

27 Jotailan jutut

Sovio-Sovelius Family Bulletin nr 27 January 2022



Read about Dagmar (b. Wangel) and Tor Sovio's family and the Wangel family on pages 16 - 20.

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A word from the Chairman

Olli Nylander (T427)

A warm greeting to you all, dear relatives!

Once again it is a year for our family reunion, and it is Raahe's turn to be the venue for this event. As I write this column we do not yet know what restrictions we will face due to the global corona pandemic, but arrangements will be made on the assumption that all desired things can be accomplished. If we encounter obstacles, then we'll improvise. In any case, I warmly welcome you all to Raahe on July 2, 2022. The meeting arrangements are described in more detail in the meeting invitation on another page in this bulletin.

We also need to prepare for the meeting, all of us. At this family reunion, a new chairman must be found for the association. My own term has lasted much longer than I had anticipated. Nine years! Far too long. "The jacket is empty", and anyway, it is high time to find a fresh perspective on the activities of the association. The board has no proposal for chairman, and I appeal to you here, dear relatives. Think and make your proposals. You can send them to the board for presentation at the meeting or present them directly at the meeting when the issue of chairman comes up. The candidate's consent must, of course, be obtained beforehand.

A new board will also be elected at the mee-

ting. A total of four ordinary members and two substitutes are needed. Of the current members of the board, Erkki Harala, Martti Sovio, Eva Lindblad and Kirsti Keltikangas are available, if wanted. I, too, can continue on the board if elected - or as a non-board "consultant".



And further: a chairman and three ordinary members are to be elected to the Committee for Maintenance of Family Graves. Erja and Johanna Sovio have promised to be available for the next term.

We are a group of different people who live in different parts of this planet. We are united by the roots of this shipowner family in Raahe. Diversity and different cultures are a wealth for us, but a functioning board is vital for this association. That is why I repeat my appeal to all of you: ponder, alone or in groups, of candidates for chairman and members of the board and the Committee for Maintenance of Family Graves, and make proposals, so that our association can continue to be vibrant for years to come.

Olli Translation Finnish-English: Tor Helenius

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COVER: Dagmar and Tor Sovio. Photo from Pia Sovio-Pyhälä's archives.

BACK COVER: The Shipyard Mast modelled after the main mast of the brig Ahto, owned by Fredrik Sovelius' shipping company. Photo: Inge Temmes (T398)

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From the Editor ***Riitta Harala (T279)***

Once again a year has gone by since I last wrote my column From the Editor in the Family Bulletin Jotailan Jutut. The key issue at that time was the prevalent coronavirus pandemic and its impact on our lives. Probably few people at the time could predict that the same issue is still, and even more strongly, relevant now than it was a year ago. We've learned to get along with the virus, but it always comes as a surprise: just as we have got the vaccine against some variant and thought we had beaten it, a new variant from somewhere in the world pops up here too.

However, I want to be an optimist and to look forward with optimism. Once again we have a year for a family reunion. The meeting place will be Raahe, the place of the family's early roots and the Lang Merchant House, which is closely linked to the family's history. After all, the Lang Merchant House was in the possession of the Sovio-Sovelius family from the mid-19th century until the recession of the 1930s, when it was closed down. Today, the Lang Merchant House has been revived as a café, inn and shop in its former premises. We hope you are eagerly looking forward to meeting relatives from all over Finland, or even the world. The Sovio-Sovelius family has spread to many countries in the world, e.g. to the United States, Canada, Germany, Britain, Spain, Sweden, etc. You can read more about the family reunion in the article by Olli Nylander, president of the family association, p. 35-36. You can also read instructions on how to register for this event. And, of course, if the corona situation so requires, the board of the family association will announce any changes in good time.

The family bulletin Jotailan Jutut needs also your help. In the next issue, we are planning to write about portraits of family members, and paintings by family members in general. For this we need information and material from you, dear relatives. I hope you will contact our editorial staff with your suggestions, preferably at the email address Jotailan.Jutut@sovio-sovelius.com. We can then agree on how to continue working together. Any and all other suggestions and tips are welcome as before. Current tidings about what you do and your life in general are also welcome.

The editorial staff of Jotailan Jutut wishes you a very good start to 2022!



Riitta Harala.
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Olli Sovio's life - from adventure to adventure

Text by Hirsti Vähäkangas,

photos from Tuula Moilanen's albums

Consul Bertil Sovio (T218 1878-1936) and his wife Magda Ellen (born Brattström 1883-1966) had 11 children. The seventh child of the family was Olavi (Olli) Mikael (T264), born on October 2, 1911.

The brothers sailed on the Seahound



Niilo Fredrik Sovio (s. 1910) and Olavi Mikael (Olli)

Olli was a good-natured and courageous young boy, who over time grew into a strong and lively young man. Already as a little boy he enjoyed the sea. He often sailed with his brothers on the family's centerboard cutter Seahound and wanted to show off his sailor's skills with sometimes good, sometimes bad result.

Once his arrogance almost got him drowned. The boys were sailing in stormy spring weather when Olli staggered overboard. Luckily, he happened to be wea-



ring an unbuttoned wool jacket, which spread into some sort of air cushion and kept him afloat until help arrived.

Olli went to sea

Olli often spent time admiring ships in



The Sovio sons Niilo and Olli enjoyed the sea already as young boys

Maivaperä. Going to school was not his thing. He attended Raahe College from 1922 to 1927 and took off to sea in the latter year.

His career as a sailor sparked off as he got into the barque ship Balder's crew on a trial basis. It was nice with the older men in the crew of the small barque, but the food was bad. Probably only lean pea soup was served, spiced up with "coincidences" from pig heads. These were on

board by the barrel. However, marine life felt comfortable.

When Olli saw an announcement in the newspaper that the admiral ship of the world's most spectacular sailing steelship fleet, the "Herzogin Cecilie", had a couple of able seamen positions available, he put in an application and was hired. On 31 August 1928 the ship left in ballast from Mariehamn to Australia, its destination the wheat port of Port Lincoln. In the North Sea the ship was caught in a storm and drifted towards the Arctic Ocean due to rigg damage. The ship's ballast had moved, and the crew had a hard time getting it shoveled back into place. The return journey in wheat cargo from Port Lincoln to Falmouth began on January 18, 1929. The cargo arrived on May 3, 1929.

Dockyard work in New York

After completing his military service, Olli spent some years in the United States, among other things working hard on a tramp ship. At the time his brother-in-law Yrjö Pakkala (T241) was working as the boss of a shipyard and was able to arrange temporary jobs for Olli.

Olli performed the tasks of a shipyard man there and the start went well. One day an alarm signal rang in the dock area, and Pakkala hurried to the site, finding Olli lying unconscious in the middle of a crowd. Blood seemed to come from both the nose and ears. One of the shipyard divers had fallen ill, and Olli had volunteered as a replacement without further ado. Not having the training and experience required for the task, he fumbled with the equipment and put himself into mortal danger. The employment ended here.

Cleaning skyscraper windows

After wandering around in the country for some time, Olli arrived at his sister's home, hungry and dirty. There was no going back to the brother-in-law's dock. He had to wait in the employment office queue,

until one day he got lucky. Along with 40 other men he was hired to wash skyscraper windows.

Everyone received washing utensils and a special belt. An elevator took Olli to the 55th floor, then into a room where he was left alone. After glancing to the sides, he noticed that the neighboring rooms were already in full swing. The men hung on their belts and washed the windows with both hands. So Olli fastened his belt to the hooks on the side of the window and started working. For an unknown reason, one of the hooks on the wall came off, and he was left hanging on one hook. He got himself pranked back into the room, threw his tools on the floor, marched boldly out, and was unemployed again.

As a boxer in Canada

Traveling the world Olli ended up in Canada, where he happened to meet a boxing manager. This inquired about Olli's fighting abilities and desires. He had noticed Olli's stout body and big fists. Somewhere Olli had learned to fight, because he won over other beginners in practice matches. Actually he won many matches and even cash prizes. In one match, he won over a professional boxer, and American magazines wrote in big headlines that a new Finnish heavyweight boxing star was emerging. Olli did not become a great professional boxer.

In Crimea without papers

Olli's life continued with marine life and adventure. On one ship he had ended up in the Crimea, from which a letter had come to the home. When nothing was heard for a long time, there was concern at home until it was learned that Olli had fallen into a cargo hold in a fight melee and ended up in the hospital.

During his hospitalization his ship had left and taken Olli's belongings, including identity papers. He had to earn his living on an lousy coastal ship under strict surveillance.

When Olli heard the rumor that loose people like himself would be deported to Siberia, he did not want to stay in the Soviet Union. After many adventures and twists and turns, he headed for Leningrad. With a guy he started to walk towards the country border. Olli advanced north in the bush. Suddenly a Finnish soldier appeared between the trees, commanding: "Hands up!" Olli gladly followed the soldier to the guardhouse and to the interrogations. He arrived in Helsinki skinny and tired. His clothing was an incredibly dirty coverall.

As a ship dealer in Raahe

Olli worked in Raahe for a while in the 1930s as a ship merchant. He had at his disposal a motor vessel rebuilt from an old pilot cutter, with which he delivered food and other supplies to the ships loading in Raahe. However, the sea attracted. During his long and eventful career, he worked on ships of various companies as an able seaman, bosun and carpenter.

