



Farming in Finland

1550 to 1917

Barbara Wilson

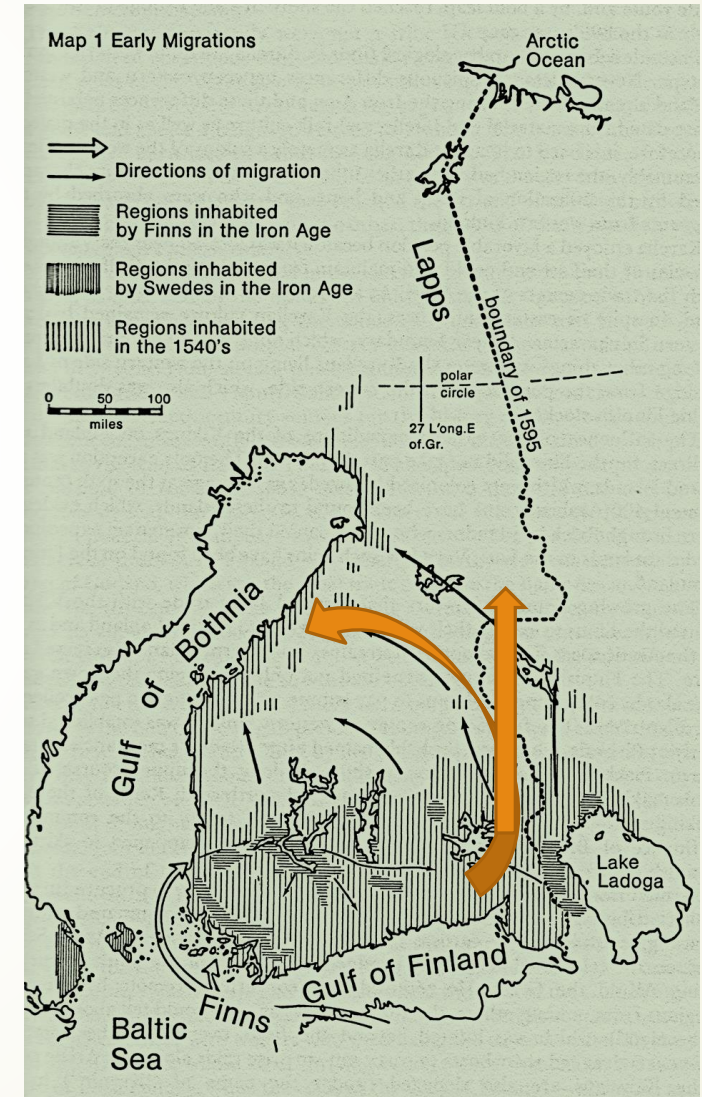
January 28, 2017

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Why 1550?

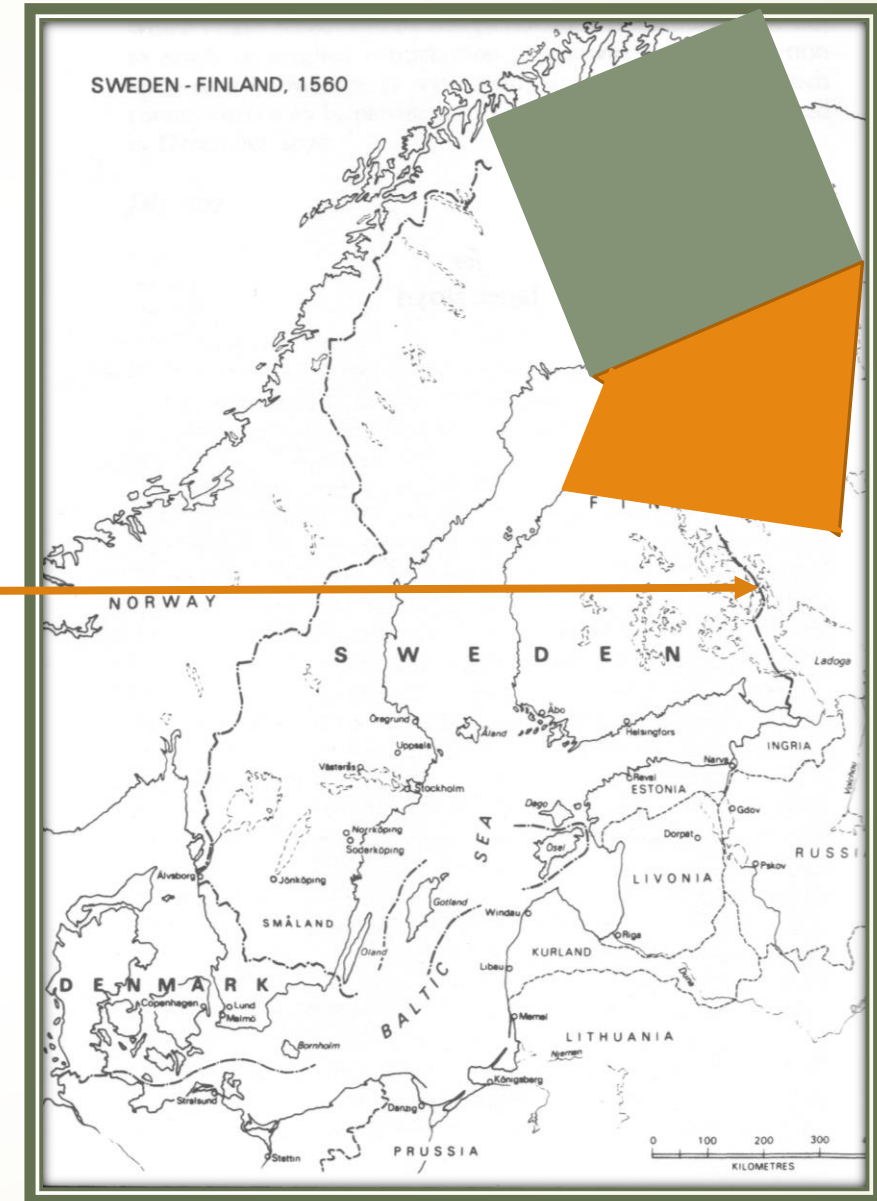
- Transition period for Finland/Sweden after the Middle Ages:
 - The Swedish crown became hereditary under Gustav Vasa (1544) and power became more centralized.
 - Agricola's Finnish ABC's were printed in 1543, and his New Testament in Finnish was printed in 1548.
 - King Gustav Vasa encouraged inhabitants of Savo to move into Kainuu and the wilderness of Central and Northern Ostrobothnia (1552).
 - Gustav Vasa required detailed record keeping.

Map from A History of Finland



Finland's Borders in 1550

- ▶ Borders were undefined for much of Finland.
- ▶ The one defined border with Russia was disputed.
- ▶ Parts of current Finland were also claimed by:
 - ▶ **Russia**
 - ▶ **Russia and Norway**



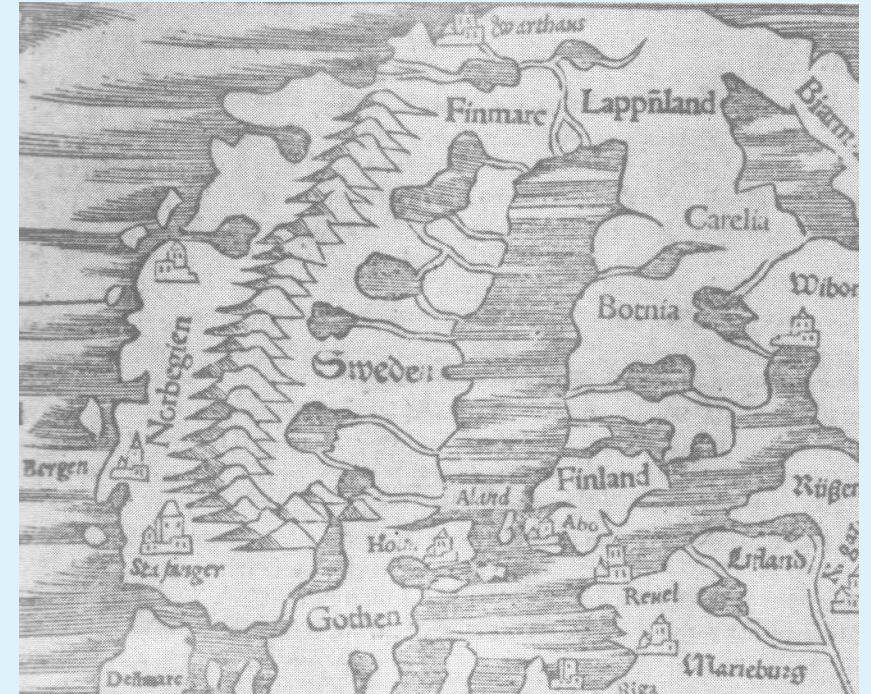
Map from the Swedish Imperial Experience

Outline:

- 1550 to 1600: **Period of “Bliss”**
- 1600 to 1690: **Empire Building**
- 1690 to 1720: **Multiple Disasters**
- 1720 to 1809: **Age of Freedom**
- 1809 to 1917: **The Grand Duchy**

Finland in 1550

- In the mid-1500s, Finland had a population of about 250,000 people. Only about 7,000 lived in towns.
- There were 34,000 farms growing:
 - Grains (barley and rye)
 - Cattle and sheep
- A few hundred of the farms were crown or noble manors. The rest were owned by peasants.
- One-third of the farms were in southwest Finland.
- 95% of the land in Finland was farmed by land-owning peasants.



Map by Sebastian Munster, 1552

Agriculture in 1550

- ▶ Farming methods continued from the Middle Ages or earlier.
- ▶ Two methods were used to prepare the fields:
 - ▶ Cultivation by plow
 - ▶ Slash and burn, also known as burn beat
- ▶ In less fertile areas, livestock (and hunting and fishing) were more important than grain crops.

The Plow

- Plowing was the predominant method used in the more populated areas of southwest of Finland.
- Plowing:
 - Prepared the soil
 - Fertilized
 - Weeded
- Usually half of the fields were left fallow each year.

