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Finnish Lapland Lineages

Robert J. Gustafson, P.E.*

Personal Reflections

My interest in genealogy arose in high school when I found out that our original family name was Tallanvaara, not Gustafson. I should have been able to ask my father about this, but he wasn't available. After many letters to Finnish authorities both here and in Finland, I found an archivist named Aslak Outakoski in Oulu, Finland, who was worth his weight in gold. He felt so embarrassed that the records from Finnish Lapland were not in his archives that he voluntarily visited the several parishes where my roots lay. Furthermore, he apologized for the costs involved, which were minor in nature. Not only did he find my grandfather, but was able to reach back to the 1600s with apparent ease. He was literate in Swedish and Finnish and his wife in Swedish, Finnish and English. He wrote a family history for me and she translated it into excellent English.

Several more correspondences took place and each communication from him bore not only complete documentation, but revenue stamps! (The Finns take such matters seriously!) When I asked myself: "OK, it's fine to have all these names and dates, but how did these people live?" and subsequently passed that query to him. His response was that the history of these remote parishes had been written only once, and that was in 1828 by Anders Johan Sjögren. He volunteered to secure me a copy of the 135-year old history when he was next in Helsinki, but found it unavailable and thus offered me his own personal copy at a modest price. Instead, I borrowed it for a year, microfilmed and translated it, and returned it to him with a small remittance for its use.

While the book was written in the Swedish of 1826-28 for the most part, it cited documents written in the 1500s, as well as those written in Russian, and also included Lappish proverbs in the East Bothnian dialect. Translating 400-year old Swedish was a challenge, but it was only with help from the Finnish Academy that I was able to make sense of the Lappish adages, and the units of currency cited in the text. For example, taxes were paid in beaver skins or produce, but were counted in *jefimki* or *plâtär*. The *jefimki* was a hypothetical coin worth about one Maria Theresa taler, and the *plât* was worth about one British farthing.

In addition to the names of the earliest settlers, there was a wealth of material on church construction, diseases, longevity, raids by the Russians on Lapp settlements, crop failures and diets. The richness of Sjögren's writing is typified by his comment on the results of Russian raids: "Trees as thick as a man's arm were floating in murdered Lapps' blood." Or tragedies which overtook the Lapps as they

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travelled from the winter reindeer herding sites to the summer locales: "One of the children died of starvation along the way, and so they ate it." Of course, the families in which we are primarily interested were of Finnish or Swedish origin, and had originally come from the more southerly areas of those countries; the Lapps (*Samer*) were the natives. The majority of Swedish names are associated with the parish of Kuusamo, which straddled the Lappi (Lapland)-Oulu boundary. Among the earliest Finnish colonists were Pähl Pelkonen and my many-generations-removed ancestor Eerik Matinpoika Kairavuopaja who were the founders of Pelkosenniemi, Kairala, and nearby settlements in the parish of Sodankylä.

Introduction to Anders Johan Sjögren and His Works

When Anders Johan Sjögren wrote his *Anteckningar om Församlingarne i Kemi Lappmark* (*Notes concerning the Congregations in Kemi Lappmark*) in 1828, he was aware of the families who had first settled in that remote part of Finland, but he could not have conceived that 160 years later his work would be an invaluable genealogical reference on that area. Sjögren was born 8 May 1794 in Iiti, Finland and died 18 January 1855 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Four years after receiving his Master of Philosophy degree in 1819 he became manager of the library of Count Rumantsev,¹ and in the succeeding years he served as an archaeological assistant and university teacher before becoming a professor at the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences and a Finnish-Ugric and Caucasian ethnographer. His field work carried him into Finnish Lapland and little-known areas of the Caucasus, and as a result of this and studies in St. Petersburg he wrote a number of textbooks on ethnography and populations, all but one of which were in German, Latin or Russian. Only the *Kemi Lappmark* work was written in Swedish, and even this contains many references in Russian and Lappish.²

Kemi Lappmark Congregations in 1828

There are five major pastorates or parishes in Kemi Diocese, some of which had subsidiary congregations. These are:

Utsjoki. This was the most northerly and was bounded by Norway on the east, north and west, and by the Kola District of Russia on the east. It included as a major subdivision the Inari area, as well as desolate Petsamo on the Arctic Ocean. The name Utsjoki derives from the Lappish and means "a little river." The parishes of Utsjoki and Inari now constitute this area, but the Petsamo area was ceded to Russia after the late Russian-Finnish War.

