

Finland's Independence, the Birth



The Maiden of Finland (Finnish: *Suomi-neito*, Swedish: *Finlands mö*) is the national personification of Finland.

She is a barefoot young woman in her mid-twenties with often braided blonde hair, blue eyes, wearing a blue and white national costume or a white dress. She was originally called **Aura** after the Aura River in Turku.

- As a symbol, the Finnish Maiden has been used since the 19th century when she was pictured as a woman wearing a turreted crown, and then developing as Finland gained a national consciousness and independence. Her position depicts shape on the map of Finland before the Moscow Armistice.

Finland's Independence, the Birth

Besides the final military and governmental activities, which relate to the Presidents, resulting in Finland becoming an independent nation on December 6, 1917, the foundation for that achievement began much earlier. Many people participated in various ways in this by expressing their support in ways such as by art, poetry, music and even offering their life and liberty.

Many of our relatives were actively contributing in the yearning for the independence. This story describes what some of our relatives did for this cause during the years before Finland became an independent nation. These are:

1. **Johan Ludvig Runeberg**, the author of our national anthem, who was born in Jakobstad, Kingdom of Sweden, died in Borgå, Grand Duchy of Finland, Russian Empire.
2. **Johan Vilhelm Snellman**, Senator and founder of the Finnish monetary system, markka.
3. **Edvard "Eetu" Isto**, an artist not related to us, but he was in close contact with our relatives Johannes Granö and his sons Johannes Gabriel and Paul as well as with Eugen Schauman.
4. **Johannes Granö** was a pastor in Siberia 1885-1891 and 1902-1913 servicing Finns who had moved there as well as prisoners who had been sent there for major crimes or political exile. Read about this in [Johannes Granö: "Sex År i Sibirien"](#). This book is on our homepage. From that I attached a couple of pages about him and the blackest of the black sheep in our family, Finland's most notorious mass murderer, **Matti Haapoja** (1845-1895).
5. **Jean Sibelius**, the composer
6. **Eugen Schauman**, an aristocrat, a national hero and assassin
7. **Lennart Hohenthal**, a national hero and assassin
8. **"Konni" Zilliacus**, the independence activist who arranged for weapons for the fight.
9. How did the regular people at that time look at these historical events? See what Grandfather **Karl Johan Granholm** wrote about how to cope with the challenges of the emerging history at those tumultuous times and an unforeseen national war.

Runeberg was born in 1804 and his main publication, **The Tales of Ensign Stål, (Fänrik Ståls Sägner)** was written between 1848 and 1860. The ensign he refers to is **Carl Gustav Polviander**, (1788-1876) to whom we are related. This information is at the end of this book. Snellman was born in 1806, Isto was born in 1865, Johannes Granö in 1850, his sons Johannes in 1882 and Paul in 1883, Sibelius was born in 1865, Eugen Schauman was born in 1875 and Lennart Hohenthal was born in 1877. Konni Zilliacus was born in 1855. Grandfather Karl Johan Granholm was born in 1866. The Presidents Ståhlberg was born in 1865, Svinhufvud in 1861 and Mannerheim in 1867, all related to us.

Thus the life and accomplishments of these patriotic men span the time from when Finland was part of Sweden, next an autonomous Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire and finally became an independent nation. Whenever tyranny is replaced by freedom, even today, it seems to involve tragical consequences. This happened in Finland; an internal civil war for that freedom broke out within the country between two national factions, the paramilitary [White Guard](#) and the [Red Guard](#). A page is included showing what the New York Times wrote about this in 1918.

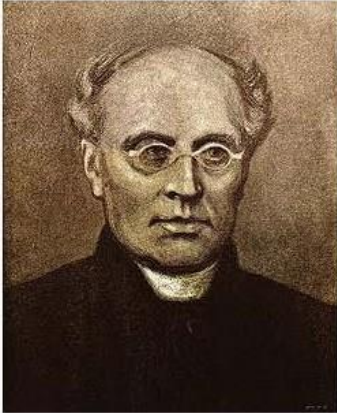
Read about how Finland was initially governed in the book [Finnish King and Presidents](#) showing how we are related to the only King of Finland and to five of the seven first Presidents

Lars Granholm, August 2014

Johan Ludvig Runeberg

Johan Ludvig Runeberg was a Finnish poet, and is the national poet of Finland. He wrote in the Swedish language.

Johan Ludvig Runeberg

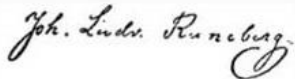


Johan Ludvig Runeberg (portrait by C. P. Mazer)

Born 5 February 1804
Jakobstad, Kingdom of Sweden

Died 6 May 1877 (aged 73)
Porvoo, Grand Duchy of Finland, Russian Empire

Signature



Runeberg studied first in the cities of Vaasa and Oulu, later on at the Imperial Academy of Turku, where he befriended Johan Vilhelm Snellman and Zacharias Topelius. His studies concentrated mainly on the classical languages of Latin and Greek. From 1837 onwards he lived in Porvoo, where he served as professor of Latin literature in the Gymnasium of Porvoo (Borgå). He was married to his second cousin Fredrika Runeberg, née Tengström, with whom he had eight children and who wrote poems and novels, too.

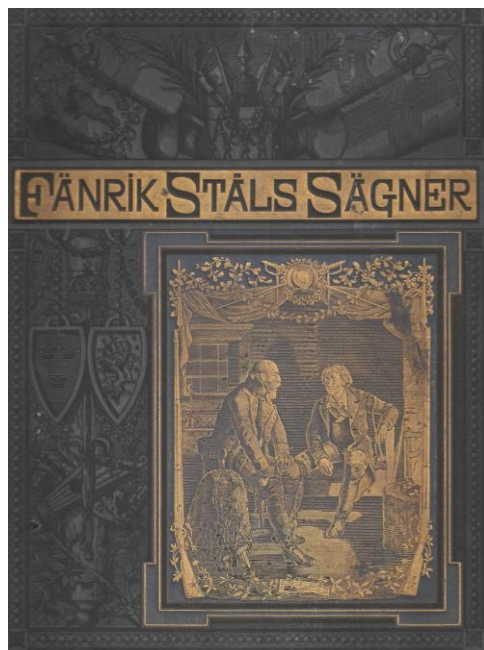
Runeberg's most famous work is *Fänrik Ståls Sägner* (**The Tales of Ensign Stål**) written between 1848 and 1860. It is considered the greatest Finnish epic poem outside the native Kalevala tradition and contains tales of the Swedish War of 1808-09 with Russia. In the war, Sweden ignominiously lost Finland, which became a Grand Duchy in the Russian empire. The poem, which is composed episodically, emphasizes the common humanity of all sides in the conflict, while principally lauding the heroism of the Finns.

The first poem in *Fänrik Ståls Sägner* became the Finnish national anthem **Vårt Land** (**Maamme laulu**, **Our Land**). The patriotic heroism of the poems colored Finnish consciousness and attitudes toward Russia in the following decades. The relatively harmonious political situation in autonomous Finland as part of the Russian Empire started later to shake, and Runeberg's poems were adopted by promoters of the independence movement. Runeberg's work also served as a cultural weapon in the Civil War (1918) and again in the Second World War.

A line from *The Tales of Ensign Stål*, "**Let not one devil cross the bridge**", became a slogan directed against the Russians.

Below is a YouTube link to one version of the first verse of "**Our Land**" sung in Finnish and Swedish.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x31ZWU0-DV0&feature=related>



1.

Our land, our land, our Fatherland!
Ring out, dear word, oh sound!
No rising hill, or mountain grand,
No sloping dale, no northern strand,
There is, more loved, to be found,
Than this — our fathers' ground.

2.

Our land is poor, and so shall be
To him who gold will crave.
The strangers proudly pass, but we
Shall ever love this land, we see,
In moor, and fell, and isle and wave,
A golden land, so brave.

3.

We love our rippling brooks, so bright,
Our gushing streams, so strong,
The whisper of dark woods, at night,
Our starry skies, our summer light,
All, all that we, in sight and song,
Have felt and lived among.

4.

Here fought our fathers, without fear,
With sword, and plough, and thought.
And here, in clouded times, and clear,
With fortune in their front or rear,
Their Finnish hearts have beat, and wrought
And borne what bear they ought.

5.

Who tells, of all the fights, the tale,
In which this folk withstood,
When war did rage from dale to dale,
When frost set in, with hunger's wail?
Who measured all their pouring blood,
And all their patience good?

6.

And it was here their blood was shed,
For us, here, on this shore;
And it was here their joys were bred,
Here, that their sighs were heaved and fled,
That people's who our burdens bore
Before us, long before.

7.

Here it is sweet and good, we wot,
All, too, is giv'n us here;
However fate may cast our lot,
A land, a fatherland, we've got.
Will there a thing on earth appear
More worthy, to hold dear?

8.

And here's, and here's this fatherland,
Here every eye it sees;
And we can stretch a pointing hand,
To show, with joy, its sea and strand,
And say, "Behold this country, this,
Our Fatherland it is."

9.

And if we once were made to rise
To gold clouds, from below,
And if we moved in starry skies,
Where no one weeps, where no one sighs,
To this poor lonely country, though,
Our longing hearts would go.

10.

Oh land, the thousand lakes' own land,
Of faith, and lay, and glee,
Where life's main sea gave us a strand,
Our fore-time's land, our future's land,
Shy of thy poorness, never be,
Be calm, be glad, be free!

11.

Thy blossom, hidden now from sight,
Shall burst its bud ere long.
Lo! from our love, shall rise aright,
Thy sun, thy hope, thy joy, thy light,
And higher, once, more full and strong,
Shall ring Our Country's song.

Relationship Chart

Lars Erik Granholm is the 4th Cousin 3 times removed * of Johan Ludvig Runeberg



Johan Vilhelm Snellman

Johan Vilhelm Snellman



Johan Vilhelm Snellman (12 May 1806 – 4 July 1881) was an influential Fennoman philosopher and Finnish statesman, ennobled in 1866.

Snellman was born in Stockholm, in Sweden, as son of Kristian Henrik Snellman, a ship's captain. After the Russian conquest of Finland in 1808–09, and the promising establishing of the semi-autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland, his family moved there in 1813, to the Ostrobothnian coastal town of Kokkola, where his mother Maria Magdalena Snellman died only a year later.

