. During the 1560s, Lars served as a secretary to King Erik XIV of Sweden. At some point in time, he purchased the farm Gissaboda in Bollebygd Parish from Erik XIV. Lars died around 1565.¹⁵⁹

Margareta Knutsdotter, one of Knut's daughters, inherited the farm Gissaboda after Lars's death. She was married to a bailiff named Gjord Månsson. The two had at least one daughter named Karin and at least one son. From 1554 to 1559, Margareta and Gjord resided at the royal farm Hofsgård, in Hov Parish, Östergötland.¹⁶⁰ In 1562, they moved to the farm Aggarp in Björkö Parish, Småland¹⁶¹, where they resided for the rest of their lives¹⁶².

Brita Knutsdotter, Knut's other daughter, inherited the farm Bosgård in Finnekumla Parish from her father. At some point in time, she married a commoner named Måns Håkansson who hailed from the farm Åshult in Barne-Åska Parish, Västergötland. Brita died sometime after 1576.¹⁶³ It's likely that she died sometime in the 1580s or 1590s.



Map showing the farms associated with the children of Knut Nilsson

¹⁵⁶ Strödda räakenskaper och handlingar t.o.m. 1630, Series 15 Klagomålsregister 1550s--1628, Vol. 3:2

¹⁵⁷ Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576

¹⁵⁸ Raneke, Jan. *Svenska medeltidsvapen 11*. 1982. page 831

¹⁵⁹ *Ibidem*

¹⁶⁰ Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576 and *Den civila lokalförvaltningen i Sverige i Sverige (1523-1620)* by J.E. Almquist

¹⁶¹ Landskapshandlingar Smålands handlingar Vol. 1562:11

¹⁶² For more information on the fate of Margareta Knutsdotter, see page 1361 of this volume.

¹⁶³ Brita is listed in Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576.

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten)
fm fm mf fm mf

Kinds 65

Et gammelt Cronens ofattogeme. U. Torisbo
Da. vorede 4 to smør fuld frig of amen
ofatt. som en adelsman. U. salige Galuård
Knutson nu faste oppe boott. of vaa
sama gård klagede thu efter si' sine slættiger
U. Jens Nielsen i Bøtakra, of arvid vil:
son i Kolabo. of Lars Nils for nu bor i
Odesio i Östergötlandt. the tilde pa' faste
part i Tolsto gård. of thu andra delen
vare Galuårds Moderne, of thu fastner
han giftit sin suster. Suster Birita ved
Tolsto i hense morgogast. of forude
slættiger haa fast oppe med sin brest of
ofall, idt fa' the i vnder Cronens ofatt
of andog att forde suster Birita faste ofatt
of ofattig pa'. U. Torisbo. Pa' ar the dog
Cronens vatte ofattogeme, of vaurid itra
Eronen i Mongs air.

En Galuård Knutsons suster. U. suster Birita
fastner gift sig i ofrest med thu na som
nu ager. U. Mons Godenst han boer i barua:
gerat pa' of Cronens fenta. U. ofgilt of gor
the att ofatt of still. of sama suster Birita
faste en gård i kind vmed Bøsgård lige go
i Finstunha Bøtt. hant smør 6 to.
molt i + na fastre i + na. arlige f. 6. of som
faste inge flere gårdr. vram kind nu var gen:
nes part han sama efter sin aroder salige suster
vaurid.

Of thu andra susteren. U. Margreta som bor i
Östergötland haa of gift sig i ofrest, of som:
nes part faste lalle Knutson faste

Transcription:

Kmdtz 65

*Ett gamelt cronones skattehemme, N. Torisbo-
da, rentede 4 lispund Smör och anner
skatt, som en adelsman, N. saligh Haluard
Knutsonn nu haffuer opå boott, och upå
samma gård klagede threnne effterskreffne släktiger
N. Hans Nilßon ij Götåkra, och Aruid Nil-
son ij Kolarbo, och Lars Nilß ... nu bor ij
Ödesjö ij Östergötlandt, the tålede på halff-
partt ij Tolesbo gård, och then andra delen
rårar Haluards möderne, och then haffuer
han giffuit sin hustru, hustru Biritt på
Toresbo ij hennes morgongåffue, och förntde
Släktinger stå hart opå medt sin breff och
Skäll i adt få then igen undr Cronones skatt
och skötning på, N. Torisbo. Så är thet doch
Cronones rätte skattehemme, och uardt iffrå
Cronen ij mongh år.
Een Haluard Knutßons syster, N. hustru Birita
haffuer giffit sig ij ufrelse medt then mand honn
nu äger, N. Mons Hakenß han boor ij barna-
heret på ett Cronones hemme, N. Åsthult och gör
ther aff skat och skull. Och, samma hustru Birita
haffuer en gård ij Kind bendt Bosgårdh ligendhe
ij Finnekumla Sokn, skatter smör 6 lispund.
Malt 1 tna, haffre 1 tna, årlige h 6, och hon
haffuer inge flere gårdher, utan huad nu på hen-
nes part kan komma effter sin broder salige Hal-
uard.
Och then andra systeren, N. Margreta som bor ij
Östergötland hade ok giffit sig ij ofrelse, och hen-
nes part haffuer Lasse Knutßon köptt.*

Translation:

An old farmstead, under the Crown, called Torsbo, assessed at 4 lispund butter and other taxes, was occupied by a nobleman, the late Halvard Knutsson The following three relatives presented complaints on the estate: Hans Nilsson in Götåkra and Arvid Nilsson in Kolarbo, and Lars Nilsson who now lives in Ödesjö in Östergötland. They claimed half of the property; the other half Halvard had gained from his mother's side and he gave it to his wife Lady Brita as a morning gift. The above-mentioned relatives claimed that part also, and wanted the farm stead to come under the Crown again after many years.³ A sister of Halvard Knutsson named Lady Brita had married a commoner, Måns Håkansson at Åshult, a farm stead under the Crown, in Barne District, where she is registered. The same lady Brita also possesses a farm stead called Bosgård in Finnekumla Parish in Kind District, which is assessed for 6 lispund butter, 1 barrel malt, 1 barrel oats, 6 annual horses. To this shall be added what can come after her brother, the late Halvard. His other sister named Margareta, who lives in Östergötland, had also married a commoner. Her part was bought by Lasse Knutsson.