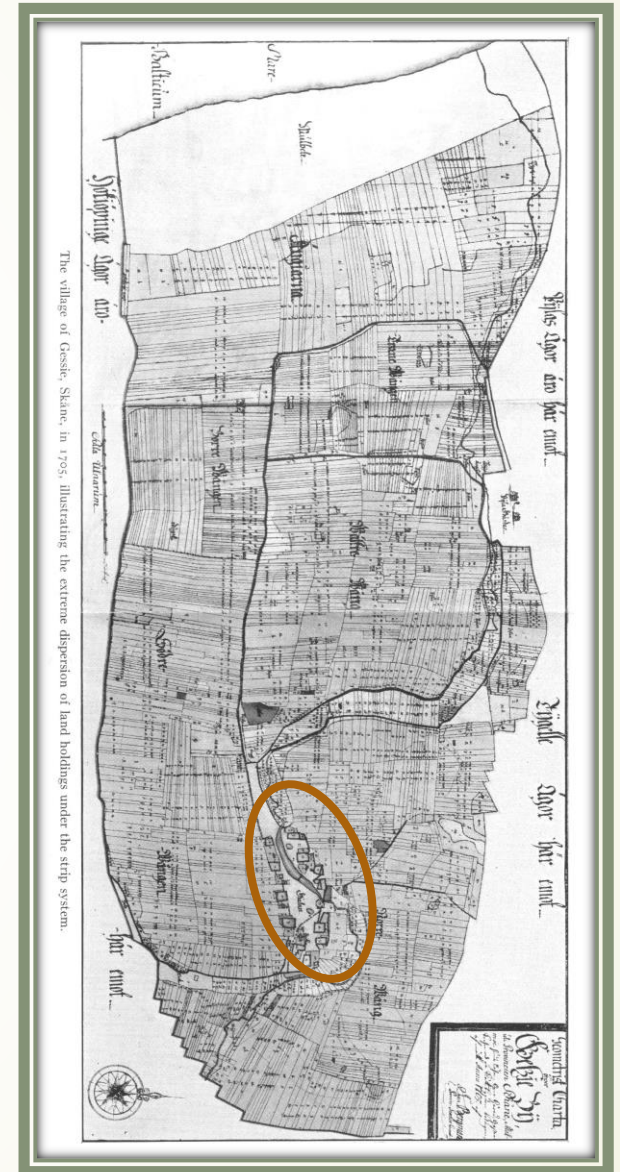


Illustration from a German Psalter

Land Divided

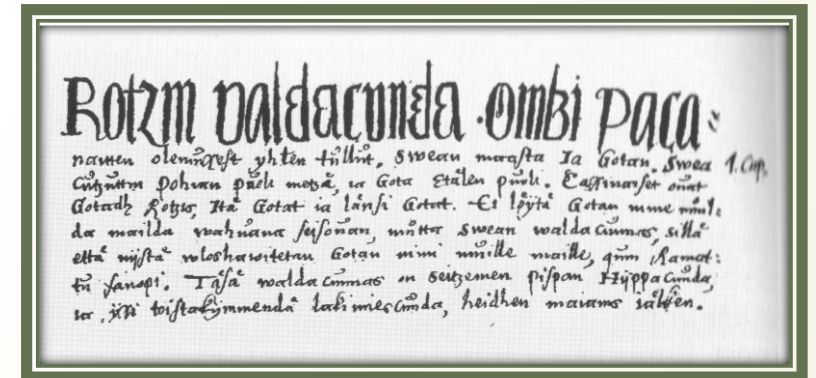
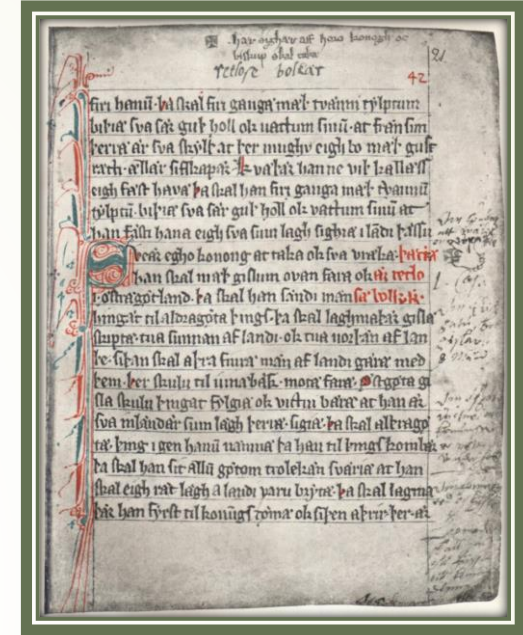
- ▶ In plowed field areas, farm families lived in villages with six to nine other families.
- ▶ A peasant farmer's land was usually not contiguous. Each farmer owned a strip of land in each of the village's fields.
- ▶ As the strips were divided to meet the inheritance laws, they could become as narrow as 10 yards.
- ▶ Because of the division of fields, the village determined when to plow, what and when to sow, when to reap, when to fallow a field, etc.
- People were identified by their patronymic and village

Orange circle is the village



Land Laws

- The Swedish land laws during this period were developed in the 1300's and revised in 1442. These laws remained in effect until the early 1600s.
- All children inherited land. The brothers got two parts to the sisters' one part.
- Under Gustav Vasa, the peasant farmer's land ownership was no longer complete. A king or noble had the ultimate control of the land.
 - The king could move a village if he wanted its land. The villagers were compensated with new farmland and cash.

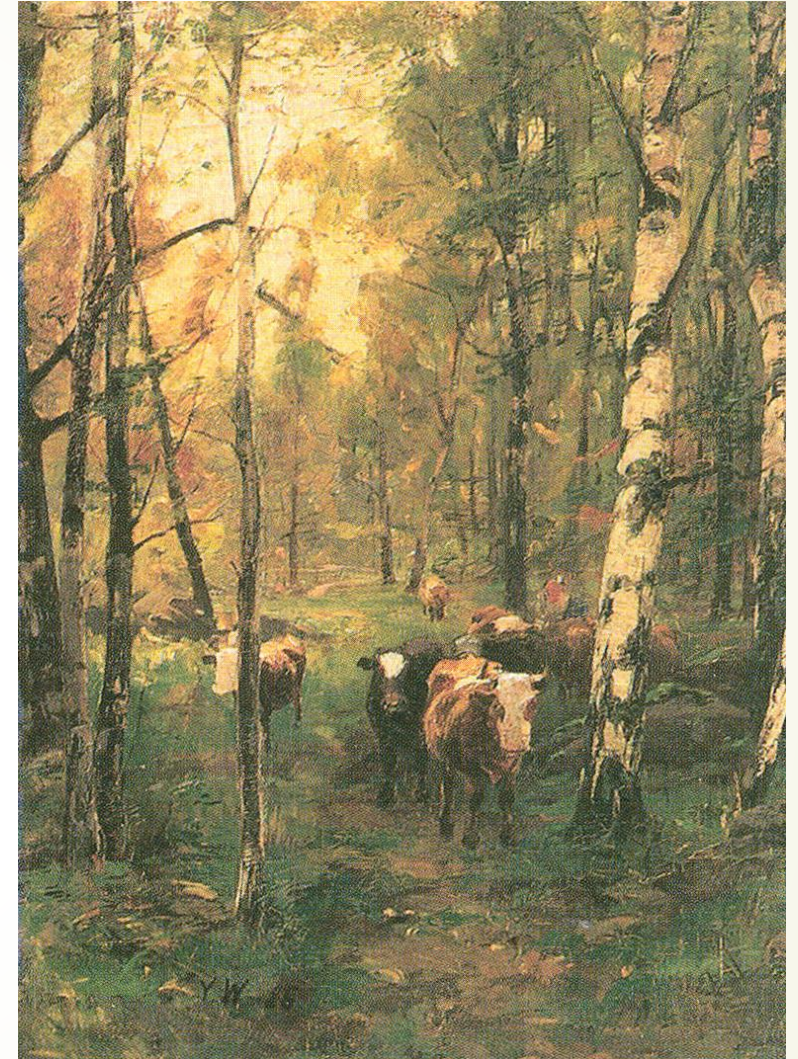


Top: from Google Images

Bottom: 16th Century Finnish translation from Matti Klinge, *A Brief History of Finland*

Livestock

- ▶ Forests and meadows were as important as the cultivated fields.
 - They were used to feed cattle and sheep.
- ▶ Peasants generally couldn't afford to raise livestock for slaughter. They raised them for butter and wool.
- ▶ Women were in charge of the home and animal husbandry while men were in charge of the fields, meadows and forests.



Cows in the Birch Forest
by Victor Westerholm

Taxes



- Villages in a parish were grouped into quarter parishes.
- Taxes were assigned to a quarter parish, not to a farm. The taxes were paid mainly in grain, butter, furs, and fish. Taxes were assessed based on the quarter parish's resources.
- In addition to taxes, peasants in a parish also owed work to the local castle:
 - For example, the parish of Sääksmäki had to keep two barns on a Häme Castle farm in good repair.
 - In addition, the parishes were assigned varying tasks each year. One year the parish might have to thresh grain the castle's grain. The next year, it might have to plow a castle's field.

Measuring Farms - Mantals

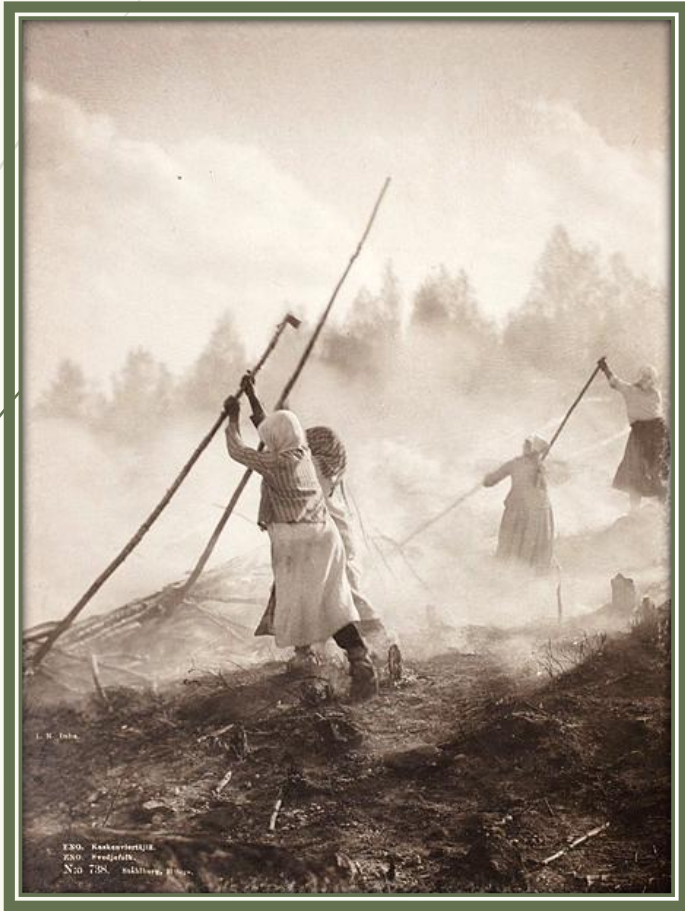


Farm near Isokyrö

Gustav Vasa established the mantal as the measure of land and the basis for taxation.

