JOTAILAN JUTUT

19

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Sovio Sovelius

* Family Association *

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Committee for Revision of Statutes (Assigned by the Board):

Eva Lindblad, Ilkka Sovio, Pertti Sovelius

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Olli nylander, Pär Helenius (family data base),
Pia Sovio-Pyhälä, Outi Tasala (translations)

The Family Reunion on 3rd August, 2013 handed over to the Board the question of the role of the Contactpersons for the different family branches, and if a paragraph in the Statutes is needed to define their functions.

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JOTAILAN JUTUT 19
Family Bulletin

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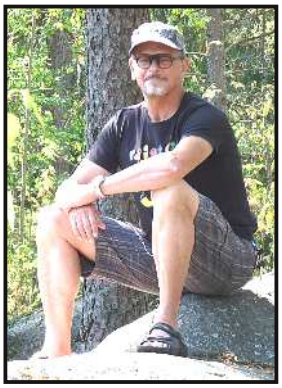
Olli Nylander, layout

Cover page:
Dagmar (Daddi) Wangel sailing. Photo by her fiancé Tor Sovio,1907.

Back page:
The small gate of the Sovelius' house in Raahe. Photo taken during the Family Meeting in 2001 by Olli Nylander.

Greetings from the Chairperson



Dear relatives

Thank you once again for the trust you have shown by electing me at the Family Meeting last summer the Chairperson of the Sovio-Sovelius Family Association. At this meeting all the Board Members were replaced and we have now slowly learnt our new responsibilities.

The Board has until now met twice: due to the geographic distances one meeting was held by e-mail and the other as a Skype internet meeting. In addition, we have exchanged e-mails on minor issues, whenever necessary. Because we are so few members in the Board our substitute members have participated, whenever possible.

In the presentation of the Board members, which was sent to you last fall, we are writing about the goals to which this board is committed. One of the most important goals is to publish our bulletin in three languages, and also to develop a protected section for our members to access on the web, and in the same re-design the entire web page. The aim is to increase our use of internet services and to move our information to the web while keeping informed the relatives who are not using the internet or e-mail.

During the last Family Meeting the need for revision and updating of our statutes came up. The revision committee appointed by the Board, Eva Lindblad, Pertti Sovelius and Ilkka Sovio, has gone into the matter and prepared a proposal for revised statutes. In order to get the revised statutes ready, and get them accepted by the Family Association and the authorities before the next ordinary Family Meeting the Board has decided to convene an extraordinary Family Meeting of the Association to consider and approve the revised statutes. This will give us a chance to meet each other sooner instead of waiting for three years. The meeting will be held, respecting the votes by the majority at the last meeting, on a cruise ship between Helsinki and Stockholm on 6-8 June, 2014.

I hope that as many members as possible will take this marvelous opportunity to meet so soon after our last meeting. See you at the cruise!

With best regards,
Olli Nylander

INVITATION TO THE MEETING

Sovio-Sovelius Family Association's extraordinary meeting will be conveyed on board m/s Viking Mariella, Stockholm's Stadsgården on June 7th 2014 at 15:00 (CET).

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Legality and quorum of the meeting
3. Election of the meeting chairman, secretary, protocol revisors and tellers
4. Approval of the Rules of Procedure
5. Discuss the proposal to revise the statutes
6. Any other business that has been presented to the Board in advance
7. Closing of the meeting

The proposed revised statutes are described in this bulletin by Eva Lindblad.

Program after the meeting

Common Viking Buffet Dinner at 19:00 and enjoy the company of relatives. Please make your dinner reservation when registrating!

TIME TABLE FOR THE CRUISE:

Departure for the cruise from Helsinki Fri, 6 June, 5.30 p.m.
Arrival in Stockholm Sat, 7 June,10:00 a.m.
Departure for the cruise from Stockholm / and return to Helsinki, Sat 7 June, 4:30 p.m.
Arrival in Helsinki Sun, 8 June 10:10 a.m.
Departure from Helsinki Sun, 8 June 5:30 p.m.
Arrival in to Stockholm Mon, 9 June 10:00 a.m.

For persons departing from Helsinki, we have reserved 10 4-person-A-class cabins and 3 similar cabins for persons departing from Stockholm. The price for whole cabin from Helsinki is 203 Euros and from Stockholm 147 Euros. (the Stockholm price is lower because the return is on a Monday.) The price includes tickets and beds for 1-4 persons.

Buffet dinner, reserved in advance, costs 33 euros for adults. Children 12-17 years 10 eur. and 6-11 years 6 eur. Buffet breakfast for adults 9.50 eur., 12-17 years 5.50 eur. and 6-11 years 4 eur.

Attention! If you prefer a different type of cabin/bed than the one we have booked, please inform us, as soon as possible. And make, in the same time, your breakfast, lunch and dinner reservations, and other possible services you wish to have during the cruise.

REGISTRATION TO THE CRUISE AND THE MEETING SHOULD BE WITH US, NO LATER THAN APR. 28TH.

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More information about the ship m/s Mariella, and its facilities and services on: *www.vikingline.fi*

Preliminary information about proposals to revise the Statues of the Association

In the last Family Meeting a decision was made to revise the statues of the Society. For this task, the Board assigned a working group consisting of Ilkka Sovio, Pertti Sovelius and Eva Lindblad. The working group has been active during the fall and submitted its proposal to the Board in the end of November. The Board has discussed the proposal and the intention is to take up the revision of the statues at the extraordinary family meeting in June.

Below, on request by our chairman, some preliminary information about the most essential revisions proposed.

Eva Lindblad (T384)
Chairperson, Working Group for Revision of the Statutes

Membership

According to paragraph 4 in the statutes in force, a person can become member for instance as ”persons connected to the family by marriage”. This expression is proposed to be replaced by the word ”spouse/conjoint”. The opinion of the Board is that the word ”spouse” is more suitable for our time than the now used expression.
The following new categories of membership are proposed: Supporting Membership, Youth Membership, Family Membership and Life Membership.

A private person or a legal entity can join as a Supporting Member in order to support the aim and activity of the Family Association.

A child of a member, younger than 18 years old and being a student less than 30 years of age can join the Family Association as a Youth Member. A Youth Member does not pay Membership Fee and does not have the right to vote. The aim with this arrangement is to invite younger relatives to participate in the activities of the Association without burdening them economically.

Family Membership is meant for spouses living in the same household. They pay a single fee and have a single joint vote in the meetings. Even at present, spouses pay only one membership fee and this practice should be mentioned in the statutes.

As a Life Member is invited an ordinary member who pays his/her membership fee tenfold in a lump sum.

The composition of the Board

According to paragraph 9 in the statutes in force the Board consists of Chairman and two other ordinary Members and two Substitutes. The composition of the Board is considered too narrow. It is now proposed that the board should have a Chairman, three Ordinary Members and two Substitutes. In addition, the Board proposes that a representative of the ”Soveliuksen Apurahasto-Soveliuska Understödsfonden” (Sovelius' Relief Foundation) be given the right of participation and expression at the Board meetings. By this procedure the Association wants to increase cooperation between itself and the Foundation.

Authorized to sign on behalf of the Society

According to paragraph 11 in the statutes in force signatures of two persons are always required to sign for the Association. It is now proposed that the Chairman alone is allowed to sign the name of the society and the Deputy Chairman jointly with another Member of the Board. The aim of this amendment is to facilitate the administration.

The Committee of Maintenance of Family Graves

The Committee is not mentioned in the statutes in force, although the members of that Committee are elected and the closing of that Committee's accounts are approved at the Family Meeting. Accordingly, it is proposed that issues concerning the committee are included in the statutes. It is proposed that the Committee of Maintenance of Family Graves is given right of presence and expression at the board meetings.

The proposal of revision of the statutes has also taken into consideration the possibility of the Association using electronic communication.

