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## Handwriting Solution

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# The Skärstad Death Records

## Transcription

Döde och begrafne, år 1743.

- [No]vemb 13      Pilten Jon, Håkan Perssons Son. Thet första året friskt, thet andra siuklig, thet tredie åter frisk. Sidst 13 dagars durchlopp      3 [år]
- Dec. 4            H. Marit Olufsd. Måns Åkessons hustru i Botarp. Som något öfwer the 7 sidsta åhren warit sängliggande, och mest klagade sig öf.r owanligt sus och buller i hufwudet. Samt the sidsta 3 åhren brukat Medewi Surbrunn. Sidst till-slog en smärtefull swullnad i 7 wekors tid.      57 [år]
- " 4                Gamla Pigan Elisabet Jönsdr ifrå Lekeryd Sochn, som en rund tid här i församligen tient, och sidan wid pass 7 år merendels warit sängliggande af bröstsiuka, hwar til sidst slog durchlopp. Åldern obekandt.

## Translation

Dead and buried, (the) year 1743

- [No]vemb 13      Little boy Jon, Håkan Persson's son. Healthy his first year, the 2nd poorly, and the third again healthy. Lately 13 days of diarrhoea      3 [year]
- Dec. 4            Goodwife Marit Olufsdotter, Måns Åkesson's wife of Botarp. Who somewhat more than the last 7 years had been bedridden, and mostly complained about unusual noise and din in her head. Had for the last 3 years used the Medevi Spa. Lately there was a painful swelling for 7 weeks time.      57 [year]
- " 4                Old maid Elisabet Jönsdotter from Lekeryd parish, who for a long time has been serving in this parish, and since about 7 years been bedridden from chest illness, to which was at last added diarrhoea. Her age was not known.

The script of this page is a very good example of the Gothic or German script (*tyska stilen*), which was used from the end of the 1600s until the early 1800s, when the clergymen most often changed to the Latin script.

The German script is a bit difficult, but by training it is possible to read it. One just has to remember that the letters does look a bit different.

What looks like a "4" is most often an "r", and the long letter "s", which also has many short varieties, can be an "f". Many curves up and down

usually means an assortment of "m" and "n".

Try this by writing "kammereraren" in your own hand and see if you can make out the individual letters. This man was an accountant. Double "m" can sometimes be written as a single letter with a ~ on top of it; when transcribing, do the double "mm", otherwise it might be difficult to find the word in your dictionary.

The vowel "u" mostly also has a ~ on top, to make it clear that there is a vowel there. It can be hard to see in the mass of other letters, all

looking just the same.

When you are reading old script, don't hurry, take your time and make sure you have got everything right, especially the names. Otherwise you may end up with the wrong ancestors or places.

The maid above came from *Lekeryd* parish, which is close to Skärstad. But further south in Småland there is *Lekaryd* parish, and careless reading might take you to the wrong place.