- ▶ It's size was set at the typical amount of land owned by peasant farmers.
- ▶ The mantal measured the productivity of a farm as well as its size.
 - ▶ The size of a mantal was smaller on Finland's fertile southern plains than in the less productive northern areas.
- ▶ The mantal calculation included village's common lands (forests, meadows, water, and wastelands).

Slash and Burn Agriculture



Slash and burn in Eno, Finland, 1893
Wikipedia, public domain

- Slash and burn or burn beat was used over most of Finland until the Middle Ages.
 - In the west, it continued to be used to clear land for the first time through the 1700s.
 - It was used annually in Savo up to independence.
- The first year a burn beat field was planted, it was extremely productive. However, the fields were worthless by the fourth year.
- The process in Savo took up to fifteen years when it was used on new land with coniferous trees.

Consequences of Slash and Burn

- Because the fields had only a few years of fertility, a slash and burn farmer needed six times more forest land than he planted in a year.
 - As a consequence, the burn beat farms were usually distant from churches and other farms.
 - Many were over 30 miles from the nearest church.
 - The extended family, not the village or parish, was the organizing unit.
 - All males who worked the land owned a share, including non-related individuals, but women didn't inherit land.
-
- Slash and burn farmers were more willing to move to new territories than those with cultivated fields.
 - Surnames with "nen" for males and "tar" for females were used.

Land Owners

- ▶ **King:** King's farmland is kronojord. Peasants farming crown lands paid rent which was only slightly greater than the taxes paid by a land-owning peasant.
 - ▶ The king controlled what was raised.
- ▶ **Nobles** (Rälssi, Frälse): Land is rälssimaa, frälsejord. Noble land was tax free in exchange for services to the king. There were several hundred noble manors in Finland. Noble farm owners are rälssitilallinen in Finnish and frälsebonde in Swedish.
 - ▶ Nobles controlled what was raised.
- ▶ **Lutheran Church:** Church land is kyrkojord. This land was very limited.
- ▶ **Peasant Farmers** (Finnish: Verotalonpoika, Swedish: Skatte-bonde): Taxable land was skattejord. Peasants paid tax to the king and tithes to the church. The peasants could pass the land to their children, but the king was the final owner of the land.
 - ▶ The village and parish controlled what was raised in settled areas

Farming Occupations in 1550



Kalevala Village in Kuhmo

Photograph by Gerry Kangas

- Rent collecting farm owners:
 - Crown
 - Nobles
- Farm managers who worked for the the king or nobles
- Tax-paying peasant farmers
- Landless (or nearly landless) laborers who worked for the crown or nobles.
 - A peasant farmer was legally prohibited from hiring help.

Peasant farms first begin to appear in the tax records-
with frequent spelling changes and name variations:

Kokkolanmaa Parish:

- *Möttönen farm* is mentioned for the first time in 1566 as **Mätäinen**. Other early versions are: **Mettäyme** 1569, **Motton** 1570, **Mettainen** 1572, **Mettöinen** 1579, **Mättäin** 1585, **Mettonen** 1591, **Metteinen** 1598; **Mättinen** 1599. **Möttöinen** was the form used in the crown books in the year 1608. In the mid-1600's, both **Möittänen** and **Möttöinen** were used. The farm name became **Möttönen** permanently in 1693.
- *Karvonen farm* was first mentioned in 1605 as **Karffun**. Other old document formats include **Karffua** (1606), **Karvonen** (1608), and later, sometimes also as **Karvola** (1674).
- Spellings became more standardized in the mid-1600's when more clerks knew Finnish.

Peasant Food

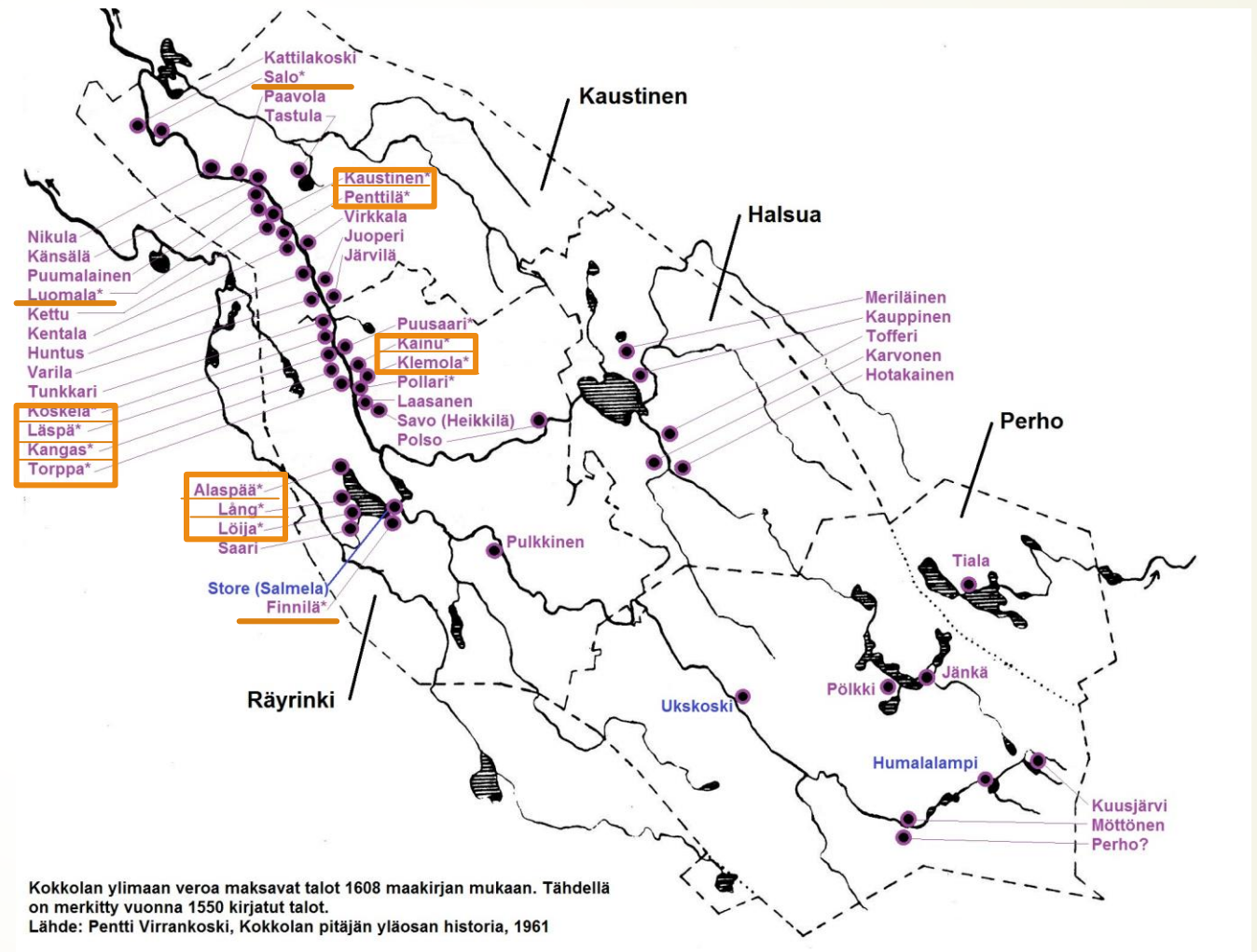
- ▶ The average peasant or laborer ate between 2,500 and 4,300 calories per day in 1573.
- ▶ Half of the calories were eaten as bread.
 - ▶ One-fifth were drunk as beer.
 - ▶ Both were made from barley and rye.
- ▶ By order of the king, the previous year's food was used first - so most food was eaten stale. Meat and fish were dried or salted. (Nobles were permitted fresh foods on holidays.)
- ▶ Due to stored food, good weather, and relative peace, famines were rare during the Period of Bliss.



Barley from US Dept. of Agriculture

Villages and Farms - 1550 and 1608

- ▶ Asterisks and underlining mark farms in 1550.
- ▶ In this newly settled area, there are some isolated farms outside villages.
- ▶ The number of farms more than tripled in fifty years (14 to 47).
- ▶ The area is a part of the Kokkola parish.



1600: A Land of Peasant Farmers

- ▶ 95% of the land in Finland was **owned** by tax-paying peasant farmers.
 - ▶ vs. 50% in Sweden
- ▶ Farming methods remained essentially medieval.

Problems:

- ▶ The peasants had less influence than in the Middle Ages due to the centralization of power.
- ▶ The farms were getting smaller and smaller due to the inheritance laws.
- ▶ The climate was getting colder and wetter.



Hämeenlinna Medieval Fair

1600 to 1696 – Age of the Empire



Uniforms of Gustavus II Adolphus

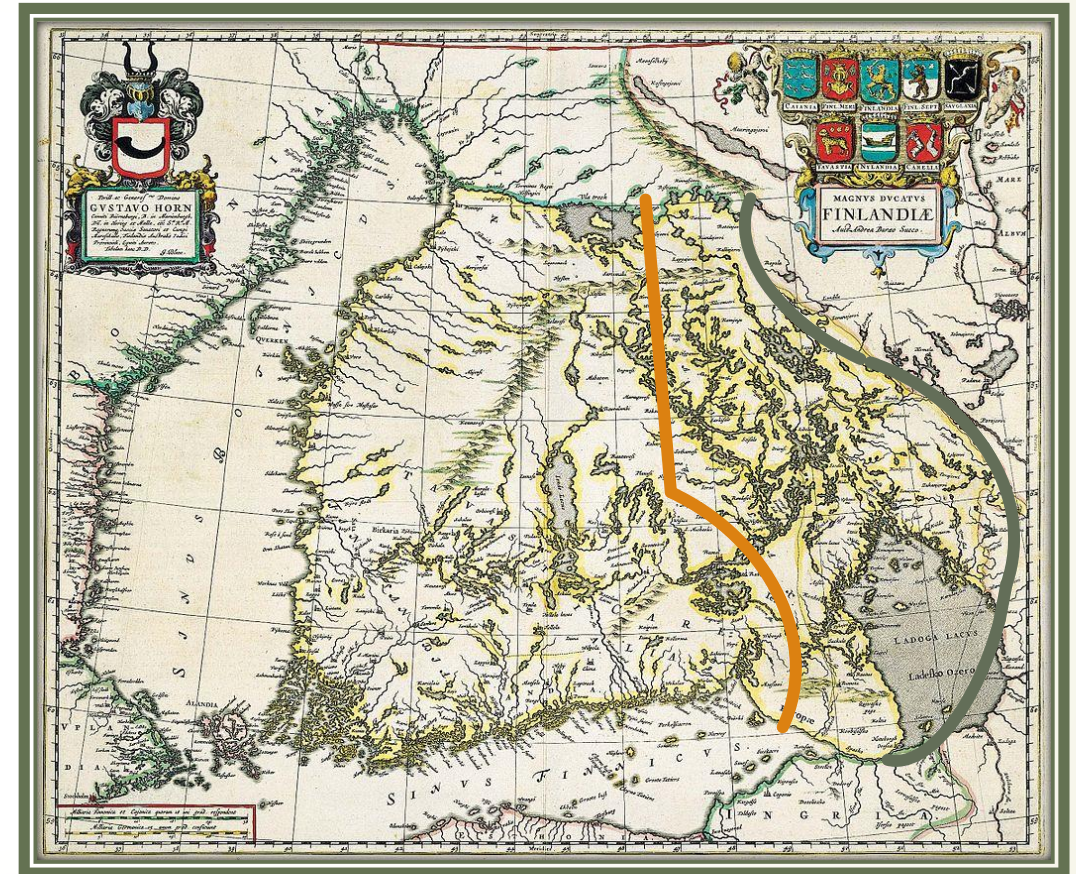
- During this period, Sweden was involved in one or more wars almost every year.
- In 1632, about 15,000 Finnish men were soldiers. (In this period, the men were conscripted.)

