

Laostadius Week

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2011

**July 4, 2011 - the first day of
Laestadius Week 2011 - the Family Day**



**A warm welcome followed by
a tour of the Laestadius home
- by Anneli Mäkinen and
Anders Alapää**







The Laestadius kitchen was used to feed and welcome family and visitors at all times. Brita Cajsa was known for her gracious generosity and hospitality.



Laestadius sat at his desk, usually in the mornings, from which he did his correspondence. He smoked his pipe while meditating and thinking and also writing his sermons.



The original tobacco chopper that he used to chop his Russian tobacco

Anders is explaining about the
“milk chamber”



Brita Cajsa had her own “milk chamber”, a small room in the center of the house. There she managed a procedure of moving the milk bowls down a shelf each day as the milk changed to sour milk, filia, etc.

A little photograph on the table in the cabin – it is my great grandmother, Selma Mäkitalo (Nelson)! Below is the trunk donated to the museum by Selma's nephew, Edvin Mäkitalo.



Selma Mäkitalo –
married to Albert
Nelson in 1881 in USA





Descendants of Lars Levi Laestadius



A few additional family members are added to the group!

We walk to the cemetery for a wreath laying ceremony. Carrying the wreath are Hans Laestadius and Rolf Berggård.





The laying of the wreath...





I am proud to be in this family.





Now we walk back
to the museum for
coffee and
fellowship.



Hans and Rolf



Eila, Stina-Greta & Anne



We all enjoyed the coffee and treats served by the Museum staff.



The beautiful Pajala church was our next destination.



Here at the church, Hans Laestadius, an awesome genealogist, gave an interesting presentation about the early Laestadius family history.



**We are heading for the Parish building
where I will give my presentation.**





It was fun to share the information about the Laestadius descendants in America.





Our large family group all enjoyed a superb salmon dinner with all the trimmings served right there at the Parish building. It was also a time for lots of visiting and getting acquainted. A Wonderful Day!



The luscious potatoes, salmon, salad and vegetables – yum!



Cousins Dan Elenius and Johan Uusijärvi



Cousin Rickard Rehnlund and his wife, Sigrid





Anneli Mäkinen & Anders Alapää



Hans L. & Rolf B.

Tuesday, July 5, was the first official day of Laestadius Week 2011. The presentations were all held in the city sports center.



Bertil Kero, Inga Kero & Göran Laestadius

This young reporter interviewed the two guest speakers to the left, Bishop Hans Stiglund & Bishop Samuel Salmi.. She also interviewed me as a Laestadius descendent coming to Pajala from America. Our picture with an article appeared in the Haparandabladet.





Two of the opening lecturers, Bishop Samuel Salmi and FLM Chairman, Bertil Kero



My cousins!



I was flattered to be asked to do an interview for a television station. It was even on the evening news!





Later in the afternoon, Rolf took Richard and I for a tour of Kengis and we had a walk in this lovely area.



Wednesday, July 6 – We meet at the museum and then load on to the big bus for our wonderful bus tour!



This special spoon finally came back to Pajala from America!

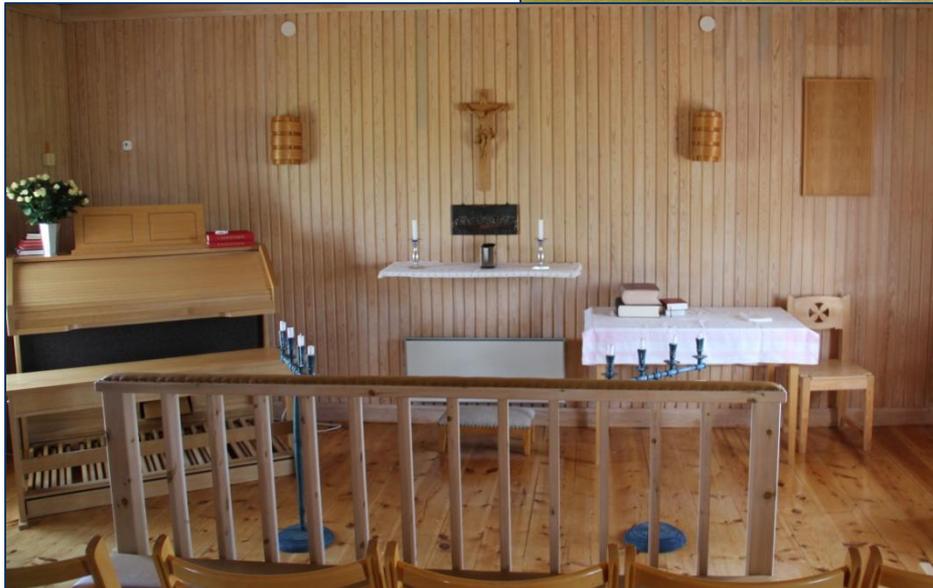


I am so glad I got to meet my cousin Dan!

Off we go!



After going by Kitkiöjoki and Muodoslompolo, we stopped to see the house of Johan Raattamaa in Saivomuotka.



Interesting photographs found inside the cabin



Raattamaa with a group in front of the
Karesuando Church - 1880



Johan Raattamaa



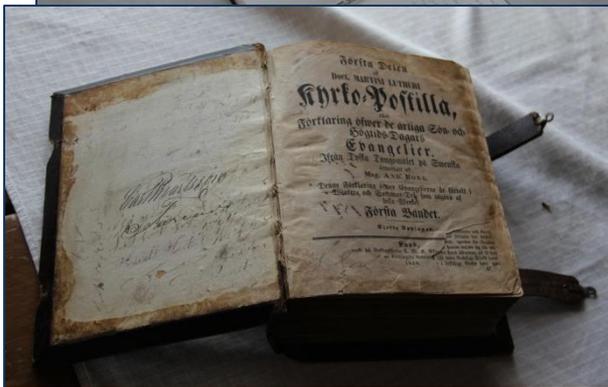
Raattamaa's second
wife, Eva Johansdotter



Petrus Raattamaa



Inside the cabin...





