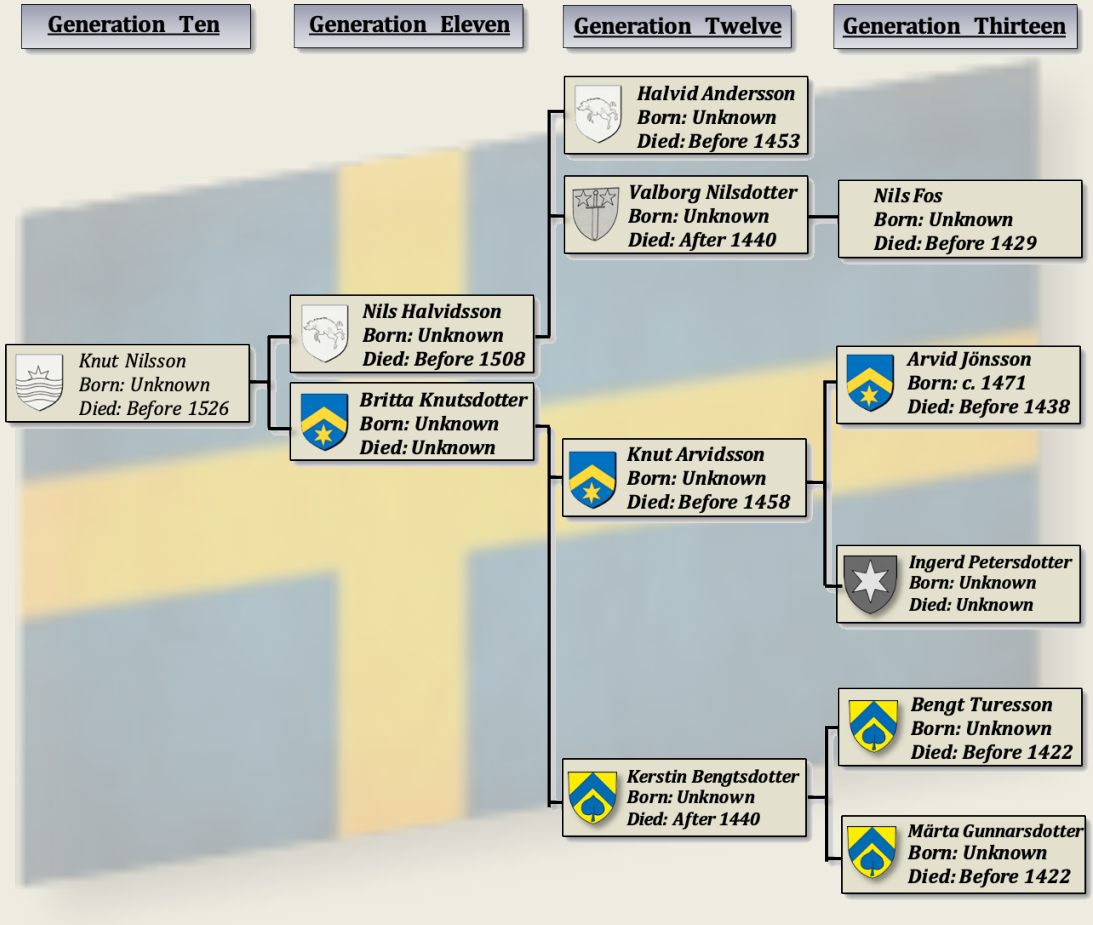
The High Family's Swedish Ancestors

Volume Nine: The 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög



1370-1500

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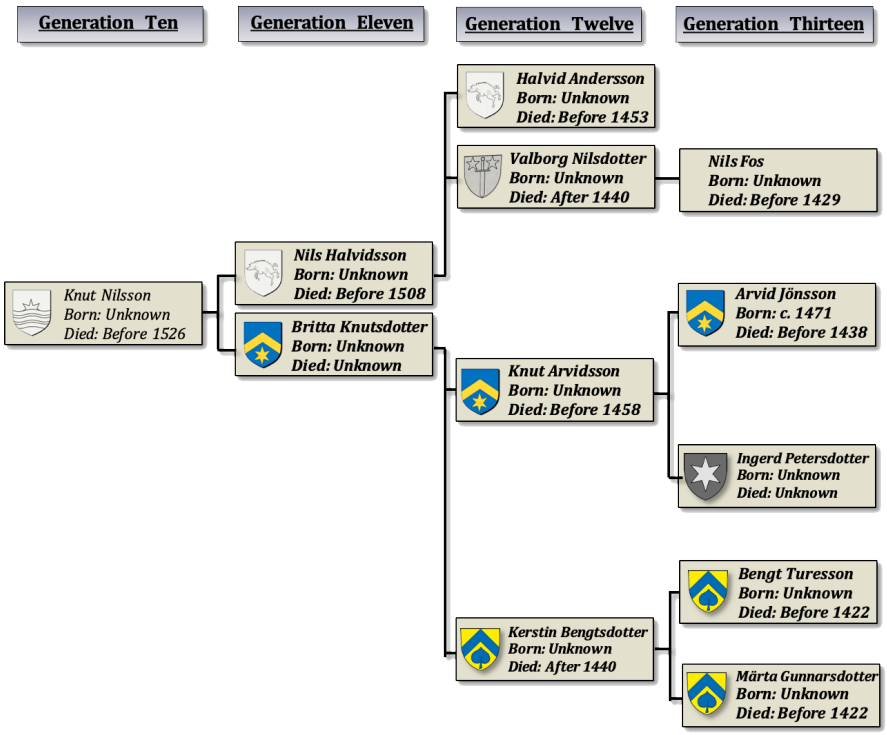


Discovering the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

By Jeffrey High – March 10th, 2025

The 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

When I first began researching my Swedish ancestry in 2006, I never imagined that my research would eventually lead me into Sweden's medieval past. Thanks to Sweden's remarkable system of preserving and digitizing historical records, I was able to reconstruct the ancestry of my 3rd great-grandfather Sven Hög, generation by generation, uncovering families whose lives spanned several centuries of Swedish history. This volume focuses on the first portion of that journey: the discovery of Sven Hög's known 15th century ancestors—his 8th through 10th great-grandparents. While many people on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, or other online genealogy sites have their family tree going back to medieval times, much of this information cannot be verified and contain no sources of evidence. Keeping this in mind, I was determined to conduct thorough research and ensure that all the information in my family tree could be verified with actual records. I originally discovered Sven Hög's 15th century ancestors on various family trees that were posted online. Using this information as a starting point, I gradually found scholarly articles about these ancestors, which ultimately led me to the letters that mentioned them.



This chart shows the known 15th century ancestors of Sven Hög

9.0. Discovering the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

In 2013, I discovered Sven Hög's 15th century ancestors through the same website I discovered information about Sven's great-grandmother Karin Svensdotter and her ancestors.[1] I was astonished and overwhelmed when I saw that this website traced Karin Svensdotter's ancestors to the 8th century! While I would later discover that much of this website's genealogical information was incorrect and that Sven's ancestry can only be traced to the 13th century, this website served as an excellent guide for me on my research.

The path to discovering one's 15th century ancestors is possible through what I call "gateway ancestors", or ancestors whose lineage can be traced back several centuries. Usually, these are notable, fairly high-ranking individuals. In my investigation into Sven Hög's family tree, I consider there to be three gateway ancestors:

- **Karin Svensdotter:** Sven's great-grandmother, whose ancestry was documented on a website and traced to the Medieval Era.
- **Per Jacobsson:** Karin Svensdotter 's great-grandfather, who was a socially affluent Lieutenant during the 17th century, owned several farms, and has been written about in books and scholarly journal articles.
- **Knut Nilsson (till Forsa):** Per Jacobsson's great-grandfather, who was a squire who lived during the late 15th and early 16th century. He was of nobility and this book is an account of his known ancestors.

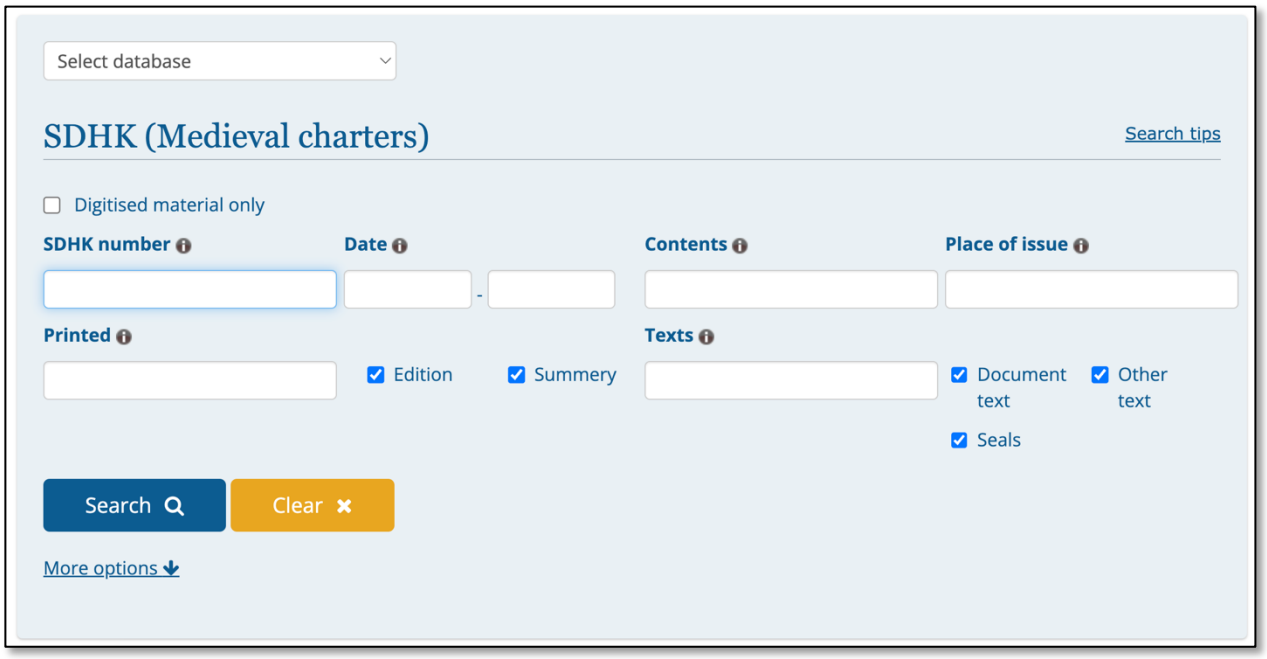
There were several journal articles from scholarly publications that helped guide my research into Sven Hög's 15th century ancestors. Many of these articles appeared in the journals *Släkt och Hävd* and *Personhistorisk tidskrift*. These included:

- "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 Janzon
- "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk förfalskningshistoria från 1400-talet" by Jan Liedgren



[1] http://www.slaktforskning.thorstensson.se/slaktdata/Hanna_Johansson/pafbe67da.html - Accessed August 27, 2013. As of 2024, this website no longer exists.

By the end of 2016, I started obtaining copies of the journals that contained these articles. These articles frequently mentioned specific letters that mentioned Sven Hög's 15th century ancestors. In early 2017, I discovered the website for *Svenskt Diplomatariums huvudkartotek (SDHK)*, a vast collection of digitized images of Swedish medieval letters, where I was able to obtain images and transcripts of letters that mentioned Sven Hög's 15th century ancestors. By using this website's search features, I was able to find most (if not all) of the known letters that mention these ancestors.



Svenskt Diplomatariums huvudkartotek (SDHK)'s website

In addition to the letters that mention the 15th century ancestors of Sven Hög, I came across a few genealogies from the 16th century that mentioned them, including:

- *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*
- *Biskop Hans Brasks släktbok*
- Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s letter to Bengt Gylta
- Peder Månsson Utter's *Collectanea Genealogica*

Finally, I came across *Vita beati Brynolphi* an of account of a canonization processes that a contained testimony from Sven Hög's 10th great-grandfather, Arvid Jönsson.

I was able to obtain images of the documents listed above from Riksarkivet (Sweden's National Archives) and the National Library of Sweden.

Discovering the 8th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

In July of 2013, I discovered the identities of two of Sven Hög's 8th great-grandparents, Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Brita Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna), from the same website I learned of their son Knut Nilsson.[2] Unfortunately, these were the only 8th great-grandparents of Sven's that I was able to find. According to this website:

- Nils Halvidsson's father was Halvid Nilsson (Svin), the Substitute District Chief (a chief judicial officer) of Oppunda District
- Britta Knutsdotter's parents were Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna), the District Chief of Kind District, and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad)
- Nils was a squire who hailed from the province of Södermanland
- Britta hailed from the province of Västergötland

I started researching Nils Halvidsson and Brita Knutsdotter at the end of 2016. While browsing online, I found a PDF of a scholarly publication by Kaj Janzon called "Det Medeltida Sverige 2:5 Södermanland: Oppunda," which contained information on Nils Halvidsson. From this source, I learned that Nils was first married to a woman named Ingrid Magnusdotter, that his mother was Valborg Nilsdotter, and that his father-in-law was Nils Fos. Throughout early 2017, I obtained images of most of the letters that mention Nils Halvidsson. Unfortunately, no primary records of Britta Knutsdotter exist.

From: Kaj Janzon
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 5:31 PM

To: Jeffrey High <jeff@customguide.com>
Subject: Re: Questions on Knut Nilsson, Nils Halvidsson, and Halvid Andersson

Hi Jeff,

The answer to your question can be found in my book, on page 137 (Björka, the year 1456). In 1456 the squire Nils Magnusson, son of Magnus Nilsson in Yxta, and his sisters Cecilia, Ingrid and Birgitta, daughters of the same Magnus Nilsson, sold a piece of land in Björka to the noble knight Erik Nipertz. The sisters were represented by their husbands. Cecilia was married to Ebbe Bengtsson, Ingrid to Nils Halvidsson, and Birgitta to Anders Ragvaldsson. So, there is no error. Nils Halvidsson was indeed married to Ingrid Magnusdotter from Yxta. The source document is a bill of sale, dated 13th of January 1456, and it is preserved in the Library of Uppsala University.

Kaj

An email I received from Kaj Janzon, a Swedish historian, containing information about Nils Halvidsson - February 9th, 2017

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

I wrote about Nils Halvidsson and Britta Knutsdotter during early 2020. At first, I couldn't find any records that mentioned Britta, and doubted that there was any concrete proof of her existence. However, in early 2021, I learned of a genealogical manuscript from the 16th century called *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* that mentions Britta Knutsdotter. Although no primary records of her exist, this secondary source, together with the fact that Nils and Britta's son Knut Nilsson had a daughter named Britta, convinced me that Britta's identity was factual.

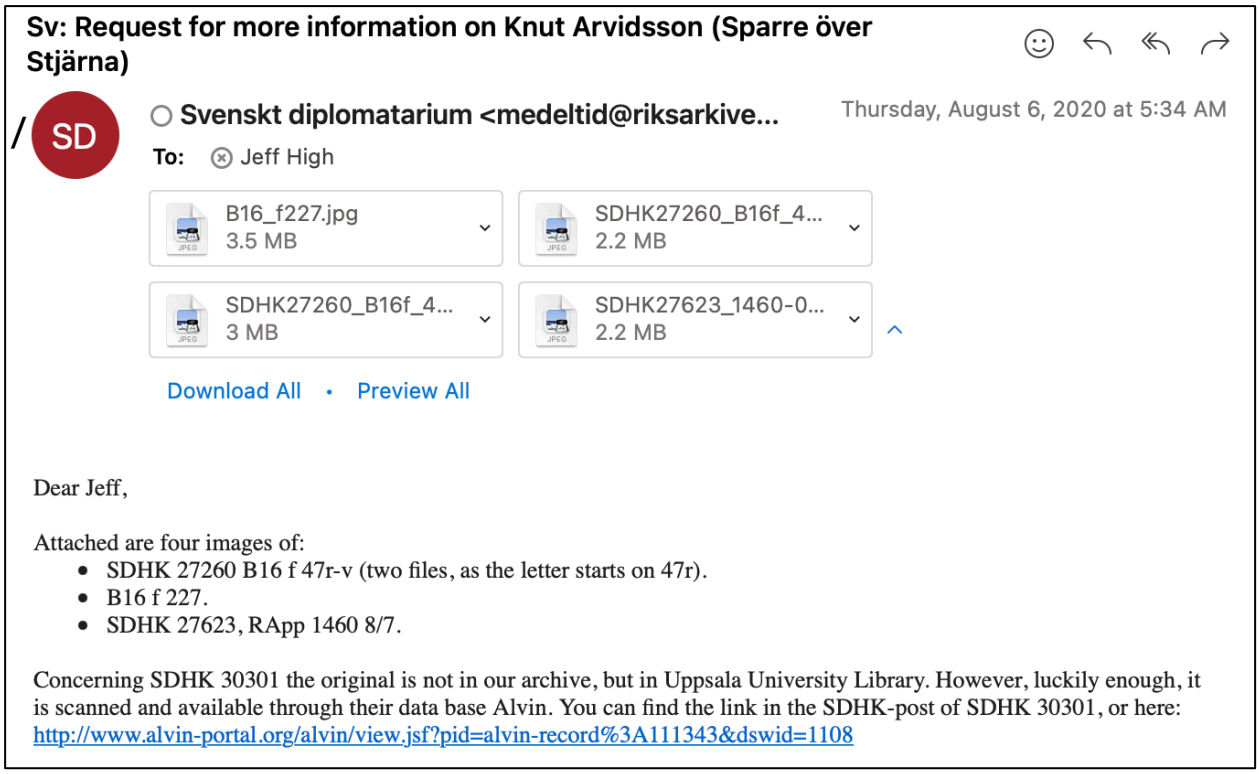
Timeline of Research on Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter ((Sparre över Stjärna).
December 22, 2016	I obtain a scholarly publication by Kaj Janzon called "Det Medeltida Sverige 2:5 Södermanland: Oppunda," which contains information on Nils Halvidsson, including the facts that his mother was Valborg Nilsdotter and that his first wife was Ingrid Magnusdotter.
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 indirectly states that Nils Halvidsson was Knut Nilsson's father.
January 9, 2017	I obtain images of three letters that mention Nils Halvidsson from Riksarkivet's SDHK collection; two from 1453 and one from 1466.
January 24, 2017	I obtain an image of a 16th century transcription of a letter from February 24, 1456 that mentions Nils Halvidsson.
February 28, 2017	I obtain an image of a letter from January 13, 1456 that mentions Nils Halvidsson.
December 1, 2019	I obtain an image of a letter from 1463 that mentions Nils Halvidsson.
January 27, 2021	I obtain an image of an excerpt from *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* that mentions Britta Knutsdotter.

Discovering the 9th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

I discovered the identities of four of Sven Hög's 9h great-grandparents in 2013 and 2016: Halvid Andersson (Svin) and Valborg Nilsdotter, and Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad). I learned of Halvid Andersson, Knut Arvidsson, and Kerstin Bengtsdotter from the same website that I learned of Nils Halvidsson and Britta Knutsdotter.[3] According to this website:

- Halvid Andersson lived at Grysta, Sköldinge Parish and later at Djulfors, Stora Malm Parish in Södermanland
- Halvid served as the Substitute District Chief of Oppunda District
- Halvid had at least two daughters, Elin and Katarina
- Halvid was first mentioned in 1424 and last mentioned in 1444
- Knut Arvidsson lived at Torpa in Länghem, Parish Västergötland
- Knut's father was Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and his mother was Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)
- Knut was first mentioned in 1438, last mentioned as living in 1458, and had died by 1459
- Kerstin Bengtsdotter's father was Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and her mother was Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)
- In addition to Britta, Knut and Kerstin had at least four other children: Arivd, Ingrid, Märta, and Karin



Sv: Request for more information on Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna)

SD

Svenskt diplomatarium <medeltid@riksarkive...

Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 5:34 AM

To: Jeff High

B16_f227.jpg 3.5 MB

SDHK27260_B16f_4... 2.2 MB

SDHK27260_B16f_4... 3 MB

SDHK27623_1460-0... 2.2 MB

Download All • Preview All

Dear Jeff,

Attached are four images of:

- SDHK 27260 B16 f 47r-v (two files, as the letter starts on 47r).
- B16 f 227.
- SDHK 27623, RApp 1460 8/7.

Concerning SDHK 30301 the original is not in our archive, but in Uppsala University Library. However, luckily enough, it is scanned and available through their data base Alvin. You can find the link in the SDHK-post of SDHK 30301, or here: http://www.alvin-portal.org/alvin/view.jsf?pid=alvin-record%3A111343&dswid=1108

An email in which Sweden's National Archives sent me images of transcriptions of several letters that mention Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter– August 6, 2020

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

In December of 2016, I found a PDF of a scholarly publication by Kaj Janzon called "Det Medeltida Sverige 2:5 Södermanland: Oppuda," which revealed that Halvid Andersson's wife was named Valborg Nilsdotter, whose father was Nils Fos. The following month, I obtained images of a few letters that mentioned Halvid Anderson and Valborg Nilsdotter:

- A letter from 1424 which is the first letter to mention Halvid Andersson
- A letter from 1433 which showed that Halvid's last name was "Andersson"
- A letter from 1440 which mentioned Valborg Nilsdotter

In May of 2020, I found an image of a letter from 1429 that mentioned Halvid Andersson and a couple months later, I found an image of the last letter he was mentioned in from 1444.

Timeline of Research on Halvid Andersson (Svin) and Valborg Nilsdotter

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Halvid Andersson (Svin).
December 22, 2016	I obtain a scholarly publication by Kaj Janzon called "Det Medeltida Sverige 2:5 Södermanland: Oppunda," which revealed the identity of Valborg Nilsdotter.
January 10, 2017	I obtain images of several letters that mention Halvid Andersson from 1424, 1433, and 1440, as well as an image of a letter from 1440 that mentions Valborg Nilsdotter.
May 27, 2020	I obtain an image of a letter that Halvid Andersson wrote in 1429.
July 2, 2020	I obtain an image of a letter from 1444 that mentions Halvid Andersson.

I started conducting research on Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter around the same time that I started researching Halvid Andersson and Valborg Nilsdotter. On December 22, 2016, I obtained the article "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönssons (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led" by Jan Eric Almquist, which mentioned a few notable letters:

- The first known letter to mention Knut Arvidsson from1438 which states that his parents were Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter
- The last letter to mention Knut Arvidsson alive from 1458
- The first letter that states that Knut had died from 1459

This article also listed their five children: Britta, Arvid, Ingrid, Märta, and Karin.

In early 2017, I started to obtain images of letters that mentioned Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter. I finished collecting images of letters related to them in January of 2021. The same month, I obtained images of several pages of the genealogical manuscript *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* which mentioned Knut and Kerstin's children.

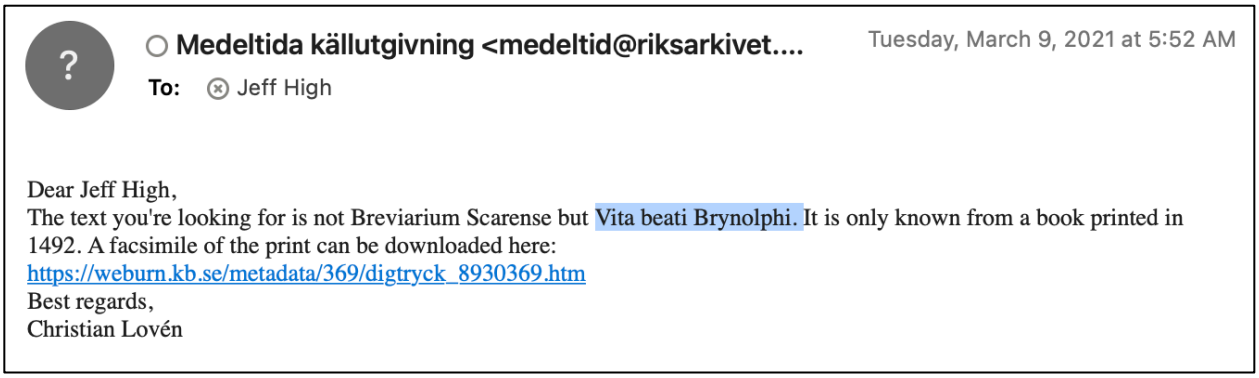
Timeline of Research on Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad).
July, 2015	I find a website that contains information on Knut Arvidsson and his family that was originally printed in Gustaf Elgenstierna's *The Introduced Swedish Nobility*.
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 Arvidsson.
January 11, 2017	I obtain images of several letters from 1438, 1439, 1446, 1454, and 1457 that mention Knut Arvidsson.
February 24, 2017	I obtain an image of a letter from 1459 that mentions Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter.
August 6, 2020	I obtain an image of a transcription of a letter from 1458 that mentions Knut Arvidsson and an image of a letter from 1460 that mentions Kerstin Bengtsdotter.
January 4, 2021	I obtain an image of a letter from 1453 that mentions Knut Arvidsson.
January 11, 2021	I obtain an image of an old transcription of a letter from January 2, 1454 that mention Knut Arvidsson.
January 27, 2021	I obtain an image of an excerpt from *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* that mentions the children of Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter.
February 12, 2021	I discover the scholarly publication "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" by Thomas Småberg, which contains information on Knut Arvidsson.

Discovering the 10th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

In 2013, I discovered the identities of four of Sven Hög's 10th great-grandparents: Knut Arvidsson's parents Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika), and Kerstin Bengtsdotter's parents Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta). I learned about them from the same website I learned of Sven's 9th great-grandparents.[4] I obtained the following information from this website:

- Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter lived at Intorp in Gällstad Parish, Västergötland
- Arvid Jönsson's father was Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
- Arvid served as the District Chief of Ås District from 1401 to1415 and the District Chief of Kind District from 1421 to 1434
- Ingerd Petersdotter's father was Peter Andersson (Prika)
- In addition to Knut, Arvid and Ingerd had another son named Arvid
- Bengt Turesson (the father of Kerstin Bengstdotter) was a squire who probably hailed from the province of Halland
- Bengt was first mentioned in 1395, was last mentioned as living in 1420, and had died by 1422
- Märta Gunnarsdotter's parents were Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
- In addition to Kerstin, Bengt and Märta had two other daughters named Arfrid and Gunhild



Medeltida källutgivning <medeltid@riksarkivet.... Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:52 AM

To: Jeff High

Dear Jeff High,
The text you're looking for is not Breviarium Scarense but Vita beati Brynolphi. It is only known from a book printed in 1492. A facsimile of the print can be downloaded here:
https://weburn.kb.se/metadata/369/digtryck_8930369.htm
Best regards,
Christian Lovén

An email in which Sweden's Nation Archives sends me information about *Vita beati Brynolphi*, a text that mentions Arvid Jönsson – March 9th, 2021

Some of the information from this website was disputable. For example, it stated that Peter Andersson (Prika)'s wife was Ingeborg Sigvisdotter Ribbing, who was really the wife of a Peter Prika from an earlier generation. However, I discovered that was a common misconception among genealogists.

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

9.0. Discovering the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

In December of 2016, I found a PDF of a scholarly publication "Det Medeltida Sverige 2:5 Södermanland" by Kaj Janzon which revealed the identity of Nils Fos, the father of Valborg Nilsdotter (and father-in-law of Halvid Andersson). The following month, I obtained an image of a letter from 1399 which mentioned Nils Fos. I learned that there were also a couple of letters from 1410 and 1429 that mentioned Nils Fos, but they there were no images of the original letters. Fortunately, there old transcriptions of these letters existed, and I was able to obtain them in November of 2020.

Timeline of Research on Nils Fos

December 22, 2016	I obtain a scholarly publication by Kaj Janzon called "Det Medeltida Sverige 2:5 Södermanland," which revealed the identity of Nils Fos.
January 11, 2017	I obtain an image of a letter from 1399 that mentions Nils Fos.
November 3, 2020	I obtain images of old transcriptions of letters from 1410 and 1429 that mention Nils Fos.

Several articles helped guide my research into the lives of Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter. In December of 2016, I found two articles, "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönssons (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led" by Jan Eric Almquist and "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk" by Jan Liedgren that mentioned Arvid and Ingerd. In January of 2017, I started searching for letters that mentioned them and found ten letters that mentioned Arvid from the years 1412, 1413, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1421, 1425, 1434, and 1438.

After a lengthy hiatus, I resumed research on Arvid and Ingerd in late 2020 and obtained an image of the first letter that mentioned Arvid from 1401. On February 1, 2021, I obtained a page from the genealogical book *Äldre Svenska Frälsesläkter* that mentioned Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter. I noticed that this page stated that Arvid was born around 1376 and listed *Scriptores rerum svecicarum medii aevi* as the source of this information. I subsequently obtained a copy of *Scriptores rerum svecicarum medii aevi* and found the section that mentioned Arvid Jönsson came from the text *Vita beati Brynolphi*, which lists the testimony Arvid Jönsson gave in 1417 for the canonization of Bishop Brynolf Algotsson of Skara. According to this text, Arvid was 41 years old in 1417, which means he must have been born around 1376. I completed my research into Arvid and Ingerd in May of 2021 after I obtained an image of a letter from 1477 that mentions Arvid and Ingerd's son Arvid Arvidsson.

Timeline of Research on Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika).
July, 2015	I find a website that contains information on Arvid Jönsson and his family that was originally printed in Gustaf Elgenstierna's *The Introduced Swedish Nobility*.
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 Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter, lists notable letters that mention Arvid Jönsson, and provides information on several of Arvid and Ingerd's descendants.
December 28, 2016	I obtain the article "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk" by Jan Liedgren which mentions Arvid Jönsson, his father Jöns Bengtsson, and son Knut Arvidsson.
January 13, 2017	I obtain images of ten letters that mention Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter.
September 26, 2018	I obtain a page from the book *Svenska medeltidsvapen* by Jan Raneke that discusses Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter.
December 12, 2020	I obtain an image of a letter from 1401 that mentions Arvid Jönsson.
February 1, 2021	I obtain a page from the genealogical book *Äldre Svenska Frälsesläkter* that mentions Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter.
February 12, 2021	I discover the scholarly publication "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" by Thomas Småberg, which contains information on Arvid Jönsson.
March 9, 2021	I obtain an image from *Vita beati Brynolphi* which lists the testimony Arvid Jönsson gave in 1417 for the canonization of Bishop Brynolf Algotsson of Skara.
May 31, 2021	I obtain an image of a letter from 1477 that mentions Arvid and Ingerd's son Arvid Arvidsson.

9.0. Discovering the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

I conducted most of my research for Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnarsdotter in 2021. Before this, I obtained the article "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta" which contained information on Märta Gunnarsdotter's parents Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter and showed evidence that Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnarsdotter were married. I also acquired an old transcription of a letter from 1425, which is the only official letter that mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter. I obtained most of the letters that mention Bengt Turesson during early 2021, which included letters from 1395, 1403, 1410, 1420, and 1422. On February 24, 2021, I obtained an image of a page from *Biskop Hans Brasks slätbok* which mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter and listed her cause of death as suffocation.

Timeline of Research on Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta).
May 6, 2017	I obtain the article "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta" by Jan Eric Almquist, which contains information on Märta Gunnarsdotter's parents Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter and shows evidence that Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnarsdotter were married.
August 6, 2020	I obtain an image of an old transcription of a letter from 1425, which mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter.
January 28, 2021	I obtain an image of a letter from 1430 that is a copy of a letter that Bengt Turesson wrote in 1395.
February 1, 2021	I obtain an image of a letter from 1458 that reveals that Bengt Turesson was the father of Arfrid Bengtsdotter. I also obtain images of two other letters from 1442 and 1459 that mention Arfrid Bengtsdotter. Finally, I obtain an image of a letter from June 18, 1403, a transcription of a letter from November 1, 1403, a transcription of a letter from 1410, an image of a letter from 1420, and a transcription of a letter from 1422 that mentions Bengt Turesson.
February 24, 2021	I obtain an image of a page from *Biskop Hans Brasks slätbok* which mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter.
August 9, 2021	I obtain an image of an old transcription of a letter from 1422, which was the last letter to mention Bengt Turesson alive.

Pedigree Collapse Within Sven Hög's 15th Century Ancestors

Pedigree collapse continued to accelerate within Sven Hög's 15th century ancestors, with the amount of duplicate ancestors significantly increasing. Here are some hypothetical numbers of the amount of 15th Century ancestors Sven Hög may have had, focusing on Sven's 8th-10th great-grandparents and considering mild, moderate, and severe degrees of pedigree collapse:

1. **8th Great-Grandparents (Typically 1024 unique without collapse):**
    - **Mild Collapse:** 500 unique ancestors, 524 duplicates
    - **Moderate Collapse:** 350 unique ancestors, 674 duplicates
    - **Severe Collapse:** 250 unique ancestors, 774 duplicates
2. **9th Great-Grandparents (Typically 2048 unique without collapse):**
    - **Mild Collapse:** 800 unique ancestors, 1,248 duplicates
    - **Moderate Collapse:** 450 unique ancestors, 1,598 duplicates
    - **Severe Collapse:** 300 unique ancestors, 1,748 duplicates
3. **10th Great-Grandparents (Typically 4096 unique without collapse):**
    - **Mild Collapse:** 1,000 unique ancestors, 3,096 duplicates
    - **Moderate Collapse:** 550 unique ancestors, 3,546 duplicates
    - **Severe Collapse:** 350 unique ancestors, 3,746 duplicates

Acknowledgements

I want to thank a number of people for assisting me in discovering information about the 15th century ancestors of Sven Hög:

- **Kaz Janson**, a Swedish historian and genealogist, for providing me with information on Nils Halvidsson (Svin), Halvid Andersson Svin and Valborg Nilsdotter, and Nils Fos.
- **Magnus Tonquist**, a Swedish genealogist and historian, for transcribing and translating several letters associated with the 15th century ancestors of Sven Hög and writing the short stories "Knut Arvidsson's Opinion of the Engelbrektsson Rebellion and "Bengt Turesson's Service Under Abraham Brodersson."
- **National Library of Sweden** for sending me images of the manuscript "Knut Håkansson Hands redogörelse för sin och sin hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt."
- **Riksarkivet** (The Swedish National Archives) for providing me with images of several letters related to the 15th century ancestors of Sven Hög.
- **Thomas Heed Miskar**, a Swedish genealogist and historian, for conducting extensive research on the 15th century ancestors of Sven Hög, transcribing and translating several letters associated with them, and writing the short story "Nils Halvidsson's Experiences with the Church."
- **University of Uppsala** for sending me images of several letters related to the 15th century ancestors of Sven Hög.

Adjusted Dates for Events Associated with the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Dates Associated with the 8th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Lives of Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)		
Event	**Date of Event (Swedish Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Nils Halvidsson and Giord Pedersson meet with Jöns Laurenti and Ulf Bengtsson to reach an agreement over the inheritance of Nils's paternal uncle, Lars Säck.	February 10, 1453	February 19, 1453
Nils Halvidsson and Giord Pedersson meet with Jöns Laurenti, Ulf Bengtsson, and Bishop Sigge to reach an agreement over the inheritance of Nils's paternal uncle, Lars Säck.	February 13, 1453	February 22, 1453
Nils Halvidsson meets on behalf of his wife Ingrid with Nils Magnusson, Ebbe Bengtsson, and Anders Ragvaldsson to declare that they had sold land at Björka in Husby Parish to Erik Niperz.	January 13, 1456	January 22, 1456
Nils Halvidsson, Ebbe Bengtsson, Anders Ragvaldsson, and Nils Magnusson meet about some land that Ingrid Magnusdotter, Cecilia Magnusdotter, Birgitta Magnusdotter, and Nils Magnusson had inherited.	February 24, 1456	March 4, 1456
Nils Halvidsson and his sisters Katarina and Elin meet to write a letter which declared that their nephew Peter Bengtsson had agreed to donate some land in Heby in Kjula Parish to Julita Monastery.	March 1, 1466	March 10, 1466

9.0.1. Adjusted Dates for Events Associated with the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Dates Associated with the 9th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Lives of Halvid Andersson (Svin) and Valborg Nilsdotter		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Halvid Anderson is first mentioned as a Substitute District Chief.	November 11, 1424	November 20, 1424
Halvid Andersson writes a letter which states that his surname was "Andersson."	June 13, 1433	June 22, 1433
Halvid Andersson and his brothers Folke and Lars Säck meet concerning a letter that Lars Säck wrote which declared his intentions for several of his estates to be bequeathed to Strängnäs Diocese.	March 8, 1440	March 17, 1440
Halvid and Valborg meet with an abbot named Rolf and land in Lundby, Ryttene Parish for 8 solidi and 17 mark in Swedish currency.	April 3, 1440	April 12, 1440
Halvid Andersson is mentioned for the last time in a letter.	March 2, 1444	March 11, 1444

Events in the Lives of Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Knut Nilsson meets with Bishop Sven of Skara Diocese, Dean Bengt Klasson, Peter Ribbing, and Peter Tomasson about bequeathing the farm Svenstorp in Gällstad Parish to Gällstad Church.	December 14, 1438	December 23, 1438
Knut meets with Bishop Sven and Olof Svensson where an agreement is made that Knut can own Svenstorp again under the conditions that he annually pay Skara Diocese and that Svenstorp return to the ownership of Gällstad Church after his death.	December 21, 1438	December 30, 1438

Events in the Lives of Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) - Continued		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Knut provides his seal to certify that Hallor Björnsson had sold his shares of the estate Molla to Bishop Sven in Skara.	January 18, 1439	January 27, 1439
Knut Arvidsson sells an estate he owned called Smedby to Nils Turesson.	June 7, 1453	June 16, 1453
Knut Arvidsson is mentioned in a letter as the District Chief of Kind District for the first time.	January 2, 1454	January 11, 1454
Knut Arvidsson represents his sister-in-law Arfrid Bengtsdotter in a land dispute between her and Karl Jönsson.	January 4, 1454	January 13, 1454
Knut Arvidsson receives several farms from his brother Arvid Arvidsson.	September 25, 1457	October 4, 1457
Knut Arvidsson is mentioned as alive for the last time in a letter.	June 26, 1458	July 5, 1458
Kerstin Bengtsdotter, Gunne Prika, and Gunne's brother meet at a court hearing in Skara.	July 6, 1459	July 15, 1459
Kerstin Bengtsdotter appears at Skara and requests that her children receive the rights to the estate Hiå.	July 8, 1460	July 17, 1460
Knut and Kerstin's son Arvid Knutsson is married to Anna Gustafsdotter (Stenbock).	August 25, 1477	September 3, 1477
Knut and Kerstin's daughter Karin is mentioned in a letter.	June 5, 1515	June 15, 1515

9.0.1. Adjusted Dates for Events Associated with the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Dates Associated with the 10th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Live of Nils Fos		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Nils Fos exchanges five örtugland in Ättersta in Österåker Parish, three penningland in Listorp in Björkvik Parish, and seven penningland in Väla in Sköldinge Parish with a man named Peter for three örtugland in Djulfors, Stora Malm Parish.	June 21, 1410	June 30, 1410
A letter is written which states that Nils Fos was deceased in 1429.	October 1, 1429	October 10, 1429

Events in the Lives of Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Arvid Jönsson is first mentioned as the District Chief of Ås District.	January 14, 1401	January 23, 1401
Arvid Jönsson is listed as living at the farm Möne in Möne Parish.	May 26, 1412	June 4, 1412
Arvid Jönsson purchases the farm Staby in Rystad Parish from Karl in Gällstad for 16 Swedish mark.	November 13, 1413	November 22, 1413
Gertrude Bondedotter declares that she had received two farms in Götåkra in Gällstad Parish from Arvid Jönsson.	March 11, 1415	March 20, 1415
Arvid Jönsson is last mentioned as the District Chief for Ås District.	July 20, 1415	July 29, 1415
Arvid Jönsson provides his seal on a letter that Peter Andersson (Prika) wrote which confirmed that Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter donated a farm called Sundtak to Vadstena Monastery.	August 1, 1416	August 10, 1416
Arvid provides his account on what he knew about the life of Brynolf Algotsson, who was the Bishop of Skara Diocese in the late 13th century and early 14th century.	April 12, 1417	April 21, 1417

Events in the Lives of Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) - Continued		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Mychel Bakeeld, a deacon named Lawrins, and a monk named Herman verify that Gertrud Bondesdotter bequeathed 5 mark to Skara Monastery which Arvid Jönsson paid out.	April 14, 1417	April 23, 1417
Arvid Jönsson donates two farms in Herrestad in Kärda Parish to Nydala Monastery.	May 1, 1418	May 10, 1418
Arvid Jönsson is first mentioned as the District Chief of Kind District.	May 3, 1421	May 12, 1421
Bishop Brynolf Karlsson of Skara Diocese writes a letter forbidding Arvid Jönsson and Arvid Djäkne from concerning themselves with the estate Österbo in Södra Kedum Parish.	July 8, 1423	July 17, 1423
Arvid Jönsson and a twelve-men jury meet at Ängatorp to verify a land exchange between Åke Torbjörnsson and a man named Vesta.	October 1, 1425	October 10, 1425
Arvid Jönsson is mentioned as being alive in a letter for the last time.	February 10, 1434	February 19, 1434
Arvid Jönsson is mentioned in a letter as being deceased.	December 14, 1438	December 23, 1438
Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter's son Arvid Arvidsson agrees to give several of the farms he owned to his brother Knut.	September 25, 1457	October 4, 1457
Arvid Arvidsson is married to Ingegärd Gregersdotter.	July 14, 1477	July 23, 1477

Events in the Lives of Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter Gylta		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Bengt Turesson's sister Margareta and brother-in-law Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning) are mentioned in a letter.	July 10, 1394	July 18, 1394

9.0.1. Adjusted Dates for Events Associated with the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Events in the Lives of Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter Gylta - Continued		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Bengt Turesson writes a letter stating that Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning) lent him three Swedish mark, a gray stallion, a cow, a piece of fine cloth, 400 squirrel furs, and 200 marten's skins.	August 14, 1395	August 22, 1395
Peter Djäken writes a letter stating that Bengt Turesson had purchased the farm Arvidstorp in Fagered Parish from a man named Jösse.	June 18, 1403	June 27, 1403
Bengt Turesson places his seal on a letter verifying that Jösse Påvelsson and Ingegärd Arvidsdotter sold several farms to Svarte Jöns Nilsson.	November 1, 1403	November 10, 1403
Påvel Jensson writes a letter which acknowledged he had acquired the farms Edenberga in Ränneslöv Parish and Trälshult in Knäred Parish from Bengt Turesson.	May 21, 1410	May 30, 1410
Bengt Turesson places his seal on a letter that Lars Pik wrote discussing the division of estates of land that Märta Gunnarsdotter Gylta's grandparents Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter owned.	September 29, 1420	October 8, 1420
Bengt Turesson is mentioned as being alive in a letter for the last time.	February 6, 1422	February 15, 1422
Bishop Nils of Linköping Diocese acquits Bengt and Märta's daughter Arfrid Bengtsdotter of murdering her husband Torsten Jonsson.	June 11, 1442	June 20, 1442
Bishop Bengt Gustafsson, Erik Niperz, and Magnus Bengtsson write a letter stating that they had received a letter from King Kristan, authorizing them to settle a dispute between Arfrid Bengtsdotter and Åke Jönsson (Svarte Skåning).	August 16, 1458	August 25, 1458

Events in the Lives of Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter Gylta - Continued		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
King Kristian I authorizes Erik Nipertz and Magnus Bengtsson to settle a conflict between Arfrid Bengtsdotter and Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning).	November 14, 1459	November 23, 1459

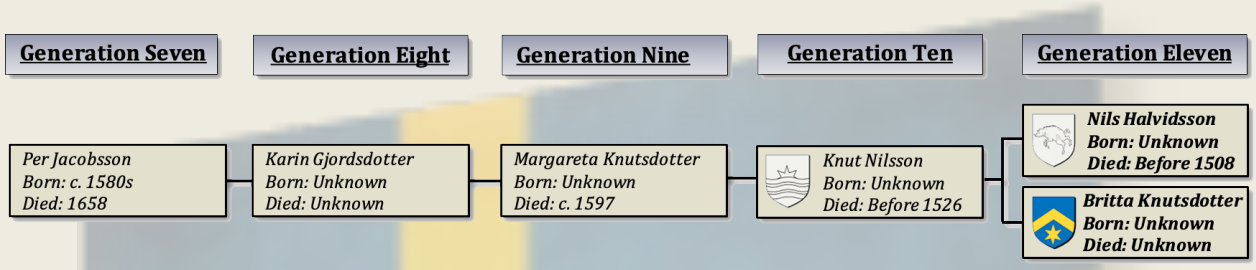
Catholic Dates in Which the 15th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög are Mentioned

Date	Day	Description
January 1	Day of Christ's Circumcision	The day a week after Christ's birth which celebrates his circumcision
January 6	Epiphany	The twelfth day after Christmas which commemorates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus
January 13	Saint Hillary Day	Feast Day of Saint Hillary of Pottiers (315–367), a French Saint who was a bishop
February 10	St. Scholastica Day	Feast Day of an Saint Scholastica (480 –543), an Italian saint regarded as the founder of Benedictine nuns
February 6	Saint Dorothy Day	Feast Day of Saint Dorothy, a 4th century virgin martyr who was executed for her Christian faith at Caesarea Mazaca
February 15	Feast of Sigfrid the Confessor	Feast Day of a Sigrid, a Swedish missionary and bishop who lived in the early 11th century
March 12	Saint Gregory Day	Feast Day of Pope Gregory I (540–604) known for instituting the mission to convert Anglo-Saxons to Christianity
March 25	Feast of the Annunciation	Feast Day which commemorates the angel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus
April 30	Walpurgis Eve	Eve of the Feast Day of Saint Walpurga, an 8th century abbess in Francia
May 3	Feast Day of Saints James and Philip	Feast Day for Saints James and Philip, disciples of Christ whose relics were brought to Rome in 360 A.D.
Late May to early June	Whitsunday	Another name for Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit descended among the disciples
Late May to early June	Trinity Sunday	First Sunday after Pentecost
Late May to early June	Feast of Corpus Christi	A Christian liturgical feast that celebrates the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist
June 11	Saint Barnabas Day	Feast Day of Saint Barnabas, one of the prominent Christian disciples in the 1st century
June 17	Saint Botulf's Day	Feast Day of Saint Botulf, an English abbot and saint who died around 680
June 24	Saint John the Baptist Day	Feast Day of John the Baptist

June 29	Saints Peter and Paul Day	Feast Day which commemorates the martyrdom of the apostles Peter and Paul
July 10	Saint Canute IV Day	Feast Day of King Canute IV (1042 –1086), the first Danish king to be canonized
July 20	Saint Margaret Day	Feast Day of Saint Margaret, a 3rd century saint from Antioch who was tortured to death for her faith
July 25	Saint James Day	Feast Day for Saint James, one of Christ's twelve disciples
August 1	Feast Day of Saint Peter in Chains	Feast Day which celebrates Saint Peter being released from prison by an angel
August 15	Assumption of Mary	Day which commemorates the Virgin Mary ascending to Heaven
August 24	Saint Bartholomew's Day	Feast Day of Saint Bartholomew, one of Christ's twelve disciples
September 14*	Day of Retrieval of the Holy Cross	Feast day which commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, in the 4th century
September 29	Michaelmass	Feast Day of Michael, the Archangel
October 9	Saint Denis (Dionysius Day)	Feast Day of Saint Denis, a 3rd century French matyr, who was the Bishop of Paris
November 11	Saint Martin's Day	Feast Day of Martin of Tours (died 397), a Roman soldier who was baptized as an adult and became a bishop in Gaul
December 7	Saint Ambrose Day	Feast Day of Ambrose of Milan (339–397), a statesman and theologian who served as the Bishop of Milan
December 13	Saint Lucia's Day	Feast Day of Lucia (283–304), a Roman Christian martyr who died during the Diocletianic Persecution
December 21	Saint Thomas Day	Feast Day of Thomas the Apostle, one of Christ's twelve disciples

Generation Eleven

The 8th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1430-1508

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 8th Great-Grandparents Lived In

Most of the 8th great-grandparents of Sven Hög lived during the early to mid-15th century until the late 15th century or early 16th century. All of Sven's known 15th century ancestors were nobility. In 15th century Sweden, life for the nobility was characterized by a complex interplay of power struggles, political instability, and social hierarchies. During this time, Sweden was part of the Kalmar Union, which was a union of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (which included Finland), that was controlled by Denmark. At this point in time, the political landscape of Sweden was very unstable, with the leadership of Sweden changing ten times from 1430 to 1470. The kings during this time, Erik XIII, Kristof, Karl VIII, and Kristian I, were generally received with varying degrees of acceptance and resistance by the Swedish nobility.



Kings who ruled over Sweden during the time of Sven Hög's 8th great-grandparents: Erik XIII, Kristof, Karl VIII, and Kristian I

During this time, Sweden faced invasions and conflicts with various neighboring powers, including the Kingdom of Denmark. The ongoing struggles against the Danish crown, particularly as part of the Kalmar Union conflicts, posed significant challenges to Swedish sovereignty and territorial integrity. These conflicts often resulted in military campaigns and border skirmishes, further destabilizing the region and affecting the Swedish nobility's interests and influence. The tensions between Sweden and Denmark during this period contributed to the broader geopolitical dynamics and power struggles within the Scandinavian region.

The Catholic Church played an integral role in the lives of Sven Hög's 8th great-grandparents (as it did for all his medieval ancestors) and wielded a significant influence over Sweden and its nobility. The Church played a central role in shaping religious, social, and political landscapes, with its authority extending into matters of governance and morality. The Swedish nobility often aligned themselves with the Church, supporting its interests and upholding its teachings as a means of reinforcing their own status and legitimacy. The Church's influence permeated all aspects of society, dictating cultural norms, legal frameworks, and interpersonal relationships, thus exerting a profound impact on the lives and behaviors of both the nobility and the general populace.

Timeline of Swedish History: 1420-1480

1426	The League of Haseantic merchants impose an economic blockade on Sweden.
1430	The Church of Saint Bridget is founded in Vadstena.
1434	The Swedish peasants rebel against King Erik VIII.
1437	Sweden suffers from a winter of famine.
1440	Kristofer of Bavaria becomes King of Sweden.
1448	Karl VIII becomes King of Sweden.
1451	Denmark attacks Sweden.
March, 1457	Bengt Jönsson (Oxenstierna) and Erik Axelsson (Tott) become regents of Sweden.
June, 1457	King Kristian I becomes King of Sweden.
August, 1464	King Karl VIII resumes the Swedish throne.
December, 1464	Kettil Karlsson (Vasa) becomes regent of Sweden.
August, 1465	Jöns Bengtsson (Oxenstierna) becomes regent of Sweden.
October, 1466	Erik Axelsson (Tott) becomes regent of Sweden.
November, 1467	King Karl VIII resumes the Swedish throne.
1470	Start of Dano-Swedish War (1470-1471).
1471	End of Dano-Swedish War (1470-1471).
1477	Founding of Uppsala University.

.













Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

Name	Nils Halvidsson	Name	Britta Knutsdotter
Born	1420s-1430s	Born	1430s-1450s
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Died	Before 1508	Died	Unknown
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Occupation	Squire	Occupation	Noblewoman

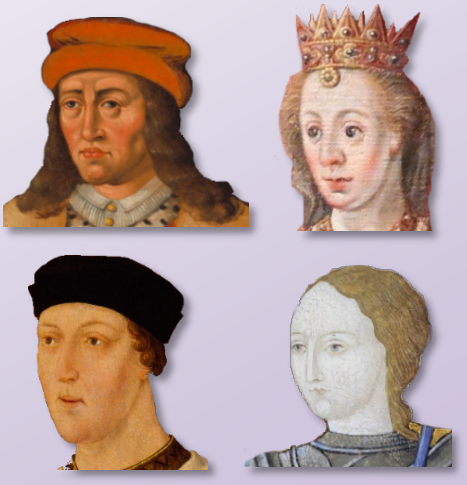
Children of Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Knut	1460s-1470s	Unknown	Before 1526	Unknown
Halvid	1450s-1460s	Unknown	Before 1498	Unknown

Nils Halvidsson (Svin), the father of Knut Nilsson (Forsaätten) was probably born sometime in the 1420s or 1430s.[5] His father was Halvid Andersson (Svin)[6] and his mother was probably Valborg Nilsdotter[7].

In 1430…

- Erik XIII was the King of Sweden and Henry VI was the King of England and France.
- Queen Philippa (the wife of King Erik XIII) died.
- The Church of Saint Bridget was founded in Vadstena, Sweden.
- Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, while leading an army to relieve Compiègne.
- Philip the Good founded the Order of the Golden Fleece.
- Optical methods were first used in the creation of art.
- The Ottoman empire captured Thessalonica after an eight-year siege.



[5] Since Nils Halvidsson was mentioned in a letter in 1453 (SDHK No. 26211- February 13, 1453), he was probably at least in his twenties at the time.
[6] Patronymic tradition tells us that Nils's father was named Halvid. Since a Halvid was listed at Djulfors (the place that Nils lived) in (SDHK 21798 - June 21, 1432), he must have been Nils's father.
[7] Since Valborg Nilsdotter was listed as Halvid Andersson's wife in (SDHK No. 23494 – April 3, 1440), she was probably Nils's mother.

It's likely that Nils was born at the farm Djulfors in Stora Malm Parish, Södermanland Province. Nils came from a family of nobility whom genealogists identify as "Svin" ("Swine" in English), since their coat of arms is a boar. Nils's father Halvid Andersson was the Substitute District Chief for Oppunda District. Halvid had lived at Djulfors since at least 1429[8] and obtained it from his father-in-law Nils Fos, the previous owner of the farm.[9] Nils's family was probably the wealthiest family in Stora Malm. Since Nils was of nobility, he was literate.



Djulfors, Stora Malm Parish, Södermanland County
Where Nils Halvidsson lived in the 15th century

Nils Halvidsson's Name

Nils Halvidsson was probably named after his maternal grandfather Nils Fos.

Nils had at least two sisters named Elin and Katarina, and at least one more sibling. In addition to owning Djulfors, Nils's father Halvid owned several other farms throughout Stora Malm and other parishes in Södermanland Province. Nils would later inherit several of these farms.[10]

Södermanland Province

Södermanland (Súh-der-mahn-lanhd) is a historical province that is located in southeastern Sweden. It contains parts of the counties of Södermanland, Stockholm, Västmanland, and Östergötland and borders the provinces of Östergötland, Närke, Västmanland, and Uppland. To the north of Södermanland is Lake Mälaren and to the east is the Baltic Sea. The name Södermanland means "the land of the Southern men." Most of the terrain in Södermanland is flat and the highest elevation there is 124 meters. The terrain consists of water-filled hollows and forests. The southern half of both the city and county of Stockholm are in Södermanland.



[8] Halvid Andersson is first listed at Djulfors in May of this year (SDHK 21155 – May, 1429).
[9] Nils Fos is listed at Djulfors in 1410 (SDHK No. 17509 – June 21, 1410).
[10] A letter that Nils Halvidsson's son Knut Nilsson wrote in 1508 (SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508) states that Knut had inherited numerous farms from his father throughout Södermanland Province.

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Several different rulers ruled over Sweden throughout Nils's lifetime. During this period, Sweden was part of the Kalmar Union, a union between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. When Nils was born in the 1420s or early 1430s, the King of Sweden was Erik XIII, who also ruled over Denmark and Norway. Erik XIII wasn't a very popular king, and he was deposed three times. After Erik's third and final deposition, Karl Knutsson (Bonde), the Deputy Governor of Sweden (and later King Karl VIII) took over the regency of Sweden. On September 13, 1441, Kristofer of Bavaria, the King of Denmark and nephew of Erik XIII, was elected King of Sweden.



Stora Malm Church – Where Nils Halvidsson attended church

Every Sunday, Nils's family attended Mass at Stora Malm Church. During this time, all the churches in Sweden were Catholic and were under the direction of the Pope in Rome. The Catholic masses that Nils's attended were much different than the Protestant services that his descendants attended. The services were led by a Catholic priest instead of a Lutheran vicar, Latin was spoken in the liturgy, and various elements of Catholic liturgy were incorporated throughout the mass.

Catholicism in Medieval Sweden

From the 12th to the 16th centuries, Catholicism was the official religion of Sweden. In 1164, the Church of Sweden was founded and subsequently several monasteries and convents were founded throughout Sweden. The Pope was the supreme authority figure of the Catholic Church. Second to his authority were cardinals, who were the Pope's advisors. Next in the Catholic hierarchy were bishops and archbishops, who were the ecclesiastical superiors over a cathedral or region. Sweden was split into several different regions (called dioceses) that had a bishop assigned to them. Priests were the authorities of a parish or town. A tenth of peasants' income went to the Church, which was divided so a third of the money went to the priest, a third went to the bishop and the poor, and a third went to church maintenance. During the early 16th century, Sweden broke from Catholic Church and became Lutheran.



Altar painting of St. Birgitta - 1480

Nils Halvidsson's Experiences with the Church*

During Nils Halvidsson's lifetime, the Church had great influence on people's lives. Nils regularly attended Stora Malm Church. The medieval Catholic Mass was held every morning, but the parishioners usually only showed up during weekends. Mass started with the ringing of the bells by the sacristan. The Mass was short and standardized, wasn't more than an hour, and was held in Latin. The sermon (which was in Swedish) was a small part of the ceremony, compared to the Protestant service later on. As in today's Catholic Mass, it was a mix of hymns and prayers, including Kyrie and Gloria, collected and epistle-text. Communion occurred near the end of the service, which ended with the priest blessing the assembly. Confession had to be attained once a year, but it disappeared from the later Protestant Church. People could also pay Indulgences to help save their souls from Hell.

Since Nils had an elevated position in society, he took up taxes and tithes from the peasants. These tithes were brought to the bishop's storerooms in Strängnäs. Nils's uncle Lars Säck was a canon in Strängnäs, so Nils most likely knew the bishops Sigge Ulfsson and Johannes Magni. In a letter to knight Svarte Åke Jönsson, Bishop Johannes wrote that Nils tried to sell some millstones to the bishop when he visited Lerbo Parish, but Nils was obvious too 'pushy' and Johannes didn't want them. Johannes wrote that Nils should sell them elsewhere instead of 'urge' them on to the bishopric!

*A work of creative fiction by Thomas Heed Miskar

By 1450, Nils had reached adulthood. Sometime in the late 1440s or early 1450s, Nils was married to a woman named Ingrid Magnusdotter, who hailed from the Yxtaätten Dynasty.[11] It's unknown if Nils and Ingrid had any children.

The Yxtaätten Dynasty



The Yxtaätten Dynasty coat of arms

The Yxtaätten Dynasty was a family that hailed from the village Yxtaholm in Lilla Mellösa Parish, Södermanland. The first known member of the Yxtaätten Dynasty was a squire named Magnus Nilsson (recorded in letters from 1430-1446), who was the father of Ingrid Magnusdotter. Magnus was married to a daughter of Olof Håkansson in Yxta. He had two other daughters named Birgitta and Cecilia and a son named Nils. Although several sources state that the Yxtaätten Dynasty's coat of arms depicted a chevron, scholar Kaj Janzon has noted* that this is wrong, and that their coat of arms actually depicts an isosceles triangle.

* Janson, Kaj. "Vapenlikhetsfallan, Vapen, och sigillbruk," page 78

[11] Ingrid is listed as Nils Halvidsson's wife in SDHK No. 2679 - January 13, 1456.

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Sweden's rulership continued to change frequently throughout Nils Halvidsson's adulthood. On January 8, 1448, King Kristofer died and Bengt Jönsson (Oxenstierna) and Nils Jönsson (Oxenstierna) became the co-regents of Sweden. On June 29, 1448, Karl Knutsson (Bonde) was coronated as King Karl VIII of Sweden. King Karl VIII was a very unpopular king, and he was deposed three times. His first reign lasted for nine years.

The Rule of Sweden's Regents (1448, 1457, and 1464-1467)



Bengt Jönsson (Oxenstierna)

Bengt Jönsson (Oxenstierna) and Nils Jönsson (Oxenstierna), who served as Sweden's regents in early 1448, were the sons of Jöns Bengtsson (Oxenstierna) and Märta Finvidsdotter (Frössviksätten) and were both born in the 1390s. Nils had been member of the Privy Council of Sweden since at least 1432, and Bengt became a member in 1435. The two brothers were knighted by King Kristofer in 1441, shortly after he was coronated. Following the death of King Kristofer in January of 1448, Bengt and Nils became co-regents of Sweden. Their regency was brief and ended in June of the same year, once Karl VIII became King of Sweden. Both Bengt and Nils died sometime in the 1450s.

Kettil Karlsson (Vasa), who served as regent from December of 1464 to August of 1465, was born around 1433. He was the son of Karl Kristiernsson (Vasa) and Ebba Eriksdotter. In 1458, Kettil Karlsson was appointed as Bishop of Linköping. In January of 1464, Kettil Karlsson and Jöns Bengtsson led an insurgency against King Kristian I. On December 26th of that year, Kettil Karlsson became regent of Sweden. Kettil Karlsson's regency lasted until his death on August 11, 1465.

