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Do you have suggestions or opinions about the content of this magazine? Would you like to write a line or two? Get in touch! Remember to notify us any change of address!

The beautiful Teleborg castle in Växjö



Local meetings

If you are interested in organizing a local meeting with members who live near you, please contact us with information about which geographic area is interesting. We will then make an extract from the membership register and contact current members to find out if they are interested. You will then receive a list of those who want to participate in a local meeting. E-mail your request to medlem@sabelskjold.se

New register for members

For the past 20 or so years, we have used Excel to keep track of our members, addresses and all other information. When the membership fees have been paid, we have had to mark the payments one by one, an extremely time-consuming task. We have also sent emails through another system. Membership applications have been received via a third system.

After the turn of the year, we have a new membership register from a company where several of these time-consuming tasks will be largely automated. We will also be able to send out an invoice for the membership fee with OCR no. For those of you who have e-mail, the invoice will arrive in your inbox around the end of the month Jan-Feb, the others will receive a letter. For cost reasons, we want to use e-mail as far as possible to communicate with you. A letter today costs about \$4 to send outside of Sweden.

Jewellery directly from Valdi

The weapon is available in three different models, a necklace and two heel rings. If you want to order a ring, first go to a local goldsmith, and try out the right size. Keep in mind that this is a heel ring, so ask to try them on. If you are interested, contact Valdi Smycken directly.

More information about the jewellery can be found in previous Sabelskjöld's newsletter, if you don't have them left, they can be found on the website. www.sabelskjold.com

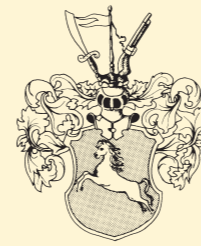


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Wedding in Sweden

The Sabelskjöld family association has a bridal crown which is traditionally called "the Sabelskjöld bridal crown". It was made available to the association in 1970 by Sabelskjöld settlers with the intention that it be used for weddings within the family. Do weddings run in the family? Rent our own unique bridal crown!

Contact Staffan Svensson, Oskarshamn, Tel: +46 706-639 505, naffats58@hotmail.com for more information.



Sabelskjöldarn

2024

www.sabelskjold.se

A word from our chairman

Another year has passed, 2023 was a year with many negative events, both in Sweden and abroad, not least the ongoing war in Ukraine. Let's hope that 2024 will be a better year. We have escaped pandemics and we can meet normally again

At the beginning of September, we finally got to a family meeting, this time in Växjö. There is a special report on that. It was a pleasant and appreciated meeting. Regarding members, we are fairly constant at just over 500 members. It usually drops slightly in the autumn when those who have not paid the annual fee are removed, but the number of members is slowly working its way back up again. We now have 522 members and exactly one year ago we were 528. If we are to grow, we have to market ourselves more and we do that best ourselves.

Right now, we are in the process of introducing a new membership system that will make it easier to keep track of who pays, etc. For the members living abroad we will use PayPal and send an invoice to your mailbox.

It will also be easier to communicate with your members when you start from the same database. A request that came up in connection with the member survey that we did during

the summer was that you should be able to get in touch with relatives who live in the same place. I have some thoughts on how it should be done in the new system and at the same time comply with the GDPR rules, which makes it a little more complicated. We are also planning a digital member meeting during the winter/spring with some form of presentation, this will probably be only in Swedish.



I would like to urge those members who do not have an email address registered with the association to notify us. It will be much easier to send out information and it will also be significantly cheaper because postage is quite expensive. Send your address to medlem@sabelskjold.se and we will add it to the database. In 2024, we will meet in Vadstena on August 31. Hope to meet as many of you as possible there. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who worked in the association during the past year and wish all relatives the best of luck in 2024.

