



IN THE WAKE OF EBBE SKAMMELSON



Vicky and Nils Ekwall in the farm shop.

Tiraholm's Fish; farm shop and restaurant

Customers are offered whole fresh fish or fish fillets or alternatively smoked fish. All the fish is locally caught or bred in Lake Bolmen. All pro-

cessing is locally and on locally developed recipes.

Tiraholm: 1368500 E, 6315040 N

The cemetery with "white sacred stones":
1369100 E, 6315425 N

The small beach: 1368298 E, 6315240 N

Warm smoked rainbow trout is one of the customer favourites. It is well suited to an informal meal with friends or family as well as to a dinner with distinguished guests. In the restaurant you can order a range of fish dishes for example with pikeperch or rainbow trout. Tiraholm's Fish is famous for its high quality.

Tips

Buy a pikeperch or a rainbow trout from the clean water of Lake Bolmen or be a gourmet in the restaurant. Opposite the restaurant there is another building which contains fish tanks. Eel is kept there until it is time for further processing. Walk to the jetty. There are tables and benches where visitors are welcome to rest for a while. If it is summer and warm weather a swim at the small beach on the southern side of the road leading to Tiraholm is recommended. If you would like a walk you could venture along to the Iron Age cemetery. Follow the small road on the left-hand side of the residential building and continue to the left at the next junction. After about 500 metres the road cuts right through the cemetery from the Viking Era and after another 500 metres the cemetery with "white sacred stones" is on the right hand side, just where an older forest stand meets younger forest. With a degree of good luck it is possible to find the graves with quartz visible right at the surface. Ancient relics are protected by law so don't bring any pieces of quartz away with you!

Further reading

About Tiraholm's Fish: www.tiraholm.se

How to get there?

Follow the road from Unnaryd towards Bredaryd and Reftele where there are signs "Tiraholms fisk". An alternative is to come by boat on Lake Bolmen.

Illustration on cover: Quartz, the "the sacred stones". **Main sources of information:** "Wägvisaren – 200 år" by Stig Norberg, published in "Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Fornminnes- och Hembygdsförenings Årsskrift 1977"; "Fornlämningar i Finnveden (Småland)" by L. F. Palmgren, published in "Svenska fornminnesförenings tidskrift 1878–1880"; "Ett gravröse med vita stenar vid Tiraholm–resultat från en arkeologisk undersökning sommaren 1998" by Anne Carlie, published in "Södra Unnaryd–Jälluntofta Fornminnes- och Hembygdsförenings Årsskrift 1998"; Nils and Vicky Ekwall, Tiraholm. **Research:** Malin Ekwall. **Text:** Karin Tengnäs. **Photo:** Colour photos where there is no other indication: Karin Tengnäs. Postcards from Kjell-Olof Nilsson's post-card collection. **Logotype:** Lars Lidman. **Design:** Tecknaregården/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

"It was Ebbe Skammelson, on horseback he enters the young lady's farm. Out there stands little Lady Lucie, wrapped in sable and marten

–You stand here Lady Lucie, being wrapped in sable fur. Would you borrow me your house tonight and become my dearest love?"

Translation of an abstract of a Swedish medieval ballad.

A large farm with modern professional fishery

The manor Tiraholm has throughout history been a large and important farm. Earlier, it included twelve crofters' lease holdings, each with some kind of cabin or small cottage. In the early days, the manor belonged to Bolmsö Parish but it was later transferred to Södra Unnaryd Parish. In 1414 "Tidhra" provided residence for the squire Peter Gudmundsson. Tidhra is the oldest known name for Tiraholm. After a sequence of different owners, some of which were Eneroth, Porat and Löfgren, the farm was sold to a German sawmilling company in 1896. In 1901 it was passed on to Ryd's sawmilling company and then sold to Strömsnäs Bruks AB in 1907. In 1928, the farm was sold to Per Ekwall. His descendents still own and manage the farm.



