



GPS (RT 90 2.5 gon V)
Norrnäsudd: 1368240 E
6300574 N
Svartebro: 1366114 E
6297224 N
Välö: 1368550 E
6299734 N

IN THE WAKE OF EBBE SKAMMELSON



Norrnäsudd Nature Reserve

In 1937 the beech forest of Norrnäsudd was set aside as a Crown Forest Reserve. The objective was that the beech stand should be kept alive as long as possible. The County Administrative Board declared in 1996 the area as a nature reserve. The reserve is some 12 hectares (one hectare is 100 metres by 100 metres which equals 2.5 acres). It is a very scenic natural forest. Most trees are 130–150 years old while some are as old as 190 years. Rare species of fungi and lichen grow on the beech stems. There are also old oak trees in the area.

Norrnäsudd is one of the most beautiful places around Lake Bolmen. Don't miss the experience of the mighty beech forest at the lake shore! A wooden table and benches offers the visitor a comfortable place for a picnic. There are remains of buildings that were demolished in 1931 some 30–50 metres north and northeast of the car park. There is a stone-wall along the road just before the parking area. There are additional sparse remnants of buildings some 30 metres southeast of that stone-wall.

Svartebro Nature Reserve

In 1952, a decision was made by the State Forest Service to protect another area nearby. This area is located on both sides of the stream Murån. The objective was to protect an area with old spruce and pine forest. In 1996, the County Administrative Board declared an expanded area along the stream Murån a nature reserve. The nature reserve

covers some 31 hectares with forest that is over 200 years old. There are plenty of trees in different stages of decay, offering good conditions for lichen, mosses, fungi and insects.

The hurricane in January 2005 caused havoc in the nature reserve, but it may be regarded as natural evolution. Indeed, the reserve is now even more a piece of wilderness. It is still easy to walk to and from the reserve but not very convenient to stroll around. A visit gives an impression of how a forest evolves if left without any forest management.

Take a swim!

There is a small beach and a jetty at Välö (south of Norrnäsudd), an ideal place for a swim!

More reading!

Quite a lot has been written about this area but it is all in Swedish. Leif Norrman has, for example, summarised the historical events in "Här har du ditt hem! Ett brev till och om Sundranäs." Published in "Annerstad, här hava våra fäder bott". Annerstads hembygdsförening, 1987.

How to get there?

From Byholma (along the road between Lidhult and Torpa), follow signs towards Norrnäsudd and Svartebro naturreservat. Norrnäsudd can also be reached by boat on Lake Bolmen. Walkers along the route Bolmenmarschen can make a deviation to Norrnäsudd (three kilometres one way) or to Svartebro (one kilometre one way).



"I travelled once from Ljungby Inn to the Lieutenant-Colonel's residence, Sundranäs. The road was difficult and, at the end I had to be ferried across the bay of a lake. The sky was dark and cloudy threatening storm and rain. An old, weak man was in charge of the ferry; the boat was as worn as the man. Its cracks had been treated with pieces of leather tied together with pitch-soaked thread. But the night's deep darkness hid these weaknesses and the tour ended successfully. However, at dawn I discovered the real state of the craft—I don't need to explain to you the joy I felt when I stepped on solid ground again."

Jonas Carl Linnerhielm: Brev under resor i Sverige, 1796 (Original Swedish version published by Leif Norrman in "Annerstad, här hava våra fäder bott", Annerstads hembygdsförening, 1987).

Illustration on cover: Lake Bolmen from Norrnäsudd. **Main sources of information:** "Här har du ditt hem – ett brev till och om Sundranäs" by Leif Norrman, published in "Annerstad – här hava våra fäder bott". Annerstads Hembygdsförening 1987; The County Administrative Board of Kronoberg. **Research:** Malin Ekwall. **Text:** Karin Tengnäs. **Photo:** Karin Tengnäs. **Drawing of building, 1668:** Erik Dahlberg. **Logotype:** Lars Lidman. **Design:** Tecknargården/Willy Lindström. **Production:** Naturbruk AB/Bo Tengnäs. **Project coordination:** Bitte Rosén Nilsson, Hylte kommun. **Copyright:** Naturbruk AB. **Year:** 2006. The brochures "In the Wake of Ebbe Skammelson" are available on www.unnaryd.com and www.hylte.se