As an assistant to a lion hunter

During the Second World War England declared war on Finland, and shipping was disrupted. Olli went ashore from the ship at the coast of East Africa. He is said to have lived 200 kilometers from the coast for fear of internment.

Olli earned his living, among other ways, by working as a helper to a lion hunter. He did not shoot any lions himself, as his job description was to drive the lions in front of the actual hunters. There was often a film crew filming the hunt from a suitable angle. In Africa, he also worked on a large farm, whose owner was in poor condition. The employer had planned to get a son-in-law from the farm-hand. This did not fit Olli's plans.

Although he tried to avoid internment by going deep into Africa, he nevertheless got interned by the English.

War hero Olli

On March 18, 1942, the ship broker Oy Ernst Sohn Ltd wrote a letter to Olli's mother, in which was stated that Olli had saved the steamship Fritz S from certain wreck. While carrying cargo from Antwerp to Petsamo, the ship suffered a severe rudder failure in the North Sea during a heavy storm. Olli had, at the risk of his life, helped save the cargo. For his brave activity, Marshal Mannerheim awarded him a Class II Medal of Freedom.



Olli (left) and his brother Niilo (T263), who worked as a wholesale merchant in Panama. He also was employed in a wholesale company in Venezuela and worked as an self-employed businessman in Caracas.

Days of old age in Copenhagen

For the last years of his life Olli lived in Copenhagen, where he worked on land. Jobs were found because he had worked on ships as a carpenter. While working at a gas plant, he faltered and fell off the scaffolding, seriously injuring him. After a long sick leave he retired.



Olli stayed in close contact by mail with his family. The photo shows Olli with his mother Ellen Sovio in Copenhagen

In Copenhagen he had previously met the widow Anne, who owned a small garden in addition to her apartment. The doctor had forbidden Olli working and drinking alcohol. The little light gardening was to his liking. Until the end of his life he was in the care of Anne, and knew to value it. Anne, on the other hand, was attached to her Olaf. When the two-decade cohabita-

tion ended with Anne's death in 1968, Olli mourned Anne deeply. Life became lonely.

The worldly trek of the familyless adventurer ended on March 11, 1971. The urn was later laid in the family grave in Raahe in the presence of family and relatives.

Sources:

- 1) *Eero Sovelius-Sovio: Sovio-Sovelius Family Book II edition 2009*
- 2) *Onni Norio: a series of stories in Raahelainen in 1988,*
- 3) *Paul (Paukka) Sovio: The Adventures of brother Olli, unpublished handout in 1986,*
- 4) *Editorial compilation of Jotailan Jutut stories "Sea and blood pulls - Sovio boys run away" article in Jotailan Jutut no. 21 in 2016*
- 5) *Tuula Moilanen's home albums*



Kirsti Vähäkangas as the Fia of Brahestad

The author of the story about Olli Sovio's adventures is Kirsti Vähäkangas, now already enjoying her retirement, a hometown enthusiast and author from Raahe. She earned her living for decades in the service of the city of Raahe in many various office jobs. She worked as a part-time tourist guide in Raahe for 30 years. For more than 30 years she had an assistant contract with a local newspaper. In her stories, she has focused on Raahe's rich and adverse history. Kirsti Vähäkangas' book series "The Story of the Our City" consists of 12 published books. Many of the books in the series

also tell about people from the Sovio-Sovelius family.

Johan and Olivia Sovelius, Henrik Sovio, Adolf Gustaf Wangel, Lars Lindberg and Paul Sovio are featured in the book "Merikarhuja ja maakrapuja" (transl. "Seafarers and landlubbers").

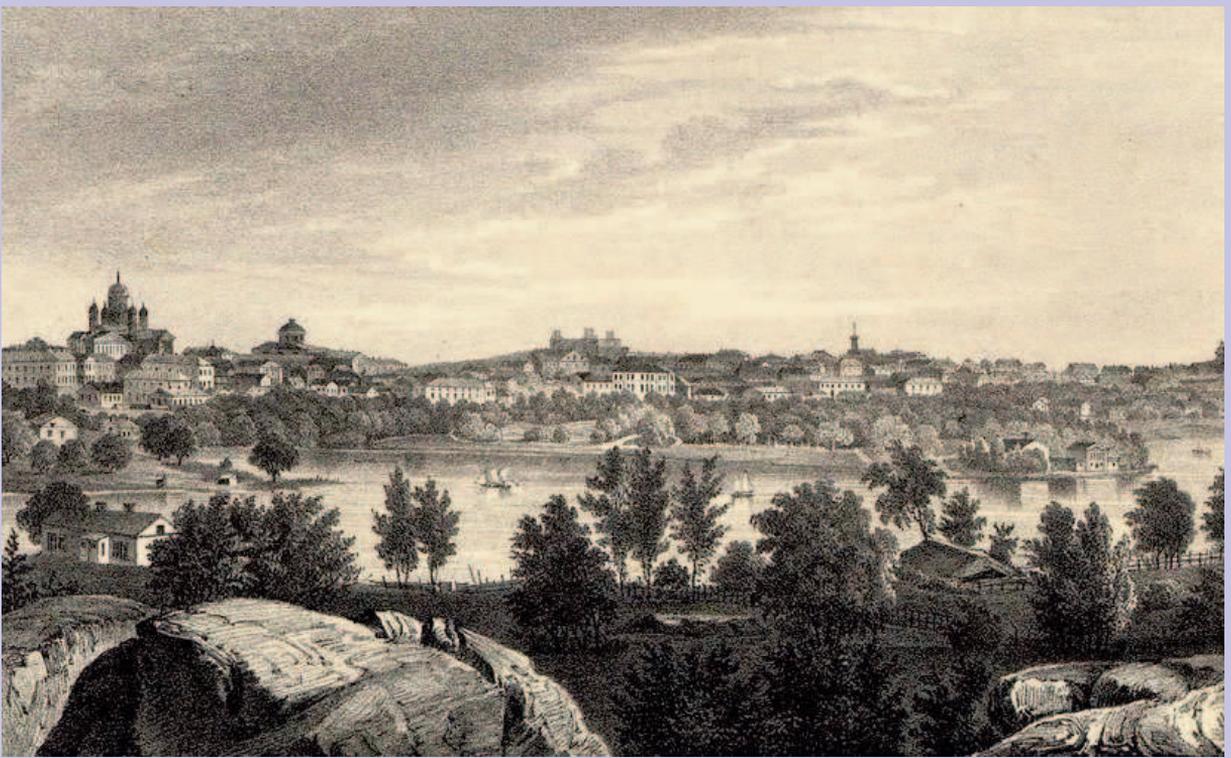
The book "Avojalakasia ja tullista tulleet" (indirect transl. "Townfolk and strangers") has an 11-page text about the stages of the Lang Merchant House from the 17th century to present day. The book also tells about Fredrik Sovelius the Elder and Kerttu Sovio.

In the book "Merellä ja meren äärellä" (transl. "At Sea and by the Sea"), August Maximilian Myhrberg, Bertil Sovio and Helena Nevantaus are mentioned. (Sold out)

The first book in the series "Juorupeili" (transl. "Gossip Mirror") is also available.

Books are sold by Langin Kauppahuone in Raahe and in the online store: <https://www.langinkauppahuone.fi/verkkokauppa/>

Translation Finnish-English Tor Helenius



Grand Duchy of Finland 1809-1917 and the Sovelius family's kinship to notable persons of that time

Text compiled by Pia Sovio-Pyhälä (T290)

Photo: Magnus von Wright 1845, National Library-Doria, Finna.fi

The life cycles of me and many of our relatives, including sisters, cousins and second cousins now alive, occur during the epoch in the headline and later, thus let us think of them and their families as we look at old photographs, read about them in genealogies, matrices, etc., or hear about them in stories told from memory. An overview of the time when our grandparents and their parents lived a couple of centuries ago and thereafter.

The history of the Grand Duchy of Finland can be divided into stages: at first there was a period of slow economic and social development in 1809–1855. Swedish-speaking intellectuals learned Finnish and developed Finnish as a literary language. The idea of nationality strengthened (Lönrot, Snellman, Anders Chydenius, etc.). The members of the Sovelius family were merchants and burghers, their wives

traditionally daughters from the circle of family friends, merchants (Rein, Frieman) and clergy (Frosterus, Borg). The years 1856-1916 were marked by strong industrial and economic growth, as well as educational, political and cultural progress, and the increase in self-government (until 1889). The years 1889–1916 were a time of Russification policy and oppression. The Grand Duchy ceased and Finland's connection with Russia was cut off when Finland declared independence in 1917. There were also years of famine and epidemics. 1866-67 were years of crop failure, the lakes still frozen in June. At that time e.g. our starving relative August Maximilian Myhrberg died. In the 1890s tuberculosis raged, hitting also our family (Fredrik Oscar Sovelius (T 217) who died in 1896 at the age of 41, and in the following year also his father, Councilor of Commerce Fredrik Sovelius

(T 216), passed away). In 1918-20 raged a pandemic, influenza A, subtype H1N1, the so called Spanish flu. Symptoms were cough, fever and pain, and after-effects included pneumonia. Vaccines were not yet known. In Finland about 20,000 people died. The rural population grew, but there were not enough farms and jobs for all. Landless people were roaming, taking day-work or begging, lawlessness increased. Class-society started to fall apart, and political parties emerged: Old and Young Finns (peasants and clergy), Liberals (bourgeois), Social Democrats (working class), Finno-Swedes (especially from Uusimaa and the coast of Ostrobothnia). The pan-slavic policy of Nicolai II aimed at destroying Finland's autonomy. In 1897 the passive and active resistance movement KAGAALI was established, supported by e.g. Sibelius and Schauderman, mentioned below.