In 1835, after academic work in Hegel's following, Snellman was appointed lecturer at the University of Helsinki, where he belonged to the famous circle of Cygnaeus, Lönnrot, and Runeberg comprising the brightest of their generation. Snellman's lectures quickly became popular with the students, but in November 1838 his lectureship was temporarily recalled after a judicial proceeding that ultimately aimed at establishing the government's firm control of new and oppositional thoughts among the academics.

As a consequence Snellman exiled himself to Sweden and Germany, more or less voluntarily, from 1839 to 1842. By the time he returned to Helsinki, his popularity had increased further, but the political juncture did not allow the University to employ him. Instead he took up the position as headmaster for a school in distant Kuopio, and published starkly polemical periodicals, including the paper *Saima* in Swedish that advocated the duty of the educated classes to take up the language of the then circa 85% majority of Finns, and develop Finnish into a language of the civilized world useful for academic works, fine arts, state craft, and nation building.

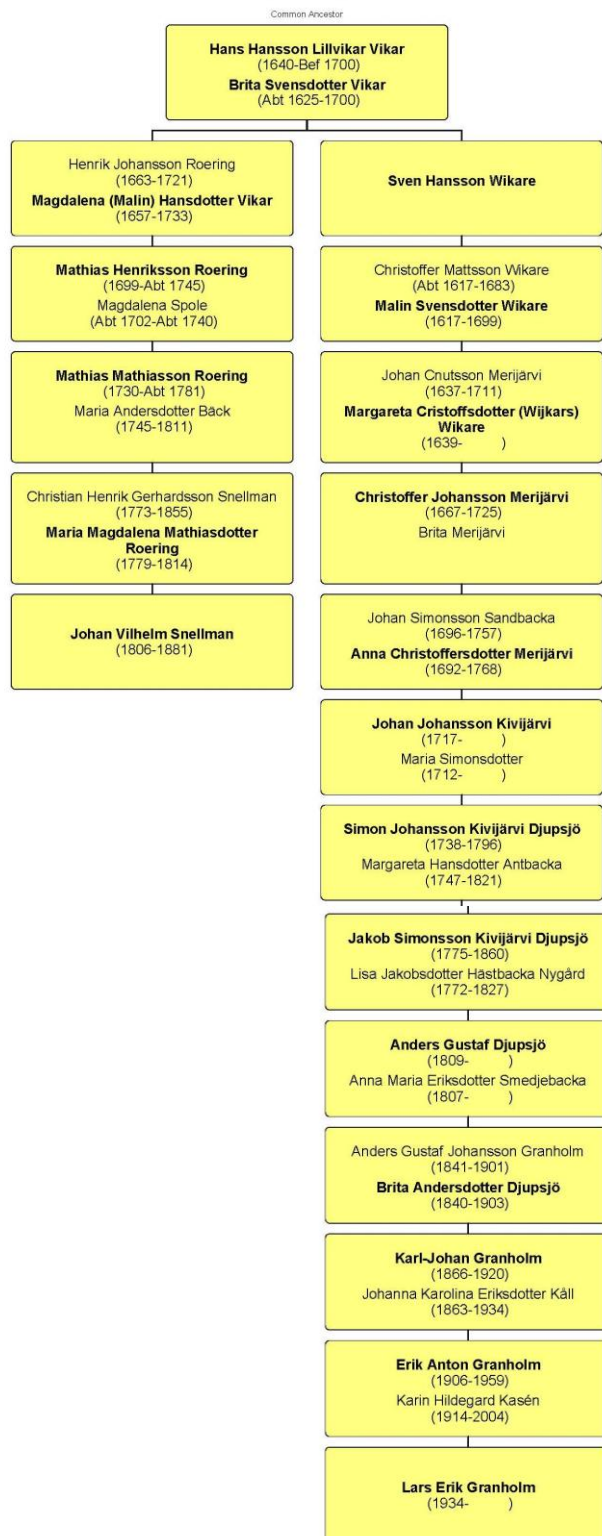


Statue of Johan Vilhelm Snellman in front of the Bank of Finland, Helsinki

In 1863 Snellman was called to a cabinet post in the Senate of Finland, in effect as Chancellor of the Exchequer, where he became an energetic and valued senator, accomplishing a *language decree* from the Emperor, that gradually would give Finnish a position equal to that of Swedish within the Finnish government, and thereby practically in Finland at large, the re-establishment of the Parliament, that had remained inhibited since the Russian conquest, and finally the introduction of a separate Finnish currency, the Markka, in 1865, that came to be of the utmost value for Finland.

Relationship Chart

Lars Erik Granholm is the 4th Cousin 8 times removed * of Johan Vilhelm Snellman



Edvard “Eetu” Isto



Edvard (Eetu) Isto was as a painter quite unknown. Nevertheless, he painted one of the greatest pictures of Finnish history. The **Attack** is his only well known work. He painted it in his last years, and never saw Finland's independence, which had always been his greatest dream.



came up with an idea: the picture itself was on the one side and it has kept in a HOLY place above the fire place, on the other side there was a picture of the Czar of Russia together with the national emblem. The picture was easy to turn over to the more Russian friendly side when the gendarmes came to village. Pictures, the size of a stamp, could even be found in Russian wallets.

What then made the picture so wanted and haunted? The painting itself looks innocent. A young girl defends a great book against a two headed eagle. In the background there is a stormy seaside. The picture's message reveals itself in symbolic ways. The virgin is dressed in the colors of Finland, white and blue, and her belt's buckle is the Finnish herald. The woman looks panicky and helpless. On her arms she carries the Finnish book of law which has been Finland's symbol for almost hundred years from the age of the autonomy. The two headed eagle is Russia's herald animal, which is trying to rob the law book from the girl and destroy it. The stormy sea, dark sky and barren shore represents Russia's violations and the fruit basket laying at the virgin's feet represents Finland's far gone period of wealth. Nevertheless, the new dawn rises in the skyline.

The paintings meaning for the Finnish people was in encouragement. That gave faith and strength for Finns from all layers of society to fight back Russia. The years 1898-1905 were called the first period of oppression. That time came the decision for a quick and thorough operation of spreading Russian culture into the Finnish lifestyle. Finland almost lost its own language, independence, own money and other autonomic symbols. But we did get our independence despite all the difficulties.

In Berlin, Isto painted the most famous work, the attack, describing the Russian double-headed eagle, attacking the "Maiden of Finland". The painting was completed in 1899, the same year,

when the Czar Nicholas II issued a decree known as the “February Manifesto”, which proposed to greatly limit the independence of Finland.

Isto went back to Berlin in 1899 and lived there for a couple of years. In the summer of 1901 he returned to Finland and Alatornio where he lived as a guest of Pastor [Johannes Granö](#) at the Parasniemi parish. He painted portraits; including of pastor Granö, the Oulu high school principal Mauno Rosendal and the industrialists Tomas Friis form Kokkola.

Pastor Granö traveled in the spring of 1902 to Siberia, where many Finnish people opposed to the Russian influence had been deported. Granö had asked Isto to visit Siberia. The trip took place in the summer of 1905, when John Isto with Granö boys Johannes Gabriel Granö and Paul Granö traveled with the pastor to a Helsinki-named village in Siberia. Isto became ill with typhoid fever in Siberia. In autumn 1905 he returned to Finland, and soon after his return died of pneumonia at an age of almost 40. http://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edvard_Isto

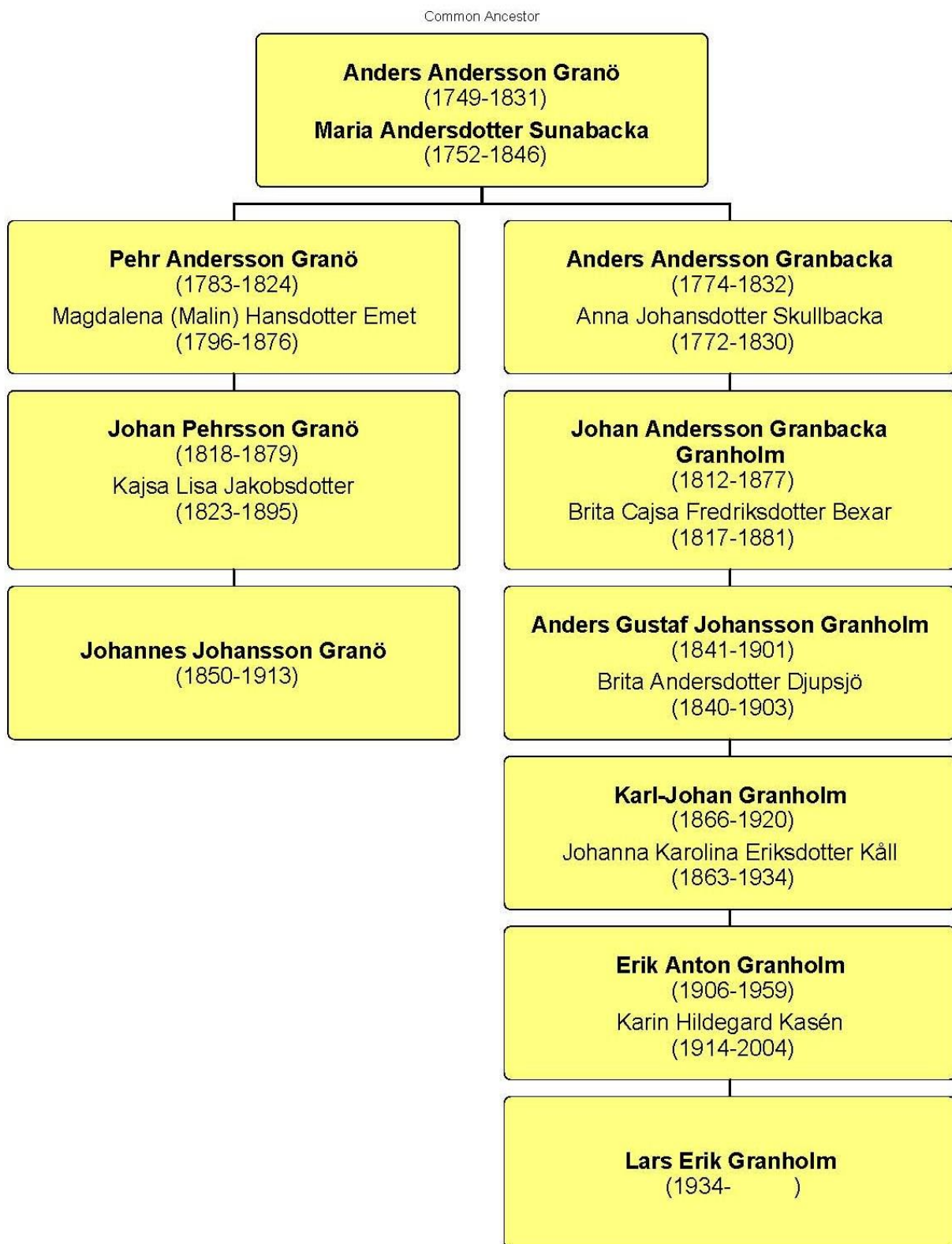
As described above, some people in Finland were deported to Siberia for just having displayed Isto’s painting, so they sure must have appreciated that he took the risk to come and visit them.