After Kettil Karlsson's death, Jöns Bengtsson (Oxenstierna) became regent of Sweden. He was born in 1417 and was the son of Bengt Jönsson (Oxenstierna) and Kristina Kristiernsdotter (Vasa). In February of 1448, Jöns Bengtsson was elected as Archbishop of Uppsala and he served this role until 1467. In March of 1457, Jöns Bengtsson and Erik Axelsson (Tott) were appointed as co-regents of Sweden. Their regency was brief and only lasted three months. On August 11, 1465, Jöns Bengtsson once again became regent of Sweden. His regency lasted until October 18, 1466, once Erik Axelsson (Tott) took over the regency. Jöns Bengtsson died on December 15, 1467.

Erik Axelsson (Tott) was born around 1415 in Denmark. He was the son of Axel Pedersson (Tott) and Ingeborg Ivarsdotter. As a young man, Erik Axelsson served under King Karl VIII. In March of 1457, Erik Axelsson and Jöns Bengtsson were appointed as co-regents of Sweden. The two served as co-regents until June of that year, once King Kristian I was coronated. In October of 1466, Erik Axelsson once again became regent of Sweden. His regency lasted until November of 1467 when King Karl VIII resumed the throne. Erik Axelsson died in 1481.

Swedish Diplomatarium's Main Library (SDHK)

The Swedish Diplomatarium's main library (SDHK) contains over 44,000 letters dating from the mid 11th century to the mid 16th century. Several of these letters were printed in the book series *Swedish Diplomatarium*. In 2012, the Swedish National Archives obtained the rights to post these letters on their website. Many of these letters have digital transcriptions attached to them. The Swedish National Archives' SDHK collection is available at https://sok.riksarkivet.se/SDHK.

On February 10, 1453, Nils Halvidsson and Giord Pedersson (who represented Nils's paternal aunts Katarina and Margareta) met with Jöns Laurenti (a canon in Strängnäs) and Ulf Bengtsson (a squire and priest) at Strängnäs Cathedral to reach an agreement over the inheritance of Nils's paternal uncle, Lars Säck. The letter which documented this agreement was certified by the seal of Bishop Sigge, who was present at the meeting.[12]



Letter that mentions Nils Halvidsson - February 10th, 1453
Seal: Bishop Sigge of Strängnäs Diocese

[12] SDHK No. 26207 - February 10, 1453

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Transcription:

*Wy jenis laurentiss Caneker j Strengnes jhordher j Öghiom kirkiiprester oc Wlff benktss a wapp göre with~~h~~erlighet oc bekennomps med thesso waaro breffne at wy aromendrechteligha over eens wordhne med nsamthykkio oc naerwaru werdugs fadher med gudh herra biscops Sigga j Strengnes med fribornom mannum Niclis Haldwitzss uppa hans*eghna, oc Giordh Pedherss uppa hustru Margit *ta oc hustru Katerina herra laur* saks söstra wegna, om testament geld oc gafvor oc alt annat *som oss j mellan far epter herra laur. Sak j hwa *matto at the skulu beholda sik oc hinom arfvum *alt thet gotz som herre laur* köpte aff Magnus Laurenss och hustru Johanna j Ternum for half tridha? Hundradha mark til it aterkööp oc paningana med som gotzet lösas fore, oc ther med gotzet westra gryta, ther til antwardhum wy them atta hölfskala oc faem hölffknöpa som höra til herra Aka zoniss riddara oc standa for niotighio mark swenska paeninga, thet * the hafva ohindrade ock ther med wara giodhuge oc söse for ytermere maning oc titta? Aff oss oc Anders Lauretss.*
*Til meere wy *forwaring bidhiom wy werdughan fadher *gudh herra biscop Sigga for da om sit Sekre* incigle for thetta breff uppa alles waara * weghna*
Datum Strengnes Anno Dni MCDLterlio in die bte. Scolastice virginis

Translation:

We, Jöns Laurentiis, canon in Strängnäs Parish in Öghiom (Öja), and church priest and squire Ulf Benktsson, make known and confirm with this, our letter, that we in harmony agreed and with consent in the presence of worthy father, by the Lord, Bishop Sigge in Strängnäs, with the free-born man Nils Halvidsson on behalf of himself, and Giord Pedersson on behalf of wife Margareta and wife Katarina, Herr Lars Säck's sisters, about the testaments, money, gifts, and everything else that matters between us, that Herr Lars owned and that they (Nils Halvidsson, Margareta Andersdotter, and Katarina Andersdotter) must retain all the inheritances that were received by Sir Lars and purchased from Magnus Larsson and his wife Johanna in Ternum for 350 mark, for a repurchase, and for the money that the resolved estate, Västra Grysta, we give to them eight silver bowls and five silver buttons which belongs to Sir Åke Jönsson, knight, and is worth ninety Swedish mark cash which they shall have unobstructed and after that will be even and free from any more demands and claims from us and Anders Larsson. To confirm and establish (this agreement), we ask our worthy Father, by the Lord, Bishop Sigge, before mentioned, to put his seal on this letter, on behalf of all of us.
Written at Strängnäs in the Year of Our Lord MCDL and three (1453) on the Feast of St. Scholastica. (February 10th)

Hildebrand's Collection

The transcripts of two of the letters that mention Nils Halvidsson can be found in the collections of Bror Emil Hildebrand (1806-1884), a Swedish archeologist and historian. Hildebrand served as the Chancellor of the Swedish National Archives. Over the course of his career, Hildebrand transcribed several old medieval letters. From 1842 to 1863, he published a vast series of transcriptions of medieval letters in the *Swedish Diplomatarium*.

Nils Halvidsson's Coat of Arms

Nils's coat of arms is called "Svin," which translates to "swine," in English. His seal depicts a swine and was also used by his father Halvid Andersson (Svin).





Nils Halvidsson's seal

Three days later, on February 13, 1453, Nils Halvidsson and Gjord Petersson (who represented Nils's aunts Margareta Andersdotter and Katrina Andersdotter) again met with Jöns Laurenti, Ulf Bengtsson, and Bishop Sigge at Strängnäs regarding the estate of Lars Säck. The letter which certified this meeting contained the seals of Jöns Laurenti, Ulf Bengtsson, and Bishop Sigge.[13]



Letter that Nils Halvidsson wrote on February 13th, 1453
Seals: 1. Jöns Laurentiis 2. Bishop Sigge of Strängnäs Diocese 3. Ulf Bengtsson

[13] SDHK No. 26211 - February 13, 1453

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Transcription:

Jak Niclis Halwidss j jwrfors uppa mina eghna weghna, oc Giordh Pedhersss I Helzta uppa hustru Margitta Andressa dotter oc hustru Katerina henna söster, minna hustru modher weghna fulmechtugher procurator, görom?witherligit oc bekennomps med thesso waara breffne, atwy arom swa endrachteligha medh enne winlighe semio ouer ens wordhne medh hederlighom mannum herra jenise Laurjs Canek i Strengnäs herra Tordhe kirkioherrai Öghiom, oc Wlff Benktss a wapn, waars kära brodhers herra Laur Saeks fordom Canekx j Strengnes gudh hans siel nadhe executoritus, om testament oc gafuor, oc alt thet oss j mellan far hwat thet helzt kan wara efter for[da] Herra Laur Saek, at wy latom oss fulkomligha nöghia med them gotzom som herre Laurss hafde köptaff Magnus Laurss oc hustro Johanna j Ternom, oc gotzena westra grysta oc them sølffpant, som ära viij sølffskala oc fäm sølffknöpa herra Aka Jeniss riddara tilhörer oc standa executoribus for niotighi mark swenska paeninga, hwilka sølffskala oc knöpa wy kaennomps hafva anamadh aff for da herra Jenis Laur. Oc ytermera skulum wy enkte bewara oss med herra Laur geldom, som utesta j Swerighe, eller them threem torpomen, som herr Laur. köpte af Niclis Ffinkenow eller med androm patu som Herre jenis hauer efter herra Laur. säk Oc ey heller mz them paeningomen som wtby löses fore, Oc ey heller medh noghro andro som herra Laur. Säk hauer gifvet oc wnt AndersLaur.ss eller andre hweem them heltzt är, Thet alt saman skulu executoress for[de] skicka som the wita at herra Laur. wili war, frij for oss oc waarom erfingiom vtan ytermera atalan oc hinder widh waara sannid oc godha tro , Oc plichtum wy oss til, at strax wy heem komom tha skulum wy senda for[de] herra jenise, herra Laur.Säks raekinskaps böker, oc all the breff j waaren werio ära, som uppa herra Lauresta geld ludha, Til mer wisso oc forwaring tha bedhoms wy werdugx fadher med gud herra biscop Sigga i Strengnes, oc welborne manna herra fadher Wlffs riddara oc Niclis Wlffsson a wapn som när oc overwaro tha thenna sämia giordes, maedhan jak Niclis Halwitzss ey sielver incigle ägher och jak Giordher mit incigle ey när mik haver Sekreet oc incigle for thetta breff Datum Streng. Anno Dnj. MCDL tercio feria [tlia pxia] an[te] festum bti. Sighfridi Confessoris

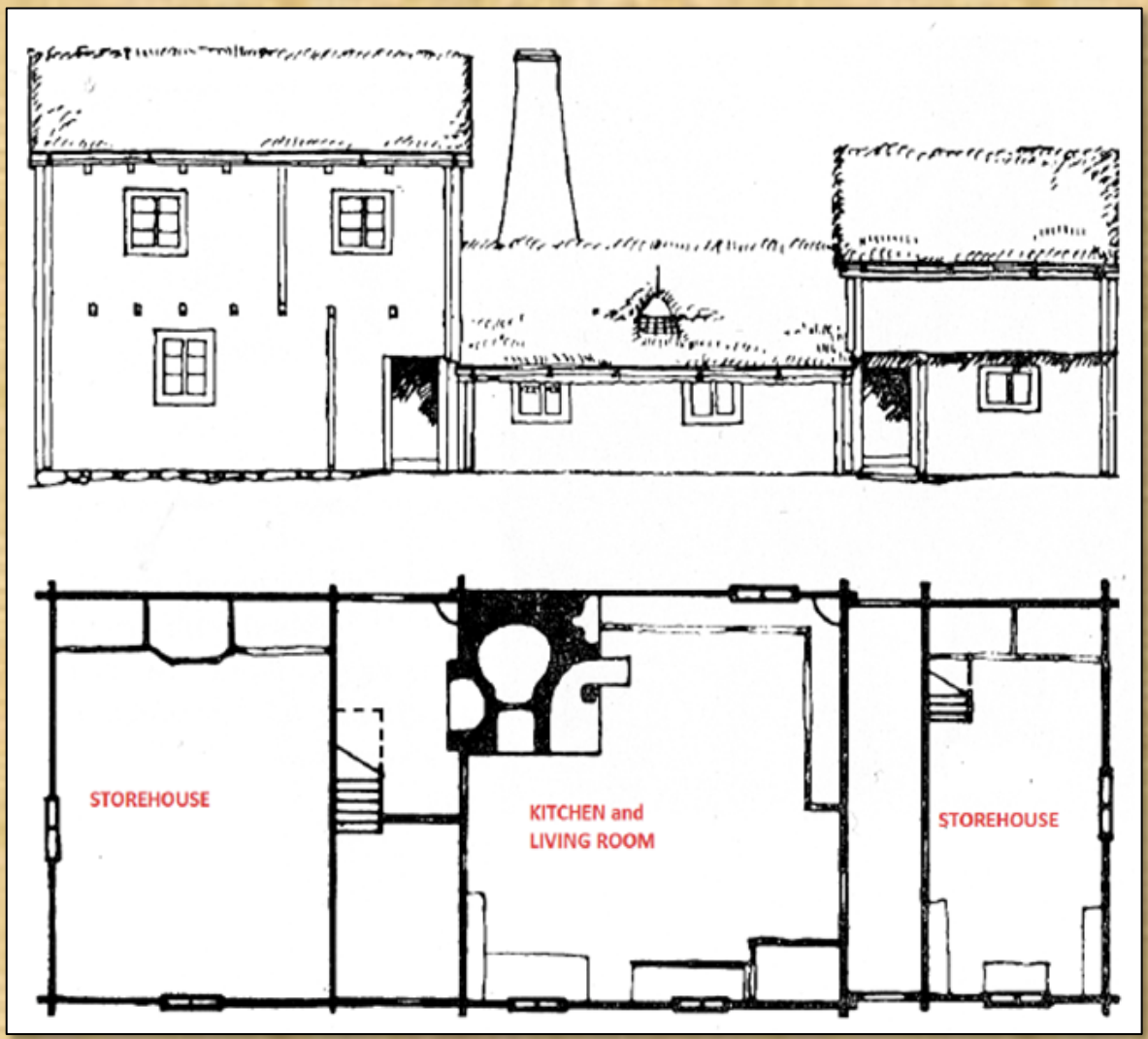
Translation:

I, Nils Halvidsson in Djulfors, and I, Gjord Pedersson in Hällsta, on behalf of wife Margareta Andersdotter and wife Katerina (her sister and my mother-in-law), knowingly represent by proxy and attest with this letter that we are in a friendly agreement with each other and have met with the honorable men Jöns Laurenti, canik in Strängnäs and vicar in Öghiom (Öja), and Ulf Bengtsson, squire, (who are) the executors of the will and gifts of our dear brother Sir Lars Säck, the former canik in Strängnäs, God have mercy on his soul. We confirm that we are completely satisfied with the estate that Herr Säck had purchased from Magnus Larsson and (his) wife Johanna in Ternom, the estate Västra Grysta, and a silver pledge, which is 8 silver bowls and 5 silver buttons belonging to Herr Åke Jensson, a knight and executor, for ninety mark in Swedish money, of which the silver bowls and buttons we received from Herr Jöns Laurenti. And furthermore, we survivors shall ourselves maintain with Herr Lars's money, which is outstanding in Sweden, the three cottages which Herr Lars purchased from Niclis Finkenow, and the other parts Herr Jönsson has (purchased) from Herr Lars Säck. Neither the money that was paid for Utby (a farm), nor anything else which Lars Säck had given and owed Anders Larsson or others are included (in this claim). This all together shall the before mentioned executors send as they know Herr Lars's will was intended for us and our heirs with no further discussion or hindrance, by our truth and good faith; and we oblige, that we, as soon as we come home, shall send to the before mentioned Herr Jöns, Herr Lars Säck's accounting books, and all the letters that we have in our care which is about Herr Lars's money. To ensure more certainty and a guarantee, we beg the worthy father, by God appointed, Sir Bishop Sigge in Strängnäs; honorable man Herr Father Ulf (Bengtsson), knight; and Nils Ulfsson, squire that were present at this meeting, while I, Nils Halvidsson, don't own a seal and I, Gjord Pedersson, don't have my seal with me. The seals for this letter are dated at Strängnäs in the Year of Our Lord MCDL and three (1453), the second day before Feast of Sigfrid the Confessor. (February 13th)

Nils eventually inherited Djulfors from his father Halvid Andersson. In addition to Djulfors, Nils owned several other farms, including: Pinntorp, Stensjö, Tibble, Högen, Upsala, Heden, Bogetorp, Djulfors's Mill, Grannäs, Erestad, Tolfta, Dillnäs, Åsby, Staväng, Lisstorp, Grova, Tortrygteg in Stora Malm Parish; Vik (in Lerbo Parish); and Väderskäl (in Vadsbro Parish). He probably owned several other farms throughout Södermanland Province.

What Kind of House Did Nils Halvidsson Live In?

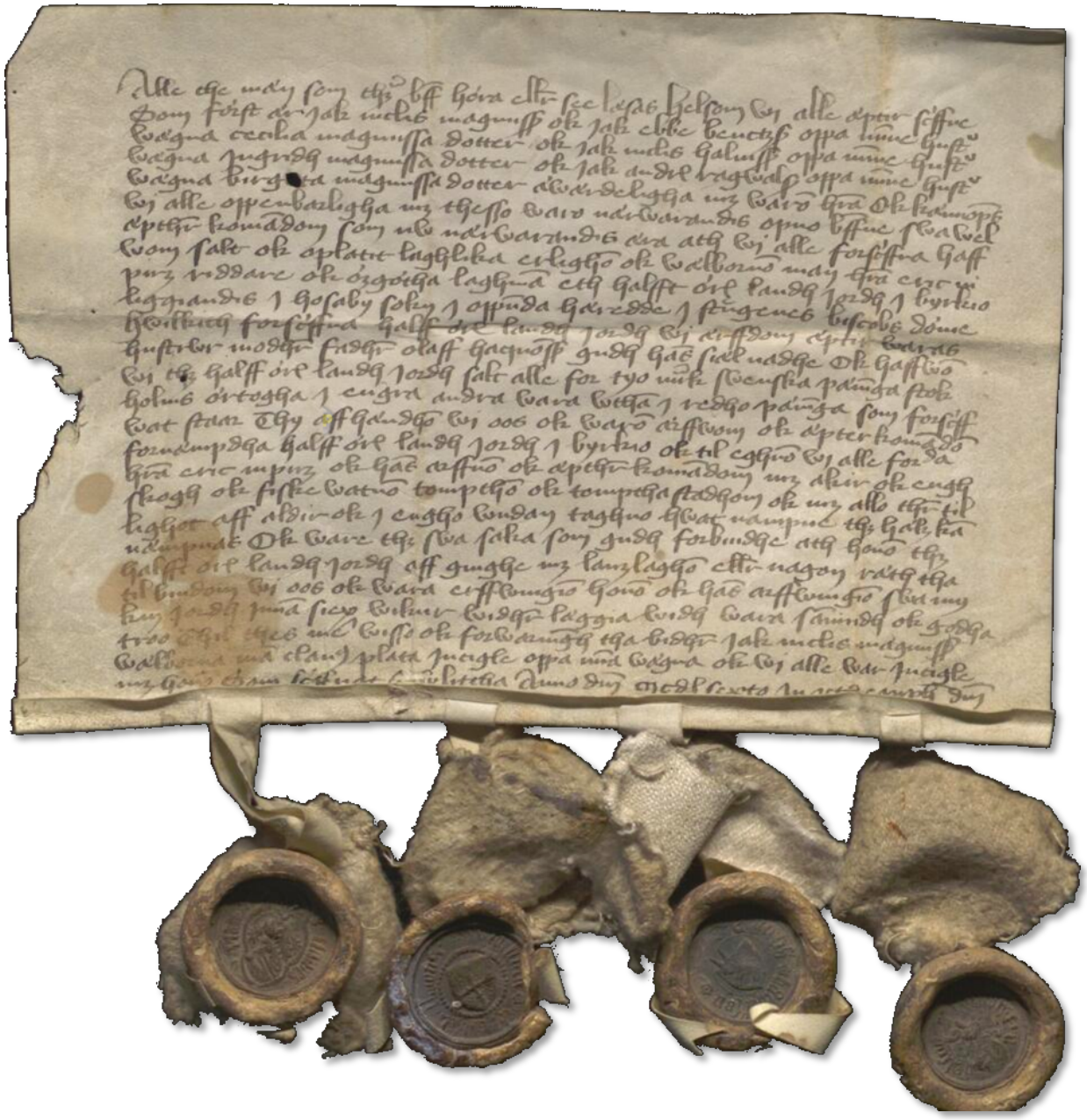
It's difficult to say what the house that Nils Halvidsson lived in was like. Since he was from nobility, it must have been quite larger than a peasant's home. It's possible that it had a kitchen and living room in the center and a storehouse on either side. His house was surrounded by a barn, stables, a shed, and other buildings.



A diagram of what Nils Halvidsson's house might have looked like

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

On January 13, 1456, Nils Halvidsson met on behalf of his wife Ingrid with Ingrid's brother Nils Magnusson, Ebbe Bengtsson (the husband of Ingrid's sister Cecilia Magnusdotter), and Anders Ragvaldsson (the husband of Ingrid's sister Birgitta Magnusdotter) to declare that they had sold land at Bjӧrka in Husby Parish in Oppunda District for 10 mark to Erik Niperz, the District Chief in the province Östergötland. Ingrid and her sisters had inherited this land from their maternal grandfather Olof Håkansson. The group met at Julita Abbey in Julita Parish, Södermanland. This letter contained the seals of Claus Plata, Ebbe Bengtsson, Nils Halvidsson, and Anders Ragvaldsson.[14]



Letter that mentions Nils Halvidsson - January 13th, 1456
Seals: 1. Claus Plata 2. Ebbe Bengtsson 3. Nils Halvidsson 4. Anders Ragvaldsson

[14] SDHK No. 26792 - January 13, 1456

Transcription:

Alle the män som thz breff höra eller see läsas helsom wj alle äptir scriffne
Som först är jak niclis magnusson ok jak ebbe benctzsson oppa mine hustru
wägna cecilia magnussa dotter och jak niclis haluisson oppa mine hustru
wägna jngridh magnussa dotter ok jak andr. ragwalsson oppa mine hustru
wägna birgitta magnussa dotter äwärdeligha mz warom herra Ok kännomps
wj alle oppenbarligha mz thesso waro närwarandis opno breffne swawel
äpther kommandom som nw närwarandis ära ath wj alle forscriffna haff-
wom salt ok oplatit laghlika erlighom ok wälbornom man herra eric ni-
pirz riddare ok özgötha lagman eth halfft öres landh jordh i byrkio
liggandis i hosaby sokn j oppunda häredde j strengenes biscops döme
hwilkith förscriffna halff öres landh jordh wj ärffdom äptir waras
hustrwr modher fadher olaff haquonsson gudh hans siäl nadhe Ok haffwom
wj thz halff öres landh jordh salt alle for tyo mark swenska päninga stok-
holms örtogha j eng[i]a andra wara wtha j redho päninga som forscriff-
wat staar Thy affhändom wi oos ok warom ärffwom ok äpterkomandom
fornämpdha halff öres landh jordh j byrkio ok til eghnom wj alle for^{da}
herra eric nipirz ok hans arffnom ok äptherkommadom mz akir ok engh
skogh ok fiskewatnom tompthom ok tomptha stadhom ok mz allo ther til-
lighat aff aldir ok j engho wndan taghno hwat nampne thz hälz kan
nämpnas Ok ware thz swa saka som gudh forbiudhe ath honom thz
halfft öres landh jordh aff ginghe mz lanzlaghom eller nagon räth tha
til biudom wj oos ok wara erffwingiom honom ok hans arffwingiom swa my-
kin jordh jnnan siex wikur widher läggia widh wara sannindh ok godha
troo Thil thes mera wisso ok forwarningh tha bidher jak niclis magnusson
wälborna man clau[s] plata jncigle oppa mina wägna ok wj alle war jncigle
mz honom Som scriffuat [i julitiha] Anno dominj mcdlsexto jn octana epiphania dominj

Translation:

[To] all those men that hear or see this letter, we all, mentioned below, greet. First, I, Nils Magnusson; I, Ebbe Bengtsson, on behalf of my wife Cecilia Magnusdotter; I, Nils Halvidsson, on behalf of my wife Ingrid Magnusdotter; and I, Anders Ragvalsson, on behalf of my wife Birgitta Magnusdotter (eternally with their husbands) and confess with this open letter, for both future generations and those now living, that we all, before mentioned, have sold and transferred to the honest and honourable man the knight sir Eric Nipertz, District Chief in Östergötland, one half "öres land" soil in Björka in Husby Parish in Oppunda District in Strängnäs Biishopric, which before mentioned half "öres land" soil we inherited after our mother's father Olof Håkansson, God save his soul, and have we that half "öres land" soil sold for 10 mark and payed by no other goods but cash, which is stipulated (according to law). Therefore, we and our heirs all dispose this before mentioned half "öres land" soil in Björka and give it to Herr Eric Nipertz and his heirs all arable and pasture land, forests, fishing waters and plots, and all the additions that have been for generations, with no exceptions whatever names it may have. If it so, may God forbid, that this half "öres land" cannot be in his possession according to law or any court, then we and our heirs promise to give him (Eric Nipertz) and his heirs equal good soil within 6 weeks. To assure and guarantee, I Nils Magnusson, have requested the honourable man Claus Plata to seal this letter on behalf of myself, and we all put our seals on this letter with him. This is written in Julita, in the Year of Our Lord 1456, on the Octave of the Epiphany of the Lord (January 13th).

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

On February 24, 1456, Nils Halvidsson, Ebbe Bengtsson (Färla), Anders Ragvaldsson (Stubbe af Valsta), and Nils Magnusson met at Juliata Monastery regarding some land that Ingrid Magnusdotter, Cecilia Magnusdotter, Birgitta Magnusdotter, and Nils Magnusson had inherited from their maternal grandfather Olof Håkansson. This land included Yxtaand and Yppenskog in Mellösa Parish, Vingåkers in Malmberg Parish, and Närke in Sköllersta Parish, which were all located in Södermanland, as well as two farms in the province Värmland called Kappstad and Vång. During this meeting, it was agreed upon that the Nils Magnusson would legally inherit all of these lands. This agreement was witnessed by District Chief Erik Niperz and squire Claus Plata, whose seals were attached to the letter in which this transaction was recorded.[15]

Transcription of a Letter from February 24, 1456 that Mentions Nils Halvidsson (Svin)

Före alle thetta bref höra eller see bekännomps Wi Ebbe Benktsson Vppa myna hustru wäg Cicilia Magnusdotter,ok iak Ingils Halfwarsson Vppa mina hustru wägna Ingrid Magnusdotter, ok iak Anders Ragvaldsson Vppa myna hustru wägna Birgitha Magnusdotter, meth thetta warth närwarendis opno bref, at arom epter Gudz byrd Tusende firahundrada upa thet siette fämtiganda arena Vppa Sti. Mathias aptan, tha warom Wi alle samanstadde i Julitha Clostermeth Ingils Magnusson, alla waras hustru Broder oppa ett wänlikit ok kärlikit Syskona skipte epter theras elskeliga Fader, ok Moder Fader Olaf Håquonsson /: Gud theras Siäl nade :/ om alt thet wida godz ok arf, som oss nu tilfallin är; Ok som Wi nu frij inna wara wärya hafuom at skypta epter theras Fader ok Moder ok for^{de} Moderfader, ok hafuom Wi skipt laglika ok kärlika, swa at oss upa allo sidor fulkomlika wel athnöger; Ok thenne for^{ne} gotz, som här äpter nämpnis, kom uppa Ingils Magnussons deel, allas wara hustru Broder, som först är: Öxsta som i Maderlösa Soken ligger för 6. öris Land, gifua 6 tönner Korn, 6 öre penningar, - 2.pund Matu. Item, [liska] Öxsta 1. mk pänning. Item Baröö - 10 öre i Lindesnäs. 10 öre i Yppenskog ena mark, liggiandes i Wäderlösa Sokn. Item, i Wikingaker sokn i Malmberga fäm- te öres Land jord 2. garda, then ene gifuer -15 span Korn, oc attande öres pänninga, 1. pund mata, then ander garden gifuer 2. tönner Korn, 2. öre päninga, 1. pund Matu. Thenne for^{na} godz ligger ok i Uplunda Härede. Item i Närike, i Skiölista Sokni Ollila then synnersta garden, gifuer -1. faath Järn. Thenne godz ligger i Strengnes Biscopsdöme. Item, skal waar for^{da} hustru Broder Ingils Magnusson hafua mykit godz, som wars hustru Moderfader Olaf Håkonsson atthe i Wärmeland, ää huar thet älgst ligger i Warmeland, eller opspöryas kan, Som först är ha[l]f Kapperstada nörda garden, ok halft Wang nörda garden, ok alt swnth. Thetta for^{da} godz i Sydermannalande, ok i Wärmeland är rättelika ok laglika, äpter rätt Syskona skipte komit upa for^{da} Ingils Magnusson wara hustru Broders deel i rät skipte. Ny afhännom Wy alle oss for^{da} godz, oss ok warom arfuom thetta for^{da} godz, ok tilägnom for^{da} Ingils Magnusson, honom ok hans Arfwan til äwerdelika äga, medh hus ok Jord, aker ok äng, skog ok fiskewatn, i wato ok törro, när by ok fiärre, ingo undantagno, som godzen af alder tilliget hafuer, ok änn tilliggia kan. Ware thed swa, som Gud ferbyude, at nakot af thetta for^{da} godz, äller alt afginge meth Rådh eller Landzlag, tha tilbiudom Wi oss oc wara Arfwinga honom swa got Gotz widerleggia innan -6. wiker. Til thes meer wisse, oc bäter förwaring, tha hängiom Wi alle waare insigle for thette bref. Ok bedoms Wi Ärlig ok Wälburind Man insigle, som är her Erik Niperzt, Ridder, Claus Platas a Wapn, til witnisbyrd meth war egin,
som skrifuit är i Julitta Aar ok dag, som forskrefuit staar.

Transcription available in Ribbingka kopieoken nr 19, Ribbingka huvudmannaarkivet, vol. 1, pages 19-20

[15] SDHK No. 44706 - February 24, 1456

Translation of a Letter from February 24, 1456 that Mentions Nils Halvidsson (Svin)

[To] all that hear or see this letter, I, Ebbe Bengtsson, on behalf of my wife Cecilia Magnusdotter; I, Nils Halvidsson, on behalf of my wife Ingrid Magnusdotter; and I, Anders Ragvaldsson, on behalf of my wife Birgitta Magnusdotter, confess with this, our open letter, that on the one thousand four hundred and fifty-sixth year after God's birth, on the day before Saint Mathias Day (Febuary 24th, 1456), we all were gathered in Julita monestry together with Nils Magnusson, all our wives' brother, upon a friendly and loving siblings' partition about all the large estates and heritage, that now has been given to us from their beloved father and grandfather on their mother's side, Olof Håkansson, God save their souls. And as we now are to take care of and protect (this property), we are to partition after their beloved father, and mother and before mentioned grandfather and we have made the partition according to the law and with love, and so we all are, from all aspects, completely satisfied. And these, before mentioned estates, that are named here after are: Yxta in Mellösa Parish, that has 6 "öres land", gives 6 barrels of barley, 6 öre "penningar" (money) and 2 "Pund Matu" (some kind of measure of area); likewise [Little] Yxta (gives)1 mark "pänning" (money); likewise Barrö 2 "pund" in Linnäs, 10 "öre" in Yppenskog one "mark" in Mellösa Parish, likewise in Vingåkers in Malmberg Parish (gives) 5 "öresland " land, 2 farms, the first gives 15 pails of barley and 8 öres pänningar, 1 "pound mata" (measure), the other gives 2 barrels of barley, 2 öre päninga, and 1 "pound Matu". These before mensioned estates are situated in Oppunda District. Likewise, Närke in Sköllersta Parish in Årla, the southerly farm, gives 1 barrel of iron. This estate is situated in Strängnäs Diocese. Likewise, our wives shall before their mentioned brother Nils Magnusson have as many estates that our wives' grandfather Olof Håkansson owned in Värmland, wherever they may be in Värmland or identified by research. First it is half of Kappstad, the north farm, and half of Vång, the north farm, and all small pieces of land. These before mentioned estates in Södermanland and in Värmland are partitioned according to law and given to Nils Magnusson, our wives' brother. Now we give all of our inherited estates to Nils Magnusson and his heirs for eternal possession, with houses and soil, arable and pasture land, forests and fishing water, in wet and dry, near and distant, with no exceptions, and all the additions (to the estates) that has been for generations, and still can be. If it is so, may God forbid, that some of these before mentioned estates, or all of them are excluded by the Council's decision or by the Law, then we and our heirs promise to give him (Nils Magnusson) another equal good estate in a timeframe of 6 weeks. To assure and to guarantee, we put our seals onto this letter. And we beg the honest and wellborn men, the knight, Sir Erik Niperz, the squire Claus Plata, for their testimony together with our own (seals). This is written in Julitta in the year and day that is noted before.

The Record for SDHK No. 44706

The original letter from February 24, 1456 that mentions Nils Halvidsson has been lost. However, a transcription of it exists in *Ribbingska kopieboken* nr 19. It contained the seals of Erik Niperz and Claus Plata, but it's uncertain what order these seals were in as they were attached to the letter.

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

In early 1457, an uprising against the Crown arose in Sweden, causing Karl VIII to flee the country. In March of 1457, Erik Axelsson (Tott) and Jöns Bengtsson (Oxenstierna) were appointed as co-regents of Sweden. The two served as co-regents until June 23rd of that year, once King Kristian I (who was also the King of Denmark and Norway) was coronated as King of Sweden. Kristian I's reign over Sweden lasted nearly seven years. Nils Halvidsson likely viewed Kristian I's reign with skepticism and concern, as it may have posed a threat to the autonomy of Swedish nobles.

The Reign of King Kristian I (1457-1464)



King Kristian I

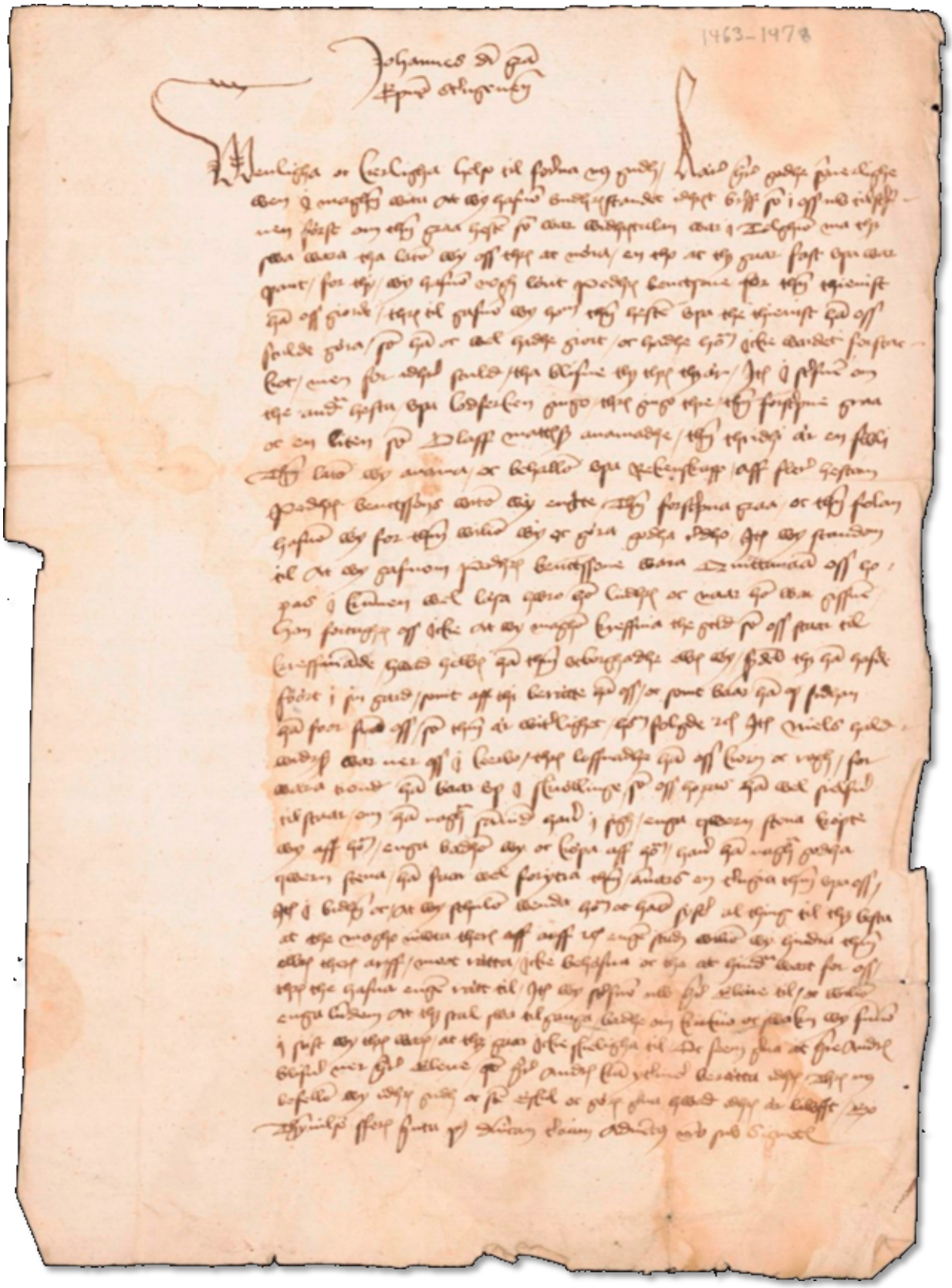
Kristian I was born in February of 1426 in Oldenburg, Northern Germany and was the son of Count Dietrich of Oldenburg and Helvig of Holstein. On September 1, 1448, he was elected as the King of Denmark. The same day, he married Dorothea of Brandenburg. A few months before Kristian's coronation, Karl VIII was crowned King of Sweden. The following year, Karl also became King of Norway, which was greatly contested, as several people wanted Kristian to have become king instead. In June of 1450, the Swedish Council of the Realm forced Karl to renounce his claim on Norway to Kristian. On August 2nd, Kristian was crowned King of Norway.

By 1457, Karl VIII had become very unpopular in Sweden and he was driven into exile. On June 29, 1457, Kristian was elected as King of Sweden, re-establishing the Kalmar Union. Kristian was heavily supported by Jöns Bengtsson (Oxenstierna) and Erik Axelsson (Tott), the former regents of Sweden. In 1459, Kristian was elected as Duke in Schleswig and Count in Holstein.

Kristian's reign was largely successful until he decided to raise money for the heir of Holstien and significantly raised the taxes in Sweden. Shortly after this, civil unrest grew in the country and several nobles rose against Kristian. Jöns Bengtsson, who had previously supported Kristian, turned against him and was briefly imprisoned. By 1464, Karl VIII had taken advantage of Kristian's unpopularity and returned to Sweden. On June 23, 1464, Kristian was deposed as King of Sweden, and Karl VII regained the crown within a couple of months. After being deposed as King of Sweden, Kristian continued to rule over Denmark and Norway. In 1471, Kristian tried to retake the Swedish throne, but was thwarted. On May 21, 1481, Kristian died at Copenhagen Castle in Denmark.

In December of 1463, Bishop Johannes in Strängnäs wrote a letter to District Judge Åke Jönsson in which he stated that Nils Halvidsson had promised the Church some rye and barley, which he had collected in Sköldinge Parish. This letter states that the church officials didn't buy any millstones from Nils, nor had any intention to, which suggests that Nils wasn't in good standing with the Church.[16]

[16] SDHK 28213 – December, 1463



Letter that mentions Nils Halvidsson (Svin) – December of 1463

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Transcription:

Johannes Dei gra(tia)
Episc(opus) strengenez

Wenligha oc Kerligha helsn(ingar) til fordra mz gudh| Kære Her godhe syn(n)erlighe
wen I magh(en) wita at wij hafuo(m) ondh(e)rstandet edhert br(e)ff so(m) I oss nw tilstelt
men først om then graa hest(en) so(m) war widh(e)rtalan war j Telghio(m) ma thz
swa wara tha lato(m) wij oss ther at nøia| ey tho at thz gaar fast opa war
pant| for thij| wij hafuo(m) nogh løuit pedher benctsoni før thes thienist
ha(n) oss giorde| ther til hafuo(m) wij ho(nom) thrj heste(r) opa the(n) thienist ha(n) oss
sadde gøra| so(m) ha(n) oc wet hadhe giort| oc hadhe ho(nom) jcke wardet forstac- kot| men for edhe(rs) skuld| tha blifue
th(en) ther th(en) ær| Jte(m) j skr()fue() om the and(en) hesta| opa lodserken gingo| ther gingo thri| then førsthne graa oc en
liten som Olaff matteß anamadhe| then thridhi ær en fwli
then latom wij anama| oc behollo(m) opa Rekenskapp| aff flere hestan
Pedher benctssons wetom wij enctte| Then forst()na graa| oc then folan
hafuo(m) wij for then wilio(m) wij oc gøra godha (en)dho| Jte(m) wij standom
til at wij gafuom pedher benctssone wara Quittancia() oss ho--
pas j k()en wel læsa hwro ha(n) lidher oc naar ha(m) war giffue(n)
Han fortagher oss jcke at wij magho(m) kreffia the geld so(m) oss staar til
kreffnia(n)de| hwad hawr ha(n) then otborgadhe ewe wij| ... then ha(n) hafd
föört j sin gard| souit aff thi berætte han oss| oc somt baar ha(n) os sedhan
han foor fra(n) oss| som then ær wit()lighet| ho(nom) folgde der Jte(m) Nils hald-
widzß war med oss j leerbo| ther loffuade ha(n) oss korn oc rogh| for
wa(a)ra tiond han baar op j skiöllinge| so(m) oss hopas ha(n) wel sielfu(er)
tilstaar| om ha(n) nogh(en) sa(n)in(gh) ha(de) j sigh| enga qwern stena køpte
wij aff ho(nom)| enga badho(m) wij oc køpa aff ho(nom)| ha(de) ha(n) nagh(re) godha qwern stena| ha(n) faar wel forytra
them| an()tes en thrugia th(em) opa oss|
Jte(m) j bedh(en) oc| at wij skwlo(m) wenda ho(nom) oc hans syste(r) althing til thez besta at the magho niwta ther(es) aff
arff [ecr] eng(en) stadz wilio(m) wij hindra them
eller theres arff| moot rætta| Jcke behøfua oc tha at hind() wart for oss|
ther the hafua eng() rætt til| Jte(m) wij skrifuo(m) nu Her Eleue til| oc wedio(m)
enga lu(n)dan at thz skal swa til ganga| badhe om kirkio oc swok(e)n wij fu(n)o(m)
j siist wij ther war| at thz gaar jcke skeligha til| Oc soem g() at Her Ander(s)
blifed med Her Eleue| som Her Ander(s) ka(n) ythme(re) berætta edher| Ther mz befello(m) wij edher gudh oc s:t Eskel oc
gøre [g??a] hwad dehr ær liwfft| B(iskops)
Thynilsø fferia quinta post dominicam terciam Adventus co(m) sub Signet()

Translation:

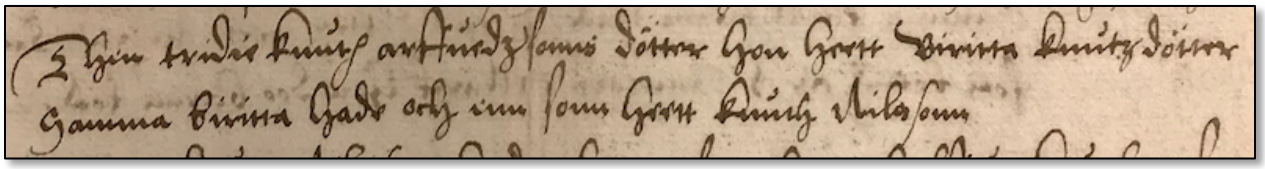
Johannes, by God's graces
Bishop of Strängnäs.

I send you my kind and sincere blessed greetings. You sir, my good and special friend, might want to know that we have received your letter. But first, here is something about the grey horse barley and rye as a "tenth," (a tithe) which he had collected in Sköldinge. I hope he [Nils Halvidsson] will admit it and be honest enough to hand it over to us. We didn't buy any millstones from him, and we didn't ask to buy any. If he has any good millstones, he should sell them elsewhere and not try to press us. You also ask us not to charge any fees to him or his sister so that they may enjoy their inheritance. We will not interfere as long as it is done according to the law. We will now write to Herr Eleue and explain that it must not be "in the church and parish" as it was when we paid a visit there; and also that we would like to see that Herr Anders stays with Herr Eleue. With this, we command you in the hands of your God. Regarding the grey horse, which we spoke about in Tälje, I think we should let it be, even if it grazes on our land. I remember giving Peter Bengtsson a promise about having three horses there for services made to us. You wrote about the other horses which were also grazing there. There were three of them: the first was the grey one; the second a small one taken care of by Olof Matsson; and the third one was a colt which we took care of on account. We don't know if Peter Bengtsson possesses any more horses. We consider remitting his debt to us since he suffers from poverty. Nils Halvidsson was with us at Tynnelsö in December, which is attested by the seals below.

Sometime in the late 1450s or 1460s, Nils's wife Ingrid passed away. After Ingrid's death, Nils was married to Britta Arvidsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna).[17] Britta's parents were Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna)[18] and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad).[19] Britta was probably born during the 1440s.[20] Britta probably grew up at the estate Torpa, located in Länghem Parish, Västergötland Province. She had at least one brother named Arvid and at least three sisters: Karin, Ingrid, and Märta. Since she hailed from nobility, she came from a much more privileged status than most of Sweden.



Torpa, Länghem Parish, Västergötland
Where Britta Knutsdotter probably grew up



Excerpt from *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* that mentions Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

Transcription:

Then tridie Knuth Arffuedzsons dötter hon heett Biritta Knutzdötter
Samma Biritta hade och enn sonn heet Knuth Nilssonn.

Translation:

Then Knut Arvidsson's third daughter was called Britta Knutsdotter.
The same Britta had one son called Knut Nilsson.

After they were married, Britta probably moved to Djulfors to live with Nils. Nils and Britta had at least two sons named Knut[21] and Halvid.[22]

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[17] Since Nils Halvidsson is indirectly listed as Knut Nilsson's father in SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508 and Britta Knutsdotter is listed as Knut Nilsson's mother in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*, Kungila biblioteket, H.h. 2, Image 5, the two must have been married.

[18] *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*, Kungila biblioteket, H.h. 2, Image 5

[19] Since Kerstin is listed as Knut Arvidsson's wife in SDHK No. 27439 - July 9, 1459, she must have been Britta's mother.

[20] Since Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsodtter were married in 1439 (According to their morgongåfvan ("morning gift") that is mentioned in Almquist, J.E. "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönssons (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led." Släkt och Hövd. 1959) it's likely Britta was born in the 1440s.

[21] Knut Nilsson is listed as Nils's son in SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508. For information on Knut Nilsson, see The High Family's Swedish Ancestors: Volume Eight – The 16th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög, page 1398.

[22] Halvid is listed as Knut Nilsson's brother in SDHK No. 33590 – March 25, 1498.

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Djulfors



House at Djulfors

Djulfors (Dúeh-fórsh) is a farm that is located along Lake Kårtorpassjön in west Stora Malm Parish. The prefix of its name "Djul" probably derives from the nearby Lake Julan and the suffix "fors" means "rapids." Djulfors was first mentioned in a letter from 1303, when it was spelled as "Iørforsi." By 1410, Djulfors belonged to Nils Fos (Nils Halvidsson's maternal grandfather). By 1429, Halvid Andersson (Nils Halvidsson's father) owned the farm. There is a mill nearby Djulfors called Djulfors Kvarn. After Nils Halvidsson's death, his son Knut Nilsson inherited the farm. In 1508, Knut Nilsson sold Djulfors to Anna Karlsdotter (Vinstorpaätten). Djulfors was later incorporated into the farm Pinntorp, where the castle Eriksberg was built in the 17th century.

Source: Janson, Kaj. *Det medeltida Sverige, Södermanland 2 :5 Oppunda härad*, Stockholm, 2016, pages 209-210

Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt

Although there are no primary records that mention Britta Knutsdotter while she was living, she is mentioned in a 16th century manuscript known as *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* ("*Knut Håkansson Hand's account for his and his wife Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) genealogies.")* This manuscript was written by Knut Håkansson Hand, a grandson of Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter's daughter Ingrid. Knut Håkansson Hand's wife Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) was a great-granddaughter of Arvid Knutsson, making her Knut Håkansson's first cousin once removed.

In this genealogical manuscript (which was written sometime in the mid-16th century), Knut Håkansson listed several of Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter's descendants, although he neglected to mention the names of their spouses. Knut Håkansson and Märta Arvidsdotter's granddaughter Kristina Bengtsdotter eventually inherited this manuscript, and it later belonged to Jesper Nilsson (Crus). Although all the information in this account isn't accurate, most of it (such as the name of Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter's children) probably is. Today, this manuscript is stored at the Kungliga Biblioteket (the National Library) in Stockholm, Sweden.

On March 1, 1466, Nils Halvidsson and his sisters Katarina and Elin met at Floda Parish, Södermanland to write a formal letter which declared that their recently deceased nephew Peter Bengtsson had agreed to donate some land in Heby in Kjula Parish to Julita Monastery. This letter infers that Nils, Katarina, and Elin either had a brother named Bengt, or a sister who was married to a man named Bengt. The seals of Nils Halvidsson, Elin Folkesdotter, Bishop Johannes Magnusson, Åke Jönsson, and Matts Kagge were attached to this letter. This is the last known letter which mentions Nils Halvidsson.[23]



Letter that mentions Nils Halvidsson – March 1st, 1466
Seals: 1. Nils Halvidsson 2. Elin Folkesdotter 3. Bishop Johannes Magnusson
4. Åke Jönsson 5. Matts Kagge

[23] SDHK No. 28552 – March 1, 1466

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Transcription:

Allom thöm thzta breff höra äller see swa wäl äptkommado som thöm nu ära kungörom wy äptscffne niclis haluidzson, hustru katin fordhom hanis tordzsons hustru gud hans syäl nadhe, hustru elin i quinstom, Äpt thz waar systerson pädher bänktsson gudh hans siäl nadhe vnthe ok gaff i sin ythersta tiidh eth [?] mark landh iordh i hedhaby som ligger i kiula sokn i östherieek häradhe i strengnes biskopsdöme julitta closter till äudhelegha ägha mädh husum iordh skoogh oc skiul i wotho ok torro som ther til aff oldher til lighath haffw ok än kan finnas til lighia tha unnom oc wy forscffne oc fulleligha til stoom ath for^{da} godz bliffum widh iulitta closter til [äuichtiidh] fore hans syäl waara och alles waar föräldra Oc förbiudhom allom widh gudz räthwisa dom hwaren hindra äller quälia for^{da} gaffum, hwar fore aff händhom wy oss ok waarum äptkommada arffuom for^{da} godz hedaby oc til eghnom thz iulitta closter til äudheligha ägha, til thässins breffs mera wissa stadhfästilse ok withnes byrdh tha bedhoms wy wdnghx fadhrs incigle biskopp hannisa i strengnes, aaka jönissons lagman i sodhermanlandh, matts kaggas häredz höffdhinge i wppunda aa wapn mz waar eghn witherligha fore thzta breff Som giffuidh oc scriffuadh är i flodha Arum äpt guds byrdh mcdlx pa sätte himorlögherdagh försth i fastona.

Translation:

[To]all those that hear and read this letter, both [our] ancestors and descendants now living, we, Nils Halvidsson; wife Katarina, widow of Hans Tordsson (God save his soul); and wife Elin in Kvinnersta, now announce that after our nephew Peder Bengtsson, God save his soul, agreed to give on his death bed, one plot of land in Heby in Kjula Parish in Österrekarne District in Strängnäs Diocese to Julita Monastery for eternal possession including houses, ground, forest, and sheds in wet and dry, all that has been for long time and everything else that might exist in this property. We declare and confess that this, before mentioned property, will be possessed by Julita Monastery for eternity and is dedicated to his soul and all of our ancestors' souls. And we forbid all, by the Lord's just judgement, both to hinder or to dispute the before mentioned gift. Therfore, we despose us and our heirs before this mentioned property Heby and give it to Julita for eternal possession. To this letter's confirmation and testimony, we beg the seals of worthy father Bishop Hans in Strängnäs; the knight Åke Jönsson (Lagman in Södermanland), squire Matts Kagge (District Chief of Oppunda) with our own (seals) onto this letter. Given and written in Floda the year after the burden of God MCDLX, the sixth year (1466), on the first Saturday in the time of fasting (March 1st).

Near the end of their lives, Nils Halvidsson and Britta Knutsdotter lived at Pinntorp, a farm located just southwest of Djulfors.[24]



Eriksberg Castle

Eriksberg

Eriksberg is a castle in Stora Malm Parish that was built at the location of Pinntorp. It's unknown whether Nils Halvidsson inherited or purchased Pinntorp. After Nils's death, his son Knut Nilsson inherited Pinntorp. In 1508, a noblewoman named Anna Karlsdotter purchased Pinntorp from Knut Nilsson. The current castle was built in the 17th century by Erik Karlsson Gyllenstierna. The castle has three levels (excluding the basement) and four wings with towers.

[24] According to a letter from 1508, Nils's residence was at Pinntorp during his later years (SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508).

Sweden's political stability continued throughout the 1460s. In 1464, a rebellion arose against King Kristian I, leading to his deposition and the Karl VIII resuming the Swedish throne. Karl only reigned for a few months and was once again exiled in January of 1465. After his deposition, Kettil Karlsson become the regent of Sweden until August of 1465. Following Karlsson's regency, Jöns Bengtsson (Oxenstierna) was the regent of Sweden for just over a year. In October of 1466, Erik Axelsson (Tott) became Sweden's regent. Karl VIII resumed the Swedish throne in November of 1467. His third and final reign lasted until his death on May 15, 1670. Following the death of Karl VIII, Sten Sture the Elder became the regent of Sweden. Britta Knutsdotter's brother Arvid Knutsson personally served under Sten Sture.[25] Nils Halvidsson was probably exhausted from all of this political instability in Sweden.

Shortly after Sten Sture became Sweden's regent, Kristian I, who was still the King of Denmark, launched an attack on Sweden in hopes of reclaiming control over it. Throughout 1470-1471, there was a war between Denmark and Sweden. Since Britta Knutsdotter's brother Arvid Knutsson served under Sten Sture, it's likely that Nils Halvidsson favored Sture's side. While it's unlikely that Nils actually fought in this year, he may have had some involvement in it. By October of 1471, Sten Sture's army had defeated Kristian I's army and Sweden remained independent from the Kalmar Union for the next few decades.

The Dano-Swedish War (1470-1471)

The Dano-Swedish War was a war between Denmark and Sweden that occurred from 1470 to 1471. After Sten Sture the Elder became the regent of Sweden in 1470, King Kristian I sought to reclaim the Swedish throne and gathered an army of 3,000 Danish and 2,000 Germans soldiers. Kristian I was also supported by much of the Swedish nobility, such as the Vasa and Oxenstierna families. In late July of 1471, 76 Danish ships landed in southern Sweden. In response, Sten Sture and Nils Bosson Sture gathered an army to defend Stockholm.

On October 10, 1471, the Danish and Swedish armies clashed at the Battle of Brunkeberg in Stockholm. During this battle, Sten Sture's army attacked Kristian's army from the west, Nils Bosson Sture's army attacked from the east, and Swedish general Knut Posse's army attacked from the city of Stockholm. Nils Bosson's army dealt a devastating blow to Kristian's army and Kristian was hit in the face by musket fire, forcing him to retire from battle. Meanwhile, Knut Posse was killed by being struck in the head with an axe. Shortly after Kristian retreated from the battle, his army surrendered. The Battle of Brunkeberg brought an end to the Danish-Swedish War (1470-1471).

Little is known about Nils Halvidsson or Britta Knutsdotter's lives after 1466. Nils died sometime before 1508[26] and it's unclear when Britta died.

[25] SDHK No. 29145 - August 15, 1470

[26] In a letter from 1508, Nils's son Knut Nilsson wrote the phrase "God have mercy on his soul," about his father, indicating that Nils had died (SDHK No. 36200 - June 12, 1508).

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)
fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Trivia on Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

1. What was the name of Nils Halvidsson father?
    a. Halvid Andersson
    b. Halvid Bengtsson
    c. Halvid Nilsson
    d. Halvid Samuelsson

2. What was the name of Nils Halvidsson's mother?
    a. Britta Andersdotter
    b. Ingeborg Nilsdotter
    c. Valborg Nilsdotter
    d. Sara Knutsdotter

3. What was the name of Nils Halvidsson clan?

4. What province did Nils Halvidsson live in?
    a. Småland
    b. Östergötland
    c. Västergötland
    d. Södermanland

5. What was Nils Halvidsson's occupation?
    a. Bailiff
    b. District Judge
    c. Squire
    d. None of these

6. What is the first year in which Nils Halvidsson is recorded?

7. What was the name of Nils Halvidsson's first wife?

8. What are the names of the two farms where Nils is recorded living?

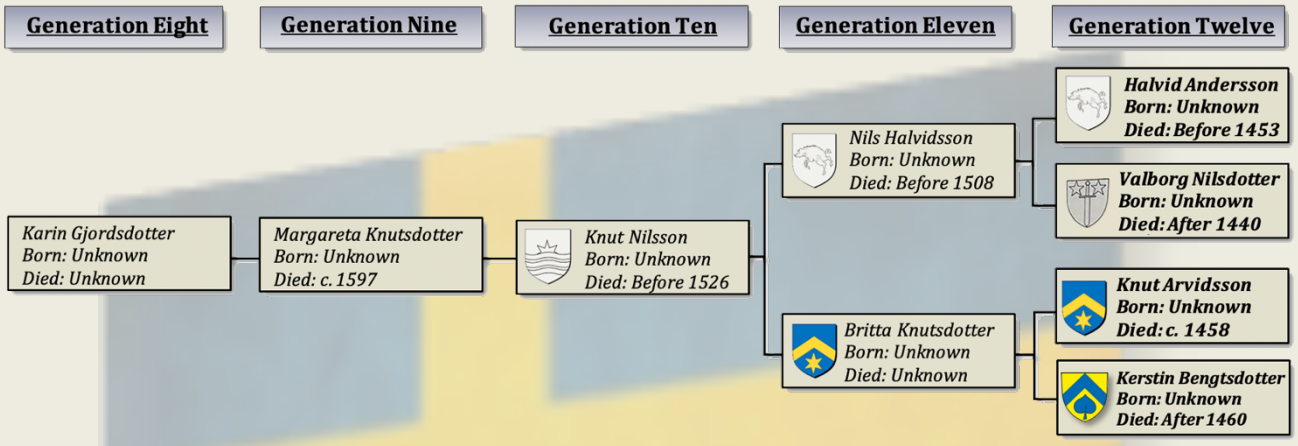
9. What is the last year in which Nils Halvidsson is recorded as being alive?

10. Nils Halvidsson must have died before which year?

Answers: 1. a 2. c 3. Svin 4. d 5. c 6. 1453 7. Ingrid Magnusdotter 8. Djulfors and Pinntorp 9. 1466 10. 1508

Generation Twelve

The 9th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1400-1470

9.1.1. Nils Halvidsson (Svin) and Britta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) fm fm mf fm mf f and fm fm mf fm mf m

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 9th Great-Grandparents Lived In

Most of the 9th great-grandparents of Sven Hög lived during the late 14th century until the late mid to late 15th century. During this period, Sweden experienced profound shifts across its social, economic, and political backdrops, significantly impacting the lives and roles of the nobility. Economically, this period witnessed the emergence of centralized governance under the monarchy. Royal tax collection and administrative structures were established, marking a departure from the decentralized feudal system. This transition challenged the traditional autonomy enjoyed by the nobility, as the monarchy sought to consolidate power and assert greater control over economic affairs.

Politically, Sweden grappled with internal strife and power struggles, shaping the trajectory of the nobility. King Erik XIII's reign, in particular, was marked by efforts to strengthen royal authority. However, these attempts often clashed with the interests of the nobility, leading to tensions and conflicts. The Engelbrekt Rebellion (1434-1436) stands as a notable example of resistance against King Erik XIII's rule. Led by nobleman and military leader Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson, the rebellion aimed to curb royal power and defend the interests of the Swedish nobility. Although it was ultimately unsuccessful, the rebellion highlighted the complex dynamics between the monarchy and the nobility during this period.



A statue of Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson in Stockholm

The legal system in Sweden during the 15th century was a blend of customary law and royal decrees, overseen by local officials known as "häradshövding" (District Chiefs). These officials played a crucial role in administering justice at the local level, presiding over courts and adjudicating disputes. Two of Sven Hög's 9th great-grandfathers, Halvid Andersson and Knut Arvidsson, were high ranking officials in the Swedish legal system, with Halvid Andersson as a Substitute District Chief and Knut Arvidsson as a District Chief. Their authority was often subject to royal interference, as the monarchy appointed royal officials to oversee judicial matters and ensure compliance with royal decrees. This dynamic balance of power between the monarchy and the nobility significantly influenced the legal landscape and the nobility's interactions with the law.

Halvid Andersson (Svin) and Valborg Nilsdotter

Name	Halvid Andersson	Name	Valborg Nilsdotter
Born	1380s-1390s	Born	1380s-1410s
Place	Unknown	Place	After 1440
Died	Between 1444 to 1453	Died	Unknown
Place	Stora Malm, Södermanland	Place	Stora Malm, Södermanland
Occupation	Substitute District Judge	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Halvid Andersson (Svin) and Valborg Nilsdotter

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Nils	1420s-1430s	Unknown	Before 1508	Unknown
Elin	1410s-1430s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Katarina	1410s-1430s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Unknown child	1410s-1430s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Halvid Andersson (Svin), the father of Nils Halvidsson, was probably born sometime in the 1380s or 1390s.[27] His father's name was Anders[28] and his mother's name is unknown. Although it's unknown where he was born, it's likely that he was born somewhere in the province of Södermanland, since all of the records that he is mentioned in show him living in this province. Halvid had at least two brothers named Lars and Folke[29] and at least two sisters named Margareta and Katarina[30].