Celebrities we are related to

Jean Sibelius had a dual kinship with the Sovio-Sovelius family

Jean Sibelius (8.12.1865 - 20.9. 1957) is the most famous and respected of Finnish composer, and one of the most important symphonists of the 20th century in the world. Few composers have been able to capture the myths, history, and nature of their own people as aptly as Sibelius, and his music played a significant role in Finland's independence process. Johan (Jean) Christian Julius Sibelius was born in Hämeenlinna, where his father Christian Gustaf Sibelius worked as the municipal medical officer and military doctor, also a Doctor of Medicine. After a short marriage (1862-1868), his mother Maria became a widow as Christian Sibelius died of typhoid infection. Maria and her children moved back to their mother, and Jean who lost his father at the age of three, grew up in a very female-dominated environment.

Read more about Jean Sibelius: Murto-



Jean Sibelius

Picture: Breitkopf & Hartel, publisher 1912, Finnish Heritage Agency

mäki, Veijo: Sibelius, Jean. National Biography Online Publication. Studia Biographica 4. Helsinki: Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 1997– (referenced 19.12.2021) Permanent identifier URN: NBN: fi-fe20051410; permanent identifier of the article <http://urn.fi/urn:nbn:fi:sks-kbg-003630> (ISSN 1799-4349, online publication) and Christian Sibelius Aho, Jouko: Sibelius, Christian. National Biography Online Publication. Studia Biographica 4. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 1997– (referenced 19.12.2021)

Publication ID URN: NBN: fi-fe20051410; permanent identifier of the article <http://urn.fi/urn:nbn:fi:sks-kbg-003629> (ISSN 1799-4349, online publication).

According to the Finnish National Biography, **Jean Sibelius' kinship with the Sovelius family** came through Gabriel Borg (23.10.1799 - 13.12.1855). He was a scholar and the pastor in Pyhäjoki. With his first wife, Johanna Ulrika Hedberg, Gabriel had three children, all of whom died young. With his second wife, Katarina Juliana Haartman

(20.11.1804 - 4.12.1892), Gabriel had eight children. The second eldest of these, Maria Charlotta, was born in Turku 18.8. 1841. Maria Charlotta then, in 1862, married Kristian Gustaf Sibelius, municipal medical officer in Hämeenlinna, and a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery. The doctor was born in Loviisa 10.12. 1821, he died in Hämeenlinna 31.7. 1868. The composer-to-be Jean was born 8.12. 1865.

The eldest brother of Gabriel Borg, who lived in Pyhäjoki, was Karl Jakob Borg, also a clergyman. Karl Jakob had 11 children with his first wife, including one pair of twins, but only one child with his second wife. One of those twins, Edvard Vilhelm Borg, is familiar to us originating in Raahe, being Rosa Sovelius' father, and author of the Inari Sámi alphabet book. **Sibelius' mother Maria Charlotta was a cousin of Edvard Vilhem Borg, hence Jean Sibelius was Rosa Sovelius' second cousin.**

Jean Sibelius' sister, teacher Linda Maria Sibelius (1863–1932), played the piano, and the youngsters played together. The cello-playing brother Christian Sibelius studied medicine, specializing in psychiatry, and his dissertation dealt with spinal cord pathology; in 1904 Sibelius became chief physician of the Lapinlahti Mental Hospital and in 1908 professor of psychiatry at the University of Helsinki. He founded the Lapinlahti Neuropathological Laboratory and the Finnish Psychiatric Association. Christian played the cello, and as a young man he played chamber music composed for them by his brother Jean ¹⁾. When the Civil War broke out in January 1918, the Järvenpää region and Ainola came under strict Red Guard control. Sibelius and his family moved to the home of his brother, Christian Sibelius. The Red Guard was also searching for weapons in Lapinlahti. When a Guardsman saw the composer immersed in his work in a cloud of cigar smoke, he told his comrades he had found a “nuthead”. Si-

belius there was composing the patriotic Oma Maa (Own Land) cantata, gesturing the rhythm. http://www.sibelius.fi/suomi/eri-koisaiheet/terveys/terv_05.htm. Christian's daughter Riitta “Rita” Sibelius (1907-2004) played the violin and studied medicine. Christian's assistant, **Gustaf “Tusse” Wangel (1894-1973), who studied neurology and was the brother of Dagmar Sovio (b. Wangel) and the son of Gustaf Wangel, the headmaster in Raahe, married Rita Sibelius, Christian's daughter.** Tusse's family was also musical.

1) Folke Gräsbeck graduated with a master's degree in 1997, and in 2008 he defended his doctoral dissertation on "The Piano in Sibelius' Production." He also mentions these chamber music works in his dissertation, which is in the Sibelius Academy.

Our relative Eugen Schaumann became the patriotic hero of his time and a terrorist

Eugen Schauman was born 10.5. 1875 in Kharkov, Ukraine, where his father, Lieutenant Colonel Valdemar Schauman, served in the Russian Army. His mother was Elin Maria, daughter of a bishop, and Valdemar's second cousin. Elin Maria died in the autumn of 1884 when Eugen was nine years old and his sister Sigrid seven. At that time he started school in Helsinki, while the rest of the family settled down in Poland. **Father Valdemar remarried 29.12.1885 to Charlotte Ramsay. Charlotte was the daughter of Emmy Ramsay (b. Tham)(T98). Emmy's mother, married off to Sweden, was Sofia Tham (b. Sovelius) (T97), i.e. Fredrik Fredriksson Sovelius' (T216) sister. Fredrik Oscar Sovelius was Emmy's cousin and Charlotte accordingly second cousin of Bertil and Frederik Wilhelm Sovelius and Tor and Jarl Sovio (formerly Sovelius).**

See also (available in Finnish only): Nii-nistö, Jussi: Schauman, Eugen. National Biography Online Publication. Studia Biographica 4. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 1997– (referenced 19.12.2021)



Eugen Schauman with his dog Lucas

Photo: Wikipedia, s.c. visiting card photo, of which postcards were printed in the 1960s

During his studies Eugen intimately came to observe and experience the russification activities, which were considered illegal. Schauman's father, Waldemar Schauman, in the summer of 1900 resigned from his duties as a Senator in protest to the language manifesto that made Russian a compulsory subject in school. After returning to Finland, Schauman, who had been promoted to general, was from 1897 a member of the committees of the Imperial Senate of Finland, which dealt with the amendment of the Act on the Finnish Military Service; he boldly defended the right of the Grand Duchy of Finland to keep its own army. In the Senate, in 1899, he strongly opposed the immediate publication of the February Manifesto, and eventually resigned as Senator. After the intensification of Russian repression, Eugen Schauman, as well as the underground organization of passive resistance, Kagaali, in 1903 considered

that a move should be made towards more vigorous methods. Eugen Schauman soon began smuggling weapons to student radicals. This was also done by **Walter Rydman**, a relative of my husband Mikko Pyhälä's mother Ulla Rydman, who got to know the five year older Eugen, working at the Department of Education as an assistant accountant. These two like-minded men happened to meet in the Kaisaniemi Park one day in June 1904, immediately preceding the day of the most radical of all Schauman's deeds. Both were walking their dogs, Lucas and Tommi, and sat down on a bench to complain to each other about the state of the nation and the general indecision of patriotic Finns. Unaware of the assassination plan already made by Schauman, Walter Rydman pondered "*There hardly is a man who would have the courage to kill Bobrikov*" - to which Schauman replied: "*Yes there are such men. Just be calm!*"²⁾

On June 16, 1904, Eugen Schauman shot the Governor-General and immediately thereafter himself. In one act, **Eugen Schauman**, the assistant accountant in the Department of Education, wrote his name into Finnish history, albeit in a clearly questionable, but all the more visible way. **Depending on the point of view, the act - the June 16, 1904 assassination of Governor General Nikolai Bobrikov**, who represented the Russian Government in Finland - has been seen as either a heroic symbol of the struggle for freedom or a cowardly act of terrorism.³⁾

Excerpt from presentation of the TV film about Eugen Schauman: "Historian Teemu Keskisarja has stated that this shy little official did what other wide-mouths in the bars just threatened to do. Schauman was not even brainwashed, but patriotism and its rationale lead to a self-conceived reaction to the worsening repression by the Russians. The successful act of terror, the killing of Bobrikov, became a global news bomb, and therefore its exemplary

impact on other opponents of the tsarist regime was mighty. From this assassination started in Finland a several decades-long idolization and worship of Schauman, and the idea of nationalism gained momentum. According to Keski-Sarja, Finland would not have gained independence without Schauman's example. A successful act of terrorism, seems to be Keski-Sarja's conclusion".