A clenched fist with a pointing forefinger



Nornnäs och Sundranäs are located on a peninsula shaped as a clenched fist with a pointing forefinger, near the southern end of Lake Bolmen. The forefinger is Norrnäs point. The settlement of Norrnäs was once located there. A deep bay cuts deep into the eastern side of the peninsula. The old farm Sundranäs is located south of that bay. The history of these two old habitations is closely linked.



Church-owned but nationalised

About 1381 the two land holdings were owned by a famous judge, Karl Ulfsson Sparre. He was a very influential person during the 14th century. That year he exchanged several farms in Annerstad Parish for other property that belonged to the monastery at Nydala. During a period of economic crises king Gustav Vasa decided to nationalise much of the property that was owned by the church and the monasteries. So, in 1530, both Norrnäs and Sundranäs were nationalised and in 1558 the two land holdings became the private property of the same king. They were thereafter inherited by several consecutive kings until 1611. That year the property was donated as non-taxable and inheritable property to Olof Hård af Segerstad. By the time of his death in 1630 Norrnäs had been awarded the status of a manor with Sundranäs as a farm under the manor.

In 1540 "Anders in Söndranes" and "Tuffve in Norranes" were recorded as residents. After the King's donation of the property in 1611 to Olof Hård, it is likely that members of the family Hård lived on the farms.

Lady Maria Pauli

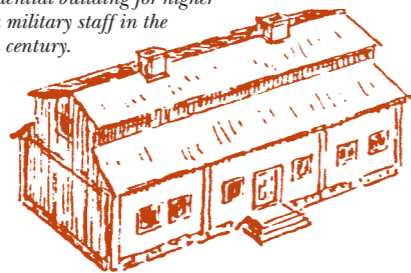
In 1659 Lady Maria Pauli, a descendant of Olof Hård af Segerstad, owned Norrnäs and Sundranäs. She lived on another farm nearby. The tenant at Sundranäs, Jöns, was taken to court by Lady Maria. His crime was that he felled 14 oak trees without

permission. It was, by then, prohibited to cut oak trees as the acorns and the oak wood were valuable. In 1661 both farms were awarded status as manors for Maria Pauli. These privileges were lost again in 1682 when King Karl XI again nationalised the property.

Residence for the Lieutenant-Colonel

In 1683 the state-property Sundranäs was awarded to the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Kronoberg ("South Småland") Regiment. The first Lieutenant-Colonel who stayed at Sundranäs was, after he was ennobled, named Johan Schmiedeberg. He was

Residential building for higher-rank military staff in the 17th century.



born as Johan Schmidt in 1642 in Greifswald, Germany. Sweden was not engaged in warfare during the years he lived at Sundranäs. It can, therefore, be assumed that he lived a peaceful and relaxed life there. Perhaps that is best reflected by the

fact that he and his wife Catharina had 13 children!

When Sundranäs became a residence for army personnel in 1683, the main building was 20 metres by 9 metres and contained 11 rooms and a kitchen. The roof was covered with birch-bark which was a common roofing material in those days. In addition, according to the records, there was a dilapidated staff quarter for the farm worker, a bakery and a grain store.

Unlike Sundranäs, Norrnäs was equipped with a "hops garden" for production of hops for beer making. The land outside the farmed area was described as follows: "reasonable pasture, acorn-producing forest for pigs, reasonable fishing in Lake Bolmen, forest sufficient for fencing and firewood".

Deterioration and restoration

Sweden was engaged in warfare almost continuously when Karl XII was king 1697–1718. Several of the lieutenant-colonels that should have resided on Sundranäs were on duty abroad. The buildings were poorly maintained and in 1724 the only 40-year old main building at Sundranäs was described as "totally useless, why it is deemed necessary that this Character building is dismantled and replaced with a new one". The state of Norrnäs was no better. There were now two residential buildings one of which was described as "redundant and disapproved". The rest of

Stone clearance cairn, Norrnäs point.



the houses were described as "useless and rotten". There was no longer any garden apart from a very basic "cabbage garden".

