

JOTAILAN JUTUT

20

Jotaila Family Bulletin # 20, May 2015



BOLINA. FRAN. BRAHESTAD.

1838.

Sovio Sovelius

Sukuyhdistys * Släktförening * Family Association

Hallitus - Styrelse - the Board

Puheenjohtaja
Ordförande
Chairperson

OLLI NYLANDER
Martintie 8
92150 Raahe
olli.nylander@gmail.com
+358 40 519 8782

Varapuheenjohtaja/sihtööri
Vice ordförande/sekreterare
Vice-chairman / secretary

OUTI TASALA
2. Linja 31 C 93
00530 Helsinki
outi.tasala@hotmail.com
+358 40 757 9491

Rahastonhoitaja
Skattmästare
Treasurer

SAMI SOVIO
Betonimiehenkatu 3 A 18
90530 Oulu
sami_sovio@hotmail.com

Varajäsenet - Suppleanter - Substitutes: EVA LINDBLAD, MARTTI SOVIO

KOMMITÉER

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RAIJA INGERTILÄ (PJ - ORDFÖRANDE. CHAIR), ANNALIISA NYLANDER, MARTTI SOVIO

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Internet Committee (Appointed by the board)

OLLI NYLANDER, PÄR HELENIUS (SUKUTIETOKANTA - SLÄKTDATABAS - FAMILY DATA BASE),

The bank account of the Family Association: (IBAN) FI24 1200 3000 0187 62

and the bank is Nordea (BIC: NDEAFIHH)

The bank account of the Graves Care Committee: (IBAN) FI74 1200 3000 0190 26

and the bank is Nordea (BIC: NDEAFIHH)

E-mail: info@sovio-sovelius.com

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Chairperson's column

Greetings relatives

In the beginning of June last summer we held an extraordinary Family Association's meeting. Secretary and vice chair Outi Tasala made the arrangements and the meeting was held on a cruise ship, as had been the wish of many for quite some time. This turned out to be an excellent choice. You will find pictures and a few words about the meeting on the back pages of this bulletin.

On the meeting's agenda was the Family Association's statutes that the revisions committee (Eva Lindblad, Ilkka Sovio and Pertti Sovelius) had prepared. Eva Lindblad deserves special credit for her work in this matter. The statutes were accepted unanimously with only small corrections. Thus, if there are no great surprises, the next family association's meeting in the summer 2016 will follow the new statutes. The statutes are being processed by the registration authority and have been published on our association's website.

The next family association's meeting will be held in Raahe, where they are arranging a new summer event, Sea Days <http://www.visitraahe.fi/en/pookiflakkaaraahenmeripaivat/>. They will have a light version of the event in 2015 and aim for the full extent in the summer of 2016, when they hope to have large sailing vessels, among others, in Raahe. The board thinks having the family meeting coincide with the event would be appropriate, as long as the timing (saturday, 16th of July) does not prove impossible for the relatives. The board welcomes any comments or ideas on this, or any other matter relating to the family meeting or the society: e-mail info@sovio-sovelius.com.

When making this bulletin we got the sad news that the family association's, and also this bulletin's primus motor, Eero Sovelius-Sovio, tireless gatherer of family history, had passed away. Eero leaves a void in the family association that cannot be filled and also the sense of commitment in us to continue the work he started in bringing the family members together, and gathering and storing the information on the family. Towards the end of this bulletin you will find the beautiful memorial speech that Raija Ingerttilä, Eero's niece, held at Eero's funeral in Jyväskylä 27 March 2015.

The digitalisation of the family register took a massive leap forward as Pär "Priccen" Helenius recorded all (!) the data in the family genealogy into the database. At the moment he is also testing ways to publish the information on our website and hopefully the information will be available there by the end of the year.

This bulletin does not include the summaries of the pieces in English or Swedish. Although we have received lots of positive feedback for them, making the summaries has proved rather laborious. Thus, in this bulletin only the chair's greeting has been translated. However, the whole bulletin will be published in English and Swedish on our website. We ask for your understanding in this.

Wishing you a lovely spring and summer,
Olli



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ULLA SOVIO, PAUL GREGORY, OUTI TASALA English translations

Front page: Bolina av Brahestad, see page 5

Back cover: Raahe's Trading Club's house, next to Sovio's houses, burning on June 2013. Foto: Olli Nylander

"Jotailan Jutut" will be published in Swedish and in English on the Family Association's website, by the names "Jotaila Släktbulletin" and "Jotaila Family Bulletin":
<http://www.sovio-sovelius.com/tiedotteet.html>

CALLING ON RELATIVES IN SWEDEN, ENGLAND, GERMANY, CANADA, USA – WHEREVER YOU ARE, IT'S TIME TO NETWORK!

It is especially for you that we are renewing the family association's website and are publishing the bulletin Jotailan Jutut online in Finnish, Swedish and English.

Chairman Olli states in his greeting that the recent passing of Eero Sovelius-Sovio, family association enthusiast, leaves a sense of commitment in us to continue the work he started in bringing the family members together, and gathering and storing information on the family. Thus, we ask you:

- Would you like to get to know your relatives and discuss your roots?
- Does social media offer new opportunities for networking with relatives?
- Should we have liaisons for the different family branches, for different parts of the world and for different languages?
- Is the model for liaisons given below acceptable, or do you have other ideas on how to network with relatives?
- The bulletin Jotailan Jutut, which comes out once a year, needs articles. Do you think you could perhaps contribute to this, or maybe you know a relative who might be willing to write something? Articles should be 1-4 pages long, and can be about you, your family, relatives, memories or events.
- Do you have photographs (paper or digital) for the family archive?
- We are updating the electronic family register, and hope to receive information on new family members, passed relatives, special dates etc.
- What hopes have you got for the family association?

We wish to enquire

a) Whether you find the electronic bulletin interesting and

b) If you could you pass on information of it among your family branch?

*olli.nylander@gmail.com
pia.sovio-pyhala@kolumbus.fi*

*outi.tasala@hotmail.com
tuula.moilanen@welho.com*

Why do we need liaisons for the family branches?

ILKKA SOVIO

In the family association's meeting in 2004 Eero Sovelius-Sovio suggested that we select liaisons for the different family branches. The proposition was carried out and it was settled that the main task for the liaisons was to update the information on their own family branch for the 2nd part of the family register. The results for this were very encouraging.

In the meetings in 2007 and 2010 members for the liaison network were selected again. However, their tasks were not decided and at that time, there were no mention of liaisons in the decree.

In the summer of 2012 the liaisons living in the capital area got together to discuss their roles. What resulted was the following proposition:

1. The liaison gathers information from their family branch on birthdays, deaths, spouses, awarded degrees, commemorations, and other noteworthy information, such as name changes and corrections to earlier entries. The information is to be submitted to the board yearly.
2. Acquiring new members for the family association.
3. Promote selling of the family register book and other products.
4. Helping the editorial staff by providing possible topics for the bulleting.
5. Gathering photographs for the family association's archive.
6. Bringing the wishes and suggestions of the members of the family association to the attention of board.
7. Sending the announcements and enquiries to the members. Att skaffa nya medlemmar.

Our family ships at the mercy of the sea

The story of the ship Bolina av Brahestad, 1838

TOR HELENIUS (T304)

(TRANSLATION: OUTI TASALA)

My mother “Pipsan” Ingeborg Torsdotter Helenius (nee Sovio, 1915 in Raahe) gave me a painting as a wedding gift that I had always found fascinating. The pictures on the left and on the cover page portrays a brig, which is pictured in a realistic way in rough seas. Its masts are almost cut through, the breakers are exquisitely painted and the crew, pictured in naivist style, is struggling to cut free the main mast and bowsprit that have fallen over the board.



Pipsa mom, the daughter of “Daddi” and Tor Mikael Sovio and the granddaughter of Fredrik Oscar Sovelius (1855-1896) told a story of how the painting had come to our possession. After Fredrik Oscar Sovelius died, his wife Rosa let the children choose one keepsake of their father’s. My mother’s father Tor Mikael was 11 at the time and he had always been fascinated with the painting “Bolina av Brahestad”, which evidently had hung on the wall of the Sovio-house. He chose this painting, which was then inherited by my mother’s mother Daddi and after that my mother.

When I later looked for Bolina in the Sovio-Sovelius genealogy I could not find it. When some years ago I visited Raahe and of course the Sovio-house and museum, I found a thesis by Kai Snellman titled “Raahe’s sailing ships and their crews in the 19th century”. And funnily enough, there was Bolina! Kai Snellman’s description is short: Bolina av Brahestad, brig 90/93 last, build in 1837. Owner: Lang, crew 10-12 men, Captain I.Gellman 1837, W. Wikander 1837-1839. Sold to Porvoo in 1841). From this I gathered that Bolina had survived the terrible storm in 1838 but with only one spanker intact. I bought another book from the museum, “People from the city of ships” by Eero Sovelius-Sovio and in this one I found considerably more information.

Zachris Franzén (1787 – 1852), a counselor of commerce from Raahe whose first wife was Johanna Lang (1796 – 1826) had Bolina built. With the marriage Zachris first became the leader and subsequently the owner of Raahe’s trading house Johan Lang. After Johanna passed away Zachris remarried with Lovisa Frosterus (1805 – 1898). They had five children together, the eldest of which was Johanna Margareta (1830 – 1857), who in 1850 became my grandfather Fredrik Sovelius’ (1822 – 1897) wife. At the time Fredrik was an accountant for Johan Lang trading house and partially lead the company because his father-in-law Zachris was poorly in his final years.

Johanna died in 1857 from complications of a difficult childbirth and after this the Johan Lang trading house became the property of Fredrik. Also, the painting Bolina från Brahestad came to our family.

Kai Snellman identified as his source the Sovio archive, which today is located at the Oulu provincial

archive. I contacted the archive and requested copies of the documents regarding Bolina. To my surprise I received a stack of papers a few months later that proved Bolina's adventures and gave specific details of what happened.