Fact or Fiction: Halvid Andersson's Paternal Grandfather was Halvid in Tjulsta

Claim: Halvid Andersson's paternal grandfather was a man named Halvid who was is listed in letters from 1378 and 1379.

Uncertain. On page 831 of Jan Raneke's book *Svenska medeltidsvapen* (*"Swedish Medieval Weapons"*) it states that the paternal grandfather of Halvid Andersson (Svin) was a man named Halvid (spelled as "Halwider") who served as the Chief District Judge for Oppunda District during the late 14th century. This Halvid is listed at the farm Tjulsta (spelled as "Tiulsta") in a letter from 1378 (SDHK 1127) and at Lenzam in two letters from 1379 (SDHK 11470 and SDHK 1379). Raneke made this assumption based on his belief that Halvid's coat of arms that was displayed on his seal was a swine, which was the same coat of arms that Halvid Andersson used. Raneke suggested that Halvid probably had a son named Anders Halvidsson, who was Halvid Andersson's father. However, in Kaj Janzon's book *Vapenslikhetsfällan* (*"Weapons Similarities Trap*), Janzon points out that none of the letters that mention Halvid in Tjulsta included his seal, indicating there is no evidence to support Raneke's claim.

[27] Halvid Andersson is listed as a Chief District Judge in 1424 (SDHK No. 20372 – November 11, 1424). Since he was probably at least in his thirties at this time to hold his position, he must have been born in the 1380s or 1390s.
[28] Since Halvid's surname was "Andersson," patronymic tradition tells us that his father's name was Anders.
[29] Lars Säck and Folke are listed as Halvid's brothers in SDHK No. 23473 - March 8, 1440.
[30] Margareta and Katarina are listed as the sisters of Lars Säck in SDHK No. 26211 - February 13, 1453.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

The first Swedish monarch that Halvid remembered may have been Queen Margaret, who ruled over Sweden from 1389 to 1412. Margaret was also the Queen of Denmark and Norway and helped arrange the Kalmar Union, in which Denmark, Norway, and Sweden were ruled over by one ruler. In 1397, the Kalmar Union was established and Margaret's grandnephew Erik of Pomerania was promised to be her successor. In 1412, Margareta passed away and Erik, who was already the King of Norway, became King of Denmark and Sweden. In Sweden, Erik was known as Erik XIII. Halvid Andersson was probably a young adult by the time that Erik took the throne.

The Reign of Erik XIII (1412-1439)



Erik XIII

Erik of Pomerania was born under the name Boguslaw around 1382. He was the son of Wartislaw VII, Duke of Pomerania, and Maria of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. In 1389, he was sent to Denmark, where he was raised by his grand-aunt Queen Margaret I, who chose him to be her heir. The same year, he was hailed as the King of Norway. On June 17, 1397, Erik was crowned as the future king of Demark and Sweden at Kalmar Cathedral. In 1402, Erik married Phillippa, the daughter of King Henry IV of England. On October 28, 1412, Erik officially became the King of Denmark and Sweden, following the death of Margaret I. In Sweden, Erik was known as Erik XIII.

According to contemporary accounts, Erik was charming, energetic, and intelligent, but also had a hot temper and lacked diplomatic skills. From 1423-1425, Erik took a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. During the early 1420s, Erik waged war against Schauenburg and Holstein (located in Germany). In 1429, he introduced the Sound Dues, a toll on all ships entering or exiting the Baltic Sea through Øresund (a strait between Denmark and Sweden). From 1426 to 1435, Erik was at war with the German Hanseatic League and Holstein.

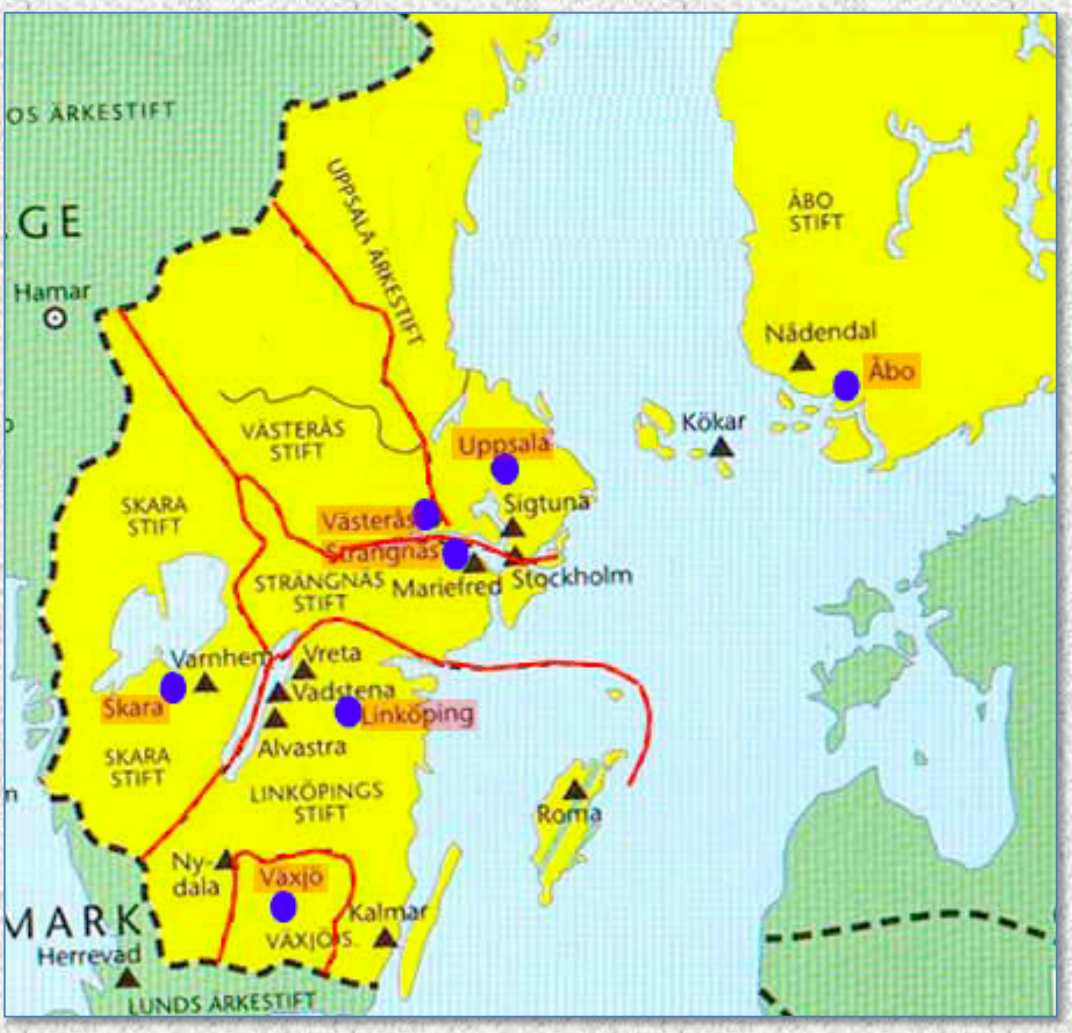
During the 1430s, Erik's reign started to crumble. By the early 1430s, Erik's war against the German Hanseatic League and Holstein had disrupted trade to Sweden, hurting the Swedish economy. In 1434, several farmers and mine workers in Sweden started an uprising against Erik's rule. Swedish statesman Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson took advantage of this, and started the Engelbrekt Rebellion, which lasted until 1436. This rebellion led to the temporary expulsion of Danish forces from Sweden. In April of 1435, Erik signed a peace treaty with the Hanseatic League and Holstein.

During the late 1430s, the Danish nobility opposed Erik's rule, prompting him to leave Denmark and reside at Visborg Castle in Sweden. In 1439, Erik was deposed as the King of Demark and Sweden and was succeeded by his nephew Kristofer of Bavaria. Erik died on September 24, 1449 in Darlowa Castle in Pomerania.

Every Sunday, Halvid Andersson attended Catholic Mass, as did the rest of Europe during the 15th century. The Catholic Church was ruled by the Pope in Rome, and further hierarchized under archbishops and bishops. Since Halvid lived in Södermanland Province, he was part of the bishopric (or diocese) of Strängäs. Two of Halvid's brothers, Lars and Folke, grew up to be leaders in the Church, so religion must have played an important role in his family.

Stift – Dioceses of the Swedish Church

A *stift*, or diocese, is an administrative region used by the Church in Sweden. A diocese was usually led by a bishop that was appointed by the Pope. Several dioceses form an *ärkstift*, or archdiocese. A diocese could also be a monastery led by monks or an abbot. The oldest diocese in Sweden, Skara, was established in 1060. During the early 12th century, the dioceses of Eskilstuna, Linköping, Sigtuna, Strängnäs, and Västerås were founded. In the 15th century, there were seven dioceses in Sweden: Åbo, Linköping, Skara, Strängnäs, Uppsala, Västeräs, and Växjö. In 1527, Sweden broke ties with the Catholic Church, but the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church kept dioceses as administrative units.



Map of the different dioceses in Sweden during the 15th century

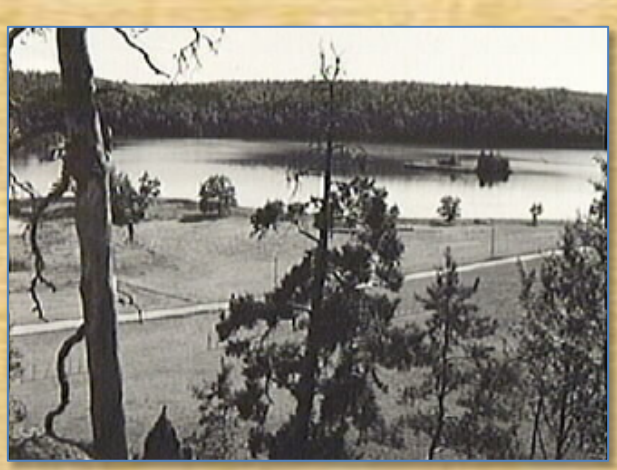
9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

By 1424, Halvid was living at Grysta, a farm in northern Sköldinge Parish.[31] Since Halvid's brother Lars Säck also owned land in Grysta[32], it's likely that Halvid grew up there.

Grysta

Grysta (Grée-stáh) is a farm that is located along Lake Valdemaren in northern Sköldinge Parish, Södermanland. The prefix of its name "*Gry*" means "stony ground" while the suffix "*sta*" means "place." Grysta was first mentioned in a letter from 1372, when it was spelled as "Grymstom." During this time, it was owned by a nobleman named. Nils Kåre.

By 1424, Grysta belonged to Halvid Andersson, who moved to Djulfors by 1429. In 1453, after the death of Lars Säck, Halvid's brother, the land that Lars Säck owned in Västra Grysta was inherited by his Halvid's sisters Katarina and Margareta and his son Nils. Today, there are two farms at Grysta, Västra Grysta and Östra Grysta.



Grysta, Sköldinge Parish, Södermanland -Where Halvid Andersson's family lived in the 1420s

Source: Janson, *Kaj. Det medeltida Sverige, Södermanland 2 :5 Oppunda härad*, Stockholm, 2016, page 236

During his young adulthood, Halvid became familiar with the legal system and probably served as a juror for district court sessions. Sometime before 1424, he was appointed to the position of *Underhäradshövning*, or Substitute District Chief of Oppunda District.[33]

***Underhäradshövning* – Substitute District Chiefs**

An *underhäradshövning*, or *häradsdomare*, was the position of a Substitute District Chief that filled in for the *häradshövding* (District Chief) whenever they weren't able to attend court hearings. An underhäradshövning was appointed to the position by the District Chief. People in this position were literate and had usually served as a juror in the past. Before they took this position, they had to swear an oath to fulfill their duties.

[31] SDHK No. 20372 - November 11, 1424
[32] A letter from 1453 shows that Lars Säck owned land in West Grysta (SDHK No. 26207 - February 10, 1453).
[33] Halvid Andersson is listed as a Substitute District Chief in SDHK No. 20372 - November 11, 1424.



Letter that Halvid Andersson wrote on November 11th, 1424
Seal: Halvid Andersson

Transcription:

Alle the män thzta bref h[ö]ra äller se Helsar iac Halwidh i grystom häredzdom hauande i wppunde a ärlix man wagna hra karl öra ridhar kerli[g]a [med] gudh kännys iak inz tesso myom oppno breffne at then tidh jak härädztingh hiolt mz almogenom aff wppunde Anno domini mcdxxiiij neste tingx daghin äpther sante martins dagh tha giorde beskedeliche män som är ies dauidsson oc laurens wlfsson eeth jordhe skipthe ath for[de] jes dauidsson gaff for[de] laurens wlfsson thwo päninga oc eeth öres land solisstom i fleen soongh liggiande i wppunde häradhe for thyga päningx land iord i skiringhe i sama soongh liggande Thy afhändher for[de] ies dauidsson sik the for scrifna iordh sik oc sinom arfwom som är i salistom och til engna hona laurens wlfsson oc hans arfwom allom til lagom och enga wntagna Thy [thr] aff [aaller til legith] [hawer]. Och for[de] laurens wlfsson affhändhe sik the forscrifna iordh i skiringhe. Och til egnar hona ies dauidsson och hans arfwom til ewärdelica egha mz allom til lägom thy ther aff alder til legeth hafwer. Thesso waro fasto jngiwal i sledehammer biörn pything kätil hwessingh andris ionasson swen ingimarson anund i skölby andris i gredeswnd jowan i linom jowan [dalbo, Salbo?] olof i aasom jonas i träxsthom laurens j skelby. Till thess[ni]s breffs [mera] wisso Tha hä-[nger] iac myt incighla for thzta breff som scrifuat är [år] dagh oc stadh som forscrifwat st[å]r.

Translation:

[To] all men that hear or see this letter, I, Halvid in Grysta, Substitute District Chief in Oppunda District, on behalf of the knight Sir Karl Öra, confess with this, my open letter, that while I was holding court with the peasentry of Oppunda, in the Year of Our Lord 1424, which was the next session after Saint Martin's Day (November 11th), the good-natured men Jöns Davidsson and Lars Ulfsson made an exchange of land, when the before mentioned Jöns Davidsson gave the before mentioned Lars Ulfsson two "penningland" and one "öresland" in Solistom (Salsta) in Flen Parish in Oppunda District for twenty "penningland" of land in Skiringe in the same parish. By this, the before mentioned Jöns Davidsson, disposes the described land in Salsta from himself and his heirs and gives it to Lars Ulfsson and his heirs including all belonging land, with no exceptions. Lars Ulfsson disposes the described land in Skiringe and gives it to Jöns Davidsson and his heirs for eternal possession and all belonging land that has been for a long long time. These persons certify this transaction: Ingevald in Slädhammar, Björn Pyting, Kettil Hwessing, Anders Jonasson, Sven Ingemarsson, Amund in Skälby, Anders in Gnesund, Johan in Lena, Johan in [Dalbo], Olof in Åsa, Jonas in Träcksta, and Lars in Skälby. Halvid in Grysta seals the letter, which was written at the date and at the place that are mentioned before.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Oppunda District



The location of Oppunda District in Södermanland

Oppunda District was located in west Södermanland and encompassed most of Katrineholm Municipality, all of Vingåker Municipality, and parts of Flen Municipality and Nyköping Municipality. It was first recorded in 1300s as "Ohund," which means "the farther up *hundare*" ("hundare" were administrative units used in Viking and medieval times). Oppunda District court sessions were originally held at Vadsbro, southwest of Katrienbolm. During the 15th and 16th century, the court was held a few kilometers west of Lerbo Church. Oppunda District was 1,554 km^2.



Djulfors, Stora Malm Parish, Södermanland – Where Halvid Andersson and Valborg Nilsdotter's family lived in the early 15th century

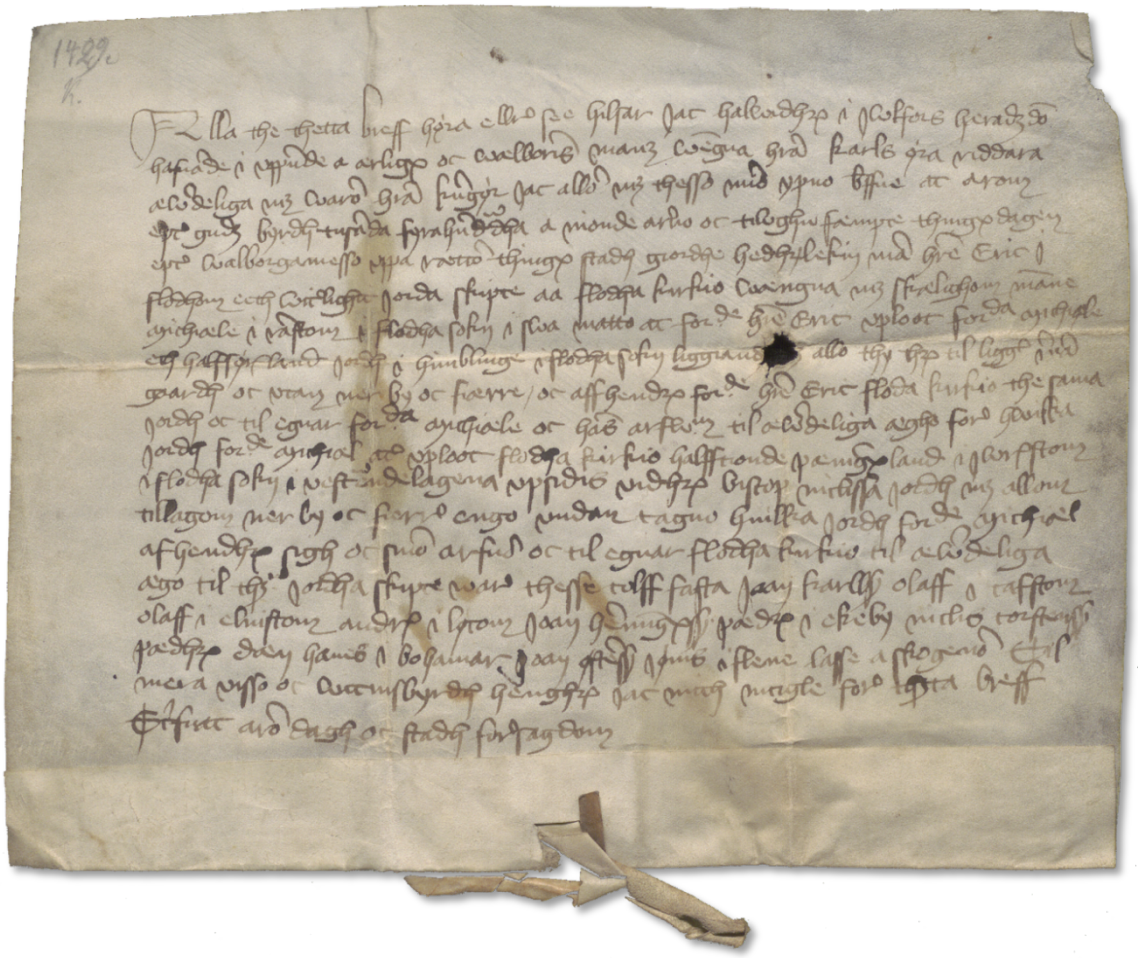
At some point during the 1410s or 1420s, Halvid Andersson married a woman named Valborg Nilsdotter.[34] Valborg was the daughter of Nils Fos, a wealthy landowner.[35] Valborg was probably born sometime during the 1380s to 1410s.[36] She had lived at Djulfors, a farm in Stora Malm Parish, Södermanland, since at least 1410.[37] Halvid and Valborg had at one son named Nils[38], two daughters named Elin and Katarina, and at least one other child who was either a brother named Bengt or a sister that was married to a man named Bengt.[39].

[34] Valborg Nilsdotter is listed as Halvid Andersson's wife in SDHK No. 23494 – April 3, 1440.
[35] Valborg is listed as Nils Fos's daughter in SDHK No. 24250 – 1440.
[36] This is based on the fact that her son Nils Halvidsson was probably born during the 1420s or 1430s and Valborg must have been born between the 1380s to 1410s to have been Nils's mother.
[37] Nils Fos, Valborg's father, is listed as the owner of Djulfors in 1410 in SDHK No. 17509 – June 21, 1410
[38] Nils Halvidsson is listed as the owner of Djulfors, the farm that Halvid Andersson and Valborg Nilsdotter lived at in a letter from 1466 (SDHK No. 28552 – March 1, 1466). Since patronymic tradition tells us that Nils's father was named Halvid, the previous owner of Djulfors, he must have been Halvid's son. The fact that Nils Halvidsson has the first name as Nils Fos shows that he was probably named after him and strongly suggests that Valborg Nilsdotter was Nils Halvidsson's mother. For information on Nils Halvidsson, see page 1486.
[39] In the same letter from 1466 (SDHK No. 28552 – March 1, 1466), it is stated that Nils had at least two sisters named Catharina and Elin. In this letter, it mentions that Nils, Catharina, and Elin had a nephew named Peder Bengtsson, who patronymic tradition tells us had a father named Bengt.

By 1429, Valborg Nilsdotter's father Nils Fos had died.[40] By this time, Halvid had inherited Nils Fos's land at Djulfors and moved there with his family.[41] Halvid and Valborg probably lived at Djulfors for the remainder of their lives.



Map showing the locations of Sköldinge Parish and Stora Malm Parish



Letter that Halvid Andersson wrote in May of 1429
Seal: (missing) Halvid Andersson

[40] A letter from 1429 (D och Valla (B 16 f337) states that Nils Fos had died.
[41] Halvid is listed at Djulfors in SDHK No. 21155 – May, 1429.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Transcription:

Alla the thetta breff höra eller see hilsar jac halwidher i jwlfors heradzdom-
hafuande oppunde a ärlige oc wälborins manz wegna herra karls öra riddara
äwärdeliga mz warom herra kungör jac allom mz thesso mid ypno breffne at arom
ept gudz byrdh tusenda fyrahun[dra] a nionde arho och tiwghw fämpte thinxdagin
epter walborgamesso [o]ppa rättom thinx stadh giordhe hedherlekin man herra Eric i
flodhom eeth witerligit jorda skipte aa flodha kirkio wängna mz skälighom manne
michiäle i ranstom i flodha sokn i swa matto at for^{de} herra Eric uploot for^{da} michiäle
eth halfföres land jordh i himblinge i flodha sokn liggiande mz allo thy ther til liggiande [ina]
gaardh oc utan ner oc fiärre. oc affhender for^{de} herra Eric floda k[ir]kio the sama
jordh oc til egnar for^{da} michiäle oc hans arfwom til äwärdeliga ägho for hwilka
jordh for^{de} michiäl at uploot flodha kirkio halfftionde päningxland i jwrsstom
i flodha sokn i vestra ende lagena upsidis vidher biscop niclissa jordh mz allom
tillagom ner by oc fierre engo undan tagno huilka jordh for^{de} michiäl
afhender sigh oc sinom arfuo oc til egnar flodha kirkio til äwärdeliga
ägo til thz jordha skipte war thesse tolff fasta jaan karlsson olof i tafftom
olaff i elnistom andris i lötom joan henningxsson päder i ekeby niclis torstensson
pädher [dän] hanis i bohamar joan östensson jönis i flene lasse a skogenom. Til
mera visso oc witnisbyrdh hengher jac mith incigle for thzta breff
Scrifuett arom dagh oc stadh foresagdom.

Translation:

[To] all those that hear or see this letter, I, Halvid in Djulfors, Substitute District Chief in Oppunda District, greet on behalf of the honest and honourable man, the knight Sir Karl Öra, forever with our Lord. I confess to all with this, my open letter, that on the fifth court day after Walpurgis Eve, which was in the one thousand, four hundred and twenty-ninth year (1429) after God's burden, the honest man Sir Eric, a priest in Floda, exchanged land on behalf of Floda Church with the honest man Michael in Ransta in Floda. Eric gave Michael one and a half öre of land in Himlinge in Floda with one farm and all that belongs to it, both near and far. Eric gave this land to Michael and his heirs for eternal possession. Michael gave Floda Church nine and half penningland in Juresta in Floda Parish in the west end of Bishop Nils's land, including all added land near and far, with no exceptions, and Michael disposed this from himself and his heirs and gave it to Floda Church for eternal possession. These twelve persons guarantee this exchange: Jan Karlsson, Olof in Tavesta, Olof in Elnista, Anders in Löta, Johan Henningsson, Peter in Ekeby, Nils Torstensson, Peter "Dän", Hans in Bohammar, Johan Östensson, Jöns in Flen and Lasse in Skogen. To witness this, I put my seal onto this letter. Written in the year, date, and place that are mentioned before.



Karl Karlsson Öra's coat of arms

Karl Karlsson Öra

Karl Karlsson Öra was a knight and District Chief for Oppunda District. He was first mentioned in 1377 and last mentioned in 1430. Older historians assumed that Karl Karlsson Öra was actually two separate men, one who was married to Cecilia Amundsdotter and one who was married to Cecilia Staffansdotter, but most later historians believe it was one person. Öra had served as the District Chief for Oppunda District since at least 1409. Karl Öra died sometime in 1430 and was buried in Vadstena Cathedral.

Sometime in 1430, Karl Karlsson Öra, the District Chief that Halvid served under, died. After his death, Gustav Algotsson became the District Chief of Oppunda District.[42]



Letter that Halvid Andersson wrote on June 13th, 1433
Seal: Halvid Andersson

[42] SDHK No. 21962 – June 13, 1433

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Transcription:

Alla the thzttha breff see äller höra helsar iak haluidh andersson häretzdom haffwande
i wppundhe a ärlix manz wägnar herra göstaffs algothsson riddara kärlika mz gudhi kännis
iak thz mz tesso mino oppno breffwe thy tridh iak tingh hiolt med almoghanno j wppunda hä-
radhe aren epther gudhz byrdh tusanda fyra hundradha a tretthondha arena oc thiw-
ghw lögherdaghin näst for ste botolffs dagh Tha stodh lasse gwnbiörnsson fastaghe ok
wploth adherthon pänningx landh iordh i bosnabergx liggiande i wästra ändhe laghina ok
feem pänningx landh iordh j eedhe näst gwnna thegh liggiande biskederlikom manne laurens
olaffsson swni j bosnaberghom byggiande for femthom mark swenska pänningar hwilka for^{da} pänningar
for^{da} lasse gunbiörnasson bekändher war sigh fwllelika wppburet haffwa, thy affhändher han
the for^{da} iordh sik oc sinom arffwom ok til äghnar them for^{da} laurens i bosnaberg oc hans arffwom
til äwärdelika ägho när by oc fiärrin i watho oc j torro [än]gho undan taghno som tesso
for^{de} iordh aff aller tilligath haffwir hwilkin som laghbwdhin oc laghstandin war som war
lagh wthwisa jtem framdelis stodh birgher sonasson fastade oc wploth for^{da} laurens j bosnabergx
eth [ö]rtogh landh iord i sama by liggiande wppsidhis widh laurens tegh östan fore. fore fem
mark swenska pänningar hwilka for^{da} pänningar for^{de} birgher sonasson bekänder war sik fwlle^{lika}
wppbur^{it} haffwa, thy affhänder for^{de} birgher the for^{da} iordh sik oc sinom arffwom oc til
eghnar hona for^{da} laurens oc hans arffwom til äwärdeliko ägho när by oc [fiärran] i wato
oc i torro ängho wndhan taghno som tesso for^{da} iordh aff aller tillighat haffwir holkin
som lagbwdin oc laghstandin är som war lagh wthwisa. Thesse wara fasto ath
tessom köppom martin j widalom, sigge i sköllonäs, magno fogil, henric [st?gh],
lasse j daal, lasse j gördom, jösse hardh, thomas j walstom, swni j wandalom,
lasse andersson, guttor[m] i asche, sigge i fröswi, widher warw män magnus iönsson,
pädher länssman. Til tessnis breffs mera wisso oc höghre stadfestilse tha hängher
[iak mitt incigle] til widhnisbyrdh fore thzttha breff som screffwit är wppa aar dagh
(the rest unreadable under the folded edge)

Translation:

[To] all that see or hear this letter I, Halvid Andersson, Substitute District Chief in Oppunda District, greet on behalf of the honest man, Sir Gustaf Algotsson, a knight by God. I confess with this, my open letter, that when I held court with peasantry in Oppunda District in the one thousand, four hundred, thirteen and twentieth (1433) year after God's birth and the Saturday before Saint Botulf's Day (June 13th), that Lasse Gunbjörnsson guaranteed and granted the use of eighteen "pänningsland" land in Båsenberga, in the west end and five "pänningsland" land in Ed next to Gunnar's field, and situated (next to) the honest man Lars Olofsson and Sune in Båsenberga's land for 15 mark in Swedish "pänningar" which money, the before mentioned Lasse Gunbjörnsson confesses he received the full extent of. Therefore, he disposed the land from himself and his heirs and handed it over to Laurens in Båsenberga and his heirs to eternal possession, near and far, in wet and dry, and all other belonging land, with nothing excluded, all according to our law. Also, Birger Sonasson guaranteed and granted Laurens in Båsenberga one "örtugland" of land in the same village on the upside of Laurens's field in the east for five mark in Swedish "pänningar," which money Birger Sonasson confessed to have received into full extent. Therefore Birger and his heirs disposed this land and gave it to Laurens and his heirs for eternal possession, near and far, in wet and dry, and all other belonging land with nothing excluded, all according to our law. These persons guaranteed this agreement: Mårten in Viala, Sigge in Sköldnäs, Magnus Fågel, Henrik [st?gh], Lasse in Dal, Lasse in "gördom," Jöns Hård (in Juresta), Thomas in Valsta, Sune in Vannala, Lars Andersson, Guttorm in Askö, Sigge in Frösvi. Present witnesses were Magnus Jönsson and Peter Länsman. To guarantee this agreement, I put my seal onto this letter, written upon the year and day that are written above.

As a Substitute District Chief, Halvid Andersson had to attend court sessions three times a year, which were held every few months. During this time, Oppunda District Court sessions were held just a short distance west of Lerbo Church in Lerbo Parish. These sessions usually lasted around two days and mostly involved various land transactions among wealthy landowners. Halvid frequently placed his seal on letters to certify his authorization for different transactions.

Gustav Alogtsson (Sture)



Gustav Algotsson (Sture)'s coat of arms

Gustav Alogtsson (Sture) was a knight and District Chief for Oppunda District. He was the son of Algot Magnusson (Sture) and Märta Bosdotter. He was first mentioned in 1409 and last mentioned in 1448. Gustav was a member of Sweden's National Council and became the District Chief for Oppunda District in 1430. He married Elin Arvidsdotter (Oxenstierna) and the two had a daughter named Birgitta Gustavsdotter. Gustav died sometime in 1448. It's unknown where he died or was buried.

By 1434, civil unrest in Sweden had grown in response to King Erik XIII's war against Schleswig, Holstein, Mecklenburg, and Pomerania, which disrupted imports into Sweden and levied higher taxes upon the Swedish population. During the summer of 1434, a statesman named Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson led a rebellion against the Crown. This rebellion lasted until Engelbrektsson's death on May 4, 1436. Halvid Andersson likely felt conflicted about this rebellion, sympathizing with calls for reform but wary of disrupting stability.

The Engelbrektsson Rebellion

In 1434, unrest in Sweden grew against King Erik XIII, who led Sweden into costly wars against on Schleswig, Holstein, Mecklenburg, and Pomerania, which halted Swedish exporting goods to other countries and raised taxes. In the summer of 1434, Swedish statesman Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson led a rebellion of Swedish miners and peasants, who attacked several castles across Sweden. In August of that year, negotiations with Erik XIII took place at Vadstena, but failed. In January of 1435, Engelbrektsson summoned representatives from the four Swedish Estates and was elected as the *Rikshövitsman*, (Commander in Chief) of Sweden. On April 27, 1436, a rebel army marched towards Stockholm. On May 4, 1436, Engelbrektsson was assassinated, bringing an unofficial end to the rebellion. After his death, future king Karl Karlsson (Bonde) was elected as the Commander in Chief of Sweden. A man named Erik Puke attempted to rally Engelbrektsson's supporters, but he was captured and executed in 1437.

Discontentment with Erik XIII continued after the Engelbrektsson Rebellion, leading to Erik XIII's deposition from the Swedish throne in September of 1439. After his deposition, Karl Knutsson (Bonde) was elected as the regent of Sweden.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

On March 8, 1440, Halvid Andersson and his brother Folke met with their brother Lars Säck, who was a canon for Strängnäs Diocese, at Strängnäs Cathedral. The three brothers placed their seals on a letter that Lars Säck wrote, which declared his intentions for several of the estates he owned to be bequeathed to Strängnäs Diocese.[43]



Letter that mentions Halvid Andersson - March 8th, 1440
Seals: 1. Lars Säck 2. Folke Andersson 3. Halvid Andersson 4. Halsten Gudmundsson

[43] SDHK No. 23473 – March 8, 1440

Transcription:

Alla the thzta breff höra eller se Helsar jac laurens säk Canekir oc probendater sancte Anne j Strängenes ewdneligha mz gudhi Ok gör iak aller witerlicht swa epterkomanden som them nw äro at for then skuld at jac [nödhogre] [wille] thz sancte Anne prebenda som jac nu [han?] schole ludha j tilkomande tiidh nogh[e]r hinder eller bekymberhe aff mino arfu[e] eller noghr[e] [andre] [särdelis] om the gotz oc eghodela som onder for^{de} prebend[a] komme äro tha antwardhar jac op heel at helbryghda mz godhe friom wilia eptscripna gotz allom thera tillagen ränto oc affgeld j wedhogx fadhers mins herra biscop Thomasse och Capitli hender j Strengnes j swa matto at the epter then besta [suwit] oc som the wilia for gudhi bekennas jemke oc legge ther fore the gudz thienist oc sielarycher som klerkir epter klerk widher for^{de} sancte Anne alta^{re} h[o]lla scholo hwilken gotz en deels köpt äro mz minom egh[na] afflinga peningar oc en dells mz sancte Anne peningar som fordhom werdhogher fadher biscop Arend gudh hans siel nadhe ther til gaff. En deels är oc gifne ther onder swa som breff oc skäl bewisa [sär]delis om hwar[t] gotzet j sin stadh. Gotzen äro thesse epterscrifna som jac ha[uer] köpt först j [brunn] j häradhis sokn widh Strängenes jt markland, jtem j gilberghom j [westerlng] sokn j hölbo häradhe thry öres land iord, oc fyra thorp ther ondher som heta Bro Bakka Afflabro ok [yterwiik], jtem j swiastom j eskilstwna sokn [opa] östrareek atta örtugh land jordh jtem j lännes by oc lennes sokn i askir härade j närike thry öres land iordh Thesse epter scrifna gotz äro gifwen ther onder först j blaxtom j ärla sokn opa östrareek jt halfft markland iord jtem i widhaby i birkista sokn j westmana land twa gardha oc jt thorp ther onder widh [spano swnd], jtem j [w?dalnn] j for^{da} sokn oc westmanaland en gardh Thy bidher jac mz allo ödmiwkt kerleek for^{da} [min] kära hra biscop Thomas oc Capitlin j Strengnes oc the thz swa jemke oc legge at the thienist ther fore göras scal magho komma gudhi jomfru maria oc sante Anne til loff oc äro oc allom them til siela gagn oc hymerikis nadhe som ther til mz sinn gafuom oc godh gerningom halper hafua oc än her epter til hielpa gudh wet allra thera [napn] oc swa som klerk epter klerk möghelighet oc draghlighet är at ope halla oc swa mykit opa [min] deel gaar aff for^{da} gotz tha affhender jac mik oc mino arfuom oc gifuer oplater oc til eghnar thz for^{da} sante Anne probendo j Strengnes domkirkio til ewerdheligha ägho oc forbiwdher jac onder gudz heffn oc hardha wredhe allom minom erwingiom oc widherkomande thessa mina gafno oc allas wara sielarycht j nogher handa matto hindra eller qwelia Til thes ytermera stadhfestelse forwaring oc wisso henger jac mic inscighle for thz breff oc til ytermera stadhfestelse oc witnisbyrdh bedhis jac mine brödhers jncighe herra folkas j skiollinghe haluidz j jwrfors oc mins systersons halstens gudhmundzsons jncighle for thz sama breff hwilket scrifuit oc gifwit är j Strengenes aar epter gudz byrdh mcdxl attunda daghin j marcio manadh.

Translation:

[To] all that hear or see this letter, I Lars Säck, canon and holder of benefice of Saint Anne in Strängnäs, forever with God, announce to all, both descendants and living relatives, that I shall obey the rules according to this gift in the future and will not cause any obstacles or troubles by my heirs or any others regarding the estates or properties that are coming under this benefice. I give these, hereafter defined, estates together with interest and fees to my worthy Bishop Thomas and the Chapter of Strängnäs and the benefice Saint Anne. This estate is bought partly by my own money and partly by money from Saint Anne that the earlier Bishop Arend, now dead, gave. These are the estates: First in Brunna in Härad Parish near Strängnäs for one "markland," also in Gillberga in Västerljungs Parish in Hölebo District for three "öresland" and four crofts thereunder named Broby, Backa, Avlebro, and Yttervik, also in Svista in Eskilstuna Parish in Österrekarne District for eight "örtugland" soil, also in Lännäs Village in Lännäs Parish in Askers District in Närke for three "öresland" soil. These estates are given thereafter: First in Blacksta in Ärla Parish in Österrekarne District for one half "markland" soil, also two farms and one croft with Spånsundet in Vedby in Björksta Parish in Västmanland, also in [utdal?] in the before mentioned parish (Björksta) in Västmanland one farm. I then humbly and with love, beg to my dear Bishop Thomas and the Chapter of Strängnäs and hope that the estates will be of God's use, and honour Virgin Mary, Saint Anne, and the kingdom of Heaven. I therefor deprive myself and my heirs and give these estates to Saint Anne's benefice in Strängnäs Cathedral to eternal possession and forbid, under God's violent and hard wrath, all my heirs and their heirs to stop or appeal against these my gifts. To guarantee this, I attach my seal onto this letter and beg my brothers Folke, a priest in Sköldinge, and Halvid in Jurfors (Djulfors) and my sister's son Halsten Gudmundsson also to seal this letter, which is written in Strängnäs the 1440th year after God's birth, on the 8th of March.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Canekir – Canons in the Medieval Church

During medieval times, a canon was a position in the Roman Catholic Church. Canons were members of a chapter that usually lived together near a cathedral. The chapter that canons belonged to was usually headed by a dean. This chapter was responsible for electing a bishop of a diocese.

Halvid must have been fairly wealthy and owned several farms. In addition to Djulfors and Grysta, he owned several other farms throughout Södermanland. He probably spent most of his time at Djulfors with his family. By 1440, he was probably middle-aged. Halvid and Valborg's children probably reached adulthood in the 1440s.

Stora Malm Parish



Stora Malm Church

Stora Malm (Stóre-rah Malm) is a parish in Södermanland County. Stora Malm has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1334 as "Maalm." In older times, it was simply known as Malm Parish. Its name means "sandy," which refers to the sandy fields by the church. Stora Malm Parish is 183.91 square kilometers, of which 168.26 are land. Stora Malm is located south and east of the city Katrineholm, has a plain in the east, and forest in the west.

Stora Malm contains the towns of Forssjö, Eriksberg Castle, Duveholm Manor, and part of the urban area Strömgsjö. The remains of a Stone Age settlement were found near the village of Lilla Vrå and there are six burial fields in Stora Malm from the Iron Age. Stora Malm Church was originally built in the 13th century and expanded in the 18th century. Stora Malm used to be part of Oppunda District. In 1971, it became part of Katrineholm Municipality. In 2016, Stora Malm District was established. In 2000, the population of Stora Malm was 1,572.

"Vapenslikhetsfällan" by Kaj Janzon

"Vapenslikhetsfällan" ("Weapons Similarities Trap") is a publication that was written by Swedish historian Kaj Janzon (b. 1956) and published in the journal *Svensk Genealogisk Tidskrift* ("Swedish Genealogical Journal") in 2015. Janzon's work analyzes the seals of several different medieval families. On pages 17-20, Janzon writes about the (Svin) family, which he refers to as the "Djulforssläkten" ("Djulfors Clan.") The seals of Halvid Andersson, his brothers Lars Säck and Folke, and son Nils Halvidsson are analyzed in this section.

Less than a month later, on April 3, 1440, Halvid and Valborg visited Julita Abbey and met with an abbot named Rolf. During this meeting, they pledged 10 solidi (gold or silver coins) worth of land in Lundby, Ryttene Parish in Västmanland Province for 8 solidi and 17 mark in Swedish currency. The two had previously owed this amount to Madame Tala, the widow of Gert Surbek in Stockholm, but Surbek had written in his will that he wanted that amount to be paid to Julita Abbey after his death. Halvid and Valborg also promised to annually pay 2 barrels of barley and 1 mark of cash to Julita Abbey. The letter which announced this agreement was certified by Folke, Halvid's brother, and Olof in Vingaker.[44]



Letter that Halvid Andersson wrote on April 3rd, 1440
Seals: 1. (missing) Halvid Andersson 2. Valborg Nilsdotter,
3-4. (both missing and order unknown) Folke Andersson and Olof in Vingåker

[44] SDHK No. 23494 - April 3, 1440

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Transcription:

Alla them thzta b(re)ff høra æller see helsom wij (Hallwidh i D)jwrforβ ok
mijn ælskeligha husf(r)u hust(r)u walborgh kærli(ca mz) waro(m) h(er)ran ok
ku(n)gøro(m) wij mz thæsso waro opno b(re)few ath wij hafw(o)m pansath ærliko(m)
father Aboth Rodolff j jwleto(m) x sol(idi) landhjordh liggia(n)de j lu(n)dhby
widher Ryterbo kyrkio j wæsters aars biskops døme for viii sol(idi) och
xvii mrk swænska pæn(n)i(n)ga | hulka pæn(n)i(n)ga wij rætthelika skylloghe
waro(m) hust$^{(r)u}$ tala gærdh swrbæx hust$^{(r)u}$ j stokholm gudh ha(n)s siæl na-
dhe ok han framdel(is) vnte ok gaff for^{da} pæn(n)i(n)ga jwleta kloster til
tæstamænth aff hulko for^{da} godze aff gaar ii tynir korn oc j mrk
pæn(n)i(n)ga | thynen for vi øre pæn(n)i(n)ga wp ath bæra for^{da} jwleta klost(er)
aarlika til thæβ the for^{da} sum(m)a pæn(n)i(n)ga ær bereth for^{da} kloster | hær
til bebijndom wij oss ok wara ærffwingia thz stadhukt halla widh
wara rætta san(n)end ok kristelika tro til thæβ mer wisso tha hæn-
giom wij bæggias waro(m) jnsigle oc til ytirmeerbewarni(n)gh och
stadhfæstilse tha bedhomβ wij hedhrlika man(n)a jncigle swa so(m) ær
h(er)ra folka j skøllinge sokn och h(er)ra olaffs j wikingakir for thz^{ta}
b(re)ff so(m) sc(ri)fwat oc vtgifwit ær dro(m) æpt(er) gudz byrdh m^{o} cd^{o}xl^{o} j for-
næmpta jwleta kloster atta dagha æpthe pascha.

Translation:

[To] all who hear or read this open letter, we, Halvid in Djulfors and my beloved matron and wife Valborg, with the love of our Lord, announce, that we have pledged 10 solidi land in Lundby by the church of Rytterne in the diocese of Västerås, for 8 solidi and 17 mark in Swedish currency, to the abbot Father Rolf at the Julita Monastery; this money we owed Madame Tala in Stockholm, the widow of Gert Surbek, God has mercy on his soul. In his last will [Surbek wrote] the amount should be given to the Julita Monastery. We, and our heirs, will yearly pay 2 barrels of barley and 1 mark cash, (1 barrel is worth 6 öre)*, until the full amount has been paid to the monastery. To assure the authenticity of this letter, we place both our seals upon it; we also ask the honorable gentlemen Herr Folke in Sköldinge Parish and Herr Olof in Vingåker to seal this letter written in the 1440th year after God's birth on the eighth day after Easter (April 3rd) at Julita Monastery.*

Julita Abbey



Julita Abbey

Julita (Yúe-lée-tah) Abbey was a monastery for Cistercian monks in Julita Parish, Södermanland. It was founded in 1160 and received several generous donations from royalty, such as King Erik Knutsson. During the 15th century, Julita Abbey owned around 80 farms. In 1527, during the Reduction of Gustav I, Julita's land was confiscated by the throne and was given to Olof Arvidsson, a bailiff in Linköping. The Nordic Museum purchased Julita Abbey in 1944.

Valborg Nilsdotter's Coat of Arms

Valborg Nilsdotter's seal from SDHK No. 23494 - April 3, 1440 shows her coat of arms, which is of a vertical standing sword flanked on either side by two five-pointed stars. It's unknown if Valborg derived this coat of arms from her father Nils Fos or her unknown mother. Valborg's seal contained the text "Valborg Niclis," indicating that her last name was "Nilsdotter."



Valborg Nilsdotter's seal from 1440

A sword flanked by five-pointed stars on Valborg Nilsdotter's coat of arms carries strong symbolic meanings, particularly in the context of medieval Swedish nobility and heraldry. The sword may represent justice and authority, military strength and honor, and chivalry and protection.

Five-pointed stars (mullets) are among the most common star shapes in heraldry, and they may represent nobility and divine favor, knightly status and military excellence, or a symbol of achievement or glory.

Since the stars flanked the sword symmetrically, they might indicate balance between martial strength and noble virtue, suggesting that her family combined military service with leadership or governance.



Sketch of Valborg Nilsdotter's coat of arms from Jan Raneke's *Svenska medeltidsvapen*, page 704

Nils Halvidsson and Valborg Nilsdotter Pledge Land to Julita Abbey*

The crisp April air carried the scent of damp earth as Halvid Andersson and his wife Valborg Nilsdotter stood before Father Rolf at Julita Monastery. The stone walls loomed around them, solemn and still, as they prepared to fulfill their duty. In Halvid's hands, the parchment bearing their pledge lay heavy, the words inked with certainty. Their land in Lundby, pledged for the sake of an unpaid debt, would now belong to the monastery until their dues were met.

The sum of eight solidi and seventeen marks, once owed to Madame Tala, the widow of Gert Surbek, now rested in the hands of the church. Surbek's last will had dictated the payment, and they, bound by faith and honor, ensured it was fulfilled. Each year, they would bring two barrels of barley and a mark in coin until the debt was paid in full.

As the wax seals pressed against the parchment, Valborg whispered a prayer for Surbek's soul. The abbot nodded approvingly, his gaze steady. With a final blessing, the agreement was set. Halvid and Valborg turned from the monastery, the weight of their oath heavy, yet their conscience clear.

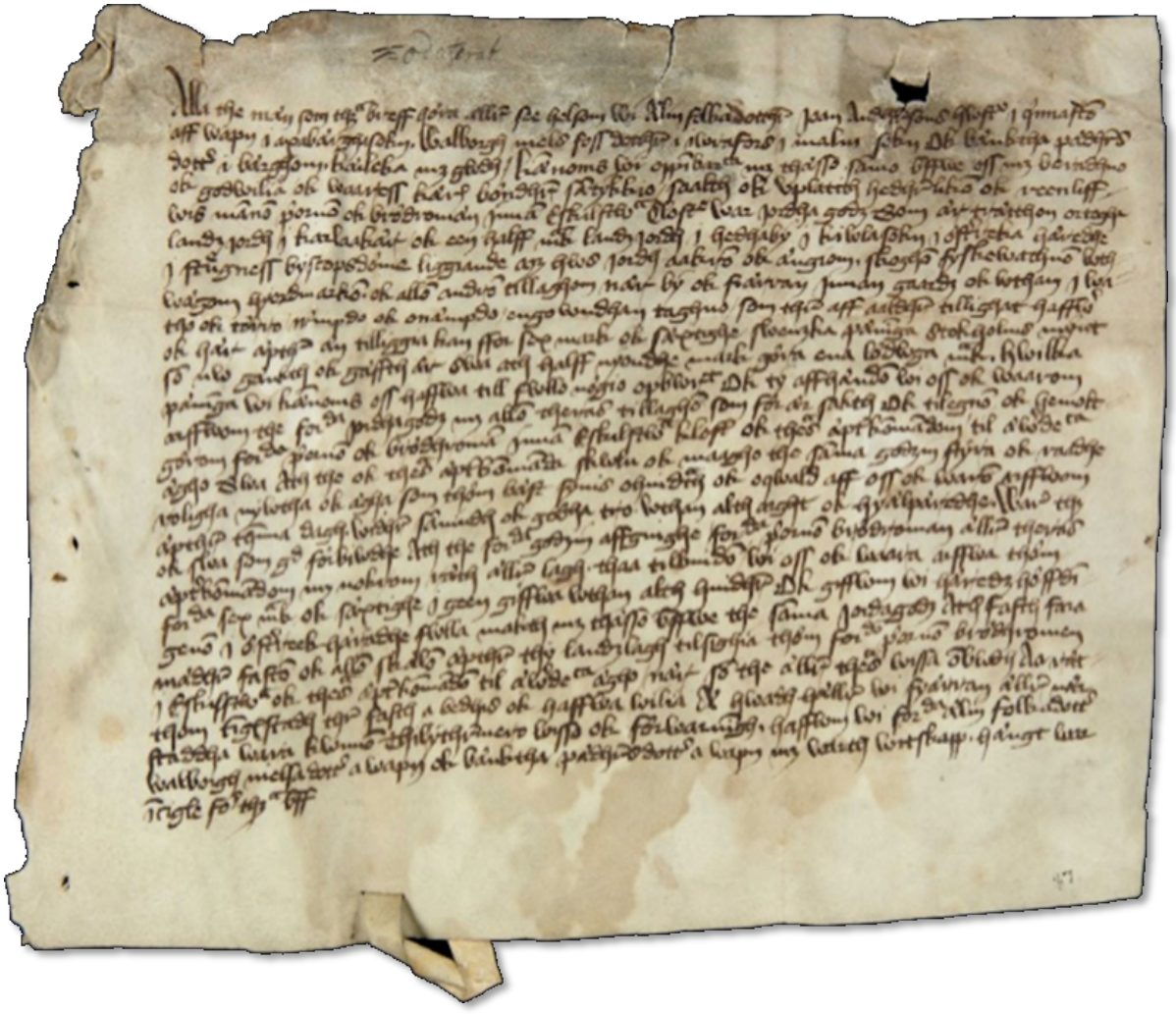
*A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

The Name "Valborg"

The name "Valborg" comes from the ancient Germanic name "Valburg" or "Walburc." One theory is that it means "stranger" and another theory is that it derives from the words *waltan* ("rule") + *burg* ("protection.") The name has been used in Sweden since the 13th century. The name day for Valborg in Sweden is May 1st.

Sometime in 1440, Valborg Nilsdotter met with Elin Folkesdotter and Bengta Persdotter to declare that they had sold 13 "örtugland" land in Karlaker and 1/2 "markland" land in Heby in Kjula Parish in Österrekarne District to Eskilstuna Monastery for 66 mark in Swedish coins. This land included all land, fields, meadows, fishing-waters, roads, grazing grounds, and anything else that was located on that property.[45] It's likely that Valborg had inherited her portion of this land from her father Nils Fos. It's also probable that Elin Folkesdotter was the daughter of Halvid Andersson's brother Folke and that Bengta Persdotter was also related to either Halvid or Valborg.



[45] SDHK No. 24250 – 1440

Letter that mentions Valborg Nilsdotter – 1440

Seals (All missing and order unknown): * Elin Folkesdotter * Valborg Nilsdotter * Bengta Petersdotter

Transcription:

Alla the mæn som thz breff høra æller see helsom wi Ælin folkadotther Joan Andhersons hwst[u] j q(i)nnastom
aff wapn i axabærghasokn, Walborgh niels foss dotther i iwrafors j malm sokn. Ok bænktha pædhers
dott(her) i bærghom, kærleka mz gwdh | kæn(n)oms wi oppe(n)bar[ca] mz thæsso sam(m)o b(re)ffwe oss mz beradhno
ok godwilia ok waaress kære bøndh(e)rs sa(m)tykkio | saalth ok uplatith hedherliko(m) ok reenliff-
wis man(n)o(m) p(ri)or(e)no(m) ok brødromæn jnna(n) Eskilstu(na) Clost(er) war jordha godz som ær trætthon orthoga landzjordh j karlaakær
ok een halff m(ar)k landzjordh i hedhaby j kiwla sokn j østerreka hæredhe
j stengness bijscopsdøme liggiande mz hws jordh aakro(m) ok ængiom, skogho(m) fijskewathno(m) wth
wægom hiordmarko(m), ok allo(m) andro(m) tillaghom nær by ok fiærran jnnan gaardz ok wthan j wa-
tho ok torro | næmpdo ok onæmpdo | engo wndhan taghno | som ther aff aaldher tillighat haffw(er)
ok hær æpther æn tilliggia kan ffor sex mark ok sæxtighe swenzka pæn(n)i(n)ga stokholms mynt
so(m) nw gænkth ok hæffth ær swa ath halff nijondhe mark gøra ena lødwga m(r)k. Hwilka
pæn(n)i(n)ga wi kæn(n)oms oss haffwa till fullo nøgio opbwret : Ok ty affhænhdo(m) wi oss ok waarom
arffwom the for[da] jordagodz mz allo(m) theras tillagho(m) som før ær sakth: Ok tilegno(m) ok hemolt
gørom for[da] p(ri)or(e)no(m) ok brødhroman jnna(n) Eskilstw(na) klost(er) ok the(re)s æpt(er)kom(m)a(n)dom til æw(er)de(li)[ca] ægho swa ath the
ok the[a]s æpt(er)kom(m)a(n)de skwlu ok maagho the sam(m)a godzen styra ok raadhe
roligha nywtha ok ægha som thøm bæst synis ohind(ra)th ok oqwald aff oss ok waro(m) arffwom
æpther then(n)a dagh. Widh(e)r saam(e)nd ok godha tro. Wthan alth arght ok hyælpæredhe. War(de) thz
ok swa som g(u)d førbiwdhe, Ath the for[da] godzen affginghe | forda p(ri)or(e)no(m) brødhroman æller theras æpt(er)kom(m)ando(m) mz nokrom
ræth æller lagh, thaa tilbindo(m) wi oss ok waara arfwa thæm
for[da] sex m(ar)k ok sæxtighe j geen giffwa wthan alth hindher: Ok giffwm wi hæredz høffdi(n)-
geno(m) j øst(er)reek hæradhe fwlla makth mz thesso b(re)ffwe the sam(m)a jordagodz ath fasth fara
mædher fasto(m) ok allo(m) skælo(m) æpther thy landzlagh tilsighia thøm for[do] p(ri)or(e)no(m) brødhromen
j Eskilstw(na) ok thes æpt(er)kom(m)a(n)do(m) til æw(er)de(li) [ca] ægho | nær so(m) the æller the(re)s wissa o(m)bwdh Aa ræt- thom ti(n)ghstadh
ther fasth a bedhis ok haffwa wilia & hwadh hæller wi fyærran æller nær
staddha wara kunno(m) thilytthermero wisso ok førwarni(n)g, haffwm wi for[da] ælin folkadott(er)
walborgh nielsadott(er) a wapn ok bänktha pædhersdott(er) a wapn mz warth witskapp, hængt war
i(n)sigle fo(re) thz(tta) b(re)ff.

Translation:

[To] all men that hear or see this letter, we, Elin Folkesdotter, wife of the Squire Johan Andersson at Kvinnersta in Axberg Parish; Valborg, daughter of Nils Fos in Djulfors in Malm Parish; and Bengta Petersdotter in Berga, declare that we, with the consent of our guardians, have sold 13 "örtugland" land in Karlåker and 1/2 "markland" land in Heby in Kjula Parish in Österrekarne District in the diocese of Strängnäs, with all houses, land, fields and meadows, fishing-waters, roads, grazing grounds, and whatever might belong to the estates, close to the village or far away, within the farms and outside, through thick and thin, mentioned or not, all included, for 66 mark in Swedish currency in now valid coins minted in Stockholm, so that 8 ½ mark responds to 1 mark of fine silver, to the prior and the brothers of the monastery in Eskilstuna. The estates shall be theirs and their successors forever to use and run. From this day on, we relinquish the right to these estates for us and our heirs. If, which God forbid, the estates should be confiscated, we guarantee to pay back the 66 mark. We have authorized the District Judge of Österrekane District to prove and look after the juridical aspects. We, Elin Folkesdotter, Valborg Nilsdotter, and Bengta Petersdotter have placed our seals on this letter.

In 1441, Kristofer, who was the King of Denmark, was elected as the King of Sweden. Kristofer only reigned over Sweden for seven years, as he died in 1448. In 1442, Kristofer was elected as the King of Norway, making him the unified leader of the Kalmar Union. It's possible that Kristofer was the last monarch that reigned over Sweden in Halvid Andersson's lifetime.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Other Letters that Mention Halvid Andersson (Svin)

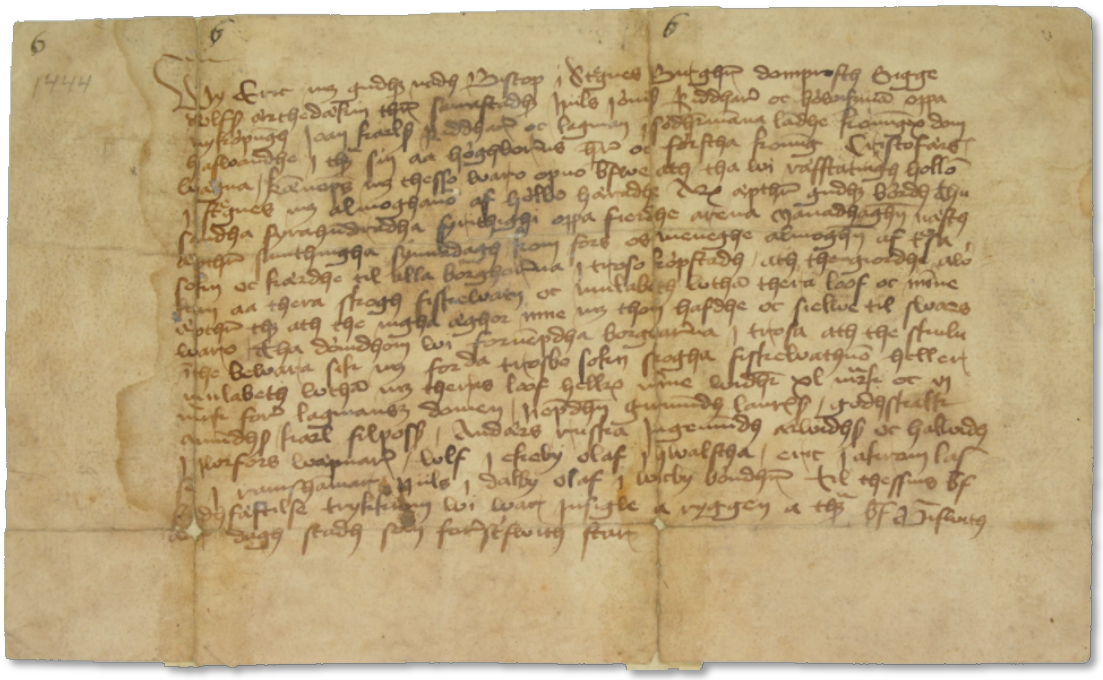
- **SDHK No. 20351 – September 30, 1424**: Halvid in "Grystum" certifies a land transaction between Herr Tyrgils in Lerbo Parish and Olof Hemmingsson.
- **SDHK No. 20410 – January, 1425:** "Haluidher" in "Grystum" certifies that judge Lasse "Odhansson" purchased land in Västra Öknom in Floda Parish.
- **SDHK No. 21306 – January 13, 1430:** "Haluidher" in "Jwlfors" attest that Lasse Ödinsson proved his right to land in Jultsum (Jursta) in Floda Parish.
- **SDHK No. No. 21798 - June 21, 1432:** Halvid Andersson in Djulfors certifies that Nisse Davidsson exchanged land in Hosjö, Lilla Malma Parish for land in Skiringe, Mellösa Parish
- **SDHK No. 21858 – after November 1, 1432:** "Halwidher" in "Jwrfors" certifies that Sir Erik (a priest) exchanged land with Lasse Ödinsson in Ökna.

