



1949 – 2021

Eje Elenius is deceased – we miss his wisdom and humility !

During one of the early Læstadius days around year 2000 a friendly gentleman, dressed in a check shirt, turned up together with a whitehaired lady. They were from another parish but quickly started to speak with the other participants. The coffee breaks were fruitful, and it was noticed that the gentleman was Dan Elenius (named Eje) who was accompanied by his mother.

Eje brought documents and photos which added to the knowledge of Lars Levi Læstadius and his family, the famous inhabitants of the vicarage at Pajala. Eje was a descendent – but nothing he mentioned. What an outcome of history !

During the summer 2008 the Læstadius days were held at Lainio and Oksajärvi villages, which we visited guided by Eje. We walked in the footsteps of his ancestor Emma Christina at Oksajärvi and in Ejes footsteps at Lainio. Eje then dropped the idea to start a supporting association for the museum. In November the same year we could form the “Friends of the Læstadius Museum” (FLM), with members in Sweden, Finland, Norway and USA.

The Læstadius days in July now became more vital. The summer activities were planned by the museum, by members of the awakening, by Eje at Gothenburg and Hans Læstadius at Stockholm, and many others. Walks along the Læstadius track on the Finnish side, one day at Karesuando in the Læstadius footsteps, and one day to celebrate the governor Lassinantti, all just to mention a few of many activities. Worth remembering is the Læstadius day 2014 at Erkheikki when prominent persons and traditions were remembered.

Behind all this Eje was the ideologist and organizer, together with people faithful to the history, who all didn't want to give up.

But at last we had to finish the activities due to the circumstances of the Pajala parish. In 2017 our last Læstadius days took place at Kvikkjokk when the board decided to liquidate the association FLM.

Eje moved later from Gothenburg to Pajala where he continued to engage in the parish history and the museum area. But soon the corona pandemic broke out, a summer with closed doors. Eje suffered from a serious illness and passed peacefully away in Luleå on August 24.

Thanks Eje for your humble serving !

Anneli Mäkinen, member of FLM