²⁾ Markku Ruotsila: *Kansakunnan rakentajat. History of the Rydman family. Rydman sukuyhdistys r.y. 2021. p.145*

³⁾ On January 1, 1905, Tekla Hultin, a member of the Women's Kagaali Organization, noted in her diary that Sibelius and his wife were at the New Year's reception in Juhani Aho's home, from which they had visited Eero Järnefelt the same morning. Sibelius there had mentioned that he already was working on a requiem in memory of Eugen Schauman. During the intermission of a chamber concert I asked professor Timo Virtanen of the Sibelius Academy if this requiem was ever completed. "Yes, it was completed, but not until 1909, and named Pro Memoria". I told Folke Gräsbeck about this, who also confirmed the information.

Also Marshal Mannerheim was related to the Sovelius family

Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim was a general of the Russian Imperial Army, explorer, and Finland's Commander-in-Chief in its three wars. He served as President of Finland twice. Along with Jean Sibelius, he became Finland's most famous person in his lifetime, both at home and abroad. Streets were named after him, and monuments of him erected while still alive. Since its start his home museum in Helsinki's Kaivopuisto has had a lot of visitors.

Rosa Sovelius' (b. Borg) brother Adolf Fredrik August Borg married Hildur Dagmar Maria Lindsay von Julin (1878-1935) in 1901. Maria Lindsay von Julin was the daughter of Jakob Julin, a prominent Finnish industrialist, in his second marriage. Jakob von Julin's third marriage to Charlotta Jägerskiöld produced a daughter, Hedvig Charlotta Hélène Johan Jacobsdotter von Julin (1842-1881). Carl Robert Mannerheim, Carl Gustaf's father, married Hélène

von Julin in 1862. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters. Mother Hélène died and Carl Gustaf was sent to Helsinki to school, to stay with his uncle's family. He was tall, handsome and



Mannerheim, Gustaf (1867 - 1951).
Photo: Finnish Heritage Agency.

well-behaved. At the age of 25, Mannerheim married Anastasia Arapova, a wealthy Russian heiress, in 1892. The marriage solved Mannerheim's financial problems. The union gave birth to two daughters: Anastasie (1893-1978) and Sophie (1895-1963). The marriage ended in 1902 with an unofficial separation. Mannerheim did not officially divorce his wife until 1919. After the separation of their parents, the daughters lived unmarried with their mother in France and, after her death, also in Britain.

Admiration and appreciation have varied over changing times: the winning side in the Civil War in 1918 initially poured mythical admiration at the Commander-in-Chief, the losing side resentment. In 1939 - 1944 the enemy tried to stir already settled negative feelings, achieving the contrary, and in the left-surge in the 1970s critique of Mannerheim surfaced once

again. After the death of the Finnish Marshal, and during the time of his funeral, admiration grew again, as it did in connection with the great equestrian statue project in the late 1950s and again in the 1980s and 1990s. Mannerheim has been studied extensively since the 1950s.

Gustaf Mannerheim was born in 1867 in the castle of Louhisaari in Askainen north of Turku, as the third child of his parents, and inherited the rank of baron; His father, Count Carl Robert Mannerheim, and his mother, Hedvig Charlotta Helena (Hélène) von Julin, were close relatives of industrialists and businessmen, while his grandfather, President of the Court of Appeal, Count Carl Gustaf Mannerheim and again his father, Senator, Count Carl Erik Mannerheim, were high-ranking officials. Similarities among close relatives, Admiral Johan Eberhard von Schantz, who had made a grand career in the Far East and St. Petersburg, and the world-famous explorer, Professor, Baron Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld, who had moved to Sweden, as well as cousins of his grandfather, the Stjernvall siblings (among them Aurora Karamzin) who made success in the high-

est circles in St Petersburg. The early steps of Gustaf Mannerheim's military career in St. Petersburg were built on both the relationships and recommendations of his paternal relatives and the financial support from his maternal relatives.

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Translation Finnish-English Tor Helenius



The family of Tor and Dagmar Sovio

Text by Pia Sovio-Pyhälä, pictures: Pia Sovio-Pyhälä's home archive

Tor Sovio (formerly Sovelius) (T288) was born in Raahe on July 27th, 1885, and Dagmar Wangel in Lappeenranta on June 8th, 1885. Tor and Dagmar "Daddi" were classmates in the Swedish Elementary School in Raahe (Svenska Elementärskolan i Brahestad). Daddi's father Gustaf Wangel was teaching mathematics and natural sciences at this school. During the years 1899 - 1903 Daddi continued her studies in the Raahe Institute for Commerce, (Brahestads Borgare- och Handelsskola, institute line), which at the time was the highest Commercial Institute in Finland. Tor moved to Helsinki and joined the Swedish co-educational high school in Helsinki (Nya Svenska Samskolan), where his older brother Fredrik Wilhelm Sovelius (T286) also had studied. The Finnish language was gaining ground in northern Finland. One significant operation, in which the Sovelius family participated during the czar dictatorship in order to defend the independent policies of trade and culture which they had gained during the Swedish regime, was the erecting of a statue of Per Brahe in Raahe in 1888 (see Jotaila nr 25). And perhaps the reason to choose a Swedish school for the

two boys was the desire to maintain Swedish as their home language?

It was perhaps **the 1899 February Manifesto** that was the reason for Rosa to already in 1901 visit Bad Hohenhonnendorf with Tor, and to take him out from the Swedish school in 1902. The fact is that this manifesto gave Governor General Bobrikoff the powers to draft all Finnish boys over 15 years of age into military service in the Russian army. Another reason might have been the **proposed new language law**, by which Swedish as administrative language would be abolished and at the same time make Russian the administrative language of Finland. However, Tor had health problems already in July 1903, and Rosa returned with him to Bad Hohenhonnendorf. It was common practice during the Czarist dictatorship to give the **need for health service as reason to get a travel permit out from the country**, but also many young men in conscription age fled from Finland, some of them going to sea, some even emigrating to America. Without informing Tor, Rosa changed his family name "Sovelius" to the Finnish language version

"Sovio" already in 1903 when he still was a minor. Tor told Daddi that he would have preferred to keep the name Sovelius. Rosa returned to Raahe, but Tor stayed in Bad Hohenhonneshof and later on moved to Berghof in Davos, Switzerland, but travelled at times to Raahe.

But when did Tor and Daddi fall in love?



Tor's engagement gift to Daddi

Times were difficult for the family. Tor's father Fredrik Oscar Sovelius died in November 1896 and his grandfather Fredrik Fredriksson Sovelius in March 1897. Tor's brother Fredrik Wilhelm passed away in Florence in March 1906.

The schoolmates Tor and Daddi surely met each other when Tor came to Raahe during his holidays. Their engagement was celebrated during Christmas 1906, when both had reached the adult age of 21. Tor's engagement gift to Daddi was a golden medallion with the date of the engagement, December 24th, 1906, engraved on it, and in it a photo of Tor. The fiancée's father addressed the young couple, and the text of this speech is saved in the Wangel family archive. Perhaps

he referred to the different political backgrounds of the families by saying: "*now the hawk caught the dove*" ("*nu har höken tagit dufvan*").

Tor and Dagmar got married in 1908. This marriage was among the first love marriages crossing language and political-party borders in our family. The Wangel family supported the Swedish People's Party and Tor's mother, Rosa, born to a family of priests, had perhaps after her husband's death moved closer to the Finnish Party.

Tor and Daddi had five children. First three boys were born: Birger Jarl "Birko" in April, 1909, Tor Björn "Bömmi" in March 1910 and Pontus Maximus Videkind "Nappe" in August 1911. Last came two girls: Ingeborg Torsdotter "Pipsan" in February 1915, and Gunvor Elisabeth in November 1917. The family initially lived on the 2nd floor of the green Sovelius' Family House, but when Daddi's father, headmaster



Tor's and Dagmar's three sons, from left Bömmi, Birko and Nappe sitting.

Wangel, died in 1924, the Wangel Family House became their home.

Tor's Professional Career

Tor practiced at the Klingendahl Weaving Mill in Tampere and at a factory in the the weaving industry in Freiburg, Germany. He founded Raahen Villakutomo Oy (Raahe Wool Weaving Mill Ltd) in 1909, with Bertil Sovio and Rosa Sovelius as partners. Due to trade restrictions and lack of raw material during the First World War the company in 1914 was sold to the limited company Oy Trikoo Ab, with Bertil Sovelius, Karl Löfhjelm and August Myllylä as shareholders, and Tor Sovio as Managing Director. Also at this company the activities ended in 1919. Immediately afterwards Tor together with Frans Kangas established a lumber company, which, due to the worldwide recession in the beginning of 1930's, had to close down.

of the Swedish School in Oulu (1938-1942). From there she moved to the student dormitory of the Porvoo Co-Education School (1943-1963). After retirement she moved to her daughter Pipsan Helenius' family in Tammisaari. However, she wished to move closer to her summer cottage and found a two rooms and kitchen apartment in the Yellow House with mansard roof next to Brostugan (old bridge guard's house) in Uusikaarlepyy. In that town she had friends she had known all her life and as a little girl had been sitting in the lap of Zacharias Topelius, world famous for his Stories for Children. A few times I visited her on my way from Helsinki to Oulu to spend my X-mas holiday with my mother and sisters.

Daddi was usually invited for X-mas to her sister and brothers in Helsinki. It was



Tor and Daddi with family on their Silver Wedding Day in 1933.