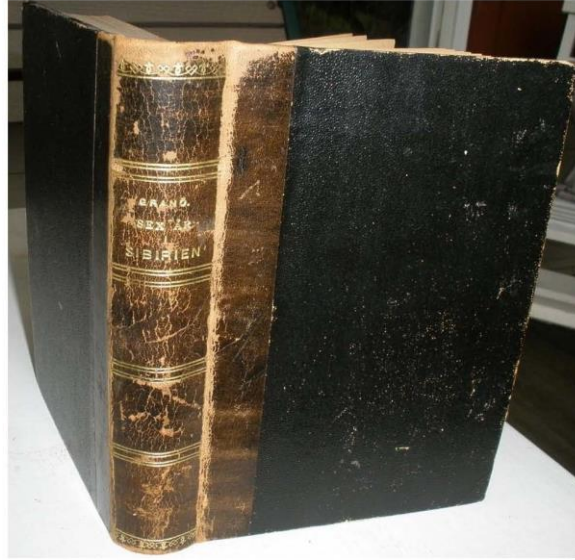
The pastor Johannes Granö, vicar Paul Josef Granö, the pastor’s wife Alma Granö b. Fontell, Edvard (Eetu) Isto, professor J. G. Granö (in Russian shirt). Picture from Siberia. (Picture from [Släkten Granö](#),)

Relationship Chart

Lars Erik Granholm is the 2nd Cousin 3 times removed * of Johannes Johansson Granö



Johannel Granö: Sex År i Sibirien



till kolonin, efter att hafva uttjänt sin straffid vid kronans arbetsvärk. Bland mera namnkunniga förbrytare träffade jag därborta Sutki och Haapaoja.

Under min vistelse i den finska byn voro de bägge par gånger hos mig. Haapaoja hade kommit dit i sista somras. Annars bor icke Sutki i Werchne-Suetuk, utan vid ett bränneri på halva vägen från Minusinsk till kolonin och hos honom är Haapaoja i kvarter. På min återresa från Werchne-Suetuk stannade jag hos Sutki, på hans enträgna begäran, ett par timmar. Han hade två skomakare hos sig i arbete och åtnjuter stort förtroende på orten, som en redlig och god skomakare. Begåfvad med ett vänligt och lifligt lynne är han icke en otreflig värd, och då man vid lampans sken satt och drack té med honom, glömde man bort hvad han varit. Haapaoja skrattade rätt godt, då han funderade hvad man i Finland skulle säga, om man hörde, att Sutki och Haapaoja bo tillsammans.

Jag förmodar, sade jag, att man icke skulle hafva ett synnerligen stort förtroende för detta bolag. Huru Haapaoja kommer att uppföra sig därstädes, skall väl tiden utvisa, men Sutki spådde: „ei Matista ainakaan vielä miestä tule ja tuskin koskaan“. („Icke blir det ännu någon karl af Matti och knappast blir han det någonsin“). Enligt hvad han sade, hade Haapaoja försökt öfvertala honom att börja i kompani drifva det gamla yrket. Då han sade sig hafva bestämdt nekat därtill, så tog

jag honom i hand och tackade honom, samt önskade att Herren måtte bevara honom från återfall.

Litet hämskt låg det för mig under hela resan att Sutki åtminstone fem gånger bedt mig att noga taga mig till vara på resan. „Där de äro mest vänliga, där skall ni mest akta er“, sade han. Många österbottningar träffade jag i östra Sibirien. Bland andra en Oravais-bo, som tre gånger varit på rymmarfärd till hemorten. Han tyktes vara en stilla karl, (om jag ej missminner mig så hette han Eriksson), men hade lidit af en olidlig hemlängtan. Bland annat berättades det för mig om en persons öde, som jag i min barndom hörde mycket omtalas. Personen var Karl Granroth eller Pirilo, känd såsom den åttafaldige mördaren, hvilken försökte dölja sina brott under skenhelighetens täckmantel. Han hade slutat sitt lif redan på resan till Sibirien i Perm. Annars sades det om honom, att han läste hela nätter och blef som litet vurmig på sistone.

Men tiden medgifver icke att skriva vidare för denna gång. Någon gång vill jag, om Gud hjälper, resa under högsommar till denna härliga ort, som ofta kallas „Sibiriens Schweiz“. Då hoppas jag kunna fara med ångbåt från Krasnojarsk till Minusinsk samt få se huru Jenisej brutit sig väg genom höga berg. Man har par somrar redan underhållit ångbåtsförbindelse på öfra Jenisej, och alla som rest där, tala med förundran om den storartade natur man har att öfverskåda från ångbåten.

Matti Haapoja



Matti Heikinpoika Haapoja ([16. syyskuuta 1845 Isokyrö](#) – [8. tammikuuta 1895 Turun vankila](#)) oli eteläpohjalainen [puukkojunnkari](#). Hänen tiedetään varmasti tehneen kolme [murhaa](#), mutta niitä on sanottu olleen yhteensä 22–25. Haapojasta tuli eläessään kuuluisa ja [sanomalehdet](#) käsitteivät hänen murhatöitään laajasti ja yksityiskohtaisesti.

Hän oli [Turun vankilassa](#) eli Kakolassa [elinkautisvankina](#) vuosina [1871–1879](#), mutta karkasi neljästi. Vuonna [1880](#) hänet karkotettiin [Siperiaan](#). Sieltä hän pakeni vuonna [1890](#). Tämän jälkeen hän joutui uudelleen Kakolaan, jossa hän teki itsemurhan [hirttäytymällä](#) vuonna 1895 tapettuaan sitä ennen kaksi vartijaansa vankilassa. Kuolemansa jälkeen hänen ruumiinsa annettiin lääketieteellisen käyttöön, ja luurankoa säilytettiin pitkään Ratakadun rikosmuseossa Helsingissä. Matti Haapoja haudattiin viimein [Ylistaroon](#) syyskuussa 1995.

Näytelmäkirjailija [Jussi Kylätasku](#) on kirjoittanut Matti Haapojan elämästä näytelmän *Haapoja* (1989)

"Ei suomi toista tunne, vertaistaan murhaajaa, joka hengen riisti, ryösti ja teki tuhojaan". Näin laulettiin Suomen rikoshistorian ehkä tunnetuimmasta murhaajasta, Matti Haapojasta.

Matti Haapoja (September 16, 1845, [Isokyrö](#) – January 8, 1895, [Turku](#)) was a Finnish murderer, much covered by the press at the time of the murders.

The exact number of his victims is unknown. He was convicted of two murders and was scheduled for a trial for his third murder trial when he committed suicide in his cell. He can be linked to seven other identified murder cases, but most of those happened during his exile in [Siberia](#) and are poorly documented, so his involvement is not certain. It is claimed that he confessed to 18 murders, but there are no details about this supposed confession, and the figure should be regarded as unreliable. Some sources estimate his total number of murders as 22-25. He also non-fatally wounded at least six men in knife fights.

Haapoja started his criminal career as a brawler, graduating quickly to stealing horses. His first known murder happened on December 6, 1867, when he stabbed his drinking partner Heikki Impponen in a drunken brawl. He was sentenced to serve 12 years in prison at [Turku](#) for his murder. During the next 10 years he escaped from prison four times, spending months at large on each occasion. Around this time he gained great notoriety as a jailbreaker and a thief. His fame as a robber started to grow after the newspapers reported that he had robbed and shot at Esa Nyrhinen on August 12, 1876. Later it was found that Nyrhinen had been hiding Haapoja at his home and the men had had an argument.

As a result of his escapes and continued thievery, Haapoja was sentenced to life in prison in 1874. After his last escape, he petitioned for his sentence to be changed to an exile to [Siberia](#). This was accepted and he was sent to [Omsk oblast](#) in 1880. During his stay there, he is reputed to have killed a man in 1886, after which he was exiled to East Siberia. Folk stories claim that

during this time Haapoja killed two other famous Finnish criminals, [Anssin Jukka](#) and [Kaappo Sutki](#), (LG: May 21, 1889) but these tales are likely false as they offer no conclusive proof.

Around 1889 Haapoja decided to escape Siberia and return to Finland. He later claimed that he intended to emigrate to [America](#). He raised money for this escape by committing a series of robberies and murders. He probably killed at least three men and participated in the murder of a fourth. He also obtained a [passport](#) that belonged to a Russian man whose fate remains unclear.

Haapoja returned to Finland in September 1890. A month later he murdered and robbed a [prostitute](#), Jemina Salo. He was captured at [Porvoo](#) a couple of days later and recognized. At his trial Haapoja behaved arrogantly, confessing to this murder as well as to one of the murders he had committed in Siberia. He hoped that he would be sent back to Siberia but instead the court gave him a second life term in prison.

On October 10, 1894, Haapoja tried to escape from prison yet again. During this attempt he killed a guard and wounded two others. When he realized that he couldn't get out, he attempted to commit suicide by stabbing himself, but the wound was not fatal. However, as soon as he had recovered from the self-inflicted stabbing wound, he [hanged](#) himself in his cell on January 8, 1895. His skeleton was kept in the Museum of Crime in [Vantaa](#) for a long time, until he was finally buried in [Ylistaro](#) in 1995.