*With kind regards, Chairman
Per Håkansson*

Annual meeting 2024 - Vadstena

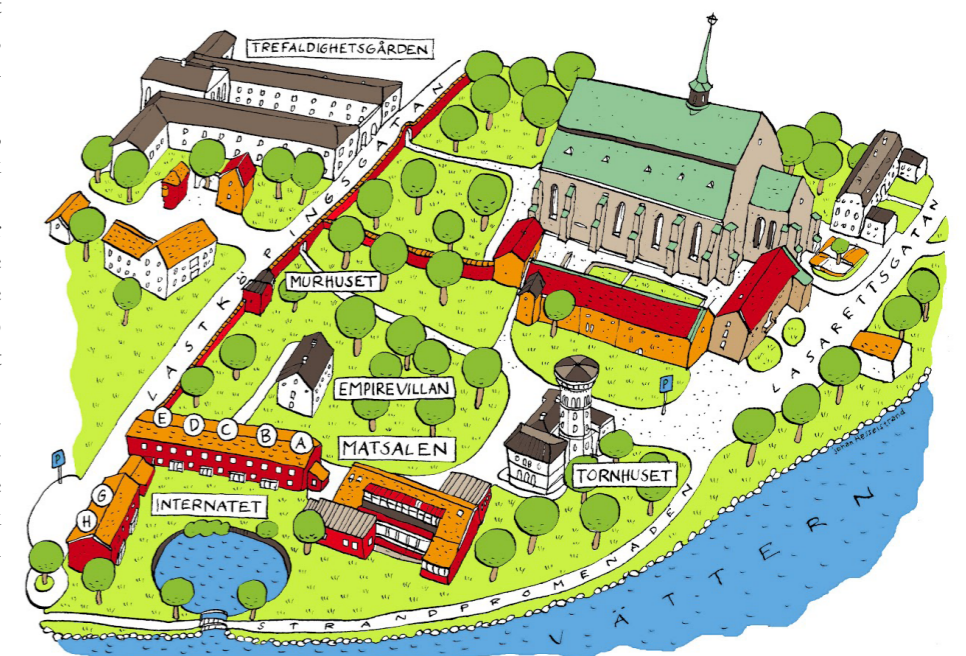
Welcome to Vadstena on 31 August 2024. We will be at Folkhögskolan, which is right next to Lake Vättern with a fantastic view of the water.

An invitation will be sent out, mainly by email but also by letter. Book the date in the calendar.

If you want to write a motion for the meeting, it must be sent to the chairman (address is on the last page of the newspaper) no later than July 25 the board will have time to process it before the meeting.

The day begins with morning coffee, followed by the usual annual meeting proceedings. We eat lunch in the school canteen and then we can look inside the monastery and the church before afternoon coffee and closing.

Welcome, the board



A wise old woman in Småland

In Stockholm, there were doctors early on, including for the court, but it wasn't until 1708 that the first general hospital in Sweden was founded - the Academic Hospital in Uppsala, which was a teaching hospital. In 1744 came instruction for provincial doctors. At the time, there were only 32 in the whole country, all in cities. In the countryside where most people lived, every housewife was expected to be able to lay covers and set leeches. When greater efforts were required, the care was taken care of by wise old women and old men, and that's how it looked well into the 19th century.

What did Carl Sabelskjöld and Elisabet Duræus do if they got sick? And who could help them if one of the daughters needed treatment? Perhaps they went to the neighbour-



ing parish where in their time there was a wise old woman.

In Koppramåla in Vena parish lived Kerstin Persdotter, born around 1627, daughter of Per i Alsarp and wife of the soldier Joen Håkansson. In her time, Kerstin was widely known for having extensive experience in practicing healing arts. Many people traveled long distances to her for relief and healing, both from southern Småland and Östergötland. Kerstin was self-taught and made wound-healing ointments from herbs.

Anyone who had knowledge of healing arts could be accused of being a witch, of having to do with the devil. Belief in magic and sorcery has always existed, but it was only with Christianity that sorcery was associated with the devil. Around Europe, many "witches" were burned at the stake. Sweden had a period of witch trials in 1668-1676 which was called "the great uproar". During that time, it is estimated that around three hundred executions for witchcraft took place. The last person in Sweden who was executed for witchcraft was beheaded in Stockholm in 1704. So it was not completely risk-free to be knowledgeable in the art of medicine.