Bolina had been commissioned in December 1837 to carry coal from Newcastle, England, to Naples. The journey began in February 1838 and ended in Plymouth, where Bolina was towed after having lost its mast and raised the emergency flag in the storm. In Plymouth the pilot asked £200 as compensation for the cutter and the crew but captain Wikander protested. An impartial expert decided that 40 guineas was a fair compensation for the services rendered. I wish to refer to and summarize a document written in a skilled hand:

The Russian Brig Bolina of Brahestad, Capt William Wikander, from Newcastle to Naples with a Cargo of Coals having been towed into this Port dismasted. At the request of John Collier Esq her Agent and agent for Lloyds, as also of the said Master.

We the Undersigned have this day been alongside and onboard to examine her State and Condition, where she is moored in the harbour of Putwater.

And now report that we find the Bowsprit, Foremast, Main Topmast and Top carried away, and from the Master's report all and every thing thereonto belonging, her Spars, Blocks, Sails and Rigging were for general preservation cut away and lost, the Main Mast, Main Yard, Main Boom and Gaff with the Mainsail & Triesail only

remaining – her long Boat is very much shook and strained and requires large repair, her Bulworks, Rails and several staunchedons are split, broke and carried away, she appears much shook and strained aloft and will require Caulking...

In addition there were descriptions of the damages, which amounted to £419 altogether. There were 19 repairs, a new rigg, sails, blocks, hoists etc.

Signed on February 19, 1838 in Plymouth
William Cuming (The port's Surveyor of Shipping)

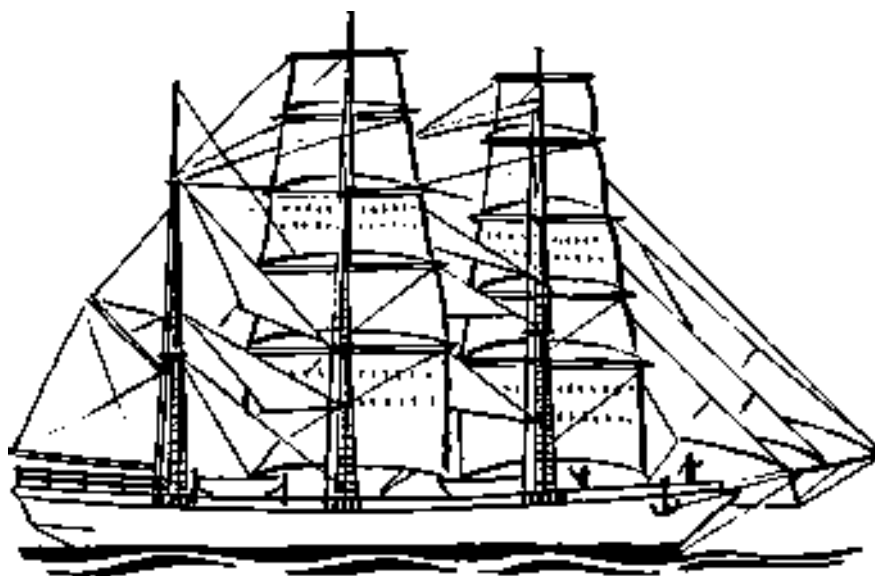
William Shilston (Ship Builder)

John Gambell (Sailmaker)

W Coath (Ropemaker)

When you look closely at the ship in the painting you can see all the reported damages!

After Bolina had been towed to the port and the above mentioned inspection done, there was a lot of correspondence between Captain Wikander, Johan Lang trading house and the latter's representative in England to decide what was to be done to Bolina and the cargo it carried. It was decided that the ship would be repaired with the cost of £659.58, including the cost for cargo and the reward for the agent's services. This correspondence is written in hand and at times with such handwriting that it's nearly impossible to read. This was the way things were done before the time of computers and internet!



HEIKKU SOVELIUS' SHIPWRECKS

EERO SOVELIUS-SOVIO (T339) (TRANSLATION: OUTI TASALA)

Shipowner, sea captain, merchant and benefactor Henrik (Heikku) Sovelius (T215) was born on 2 March 1817 in the family of Fredrik Sovelius senior. The future of a shipowner's sons was planned out from the start: they were to follow in their father's footsteps. Thus, they received the best possible education in business both in the home country as well as abroad. Each of them also gained the degree of a master mariner. Heikku Sovelius was awarded his degree in 1837 when he was 20 years old.

The careers of the brothers Matts August, Johan, Henrik and Fredrik in sea voyage were varied and differed also in length. Unmarried Heikku was not kept on dry land by family ties and he was more interested in commanding a ship than keeping the shop or doing the accounts. His yearning to sea might also have been spurred by a fear of being overshadowed in the shipping company by a strong willed brother. The brothers owned and managed the Fredrik Sovelius shipping company together after their late father.

In his 17 years at sea in the service of Fredrik Sovelius shipping company, Heikku served as a captain for six different ships, on two separate occasions for the schooners Titus and Svalan. In the beginning of his career, he was the constable for the schooner Svalan and then mate for the schooner Muisto.

According to the information collected by Samuli Paulaharju (SKS archive, the Paulaharju collection) two of the ships Heikku Sovelius commanded were shipwrecked. The other sank in the waters of the Quarken and the other in Kattegat in the North Sea. These losses infuriated Matts August so that when Henrik was planning yet another voyage, Matts snapped at him to



"Bloody buy a barn in Märjännys and sail it!" (Märjännys was a meadow on the eastside of town).

Heikku was musical and on board the ship he had a square piano which he liked to play on every occasion. (The piano was manufactured by Winter&Meyer in 1791 and is now on show at the Sibelius Museum in Turku with the exhibition number 147). With the second shipwreck impending, the ship's mate brought this to the attention of the captain. His reply was "Let me first finish this sonata (etude) and I'll be right over". The composition must have been a longish one as the ship ran aground.

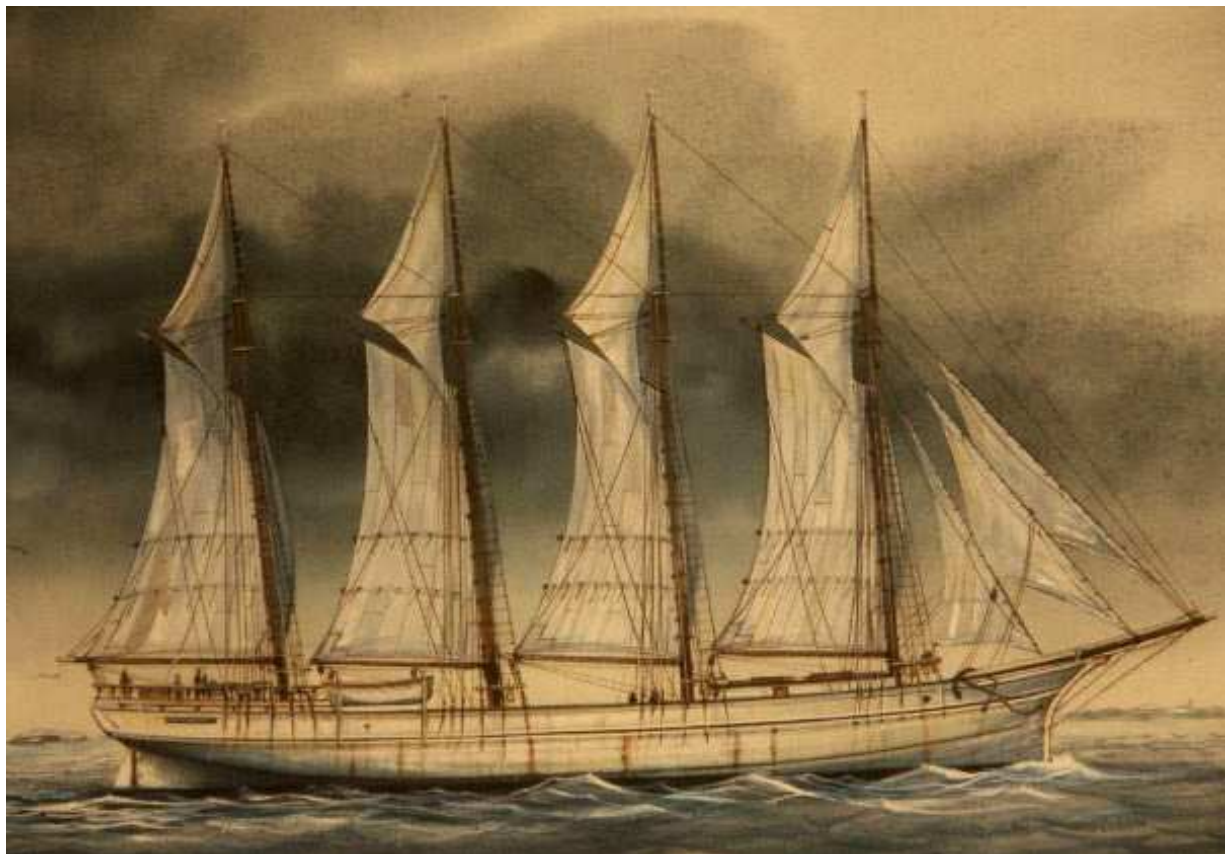
The ships that Heikku was the captain for:

Name of the ship	Captain in/between	Sailing area	Burden (One last = 2448 kg)
Schooner Svalan II	1838	Baltic Sea	36 l.
Barque Fredrik	1839-40	Shipwreck in Norway, 1840	192 l.
Schooner Svalan II	1840	Baltic Sea	36 l.
Schooner Nyby	1841	North Sea	35 l.
Barque Weljet	1841-43	North Sea. Shipwreck?	144 l.
Schooner Titus	1845	Baltic Sea	39 l.
Sloop Hönan	1846	Gulf of Bothnia	14 l.
Schooner Titus	1846-1852	Baltic Sea and North Sea	39 l.

The ill luck Polstiernan

RAINER BERNDES (T178)

(TRANSLATION: OUTI TASALA)



Polstiernan, a schooner with four masts, was carrying coal and on its way from London to Hamburg when it caught fire on Elbe II. The ship was towed with three tugboats, but near the Cuxhaven lighthouse it burst into flames and sunk to the depths of the ocean. This was in 1925.