The list of Matti Haapoja's victims

The three certain victims of Matti Haapoja were:

- Farmer Heikki Antinpoika Impponen, who was stabbed to death on December 6, 1867.
- Prostitute Maria Jemina Salo, strangled on October 8, 1890.
- Prison guard Juho Rosted, stabbed on October 10, 1894.

In addition, he likely killed seven other persons:

- Farmers Matti Heikkilä and Hermanni Hautamäki who were clubbed to death by an unidentified man at [Hämeenkyrö](#) on November 15, 1869. Haapoja was in the area at the time and years later he confessed an unspecified murder "that had happened in November 1869".
- An unknown man who was killed in [Siberia](#) in 1886.
- A convict identified only as "Jaakko H." from [Alajärvi](#), Finland, who was killed in Siberia in 1888.
- [Estonian](#) barkeeper Rugis was killed by Haapoja in [Tomsk](#) in 1889.
- "Rich-Matti" Kuivalainen, who was killed in Tomsk in 1889.
- [Estonian](#) convict Gustaf Sepp vanished without trace in [Simonjovka](#), [Siberia](#), in 1889, after he was last seen in the company of Haapoja.

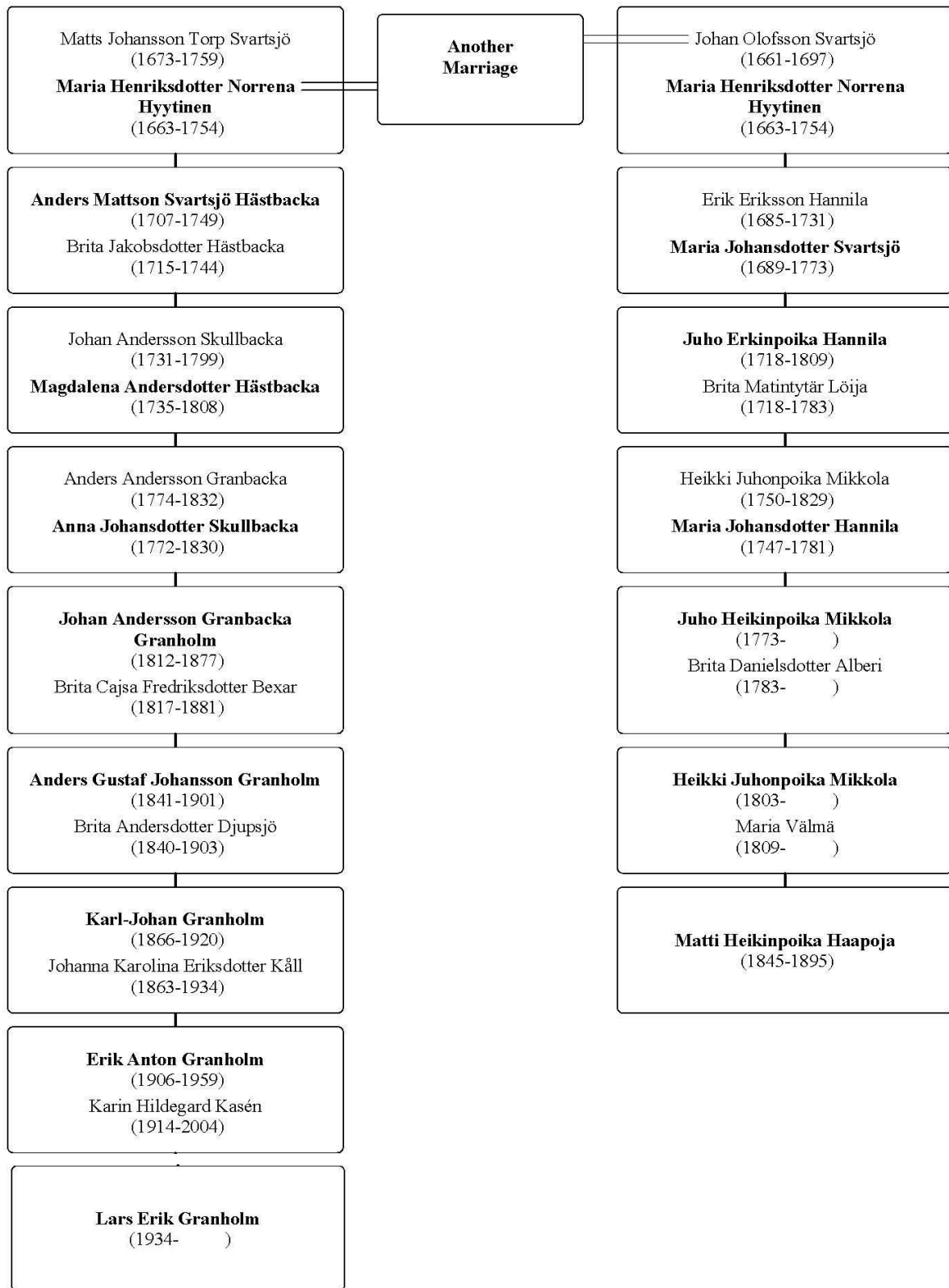
It is possible that there were more victims, but only these ten cases can be identified as certain or probable.

In six cases, Matti Haapoja wounded someone:

- Brawler Juho Tenkku who was stabbed around [Christmas](#), 1866.
- Farmer Hermanni Hösö was stabbed on December 6, 1867.
- Farmer Esa Nyrhinen was shot three times (twice in the leg, once in the face) on August 12, 1876.
- A farmer identified as "Koivuniemi from [Vähäkyrö](#)" who was stabbed when Haapoja was apprehended after his last prison escape in January 1879.
- Prison guards Juho Jernvall and Sven Nyman were stabbed during Haapoja's last escape attempt.

During his last escape he got a chance to attack one more guard, but did not, because this guard had always been nice to the prisoners.

Matti Heikinpoika Haapoja is the Half 5th cousin twice removed of Lars Erik Granholm



Jean Sibelius

Portrait of Jean Sibelius from 1913



Jean Sibelius (8 December 1865 – 20 September 1957) was a Finnish composer of the later Romantic period whose music played an important role in the formation of the Finnish national identity. His mastery of the orchestra has been described as "prodigious."

Johan Julius Christian Sibelius was born into a Swedish-speaking family in Hämeenlinna in the Russian Grand Duchy of Finland, the son of Christian Gustaf Sibelius and Maria Charlotta Sibelius. Although known as "Janne" to his family, during his student years he began using the French form of his name, "Jean", inspired by the business card of his seafaring uncle. He is universally known as **Jean Sibelius**.

The core of Sibelius's oeuvre is his set of seven symphonies. Like Beethoven, Sibelius used each successive work to further develop his own personal compositional style. His works continue to be performed frequently in the concert hall and are often recorded.

In addition to the symphonies, Sibelius's best-known compositions include *Finlandia*, the *Karelia Suite*, *Valse triste*, the Violin Concerto in D minor and *The Swan of Tuonela* (one of the four movements of the *Lemminkäinen Suite*). Other works include pieces inspired by the Finnish national epic, the Kalevala;

Jean Sibelius wrote the "Finland" in 1899. A recurrent joke within Finland at this time was the renaming of *Finland* at various musical concerts so as to avoid Russian censorship. Titles under which the piece masqueraded were numerous, a famously flippant example being *Happy Feelings at the awakening of Finnish Spring*. Most of the piece is taken up with rousing and turbulent music, evoking the national struggle of the Finnish people. But towards the end, a calm comes over the orchestra, and the serenely melodic *Finlandia Hymn* is heard.

Read the story and listen to Finlandia: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XojVmivqDrA&feature=related>

Valse Triste: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ls8-pk4IS4>

Sibelius achieved his greatest popularity with *Valse triste*, a sad waltz which he composed for a play called *Death*, written by his brother-in-law Arvid Järnefelt. But Sibelius's immediate circle



feared that he was dancing a real Waltz of Death because of his way of living. "Janne, you must give up alcohol. You must," his brother Christian wrote to him on 19th November 1903. One day earlier Janne himself had taken measures to get away from the temptations of Helsinki: he bought a building site for a house close to Lake Tuusula, 45 km north of Helsinki. The house was to be called Ainola ("Aino's Place") and it would become the Sibeliuses' permanent home.

Relationship Chart

Lars Erik Granholm is the 9th Cousin 3 times removed * of Jean Johan-Julius Christian Sibelius



Eugen Schauman

Eugen Schauman



Eugen Schauman (10 May 1875 in Kharkov, Russian Empire – 16 June 1904 in Helsinki, Grand Duchy of Finland, Russian Empire) was a Finnish nationalist and nobleman who assassinated the Governor-General Nikolai Ivanovich Bobrikov.

Eugen Schauman was born to Swedish-speaking Finnish parents **Waldemar**, a general-lieutenant in the Russian army, a Privy Counsellor and senator in the Finnish Government, and **Elin Maria Schauman** in Kharkov, Russian Empire (now Ukraine). His brother **Rafaël** was born in 1873 and his sister **Sigrid** in 1877.

Schauman's patriotism is rumored to have been awakened in his childhood when his mother used to read him *The Tales of Ensign Stål* by Johan Ludvig Runeberg. The tales were combined with his yearning for home since the family was forced to travel because of

his father's work.

Before the assassination Schauman worked as a clerk in the Senate. Schauman also arranged a series of marksmanship courses for local students in Helsinki. These courses later became a part of the White Guards.



The assassination of Bobrikov was a topical question among the Finnish activists of the time. Other activist groups are known to have planned an assassination but Schauman convinced them to give him two weeks before they would intervene.

When Bobrikov came to the Senate house on 16 June Schauman shot him three times and then himself twice in the chest, with specially handloaded explosive bullets. Schauman died instantly. Two of the bullets that hit Bobrikov ricocheted off his decoration but the third bounced back from his buckle and caused severe damage to his stomach. Bobrikov died the same night in the Helsinki surgical hospital.

The grave of Eugen Schauman in the Borgå (Porvoo) cemetery

Schauman left a letter in which he stated that he justified his actions as a punishment for Bobrikov's crimes against the people of Finland. He addressed the letter to the Tsar and wanted him to pay attention to the problems in the whole Russian empire, especially in Poland and the Baltic Sea region. He also claimed he had acted alone and emphasized that his family was not involved in the assassination.