Sodankylä. This pastorate was located immediately south of Utsjoki, and was at that time the largest in Finland. The name means "war village" and refers to the many raids conducted by the Russians on the resident Lapps. In addition to

Sodankylä, the settlements of Alaperä, Sombio, and Kemikylä were of importance. At present the territory is divided between Sodankylä and Pelkosenniemi parishes.

Kittilä. This pastorate lies east of Sodankylä and south of Utsjoki, and was formed from a part of Sodankylä in 1798. The name derives from the name "Kitti." It is to this day a separate parish.

Kemiträsk. This pastorate included the area near Kemiträsk (Kemijärvi), but also that near Kuolajärvi, all lying south of Sodankylä. The name refers to the major river and the surrounding marsh area. Part of Kuolajärvi was ceded to Russia, and today the remainder of this former pastorate lies in the parishes of Kemijärvi, Posio, and Salla.

Kuusamo. Strictly speaking, not all of this pastorate was within the boundaries of Lapland, but it lies southeast of Kemiträsk and Kuolajärvi, straddling the Lappi (Lapland) province boundary. A portion was ceded to Russia.

Reference to these areas on a large-scale map will give an approximation of the original boundaries, which were carefully defined by Sjögren, using points of reference which may today bear different names, if they exist at all. Since the surnames are our major concern, the above-stated descriptions may be oversimplified, and those who wish to further explore the culture of this sub-arctic area more deeply should read the entire Sjögren work which this author translated a number of years ago.

Utsjoki

Surnames and localities recorded in Utsjoki in 1828

These are all Lapp surnames; an (*) means a place name.

* Aikio	* Laiti	* Poini
* Guttorm	* Lille	* Pokka (lodger)
* Hellander	* Lukkari	* Thure (from
* Inger	* Länsman (from Norway)	Karasjoki)
Juksby or	* Njorgam	* Tutio
Outakoski	* Paut	* Varsi
* Jumpanen	* Pieski	* Vuolab

Inari (Enare)

These are all Lapp surnames except that an (*) means a place name, and (+) means colonist; date refers to first appearance.

* Aikio 1731	+* Kyrö	* Palto
+* Akujärvi	* Mattus 1731	* Sajets 1731
Halt	* Mujo 1731	* Sarre 1758
Inger	* Musta 1758	Skära
* Kuuvva 1731	* Oddais or Uddais 1731	* Valle 1731
	* Padar 1759	

Surnames and localities recorded in Sodankylä in 1828

Where it is known, the date of the first appearance of the surname is given; where † precedes the name, this name was known from the earliest books from 1731, but has since disappeared.

Sodankylä

Aikio	Kumbula 1798	† Sattas, village
Aikioniemi 1790	Luusua	Sattanen
Annaberg	Madetkoski (village)	Salmi 1790
Aska 1731	Martin 1760	† Siurumaa 1790
Gustafsberg	Mattanen 1731	† Syväjärvi 1760
Halonen	Moskuvaara 1778	Tepsa
(in Kyrkobyn 1731, in Satta 1798)	Ollila 1798	† Toivela 1790
Hingamaa	Onnila 1798	Torvinen 1790
† Holck (farm name 1760)	Orjärvi (Pulju family name)	Uhari (village) 1766
Huhtala 1790	Poikila 1731	Vaara 1790
Jesjö	(or Apela 1812)	† Vaiskojarvi (village) 1760
† Juntinen	Pumpanen 1731	† Valajärvi (village 1760)
Kaaretkoski	† Päiviö	† Vanha
Kaikkonen	Rajala	Veikama
Kallata	† Ramba	in Kelvijärvi
† Kallo 1736	† Rasaka	1771 (family)
Kelujärvi	† Riimi 1790	Vierela 1790
(Kelvijärvi) 1760	Riipi 1731	Vuojärvi
† Kierik (farm name) 1760	† Sarrio	Zärelä
	Sassali	