  SDHK No. 21962 – June 13, 1433: Halvid Andersson in Djulfors certifies that Lasse Gunbjörnsson sold land in Båsenberga and Ed in Västra Vingåker Parish to Lars Olofsson.
- **SDHK No. 21968 – November 1, 1433**: Halvid in "Jurfors" certifies a land transaction between the abbot Rudolf in Julita Abbey with Peter in Hovby, Blacksta Parish.
- **SDHK No. 22348 – April 10, 1435:** Halvid, judge in Oppunda District, certifies that Peter Gudmundsson sold land to knight Svarte Jöns (Nilsson).
- **SDHK No. 22359 – May 1, 1435:** Halvid in Djulfors certifies that Håkan Halstensson and his sister Cecilia Halstendotter purchased land in Enäs, Flinkesta, and Vik in Vadsbro Parish.
- **SDHK No. 22598 – June 30, 1436** - Halvid Andersson in Djulfors grants Ragnar in Berga the right to build a millhouse in Vingåker Parish.
- **SDHK No. 22850 – October 12, 1437:** Halvid in Djulfors certifies a land transaction between Peter in Valfalla, Floda Parish and Lars Ödinsson in Ökna in the same parish.
- **SDHK No 22.851 - October 12, 1437:** Halvid Andersson in Djulfors certifies a land transaction between Lars Ödinsson in Ökna, Floda Parish, and Peter in Valfalla, Floda Parish.
- **SDHK No. 22852 - October 12, 1437:** Halvid Andersson in Djulfors certifies another land transaction between Lars Ödinsson and and Peter in Valfalla.
- **SDHK No. 23516 – May 7, 1440:** Halvid Andersson in Djulfors certifies that Peter Svensson had purchased land from Mrs. Cecilia (Staffansdotter) Stangenberg, the widow of the knight Karl Öra.
- **SDHK No. 23515 – May 7, 1440:** Halvid Andersson in Djulfors certifies that deceased squire Jöns Magnusson sold land in Ökna, Lerbo Parish to Strängnäs Cathedral.

By 1444, Halvid Andersson was probably no longer a Substitute District Chief. On March 2, 1444, Halvid was at Strängnäs Cathedral and met with Erik (the Bishop of Strängnäs Diocese), Birger Dean, Sigge Ulofsson (the Archdeacon of Strängnäs), Germund Larsson, Gotskalk Amundsson, Karl Filipsson, Anders Ruska, Ingemund Arvidsson, Ulf in Ekeby, and Olof in Valsta. These men met on the behalf of the peasants of Trosa Parish, who sought to prosecute the burgess from the city of Trosa who had used the forests, fishing waters, and pastures in Trosa without the peasants' permission. In response to the peasants' complaint, the burgess was banned from using the forests, fishing waters, and pastures in Trosa without the peasants' permission, or be subjected to a fine of 40 mark and 6 öre.[46]



Strängnäs Cathedral



Letter that mentions Halvid Anderson – March 2, 1444
Seals (All Missing): 1. Birger Dean 2. Sigge Ulfsson (Archdeakon in Strängnäs) 3.Nils Jönsson (knight and captain in Nyköping) 4. Johan Karlsson (knight and judge in Södermanland)

[46] SDHK No. 24485 – March 2, 1444

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Transcription:

Wy Eric mz Gudhz nadh Biscop i Strengnes Birgher domprosth Sigge Ulfsson ärchedäkin ther sammastadhz Niils Jönisson Riddhare oc höwiszman oppa nyköpingh Joan karlsson Riddare oc lagman j Södhermanna landhe konungx domhafwande j thz sin aa höghbornes hr oc förstha konung Cristofärs wägna, känomps mz thesso waro opno brefwe ath tha wi räfstatingh hollom j strengnes mz almoghanom af hölbo häradhe Aret äpther gudhz bördh thusendha fyrahundradha fyrithighi oppa fierdhe arena manadhaghen nästh äpther siunthingha synnadagh, kom fore oss meneghe almoghen af Trosa sokn oc käradhe til alla Borgharna j troso köpstadh ath the? giordhe [alom]stan aa thera skogh fiskewatn oc mulabeth uthan thera loof oc minne äpther thz ath the ingha äghor inne mz thon hafdhe oc sielwe til swars waro [Tha] dömdhom wi forenämpdha borgharna j trosa ath dhe skulu inthe bewara sik mz for^{da} trosbo sokn skogha fiskewatnhom heller mulabeth wthan mz theras loof heller [minne] widher xl mark oc vj mark fore lagmansz domen nempdhen gumundh laurensson, godhskalk anundsson karel filposson, Andarsz ruska Ingemundh arwidhsson och halwidh j jurfors wäpnare, wlf j ekeby olaf j walstha eric j akrom lasse j ramshammar, niils j dalby olaf j wicby böndher til thessa[m]s Bref stadhfästilse trykkiom wi war jnsigle a ryggen a [thz] bref [AScr]ifwith [arom] dagh stadh som forescrifwith star.

Translation:

We Eric, with the grace of God, Bishop in Strängnäs; Birger Dean; Sigge Ulfsson, Archdeacon in Strängnäs; Nils Jönsson, knight and captain in Nyköping; and Johan Karlsson, knight and judge in Södermanland on behalf of King Kristofer, announce with this open letter that we held court in Strängnäs with the peasantry in Hölebo District. In the thousand four hundred forty and the fourth year after God's birth (1444), on the Monday after "Siunthinga" Sunday (March 2nd), the peasantry of Trosa Parish came to court and prosecuted all the burgess in the city Trosa that used the peasantry's forests, fishing-waters and pasture without permission. The burgess owned no land and because they were not present (to defend themselves),we judged and banned the burgess in Trosa from using the peasantry's forests, fishing-waters and pasture without the peasantry's permission and good memory. Otherwise they must pay a fine of 40 mark and 6 öre for the this judgment. The jury: Germund Larsson, Gotskalk Amundsson, Karl Filipsson, Anders Ruska, Ingemund Arvidsson and Halvid in Djulfors, all squires, also Ulf in Ekeby, Olof in Valsta, Erik in Akra, Lasse in Ramshammar, Nils in Dalby, Olof in Vikby peasants. To this letters ratification we press ours seals onto the back of this letter. Written the day and at the place before mentioned.

Nothing is known of Halvid Andersson's or Valborg Nilsdotter's lives after 1444. However, since Halvid isn't listed in his brother Lars Säck's will in 1453 but his son Nils and sisters Margareta and Katarina are[47], he must have died before that year. It's unknown when Valborg died.

[47] SDHK No. 26207 - February 10, 1453

Trivia on Halvid Andersson (Svin) and Valborg Nilsdotter

1. What were the names of Halvid Andersson's known siblings?

2. What was the name of Valborg Nilsdotter's father?
    a. Nils Andersson
    b. Nils Fos
    c. Nils Halvidsson
    d. Nils Magnusson

3. What was the first year that Halvid Andersson was mentioned?

4. What is the name of the first known farm that Halvid Andersson lived at?
    a. Djulfors
    b. Pinntorp
    c. Grysta
    d. None of these

5. What was Halvid Andersson's occupation?
    a. Bailiff
    b. Squire
    c. Substitute District Chief
    d. None of these

6. What parish did Halvid Andersson and Valborg Nilsdotter lived in the 1430s and 1440s?
    a. Lerbo
    b. Sköldinge
    c. Stora Malm
    d. None of these

7. What were the names of Halvid and Valborg's known children?

8. What farm did Halvid Andersson and Valborg Nilsdotter lived in the 1430s and 1440s?

9. What is the last year in which Halvid Andersson is recorded as being alive?

10. Halvid Andersson must have died before which year?

Answers: 1. Lars Säck, Folke, Margareta, and Katarina 2. b 3. 1424 4. c 5. c 6. c 7. Nils, Elin, Katarina, and a child whose name is unknown 8. Djulfors 9. 1444 10. 1453

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad)

Name	Knut Arvidsson	Name	Kerstin Bengtsdotter
Born	1400s-1410s	Born	1410s-early 1420s
Place	Västergötland	Place	Halland
Died	1458 or 1459	Died	After 1460
Place	Länghem, Västergötland	Place	Länghem, Västergötland
Occupation	District Chief	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Arvid	1430s-1450s	Långhem	August 26, 1497	Länghem
Ingrid	1430s-1450s	Långhem	Unknown	Unknown
Märta	1430s-1450s	Långhem	Unknown	Unknown
Britta	**1430s-1450s**	**Långhem**	**Unknown**	**Unknown**
Karin	1430s-1450s	Långhem	Before 1515	Unknown

Early Years (1400-1439)

Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna), the father of Britta Knutsdotter, was probably born sometime in the 1400s or 1410s.[48] His father was Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and his mother was Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika).[49] Knut was most likely born in Möne Parish, Västergötland Province since his father Arvid Jönsson was living there in 1412.[50]

In 1400...

- Margaret I was the Queen of Sweden, Henry IV was the King of England, and Charles VI was the King of France.
- The Pope was Boniface IX.
- The House of Medici became powerful in Florence, Italy.
- The literary works *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *The Canterbury Tales* were finished (although *The Canterbury Tales* was left incomplete).
- The Kingdom of the Kongo began in Africa.

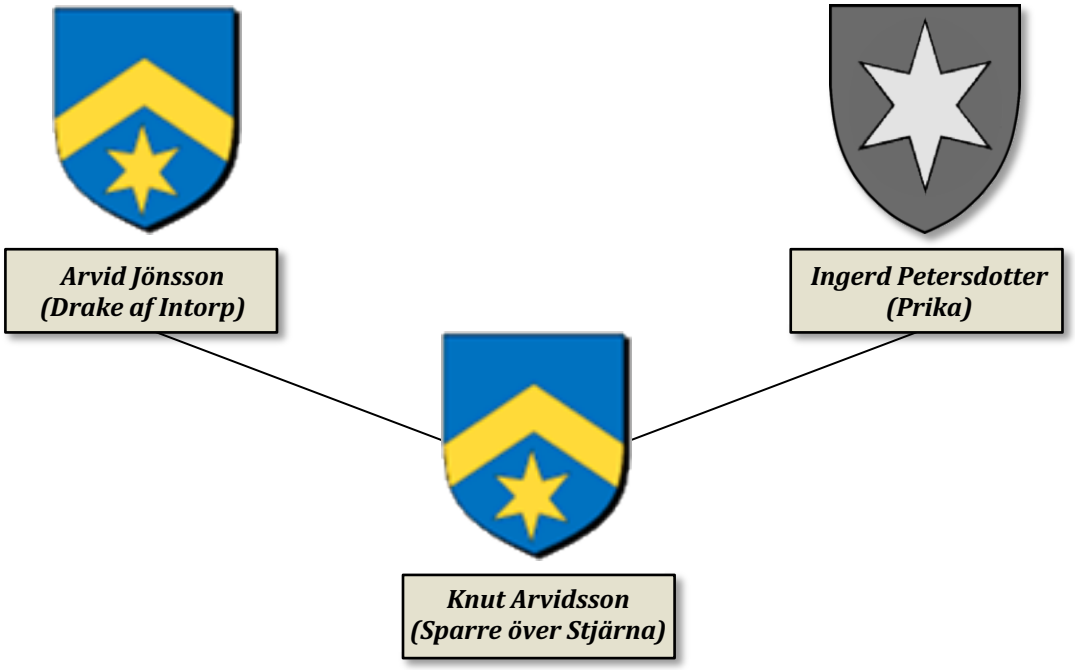


[48] Since Knut Arvidsson was first mentioned in 1438 (SDHK No. 23101 – December 14, 1438, he must have been in his twenties or thirties at this time.

[49] Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter are listed as Knut Arvidsson's parents in SDHK No. 23101 – December 14, 1438.

[50] SDHK No. 17807 – April 4, 1412

Both of Knut's parents came from some of the most prominent families in Västergötland. His father Arvid Jönsson came from the Drake af Intorp or Sparre over Stjärna family, also known as *Torpaäten*[51], while his mother Ingerd Petersdotter came from the Prika family[52]. Thus, Knut's family was much wealthier than most of the Swedish peasants who were alive at the time. Because of this, Knut was literate. Knut had at least one brother named Arvid.[53]



Västergötland

Västergötland (Véh-ster-gút-lanhd) is a historical province that is located in the southwestern part of Sweden. It contains parts of the counties of Västra Götaland, Jönköping, and Halland, and borders the province of Halland to the southwest, Dalsland, Vänern, and Värmland to the north, Närke and Vättern to the east, and Småland to the southeast. The southern and eastern parts of Västergötland are dominated by hills and are part of the Swedish Southern Highlands.



The name Västergötland means "Western land." It was first mentioned in the 1070s as Westragothia. Västergötland has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Parts of Västergötland converted to Christianity as early as the 9th century. Since Västergötland bordered Denmark, it was often invaded by Danish armies.

[51] "Torpaäten" is the name genealogists use for the descendants of Jöns Bengtsson, whose coat of arms was a chevron. In SDHK No. 17835 - May 26, 1412, he is listed with his son Arvid Jönsson, whose coat of arms was also a chevron.

[52] Peter Andersson (Prika), who bore the six-sided star coat of arms that the Prika family used, is listed as the father-in-law of Arvid Jönsson (Knut Arvidsson's father) in SDHK No. 18788. – August 1, 1416.

[53] Arvid is listed as Knut's brother in SDHK No. 27054 - September 25, 1457.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm



Möne, Möne Parish, Västergötland Province
- Where Knut Arvidsson spent his earliest years

Knut Arvidsson spent his early years in Möne Parish. During this time, his family attended Möne Church, which belonged to Skara Diocese. Knut's family were one of the most powerful families in Västergötland and had high ranking positions in the province's judicial system. His father Arvid Jönsson served as the District Chief of Ås District from at least 1401 until at least 1415.[54] Knut's paternal grandfather Jöns Bengtsson served as the District Chief of Kind District from at least 1397 until at least 1409.[55]

When Knut was probably a teenager, he was appointed as a *väpnare*, or squire.[56] As a squire, Knut served in the military and had his own armor and horse.

Skara Diocese

Skara (Skáh-ráh) is the oldest existing diocese in Sweden, which is located in the southwestern part of the country. Skara Cathedral is located in the city of Skara, Västergötland. Skara Diocese included the provinces of Västergötland and Värmland. Skara was originally founded in 990 and its first bishop was Odinkar Hvite the Elder. During this time, there was no strict division of the country into dioceses, and the missionary bishops roamed the country preaching. Around 1100, the eastern part of Skara became Linköping Diocese.



The cathedral chapter for Skara Diocese consisted latterly of an archdeacon, dean, subdean, and twenty-one canons. During the late 13th century and early 14th century, the current building for Skara Cathedral was built during the tenures of Brynolph Algotsson (who was bishop from 1267–1317) and Benedict III Tunnesson (who was bishop from 1317–1321). During the late 1520s, Sweden converted to Lutheranism. Today Skara is a diocese for the Church of Sweden.

[54] Arvid is listed as the District Chief of Ås District for the first time in SDHK No.15552 - January 14, 1401 and for the last time in SDHK No. 18575 - July 20, 1415.
[55] Jöns is listed as the District Chief of Kind District for the first time in SDHK No. 14823 – June 9, 1397 and for the last time in SDHK No. 39774 - February 24, 1409.
[56] Knut is listed as a squire in SDHK No. 23103 – December 14, 1438.

By 1421, Arvid Jönsson, Knut's father, was the District Chief for Kind District and served in that position until at least 1434.[57] It's likely that Knut's family lived at Intorp, an estate in Gällstad Parish, Västergötland at this time. During this time, Knut's family attended Gällstad Church, which also belonged to Skara Diocese. Knut's family owned several farms throughout Västergötland, which Knut later inherited.



Intorp, Gällstad Parish, Västergötland Province
The estate where Knut Arvidsson probably lived in the 1420s and 1430s

The first Swedish monarch that Knut remembered was probably King Erik XIII, who ruled over Sweden from 1412 to 1439. By 1434, civil unrest in Sweden had grown against King Erik XIII's rule and a statesman named Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson led a rebellion against the Crown. This rebellion lasted until Engelbrektsson's death on May 4, 1436.

Knut Arvidsson's Opinion of the Engelbrektsson Rebellion*

"We were sitting by the fire after the Holy mass on the day of Virgin Mary in the Year of Our Lord 1435," Knut Arvidsson recollected. "My brother Arvid was visiting us. The waves of discussion were high; we were all so tired of how our country was governed. Sweden was part the Kalmar Union, and we were being ruled by foreign queens and kings and controlled by German and Danish bailiffs. Many local noblemen throughout the country disapproved of the King Erik XIII's system with foreign bailiffs and soldiers, not to speak of the 'ordinary people' who had to pay the costs."

"Arvid spoke about a nobleman named Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson who tried to bring justice into the system by agitating for a rebellion," Knut continued. "He and his troops had come down to Vadstena in Östergötland, where he met local noblemen on August 16th. Starting in Dalarna, more people had joined him, thus showing their discontent. On their way south they had besieged castles and burned some of them. I had hopes that rebellion would bring us a Swedish King and native bailiffs to take care of the country."

*A work of creative fiction by Magnus Holmqvist

[57] Arvid is first listed as the District Chief of Kind District in SDHK No. 19643 – July 20, 1415 and for the last time in SDHK No. 22090 – February 10, 1434.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm



Gällstad Church - Where Knut Arvidsson attended church in the 1420s and 1430s

By 1438, both of Knut Arvidsson's parents had passed away. On December 14, 1438, Knut met at the vicarage of Rångedala with Bishop Sven of Skara Diocese, Dean Bengt Klasson, Prebendary Magnus Håkansson in Skara, and squires Peter Ribbing and Peter Tomasson and bequeathed the farm Svenstorp in Gällstad Parish to Gällstad Church in honor of his parents' souls. The five men that Knut met with certified this transaction with their seals.[58]



Letter that Knut Arvidsson wrote on December 14th, 1438
Seals: 1. Bishop Sven of Skara Diocese 2. Dean Bengt Klasson 3. Prebendary Magnus Håkansson 4. Peter Ribbing, 5. Peter Tomasson

[58] SDHK No. 23101 – December 14, 1438

Transcription:

I(n)for alla mæn tættha breff høra ællar sseer kiæms jak knwt arwidß
wæpnare tet aar efftir gwtz byrdh mcdxxxviij^{o} Sønnedagin næst æftir Ste lucie dagh j nær
waro wærdogh faders mz gwth biskops swæns j skara j rangadal præsta
gard gaff jak oc galt wnder gælstada kyrkio och wder p(res)tee bordh samatads mit
rætta arwagodz som kallas swænw(n)gsthorp j gælstada by liggia(n)de mz allom smo-
ægom ingom wnda(n)taknom til ewærdeleka ægho for mine kæra faders siæl ar-
uid jensß oc mina kæra moders hust$^{(r)u}$ jngegærde mina eegno oc alla mina
forældra siæla j the matha at for oos skal beddias oc tidagærd gøras ewærde
leka j for^{da} kyrkio oc skal gostt halft liggia w(n)der kirkiona oc halft w(n)der pres
tens bord hoc mz swasskæl haw(er) jak thzta giw$^{(e)t}$ oc giort j mine helbregdo oc
wælmakt at aldrigh skwla nokre mine Ærwa ællar afftrkom(m)a(n)de thzta ryg-
gia ællar quælia fforthy at jak afhæ(n)der thz sam(m)a gotz mit oc mino(m) arwom
oc til-æijnar thz kyrkone oc p(re)stebordem som for skrijwat ær til ewærdeleka
ægho | Thil hwilkens tingz stadfestelse oc witnesbyrd beder jak for^{da} wærdogh
biskop swæn oc ærkeka(n)icæn Hær bæynt klaussß dæken Hær Mag(n)us hako(n)sß pdat j
skarom Pæthar rijbbing oc Pædar tomasß wæpnara hængia thera jnsigle
mz mino egno ffor thzta breff giw$^{(e)t}$ oc skrew$^{(e)t}$ ar dag oc stædh so(m) wppe nae(m)pdo.

Translation:

[To] all the men who hear or see this letter, I, Knut Arvidsson, squire, hereby announce that in the Year of Our Lord 1438 on the first Sunday after the day of St. Lucia (December 14th), in the presence of the honorable Bishop Sven in Skara, at the vicarage of Rångedala, I gave away my legal heritage, the estate Svenstorp in Gällstad Parish with all its land with no exceptions, to the church and vicarage in Gällstad, half of it to the church and half of it to the vicarage, to be theirs forever, not for me or my heirs to deny or reclaim. This I have done in full possession of all my senses, for the souls of my dear parents, Arvid Jönsson and Lady Ingerd. In return, prayers should be held to honor mine and my parents' souls. To verify this content, I ask the honorable Bishop and Arch-canon Sven, the Dean Bengt Klasson, the Prebendary Magnus Håkansson in Skara, and the Squires Peter Ribbing and Peter Tomasson, to place their seals together with mine on this letter, issued and dated as stated above.

Släkt och Hävd



Släkt och Hävd ("Family and Tradition") is a Swedish journal which has been published by the Genealogiska Föreningen since 1950 and contains articles on notable Swedish families. This journal is particularly helpful on researching medieval Swedish families. The 1959 issue contains the article "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönssons (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led" by Jan Eric Almquist, which discusses the life of Knut Arvidsson's father Arvid Jönsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and lists information about four generations of his descendants. *Släkt och Hävd* is published quarterly.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

A week later, on December 21, 1438, Knut met with Bishop Sven and the priest of Gällstad Church, Olof Svensson. During this meeting, it was agreed that Knut could own Svenstorp again, under the conditions that he paid two pounds of butter a year to Skara Diocese and that Svenstorp would return to the ownership of Gällstad Church after Knut's death.[59]



Letter that mentions Knut Arvidsson - December 21st, 1438
Seals: 1. Bishop Sven of Skara Diocese 2. Olof Jonsson

Transcription:

For alla män thzta bref höra äller se kiänoms wi swäns mz gwtz
nad biskop i skara oc olaff jonsson kirkiopräst j gälstada oos til lagolat-
hawa wälburnom manne knwt aruitsson wäpnare eet gotz j gälstada by
liggiand som kallas swäningsthorp j hans lifs tima for tw [pndr smör]
arlekabetala skwlande for[de] kyrkio, eet kyrkionne oc an[at] prästenom samma
stads hwilkit gotz samme knwt arwidson giwit oc gullit (gäldat) hawir wn-
dir samma kyrkio oc prästnis bordh til ewärdeleka äghom som hans
opna breff utwisar oc mz swa skäl at nar gwdhi thäkis kalla
knwt af thänna wärld tha ~~skwl~~ skal gosset strax fr[it] oc frälst
komma til kir[na] oc präst bord for[da] wtan hindir oc gensielse knwtz
arwa oc alla [andra] manna til hwilkins tings wittnisbyrdh
äro war jnsigle hängdh for thzta breff giwet oc skriuit arin
äftir gutz byrd mcdxxxviij oppa santi tomas dagh

Translation:

[To] all men that hear or see this letter, we, Sven, by God's grace Bishop in Skara, and Olof Jonsson, parish priest in Gällstad, announce that we have given the honourable man, Squire Knut Arvidsson, an estate in Gällstad village that is called Sveningstorp (Svenstorp) during his lifetime, paying two pounds of butter per year to the church in Skara and the priests there. The estate was given before by Knut to the church to eternal ownership. When God chooses to take Knut from this world, the estate shall be returned to the church without obstacles from his heirs or other men. We hereby put our seals onto this letter that is written in the 1438th year after God's birth on Saint Thomas Day (December 21st).

[59] SDHK No. 23102 – December 21, 1438

By 1439, Knut had his own seal, which was the same seal that his father Arvid Jönsson used. On January 18, 1439, Knut provided his seal to certify that Hallor Björnsson had sold his shares of the estate Molla in Molla Parish to Bishop Sven in Skara and that Hallor's third cousin Tyrgils Larsson had also received land in Molla that his father had received in exchange for other land. Magnus Gustafsson, Peter Stigsson, Peter Tomasson also provided their seals to verify this transaction.[60]



Letter that mentions Knut Arvidsson - January 18th, 1439
Seals: 1. Magnus Gustafsson 2. Peter Stigsson 3. Peter Tomasson 4. Knut Arvidsson

[60] SDHK No. 23154 – January 18, 1439

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Transcription:

Føre alla mæ(n) th(e)tta b(re)ff see eller høra kænnes jac Halloor biørnβ mic saalt haua oc wplathet wærdhelighom fadh(e)r met gudh Biscop Swene i scara allan min eeghodeel i mollagaardh oc godze i mollaby oc i mollasokn liggiandhe i gæsene medh akrom ænghiom skoghom fiskeuættnom fæmarkom oc ødhe markom nærby oc fiærran jngho wndhan takna tiil æwerdiligho ægho fore fulwærdh oc fasth swa at mic allaledh aldhelis atnøgher oc ii saa matho at for$^{d(e)}$ goodz oc eghor skulo bliffua ewærdeligha tiil scara biscopsboordh oc scal for$^{d(e}$ biscop swen oc hans æffthi(r)koma(n)de biscopa latha mic oc min fadh(e)r hawas i bønahooldh oc siælarøkt i molla kirkio til ewogh tiidh ther med tilegnar jac uplath(e)r oc friit anth-waardh(e)r undh(e)r scara biscopsbord mz thesso mino opno b(re)ffue for$^{d(e}$ godz oc eghor I molla oc affhændh(e)r thøm mic oc mino(m) aff arffuom til ewogh tiidh oc tilplicthar jac mic mz mino(m) arffuom oc syndh(e)rligha min brødlingh tyrgils laureβ huilken so(m) fik joordh a sin andeel æffther sin fadh(e)r for for$^{d(e}$ godz frijij oc hembla oc tilstaa th(e)tta køp so(m) laghen wtwiisa for huars ma(n)s hindh(e)r oc geensigelse til huars tingx witnisbyrdh bedhes jac ærligha man(n)a oc wælborna insighee som ær mag(n)us gøzstaffβ pædh(er) stiigβ pædher tomasβ oc knwt aruidβ Datu(m) friistad Anno d(omi)ni mcdxxxix D(omi)nica P(ri)ma post oct(avam) epi(phaniæ).

Translation:

For all men who see or hear this letter, I, Hallor Björnsson, announce that I have sold all my shares of the estate Molla in Molla village and Molla Parish in Gäsene District, with fields and meadows, forests and fishing waters, grazing land and deserted land, close to the village and far away, with no exceptions, to Bishop Sven in Skara, for eternal time to be used by the Bishopric of Skara, and that Bishop Sven and his successors shall pray for the souls of my father and me in Molla Church. My third cousin, Tyrgils Larsson, who has inherited land in Molla after his father, has received land elsewhere in exchange for his share. I ask the honest and honorable men Magnus Gustafsson, Peter Stigsson, Peter Tomasson and Knut Arvidsson to seal the letter. Dated on the first Sunday after the 7th day after Epiphany (January 18th), in the Year of Our Lord 1439.

Knut Arvidsson's Coat of Arms

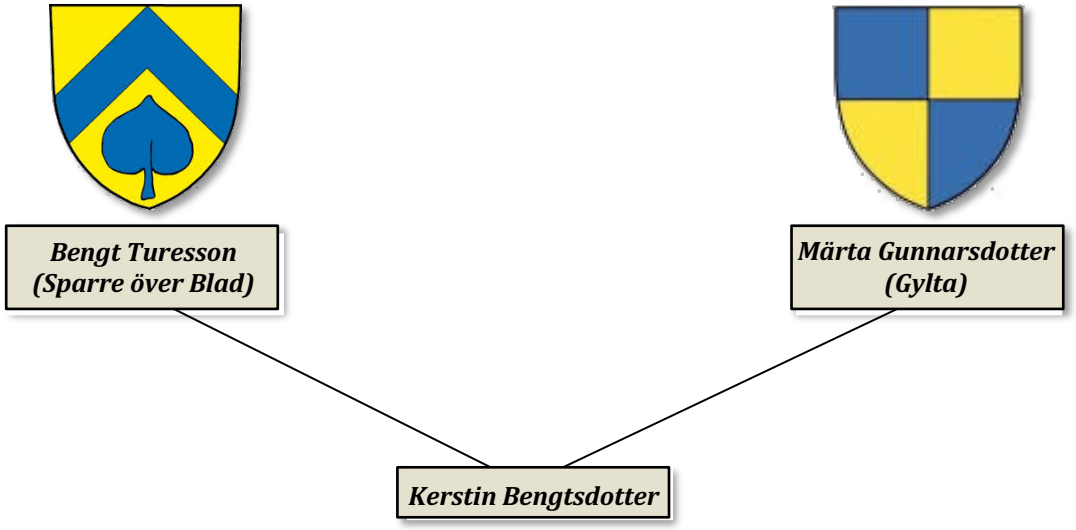
Knut Arvidsson's coat of arms is called "sparre över stjärna," which translates to "chevron over star," It consists of an upward pointing chevron that is above a six-pointed star. Knut's father Arvid Jönsson originally had a chevron for his coat of arms, but after he married Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika), he incorporated the six-pointed star from his father-in-law Peter Andersson (Prika)'s coat of arms into his own.





Knut Arvidsson's seal with his coat of arms

Sometime in the late 1430s, Knut was betrothed to Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad). Kerstin was probably born in the 1410s or early 1420s. Her parents were Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad)[61] and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta).[62]



Kerstin hailed from the province of Halland[63], which was southwest of Västergötland. Kerstin had at least two sisters, Arfrid and Gunhild. Her father Bengt Turesson was a prominent squire.[64] Bengt's sister Märta was married to Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning), who was a national councilor and one of the wealthiest and most socially affluent men in Sweden.[65] Kerstin's maternal grandfather Gunnar Gylta was also a prominent squire from Västergötland.[66] Thus, Kerstin came from a family that had high social prominence on both her paternal and maternal side and ties to the Swedish Parliament. This social prominence would have made her a suitable wife for Knut Arvidsson, who sought to expand his social influence, just as his father and paternal grandfather did. Since Kerstin's maternal uncle Bengt Gylta was a lawyer in Västergötland, the same province where Knut held positions in the judiciary system, it's likely that he played a part in arranging Knut and Kerstin's marriage.[67]

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[61] Bengt Turesson is listed as the father of Arfrid Bengtsdotter in SDHK No. 27291 - August 16, 1458. In SDHK No. 26415 – January 4, 1454, Knut Arvidsson represented Arfrid at court. Since women were represented by male relatives at court and Knut and Arfrid weren't siblings, Arfrid must have been Kerstin's sister, implying that Bengt Turesson was Kerstin's father.

[62] Bengt Gylta was listed as the uncle of Arfrid Bengtsdotter (Kerstin's sister) in SDHK No. 24465 - February 9, 1444, implying that Kerstin's mother was his sister. *Vadstena - nunnan Ingegärd Persdotters (Gylta) bref till sin brorson unge Bengt Gylta med redogörelse för Gylta* states that the name of Kerstin's mother was Märta.

[63] Kerstin's father Bengt Turesson purchased the estate Arvidstorp in Fagered Parish, Halland in SDHK No. 16113 – June 18, 1403, implying that his family lived in Halland.

[64] Bengt Turesson is listed as a squire in SDHK No. 14452 - August 14, 1395.

[65] Märta is listed as the wife of Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning) in SDHK No. 14303 – July 10, 1394. According to SDHK No. 14452 - August 14, 1395, Nils lent Bengt Turesson a substantial amount of money, indicating that they had a significant relationship. SDHK No. 9845 - 1371 shows that Nils has a paternal grandson named Ture Jönsson. Since Ture is a rare name in Sweden, it's likely that Ture Jönsson obtained this name from the father of Märta, who was also Bengt Turesson's father, thus making them siblings.

[66] Gunnar Gylta is listed as a squire in SDHK No. 18721 – April 24, 1416. Since he is listed as Bengt Gylta's father in SDHK No. 21196 – July 28, 1429, Gunnar must have been Kerstin's maternal grandfather.

[67] Bengt Gylta was listed as a lawyer in Västergötland in SDHK No. 24465 - February 9, 1444.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Kerstin and Knut Arvidsson and were married in 1439. As part of the marriage, Knut gave all of his land in Ås District to Kerstin as part of the *morgongåfvan* ("morning gift"), which probably consisted of several different farms.[68]

Transcription and Translation of the Morgongåfvan Knut Arvidsson Gave to Kerstin Bengtsdotter

Transcription:

"Knuth Arfwedssons mårgongåfwebreff till Essine (!) Bengtzdotter på allt sitt godz i Ahs härad anno 1439".

Translation:

""Knut Arvidsson's morning gift to Essine (sic) Bengtsdotter for all his land in Ås District in 1439."

Knut Arvidsson's Morgongåfvan to Kerstin Bengtsdotter

The record that shows that Knut Arvidsson was married to Kerstin Bengtsdotter in 1439 is mentioned in the article "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta" by Jan Eric Almquist, which is found on pages 290-291 of the 1955 issue of *Släkt och Hävd*. In this article, Almquist states that Colonel Allen Uggla informed him that during a visit to Torpa, he discovered an old list from the late 17th century with the title "Registratur uppå dhee breffwen, som finns uthij breffskrijnet" that contained 78 numbered letters. The 62nd letter in this collection documented a *morgongåfvan* ("morning gift"), in which Knut Arvidsson gave Kerstin Bengtsdotter all his land in Äs District as part of their marriage agreement. However, this record cannot be found in the Swedish Diplomatarium's Main Library nor in the University of Uppsala's collections, and it is unknown where it is today.



Torpa, Länghem Parish – Where Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter's family probably lived

Although several sources state that Knut and Kerstin lived at the estate Torpa in Länghem Parish[69], none of the letters that they are mentioned state where they lived. However, they must have lived somewhere in Västergötland. Knut and Kerstin had at least one son named Arvid and at least four daughters named Märta, Karin, Ingrid, and Britta[70].

[68] A record of the *morgongåfvan* ("morning gift") that Knut gave Kerstin at their wedding in 1439 is mentioned in Alquist, J.E. "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta." *Släkt och Hävd*. page 191.

[69] Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*. 1925-36, No. 82 states that Knut and Kerstin lived at Torpa. Since their son Arvid lived there (SDHK No. 3030 – August 25, 14771 it's probable they also lived there.

[70] Arvid, Britta, Ingrid, and Märta are listed as Knut and Kerstin's children in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*. Kungila biblioteket H.h. 2., a 16th century manuscript that lists the genealogy of Knut and Kerstin's great-grandson Knut Håkansson Hand and great-great-granddaughter Märta Arvidsdotter (Drake). For information on Britta Knutsdotter, see page 1486.

Raising a Family (1439-1458)

Knut and Kerstin probably spent the remainder of their lives at Torpa where they raised their family. In addition to owning several farms throughout Västergötland, they probably owned several farms in Halland since Kerstin came from there. Their children undoubtedly had very privileged lives for the period they lived in.

In September of 1439, Erik XIII was deposed from the Swedish throne. After his deposition, Karl Knutsson (Bonde) was elected as the regent of Sweden. In 1441, Kristofer of Bavaria, Erik XIII's nephew, was elected as the King of Sweden. Kristofer had already been proclaimed as the King of Denmark in 1440 and later became the King of Norway in 1442. Knut Arvidsson likely welcomed Kristofer's promises to protect noble rights but worried about Danish dominance under the Kalmar Union.

The Reign of Kristofer I (1441-1448)



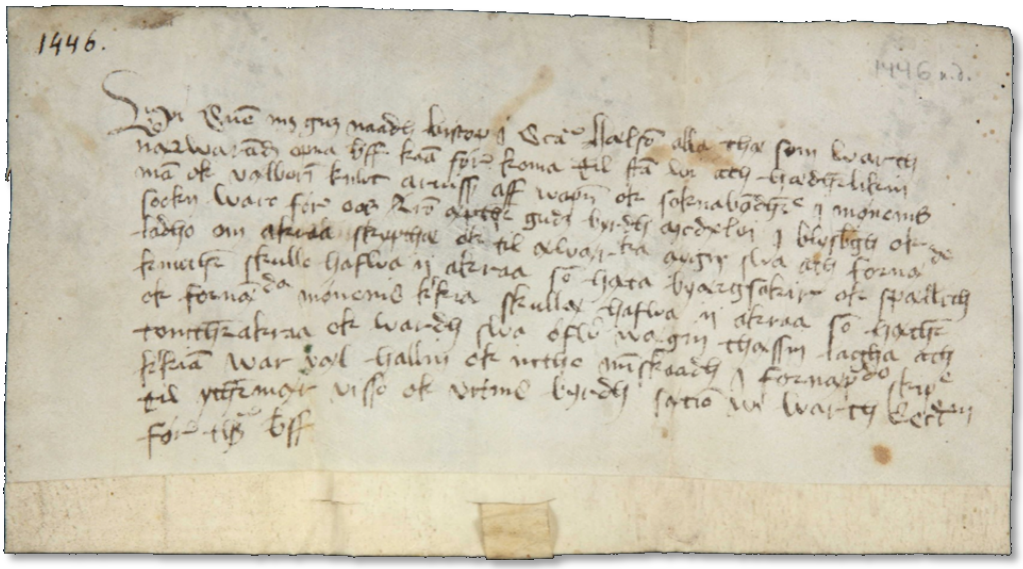
Kristofer I

Kristofer of Bavaria was born on February 26, 1416. He was the son of John, Count Palatine of Neumarkt, and Catherine of Pomerania, who was the sister of King Erik XIII. Kristofer was probably born in Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz in Upper Palatinate, Bavaria, Germany. In 1439, Kristofer was elected as the regent of Denmark by the Danish State Council. On April 9, 1440, he became King of Denmark. Although he was meant to serve as a puppet of the Danish State Council, he maintained some personal control. In 1441, Kristofer was elected as the King of Sweden. He was elected as the King of Norway in June of 1442.

During the start of Kristofer's reign, he put down peasant rebellions that occurred in Funen and Jutland in Denmark. On May 3, 1441, Kristofer's forces crushed a peasant army at the Battle of St. Jorgen's Hill. In May of 1442, Kristofer met with nobles from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden at Lödöse in Västergötland, Sweden. Kristofer was largely unpopular with the Swedish nobles, who were reluctant to relinquish power to him and felt that he was too German. They also felt that he allowed his uncle Erik XIII to plunder a castle at Götland without attempting to stop him. During the early years of Kristofer's reign, a series of bad harvests occurred in Sweden. Many people were so hungry during this time that they mixed tree bark with flour to eat. Several Swedes blamed Kristofer for these famines and nicknamed him the "Bark King." During his reign, the Kalmar Treaty was changed to give the aristocracy most of the policy making powers. On January 5, 1448, Kristofer died at Helsingborg at the young age of 32. He was buried in Roskilde Cathedral in Eastern Denmark.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Sometime in 1446, Knut Arvidsson and several farmers in Möne Parish came to Blidsberg to meet with Bishop Sven and certify that they had performed a land transaction in which Knut would receive two farms called Bergsåker and Spælleth and that the Church would receive two farms called Tomtåkrarna.[71]



Letter that mentions Knut Arvidsson – 1446
Seal (missing): Bishop Sven in Skara

Transcription:

Wi Sue(n) mz gu(d)z naadh biscop j Sca(ra) Hælso(m) alla thæ som warath nærwara(n)de opna b(re)ff ka(n)a før(e) koma Til sta(n) wi atth hædh(e)rlikin ma(n) ok vælbor(ne) knwt aruisß aff wapn ok soknabø(n)dh(e)r j mønenis sockn ware før oos K... æpth(e)r gudz byrdh mcdxlvj blysb(er)gh ok ladho om akra(n)a skypthæ ok til æwær(deli)ka æyger swa ath fornæ(de) knuthr skulle hafwa ij akraa so(m) hæta byærgsakrir ok spæll(e)th ok fornæ(m)da mønem(en)s k(yr)kia skullæ hafwa ij akraa so(m) hæthe tomthrakraa ok wardh swa øfw(er) nagre thæsse lagha ath ki(r)kia(n) war væl hallin ok inthe mi(n)skaadh j fornæ(m)p(do) skri(e) til ythermehr visso ok vrtime byrdh sætio(m) wi warth sec(n)(e)t(u)(m) før thz(tt)(e) b(re)ff.

Translation:

We (I), Sven, Bishop in Skara, by God's grace, greet all who may come in contact with this open letter, and attest that the honest and honorable man Knut Arvidsson, Squire, and the parish's farmers in Möne Parish came to us in Blidsberg in the year 1446 A. D. to notify us about a barter of land, where the bartered fields should be theirs forever. Knut Arvidsson should get two fields called "Bergsåker" and "Spæll(e)th", and the Church should get two fields called "Tomtåkrarna." By placing our seal on this letter, we (I) confirm that the Church will not suffer any loss on this deal.

[71] SDHK No. 24843 – 1446

On January 8, 1448, King Kristofer died and Bengt Jönsson (Oxenstierna) and Nils Jönsson (Oxenstierna) became the co-regents of Sweden. On June 29, 1448, Karl Knutsson (Bonde), who had previously served as the regent of Sweden, was coronated as King Karl VIII of Sweden. King Karl VIII was a very unpopular king, and he was deposed three times. His first reign lasted for nine years.

The Reigns of Karl VIII (1448-1457, 1464-1465, and 1467-1470)

Karl Knutsson (Bonde) was born in October of 1408 or 1409. He was the son of Knut Tordsson (Bonde) and Margareta Karlsdotter (Sparre över Tofta). In 1434, he was elected as the member of the Privy Council of Sweden and assumed the role of *Riksmarsk*, or Lord High Constable. In 1436, he was elected as *Rikshövitman*, or Military Governor of Sweden. Following the Engelbrektsson Rebellion, Karl was elected as the regent of Sweden in 1438 and served in the role for two years. When Kristofer I became King of Sweden in 1441, he appointed Karl as *Riksdrots*, or Lord High Justiciar of Sweden. Following the death of Kristofer in 1448, Karl was elected as the King Karl VIII of Sweden. The following year, he became King of Norway.



Wood sculpture of Karl VIII
by Berndt Notke

In May of 1450, Swedish agents persuaded Karl to relinquish his claim to Norway's crown. By 1451, war broke out between Sweden and Denmark, which was under the rule of Kristian I. Karl subsequently grew unpopular with the Swedish Church and nobility. During 1453-1455, Karl focused on Sweden's internal affairs. In 1455, war broke out with Denmark again. Although Karl's forces were initially successful against the Danes, his Marshal Tord Karlsson (Bonde) was murdered in May 1456, and Danish forces gained the upper hand. In early 1457, an uprising grew in Sweden against Karl, causing him to flee the country. Kristian I subsequently claimed the Swedish throne, while Karl resided in Danzig, Germany until 1464. By this time, the Swedes grew discontent with Kristian and sought to restore Karl as king. On August 9, 1464, Karl reclaimed the Swedish throne. This reign only lasted a few months, however, due to resistance from the archbishop, and Karl was again deposed in January of 1465. In November of 1467, Karl was crowned King of Sweden for a third and final time. Karl's final reign lasted just two and a half years. On May 15, 1470, Karl died at Stockholm Castle.

On June 7, 1453, Knut Arvidsson sold an estate he owned called Smedby, located in the province of Öland, to Nils Turesson for 40 Gotlandic mark. Knut had previously inherited Smedby from his maternal uncle Herr Verneka. Bishop Lars in Växjö and a scholar named Karl provided their seals to certify this transaction.[72]

[72] SDHK No. 26275 – June 7, 1453

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm



Letter that Knut Arvidsson wrote on June 7th, 1453
Seals: 1. Bishop Lars in Växjö 2. Arch-Scholar Karl

Transcription:

Alla men thita b(re)ff høra ællir se helsar jak knut arwidβ a.. wapn æw(er)delika mz gudh ok kænnis jak mz thesso mino nærwara(n)d(e) wjtnabrefue mik hafua wplaht ok mic mz godhom wilia ok bær.dhno mædhe bæskæhno(m) man(n)e(n) niils thuidβ a wapn boande j bytta j wær(e)nd en mijn gardh lijgijande j smijædheby j øland huilken jak fåt(t) aff mijn modherbrodher hra wernika, hans siel gudh nadhe, fore xl mrk got(l)enska mz allom tijllæghom nærby ok fiærn j watho ok j thorro engo wndhan takno mz sina da.a skiel ok førordh at nar mik thekkis ellir detta arwa atherløsa forne(m)pda gardh fore likama(n)gha pæ(n)ingha som ær xl mrk got(l)enska tha skulom wij the(m) tijlbakan hawa effther forda førordh til ythermæra wissa ok stadhfæstelse bædher jak wærdogy fadhers incile biscop laurs mz gudz nadh i wexiø ok H. karls ærchediecne j sama stadh mz mijno ægno datum wexiø an(n)o d(o)m(ini) mcdlcdo jn oct(ava) corp(or)is C(hristi)

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter, I Knut Arvidsson, squire, announce that I, with support of these certified documents, have sold my estate Smedby in Öland, which I have received from my maternal uncle Herr Verneka, with all its assets, all included nothing forgotten, to the honorable man Nils Turesson, Squire, living in Bytta in Värend, for 40 Gotlandic mark. If there is a question of repurchase the prize will be the same, 40 Gotlandic mark. To assure the content of this letter, I ask Lars, Bishop in Växjö with God's grace, and Herr Karl, Arch-Scholar in the same town, to seal it together with my own. Dated in Växjö in the Year of Our Lord 1453, on the 7th day after the "Day of Christ's body." (June 7th)

The Uppsala University Library



One of the reading rooms in at the Uppsala University Library

Several of the letters that mention the High family's 15th century ancestors are stored at Uppsala University Library in Uppsala, Sweden. This library consists of 11 subject libraries and contains books, periodicals, manuscripts, musical scores, pictures, and maps. The library has been in existence since at least the 15th century and was mainly created through the large donations in the early 17th century of confiscated libraries from monasteries, as well as spoils of war. The Uppsala University Library contains a large collection of digitized works, which are available through the online platform Alvin.

On Sunday's Knut and Kerstin's family attended mass at Länghem Church. Knut was probably the wealthiest inhabitant of Länghem Parish.

Länghem Parish

Länghem (Laing-hém) is a parish in Västergötland, Sweden. Länghem has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1327 as "Langeem." Its name means "long home." Länghem Parish is 97 square kilometers, of which 84.95 kilometers are land. It consists of a mossy forest, lakes, and cultivated area. It borders Dannike Parish to the north, Hillared Parish to the west, Ullasjö Parish to the south, Månstad Parish to the east, and Finnekumla Parish to the northeast.



Länghem Church

Stone coffins from the Stone Age, burial mounds, bowl pit deposits, and rock carvings from the Bronze Age, and burial grounds with rings and a raised stone from the Iron Age have been discovered in Länghem. A runestone was found at the farm Lilla Svenstorp in Länghem. In 1971, Länghem became part of Tranermo Municipality. In 2016, Länghem District was established. In 2000, the population of Länghem was 1,466.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

By 1454, Knut had been appointed to the position of *Häradshövding*, or District Chief, of Kind District.[73] He may have been appointed by Karl VIII to serve in this role. As a District Chief, Knut had to attend court sessions three times a year, which were during the winter, summer, and autumn. These sessions usually lasted around two days and mostly involved various land transactions among wealthy landowners. During court hearings, Knut merely pronounced judgements and placed his seal on letters to certify his authorization for different transactions.

Häradshövningar – District Chiefs

A *häradshövning* was the position of a District Chief (or District Governor) for a district that presided over various court hearings. This position has been in existence in Sweden since at least the early 13th century. People in this position were literate and had usually served as a juror in the past. When a district needed a new District Chief, the farmers of the district decided upon a 12-man committee who appointed three candidates for the position. The king or queen of Sweden would then appoint one of the three candidates to be the new District Chief. Before they were appointed, a candidate had to swear an oath to properly fulfill their duties. The most common tasks for District Chief was to certify various land transactions and settled disputes between people within their district. Their other duties were regulated in Magnus Eriksson's Land Code. District court sessions were held three times a year – in the winter, summer, and autumn. The District Chief's role at court sessions was limited to pronouncing judgements. They could also make announcements of any extraordinary hearings. The District Chief's office was abolished in 1971, when lawyers served as the chief judges in district courts and town hall courts.



The location of Kind District in Västergötland

Kind District

Kind (Cheen) District was located in the southern most part of Västergötland. It covered the municipalities of Borås , Falkenberg, Svenljunga, Tranemo, and Ulricehamn. To the west of Kind District is Mark District, to the north is Ås District and Redväg District, to the east and southeast are Mo District and Västbo District (located in Småland), and to the southwest is Faurås District (located in Halland). Kind District was 2,206.81 square kilometers of which 2,049.74.83 square kilometers were land. The geography of Kind District is mostly forested plateau, which heights reaching 353 meters above sea level. Kind is divided by a network of fractured valleys. It has an abundant amount of rainfall and rapid forest growth.

[73] SDHK No. 26408 – January 2, 1454

Transcription and Translation of an Excerpt of a Letter from January 2nd, 1454 that Mentions Knut Arvidsson

Transcription:

Jach Jöss Tordsson Wepnare kennis ok gör witerlict meth thetta mit nerwarandes opna breff thet Jak meth wilia ok beradno modhe ok meth mijne frenders Radh haffuer salt sköt ok oplatidh Erligh ok welboren Man H^e(rr) Erik Ericsson Riddare thenna mijn efterskriffna gotz j Wesbo, som ära mijn Sätegard Wäwelboda ok en gard ther hoss heter öö ok rentar arliga tre pund Smör, liggendes j A..enhöga Sokn, en gardh heter Elghers ok rentar arliga Sex Pund Smör, en gard heter Stenbrolt ok rentar arliga fyra pund Smör, en gard heter Mädhelhultä ok rentar arliga tu pund Smör j Anderstorp Sokn liggiandes, hwilka forscriffne garda och gotz fornemde H^e(rr) Erik Erikson hafwer mig fulleligo ok r..l betalat, sa at mich allaledes ok fulkomperliga r..l atnögher, Ok thij afhender Jach mich ok mijnom arffuom alla thenna forscrifna garda ok gotz ok tilegnar them fornemde H^e(rr) Erik Erikson ok hans arfwom til ewerdelig ägho, etc. Teß ytermer til wisso ok högre forwar(n)ing hafwer Jach henkt mit Jnsigle for thetta breff meth erliga ok welborna Manna Jnsigle, som ära Pedher Andersson Häredzhödinge j Kalandherad, Knut Arwitsßon Häradzhöffdinge j Kijnd-Häradh ok Marquard Spliit Häradzhöffdinge j Rödhwogh. Datum Skaris Anno Domini Millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo Quarto, in Crastino Circumcisionis D(omi)ni.

Translation:

I, Jösse Tordsson, Squire, with this my open letter, declare that I, with free will and after discussing with my family, have sold my estate in Västbo to the honest and honorable man the Knight Herr Erik Eriksson. The property sold is my estate and residence called Velebo in Åsenhöga Parish, and a nearby farmstead called Öd. The latter yields a yearly interest of 3 pounds of butter; and three farmsteads in Anderstorp Parish: Älgarem which yields 6 pounds butter, Stenbrohult which yields 4 pounds butter, and Mjärhult which yields 2 pounds butter. For the estate and farmsteads I have received full payment from Sir Erik Eriksson so neither I nor my heirs can make any objections. To guarantee the content of this letter I, together with the following honest and honorable men, have placed our seals in front of this letter: District Chief Peter Andersson in Kålland, District Chief Knut Arvidsson in Kind, and District Chief Markvard Split in Redväg. Written and dated in Skara in the Year of Our Lord 1454 on the day after the Day of Christ's Circumcision (January 2nd).

Note: The transcription is available in Peringskiöld, J. *Steen-bocke-Familiens uhrgambla extractionoch ättarthal*. Bergshammarsamligen, vol 355. RA.

Seals (Order unknown): * Jöns Tordsson *Peter Andersson * Knut Arvidsson * Markvard Split

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

On January 4, 1454, Knut Arvidsson represented Arfrid Bengtsdotter, Kerstin Bengtsdotter's sister, in a land dispute between her and Karl Jönsson, who was the brother of her late husband Torsten Jönsson. Knut gave his authority to squires Erik Jönsson, Lars Siggesson, Peter Andersson, Ragvald Andersson, Peter Stigsson, and Bengt Dun to settle this dispute. These men met at Skara Cathedral on January 4, 1454 and agreed that Arfrid and her heirs should have the rights to the property that Arfrid obtained from Torsten after they were married, which included Kålland and Hässlefors mill in Råda Parish, a big farm in Brandstorp, and a small farm in Lilla Brandstorp, which were valued at 10 soldered mark in pure silver in Swedish weight. If Kettil on any of his heirs wished to repurchase this land within the next 20 years, they would have to pay 10 soldered mark for it. Erik Jönsson, Peter Andersson, Ragvald Andersson, Peter Stigsson, Bengt Dun, Per Nilsson, and Peter Martinsson, attached their seals to the letter to verified this agreement.[74]



Letter that mentions Knut Arvidsson – January 4th, 1454
Seals: (Missing 1. and 5.) 2. Lars Siggesson 3. Peter Andersson 4. Ragvald Andersson 6. Bengt Dun 7. Per Nilsson 8. Peter Mårtensson

[74] SDHK No. 26415 – January 4, 1454

Transcription:

Alle the gode men som thz breffom See eller hör helse wi Erik iensson laurens Siggasson pedher andersson raual andersson pether stighsson benkt dwn per nielsson i fla[t]a oc pedher martinsson wepnare ewinneliga mz gud kunnegt görande at arom effter gudz byrd mcdliiij pa xi:te dagh iwla i skara then tidh her erik eriksson oc doctor nicolas ryting räffsta ting hiöllo pa vor nathige herre koning karls vegnar waro skickadhe for oss ärlige oc velbyrdige men knwt arffuitsson oc karil iönsson a vapn oc vold gaffno oss oc fulmektige giordo aat[-] skilia oc forlika en[??] twedrakt som the mellom sik haffde om then morghangaffuo som torstin ionsson gud hans siel nadh for^{d} kätil ionssons Brodher giffuit haffde a rättom hindersdagh sine hustru arfridh bengtsdotther om hwilka morgangaffuor for^{de} her erik eriksson oc doctor nicolas ryting pa samme räffst tilfor[en]de mz rättho aatskilt haffde som dombreffuin ther pa giffuin klarlige vtuisa Tha vard sa talat da tingat oc änt at for^{da} hustro arfridh skal hawa oc beholla til euerdelica egho oc hennis arffua effter henne twa gaarda i häro i raadho sokn pa kollen liggende oc hesleforsa qwern räknathe for x lödiga mark skärt sölff i suenska vikt stora gaardin i brandztorp mioa gaardin litzla brandztorp oc almana gaardin for x lö[-] dhige mark skärt sölff i suenska vikt thette for^{de} godz skal for^{da} hustro arfridh oc henne arffua hawa bruka oc be[-] holla til euerdelica egho vtan alla genseghen eller aatkall mz sa dana forord oc vilkor at vil for^{de} kätil ionsson eller hans arffua j gen köpa for^{da} brandztorp [mioa] gaardin litzla brandztorp oc almänna gardin [jnnan] xx samfäld aar her nest effter tha skal han eller hans arffua thäss fulla makt oc vold haffua for x lödhiga mark swenska vikt som forskrifuet staar vare thz oc saa at for^{de} aater kööp ey skedhe jnnan for^{na} xx aar tha skall aldrigh for^{da} kätil ionsson eller [nekor] hans arffue thäss makt hawa for^{da} godz i gen köpa vtan skal tha ewinnerlica bliffwa vid for^{da} hustru arfridhe oc hennis arffua til ewärdelica egho. Till ydermera visse oc bättre foruaring tha haffuom [wi] for^{de} latidh hengia wor incigle mz vilia oc vitskap for thz^{n} breff Scriffuet i skara aar oc dagh som fornämnt staar.

Translation:

[To] all the good men that see or hear this letter, we, Erik Jönsson, Lars Siggesson, Peter Andersson, Ragvald Andersson, Peter Stigsson, Bengt Dun, Per Nilsson in Flata, and Peter Martinsson, squires, forever with God, announce that in the 1454th year after God's birth, on the 11th day after Christmas Eve in Skara (January 4th), the time that Herr Erik Eriksson and Doctor Nicolaus Rytting held court, on behalf of our King Karl, the honest men Knut Arvidsson and Karl Jönsson, squires, sent to us and gave us authority to judge a dispute about the morning gift that Torsten Jonsson, now dead, the brother of Kettil Jonsson, had given the right "hinders"-day (i.e. the day after the wedding) to his wife Arfrid Bengtsdotter. Herr Erik Eriksson and Nicolaus Ryting had judged about this morning gift before, and the verdict letter clearly shows that wife Arfrid and her heirs shall have and own the gift forever. The morning gift is two farms in "häro" in Råda Parish in Kålland and Hässlefors mill, valued to 10 soldered mark pure silver in Swedish weight, the big farm in Brandstorp, the small farm in Lilla Brandstorp, and the common farm for 10 soldered mark pure silver in Swedish weight. Wife Arfrid and her heirs shall have these before mentioned farms, and use and own them forever without any obstacles. But if Kettil Jonsson or his heirs wants to repurchase the big farm in Brandstorp, the small farm in Lilla Brandstorp, and the common farm within 20 years time, they shall do so for 10 soldered mark in Swedish weight, that is above stated here. If this repurchase has not been done within 20 years, or if Kettil Jonsson and his heirs don't want to do this, the ownership will belong to wife Arfrid and her heirs forever. To guarantee this, we, the before mentioned men, have put our seals on this letter. Written in Skara in the year and day before stated.

In early 1457, an uprising against the Karl VIII arose in Sweden, causing him to flee the country. In March of that year, Erik Axelsson (Tott) and Jöns Bengtsson (Oxenstierna) were appointed as co-regents of Sweden. The two served as co-regents for a few months. On June 23rd, King Kristian I (who was also the King of Denmark and Norway) was coronated as King of Sweden. Kristian I's reign over Sweden lasted nearly seven years. Kristian I was the last king to rule over Sweden during Knut Arvidsson's lifetime.

Missing Seals

Seals are frequently missing from medieval letters. While some have lost some seals, others have lost all of the seals attached to them. Two seals are missing from SDHK No. 26415 – January 4, 1454.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

On September 25, 1457, Knut received several farms from his brother Arvid Arvidsson, including Hiaˊ in Holsljunga Parish, Breddhem, Myølstok, Longem, and two farms in Götaˊker in Söˊdra Säm Parish. Torkel, the priest of Gällstad provided his seal to verify this transaction.[75]



Letter that mentions Knut Arvidsson – September 25th, 1457
Seals: 1. Herr Torkel 2. Arvid Arvidsson 3. Erik Björnsson

Transcription:

Allom man(n)om them som theta b(re)ff see heller høra helsar jak aruidh aruidhß kærleka mz gudh gør jak allom witherlikith saa kom(m)askulande? som nw æro ath ard epth(e)r gudz byrdh mcdlvij modaghen nesth fore ste michels dagh gyordhe jak eth vinlikith bythe mz min elskelikin brodh(e)r knwth arfuidhson ppaa warth fædherne j saa mottho ath han skal haffua Hidhaa, oc breddh(e)m, en gardh j myøl-stok, en gardh j longem twa gardha j gøtakær Til withnisbyrdh ath saa ær gyorth tha bed(er) jak hidherlika man(n)a ingsile som ær her torkils soknaprest j gilstadhom aruidh arwidhsons ok esskil byørnsons aa vap(n) fore theta b(re)ff som giffuith var dag hoc ar som forstnath star thy jak ey syælffw(er) i(n)gsile haffu(er).

Translation:

[To] all men who see or hear this letter, I, Arvid Arvidsson, announce that on Monday before Michaelmass (September 25th) in the Year of Our Lord 1457, I made a partition with my beloved brother Knut Arvidsson of our paternal heritage. He shall have the following estates: Hiå[1], "Breddh(e)m", "Myølstok", "Longem"[2] and two farms in "Gøtakær"[32]. To attest that this has been done I ask the honest men Herr Torkel (parish priest in Gällstad), Arvid Arvidsson, and the squire Eskil Björnsson to seal this letter, since I do not have a seal of my own.