Schauman's body was taken to a nameless grave in the cemetery of Malmi in Helsinki. After the political situation eased up he was reburied in the Schauman family grave in the Borgå (Porvoo) cemetery and a monument was built on the grave.

Schauman became somewhat of an icon of the resistance to Imperial Russia and he is still today considered a hero in Finland. His fame can be characterized by his ranking as the 34th greatest Finn of all time in the Suuret suomalaiset television poll. In the place of the assassination in the hallway of the Council of State there is a memorial plaque that states *Se Pro Patria Dedit* (given himself for his country).

Nikolay Bobrikov

General-Governor Nikolay Ivanovich Bobrikov



Nikolay Ivanovich Bobrikov; born on January 27 1839 in St. Petersburg – June 16, 1904 in Helsinki, Finland) was a Russian soldier and politician.

Bobrikov became an officer in the Russian army in 1858 after which he served in the Kazan military district and as divisional chief-of-staff in Novgorod. He became a colonel in 1869. A year later he was transferred to Saint Petersburg for special duties in the Imperial guard. This gave Bobrikov access to the Imperial court. In 1878 he became a Major General.

In 1898, Tsar Nicholas II appointed Bobrikov as the Governor-General of Finland. Bobrikov was both hated and feared by the Finnish population as he thought that Finland was still a foreign country that threatened Russia. In 1899, Nicholas II signed the "February Manifesto" which marks the beginning of the first "Years of Oppression" (*sortovuodet*). In this manifesto the Tsar decreed that the

laws of the Empire take higher order of precedence than the laws of Finland. Half a million Finns signed a petition to Nicholas II requesting to revoke the manifesto. The Tsar didn't even receive the delegation bringing the petition.

In 1900, Bobrikov issued orders that all correspondence between government offices was to be conducted in Russian and that education in the Russian language was to be increased in schools. The Finnish army was abolished in 1901, and Finnish conscripts could now be forced to serve with Russian troops anywhere in the Russian empire. To the first call up in 1902, only 42% of the conscripts showed up. In 1905, conscription in Finland was abolished since Finns were seen as unreliable.

In 1903, Bobrikov was given dictatorial powers by the Tsar so that he could fire government officials and abolish newspapers. On June 16, 1904 Bobrikov was assassinated by Eugen Schauman in Helsinki. Schaumann shot Bobrikov three times and himself twice. Schauman died instantly and Bobrikov died later that night in the hospital.

Relationship Chart

1

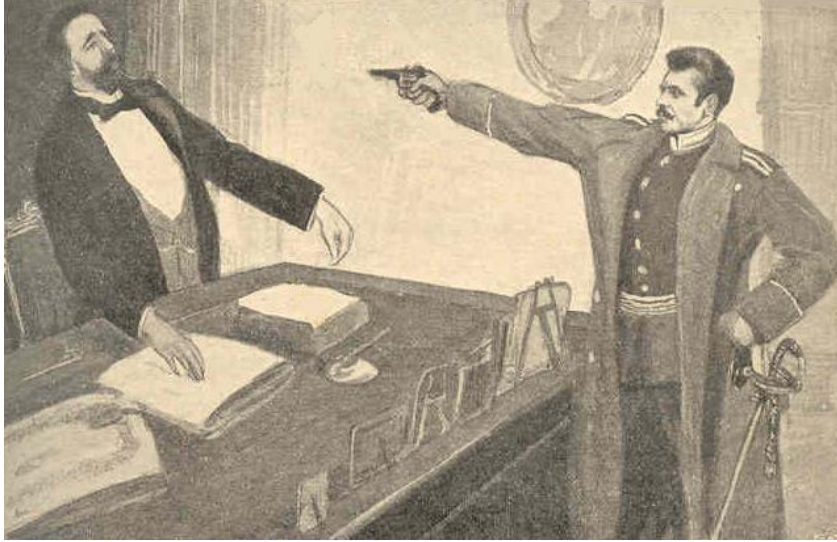
Lars Erik Granholm is the 10th Cousin twice removed * of Eugen Valdemar Schauman



1

Lennart Hohenthal

Lennart Hohenthal kills Eliel Soisalon-Soininen at his home on Bulevardinkatu 12 in Helsinki 6 Februari 1905.



A political murder dominated the news in Helsingin Sanomat in 1905. Much space in the paper was devoted to the murder, which took place on Monday, February 6th. The victim was Procurator Eliel Johnsson, also known by his nobleman's surname Soisalon-Soininen.

"Procurator shot" declared a news item covering two columns in the newspaper on

Tuesday, February 7th. At half past ten on Monday, "a large young man wearing an officer's uniform" had entered Johnsson's apartment in Helsinki on the top floor of the building at Bulevardinkatu 12. The man gave the maid a French calling card, which bore - as was later ascertained - a false name, and asked to speak with the procurator. He was taken to the study, where the procurator came through a door on the opposite side of the room.

"In the blink of an eye, he took out a revolver and fired several shots at the procurator, of which two, hitting the chest and abdomen, were fatal, according to statements later given by doctors. "The procurator fell immediately to the floor, and at the same time one of the two bodyguards in the procurator's suite came in and fired several shots at the stranger, two of which struck the murderer in one of his legs." "The shots were heard in an adjoining room, where the procurator's 17-year-old son John was staying. Armed with a revolver, he rushed into the reception room and also began shooting at the man dressed as an officer. Aiming at his chest, he fired a shot, which nevertheless apparently did not hit the target, because the murderer had only a small wound in one of his arms, in addition to the ones mentioned earlier. The murderer fired back, and hit the younger Johnsson in his left leg. The murderer tried to flee, but fell at the door of the hallway, where the "detectives" arrested him.

"The whole incident took place in a few seconds. The police and a doctor were summoned immediately. Dr. Evert Wasastjerna, who was holding his surgery at the time, was called, and he arrived within a few minutes from his nearby apartment. The procurator was already dead by this point." Four other Finnish doctors rushed to the scene, as well as a Russian military doctor. It was noted that the procurator had received 3 - 4 wounds in his chest and abdomen.

The gunman was believed to have been feigning a poor condition, although "he seemed to be quite fatigued". Later it was noted that he was unconscious; he had apparently hit his head and suffered a concussion as he fell. "He could not be made to talk. He responded to all questions with silence. On the same day it was revealed that the gunman was a masseur, Lennart Hohenthal, "about 26 - 28 years of age". The officer's uniform was not of any Russian regiment, but rather deliberately manufactured in order to perpetrate a ruse.

During the period of the Czars, the office of procurator involved serving as an assistant to the Russian Governor-General. He saw to it that laws were obeyed in the Grand Duchy of Finland, and he served as the supervisor of all of the country's prosecutors.

The Governor-General ordered that the "murder investigation must be left to Finnish officials, and that the matter should be placed before a Finnish court".

An even more thorough description of events was published in Wednesday's paper.

More details of the gunman had been received. He was Karl Lennart Hohenthal, born in 1877 in Kuortane, the son of a church pastor. He was a student of mathematics, who had given up his studies. He was an avid sportsman, a skilful hunter, who liked sailing. His character was described as zealous and stubborn, "For which reason he was considered somewhat odd".

Hohenthal could not be interrogated, because he was too weak. Through the week others were also interrogated - first mainly relatives, including Lennart's father, "the elderly vicar of Laihia".

Finnish newspapers rapidly began commenting and on this and on each other's stories.

Uusi Suometar emphasised that "the ruthless incitement that has taken place both publicly and in secret against our government men, and which has continued for years," and "which has primarily been targeted at the highest enforcer of the law", was the main reason for the assassination.

Helsingin Sanomat responded, writing that knowing the phenomena in the society of the previous years should have taught the people of the Suometar faction that "no incitement or instigation could achieve and maintain the rage in people's minds that manifests itself in state unrest and acts of violence, unless the conditions themselves have created [precisely] the kind of conditions that give rise to such phenomena".

The St. Petersburg newspaper Novoje Vremya noted, among other things, that "rebellion in Finland has taken the form of murder and follows the programme it has set out for itself. Governor-General Bobrikoff was the first victim, and now blood has been shed before our eyes for a second time." Bobrikoff was shot on the stairway of the Senate in June 1904, an act of individual protest against the severe Russification policies of the time.

The case was handled by the Helsinki City Court in April 1905. Hohenthal's defense advocate was the Court of Appeals assessor Svinhufvud, later President of Finland. The main theme of the defense was the Russian's reign of terror and its opposition. Svinhufvud considered that Soisalon-Soininen had not objected to Russification and had not defended the right of national opinions, although it should be the Procurator's most important official duty. Hohenthal and Svinhufvud did not consider this a murder, because it was considered a justifiable act against a tyrant. Despite defense arguments the Helsinki District Court sentenced him to life imprisonment. The Court of Appeal confirmed the sentence. A few months later he was able to escape to London. After Finland became independent the sentence was repealed, his act was considered part of Finland's fight for independence.

Relationship Chart

Lars Erik Granholm is the 11th Cousin twice removed * of Karl Lennart Hohenthal



Konni Zilliacus (senior)

Konrad Viktor (Konni) Zilliacus (18 December 1855, [Helsinki](#) – 19 June 1924, Helsinki) was a [Finnish](#) independence activist involved in the [Grafton Affair](#) in 1905.



Zilliacus was born in Finland, then part of the [Russian Empire](#). He studied law and then became a newspaper reporter, in which capacity he travelled the world, living for a period in [Costa Rica](#), then in [Chicago](#). He lived from 1894-1896 in Japan, followed by [Egypt](#) and [Paris](#). He returned to Finland in 1898, and submitted a petition to [Tsar Nicholas II](#) in 1899 demanding a constitution. He subsequently relocated to [Stockholm](#) in [Sweden](#) in 1900, where he began to publish a newspaper *Fria Ord* ("Free Speech") which supported independence for Finland.

