



VERIGE SWEDEN

A HERITAGE SCRAPBOOK

about

*the Petersons from
Dalsland, Sweden*

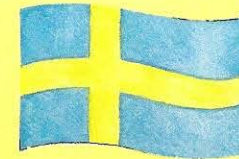
by Mary Ann Peterson Field



A HERITAGE SCRAPBOOK

of my trip to DALSLAND, SWEDEN

trip to Dalsland, Sweden
by Fred, Mary Ann, Lindsey, Jordan
August 2003



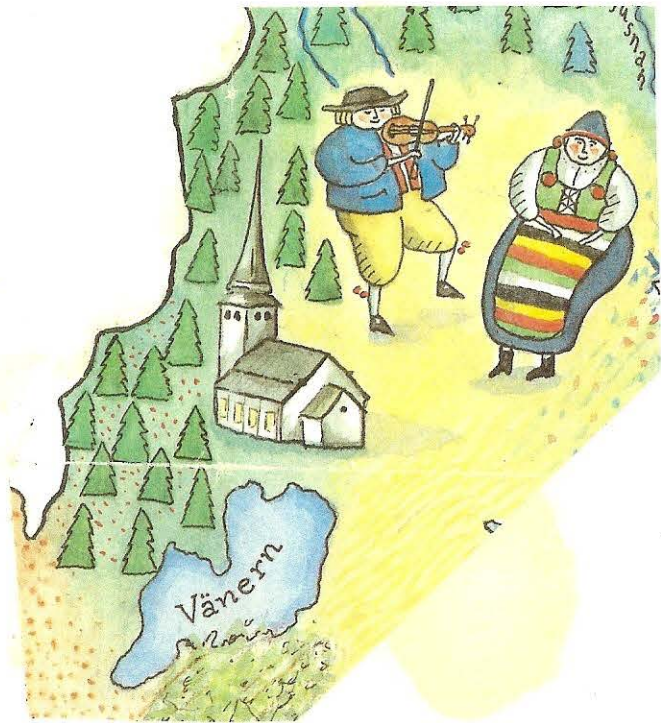
Dalsland is said to be a Sweden in miniature. It is covered with more lakes than any other Swedish province. One of the most beautiful waterways in Europe, the Dalsland Canal connects a labyrinth of large and small lakes and rivers, and idyllic, meandering canals. Only ten kilometres of the canal is man-made; the rest is a 240-kilometre navigable system of lakes. One of the highlights of the canal is at Håverud - completed in 1868, a combination of a roadway bridge, a railway bridge and an aqueduct.

Another popular way to experience the magnificent countryside of Dalsland is on a railway inspection trolley. You travel on disused railway lines straight into the wilderness, where you can spot elk, deer and various birds. Other popular outdoor activities include guided beaver and elk safaris where you can also see predators like lynx and wolf. In Tresticklan National Park in northwestern Dalsland, by the Norwegian border, visitors can hike through large tracts of virgin forest, thin, barren pine forest and rift valley landscapes.

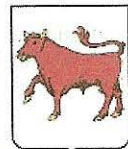
Dalsland was the province where more than half of the population left to find a new life in America. The area was very poor and many people could not find a way to make a living on the small farms. Only one of the children in a family could inherit the land and the others had to find ways to make a living on their own. Many left for Norway to work and save money for a ticket to the promised land.

Dalsland of today is a beautiful area with many lakes, deep forests, green meadows and with another pace of time, more peaceful than that of big cities. Enjoy!
www.dalsland.com

DALSLAND



Dalslands hus



Dalslands djur



Dalslands dräkt från Bolstad

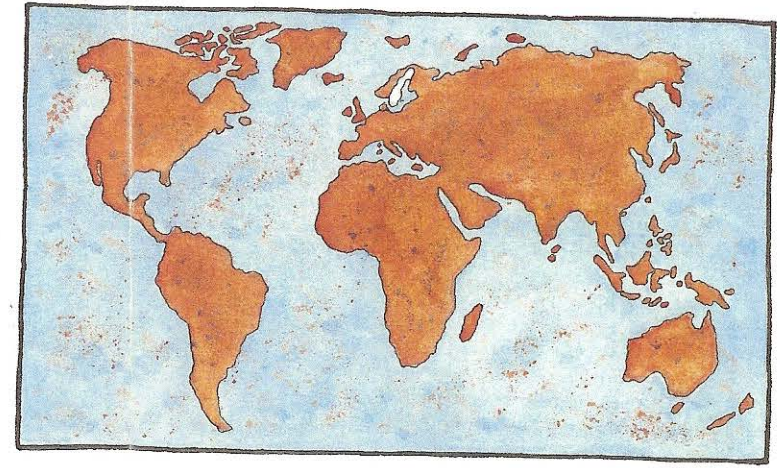


Dalslands blomma – förgät mig ej



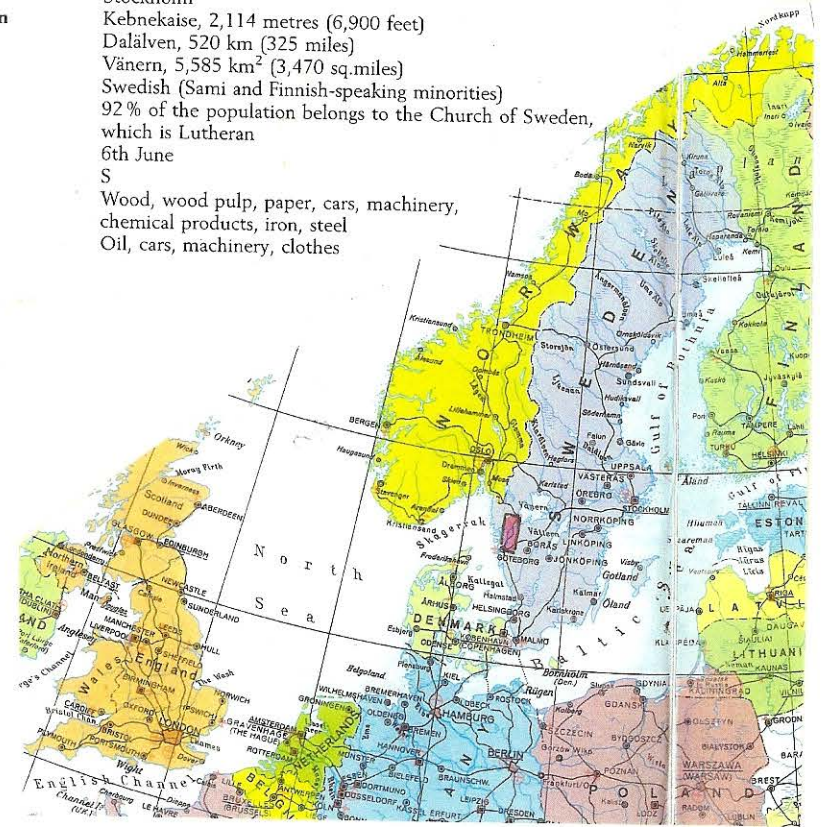
Sweden was still using Kronor in 2003, but likely to change to euro in the near future.