Tor died in 1934 of abdominal tuberculosis. Daddi was going through difficult times. Her children had moved away and Daddi's sisters and brothers had left town. The heirs of the Wangel Family House got the sales documents finally approved for the sale to the Free Church in 1937. Daddi worked first as part-time assistant teacher at the Swedish Small Children's School, and after that was employed as superintendent for the student dormitory

hard for her to make do on her small pension, and after a few years she returned to Tammisaari, but continued for a few years to travel to her cottage. She often told me she never had a chance to travel in an airplane. So, I saved money, and as a gift for her 80th birthday I bought us plane tickets to Ostrobothnia. Inside the plane she was disappointed because she didn't feel the speed as she had expected, BUT on the other side of the aisle

she recognized a gentleman, the famous film star TAUNO PALO. That saved this trip!!! In Tammisaari, Daddi finally got an apartment in "Folkhälsan" Seniors Home and the summer cottage on Kråkskär was sold.

What attracted Tor and Daddi to each other?



Daddi in the living room of the Wangel house which she furnished with old inherited furniture.

Was it their common taste and sense of humour? Tor spoke a good Swedish, and both had studied German at school, Tor even spoke it during his years in Germany and Switzerland. When I was a tenant of Daddi's sister Gunborg "Gunni" Freudenthal in Helsinki, Gunni told me that Tor didn't sing like the Wangels, but nevertheless was musical. In their main hall the Freudentahls had a lute, which Gunni had received as a gift from Tor, and she said that Tor could play it beautifully. Both Tor and Daddi were handy: Tor could do woodwork and work copper and brass. When the summer house Louekari outside Raahe was sold Daddi kept some furniture, candle crowns and -stakes made by Tor, first bringing them to Bässilä and from there to Kråkskär. Daddi could handle the sewing machine and made beautiful clothes for her children as well as for herself, and told us that after Tor's death she had made outfits for some ladies in Raahe. She embroidered tablecloths and knitted dresses. To me she knitted a Chanel-style dress in wool, which I used a lot.

Daddi liked interior decoration, and aunt Pipsan told us how Tor joked: "*Luckily I know that the baking oven is masoned to the wall, so when I return from the Club I know I will not find my bed there*". Once, in connection with our family gathering, I was shown around by Pipsan on the upper floor of the Sovelius' house, her former home. The closets the children slept in were really tiny! Both Tor and Daddi liked gardening, and Daddi loved roses.

Tor brought from Switzerland seeds of the Siberian Cedar Pine tree to grow them in Louekari. Their scent was healthy to breath. I noticed that the interior of the Louekari villa has features of the national romantic architecture with a big fireplace on the bottom floor and benches around the walls. Up to the upper floor leads a broad staircase with a railing. Daddi admired Tor, conjured delicatesses from simple ingredients for him and the children, as well as later also to us, her grandchildren. She took care of Tor until his death.



Daddi acquired a summer cottage at Kråkskär in the Uusikaupunki archipelago.

Sources: Pia Sovio-Pyhälä's archive.

Translation Swedish-English Tor Helenius

The fact box

Dagmar Sovio, (b. Wangel) - family genealogy

Pia Sovio-Pyhälä (T290), Pär Helenius (T307)

The first person in Finland named Wangel / Wangell can be found in the records of the Turku Castle in 1789. He was Carl Gustaf Wangell, an adjutant by profession, born on 28.8.1752 in Stockholm. Among his descendants were dyeing masters, i.a. in Tammissaari/Ekenäs.

A descendant of the Ekenäs master Wangel was Anders Reinhold Wangel, who in the 1850s worked as an accountant at the Orisberg Iron Mill in Ostrobothnia, owned by the Björkenheim family. He went on to become the owner and Mill Manager of the Kimo Iron Mill in Oravais, Ostrobothnia.

Anders Reinhold Wangel was married to Edla Julia Hedberg, daughter of Pastor Fredrik Hedberg and this wife Brita Ulf.

Their eldest son was Gustaf Adolf Wangel (March 13, 1854 - February 9, 1924). He graduated from the Vasa Elementary School, took his Master of Sc. degree 1877, then served as Senior Master of mathematics and natural sciences at the Raahe Elementary School, later also

Headmaster, 1887-1924. His wife was Sigrid Ingeborg Nordin (1859-1944). Gustaf Wangel was an excellent singer and a founding member of the choir Muntra Musikanter (M.M). His wife Sigrid had received training as a pianist, i.a. in France.

Gustaf and Sigrid Wangel had 7 children, the youngest of whom, Elna, died at the age of 1½ year. The second eldest was Dagmar Julia (b. 8 June 1885 in Lappeenranta, died 23 April 1976 in Ekenäs), wife of Tor Mikael Sovio (b. 27 July 1885 in Raahe, died 24 July 1934 in Raahe) They had 5 children.

Sources: Student Chronicle

Translation Swedish-English Tor Helenius

Brita Schwank's speech at her aunt Dagmar Sovio's 90th Birthday

Speech text: from Pia Sovio-Pyhälä's archive, 1)

photos: Pär Helenius



Brita Schwank, the daughter of Dagmar Sovio's eldest sister, Ester (Etti) Brunberg, addressed Dagmar (Daddi) on her 90th anniversary in Tammissari, talking about Daddi's life in Raahe and the summers on the Wangel summer cottage Skadön in the Uusikaarlepyy archipelago.

Dear Daddi!

As I, as a child of one of your sisters, today am speaking and congratulating you, I would like to look back at your childhood in Raahe.

You were born as number two of seven children. The tale is that when you once as a child were woken up in the middle of the night and told to take your clothes and make yourself a bed in the drawing-room, you turned around in the doorway and asked: "No way is it so that there will be a baby tonight?".

As time went on, you got five younger siblings. Mother Sigrid was stressed by babies crying in the night, she could use twenty matches in one night to lit the candle next to her bed to get up and calm crying kids. She was exhausted, living in an uncomfortable household in an uncomfortable house in a small town, with

cows in the cowshed, but naturally without running water or sewage drain, without electricity, firewood to be carried in and fireplaces lit, soups to be cooked, bread to be baked, calves slaughtered, meat salted, sausages stuffed. Maids had to be hired and trained. The home was a cultural centre, ready to receive both performing musicians as well as active patriots. Mother Sigrid, with her piano education in Paris, had to get additional funds for her daily expenditure since her husband's salary as a teacher was insufficient. She gave piano lessons to children, as it was considered a part of their upbringing, pupils who often left the fees for their lessons unpaid.

You, Daddi, at an early age engaged as a wonderful little stand-in mother to your younger siblings. You knew all the songs your super-musical and fantastic, extrovert father sang for you children. You told fairytales, you comforted, you dressed graze wounds, you sewed on missing buttons, mended tears in our pants and skirts. Gunni, Tusse and Märta, they all have recounted what a kind and gentle little mother you were for them.

Later you took care of your siblings'

children in the same loving way. You made them dolls, stitched sweaters and caps, you cut and sewed the most beautiful small-girl dresses and most handsome sailor uniforms for the boys. You came to our homes with gifts for us children, gifts with a sense of good taste, sense for what is modern, happy colours and a certain part of flair mixed in an enchanting way. With bumping hearts we did try on the loveliest clothes we got in our childhood, and it was you who made them for us. We were guests in your home. Realistically you always expected us to be hungry. You fried us steaks, and in the evening you made our beds and lit a floor lamp with a rosy lamp-shed so that we could feel cosy.

In the Wangel family, where theoretical thinking and sharp expressions were highly appreciated, you represented a unique kind of person, because you didn't have your "thumb in the middle of the hand". You knew how to use a sewing machine, you bought patterns. In your garden the flowers were gorgeous. You took care of your home in an exemplary manner.

You were sporty. You danced, did gymnastics, skipped rope and cycled. There always was something exciting with you, Daddi. When somebody among the nephews or their siblings could handle a sewing machine or a motor or could sew

a pair of trousers with equal length of the legs, the clan was speechless. Where did this rare gene in the set of chromosomes come from? But then the problem was solved: "That's a bit of how Daddi is". And that meant the highest praise.

Now the flowers are blooming in the forest of Skadö. The hill where the flag-pole stands is white of wintergreen and lilies of the valley, lychnis shines red in the sun against the fence facing Svensö, the grass is green with yellow spots of buttercups and dandelions. The shoots of the rosehip bushes have grown out and have buds, the day lilies which your father used to take care of are standing in bushy tufts. The terns are screaming at "Three eggs". The water is glittering in the sun.

You have received all this during your long life.

We are thanking you today for everything what you so happily and generously have given all of us.

1) Original source: Clara Brunberg-Anttila, niece of Brita Schwank-Brunberg

Translation Swedish-English Tor Helenius



Group photo on Dagmar Sovio's 90th birthday, 8. June 1975. The hero of the day Daddi Sovio in the centre.



The hero of the jubilee Daddi Sovio and Daddi's then only surviving child, Pipsan Helenius.



Sven Erik Berndes.

Sven Erik Berndes - from the theater stage to the front line

Text: Rainer Berndes, photographs from the Rainer Berndes collections

Sven Berndes (T157) was Eva Sovelius (T156) and Erik Berndes first-born son who was born 2.2.1907 in Kimito and spent his childhood on the Wästankärr farm. Sven and his sister Märtha had their schooling in the Grankulla co-educational school, after which Sven continued at the Swedish Theater's theater school in the years 1926 -28, and with a study trip to Paris. Sven performed roles in Hjertes Dam, Emile la Flamme, Rose Marie and Unga Woodley. He also participated in Brunnshuset's operettas in the summer of 1929 and 1930. Sven remained loyal to the Swedish Theater, with his friends Runar Schauman, Erik Gustafsson and Eugen Malmsten, and settled in Helsinki.