Now Göta Hovrätt wanted to know what Kerstin Persdotter was really up to. By order of the Court of Appeal, her case was taken up in Vimmerby courthouse. In the court register you read that on 14 June 1697 she was agreed to *Laga Tingh uti Sefvedes Härad i Wimmerby*. The district court was

assembled and asked questions. Kerstin confessed that she is contacted from several places and applied for several diseases in people and cattle.

She was asked to tell where her treatments consisted of. In the summer, she collects all kinds of herbs and leaves and make salves from them, she says, *"och wet intet annat än uti Jesu namn gör hon det och Jesus är den som värkar alt, hon kan eller wet ingenting i werlden utban allenast att koka smörja och plåster, som hon ock läkt sådana sår dem ingen annan kunnat eller wehlat antaga"*. The committee wonders if she learned from anyone *"Nej utban begynt med örter och sådan Smörja, att läka Sår och sedan mebr och mebr winlagt sigh der uti, sedan bon sedt det hulpit"* answers Kerstin.

Now the board is wondering if, when she has visitors, she goes off the beaten track and uses signery, that is, summoning supernatural powers through magic and spells. *"Svar: näj det skall aldrig någon säjja, det iagh gör det gör iagh i deras åsyn, och säger dem och beder dem minnas, att de alt bruka uti Jesu namn"*.

A few trusted people whose words carry weight testify about Kerstin and her business. It is *"Pastoris uti Hwena äbrevördige Hr Swän Melander och Commministro Hr Sven Hvenman"*. Both have only good things to say about her. Pastor Melander believes that if anyone he should know what she is doing, he is her soul savior.

According to him, she is skilled: *"een snäll qwinna uti Medicins saker"*.

She uses natural remedies and he has often spoken to her about this, because of that *"mykna tillopp uthaf folk"* who seeks her help, but found everything in order.

Commissioner Hwenman tells us that he once had an accident where he seriously injured one of his legs, which Kerstin skillfully treated and the healing went quickly. He also says *"så kan iagh på samvetz wagnar intet annat säjja, så mycket mig witterligt äbr, utban bon har sigh äbrligen och wäll förhällit, hwad hennes kraft i läkedomar wedkommer, är bon snäll det många wittna kunna"*.

Kerstin turns to *"hebla Tings allmogen om någon är som kan säjja henne gjort någon Menniska ondt? Hwar till alla swarade: aldrig bört henne göra något ondt, men mycket godt serdeles medh siukdomar på folk och Boskap, Sår och andra skadar"*. Kerstin is humble in front of the court, but with a straight back she gives clear, unambiguous answers to the committee's questions. You can still sense a certain fear in her. In the time since she has been called to the thing, a wife who has fallen sick and a child who is numb (numb, emotionless) have come from the south and sought her help. She rejected both of them despite their attempts to persuade her, even threatening the Landlord (sheriff?) if she didn't help them.

Kerstin is now asking the high authorities if she is forbidden to treat people and livestock as she is used to. In that case, she should stop. *"Som bon nu blir dragen inför rätta och brydd för sin goda willia, och för nimmer att det inte skall wara lofligt, skall bon ock aldrig mebr öfwa sådant eller hielpa någon Människa mebr, om ock all hennes Boskap dödde af siukdom skall bon aldrig bruka något der emot, om hon blir af öfwerbeeten förbuden, så att om det spörjes, will bon intet undandraga sigh det kraf som öfwerbeeten will påläggga"*.

GårdsbyBladet

En tidning utgiven av
Gårdsby Sockenråd

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Tina Nilsson
Henrik Svensson
Kjell Gustavsson
Lina Schlegel

TRYCK

Grafiska punkten

UPPLAGA

1900 ex

Nästa nummer av
GårdsbyBladet kommer
i mitten av september
2022. Stoppdatum för
bilder och artiklar
31 augusti 2022.

When the king came to the village

Readers of these lines should hardly doubt that the center of Sweden is Gårdsby and that all power emanates from Gårdsby residents. But the fact is that for a few short days, in the year 1612, Sweden's new king Gustav II Adolf sat in Gårdsby, on Ekesås, from where he ruled the kingdom and planned a terrible revenge against the Danes.