8 kronor=\$1 or 1 krona=13¢



FACTS ABOUT SWEDEN

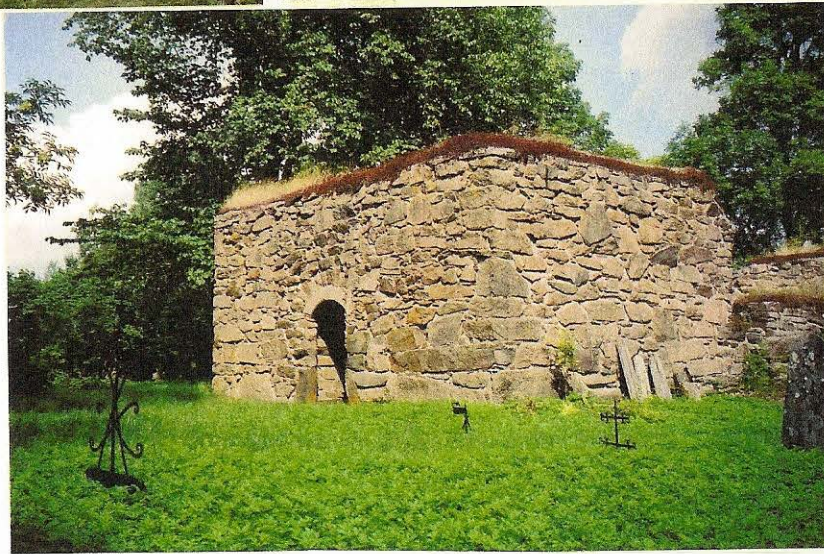
- Area 449,964 km² (173,731 sq.miles)
- Population 8,360,000 (655,000 immigrants)
- Density of population 20 inh./km² (53 inh./sq.mile)
- Capital Stockholm
- Highest mountain Kebnekaise, 2,114 metres (6,900 feet)
- Longest river Dalälven, 520 km (325 miles)
- Largest lake Vänern, 5,585 km² (3,470 sq.miles)
- Language Swedish (Sami and Finnish-speaking minorities)
- Religion 92 % of the population belongs to the Church of Sweden, which is Lutheran
- National day 6th June
- Nationality sign S
- Main exports Wood, wood pulp, paper, cars, machinery, chemical products, iron, steel
- Main imports Oil, cars, machinery, clothes





Erikstads kyrkoruin 1200 ruins of Erikstad Church

stad – place or town



ERIKSTAD CHURCH RUINS. Erikstad's old church, known as the middle church today, is 300 meters west of the new church. The old church is believed to have been built in 1686. There certainly was a church on this site earlier, perhaps dating from the 1200's. The baptismal font, small bell and chalice, which are in the new church today, testify to that. Outside the church ruins is one of the typical *Dalboslätten* [the Dalbo Plain - of southern Dalsland] grave crosses of iron in a so-called hour glass form.

The church was so small that people had to stand in both the weapon house [a vestibule at the entry to the church] and outside when there was a worship service. The church was of large granite blocks, length $3\frac{1}{4}$ *aln* and width $1\frac{1}{2}$ *aln* equivalent to approximately 18.8 m. x 8.6 m. A new porch was built in 1781 which was 10 *aln*ar, about 5.94 m. in each direction. On top of the porch was built a wooden tower, octagonal with a pointed spire 9.5 *aln*ar high, about 5.6 m. The spire's tip was made of iron and crowned with a rooster with the year 1787. The sacristy was built in 1700. It was 7 x 7.5 m. 1 x 4 m.

It was when the old church began to be too small that the thoughts of a new church were formulated. The last service was held November 20, 1881, and the new church was consecrated November 27, 1881. Just one year after the new church was put into use, the old church was dismantled. Since then the stone walls have stood and crumbled into pieces. The church ruins have been repaired several times.

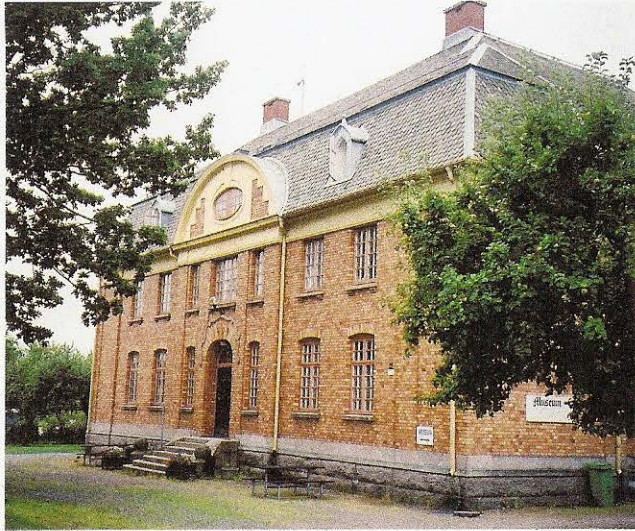
All that could not be of use in the new church was sold at auction in 1882. They preserved, among other things, a number of paintings, a dove, the small bell, the chalice and the baptismal font, even the church rooster but it was stolen around 1980. The painted ceiling was used first in an outbuilding at a school before it was put to good use. An oak door was used as a bridge post and the pulpit became a calf pen in a barn. *translated by Fred and Mary Ann 2011*

*from an article by the Bolstad Hembygdsförening.
<http://f8edebatcon.com/sweden/Kycka-ErikstadHistory.htm>*





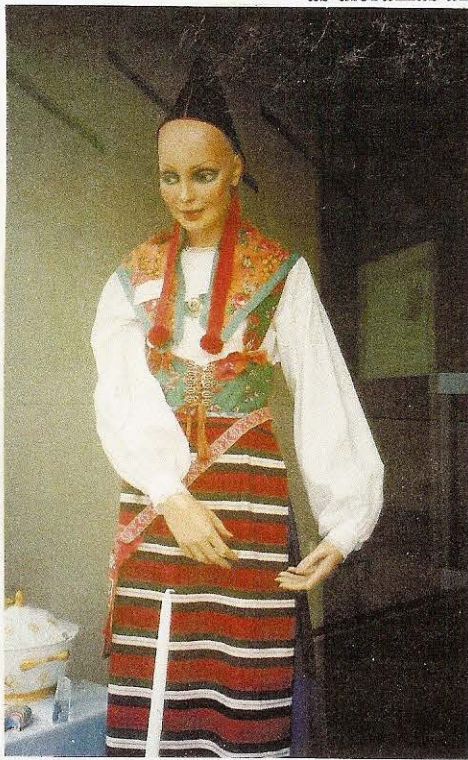
Scenes around Mellerud centrum – population about 2000



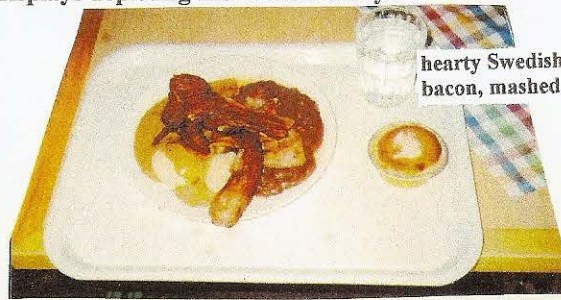
Mellerud Museum houses genealogy records, as well as dioramas and displays depicting life in the old days