Sven last visited his parents on 30.7. - 10.8.1939.

During the Winter War Sven participated in the theater's Nordic tour, which aimed at enhancing the understanding among the Nordic countries for Finland's defense struggle. When the tour was over he entered military service, and a few months after completing it and returning to his daily duties at the theater, the war, from which he would not return, broke out again. During the memorable tour in Sweden and Norway Sven Berndes sang the soldier song from Daniel Hjort, which ended with the words "You sleep well when you die with honor".

Sven Erik Berndes was called up for a reserve exercise on 16 June 1941 and on 27 June 1941 was then transferred to the Hanko Front, assigned to Major Berndt Stackelberg's staff. (See more about the Hanko front at the end of this article.) The villa and underground cold storage, which is located at Långviken in Skogby, belonged to John von Julin, mill owner of Äminnefors. During the war on the Hanko Cape, battalion commander Major Berndt Stackelberg was stationed at the villa with his soldiers, among them officers'



Sven Berndes.



*Eugen Malmsten and
Runar Schauman.*

ordinances Sven Berndes, Runar Schauman and Erik Gustafsson, actors at the Swedish Theater in Helsinki, and conductor Eugen Malmsten.

According to the information I have, the Russians had seen light from the villa at night, and the following day, 17.11.1941, they started a surprisingly violent shelling from the is-



Sven Berndes fell in the spot marked X when he attempted to seek cover in the cold storage at Långviken in Skogby. Major B. Stackelberg and Lt. Col. H. Fagerström.

land Hermansö with 45 mm cannons which caused Sven Berndes to perish at the entrance of the underground cold storage at 14.45, hit by shrapnel in the upper part of the chest. Sven Berndes then died in Runar Schauman's arms.

The property was heavily shelled, whereupon the northern corner of the house was hit and torn away, and the entrance to the cold storage also hit.

Sven Berndes' burial took place on Sunday, November 30, 1941. The Civil Guard and



Sven Berndes' grave.



Hero graves at the Dragsfjärd cemetery.

Lotta-Svärd formed a line-up as the coffin was carried into the church to the tune of Chopin's mourning march. Field Pastor B. Glade gave the funeral oration. Present were the war comrades Clas Erik Dahl, Sven Edhström, Bertel Strandin, Eugen Malmsten and Runar Schauman, who laid down flowers and in moving words expressed his and the comrades' lacking, gratitude and friendship, and the dutifulness the fallen comrade always had shown.

Sources:

War Archive in Sörnäs: Työpajankatu 6 A, 00580 Helsinki

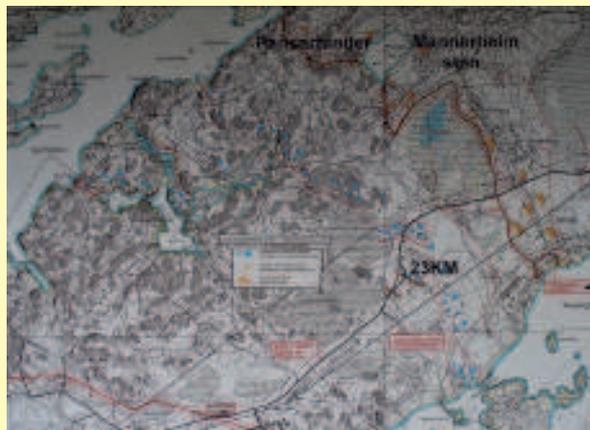
War Archives - Military Master Cards

Military medical reports

Translation Swedish-English Tor Helenius

Fact box

According to the peace treaty in Moscow on March 13, 1940, Hango was leased to the Russians from March 12, 1940. Mannerheim gave orders for general mobilization on 10.6.1941. The Russians began air bombardments of 19 cities in Finland on 25.6., and on 10.7. Mannerheim gave orders to attack on the Karelian Isthmus. The last Russians were forced out of Hango on 2 December 1941, after which the Swedish volunteers received the assignment to hoist the Finnish flag in the city hall at 8.00 on 4 December, and Rudolf Eriksson from Dragsfjärd hoisted the flag on the church tower at 10.00.



Map of the front line, the so called Harparskog line on the Hango cape at Skogby.



Swedish battalion of volunteers at the parade 15.12.1941 at the Mannerheim stone in Harparskog.



Field Marshal C. G. Mannerheim thanking the Swedish battalion of volunteers for a mission completed.



The Mannerheim stone in Harparskog.



All Rainer Berndes' pictures and information of the front line are deposited at the Hango Museum.

The Shipyard Mast

Olli Nylander (T427)

In Raahe, in the Varvi (Shipyard) district, there is the active Varvin-Välikylä village association, known locally for its many noteworthy projects. In August 2021, the association's latest achievement, a monument to the shipbuilders of Raahe, was unveiled. The form of the monument is an adaptation of the mast of a sailing ship, 20 meters high, which is slightly reduced from the original model.



The Shipyard Mast. Photo: Olli Nylander.

This landmark is very closely linked to the Sovio family, as the district of Varvi is situated exactly where the shipyards of the wealthy shipowners of the 19th century were located.



Unveiling the plaque, left: the chairman of the Varvin-Välikylä village association, Matti Laurila, right: Ari Nurkkala, city director. Photo: Olli Nylander.

The issue becomes even more closely related to the family as the Mast is located exactly where the brig Ahto of the Sovelius shipping company was built in 1867. And it is precisely Ahto's 30-meter tall main mast that has been used as a model for the monument.

The matter came to the attention of the family association when Martti Sovio had noticed the news of the upcoming unveiling. As such, a bit of a special occurrence, since I personally have a lot to do with the chairman and doer of the village association, Matti Laurila. It just hadn't come up, somehow... Well, Martti and me with spouses Pirjo and Annaliisa were there. I said a few words on the occasion as greetings and thanks on behalf of the Sovio-Sovelius family. The actual speakers at the unveiling ceremony were, among others, Hanna-Leena Mattila and Katja Hänninen, MPs from Raahe, and Ari Nurkkala, City Director.

The Sovelius Grant Fund also received information about this event a little late, but then participated with a significant contribution to the cost of the project, as the grant from the City of Raahe was delayed due to some formal issues.

Right at the foot of the Mast is the Varvin-Välilikylä village association's cot with its ter-



Information board. Photo: Olli Nylander.



Martti Sovio, Annaliisa Nylander, Olli Nylander and Pirjo Siitarinen. Photo: Olli Ahlqvist.

aces. Intentions are to visit the location during the upcoming family reunion, see the monument and enjoy seaside coffees.

See also the picture of the Shipyard Mast on the back cover.

More information about the brig Ahto can be found, for example, on the Raahe Museum's website, at <https://www.raahenmuseo.fi/tietolaari/merimiesarkku/pried-ahton-rakentaminen-ja-matkat>.

Insights from the heart of Brexit and coronavirus disease pandemic

Text and photos Ulla Sovio (T320)

The years since the June 2016 Brexit referendum have been politically turbulent in the UK, causing stress for EU citizens living in the UK, as well as for businesses that depend on EU trade. On the 31st of January 2020, the UK officially left the EU. The transition period lasted until the end of the year. A week before the deadline, on Christmas Eve, a thin deal with the EU was finally agreed. So far, the effects of Brexit have shown as increased levels of bureaucracy, long queues of trucks at the borders, and difficulties in recruiting new employees from EU countries. In the second half of 2021 the news have been filled with stories on truck driver shortages and resulting difficulties in the imports of goods.

Many EU citizens who had enjoyed the freedom of movement but had not had a say in the referendum, have now voted with their feet and gone back to their home countries. On the other hand, many British pensioners who are living in the Mediterranean but voted for Brexit, have realised that the deal forces them to move back to the UK. Sadly, Brexit has restricted opportunities from young people to gain valuable international experience as the UK pulled out from the Erasmus student exchange programme. The EU citizens living in Britain were required to apply for a settled status or a pre-settled status by the end of June 2021. Those who woke up to this too late have had problems in crossing the UK border, renewing job contracts or accessing healthcare services.

I went through an onerous and expensive citizenship application process instead, and I was naturalised as a British citizen in February 2018. This gave me a right to vote and my job prospects in the UK remained intact. In November 2020, I applied for my first British passport and attended a strange but entertaining passport interview on Skype. To verify my identity, I had to explain the route from my first flat to my first workplace at the University of Oulu, give details on where I parked, tell a bit about my husband (an open question that nearly threw me, maybe I should have said something romantic?) and about my current job. I deliberately gave him so much complicated detail on my job that he got overwhelmed and decided that it is best to let me go back to it.

I have lived in the UK for the past 20 years. Initially, I was employed as a research assistant in an EU-funded research project at Imperial College London, and I went on to do a PhD on Genetic and Life-course Epidemiology there. Currently, I work as a Principal Research Associate at the University of Cambridge where I study the risk factors of pregnancy complications. It is difficult to predict problems in the growth of the fetus, preterm birth, preeclampsia and gestational diabetes accurately using existing methods alone, and therefore the prevention of these complications often fails. Using a large cohort of pregnant women (Pregnancy Outcome Prediction Study), we are searching for biomarkers in the mother's blood which help us to identify risk pregnancies early enough to enable interventions. I will not go into further detail to protect you, dear reader, from the same fate the passport interviewer had.