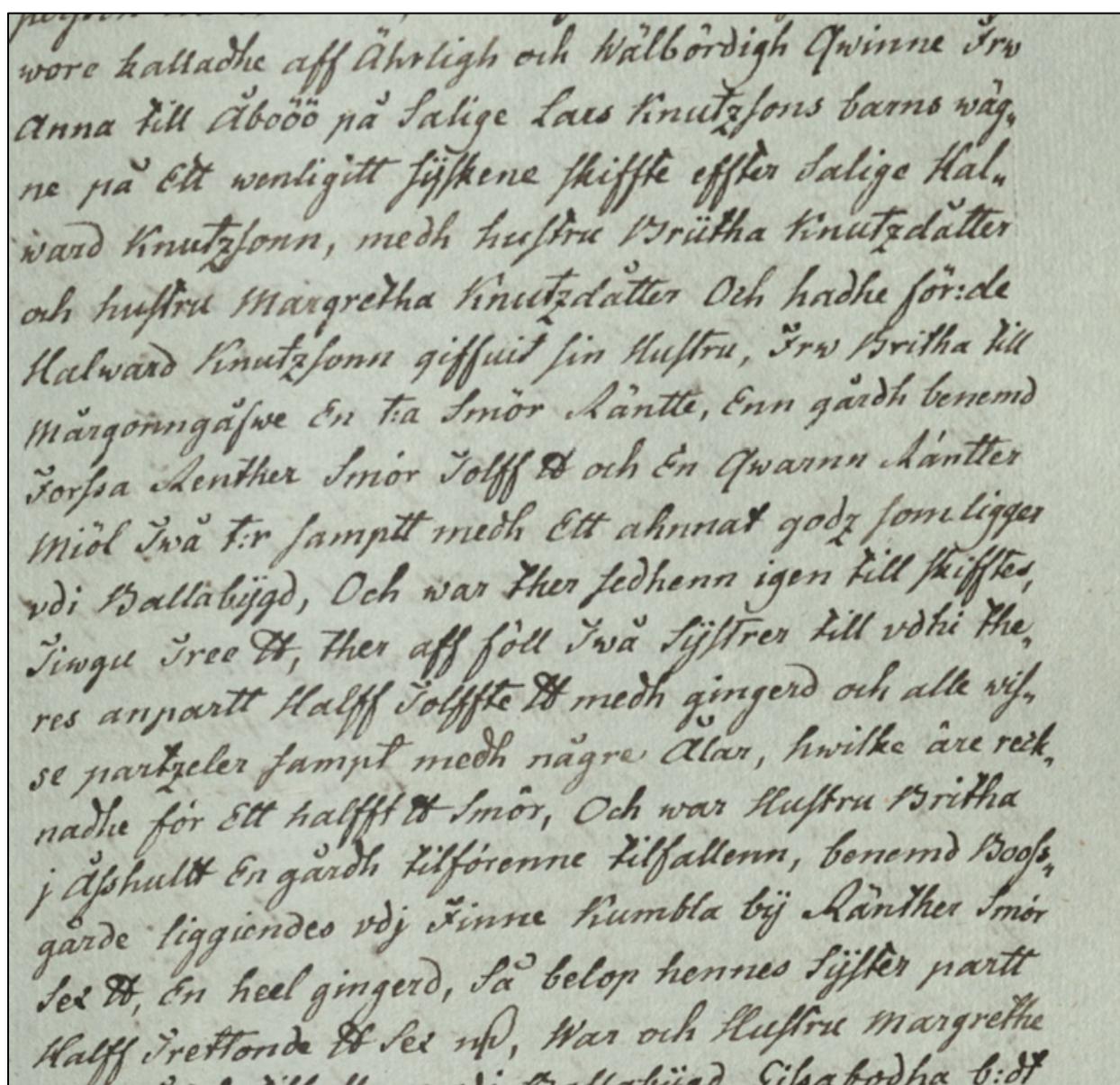
Klagomålsregister - Complaint Register Records

Klagomålsregister (“Complaint Register Records” in English) are Swedish legal documents that list a variety of legal complaints. In these documents, one party is recorded as accusing another party of wrongdoing. Many of these cases involve disputes over land inheritances. Klagomålsregister records are often kept in Strödda räkenskaper och handlingar (“Struggled accounts and documents.”)

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf

On March 15, 1576, both Brita Knutsdotter and Margareta Knutsdotter met with Anna Hansdotter, the widow of Lars Knutsson, to discuss the settlement of Lars's estate. The record that recorded this meeting states that after the death of Halvard Knutsson, Brita and Margareta were to receive six pounds of butter, whatever was afforded at a Royal visit, some fields, and some eels, (which were counted as ½ pound butter) from Halvard's estate.

During this meeting, both Brita and Margareta agreed to cede all of the land that they inherited from Halvard and their parents to Anna Hansdotter and her children, Knut Larsson and Beata Larsdotter. This meeting took place in the presence of noblemen Olof Gustafsson Stenbock, Sven Knutsson Ribbing, Nils Pedersson Lilliehöök, and Per Karlsson Store.¹⁶⁴



wore kalladhe aff Ährligh och Wälbördigh Qwinne Fru
Anna till Åboöo på Salige Lars Knutzsons barns wäg,
ne på ett wendigitt sijskene skiffte effter Salige Hal-
ward Knutzsonn, medh hustru Britha Knutzdatter
och hustru Margretha Knutzdatter Och hadhe för:de
Halward Knutzsonn giffuit sin hustru, Fru Britha till
Märgörngäfwen En tra Smör kantzle, Enn gårdh benemd
Sörssa kantzler Smör Tolfff R och En Qwannu kantzler
Miöl Swä för samptt medh ett ahnrat godz som ligger
vdi Wallabjgd, Och war Ther sedhenn igen till skifftes,
Tingue Tre R , Ther aff föll Swä sijstren till vdi the-
res anpartt Halff Tolfffte R medh gingerd och alle wif-
se partzeler sampt medh några Alar, hwilke äre reck-
nadhe för ett halff R Smör, Och war hustru Britha
i Åphullt En gårdh tilförenne tilfallenn, benemd Boof-
gårde liggandes vdi Finne Kumbla bij kantzler Smör
Sex R , En heel gingerd, Så belop hennes sijster partt
Halff Trettonde R Sex R , War och hustru Margrethe
Halff Trettonde R Sex R , War och hustru Margrethe
Silabodha R R

Excerpt from a letter that mentions the children of Knut Nilsson – March 15th, 1576

¹⁶⁴ Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576

Transcription:

wore kalladhe aff Ährligh och Wälbördigh Qwinne Fru Anna till Åboö på Salige Lars Knutzsons barns wägne på ett wenligitt sysekene skiffte effter salige Halward Knutzsonn, medh hustru Briitha Knutzdåtter och hustru Margretha Knutzdåtter och hade för:de Halward Knutzsonn giffuit sin Hustru, fru Britha till Mårngonngåfwe En t:a Smör Räntte, Enn gårdh benemd Forssa Renther Smör tolff # och en Qwarnn Rännter Miöl Två t:r samptt medh ett ahnnat godz som ligger udhi Ballabýgd och war ther sedhenn igen till skifftes. Tiwgu Tree #, ther aff föll två systres till udhi theres anpartt halff tolffte # med gingerd³ och alle wise partzeler sampt med någre Ålar, hwilke äre recknadhe för ett halfft # smör, och war Hustru Britha j Åsshultt En gårdh tilförenne tilfallenn, benemd Boosgårde liggiendes wdj Finne Kumbla bý Ränther smör sex #, en heel gigner, så belop hennes syster partt halff trettonde # sex

Translation:

were called to the honorable and noble woman Lady Anna to Åboö on behalf of the late Lars Knutsson's children. It was a friendly siblings' distribution of estate after the late Halvard Knutsson, with the sisters Lady Brita Knutsdotter and Lady Margareta Knutsdotter. Halvard Knutsson had as a morning gift given his wife Brita the revenue of one barrel of butter, the revenue of 12 pounds of butter from a farm called Forssa, and the revenue of two barrels of flour from a mill, and with another property which lies in Bollebygd. Then there was 23 pounds left to distribute, of which two sisters should additionally receive a half of twelve pounds plus what was afforded at a Royal visit plus fields and some eels, which are counted as ½ pound butter. Mrs. Brita in Åshult had already received a farm called Bosgård in the village Finnekumla with the revenue of 6 pounds of butter and one full part of what was afforded at a Royal Visit; thus her sister-part was half of thirteen pounds and 6 lod.