The Board wishes that the members would already in advance give a thought to the need and function of the proposals for revision in order to as much as possible facilitate the proceedings at the extraordinary meeting of the Association. In this way, participants would have more time informally with their relatives.

STAMP TRIPS

PART 2 - CONTINUATION FROM NR 18/2013

Ilkka Sovio (T340)
Employed by the Finnish Board of Postal Services from 1947 to 1991

MAUPERTUIS-STAMP

In the fall 1985 the Postal Services of France contacted the Finnish Postal Services and proposed a joint publication of memorial stamps for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the French Academy of Sciences' Meridian Arc Measurement expedition to Lapland under the leadership of Pierre Louis Moreau de Maupertuis, in 1736 and 1737. The aim of the expedition was to confirm whether the globe was flattened at the Poles. The expedition did measurements in Tornio, Pello and on the ice of the Tornio river. A similar expedition was sent on the same time to Peru under leadership Charles de la Condamine.

Ilkka at the Finnish Section at the launching in the French Academy of Sciences

A memorial statue of the expedition in Tornio

The selection of the partner country for the joint stamp publication was from the historical view-point unclear, because it was difficult to decide in which country the measurements had been done. The administrative border between Sweden and Finland before year 1809 was drawn along the Kaakamo river, and therefore Tornio and Pello belonged to the Swedish administrative territory. It was a philatelist from Sweden who made the remark, but it was too late because the agreement of joint publication had already been signed.

In the beginning of 1986 a representative of the French Postal Services visited the Finnish Postal Services. He spoke only French. During these preliminary talks, it was decided that a delegation from the Finnish Postal Services' Stamp Section will in reciprocity visit France in March 1986. That happened. Our delegation of three persons, including the designer of the Finnish stamp Ms Eeva Oino, traveled to Paris. The interpreter of the Finnish Embassy assisted the discussions.

The following day we flew to the city of Perigueux, situated 500 kilometers from Paris in Central France. The former City Mayor had served as Minister of the French government, and had then the opportunity to move the Stamp Press to his home town. Our task was check the

color print of the French stamp. The French stamp has pictures of both Marpertuis and La Condamine.

The manager of the Stamp Press invited us for a seven course lunch. I heard when he mentioned to an official who followed from Paris with us that he after being informed that the guests were from Finland told the directress to prepare as simple food as possible. (!).

The stamps were released simultaneously in both countries, on 5 September, 1986. The place of the release of the stamp and the first day cover of the Finnish stamp was Pello. I visited Pello to prepare the event in summer 1986. The Postal Services Stamp Section sent a cashier and a person responsible for the stamping to Pello. An event for the Release and the First Day Cover was organized also in Helsinki, and the representatives of the French Postal Services sold their products there.

In Paris the First Day Cover event was organized in the building of The French Academy of Sciences. The president of the Academy and the Finnish ambassador and his company participated in the opening ceremony. The Finnish embassy arranged a reception.

Originally, there was going to be a French speaking official in the Finnish delegation traveling to Paris. Unfortunately, the person became ill and I had to jump in instead. A former colleague from our Stamp Section, who had married a Frenchman, was hired to assist.

The cooperation with the French Postal Services was excellent during the entire process.

Pello Post Office on 1986

Why do we need Contact Persons for our different Family Branches?

Ilkka Sovio (T340)

At the Family Meeting in 2004, Eero Sovelius-Sovio proposed the nomination of Contact Persons for the different Family Branches. So happened. The main task for a Contact Person was to update information of his/her Family Branch to our Family Register II, which was under preparation then. This worked well. On the Family Meetings in 2007 and 2010 new contact Persons were elected. However, there was no discussion about their tasks then.

At a later stage, Eero Sovelius-Sovio thought more about the tasks of a Contact Person. He prepared a list of the different tasks he thought could be possible, e.g. : to invite members to local family gatherings, get members to write to the Family Bulletin, encourage persons from his/her own family branch to different functions in the association, find information, photos and other material to the association's archive , update mail- and e-mail addresses, as well as other information, and to activate own family branch members to participate in the association. This plan was never put in to function.

Summer 2012 the contact persons living in the Helsinki area gathered to discuss about their responsibilities. As result, following tasks for the contact person were proposed:

1. To gather new information for the Family Register. The Contact Person should annually collect all the relatives born, dead, married, other important information as grants, nominations, changes of names and corrections of mistakes made in the existing register. The aim was to deliver all this information to the Board of the Association.
2. To recruit new members.
3. To activate the sale of publications and products by the association.
4. Supply/Mediate by the family branch members' ideas to articles and other contributions to the editorial staff of the Family Bulletin.
5. To collect photos for the archive of the Association.
6. To deliver the wishes and proposals of the family members to the Board of the Association.
7. To present to the Board of the Association information and requests by the members.
8. Other possible items.

Many members of the Association are still of the opinion that it would be useful to maintain the Network of Contact Persons, and wish that the next Family Meeting decides to keep the system in function, remembering that the network was established in 2004, with the aim to activate the association and to guarantee that information about the family and its members is saved in the archives of the association.

The Project "Digitization of Sovio-Sovelius Suku, vol. II, 2009"

Pär Helenius (T307)

I, Pär Helenius, has been working with computers already during my studies in1970ies. I became interested in genealogical research using computer in the mid-1990ies, and first using a American program. In the end of the 1990ies I found a Swedish programme, MinSläkt, which I tested and liked very much. After that I started to feed in data from the first volume of our Family Book Register concentrating on "our" family branch after my grandfather Tor Sovio.

Some years afterward; I bumped in to the family Wangel in Karlskrona, Sweden, which had already a "complete" database with my grandmother Dagmar Wangel's married Sovio, included. I received a copy of the database and began myself to make complementary additions to it with information I already had. It was interesting in the beginning and I continued some years. To feed in all the data from the Sovio-Sovelius book into it seemed to be sheer drudgery, but the thought was in my head for a long time. My job with L.M. Ericsson ended, because the entire department I was working at was closed and there I was unemployed. I got new interesting hobbies: a house trailer, sewing, and from my computer I couldn't separate. I started to assist my relatives who had difficulties in administering their computers, and that I did from my home using internet. I had "clients" in Sweden, Helsinki and in my neighborhood. Also my cousin Pia Sovio-Pyhälä was in need of help.

My interest for genealogy wakes up again

My cousin Pia returned from abroad when her husband's foreign posting came to an end. I that stage she came with the idea that one should do something to keep the Family Register updated. The time runs and we are getting older. Somebody knew that Eero Sovio-Sovelius wish was that someone would continue with his huge life-work. Discreetly, I took up the idea: "I have already started to feed in the book in my computer". She jumped at it at once, and so I got more and more ideas. This was taken up at the Board of the Association and I was appointed to a function of some kind. My brain was now working on how to get the Family Book digitized.

The first proposal was to establish a committee

I realized that this was going to be an immense job, because the register part about 300 pages had to be keyed in manually in a genealogical research program. I estimated that it would take about one year if around 20 persons did it in pairs, one reading and the other writing. And after that about half a year for one person to combine the different parts, proofread and save the results. And then, how to find ten pairs interested in doing the job. I am sure that there could be several persons interesting, but can we find them in the same place so that they could work in pairs? How could we transfer the knowledge to those who do the computer work? Could we find a suitable free program we could use? Would the computer program have a function giving data in a form which can be submitted in together to a database and then get out the information inserted? My goal was to get in EVERYTHING from the book.

Computer program to be selected

I started looking into the over 90 different programs available on the market. I checked i one could use the free of charge and tested around ten programs out of which I rejected all. They were either too difficult to use (it would have taken ages for me to first learn the program and after that teach it to the different groups/pairs). I contacted the chairperson for the Board of the association, Olli Nylander, and he mentioned that he had spoken with Eero Sovio- Sovelius, who had told that he will give the book in computerized form to the digitization group. A new idea came to me: That means that the text in the book (in computerized form) can be copied and pasted to the right place in the program. This should be tested.