1600–1629	Polish War
1609–1610	De la Gardie Campaign
1610–1617	Ingrian War
1611–1613	Kalmar War
1618–1648	Thirty Years' War
1643–1645	Torstenson War
1654	First Bremian War
	Second Northern War
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polish-Swedish War of 1655–1660
1655–1661	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russo-Swedish War of 1656–1658• Dano-Swedish War of 1657–1658• Dano-Swedish War of 1658–1660
1666	Second Bremian War
1667–1668	War of Devolution
1674–1679	Scanian War

Sweden Expanded

- Orange line is border in 1595
- Dark line is border in 1617

Swedish Empire at its Height in 1658



Map of Finland from 1662

both maps from Wikimedia Commons

Nobles Gained Power

- ▶ The number of nobles more that tripled.
- ▶ Nobles were given land as pay for service. About half of the nobles given land in Finland were Swedish or foreign born
 - ▶ This land became tax-exempt.
 - ▶ The peasants paying rent on noble lands were no longer part of the peasant estate. Nobles began to enforce feudal privileges over the peasant farmers living on their land.
 - ▶ Laborers on noble farms were exempt from military service.
- ▶ The status of the remaining peasant farmers declined:
 - They paid higher taxes due to wars and more tax-exempt land.
 - They were more likely to be conscripted.




Louhisaari Manor in Askainen
Owned and built by
Baron Herman Clausson Fleming

Picture from [Finland, A Cultural Guide](#)

And Land

Land Holdings of the Nobility in Finland



1527	215 mantals
1560	327 mantals
1652	10,758 mantals

➤ In 1653, the Urajärvi Manor in Häme was 25,000 acres.

Peasant Life

- The climate deteriorated in the 1600s with long, cold winters, spring floods, and frequent frosts in August. Crop failure was more common.
- The typical home was a savutupa with no chimney.
 - Smoke was vented through openings near the roof.
 - Furnishings were simple - benches and tables
 - The windows were holes in the walls closed with shutters.
- Often the peasants had a long journey to the nearest church.



Närpiö Church Horse Stables
from A Cultural History of Finland

Consequences of Empire Building

- ▶ After the Scanian War of 1674-1679, the kingdom was out of money.
- ▶ In 1682, King Charles XI :
 - Reclaimed much of the land given to the nobles and withdrew their ability to convert new land to tax-exempt status.
 - Reorganized the funding of soldiers and government officials by creating an allotment system.
 - Adjusted the mantal measure to a larger size.



From Google Images

Land Holdings of the Nobility in Finland

1527	215 old mantals
1560	327 old mantals
1652	10,758 old mantals
1700	1,296 new mantals
1700 estimate	1,650 old mantals

- ▶ The nobility lost over 80% of their land in the late 1600s due to reversion.
- ▶ They still had significantly more land than in 1560.

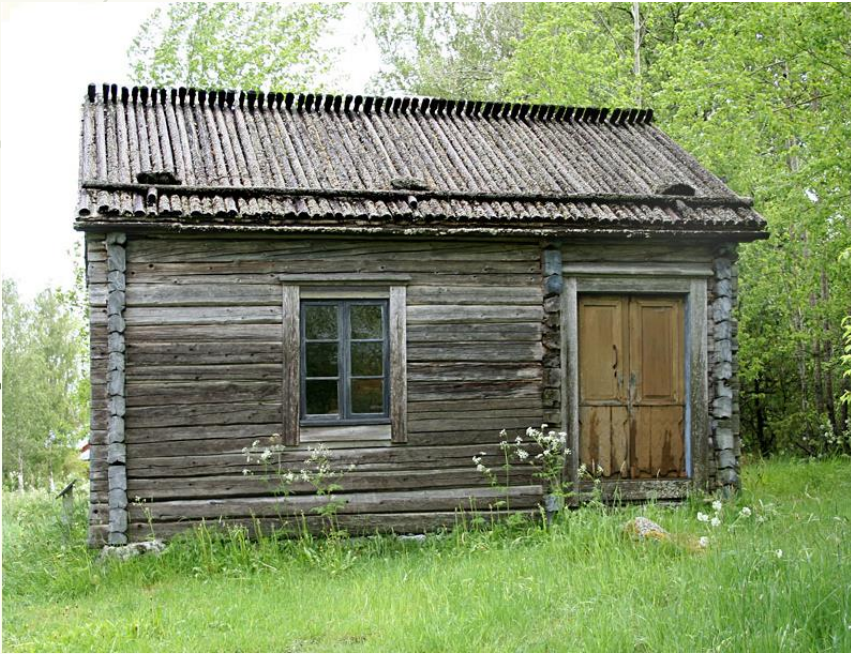
Impact of the Changes

- The nobles generally lost land on which they were receiving rents from tenant farmers. They kept their manors which were worked by laborers.
 - The nobles became primarily farm owners rather than rent collectors.
 - More peasants were once again land owners.
- The new allotment system allowed peasants to see where their taxes went. Some groups of farmers were required to support a soldier, others to support a clerk, and others, a professor.
 - The soldier croft was created.
 - Taxes were paid in farm products or labor. As a result, the peasants were unaffected by changes in commodity prices. The recipient's salary was affected. Professors complained about their unpredictable salaries.



Picture in public domain from Wikimedia Commons,
Albert Jankowski

Soldier Crofts



Soldier's croft from about 1700

<http://www.perinnemestari.fi/?id=65&id2=82>

- ▶ A group of farmers responsible for supporting an infantry soldier had to:
 - Donate land for the croft.
 - Build the house and farm buildings (shed, barn, hay barn).
 - Supply the farm with a cow, sheep, and chickens.
 - Pay the soldier's annual salary of 30 copper riksdalers.
 - Buy the soldier's uniforms
 - Do heavy farm work on the croft when the soldier was away on duty.

Soldier's Crofts



Soldier's Croft

From Ruotusotilaan Jäljillä - Torppaa Unohtamatta

- ▶ *Finnish: sotilastorppa; Swedish: soldatetorp*
- ▶ Since the croft was part of the soldier's salary, the soldier had to vacate it when he left the army.

At the end of the Age of the Empire, availability of land was an issue:

- Most of the arable land in Finland had been settled.
- Farms were small due to inheritance laws.
- In 1684, ownership of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mantal was prohibited.
 - Smaller farms that had been created by inheritance laws were taken from their owners.
- Rather than split farms further, inheritance laws were modified to allow the oldest son to inherit the farm by buying out his siblings at a reasonable price.

Hiring Act of 1686

- ▶ This act stated that there could be only four or five workers per mantal.
 - Adult sons counted as one worker, adult wives and daughters counted as half a worker.
- ▶ Peasant farmers with many adult children couldn't hire help.
- ▶ In fact, many younger sons and daughters in large families had to leave the farm when they came of age.
 - Excess children worked on crown or noble manors or joined the army.



Swedish Soldiers in 1700s
Google Images

Deteriorating Diets

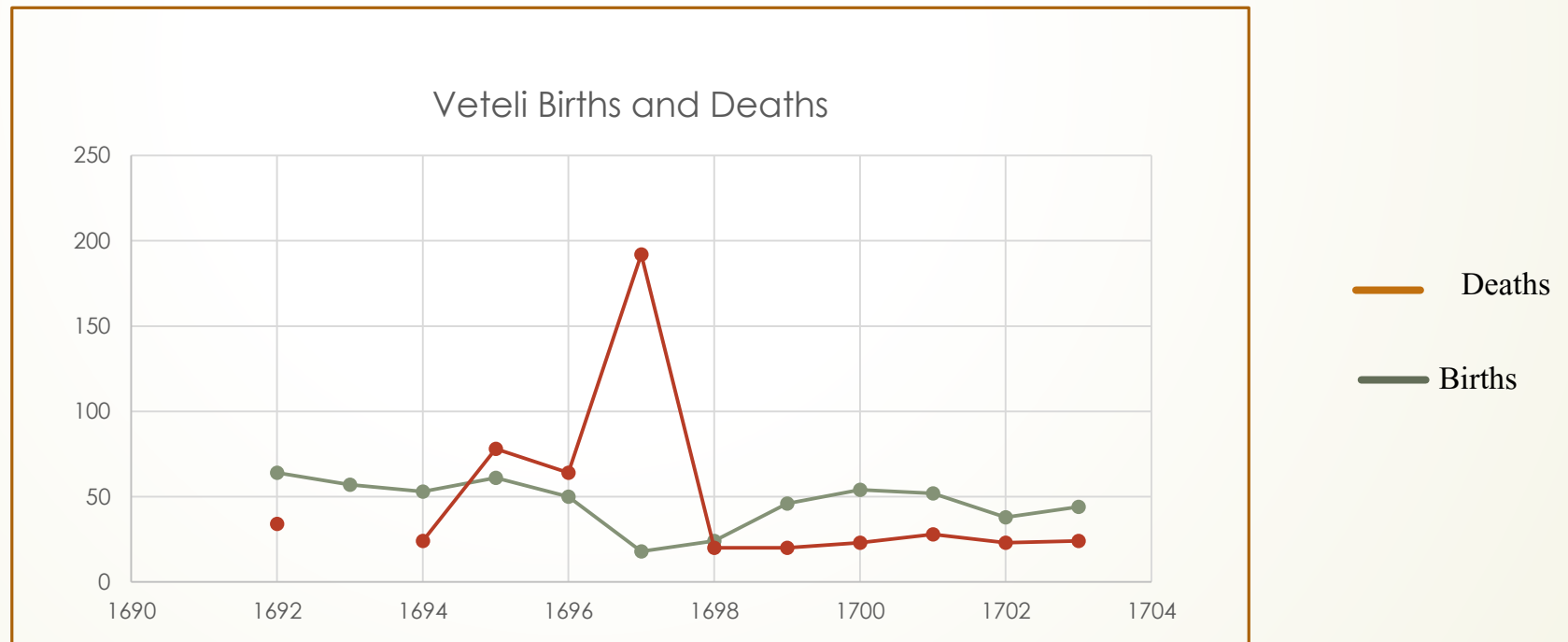


Farm in Southern Ostrobothnia

- By 1690, the Finnish population is estimated to have doubled to about 500,000.
- Although more land was under cultivation, the food supply did not keep up with population growth.
 - In normal (non-famine) years, a laborer working on an estate ate about a third fewer calories than in 1550.
 - Their diet included one-fourth as much meat and fish than in 1550.
 - Women working on an estate now received about 2/3 as much food as men.
- This diet was not adequate for strenuous labor.

