

During all my years of translating and studying Swedish history, I was so glad to find some history involving some of our own VASA members. My friend, Rune Löw of Rösum, who I wrote asking about this torp, also had an ancestor who served at Slätteryd. From information on Slätteryd torp, Rune found that he also had "kinfolks" here in Central Texas, namely: JUDY WEST PALMER, and JANETTE BURKLAND PETERSON of Round Rock, and her twin sister, Genevieve. Their common ancestor, SPETS, lived on Slätteryd farm # 77. Also, VIRGINIA WESSON'S ancestor lived at Slätteryd Farm #76 which was across the road. However, they lived there at different times.

From 1680's to the late 1890's Sweden had a unique type of armed forces with soldiers placed on government owned farms in all the districts. These soldiers were known as "Knekt" and, their job was to guard and protect their districts in event of attack. Often, they were sent off to fight wars in other lands..if the need arose. These soldier/farmers were part of a Military Regiment for each district (härad). The house and farm were under strict rules to be kept in good order, as they were inspected at times by a group of citizens from the district. NOTE: I have a copy of a soldier/farmer contract and inspection notes of these 2 farms.

Slätteryd was situated in the northern part of Malmbäck parish. Located there were the #76 North farm and the #77 - South farm, denoting that two soldier farms were found in that area, located directly opposite each other. There were several small cottages (backstugar) on these farms. By the end of the 1800's some of the cottages had almost disappeared, only residents names are found in record books.

The two Slätteryd soldier farms, No. 76 and No. 77 belong to Småland Västra Härad (Western district) A Regiment. A person can 'read between the lines of the enlistment-roster about conditions there. In the year 1721 written of No. 77 Slätteryd's south farm: "Several homes deserted and therefore are vacant. 1/4 mantal (of land) used by one 60 year old man."

NOTE: MANTAL = A measure of farmland. 1 (often written 1/1) denotes the area that could support one family. You will find numbers less than 1/1 - 1/6 meaning 1/6 of the total of the original farm. Mantal used also in tax purposes.

SOLDIER FARM SLÄTTERYD NO. 76. Here Virginia Wesson's ancestor named ANDERS GUSTAV SJÖGREN born 4/15/1851 in Kansjö, wife: MARIA JOSEFINA ZEILON born in Hultsjö and their 7 children (including Virginia's mother) lived there 1872-1887. Army information of this soldier: "Taken in as a shoemaker, he was 168,5 cm tall. Moved here 1872 from Berget in Rösum. 1875 - 79 he was a sharpshooter with a silver medal. Moved to Hakarp parish.