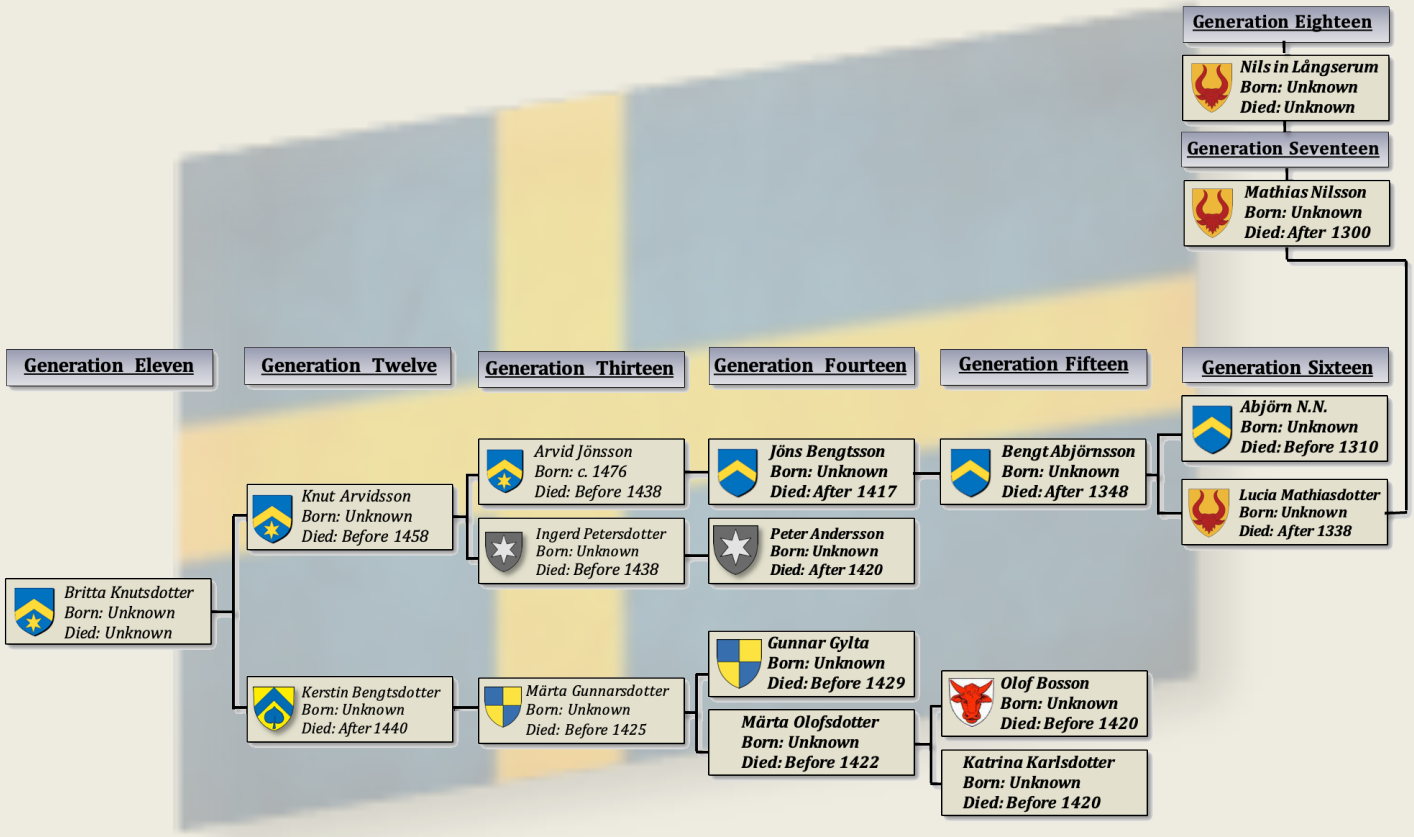
The High Family's Swedish Ancestors

Volume Ten: The 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög



1200-1420

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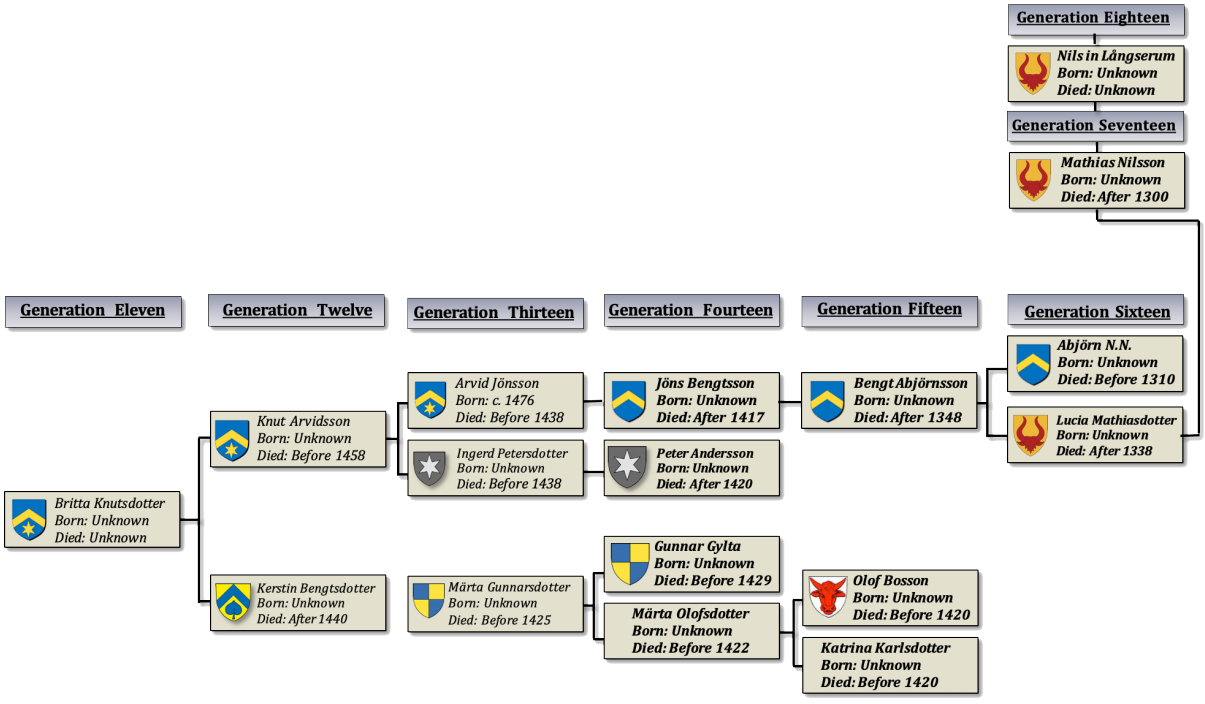


Discovering the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

By Jeffrey High – March 10th, 2025

The 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

When I set out to research my Swedish ancestry nearly two decades ago, I could not have anticipated that this journey would carry me across six centuries, through layers of medieval Swedish society, and ultimately into an era so distant that the very tools of genealogical research would fundamentally change. This volume represents the deepest reaches of what is known about Sven Hög's ancestry — his 11th through 15th great-grandparents, men and women who lived during the 13th and 14th centuries, an era of crusades, plague, and the consolidation of Swedish noble power. While Sven Hög's 15th century ancestors left behind a modest but meaningful collection of medieval letters, the individuals in this volume exist in an even more fragile documentary record — fewer letters, longer gaps between appearances, and in some cases a single surviving source standing between historical confirmation and complete obscurity." That any of this research was possible at all is a testament both to Sweden's extraordinary archival tradition and to the noble status of Sven Hög's most distant known ancestors, whose prominence in medieval Swedish society made them worthy of documentation at a time when ordinary people left almost no written trace of their existence.



This chart shows the known 13th and 14th century ancestors of Sven Hög

10.0. Discovering the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

What began as a search for the origins of one Swedish soldier ultimately led me into an era so remote that the very nature of historical evidence changes completely. The ancestors documented in this volume — Sven Hög's 11th through 15th great-grandparents — lived during the 13th and 14th centuries, a period that shaped Sweden in profound and lasting ways. It was an era of expanding noble power, when families like the Oxenstierna were consolidating their influence across the Swedish provinces, building dynasties that would endure for centuries. It was also an era of catastrophic loss — the Black Death swept through Sweden beginning in 1350, devastating entire communities and compressing family lines in ways that are sometimes visible in the archival record and sometimes only inferred. The ancestors in this volume lived on both sides of that divide, some dying before the plague arrived, others navigating a world forever changed by it.

I first became aware of these ancestors in 2013, the same year I discovered the broader scope of Sven Hög's medieval ancestry.[1] By 2017, I had begun the serious work of locating and obtaining the primary sources that would allow me to document them properly. The primary vehicle for this research was *Svenskt Diplomatariums huvudkartotek* (SDHK), Sweden's extraordinary digitized collection of medieval letters, which made it possible to locate, view, and analyze original documents spanning the 13th and 14th centuries. That any of these individuals are traceable at all comes down to a single crucial fact: they were members of the Swedish nobility. In an era before parish registers and administrative record-keeping, only men and women of sufficient social standing left written evidence of their existence — land transactions witnessed before local officials, legal disputes recorded in letters bearing wax seals, and genealogical manuscripts compiled by noble families to document their own lineages for purposes of inheritance and legitimacy. Had even one link in this ancestral chain been a commoner rather than a squire, a tenant farmer rather than a district chief, the trail would have gone cold centuries ago.



Datering
1366 utan dag

Utfärdandeort
Skövde

Innehåll
Lars Håkansson och Nils Håkansson erkänner att de sålt till Jöns Bengtsson en gård i Kind, som deras fader fått av Staffan Götarsson, nämligen Hiä i Holsljunga socken, taxerad till 60 mark penningar, med alla tillägor. De förbinder sig och sina arvingar att hålla godset hemult åt Jöns och hans arvingar. Utfärdarna beseglar.

Språk
svenska

Källor
Original: or. perg., RA 0101 bilder
Eftermedeltida avskrifter: Peringskiöld: E 53, fol. 28r, nr 35

Brevtext
Alle men thetta bref høra eller se helsom vi laurins ' hakonson ok niclis hakonson. meth gudh . kennoms vi meth varo ' opno breue haua salt skælikum manne jonis bengson een gardh ' j j kindh . som var fathir aaf staffane gøtarsene fanggith ' hafde som hetir hida j hulsaliungga sonk liggiande for try = ' sin tiugu mark pæningga meth allum tilagum : teth for nemda ' hida til høre ok engo vndan takno * ok bindom oos ther til ok ' vara arua hanum ok hans aruum tet fornemda goz hemol halla for alla the tehr kunno framledis A tala * til mere visso ok' bætre foruaringh henggiom vi var insigele for tetta breef * scrip ' tum skødue: Anno domini m ccc lx sexto

Extratext
På baksidan med gammal hand: hijdaStenbockssignum: C: N°: 10. Kiöpe Breff.Med 1600-tals hand: Lars och Nils Håkanson haffua Sålt en gårdh Heeda till Jönsz Benktson för - 3 sin thiug n Suens. A -: 1366:

Sigill
Båda sigillen vidhänga, skadade. De visa båda kluven sköld med i lilja till höger och 2 snedbjälkar till vänster; omskrifterna äro fragmentariskt bevarade och otydliga. I nr 1 urskiljes: ... . ES+HAQVINI(?), i nr 2: + S'.....HA..INI?

Tryckt
DS 7271 se pdf av tryck

Tryckt regest
RPB nr 749

Faksimil
Känn Sjuhäradsbygden 5. Medeltiden, s. 5

Litteratur och kommentar
se DS nr 7271

Senast ändrad
2015-06-05

Webpage for SDHK No. 8815 – 1366
The first known letter that mentions
Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)

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

In addition to SDHK, several scholarly journal articles provided crucial guidance in researching the ancestors documented in this volume. These included:

- "Häradshövdingen Arvid Jönssons (sparre över stjärna) avkomlingar till fjärde och femte led" by Jan Eric Almquist
- "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" by Thomas Småberg
- "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta (1390-1646)" by Jan Eric Almquist
- "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud. En 1500-talsgenealogi" by Stig Östensson
- "Ätterna Oxenstienra och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam

Two accounts of medieval canonization processes also proved valuable — *Vita beati Brynolphi*, which contains the testimony of Sven Hög's 11th great-grandfather Jöns Bengtsson given in 1417 for the canonization of Bishop Brynolf Algotsson of Skara, and Processus seu negocium canonizacionis B. Katerine de Vadstenis, which mentions Bengt Gylta, the son of Sven Hög's 11th great-grandfather Gunnar Gylta. The most unexpected discovery came near the end of 2023, while investigating a reference in Äldre Svenska Frälsesläkter which stated that Gunnar Gylta lived at an estate called Gällared. Following that thread led me to the article "Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt" by Fridolf Wildte, which revealed something I had not previously known: that Gunnar and his wife Märta Olofsdotter had a daughter named Gyrid, and that a plaque in Hillared Church in Västergötland commemorates her to this day, describing how she donated some of her land to the church. It was a remarkable reminder that the ancestors documented in this volume left traces not only in medieval letters and scholarly archives, but in the physical landscape of Sweden itself.



Oxenstierna coat of arms

Most intriguingly, the research documented in this volume suggests a possible connection between Sven Hög's ancestry and the Oxenstierna family — one of Sweden's oldest and most powerful noble dynasties — through his 14th great-grandfather Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna), whose father Nils in Långserum represents the earliest known ancestor in Sven Hög's family tree. A nobleman who lived in the late 12th or early 13th century, Nils left behind only the faintest documentary trace — a single 16th century transcript of a letter from 1300 — yet his existence marks the outermost boundary of what can be known about Sven Hög's ancestry with any reasonable degree of certainty. While the connection to the Oxenstierna family cannot be confirmed from existing records, it points toward origins that may reach even further back into Sweden's medieval past.

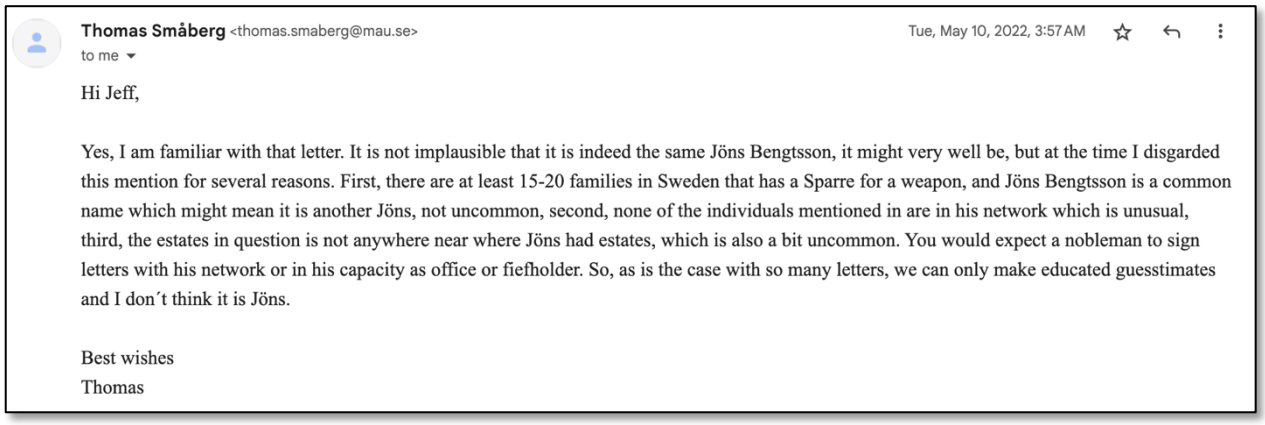
Discovering the 11th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

I was able to find four 11th-great-grandparents of Sven Hög, two of whom were married to each other.

- Arvid Jönsson's father Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre) was a District Chief of Kind District from 1397 to 1412
- Jöns Bengtsson was first mentioned in 1366 and last mentioned in 1417
- Jöns Bengtsson was married to a woman named Birgitta Erlandsdotter (who was probably his second wife and certainly not the mother of his son Arvid Jönsson) in 1388
- Ingerd Petersdotter's father was Peter Andersson (Prika), a nobleman who lived at Möne, Möne Parish and is mentioned in letters from 1412 to 1420
- Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)'s parents were Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
- Gunnar Gylta was a nobleman who was first mentioned in 1380 and last mentioned as being alive in 1425
- Gunnar had at least three brothers: Björn, Jösse and Magnus
- Märta Olofsdotter was the daughter of Olof Bosson (Oxhuvud) and Katrina Karlsdotter
- Märta Olofsdotter had at least one sister named Bengta
- Märta Olofsdotter died before 1425
- In addition to Märta Gunnarsdotter, Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter had a son named Bengt and two other daughters named Ingeborg and Gyrid
- Gunnar and Märta's family lived at Gälared in Hillared Parish and later at Påtorp, Fristad Parish

I conducted most of my research on Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre) in early 2021. It was a little tricky searching for letters that mention Jöns Bengtsson, since there were other men with the same name, but didn't have the same seal as him, and were thus different people. Nonetheless, I found four of the six known letters that mention Jöns Bengtsson in early 2017. Four years later, I had my researcher Thomas Heed Miskar search for more letters that mentioned Jöns Bengtsson. He found a letter from 1397 which I subsequently found an image of.

On February 12, 2021, I found a scholarly publication called "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" by Thomas Småberg, which contained an abundant information on Jöns Bengtsson and his relatives. This article stated that the first letter that mentioned Jöns Bengtsson was from 1366. Upon learning this information, I obtained a copy of that letter. The following, month, I obtained some images of pages from *Vita beati Brynolphi* which stated that Jöns Bengtsson was over 80 years old in 1417, which means that he was probably born during the 1340s.



Thomas Småberg <thomas.smaberg@mau.se> Tue, May 10, 2022, 3:57 AM
to me

Hi Jeff,

Yes, I am familiar with that letter. It is not implausible that it is indeed the same Jöns Bengtsson, it might very well be, but at the time I disgarded this mention for several reasons. First, there are at least 15-20 families in Sweden that has a Sparre for a weapon, and Jöns Bengtsson is a common name which might mean it is another Jöns, not uncommon, second, none of the individuals mentioned in are in his network which is unusual, third, the estates in question is not anywhere near where Jöns had estates, which is also a bit uncommon. You would expect a nobleman to sign letters with his network or in his capacity as office or fiefholder. So, as is the case with so many letters, we can only make educated guesstimates and I don´t think it is Jöns.

Best wishes
Thomas

An email I received from Thomas Småberg, author of the publication "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" which discusses the possibility that Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre) was first mentioned in a letter from 1354

Timeline of Research on Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre).
December 28, 2016	I obtain the article "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk" by Jan Liedgren which mentions Jöns Bengtsson, his son Arvid Jönsson, and grandson Knut Arvidsson.
January 15, 2017	I obtain images of letters from 1385, 1388, 1390, and 1412 that mention Jöns Bengtsson.
May 25, 2017	I obtain a copy of the article "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam which shows indirect evidence that Bengt Abjörnsson was the father of Jöns Bengtsson.
February 3, 2021	I obtain an image of a letter from 1397 that mention Jöns Bengtsson.
February 12, 2021	I discover the scholarly publication "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" by Thomas Småberg, which contains information on Jöns Bengtsson. The same day, I obtain an image of a letter from 1366, which is the first known letter to mention Jöns Bengtsson.
March 9, 2021	I obtain an image from *Vita beati Brynolphi* which lists Jöns Bengtsson as the father of Arvid Jönsson and shows that he was over 80 years old in 1417.

10.0. Discovering the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

I discovered Peter Andersson from the same website I discovered the other medieval ancestors of Sven Hög. According to this website, his wife was Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter, who hailed from the Ribbing family.[2] The website also erroneously listed Ingeborg's mother as Märta Ulfsdotter (Ulvåsaätten), the daughter of Saint Birgitta. Since Märta Ulfsdotter's ancestry goes back several centuries, I was given the false hope that Sven Hög's ancestry could be traced to the 8th century. I later discovered that the author of that website confused Ingeborg's father Sigvid Magnusson Ribbing with a different Sigvid Ribbing, who was the husband of Märta Ulfsdotter.

Timeline of Research on Peter Andersson (Prika)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Peter Andersson (Prika).
December 28, 2016	I obtain the article "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk" by Jan Liedgren which mentions Peter Andersson.
January 16, 2017	I obtain images of letters from 1412, 1414, 1416, and 1420 that mention Peter Andersson, and a transcription of a letter from 1419 that mentions him.
September 26, 2018	I obtain a page from the book *Svenska medeltidsvapen* by Jan Raneke that discusses Peter Andersson.
February 12, 2021	I discover the scholarly publication "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" by Thomas Småberg, which mentions Peter Andersson.

On December 28, 2016, I came across the article "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk" by Jan Liedgren which explained further confusion regarding Peter Andersson. According to this website, Peter Andersson is often confused with Peter Prika, who lived a generation earlier and was the actual husband of Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter. Since this Peter Prika had died before 1397 and Peter Andersson was still alive in 1416, they could not have been the same person. Thus, Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter wasn't Peter Andersson's wife. My personal theory is that Peter Prika was an uncle of Peter Andersson and was the brother of his father Anders. Since the letter from 1416 states that Peter Andersson was Arvid Jönsson's father-in-law, he must have been Ingerd Petersdotter's father, unless Arvid was previously married to a woman who died before 1416. Some genealogists believe that this was the case, and that Ingerd was the daughter of Peter Prika and Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter, but my own research didn't come to that conclusion.

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

It took me the most time to research Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter out of all Sven Hög's 13th and 14th century ancestors. A few articles: "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk" by Jan Liedgren, "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta" by Jan Eric Alquist, and "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud. En 1500-talsgenealogi" by Stig Östenson were helpful in guiding my research. Liedgren's article was particularly helpful in analyzing the different genealogies related to Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter and verifying what information in them was true. According to Liedgren, Gunnar and Märta had three children: Bengt, Ingeborg, and Märta (although I would later find out they had another daughter named Gyrid). These articles informed me that there were three main genealogies that mention Gunnar and Märta: *Biskop Hans Brasks slätbok*, Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s letter to Bengt Gylta, and *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*.

I started collecting images and transcriptions of letters that mentioned Gunnar Gylta in April of 2017. Unfortunately, most of the letters that mention Gunnar Gylta no longer exist, but I was able to obtain transcriptions of them that were preserved in the 17th century by Swedish historian Lars Sparre.

Timeline of Research on Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter

July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter.
December 28, 2016	I obtain the article "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev. En västgötsk" by Jan Liedgren which mentions Gunnar Gylta.
April 7, 2017	I obtain images of old transcriptions of letters from 1391, 1396, 1398, and 1412 that mention Gunnar Gylta.
May 6, 2017	I obtain the article "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta" by Jan Eric Almquist, which contains information on Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter.
May 12, 2017	I obtain the article "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud. En 1500-talsgenealogi" by Stig Östenson which discusses Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter.
September 26, 2018	I obtain a page from the book *Svenska medeltidsvapen* by Jan Raneke that discusses Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter.
August 7, 2020	I receive a transcript of the text *Vadstena-nunnan Ingegärd Persdotters (Gylta) bref till sin brorson unge Bengt Gylta med redogörelse för Gylta-ättens släktförbindelser* which mentions Gunnar Gylta.

Near the end of 2023, I discovered that Gunnar and Märta had another daughter named Gyrid. The book *Äldre Svenska Frälsesläkter* stated that Gunnar lived at an estate called Gällared. When investigating the source for this fact, I came across the article "Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt" by Fridolf Wildte which explained that Gunnar and Märta had a daughter named Gyrid and that a plaque in Hillared Church mentions her and describes how she donated some of her land to the church.

Timeline of Research on Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter (Continued)

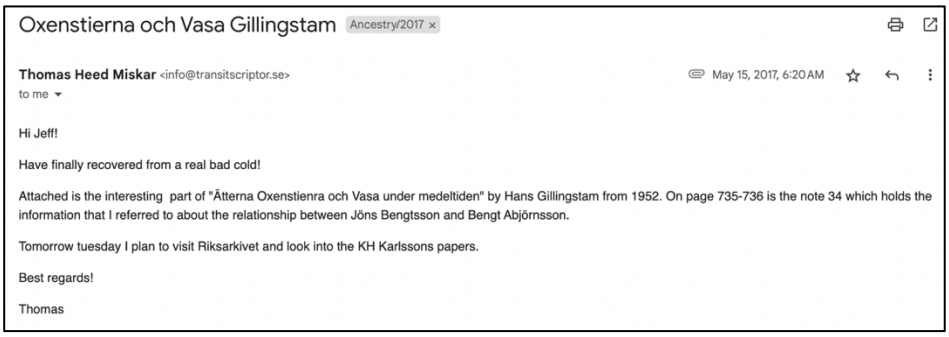
January 27, 2021	I obtain an image of an excerpt from *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* that mentions the children of Knut Arvidsson and Kerstin Bengtsdotter.
February 24, 2021	I obtain an image of a page from *Biskop Hans Brasks slätbok* which mentions Gunnar Gylta and Märta Gunnarsdotter.
August 9, 2021	I obtain an image of an old transcription of a letter from 1422 which mentioned Gunnar Gylta.
February 9, 2023	I obtain an image of a page from Peder Månsson Utter's *Collectanea Genealogica* that shows a genealogy chart of Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter and their descendants, as well as transcript of a letter from 1380 that mentions Gunnar Gylta.
February 11, 2023	I obtain an image of a page from the genealogical book *Äldre Svenska Frälsesläkter* that mentions Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter.
April 7, 2023	I obtain images of some old transcriptions of letters from 1425 and 1429 that mention Gunnar Gylta.
April 17, 2023	I obtain lists of all the records that mention Gunnar Gylta's brothers: Björn, Jösse, and Magnus.
October 2, 2023	I obtain the article "Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt" by Fridolf Wildte which states that Gunnar Gylta had a daughter named Gyrid.
December 7, 2023	I obtain the some pages from the text *Processus seu negocium canonizacions B Katerine de Vadstenis* that mention Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter's son Bengt Gylta.

Discovering the 12th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

I was able to discover three of Sven Hög's 12th great-grandparents, two of whom were married to each other.

- The father on Jöns Bengtsson was most likely Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
- The parents of Märta Olofsdotter were Olof Bosson (Oxhuvud) and Katrina Karlsdotter

In 2017, I found letters from 1338 and 1348 that mentioned Bengt Abjörnsson and I found two letters from 1341 which mentioned him in 2021. In 2017, I obtained the article "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam, which pointed to evidence that Bengt Abjörnsson was Jöns Bengtsson's father. This article pointed me to the record RA Str. Kam handlingar Vol. Häftet G 4 a 2: Västergötland that stated that Jöns Bengtsson's paternal grandmother Lucia donated the farm Länghem in Länghem Parish to Gällstad Church in 1341. Considering Jöns Bengtsson's connection to Gällstad Parish (he bought Redslarp in Gällstad in 1385[3]), Jöns and Bengt had the same coat of arms and were both associated with Västergötland, and Bengt is indirectly listed as Lucia Mathiasdotter's son in 1338[4], I found enough evidence to convince me that Bengt Abjörnsson was Jöns Bengtsson's father.



Oxenstierna och Vasa Gillingstam Ancestry/2017 ×

Thomas Heed Miskar <info@transitscriptor.se> May 15, 2017, 6:20 AM

to me

Hi Jeff!

Have finally recovered from a real bad cold!

Attached is the interesting part of "Ätterna Oxenstienra och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam from 1952. On page 735-736 is the note 34 which holds the information that I referred to about the relationship between Jöns Bengtsson and Bengt Abjörnsson.

Tomorrow tuesday I plan to visit Riksarkivet and look into the KH Karlssons papers.

Best regards!

Thomas

An email in which Thomas Heed Miskar sent me the article "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam – May 15th, 2017

Timeline of Research on Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre).
January 18, 2017	I obtain images of letters from 1338 and 1348 that mention Bengt Abjörnsson.
May 25, 2017	I obtain a copy of the article "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam which shows indirect evidence that Bengt Abjörnsson was the son of Lucia Mathiasdotter and the father of Jöns Bengtsson.
February 15, 2021	I obtain the transcription of two letters from 1341 that mention Bengt Abjörnsson.

10.0. Discovering the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Although I first discovered Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter in 2013, I didn't start conducting formal research on them until 2021. Most of the sources of information on them overlapped with that of their daughter Märta Olofsdotter and son-in-law Gunnar Gylta. I was only able to find four records which posthumously mention the two from 1420 – one which mentions Olof Bosson and three which mention Katrina Karlsdotter.

One of the most helpful sources of information I found on Olof and Katrina came from the article "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud. En 1500-talsgenealogi" by Stig Östenson, which explained the confusion between Olof Bosson and another nobleman named Olof Bosson, who was mentioned in letters from 1528 to 1537. The book *Svenska medeltidsvapen* by Jan Raneke had a section on Olof and Katrina, which I obtained an image of. There were two pieces of information from these sources which I couldn't find any primary sources for: that Olof died before 1416 and that his coat of arms was a bull's head.

Timeline of Research on Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter

July 29, 2013	I discover the identities of Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter.
May 12, 2017	I obtain the article "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud. En 1500-talsgenealogi" by Stig Östenson which discusses Olof Bosson.
September 26, 2018	I obtain a page from the book *Svenska medeltidsvapen* by Jan Raneke that discusses Olof Bosson.
February 1, 2021	I obtain an image of a letter from 1420 that mentions Katrina Karlsdotter.
April 4, 2021	I obtain an image of a letter from 1420 that mentions Olof Bosson.
March 8, 2024	I obtain images of letters from 1457 and 1458 which mention Bengt Olofsdotter, the daughter of Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter.
April 18, 2024	I obtain an image of another letter from 1420 that mentions Katrina Karlsdotter.
August 3, 2024	I obtain an image of letter from 1423 that mentions Katrina Karlsdotter.

Discovering the 13th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

I was only able to find two of Sven Hög's 13th great-grandparents, Abjörn (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna), who were the parents of Bengt Abjörnsson.

- Lucia Mathiasdotter was the daughter of Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
- Lucia was first married to Abjörn and had at least five children with him
- She was married for the second time with Torsten Vigolfsson and had at least six children with him

On January 18, 2017, I found the only letter that mentions Lucia Mathiasdotter. Four months later, I obtained a digital copy of the book *Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden* by Hans Gillingstam, which contained a lot of valuable information about Lucia's family. The most useful piece of information was a footnote that pointed to a record that showed indirect evidence that Lucia Mathiasdotter was the mother of Bengt Abjörnsson. A week later, Riksarkivet emailed me an image of this record, which was a 16th century transcript of a record from 1341 which mentions Lucia. In early 2021, I obtained transcriptions of two letters from 1341 that mentioned five of Lucia's children.

Timeline of Research on Abjörn and Lucia Mathiasdotter

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna).
January 18, 2017	I obtain an image of a letter from 1338 that mentions Lucia Mathiasdotter.
May 25, 2017	I obtain a copy of the book *Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden* by Hans Gillingstam which shows indirect evidence that Lucia Mathiasdotter was the mother of Bengt Abjörnsson.
June 2, 2017	I obtain a 16th century transcription of a record from 1341 that was mentioned in *Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden*, in which Lucia Mathiasdotter donates the farm Länghem to Gällstad Church in 1341 and states that Lucia was Jöns Bengtsson's paternal grandmother.
February 15, 2021	I obtain transcriptions of two letters from 1341 that mention Lucia's children Bengt Abjörnsson, Bengt Tortsensson, Elena Abjörnsdotter, Gustav Abjörnsson, and Margareta Abjörnsdotter.
March, 2024	I find three letters that mention Lucia's second husband Torsten Vigolfsson as well as several letters that mention her children Ingrid Torstensdotter, Nils Tortsensson, Håkan Tortsensson, Mats Tortsensson, and Gjord Gote Tortsensson.

In March of 2024, I conducted extensive research on Lucia Mathiasdotter and her family. I had my researcher Thomas Heed Miskar find all the letters that mentioned Lucia's second husband Torsten Vigolfsson, as well as all the letters that mention her children.

Discovering the 14th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

I was only able to find one of Sven Hög's 14th great-grandparents, Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna). Mathias was a nobleman who was the father of Lucia Mathiasdotter.

- Mathias Nilsson was the son of Nils in Långserum
- Mathias lived at Långserum in Svenarum Parish
- Mathias had at least one brother named Gjurd and one sister named Ingrid
- In addition to Lucia, Mathias had at least three other daughters: Beata, Holmborg, and Ingeborg

Since there aren't many records associated with Mathias Nilsson (there is only a transcript of a record from 1300 that mentions him), my research on him didn't take very long. In May of 2017, I obtained an image of a 16th century transcript of a record from 1300 that mentions Mathias Nilsson, as well as a copy of the book "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam which mentions Mathias Nilsson. In August of 2024, I found an image of a letter from 1311 that mentioned one of Mathias's daughter, Ingeborg Mathiasdotter, who was the abbess of Gudhem Abbey.

Timeline of Research on Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna).
May 23, 2017	I obtain an image of a 16th century transcript of a record from 1300 that mentions Mathias Nilsson.
May 25, 2017	I obtain a copy of the book "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam which mentions Mathias Nilsson.
August, 2024	I obtain an image of a letter from 1311 that mentions Ingeborg Mathiasdotter, Mathias's daughter, that lists her as the abbess of Gudhem Abbey.

Discovering the 15th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

My research into Sven Hög's ancestors ended with his 15th great-grandfather, Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna), a nobleman who was born in the late 12th or early 13th century and probably died somewhere during the mid to late 13th century. The only record I found of Nils was a 16th century transcript of a letter from 1300 which also mentioned his sons Gjurd and Mathias. However, I learned there were a few letters which mentioned his son Gjurd. One of these letters (which was from 1307) also mentioned Nils's daughter Ingrid, and another letter (from 1312) was the first known letter to contain the Oxenstierna seal.

According to some family trees online, Nils's wife was named Ingegerd Karlsdotter (Bjälboätten), who was a daughter of Karl "den Döve" Bengtsson (the son of Bengt Snivil and patriarch of the Bjälboätten). Upon researching this, I found no evidence to support this, but found where this belief came from. In *Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden*, Hans Gillingstam writes about a letter from 1254 that mentions Gudhem Abbey, where Matthias Nilsson's daughter Ingeborg was an abbess, as well as numerous people who bore the same names as relatives of Lucia. Although Gillingstam points out that it's likely that Mathias Nilsson's mother was mentioned in this letter, it can't be confirmed which woman was her, and there is no concrete evidence which shows that she was part of the Bjälboätten. After conducting extensive research on the connection between the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten, I came to the conclusion that it was likely that Nils's wife came from the Bjälboätten, but there wasn't enough evidence to prove this. Since Nils in Långserum is the earliest known ancestor of Sven Hög, research on Sven Hög's ancestors ended with Nils.

Timeline of Research on Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)

July 29, 2013	I discover the identity of Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna).
May 23, 2017	I obtain an image of a 16th century transcript of a record from 1300 that mentions Nils in Långserum.
May 25, 2017	I obtain a copy of the book "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden" by Hans Gillingstam which mentions Nils in Långserum and describes a letter from 1254 that likely mentions Nils's wife.
March, 2024	I obtain an image of a letter from 1307 that mentions Nils's son Gjurd Nilsson and daughter Ingrid.
August, 2024	I obtain an image of a letter from 1312 that mentions Gjurd Nilsson.

Investigating the Bjälboätten Connection to Sven Hög's Ancestry



The ruins of Gudhem Abbey – a place with connections to both the Oxenstierna and Bjälboätten families

Given the significance of a possible connection between the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten, I felt it was worth presenting the full body of evidence for and against this connection in a dedicated document. Near the end of this volume is a detailed analysis of that evidence, including the circumstantial connections between the two families, the compelling letter from 1254, and a probability assessment of whether a familial relationship actually existed.

The Bjälboätten — sometimes called the Folkunga dynasty — was one of medieval Sweden's most powerful and consequential noble families. Founded by Bengt Snivil in the early 13th century, the dynasty produced some of Sweden's most influential rulers and statesmen, including Birger Jarl, who served as regent of Sweden and is widely credited with founding Stockholm, and his son Valdemar Birgersson, who became King of Sweden in 1250. The family's connections to Scandinavian, English, French, and German royalty made them one of the most dynastically significant noble houses in medieval northern Europe. Their stronghold in Västergötland — the same province where several of Sven Hög's 11th through 14th great-grandparents lived — makes a connection between the two families geographically plausible as well as historically compelling



Statue of Birger Jarl, one of the notable members of the Bjälboätten

If the Oxenstierna family was indeed descended from the Bjälboätten, Sven Hög could claim descent from Bengt Snivil, the patriarch of that dynasty. To give the reader a sense of what that would mean, I have included a brief account of Bengt Snivil and a list of some of his more notable ancestors — men and women whose lives span nearly 1,200 years of European history, from 13th century Sweden all the way back to 7th century Francia, near the end of this volume.

Pedigree Collapse Within Sven Hög's 13th and 14th Ancestors

Pedigree collapse continued to accelerate within Sven Hög's 13th and 14th century ancestors, with the amount of duplicate ancestors significantly increasing. Here are some hypothetical numbers of the amount of 13th and 14th century ancestors Sven Hög may have had, focusing on Sven's 8th-15th great-grandparents and considering mild, moderate, and severe degrees of pedigree collapse:

1. **11th Great-Grandparents (Typically 8,192 unique without collapse):**
   - **Mild Collapse:** 1,200 unique ancestors, 6,992 duplicates.
   - **Moderate Collapse:** 650 unique ancestors, 7,542 duplicates
   - **Severe Collapse:** 400 unique ancestors, 7,792 duplicates
2. **12th Great-Grandparents (Typically 16,384 unique without collapse):**
   - **Mild Collapse:** 1,400 unique ancestors, 14,984 duplicates
   - **Moderate Collapse:** 750 unique ancestors, 15,634 duplicates
   - **Severe Collapse:** 450 unique ancestors, 15,934 duplicates
3. **13th Great-Grandparents (Typically 32,768 unique without collapse):**
   - **Mild Collapse:** 1,600 unique ancestors, 31,168 duplicates
   - **Moderate Collapse:** 800 unique ancestors, 31,968 duplicates
   - **Severe Collapse:** 475 unique ancestors, 32,293 duplicates
4. **14th Great-Grandparents (Typically 65,536 unique without collapse):**
   - **Mild Collapse:** 1,700 unique ancestors, 63,836 duplicates
   - **Moderate Collapse:** 850 unique ancestors, 64,686 duplicates
   - **Severe Collapse:** 500 unique ancestors, 65,036 duplicates
5. **15th Great-Grandparents (Typically 131,072 unique without collapse):**
   - **Mild Collapse:** 1,800 unique ancestors, 129,272 duplicates
   - **Moderate Collapse:** 900 unique ancestors, 130,172 duplicates
   - **Severe Collapse:** 525 unique ancestors, 130,457 duplicates

By the time of Sven's15th great-grandparents, there's not much deviance in the number of duplicate ancestors between mild collapse and severe collapse.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank a number of people for assisting me in discovering information about the 13th and 14th century ancestors of Sven Hög:

- **Alexander Andre**, a Swedish historian, for translating several letters that were in Latin which mentioned the early 14th century ancestors of Sven Hög.
- **Karin Augustsson** from Sexdrega Parish, for sending me a picture of the plaque from Hillared Church that mentions Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta).
- **Magnus Tonquist**, a Swedish genealogist and historian, for writing the short story "Jöns Bengtsson's Relationship with Tennant Farmers."
- **National Library of Sweden** for sending me images of the manuscript "Knut Håkansson Hands redogörelse för sin och sin hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt."
- **Rhonda Serafini**, a Swedish genealogist, for writing the story "Bengt Abjörnsson Dies from the Black Death."
- **Riksarkivet** (The Swedish National Archives) for providing me with images of several letters related to the 13th and 14th century ancestors of Sven Hög.
- **Thomas Heed Miskar**, a Swedish genealogist and historian, for conducting extensive research on the 13th and 14th century ancestors of Sven Hög, and transcribing and translating several letters associated with them.
- **Thomas Småberg**, a Swedish historian, for providing me with information on Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre).
- **University of Uppsala** for sending me images of several letters related to the 13th and 14th century ancestors of Sven Hög.

Adjusted Dates for Events Associated with the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög

Dates Associated with the 11th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Life of Jöns Bengtsson		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Jöns Bengtsson purchases the farm Redslarp in Gällstad Parish from Mårten Unge.	September 23, 1385	October 1, 1385
Jöns Bengtsson marries Birgitta Erlandsdotter.	November 16, 1388	November 24, 1388
Jöns Bengtsson places his seal on a letter that shows that Tove Bensson purchased a farm in Nittorp Parish.	February 13, 1390	February 21, 1390
Jöns Bengtsson is first mentioned as the District Chief of Kind District.	June 9, 1397	June 17, 1397
Jöns Bengtsson is last mentioned as the District Chief of Kind District.	May 26, 1412	June 4, 1412
Jöns Bengtsson is last mentioned as being alive.	April 12, 1417	April 21, 1417

Events in the Life of Peter Andersson (Prika)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Märta Larsdotter writes a letter stating that Peter Andersson, Gunnar Prika, Björn Gylta, and Magnus Gylta had provided her with a statement regarding her brother Peter Prika's inheritance.	May 26, 1412	June 4, 1412
Bishop Brynulf of Skara Diocese and Gustaf Magnusson certify that Peter Andersson and Gunnar Prika receive all the estates that a woman named Ingeborg had given to her husband Peter Petersson.	July 5, 1414	July 14, 1414

10.0.1. Catholic Dates in Which the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög are Mentioned

Events in the Lives of Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Bengt Esping writes a letter stating that he was charged to pay Gunnar Gylta 24 solidi worth of oxen and good cloth.	June 24, 1391	July 2, 1391
Gunnar Gylta writes a letter declaring that he had inherited from Ingeborg, the widow of Peter Prika, the farm Ladhal and all the other property that she owned in Halland.	July 25, 1396	August 2, 1396
Magnus Hake writes a letter declaring that he owed 13 mark in Swedish currency to Gunnar Gylta.	March 3, 1398	March 11, 1398
Knut Galle writes a letter declaring that he had exchanged one of his farms in Nödinge, a farm in Hoberg, and a farm in Skenstad for two of Gunnar Gylta's farms in Tofta and one of Gunnar Gylta's farms in Balstoksmala.	March 25, 1403	April 4, 1403
Gunnar Gylta and Jösse Gylta write a letter stating they exchanged some of their properties in Hillared Parish.	February 21, 1412	March 1, 1412
Gudmund Sigmundsson writes a letter declaring that he had given a farm in Skänstad, a mill in Toarps Parish, and a farm in Nudrunge in Fotskäl Parish to Gunnar Gylta.	March 25, 1416	April 3, 1416
Gunnar Gylta and Jösse Gylta write a letter stating they divided their brothers Björn's and Magnus's estates.	September 29, 1416	October 8, 1416
Gunnar and Märta's daughter Ingeborg is mentioned in a letter in which Ingeborg's husband Mårten Svan states that he replaced the certificate which list the farms Ingeborg received as a wedding gift, since the original was lost.	August 16, 1442	August 25, 1442

Dates Associated with the 12th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Life of Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Bengt Abjörnsson places his seal on a letter that his aunt Bengta Matsdotter wrote regarding the execution of her will.	September 11, 1338	September 19, 1338
Bengt Abjörnsson places his seal on a letter that his sister Margareta wrote stating that she sold her farm Berg to her nephew Halstan Petersson.	August 24, 1341	September 1, 1341
Bengt Abjörnsson places his seal on a letter that Knut Siggurdsson wrote stating that he had sold his land in Fråstad to Halstan Petersson.	September 23, 1341	October 1, 1341
Bengt Abjörnsson and his brother Gustav write a letter stating that they sold their farm Blackstorp and mill Sjundafors in Fors Parish to their nephew Halstan Petersson.	October 9, 1348	October 17, 1348

Events in the Lives of Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Olof Bosson is posthumously mentioned in a letter that his son-in-law Lars Pik wrote.	April 28, 1420	May 7, 1420
Katarina Karlsdotter is posthumously mentioned in a letter that her son-in-law Lars Pik wrote.	September 29, 1420	October 8, 1420
Olof Bosson and Katarina Karlsdotter‘s daughter Bengta exchanges farms in Asklanda Parish to Tule Nilsson and his wife for farms in Njudung.	July 4, 1448	July 13, 1448
Olof Bosson and Katarina Karlsdotter‘s daughter Bengta gives her farm in Gödestad in Fjärås Parish in to the chapter in Lund.	October 2, 1457	October 11, 1457

10.0.1. Catholic Dates in Which the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög are Mentioned

Dates Associated with the 13th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Lives of Abjorn and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Lucia Mathiasdotter's second husband Torsten Vigolfsson exchanges his farm Vigolfstorp for Gjurd Petersson's farm Fallnafors in Malmbäck Parish.	March 3, 1292	March 10, 1292
Torsten Vigolfsson places his seal on a letter Lucia's uncle Gjurd Nilsson wrote which stated that he had sold the estate Troyobodhe in Kolahult to Bishop Lawrence.	February 13, 1307	February 21, 1307
Torsten Vigolfsson places his seal on a letter in which Eskil Nilsson of Sandvik pledges half of his property in Blomdal to the monks in Nydala for 17 ½ mark.	February 25, 1319	March 5, 1319
Duchess Ingeborg donates to Gudhem Monastery with regard to the service that one of the nuns there, Ingeborg Torstensdotter (the daughter of Lucia and Torsten), performed.	October 20, 1320	October 28, 1320
Johannes Sonasson, the probable husband of Lucia's daughter Margareta Abjörnsdotter, writes his final testament and lists Nils Torstensson as an executor.	June 25, 1337	July 3, 1337
Lucia's son Nils Torstensson attaches his seal to a letter that Tyrgils Nilsson wrote that declares he sold his estate in Åkerhult to Sigmund Hornabassa.	July 24, 1338	August 1, 1338
Lucia Mathiasdotter is listed in a letter her sister Bengta Mathiasdotter wrote regarding the execution of her will.	September 11, 1338	September 19, 1338
Margareta Abjörnsdotter writes a letter stating that she sold her farm Berg to her nephew Halstan Petersson.	August 24, 1341	September 1, 1341
Olof Gren agrees to transfer all the goods in Fråstad that Lucia's daughter Ingrid inherited from her aunt Bengta to Halstan Petersson.	September 21, 1341	September 29, 1341

Events in the Lives of Abjorn and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) (Continued)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Knut Sigvidsson, the husband of Lucia's daughter Elena, writes that he sold his land in Fråstad to Halstan Petersson.	September 23, 1341	October 1, 1341
Margareta Abjörnsdotter writes her final testament.	May 30, 1344	June 7, 1344
Lucia's (probable) son Gjord Gotha Torstensson writes that he made a donation to Nydala Monastery for his soul and the souls' of his parents.	October 4, 1348	October 12, 1348
Lucia's son Bengt Torstensson is mentioned for the last time in a letter that also mentions her son Gjord Gotha Torstensson.	May 3, 1350	May 11, 1350
Gjord Gotha Torstensson is mentioned for the last time in a letter.	August 28, 1350	September 5, 1350
Elena Abjörnsdotter bequeaths to Nydala Monastery three farms in Västhorja, Värnamo Parish.	September 8, 1350	September 16, 1350
Pope Innocent VI informs the archdeacon at Linköping Diocese that the abbot of Nydala Monastery has complained that Lucia Mathiasdotter's son Gustav Abjörnsson, Peter in Mörhult, and Klemens Redosven are violating the monastery concerning certain farms, mills, possessions, and other things.	December 12, 1359	December 20, 1359
Gustav Abjörnsson's son Mats Gustavsson pledges several farms to Linköping Cathedral in penance over killing Bishop Gotskalk (Falkdal).	December 11, 1376	December 19, 1376

10.0.1. Catholic Dates in Which the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög are Mentioned

Dates Associated with the 14th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Life of Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Mathias Nilsson's daughter Ingeborg is listed as the abbess of Gudhem Abbey for the first time.	September 28, 1311	October 6, 1311

Dates Associated with the 15th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

Events in the Life of Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)		
Event	**Date of Event (Julian Calendar)**	**Date of Event (Gregorian Calendar)**
Nils's son Gjurd writes a letter stating that he had sold the estate Troyobodhe in Kolahult to Bishop Lawrence.	February 13, 1307	February 21, 1307
Nils's son Gjurd places his seal on a letter verifying that Harald Gunnesson had made a land exchange with Nydala Monastery.	March 11, 1312	March 19, 1312

Catholic Dates in Which the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög are Mentioned

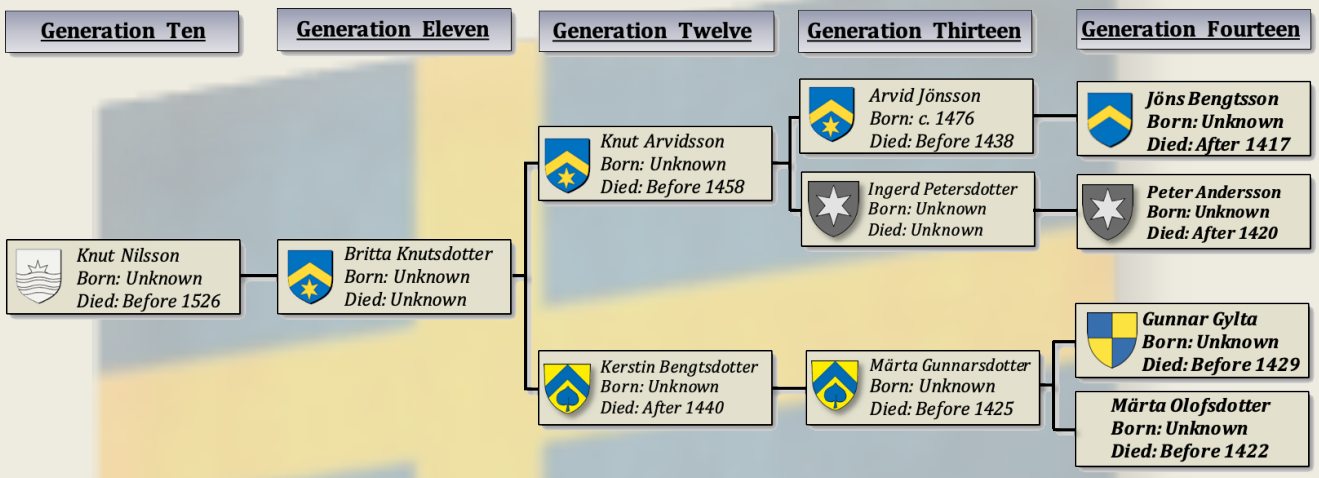
Date	Day	Description
January 1	Day of Christ's Circumcision	The day a week after Christ's birth which celebrates his circumcision
January 6	Epiphany	The twelfth day after Christmas which commemorates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus
January 13	Saint Hillary Day	Feast Day of Saint Hillary of Pottiers (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

10.0.1. Catholic Dates in Which the 13th and 14th Century Ancestors of Sven Hög are Mentioned

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 Fourteen

The 11th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1340-1430

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 11th Great-Grandparents Lived In

The 11th great-grandparents of Sven Hög that have been identified lived from around 1340 until around 1430. During this time, Sweden suffered through one of the deadliest pandemics in history, experienced insurrections, various political reforms, and the founding of the Kalmar Union. The early 1350s saw the devastating outbreak of the Black Death, a pandemic that ravaged the Swedish population. The nobility, including their children, were not immune to its effects. The loss of life and economic disruption caused by the plague led to social and economic instability, affecting inheritance patterns and land ownership among the nobility. Many of Sven Hög's 11th great-grandparents were children during this time and faced challenges in inheriting estates and titles due to the widespread mortality caused by the plague.

Politically, the period witnessed power struggles and conflicts, such as the insurrection against King Albrecht I of Mecklenburg in 1389. This event reshaped the political landscape and asserted the influence of the Swedish nobility in matters of governance. Figures like Abraham Brodersson and Bo Jonsson (Grip) played prominent roles in these political movements, representing the interests of the nobility and advocating for greater autonomy.



Monarchs who ruled over Sweden during the time of Sven Hög's 11th great-grandparents: Magnus Eriksson, Albrect I, and Margareta I

Economically, Sweden saw shifts towards a more centralized system under Queen Margareta I's reign. Her policies aimed to consolidate royal power and strengthen the monarchy's control over economic affairs. This centralization often clashed with the interests of the nobility, leading to tensions and resistance. Land ownership and economic privileges were key points of contention, as the nobility sought to preserve their traditional rights and privileges.

Overall, the period that Sven Hög's 11th great-grandparents lived in was characterized by significant upheaval and change, with the nobility navigating shifting political alliances, economic reforms, and legal developments. The challenges posed by the Black Death, political conflicts, and centralization efforts reshaped the lives of the nobility and their children, influencing inheritance patterns, power dynamics, and economic opportunities within Swedish society.

Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)

Name	Jöns Bengtsson
Born	1330s or 1340s
Place	Unknown
Died	After 1417
Place	Västergötland
Occupation	District Chief

Children of Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Arvid	1375- 1376	Möne	1434 to 1438	Gällstad

Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre) was probably born during the 1330s or 1340s.[5] His father was probably Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)[6] and the identity of his mother is unknown. It's likely he was born somewhere in Västergötland Province, since all the letters that mention him are from there.

In 1340...

- The King of Sweden was Magnus IV, the King of England was Edward III, and the King of France was Philip VI.
- The Pope was Benedict XII.
- Europe had about 74 million inhabitants.
- Rotterdam in the Netherlands was officially declared a city.
- The temporary Truce of Espléchin was signed between England and France, temporarily halting conflict during the Hundred Years War.



[5] Since Jöns Bengtsson must have been at least in his twenties during the first letter he is mentioned in from 1366 (SDHK No. 8815 - 1366) he was probably born in the 1340s. Also, in *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39, he is listed as being over 70 years old in 1417, which means he was probably in his seventies during that time, which also places his birth before 1347.

[6] According to RA Str. Kam handlingar Vol. Häftet G 4 a 2: Västergötland, Jöns Bengtsson's paternal grandmother Lucia donated the farm Länghem in Länghem Parish to Gällstad Church in 1341. Since Jöns Bengtsson had numerous ties to Gällstad Parish (For example, he bought the farm Redslarp in that parish in 1385 (SDHK No. 12961 - September 2, 1385)), and his grandson Knut Arvidsson lived in Länghem Parish, the Jöns Bengtsson mentioned in this letter is most likely the same as Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre). Patronymic tradition tells us that Jöns's father was named Bengt and SDHK No. 4441 - September 11, 1338 shows that Bengt Abjörnsson's coat of arms was also a chevron (the same as Jöns's). The same letter indirectly shows that Bengt's mother was named Lucia Mathiasdotter. Considering all of these facts, there is an ample amount of evidence to suggest that Bengt Abjörnsson was Jöns Bengtsson's father.

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

Variations of Jöns Bengtsson's Name

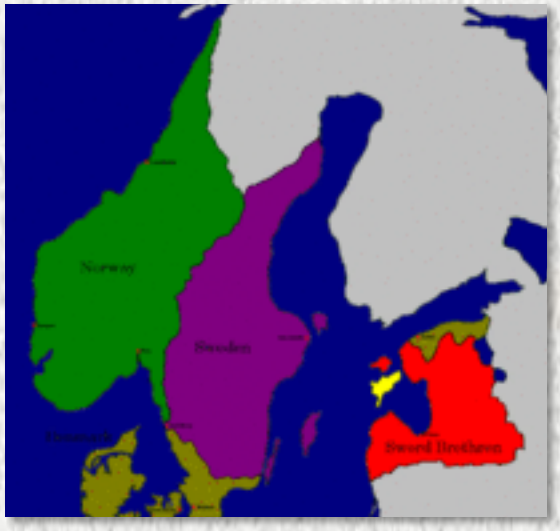
There are several variations Jöns Bengtsson's name is spelled in the letters that he is mentioned in. These variations include: "jönis bengß," "jonis bandictss(on)," "jessæ bæyntzson," and "jonis Bengtson."

Little is known about Jöns Bengtsson's youth, other than the knowledge of the major historical events that occurred during that time. Jöns grew up during the *Folkungatiden*, a period of Swedish history from 1250 to 1389. During Jöns's youth, the King of Sweden was Magnus Eriksson, or Magnus IV, who also ruled over Norway.

The *Folkungatiden* Period (1250-1389)

The Folkungatiden was the period in Swedish history that occurred between 1250 to 1389. The name of this period refers to the Folkungaätten (also known as the Bjälboätten), a powerful Swedish family. In 1250, Valdemar Birgersson was elected King of Sweden. At this time, Valdemar was only ten years old and his father Birger Jarl wielded the real authority over Sweden. Over the course of the next few decades, various power struggles occurred between Birger Jarl's descendants. In 1275, Valdemar was overthrown by his brother Magnus Ladulås. After Magnus's death in 1290, his son Birger Magnusson succeeded him as King of Sweden. During Birger's reign, his two brothers Erik and Valdemar rebelled against him, leading Birger to imprison the two in 1317. The following year, Erik and Valdemar's supporters rebelled against Birger, causing him to relinquish the throne and flee Sweden. Birger's nephew Magnus Eriksson subsequently took the Swedish throne and ruled until 1364 when he was deposed again Albrekt was elected King of Sweden. Albrekt also proved to be an unpopular ruler and was deposed in 1389. The end of Albrekt's reign also marked the end of the Folkungatiden period in Sweden.

The Folkungatiden was a time of social transformation. During this time, the monarchy was given the right to make laws. Prior to 1350, the different provinces of Sweden had their own set of laws. In 1350, King Magnus issued a number of nationwide statutes, which all of Sweden were mandated into following. These included, the abolition of slavery, the prevention of rape, and the delimitation of the royal judiciary. Together with selected parts of the provincial laws, these statutes became the foundation of Sweden's national laws. A basic tax system was also devised during this period, which taxed landowners based on their land holdings.



The region in purple depicts Sweden in the 14th century

In 1350, the Black Death, the deadliest plague the world has ever known, spread to Sweden, ravaging the population. During this time, hundreds of thousands of Swedes contracted the plague and died from it. Several farms, estates, and villages were completely abandoned. It's likely that Jöns Bengtsson was still a child at this point. It's possible that Jons's father Bengt Abjörnsson died from the Black Death.

The Black Death

The Black Death (also known as the Great Mortality, the Pestilence, or simply the Plague) was a bubonic plague pandemic which occurred in Afro-Eurasia from 1346 to 1353. It is the most fatal pandemic recorded and killed 75-200 million people. The bubonic plague is caused by bacteria spread by fleas, but can also be spread from person to person via aerosols. The Black Death caused severe economic, religious, and social upheavals within Europe. Although the Black Death's origin is disputed, it originated in East Asia or Central Asia and first appeared in Crimea in 1347. It spread from Crimea to North Africa, Western Asia, and the rest of Europe via Genoese ships.

Europe experienced several negative effects from the Black Death. Economically, it disrupted trade, agriculture, and commerce, and created labor shortages (due to the massive death toll) leading to increased wages for surviving workers, but also causing inflation and economic instability. Many industries and businesses suffered, contributing to a period of economic turmoil. The Black Death was also responsible for a staggering amount of deaths in Europe.



Map showing how the Black Death spread across Europe

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

Is Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre) Mentioned in SDHK No. 6716?

There is a letter from March 23, 1354, which mentions a man named Jöns Bengtsson and bears his seal, which is of a chevron. In this letter, the Jöns Bengtsson who is mentioned provides his seal to verify that a squire named Erengisil Jepsson had sold some of his land to a nobleman named Jon Törkilsson. Since the Jöns Bengtsson who is mentioned in this letter also has a chevron for his seal, it is easy to believe that it is the same Jöns Bengtsson who was Arvid Jönsson's father. However, this is likely not the case. First, there were at least 15-20 noble families in Sweden that had a chevron as their coat of arms at this time, and Jöns Bengtsson was a common name, indicating that it could be a different person. Second, none of the individuals mentioned in this letter are in Jöns's network, which is unusual. Finally, the estates mentioned in this letter are nowhere near the known estates that Jöns Bengtsson owned, which is also uncommon. Thus, it's unlikely that it is the same person.

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 6716 – March 23, 1354

Transcription:

Allum them mannum thætta breff høra ok sse helsar iæk Folke Ormsson riddare meth
Guthi ok euærthelike helso. Kvnnunghar iæk meth þæssu breue, at iæk hafuer saalt minum frænda
Lafrinse Laka mijn gaard i Thrughuszthorpe meth lanbonum i Hærothorpe meth allu þy þær til
ligger innan gardz ok vtan fore tu hundratha mark meth fæst ok vmfærþ
ok allum lagha fangom vndan mik ok minum arfwm ok vndir han ok hans arfua,
them til euærþelika egho ok vkallelict ater aff minum arfwm. Hær til vitnis byrth ær
heþerlika manna insigli meth minv, hærra Gøzstafs Tunason, hærra Anund Stura, hærra Karls
dækin i Skarum, Iønes Bændictsson. Æptir vars Hærra byrþ mcccliiij var þætta giuit i
Skarum vm miþfasto lanzþingh.

Translation:

[To] all those who hear and see this letter, I, Folke Ormsson, knight, send greetings in God and [wish] everlasting health. Let it be known through this letter that I have sold to my relative Lars Lake my estate in Törestorp, with the tenants in Herrtorp, along with everything belonging to it, within and beyond the estate, for two hundred marks in full payment, including all rights, claims, and lawful acquisitions, releasing it from me and my heirs entirely to him and his heirs, as their perpetual and irrevocable property, free from any claims by my heirs. As evidence of this, I attach the seals of honorable men alongside my own: Herr Gustav Tuneson, Herr Amund Sture, Herr Karl (the deacon of Skara), and Jöns Bengtsson. [Written] after the birth of our Lord 1354, this was given at Skara at the midwinter provincial court.

[1] SDHK 6716 - March 23, 1354

By the 1360s, Jöns Bengtsson had reached adulthood. In 1362, Magnus IV's son Håkan Magnusson became the co-ruler of Sweden. In 1363, a rebellion broke out in Sweden against Magnus and Håkan, leading to the two to be deposed. In 1364, Albrekt of Mecklenburg was crowned King of Sweden.

Personhistorisk tidskrift ("Personal History Magazine")

Personhistorisk tidskrift ("Personal History Magazine" and abbreviated as PHT) is a genealogical and historical journal that is published by the Personhistoriska samfundet ("The Swedish Society for Personal History.") This journal has been published since 1879 and is released twice a year. This journal has published numerous biographies on senior officials in the government and military, royalty, politicians, and writers, as well as genealogies of prominent Swedish families. Today, *Personhistorisk tidskrift* publishes biographies, autobiographical material, and occasionally interviews with people who have lived interesting lives or in some way played a role in Swedish or Scandinavian society. Jöns Bengtsson is mentioned in the article "Bengt Arvidsson's Morgongåvobrev" from the 1964: 3 issue of *Personhistorisk tidskrift*.

Sometime in 1366, Jöns Bengtsson purchased an estate called Hiå in Holsljunga Parish, Västergötland from Lars Håkansson and Nils Håkansson for 60 mark.[7]



Letter that mentions Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre) from 1366
Seals: 1. Lars Håkansson 2. Nils Håkansson

[7] SDHK No. 8815 - 1366

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

Transcription:

Alle men thetta bref høra eller se helsom vi laurins
hakonβ ok niclis hakonβ meth gudh kennoms vi m(eth) varo
opno breue haua salt skæliku(m) manne jönis bengβ een gardh
jj kindh som var fathir aaf staffane gøtarsone fanggith
hafde som hetir hida j hulsaliungga sonk liggiande for trij-
sin tiugu mark pæningga m(eth) allum tilagum teth for nemda
hida til høre ok engo undantakn ok bindom oos ther til ok
vara arua hanu(m) ok hans aruu(m) tet fornemda goz hemol hal
la for alla the tehr kunno fra(m)ledis a tala til mere visso ok
bætre forvaringh henggiom vi var insigele for tetta breef sc(ri)p-
tu(m) skødue Anno d(omi)ni mo ccco lx sexto.

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter, we, Lars Håkansson and Nils Håkansson, salute in the name of God, and declare that we have sold an estate called Hiå in Holsljunga Parish in Kind District, to the honest man Jöns Bengtsson. Our father had received this estate from Staffan Götarsson. The estate was sold for 60 mark, with all included and nothing excluded. We and our heirs can fully prove our rights to sell this estate, if ever questioned. To assure the content of this letter we place our seals below. Written in Skövde in the Year of Our Lord 1366.

Since most of the letters which mention Jöns Bengtsson are associated with Kind District, it's likely that he lived there for most (or all) of his life. Sometime in the 1360s or early 1370s, he was married to an unknown woman. They had at least one son named Arvid, who was born around 1375 or 1376.[8]

Throughout his adult life, Jöns sought to ascend through the social hierarchy within the Swedish aristocracy, which he achieved through solidifying social connections with other high-ranking families, purchasing more estates, and eventually obtaining the position of District Chief of Kind District.

Jöns Bengtsson's Relationship with Tennant Farmers*

Being a District Chief didn't give Jöns Bengtsson much time to take care of his estates and single farmsteads. Since he possessed 83 farms and three larger estates, he had to hire some bailiffs to take care of them as tenant farmers. The tenants at the single farms paid annual proceeds which, depending on the contracts, could be butter, grain, or livestock. Some of the tenants of smaller farms could instead pay with charcoal, tar, fish, or squirrel fur. Jöns didn't have any real conflict with his tenants, but he knew about other landowners who had. Being both a landowner and a District Chief brought a lot of responsibility, and in order to respect the law, Jöns had to treat his tenants fairly.

* A work of creative fiction by Magnus Tonquist

[8] Arvid is listed as Jöns's son in *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39. According to this same source, which was written on April 18, 1417, Arvid was 41 years old at the time, which means he was born between April 11, 1375 and April 12, 1376.

As he grew older, Jöns Bengtsson continued to purchase new property. On September 23, 1385, Mårten Unge sold his farm Redslarp in Gällstad Parish to Jöns Bengtsson for an undisclosed amount of money and property. Olof in Banasund, Johan Håkansson, and Gunnar in Tuveryd placed their seals on this letter to certify this transaction.[9]



Letter that mentions Jöns Bengtsson – September 23rd, 1385
Seals: 1. Olof Sadelmästare 2. Gunnar in Tuveryd 3. and 4. are missing but belonged to Johan Håkansson and Jöns Bengtsson

Transcription:

Alla the thetta breeff høøra ok see, helsar jak marten vnge m(eth) varu(m) h(e)rra, kennis iak m(eth) thetta nærvarante breeff mik haua saalt, skælikom man(n)e jonis bandictss(on), mith gooz ok min(n)a moth(e)r(s) ij rysluthorpe, m(eth) allum til laghum, ij galstadha sookn liggiande foor gooz ok pen(n)unga svasvm oos m(eth) nøøgdhe framdeles foor vmfærth, havar olaws satlamest(er) ij banasvnd, ok jovan haconss(on) min magh(e)r, vijselica loovath, sc--- sG siggill discreto? --- v(ed) olaui I banasund --- gun(n)arj in thwarrith, --- siggillo ---pa no--- vtor in sabb(a)to … … … michaelis An(no) do(min)j mcccolxxxovo

Translation:

[To] all who hear and see this letter, I, Mårten Unge, salute in the name of our Lord. With this letter I declare that I have sold my and my mother's estate in Redslarp, with all included, in Gällstad Parish, to the honorable man Jöns Bengtsson for property and money. To verify this letter, Olof (master saddle maker) in Banasund, my close friend Johan Håkansson, and Gunnar in Tuveryd have promised to place their seals together with mine. Signed on the Day of St. Michael (Michaelmas) (September 23rd) in the Year of Our Lord 1385.

[9] SDHK No. 12961 - September 23, 1385

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

Sometime before 1388, Jöns's first wife passed away.[10] On November 16, 1388, Jöns was married to a woman named Birgitta Erlandsdotter. As part of the marriage, Jöns gave Birgitta several of the estates he owned, which included Trinshult in Agunnaryd Parish and a farm stead called Karlsgård in Kanarp in Annerstad Parish. It was agreed that any children the two had together would inherit this property after their passing. To certify this agreement, Jöns had Arvid Bengtsson, Magnus Sture, and Lars Djäken place their seals on the letter which documented the morning gift Jöns gave to Birgitta.[11]



Map showing parishes associated with Jöns Bengtsson

Discontentment with the Swedish monarchy resumed in the late 1380s. In 1389, Margareta Valdemarsdotter, the Queen of Denmark and Norway, led an insurrection against King Albrekt. After Albrekt was deposed, Margareta was crowned as the Queen of Sweden. It's likely that Jöns Bengtsson supported Margareta.

[10] Since SDHK No. 13470 - November 16, 1388 shows that Jöns married Birgitta Erlandsdotter in 1388, his first wife must have died before then.
[11] SDHK No. 13470 - November 16, 1388



Letter that Jöns Bengtsson wrote on November 16th, 1388
Seals (Missing or damaged): *Arvid Bengtsson *Magnus Sture *Lars (Holmgersson) Djäken

Transcription:

Thæt scal allom man(n)o(m) kunn(i)o(r)dht wara som thætta bræf høra ell(er) se swa thøm so(m) æft(er) koma
som thøm thær nw æra th(et) iac Jønis bændictβ ken(n)is mik haua givit elskelike mine hus
fru birghitte erlenzdott(er) til hedh(e)r oc morghangauo min gardh i trinsholte i Agundarydh
sokn oc en gardh i kanathorpa som hæt(er) karlzgardh i anderstadh sokn m(eth) allom tillagh(o)m
som thøm twaan gardh(o)m tilhøra nær by oc fiarran i wato oc thyrro ænga vndan tak-
no m(eth) swa skælu(m) At, sum wi barn saman tha wari -he morghongaua Wra barna
møth(e)rne oc ær fæth(e)rne | Kan oc swa ha(n)da som gudh forbiuthe at wi aatskilioms
barnløs – tha wari the førnapnda goz ather wara som æfter annat leuar --- --- ---
sigilla --- --- --- Aruidh bænctsonβ magn(us) stwre (e)t laur(itz) diekn presentibus sunt
appensa Anno d(omi)nj mocccolxxx octawo

Translation:

Let it be known to everyone, now living or future generations, who hear or see this letter, that I, Jöns Bengtsson, gave my estate Trinshult in Agunnaryd Parish and a farm stead called Karlsgård in Kanarp in Annerstad Parish, with all included, as a morning gift to and in honor of my beloved wife Birgitta Erlandsdotter. This morning-gift should be inherited by our children. And, which God forbids, if we depart childless the survivor shall have it. To attest this document, I ask Arvid Bengtsson, Magnus Sture, and Lars Djäken to place their seals together on this letter. Written in the Year of Our Lord, 1388.

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

Jöns Bengtsson had numerous social connections with prominent families of Swedish nobility, such as the Ribbing and the Prika families. On February 13, 1390, Jöns placed his seal on a letter that documented that a man named Tove Benosson had purchased a farm in Nittorp Parish for oxen and cows worth 30 mark. The other men who placed their seals on this letter were Peter Ribbing, Peter Prika, and Magnus Nilsson. This letter was written and sealed at the castle Opensten.[12]



Ruins of the castle Opensten, Södra Åsarps Parish, Västergötland



Letter that includes Jöns Bengtsson's seal (a chevron) - February 13th, 1390
Seals: 1. Peter Ribbing 2. Peter Prika 3. (missing) Jöns Bengtsson 4. Magnus Nilsson

[12] SDHK No. 13686 - February 13, 1390

Transcription:

67. 1390 13 Febr.

Alla the mæn thetta breff høra æll(e)r se helsom wy pedher niclisß ok Elina deyia hans hwstru swa thelica vedh warom h-a, kenno(m)ps wy opinbarlica jn thesso varo nærwara(n)de opno brefwo, oss m(eth) wilie ok beredt bäggias wara til pant hafwa sat, skellikom manna tofwe benosß vara gotz, sw---gardh j nitorph liggiande, (før) thrætighi mark peni(n)ga j oxa ok koo, beredha skuland(e)r vppa sa(nkt) iohannie dagh nunæst kom(m)a [sculande ovan for thee mark ok kona for ena] ware the som at thes-sa før--- pen(n)i(n)ga ekke bereda varo, wppa s(an)c(t)i baptista dagh, so(m) wt til annar sa(nkt) ioh(ann)is dagh, thee la(n)gield ok sculd, j the samo pen(n)i(n)ga enka, åker ok æng, ok alla thes tillagho(m), afhændom wy os oc wara arfwa --- --- --- fornempda tofwa be-nosß ok hans arfwom, swa længe, at wy th(et) forn(emd)a gotz inløøst hafwom, --- --- --- som før ær saggt til hwil-kens brefe mære wisso ok forb—ring, medhan wy ey siælfwe (nagot incighle) hafwom wy ber nu --- ok beradh-no modhe, fore thetta breff incighle erlica ok welborna man(n)a, swasom pether ribbing pether prica jønis beinctsß oc magnus niclisß datum in opinsten Anno d(omi)ni mccc nonagesimo --- --- ---.

Translation:

February 13th,1390

[To] all men who hear or see this letter, we, Peter Nilsson and Elina Deyia (his wife), declare with this open letter that we are in full possession of our senses, as we pawn our estate ---gård, with all included, in Nittorp Parish to the honest man Tove Benosson for oxen and cows worth 30 mark, with redemption on the next day of St. John the Baptist (June 24th). The estate is to be regarded as the possession of Tove Benosson and his heirs until we have redeemed the debt. Since we lack seals of our own, we ask the following honest and noble men to attest this letter by placing their seals on it: Peter Ribbing, Peter Prika, Jöns Bengtsson and Magnus Nilsson. Written at Opensten fortress in the Year of Our Lord 1390.

Opensten

Opensten (Óh-pen-stéhn) was a medieval castle in Södra Åsarps Parish, Västergötland. It was first mentioned in records from 1355, but could've been built as early as the 13th century. It was built to defend the road along the Ätran towards Bogesund. In 1362, it was rebuilt. In 1366, King Valdamar of Denmark's troops took command of it. By 1383, it belonged to Bo Jonsson (Grip), who willed it to Queen Margareta in 1388. It was burned by Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson in 1434.



The foundations of Opensten's central tower

Opensten was built on a 30-meter-high hill, which was guarded halfway by a semicircular forecourt. The main castle consisted of a square tower. Southeast of the castle was a lower plateau with two other buildings.

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

"Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" by Thomas Småberg

One of the most informative scholarly works on Jöns Bengtsson can be found in Thomas Småberg's thesis "Häradshövdingarna i Kind, deras släktskaps- och äktenskapsförbindelser" (District Judges in Kind, their kin and marital relations"), which focuses on the District Chiefs who served in Kind and Mark District between 1390-1520. A significant portion of this thesis discusses how Jöns Bengtsson and several of his descendants were established and maintained social influence, property, and wealth. Småberg mentions how Jöns Bengtsson had contacts with high-ranking Swedish officials, such as Tove Benosson and Abraham Brodersson. He briefly discusses Jöns Bengtsson's tenure as District Chief of Kind District, as well as Bengtsson's descendants who also served in this position, such as his son Arvid Jönsson, grandson Knut Arvidsson, and great-grandson Arvid Knutsson.

By 1397, Jöns Bengtsson had been appointed to be the *Häradshövning*, or District Chief, of Kind District in Västergötland.[13] He may have been appointed by Queen Margareta I to serve in this role. In this role, Jöns had to attend court sessions at Opensten 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, Jöns pronounced judgements and placed his seal on letters to certify his authorization for different transactions.



Letter that lists Jöns Bengtsson as a District Chief - June 9th, 1397
Seals (All missing): 1. Jöns Bengtsson 2. Tove Bengtsson 3. Ingjald Lang

[13] SDHK No. 14824 - June 9, 1397 shows Jöns Bengtsson was a District Chief of Kind District.