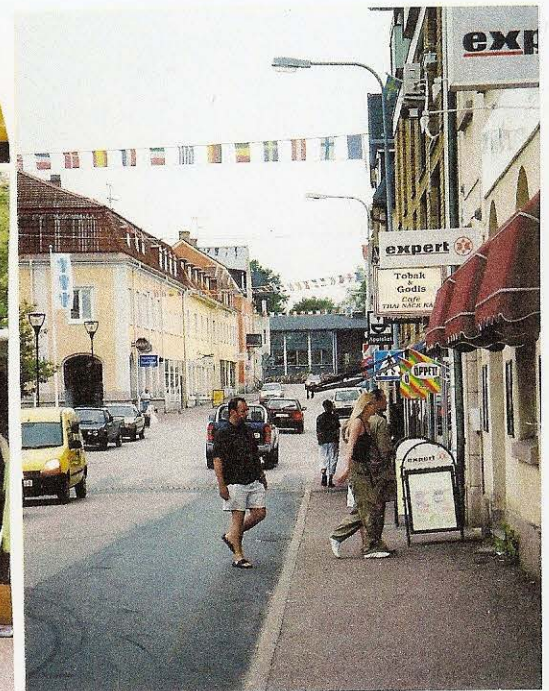
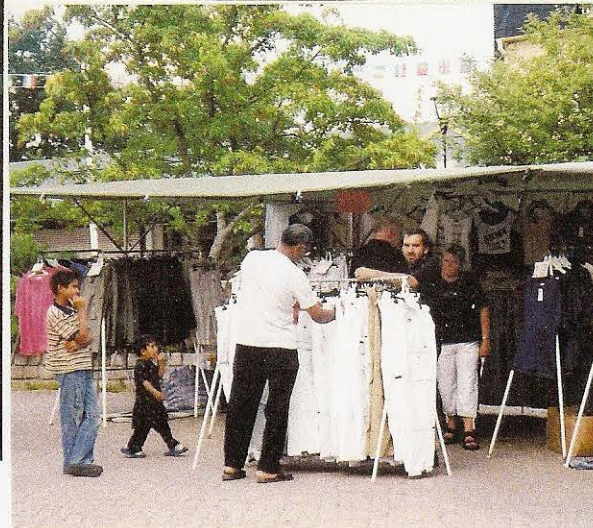
folkwear representing Sweden

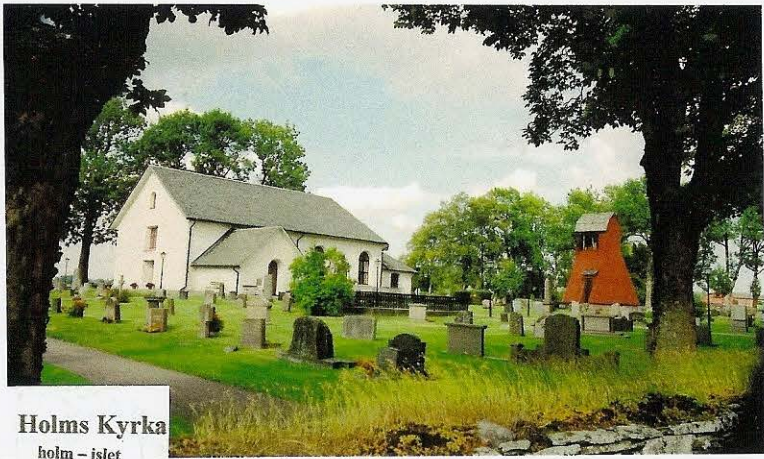


Mellerud

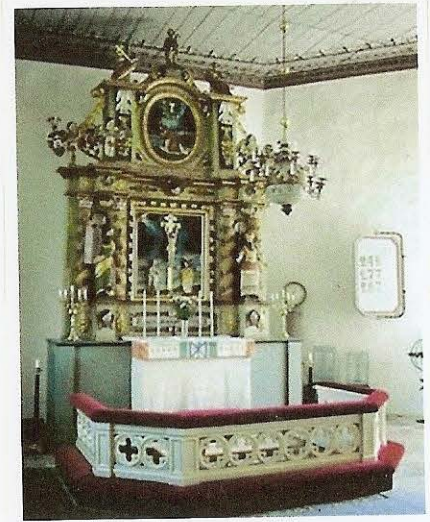


hearty Swedish lunch of beans, bacon, mashed potatoes, gravy





Holms Kyrka
holm - islet

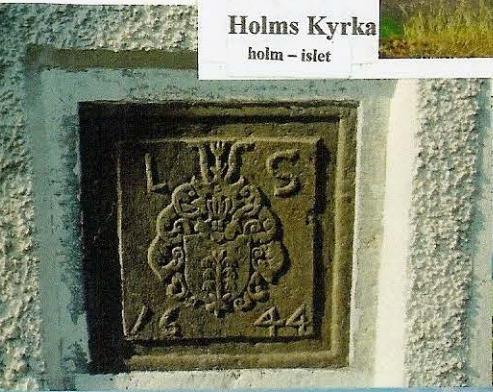


HOLM CHURCH

The church was built during the 1200's. An older small bell and baptismal font are from the same period. A Madonna image is from the 1400's. An altar painting from 1727 is in two panels: the lower, Jesus on the cross flanked by Moses and Aaron; the upper panel, Jesus of Gethsemane. And higher up is Mary with the Child and an angel with a cross and chalice. The pulpit was created by Isac Schulström in 1742. Ceiling paintings from 1740 were created by Hans Georg Schüffner, who also painted the pulpit. A chasuble [mass garment] is from 1767, and a *paté* [communion plate] is from the 1600's. The current organ dates from 1938. The previous one from 1855 is in the parish hall which is located in Mellerud municipality. *translated by Fred and Mary Ann 2011 from the blog of Liv & Hålsa Gunborg.*

Our grandfather, Karl (Charles) Peterson, born February 1, 1876, at Fagerlid, would have been baptized at Holms Kyrka.

His parents, Peter Olsson and Stina Lisa Eriksson, were married at Holms Kyrka on September 10, 1858.





relaxing at Lake Vänern (the largest lake in Europe)
after a long afternoon spent visiting churches



Anneli Andersson (Mellerud), Fred Peterson, Mary Ann Peterson Field,
Jonathan Andersson, Jordan Field, Lindsey Peterson (left to right)





The family homestead, Markustorp Fagerlid, is now part of Mellerud. Fagerlid School (Fagerlidsskolan), some houses and a bus stop occupy the site.



Anneli's five year old son, Jonathan (pronounced yoon-a-tahn), pursued Lindsey and Jordan relentlessly.