8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf

The Final Years of Knut Nilsson (1509-1526)

Knut Nilsson was last mentioned in a letter from January 2, 1509, in which his cousin Olof Arvidsson's widow, Lady Karin at Torpa, was in contention with Tord Björnsson in Toredstorp over 100 Swedish marks. Knut Nilsson's seal was attached to this letter.¹⁶⁵



Letter with Knut Nilsson's seal – January 2nd, 1509

Seals: 1. Knut Nilsson 2. Lars (Lasse) Nilsson Skume (Skurma) 3. Tord Björnsson

Transcription:

Infför alle godhe mæn som thz bff hender ath koma bekenomss vi epterskffne benkt arffwetsß benkt haqansß ok anderss jwthe thz vi nær vaart ahördom och saaghom thz erlig ok vælbördhwgh quinna hustu karin vppa torpa oloff arwsß epterlefska ffornögde erlik ok velbördwgh man tordh biørsß i tosstorp hwndradhe mark swensska thz vilom vi vitna ok til staa ok mz vars helghian eed fwlbordha hwar vi bliffwom ffor kalladhe hwlka fforda penninga oloff arwsß länthe aff gynnar grabbe gel begge thear siæl nadhe Thil ythermera vissæ bædhoms vi ærlig ok velbördwgh menss insigle ffor thz ... som ærknwt nielsß lasse skurna ok tordh biørsß i braghnum som skffuit ær vppa torpa anno mdix... saint Stefanus.

Translation:

To all good men who may see this letter we, Bengt Arvidsson, Bengt Håkansson and Anders Jute, confirm that we saw and heard the honest and honorable woman, Lady Karin at Torpa, Olof Arvidsson's widow, when she contented the honest and honorable Tord Björnsson in Toredstorp with 100 Swedish mark. The amount, for which transaction we were asked to confirm, derives from a loan that Olof Arvidsson took from Gunnar Grabbe the Elder, God have mercy on both their souls. In order to assure the authenticity of this letter, we have called the honest and honorable men Knut Nilsson, Lasse Skurna and Tord Björnsson in Bragnum to put their seals on it. Written at Torpa in the Year of Our Lord 1506 on the Day of Saint Stephen. (January 2nd).

¹⁶⁵ SDHK No. 36392 - January 2, 1509

Even though the last time he was recorded was in 1509, Knut Nilsson probably lived well into the 1520s. In January of 1512, Svante Nilsson (Sture), the regent of Sweden, died and in July of that year, Sten Sture the Younger became the new regent. As regent of Sweden, Sten Sture followed in Svante Nilsson's stead of trying to break away from the Kalmar Union. Over the course of the next eight years, Sture led Sweden in its insurrection against Denmark. It's possible that Knut Nilsson was also involved in Sten Sture the Younger's war against Denmark. By this time, Knut was in his thirties or forties.

Sten Sture the Younger's War Against Denmark (1512-1520)

After the death of Svante Nilsson (Sture) in 1512, Arvid Trolle became the regent of Sweden for a few months. In July of 1512, Sten Sture the Younger took over as the regent of Sweden. During Sture's reign as regent, Denmark pressured Sweden to either acknowledge the Danish king as the king of Sweden or pay an annual tribute to Denmark. Sweden delayed this ultimatum for the first few years of Sture's reign. By 1516, Denmark had grown tired of these delays and had begun to mobilize an army. In May of 1517, the Danish navy attacked the coast of Östergötland and Småland. In early August of that year, Danish forces landed near Stockholm, but Sture's army defeated them.

In June of 1518, King Kristian II of Denmark sent another army to the Stockholm area. Sten Sture sent an army to attack them from the south. At the end of July, the two armies clashed at the Battle of Brännkyrka, resulting in a victory for Sweden. In August, Sture negotiated an agreement with Denmark in which hostages were exchanged on both sides. In the summer of 1519, a few battles occurred in southern Sweden.

In January of 1520, the Danish army launched another attack on Sweden, raiding Östergötland and Småland. On January 19th, Sten Sture the Younger was fatally wounded at the Battle of Åsundens and he died on February 3rd. After his death, there was no Swedish military leadership, leading Sweden to surrender to Denmark. On March 6th, Kristian II was declared king of Sweden, officially ending the war.

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8.3.2. Knut Nilsson (Forsätten) fm fm mf fm mf

In February of 1520, Sten Sture the Younger died from wounds he received in battle, leading Sweden to surrender to Denmark. In March, King Kristian II of Denmark was declared the king of Sweden (and was later known as Kristian the Tyrant). Knut must have been deeply frustrated with this development.

The Stockholm Bloodbath



Painting of the Stockholm Bloodbath

On November 7, 1520, King Kristian summoned several high-ranking Swedish nobles and clergy (most of whom had been loyal to Sten Sture the Younger) to Stockholm. Although these nobles thought that the purpose of this invitation was peaceful, Kristian had other plans. On November 8th, these anti-Kalmar Union figures were imprisoned. During November 9th -10th, around 80-90 people were either hung or beheaded. This event, known as the Stockholm Bloodbath, served as propaganda for anti-unionists, leading to the War of Liberation.

Since Knut Nilsson cannot be found in the rusttjänstlängderna (“rust services”) records for 1526-1528¹⁶⁶, he must have passed away before 1526.

Rusttjänstlängderna - “Rust Services”

Rusttjänstlängderna (“rust services”) records list cavalry riders or members of nobility who were exempt from taxation. These records started being recorded shortly after Gustav Vasa became king of Sweden in the 1520s.

How Did Knut Nilsson Die?

It's unknown how Knut Nilsson died. There's a good chance that he died from natural causes, as the life expectancy during his time wasn't very long. Knut Nilsson may have also died during the War of Liberation (1521-1523), in which Sweden broke away from the Kalmar Union. Since most members of Swedish nobility favored breaking away from the Kalmar Union, Knut probably sided with the liberation movement, led by Gustav Vasa. It's more likely that Knut died from disease than in battle.