Famine

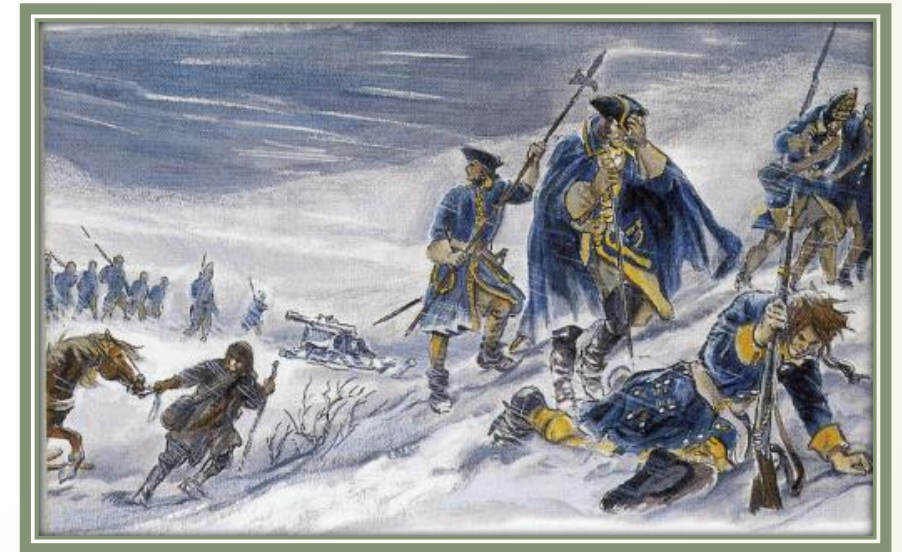
- There was a severe famine in Finland from 1696 to 1698.
 - An estimated one-quarter to one-third of the population died. (Parish records were beginning to be required at this time and were not complete.)
 - 8% of the farms were abandoned two years later.



War, the Plague, and the Wrath

- ▶ The population continued to decline:
 - 50,000 Finnish soldiers were killed and thousands were captured in the Great Northern War which began in 1700.
 - The plague struck Finland in 1710-1711.
 - Finland was occupied by Russia from 1713 to 1721. During this period, called the Great Wrath, towns and farms were burned and livestock killed.

- ▶ Sweden and Russia went to war again in 1741 and Finland was occupied a second time from 1742-1743, called the Lesser Wrath.




Swedish soldiers in the Great Northern War

From Google Images

Population Loss

The Finnish population was decimated by the famine, war, and the Russian occupation:

- Very few men or horses were left in many areas.
- Many farms were abandoned.
- Nobles, government officials, merchants, and the clergy left for Sweden.

 **The Genealogical Society of Finland**
HisKi project

Veteli - Vetil - buried

• Years 1715 - 1715

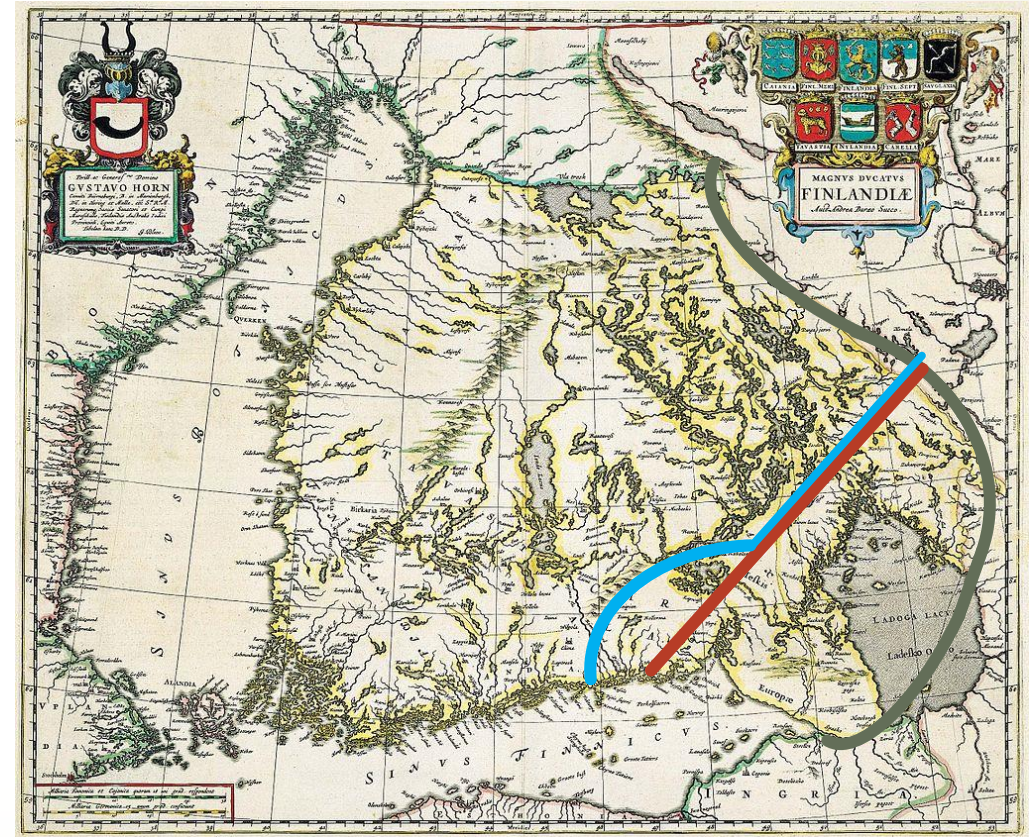
Died	Buried	Village	Farm	Person	Cause	Age			
						yrs	m.	w.	d.
1.1.1715	31.12.1715	Veteli	Koko						
relative: Isonvihan vuoksi merkinnät puuttuvat									

a lack of entries due to the Great Wrath

- At the end of the Great Northern War, the population of Finland was only about 330,000, compared to 1,440,000 in Sweden.

Loss of Territory

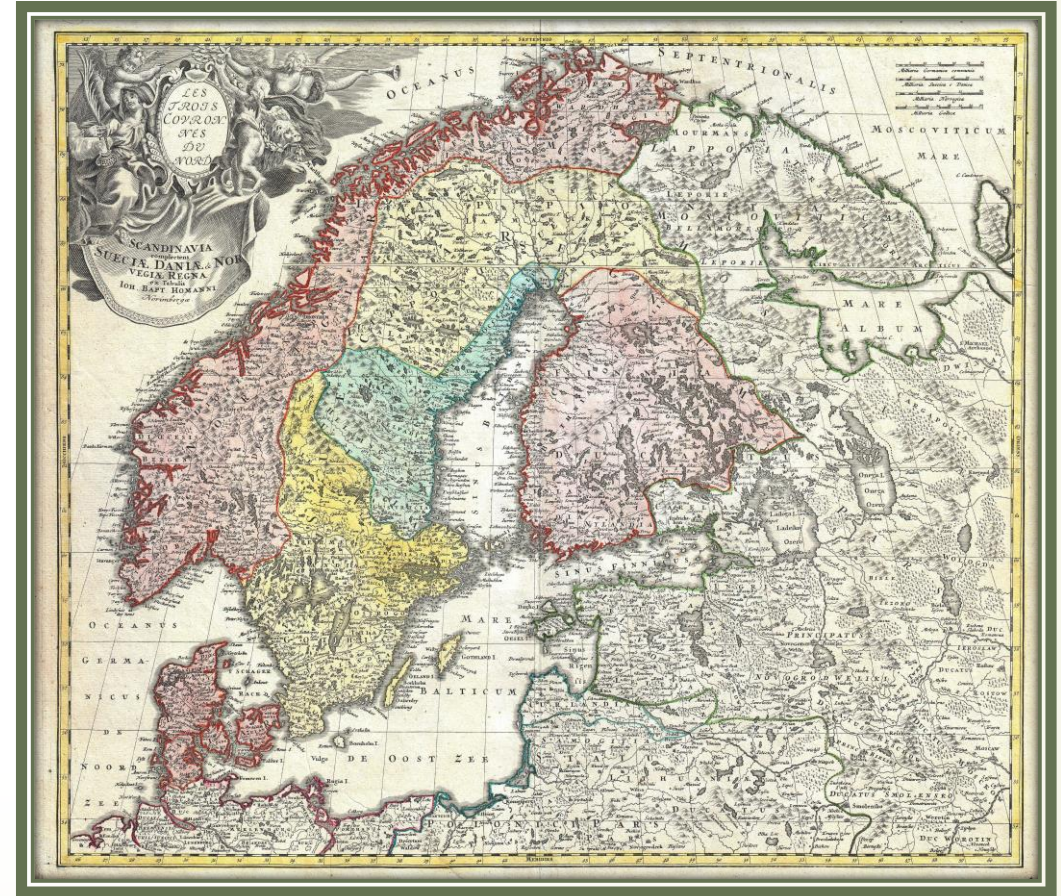
- Border in
 - 1617: Dark line
 - 1721: Red line
 - 1743: Blue line
- About 200,000 inhabitants of Finland became Russians.
- A third of the peasants in the conquered area lost their land.



Finland
from Wikimedia Commons

Center of Power Shifted West

- More of Sweden's conquered lands were retained in the west.
- The officials, nobles, and clergy who returned to Finland were less likely to speak Finnish.



Map about 1760

from Wikipedia Media Commons

1720 – 1809 The Age of Freedom

- ▶ The Swedish constitution of 1720 limited the power of the monarchy.
- ▶ Russia along with France and Denmark exercised control over the Swedish government during this time.
- ▶ Sweden became isolationist, nationalistic, and more Swedish.
- ▶ Laws relating to farming and land ownership were constantly changing.