Today you can see the wreck in the water near kids' playground, along Strandweg Street in Blankenese, Hamburg. The ship crumbles as the waves beat on it and its parts drift out to sea. According to the city of Hamburg, it is the state's responsibility to dig the ship up and restore the wreck, because at the moment it is dangerous for the people swimming in the Elbe. At the same time the wreck has become a tourist attraction in Blankenese.

The ship's origin and why it is of interest to the family

We know that the place where the ship was built belonged to the Skinnarvik manor house in Taalintehdas and that the construction took place in Vadholmen, on the Skogsvik side of the shore. The place was called simply "Varvet" (dockyard). Johan Sovelius (T153), who had moved to Piikkiö from Raahe in 1876, had bought the Skinnarvik manor house and its tilled lands, a glass factory and a shipyard in 1883. Johan's offspring were often part owners of the ships that were built. The ship was built for a shipping company by the same name, but locally the shipping company was called the "herrkapsrederi" (gentry's shipping company). The shipping company Polstiernan went bankrupt and the ownership of the ship remains unclear. I thus refrain from naming all the part owners of the ship for now, but will provide some basic information of the origin of the ship here.

In 1917 the shipping company Polstiernan was founded. The aim was to build a schooner with four masts in Skinnarvik's Vadholmen, where three ships had been built previously. The capital stock was 600 000 marks.

In 1917 sturdy wood material for the keel was acquired. The logs came from Karl Fazer's estate in Taubila, on the north shore of Pyhäjärvi, on the west side of Laatokka in Karelia.

In 1918, 140 men were hired to build the ship (part of them from the glass factory).

29 November 1919 was the planned launch day, but the launch failed and the work was discontinued at dusk, after the ship had been moved a mere 4.5 meters. However the ship was named, when people at the launch fest at Skinnarvik manor reached the roast. Polstiernan was launched the next day and towed via Stockholm to Bergsunds Mekaniska Verkstad, where the ship was fitted with steel masts made by the Havestan factory and one 250 horse powered engine, and a smaller engine for the

winches and a generator. The engine was to produce the speed of 5-6 knots.

1920 Polstiernan was registered in Mariehamn

Carrying capacity	1600
Gross weight	1028
Net weight	733
Lenght ft.	202,9
Width ft.	40,3
Depth ft.	16

As early as 1 September 1921 one of the shipping company's owners went bankrupt and the others got into difficulties because of this. The decendants of Sovelius's acted as surety for the shipping company, which caused them financial difficulties.

The era of sailing vessels was drawing to an end. This stately four mast schooner Polstiernan was the last sailing vessel owned by the family Sovelius...



The wreck of the ship Polstiernan along Strandweg Street in Blankenese, Hamburg.



Shipwrecked lives

the plague of Tuberculosis in our family

ILKKA SOVIO (T340) AND PIA SOVIO-PYHÄLÄ (T290)

(TRANSLATIONS: ULLA SOVIO AND PAUL GREGORY)

The SPA trip of Fredrik Oscar Sovelius (T217) to Germany 1858

Pia Sovio-Pyhälä

There are notes in the diary of Fredrik Oscar's (subsequently Oscar) grandmother, Lovisa Eleonora Franzén (née Frosterus) from 1858, which tell how Oscar's father Fredrik Sovelius and maternal grandmother Lovisa took Oscar to Ems, a spa town in Germany, known for its healing waters and salt (Emser Salz). The journey to Germany began when Oscar was 3 years old. Oscar's mother, Johanna Margaretha (née Franzén), had died in the previous year, while giving birth to Oscar's brother Georg. (Oscar was then 18 months old and he was the third child in the family. The first of the children, Frans Fredrik, had died at age nine months. Their sister Fanny was a couple of years older than Oscar.)



*Oscar at age 3 years. A paper print from a daguerrotype. Text behind: Oscar, Frankfurt am Main 1858 *)*

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis has been found in humans since the earliest times of mankind. Probably one of the oldest exhibits is a skeleton found in Germany near Heidelberg, which showed changes typical of tuberculosis. The skeleton dates back to approximately 5000 BC. Also, the ancient advanced medicine recognised tuberculosis. Hippocrates (460-377 BC) described astonishingly precisely the symptoms and clinical presentation of pulmonary tuberculosis. In the following centuries the main dispute was about whether tuberculosis was infectious or not. In the early days it was considered hereditary. Already in the 1600s and 1700s the infectiousness of tuberculosis was widely accepted. Only in 1882 the German Robert Koch discovered the tubercle bacillus and demonstrated convincingly the infectious nature of tuberculosis. Thanks to Koch's work, the whole issue moved into a new phase.

The battle against tuberculosis could be initiated when the infectious nature of the disease and the pathogen were known, and the methods by which the pathogen could be identified reliably had been developed. Before the actual arise of the sanatoria, where the patients were isolated, help was sought in spas both in Finland and abroad. In the 1700s and until the mid-1800's, spa tours were very popular. The purpose of the trip was to improve well-being, to drink the mineral-rich water, and to bathe in the cold water pools. In the rooms around the wells and in the spas, doctors prescribed various courses of medicine. Some spas specialised in the cure of respiratory diseases.

England and France had started to set up convalescent homes for tuberculosis patients along their coastlines in the 1800's. The idea of the lung disease hospitals established in England before the mid-1800s was mainly the isolation of the sick, because they were regarded as contagious. England began to set up sanatoria from the 1850's. Sanatoria were pioneered by the German physician Hermann Brehmer, who built a sanatorium which started operating in 1854 in Silesia in Germany. As the moisture in the soil was believed to hinder recovery from the lung disease, sanatoria were placed in the dry climate of the mountains. Finland's first sanatoria were opened in 1903 in Nummela and Punkaharju. Finnish sanatoria were placed in dry, high pine ridges, where the climate was considered to be close to the ideal of the mountain climate. After the invention of the streptomycin antibiotic in 1944, tuberculosis patients were treated effectively in normal hospitals, and the sanatoria located in the mountain forests lost their popularity.

During the trip, grandmother Lovisa makes notes in her diary. On the 19th of June 1858 Lovisa writes:

"On June 19th, Fredric Oscar, Betty, I and Fredric travelled abroad through Vyborg". (Betty is the sister of Oscar's late mother.) They travelled through Kuopio, and an article can be found in Annon-Blad journal number 21: "commercial counsellor Franzén with her daughter and consul Sovelius with his son arrived in Kuopio." The following entry in the diary tells that the journey continues from Vyborg by ship on the 24th of June, arriving in Turku on the 29th of June and "Oscar is slightly feverish". Those times, travelling with a coughing, febrile child, by horse carriage, boat, and finally by train, was not easy. They stayed in Stockholm for three days and then the journey continued by Gustaf Adolf ship to Lübeck, where they transferred onto the train. The train went to Hamburg, Hanover, and finally they travelled by boat along the river Rhine to Ems. After more than three weeks of travelling they began the treatment "course" for Oscar. Oscar had diarrhoea and he vomited during the course, but he got better. The entourage got familiar with the nearby area and visited Nassau, enjoyed meals in restaurants and drank coffee in cafes. They also got to admire the fireworks organized in honour of the Duke of Nassau. A river cruise to Koblenz, etc. was also included in the programme.

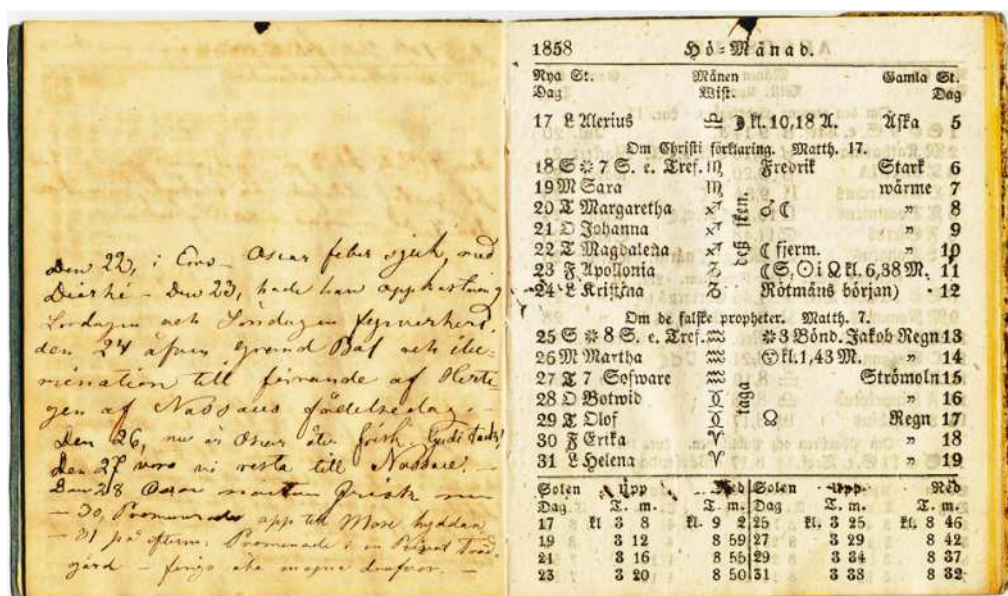
Oscar recovered and on the 6th of August the journey home began: first by train via Hamburg to Copenhagen and from there by ship via Gothenburg to Stockholm. The entourage travelled from Stockholm to Vyborg via Turku and Helsinki, and finally returned by horse carriage to

Raahe. On the 4th of October 1858 Lovisa writes in her diary: "At home again. Thanks be to God! ("Hemma igen Gud vare tack!")"

The journey took three and a half months. They stopped en route in different cities. There are no entries of appointments in the diary, but some relatives were known to have lived at least in Vyborg and Stockholm. In addition, the port cities had connections with the trading houses of Franzén, Lang and Sovelius.

Oscar grew up and took a healthy and civilized daughter of a priest, Rosa Borg, as his wife, and she bore him five sons. Oscar died in 1896 of a lung disease, at age 41 years. Father Fredrik died a year later and grandmother Lovisa in 1898 - but what happened to Oscar's offspring?