Transcription:

82 1397 9. Junii

Allæ thæ mæn thættæ breff høren æller sæn hælsar iak ion godhebondæ oc kænnens iak m(eth) thættæ opnæ brefe mik hafa pandh sat ærlika mannæ oc wælborna h(er)ra Abra(ha)m Riddæra alt th(et) gods som ragnilt mz hus-fru ærfædhæ æftæ sin brodhir magnus grøyten før hundradha suens[ka]--- --- --- som ær en fierdhingh j æricsthorp oc alt th(et) til lighir oc æn halft gods (i) giislathorp oc æn half gods j onosæ oc æn half gods j lilha bodin. Siidan th(et) pandh gods th(et) then fornempdhe magn(us) wt sat hafthæ som ær ottathorp oc grafingsaas oc hostverrødhæ oc golbrantbodæ oc siidan th(et) gods th(et) then fornempdhe mag(nus) køpt hafdhæ th(et) --- liighir --- ericsthorp som ær aborhulte oc breitsthorp oc swartesyø oc sobbarydæ gæfuer iak ion thænnæ fornæmpthe h(er)ra æbram maght th(et) fornæmdhæ pandh gods til βit løsin mic --- th(et) iak oc min husfru th(er) til haffuer oc om th(et) fornempdh(e) køpæ gods latær iak ion op them fornempdhe h(er)ra æbram mic all min rætæ th(-) iak oc min husfru th(er) til hafdh(o)m siidhan later iak ion opa then fornæmpdha h(er)ra æbram for thæ fornempdhe hundridhæ march all the iordhæ gods th(et) mik oc mi(n) husfru tilhøræ th(et) wi rætt til haffua huar man th(et) findher til vitnisbørdh oc --- wisni(n)g oc skæl beddis iak ion danama(n)s insegelsom ær iønis b(en)gt(sson)s hærædhshøfdingh i kindh oc tovæ bænæ(son) oc ingeld langhæ. Datum opinsten Anno d(omi)ni mill(essim)o ccco nonag(in)t(a) septimus --- die sabbatum ---

Translation:

No 82. June 9th, 1397

[To]all men who hear or see this letter, I, Jon Godebonde, salute. I admit with this, my open letter, that I have pawned all the estates that my wife Ragnhild has inherited from her brother Magnus Grød, to the honest and noble knight, Sir Abraham, for 100 Swedish mark. The estates are: a fourth estate in Erikstorp with all included, a half estate in Gisslarp, a half estate in Onåsen, a half estate in Lilla Boda; then there are the estates which Magnus Grød had pawned: Uddarp, Grävingsås, Hussered, and Gullbrandsbo; and the estates that Magnus Grød had bought in the vicinity of Erikstorp: Abborrhult, Bredstorp, Svartsjö, and Sobbarydæ. I, Jon, authorize Herr Abraham to redeem the previous mentioned estates, which belonged to me and my wife, unless I am able to repay the 100 Swedish mark. To attest and assure this letter I, Jon, ask the following honorable men, Jöns Bengtsson (District Chief in Kind), Tuve Bengtsson and Ingjald Lang to place their seals on this letter. Written at Opensten and dated in the Year of Our Lord 1397 on the Saturday before Whitsunday (June 9th).

Jöns Bengtsson's son Arvid Jönsson reached adulthood sometime in the 1390s. To further his family's social ranking, Jöns helped arrange a marriage in which Arvid was married to Ingerd Petersdotter, the daughter of Peter Andersson (Prika).[14] The fact that Arvid adopted the six-sided star from the Prika coat of arms[15] suggests that the Prika family was of higher social ranking than Jöns's family. Since the Prika family were related to the Gylta family, Jöns Bengtsson also had connections to their family. By 1401, Arvid Jönsson had been appointed to the position of District Chief of Ås District.[16] His appointment to this position was probably greatly influenced by the fact that Jöns Bengtsson was the District Chief of Kind District. In 1421, Arvid became the District Chief of Kind District.[17]

[14] Peter Andersson (Prika) is mentioned as Arvid Jönsson's father-in-law in SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416.
[15] SDHK No. 19078 - May 1, 1418
[16] SDHK **N**o.15552 - January 14, 1401
[17] SDHK No. 19643 - May 3, 1421. For more information on the fate of Arvid Jönsson, see page 1586.

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

Jöns Bengtsson continued to serve as the District Chief of Kind District throughout the 1400s. On May 26, 1412, he placed his seal up to verify that the noble men Gunnar Prika, Björn Gylta, Magnus Gylta, and Peter Andersson (Prika) had provided Märta Larsdotter with a statement regarding the inheritance of her brother Peter Prika. His son Arvid Jönsson also placed his seal on this letter.[18]



Letter that mentions Jöns Bengtsson – May 26th, 1412
Seals: 1. Jöns Bengtsson 2. Arvid Jönsson 3. Magnus Abjörnsson

Transcription:

Thet skal allom witerlikit wara som thetta breeff høra ella see thet iak Mæritta Laurinsadottir kennis meth thesso mino næruarandhe opno brefwe at ærlike mæn ok wælborne herra Gunne Prika, Petar Andrisson, Biorn Gylta ok Magnus Gylta hafwa meth samtykkio, kærlik ok godhom wilia myk lika ok fwlt ok wæl til nøgis giort fore thet arf ther myk fiol æptir ærlika mæn Petar Prika, min elskelikin brodir, ok Petar Erikson, Gud thera siæl hafwe, fore gooz ok rørandha pæningha, swa at myk kærlika, fulkomlika ok allaledhis wæl aat nøgir; fore hulkit arff jak fornempda Mæritta latir fornempda ærlika ok godha mæn quitta, lidhuga ok allaledhis løsa. Ok forbiudhir iak allom minom arfwom ok æpthekomandom them eller thera arfwa i nokrahandha matho hindra ella quælia i thesso arfwe. Tyl fulla vitnisbyrd tha bedhis iak ærlika manna insigle som ær Jonissa Benksona i Kiint, Magnusa Abiornasona ther samma stad, ok Aruiddha Jonissona i Aashæradhe, fore thetta breeff. Datum anno Domini mcdxij°, ipso die beati Augustini episcopi anglorum.

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

Translation:

All who hear or see this letter shall know that I, Märta Larsdotter, announce with this, my open letter, that the honest and noble men Gunnar Prika, Peter Andersson, Björn Gylta and Magnus Gylta, have in consent, love and good will, given me a thorough statement of the inheritance from the honest men Peter Prika, my beloved brother, and Peter Eriksson, God have mercy on their souls. The inheritance consists of estates and cash, for which I gratefully thank the previous mentioned honest and good men and give a receipt for. I also forbid all my heirs and their offspring ever to argue against this document. To assure full legalization I ask the following honest men, Jöns Bengtsson and Magnus Abjörnsson in Kind, and Arvid Jönsson in Ås District, to place their seals on this letter. The document was dated in the Year of Our Lord 1412 on the Day of the Blessed Angels of Saint Augustine (May 26th).

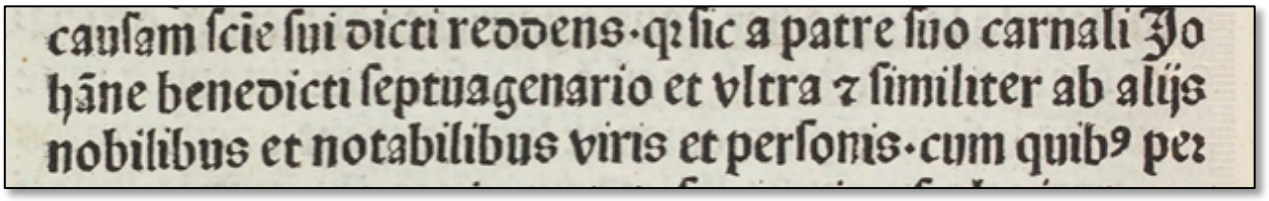
Other Letters that Mention Jöns Bengtsson

- **SDHK No. 16078 – April 30, 1403:** The squire Jon Turesson gives to the knight Abraham Brodersson the deed of mortgage that he has received from Jens Storbernsson. Jon, his brother Håkan Skytte, and "Jessæ Bæyntzson" (a variation of the name Jöns Bengtsson) seal the letter. No seals are preserved.

- **SDHK No. 16334 – August 25, 1404:** The squire "Jesse Störbernsson" and his wife "Argunda" Mårtensdotter sell to the knight Abraham Brodersson their farms Bystad and Frölunda in Gällstad Parish. The seal of "Jessæ Bæyndzson" (a chevron) is included as the third seal on the letter.

- **SDHK No. 39774 – February 24, 1409:** Abraham Broderson donates goods in Hulåkra (in Ullasjö Parish, Kind District) to wife Elin, widow of Anders Skytte. This letter contains Jöns Bengtsson's seal.

Jöns Bengtsson was last mentioned as being alive on April 12, 1417, during his son Arvid's testimony about the life of Brynolf Algotsson, who had served as the Bishop of Skara Diocese in the late 13th century and early 14th century. During this testimony, Arvid mentioned what Jöns had told him about Brynolf Algotsson, and that Jöns was over 70 years old at this point.[19]


causam scie sui dicti reddens·q; sic a patre suo carnali Jo
hãne benedicti septuagenario et vltra ⁊ similiter ab alijs
nobilibus et notabilibus viris et personis·cum quib⁹ per

Excerpt from *Vita beati Brynolphi* that mentions Jöns Bengtsson - April 12th, 1417

[19] *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39

10.1.1. Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff

Transcription: (Latin)

causam scientie sui dicti reddens, quod sic a patre suo carnali Johanne Benedicti septuagenario et vitra, et similiter ab aliis nobilibus et notabilibus viris et personis, cum quibus per

Translation:

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….

It's unknown when Jöns Bengtsson died, but it's likely that he died sometime in the late 1410s or 1420s.

Trivia on Jöns Begtsson (Sparre)

1. What was probably the name of Jöns Bengtsson's father?
    a. Bengt Abjörnsson
    b. Bengt Arvidsson
    c. Bengt Jönsson
    d. Bengt Nilsson

2. What province did Jöns Bengtsson live in?
    a. Halland
    b. Småland
    c. Västergötland
    d. Östergötland

3. The first confirmed letter that mentions Jöns Bengtsson is from what year?

4. What was the name of Jöns Bengtsson's second wife?

5. What is the first year that Jöns Bengtsson is listed as District Chief?

6. Jöns Bengtsson was the District Chief of what district?

7. What was the symbol on Jöns Bengtsson's seal?

8. What was the last year in which Jöns Bengtsson was listed as still being alive?

Answers: 1. a 2. c 3. 1366 4. Birgitta Erlandsdotter 5. 1397 6. Kind 7. A chevron 8. 1417

Peter Andersson (Prika)

Name	**Peter Andersson**
Born	**1340s-1360s**
Place	**Unknown**
Died	**After 1420**
Place	**Västergötland**
Occupation	**Squire**

Children of Peter Andersson (Prika)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Ingerd	**1370s-1380s**	**Unknown**	**Before 1438**	**Gällstad, Västergötland**

Peter Andersson (Prika) was probably born during the 1340s-1360s.[20] His father's first name was Anders[21] and his mother's name is unknown. Since all the letters he is mentioned in are from Västergötland, it's likely that he was born somewhere in that province.

Confusion Between Peter Andersson (Prika) and Peter Prika

Peter Andersson (Prika) is frequently confused with an older member of the Prika family, Peter Prika. A big reason for this is that Peter Prika is listed in a letter from 1390[1], in which Jöns Bengtsson, the father of Peter Andersson's son-in-law Arvid Jönsson, is also mentioned. However, according to a letter from 1396, Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter (Ribbing) is listed as Peter Prika's widow[2], indicating that Peter Prika had died before then. Since Peter Andersson wrote a letter in 1416 which stated that he was Arvid Jönsson's father-in-law[3], he must have been a separate person than the Peter Prika who was mentioned in letters from the 1390s. Therefore, Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter was not Peter Andersson's wife and it is unknown who his wife really was. Since both Peter Prika and Peter Andersson had the same coat of arms (a six-sided star), they must have been related, but it's unknown what their relation was. It's likely that Peter Prika was either Peter Andersson's uncle or his father's first cousin.

[1] SDHK No. 13686 - February 13, 1390
[2] SDHK No. 14620 - December 25, 1396.
[3] SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416

[20] Since Peter Andersson was listed as Arvid Jönsson's father-in-law in 1416 (SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416), he must have been a generation older than Arvid (who was born around 1476), which means he was born sometime between the 1340s to 1360s.
[21] Since Peter's surname was "Andersson" patronymic tradition tells us that his father's name must have been Anders.

10.1.2. Peter Andersson (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf mf

Nothing is known about Peter Andersson's youth. When he was growing up, the King of Sweden was Magnus Eriksson, or Magnus IV, who also ruled over Norway. Magnus was largely unpopular with the Swedish aristocracy, due to the high taxes he levied during his reign. In 1362, Magnus's son Haakon became the co-ruler of Sweden, and was known as King Haakon VI. The following year, a rebellion broke out against Magnus and Haakon, which led the two being deposed. In 1364, Albrekt of Mecklenburg was crowned King of Sweden.

The Reign of Magnus IV (1319-1364)

Magnus Eriksson was born in 1316. His father was Erik Magnusson, the Duke of Södermanland, and his mother was Ingeborg, a daughter of King Haakan V of Norway. In 1319, when Magnus was only three years old, his grandfather Håkan died and he was elected as the King of Norway and Sweden. While Magnus was a child, his reign was primarily influenced by his mother Ingeborg. Magnus came of age in 1331 or 1332. In 1332, Magnus paid a lofty amount of 34,0000 mark of silver to obtain the territories of Skåne and Blekinge, which he largely funded by raising taxes. In 1335, he appointed Nils Abjörnsson as his drot, or councilor. Magnus was officially crowned as the King of Sweden in 1336.



Magnus IV on the title page of his Swedish national law code

By the 1340s, Sweden was in a state of financial crisis due to various loans and pledges Magnus had made, causing the aristocracy to resent him. In 1346, Magnus sent out a letter apologizing for the extra taxes and gave a large donation to Birgitta Birgersdotter to establish a monastery in Vadstena. In 1347, he formed a national landslag, or legislative committee, who worked together to establish a uniform set of laws that all of Sweden would adhere to. Dissatisfaction with Magnus's policies led to a rebellion in 1356, which was led by Magnus's eldest son Erik. Although Magnus agreed to cede a large part of his kingdom to Erik, Erik died in 1359, and Magnus recovered these lands. However, shortly after this, King Valdemar of Denmark invaded Skåne and Öland.

In February 1362, Magnus's son Håkan Magnusson was formally elected King Haakon VI of Sweden, and it was agreed that Magnus and Håkan would rule over Sweden together. The following year, Håkan was married to King Valdemar's daughter Margareta. By this time, several of Sweden's highest-ranking officials had been driven into exile. They turned to Duke Albrekt the Great of Mecklenburg and offered the Swedish crown to his son, Albrekt. In November of 1363, Albrekt's army invaded Stockholm and Albrekt was later elected as King of Sweden. During the invasion, Magnus was captured and imprisoned until 1371. After his release, Magnus spent much of his time with his son Håkan and wife Margareta. On December 1, 1374, Magnus drowned in a shipwreck near Bømlafjorden, Norway.

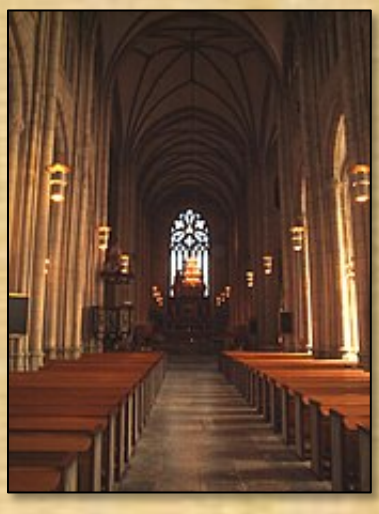
Peter came from the Prika family, which was of nobility. Since he was of nobility, Peter lived quite a privileged life in comparison to most of the people who were alive during his time. His father must have owned several farms throughout Västergötland, many of which Peter eventually inherited. Like the rest of Sweden, Peter was of the Catholic faith. He lived in Skara Diocese, which was presided over by the Bishop of Skara.

Skara Cathedral



Skara Cathedral is Skara Diocese's cathedral and is one of Sweden's largest churches. It was first constructed in the 11th century. The remains of the cathedral's crypt from the 11th century still exist, in which the diocese's first bishops were laid to rest. Altar vessels and older church textiles from the 11th century also still exist. During the early 13th century, the cathedral's current choir was added. The cathedral's current High Gothic style dates to the early 14th century, when the nave and transept took their main form. These parts were built from sandstone that came from Västergötland.

Skara Cathedral has been damaged and restored on several occasions. In 1566, it was devastated and plundered by an invading Danish army during the Northern Seven Years War. Shortly after this, the cathedral received the three large star vaults, which covered the nave. In 1759, the cathedral's superintendent Count Carl Johan Cronsted designed various renovations for the cathedral's exterior, which included the cathedral's southern gable, which was constructed during the 1760s. During 1886–1894, the cathedral underwent an extensive restoration, in which the cathedral received the impression of a three-nave basilica. The cathedral's 37 glass mosaic windows were added between 1945-1976.



By the 1370s or 1380s, Peter had reached adulthood. He probably got married sometime during this period. Although the identity of his wife is unknown, it's likely that she also came from a noble family. The two had at least one daughter named Ingerd.[22]

[22] SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416 states that Peter Andersson was the father-in-law of Arvid Jönsson. According to SDHK No. 23101 – December 14, 1438, Ingerd was the wife of Arvid, which means she must have been the daughter of Peter Andersson. For more information on Ingerd Petersdotter, see page 1586.

10.1.2. Peter Andersson (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf mf

During Peter's young adulthood, discontentment with the Swedish monarchy continued during the reign of Albrekt. In 1371, a rebellion rose up against Albrekt, which he was able to repel. However, in 1389, Margareta, the widow of Håkan Magnusson, helped lead an insurrection in which Albrekt was deposed. Following Albrekt's deposition, Margareta was crowned Queen of Sweden. In 1397, Margareta helped establish the Kalmar Union, which was a union between Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. The same year, Margareta's nephew Erik of Pomerania was crowned King Erik XIII of Sweden and ruled over Sweden with Margareta. In 1412, Margareta died, leaving Erik XIII as the sole ruler of Sweden. Peter was probably in favor of Margareta's reign.

<u>*Svenska medeltidsvapen* ("Swedish Medieval Weapons" by Jan Raneke</u>



Svenska medeltidsvapen ("Swedish Medieval Weapons" in English and abbreviated as SMV) is a Swedish encyclopedia by Jan Raneke that describes the heraldic coat of arms of various Swedish medieval families. Two volumes were published in 1982 and a third volume with corrections was published in 1985. SMV contains information on all of the known Swedish noble families that are ancestors of the High family, including the Prika family. Although many of its errors were corrected in the third volume, it has been largely criticized by numerous Swedish scholars such as Hans Gillingstam, Stig Östenson, and Kaj Janzon.

Unfortunately, Peter Andersson is only mentioned in five letters from 1412 to 1420. However, these letters are important in showing where Peter lived and who some of his relatives were.

On May 26, 1412, Märta Larsdotter wrote a letter stating that Peter Andersson and three other nobleman, Gunnar Prika, Björn Gylta, and Magnus Gylta had provided her with a statement regarding the inheritance of her brother Peter Prika. This letter contained the seals of Jöns Bengtsson (Sparre), the District Chief of Kind District; Arvid Jönsson (Drake af Intorp), the District Chief of Ås District who was also the son of Jöns Bengtsson and son-in-law of Peter Andersson; and Magnus Abjörnsson.[23]

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

Since letters that listed inheritances listed the relatives of the deceased, Peter Prika, Gunnar Prika, Björn Gylta, and Magnus Gylta must have been related to Peter Andersson.[24] Many researchers believe that the father of Björn Gylta and Magnus Gylta (as well as their brother Gunnar Gylta who is not listed in this letter) was married to a sister of Anders, Peter Andersson's father. Peter Prika and Gunnar Prika may have been Peter Andersson's paternal uncles. Furthermore, since the Gylta and Prika family members appear so often in the same letters, they must have been related.

Gunnar Prika

The Gunnar Prika who is listed in SDHK No. 17835 - May 26, 1412 is also listed in letters from 1400, 1408, 1409. This person is not to be confused with the Gunnar or (Gunne) Prika of an earlier generation, who was an abbot of Nydala Monastary and mentioned in letters from 1337, 1339, 1341 and 1358.



Letter that mentions Peter Andersson – May 26th, 1412
Seals: 1. Jöns Bengtsson 2. Arvid Jönsson 3. Magnus Abjörnsson

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

10.1.2. Peter Andersson (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf mf

Transcription:

Thet skal allom witerlikit wara som thetta breeff høra ella see thet iak Mæritta Laurinsadottir kennis meth thesso mino næruarandhe opno brefwe at ærlike mæn ok wælborne herra Gunne Prika, Petar Andrisson, Biorn Gylta ok Magnus Gylta hafwa meth samtykkio, kærlik ok godhom wilia myk lika ok fwlt ok wæl til nøgis giort fore thet arf ther myk fiol æptir ærlika mæn Petar Prika, min elskelikin brodir, ok Petar Erikson, Gud thera siæl hafwe, fore gooz ok rørandha pæningha, swa at myk kærlika, fulkomlika ok allaledhis wæl aat nøgir; fore hulkit arff jak fornempda Mæritta latir fornempda ærlika ok godha mæn quitta, lidhuga ok allaledhis løsa. Ok forbiudhir iak allom minom arfwom ok æpthekomandom them eller thera arfwa i nokrahandha matho hindra ella quælia i thesso arfwe. Tyl fulla vitnisbyrd tha bedhis iak ærlika manna insigle som ær Jonissa Benksona i Kiint, Magnusa Abiornasona ther samma stad, ok Aruiddha Jonissona i Aashæradhe, fore thetta breeff. Datum anno Domini mcdxij°, ipso die beati Augustini episcopi anglorum.

Translation:

All who hear or see this letter shall know that I, Märta Larsdotter, announce with this, my open letter, that the honest and noble men Gunnar Prika, Peter Andersson, Björn Gylta and Magnus Gylta, have in consent, love and good will, given me a thorough statement of the inheritance from the honest men Peter Prika, my beloved brother, and Peter Eriksson, God have mercy on their souls. The inheritance consists of estates and cash, for which I gratefully thank the previous mentioned honest and good men and give a receipt for. I also forbid all my heirs and their offspring ever to argue against this document. To assure full legalization I ask the following honest men, Jöns Bengtsson in Kind (District), Magnus Abjörnsson in the same place, and Arvid Jönsson in Ås District, to place their seals on this letter. The document was dated in the Year of Our Lord 1412 on the day of the Blessed Angels of Saint Augustine (May 26th).

On July 5, 1414, Bishop Brynulf of Skara Diocese and lagman (or Provincial Chief Judge) of Västergötland Gustaf Magnusson certified that Peter Andersson and Gunnar Prika should receive all the estates that a woman named Ingeborg had given to her husband Peter Petersson.[25] This letter indicates that both Peter Andersson and Gunnar Prika had some type of relation to Peter Petersson and Ingeborg. It's possible that Peter Petersson mentioned in this letter is the same person as Peter Prika and that Ingeborg is the same person as Ingeborg Sigvidsdotter (Ribbing), who were previously mentioned in a letter from 1396.[26]

[25] SDHK No. 18383 - July 5, 1414
[26] SDHK No. 14620 - December 25, 1396



Letter that mentions Peter Andersson (Prika) – July 5th, 1414
Seals: 1. (missing) Bishop Brynjulf Karlsson of Skara 2. Gunnar Magnusson

Transcription:

Wy Bryniulff, meth Gudz nadh biscop i Scara, konunxdom hauande, oc Gøtzstaff Magnusson, riddere oc laghman i Vestragøtland, tua kanunca oc sex riddare oc swena meth oss sama konunxdom hawande, gørom thet allum viterlict thet vi vppa ræfstathinget i Scara igen hafua dømt hetherlicom mannom herra Gunna Prica, canunk i Scara, oc Pæther Andersson alt thet godz, som husfrv Ingeborgh gaff sinom ælskelica husbonda Pæther Pæthersson, for thy, epter thy wi thet granlica oc epter thy som laghin vtuisa vtlettom, tha waro the godz ey swa skællica oc laghlica gifuin, swa thet the gafua matte fast eller stædhogh blifua, thy forbiutha vi at noghor fornempda herra Gunna Prica eller Pæther Anders-son eller theras arfua i the godze, huar thet hælst liggir, hindra eller quælia epter thenna dagh vidh sina xl mark for konunxdomen oc sex mark for laghmanzdomen. Scriptum Scaris, anno Domini mcdxiiij, quinta feria infra octauas visitacionis beate Marie virginis gloriose, nostris sub sigillis.

Translation:

We, Brynulf, with God's grace Bishop in Skara and Judge representing the King; and Gustaf Magnusson, knight and County Chief Judge in Västergötland; 2 Canons; and 6 knights and squires; together we judge in the name of the King, and make it known to everyone, that on the latest court session in Skara, we adjudged all the estates that the wife Ingeborg gave to her beloved husband Peter Petersson, instead should go to the honest men Herr Gunnar Prika, Canon in Skara, and Peter Andersson. After we have scrutinized the deed of gift and the actual laws, and seen that the estates should be kept in the same positions as today, we also forbid the mentioned Gunnar Prika and Peter Andersson, or their heirs, from this day to take any actions against this judicial decision, otherwise they will be fined 40 mark for the King's judgment and 6 mark for the Chief Judge's judgment. This document was written in Skara in the Year of Our Lord 1414; and on the fifth day of the St. Mary the Glorious Virgin Octave (July 5th). We have placed our seals below.

10.1.2. Peter Andersson (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf mf

By 1416, Peter Andersson was living at the village Möne in Möne Parish, Västergötland.[27] He undoubtedly owned several other farms throughout Västergötland (and possibly other provinces), but it's unknown which other farms he owned.



Möne, Möne Parish, Västergötland Province
Where Peter Andersson was living in 1416

Möne Parish



Möne Church

Möne (Munn) is a parish in Västergötland, Sweden. It is 18.46 square kilometers of which 18.15 is land. The parish consists of an elevated forest area with various of pastures and meadows. Möne has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1331 as "Mömöne." Its name comes from the church village; *mon/mön* mean "rooftop" or "ridge." Möne Parish contains a burial ground and stone deposits from the Iron Age. A gold collar (called *Mönekragen*) was found in Möne in 1864.

Möne was part of Ås District. Its soldiers belonged to the Älvsborg and Västgöta regiments. In 1951, the population of Möne was 227. In 1989, the parish incorporated Södra Vånga Parish. In 2006, it merged with Hällstad Parish.

Sometime before 1416 (most likely in the 1400s), Peter's daughter Ingerd was married to Arvid Jönsson[28], who had served as the District Chief of Ås District and would later serve as the District Chief of Kind District. On August 1, 1416, Peter wrote a letter while visiting Vadstena, which confirmed that he accepted a donation from Lady Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter of an estate in Suntak to Vadstena Nunnery. Peter stated that although he was the legal heir of this estate, he fully accepted this transaction. This letter also indicates that Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter was deceased by the time it was written.[29]

[27] Peter Andersson is listed as living at Möne according to SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416.
[28] Arvid Jönsson is listed as Peter Andersson's son-in-law in SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416.
[29] SDHK No. 18788 – August 1, 1416



Letter that Peter Andersson wrote on August 1st, 1416
Seals: 1. Peter Andersson 2. (missing) Arvid Jönsson

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, of an estate situated in Suntak to the Vadstena Nunnery. God take care of her soul. 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).

10.1.2. Peter Andersson (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf mf

On June 30, 1419, Peter Andersson wrote a letter with Peder Hwit and Peter Thomasson which declared they had legally distributed various estates to Michel Petersson, which were his inheritance from Lady Ingeborg, the wife of Pelle Petersson.[30]

Transcription and Translation of a Letter from June 30th, 1419 that Mentions Peter Andersson

Transcription:

Alla thøm thætta breff høra ælla see hælsom wi Pædher Andrisson, Pædher Hwit oc Pædher Thomasson kærleka medh Gudhi. Kænnomps wi medh thæsso waro nærwarande opno brefue, at wi medh wilia oc beradhno modhe oc æpter warra wina radhe hafwm giort oc ganget en ganskan ænda medh ærlekom manne Michiæl Pædhersson, som kallas Stokfisk, vm alt thæt jordhagodz, som oos burde at æfrwa(!) æpter hedherleka quinna hustrv Ingeburghi, Pælla Pædherssons hustrv, Gud hænna siæl hafue, i swa mato, at wi medh kærlek oc godhom wilia vnt ok vplatit hafwm fornæmpda Michiæl thæssen godz, som hær æpter næmpnas i Mark liggiande, som ær først Dalagard i Bærghema sokn liggiande, en gard i Frisia i kirkiobynom, en gard i Ramsleff i sama sokn, en gard i Hæsleaas i Skipolta sokn, en gard i Fælgholt i sama sokn, en gard i Kællobærghe i listhorpa sokn, en gardh i Sætældra i kirkiobynom liggiande, medh allom thæssa godzanna tillaghom, i wato oc i thørro, nær byy oc fiærre, ængo vndan takno, fran oos oc warom arfuom, vnder honom oc hans arfuom til æwærdhelikæ ægho. Til thæs mere wisso, større skiæl oc høgre forwaring bedhoms wi ærleka manna incigle fore thætta breff, swa som ær Jowan Laurensson, Arfuid Jonison, Henrik Diekn medh Pædher Andrissons eghit incigle. Datum ipso die commemoracionis sancti Pauli apostoli, anno Domini m°cd°xix°

Translation:

[To] all the men who hear or see this letter, we, Peter Andersson, Peder Hwit, and Peter Thomasson, salute with God's love, With this open letter we declare that we wittingly have made a legal distribution of estates with the honest man Michel Petersson, called Stockfisk, of a heritage after the honest women Lady Ingeborg, Pelle Petersson's wife. The estates which are situated in Mark District are: Dalagård in Berghem Parish; one farm in Fritsla village I Fritsla Parish; one farm in Ramslätt in Fritsla; one farm in Hässlehult and one in Fagerhult, both in Skepphult Parish; "Kællobærghe" in Istorp Parish; one farm in Sätila church village; with all included, in wet and dry, nearby and far away, with no exceptions the estates are transferred from us and our heirs to him and his heirs. To assure the content of this letter we ask the following honest men: Johan Larsson, Arvid Jönsson and Henrik Djäkne, to place their seals together with Peter Andersson's own. This document was written in the Year of Our Lord 1419; and on the 5th day of the St. Paul the Apostle (June 30th).

Seals: 1. Peter Andersson 2. Johan Larsson 3. (missing) Arvid Jonsson 4. Henrik Djäkne

[30] SDHK No. 19308 – June 30, 1419

Peter Andersson's Coat of Arms

Peter Andersson's coat of arms was of a six-pointed star. This symbol was included on Peter's seal that was attached to a letter he wrote in 1416. Since this is the same symbol that Peter Prika used on his seal from a letter from 1390, this indicates that Peter Andersson must have hailed from the Prika family.



In 1418, his son-in-law Arvid Jönsson incorporated this start into his own coat of arms, placing it below a chevron that had previously been used as Arvid's coat of arms.

Peter Andersson was last mentioned in a letter that was written at Hällstad on May 3, 1420, in which Elin Andersdotter and Peter Thomasson declared that they had legally distributed the estates Forsa in Bollebygd Parish; farms in "Gøthæwæ," Fröstenstorp, Lynga and Höryd; and two farms in Gullberga to Peter Andersson, as part of his inheritance from Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter. This letter contained the seals of Peter Thomasson, Henrik Snakenborg, Magnus Åbjörnsson, and Henrik Djäken [31] It's very likely that Elin Andersdotter was Peter's sister.



Letter that mentions Peter Andersson - May 3rd, 1420
Seals: 1. (missing) Peter Tomasson 2. Henrik Snakenborg 3. Magnus Abjörnsson 4. Henrik Diekn

[31] SDHK No. 19475 – May 3, 1420

10.1.2. Peter Andersson (Prika)
fm fm mf fm mf mf mf

Transcription:

Allæ thæ dandæ mæn th(e)r th(et)tæ breff see æller hør(e) helsom wi elin and(e)rs dott(e)r ok pedher thomass(on) æw(er)delikæ m(eth) gudhi. Ken(n)o(m)pps wi m(eth) waro opp$^{(n)o}$ breue ath wi hawom giørt æth ræth skjpte m(eth) warom elskelikæ ffrænda padh(e)r andrss(on) tha kamo oppa hans deell fførst fforssa gardh m(eth) alt thæ ærffdo æppt(er) hust$^{(rv)}$ inghiborgh gun(n)a dott(e)r i ballabygh^{et} vta(n) all ala ffiskin en gardh i gøthæwæ en gardh i ffrøstenstorpp lynga hørydh gudhmu(n)storpp ij gardha i gulb(er)gæ i mark affhendom wi th(e)tta ffor(nem)dæ gooz vnda(n) os ok wara arwa vnd(e)r for$^{(nem)dæ}$ pedh(e)r and(e)rss(on) ok hans arwa, till ew(er)delikæ æghn till thes mere wisso bedoms wi ærliks ma(n)s incigille ffor(e) th(et)tæ breff, som ær Hinric snake(n)-borgh mag(n)us abiørnss(on) hinric diekns m(eth) pedh(e)r thomass(ons) ægh(e)t. Dat$^{(u)m}$ et act$^{(u)m}$ in Helffstad(um) ip(s)a die inue(n)tio(n)is s(anc)te crus(is) p(re)dict(is) sig(i)ll(is) appens(is) Anno d(omi)ni m^{o} cd^{o} xx^{o}.

Translation:

[To]all the yeomen who see or hear this letter, we, Elin Andersdotter and Peter Thomasson, salute with God's eternal grace. With this, our open letter, we declare that we have made a legal distribution with our beloved relative Peter Andersson, of a heritage after Lady Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter. First came upon his share the Forsa estate in Bollebygd, with all included, except eel fishing; one farm in "Gøthæwæ"; one farm each in Fröstenstorp, Lynga and Höryd; two farms in Gullberga in Mark. We allow ourselves and our heirs to be dispossessed of these estates, so that Peter Andersson will possess them forever. To assure the content of this letter we ask the following honest men to place their seals together with Peter Thomasson's own: Henrik Snakenborg, Magnus Åbjörnsson and Henrik Djäken. This document was written in Hällstad in the Year of Our Lord 1420; and on the same day as the Holy Cross was rediscovered (May 3rd).

No letters exist which mention Peter Andersson after1420, so it's unknown when he died. It's likely he died during the 1420s or 1430s.

Trivia on Peter Andesson (Prika)

1. What province did Peter Andersson live in?
2. What family did Peter Andersson belong to?
3. What symbol was Peter Andersson's coat of arms?
4. What parish was Peter Andersson living at in 1416?
5. What was the first year in which Peter Andersson was mentioned?
6. What was the last year in which Peter Andersson was mentioned?

Answers: 1. Västergötland 2. Prika 3. A six-sided star 4. Möne Parish 5. 1412 6. 1420

Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter

Name	Gunnar Gylta	Name	Märta Olofsdotter
Born	1340s-1350s	Born	1350s-1380s
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Died	Between 1425 to 1429	Died	Before 1425
Place	Västergötland	Place	Västergötland
Occupation	Squire	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter

Name	Born	Location	Died	Location
Märta	1390s-1400s	Västergötland	Before 1420	Halland
Bengt	c. 1402	Västergötland	Unknown	Västergötland
Ingeborg	1390s-1400s	Västergötland	Unknown	Västergötland
Gyrid	1390s-1400s	Västergötland	Before 1420	Västergötland

Early Years (1350-1392)

Gunnar Gylta was probably born sometime during the 1340s or 1350s.[32] The identities of his parents are unknown. It's likely that he was born in the province of Västergötland in western Sweden.[33]

The Name "Gunnar"

The name "Gunnar" (Gúe-nár) was an old Nordic male name. It derives from the words *gunnr* ("battle") and *haria* ("warrior"). The name first appeared on an 8th century rune stone in Östergötland that stated, "Gunnar carved these runes.") The Name Day for Gunnar has been January 9th since 1901.

Fact or Fiction: The Name of Gunnar Gylta's Father

Statement:
Gunnar Gylta's father was named Nils.

Unknown: This belief (which many researchers adhere to) comes from the letter SDHK No. 17137 – 1409. The third seal that was attached to this letter was of a hexagram ending with the text "….Nicholai pbri (=presbiteri)". This has been interpretated as Gunnar Gylta's seal with "Nicholai" as patronymic, i.e. Gunnar's father's was named "Nicholas" or "Nils." However, this seal belonged to a priest with that surname. Since none of the seals attached to this letter are the same as the men they are supposed to represent, and due to the fact the seal bands were cut off and sewn together (different from the parchment), this letter was shown to be a forgery.

[32] This is based on the fact that Gunnar is first mentioned as purchasing a farm in 1380 (SDHK No. 111604 - 1380) and he must have been in his twenties or thirties during this time.
[33] This is suggested since all the letters which mention Gunnar are mentioned are from Västergötland.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

Gunnar had at least three brothers: Björn, Jösse, and Magnus.[34]

Fact or Fiction: Gunnar Gylta Had Two Sisters

Statement:
According to Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s letter to Bengt Gylta, Gunnar Gylta had two sisters. One sister named Edna married into the Krabbe family in Denmark. She had a granddaughter that was named Edla and lived at Opslo. Gunnar's other sister (whose name is unknown) was married to Anderson Pedersson of Hov and had a daughter that was married to Erik Stake.

False: In the article "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta," J.E. Almquist points out that a letter from 1416 (SDHK No. 18721 - April 24, 1416) which lists farms that Gunnar Gylta and his brother and Jösse had inherited from their brothers Björn and Magnus, mentions no women, indicating that Gunnar had no sisters alive at that time. Since no other men are listed in this inheritance other than Gunnar and Jösse, Gunnar couldn't have had any brother-in-laws, either, as they would have been listed in the inheritance if their wives had died. Thus, Ingegärd Persdotter's claim is false. Almquist identifies Edla of Opslo (Gunnar's alleged niece) with Edla Nilsdotter who lived at Upplo in Västergötland. Anders Pedersson of Hov has been identified with Anders Pedersson of the Stierna family, who was last mentioned in 1493. In 1517, his daughter Cecilia was married to District Chief Erik Stake. Almquist believes that Ingegärd had been in communication with Edla and Cecilia, and the two gave her false information that they were related to her through Gunnar Gylta's sisters.

When Gunnar was born, it's possible that the King of Sweden was Magnus IV, who also ruled over Norway. In 1362, the Swedish nobility elected Magnus's son Håkan Magnusson as the co-ruler of Sweden.

The Reign of King Haakon (1362-1364)

Haakon Magnusson was born in 1340. He was the younger son of King Magnus IV. He became King of Norway in 1343, but his official rule didn't begin until his father abdicated the throne in 1355. In 1362, the Swedish nobility decided to depose Magnus and elect Haakon as King of Sweden, although Magnus ended up staying as king and ruling jointly with Haakon. In 1363, Haakon was married to Margaretta, the daughter of King Valdemar IV of Denmark. In 1363, several exiled Swedish nobles, led by Bo Jonsson (Grip), conspired with Duke Albrekt II of Mecklenburg to overthrown Magnus and Haakon. With the assistance of a northern German army, the alliance was able to overthrow Magnus and Haakon and place Albrekt II's son Albrekt on the Swedish throne in 1364. Haakon would unsuccessfully attempt to regain the Swedish throne over the next six years. Haakon died in 1380, shortly after making plans at another attempt to reclaim the Swedish throne.



Union arms of Håkan as King of Norway and Sweden

[34] Björn, Magnus, and Jösse are listed as Gunnar's brothers in SDHK - No. 18721 - April 24, 1416.

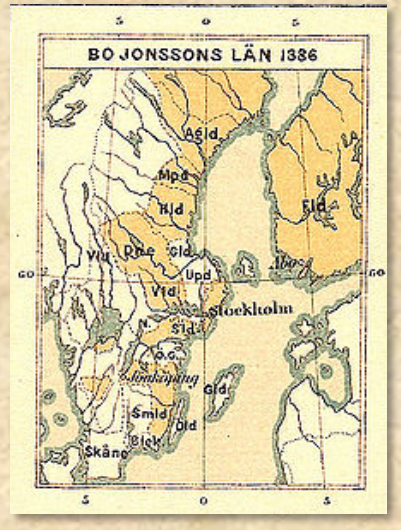
Was Gunnar Gylta Related to the Prika Family?

Several letters indicate that the Gylta family was related to the Prika family and many believe that Gunnar Gylta's mother came from the Prika family. In 1396, Gunnar wrote a letter stating that he had inherited land from Lady Ingeborg, Peter Prika's widow. The seals of Gunnar and his brothers Magnus Gylta and Jösse Gylta were attached to this letter.[1] In 1412, a noblewoman named Märta Larsdotter wrote a letter stating that Peter Andersson (Prika) and three other nobleman: Gunnar Prika, Björn Gylta, and Magnus Gylta had provided her with a statement regarding the inheritance of her brother Peter Prika.[2] Although the relationship between the Gylta and Prika families can't be proven, it is the opinion of this author that Peter Prika, Gunnar Prika, Anders (the father of Peter Andersson), and Gunnar Gylta's mother were siblings, that Märta Larsdotter was a half-sister of theirs, and that Gunnar Gylta was named after his maternal uncle Gunnar Prika.

[1] SDHK No. 14620 - July 25, 1396
[2] SDHK No. 17835 - May 26, 1412

Gunnar came from a noble family, which is indicated by various letters showing that he and his brothers owned a lot of land and had coat of arms. When Gunnar was growing up, Bo Jonsson (Grip) owned the most land in Sweden.

Bo Jonsson (Grip)



Map of the land Bo Jonsson owned in 1386

Bo Jonsson (Grip) was probably born during the early 1330s. His parents were Jon Tomasson (Grip) and Ingeborg Bosdotter (Natt och Dagg). Bo is first mentioned in 1354 when he was already legal age. By 1359, he had been appointed councilor. In 1364, he was appointed as a bailiff in Stockholm and in 1366, he was appointed as the Lagman of Östergötland. In 1369, King Albrekt I appointed him as his chief official, and he later appointed him as his drot (or second in command) in 1371. Bo became the Chief Justice in Finland in 1371 and lagman there in 1380. He also held several other district chief posts during his career, including in Dalarna

Bo Jonsson was the largest non-royal landowner ever in Sweden. He owned over a third of the land in Sweden and all of Finland. Jonsson lent a considerable amount of money to King Magnus IV, who returned the debt in land, rather than money. Over time, he became critical of Magnus's policies towards high taxation and reducing the nobility's status. In 1363, he gained the support of Duke Albrekt II of Mecklenburg to launch a rebellion against Magnus. Magnus was subsequently deposed and Albrekt II's son Albrekt took the Swedish throne. Bo Jonsson died at Vadstena Monastery on August 25, 1386.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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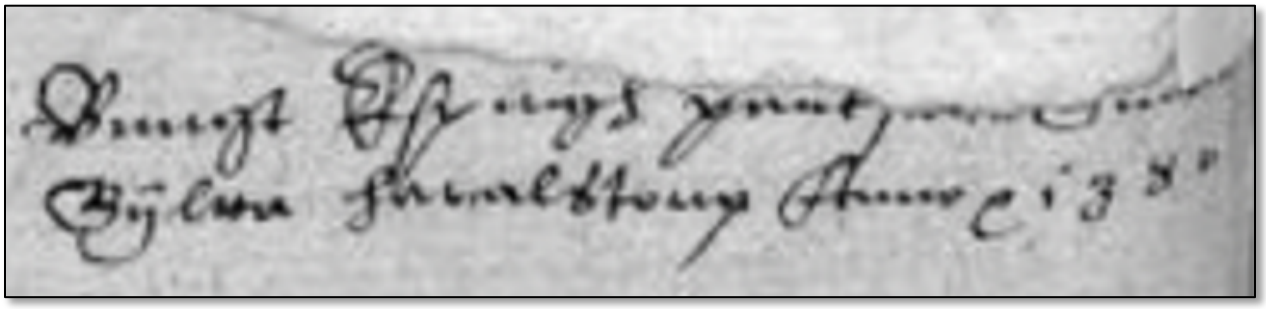
Äldre svenska frälsesläkter (Old Swedish Noble Familes)

Äldre svenska frälsesläkter, (usually abbreviated ÄSF), is the modern standard work for genealogies of medieval Swedish noble families. Riddarhus (the Swedish Nobility) has published five volumes during 1957-2013. Over 100 medieval Swedish families have been thoroughly investigated in this work. The editors of these volumes have been Folke Wernstedt, Pontus Möller, Hans Gillingstam, Lars-Olof Skoglund, and Kaj Janzon. The Gylta family are discussed in ÄSF II, pages 34-42. According to this work, Gunnar Gylta had four children: Gyrid, Märta, Ingeborg, and Bengt. This work mentions Gunnar's unknown father, his brothers, children, and some of his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.



Possible locations of Haraldstorp, the farm that Gunnar Gylta purchased in 1380

By 1380, Gunnar Gylta had reached adulthood. That year, he purchased a farm called Haraldstorp from a man named Bengt Esping.[35] Since there are several farms in western Sweden named Haraldstorp, it's difficult to say which one was the same one that Gunnar purchased. There was a Haraldstorp in Sandhem Parish in Vartofta District, one in Vist Parish in Redvåg District, and one in Gestad Parish in Sundal District.



Record that states that Gunnar Gylta bought a farm from Bengt Esping in 1380 from Peder Månsson Utter's *Collectanea Genealogica*

Transcription:

Bengt Espingh pantsatte Gunnar Gylta haralstorp Anno 1380

Translation:

Bengt Esping pawns the estate Haraldstorp to Gunnar Gylta in 1380.

[35] SDHK No. 11604 - 1380

Collectanea Genealogica ("Genealogy Collection")

Peder Månsson Utter (1566-1623) was an archivist and genealogist who served in the royal chancellery from around 1584 to 1588. Utter compiled a genealogical chart and several notes about Gunnar Gylta and his descendants as part of his *Collectanea Genealogica* ("Genealogy Collection"), much of which is false. For example, he states that Gunnar had daughters named Kirstin, Gunnil, and Arfrid, who were really his granddaughters.



Painting of Peder Månsson Utter

Utter also states that Gunnar sold land to his son-in-law Jeppe Bruse in1390 that he had inherited from his maternal grandfather Ärne Ärvidsson in Klagstorp, in order that he may go on a pilgrimage. However, Utter confused Gunnar for a man named "Ärnä Gyltte," who was probably not of nobility, since he didn't have his own seal. One piece of unique information that Utter presented which is probably true, is that Gunnar bought a farm from Bengt Esping in 1380. Since Bengt Esping is listed as owing Gunnar a sum of money, cloth, and yields from one of his farms in 1391*, this must be the same Gunnar Gylta and this information is most likely accurate.

* SDHK No. 13908 - June 24, 1391

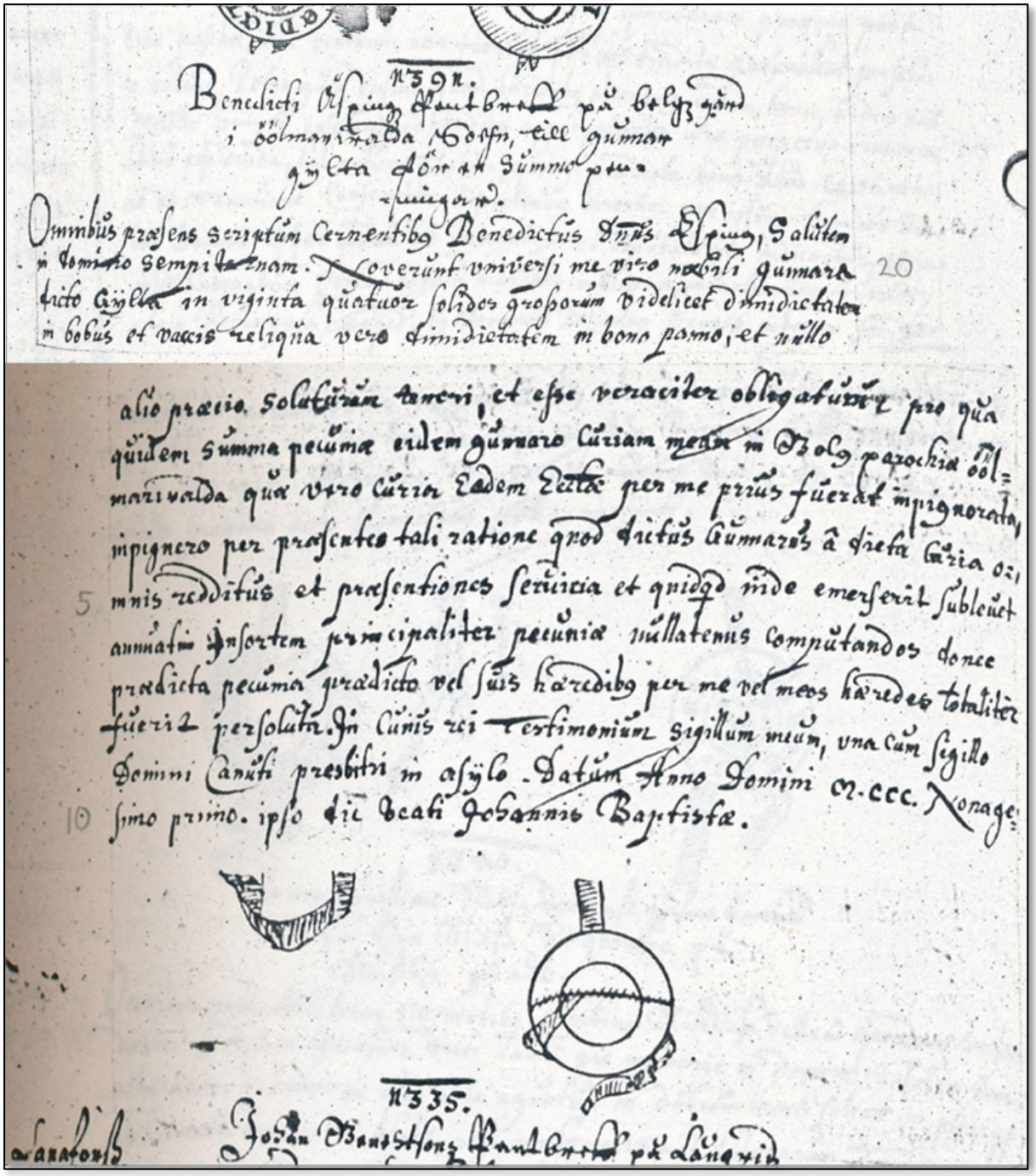
"Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta (1390-1646)"

by Jan Eric Almquist

One of the most informative scholarly articles about the Gylta family is "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta (1390-1646)" ("The oral tradition and the noble family Gylta") by Jan Eric Almquist. This article, which was published *in Släkt och Hävd* in 1955, looks at the three earliest genealogical accounts related to the Gylta family: Vadstena nun Ingegärd Pedersdotter (Gylta)'s letter to her nephew Bengt Gylta, *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* (*Knut Håkansson Hand's account for his and his wife Märta Arvidsdotter (Drake's) genealogies),* and *Biskop Hans Brasks Släktbok* (*Bishop Hans Brask's Genealogy Book*). The authors of these works (which were all written in the 16th century) recorded their information from oral histories. In this article, Alquist discusses who wrote each of these sources, how they obtained their information, what false information was contained in their accounts, and why the authors believed this erroneous information. According to Almquist, Vadstena nun Ingegärd Pedersdotter (Gylta)'s letter to her nephew Bengt Gylta is the most erroneous account, while *Biskop Hans Brasks Släktbok* is the most accurate.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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On June 24, 1391, Bengt Esping wrote a letter stating that he was charged to pay Gunnar Gylta 24 solidi (old Swedish coins) worth of oxen and good cloth. In addition to this, Bengt agreed to annually give Gunnar all yields from his farm Bolg in Ölmevalla Parish, until he had paid Gunnar back the amount he owed him. It's unknown why Bengt owed Gunnar this amount. Bengt's letter was sealed by Bengt and Canute, a priest in Asilo.[36]



Transcript from *Lars Eriksson Sparre's Copy Book* of a letter from June 24, 1391
that mentions Gunnar Gylta
Seals: 1. Bengt Esping 2. Priest Canue in Asilo

[36] SDHK No. 13908 - June 24, 1391

Transcription:

(Swedish)

1391
Benedicti Äspingz Pant breff på bolgz gård
i öölmarwalda sochn, till gunnar
gylta för en summa pen-
ningar.

(Latin)

Omnibus praesens scriptum cernentibus Benedictus dominus Esping, salutem in domino sempiternam. Noverunt universi me viro nobili gunnarae dicto Gylta in viginta quatuor solidos grossorum videlicet dimidietatem in bobus et vaccis reliqua vero dimidietatem in bono panno et nullo alio praecio soluturum teneri, et esse veraciter obligaturum pro qua quidem summa pecuniae eidem gunnaro curiam meam in Bolg parochia öölmarivalda quae curiae eadem Ecclesiae per me prius fuerat inpignorata, inpignero per praesentes tali ratione quod dictus Gunnarus a dicta curia omnis redditus et praesentiones servicia et quidquid inde emerserit sublevet annuatim insortem principaliter pecuniae nullatenus computandos donec praedicta pecunia praedicto vel suis haeredibus per me vel meos haeredes totaliter fuerit persoluta. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum meum, una cum sigillo Domino Canuti presbiteri in asiilo. Datum Anno Domini M. CCC. Nonagesimo primo ipso die Beati Johannis Baptistae.

Translation:

1391
Bengt Esping pledges a mortgage deed,
which is a farm in Bolg in Ölmevalla
Parish, to Gunnar Gylta for a certain
amount of money.

[To] all who recognize this present letter, I Lord Bengt Esping, wish eternal health in the Lord. Everyone knows that I am held to pay to the noble man Gunnar called Gylta twenty-four solidi, that is half in oxen and cows, but the remaining half in good cloth and to no other price, and that I am truly to be liable, for which sum of money I give as a security to the same Gunnar my farm in Bolg in the parish of Ölmevalla, which has previously been given as a security by me to the church. By this letter in such a way that the aforesaid Gunnar may levy annually from the aforementioned farm all yields and service and what else may issue from it, principally having a share in the money by no means to be counted, until the aforementioned money has been paid back in full by me or my heirs to the aforementioned or his heirs. As a witness to this my seal together with the seal of Lord Canute, priest in Asilo. Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1391 on the Day of Saint John the Baptist (June 24th).

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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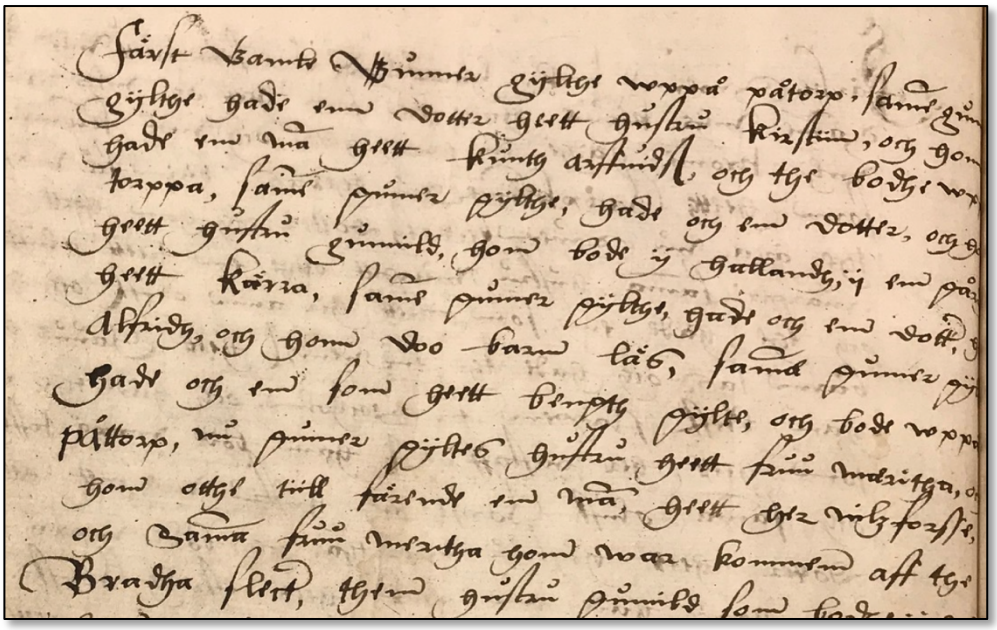
Sometime in the 1380s or 1390s, Gunnar was married to a woman named Märta Olofsdotter.[37] Märta was born sometime between the late 1350s to early 1380s.[38]

Fact or Fiction: Märta Olofsdotter was from the Brahe Family

Statement:
According *to Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake)* and Peder Månsson Utter's *Collectanea Genealogica*, Märta came from the Bradha [Brahe] family.

False: There is no evidence which shows that either of Märta's parents, Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter, came from the Brahe family. It's unknown how the authors of these sources came up with this false piece of information.

Märta's parents were Olof Bosson (Oxhuvud) and Katrina Karlsdotter.[39] She had at least one sister named Bengta.[40]



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

[37] Märta is listed as Gunnar Gylta's wife in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) släg*.

[38] According to "Processus seu negocium canonizacions B Katerine de Vadstenis," Bengt Gylta, Gunnar and Märta's son, was born around 1402. Märta had to be in her child-rearing years during this time, which means she was born sometime between the late 1350s to early 1380s.

[39] In SDHK No. 19554 - September 29, 1420, Gunnar Gylta wrote that he and Lasse Pik made a legal division of the estate of Katrina Karlsdotter. Since Lasse made the division on behalf of his wife Beata Olofsdotter and none of Gunnar's siblings are listed in this letter, it can be assumed that Gunnar also made this division on behalf of his wife Märta. Since this was the estate of Katrina Karlsdotter, it can be deduced that she was the mother of Bengta and Märta. In SDHK No. 19470 - April 20, 1420, Olof Bosson is listed as Lasse Pik's father-in-law, so he must have been the husband of Katrina Karlsdotter and father of Bengta and Märta.

[40] Bengta is indirectly shown to be Märta's sister in SDHK No. 19554 - September 29, 1420.

Transcription:

Först Gamle Gunner Gylthes wppå Påtorp. Samme Gunner Gylthe hade enn dotter heett hustru Kirstiin, och honn hade enn man heett Knuth Arffuidsson, och the bodhe wppå Torppa. Samme Gunner Gylthe hade och enn dotter, och hon heett hustru Gunnild, honn bode ij Hallandh ij enn gårdh heett Kärra. Samme Gunner Gylthe hade och enn dotter heett Alfridh, och honn doobarnn lös. Samme Gunner Gylte hade och enn sonn heett Bength Gylte och bode wppå Påttorp. Nu Gunner Gyltes hustru heett fruu Meritha, och honn otthe till förende enn man, heett her Nilz Forsse, och samma fruu Meritha honn war komrnenn aff the Bradha slect……..

Translation:

First, old Gunnar Gylta of Påtorp. The same Gunnar Gylta had a daughter called housewife Kirstin, and she had a husband named Knut Arvidsson, and they lived in Torpa. The same Gunnar Gylta had a daughter named housewife Gunnild, she lived in Halland in an estate called Kärra. The same Gunner Gylta had a daughter called Arfrid, and she died childless. The same Gunnar had a son called Bengt Gylta and he lived in Påttorp. Now Gunnar Gylta's wife was called Mrs. Märta, and she was earlier married to a man whose name was Herr Nils Forsse (a knight) and the same wife Meritha (Märta) came from the Bradha [Brahe] family.

It's unknown where Märta was born, but it's most likely she grew up somewhere in Västergötland. According to some sources, Märta was previously married to a knight named Nils Forsse[41], but no records can be found which verify this.

Was Märta Olofsdotter's First Husband Nils Fos?

According to *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake)* and Peder Månsson *Utter's Collectanea Genealogica*, Märta Olofsdotter was first married to a knight named "Nils Forsse." Since "Forsse" is a variation of the surname "Fos," one could suspect that Märta was first married to Nils Fos, the juror who lived at Djulfors in Stora Malm Parish, Södermanland. However, since Nils Fos was still alive in 1410[1], he could not have been Märta's first husband, since she was married to Gunnar Gylta by this point. Thus, if Märta really was married to a man named Nils Forsse, it must have been a different person.

[1] SDHK No. 17509 – June 21, 1410

[41] *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake)* and Peder Månsson *Utter's Collectanea Genealogica* both state that Märta was previously married to Nils Forsse.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Gunnar and Märta's First Years of Marriage (1392-1400)

For the first few years of their marriage, Gunnar and Märta probably lived at the estate Gälared in Hillared Parish.[42]

Gälared

Gälared (Yéh-la-ríd) is located just over a mile south of Gräsbo in Hillared Parish and is on the east coast of Lake Såken. It is one of the oldest manors in Västergötland. Gunnar Gylta is the oldest known inhabitant of Gälared, which was first mentioned in a letter from 1412. Sometime in the 16th century, the Lilliehöök family became the owners of Gälared. Since 1996, Gälared has been owned by Gunilla and Daniel von Schedvins. Today there is a nature reserve at Gälared.



Arial view of Gälared

Hillared Parish



Location of Hillared Parish in Västergötland

Hillared (Héel-la-ríd) is a parish in Västergötland, Sweden. It is 39.07 square kilometers, of which 34 are land. Hillared has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1358 as "Hildärydh." The prefix of its name *hilla/hille* means "wooded height" and its suffix *ryd* means "clearing." Hillared is southeast of the city Borås. The Ätran River passes through Hillared and Lake Såken is north of the parish. Hillared used to be part of Kind District, but became part of Svenljunga Municipality in 1971. In 2016, Hillared became part of Hillared District. In 2000, there were 974 inhabitants in Hillared.

[42] This is stated in ÄSF II, pages 34-42. A plaque in Hillared Church tells the story of Gunnar and Märta's daughter Gyrid (which is documented in Folkminnen och Folktankar: Under medverkan by Hilding Celander, pages 43-44) who lived at Gälared, which supports the claim that Gunnar and Märta's family lived there. The letter SDHK No. 17784 - February 21, 1412 also confirms that Gunnar owned land at Gälared.

Gunnar and Märta had at least four children together: three daughters named Gyrid, Ingeborg, and Märta, and a son named Bengt.[43]

Fact or Fiction: Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter's Children

Statements:

- According to *Ingegärd Persdotter (Gylta)'s Letter to Bengt Gylta*, Gunnar and Märta's children were: Kerstin, Marta, Bengt Ingeborg, and Brita.
- According to *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt*, Gunnar and Märta's children were: Kerstin (who married Knut Arvidsson of Torpa), Gunhild (who married Bengt Krabbe), Bengt Gylta, and Arfrid (who died childless).
- According to *Biskop Hans Brasks släktbok*, Gunnar and Märta's children were: Karin (who married Arvid Arvidsson of Byslatt), Bengt Gylta (who married Marta), Märta, (who married Herr Erland), and Ingeborg (who married Herr Martin Svan).

Partly True: SDHK No. 21196 – July 28, 1429 and SDHK No. 24188 - August 16, 1442 show that Gunnar and Märta had children named Märta, Ingeborg, and Bengt and that Ingeborg was married to Martin Svan. However, Märta was married to Bengt Turesson, not Herr Erland. Gunnar and Märta did not have children named Kerstin, Karin, Gunhild. As Jan Eric Almquist stated in "Den muntliga traditionen och adliga ätten Gylta (1390-1646)," the authors of the sources for genealogies confused some of Gunnar and Märta's grandchildren (who were the children of Bengt Turesson and Märta Gunnarsdotter) as being their children.

By the time he reached adulthood, Gunnar was a squire who was very financially shrewd. In addition to regularly acquiring new farms, he maximized the agricultural yield of several of the farms he owned. For example, while he lived at Gälared, he expanded the outlet to Lake Såken by burning 300 sides of pork on a large rock in front of the lake. After he cooled down the rock with water, it cracked and Gunnar was able to break it down and remove it, which created a stream of water that flowed out of Lake Såken. Gunnar had a mill built along this stream, which enabled him to increase Gälared's agricultural yield.[44]



Lake Såken

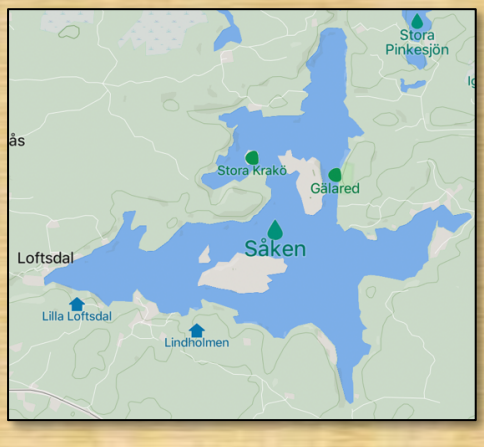
[43] Märta is shown as Gunnar's daughter (via inheritance) in SDHK No. 20405 – 1425. Since SDHK No. 21196 – July 28, 1429 lists Mårten Svan as the inheritor of some of Gunnar Gylta's property and SDHK No. 24188 - August 16, 1442 states that Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter was Mårten Svan's wife, she must have also been a daughter of Gunnar and Märta. A plaque in Hillared Church shows that Gunnar and Märta had a daughter named Gyrid (which is documented in "Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt" by Fridolf Wildte, pages 43-44. Bengt is listed as Gunnar Gylta's son in SDHK No. 21196 – July 28, 1429.

[44] Wildt, Fridolf. "Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt"

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Lake Såken

Lake Såken (Séw-kin) is a lake in Västergötland, Sweden, which is 26 kilometers southeast of the city Borås. It has an area of 3.38 square kilometers, a depth of 30 meters, and is 176.2 meters above seal level. Lake Såken has four bays: Aplaredsviken, Sågviken, Hinnaredsviken, and Olshultsviken. Its largest island is Björkön. The lake is shallow in many areas. It is relatively rich in fish and contains perch, pike, and zander. Hillared Parish lies to the east of Lake Såken.



Transcription and Translation of 18th Century Text from Sexdräga Church Archive that Mentions Gunnar Gylta

Transcription:

Då Påwiska mörkret ännu öfwerhölgde wårt Swerige hafwer snart för 300 år sedan bodt på Giählareds Sätterie uti Sexdräga Församling en Delsman wid namn Gunnar Gylte, denne, som utan twiwel warit en god hushållare och derhos mycket rik, då han såg at den lilla ådran som då för tiden rann utur sjön Såken benämnd som ligger ofwanföre bemelta Sätterie, skulle, om den genom konst och medel belfwo underhulpen, blifwa beqväm at med tiden kringdrifwa bade qwarnar och annat watn-wärk, hafwe låtit med 300 sidor flask upbränna et stort berg el. sten, som utloppet af Sjöen hindrade, och det så i grunden at bemälte sten icke utan då helt litet watn är, kan synas, hwilken sten för den orsaken skull än i dag fläske-sten kallad warder; detta hade igenom sedermera är worden en stor å, som nu flyter tätt ut med Gjälareds Sätterie och i sin framfart kringdrifwer två sköna qwarnar samt äfwen en såg, hwilka bägge delar aldrig stadna,

Translation:

At that time, when the Papal darkness overshadowed our Sweden, almost 300 years ago, a nobleman by the name of Gunnar Gylta lived on Gällered's estate in Sexdräga (sic) Parish. He, without a doubt, had been a good economist and was very rich. When he saw that the small runlet that in those days flowed out of the lake called Såken, which is located above the manor house, should, if it by means and craft be corrected, comfortably be used for mills and other water-driven works, he used 300 sides of pork burning up a large mountain or rock, which hindered the outlet of the lake, and successfully so that the said rock cannot be seen, unless the water level is very low, which is the reason for that rock today to be called pork stone. This had now the fortunate effect, that the orifice of the lake became larger, and afterwards became a large stream, that now flows next to Gällered's estate and in its progression it powers two mills and a sawmill, both of which never stop.

Some Letters that Mention Magnus Gylta

- **1388 (Listed in *Sveriges Traktater med främmande makter*, page 463):** Gunnar Gylts's brother Magnus Gylta was mentioned as a trusted witness in the will of Alguth Magnusson, husband of Queen Margaret I of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The will was written in Ekholm on the Three Holy King's Eve in the year 1380.

- **SDHK No.14680 - July 25, 1396:** Gunnar Gylta confesses that he has received from Ingeborg, Peter Prika's widow, farms in Halland, and he promises to protect them and not pledge or sell them. Gunnar, the abbot Sven in Åskloster, Magnus Gylta, and Jösse Gylta seal the letter.

- **SDHK No. 17491 – May 21, 1410:** The squire Påvel Jönsson in Värestorp, with approval of his wife Ingeborg, makes an exchange of property in Skåne and Halland with the knight Nils Svarte Skåning. Two of the sealers are Magnus Gylta and Jösse Gylta.

- **SDHK No. 82444 - September 25, 1435:** Martin Svan, together with some other honest men in Mark District, attests the agreement between Filip Bonde and Magnus Gylta's widow Elin, which states that Elin received a sum of money and a farm in Hult with a mill. After her death, the farm shall be returned to Filip, together with another farm in Hult in Grimmared Parish, which Elin owns.

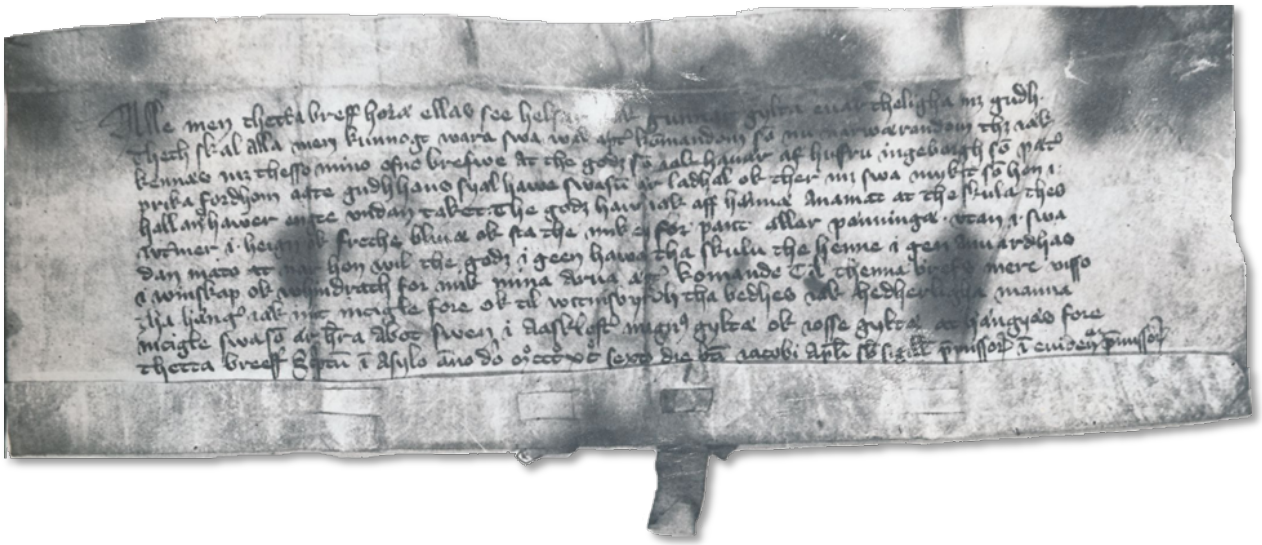


The location where Ås Monastery was

On July 25, 1396, Gunnar Gylta met at Ås Monastery with his brothers Magnus Gylta and Jösse Gylta and Sven, the abbot of Ås Monastery. Here, Gunnar wrote a letter which declared that he had inherited from Ingeborg, the widow of Peter Prika (who was probably Gunnar's uncle) the farm Ladhal and all of the other property that she owned in Halland. In this letter, Gunnar promised to give back the land to Ingeborg if she wanted it.[45]

[45] SDHK No. 14620 - July 25,1396

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Letter that Gunnar Gylta wrote on July 25th, 1396
Seals: 1. Gunnar Gylta 2 Sven (abbot in Ås Monastery). 3. Magnus Gylta 4._Jösse Gylta

Transcription:

Alle men thetta breff hörä ellä[r] see hels[ar] iäk gunnar gylta euartheligha mz gudh.
Theth skal alla men kunnogt wara swa wäl äpter kommandom som nu n[ä]rwärandom thz iäk kennä[s] mz thesso mino ofno brefwe at the godz som iak hauär af husfru ingeborgh som päter prika fordhom aate gudh hans syäl hawa swa[sum} är ladhal ok ther meth swa myket som hon i halland hawer engte vndan taket: The godz hawer iäk aff hännä anamat at the skula thes wtermer i heign ok freehe bliuä ok sta the mik ey för pant ällar pänningä vtan i swa dan mato at nar hon wil the godz i geen hawa tha skulu the henne i gen anuardhas i winskap ok whindrath for mik mina arua äpter komande Til thenna brefs mere visso tha hänger iäk mit incigle fore ok til witnisbyrdh tha bedhes iak hedherligha manna incigle swasom är herra abot swen i Aaskloster magnus gyltä ok iosse gyltä at hängyäs fore thetta breeff

Scriptum in Asylo anno domini mcccxc sexto die beati iacobi Apostoli sub sigill premissorum in euidenciam premissorum

Translation:

[To] all men that hear or see this letter, I, Gunnar Gylta, greet with God for all times.
All men shall be knowledgeable about this, both posterity and now living, that I announce with this, my open letter, that the property that I have from housewife Ingeborg, that was married to Peter Prika, God now owns his soul, which is Ladhal and all the other property that she has in Halland, without exceptions. The property I have adopted from her under the terms that I shall protect it and is to be free from security (pledge) or money and when she wants the property back, I shall give it back with friendship and without obstacle from me or my heirs. I put my seal on this letter and ask honest men abbot Sven in Ås Monastery, Magnus Gylta, and Jösse Gylta to do the same.

Written in Ås Monastery in the Year of Our Lord 1396 on the Day of the Blessed James the Apostle (July 25th) under the seals of the forementioned in evidence.

Some Letters that Mention Jösse Gylta

- **SDHK No. 14873 - October 18, 1397:** Magnus Håkansson pledges his farm in Gillberga to Jösse Gylta.
- **SDHK No. 16108 - June 14, 1403:** "Götar Rambäk" sells to Håkan Karlsson, his wife Katarina's farm in Hajom (Haghema) Parish. Jösse Gylta is one of men that seals the letter.
- **SDHK No. 17491 – May 21, 1410:** The squire Påvel Jönsson in Värestorp, with approval of his wife Ingeborg, makes a change of property in Skåne and Halland with the knight Nils Svarte Skåning. Two of the sealers are Magnus and Jösse Gylta.
- **SDHK No. 18205 - January 18, 1414:** Olof Larsson confesses that he forfeited his life, but the knight Svarte Jönis let him keep it. Olof declares that no one shall accuse him again for what he did. Jösse Gylta is one of the sealers.
- **SDHK No. 18384 - July 5, 1414:** Bishop Brynolf in Skara and others, including Jösse Gylta, judge that Skara Cathedral has the right to some property that the knight Jon "Haffthornsson" took without permission.
- **SDHK No. 18543 – July 20,1415:** "Thore V..kmästare" sells to Nisse Petersson in Haganäs some property in Ginkalunda. Jösse Gylta is one of the sealers.

On March 3, 1398, a nobleman named Magnus Hake wrote a letter declaring that he owed 13 mark in Swedish currency to Gunnar Gylta, which was the equivalent of 30 barrels of butter in Varberg. To ensure that he would pay Gunnar this amount, he pledged to him Stora Skene and a building in Kattunga Parish, and a farm and mill at Låckö in Hyssna Parish. The abbot Sven in Ås, Andreas Svenonis (a dean in Norra Halland), the knight Gunnar Birgeri, and a bailiff named Helge placed their seals on this letter.[46]

Gunnar Gylta's Coat of Arms

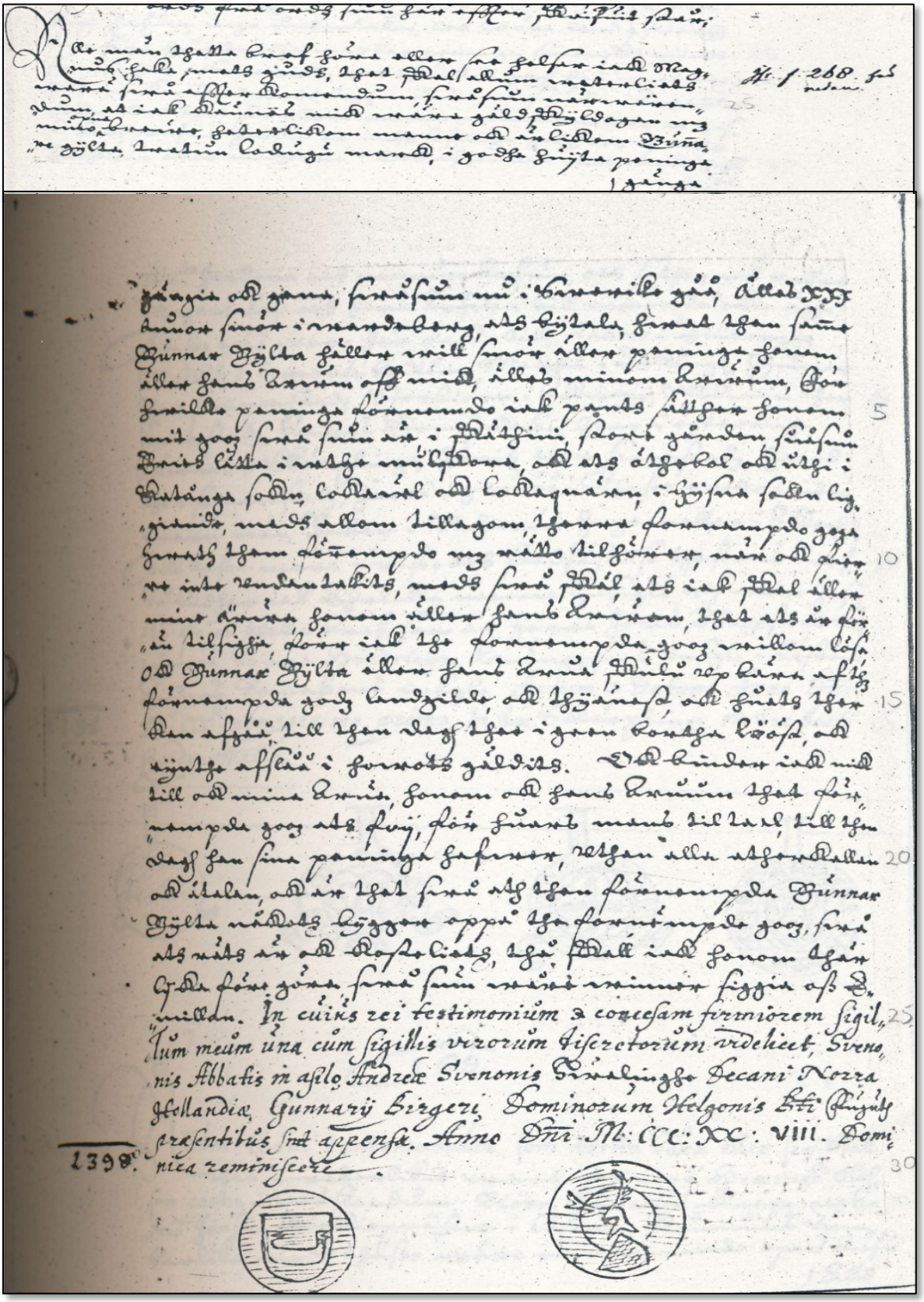
Gunnar Gylta's coat of arms consists of four quadrants. Historian Jan Raneke believed that the first and fourth quadrant should be blue, and the second and third yellow. Other variations have different colors, such as red and yellow, blue and silver, and black and yellow. The first known time that Gunnar's seal was used was in a letter from 1396. Unfortunately, his seal is now missing from this letter. Gunnar's brothers Bjorn, Jösse, and Magnus used the same coat of arms as he did.