Changes to the laws affecting farms:

- ▶ 1719 Peasants were given the opportunity to purchase crown farms
- ▶ 1734: Crofts were allowed on tax lands as an “exception.”
- ▶ 1747: Smaller farms of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mantal were permitted, called tax crofts
- ▶ 1749: Reorganization Act – from open field to enclosure
- ▶ 1762: The royal act of July 2nd gave the estate and farm owners the right to build dwelling places on their land for their married workers.
- ▶ 1766: Land owners near the sea got stronger fishing rights.



Farm in Southern Ostrobothnia

Land Reorganization

- Beginning in 1749, land reforms were initiated to bring the scattered strips of land into progressively more unified holdings. Common lands were also divided and distributed.
 - This made more modern farming possible.
- Unification progressed slowly and the laws governing it changed frequently. Changes occurred in 1757, 1762, 1783, 1803, and 1807.
- Some farmers moved out of the villages to live on their farms (willingly or by force).



Map of Vilkkilä Farm, Saris, Eurajoki
after enclosure

Population by Occupation in Finland in 1760

from An Economic History of Sweden

Nobility	0.4%
Clergy, teachers, gentry and servants	2.2%
Soldiers	13.5%
Merchants	0.6%
Manufacturers, craftsmen, shippers, sailors, burgers, urban servants	3.3%
Metal manufacturing and mining	1.0%
Rural craftsmen, millers, shippers, sailors	3.0%
Peasants	49.7%
Crofters, cottagers, paupers	24.4%
Lapps, settlers	0.1%

Green = farming occupation

Light green = mainly farming

1789: Land Ownership Strengthened

- Peasant land owners were given the same rights as nobles:
 - Noble land was no longer tax-exempt.
 - The farm owner now truly owned his own land. He couldn't be moved arbitrarily.
 - A farmer had full rights to hunt and fish on his land.
 - A peasant farm owner was no longer prohibited from renting parts of his land (rental crofts).
 - Peasants living on crown lands gained the right of inheritance without cost.



Farm Building on Omars Farm

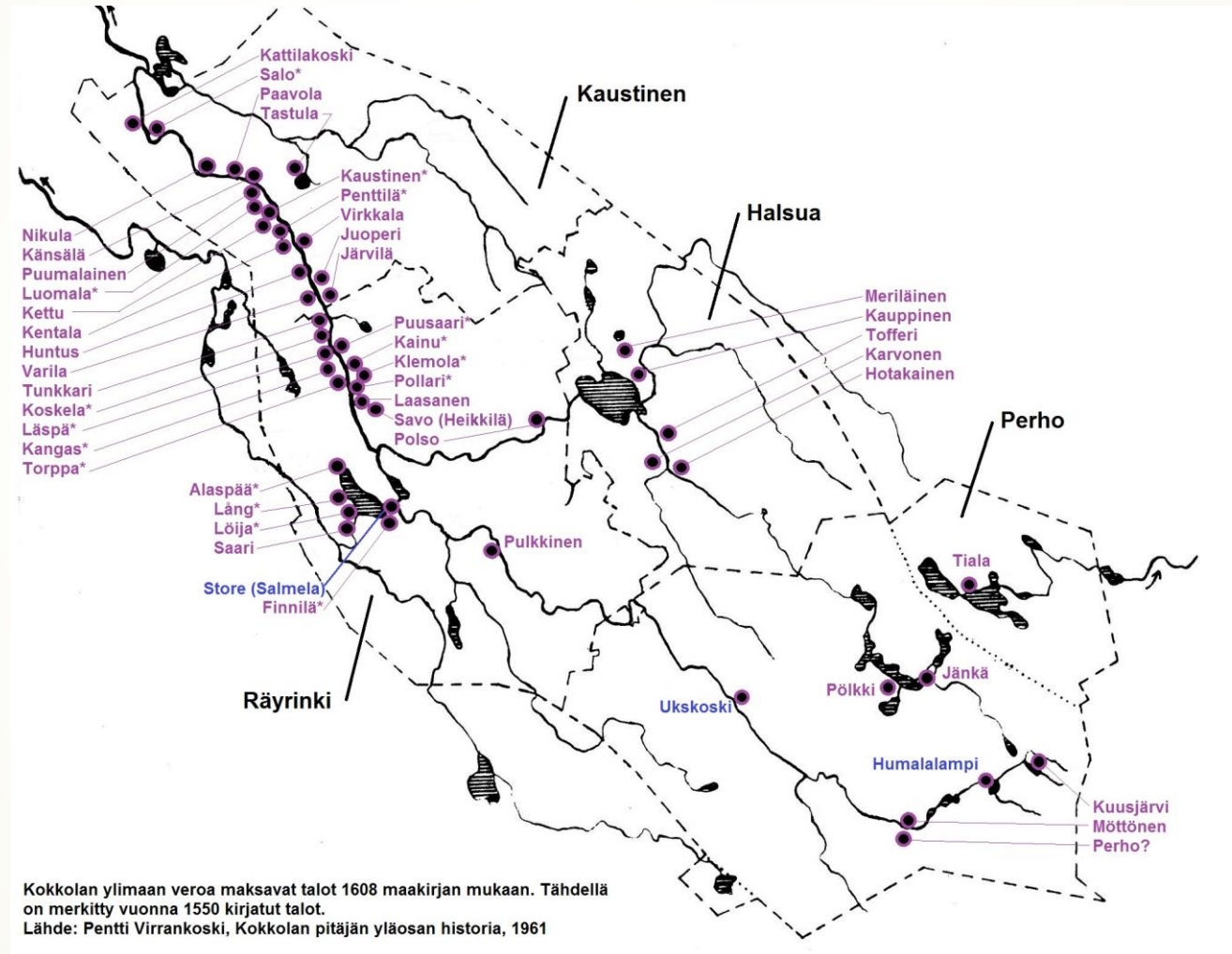
Consequences

- ▶ The law encouraged peasant farmers to buy and improve land.
- ▶ Farm sizes became more unequal.
- ▶ The number of crofts increased from a few thousand in 1750 to over 20,000 in 1800.

Population Growth

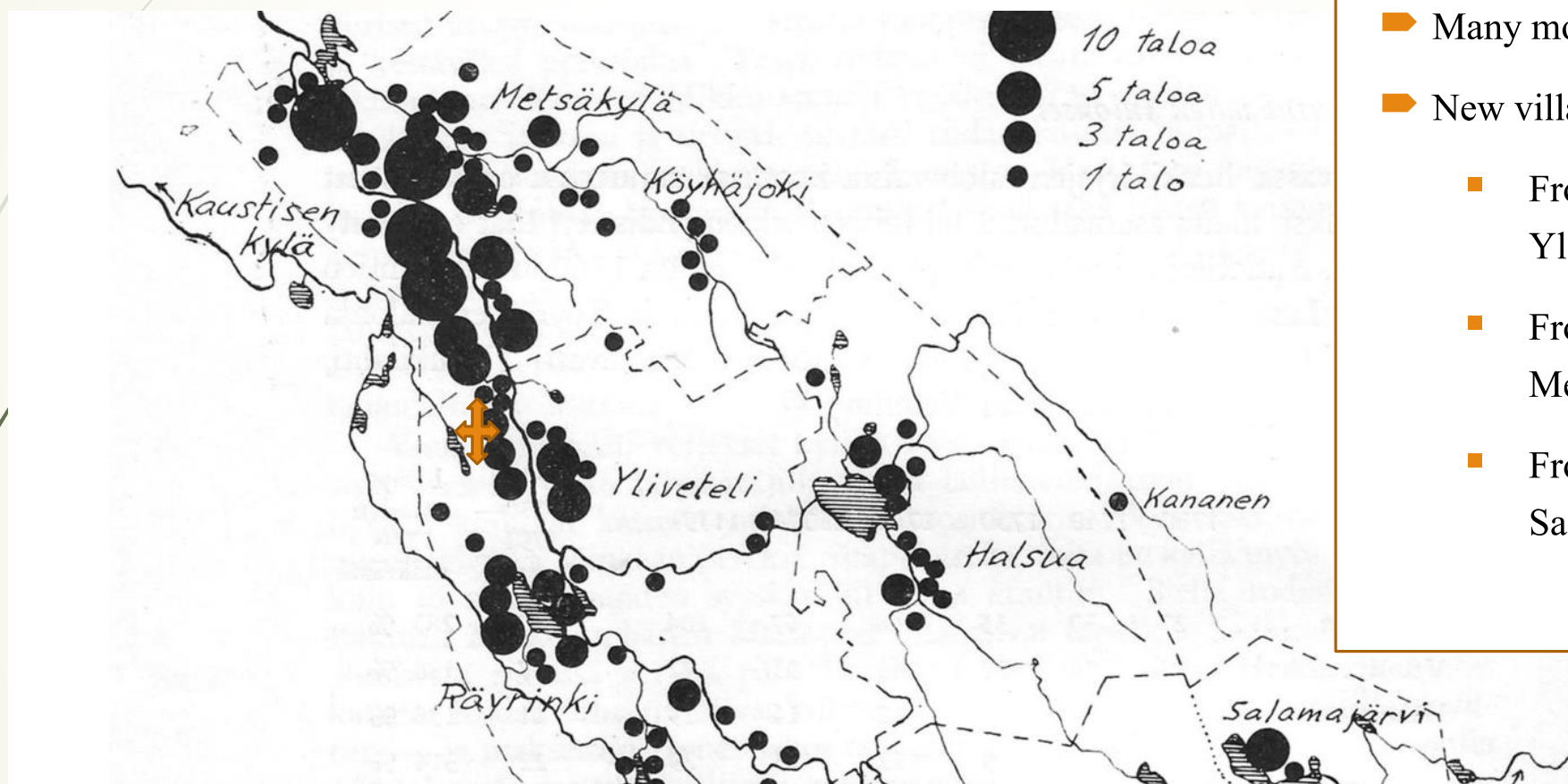
- ▶ By 1750, the Finnish population was 428,000. This was still below the population of 1690.
- ▶ However, population doubled in Finland in the next fifty years and tripled in Southern Ostrobothnia.
 - ▶ Peace
 - ▶ Small pox vaccinations
 - ▶ Midwives

Kokkolanmaa Farms in 1608



Map from Kokkolan Pitäjän Yläosan Historia

Kokkolanmaa in 1790



➤ Many more farms

➤ New villages:

- From Räyrinki - Yliveteli
- From Kaustinen – Metsäkylä, Köyhäjoki
- From Perho - Salomajärvi

Small Farms and Crofts



Telkkämäki Heritage Farm and Nature Reserve in Kaavi
From Wikipedia Media Commons

- ▶ These holdings were usually insufficient to support a family.
- ▶ Where possible, fishing and hunting supplemented the family's diet.
- ▶ Household members might take winter jobs in the forest or town.
- ▶ Small farmers in the north trapped animals for furs or made tar.