Pär (Priccen) Helenius transferring data from the Family Register, vol. II by Eero Sovelius-Sovio to a database. Photo by Ethel Helenius

The ”feeding in” starts

I started the test by scanning the first ten pages of the Register part and converted them to text pages using a computer program (that was in around the end of September 2013). The result was not what I had expected. The program didn't understand all the letters, as for example the Finnish ”kk” and ”ää” in the names or the combination ”li”. The name Sovelius became Sovellus (a word meaning application in Finnish). I ended in reading through the entire text on the pages and made corrections. The three first pages took me three days to read, correct and reformat, so that they looked exactly like the pages in the book. The feeding into the program was familiar from before: copy the First name, to paste the first name, copy the last name, paste the last name and so on. Small problems came up: The format of the date in the program was different from the one we use. Swedes (the genealogical program I am using is Swedish) use the format åå.mm.dd (yy mm dd), while the rest of Europe use dd.mm.yy. That means that all information about the dates (over 8000) had to be written manually. As I earlier mentioned, my goal was to transfer ALL the text and preferably in the same way. From the beginning, I had to compromise. E.g. The text in the book:
Carl August Odenwall, s. 23.10.1810 Siikajoella, k. 6.12.1855 Toholammilla, had to be pasted on different fields? So that he was born in Siikajoki and died in Toholampi. Another problem I confronted with in the beginning was place names. e.g. Österby both in Sweden and Finland. I made an addition to the place names. I added the country and in some cases even a prescription of where the place was situated. For this Internet served as a good source.
It took me about two weeks to transfer the first pages, partly because I was unaccustomed and partly because I had to think and decide how I had to form the different fields in the program. And naturally the text in the beginning of the register was not so easy to understand. Who’s children and husband belonged together (you can yourself try the connections e.g. In the panel? 11 Elisabeth Ervast b. Floor.

I just kept going

After the first ten pages I took the next 20 pages. I informed Olli again and told him with precaution if he had received the data from Eero Sovelius-Sovio. No, he was to give it”next time they meet”. So, I had to continue to use my scanner.

I became obsessed by the feeding in of data. All other hobbies, sewing, electronic games etc. were set aside. My wife said to me joking (if it was a joke?), that ” one needs perhaps a queue ticket to have a chance to talk to you.” Just before Christmas I scanned the last 80 pages of the book. I continued with the Christmas preparations but took turns with the data feeding. During the Christmas I took a break. Children and grandchildren wanted to be together with their father and grandpa. But after the children had left back home to Sweden I picked up the job again. So few pages were missing now. The 4th, January I was able to inform Olli and Pia that the input of all the persons was done. Only the proofreading and some analysis of family branches to be included as PDF-documents and linked in with persons concerned is missing.

" My wife said to me joking (if it was a joke?), that ” one needs perhaps a queue ticket to have a chance to talk to you.”

There is still work to do

Both Pia and Olli replied”this is Fantastic”. The proofreading, the linking in, and the distribution still remain. My intention is, before I am finished, to write a description on how to use the database. After that, the Board has to decide how the family information is shown. Will we be able to read from Internet and who has the right to do it? Will it be available on the family web page? How (and by whom) will the updating be done? A genealogical research is never ready. New family members are coming and family events happening all the time.

Comment

The writing of the Family historical register books was once an enormous job. A similarly amazing effort has now Pär "Priccen" Helenius accomplished by transferring the data in digitalized form from the Family History book into a Family Data base.

The aim of the Board is to make the Family Data Base accessible on our family web page, but only for members. On this web page the relatives would be given the possibility to present their wishes concerning corrections and updating of information.

Before that is possible, we have to in first place reconstruct our family association data base.

Olli

Relatives of the Sovio-Sovelius family have been active in South Finland

TUULA MOILANEN (T238)

The members of the Family Association are living scattered around Finland and abroad. We meet quite seldom because the actual Association Meetings are arranged every third year and the dates of the meetings do not always suit everybody. To activate the contacts between relatives Eero Sovelius-Sovio and Ilkka Sovio have already for some time tried to arrange gatherings at different places/localities.

Gatherings for relatives have now been arranged in Helsinki: the first two meetings during the fall and one meeting in the spring 2013. The meetings were held in Restaurant Lasipalatsi. The idea of having some program at every meeting was supported. The condition of the reservation at the restaurant was that everyone paid for his/her food. A agreement was made to find a better meeting place for the fall 2013.

The Hesinki City Library has a popular meeting room for rent. Last fall we had two meetings there. The Association's funds were not used because we served coffee on voluntary basis. About ten persons representing different family branches participated in the meetings.

We found out that many from our seafarer family have scuba diving as hobby. Martti Sovio and Pirjo Siitarinen have dived on their holidays in many countries. At our meeting with scuba diving on the program Martti showed us his underwater photos he has taken. Also Minna Pyhälä being a marine researcher is familiar with scuba diving. She gave a talk about the history of diving in which she also presented our cultural historical treasure in the Raahe museum, namely ”Vanha herra” (The Old Gentleman) a 18th century diving suit in leather which has been present in exhibitions abroad. Minna also introduced a copy of the old diving suit called”The Young Gentleman”.

At another meeting Pia Sovio-Pyhälä and Mikko Pyhälä gave a talk with pictures from their trip to the Caribbean island St Barthelemy where our relative Maxmilian Myhrberg served in the 1840s when the island was a Swedish colony.

At the last meeting we had DNA as our subject. Ilkka and Pia, as well as Matti Keltikangas had presentations. They all have told about their DNA test results in this bulletin.

The plan is to arrange regional meetings also in the future. Ilkka has proposed a meeting to be held in May, and he suggests discussions about our coming cruise in June and about ideas for articles in the next Jotaila Family Bulletin.

These gatherings are open also for relatives living outside Helsinki and surroundings. If you happen to be around in this part, please join us.

Relatives in South Finland gathering in Helsinki, Sept. 18Th, 2013

Outi Tasala, Vice chair and Secretary of the Sovio-Sovelius Family Association hands over the Family Streamer to Hasse Lindqvist, former long-time Chairperson of the Family Association.

PAINTINGS DONATION TO THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF RAAHE

RAIJA INGERTTILÄ (T319)

A ceremony in which two portraits and one ship painting were donated to the Raahe Municipal Museum was held at the museum on 10th October, 2013. The paintings were handed over by Eero Sovelius-Sovio, in his capacity as representative of the owners of the paintings and as Honorary Chairman of the Family Association. The donation was received by Ms. Eija Turunen, Director of the museum. My husband Jukka Ingerttilä and I participated in the ceremony. Also present was the Editor of the local newspaper Raahen Sanomat, and an article about the event was published by the newspaper on 14th October, 2013.

It can be mentioned that the Raahe Museum, established in 1862, is the oldest independent museum in Finland without any bindings to an educational institute.

The portraits represent Fredrik Oscar Sovelius (1855-1896) and his wife Rosa Sovelius, b. Borg (1857-1928). They are grandparents of my father Jorma Sovio, my aunt Inkeri Tuominen and my uncles Eero Sovelius-Sovio and Ilkka Sovio

Fredrik Oscar Sovelius was born as the third child of commercial councellor Fredrik Sovelius (1822-1897) and his wife Johanna Franzén (1830-1859). After his studies at the Trivialskolan i Uleåborg he managed together with his father the Johan Lang Trading House and was the Director of the company from 1893 until his death. Fredrik Oscar was also Honorary Vice-Consul of Denmark and Sweden-Norway.

Rosa Sovelius was born in Inari, where her father Edward Wilhelm Borg served as Assistant Vicar. Edward Borg served later as the Vicar in Utsjoki, in Raahe-Saloinen, and in Pieksämäki. Rosa's mother came from the priestly family Malmberg.