[1] Hidhaa = Hiå in Holsljunga Parish
[2] "Longem" may be the modern Långhem in Svenljunga
[3] "Gøtakær" may be the modern Götåker in Södra Säm Parish
[4] Gilstadhom = Gällstad (Parish)

[75] SDHK No. 27054 - September 25, 1457

On June 26, 1458, Knut Arvidsson held a court hearing in which the jurors were Arvid Erlandsson, Björn Svensson, Erik Buth, Lasse Svensson, Erland Svensson, Bengt in Haga, Håkan Gride, Björn Svala, Gunne Björnsson, Birger in "Bulslagh", Björn Bondesson, and Mårten in By. The letter which documented this meeting is the last known letter which mentions Knut alive. [76]

Transcription and Translation of an Excerpt of a Letter from June 26th, 1458 that Mentions Knut Arvidsson

Transcription:

1458 26/6 Kinds htg nr 71
Knut Arwidsson Häradz höfdinge i Kindh
Arwidh Erlenson, vpn + ndem
Biorn Swensson, vpn + ndem
Erich Buth, vpn + ndem
Lasse Swensson, vpn + ndem
Anders Swensson, vpn + ndem
Bencht i hagha, ndem
Hakon Gride, ndem
Biörn Swala, ndem
Gunne Biörnsson, ndem
Birge i Bulslagh, ndem B
iörn Bordeson, ndem
Mårten i By, ndem

Translation:

Kind District Court Proceedings – June 26th, 1458, Case No 71

Chairman: Knut Arvidsson (District Chief)
Jury members:
Arvid Erlandsson (Squire)
Björn Svensson (Squire)
Erik Buth (Squire), Lasse Svensson (Squire)
Erland Svensson (Squire)
Bengt in Haga, Håkan Gride
Björn Svala, Gunne Björnsson
Birger in "Bulslagh"
Björn Bondesson
Mårten in By

Transcription available in B 16 (J 7) fol. 47 r-v, No. 71RA 0202

[76] SDHK No. 27260 – June 26, 1458

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

The Fate of Arvid Knutsson (Sparre över Stjärna)

Out of all of Knut and Kerstin's children, their son Arvid Knutsson (Sparre över Stjärna) reached the highest level of social prominence. By 1470, he had obtained a certain amount of political authority from Sten Sture the Elder, the regent of Sweden.[77] Arvid Knutsson spent much of his life at Torpa. In 1470, a defense castle against the Danes was built there, which is today called *Torpa stenhus*.

Torpa Stenhus

Torpa stenhus ("stenhus" means "stone house" in English) is a medieval castle that is located beside Lake Åsunden in Länghem, Västergötland. Arvid Knutsson had Torpa stenhus built as a defense against the Danes in 1470. The construction of Torpa stenhus was largely financed through trade in livestock and food through the valleys of Etran and Viskan. Torpa stenhus is first specifically mentioned as "Stenhuset" in a letter from 1513. In addition to serving as a defense against the Danes, it also served as a trading castle. During the late 16th century, Torpa stenhus was significantly renovated and a fourth floor was built, a stair tower was added, the ceilings were raised, and the halls were decorated with beautiful paintings.

During the early 17th century, Gustaf Otto (Stenbock), the owner of Torpa stenhus, had a new house erected at the property, which was made of timber. From then on, the castle was used for representational purposes only. After Gustaf Otto's death, his widow Christina Katarina de la Gardie had a Caroline Baroque-style chapel erected, which was inaugurated in 1699.

For the first three centuries of its existence, Torpa stenhus belonged to the Stenbock family, who were the descendants of Arvid Knutsson. In 1765, it was passed through inheritance to the Sjöblad family. In 1787, the Sparre family became the owners of Torpa stenhus. In 1927, Ebba Marianne Charlotte Storckenfelt, the wife of Chamberlain Fritz Adolf Zethelius became the castle's owner. Today, the owner of Torpa stenhus is Pehr Zethelius, the grandson of Storckenfelt and Zethelius.



17th sketch of Torpa stenhus by Erik Dahlberg

[77] SDHK No. 29145 - August 15, 1470

By 1474, Sten Sture had appointed Arvid to be a commander at Kalmar Castle.[78] In 1475, Arvid was serving as a *lagman*, or civil servant for Tiohärad Lagsaga (which today corresponds to Kronoberg County).[79]

Lagmännen **– (Lawmen)**

"Lagman" is a civic servant title that was used in Sweden, Finland, and Norway. Although the term translates to "lawyer" or "lawman," in English, it really has no English equivalent which describes the position. In ancient times, the lagman was usually the chief official in the province. During this time, Sweden was divided into legal districts called *lagsagorna*. Each *lagsaga* was represented by a lagman. Originally, a lagsaga referred to the area where a certain law applied before the first nationwide laws were enacted in Sweden. The geographical boundaries for lagsagorna in Sweden first appear documents from the 12th century, during the same time that dioceses and parishes were established.

By the end of the 13th century, lagmännen (plural for lagman) became the king's trustees and gained a seat on the council. During the 1350s, King Magnus Eriksson of Sweden established a landslag, or formalized legal code that was to be followed throughout Sweden. According to this, the king appointed a lagman among three candidates the county council elected, similar to the appointment of a häradshövning. From 1668 onwards, lagmännen were appointed by the Court of Appeals. In 1816, the title of lagman was formally abolished in Sweden. In 1947, the title was reintroduced as a job title within the Swedish judiciary.

On August 25, 1477, Arvid Knutsson was married to Anna Gustafsdotter (Stenbock), the daughter of Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock) and Ingrid Bengtsdotter.[80]

The Older Stenbock Dynasty



Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock)'s coat of arms

Anna Gustafsdotter came from the Stenbock family that had a goat as the symbol for its coat of arms. Stenbock means "Capricorn" in English. The older Stenbock family originally descended from Jösse Skytte (mentioned 1368-1379). Skytte lived at Ekornarp, Berg Parish, Småland. His son Olof Jönsson was a District Chief who was married to Margareta Krumme and died in 1455. Gustaf Olofsson, Anna Gustafsdotter's father, was the son of Olof Jönsson and his coat of arms bore a goat. Gustaf died in 1492 at Toftaholm, Dörarps Parish, Småland. Since he had no male heirs, the Older Stenbock Dynasty died with Gustaf Stenbock.

[78] SDHK No. 29145 - August 15, 1470
[79] SDHK No. 29878 – 1475
[80] SDHK No. 30301 - August 25, 1477 states that Arvid gave Anna a morning gift, was occurs on the day of a wedding.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Arvid Knutsson agreed to give Anna the following estates: Torpa in Länghem Parish (the estate where Arvid resided and his parents probably did as well), Intorp in Gällstad Parish (the estate where Knut Arvidsson probably grew up), Hiaå, Öjelunda, Grovane, Skaämstad, two farms in Möne Parish (where Knut Arvidsson may have been born), Gryteryd, Bosebo, and Vaästbo. Ture (the vicar in Jönköping), Nils in Ljungby (a priest in Möne), Hans Aåkesson, Karl Bengtsson, Arvid Trolle, Erland Jonsson, Arvid Arvidsson (Arvid's uncle), Erland Eriksson, Kristiern Jeppesson, Broder Bruth (Arvid's brother-in-law), and Olof Jonsson witnessed this agreement and gave it their approval.[81]



Letter that Arvid Knutsson wrote on August 25th, 1477
Seals: 1. Arvid Knutsson 2. Hans Åkesson 3. (covered) Karl Bengtsson
4. Arvid Trolle 5. Broder Bruth

[81] SDHK No. 30301 - August 25, 1477

Transcription:

Alla me(n) som th(e)t(e) se ælle(r) høre læses Helsser jach Arued knutsøn aff wapen ewær(d)elige mz gud gør jach vet(er)ligt mz th(e)t(e) mith opne breff Ath jach mz mi(n)e frænd(e)rs rade och samtyckan pa rætte(n) hindd[ers] dagh w.. och giff wit haffuer mi(n) ælskeliga hustrw Anna gøstaffz dott(er) til hedr och morgengaffu(er) the(n)e äpterscriffna garda och godz som førest ær torpa gard och rentter æn tun(n)a smør Ite(r) intorp sex pu(n)d smør Ite(r) heda fira pu(n)d smør liggande i kind Ite(r) øyalwnda sex pu(n)d smør Ite(r) growane atta pu(n)d smør Ite(r) skelmstade fira pu(n)d smør Ite(r) two garda i mønwna nya pu(n)d smør i orsa her(a)de liggiande i skarabiskops døme Ite(r) grytaryd sex pu(n)d smør Ite(r) bossaboda fira pu(n)d smør liggande i vesboo i lincøpi(n)ge biskops døme. til ew(er)delega ægio meth akar och æng skog och fiske watn nærby och fiæra(n) inthe vnda(n)taget som the(n) aff aldhe(r) tilliggit haffu(er) och ænnw tilligge kan meth sadan(n)e skell och vilkor Ath vil thz gud ath wi fangom barn ælle(r) barna ærffua tha wii the morgengaffu(er) barne(n) for mød(er)ne och ey for fæd(er)ne sker thz och swa som gud forbiuda ath wi atskillios vta(n) barn ælle(r) barna arffua tha haffuer then morgongaffu(er) som længe(r) leffu(er) vara thz och swa som gud forbiude ath the(n)a for^{na} garda ælle(r) godz mz nögd sin tilligilse som for^{mt} stand(er) henne afginge æpt(er) then(n)a dagh mz nøgd landzlag ælle(r) ræth Tha tilbiudd jach mik och mi(n)a arffua henna och hennes arffwa swa got godz ath wed(er)läg[ga]innan sex [veckor]näst æpt(er) ffram del(es) fattis och nw mi(n) ælskeliga hustrw j sina morgengaffu(er) two ty(n)ner smør arlige rente tha beplict(er) jach mik ath ved(er)læge henna the(n) j jordagodz innan nath och aar vid mi(n)a goda tro och sa(n)ni(n)g skreffe wii vnd(er) ware me(n) H twre officia(n)t och k(yr)kioH(e)ra j jenacøpi(n)g H Niels k(yr)kio Hera j liwngby och prast j Møra Tesse hiølla pa festana H hans akaβ ridda(re) karl benctβ Aruid trolla Erlend jønsβ b(ro)d(er) bwt Aruid aruidβ Erlett erikβ c(ri)stiern jæppaβ Niels stolpe offe jonsβ Niels krwme och ped(er) karlsβ wepna(re) Til yt(ter)me^{re} stadfestelse och forwari(n)g hæng(er) jach mith insigle meth the for^{na} dandemensinsiglo som pa sestana hiølla nede(n) for thz^{ne} breff Giffuit och sk(ri)ffuit pa tofftaholm Manedage(n) næst æpt(er) S(ank)t bar-tholomei dagh Anno d(o)m(ini) mcdlxx pa thz sywonde arit.

Translation:

[To] all men who see or hear this, my open letter I, Arvid Knutsson, Squire, greet and with advise and approval of my family on this day and have given my beloved wife Anna Gustafsdotter, as morning gifts, the following estates: first there is Torpa farm (which yields one barrel butter); Intorp (six pounds butter); Hiå in Kind (four pounds butter); Öjelunda (six pounds butter); Grovane (eight pounds butter); Skämstad (four pounds butter); two farms in Möne (nine pounds butter) in Ås District in Skara Diocese; Gryteryd (six pounds butter); Bosebo (four pounds butter) in Västbo in Linköping Diocese, to be hers forever with fields and meadows, forests and fishing waters, closely and far away, nothing more nothing less, according to law, so help me God. If God wish our child, or children, will inherit these morning gifts as maternal heritage and not paternal. If it happens, God forbid it, and that we shall pass without child or children the morning gifts will stay with the surviving partner. I give these morning gifts, which yield two barrels butter yearly, to my beloved wife, in full health and in good belief.

These honest men will approve the content of this letter: Herr Ture (celebrant and vicar in Jönköping), Herr Nils (vicar in Ljungby and priest in Möne), Herr Hans Åkesson (knight), and the squires Karl Bengtsson, Arvid Trolle, Erland Jonsson, Broder But, Arvid Arvidsson, Erland Eriksson, Kristiern Jeppesson, Olof Jonsson, Nils Krumme, and Peter Karlsson. As a sign of the importance of this letter I, together with the above-mentioned honest men, will place our seals below.

The letter was given and written at Toftaholm on the first Monday after the day of St Bartholomew (August 25th) in the seventh year (after) 1470 AD (1477).

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Arvid Knutsson and Anna Gustafsdotter (Stenbock) had at least five sons: Olof Arvidsson (Stenbock), Bengt Arvidsson, Knut Arvidsson, Gustaf Arvidsson, and Nils Bagge, and at least three daughters: Kerstin Arvidsdotter, Märta Arvidsdotter, and Ingrid Arvidsdotter.[82]

Children of Arvid Knutsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Anna Gustafsdotter (Stenbock)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Olof	1470s-1480s	Långhem	c. 1508	Unknown
Bengt	1430s-1450s	Långhem	Before 1526	Unknown
Knut	1430s-1450s	Långhem	Before 1526	Unknown
Gustaf	1430s-1450s	Långhem	c.1536	Unknown
Kerstin	1430s-1450s	Långhem	Unknown	Unknown
Märta	1430s-1450s	Långhem	After 1558	Unknown
Ingrid	1430s-1450s	Långhem	After 1529	Unknown
Nils	1430s-1450s	Långhem	c. 1530	Norra Sändsjö, Småland

Letters that Mention Arvid Knutsson (1470-1477)

- **SDHK No. 29145 - August 15, 1470 at Öresten:** The Swedish Head of State Sten Sture confirms that he has given Arvid Knutsson permission to withdraw gold from Holsjunga Church that Sture's mother (Birgitta Stensdotter) had deposited.
- **SDHK No. 29826 – September 9, 1474:** The knight Ficke (Folke) Gustavsson sells estates in Kalmar and Ljungby parishes to the knight's assistant Arvid Knutsson (commander in Kalmar).
- **SDHK No. 29831 – September 18, 1474 at Borgholm**: Sten Sture at Gripsholm announces that Arvid Knutsson, his commander at Kalmar, reported all the income and expenses in Kalmar this year.
- **SDHK No. 29878 - 1475 (without a day):** Arvid Knutsson, lagman in Tiohärad, and Jens Birgersson, District Chief in Västbo, attests three letters from Nils Stolpe that were written in 1474 and 1475.
- **SDHK No. 30301 – August 25, 1477 at Toftaholm:** The squire Arvid Knutsson gives his wife Anna Gustavsdotter the estates Torpa, Intorp, and Hiå in Kind District; Öjelunda, Grovare, Skänstad, and two farms in Möne in Ås District; and Gryteryd and Bosebo in Västbo District.

[82] Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *The Introduced Swedish Nobility*. 1925-36, No. 82

By 1483, Arvid was serving as the District Chief for Kind District.[83]

Letters that Mention Arvid Knutsson (1478-1486)

- **SDHK No. 30375 – March 23, 1478 at Kalmar:** The mayor and council in Kalmar announce that Anna Gustavsdotter in Stäfflö talked to Arvid Knutsson about some estates, that her brother, the knight Ficke Gustavsson, had pledged to him and that he will have his money back in a short while.
- **SDHK No. 30396 – May 5 (or September 9) 1478:** The knight Gustav Olofsson (Stenbock) in Tofta, gives his daughter Anna and son-in-law Arvid Knutsson all his estates, that he had bought when his was married to Ingrid Bengtsdotter (Vinstorpa).
- **SDHK No. 30870 – February 23, 1481:** The squire Arvid Knutsson in Torpa, lagman in Tiohärad, certifies that in 1481 he held court in every district in Värend, in the presence of Bishop Nils Olavi among others.
- **SDHK No. 30883 – March 10, 1481 at Dörby:** Arvid Trolle in Bergkvara, lagman in Östergötland, inquires about the squire Arvid Knutsson in Torpa's management in Kalmar County.
- **SDHK No. 30895 – March 30, 1481 at Galtabäck:** Arvid Knutsson, squire and lagman in Tiohärad, certifies that Sigge Persson sold Vackemo to Birger Trolle.
- **SDHK No. 31331 - August 6, 1483 in Torpa:** The District Chief in Kind District Arvid Knutsson certifies that Arvid Erlandsson sold an estate in "Hanghers" village in "Öösbo" to the knight Gustav Olofsson.
- **SDHK No. 31414 – February 17, 1484 in Rångedala:** The lagman in Tiohärad Arvid Knutsson certifies that Arvid Erlandsson gave an estate in Mjöbäck Parish in Kind District to the knight Hans Åkesson.
- **SDHK No. 31425 - February 28, 1484 in Gudhem:** The nuns Ingeborg Magnusdotter and her sister Inga(?) Magnusdotter n Gudhem sold an estate "Læggæryd" in Hillered Parish in Kind District to their relative Arvid Knutsson.
- **SDHK No. 31428 – March 7, 1484 in Nydala:** The lagman in Tiohärad Arvid Knutsson certifies that the squire Nils "Stylpe" gave his estate in Rödhaholm" Parish in Östbo District to Nydala Monastery.
- **SDHK No. 31832, December 14, 1486 in Varnhem:** Lindorm Björnsson, a lagman in Västergötland, announces that on December 14, 1486 at court in Ås District in Varnhem, Sven Gustafsson was accused by Karl Bengtsson of rebellion against Sten Sture the Elder. Arvid Knutsson was one of the members of the board and is also one of those who sealed the letter.

[83] SDHK No. 31331 – August 6, 1483

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

One of Arvid and Anna's sons, Olof Arvidsson, adopted his maternal grandfather's coat of arms and the younger Stenbock Dynasty descended from him.

The Younger Stenbock Dynasty

The younger Stenbock Dynasty was started by Olof Arvidsson, Arvid Knutsson and Anna Gustafsdotter's son, who merged the (Stenbock) coat of arms his maternal grandfather Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock) used with the (Sparre över Stjärna) coat of arms his father used. Olof Arvidsson (Stenbock) was a District Chief of Kind District who died before 1508.



Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock)

Olof's son Marshall Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock) was the first in the family to take the surname "Stenbock" and was part of the mission that brought King Gustav Vasa's first spouse, Catherine of Saxony-Lauenburg, to Sweden in 1531. Gustaf Olofsson was married to Brita Eriksdotter, the sister-in-law of Gustav Vasa. In 1534, Gustaf Olofsson became the National Councilor of Sweden. At the coronation of Erik XIV in 1561, Olof was elevated to baron and received the districts of Kind and Mark in Västergötland, and was entrusted with Älvsborg Castle and County. In 1569, he was appointed as Sweden's Marshal. During 1570-1571, he was the Governor of Vadstena Castle. Olof died on May 24, 1571 at Strömsholm Castle.

On August 22, 1552, Katarina Stenbock, one of Gustaf and Brita's daughters, became the third wife of Gustav Vasa. Katarina had no children of her own but helped look after her stepchildren. After Vasa's death in 1560, Katarina resumed a good relationship with her stepchildren, including Erik XIV, Gustav Vasa's successor. Katarina was the first Swedish queen to be referred to as the *Riksånkedrottning* (Queen Dowager of the Realm). Katarina lived to the age of 86 and died at Strösholm Castle. Some notable members of the Stenbock family include Field Marshall Erik Gustafsson Stenbock (1538-1602), author Nils Stenbock-Fermor (1905-1969), and author Magnus Stenbock (1911-2007).



Katarina Gustafsdotter (Stenbock)

Letters that Mention Arvid Knutsson (1488-1494)

- **SDHK No. 32085 - July 1, 1488 at Vinstorp:** The knights Ture Turesson (Bielke) and Hans Åkesson (Tott) together with many squires and the Bishop in Skara Brynolf (Gerlaksson) announce that Sven Vilkinsson, Elof Svensson, and Johan Torstensson accused Arvid Knutsson in Torpa about the death of Ingeld Svensson and said that Arvid had sent out his servants Olof Jute and Jöns Björnsson to kill Ingeld.
- **SDHK No. 32102 – August 11, 1488 at Länghem:** Torkil Jönsson, a provost in Kind, Jens Eskilsson in Sexdrega, and Anders Jeppasson, a priest in Länghem Parish announce that Arvid Knutsson declared upon his honor that he did not send out his servants Jöns Björnsson and Olof Jute to kill Ingel Svensson.
- **SDHK No. 30396 - September 16, 1488:** The knight Gustav Olofsson in Tofta gives all his estates that he had bought when he was married to Ingrid Bengtsdotter to his daughter Anna and son-in-law Arvid Knutsson.
- **SDHK No. 32062 – June 16, 1491:** Arvid Knutsson, lagman in Tiohärad, confirms the judgement letter in which the King's council gave wife Elin, Herr Erik Axelsson's widow, the estate Täckhammar with a mill.
- **SDHK No. 32582 - May 2, 1492 at "Longhem":** Anders Petersson, District Chief in Veden District, confirms the gift of an estate from Niels Larsson and his wife, to Bishop Brynolf (Gerlaksson) in Skara, in the presence of Arvid Knutsson.
- **SDHK No.32790- August 20, 1492 at Skara:** Squires Arvid Knutsson, Hans Svensson, Jens Davidsson, Gudmund Torbjörnsson, Anders Bengtsson, and the mayor in Skara confirm that Ingerd, widow of the knight Lars Snakenborg, have assured that Eggard Grupendal sold all his estates to Nils Klasson, commander of Älvsborg.
- **SDHK No. 32792 - August 22, 1492 at St. Göran's hospital in Skara**: Arvid Knutsson confirms that the squire Jöns Eriksson (Rosenstråle) in Sonstorp provided estates in Halland to Sten Sture, which he inherited after his daughter Katarina and that her mother's brother Peter Bengtsson (Gylta) has given to him.
- **SDHK No. 32821- October 18, 1492:** Arvid Knutsson in Tofta and Anna Gustafsdotter declare they are satisfied with the inheritance from Anna's father Gustav Olsson.
- **SDHK No. 32830 - November 13/,1492:** Per Tysk, Arvid Ebbesson and Jon Arvidsson confess that they sold two farms and fishing-rights in "Terby" in "Ass" District to Arvid Knutsson in Torpa, for 20 pounds in copper.
- **SDHK No. 33076 – March 11, 1494:** Kerstin Håkansdotter sells to Arvid Knutsson in Torpa all her morning gift estates in Vadsbo District that Erland Eriksson gave her.
- **SDHK No. 33109 - June 29, 1494 at Örebro Castle:** Svante Nilsson sold estates in Bolstad, Vassända, Fors, Rommele, Åsbräcka and Skövde parishes to Arvid Knutsson.

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

During the 1490s, Arvid maintained his prominent position under Sten Sture the Elder's rule. By 1490, he had been appointed as a *Hövidsman*, or Captain, at Öresten Castle, a fortress in Örby Parish, Västergötland.[84] Arvid served in this role until his death.

> ***Hövitsännen* – (Captains)**
>
> A hövitsman, was a type of leader or commander in the Swedish military. In English, the word translates to "captain." During the Middle Ages, a hövitsman was assigned various military leadership duties associated with a specific territory. This territory could vary in size from the whole kingdom to individual castles.

During the 1490s, tensions once again waged between Sweden and Denmark. Arvid served as a representative in peace negotiations with the Danes at Lödöse, a city in Västergötland in 1494, at Kalmar Castle in 1495, and again at Lödöse in 1496.[85]

> **Letters that Mention Arvid Knutsson (1496-1515)**
>
> - **SDHK No. 33333 - January 3, 1496 at Öresten:** The squire Knut Nilsson certifies that his mother's brother Arvid Knutsson, commander at Öresten, has reported all the income from his inherited estates.
> - **SDHK No 33590 - March 25, 1498 at Torpa:** The squire Knut Nilsson agrees with his maternal cousins, Knut Arvidsson and his siblings, about income that Arvid Knutsson had taken on behalf of Knut Nilsson's brother Halvid.
> - **SDHK No. 37553 - February 16, 1514 at Götåkra:** Knut Håkansson confirms that his wife Karin has made him satisfied about the heritage that she has taken on behalf of her children from Arvid Knutsson.
> - **SDHK No. 37563 - March 26, 1514 at Götåkra**: Knut Håkansson confirms that Knut Arvidsson has made him satisfied about the heritage that Knut Arvidsson, Gustav Arvidsson, and virgin Ingrid Arvidsdotter have taken after Arvid Knutsson.
> - **SDHK No. 37742 - June 5, 1515 at Tofta:** Bengt Gylta (Pedersson) and Anders Andersson (Hinsekind), under orders from Sten Sture, announce a consolidation between Arvid Knutson's children about the inheritance after their father, mother, father's sister Karin Knutsdotter, and their brother Bengt Arvidsson.

Arvid died sometime during the early summer of 1497.[86]

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[84] Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*. 1925-36, No. 82.
[85] *Ibidem*
[86] Script. Rer. Suec. Vff II h.2-3, p. 11

The Fate of Karin Arvidsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

Little is known about Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter's daughter Karin. It's unknown if she was ever married. A letter from June 5, 1515, which mentions Arvid Knutsson's children, states that they had inherited land not only from their parents, but also from their brother Bengt Arvidsson and aunt Karin Knutsdotter, implying that Karin had died without any heirs.[87]

"Knut Håkansson Hands och Hans Hustru Märta Drakes Slägt" by K.H.Karlsson

The article "Knut Håkansson Hands och Hans Hustru Märta Drakes Slägt" ("Knut Håkansson Hand's and His Wife Märta Drake's Genealogies") by K.H. Karlsson contains a transcript of the manuscript which mentions Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter's children. This article was published in the 1901 issue of *Personhistorisk Tidskrift* on pages 133-142 and contains numerous footnotes with more information on the people who are mentioned in this manuscript. It incorrectly states that Knut Arvidsson belonged to the (Store) family.



Letter that mentions Karin Arvidsdotter - June 5th, 1515
Seals: 1. Bengt Gylta 2. Anders Andersson

[87] SDHK No. 37742 – June 5, 1515

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

Transcription:

Wii effther scriffne benct gylte oc anders andersson gör wetherligt Mz tessom waart opne breff at wi till kraffde waa-
rom paa toffte mdxv tisdagen näst effther helge treffalloghetz Sondag aff waar käre herre oc höffwisman
herr Sten stwre Sweriges rikis förestaandere befallesse i goda mäns närware Sewed ribbing lindorm
ribbing jöns henriksson benct eriksson bonde olsson berge drage törkil eriksson och veste ionsson vepnere om en wen-
lig oc kärlig förlig mellan arwid knwtssons barn om thz arff thom tillffallid war effter thera
fadher oc modher karin knwts dotther och benct arwidsson gud thera siäll naade baade för löst
oc fast oc hwat thz helst nempnis kan thom mz rätte borde at haffwe jnthz wnderteg Saa ath the alla-
lediss paa alla sida lote sig well athnöge oc gaaffwe hwem annan jt frii lydog oc los för
alt ythdmer till talidh alla [eft] g[aan]g för sig alla sina arffwinge för the dell nw ptit oc
byt er tog i Saa motte at thd giord en iordabok oppo hwrw all erende sig förhanlald äre
oc saa före skilt at hwat gotz hwar andom fraa ginge mz rätte skwlle fyllist oc fast effther thy som
Sweriges lag wtwisse Till ythermere wisso oc vitnisbyrd at saa i sannind er Som förscriffedh
staar lathe wii fornämnde benct gylte oc anders andersson wetherlige hengia waar jncigle neder
för thz breff Som Scriffen er i toffte aar oc dag som förscriffued Staar

Translation:

We, here after mentioned, Bengt Gylta and Anders Andersson, declare with our open letter that we were present at Tofta on the Tuesday after Trinity Day Sunday (June 5th), on command from our master and captain, the knight Sten Sture, also the Head of State in Sweden, and in these good men's presence: Seved Ribbing, Lindorm Ribbing, Jöns Henriksson, Bengt Eriksson, Bonde Olsson, Birger Drake, Torkil Eriksson, and Veste Jonsson about a friendly and beloved conciliation between Arvid Knutsson's children, about the heritage they have got after their father and mother, (and also after) Karin Knutsdotter and Bengt Arvidsson, the Lord have mercy on their souls, both for loose and firm and whatever it can be, without exception, and so they are all satisfied in all aspects. All that were negotiated and desired about the land, are noted in a register so it's is clear what each person has, according to the Swedish law. Furthermore, to ensure that this is the truth, we, Bengt Gylta and Anders Andersson, have put our seals onto this letter. Written in Tofta in the year (1515) and day mentioned above.

The Fate of Märta Arvidsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)



Branghum, Länghem Parish – Where the family of Bror Buth and Marta Knutsdotter lived

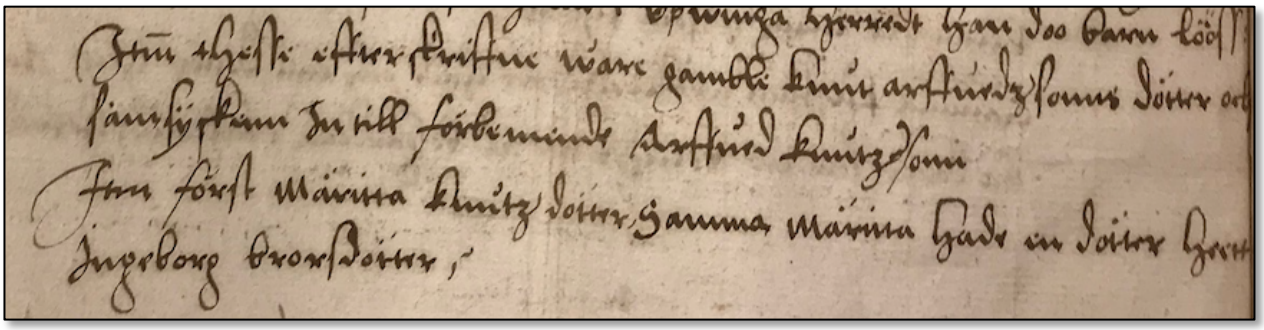
Knut and Kerstin's daughter Märta was married to a man named Bror Buth. The two had at least two daughters named Sigrid and Kerstin.[88] Their family resided at the estate Branghum in Länghem Parish.

Children of Bror Buth and Märta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Kerstin	1460s-1480s	Länghem	Unknown	Unknown
Ingeborg	1460s-1480s	Länghem	Unknown	Unknown

[88] *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*. Kungila biblioteket, H.h. 2, Image 4

Bror served as a District Chief for Kind District from at least 1472 to 1473. From1484 to 1499, he served as the District Chief for Ås District.



Excerpt from *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* that mentions Marta Knutsdotter

Transcription:

Item thesse effertskriffne ware gamble Knuth Arffuedzsons dötter och samsyskenn jn till förbemende Arffued Knutzzon
Item först Märitta Knutzdötter. Samma Märitta hade en dötter heet Ingeborg Brorsdötter

Translation:

Also, these mentioned were the elderly Knut Arvidsson's daughter and the same siblings to the before mentioned Arvid Knutsson.
First Marta Knutsdotter. The same Marta had a daughter named Ingeborg Brorsdotter

Bror Buth

Bror Buth was the son of Erik Buth, who served as a juror in Kind District in 1458. From 1472 to 1473, Bror served as the District Chief for Kind District. From 1484 to 1499, he served as the District Chief for Ås District. Bror was first married to Märta Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna) and had at least two daughters with her. He was later married to Margareta Mårtensdotter and had at least one son and daughter with her. Bror resided at the estate Branghum in Längelm Parish. He died sometime after 1507.



Bror Buth's coat of arms

Source: Almquist, JE. "Wernstedt Folke. red Buth. Äldre svenska frälseläkter: ättartavlor." (1957).

It's unknown when Märta Knutsdotter died. Bror Buth died sometime after 1507.

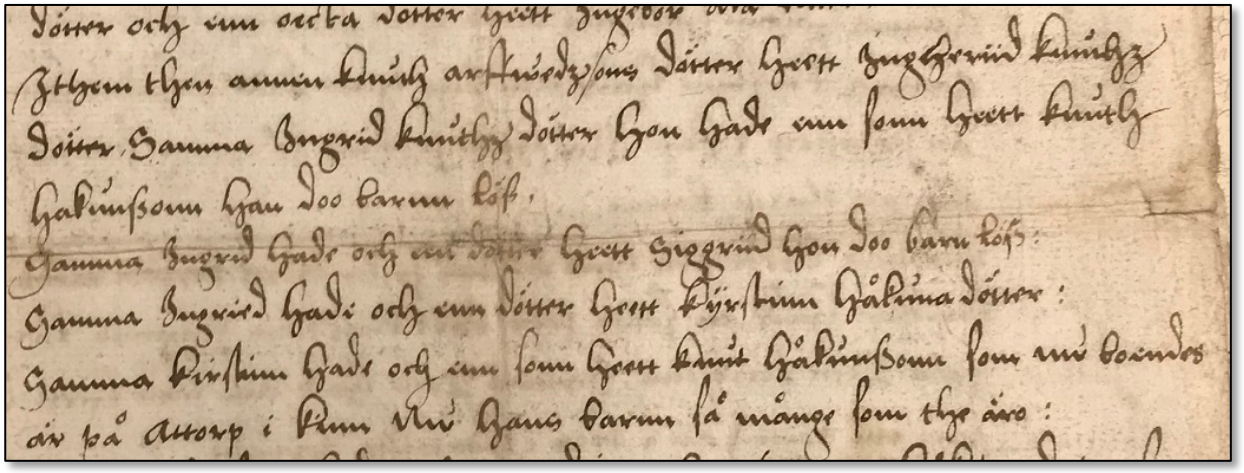
9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

The Fate of Ingrid Knutsdotter

Knut and Kerstin's daughter Ingrid was married to a man named Håkan Tun. The two had at least three children: Knut, Sigrid, and Kerstin.[89] It's unknown when Ingrid died.

Children of Håkan Tun and Ingerd Knutsdotter (Sparre över Stjärna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Knut	1460s-1480s	Unknown	1518	Unknown
Sigrid	1460s-1480s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Kerstin	1460s-1480s	Unknown	c.1530	Unknown



Excerpt from *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* that mentions Ingrid Knutsdotter

Transcription:

Item then annen Knuth Arffuedzsons dötter heett Ingheriid Knutz-
dötter. Samma Ingrid Knutzdötter. Samma Ingrid Knutzdötter hade en son heet Knuth
Håkunnsson, han doo bärnn loss.
Samma Ingrid hade en dötter heet Sigrid; hade och doo bärnn loss.
Samma Ingrid hade en dötter heet Krystinn Håkunsdötter.
Samma Kirstinn hade och son heet Knuth Håkunsson som nw boendes
är på Attar pi Kinn. Nw hans barn sä mange som äro.

Translation:

The other daughter of Knut Arvidsson was called Ingrid Knutsdotter.
The Same Ingrid Knutsdotter had a son called Knut Håkansson, who died childless.
The Same Ingrid Knutsdotter had a daughter called Sigrid, who also died childless.
The Same Ingrid Knutsdotter had a daughter called Kirstin Håkansdotter.
The same Kirsten had a son called Knut Håkansson who now lives at Attorp in Kind.

[89] *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*. Kungila biblioteket, H.h. 2, Image 5

The Final Years of Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (1458-1460)

Knut Arvidsson probably served as a District Chief for Kind District for the remainder of his life. Sometime in late 1458 or 1459, Knut Arvidsson died.[90]

Torpaäten – The Torpa Family

Genealogists refer to the family that Knut Arvidsson hailed from as the *Torpaäten*, or the Torpa Family. This name originates from Torpa, the estate where Knut is believed to have lived in Länghem Parish. Historian Gustaf Elgenstierna believed that Knut's paternal grandfather Jöns Bengtsson was the first member of this family, since his coat of arms was of a chevron, which Knut's father Arvid Jönsson also used in his coat of arms. However, a nobleman named Bengt Abjörnsson from Västergötland also used the chevron in his coat of arms from a letter from 1338, so he is probably the oldest known member of this family. The Torpa Family is also associated with the Stenbock and Drake af Intorp families.

Other Letters that Mention Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna)

- **SDHK No. 26250 - May 10, 1453 at Ås District Court**: Knut Arvidsson meets with Peter Tomasson (the District Chief of Ås District), Eskil Björnsson, Nils Rångedala, and Jon in Hällstad certify that Heine Snakenborg owned the estates Vädersholm, Ekeslunda, and Hökrum in Ås District.

- **SDHK No. 26275 - June 7, 1453 at Växjö**: Knut Arvidsson sells the farm Smedby in Öland to Nils Turesson, which he had received from his uncle Herr "Wernika." This same land transaction is documented in SDHK No. 26275 – June 7, 1452.

On July 6, 1459, Kerstin Bengtsdotter, Gunne Prika, and Gunne's brother met at a court hearing in Skara, which was presided over by Svarte Ture Jönsson. Kerstin, Gunne, and Gunne's brother had spoken to a priest in Yllestad named Broder and a man named Tord Svensson about property that Bengt Arvidsson promised to give his wife Elin as morning gift, which included two farms called Näs and Kär, a farm in Marbäck, two farms in Torpa, and Forsa Mill for 20 soldered Swedish mark. Since Kerstin, Gunne, and Gunne's brother had claims to this property, they were able to keep it for 20 soldered Swedish mark. The letter which documented this agreement contained the seals of Thure Jönsson, Gustaf Olofsson, Karl Bengtsson, Ragvald Andersson, and Per Nilsson (the District Chief of Vartofta District).[91]

[90] SDHK No. 27439 - July 9, 1459 states that Knut's wife Kerstin was a widow by July 9, 1459.
[91] SDHK No. 27439 - July 9, 1459

9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm



Letter that mentions Knut Arvidsson and
Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) - July 9th, 1459
Seals: 1. Svarte Thure Jönsson 2. Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock) 3.Karl Bengtsson
4.-5. (missing) Ragvald Andersson and Per Nilsson

Transcription:

Alle men som thzta breff höra eller see Helsar jac sworte thure jönsson riddare oc lagman i westergödlandh kerliga mz gudh bekennis jac mz thzta mit nerwarandis oppna breff ath Arom eppther gudz byrdh mcccclix then tiidh jac höldh landztingh i skarä som war mandaghin nest effther presthämadh tha kom ärlighe oc welborna qwinna hustro kirstina knwt Arwitssons effterlifferska gudh hans zel nadhe oc beskedin swen gwnne prik och hans broddher oc tiltalledhe hädherlika man her brodher i ylaffstade oc til welboren man tordh swensson om thz gossit som benkt arwidsson gudh hans ziel nadhe gaff sina elskeliga hustro hustro älin til morghongaffwor til atherlössin for xx lödugha mark swenska wikth som är näs, kär, änom gardh i marbek, ij garde i torpum, oc forsse qwern liggindis i kindh. Tha dompdhe jac forde hustro kirstine oc gwnne prik oc hans broddher oc fler i släktena som i forde släkttäne kunne reknas i ghen so nar forde xx lodughe mark äro uth giffna skolle the haffua therras gossz i gen frii oc bewarit oc mz swa skäl the skolle skiffta gossz the äro skyldh til. Til ytther mera wisso oc bethra for waringh tha haengher jac forde thure jonsson riddare mit Incigele for thzta breff mz ärlighe oc welbornom manom som är hra gosstaff [o]lasson riddare oc karl benktsson a wapn Rawald andhersson oc per nielsson härrzhöffdinghe i waratofftha härrit Skreffet Dagh oc aar som for skreffuit staar.

Translation:

[To] all that hear or see this letter, I, Svarte Thure Jönsson, knight and lagman in Västergötland, greet with love and I confess to the Lord with this, my open letter, that in the 1459th year after the Lord's birth, I held court in Skara, that was the Monday after the priest's meeting (July 9th). Then came the honest and wellborn woman, the wife Kerstin, the widow of Knut Arvidsson (God bless his soul) and the servant Gunne Prika and his brother. They talked to honest man Broder, the priest in Yllestad, and to the well born man Tord Svensson about the property that Bengt Arvidsson gave his wife Elin as a morning gift and to redeem it for Näs and Kär, a farm in Marbäck, two farms in Torpa, and Forsa Mill, all of them in Kind District, for 20 soldered Swedish mark. I then judged that wife Kerstin, Gunne Prika, his (Gunne's) brother, and more of their relatives, can keep the property for 20 mark. To guarantee this, I, the knight Thure Jönsson, put my seal on this letter, together with the honest and well born men: the knight Gustaf Olofsson, the squire Karl Bengtsson, Ragvald Andersson, and the District Chief in Vartofta District, Per Nilsson. Written on the day and year that is written here above.

Fact or Fiction: Gustaf Elgenstierna's Information on Knut Arvidsson

Claim: Knut Arvidsson's father was Arvid Jönsson (Sparre över Stjärna).
True: Arvid Jönsson is listed as Knut Arvidsson's father in SDHK No. 23101.

Claim: Knut Arvidsson lived at Torpa in Länghem Parish, Västergötland.
Probably True: Since Knut's son Arvid Knutsson was listed as the owner of Torpa in SDHK No. 30301, it's likely that he inherited Torpa from Knut.

Claim: Knut Arvidsson's wife was Christina Gunnarsdotter.
False: Although Knut's wife was named Kristina (a variation of Christina or Kerstin) according to SDHK No. 27439, the letters SDHK No. 27291 and SDHK No. 26415 show that Kerstin was the daughter of Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad). Elgenstierna confused Kerstin's father with Gunnar Gylta, her maternal grandfather.

Claim: Knut and Kerstin had a son named Arvid and daughters named Britta, Ingrid, Karin, and Märta.
True: This information is verified in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogörelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) släg* and SDHK No. 37742.

Claim: Knut Arvidsson was a District Chief for Kind District in 1458.
True: This information is verified in SDHK No. 27260.

Claim: Knut Arvidsson died around 1459.
True: SDHK No. 27439 states that Knut's wife Kerstin was a widow in 1459.

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9.2.2. Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) fm fm mf fm mf mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm

On July 8, 1460, Kerstin Bengtsdotter appeared at Skara before Svarte Ture Jönsson and requested that her children receive the rights to the estate Hiå in Kind District and two estates named Grysta in Va̋stbo District, which Knut Arvidsson had owned. During this meeting, Kerstin called upon Peter Ribbing (who wasn't present) to make an account of this according to law, which he hadn't yet done.[92] This is the last known record of Kerstin and it's unknown when she died.



Letter that mentions Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad) - July 8th, 1460
Seal (missing): Svarte Ture Jönsson

Transcription:

Jak swarthe twr(e) jønsß (ri)dda(re) ok vestgøtha laghma(n) gøhre vetthe(r)ligt mz thz mith øpne br(e)ff
thz hedhe(r)ligh ok velbyrdogh quin(n)a hust(ru) C(re)stin knut aruedss effther lewa(nde) gudh ha(n)s siel na
de var her j skara pa landztingh Arom effther gudz byrdh mc[d]lx tisdaghe(n) nest effther war
frw dagh visit(erede) ok tallede øm nakra gotz som uar twa garde j hiidaa j kindh lagegerdh
ok twa gardhe j vesbo som heta gryto huilket gotz hafuer barnen efter fadher sin øm och hadde
hon lagen late stepno førnämnde Ake mz welbord(en) ma(n) pædher ribbing sat her at sware øm
all the(n) til til..ingh som han hadde tilho.. øm the go.. huilket ha(n) ey til swars kom ok efft(er)
han hadde hans lagelit sc[r]ept ok ha(n) ekke ville the gelde jcke hen(n)e stepndge som lagh vet
uisa til me(ra) visso trykk(er) jak mith jncegl pa ryggin før th(ette) breff ... ... lato
ut sup(ra)

Translation:

I, Svarte Ture Jönsson, Knight and Chief Judge of the County Administrative Court of Västergötland, announce by this open letter that the honest and honorable woman Lady Kerstin, Knut Arvidsson's widow, God have mercy on his soul, appeared in Skara at the County Court session on the Tuesday after the Lady Day (July 8th) in 1460 AD, and pleaded her children's cause on two estates in Hiå in Kind District, and two estates in Västbo District named "Gryto", these were their right paternal heritage, she further called on the honorable man Peter Ribbing, who wasn't present, to make an account on the estate according to the law, which he hadn't done though he was administrator. I hereby confirm this document by placing my seal on it, ut supra (Eng. as above).

[92] SDHK No. 27623 – July 8, 1460

Trivia on Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad)

1. What was the name of Knut Arvidsson's father?
    a. Arvid Bengtsson
    b. Arvid Jönsson
    c. Arvid Knutsson
    d. Arvid Nilsson

2. What was the name of Knut Arvidsson's mother?
    a. Britta Knutsdotter
    b. Ingeborg Nilsdotter
    c. Ingerd Petersdotter
    d. Sara Jönsdotter

3. What was the name of Knut Arvidsson's clan?

4. What was the name of Kerstin Bengtsdotter's father?
    a. Bengt Jönsson
    b. Bengt Knutsson
    c. Bengt Nilsson
    d. Bengt Turesson

5. What was Knut Arvidsson's occupation?
    a. Bailiff
    b. District Chief
    c. Lagman
    d. None of these

6. What is the first year in which Knut Arvidsson recorded?

7. What province did Knut and Kerstin's family live in?

8. What is the name of the estate that Knut and Kerstin probably lived at?

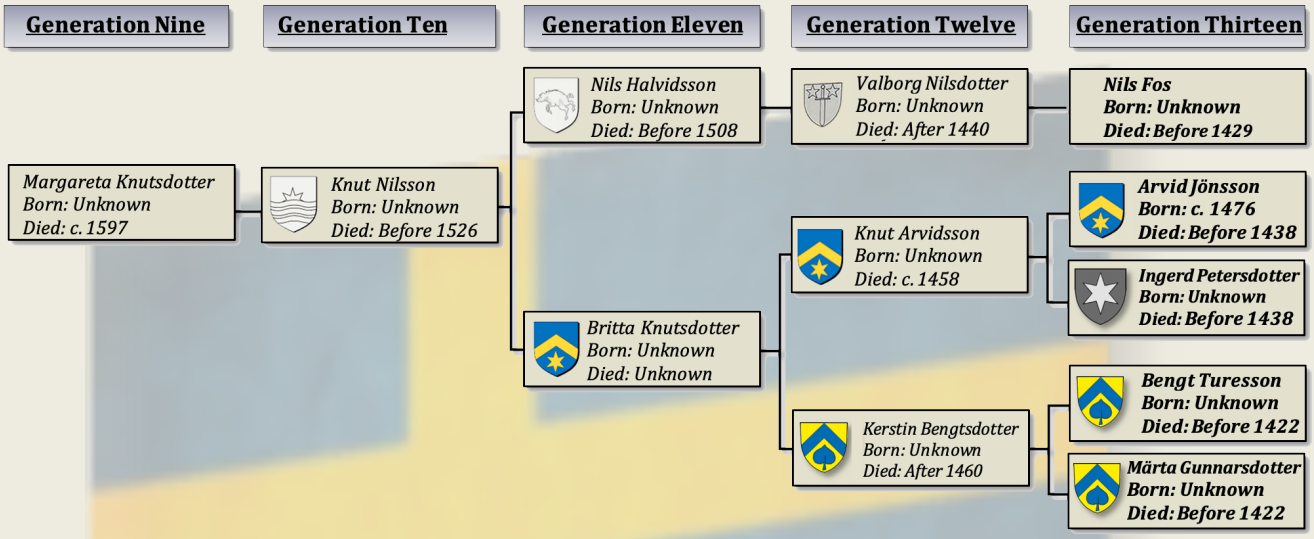
9. How many children did Knut and Kestin probably have?

10. When did Knut Arvidsson die?

Answers: 1. b 2. c 3. Torpaäten 4. d 5. b 6. 1438 7. Västergötland 8. Torpa 9. At least five 10. 1458 or 1459

Generation Thirteen

The 10th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1370-1440

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 10th Great-Grandparents Lived In

The majority of Sven Hög's 10th great-grandparents lived during the late 14th century until the mid-15th century. During this time, Sweden underwent significant transformations across its social, economic, political, and religious spheres, profoundly affecting the lives of the nobility. Politically, the period was marked by instability and power struggles, exemplified by the insurrection against King Albrecht I of Mecklenburg in 1389. Led by Swedish nobles discontented with King Albrecht's rule, the uprising resulted in his defeat at the Battle of Åsle. This event reshaped the political landscape and asserted the influence of the Swedish nobility in matters of governance.

The formation of the Kalmar Union in 1397 also impacted the Swedish legal system, particularly the role of *häradshövding* (District Chief), the role that Sven Hög's 10th great-grandfather Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorop) served in. These officials, appointed to administer justice at the local level, saw their authority increasingly undermined by royal interference and centralization efforts. Royal officials were appointed to oversee judicial matters and ensure compliance with royal decrees, further eroding the traditional autonomy of the nobility and reshaping the legal landscape in Sweden.

One of the most significant political developments during this time was the formation of the Kalmar Union in 1397, which united Sweden, Norway, and Denmark under a single monarch. While initially intended to foster unity and cooperation among the Scandinavian kingdoms, the Kalmar Union also posed challenges for the Swedish nobility. The union centralized power under the Danish crown, diminishing the autonomy of the Swedish nobility and altering the balance of power within the kingdom. Sven Hög's 10th great-grandparents likely saw the Kalmar Union as a balance between promising stability and threatening Swedish autonomy.



The letter documenting the founding of the Kalmar Union in 1397

Overall, the time that Sven Hög's 10th great-grandparents lived was characterized by significant upheaval and change in Sweden, with the nobility navigating shifting political alliances, economic reforms, and legal developments. Despite facing challenges to their traditional privileges and autonomy, the Swedish nobility remained a central force in Swedish society, shaping the course of events and exerting influence over the direction of the kingdom.

9.3.0. Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 10th Great-Grandparents Lived In

Timeline of Swedish History: 1360-1420

1362 Håkan Magnusson becomes King of Sweden and rules over Sweden with his father Magnus IV.



1363 Rebellion breaks out in Sweden against the co-rulers, Magnus IV and his son Håkan Magnusson.

1364 Magnus IV and Håkan Magnusson, the co-kings of Sweden are deposed from the throne and Albrekt of Mecklenburg becomes King of Sweden.



1371 Rebellion breaks out in Sweden against King Albrekt, who is able to repel the insurgency.

1389 King Albrekt is deposed from the throne and Margaret I becomes Queen of Sweden.

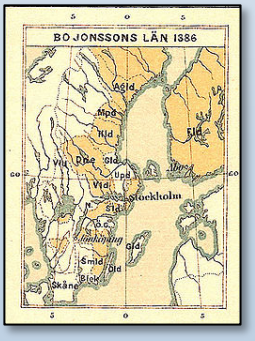


1397 Sweden enters into the Kalmar Union with Denmark and Norway.

1400 The population of Sweden is 500,000.

1405 Frequent rains from July to December destroy most of the crops in Sweden.

1407 Queen Margareta gains the title to Gotland by payment to the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order.



1410 Sweden enters into a war against the Holsteins and the Hanseatic League.

1411 The building of Visborg Castle on Gotland begins.

1412 Margaret I dies on a ship in Flensburg. After her death, her nephew Erik of Pomerania becomes King of Sweden and is known as Erik XIII.



1420 A cathedral castle in Uppsala is completed.

Nils Fos

Name	Nils Fos
Born	1350s-1370s
Place	Unknown
Died	Between 1410 to 1429
Place	Stora Malm, Södermanland
Occupation	Juror

Children of Nils Fos

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Valborg	1390s-1400s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Nils Fos was probably born sometime during the 1350s through the 1370s.[93] The names of his parents are unknown. It's possible that Nils was born in Kinnared Parish in the province of Halland, since his father was listed as living there in 1410.[94]

Kinnared Parish

Kinnared (Kée-nah-rude) is a parish in Halland, Sweden. Kinnared has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1298 as "Kynnariuth." Its name means "mountain side clearing." Kinnared Parish is 29.17 square kilometers, of which 28.78 are land. Kinnared is located by the Nissan River's inflow Kilaån, and it consists of a thin forest and mountain area outside of the Kilaån Valley.

There are Stone Age settlements, Bronze Age burial mounds, and scattered tombs from the Iron Age in Kinnared. Kinnared Church was built sometime during the early to mid-13th century. During the municipal reform of 1862, the parish's responsibility for the ecclesiastical issues passed to Kinnared Parish and for the bourgeois issues to Kinnared County. In 1974, Kinnared became part of Hylte Municipality. On January 1, 2016, Kinnared District was established. In 1990, the population of Kinnared was 539.



Kinnared Church

[93] This is estimated by the fact that Nils Fos was first mentioned in a letter from 1399 (SDHK No. 15116 – June 1399), and he must have been in his twenties, thirties, or forties at this time.
[94] SDHK No. 17509 – June 21, 1410

9.3.1. Nils Fos
fm fm mf fm mf fm f

The first Swedish monarchs that Nils remembered may have been Magnus Eriksson and his son Håkan Magnusson, the co-kings of Sweden. In 1371, there was a rebellion against the two, leading to their deposition from the throne. After their deposition, Albrekt of Mecklenburg became the King of Sweden. Albrekt reigned for 18 years. In 1389, Margareta Valdemarsdotter, the Queen of Denmark and Norway, led an insurrection against Albrekt, and was later crowned as the Queen of Sweden.

The Reign of Margareta I (1389-1412)



1423 effigy on Margaret's tomb in Roskilde Cathedral, Denmark

Margareta Valdemarsdotter born in the spring of 1353 at Søborg Castle, Denmark. Her parents were King Valdemar Atterdag and Queen Helvig of Schleswig. In January of 1359, Margareta was betrothed to the King of Norway Håkan Magnusson, who later become King of Sweden in 1362. The two were married on April 9, 1363 at Copenhagen Castle. At this time, Margareta was only ten years old. Margareta remained in Denmark until 1366, when she was brought to Norway. Here, she was raised by Märta Ulfsdotter, a daughter of Saint Birgitta. In December of 1370, Margareta gave birth to her only child, Olof, who was elected king of Denmark in 1376.

In 1380, Olof became King of Norway at the age of ten. In 1387, Olof died and Margareta became Queen of Denmark and Norway. In March of 1388, Margareta met with the dissatisfied Swedish nobles who promised to accept her as Queen of Sweden if she freed them from the reign of King Albrekt and his German regiment. Margareta thus helped lead an insurgency against Albrekt. On February 24, 1389, her forces won a decisive victory over Albrekt's forces at the Battle of Åsle and Margareta became Queen of Sweden.

Margareta was an incredibly skilled and wise ruler. Since she didn't have an heir, she arranged for Erik of Pomerania, the grandson of her sister Ingeborg, to be her successor. Erik was crowned as King of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden on June 17, 1397, although Margaret continued to reign as the primary ruler. On July 20, 1397, Margareta arranged for the Treaty of Kalmar to be signed, which established the Kalmar Union, a union between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Margaret ruled over the Kalmar Union for the remainder of her life, although she gradually allowed Erik to have more authority. She ruled from Denmark and had court officials enforce her rule in Norway and Sweden. Although she remained neutral during the Hundred Years War between England and France and other European conflicts, she reclaimed Gotland in 1408 (which had fallen into German rule in 1398) and also tried to regain the territory of Schleswig in 1410, which led to war against the Holsteins and the Hanseatic League. On October 28, 1412, Margaret died on a ship in Flensburg, Germany.

The Surname "Fos"

Although Nils Fos's surname is spelled as "Forse" or "Forsse" in the letters he is mentioned, the modern spelling of his surname is "Fos." This surname (which is sometimes spelled "Vos," has German origins. In modern German, it is spelled "Fuchs." Fos means "fox" in English.

By the 1390s, Nils Fos was a juror for Oppunda District in the province of Södermanland. Sometime in 1399, he was present at Strängnäs Cathedral as part of the jury which judged a land dispute involving Lady Ingeborg Tordsdotter. Ingeborg had owned an estate called Fiestad in Östergötland which she had given to Bo Jonsson in exchange for an estate called Fridafors, one farmstead, and one croft in Österåker Parish. However, during an earlier court session, these lands had been taken from her. At the end of the hearing, Nils and the other jurors decided that Fiestad should be returned to Ingeborg.[95]



Letter which mentions Nils Fos as a juror for Oppunda District, Södermanland – 1399
Seals: 1. Sten Bengtsson 2. (missing) Erengisle Nilsson

[95] SDHK No. 15116 - June 1399 *

9.3.1. Nils Fos
fm fm mf fm mf fm f

Transcription:

Saknar dat(um) *1399*

Wi Steen Benctzson riddar(e) Konungz dom hawande a mins ki(e)ra Konung Erikx wæghn(er) oc ærengisl nielsβ riddar(e) oc laghman j sudhermanna lande bekænnoms os mædh thesso waro opne breffwe tha wi ræfstething hiollom mz almoghanom aff opunda i strængenæs tildømt hawa husfrw ingeborghe thurisdott(er) ett godz i øst(er)gøøt-lande som ffeæstadha het(er) mz allo thz som th(er) aff all(e)r wnd[e]derlighæt haw(a) æpt(e)r thz at henne the(er) døømdes ffraa som boo jonsβ th(e)r føre giwet hafdhe oc næmpden før(e) os witnadhe oc thz skatskyllegh jordh aff all(e)r waret haw(er) | som ær laurens birgersson joen sunason nisse fors joen i Lundom pædh(e)r i remaredhe pædhar graamal karl i ormstom anund i skalby sigge i torpa pædh(e)r i kiwstom? karl i granedhe oc pædh(e)r karlsβ oc ffor thz mædhan hænna the godz aff gingo so(m) ær fridhafors en gaardh a oc ett thorp oc en gaardhe i øst(e)rak(e)r tha dømm(om) wi før(e) ingeborgh til henna [hindhergaäl] som fføør ær saght Oc forbiwdhom hwarom manne thz for(e) godz feastadhe ffor(e) henne ath henna arw(o)m hindra äller qwälia i nakrahanda moot warom doom maatta widh sina xl mark for konungzdomm oc vi mark for laghmanzdomm dat[um] loco and[icto] Anno domini m° ccc nonagesimo nona m[i]ns sub sigill

Translation:

Date unknown *1399*

We, Sten Bengtsson, knight and King's judge on behalf of my dear King Erik, and Erengisle Nilsson, knight and District Chief in Södermanland, by this, our open letter, declare that we have judged at an inquiry with the peasantry of Oppunda in Strängnäs, that an estate in Östergötland called Fiestad shall be returned to Lady Ingeborg Tordsdotter. She had earlier given it to Bo Jonsson in exchange for an estate called Fridafors, [and]one farmstead, and one croft in Österåker Parish. At an earlier court session, these were decided to be taken from her and turned into "skatte-hemman" (taxed farms). This court decided that Fiestad, with all included, shall be hers and her heirs forever. The members of the jury were: Lars Bergsson, Joen Sunesson, Nils Fos, Joen Månsson, Peter in Remarede, Peter Graamal, Karl in Ormsta, Amund in Skalby, Sigge in Torpa, Peter in Kjulsta, Karl in Granede, and Peter Karlsson. The fee for the King's judge's decision is 40 mark, and the fee for the Provincial Chief Judge's decision is 6 mark. Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1399. We guarantee the decision by our seals below.

Strängnäs Diocese

Strängnäs (Stráeng-nés) Diocese is located in southeast Sweden and contains Stockholm. It was founded around 1100 by a missionary named Sankt Eskil. Strängnäs today consists of parts of the provinces of Närke, Södermanland, and Västmanland. The diocese stretches from the Mälaren valleys to the forest kingdom Tiveden, and from Kilsbergen in the western region to the Baltic Sea.

Construction began on Strängnäs Cathedral in 1260 and it was inaugurated in 1291. Extensions were added to the cathedral in the 1300s and 1400s. Karl IX, Sten Sture the Elder, Marie of Palantinate-Simmern, and Gustaf Otto Stenbock are all buried within the cathedral.





Djulfors, Stora Malm – Where Nils Fos lived during the early 1400s

Nils Fos was probably married sometime in the 1390s. The name of his wife is unknown. Nils and his wife had at least one daughter named Valborg.[96] By 1410, Nils was living at the farm Djulfors in Stora Malm Parish.[97] It's likely that he lived there for the remainder of his life.

"Det medeltilda Sverige Band 2:5 SÖDERMANLAND: Oppunda harad" by Kaz Janson

"Vapenslikhetsfällan" ("The Medieval Sweden: Vol. 2:5 Södermanland: Oppunda District") is a publication that was written by Swedish historian Kaj Janzon (b. 1956) and published in the journal *Svensk Genealogisk Tidskrift* ("Swedish Genealogical Journal") in 2016. Janzon's work focuses on the parishes and farms in Oppunda District during the Middle Ages. On page 210, there is a genealogy chart which shows Nils Fos, Valborg Nilsdotter, Halvid Andersson, Nils Halvidsson, Britta Knutsdotter, and Knut Nilsson.

On June 21, 1410, Nils Fos and his father appeared at Oppunda District Court in the presence of District Chief Anders Offasson and jurors Mathis Wolmar, Erik Knutsson, Ingvald in Spitarby, Karl in Önnestum, Jonas in Fabo, Karl in Kavlunge, Nils in Hendalund, Amund in Skälby, Johan in Blaxtum, Björn in Näsby, Ravald in Pinnatorp, and Jonas in Dimpavi. At this meeting, Nils Fos gave away five örtugland in Ättersta in Österåker Parish, three penningland in Listorp in Björkvik Parish, and seven penningland in Väla in Sköldinge Parish to a man name Peter in exchange for received three örtugland in Djulfors.[98]

Örtugland

Örtugland was a surface unit that was used for taxing land properties during the Middle Ages. In the old arable areas, the assessment was based on the arable area.