*) There are two prints of daguerreotypes. Oscar's mother's sisters, Betty (Lovisa Elisabeth) and Nanny (Anna Maria Christina) Franzén are in the second picture. The Museum of Photography considered the pictures interesting and copied them to their collections, because they include the dates and the names of the photographed persons, as well as supporting data from the diary. Since the entourage did not travel all the way to Frankfurt, the daguerrotypes were probably taken either in Vyborg or somewhere along the way. The prints and frames were produced in Frankfurt, from where they were dispatched to the customer. The Finnish Museum of Photography is involved in the EU daguerrotype mapping project and is happy to receive more materials. A daguerrotype image can be identified by the fact that the image displays directly in a front view and fades when viewed from the side.



A page from Lovisa's diary. A note at the bottom of the page: "31st day on a walk in a private garden, we got to eat ripe grapes."

The "tb trip" of my uncle Fredrik Wilhelm Sovelius (T286)

Ilkka Sovio

My uncle Fredrik Wilhelm Sovelius was born in Raahe on the 26th of February 1880 as the second child of his parents Fredrik Oscar Sovelius and Rosa née Borg. After attending the Raahe Swedish language primary school, he moved to Helsinki in 1893 and signed up to the co-educational school Nya Svenska Samskolan . He resigned from year 8 due to "sickliness" in 1899. He was then treated in Meran. His mother Rosa Sovelius visited him in Meran with her youngest son Jarl, who was probably 8-9 years old at that time. In the attached photograph Jarl appears in a Tyrolean costume. The boy must have been very lively, as the story goes that he got lost and some friendly townspeople returned him to his mother.



Jarl in a Tyrolean costume

Meran, a town of about 30 000 inhabitants, was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the early 1900s. It was predominantly German, with a minority of 4% Italian speakers. Due to mild winters and a sheltered location, it was a popular sanatorium town. As the World War I ended, South Tyrol was handed over to Italy and the name of the town was changed to Merano.

How long Fredrik Wilhelm stayed in Meran is unknown. In the beginning of 1903 he had already prepared the establishment of the Raahe brick factory. During the same year he married Ellen Uschakoff, and in the following year their daughter Florence was born.

The brick factory was established, but its story was short; the factory was closed down in 1906. Apparently Fredrik's health was poor. In the winter of 1905-1906 he was "hibernating" in Florence, in his father's cousin Hedwig's and her Swiss husband Antoine Nicat's house. He died "peacefully" in Florence on the 27th of March 1906, according to the notification of his death in Raahen Seutu. There are two kinds of conjecture

for the cause of death. His daughter was informed by her mother that the cause was a complication after an appendicitis operation. The second surmise was that the cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis.

Frederick William is buried in the Agli Allori Cemetery in Florence.

Widow Ellen got married to an Italian officer Luigi Lacroix de St. Paul a few years later. They had two sons. Daughter Florence lived in Italy all her life, and died in Milan on the 26th of December 1980. She is buried in the Rocca Canavese Cemetery in the vicinity of Turin.

According to the recollection of some of the family members, also Bertil Sovio was being treated for tuberculosis in his youth in a sanatorium in Germany. The place was Bad Honnef near Bonn, where a castle-like sanatorium called Hohenhonnet was built in 1891-1892. The timing of Bertil Sovio's visit to the sanatorium and the length of stay are unknown.

My grandfather Tor Sovio's (formerly Sovelius) (T288) and his children's disease history

Pia Sovio-Pyhälä

My grandfather Tor Mikael Sovio was the fourth oldest of Fredrik Oscar and Rosa's sons. The third son, Matts Birger, had died at age 10 of diphtheria. Tor was forced to resign from the Nya svenska co-educational school year 7 in 1902 due to a lung disease. He was 17 years old at the time. Even before that, his mother Rosa Sovelius had taken him to the Hohenhonnef lung disease clinic, which is located above the town of Bad Honnenhof in Germany. Also the Swedish Queen Sophie went for a treatment there. Apparently, Tor's disease was serious and he spent a total of six years in various sanatoria.



Tor with Gertrud Heberlein from Sweden playing cricket; behind their mothers Rosa Sovelius and Sigfrid Heberlein with their handcraft. Honnenhof, 1901

Lying in the open air in sleeping halls sheltered from the rain and wind was an important part of tuberculosis treatment at the time. Subsequently, Tor was mainly treated in Davos, Switzerland. Thomas Mann, the German Nobel Laureate and author wrote his book, *The Magic Mountain*, about a sanatorium named Berghof. +) One of the characters in the book is a portrait painting enthusiast, sanatorium director Hofrat Behrens. Could this be the same man Rosa got to paint portraits of herself, and also of her deceased husband Fredrik Oscar on the basis of a photograph? The last issue of *Jotailan jutut* (No 19) told about the donation of these portraits to the Museum of Raahe.



In 1903 Hohenhonnef. Male patients being treated in a sleeping hall. Tor is the first from the right. Honnenhof, 1903

In addition to various drug therapies, the treatment programme included lying in sleeping halls, as well as morning and evening walks for the fitter patients. Consumption of a healthy cow's milk was considered to be good for the patients, and the food was nutritious in the sanatorium. When the condition of the patients allowed, they could go hiking in the nearby areas, and make trips even across the Italian border. Meran was one of the popular destinations among others. In Thomas Mann's book, Joachim says to his brother Hans: "The Russians will always go on road trips. They drive to Clavadel, the lake, the valley of Flüelen, or Klosters." Being a Finn, Tor was probably counted as a Russian. Social life was lively and the patients spent their time together in various activities.

During the summers, Tor visited Raahe, and during these visits he fell in love with his classmate Dagmar Wangel. The couple got engaged. Tor sends postcards from the



Tor on a ride with a friend, in June 07. Behind the photo, "Here I come again. We had a fun trip. Tomorrow I will set off to Meran. I feel lonely .."



Tor does checkmate

destinations of his excursions, and repeatedly writes how he eagerly waits to get home.

On the 29th of March 1907, Tor writes to Daddi from Meran: "The weather is lovely and I'm in a good mood. Only one thing and I would be completely happy. A toast to you. Greetings. I take interest on it once I get home." In April 1907 he writes "It's still snowing. I miss you so much", and more messages: "I am sending you a picture of this landscape near Davos. Greetings to all, but mostly greetings from the one who is more than a friend and a comrade. Jarl sent a letter. He told good things about you, and I was very delighted about it. Yours, T." In May, there is another card. "I'm on a holiday trip.. I wish I had someone with me here. Every other person here is on a honeymoon."

Tor and Daddi got married in 1908 and Tor took his young bride on a honeymoon down south, all the way to the Riviera.

Although Tor had to resign from school, at least his German language skills improved during the years in the sanatorium. He has left behind some books, especially natural science books written in German. Tor's health was poor, and while dealing with their

company's bankruptcy after his brother's death, his health collapsed. He died on the 24th of July 1934 from abdominal tuberculosis.

**) Thomas Mann: Der Zauberberg, 1924. In English: The Magic Mountain. English translations by H. T. Lowe-Porter (1927) and John E. Woods (1996). According to researchers of literature, the writer had personal experience from sanatoria, but the sanatorium described in the book and its characters are fictitious. However, there is some authenticity to Dr. Behrens' character, since a leading hospital doctor of the same name painted the portraits for Rosa..*



Tor and Daddi on their honeymoon in the South

Tuberculosis takes the children too

Two of Tor Sovio's children, Pontus (Nappe) and Gunvor, also died of tuberculosis. Nappe resigned from year 6, and studied for a chief mate certificate in the Turku Maritime Institute. He served as a mate on several ships. A postcard dated 17th of December 1934 from Hyvinkää sanatorium reveals that he was already treated at that time. In the card he says that he wishes to heal "as completely as possible". Mother Daddi felt humiliated when in the summer house the relatives gave Nappe a different set of tableware, so that they could be washed separately to avoid passing on the infection to others. When I told this story to Nappe's cousin Håkan Poppius, he said, "but I got infected. I was 11 years old that summer, and I spent my entire holiday in a hammock. The experience helped me later in my career planning." Håkan ended up as a professor of respiratory medicine in the University of Helsinki. During the war, before his last visit to the sanatorium, Nappe worked in the anti-aircraft defence in Oulu. He died on the 12th of March 1942 in Päivärinta sanatorium, Muhos. He was 30 years old.



*Gunvor, "Nappe's"
sister, as a
baccalaureate (T 310)*



*Pontus "Nappe"
Sovelius (T300)*

Six months later, 14th of September 1942, Nappe's 25 year old sister Gunvor died suddenly of abdominal tuberculosis. My grandmother Daddi told that Gunvor had been infected during her service in the air surveillance. Another woman doing the same job had previously caught the "flying lung disease". Gunvor got the infection from the fur coat both of them had used in sub-zero temperatures in the watch tower. Gunvor graduated from the upper secondary school (Uleåborg's svenska privatskolan) in 1935, and then worked in the Salo district civil status office in Raahe, and in the office of the Kemi Ltd. In Kemi, she married the company's Technical Director Jerm Thorvald Christianssen. The husband moved to New Zealand and has not kept in touch since.



The family background of my grandmother Ellen Sovio, nee Brattström

MATTI KELTIKANGAS (T246)

TRANSLATION: OUTI TASALA

"Seiso vain ja stolli eikä ymmärtä höllipölli" it is said my grandmother, Raahe's mama as we grandchildren learned to call her, said to a maid who did not immediately understand what was wanted of her. In his marvelous book *People from the City of Ships* Eero Sovelius-Sovio gives other examples of the colorful mixed language of hers. She never did learn Finnish properly although her own mother was born in Raahe, Finland. This becomes understandable when you consider her background.



Ellen Sovio's mother Adele Rein and her father Paul Brattström, from Lübeck, were married 28 August 1880 in Raahe. Paul, nicknamed Paukka Brattström, was the junior partner in a wholesaler business, and responsible for relations with the Finnish customers. The young couple settled in Am Burgfeldt just outside the northern gate of Burgtor in Lübeck, an area popular amongst the wealthier merchants. They had three daughters: Anne Marie (1881), Magda Ellen (1883) and Gertrud (1885). Gertrud died the following year, same as her mother Adele at the age of 25.