When Rosa was young she studied in a Finishing School in Aubonne, Switzerland. In the beginning of 1900s her son Tor spent several years in a sanatorium in Switzerland and Rosa visited him there. The director of the sanatorium 'Hofrat' Behrens painted portraits in his spare time and Rosa asked him to paint a portrait of her and the portrait of her husband was painted using a photo as model. These portraits hung in the home of Inkeri Tuominen (b. Sovio) until her death in summer 2013.

The ship painting donated to the museum pictures a sailing ship with the name Satama which was built in 1863 at the Johan Lang Wharf. The ship belonged to the shipping company Lang until year 1888 when it was sold to a foreign buyer.

The painting is a so called"captain's painting" which sea captains ordered from artists working in foreign harbors. The painting was hanging in the home of Paul Sovio until his death in the autumn 2003, and was removed to his estate. Now ten years later, the painting has been donated to the Museum of Raahe.

Above: Eero Sovelius Sovio hands over the donation to the Director of the Raahe Municipal Museum, Ms. Eija Turunen

left:Eero with the portraits of his grandparents

The Genetic roots of the family

Ilkka Sovio (T340)

The origin or the Sovio family?

In 2011, my relatives visited their friends in America. The American friend's wife is of Finnish origin and quite well known here when she was young. The husband and my relative share a common interest for bird watching. During the visit the husband told that because he was curious about his blond wife's origin he took a wisp of her hair and sent it to a laboratory for a DNA analysis. The result showed, as he had suspected that she was 100 per cent Scandinavian.

My relative became interested and wanted to find out the origin of the Sovio family. Based on oral tradition, there has been different theories about our origin, as for example that the first Sovio, our fellow Jotaila, came from the region of Savo. My relative got information about a laboratory in Texas which had a representative i Finland. The aim was to investigate the paternal line and I was chosen as the"rabbit" to be tested.

The contact with the American company was easy through the Finnish representative. A few days after the payment (which was not very big) was on the company's bank account I received a letter containing two plastic tubes and instructions how a saliva sample should be taken. I sent the sample to USA in the end of October 2012. In the beginning of December I got an email message telling that the result had been mailed (probably emailed) to me. I never received the mail, but in the spring 2013 I got help from one Finnish scientist friend to my relatives living in Spain, who knew the laboratory from before. Already after a week I received a copy of the email the laboratory had sent to me, and I got my test results.

The chromosome Y shows the DNA heredity from father to son. My Y chromosome belongs to the haplogroup NO/N2, and the sub clade N1b1. This group of genes originates most likely from a chromosome mutation which occurred 6000-8000 years ago in Central Asia, and this paternal line migrated also to the Baltic area and Finland. So, my Y group belongs to a DNA group which is found among Finno-Ugric people as well as among people living in Central Asia. The

A caricature by INGO (Jukka Ingerttilä) The balloon text: REGARDS FROM UZBEKISTAN. IS THERE STILL ROOM AT THE FAMILY MEETING?E

sub clade N1b1 is rare in Finland. This male gene one finds only among men living in the western part of Finland and in Karelia, and less than one per cent of the tested individuals have it. This chromosome type is most common in Uzbekistan.

It seems that our ancestors began their thousands years long walk from somewhere in Central Asia and reached in the end their western hunting grounds here in the north.

In my Finnish dictionary by the publishing house Otava I can re*ad:*
”the Uzbeks are people in Central Asia, and that this tribe lives not only in Uzbekistan but also in northern Afghanistan and western China. The ancestors of the Uzbeks belonged to the Iranian people. During the first hundred years of our calendar they came in contact with Turkish people and were mixed with them and took over their language. The tribes formed groups of people in the 16th century and were mixed with Turkish groups of people who called themselves Uzbeks and came from Deist-Kiptsakia. Their religion was Sunni Islam”.

Facts

"A child inherits his/her genes from his/her father and mother. Single genes are herited as they are from generation to generation some of them only from the father and some only from the mother. On basis of this it is possible to follow a person's straight paternal line and straight maternal line for generations backwards. The genetic heritage on the paternal line leads to the genetic forefather ”Adam” and on the maternal line to the genetic foremother ”Eve”. Scientists have found out that all now living people on our planet are descendants of these two persons who lived in Africa about 200 000 years ago.

Small errors that occur when genes copy themselves are important for genealogical research. These small genetic changes, mutations, give scientists a possibility to follow how the human race branched off during the time and confirm when these ramifications have happened. These genetic ramifications are called haplogroups. Individuals belonging to the same family branch have similar genetic heritage and the closer in the past the common forefather or foremother existed the bigger the similarity of that genetic heritage.

Matti Keltikangas (T246)

My experience about confirming my family background using DNA analysis

On my father's side I originate from the family Strang, which lived by the lakes in South Ostrobotnia, more exactly in Vimpeli. In connection with the big wave of changing names in 1906, my grandfather changed his last name after the name of his farm to Keltikangas, which is now in use.

In the parish registers and tax rolls, the family Strang can be traced back to year 1546, which means to King Gustav Vasa's first tax roll. The family Strang had moved to the shores of Lappajärvi in Vimpele from the estuary of Ähtävän joki (Esse å), more exactly from Katternö in Pedersöre, where a farm of one hide with the name Strang was located in 1540. Taking in account the size of the farm one can assume that the clearing of the land must have started already in the beginning of 15th century.

But from where did the Strangs arrive to the farm in Katterö? Did they arrive with the Swedish speaking coastal people from Sweden or not? The name Strang is not Swedish but indicates a German origin. It was because of this I decided to try if a DNA-analysis could give more information.

The result of the saliva test, which I sent to the DNA laboratory Family Tree in USA shows that the paternal haplogroup which is found in my Y chromosome is of type I1 or M253. This haplogroup is common in northern Europe, especially in Fennoscandia, where 50% of the tested have it (in Västergötland, and in Satakunta in Finland). But even in Denmark and on the southwest coast of the Baltic Sea 30 % of the tested have it.

The family name Strang/Strange/Strangi/Strong, and the presumption that the first Strangs were brought to the farm in Lappajärvi as fur traders gives a hypothetical possibility that the first Strangs arrived perhaps from Jutland, or southern Jutland, as fur traders of the Hanseatic League. However, this has to be investigated more thoroughly.

After the research of my paternal line a year ago I also ordered an analysis of my maternal line, the so called mitochondrial DNA analysis. On the basis of parish registers my maternal line can be traced eight generations back:
Eija Sovio (Keltikangas) , b. Brahestad (Raahe) 31.12.1906
Ellen Brattström (Sovio), b. Lübeck 26.7.1883

Adele Rein (Brattström), b. Brahestad 12.12.1860
Helene Ahlqvist (Rein), b. Brahestad 3.7.1829
Anna Charlotta Jurvelius (Ahlqvist), b. Brahestad 26.1.1800
Johanna Charlotta Hedman (Jurvelius), b. Brahestad 2.10.1777
Maria Charlotta Tammelin (Hedman), b. Åbo 10.8.1751
The eight generation, namely Maria Charlotta Tammelin's mother Maria Betulia (the name appears in the parish registers as Betulinia, Bertulenia, Bectalinia, Petrelinia) and the father's name is sea captain Matts Tammelin. The family was registered in the Swedish parish in Åbo (Turku). This could indicate that Maria Betulia(?) came from Sweden because I can't find her roots in Finland. Therefore, could a DNA-analysis give an explanation?

According to the mitochondrial DNA analysis my maternal haplogroup is U5, and more exactly the sub clade U5a1g. The individuals with the sub clade U5a1 are considered to be the first who started to settle down in those parts of Europe which were liberated from the ice masses after the last Ice Age. Of the Finnish women18 % belong to the haplogroup U, and of those 1, 3 % to sub clade U5a1. Of the sub clades which have their origin in the haplogroup U (a-h), is U5a1g very rare, and until now only 1 promille of the tested has been found in Finland.