¹⁶⁶ Östensson, page 271, Endnote 51

Trivia on Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten)

1. What was the name of Knut Nilsson's father?
 - a. Nils Andersson
 - b. Nils Bengtsson
 - c. Nils Halvidsson
 - d. Nils Månsson

2. What was the name of Knut Nilsson's mother?
 - a. Brita Arvidsdotter
 - b. Brita Bengtsdotter
 - c. Brita Jönsdotter
 - d. Brita Knutsdotter

3. What was the name of Knut Nilsson's clan?

4. What was Knut Nilsson's occupation?
 - a. Bailiff
 - b. District Judge
 - c. Squire
 - d. None of these

5. What is the first year in which Knut Nilsson is recorded?

6. What province did Knut's family live in during the early 1500s?
 - a. Småland
 - b. Östergötland
 - c. Västergötland
 - d. None of these

7. What are the names of the two farms where Knut is recorded living?

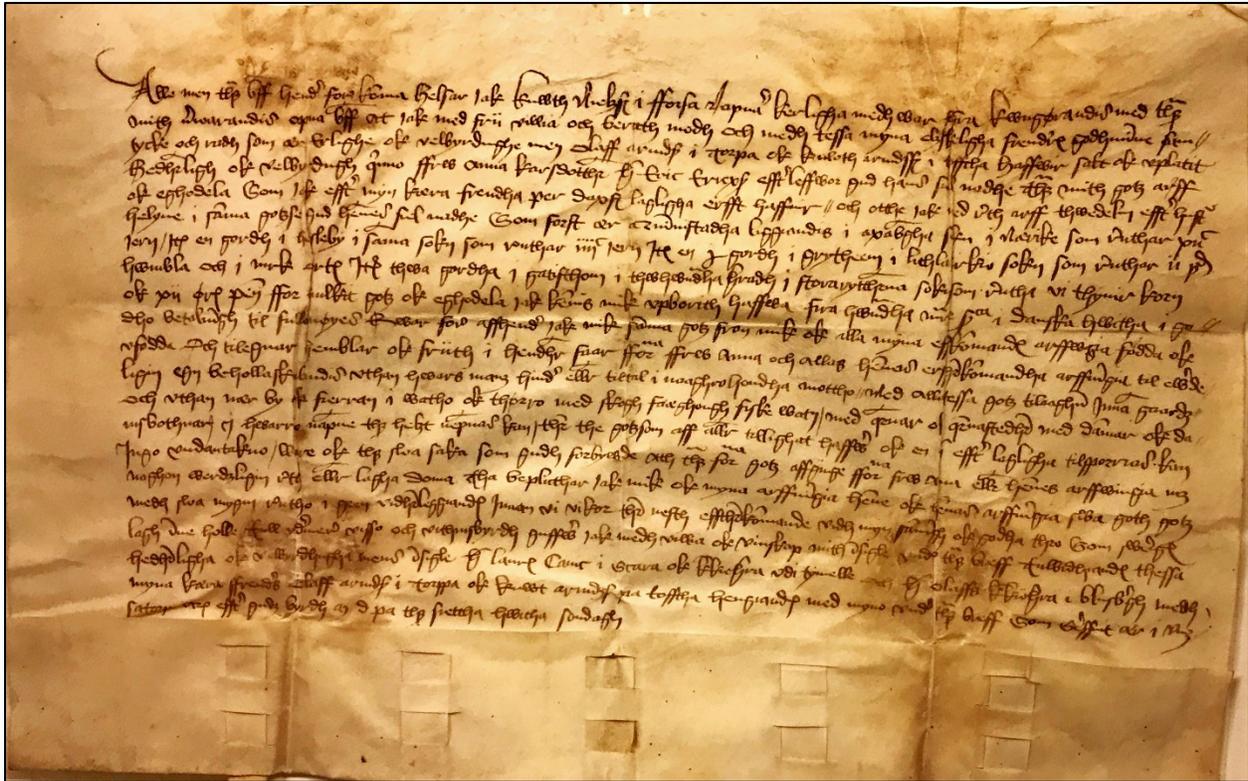
8. How many children did Knut have?

9. What is the last year in which Knut Nilsson is recorded?

10. Knut Nilsson must have died before which year?

Answers: 1. c 2. d 3. Forsaätten 4. c 5. 1496 6. c 7. Bosgård and Forsa 8. At least four 9. 1509 10. 1526

Letter that Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) Wrote on April 19th, 1506¹⁶⁷



Transcription:

1 Alle mon thetta breff hender fore komma Helsar jak Knvth Nielzson i fforsa vapnare kerligha medh war herra kwngorandis med thetta
 mith nerwarandis opna breff at jag med frij villia och berath modh och medh tessa myna elzskeligha frendirs godhminne sam-
 5 tycke och radh som aer erlighge ok velbyrdughe men Olaff arvidson i Torpa ok Knuth arvidsson i Tofftha haffvir salt ok vplait
 Hedherligh och velbyrdugh quinna ffrw Anna Karlsdotther her Eric Ericssons effterleffwor gud hans siel nadhe Thette mith gotz arff
 ok eghodela som jak efter myn kara frendha perdaxson lagligha effhaffuier, och othe jag med reth arff Thwedelin efter hustru
 helyne i samma gotzse gud hennes siel nadhe Som forst aer quinnistadha liggiandis i axabergha sokn j Naerike som renthar XII C
 jern, jtem en gordh i hesteby i samma sokn som renthar IIII C jern, jtem en j gordh i grytheems i lithlakirkio sokn som renthar II pundh
 10 humbla och I mark örtug jtem thwa gordha j gatisthem i thu-hundradha heradh j stora ryttherna sokn som renthar VI thynir korn
 ok XII örtug penningha ffor hwilket gotz ok eghodela jak kennis mik upborith haffwa fira hundreda mark swensca i danska hwitha i god-
 ho betalningh til fulllo noyes Hwar fore affhender jak mik samma gotz firon mik ok alla myna efterkommandes arffwingia fodda ok
 vfodda Och tilegnar hemblar ok friith i hendher faar fforscrifna ffrw Anna och allas hennes erfftherkommandha arffwingia til ewerde-
 15 ligin egn beholla skulandis vthan hvars manz hindher eller tiltal i naaghrohondha mottho, med alla tessa gotz tilaaghen jnnan gaardz
 och uthan naer by ok fierran i watho ok thorro med skogh faeghongh fiske vatn, med qwernar ok qwernastedher med dammar ok da-
 msbothnar j hwarrio nampne thet helzt nempnar kan, thaer thet gotz som aff alla tillighat haffwer ok en her efter lagligha tilsporrias kan
 Ingo undantakno, ware ok thet swasaka som gudh forbywde ath thetten forscrifna gotz affginge fforscrifna frw Anna eller hennes arffwingia mz
 20 noghon werdzligin reth eller lagha doma tha beplithar jak mik ok myna arffwingia henne ok hennas arffwingia swa goth gotz medh swa mygin
 rentho i geen vidherleggiandes jnnan VI vikor thaer nesth efterkommande vidh myn sanningh ok godha thro som swerigis
 lagh inne holle Tiill ydermere visso och vithnisbyrdh giuffwer jak medk villia ok vinskap mith insigle undher thette breff Tiilbidhindis thessa
 hedherligha ok velbyrdhuga mens insigle her lauris Canic i scara ok kirkioherra vdi Tymelle och her olaffs kirkioherra i bliisbergh medh
 myna kera ffrendhers Olaff arvidson i Torppa ok knut aruidzson pa Tofftha hengiandes med myno vnder thetta breff som scriffuit er i vinz-
 satorp arom effter gudz byrdh MD pa thet siettha hwitha sondagh.

¹⁶⁷ SDHK No: 35395 - April 19, 1506

Translation:

I, squire Knut Nilsson in Forsa, in love with our Lord, announce to all with this present open letter that I freely and deliberately with this, my beloved friend's good memory, consented and advised the honest and honorable men Olof Arvidson in Torpa and Knut Arvidsson in Tofta, who have sold and made available to the honest and honorable woman Mrs. Anna Karlsdotter, the widow of Herr Eric Ericsson (God have mercy on his soul), my property inheritance and belongings from my dear relative Per Dagsson, which I have lawfully owned and inherited half of from his wife Helena (God have mercy on her soul) in the same property. First the farm Kvinnersta located in Axberga Parish in Nerike (Örebro) that renders an interest of 12 center iron, a farm in Hesteby in the same parish which renders 4 center iron, one farm in Grythem in Lillkyrka Parish which renders 2 pounds of hops and 1 mark örtug, and two farms in Gåvestad in the 200th District in Stora Rytterna¹⁶⁸ Parish that renders 6 barrels of barley and 12 örtug penningar for which farms and belongings. I now acknowledge I have collected 400 Swedish mark in Danish white¹⁶⁹ which in settlement the payment is fully satisfied, wherefore I do relinquish the same farms from myself and all my heirs, born and unborn.