It was in the middle of the raging Kalmar War (1611–1613). The Danes had pushed back the Swedes significantly and taken all of Öland, Kalmar Castle and Borgholm Castle. The Swedes were busy fighting Russians and Poles and the Danes saw their chance to advance. On the Swedish throne sat the aged and insane Charles IX, who had made a habit of chopping off the heads of all dissenters, which he did with great skill. To end the quarrel with the Danes, the frail king challenged his Danish combatant Kristian IV stubbornly in the hope that an honourable fistfight would bring peace to the kingdom. The exchange of letters has been preserved and is a rare reading, where Christian IV playfully signs the letters with "greetings from our castle in Kalmar".

When Karl IX dies in October 1611, Gustav II Adolf becomes regent. In the vacuum created by the change of throne, the Danes saw the chance and headed inland in a diversionary maneuver to break the Swedish siege of Kalmar Castle. A Danish army made its way up to Växjö and burned down both the town and the surroundings around the castle at Kronoberg. Gustav II Adolf was in camp outside Kalmar. He hastened to the rescue inland. When approaching Växjö, they decided to set up camp. Växjö was burned down, as were 500 farms in the area, including Stallholmen and Kungsgården and thus the supply to Kronoberg Castle. Gustav II Adolf chose to settle north of the city. The king himself took possession of Ekesås, which was then the rectory of Gårdsby's church. He and his closest companions came to live at Ekesås for two days where they planned an advance deep into enemy country.

We don't know much about what the king did at Ekesås, but notes have been preserved that people ate buns and drank beer. In addition, they planned a revenge march behind the enemy's lines which would shortly afterwards completely destroy the Danish town of Vå.

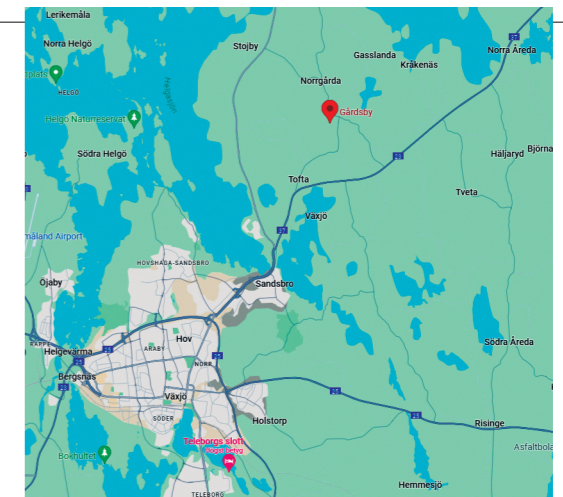
The Kalmar War was a short and intense war that devastated cities such as Växjö, Kalmar, Jönköping and Vå, the losses were great on both sides, many people had to put their lives on the line and many old buildings were destroyed. It would undoubtedly have been better if Karl IX had gotten his way and settled in a wrestling match with the Danish king. Then we might still have had a Vasab org on the shore of Lake Helgasjön instead of a ruin. But on the other hand, we had neither Kristianstad nor Gothenburg, which were built as a direct result of the fire assessment of the nearby cities.

However, we can in any case marvel at the course of history and consider that the kingdom of Svea, during a few dramatic days in February 1612, was actually ruled from Ekesås and that Gustav II Adolf drank beer and ate buns here with us in Gårdsby. Peace was concluded in Knäred in November 1612 and Danes and Swedes promised each other to live in "ewigwarende fred, wänchap och naboerchap". Like so many times before, it turned out to be a broken promise. There was still a long way to peace in the Nordics - but here in Gårdsby, in any case, no battles have been fought. Because here we are a peaceful people of a noble peasant tribe, and if some warlike king comes by on a rampage, we offer beer and buns.

Hasse Nilsson

This article was included in Gårdsbybladet no. 2, 2022 and is written by Hasse Nilsson. We have been allowed to borrow the newspaper from our member Birger Svensson in Växjö.