In the light of these facts, it isn't at all surprising that until now not one person among the tested in Finland has a similar mitochondrial DNA as I have. To compare with the results of 3000 individuals tested, more or less at random, does not give a base big enough to find among them 0-3 more cases with the sub clade 0,1 %. From Vännes in Sweden which is 30 km from Umeå a person with the name Julia Christine Moore was found. There is no evidence about her family background and without that it is impossible on the basis of DNA to establish any hypothesis for further genealogical research.
Jag ybeck 26.7.1883

Pia Sovio-Pyhälä (T290)

A Neanderthal enters the Sovio family

”Young woman, are you from northern Finland because you have so dark, thick and long hair?” asked an old lady in a public sauna in Eira, Helsinki. That was the fall 1960 when I had moved to Helsinki for my studies and visited this sauna every week. My mother was dark with brown eyes, and had broader face and lower forehead than the relatives on my father’s side. When Ilkka had got his DNA results my daughter gave me a DNA test as a present. On the basis of that test I now have an idea of the origin of my foremothers.

My mother Aino Sovio, b. Sankilampi, is daughter of Maria Sankilampi b. Inkilä. I didn't know my grandparents, because they had died before I was born. My mother's family comes from northern Finland. Using the ”google” I can find persons with the last name Inkilä, and the DNA laboratory has sent me a list of persons having the same haplogroup as mine, and some with the same sub clade. The test results of women can show heritage also from the paternal line, but it can't be separated. For example, the test of my daughter is the same as mine, except that hers shows also some genetic heritage with eastern origin, which I don't have. She must have got them from her father.

I belong to the haplogroup H1 and the sub clade H1f. Geographically, the haplogroup H1 has existed in Europe for 13,000 years. The gene can be found among Basques 27.8 %, and people in Spain and on the Iberian Peninsula, e.g. Portugal 25.5 %. The mutation which resulted in the sub clade H1f is supposed to have happened on the Iberian Peninsula, and has spread from there with the people migrating towards north after the Ice Age, reaching as far as Scandinavia. According to the research this sub clade is rare in the rest of Europe but occurs especially in central and north Finland where 25 % of the tested have this haplogroup.

Of Europeans 1-4 % has genetically origin from Neanderthal, the average being 2, 7 %. According to my test results I have 3, 1 % Neanderthal origin, which is more than the average Europeans. The archeological findings tell that Neanderthals were quite intelligent humans. They were strong, the brain bigger than that of the now living humans, they could stand cold, and they buried their dead and left traces in the rock walls showing their artistic talent. Neanderthals had hard skeleton bones but weak teeth, and because of that it was quite long supposed that younger family members chewed the food for the older ones.

According to the research done in Germany at the Max Planck -institute, the Neanderthals and the modern humans originate from crossbreeding. However, the research done at the Cambridge University has come to the conclusion that the genetic similarities between the Neanderthals and the modern human are inherited from common ancestors. In Africa only the Berbers in the northeast carry the Neanderthal gene.

I was also curious to know which diseases I have hereditary disposition for. A genetist friend of my daughter told me after having seen my test results that my risk level for different diseases is lower than for Finnish people in general. But the test result also reveals that I have one per cent higher risk to get gout and arthrosis and a slight risk to get Parkinson’s' disease, as well as tendency for heart and vascular disorders. The gout and arthrosis I already suffer of slightly and my mother died of thrombosis. An interesting detail is that I can burn up caffeine faster than the Europeans in average.

Relatives with sailing as recreation and sport

Sport and leisure sailing became common in Finland in the middle of the 19th century. Until then, sailing had been connected to fishing, trade and transport. Also in our country, as in the rest of Europe, people sailing for leisure began to establish sailing clubs. From the beginning, these clubs have promoted better seamanship and better conditions for sailing as a leisure activity and sport, and they have been arranging sailing competitions. Sailing became popular among people from all social classes, and both among Swedish and Finnish speaking people. Already in the end of the 19th century the first working class sailing clubs were established.

Brahestad Segelförening rf -Raahen Purjehdusseura ry was established in 1890 and celebrated its 120h anniversary in 2010. In other words, it belongs to the older sailing clubs in Finland and is the oldest sports club in Raahe. Raahe has an honorable history as a maritime city, and some of its citizens practiced sport sailing already before the sailing club was established. Ship owners had yachts, cutters and sloops. During its first decades, the Sailing Club was the most important club in the city by the side of the Business Club. The club was in the beginning Swedish speaking, but in 1912 the statutes were revised and a decision was made to write the minutes also in Finnish. In the beginning of the 1920s the Sailing Club became totally Finnish speaking.

During the first years, a sailing competition from Raahe to Oulu was arranged. Ilkka Sovio tells that one year his father Jarl Sovio came home with a beautiful silver goblet which had a form of a horn. Returning from Oulu the crew had obviously used the horn for some precious beverage because the lid of the horn had fallen overboard. The Raahe Museum is now the owner of the horn without the lid. Another history which proofs the sailing sport in the family is that Pia's grandfather Tor Sovio lost his eyesight in one eye, caused by a boom of the sail hitting his temple. The story tells that when Tor once was out hunting he took aim with his shotgun on a hare but found five grouses when he went to check his prey.

A LADY WHO DEFIED THE WAVES.

PIA SOVIO-PYHÄLÄ (T290)

Dagmar (Daddi) Sovio, b.Wangel, knew how to sail, in fact maybe more than her husband Tor who had spent six years of his youth in a Swiss sanatorium. Also Tor sailed and he owned a beautiful sailing boat with the name Signorita. I have photos of the boat in an old album.

The Wangels sailed a lot in the archipelago of Uusikaarlepyy where father Gustaf moved his family for the summer months. They had a summer house on the island Skadö and Gustaf being a teacher had long summer vacations. Also Daddi's brothers Gustav (Tusse) and Brutus (Butte) – also originally from Raahe– became excellent yachtsmen. Unfortunately, Butte and his wife Maj were drowned in a storm in the summer1948. Their yacht (22-class) was caught by the waves in the Kvarken straits where the sea can be very unpredictable.

Tusse participated up to high age in competitions and regattas with his beautiful mahogany yacht Vision (Swedish 30-class). His son, my father's cousin Anders Wangel emigrated to his wife's homeland Australia and became there World Champion (420-class) in 1973, and Australian champion in 1980 , with his wife Denis. He represented Australia in international competitions four times in 420, 470 and 505 classes. After retirement from his professorship in medicine Anders spent his summers in Finland sailing with

Dagmar (Daddi) Sovio at the helm. Her son Birger makes faces.

Left: Photo from above taken by Birger Sovio in 1928. In the middle: Boats entering the jetty after a sailing competition; Right: Tor Sovio's yacht Signorita

his father's Vision. He died in spring 2013. Also Tor's and Daddi's children learnt how to sail, and for Pontus (Nappe) the sea became his profession. He was sea officer with exam from Maritime College of Turku.

After Tor's death (1934) Daddi had to look for a job and moved first to Oulu and then to Porvoo working as directress of boarding homes for students. Her summer vacations she spent on the island Kråkskär in her childhood archipelago of Uusikaarlepyy where she had bought a small cottage. Her both brothers and her sister Märta (Poppius) with families had their summer homes there. Daddi had a good seaworthy boat for sailing and rowing. Malin was her name. Because she lived on an island, without even a well, she had to bring fresh water and milk from a farmer on the mainland, and the food she had to buy from the town, and later from a shop van coming to the harbor. The water to cross from the island was quite wide and also difficult when the wind was strong.