Farm Laborers



Tools in Satakunta Museum, Pori

- ▶ The landless were required to be an employee of a member of the Estates.
- ▶ If they were without an employer, they were subject to conscription for civilian projects or the military.

In 1808, at the end of the Swedish Period:



Plows

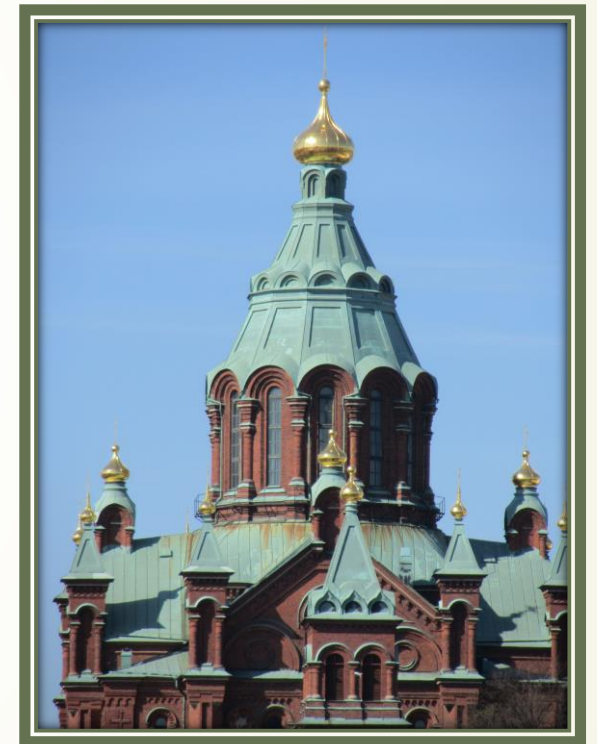
Satakunta Museum, Pori

- ▶ There were few significant changes to farming technology:
 - ▶ Most agricultural improvements were labor intensive - draining marshy land, building fences, crop rotation.
 - ▶ These improvements allowed farmers to get more productivity from their land.
- ▶ More land was being farmed.
- ▶ The typical farm was smaller.
- ▶ About half of the rural population was now landless.

The Grand Duchy: 1809-1917



- ▶ Finland gained territory:
 - Old Finland was returned to Finland, increasing the population by 200,000.
 - The border with Sweden was moved slightly west to the Tornio and Munio Rivers.
- ▶ The Sami experienced controlled borders for the first time.
- ▶ Finland's population grew rapidly. It was about 1,400,000 in 1830. The population more than doubled between 1830 and independence.

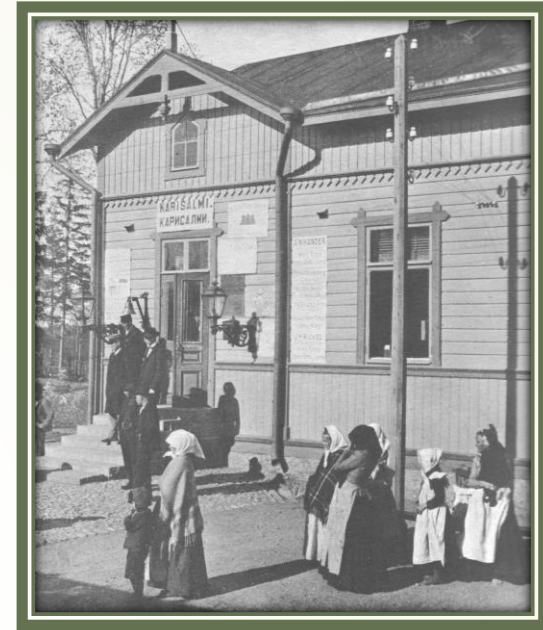


Uspenski Cathedral
in Helsinki

Modernization

After 1858, Finland began to modernize:

- Manufacturing, trade and craft laws were eased. Import and export taxes were reduced, and everyone was given the right to trade.
- Investment was made in transportation:
 - The first railway was built in 1862 from Helsinki to Hämeenlinna.
 - Beginning in 1854, canals were built linking waterways in central and eastern Finland.
 - Steamships came into use.
- Farmers could now sell their crops as cash crops. The economy was changing from household-based to market-based.



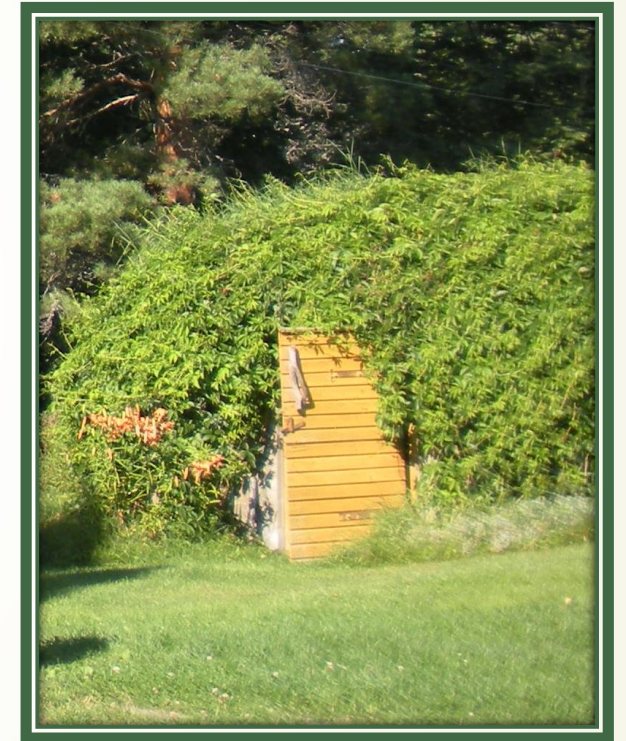
Karisalmi Railway Station
Both pictures from Before the Revolution



Saimaa Canal, Opened 1858

Changes in Farming

- Potatoes became a widespread crop. They provided more nutrition per acre than grain.
- Other root crops were also grown. The root cellar became part of the farm complex.
- In the 1870s, there was a shift from grain to dairy farming, especially in the north due to:
 - Competition from cheap imported grain
 - Increased livestock size
 - Freer trade and better transportation which allowed farmers to sell butter overseas.
- Threshing machines came into use during the last half of the century.
- The first agricultural institute was founded in 1840 in Tammela.



Root Cellar near Luvia

Farming Occupations in the 1800s:

- Farm Owners
 - Crown Farmers
 - Tenant Farmers
 - Real crofter
 - Crown crofter
 - Inherited crofter
 - Crown forest crofter
 - Fishing crofter
 - Cottager
 - Contract laborer
 - Temporary laborer
 - Almost serfs (Old Finland)
- Each group had a different laws, taxes, and rights.



Manor houses
from
Mid-1800s



Farm Owners

- ▶ A farm owner was called talollinen or talonpoika in Finnish and hemmansegare (h.eg.) or bonde in Swedish.
- ▶ The farm owner was responsible for paying the land tax.
- ▶ Some farms were very large. For example, Hartola Manor had 62,000 acres and about 200 tenant farmers.

Crown & Tenant Farmers

Tenant Farmers:

- Finnish: lampuotitila, vuokraviljelijä
Swedish: landbolägenhet, landbohemman, brukare
- Rented an entire farm (based on size of land)
- Answered to the land owner

Crown Farmers

- Kronohemman ("crown farm")
- The farmer leased the land from the crown, usually for 25 years. At the end of the renter's tenure, the government compensated the leasing farmer for improvements.



Farm in Vörå

Crofters



Crofter house on Peth Farm, Rekipelto

- Called torpare (torp.) in Swedish and torppari in Finnish.
- The term croft (*Finnish: torppa; Swedish: torp*) applied to any land that was not large enough to qualify as a tax farm.
- There were many types of crofts.
- Crofters had fewer political rights than the farm owners.

Types of Crofts

► **Real croft or croft** (*Finnish: varsinainen torppa, Swedish: jordtorp*)

A part of a farm which was **rented and was farmed independently**. Most of these crofts could be bought by the crofter according to the law of October 15, 1918.



Peltola Croft Museum
[Wikipedia Media Commons](#)

Other Types of Crofts

➤ Taxable croft (Finnish: verollepantu torppa; Swedish: skattelagde torp)

Taxable crofts were **farms which originally were too small to be tax farms**. The tax on these crofts was determined in different way from that on standard farms. These crofts were formed when new farms were created or when it was found that the farm didn't fulfill the requirements to be a standard tax farm. **The taxable croft could be part of a family estate (inherited estate) or a Crown estate (crown crofts)**. These taxable crofts were listed in the land register.

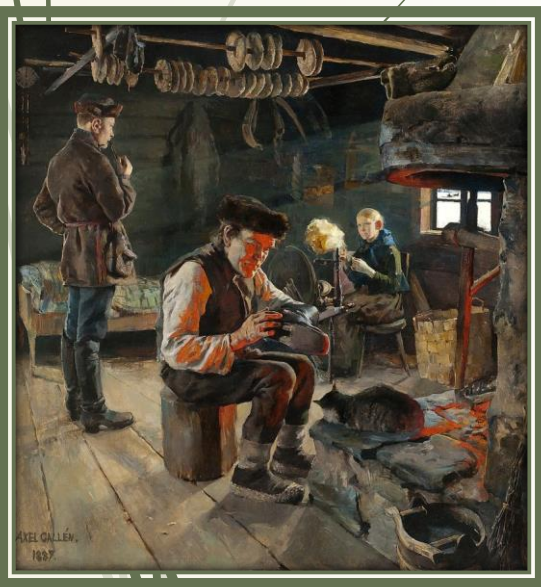
Painting by
Akselli Gallen-Kallela

➤ Inherited croft (Finnish: perintötorppa; Swedish: bördetorp)

The inherited crofts were created by the Royal Act in 18th February 1767. Those who **received a croft from their home farm as a inheritance** got a permanent possession of their croft. It gave stronger proprietary rights to the crofter than normal crofter contract. Legislation from 12th June 1895 gave possibility to separate the inherited croft into an independent farm without any payment. The request had to be made 10 years from the inception of the law.

➤ Crown croft (Finnish: kruununtorppa; Swedish: kronotorp)

Crown crofts were small independent farms, located **on Crown land that was too small to be a taxable farm**. The crofter paid a fixed rent in cash or grain to the government. These crofts were under the same legislation as the holders of larger crown farms. The croft could be bought by the crofter according to the law of October 15, 1918.