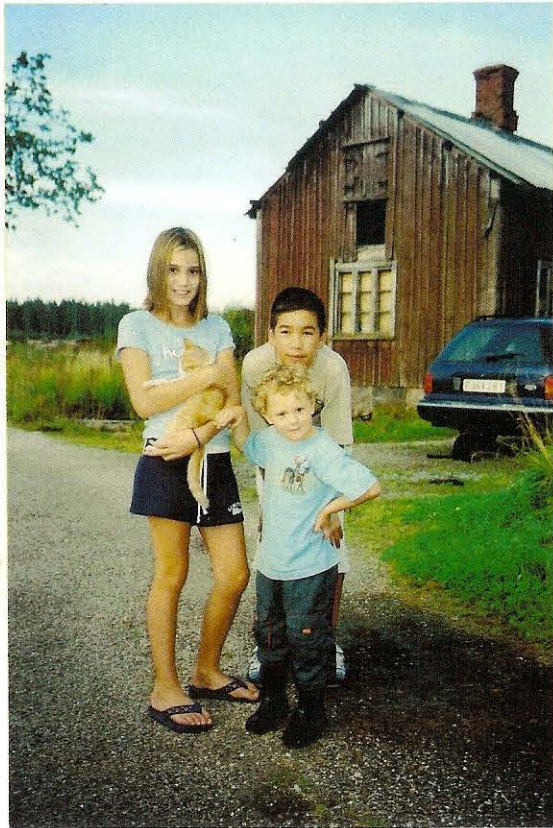


"fagerlid" means "fair field"





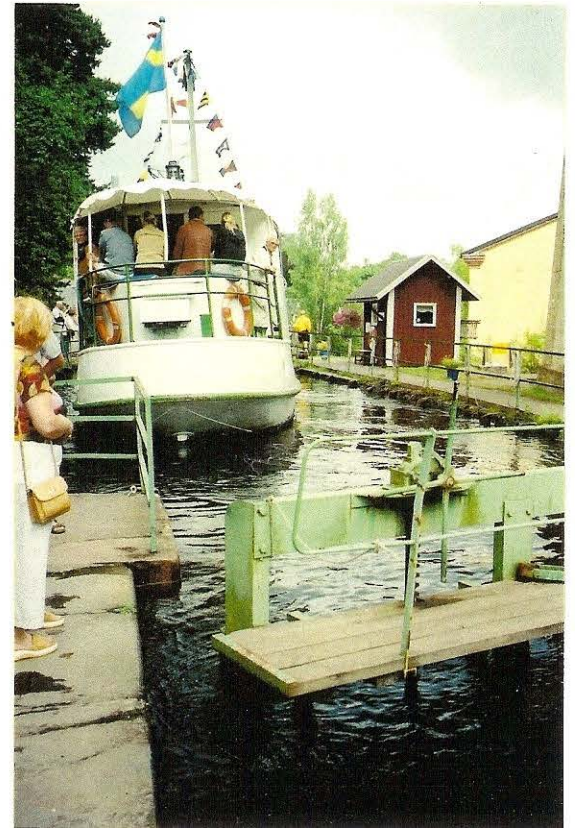
**Annelie Andersson, son, Jonathan, boyfriend, Roger;
Mary Ann; Lindsey; Fred; Jordan (kneeling)**



**overnight with Annelie Andersson, our genealogy contact in Mellerud,
at her farmhouse on the Brunshult homestead**

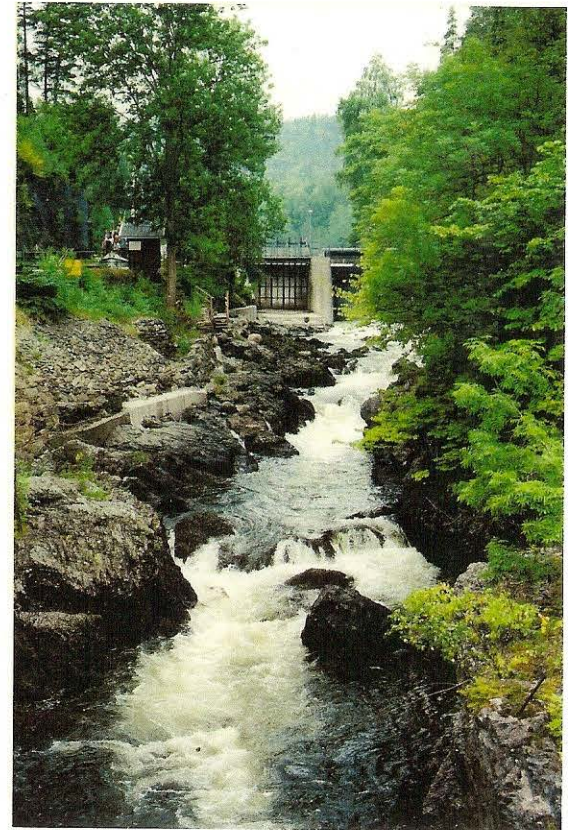
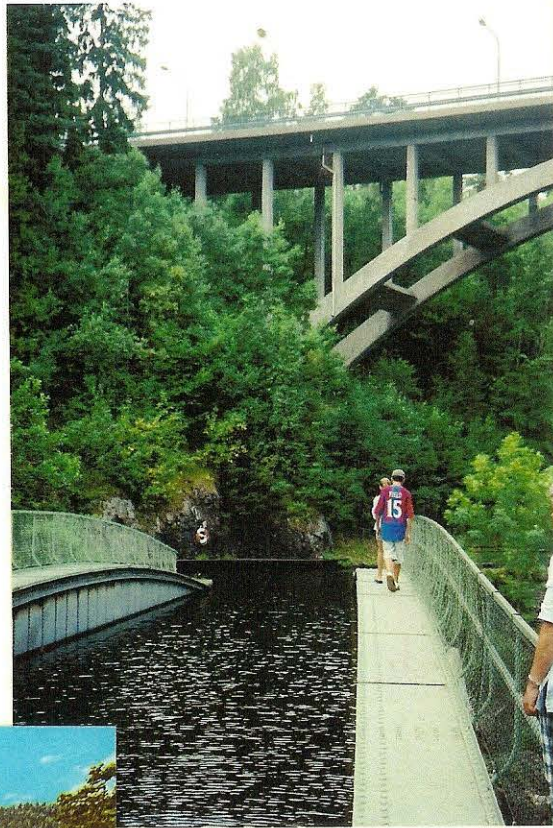


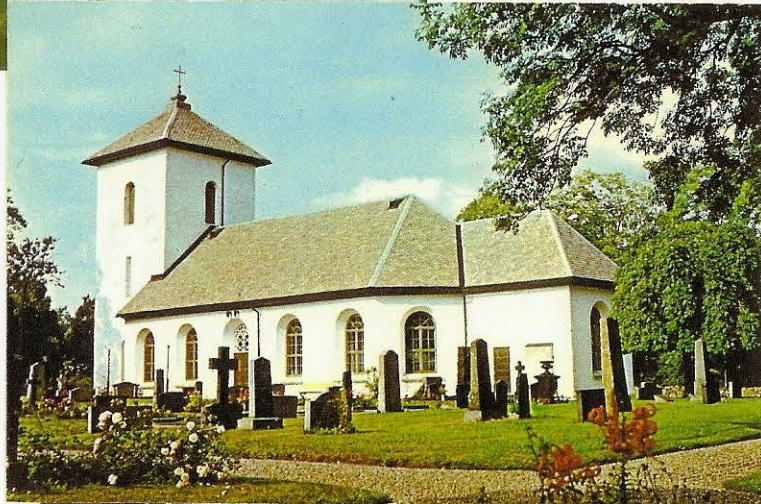
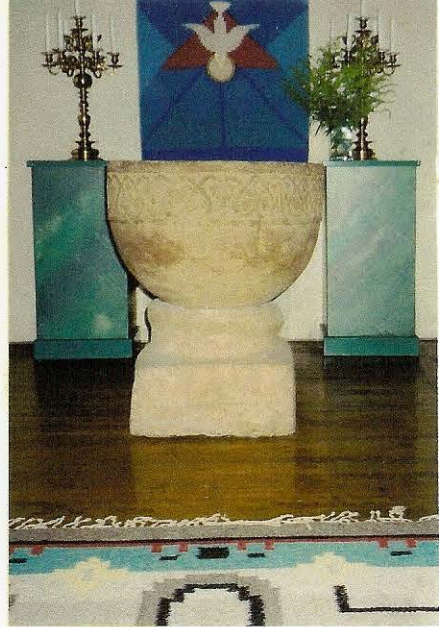
The aquaduct at Håverud allows boats to bypass the waterfall through series of locks.