I dedicate and give authority to the hands of the aforementioned Mrs. Anna and all her heirs, who shall forever own and keep without obstacle or reprehension in any way, with all these properties surroundings all land, near and far, wet as well as dry, with forests, pastures, fishing-waters with mills, millhouses, and spots with ponds and dams whatever names they have, hereafter lawfully addressed, without exception. But if, and God forbid, that the aforementioned property by any dignified right or law judge that she (Anna) is not to have it, I oblige myself and my heirs to provide her and her heirs with good property of equal value rental (interest) prior to the next 6 weeks by my truth and the good faith which Sweden's law contains. Furthermore, assuredly and witnessed, I put intentionally and with friendship my seal (signet) under this letter. And requesting these honest and honorable men for their seals, Mr Lauris (Lars) Canic in Skara and (also) vicar in Timmele, and Olof's vicar in Blidsberg with my dear relatives Olof Arvidsson in Torpa and Knut Arvidsson of Tofta, they (their seals) hang together with mine under this letter which was written in Vinstorp the year after God's birth MD (1500) on the sixth year (thereafter) on Whitsunday~ (April 19, 1506)

Note: The original parchment for this letter is in the library at the University of Linköping. The seals for this letter are now missing, but originally appeared as shown below:

Knut Nilsson's seal



Olof Arvidsson's seal



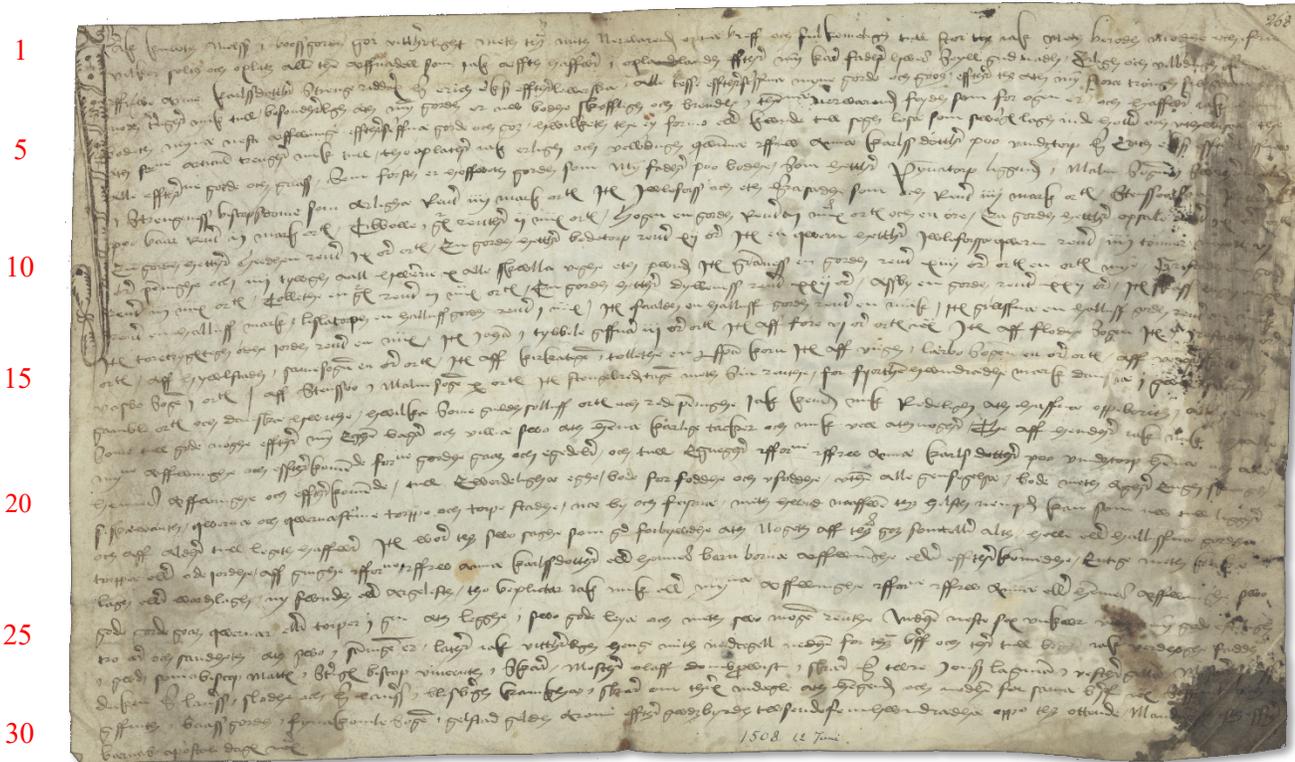
Knut Arvidsson's seal



¹⁶⁸ Today, Stora Rytterna is part of Rytterne Parish.

¹⁶⁹ Silver coins

Letter that Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) Wrote on June 12th, 1508¹⁷⁰



Transcription:

1 Jak knwth Nielsson j boosgordh gor vitherligt meth thette mith Nerwarendes onpæ breff och fulkomeligh tiill stor thet iak meth berodh modhe och frii vilkor
 selier och oplater allen thet arffuædell som jag arffth haffwer j oplandh effthier mijn kar fadher hwes Seyll gud madh, Erligh och velbyrdugh quinna
 5 firwe Anne Karlsdotther Strenge riddares herr erich erikssons effthierlewerskæ alle tessè effthierskreffnæ mijne gorde och gooz, effthier thet ath mijn store trough
 siwgdome och nødh tuingher mik tiill, besonderhlich ath mijn gordh er, nw bodhe skøffligh och brendh j thennæ nerwarandes feydh som for ogen er, och haffwer iak hem
 bodhet mijne neste arffwinge effthierskreffnæ gorde och goz, hwilketh the ey formo eller kwnde tiill sigh løse som sweriges lagh indeholder och vthwiser the
 ath for skreffne articulus trengher mig tiill, tho oplather iak erligh och velbyrdugh quinna firwe Annæ Karlss dotther poo vindtortp herr erich erikssons effthierleffua
 alle effthierskreffne gorde och gaass, Som forsth er hoffweth gordh som Mijjn fadher poo bodhe, Som hethter Pynnatortp liggandes j Malm Sogen j Swdhermanlandh
 j Strengeens bispopsdome som arlighæ Renther 4 mark ortogh Jtem Jwleforss och eth Herræsådhe, som och Renther 4 mark ortogh, Stensoo som Renten
 10 poo baar Renther 2 mark ortogh Tibbølle, gordh renther 2 mark ortogh. Hogen en gordh Renther 2 mark ortogh och en øre, En gordh hethter opsale renther 9 øre ortogh,
 En gordh hethter Heedhen renther 9 øre ortogh, En gordh hethter bodetortp renther 12 øre Jtem En qweren hethter Jwleforssæ qweren renther 4 tønner miøll 6
 øre pennighe och 4 tywgh aall hweric 10 alle skwlla veghe eth pwndh Jtem granness en gordh, renther 14 øre ortogh en ortogh myne, Erestadh en gordh
 renther 3 mark ortogh, Tollethe en gordh renther 2 mark ortogh, En gordh hethter dylleness renther 22 øre, Assby en gordh renther 22 øre, Jtem skaff engh en gordh
 renther en halluff mark, lislatorp en haluff gordh renther 1 mark, Jtem faaldh en halluff gordh renther en mark, Jtem grwffuæ en halluff gordh renther en mark
 15 Jtem toreytghetgh ødhe jordh renther en mark, Jtem johan j tybbele giffuar 3 øre ortogh Jtem aff fore 6 øre ortog etc. (?), Jtem aff flode Sogen Jtem j jrestadh 1
 øre ortogh, aff hywlstadh j same sogen en øre ortogh, Jtem aff kirkategen j Tollethe en ½ span korn Jtem aff viigh j lærbo Sogen en øre ortogh, aff vedherskell (?) j
 wasbo Sogen 1 ortogh, aff Stensoo i Malm sogen 9 ½ ortogh, Jtem stongbeordhtange meth Sin renthe, for fyorten hwndrædhe mark Danskæ j gwll halluff
 gamble ortogh och Danske whithe, hwilkæ Some guldh sølluff ortogh och rede pennighe Jak kendes mik Redeligh ath haffuæ oppeborith, alt j enæ
 20 Some tiill gode nøghe effthier mijn Eghen bægæren och villiæ swo ath hennæ karlige tacker och mik vell athnoger, Thi aff hendher iak mik och alle
 mijne arffwinghe och effthierkomende forskreffne gorde och egedelere, och tiill Egnegher fforskreffne firwe Annæ Karls dotther poo vindtortp hennæ och alle
 heenes ærffwinghe och effthierkomende, tiill Ewerdelighæ eghe, bode for føddhe och vføddhe, vthen alle gensælsæ, bode meth ager Engh skoogh
 fiskæ vanth, qwenæ och qweræstrøme torpæ och torpstadhe, nær by och feymæ, meth hwad naffwen thet helsth nemmes kan som nw tiill liggher
 25 och aff aldher tiill legeth haffwer Jtem vore thet swo sage som gud forbywde ath Nøgeth aff thessæ goz somt eller aith, helle eller halluffuæ gorde
 torppæ eller øde jorde, aff ginghe fforskreffne firwe Annæ Karlsdotther eller hennes barn bornæ arff- winghe eller effthierkomme(n)dhe, Entige meth kirkæ
 lagh eller werdzlegh, ny fwndh eller argelish, tho beplictar iak mik eller mijne arffwinghe fforskreffne firwe Annæ eller hennes arffwinghe swo
 gode gorde gooz qweren eller torper j gen ath legghe j swo gode leyæ och meth swo mogen renthe Indhen neste sex wiikwr vith mijn gode christeligh
 30 tro ære och sandheth ath swo j sannigen er, lather jat vitherligh nenge mith indecgell nedhen for thette breffoch ther tiill bedher jak verdhoghe fæddherne
 j gwldi, some er bispoc Matthias j Strengeens bispoc vincenth j Skara, Mesther olaff dombrowest j skara, herr twre Jonsson lagman j vesthergillen, Mesther jønss
 deken, herr Laurens j slodhe och herr Laurens j bliabergh, kanighæ j skara om theres indeggle ath hengendes och nedhen for sama breff etc (?) Screffuiit och
 giffuith j baas gordh j fynækomle Sogen j gelstad geldh Arom effthier gwdz byrdh twsendefemhwndrædhæ oppo thet ottendæ, Mandaghen nest effthier
 barnabæ apostoli dagh martyris.
 1508 12 june

¹⁷⁰ SDHK No. 36200 June 12, 1508

Translation:

I, Knut Nilsson at Bosgård, announce by this open letter that I deliberately and of my own free will, sell my hereditary estate after my beloved father, God have mercy on his soul, to the honest and honorable woman Mrs. Anna Karlsdotter, widow after the strict knight Herr Erik Eriksson, all the following estates and farms. The reason for the sale is, that the estate where I live has been ravaged and burned in the ongoing feud (between Sweden and Denmark). According to Swedish law, I have first offered the following estates and farms to my heirs to buy. But since they couldn't or wouldn't, I sold to the honest and honorable woman, Mrs. Anna Karlsdotter at Vinsarp, Mr. Erik Eriksson's widow, the following estates and farms:

First is the main estate, where my father used to live, it is called *Pinnatorp* and situated in Malm Parish in the Province of Södermanland in the episcopate of Strängnäs. It yields yearly 4 mark örtug; the estate *Djulfors*, which also yields 4 mark örtug; *Stensjö* yields 2 mark örtug; the farm *Tibble* yields 2 mark örtug; one farm in *Högen* yields 2 mark örtug and 1 öre; a farm called *Upsala* and yields 9 öre örtug; a farm called *Heden* yields 9 öre örtug; a farm called *Bogetorp* yields 12 öre; a flour mill called *Djulfors mill* yields 4 barrels of flour and 6 öre in cash, and 4 score of eel (10 eels should weigh at least 1 pound1); a farm called *Grannäs* yields 14 öre örtug; a farm called *Erestad* yields 3 mark örtug; a farm called *Tolfta* yields 2 mark örtug; a farm called *Dillnäs* yields 22 öre; a farm called *Åsby* yields 22 öre; a farm called *Staväng* yields ½ mark ; half of the farm *Listorp* yields 1 mark ; the other half yields 1 mark ; half of the farm *Grova* yields 1 mark ; *Tortrygteg*, a deserted place, yields 1 mark ; *Johan in Tibble* pays 3 öre örtug; *Järestad* in Floda Parish yields 1 öre örtug; *Djulstad* in the same parish 1 öre örtug; *the Church-allotment in Tolfta* ½ bucket barley; *Vik* in Lerbo Parish yields 1 öre örtug; *Väderskäl* in Vadsbro parish 1 örtug; *Stensjö* in Malm Parish 9 ½ örtug; for 1,400 Danish mark, half of it in "old örtug" and half of it "Danish white" (silver coins), the money which I have received consisted of gold and silver coins, and I give her my gratitude. Hereby I waive the right, for me and my heirs, to complain on this contract. And I entrust the above-mentioned estates and farms, with fields, meadows, forests and fishing-waters, flourmills and millstreams, and crofts and cabins, both close to and far from the main estate, to Mrs. Anna Karlsdotter at Vinsarp, to be hers and all her heirs, both born and unborn, forever. If anything, which God forbid, should happen to these estates and farms within the coming six weeks, I pledge myself, and my heirs, to compensate Mrs. Anna or her heirs. By my good Christian belief, honor and truth, I place my seal under this letter, and I ask the following venerable fathers of the Church: Bishop Matthias in Strängnäs; Bishop Vincent in Skara; Master Olof, Dean in Skara; Herr Ture Jonsson, Chief Judge in the Province Västergötland; Master Jöns; Herr Lars in Slöta; and Herr Lars in Blidsberg, Canon in Skara, for their seals to be placed under this letter. Written at Bosgård in Finnekumla in Gällstad Parish. Dated on the first Monday after the Apostle Barnabas's Day 1508.