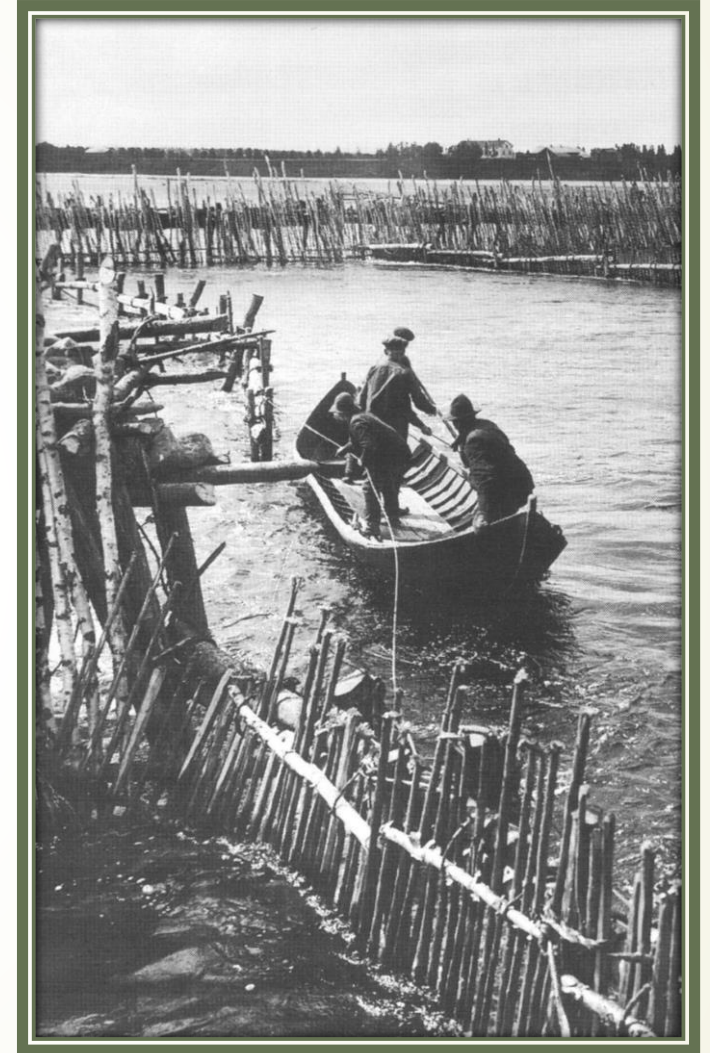
Types of Crofts, cont.

- ▶ **Crown forest croft** (Finnish: kruunun metsätorppa; Swedish: kronoskogstorp)

Crown forest crofts were tenant crofts on **crown land which had not previously been farmed**. The right of possession was based on an agreement that gave tenancy for 25 years against specified rent. The legislation of crown forest crofts differs from that of other crown crofts. The law of June 20, 1922 made it possible for a crofter to buy his croft.

- ▶ **Fisher's croft** (Finnish: kalastustorppa; Swedish: fisketorp)

Fisher's croft included **a private or common water area** that was rented by a person living mainly by fishing. There was a separate legislation for the purchase of a fisher's croft on January 18, 1924.



Cottagers



Savutupa from 1749
Seinajoki outdoor museum

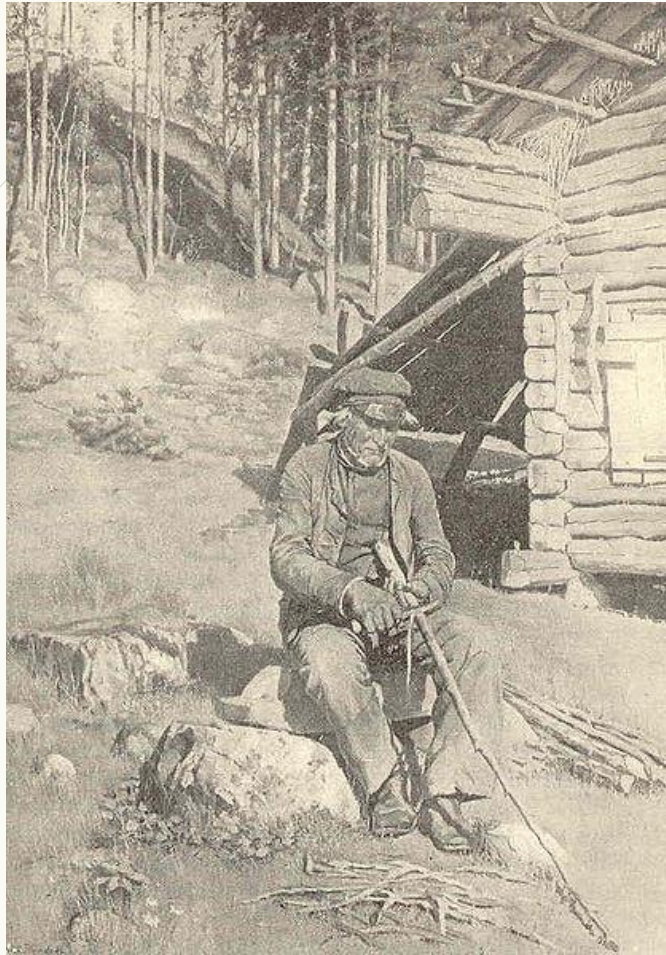
- ▶ Mäkitupalainen, mökkiläinen in Finnish, backstuguman, backstugusittare in Swedish.
- ▶ In this period, there were more cottagers than crofters.
- ▶ Cottagers rented a small cottage, usually with some land for a garden.
- ▶ They supported themselves with seasonal labor.

Farm Laborers

- ▶ Male laborers: Finnish: renki, trenki, Swedish: dräng. Female laborers: Finnish: piika, Swedish: piga.
- ▶ Before 1860, people without land needed written permission to leave their employer.
- ▶ After 1860, laborers were free to move. They usually signed a contract for one year and were paid at the end, after the harvest.
- ▶ Unmarried laborers lived in dormitories, often above farm buildings.



Outdoor Museum in Seinäjoki



Finnish Karelian Man

by Vaino Blomstedt, 1900

Public Domain, Wikipedia Media Commons

Forced Labor in Old Finland

- ▶ In Old Finland (Russian Karelia), the peasants were still required to perform **daily** forced labor on landowner's estate.
- ▶ By 1891, the Duchy of Finland had paid the Russian owners for their land and returned it to the peasants.

At the end of the Russian Period



Photograph of a former soldier's croft in 1900

From: <http://www.sci.fi/~torstis/lohja/kuvat/lylyis.htm>

Finland was still mainly an agricultural country:

- In 1910, farm workers made up over 70% of the work force.
- In **1898**, there were about **117,000 farms**.
 - 8,000 were controlled by the Russian crown.
- In **1910**, there were **221,339 farms and crofts**.
 - Over half were less than 5 hectares (12.5 acres).
 - Fewer than a thousand had over 100 hectares (250 acres).

Independence: 1917

- After independence, many crofters and cottagers bought their homes.
 - On the 15th of October 1918, a law was passed allowing cottagers and many crofters to buy their land with government aid.
 - Finland remained a land of small farms during its first half century
- Farming technology did not change quickly.



New Farm in Finland, early 1950s

From Concise History of Finland

Primary Sources

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- A Cultural History of Finland by Pirkko-Liisa Louhenjoki-Schulman and Kaius Hedenström
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- An Economic History of Sweden by Eli Heckscher
- An Economic History of Sweden by Lars Magnusson
- The Swedish Imperial Experience 1560-1718 by Michael Roberts

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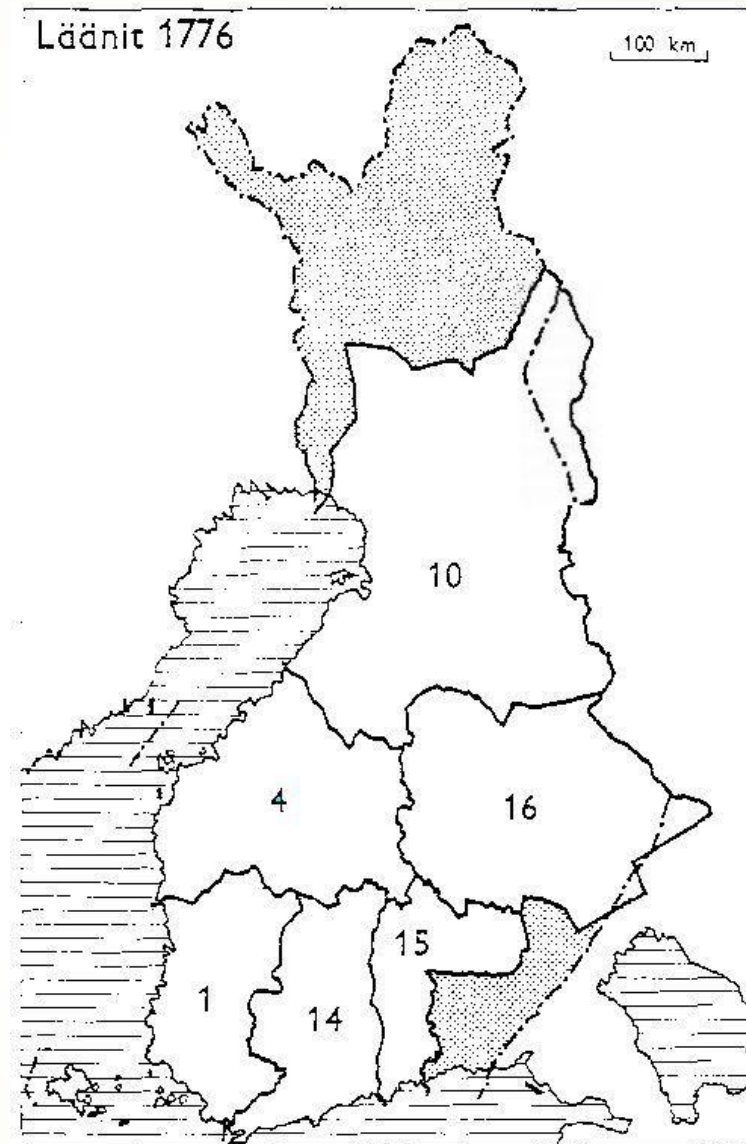
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- Kokkolan Pitäjän Yläosan Historia by Pentti Virrankoski
- Häme Castle by National Board of Antiquities
- A Year at the Castle by Anna-Maria Vilkuna
- Summary of Types of Crofters by Kauko Jyrkäs
- The Little Ice Age by Brian Fagan
- "Populating Finland" by John Westerholm
- Photographs by Barb Wilson and Alan Abramson unless noted



Questions?

Finland 1776

- 1: Turku and Pori,
- 4: Vaasa
- 10: Oulu
- 14: Nyland and Tavastehus,
- 15: Kymmenegård
- 16: Savolax and Karelia



Map from Wikipedia Media Commons