Dalslands Kanal (The Dalsland Canal) connects Lake Vänern to Norway by means of a series of short canals which connect many long, narrow lakes.

The canal was completed in 1868 for the purpose of transporting goods from the iron works and sawmills in western Sweden and eastern Norway to Lake Vänern.





**GESTADS KYRKA
(Gestad Church)**

This font, dating from the 1200s, would have been used for the baptism of our great grandfather, Peter Olssen, in 1876, as well as for the baptisms of his parents, his grandparents, etc.

MURÅNGEN TRANSLATION
This is the oldest church in Gestad. It dates from the 1200s (?). The area which consisted of a group of farms is called Murången, meaning pile of rocks or rock foundation (mur) and cultivated field (ånge). During excavations from 1986 to 1990, the "mystery of Murången" was solved. It was discovered that there were about 20 homesteads in this area. Before that there was a Roman Catholic stone church of the type found in western Swedish parishes around the 1100s.

The church is constructed with stone. The stone was plastered over during the Lutheran reformation in the 1600s. In the late 1700s the church was lengthened with the addition of the choir. The building material consists of tile bricks. The addition was constructed in 1800.

Stones fragments with inscriptions from the Middle Ages were excavated. This was considered a rare find. Their purpose is being investigated. Theories include wall decorations or art training. The fragments are displayed at the back of the church.

The excavation uncovered the remains of the foundation of a 10 by 20 metre (32.5 x 65 feet), two-story wood building with clay floors. The building material date from the 13C. This "stormanskyrka" (sp?) would have been a "king of the sort of place. The site may have been

MURÅNGEN

Vid Lovås ca 2 km söder om Gestads nuvarande kyrka finns förminnesområdet Murången med drygt 20 "husgrunder", beskrivna av Anders Lignell 1850 och grundligt inventerade av Riksantikvarieambetet (G A Hellman) 1965. Tolkningen av lämningarna har varit mycket osäker, och det var genom en serie provgrävningar under åren 1986 - 1990 som en del av "mysteriet Murången" löstes.

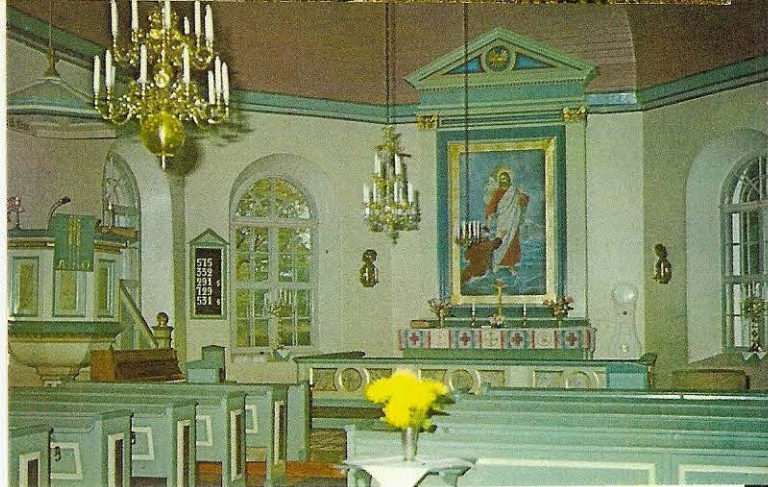
Den tydligaste ruinen visade sig vara grunden av en romansk stenkyrka av den typ som uppfördes i hundratals västsvenska socknar under 1100-talet. Den kan utan tvivel ses som Gestads första stenkyrka. Av okänd anledning övergavs den före 1250 och efterträddes av den tegelbyggda Gestads "gamla kyrka" vid en föregångaren till den nuvarande, som invigdes på nyårsdagen 1800.

Stenkyrkan på Murången delades av och fick kordelen införd i det nya byggnadsmaterialet tegel - kanske för att bli en stormansgårdskyrka, kanske för en funktion i stiftets tjänst.

I lämningen av Murångenkyrkans kordel (en av Sveriges tidigare tegelanläggningar) påträffades en stor mängd fragment med ristningar, en mycket ovanlig företeelse i medeltiden. De kan ha ingått i korets väggutsmyckning eller kan ha varit konstnärliga övningsobjekt utan praktisk användning. Tillsvidare har vi inga kända motsvarigheter.

Bland andra lämningar på Murången delundersöktes en större husgrund, tydlig lämning av en loftbyggnad om 10 x 20 m, i trä med lergolv. Fyndmaterialet hör hemma i 1200-talet, och denna "stormansgård" kan ha tillkommit ungefär när stenkyrkan övergavs.

Två andra "husgrunder" visade sig vara fyrsidiga stenlagda järnåldersgravar, under medeltiden troligen används som underlag för byggnader. Gestads äldsta kyrka har alltså som många andra uppförts på en förhistorisk kultplats.



GESTADS KYRKA
Genom KONTR. PROST E. M. FLORELLI Rorsborg,
Rytmästare A. AMINOFFS öst
och församlingens enighet på kyrk. uppbyggd
invigdes den 1. 1800.



Skålleruds Kyrka (Skållerud Church), was the burial place of our great grandmother, Stina Lisa (Eriksdotter) Olsson, who died April 16, 1898. It was also the baptismal site of her paternal grandmother, Stina (Olofsdotter) Larsson, who was born November 12, 1822.

Gravesites that were not maintained by the family were forfeited and reused after 100 years. It is likely that no one maintained her Stina Lisa's grave after Peter died. All of their descendents had died or emigrated to America.

rud – clearing in the forest



**GENERAL TRANSLATION
SMIDDA (gravvårdar)**

A number of ironwork grave protectors (gravvårdar) were found in the graveyard. They were crafted in the 1700s and 1800s. This type of monument was known in Sweden from the 1600s and in Norway from the 1500s. Sometimes there were engraved pictures such as tools for a blacksmith, or symbols such as a cross, triangle, bell, ring, heart, or the tree of life for paradise. Leaves hanging from the tree would move in the wind (as the example in the photo).

SMIDDA GRAVVÅRDAR

På Skålleruds kyrkogård finns ett antal smidda gravvårdar av järn. De är från 1700- och 1800-talen och hade tidigare sin plats på olika gravar. En period förvarades de på kyrkvinden. Därifrån togs de ner 1924 och fick sin nuvarande plats vid östra kyrkogårdsmuren.