June 12, 1508

Letter that Mentions the Children of Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) – March 15th, 1576¹⁷¹

1576 d. 15 Mars. 76

För alle godhe män, hvilkom hetta breff hender att
 före komma, Bekennes wij effter:ne Oloff Göstafsson
 Frjshene till Leena, Swen Ribbingh till Jesteridh, Nils
 person till Gälleridh, Per Karlson till Högalydh, att wij
 wore kallade aff Ährligh och Wälbördigh Qwinne Fru
 Anna till Åboö nä Salige Lars Knutzsons barns wäg,
 ne på Ett wendigitt fiske skiffe effter Salige Hal-
 ward Knutzson, medh hustru Britha Knutzdatter
 och hustru Margretha Knutzdatter Och hadde för:de
 Halward Knutzson giffuit sin hustru, Fru Britha till
 Mångörngäfwē en tia Smör Kantte, Enn gårdh benemd
 Forsa Lanther Smör Solff t och En Qwarnu Kantter
 Miöl Swā t.r samptt medh Ett ahnmat godz som ligger
 vdi Wallabjgd, Och war Ther sedhenn igen till skiffes,
 Tingue Tre t , Ther aff föll Swā Sijstren till vdi the-
 res anpartt Halff Solffte t medh gingerd och alle wif-
 se partzeler sampt medh nägre Alar, hwilke äre reik-
 nade för Ett halff t Smör, Och war hustru Britha
 i Åphultt En gårdh tilförenne tilfallenn, benemd Boos,
 gårde liggendes vdi Finne Kumbla bij Lanther Smör
 Sol t , En heel gingerd, Så belop hennes sijster partt
 Halff Trettonde t Sol t , War och hustru Margrethe
 Enn gårdh tilfallenn vdi Wallabjgd, Sissabodha b:dt
 Lanther Smör Fjre t , heel vingård, hwilken gårdh
 Siordh Mansson, hustru Margrethes man gaff konungh

¹⁷¹ Leonard Fredrick Rääfs samling, Series F1, Vol. 5 – March 15, 1576

Göstaß för någon råst han var skylligh then känd han
var Jougte, och samme gård förverffde J. Lasse Knutz
son aff Kong Erich, thet bewiste förb:te Jru Anna J. Lasse
Knutzsons medh godhe breff och Segel, Therefore hadde
förb:te hustru Margrethe inthet mhere igen, åhn thet
hon ärfde effter sin broder Salige Halward Knutzson
belöper sigh på en siffers parts medh Smör och gingsår,
der sampt några ålar som wore reknade både siffte
ne till för ett halft D Smör, halff siotte D Ses wd med
alle wise partzeler som bör recknas wd siffkenne
skiffte. När allt sådant godz skiff och bytt war,
upstodh then Erlige och Wälbyrdige Qwinne Jru Anna
Lars Knutzsons efterleffwerke på siene barns wegne
och sporde både hustru Toritha och hustru Margrethe
till, om the wille medh en godh wille sälie henne the
res anpart som the ärfst hadde effter theres förälder,
och theres broder Halward Knutzson, then till swarade
the att wilia helst uplatha henne samma godz till the
res broders son Knut Larsson och Beata Larsdatter,
them och theres efterkommende till ewärdelige äge
wdj alle partzeler inthet vndanstagandes wdj wätha och
järra, Skogh och marck, j Järp och Järpstålle Qvarn
och Qvarnströmer som aff ålder then tillaget haffuer
eller här effter utspories kan, som bättre är haffua

Ährn missta Thä bleff Thet så emellen Them samtyckt
 att Ärw Anna skulle giffwe för hwart 10 Smör och
 gingerdth, 12 retjo lodh Sölff, och bleff samme Sölff
 Them Hras i hender upwägit effter Theres godhe nöije
 widh bordet nhän godzet skiffst war, Thersfore loffwade
 hustru Brüttha och hustru Margrethe vdi alles wäres
 nhärwaru att wilie giffwe ofteb:te Ärw Anna skaffst
 och skäl ifrå sigh och sine ärfvinger och till Ärw
 Anna och hennes ärfvinger till ewerdelige äge, hseru,
 ste och Ärw Anna att J. Lasse Kimutzson hade vllagt
 nägre peninger som hans syster hade bortt vllagt
 för ährn the ginge till skiffstes, Them gaff Ärw Anna
 Them till, att the skulle inthet recknas vdi summan
 Thes till wisse och bätter förwaringh, att thet så tilgäat
 ähr och obrotzligen hålles skal, bidhen iagh Brüttha
 Kimutzdatter och Margarethe Kimutzdatter, Thesse förb:te
 gode herner och män vrn Theres Signeter sampt beg,
 ges wäres Sörers Signete vnder thette öyne bressh, Schrif,
 uit på Torisboda then 15 Martij, Anno MDLXXVJ-

coll.

Orig: på pergament förvaras vid Rikshäradets Arkiv i Uppsala.
 Kista de kända H. och Ö.S. Märket af J. Råaf & Kgl. Præst
 6 H. Sigiller, hvaraf N:o 1 är tryckt uti rött vas på vitt och de öfrige
 uti grönt på hvitt, hänga vid pergamentremsor.
 N:o 1. är utplånadt.
 N:o 2. Löbbinge skjöld ^{märke} med init: S. A.
 N:o 3. Liljekroks skjöld ^{märke} men har fogel mellan hjälmhornen
 N:o 4. Skore hjälm och skjöld ^{märke} swilket sednare är ^{med pängor utplånadt}. init: P. K.
 N:o 5. utplånadt.
 N:o 6. Ett bomärke och deröfver init: M. H.

Transcription:

1576 d. 15 Mars

För alle godhe män, hvilkom thetta breff hinder att före komma, bekennes wij efter:ne Olof Göstaffzson Frijherre till Leena, Swen Ribbingh till Festeridh, Nils persson till Gälleridh, Per Karsson till Högalidh, att wij wore kalladhe aff Ährligh och Wälbördigh Qwinne Fru Anna till Åboö på Salige Lars Knutzsons barns wägne på ett wenligitt syskene skiffte effter salige Halward Knutzsonn, medh hustru Briitha Knutzdåtter och hustru Margretha Knutzdåtter och hade för:de Halward Knutzsonn giffuit sin Hustru, fru Britha till Mårgonngåfwe En t:a Smör Räntte, Enn gårdh benemd Forssa Renthers Smör tolff # och en Qwarann Rântter Miöl Två t:r samptt medh ett ahnnat godz som ligger udhi Ballabygd och war ther sedhenn igen till skifftes. Tiwgu Tree #, ther aff föll två systres till udhi theres anpartt halff tolffte # med gingerd3 och alle wise partzeler sampt med någre Ålar, hwilke äre recknadhe för ett halfft # smör, och war Hustru Britha j Åsshultt En gårdh tilförenne tilfallenn, benemd Boosgårde liggandes wdj Finne Kumbla by Ränther smör sex #, en heel gigner, så belop hennes syster partt halff trettende # sex ?. War och hustru Margrethe enn gårdh tilfallen udi Ballabygd, Gissabodha, b:dt renther smör fyre # heel gingärd, hvilken gårdh Giordh Månsson, hustru Margrethes man gaff Konungh