However, according to the records of 1724, there was one building in a good state. This was a building erected by Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Carl Silversparre in 1720. From 1724 onwards he made considerable efforts to bring Sundranäs back into shape. A new farm building was constructed and an orchard as well as a hops garden was established. A new elegant main residential building was erected in 1738. Investments were made also at Norrnäs: a new barn, a new stable and a new pigs' house.

Sundranäs becomes deserted

In the subsequent years, several different lieutenant-colonels resided at Sundranäs. The era of good caretaking came to an end in 1772. Neither Sundranäs nor Norrnäs were popular residential places. Both farms were very remote. The surrounding bogs were so wet that a boat was required to reach the farms. Sundranäs was deserted until 1798 when Captain von Norrman moved in together with his wife.

A fragile ferry

As Sundranäs was a residence for military personnel a ferry connection was established between Ropareudden ("the caller's point") and Sundet, a distance of 225 metres. This is the ferry described in 1796 by Jonas Carl Linnerhielm (on the front page). The ferry was so small that two trips were required when a horse and cart was to be ferried, first the horse and then the cart. Communications continued to be a constraint for a long time to come. Frequently these places were completely inaccessible.

Sundranäs deteriorates again

At the beginning of the 19th century Erland Hederstjärna was awarded the right to use Sundranäs. When the buildings were inspected, the main building was by then 77 years old and was noted to be "a burden for the state as it was located on a hill and thus strongly exposed to violent winds, which due to the proximity to the big Lake Bolmen had a significant impact on the duration of this building". The wood was rotten, the roof dilapidated and the windows old and dark. Norrnäs was not even inspected.

In 1818, Lieutenant-General Hederstjärna got permission from the state to lease the property for 30 years to a business man called Joachim Henric Lemchen from the nearby village of Skeen. The ruined main building was auctioned and



dismantled to be rebuilt in Skeen. Master Lemchen moved into the house that had been built by Lieutenant-Colonel Silversparre in 1720. That building was by then leaning heavily towards the south and needed repair.

State of affairs by the mid 19th century

During an inspection in 1833, four buildings were recorded at Sundranäs. These were a residential building, a pigs' house, a toilet structure and another building that contained a bakery, a farm-workers' room and an entrance room. According to

A manor (*säteri, sätesgård*) was originally a land holding owned and inhabited by a person belonging to the nobles. As the nobles had privileges, such land holdings were exempted from land tax. The tax privileges could be jeopardised if the building or the land was neglected.

"*Indelningsverket*". King Karl XI reorganised the Swedish army. This reform made Sundranäs a residence for army personnel in 1683. The new system was based on rewarding army officers in kind by granting land and buildings for their use. The size of land so availed corresponded to the officer's rank.

The Monastery Nydala, founded in 1144, was one of Sweden's oldest and most powerful monasteries. The Monastery lost most of its property through King Gustav Vasa's nationalisation of church property. Nydala was located about 80 km northeast of Sundranäs.

records from 1850, the residential house at Norrnäs had been subdivided into two apartments. There was a bath house that was jointly managed with Sundranäs. In addition, there were four crofters' cottages in the holding belonging to Sundranäs and Norrnäs. The crofters had to pay rent in kind by working at the main farms.

The military era comes to an end

The Swedish army was gradually reorganised and in 1873 Sundranäs ceased to have a status of a residence for army personnel. An almost 200-year long era came to an end. The farm land and the buildings were leased to private farmers. The current large barn was erected at Sundranäs in 1921 and a new residential building was constructed in 1932. It is now privately owned. Investment in road construction was made in 1924–25.

Carl Verner was the last inhabitant of Norrnäs. That residential building was demolished in 1931. Only sparse remnants of foundations, basements and chimneys can still be found on the site where once the manor Norrnäs was located.



Sundranäs.