Adele and Paul Brattström

At the time of their mother's death, Ellen was only 3 and her sister Anne Marie 5. When their father passed away four years later in his prime, at the age of 37, Ellen was orphaned at seven, with her sister but two years older. They had never seen their father's parents as both had passed away years before the girls were born. Their mother's parents were in their sixties and lived long ways away in Raahe. Ellen and Anne Marie grew up chiefly in the household of their father's brother Alfred Brattström. Some summers the girls travelled to Raahe to see their grandma Rein. This is where Ellen and Bertil must have first met.

Thus, in Ellen's childhood's surroundings the only languages she heard where German and Swedish. Coming to Raahe as a young woman, she was practically a novice when it came to Finnish, and the fact that she could get by with Swedish and German did not speed the process of acquiring a new language.



Ellen's uncle, Alfred Brattström

The first Brattström in Lübeck was mama's father's father Marcellus Brattström. He was born in 10 January 1809 in Sweden, in the administrative and commercial center of Filipstad in the mountainous mining area of eastern

Värmland. His father was Erik Brattström (1773-1838), a commissioner in the Court of Appeals and the head of the constabulary for the crown, and his mother Cajsa Wallman (1774). They had nine kids, four boys and five girls. The eldest son became a vet for the army, the third became a grammar school teacher and a Doctor of Philosophy, and the youngest a teacher for the elementary school. Against everybody's expectations Marcellus, the second son, did not pursue education in law but after school chose a commercial career instead.

At the time Lübeck was, as it still is, a major center for commercial activity in the Baltic Sea through which goods made their way from Sweden and Finland to the German market. That is where Marcellus made his way to and, in 1838 at the age of 29, founded a wholesale business together with Heinrich Vilhelm Haltermann (1803-1871), the son of a merchant from Lübeck. The company was called Haltermann & Brattström and they said to trade in Nordic goods, iron and colonial goods.

The business was a success and in 1845 Marcellus married Maria Friederike (6.7.1825), the eldest daughter of Johan Friedrich Wennberg (1795-1876) and his German born wife Maria Waedekini (1801-1884). Wennberg was the second biggest dealer in timber in Lübeck and practically controlled the import of wood from Sweden to Germany. His lumberyard has been said to have stretched over half a hectare in its heyday.

Marcellus and Friederike had altogether five children, one daughter (Maria 1846) and four boys (Carl Alfred 1847, Axel Hjalmar 1850, Edvard Marcellus 1851 ja Paul Friedrich 1853). Of the children Edvard Marcellus passed away as an infant. Axel moved to Hamburg to become a sales agent and Maria married Theodor Sartor, an architect from Lübeck. Alfred and Paul stayed and continued their father's merchant business.

Marcellus' business partner Heinrich Vilhelm Haltermann did not have male offspring and when he passed away in 1871, Marcellus became the sole owner of the business. After Marcellus' death in 1874 it went to his sons Alfred and Paul. The business had become affluent and was well known also in Finland. The Brattström's had been involved in founding two shipping companies, Finnländisch-Lübeckischen Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft and

Lübeck-Wyburger Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft, and the company served as an agent in Germany for many Finnish passenger and cargo ships.

Customers, vendors and retailers trading in butter, potash and caraway etc., reached many places in Finland: Hanko to Turku and all the way to Oulu and other cities by the Gulf of Bothnia, Helsinki, Porvoo and Vyborg by the Gulf of Finland, and also the cities of Tampere, Jyväskylä, Kuopio and Sortavala inland. This has been deducted from the ships' passenger lists published in various newspapers at the time. First Marcellus and after him Paul kept busy travelling to see their customers.

Haltermann & Brattström was one of the most notable sales businesses in Lübeck and the prestige it enjoyed is portrayed by the fact that two of its leaders were elected as senators for the city: Heinrich Wilhelm Haltermann in 1848 and then Alfred Brattström in 1892. The first served as senator 23 years, till his death, and the latter one 7 years as well, after which he resigned to focus in running the business.

The Finnish newspapers noted the death of Paul Brattström as well as Alfred Brattström's election for a senator.

When in 5 August 1902 a 'merchant's daughter' Magda Ellen Brattström married a 'merchant' Bertil Sovio Sovelius and moved to Raahe, her circle of life changed rather drastically. A bustling 'metropolis' of 80,000 people changed into a lot smaller, idyllic but quieting sea and trading town. Although, Mama went from a community of wholesaler and senators in Buddenbrook, to the high society of a small town wholesaler community. Thus, the social reference group did not change and at first the economic situation remained the same.

The start of the World War and the aftermath of the 20's and 30's depression following it ate away the wealth at a steady pace. Bankruptcy and the death of Bertil Sovio forced Mama to a different standard of living than she has been accustomed to from childhood.

Raahe's Mama endured the hardships, always retaining her positive outlook on life. My father told me he once asked her whether she missed the lost riches and she replied that "My wealth is in my kids".

This wealthy no doubt included not only the

eleven children, of which seven lived to be over 90, but also us grandchildren and our offspring. She kept track of our lives till the end, remembering special occasions with a letter or a postcard and was an expected and most welcome guest especially during Christmas time.

I have an especially clear recollection of a meeting in the early 60s'. I was on my way back from Kuusamo and decided to make a detour to Raahe. Mama had gone to town but was expected back soon. I went to meet her and when I got to Brahenkatu I saw a familiar figure approaching from the direction of Pekkatori with another madam. They were pushing kicksleds with wheels in front of them and were having a lively conversation. I waited with my movie camera and took pictures of them. When they reached me, Mama glanced at me recognized me instantly. Rarely, if ever, have I seen such candidly joyous expression.

It is easy to see why Mama was so well-liked and respected in Raahe. She regarded other people openly, altruistically and with a positive frame of mind. This must have contributed to richer and happier lives than any amount of wealth could have.

Mama was born in 26 July 1883 in Lübeck and died 20 July 1966 in Raahe, mere six days from her 83th birthday.

Let's now go back to Erik Brattström, Mama's great grandfather and a commissioner in the Court of Appeals. His grandfather, Halfvard Brattström, was considered the oldest known forefather of the family by Viktor Örnberg in his book Svenska Ättartal from 1890. Halfvard (1701-1776) was a shareholder in Brattfors iron works some twenty kilometres from Filipstad. Magnus, the younger of Halfvard's two sons continued his father's work but the older, Peter Halfvardsson Brattström (Eriks father), moved to be the owner of Storbö iron works near Filipstad. Out of his 15 children, Erik was the youngest.

In the same instance Örnberg refers to the folk tale on the family Brattströms stating that the family came to Värmland from Finland. This has been interpreted to mean the "forest Finns" that came to Värmland from Savo in the late 1500 and



Ellen och Bertil Sovio with their eleven children

early 1600s to burn-clear and inhabit the forests. However, as far back as the forefathers have been traced they have been either mountain farmers, forge shareholders or owners of iron works. If the tale about the Finns has any base, they must have been people that Gustav I of Sweden brought in to work in the mines that the crown owned, located also in Värmland.

The scarcity and even lack of records makes it difficult to ascertain the truth behind the connection with Finns. Yet, there is another and even more interesting link between the Brattströms and the Sovios. Halfvard Brattström's spouse Maria Rundqvist's father, Magnus Rundqvist, was the curate in Brattfors and mother Anna Helena Petraea. Anna Helena's father Zacharias Olai Petraeus was the son of Olavus Eskilli Petraeus, a vicar in Filipstad, and the first rector of Åbo Akademi and the younger brother of Eskill Olai Petraeus, the Bishop of Åbo.

Bertil Sovio being Bishop Eskill Petraeus' descendant, it can be concluded that Ellen and Bertil shared the same ancestors, Filipstad's vicar Olavus Eskilli Petraeus and his wife Catharina. Ellen was their descendant in the eight and Bertil in the tenth generation. They were second cousins in the sixth/eight generation. Luckily this distant relation has never been an impediment to marriage.

My cousin Florrie (T 286)

ILKKA SOVIO (T340)

(TRANSLATION: ULLA SOVIO)



*Ellen with her daughter
Florrie*

My uncle Fredrik Wilhelm Sovelius married a painter Ellen Uschakoff in Raahe on the 14th of April 1903. Their daughter Florence was born on the 1st of May 1904 and she became known as Florrie. My uncle died in 1906 at only 26 years of age. Ellen married an Italian officer Luigi Lacroix a few years later and they had two sons.

Florrie lived her entire life in Italy but she travelled a lot in Europe. As a girl, she visited Raahe with her mother, and also later as an adult she travelled to Raahe to meet her grandmother and other relatives. Her last visit to Finland was in the late 1950's, when she visited Raahe among other places..



Florence Sovelius and Kerttu Sovio

My father Jarl kept in touch with Florrie until his death. After the war, especially Florrie's cousins Fjalar Näsman and Gunhild Borg were in correspondence with her, and Gunhild visited Italy on several occasions to meet her cousin.

Like other officers, also the Lacroix family moved often. After a period of time in Rome, they lived for a long time in Genoa where Florrie began studying law at the University. According to her own words she would have liked to study agronomy, but in Genoa it was not possible. Apparently, the family did not consider it desirable that she should move elsewhere to study. Despite her degree in law, Florrie never pursued her profession. Florrie was also interested in painting. While living in Genoa, she often travelled to the neighbouring town of Nervi with her mother to paint the scenic waterfront. Her interest in painting continued throughout her life and even in the late 1970s she painted in Nervi.



Young Florrie

Florrie married an Italian psychologist Francesco Padalino, and they settled in Venice. Florrie did not particularly like Venetians. As far as she was concerned, in spite of her Finnish roots and of living in Italy, she did not consider herself more of a Finn or an Italian either, but rather a Central European.

Lacroix family spent their holidays often in Tyrol, where the majority of the population is still German speaking. Therefore, in addition to her mother tongue Swedish, Florrie's strongest languages were Italian and German.

Francisco Padalino was a supporter of the fascist party, and during the post-war inquiries he had to spend some time in jail. According to Florrie, her husband became violent while in prison, which in turn caused the couple to get divorced in the early 1950's. Florrie moved to Milan, where her half-brother, Giuseppe worked as a professor of pathology. Florrie earned her living by teaching German in upper secondary schools, as well as doing translation work, specialising in technical and legal texts. In addition to Nordic languages, she translated German and Dutch. Apart from her teaching and translation work, she served for over 20 years as a certified interpreter for the courts of Milan. In addition to her language teacher's post, she was elected as the rector of the Liceo Linguistico of Milan at 74 years of age.