Gunnar Gylta's coat of arms

[46] SDHK No. 14934 - March 3, 1398

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Transcript of a letter that Gunnar Gylta wrote on March 3rd, 1398 from Lars Sparre's Copy Book
Seals: 1. Magnus Hake 2. Sven (abbot in Ås Monastery) 3. Andreads Svenonis 4. Gunnar Birgersson 5. Helge (Danish bailiff)

Transcription:

*Alle män thetta bref höra eller see helsar iak Mag-
nus haka meth gudh, thet skal allum weterlieth
warä swå effter komandum, swå sum närwären-
dum, at iak kännäs mik wära gäld skylgdogan mz
mino opna brewe hederlikom manna ok ärlikom Gunna-
re gylta, tretun lodugu mark, i godha huijta peninga
gängia ok [giena], swåsum nu i Swerike gåå, Ällas XXX
tunor smör i wa[r]deborg, ath bytala, what then samme
Gunnar Gylta häller will smör äller peninge honom
äller hans Arwum aff mik, älles minom Arwum, För
hwilke peninga förnemdo iak panth sätther honom
mit gooz swå sum är i skäthini, store gården suåsum
Erikh lätta i wthe mulskora, ok eth äthebol ok uthi i
Katånga sokn lokawl ok lokaquärn, i hysna sokn lig-
giande, medh allom tillagom, therra fornampdo goza
hwath them förrnempdo mz rätto tilhörer, när ok fier-
re inte vndantakith, medh swå skäl, ath iak skal äller
mine ärwa honom äller hans Arw[o]m, thet eth år för-
än tilsighia, förr iak the fornempda gooz willom lösa
ok Gunnar Gylta äller hans Arua skulu vp bära af thz
förnempda godz landgilde, ok thy[ä]nest, ok huath ther
kan afgåå, till then dagh ther i geen bortha lööst, ok
[r]ynthe afslåå i howoth gäldith. Ok binder iak mik
till ok mina Arua, honom ok hans Aruum thet för-
nempda gooz ath frij, för huars mans til taal, till then
dagh han sina peninga hafwer, vthan alla atherkallan
ok åtalan, ok är thet swå ath then förnempda Gunnar
Gylta nåkoth bygger oppå the fornämpde gooz, swå
ath räth är ok kosteli[a]th, thå skall iak honom thär
l[ij]ka före göra swå sum wåre winner siggia oss E-
millan. In cuius rei testimonium & concesam firmiorem sigil-
lum meum una cum sigillis virorum tiseretorum videlicet, Svenonis Abbatis in asilo Andreae Svenonis Hwalinghe Decani Norra H[a]llandia', Gunnary Birgeri, Dominorum, Helgonis [dicti] Fuguth präsentibus sunt appensa. Anno Domini M:CCC:XC;Viii. Dominica reminiseere.*

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Translation:

[To] all men that hear or see this letter, I, Magnus Haka, greet with God. It shall be known to all, both those in the future and those that are present, that I, in this my open letter, declare that I owe to honest man Gunna Gylta 13 mark in good "white" money that is useful in Sweden or 30 barrels of butter in Varberg whichever Gunnar prefers, I or my heirs will pay to him. I give him a pledge (security) for this debt in the following estates: the farm "Stora Skene" where Erik Lätta in Mulskåra lives and a "äthebol" [? bol is a building] *in Kattunga Parish and Låckö and Låckökvarn (a mill) in Hyssna Parish, inclusive all that comes with them (land, lakes etc), both near and far away. I promise that my heirs or I will tell him or his heirs one year in advance at latest that I will redeem the pledge. Gunnar and his heirs shall have the right to have all kind of income from them until the day that the dept is fully paid. And promise I, together with my heirs, to him (Gunnar) and his heirs that no man shall be able to talk against this agreement until the dept is paid. If Gunnar Gylta builds something valuable upon these estates, then I will compensate him in the way our friends advise us to.*

To further ensure this I, together with the following men, puts our seals on this letter: Svenonis abbot in Asylum (Ås), the dean in Norra Halland, Andreas Svenonis in Valinge Parish, the knight Gunnar Birgeri (or Borgeem), and Helge (called bailiff) which are present.
Written in the Year of Our Lord 1398 on the second Sunday in Lent (March 3rd).

Lars Sparres Kopieböcker (Lars Sparre's Copy Books)



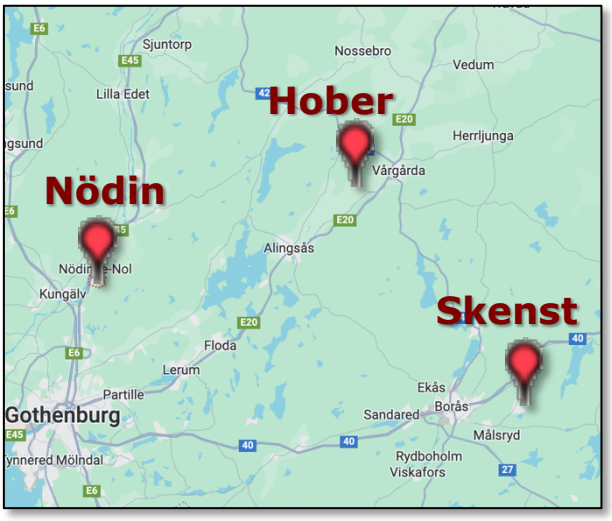
19th century lithograph of
Lars Eriksson Sparre

Although several of the letters that mention Gunnar Gylta no longer exist, numerous early 17th century transcriptions of them exist. Most of these transcriptions can be found in Lars Sparre's Copy Books, which were transcribed by Lars Eriksson Sparre (1590-1644), who was a Swedish country marshal, governor and councilor. Sparre's transcriptions can be found in Sweden's National Archives B Collection, which contains 38 volumes. Volumes B 14, B 15, and B 16 contain Sparre's transcriptions. Volumes B 14 and B15 are from 1638-1643, while B 16 is from 1635 to 1643.

Raising a Family (1400-1420)

Throughout the first two decades of the 15th century, Gunnar Gylta's wealth and landholdings continued to expand, as he and Märta raised their family. It's likely that they lived at Gälared for much of this time. Gunnar and Märta's son Bengt was born around 1402.[47]

On March 25, 1403, a nobleman named Knut Galle wrote a letter at Istorp in Istorp Parish, Västergötland declaring that he had exchanged one of his farms in Nödinge, a farm in Hoberg, and a farm in Skenstad for two of Gunnar Gylta's farms in Tofta and one of Gunnar Gylta's farms in Balstoksmala.[48]



The locations of certain farms that Gunnar Gylta obtained in 1403

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 16044 – March 25, 1403

Transcription:

Wittherlikit ware thet allom godhom mannom thet iak Knut Galle hafuer vndt ok tilsagt ærlikom manne Gunar Gylto mitt gooz som ær en gardh i Nidinge i Mark och en gard Hobergh i Bolands [C: Kolands] hæradh och en gard i Skalmstadha i Aas hæredh till rætt hæfdhe skipte, swa længe som oss badhom at nøgier, før thet goos som han i Wærande hawer, som æro twa garda i Tofta ok en gardh i Balstoksmala, medh alla thessa førnæmpda goza tillagir oppa bade siidhor, engo vndantakno. Til hulkins laghu ok hæfdeskipte mere wisso sættie iak mitt insigle før thette bref. Scriptum Istatorp, anno Domini m°cd° tercio, dominica media quatragesima.

Translation:

It should be known to all good men that I, Knut Galle, have given my property, consisting of one farm in Nödinge in Mark District and one farm in Hoberg in Kulling District and one farm in Skenstad in Ås District, according to all laws, to the honest man Gunnar Gylta, in exchange for his property, consisting of two farms in Tofta and one farm in Balstoksmala in Värend District; the estates are with all included nothing excluded. To assure the content of this document I seal it. Written at Istorp, on Mid Lent Sunday (March 25th) in the Year of Our Lord 1403.

[47] According to *Processus seu negocium canonizacions B Katerine de Vadstenis,* Bengt Gylta was 75 years old in 1477, which means he was born around 1402.
[48] SDHK No. 16044 – March 25, 1403

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

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

The article "Bengt Arvidssons morgongåvobrev: En västgötsk förfalskningshistoria från 1400-talet" ("Bengt Arvidsson's Morning Gift: A Västergötsk (A dialect spoken in Västergötland) History of Forgeries from the 15th Century") by Jan Liedgren, which was published in the third quarter 1964 issue of *Personhistorisk tidskrift*, analyzes the letter SDHK No. 17137 – 1409. This letter, which describes Bengt Arvidsson's wedding gift to his wife Ingeborg Larsdotter that consisted of Bosgården in Finnekumla Parish, Näs in Marbäck Parish, two farms in Övertorp, Finnekumla Parish, and two mills in Skeabo, Dannike Parish, included the seals of Gunnar Gylta and Bjorn Gylta. It originally came from the Stenbock estate at Torpa to Uppsala University Library,

Liedgren points out that none of the seals attached to this letter match the actual seals of the men they are associated with. For example, the third seal (which is of a hexagram ending with the text "….Nicholai pbri (=presbiteri)" has been interpreted as Gunnar Gylta's seal, but does not match with Gunnar's actual seal of a shield divided into four quadrants. Furthermore, the handwriting on this letter appears to be newer than 1409. Thus, it is very probable that this letter was forged.

Some Letters that Mention Bjorn Gylta

- **SDHK No. 15294 - 1400:** Bengt Arvidsson gives his wife Ingeborg Larsdotter a wedding gift that includes Bosgården in Finnekumla Parish, Näs in Marbäck Parish, two farms in Övertorp, Finnekumla Parish, and two mills in Skeabo, Dannike Parish. Bjorn Gylta is one of men that seals the letter.

- **SDHK No. 16040 - March 21, 1403:** Abjörn Jönsson pledges to Sven Båt the mill Lysered in Ljushults Parish in Kind District. Björn is one of the men who seals the letter. His seal (a four crossed shield with the surrounding text "s.beroni……ni") perhaps indicates that his father's name could end with a "n" or "ni"

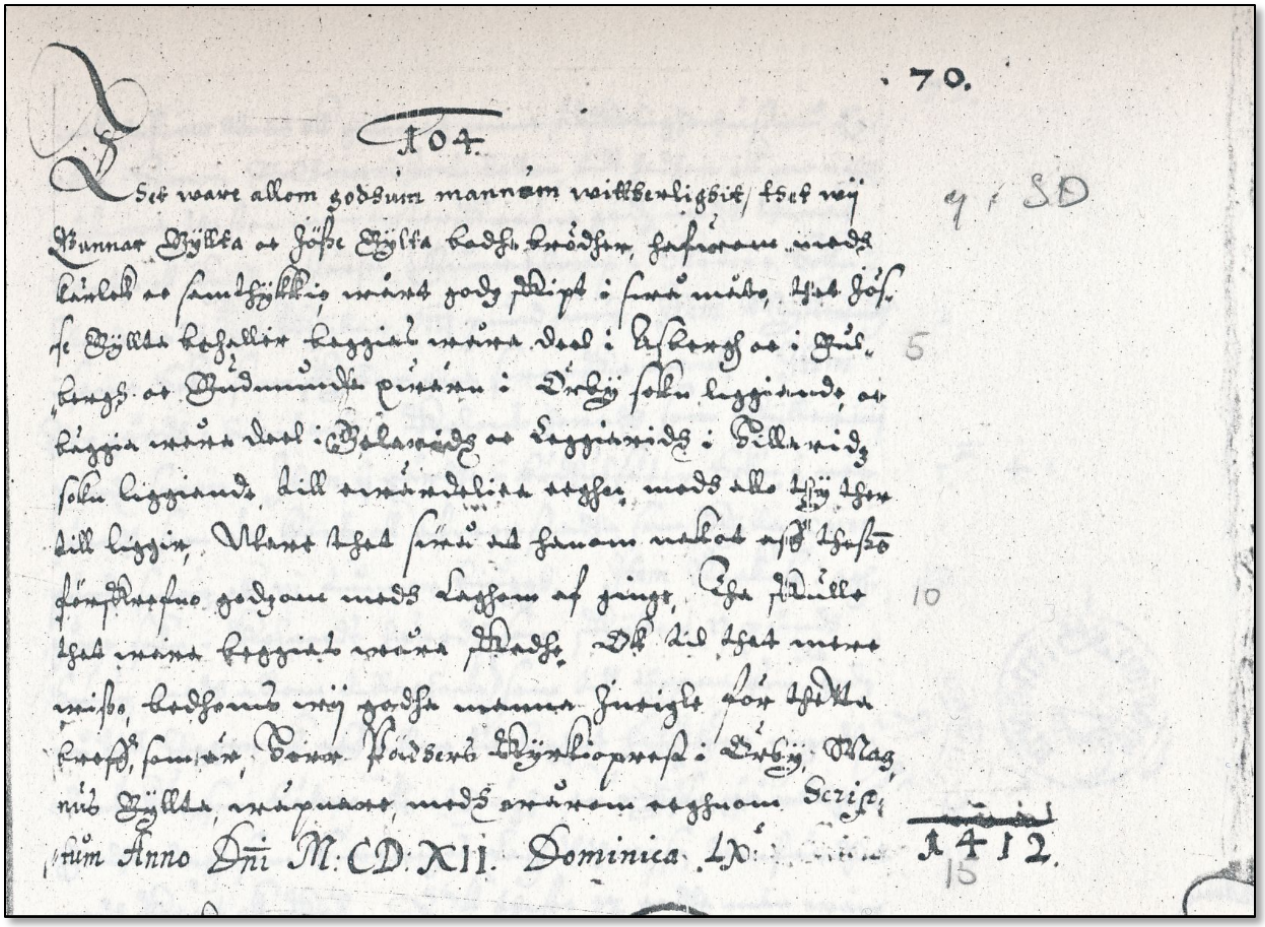
- **SDHK No. 17137 - 1409:** In this forged letter which reaffirms the land that Bengt Arvidsson gave to his wife Ingeborg Larsdotter (which was described in SDHK No. 15294 - 1400), Bjorn Gylta is one of men that seals the letter.

- **SDHK No. 17835 - May 26, 1412:** Märta Larsdotter gives Gunne Prika, Peter Andersson (Prika), Björn Gylta, and Magnus Gylta the receipt of the inheritance that she had received from her brother, the late Peter Prika.



Map of Hillared Parish – Where the Gylta family owned several farms

On February 21, 1412, Gunnar and his brother Jösse wrote a letter which stated that they had exchanged some of their properties in Hillared Parish, in which Jösse kept their land in Assberg, Gullberg, Gudmunda mill, Gälared, and Läggared.[49] Since both Gunnar and Jösse owned so much land in Hillared, it's likely that they both inherited this land from their parents and may have even grown up there.



Transcript of a letter that Gunnar Gylta wrote on February 21st, 1412 from Lars Sparre's Copy Book
Seals: 1. Gunnar Gylta 2. Jösse Gylta 3. Sven Pedersson 4. Magnus Gylta

[49] SDHK No. 17784 - February. 21, 1412

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Translation:

[page] *70*

104. [number in B16]
Thet ware allom godhum mannum wittherlighit, thet wij Gunnar Gÿllta oc Jösse Gÿlta bodhe brödher, hafwom medh kärlek oc samthÿkkio wårt godz skipt i swå måto, thet Jösse Gÿllta behaller beggies wåra deel i Asbergh oc i gulbergh oc Gudmunda qwärn i Örbÿ sokn liggiande, oc bäggia wåra deel i Galaridh oc Leggiaridh i Hillaridz sokn liggiande, till ewärdeli[c]a eegh[er] medh allo thÿ ther till liggia, Vtare thet swå at hanom nakot aff thesso förskrefno godzom medh Laghom af gingo, Tha skulle thet wara beggias wåra skadho. Ok til that mere wisso, bedhoms wij godhe manna Insigle för thetta breff, som är Herr Pädhers Kÿrkioprest i Örbÿ, Magnus Gÿllta, wäpnare, medh wårom eeghnom Scriftum Anno Domini M:CD:XII. Dominica L[????] 1412

Translation:

This should be known to all good men, that we Gunnar Gylta and Jösse Gylta, both brothers, have with love and consent made an exchange of our properties in the way that Jösse Gylta keeps both our parts in Assberg and in Gullberg and Gudmunda mill, all in Örby Parish, and both our parts in Gälared and Läggared, all in Hillared Parish and to own forever and with all that belongs to those properties. And if is it so that the law doesn't allow anything in this agreement, then both of us will stand the damage. And to verify this deal more, we beg these good men to seal this letter: Sir Peder (priest in Örby Parish), the squire Magnus Gylta, together with our own seals. Written in the Year of Our Lord 1412, on Sunday L[????] (February 21st)

Yngre fornsvenska - Late Old Swedish

Late Old Swedish is the Swedish that was spoken around 1375 – 1526. This was a time of major linguistic changes in a language which was previously relatively stable. During 1349–1350, the Black Death came to Sweden, followed by several epidemics over the next century. The death of many old people who died in the epidemics created the conditions for rapid language changes. During the 14th century, the Hanseatic League became a strong power in Sweden; and Swedish was significantly influenced by the Low German language. In 1526, the New Testament was printed in Swedish, ending the era of Late Old Swedish and starting the period of Older New Swedish.

On March 25, 1416, a man named Gudmund Sigmundsson wrote a letter at Vadstena declaring that he had given a farm in Skänstad, a mill in Toarp Parish, and a farm in Nudrunge in Fotskäl Parish to Gunnar Gylta.[50]



The locations of certain farms that Gunnar Gylta obtained in 1416

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 18721 – March 25th, 1416

Transcription:

Alle the men Þetta Breff see rce whore hälser iak Gudmundh Symundson ewärdeliga Madh wårom Herra.Kännis iak Madh thesso mino närwarande öpno breffue to iak giort haffuer a lägligit skipte Mad ärligom be ok wälbornom Gunnar Gylta vm thett godz my real mother's side, as this Apter Skriffuat stands, which is a farm in AASS häradh in Skälmstadhum ok a quarn thersammastadz in Thøffwatorpa sochn, a Gårdh in Nudrunge in Fothskøla sochn liggiande, Mark Skara biskopzdøme, huilket for: da godz iak afhänder mic ok minom arfwom ok: da Gunnar Gylta to yoke his arffuom to äwärdeliga ägho, vtangårdz oc before, in vato oc Torro when oc fiärran, Ingo vndantaghno, alt thet ther to haffuer ligates of Aller. Mere wisso oc city party consent toe bedis iak honest man insigle, which is Steen Haraldsson's ok Benkt Laurin's Mad mino insigle før Þetta Breff, which skreffuat war in Wastena, anno Domini mcdxvi, wårafrwdag in Långafasto.

Translation:

[To] all that hear or see this letter, I, Gudmund Sigmundsson, salute in the name of our Lord. I announce by this, my open letter, that I have given an estate, which I inherited after my mother, consisting of one farm in Skenstad and one mill in Toarp Parish in Ås District, and one farm in Nudrunge in Fotskäl Parish in Mark District in the diocese of Skara, in exchange to the honest and honorable man Gunnar Gylta and his heirs, with all included and nothing excluded. To assure the content of this document, I ask these honest men, Sten Haraldsson and Bengt Laurensson, to seal this letter together with me. Written in Vadstena, on the day of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (March 25th) in the Year of Our Lord 1416.

[50] SDHK No. 18721 – March 25, 1416

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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At some point during the early 15th century, Gunnar Gylta's family moved to the estate Påtorp in Fristad Parish.[51] Gunnar had acquired this farm through his marriage to Märta Olofsdotter.[52]

Påtorp



Arial view of Påtorp

Påtorp (Péh-tòrp) is located just west of the town Fristad in Fristad Parish and is on the east coast of Lake Ärtingen. Gunnar Gylta is the oldest known inhabitant, and it was first mentioned in a division of estate letter from 1422, in which it was divided among the children of Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter. The farm's main building is a riveted wooden house from the 17th century which is next to Lake Ärtingen. Beneath it, some cellar vaults are located, which are believed to be from the 15th century. The building was restored in 1823. A wooden farm and park were built around it. Gunnar and Märta's son Bengt Gylta inherited Påtorp, and his son Peder Bengtsson inherited it from him. Later owners of Påtorp included the Soop family, Captain Baron Clas Fleming, Johan, Gripenstedt, Johan Peter von Utfall, and C. G. von Koch, Odqvist.

Source: "Svenska gods och gårdar 28: Älvsborg-Norra Sjuhäradsbygden" pages 229-230

Svenska gods och gårdar D. 28 Västergötland: Älvsborgs län: Norra Sjuhäradsbygden

Svenska gods och gårdar 28: Älvsborg-Norra Sjuhäradsbygden ("Swedish estates and farms 28") is a large book that was edited by Carl-Eric Ohlén and published in 1940. It describes the estates and farms throughout much of Älvsborg County, including the districts of Bollebygds, Gäsene, Redvägs, Vedens and Ås. The estate Påtorp is described on pages 229-230.

[51] Several different genealogies, such as *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) slägt* and Peder Månsson Utter's *Collectanea Genealogica* state that Gunnar Gylta lived at Påtorp. Since SDHK No. 27892 – January 18, 1462 states that Gunnar's son Bengt Gylta lived at Påtorp, it's very likely that Gunnar lived there in his later years.

[52] According to a Division of Estate letter from 1422 (listed in B 16, RA, fol. 227), Påtorp was originally owned by Märta Olofsdotter.



Örby Church

Sometime between 1412 to 1416, Gunnar's brothers Björn and Magnus died.[53] On April 21, 1416, Gunnar and his brother Jösse wrote a letter at Örby stating that they had divided Björn's and Magnus's estates. During this division, Jösse received their land at Gällared, a farm called Berg in Dannike Parish, a farm called Östatorp in Örsås Parish, and a farm called Mundatorp in Ullasjö Parish.[54]

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 19554 – April 21st, 1416

Transcription:

Alla the thetta breff höra eller see helsom wij Gunnar Gyllta oc Jösse Gyllta wapnare ewärdelika meth Gudhi. Kennomps wij medh thesso wåro närwarande breffwe oss haffwa giort, som oss badhom atnögde(1), jordhaskipte, huilket oss rättelika tillkom epter wåra brödher Biorn oc Magnus Gylta, Gudh thära siell hawe: först fick för:de Jösse beggias wåra deel i Gälaridh i Hillaridh sokn liggiande; item een gårdh i Berghe i Daneke sokn, item en gaardh i Ostathorp i Örsees sokn, item en gårdh i Mundhatorp i Vllasiö sokn, i wåto oc i thörro, meth allom thera tillaghom. Ware thet sua at nakot aff för:da godze ooss franginge meth rätto, thå skal thet ware beggias wåra skadha. Till thes ytermere wisso oc witnisbyrdh bedhoms wy biskedelika manna herra .... Matisson i Skara, Thyrgils Mattisson oc Martins Swana incigle medh warom eeghnom för thetta breff. Scriptum örby, anno Domini mcdxvj, vi die paschæ.

Translation:

[To] all who hear or see this letter, we, Gunnar and Jösse Gylta, squires, salute in the name of the Lord Almighty. By this, our open letter, we announce that we have done what we were supposed to do with the division of the estates after our deceased brothers Björn and Magnus Gylta. God have mercy on their souls. First, Jösse received both our shares of Gällared in Hillared Parish, plus a farm called Berg in Dannike Parish, plus a farm called Östatorp in Örsås Parish, plus a farm called Mundatorp in Ullasjö Parish, in wet and dry, with all included. If anyone of the mentioned estates should legally be brought out of our control, then it should be regarded as harming both of us. To guarantee the content of this document, we ask these honest men, --- Matsson, Tyrgils Matsson and Mårten Svan to place their seals with our own on this letter. Written at Örby; on the sixth day after Easter (April 21st) in the Year of Our Lord 1416.

[53] Both Björn Gylta and Magnus Gylta and listed as still being alive in SDHK No. 17835 - May 26, 1412, but SDHK No. 19554 – April 21,1416 states that the two were deceased by 1416.
[54] SDHK No. 19554 – April 21, 1416

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Fristad Parish

Fristad (Free-stáhd) is a parish in Västergötland, Sweden. It is 56.94 square kilometers, of which 49.7 are land. Fristad has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1352 as "Fristada." The name of the parish comes from the village Fristad where the church is located. Fristad has been inhabited since the Stone Age, as rock coffins have been found there. The parish has farmland in the river valleys, but is mostly a forest area with bogs in the northeast. Fristad contains the towns Frufällan and Fristad. In 1991, there were 5,167 inhabitants in Fristad.



Location of Fristad Parish in Västergötland

While he lived at Påtorp, Gunnar Gylta attended Fristad Church. Gunnar probably donated a lot of money and land to the Church. Since it was common for clergy, monarchy, and nobility to make pilgrimages in those times, it's also likely that Gunnar made a pilgrimage to somewhere such as Rome.

Gunnar Gylta's Pilgrimage

In 1417, Gunnar Gylta, now in his sixties, embarked on an unforgettable pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, a revered shrine in Spain. Accompanied by his 17-year-old son Bengt, his journey was not merely a physical trek, but a spiritual quest for penance and redemption. As Gunnar made the long journey from Sweden to Spain, his mind wandered back to his past, haunted by the memories of unresolved conflicts he had with his recently deceased brothers, Björn and Magnus. He carried the weight of guilt for the unequal inheritance from their aunt Ingeborg, an incident that occurred over 20 years ago and had fueled accusations of manipulation and betrayal from Björn and Magnus.

When Gunnar and Bengt finally arrived at Santiago de Compostela, Gunnar stood before the majestic cathedral, offering prayers for his departed brothers and seeking forgiveness that he never reconciled with them. In the sanctity of that hallowed place, amidst the timeless rituals and whispered confessions, Gunnar found a sense of solace. Though the past could not be changed, his pilgrimage symbolized a profound desire for inner peace and spiritual renewal, a journey of healing which transcended the boundaries of time and distance.

*A work of creative fiction by Jeffrey High

The Fate of Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

Gunnar and Märta's daughter Gyrid never married. According to a plaque on the wall outside of Hillared Church, she dedicated a meadow outside of Kihla to Hillared Church on the condition that it be used for morning prayer services during the most important times of the year, such as Christmas, Easter, and Whitsunday. If this did not happen, the meadow would be reclaimed.[55] Since Gyrid isn't listed in the Division of Estates letter from 1422 in which Gunnar Gylta describes how his wife Märta's property should be distributed among their children after her death[56], Gyrid must have died before 1422.

The Plaque Dedicated to Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

On the wall outside the chancel of Hillared Church is a commemorative plaque that tells the story of Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta). The plaque was installed in the church in 1685 and previously stood upright against the church wall in the church's armory. The term "tomb" in the plaque's inscription probably refers to a raised tomb which was Gyrid's resting place, which was destroyed during construction in the church. In 1816, the plaque was moved to its present location during an extension of the church.





Stone tablet dedicated to Gyrid Gunnarsdotter at Hillared Church

[55]Wildt, Fridolf. "Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt"
[56] B 16, RA, fol. 227

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Translation of the Plaque:

HÄR UNDER LIGGER JUNGFRU GYRID GUNNARSDOTTER GYLTE BEGRAFWEN SOM BODDE PÅ GIÄLARE WID PASS 200 ÄR SEDAN HON WAR EN GYLLE SYSTER ALDRIG GIFT HON GAF EN ÄNG UTAN FÖR KIHLA TIL HILLARES KYRKIA PÅ DET AT ALLA DEE FÖRNÄMSTE HÖGTIDER OM ÅHRET SOM JULEDAGEN MED OTTESÅNG OCH HÖGMÄSSA PÅSKEDAG PINGESDAG SKULLE GUDSTIENSTEN I RÄTTAN TYD SKIE WID HILLARE MEN DER DET FÖRSUMES BÖR ÄNGEN ÅTERTAGAS UNDER GIÄLARE HENNES FADER GUNNAR GYLTE LÄT BRÄNNA ITLOPER DIUPARE AF SÅKASIÖ GENOM BÄRGET WID GIÄLARES OOS OCH KASTADE 300 SYDOR FLÄSK I ELDEN AT BERGET SKULLE DES BÄTTRE SPRICKA SÖNDER OCH HAFWER HAN OCH HANS DOTTER GIFWET MÅNGA GÅRDAR OCH ÄNGAR IFRÅN GIÄLARE TIL KYRKOR OCH KLOSTER DETTA FINNES PÅ GIÄLARE SKREFWET I EN GAMMAL LAGBOOK EFTERKOMMANDE TIL RÄTTELSE OCH HAFWER BÄGGE BRÖDERNE HER KNUT LILLIEHÖÖK OCH HER GABRIEL LILLIEHÖÖK DETTA GRAFHUS ÖFWER DEN GAMBLE JUNGFRU GYLTES GRAF UPSÄTTA LÅTET ANNO 1685.

Translation of the Plaque:

"HEREUNDER LIES THE MAIDEN GYRID GUNNARSDOTTER GYLTA WHO LIVED IN GÄLLARED CIRCA 200 YEARS AGO. SHE WAS A GYLTA SISTER WHO NEVER MARRIED. SHE GAVE A MEADOW OUTSIDE KIHLA TO HILLARED CHURCH, ON THE CONDITION THAT IT BE USED ON ALL THE IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS OF THE YEAR, SUCH AS CHRISTMAS DAY WITH MORNING PRAYER SERVICES, AND HIGH MASS ON EASTER DAY AND WHITSUNDAY/PENTECOST, (AND) SHALL BE IN GOD'S SERVICE IN DUE TIME IN HILLARED, BUT IF THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN THE FIELD WOULD BE RECLAIMED BY GÄLLARED. HER FATHER, GUNNAR GYLTA, MADE THE OUTLET OF LAKE SÅKEN DEEPER. THE MOUNTAIN AT GÄLLARED WAS HEATED BY BURNING 300 SIDES OF PORK IN THE FIRE FOR IT TO CRACK. HE AND HIS DAUGHTER HAD GIVEN MANY FARMS AND FIELDS FROM GÄLLARED TO CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES. THIS CAN BE FOUND WRITTEN IN AN OLD LAW BOOK IN GÄLLARED, FOR DECENDANTS TO HONOUR. THE TWO BROTHERS, HERR KNUT LILLEHÖÖK AND HERR GABRIEL LILLEHÖÖK ARRANGED FOR THIS TOMB FOR THE OLD MAIDEN GYLTA TO BE ERECTED IN THE YEAR 1685).*

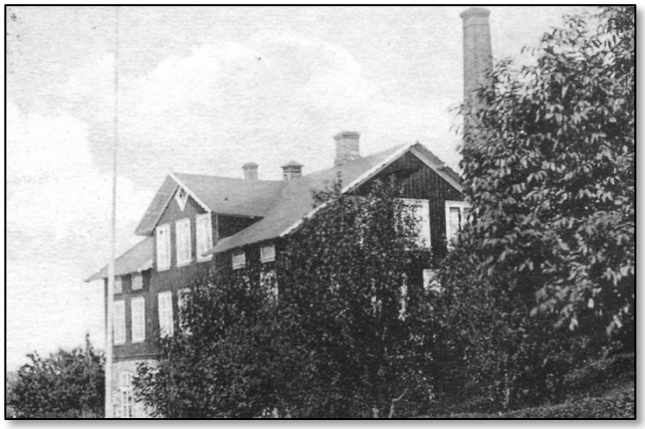
"Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt" by Fridolf Wildte

"Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) till Gällared: Sägen och historia kring och medeltida kvinnogestalt" ("Gyrid Gunnarsdotter (Gylta) of Gällared: Legend and history around and medieval female figure") was an article written by Fridolf Wildt that was published in the Swedish quarterly publication *Folkminnen och folktankar* (which was published between 1914-1944). It describes the commemorative plaque dedicated to Gyrid Gunnarsdotter at Hillared Church.

Gyrid was buried in a tomb inside of Hillared Church.

The Fate of Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

Gunnar and Märta's daughter Ingeborg married Mårten Svan[57], who served as the District Chief of Mark District[58]. The two were married sometime before 1429.[59] After they were married, they lived at the estate Byslätt in Istorp Parish.[60] For the wedding gift, Mårten gave Märta Byslätt, a farm in Broby, a farm in Bradatorp, and Strömanda mill with an eel fishery, all located in Istorp.[61]



Byslätt, Istorp Parish – Where Mårten Svan and Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter Gylta lived

Mårten Svan

Mårten Svan was probably born sometime during the 1390s. His parents were Thörgils Martensson and Helena Karlsdotter and he had a sister named Gunilla. Certain genealogical sources state that he was first married to a woman named Ragnhild Håkansdatter and had a daughter with her named Märta. By the 1420s, Ragnhild had died and Mårten married Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter (Gylta). The two had at least one daughter named Britta. By 1424, Mårten was serving as the District Chief of Mark District. In 1453, Mårten and several other noblemen including Bengt Gylta were placed on trial because they paid tribute to King Kristian during his attack on Västergötland in 1452 and sought to incite the inhabitants of western Värmland against King Karl. By 1458, Mårten Svan had died.



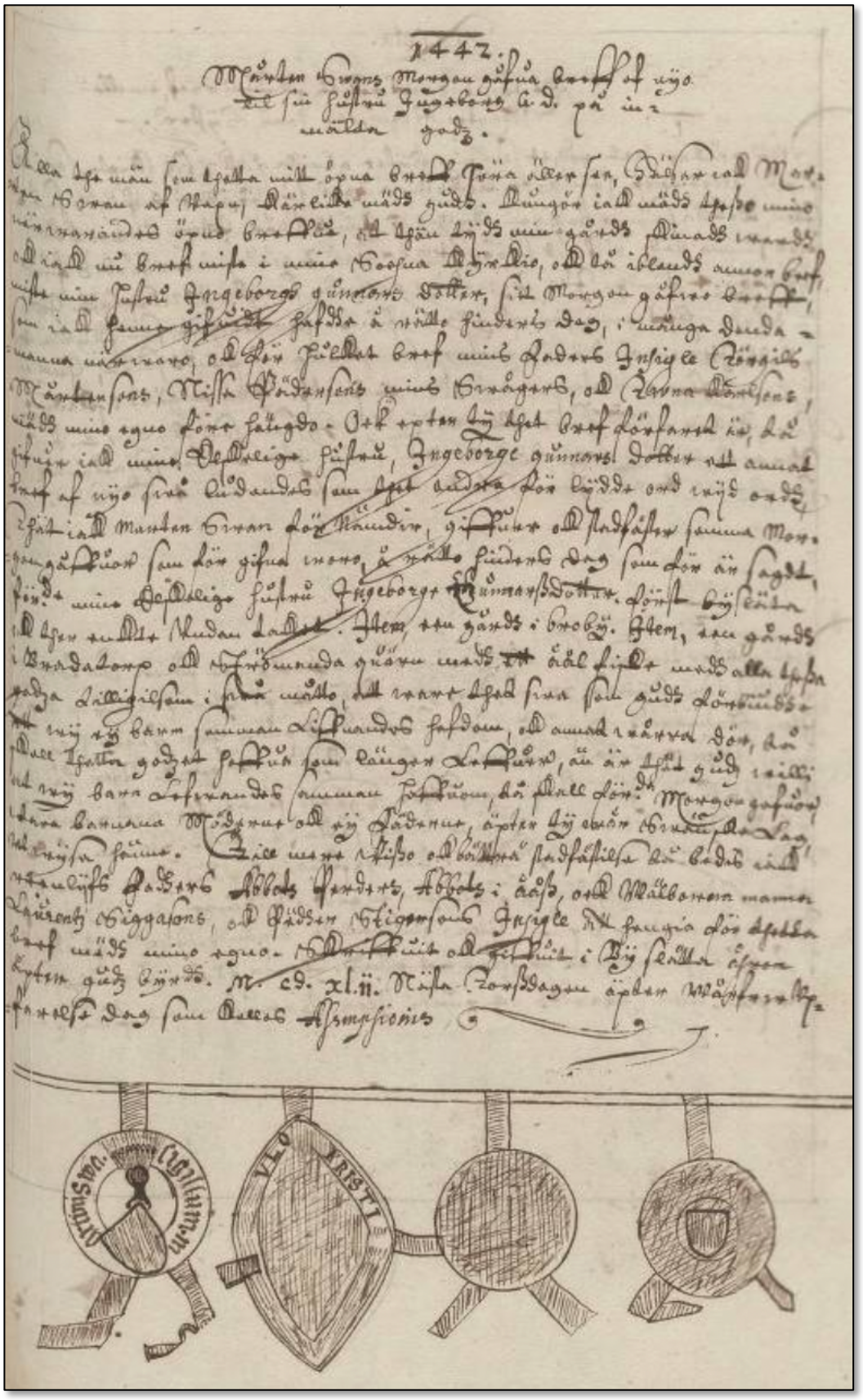
Svan Family's coat of arms

Source: *Gillingstam, Hans (2001). Gillingstam Hans. ed. Svan. Äldre svenska frälsesläkter: ättartavlor. Volume II. H 1. Stockholm: Riddarhusdirektionen. page 81-85*

During the early years of their marriage, Ingeborg and Mårten's home was looted.[62] It's unknown who the looters were.

[57] Ingeborg is listed as Mårten Svan's wife in SDHK No. 24188 - August 16, 1442.
[58] Mårten Svan is listed as the District Chief of Mark District in SDHK No. 20199 - January 29, 1424.
[59] Mårten Svan is indirectly listed as Gunnar Gylta's son-in-law in SDHK No. 21196 - July 28, 1429.
[60] SDHK No. 24188 - August 16, 1442 shows that Mårten and Ingeborg lived at Byslätt.
[61] SDHK No. 24188 - August 16, 1442
[62] *Ibidem*

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Transcript of a letter that mentions Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter Gylta on August 16th, 1442
from Lars Sparre's Copy Book
Seals: 1. Mårten Svan, 2. Peder Tuvesson 3. Lars Siggesson 4. Peder Stigesson

Transcription:

1442.
Mårten Swans Morgon gåfua breff af nyo
til sin hustru Ingeborg G. d. på in-
mälta godz.

Alla the män som thetta mitt öpna breff höra äller see, Hälsar iak Marten Swan af Vapn, kärlika mädh gudh. Kungör iak mädh thesso mino närwarandes öpno breffue, at thän tijdh min gårdh skinadh wardh ok iak nu bref miste i mine Sochna kyrkio, ok tå iblandh annor bref, miste min hustru Ingeborgh gunnar dotter, sitt Morgon gåfwo breff, som iak henne gifuidt hafdhe å rätto hinders dag, i många dandamanna närwaro, ok för huilket bref mins Faders Insigle Törgils Mårtensons, Nisse Pädersons mins Swågers, ok Twna Karlsons, mädh mino egno före hängdo. Oek epter ty thet bref förfaret är, då gifuer iak mine Elskelige hustru, Ingeborge gunnars dotter ett annat bref af nyo swå ludandes som thet andra för lydde ord wijd ordh, Thät iak Marten Swan för nämndir, giffue ok stadfäster samma Morgongåffuor som för gifna woro, å rätto hinders dag som för är sagdt, förde mine Elskelige Ingeborge Gunnarssdotter, först bysläta ok ther enkte Vndan taket. Item, een gårdh i broby. Item, een gårdh i Bradatorp ok Strömanda quärn med ett åål fiske medh alla thessa godza tilligilsom i swå måtto, att ware thet swa som gudh förbiudhe att wy ey barn samman Liffnandes hafdom, ok annat wårra dör, tå skall thetta godzet haffua som länger Leffuer, än är thet gudz willi at wy barn Lefwandes samman haffuom, då skall förda Morgon gafuor, wara barnana Möderne ok ey Fäderne, äpter ty wår Swänske Lag, Ut wysa hänne. Till mere wisso ok bätträ stadfästilse så bedis iak reenlijfs Padhers Abboth Perderh, Abboth i ååss, ock Wälborna manna Laurentz Siggasons, ok Päder Stigersons Insigle att hengia för thetta bref mädh mino egno. Skriffuit ok giffuit i By slätta åhrom äpter gudz byrdh. M. cd. xl.ii. Nästa Torsdagen äpter Wårfrw Upfarelse dag som kallas Assumpfionis

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Translation:

Mårten Svan's morning gift letter anew
to his spouse Ingeborg Gunarsdotter on announced estates.

[To] all the men who hear or see this, my open letter, I, Marten Swan of Vapn, lovingly greet with God. I announce with this, my present open letter, that at the time my homestead was skinned (destroyed in an unknown way), I lost a letter in my parish church, and among other letters, my wife Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter lost her morning gift letter that I had given her on the correct day (the day after the marriage), in many honest men's presence. On this letter the seals of my father Törgils Mårtensson, my brother-in-law Nisse Pädersson, and Twna Karlsson, together with my own, were hung. And since this letter has perished, then I give my beloved wife, Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter another letter anew with the same wording as the previous one, word by word. As I, Martin Svan, previously mentioned, I give and confirm the same morning gifts as was previously given, on the same day as previously stated, to my beloved Ingeborg Gunnarssdotter. First, Bysläta and all its contents. Next, a farm in Broby, then a farm in Bradatorp and Strömanda mill including an eel fishery with all these estates provided that, if we, God forbid, did not have any children, and one of us dies, then these estates will go to the one that lives the longest. But if it is God's will that we together shall have children, then the mentioned morning gifts shall be the children's mother's heritage and not their father's, in accordance with our Swedish Law. In addition and as a confirmation, I ask clean-living father abbot Peder (abbot in Ås), honorable man Laurentis Siggesson, and Peder Stigersson to hang their seals on this letter together with my own. Written and given in Byslätta in the year after God's commandments 1442 on the Thursday after Our Lady's Ascension Day, which is called Assumpfionis(August 16th).

Ingeborg and Mårten had at least one daughter named Britta, who married Lindorm Biörnsson.[63]

Children of Mårten Svan and Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

Name	Born	Location	Died	Location
Britta	1420s-1430s	Västergötland	Unknown	Västergötland

Mårten Sven died sometime before 1458.[64] Throughout the late 1450s and early 1460s, Ingeborg was involved in a feud with a nobleman named Karl Bengtsson, who forcibly took a farm from her[65], and a feud with Ture Jönsson (Svarte Skåning)[66]. It's unknown when Ingeborg died, but she was still alive in 1469.[67]

Some Letters that Mention Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter (Gylta)

- **SDHK No. 39398 - 1458:** Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter, the widow of Mårten Svan, issues a letter of complaint (addressed to King Kristian) regarding her feud with Herr Ture Jönsson (Svarte Skåning), who together with Gunne Kellersson wants to sell her an unnamed farm.
- **SDHK No. 27260 - June 26, 1458 at Kind District Council:** Knut Arvidsson, District Chief of Kind, and others award Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter the estate that Karl Bengtsson had forcibly taken from her.
- **SDHK No. 27348 - 1459:** Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter is involved in a feud with Ture Jönsson (Svarte Skåning), who wants to sell her a farm. She writes a letter of judgment issued earlier in Copenhagen by King Kristian on this farm.
- **SDHK No. 28453- August 7, 1465:** Archbishop Jöns and Bishop Kettil write a letter for Mårten Svan's widow Ingeborg, which is granted to the parish of Yxnavall and in Mark District, Västergötland.
- **SDHK No. 28212 - November 20, 1463 at Byslätt:** Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter and the squire Knut Andersson announce a land transfer between the sisters Kristina and Knut Andersson's wife Birgitta.
- **SDHK No. 29012 - November 30, 1469 at Vadstena:** Ingeborg Gunnarsdotter fulfills her husband's promise to give an estate "Skiwatorp" in Frölunda Parish in Kind District and "Oddatorp" in Kalv Parish to Vadstena Monastery.
- **SDHK No. 33043 - 1494:** Squire Bengt Krabbe testifies that Ingeborg told him that Gunnar Gylta had a farm with a mill and eel fishing in lieu of Måns Hake.

[63] Peder Månsson *Utter's Collectanea Genealogica*
[64] SDHK No. 39398 - 1458 states that Ingeborg was a widow in 1458, which means that Mårten had died.
[65] SDHK No. 27260 - June 26, 1458
[66] SDHK No. 27348 - 1459
[67] SDHK No. 29012 - November 30, 1469

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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The Fate of Bengt Gylta

Bengt Gylta, Gunnar and Märta's only known son, inherited his family's estate Påtorp after Gunnar's death.[68] By 1440, he had been appointed as the *lagman*, or "~~lawman~~" of Västergötland[69], and was one of the most powerful individuals in the province. In 1441, he was one of the four secular Swedish delegates at Lödöse in Västergötland who helped forge a treaty between Sweden and Norway.[70] By 1442, Bengt had been appointed as a councilor[71], and was still serving in the role in 1451[72].

Sometime before 1445, Bengt was married to Märta Andersdotter (Öra),[73] the daughter of Anders Knutsson (Öra) and Birgitta Gustafsdotter (Tre roros till Horshaga).[74] Her uncle Bengt Gustavsson was the Bishop of Skara Diocese[75]. Bengt and Märta had at least two children together, a daughter named Anna and a son named Peder.[76] Some sources state that Bengt and Marta had a total of 20 children, of whom 18 died before reaching adulthood.[77]

Children of Bengt Gylta and Märta Andersdotter (Öra)

Name	Born	Location	Died	Location
Anna	1420s-1450s	Västergötland	Unknown	Västergötland
Peder	1420s-1450s	Västergötland	Unknown	Västergötland

Notes on Some of Bengt Gylta's Descendants

Bengt Gylta's son Peder Bengtsson (Gylta) inherited Påtorp after Bengt's death. He married Ingeborg Pedersdotter Sparre av Rossvik. Peder was the District Chief of Skåning District between 1490-1499. In 1514, he was a priest at Vadstena Monastery. Peder died on April 24, 1527.

Peder Bengtsson had a son named Bengt Pedersson (Gylta) who was a squire, councilor, and lagman. In 1514, Bengt was married to Brita Bengtsdotter (Lily). According to Danish sources, Bengt was executed at the Stockholm Massacre in 1520. However, he wasn't listed in Olaus Petri's list of those executed there.

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[68] Bengt is listed as living at Påtorp in SDHK No. 27892 - January 18, 1462.
[69] SDHK No. 39351 - 1440
[70] SDHK No. 23750 - February 9, 1441
[71] SDHK No. 24151- June 11, 1442
[72] SDHK No. 25839 - February 8, 1451
[73] Märta Andersdotter is listed as Bengt Gylta's wife in Peder Månsson *Utter's Collectanea Genealogica*. Since SDHK No. 24784 - August 2, 1445 lists Bengt and Märta together (although it doesn't explicitly state they were married), it's extremely likely they were married.
[74] Märta is listed as Anders and Birgitta's daughter in SDHK No. 28636 - November 1, 1466.
[75] *Ibidem*
[76] Peder and Anna are mentioned as Bengt Gylta's children in Peder Månsson *Utter's Collectanea Genealogica*. SDHK No. 32090 - July 14, 1488 states that Peder was Bengt's son.
[77] https://sok.riksarkivet.se/sbl/mobil/Artikel/13425#/sbl/Mobil/Artikel/13422 – Accessed November 30, 2023



Letter that mentions Bengt Gylta – August 2nd, 1445
Seals: 1. Bengt Andersson Öra 2. Birgitta Gustafsdotter 3. Bengt Gylta
4. Märita Andersdotter Öra 5. Bengt Gustafsson 6. Magnus Gustafsson

Transcription:

Alla the som thetta breff höra eller see helsom wj benct andersson oc min kära modher hustru birgitta götzstaffsdotter fordom wälborins manz anders knutzssons mins kära fadhers hustru gudh hans siäl nadhe, benct gylta laghman i wästergötland oc miin älskelica hustru märitta anderssadotter, bencta anderssadotter, oc knut andersson forda anderss knutssons barn och ärfuingia kärlica mz gudhi kungörom wj allom oc bekänoms mz thässo waro närwarandes opno brefue, at efter thz forde waar käre fadher anders knutsson, oc mins forda birgitto götzstaffsdotter älskeliken husbonde enkte testament siäl[n] giorde i sit ytersta, utan trodde oss om sit siäla gagn, thy wj wiliandes hans siäla rycht wita oc främia effter thy han oss til trodde, oc oss aff rätto tilbör gudhi til hedhers oc iomfru mario oc sancte birgitto for forda waars kära fadhers siäll oc alla wara föräldra oc for wara eghna siäla, Swa oc for ware kära syster syster Cristine anderssadotter puento som ingiffuin är i watzstena closter unno wj giffuom oc til äwerdelica ägho bebrefno forda wadztena clostre mz kärleek samthyckio oc beradhno modhe aff oskiptom deell en gaardh i fallinge i wiwelstadha sokn innan wätzstbo liggiande, huilkit hans rätte kiöpe gooz war oc är en attonde deell af allom bynom huilken gaarder som arlica skyllar iiij pund smör mz andro som aff honom bör g[a]a oc ligger upsidhes widh forda watzstena closters gooz i forda by fallinge, Thy afhändom wj oss oc allom waro arffuom oc äpterkomando forda gaard i fallinge mz jordh oc hws akir oc äng all[m]a skoghom oc bökeskoghom, fiskewatno oc allom andro tillaghom i wato oc thorro när by oc fiärran engo undantaghno hwadh nampne thz hälzst nämpnas kan som til then sama gaardh i fallinge nw ligger aff alder tillighat haffuir eller rättelica tilliggia bör, oc til eghnom oc nw strax uplatom honom mz allom sinom tillaghom forda watztena clostre til äwerdelica ägho, ohindradhan oc oqwaldan for oss oc allom warom arffuom effterkomandom effter thenna dagh, Oc giffuom wj häretzhöffdinganom i wästbo häradhe fulla macht mz thässo brefue forda gaardh clostno watzstena fastan fara mz allom sinom tillaghom oc fastor uppa giffua effter thy landzlagh utuisa Til mera wisso oc stadhfästilse latom wi forde benct andersson Oc birgitta götzstaffsdotter, benct gylta, märitta anderssadotter waar incigle uppa alla wara wägna witerlica hängia for thetta breff Oc bedhoms til witnisbyrdh hedherlica oc ärlica manna incigle som är h benct götzstafsson ärchedyäkn i Scarom oc magnus götztafsson awapn wara modherbrödher som när oc owerwaro then tiidh thetta giordes oc gaffs samuledhes at hängia for thetta breff Datum watzstenis Anno domini mcdxlquinto in Crastino beati peter aduincula

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Translation:

[To]all that hear or see this letter, we, Bengt Andersson; my dear mother wife Birgitta Gustafsdotter; my dear father, wellborn Anders Knutsson (God bless his soul); Bengt Gylta, lagman in Västergötland; my beloved wife Märta Andersdotter; Bengta Andersdotter; and Knut Andersson greet the before mentioned Anders Knutsson's children and heirs. In God's name and with love we announce for all and confess with this, our open letter, that in line with our dear father Anders Knutsson and before mentioned Birgitta Gustafsdotter's testament and last will, that he [Anders Knutsson] put the trust to us for implementation, we want to honor him, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Birgitta for all our father's, parents', and our own souls and also our sister, Christina Andersdotter, who was given to Vadstena Monastery when she was very young. We want to give an undivided part of a farm in Fallinge in Vivelsta Parish in Västbo District, which he (Anders Knutsson) has bought and is one-eighth part of the village and that annually generates four pounds of butter, together with some other parts near other farms in Fallinge village that already belongs to Vadstena Monastery. So we and our heirs give this before mentioned farm Fallinge, together with all soil, houses, fields, meadows, all forests and beech-forests, fishing-waters, and all other parts that belong to the property, wet and dry, near and far, no exceptions whatever they may be, and that has been part of Fallinge since old times. This should now be owned by Vadstena Monastery for all times further on, without any obstacles and without concern from us and all our heirs after this day. We hereby give the judge of the Västbo District full power to register the farm and all that belongs to it, as Vadstena Monastery's property, according to what the law in this land stipulate. To confirm this, we, Bengt Andersson, Birgitta Gustafsdotter, Bengt Gylta, and Märta Andersdotter put our seals on this letter, and ask the following honorable men also to seal, the archdean in Skara Bengt Gustafsson and the squire Magnus Gustafsson, both who are our mother's brothers, who also were present when this letter was written. Written at Vadstena in the Year of Our Lord 1445 on the day after the feast of Saint Peter in Chains (August 2nd).

Some Letters that Mention Bengt Gylta (1440-1443)

- **SDHK No. 39351 – 1440:** Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland), Lars Siggesson, and Birger Folkesson certify a letter from April 3, 1397.

- **SDHK No. 23750 – February 9, 1441 at Lödöse:** Archbishop Nils in Uppsala, Sven in Skara, and Tomas in Strängnäs (bishops); the knight Gustav Algotsson, master Jöns Bengtsson (dean of the cathedral in Uppsala), Bo Knutsson (chieftain of Axvall), Lars Snakenborg, Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland and Sweden's ambassador), Herr Sigurd (provost of Mary's church in Oslo), Kolbjörn Gerst (chieftain of Bohus), Mattis Jepsson, and Henrik Skakt (Norway's envoy), conclude an alliance treaty between Sweden and Norway.

- **SDHK No. 23838 – June 16, 1441 at Ölslunda:** The knight Karl Ormsson (Gumsehuvud) and the lagman in Västergötland Bengt Gylta write to King Kristofer. They have been ordered to investigate certain estates in Lerums and Partille parishes to which Vadstena Monastery claimed ownership of two farms in Torp, one fishing farm "Kofrahagi" in Lerum (Vättle District), one farm in Mällby, and a mill stream in Partille (Sävdal District).

- **SDHK No. 24151 – June 11, 1442 at Lödöse:** Bishop Nils in Linköping, Bishop Lars in Växjö, and Bengt Stensson (knight and lagman in Närke) refer to the county council case regarding a dispute between Ture Jönsson (knight) and Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland) concerning two millstones. Herr Bengt proved by a letter that showed the mill was given as a present to his niece Mrs. Iliana, while Herr Ture referred to Kettil Jonsson's oral statement that the stones were excluded when the mill was given as a present.

- **SDHK No. 24197 – September 10, 1442 at Skara:** Sven (Bishop in Skara) and Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland) announce that they sat in judgment at the council house in Skara when Herr Lars Ulfsson presented them with proof that he purchased his farm Bötilsäter in Bötilsäter Parish.

- **SDHK No. 24255 – January 7, 1443 at Byslätt:** "Sewit" Barkar, Lars Jakobsson (parish priest in Surteby), and Knut Persson testified that they were present when Mårten Svan asked Trugels Håkansson if he could provide information about the land exchange between Gunnar Gylta's children. Trugels testified that at the change of inheritance, which was held in Varberg in 1429, Bengt Gylta had taken three lots and Mårten Svan had taken the fourth.

- **SDHK No. 24269 – February 1, 1443 at Björndal:** The knight Gustav Larsson and Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland), wrote that at the hearing in "Bratuadall" in Kind District when Mårten Svan claimed some goods that "Thörgitt Rötsonn" owned in his lifetime, Bengt Gylta asked if anyone knew if he disposed of the goods with some right or law. Two sworn witnesses, "Christman in Twaridh" and Thore "Laak" verified that this did not happen.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Some Letters that Mention Bengt Gylta (1444-1449)

- **SDHK No. 24465 – February 9, 1444 at Tängene:** Bishop Sven in Skara verifies the committee's testimony in Viste County about wife "Arfridh." Bengt Gylta, lagman in Västergötland, asked if anyone had heard anything about his niece, wife "Arfridh."

- **SDHK No. 25098 – March 10, 1447 at Floby:** At the hearing with the common people in Vilske District, Bengt Gylta, a lagman in Västergötland, gives the management of an estate in "Walaberga," to Svarte Ture Jönsson, which he bought from Björn Nilsson, formerly a resident of Sjötorp, for 200 mark.

- **SDHK No. 24741 – May 14, 1447:** Björn Nilsson, former resident of Sjötorp, sells a farm in Valaberg, Gökhem Parish in Vilske District to the knight Svarte Ture Jönsson for 200 mark in gold and silver, which is now settled. Bengt Gylta was among the witnesses who placed his seal on the letter.

- **SDHK No. 25230 – November 12, 1447 at Flyttatorp:** Bengt Gylta, lagman in Västergötland, announces that Magnus Djäken, Vadstena Monastery's *sysloman* (an individual responsible for economic and legal matters) entered into legal action against Bo Pik, who stole 15 salmon in a fishery owned by Vadstena Monastery called Sved in Vartofta County, and confirms the monastery's ownership of said fishery.

- **SDHK No. 25266 – 1448:** Åke Jonsson, knight Ulf Petersson, Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland), and squire Gustav Ragvaldsson authenticate two certificates concerning Gudhem Monastery's estate.

- **SDHK No. 25457 – January 17, 1449 at Friggeråker:** Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland) and Gustav Ragvaldsson (squire and District Chief in Gudhem District) announce that Gudhem's abbess has claimed the farm Ambjörntorp.

- **SDHK No. 25458 – January 19, 1449 at Gudhem:** Åke Jönsson, Ulf Petersson (knight), Bengt Gylta, and others provide testimonies concerning the salmon fishing at Forsholm in Värmland, which the abbess in Gudhem requested.

- **SDHK No. 25466 – January 29, 1449 at The Legislative Council of Tidavad:** Torbjörn Andersson, County Governor in Vadsbo, gives Ture Jönsson a lease on the estate Ljungås in Sveneby Parish in Vadsbo, which Ture bought from Ragvald Magnusson for 46 mark in Stockholm money. The witnesses were Bengt Gylta, a lagman in Västergötland, and the squire Sven Larsson.

- **SDHK No. 25539 – July 9, 1449 at Skara:** Bengt Gustavsson (elected archdeacon in Skara), Lars Snakenborg (knight and chieftain at Axvall), and Bengt Gylta (lagman in Västergötland) confirm Herr Ragvald Gustavsson's gift to Vadstena Monastery of a farm in Åsaka in Ullene Parish.

Some Letters that Mention Bengt Gylta (1449-1451)

- **SDHK No. 25602 – November 20, 1449 at Falköping:** Knut Stensson (knight and courtier at Axvall), Lars Snakenborg (knight), and Bengt Gylta (squire and lagman in Västergötland) meet about a dispute between Bengt Djäken in Skara and Gudhem Monastery over a salmon fishery in Värmland.

- **SDHK No. 25098 – March 10, 1447 at Floby:** At the hearing with the common people in Vilske District, Bengt Gylta, a lagman in Västergötland, gives the management of an estate in "Walaberga" to Svarte Ture Jönsson, which he bought from Björn Nilsson, formerly a resident of Sjötorp, for 200 mark.

- **SDHK No. 45026 – January 21, 1451 at Skara:** King Karl issues a decree concerning the inheritance of Erik Turesson, which the knights Erik Eriksson and Ture Turesson dispute. The knights Sten Petersson, Gustav Olsson and Mårten Svan, the lagman in Västergötland Bengt Gylta, Ficke Bylow, Lars Siggesson, Håkan Eriksson, Bengt Andersson, Peter Andersson, Peter Nilsson, Lasse Jeppson and Ragvald Andersson sat on the committee and investigated the matter.

- **SDHK No. 25826 – January 22, 1451 at Skara:** Magnus Gustavsson (squire) and his wife Kristina Larsdotter give their daughter Bengta Magnusdotter's dowry and maintenance of their property in "Thörwælle" (Torvalla) in Sörby Parish in Vilske District, Västergötland to Vadstena Monastery. Bengt Gylta was among the witnesses who placed his seal on the letter.

- **SDHK No. 25839 – February 8, 1451 at Skara:** King Karl makes a judgement about a salmon fishery in Värmland, which Gudhem Monastery and Bengt Gustavsson (Dean of Skara) disputed, in favor of the monastery, since older letters were presented. A confirmation letter was issued by Knut Stensson (lagman in Uppland), the knight Lars Snakenborg, and the squire Bengt Gylta. The king's seal is attached.

- **SDHK No. 25890 – May 9, 1451 at Skara**: Bishop Bengt in Skara; the knights Ture Turesson and Mårten Svan; the lagman in Västergötland Bengt Gylta; and the squires Ficke Bylow, Lars Siggesson, and Bengt Andersson award (Svarte) Ture Jönsson to keep a farm in Landa and one in Jung, which is called "Budzatorp", which his grandfather Nils Svarte Skåning redeemed 80 years ago.

- **SDHK No. 25891 - May 10, 1451 at Skara.** Ture Turesson, Ture Jönsson, and Mårten Svan (knights) and Bengt Gylta (armourer and lagman in Västergötland) announce that on the Saturday after Candlemas Day, King Karl sat before the court at the inquisition in Skara to judge the dispute between Bishop Bengt and the canons in Skara against the citizens of Skara regarding the borders between Hedensbo, Horshaga, and Kalfstorp.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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In May of 1452, Västergötland was invaded by the forces of King Kristian I of Denmark. During this invasion, several members of nobility and clergy in Västergötland rebelled against King Karl VIII, taking the side of Denmark and pledging allegiance to Kristian I. Bengt Gylta was among these individuals, as was the Bishop of Skara Bengt Gustavsson (the maternal uncle of Bengt Gylta's wife Märta Andersdotter), Bengt Andersson (the brother of Märta Andersdotter), Bengt's Gylta's brother-in-law Mårten Svan, and Bengt Gustavsson's brother-in-law Laurens Snakenborg. In 1453, Bengt Gylta and the rest of the insurgents were accused of treason by Karl VII, had their property seized from them, and were condemned to die.[78] To escape execution, Bengt Gylta and the others went into exile. Once Karl VIII was deposed in 1457 and Kristian I took the throne, Bengt and the other insurgents returned to Sweden. However, Bengt was no longer a lagman at this point and had lost a lot of his wealth and social influence.

Some Letters that Mention Bengt Gylta (1451-1454)

- **SDHK No. 25945 – August 17, 1451 at Skara:** Magnus Bengtsson (knight), Jeppe Andersson, Bengt Andersson, Bengt Gylta, Knut Andersson, and Magnus Petersson (armourer), transfer property to Bishop Bengt in Skara, Ragvald Gustavsson, and wife Kristina Gustavsdotter. Magnus Bengtsson and Jeppa Andersson get 2/3 of an inheritance.

- **SDHK No. 26134 – July 22, 1452 at Skara:** Bishop Bengt in Skara gives his farm Horhaga to Skara Cathedral and transfers the legal "scotacio" or "Wmfärd" to the lagman Bengt Gylta, his relative.

- **SDHK No. 26327 – September 15, 1453 at Stockholm:** Gustav Karlsson (lagman in Uppland), Erik Axelsson, Tord Bonde, Erik Nipertz, Erengisle Nilsson, and Doctor Nicolaus judge (the exiled noblemen) Bengt Gustavsson (Bishop in Skara), Magnus Gren, Bengt Gylta, Bengt Andersson, Ture Turesson, Arvid Svan, Eggert Krummedike, Lars Snakenborg and Mårten Svan for very serious crimes (in this case it probably meant high treason but the charges included murder, severe homicide, bigamy etc.)

- **SDHK No. 26526 – June 15, 1454:** The knights Svarte Ture Jönsson (lagman in Västergötland), Per Nilsson (District Chief in Vartofta District) and squire Per Mårtensson in Lena (now Kungslena) testify that they heard Bengt Gylta testify that 12 years ago at the lagman's hearing in Hångsdala, that some "sensible and wise men" in Varv were awarded some "meadows in the mountains."

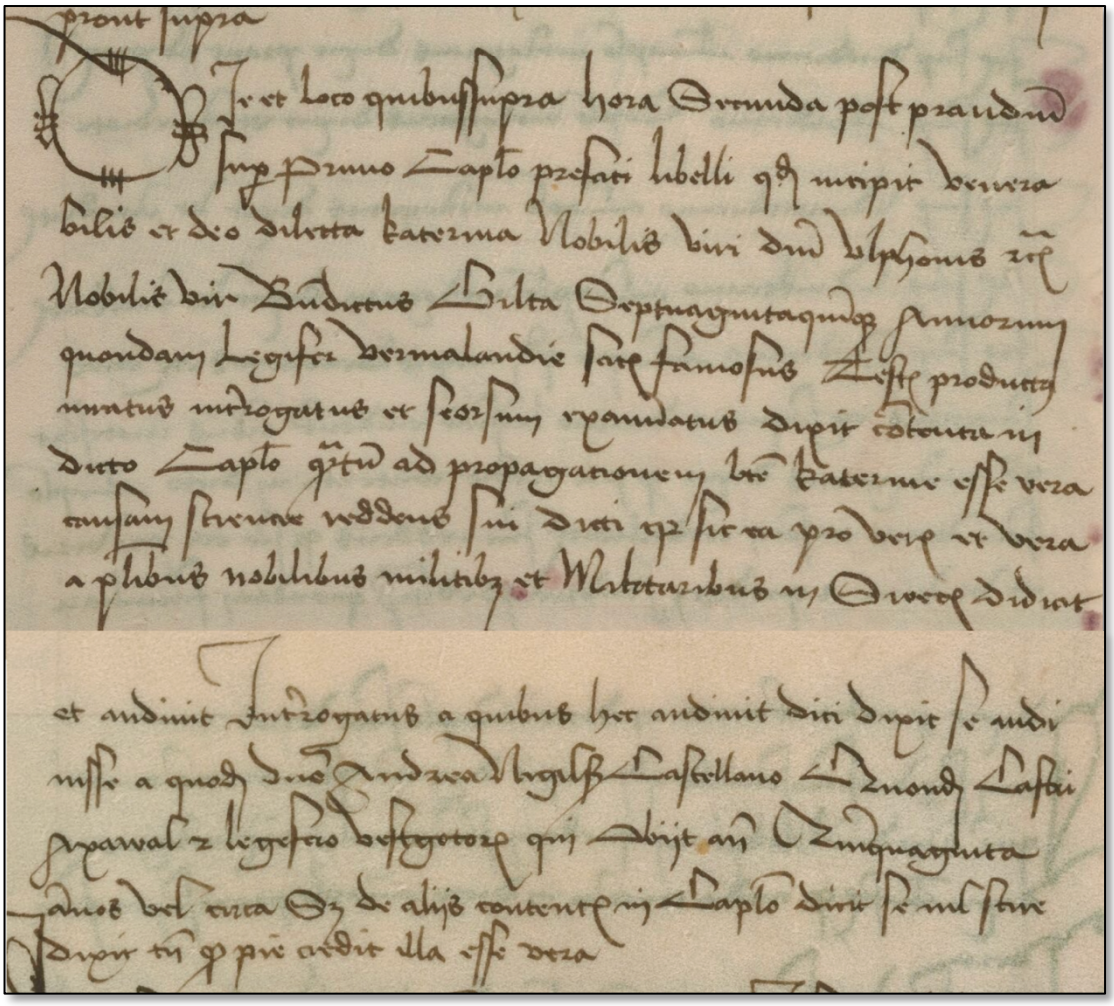
[78] SDHK No. 26327 – September 15, 1453

Some Letters that Mention Bengt Gylta (1460-1461)

- **SDHK No. 27544 – January 24, 1460 at Varberg Castle:** Bengt Gylta places his seal on a letter which verifies that Bengt Uddsson, the late husband of Kristina Staffansdotter, bought several farms so that their daughter Märta would have it as a dowry with her husband Åke Axelsson.

- **SDHK No. 27822 – August 17, 1461 at Skara:** Magnus Bengtsson (knight), Jeppe Andersson, Bengt Andersson, Bengt Gylta, Knut Andersson and Magnus Petersson verify a land exchange between Bishop Bengt in Skara and Ragvald Gustavsson and wife Kristine.

On May 18, 1476, Bengt Gylta was interrogated regarding his knowledge of Saint Katherine of Vadstena during the process of her canonization.[79]



Excerpt from *Processus seu negocium canonizacionis B. Katerine de Vadstenis* that mentions Bengt Gylta - May 18th, 1476

[79] *Processus seu negocium canonizacionis B. Katerine de Vadstenis*, page 110

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

Transcription (Latin):

Die et loco quibussupra hora secunda post prandium
super primo capitulo prefati libelli, quod incipt Venera-
bilis et Deo dilecta Katerina nobilis viri domini Vlphonis etc.,
Nobilis vir Benedictus Gilta septuagintaquinique annorum
quondam legifer Vermalandie satis famosus testis productus,
iuratus, interrogatus et seorsum examinatus dixit contenta in
dicto capitulo quantum ad propagacionem beate Katerineesse vera
causum sciencie reddens sui dicti, quia sic ea pro veris et [vt] verga
a pluribus nobilibus militibus et militaribus in Swecia didicit
et audiuit. Interrogatus a quibus hec audiuit dici, dixit se audiu-
isse a quodam domingo Andrea Nigilson castellanoquondam castri
Axawal et legifero Vestgotorum, quj obijt ante quinquaginta
annis velCirca. Sed de alijs contentis in capitulo dixit se nil scire,
dixit tamen,quod pie credit illa esse verga.

Translation:

On the day and place above mentioned, at the second hour after the first meal in the chapter of the aforesaid pamphlet, which begins Venerable and Beloved of God, Katherine, the noble wife of Lord Vlphon, etc., the noble husband Bengt Gylta, seventy-five years old who was once a lagman in Vermalandia, a famous witness was produced, sworn, questioned, and separately examined said the contents of the said chapter as to the propagation of blessed Katherine that science is the cause of truth, because it is so for truths and a rod from several noble soldiers and military men in Sweden he learned and listened. Being asked by whom he had heard this said, he replied that he heard it from a certain Domingo Andrea Nigilson, a castellan once of the camp Axawal and the lawgiver of the Visigoths who died fifty years ago or so, about this, but he said that he knew nothing of the other contents of the chapter, which he piously believes to be a rod.

Saint Katherine of Vadstena



Saint Katherine of Vadstena (1331 or 1332 – 1381) was the daughter of Ulf Gudmarsson, and Saint Bridget of Sweden. Her life was completely dedicated to Christianity. She graduated from Bisberg Abbey. When she was 12 or 13, she married Lord Eggert van Kyren, a German nobleman. After Eggert's death in 1349, Katherine traveled to Rome to live with her mother Bridget and stayed there for 23 years. When she returned to Sweden, she became the Abbess of Vadstena Abbey, where she remained until her death in 1381. Although there were efforts to have her canonized (particularly in 1476-1477), she never formally was. However, in 1484, Pope Innocent III gave her permission to be regarded as a saint. The testimonies to support Katherine's canonization are preserved in *Processus seu negocium canonizacionis B. Katerine de Vadstenis*.

Some Letters that Mention Bengt Gylta (1467-1489)

- **SDHK No. 27892 – January 18, 1462 at Hökrum:** Bengt Gylta in Påtorp, Peter Nilsson in Flata, Tord Svensson, and Markvard Split announce that they have been sent to Hökrum to hear 12 witnesses about a fishery which Magnus in Ving demanded for the church.

- **SDHK No. 28636 – November 1, 1466:** Bengt Andersson, Bengt Gylta, and Magnus Petersson confirm all the goods that Birgitta Gustavsdotter, Anders Knutsson's widow, gave to Gudhem Monastery.

- **SDHK No. 28697 – March 9, 1467:** Bengt Gylta and others verify the deed of gift for Filippa Hansdotter, Sigurd Jonsson's widow, at Fiske Kedum in favor of Ingeborg Åkesdotter. Dated December 30, 1466.

- **SDHK No. 30409 – June 6, 1478 at Vadstena:** The knight Lars Haraldsson and the men-at-arms Bengt (Gunnarsson) Gylta and Sven Larsson authenticate a letter dated October 8, 1425.

- **SDHK No. 30413 – June 16, 1478 at Vadstena:** The knights Lars "Halsson", Bengt Gylta, and Sven Larsson authenticate a settlement letter concerning the inheritance of "Beynte" Tuvesdotter which was dated October 8, 1425.

- **SDHK No. 30775 – August 16, 1480 at Vadstena:** Nils Larsson gives his farm "Stompnestadha" in Segerstads Parish in Värmland to Vadstena Monastery. Bengt Gylta is one of the sealers of the letter.

- **SDHK No. 32090 – July 14, 1488 at Örjelanda:** Lindorm Björnsson, a lawyer in Västergötland, certifies that Peter Gylta has been acquitted of all further charges by Ingegerd Jonsdotter and her relatives, because Peter's father Bengt Gylta would have killed her father Jöns Månsson.

- **SDHK No. 32273 – August 3, 1489 at Vadstena:** Gustav Olsson, Hans Åkesson (lagman in Närke), and Niels Fadersson (knight) order Peter Bengtsson to leave Jöns Eriksson his inheritance after their father and father-in-law Bengt Gylta and his wife.

Bengt spent the final days at Vadstena Abbey. He was last mentioned in 1480.[80] Bengt died sometime before 1488.[81]

[80] SDHK No. 30775 – August 16, 1480
[81] Bengt is listed as deceased in SDHK No. 32090 – July 14, 1488.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

The Final Days of Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter (1420-1429)

By 1420, Gunnar Gylta was probably in his 60s. By this time, two of his daughters had married. His daughter Ingeborg had married Mårten Svan[82], who later served as the District Chief of Mark District, and his daughter Märta had married a squire named Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad)[83]. Both marriages were arranged based on the high-ranking social statuses of Gunnar, Mårten Svan, and Bengt Turesson. Märta's marriage to Bengt Turesson was short lived, as he died sometime between 1420 to 1422.[84]

Other Letters that Mention Gunnar Gylta

- **SDHK No. 16187 – November 1, 1403 at Nintona:** Gunnar Gylta and Jösse Gylta place their seals on a letter which certifies that Jesse Påvelsson and Ingegerd Arvidsdotter sold some property to their relative Svarte Jöns.
- **SDHK No. 16585 – October 31, 1405 at Varberg:** Gunnar Gylta places his seal (now missing) on a letter that certifies that the abbot Nils in Ås Monastery, attested that Gudhem Monastery's sold some property in Denmark.
- **SDHK No. 17137 –1409 at Finnekumla:** Gunnar Gylta and Jösse Gylta place their seals on a letter which certifies that Bengt Arvidsson gave his wife Ingeborg Larsdotter a farm in Finnekumla, Näs in Marbäcks Parish, a farm in the church village there, two farms in Övratorp, and both "Skedaboda" mills.
- **SDHK No. 18633 – November 5, 1415 at Öslöf:** Gunnar Gylta places his seal (which is now missing) on a letter that certifies that Sven Toresson declared that he is satisfied with what he have got from his wife Kristina.
- **SDHK No. 19802 – August 1, 1422 at Vadstena:** Gunnar Gylta is mentioned in a letter that states that Ingegerd Arvidsdotter gave some property as security to the knight Svarte Jöns.

By 1420, both of Märta Olofsdotter's parents, Olof Bosson and Katarina Karlsdotter, had died. On September 29, 1420, Märta's brother-in-law Lasse Pik wrote a letter declaring that he legally divided the property that Katarina owned with Gunnar Gylta.[85]

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[82] Ingeborg is listed as Mårten Svan's wife in SDHK No. 24188 - August 16, 1442.

[83] 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. For more information on the fate of Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta, see page 1621).

[84] According to SDHK No. 19553 - September 29, 1420, Bengt Turesson was still alive in 1420. Since Märta Gunnarsdotter is listed as a recipient in a division of estate letter that Gunnar Gylta wrote in 1422 instead of Bengt Turesson in B 16, RA, fol. 227, Bengt must have died before then.