Between 1942 and 1949, Daddi had lost four of her five children. She began to invite her grandchildren to spend the summer on the island. There we were taught ”sea sense” as well as rules, skills and terms needed in the boat. To tie some knots we learnt as well. But “for heaven’s sake” if we stepped into the boat with sandy feet or stood upright in the boat!

My cousin Bo (Bobi) Helenius and I spent time together with our grandma. I think we were about ten years old when Daddi sew a sail of an old mattress cover. The sail she nailed on an old oar, which served as a mast we rowed the boat upwind and sailed downwind along the edge of the reed bed, from morning to evening. We competed which one got more callus on hands and harder arm-muscles.

Grandma was strict. It was important that we could swim, and we didn't get our breakfast before we had dipped in the sea, no difference if it was sunshine, rain or storm. Malin, the boat, had to be kept clean. The boat, Malin, had to be bailed out after the rain and dried with a rag. If we grumbled she told us that if we played mawkish we never become real 'seamen'. But if we behaved well she rewarded us by telling tales and stories of which she had many in store, and she prepared us delicacies, although the ingredients were limited and difficult to get at that time and under the existing circumstances.

My cousins Tor and Bo Helenius became good yachtsmen and they even built sailing boats for themselves. My own family was poor, my father had died and in Oulu we didn't have friends with sailing boats. Once when i visited my classmate Karin in Vasa, the Vasa regatta was going on and Daddi's brother was there with his boat Vision participating in the competition. Tusse asked me to join his crew and I was proud because I became useful when the foresail got entangled in the stay. Fastened with a rope around my waist, I crept on the wet deck to take in the sail.

Daddi spent the summer months on the island, even after she was over eighty, and mostly alone. She was very strict with her appearance, even to smaller events with family and friends, and often she had her son's Nappe's white marine officer hat on. She didn't like motor boats. Her daughter Ingeborg (Pipsan) Helenius bought a small boat of fiberglass with an outboard motor, but Daddi never wanted to use it. The local people who knew her said in their dialect: ”tå hon int' ork ro så reker hon” (When she doesn't have the strength to row the boat she will drift).
n fyreker hon”.

Markku Lindberg – an experienced sailor (T407)

Pia met Markku Lindberg in Raahe and asked if he could tell about his sailing trips. Markku has been Commodore of the Sailing Club (Raahen Purjehdusseura) under three periods and Vice Commodore during one period. He has also served as Secretary of the club, and his wife Sirpa has been its cashier. The sea has also given Markku his profession. He has training as a ship-broker and he worked as the director of the ship-broker company August Lindberg, owned by his family, until the company was sold.

Markku tells about his interest for sailing:

”I have sailed since I was six years old. First I built a raft of logs, which I equipped with a mast, and a curtain from the summer house transformed into a sail. The rudder I made from a plank. A strong easterly wind was blowing when I tested my raft and steered out from our shore towards the island Tasku. However, the raft changed its course towards the open sea and towards Sweden, and I was in ”distress”. My mother and Lena rowed as much as they could and reached me. The raft continued the voyage towards Sweden and I home to the summer house. After some years I was allowed to construct a sailing boat of my father's old rowing boat. When I was 14, I bought a broken Lighting and with that I sailed for ten years.”

When I reached 18, I rolled myself as volunteer to the marine. After my military service I moved to London for my studies and from there to Sweden, and so on. In 1977 I continued my sailing with a Medusa motorized sailing boat which I in 1990 changed for a Sunwind 35 which I still have. I have been sailing with many kinds of boats, e.g. in 1995 a group of us hired in Marmaris a Sundance 36, and competed with her during one week, after having practiced with it for one week.”

Markku thinks that interest for sailing can't be hereditary because he doesn’t know of any of his relatives having sailed, but he continues that he himself, though, has been in contact with the sea during his entire life, and started already as 14 years old to maneuver a tug boat in the harbor during the summer months.

Crossing the Atlantic in a sailing boat

Markku continues his story:” In 1991 I was crew member in a

Markku and Pia at the Raahe Yacht Club. Photo by Markku's sister Lena Koski, summer 2013.

friend's yacht which we sailed from Vilamoura in Portugal to the Canary Islands. On this voyage a crew member asked me if I would be interested in participating as crew member on his yacht crossing the Atlantic. Sure I was interested. We crossed the Atlantic in the end of the following year. The yacht was a Swan 371 (11,28m) http://sailboatdata.com/viewrecord.asp?class_id=2041.

We were four men in the crew, and one of them a friend from Raahe I had enticed to join. One of the guys I didn't know from before. The chemistry between us functioned well and no need for fights occurred. We shared keeping the vigil during the nights between the three of us so that each one had two hour passes. In the dawn, our skipper joined the team. He was also our cook. We bought our supplies in Las Palmas. We had four beer cans per person per day, and we bought at least two hundred plastic bottles of water of which we consumed mayЬe half. The food purchased was in different kinds of tins, porridge we had every day and eggs as well. We fished a little by trolling after the boat, but the speed was so high that we got very few bites."

When one asks Markku what to fill in the sailor's bag he recommends at least a woolen sweater, sailor's gloves, t-shirts, underwear, socks, shorts, jeans, a pair of good sailor's boat shoes, and a proper life vest .

Markku tells how the yacht was lifted for bottom cleaning on the Canary Islands. "We painted the boat bottom, repaired the rudder and received service for the motor which was coughing now and then". The time passed quickly during the three weeks long voyage. "We passed time by practicing knots. We didn't play cards. We didn't bring any instruments, but if I would leave for a similar tour again I would bring my guitar. Sure, we read, slept and loafed on the deck. In the sunset we sang sailor songs. Each one got a shot of whisky in the evening as long as there was some in the store."

Markku tells about navigation:"At that time we didn't have a proper GPS and other fine instruments as we have today. We had a sextant and a GPS which gave a "fix" once in 24 hours, if we remembered to observe when the satellite passed. Sometimes we succeeded, sometimes not. The yacht sailed well and was very fast. At first we sailed from Las Palmas to Cape Verde and from there via Barbados to St Lucia. An ARC sailing regatta started more or less the same time as we did, but they sailed straight to St Lucia. Although, we saw three ARC boats in Cape Verde of which two were in port of refuge.

Dangerous situations can appear: one can chock with a whale or a container which has fallen in the sea, etc. And naturally one can sometimes be caught in bad weather, and therefore it is important to be alert. We didn't have any breakdowns, besides "browsing" and torn sails. Our route was south of the Sargasso Sea, and we didn't feel the Gulf Stream. We observed some dolphins and one whale. The winds were trade winds, which meant that we sailed mostly with genoas tuned on both sides of the mast held with spinnaker poles and no mainsail was used. The waves were huge like high-rise buildings and when they were rolling from the stern we had the feeling that they will swallow us, but the yacht always lifted up nicely on the crest of the wave after all."

On the question whether Markku is ready to cross the Atlantic again, and would he recommend a similar sailing trip to others, he answers:

"I am recommending to persons interested in sailing and to those who think that they can manage to do such a trip. As you understand, one has to stay onboard until the boat has reached the destination. I myself would very much like to go again if I were in good shape. With my present condition it isn't possible. "

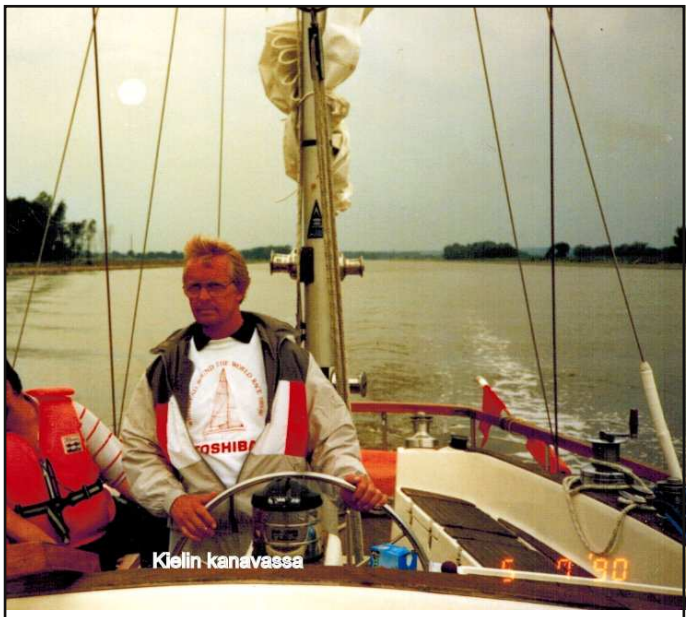
Markku's boat Baccus (Sunwind 35) in windward.