In February 2020, before we realised the dangers of the newly emerged SARS-CoV-2 virus, I had a chance to give an invited lecture at the Baylor College of Medicine in

Houston, on the topic of fetal growth restriction. The WHO declared a pandemic on the same day our paper was published in Nature Medicine – the 11th of March. Suddenly, I had a flood of questions from friends and acquaintances related to infectious disease epidemiology - outside my field, but I understood that working from home was the best option. Finally, on the 23rd of March, the UK government started a national lockdown. My husband Paul's job was to ensure the University's Clinical School staff can access the School's virtual private network from home – those were stressful times! Paul has had to keep going to his workplace at the Addenbrooke's hospital site occasionally, with appropriate protection of course (this photo is from January 2020). The National Health Service (NHS) staff have been stretched to their limit in their response to COVID-19.

We did not go anywhere in the summer 2020 and only met our neighbours in their garden. Work calls and seminars moved online – it was great to be able to follow presentations from all over the world from the comfort of your own sofa. The picnic mat in



the garden became a place of relaxation – and a kind of a substitute for sauna as the temperatures soared above 30 degrees in August! Apart from having picnics, we studied languages and read books and magazines in the evenings. Trying to find new, quieter walking routes became a challenge. Baking bread has become very popular in the UK, and we have joined in, as you can see from the photos.

Opportunities for travelling have been very limited, but at least I was able to attend my mother's 70th birthday in September 2020. I was able to work and to join an online conference and a seminar during my two-week quarantine in an AirBnB. It was great to finally see my family and celebrate with them. We did some walks in the beautiful Kuusamo area and admired the autumn colours. Spending time with my niece and seeing her development was another highlight. Since then, she has talked a lot more and entertained us with video calls.

We participated in Finnish Christmas celebrations in 2020 through video calls to Pattijoki where my parents live. Santa visited us via Teams – I guess it was a new method for him too. Communicating with Paul's parents was restricted to calls to their landline as they are not using the Internet anymore. In the early autumn, Paul managed a couple of trips to meet his parents in their garden.

The UK went into another national lockdown in January 2021, a day after the schools had re-started. The situation deteriorated severely, and the death rate was about 1000 per day. The NHS was fighting on the knife's edge as a new, faster-spreading British variant



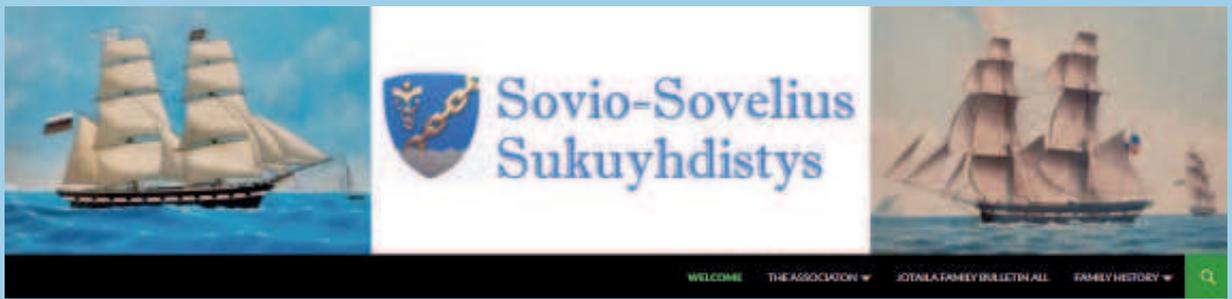
(later named as the Alpha variant) started circulating in the population. Thankfully, the vaccination programme was launched swiftly, and the goal was set to vaccinate the whole adult population by September 2021. We nearly got there: about 80% had been double-jabbed by that time. Sadly, there were more variants of the virus already in circulation. The fastest-spreading of them was the Delta variant which was first observed in India. It got into the UK due to delays in travel restrictions. However, the most common vaccines have been effective in preventing serious disease also in people infected by this variant. A few of my colleagues have been ill with COVID-19, one of them double-jabbed, although the disease only resulted in a short sick leave. Another, unvaccinated colleague, was in hospital for several weeks including a couple of weeks in a ventilator, and barely survived. The same colleague had earlier encouraged me to take part in a low-key nature photography competition, organised as part of the wellbeing programme at our workplace. With my scenic photo, I won a signed copy of Giles Yeo's book "Why Calories Don't Count".

I had a chance to visit Finland in July-August 2021. Thanks to having had two doses of the vaccine, I avoided a quarantine. Testing for the virus caused a bit of stress as it was not possible to travel back to the UK without a negative test result. A PCR test two days after arrival was also compulsory. However, I felt it was important to go on holiday to see the family after such a stressful year. I got to spend quite a bit of time with my niece. She was interested in animals, particularly insects and bugs. We read a lot of books too, and on hot days we went swimming. It was also good to see that my father was recovering well from his earlier carotid artery operation.

In epidemiology, we talk about interactions when the effect of two things in combination is larger than their sum. It seems that Brexit and COVID-19 are having such an effect on the British society. Both have accelerated emigration which has resulted in the shortage of workforce. This has resulted in disruptions in the transport of goods, which in turn has caused panic buying. Lately, we saw long queues at petrol stations which led into petrol shortages. People are now concerned about Christmas and whether there will be enough turkey for everyone. We have heard suggestions about temporary visas for lorry drivers - but who in their right mind would want to take up this offer, only to find themselves as illegal immigrants on Christmas day?! Due to lack of interest, the validity of such temporary visas has now been extended by three months. The next generation due to tackle these problems consists of today's youth, the very people whose studies and social lives were disrupted by the lockdowns. The main challenge Britain has now is to help the youth to recover and raise above the adversity, so that as future leaders they will perform better than the current ones.



Trumpington Meadows, Cambridge, 16th May 2021. Winner of the Best scenic photo category in the nature photography competition at the School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge.



Modernization of the Sovio-Sovelius-Family Website

Text and pictures: Pär Helenius (T307)

After the turn of the millennium, in 2006, the Family Association launched its first website on the Internet, developed by internal resources. The website (1.0) was programmed in the HTML language, the contents limited to information about the Family Association and its activities.

10 years later I was assigned by the Board to expand the website to include a family database, which I had extracted from the book *The Sovio-Sovelius Family*, a monumental work by its author, Eero Sovelius-Sovio, who published its second updated issue in 2009. In an article in *Jotailan Jutut* nr 21 I described my work with the new website (2.0). This had its primary focus on functionality, and was launched in 2016.

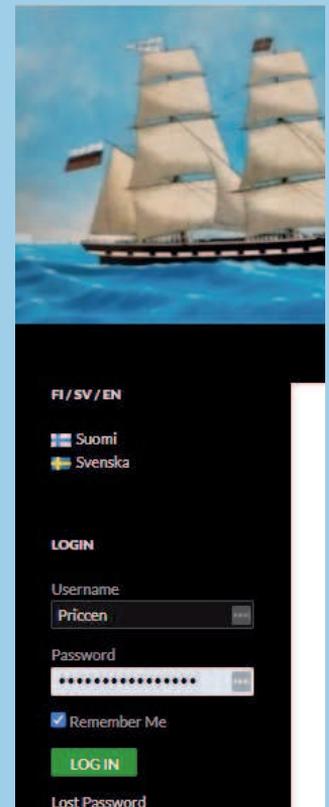
Modernization of the website (2.1)

In spring 2021 a decision was made to modernize the website, now focusing on presentation and improved user friendliness. A project group was assigned, consisting of Olli Nylander (chair), Riitta Harala (design, translation into Finnish), Pär "Priccen" Helenius (programming) and Tor Helenius (translation into English).

The main criteria were set out as below:

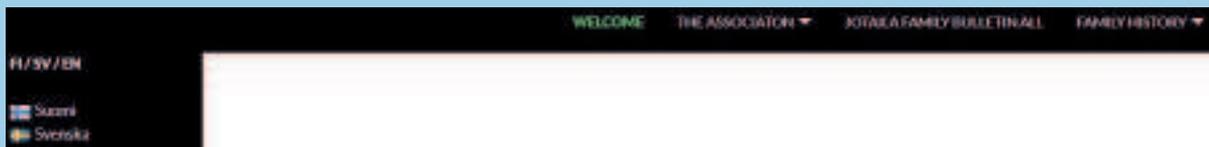
1. An appealing frame and background, preferably including a picture symbolizing the Family.
2. Improved functionality, easy navigation among the main topics and within the family database.
3. Limited access for unapproved users to certain information.
4. Continued language check and translation into three languages; Finnish, Swedish and English.
5. The existing website must remain operational during the modernization process.

The Wordpress programming tool, which I used from the start (developing 2.0), is based on modules; meaning that onto the website's framework a number of function blocks can be added, e.g. for handling memberships, picture and videos, login etc. Also Wordpress is continuously updated and improved, which has meant much reduced work in updating the function blocks. All in all, in the updated website version 2.1 I use 30 function blocks, considerably less than the 56 blocks in the previous version.



