

GPS (RT 90 2.5 gon V)
 Önne: 1363156 E, 6309715 N
 Ångbåtsudden: 1363615 E, 6309289 N
 Little Amerika: 1363740 E, 6309312 N

A spot that is easily accessible

The road between Unnaryd and Odensjö passes right through Önne and hence the place is now easily accessible both by road and, as in the past, by boat. It is a nice spot for a pause. The water from Lake Unnen meets the water of Lake Bolmen. Take a deep breath and enjoy the sound of the murmuring flowing water. In some places it flows slowly whereas other sections still have mini-rapids. Compare the water levels on the two sides of the hydropower plant!

A place for ornithologists

With some good luck visitors will find herons in the stream or at the surrounding shores. The one who is even luckier will perhaps see dippers diving into the water or grey wagtail searching for food. With extreme luck one may get a glimpse of the colourful plumage of a kingfisher!

Paddle to America?

Önne is a convenient place for putting the canoe in the water whether a trip is planned one direc-

tion or the other. If the Lake Bolmen side is chosen, the side where "Little Amerika" once was, it is possible to continue through the bay Kafjorden, into the River Bolmán to the Lagan River and to the sea at Laholm. From there, the oceans offer ample chances for further adventures! Those who prefer shorter trips may explore Lakes Bolmen and Unnen or perhaps try another lake nearby, like Lake Kösen (through the River Bolmán) or the Lilla and Stora Slätten through Möllekvarn. Canoes are for hire at several places, for example at Vallsnäs.

Further reading

About the sluice project: www.onnesluss.se

How to get there?

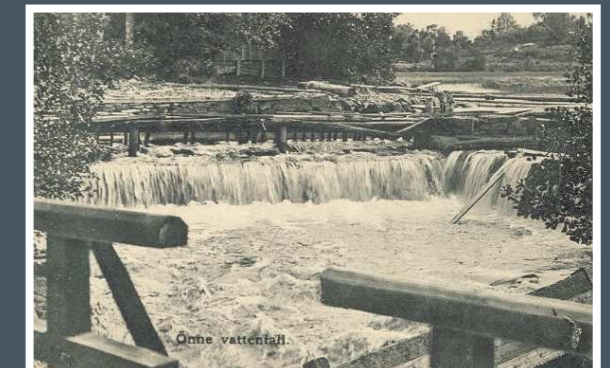
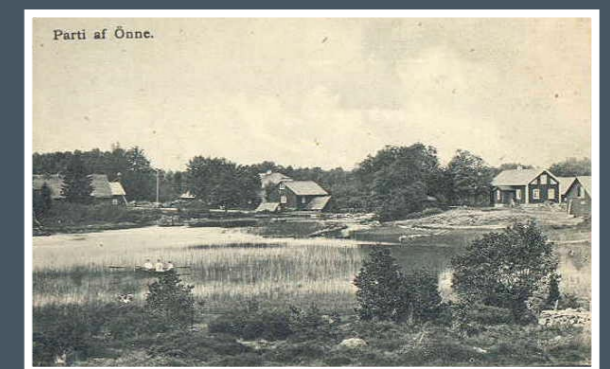
Follow the road between Odensjö and Unnaryd. Önne is along the road, 5 km from Odensjö and 10 km from Unnaryd. Walkers on the long-distance trail Bolmenmarschen will also pass Önne. Another option is to come by boat either from Lake Unnen or Lake Bolmen.

Illustration on cover: Önne förr. Post cards from Kjell-Olof Nilsson's post-card collection. **Main sources of information:** "Lanthandeln i Önne – Ett offer för landsbygdens strukturomvandling" by Berndt Westberg, published in "Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Fornminnes- och Hembygdsförenings Årsskrift 1996"; "Gräns och gränsvist mellan Unnaryd och Odensjö" by K. H. Johansson, published in "Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Fornminnes- och Hembygdsförenings Årsskrift 1996"; "När vatten ångade" by Leif Norrman, published in "Annerstad förr och nu". Annerstads Hembygdsförening 1979; Berndt Westberg, Halmstad; Kent and Margareta Johansson, Önne. **Research:** Karin Tengnäs and Malin Ekwall. **Text:** Karin Tengnäs. **Photo:** Bo Tengnäs. **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



IN THE WAKE OF EBBE SKAMMELSON



Once when I had visited the mill in Önne to get my grains ground I ended up in a real ordeal. On my way back, when I had reached the ridge at Odensjö it suddenly seemed to be dusk behind me. As I turned around I saw a big multi-coloured calf running after me. I whipped the oxen for them to speed up, but in vain. The calf caught up with us. It climbed the cart and sat down at the far end of the load with meal. I whipped the oxen as much as I ever could, but no, the oxen did not even react. They just walked slowly and pulled as if it had become a very heavy load. The oxen had to pull the heavy load all the way to the junction to Skrinhult. When reaching there, they were bathed in sweat. Yes, in fact they turned white instead of reddish brown as they normally were. At the junction the calf left us, and then the oxen speeded up again, full speed uphill and downhill all the way home and as we reached home, all the sweat had disappeared again.