Smidda gravvårdar är kända i Sverige i början av 1600-talet och i Norge i slutet av 1500-talet. De smidda gravvårdarna i Skållerud hör troligen ihop med smederna och järnbruket i Upperud. Gravvårdarna hade varierande form bl.a. kors, triangel, klocka, ring och hjärta. Bland fanns smedens verktyg avbildade på värden. Några gravvårdar har formen av ett träd med löv som rör sig för vinden och kan då tolkas som livets träd och en paradissymbol.

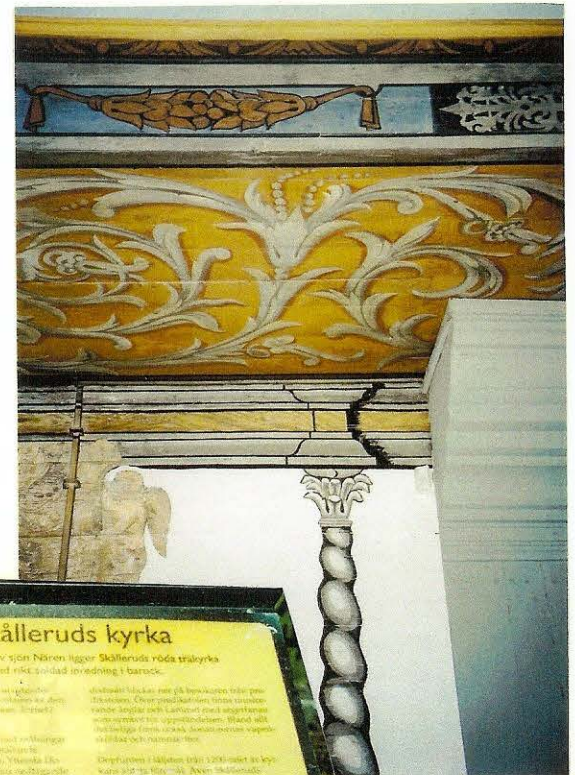
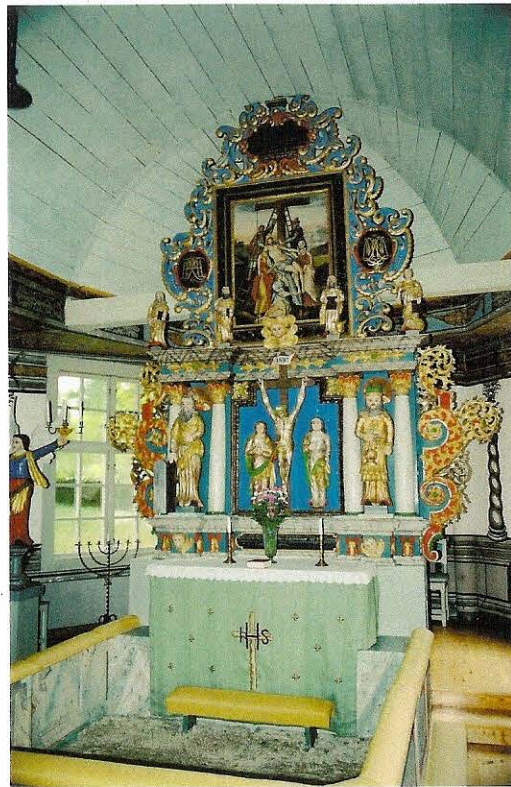
Litteratur: Christian Åkerlund, Smidda gravvårdar, en studie i folklig formgivning, 1982.

*"Och han visade mig en flod med livets vatten,
klar som kristall, som rann från Guds och
Läkarens tron. På stranden stod live-träd som
bär frukt varje månad och trädets rök-
medel var folkens..." (Uppnåbarelsebok 22)*





This beautiful church sits at the edge of Lake Vänern, north of Mellerud. This church is very ornate and interesting. It is featured on a website about Sweden at "www.svearike.com/landskap/dalsland.htm".



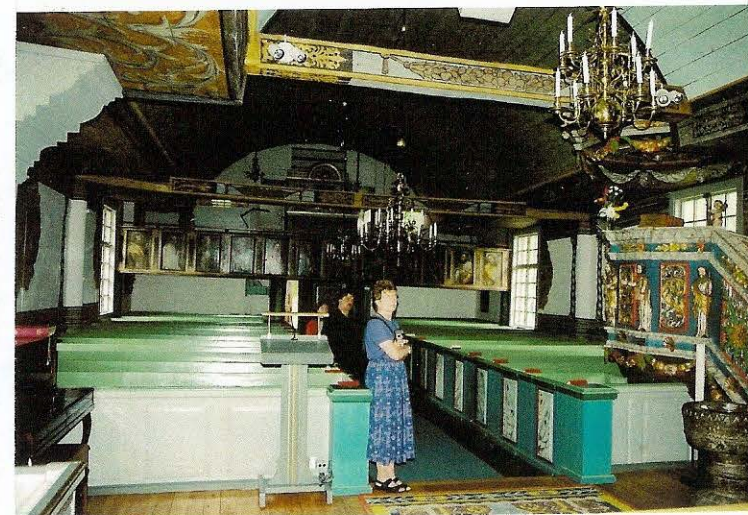
SKÅLLERUD'S CHURCH

Near the shore of Lake Nären lies Skållerud's red wooden church with rich carved Baroque decorations.

In conjunction with a reconstruction in 1676-79, the church nave was widened. This was paid for by the local mill owner Paul Rokes. The steeple on the west was added in 1746.

In 1683 the church was decorated with paintings by Erik Eriksson Grijs depicting the Apostles and Evangelists at the Last Judgment, along with the altar piece of Jesus being taken down from the cross. The carved figures on the altar piece and pulpit were made in 1760 by Isac Schullström and depict the crucified one with a modern Mary, and the disciple John, and also Moses with the tablets, and Aaron with a breast plate and incense burner. The Apostles with their weapons as a symbol are seen looking down on the visitor from the pulpit. Over the pulpit are *music-playing angels and the Lamb with the sailing banner* as a symbol of the Resurrection. Among all the saints are also the donors' coats-of-arms and nameplates.

The baptismal font from the 1200's made of soapstone is the Church's oldest object. Even Skållerud church was _____ in the mid-1800's _____ the interior was painted white and the carved figures black, but in 1924 they were restored as new to the original colors.



ÅNIMSKOG CHURCH. On the eastern shore of Lake Ånimmen facing Henriksholms, a now modernized manor house, is Ånimskogs, a church over 700 years old, nestled in luxuriant greenery of balsam poplar, maple and linden.

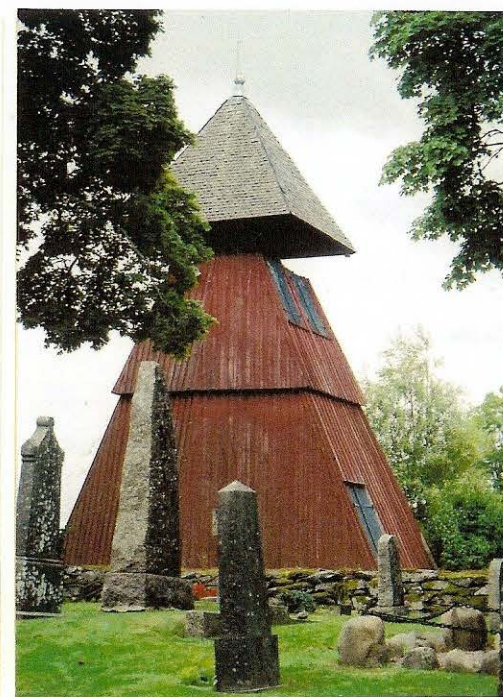
The church's oldest section had a square-shaped floor and was built during the first half of the 13th century by an unknown master builder. The walls are a meter thick and consist of an outer and an inner wall of granite. Between these walls is a filling of rubble and wall debris which was mixed with remains of human bones from an earlier graveyard, probably of pagan origin.