At the beginning of 1980, Florrie fell ill with the atherosclerosis of the brain, and she had to spend the last months of her life in a care home, where she died on the 26th of December 1980.

LENA KOSKI (T 405), gentle and br

TUULA MOILANEN

TRANSLATION: OUTI TASALA

Lena Koski nee Lindberg, born in 1945, is one of the most notable naivist painters in the international art circle. Since 1979 her work has been on display in over ten countries in Europe, as well as in India, the United States and Peru. In Finland she has on several occasions been noted with acknowledgements and grants. In the early spring of 2014, the Central Ostrobothnia fund of the Finnish Cultural Foundation acknowledged Lena as an advocate for naivism. It was the first time that the grant of 10,000€ was given to a painter in that area.

Lena has taken part in the Naivists in Iittala exhibitions since 1992. Her oil paintings stand out in their large size and calm and strong colors. Within the meditative landscape there are often two miniature human figures, a man and a woman, sometimes an entire family, maybe a forest creature, but most often Lena's favourite animal – the cow.

"Since childhood the cow has been close to my heart. It's a figure that symbolises food and security. In Raahe there were a lot of cows when I was a child, in Velkaperä many houses had them.



Wedding Night



Lena Koski and Migratory Bird

Lehmiranta, where the cows were put out to pasture, is now full of detached houses."

Naivism (french: Naive childish, sincere, natural) is often regarded as an art form popular among self-taught artists. Lena also considers herself as self-taught. She has been endowed with sensitivity and a brave confidence in herself. She was surrounded by art even in childhood for Lena's mother, Marianne Lindberg nee Löwemark (1922-2004), was a skilled painter. Lena's husband Lauri Koski is involved in the theater but also paints and their son Janne Koski does graphic arts. Music and theater are very much a part of their lives in many forms. Lena's father, CEO for a shipping company August Lindberg Oy, was also appointed Honorably Consul for Denmark and Norway in Raahe. He was also given the title of Raahen Pekka. Lena's mother's mother's father was Fredrik Sovelius. The family's old villa Louekari off the coast of Raahe is still a paradise for Lena.

rave naivist painter from Ylivieska

The passion for painting – chance and happenstance

“We lived in Kemi in -71, Lauri was the director for Kemi City Theatre and I worked as a managing editor in a travel agency. The times were highly politicized and so was the world of theatre. Lauri did not want to become a member of the communist party and resigned his job and so we moved to Ylivieska.”

The housing situation was bad in 1971-1972 but the young couple managed to find an apartment and Lauri got a job. Lena stayed at home with their young child and says she felt a pressure from outside for being “just a Stay-at-Home-Mom”. So she started painting. At the time Ylivieska was the most populous city in Finland when it came to cows. Lena frequented the

Lempola farm owned by her friends to see the cows.

“I observed the cows and looked at how the spots in their coloring were placed. Paintings portraying cows got instant attention and the works were requested for exhibitions. This relieved my guilty conscience.”

“It was a happy coincidence. I painted the cows of Lempola and gave one painting as a souvenir – it was called *A nice cow looking for a new home due to difficulties in upkeep*. At that time, countless small cow houses in Finland were closing.”

“I could start manufacturing cow themed paintings because they sell well but I do not want to do that because it’s not my way of working.



Nature Trail

Strong colors and good stories

Lena's oil paintings are finished in a leisurely pace. She works on multiple paintings at a time, painting on yet another layer of glaze, after which the paintings need to dry. This gives depth to the colors layer by layer. She does not abandon a work once she has started it but "fights till the end". Lena says that she finishes around twenty paintings per year and she regards them with healthy criticism.

them! The stories became a reality when in 1984 I was invited to exhibit my work in India."

"The masters from the Netherlands also fascinate me, especially Hieronymus Bosch and Pieter Brueghel and I am a big fan of the way the French post-impressionist Paul Gauguin uses color. I saw his work in the National Gallery in Washington when my work was being shown in the gallery of the Congress Building."



Summer Day in Louekari

"I'd rather be the worst in a good exhibition than best in a bad one. I try to spread the word for Raahe and Ylivieska and I am glad when the paintings sell and bring joy to people's lives."

I studied in London in 1966 and went to the Victoria and Albert Museum. They had an exhibition of miniature paintings from India. The colors were strong and made a permanent impression on me. Those pictures had stories in

Work has been plenty

For a long time Lena worked as a part-time teacher in the adult education center in Ylivieska, teaching Italian there and in the upper secondary school. Good language skills have been the key to the international market and she emphasizes that it is never too late to improve your language skills. Lena has held courses, symposiums, art camps and seminars and is the chairwoman for

Raahe's Art Society and an honorary chairwoman for Ylivieska area's Art Association. She is also one of Unicef's Christmas card artists.

Since 1992 Lena has dedicated her time wholly for painting. The record of her exhibitions is long: over twenty private exhibitions, twice as many collaborative exhibitions in Finland and abroad, art work in public collections in the home country and also in museums in Slovenia and Bhopal, India, where her 12 piece serigraphy is. It portrays wood sculptures of Raahe's old church and wooden paupers. It was a tribute to the art of sculpturing in Ostrobothnia. She did it for the 1993 indigenous peoples and tribes event Eternal Voyage. Lena has had three exhibitions in India, once in New Delhi and twice in Bhopal.

"In the end of 90's the serigraphy series about cows was made as a stand to EU's policy from the country side perspective. I myself had voted for it though."

It's interesting how one Indian newspaper compared Lena's paintings to Aimo Kanerva's dark toned pictures of spruce forests. Both are seen to contain the same melancholy and caused a questioning why there are so few people, if any, in the paintings.

International naivist women

In the summer of 2014 Lena got invited for the second time, and as the only Finn, to the 47th gathering of naivist artists in Trebnje, Slovenia. This time around, the invited were all women.

"We painted together for a week, everyone in their own way. I was the only oil painter. Many painted with acryl because it dries fast. There were also two tempera painters and one who used a mixed technique. The public got to see us paint on two days. There were a lot of people, around 600, kindergarten kids, school children and adults. They came by train and bus and things got hectic when the TV cameras joined them."

Lena told the visitors about Finland, its nature and animals that she paints. She did a painting in Trebnje in which she portrayed an old pagan ritual from Central Ostrobothnia, burning of the Easter bonfire, the fires of which were believed to drive



Migratory Bird

away witches. They burn bonfires also in Slovenia but they have a religious backdrop. She traded the finished painting for a portrait by Italian Luchietta Righetti. Lena donated the gallery Likovnik Samorastinikov Trebnje's naivist collection a large piece called The Wedding Night, which she brought with her to Slovenia. The art gallery has over 1,000 works by naivist artists from 40 different countries, amongst them two by Lena.

Lena is one of the founding members and the vice-chairwoman of the Finnish Naivists' Association. In early 2014 they held the first Finnish Naivists' exhibition. Now Lena dreams about an international naivist art exhibition in Finland. She is developing the idea and has decided that the participants should all be women. The idea has been discussed and the space has already been picked. It would be Ylivieskatalo Akustiikka, a place where Ylivieska's concerts, celebrations and exhibitions are held.

Where does Lena Koski derive her endless conviviality, her positive outlook on people and her unquenchable energy?

"The family trait is a strive for endeavouring and doing. My father used to say that things somehow always work out. I like people. Energy does not run out by sharing."

40 Years in a Service Club

EVA LINDBLAD (T384) TRANSLATION: OUTI TASALA

Army service clubs found their way to Finland in 1918. The YMCA in Helsinki founded the first service club modelled after the Danish organization. In the beginning of autumn 1918, there were articles in the newspapers by two jaegers about the service club system in Germany. The writings included a suggestion that Finnish women should establish army service clubs for the soldiers of the new fatherland. The jaegers' suggestion was well received and the fall of 1918 saw the founding of 16 service clubs in areas with garrisons. The Army Service Club Union is the oldest continuous national defense organization, in 2018 it celebrates its 100th year. The Service Club Union, which is the umbrella organization for army service clubs, was founded in 1921.



The main task of a service club is to attend to the amenities of the conscripts and reservists in their free time on the garrison area. Service clubs see to this by upholding canteens in the garrison areas, camp canteens in the army practice areas and offering services during field practice. The service club is often associated with coffee and doughnuts, but it is much more. Service clubs have quality libraries, they offer newspapers and periodicals, internet connection and computers for use. The organization also endorses conscripts' sport hobbies. In 2013 the organization used 860,000 euros towards the well-being of conscripts. The service club women put in altogether 170,000 voluntary work hours in 2013. This number is from a statistic and in reality is a lot bigger, as I for one sometimes forget to mark down the hours and I know there are many more like me.

Currently there are 37 service club organisations in Finland and a little less than 6,000 service club men and women. The closing down of many garrisons in the past years has had an effect on, and still affect the service clubs: since 1 January 2015 over half of the union's service clubs are what are called soldierless clubs, meaning that they no longer have their own conscripts in their

area. This has been a profound change and has required coming up with new innovative ways from both the union and the soldierless clubs on how to continue the work for Finnish conscripts.

The service club organisation has close ties with both the Armed Forces as well as the Border Guard. The union has a co-operation agreement both for peace time as well as possible times of emergency. The service club union is the only voluntary defense organization that has assigned tasks for times of emergency.

At its 80th birthday, the Service Club Union was decorated with a Freedom Cross to be attached to the union's flag with red and yellow ribbons. The Freedom Cross was given for the service club womens' invaluable and effective efforts towards the conscripts during the wars and peacetime.

I myself joined the Oulu service club in 1974 at the recommendation of two friends. At the time I did not expect how much the service club would become to mean to me. In 1974 Oulu was thriving garrison city, with detachments in the city barracks and in Hiukkavaara, four service clubs in the barracks, Hiukkavaara, the military hospital and the shooting range. The club had a staff of over

30 and over 300 voluntary sisters. Oulu service club became soldierless in 1998, today we have no canteen and a little over 160 members.