The website's 5 main menu points

The entry page, **Welcome**, provides you with a short summary of the Sovio-Sovelius Family, and the contents of the website. The main menu consists of 4 menu points (including **Welcome**). The next point provides information about The **Association** (some of the content in the submenus is accessible for login users only), the next main menu point provides access to all published issues of the **Family Bulletin Jotailan Jutut**. Then



follows menu points for the **Family history** and the **Family Database** (also this point accessible to login users only). The last menu point is for change of password for those with login identity (user name).

What has changed, what is new?

In addition to the new framework we have added some pages and functions. To mention some, we have created help-pages for less-advanced internet users. You can access these help-pages by clicking on a link, i.e. a short text or a word, in a different color, often underscored, which takes you to another place within the website, indicated in the link for more information, or to a data entry form.

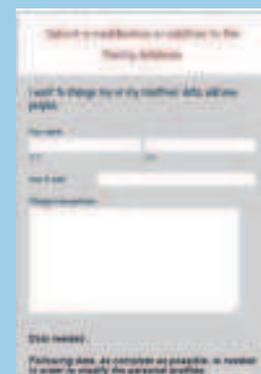
As I mentioned above, access to certain information requires login, which is done on the entry page, to the left. There you also choose your preferred language.

You may apply for login identity (user name) in the webpage under the main menu point **The Association**, submenu **Join the group, Conditions**, which contains a form for your application. Here you also choose your secret password. The approval process normally takes a few days. See the picture beside.



The **Family Database** in web-format enables you to easily surf around among the 3500 relatives, living and past, in the database. It also includes around 500 photographs of relatives and interesting documents about the family and its history.

The Board and the IT-committee urge all members of the family and association to update, correct or complement the family database. For this purpose you can, in the main menu point **The Association**, submenu point **Contact**, find a link at the top of this page, taking you to a form for updates of the family database. See picture beside.



Translation Swedish-English Tor Helenius



Langin kauppahuone. Photo: Olli Nylander

Next Family Meeting in Raahe

Summons to Family Association meeting and information

The regular meeting and family gathering of the Sovio-Sovelius family association will be held in Raahe on Saturday, July 2, 2022. The venue is the party hall of Langin Kauppahuone, Kirkkokatu 19, 92100 Raahe. Registration for the family association meeting will begin in the party hall at 3 p.m., when participants will be given participation material. The actual meeting will begin at 4 p.m.

All relatives are warmly welcome to family reunion events. The meeting of the family association naturally only applies to the members of the association. After the meeting, at about 6 pm, a family dinner will be enjoyed, which the family association will offer to participants who have paid their membership fee and other participants from the same household.

In order to make arrangements for the meeting and family dinner, **registration for the meeting must be made as soon as possible and no later than 1.5.2022**, preferably online, at <https://tinyurl.com/5e33r962>. Registration can also be made by e-mail to: hallitus@sovio-sovelius.com. Registration applies to the member/registrant and his/her household members - please provide the names of all those joining (spouse/children). Also report any food allergies.

This family meeting summons is published in this magazine and on the family association's website, as well as on the family's Facebook group. The invitation will also be sent as a "reminder" to the members of the association in the spring, any clarifications or changes will also be announced in it.

The meeting shall deal with matters prescribed by the rules of the association:

- financial statements, annual reports and the the auditors' report
- action plan, revenue and expenditure estimate and the amount of the annual membership fee
- the election of chairman, members and deputies of the Board
- the election of two auditors and two deputy auditors
- The Committee for Maintenance of Family Graves' financial statements, annual reports and auditors' statements
- The Committee for Maintenance of Family Graves' action plan and revenue and expenditure estimate
- the election of four members to The Committee for Maintenance of Family Graves

The Board has no proposals for personnel elections. (See also the chairman's column on page 3 of this magazine). Pre-meeting proposals can be made by e-mail to hallitus@sovio-sovelius.com. Pre-meeting proposals for other matters to be handled at the meeting can also be made to the same address by 1.4.2022.

Other considerations

A coffee occasion will be arranged on Sunday at 10 am in Varvi, Raahe, where the Raahe (and Sovelius) shipyards were located, and where the Varvi village association erected a mast in the summer of 2021 as a memorial to the shipowners in Raahe. The mast is adapted from Sovelius' brig Ahto's main mast and stands exactly on the site of Fredrik Sovelius' shipyard. In the immediate vicinity of the mast is the village association hut (for about 40 people) where we have our coffee. More about the mast on pages 27-28 of this magazine and a picture on the back cover.

Below are a few accommodation options:

Willa Katariina, Katariinan Kamari ja Renkitupa

tel. 044 022 8450

Langin Kauppahuone

+358 50 513 7750

info@langinkauppahuone.fi

Forenom Raahe

www.forenom.com

Accommodation service Nurmi Oy

tel. 040-1884268

mpnurmioy@gmail.com

Sinipursi

Hilkka Hirsikorpi

pp. 040 564 3396

Itä-Vilppu 11, 92130 Raahe

sinipursi@luukku.com

Budgethotel Raahe

+358 (0) 10 230 5500

info@budgethotelraahe.fi

Hotel Raahen Hovi

+358 10 277 4550

info@raahenhovi.fi

A quota of 10 rooms has been reserved in Raahen Hovi under the symbol "Sovio-Soveliussuvun sukuyhdistys ry".

Both the registration and the booking of accommodation should be made as soon as possible, because during the family reunion in Raahe there are also home region days and a lot of people on the move. Accommodations will be sold out by the summer and the number of participants must be known in time in order to acquire additional facilities if the pre-booked ones are not enough.

Translation Finnish-English Tor Helenius

WELCOME!

The Board



The hut of the Village Association. Photo Olli Nylander



Matti T. Sovio (T280) in memoriam 17.12.1921- 22.09.2021

Text: Olli Sovio (T281)

Matti left this world on 22.09.2021. He was three months shy of 100 years. In the last few months of his life Matti's body weakened significantly, but his mind was still sharp and his memory good. He fell few weeks before his death fracturing his shoulder, pelvis and two vertebrae in his back. He was bedridden as a result. This was not how he wanted to live and he welcomed the end as he had been active all his life and even drove his car up to a few months before his death.

Matti was born in Raahel and spent his first 14 years there. Then the sea summoned and he turned 15 on the ship in France. He continued on sailing the seas of the world for many years. In between he spent a few years in New York. In 1941 he again returned to the sea but when his ship arrived in Liverpool he was arrested and interned on the Isle of Man as a prisoner of war. He was there under trying conditions for 3 years after which time England sent all the Finnish war prisoners on an airlift to Stockholm. From there Matti made his way back to Finland. The year was 1944. He then spent time in the Finnish Navy clearing mines from the Gulf of Finland.

After the war Matti enrolled in the Maritime school in Rauma and after graduation he returned to sailing. While in Rauma he met Kyllikki and they were married there. Boys, Olli and Henry were born in Rauma, but since Matti was away from home so much the family relocated to Kuopio where Kyllikki was from. Third son, Andy was born there.

Matti continued to sail the seas and in 1956 the family accompanied him on a trip the America. Matti was then the first mate. The trip lasted 6 months. Following this Matti captained a ship which was on route to China. The Suez canal was closed when the ship arrived there due to the war (1956) between Israel and Egypt. Matti and his ship had to sail

around Africa adding months to the trip. After this difficult trip he came to the conclusion that it was more important for him to be with his family than continue in his profession as a captain. Thus the family relocated to Canada.

In Canada Matti continued to work on the waterfront and this allowed him to be with the family. He retired at age 62 and spent 37 years in retirement.

During retirement Matti and Kyllikki spent the winters in the south in California or Hawaii



Matti and Kyllikki Sovio. Photo: Harala family's collections.

and the summers at home in Vancouver. All three boys and their families live near Vancouver and the family spent much time together.

Unfortunately, Kyllikki died 11 years before Matti which was a very sad and difficult time for him. He was in good health almost to the end, and was very satisfied with his long and varied life.



Matti Sovio.

Photo: Olli Sovio's collections.

Deceased

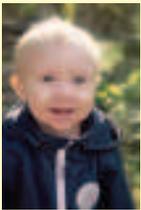


Inga Katarina Löflund, (b. **Nylander**) (T433)
* 25.2.1925 † 20.12.2021



Gun-Britt Linnéa Helenius (b. **Uddström**) (T302)
* 1.7.1942 † 1.1.2021

New relatives



Wilhelmiina Maria Keltikangas (T247a) and **Markus Behm** on 24. July 2020 had a son, named **Valter Maximilian Behm**.



Krista Kihlman and **Olli Matias Keskinen** (T249) on 23. February 2021 had a daughter, named **Inari Sara Siviä Keskinen**



Anna-Kaisa Keskinen (T249) and **Miro Christian Vanhatalo** on 13. July 2021 had a son, named **Manuel Rikhard Vanhatalo**



Sarianne Kuokka and **Petteri Heinonen** (T236a) on 29. August 2021 had a son, named **Dominic Samuel Heinonen**.

Notices of 50/60/70/80/90/100 year anniversaries during the year of publication of this bulletin may be given by the jubilar or by a close relative with his/her consent. Please enclose a photo.



The Shipyard Mast, modelled after the main mast of the brig Ahto, owned by Fredrik Sovelius' shipping company. Photo: Inge Temmes (T398)