The baptismal font is made of sandstone and fitted with tap holes, which date it from the beginning of the 13th century or earlier. In the gallery hall there is a burned oak chest from the 11th century. The form indicates a pagan origin. It was found in excavations in the vicinity of the north wall in 1929.

translated by Fred and Mary Ann 2011 from book by Gunnar Hedén 1976.

<http://ifredpeterson.com/sweden/Kyrka-AnimskogHistory.htm>

**Ånimskogs Kyrka (Ånimskog Church)
north of Mellerud**



ÅNIMSKOGS KYRKA

Kyrkan, vars äldsta delar troligen uppfördes vid slutet av 1200-talet, ombyggdes på 1600-talet från vilken tid den bevarar sin karaktär. Dess vackra, pietetsfullt restaurerade interiör pryds av det praktfullt målade trätakets från 1739, utfört av Hans Georg Schuffner. Därs mest kände kyrkmålare. Vidare finns målningar av apostolerna på läktarbarriären. Altaruppsatsen i barockstil, skänktes 1729 av Erik Månsson Ulfsparré på Henriksholms säteri och predikstolen är samtida med denna. Dopfunten stammar från 1200-talet och kyrkan smyckas i övrigt av ett par vapensköldar.

På kyrkogården återfinnes dalslandsmålaren Otto Hesselboms grav.

SVENSKA TURISTFÖRENINGEN

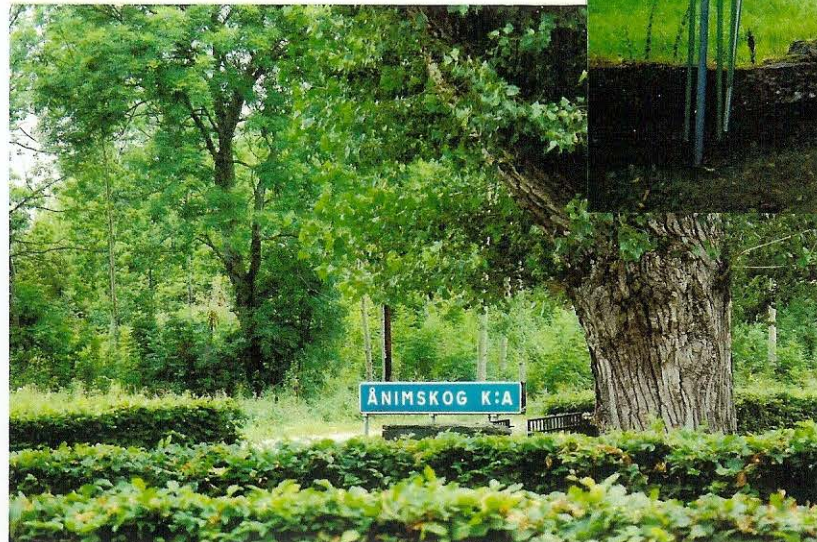
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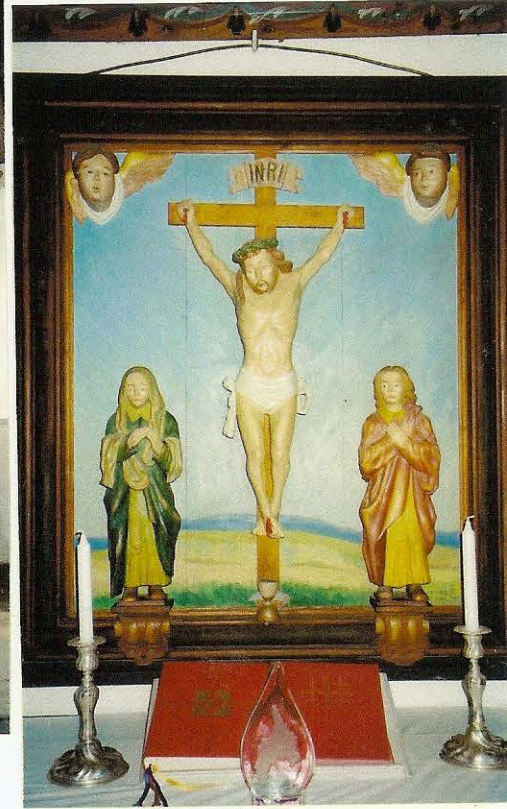
ANIMSKOGS KYRKA. GENERAL TRANSLATION
The oldest part of the church was built near the end of the 1200s. It was rebuilt in the 1600s in the same character. The beautiful ceiling was painted in 1739 by Dal's best-known church painter., Hans Schuffner.

The baroque altar was decorated in 1729 by Erik Ulfsparré. The pulpit was decorated in the same period.....vapensköldar coat of arms.

The grave of Otto Hesselboms is in the church garden.

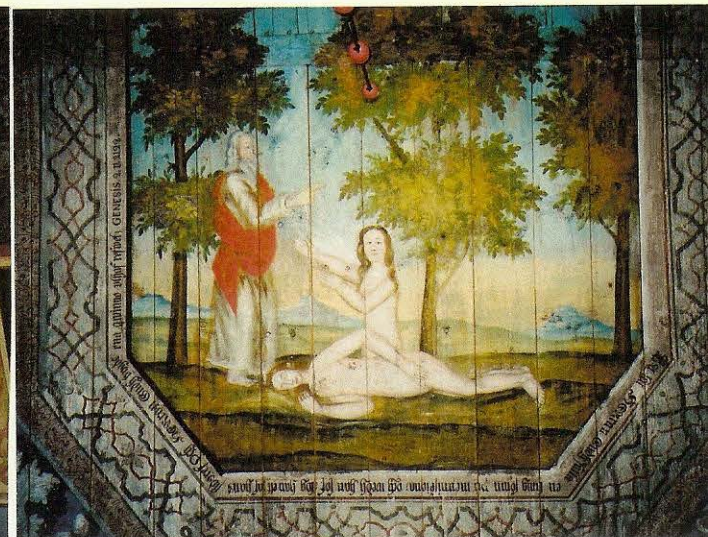
skog - forest, woods





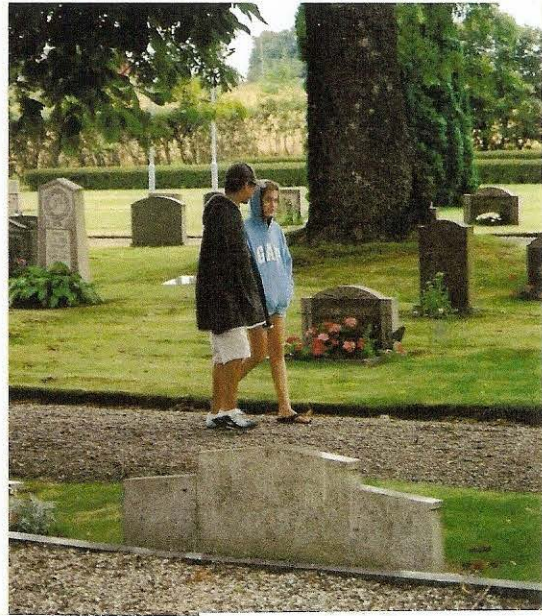
Ånimskog Church with separate bell tower was the baptismal site of our great grandmother, Stina Lisa Eriksdotter,

It was also the site of baptisms, marriages and burials of several generations of the ancestors of Stina Lisa.