[96] Valborg is listed as Nils's daughter in SDHK No. 24250 – 1440.
[97] SDHK No. 17509 – June 21, 1410
[98] *Ibidem*

9.3.1. Nils Fos
fm fm mf fm mf fm f

Transcription and Translation of an Excerpt of a Letter from June 21st, 1410 that Mentions Nils Fos

Transcription:

Alle the thetta bref see eller höra, helsar Jagh Anders Offason, häredzdomhafwandhe i Oppundha, å Ehrligh och wälborne, å hans wegnor, H(er) Carls Øra, kerlika medh wår.. Herra, thet skall allom dannemannåm witterligit wara, them nu äre eller framdelis warda kunne, att åhrom eff(th)er Gudz bördh (Anno) 1410, lögardagen näst efter Bortolphi, tå giordhe Erlike man Niße Forβ och fadher i Kinnarede, ett laglikit rettligit Jorde Skipte å Oppunda tinge, i så måtto, att Niße Forβ vplät förbe(mel)te i Pedher i Remerde fem ortuglandh iord i Etterstom i Öster Åker sochn, trij penningelandh iord i Letla torpe i Birkewij- ka sochn, och siu penningzlandh iordh i wedlum i skiolunga sochn för t(r)en(ne) örtogh- landh iordh i iurforβe, engen penningh mindre, huilka Jordh förbe(mel)te Niclis forβ afhänder sigh och sinom arfueom, och alla häna tilleggur, och tillägnar häna Pe- dor och hans arfwom, till ewerdelika ägo, medh fastum och fullom skälom, som her efter nämpnas, först mathis wolmar, Erik Knutβon, Ingewaldeer i Spitarby, karl i Ønnestum, Jonas i Fåbo, karl i kaflunge, Niclis i Hendalundum, Amundh i skelby, Joan i Blaxtum, Biörn i Näsby, Rafwaldh i Pinnatorp, Jonis i dimpawik, Vnder mitt insegle till wittnesbördh.

Translation:

[To] all who see or hear this letter I, Anders Offasson, District Chief of Oppunda District Court on behalf of the honest and honorable Sir Karl Öra, announce that in the Year of Our Lord 1410 on the Saturday after St. Botulf's Day (June 21st), the honest man Nils Fos and his father in Kinnared appeared in court and presented a land exchange with Peter in Remröd. Nils Fos gave away five örtugland in Ättersta in Österåker Parish, three penningland in Listorp in Björkvik Parish, and seven penningland in Väla in Sköldinge Parish, and received three örtugland in Djulfors. Nils Fos gives his land to Peter and his heirs to be theirs forever and nothing excluded. These jury members will guarantee the content of this document: Mathis Wolmar, Erik Knutsson, Ingvald in Spitarby, Karl in Önnestum, Jonas in Fåbo, Karl in Kavlunge, Nils in Hendalund, Amund in Skälby, Johan in Blaxtum, Björn in Näsby, Ravald in Pinnatorp, Jonas in Dimpavik. Below is my seal to prove the authenticity.

Seal: Anders Offasson

At some point in time, Nils Fos burnt a line in the meadow between Djulfors and Valla, which served as a border between the two farms. Sometime during the 1410s or 1420s, Nils's daughter Valborg was married to Halvid Andersson (Svin), the Substitute District Chief of Oppunda District. Halvid ended up inheriting Djulfors from Nils. Valborg and Halvid had a son named Nils, who was probably named after Nils Fos.[99]

[99] Valborg is listed as Halvid Andersson's wife in SDHK No. 23494 - April 3, 1440. For more information on the fate Valborg, see page 1511.

Nils Fos's Coat of Arms

None of the three letters that mention Nils Fos contain his seal. Thus, it can't be confirmed what his coat of arms were. However, many genealogists believe that his coat of arms was a fox. On page 315 of Jan Raneke's *Svenska medeltilden*, there is a list of several men who lived between 1310 to 1453 with the surname Fox (or Voss) whose coat of arms was either a fox or wolf. It's most likely that this is the reason why many assume that Nils Fos's coat of arms was a fox. Since Nils's daughter Valborg had a seal that showed a vertical sword flanked by two five-pointed stars, it's possible that this was also Nils Fos's coat of arms. If this wasn't his coat of arms, it must have been the coat of arms of Nils's unknown wife.



Many believe that Nils Fos's coat of arms was a fox

Nils Fos Marks a Border Between Djulfors and Valla*

The dispute between Djulfors and Valla had lasted for years, but the border between them was unusual—it was made by fire. Long ago, landowners had marked the boundary by burning a strip of grass between the two farms. Over time, the scorched line faded, but it still determined where each farm's grazing land began and ended. However, Nils Fos, a juror in Djulfors, believed the boundary had been misplaced. His neighbor, Storbjörn of Valla, agreed. Together, they decided to reset the border—by fire, just as it had been before.

They turned to Lasse Ragvaldsson, a farmhand known for his skill with fire. On a cool spring evening, the three men set torches to the dry grass, following the old line as best they could. The flames danced along the meadow, leaving a fresh, blackened path where the disputed border had once stood.

By morning, the work was done. The neighbors gathered, expecting another argument—but instead, they nodded in agreement. The renewed border was fair to both sides, and the land division was once again clear. The lagman, who had been called to settle disputes many times before, found no complaints.

Nils, Storbjörn, and Lasse watched as the meadow smoldered, satisfied that their work had restored not just the boundary, but good relations between the farms. The fire that once divided them had now brought them together, ensuring peace for years to come.

*A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT

Nils Fos died sometime before 1429.[100] The cause of his death is unknown. He was probably buried in the cemetery of Stora Malm Church.

[100] Nils is stated to be deceased in SDHK No. 21110 – October 1, 1429.

9.3.1. Nils Fos
fm fm mf fm mf fm f

Transcription and Translation of an Excerpt of a Letter from October 1st, 1429 that Mentions Nils Fos

Transcription:

Alle män thetta breff höra äller see, Helsom wij Håkon An-
derson, Erick dyäkin i arhamar, ok Anders Matisson wap-
nara kärlige mädh gudh. För dhän skuld att skälige män
Storbiörn i Wallum, oc Lasse Raugwalson witnado, swora vpå
gudh oc thera siäll openbarlika på vppunda häredz tinge,
att Niclis Forss hwars siäll gud nådhe, hafdo vpkallat
oc bränt en rättän staff liggiande i ängirne mellan Järss-
fors oc walla i Malm sokn, ok kändeh thesse före[de] [sto]ra män,
Storbiörn oc Lassä, att the hafde thär mäd till hulpith, mäd
thera händer, thänn samma Niclis Förss tå han thän staffwen vp-
kallade ok brände, ok ty kännoms wij före[de]. Håkon Anderson,
Erich Dyäkn, ok Anderss Matisson att wij thär när ok öff-
wer wårom oc vppå härdom vppunda Häredztinge, att thäs-
he tolff män som här äffter nämpnäs the gillado thena witne,
före[da] Storbiörns oc Lassä Raugwaldsons som the witnat hafdo,
att Niclis Fors hafde thän före[da] staffwen vpkastat oc
bränt, som förr skriffuit ståår, ok swore vppå Gudh thera
siäll, att thera witnä Storbiörns, ok Lassa Ragwaldsons
woro sann, ok thära Eder war reen, ok ikke men, Som
först är Bornather i Källstom, Thomas i bodhen, Halstan i
Eneby, Nielis Jönson i Alspanger, Halwid i Edeby
vlffwer i Tybble, Olaff i Brotorp, Lasse Knap, Jönis i Solberga
Hannes i bohammar, Jon skräddare. Ingemunder i Trolla bodom, Till
thäss mere wisso oc skäll, att wij här när oc öffuer hafwom warit,
tå the thetta wittnado, oc sworo vppinbarlik på Häradztingit. Tå
tryckiom wij wår Jnsigle, witterlika hängiandes före thätta
breff. Scriptum i placito Vppundh. Anno Domini m. cd. xx
Nono, sabato proxime, post festum sancti michaelis Archangeli etc.

Translation:

[To]all men that hear or see this letter, we, Håkan Andersson, Erik Djäken in Århammar, and Anders Matisson, squires with God, greet. We declare that the honest men Storbjörn in Valla and Lasse Ragvaldsson testified and swore upon God and their souls at Oppunda District's hearing that Nils Fors, whose soul is with God, had taken up and burnt a border mark lying in the meadows between Djulfors and Valla in Malm Parish. Storbjörn and Lasse had with their own hands helped him with that. We, Håkan Andersson, Erik Djäken, and Anders Matisson, confess that at the hearing these twelve men approved of Storbjörn's and Lasse's testimony that Nils Fors had burnt the border mark as it is written, and swore upon God and their souls that Storbjörn and Lasse Ragvaldsson that they had told the truth. The board of twelve men: Bornather in Källsta, Thomas in Boden, Halstan in Eneby, Nils Jönsson in Alspanger, Halvid in Edeby, Ulf in Tibble, Olof in Brotorp, Lasse Knap, Jöns in Solberga, Hannes in Bohammar, Jon Skräddare (tailor), Ingemund in Trolleboda. To confirm this, we put our seals onto this letter. Written at Oppunda in the Year of Our 1429, on the Feast of Michael the Archangel (October.1st).

Seals: 1. Håkan Andersson (Hålbonäs). 2. Erik (Amundsson) Djäken 3. Anders Matisson

Transcription from B 16 F 337



The cemetery of Stora Malm Church – Where Nils Fos is probably buried

Trivia on Nils Fos

1. What was Nils Fos's occupation?
    a. Priest
    b. District Chief
    c. Juror
    d. Substitute District Chief

2. What is the year of the first record that Nils Fos appears in?

3. What farm did Nils Fos live at?
    a. Djulfors
    b. Grysta
    c. Pinntorp
    d. None of these

4. What year must have Nils Fos died before?

Answers: 1. c 2. 1399 3. a 4. 1429

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)

Name	Arvid Jönsson	Name	Ingerd Petersdotter
Born	1375- 1376	Born	1370s-1380s
Place	Västergötland	Place	Västergötland
Died	Between 1434 to 1438	Died	Before 1438
Place	Gällstad, Västergötland	Place	Gällstad, Västergötland
Occupation	District Chief	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Knut	1400s-1410s	Möne	1458 or 1459	Långhem
Arvid	1410s-1420s	Långhem	Unknown	Unknown

Early Years (1376-1400)

Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) was born around 1376.[101] His father was Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)[102] and the identity of his mother is unknown. Arvid was most likely born somewhere in Kind District, Västergötland Province, since his father Jöns Bengtsson was listed as purchasing a farm there in 1366[103] and was living in Kind in 1390[104].

In 1376...

- Albrekt I was the King of Sweden, Edward III was the King of England, and Charles V was the King of France.
- Pope Gregory XI excommunicated all members of the government of Florence, Italy and placed the city under an interdict.
- Olav Håkansson was elected as King Oluf II of Denmark.
- Aztec ruler Tenoch died.
- John of Gaunt summoned John Wycliffe to appear before the British Royal Council.






[101] According to *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39, Arvid stated that he was 41 years old on April 18, 1417, which means he was born between April 11, 1375 and April 12, 1376.
[102] According to *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39, Jöns Bengtsson was Arvid's father.
[103] SDHK No. 8815 - 1366
[104] SDHK No. 13686 - February 13, 1390

Both of Arvid's parents hailed from nobility.[105] His father Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre) served as the District Chief of Kind District from at least 1397.[106] Although the identify of Arvid's mother is unknown, she also came from nobility and it's likely that Arvid eventually inherited several of the farms that she owned. Sometime before 1388, Arvid's mother died. On November 16, 1388, Arvid's father Jöns Bengtsson was remarried to a woman named Birgitta Erlandsdotter.[107]

Drake af Intorp

"Drake af Intorp" is the term genealogists associate with Arvid Jönsson's family. In English, the term translates to "Dragon of Intorp." Intorp refers to the estate where Arvid Jönsson lived in Gällstad Parish during the 1430s. The term "Drake af Intorp" was never associated with Arvid during his life. The first of Arvid's descendants to use the surname "Drake" was cavalry master Olof Nilsson Drake (died 1593) who took the name after his mother. Olof also resided at Intorp. Arvid Jönsson's family is also known as *Torpaäten*, or the Torpa Family, since his son Knut Arvidsson probably lived at the estate Torpa in Länghem Parish.

Scriptores rerum svecicarum medii aevi

Scriptores rerum svecicarum medii aevi ("Writers in Swedish History During the Middle Ages") is a collection of three volumes that contain histories, chronologies, and other writings from the Middle Ages and the 16th century. These volumes were published in the 19th century and written in Latin. The first volume was published in 1818, the second volume was published in 1828, and the third volume was published during 1871-76. A planned fourth volume was never released. *Scriptores rerum svecicarum medii aevi* is abbreviated as "SRS" or "Script. Rer. Suec."

On page 151 of the second part of the third volume, Arvid Jönsson and his father Jöns Bengtsson are mentioned in a section about the life of Brynolf Algotsson, who served as the Bishop of Skara from 1278 to 1317. In 1417, King Erik XIII appointed a commission in Skara to collect 50 testimonies which were required for the canonization of Brynolf Algotsson. On April 12, 1417, Arvid Jönsson gave his testimony. *Scriptores rerum svecicarum medii aevi* states Arvid was 41 at the time of his testimony, that both of his parents hailed from nobility, and that he was part of the military.

Ultimately, Brynolf Karlsson wasn't canonized. The source for the text which mentions Arvid is *Vita beati Brynolphi*, which came from Skara Cathedral's archive and discusses the canonization process for the bishop Brynolf Algotsson.

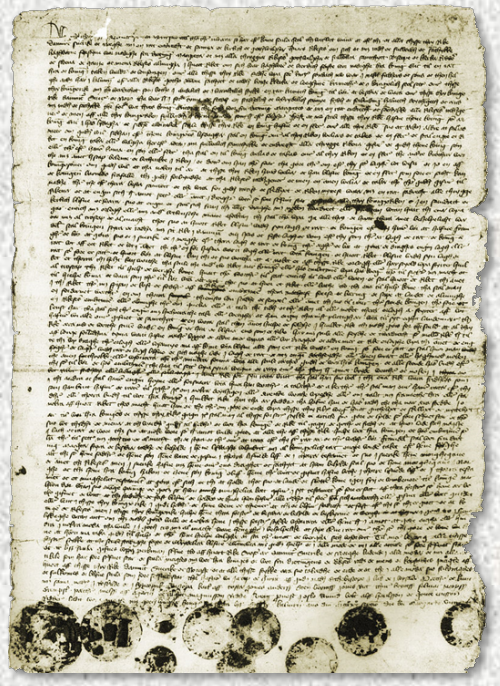
[105] *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39
[106] SDHK No. 14823 – June 9, 1397
[107] SDHK No. 13470 – November 16, 1388

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Sometime during his adolescence, it's likely that Arvid became a squire who served under a knight. Eventually, he probably received his own suit of armor and was trained in swordsmanship. It's unlikely he was involved in any wars during his life. Since Arvid came from nobility, he was literate. He probably became interested in the judiciary system as a young adult, since he later became District Chief.

When Arvid was born, the king of Sweden was King Albrekt I. In 1389, Margareta Valdemarsdotter, the Queen of Denmark and Norway, led an insurrection against Albrekt, and was later crowned as the Queen of Sweden. In 1397, Margareta arranged for the signing of the Kalmar Treaty that founded the Kalmar Union, a union between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The same year, Erik of Pomerania, Margareta's grandnephew, was crowned as king of all three countries in the Kalmar Union and ruled over them as co-regent with Margareta. Arvid was around 21 years old at this point.

The Founding of the Kalmar Union



A letter from 1397 that documents the founding of the Kalmar Union

In the summer of 1397, the Kalmar Union, a union of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, was founded. Queen Margareta of Sweden was one of the biggest proponents for this union. On June 17, 1397, her grandnephew Erik of Pomerania was coronated in Kalmar as King of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (even though Margareta remained the *de facto* ruler of these countries until her death in 1412). At Erik's coronation, representatives from all three kingdoms gathered to negotiate the founding of the Kalmar Union. In the weeks following Erik's coronation, negotiations continued until a consensus was agreed upon, resulting in a union letter which described the conditions of the union's formation.

The union letter set out five important principles for the Kalmar Union:

1. A single monarch would rule over all three kingdoms.
2. This monarch would rule over each kingdom in accordance with its individual laws.
3. If any of the kingdoms were threatened by war, the others would come to its recue.
4. Anyone convicted as an outlaw in one kingdom would be considered an outlaw in all three kingdoms.
5. The monarch had the right to make decisions when negotiating with other countries.

During the 1390s, Arvid reached adulthood and left his father's estate to live in his own estate. Sometime in the late 1390s or 1400s, Arvid was married to Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika).[108] Ingerd was most likely the daughter of Peter Andersson (Prika).[109]

Confusion on Ingerd Petersdotter's Parents

There is a lot of confusion among scholars whether Ingerd was the daughter of Peter Andersson (Prika) and an unknown mother or of Peter Prika and Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter (Ribbing). Gustaf Elgenstierna wrote in his work *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor* that Ingerd was the daughter of Peter Andersson and married Arvid Jönsson before 1416.[1] Since Ingerd is listed as the mother of Knut Arvidsson in SDHK No. 23101, she must have been Arvid Jönsson's wife. Since SDHK No. 18788 states that Peter Andersson (Prika) was Arvid's father-in-law in 1416, it is reasonable to assume that he was Ingerd's father. Since this letter shows that Peter Andersson's seal was a six-sided star, the same coat of arms the Prika family used, he must have been a member of the Prika family.

However, many scholars believe that Ingerd was the daughter of Peter Prika and Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter (Ribbing), who were mentioned in SDHK No. 14620, which was written on December 25, 1396. According to this letter, Ingeborg was Peter's widow, which indicates he had died before this point, and thus could not have been the same person as that Peter Andersson (Prika), who was mentioned in 1416. According to SDHK No. 17958, Ingeborg sold the estate Torpa in Länghem Parish to Algot Magnusson in 1413. Since Knut Arvidsson later owned Torpa, this hints that Ingeborg was his maternal grandmother. However, no further evidence can be found from any letters that support this.

It is the opinion of this author (Jeffrey High) that Ingerd was the daughter of Peter Andersson (Prika) and an unknown mother and that scholars merely confused him with Peter Prika, the husband of Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter (Ribbing),

Sources:
[1] Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*. Vol. 2, page 305. Stockholm. 1926.

Arvid and Ingerd had at least two sons together, Knut[110] and Arvid[111]. It's extremely likely that they had several other children together, but the identities of those children are unknown.

[108] Since Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter are listed as Knut Arvidsson's parents in SDHK No. 23101 – December 14, 1438, Ingerd must have been Arvid's wife.
[109] Peter Andersson (Prika) is mentioned as Arvid Jönsson's father-in-law in SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416.
[110] SDHK No. 23101 – December 14, 1438
[111] Since Arvid is listed as Knut's brother in SDHK No. 27054 - September 25, 1457, he must have been Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter's son.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Arvid Jönsson's Tenure as the District Chief of Ås District (1400-1421)

By 1401, Arvid had been appointed to the position of *Häradshövding*, or District Chief, of Ås District.[112] As a District Chief, Arvid had to attend court sessions three times a year at the courthouse in Hällstad Parish. These sessions usually lasted around two days and mostly involved various land transactions among wealthy landowners. It's likely that Arvid's father Jöns Bengtsson's position as the District Chief of Kind District played a big role in Arvid being appointed as the District Chief of Ås District.



The location of Ås District in Västergötland

Ås District

Ås (Ewss) District was located in southern Västergötland. It covered the municipalities of Borås and Ulricehamn. To the west of Ås District is Veden District, to the northwest is Gäsene District, to the northwest is Frökind District, to the east is Redväg District, and to the south is Kind District. Ås District was 468.95 square kilometers, of which 447.79 square kilometers were land. It included the following parishes: Äspered, Brämhult, Fänneslunda, Gingri, Grovare, Hällstad, Härna, Kärråkra, Möne, Murum, Rångedala, Tärby, Toarp, Södra Vånga, Södra Ving, and Varnum.

Arvid Jönsson is Sworn in as District Chief of Ås District*

On a cool sunny morning in April of 1400, Arvid Jönsson was sworn in as the District Chief of Ås District. Earlier that year, the judicial body of Ås District had chosen Arvid and two other men, Gunnar Tjälsson and Lindorm Ulfsson, as candidates for the role, and Queen Margareta decided that Arvid should be appointed to this position. Subsequently, Arvid, Gustaf Magnusson (the lagman of Västergötland), and the jurors of Ås District gathered at the wooden courthouse in Hällstad Parish for Arvid to be sworn in as the District Chief of Ås District. At this ceremony, Arvid wore a fine linen shirt, brown leather doublet, and black robe. After an opening prayer, Arvid proceeded towards the front of the building, placed his hand on a Bible, and swore an oath to be faithful to himself, the common people, the Virgin Mary, Saint Erik IX, all other saints, and the Bible his hand was on, and promised to God that he would keep his oath.

*A work of creative fiction by Jeffrey High

[112] SDHK No.15552 - January 14, 1401

Arvid is first mentioned in a letter that was written in Skara Cathedral on January 14, 1401. In this letter, he is mentioned as the District Chief of Ås District who provided his seal to certify that Erengisil Jepsson relinquished two of his farms, Högagården and Blackstorp, to the heirs of Jon Törkilsson. The seals of Gustaf Magnusson (the lagman in Västergötland), Pelle Pedersson (the District Chief of Bollebygd District), and Thord Skötta were also attached to this letter.[113]



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - January 14th, 1401
Seals: 1. (missing) Erengisil Jakobsson 2. Gustaf Magnusson 3. Pelle Pedersson
4. Arvid Jönsson. 5. Thord Skötta

[113] SDHK No.15552 - January 14, 1401

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Transcription:

ffore alle me(n) th(e)tta b(re)ff høra ell(er) see Beken(n)is iec erengisll jepsβ a wapn th(et) iec laghlica salt haw(er) mino(m) elskeligha frenda jon Thorkilβ som kal las mwnstark th(etta) mit ept(er)sc(re)ffna godz Som liggir j flun(n)ah(æradh) j fors, Som kallas høghagardhe(n) oc an(n)at j blaxstorp j sam(m)a sokn for sex pu(n)d mæs-sing oc ena sylffskeedh om fyra lodh hulka pæ(?) iec ken(n)is mik hawa op bor(et) oc til nøghis æro betaladha Thy affhændir iec mik forsc(reffna) godz fra(n) mik oc mi(n)o(m) arffwo(m) oc til egnar for(nem)^{da} jon tørkilβ oc hans arffwom til æw(er)dhe(li)^{co} egho for thy th(et) war hans gambla odhil foren(n)e Till me re visso oc stadhfæstilse h(e)r om Bedhis iech ærligha oc welbor na man(n)a jncigle Som ær hærra gøstaff magnusβ ridda(re) ok lag man j westergøtlan Aruidh jønisβ a wapn oc hæradz høffdinge j aashæradh Pelle pædh(e)rβ hæradz høffdinge j ballabygd Oc Thord skøtta j ødhestadhu(m) m(eth) mi(n)o egno hængiande for th(e)tta breff Sc(re)wat j Scara aro(m) ept(er) gudz byrd Thwsanda fyra hu(n)dradha oc oppa førs ta daghe(n) nest epter tiwgwnda dagh jula.

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter, I Erengisle Jepsson, squire, announce that I have legally sold the below mentioned estates to my charming kinsman Jon Torkilsson, also called Munstark: one called Högagården and one in Blaxtorp in Fors Parish in Flundre District, for 6 pounds of brass, and one silver spoon weighing 4 lod, which I have received and am fully paid. I relinquish my aforementioned property from me and my heirs to the above mentioned Jon Torkilsson to be his and his heirs forever, since these belonged to him earlier. I ask the following honest and honorable men to place their seals together with mine beneath this letter: Sir Gustaf Magnusson (Knight and Lawgan in Västergötland), Arvid Jönsson (Squire and District Chief in Ås District), Pelle Pedersson (District Chief in Bollebygd), and Thord Skotte in Ödestad. Written in Skara, in the Year of Our Lord 1400, on the first day after the Feast Day of Saint Hillary (January 14th).

Notable People Mentioned in SDHK No.15552

- **Erengisil Jakobsson:** was a knight that was mentioned in letter from 1421 until 1447. His seal was a "liljehök," or a lillie hawk.
- **Gustaf Magnusson:** was a knight that was mentioned in letter from 1380 until 1434. His seal contained a shield with three roses in a horizontal line.
- **Pelle Petersson:** A knight and District Chief of Bollingbyd District who was mentioned in letters from 1401 to 1408. His seal was a chevron.
- **Tord Skötta:** Little is known about Tord, whose surname may have really been "Skytte." He is only mentioned in this letter.

In February of 1410, Sweden and the rest of the Kalmar Union entered into war with Holstein (located in modern day northern Germany), which was supported by several Hanseatic cities. This war lasted until 1434. Although Arvid was in the military, it's unlikely that he served in this war since he was the District Chief of Ås District.

The Schelsig War (1410-1435)

The Schleswig War was a war that was fought between the Kalmar Union against the country of Holstein and its Hanseatic allies from 1410 to 1435. In 1386, Queen Margareta handed over Schleswig, an area in northern Germany, to Holstein. By 1410, however, Margareta had bought most of Schleswig and Holstein only owned a third of it. On February 17, 1410, an army from Holstein captured the city of Schleswig. Subsequently, Erik of Pomerania invaded Holstein with two armies. One of these armies marched along the east coast while the other marched along the west coast, burning and pillaging the cities they passed through. After the Kalmar Union's forces were defeated by Holstein's army, the Kalmar Union and Holstein reached a truce on September 16th, halting any conflict for two years.



Painting of the Holstein Army invading Glambæk in 1421

In 1412, conflict between the Kalmar Union and Holstein resumed when Holstein invaded Flensburg. Shortly before her death, Margareta was able to negotiate a truce with Holstein, which lasted for four years. During this time, King Erik XIII built up the Kalmar Union's forces. On June 6, 1416, Erik's army arrived at the island of Fehram and proceeded to invade the fortress Glambæk and laid siege to the city of Schleswig. In September, another ceasefire was declared between the Kalmar Union and Holstein.

Hostilities resumed between the Kalmar Union and Holstein in 1420, when Holstein raided Danish territory and Erik XIII launched several attacks against Holstein. War between the two countries continued throughout the 1420s and early 1430s. By 1431, war fatigue had set in across Sweden and Norway, whose forces had significantly weakened. In March of that year, Holstein invaded Flensburg again. On September 7th, Holstein captured the fortress of Marieborg. At this point, the Kalmar Union only possessed a narrow strip of land in Schleswig near the Danish border. In July of 1435, peace was negotiated between the Kalmar Union and Holstein at Vordingborg Castle and Erik XIII relinquished all of his claims to Schleswig.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m



Möne, Möne Parish, Västergötland Province
Where Arvid Jönsson's family lived in the 1410s

By 1412, Arvid was living at the farm Möne in Möne Parish.[114] It's likely he had lived there with his wife Ingerd since around 1400. Arvid and Ingerd's sons Knut[115] and Arvid probably spent their childhoods at Möne. Although it's unknown how long Arvid's family lived at Möne, they probably lived there for much of the 1400s and 1410s.



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - April 4th, 1412
Seals: Håkan Skytta 2. Priest Nils in Vist Parish 3. Arvid Jönsson

[114] Arvid is listed as living at Möne in SDHK No. 17807 - April 4, 1412
[115] For information on the fate of Knut Arvidsson, see page 1534.

Transcription:

Alle the, som thetta breff se æller høra, helsar iac Haquon Skytta i Vbbathorpe kerlika meth Gudh. Konger iac meth thesso mino nærwarande opno breffue, swa wel them som æpter kommande wartha som nw ærw, at iac lowathe fore Birgher Arwidson fæm mark oc xx, føre hans bruta skuld, som han wardh nitherfellogh fore meth rætta. Oc thessa for:da peninga galt iac Nisse Pedherson pa her Abrams vegna til fulnadh oc for:de Birgher Arwidson pantsatte mic sit godz ligiande i Attathorpe fore mina peninga oc skathaløsa, ther iac mek fore han bant i hans nødh. Item schal allom witerlikt wara at iac hawer vnt for:da Nisse Petherson thetta for:da mit pantagodz til løsn, fore mina for:da peninga meth allom rætoghet oc allom til laghom oc atalan, som iac ther til hawer, meth allo thy ther til ligger, æpter thy som thet war mek sakt oc antwardhat, tha antwardher iac honom oc hans arfingom fra mek oc minom arfuom fore for:da v mark oc xx, som iak mek kænnis hawa fullelika vpborit aff for:da Nisse Pedherson, swa thet iac hanom thakker. Til mere visso oc vitnisbyrdh bidhes her Niclissa i Visto insigle oc Aruidh Ienissons i Mønene meth mino eghno. Scriptum vt supra, anno Domini mcdxij°, ipso die beati Ambrosii episcopi.

Translation:

[To] all who see or hear this letter, now and later, I, Håkan Skytte in Ubbarp, with God's love, announce with this, my open letter, that I promised Birger Arvidsson to assist him with five mark and 20 for his gross debt, which he so rightly deserves. He pledged his estate in Attarp to me. I have transferred the pledge to Nils Petersson for 5 mark and 20, which I have gratefully received. By this transaction, the estate has gone from me and my heirs to him and his heirs. To attest this letter, I ask Herr Nils in Vist and Arvid Jönsson in Möne to seal this letter together with my own. Written as above in the Year of Our Lord 1412 on the Day of the Blessed Bishop Ambrose (April 4th).

On May 26, 1412, Arvid and his father Jöns Bengtsson placed their seals on a letter that was written by Maeritta Laurinsdotter and stated that Gunne Prika, Peter Andersson (Arvid's father-in-law), Bjorn Gylta, and Magnus Gylta had reached an agreement with Maeritta regarding the inheritance of her brother, the late Peter Prika.[116] Since the Gylta and Prika family were related, Ingerd Petersdotter must have been related to the Gylta family.



The seals of Jöns Bengtsson and Arvid Jönsson that appeared on a letter from May 26th, 1412

[116] SDHK No. 17835 - May 26, 1412

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

On October 28, 1412, Queen Margareta died while on a ship in Flensburg Harbor (located in northern Germany). After her death, Erik XIII became the primary ruler of the Kalmar Union. He ruled over the Kalmar Union for the remainder of Arvid's life. Arvid was likely sad at Margareta's death, but hopeful for Erik's reign.



Staby, Rystad Parish

On November 13, 1413, Arvid purchased some his land at Staby in Rystad Parish from Karl in Gällstad for 16 Swedish mark.[117]



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - November 13th, 1413
Seals: 1. Karl in Gällstad Parish 2. (missing) Vicar Arvid in Törnevalla
3. (missing) Vicar Vaste in Gällstad Parish

[117] SDHK No. 18147 - November 13, 1413

Transcription:

Alla the thetta bref høra hella se helsar jak Carl i Hielgstadhom æuerdheleca meth warom Herra. Kennes jak oppenbarlica meth thesso mino nerwaranda opno brefue mik hafua pantsat skæ-licom manne Awidh (!) Jonsson min gardh i Stafby, som er siexstan spanna afgeld, liggiande i Rystadha sokn ok i Akerbo hæredh, meth hws ok jordh, aker ok eng, tomptom ok tomptastadhom, thorpom ok thorpastadhom, quernom ok quernastadhom, i skogh ok skiwl, hempom ok teghom, innan gardz ok wtan, nær by ok fierran, i vato ok thorro, ængo vndantakno, som thy gotze af alder tilhørt hafuer hella nw tilhøra kan, huilkin gardh ok iordh iak honom pantsat hafuer for siexstan mark swenska pæninga hella fyra mark ok tiwghw thyst tal, ok tho i gotniskom pæningom, innan thetta ok kwindilmesso at beredha. Ware thet swa, at jak honom sina pæninga innan thenna forscrefna dagh ok tima i enne summo ey beredde, tha skal fornempde Awidh Jonsson then forscrefna gardh ok jordh til andra kwindilmesso behalda ok swa aar fra aar til thes han i enne summo bereder er, ok skal fornempde Awidh Jonsson opbæra aleggia ok encte afsla, likrawis som thet hans eghit ware, til then dagh han i enne summo bereder er, som før er sakt. Framledhis ware thet swa thet honom thetta gotz meth ret afginge hella thet kan honom meth ret hella arf til falla, tha tilbinder jak mik ok mina arfua honom ok [hans] arfuom swa got gotz ok jordh ok i swa godho læghre (!) widher læggia ok allan arliken skat ok alegnyng oppehalda til then dagh han bereder er. Framledhis wilkora jak mik alla thenna forscrefna articulos stadhugh, trygga ok fasta halda widher mina sannynd ok godha tro. Scriptum anno Domini m°cd°xiij°, feria secunda proxima post festum Martini. Til huilkins mera wisso ok vitnisbyrdh, tha bedhis hedherlika manna inscighle for thetta breff, som er herra Arwidha, kirkioherra i Thyrnewallom, ok Wasta i Walustadhom meth mino eghno.

Translation:

[To] all who hear or see this letter, I, Karl in Gällstad, with the grace of our Lord, let it be known that I with this, my present open letter, have pledged my estate in Staby in Rystad Parish in Åkerbo District to the reasonable man Arvid Jönsson. The estate yields 16 buckets of grain yearly, and includes houses and land, fields and meadows, grounds and sites, crofts and croft sites, mills and mill sites, in forests, within sites and out, close and far away, in wet and dry, with no exceptions, which belonged to the estate by age, or recently added to it. I have pledged the estate to him for 16 Swedish mark, or 4 mark and 20 in German currency, and 2 in Gotlandic currency, which should be fully paid by next Candlemas. If it happens that I can't pay him back the full amount at that time, this agreement should be prolonged to the Candlemas the year after, and so year by year until he has received full payment. During this period this estate should be treated as his and his heirs. I and my heirs will do everything to fulfill this agreement to Arvid Jönsson and his heirs. Written in the Year of Our Lord 1413, on the second Monday after the feast of St. Martin (November 13th). To assure the content of this letter I ask the following honest men to place their seals together with my own: Herr Arvid, vicar in Törnevalla and Wasta in Valstad.

Candlemas

In SDHK No. 18147, Karl in Gällstad states that he would pay Arvid Jönsson by Candlemas. In the Catholic Church, Candlemas (also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, and the Feast of the Holy Encounter) is a day which commemorates the presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple, which is written about in Luke Chapter 2. In the West, Candlemas falls on February 2nd, which is 40 days after Christmas.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m



Götåkra, Gällstad Parish

Arvid owned several farms throughout Västergötland and other provinces. In particular, he owned numerous farms in Gällstad Parish, Västergötland. In 1385, his father Jöns Bengtsson purchased the farm Ryslutorp in Gällstad[118] so it's likely Arvid owned that farm. On March 11, 1415, Gertrude Bondedotter, a noblewoman, declared that she had received two farms in the village Götåkra in Gällstad Parish from Arvid.[119]



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - March 11th, 1415
Seals: 1. Gertrude Bondesdotter 2. Nils Petterson 3. Vicar Olof Jonsson in Gällstad Parish
4. (missing) Tygrils Styrla

[118] SDHK No. 12961 - September 23, 1385
[119] SDHK No. 18495 - March 11, 1415

Transcription:

Alla mæn thetta breff høre æller see hælsar jak Gertrudh Bondadotter kærlika meth warum Herre. Kungør jak allom godhom mannom och kænnæs meth thetta mith opna breff mik wp ath hawæ barith aff ærlikom mannæ Aruidh Jwnsson xv march pænnia, hwilka forma pænnia hauer jak giuet aff til Wazstena kloster v march och v til doomkirkion i Skara och v til sancta Katrina closter sammastadz; item en oxæ for v marc; item i hors fore vj march; item iiij mark pænnia, j pund wax; item iij wala sildh for i skilling grot; item en sadhil for en marc; item eth ærwa meth x prester. Thetta forma hauer jac vpbarith for ij gardhe i Gødaghrom aff forma Aruidh Jwnsson forwtan howitpænningna, som han thet fore løsdhe aff Pæter Erichsson. Til mere wisso och withnazbyrdh ath jac thetta forma fult vp hauer barit, tha bidhis jac godhe mænz incigla her fore, som ær Nissa Pæthersson och her Olaff, kirkioprest i Giælstadhe, och Styrlas meth mith egoth incigla. Datum Fæstarødh, anno Domini m°cd°xv, in vigilia beati Gregorii pape, hiis suprascriptis sigillis etc.

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter I, Gertude Bondedotter, with the grace of our Lord, announce that I have received 15 mark from the honest man Arvid Jönsson. These he should hand over to the Church in the following way: 5 mark to the Vadstena Convent, 5 mark to the Cathedral in Skara, and 5 mark to the Sta. Katarina Nunnery in the same town. I also received 1 ox for 5 mark, 1 horse for 6 mark, 4 mark cash, 1 pound of wax, 3 "valar" herring worth 1 shilling, 1 saddle for 1 mark, and "1 ærwa meth x prester." This, except for the main sum, I have received from Arvid Jönsson for two farms in Götåkra. He had received the main sum from Peter Eriksson. To confirm the content of this letter and that I have received full payment I ask the following good men to seal it together with my own: Nisse Petersson, Herr Olof (priest in Gällstad), and Styrla. Dated in Fästared in the Year of Our Lord 1415, on the Eve of the Blessed Pope Gregory (March 11th), and confirmed with the above-mentioned seals.

Gällstad Parish

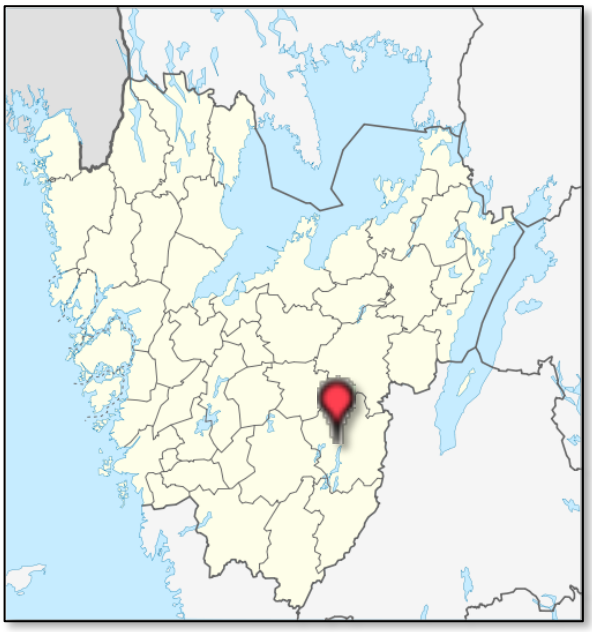
Gällstad (Yéhl-stahd) is a parish in Västergötland, Sweden. It is 74.9 square kilometers, of which 71 square kilometersare land. Gällstad has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1335 as "Gelstadhum." Its name comes from a building by Gällstad Church. The parish consists of cultivated area by the lakes and elevated forests, of which the tallest points reach 350 meters above sea level. The largest towns in Gällstad are the Rånnavä, Torsbo, and Gällstad. A stone burial chamber from the Stone Age has been found in Gällstad and there are some Bronze Age burial mounds by Lake Bystadsjön.



The location of Gällstad Parish in Västra Götland County

Gällstad Church was originally built in the 12th century. In 1731, new church was built and consolidated with the church of neighboring Södra Sam Parish to become Gällstad-Södra Sam Church. In 1974, Gällstad became part of Ulricehamn Municipality. In 2016, Gällstad District was established. In 2000, the population of Gällstad was 1,515.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m



The location of Hällstad Parish in Västra Götland County

Arvid served as the District Chief for Ås District until at least 1415. During the winter, summer, and autumn, he travelled to a wooden building on the road between Hällstad and Häkerrum in Hällstad Parish where the court hearings for Ås District were held. At these hearings, Arvid and the jurors presided over cases, which usually involved land transactions. The jurors decided the outcomes of these cases, while Arvid pronounced the judgement. Arvid regularly placed his seal on letters to certify the transactions that they documented. Arvid is last mentioned as the District Chief for Ås District on a letter from July 20, 1415.[120]



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - July 20th, 1415
Seals: 1. Gunne Prika 2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp)

[120] SDHK No. 18575 - July 20, 1415

Transcription:

Th(et) skal allo(m) viterlikit vara, som thetta breeff høra ella see, swa väl the(m) su(m) æpthe kom(m)a su(m) the(m) nw æru th(et) wi cristin arfuidsdottir ok ingeburgh a(m)biornadottir ken(n)o(m)ps m(eth) thesso waro næruarandhe opno breffwe ath wi hafw$^{(u)m}$ m(eth) kærlek ok samtykio vara nesta frændha ok arfwa giwit vnt ok vplat(et) gudhi tyl hædirs ok the hælge Ingridhe ij sa(nct)e martins klostre ij skæni(n)ghe alla wara iord, lighiandhe ij swnzridh ij bothnarydzsokn ij vartops hæradh Swa su(m) æru thwa tomptir m(eth) allo the ther hafw(er) aff aldhir tyl lygathnær ell(e)r fiærre ij vatho eld(e)r thørro, ængho vndhan takno fore wara siæl ok wara fræ(n)dha siæl tyl eu(er)dhelika egho ok ægn tyl fulla visso ok stadfestilssæ tha bedoms wi ærlika man(n)a insigle fora thetta breeff Sum ær her(r)a gun(n)a p(ri)ka kanunkær ij scara ok kirkiop(re)st(er) ij helfstadha, ok aruids ionissons hærashøfdhindha (!) ij ashæradh. Datum hælfstadha, anno d(omi)ni mcdxv^{o}, ip(s)o die b(ea)te margarete virginis.

Translation:

It shall be known to all who hear or see this letter, to the successors as well as to those who are now alive, that we, Kristin Arvidsdotter and Ingeborg Ambjörnsdotter, declare by open letter that we have with love and consent of our kinsmen and heirs, in the honor of God and St. Ingrid in St. Martin's Monastery in Skänninge, have donated all our land situated in Sunseryd in Botnaryd Parish in Vartorp District, consisting of two farms with all included, close or faraway, in wet or dry, nothing excluded, for our souls and the souls of our kinsmen, to the monastery to be theirs forever. To certify this agreement, we ask the following honest men to seal this letter, namely Herr Gunnar Prika (canon in Skara and priest in Hällstad), and Arvid Jönsson (District Chief in As District). Written in Hällstad in the Year of Our Lord 1415, on the day of the Feast of St. Margaret the Virgin (July 20th).

"Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönsson (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led" by Jan Eric Almquist

One of the most informative articles about Arvid Jönsson is an article called "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönsson (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led" by Jan Eric Almquist ("District Chief Arvid Jönsson (chevron over star)'s descendants to the fourth and fifth generations") by Jan Eric Almquist, which can page found on page 153 of *Släkt och Hävd*, 1959 Nr. 1. In addition to providing a summary of Arvid Jönsson's life, it provides a list of all his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

In this article, Almquist references an article that K.H. Karlsson published about Arvid Jönsson's descendants in the 1901 issue of in *Personhistorisk tidskrift.* There were originally four different genealogical accounts related to Arvid Jönsson's descendants which were written in the 16th century. The first two accounts were written by Knut Håkansson (Hand), a great-great-grandson of Arvid Jönsson, and provide little information on the spouses of Arvid Jönsson's descendants. The third and fourth accounts were written by a different author and provide more information on Arvid Jönsson's descendants' spouses. Almquist states that these genealogical accounts were originally written to prove kinship between Knut Håkansson (Hand) and some of his relatives.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

On August 1, 1416, Arvid met at Vadstena Monastery with his father-in-law Peter Andersson (Prika) and provided his seal on a letter that Peter wrote which confirmed that a woman named Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter had donated a farm called Sundtak to Vadstena Monastery.[121]



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - August 1st, 1416
Seals: 1. Peter Andersson (Prika) 2.(missing) Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp)

Transcription:

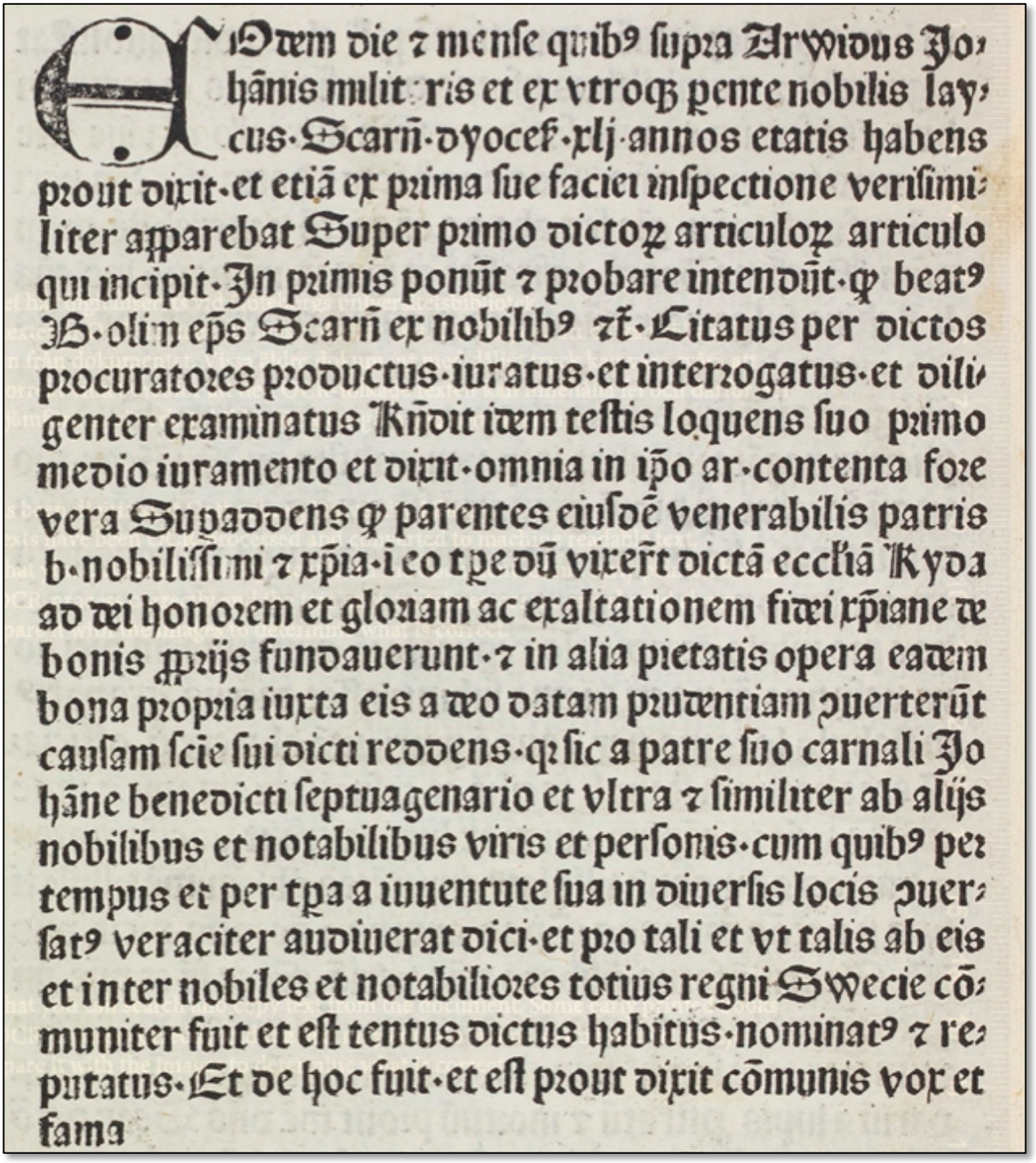
Alla them thætta breff høra ælla see helsar iak pætar andirss(on) i mønenøø i væst(er)gøtla(n)de byggia(n)de æuærdhe(lica) m(eth) Gudhi. Kænnis iak m(eth) thæsso mino opno brefue haua stadhfæst, oc alstingx opanduardhat klost(re)no vazsteno(m) th(et) gozit i sundtako liggiande, som hustru ingeborgh gun(n)a dott(er) gaff klost(re)no, gudh hæn(n)a siæl haue, til hulkit goz iak var til rætter arfue, oc afhændir iak mik th(etta) fornæ(m)da goz oc mino(m) arfuo(m) fra(n) thænna dagh, æpt(er) thy th(et) før gifuit ær, oc tileghnar iak th(et) fornæ(m)pda klost(re)no til æuær dhelica ægho. Til mere visso oc stadhfæstilse, bedhis iak mins maghx aruidz iønissons incighle for thætta bref m(eth) mino eghno. Sc(ri)ptu(m) vazsten(is) Anno d(omi)ni m° cdxvj, die b(ea)ti pet(ri) aduincula.

Translation:

[To] all who hear or see this letter I, Peter Andersson in Möne in Västergötland, venerable with God, announce that I, with this my open letter, confirm that I accept the donation by Lady Ingeborg Gunnasdotter, God take care of her soul, of an estate situated in Suntak to the Vadstena Nunnery. I was a legal heir of this estate, but I fully accept the transaction above, and from this day on neither I nor my heirs may claim anything in this matter. To guarantee this letter, I ask my son-in-law Arvid Jönsson to seal it together with my own. Written in Vadstena, in the Year of Our Lord 1416, on the day of St Peter in Chains (August 1st).

[121] SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416

On April 12, 1417, Arvid went to Skara Cathedral, where he provided his account on what he knew about the life of Brynolf Algotsson, who had served as the Bishop of Skara Diocese in the late 13th century and early 14th century.[122]



Item die & mense quibꝰ supra Arwidus Johannis militaris et ex utroqꝫ parte nobilis laycus Scarñ dyocesꝭ xlj annos etatis habens prout dixit et etiã ex prima sue facieꝫ inspectione verisimiliter apparebat Super primo dictoꝝ articuloꝝ articulo qui incipit In primis ponũt & probare intendũt qꝺ beatꝰ B olim epꝰ Scarñ ex nobilibꝰ &c Citatus per dictos procuratores productus iuratus et interrogatus et diligenter examinatus Rñdit idem testis loquens suo primo medio iuramento et dixit omnia in ipo ar contenta fore vera Superaddens qꝺ parentes eiusdẽ venerabilis patris b nobilissimi & xpia i eo tpe dũ viverẽt dictã ecclĩã Kyda ad dei honorem et gloriam ac exaltationem fidei xpiane de bonis ꝓpriis fundauerunt & in alia pietatis opera eadem bona propria iuxta eis a deo datam prudentiam ꝙuerterũt causam scie sui dicti reddens qꝺ sic a patre suo carnali Johãne benedicti septuagenario et vltra & similiter ab alijs nobilibus et notabilibus viris et personis cum quibꝰ per tempus et per tpa a iuuentute sua in diuersis locis ꝙversatꝰ veraciter audiverat dici et pro tali et vt talis ab eis et inter nobiles et notabiliores totius regni Swecie cõmuniter fuit et est tentus dictus habitus nominatꝰ & reputatus Et de hoc fuit et est prout dixit cõmunis vox et fama

Excerpt from *Vita beati Brynolphi* that mentions Arvid Jönsson - April 12th, 1417

[122] *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Transcription: (Latin)

Eodem die et mense quibus supra, Arwidus Jo-
hannisj), militaris, et ex vtroque parente nobilis, lay-
cus, Scarensis dyocesis, XLI. annos etatis habens,
prout dixit, et etiam ex prima sue faciei inspectione verisimi-
liter apparebat, super primo dictorum articulorum articulo,
qui incipit: In primis ponunt et probare intendunt, quod bea-
tus Brynolphus olim episcopus Scarensis ex nobilibus etc.. Citatus per dictos
procura tores, productus, inratus et interrogatus et dili-
genter examinatus, respondit idem testis loquens, suo primo
medio iuramento et dixit, omnia in ipso a ticulo contenta fore
vera, superaddens, quod parentes eiusdem venerabilis patris
beati nobilissimi et Christiani eo tempore dum vixerunt dictam ecclesiam Ryda,
ad dei honorem et gloriam ac exaltationem fidei Christiane, de
bonis propriis fundauerunt, et in alia pietatis opera eadem
bona propria iuxta eis a deo datam prudentiam conuerterunt,
causam scientie sui dicti reddens, quod sic a patre suo carnali Jo-
hanne Benedicti septuagenario et vitra, et similiter ab aliis
nobilibus et notabilibus viris et personis, cum quibus per
tempus et per tempora a iuuentute sua in diuersis locis conuer-
satus vera citer audiuerat dici, et pro tali et vt talis ab eis
et inter nobiles et notabiliores totius regni Swede com-
muniter fuit et est tentus, dictus, habitus, nominatus et re-
putatus; et de hoc fuit et est, prout dixit, com munis vox et
fama.

Translation:

On the same day and month as those above (April 12th), there was Arvid Jönsson, a soldier, a noble by both parents, a layman of the diocese of Skara, forty-one years of age, just as he claimed (and also it was probably apparent from the first look at his face) concerning the first account of those mentioned, which begins thus: "First of all they asserted and intend to prove that the blessed Brynolf, formerly the bishop of Skara, came from among the nobles." The same witness, cited by the said historians, brought forth, and both questioned and thoroughly examined under oath, responded and said in the middle of his initial oath that all the things contained in the account itself would be true. He added that the same venerable sire's blessed parents, most noble and Christian, in the time while they lived, founded the said church at Ryda out of their own wealth for the honor and glory of God and for the exaltation of the Christian faith and converted their same wealth into other works of piety in accordance with the prudence given them by God. He reported how he knew what he recounted, that he had heard it all truly from his own father of more than seventy years, Jöns Bengtsson, and likewise from other nobles and remarkable men and persons, with whom he had interacted throughout the years and seasons from his own youth in various places. According to and as such from those mentioned and among noble and more prominent men of the whole realm of Sweden, it was and is held, said, kept, claimed and reported; from this account it was and is, just as he said, the commonly reported story.

Bishop Brynolf Algotsson of Skara



Brynolf Algotsson was a Swedish Catholic theologian who served as the Bishop of Skara Diocese from 1278 until his death in 1317. Algotsson was born in the 1240s and both of his parents were nobles. He was educated at the school at Skara Cathedral and later at a college in Paris, where he spent nearly two decades studying theology and philosophy. After returning to Sweden, Brynolf was ordained to priesthood and appointed as the dean for Linköping Monastery and the canon for Skara Diocese. In 1278, he was appointed as the Bishop of Skara and was committed to reforming the diocese. In 1281, he issued a charter which governed certain tithes in addition to guidelines for firing any clergy who had committed any crimes.

As bishop, Algotsson was active in Sweden's political life. During the late 1280s, Algotsson incurred the anger of King Magnus Ladulås of Sweden, which prompted him to temporarily leave Sweden in exile in 1288. The bishop and king were eventually reconciled, and Algotsson returned to Sweden. In 1304, Algotsson oversaw that a thorn from Jesus's Crown of Thorns was brought to Skara Diocese from Lödöse. On September 2, 1304, Algotsson met a Norwegian ship holding 2.000 people and was presented with a thorn. The group proceeded to solemnly march to Skara Cathedral, where the thorn was placed. This thorn made Skara Cathedral a pilgrimage destination that brought in revenue to the diocese.

Algotsson was alleged to have been involved with many miracles during his tenure, and was said to have turned water to wine several times, like Jesus did at the wedding in Cana. Algotsson died in 1317 and was buried in Skara Cathedral. On February 2, 1349, Saint Bridget visited Algotsson's tomb and received a vision in which Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary pointed out Algotsson's holiness.

After Algotsson's death, he was hailed as a saint who had several miracles associated with him. In April of 1417, a commission that was appointed by King Erik XIII conducted over 50 testimonies from prominent Swedes to support the process of canonizing Algotsson. Although several other commissions were also set up to canonize Algotsson, he was ultimately never canonized.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Vita beati Brynolphi

Vita beati Brynolphi is a book that contains the 50+ testimonies that were given in April of 1417 to support the canonization of Brynolf Algotsson. This book is written in Latin and was printed by Bartholomew Ghotan in Lübek in 1492, shortly after the advent of the printing press. Several manuscripts were kept in 1417 to preserve the testimonies related to Brinolfo Algotsson. In 1492, the Pope, Alexander VI, authorized these manuscripts to be printed. The best preserved edition of this work, *Scriptores rerum Svecicarum*, 3:2 was published by Claes Annderstedt in 1876.

Two days later, on April 14, 1417, a canon named Mikael Bakeld, a prior named Laurentius, and a monk named Herman (all from Skara Diocese) verified that Gertrud Bondasdotter had bequeathed a sum of 5 mark to Skara Monastery, which Arvid Jönsson paid out.[123]



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - April 14th, 1417
Seals: 1. Mikael Bakeld Gunnarsson 2. Lars in Skara 3. Herman in Skara

[123] SDHK No. 18098 - April 14, 1417

Transcription:

Alla the thetta b(re)ff høra æll(e)r see helsom wi mijchel bakeeld kan(n)uk
ij scara oc sysloma(n) domkyrkion(n)a th(e)r sam(m)a stadz brodh(e)r lawrins
priare oc brodh(e)r h(er)ma(n) gardian kærlika m(eth) gudh, ku(n)gøro(m) wi allo(m)
oc ken(n)oms openbarlika m(eth) waro nærwara(n)de opno b(re)fwe os hafwa
vpborith aff beskedheliko(m) man(n)e aruidh iønisß x m(a)rk aa hust(ru) ger-
thrudha bondasdotti(r) wægna so(m) bodhe j kind gudh hen(n)a siæl
hafwe so(m) ho(n) j testame(n)t gaff j swa mato at domkyrkian bar
vp v m(a)rk oc v m(a)rk badhin klost(re)n til witnisbyrdh oc be
wisni(n)gh hængio(m) wi waª r insigle for th(et)ta b(re)ff. Sc(ri)ptu(m)
scaris anno d(o)m(ini) mºcdºvij f(er)ia q(ua)rta pasche jn testi(m)on(ium)
p(re)missor(um).

Translation:

[To] all who hear or see this letter, we, Mikael Bakeld (canon in Skara and cathedral deacon in the same city), Brother Laurentius (prior), and Brother Herman (director in God's care), announce that we, with our present open letter, have received (money) from the modest man Arvid Jönsson, on behalf of the wife Gertrud Bondesdotter, who lived in Kind, God have mercy on her soul. She bequeathed 5 mark to the cathedral and 5 mark to the monastery. As testimony and proof, we seal this letter. Written in Skara, in the Year of Our Lord 1417, the Wednesday after Easter (April 14th). In testimony of the premises.

By 1418, Ingerd Petersdotter had died. Sometime after her marriage, Arvid was married to a woman named Kristina Karlsdotter.[124] On May 1, 1418, Arvid and Kristina donated two farms in Herrestad in Kärda Parish, Västergötland to Nydala Monastery.[125]

Arvid Jönsson Coat of Arms

Arvid Jönsson originally had a chevron for his coat of arms, which was the same symbol that his father Jöns Bengtsson used. The earliest letter with his seal is SDHK 15552 from January 14, 1401 and was of a chevron. In SDHK No. 19078 - May 1, 1418, Arvid's coat of arms changed to a six-pointed star that his father-in-law Peter Andersson (Prika) used. Since his wife Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) had died by this point, perhaps he incorporated her family's seal into his own as a way of honoring her.