[85] SDHK No. 19553 - September 29, 1420



Letter that mentions Gunnar Gylta - September 29th, 1420
Seals: 1. Lasse Pik 2. Gunnar Gylta 3. Gunne Siggesson
4. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad)

Transcription:

Allæ mæn thettæ breff høræ aller see helsær jæk Lasse Piik wæpnæræ ewerdhelighæ medh waar Herræ. Oc kennis jæc thet medh thettæ mit opnæ breff, at jæc eet laghlicht skiftæ gyort hawer medh Gvnnær Gyltæ vm thet yordhægotz(I), som miin hwsfrw Beynktæ Olafsdotter oc hans børn ærwdhæ æfter hwsfrw Katrina Karlsdotter, swa at i minæ hwsfrw deel kom een gardh i Skelderidh i Askælandæ sokn, een quern i Örnunge, een alægardh for Sewæsyø, een gardh i Romwndæfal, twa gardhæ i Grwdhæ, een gardh i Medheltorp, medh allæ thæssæ gardhes tillaghæ, olden-skow oc fiiskæwatn, waat oc thywrt, hwat thet helzt waræ kan, i Gæsenæ liggendæ, medh swæ(!) skæl, at hwat som mic afgaar, thet scal waræ begges waaræ schadhæ. In cuius rei testimonium sigilla nostra vna cum sigillis nobilium virorum Gvnnonis Siggæsson, Benedicti Thwrsson et Martini Swan, armigerorum, presentibus sunt appensa. Datum sub anno Domini millesimo quadringen-tesimo vicesimo, ipso die beati Michaelis 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 1420, on the day of St. Michael the Archangel (September 29th).

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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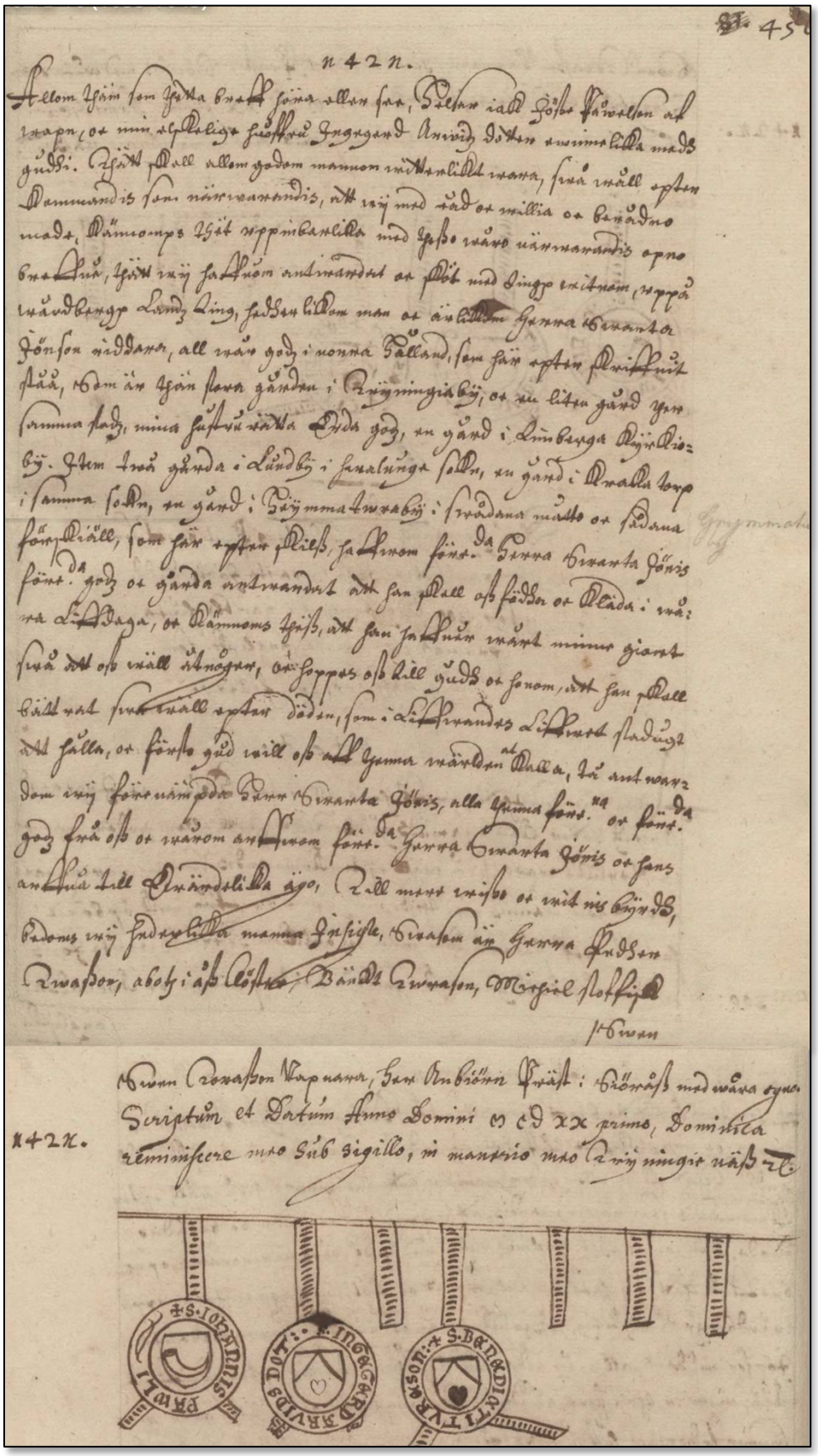
Näs Parish – Where Gunnar Gylta placed his seal on a letter on February 6, 1422

On February 6, 1422, Gunnar Gylta was present in Näs Parish with his son-in-law Bengt Turesson. The two placed their seals on a letter which certified that Ingerd Arvidsdotter, the widow of Jösse Påvelsson, sold the estates Kråkarp in Valinge Parish, two farms in Lundby (also in Valinge Parish), a farm in Grimeton, two farms in Trönninge, and a farm in Lindberg to Svarte Jöns Nilsson (Skåning) for 300 silver coins.[86]

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[86] SDHK No. 19802 – February 6, 1422



Transcript of a letter that mentions Gunnar Gylta on February 6th, 1422 from
Lars Sparre's Copy Book
Seals: 1. Peder Tuvesson 2. Bengt Turesson (Sparre över Blad) 3. Lars (Lasse) Pik
4. Mikael Stofisk 5. Sven Toresson 6. Anbjörn in Fjärås (a priest)

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

Transcription:

1422.

Allom thäm som thetta breff höra eller see, Helsar iac Ingegerd Arwidsdotter, Kärlika mädh gudh, Thätt skall allom godo m mannom witterlikt wara, swå wäll epterkommandis som nu närwarandis, att iak kännis med thesso mino opno breffue, mik opbörit haffua att hederlikom man och ärlikom Herra Swarta Jönis riddare F iiic Lödiga mark i gambla hwijta peninga oc Kronadha änglijka, som nu gieffue oc gängie ära, swå thätt mik wäll ätnöger, för huilka iiic lödoga mark, iak föreda Herra Swarta Jönis, till pant sätter, epter thät att iak honom sina peninga giffwa kan, thesse min godz, som här äpter skriffuin stå, som först är Kråkotorp, i hwalinge sokn, twå gårda i Lundbÿ i samma sokn, en gård i grÿmmatwnabÿ, twå gårda i Trÿninge, en gård i Lunbergom, oc war min bonde Jösse Pawalson i Lifuandies Liffue, gud hans siäll haffwa med beggias wåra samtÿckio skötte iach homom, och skaffor al thänna förrda godz, med alla thera godza tillagom, med åehrom och ängiom, tomptom oc Tomptastadom, skogom ock markom, när bÿ och fiärran, i wåto oc törro, ängo vndan tagno, ther thäm godzom tilligger, eller tillegat haffuer aff ålder, oc än tilliggia kan frå mik ok minom arffwom, ok tilägnar iak förenampda Herra Swanta Jönis oc hans arffuom till Ewerdeliga ägho, och thän thid thänna förenämpda godz woro så sköt oc skaftfarin vppå wardbergs Landzting, tå wore thär öffuer hederlike män som är, Herr Axel Pedhesson, höffwidzman på wardberg, Borgar Tÿkesson Landzdomar i norra Hålland, Benkt Twasonn, Gunnar gylta Vepnara. Item, kännes iak thät oc kungiör om swa warda kunde som gudh för[biu]de att thänna förenämpda godz kunde forenämpda Herr Swarta Jönis i några handa måtto medh någor rätt afgå, tå tilbiuder iak mik oc mina arfua förda Herr Swarta Jönis oc hans arffwa swa gott godz

Translation:

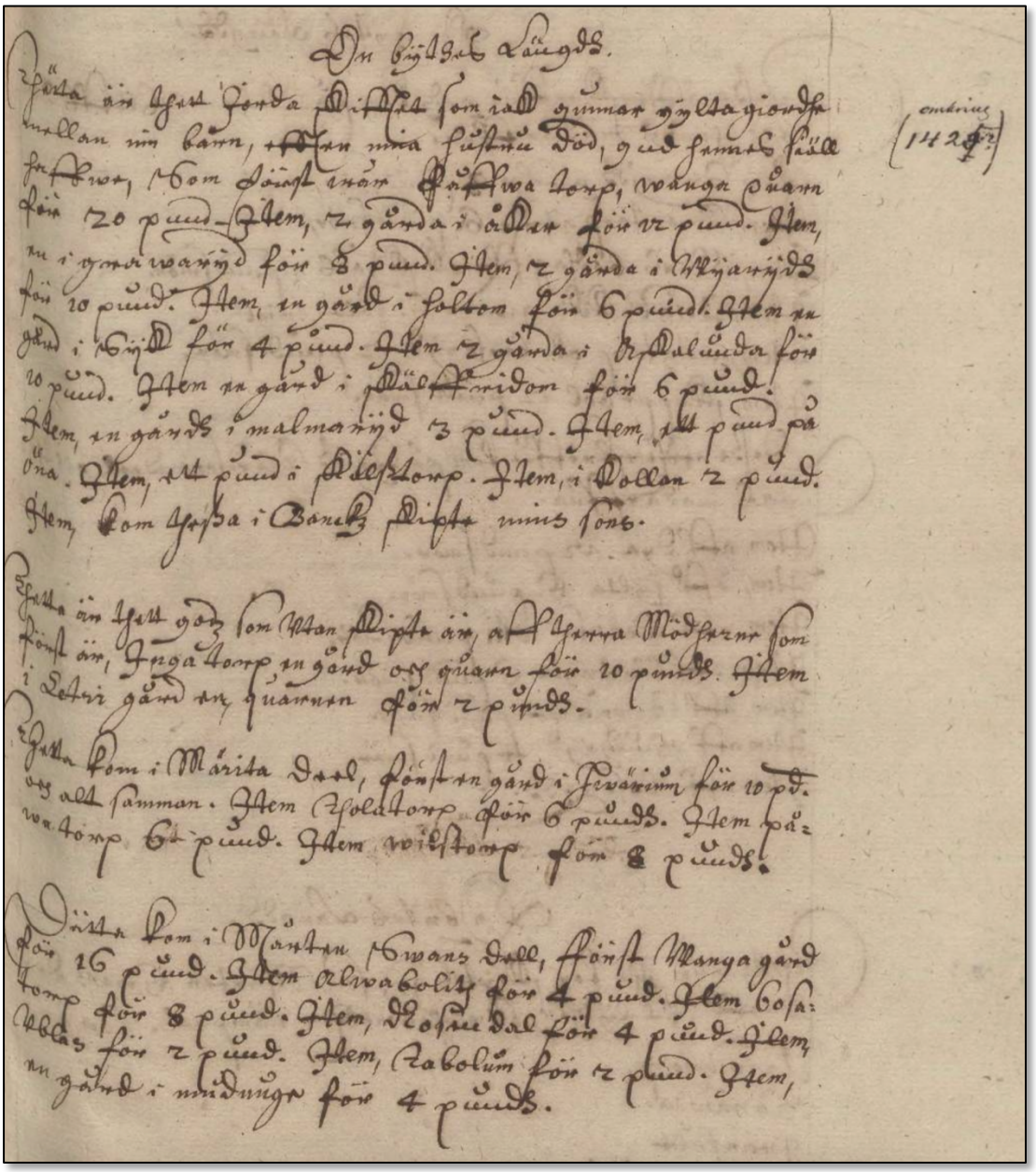
[To] all those that hear or see this letter, I, Ingerd Arvidsdotter, greet with God's love, that this should be known to all men, both descendants and now present, that I according to this open letter have been paid by 300 "lödiga mark" in old "white" money (silver coins) and English crowns from the honest man knight Svarte Jönis and with that I am pleased. For these 300 mark I pledge these estates: Kråkarp in Valinge Parish, two farms in Lundby in the same parish, a farm in Grimeton, two farms in Trönninge, and one farm in Lindberg. We both, myself and my husband Jösse Påvelsson (God now has his soul), agreed to buy these estates together with all that belonged to them: streams and meadows, building-lots and lots with houses for common use, forests and land, near village or far away, in wet and dry, no exceptions, all land that belongs or have been belonging in old times or still is. This I give from me and my heirs to the knight Svarte Jöns and his heirs to own forever. These properties were legally sealed at the court session for Varberg County, when honest men, the knight Axel Pedersson (captain in Varberg), Borgar Tykesson (District Chief in Norra Halland), and the squires Bengt Turesson and Gunnar Gylta. Also, I announce that if it should be, God forbid, that these properties in some way cannot be owned by the before mentioned Sir Svarte Jöns, I hold out that I and my heirs will give Sir Svarte Jöns some other, equal property within six weeks thereafter, if the property have been taken from him, God forbid. I, Ingegerd Arvidsdotter, and my heirs promise to keep all these words and articles, with my best intentions without any ulterior motive. To secure the truth in this and warn others, I beg these honest men to put their seals on this letter, together with my own: The abbot in Ås monastery Peder Tuvesson, Bengt Turesson, Lasse Pik, Michael Stoffisk, the priest in Fjärås, Swen Toresson. Written in Näs the Year of Our 1422, on the Day of Saint Dorothea the Virgin (February 6th).

Within a few years after this letter was written, Bengt Turesson died, leaving Gunnar and Märta Olofsdotter's daughter Märta a widow.[87]

[87] In a Division of Estate letter from 1425 (transcribed in B 16, RA, fol. 227), Märta Gunnarsdotter is listed as inheriting some of her mother's land. Since wives' inheritances went to their husbands and Bengt Turesson is not listed in this letter, he must have died before then.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

Sometime in the early 1420s, Märta Olofsdotter died. In 1425, Gunnar Gylta wrote a letter stating that he had divided her land amongst their children. His and Märta's son Bengt received Påtorp, two farms in Åker, a farm in Gravaryd, two farms in Unnaryd, a farm in Hult, a farm in Sylla, two farms in Askalunda, a farm in Skälvum, a farm in Malmaryd, a farm in Ön, a farm in Skällstorp, and a farm in Kålland. Gunnar and Märta's daughter Märta received an estate in Varnum and land in Toltorp, Vilstorp, Påtorp, and Vilstorp. Gunnar and Märta's son-in-law Mårten Svan received the estate Manga and land in Älvabo, Bosatorp, Hovendal, Ulås, Tabolum, and Njudung. Gunnar declared that the farms Ingatorp and Letri were not to be divided.[88]



Transcript of a letter that Gunnar Gylta wrote in 1425 from Lars Sparre's Copy Book

[88] B 16, RA, fol. 227

Transcription:

En bythes Längdh.
Thätta är thett Jorda skifftet som iak gunnar gylta giordhe
mellan min bärn, effter min hustru död, gud hennes siäll *1425*
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.

Dätta kom i Mårten Swans dell, fförst Manga gård
för 16 pund. Item Alwaboleth för 4 pund. Item bosa-
torp för 8 pund. Item, Hofendal för 4 pund. item,
ublas för 2 pund. Item, tabolum för 2 pund. Item,
en gård i niudunge för 4 pundh.

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
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Translation:

A Division of Estates

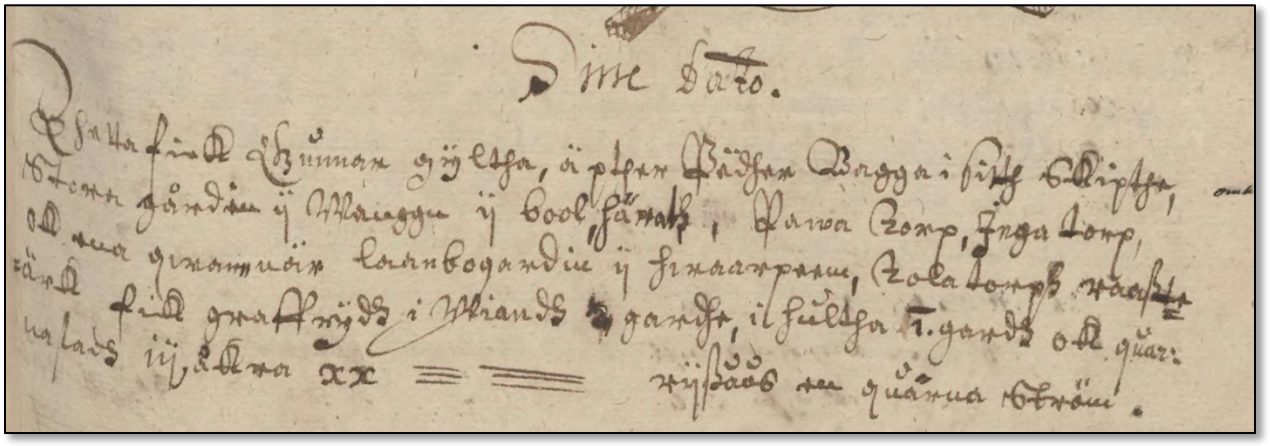
This is a division of estates which I, Gunnar Gylta,
made between my children, after my wife died, God *1425*
take care of her soul. First there was Påtorp, including
a mill, for 20 pounds. Item, 2 farms in Åker for 12 pounds.
Item, one in Gravaryd for 8 pounds. Item, 2 farms in Unnaryd
for 10 pounds. Item, one farm in Hult for 6 pounds.
Item, a farm in Sylla for 4 pounds. Item, 2 farms in Askalunda
for 20 pounds. Item, a farm in Skälvum for 6 pounds. Item, a farm
in Malmaryd (for) 3 pounds. Item, a pound for Ön. Item, a pound
in Skällstorp. Item, in Kålland 2 pounds.
Item, 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.
Item, 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. Item, Toltorp for 6 pounds.
Item, Vilstorp for 8 pounds.
Item, Påtorp for 6 pounds. Item, Vilstorp för 8 pounds.

This is Mårten Svan's part: first Manga estate for 16 pounds.
Item, Älvabo for 4 pounds. Item, Bosatorp for 8 pounds.
Item, Hovendal for 4 pounds. Item, Ulås for 2 pounds.
Item, Tabolum? for 2 pounds. Item, one farm in Njudung for 4 pounds.

Sometime in 1425, Gunnar inherited some land from Peder Bagge, including a big farm called "Wangga" in Bol District; the farms Pavatorp, Ingatorp, Tolatorp, Gravryd, and Hult; and farms called "hwaarpeem," "raassteärk," and åkra"[89] Since Gunnar inherited land from Peder Bagge, he must have been related to him somehow. However, it's unknown how they were related. This is the last known letter that mentions Gunnar Gylta alive.



Transcript of a letter from 1425 that mentions Gunnar Gylta from Lars Sparre's Copy Book

Transcription:

Sine Dato.

Thetta fick Gunnar gyltha, äpther Pädher Bagga i sitth skipthe,
Stora gården ij Wanggn ij bool, härath, Pawa Torp, Inga torp,
ok ena qwarn när laanbogardin ij hwaarpeem, Tola torph raassteärk fick graffrydh i Wiandh [1] gardhe, i hultha 1 gardh ok quarnastadh iij åkra XX ═══ ═══ *ryssåås en quärna Ström.*

Translation:

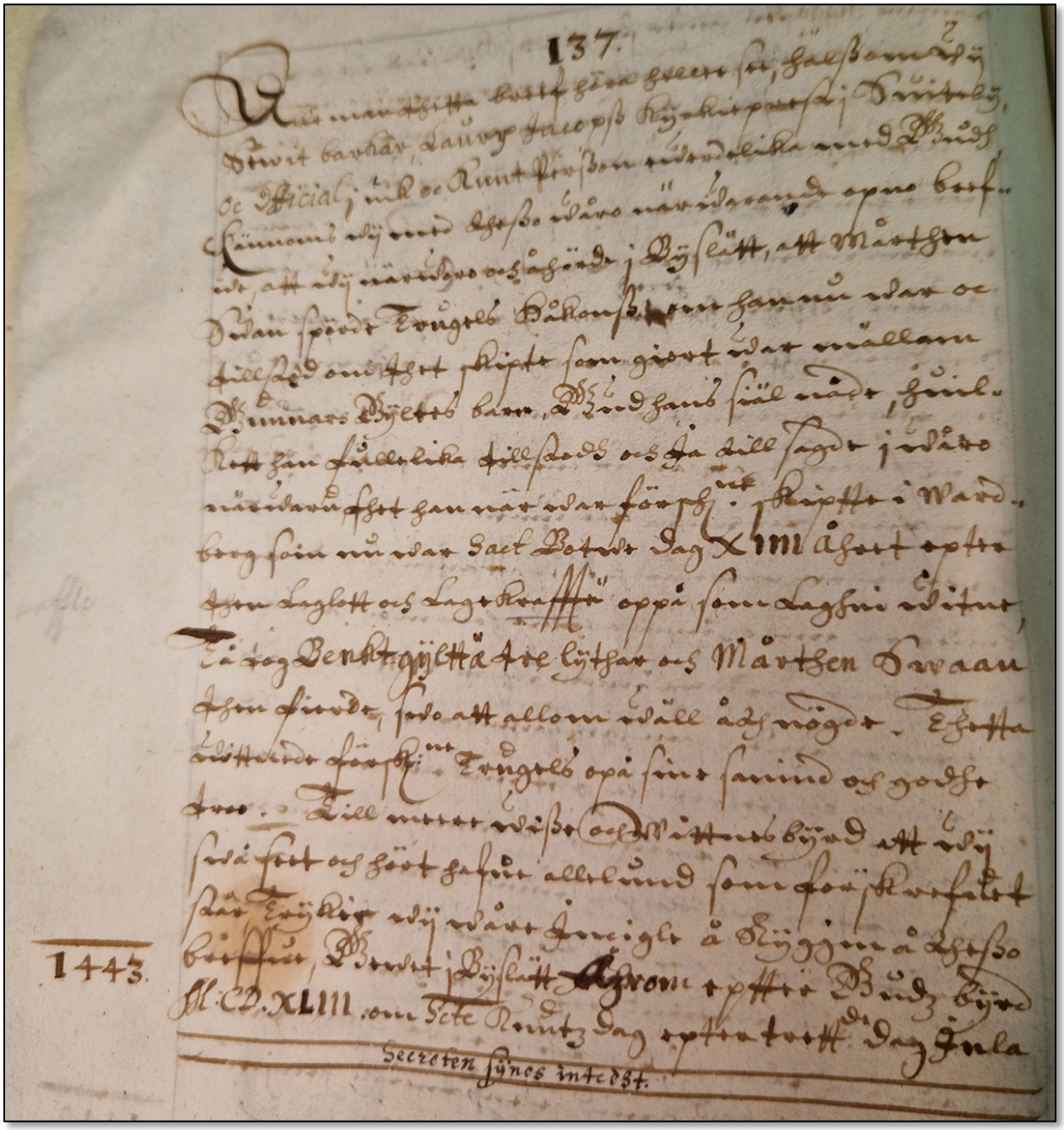
Without date.

This was what Gunnar Gylta inherited after Peder Bagge:
The big farm in Wangga in Bol District, Pavatorp, Ingatorp
and one mill near the farm in "hwaarpeem", Tolatorp "raassteärk",
also got Gravryd in "Wiandh", [1?] farm in Hulta, 1 farm with a suitable place for a mill
in "åkra" "XX". ═══ ═══ *In Ryssås, one mill stream.*

[89] SDHK No. 20405 - 1425

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

Gunnar Gylta died sometime around 1429. On June 28, 1429, Gunnar's heirs gathered together at Byslät where his estate was divided. During this division, Gunnar's son Bengt took three lots while his son-in-law Mårten Svan took the fourth lot.[90]


137.

1443.

Secreten fynes intecst.

Transcript of a letter from Lars Sparre's Copy Book from January 7th, 1443 that describes a letter that mentions Gunnar Gylta from July 28th, 1429
Seals are missing

[90] SDHK No. 21196 – July 28, 1429

Transcription:

Alle man thetta breef höra heller see, halssom wij
Sewit barkar, Laur[ens] Jacopsson kyrkioprest j Sniteby,
Oc Official j uik oc Knut Persson ewerdelika med Gudh,
Kännoms wij med dhesso wåro närwarande opno bref-
ede, att wij närwaro och åhörde j Byslätt, att Mårthen
Swan spörde Trugels Håkonsson om han nu war oc
tillstod om thet skipte som giort war mällom
Gunnars Gyltes barn, Gud hans siäl nåde, huil-
kett han fullelika tillstodh och Ja till sagde j wåro
närwaru thet han när war förskrifne skiptte i Ward-
berg som nu war Sanct Botwe dag XIIII Åhret epter
then Laglott och Lage kraffte oppå som Laghni witne,
Tå tog Bengt gylttä tre lyther och Mårthen Swaan
then fierde, sedo att allom wäll åth nögde. Thetta
wittnede förskrifne Trugels opå sine sanind och godhe
troo. Till meere wisso och Wittnes byrd att wij
swå seet och hört hafue allelund som förskrefuet
står Tryker wij wåre Incigle å Ryggin å thesso
breffue, Gewet j Byslätt Åhrom eptter Gudz byrd
M:CD.XLIII. om Sancte Knutz dag epter trettde dag Jula

Secreten synes inte[dst].

Translation:

[To]all those that hears or see this letter, we: Seved Barkar,
Lars Jakobsson (priest in Surteby and official in Vik), and
Knut Persson, forever with God, greet. We confess with this,
our letter, that we were present in Byslätt, and heard that
Mårten Svan asked Trugels Håkansson if he agreed to this
exchange that was made between the children of Gunnar Gylta
(God save his soul), which he (Trugesl) in full agreed to and
said yes to in our presence. He was present when the said
exchange in Varberg was made, Saint Botvid's Day (July 28th)
the 14th year after the legal exchange was made. By then,
Bengt Gylta took three parts and Mårten Svan the fourth,
which everyone were satisfied with. This Trugels testified on
his honour and good faith. To add more certainty that we in
this way have seen and heard all that here is written, we all put
our seals on the back of this letter. Written in Byslätt in the
year after God's birth 1443 on Saint Knut's Day after
Twelfth Day (Epiphania) (January 7th).

10.1.3. Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mf and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm

Trivia on Gunnar Gylta and Märta Olofsdotter

1. What province did Gunnar Gylta live in?
    a. Halland
    b. Småland
    c. Södermanland
    d. Västergötland

2. What was the name of Gunnar Gylta's brothers?

3. What is the earliest known year that Gunnar Gylta is mentioned?

4. What was the name of Märta Olofsdotter's father?
    a. Olof Bosson
    b. Olof Jönsson
    c. Olof Nilsson
    d. Olof Svensson

5. What was the name of Märta Olofsdotter's mother?
    a. Elisabeth Bengtsdotter
    b. Katarina Karlsdotter
    c. Lucia Matsdotter
    d. Maria Svensdotter

6. What was Gunnar Gylta's occupation?

7. What were the names of Gunnar and Märta's children?

8. Where did of Gunnar and Märta live after they were first married?

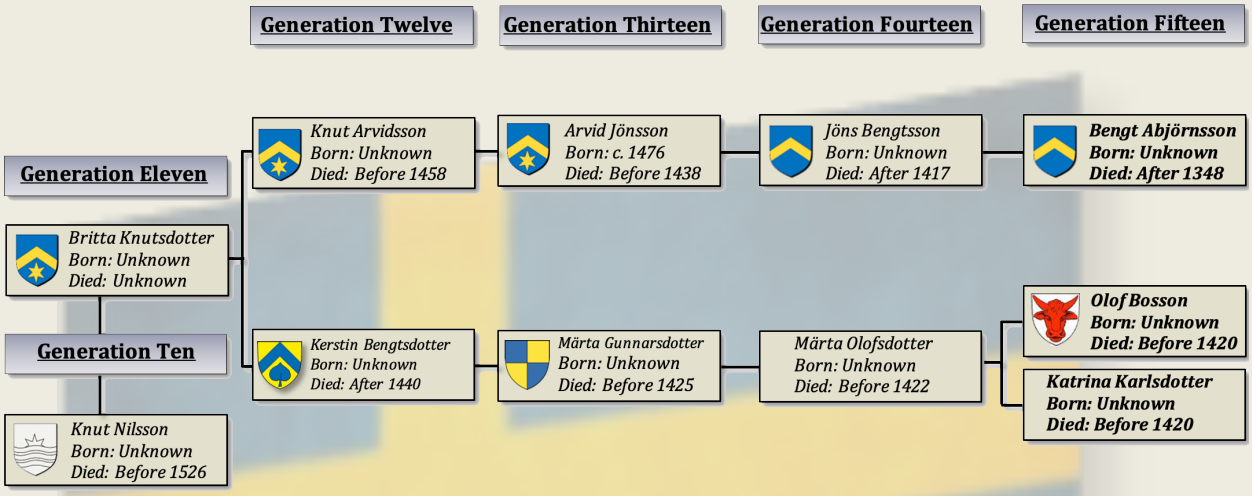
9. Where did of Gunnar and Märta live in their later years?

10. Around what year did Gunnar Gylta die?

Answers: 1. d 2. Björm, Jösse, and Magnus 3. 1380 4. a 5. b. 6. Squire 7. Bengt, Gyrid, Ingeborg, and Märta 8. Gälared 9. Påtorp 10. 1429

Generation Fifteen

The 12th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög

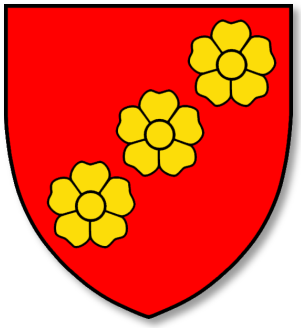


1300-1420

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 12th Great-Grandparents Lived In

The further one goes back into a family tree, the greater the deviation in age there may be among ancestors of the same generation. In the case of Sven Hög's known 12th great-grandparents, there is about a one to two generation age gap between Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre) compared to Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter, who lived around the same time as Bengt Abjörnsson's son Jöns Bengtsson. Thus, the period in which Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter lived is already recounted in "Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 11th Great-Grandparents Lived In."

Bengt Abjörnsson probably lived around 1300 to 1350, which was a time filled with political unrest, a devastating famine, and a deadly plague which killed nearly a third of Sweden's population. Some of the policies of King Birger (who reigned from 1290 to 1318), such as his favoritism towards his brothers over powerful nobles, led to internal conflicts and instability, causing noble families to engage in power struggles and shifting alliances. Magnus IV's reign saw attempts at legal and administrative reforms, including efforts to codify laws and strengthen royal authority over regional lords, which diminished the autonomy of the nobility and often led to resistance against centralization. The regencies of Mats Kettilmundsson, Ingeborg Håkansdotter, and Ingeborg Eriksdotter in the 1320s further complicated the political landscape, as these regents wielded significant power and influenced decisions that directly impacted the noble class.



Mats Kettilmundsson's coat of arms



Duchess Ingeborg's bust at Linköping Cathedral

Some of Sven Hög's 12th great-grandparents lived through the Great Famine of 1315-1317, which caused widespread starvation, drastically reducing the productivity of noble estates and straining resources. With failed harvests and a collapse in food production, the nobility faced diminished incomes and increased responsibilities to their vassals and tenants. This period of scarcity forced noble families to deplete their reserves, sell off lands, or increase rents and taxes, leading to tensions between the nobility and peasantry.

The Black Death that struck Sweden in 1350 also had profound effects on the lives of Sven Hög's 12th great-grandparents. The plague led to the deaths of a significant portion of the population, including many members of noble families. This loss of life caused disruptions in the management of estates and a loss of experienced leadership within the noble class. It's likely that several of Sven's 12th great-grandparents died during the Black Death.

Timeline of Swedish History: 1300-1360

1306 — Birger Magnusson, the King of Sweden, is imprisoned by his brothers Duke Erik and Duke Valdemar. He is released only after ceding two-thirds of his kingdom to his brothers.



1315-1317 — Sweden experiences a disastrous two-year famine.

December, 1317 — King Birger Magnusson imprisons his brother Erik and Valdemar, which ultimately leads to their deaths and his deposition as king.

1319 — Magnus Eriksson becomes King of Sweden and is known as Magnus IV.



1322 — The members of the Riksdag promise to leave old disputes from the civil war behind them and that no one would go along with Ingeborg without the whole council's consent.

1326 — King Magnus IV pledges Kalmar Castle and Kalmar County, the whole of Östergötland, Gästrikland, Fjärdhundraland, Dalarna, Närke, and Värmland in exchange for Skåne.



1335 — Magnus IV appoints Nils Abjörnsson (Sparre av Tofta) as his drot.

1346 — Magnus IV writes a letter to the Swedish nobility, apologizing for the heavy taxation he had previously levied.

1348 — Magnus IV launches a crusade against the Republic of Novgorod.



1350-1351 — The Black Death spreads throughout Sweden, killing a third of the population. It will take Sweden 300 years to recover.

1356 — Dissatisfaction with Magnus IV's policies leads to an uprising initiated by Magnus's eldest son Erik and several Swedish nobles.

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)

Name	Bengt Abjörnsson
Born	1290s or 1300s
Place	Unknown
Died	After 1348
Place	Unknown
Occupation	Squire

Children of Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Jöns	1340s	Unknown	After 1417	Västergötland

Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre) was probably born during the 1290s or early 1300s.[91] His father was named Abjörn (whose surname is unknown) and his mother was Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna).[92] He may have been born somewhere in Västergötland Province, since all the letters that mention him are from there.

In 1300…

- The King of Sweden was Birger, the King of England was Edward I, and the King of France was Philip IV.
- The world's population was around 350 million.
- Pope Boniface VIII began the practice of Roman pontiffs declaring a Jubilee or "Holy Year" to be observed every 100 years.
- England launched a major invasion against Scotland.
- Jacques de Molay (Grand Master of the Knights Templar) led a raid in Egypt and Palestine.



[91] This is based on the fact that the first letter he appeared in was in 1338 (SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338) and Bengt was probably in his thirties or forties during this time. The date range of Bengt's birth also stems from the fact that Bengt was a son of Lucia Mathiasdotter's first marriage to Abjörn. Since Torsten Vigolfsson was still alive in 1319 (SDHK No. 2914 - February 25, 1319) he must have been Lucia's second husband. Since Torsten and Lucia's daughter Ingeborg Torstensdotter was a listed as nun at Gudhem Abbey in 1320 (according to SDHK No. 3035 – October 20, 1320) and girls usually had to be at least 12 years old to become a nun, then Ingeborg must have been born sometime in the late 1300s at the latest, meaning that Torsten and Lucia must have married before that time. Since Bengt was a child of Abjörn, the latest he could have been born was around the mid 1300s.

[92] Patronymic tradition tells us that Bengt's father was named Abjörn. Bengt is indirectly listed as the son of Lucia Mathiasdotter in SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338. According to RA Str. Kam handlingar Vol. Häftet G 4 a 2: Västergötland, Jöns Bengtsson's paternal grandmother Lucia donated the farm Länghem in Länghem Parish to Gällstad Church in 1341. Since a good deal of evidence points to Jöns Bengtsson being the son of Bengt Abjörnsson (Patronymic tradition tells us that Jöns's father was named Bengt, they both had the same coat of arms, there is a generational difference in which the two lived, and they both lived in Västergötland), Lucia must have been Bengt's mother.

Bengt had a brother named Gustav and three sisters named Margareta, Ingrid, and Elena. Sometime in the early to mid-1300s, Bengt's father Abjörn died. Shortly after this, his mother Lucia was married to Torsten Vigolfsson. Bengt had five half-brothers: Bengt, Nils, Håkan, Mathias, and Gjord (Gothe), and one half-sister, Ingeborg who came from this marriage. Since Torsten lived at Fallnafors, Malmbäck Parish, Småland Province, it's likely Bengt lived there in the 1300s and 1310s.



Fallnafors, Malmbäck Parish – Where Bengt Abjörnsson probably lived in the 1300s and 1310s

Proving Kinship in Medieval Swedish Letters

Since baptism records weren't kept in Sweden prior to the 17th century, it can be challenging to prove the kinship between individuals in medieval Sweden. The best way of proving this is if a relationship is specifically listed in a medieval letter. There are other clues, however, that help prove kinship. For example, the patronymic tradition tells us the name of an individual's father, members of the same noble family frequently used the same coat of arms, and people who placed their seals in letters were frequently related to the person who wrote the letter.

In the case of proving that Lucia Mathiasdotter was Bengt Abjörnsson's mother, SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338, which is the final testament of Bengta Mathiasdotter contains Bengt Abjörnsson's seal and relatives were often the ones who placed their seals on letters. The same letter mentions the name of two of Bengta's sisters, Lucia and Holmborg. Since no brothers, or brothers-in-law are mentioned in Bengta's final testament, she must have not of had any brothers.

SDHK No. 7594 – September 8, 1359 states that Elena Abjörnsdotter inherited land from her aunt Bengta, which means that Elena's mother must have been one of Bengta's sisters. Since Bengta's sister Ingeborg was the abbess of Gudhem Monastery, she couldn't have been her mother, so it must have been either Lucia or Holmborg.

Finally, RA Str. Kam handlingar Vol. Häftet G 4 a 2: Västergötland mentions that Västergötland, Jöns Bengtsson's paternal grandmother Lucia donated the farm Länghem in Länghem Parish to Gällstad Church in 1341, which is the final piece of information which shows that Lucia was Bengt's mother.

Bengt was of noble birth and came from a very wealthy and prominent family. His childhood was filled with privilege and he most likely received an education in reading, writing, and possibly Latin. He was inundated in the customs of the noble class, and learned about courtly etiquette, heraldry, the arts of war, and diplomacy.

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

When Bengt was growing up, King Birger ruled over Sweden. Birger's reign was filled with political intrigue. When Birger was first king, he was only a child, so Tyrgils Knutsson, the Lord High Constable of Sweden, served as the regent of Sweden. Birger was officially crowned King of Sweden in 1302. In 1305, his brothers Erik and Valdemar convinced him to have Tyrgils Knutsson arrested and executed. The following year, Erik and Valdemar had Birger imprisoned, where he remained in captivity until 1308. In 1317, Birger took revenge upon Erik and Valdemar, imprisoning them, which led to them starving to death. Shortly after this, there was a revolt against Birger, and he fled Sweden and abdicated the throne. Bengt must have been a young adult when Birger's reign ended in 1318. All the political instability must have made him feel uneasy.

The Reign of King Birger (1290-1318)

Birger Magnusson was born in 1280. His parents were King Magnus Ladulås of Sweden and Hedwig of Holstein. When Birger was only four years old, he was hailed as the King of Sweden – a move made by his father in order to ensure succession. Shortly before Magnus Ladulås's death, he appointed kinsman Tygrils Knutsson, the Constable of the Realm, to be the guardian of his son Birger. In 1280, Magnus Ladulås died, leaving Birger as the King of Sweden. In 1302, Birger was official crowned at Söderköping after marrying Martha of Denmark, the daughter of King Erik V of Denmark. Shortly, after this Birger's brothers, Erik and Valdemar, rebelled against their brother, causing a civil war.



Birger's memorial portrait at
St. Bendt's Church, Ringstedt

By 1306, tensions cooled as Erik and Valdemar acknowledged Birger's son Magnus as the future king of Sweden. Meanwhile, Tygrils Knutsson (who was Valdemar's father-in-law) was executed as a token of reconciliation between the brothers. The same year, however, Birger was captured by his brothers and imprisoned in Nyköping Castle. In 1308, Erik and Valdemar released Birger after he agreed to cede much of the kingdom to them. After Birger was released, he was still recognized as king, but his brothers now owned much of Sweden. In 1309, Sweden was attacked from both Denmark and Norway. The following year, a peace treaty was concluded in Helsingborg. Although Birger was recognized as king, he was allowed to keep only certain parts of northern and eastern Sweden.

Tensions remained between Birger and his brothers and he had both of them imprisoned in 1317. The following year, Erik and Magnus died while in captivity. Shortly after this, Erik and Magnus's followers led an insurrection against Birger, causing him to flee to Denmark, where he lived for the remaining three years of his life. Birger died on May 31, 1318 shortly after learning that his son Magnus had been executed.

During 1315-1317, Europe suffered through a deadly famine, which started with bad weather in the spring of 1315. Throughout the next couple of years, Sweden experienced massive crop failure, which led to a dire famine. On top of this, there was a livestock disease, leaving 80% of cattle and sheep to die on some farms. Since he came from nobility, Bengt may have been somewhat shielded from this famine compared to the common people, but he would not have been immune to its consequences. For example, the scarcity of food caused by poor harvests would have increased prices for basic necessities, making it more difficult for Bengt's family and estate to sustain themselves economically. This could have resulted in financial strain for his family, reducing their income and land holdings.

The Great Famine of 1315-1317

The Great Famine of 1315–1317 was a large-scale famine which plagued Europe. The famine started with unusually heavy rain during the spring of 1315. It continued to rain throughout the summer and the temperature remained cool. Grain could not ripen under such conditions, leading to widespread crop failures. Many people placeed grain inside of pots and urns inside to keep dry. Since the hay and straw couldn't be cured, there was no fodder for the livestock, leading to millions of livestock starving in Europe. The scarcity of grain caused prices of grain and other food to double in price, causing economic strife. Although this famine affected both nobles and peasants alike, it particularly affected the peasants, who made up 95% of the European population and had no reserve of food supplies. To survive, many peasants slaughtered draft animals, ate seed grain, and even abandoned their young children. Crime significantly rose during the famine, as many turned to robbing food to survive. The famine continued into 1316 and 1317. It wasn't until 1322 that Europe began to recover from the famine.

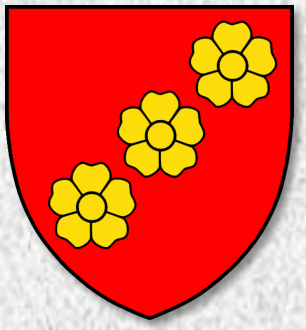


"Famine, Plague, and War" etching by Johann Sadler

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

In 1319, Magnus Eriksson, the nephew of King Birger, was elected King of Sweden. It's likely he reigned throughout the remainder of Bengt Abjörnsson's life. When Magnus was first elected king, he was only three years old. Thus, Sweden fell under the leadership of Magnus's mother Ingeborg Håkansdotter (a Norwegian princess and Swedish duchess), Ingeborg Eriksdotter (Ingeborg Håkansdotter's cousin and the widow of Duke Valdemar of Finland), and Mats Kettilmundsson (a Swedish drots and Chief of State).

The Regencies of Mats Kettilmundsson, Ingeborg Håkansdotter, and Ingrid Eriksdotter (1319-1326)



Mats Kettilmundsson's coat of arms

When Magnus IV was first elected king in 1319, he was only three years old. Thus, the Swedish regency council appointed Magnus's mother Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter, her cousin Duchess Ingeborg Eriksdotter, and Chief of State Mats Kettilmundsson to rule over Sweden until Magnus reached adulthood. At first, these three worked well together. Mats had campaigned heavily for Magnus to be elected king. However, Ingeborg Håkansdotter, who held court in Varberg, began to draw criticism from the Swedish regency council as she was known to use her royal seal and make decisions without the approval of the rest of the council.

In 1322, Mat Kettilmundsson sided with the Swedish regency council in regard to Ingeborg Håkansdotter abusing her authority. In 1323, the council decided to limit Ingeborg's power to what was approved by votes in the councils, which in practice had deposed her. By 1326, all of Ingeborg's royal authority had been stripped. On May 11, 1326, Mats Kettilmundsson died. For the next five years, the Swedish regency council ruled over Sweden until Magnus IV came of age in 1331.



Duchess Ingeborg's bust at Linköping Cathedral

Since only four letters exist which mention Bengt Abjörnsson from 1338-1348, very little is known about his life. However, he was probably married sometime in the 1320s or 1330s. The identify of his wife is unknown. It's unknown where Bengt lived as an adult, but since one of the letters that mentions him states that he owned land in Fors Parish, Västergötland[93], it's likely that he lived somewhere in Västergötland.

[93] SDHK No. 5676 - October 9, 1348

On September 11, 1338, Bengt's maternal aunt Bengta Mathiasdotter wrote a letter of her final testament. Bengt's mother Lucia was mentioned in this letter. Bengt, his brother Gustav, and half-brothers Bengt Torstensson and Nils Torstensson placed their seals on this letter.[94]

Medieval Swedish Letters in Latin

Before 1360, most of the letters that circulated throughout Sweden were written in Latin. During this time, Latin was the language of the social elite in Europe, which included clergy, diplomats, nobility, and scholars. It was an international language in which elites from different European countries could communicate with one another. During the medieval period, many members of the Swedish nobility were likely to have knowledge of Latin, which was part of their formal education that they received in monasteries.

Around 1360, letters in Sweden began to be written in the Swedish vernacular. This is due to a rise in literacy rates for the Swedish vernacular, as well as a need for documents and communication to appear in a language the broader population could understand as administrative tasks became more localized.



Letter that mentions Bengt Abjörnsson – September 11th, 1338
Seals: 1. Nils Torstensson 2. Bengt Abjörnsson 3. Gustav Abjörnsson 4. Bengt Torstensson

[94] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

Transcription:

(Latin)

Jn nomination domini frame Anno ab incarnacione eiusdem M °. CCC °. XXX° () VIII. sexta Feria proximal ante festum exaltacionis sancte CRUCIS Ego benedicta mathyos dotther Sciens et considerans euentum mortis omnibus ineuitabilem. volensque De Bonis mihi a deo concessis. saluti anime mee salubriter preuidere. Testamentum meum, mentis integration racione. Ordino in hunc modum. Jn primis. ffratribus predicatoribus scaris apud quo meam Eligo sepulturam do LEGO et viginti marchas denariorum. Ad fabricam ecclesie Cathedralis ibid. tres marchas penny. Ffratribus minoribus ibid tres marchas denarius. Ffratribus predicatoribus lodhosie. tres marchas penny. Cappellis scaris, sanctorum Petri laurencii. et Nicholai, cuilibet. dimidiam Marcham. et earum vicariis similiter ,, Pauperibus into hospitali scarensi .I. Marcham, JTEM ecclesie in lereem. duas marchas. Curato ibid .I. Marcham. Ecclesie in skødwe in kolanszheret .II. marchas. et .I. curato, Ecclesie in giærdhem. dimidiam. Marcham. et dimidiam. Curato. Ecclesie in asubrækku. dimidiam Marcham. et. dimidiam. eius curato, Ecclesie in særistadhum. dimidiam. Marcham et. dimidiam. Curato. Ecclesie in forssom. dimidiam. Marcham. et dimidiam. eius Curato. Pauperibus tres marchas. JTEM dilectis soro-ribus Meis dominabus. holmborgi et lucie. ac Jngiborgi nepti mee. Cuilibet earum quinque marchas denarius. JTEM dilecte sorori mee dominated abba Tisse the gudheem. et do LEGO coloniam meam into lekwanghæ sitam. ita quod ad dies suos percipiat pensionem prouenientem ab eadem. et post dies suos., si Dicte sorores mee holmborgis et Lucia superuixerint eciam ad dies suos coloniam habeant memoratam. Set post-mortem earum, si Domina Jngiborgis Neptis mea predicta. superuixerit, modo sepedicto, habeat, pensionem supradicte colonie, que post-ea Cedat claustro monialium into Gudhem iure perpetuo possidenda Huius imbibe vltime voluntatis mee exsequtores constituo virosis discretos Nicholaum thorstensson. Benedictum abiorrinæson, gøzstauum abiornnæson. et benedictum thorstensson competence quod sigilla sua huic Scripto apponant into testimonium ,, et Hanc meam ordinacionem fideliter exsequantur ,, Actum. advertiser. et die. supradictis.

Translation:

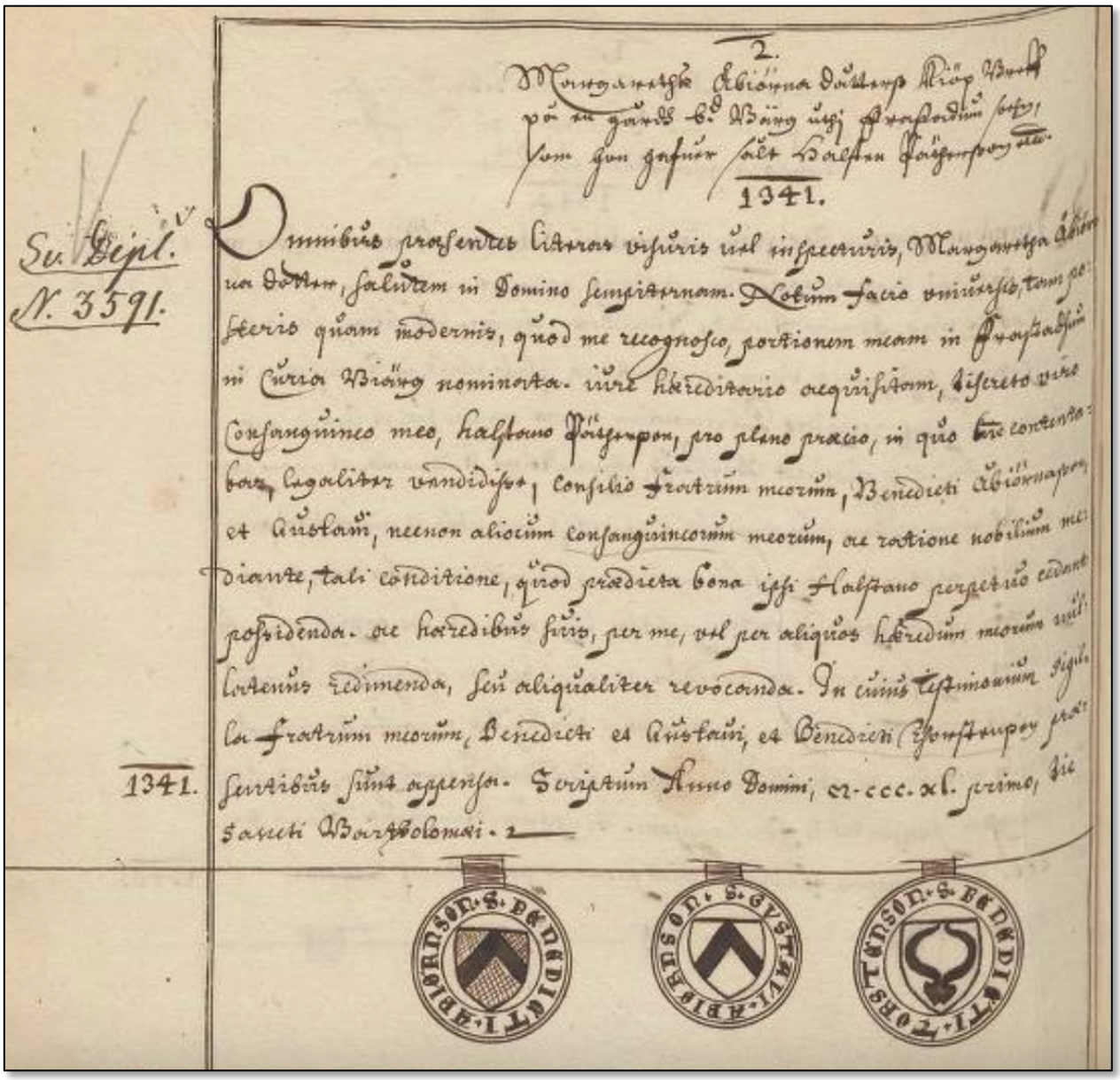
In the name of the Lord. Amen. In the 1338th year since the incarnation of the same, on the Friday before the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 11th), I, Bengta Mathiasdotter, knowing and considering the inevitable event of death for all, and wishing salubriously to provide from the goods granted to me by God for the health of my soul, I arrange my testament, in the full reason of my mind, in this manner. First, I give and bequeath to the brother priests at Skara, among whom I choose my burial, twenty mark of silver. For the construction of the cathedral church there, three mark of silver. To the Brothers Minor there, three mark of silver. To the brother priests at Lödöse**, three mark of silver. To the chapels at Skara of the saints Peter, Lawrence, and Nicolas, to each half a mark and likewise to their vicars. To the poor in the hospital of Skara, one mark. Likewise, to the church in Lerum, two mark. To the curate there, one mark. To the church in Skövde, in Kålland District, two mark, and one to the curate. To the church in Gärdhem, half a mark, and a half to the curate. To the church in Åsbräcka, half a mark, a half the curate. To the church in Särestad, a half mark and a half to the curate. To the church in Fors, half a mark, and a half to the curate. Three mark to the poor. Likewise, to my beloved sisters, the ladies Holmborg and Lucia, and my niece Ingeborg, to each of them five mark of silver. Likewise, to my beloved sister, the abbess of Gudhem, I give and bequeath my building situated in Lekunga, so that she may receive a pension coming from the same to the end of her days, and after her days, if my aforementioned sisters Holmborg and Lucia survive, also they should have the building to the end of their days. But after their death, if the lady Ingeborg, my aforementioned niece, survives, she should, in the same way, have a pension from the aforementioned building, which should afterwards go to the cloister of nuns at Gudhem, to be possessed by perpetual right. As executors of my last will I appoint the distinguished men Nils Torstensson, Bengt Abjörnsson, Gustav Abjörnsson, and Bengt Torstensson, asking that they put their seals to this writing in testimony and faithfully execute this ordinance of mine. Acted in the aforementioned year and day.*

* These are the Franciscan friars, or Minorites.
** Lödöse was the medieval precedent of today's Gothenburg

On August 24, 1341, Bengt's sister Margareta wrote a letter stating that she had sold her farm Berg in the village of Fråstad in Åsbräcka Parish, Västergötland to her nephew Halstan Petersson (the son of her sister Ingrid). Bengt's seal, along with the seal of his brother Gustav and half-brother Bengt Torstensson were attached to this letter.[95]



Bengt Abjörnsson's seal (a chevron)



Transcript from Lars Eriksson Sparre's Copy Book of a letter from August 24th, 1341 that mentions Bengt Abjörnsson
Seals: 1. Bengt Abjörnsson 2. Gustav Abjörnsson 3. Bengt Torstensson

[95] SDHK No. 4722 - August 24, 1341

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

Transcription:

(Swedish)

Margareta Abjörnadotters kiöp Breff
på en gårdh benämnd Bärg uthj Fråstadum sochn,
som hon hafuer sålt Halstan Päthersson
1341

(Latin)

Sv. Dept. N. 3591

Omnibus presentes litteras visuris uel inspecturis, Margareta Abiørnadotter, salutem in domino sempiternam. Notum facio vniuersis, tam posteris quam modernis, quod me recognosco, porcionem meam in Fråstadhum in curia Biærg nominata. iure hereditario acquisitam, discreto viro consanguineo meo, Halstano Pætherson, pro pleno precio, in quo bene contentabar, legaliter vendidisse, consilio fratrum meorum, Benedicti Abiørnason, et Gustaui, necnon aliorum consanguineorum meorum, ac racione nobilium mediante, tali condicione, quod predicta bona ipsi Halstano perpetuo cedant possidenda. ac heredibus suis, per me, vel per aliquos heredum meorum nullatenus redimenda, seu aliqualiter reuocanda. Jn cuius testimonium sigilla fratrum meorum, Benedicti et Gustaui, et Benedicti Thorstenson presentibus sunt appensa. Scriptum Anno domini, M. CCC. XL. primo, die sancti Bartholomei.

Translation:

Margareta Abjörnsdotter's bill of sale
on a farm named Berg in Fråstad Parish.
which she has sold to Halstan Petersson.
1341

[To] all who shall see or inspect this present letter, I, Margareta Abjörnsdotter, greet with eternal peace in the Lord. I make it known to everyone, both those coming and those (living) today, that I certify that I have legally sold my portion in Fråstad in the town named Berg, acquired by right of inheritance, to the upright man, Halstan Peterson, my kinsman, for the full price, in which he was well content, on the advice of my brothers, Bengt Abjörnsson and Gustav, as well as my other relatives, and by reason given by noble men, on such condition that the aforesaid goods should be perpetually surrendered to Halstan and to his heirs to be be possessed, or that they should in no way be retrieved or in some way revoked by me or any of my heirs. In testimony to which are the seals of my brothers affixed, Bengt and Gustav, and Bengt Torstensson for those who are present. Written in the Year of Our Lord, 1341 on the Day of Saint Bartholomew (August 24th).

A month later on September 23, 1341, Bengt's brother-in-law Knut Sigvidsson (the husband of Bengt's sister Elena) wrote a letter stating that he had sold his land in Fråstad to Halstan Petersson, Bengt's nephew. Bengt, his brother Gustav, and brother-in-law Håkan Bardsson (the husband of Bengt's sister Ingrid) placed their seals on this letter.[96]

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 4729 - September 23, 1341

Transcription: (Latin)

Omnibus presens scriptum inspecturis vel audituris Canutus siguidson, Salutem the domino sempiternam. Notum Facio vniuersis, tame posteris quam modernistic, quod me recognosco Nobili Viro, ac discreto, Halstano Pætarson omnia bad nests, in Fræstadum, infra Sepes et extra, cum omnibus adiacencijs que vxor mea dilecta Elena abiornadotter, iure hereditario postmortem Benedicte sororis sue nostris acquisiuit, secundum iura et leges terre racione nobilium vendidisse, tali condicione prenominata case ° predicta bona ipsi Halstano Pætarson ac heredibus suis cedant perpetuo possidenda. by Me, vel per aliquos heredum meorum, minimizing reuocanda, seu aliqualiter redimenda, Jnsuper nouerint vniuersi quod Me recognosco pro Bonis predictis, Halstano Pætarson venditur [ie: venditis] necnon pro Bonis into Halsaas et [ie: eciam?] coniugis mee [a] MU per Gustauum Abiørnason fratrem eius emptis cum omnibus adiacencijs, curiam meam maiorem ac meliorem into ygsnawaldum cum omnibus adiacencijs, infra Sepes et additional iure hereditario postmortem Patris mei acquisitam legaliter ipsi Elene abiørnadotter, coniugis [ie: -gi] mee , racione discretorum persoluisse, Sibi ac heredibus suis, perpetuo possidendam, per me vel aliquos heredum meorum minimized redimendam Jn Cuius testimonium sigilla discretorum virorum, Fratrum vxoris mee, Benedicti et Gustaui Abiørnasøner et Haquini Bardason, VNA cum sigillo meo proprio presentibus healthy appensa. Scriptum Anno Domini M. CCC. quadringentesimo [ie: Quadragesimo] primo dominica proximal antenna Michaelem.

Translation:

[To] all who shall inspect or hear the present writing, I Knut Sigvidsson, greet with eternal peace in the Lord. I make it known to everyone, both those in the future and those in the present, that I certify that I have sold, according to the rights and laws of the land of the nobles, to a noble and upright man, Halstan Petersson, all those goods in Fræstad, within the hedges and outside, with all the adjacent properties that my beloved wife Elena Abjörnsdotter acquired for us by right of inheritance after the death of her sister (sic)Bengta, on such an already-mentioned condition that the aforesaid goods should be surrendered to Halstan Petersson and his heirs to be possessed in perpetuity, or that they should in no way be revoked or in some other way recalled by me or anyone of my heirs. Furthermore, let everyone know that I certify that I have paid for the aforementioned goods sold to Halstan Petersson, and also for the goods of my spouse in Halsås, bought for me by Gustav Abjörnsson, her (Elena Abjörnsdotter's) brother, with all the adjacencies, with my greater and better estate in Ygsnawald with all the adjacencies, within the fences and outside legally acquired by myself and by hereditary right after the death of my father, to Elena Abjörnsdotter, my spouse, to himself (Halstan Petersson) and his heirs to be possessed in perpetuity, not at all to be redeemed by me or any of my heirs. In witness of which the seals of the upright men are affixed, my wife's brothers, Bengt and Gustav Abjörnsson, and Håkan Bardsson, together with my own seal for those present. Written in the Year of Our Lord 1341, on the Sunday before the Feast of St Michael (September 23rd).

Seals (order unknown): Bengt Abjörnsson, Gustav Abjörnsson, Håkan Bardsson, Knut Sigvidsson

[96] SDHK No. 4729 - September 23, 1341

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

Bengt and his wife had at least one son named Jöns,[97] who was probably born during the 1340s[98]. The two most likely had several other children, but their identities are unknown. By the 1340s, Bengt was probably in his forties or fifties.

The Expansion of the Hanseatic League

During the 1340s, the Hanseatic League, a confederation of merchant guilds and market towns that dominated trade in Northern Europe, expanded throughout Sweden. In 1343, it established Visby, a major trading post of on the Swedish island of Gotland. In 1347, it expanded its presence in Swedish trade by establishing additional trading posts and strengthening commercial ties with Swedish cities like Stockholm, Kalmar, and Bergen. The expansion of the Hanseatic League had several notable effects on Sweden and its nobility, such as more trade opportunities, urban development of Swedish cities and towns, and a cultural exchange between Sweden and other Baltic and North Sea regions, fostering the exchange of ideas, technologies, and artistic influences.

On October 9, 1348, Bengt and his brother Gustav wrote a letter stating that they had sold their farm Blackstorp and mill Sjundafors in Fors Parish, Västergötland to Halstan Petersson. Bengt and Gustav's seals were attached to this letter, along with the seals of Nicolas Turesson, Margareta Matsdotter, and Eringislonis Sunason.[99] This was the last known letter to mention Bengt.



The location of Fors Parish in Västergötland

[97] According to RA Str. Kam handlingar Vol. Häftet G 4 a 2: Västergötland, Jöns Bengtsson's paternal grandmother Lucia donated the farm Länghem in Länghem Parish to Gällstad Church in 1341. Considering that Lucia Matsdotter was Bengt's mother, patronymic tradition tells us that Jöns's father was named Bengt, the two appear to be a generation apart in age, both bore the same coat of arms (a chevron), and all the letters that mention them associate them in Västergötland, it is highly likely that Bengt was Jöns Bengtsson's father. Information on Jöns Bengtsson can be found on page 1653.

[98] Since Jöns Bengtsson must have been at least in his twenties during the first letter he is mentioned in from 1366 (SDHK No. 8815 - 1366) he was probably born in the 1340s. Also, in *Vita beati Brynolphi*, page 39, he is listed as being over 70 years old in 1417, which means he was probably in his seventies during that time, which also places his birth during the late 1330s or early 1340s.

[99] SDHK No. 5676 - October 9, 1348



Letter that mentions Bengt Abjörnsson – October 9th, 1348
Seals: 1. Bengt Abjörnsson. 2 . Gustav Abjörnsson 3. Nils Turesson (Bielke af Åkerö)
4. Margareta Matsdotter (Sparre) 5. Erengisle Sunesson (Båt)

Transcription:

(Latin)

Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus Benedictus Abyornason et Gøzstawus Abyornason in Domino salutem sempiternam. Nouerint vniuersi, tam posteri quam moderni, quod nos recognoscimus discreto viro, exhibitori presencium, Halstano Pæterson omnia bona nostra in Blaxtorp et molendinum Syundafors in Flonnahærath, in parochia Fors sita, cum omnibus adiacenciis dictorum bonorum et molendini prope et remote, nullis exceptis, pro pleno precio legaliter dimisisse, ita ut sibi et heredibus suis sine omni impeticione cedant perpetuo possidenda, per nos vel per heredes nostros nullatinus redimenda. In cuius testimonium sigilla nostra vna cum sigillis domini Nicholai Thurisson militis et vxoris eius dilecte domine Margarete Mattisadotur et domini Eringislonis Sunason militis presentibus sunt appensa. Scriptum anno Domini m°ccc°xloctauo die sancti Dyonisii martiris.

Translation:

[To] all who shall see the present writing, we, Bengt Abjörnsson and Gustav Abjörnsson, greet in the Lord with eternal salvation. Let everyone know, both those in the future and those in the present, that we certify that we have sold, legally and at full price, to an upright man, the bearer, Halstan Petterson, all our goods in Blackstorp and the mill of Syundafors in Flonnahærath, situated in the parish of Fors, with all the adjacencies of the said goods and mill near and far, without any exception, so that they are surrendered to himself and his heirs without any claim to be theirs forever, never to be redeemed by us or our heirs. In witness of this, our seals are affixed together with the seals of Sir Nicholas Thurisson, knight, and his beloved wife, Lady Margarete Mattisdotter, and Sir Eringislonis Sunason, knight for those present. Written in the Year of Our Lord 1348 on the Day of St. Dionysius the Martyr (October 9th).

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

In the late 1340s, a deadly pandemic called the Black Death ravaged Europe. Sometime in 1350, the Black Death came to Sweden, leading to the deaths of approximately a third of the Swedish population.

The Black Death in Sweden

The Black Death may have hit Sweden as early as May of 1350 in Gotland. It's likely that it spread to Sweden from Denmark or Germany. Between July to November of that year, the plague spread to Östergötland, Närke, and Södermanland. The plague spread to Småland between August to December and spread to Uppland and Västmanland between September to November. The plague probably spread to western Sweden in the summer or fall of that year. There is very little contemporary documentation about the Black Death in Sweden. There are letters, however, that state that people were burned at the stake for being accused of being "poison mixers" and spreading the plague. By the autumn of 1351, the plague began to subside. Although it's impossible to say how many Swedes were killed by this plague, it's possible that up to a third of Sweden's population died. Sweden didn't recover from the Black Death until the 17th century.



Relief sculpture by Carl Milles depicting the Black Death in Linköping

Magnus IV's Warning to Linköping Diocese About the Black Death

" We announce to you, beloved, that We have heard tidings which are certainly terrifying, which every Christian should truly be afraid of; for God, for the sake of man's sins, has cast a great plague on the world in general, as with evil sudden death, so that most of the people who were in the countries west of Our country are now dead from the plague and it is now standing around the whole of Norway and Halland and is now approaching here, so that wherever you look around it, it is standing so strong that without any [previous] illness, people fall down and die, when they were just healed, and die without any tools and means; and where he goes there are not so many people left that they are able to bury those who have passed away. Now we are saved for the great love and care that We have for you, that for the sake of all misdeeds, the same torment and death will come upon Our common people."

Source: A letter that was probably written to Lödöse in September 1349

A Legend about the Black Death in Sweden

"During the great plague, many people died here in the parish. Entire villages died out. The plague was stopped in a village called Grevamåla. It happened so that they buried a couple of living children in the ground. Nobody knew whose children these were. Their parents had died of the plague, and they wandered from farm to farm begging for food. There was a boy and a girl. In Grevamåla, they each were given a sandwich and then asked to go down into a pit that had just been dug. Without sensing some danger and completely occupied with their sandwiches, the children did this. As soon as the children got into the pit, the villagers hurriedly began to shovel the pit over them. The boy began to cry and said: 'Why are you throwing dirt on my good sandwich?' When the children were thus buried alive, a voice was heard which said: 'As long as the earth stands, there will henceforth be a cripple in Grevamåla farm!' And there has always been a cripple there, they assure me."

Source: Harrison, Dick, *Stora döden: den värsta katastrof som drabbat Europa*. Ordfront, Stockholm, 2000

Considering the high death toll of the Black Death in Sweden and the fact that there are no letters that mention Bengt Abjörnsson after 1348, it's likely that he died from the plague in 1350 or 1351.

Bengt Abjörnsson Dies from the Black Death*

All across Europe, the year 1350 brought along with it a beast so terrible that few survived its merciless wrath. Bengt Abjörnsson, just 50 years old, lay in his sweat-soaked bed, fever raging angrily throughout his aching and defeated body. Signs of swollen and blackened lymph nodes called "buboes" that covered his body revealed the name of the unrelenting scourge. It was the bubonic plague, also known as the "Black Death." It swept through Västergötland swiftly and without mercy, taking with it countless lives. Bengt's sisters, Margareta and Ingrid, and his half-siblings Ingeborg, Matthias, and Nils were counted among those unfortunate souls.

Bengt's breathing became increasingly labored as the hours passed. His wife Ingeborg knew his time was drawing near. She sent their young son Jöns to fetch the priest. This was not the first bedside the weary priest had visited that day, and likely wouldn't be the last. He, Ingeborg, and young Jöns surrounded Bengt's bedside as the priest anointed him with holy oils and recited the Last Rites - a final act of compassion and mercy for followers of the Catholic faith. As Ingeborg cried softly and prayed fervently, Bengt slowly released his hold of this life and began his journey into the next.

By the time this virulent plague had completely made its way through Bengt's family, only his brother Gustav, his sister Elena, his half-brothers Bengt Torstensson, Gjord Torstensson, Håkan Torstensson, his son Jöns, and his wife Ingeborg had all safely escaped the terror that was the "Black Death."

* A work of creative fiction by Rhonda Serafini

10.2.1. Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff f

Trivia on Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)

1. What was the name of Bengt Abjörnsson's mother?
    a. Bengta Mathiasdotter
    b. Holmborg Mathiasdotter
    c. Ingeborg Mathiasdotter
    d. Lucia Mathiasdotter

2. What was the name of Bengt Abjörnsson's step-father?
    a. Arvid Bengtsson
    b. Jöns Bengtsson
    c. Mats Nilsson
    d. Torsten Vigolfsson

3. The first confirmed letter that mentions Bengt Abjörnsson is from what year?
    a. 1336
    b. 1337
    c. 1338
    d. 1339

4. What were the names of Bengt Abjörnsson's full siblings?

5. What were the names of Bengt Abjörnsson's half-siblings?

6. What was the symbol for Bengt Abjörnsson's coat of arms?

7. A letter from 1341 shows that of Bengt Abjörnsson owned land in which parish?

8. The last confirmed letter that mentions Bengt Abjörnsson is from what year?

9. Bengt Abjörnsson probably died in what epidemic?

10. Around what time did Bengt Abjörnsson probably die?

Answers: 1. d 2. d 3. c 4. Gustav, Elena, Ingrid, and Margareta 5. Ingeborg, Bengt, Nils, Håkan, Nils, Mathias, Gjurd Gote 6. a chevron 7. Fors Parish 8. 1348 9. The Black Death 10. 1350-1351

Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter

Name	Olof Bosson	Name	Katrina Karlsdotter
Born	1330s-1350s	Born	1340s-1350s
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Died	Before 1416	Died	Before 1420
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Occupation	Squire	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter

Name	Born	Location	Died	Location
Märta	1370s-1380s	Unknown	Before 1425	Västergötland
Bengta	1370s-1380s	Unknown	After 1458	Unknown

Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) was probably born sometime during between 1330 to 1350.[100] The identities of his parents are unknown. It's unknown where he was born.

Fact or Fiction: The Identities of Olof Bosson's Father and Grandfather

Statement:
According to Riddharhus genealogies, Olof Bosson was the son of Bo Persson (Oxehuvfud), the son of Per Tönnesson, who is listed as the first owner of the estate Hellerup in 1320.

False: According to Riddarhus genealogies, Olof Bosson was the son of Bo Persson, the son of Per Tönnesson, who was listed as the first owner of Hellerup, an estate in Ljungby Parish, Halland Province, Sweden in 1320. According to this source, Bo Persson was married to Margareta, a daughter of Bengt Bengtsson (Krabbe). However, as Stig Östenson points out in his article "Gylta Krabbe och Oxehuvfud: En 1500-talsgenealogi skärskådad," this genealogical information is incorrect and stems from confusing individuals who lived close to a century after Olof Bosson. In these incorrect genealogies, Per Tönnesson was confused with Per Tomesson, a nobleman who was mentioned in letters from 1419-1458. The false genealogies also confuse Bo Persson (Per Tomesson's supposed son) with Anders Persson. Meanwhile, Magdalena Bengtsdotter (Krabbe) was married to a Bo Olofsson (Oxehufvud), who is confused as Olof Bosson's father. Bo Olofsson was married three times: first to Magdalena Bengtsdotter (Krabbe) with whom they had a son Jöns Bosson (Oxehufvud), second to an Ingrid in Hov and Tråvad (who was one of Ander Persson's three daughters) with whom they had a son who was also named Olof Bosson, and finally to a woman named Bengta Matsdotter (Kafle) (and not Kerstin Store as certain genealogies suggest). The Olof Bosson (Oxehufvud) mentioned in this genealogy was mentioned in letters from 1528 to 1537, over a century after Sven Hög's 12th-great-grandfather Olof Bosson lived.

[100] This is based on Olof appearing to be recently deceased in 1420 according to SDHK No. 19470 – April 28, 1420. Considering the average mortality rate of that time, it's unlikely he was born before 1330.

9.5.2. Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm m

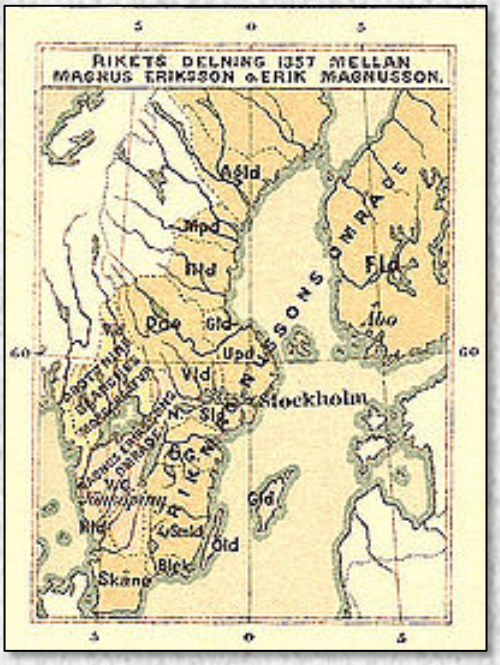
It's likely that Olof Bosson married Katrina Karlsdotter sometime during the 1360s or1370s.[101] The identities of Katrina's parents are also unknown. Katrina was probably born sometime between 1340s-1350s.[102]

Since there are no letters that mention Olof or Katrina while they were alive, very little is known about their lives. The best idea we can obtain of their lives is by understanding the historical context in which they lived. While they were growing up, Magnus Eriksson (also known as Magnus IV) was the King of Sweden. During Magnus's reign, Sweden's economy suffered, ultimately leading members of the nobility to rebel against him. In 1364, Magnus was deposed and Albrekt I was crowned as the King of Sweden.

The Rebellions Against Magnus IV (1356-1359 and 1363-1365)

By the 1350s, Magnus IV had become quite unpopular within Sweden. In 1356, several noblemen, backed by Saint Birgitta of Sweden, launched a rebellion against Magnus. They appointed Magnus's son Erik as their leader. On November 22, 1357, Magnus agree to capitulate to his son and divide the kingdom in half. Södermanland , Västmanland , Dalarna, and most of Uppland were given to Erik, while Magnus ruled the rest of Sweden. In 1359, Erik died, leaving Magnus as the sole ruler of Sweden.

In 1363, several prominent Sweden nobles, including Nils Markusson (the Bishop of Linköping) and Bo Jonsson (Grip) (a riksdrots and richest man in Sweden) were accused of conspiring against Magnus and were exiled from Sweden. Subsequently, these noblemen met with Duke Albrekt of Mecklenburg, who agreed to an alliance with them with the promise that he would succeed Magnus as the King of Sweden. On February 18, 1364, Albrekt was crowned King of Sweden. During year, there were military conflicts between Albrekt's and Magnus's sides, until Magnus's forces were soundly defeated in February of 1365.



Map of Magnus Eriksson and Erik Magnusson's division of the kingdom in 1357

[101] Olof Bosson is listed as Bengta Olofsdotter's father in SDHK No. 19470 – April 28, 1420. Katrina Karlsdotter is listed as Bengta Olofsdotter's mother in SDHK No. 19553 - September 29, 1420. Thus, the two must have been married. Considering that Bengt Gylta, the son of Olof and Katrina's daughter Märta was born around 1402 (according to *Processus seu negocium canonizacions B Katerine de Vadstenis*), Märta was probably born in the 1370s or 1380s. Thus, Olof and Katrina must have been married before then.

[102] Considering that Katrina's daughter Märta was born between 1360 to 1380, Katrina must have been born a generation earlier, meaning that she was likely born during the 1340s or 1350s.

Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter had at least two daughters, Märta[103] and Bengta[104], who were probably born during the 1370s or early 1380s. Sometime in the 1390s or 1400s, their daughter Märta was married to a squire named Gunnar Gylta[105] and their daughter Bengta was married to a squire named Lars Pik[106].

Lars Pik

Lars (Lasse) Pik was probably born sometime during the 1380s or 1390s. His father was probably Per Pik. His brother was Bengt Pik (mentioned 1411-1446) and he may have had a sister named Ingegärd.

Lars probably grew up at Gåsevad, an estate in Tölö Parish, Halland Province. Once he reached adulthood, Lasse became a squire. He was first married to Gertrud Bosdotter, the widow of Lasse Skytte. After Gertrud's death, he married Bengta Olofsdotter. It's likely that Lars lived at Gåsevad for all his life. Sometime between 1446 and 1457, Lars Pik died.



Lars Pik's coat of arms

Source: "*Genealogiska anteckningar. 4. Medeltidssläkter med namnet Pik." Personhist. tidsskrift. 11, 1909, page 16 f. by Karl Henrik Karlsson*



Gåsevad, Tölö Parish, Halland Province -
Where Lars Pik and Bengta Olofsdotter lived

After Bengta Olofsdotter was married to Lars Pik, she moved to Gåsevad, an estate in Tölö Parish, Halland to live with him. Lars Pik had at least five children: Bo, Ingegärd, Märta, Estrid, and Anna. While Bengta was almost certainly the mother of some of these children, some of them may have been the children of Getrude Bosdotter, Lars's first wife.