Alaperä

Alatalo 1766	Kilpimaa 1784	Pulskala of
Arvola 1784	† Kärpä	Pulka 1738
Bertula of Bertunen 1791	Lakso 1784	Pyhäjärvi 1766
Hietasuvanto (village) 1766	Luiro 1731	† Remahl
Hiltula of Hiltunen 1731	Martin 1790	Saunavaara (village) 1731
Hyötylä 1778	Matomaa 1784	Sivikkimaa
Jaakkola 1760	Mettinen 1790	Säärelä 1798
Kairavuopaja (village) 1731	Mäkitalo 1766	Takkinen 1766
	Oinas 1766	Tervo 1760
	Ollila 1790	Tingasvaara
	Pelkola (village of Pelkonen) 1772	Vaara 1784
	† Peuna	Välitalo

Sombio

Arapää	Mutania 1766	Sufva
Arajärvi	Neblos Lokka 1790	(homestead)
† Keitsa 1731	and Ara 1736	Tanhua 1772
Kiurujärvi 1760	Riesto 1766	† Tingasvaara (location)
Korva 1766	Sakkanen	† Vuolappa
† Kurisia	Seitajärvi	
Lokka 1766		
† Musta		

Kemikylä

(*) indicates place name; (+) indicates colonist; others are Lapps.

* Halonen 1731	* Musta 1731	+ Salmela
+ Hongala 1812	* Nousu 1731	+ Seipäjärvi 1798
+ Kandola 1812	+ Päckölä 1812	+ Syvajärvi
* Karpinen 1731	+ Pumbanen	+ Tepsa
* Leskinen 1731	+ Riipi (family)	* Törmänen 1784
+ Marjavaara	Saikki (from Kolare)	+ Ulkuniemi
Mella		* Värriö

Surnames and Localities Recorded in Kitillä in 1828

(*) indicates settlements; (+) indicates colonists; (•) indicates recorded prior to 1731, (••) recorded 1760-66, (•••) recorded 1812.

+ Ala	+ Kukasjärvi or	+ Pudas 1766
* Ala Korva or Hataja	Kandola 1812	* Pulli
* Alakangas 1784	* Kyrö	* Puljujärvi
+ Haahivaara 1766	• Kängäs	+ Randa 1766
+ Hannula	•• Kängäsmä	+ Rauhala 1784
+ Hietaniemi	Lahti	+ Ryssä (with it,
+ Hongasniemi 1784	+ Lakso 1812	Salmi)
(also Lapps)	+ Lembola 1784	+ Sallmen 1731
+ Jesiöjärvi 1785	* Lindula	+ Salmi 1760
+ Jussila	+ Loukinen (1766 Louku	+ Salmijärvi 1772
• Juvakainen	and Kuivisalmi)	+ Sepasto 1731
+ Jääskö	+ Luusua	+ Seppälä 1798
+ Kallo 1731	+ Marjala	Sieppi
(Kallojärvi?)	+ Mokko 1731	+ Sieppijärvi
+ Karhula 1784	* Mokko or Säälä	+ Sirkka 1731
+ Kariniemi 1772	* Mäkelä (Kaukus) 1766	Suikki
+ Kaukonen 1731 (from	+ Niemälä 1784	+ Syväjärvi
this, the existing	+ Niemi 1798	+ Tepsa 1812
village Kaukos in	+ Nikkilä (1731	+ Tervaniemi 1766
1769)	Nikkinen)	+ Tiensuu (or
+ Kellontekemä 1760	+ Nilivaara 1784	Jokela) 1812
+ Kiistala 1784	+ Ollila 1766	+ Tonvinen 1766
+ Kiviniemi 1772	+ Paksuniemi 1766	•• Trast
•• Kokka	+ Pietilä 1760	+ Törmänen
• Kontinen	(once Ryssä)	••• Vesmajärvi
•• Koski	Pokko 1778	Välitalo
* Kujala	•• Porokota	

Surnames and Localities in Kemiträsk (Kemijärvi) in 1828

By 1828 the surnames and homestead names were pretty well fused together.