Tiraholm now.

Important fishing

In recent years, fishing has become a major enterprise on the farm. The Ekwall family runs a professional fishing enterprise utilising the surrounding waters of Lake Bolmen. In addition, rainbow trout is bred. There is a farm shop as well as a fish restaurant.

The modern fishing at Tiraholm is based on use of large fish traps where there is space for the fish to swim while it is caught. The fish is, therefore, alive and in its own environment until the trap is emptied. With this technique, fish of the best quality is ensured. Another advantage is that fish that are too small can be



The catch is secured. Photo: Tiraholms Fisk.

returned to the lake for a continued life. In the summer season, the fish traps are placed around the Tira Peninsula and the Tira Islands. They are emptied two or three times per week. Some traps are designed to catch big fish like pikeperch, pike and common bream while other traps are designed for catching smaller fish like perch, common whitefish, roach and eel. In recent years the pikeperch has become very popular. Pikeperch and eel are now economically the two most important species. The population of pikeperch has also increased significantly while that of common whitefish has been declining steadily during the recent decade.

Rainbow trout is bred as a complement to the fishing of species that occur naturally. The rainbow trout are bred in cages in the open water some distance from Tiraholm. Smolt of rainbow trout are purchased and let out in the cages to be kept there for three summers. During that time they reach a weight of up to 4

Facilities for fish breeding. Photo: Tiraholms Fisk.



kilos. Practically all fish caught or bred is prepared and sold locally in the shop or in the restaurant.

A 200-year old road sign

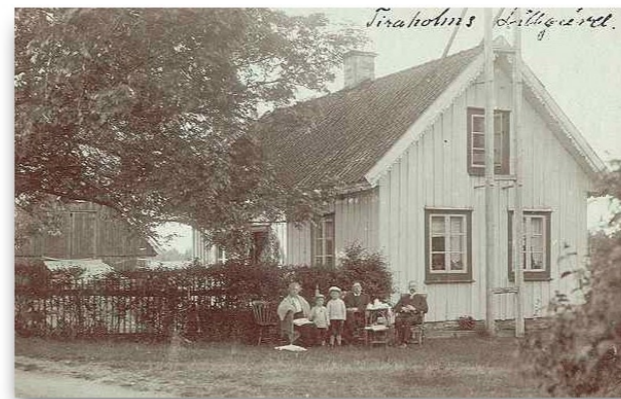
There is a fascinating, erected stone about two kilometres east of the Södra Unnaryd church. The inscription indicates that it dates back to 1777 but its detailed history is only vaguely known. According to local tradition, the stone was originally a boundary stone but was moved and made into a road sign for travellers from Unnaryd, indicating Tiraholm in one direction and to the administrative region Kronoberg in the other direction. In the past, the stone was frequently used as a secret and romantic meeting place for young couples from the area.



According to one theory, the stone is of medieval origin. It may originally have been a stone crucifix. In catholic countries there are crucifixes along roads even now. In poor regions of Sweden and at less important junctions, such crucifixes were occasionally made of stone. It is the only one of its kind in this region, if the theory of it being a medieval road crucifix is correct. This peculiar road sign has experienced quite a number of events. A long time ago, someone may have changed its features from a crucifix to a road sign. Then, the upper end of



the stone got lost. Nobody knows how. In 1964, the stone was badly damaged by a reversing lorry. It was broken into several pieces. The local society for cultural heritage agreed to have it repaired and put it back in its position. The repair was very well done and hardly any sign of the damage could be noted on the front side. However, in 2005 it was bad luck again. Another road mishap damaged the stone and, again, it needed repair.



Tiraholms Lillgård around 1918.

Graves with "white sacred stones"

There are several ancient relics at Tiraholm. An archaeological journal from 1878–80 provides some information on graves located about 500 metres north of Tiraholm. During investigations made around 1878, remains of bones and items made of bronze and iron have been found, for example, an iron key dated to the latter part of the Iron Age. This corresponds to the era of the Vikings. The key is now kept at the National Museum of History in Stockholm.