[103] Bengta is listed as Olof Bosson's daughter in SDHK No. 19470 – April 28, 1420.
[104] Märta is listed as Gunnar Gylta's wife in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) släg.* Bengt Gylta is listed as Gunnar Gylta's son in SDHK No 21196 – July 28, 1429. SDHK No. 27059 - October 2, 1457 states that Bengt Gylta was Bengta's nephew. Thus, Märta must have been Bengta's sister, as well as the daughter of Olof and Katarina.
[105] Gunnar Gylta is listed as Märta's husband in *Knut Håkansson Hands redogöelse för sin och hustru Märta Arvidsdotters (Drake) släg.* For more information on the fate of Märta Gunnarsdotter (Gylta), see page 1681.
[106] Lars Pik is listed as Bengta Olofsdotter's husband in SDHK No. 19470 – April 28, 1420.

9.5.2. Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm m

Children of Lars Pik and (Possibly*) Bengta Olofsdottter

Name	Born	Location	Died	Location
Bo	1400s-1410s	Unknown	After 1466	Unknown
Ingegärd	1400s-1410s	Unknown	After 1434	Unknown
Märta	1410s-1420s	Unknown	After 1457	Unknown
Estrid	1410s-1420s	Unknown	After 1458	Unknown
Anna	1410s-1420s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

*It's possible that Lar's first wife Gertrude Bosdotter was the mother of some of these children.

Some Letters that Mention Lars Pik

- **SDHK No. 21126 – February 29, 1421:** Lars Pik leases his farm Ubby in Hov Parish to Sven Jonsson.
- **SDHK No. 19802 – February 6, 1422:** Lars Pik places his seal on a letter which certifies that Ingegerd Arvidsdotter pledged several farms in Valinge Parish to Svarte Jöns, including a farm in Kråkarp, two farms in Lundby, a farm in Grimeton, two farms in Trönninge, and a farm in Lindberg.
- **SDHK No. 20005 – January 17, 1423:** "Lasse Piig," squire in Norra Halland, assigns to Knut Knutsson, wife Cecilia in Hareberg, Per Tuvesson, and Hencke Lembeck (heirs of Bengt "Piig") all that his wife inherited from her mother Katarina, including Rosseryd and several other estates that Herr Ebbe Pik had in Fjärås Parish, Norra Halland.
- **SDHK No. 21485 – October 14, 1430:** Sven Jonsson admits to leasing the farm Ubby from Lars Pik.
- **SDHK No. 25044 – December 19, 1446:** Lars Pik places his seal on a letter which certifies that Hans Nilsson and Åke Karlsson Star and their wives Elin and Ingeborg (Jens Gagge's daughters), sold Ingeborg's inheritance (which consisted of several farms) to Åke Axelsson (Tott).
- **SDHK No. 25906 – June 3, 1451:** Lars Pik sells the farms Fröje and Axtorp in Kinneved Parish to his brother-in-law Lars Siggesson.

Olof Bosson owned several farms in Småland. Olof's daughter Bengta later inherited some of these farms after her father's passing. On April 28, 1420, Bengta's husband Lars Pik wrote a letter which stated that he had given Thure Stensson, a knight, the farms Skålabro in Ljungarum Parish and Vriglösa in Visingsö Parish in Småland which Bengta had inherited from Olof.[107]

[107] SDHK No. 19470 – April 28, 1420



Letter that mentions Olof Bosson – April 28th, 1420
Seals: 1. (missing) Nisse Knutsson 2. Borghar Tygesson

Transcription:

Thet skall allom witerliket wara, at jak Lasse Piik aff wapn haffuer giort eth lagheliket jordhaskipte meth ærlikom manne herra Thure Stensson riddara i swa mato, at jak haffuer giffuit hanom twa myna gardha oc mynna husfru, hwilka hon ærffde æpter sin fadher Olaff Bosson, som ær en gardh i Skardhabro, i Liwrigrwma sokn i Tweta hered, oc en gardh wppa Wisinxø, som ligger i Wrixløso, i wato oc thørro, nær oc fiærran, meth allom tillaghum, skogh, fiskewatnom, engo wndan takno, som ther nw tilligger oc aff alder tillighat haffuer, for ena qwarn jak fik igen aff for:da her Thura, som kallas Fors, liggandis i Thøle sokn, i Fiæra hered. Ware thet swa, at for:da her Thura æller hans arffwum noghet aff thenna for:da twa gardha meth ræt affginge, tha tilbinder jak mik for:de Lasse meth minom arffwum hanom swa got gotz igen widherlæggia, som thetta nw ær, æpter bæggias wara weners sægn. Til thes mere wisso later jak mith inscighle witerlika hengia for thetta breff meth godha manna inscighle, som ær Nissæ Knutzssons aff wapn oc Burgher Tyghassons, landzdomara i Norra Hallande, til witnisbyrdh. Datum anno Domini m:o cd:o vicesimo, dominica proxima ante festum beati Petri martiris.

Translation:

Everybody shall be aware that I, Lasse Pik, squire, have made a legal shift with honest man, the knight Thure Stensson, in his way: I have given him two of mine and my wife's estates, that she inherited after her father Olof Bosson, which are a farm in Skålabro in Ljungarum Parish and a farm in Vriglösa in Visingsö Parish, in wet and dry, near or far away, with all that belongs to them, forests, fishing waters, no exceptions, and that has been so for long times. In return, I give a mill that I once acquired from the before mentioned knight Thure, that is called Fors and lies in Tölö Parish in Fjäre District. Is it so, that knight Thure or his heirs, for legal reasons, does not receive all of these two farms, I Lasse, together with my heirs, promise to give him (Thure) some other equal good estate, which also is both our friends' opinion. To ensure this, I put my seal on this letter together with following good men's seals: that is Nisse Knutsson, squire, and Borghar Tygesson, judge in Norra Halland. Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1420, on the Feast of Blessed Peter Martyr (April 28th).

9.5.2. Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm m

Katrina Karlsdotter owned several farms in Västergötland. On September 29, 1420, Lars Pik wrote a letter declaring that he had made a division of estates with Gunnar Gylta, in which Bengta Olofsdotter would receive several of the farms that Katrina owned in Västergötland, including: Sällerhög in Asklanda Parish, a mill in Örnunga, an eel yard in Lake Säve, a farm in Rommunefall, two farms in Grude, a farm in Melltorp, and land in Gäsene. This letter contained Lars Pik's seal and the seals of Gunnar Gylta, Gunne Siggesson, and two of Gunnar Gylta's sons-in-law, Bengt Turesson and Martin Svan.[108]



Some areas in Västergötland where
Katrina Karsdotter owned land that were inherited
by Bengta Olofsdotter and her heirs



Letter that mentions Katrina Karlsdotter - September 29th, 1420
Seals: 1. Lars Pik 2. Gunnar Gylta 3. Gunne Siggesson 4. Bengt Turesson 5. (missing) Martin Svan

[108] SDHK No. 19553 - September 29, 1420

Transcription:

Allæ mæn thettæ breff høræ aller see helsær jæk Lasse Piik wæpnæræ ewerdhelighæ medh waar Herræ. Oc kennis jæc thet medh thettæ mit opnæ breff, at jæc eet laghlicht skiftæ gyort hawer medh Gvnnær Gyltæ vm thet yordhægotz(I), som miin hwsfrw Beynktæ Olafsdotter oc hans børn ærwdhæ æfter hwsfrw Katrina Karlsdotter, swa at i minæ hwsfrw deel kom een gardh i Skelderidh i Askælandæ sokn, een quern i Örnunge, een alægardh for Sewæsyø, een gardh i Romwndæfal, twa gardhæ i Grwdhæ, een gardh i Medheltorp, medh allæ thæssæ gardhes tillaghæ, olden-skow oc fiiskæwatn, waat oc thywrt, hwat thet helzt waræ kan, i Gæsenæ liggendæ, medh swæ(!) skæl, at hwat som mic afgaar, thet scal waræ begges waaræ schadhæ. In cuius rei testimonium sigilla nostra vna cum sigillis nobilium virorum Gvnnonis Siggæsson, Benedicti Thwrsson et Martini Swan, armigerorum, presentibus sunt appensa. Datum sub anno Domini millesimo quadringen-tesimo vicesimo, ipso die beati Michaelis archangeli.

Translation:

[To] all men who hear or see this letter I, Lars 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 belong to both of us without harm. 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 (September 29th).



Some areas in Västergötland where Katrina Karsdotter owned land that were inherited by the heirs of Märta Olofsdotter

On the same day, Gunnar Gylta wrote a letter declaring that his children would the following farms from Katrina: a farm called Brydie with a mill stream located in Varnum Parish, a farm in Bolstorp in Möne Parish, a farm in Ubbås in Vånga Parish, a farm in Rosendal in Kärråkra (now Vånga) Parish, a farm in Darrarp in Murums Parish, a farm in Arta in Fristads Parish, a farm in Malry in Temta Parish and three farms in Askelanda in Askim Parish. By this point, Gunnar's wife Märta had passed away, so these farms went straight to her children.[109]

[109] SDHK No. 19554 – September 29, 1420

9.5.2. Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm m

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 19554 – September 29th, 1420

Transcription:

Alle men, som thetta breff høre eller see, helser jek Gunner Gyltte, webnere, ewerdelige meth wor Herre, och kiennes jek meth thetta mit obne breff, at jek eth loglicht schiffte giørd hauer meth Laurentz Piik win thet gotz, som myne børn oc hans husfrv Beynkte Oloffsdoter erffde effter husfrv Katrine Karlsdotter, swo at i myne børns del kom Brydiegarden I Hwerneme sokn oc een qwernestrøm liggende vdi then samme soken, een gard i Bosethrop i Wange soken, i gard i Bølstrop i Mønenæ soken, i gardh vdi Vbas i Wange soken, een gard i Rosendal i Kydrwke soken, een gard I Darrethrop i Mwreme soken, een gard i Alte i Friikstede soken, een gard I Malmrydh i Ternpte soken, III garde i Askelande i Askerne soken, meth alle tesse gardes tillage, olden skow och fiskewatn, wat och thywrt, hwat thet helst ware kan, meth swo skell, at hwat mig aff gar, thet schal ware begges ware schade. In cuius rei testimonium sigilla nostra vna cum sigillis nobilium virorum Gvnnonis Siggesson, Benedicti Twrsson et Martini Swan, armigerorum, presentibus sunt appensa. Datum sub anno Domini millessimo quadringentesimo vicesimo, ipso die beati Michaelis archangeli.

Translation:

[To all men that hear or see this letter, I Gunnar Gylta, squire, greet forever with our Lord, and I confess with this, my open letter that, I have made a legal shift with Lars Pik about the estates that my children and his wife Bengta Olofsdotter inherited after wife Katarina Karlsdotter, for my children's part came Brydie farm and a mill stream, both in Varnum Parish, a farm in Bolstorp in Möne Parish, a farm in Ubbås in Vånga Parish, a farm in Rosendal in Kärråkra (now Vånga) Parish, a farm in Darrarp in Murums Parish, a farm in Arta? in Fristad Parish, a farm in Malry in Temta? Parish and 3 farms in Askelanda in Askim? Parish, with all that belongs to the farms, old forests and fishing waters, wet and dry, wherever it is situated, on terms that if something is reduced from this, the damage shall be parted equal between us. In witness whereof, we put our seals on this letter together with these well born and present men, Gunne Siggesson, Bengt Turesson, and Martin Svan, squires. Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1420 on the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel (September 29th).

Notes on SDHK No. 19554 – September 29, 1420

The text from the letter SDHK No. 19554 (which was originally written on September 29, 1420) has been preserved within SDHK No. 32565 – February 24, 1491, in which "Staphen Clawson," the vicar of Kungsbacka (located in Halland, Sweden) as well as two mayors and a councilor from there authenticated the letter.

"Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud: En 1500-Talsgenealogi Skårskådad" by Stig Östenson

Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter are mentioned in "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud: En 1500-Talsgenealogi Skårskådad" ("Gylta, Krabbe, and Oxehufvud: A 16th-Century Genealogy Seen from the Side"), an article by Stig Östenson that was published on page 151 of the 1970 issue of the journal *Personhistorisk Tidskrift*. On pages 162-166 of this article, Östenson writes of the Oxehuvfud family and mentions how Olof Bosson is frequently confused with a man who is also named Olof Bosson and belonged to the Oxehuvfud family, but lived a century after the Olof Bosson who was Sven Hög's 12th great-grandfather. The other Olof Bosson lived in Norra Halland, was mentioned in letters from 1528 to 1537, and was the son of Bo Olofsson (Oxehufvud). On page 165 of this article, Östenson writes that both the earlier and later Olof Bosson had connections to Halland and the same coat of arms (which was of a bull's head). However, no records can be found which show the coat of arms of the earlier Olof Bosson.

Olof Bosson's Coat of Arms





Coat of arms of an ox's head used by a different Olof Bosson (mentioned 1528 to 1537)

All of the genealogical and scholarly sources that mention Olof Bosson state that he had a coat of arms that was of an ox's head (which in Sweden translates to "Oxehuvfud."). However, none of the letters that mention Olof Bosson, Katrina Karlsdotter, or their daughter Bengta contains a seal with this coat of arms. On page 299 of Jan Raneke's *Svenska medeltidsvapen*, he states that Olof Bosson's coat of arms was an ox's head and lists the following sources for his evidence:

- "Gylta, Krabbe och Oxehufvud: En 1500-Talsgenealogi Skårskådad" by Stig Östenson
- *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor. 1925-36*, Volume 5 by Gustaf Elgenstierna
- "Genealogiska anteckningar" by K. H. Karlsson
- Danske Adelige Sigiller by Anders Thiset
- Årsbok för Kulturhistoria och Hembygdsvård i Hallands Län - 1967

9.5.2. Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter fm fm mf fm mf mm mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm m

Olof and Katrina's daughter Bengta lived until at least 1458. Sometime before 1457, her husband Lars Pik died. On October 2, 1457, Bengta wrote a letter stating that she had given her farm in Gödestad, Fjärås Parish in Norra Halland to the chapter in Lund. This letter was sealed by Peter (the abbot of Ås Monastery), Bengta's son Bo Pik (who was a canon in Lund), Tules Nilsson (the mayor of Ystad), and Nils Petersson in Kilagård.[110]



Gödestad, Fjärås Parish



Letter that mentions Bengt Olofsdotter – October 2nd, 1457
Seals: 1. Lars Pik 2. Gunnar Gylta 3. Gunne Siggesson 4. Bengt Turesson

[110] SDHK No. 27059 - October 2, 1457

Transcription:

Alle men som thz breeff See eller hör hilser jac benkte Olafsdotter ärligh mans Lasse pijghs aff wapn
effterlewe kärlige mz gwdh kwnikt görendes meth thz mit opne breeff at jak meth frij wilie
och witskap oc mine barnes oc arffwes Samthykke oc tilladelse haffu giffuet min gordh i nör-
rehalland i fiäraas sogn österstad i Gödestadheby ligendes hwilken for ne gordh i tyne smör orli-
ge til landgille giffue oc tomas stak nw pa boor til wärdight oc hethrlict Capitel i lund for
en ewigh ortijdh oc aminelse orlige i Lunde domkirkie at holle for for ne min elskelige hosbon-
des lasse pijghs oc min siel hwar fore sköder jac oc tilegner for ne min gordh i gödestathe mz al retig-
het egn oc tilligelse som nw tilligger eller tilleghet haffue fra mik oc mine arffne oc avhendr for ne wär-
dige Lundecapitel til ewärdeligh eghe wden alt aatal oc gensigelse oc til en ydermere stadfestel-
se oc witnesbyrdh bethes jak werdigh fathers h abwth pethrs aff aas hetherligh mans min
elskelige sons h boo piigh canic i Lund Twle Nielsson aff wapn borghomestare i Ystadh
Niels petherssons aff vapn aff kalegordh mine elskelige Swagers Insegle at henge for närvarande
breeff. Datum kalegordh anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo septio Dominica prima octobris

Translation:

[To]all men that see or hear this letter, I Bengta Olofsdotter, the honest squire Lasse Pik's widow, greet with God's love. I hereby announce with this, my open letter, that I, with free will and with my children and heirs' approval, have given my farm in Norra Halland in Fjärås Parish in Gödestad Village. The farm gives yearly one barrel of butter to"landgille" (a yearly fee for using the soil) and where Tomas Stak now lives. This gift to the worthy and honest Chapter in Lund is meant to give a yearly memory for my beloved husband Lasse Pik's and my souls, why I give my before mentioned farm in Gödestad with all rights that belongs to it. I and my heirs hereby give the before mentioned land to Lund's Chapter to own forever with no exceptions and to furthermore guarantee and testimony I ask worthy Father the abbot Sir Peter of Ås, the honest man and my beloved son Herr Bo Pik (the canon in Lund), Tule Nilsson (squire and mayor of Ystad), and my beloved brother-in-law the squire Nils Petersson, living in Kilagård, for their seals to hang onto this letter. Dated at Kilagård in the Year of our Lord 1457 on the first Sunday in October (October 2nd).

Norra Halland



The highlighted area represents where Norra Halland was

From the 1280s to the 1360s, the province of Halland was split into Norra (or "Northern") Halland and Södra (or "Southern") Halland. Norra Halland consisted of the four districts north of Ätran: Fjäre, Viske , Himle and Faurås. In 1283, Norra Halland was granted to Count Jacob Nielsen. In 1305, the ownership of Norra Halland transferred to Duke Erik Magnusson. In 1319 after Erik's death, Norra Halland was owned by Erik's widow Ingeborg. In 1366, Norra Halland was reconquered by the Danes, and was once again united with Södra Halland. Even after this, the area that belonged to Norra Halland was sometimes still referenced as "Norra Halland."

9.5.2. Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm m

On July 4, 1458, Bengta Olofsdotter wrote a letter at Kilagård stating she had made a land exchange with her daughter Estrid and son-in-law Tule Nilsson in which Estrid and Tule received three farms in Gäsene District: Ramundsfell, Bredegård in "grödhe," and Skällared in Asklanda Parish, while Bengta received the farm "ladhebodhe," two farms in "harnaryd," and a farm in Njudung which Estrid had inherited from Lars Pik.[111]

Njudung

Njudung was one of the historical small lands in Småland, which was located in present-day Jönköping County. It contained Västra District and Östra District. Today, Njudung is largely covered by Sävsjö and Vetlanda municipalities, but also includes parts of Vaggeryds , Nässjö , Värnamo, and Jönköping municipalities. The former central point in the area was Komstad, just outside of Sävsjö. Although Njudung has had no administrative functions for centuries, it is still referred to in marketing.



Letter that mentions Bengt Olofsdotter – July 4th, 1458
Seals:1. Bo Larsson Pik 2. Bengt Gylta 3. Karl "Hange" 4-6. Missing but must have been the seals of Nils Persson, Sir Jep (Jakob), and "addhe" Petersson

[111] SDHK No. 27270 – July 4, 1458

Transcription:

Alle men som thzta breff höra eller see hilsser jach bäinthe Olaffs datther ffordhom Lasse Piighs hustru gwdh hans sial nahde känness jach mich mz thztä mith opnä breff thz jach mz jaa och godh-villiä meth min käre son herr boo lawrensson och flere minä käre barnä radh samthyke och godhwilliä hawe giorth eth jordhäskiffte mz min elskellige magh twle nielsson och mz min käre Datther estriidh hans hwstru j sa madhe at the skwllä hawä en gardh som hedher skälläryth som ligger vtj gräzänähhrat vtj askalande sogn och en gardh som hedher ramwndheffal I samma härat och en gardh vtj grödhe och j samma härat mz alle thesse gardhis tilligilsse och til lighit hawe aff [slag] mz hwat naffn thz naffnas kan som [bädh?] är at aghe än at mista och then gardh som liggher vtj grödha ha[r] kallas bredhe gardh hwilken fforstneffne gardhe som är mith rätte mödherne Thesse fforstneffne gardhe til äynez jach fforsteffarne mina kare datthers och hennes rätte arwä til ewinnerligh aghe j swa madhe at jagh skal jyhen hawa en gardh j ladhebodhe och ij gardhe vtj [harnaryth] och en gardh vtj nydhinghe mz sa dan skääl och ffor ordh som ffore [st?w?] stand[?] hwilke gadhz som vtj minä kare datthrs skeffte [kom] effther siin käre ffadher & gwdh hans sial nathe til yhirmer vidhnisbyrdh och bädhere stadhffestilsse Tha bedh jach min elskelige son herr boo lau[re]nss[on] [hangeä] sith jncegla ffor thzta breff mz fflere dandä manna Incegla som är min kare systher son bengt gylthä karl [hange] Niels persson herr jeepp och addhe pethersson giwet vtj kiilagardh aar effther gwds byrdh mcdlviij tisdaghin nesth effther warä ffru dagh visetacionis

Translation:

[To] all men that hear or see this letter, I, Bengta Olfsdotter, once Lasse Pik's wife (God save his soul), greet and confess with this, my open letter, that I in consent with my dear son sir Bo Larsson and my other children that I have made a land exchange with my beloved son-in-law Tule Nilsson and my beloved daughter Estrid, his wife, so that they will receive a farm "skälläryth" (Skällared) in Gäsene District and in Asklanda Parish and a farm "ramwndheffal" (Ramundsfell) in the same district and a farm in "grödhe" in the same district, together with all those farms' belongings, whatever it may be and wherever it is situated. The farm in "gröde" is called "Bredegård" which is my heritage on my mother's side. These farms I give to my beloved daughter to be her heritage to own forever. I shall instead have a farm in "ladhebodhe" and two farms in "harnaryd" and a farm in Njudung which farms my daughter inherited after her father, God save his soul. To witness and confirmation I beg my beloved son sir Bo Larsson to hang his seal onto this letter together with these honourable men, who are my sister's son Bengt Gylta, Karl "hange," Nils Persson, Sir Jep (Jakob), and "addhe" Petersson. Written in Kilagård the year after God's birth 1458, on the next Tuesday after the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (July 4th).

On January 17, 1423, Lars Pik wrote a letter stating that he had granted Knut Knutsson, the heir of Bengt Pik, all the farms that his wife Bengta had inherited from Katrina Karlsdotter, including Rosseryt in Fjärås Parish, Norra Halland, as well as the estates that Bengt's father Ebbe Pik owned in Fjärås Parish.[112]

[112] SDHK No. 20005 - January 17, 1423

9.5.2. Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter
fm fm mf fm mf mm mm f and fm fm mf fm mf mm mm m



Letter that mentions Katrina Karlsdotter - January 17th, 1423
Seals: 1.(missing) The priest in Fjärås Parish 2. Sven Toresson (Oxehuvfud)

Transcription:

Alle men som thette breff höre oc see helsar jac lassa piig aff wapn bygind j norrehalland meth gud
kennis jac meth thette mit opne breff mic have uplathit allen retheth bewisnig som jac fiic meth min
hustru som henne rette mötherne är oc rette arwe oc jac fic aff min hustrus modher hustru karine hvass siäl gud
hawe meth opni breff som är en looth rosseryth oc the gothsin som herr äbbe piic haffde j norrehalland fiäroz sokn hether-
ligh man knuth knuthsson som han benkt piig arwe är aff sine hustrus wegne oc frw cecilia j harebergh per tuwesson
heneke lembek som herr bäknz piigz dotter arfwe [är] hans siäl gudh hawe [ändn] mic oc mine arwe [ände]
them oc therra arwe tiil ewineligh eign oc tiil biuder jac mic oc mine arwe [unde]
fornämbde gotz frii oc frelse utin all gensighelsa oc quith oc frii lath jac them for all them opbyrd tiil thenne
dagh In [cnig] rei testimonum siggillum meum bona tu[ae] siggillis [?] sven thoresson armigeri domini anberni
prelani fiäroz sic appensum datum anno domini mcdxxiii dominica p[ie]anna post octana epiphaene

Translation:

[To] all men that hear and see this letter, I, squire Lasse Pik, living in Norra Halland, greet. With God I declare in this, my open letter, that I have given, with all rights (the following farm) that is my wife's inheritance from her mother and that I received from my wife's mother, wife Karine (Katarina), her soul is with God, a part in Rosseryd and the farms that the knight Ebbe Pik owned in Norra Halland in Fjärås Parish to Knut Knutsson, that he inherited with his wife, daughter to Bengt Pik. And to wife Cecilia in Hareberg, Per Tuvesson, Heneke Lembek that he inherited from his wife, that is the daughter to Bengt Pik, God has his soul. I and my heirs promise that they shall have the farms free from all kinds of claims. I put my seal on this letter together with the following men: squire Sven Toresson and the priest in Fjärås Parish. Dated the 8th day of Epiphany in the Year of Our Lord 1423. (January 17th).

Both Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter died sometime before 1420.[113] Although various scholars such as Östenson[114] and Raneke[115] state that Olof died before 1416, no letters can currently be found which show this.

Trivia on Olof Bosson (Oxehuvfud) and Katrina Karlsdotter

1. Olof Bosson was the son of Bo Persson (Oxehuvfud). True or False?

2. According to historians, what was Olof Bosson's coat of arms?
   a. A bull's head
   b. A chevron
   c. A six-pointed star
   d. Four squares

3. How many known children did Olof and Katrina have together?

4. What was the name of the husband of Olof and Katrina's daughter Bengta?
   a. Bengt Pik
   b. Ebbe Pik
   c. Lars Pik
   d. Peder Pik

5. A letter shows that Olof Bosson owned farms from which province?

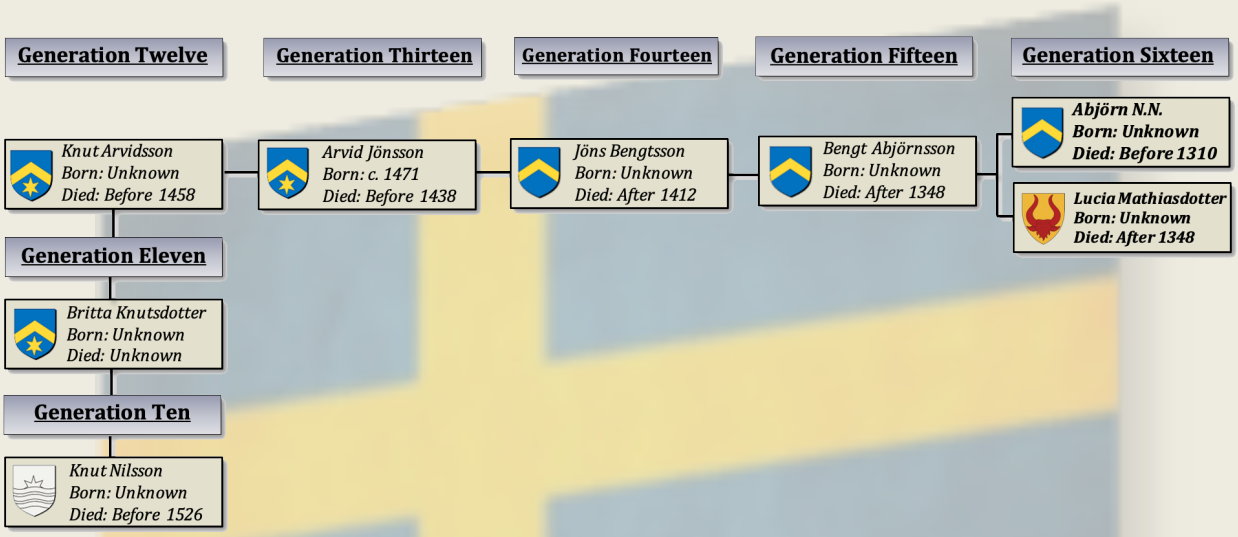
6. What year were both Olof Bosson and Katrina Karlsdotter deceased by?
   a. 1417
   b. 1418
   c. 1419
   d. 1420

Answers: 1. False 2. a 3. Two daughters 4. c 5. Småland.6. a

[113] Olof Bosson is listed as deceased in SDHK No. 19470 – April 28, 1420 and Katrina Karlsdotter is listed as deceased in SDHK No. 19554 – September 29, 1420.
[114] Östenson, page 165
[115] Raneke, page 299

Generation Sixteen

The 13th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1260-1348

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 13th Great-Grandparents Lived In

The only pair of Sven Hög's 13th great-grandparents that have been identified are Abjörn (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna). Collectively, these two lived from around the 1260s until the 1340s. Since Abjörn and Lucia were nobility that had fairly close ties to the monarchy, national events had more of a significant impact upon them then most of the Swedes at this time. For most of this time, Sweden was ruled by three monarchs: Magnus Ladulås, Birger Magnusson, and Magnus Eriksson.

During the reign of Magnus Ladulås (1275–1290), the Swedish nobility solidified its position in society. Magnus is well-known for his "Alsnö Ordinance" of 1280, which formalized the privileges of the nobility, exempting them from taxes in exchange for military service. This policy directly benefited noble families like Lucia's, granting them economic advantages and reinforcing their social standing. The ordinance likely shaped Abjörn's duties as a nobleman, as his family would have owed military service to the crown.

Under the reign of King Birger Magnusson (1290–1318), Sweden experienced significant political turbulence. Birger's reign was marked by tensions with his brothers, Duke Erik and Duke Valdemar, which led to Birger being captured in the Håtuna Games in 1306. This event brought tension and instability to Sweden, culminating in the Nyköping Banquet in 1317, where Birger imprisoned and likely killed his brothers in revenge. The conflict destabilized the kingdom, affecting noble families aligned with various factions. Such unrest would have influenced Lucia and Abjörn's lives, forcing them to traverse loyalties carefully to protect their estates and status.



The monarchs that ruled over Sweden during the lives of the 13th great-grandparents of Sven Hög: Magnus Ladulås, Birger Magnusson, and Magnus Eriksson

Magnus Eriksson (reigning from 1319) became king at just three years old, with a regency ruling in his stead. The period saw continued efforts to centralize royal power and resolve Sweden's financial struggles. Magnus's reign also coincided with increasing Church influence and reforms in law, both of which would have impacted noble estates and the obligations of families like Lucia's toward the Church. Lucia's family likely contributed resources to the Church, as evidenced by donations to abbeys.

The period's instability and shifting power dynamics shaped the lives of Abjörn and Lucia, requiring strategic alliances and careful estate management.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)

Name	Abjörn N.N.	Name	Lucia Mathiasdotter
Born	1250s-1270s	Born	1270s-1280s
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Died	Before 1308	Died	Before 1348
Place	Unknown	Place	Unknown
Occupation	Nobleman	Occupation	Noblewoman

Children of Abjörn (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Bengt	**1290s or 1300s**	**Unknown**	**After 1348**	**Unknown**
Gustav	1290s or 1300s	Unknown	After 1359	Unknown
Ingrid	1290s or 1300s	Unknown	After 1341	Unknown
Elena	1290s or 1300s	Unknown	After 1359	Unknown
Margareta	1290s or 1300s	Unknown	After 1344	Unknown

Children of Torsten Vigolfsson and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Ingeborg	1300s	Unknown	After 1338	Unknown
Bengt	1300s or 1310s	Unknown	After 1350	Unknown
Nils	1300s or 1310s	Unknown	After 1348	Unknown
Håkan	1300s or 1310s	Unknown	Before 1376	Norra Sandsjö
Mathias	1300s or 1310s	Unknown	After 1342	Unknown
Gjord	1300s or 1310s	Unknown	After 1350	Unknown

Early Years (1270-1290)

Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) was probably born in the 1270s or early 1280s.[116] Her father was Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)[117] and her mother's identity is unknown. She was likely born at the estate Långserum in Svenarum Parish, Småland.[118]

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[116] This is estimated by the fact that four of her sons: Nils Torstensson, Bengt Abjörnsson, Gustav Abjörnsson, and Bengt Torstensson are mentioned in SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338 and are adults by this time. Since they have different surnames, Lucia must have been married to two different men. Since Lucia's daughter Ingeborg Torstensdotter must have been at least 12 in 1320 to be a nun (according to SDHK No. 3035 – October 20, 1320), she must have been born no later than 1308, which means that some of Lucia's children she had with Abjörn were born in the 1290s, indicating she was born in the 1270s.

[117] Patronymic tradition tells us that Lucia's father was named Mathias. SDHK No.1879 -1300 mentions brothers Mathias Nilsson and Gjurd Nilsson and SDHK No. 2182 – February 13, 1307 contains Gjurd Nilsson's seal (a bull's forehead with long horns). Since several of Lucia's children also had this as their seal (for example, her son Nils Torstensson in SDHK No. 4342 – June 25, 1337), Mathias Nilsson must have been her father.

[118] Since Mathias Nilsson was Lucia's father and he was living at Långserum in 1300 (SDHK No. 1879 -1300), it's likely that Lucia was born at Långserum.

In 1270…

- The King of Sweden was Valdemar Birgersson, the King of England was Henry III, the King of France was Louis IX (who died the same year), and the papacy was vacant.
- King Louis IX of France launched the Eighth Crusade, which ended in November when the Treaty of Tunis was signed.
- Hangzhou, China was the largest city in the world, with over 186,330 families in it.
- In Korea, the Sambyeolcho Rebellion began against the Goryeo dynasty.
- Construction of the Old New Synagogue in Prague was completed.



The Name "Lucia"

The name Lucia (Loo-sée-ah) comes from the Latin word "lux," meaning "light." It is most famously associated with Saint Lucia (St. Lucy), a 3rd century Christian martyr who was revered for her faith and symbolized light and purity. The Name Day for Lucia is December 13th, which is also Saint Lucia's Day.



Långserum, Svenarum Parish – Where Lucia Mathiasdotter may have been born

Lucia's father Mathias Nilsson was of nobility and belonged to the Oxenstierna family. Mathias was very wealthy and owned numerous farms. Although Lucia's mother's identity is unknown, it's likely that she was of nobility also. Lucia had at least three sisters: Bengta, Holmborg, and Ingeborg.[119]

The Oxenstierna Family



The Oxenstierna family was one of Sweden's oldest families, which in the Middle Ages included numerous prominent figures such as councillors and chancellors. Its earliest known member is Nils in Långserum, who lived in Svenarum Parish. The Oxenstierna family's coat of arms, which shows a yellow shield with the red forehead of a bull with two horns, was first displayed in Gjurd Nilsson's seal in a letter from 1312. In German, *Oxenstirn* means "ox forehead." The members of the Oxenstierna family didn't start calling themselves "Oxenstierna" until the late 16th century.

[119] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The first king that Lucia probably remembered was King Magnus Ladulås, who reigned as King of Sweden from 1275 to 1290. His reign is largely remembered for his efforts to strengthen royal authority and implement important reforms that limited the power of the nobility. The nobility's view of Magnus's policy was mixed: while some applauded him for exempting nobility from taxation and elevating their status in Sweden, others disliked him for his efforts to strengthen royal authority. Lucia's father Mathias Nilsson likely supported the reign of Magnus Ladulås, as Magnus strengthened the position of the Swedish nobility by securing their privileges and granting tax exemptions.

The Reign of Magnus Ladulås (1275-1290)

Magnus Ladulås (also known as Magnus Birgersson) was born around 1240. His father was Birger Jarl and his mother was Ingeborg Eriksdotter. In 1275, he rebelled against his brother Valedemar Birgersson, who was the King of Sweden. With the support of Danish forces, he was able to defeat Valedemar's forces at the Battle of Hova on June 14, 1275, and overthrow him as king. In July, Magnus was elected king at the Stones of Mora.



Bust of Magnus Ladulås at Skara Cathedral

Magnus is best known for his reforms and efforts to bring peace and stability to Sweden, particularly with regard to the rights and privileges of the nobility and the peasantry. In 1280, he passed the Alsnö Ordinance, which granted tax exemptions to nobles in exchange for their military service to the crown. This policy is seen as laying the foundations for Sweden's feudal system and solidifying the power of the nobility.

Under Magnus's reign, Sweden experienced relative internal peace, though conflicts with neighboring Denmark and Norway persisted. Magnus's foreign policy focused primarily on securing Sweden's borders and managing tensions with Denmark and Norway. He solidified his rule with the help of Danish King Erik V, but relations with Denmark remained strained. Magnus sought to balance power in the region by forming strategic alliances and suppressing local rebellions, particularly those initiated by his brother Valdemar, who sought to reclaim the throne. His efforts to establish peace treaties with neighboring countries helped maintain relative stability during his reign. Magnus's foreign policy was marked by diplomacy, but occasional military actions were necessary to protect Sweden's interests.

Magnus died on December 18, 1290 at Visingsö, an island in Lake Vättern, which was one of his royal strongholds. The cause of his death is unknown. He was buried at Riddarholmen Church in Stockholm.



Svenarum Church – Where Lucia attended church services growing up

Lucia came from a deeply religious family and her Catholic faith most likely served as the foundation of her life. Every Sunday her family attended Mass at Svenarum Church, which was less than a century old at the time. During the service, her family sat in a special pew near the front of the church, which was reserved for nobility. The service was conducted in Latin and usually lasted for a couple of hours. It included prayers, Scripture readings, and Holy Communion. During the service, solemn chants and hymns filled the church, often accompanied by the sound of the choir (usually made up of monks or trained boys). Lucia's family frequently donated large sums of money during Mass.

Lucia Matsdotter Reflects on Her Catholic Faith*

"For as long as my memory doth serve me, my life hath been firmly anchored in the devotion I bear unto our Lord Jesu Christ. In my tender years, I knew naught save the great mercy of our Blessed Savior, who shed His holy blood upon the cross for the salvation of sinful man. Oft did my dear mother Ingrid whisper to us of His wondrous deeds and the lives of the saints, who walked before us in grace and suffering. I was ever drawn to the tale of St. Lucia, whose name I bear with solemn pride. How she suffered for Christ, her purity unyielding unto death! I wouldst strive to follow her path, to be as steadfast in my devotion as she.

Our days were framed by the sacred rites of Holy Church. In Svenarum, where we would go to hear Mass, I felt the presence of God most near. During the holy service, we knelt in humble reverence, heads bowed, as the sacred mysteries of Christ's body and blood were consecrated before us. Our father, Mathiass, a man noble and devout, did guide our house in the ways of piety, offering both land and gold unto Gudhem Abbey. My sisters Bengta, Holmborg, and Ingeborg were also taught well in the ways of the Lord, though none could match Ingeborg's devotion. She was of such holy fervor, that she joined the sisters at Gudhem and in time became their abbess. In every waking moment, I felt the divine hand, guiding my life's purpose."

* A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Catholicism also played a critical role in Lucia's daily life. Growing up, her sisters and her probably spent the majority of their time together under the supervision of their tutor or governess, who instructed them on Catholic teachings and domestic duties for women.

A Day in the Life of Lucia Mathiasdotter's Childhood

When Lucia was growing up, a nun or governess lived with Lucia's family and served as the tutor for Lucia and her three sisters: Bengta, Holmborg, and Ingeborg. At the start of every day, Lucia and her sisters were led in Latin prayers, such as the Pater Noster (Our Father) and Ave Maria. After this, Lucia and her sisters were told a lesson from the Bible, lives of the saints, or Catholic teachings. During the mid-morning, Lucia and her sisters received lessons on various domestic skills, such as how to embroider, sew, and manage the estate's provisions and staff. Following this, the girls were instructed how to read simple Latin prayers and Swedish texts. During the afternoons, Lucia and her sisters had some time for recreation, where they have practiced music, engaged in courtly games, and listened to stories about religious saints or historical figures. After this, the girls were instructed in courtly manners, such as how to behave at social events, greet important guests, and perform their roles as noblewomen. In the evening, the governess led the girls through another set of prayers. Before going to bed, Lucia and her sisters engaged in quiet activities and prepared for the next day's schedule of religious devotion and practical learning.

The Catholic Church's feast days were central to Lucia's life, marking sacred occasions when the whole community would cease their labors to honor saints and holy events. These days brought the faithful together for special Masses, processions, and celebrations, strengthening their devotion and giving thanks for divine blessings.

Feast Days in Medieval Sweden

In medieval Sweden, feast days were special events in the Catholic calendar which were based around significant Biblical events (such as Christmas, Easter, the Annunciation, the Ascension of Christ, and Pentecost, or the lives of saints (such as Saint James and Saint Lucia.) Feast days often featured religious ceremonies, such as Mass and processions, where communities would gather to honor the saints and seek their intercession. They provided opportunities for communal celebrations, feasting, and various local traditions. For example, St. Lucia's Day, celebrated on December 13th, evolved from the feast of Saint Lucia, marking the beginning of the Christmas season and symbolizing light in the dark winter months. These occasions were essential for fostering community identity and reinforcing the Church's influence over society. Over time, as the Reformation took hold in the 16th century, many of these Catholic feast days were either abolished or transformed, but their legacy remains evident in Sweden's cultural and religious practices today.

The Marriage of Abjörn and Lucia Mathiasdotter (1290-1300)

When she was probably an adolescent, Lucia Mathiasdotter was betrothed to a nobleman named Abjörn[120], whose surname is unknown. Abjörn was probably born sometime between the 1250s to 1270s. Although no records of him exist, both of his sons Bengt and Gustav bore a chevron for their coat of arms, so he must have born one as well.

The Name "Abjörn"

"Abjörn" (Àh-byòrn) is a Scandinavian of Old Norse origin. It is derived from *Ás* (meaning "god") plus *bjǫrn* (meaning "bear"), thus translating to "divine bear" or "god-bear." It was a common name in medieval Sweden, particularly during the Viking Age and early medieval period, symbolizing strength, protection, and a connection to Norse mythology. Abjörn was likely used among noble families or warriors, reflecting its powerful connotations. In modern times, it is rare but occasionally used in Sweden. The name day for Abjörn is December 12th.

The Chevron Symbol

In heraldry, the chevron is a prominent symbol, often signifying protection, strength, or leadership. Its shape resembles the roofline of a house, symbolizing a person who has achieved great success or built something significant, such as a family legacy or stronghold. The chevron was frequently used by those who had demonstrated military prowess or who held a position of command.



Fact or Fiction: The Identity of Abjörn (Sparre)

Statement:
Lucia Mathiasdotter's first husband was Abjörn Sixtensson (Sparre av Tofta).

False: Abjörn Sixtensson (Sparre av Tofta) was a Swedish knight, councillor, and drots. He was the son of an unknown Sixten and Ingrid Abjörnsdotter. He was first mentioned in 1295 and died in 1310. He couldn't have been married to Lucia Matsdotter, since he was already married to Ingeborg Ulfsdotter (Ulv) with whom he had two sons, Nils and Ulf. It's possible that Abjörn Sixtensson (Sparre av Tofta)' and Lucia Mathiasdotter's first husband were first cousins and derived their name and coat of arms from Abjörn Sixtensson's maternal grandfather.

[120] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338 mentions Lucia as the sister of Bengta Mathiasdotter. This letter also contained the seals of Bengt Abjörnsson and Gustav Abjörnsson, which were of a chevron. Patronymic tradition tells us that their father's name was Abjörn. According to RA Str. Kam handlingar Vol. Häftet G 4 a 2: Västergötland, Jöns Bengtsson's paternal grandmother Lucia donated the farm Länghem in Länghem Parish to Gällstad Church in 1341. Since a good deal of evidence points to Jöns Bengtsson being the son of Bengt Abjörnsson (Patronymic tradition tells us that Jöns's father was named Bengt, they both had the same coat of arms, there is a generational difference in which the two lived, and they both lived in Västergötland), Lucia must have been Bengt's mother. Thus, Lucia must have been married to Abjörn.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Marriage Among Nobility in Sweden

In late 13th century Sweden, noblewomen were often married between the ages of 14 and 18. Marriage among the nobility was mostly a strategic arrangement designed to expand family influence, solidify alliances with other noble families, and secure wealth or land through dowries and property exchanges. These marriages were typically arranged by the parents or guardians of the bride and groom, instead of personal choice or romantic love. These marriages were often agreed upon between the families of the bride and groom when the bridge was still a child. Overall, marriage among nobility in the 13th century was a socially and politically significant event.

Lucia and Abjörn had at least two sons, Bengt and Gustav[121] and at least three daughters: Margareta[122], Ingrid[123], and Elena[124]. It's unknown where Lucia and Abjörn lived when they were married. They may have lived somewhere in Småland, since Lucia came from there. It's also possible they lived somewhere in Västergötland, since several of their children owned land there[125], indicating that Abjörn may have come from there. Since they were of nobility, they both owned numerous estates throughout Sweden.

"Lågfrälse personer med Oxenstierna vapen" by Hans Gillinham

"Lågfrälse personer med Oxenstierna vapen" ("Low-ranking nobility with Oxenstierna Weapons") is the title of the first chapter of the book *Atterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under Medeltiden* by Hans Gilliham (published in 1952). This chapter mentions several of the individuals from the Oxenstierna who bore the Oxenstierna coat of arms of a bull's forehead, including Lucia Mathiasdotter's uncle Gjurd Nilsson and her sons Gjurd Goth Torstensson, Bengt Torstensson, Nils Torstensson, and Håkan Torstensson. This chapter includes a footnote (Footnote 34) which shows the evidence that Lucia Mathiasdotter was the mother of Bengt Abjörnsson and that Bengt Abjörnsson was the father of Jöns Bengtsson, which is a record which states that Lucia donated the farm Länghem Parish to Gällstad Church in 1341. This record states that Lucia was the paternal grandmother of Jöns Bengtsson.

[121] For an explanation which shows that Lucia Mathiasdotter was the mother of Bengt and Gustav, see the Footnote 280 on the previous page.

[122] Since Margareta is listed as Bengt Abjörnsson 's sister in SDHK No. 4722 – August 24, 1341 and her last name is listed as "Abjörnsdotter," she must have been a daughter of Abjörn and Lucia.

[123] In SDHK No. 4728 – September 21, 1341, Ingrid is listed as the niece of Bengta Mathiasdotter, as well as the mother of Halstan Petersson. Since Halstan is listed as the nephew of Margareta Abjörnsdotter in SDHK No. 4751 – 1342, she must have been Margareta's sister, and therefore a daughter of Lucia. SDHK No. 4222 – February 10, 1336 shows that Halstan had a brother named Arvid Petersson whose seal was of a chevron, which must have from Abjörn.

[124] Elena is listed as Bengt's sister in SDHK No. 4729 - September 23, 1341 and her last name is listed as "Abjörnsdotter," indicating that she was a daughter of Abjörn and Lucia.

[125] Lucia and Abjörn's two sons Bengt and Gustav owned land in Fors Parish, Västergötland according to SDHK No. 5676 - October 9, 1348.

Lucia and Abjörn's lives revolved around the administration of their estates; overseeing agricultural production; managing their household staff; and fulfilling their duties within their community such as making charitable donations to the Church, hosting feasts and social gatherings, and supporting the Crown in military or political matters. They spent considerable time at their family estate, where Lucia managed the household, while Abjörn oversaw the management of lands and relationships with other noble families.

Near the end of 1290, King Magnus Ladulås died and he was succeeded by his son Birger Magnusson. Since Birger was only 10 ten years old at this time, the first twelve years of his reign were largely governed by Tyrgils Knutsson, a high-ranking marshal. Lucia and Abjörn likely had mixed feelings about Tyrgils Knutsson's regency; while the death of Magnus Ladulås brought instability to Sweden, they may have seen the regency period as both an opportunity and a risk.

The Regency of Tyrgils Knutsson (1290-1302)



Statue of Tyrgils Knutsson at Viborg, Finland

Following the death of Magnus Ladulås in 1290, his son Birger Magnusson became King of Sweden. Since Birger was only 10 at this time, Sweden's affairs were largely governed by Tyrgils Knutsson (also known as Torgils or Torkel) for the first 12 years of Birger's reign. Tyrgirls had been King Magnus Ladulås's Reich Marshal. While Magnus was dying in December of 1290, Tyrgils Knutsson was already a drots (or a high-ranking noble title equivalent to a Lord High Steward, who was second-in-command of the Swedish kingdom), and Magnus assigned him to serve as ruler of the kingdom after his death and to look after his wife and children. During his regency, Tyrgils Knutsson led the Third Crusade against Novgorod. In 1296, the Uppland Act was enacted under Tyrgils's regency, which was a legal code that consolidated earlier regional laws into a unified legal framework. In 1302, King Birger was coronated at Söderköping, and he subsequently ruled with much more authority over Sweden, ending Tyrgils's regency.

Sometime in the late 1290s to mid-1300s, Abjörn died.[126]

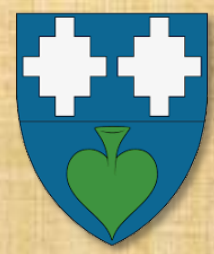
[126] Since Lucia must have been married to her second husband Torsten Vigolfsson no later than 1308 (their daughter Ingeborg was listed as a nun at Gudhem Abbbey in SDHK No. 3035 – October 20, 1320 and girls had to be at least 12 years old to become a nun), Abjörn must have died before then.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The Marriage of Torsten Vigolfsson and Lucia Mathiasdotter (1300-1320)

Shortly after the death of Abjörn, Lucia Mathiasdotter was married to a nobleman named Torsten Vigolfsson.[127] Torsten was probably born during the 1260s or 1270s. There's no evidence that he was married previously or had any children before his marriage to Lucia. He had an old brother named Håkan, who was a canon in Linköping and a provost in Njudung.

Torsten Vigolfsson's Coat of Arms



Torsten Vigolfsson's coat of arms was a blue shield with two sets of white squares on top and an upside-down green leaf. His children bore the Oxenstierna coat of arms of a bull's forehead with horns, indicating that the Oxenstierna family were more prominent than the family he came from.

The Wedding of Torsten Vigolfsson and Lucia Mathiasdotter

The candles flickered softly inside of Svenarum Church, casting a warm glow over the stone walls as Lucia Mathiasdotter stood before the altar. Her first husband, Abjörn, had passed away not long ago, leaving her heart heavy. Today, however, she was marrying Torsten Vigolfsson, a nobleman whose presence offered her a new future. Dressed in a gown of deep blue, embroidered with golden threads, Lucia's veil was pinned in place by a silver circlet, a sign of her nobility. The scent of incense filled the air as the priest, speaking in Latin, blessed the union with a gravity that Lucia felt deeply.

Though the prayers were foreign to Lucia's ears, their solemn tone was clear. She glanced at her sisters, Bengta, Holmborg, and Ingeborg, seated nearby, their faces calm but watchful. After the vows were exchanged, the couple moved to the estate Fallnafors for a grand feast. The long tables were laden with roasted meats, fresh bread, and mead. Torsten smiled as they shared their first meal together as husband and wife, the air filled with music from a nearby minstrel. The wedding united not just two hearts but two noble houses, securing their place in Sweden's tapestry.

* A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT

[127] There is an indirect line of evidence that shows that Torsten Vigolfsson was Lucia's second husband. Torsten is first mentioned in SDHK No.1554 - March 3, 1292 where he received the farm Fallnafors from Gjurd Petersson. He is listed as living at Fallnafors in SDHK No. 2182 - February 13, 1307. A girl named Ingeborg Torstensdotter from Fallnafors is listed as a nun at Gudhem Abbey in SDHK 3035 No. - October 25, 1325. Since her last name was "Torstensdotter" and she came from Fallnafors, she must have been Torsten Vigolfsson's daughter. Since SDHK 4441, September 11, 1338 states that the Ingeborg was a niece of Bengta Mathiasdotter, Lucia's sister and no records show that Lucia's other sisters had children, Lucia must have been Ingeborg Torstensdotter's mother. Thus, Torsten Vigolfsson must have been Lucia's second husband.

After Lucia was married to Torsten, she lived with him at the estate Fallnafors in Malmbäck Parish, Småland, which Torsten purchased from Gjurd Petersson on March 3, 1292 in exchange for the farms Vigolfstorp, Svenshult with a mill; part of the forest "Wethebärgshult;" twelve cows and oxen; twelve goats and sheep; five mattresses with ten linens; four silken cloths; four benches; two curtains; seven shillings of grain as well as various household utensils (barrels, barrels, kettles, axes, scythes, etc.)[128]



Fallnafors, Malmbäck Parish – Where Lucia Mathiasdotter and Torsten Vigolfsson lived in the 1300s and 1310s



Letter that mentions Torsten Vigolfsson – March 3rd, 1292
Seals: 1. Abbot Ingemar in Nydala 2. Canon Håkan in Linköping 3. Vicar Ormulfs
4. and 5. Missing (belonged to Priest Culstan of Linogum and Torkil Ysakson)

[128] SDHK No. 1554 - March 3, 1292

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription:

(Latin)

Uniuersis presentes inspecturis frater Jngimarus abbas nouewallis haquinus canonicus lincopensis ormolfus rector ecclesie de malbæc & culstanus presbiter de linogum salutem in domino sempiternam.
Tenore presencium declaramus quod in precencia nostra constitute Thorstanus wigholfi sun & gyurdo petri sun inter se cambium fecerunt prediorum in hunc modum
uidelicet dictus gyurdo predia sua fallandafors vna cum molendino suo ibidem &omnibus attinenciis, prope uel remotis, & breuiter quicquid possedit ibidem iure dominij in dictum
thorstanum transtulit ita quod nichil penitus excipiebat jdem uero thorstanus curiam suam wigholfstorp cum omnibus attinenciis gyurdoni dimisit hoc excepto quod ex parte aquilonari ipsum predium
situm inter curiam & quendam riwlum decurrentem iuxta quondam pontem lapideum vbi primo siccum humido occurrit, & exinde ad quandam pinum in parte suprema decisam
uersus orientem eidem curie attineat, & ibi terminetur dominium & proprietas illius, preterea omnia mobilia huius curie ipse thorstanus eidem gyudoni addidit hec que secuntur, duodecim
uaccas & boues I. vectigal, capras & oues XII:cim V:que culcidras cum X. lintheaminibus & IIII:or tapetis, & IIII:or banchalibus, Jtem duas cortinas, & VII:tem solidos anone & farine, & in super utensilia ut pote,
dolea lagenas kaldaria secures falces & falcastra, amp; breuiter omnium medietatem quorum uillicus qui fuit in curia medium optinebat, addidit eciam, dictus thorstanus, ipsi gyurdoni totum
predium quod possedit in swenshult vna cum molendino ibidem, & quodam predio ibi eciam ad vsum molendini empto, & partem suam inquadam silua que dicitur wethebærghshult, ad hec
omnia adiecit & persoluit supradictus thorstanus eidem gyurdoni, X:cem marchas usualis monete, Datum anno domini, M°,CC°, nonagesimo secundo, V°, nonas marcij contractum autem huiusmodi
tali pena ualauerunt, ut quicumque ipsorum illum infringeret alteri in sui penam absque omni gracia XXX:ta marchas denariorum teneretur & deberet modis omnibus exhibere,
Jn cujus rei euidenciam & fidem firmiorem sigilla nostra & sigillum thorchilli ysac son nunc prolocutoris prouincie, presentibus duximus apponenda, Actum ut supra.

Translation:

[To] all who are to inspect the present writing, we, brother Ingmar (abbot of Nydala), Håkan (canon of Linköping), Ormulf (rector of Malmbäck), and Culstan (priest of Linogum), [wish] eternal salvation in the Lord. By the contents of the letter we declare that in our presence, Torsten Vigolfsson and Gjurd Peterson have made an exchange between themselves of goods, in such a way that the said Gjurd, by rights of the Lord, has transferred to the said Torsten his estate Fallnafors, together with its mill and all that pertains to it, near or far, and briefly whatever he possesses by right there, in such a way that he retained nothing at all, but the same Torsten let go of his farm Vigolfstorp with all that pertains to it to Gjurd, except the property situated, from the northern part, between the farm and a certain stream running next to a stone bridge where the dry first meets the wet, and that he shall attain from there to a certain pine tree cut in the upper part towards the east to the same farm, and there shall the domain and his property end, apart from all movable goods of the farm. Torsten added to the same Gjurd the things that follow: twelve cows and oxen (in tribute); twelve goats and sheep; five mattresses with ten linens; four silken cloths; and four benches; two curtains; seven shillings of grain; and also utensils such as buckets, cauldrons, basins, axes, scythes and billhooks; and in short half of all of which the sheriff who was at the farm possessed. Said Torsten also added to the same Gjurd the entire property that he possessed in Svenshult together with the mill there, and also a certain property bought there for the use of the mill, and his part in a certain forest called Wethebærghshult. To all this said Torsten added to the same Gjurd and paid ten mark in the usual currency. Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1292, the fifth day before the Nones of March (March 3rd). The contract of this kind was confirmed by such a penalty that whoever infringed it on the other was, without remittance, to be held to a penalty of 30 mark denarii and would have to present it to everyone in every way. In evidence of this and firmer faith and we have brought our seals and Torkil Ysakson (the District Chief)'s seal, to be affixed to this deed. Acted as above.

Håkan Vigolfsson

Håkan Vigolfsson, Torsten Vigolfsson's brother, was first mentioned in Bishop Henrik of Linköping's will in 1283. In 1291, he was one of the three canons who were allowed to choose a new Bishop of Linköping. It's likely that he was much older than Torsten and had a different mother. Håkan's high-ranking social position probably contributed to Torsten marrying Lucia Matsdotter. He was present in 1292 when his brother Torsten obtained the farm Fallnafors. In 1295, he issued his will from Fallnafors, where he named himself as the provost of Njudung. In this will, he stated that an unnamed brother should receive his weapons and a horse after his death. Håkan Vigolfsson died sometime before 1300.

Lucia and Torsten had five sons Bengt[129], Nils[130], Håkan[131], Mathias,[132] and Gjord Goth[133], and at least one daughter, Ingeborg[134]. Since Lucia had children with Torsten and five children from her previous marriage with Abjörn, her and Torsten's household at Fallnafors must have been rather crowded.

Fallnafors



Fallnafors (Fáll-na-fors) is located approximately six kilometers southwest of Malmbäck Church. It's name likely means something akin to "fallen rapids." It was first listed as "Fallandafors" in a letter from 1292 when Gjurd Petterson gave it to Torsten Vigolfsson in exchange for Torsten's farm Vigolfstorp.

In December of 1305, King Birger and his brothers Duke Erik of Södermanland and Duke Valdemar of Finland had Tyrgils Knutsson arrested. Tyrgils was subsequently executed in February 0f 1306. Lucia and Torsten probably felt uneasy over this event.

The Coup Against Tyrgils Knutsson

Even though Tyrgils Knutsson had been one of King Birger's most loyal supporters, the vast amount of power and influence that he wielded threatened Birger, who conspired with his brothers Erik and Valdemar to bring about his demise. In December of 1305, Tyrgils was arrested by Birger's forces at his farm, Lena. During his arrest, he offered no resistance. Tyrgils's castle of Aranäs was soon after burned to the ground and Valdemar annulled his marriage to Tygrils's daughter, Kristina Tygrilsdotter. On February 10, 1306, Tyrgils was beheaded at Södermalm. Following his death, he was seen as a martyr and an altar was placed where he was executed. Following his execution, Birger lost his most powerful supporter, leaving him vulnerable to his brother Erik and Valdemar to rise against him.

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[129] Since Bengt Torstensson's seal was attached to SDHK No. 4441 - September 11, 1338, along with those of Bengt Abjörnsson and Gustav Abjörnsson, he must have also been a son of Lucia and Torsten.

[130] Since Nils is listed in a letter that Bengt Abjörnsson's sister Margareta wrote in SDHK No. 4751 - 1342 and his seal bears the same coat of arms as Bengt Torstensson in SDHK No.4441 - September 11, 1338, he must have been a son of Lucia and Torsten.

[131] Håkan, the canon of Sandsjö, is listed in SDHK No. 4751 -1342, a letter that Margareta Abjörnsdotter wrote and also mentions Nils Torstensson. Since SDHK No. 7138 – February 2, 1352 states that Håkan's surname was "Torstensson," he must have been a son of Lucia and Torsten.

[132] Since Mathias had the surname was listed as was "Torstensson" in SDHK No. 4751 – 1342, and he bore the Oxenstierna coat of arms, he must have been a son of Lucia and Torsten.

[133] Gjord's surname is never listed as "Torstensson," but rather as "Gotha" (a surname which he may have acquired as an adult) Since he is mentioned in two letters with Bengt Torstensson (SDHK No. 5675 – October 4, 1348 and SDHK No. 5966 – May 3, 1350) and one letter with Nils Torstensson (SDHK No. 4430 – July 24, 1338), most genealogists believe he was a son of Lucia and Torsten.

[134] Ingeborg is listed as Torsten's daughter in SDHK No. 3035 – October 20, 1320.

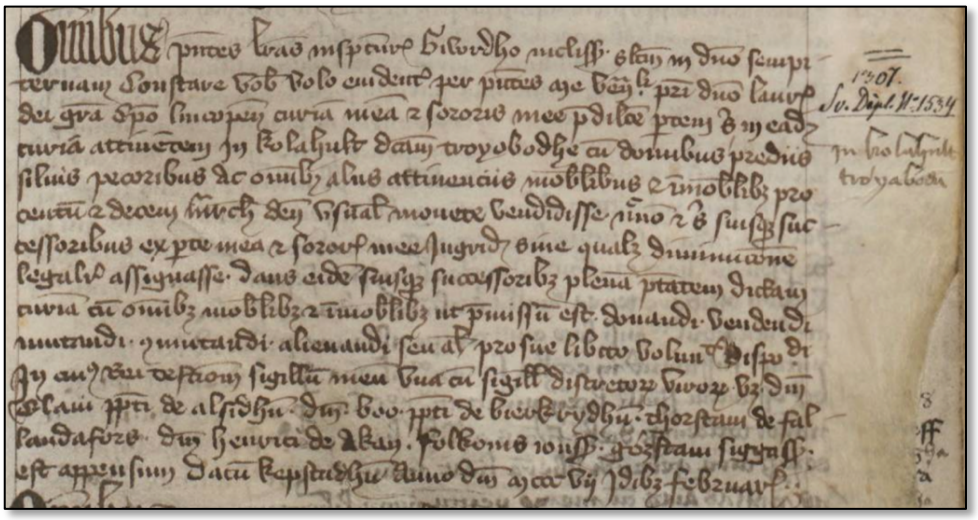
10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Less than a year later in September of 1306, the Håtuna Games occurred, in which King Birger's brothers Erik and Valdemar imprisoned Birger and took control of Sweden. Following Birger's imprisonment, Sweden was ruled over by Erik and Magnus. As members of nobility, Lucia and Torsten would have felt deeply uneasy about the Håtuna Games, viewing it as a dangerous moment that threatened the kingdom's stability and their own fortunes within it.

<u>*Håtunaleken* - The Håtuna Games</u>

On September 29 ,1306, Duke Erik and Duke Valdemar arrived from a wedding party in Bjälbo to visit King Birger at his royal estate Håtuna by Lake Mälaren. Birger was unaware of his brothers' machinations and welcomed them with great celebration. During the evening, Erik and Magnus's men captured both Birger and his wife Queen Märta. The dukes first traveled to Stockholm with Birger, but they weren't allowed inside by the bourgeoisie loyal to Birger. Following this, they imprisoned Birger in Nyköping Castle, where he remained until October 29, 1308, when he was released after agreeing to give two-thirds of Sweden to Erik and Valdemar. After Birger's release, tensions remained between him and his brothers, leading to further conflicts over the next decade.

On February 13, 1307, Torsten placed his seal on a letter that Lucia's uncle Gjurd Nilsson wrote which stated that he had sold his and his sister's estate Troyobodhe in Kolahult to Bishop Lawrence of Linköping Diocese. Torsten was listed as living at Fallnafors in this letter. This letter also contained the seals of Lord Elaus (the Curate of Alsidhum), Lord Bo (the Curate of Bjerkeryd), Lord Henrik of Akan, Folke Jönsson, and Gustav Siggasson.[135]



Transcript of a letter that mentions Torsten Vigolfsson in February 13th, 1307 from *Registrum ecclesie Lincopensis* (transcribed in 1534)
Seals: 1. Gjurd Nilsson 2. Priest Elof in Alseda Parish 3. Priest Bo in Barkeryd Parish
4. Torsten Vigolfsson 5. Priest Henrik in Åker Parish
6. Folke Jonsson 7. Gustav Siggesson

[135] SDHK No. 2182 - February 13, 1307

Transcription:

(Latin)

Omnibus presentes litteras inspecturis Giwrdho niclisson salutem in domino sempiternam Constare vobis volo euidenter per presentes Me venerabili patri domino laurencio dei gracia Episcopo lincopensi curiam meam et sororis mee predilecte partem sibi in eadem curia attinentem jn kolahult dictam troyobodhe cum domibus, prediis siluis pecoribus ac omnibus aliis attinenciis mobilibus et immobilibus pro centum et decem marchis denariorum vsualis monete vendidisse necnon et sibi suisque successoribus ex parte mea et sororis mee Jngridis sine qualibet diminucione legaliter assignasse. dans eidem suisque successoribus plenam potestatem dictam curiam cum omnibus mobilibus et immobilibus ut premissum est. donandi. vendendi mutandi. commutandi. alienandi seu aliter pro sue libito voluntatis disponendi Jn cuius Rei testimonium sigillum meum vna cum sigillis discretorum virorum. videlicet, dominj Elaui prepositi de alsidhum. dominj boo. prepositi de bierkrydhum. thorstani de fallandafors. dominj henrici de Akan. folkonis ionsson. gøzstaui siggasson. est appensum Datum kepstadhum anno domini M CCC VII Jdibus februarii.

Translation:

[To] all who will inspect the present letter, I, Gjurd Nilsson, [wish]eternal salvation in the Lord. By this letter, I clearly wish to confirm to you that I have sold to the venerable father, Lord Lawrence, by the grace of God - Bishop of Linköping, my estate and favorite sister's part pertaining to the same estate in Kolahult, called Troyobodhe with houses, properties, woods, pastures and all other pertaining things, movable and immovable, for one hundred and ten mark denarii in the usual currency, and that I have legally assigned to him and his successors, without any transferred goods, from my part as well as that of my sister Ingrid, giving the same and his successors' full powers to give away, to sell, to change, to exchange, to get rid of, or otherwise dispose of the said estate according to the wish of his will. As a witness to this, my seal is attached together with the seals of the upright men Lord Elaus (Curate of Alsidhum), Lord Bo (Curate of Bjerkeryd), Torsten of Fallandafors, Lord Henrik of Akan, Folke Jönsson, and Gustav Siggasson. Dated at Kepstad in the Year of Our Lord 1307 on the Ides of February (February 7th).

"Registrum ecclesie Lincopensis"

The "Registrum ecclesie Lincopensis" (Register of the Church of Linköping) is a medieval manuscript collection preserved at Riksarkivet (Sweden's National Archive). It contains a comprehensive record of the ecclesiastical activities of the Diocese of Linköping, one of the most important medieval dioceses in Sweden. The collection includes documents related to church property, privileges, legal decisions, and other administrative matters. These records offer valuable insights into the church's role in medieval Swedish society, particularly in areas like land management, donations, and relationships between the church and nobility. It's an important source for researchers studying medieval Sweden, the Catholic Church's influence, and the history of land ownership and governance during that period of time.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Since they were of nobility, Lucia and Torsten were probably the wealthiest and most socially prominent individuals in Malmbäck Parish. Every Sunday, their large family attended Mass at Malmbäck Church, where they sat near the front of the church.

Malmbäck Parish

Malmbäck (Málll-bèck) is a parish in central Jönköping, Sweden. It is 180 square kilometers, of which 177.4 are land. Malmbäck has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1292 as "Malbäc." Its name comes the prefix *"mal"* (meaning "coarse gravel or ore") and *"back"* (meaning stream), which means "stream by ore." The parish is mossy and consists of barren woodland and hills to the south. Malmbäck contains the southern Swedish highlands' highest point (Tomtabacken) at 377 meters above sea level.



The location of Malmbäck Parish in Jönköping County

Malmbäck has been inhabited since the Iron Age, with some burial cairns from this period and the Bronze Age found here. Prior to 1866, it was part of Tveta District. In 2016, Malmbäck District was established. As of 2000, the population of Malmbäck was 1,717.

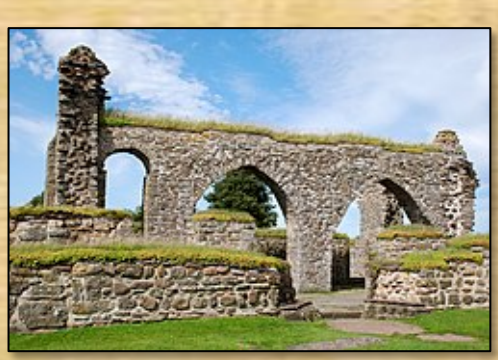
From 1308 to 1310, two political events occurred which brought stability to Sweden, likely to the relief of Lucia and Torsten. On October 29, 1308, King Birger was released from prison, after agreeing to relinquish control of two thirds of Sweden to Erik and Valdemar. For Lucia and Torsten, Birger's return could have represented a return to order. However, given the internal conflicts and instability that had characterized Birger's reign, they might have also been wary of further unrest. A year and a half later, on March 22, 1310, the Peace of Oslo was signed, halting hostilities between Sweden and Norway.

Freden i Oslo - The Peace of Oslo

The Peace of Oslo was a peace treaty between Norway and Sweden that was signed on March 22, 1310 and confirmed the truce in Stenjö on March 12, which stopped the hostilities between the countries. During this treaty, the towns of Kungahälla, Varberg, and Hunehals were returned to Norway. Duke Erik was recognized as Norwegian heir to the throne should King Haakon of Norway die without a male heir. The betrothal between King Haakon's daughter Ingeborg and Duke Erik was also restored. In addition, a defense alliance was established between Sweden and Norway. This treaty put pressure on Denmark to also make peace with Sweden.

During the 1310s, Lucia's children from her first marriage with Abjörn reached adulthood. Some of them were most likely married this decade and left Fallnafors to live with their spouses and have children of their own. Sometime during the later part of this decade, Lucia and Torsten sent their daughter Ingeborg to become a nun at Gudhem Abbey.[136]

Gudhem Abbey



The ruins of Gudhem Abbey

Gudhem Abbey was a convent in Gudhem Parish, Västergötland that was in operation from 1152 to 1529. It was one of the oldest convents in Sweden, after Vreta Abbey (1100) and Alvastra Abbey (1143). Gudhem Abbey was initially part of the Benedictine and later Cistercian order. Prior to the Christianization of Sweden, Gudhem was a holy place of worship whose named signified "Home of the Gods." According to the saga, there were over 100 images of Thor at Gudhem in pagan times.

Gudhem Abbey was founded in 1152 when King Karl VII donated the royal estate of Gudhem Manor to the Abbey. During the 13th century, Gudhem Abbey was prestigious, as it was responsible for providing the pilgrims on their way to Nidaros with hospitality. Katarina Sunesdotter (c. 1215 – 1252) who was the wife of King Erik XI of Sweden, was a nun at Gudhem Abbey during her later years and donated her vast estates to it. In 1527, the abbey was confiscated by the Crown in accordance with the Reduction of Gustav I of Sweden. Two years later, the abbey caught on fire and burned down. Its ruins were excavated in 1928–1969.

Turbulence returned to the political arena of Sweden in 1317, when King Birger arrested his brothers Erik and Valdemar, who were later imprisoned in the prison tower at Nyköpingshus where they starved to death. Lucia and Torsten were most likely shocked about this event and filled with a sense of foreboding.

Nyköpings gästabud – "The Nyköping Banquet"

The Nyköping Banquet (Nyköpings gästabud) is the name given to the events that occured at Nyköpingshus in December of 1317, when Sweden's King Birger Magnusson imprisoned his brothers Valdemar and Erik in the prison tower at Nyköpingshus, where they starved to death. Birger had invited both his brothers to spend Christmas with him at Nyköpingshus in an offer of reconciliation. When the dukes arrived at the castle, Birger warmly welcomed them. On the night between December 10th and 11th, 1317, the dukes were arrested by a company of crossbowmen and confronted by their brother Birger, who informed them he was taking revenge for them imprisoning him 11 years previously.

[136] Ingeborg is listed as a nun at Gudhem Abbey in SDHK No. 3035 – October 20, 1320.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Following the deaths of Erik and Valdemar, many nobles and high-ranking officials were infuriated, seeing Birger's actions as a violation of the trust and cooperation necessary for stability in the kingdom. Shortly after this, Erik and Valdemar's followers led an uprising against Birger, which ultimately led him into exile and to relinquish the Crown and be succeeded by his nephew Magnus Eriksson.

The Uprising Against Birger

After the deaths of Dukes Erik and Valdemar, their followers gathered their troops to depose King Birger. Birger had no large army to rely on, but his 18-year-old son Magnus came to the rescue from Denmark. Realizing his hopeless situation, the king fled with Queen Märta to Gotland, leaving Magnus and the Danish soldiers left to defend the last stronghold, Stegeborg Castle. This castle was probably besieged from Easter till the end of August of 1318. Magnus was taken prisoner to Stockholm and executed in June 1320. Birger died in Denmark on May 31, 1321 shortly after hearing his son was executed a year earlier.

On February 25, 1319, Torsten Vigolfsson was mentioned for the last time when his seal was placed on a letter that certified that Eskil Nilsson had pledged half of his property in Blomdal to the monks in Nydala for 17 ½ mark of money.[137]



Letter that mentions Torsten Vigolfsson – February 25th, 1319
Seals: 1. Priest Bo in Sandsjö Parish 2. Torsten Vigolfsson 3. Johannes Sonesson

[137] SDHK No. 2914 - February 25, 1319

Transcription:

(Latin)

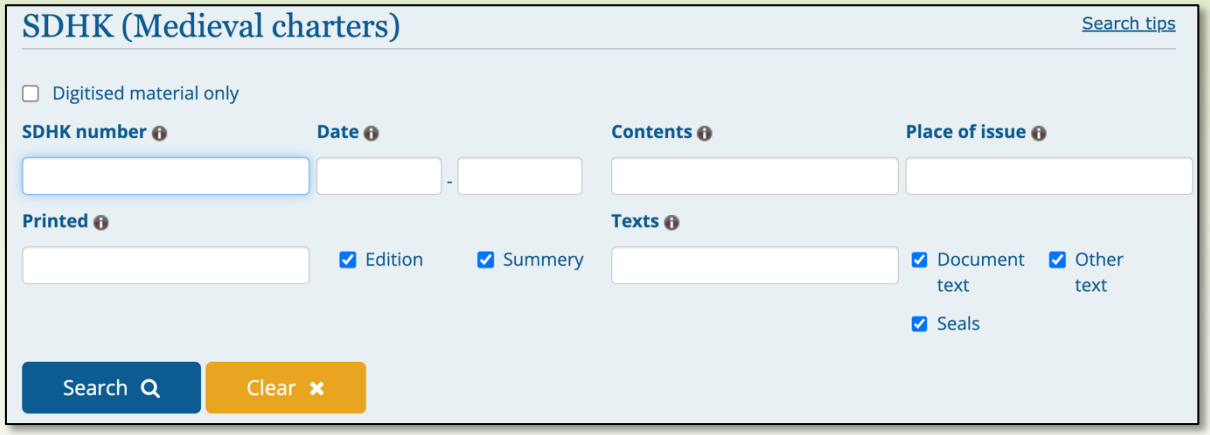
Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus, Eskillus Niclasson de sandwik salutem in omnium saluatore, Presenti littera protestor, et constare volo omnibus euidenter me dimidietatem predii mei in blomadaal, cum consensu dilecte vxoris mee, Religiosis viris, et discretis, domino abbati et monachis Noue wallis, pro decem et septem marchis denariorum, cum dimidia, inpignorasse, hac condicione apposita, quod si dicta medietas dictj predii, jn festo sancti Olawi per me redempta non fuerit, Extunc ad dictos monachos et eorum monasterium pertineat in perpetuum pleno iure, Nisi ex aliqua occasione alia, ex dictis monachis coram testibus fidedignis, inducias habuero longiores, Jn quorum Euidenciam, quia siggillum proprium non habuj, siggillum domini Boecij prepositi de sanz-sio, cum siggillis discretorum virorum, Thorstani wigholfsson, et johannis sonason, presenti littere sunt appensa, Scriptum anno dominj, millesimo, trecentesimo, nono decimo, Jn prima dominica quadragesime.

Translation:

[To] all those who see the present writing, I, Eskil Nilsson of Sandvik, [wish] salvation in the Savior. By the present letter, I declare and I wish to make fully clear to everyone that I have, with the consent of my beloved wife, pawned half of my property in Blomdal, to the religious and upright men, the Lord abbot and monks of Nydala, for seventeen and a half mark denarii on the condition that if the said half of the said property has not been redeemed by me by the feast of Saint Olaf, from that time it will belong to the said monks and their monastery with full rights forever, unless I, from another circumstance, shall have a longer extension from the said monks before trustworthy witnesses. In evidence of this, since I do not have my own seal, the seal of the lord Boethius (Curate of Sandsjö), together with the seals of the upright men Torsten Vigolfsson and John Sunesson, are affixed to this letter. Written in the Year of Our Lord 1319, on the first Sunday of Lent (February 25th).

Finding Letters in the SDHK Collection

Riksarvkiet's SDHK collection of medieval letters can be accessed online at https://sok.riksarkivet.se/sdhk. You can enter the SDHK number to view the letter with that code, search for letters by date range, and search for letters with specific terms (such as a person or place). When searching for people, it sometimes helps to search for variants of that person's name.



