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Handwriting example 42

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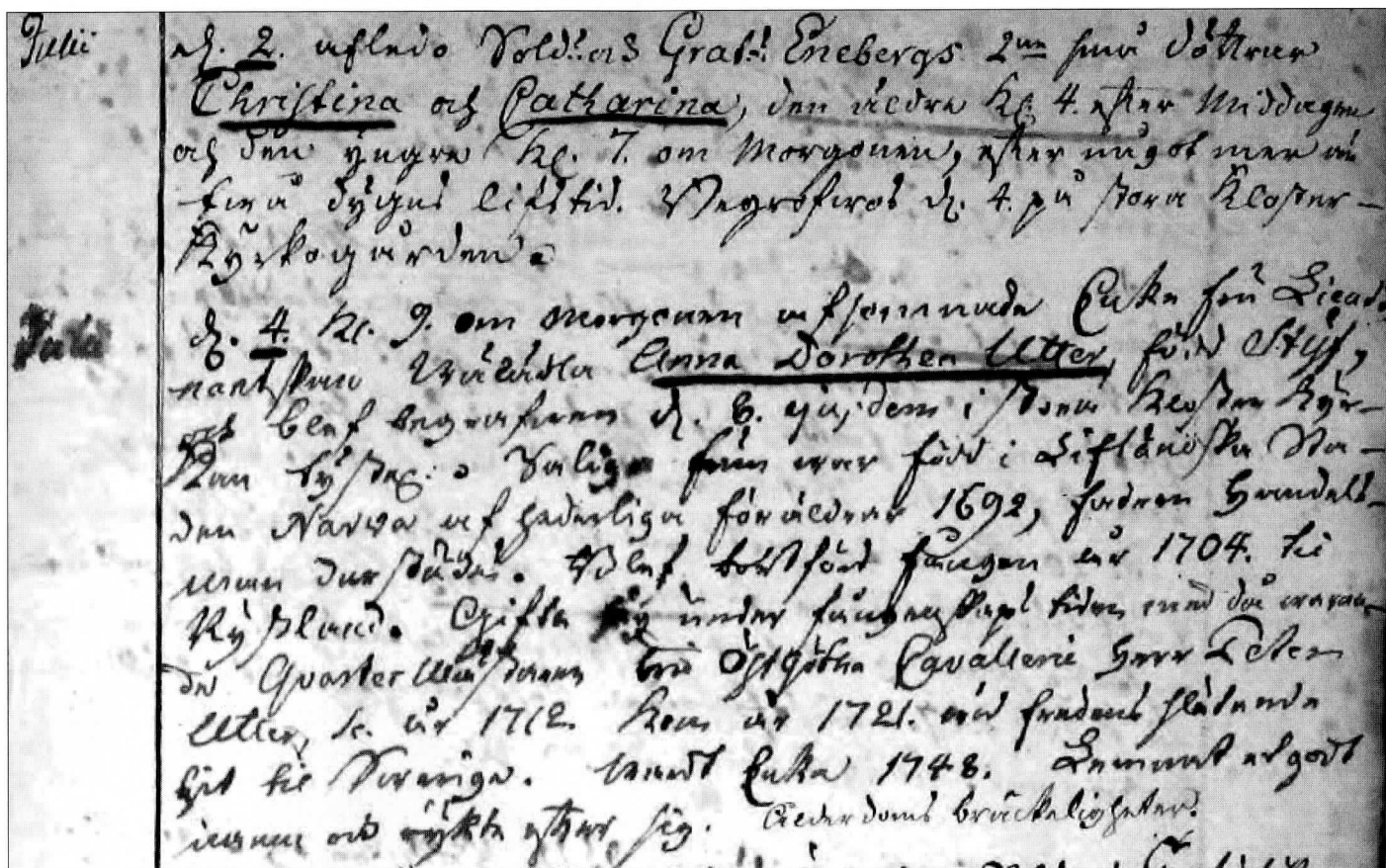
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Handwriting Example 42



Vadstena krigsmanshusförsamling C:1 (1670-1784) Img. 73 / Page 141 (Arkiv Digital).

During the early 1600s, Sweden became involved in the 30 Years War on the European continent that raged between Catholics and Protestants. The war started in 1618 and concluded with the peace treaty of Westphalia in 1648.

The Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus brought the Swedish army to German soil in 1630 and fought against the Catholic forces.

The Swedish soldiers were conscripted in that the able men in a parish were divided into groups of 10 men, and in each group one had to become a soldier. To be chosen as a soldier and sent to Germany was almost a death sentence. But the majority of the soldiers died from various diseases, not in battles.

A few of the soldiers made it back to Sweden, but had problems with supporting themselves and their families (if they had any). The king

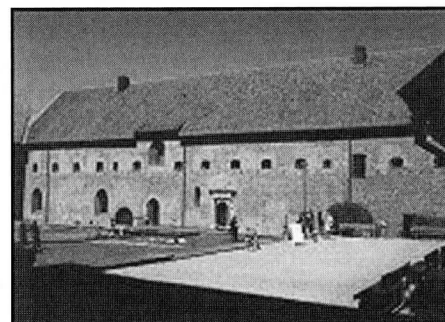
and government became aware of this problem, but did nothing. After the death of the king in 1632, the chancellor Axel Oxenstierna in 1638 started an institution in Vadstena where a disused palace was converted to living quarters for lame and wounded soldiers. This was called the Vadstena Krigsmanshus, and was in function until 1783.

By then the government had realized that it was an impossible idea to gather all wounded and crippled soldiers in one big institution – it was just too many individuals to handle, and it was also too expensive. Instead the capital from the institution was transferred to a fund from where discharged or wounded soldiers could receive a pension, which was called a *gratial*, and the soldier was called a *gratialist*. These pensions were paid until 1905.

As long as the Krigsmanshus still

functioned according to the original idea, it had its own chaplain, *krigsmanshuspräst*, and kept ordinary church records of births (1670-1784), marriages (1689-1783), and deaths (1689-1784). These records are available on Arkiv Digital.

See transcription and translation on p. 24.



The Krigsmanshus building is still standing, and was originally built in the Middle Ages as a royal palace, then part of the St. Brigid convent. Nowadays it is part of the Vadstena Klosterhotell.