I began my service club career in the library, being on duty for one night per month at the barracks. I also took part in holding the shop at camp canteens and sold goods from a service club car in the field. A few years later I was elected a board member and this was the beginning of 25 years in the administration of the club. In the past I was the chairwoman for the Oulu service club. I was a board member in the Service Club Union altogether 10 years and served as the chairwoman in 1998-2003. I had a shift to be on call for duty until the time I was elected the chairwoman, because I wanted to have a feel to what was going on in the field.

Service club as a hobby is wonderful in that there is always something to do if you are motivated and enthusiastic. At the moment I keep the membership register for my own club, serve as one of the leaders of the recreational services division and as an enthusiastic researcher of the folklore archive. In addition, I act as a trainer in different service club training sessions. Every now and then I am asked back to the administrative work but I see 25 years as a sufficient effort from one person.

When I joined the service club I was looking for a hobby to balance my day job. I had been elected as a public prosecutor in the city of Oulu and I thought that work that is rather hard emotionally needs something to balance it. Today the work I do in the service club is a lot more than a mere hobby - it can even be called a lifestyle. Although the service club work has required a lot of time and true commitment, I can sincerely say that in all the years it has given me tremendously and I would not trade away even a day.

Eva Lindblad
(granddaughter of Dordi Hohenthal, nee Sovelius).

Conscripts enjoying the Service Club's canteen services in field conditions



65 YEARS OF LIFE - 50 YEARS OF JUDO!

MIKKO TUOMINEN (T327)

(TRANSLATION : ULLA SOVIO AND PAUL GREGORY)

Judo is the world's most widespread and most popular martial art. In Europe, more than two million people practice judo. There are 123 judo clubs and around 12,500 active enthusiasts in Finland.

Judo was born in the 1880's. The founder of Judo, Jigoro Kano (1860-1938), began his studies at the Tokyo Imperial University in 1877, majoring in social sciences. He later studied pedagogy and also defended his doctoral thesis in this subject. Kano was very interested in the traditional military skill of jiu-jitsu, which included both armed and unarmed combat skills. By studying these and Western sports, Kano developed a new form of exercise, which was named Kodokan Judo. The Mecca of judo, the Kodokan, is still an active judo centre in Tokyo.

In 1882 Kano started teaching judo in the Eisho-ji temple in Tokyo. Dangerous and damaging techniques had been removed from judo, which allowed people from all age groups and fitness levels to practice it. When Japan was looking for an effective type of exercise and self-defense sport for its army and police forces, different martial arts schools had to compete for superiority. Judo was completely overwhelming compared to other schools of thought. In 1909, the Kodokan became an official training center, and judo became the exercise method for the army and the police, as well as part of the school curriculum.



*Finnish national team in dojo kata World Championships in Japan in 2013
The writer in the middle row, far left.*

Jigoro Kano was multilingual and strongly internationally oriented, and he spread judo very effectively around the world. He was the first Japanese to be elected to the International Olympic Committee, and he also served as a sports minister in Japan.

Judo was introduced to Finland in 1890, when Jigoro Kano visited Helsinki. An organised judo practice started in Finland in 1954. At that time, the Japanese legation secretary was Shigemi Takami, who taught judo at the Helsinki policemen's sports club gym in 1954-1958. The Finnish Judo Association was founded in 1958. At first, most of the activity happened in the capital, but it quickly spread throughout the country. In less than 10 years, clubs had been established even in Oulu and Rovaniemi. In the 60's and 70's, the most successful Finnish judo athletes spent long periods of time in Japan practicing. In Finland, each club organised its own activities.

Comprehensive, systematic and goal-oriented coaching began only in the early 1970's. At that time, the most esteemed Finnish judoka, Jorma Kivinen, returned from his two-year training period in Japan and became the head coach and training coordinator of the Finnish Judo Association. He created a nationwide training system and toured diligently around the clubs in Finland and guided the club-level training activities while also being responsible for national level coaching. He served as the head coach until the end of the 80's. Individual European Championship medals already started to accumulate in the early 80s, but the Finnish judo history's most successful year was 1989 when Finland won three European Championship gold medals, one silver and one bronze. After this, success has steadily declined.

I started practicing judo in 1965 in Helsinki Meidoka club at the age of 15 years. There were 30 participants in the beginners' course and I was the youngest of all. At that time, judo was a recreational activity for adults and competing was naturally part of it. Today, judo is usually initiated at the age of 6-7 and most active judo enthusiasts are under 15. Hobbies are often changed and few continue into adulthood and manage to train hard, aiming at competition success in the adults' category. Today, a strong junior section in a club is a prerequisite for success. I competed seriously until 1973, when I moved to Oulu to study



Uchimata, the writer's favorite throw which gave the most match wins

medicine. There, too, I continued practicing judo. The last time I took part in the Finnish Championships was in 1975 and I got a bronze medal. My participation in judo varied according to circumstances and a new active phase began when I moved to Haukipudas with my family. My son Antti and I went to judo training together and I started coaching 4-5 times a week in the club.

Around the same time I started to specialise in eye diseases. I encountered problems when I started eye and cataract surgery. The night before, I had been working out pretty hard on the judo mat: grappling holds, locks and choke holds. In the morning I started to do cataract surgery, but my fingers were so stiff that cutting came to nothing, and I had to ask another colleague to perform the surgery. I did not change my career path, and I did not stop judo, but I decided to restrict myself to the instructing and coaching

activities, and only participate in lighter technique training, without competing. I am still on this track. I stopped doing eye surgery 10 years ago when I left the hospital, but my age and stiffening joints curb my judo activities.

My hobby got a new boost from kata. Kata means "form", and in a judo kata competition a pair of judokas present an 8 to 10-minute performance which includes predefined techniques. Judging takes place the same way as in figure skating or gymnastics. My competitive instinct is still there. During the last 8 years I have competed in judo kata, participating in European and World Championships. I have won some Finnish Championships and one European Championship bronze in 2011 with my partner Samu Laitinen (katame-no-kata, grappling holds, choke holds, locks). Also, another Finnish pair has won a bronze medal, in 2012 (nagano-kata, throws). No Finns have been successful in World Championships. There have been World Championships since 2008 and European Championships for a little longer. Currently, in addition to the kata, I get the greatest satisfaction

from teaching judo techniques particularly to junior athletes.

Judo is an individual sport, which can be carried out only within community. Jigoro Kano summed up the principles of judo into two instructions:



1. An individual will act in the community in such a way that everyone is happy. A good judoka will take responsibility for themselves as well as for the community.

2. Maximum power with minimal force. Judo techniques take advantage of the opponent's strength and movement. When the opponent pulls, push, when the opponent pushes, pull. Correct timing and technical skill are decisive, but martial arts also require strength and durability.

With the aging process my speed, agility, elasticity and strength are abating; I have to accept that. But my mind is young and the desire to practice has remained; I won't give up.

My general background:

I went to study in Oulu in 1973, when I also married Marja Alarotu. We got two children, who "followed their father's ways":

Laura (1979), a physician specialising in anesthesia

Antti (1981), a physician, specialist in orthopedics 2015

I graduated as a doctor in 1980 and got my doctorate in medicine (MD) in 1984. I became an eye specialist in 1990 and subsequently worked in the hospital of Kemi and in Lahti until 2002 as a senior physician.

In 2000 I divorced, and although "against good practice", the next year I married my operating room nurse Tuija (née Suomi). In the following year we "fled" to the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, where I worked as an ophthalmic surgeon. The intention was to stay longer in Abu Dhabi, but the Iraqi war complicated our life there, and we then returned to Finland. We did not return to the hospital any more, but I started a private practice and stopped doing surgeries.

Now I'm drawing my pension, although still struggling with bits of work. Now I'm wavering between staying motivated to work and a southern Dolce Vita. I believe that Mother Nature will gradually turn my course towards the sunnier countries. Ins Allah!

NEW RELATIVES



Sofia Satu Susanna Nevantaus (T313)

11.9.2008, Espoo

Parents: Antti Juhani Nevantaus and Kati Marianne Nevantaus nee Vähä-Ruka



Maija Tasala (T318) 17.9.2010

Veikka Aaron Olavi Tasala (T318)

3.2.2015

Parents: Tuomas Olavi Tasala and Hilja Kirsti Helena Tasala nee Nousiainen



Emilia Aisling Heron (T324)

17.2.2008, Dublin, Ireland

Conor Juhani Heron (T324)

16.3.2010, Dublin, Ireland

Joshua Patrik Heron (T324)

10.6.2014, Dublin, Ireland



Parents: Salla Sovio-Heron and Patrik Heron



BIRTHDAYS



100 years

Gurli Lillie (T165) on her hundred anniversary on June 19th 2014
Gurli Lillie is daughter of Johan Valdemar Sovelius' (T153) daughter Edith (T 155)



80 years

Lars Anders Teodor Rådberg (T72) on March 31st 2014

For maintaining of our family roll and mailing list, please kindly inform us of new relatives, spouse, anniversaries, and deceased, and if your address changes, especially your email address. (And don't hesitate to contact even when you do not have a separate matter.) Messages are received by our Board Members. Contact details on the inside cover. Or use genealogy association's email: info@sovio-sovelius.com



About the Graves' Care Committee and Fund

The Graves' Care Committee has from the start participated in the management of family tombs, mainly in Finland and Raahe, but also in Stockholm and Florence. The Committee has no regular funding but receives donations from relatives yielded to the Fund.

Graves' Care Committee's bank account: (IBAN) FI 74 1 200 3000 01 90 26
Nordea Bank (BIC NDEAFIHH))

Deceased



Ulf Ragnar Edvard Lillie (T166)

* 11.6.1939 Kumlinge

† 7.3.2013 Thailand



Allan Aulis Huuhtanen (T226)

* 4.11.1928 Terijoki

† 7.6.2014 Espoo



Bo Anders Helenius (T302)

* 15.1 1942 in Helsinki

† 1.4 2015 i Sollefteå, Sweden

Graduated forestry technician in Ekenäs in 1962. Moved to Sweden, Värmland 1964 and to Sollefteå in 1974, where he became a teacher at the Royal Forestry School in Sollefteå in the subjects computer science and geology.