Search fields for the SDHK Collection

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The Fate of Gustav Abjörnsson (Sparre)

Lucia Mathiasdotter and Abjörn's son Gustav Abjörnsson was probably married during the 1330s or 1340s. The identity of his wife is unknown. He had at least one son named Mats.[138]

Children of Gustaf Abjörnsson (Sparre)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Mats	1330s-1350s	Unknown	1419	Unknown

Mats Gustavsson (Sparre)

Mats Gustavsson, Gustav Abjörnsson's only known son, was a Swedish landowner, knight, councilor, and governor of Vedbo in northern Småland. He was probably born sometime in the 1340s or early 1350s. He was first married to Birgitta Magnusdotter (Aspenäsätten), from who he acquired the farm Edshult in Södra Vedbo District that he lived at for a period of time.

In the early 1370s, Mats became involved in a feud with Gottskalk Falkdal, the Bishop of Linköping Diocese, who was known to assert the church's right to triennial tithes of the nobles' landed properties. On February 3, 1374, tensions came to a head between the two when Mats confronted the bishop in Linderås Church. Although Falkdal probably drew his sword first, Mats was a quicker swordsman, and slew the bishop after a brief skirmish. Mats was immediately excommunicated from the Church. To atone for his crime, Mats was forced to establish a prebend in Linköping Cathedral for Bishop Falkdal's soul. He was also sentenced by the court to pay 400 Swedish mark to the church to atone for the crime. After this crime, Mats changed his coat of arms from an upright chevron to an upside-down chevron.



Mats Gustavsson's coat of arms after 1374

Since Mats Gustavsson was unable to raise enough money to pay the fee of 400 Swedish mark, he sold most of his property. On December 11, 1376, he pledged all his farms to the new Bishop of Linköping. He became indebted to several people in order to raise funds. On June 11, 1410, Mats married his second wife Brita Halstensdotter. Near the end of his life, Mats served as a Swedish councilor and the governor of Vedbo. Mats died sometime in 1419.

[138] Patronymic tradition tells us that Mats's father's name was Gustav and both of the two bore the chevron as their coat of arms. Since Mats was listed as acquiring several farms from Håkan Torstensson SDHK 10919 – December 11, 1376, he must have had a close relation to Håkan. Since SDHK No. 7138 – February 2, 1352 states that Håkan's surname was "Torstensson," he must have been a half-brother of Gustav Abjörnsson and Gustav must have been Mats's father.

Mats Gustafsson Slays Bishop Gottskalk Falkdal

In the early hours of February 3, 1374, Linderås Church stood silent, its wooden walls cold beneath the gray skies. Inside, the air was tense as Mats Gustavsson, a young nobleman with fiery eyes, strode down the aisle toward Bishop Gottskalk Falkdal, whose face was hardened with defiance.

"Mats Gustavsson," called the bishop, his voice echoing in the vaulted ceiling. "Dost thou come to honor the triennial tithes, or dost thou come to defy the will of the Holy Church?"

Mats halted, his hand resting lightly on his sword hilt. "Tithes, Gottskalk? Hath the Church's greed no bounds? I will not see my lands bled dry for the sake of thy coffers, nor shall I bow to such unjust demands."

Bishop Gottskalk's eyes narrowed as he stepped forward, a flash of steel visible beneath his robes. "The Church's claim is righteous. Ye nobles forget thy place. Thou livest in wealth because the Lord permits it, and ye shall give what is due. Stand down, or face God's wrath."

Mats's voice grew cold. "It is not the Lord I fear, but the ambitions of men like thee, who twist His words for their gain."

The bishop, sensing the heat in Mats's words, drew his sword. "Then let the judgment of Heaven fall upon thee, knave!"

But Mats was quicker. In a swift motion, his blade clashed with the bishop's. Metal rang in the sacred space, and within moments, Mats's skill proved greater. With a final thrust, Bishop Gottskalk fell to the floor, lifeless. The silence that followed was deafening.

Breathing heavily, Mats looked down at the body of Bishop Gottskalk. "The Church may excommunicate me, but justice has been served this day."

The echoes of that fateful clash would reverberate through the land for years, marking a moment of deep discord between nobility and Church.

* A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT

On October 9, 1348, Gustav and his brother Bengt wrote a letter stating that they had sold their farm Blackstorp and mill Sjundafors in Fors Parish, Västergötland to their nephew Halstan Petersson. Bengt and Gustav's seals were attached to this letter, along with the seals of Nicolas Turesson, Margareta Matsdotter, and Eringislonis Sunason.[139]

[139] SDHK No. 5676 - October 9, 1348

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Gustav Abjörnsson was last mentioned in a letter that was written by Pope Innocent VI on December 12, 1359. In this letter, the Pope stated that Nydala Monastery had complained against Gustav, Petrus de Morhult, and Clemens Radhosween for violating the monastery concerning certain farms, mills, lands, possessions, fees and other things. The Pope ordered the archdeacon to convene the parties and hold hearings in the case and render a verdict, which could not be appealed.[140]



Letter that mentions Gustav Abjörnsson – December 12th, 1359
Seal: Pope Innocent VI

[140] SDHK No. 7630 – December 12, 1359

Transcription:

(Latin)

Jnnocentius episcopus seruus seruorum Dei dilecto filio .. archidiacono ecclesie Lincopensis salutem et apostolicam benedictionem . Conquesti sunt nobis .. abbas et conuentus monasterij Noueuallis Cisterciensis ordinis Lincopensis diocesis quod Godsta[u]us(a) Abiornason Petrus de Morhult et(b) Clemens Radhosween laici dicte diocesis super quibusdam curtibus, molendinis / terris, possessionibus, pensionibus et rebus alijs ad eos(c) spectantibus iniuriantur eisdem . Jdeoque discretioni tue per apostolica scripta mandamus quatinus partibus conuocatis audias causam et appellatione remota debito fine decidas faciens quod decreueris per censuram ecclesiasticam firmiter obseruari. Testes autem qui fuerint nominati si se gratia, odio uel timore subtraxerint, censura simili appellacione cessante compellas (d-) ueritati testimonium perhibere(-d). Datum Auinione ij Jdus decembris pontificatus nostri anno septimo.

Translation:

I, Innocent, Bishop (and) servant of the servants of God, to his beloved son, the archdeacon of the church of Linköping, [give] greetings and an apostolic blessing. The abbot and congregation of the Cistercian monastery Nydala of the diocese of Linköping have complained to us that the laymen Gustaf Abjörnsson, Petrus de Morhult, and Clemens Radhosween of the said diocese injured them over certain farms, mills, lands, possessions, pensions and other matters concerning them. Therefore, we commit to your discretion through an apostolic letter to, having summoned the parties, hear the case, and having heard the appeal, decide a relevant fine, seeing to that what you have decreed is firmly observed by ecclesiastic censure. Furthermore, if the witnesses who are named withdraw out of favor, hatred, or fear, you shall compel them, through similar authority and without appeal, to give truthful testimony. Given at Avignon, on the second day before the Ides of December (December 13th), in the seventh year of our pontificate (1359).

SDHK No. 6904 - September 7, 1355:

In SDHK No. 6904 - September 7, 1355, Gustav Abjörnsson placed his seal on a letter to certify that Nils Dannes (Bjelke), Bengt Bengtsson (the son of Gustav's brother Bengt Torstensson), Arvid Petersson (the son of Gustav's sister Ingrid Abjörnsdotter), and Tyko approved the widow Ramfrid's possession of the property in Vallby, Skirö Parish, which she inherited through her husband Karl Tykesson's will, as well as various other property. Gustav Abjörnsson's sister Ingrid Abjörnsdotter's son Halstan Petterson's seal was also on this letter.

It's unknown when Gustav Abjörnsson died. It's likely that he died sometime in the 1360s or 1370s.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The Fate of Ingrid Abjörnsdotter (Sparre)

Sometime during the 1300s or early 1310s, Lucia and Abjörn's daughter Ingrid was married to a man named Peter Wirzske.[141] Ingrid had at least two sons with Peter, Halstan and Arvid.[142]

Children of Peter Wirzske and of Ingrid Abjörnsdotter (Sparre)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Halstan	Late 1300s or 1310s	Unknown	After 1344	Unknown
Arvid	Late 1300s or 1310s	Unknown	After 1344	Unknown

Did Ingrid and Peter Wirzske Have Other Children?

It's very likely that Ingrid Abjörnsdotter had other children with Peter Wirzske. According to SDHK No. 10709 - July 20, 1375, a woman named Ingegerd Petersdotter donated a cabin to Halstan Petersson and her brother Nils Petersson attached his seal to the letter. SDHK No. 13095 – May 13, 1386 states that Gunne Petersson acquitted Halstan of murdering a man named Jon Petersson. Since patronymic tradition tells us that Ingegerd, Nils, Gunne, and Jon's father was named "Peter," it's possible their father was Peter Wirzske.

Arvid Petterson's Coat of Arms

Several seals in letters which Arvid Petterson was mentioned show that his coat of arms was a chevron. Since Ingrid's surname is never stated in any of the letters that she is mentioned in, this is the only way that we know that she was a daughter of Abjörn (whose coat of arms was also a chevron), and not Torsten Vigolfsson.



Arvid Petersson's seal from February 10, 1336

[141] Since SDHK No. 4728 - September 21, 1341 states that the property that Ingrid inherited from her aunt Bengta was to be given to Halstan, he must have been Ingrid's son. SDHK No. 14977 - July 26, 1398 states that Halstan's father was named Peter Wirzske, so he must have been Ingrid's first husband. Since Halstan was mentioned in SDHK No. 3651 August 24, 1329, he must have been at least 18 years old at the time, meaning the latest he could have been born was 1311. Thus, Ingrid must have married Peter shortly before this.

[142] Since SDHK No. 4728 - September 21, 1341 implies that Halstan was Ingrid's son and SDHK No. 3651 - August 24, 1329 states that Arvid Petterson was Halstan's brother, Arvid must have also been a son of Ingrid and her first husband.

Halstan Petterson



Halstan Petersson's coat of arms

Halstan's Petterson was born sometime during the late 1300s or early 1310s. His coat of arms consisted of a red shield with a split yellow lily. It's likely that his father Peter Wirzske also had this same coat of arms. He was first mentioned in a letter from 1329. He served as the fiduciary for King Magnus Eriksson, who often rewarded Halstan's service by giving him various farms. Throughout his life, Halstan acquired numerous farms and became quite wealthy. The last confirmed letter of Halstan is from 1398.

Letters that Mention Halstan Petersson (1329 - 1340)

- **SDHK No. 3651 - August 24, 1329 at Stockholm:** Halstan Petersson exchanges his estates in Angsjöboda and Halsnäs with his brother Arvid Petersson for his estates in Förryda and Hornaryd. This letter contained the seals of Sune Jonsson, Peter Jonsson, Matheus Abjörnsson, and Halstan Petersson.
- **SDHK No. 3899 - July 17, 1332:** The knight Greger Magnusson, Puko Glysing, Halstan Petersson, and Amundus Finvidsson acknowledge that they, on behalf of the king, bought an armored horse from Ulf Abjörnsson and Gustav Nilsson for 80 mark of silver, Cologne weight, or 400 mark of money, undertaking to pay the said sum no later than on January 6, 1333.
- **SDHK No. 4212 - January 16, 1336 at Varberg:** King Magnus gives Halstan Petersson the king's share in Körningsven and Sållaretorp.
- **SDHK No. 4222- February 10, 1336:** Arvid Petersson leases his estate in Fallonge to the knight Gustav Nilsson. Halstan Petersson's seal is used to certify this letter.
- **SDHK No. 4326 - March 6, 1337 at Lyngsås:** Gustav Nilsson exchanges his estates in Asa with Lanafors mill, Langryd, Stockaryd and Granhult to Halstan Petersson for estates in Ulversta.
- **SDHK No. 4360 - September 14, 1337 at Västervik:** Peter Jonsson sells his estates in Kolshult, Ernilsmåla, "Hiorsioryd," "Lesryd," Stångsmåla and Getås to Halstan Petersson. Sune Jonsson, Ulf Abjörnsson Peter Jonsson place their seals on this letter.
- **SDHK No. 4404 - April 25, 1338 at Skänninge:** King Magnus gives to Halstan Petersson estates in Gäddugöl, Svarthövdaryd, Ulfsmåla, Eringisleboda and Bruddemåla for his faithful service.
- **SDHK No. 4618 - September 6, 1340:** The knight Ulf Abjörnsson authorizes Halstan Petersson to, according to Tiohärad's law, take from the knight Nils Dannäs the estates in Rottne that Ulf received from the king.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Letters that Mention Halstan Petersson (1340 - 1352)

- **SDHK No. 4636 - November 23, 1340:** Guttorm Tureson sells a farm in Östra Asa to Halstan Petersson for 80 mark in new Swedish money. Sven Fadersson, Nils Abjörnsson and Guttorm Tureson place their seals on the letter.
- **SDHK No. 4681 - March 23, 1341:** Jon Bengtsson pledges his goods in Östra Asa for 60 mark to Halstan Petersson, which had been pledged to Guttorm Turesson for the same amount.
- **SDHK No. 4722 - August 24, 1341:** Margareta Abjörnsdotter sells her share of the farm Berg in Fråstad to her relative Halstan Petersson.
- **SDHK No. 4728 - September 2, 1341:** Olof Gren commits to, before November 11th, according to the Västgötalagen, to transferring to Halstan Petersson all the estates that Håkan Bardsson's wife Ingrid had inherited in Fråstad after her aunt's death.
- **SDHK No. 4729 - September 23, 1341:** Knut Sigvidsson sells to Halstan Petersson his wife Elena Abjörnsdotter's inheritance in Frestad, and as compensation for these estates and the estate in Halsås, which he sold to his brother-in-law Gustav Abjörnsson, gives his wife his larger and better farm in Yxnavalda.
- **SDHK No. 4767 - February 25, 1342 at Sandsjö:** King Magnus awards, after the previous survey, Halstan Petersson farms in Västra Asa, Stockaryd, Langsryd, and Granhult, as well as a mill in Lanafors.
- **SDHK No. 5676 - October 9, 1348:** Bengt and Gustav Abjörnsson sell to Halstan Petersson their property in Blackstorp and their mill Sjundafors in Flundre County in Fors Parish.
- **SDHK No. 5932 - March 7, 1350 at Fogelvik:** The knight Ulf Abjörnsson's widow Margareta Sunesdotter sells to Halstan Petersson her property in Fråstad for 40 mark.
- **SDHK No. 6296 - November 10, 1351 at Lödöse:** King Magnus awards Halstan Petersson one-eighth of the estate in Kilehult (Gärdhem Parish, Väne County), about which he disputed with Bo Hemmingsson.
- **SDHK No. 6376 - May 14, 1352 at Helsingborg:** Johannes Ekesson sells 1½ attung of land in Narveryd, Vallerstad Parish to Amund Hemmingsson. Amund Hemmingsson. Nils Turesson, Lars Karlsson, Halstan Petersson and Johannes Ekesson place their seals on the letter.
- **SDHK No. 6404 - July 12, 1352:** Björn Larsson issues a bond of 53 mark and 6 öre money to Halstan Petersson and pledges certain properties as security.

Letters that Mention Halstan Petersson (1352 - 1379)

- **SDHK No. 6513 – January 20, 1353 at Föreda:** Björn Larsson trades "Harokztorp" and Herrestad in Rappestads Parish (Valkebo District) to Halstan Petersson for Halahult (Älghults Parish, Uppvidinge District) and Höneskruvmåla and 50 mark in money. Thomas, Bishop of Växjö, the knight Nils Turesson, and Björn Larsson place their seals on the letter.
- **SDHK No. 6550 - April 19, 1353 at Rydh:** Folke Petersson in "Rythe" gives his wife Kristina Jonsdotter half of "Dyuraberghum" as a wedding gift. Aringisle Sunesson, Karl Tukesson, Lars Germundsson, Halstan Petersson, Nils Bengtsson, Magnus Håkansson, and Folke Petersson place their seals on the letter.
- **SDHK No. 6904 September 7, 1355 at Växjö:** Nils Dannes (Bjelke), Bengt Bengtsson, Arvid Petersson, and Tyko announce that they approved the widow Ramfrid's possession of the property in Vallby (Skirö Parish, Östra District), which she accrued through her husband Karl Tykesson's will. Halstan Petersson and Gustav Abjörnsson place their seals on the letter.
- **SDHK No. 6936 - December 20, 1355:** Nils Erlandsson enters into a land transfer with the knight Halstan Petersson, regarding goods in Förlösa Parish, etc. He exchanges Skyresås, Sirnås, Äspe common and Länghult in Sandsjö Parish for Medalby in Förlösa Parish, Halahult, Harskrufsmala, and Kutahult in Älghult Parish. Magnus Knutsson, Herr Håkan (canon in Linköping), Johannes Götesson, and Nils Erlandsson place their seals on the letter.
- **SDHK No. 7497 - December 24, 1358 at Berg:** Arvid Petersson assigns to honorable man Magnus Uddolfsson his farm in "Hålasio" and Åby mill in exchange for his farm in Ramkvilla and his hereditary castle after Håkan (probably Halstan) Petersson in Asa and "Åstmä" mill. Johan Brudsson and Karl Petersson and Arvid Petersson place their seals on the letter.
- **SDHK No. 10709 - July 20, 1375 at Lidhult:** Ingegerd Petersdotter donates to Halstan Petersson the cabin that she previously gave to an (unspecified) addressee as a church cabin because he did not want to use it and return it to the estate from which it was removed. Since the issuer lacks her own seal, the letter is sealed by her brother Nils Petersson.
- **SDHK No. 11466 - May 18, 1379:** Mats Gustavsson sells and leases in an open letter to an honorable man Halstan Petersson his property Källestorp in Norra Sandsjö Parish with all additions that he received from Folke Bryniulfsson for 25 mark. The issuer guarantees the assignment against anyone who may oppose it and disposes of the property to Halstan and his heirs in perpetuity. The issuer asks Sune, vicar of Sandsjö, and Brudd Bengtsson to witness and seal the letter together with himself.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Letters that Mention Halstan Petersson (1379 - 1398)

- **SDHK No. 13095 – May 13, 1386 at Bringetofta:** Gunne Petersson and Gudmund in "Syoarydh" declare Halstan Petersson free from further prosecution for the committed murder of Jon Petersson and a man in Jönköping, since Halstan, who is fined for this, handed over what he owned in the farm "Camstadha" etc.
- **SDHK No. 14977 - July 26, 1398 at Nydala:** Halstan Petersson transfers to Nydala Monastery the farm in "Lanxrum" in Svenarum Parish that his late father Peter "Wirzske" previously donated to the monastery.

Sometime in the 1320s or 1330s, Peter Wirzske died and Ingrid was remarried to a man named Håkan Bardson.[143]

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 4728 - September 21st, 1341

Transcription: (Latin)

Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus, Olauus dictus green, salutem in domino sempiternam. Nouerint vniuersi. quod obligo me per presentes fide eciam super hoc prestita corporali, ad disponendum et assignandum secundum leges terre Vesgocie, Halstano Pæthersson presentis exhibitori, omnia bona que Jngridis, vxor Haquini Bardson post mortem auuncule sue Benedicte nomine. in Fråstadha iure hereditario acquisiuit obligo me et per presentes ad premissa omnia, infra festum sancti Martini iam proxime futurum, integraliter exequenda. Jn cuius rei testimonium sigillum meum presentibus est appensum. Datum Anno domini. M. CCC. XL. in die sancti Mathei Apostoli.

Translation:

[To] all who see the present writing, I, Olof called the Green, [wish] eternal salvation in the Lord. May all know that I bind myself by the present letter and also, in addition, by a token of corporeal trust, that all possessions that Ingrid, wife of Håkan Bardson, acquired by hereditary right in Fråstad after the death of her aunt Bengta are to be given to Halstan Persson, the present exhibitor, to be arranged and disposed of according to the laws of Västergötland. I bind myself by the present letter to wholly carry out all the aforementioned, before the next feast of St. Martin. In witness to this, my seal is attached to the letter. Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1340, on the Day of St. Matthew the Apostle (September 21st).

Seals: Olof the Green

Ingrid Abjörnsdotter died sometime after 1341. It's unknown how she died, but she may have died in the Black Death in 1350.

[143] Håkan Bardson is listed as Ingrid's husband in SDHK No. 4728 - September 21, 1341

The Fate of Elena Abjörnsdotter (Sparre)

Sometime in the 1310s or 1320s, Lucia Mathiasdotter and Abjörn's daughter Elena was married to a man named Udd, whose surname is unknown.[144] She had at least one son with him named Johannes. Udd died sometime before 1341.

Children of Udd N.N. and Elena Abjörnsdotter (Sparre)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Johannes	1310s or 1320s	Unknown	After 1344	Unknown

On September 8, 1359, Elena Abjörnsdotter, her son Johan Uddsson, and her daughter-in-law Gunhild bequeathed to Nydala Monastery, where they wanted to be buried, all their property, namely three farms in Västhorja, Värnamo Parish for the salvation of their and their children's souls.[145]



Letter that mentions Elena Abjörnsdotter – Seprtember 8th, 1359
Seals: 1. (Missing) Elena Abjörnsdotter 2. Johan Uddsson 3. (Missing) Gunhild Olofsdotter

[144] SDHK No. 7594 – September 8, 1359 states that Elena had a son named Johannes Uddsson. Since patronymic tradition says that Johannes's father was named Udd, Elena must have been married to him. Since Johannes is listed as an adult in this letter, he was probably born in the 1320s or 1330s and Udd must have been Elena's first husband.

[145] SDHK No. 7594 – September 8, 1359

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription:

(Latin)

Jn nomine sancte et indiuidue Trinitatis. Patris scilicet(a) et Filii et Spiritus sancti amen. Nouerint vniuersi presentes litteras inspecturi, quod nos Elena Andbyørnædoter(b), Johannes (c) Vddæson(d) et Gunnildis(e) filius et nurus eiusdem Elene, plena ac integra tam mentium quam corporum gaudentes sospitate dum tempus habemus incertum mortis nostre aduentum per dispositionem bonorum nobis a Deo collatorum animabus nostris ipso Deo annuente profuturam, cupientes preuenire monasterio beate Marie(f) virginis in Nouaualle vbi nostras eligimus sepulturas omnia bona nostra videlicet tres curias, in Wæsthorgha(g) sita cum agris pratis pascuis siluis domibus ac aliis attinentiis suis vniuersis quibuscumque censeantur nominibus et quibuscumque situentur locis jn remedium et salutem animarum nostrarum ac animarum domini Haraldi decani et Magni Thorstanson(h) bone memorie necnon et animarum liberorum nostrorum ex vnanimi consensu et mera voluntate nostrum (i) omnium testamentary donationis tytulo damus legamus ac tradimus per presentes transferentes in dictum monasterium et abbatem fratresque(j) ipsius monasterii plenum proprietatis ius ac possessionis dominium dictas tres curias cum omnibus suis vt premittitur, pertinentiis possidendi permutandi vendendi ac alio quocumque(k) modo pro sue voluntatis libitu et ipsius monasterii commodo libere ordinandi ablatis nobis et heredibus nostris omni facultate et legum adiutorio ac alio quocumque adinuentionis ingenio iuris vel facti dicta bona seu curias siue earum pertinencias quascumque de cetero(l) reuocandi seu in posterum aliqualiter impetendi. In cuius donationis seu legationis testimonium ac euidenciam firmiorem sigilla nostra presentibus sunt appensa . Datum anno Domini M°ccc°L nono jn die Natiuitatis beate Marie virginis.

Translation:

In the name of the holy and undivided Trinity, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Let all those who will inspect the present letter [know] that we, Elena Abjörnsdotter, Johannes Uddæson, and Gunhild, the son and daughter-in-law of the same Elena, enjoying full and whole health both in mind and body, wishing to while we have time, anticipate the uncertain advent of our death, through a disposition of our goods given to us by God which, with the help of God, will be useful to our souls, for the remedy and salvation of our souls, the souls of the lords Harald Dean and Magnus Thorstensson of blessed memory, and also the souls of our children, by unanimous consent and free will, through the testamentary title of donation, we give, bequeath, and hand over to the monastery of the Blessed Virgin in Nydala, where we have elected to be buried, all our goods, namely three estates in Västorga with fields, meadows, pastures, forests, buildings, and all other things pertaining to them, by whatever names they may be considered and whatever places they may be located, transferring by the present letter to the said monastery and the abbot and brothers of the same monastery full rights of property and lordship of possession the three aforementioned estates with everything that pertain to them, as was mentioned earlier, to be possessed, exchanged, sold, or freely ordained in any way after the will and utility of the same monastery, all our power and that of our heirs and legal aid having been removed to recall or in some way impend in the future as well as any contrivance of forgery of the law or action the mentioned goods or estates or what belongs to them. In witness and firmer evidence to this donation or legation, our seals are affixed to the present letter. Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1359 on the Day of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th).

Sometime after Udd's death (most likely sometime in the 1330s) Elena was married to a nobleman named Knut Sigvidsson Ribbing. Elena had at least one son with Knut named Bengt.[146]

Children of Knut Sigvidsson Ribbing and Elena Abjörnsdotter (Sparre)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Bengt	1320s -1340s	Unknown	1388	Unknown

The Ribbing Family

Knut Sigvidsson came from the Ribbing family, which hailed from the province of Halland in southern Sweden. The Ribbing family's coat of arms consisted of a blue shield that had three yellow sea blades. According to unverified sources, the Ribbing family can be traced to the 9th century. The Ribbing family is assumed to be a branch of the Porse family that hailed from Denmark, since their coat of arms also included sea blades. The Ribbing family was first mentioned in a letter from July 23, 1295, in which a man named Sigvid Knutsson donated his farm in Halmstad to Nils Tynde. In 1302, this same Sigvid was denied his inheritance after his brother Arvid.

A nobleman named Sigvid Bengtsson who was a District Chief in Mark District in 1314 bore the same coat of arms as the Ribbing family, and therefore must have been a member of the family. He is assumed to be the father of Knut Sigvidsson and his tombstone at Värnhem monastery bore the Ribbing coat of arms.



The Ribbing Family coat of arms

The Swedish Ribbing family was first mentioned in the early 15th century. The earliest reliably established member of the current family is the District Chief of Mark District, Peder Ribbing (died after 1474). The family was introduced into Sweden's House of Nobility in 1625 as Number 15. Today, there are two surviving branches of the Ribbing family, the Ulfsnäs branch and the Österby branch.

On September 23, 1341, Knut Sigvidsson wrote a letter stating that he had sold his land in Fråstad to Halstan Petersson. Elena's brothers Bengt and Gustav, and brother-in-law Håkan Bardsson (the husband of Elena's sister Ingrid) placed their seals on this letter.[147]

[146] Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *Den Introducerade Svenska Adelns Ättartavlor*. 1925-36, Vol. VI
[147] SDHK No. 4729 - September 23, 1341

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 4729 - September 23rd, 1341

Transcription: (Latin)

Omnibus presens scriptum inspecturis vel audituris Canutus siguidson, Salutem the domino sempiternam. Notum Facio vniuersis, tame posteris quam modernistic, quod me recognosco Nobili Viro, ac discreto, Halstano Pætarson omnia bad nests, in Fræstadum, infra Sepes et extra, cum omnibus adiacencijs que vxor mea dilecta Elena abiornadotter, iure hereditario postmortem Benedicte sororis sue nostris acquisiuit, secundum iura et leges terre racione nobilium vendidisse, tali condicione prenominata case ° predicta bona ipsi Halstano Pætarson ac heredibus suis cedant perpetuo possidenda. by Me, vel per aliquos heredum meorum, minimizing reuocanda, seu aliqualiter redimenda, Jnsuper nouerint vniuersi quod Me recognosco pro Bonis predictis, Halstano Pætarson venditur [ie: venditis] necnon pro Bonis into Halsaas et [ie: eciam?] coniugis mee [a] MU per Gustauum Abiørnason fratrem eius emptis cum omnibus adiacencijs, curiam meam maiorem ac meliorem into ygsnawaldum cum omnibus adiacencijs, infra Sepes et additional iure hereditario postmortem Patris mei acquisitam legaliter ipsi Elene abiørnadotter, coniugis [ie: -gi] mee , racione discretorum persoluisse, Sibi ac heredibus suis, perpetuo possidendam, per me vel aliquos heredum meorum minimized redimendam Jn Cuius testimonium sigilla discretorum virorum, Fratrum vxoris mee, Benedicti et Gustaui Abiørnasøner et Haquini Bardason, VNA cum sigillo meo proprio presentibus healthy appensa. Scriptum Anno Domini M. CCC. quadringentesimo [ie: Quadragesimo] primo dominica proximal antenna Michaelem.

Translation:

[To] all who shall inspect or hear the present writing, I Knut Sigvidsson, greet with eternal peace in the Lord. I make it known to everyone, both those in the future and those in the present, that I certify that I have sold, according to the rights and laws of the land of the nobles, to a noble and upright man, Halstan Petersson, all those goods in Fræstad, within the hedges and outside, with all the adjacent properties that my beloved wife Elena Abjörnsdotter acquired for us by right of inheritance after the death of her sister (sic) Bengta, on such an already-mentioned condition that the aforesaid goods should be surrendered to Halstan Pætarson and his heirs to be possessed in perpetuity, or that they should in no way be revoked or in some other way recalled by me or anyone of my heirs. Furthermore, let everyone know that I certify that I have paid for the aforementioned goods sold to Halstan Petersson, and also for the goods of my spouse in Halsås, bought for me by Gustav Abjörnsson, her brother, with all the adjacencies, with my greater and better estate in Ygsnawald with all the adjacencies, within the fences and outside legally acquired by myself and by hereditary right after the death of my father to Elena Abjörnsdotter, my spouse, to and her and her heirs to be possessed in perpetuity, not at all to be redeemed by me or any of my heirs. In witness of which the seals of the upright men are affixed: my wife's brothers, Bengt and Gustav Abjörnsson, and Håkan Bardsson, together with my own seal for those present. Written in the Year of Our Lord A.D. 1341, on the Sunday before the Feast of St Michael (September 23rd).

Seals: Bengt Abjörnsson (Sparre)

It's unknown when Elena died, but she died sometime after 1359.[148]

[148] This is based on the fact she was still alive in 1359 according to SDHK No. 7594 – September 8, 1359.

The Fate of Margareta Abjörnsdotter (Sparre)

Sometime in the late 1300s or 1310s, Lucia Mathiasdotter and Abjörn's daughter Margareta was married to a man named Johan.[149] It's most likely that this was Johan Sonesson, who was mentioned in a letter from 1319 with Margareta's stepfather Torsten Vigolfsson.[150] It's unknown how many children she had.

Evidence that Johan Sonesson Was Margareta Abjörnsdotter's Husband

There's a good amount of evidence that shows that Johan Sonesson was Margareta Abjörnsdotter's husband. In SDHK No. 5004 – May 30, 1344, Margareta states that her late husband was named Johan. Johan Sonesson was mentioned in SDHK No. 2914 - February 25, 1319, which also mentioned Margareta's stepfather Torsten Vigolfsson. Furthermore, there are several similarities within the final testaments of Johan Sonesson and Margareta Abjörnsdotter. In both Johan's will from 1337 and Margareta's will from 1342, there are instructions that large sums of their money should be given to Nydala Monastery, Gällaryd Church, Gryteryd Church, and Svenarum Church. Taking all these coincidences into account, it's almost certain that Johan was Margareta's husband.



Johan Sonesson's coat of arms, which contains three lilies in a shield

On August 24, 1341, Margareta sold her share of the farm Berg in the village of Fråstad in Åsbräcka Parish, Västergötland to her nephew Halstan Petersson (the son of her sister Ingrid.[151]

Sometime in 1342, Margareta wrote her final testament. In this letter, she stated that she chose to be buried at Nydala Monastery. She bequeathed 60 mark denarii to Nydala Monastery, two mark denarii to Gällaryd Church, three mark to the curate, three mark to Norra Sandsjö Church, one mark to the priest of Villstad Church, one mark to the priest of Gryteryd Church, one mark to the priest of Almesåkra Church, and two mark to the monks in Jönköping.[152] This will shows the strong Catholic influence Lucia must have had on Margareta.

[149] Johan is listed as Margareta's husband in SDHK No. 5004 – May 30, 1344.
[150] SDHK No. 2914 – February 25, 1319
[151] SDHK No. 4722 – August 24, 1341
[152] SDHK No. 4751 – 1342

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Margareta also specified that two oxen, three cows, three measures of grain, and one prepared bed should go to her servant Swenon, thirty mark to her half-brother Håkan Torstensson, two mark to her brother-in-law Halstan, two mark to her brother-in-law Abern, one cow to her servant John, one cow to Halstan Långe, and half a mark to her servant Besca. To ensure that all of the instructions listed in Margareta's will were carried out, she wrote that if they weren't carried out within a year of her death, her estate Svenamo would go to the monks of Nydala monastery. Four of Margareta's half-brothers: Bengt Torstensson, Håkan Torstensson, Mats Torstensson, and Nils Torstensson placed their seals on this letter, as did Algot, the priest at Gällaryd Church.[153]



Letter that mentions Mats Torstensson – 1342
Seals: 1. (Missing) Håkan Torstensson 2. (Missing) Nils Torstensson 3. Mats Torstensson
4. (Missing) Bengt Torstensson 5. Algot, priest in Gällaryd

[153] SDHK No. 4751 – 1342

Transcription:

(Latin)

Jn nomine domini amen Ego margareta abiorna dottor licet corpore debilis tamen mente compos secundum illud apostoli diligenti et frequenti studio animaduertens quod oportet nos diem messis extreme operibus misericordie preuenire, Condo igitur testamentum meum et ordino in hunc modum Jn primis monasterio Noue vallis vbi eligo sepulturam confero sexaginta marcas denariorum Jtem ecclesie gelluryd duas marcas denar. curato tres marcas, Jtem ecclesie sanzsio tres marcas, Jtem ecclesie viuilstadhum vnam marcam sacerdoti ibidem tantum, Jtem ecclesie grituryd vnam marcam sacerdoti ibidem tantum, Jtem ecclesie almalsrsachrum(!) vnam marcam, sacerdoti ibidem tantum, Jtem fratribus jonacopie duas marcas, Jtem famulo meo swenoni qui mihi diu et fideliter seruierat duos boues et tres vaccas tres oras annone et vnum lectum paratum, Jtem domino Haquino canonico in sanzscio et fratribus suis triginta marcas quas frater eorum benedictus mibi soluere tenebatur, Jtem sororio meo halstano duas marcas et tantum fratri suo aberno, Jtem famulo meo iohanni vnam vaccam, Jtem halstano longo vnam vaccam, Jtem famulo meo bæsca dimidiam marcam Pro quibus omnibus supradictis curiam meam in swenamo infra sepes et extra cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in pignus pono tali condicione apposita quod si dicta curia infra annum resoluta non fuerit ab heredibus meis, tunc eadem curia monachis Noue vallis cedat iure perpetuo possidenda, Hvius autem testamenti mei et vltime voluntatis exequtores constituo viros discretos videlicet dominum haquinum canonicum in sanzscio et fratres suos Nicholaum benedictum et mathiam sub diuini interminacione iudicii firmiter prohibens nequis hanc meam ordinacionem audeat aliqualiter inpugnare, Jn quorum euidenciam sigilla discretorum virorum videlicet domini Haquini canonici de sanzscio, Nicholai torstænsson mathie, benedicti (sic), et domini algoti curati in gelluryd presentibus sunt appensa, Datum anno domini M° CCC° XL° II°.

Translation:

In the name of the Lord, Amen. I, Margareta Åbjörnsdotter, although weak in body, I am of sane mind, observing with diligent and frequent study, according to the word of the Apostle, that we ought to anticipate the final day of the harvest with works of mercy. Therefore, I give my testament and order it in this manner. First, I give to the monastery of Nydala, where I choose to be buried, sixty mark denarii; the church of Gällaryd two mark denarii; three mark to the curate; three mark to the church of Sandsjö; one mark only to the priest of the church of Villsta; one mark to the priest of the church of Gryteryd; one mark to the priest of Almesåkra Church; two mark to the brothers at Jönköping; to my servant Swenon who had served me for a long time and faithfully two oxen and three cows; three measures of grain; and one prepared bed, thirty mark to Lord Håkan, canon in Sandsjö, and his brothers, which their blessed brother is held to pay out for me; two mark to my brother-in-law Halstan and as much to his brother Abern; one cow to my servant John; one cow to Halstan Långe; and half a mark to my servant Besca. For all these aforementioned things I pledge my estate in Svenamo, within and outside the fences with everything that pertains to it, on such condition that if the said estate has not been dissolved by my heirs within a year, the same estate will go to the monks of Nydala to be possessed with perpetual right. Of this testament and of my last will I appoint as executors the upright men Lord Håkan, canon in Sandsjö, and his brothers Nils and Mats Bengtsson (sic), prohibiting firmly under divine warning lest no one dare in any way to attack my ordinance. In testimony of this are the seals of the upright men Lord Håkan (canon of Sandsjö), Nils Torstensson, Mats Bengtsson (sic), and Lord Algot (curate of Gällaryd), are affixed to this letter. Given in the Year of Our Lord 1342.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

By 1344, Margareta's husband Johan had died. On May 30, 1344, Margareta bequeathed 200 mark to Nydala monastery for herself and the soul of her late husband Johan. Margareta left her farm Svenamo as collateral. Ulf Abjörnsson (a knight), Vemund (a canon in Linköping and Växjö), her half-brother Håkan (who was a canon in Linköping), and Algot (the priest in Gällaryd Parish) attached their seals to this letter.[154]



Parishes in Jönkoping County whose churches Margareta Abjörnsdotter donated money to



Letter that Margareta Abjörnsdotter wrote on May 30th, 1344
Seals: 1. Margareta Abjörnsdotter 2. Ulf Abjörnsson (Sparre af Tofta)
3. Vermund, canon in Linköping 4. Håkan Torstensson (Oxenstierna) 5. Algot, priest in Gällaryd

[154] SDHK No. 5004 – May 30, 1344

Transcription:

(Latin)

Jn nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti Amen, Ego Margareta Aberni filia mente et corpore compos, attenta consideracione pensaris quod humane condicionis fragilitas, nil stabilitatis, nil certitudinis optinens, nunc aduersis depressa, nunc prosperis elata, inter mundanas varietates anxia fluctuat requiem querens quam in huius seculi campo inquietudinis pleno non inuenit nec in aliqua creatura, nisi in illum tota mente se conferat in illo mentis aciem figat in quo vera sunt gaudia et requies sempiterna, Volens in ipsum tam quod sum quam quod habeo referre et secundum sapientis consilium diem malam tenebrosi temporis precauere et horam mortis incertam secundum amministratam desuper graciam operibus quibus possum misericordie pre-uenire, vt ex hiis quibus me largitor bonorum et distributor honorum copiosa sue mere liberalitatis gracia honorauerat in hac vita, ipsum possim lucrifacere in eterna, in honorem suum et anime mee ac dilecti mariti mei Johannis bone memorie remedium testamentum facio, ordino, et condo in hunc modum, Primo monasterio Noueuallis ducentas marchas denariorum vsualis monete, confero in hiis scriptis pro quibus soluendis curiam meam suenamo titulo pignoris eidem obligo, ita tamen quod heredes mei infra annum continuum et diem, a tempore obitus mei ipsam curiam pro predicta pecunie summa, redimendi liberam habeant facultatem, alioquin ex tunc eadem curia cum domibus, agris, pratis, pascuis, siluis, piscariis, ac aliis suis pertinenciis quibuscumque, intra sepes et extra, longe vel prope positis, Mobilibus eiusdem curie dumtaxat exceptis, sibi cedat perpetuo ac irreuocabiliter possi-denda, transferendo in ipsum monasterium plenum proprietatis ius et possessionis dominium, prefatam curiam cum suis pertinenciis vt premissum est possidendi, alienandi, ac alio quocumque modo pro sue libito voluntatis ordinandi Jnterdicta mihi omni facultate hanc ordinacionem meam mutandi, cassandi, seu infringendi, eciam si aliud testamentum facere me contingat, Jn cuius rei euidenciam pleniorem sigillum meum ac sigilla dominorum vlphonis abyornason militis. Wemundi canonici lincopensis et wexionensis, Haquini canonici lincopensis necnon et algoti curati in gellarydh, ad instanciam et peticionem meam presentibus sunt appensa, Datum apud eandem curiam Anno ab incarnacione domini. M°. CCC° quadragesimo quarto, Jn dominica trinitatis.

Translation:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. I, Margaret, daughter of Abjörn, of sound mind and body, consider attentively the fragility of the human condition [which]obtains nothing of stability [and] nothing of certainty. Now [that I am] depressed by adversities, now elated by prosperity, hurry anxiously among the vicissitudes of the world, seeking rest which will not fully be found in the field of the restlessness of this world nor in any created being, unless it confers itself with all its mind to Him, fix the apex of my mind on Him in whom true joy exists and eternal rest. [I] wish to return to Him both what I am and what I have, and according to the counsel of the wise, to obviate the evil day of the dark time and the uncertain hour of death according to the grace administered from above by the works of mercy through which I can prevent it, so that I may, from the goods with which the benefactor of goods and distributor of honors have honored me in this life with the copious grace of his mere generosity, I may profit Him in eternity, for his honor and for the remedy of my soul and that of my beloved husband Johan of good memory. I make, order, and conduct this will in this manner: first I give in this letter to the monastery of Nydala two hundred mark of denarii in common currency for the payment of which I pledge my estate Svenamo by the title of pledge to the same, so that my heirs within a continuous year and a day from the time of my death shall have free power to redeem the estate for the aforesaid sum of money. Otherwise, from that time, the same estate with buildings, fields, meadows, forests, fisheries, and all other things pertaining to it, within and without the boundaries, placed near or far, except for the loose goods of the estate, will be given to them to be possessed in perpetuity and irrevocably, by transferring to the monastery full right of ownership and lordship of mastery the aforesaid estate with everything that pertains to it, as was mentioned before, to be possessed, given away, or any other way as may be ordained according to their will. My own power to change, abolish, or infringe on this ordinance is forfeit, even if I happen to make another will. In full witness to this, my seal and the seals of the lordships the knight Ulf Abjörnsson, Wemund (canon of Linköping and Växjö), Håkan (canon of Linköping), and Algot (curate in Gällaryd), have been affixed at my instance and petition. Given at the same estate in the year of the Lord's incarnation 1344, on Trinity Sunday. (May 30th)

It's unknown when Margareta Abjörnsdotter died, but she may have died when the Black Death ravaged Sweden in 1350.

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The Fate of Ingeborg Torstendotter (Oxenstierna)

Sometime in the 1310s, Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson's daughter Ingeborg was sent to Gudhem Monastery where she became a nun. On October 20, 1320, Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter, the widow of Duke Erik Magnusson, wrote a letter declaring that had bequeathed three farms that Erik had owned in Kvigeberg next to the Säve River to Gudhem for the services of Ingeborg.[155] Some historians believed that when King Birger had his brothers Erik and Valdemar imprisoned (and they later starved to death), he also had their wives imprisoned and young Ingeborg Torstensdotter helped Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter escape. There is no concrete evidence which confirms this, but it is very possible.



Letter that mentions Ingeborg Torstensdotter– October 20th, 1320
Seal: (missing) Ingeborg Håkansdotter

[155] SDHK No. 3035 – October 20, 1320

Transcription:

(Latin)

Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus, Jngiburgis dei gracia ducissa sweorum, relicta domini ducis Erici, Salutem in domino sempiternam Nouerint vniuersi quod nos religiosis dominabus abbatisse et conuentui sanctimonialium in gudhæm, intuitu et respectu seruicii domicelle Jngiburgis ibidem conuentualis filie thorstani de fallendæfoors quod nobis inpenderat, Damus et tradimus tres colonias, quas quondam maritus noster karissimus, dominus dux. E. [ie: Ericus] possessed in quuighebyergh iuxta ampnem sæuæ Damus inquam cum domibus, agris, pratis, paschuis siluis, ceterisque earundem pertinenciis intra sepes et extra pleno iure inperpetuum possidendas ablata nobis nostrisque heredibus omni facultate predictas colonias vllo vmquam adinuencionis ingenio reuocandi, Jn cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum Date wardhbyergh Anno domini Millesimo. trescentesimo vicesimo Die sanctorum Crispini et Crispiani.

Translation:

[To] all who behold the present writing, I, Ingeborg, by the grace of God Duchess of the Swedes and widow of the Lord Duke Erik, [wish] eternal salvation in the Lord. May all know that we give to the religious women, the abbess, and convent of nuns in Gudhem, in consideration and respect of the service of the damsel Ingeborg, belonging to the same religious house, daughter of Torsten from Fallnafors, that was entrusted to us, and transfer three farms, which once our most beloved husband, the Lord Duke Erik, had possessed in Kvigeberg near the Säve River. We give, I say, with houses, fields, meadows, wooden pastures, and other things that pertain to these within and outside the fences with full rights to be possessed in perpetuity, with all the power taken away from us and our heirs to ever recall the mentioned farms with any ruse of forgery. In witness of this our seal is attached to the present letter. Dated at Wardberg in the Year of Our Lord 1320 on the Day of Saints Crispin and Crispinianus. (October 20th)

Ingeborg Torstensdotter Helps Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter Escape

In the cold aftermath of Nyköping's Gästabud, young Ingeborg Torstensdotter prepared Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter for a covert journey from Axvall to Lödöse. Under the cover of darkness, they moved swiftly, avoiding main roads and taking hidden paths through the forest. By dawn, they neared Lödöse, and the duchess turned to her faithful companion.

"Thy loyalty shall not be forgotten," Ingeborg Håkansdotter softly told Ingeborg Torstensdotter, her gaze warm with gratitude."

* A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT

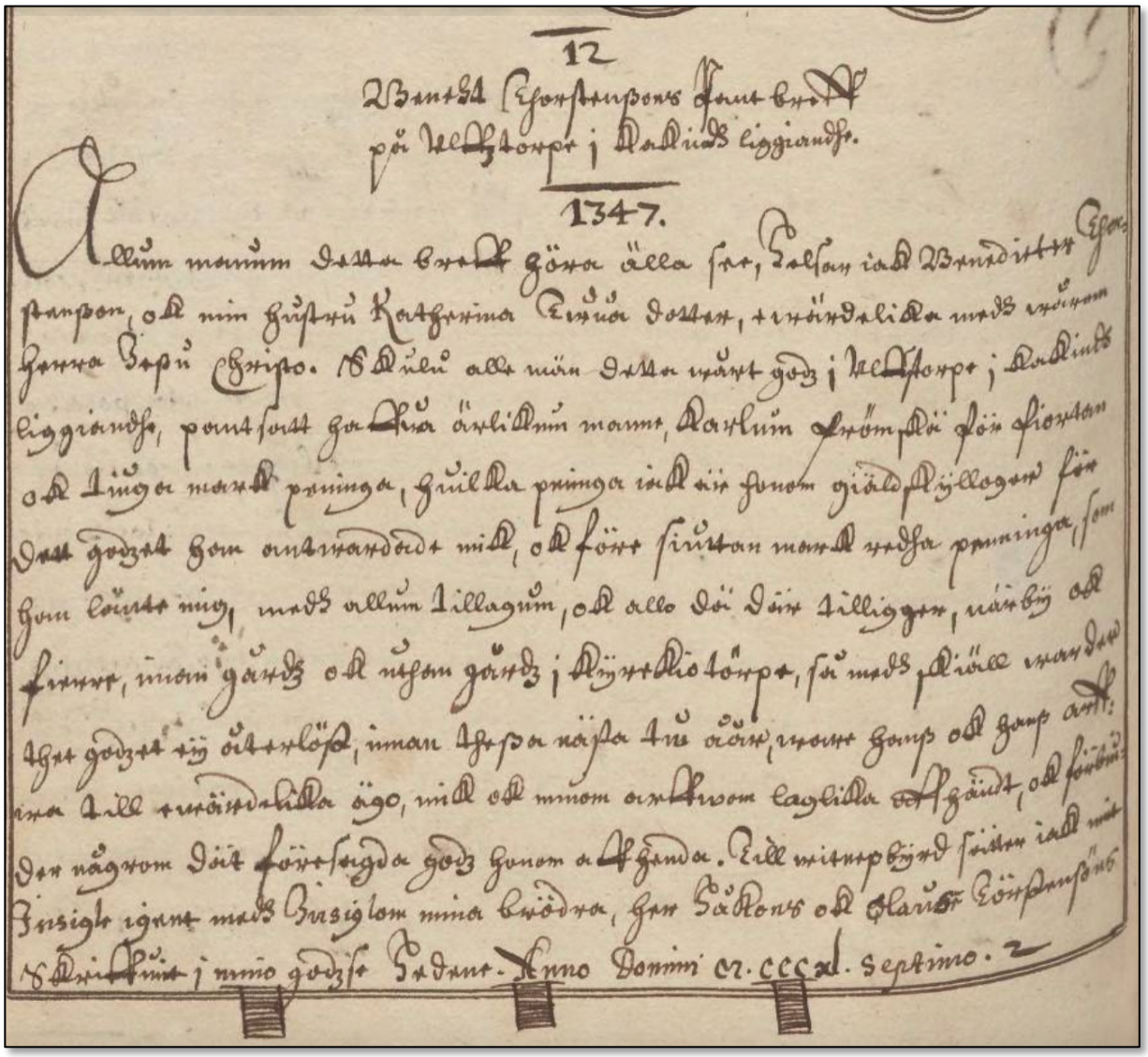
Ingeborg was last mentioned in a letter from 1338, in which her aunt Bengta Mathiasdotter declared in her will that if her sisters Holmborg and Lucia preceded her in death, then the money they would inherit would instead go to Ingeborg and Gudhem monastery.[156] It's unknown when Ingeborg died.

[156] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The Fate of Bengt Torstensson (Oxenstierna)

Sometime in the 1320s or 1330s, Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson's son Bengt Torstensson married a woman named Katarina Tuvadotter.[157] Bengt provided his seal in his aunt Bengta's will from 1338.[158] On May 13, 1344, Bengt wrote a letter stating that he had given his cousin Knut Gustafsson the right to redeem Kattekulla in Örby Parish.[159] By 1347, Bengt was living with Katarina at the estate "Hedene" (which is probably Hene in Norra Kyrketorp Parish, Västergötland). Sometime that year, Bengt wrote a letter stating that he had pledged his estate Ulfstorp in Kåkind District to Karl Frömske for 24 mark (which was the amount Bengt owed Karl for a farm he had given him).[160]



Transcript from Lars Sparre's Copy Book of a letter that mentions Bengt Torstensson– 1347

[157] SDHK No. 5375 - 1347
[158] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338
[159] SDHK No. 4999 - May 13, 1344
[160] SDHK No. 5375 - 1347

Transcription: (Latin)

Allum man[n]um detta breff høra ælla see, Helsar iak Benedicter Thorstensson, ok min hustru Katherina Twua dotter, ewærdelika medh warom herra Jesu Christo. Skulu alle mæn detta [d.v.s.: veta oss] wart godz i Vlffstorpe i Kakindh liggiandhe, pantsatt haffua ærlikum manne, Karlum Frømskæ før fiortan [d.v.s.: fiura?] ok tiuga mark peninga, huilka peninga iak ær honom giældskylloger før dett godzet han antwardade mik, ok føre siuttan mark redha penninga, som han lænte mig, medh allum tillagum, ok allo dæ dær tilligger, nærby ok fierre, innan gardz ok uthan gardz i Kyrckiotørpe, sa medh skiæll warder thet godzet ey aterløst, innan thessa næsta tw aar, ware hans och hans arffwa till ewærdelika ægo, mik ok minom arffwom laglika affhændt, ok førbiuder nagrom dæt føresagda godz honom affhenda. Till witnesbyrd sætter iak mit Jnsigle igent medh Jnsiglom mina brødra, her Hakons ok Olause Tørstensøns Skriffuit i mino godzse Hedene. Anno domini M. CCCXL. septimo.

Translation:

[To]all men that hear or see this letter, I, Bengt Torstensson and my wife Katarina Tuvadotter greet, forever with our Lord Jesus Christ. All men should know that our estate in Ulfstorp in Kåkind District has been pledged to the honest man Karl Frömske for 24 mark, which is the amount I owe him for the farm he gave me, and for 17 mark in money that he has lent me, with all that belongs to the estate, near and far, inside and outside the yard in Kyrkotorp. If the farm does not be redeemed within the next two years, the estate will belong to him and his heirs forever and taken away from me and my heirs, according to the law and I forbid all to take the estate from him. To witness this, I put my seal [on the letter] together with [the seals of] my brothers Håkan and Olaus Torstensson. Written at my estate Hedene in the Year of our Lord 1347.

Olaus (Olof) Torstensson

Bengt's brother Olaus (Olof) Torstensson that is mentioned in SDHK No. 5375 – 1347 is not known in any other letters. In "Ätterna Oxenstierna och Vasa under medeltiden," page 29 Hans Gillingstam writes that since this letter is only known from Lars Sparre's Copy Book B 15 in Riksarkivet and the copies are usually of low quality, Olaus was probably really Bengt's brother Nils Torstensson.

Bengt Torstensson was last mentioned in a letter from May 3, 1350, in which he placed his seal to certify that Andreas, the vicar in Svenarum, and Ormlög Ingemarsdotter donated their property in Vallsjö Parish, Västra District to Nydala Monastery. Andreas, Per Rumpa, and Bengt's brother Gjord Gotha also placed their seals on this letter.[161]

[161] SDHK No. 5966 – May 3, 1350

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm



Letter that mentions Bengt Torstensson– May 3rd, 1350
Seals: 1. Gjord Gotha Torstensson 2. Bengt Torstensson 3. Peter Rumpa
4. Andreas Uddsson, priest in Svenarum Parish

Transcription:

(Latin)

Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus Andreas, ecclesie Swidhnerum curatus, et Ormløgh Ingimarsdotter salutem in Domino sempiternam. Tenore presencium constare cupimus vniuersis, ad quos peruenerit presens scriptum, nos in remedium animarum nostrarum bona in Walsyo cum omnibus attinenciis eorundem, per nos post Nicholaum Knutsson acquisita jure hereditario, monasterio Nydal contulisse, vt dicti claustri abbas, qui nunc est vel qui abhinc fuerit, dicta bona pro suis vsibus disponenda habeat et suorum. In cuius legacionis signum sigilla virorum discretorum, videlicet Giurdheri Godha, Benedicti Thorstenson, Petri Rumpa vna cum meo proprio presentibus sunt appensa. Datum anno ab incarnacione Domini m°ccc° quinquagesimo die inuencionis sancte Crucis.

Translation:

[To] all those present who see the writing, we, Anders, the guardian of the church of Swidhner, and Ormlög Ingimarsdotter, [greet with] eternal peace in the Lord. We wish to make it evident to all the people to whom the present writing has reached, that we have contributed for the remedy of our souls the goods in Walsyo with all the appurtenances thereto, acquired by us after Nils Knutsson by right of inheritance, to the monastery of Nydala, that is the abbot of the said cloister, who is now or who was formerly, the said goods should be disposed of for his own and his own. In the sign of the legation, the seals of distinguished men that are Gjurd Gothe, Bengt Torstensson, and Per Rumpa, were affixed together with my own present [seal]. Given in the year from the incarnation of the Lord on the fiftieth day of the invention of the Holy Cross. (May 3rd, 1350).

Bengt may have died in the Black Death in 1350 or 1351.

The Fate of Nils Torstensson (Oxenstierna)

Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson's son Nils probably married a daughter of Bengt Hafridsson, who was a knight, Västgöta lagman, and member of the Riksdag. On June 25, 1337, he was listed as an executor in the will of Johannes Sonason, the probable husband of Margareta Abjörnsdotter.[162]



Letter that mentions Nils Torstensson – June 25th, 1337
Seals: 1. Nils, abbot in Nydala Monastery 2. Nils Torstensson
3. Bruderus de Kæridhom, priest in Käreda Parish 4. Algot, priest in Gällaryd 5. Johan Sunason

[162] SDHK No. 4342 – June 25, 1337

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription:

(Latin)

Jn nomine domini, amen, Ego Johannes sonason, licet corpore debilis sum et infirmus, tamen mente sanus sum atque compos, considerans fragilitatem humane condicionis, in salutem anime mee testamentum meum condo et ordino in hunc modum, Jn primis monasterio Noueuallis, ubi locum eligo sepulture, do sexaginta marchas denariorum, pro quibus inpignero eis curiam meam in Norhylto, in parochia svidhnarum, cum omnibus pertinenciis suis, mobilibus et inmobilibus infra sepes et extra, tali condicione apposita, quod si dicta curia infra annum ab heredibus meis resoluta non fuerit, tunc eadem curia ad dictum monasterium in remedium anime mee, cedat pleno iure perpetuo possidenda, Jtem fratribus in Eskilstunum, do, tres marchas, denariorum, Ecclesie Gellorydh, vnam marcham, denar., et curato ibidem Confessori meo confero capam meam blaueam duplicatam, Jtem Ecclesie in swidnarum, do vnam marcham, denar., et sacerdoti ibidem similiter, Jtem Ecclesie in grytorydh, dimidiam, marcham denar., et curato ibidem tantum, Jtem Ecclesie almarsacra, do dimidiam, marcham denar., et curato ibidem tantum, Jtem famulo meo swenoni, qui mihi diu et fideliter seruierat, confero prediolum in swidhnarum hultboabol cum prediolo dicto widhboabool, ibidem, et duos boues, tres vaccas, cum duabus oris annone, Jtem teneor Ecclesie swidnarum soluere tres oras denariorum, Jtem paulo condam famulo meo, do vnam vaccam, et thyrghillo eciam quondam famulo meo vnam vaccam, Huic uero testamento meo presentes fuerunt reuerendi viri dominus nicolaus abbas Nouevallis, et dominus algotus curatus in gællorydh, Exequutores huius testamenti mei constituo nobiles uiros nicolaum thorstensson, et dominum brudderum de kæridhom dilectum consanguineum meum, sub interminacione diuini iudicii firmiter precipiens, quod nullus heredum meorum bona mea post obitum meum, audeat aliqualiter subleuare, uel modo sinistro inpugnare, donec post annum exequie mee totaliter fuerint expedite), Jn cuius facti euidenciam pleniorem, siggilla discretorum uirorum domini Nicolai abbatis noueuallis, Nicolai thorstensson, domini brudderi de kæridhom, domini algoti de gellorydh, vna cum meo, peto presentibus appendenda, Datum anno domini M°, CCC°, XXX°VII°, feria quarta infra octauas corporis christi.*

Translation:

In the name of the Lord, Amen. I, Johannes Sonason, although I am weak and infirm in body yet I am healthy and composed in mind, considering the frailty of the human condition, for the salvation of my soul I make my testament and order it in this way. First, to the monastery of Nydala, where I choose the place of my burial, I give sixty mark of denarii, for which I pledge to them my estate in Norhyltan, in the parish of Svenarum, together with all its appurtenances, movable and immovable things within the fences and outside, on the condition that if the said estate has not been paid by my heirs within a year, then the same estate will be given to the said monastery, as a remedy for my soul, to be possessed by full right forever. To the brothers in Eskilstuna I give three mark of denarii; to the church of Gällaryd, one mark of denarii; to the curate there, my confessor, I give my double blue cape. To the church in Svenarum I give one mark of denarii, and the same to the priest there. To the church in Gryteryd, [I give] half a march of denarii, and to the curate there only, to the church Almesåkra, I give half a mark, and the same to the curate there. To my servant Sven, who had served me long and faithfully, I confer the farm Hultabol in Svenarum together with the farm called Widhboabool in the same place, and two oxen, three cows, with two ears of grain. To the church of Svenarum I am held to pay back three ören of denarii. To Paul, once my servant, I give one cow, and to Thyrgil also once my servant, I give one cow. At this testament were present the venerable men Lord Nils, abbot of Nydala, and Lord Algot, curate in Gällaryd. As executors of this my will, I assign the noble men Nils Torstensson and Lord Brudderus of Käridhom, my beloved relatives, firmly commanding, under penalty of divine justice, that none of my heirs may dare to lift anything the least from my possessions after my death, or with improper means oppose it, until after a year my funeral has entirely passed. To the fuller evidence of this, I ask to affix the seals of the upright men: Lord Nils (abbot of Nydala), Nils Torstensson, Lord Brudderus of Käridhom, and Lord Algot of Gällaryd, together with my own [to this letter]. Written in the year of the Lord 1337, on the fourth day within the octave of Corpus Christi (June 25th).

SDHK No. 4430: July 24, 1338

Nils Torstensson's seal (the Oxenstierna coat of arms of a bull's forehead) is attached to SDHK No. 4430 - July 24, 1338, which is a letter that Tyrgils Nilsson wrote that declared he had sold his estate in Åkerhult, Malmbäck Parish and 1/5 of the forest of Norra Åkerhult to Sigmund Hornabassa. The seals of Tyrgils Bengtsson, Martin Bengtsson, Sven in Malmbäck, and Nils's brother Gjord Godhe were also attached to this letter.

Nils had at least one son named Bengt Nilsson.[163]

Children of Nils Torstensson (Oxenstierna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Bengt	1330s	Unknown	c. 1371	Unknown

Bengt Nilsson (Oxenstierna)

Bengt Nilsson was the first member of the Oxenstierna family who became a knight and councilor. He was knighted as early as 1357, according to the first letter he was mentioned in. He became a councilor at the latest in 1371. Bengt was married sometime before 1360 to Ingeborg Nilsdotter (Sparre af Tofta), who was a daughter of knight and drots Nils Abjörnsson (Sparre af Tofta) and Bengta Abrahamsdotter. Ingeborg had previously been married to councilor and knight Sten Turesson Bielke (who died in 1350). Bengt and Ingeborg had at least four children:

- Arvid Bengtsson (Married to Birgitta Magnusdotter and died in 1402)
- Jöns Bengtsson (Married to Märta Finvidsdotter and died on December 31, 1399)
- Bengta Bengtsdotter (Married before 1380 to Magnus Olofsson Kase and still alive on June 29, 1421 when she donated land to Vadstena Monastery.)
- Kristina Bengtsdotter (Married to knight and councilor Karl Magnusson Örnfot in 1380 and died in 1389.)

Bengt Nilsson died around 1371.



Nils Torstensson's seal from 1337

Nils Torstensson's seal was attached to his aunt Bengta Mathiasdotter's will from September 11, 1338.[164] It's likely that Nils died in the Black Death in 1350 or 1351.

[163] Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *Den Introducerade Svenska Adelns Ättartavlor*. 1925-36, Vol. VI
[164] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The Fate of Håkan Torstensson (Oxenstierna)

Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson's son Håkan Torstensson became a canon in Linköping and the priest for Sandsjö Church in Norra Sandsjö Parish. He was first listed as the priest of Sandsjö Church in 1342.[165]



Norra Sandsjö Church – Where
Håkan Torstensson was a priest from 1342-1369

Letters that Mention Håkan Torstensson (1343 - 1355)

- **SDHK No. 4859 – March 12, 1343:** Thuko Daank in Grönhög and Holmsten in Sörby admit to being indebted to Håkan Torstensson (the canon in Linköping) for 6 mark 2 öre penning in grain, for which Holmsten pledges ½ attung in Åsarp, Vikingstad Parish.
- **SDHK No. 5069 - November 10, 1344 at Ekhult:** Lars Germundsson sells his share of Göstorp in Rystad Parish to the canon in Linköping, Håkan of Sandsjö.
- **SDHK No. 6023 – August 14, 1350 at Linköping**: Daniel Ragvaldsson bequeaths to Linköping Cathedral and the canonry established by his father his farm in Tornby (Södra Lars Parish, Linköping) with 3 attungung, as well as numerous properties to several named churches, monasteries, and individuals (i.e. the Franciscans in Söderköping, magister Markus, the canon in Linköping, son-in-law Johannes Göteson, and Nils Torstensson).
- **SDHK No. 6067 – November 10, 1350 at Linköping:** The canon in Linköping Germund draws up his will and he gives money and movable property to Linköping Cathedral, his own church Göteryd, Bishop Peter, and others. He appoints the canon Magister Markus, the vicar Nils Hermansson in Virserum, and Magnus Finne to be the executors of the will.
- **SDHK No. 6936 – December 20, 1355:** Håkan places his seal on a letter to certify that Nils Erlandsson entered into a land exchange with the knight Halstan Petersson regarding land in Förlösa Parish, where Nils exchanged Skyresås, Sirnås, Äspe, and Länghult in Sandsjö Parish for Medalby in Förlösa Parish and Halahult, Harskrufsmala, and Kutahult in Älghult Parish.

[165] SDHK No. 4751 - 1342

Letters that Mention Håkan Torstensson (1360 - 1361)

- **SDHK No. 7713 – February 2, 1360:** Håkan places his seal on a letter to certify that Herger Joarsson donated half of all his property in Långserum, Svenarum Parish to the abbot of Nydala Monastery for the soul of his wife and himself, his children, parents, and ancestors. The remaining half he sells at full price to the abbot and monastery in question.
- **SDHK No. 7943 – March 28, 1361:** Nils Andersson exchanges land in Norra Skaftnäs to the abbot Sven and the monastery in Nydala for the land in Köpstad, which Herr Håkan in Sandsjö gave the monastery.
- **SDHK No. 8014 – August 24, 1361**: Peter Rumpa exchanges Bogestad and (Slatte) Fors to Linköping's canon Håkan in Sandsjö for "Thorstensrydh."

Linköping Cathedral

Linköping Cathedral is the seat of the episcopal seat of the Diocese of Linköping. It is one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in Europe and stands facing Linköping Castle. It was first constructed from wood sometime in the 11th century. In 1120, a stone church was built, which was a basilica about half the size of the present building. Around 1230, the church was extended to the east, with the construction of a new choir and transept. The church was next extended in 1251, when the main building was constructed. These 13th century parts of the church remain today.



Linköping Cathedral from the east

In 1320, an interior decoration project was undertaken, with the arcades of the nave embellished with carving and sculptural decorations. The carved roof bosses of the nave vaults were completed about the same time, and thought to be by the same sculptor, who many believe was English.

On July 25, 1369, Håkan wrote his will, in which he bequeathed all his property in Buggeryd, Mostorp, Ryd, a mill in Valsjöbäck, and the village Sandsjö (all in Norra Sandsjö Parish) to the board of priests in Sandsjö, with the exception of the farm "Vndiase", which he gave to Nils Holteson. Håkan also specified in his will that he wanted his land in Tärnestad (in Törnevalla Parish), Örminge (in Vårdsberg Parish), Smedstad (in St. Lars Parish), and (Slatte-)Fors and Bogestad (both in Landeryd Parish) to go to Linköping Cathedral. He declared that he wanted his middle estate in Åsen to go the board of priests in Malmbäck Church. This letter contained the seals of Nils (the archdeacon of Linköping), Karl Tjälveson, and Björn Ingemarsson.[166]

[166] SDHK No. 9485 – July 25, 1369

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription and Translation of SDHK No. 9485 – July 25th, 1369

Transcription: (Latin)

Jn nomine Dominj amen. Anno Dominj Mº cccºlxnono die beati Jacobi apostoli ego Haquinus de Sansio canonicus Lincopensis lego ad mensam sacerdotis jn Sansio omnia bona mea jn Rydh et in ipsa villa Sansio excepta curia dicta Vndiase1, quam emj de Berone Laurinsson quam eciam nunc lego Nicholao Holtason, promo meo pro antiquo seruicio suo, jta quod ipse et vxor sua bonis eisdem libere vtifrui debeant ad dies suos ambo simul dum vixerint et eciam ipse vel ipsa quicumque eorum superstes fuerit. Post mortem autem ipsorum ad mensam sacerdotis predicti jn Sansio perpetuo pertinere debebit jtem ad mensam eiusdem sacerdotis bona omnia jn Moasthorp et Bughulsrydh et molendinuma jn Walsiobek et cum hoc omnia predia minuta, que emeram jn parrochia Sansio postquam eandem ecclesiam assequtus fuj. Jtem lego prebende mee canonicali jn ecclesia Lincopensi predia omnia, que possideo jn villis jnfrascriptis scilicet jn Tærnastadhum Ørminge, Smedhastadhum et Forsa et Boghastadhum. Jtem lego ecclesie Malbek ad mensam tamen sacerdotis curiam meam jn Aasin midhlasta. Hec autem bona omnia, que legata sunt, non ex hereditario jure sed ex laboribus et stipendiis propriis et ecclesiasticis acquisiuj et ideo bona eadem ecclesiis jllis, scilicet Lincopensi, Sansio et Malbek, legare decreuj, quibus ampliori racione tenebar tum quia ex ipsis sumptus necessarios habueram tum eciam quia jn aliquibus earum progenitores mej pro maiori parte sepulti sunt. Acta fuerunt hec anno et die supradictis presentibus reuerendo domino domino Nicholaob archidyacono Lincopensi et prouidis viris Karolo Tiælwason et Berone Jngemarsson [quorum sigilla]c vna cum meo proprio presentibus sunt appensa. ·

Translation:

In the name of the Lord, Amen. In the Year or Our Lord 1369, on the Day of Blessed James the Apostle (July 25th), I, Håkan of Sandsjö, canon of Linköping, bequeath to the board of priests at Sandsjö all my property jn Ryd and in the very town of Sandsjö, except the estate called "Vndiase," which I bought from Björn Larsson, which I also now bequeath to Nils Holteson, my steward, for his long service, in such a way that he and his wife may freely enjoy these goods during their lives as long as they both live, and also whoever of them, he or she, who will survive the other. But after their death, it shall pertain in perpetuity to the aforementioned board of priests of Sandsjö. Likewise, [I give] to the same board of priests all my goods in Mostorp and Buggeryd and the mill of Valsjöbäck, and together with this, all the small property that I had bought in the parish of Sandsjö, after having attained the same church. Likewise, I also bequeath to my canonical prebendary at the church of Linköping all the lands that I possess in the villages mentioned below, namely Tärnestad, Örminge, Smedstad, Forsa, and Bogestad. Likewise, I bequeath to the board of priests of Malmbäck Church my middle estate in Åsen. All the goods that were bequeathed I have acquired not by hereditary right, but from my own ecclesiastical labours and stipends, and therefore I have ordained to bequeath the same goods to those churches, namely Linköping, Sandsjö, and Malmbäck, to which I am held with a greater reason, both because I had the necessary expenses from them, and also because in some of them my ancestors were mostly buried. These things were made in the aforementioned year and day in the presence of Herr Nils, archdeacon in Linköping, and reasonable men Karl Tjälveson and Björn Ingemarsson.

Håkan probably died not too long after writing his will. In 1376, his nephew Mats Gustavsson (Sparre) wrote that he had inherited several estates from Håkan, who was now deceased.[167]



Letter that mentions Håkan Torstensson – December 11th, 1376
Seal: Mats Gustavsson (Sparre)

[167] SDHK No. 10919 – December 11, 1376

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription:

(Swedish)

Alla thøm thetta breff høra eller sea helsar iak Mattiss Gøzstafson æwerdhelika medh Gudhi. Wil iak at thæt skal allom viterlikt wara thøm som nu æra ok epter kunno komo · at jak medh friom vilia ok beradhno modhe til een rættan ok vissan panth sæter ok fullelika antwardhar medh thesso mino brefue alt mit godz som hær epter nempnis. Swa som ær Ekebergh iAsathorppa sokn i Reedhwægs hæredhe i Westergøtlande Jtem i sielfuum kirkiobynom Asathorppe een gardh Jtem i Alwal i samu soknenne twa gardha Jtem i Sundzrydh i Botnarydz sokn twa gardha. Jtem Thorpp medh fæm landbo gardha ok quernom jn Wetla hæredh · Jtem all min godz som mik bør at arfua epter herra Haquon aff Sandsio som kanunkar war fordhum i Lyncøpunge Gudh hans siæll hafui ok all the godz som iak fangit hafuir i Nyudhunge · Wæstrahæredh aff Folka Bryniolfson swa som ær Keldarsthorpp ok Hagha okadhra twa gardhæ. Ok ther medh alt annat mit fædhernis godz ok mødherne ok køpis godz ok affls godz i huilika mato thæt mik helzt medh rætto a komit ær · huar thæt helzt ligger eller liggia kan i Swea rike medh allum therra tillaghum wato ok thørro jnnan gardh ok wtan næær ok fierran ok allum jngieldum affgieldum ok ræeth som thær aff gaar ok aff ganga magho i huario thæt helzt wara kan til then dagh at archebiscopin aff Vpsalum ok andre biskopa ok rikesins raadh først til saman kunno koma nærwarende werdhelikum fadher biskop Niclisse aff Lincøpunge. Til huilikin dagh iak binder mik widher hedher sannindh ok æro ok mina cristna troo at koma ok ena prowento jnnan Lyncøpungs kirkio endelika aff mino godze at gøra fore mik ok alla mina følghiara the som medh mik waro tha biscopp Gotzskalk slaghin war. Gudh hans siæl hafui fore thæs sama biscops Gotzscalks siæl. Ok thetta skal iak widher sannindh ok godha tro som sakt ær wtan alla geensegn ok hinder vppa thæn fornempda dagh fulkompna ok gøra epter vilia ok segn fornempda archebiscopsins biscopa ok ærlika manna herra Karls aff Thøptum herra Bendictz Philippusson riddara. Bo Ionssons rikesins drotzsta i Swerike ok andra godhra manna som fornempde biscopp Nicliss aff Lyncøpunge ther ofuer hafua wil ok ther til nempna. Kan thæt ok swa henda at Gudh wil mik kalla aff thesse wæruldinne ok iak dødher blifuar jnnan thæn fornempda dagh · tha skal kirkian aff Lyncøpunge thæt mith fornempda godz ok alt annat mith fædherne ok mødherne kope godz ok afls godz frilika ok frælslika nyuta ok behalda til thæn dagh at mine arfua epter mik hafua the prowentona gioort jnnan kirkionne i Lyncøpunge epter therra godhra herra ok manna segn som før sakt ær. Fframledis iak fornempde Mattiss Gøzstaffson ok wi Johan wamme Loo Kyla Henriksson, Henrik Withowet, Wilhelm Thorlefson, Lasse Ranasson, ok Abraham Dansson lofuum thæt at wi skulum kirkionne i Lyncøpunge næær staa medh herra Vicka van Vitzen ok andrum godhum mannom · at Gyse van Helpte a sins brodhers wegna Kortz van Helpte hafuer forlikat ok forsonat vm hesta ok hafuor ok alt annat som thæs Kortz thiænera misto tha biscopin slaghin wardh ok wm al annor stykke som lypp mellum thæs sama Kortz ok hans thiænera a ena sidhona ok mellum waar ok alla andra som medh oss waro at biscopin slaghin wardh a andra sidhona ok lofuadhe at ther aldre meer ofuer kiæras skal. Til alla thessa fornempda stykke fulbyrdh ok vitnilsse sætar iak fornempde Mattis Gøzstafson mith jncigle fore thetta breff / huilikt som gifuit ær i Lyncøpunge anno Dominj Millesimo ccclxxsexto feria quinta proxima ante festum beate Lucie virginis.

Translation:

[To] all those that hear or see this letter, I, Mattias Gustafsson, greet forever with God. I want it to be publicly known to everybody, now living and those that comes after, that I, in free will and in affected courage, pledge and in fully give all my estate, hereafter mentioned, Ekeberg in Asatorps Parish [now Åsarps Parish] in Redvägs District in Västergötland; also in the church- village in Asatorp, a farm; also in Alwal (Alvared) in the same parish, two farms; also in Sundsryd in Bottnaryds Parish, two farms; also Torp with five farms and mills in Vetla [now Vättle] District; also all my estates that I will inherit after Sir Håkan in Sandsjö, that was canon in Linköping, God now has his soul. And also, all my estates I have bought in Njudung in Västra District from Folke Brynolfsson, which are Keldarstorp, Haga, and two more farms; and also all the estates that I have [inherited] after my father and mother; and all estates that I have bought; and all the estates that I have, in whatever way I have received them, wherever they are situated in Sweden, with all that belongs to them, in wet and dry, inside yard and outside, near and far, all revenues, all rent, inclusive what is right to deduce, whatever it may be, until the day that the Archbishop in Uppsala and other bishops and the council of Sweden get together with Bishop Nils (Hermansson) of Linköping. I promise to appear that day and find a benefice at Linköpng Church with my estates, in favor of me and all those that were in my company when Bishop Gotskalk was killed (God save his soul), and for the same Bishop Gotskalk's soul. This I do in truth and good faith, without contradictions and obstacles the day this will be done, according to my will and statement. This I promise the before mentioned archbishop, bishops, and honest men: the knight sir Karl of Tofta, the knight Sir Bengt Filipsson, the chancellor in Sweden Bo Jonsson, and other good men, that Bishop Nils of Linköping (can command). If it is so that God will call me off from this world and I'll be dead before the mentioned day, then the church in Linköping, that [will] have my mentioned estates and all my inheritance from my father and mother, bought estates and "afls" estates, free and "frälseliga" to enjoy and to keep, until my heirs after me make up the benefice in Linköping Church, according to all these good sirs and good mens' statement. From now on, I, Mattias Gustafsson, and we Johan vamme loo, Kyla Henriksson, Henrik Withowet, Wilhelm Thorlefson, Lasse Ranasson, and Abraham Dansson, promise that we shall stand near to the church in Linköping together with the knight Vicke van Vitzen and other good men. To Gyse van Helpte on behalf of his brother Kort van Helpte, we have reconciled about [the] horses and gifts and all other things that Kort's servants had lost when the bishop was killed and of all other things that Kort's servants on one hand, and between ourselves and all others, that were with us when the bishop was killed. On the other hand. I promise to never more complain over this matter. And to all these texts completion and testimony, I, the before mentioned Mattis Gustafsson, put my seal onto this letter that was written in Linköping the Year of Our Lord 1376, on the Feast of Lucia the Virgin (December 11th).