Revolutionary activities

As one of the early leaders of the Finnish independence movement, he cultivated relations with the Russian revolutionary movement, and smuggled his newspaper and other revolutionary literature from Sweden to Finland on his yacht, as well as weapons. In February 1904, he met with Japanese [military attaché](#) and spymaster, Colonel [Akashi Motojirō](#), who provided large sums of money to assist him in developing subversive activities in an attempt to create domestic political instability during the [Russo-Japanese War](#). Zilliacus met with Polish independence activist [Roman Dmowski](#) and Russian revolutionary leader [Georgii Plekhanov](#) as well as other dissidents. With Japanese assistance, Zilliacus organized a conference of Russian revolutionary organizations in Paris in September 1904, which agreed upon a program of legal and illegal means to replace the current autocracy with a democratic government.

Following the abortive uprising in January 1905, he organized a second conference in [Geneva](#) in April 1905, with the participation of eleven revolutionary organizations. With Japanese financing, the conference purchased the steamer [SS John Grafton](#) and a large quantity of arms, which they unsuccessfully attempted to smuggle into Russia on September 8, 1905.

Following the independence of Finland, Zilliacus moved back to Helsinki in 1906; however, once his connections with the Japanese became public, he was forced to the [United Kingdom](#) with his family in 1909. His son, [Konni Zilliacus](#) was a [Labour Party Member of Parliament](#) of the United Kingdom for [Gateshead](#) and expert on British foreign policy.

Zilliacus returned to Finland in 1918, and died in a nursing home in Helsinki. In his final days, he wrote his memoirs of his underground activities, as well as a cookbook.

SS *John Grafton*

SS *John Grafton* was a [steamboat](#) that was used in an unsuccessful attempt to smuggle large quantities of arms for the Finnish resistance to the [Imperial Russian](#) regime in 1905 during the [Russo-Japanese War](#). The matter later came to be known as the "Grafton Affair".

John Grafton was a 315-ton ship built in 1883. It was bought by Japanese army officer and intelligence agent [Akashi Motojiri](#) in 1905 to aid an armed uprising in [Finland](#). This was done nominally in the name of a sympathetic London wine merchant. The ship sailed to [Flushing](#) and on 28 July and the ship was renamed the *Luna*. The wine merchant sold the ship to a non British firm on this day, but did not report it. However, a subsequent inquiry conducted by the Maritime Department of the [Board of Trade](#) in September was able to retrospectively remove the ship from the English register of shipping, avoiding embarrassment when its subsequent activities came to the attention of the Russian authorities.

After the Russification in Finland increased, the resistance activist [Konni Zilliacus](#) in 1905 organized smuggling of weapons. The reason for this action was to provide the Finnish and the Russian resistance with weapons. With Japanese financing, *John Grafton* was bought. In London the ship was loaded with 15,500 Swiss [Vetterli rifles](#), 2.5 million bullets, 2,500 high-class English officer's revolvers and 3 tons of explosives. According to the original plan, the weapons were to be transported via the Netherlands and [Copenhagen](#) to a meeting place in the [Gulf of Finland](#), from where the journey would continue to [St Petersburg](#). On arrival, a part of the cargo would be offloaded and given to Russian revolutionaries.

After running into a few problems the route was changed, and the ship set course towards the [Gulf of Bothnia](#) and town of [Kemi](#), where parts of the cargo was offloaded. The journey continued to [Jakobstad](#), that, like Kemi, was a center for the Finnish resistance. The ship was guided into the rocky archipelago north of Jakobstad and the offloading of the weapons was conducted without any big problems. When the ship continued its journey south, she ran aground. The crew started to salvage what remained of the weapons. It quickly becomes clear that the whole cargo could not be salvaged. The captain, J.W. Nylander, made the decision to blow up the ship to avoid it ending up in the hands of the Russian authorities. On the afternoon of 8 September 1905 the ship was blown up with three powerful charges. The sound from the explosion was heard far way.

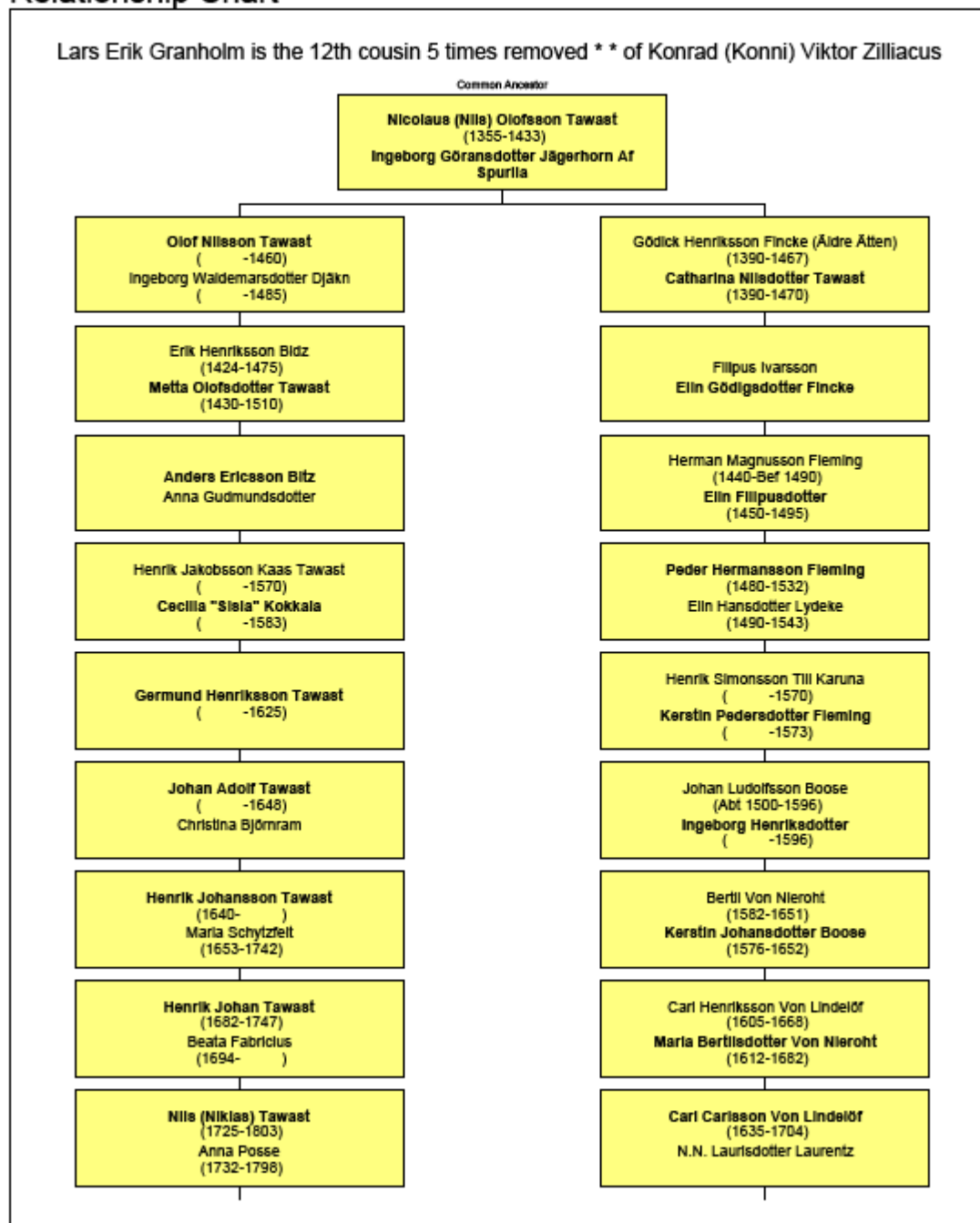
Despite the harsh censorship during the Russification, widespread speculation about the event occurred in both Finnish and foreign newspapers. Even though the plans for *John Grafton* did not pan out, the event is considered one of the first concrete actions for an independent Finland. In 1930 a monument was unveiled at [Ornskär](#) in [Larsmo](#) to commemorate the event. To this day parts of the cargo and ship lie at the bottom of the gulf.

The weapons that had been offloaded started to spread out into the villages (where they amongst other things were used for moose hunting) and were later part of the [White Guard](#) armory when they were founded in 1917. The already old weapons were never used in any military manner. The Russian authorities salvaged parts of the cargo and sunk them further out where the depth was greater.

When Finland had become a [grand duchy](#) in the [Russian empire](#) in 1809, Finland was allowed to keep its own laws, language and religion. In the end of the 19th century this position was threatened, as [russification](#) policies were suggested and attempted. The Russification campaign resulted in resistance of which the arms smuggling by *John Grafton* was a part. Eventually no military action were performed, though.