Terms:
Gaffsail=four edged sail with a free-moving spar mounted to the top edge of the sail
Jib: The triangular sail in front of the foremast, in front of the main sail
Spinnaker: A light, triangular sail that is used in front of all other sails for sailing downwind
Genoa: A large head sail
Goose winging: genoas tuned on both sides of the mast held with spinnaker poles and no mainsail was used
Sextant=an instrument for measuring angular distances in navigation to observe altitudes of celestial bodies as in ascertaining latitude and longitude
"**browsing**"= a dangerous situation in which the sail beam hits the water surface when the boat is tilting on one side. This can result in the boat capsizing and turning upside down.

Bringing a boat from Belgium to Helsinki

Hasse Lindqvist (T414)

The phone rang in July 1990. This is Seppo! I bought a yacht from Belgium and I'm putting together a crew. Would you like to join? Well, I have my roots in a family of seafarers' so I didn't hesitate. When are we leaving? I packed my things and the agreed morning I was at the Vantaa airport.



Hasse Lindqvist steering through Kiel Canal

In addition to Seppo, there was Olli, so we were already a crew of three. We entered the plane and during the flight to Brussels it became clear what the project was. There was a bigger size two mast sailing boat waiting for us in Ostende harbor at the North Sea coast. After having solid beef steaks and full-bodied beers in Brussels we took a train which took us almost a hundred kilometers to the Atlantic coast and Ostende. We moved our luggage to a big apartment, owned by a Finnish lawyer Matti, and went to look at the boat. A three-master was bobbing in the canal and waiting to be moved to Finland.

We inspected the yacht and discovered that the engine didn't start. Our start was delayed. The feeling was tense and the discussion heated up because we had been informed that everything was ready. We as boats men understood now that Matti was the one who had sold the boat. We had to quickly find somebody who could repair the motor. We found a repairman and stood clear that the battery and some other parts had to be replaced. We who had come as hands took it easy and made us acquainted with the sunny city and its beer supply. In the evening we got to know Matti's Finnish friends who had bought a house together. They told us that it was a stone house, but we could see that the small seven meters wide house with three floors was built of wood and chicken droppings.

We sat down in front of the house which the Finns owned, and planned our departure the next day. It was then we realized that none of the crew had sailor skills. We discovered that we didn't have nautical charts or competence, and didn't know the difference between longitude and latitude. But we were lucky. A perpetual student of technology, Antti, lived in the house and he was an experienced seafarer. Having listened a while he told us that he could accompany us over the North Sea and jump off when we reach the Kiel Canal. The morning of our departure let it go and when the tide the low-tide pulled us out far away from the coast and we turned our stem towards north and the Kiel Canal.

The North Sea is a shallow and stormy coastal sea of the Atlantic, and one of the busiest seas in the world. On our route we had to pass two of the biggest ports in the world, Rotterdam and Antwerp, and many other ports. We were scared during the nights when the ships were steering towards the harbors and crossed our direction of travel. Our skipper Antti was a man in the right place and his expertise calmed down the unskilled crew of the boat. Matti, who had sold the boat, had decided to come along and pay a short visit to Finland.

We were lucky because the sea was calm and Antti got time to tell us about the dangers of the North Sea, its reefs and moving sand banks. Antti warned us especially about the West and East Frisian Islands, where many seafarers had ended their voyage. In those dangerous waters many of the Sovelius' ships had suffered shipwreck, at least the ships Wasama, Tapio, Sovio and Salahmi.

Late in the evening, after four days of sailing, we reached the Elbe River estuary. Now we were really scared because huge ships were very near to us in the darkness. Only their red-and-green lanterns shone and showed the direction. The thumping of the engines near us threatened. I noticed some kind of traffic lights in the darkness and understood that they

showed the way to the entrance of the canal. I still don't understand how it happened, but in the end we were inside the canal. We stayed in the first"hole" and lied down to rest.

In the morning, we realized that the canal was quite a trench 80 meters wide, and the distance to the Baltic Sea was 100 kilometers. We did some shopping in the shopping center, filled the tank and continued our trip. Huge cargo ships on their way to the North Sea passed us. And then Antti told us that he was going to jump off. After wishing us a good voyage he disappeared into Germany. Antti was a real technologist and on top of that a man of the world. We were alone now. It became clear to us that the relationship between the seller and buyer of the ship was not OK. Seppo was not satisfied, but we don't know with what, and the lawyer Matti, the man who sold the boat, felt comfortable in the cabin with his wine bottles. We took us safely towards the Baltic Sea with the motor humming. Early at the dawn, we had reached the eastern end of the canal and were moved by the lock into the sea.

And again problems turned up! There was not one chart for the Baltic Sea in the boat. The charts should have been there, but we didn't find them. We turned and could buy some charts in the port office, but first after we had discussed with the guard. We continued by motor and went ashore when we found a place where we could take a shower and have something to eat. We filled the tank and continued in the morning. I wondered how a motor could be so fantastic, because it had hummed on during the whole trip, except during our breaks. We passed the Danish straits and took direction towards home. The weather was good with a slight breeze, and we hoisted sails and continued slowly downwind towards Gotland.

" The Baltic Sea showed its power and the hell was loose. It was raining; the wind roared and tore the sails. It was a hurricane! "

After having sailed for three days everything suddenly changed. The Baltic Sea showed its power and the hell was loose. It was raining; the wind roared and tore the sails. It was a hurricane. The force of the wind was 27 m/s. The boat was heaving up and down. The waves were big as stone houses. The bow of the boat turned sometimes headwind, sometimes sideways and sometimes downwind, climbing on top of the wave and falling again to the emptiness. The crew took shelter down in the cockpit and cabin, because after the halyard wires had come loose from the sails they now circled around, and it was best to avoid the deck. The storm continued and I thought afterwards how strange it was that I didn't get scared. Finally, only the mainsail halyard rope was left and in that hangs a one meter long piece of the remaining sail which we had to remove in order to be able to go up on the deck. We agreed to keep the motor working and steer the bow wind wards, and I was the one to climb up the mast to take loose the shackle and the entangled rope. It appeared to be quite easy to climb up the mast. Every time the boat dived down I climbed up. Finally, I could take loose the rope and come down on the deck. I remember how my hands were bloody and cold without feeling because of the chill.

The worst of the tearing wind had abated and the weather was clear, but the waves were still big and pushed us in the direction of Finland. I remember how I was checking the compass, the water depth and keeping eye on the horizon while I was turning the rudder. Every time the boat came down from the wave crest she tried to run away rolling from left to right. A new scaring thing was to take a look at the gauge measuring the depth. Sometimes the gauge showed a little bit more than a meter. Hopefully it showed an error. The Baltic Sea is shallow, the average depth being 54 meters.