Gårdsby is just northeast of Växjö towards Dädesjö. Gårdsby parish in Småland was part of Norrvinge district in Varend, since 1971 it has been part of Växjö municipality and from 2016 corresponds to Gårdsby district in Kronoberg county. If you want to know more about Gårdsby, there is a page with information about what is happening in the village, both big and small, as well as history. www.gardsby.se



Meeting - Emigrants' House and Teleborg Castle, Växjö

On September 2, 2023, we had a family meeting in Växjö. It was almost exactly a year after our last meeting, which was the annual meeting in Uppsala where, among other things, we got to see our nobility certificate. We were 73 relatives who met in Växjö and the meeting was much appreciated.

We first gathered in the Emigrants' House where we were told about the great emigration that took place from Sweden during the 19th century. Then there was a tour of the museum. Haven't been there myself since school. Very interesting and a lot of information about what happened. Many of our relatives left Sweden during this time and most of us have relatives on the other side of the Atlantic.

We would have gone through the practical before we started walking around the museum, that meant I had to go around telling everyone what time we would be leaving for lunch and the family meeting. Everything went well and just before 1 pm we were all on our way to Teleborg Castle. Very grand castle, almost a bit in Disney style and it looks much older than it is. Perfect place for a family reunion in any case. Once there, there was a good lunch and a little chat with relatives before it was time for the actual family meeting.

We gathered in a conference room; everyone was in place quite quickly. The first item on the agenda was to review the results of the member survey that we sent out earlier. The survey contained 14 questions and there were 61 members who answered the questions. Overall, the members were satisfied with the association, but there were some wishes and ideas about what could be improved. Some things that came up were arranging digital meetings via, for example, Teams or Zoom with different themes, the possibility of getting in touch with relatives who live in the same place or nearby, arranging study visits and lectures. These are requests that we on the board get to decide on what can be implemented.

Bert Myde, a member of the Research group gave us an interesting and entertaining lecture on genealogy. We will print a booklet on the subject. There is an incredible amount of fun and interesting facts to find out about one's relatives, but it requires both patience and accuracy. There are many pitfalls to fall into and it is important to find out what is correct and to find sources that confirm what you find. Today, there are numerous digital sources and you can look in church books and house interrogation protocols, you don't have to visit churches any longer. What you need is a subscription to one of the services available on internet. A thank you to Bert and the research group for the fine work you put in. Hope we can get this treaty through some digital platform so more members can learn more about genealogy.

Next up was Karin Larsson who talked about DNA research. DNA is very complicated but can be a good help in finding relatives in your research. Incredibly interesting topic that you can dig into. A bit difficult to understand everything with the different genes, but Karin helped us a bit along the way. DNA analyses can provide both positive and negative news, turning a lot upside down if it doesn't match what you thought. Can also be a help to find the right way in your research. A thank you also to Karin for the fine presentation.

Everything ended with coffee and cake at the castle. A nice place and a nice day and it's always just as fun to meet all relatives.



Chairman Per Håkansson welcomed everyone to the Emigrants' House and the talk held in the assembly hall.



A "real" American suitcase with a storage box next to it. In the trunk were the clothes you had but also tools and perhaps some mementos from home. Closest in the picture we see the supply box, people had their own food with them on the trip.

Text and pictures: Per Håkansson and Gunnar Malmberg

Genealogy using DNA

The DNA code for each person contains more than three billion building blocks called A, C, G and T. We inherit 50% from mother and the same amount from father, which means that the amount of DNA is halved for each generation. As siblings, we inherit different parts from our parents, but there are a number of segments that are similar and that determine whether we are actually full siblings or not.

Our genetic material is found in all the body's cells as spiral-shaped DNA molecules. The cells contain our genes that tell us what colour we should have; how tall we should be and everything else that is unique to us as people.

When you take a DNA test for family research purposes, you do not receive information about predisposition to diseases or eye colour. But you may learn other things. For example, that your paper research is correct. You will be matched with the people you are closely related to and who also have taken a DNA test.

It is possible to solve old family riddles. But it may not be as simple as it may seem. You need to have tests from close relatives of the suspect. If you don't have a suspect, it requires more work and can take a lot of time.