Maaret Kristiina Keinänen (T225)

* 17.6.1955 Helsinki

† 24.3.2015 Sjöbo, Sweden



Eero Alarik Sovelius-Sovio, to the year 1967 Sovio (T339)

* 6.9.1927 Raahe

† 14.3.2015 Jyväskylä

Eero Sovelius-Sovio In Memoriam

RAIJA INGERTILÄ

(TRANSLATION: ULLA SOVIO)

As the eldest daughter of Eero's brother Jorma, I would like to share my memories of uncle Eero.

The earliest memories I have of my uncle Eero are from grandmother Kerttu's house on Lankilankatu in Raahe, where we lived upstairs until 1956. While visiting his mother during holidays, our uncle also met us, his brother's small children, who apart from Seppo are present here. My most vivid memories are from Christmas Evenings, when we used to tell uncle Eero that again, regrettably, he had missed Santa who had visited us at the house just at the time when Eero had been washing his socks in the sauna. To us, he was a fun and playful uncle.

After we moved into the Sovelius house on Rantakatu, uncle Eero regularly visited us during his stays in Raahe. Because my own father was absent from home a lot due to his work, Eero started to become a sort of "substitute-father" to me. As a shy and timid child, I found in uncle Eero an adult I could trust. He became a good friend to me already during my school years.

When Eero then became an arts and crafts teacher at the Raahe teacher training seminary in 1967 while I started the upper secondary school, we met more often. After my graduation I went to study at the Turku School of Economics. After having realised that I had made a wrong choice, I got a lot of support from Eero during this difficult time. We talked on the phone frequently, and when I quit my studies in Turku in the late autumn, Eero encouraged me to apply for temporary teacher vacancies and get familiar with teaching in practice. It was quite easy to find substitute teacher vacancies, and Eero provided me with some good advice in many situations during that time. So, in the next summer I ended up studying in Oulu and I too became a teacher. I had started dating Eero's seminary student Jukka already towards the end of my time in the upper

secondary school. My uncle was pleased with that! During our courtship, we often visited Eero together and even exchanged engagement rings in his apartment.

Eero has also been involved in the big festive moments of our lives in a very concrete way: Even at the very beginnings of my life, according to my mother, Eero had baked everything that was served at my christening. At that time, Eero was 23 years old and was already very skilful with his hands.



His skills went a long way indeed: Eero told us once about the time before his studies, when he acted as a teacher in Kittilä, Lapland, at the end of the 1940's. To start with, he had to build desks for the pupils. During the winter he even had to christen a few babies in the village, as the vicar could not get access due to a long and difficult journey. After the snow had melted, the vicar came over to confirm the christenings.

When I got married with Jukka at the Pattijoki church on New Year's Eve in 1972, Eero decorated the church altar and its surrounding area with thirty beautiful red poinsettias and a matching number of white candles.

It was natural to ask Eero to be a godfather to our first child Ulla. When it was time for the goddaughter to get married, Eero wanted to decorate the Pattijoki Church again, this time with summer flowers at the altar and at the ends of the pews. The solemnity was enhanced by handsome brass candlesticks Eero had made himself. He also decorated the parish hall with the same brilliant style.

Eero was also a skilful cook. Most of us here have enjoyed his exotic and beautiful meals and baked delicacies. I remember one summer in the mid-80s when we visited him as a family. After breakfast, we got the assignment to go with him to the Laajavuori slopes to pick flowers: Eero listed the colours of the flowers each of us had to pick, and we were baffled but we obeyed. In the kitchen

we then cleaned our "catch". Eero used the flowers for decorating the food, and of course everything was edible. Then he offered us a delicious Japanese meal.

Eero wrote a lot of letters from his travels. He was skilful in describing nature, landscapes, buildings, and moods anywhere he visited. His great curiosity about the environment and its phenomena is evident from his writings. It has been a privilege to take part in Eero's life in this way too. I have been amazed at his immense knowledge and interest in various fields and topics.

Eero visited Raahe three times during 2013: in June, September, and for the last time in October. I remember how Eero, Jukka and I went to listen to the Cantores Minores choir at the Raahe church in the summer. A year earlier, Eero had given a distinguished lecture about the altarpiece of his home church in its 100th anniversary celebrations.

He started his September visit to Raahe in Kokkola, where I met him with Anna-Liisa and Olli Nylander. We visited the family graves there and in Kalajoki. We visited and tidied up the family graves also in Raahe. In this way Eero transferred to us the tasks it was time for him to give up on.

Eero's ten-day trip in October became a kind of farewell visit to his beloved home town. At first, he donated the paintings of his grandparents to the museum. Jukka and I got to be part of this. In the next few days, many friends visited Eero at Martti's and Pirjo's apartment and I was often invited along. On Saturday, Eero came to our home for a meal and sauna. In the following week, before his departure to Jyväskylä, he wanted to see me again, and then I noticed that he had pains in the back and that he could already feel the deterioration of his health. Despite this, he sustained a positive, bright and hopeful attitude towards life until the end. He hoped his ability to work would remain for a long time, to allow him to complete his unfinished book and even to start new projects.

Years earlier, Eero had shared with me his dream to move to Raahe to live there. After discussing the matter in more detail, he acknowledged that it would be a huge task to move all his belongings from Jyväskylä to Raahe. The second and the more important reason for staying in Jyväskylä, however, was his large group of friends here and

lovely and helpful neighbours in Takalankuja. His last home was, therefore, right here with you!

Eero has left an imprint in his relatives' and friends' lives, the depth and persistence of which has only been revealed to us now, at his departure. Eero's grandmother's cousin Väinö Malmivaara has written the lyrics of the hymn 244. The first verse reads: "You who mourn, as you tread the path of tears, away groaning! Earth's soil will not conquer grace." Thankfully Eero did not have to lie in the hospital for longer than a couple of weeks and his suffering has now ceased. It was important to me and my siblings to be at his bedside during the last week of his life and to help in any way we could. He eagerly waited for his brother, and fortunately you Ilkka made it to his beside on time.

In the midst of longing, I would like to think that Eero has now arrived in the place of which he beautifully writes in his last Christmas greeting:

I rest on a green meadow.
I see the blue sky and white clouds
through the green veil of tree leaves.
I hear the rustle of the leaves of aspen.

Far in the distance appear the mountains,
covered in the everlasting white snow,
unreachable peaks, jagged slopes
and lush valleys.

I hear the birds'
joyful chirping and warning sounds.
The winged creatures slide lightly, ascending,
vanishing into the endless blueness of the sky.

Thank you Eero – for everything!





FAMILY CRUISE AND EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION'S MEETING ON M/S VIKING MARIELLA, STOCKHOLM 7-9 JUNE 2014

OLLI NYLANDER (T427)

In the last family association's meeting on 3 August 2013 it was decided that the association's statutes were to be renewed and, after the meeting, the board appointed a revisions committee to the task: Eva Lindblad, Ilkka Sovio and Pertti Sovelius. The revisions committee worked efficiently and a motion for the new statutes was presented to



the board in December the same year. The board discussed the motion and after having made minor changes, decided to present the motion to the family association. At the same time it was decided to hold an extraordinary family association's meeting on a cruise to Stockholm where the motion would be presented.

Secretary and vice chair Outi Tasala made the arrangements but could not attend herself due to a previous engagement. Altogether 20 adults and 2 kids took part in the cruise, of which 12 were entitled to vote.



The majority of the participants shared their meals on both days. Also, the evenings were spent socializing in the group. On Saturday the participants divided into two groups to go explore Stockholm. One group headed to the Museum of Modern Art and then to Junibacken in Djurgården for amusement in surroundings based on Astrid Lindgren's fairy-tales. The other group headed to the cemetery of St. Johannes' church, where a garland was placed on Myhrberg's grave. The members of the committee attending to the family's graves inspected the headstone and noted that it was in need of repair. Negotiations with the parish in question will have to be carried out prior to repairs. This group also got their share of culture, quite by accident, as they ran into the male choir Huutajat from Oulu first in the park and then followed them to Sergel's square.



The meeting itself was held in the cruise ship's meeting facilities and ran smoothly. The revisions committee and the board's motion for new statutes was accepted unanimously with only minor corrections.

Having the meeting on a cruise ship was a very positive experience and this can be an excellent venue option for meetings also in the future. People interacted with each other outside of the organized program and this helped to

bring the people closer together. No one could get lost or was able to disappear to see the attractions of a major city (like Raahe?). Still, the next official family association's meeting will be held in Raahe in the summer of 2016. See you there!





The cruise is over and the summer is waiting. Photo: Lena Koski



The family association's cruise to Stockholm was not the only sea voyage in the summer of 2014. "The Southern Sovios" continued to meet and got together in the library on Richardinkatu on 6 May. Ilkka Sovio showed pictures and told about the relatives buried in Florence. He has been taking care of their graves. Ilkka also told about his winters and life in Tenerife.

20 September the Southern Sovios made a daytrip to Tallinn, where they explored Lennusadam, the Estonian Maritime Museum, opened in 2012. The ships and the artifacts are on three different levels: at the bottom of the sea, on the surface and on air. The museum has been set up in hangars that were built as a part of Peter the Great's sea fortress zone in the years 1916-1917. The afternoon was spent exploring Tallinn's Old Town.

The yearly membership fee of the Sovio-Sovelius Family Association is 20 € / person or household. One household pays just one fee. The membership fee will be charged yearly. Still, if you don't have a bill and want to pay the fee, Family Association's bank account is (IBAN) FI24 1200 3000 0187 62 and the bank is Nordea, Finland (BIC: NDEAFIHH)

The paper copy of Jotailan Jutut bulletin is sent only to paid members of the Family Association

Have you any problems with paying e.g. from abroad, please let us know and individual arrangements will be invented for you - even a promise of later payment can keep you on "lists". info@sovio-sovelius.com



In early June 2013 a piece of both Raahe and Sovio's history was lost when Raahe's Trading Club's (Raahen Kauppaklubi) building, although not owned by the Trading Club any more at that time, was burned to the ground. The skilled firefighters and a narrow fire pass between the buildings protected the Sovio houses from damage. The closest to the fire was the green art nouveau house.

There will be a story on Raahe's Trade Club in the next issue.