Göstaff för någon räst han var skylligh then tiidh han war foughte, och samme gård förwerffde S. Lasse Knutzsson aff Kong Erich, thet bewiiste förb:te fru Anna S. Lasse Knutzsons med godhe breeff och segel, therefore hadhe förb:te hustru Margrethe inthet mhere igen ähn thet hon ärfde effter sin broder salige Halward Knutzson belöper sikh på en systers partt medh smör och gingärder sampt någre Ålar som wore recknade bådhe systerne till för ett halft # smör, halff siette # sex nß med alle visse partzeler som bör recknas vdj syskenne skiffte. När allt sådant godz skiffit och bytt war upstodh then Erlige och Wälbyrdige Qwinne Fru Anna Lars Knutzsons effterleffwerske på siine barns wegne och sporde bådhe hustru Britha och hustru Margrethe till, om the wille medh En god wilie sälie henne theres anpart som the ärfitt hade effter theres förälder, och theres broder Halward Knutzson, ther till swaradhe the att wilia helst vplatha henne samma godz till theres broders son Knut Larsson och Beata Larsdåtter, them och theres effterkommende till ewärdelige äge vdj alle partzeler inthet vndantagandes vdj wåtha och tårra, skogh och marck, j tårp och tårpaställe Qwarn och Qwarnaströmer som aff ålder ther tilleget halffuer eller här effter vpspörries kan, som better är haffua

ähn mista Thå bleff thet så emellen them samtyckt
att Frw Anna skulle giffwe för hwart # smör och
gingerdh, tretijo lodh sölf och bleff samme sölf
them strax j hender vpwägit effter theres godhe nöije
widh bordet och är godzet skifft war, therföre loffwade
hustru Briitha och hustru Margrethe vdj alles våres
nhärwaru att wilie giffwe ofteb:te Frw Anna skafft
och skäl ifrå sikh och sine ärffuinger och till Frw
Anna och hennes ärffvinger till ewerdelige äge, Bevi-
ste och Frw Anna att S. Lasse Knutzson hade vtlagt
någre peninger som hans syster hade bortt vtlagt
för ähn the ginge till skifftes, them gaff Frw Anna
them till, att the skulle inthet recknas vdj summan
thes till wisse och bätter förwaringh, att thet så tilgååt
åhr och obrotzligen hålles skal, bidher iagh Briitha
Knutzdåtter och Margarethe Knutzdåtter, thesse förb:te
gode herrar och män vm theres Signeter, sampt beg-
ges våre söners Signete vnder thette öpne breff. Schrif-
uit på torisboda then 15 Martij, Anno MDLXXVJo

Orig: på pergament förvaras vid Rusthållet Millingetorp
Kisa S: Kinda H. och Ö.G. Skänkt af L.F. Rääf t. Kgl ?
6 st. sigiller, hvaraf No 1 är tryckt uti rödt vax på vitt och de öfrige
uti grönt på hvitt, hänga vid pergamentsremsor.
No 1. är utplånadt
No 2. Ribbinge skjöldemärke med init: S.A.
No 3. Liljehöks skjöld märke men har fogel mellan hjälmhornen
No 4 Store hjälm och skjöldem: hvilket sednare är med färger utaf. init: P.K.
No 5. utplånadt
No 6. Ett bomärke och deröfver init: M.H.



8.3.2.3. Letter that Mentions the Children of Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) - March 15, 1576

Translation:

To all good men whom this letter may concern,
we the undersigned Olof Gustafsson (Stenbock)
Baron to Lena, Sven (Knutsson) Ribbing to Fästered, Nils
Pedersson (Lilliehöök) to Gällared and Per Karlsson (Store) to Högalid, assure
that we were called to the honorable and noble woman Lady
Anna to Åboö on behalf of the late Lars Knutsson's children.
It was a friendly siblings' distribution of estate after the late Halvard
Knutsson, with the sisters Lady Brita Knutsdotter
and Lady Margareta Knutsdotter. Halvard Knutsson had as a
morning gift given his wife Brita the revenue of one barrel of butter,
the revenue of 12 pounds of butter from a farm called
Forssa, and the revenue of two barrels of flour from a mill,
and with another property which lies
in Bollebygd. Then there was
23 pounds left to distribute, of which two sisters should
additionally receive a half of twelve pounds plus
what was afforded at a Royal visit plus fields and
some eels, which are counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ pound butter. Mrs. Britta in
Åshult had already received a farm called Bosgård in the village Finnekumla with the revenue
of 6 pounds of butter and one full part of what was afforded at a Royal visit; thus her sister-part
was half of thirteen pounds and 6 lod. Mrs. Margareta
had also received a farm called Gissaboda in Bollebygd, with the
revenue of four pounds of butter and what was afforded at a Royal Visit. This farm was given by
Gjord Månsson, Lady Margareta's husband, to

King Gustaf as a rest for a debt from the time he was a bailiff. The late Lasse Knutsson bought the same farm from King Erich (Erik XIV). This was proven by his widow Lady Anna through sealed letters. Thus, Lady Margareta had nothing more than she had inherited from her late brother Halvard Knutsson, which is a sister's part with butter and what was afforded at a Royal visit plus some eels which were counted as ½ pound butter, half sixth pound six lod, with all parts that should be counted for in a siblings' distribution. When all distributed and settled, the honorable and noble woman Lady Anna, Lars Knutsson's widow, rose on behalf of her children and asked both Lady Brita and Lady Margareta if they with good intention could sell their parts of what they had inherited from their parents and their brother Halvard Knutsson. To this they answered that they would like to yield that estate to their brother's children Knut Larsson and Beata Larsdotter for them and their descendants to possess for eternity. The estate included everything, nothing excluded, in wet and dry goods, forest and field, crofts and cottages, mill and millstream, which always have belonged to



8.3.2.3. Letter that Mentions the Children of Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) - March 15, 1576

the estate and what can be added in the future.

Thus, it was decided that Lady Anna should pay 30 lod silver for every pound of butter and what was afforded at a Royal visit. Soon the silver was weighed out to them at the table to their satisfaction, and the estate was distributed. So Lady Brita and Lady Margareta promised in our presence, that they were willing to give up their rights to Lady Anna and her heirs forever. Lady Anna also proved that the late Lasse Knutsson had paid some money that his sister should have paid before the distribution. Lady Anna then said that this should not be included in the distribution. As a proof that this occurred, I bid Brita Knutsdotter and Margareta Knutsdotter, and the previous mentioned good gentlemen to sign and seal this open letter, written at Torsboda on March 15th, 1576

Notes: _____

Original on parchment, kept at Rusthället Millingetorp in Kisa Parish, Kind District in Östergötland. Donated by L. T. Rääf to the Royal...?
6 seals: of which No. 1 is pressed into red wax on white and the others into green on white, hanging on parchment strips.
No. 1: is blotted out
No. 2: Ribbing's shield-device with the initials S.R.
No. 3: Lilliehöök's shield-device, but have a bird between helmet horns
No. 4: Store's helmet and shield-device, the latter is colored and have the initials P.K.
No. 5: is blotted out
No. 6: an owner's mark and above that the initials M.H.