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## Handwriting example 44

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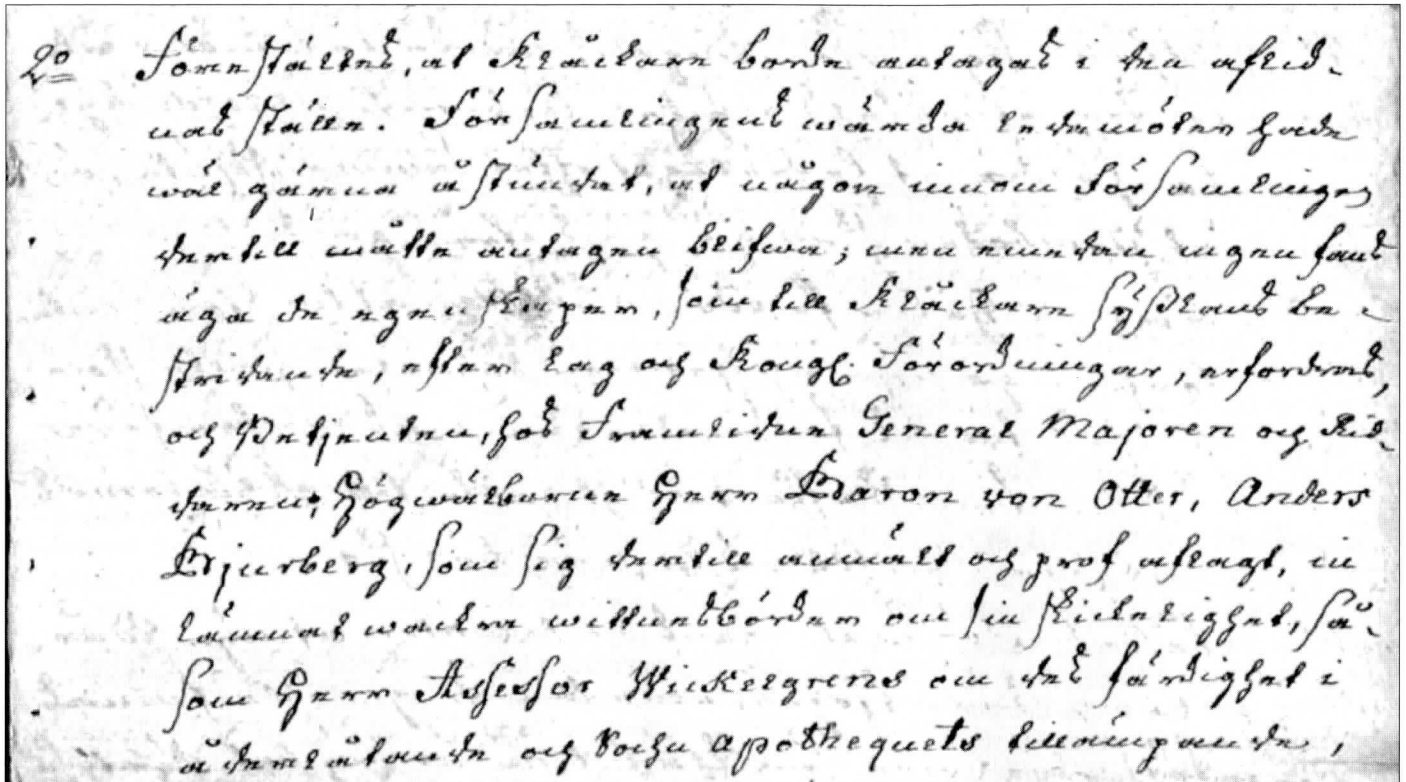
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# Handwriting Example 44



Source: Urshult KI:2, page 114. (Photo from SVAR, original in the Regional archives at Vadstena, Sweden.)

This document is from a very little used source for Swedish genealogy. It is from Urshult parish in Kronoberg county in Småland.

But what is it? It is a part of the minutes of the parish meeting (*sockenstämma*) of Urshult in 1763.

These meetings were called by the *kyrkoherde* (pastor) twice a year. The pastor was the chairman, and also wrote the minutes. All men of age in the parish were supposed to come to the meeting.

At these meetings things concerning the church, repairs, and such were discussed. The parish meeting also had the duty to see that people behaved themselves, and some officers were elected for that task, called *sexmän*, as there were six of them, each responsible for a certain part of the parish. They had to report for instance if somebody was drunk too

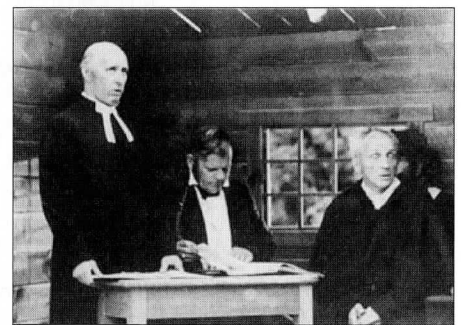
often, or fought with his wife, and the meeting could punish them. More serious offences ended up in the district court (*häradsrätten*).

The *sockenstämma* also could discuss and try to help in cases of poverty and orphans.

The meeting also elected church officials as church-wardens (*kyrkvårdar*), church-vergers (*kyrkvaktare*), organ players (*organist*), or sextons (*klockare*).

The *sockenstämma* functioned until 1862, when a civil meeting of the community, the *kommunalstämma* started. This took over the social responsibilities, caring for the paupers and orphans and other similar problems.

To handle the church affairs (repairs, hiring of personnel, etc.) a church council (*kyrkoråd*) had been instituted already in 1817.



A modern version of a sockenstämma.

The above document shows how a new *klockare* was elected in Urshult in 1763. It also shows why they chose him, as he had good references, and could do all parts of his duties. He was able to teach reading and writing, keep the parish medicine chest, sometimes keep the church records, be present at weddings, baptisms, and funerals, and much more.

See transcription on p. 24!