You can find relatives of people who have emigrated to other countries, for example. Those who emigrated to America and Canada may have left relatives behind and if they have tested, you may be able to find them.

Most people in Sweden choose Family Tree DNA, you pay a one-time sum for your test and then hits come in as more and more people test themselves. However, you only get hits on those who have tested themselves at the same company. You can test yourself on several of the suppliers and compare which hits you get. It is also possible in some cases to transfer raw data to other test companies.

Start by testing yourself, if you have the opportunity, then test your parents and/or their siblings. Testing your oldest relatives and also good as you can go further back in the history of the family through their DNA.

Text and photo: Thina Rydell

Useful links

- ❖ <https://www.rotter.se/swedish-roots>
- ❖ petersjolund.se (Swedish)
- ❖ slakthistoria.se (Swedish)
- ❖ dnainter.com
- ❖ [education.myheritage.se/go to DNA](https://education.myheritage.se/go-to-DNA)



Bert Myde gave an interesting lecture on genealogy. We fill up the hall but everyone got a seat.

Four things you can do at Family Tree

1. Post a family tree, even if it's only a few generations. You can upload the tree from a genealogy program.
2. Fill in (under "Most Distant Ancestor") information about your earliest known ancestor on the direct paternal and maternal line.
3. Fill in what is called "Beneficiary Information" i.e., which other person is allowed to take responsibility for your results IF something were to happen to you.
4. Upload a photo of yourself. It will be so much nicer and more personal if there are pictures of the DNA cousins.

Four things you can do at Ancestry

1. Activate your test through your Ancestry account, otherwise the sample will not be analysed.
2. Post a family tree, even if it's only a few generations. You can upload the tree from a genealogy program.
3. Link to the tree from your DNA profile and make your family tree "public" so your matches can see it.
4. Upload a photo of yourself. It will be so much nicer and more personal if there are pictures of the DNA cousins.

Four things you can do at 23andMe

1. Set your name and family information to be visible to everyone.
1. Enter the parishes or areas where you have most of your ancestry.
1. Go under My Profile and "About My Family", insert a link to a family tree if you have a tree online somewhere on the net.
1. Upload a photo of yourself. It will be so much nicer and more personal if there are pictures of the DNA cousins.

Text from slakthistoria.se/slaktforskning/dna

Exciting findings from the research team

In September 2023, we received an email from Sebastian Sandberg who, in the research concerning his family, was looking for information about Anna Maria Sabelskjöld (ca. 1692-1767), daughter of Karl Sabelskjöld and Elisabet Durea, and married to Nils Nilsson. The couple had nine children together. This was exciting information that the Research Group immediately started working on. Karin Larsson in the Research Group went through the information that Sebastian had documented and supplemented this with further deep diving into current court records and other sources. Only five of the couple's children are reported here as we have researched more data about them.

After a lot of work, we can announce the following results: We have previously documented this about Anna Maria's children:

- ❖ Elisabet/Lisken Nilsson b. 6 April 1716. Incorrectly listed as married to Lars Persson in Djupeträsk, Döderhult.
- ❖ Karl Nilsson Sabelström b. 13 Januari 1718.
- ❖ Stina/Kerstin Nilsson b. 9 October 1720. Husband unknown.
- ❖ Brita Nilsson b. 23 October 1726. Husband unknown.
- ❖ Maria/Maja Nilsson b. 20 August 1732. Husband unknown.

New information that changes and supplements our family history

According to Stranda district court's dom book from 1768, § 52, Carl Sabelström's siblings sell their shares in the farm Hagen in Döderhult parish to Carl. "*Carl Sabelström köpte ut sina syskon Stina, Brita och Maja Nilsson, Nils Höglund, Per Johansson och Nils Sabelström från torpet Hagen i Åshult*".

Source: Stranda häradsrätt (H) A1a:31 (1768-1769)
Picture: 460 Page: 44

The fact that Nils and Anna Maria's children, Sven b 1723 and Jonas b 1737 are not recorded in connection with the purchase means that they probably died young or without heirs. Which the court record also confirms.