Coffee time at Saivomuotka



Anders was a great host!



Anders serving Bertil Kero



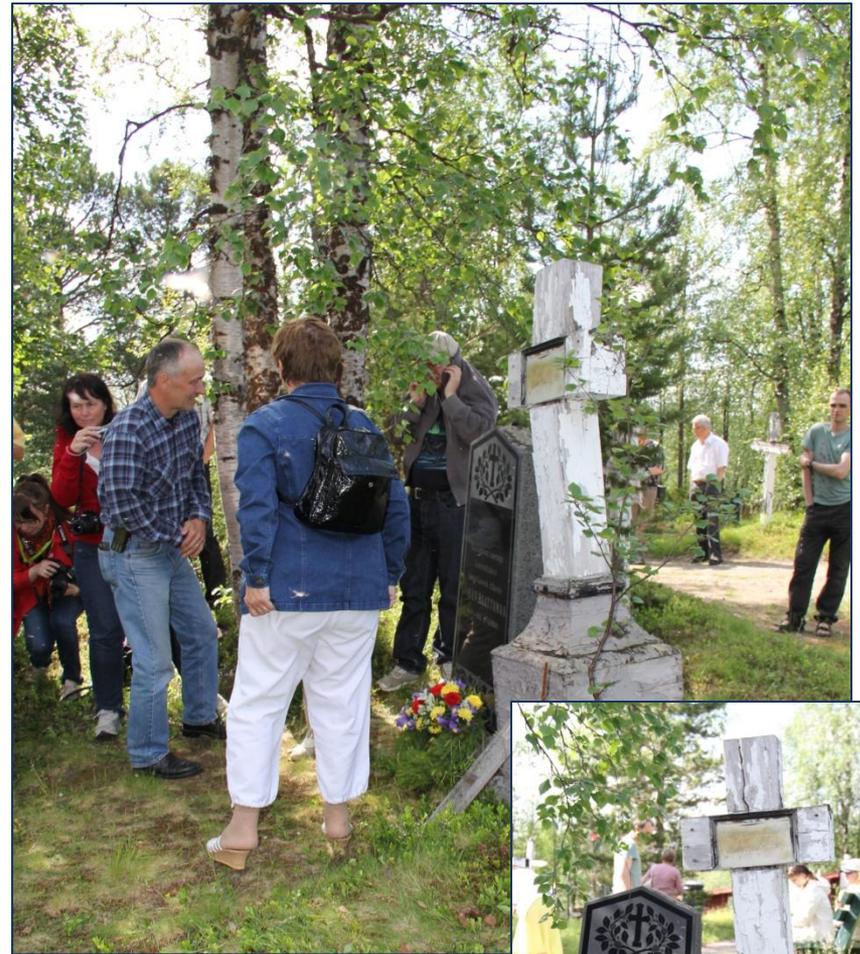
I was having such a great time!



Getting ready to move
on to Karesuando

And to the cemetery & gravesite of Johan Raattamaa





A short ceremony of wreath laying and song out of respect for Raattamaa's work
(We were met by a huge throng of mosquitoes!)

Lunchtime was at the Karesuando Parish House!



We had delicious reindeer soup!



Richard & Anne enjoyed dessert – a special “love cake”!





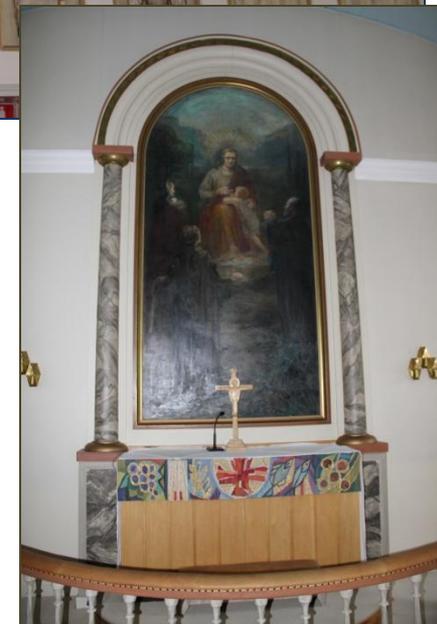
Inside the Laestadius cabin – the vicar of Karesuando, Sven-Åke Nilsson, is speaking





**A visit to the
Karesuando Church**

A visit to the Vittangi Church complete with a nice coffee break and a few raindrops! This church was consecrated by Laestadius in 1854.





Rolf Berggård tells us about the Mäkitalo family history and about the village of Kangos - and then we visit the wonderful Kangos museum where Rolf is the curator and shares much information about the area.



Marianne Laestadius shares a "mosquito cover" with Anne





**We pass by the home of cousin Rickard Rehnlund
in Junosuando.**

**I try to describe my thanks to all for such a
wonderful experience - what a day and what a
week!**





Rolf , Lauri Koistinen, & Anders

**Thursday, July 7
- this day begins
with a FLM board
meeting. Anneli
Mäkinen was
recognized as
retiring Museum
Director.**





Dean Aleksander Voltshok from Russia

This was also
"International
Day" full of
interesting
lectures...



Lars-Erik Wikberg



The last evening was a fun buffet supper at the Hotel Smedjan - a special time to visit, laugh and say our goodbyes.



The Dean and his family



Cousin Fritz Niemi



Fritz, Ingemar Laestadius, Gunilla Haraldson & Marianne L.