And once again the sea surprises us. An impenetrable fog isolates us. The sea surface is blank as a mirror and the visibility is only 2-4 meters. It was completely silent, where were we, is somebody going to ram against us? The autopilot and the radar where out of order. Stop the engine; let us listen if there are boats nearby. Seppo tried to get the navigation devices to function, but with no result. He called for help. Then a calming voice came from the radio:"Bore Star is hearing you, hello. You got into a storm". Yes, Seppo said, where are we? The radio operator on Bore gave us the coordinates and told that we are near the coast of Gotland. This calmed us down. The fog started to disperse and we could hear the rumbling of a motorboat. Finally, we discovered a fishing boat just near us. The men were lifting up the nets. This was our rescue and we had to stay close to them. Seppo called in the radio and tried to get contact with the fishermen. We heard Seppo's voice from the radio of the fishermen, but these guys didn't bother to answer. After having waited for a couple of hours we heard how one of the fishermen told us to follow him to the harbor. We followed the fishing boat and drew into the harbor through a little opening. We were rescued and we thanked the fishermen.

We were in a small village on the east coast of Gotland. I stood on the jetty and warmed myself in the sun. Everything was fine again. Or was it so? That was not the case. Matti, who had sold the boat announced that this was enough for him and that he was going to take a plane to Finland. My

opinion was that we once again needed assistance from a person experienced in sailing. We didn't have sea charts and none of us had the knowledge which was needed. A man came and stopped near us on the quay. He looked at our boat and pointed out that the sea could be unpredictable. I presented myself, and he replied ”Bengt”. He told that he was a fisherman in third generation and that he had fished in these waters already for thirty years. I told Bengt that the captain's post was vacant on our boat and wondered if he was interested. Bengt replied and said that was perfect for him. Because he was on summer vacation. I called Seppo and told him that we now had a new captain, and that he had to pay Bengt's flight back to the home island when we had arrived home. Sure, said Seppo. We entered Bengt's Saab and drove to his home where he packed some things for himself and said goodbye to his family. The boat had got its provision and we let go and steered to the open sea. Matti had changed his mind and hanged on with his wine bottles once again.

Bengt mastered his profession. In no time he had installed the navigation instruments and other facilities needed. The trip towards Helsinki passed peacefully, the engine was humming and the autopilot took care of the steering. During a couple of summer nights I was sitting listening and talking to Bengt. We sat on the edge of the cockpit from where we could observe the quite big light screen with a rotating cone telling us what happened around us. Bengt identified all ships passing us from the moment they appeared on the screen as small, only a few millimeter big green light spots. These are Russian fishing boats, this is Bore, and this is Silja and this is Viking. After a few hours the ships passed us.

The modern technology surprised us as well. The autopilot, which steered our boat automatically as we had programmed it really kept what it had promised. The destination we had programmed outside Hanko was in reality the Harmaja lighthouse outside Helsinki. If we hadn't interfered we could have crashed right into it. We touched the basin quay near the Helsinki market hall at four o'clock in the morning.

We had an unforgettable 2100 kilometer long boat trip behind us. The next morning at 12 o'clock we met at the terrace outside the market hall and went through our voyage and came to the conclusion that it was not at all a bad experience. Also big ships bet on fortune. For example, think what happened to Costa Concordia, turning over on the shore in Italy Friday 13 January 2012. A sailor is always a sailor!

from up down: Sailing boats and onlookers, probably after a sailing competition in Raahe. Birger (19 years) climbs up to find an angel of the view (see photo on page. 19). The photos are from Pia Sovio-Pyhälä's collection

NEW RELATIVES

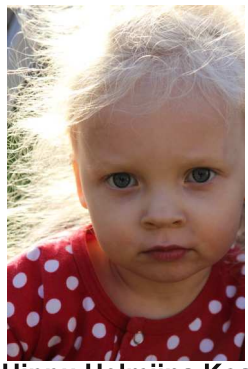
Joar Sixten Cederblad Eldh
27.12.2011, Gothenburg
Parents: Pär Vilmar Sovio Cederblad and Stina-Kajsa Eldh (T298).
Joar is the younger brother of Olle

Konstantin Johann Liesz
3.11.2013, München
Parents: Arhur Joann Liesz and Anneli Victoria Tillmanns- Liesz (T278)

Aurora Ella Adelia Weikkolainen
30.05.2013, Raahe
Parents: Susanna Sovio and Miika Weikkolainen (T233e)

Anna Aino Anneli Sovelius
27.1.2010, Helsinki
Parents: Pertti Antero Sovelius and Elisa Anneli Sovelius, b. Rauhala (T363)

Alexandra Matilda Hellenius
4.5.2010, Kirkkonummi
Parents Åsa Hellenius and Jerry Kämpe-Hellenius (T309)



Julia Hippu Helmiina Koski, 29.3.2010, Ylivieska
Konsta Konrad Koski, 23.6.2012, Ylivieska
Parents: Janne Koski and Tutta Elmiina Koski, b. Leskinen (T406)

Elviira Elisabet Sovio s.08.10.2011, Raisio
Left on the picture with her brother **Elia**
Parents: Jussi Sovio and Linnea Sovio, b. Valonen (T233a)

Eleonora Elina Linnea Lahtivirta,
16.10. 2008, Helsinki
and the twins **Niklas Jan Armas Lahtivirta and Wilhelm Jeremias Gustaf Lahtivirta**
24.6 2011, Vantaa
Parents: Tapani Armas Lahtivirta and Dordi Eva Marika Lahtivirta, s. Ekberg (T383)

Lorelei Eleanora Sovio
20.4.2013, Canada, Abbotsford
Parents: Lucas Johan Sovio and Tatjana Sovio, b. Shurr (T283)

Edvard Anders Helenius
f. 13.12.2010, Stockholm
Emilia Helenius
f. 29.8.2013, Stockholm
Parents: Johan Anders Helenius and Malin Olofsson (T303)

In order to keep our Family Register and our Address List updated, please send us relevant information, such as persons dead, born, married, as well as other information of interest. Please also inform us if you have a new mailing address and especially if your e-mail address has changed. (And, just to keep in contact even if you don't have any of the above mentioned in mind). You can send your messages to any of our board members, whose contact addresses you find on the inside of the front cover or directly to family's e-mail address: info@sovio-sovelius.com.

Later on, when we have appointed Contact Persons for the different Family Branches, you can also send your information through them.

Relatives who have passed away

Kerttu Inkeri Tuominen, b. Sovio T 311
b.12.8.1920 Raahe
d. 12.7.2013 Sammatti

Esko Eljas Koivusalo T251
b.23.6.1936 Seinäjoki
d.12.1.2012 Helsinki

Ina Gertrud Harala, os. Sovio T274
b. 25.4.1918 Raahe
d. 29.1 2012 Tampere

Alpo Salomo Harala T274
b. 24.9. 1913 Kangasala
d. 21.6. 2012 Tampere

Lauri-Matti Keltikangas T247
b. 1.3. 1962 Helsinki
d. 6.2. 2013 Helsinki

Riitta Kyllikki Sovio, os. Iljamo (aik. Ingman) T280
b. 15.4.1923 Kuopio
d. 6.10.2010 Canada, Abbotsford

About the Grave Maintenance Fund

The Committee for Maintenance of Family Graves has from the start participated in the maintenance of family graves, mainly in Finland, and especially in Raahe, but also of graves in Stockholm, Sweden and Florence, Italy. The Committee has no regular funding, and depends on voluntary contributions to the Family Association's Grave Maintenance Fund.

In case you want to give a donation the The Bank Account Number of the Fund is :

Nordea Bank, Finland ((IBAN) FI74 1200 3000 0190 26
Bank Nordea (BIC NDEAFIHH), Recipient: Sovio-Soveliuksen Hautainhoitorahasto.

Participants at the Family Association Meeting, Aug. 3Rd, 2013.

Photos by Rainer Berndes

The Sovio-Sovelius Family Association charges annually a Membership Fee of 20 €/person. A family living in the same household pays only one Membership Fee. You will receive an annual Fee Invoice.

The bank account number of the Family Association is (IBAN) FI24 1200 3000 0187 62, and the bank is Nordea Finland (BIC: NDEAFIHH)

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