Jonas in Skrinhult's story is from the 19th century and was recorded in 1932. Included in myths and tales from Odensjö compiled in 2001.

The area at Öinne was inhabited already thousands of years ago. Stone axes have been found bearing witness of early colonisation. The village is located where the land that separates Lake Bolmen and Lake Unnen is at its most narrow. Lake Unnen is drained to Lake Bolmen through the Öinne stream. For centuries, Öinne was the meeting place for people from two different regions: Västbo and Sunnerbo. Earlier on, lakes and streams were important for communication. The roads were generally very bad. Öinne was strategically located and highly valued by all people around. In the 19th century Öinne emerged as an important centre. A mill, a dyeing plant, a smithy, a dairy, a frame saw mill, a slicer, shoe makers, shops and a dancing floor for the youth attracted visitors from far.

The water fall generated electricity

As the water level of Lake Unnen is higher than that of Lake Bolmen there were rapids and waterfalls at Öinne. Since time immemorial, the flowing water has been used to run water wheels. The water wheels provided power to mills, the saw mill as well as to a slicer for production of roofing material. In 1916, Axel Pettersson of Öinne farm installed a generator at the mill's water wheel. In 1919, the village got a simple electric grid that was sufficient

Öinne hydropower station.



The isle "Little America".

for lighting in many homes during day and evening time. It was switched off during the night.

The squire's yellow villa

Per Palm, born 1805, and his son Anders Johan Palm, born 1842, were two local businessmen who initiated much of the development at Öinne. Per Palm had the respectable yellow villa built in the 1840s. Later, Anders Johan arranged for the villa to be surrounded by a garden with water fountains, plantations and footpaths. From



the 1870s, a dyeing plant was run by the dyeing specialist David Juhlin. He was known as a person with an extraordinary sense of colour. A third industrious person was his son-in-law, Axel Pettersson, who continued with development of businesses including the dairy which started in 1916. By then, the dyeing plant had been closed down and the dairy could use that building.

The miller

Farmers from the surrounding areas brought their grains to the mill in Öinne for grinding. Some came by large rowing boats all the way from Bolmsö, a large island in Lake Bolmen. While the miller dealt with the grains, the farmers relaxed at the fire and told their stories. The one about Jonas in Skrinhult on the front page is an example. While waiting, they commonly enjoyed some strong drinks

and played cards in the mill's chamber. Sometimes, when the weather was bad, customers from Bolmsö had to spend the night in the mill. Imagine how their families must have worried; there were no telephones and the men could well get into trouble while rowing across the big lake.

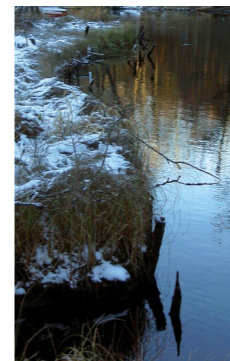
The farmers usually brought one or two sacks at a time. He came back every second week or so. The miller charged levies for his service by taking a share of the meal. Often the miller was an employee of the mill owner and had to further share the income with him. The milling business came to an end in the 1940s.

The blacksmith and the painter

The blacksmith assisted with metal reinforcement of wooden wagon wheels and runners for sledges, ploughs and other metal work. He was also the one to look after the hooves of the horses. There was also a well known painter named Tullgren. He was specialising on fine art like decoration of furniture, often blue with roses and rose-leaves. He also made paintings. The motives were often "borrowed" from postcards with flowers or scenic nature.

The steamship traffic

Steamships have operated on both Lakes Unnen and Bolmen. By then, Öinne was the connection point between the lakes. Goods had to be transported overland between the jetties on the respective sides. The jetty on the Bolmen side was located on the "Ångbåtsudden" (The Steamship Point) near a small isle called "Little America". Local people were of the opinion that the jetty resembled the America Quay in Gothenburg, albeit smaller, hence the name. There was a wooden foot-bridge between Öinne and Ångbåtsudden to facilitate movement across the swampy ground.



Remnants of the wooden foot bridge.