Arvid Jönsson seal with his coat of arms

[124] Kristina is mentioned as Arvid's wife in SDHK No. 19078 - May 1, 1418, which indicates that Ingerd Petersdotter had died by this point.
[125] SDHK No. 19078 - May 1, 1418

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson – May 18th, 1418
Seals: 1. Arvid Jönsson 2. Tord Jönsson 3. Magnus Jönsson
4. (missing) Peter Nilsson 5. Amund Hemmingsson

Transcription:

Alla the mæ(n) th(et)ta Breff høra ell(e)r See Helsar jac Aruidh Jønisson a wapn oc kristina karlsdott(er) min elskeliken husfru æw(er)dhelika
m(eth) waru(m) h(er)ra. Kongoru(m) wi allo(m) man(n)o(m) m(eth) thesso waro(m) opno Brefue at fore th(en) skuld th(en) wi hafuo(m) keest war(e)n lægh(e)rstadh j nydal
ok fore wara forældra oc wara æw(er)dhelika siela rykt, tha hafuo(m) wj m(eth) samthykkio, radhe oc godhuilia wara wena oc frænda
wnt oc giefuit ok allaledhis vplatit abotanu(m) oc c(on)uenten(n)e j nydal war godzs som æru twa gardha j harkstadhu(m) j
kæredhe sok(e)n j østbo liggiande m(eth) allo(m) th(e)m rættom tillaghu(m) som thess(in) godzom aff ald(e)r tillighat haf(e)r i wato ok thorro
ængo wndan takno, forne(m)pdo godzs affhændom wi oss oc waru(m) arfuo(m) oc tileghno(m) th(e)m oc hemol gøru(m) for[da] abota oc c(on)ue(n)t
j nydal til ewin(n)elika ægho m(eth) allo(m) ræt oc tillaghu(m) som fo(r)esakt ær, til mere wisso oc bætre forwaring bedhoms wj ær
lika man(n)a jncigle, som ær thordh jønissons, magnus jønissons pæth(e)r niclissons oc Anu(n)d hæm(m)y(n)gxsons m(eth) mino eghno hængdh
fore th(et)ta breff datu(m) kiælu(n)da *Anno dom(in)i mcdxviij° ip(s)o die b(ea)tor(um) phillippi et iacobj ap(osto)lor(um) jn testimoniu(m) p(re)missor(um).*

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter I, Arvid Jönsson, squire, and Kristina Karlsdotter, my beloved wife, praise our Lord, announce by this our open letter, that we have bought our last resting places at Nydala Monastery to guarantee the reputation of the souls of our parents and ourselves. This we have done with agreement, advice, and good will of our friends and relatives. We have donated and already conveyed to the abbot and convent at Nydala our estates, which are two farms in Herrestad in Kärda Parish in Östbo, with all the correct additions, which belong to this property of age, in wet and dry, with no exceptions. Not we, nor our heirs, will have any further claims on these farms, which from now on belong to the abbot and convent at Nydala. To prove the authenticity of this letter we ask the following honest men, Thord Jönsson, Magnus Jönsson, Peter Niclasson and Amund Hemmingsson, to place their seals, together with mine, on this letter. Dated in Källunda, in the Year of Our Lord 1418, on the Day of the Apostles Phillip and Jacob (May 18th), in testimony to the foregoing.

Arvid Jönsson's Tenure as the District Chief of Kind District (1421-1434)



Intorp, Gällstad Parish -
Where Arvid Jönsson's family probably lived
in the 1420s and 1430s

By 1421, Arvid Jönsson had been appointed to be the District Chief of Kind District.[126] Around this time, his family probably moved to the estate Intorp in Gällstad Parish.[127] Arvid's experience as the District Chief for Ås District and the fact that his father Jöns Bengtsson had served as the District Chief for Kind District were undoubtedly factors in Arvid being appointed to this position.[128]



Letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - May 3rd, 1421
Seals: 1. Arvid Jönsson 2. Vicar Olof Jonsson in Gällstad Parish

[126] Arvid is listed as the District Chief of Kind District in SDHK No. 19643 - May 3, 1421.
[127] SDHK No. 22090 – February 10, 1434 shows that Arvid was living at Intorp in 1434.
[128] SDHK No. 14823 – June 9, 1397

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Transcription:

Alle the som thetta breff høre ælle see helsom wi Jøsse nielsson knuth nielss Sigge nielss oc ingegiærdh nielsa dotth(e)r kærlike mz gudh kænnes wi mz thetta wart opith breff oc follælica tilstaa welborno(m) ma(n) magnus jønss alle the rættokhet j lydha j wesboo bursrijth sokn som war fadh(e)r fordho(m) athe oc abøirn jøniss køpthe thz aff waro(m) fadh(e)r for faa oc fwløra swo ath han(n)e(m) oc os sœilvo(m) ath nogh[a] thz aaffhendo(m) wi oos th(e)n sam(m)e ægodeel oc waro(m) ærwo(m) oc til ægnom thz for^{de} Magnus jønsβ oc hans arwo(m) mz hws oc tompt akir oc æng skoogh oc fiskawat(ten) vtho(m) gardh oc jnno(m) mz alle the som th(e)r til liggh(e)r aff allin hawe til ligghet swo ath wi sku(l)le thz aldrig a thale ælle(e)r nobræ ælle(e)r waro arwe fødhe ælle(e)r o fødhe vtho(m) alt arkt oc alt hoilpe rædhe til mero wisso oc witnijsbørrdh bedhir wi hedh(e)r-lica man(n)e jnsigle for thetta brefwit som ær h(err) olæff j gællstadhe oc Aruid jønsβ hæretzhøfdingh j kind Anno d(omi)ni m^{o} cd^{o} xx p^{o} jn die jnventionis s(an)c(ta)e crucis sub sigill p dict

Translation:

[To] all those who hear or see this letter, we, Jösse Nilsson, Knut Nilsson, Sigge Nilsson, and Ingegerd Nilsdotter salute with the love of our Lord, . With this, our open letter, we admit that the honorable man Magnus Jönsson has all the rights to the estate Lida in Burseryd Parish in Västbo District, which our father earlier possessed and Abjörn Jönsson bought from our father. By this we give up any right to fields and meadows, forests and fishing waters, far off and nearby grounds, with all included. This goes for ourselves as well as for our heirs, born and unborn. The document is sealed by the honest men Herr Olof in Gällstad and Arvid Jönsson, District Chief in Kind. Dated on the Day of Retrieval of the Holy Cross (May 3rd), in the Year of Our Lord 1421.

Intorp



Intorp is about 2 kilometers southeast of Gällstad Church. It was first mentioned in 1434 as the residence of Arvid Jönsson. In 1477, Arvid's son Arvid Arvidsson gave Intorp and Intorp Mill to his wife Ingegärd Gregersdotter. The same year, Arvid Knutsson (the nephew of Arvid Arvidsson) gave part of Intorp to his wife Anna Gustafsdotter. It later became a manor, or property that was except from taxation.

On July 8, 1423, Bishop Brynolf Karlsson of Skara Diocese wrote a letter which forbade Arvid Jönsson and Arvid Djäkne from concerning themselves with the estate Österbo in Södra Kedum Parish. This estate had previously been donated by the late Ramfrid Jönsdotter to Åsaka Church.[129]

[129] SDHK No. 20102 - July 8, 1423

Transcription and Translation of a Letter from July 8th, 1423 that Mentions Arvid Jönsson

Transcription:

B(rynolf) d(e)i g(ratia) Ep(iscop) uß scaren discrete vir aruido iønsß et aruido diekn armiger nob dil[ectus] jn deo salutem promissum. Bidhio(m) wi ok biudho(m) id(e)r wnd(e)r gudz ban ok the helgha kirkio att ey hindren æll(e)r hinder lathen æll(e)r ed(e)r nokon led beware mz the gotzeno so(m) øst(e)rbo heth(e)r liggiand(e) i barknakidheem hwilkit so(m) hust(r)u ramfridh iønissadott(e)r gudh hena siel hawi gaff til asaka kirkio for sina siel ok sina foreld(re) ok th(e)r ær godh b(re)ff ok bewiisni(n)g pa so(m) wi sielue hawom seeth ok offu(en) lesit Thi forbiwdho(m) wi ed(e)r so(m) før ær sakt ok radho(m)wi ed(e)r thz att ey ed(e)r th(e)r om bewaren før æn i for oss warit hawen mz edhre bewiisni(n)g jn x° val..[Scriptum] Scar[en] Anno d(omin)j mcdxx° [trio]tercia die synodi m(e)o sub Secr[et] //Scrip[um] tenor de testibus.

Translation:

Brynolf, of God's mercy Bishop in Skara, salutes Arvid Jönsson and Arvid Djäkne in God, and asks and forbids them in the name of God and the Holy Church not to concern themselves in any way with the estate Österbo in Södra Kedum Parish in Barne District, which was donated by the late Mrs. Ramfrid Jönsdotter to the Åsaka Church, for her soul and her parents' souls. We have seen and read the deed of gift ourselves, thus we forbid and advise you not in any way to concern yourselves with this estate, unless you first have shown us any evidence of your rights to do so. (Written) on the Day of the Synod of the Church (July 8th) in the Year of Our Lord 1423.

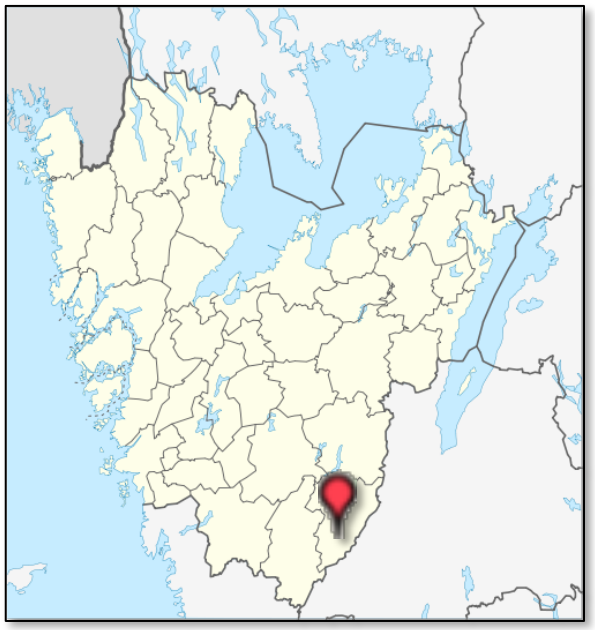
Seal: Bishop Brynolf Karlsson in Skara

Bishop Brynolf Karlsson of Skara

Brynolf Karlsson was born sometime during the mid-14th century. In 1375, he became a canon in Skara Diocese. Shortly after this, he studied at the University of Paris. In 1382, he was elected procurator of the Anglican nation, but he resigned shortly after. Around this time, he was appointed as the rector of Skara. As rector, he served directly under Bishop Torsten. In 1405, Karlsson was appointed by the Pope as the Bishop of Skara. However, Karlsson had been called bishop as early as 1402, so it's possible he was just waiting to receive the pope's confirmation of his appointment. Karlsson complained that the civil war between King Albrekt and Queen Margareta had destroyed Skara Diocese. Despite this, he was on good terms with Margareta. An important goal Karlsson had was to canonize Brynolf Algotsson, which never happened. During the Council in Konstanz in 1417, Karlsson gave his testimony to support Algotsson's canonization. In 1424, Karlsson resigned as bishop. According to some sources, he died around 1430.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Since Arvid was District Chief of Kind District, he attended court sessions three times a year at the courthouse in Ängatorp, which was located at the estate Alanäs in Mossebo Parish. On October 1, 1425, Arvid and a twelve-men jury met at Ängatorp to verify a land exchange between Åke Torbjörnsson and a man named Vesta from Mårdaklev.[130]



The location of Mossebo Parish in Västra Götland County



Letter that Arvid Jönsson wrote on October 1st, 1425
Seals: 1. (missing) Vicar Olof Jonsson in Gällstad Parish 2. (missing) Giord Dienge 3. Arvid Jönsson

[130] SDHK No. 20577 - October 1, 1425

Transcription:

Alla godhe mæn som thetta b(re)ff høra ælle(r) see helsar jak arwid
jensß hærashøfdhinge j kijnd æw(er)delika mz gudi kom(m)e jak thz
mz thetta nerwærande upna b(re)ff at j mine ok tvolff man(n)a ther
nemdena satho oc andra flere dandeman(n)a nerwæro som a thingeno
dato giordhe ærlek man ake torbiørnnasß laglighit iordhaskifte mz
vesta j kkleff th(e)n kijnd hæratstingeth stood j ængatorppe j sa matho at
førne(m)de ake gaff förnämnda vesta ij gave so(m) æro br..lidha oc jawallamo
for eth gooz j hwmblaryth liggiande hwilket nisse kwntsß løste aff
asmu(n)d smijd for th(e)n skyld dømer jak thetta for da skifte fast ok
stadhukt at blyua Vtan al af hielperædhe til (y)ther mere visso oc theta
skifte stadhugh och heng(er) jak mijt insigle mz godha man(n)a insigle [herra]
olafo j gelstadh prowast oc giord dienge for theta b(re)ff scriptu(m) ænga
torp anno domi(ni) mcd xxv sabbato pxipca festu(m) mijchael archageli

Translation:

[To] all good men who hear or see this letter. I, Arvid Jönsson, District Chief in Kind, salute you in the name of our Lord and declare that in the presence of myself, the "twelve-man jury," and many other honest men, at the District Court session in Ängatorp, the honest man Åke Torbjörnsson had given Vesta in Mårdaklev, two estates called "Brusalid" and "Javallamo" against one situated in Humlaryd. Nisse Knutsson had bought the latter from Asmund smed (Eng. smith). The estates are exchanged with all included. To ensure the correctness of this document I place my seal together with the seals of the good men Herr Olof, Dean in Gällstad and Giord Dienge on the front page of this letter. Written at Ängatorp in the Year of Our Lord 1425 on the Saturday after the day of St. Michael the Archangel (Michaelmas) (October 1st).

Despite his lofty position in social circles, Arvid's life was largely devoid of the entertainment and luxuries that his descendants would enjoy centuries later. He mostly drew his entertainment from the company of his loved ones, particularly around the warm fireplace on cold nights.

Nocturnal Gatherings in Medieval Sweden

"For human communion people turned to family, to the clan, and village community. From solitude, darkness, and cold the farm folk turned for warmth and light to the great open fireplace. The hearth was the center of the home. Both literally and metaphorically it was the source of light and warmth. From the nearby forest the peasant could get as much firewood as he wanted; when the fire began to die down all he had to do was throw down more logs. The family and its servants gathered around the fireplace. It was our ancestors' book, their newspaper, their theater and cinema, their radio and television, all in one."

Moberg, Vilhelm. *History of the Swedish People,* page 173

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

The Fate of Arvid Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna)

Arvid Jönsson and Ingerd Petersdotter's son Arvid Arvidsson eventually inherited part of Intorp from his parents. On September 25, 1457, Arvid Arvidsson agreed to give several of the farms he owned to his brother Knut, including Hiå in Holsljunga Parish, Breddhem, a farm called "Myolstok," a farm called "Longem," and two farms in Götaker in Södra Säm Parish.[131]

On July 14, 1477, Arvid was married to Ingegärd Gregersdotter. Ingegärd was the daughter of Greger Svensson (Sparre i Värend). As part of the morning gift, Arvid gave Ingegärd the property he owned at Intorp, Intorp Mill, and two farms in Risatorp which were all in Gällstad Parish, as well as the farm Longhaboth in Burseryd Parish to Ingegärd.[132]



Letter that mentions Arvid Arvidsson – July 14th, 1477
Seals: 1. (missing) Arvid Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) 2. Dag Dagsson 3. Nicolai (priest in Gårdsby Parish) 4. (missing) 5. Arvid Knutsson 6. Henrik Jönsson (Gyllensparre) 7. Mats Håkansson 8. (missing) Olof Magnusson

[131] SDHK No. 27054 - September 25, 1457
[132] SDHK No. 30278 – July 14, 1477

Transcription:

Alle men som thz breff see äller höra läsas Helsar jac Aruid arwidsson aff wapen kärligha mz [Gud] Gör jac wetterlekt mz mith opna breff thz jak mz wena ock frändher samtykke oc godwelia oppa rätthan hindherdagh wnth oc giffwit hawffwer jak myno älskelego hwstru ingegärdhe greyssa dotther thässe myna gardha til morghongafwo som ar intorpa oc intorps qwärn som giffwer xiii pund smör Jtem ii gardha i rissatörpp som giffwa viii pund smör ligiandes j kind gelstadha sokn Item longhaboth som giffver vi pund smör liggiandes i väsboo J brwsrydh sokn tiil ewerdelika ägho mz aker ängh skogh oc fiske[watn] när by oc fiären ingho wndhantakno som ther aff aldher tiillegoth hawffwer äller än tilligia kan mz swadan skel oc [welkor ath wil thz] gwdh at wi fonghom barn eller barna ärffwä tha warr the morghongaffwa barnom[om] for mödherne oc ey for fädherne Item sker [thet] oc swa ath noghen aff oss först [d]ör for annath wthan barn oc barnna ärffwa tha wari then morghongaffwa th[eris] som lengher leff[wa] Jtem är thz oc swa at thenne forscriffe gardha henne affgangher äppther thenne dagh mz nokor landzlagh äller räth tha tiilbiudher jak [mich] oc myna arffwa henne och henes arffwa swa goth gotz ath wedherlägia innan näste sex wikor effther swe[r]ges lag [medh myna] godho troo oc sanhet Item th[z] [ath] the danne men som oppa skaffthe hiöldo som är Henric jensson, gudmundh gronalöff jo[an] [nielss] [oloff] magnusson bänth jonsson pedher k[r?]r magnus nielsson gwnne skalle Bength andhersson jon nielsson mattis hoghonsson ture niel[sson] [wapnara] thesse ärw wetinss män her tiil [Item] er jon longh matt[es] rytz swen gertornsson gumme rytz Jtem tiil ythermere wisso oc thesse[n]d [breffs stadfästelsse] bedis jach hedherlika män[ner] som er [h] dagx i gardzby canik i wexio her mansa nicolai prebendatus i samma stadz mz w[elborna mäns som] aer arwidh knutsson henric je[ns]son gwdmundh grönalöff mattis haqonsson olaff magnusson mz mith egith insigle hängiandis [for theta breff] Scriffwit i högnaloff Anno domini m[c]dlxx septimo rffena scdna prima p[o] septem fr[m?].

Translation:

[To] all men that see or hear this letter, I, squire Arvid Arvidsson by God, greet and make official by this, my open letter, that I, with agreement from friends and relatives, on the right day (according to law), have given my beloved wife Ingegärd Gregersdotter these estates of mine as a morning gift. They are Intorp and Intorp's mill that give 13 pounds butter, also 2 farms in Risatorp, situated in Gällstad Parish in Kind District, that give 8 pounds of butter. Also "longhaboth," situated in Burseryd Parish in Västbo District, that gives 6 pounds of butter, to eternal ownership, including fields and meadows and fishing water, both near and far, with no exceptions as it has been since old ages. If God lets us have children, they will inherit this morning gift from their mother's side and not from their father's side. Also if we don't have children, this morning gift will go to the one that lives longer. Also if these defined estates by some reason, according to the law, will be taken away from me, then I promise to give her some other estates, equal in value, within six weeks, according to Swedish law, in good faith and truth. These truthful men guarantee this aggreement: Henrik Jönsson, Gudmund Grönalöff, Johan Nilsson, Olof Magnusson, Bengt Jonsson, Peter "kr?r," Magnus Nilsson, Gunnar Skalle, Bengt Andersson, Jon Nilsson, Matts "hogonsson," Ture Nilsson, all squires. These men are witnesses: Jon "longh", Matts Ryt, Sven "gertorsson," and Gumme Ryt. Also to assure this letter's content, I finally beg these honest men: the priest in Gårdsby and canon in Växjö Dag, the priest and "prebendat" (= benefice) in Växjö, "mansa" (Måns?) Nicolai, together with these well born men: Arvid Knutsson, Henrik Jönsson, Gudmund Grönalöff, Matts Håkansson, and Olof Magnusson to seal this letter with myself. Written in Högnaloff in the Year of Our Lord 1477, on September 14th.

Arvid and Ingegärd had at least one son named Nils.[133]

Children of Arvid Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna) and Ingegärd Gregersdotter

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Nils	1470s-1480s	Gällstad	Unknown	Unknown

It's unknown when Arvid Arvidsson died.

[133] Alquist, JE. "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönsson (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led," page 172

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

The Final Days of Arvid Jönsson (1434-1438)

Arvid Jönsson probably spent the remainder of his days at Intorp. By the 1430s, his sons Knut and Arvid had reached adulthood.

Other Letters that Mention Arvid Jönsson

- **SDHK No. 15580 – February 24, 1401 at Jönköping:** District Chief of Ås District Arvid Jönsson certifies that Göte Ulfsson in Åsa gave his estates Sölje and Lindhult in Fryeled Parish to Nydala Monastery. Arvid's seal is the second seal that is attached to the letter.

- **SDHK No. 15729 – November 10, 1401 at Nydala:** Arvid Jönsson certifies that Göte Ulfsson's heirs confirmed his gift of Sölje and Lindhult to Nydala Monastery. Arvid's seal is the second seal that is attached to the letter.

- **SDHK No. 17053 – May 18, 1408 at Flätteryd:** Arvid Jönsson certifies that Gunne Johansdotter gave the estate Harkeryd in Svenarum Parish, the desolate farms "Bosarydh" and Hässelås in Fiskeby, and Torarp (Tordatorp) to Nydala Monastery for the souls of herself, her parents, siblings, and children. Arvid's seal was the third seal that was attached to the letter (which is now missing).

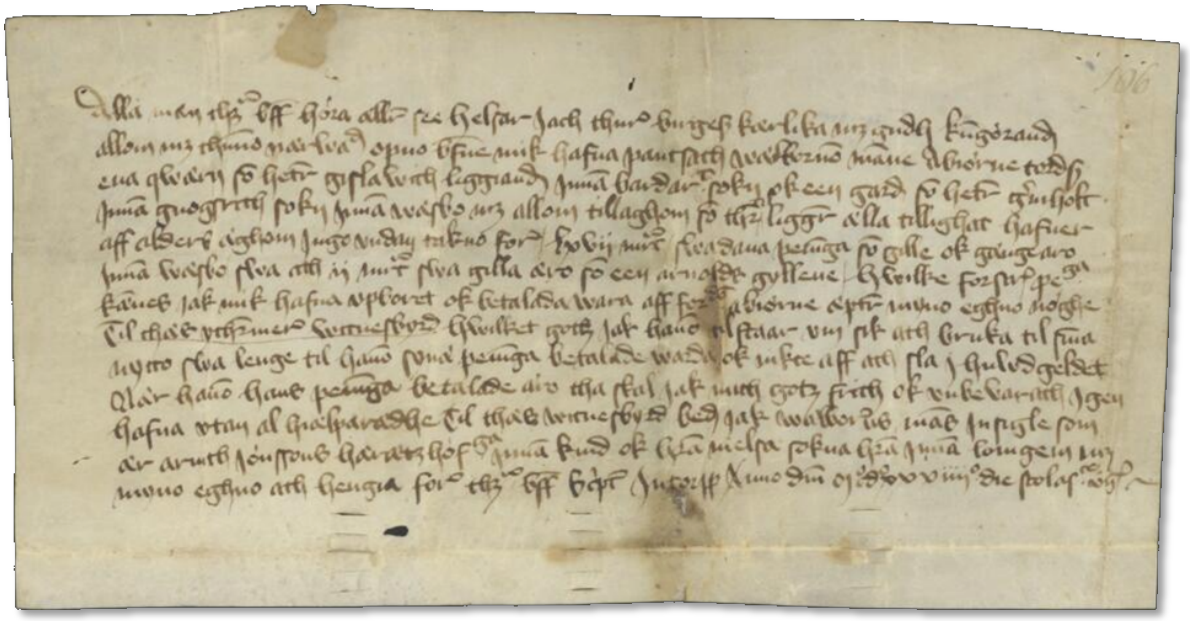
- **SDHK No. 17082 – August 20, 1408 at Nydala:** Arvid Jönsson certifies that Gjurd Svensson (a priest in Vrigstad) and Peter Magnusson gave the estates "Björnahesle" and "Homblaström" in Svenarum Parish to Nydala Monastery.

- **SDHK No. 17112 – November 1, 1408 at Kävsjö:** Arvid Jönsson certifies that Cecilia Helgesdotter gave "Loftgården" in Kävsjö and a farm in "Tyngil" to Nydala Monastery. Arvid's seal is the third seal that is attached to the letter.

- **SDHK No. 17711 – October 18, 1411 at Åker Church:** Arvid Jönsson certifies that Lindorm Ulfsson gave the estates in Föreberg, Elgebo, and Jakobstorp to to his sister Ingeborg Ulfsdotter and her husband Nils Magnusson, which was Ingeborg's inheritance. Arvid's seal is the second seal that is attached to the letter.

On February 10, 1434, a man named Ture Birgersson was present at Intorp to gain Arvid's authorization that he had pledged a flour mill called Gislaved in Bäraryd Parish, and the farm Grimholt in Gnosjö Parish to Björn Tordsson for a loan of 67 mark.[134] This is the last known letter to mention Arvid alive.

[134] SDHK No. 22090 - February 10, 1434



The final letter that mentions Arvid Jönsson - February 10th, 1434
Seals (All missing): 1. Ture Birgersson 2. Arvid Jönsson 3. Nils (vicar in Länghem)

Transcription:

Alla mæn thz b(re)ff höra æll(e)r see helsar jach thu(e) birgeß kærlika mz gudh ku(n)görande
allom mz th(e)nno nærwar(an)de opno b(re)fue mik hafua pantsath wælborno(m) man(n)e Abiörne tordß ena qwærn
so(m) het(e)r gislaweth liggiande jnna(n) bardar(yd) sokn ok een gard so(m) het(e)r g[ri]mholt jnna(n) gnogsieth
sokn jnna(n) wæsbo mz allom tillaghom so(m) th(e)r ligg(e)r ælla tillighat hafuer
aff alders æghom jngo vndan takno for lxvij mrk(er) swa dana peni(n)ga so(m) gille ok gænge aro
jnna(n) wæsbo swa ath ij m[a]rk swa gilla æro so(m) een arnolds gyllene hwilke forskr(efne) pe(nin)ga kæn(n)es
jak mik hafua vpboret ok betalada wara aff fornämde abiørne æpt(e)r myno eghno nøghe
Til thæs yth(e)rmere witnesbyrd hwilket gottz jak hano(m) tilstaar vm sik ath bruka til sin(n)a
nytto swa lenge til hano(m) synæ peni(n)ga betalade warda ok inkte ath sla j huwdgeldet
Nær hano(m) hans peni(n)ga betalade æro tha skal jak mith gotz frith ok unbevarath jgen
hafua vtan al hiælparæde til thæs winesbyrd bed(er) jak walbor t(h)es ma(n)s jnsigle som
ær aruith jønssons hæratzhøf(din)ga jnna(n) kind ok h(e)ra nielsa sokna h(e)ra jnna(n) lomgem mz
myno eghno ath hengia fore thz(no) b(re)ff Sc(ri)pt[um] Intorpp Anno d(omi)ni me idº xxxiiij die scolas(ti)ca
[virginis].

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter, I, Ture Birgersson, salute you in the name of our Lord, and declare that I have pledged one flour mill called Gislaved in Bäraryd Parish, and one estate called Grimholt in Gnosjö Parish in Västbo, with all included, to the honorable man Åbjörn Tordsson, for a loan of 67 mark in common and valid currency (so that 2 mark are equal to 1 golden) in Västbo. I have received the amount previously mentioned from Åbjörn, for private use. And until the other is said he shall receive the yield from the estates. When I have paid back the money I shall be free to use my estates. I ask these honorable men to place their seals together with my before this letter: Arvid Jönsson (District Chief in Kind) and Herr Nils (vicar in Långhem); issued at Intorp in the Year of Our Lord 1434, on St. Scholastica's Day (February 10th).

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Arvid Jönsson died sometime between 1434 and 1438. On December 14, 1438, his son Knut donated the farm Svenstorp in Gällstad Parish to Gällstad Church "for the souls of [his] dear parents Arvid Jönsson and Lady Ingerd," which indicates that both of them had passed away by this point.[135] It's unknown if Arvid's wife Kristina Karlsdotter preceded him in death or if she survived him. It's likely that both Arvid and Kristina were buried in Nydala Abbey, since they had previously donated two farms at Herrestad in Kärda Parish, Västergötland to this monastery so they could be buried there.[136]



Letter that indicates that Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika) were no longer alive - December 14th, 1438
Seals: 1. Bishop Sven of Skara Diocese 2. Dean Bengt Klasson 3. Prebendary Magnus Håkansson 4. Peter Ribbing, 5. Peter Tomasson

[135] SDHK No. 23101 – December 14, 1438
[136] SDHK No. 19078 - May 1, 1418

Transcription:

I(n)for alla mæn tættha breff høra ællar sseer kiæms jak knwt arwidβ
wæpnare tet aar efftir gwtz byrdh mcdxxxviij^{o} Sønnedagin næst æftir Ste lucie dagh j nær
waro wærdogh faders mz gwth biskops swæns j skara j rangadal præsta
gard gaff jak oc galt wnder gælstada kyrkio och wder p(res)tee bordh samatads mit
rætta arwagodz som kallas swænw(n)gsthorp j gælstada by liggia(n)de mz allom smo-
ægom ingom wnda(n)taknom til ewærdeleka ægho for mine kæra faders siæl ar-
uid jensβ oc mina kæra moders hust$^{(r)u}$ jngegærde mina eegno oc alla mina
forældra siæla j the matha at for oos skal beddias oc tidagærd gøras ewærde
leka j for^{da} kyrkio oc skal gostt halft liggia w(n)der kirkiona oc halft w(n)der pres
tens bord hoc mz swasskæl haw(er) jak thzta giw$^{(e)t}$ oc giort j mine helbregdo oc
wælmakt at aldrigh skwla nokre mine Ærwa ællar afftrkom(m)a(n)de thzta ryg-
gia ællar quælia fforthy at jak afhæ(n)der thz sam(m)a gotz mit oc mino(m) arwom
oc til-æijnar thz kyrkone oc p(re)stebordem som for skrijwat ær til ewærdeleka
ægho | Thil hwilkens tingz stadfestelse oc witnesbyrd beder jak for^{da} wærdogh
biskop swæn oc ærkeka(n)icæn Hær bæynt klaussβ dæken Hær Mag(n)us hako(n)sβ pdat j
skarom Pæthar rijbbing oc Pædar tomasβ wæpnara hængia thera jnsigle
mz mino egno ffor thzta breff giw$^{(e)t}$ oc skrew$^{(e)t}$ ar dag oc stædh so(m) wppe nae(m)pdo.

Translation:

[To] all the men who hear or see this letter, I Knut Arvidsson, squire, hereby announce that in the Year of Our Lord 1438 on the first Sunday after the day of St. Lucia (December 14th), in the presence of the honorable Bishop Sven in Skara, at the vicarage of Rångedala, I gave away my legal heritage, the estate Svenstorp in Gällstad Parish with all its land with no exceptions, to the church and vicarage in Gällstad - half of it to the church and half of it to the vicarage, to be theirs forever, not for me or my heirs to deny or reclaim. This I have done in full possession of all my senses, for the souls of my dear parents, Arvid Jönsson and Lady Ingerd. In return, prayers should be held to honor mine and my parents' souls. To verify this content, I ask the honorable Bishop and Arch-canon Sven, the Dean Bengt Klasson, the Prebendary Magnus Håkansson in Skara, and the Squires Peter Ribbing and Peter Tomasson, to place their seals together with mine on this letter, issued and dated as stated above.

Nydala Abbey



View from the eastern façade of Nydala Abbey

Nydala Abbey was a Cistercian monastery in the province of Småland, Sweden. It was founded in 1143 by Cistercian monks from Clairvaux Abbey in France. The abbey took nearly a century to complete and its church was inaugurated in 1266. The abbey was plundered by the forces of King Kristian II in 1521 and its remaining valuables were confiscated by King Gustav I Vasa in 1527. In the 1680s, part of the medieval church were renovated to become a Lutheran church.

9.3.2. Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf f and fm fm mf fm mf mf m

Trivia on Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp) and Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika)

1. Around what year was Arvid Jönsson born?
    a. 1371
    b. 1376
    c. 1381
    d. 1386

2. What was the name of Arvid Jönsson's father?
    a. Jöns Arvidsson
    b. Jöns Bengtsson
    c. Jöns Nilsson
    d. Arvid Svensson

3. What is the first year that Arvid Jönsson was recorded?

4. What was probably the name of Ingerd Petersdotter's father?
    a. Peter Andersson
    b. Peter Bengtsson
    c. Peter Karlsson
    d. Peter Turresson

5. What was Arvid Jönsson's occupation?
    a. Bailiff
    b. District Chief
    c. Lagman
    d. None of these

6. Where was Arvid Jönsson's family living in 1412?

7. What was the name of Arvid Jönsson's second wife?

8. Where was Arvid Jönsson's family living in the 1430s?

9. What was the last year in which Arvid Jönsson was listed as still being alive?

10. Where is Arvid Jönsson probably buried?

Answers: 1. b 2. b 3. 1401 4. a 5. b 6. Mone, Mone Parish 7. Kristina Karlsdotter 8. Intorp, Gällstad Parish 9. 1434 10.Nydala Abbey

Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

Name	Bengt Turesson	Name	Märta Gunnarsdotter
Born	1350s-1370s	Born	1370s-1380s
Place	Unknown	Place	Västergötland
Died	Between 1420 to 1425	Died	After 1425
Place	Halland	Place	Halland
Occupation	Squire	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

Name	Born	Location	Died	Location
Kerstin	1400s-1410s	Halland	After 1459	Långhem, Västergötland
Arfrid	1410s-1420s	Halland	Unknown	Unknown
Gunhild	1410s-1420s	Halland	Unknown	Unknown

Early Years (1370-1400)

Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) was probably born sometime in the 1360s or 1370s.[137] His father was named Ture[138] (or Thure) and his mother's name is unknown. It's likely that Bengt was born in the province of Halland in southern Sweden.[139]

Halland

Halland (Háh- láhnd) is a historical province that is located in the southwestern part of Sweden. It contains parts of the counties of Halland, Skåne, and Vätstra Götland and its name means "Land of Rocky Slabs." For most of recorded history, Halland belonged to Denmark. During the 13th century, a tremendous amount of military conflict took place in Halland, with invaders frequently raiding the province's parishes and pillaging and burning hundreds of farms and villages. During the period of the Kalmar Union (1397-1523), Halland was centrally located within the Kalmar Union. In 1658, Halland became a permanent part of Sweden during the Treaty of Roskilde.



[137] This is based on the fact that Bengt is first mentioned in a letter from 1395 (SDHK No. 14452- August 14, 1395) and he must have been in his twenties or thirties during this time.
[138] This is based on patronymic tradition.
[139] This is based on Bengt purchasing the estate Arvidstorp in Fagered Parish in 1403 (SDHK No. 16113 – June 18, 1403), which is located in Halland. Since Bengt owned land in Halland, it's likely that he was also born there.

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Thure Kompan – Bengt Turesson's Possible Father

In *Svenska medeltidsvapen*, page 790, Jan Raenke wrote that Bengt Turesson's father was a nobleman named Thure Compan (or Kompan). Thure was mentioned in a letter from October 3, 1347[1] in which he sold land in Skanör, Halland to Johan Ebbeson Djäken. Thure's seal, which is attached to this letter, is of a chevron over a heart. Taking into consideration that this seal is very similar to Bengt's seal of a chevron over a leaf (which is heart-shaped), that patronymic tradition indicates that Bengt's father's name was Ture (or Thure), and Thure sold land in Halland (the same province associated with Bengt), Raenke believed that Thure Compan was Bengt's father. However, there isn't quite enough evidence to confirm this theory.

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 5510 – October 3rd, 1347

Transcription (in Latin):

Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus thuro. compan. dictus salutem in domino sempiternam Notum facio vniuersis presentibus et futuris quod recognosco me viro discreto presencium exhibitori johanni ebbeson dicto dyækn duas tabernas meas pannicidarum næstwithe læge in scanør sitas pro viginti marchis denariorum nouorum scaniensium et pro duobus stikche sylphær vendidisse alienasse et in sinum scotasse iure perpetuo possidendas Recognoscens me plenum precium et condignam recompensam pro eisdem tabernis integraliter subleuasse, secundum libitum mee voluntatis quod contentor Quare obligo me et heredes meos ad apropriandum predicto johanni æbbeson et heredibus suis predictas tabernas et ipsarum tabernarum fund (!) fundos cum singulis et omnibus ipsarum pertinenciis videlicet edificiis et aliis quocumque nomine vocentur adiacenciis et ad disbrigandum. ab inpeticione mea heredum meorum et aliorum quorumcunque nunc presencium seu inposterum futurorum Datum sub testimonio sigilli mei anno. domini. M°. C°C°C° quadragesimo septimo. die mercurii proximo post diem beati michaelis archangeli.

Translation:

[To] all those recognizing the present writing, I Thure, called Compan, [with] eternal salvation in the Lord, notify all those present and those in the future that I recognize that I have sold my two tailors' clothes stalls located at Næstwithe Læge in Skanör, to have parted with them, and to have made the purchase legitimate to be possessed by perpetual right, to the distinguished man Johan Ebbeson, called Djäken, the bearer of the money, for twenty mark in new Scanian coins and for two pieces of cloth, recognizing that I have entirely levied the full price and a worthy recompense for the two stalls, according to the wish of my will, which I am pleased with. Therefore, I make myself and my heirs liable to the aforementioned Johan Ebbeson and his heirs to make the afore-mentioned stalls their own and the estates of these stalls together with everything that pertains to them, that is buildings and other things, whatever they are called, that border on them, and to disencumber them from my claims and those of my heirs and of any others who are now present or of those who may be in the future. Dated under the testimony of my seal, in the Year of Our Lord 1347, on the Wednesday after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel (October 3rd).

Seal: Thure Kompan

Nothing is known about Bengt's childhood. He had at least one sister named Margareta.[140] Margareta was married to a nobleman named Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning) [141], who received knighthood in 1388 or 1389 and was later a commander in the Swedish military.

Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning) (d. 1410)



Svarting Skåning coat of arms

Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning) was probably born during the 1340s. He was probably born in Skåne and came from a Danish family. His coat of arms consisted of a boat with dragon heads on either side. He was first mentioned in a letter from 1371, in which he sold a farm in Lanna Parish and the farm Busstorp in Jung Parish for 33 mark. In 1381, the Hanseatic League accused him of piracy in Helsingborg, Germany. The same year, Queen Margareta granted him an estate in Fjäre District in northern Halland. Around this time, he was granted knighthood. Sometime during the 1370s or 1380s, he married Margareta Turesdotter.

In 1388, Nils Jönsson was appointed by Queen Margareta to lead some of her soldiers in an insurrection against King Albrekt. In the winter of 1389, he led an army to lay siege upon Axevalla Castle. After conquering this castle, he was awarded it as a grant. He later received the fortress Öresten and Nyköping Castle.

Nils Jönsson's only son was Jöns Nilsson (Svarte Skåning). Jöns was first mentioned in a letter from 1394, in which his family was listed as being involved in the good deeds that were performed in Vadstena Monastery. Jöns became a knight sometime between 1410-1413. Jöns was listed as "Johannes Sworte Schoning" in King Erik XIII's treaty with Poland in 1419 and as "Jons Zwarte Schoning" in a treaty with the Hanseatic League in 1423. Sometime before 1413, Jöns married Ingeborg, the daughter of knight and councilor Nils Bosson (Natt och Dag). Jöns was a Swedish councilor and courtier at Öresten. He had at least two sons named Åke Jönsson (Svarte Skåning) and Ture Jönsson (Svarte Skåning), who became councilors and lawyers.

Nils Jönsson died sometime around 1410. It's unknown when Margareta Turesdotter died.

[140] Margareta is listed as the wife of Nils Jönsson Svarting in SDHK No. 14303 – July 10, 1394. According to SDHK No. 14452 – August 14, 1395, Nils lent Bengt Turesson a substantial amount of money, indicating that they had a significant relationship. SDHK No. 9845 – 1371 shows that Nils had a paternal grandson named Ture Jönsson. Since Ture is a rare name in Sweden, it's likely that Ture Jönsson obtained this name from the father of Margareta, who was also Bengt Turesson's father, thus making them siblings.

[141] Margareta is listed as Nils Jönsson Svarting's wife in SDHK No. 14303 – July 10, 1394. Since their son Jöns is also listed in this letter, he was probably born in the 1370s or 1380s, and they were most likely also married during that decade.

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m



Letter that mentions Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning) and Margareta Turesdotter
July 10th, 1394
Seal: Ingegerd Knutsdotter

Transcription (Latin):

Nobilibus personis et in deo dilectis domino nicholao skanung militii et consorti sue dilecte domine margarete cum filio eorum dilecto iohanni nicholai Nos Ingegardis kanitzdotter abbatissa et iohannes petri generalis confessor totusque conuentus monasterii beate marie virginis in vazstene salutem et augmentum continuum celestium gratiarum. Exigente vestre deuocionis et dilecionis affectu quo deum et monasterium nostrum diligitis vos tamquam spirituales benefactores et amicos nostros ad omnia suffragia tocius conuentus nostri recipimus plenam vobis participacionem bonorum omnium concedentes que per nos die noctuque in missis vigiliis ieiuniis orationibus predicacionibus laboribus ac aliis piis exer/ciciis operari donauerit ineffabilis clemencia saluatoris. Volumus eciam et ordinamus vt anima vestra post decessum vestrum sororum et fratrum pro tempore existencium suffragiis et oracionibus denuo recommendetur cum obitus vester conuentui nostro fuerit nunciatus. In cuius concessionis testimonium sigillum conuentus nostri presentibus est appensum Scriptum monasterio nostro vazstene anno domini m° ccc°xciiii ipso die beati kanuti regis et martyris gloriosi.

Translation:

[To] the noble persons, dear to God, Lord Nils Skåning, knight; and his wife, the beloved lady Margareta; with their son, the beloved Johan Nilsson; we Ingegerd Knutsdotter, abbess; Johannes Petri, general confessor; and the entire convent of the monastery of the blessed Virgin Mary in Vadstena, [wish] salutation and continuous increase of heavenly graces. Because of the discharge of your devotion and fidelity with which you love our monastery, we receive you as spiritual benefactors and our friends to all intercession of our entire convent, bestowing upon you full participation in all goods which the ineffable clemency of the Savior will provide through us day and night in masses, vigils, fasts, prayers, sermons, labors and other pious exercises. We also wish and ordain that your soul after your death through the intercessions and prayers of the sisters and brothers who are alive at the time will again be commended [to God], as soon as your death has been reported to our community. In witness of this grant the seal of our convent is affixed before those present. Written at our monastery at Vadstena in the Year of Our Lord 1394 on the Day of the Blessed King and Glorious Martyr Knut (July 10th).

It's likely that the first king that ruled over Sweden during Bengt's lifetime was King Albrekt, who ruled over Sweden from 1364 to 1389. For the first six years of Albrekt's reign, Sweden was involved in a civil war between Albrekt's forces and the forces of Magnus Eriksson and Håkan Magnusson, the previous kings. In 1371, a truce was negotiated between both sides.

The Reign of Albrekt (1364-1389)



Albert's portrait sculpture on his contemporary grave monument

Albrekt was born around 1338. He was the son of Duke Albrekt II of Mecklenburg and Euphemia Eriksdotter. In 1359, he married Rikardis of Schwerin, who later died in 1377. In 1362, Håkan Magnusson, the son of the King of Norway, and King Magnus Eriksson imprisoned Albrekt's father. Shortly after this, several prominent Swedish aristocrats who were led by Bo Jonsson (Grip), made an agreement with Albrekt that he would be the next King of Sweden if he agreed to help overthrow Magnus and Håkan and appoint them to his royal council. Albrekt and his allies subsequently conquered the cities of Kalmar and Stockholm with littler resistance, prompting Magnus and Håkan to flee from Sweden. On February 15, 1364, Albrekt was crowned as the King of Sweden at the Stones of Mora.

In 1365, civil war broke out in Sweden when Magnus and Håkan returned with an army of Norwegians and Swedes loyal to them. Albrekt's army was supported by several northern German princes and Hanseatic cities, incurring the disapproval of the common Swedes. In 1371, peace was negotiated between the two sides, after the nobles forced Albrekt to relinquish much of his power to them. It was decided that Håkan would own Skara Diocese, Bo Jonsson (Grip) would own most of Sweden, and Albrekt would only own Stockholm and a few royal estates.

Most of western Sweden did not support Albrekt's reign. In 1386, Albrekt lost his support in Stockholm after attempting to reduce the large estates of the Swedish nobility and gain the lands of Bo Jonsson (Grip). The Swedish council thus approached Margareta, Håkan's widow, to lead a revolt against Albrekt. In February of 1389, Margareta's army defeated Albrekt's army at Åsle, and Albrekt was captured. Margareta was subsequently crowned Queen of Sweden and Albrekt spent six years in captivity.

Albrekt was released from captivity in 1395 on the condition that he would pay a large sum to Margareta over the following three years. Upon his release, he returned to Mecklenburg. In 1396, Albrekt married Agnes of Braunschweig-Lüneburg. Albrekt died in Doberan, Mecklenburg on April 1, 1412.

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

By the late 1380s, King Albrekt had fallen out of favor with the Swedish nobility. On, August 20, 1386, Bo Jonsson (Grip), the head of the royal council and the wealthiest landowner in Sweden, died. After his death, Albrekt tried to keep much of Bo Jonsson's land for himself, incurring the anger of the Swedish nobility. Margareta Valdemarsdotter, the widow of former king Haakon , was subsequently approached by the Swedish nobility to lead an insurrection against Albrekt. On March 22, 1388, the Swedish nobility recognized Margareta as Sweden's rightful ruler and vowed not to make peace with King Albrekt without her consent. Bengt Turesson likely felt optimistic when Margareta became Queen of Sweden, as his brother-in-law Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning)'s allegiance to her aligned his family with her success.

Dalaborgstraktaten - The Dalaborg Treaty

The Dalaborg Treaty was an agreement made between Margareta Valdemarsdotter and the executors of the estate of Bo Jonson (Grip) in early spring of 1388. These executors all hailed from Swedish nobility and were among the most powerful men in Sweden. At this meeting, it was agreed that Margareta was Sweden's "council's wife and rightful master," and that the Swedish nobility would not make peace with King Albrekt or his aids without Margareta's approval. During this meeting, the executors of Bo Jonson (Grip)'s estate awarded several of the properties of land that Bo Jonson had owned. This meeting may have occurred at Dalaborg's fortress on Lake Vänern or Bohus Fortress in southwest Sweden.

By this time, Bengt had reached adulthood and was serving as a squire under the command of Abraham Brodersson, a prominent noble and military commander.[142] Brodersson was known to be a cruel man and was probably quite harsh to those who served under him.

Abraham Brodersson (c. 1350-1410)

Abraham Brodersson was a Swedish statesman and military commander who served under Queen Margareta I and King Erik XIII. He was first mentioned in 1380 and was admired for his military prowess. Abraham was one of the most powerful landowners in the Kalmar Union and owned over 500 farms. He acquired his land through his marriage and by threatening landowners with violence if they didn't sell their land to him at the price he decided. He was present at the Dalaborg Treaty in 1388 and pledged his allegiance to Margareta in her insurrection against King Albrekt. Throughout 1388 and early 1389, Abraham commanded several battles against Albrekt's forces. During 1393 to 1394, he led the siege of Stockholm against Albrekt's allies. In 1410, Margareta appointed her nephew Erik of Pomerania as the commander-in-chief in a war against Holstein. During this campaign, Abraham commanded a battalion. Erik was resentful of Abraham's power and blamed him for a failed siege against Sønderborg Castle. Abraham was accused of raping a young woman during this siege and was subsequently put on trial by Erik, who sentenced him to death by a sword.

[142] SDHK No. 14452 - August 14, 1395 states that Bengt had served under Brodersson.

Since Bengt served under Abraham Brodersson, it's likely that he fought in the insurrection against King Albrekt. Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning), the husband of Bengt's sister Margareta, also commanded forces during this insurrection. Throughout 1388, Albrekt recruited an army of Swedes that were loyal to him and Germans. Near the end of 1388, Margareta's forces began a siege of the castle Axevalla, which was held by German soldiers that supported Albrekt. After the majority of Margareta's forces withdrew from this siege, Nils Jönsson commanded a small siege force which starved the fort's defenders. Around this time, Albrekt returned to Sweden with an army of around 1,000 men. On February 24, 1389, Albrekt's and Margareta's forces met at the Battle of Åsle near Falköping, Västergötland. At the end of the battle, Margareta's army was victorious and Albrekt and his son Erik were taken prisoner.

The Battle of Åsle

The Battle of Åsle (also known as the Battle of Falan or the Battle of Falköping) was fought between the armies of King Albrekt and Queen Margareta Valdemarsdotter on February 24, 1389 in a swampy area near Åsle Church, a mile east of Falköping, Västergötland. Margareta's forces were led by Henrik Parow. Albrekt's army consisted of around 1,000 Germans while Maragreta's army consisted of around 1,500 Danes and Swedes. Albrekt's army had arrived from Axevalla, where Albrekt was informed that Margareta's army was marching up the Nissastigen River. Although Albrekt's army were successful during the beginning of the battle, they eventually lost the upper hand. Near the end of the battle, Gert Snakeburg, one of Albret's knights, fled, taking 60 knights with him. Albrekt's army eventually surrendered and Albrekt, his son Erik of Mecklenburg, and the Bishop of Skara Rudolf of Mecklenburg were imprisoned. On July 5, 1896, a memorial stone commemorating the battle was erected near Åsle Church.

Bengt Turesson's Service Under Abraham Brodersson

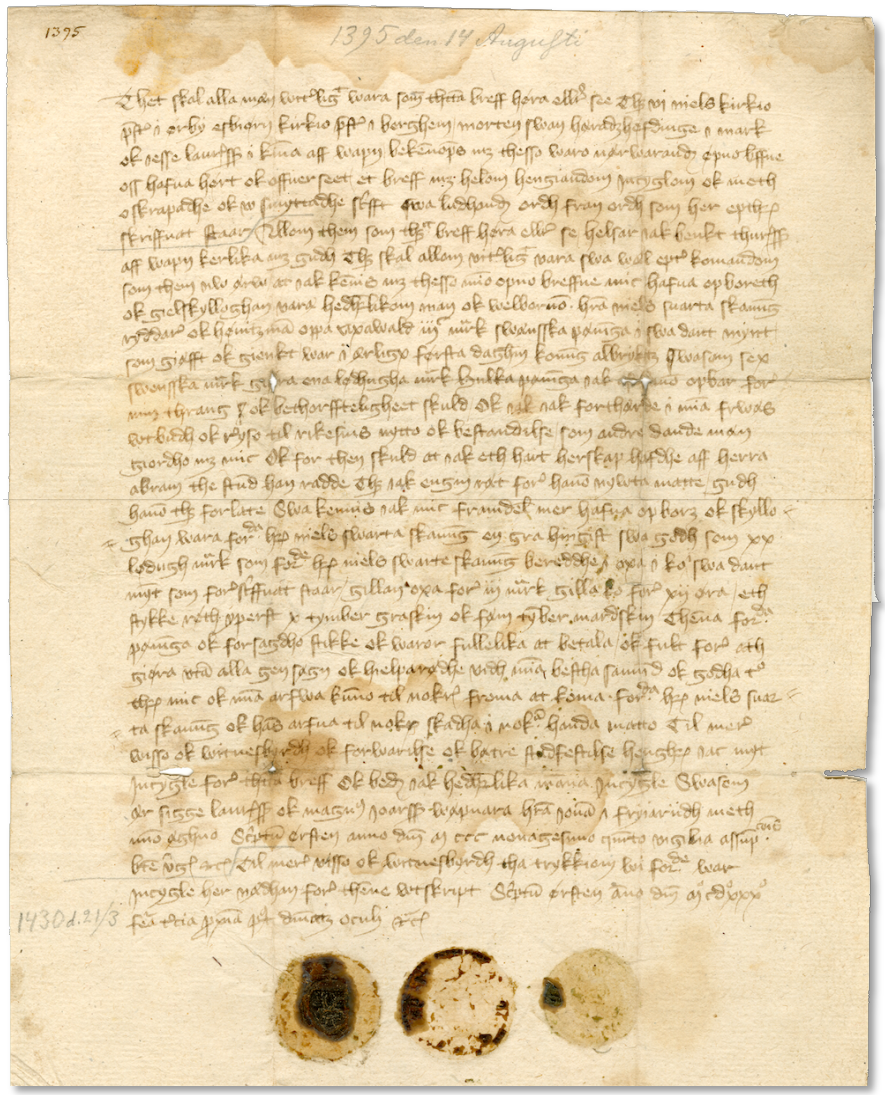
"What was it like serving under the command of the Sir Abraham Brodersson? It's not easy to describe in a potted version, but I'll try. When I, Bengt Turesson, was a young squire, I went to serve under him. Nils Jönsson, my brother-in-law, told me that he demanded that his squires were tidy dressed and riding fine horses, and that they should be prepared to 'pay a tankard of beer.' Abraham was a skilled commander, not only in a military way but he also knew how to enrich himself. When he found an estate he wanted, he placed a low offer which he decided to be correct. He was a firm, but also brutal commander. The motif on his shield was a bull's head; it really suited him and his temper. He was really one of the favourites of Queen Margareta. In 1389, he was knighted for his services. In 1393 and 1394, he was Commander of the Danish forces when they besieged Stockholm, against forces faithful to King Albrekt (of Mecklenburg). On August 27, 1410, he was beheaded under the order of King Erik (of Pomerania). It was a messy period but was also a wonderful time, when the countries of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden were united."

*A work of creative fiction by Magnus Holmqvist

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

After Albrekt's imprisonment, Margaret became the Queen of Sweden. At this time, she was already the queen of both Denmark and Norway. In 1393 and 1394, some of Albrekt's German allies laid siege on Stockholm, in an attempt to have Albrekt released from captivity. Since Abraham Brodersson led some Swedish soldiers against Albrekt's allies in this siege, it's likely that Bengt fought in this siege. Eventually, Albrekt's allies were repelled away. In 1395, Albrekt was released from captivity.

During this time Bengt was rather poor. On August 14, 1395, while Bengt was stationed at Öresten, he wrote that Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning) had lent him three Swedish mark, a gray stallion (worth 200 silver mark), a cow worth 12 öre, a piece of fine cloth, 400 squirrel furs, and 200 marten's skins.[143]



Letter from March 21st, 1430 that mentions a letter that
Bengt Turesson wrote on August 14th, 1395
Seals: 1. Bengt Turesson 2. Sigge Laurensson (Sparre av Rossvik) 3. Magnus Joarsson
4. Johan Håkansson (priest in Fröjered Parish)

[143] SDHK No. 14452 - March 21, 1430

Transcription:

Thet skal alla mæn wet(er)lig$^{(i)t}$ wara som(m) thet(t)a breff høra elle(r) see th(et) vj niels kirkio
p(re)st^{o} i ørby esbiørn kirkiop(re)st^{o} i berghem morten swan hæradzhøfdinge j mark
ok iesse laurs(son) i kin(n)a aff wapn beken(n)o(m)ps m(eth) these waro nærwarand(om) øpno b(re)ffue
oss hafua hørt ok offuerseet et breff m(eth) helom hengiandne jncyglom ok meth
oskrapadhe ok vsmyriadhe sk(ri)fft swa ludhand(om) ordh fran ordh som her epther
*skriffuat staar **:** Allom them som th(et)te breff høra ell(e)r se helsar jak benkt thurs(son)*
aff wapn kerlika m(eth) gudh th(et) skal allom vit(er)lig^{it} vara swa wæl ept(er)komanden
som them nw ærw at jak ken(n)iomz thesse mi(n)o opno breffue mic hafua opboreth
ok gielskylloghan varæ hedh(e)rlikom man ok welborno(m) h(er)ra niels suartæ skani(n)g
ryddar(e) ok høuitzma(n) oppa axawald iij m(a)rk swænnska pæni(n)ga i swadant mynt
som giæfft ok gienkt war i ærlige første daghen konu(n)g albryktz qwasom sex
swensska m(a)rk giøra ena lødheugha m(a)rk kyrkkapæni(n)ga jak ? opbar for(e)
min thrang ? ok bethorfftеligheet skuld ok iak iak forthærde i mi(n)a frwæs
wtbedh ok ryso til rikesens nytto ok bestandilse som andre dandemæn
giordho m(eth) mic ok for then skuld at iak eth hært herskap hafdhe aff herra
abram the stu(n)d han radde th(et) iak engin rø(r)t for(e) hano(m) nywta matte gudh
hano(m) th(et) forlate swa kennis iak mic framdel(es) mer hafua opbor(et) ok skyllo-
ghan wara for^{da} her niels swartæ skani(n)g en gra hingst swa godh som xx
lødugh m(a)rk som for^{de} he(r) niels swærte skani(n)g bereddhe i oxa i ko swa dant
myt(t) som for(e)sc(re)ffuætt staar gillan oxa for iij m(a)rk gillæ ko for(e) xij øræ eth
stykke røth yperst x tymber graskin ok fæm ty(m)ber mardskin then(n)a for^{da}
pæni(n)ga ok forsagdho stikke ok waror fullelika at betala ok fult for(e) ath
giøra vta(n) alla gensægn ok hielparædhe vidh mi(n)a bestha samu(e)d ok godha t$^{(r)o}$
th(er) mic ok mi(n)a arfwa kun(n)o til nok(e)r froma at koma for^{da} h(e)r niels suar-
tæ skani(n)g ok ha(n)s arfua til nokr skadha i nok^{on}handa matto til mer(e)
wisso ok witnesbyrdh ok forwarilse ok bætre stædfestelse hængher iak myt
jncygle for(e) thet(t)a breff ok bed(om) iak hedhe(r)lika man(n)a jncygle swasom
ær sigge laurs(son) ok magn(us) joars(son) wæpnara h(er)ra jona(s) i fryieriedh meth
mi(n)o æghno Sc(ri)ptu(m) ørsten anno d(omi)n(i) m ccc nonagesimo qui(n)to vigilia assu(m)p$^{t(i)n(i)s}$
*b(ea)te v(ir)g(inis) dies ok w**:** til mer(e) visso itnesbyrdh tha trykkiom wi for^{de} war*
Incygle her nædhan for(e) then(n)e wtskript Sc(ri)ptu(m) ørsten an(n)o d(omi)n(i) m^{o} cd^{o} xxx^{o}
fe(ri)a t(er)tia pri(m)a p(os)t? d(o)m(ini)cat(is) oculi(s)

Translation:

All men who hear or see this letter shall know that we, Nils (vicar in Örby), Esbjörn (vicar in Berghem), Mårten Svan (District Chief in Mark), and Jesse Larsson (squire in Kinna) with this, our open letter, state that we have seen and read a letter with unbroken seals and fully readable text with the following wording:

"I, Bengt Turesson, squire, in God's grace, greet all who hear or see this letter, now and in the future, that they shall know that I, with this, my open letter, admit owing the honest and honorable man Sir Nils Svarte Skåning, Knight and Captain at Axevalla Castle, 3 mark in Swedish currency that was current on the first day of King Albrecht's reign, when 6 Swedish mark were worth 1 mark silver, which I received when I was poor and worked for the best of the state as any honest man, under the harsh command of Sir Abraham (God forgive him his sins), whom I had to serve. I also owe Sir Nils 1 gray stallion worth 20 mark silver, which is equal to 1 ox worth 3 mark, plus 1 cow worth 12 "öre," plus 1 piece of finest read cloth, plus 400 squirrel furs, plus 200 martens' skins. I admit owing Sir Nils the above-mentioned sum of money and the goods mentioned. I, or my heirs, owe this to Sir Nils Svarte Skåning, or his heirs. To verify this document I ask the honest men and Squires Sigge Larsson and Magnus Joarsson, and Herr Jonas in Fröjered, to place their seals together with my own. This letter is written at Öresten in the Year of Our Lord 1395, and on the evening before the Ascension Day of Virgin Mary (August 14th)."

To assure the true content of this copy, we place our seals below. This copy is written at Öresten in the Year of Our Lord 1430, and on the first Tuesday after Lent Sunday (March 21st).

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

For whatever reason, Bengt never paid off his debt to Nils Jönsson. In 1458, Nils's grandson Åke Jönsson (Svarte Skåning) collected this debt from Bengt's daughter Arfrid. On August 16, 1458, Bishop Bengt Gustafsson of Skara Diocese, Erik Niperz, and Magnus Bengtsson wrote a letter stating that they had received a letter from King Kristan, which gave them the authorization to settle a dispute between Åke and Arfrid. According to this letter, Harald, the priest in Österplana Parish, Västergötland, had kept a letter about the debt that Bengt Turesson owed Nils Jönsson upon the request of Nils's son Jöns Nilsson (Svarte Skåning). Harald showed this letter to Arfrid in good faith, but she tore it apart. After this happened, Harald charged Afrid with destroying this letter and brought a copy of the letter to court, which was sealed by squires Olof Ryting, Ragvald Andersson, and Torbjörn Magnusson. Arfrid eventually confessed to destroying this letter. It was ultimately decided that Åke Jönsson had the authorization to take some of Arfrid's land in Västergötland and Halland, whose value was the equivalent of the amount that Bengt Turesson had owed Nils Jönsson. Åke had six weeks to claim this land after the decision was made.[144] Since Bengt ended up being fairly wealthy and owning numerous farms in Västergötland and Halland, it's unknown why he never paid Nils back.