Source: Stranda häradsrätt (H) A1a:35 (1778-1780)
Picture: 10370 No 19

Elisabet/Lisken Nilsson

Elisabet/Lisken Nilsson who is the eldest daughter of Anna Maria Sabelskjöld and Nils Nilsson marries Per Zakrisson in Kristdala on 30 October 1743.

Source: Kristdala (H) C:2 (1731-1792) picture 147/page 285

Children:

- ▶ Zacris b. 23 September 1744 Risinge, Kristdala
- ▶ Karl b. 12 July 1746 Risinge, Kristdala
- ▶ Karl b. 4 December 1748 Lilla Bråbo, Kristdala
- ▶ Nils b. 29 December 1751 Lilla Bråbo, Kristdala
- ▶ Peter b. 31 March 1755 Lilla Bråbo, Kristdala

It turns out that Elisabet/Lisken Nilsson was not married to Lars Persson as previously indicated. Thus, the entire line from Djupeträsk (husband and 9 children) falls away as descendants. Per Zakrisson dies in Åshult, Döderhult in 1759 after farming ¼ part in the farm Åshult. The widow Lisken

Nilsson still lives in Hagen, Åshult and dies 1 May 1780.

Stina/Kerstin Nilsson

Maja (Maria) was unmarried and unhealthy when her mother Anna Maria died in 1767, so it should be Stina/Kerstin who is married to Per Johansson. The wedding took place in Kristdala on 30 September 1744 between the peasant Per Johansson, Systertorp and Stina Nilsson, Prästgården.

Source: Kristdala (H) C:2 (1731-1792) Picture 148/sid 287

Children:

- ▶ Magnus b. 28 July 1745 in Munketorp Kristdala, baptism witnesses are Per and Lisken in Risinge who are Stina's sister Elisabet and her husband Per Zakrisson, and Anders in Kloster who is Per's brother.
- ▶ Elisabet b. 7 April 1749 Eversnäs, Kristdala
- ▶ Samuel b. 10 Jan 1753 Eversnäs, Kristdala
- ▶ Anna Maria b. 29 February 1756 Eversnäs, Kristdala
- ▶ Nils b. 4 October 1761 Klockartorpet, Kristdala
- ▶ Gertrud 14 June 1766 Klockartorpet, Kristdala

Per Johansson dies in Klockartorpet aged 55 on 2 May 1773. Stina/Kerstin Nilsson dies aged 80 in Pinthem, Kristdala 26 May 1799. Brita Nilsson

Another proof that Brita Nilsson was married to Nils Nilsson Höglund is the marriage book for Kristdala where Brita Nilsson in Prästgården on 14 October 1753 marries Nils Nilsson (Höglund).

Together they have the children:

- ▶ Sven Nilsson Höglund b. 1755-02-02 Hagen, Döderhult
- ▶ Nils Nilsson born?
- ▶ Jonas Nilsson Dahlström b. 1763-04-08 Lilla Höckhult, Kristdala
- ▶ Stina Nilsson b. 1767-03-21 Lilla Höckhult, Kristdala

These children are confirmed in the Estate of Nils Nilsson Höglund in 1801 (who remarried in 1781 after Brita Nilsson's death)

Source: Tunaläns häradsrätt (H) FIIIa:11 (1802-1805)
Picture: 127 Sida: 22

In Döderhult's obituary it is noted that Brita Nilsson dies on 11 March 1780 at her sister's in Hagen. The sister should be Elisabet/Lisken Nilsson because she dies a few months later in the same place.

Maria/Maja Nilsson

Maja (Maria) was unmarried and ill when her mother Anna Maria died in 1767 and probably remained unmarried until her death. Unknown when Maria dies, but probably before 1780.

In the book about the Sabelskjöld family, published in 2021, the information that Elisabet Nilsson was married to Lars Persson in Djupeträsk in Döderhult parish and had nine children. That information is incorrect, as we can see after reading the judgment book. For those of you who have bought USB memory, the errors occur there as well. It is easy for research to go wrong and to draw incorrect conclusions. The incorrect information about Elisabet, her husband and children do not affect any member of the Sabelskjöld Family Association as we have never received any membership application from Elisabet/Lisken Nilsson's branch.