Håkan was probably either buried inside of Norra Sandsjö Church or Linköping Cathedral.

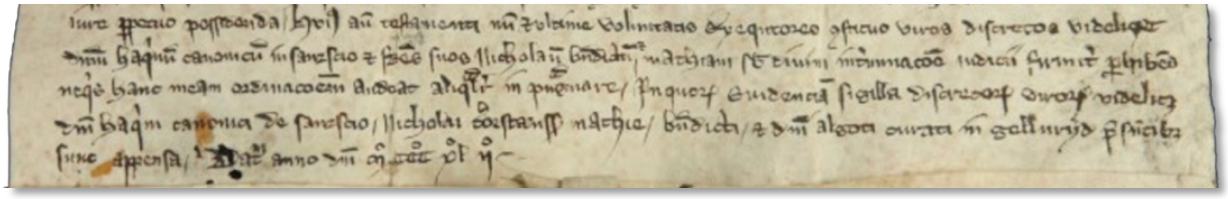
10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

The Fate of Mats Torstensson (Oxenstierna)

Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson's son Mats Torstensson was named after Lucia's father Mathias Nilsson. He was only mentioned in one letter from 1342, in which his half-sister Margareta Åbjörnsdotter wrote her final testament.[168]

An Error in SDHK No. 4751 – 1342:

In SDHK No. 4751 – 1342, Mats Torstensson is erroneously referred to as "Mats Bengtsson." However, Mats is mentioned as the brother of Håkan, the canon in Sandsjö, who is the same person as Håkan Torstensson, one of Lucia Mathiasdotter and Torsten Vigolfsson's sons. Since Nils Torstensson is also listed as Håkan Torstensson's brother but is indirectly called "Nils Bengtsson," we can tell that the writer of this letter made an error. Finally, Mats's seal that is attached to this letter bore the Oxenstierna coat of arms, which shows that he was a son of Lucia and Torsten.



Except from a letter that mentions Mats Torstensson – 1342

Transcription:

(Latin)

… Hvius autem testamenti mei et vltime voluntatis exeqvtores constituo viros discretos videlicet dominum haquinum canonicum in sanzscio et fratres suos Nicholaum benedictum et mathiam sub diuini interminacione iudicii firmiter prohibens nequis hanc meam ordinacionem audeat aliqualiter inpugnare, Jn quorum euidenciam sigilla discretorum virorum videlicet domini Haquini canonici de sanzscio, Nicholai torstænsson mathie, benedicti, et domini algoti curati in gelluryd presentibus sunt appensa, Datum anno domini M° CCC° XL° II°.

Translation:

… Of this testament and of my last will I appoint as executors the upright men Lord Håkan, canon in Sandsjö, and his brothers Nils and Mats Bengtsson (sic), prohibiting firmly under divine warning lest no one dare in any way to attack my ordinance. In testimony of this are the seals of the upright men Lord Håkan (canon of Sandsjö), Nils Torstensson, Mats Bengtsson (sic), and Lord Algot, Curate of Gällaryd, are affixed to this letter. Given in the year of the Lord 1342.

It's unknown if Mats ever married or had children. He died sometime after 1342.

[168] SDHK No. 4751 – 1342

The Fate of Gjurd Gote Torstensson (Oxenstierna)

Although there isn't quite enough evidence to prove that Gjurd Gote was Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson's son, he most likely was, since he is listed in several letters with their other children.[169] At some point in the 1330s or 1340s, Gjurd was married to Katarina Pedersdotter Snedbjälke. On February 2, 1349, Gjurd wrote a letter stating that he and Katarina had sold their farm Sällsnäs in Långaryd parish to Johan Hisberg.[170] Gjurd Gote amd Katarina's brother Trotte Petersson placed their seals on this letter.



Letter that mentions Gjurd Gothe Torstensson (Oxenstierna) – February 2nd, 1349
Seals: 1. Gjord Gothe Torstensson (Oxenstierna) 2. Trotte Petersson

[169] Gjurd is mentioned in SDHK No. 4430 – July 25, 1338 (which also mentions Nils Torstensson), SDHK No. 5675 – October 4, 1348 (which also mentions Bengt Torstensson and Nils Torstensson), and SDHK No. 5966 - May 3, 1350 (which also mentions Bengt Torstensson). Finally, since Gjurd's son was named Torsten, it points to him being named after Torsten Vigolfsson.

[170] SDHK No. 5717 – February 2, 1349

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription:

(Swedish)

Allum mannom thætta bræf høra oc see konnugha jac Giurthir Gothe oc husfru Katrin Pætarsdottir hælso meth Guthi. Wilium thet, at thet see allum mannum witirlekit, som nu liua oc swa oc þæm, som æfte comma, at wi takum wart goz i Sællesionæs, at wi afhændum thet os oc warum aruum oc til Joan Isbærghs oc hans arua meth allom till laghum, nær by oc fiærrin, oc ængo undan takno. At þæt scal thy fastare till witnis wara, tha bethis jac mins maghs insighle hær fore, hethirlics manz, hærra Throtta Pætærssons methær mino siælfs. Thusanda arum oc thry hundrath arum oc firitighi arum oc aa niunda areno æfte wars Hærra byrth vm kyndilmæssodagh tha war thætta breuit utgiuit.

Translation:

[To] all men who hear and see this letter, I, Gjord Gothe, and my wife, Katrina Petersdotter, send greetings in God. We want it to be publicly known to all men now living and also to those who come after us, that we take our property in Sällsnäs and transfer it from us and our heirs to Johan Isberg and his heirs according to all laws, near and far, with no exceptions. To make this firmer as a witness, I request my kinsman's seal to be affixed here, namely that of Herr Trotte Petersson, together with my own. Dated In the year One thousand, Three hundred, Forty and Nine (1349) after the birth of our Lord, on Candlemas Day (February 2nd), this letter was issued.

Gjurd and Katarina had at least one son named Torsten and three daughters: Holmfrid, Gertrude, and a daughter who married Peter Rumpa.[171]

Children of Gjurd Gote Torstensson (Oxenstierna) and Katarina Pedersdotter Snedbjälke

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Parish
Torsten	1330s-1340s	Unknown	Before February 15, 1399	Unknown
Holmfrid	1330s-1340s	Unknown	February 2, 1402	Unknown
Gertrude	1330s-1340s	Unknown	Before February 15, 1399	Unknown
Unnamed daughter	1330s-1340s	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Gjurd was last mentioned in a letter from August 28, 1350, in which he placed his seal on a letter to certify that Björn Erlandsson donated his land in "Fiskawidhæ" in Svenarum Parish to Nydala Monastery.[172] It's unknown when Gjurd died.

[171] Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *Den Introducerade Svenska Adelns Ättartavlor*. 1925-36, Vol. VI
[172] SDHK No. 6032 – August 28, 1350

The Final Days of Lucia Mathiasdotter (1320-1341)

During the 1320s, Lucia Mathiasdotter and Torsten likely lived a quiet but influential life in Fallnafors, managing their estate and fulfilling duties as members of the rural nobility. The two were probably in their fifties and may have found joy in seeing their children grow into adulthood. By the start of the decade, most (if not all) of the children that Lucia had with her first husband Abjörn had married and left Fallnafors to live with their spouses and raise families of their own, while Lucia and Torsten's daughter Ingeborg was living as a nun at Gudhem. Lucia and Torsten were probably busy forming various alliances with other noble families that their children married into. It's very likely that Torsten died sometime in the 1320s or 1330s. He was probably buried inside of Malmbäck Church.[173]

Lucia was mentioned in her sister Bengta's final testament, which was written on September 11, 1338. In this letter, Bengta wrote that Lucia and her other sister Holmborg were to receive five mark from her estate after her death, as well as some pension from the her property at Lekunga (in Hyringa Parish about 60 kilometers west of Gudhem). Four of Lucia's sons: Bengt Abjörnsson [174], Gustav Abjörnsson, Bengt Torstensson, and Nils Torstensson placed their seals on this letter. [175]



Letter that mentions Lucia Matsdotter – September 11th, 1338
Seals: 1. Nils Torstensson 2. Bengt Abjörnsson 3. Gustav Abjörnsson 4. Bengt Torstensson

[173] According to the final testament of Torsten and Lucia's son Håkan (SDHK No. 9485 – July 25, 1369), some of his ancestors were buried in Malmbäck Church. Since Torsten lived in Malmbäck Parish, he was probably buried inside of Malmbäck Church.
[174] For information on the fate of Bengt Abjörnsson, see page 1740).
[175] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Transcription:

(Latin)

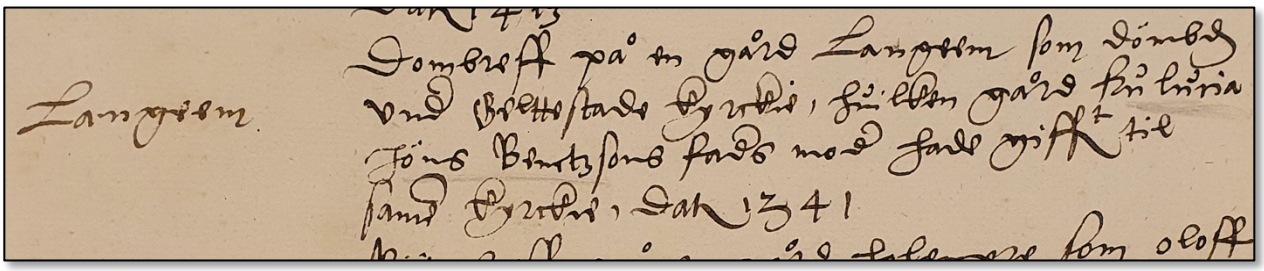
Jn nomination domini frame Anno ab incarnacione eiusdem M °. CCC °. XXX° () VIII. sexta Feria proximal ante festum exaltacionis sancte CRUCIS Ego benedicta mathyos dotther Sciens et considerans euentum mortis omnibus ineuitabilem. volensque De Bonis mihi a deo concessis. saluti anime mee salubriter preuidere. Testamentum meum, mentis integration racione. Ordino in hunc modum. Jn primis. ffratribus predicatoribus scaris apud quo meam Eligo sepulturam do LEGO et viginti marchas denariorum. Ad fabricam ecclesie Cathedralis ibid. tres marchas penny. Ffratribus minoribus ibid tres marchas denarius. Ffratribus predicatoribus lodhosie. tres marchas penny. Cappellis scaris, sanctorum Petri laurencii. et Nicholai, cuilibet. dimidiam Marcham. et earum vicariis similiter ,, Pauperibus into hospitali scarensi .I. Marcham, JTEM ecclesie in lereem. duas marchas. Curato ibid .I. Marcham. Ecclesie in skødwe in kolanszheret .II. marchas. et .I. curato, Ecclesie in giærdhem. dimidiam. Marcham. et dimidiam. Curato. Ecclesie in asubrækku. dimidiam Marcham. et. dimidiam. eius curato, Ecclesie in særistadhum. dimidiam. Marcham et. dimidiam. Curato.
Ecclesie in forssom. dimidiam. Marcham. et dimidiam. eius Curato. Pauperibus tres marchas. JTEM dilectis soro-
-ribus Meis dominabus. holmborgi et lucie. ac Jngiborgi nepti mee. Cuilibet earum quinque marchas denarius. JTEM dilecte sorori mee dominated abba Tisse the gudheem. et do LEGO coloniam meam into lekwanghæ sitam. ita quod ad dies suos percipiat pensionem prouenientem ab eadem. et post dies suos., si Dicte sorores mee holmborgis et Lucia superuixerint eciam ad dies suos coloniam habeant memoratam. Set post-
mortem earum, si Domina Jngiborgis Neptis mea predicta. superuixerit, modo sepedicto, habeat, pensionem supradicte colonie, que post-
ea Cedat claustro monialium into Gudhem iure perpetuo possidenda Huius imbibe vltime voluntatis mee exsequtores constituo virosis discretos Nicholaum thorstensson. Benedictum abiorrinæson, gøzstauum abiornnæson. et benedictum thorstensson competence quod sigilla sua huic Scripto apponant into testimonium ,, et Hanc meam ordinacionem fideliter exsequantur ,, Actum. advertiser. et die. supradictis.

Translation:

In the name of the Lord, Amen. In the 1338th year since the incarnation of the same, on theFriday before the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 11th), I, Bengta Mathiasdotter, knowing and considering the inevitable event of death for all, and wishing salubriously to provide from the goods granted to me by God for the health of my soul, I arrange my testament, in the full reason of my mind, in this manner. First, I give and bequeath to the brother priests at Skara, among whom I choose my burial, twenty mark of silver. For the construction of the cathedral church there, three mark of silver. To the Brothers Minor there, three mark of silver. To the brother priests at Lödöse**, three mark of silver. To the chapels at Skara of the saints Peter, Lawrence, and Nicolas, to each half a mark and likewise to their vicars. To the poor in the hospital of Skara one mark. Likewise, to the church in Lerum, two mark. To the curate there, one mark. To the church in Skövde, in Kålland District, two mark, and one to the curate. To the church in Gärdhem, half a mark, and a half to the curate. To the church in Åsbräcka, half a mark, a half the curate. To the church in Särestad, a half mark and a half to the curate. To the church in Fors, half a mark, and a half to the curate. Three mark to the poor. Likewise, to my beloved sisters, the ladies Holmborg and Lucia, and my niece Ingeborg, to each of them five mark of silver. Likewise, to my beloved sister, the abbess of Gudhem, I give and bequeath my building situated in Lekunga, so that she may receive a pension coming from the same to the end of her days, and after her days, if my aforementioned sisters Holmborg and Lucia survive, also they should have the monastery to the end of their days. But after their death, if the Lady Ingeborg, my aforementioned niece, survives, she should, in the same way, have a pension from the aforementioned monastery, which should afterwards go to cloister of nuns at Gudhem, to be possessed by perpetual right. As executors of my last will I appoint the distinguished men Nils Torstensson, Bengt Abjörnsson, Gustav Abjörnsson, and Bengt Torstensson, asking that they put their seals to this writing in testimony and faithfully execute this ordinance of mine. Acted in the aforementioned year and day.*

* These are the Franciscan friars, or Minorites.
** Lödöse was the medieval precedent of today's Gothenburg

Lucia probably spent her final years in a widow. She may have become a nun after Torsten's death and entered into Gudhem monastery, where her sisters Bengta and Ingeborg and her daughter Ingeborg were. The last known record of her is from 1341, when she gave the farm Länghem in Länghem, Västergötland to Gällstad Church (also located in Västergötland).[176]



16th century transcription of a record that mentions a land donation Lucia Matsdotter made in 1341

Transcription:

(Swedish)

	Dombreff på en gård Langeem som dombdh
Langeem	*ved Gelttestade Kyrckie, huilken gård fru lucia*
	Jöns Benctzsons fads mod hade giffuit til
	same kyrckie, dat. 1341

Translation:

	Judgement about a farm Langeem (Länghem), that was judged to belong
Langeem	*to Gällstad Church. This farm was once given to the church by wife Lucia,*
	Jöns Bengtsson's father's mother. Dated 1341.

The Last Known Record that Mentions Lucia Mathiasdotter

The last known record that mentions Lucia Mathiasdotter is from *Riksarkivets ämnessamlingar Miscellanea Strödda kamerala handlingar*, which is part of a collection of miscellaneous administrative and financial documents preserved by the Swedish National Archives (Riksarkivet). Although the original no longer exists, a transcript of it was made by Rasmus Ludvigsson, a Swedish royal secretary, historian and genealogist who lived in the 16th century. He wrote down his family research in several books called the *Geneologica* series. During 1946–1952, Swedish historian Hans Gillingham performed a critical review of Ludvigsson's genealogical histories and came to the conclusion that most of Ludvigsson's genealogy books are mostly reliable regarding contemporary family relationships. Thus, it's very likely that the information that Ludvigsson gathered about Lucia Mathiasdotter is accurate.

[176] Riksarkivets-ämnessamlingar-Miscellanea-Strödda-kamerala-handlingar-vol.1-I-1

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

Little is known about Lucia's latter days, outside of the context of the time she lived in. However, considering her family's deep devotion to the Catholic Church, there's a good chance that after Torsten's death, she became a nun at Gudhem where her sister Ingeborg was an abbess and her daughter Ingeborg was a nun.



Sketch of Gudhem Abbey from the book *Svecia Antiqua et hodierna* - late 1600s

Lucia Mathiasdotter's Final Days at Gudhem Abbey

In the quiet halls of Gudhem Abbey, Lucia Mathiasdotter spent her final days enveloped in prayer and unwavering devotion to God. Her sister Ingeborg, the abbess, often sat by her side, recounting memories of their shared childhood at Långserum. Lucia's daughter, Sister Ingeborg, now in her 30s, tended to her with gentle care, whispering words of comfort, faith, and love. Her other sisters, Bengta and Holmborg, who were also nuns at this time, joined in the sacred chants that filled the abbey's candlelit chapel. Despite the loss of her beloved husband Torsten years earlier, Lucia found solace in her family and steadfast faith. Surrounded by her sisters and daughter, she gave thanks for the blessed life she had lived, dedicating her final prayers to the God she had served so fervently. On a crisp autumn morning, her soul passed gently, leaving behind a legacy of devotion etched in Gudhem's sacred walls.

* A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT

Lucia must have died sometime before 1348, since on October 4, 1348, her son Gjord wrote that he made a donation to Nydala Monastery for his soul and the souls of his parents, indicating they had both died by this time.[177]



Letter which indicates Lucia Mathiasdotter was deceased by October 4th, 1348
Seals: 1. Gjord Gote Torstensson 2. Torsten Simonsson 3. Nils Torstensson 4. Bengt Torstensson

Transcription: (Latin)

Omnibus presentes litteras inspecturis vel audituris Gyordo de Bakkabodhum salutem in omnium saluatore. Tenore presencium vniuersis constare volo, presentibus et futuris, me monasterio beate Marie virginis in Nouaualle curiam meam in Svidnarum sitam, que est quinta pars tocius ville, cum attinenciis suis omnibus et singulis, videlicet agris, pratis domibusque, pascuis, siluis, piscariis ac aliis, quibuscunque censeantur nominibus et quibuscunque situentur locis, in salutem et remedium anime mee et animarum heredum parentumque meorum donasse et ad manus dicti monasterii abbatis per presentes assignasse pro voluntate ipsius abbatis et vsibus ipsius monasterii libere ordinanda, transferens in abbatem et monachos antedicti monasterii plenum proprietatis jus et dominium, que mihi in eadem curia competebant. In cuius donacionis et assignacionis testimonium ac euidenciam firmiorem sigilla nobilium virorum Thorstani Symonsson, Nicolai Torstensson et fratris sui Benedicti vna cum proprio presentibus sunt appensa. Datum Junacopie anno Domini m°ccc°xl°viii die Francisci confessoris.·

Translation:

[To] all those who will read or hear the present letter, greetings in the Savior of all from Gjord of Bakkabodhu. By the contents of this letter, I wish to confirm to everyone, present and future, that I have donated my estate in Svenarum, for the salvation and remedy of my soul and the souls of my heirs and parents to the monastery of the Blessed Virgin in Nydala, which is the fifth part of the entire village, with everything that pertains to it, that is fields, meadows, and houses, pastures, forests, fisheries and other things, by whatever names they may be considered and whatever places they may be located, and that I, by the present letter, have assigned to the hands of the abbot of the mentioned monastery to be freely arranged through the will of the abbot and the use of the monastery, transferring to the abbot and the monks of the aforementioned monastery full rights of ownership and lordship, which used to pertain to me in the same estate. In witness and firmer evidence of this donation and assignation the seals of the noble men Thorstan Simonsson, Nils Torstensson, and his brother Bengt, together with our own, are affixed. Dated at Jönköping in the Year of Our Lord 1348 on the Day of Saint Francis the Confessor (October 4th).

SDHK No. 5675 – October 4, 1348

10.3.1. Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna) fm fm mf fm mf mf ff ff and fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm

It's unknown where Lucia was buried, but it's most likely that she was buried alongside Torsten inside of Malmbäck Church.[178] She may also have been buried inside of Nydala Monastery or Gudhem Abbey.

Medieval Burials inside of Swedish Churches



Coffins inside of a crypt in Säby Church

In medieval Sweden, nobility were usually buried inside of churches, which was known as "ecclesiastical burial" or "church interment." This practice was reserved for members of the nobility, clergy, and other high-ranking individuals. Such burials were seen as a mark of prestige and closeness to the sacred, reflecting the belief that being interred within consecrated ground increased one's chances of salvation. The closer the burial site was to the altar, the greater the prestige.

There were several different places inside of a church that nobility could be buried. It was common for nobles to be buried beneath the church floor, especially near the altar or in other significant parts of the church. Larger churches or cathedrals often contained crypts, which were reserved for wealthier or more prominent families. Nobility sometimes also had elaborate tombs or monuments erected within the church.



Malmbäck Church – Where Lucia Mathiasdotter may be buried

[178] In SDHK No. 9485 – July 25, 1369, Lucia's son Håkan states that several of his ancestors were buried inside of Malmbäck Church and when nobility died in medieval Sweden, they were buried inside of their parish's church.

Trivia on Abjörn N.N. (Sparre) and Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna)

1. What was the name of Lucia Mathiasdotter's father?
    a. Mathias Abjörnsson
    b. Mathias Bengtsson
    c. Mathias Nilsson
    d. Mathias Svensson

2. What parish did Lucia Mathiasdotter grow up?
    a. Fors
    b. Malmbäck
    c. Norra Sandsjö
    d. Svenarum

3. What symbol was Abjörn's coat of arms?

4. How many children did Lucia and Abjörn have together?

5. How many children did Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson have together?

6. What parish did Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson raise their family?

7. What estate did Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson raise their family?

8. Which of Lucia and Torsten Vigolfsson's sons was a priest?

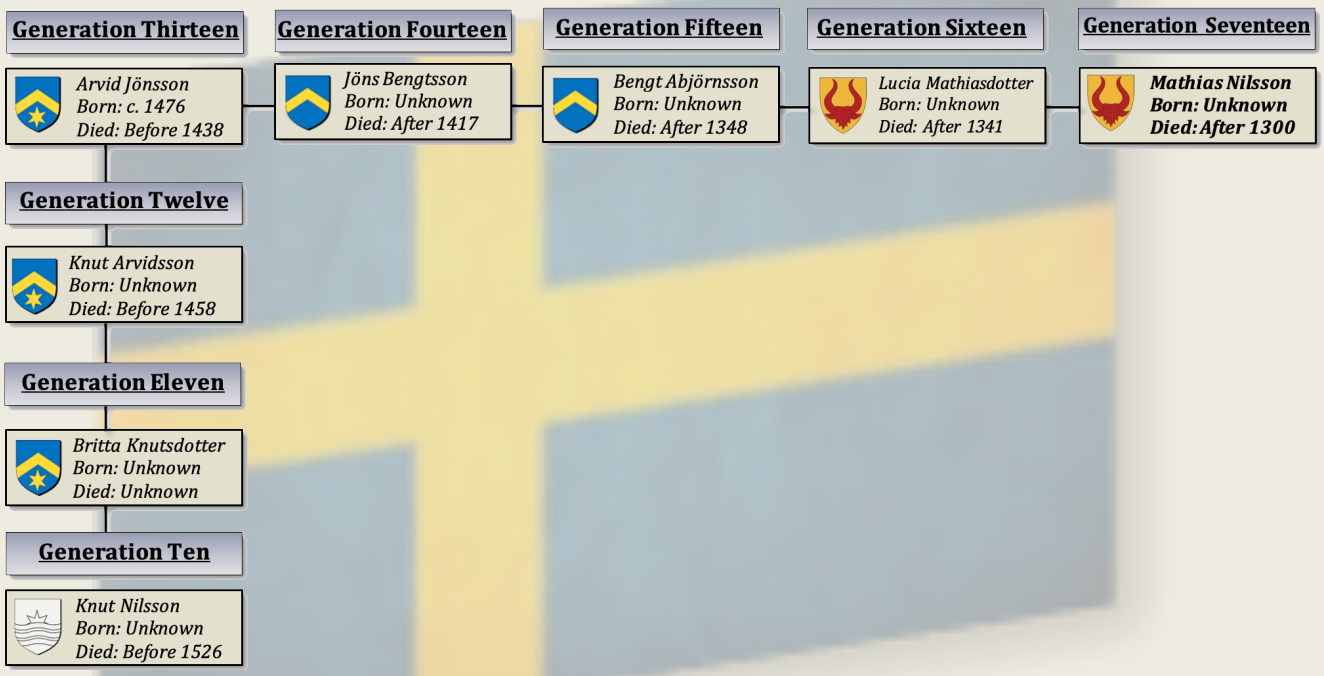
9. What was the first year in which Lucia was mentioned in a letter?
    a. 1335
    b. 1336
    c. 1337
    d. 1338

10. The last record that mentions Lucia is from what year?

Answers: 1. c 2. d 3. chevron 4. Two sons and three daughters 5. Five sons and one daughter 6. Malmbäck 7. Fallnafors 8. Håkan 9. d 10. 1341

Generation Seventeen

The 14th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1230-1310

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 14th Great-Grandparents Lived In

The only 14th great-grandparent of Sven Hög that has been identified is Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna). Mathias probably lived from around the 1230s-1250s until the early 1300s, which was a period in Swedish history that was marked by political transformation, noble rivalries, and social reforms. The reigns of Erik XI (1216–1250), Valdemar (1250–1275), and Magnus Ladulås (1275–1290), and the regency of Birger Jarl (1250-1266) profoundly influenced his life as a Swedish nobleman.

Birger Jarl's regency that occurred during the first 16 years of Valdemar's reign set the tone for Mathias Nilsson's formative years. Birger consolidated royal authority and established Sweden as a unified kingdom, introducing laws that strengthened the monarchy, regulated nobility, and expanded trade. His military campaigns, including the conquest of Finland, likely shaped the environment Mathias inherited, as nobles were often called to support the crown militarily and economically.

Following Birger Jarl's death in 1266, his son Valdemar solely ruled over Sweden. His reign was marked by internal strife among the Bjälboätten. Mathias, who may have been tied to this dynasty, would have been indirectly affected by these struggles. The Battle of Hova (1275) was a turning point when Magnus Ladulås, Valdemar's brother, overthrew him. Mathias must have had to choose his allegiances carefully, as picking the wrong side in such conflicts could jeopardize land and titles.

The reign of Magnus Ladulås introduced significant reforms that impacted Mathias's status. The Ordinance of Alsnö (1279) solidified the privilege of Swedish nobility, exempting them from taxes in exchange for military service. For Mathias, this ordinance likely reinforced his position as a knight and landholder while obligating him to support the crown militarily. The ordinance also strengthened royal control, requiring Mathias to balance his local influence with loyalty to Magnus's centralized rule.



The monarchs that ruled over Sweden during the life of Mathias Nilsson (Sven Hög's 14th great-grandfather): Erik XI, Magnus Ladulås, and Birger Magnusson

In 1290, Birger Magnusson became King of Sweden. His reign likely unsettled Mathias, as noble tensions grew under Birger's rule, leading to increasing conflicts among Sweden's aristocracy. By the end of Mathias's life in the early 14th century, Sweden's political sphere was in a turbulent state.

10.4.0. Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 14th Great-Grandparents Lived In

Timeline of Swedish History: 1240-1300

1240 — The Novogrod Republic's forces defeat a Swedish army at the Battle of Neva, which was part of the Swedish-Novogrod Wars.



1247 — The Battle of Sparrsätra occurs, when the forces of King Erik XI defeat a rebellious Folkungarna army.

1250 — Valdemar becomes King of Sweden following the death of Erik XI. For the first 16 years of Valdemar's reign, his father Birger Jarl rules as regent.



1251 — The Battle of Herrevadsbro occurs, where the forces of the Swedish monarchy, led by Birger Jarl, defeat Swedish insurgents.

1252 — Stockholm is constructed under the direction of Birger Jarl, establishing it as a major city and trade center in Sweden.



1266 — Birger Jarl dies, leaving King Valdemar to officially rule over Sweden.

1275 — The Battle of Hova occurs, in which King Valdemar's army is defeated by his brother Magnus Ladulås's army, resulting in Magnus usurping him as King of Sweden.



1279 — The Ordinance of Alsnö is passed by an act from Magnus Ladulås, exempting land taxation to any noblemen committed to providing a cavalryman to the king's service.

1278-1280 — The Folkunda Uprising occurs when several nobles, led by Johan Filipsson, launch a rebellion against King Magnus Ladulås which is ultimately crushed.



1290 — Magnus Ladulås dies and his son Birger Magnusson becomes King of Sweden. For the first 12 years of his reign, Tyrgils Knutsson serves as regent.

Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)

Name	Mathias Nilsson
Born	1230s-1250s
Place	Unknown
Died	Unknown
Place	Unknown
Occupation	Nobleman

Children of Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Lucia	**1270s-1280s**	**Svenarum**	**Before 1348**	**Unknown**
Ingeborg	1270s-1280s	Svenarum	After 1338	Unknown
Bengta	1270s-1280s	Svenarum	Before 1341	Unknown
Holmborg	1270s-1280s	Svenarum	After 1338	Unknown

Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna) was probably born sometime between the 1230s to 1250s.[179] Her father was named Nils (whose surname is unknown)[180] and his mother's identity is unknown, but it's likely that she had ancestors from the Bjälboätten.[181] It's possible that Mathias was born at Långserum in Svenarum Parish, Småland.

In 1240…

- The King of Sweden was Erik Eriksson, the King of England was Henry III, and the King of France was Louis IX (who died the same year), and the Pope was Gregory IX.
- Novgorodians defeated the Swedes at the Battle of the Neva on July 15th.
- The Mongols conquered Ryazan, Moscow and Kyiv.
- Margaret of England (Queen of Scotland during 1251–1275), Benedict XI (Pope during 1303–1304), and Magnus Ladulås (King of Sweden during 1275–1290) were born.



[179] This is estimated by the fact that his daughter Lucia Mathiasdotter was probably born during the 1270s or 1280s (See page 1772 Footnote 276 for evidence of this) and Mathias Nilsson was a generation older than her.
[180] Nils in Långserum is mentioned as Mathias's father in SDHK No. 1879 – 1300.
[181] See page 1867 for a detailed explanation on how Mathias's mother may have had ancestors from the Bjälboätten.

10.4.1. Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
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The Name "Mathias"

The name Mathias ("Mah-tíe-as") is a male name of Greek origin, which in turn is a Greek form of the Hebrew name *Mattitja*), meaning " God's gift." The name has been known in Sweden since the 13th century. A shorter, more Swedish version of it is "Mats."

Mathias had at least one brother named Gjurd[182] and at least one sister named Ingrid[183]. It can be safely assumed that both of Mathias's parents were from nobility, since Gjurd had a coat of arms and Mathias's descendants are documented as owning a lot of land. Since it's likely that Mathias's mother had ancestral links to the Bjälboätten, she came from a more prominent family than Nils, and thus her family had more significance to Mathias.

The Bjälboätten



One of the coat of arms associated with the Bjälboätten

The Bjälboätten (also known as the "Bjälbo Family," "House of Bjälbo," "Folkunga Dynasty," or "Folkungaätten,") was a high-ranking Swedish family which existed from the 12th to 14th centuries and originally came from farm Bjälbo near Skänninge in Östergötland. The Bjälboätten descended from Bengt Snivel, a high-ranking Swede who lived during the 12th century. Bengt Snivel had at least three sons: Birger Brosa, Magnus Magnus Minnesköld, and Karl Döve. Several of his descendants were judges, bishops, earls, and later kings of Sweden or Norway. "Bjälboätten" is typically the term used for the descendants of Bengt's son Birger. Five Swedish kings descended from Bengt's son Birger Brosa: Valdemar Birgersson, Magnus Ladulås, Birger Magnusson, Magnus Eriksson, and Håkan Magnusson.

The term Folkung means "descendant of Folke," reflecting the belief that the family descended from a man named Folke Filbyter, who, according to Sture Bolin's research, is no longer considered to be a historical person.

The coat of arms associated with the Bjälboätten contains a golden lion on three white lines on a blue shield, and has appeared in different variations among family members, with a thrice-cut (later sometimes gin-cut) shield, which are found as lines behind the lion in Birger Jarl's shield. The Bjälboätten coat of arms is still part of Sweden's national coat of arms today with a golden lion on top of streams of silver in the second and third quadrants of the main shield.

[182] Gjurd is listed as Mathias's brother in SDHK No. 1879 – 1300.
[183] Since Ingrid is listed as Gjurd Nilsson's sister in SDHK No. 2182 - February 13, 1307, she must have also been Mathias's sister.

When Mathias was born, it's likely that the King of Sweden was Erik Eriksson. However, it's possible that the first king that Mathias remembered was Valdemar, who reigned over Sweden from 1250 to 1275. It's possible that Valdemar was a second or third cousin of Mathias's mother, since it's likely they both had Bengt Snivel as a common Bjälboätten ancestor. Because of this possible relation, Mathias's family could have enjoyed elevated status within the Swedish nobility. Mathias's parents may have felt obligated to initially support Valdemar, particularly during the early years of his reign when Birger Jarl (Valdemar's father) still held much of the power. However, Valdemar was largely known as a weak leader who increased the royal control over nobility and enforced taxation, had a complex relationship with the Church, and was ultimately overthrown by his brother Magnus Ladulås.

The Reign of King Valdemar (1250-1275)

Valdemar Birgersson was born around 1238 or 1239. His father was Birger Jarl and his mother was Ingeborg Eriksdotter. In 1250, he succeeded his uncle Erik Eriksson as King of Sweden. Since he was only 11 or 12 at this time, his father Birger Jarl served as the regent during the first 16 years of his reign, ushering a period of peace and stability. In 1260, Valdemar married Sofia Eriksdotter of Denmark. In 1266, Valedemar's father Birger Jarl died, leaving Valdemar to rule over Sweden on his own. Three years later, Valdemar was caught having an affair with his wife's sister Jutta of Denmark, which created scandal across Sweden and Denmark that was condemned by the Church. In penance of this, Valdemar made a penitential trip to Rome.



Bust of Valdemar at Skara Cathedral

When King Valdemar returned from Rome, he came into conflict with his brothers, Erik and Magnus. Valdemar engaged in an inheritance dispute with Erik, who was supported by Johan Filipsson, a powerful Swedish magnate. Valdemar imprisoned both Erik and Johan Filipsson, but Erik escaped captivity and gained the support of his brother Magnus. On June 14, 1275, a peasant army that was led by Valdemar engaged in combat against Erik and Magnus's forces at the Battle of Hova. Valdemar's forces lost the battle, causing Valdemar and his wife Sofia to flee to Norway.

Shortly after Valdemar returned to Sweden to resume his conflict with his brothers, he was imprisoned. Soon after this, his brother Magnus Ladulås took power and was elected king. After agreeing to not contest Magnus's rule and be loyal to him, Valdemar was released from captivity and named Duke of Götaland. However, in 1288, Magnus had him imprisoned again at Nyköpingshus under the grounds that he was unaccountable and had caused offense through his frivolous life. Valldemar died at Nyköpingshus in 1302. He was probably buried in Riddarholm Church in Stockholm.

10.4.1. Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
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Mathias Nilsson was likely in his formative years during the regency of Birger Jarl, and experienced significant political and social transformation in Sweden. For the first 16 years of Valdemar's reign, his father Birger Jarl served as regent and ruled over the kingdom. This period was characterized by political stability, the centralization of royal authority, and legal reforms. During his regency, Birger Jarl implemented the *fridslagarna* (peace laws), which curtailed feudal violence, protected women, and strengthened institutions like the Church and the legal assembly. He also expanded Sweden's influence through military campaigns and the establishment of Stockholm as a trading hub. For Mathias's family, this era likely brought both opportunities and challenges. While landowners benefited from the stability and reforms, the growing central authority would have demanded increased loyalty and administrative responsibilities from the nobility.

The Regency of Birger Jarl (1250-1266)



Statue of Birger Jarl at Riddarholmen

When Valdemar Birgersson became King of Sweden in 1250, he was only 10 years old. Thus, for the first 16 years of his reign, his father Birger Jarl ruled over Sweden as its regent. Overall, this was a stable and prosperous time for Sweden. During his regency, Birger invested in increasing Sweden's income by promoting trade. He concluded agreements with Lübeck and Hamburg, the most prominent trading cities in Germany on the Baltic and North Seas, so that their merchants could come to Sweden to buy and sell without paying customs and taxes. In 1252, he founded the city of Stockholm, which served as a massive trading hub (and future capital) of Sweden. Germans were also allowed to settle in Sweden and live as Swedish citizens. Birger's motive for this was to enable Swedes to learn from skilled traders how trade should be conducted. As a result, many Germans immigrated to Sweden and soon the richest and most powerful citizens in Sweden's larger cities were German.

During Birger's rule, he also legislated various peace laws, which regulated domestic peace, church peace, court peace, and women's peace throughout the country. These laws prohibited attacks on someone in their home, at church, or in court, and limited the consequences of the ancient pagan custom of blood revenge. Birger also gave women more rights through a new inheritance law. Previously, a woman only had the right to inherit from her parents if there was no male heir; now they could inherit half the inheritance compared to their brother. This allowed the woman to feel more independent. Birger's regency came to an end when he died on October 21, 1266.

In 1266, Birger Jarl died, leaving King Valdemar to rule over Sweden. It's likely that Mathias Nilsson was married sometime during the 1260s. Although his wife's identify is unknown, it's most likely that she came from a noble family. The two had at least four daughters: Bengta, Holmborg, Ingeborg, and Lucia.[184]

The Names of Mathias Nilsson's Daughters

It's likely that all of Mathias Nilsson's daughters were named after relatives from their maternal side, which hint at possible connections to the Bjälboätten.

- **Bengta** is a feminine version of the name "Bengt." Bengt Snivel was the patriarch of the Bjälboätten and several of its members were named after him. One of the two authors who wrote a letter from 1254 that likely mentions Mathias Nilsson's mother was named Bengt and may have been Mathias's maternal uncle.
- **Holmborg**, a less common name, is a feminine version of the name Holmger, and one of the people mentioned in the 1254 letter was Holmger Folkesson, a great-grandson of Bengt Snivel.
- **Ingeborg** could have been named in honor Ingeborg Eriksdotter, Duchess of Sweden and wife of Birger Jarl, who was also mentioned in the 1254 letter.
- **Lucia** was likely named after Mathias Nilsson's (probable) maternal grandmother Lady Lucia, who was mentioned in the 1254 letter.

It's likely that Mathias and his wife raised their family at Långserum in Svenarum Parish, Småland.[185]

Långserum

Långserum (Lóang-sée-rum) is located approximately three kilometers southeast of Svenarum Church. In older letters, it has been spelled as "Lanxrum" or "Langzrum." The first known owner of it was named Nils. It was first mentioned in a letter from 1300 where it mentions Nils's sons Mathias Nilsson and Gjurd Nilsson. Its name likely originates from Old Norse, with *"lång"* meaning "long" and *"serum"* possibly referring to a stretch of land or settlement near water. Today, Långserum is a quiet, sparsely populated village.



Aerial view of Långserum

[184] In SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338, Bengta Mathiasdotter states that Holmborg, Ingeborg, and Lucia were her sisters. Since her surname is listed as "Mathiasdotter" in this lettter, her father must have been named Mathias. In SDHK No. 1879 – 1300, Gjurd Nilsson is listed as the brother of Mathias. In SDHK No. 2484 – March 11, 1312, Gjurd Nilsson's seal shows as a bull's forehead. Since Lucia's children from her second marriage also bore this symbol as their seal (such as her son Nils Torstensson in SDHK No. 4342 – June 25, 1337), she and her sisters must have been Mathias's daughters.

[185] Mathias was listed as living at Långserum in SDHK No. 1879 – 1300.

10.4.1. Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm f



Svenarum Church – Where Mathias Nilssons's family attended church while he lived at Långserum

While Mathias lived at Långserum, his family attended Mass at Svenarum Church. During this time, the church was a small, stone Romanesque building that was less than a century old. As a noble family, Mathias and his family likely had reserved seating near the front of the church, where they participated in Latin prayers and hymns. Every Sunday, the local priest delivered a sermon tailored to the rural community of Svenarum Parish. Afterward, the churchyard served as a gathering place to exchange news with other parishioners.

Mathias Nilsson's family was deeply rooted in Catholicism, reflecting the religious culture of 13th century Sweden. Their devotion was evident in their support of monastic institutions like Gudhem Abbey and Nydala Abbey, both of which were affiliated with the Cistercian Order. The Cistercians emphasized simplicity, manual labor, and a deep connection to the divine through nature. These values that likely influenced the worldview of Mathias's family, and may have influenced their management of estates, emphasizing stewardship of the land as a divine duty. The family's piety also extended to their contributions to religious institutions and their relationships with local clergy, which reinforced their status within the Catholic community. The strong Catholic values that resonated within Mathias Nilsson is evident in the devotion of three of his daughters: Bengta, Ingeborg, and Lucia. While Bengta wrote in her will for most of her money to go to various churches and religious orders, many of Lucia's children made generous donations to Gudhem and Nydala, and Ingeborg served as the abbess of Gudhem.

The Cistercian Order

The Cistercian Order is a Catholic monastic order founded in 1098 by Benedictine monks who turned against the prosperity of the monasteries of the time and wanted to return to the strict Benedictine rules. The characteristic of the Cistercian order was precisely its strict obedience to Benedict's rule, and above all the return to physical work, including agricultural work. The monks, under the leadership of Robert of Molesmes, founded a monastery called Novum Monasterium in a sacred area called Cîteaux, France. After Bernard of Clairvaux's arrival to the order in 1112, its membership soared. The order came to Sweden in 1143, when Alvastra Monastery and Nydala Monastery were founded. During the 12th century, the former monasteries transformed into Cistercian monasteries, and they were the dominant Catholic order in Sweden until the middle of the 13th century.

During the mid-1270s, Mathias Nilsson likely had to carefully navigate a time of significant political strife and instability in Sweden to protect his family's interests. During this period, King Valdemar faced rebellion from his brothers, Erik and Magnus Ladulås. Although Valdemar had imprisoned Erik, he escaped and joined forces with Magnus. On June 14, 1276, their combined army ambushed Valdemar's forces at the Battle of Hova. Caught by surprise, most of Valdemar's men were slaughtered, forcing him to flee. Shortly thereafter, Valdemar was deposed, and Magnus Ladulås ascended the throne as King of Sweden. While it is unknown which side Mathias supported during the conflict, he was probably significantly affected by the shifting alliances and factionalism within the Bjälboätten.

The Battle of Hova

On June 14, 1275, a peasant army led by King Valdemar was defeated by the forces of his brothers Erik and Magnus, which consisted of 700 German and Danish horsemen. Prior to the battle, Duke Magnus' troops marched north through Västergötland, while Valdemar's army marched south towards Tiveden to put down the rebellion. After Magnus received word that most of Valdemar's army was encamped at Hova, he had his men attack them. The few surviving men from Valdemar's army escaped through the marshes and swamps. According to the *Erikskrönikan*, Valdemar was sleeping during the battle. After Valdemar's army was defeated, he escaped to Norway while Magnus was crowned king.



As a nobleman, Mathias Nilsson would have been directly affected by the early years of King Magnus Ladulås's reign. Shortly after ascending the throne, Magnus ceded Halland to Denmark as repayment for their support in helping him seize power, a decision that angered several nobles. Additionally, Magnus introduced policies to curb the unchecked power of local nobility, further straining relations with the aristocracy. These tensions culminated in the Folkunga Uprising of 1278, a two-year rebellion by discontented nobles. Magnus eventually crushed the rebellion, executing some of its leaders. For Mathias, this conflict likely disrupted governance in Långserum and the surrounding Svenarum Parish, creating challenges for managing his estate. Mathias may also have faced significant pressure to align himself either with Magnus Ladulås or with the rebellious Folkunga faction, a decision that could have had lasting implications for his family's fortunes.

10.4.1. Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm f

The Folkunga Uprising

The Folkunga Uprising (sometimes the Third Folkunga Uprising) was a rebellion in 1278–1280 against Magnus Ladulås, involving several members of the Folkunga Dynasty. The rebellion seems to have started in the area of Skara, under the leadership of Johan Filipsson (Aspenäsätten), who had previously rebelled against Valdemar, and Magnus Ladulå's own marshal and councilor Karl Gustafsson. At first, the rebellion was successful: Magnus's wife Queen Helvig was forced to seek refuge in a monastery, the queen's father Gerhard I of Holstein was taken prisoner and taken to Ymseborg, and the castle in Jönköping was besieged. According to the Chronicle of Erik, the rebellion ended when the king lured the rebels to Gälakvist and captured them there. During the late summer of 1280, Johan Filipsson, his brother Birger, and their nephew Johan Karlsson were executed. Valdemar, who was somehow involved in this rebellion, had to renounce the crown yet again.

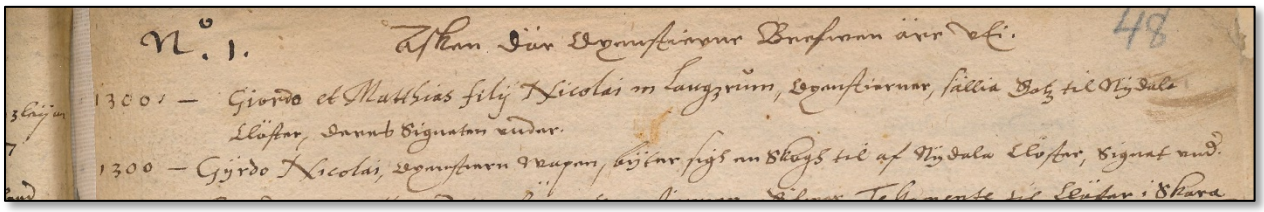
In 1279, Magnus Ladulås passed the Ordinance of Alsnö, which exempted from taxation any nobles who agreed to produce a heavy cavalryman for the king's service. Mathias Nilsson may have favored this ordinance, since it would have granted him significant relief from taxation.

The Ordinance of Alsnö

The Ordinance of Alsnö or Statute of Alsnö (*Alsnö s*tadga) was an act from Magnus Ladulås that was issued at Alsnö hus in 1279, and exempted any nobles who committed to produce a heavy cavalryman to the king's service from land taxation. In this act, Magnus stated, "It is our will also that all the men who serve with war-horses have the same privileges, whomever they serve." This act established the frälse, or the tax-exempted secular nobility in Sweden. This act also reformed the peasants' obligation to accommodate traveling nobles and protected the peasants from being abused by this policy. It's from this policy that Magnus earned his nickname *Ladulås*, which means "barn lock."

In the 1280s and 1290s, Mathias Nilsson likely lived a life of responsibility as a nobleman raising a family in Långserum, Svenarum Parish. As a landowner, he would have managed his estate, overseeing agricultural production and ensuring the well-being of his tenants. On December 12,1290, King Magnus Ladulås died. After his death, his son Birger became King of Sweden. Since Birger was only 10 at the time, Tygrils Knutsson, a nobleman who was King Magnus Ladulås's Reich Marshal, served as regent and ruled over Sweden for the next 12 years. Mathias Nilsson likely had mixed feelings about Tygrils Knutsson's regency. While he probably welcomed the stability the regency brought to Sweden, he may felt financial and political pressure by some of Tygrils's assertive policies and military campaigns.

During the 1290s, Mathias's daughters probably started to reach adulthood. His daughter Lucia was married to a nobleman named Abjörn.[186] Sometime in 1300, Nils and his brother Gjurd sold some land to Nydala Abbey.[187]



17th century transcription of a record from 1300 that mentions Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)

Transcription:

Swedish

No 1 *Asken där Oxenstierne Brefwen äre vti:* *48*

1300 – Giordo et Matthias filij Nicolai in Langzrum, Oxenstierner, sällia gotz til Nydala Clöster, deres signeter vnder

1300 – Gÿrdo Nicolai Oxenstiern a vapen, byter sigh en skogh til af Nydala Closter, signet ved …

Translation:

Entry 1 *The box where the letters about Oxenstierna are:* *48*

1300 – Gjurd and Mattias, sons of Nils (Oxenstierna) in Länghem (or Långserum), sell real estate to Nydala Monastery, their seals under (i.e. hanging under the document)

1300 – Gjurd Nilsson Oxenstierna, squire, makes an exchange with Nydala Closter in which he receives a forest, seals with ….

SDHK No. 1879 - 1300

The original letter for SDHK No. 1879 - 1300 no longer exists. Riksarkivet has a transcription of this letter that is found in Genealogica 79, page 48. This transcription comes from the work of Johan Peringskiöld (1654-1720), a renowned Swedish genealogist from the late 17th century who devoted himself to collecting Swedish genealogies. It appears that Peringskiöld transcribed this record from the works of Johannes Bureus (1563-1652), another notable Swedish genealogist.

[186] For more information on the fate of Lucia Mathiasdotter, see page 1772.
[187] SDHK No. 1879 - 1300

10.4.1. Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm f

Sometime in the 1290s or 1300s, Mathias's daughter Ingeborg was admitted to Gudhem Abbey to become a nun. By 1311, she was the abbess of Gudhem[188] and was responsible for overseeing the nuns' religious practices, managing the convent's lands and finances, and maintaining relationships with noble patrons and the Church.



Ruins of Gudhem Abbey – Where Ingeborg Mathiasdotter was an abbess in the early 14th century

Abbedisserna **- Abbesses**



14th century illustration of abbess teaching nuns from *Absolucio-Circumcisio*

An abbess is the female superior within a community of nuns in an abbey. In the Catholic Church, it is an elected position which is the equivalent of abbot. The age requirement and minimum amount of years as a nun varies, but in medieval Sweden the minimum age was around 30 and the candidate had to be a nun for at least eight years. Abbesses were elected by the secret votes of the nuns within the community. After an abbess was elected, her appointment was confirmed by the Holy See. Before formally taking on the role, the abbess was solemnly admitted to her office by a formal blessing from the bishop in whose territory the monastery is located, or by an abbot or another bishop with appropriate permission.

Abbesses were responsible for overseeing the spiritual lives of the nuns under their care; liturgical duties such as leading prayers, directing religious observances, and ensuring the proper performance of daily liturgical routines; and serving as a moral example for the nuns in her community. They were also responsible for managing the land their abbey owned, ensuring the abbey's financial stability, keeping and maintaining important records, keeping positive relations with nobility, adhering to the Church's regulations, supporting the poor, and educating noblewomen.

[188] SDHK No. 2440 - September 28, 1311

The earliest known letter which mentions Ingeborg as the abbess of Gudhem is from September 28, 1311 in which Bengta, the widow of Lars Ingridsson, wrote that she sold Ingeborg her share of property from Helleströmmen for 20 mark denarii.[189]



Letter that mentions Ingeborg Mathiasdotter as the abbess of Gudhem Abbey - September 28th, 1311

Transcription:

Latin

Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus, Benedicta relicta condam laurencij Jngridæ son salutem in domino Jnnotescat tam posteris quam modernis, Quod Domine Jngibørgæ abbatisse de Gudem vendideram omnem partem meam in Hellustrøme sitam pro viginti marcis denariorum currentis monete, quas michi recognosco pro libito meo totaliter persolutas, Jn cuius rei testimonium sigillum meum litteris presentibus est appensum, Scriptum Tolothorpe, anno Domini, M°, CCC°, XI, in vigilia beati Michaelis

Translation:

[To] all who see this present writing, I Bengta, widow of Lars Ingridsson, greet in the Lord. May it be known both to posterity and those present that I have sold to Lady Ingeborg, abbess of Gudhem, my entire part in Helleströmmen for 20 mark denarii of the current currency, which I acknowledge have paid in full at my pleasure. In witness of this my seal is affixed to the present letter. Written at Tolothorpe, in the Year of Our Lord 1311, on the Eve of the Feast of the Blessed Michael (September 28th).

189 SDHK No. 2440 - September 28, 1311

Ingeborg Mathiasdotter is Blessed to be the Abbess of Gudhem

On August 15, 1300, which was the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, Ingeborg Mathiasdotter was solemnly sworn in as the abbess of Gudhem Abbey. The ceremony, which was held within the abbey's austere stone church, was presided over by Bishop Brynolf Algotsson of Skara, who was adorned in golden vestments and holding a crosier. Ingeborg knelt at the altar before the gathered nuns and local nobles, humbly pledging obedience to God and the Cistercian rule. The bishop invoked blessings upon her, anointing her with holy oils as a symbol of her sacred duties. Chanting filled the church as Ingeborg received her staff of office, marking her as spiritual leader of the abbey. The event blended solemnity, tradition, and local celebration.

* A work of creative fiction by ChatGPT



AI (ChatGPT) generated image of Ingeborg Mathiasdotter receiving her blessing by Bishop Brynolf Algotsson

Letters that Mention Ingeborg Mathiasdotter (1312 - 1343)

- **SDHK No. 2518 – September 21, 1312:** The abbess of Gudmen monastery (Ingeborg) places her seal on a letter which certifies Margareta Ebbesdotter bequeathed to Gudhem Abbey a farm in Ljushult and a new building in Birkå.
- **SDHK No. 2972 - January 28, 1320 at Vilskekleva:** The abbess of Gudmen Abbey (Ingeborg) places her seal on a letter along with Bishop in Skara, which certifies that Toste and his wife Fastrun gave their farm in Trävattna to Gudhem Abbey with the reservation of a burial place for them and their relative Olof.
- **SDHK No. 2977 - February 6, 1320 at Falköping:** Archbishop Olof in Uppsala verifies, at the request of the abbess Ingeborg in Gudhem, Queen Katarina's deed of gift dated June 11, 1250 on several properties to the said monastery.
- **SDHK No. 3240 - October 21, 1323 at Gudhem:** Abbess Ingeborg in Gudhem Abbey acknowledges 20 mark of money, which Archbishop Olof paid due to Dukes Erik and Valdemar's will.
- **SDHK No. 3333 - April 25, 1325:** Ingeborg, abbess at Gudhem Abbey, sells the convent's farms in Harsås, Vranne, and Ytrasund to Gustav Tuneson for 140 mark, with the reservation of fishing rights in Örsjön and access to Harsås public forest for the monastery and its residents in Örby Parish.
- **SDHK No. 3430 - September 8, 1326** at Gudhem: The abbess Ingeborg of Gudhem Abbey grants to the knight Eskil Krak and his heirs the convent's farms in Kalvslunda, Kakstorp and Skamstorp on Zealand, Östremark on the Möen, and other estates in Denmark for 10 years
- **SDHK No. 4059 – May 21, 1334 at Nyhuset:** King Magnus commissions Algot Bengtsson to put the abbess (Ingeborg) and the convent in Gudhem in legal possession of the Rackaby estate.
- **SDHK No. 4253 - May 26, 1336 at Stegeborg:** The knight Vipert Lutzow acknowledges that he owes the abbess (Ingeborg) and the convent of Gudhem 30 mark of soldered silver, which shall be paid during the following three years after the next Michaelmas with 10 mark every year in Helsingborg to the knight Knut Folkeson or his representative.
- **SDHK No. 4254 - May 26, 1336 at Stegeborg:** The knight Vipert Lutzow declares that on September 29, 1336 in Helsingborg he will pay the knight Knut Folkeson or his representative pay 34 mark of silver, which he owes to the abbess (Ingeborg) and the nuns in Gudhem for the income he received for three years from the monastery's goods.
- **SDHK No. 4879 - June 3,1343:** Uppland's lagman Israel Birgersson entrusts the abbess (Ingeborg) and the convent in Gudhem Abbey with the yield of his estate Kestad (Kestad Parish, Kinne District).

10.4.1. Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm f



Floor of Gudhem Abbey's chapter hall where Ingeborg Mathiasdotter is said to be buried

Ingeborg was still listed as being the abbess of Gudhem in a letter that her sister Bengta wrote on September 11, 1338, in which their other two sisters, Holmborg and Lucia, are also mentioned. In this letter, Bengta wrote that Ingeborg should inherit her property Lekunga (located about 60 kilometers west of Gudhem in Hyringa Parish) after her passing. She also wrote that her other sisters Lucia and Holmborg were to receive five mark from her estate after her death, as well as some pension from Lekunga. Bengta specified in her will that she desired to be buried at Skara Cathedral.[190]



Letter that mentions Mathias Nilsson's daughters – September 11th, 1338
Seals: 1. Nils Torstensson 2. Bengt Abjörnsson 3. Gustav Abjörnsson 4. Bengt Torstensson

[190] SDHK No. 4441 – September 11, 1338

Transcription:

(Latin)

Jn nomination domini frame Anno ab incarnacione eiusdem M °. CCC °. XXX° () VIII. sexta Feria proximal ante festum exaltacionis sancte CRUCIS Ego benedicta mathyos dotther Sciens et considerans euentum mortis omnibus ineuitabilem. volensque De Bonis mihi a deo concessis. saluti anime mee salubriter preuidere. Testamentum meum, mentis integration racione. Ordino in hunc modum. Jn primis. ffratribus predicatoribus scaris apud quo meam Eligo sepulturam do LEGO et viginti marchas denariorum. Ad fabricam ecclesie Cathedralis ibid. tres marchas penny. Ffratribus minoribus ibid tres marchas denarius. Ffratribus predicatoribus lodhosie. tres marchas penny. Cappellis scaris, sanctorum Petri laurencii. et Nicholai, cuilibet. dimidiam Marcham. et earum vicariis similiter ,, Pauperibus into hospitali scarensi .I. Marcham, JTEM ecclesie in lereem. duas marchas. Curato ibid .I. Marcham. Ecclesie in skødwe in kolanszheret .II. marchas. et .I. curato, Ecclesie in giærdhem. dimidiam. Marcham. et dimidiam. Curato. Ecclesie in asubrækku. dimidiam Marcham. et. dimidiam. eius curato, Ecclesie in særistadhum. dimidiam. Marcham et. dimidiam. Curato. Ecclesie in forssom. dimidiam. Marcham. et dimidiam. eius Curato. Pauperibus tres marchas. JTEM dilectis soro-
-ribus Meis dominabus. holmborgi et lucie. ac Jngiborgi nepti mee. Cuilibet earum quinque marchas denarius. JTEM dilecte sorori mee dominated abba Tisse the gudheem. et do LEGO coloniam meam into lekwanghæ sitam. ita quod ad dies suos percipiat pensionem prouenientem ab eadem. et post dies suos., si Dicte sorores mee holmborgis et Lucia superuixerint eciam ad dies suos coloniam habeant memoratam. Set post-
mortem earum, si Domina Jngiborgis Neptis mea predicta. superuixerit, modo sepedicto, habeat, pensionem supradicte colonie, que post-
ea Cedat claustro monialium into Gudhem iure perpetuo possidenda Huius imbibe vltime voluntatis mee exsequtores constituo virosis discretos Nicholaum thorstensson. Benedictum abiorrinæson, gøzstauum abiornnæson. et benedictum thorstensson competence quod sigilla sua huic Scripto apponant into testimonium ,, et Hanc meam ordinacionem fideliter exsequantur ,, Actum. advertiser. et die. supradictis.

Translation:

In the name of the Lord, Amen. In the 1338th year since the incarnation of the same, on the Friday before the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 11th), I, Bengta Mathiasdotter, knowing and considering the inevitable event of death for all, and wishing salubriously to provide from the goods granted to me by God for the health of my soul, I arrange my testament, in the full reason of my mind, in this manner. First, I give and bequeath to the brother priests at Skara, among whom I choose my burial, twenty mark of silver. For the construction of the cathedral church there, three mark of silver. To the Brothers Minor there, three mark of silver. To the brother priests at Lödöse**, three mark of silver. To the chapels at Skara of the saints Peter, Lawrence, and Nicolas, to each half a mark and likewise to their vicars. To the poor in the hospital of Skara one mark. Likewise, to the church in Lerum, two mark. To the curate there, one mark. To the church in Skövde, in Kålland District, two mark, and one to the curate. To the church in Gärdhem, half a mark, and a half to the curate. To the church in Åsbräcka, half a mark, a half the curate. To the church in Särestad, a half mark and a half to the curate. To the church in Fors, half a mark, and a half to the curate. Three mark to the poor. Likewise, to my beloved sisters, the ladies Holmborg and Lucia, and my niece Ingeborg, to each of them five mark of silver. Likewise, to my beloved sister, the abbess of Gudhem, I give and bequeath my building situated in Lekunga, so that she may receive a pension coming from the same to the end of her days, and after her days, if my aforementioned sisters Holmborg and Lucia survive, also they should have the monastery to the end of their days. But after their death, if the Lady Ingeborg, my aforementioned niece, survives, she should, in the same way, have a pension from the aforementioned monastery, which should afterwards go to cloister of nuns at Gudhem, to be possessed by perpetual right. As executors of my last will I appoint the distinguished men Nils Torstensson, Bengt Abjörnsson, Gustav Abjörnsson, and Bengt Torstensson, asking that they put their seals to this writing in testimony and faithfully execute this ordinance of mine. Acted in the aforementioned year and day.*

* These are the Franciscan friars, or Minorites.
** Lödöse was the medieval precedent of today's Gothenburg

10.4.1. Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm f

It's unknown when Mathias Nilsson died, but it's most likely that he died sometime during the early 1300s, since there are no records of him after 1300. He may have been buried inside of Svenarum Church.



Interior of Svenarum Church – Where Mathias Nilsson may have been buried

Trivia on Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna)

1. What was the name of the estate that Mathias Nilsson lived at?
2. What parish did Mathias Nilsson live in?
3. What was the name of Mathias Nilsson's brother?
4. The only record that mentions Mathias Nilsson is from what year?
5. What was the name of Mathias Nilsson's daughters?

Answers: 1. Långserum 2. Svenarum 3. Gjurd 4. 1300 5. Beata, Holmborg, Ingeborg, and Lucia

Generation Eighteen

The 15th Great-Grandparents of Sven Hög



1200-1300

Understanding the Times that Sven Hög's 15th Great-Grandparents Lived In

The only 15th great-grandparent of Sven Hög that has been identified is Nils in Laṅgserum (Oxenstierna). Nils was probably born sometime during the late 12th century or early 13th century and probably died sometime in the mid to late 13th century. This was a period of political upheaval and significant developments in Sweden, and Nils would have experienced firsthand the shifting alliances and power struggles that defined the era, impacting both his role as a nobleman and the stability of his estate in Småland.

During the first reign of Erik Eriksson (1222–1229) Sweden experienced internal conflict and weak central authority. Erik's first reign ended with his defeat at the Battle of Olustra in 1229, forcing him into exile in Denmark. This introduced uncertainty into the lives of nobles like Nils, as local governance often depended on the prevailing monarch's strength. The rise of Knut Långe (1229–1234) as king would have required nobles to shift allegiances to maintain their positions and lands.



Seal of Erik Eriksson

Erik Eriksson's second reign (1234–1250), saw the rise of Birger Jarl, who acted as regent and consolidated power during the first 16 years of his son Valdemar's reign over Sweden, following the death of King Erik in 1250. Birger's leadership, marked by the Second Swedish Crusade (1248–1250) and the founding of Stockholm in 1252, aimed to expand Swedish influence and centralize authority. These efforts likely influenced Nils's obligations, such as providing resources or military support for the Crusade and adapting to Birger's new administrative reforms.


Seal of Knut Långe

The reign of Magnus Ladulås (1275–1290) further centralized royal power, introducing reforms that curtailed the autonomy of the nobility. This may have reduced Nils's direct influence but ensured greater stability in the kingdom, benefiting his estate in the long term.

If Nils's wife was connected to the Bjälboätten, their family's ties to the ruling dynasty would have likely bolstered their status and shielded them from political turbulence. Such connections would have ensured the family's continued prominence amidst the significant changes reshaping Sweden.

Ultimately, Nils's life and legacy were shaped by this era's challenges and opportunities, balancing local authority with loyalty to the evolving monarchy.

Timeline of Swedish History: 1180-1240

1187 A fleet of pagan Karelians enters Lake Mälaren and ravage the coasts.



1195 King Knut Eriksson of Sweden dies and Sverker the Younger becomes King of Sweden.

1200 A privilege document is created, expanding clergy's privileges in Sweden.



1208 King Sverker the Younger is deposed and Erik Knutsson becomes King of Sweden.

1210 The Battle of Gestilren occurs between the forces of King Erik Knutsson and former king Sverker the Younger.



1216 King Erik Knutsson dies and Johan Sverkersson becomes King of Sweden



1220 King Johan, his chancellor, Bishop Karl Magnusson, and cousin Karl Döve lead an expedition to Estonia.

1222 King Johan dies and Erik Eriksson becomes King of Sweden.



1229 The Battle of Olustra occurs and King Erik Eriksson is overthrown by Knut Långe.

1234 Erik Eriksson resumes his reign as King of Sweden following the death of Knut Långe.

10.5.1. Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm ff

Nils in Langserum (Oxenstierna)

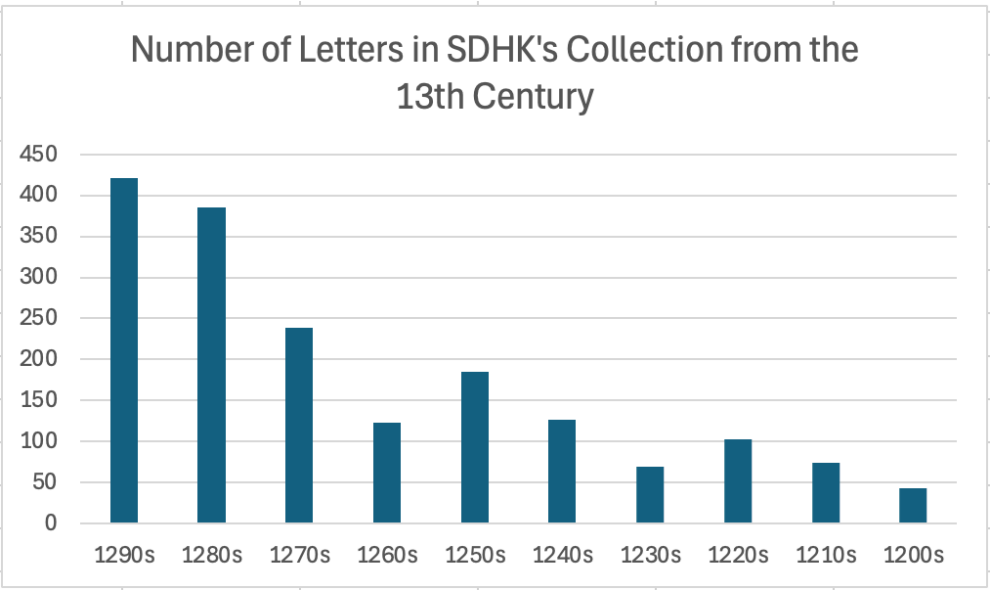
Name	Nils N.N.
Born	1190s-1220s
Place	Unknown
Died	Unknown
Place	Unknown
Occupation	Nobleman

Children of Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Mathias	1230s-1250s	Unknown	After 1300	Svenarum?
Gjurd	1230s-1250s	Unknown	After 1312	Svenarum?
Ingrid	1230s-1250s	Unknown	After 1307	Unknown

Little is known of Nils (whose last name is unknown), the father of Mathias Nilsson and patriarch of the Oxenstierna family. He was most likely born sometime during the late 12th century or early 13th century.[191] The name of his parents are unknown, but he most likely came from a noble family. It's also unknown where he was born, but he may have been born at Långserum in Svenarum Parish, Småland.

Unfortunately, no letters exist which mention Nils, outside of a brief mention in a transcription of a letter from 1300 which mentions his two sons Gjurd and Nils.[192] A big reason for this is a lack of letters from the early 13th century.



[191] This is estimated by the fact that his son Mathias Nilsson was probably born during the 1230s to 1260s (see page 1835, Footnote 339 for an explanation of this) and Nils was a generation older than him.
[192] SDHK No. 1879 - 1300

Lack of Records from Early 13th Century Sweden

There is a significant decline in letters from Sweden during the early 13th century, which is a reflection of the limitations of medieval documentation practices. This decline has resulted in the loss of information about even prominent 13th century Swedish figures, including members of the nobility. The reasons for this include:

- **Limited Literacy:** During the early 13th century, only clergy, royalty, and a few nobles were literate.
- **Vulnerability of Records:** Letters were often written on fragile materials like parchment, which were highly susceptible to decay, fire, and mismanagement.
- **Lack of a Centralized Archive:** Unlike later periods when royal chanceries and centralized archives became more prominent, early 13th century Sweden lacked a unified system for preserving records.

Because of this, many prominent nobles of the time are known only through brief mentions in later genealogies or charters. Their lives, deeds, and relationships have been largely erased from the historical record.

Throughout much of Nils's life, Sweden was ruled over by the *Erikska ätten*, a royal family that ruled Sweden throughout 1130 to 1250.

The *Erikska ätte* (Erikska Family)

The *Erikska ätte* (Erikska family) was one of two families that fought for power over Sweden approximately between 1130 to 1250. They were named after the first king from their family, Erik the Saint. The Erikska ätte hailed from Västergötland. Their rival family, the *Svekerska ätten*, contested the Swedish throne during the period they reigned. Their family were supported by Svealand and Norway. Their family favored Varnhem Monastery and many of the members of their family are buried there. Kings from the Erikska ätte include:

- Eric the Saint
- Knut Eriksson (Knut I)
- Erik Knutsson
- Erik Eriksson
- Knut Långe (Knut II)


Seal of Knut the Saint


Painting of Knut Eriksson


Seal of Erik Knutsson


Seal of Erik Eriksson


Seal of Knut Långe

10.5.1. Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm ff

It's possible that the first king that Nils remembered was Erik Eriksson, who ruled over Sweden from 1222 to 1230 and 1234 until his death in 1250. It's unknown how Nils and his family felt about Erik and his policies. Since many nobles saw Erik as an ineffective king who undermined Sweden's traditional nobility, Nils may have opposed Erik's reign. Also, Småland, where Långserum is located (and where Nils may have lived his entire life), tended to favor the *Svekerska ätten*, the rival family to the Erikska ätten, so it's likely that Nils saw Erik unfavorably.

The Reigns of King Erik Eriksson (1222-1229 and 1234-1250)

Erik Eriksson, informally called Erik XI and later also called *Erik läspe och halte* ("Erik the Lisp and Lame") was born in 1216. His father was King Erik Knutsson and his mother was Rikissa of Denmark. His nickname indicates that he had a speech impediment and some form of physical disability that affected his mobility. Erik was born shortly after his father's death. After he was born, the Pope wanted him to be elected as the King of Sweden, but Johan Sverkersson was elected instead. In 1222, Johan Sverkersson died and Erik was elected King of Sweden at the young age of six. Since he was only a minor, Sweden was ruled over by a council during Erik's first reign. Because of his young age, Erik was mainly the king in name only during his first reign.



Bust of Erik Eriksson at Vinköl Church

In 1229, Knut Holmgersson, one of the members of the council, rose up against Erik and gathered an army of his own. On November 29, 1229 (or possibly in 1230), Knut Holmgersson's army met Erik's army at the Battle of Olustra, where Knut Holmgersson's forces soundly defeated Erik's army. Following the defeat, Erik fled to Denmark, where his uncle King Valdemar Sejr ruled, while Knut Holmgersson became King of Sweden. Knut's reign was short and he died in 1234. Following Knut's death, Erik returned to Sweden where he was once again crowned King of Sweden.

Around 1243 or 1244, Erik was married to Katrina Sunesdotter, the daughter of Sune Folkesson of the Bjälboätten and Helena Sverkersdotter (the daughter of King Sverker the Younger). During his second reign, Erik strengthened his relationship with the Church, which played a vital role in legitimizing his reign. The Church's growing influence during this period resulted in the acquisition of more land and privileges, solidifying its power in Swedish society. In 1248, Erik formally appointed Birger Magnusson of the Bjälboätten as *Jarl* (Earl in English), effectively making him the second-most powerful person in Sweden. During the end of his life, Erik's health deteriorated. On February 2, 1250, he died without an heir at the young age of 33 or 34. He was buried at Varnhem Church.

In 1229, Knut Holmgersson, one of the members of the royal council, rose up against King Erik and rallied other councilmen to take his side and raise an army. On November 29th of that year, Knut Holmgersson's army met King Erik's army at the Battle of Olustra. By the end of the battle, Knut Holmgersson's army had soundly defeated King Erik's army, leading Erik to flee to Denmark. It's unknown how Nils felt about this battle, but it's more likely that he welcomed the news of it and supported Knut Holmgersson.

The Battle of Olustra

On November 29, 1229 (or possibly in 1230), the armies of Knut Holmgersson and Erik Eriksson met at the Battle of Olustra. The battle is believed to have taken place in Olustra, Södermanland, but may have also take place at Alvastra, Östergötland. According to the Swedish chronicle *Erikskrönikan*, Knut Holmgersson had several powerful landowners who were his allies in this battle. Although the details of the battle have been lost, Erik's army was soundly defeated, causing the young king to flee into exile.

Shortly after the Battle of Olustra, Knut Holmgersson became King of Sweden and was known as Knut Långe. Although it's unknown how Nils felt about Knut becoming king, as a landholder he may have focused on maintaining local power and alliances, adapting to the shifting political landscape.

The Reign of Knut Långe (1229-1234)



Coin with the face of Knut Långe

Little is known about Knut Holmgersson, who later became known as Knut Långe. It's unknown who his parents were, but it's possible that he belonged to the Erikska ätte. Knut was a councilman during the first reign of Erik Eriksson and is said to have politically belonged to the Folkungarna, a rebellious group that appeared several times during the 13th century. During the first reign of Erik, he may have served as a co-regent. Knut eventually became part of an uprising against King Erik and in 1229, his forces defeated Erik's army at the Battle of Olustra. Following this, Erik fled to Denmark and Knut was crowned King of Sweden.

Few details are known about Knut's short reign over Sweden. The Östgötalagen, a medieval provincial law for Östergötland and the Småland, states that several Swedish laws were revised by Knut. One of the major changes was that creditors no longer had the right to infringe on the debtor after judgment without the involvement of the authorities. Knut was last recognized in 1231 but continued to serve as king until 1234. During that year, he fell ill of an unknown illness which he died from. According to a report from the 16th century, he is buried at Sko Monastery in Uppland.

10.5.1. Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm ff

Knut's reign over Sweden was short. In 1234, he died and Erik returned to Sweden where he once again became King of Sweden. It's unknown how Nils felt about this, but it's likely that he was unenthusiastic.

Nils was probably married sometime during the 1230s or 1240s. The identity of his wife is unknown, but it's likely that she was a member of the Bjälboätten. The primary piece of information which suggests this is a letter from 1254 which may mention her (she may have been named Ingegerd), two of her possible brothers (Bengt and Karl), her possible mother (Lucia), and her two unnamed possible sisters.[193]



Letter from 1254 which might mention the family of Nils in Långserum's wife
Seal: Bengt Luciasson

[193] SDHK No. 700 – 1254. An in-depth analysis of all of the evidence which suggests that Nils in Långserum's wife can be found in the next section: The Oxenstierna Family's Connection to the Bjälboätten on page 1867.

Transcription:

Latin

Vniuersis presens scriptum inspecturis. B. &. K. quondam domine Lucie filij salutem in domini filio ihesu christo. Quoniam ius nature nos admonet. ut nobis iure propinquitatis attinentibus quanto debilioris sunt sexus tanto iuuaminis largioris subsidium porrigamus. Nouerint tam presentes quam futuri. quod nos fratres. K. & B. tribus sororibus nostris quicquid prediorum Gythislvnda & brvnnasum habuimus assignauimus. ab eis in posterum libere possidendum Jta tamen quod partem terciam prediorum predictorum que domine Jngigerdi sorori nostre contingit domina abbatissa de guthem possidendi seu uendendi pro claustri suj utilitate liberam habeat potestatem. Huic nostre assignacioni testes asstiterunt gloriosus dominus. w. rex swecie. &strenuus dominus. B. dux swecie. & vxor eius nobilis domina. J. ducissa swecie. & discretus dominus. H. filius quondam fulconis domini ducis pluresque regni swecie sapientes. Nos igitur fratres. B. & K. nostram tam legittimam donacionem que coram tot & tam ydoneis testibus est collata. ne in posterum per alicuius maliciam in irritum reuocetur. litterarum testimonio. & nostrorum duximus sigillorum munimine roborandam.
Datum anno dominj. M°. CC°.LIIII.

Translation:

[To] all who will inspect the present writingl B(engt) and K(arl), once sons of Lady Lucia, send greetings in the Son of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since the natural law urges us, as far as the right of kinship pertains to us, to more generously extend the support of help the weaker the sex is. Let all present as well as future know that we, brothers K(arl) and B(engt), have assigned to our three sisters whatever we have in Gösslunda and Brynåsa to be freely possessed by them in the future, in such a way, nevertheless, that a third part of the aforementioned gifts, which belongs to our sister Lady Ingegerd, the Lady Abbess of Gudhem may have in her free power to possess or to sell for the use of the monastery. To this our assignation the witnesses were the glorious Lord W(aldemar), King of Sweden and the bold Lord B(irger), Duke of Sweden, and his wife the noble Lady I(ngeborg), Duchess of Sweden and the prudent Lord H(olmger), once son of the Lord Duke Fulco (Folke), and many other wise men of the kingdom of Sweden. Therefore, we, brothers B(engt) and K(arl), have brought this legitimate donation, which was presented before so many and so excellent witnesses, to be confirmed by the witness of a letter and the safeguard of our seals, lest it in the future through someone's malice it be called ineffectual.
Dated in the Year of Our Lord 1254.