Kemiträsk

Aho or Huhta	Kumbula	Ruotsala
Ahola under Pietilä	Kupari 1728	Rytilahti
Ahonen 1718	Kursu	Räisänen
Granroth or Kyhkynen	Kyhkynen	Salmela
Halonen 1698	Kärppä	Seeger 1728
Hannunniemi	Könönen	Sipola
Heikkilä under	Lahtola	Sivola
Kostamo	Laninen 1718	Soppela
Helisten (Helinen?)	Laukonen 1698	Sotka 1728
Helistenkangas	Laurila	Suopangi
Hietala	Lauro under Tapio	Särkikangas
Hurula under	Lehtola	Säynäjäkangas
Jaakkola	Luiro 1736	Talvensaari
Häckman	Luusua 1698	Tapio 1698
Imbonen	Maajaakkola	Tarvas
Ingeräin 1706	Majavajärvi	Telniö 1728
Jaakkola 1698	Misikangas	Tervola, under
Jankkila	Mäkelä or Lahti	Könönen, also
Jouni 1698	Narkilahti	Halonen
Joutsijärvi	Niemilä	Tohmola
Jussila	Nikunlahti	(1728 Tohmo)
Juujärvi	Oinas 1698	Torvinen
Kaisamatti or Lantaja	Oja	Tuncainen
Kallanvaara 1736	Ollila 1706	Turvanen 1710
Kangas	Paavola	Tuulaniemi
Kapio 1736	Pauna	Tuuliainen 1698
Karppinen 1718	Peikila 1728	Törmänen under
Kelloniemi 1736	Peltoniemi 1718	Kärppä
Kerkelä	Peltoperä	Ulkoniemi
Kivilahti	Pietilä	Vaarela under
Korpela	Poikila	Halonen
Kostamo or	Puikko	Vuonala
Junntila 1706	Pöyliö 1706	Vuostinen 1728
Kostamovaara	Pöyvi 1698	Välikanga
Kotajärvi	Riekola	Wärriö 1710
Kotaniemi	Ruopsa	Ämmänkanta
Kujala		
Kulpakko		

Kuolajärvi

Ahola	Hirvasjärvi	Kandola under Tenno
Atsingi	Huono 1698	Karjalainen 1710
Auhto or Halonen	Isojärvi	Kerju 1728
Haliselkä	Isola under Tenno	Kesälahti
Hari 1698 or	Jönsä	Kieli 1710
Sulasalmi	Kairala under Jönsä	Kivelä under Tenno
Hautajärvi	Kalliokota	Korja 1698
Heikkilä	Kallungi	Kumitsa 1698

Kursu 1718	Ongamo 1728	Särkela
Kurtti	Palojärvi	Takkinen
Könönen	Peuna 1698	Tenno 1698
Lampela	Pietarainen	Tervo under
Leskela or Kursu	Pitkä 1698	Tenno
Miulus 1698	Puurvinen 1698	Tiikkaja 1710
Mujo 1698	Räisänen 1706	Tuma
Mukkala	Saida 1737	Tutijärvi
Niemelä under	Saija 1698	Tulliainen
Kallungi	Salla	Ulkuniemi
Niskala	Salmijärvi	Vuonola or
Nojonen	Sotkajärvi	Vuotakka
		Vuorijärvi

Surnames Recorded in Kuusamo in 1828

Ahonen	Koskela	Pesonen
Aikio (lodger)	Kujala	Petrelus
Djerf	Kurtti	Pitkä 1698
Ervast	Kurvinen	Posio
Falck	Kyllinen (servant)	Pätsi
Granat	Kylti	Riekki
Granroth	Kämäräinen	Rongain
Haataja	Lasenen (woman only)	Saarinen
Heikkinen	Lehtolainen (woman only)	Sarvi
Holappa	Leinonen	Snabb
Hyrkäs	Luukkonen	Stjerna
Hägg	Lämssä	Stolt
Hänninen	Manninen	Suvva
Ikäpäiva	Matero	Svahn
Jaakola	Mursu	Säkkinen
Jukarainen	Mustonen	Takkinen
Jurmu	Määttä	Tauriain
Jämsä	Nevalainen	Törmänen
Kallungi	Oikarainen	Vanttaja
Karjalainen	Okkanen	(woman only)
Karvonen	Pekkanen (lodger)	Vetelainen
Kola	Pernu	Viinikka
Konttinen		Väisänen
Korva		

Names which have become extinct are: Heisanen (and Heiskala), Kukka, Kili or Kielo, Nissi, Siuma, Tolva, and Torvinen.