Relationship Chart

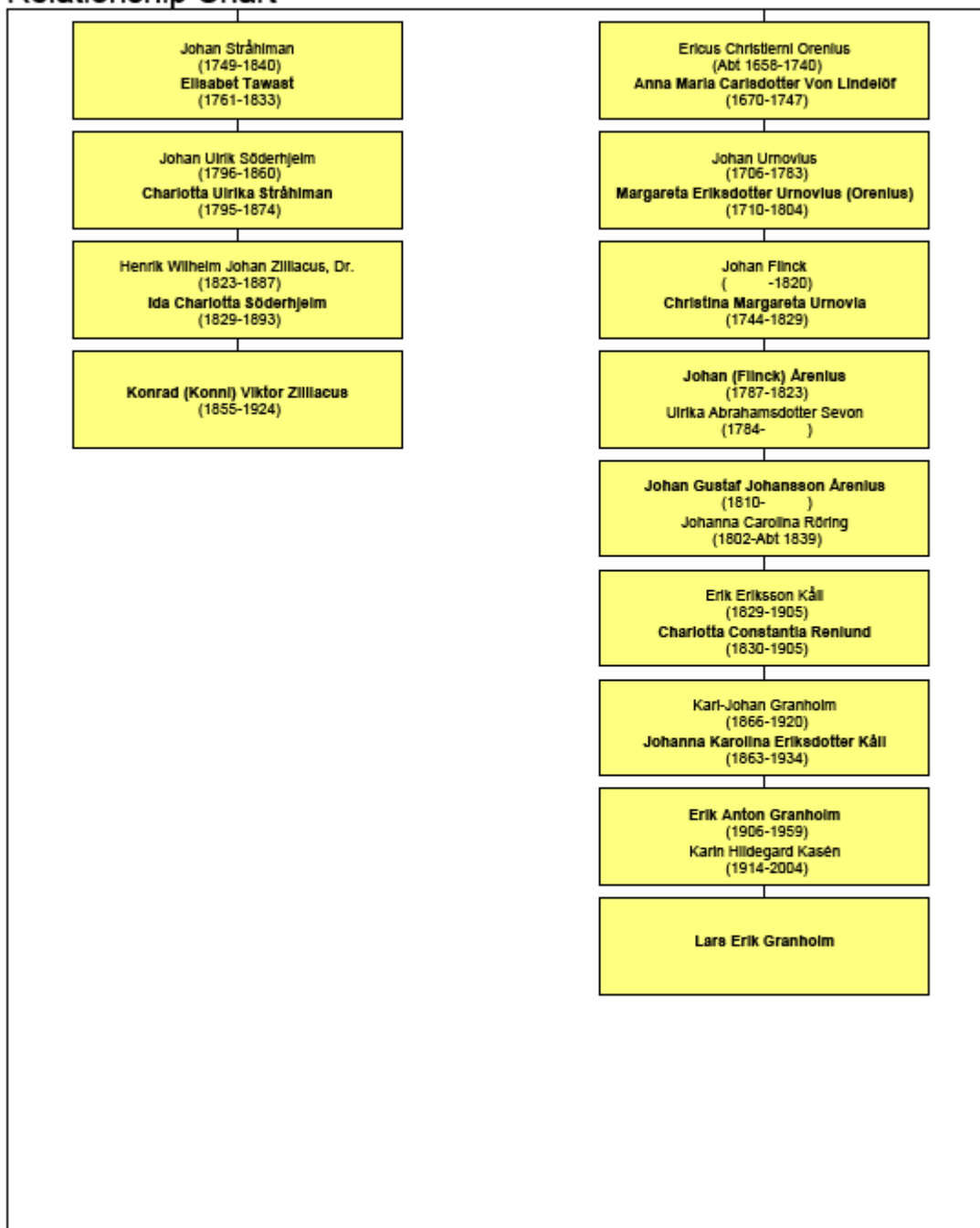
1



Produced by Legacy on 6 Aug 2014

Relationship Chart

2



Produced by Legacy on 6 Aug 2014

What did the people in Finland think and react to these events? In 1908 Grandfather, as a village leader and parent, was obviously concerned and wrote these wise thoughts and reflections.

MY THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

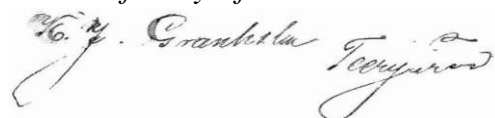
I sit today - a Sunday - contemplating my half finished new dwelling, which will contain a heated room on the upper floor. The thoughts wander to a long harbored wish to make this a room for the family to gather. May this be our "gathering room" where we together will be able to exchange views of the experiences of life, both in the material and spiritual worlds.

The need for a closer understanding of each other within the family, in these social times, is clear. The young get enthusiastic and are cradled in the different maelstroms of life, both good and bad, healthy and harmful, for body and soul. The elder in the family, who, in accordance with the laws of nature, are more conservative - with a narrower, older view of things - often have a difficult time comprehending and appreciating the justification of all the new ideas, because of the reason that the older ones have passed their development phase, that is, experienced their youth and won a certain perception of the wisdom of life, as well as learned the value of life, and realized that not everything that glitters in the fantasies of youth is gold. Only a small percent of the carats, which are contained therein, are real. These differences in viewpoints, it appears to me, should already within the home and family be settled to the extent possible in order to be applied in the practical life. All achievement must have a reason (inner conviction) to gain understanding.

Every society requires cooperation among its members to attain the goals of the society. The state requires loyal and cooperating citizens. How important, for this reason, is cooperation in the home, which must lay the foundation for all civic and spiritual life. If this is neglected - which often is the case - the reasons and consequences are clear. The family members find no compassion for each other and consequently cannot act in consonance with each other. The outcome will be disagreements and fights. Initially in thoughts; thoughts give birth to words and reap action.

Going back to my reflections about the half-finished new building, I wish we would reach a higher plateau in this warm attic room, here we could bring our higher and warmer thoughts to be exchanged. The elders' thoughts to possibly rejuvenate, and the youngers' to mature. The thought itself in neither young nor old. It is eternal - immortal, though always new. But sowed, it gives birth to action, good or evil.

May we learn to live a life in real unity. To now and then isolate the thought from the everyday; its struggles and worries for tomorrow, taking one day at a time, as it is us given. Share its pleasures and pains in common understanding among young and old. Let us remember, when we look down from our new attic window over the hills and vales, that we are no higher beings. Let us turn our eye toward the height from where the all-seeing eye, in its mercy, looks down upon us, searching out the innermost thoughts in our hearts. May He lead and teach us to think and live the real family life!



WHITE GUARD WINS BATTLES IN FINLAND

*Captures Over 1,800 of the Red
Guard, Whose Forces Are
Retreating.*

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 9.—Advices from Haparanda say that Tammerfors has been in the hands of the White Guard since Thursday. Railway communication between Petrograd and Viborg has been interrupted, and it is believed that the White Guard has finally captured Viborg.

As a consequence of an order issued by the White Guard at Tornea, that the failure to surrender arms would be punished by death, thousands of rifles, a quantity of ammunition, and four machine guns have been handed over. In the fighting at Uleaborg the White Guard was victorious, 1,300 of the Red Guard being taken prisoners.

According to a message received from the headquarters of the White Guard in Vasa, the Red Guard has experienced other serious reverses in recent fighting. The statement says:

"Last night, after eleven days of minor encounters, the Red Guard at Knopie surrendered. More than 500 were taken prisoners. Near Antarea, in the Province of Karelia, the Government forces captured six field guns, eleven machine guns, and large quantities of munitions, provisions, motor cars, and rifles.

"The battle continues at Vilppula. On the other fronts the enemy is retreating, pillaging and burning as he goes."

LONDON, Feb. 9.—According to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, a special correspondent of the Berlingske Tidende, who succeeded in escaping from Helsingfors, sends to his paper a wireless report, which was not allowed to pass the Red Guard censorship, in which he says that the Red Guards have made a frightful slaughter of great masses of Finnish people, and have been plundering and killing in a most brutal manner.

The theatre and a large number of public buildings in Helsingfors have been destroyed. The Red Guards, however, have been unable to control the people, and anarchy is increasing. Storehouses in Helsingfors which contained food from Denmark for starving Finns have been destroyed by the Red Guards and Russian Bolsheviki.

Scandinavians from Finland, according to another Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, report that the Red Guard Government in Finland a few days ago seriously discussed the question of arranging a "St. Bartholomew's Eve." It is said they planned to kill all members of the capitalist class over 8 years of age. The project was rejected by only two votes.



FÄNRIK STÅL OCH STUDENTEN. R. W. Ekman 1853

Ensign Stål and the student. R. W. Ekman 1853

ENSIGN STÅL

What joy it is, alone at night,
To feel my thoughts returning
To youthful years, wherein the light
Of friendly stars is burning!
Who'll join me on the road I take
To Näsijärvi's dusky lake?

'Twas there I learned to know a man,—
An ensign's rank he'd won him
In soldier days, but now the ban
Of ill luck was upon him.
He'd come to live, the Lord knows why,
At the same countryplace as I.

My station left me naught at all
To wish, in my opinion.
I was a tutor at "the hall,"
Was truly fortune's minion.
On great folks' fare I freely fed;
The old man lived on parish bread.

I smoked a mixture with a crest,
A meerschaum pipe I flaunted;
Old Stål had only plug at best,
And that supply was scantied,
So that quite often, at a loss,
He'd stuff his birchen pipe with moss.

O age of gold, O life that gleams
With purest joy and pleasure,
When one is young, and student dreams
Fill every rift of leisure,
And one's worst worry is the fear
That one's mustache will not appear!

Self-centered in my happy lot,
I little knew life's rigor.
My arm was strong, my blood ran hot,
My cheek was bright with vigor.
So brimful I of zest and youth,
No king could be more proud, forsooth!

But Ensign Stål did not complain,
Though lonely and unheeded,
He puffed his pipe, he wove his seine,
While on we others speeded.
Good Lord! compared to such as he
How mightily important we.

'Twas fun to watch as in those days
He plied his occupation;
His wrinkled face, his awkward ways,
His coat of antique fashion;
His nose, a jutting aquiline,
With glasses of absurd design..

How often by his cottage fire
I'd sit and play the devil!
Fine sport it was to fan his ire,

To make his nets unravel
By knotting all the loops awry.
Good glory! how the sparks would fly!

He'd jump up, yell "Be off with ye!"
But soon his wrath abated;
A pipeful, an apology,
And I'd be reinstated.
I'd saunter in next day, and then
The comedy 'd begin again.

That he, like me, had had what youth
So lavishly provided,
And that he knew far more, in truth,
Of what life meant than I did,
All this I was by far too wise
In college lore to recognize.

I guessed not that with sword in hand
He once had striven and cheer'ly
Offered his heart's blood for the land
I since have loved so dearly.
My thoughts ran wild in everything;
He was but ensign, I a king.

Then for some reason life went wrong;
My zest for it was finished.
The winter day was far too long,
Though daylight hours diminished.
All was so different from before,
Each minute seemed an endless bore.

I sought the bookshelf and took out
A volume just for pastime;
Anonymous it was, about
How Finland fought the last time.
It stood unbound and out of place
Amid the rest, as in disgrace.

I bore this book off, opened it
And started idly skimming,
When suddenly I chanced to hit
What set my senses swimming.
I read a sentence, I read two;
My heart began to throb anew.

Oh what a land, what men were these,
How resolute, how glorious!
An army that could starve and freeze
And yet remain victorious!
Onward and ever on I sped;
I could have kissed each page I read.

The hour of danger spurred this band
To bolder resolution.
What love didst thou inspire, O land,
Despite thy destitution,—
A love so strong, a love so sweet
From those thou gav'st but bark to eat!

A world now beckoned, which my thought
Had never yet laid eyes on,
My life expanded as it sought

The magic new horizon.
Too short the book, for now my day
Took wings and flew without a stay.

I put the finished volume by,
The evening hours had dwindled,
But none the less my heart burned high
With flame the spark had kindled.
So much there was to ask about—
But maybe Stål could help me out.