Letter that mentions Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad)'s debt to
Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning) – August 16th, 1458
Seals (All missing): 1. Bishop Bengt Gustafsson of Skara 2. Erik Nipertz 3. Magnus Bengtsson

[144] SDHK No. 27291 - August 16, 1458

Transcription:

Vy benkt mz gudz nade Biscop i skara Erik nipertz magnus benktsson ridder ok lagmän ghörom vittherligt mz theze vart nerwande opne breff ath Arom effter gudz byrdh mcccclviij odinsdaghen nest effter vore frw dagh Assumptio i skara var vy til skikkadhe aff vor Nadighe herr koningh cristiern mz hans nadh fulmektighe makt-breff at aatskillia velboren man herr swartä Ake jönsson riddare ok herr harald kyrkiopräst i österpladh i kindhähäret ok hustru Arfridh torsten Jenssons effterlewa mz rettho om nakot kosterllighe breff som förnämnde herr Ake kerdhe ath förnämnde herr haraldh til gymä haffdhe Aff hans fadher herr swarthä Jönis gudh hans siel nade Som ludernidh vare pa hustru Arfrid ok hennes mz Arffua om en Summä peninge som herr Akes fadher fadher herr Nils swarthe skaningh haffdhe länt hennes fadher benkt thuresson som var iij mark swenska swa godh mynth ath sex mark swenska giör dha Ena lödöghe mark fem tynnor mardskin x tynnor [gra]skin eth stykke röt ipertz en hingxt swa god som xx lodaghe mark huilkin breff herr haraldh henne loth se i godhe tro ok hon söndher slet ok reff mz veldhe ok haffdhe förnämnde herr harald förut varit til retto mz henne i koningh karls tiidh tho reff[sten] stoth i skara Tho vardh hon undher fellogh för samä gärningh ok til dömpt ath utgiffua förnämnde herr haraldh the samma förnämnde peninghe samma skin klade ok hest huilket han beuisthe för oss mz en vtscriffi be[s]egelt Aff dombreffuet stoth ok Capling til thr sama stadh Ath swa var dompt som förnämnt star i reffxsten ok tesgeligis herr Tordh bondhe philippusson ridder Ul[o]ff rytingh ragwaldh Andersson torbiörn maghnusson vepnare ok förnämnde hustru Arfridh stot tho til swars ok kunno thz eyh Aff väria eller mothe siggia vth[an] stot til ath hon thenna syndher reffuet hadde ok Antwardhe herr haraldh tho st[ra]x pa [re]ffxten herr Ake sith dombreff ok giordhe honom my[n]doghen ok mektoghen för retthen then förnämnde peninghe sama [op] at bäre Aff hustru Arfridh Innen then tiidh som hans dombreff ludhe effter thy thz var honom ok hans sytzskone Arörandhe Thy d[ö]md vy eij [till] hustru Arfridh the förnämnde peninghe sama At utgiffua herr ake ok hans sytskone Innen neste sex vikor her effter vidh sine xl mark för konnungs dom i Alle malhe som thz förnämnda dombreffuet [u]t ludhe Alre thz swa Ath hon the förnämnde peninge summa klädhe skin ok hest ekke vtgaffuo Inne tesse neste sex vikor tho dömd vy herr Ake ok hans mz Arffua Til hennes gotz thz helstz liggher i vestergötlanth eller hallandh swa lenghethe fult haffue opbuidit för there sama Til mere visso ok vitnisbyrdh henghe vy vore secreth ok Incigl nedhom för thez breff screuit I skare aar ok dagh som förut star

Translation:

We, Bengt with the grace of God (Bishop in Skara), Erik Niperz, and Magnus Bengtsson (both knights and "lagmännen") announce with this, our open letter, in the year 1458 after God's birth, on the Wednesday after the Assumption of Mary in Skara (August 16th), we were sent by our graceful King Kristian with an authorization letter to judge between the knight "Svarte" Åke Jönsson (Svarte Skåning), the priest Harald in Österplana Parish in Västergötland, and wife Arfrid, the widow of Torsten Jönsson. The case was about a valuable letter that the priest Harald had kept in his possession on the request of Åke's father, the knight "Svarte" Jöns (Nilsson Svarte Skåning), now dead. The letter concerned wife Arfrid and her heirs and was about a sum of money that Sir Åke's father's father, the knight Nils (Jönsson Svarte Skåning) had lent her father Bengt Turesson. The sum was 3 Swedish mark, so good coin that 6 mark equals 1 sterling mark, 5 barrels of marten-skin, 10 barrels of squirrel-skin, 1 piece of red Ypern-cloth, 1 stallion as good as 20 sterling mark, which letter Harald let her in Good faith see, but instead she tore the letter apart. Harald had been to court about this during King Karl's time when an inquisition was held in Skara. There she was convicted for the same act and gave Harald the same money, same skin, cloth, and horse because he could prove to the court with a copy of the judge's letter, sealed by the chaplain in Skara, together with the knight Tord Bond Filipsson, the squires Olof Ryting, Ragvald Andersson, and Torbjörn Magnusson. Wife Arfrid could not fend off or contradict this, but had to admit that she had torn the letter apart. The court gave Sir Åke authorization within six weeks to take from wife Arfrid's possessions in Västergötland and Halland equal to the money she owed him as well as the other things mentioned. We, the court members, seal this letter on the above-mentioned date.

The Significance of SDHK No. 27291

The letter SDHK No. 27291 from August 16, 1458 is crucial in showing that Bengt Turesson was an ancestor of Sven Hög. This letter states that Bengt was the father of Arfrid Bengtsdotter. In SDHK No. 26415 – January 4, 1454, Arfrid was represented in court by Knut Arvidsson (a 9th great-grandfather of Sven Hög). Since the men who represented women in court in Sweden during the Middle Ages were usually related to them, Knut must have been related to Arfrid. A record from 1439 shows that Knut's wife Kerstin had the surname "Bengtsdotter," the same surname as Arfrid. Thus, Kerstin and Arfrid must have been sisters and Kerstin's father was also Bengt Turesson.

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Sometime in the 1390s or 1400s, Bengt Turesson was married to Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta).[145] Märta's father was Gunnar Gylta[146] and her mother was Märta Olofsdotter.[147] Märta had at least one brother named Bengt and at least two sisters named Gyrid and Ingeborg. Märta probably grew up at the farm Påtorp in Fristad Parish, Västergötland.[148] Since Märta's father Gunnar came from nobility, Märta came from a privileged background.



Påtorp, Fristad Parish, Västergötland
Where Märta Gunnarsdotter may have grown up

Transcription and Translation of an Excerpt of Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s Letter to Per Gylta that Mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter

Transcription:

Thenna Gunnar Gylta') hade 2 systrar, then ene heth Ädla') och hon kom till Danmark och fick een af the Krabber och hon war hustru Ädlas moder moder på Apslo [D: Oplo]. Then andra war Anders Päderssons moder moder på Hof, som war hustru [Cecilias] fader…
Thenne förnembda Kerstin blef gift till Danmark och kom i den Vgorp slächt.
Denne förnembda Märtha hon war Herr Gustafs Olssons faders fader moder moder.

Translation:

This Gunnar Gylta had 2 sisters, one called Edla and she got married in Denmark to one of the Krabbe family and she was the maternal grandmother of Lady Edla at Apslo. The second was maternal grandmother of Ander Pedersson of Hof, who was the wife [Cecilia's] father…

The aforementioned Kerstin was married in Denmark into the Ugorp family.

The aforementioned Märtha was Sir Gustaf Olsson's father's father's mother's mother.

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[145] Bengt Turesson is listed as Arfrid Bengtsdotter's father in SDHK No. 27291 - August 16, 1458. SDHK No. 24150 - June 11, 1442 shows that Arfrid was the daughter of Bengt Gylta's sister. *Biskop Hans Brasks släktbok* shows that the mother of Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Bengt Turesson's daughter) was named Märta. Thus, since Märta was the mother of Bengt's children, she must have been his wife.

[146] Märta is listed as the daughter of Gunnar Gylta in *Biskop Hans Brasks släktbok* and in Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s letter to Bengt Gylta.

[147] Märta is listed as Gunnar Gylta's wife in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*, Kungila biblioteket. SDHK No. 19533 – September 29, 1420 shows that Gunnar Gylta had a sister-in-law named Bengta Olofsdotter. Since she was Märta's sister, Märta's surname must have also been Olofsdotter.

[148] Since Märta's father Gunnar Gylta is listed as living at Påtorp in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*, Kungila biblioteket, it's likely that she grew up there.

Analyzing the Sources of Information on Märta Gunnarsdotter

Märta Gunnarsdotter is mentioned in one primary source and three secondary sources. Two of the three secondary sources contain erroneous information. However, if one studies all these records in relation to other verifiable records, then it can be confirmed that Märta was Bengt Turesson's wife and the mother of Kerstin Bengtsdotter.

The only primary source that mentions Märta, SDHK No. 20405 - 1425, is a "byteslängd," or division of estates letter, which was written in 1425. In this letter, Märta's father Gunnar Gylta writes instructions about how the land his wife Märta Olofsdotter owned should be divided among their children. He states that Märta should receive an estate in Varnum worth 10 pounds, the farm Toltorp for six pounds, and the farm Vilstorp for 8 pounds.

The three secondary sources which mention Märta Gunnarsdotter are genealogies of noble Swedish families that were written during the 16th century. Although *Biskop Hans Brasks slätbok* contains some accurate information about Märta, it also contains some false information. For example, it states that Gunnar Gylta had a daughter named Karin, who was the mother of Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över Stjärna). This is false, as Knut Arvidsson's mother was Ingerd Petersdotter (Prika). However, this account correctly shows that Knut Arvidsson had a son named Arvid Knutsson, and that Arvid's children were named Kerstin, Ingrid, Olof, Bengt, and Gustaf. *Biskop Hans Brasks slätbok* also correctly states that Märta (spelled as "Merta") had a daughter named Kerstin (spelled as "Kirstin,") who had a son named Arvid Knutsson.

Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt also contains inaccurate information, stating "The same Gunner Gylta had another daughter named wife Kirstin, and she still had a husband named Knut Arvidsson, and they resided at Torpa." In this account, the author incorrectly assumes that Kerstin Bengtsdotter was the daughter of Gunnar Gylta, when in reality, she was his granddaughter.

Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s letter to Bengt Gylta presents the only accurate genealogical account of Märta Gunnarsdotter. It states, "The aforementioned Märta was Gustaf Olofsson's father's father's mother's mother." Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock)'s father was Olof Arvidsson (Stenbock), Olof's father was Arvid Knutsson (Sparre över Stjärna), Arvid's mother was Kerstin Bengtsdotter (Sparre över Blad), and Kerstin's mother was Märta Gunnarsdotter.

Since SDHK No. 24150 shows that Kerstin Bengtsdotter's maternal grandfather was Gunnar Gylta (Bengt Gylta is listed as Kerstin's maternal uncle in this letter and SDHK No. 24255 shows that Bengt's father was Gunnar Gylta), and SDHK No. 20405 shows that one of Gunnar's daughters was named Märta, the information from Ingegärd Persdotter's (Gylta) letter to Bengt Gylta must be accurate.

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m



Arvidstorp, Fagered Parish – A farm that Bengt Turesson purchased and may have lived it

After they were married, it's most likely that Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnarsdotter lived somewhere in the province of Halland. On June 18, 1403, Peter Djäken, the bailiff of Varberg District, wrote a letter stating that Bengt Turesson had purchased the farm Arvidstorp in Fagered Parish from a man named Jösse.[149] It's mostly likely that this was Jösse Påvelsson. Although several people believe that Bengt and his family lived at Arvidstorp, there is no concrete evidence to prove this.



Letter that mentions Bengt Turesson – June 18th, 1403
Seals (All missing): 1. Peter Djäken 2. Johannes Asceri 3. Esping Benedicti

[149] SDHK No. 16113 - June 18, 1403

Transcription:

Alla the mæn thetta breff høra æller see helsar iæk path(e)r
diækn, foghot vppa wardb(er)g, ewinnelica m(eth) gudh th(et)
skal alla mæn vitarlikt wara swa wel the th(e)r æpt(er) kun(n)o kom(m)a
som the nw æro at iek kæn(n)es m(eth) th(et)ta mit nærwarandes
opna breff th(et) iæk hos war ok vppa hørdhe at bænkt thw-
-ress(on) køpte en bolstadh aff iyssa but i hans liwandes liif ardh
-thorp, liggiandes i faghrarydh sokn for xii skillinggrot
m(et) alt th(et) th(e)n bolstadh tel hører in(n)an gardz ok wta(n) i wato ok
i thørro nær ok fiærran inkte vndan taket ok afhende siik
ok sina arwa th(e)n forda bolstadh i arathorp ok skøte ok he(m)ladhe
th(e)n ford(e) bænkt thwress(on) ok hans arwa then forda bolstadh i
ardhthorp m(et) allo tellagha tel æwærdheliko æyghn. In
cui(us) rei testimonium sigillu(m) meu(m) vna c(um) sigillis viror(um) disc(re)tor(um)
vi(delicet) ioh(ann)is asceri (et) espingi benedicti p(rese)ntib(us) su(n)t appensa sc(ri)ptum
wardb(er)g an(n)o d(omi)ni m°cd tercio f(er)ia s(ecunda) i(n)fra octaua(m) corporis
(Christi).

Translation:

[To]all men who hear or see this letter, I, Peter Djäken, Bailiff at Varberg, salute eternally with God. All men, future as well as now living, should know that I, with this, my present open letter, attest that Bengt Turesson purchased an estate from Jösse. But, when he was still alive, [it was]called Arvidstorp, situated in Fagered Parish, for 12 skilling grot with all included, within the site and out, in wet and dry, close and far away, with no exceptions, and neither Jösse But nor his heirs can protest against this agreement. The estate Arvidstorp will belong to Bengt Turesson and his heirs forever. In witness of this testimony, I have affixed my seal, together with the seals of the men Johannes Assersen and Esping Bengtsson, to this document. Written at Varberg on Monday before the eighth day after the Celebration of Corpus Christi (June 18th), in the Year of Our Lord 1403.*

* Skilling grot: a currency where 1 "skilling" could be divided into 12 "grot". The unit "grot" was used in the northern parts of today's Germany.

On November 1, 1403, Bengt placed his seal on a letter which verified that Jösse Påvelsson and Ingegärd Arvidsdotter had sold the farms Kråkarp, Lundby, a farm in Lindberg church village, and two farms in Trönninge (all in Valinge Parish) to Svarte Jöns Nilsson, the son of Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning). This letter was written at a place called Nintona. Since this is the only listing of Nintona, it's unknown where it was located. The seals of Bengt's father-in-law Gunnar Gylta and Gunnar's brother Jösse were also included on this letter.[150] At that time this letter was written, Svarte Jöns was still a squire; he wasn't knighted until sometime between 1410 - 1413. This means that either the letter was dated ten years too early, or Jösse Påvelsson and Ingegerd Arvidsdotter tried to flatter Svarte Jöns.

[150] SDHK No. 16187 – November 1, 1403

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Transcription and Translation of a Letter from November 1st, 1403 that Mentions Bengt Turesson

Transcription:

Alle the mæn thetta bref see æller høre helsom wij Jesse Paualsson ok Ingegærdh Aruidzdotter af Thryningenæs kærligha medh Gudh. Kennomps wij medh thetta næruarandis opno brefue, oss medh godhom willie ok beranno modhe salt ok vplatit hawom welbornom man war ælskeligom frændha, hera Swarte Jenis riddar, thenna godz, som ær Krakatorp ok en gardh i Lundhby i Hwalinga soken, en gardh i Lindhbergh i kyrkiobynom ok tua gardha i Thryninghe, i samu soken ligiandhe, medh hus ok jordh, agær ok ængh, skoghom ok fiskewatnom, tomptom ok tomptastadhom, innan gardz ok vtan, i wato ok thøro, ængo wndhan taghno, æ hwat thet helst til før:da godz af aldher til lighat hawer ok æn til lighia kan, før hundradha løduga mark, swa goot mint som sex swenska mark gøra ena lødhugha mark, huilka pæninga wij religha vpburit hauom epter warom wilia at oss wæl atnøgher. Ty afhændom wij oss ok wara arfua før:da jordh ok til eghnom før:da hera Swarte Jenisse ok hans arfuom til æwærlige egho. Wore ok swa, som Gudh forbiude, at nakot af thenna før:da godz før:da hera Swarte Jenisse eller hans arfuom medh nakon ræt afginge, ta til bindhom wij oss æller wara arfua honom swa godh godz ok belæ[g]lighit annor stadz widher leggia, widh wara godha troo ok sanind, innan næsta sex wikur. Til thesins brefs mere wisso ok stadhfestilse, ta bedoms wij ærliga ok wælborna mana insigle, som ær hera Pedars, aboot i As kløster, ok Bænkt Turessons, Gunars Gølta, Jesse Gølta, Pedhar Stigsson, Turgils Martensson, medh warom egnom insiglom hængiande før thetta bref. Scriptum Nintona (?), anno Domini mcd tertio, ipso die omnium sanctorum.

Translation:

[To] all the men who see or hear this letter, we, Jösse Påvelsson and Ingegerd Arvidsdotter at Trönningenäs, salute in the love of God. By this present and open letter, we declare that we, with good will have deliberately sold the estate described below to the honorable man and our beloved kin, the Knight Sir Svarte Jöns: one farm in Kråkarp and one in Lundby in Valinge Parish; one farm in the Lindberg Church village, and two farms in Trönninge in the same parish; with houses and grounds, fields and meadows, forests and fishing waters, ground and building sites, near village and far away, in wet and dry, nothing excluded, and all included for one hundred silver mark, with the exchange rate of six Swedish mark to one silver mark, which amount we are pleased to have received. Thus, we dispose the right of the estate for ourselves and our heirs to Sir Svarte Jöns and his heirs to eternal possession. If anything, which God forbid, should happen to the estate within the next six weeks, we promise to compensate Sir Svarte Jöns or his heirs. We ask the following honest and honorable to verify this letter with their seals together with our own: Herr Peder, abbot at Ås Monastery; Bengt Turesson; Gunnar Gylta, Jösse Gylta; Peder Stigsson; and Torgils Mårtensson. Written in Nintona, in the Year of Our Lord 1403 on All Saints Day (November 1st).

Seals: 1. Jösse Påvelsson 2. Ingegerd Arvidsdotter 3. Peder Tuvesson 4. Bengt Turesson

On May 21, 1410, Jösse Påvelsson's son Påvel Jensson wrote a letter which acknowledged that he had acquired the farms Edenberga in Ränneslöv Parish and Trälshult in Knäred Parish from Bengt Turesson. Jönsson had also received several farms from Bengt's brother-in-law Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning).[151]

Transcription and Translation of an Excerpt of a Letter from May 21st, 1410 that Mentions Bengt Turesson

Transcription:

Thät skall allom mannom witterlikth wara, som thetta breff høra eller see, swå wäll them thär komma skulo, som them thär nu äru, thät iak Pawel Jønson i Wäristörp, vepnare, kännis thät Vppenbarlika med thesso mino närwarandes opno breffwe mik med beradno mode, swå och mäd mine älskelika hustrus Ingeborga samtyckio, ja och goda willia, allaledes vplatit haffua ärlikom och wälbornom manne herr Niclis Swarte Skonung, riddara, allan min rättigheet oc ägodeel, både thet iak rättelika ärfft haffuer med mina hustru, swå ok thät iak rättelika køpt haffuer aff Christina Odda, som hon och rätteliga ärfft hade effter Christinæ Kåra, swåsom är i thessa godz, som här äpter nämpnas: først som är i Kätilstorp oc Kätilstorpa fång i Weunnde häradh i Skåne, en gård i Ginnetwna en gård i Spannorp oc en gård i Stamnarydh i Himbla häradh i Norre Halland i Lunda biskopzdøme liggiande, før hwilket førenämpda godz oc ägodela KNenn iak mik af føride herra Niklis Swarte Skonung alt fult haffwa vpburit, swå att mik allieren wäll attn. a farm in Ylffwawad in Wagxtorpa parish, Biärgagårdin in sammo parish, Staffanstorp in Randirsleff parish, and all his and Bänkt Twreson's rights and property in two farms in Rätnaberga in the lead: da Randirsleff parish and a farm in Trälydhokh här in Sudra Hallandh in before: da Lunda biskopzdøme liggiande.

Translation:

It shall be known to all, who hear or see this letter, both now and in the future, that I, Påvel Jensen at Värestorp, squire, hereby acknowledge with this, my open letter, that I, with well-considered mind, with my beloved wife Ingeborg's consent and good will, have sold the estate mentioned below, with all my rights and possessions, both what I have rightfully inherited with my wife, and what I have rightfully purchased from Kristine Odda, and which she in her turn had rightfully inherited from Kristine Kåre, to the honest and honorable man, Sir Nils Svarte Skåning, knight. First there are Källstorp and part in Källstorp, a common pasture in Vemmenhög District in Skåne; one farm in Grimeton; one farm in Spannarp; and one farm in Stamnared in Himle District in northern Halland in Lund Diocese, for which I acknowledge to have received the full compensation from the aforementioned Sir Nils Svarte Skåning, so that I am completely satisfied. Firstly one farm, Yllevad in Våxtorp Parish, and Berggården in the same parish; Staffanstorp in Ränneslöv Parish; and all his and Bengt Turesson's rights and property holdings in two farms in Edenberga in the aforementioned Ränneslöv Parish; and one farm in Trälshult in Knäred Parish in Hök District in southern Halland in the aforementioned Lund Diocese.

Seals: 1. Påvel Jönsson 2. Gunnar Gylta 3. Jösse Gylta 4. Mikael Skofisk

[151] SDHK No. 17491 - May 21,1410

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Bengt and Märta had at least two daughters, Arfrid and Kerstin[152], and may have also had a daughter named Gunhild[153]. Bengt probably owned numerous farms throughout Halland and Västergötland. Since they may have lived at the farm Arvidstorp in Fagered Parish, it's possible that they attended Fagered Church.

Did Bengt and Märta Have a Daughter Named Gunhild?

In the article "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud. En 1500-talsgenealogi skärskådad" by Stig Östenson that appeared in the 1970 issue of *Personhistorisk tidskrift*, Östenson writes about the possibility that Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnarsdotter had a daughter named Gunhild, who is known as "Gunhild in Kärra." Kärra is located in Halland, Sweden. Gunhild was the wife of Bengt Andersson (Sparre över Tre Kulor), the District Chief of Ale District, who was mentioned in records from 1485 to 1496. She was also the grandmother of Torbjörn Arvidsson's wife Gunhild Bengtsdotter, who was living in 1524 and was the mother of Anders Krabbe (whose son was Bengt Krabbe). Östenson doesn't list any primary sources as evidence, and states that there is no concrete evidence to show that Gunhild was Bengt and Märta's daughter.

Bengt Turesson's Coat of Arms

Bengt Turesson's coat of arms is called "sparre över blad," which translates to "chevron over leaf." It consists of an upward pointing chevron that is above a leaf, which is the shape of an upside-down heart. Bengt's coat of arms is sometimes called sparre över sjöblad," or "chevron over sea leaf."



Bengt Turesson's seal with his coat of arms

On September 29, 1420, Bengt placed his seal on a letter that Lars Pik, a brother-in-law of Märta Gunnardotter's mother Märta Olofsdotter, wrote that discussed the division of estates of the land that Märta Olofsdotter's parents Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter owned.[154]

[152] Afrid is listed as Bengt's daughter in SDHK No. 27291 - August 16, 1458. In SDHK No. 26415 – January 4, 1454, Knut Arvidsson represented Arfrid at court. SDHK No. 27439 - July 9, 1459 states that Knut's wife was named Kerstin. Since women were represented by male relatives at court and Knut and Arfrid weren't siblings, Arfrid must have been Kerstin's sister. For more information on Kerstin Bengtsdotter, see page 1534.

[153] Östenson, Stig. "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud. En 1500-talsgenealogi skärskådad." *Personhistorisk tidskrift* 1970.

[154] SDHK No. 19553 - September 29, 1420



Letter that mentions Bengt Turesson – September 29th, 1420
Seals: 1. Lasse Pik 2. Gunnar Gylta 3. Gunne Siggesson 4. Bengt Turesson 5. (missing) Martin Svan

Transcription:

Allæ mæn th(et)tæ breff høræ all(e)r see Helsær Jæk Lasse piik wæpnæræ ewerdhelighæ m(et) waar H(err)æ, Oc kennis jæc th(et) medh th(et)tæ mit opnæ breff, at jæc eet laghlicht skiftæ gyort hawer m(et) Gvnnær Gyltæ vm th(et) yordhægotz, som miin hwsfrw beynktæ olafs dott(er) oc hans børn ærwdhæ æft(er) hwsfrw katrina karlβ dott(er), swa at i minæ hwsfrw deel kom een gardh j Skelderidh j askælandæ sokn, een quern j ørnu(n)ge, een alægardh for sewæ syø, een gardh j Romwndæfal, twa gardhæ j grwdhæ, een gardh j Medheltorp, medh allæ thæssæ gardhes tillaghæ, olden skow oc fiiskæwatn, waat oc thywrt, hwat th(et) helzt waræ kan, j gæsenæ liggendæ, medh swæ skæl, at hwat som mic afgaar, th(et) scal waræ begges waaræ schadhæ. Jn cuius Rei testi(m)oni(um) sigilla n(ost)ra vna cu(m) sigil(is) nobiliu(m) viroru(m) Gvnnonis Siggæsβ, Be(n)ed(ic)ti thwrsβ et martini Swan, armigeror(um), pre(senti)b(u)s su(n)t appensa. Dat(um) sub anno d(omi)ni mill(es)imo quadrin(gentes)imo vicesimo, jpso die b(ea)ti michael(is) Archangeli.

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter, I, Lasse Pik, squire, eternally with our Lord, salute. I declare with this, my open letter, that I legally have made a division of estates with Gunnar Gylta about the property which my wife, Bengta Olofsdotter, and his [Gunnar's]children inherited after Lady Katarina Karlsdotter, so that my wife received a farm in Sällerhög in Asklanda Parish, a mill in Örnunga, an eel fishing construction (eel yard) in Sävesjö (Lake Säve), a farm in Rommunefall, two farms in Grude, one farm in Melltorp, together with forests and fishing waters, wet and dry, and whatever it may be, situated in Gäsene. What I leave, shall damage us both. We ask the following honest and honorable men to verify this letter with their seals together with our own: Gunnar Siggesson, Bengt Turesson and Martin Svan. Given in the Year of Our Lord 1420, on the Day of St. Michael the Archangel (Michaelmas) (September 29th).

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

The Fate of Arfrid Bengtsdotter

Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnardotter's daughter Arfrid was married to a nobleman named Torsten Jonsson sometime in the 1430s. Sometime before 1442, Torsten died and Arfrid was accused of murdering him by Kettil Jonsson, Torsten's brother. It's unknown how Torsten died. On June 11, 1442, Bishop Nils of Linköping Diocese acquitted Arfrid of this accusation.[155]



Letter that mentions Afrid Bengtsdotter – June 11th, 1442
Seals: 1. Bishop Nils Köning 2. Bishop Lars Michaelis 3. Bengt Stensson
4. Otto Ulfsson 5. Ragvald Puke

[155] SDHK No. 24150 - June 11, 1442

Transcription:

Wi Niclis mz gudz nadh biscop i linköpinge laurinz mz sama nadh biscop i wexio benct stensson Riddare oc laghman i närike Otte vlfsson aff wapn Rikes raadh Benct gylta laghman i westergötland oc Ragwald puke laghman i östergötland tilskipadhe aff waarom nadhogha herra konung Cristoffer til at höra ranzaka oc mz rätta aatskilia the saker oc ärende som här i lödhosa a fördhom äru Göre allom witerlighit som thzta breff höra äller see at aarom äpter gudz byrdh mcdxlsecundo oppa sante barnabe apostli dagh kom for oss wälbyrdhoger man kätil ioansson oc klaghadhe til benct gylto laghman i westergötland oppa hans systor dotters wegna for sin dödha brodher som honom war affslaghin oc haardhelica aff daghum takin til huilkit fornämnda bänct swaradhe at hans systordotter war for the sak orsculda oc obrutlikin oc til hans dödh haffdhe hon e[n]kte waaldet Oc ther fore war hon laglica wardh oc mz rätto the sak fra[n]gangen Oc thz bowiste han ther strax for rättin mz beskedhna manna breff oc incigle huilkit wi oc ran[es]akadhum [oc] wäll bethänkte for rätto aff sagdhum at äpter thz hon laglica oc skälica war[d]här for thässa sak tha bliffue ward[er] oc dömom wi hona saklösa i thzta ärende mz thesso breffue fframdelis om the morghongaaffuor som fornämnde kätil iönsson hänne tilläggir at hon skulde forbrutit haffua thz haffwen wi oc offuir wäghit oc mz rätto i swa mato aff s[?t] at thässin sak komber först til andelikin rät oc ranzakan swa at sakin scal wtle[e]tas oc offuer wäghas for [sa]m biscops nämpd som hona sculu ransakä oc wäria äller fälla fälla the hon[a] for hoor tha bliffue fääld oc haffuer forgiort morghongaafuor sina wäria the oc hona tha bliffue orsaka for tholika sak Oc tha forbyudhom wi allom hänne här fore nakat hinder göra qwal äller omak i thzta ärende widher konungslica hämpd oppa the maktz wägna oss aff waar nadhogha herra konung Cristoffer mädhgiffwin är i thzta sin oc widh the sak oc plict for dombrut for lagbokin wtuisa. Datum ludosie Anno die et loco [quibz] sup[erior] N[obilis] sub sigillis apposita [petentibus] [ipenden].

Translation:

We, Nils with the grace of God (Bishop in Linköping), Lars with the same grace (Bishop in Växjö), the knight and lagman in Närke Bengt Stensson, the squire Otto Ulfsson, the lagman in Västergötland and member of the King's council Bengt Gylta, and the lagman in Östergötland Ragvald Puke, were appointed by King Kristofer to investigate the following matter in Lödöse, in the year 1442 at Saint Barnabas Day (June 11th). This day came forth well-born man Kättil Jonsson and accused the lagman Bengt Gylta about his sister's daughter (Arfrid Bengtsdotter). Kättil claimed that she had killed her husband Torsten Jonsson, Kättil's brother. Bengt answered that she was not guilty of that, which he proved with a (investigation) letter with seals that showed that she was innocent. The court took this letter into consideration and concluded that she still was innocent. Kättil also claimed that she was a whore and therfore should lose the morning gifts that she had received from Torsten. This matter should also (later) be decided in the same court. Meanwhile, she is forbidden to do anything that will complicate matters around this, otherwise she will be punished with the power that King Kristofer possesses, according to the lawbook.

Arfrid Bengtsdotter is Accused of Murdering Torsten Johansson

Throughout 1441 and 1442, the province of Halland was filled with rumors that nobleman Torsten Jonsson had been murdered by his wife Arfrid Bengtsdotter. Arfrid appeared less than enthused to have married Torsten in 1440; although he was a wealthy landowner, he was a cold-hearted, controlling, and cruel man. One winter morning in 1441, Arfrid found that Torsten had passed away in his sleep. Upon hearing the news of this, Torsten's brother Kettil (whose character was even more odious than Torsten's) accused Afrid of having murdered his brother, claiming that she must have poisoned him. Even though there was no evidence to support this, a large amount of the Swedish nobility believed Kettil, and Arfrid was largely shunned within her community. Over the course of the next year and a half, a legal case was compiled against Kettil and she was brought to trial. On June 11, 1442, Bishop Nils of Linköping Diocese acquitted Arfrid, as he found no concrete evidence which cemented Arfrid's guilt. Although Kettil was furious, Arfrid was never condemned for Torsten's death.

* A work of creative fiction by Jeffrey High and Thomas Heed Miskar

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Arfrid's legal problems didn't end after she was acquitted of murdering her husband. Sometime during the 1450s, Arfrid destroyed a letter that was kept by Harald, a priest in Österplana Parish, Västergötland, that recorded the debt that her father Bengt had owed Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning). On November 14, 1459, King Kristian I wrote a letter stating that Nils's paternal grandson Svarte Åke Jönsson had informed him of this transgression. Kristian authorized Erik Nipertz and Magnus Bengtsson to settle this conflict.[156] Arfrid ultimately confessed to destroying this letter and it was decided that Åke Jönsson had the authorization to take some of Arfrid's land in Västergötland and Halland, whose value was the equivalent of the amount that Bengt Turesson had owed Nils Jönsson (Svarte Skåning).[157]



Letter that mentions Afrid Bengtsdotter – November 14th, 1459
Seals: (missing) King Kristian I's royal seal

[156] SDHK No. 27492 - November 14, 1459
[157] SDHK No. 27291 - August 16, 1458

Transcription:

Wy Cristiern meth gutz nathe Danmarks Sweriges Norghis Wendes
oc gotes koning, Greue i oldenburgh oc delmenhorst, göre widerlicht alle at herr aghe
iensson Ridder wor elskelighe radh oc man hauwa ret her for oss oc kert at husfrw
arffridh thorsten ionssons effterleue hadhe forkommet oc sönderslidet noghre
breff for hanum [S??osom] hans father herr sworte Jens hadhe fongit een klerk
som hedh her hari[l]d til thrwer hand at gömme Som lude vpa een swm peninge
som dombreffuit huisedh her Eric ericsson oc doctor niels rytting haffdhe giwit
fornämnde herr Harild th[re] vpa clarlighen vdhuiser som thzte wort breff är wedher-
fest oc haffdhe w[i] framdelis tilskickedh oss elskelighe werdighe father biscop
Beynt i Schare [vii] her Eric nypertz, her maghwens beyntzsson wor elskelighe
radh oc män at the schulde skylie fornämnde her aghe, herr Arild oc husfrw Arffridh
at meth rette som the oc giort haue som there dombreff oc klarlighen vdhuiser
thr wort breff oc wedhrfest är. Th[a] stadhfeste oc fuldburdhe wi medh
thette same wort obne breff fornämnde theres doom wedh fuld macht at bliffwe i
alle made som fornämnde biscop beynt, herr Eric oc herr maghwens dömpt oc vdhgiuit
hawe forbywdhend alle ehwo the heltzt är eller wär kune oc serdelis
wor foghedhe oc embitzmen fornämnde herr Aghe oc hans bröthre herrar vdi hinder
eller vmaghe atgör i noghre mad? Vnder wor konigxlighe heffnd oc wredhe.
Datum in castello md haffnen crast[in]o beati briccij epi primo domini milli-
simoquadringente simo quin[qu]agesimonono nostro regali sub Secrete

Translation:

We, Kristian, with permission by the Lord, King of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Wenden and Gothen, and Count of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst, announce to all that the knight (Svarte) Åke Jönsson, our beloved advisor and man, has turned to us and said that wife Arfrid, the widow of Torsten Jonsson, has destroyed and torn apart some of Åke's letters that his father, the knight Svarte Jöns, had trusted into the hands of the priest Harald to keep and guard over. The content was about a sum of money. A judge's letter showed that the knight Erik Eriksson and doctor Nils Ryting had given to the priest Harald that clearly shows and that our letter is joined with it. The king had ordered our beloved advisors the Bishop Bengt in Skara, the knight Erik Nipertz, the knight Magnus Bengtsson that they should judge between Herr Åke, the priest Harald, and wife Arfrid and that they shall do so according to the judge's letter. So we confirmed the judgement in all parts. We also put all the royal power we own. Written in the castle in Haffn (Copenhagen)on the day after the Feast of Saint Briccius the Bishop (November 14th), in the Year of Our Lord 1459, under our royal secret seal.

Other Letters that Mention Arfrid Bengtsdotter

- **SDHK No. 24465 - February 9, 1444 at Tängene** – Bishop Sven in Skara certified the testimony of the committee of Viste District, in which lawyer Bengt Gylta, asked if anyone had heard anything negative about his niece Arfrid Bengtsdotter.
- **SDHK No. 29428 - May 30, 1472 -** "Arffridh" Bengtsdotter, bequeaths the farm "Hæra" in Råda Parish, Västergötland to Vadstena Monastery.

Arfrid died sometime after 1472.

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

The Final Years of Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnarsdotter (1420-1425)

On February 6, 1422, Bengt Turesson was present at Varberg District Court in the village of Näs and placed his seal on a letter which verified that Ingrid Arvidsdotter had sold the farms Kråketorp, two farms in Lundby, a farm in Grinnatuna, two farms in Bryninge, and farm in Limbergen (all in Valinge Parish) to Svarte Jöns Nilsson. This is the last known letter in which Bengt was listed.[158]

Transcription and Translation of an Excerpt of a Letter from February 6th, 1422 that Mentions Bengt Turesson

Transcription:

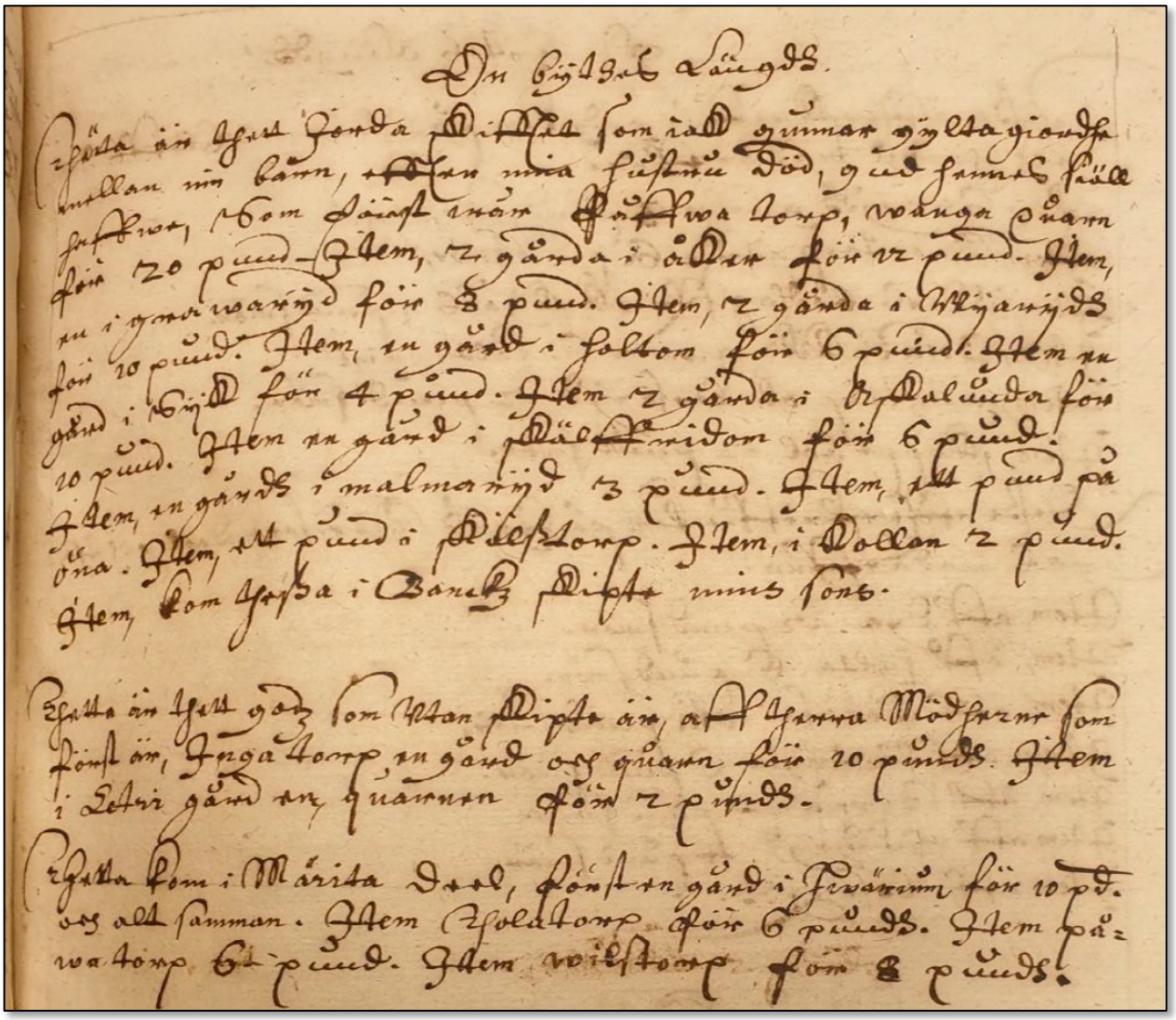
Thä uppå wardbergs Landzting, tå wore thär öffuer hederljka män
som är Herr Axel Pedheβon, höffuidzman på wardberg, Bor-
gar Tykeβon, Landzdomar i Norra Halland, Bänkt Tuasonn,
Gunnar gylta Väpnara Item kännes iak thät oc kungiör
om swå warda kunde som gudh för(bi)ude, att thänna förenämpda
godz kunde forenämpda Herr Swarta Jönis i några handa måtto
medh någon rätt afgå, tå tilbiuder iak mik och mine arfua
förda Herr Swarta Jönis oc hans arffwa swa gott godz …
i städin I swå goda läge, innan sex wijk orther näst
epter, om godzet ware honom afgångit som gud förbiude, alla then-
na för.da ord och articulos, skall iak Ingegerd Arvidz dotter oc bästa
mina arffua staduga och fasta att hålla, wid mina samued oc bästa
troo för utan all sial hielparäda oc arga list, som mik eller mina
arffua kunna till någor froma kom(m)a för.da Herra Swarta
Jönis eller hans arffua till nåkor i några handa måt-
to. Till mera wiβo och witniβbyrd och bättre för waring be-
deriak hederlikka manna insigle med mino egno, såsom är
Herra Pedherβ Tuvessons Abbotz i Åβ Kloster, Benkt Tuva-
sons Laβe pÿk, Michael St---ilk Swen Toresons, Herra
Anbiörn i Siöråβ. Scriptum Nä β, Anno Domini M. C.D.
XX.II. die Sanctæ _Dorotheæ _ Virginis.

Translation:

This agreement was presented at the Varberg District Court and in the presence of these honest men: Sir Axel Pedersen (Tott), Captain at Varberg Castle; Borgar Tykesson, District Chief in northern Halland; and the squires Bengt Turesson and Gunnar Gylta. Before these honest men I declared that the previous mentioned Sir Svarte Jöns and his heirs shall suffer no damage what so ever from this agreement. If I am not able to redeem the above-mentioned estate within six weeks, which God forbid, I, Ingegerd Arvidsdotter, and my heirs shall keep to this agreement and make sure that Sir Svarte Jöns or his descendants will have no harm. I ask the following honest men to verify this document and place their seals together with my own: Herr Peder Tuvesson (Abbott of Ås Monastery), Bengt Turesson, Lasse Pyk, Michael St---ijk, Sven Toresson, and Herr Anbjörn in Sjöråss. Written at Näs, in the Year of Our Lord 1422, on the Day of St. Dorothea the Virgin (February 6th).

[158] SDHK No. 19802 - February 6, 1422

Sometime between 1422 and 1425, Bengt Turesson died.[159] At this time, it's likely that Bengt and Märta's daughters were still young. It appears that Märta never remarried. Sometime around 1425, Märta's mother Märta Olofsdotter died. Märta received land in Varnum, Toltorp, and Vilstorp (now called Vistorp) from her mother's estate.[160]



Letter that mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) – 1425

[159] In SDHK No. 20405 – 1425, which is a division of the estates that Märta Olofsdotter (Märta Gunnarsdotter's mother) owned, Bengt Turesson is not mentioned. Instead, Märta Gunnarsdotter is directly listed. Since land passed down to the sons-in-law of the deceased if their daughters were married, Bengt must have died before this time, since part of Märta Olofsdotter's land went directly to Märta Gunnarsdotter.

[160] SDHK No. 20405 – 1425

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Transcription:

En bythes Längdh.
Thätta är thett Jorda skifftet som iak gunnar gylta giordhe mellan min bärn, effter min hustru död, gud hennes siäll haffwa, som först var Påffwa torp1, wanga quarn för 20 pund. Item, 2 gårda i åker för 12 pund. Item, en i gravaryd för 8 pund. Item, 2 gårda i wijnarydh för 10 pund. Item, en gård i holtom för 6 pund. Item en gård i Sijk för 4 pund. Item 2 gårda i Askalunda för 10 pund. Item, en gårdh i skälffridom2 för 6 pund. Item, en gårdh i malmaryd 3 pund. Item, ett pund på öna. Item, ett pund i skälßtorp. Item, i kollan 2 pund. Item, kom thessa i Bænctz skipte mins sons.

Detta är thett godz som wtan skipte är, aff therra Mödherne som först är, Ingatorp, en gård och quarn för 20 pundh. Item i Letri gård en, quarnen för 2 pundh

Thetta kom i Märita deel, först en gård i Hwärnum för 10 pd. och alt samman. Item Tholatorp för 6 pundh. Item på-watorp 6 pund. Item wilstorp för 8 pundh.

Translation:

A Division of Estates
This is a division of estates which I, Gunnar Gylta, made between my children, after my wife died, God take care of her soul. First there was Påtorp, including a mill, for 20 pounds. Next, 2 farms in Åker for 12 pounds. Next, one in Gravaryd for 8 pounds. Next, 2 farms in Unnaryd for 10 pounds. Next, one farm in Hult for 6 pounds. Next, a farm in Sylla for 4 pounds. Next, 2 farms in Askalunda for 20 pounds. Next, a farm in Skälvum for 6 pounds. Next, a farm in Malmaryd (for) 3 pounds. Next, a pound for Ön. Next, a pound in Skällstorp. Item, in Kålland 2 pounds.
These were my son Bengt's part.

This property from their mother shall not be divided: first Ingatorp, an estate and mill for 20 pounds. Next, in Letri? a farm and a mill for 2 pounds.

This is Märta's part: first an estate in Varnum for 10 pounds, all included. Next, Toltorp for 6 pounds. Next, Vilstorp for 8 pounds.
Next, Påtorp for 6 pounds. Next, Vilstorp för 8 pounds.

Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s Letter to Bengt Gylta

One of the genealogical secondary sources that mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter is a letter that Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta), a nun who served at the monastery in Vadstena, wrote her nephew Bengt Gylta sometime during the 16th century. Ingegärd was a paternal granddaughter of Bengt Gylta. Her parents were Peder Bengtsson (Gylta) of Påtorp and his wife Ingeborg Persdotter (Sparre). Ingegärd became a nun at Vadstena in 1517 and died in 1569. Bengt Gylta, the recipient of Ingegärd's letter, was the son of Bengt Pedersson Gylta and Birgitta Bengtsdotter (Lilja). Bengt's father Bengt Pedersson Gylta was a lawyer who was executed in the Stockholm Bloodbath in 1520. Bengt Gylta received knighthood in 1561, was a national councilor, and died in 1574.

Ingegärd's letter states that Gunnar Gylta had a son named Bengt and four daughters named Kerstin, Mærta, Ingeborg, and Brita. It states that Mærta was Gustaf Olofsson (Stenbock's) father's father's mother's mother, which shows that Mærta was a 10th great-grandmother of Sven Hög.

Although the original version of this letter has been lost, a transcript of it has been reproduced in a rather poor copy, which belongs to the Rålambska collection in the Royal Library (Folio 4). While this letter shouldn't be seen as a definitive genealogical source by itself, it is helpful if used in conjunction with other sources in showing Mærta Gunnarsdotter's connection to the High family. A transcript of this letter can be found in the 1907 issue of *Personhistorisk tidskrift* in the article "Vadstena - nunnan Ingegärd Persdotters (Gylta) bref till sin brorson unge Bengt Gylta med redogörelse för Gylta."

Biskop Hans Brasks Släktbok

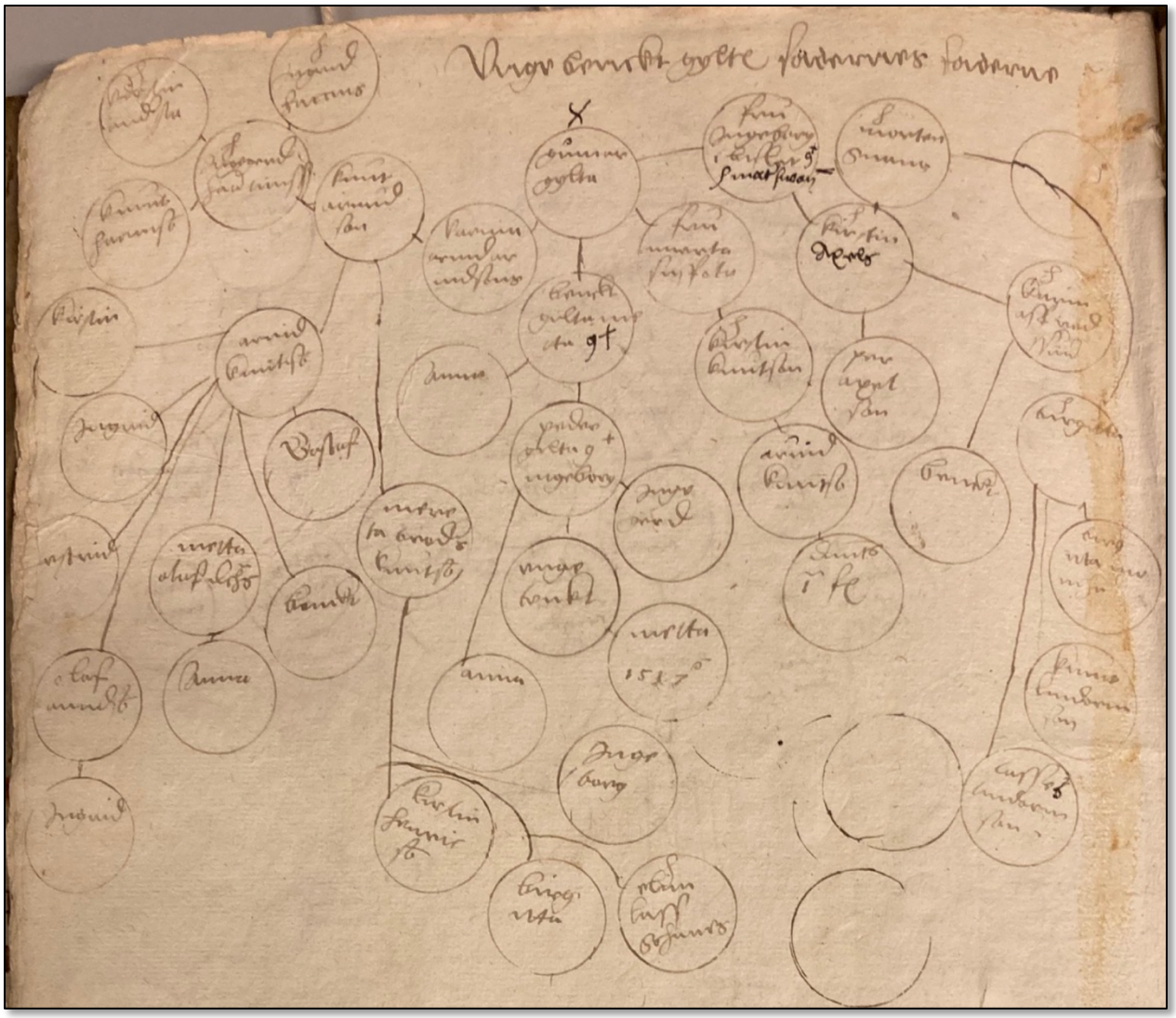
Another genealogical secondary source that mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter is *Biskop Hans Brasks släktbok* ("Bishop Hans Brask's Family Book"), which was written by Hans Brask (1464-1538) the Bishop of Linköping, Sweden from 1513 to 1527. Brask probably wrote this book during the 1500s and 1510s. This book lists the genealogies of several Swedish noble families, prominent families from Linköping Diocese, and Hans Brasks's own family. It is one of the best preserved Swedish genealogical books from this period. While the original book has been lost, a transcript that was made for Per Brahe during the early 16th century still exists. Although much of the genealogical information can be confirmed by various firsthand sources, some of it is inaccurate. For example, it erroneously states that Gunnar Gylta had a daughter named Karin, who was the mother of Knut Arvidsson (Sparre över stjärna). In 1970, this work was published under the title "Genealogica 2" by Hans Gillingstam and Göran Setterkrans. One notable thing about *Biskop Hans Brasks släktbok* is that it is the only source to mention Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)'s death and states that she died of suffocation.

9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Märta died sometime after 1425. According to *Biskop Hans Brasks Släktbok*, the cause of her death was suffocation.[161] It's unknown if this was really the cause of her death, and if so, how she was suffocated.

How did Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) Die?

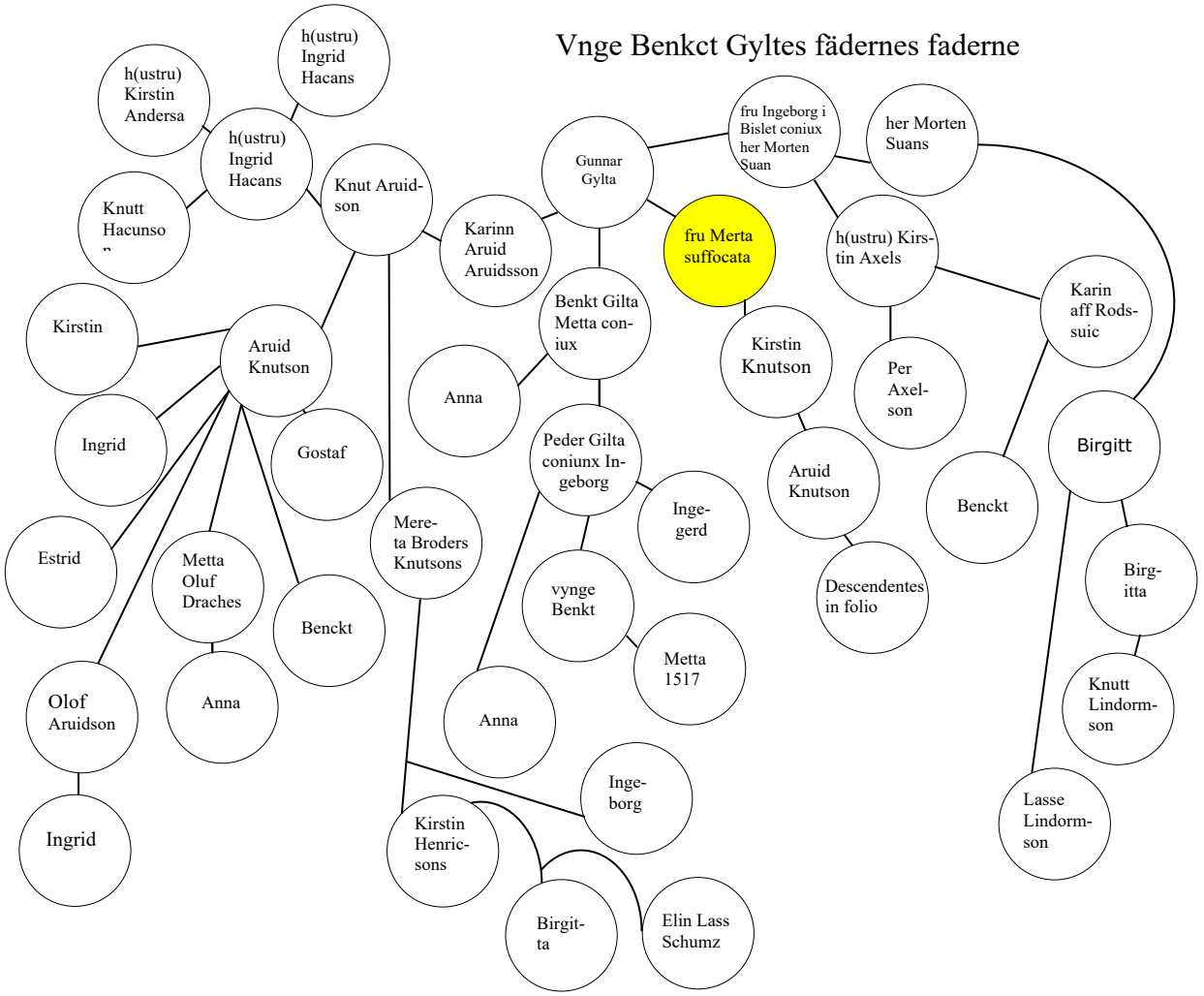
According to *Biskop Hans Hans Brasks Släktbok*, the cause of Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)'s death was "suffocata," or suffocation. Since this source does not specifically mention how she suffocated to death, there is speculation whether she died from a disease, or if she was strangled to death by someone. Often in older times, "suffocata" in Sweden referred to a disease known as "Stryparsjukan," or diphtheria. Diphtheria is a serious respiratory disease in which a thick bacteria manifests itself in the pharynx that secretes a toxin which causes damage to the heart and nerves. This disease can cause breathing problems and can ultimately leads to a person suffocating to death.



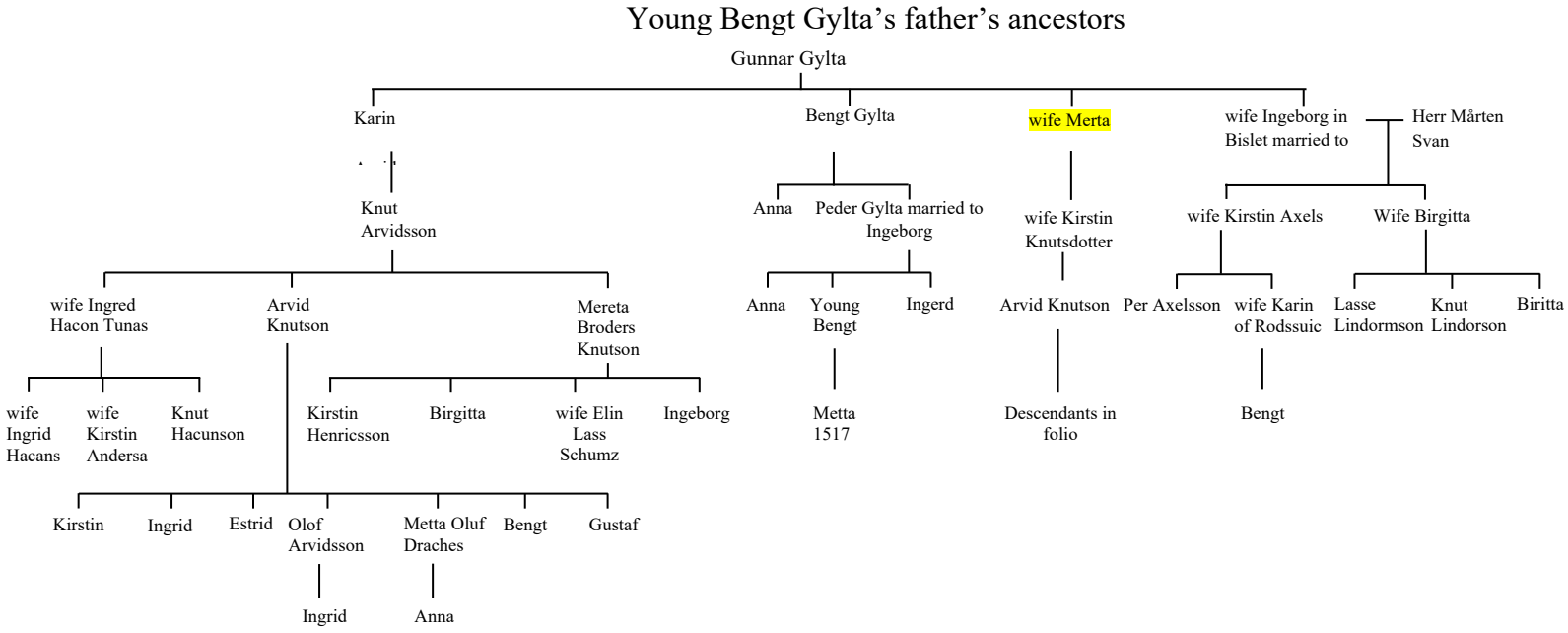
Page from *Biskop Hans Brasks Släktbok* that mentions Märta Gunnarsdotter Gylta

[161] *Biskop Hans Brasks släktbok*

Transcription:



Translation:



9.3.3. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) fm fm mf fm mf mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm m

Trivia on Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) and Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

1. What province did Bengt Turesson live in?
    a. Halland
    b. Småland
    c. Södermanland
    d. Västergötland

2. What was the name of Bengt Turesson's sister?
    a. Arfrid
    b. Brita
    c. Kerstin
    d. Margareta

3. What was the name of the commander that Bengt Turesson served under during the 1380s and early 1390s?

4. What was the name of Bengt Turesson's brother-in-law?

5. What is the first year that Bengt Turesson is recorded?

6. What was Bengt Turesson's occupation?

7. What province did Märta Gunnarsdotter probably grow up in?
    a. Halland
    b. Småland
    c. Södermanland
    d. Västergötland

8. Who were Märta Gunnarsdotter's parents?

9. What were the names of Bengt and Märta's children?

10. What is the last year that Bengt Turesson is recorded as being alive?

Answers: 1. a 2. d 3. Abraham Brodersson 4. Nils Jönsson (Svarting Skåning) 5. 1395. 6. Squire 7. d 8. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter 9. Arfrid, Gunhild, and Kerstin 10. 1422