Farm and homestead names which were also used as surnames are:

Ahola	Enojärvi	Hoikkaniemi
Ahvenniemi	Eksymä	Holappa
Ahvensalmi	Haataja	Hukkanen
Aikiniemi	Hanganniemi	Huttuniemi
Aitaniemi	Hanhenniemi	Hyrkänaho
Ajakka	Haukiniemi (Jokela)	Hämeenniemi
Akonlahti	Hautaniemi	Härkonen (or
Aksojärvi	Heinäjärvi	Korpiemi)
Alatalo	Heponiemi	Iljala
Bengtilänvaara	Hietaniemi	Irninniemi
	Hirsivaara	

Jokilampi	Lehtiniemi	Ryönlampi (or
Joutanniemi	Lehtola	Pekkala)
Jumisko	Lehtoniemi	Saappungi
Juumajärvi	Leskela	Salmijärvi
Kahilanniemi (or	Likolampi	Salminen
Vaarela)	Lohilahti	Salmivaara
Kajavasalmi	Luomingi	Saranlemi
Kaikkonen	Lyhytniemi	Saunajärvi
Kallioluoma	Maaninga	Siikaluoma
Kallungi	Maivajärvi	Siira
Kandola	Matero	Siivola
Kandoniemi	Meskus	Soivio (belongs
Karvonon	Miekkasaari	to Pudäsjarvi)
Kauhaniemi	Mourujärvi	parish)
Kauppila	Multasniemi	Sossoniemi
Kellansalmi	Multijärvi	Sotaniemi
Kesaniemi	Munaaho	Soudansaari
Kiitämä	Muosalmi	Suiningijärvi
Kilpelä	Murtovaara	(or Uusitalo)
Kilpijärvi	Mustaniemi	Suorajärvi
Kirpistojärvi	Määtälä	Suurujärvi or
Kissanniemi	Määtälänvaara	Hongama
(or Hanhola)	Naamanga (or	Särkiluoma
Kivangi	Kemilainen)	Särkisaari
Kivijärvi	Niemilä	Säävälä
Kivilahti	Nissi	Taaporinniemi
Kiviniemi	Nissinaho	Tahkola
Kiviperä	Noukanvaara	Takkila
Kokkoniemi	Oiva	Tammela
Kontivaara	Ojala	Tavajärvi
Koppela	Ojusluoma	Tavela
Koppelojärvi	Orjasniemi	Teriniemi
Korhonen	Paanajärvi	Tervo (or
Korkalo	Pahkajärvi	Moisanen)
Kortelsalmi	Pasonvaara	Tiermasniemi
Koskela	Pauna	Timisjärvi
Koutaniemi	Peltoniemi	Toolpanniemi
Kovaniemi	Penikansuu (or	Tolva
Kujala	Nieskala)	Tuovila
Kukkes	Penikkajärvi (or	Tärmänen
Kumbulainen	Saunaniemi)	Urimäki
Kundijärvi (or	Pernu	Valijärvi
Anttila)	Perälä	Valkiaisen
Kuolijärvi (or	Peuraniemi	Taival (or
Kataja)	Pohjolainen	Hiltunen)
Kuolionniska (or	Poropudas	Vallioniemi
Niskala)	Posio	Vanttaja
Kuondivaara	Pousu	Varanganvaara or
Kuoringi	Pukari	Varajängänvaara
Kurkijärvi (or	Pursuvaara	Vatajärvi
Sulasalmi)	Pyhäjärvi	Vattula
Kurastinniemi	Päätalo	Vihanti
Kylmäla	Raistakka	Viheriä
Kylmäniemi	Rajala	Virkula
Kynnäräsalmi	Riihinaho	Virranniemi
Käsmä	Riihiniemi	Visaniemi
Laihola	Ronttivaara	Vuolajärvi
Lammaslehto	Rukajärvi	Vuoroniemi
Lammela	Ruokamo	

(Yli-) Voutungi or
Käkilehto
Vähäjärvi

¹Doubtless Count Nikolai Petrovich Rumiantsev (1754-1826), Russian statesman and diplomat. He amassed a huge library which became the basis of the Lenin Library of the USSR. His collection of ethnographica is now in the Rumiantsev Museum in Moscow. — *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* (Moscow 1975), Vol. 22, p. 367.

²*Iso Tietosanakirja* (Helsinki 1931-1939), Vol. VII; Tor Carpelan, *Finsk Biografisk Handbok* (Helsingfors 1903), cols. 1979-1983.