An Analysis of SDHK No. 700 – 1254

In SDHK No. 700 – 1254, two brothers named Bengt and Karl, who were the sons of a deceased noblewoman of great repute named Lucia, assigned to their three sisters their farm Brynåsa in Gösslunda Parish (northwest of Linköping). In this letter, they specified that a third of that land (which belonged to their sister Ingegerd, be donated to Gudhem Abbey. The witnesses that were listed in this letter were four prominent individuals from the Bjälboätten: King Valdemar Birgersson, his parents Birger Jarl and Ingeborg Eriksdotter, and Holmger Folkesson. Since witnesses in medieval letters are often related to the individuals who wrote the letter, it is possible that Bengt, Karl, their three sisters, and Lucia were all related to the Bjälboätten. This letter contained the seal of Bengt Luciasson, who may have been the lagman in Västergötland at the time.

10.5.1. Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm ff

Nils had at least two sons named Gjurd and Mathias[194] and at least one daughter named Ingrid[195]. Nils and his family resided at the estate Långserum, which was located in Svenarum Parish.[196] His family lived a life typical of the rural Swedish nobility, balancing responsibilities tied to their land and obligations to the Crown and Church. As a nobleman in Småland, Nils likely managed the estate at Långserum, overseeing agriculture, livestock, and possibly small-scale forestry, while relying on tenant farmers and laborers for much of the physical work. Life at Långserum revolved around subsistence farming, with occasional obligations such as attending regional assemblies, hosting visiting officials, and providing military service.



ChatGPT's depiction of how Långserum may have looked in the 13th century

Svenarum Parish



The location of Svenarum Parish in Jönköping County

Svenarum (Svèn-ah-rùme) is a parish in central Jönköping, Sweden. It is 186.7 square kilometers, of which 179.7 are land. Svenarum has medieval origins and was first mentioned in 1292 as "*Swethnarum*." Its name comes the prefix "*swedja*" (meaning a forest area that is burned to be temporarily used for grain cultivation and grazing) and the suffix *"rum"* (meaning an open yard). The highest point in Svenarum reaches 358 meters above sea level in the northeast. Svenarum Parish is located around the tributary Härån and southeast of the town Vaggeryd.

Svenarum has been inhabited since the Stone Age, with about 320 ancient remains from the Stone Age, Iron Age, and Bronze Age found there. Svenarum was part of Västra District. In 2016, Svenarum District was established. As of 2000, the population of Malmbäck was 1,266.

[194] Gjurd and Mathias are listed as Nils's sons in SDHK No. 1879 – 1300.
[195] Ingrid is listed as Gjurd Nilsson's sister in SDHK No. 2182 - February 13, 1307, implying that Nils was her father.
[196] SDHK No. 1879 - 1300

Around 1248, Sweden became part of the Second Swedish Crusade, a Swedish military expedition to Finland that was led by Birger Jarl. Nils likely viewed the Second Swedish Crusade with mixed emotions. While he may have supported its goals as a devout Christian and a nobleman, his primary focus would likely have remained on safeguarding his estate and family's position during this period of political and military expansion.

The Second Swedish Crusade (1248-1250)

The Second Swedish Crusade was a Swedish military expedition to Finland that was led by Birger Jarl and is assumed to have occurred between 1248-1250. Sweden had started to take control of Finland in the early 12th century. Around 1230, some Swedish missionaries stayed in Tavastla, Finland. At this time, Finland was mostly still pagan and Christianity was slow to spread there. In 1237, a rebellion rose against these missionaries, prompting Pope Gregory IX to call on the Swedes to take up arms against the pagan Finnish. The details about Second Swedish Crusade are found in *Erikkrönikan* "The Chronicle of Erik," which states the crusades took place between the Battle of Sparrsätra in 1247 and the death of King Erik Eriksson in 1250. As a result of the crusade, Finland became part of Sweden for the next 550 years.

On February 2, 1250, King Erik Eriksson died. As a devout Christian and a noble subject of the king, Nils may have felt a sense of solemnity at Erik's death, even if he didn't always favor his policies. Following Erik's death, King Valdemar Birgersson become the King of Sweden. Since Valdemar was only 10 years old, his father Birger Jarl ruled over Sweden as its regent. Birger Jarl's regency centralized royal authority, reduced the independent power of the nobility through legal reforms and alliances, and laid the foundation for a more unified kingdom under the emerging Bjälboätten. One of Birger Jarl's notable achievements during his regency was founding the city of Stockholm in 1252. Nils likely viewed Birger Jarl's regency as both stabilizing and a potential threat to noble autonomy.

The Founding of Stockholm

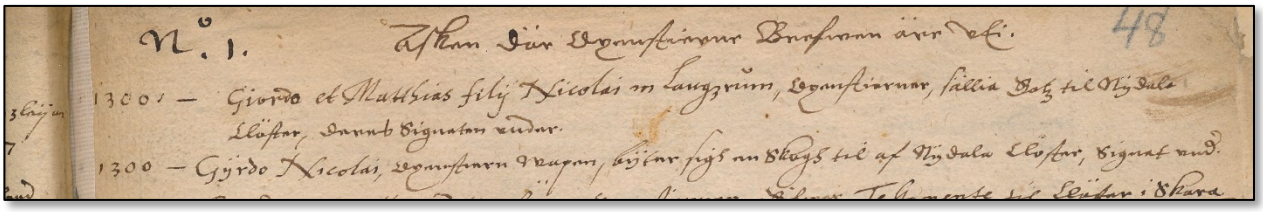
Stockholm was first mentioned in letters that Birger Jarl wrote in 1252. These letters give no information about the appearance of the city. The absence of a city plan for medieval Stockholm seems to indicate a spontaneous growth. The arrival of German merchants to Sweden during this time in response to Birger Jarl's invitation probably played an important role in the foundation of Stocholm. By the end of the 13th century, Stockholm quickly grew to become not only the largest city in Sweden, but also the main Swedish political center and royal residence.



10.5.1. Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm ff

By the 1260s, Nils's children had probably reached adulthood. As his sons Gjurd and Mathias grew into adulthood, they gradually assumed the responsibilities of noblemen under Nils's guidance. These responsibilities likely included: managing the agricultural and economic functions of the Långserum estate, overseeing tenants, and fulfilling their family's obligations to the crown or local assemblies. The two eventually inherited Långserum from Nils. Over time, their seamless transition into these roles ensured the continued prosperity of Nils's estate, maintaining the Oxenstierna family's status and influence.

In 1300, Gjurd and Mathias sold some land to Nydala Monastery. The same year, Gjurd made a deal with Nydala where he received some woodland from them.[197]



16th century transcription of a record from 1300 that mentions Nils in Långserum

Transcription:

Swedish

N o 1 *Asken där Oxenstierne Brefwen äre vti:* *48*

1300 – Giordo et Matthias filij Nicolai in Langzrum, Oxenstierner, sällia gotz til Nydala Clöster, deres signeter vnder

1300 – Gÿrdo Nicolai Oxenstiern a vapen, byter sigh en skogh til af Nydala Closter, signet ved …

Translation:

N o 1 *The box where the letters about Oxenstierna are:*

1300 – Gjord and Mattias, sons of Nils (Oxenstierna) in Länghem (or Långserum), sell real estate to Nydala Monastery, their seals under (i.e. hanging under the document)

1300 – Gjord Nilsson Oxenstierna, squire, makes an exchange with Nydala Closter in what he receives a forest, seals with ….

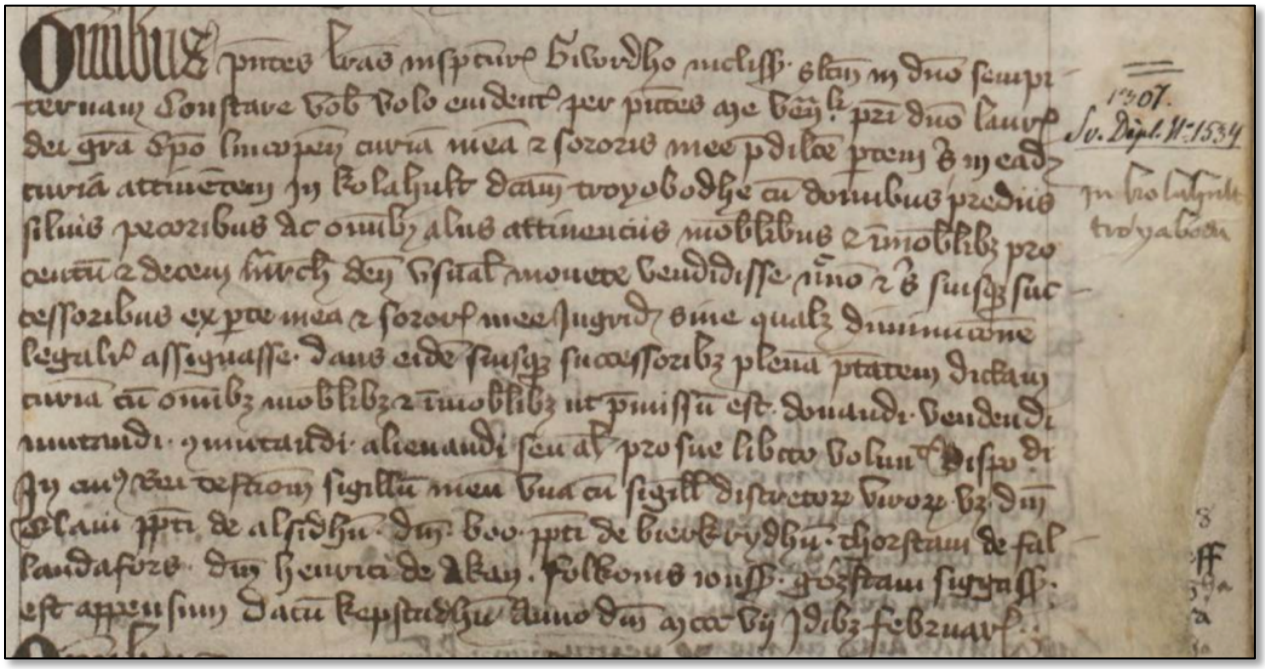
[197] SDHK No. 1879 - 1300

It's likely that both Gjurd and Mathias were married in the 1250s or 1260s. The identities of their wives are unknown. Mathias Nilsson had at least four daughters: Bengta, Holmborg, Ingeborg, and Lucia.[198] Gjurd Nilsson had at least one daughter named Ragnhild. Both Gjurd and Mathias probably lived at different homes at Långserum, but they undoubtedly owned several farms all over southern Sweden that they may also have resided at. One of these estates, Tröjebo in Kulhult in Byarum Parish, Östbo County, was also owned by their sister Ingrid.[199] It's unknown if Ingrid ever married or had children, as she is only mentioned in one letter.

Children of Gjurd Nilsson (Oxenstierna)

Name	Born	Parish	Died	Location
Ragnhild	1230s-1250s	Unknown	After 1307	Unknown

On February 13, 1307, Gjurd Nilsson wrote a letter stating that he had sold his and his sister's Ingrid estate Tröjebo to Bishop Lawrence of Linköping Diocese. This letter contained the seals of Torsten Vigolfsson (Mathias Nilsson's son-in-law), Lord Elaus (the Curate of Alsidhum), Lord Bo (the Curate of Bjerkeryd), Lord Henrik of Akan, Folke Jönsson, and Gustav Siggasson.[200]



Transcript of a letter that Gjurd Nilsson wrote on February 13th, 1307 from
Registrum ecclesie Lincopensis (transcribed in 1534)
Seals: 1. Gjurd Nilsson (Oxenstierna) 2. Priest Elof in Alseda Parish 3. Priest Bo in Barkeryd Parish
4. Torsten Vigolfsson 5. Priest Henrik in Åker Parish 6. Folke Jonsson 7. Gustav Siggesson

[198] For information on the fate of Mathias Nilsson, see page 1835.
[199] SDHK No. 2182 - February 13, 1307
[200] *Ibidem*

10.5.1. Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm ff

Transcription:

(Latin)

Omnibus presentes litteras inspecturis Giwrdho niclisson salutem in domino sempiternam Constare vobis volo euidenter per presentes Me venerabili patri domino laurencio dei gracia Episcopo lincopensi curiam meam et sororis mee predilecte partem sibi in eadem curia attinentem jn kolahult dictam troyobodhe cum domibus, prediis siluis pecoribus ac omnibus aliis attinenciis mobilibus et immobilibus pro centum et decem marchis denariorum vsualis monete vendidisse necnon et sibi suisque successoribus ex parte mea et sororis mee Jngridis sine qualibet diminucione legaliter assignasse. dans eidem suisque successoribus plenam potestatem dictam curiam cum omnibus mobilibus et immobilibus ut premissum est. donandi. vendendi mutandi. commutandi. alienandi seu aliter pro sue libito voluntatis disponendi Jn cuius Rei testimonium sigillum meum vna cum sigillis discretorum virorum. videlicet, dominj Elaui prepositi de alsidhum. dominj boo. prepositi de bierkrydhum. thorstani de fallandafors. dominj henrici de Akan. folkonis ionsson. gøzstaui siggasson. est appensum Datum kepstadhum anno domini M CCC VII Jdibus februarii.

Translation:

[To] all who will inspect the present letter, I, Gjurd Nilsson, [wish]eternal salvation in the Lord. By this letter, I clearly wish to confirm to you that I have sold to the venerable father, Lord Lawrence, by the grace of God - Bishop of Linköping, my estate and favorite sister's part pertaining to the same estate in Kolahult, called Troyobodhe with houses, properties, woods, pastures and all other pertaining things, movable and immovable, for one hundred and ten mark denarii in the usual currency, and that I have legally assigned to him and his successors, without any transferred goods, from my part as well as that of my sister Ingrid, giving the same and his successors' full powers to give away, to sell, to change, to exchange, to get rid of, or otherwise dispose of the said estate according to the wish of his will. As a witness to this, my seal is attached together with the seals of the upright men Lord Elaus (curate of Alsidhum), Lord Bo (Curate of Bjerkeryd), Torsten of Fallandafors, Lord Henrik of Akan, Folke Jönsson, and Gustav Siggasson. Dated at Kepstad in the Year of Our Lord 1307 on the Ides of February (February 7th).

Other Letters that Mention Gjurd Nilsson

- **SDHK No. 2171 – 1307:** Gjurd Nilsson certifies that he and the abbot Johannes of Nydala Monastery made a land exchange, whereby he handed over his plot in Mjöhult to the abbot in exchange for the monastery's possessions in the common forest between Ingabo and the stream Stenbäck.
- **SDHK No. 2384 - September 26, 1310** – Gjurd Nilsson announces a dispute between himself and Johannes, the abbot in Nydala over the estates Staplehult and Skärvsjöryd. The arbitrators in this case who established the property boundaries to settle the dispute were Karl Turesson, Herr Arvid from Kärda, and Folke on behalf of Gjurd; and monk Tomas in Nydala Monastery, Herr Håkan from Tofteryd, and Gisle from Vellersten on behalf of Johannes.

On March 11, 1312, Gjurd Nilsson placed his seal on a letter to verify that Harald Gunnesson had made a land exchange with Nydala monastery. This is the first time that the Oxenstierna seal appeared, as well as the last time that Gjurd was mentioned in a letter.[201]



Letter that mentions Gjurd Nilsson - March 11th, 1312
Seals: 1. (Missing) Tuke Jonsson (Läma) 2. Magnus "Gothabonda" 3. Sigmund Gudmundsson
4. Gjurd Nilsson 5. Peter Jonsson 6. (Missing)Abbot Johannes of Nydala Monastery

Gjurd Nilsson's Seal



Gjurd Nilsson's seal from SDHK No. 2484 - March 11, 1312 is in excellent condition and is one of the best preserved seals from the Oxenstierna family. The Oxenstierna coat of arms of a bull's forehead with horns can clearly be seen on it, unlike many seals, which are difficult to decipher. This symbol represents strength, resilience, and leadership.

[201] SDHK No. 2484 - March 11, 1312

10.5.1. Nils in Långårserum (Oxenstierna)
fm fm mf fm mf mf ff fm ff

Transcription:

Latin

Omnibus presens scriptum cernentibus, thvko joonsson salutem jn omnium salvatore, Tenore presencium curauj omnibus, elucere, quod haraldus gvnnasson jn presencia mea, et nobelium virorum, videlicet domini abbatis nove vallis magni gothabonda, sigmvndi gudmvndasson gyvrthonis nichalsson et petri joonsson, puplicauit, quod pro possessionibus suis, et sue vxoris omnibus jn parochia vrixsthat, possessionem monachorum nove vallis, jn myodhyltu,gythingxhyltu, bondathorp, et høthoxhyltu, gratanter acceptasset predictum concambium apposicione pene, XXX:ta marcharum confirmando, jn Cuios rei evidenciam firmiorem siggilla predictorum nobilium vna cum siggillo meo presentibus sunt appensa Datum jn nova valle anno, domini M°, C°C°C°, XII° (,) sabbato ante dominicam passionis domini..*

Translation:

[To] all who behold the present letter, I Tuke Jonsson, greet in the Saviour of all. By the contents of the present letter, I have taken care to enlighten everyone that Harald Gunnesson in my presence, and that of the noble men, that is the abbot of Nydala Magnus Gothabonde, Sigmund Gudmundsson, Gjurd Nilsson, and Peter Jonsson, have made known that, for his possessions and those of his wife in the parish of Vrigstad has gratefully received the possession of the monks of Nydala in Mjöhult, Jönshult, Bondetorp and "høthoxhyltu", confirming the aforesaid exchange by paying around 30 mark. In firmer evidence of this the seals of the aforesaid noble men together with my own seal have been affixed to this letter. Given at Nydala in the Year of Our Lord 1312, on the Saturday before the Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (March 11th).

It's unknown when Nils died, but it's most likely that he died sometime in the mid to late 13th century. He may have been buried inside of Svenarum Church.

Trivia on Nils in Långserum (Oxenstierna)

1. What parish did Nils live in?
2. Nils's wife may have had roots from what royal family?
3. What was the name of Nils's only known daughter?
4. What was the Oxenstierna coat of arms?
5. What was the last year that Nils's son Gjurd was mentioned in a letter?

Answers: 1. Svenarum 2. Bjälboätten 3. Ingrid 4. A bull's forehead and horns 5. 1312

The Oxenstierna Family's Connection to the Bjälboätten

Although there is no definitive evidence proving that the Oxenstierna family had an ancestral connection with the Bjälboätten, there is a good amount of circumstantial evidence which makes the connection quite likely.

Key Members from the First Four Generations of the Bjälboätten

Before looking at the evidence that links the Oxenstierna family to the Bjälboätten, it's a good idea to be familiar with who the Bjälboätten were. Below is a summary of the lives of key members of the first four generations of the Bjälboätten.

Generation One

1. **Bengt Snivil** (son of Folke the Fat)

Children:

1.1. **Birger Brosa**

1.2. **Magnus Minnesköld**

1.3. **Karl Döve**

Generation Two

1.1. **Birger Brosa** (son of Bengt Snivil).
Earl (probably since 1174). He was the chief aide of King Knut Eriksson. Married to the Queen Dowager Birgitta Haraldsdotter in her second marriage, daughter of the Norwegian king Harald Gille and his concubine Tora Guttormsdotter.
Died on January 9, 1202.



Children:

1.1.1. **Filip Birgersson**

1.1.2. **Knut Birgersson**

1.1.3. **Ingegerd Birgersdotter**

1.1.4. **Folke Birgersson**

1.1.5. **Magnus Birgersson**

1.2. **Magnus Minnesköld** (son of Bengt Snivil)
Married first to unknown woman. Married second to Ingrid Ylva. Died in 1251.



Children from first marriage:

1.2.1. **Eskil Magnusson**, died c.1227.
Lagman in Västergötland.

1.2.2. **A daughter**. Married to
Sigtrygg Bengtsson Boberg.

Children from second marriage:

1.2.3. **Karl Magnusson**. Bishop of Skara.

1.2.4. **Bengt Magnusson**

1.2.5. **Birger Jarl**

Children?:

1.2.6. **Elof**, Called a brother to Birger Jarl, but may have been a son of Ingrid Ylva in another marriage.

1.3. **Karl Döve** (son of Bengt Snivil).
Died in1220 in Estonia. Earl.



Children:

1.3.1. **Ulf Fase**

1.3.2. **Karl Karlsson**

Generation Three

1.1.1. **Filip Birgersson** (son of Birger Brosa)
Earl in Norway. Died in 1200.

Children:

1.1.1.1. **Katarina Filipsdotter**.
Married with Lars. One son, **Filip Larsson**.

1.1.2. **Knut Birgersson** (son of Birger Brosa)

Children:

1.1.2.1. **Magnus Broke**

1.1.2.2. **Cecilia Knutsdotter**
Married to Filip Birgersson Aspenäsätten.

1.1.3. **Ingegerd Birgersdotter** (daughter of Birger Brosa)
Married King Sverker the Younger of Sweden in 1200.
Served as Queen of Sweden until Sverker's deposition in 1208.

Children:
1.1.3.1. **Johan Sverkersson**

1.1.4. **Folke Birgersson** (son of Birger Brosa) Earl.
Died in 1210 in the Battle of Gestrilen.



Children:
1.1.4.1. **Sune Folkesson**

1.1.4.2. **Holmger Folkesson**

1.1.4.3. **Katarina Folksdotter**
Prioress of Gudhem (1250-1271)

1.1.4.4. **A daughter**. Married to Johan Ängel.

1.1.4.5. **A daughter**. Married to Rörik.

1.1.4.6. **A daughter**. Married to Ulf Fase.

1.2.4. **Bengt Magnusson** (son of Magnus Minnesköld).
Bishop in Linköping. Died April 1, 1237.

Children:
1.2.4.1. Magnus Bengtsson. Died in 1263.

1.2.5. **Birger Magnusson (Birger Jarl)**
(son of Magnus Minnesköld). Regent of Sweden.
Married first to Ingeborg Eriskdotter, daughter of King Erik Knutsson and Rikissa Valdemarsdotter.
Married second to Mechtild of Holstein, daughter of Count Adolf IV of Holstein and Hedwig of Lippe.



Children from First Marriage:
1.2.5.1. **Valdemar Birgersson** (King of Sweden)

1.2.5.2. **Magnus Birgersson Ladulås**
(King of Sweden)

1.2.5.3. **Erik Birgersson.** Duke. Died in1275.

1.2.5.4. **Bengt Birgersson.** Duke and Bishop in Linköping. Died in 1291.

1.2.5.5. **Rikissa Birgersdotter.** Married first to Håkan Håkansson of Norway.
Married second to Count Henrik of Werle.

1.2.5.6. **Kristina Birgersdotter.** Married first to unknown man. Married second to Sigge Guttormsson. Mother of Elena who married Ulf Holmgersson (Ama).

Children with unknown woman:

1.2.5.7. **Greger**

1.3.1. **Ulf Fase** (son of Karl Döve). Earl. Possibly married to a daughter of Folke Birgersson. Died in 1248.

Children:

1.3.1.1. **Karl Ulfsson.** Died in1260.

1.3.2. **Karl Karlsson** (Son of Karl Döve). Born around 1221. Still living in 1253.

Children:

1.3.2.1**. Ulf Karlsson.** c. 1248-1281. Knight. Possibly married to a daughter of the lawyer Karl Ingeborgasson (Progenitor of the Tillbakaseende ulv clan.

Generation Four

1.1.2.1. **Magnus Broke** (son of Knut Birgersson). Married to either Katarina Eriksdotter, daughter of King Erik Knutsson or Sigrid Knutsdotter, daughter of King Knut Erik Eriksson.

Children:

1.1.2.1.1. **Knut Magnusson**, executed in 1251 by Birger Jarl.

1.1.3.1. **Johan Sverkersson** (son of Ingegerd Birgersdotter). Born c. 1201. Became King of Sweden in 1216. Was part of a failed invasion of Estonia in 1220. Died on March 10, 1222 with no heirs.

1.1.4.1. **Sune Folkesson** (Son of Folke Birgersson). Earl. Married to Helena Sverkersdotter, daughter of King Sverker the Younger, whom he abducted from Vreta Monastery in the 1220s. Died in 1247.

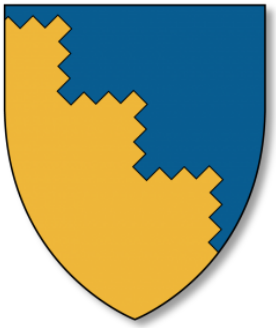


Children:

1.1.4.1.1. **Katarina Sunesdotter**. Married to King Erik Eriksson. Became a nun at Gudhem in 1250. Died in 1252.

1.1.4.1.2. **Benedicta Sunesdotter**. Was abducted from Vreta Monastery in 1244 by her future husband, the lawyer Lars Pettersson. Her second husband was Svantepolk Knutsson.

1.1.4.2. **Holmger Folkesson** (son of Folke Birgersson).



Titled "Dominus." Mentioned from 1248-1254.
Married to Kristina Fastadotter.
Progenitor of Ama family.

Children:

1.1.4.2.1. **Lars Holmgersson**

1.1.4.2.2. **Ulf Holmgersson**, Mentioned 1276-1290. Knight and councilor.

1.2.4.1. **Magnus Bengtsson**. (son of Bengt Magnusson).



Mentioned for the first time in 1274. Lagman in Östergötland and bailiff at Kalmar Castle.
Married to Ragnhild. Died in 1263.

Children:

1.2.4.1.1. **Bengt Magnusson**. Died in 1294.

1.2.4.1.2. **Ulfhild Magnusdotter.** Married first to Bengt Magnusson. Married second to Birger Filipsson (Aspenäsätten).

1.2.5.1. **Valdemar Birgersson** (son of Birger Jarl).



Born c. 1240. Elected King of Sweden in 1250.
Marred first in 1260 to Sofia, daughter of.
King Erik Plogpenning of Denmark.
Married second to Princess Kristina of Denmark.
Married third to Katarina of Gützkow.
Married fourth to Lucrardis.
Died on December 26, 1302 at Nyköping.

Children from first marriage:

1.2.5.1.1. Ingeborg Valdemarsdotter. Married to Gerhard II of Holstein. Died before 1293.

1.2.5.1.2. Katarina Valdemarsdotter. Died c. 1283.

1.2.5.1.3. Rikissa Valdemarsdotter.
Married to Przemyslaw of Poland.

1.2.5.1.4. Marina Valdemarsdotter.
Married to Rudolf of Diepholz.

1.2.5.1.5. Margaret Valdemarsdotter. Nun.

1.2.5.1.6. Erik Valdemarsson. Member of the Riksdag.



1.2.5.2. **Magnus Birgersson Ladulås** (son of Birger Jarl). King of Sweden from 1275-1290. Married in 1290 to Helvig of Holstein, daughter of Gerhard I of Holstein. Died on December 18, 1290 in Visingsö.

Children:

1.2.5.2.1. **Birger Magnusson.** King of Sweden. Died in 1321.

1.2.5.2.2. **Erik Magnusson.** Duke of Sweden. Died in 1318.

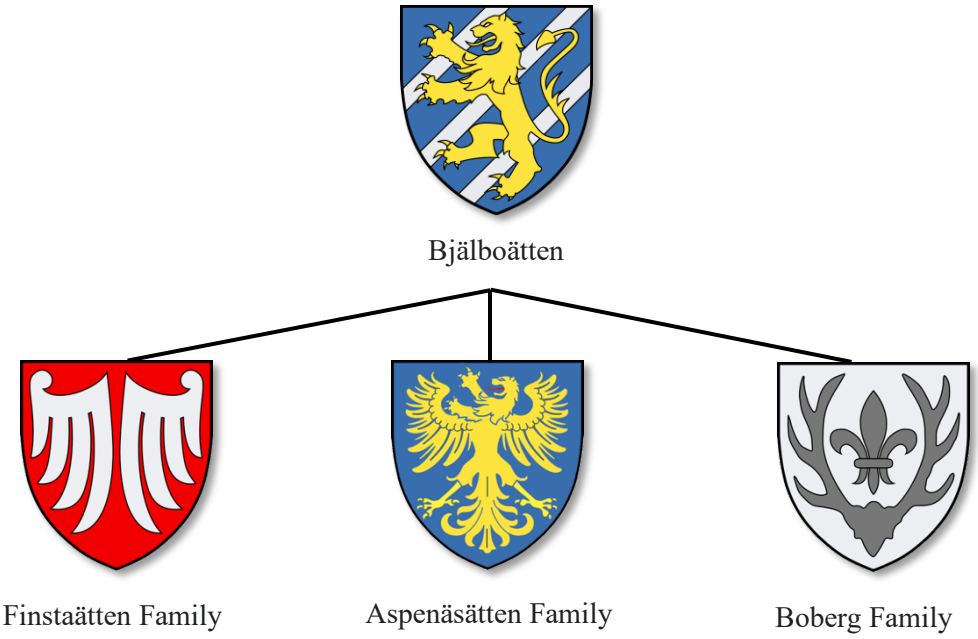
1.2.5.2.3. **Valdemar Magnusson.** Duke of Finland. Died in 1318.

1.2.5.2.4. **Ingeborg Magnusdotter.** Married to King Erik Menved of Denmark. Died in 1319.

1.2.5.2.5. **Rikissa Magnusdotter.** Abbess. Died in 1348.

Evidence for a Connection: Shared Social Network

In 13th century Sweden, numerous noble families had ties to the royal lineage. Since nobility was just emerging during this period, several noble families inherited their wealth through ancestral connections to royalty, and there was often only a two-three generation gap between members of nobility and royalty during this time. The high level of interconnectedness among Sweden's medieval nobility means many families, especially those holding titles or estates in Östergötland, Västergötland, and Småland, can trace their ancestry back to royal lines like the Bjälboätten, Sverker, and Erikska ätten dynasties. For example, the Aspenäsätten family was connected to the Bjälboätten through the marriage of Cecilia Knutsdotter (a granddaughter of Birger Brosa) to Filip Birgersson (Aspenäsätten).



Examples of noble families connected to the Bjälboätten

It's clear that the Oxenstierna family was very wealthy from at least the late 13th century. All of their wealth and social ranking had to come from somewhere, and it's very plausible that it came from connections to royalty, as was the case with several other noble families. The royal family who is the closest to the Oxenstierna family (both in terms of the time period they were most prominent as well as the geographical region they came from) was the Bjälboätten. Thus, it's likely that the Oxenstierna family had ties to the Bjälboätten and inherited much of their money from them.

Similar Naming Patterns

Naming traditions in medieval Sweden often reflected family ties, with prominent names being passed down through families for generations. There are several names that were used by both the Bjälboätten and Oxenstierna family, which provide strong circumstantial evidence for a connection between the two families.

Common Names in the Oxenstierna and Bjälbo Families	
Usage in the Oxenstierna Family	**Usage in the Bjälboätten**
Bengt/Bengta/Benedicta/ Benedikta (Latinized versions of Bengta)	
• Bengta Mathiasdotter • Bengt Abjörnsson • Bengt Torstensson • Bengt Nilsson (son of Nils Torstensson) and several of his descendants • (Possible) Bengt mentioned in the 1254 letter	• Bengt Snivel: Patriarch of the Bjälboätten • Bengt Magnusson (d. 1294): Son of Magnus Minnesköld (son of Bengt Snivel) and Bishop of Linköping • Bengt Magnusson (d. 1294): Grandson of the Bengt Magnusson listed above • Bengt Birgersson (d. 1291): Son of Birger Magnusson (son of Magnus Minnesköld) and Bishop of Linköping • Benedicta Sunesdotter: Daughter of Sune Folkesson (son of Folke Birgersson, a son of Birger Brosa) who served as a nun at Vreta Abbey
Holmger/Holmborg	
• Holmborg Mathiasdotter	• Holmger Folkesson: Son of Folke Birgersson (son of Birger Brosa) mentioned in the 1254 letter
Ingeborg/Ingrid/Ingegerd	
• (Possible) Ingergerd N.N. mentioned in the 1254 letter • Ingrid Nilsdotter • Ingeborg Mathiasdotter • Ingrid Abjörnsdotter • Ingeborg Torstensdotter	• Ingeborg Bengtsdotter: Daughter of Bengt Magnusson listed above • Ingeborg Magnusdotter: Daughter of King Magnus Ladulås • Ingeborg Valdemarsdotter: Daughter of King Valdemar • Ingeborg Eriksdotter: Wife of Birger Jarl (son of Magnus Minnesköld) • Ingrid Ylva: Wife of Magnus Minnesköld • Ingegerd Birgersdotter: Daughter of Birger Brosa and wife of King Sverker II

Strong Connections to Gudhem Abbey

One of the most compelling pieces of evidence which indicates that the Oxenstierna family was connected to the Bjälboätten is the strong connections both families had to Gudhem Abbey in Västergötland. Both families were loyal patrons of the abbey, had family members who served as nuns there, and even family members who served as the abbess or prioress there.

At least two women from the Oxenstierna family, Ingeborg Mathiasdotter and Ingeborg Torstensdotter, served at Gudhem Abbey. It's possible that Ingeborg Mathiasdotter 's sisters, Bengta, Holmborg, and Lucia, also served as nuns at Gudhem. In addition to serving as a nun at Gudhem, Ingeborg Mathiasdotter served as the abbey's abbess from at least 1311[202] until at least 1343[203].

Several members of the Bjälboätten also supported Gudhem. For example, there are several letters which shows that the convent had a special place in the heart of King Valdemar, who frequently decreed that Gudhem was under his protection.[204]

The most notable member of the Bjälboätten to be associated with Gudhem was Katrina Sunesdotter, the daughter of Sune Folkesson (and granddaughter of Folke Birgersson, and great-granddaughter of Birger Brosa), who was the wife of King Erik Eriksson of Sweden. After Erik died in 1250, Katrina retired to Gudhem.[205] On June 11, 1250, she wrote her last testament under the advice of Birger Jarl and her uncle Holmger Folkesson where she declared that all her property in Västergötland and Denmark should go to Gudhem following her death.[206] Katrina died at Gudhem in 1252 and was buried there.



Copy of Katrina Sunesdotter's sarcophagus at the ruins of Gudhem Abbey



Replica of Katrina Sunesdotter's sarcophagus at the Gudhem Museum

[202] SDHK No. 2440 - September 28, 1311
[203] SDHK No. 4879 - June 3, 1343
[204] SDHK No. 867 – December 31, 1266, SDHK No. 869 – January 9, 1267, SDHK No. 1007 – August 7, 1267, and SDHK No. 904 – March 29, 1267.
[205] Katrina is listed as the prioress of Gudhem in SDHK No. 628 – 1250.
[206] SDHK No. 642 – June 11, 1250

Katarina Folkesdotter, an aunt of Katrina Sunesdotter and a daughter of Folk Birgersson, served as the prioress (the second-in-command of an abbey) from around 1250 to at least 1271.[207] Thus, multiple women from the Bjälboätten were nuns at the Gudhem, just as multiple women from the Oxenstierna family were. The fact that several members from both families served as nuns there and both families had women who held prominent positions there strengthens the possibility that the Bjälboätten and Oxenstierna family were related.

Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter's Reward to Ingeborg Torstensdotter

A piece of evidence which suggests that the Oxenstierna family and Bjälboätten were related is the letter that Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter, the wife of Duke Erik Magnusson and mother of King Magnus Eriksson, wrote in 1320, declaring that she had bequeathed three farms that Erik had owned in Kvigeberg next to the Säve River for the services of Ingeborg Torstensdotter, a nun at Gudhem and daughter of Lucia Mathiasdotter (Oxenstierna).[208] Many historians believe that the reason Ingeborg Håkansdotter rewarded young Ingeborg was for helping her escape captivity after King Birger had imprisoned her along with her husband Duke Erik. If this happened, it would make sense that Ingeborg Torstensdotter was related to the Bjälboätten and this was her primary motive for helping her.



Duchess Ingeborg's bust at Linköping Cathedral

Magnus Eriksson's Relationship with Halstan Pettersson



Magnus Eriksson on the title page of his Landslag

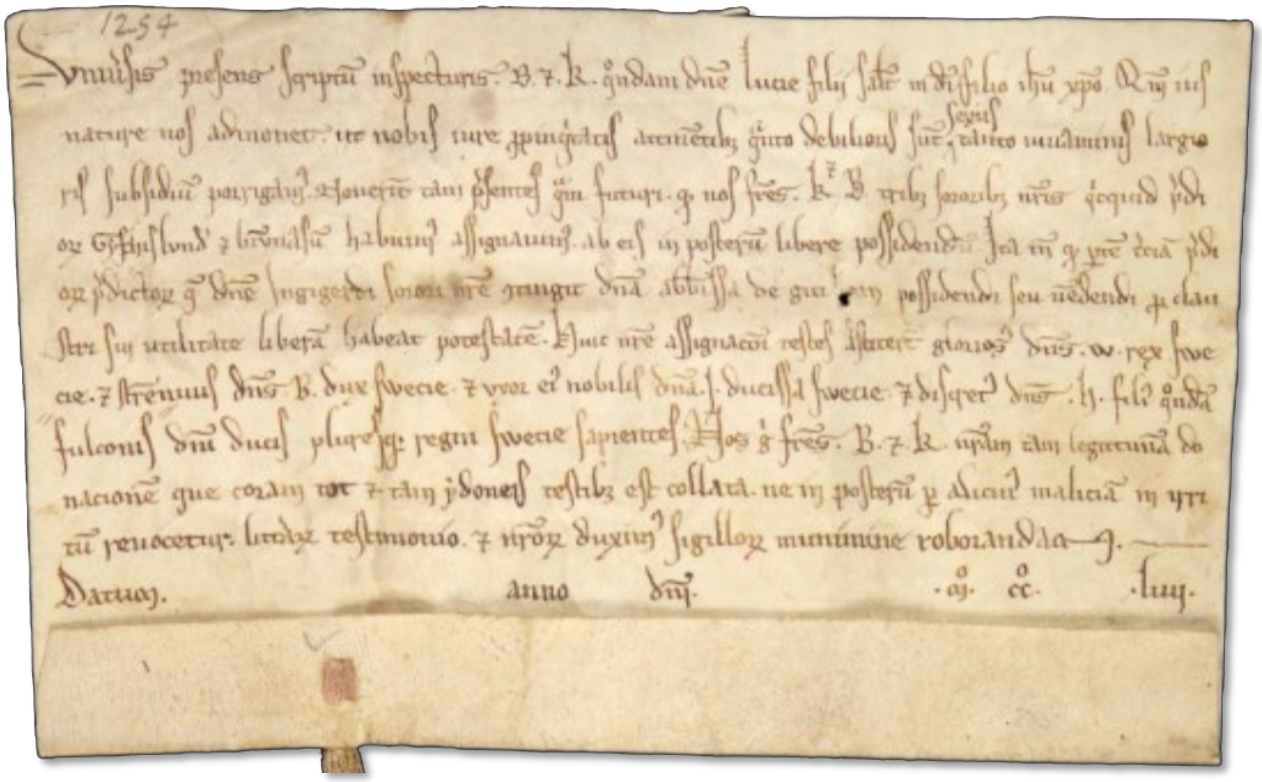
Another documented relationship between a member of the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten is the one between Halstan Petersson (a grandson of Lucia Mathiasdotter) and King Magnus Eriksson. Halstan served as Magnus's fiduciary and there are at least four letters in which Magnus awarded Halstan with various land estates.[209] If the Oxenstierna family and Bjälboätten were related, it would help explain Halstan's connection to Magnus.

[207] Katarina Folkesdotter (who is listed as the sister of Holmer Folkesson) is listed as the abbess of Gudhem in SDHK No. 653 – January 17, 1251 and in SDHK No. 904 – March 29, 1271.
[208] SDHK No. 3035 – October 25, 1320
[209] SDHK No. 4212 - January 16, 1336, SDHK No. 4404 - April 25, 1338, SDHK No. 4767 - February 25, 1342, and SDHK No. 6296 - November 10, 1351

The Letter from 1254

Perhaps the most compelling piece of evidence which points to a connection between the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten is a letter from 1254, in which the children of the deceased "Domina" Lucia donated the farm Brynåsa in Gösslunda Parish to Gudhem Abbey. In this letter, two sons are mentioned, whose names begin with “B” and “K” and are believed to have been named Bengt and Karl, names which were both prominent in the Bjälboätten. Bengt and Karl mention three sisters in this letter, one of who was named Ingergerd. As discussed earlier, female names beginning with the prefix “Ing” were very common in both the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten. Some historians believe that the Lucia mentioned in this letter was Lucia Mathiasdotter’s great-grandmother and namesake. The term "Domina" indicates that she was a high-ranking noblewoman.

Four known members of the Bjälboätten are mentioned in this letter: King Valdemar Birgersson, his parents Birger Jarl Magnusson and Ingeborg Eriksdotter, and Holmger Folkesson. Although it was common for high-ranking relatives of individuals to be present when certifying a letter, this doesn’t necessarily mean they were related to Lucia and her children. It is very possible, however. Many historians believe that the mother of Mathias Nilsson (and Nils in Långserum’s wife) was a daughter of Lucia and was a sister of the Bengt and Karl who wrote this letter. It’s also possible that Lucia was either a direct descendent of the Bjälboätten or married into the family.


1254

The letter from 1254 which hints at a connection between the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten

The Argument Against a Connection

Although there is an ample amount of evidence showing a relation between the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten, a counterargument can also be made which argues that there was no familial connection between the two families.

- **Lack of Explicit Documentation:** The fact that brings the most skepticism against a relation between the two families is the lack of explicit documentation; there are no surviving letters, charters, or genealogical records directly confirming the relationship between the two families.
- **Common Names May Be Coincidental:** Although there are several shared names that are common among both the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten, an argument could be made that these names were simply common in medieval Sweden, which weakens the argument that shared names alone prove kinship. Many people believe that the name Lucia was rare in medieval Sweden, and that the fact that a "Domina Lucia" was listed in the 1254 letter, together with the fact that Mathias Nilsson had a daughter named Lucia, is evidence that the two were related. However, Lucia was actually not an uncommon name for women during this period and was the twelfth most common woman's name in SDHK's database from 1200-1300.
- **Religious Ties May Be Coincidental:** Although both the Oxenstierna family and Bjälboätten had strong links to Gudhem Abbey, these ties may reflect shared religious devotion rather than direct familial ties.

Conclusion

All of the evidence for a relation between the Oxenstierna family and the Bjälboätten were entered into AI (ChatGPT), as well as the counterarguments. Based on this information: ChatGPT calculated the probability of a relation based on the following calculations:

Calculating the Probability of a Relation Between the Oxenstierna and Bjälbo Families	
Supporting Evidence	**Counter Evidence**
• Similar Naming Patterns: +15% • Connections to Gudhem: +15–20% • Duchess Ingeborg Håkansdotter Gift to Ingeborg Torstensdotter • Halstan Petersson's Relationship to Magnus Eriksson: +20% • The letter from 1254: +20–25%	• Lack of Documentation: -15–20% • Common Names May Be Coincidental: -10% • Religious Ties May Be Coincidental: -10%
Total Probability Boost: +85–95%	**Total Probability Reduction: -35–40%**
Final Probability Estimate: 60–65% chance between a relation between the families	

Thus, it's likely that there was a connection between the two families, but far from certain.

Notable Ancestors of Bengt Snivel

The ancestry of Bengt Snivel, the patriarch of the Bjälboätten, is very impressive. His maternal lineage includes royalty from Scandinavia, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Poland and extends back into the 6th century to two of Snivel's ancestors, Arnulf of Metz and Pepin of Landen. Snivel's ancestry contains several notable individuals, including King Alfred the Great of Wessex and Charlemagne. Thus, if Sven Hög was indeed a descendant of Bengt Snivel, he could claim Snivel's ancestry as his own. Statistically speaking, most people of European descent can claim such ancestry, but it is impossible for most people to be able to trace their ancestry back that far. Thus, even if Sven wasn't a descendant of Bengt Snivel, he was a descendant of several of his ancestors.

Since there isn't quite enough evidence to conclude that Sven Hög's ancestry can be traced to the Bjälboätten, I don't see it worth writing about Bengt Snivel's ancestors. Since Bengt Snivel has over 200 documented ancestors, many of them who are related to him through several different lines, I didn't see the need to list all of his ancestors, just the most notable ones. Thus, I have compiled a list of Snivil's most notable ancestors for each generation. To understand this list, there are a few important things to be aware of:

- Next to each of Bengt Snivel's ancestors is a code comprised of f's and m's. The **f** stands for "father" and the **m** stands for "mother." Thus, the code "mm fm" stands for Bengt Snivel's mother's mother's father's mother, who in this case would be Bernard II, the Duke of Saxony.
- For digital readers, each ancestor is hyperlinked and will direct the reader to a Wikipedia page with basic information on that ancestor.
- I have also added links to the sources which mention these ancestors. Most of them link to Wikipedia pages, but some may link to other types of pages if a Wikipedia page for that ancestor doesn't exist.
- Some of the ancestors mentioned here (such as Sigurd-Snake-in-the-Eye and Ragnar Lóðbrok are legendary who are mentioned in sagas but are not historically verifiable. Thus, they may not have existed or have been Bengt Snivel's ancestors. Nonetheless, I felt they would be of interest to include.

Generation One

Bengt Snivil
18th or 19th great-grandfather of Sven Hog and 2nd or 3rd great-grandfather of Mathias Nilsson (Oxenstierna). Swedish nobleman and jarl who lived in the 12th century. Traditionally regarded as the father of Birger Brosa, Magnus Minnesköld, and Karl Döve.
Source: *Genealogia folkungorum*, *Gesta Danorum*

Generation Two (Bengt Snivil's Parents)

Folke the Fat
c. 1080s – 1140s
Relation to Bengt Snivil: f
Swedish nobleman and jarl. According to *Gesta Danorum* by the 12th century Danish chronicler Saxo Grammaticus, Folke was the most powerful man in Sweden around 1100.
Source: *Gesta Danorum*

Ingegerd Knutsdotter of Denmark
Relation to Bengt Snivil: m
c. 1090s – ?
Daughter of King Canute IV of Denmark and Queen Adela of Flanders. When her father was deposed in 1086, Ingegärd and her sister followed their uncle Erik and his wife Bodil, who became their foster parents, into exile in Sweden.
Source: Medieval Danish royal genealogies and hagiographies of St. Canute

Generation Three (Bengt Snivil's Grandparents)

Canute IV of Denmark
c. 1042- July 10, 1086
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf
Son Sweyn II Estridsson and father of Ingegerd Knutsdotter. King of Denmark (1080 – 1086). Canonized in 1101 after martyrdom during a rebellion.
Sources: *Gesta Danorum;* royal Danish annals



Adela of Flanders
c. 1064 – April 1115
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm
Daughter of Robert I of Flanders and Gertrude of Saxony. Queen consort of Denmark after her marriage to Canute IV. Duchess of Apulia and Calabria by marriage to her second husband Roger Borsa.
Sources: Flemish and Danish dynastic records

Generation Four (Bengt Snivil's Great-Grandparents)

Sweyn II Estridsson
c. 1019 – April 28, 1076
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf f
Son of Ulf Thorgilsson and Estrid Svendsdatter. King of Denmark from 1047 until his death in 1076. He was the last Viking ruler of Denmark and an ancestor of all subsequent Danish kings.
Sources: *Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum; Gesta Danorum*

Robert I, Count of Flanders
c. 1035 – October 13, 1093
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm f
Also known as known as Robert the Frisian. Son of Baldwin V, Count of Flanders and Adela of France. Count of Flanders from 1071 until his death in 1093.
Sources: *Annales Elnonenses Maiores*; *Chronicon Sancti Bertini*; *Genealogia Comitum Flandriae*

Gertrude of Saxony
c. 1030 – August 4, 1113
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm m
Also known as Gertrude Billung. Daughter of Bernard II, Duke of Saxony and Eilika of Schweinfurt. Countess of Holland by marriage to Floris I, Count of Holland, and Countess of Flanders by marriage to Robert I, Count of Flanders.
Source: *Annales Egmondenses*

Generation Five (Bengt Snivil's Great-Great-Grandparents)

Estrid Svendsdatter
990/997 – 1057/1073

Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm
Danish princess. Daughter of King Sweyn Forkbeard and half-sister to King Cnut the Great. Estrid's marriage to Ulf Jarl produced Sweyn II Estridsson, who became King of Denmark. The royal dynasty that ruled Denmark from 1047 to 1412 is named the House of Estridsen in her honor.
Sources: *Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum*; *Gesta Danorum*;

Baldwin V, Count of Flanders
c. 1012 – September 1, 1067
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff
Count of Flanders from 1035 until his death in 1067. Baldwin expanded his territory and influence through strategic alliances, including the marriage of his daughter Matilda to William the Conqueror. Served as regent of France during his nephew Philip I's minority.
Sources: *Annales Elnonenses Maiores*; *Chronicon Sancti Bertini; Genealogia Comitum Flandriae*

Adela of France
1009 – January 8, 1079
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm fm
Daughter of King Robert II of France and wife of Baldwin V, Count of Flanders. Adela was influential in the political and religious spheres, supporting church reforms and founding abbeys. She was the mother of Matilda, who became Queen consort of England.
Sources: *Chronicon Sancti Bertini; Genealogia Comitum Flandriae*

Bernard II, Duke of Saxony
c. 995 – June 29, 1059
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm mf



Son of Bernard I of Saxony and Hildegard. Duke of Saxony from 1011 to 1059. Strengthened ducal authority and maintained the autonomy of Saxon laws. He engaged in conflicts with the Holy Roman Emperors and defended his territories against Slavic tribes. Bernard's reign was marked by efforts to consolidate power within Saxony.
Source: *Chronicon*; *Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum*

Generation Six (Bengt Snivil's 3rd Great-Grandparents)

Sweyn Forkbeard
April 17, 963 – February 3, 1014
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm f



Son of Harald Bluetooth. King of Denmark from 986 and King of England from 1013 until his death in 1014. Married to Sigrid the Haughty then later to Gunhild of Wenden. Led multiple invasions of England, culminating in his brief reign as its first Viking king.
Sources: *Gesta Danorum;* *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*

Baldwin IV, Count of Flanders
980 – May 30, 1035
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff f



Son of Count Arnulf II of Flanders and Rozala of Italy. Count of Flanders (987 – 1035). Nicknamed "the Bearded," Baldwin expanded Flemish territory and strengthened its autonomy. His reign marked significant development in Flanders, laying the groundwork for its emergence as a medieval power.
Sources: *Annales Elnonenses Maiores*; *Chronicon Sancti Bertini*

Robert II of France
1009 – January 8, 1079
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm fm f



Son of Hugh Capet and Adelaide of Aquitaine. King of the Franks (996 – 1031). Known as "the Pious" for his devoutness, Robert expanded royal authority and played a key role in consolidating the Capetian dynasty's power. His reign saw the annexation of the Duchy of Burgundy into the French realm.
Sources: *Historia Francorum Senonensis*; *Chronicles of Richer of Reims*

Bernard I, Duke of Saxony
c. 950 – February 9, 1011

Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm mf f
Son of Hermann Billung and Oda. Duke of Saxony (973 – 1011). He defended Saxony against Danish invasions and participated in campaigns against Slavic tribes. His leadership helped maintain Saxon autonomy within the Holy Roman Empire during a period of external threats.
Sources: *Thietmari Merseburgensis Episcopi Chronicon; Annales Quedlinburgenses*

Generation Seven (Bengt Snivil's 4th Great-Grandparents)

Harald Bluetooth (Heavily disputed)
Died c. 985/86

Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm ff
King of Denmark (c. 958- c. 986) and King of Norway (c. 970 – c. 985/986). Best known for uniting Denmark and converting the Danes to Christianity. His reign marked the transition from Viking chieftains to Christian monarchs in Scandinavia.
Sources: *Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum; Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*

Mieszko I
c. 930 – May 25, 992
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm mf
Son of Siemomysł. Father of Gunhild of Wenden. First ruler of Poland historically known by name. King of Poland (960 – 992). Introduced Christianity to Poland through his marriage to Doubravka of Bohemia.
Source: *Gesta principum Polonorum*

Rozala of Italy
c. 950/960 – 1003

Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff fm
Daughter of Berengar II of Italy and Willa of Tuscany. Lombard princess and Countess of Flanders, briefly Queen of France through her marriage to Robert II. Her lineage connected the Carolingian and Ottonian dynasties to Western Francia.
Sources: *Chronicon Sancti Bertini; Annales Blandinienses*

Hugh Capet
c. 941 – October 24, 996

Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm fm ff
Founder of the Capetian dynasty and King of the Franks (987 – 996). His election marked the end of Carolingian rule and the beginning of a new royal line that ruled over France for nearly nine centuries.
Source: *Richeri Historiarum Libri Quatuor; Five Books of Histories*

Generation Eight (Bengt Snivil's 5th Great-Grandparents)

Gorm the Old
Born before 900 – Died 958/963/964
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm ff f
First historically recognized king of Denmark. He consolidated Danish rule and established the foundation of the Danish monarchy later expanded by his son, Harald Bluetooth.
Sources: *Gesta Danorum;* *Chronicon Roskildense*



Berengar II of Italy
c. 900 – August 4, 966
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff fm f
Son of Adalbert I of Ivrea and Gisela of Friuli. King of Italy (950 – 961) Deposed by Otto I. The last king of Italy before the kingdom was absorbed into the Holy Roman Empire.
Source: *Flodoard of Reims' Annales*



Hugh the Great
c. 898 – June 16, 956
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm fm ff f
Son of Robert I of France and Beatrice of Vermandois. Duke of the Franks from 923–956. Father of Hugh Capet, founder of the Capetian dynasty. A powerful nobleman who wielded immense influence in West Francia during the decline of Carolingian rule.
Source: *Flodoard of Reims' Annales*

Fulk II, Count of Anjou
c. 905 – 960
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm fm mm f
Son of Fulk I of Anjou and Roscille de Lochar. Father of Adelaide-Blanche of Anjou, Count of Anjou (942 – 960). Expanded his territory through strategic marriages and military alliances. An important ancestor of the Plantagenet Dynasty of England.
Sources: *Chroniques des comtes d'Anjou*; *Historia Andegavensis*

Generation Nine (Bengt Snivil's 6th Great-Grandparents)



Harthacnut I of Denmark
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm ff ff
Semi-legendary King of Denmark. According to *Ragnarssona þáttr*, he was the son of semi-mythic Viking chieftain Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye and the father of historical king, Gorm. Remembered as an early unifier of Danish territory and the predecessor of the historical Danish monarchy.
Sources: *Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum;* *Ragnarssona þáttr*; *Gesta Danorum*

Vratislaus I, Duke of Bohemia
c. 888 – February 13, 921



Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm mm ff
Son of Bořivoj I, Duke of Bohemia and Ludmila of Bohemia. Duke of Bohemia (915 – 921). Father of Boleslaus I, Duke of Bohemia and Saint Wenceslaus. He strengthened Bohemian independence while aligning diplomatically with the East Frankish kings.
Source: *Chronica Boemorum*

Robert I of France
c. 866 – June 15, 923
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 9) mm fm ff ff;
(Generation 10) mm mm mf mm f;
(Generation 11): mm ff ff fm mf



Son of Robert the Strong and Adelaide of Tours. Younger brother of King Odo. King of West Francia (922 – 923). His first wife was Aelis and his second wife was Beatrice of Vermandois. He briefly ruled during a time of Viking incursions and Carolingian decline, and his descendants formed the Capetian Dynasty.
Sources: *Annales Vedastini;* *Flodoard of Reims' Annales*

Henry the Fowler
c. 876 – July 2, 936



Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm fm ff mf
Son of Otto I, Duke of Saxony and Hedwig. Duke of Saxony (912-936) and King of East Francia (919-936). Founder of the Ottonian Dynasty and father of Holy Roman Emperor Otto I. He consolidated German territories and repelled Magyar invasions.
Source: *Res gestae Saxonicae*

Generation Ten (Bengt Snivil's 7th Great-Grandparents)

Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye
Semi-legendary figure



Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm ff ff f
Legendary Viking warlord, traditionally said to be a son of Ragnar Lotdbrok and ruler of Danish territories. Mentioned in Norse sagas as a key figure in Viking expansion into England and the Frankish Empire.
Sources: *Ragnarssona þáttr*

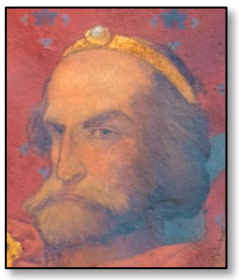
10.5.1.2. Notable Ancestors of Bengt Snivel

Berengar I of Italy
c. 845 – 7 April 924



Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff fm fm f
Son of Eberhard of Friuli and Gisela, daughter of Louis the Pious. Usually known as Berengar of Friuli. King of Italy (887 – 924) and Holy Roman Emperor from (915 – 924). Fought to defend northern Italy from Magyar invasions and was the last emperor crowned before Otto I.
Sources: *Antapodosis*; *Annales Fuldenses*

Baldwin II, Margrave of Flanders
c. 865 – September 10, 918

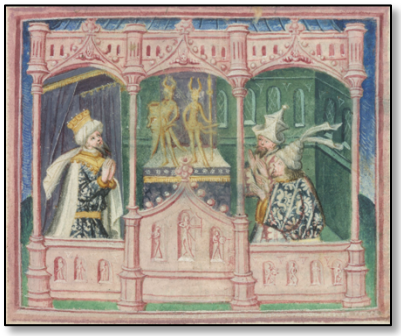


Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff ff ff f
Son of Baldwin I of Flanders and Judith of Flanders. Second margrave (or count) of Flanders, (879 – 918). Married to Ælfthryth, daughter of King Alfred the Great of Wessex.
Sources: *Annales Blandinienses*; *Chronicon Sancti Bertini*

Charles the Simple
September 17, 879 – October 7, 929
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 10) mm mm mm mm f
(Generation 11) mm ff mm mm mf
Son of Louis the Stammerer and Adelaide of Paris. King of West Francia (898–922) and Lotharingia (911–923). Known for the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, which granted land to Rollo of Normandy and helped end Viking raids
Sources: *Annales Vedastini*; *Flodoard of Reims' Annales*

Generation Eleven (Bengt Snivil's 8th Great-Grandparents)

Ragnar Lóðbrok
Legendary figure



Relation to Bengt Snivil: mf fm ff ff ff
Legendary Viking hero and king, said to be a scourge of France and Anglo-Saxon England. Central figure in Norse sagas and father of famous Viking leaders including Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye.
Sources: *Ragnarssona þáttr*; *Gesta Danorum*

Alfred the Great
c. 849 – October 26, 899



Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff ff ff mf
Son of King Æthelwulf and Osburh. King of Wessex (871 – c. 886) and Anglo-Saxons (886 – 899) who defended England against Viking invasions. Renowned for educational reform, legal codification, and laying the foundation for a unified England.
Sources: *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*; *Asser's Life of King Alfred*

Baldwin I of Flanders
Probably 830s – 879
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff ff ff ff
Founder of the County of Flanders. Married Judith, daughter of Charles the Bald, and ruled from 862 to 879, defending the region from Viking incursions.
Sources: *Annales Bertiniani*; *Genealogia Comitum Flandriae*

Louis the Stammerer



November 1, 846 – April 10, 879
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 11) mm ff mf fm mf and mm mm mm mm ff (Generation 12) mm ff mm mm mf f
Son of Charles the Bald and Ermentrude of Orléans. King of West Francia (877–879). Ruled briefly during a turbulent time of Carolingian fragmentation Married to Ansgarde of Burgundy and later to Adelaide of Paris. Was father of Charles the Simple.
Sources: *Annales Bertiniani*; *Flodoard of Reims' Annales*

Generation Twelve (Bengt Snivil's 9th Great-Grandparents)

Æthelwulf, King of Wessex



Died January 13, 858
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff ff ff mf f
King of Wessex (839 – 858) and father of Alfred the Great. Æthelwulf defended southern England from Viking raids and made a notable pilgrimage to Rome. He is remembered for his piety and support of the church.
Sources: *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*; *Asser's Life of King Alfred*

Charles the Bald



June 13, 823 – October 6, 877
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 12) mm ff ff ff fm f and mm ff mf fm mf f
(Generation 13) mm ff mm mm mf ff
Son of Louis the Pious and Judith of Bavaria. King of West Francia (843 – 877) and Emperor of the Carolingian Empire (875-877).
Sources: *Annales Bertiniani*; *Nithard's Histories*

Ermentrude of Orléans
September 27, 823 – October 6, 869
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 12) mm ff ff ff fm m and mm ff mf fm mf m (Generation 13) mm ff mm mm mf fm
Daughter of Odo I of Orléans and Engeltrude de Fézensac. Queen consort of West Francia as the wife of Charles the Bald and a key Carolingian noblewoman. She played a political role in court and was mother to several influential children, including Louis the Stammerer.
Source: *Annales Bertiniani*

Lothair I
c. 795 – September 29, 855
Relation(s) to Bengt Snivil: mm ff fm mf mf f
Son of Louis the Pious and Ermengarde of Hesbaye. Emperor of the Carolingian Empire (817 – 855), King of Italy (818 – 855), and King of Middle Francia (843 – 855). His reign was marked by the Treaty of Verdun, which divided the empire among him and his brothers, shaping medieval European boundaries.
Sources: *Annales Fuldenses*; *Chronicon Moissiacense*

Generation Thirteen (Bengt Snivil's 10th Great-Grandparents)

Louis the Pious
April 16, 778 – June 20, 840
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 12) mm ff fm fm fm f;
(Generation 13) mm ff ff ff fm ff; mm ff fm mf mf ff; mm ff mf fm mf ff;
(Generation 14) mm ff mm mm mf ff f



Son of Charlemagne and Hildegarde. King of Aquitaine (781–814), King of the Franks (King of the Franks), and Emperor of the Carolingian Empire (813-840). First married to Ermengarde of Hesbaye and then married to Judith of Bavaria. Known for his devout Christianity, administrative reforms, and the internal conflicts among his sons that led to the empire's division.
Sources: *Gesta Hludowici*; *Vita Hludowici*

Judith of Bavaria
c. 797 – April 19, 843
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 12) mm ff fm fm fm m;
(Generation 13) mm ff ff ff fm fm; and mm ff mf fm mf fm;
(Generation 14) mm ff mm mm mf ff m



Daughter of Welf of Bavaria and Hedwig. Carolingian Empress (819-840) and second wife of Louis the Pious. Wielded considerable influence at the Carolingian court and played a key role in promoting her son Charles the Bald's inheritance, which contributed to the dynastic conflicts of the era.
Sources: *Vita Hludowici*; *Annales Bertiniani*

Ecgberht, King of Wessex
770/775 – 839
Relation to Bengt Snivil: mm ff ff ff mf ff



Son of Ealhmund, King of Kent. King of Wessex (802–839) and King of Kent (825-839). Regarded as the first king to establish dominion over much of Anglo-Saxon England. His reign marked a shift in power toward Wessex after defeating Mercia at the Battle of Ellendun.
Sources: *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*; *Asser's Life of King Alfred*

Hugh of Tours
c. 780 – 837
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 11) mm fm ff ff mf
(Generation 13) mm ff fm mm ff mf and mm ff fm mf mf mf
Powerful Frankish nobleman and military leader under Louis the Pious. Held the title of Count of Tours and was instrumental in imperial campaigns in Brittany and Italy. Father of Ermengarde of Tours, who married Emperor Lothair I, making him the grandfather of multiple future Carolingian rulers.
Sources: *Annales Regni Francorum*; genealogical records of Carolingian nobility

Generation Fourteen (Bengt Snivil's 11th Great-Grandparents)

Charlemagne
April 2, 748 – January 28, 814
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 13) mm ff fm fm fm ff; (Generation 14) mm ff ff ff fm ff f and several other relations (Generation 15) mm ff mm mm mf ff ff and several other relations
King of the Franks (768-814), King of the Lombards (774 -814) and Emperor of the Carolingian Empire (800 - 814). Expanded the Carolingian Empire across much of Western Europe. He fostered the Carolingian Renaissance, revived learning and centralized administration, and laid the groundwork for medieval Christendom.
Sources: *Vita Karoli Magni*; *Annales Regni Francorum*



Hildegarde
c. 757/758 – April 30, 783
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 13) mm ff fm fm fm fm; (Generation 14) mm ff ff ff fm ff m and several other relations (Generation 15) mm ff mm mm mf ff fm and several other relations
Daughter of Gerold of Anglachgau and Emma of Alemannia. Wife of Charlemagne and Queen of the Franks, Hildegarde came from the noble Vinzgau family and was highly influential in court. She was mother to nine children, including Emperor Louis the Pious.
Sources: *Vita Karoli Magni*; *Annales Regni Francorum*



Welf of Bavaria
c. 776 – c. 825
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 13) mm ff fm fm fm mf and mm ff fm mm ff ff; (Generation 14) mm ff ff ff fm fm f and mm ff mf fm mf fm f (Generation 15) mm ff mm mm mf ff mf
Frankish noble and count of the Elder House of Welf. Father of Judith of Bavaria and an ancestor to both the Carolingian and later German dynasties. His family connections shaped the dynastic politics of early medieval Europe.
Sources: *Annales Regni Francorum*; Bavarian genealogical texts



Odo, Count of Orleans
Died May 25, 834
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 13) mm ff ff ff fm mf and mm ff mf fm mf mf; (Generation 14) mm ff mm mm mf fm f
Son of Adrian, Count of Orléans and Waldrada of Autun. Carolingian nobleman and count. Was an important figure in the early nobility of Orléans. Father of Odo of Orléans and a progenitor of the West Frankish royal line through his granddaughter, Queen Ermentrude.
Sources: *Annales Bertiniani*; early West Frankish nobility records

Generation Fifteen (Bengt Snivil's 12th Great-Grandparents)

Pepin the Short
714 – September 24, 768
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 14) mm ff fm fm fm ff f
(Generation 15) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff and several other relations
(Generation 16) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff f and several other relations
Son of Charles Martel and Rotrude of Hesbaye. Father of Charlemagne and the first Carolingian King of the Franks (751-768). Pepin was crowned with papal approval, ending the Merovingian line. He strengthened ties with the papacy and laid the political foundation for the Holy Roman Empire.
Sources: *Annales Regni Francorum*; *Liber Pontificalis*



Bertrada of Laon
710/727 – July 12, 783
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 14) mm ff fm fm fm ff m
(Generation 15) mm ff ff ff fm ff fm and several other relations
(Generation 16) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff m and several other relations
Wife of Pepin the Short and mother of Charlemagne. Played a diplomatic role in early Carolingian expansion and instrumental in promoting unity in Frankia.
Sources: *Annales Regni Francorum*; Frankish genealogical sources



Gerold of Anglachgau
c. 725 – 784
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 13) mm ff fm mm fm ff
(Generation 14) mm ff fm fm fm fm f
(Generation 15) mm ff ff ff fm ff mf and several other relations
(Generation 16) mm ff ff fm ff ff fm f and several other relations
Prominent Alemannic noble and father-in-law to Charlemagne. Count in Kraichgau and Anglachgau. Held significant regional authority and forged dynastic alliances through his daughter Hildegarde.
Sources: *Liber de Episcopis Mettensibus*; Carolingian Royal Genealogies

Emma of Alemannia
c. 725 – 784
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 13) mm ff fm mm fm fm (Generation 14) mm ff fm fm fm fm m (Generation 15) mm ff ff ff fm ff mm and several other relations (Generation 16) mm ff ff fm ff ff fm m; and several other relations
Wife of Gerold of Anglachgau and mother of Queen Hildegarde. Was a noblewoman of the Alamannic aristocracy. Through her marriage, she helped forge critical ties between regional Germanic leaders and the rising Carolingian power. Her legacy is preserved in her role as an ancestress to emperors and kings of the early Middle Ages.
Source: Carolingian Royal Genealogies

Generation Sixteen (Bengt Snivil's 13th Great-Grandparents)

Charles Martel
c. 688 – October 22, 741
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 15) mm ff fm fm fm ff ff (Generation 16) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff f and several other relations (Generation 17) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff ff and several other relations
Father of Pepin the Short and paternal grandfather of Charlemagne. Frankish statesman and military leader who served as Duke and Prince of the Franks (718 - 741), Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia (715 - 741), and Mayor of the Palace of Neustria (718 - 741) Best known for his victory at the Battle of Tours in 732, which halted Islamic expansion into Western Europe. Laid the groundwork for the Carolingian Empire through administrative and military reforms.



Sources: *Chronicle of Fredegar*; *Annales Regni Francorum*

Rotrude of Hesbaye
Died 724
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 15) mm ff fm fm fm ff fm (Generation 16) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff m and several other relations (Generation 17) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff fm and several other relations
Wife of Charles Martel and mother of Pepin the Short. As the matriarch of the Carolingian dynasty, Rotrude linked two powerful noble houses and played a central dynastic role in 8th-century Frankish politics.
Sources: *Annales Regni Francorum;* Frankish genealogical traditions

10.5.1.2. Notable Ancestors of Bengt Snivel

Charibert of Laon
Died before 762
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 15) mm ff fm fm fm ff mf
(Generation 16) mm ff ff ff fm ff fm f and several other relations
(Generation 17) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff mf and several other relations
Frankish nobleman and the father of Bertrada of Laon (mother of Charlemagne). Charibert was part of the powerful Laon aristocracy and played a key role in strengthening Carolingian political power through his daughter's marriage to Pepin the Short. His lineage connected the emerging Carolingian court to the older Austrasian nobility.
Sources: Frankish genealogical tradition; Carolingian annals

Generation Seventeen (Bengt Snivil's 14th Great-Grandparents)

Pepin of Herstal
c. 635 – 16 December 714
Relations to Bengt Snivil:
(Generation 16) mm ff fm fm fm ff ff f
(Generation 17) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff ff and several other relations
(Generation 18) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff ff f
Father of Charles Martel. Duke and Prince of the Franks (687-714), Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia (680 - 714), Mayor of the Palace of Neustria (687 - 695), and Mayor of the Palace of Burgundy (687 - 695), who established Carolingian dominance. He reunited the Frankish realms and laid the groundwork for future Carolingian power.
Source: *Liber Historiae Francorum*; *Annales Mettenses Priores*



Bertrada of Prüm
710/727 – July 12, 783
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 16) mm ff fm fm fm ff mf m
(Generation 17) mm ff ff ff fm ff fm fm and several other relations
(Generation 18) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff mf m and several other relations
Also called Berthe or Bertree. Mother of Charibert of Laon. Co-founded Prüm Abbey with her son Charibert in 721.
Source: Bertrada of Prüm's historicity is plausible — especially given her name appears in early Carolingian lineages — but no contemporary chronicle or charter names her explicitly in the role we assign her today (as the grandmother of Charlemagne). Her existence is built largely from Charlemagne's maternal ancestry and later family records associated with Prüm Abbey.



Generation Eighteen (Bengt Snivil's 15th Great-Grandparents)

Ansegisel
c. 602 or 610 – before 679
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 17) mm ff fm fm fm ff ff ff
(Generation 18) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff ff f and several other relations
(Generation 19) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff ff ff and several other relations
Son of Saint Arnulf of Metz and a key figure in the merging of Austrasian nobility with the Arnulfing line. Served as a palace *domesticus* under the Merovingians. He was killed sometime before 679 by his enemy Gundewin.
Sources: *Liber Historiae Francorum*; Carolingian genealogies

Begga
615 – December 17, 693
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 17) mm ff fm fm fm ff ff fm;
(Generation 18) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff ff m and several other relations
(Generation 19) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff ff fm and several other relations
Daughter of Pepin of Landen and Itta of Metz. Wife of Ansegisel and mother of Pepin of Herstal. After her husband's death, she founded a convent at Andenne, where she was later venerated as a saint.
Sources: *Vita Sanctae Beggae;* Carolingian genealogies



Generation Nineteen (Bengt Snivil's 16th Great-Grandparents)

Arnulf of Metz
c. 582 – 645
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 18) mm ff fm fm fm ff ff ff f
(Generation 19) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff ff ff and several other relations
(Generation 20) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff ff ff f and several other relations
Frankish Bishop of Metz and advisor to the Merovingian court of Austrasia. He later retired to the Abbey of Remiremont. Traditionally considered the earliest named ancestor of Charlemagne and the Carolingian Dynasty, but some scholars say that the familial connection between Arnulf and Charlemagne was an invention by Charlemagne.
Sources: *Vita Sancti Arnulfi*; *Liber Historiae Francorum*;
Chronicle of Fredegar



Pepin of Landen
c. 580 – February 17, 640
Relations to Bengt Snivil: (Generation 18) mm ff fm fm fm ff ff fm f
(Generation 19) mm ff ff ff fm ff ff ff mf and several other relations
(Generation 20) mm ff ff fm ff ff ff ff fm f and several other relations
Father of Begga. Mayor of the Palace of Austrasia under the Merovingian King Dagobert I (623 to 629) and Mayor for Sigebert III (639 -640).
Sources: *Vita Sancti Arnulfi*; *Liber Historiae Francorum*; *Chronicle of Fredegar*

Epilogue: Sven Hög Dreams of His Ancestors[210]

During the final hours of 1846, Sven Hög lay in his bed at Sörhemmet, only days away from drawing his last breath. As the fire crackled within the cottage walls, Sven drew shallow, labored breaths, now too weak to cough with force. To help him rest, his wife Anna Stina gave him a warm drink — a weak spirit mixed with honey. Sven brought the cup to his lips with trembling hands, managed a sip, then coughed softly into the linen she had folded for him. Afterward, he blinked once, then let his eyes gently close. As Sven drifted off to sleep, he dreamed a series of long and lucid dreams about his ancestors.

Once Sven entered the landscape of dreams, he first saw his mother as a little girl at the village Gransäng, playing with her friends Britta and Lena by the Fredriksdals River.

Next, Sven dreamed of his maternal grandfather Sven Nilsson as he spent a few years in the city of Jönköping as a young journeyman bricklayer during the mid-1750s.

Sven's mind then drifted more than a century back in time to the 1640s, to when Knut Persson, Sven Nilsson's great-grandfather, was a corporal in Småland's Cavalry and was wounded in battle during the Torstensson War.

Next, Sven dreamed of Per Jacobsson, Knut Persson's father, who was a lieutenant in Småland's Cavalry, and his experiences in the Thirty Years' War.

Sven's dream then carried him back another 140 years to the 1490s, to when Knut Nisson, Per Jacobsson's great-grandfather, was a squire at Öresten in the service of his uncle Arvid Knutsson.



Illustration courtesy of ChatGPT

[210] A work of creative fiction by Jeffrey High and ChatGPT.

"Sven, my dear," Anna Stina spoke softly, waking Sven from his deep slumber, "Please have a sip of broth." Sven slowly opened his eyes. Morning light now seeped through the frosted panes of Sörhemmet. Sven stirred, just barely, and turned his head to see Anna Stina seated beside him. He tried to speak, but the breath caught in his chest — shallower now, fading like the old year. With a final blink, he closed his eyes again, and the world of dreams returned — deeper this time, and older.

As Sven returned to the realm of dreams, he dreamed of Britta Knutsdotter, Knut Nilsson's mother, a noblewoman who had left her home at Torpa in Västergötland to live in distant Södermanland after marrying the squire Nils Halvidsson in the early 1470s.

Next, Sven dreamed of Britta's father Knut Arvidsson, the founder of Torpa and District Chief of Kind District, who, like Sven, died a premature death from tuberculosis in 1458.

Sven's dream next took him back another 60 years to when Arvid Jönsson, Knut Arvidsson's father, was first sworn in as District Chief of Ås District.

Sven then dreamed of Arvid Jönsson's father Jöns Bengtsson, who served as District Chief of Kind District in the 1390s and inspired Arvid to follow in his footsteps.



Illustration courtesy of ChatGPT

Sven's dream then wandered back to 1350 to Bengt Abjörnsson, the father of Jöns Bengtsson, as he lay in agony dying from the Black Death, the disastrous plague which wiped out nearly a third of Sweden's population.

Sven then dreamed of Lucia Matsdotter, Bengt Abjörnsson's mother, who spent her final days as a nun at Gudhum Monastery in the 1330s and 1340s with her three sisters: Bengta, Holmborg, Ingeborg (the monastery's abbess), and daughter (also named) Ingeborg.

The dream then carried Sven to the 1280s, where Lucia's father, Mathias Nilsson, and his brother Gjurd inherited the estate of Långserum from their father, Nils.

And finally, Sven saw Nils — the founder of Långserum — as a younger man in the 1240s, marrying Ingegerd, a noblewoman from the great Bjälboätten, significantly elevating his social status.



Illustration courtesy of ChatGPT

As Sven's dream faded into darkness, his soul drifted ever closer to the ancestors who had called to him across the centuries. The candle's gentle flame danced in the hush of the room, casting a warm light upon his face, as though Heaven itself leaned near. A holy stillness fell upon Sörhemmet, and in the silence, Sven's spirit edged closer to the eternal rest which awaited him.