The steamship traffic on Lake Bolmen commenced in 1878 with the ship Oscar. Some 10 different steamships served on the lake during the 60 years that this era lasted. There were many jetties. Liljenäs was in the

north, Piksberg, Torarp and Bolmen in the south. Others were at Öjarp, Odensjö, Järanäs, Tiraholm. Möllekvarn and Bolmsö. It was a passenger as well as a goods transport network and the ships provided important connections to the railway stations at Piksberg and Bolmen. Commercial shipping continued until 1966 but in more recent years it was only for the towing of timber but with no passenger traffic.

The jetty at Öinne in Lake Unnen was at Lermaden located south of the smaller Lake Kvarnsjön. Steamships started operations on Lake Unnen in 1889 and continued into the 1930s. Other jetties at Lake Unnen were at Unnaryd, Alebo, Sjö, Nässja, Karsnäs and Unnen's station. From Unnen's station there was a railway line providing connection to the narrow-gauge railway between Halmstad and Karlshamn on Sweden's south-easterly coast.

Large quantities of pulpwood were floated from the areas around Lake Unnen, through Öinne where there was a floatation flume, across Lake Bolmen, through the river Bolmån, into the Lagan River to its final destination, the pulp mill in Strömsnäsbruk.

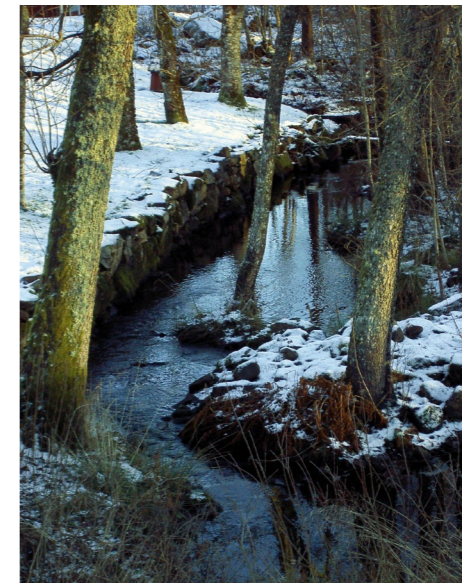
The country shop in Öinne

In the late 1880s the builder A P Svensson opened a country shop in Öinne. It

became popular among folks coming from both the Lake Bolmen side and the Lake Unnen side. The shop was closed in 1968. The competition from supermarkets with a greater variety had become too stiff. The shop is, however, still intact with all the equipment and in fact even some of the merchandise that remained at the shop's closure.

A place for discussions and news

The shop was normally closed around 6 or 7 p.m. but the entrance to the residential part of the building remained opened until much later. It was acceptable to use it too. Many shopkeepers did not really care about the time when customers came. In the winters it used to be cold and unpleasant in the shop until a good firewood stove was installed. Then, the shop became so pleasant that it turned into a meeting place where the news of the day was discussed.



Flottningsrännan.

Buying as well as selling

Similar to many other country shops goods were bought as well as sold. Commonly, a customer brought a basket of eggs for weighing and sale. Butter was another commodity that was bought in larger quantities than those sold. In the autumn there was a trade in lingon berries, which was a considerable export item until the 1940s.

The mill.



A wide range of goods was for sale. A barrel with "Iceland Herring" was just inside the entrance. In the "textile section" working clothes, stockings and underwear were offered. There were also needles and thread, buttons and other items required for sewing clothes. The "paper section" offered, for example, crinkled paper, congratulation cards, wall paper and photographs of Öinne. In fact, even aerial photos! The football pools were also dealt with in the paper section. This became very popular from the 1930s. Other items for sale were shoe polish, spices, soap, detergent and foodstuff. Wooden clogs hung from the ceiling. There were also confectionaries on the main counter: six glass containers with different kinds of sweets. Snuff was sold in bulk packed in paper cornets. Further, the shop also offered postal services.

The Project Öinne Sluice

After discussions that started in 1885, it may soon be possible to pass through a sluice at Öinne. The Society of Businesses in Unnaryd has initiated planning of a sluice and a separate "Society Öinne Sluice" has been formed. The project would enable the inhabitants around Lake Bolmen to come by boat to Unnaryd and to other attractive sites around Lake Unnen. Similarly, boat owners around Lake Unnen could be sluiced down 3.5 metres and then have a chance to experience Lake Bolmen and its scenic nature. Better connections for boats would provide an important impetus to the local economy of the area.

A biologically important water course Öinne was once important for eel fishing. All eel from Lake Unnen and other lakes in its watershed have to migrate through Öinne on their way to the breeding places in the Sargasso Sea. In 2004, a state subsidy was granted for the restoration of the Öinne stream. The objectives are to recreate conditions that enable fish to migrate freely between the big lakes and to create spawning grounds for trout in the stream.