Bolstads Kyrka (Bolstad Church), is the probable burial site of our great grandfather, Peter Olsson, who died July 1, 1907.

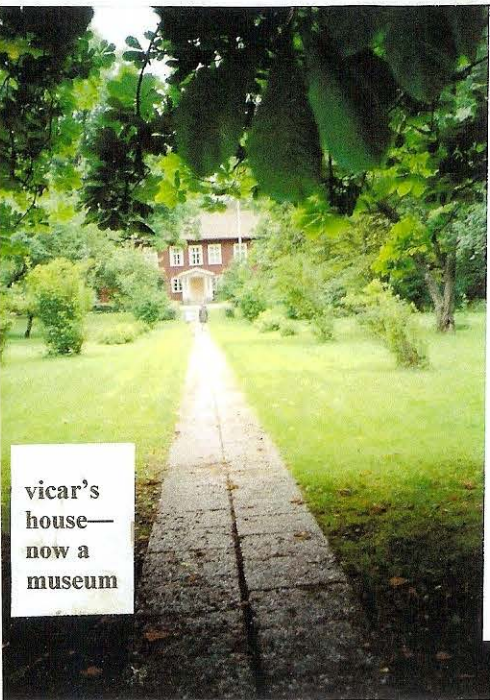


Gunrud, the curator of the vicar's house, welcomed us with warm, Swedish hospitality, including a table spread with buns, biscuits, cheese, candy, tea, coffee.

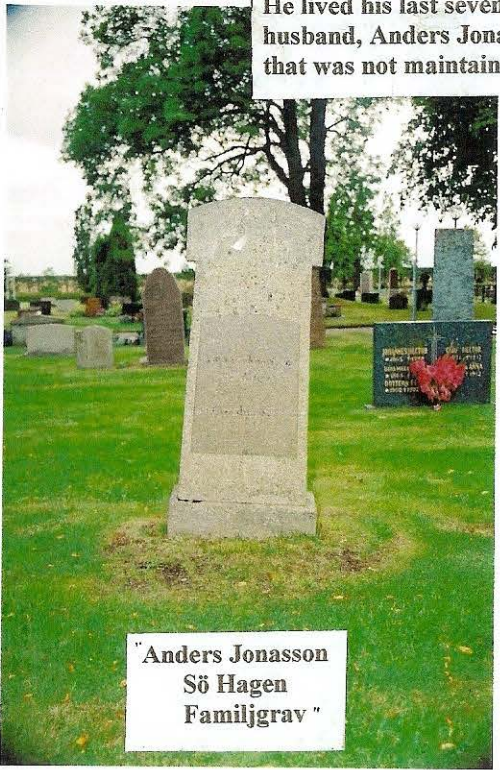
Gunrud made some phone calls and discovered that she grew up next door to and played with our half-cousins, once removed (the daughters of Karl's half-sister, Kristina) on the farm in Södra Hagen..



He lived his last seven years with his daughter, Kristina, and her husband, Anders Jonasson. We do not know if he was buried in a grave that was not maintained, or buried in the Jonasson family grave.



vicar's house—
now a
museum

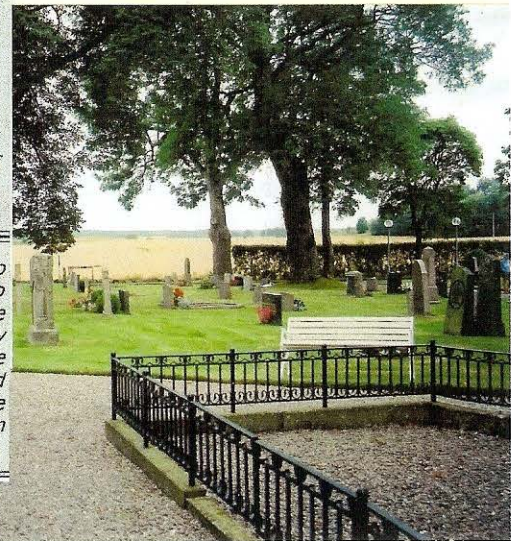


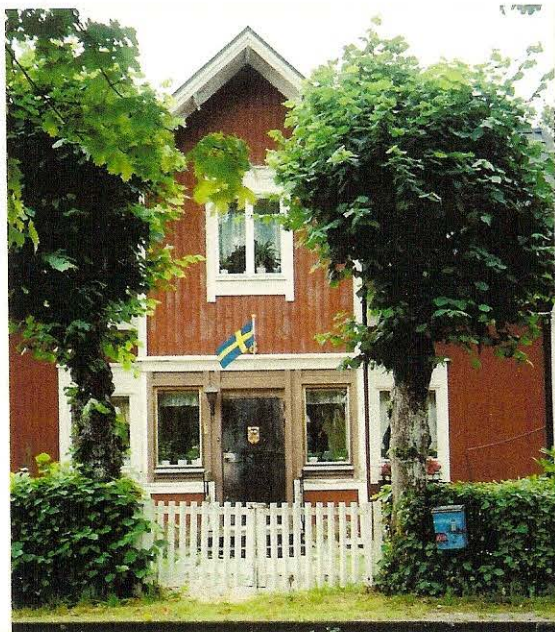
"Anders Jonasson
Sö Hagen
Familjgrav "

Kristina's family grave bearing her husband's name—
They lived in South Hagen.

BOLSTAD CHURCH. The church was built about 1175. In 1759, it was converted into a cruciform [cross] style church. The steeple's oldest parts date from the middle ages. In 1400, Bolstad church was called Saint Lawrence church. The church bells are legendary. The church organ was built in 1855. The altarpiece was painted in 1675 by church painter Eric Grijs, Gothenburg, depicting the Resurrection and the Eucharist. The baptismal font dates from the 1100s, the bowl from the 1200s, made of sandstone and soapstone. Lily stones from the 1200's represent the tree of life. *translated by Fred and Mary Ann 2011 from the blog of Liv & Hålsa Gunborg.*
<http://jfredpeterson.com/sweden/Kyrka-BolstadHistory.htm>

Note from compiler. The liljestenar (lily stones) are two slabs of sandstone on which are carved a lily motif meant to represent the tree of life. These slabs hang on the inside walls of the bell tower at the west end of the church. They were placed there during the restoration of 1933-34. The sandstone comes from the Kinnekulle rock formation found on the eastern shores of Lake Vänern. These carvings are found in other churches in the Kinnekulle area, but in Dalsland are unique to Bolstad.





Typical houses in Dalsland. The dark red with white corners is the most common, followed by yellow. Houses were left unpainted until about 100 years ago. Then they were painted white. Colors are more modern.