There is a rather extensive ancient cemetery just over one kilometre northeast of Tiraholm. The cemetery is about 180 metres by 50 metres and there are about 35 graves within that area. An archaeological investigation carried out in 1998 revealed that the studied grave had been built with great care. It was complex with several distinct layers with among others, grey sand, stone and quartz. At least 500 kilos of crushed quartz had been incorporated.

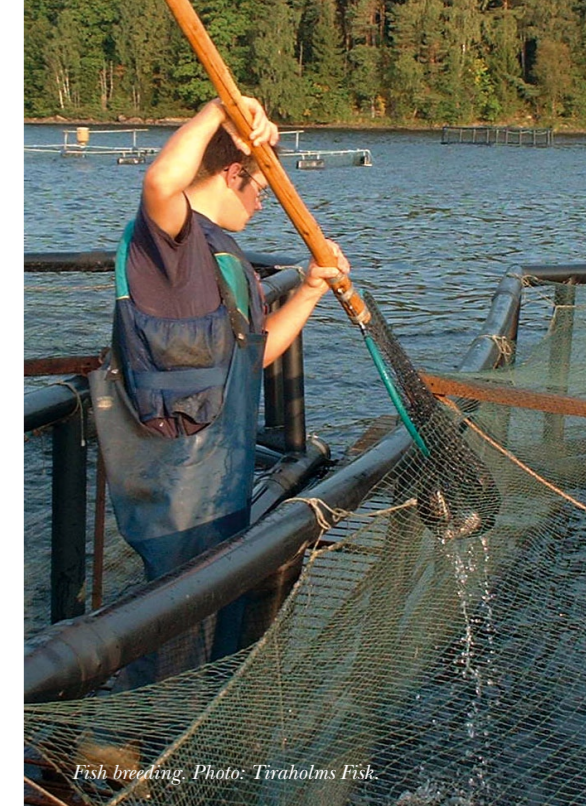
Quartz was very consciously used during the funeral. These "white sacred stones" are said to have symbolised fertility, life and rebirth. They have also been attributed a cleansing and healing effect. The magic powers of quartz can only be fully understood if it is looked at in the context of the whole grave construction. Possibly, the different layers of the grave symbolised the Earth and the universe.

The upper layer may have symbolised the surrounding and protecting universe with its stars. Perhaps there was the ambition to create a microcosmos for the deceased. Use of quartz is mainly associated with graves from the early Iron Age. The oldest part of the grave may, however, date back to the early Bronze Age. The cemetery at

Tiraholm indicates that there has been human settlement in the area already during the early part of the Bronze Age.

Ebbe Skammelson at Tiraholm

Tiraholm has become well known due to the legend of Ebbe Skammelson. According to the legend, Ebbe came to Tiraholm where he met his sweetheart. The story contains much drama and tragedy.



Fish breeding. Photo: Tiraholms Fisk.

Smolt is a stage in the life cycle of salmon fishes. It is the stage that corresponds to the young fish that naturally find their way to the sea from the fresh water bodies where they breed.

Quartz is a whitish or transparent mineral consisting of silica and oxygen. It occurs commonly in the earth crust and has several industrial uses. It is, however, rather uncommon to find large amounts of pure white quartz naturally, but such collections are occasionally found in ancient relics. Quartz was brought to graves in connection with religious ceremonies.

The Bronze Age, Iron Age and the Viking Era. In the Nordic countries the division into different historical periods differs from that of the Mediterranean countries. In the Nordic countries the Bronze Age commenced about 1800 B.C. It was followed by the Iron Age that commenced about 500 B.C. and lasted to about 1050 A.D. The Viking Era coincides with the latter part of the Iron Age, 800–1050 A.D.



Grave with "white sacred stones".