Research and text: Karin Larsson och Rolf Bonin

She doesn't really have much to lose in all this smile, she means. Most of the time, she receives nothing for her services, as several confirmed. Whoever wants to give her something, she doesn't demand anything herself. The questioning ends with the board admonishing Kerstin not to practice superstition or to deceive anyone with vain promises and assurances that lead to people wasting time and money to visit her.

No punishment can be imposed on her, she does not use signatures or readings and has not hurt anyone. The following year, she is completely acquitted of all witchcraft accusations. But there were those who believed that Kerstin could conjure. In 1698 she is mentioned in the Outer District Court's dombok. The farm boy Thes Thesson in Lidhult was in love with a maid who did not reciprocate his feelings. Thes turned to Kerstin to get the maid to like him. The case was brought up, the court acquitted Kerstin, but Thes was fined. In 1772, the county bailiff in Kalmar, Magnus Gabriel Craelius, wrote his book "Försök till ett landskaps beskrivning, en berättelse om Tunaläns, Sefwede och Asbolands häraders fögderi uti Calmar Höfdingedöme". Here he talks about, among other things, cultivation, climate, food capture, housekeeping, churches, superstitions and people's way of life.

Those of the Knighthood and Nobility who had properties in the fiefdom are enumerated, and among the families there you will, of course, find Sabelskjöld. Furthermore, Craelius writes that "bland ryktbara människor, som levat här på orten, äro i

A twin crown

Several times I have heard the rumour that our beautiful family crown would have at least one twin. A crown that was made at the same time as Sabelskjöld's crown and by the same silversmith.

During 2023, the Kalmar County museum has had an exhibition called Master Metals. It showed around thirty unique ecclesiastical objects from various churches in Växjö diocese. In November, there was also a lecture on bridal crowns, weddings and customs and traditions. The undersigned was there and listened as several different congregations from the diocese talked about their bridal crowns.



The crown from Kräksmåla church.

synnerbet tvenne bustrur, vilka allmänt omtalas. Den namnkunnigaste av dem är bustrun Elin (bennes verkliga namn är Kerstin) i Koppramåla, soldaten Jon Håkansson's bustru". According to Craelius, she is psychic, she knows everything that happens in the neid, she can expose thieves and see where they have hidden stolen property, and if something is lost or livestock is lost, she knows where to look.

On 22 August 1688, Karl XI entered Hulingsryd's (today's Hultsfred) inn to inspect the regiment on the plain the following day. Craelius tells us that the king, who heard about Kerstin, wanted to meet her. A pregnant sow walked on the farm and the king wondered if Kerstin could tell how many of the cultists there were and what color and gender they were? When she said that, the king ordered the pig to be slaughtered and it turned out she was right, of course! This was written down seventy years after her death, and what with the cultists, the story shows that she was still alive in people's memory.

There is a persistent rumor that Kerstin had a daughter together with Karl XI. A daughter is nowhere to be found and that of course has its natural explanation, Kerstin was in her sixties when she met the king.

I am a direct descendant of both Carl Sabelskjöld and Kerstin Persdotter. I would like to imagine that at some point they met. Maybe Kerstin was hired by Carl at some point, on his own behalf or on behalf of someone else in the Sabelskjöld family. Hopefully she could provide relief and a cure. The idea is possible - right?

Text and picture: Monika Fagerlund Larsson

Martina Aronsson from Kräksmåla church talked about their crown; it is made of gilded silver and weighs 782 grams. The crown lacks stamps but was made in Vimmerby by the silversmith Hans Persson Bergman who was active between 1662-1700. There is a copper box for the crown, but it was probably made later than the crown.

There may be additional crowns that were made in Vimmerby, the silversmith was active for the next 40 years. But now we know where one of them is.

Text and picture: Thina Rydell



The Sabelskjöld's bridal crown with its wooden casket. Weight 655 grams.