I found him seated, much the same,
Above his fishnets leaning.
His eyes, that glanced up as I came,
Could have no other meaning
Than, "When shall I be left in peace?
Will these intrusions never cease?"

But I was different from before,
My whole intent was altered.
"I've just been reading of the war,
The Russian war," I faltered.
"I am a Finn like you, and oh!
There's so much more I long to know."

Such was my greeting. In surprise
He looked straight up, looked harder,
And of a sudden his old eyes
Flashed with a warrior's ardor.
"Aye, my young master, if you'd hear,
I'll tell you right, for I was there."

I sat me on his couch of straw,
And story followed story.
What stirring battle-scenes I saw,
What deeds of deathless glory,
While strange and beauteous light was shed
Round the old soldier's grizzled head!

So many a bloody victory
He'd shared, and all as often
Defeat, with wounds of agony
That time could never soften.
Much that the world had else forgot
Still burned within him fierce and hot.

I sat there listening on and on
In silence, breathless-hearted,
And the long night was nearly gone
When I at last departed.
He rose and saw me to the door,
Pressing my offered hand once more.

From that time forth my visits came
To be a daily fixture;
Our joys, our sorrows were the same,
We both smoked my good mixture.
He was a sage, and I a fool,
A king he was, and I at school.

These tales I've sought to give in rhyme
Are what the ensign told me;
Beneath his flaring pine-torch, time
And time again they'd hold me.
Here in the simplest words they stand.
Take them, beloved fatherland!

CARL GUSTAV POLVIANDER

INFORMATION ABOUT CARL GUSTAV POLVIANDER

Finnish site: [Carl Gustav Polviander](#)
For the [Polviander](#) genealogy

CARL GUSTAV POLVIANDER (1788-1876)

Carl Gustav Polviander was born on 5.3.1788 in Mouhijärvi. His father was a pastor already in the third generation and the family tradition assumed that the eldest son would continue his father's work. The father enrolled him in Turku Academy Pastors' School. The boy was clever but at the same time quite wild and unruly like his fellow student Jaakko Henrik von Zidén, who in *The tales of Ensign Stool* is known as the valiant Lieutenant von Zidén. Together these two comrades played such practical jokes in Turku that the teachers in the Academy could not put up with them. The boys were expelled from the Academy as unfit for a spiritual position.

Books were exchanged for swords and at the turn of the year 1803-1804 the friends joined the Finnish army in the Royal Pori Regiment. Polviander's military abilities were noticed straightaway and on 26.4.1804 he was named as a billeter to the Ruovesi company. At the same time he received for his administration the Hainari military office house in Kuru.

Polviander was a tall and handsome man, a real military type, well over 3 ells tall (ell = 60cm), over 180 cm tall - an imposing man who had grey eyes, fair hair and a moustache. Even in his old age he retained his military bearing, always walking erect with springy steps. It was said that Polviander had a very gentle and playful disposition and as a good storyteller he was always ready to narrate his war reminiscences.

The soldier hero

Polviander received his baptism of fire by taking part with his regiment in the war of Sweden against Napoleon in Pommer in 1807. He was in the fiery Krüpersfront battle in front of Stralsund where the Pori Regiment, led by the brave Captain Ek, achieved fame. In this battle Polviander received a bullet in his calf which troubled him until his death.

As they started to hear disturbing news from their homeland, the Regiment was transferred back home where fiery battles were waiting for them. In Finland Polviander took part with his regiment in eight bigger battles in the War of Finland in 1808-09: in Kuuskoski, Siikajoki, Uusi Kaarlepyy, Lapua, Kauhajoki, Lapväärti, Juutas and Oravainen.

In the battles Polviander was wounded twice, worst in Kauhajoki, where a bullet hit his knee fairly badly. The ache caused by it added to his other troubles for the rest of his life. Otherwise he endured the wartime troubles

and hardships quite well. He was also with his regiment at the wretched time of surrender in Sievi. Polviander had decided in himself to tear the illustrious standard of the Pori Regiment into shreds and bash the flagpole into pieces on a stone rather than give them to the enemy. At the last moment he gave up this decision when he saw how other standard-bearers passed their flags undamaged to the victors.

In work for peace

At the end of the war Polviander returned to Kuru and settled down to live in his old office house in Hainari and which he could keep still out of grace. Of this Runeberg mentions in his poem Ensign Stål, "Stål, he only ate bread of grace". At the end of the war Polviander was only 22 years old.

Polviander lived a happy family life surrounded by numerous children and honored by all the villagers as their "Hainari Ensign". Known for his calm and jovial disposition, Polviander was respected and enjoyed great popularity with peasants as well as persons of social position. Life was simple and modest but it was said that the Ensign was just as happy and jovial whether they experienced good or bad days.

Hainari Ensign and young Runeberg

Polviander was fishing and hunting with people from upper social positions, especially with Captain of Enehjelm who lived in Ritoniemi in Ruovesi. On these trips he got in touch with Runeberg and a close friendship developed between them. Runeberg was a frequent guest at Kuru Hainari and thus he heard a lot of tales of war, etc. From these Runeberg collected material for *The tales of Ensign Stål*, Elk-skiers and many other poems. In Kuru Runeberg made many wide hunting trips with Polviander and so he got in close touch with the life of common people that interested him a great deal.

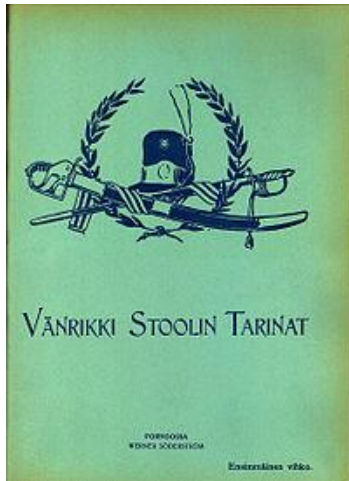
Honored old man of war

On the day of Kalle a delegation of old war heroes came to greet Polviander under the leadership of his old friend and war comrade Almi. They were wearing their old Pori uniforms and they honored their former well-liked standard-bearer with hurrah cheers and rifle shots. In the veterans' annual circuit this was perhaps the most anticipated event.

On the 50th anniversary celebration of the War of Finland in Tampere in 1858 the then already over 70 year old Polviander was the guest of honour. The war veteran presented himself in his full wartime uniform though afterwards he felt upset about its shabby state. With his upright stance, the white-bearded veteran was still admired by all and it was said that at the veterans' dances he was the favorite with the ladies so that he was continuously asked to dance the Polonaise.

The Ensign died in his office house in Hainari on 28 September 1876 and was buried on 15 October in the old cemetery of Kuru. His funeral became an impressive patriotic mourning occasion, for the Ensign at his death was the last veteran of the War of Finland. Before the Ensign's death he had directed a stone slab to be taken from the hill at Ämmänsilta but it should not be cut. That should be put on his grave as a simple tombstone. That was done.

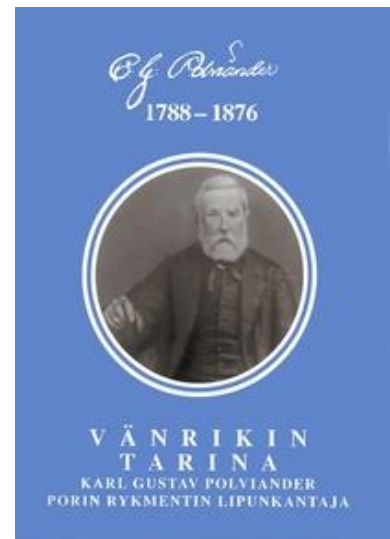
Vänrikki Stoolin tarinat



Vänrikki Stoolin tarinat ([ruots.](#) *Fänrik Ståls sägner*, uusimmassa suomennoksessa **Vänrikki Stålin tarinat**) on [Suomen](#) kansallisrunoilija [Johan Ludvig Runebergin](#) kirjoittama laaja runoteos.

Runot kertovat vuosina [1808–1809](#) käydystä [Suomen sodasta](#), joka oli [Venäjää](#) vastaan käyty tappiollinen puolustussota. Runeberg tekee sankariballadeissaan kunniaa sekä todellisille upseereille että keksityille kansanmiehille, jotka velvollisuudentuntoisesti puolustivat isänmaataan. 1840-luvulla kasvanutta kansallisuustunnetta ilmentävä ensimmäinen kokoelma ilmestyi vuonna [1848](#) ja jälkimmäinen kokoelma [1860](#). Ensimmäisen kokoelman avausruno [Maamme](#) (Vårt land) tunnetaan Suomen [kansallislauluna](#).

Vänrikki Karl Gustav Polvianderista on syksyllä 2009 ilmestynyt kirja "VÄNRIKIN TARINA, Karl Gustav Polviander, Porin rykmentin lipunkantaja". Kirja on myynnissä [Kurun palvelupisteessä](#) 20 euron hintaan. Kirjan on kirjoittanut Tuulikki Sillanpää-Janssen.



http://www.genealogia.fi/genos/13/13_112.htm

Från Kuru gamla kyrkogård.

En vacker försommarafton hade »dragande kall» fört undertecknad till Kuru kyrkoby. Den lilla sockenkyrkan med dess något originella klockstapel och fattiggubbe går väl ihop med den idylliska omgivningen. Nedanom kyrkan ligger vid Keihäslahti vikbotten av Näsijärvi församlingens gamla begravningsplats. Vid avtaget från landsvägen dit finnes ett anslag, på vilket man läser »Tie vänrikki Stålin haudalle».

Mot vanligheten på avlägsna landsorter är de dödas stad här rätt väl underhållen. Genast vid inträdet fångas blicken av en reslig vård i den på orten rikligt förekommande finkorniga graniten. Graven är inhägnad av bastanta järnkättingar. Inskriften på monumentet lyder: »*Kaarle Kustaa Polviander* * 1788 †1876. Porilaisten lipunkantaja. Taisteli Kuuskoskella, Siikajoella, Uudella Kaarleby'llä, Lapualla, Kauhajoella, Lappvärtillä, Juutaalla, Oravaisilla». Då Polviander utpekades som en av förebilderna till Runebergs »Fänrik Stål», har graven vårdats pietetsfullt av kommunen.

Relationship Chart

Lars Erik Granholm is the 7th Cousin 6 times removed * of Karl Gustaf Polviander

