

Farm-related bynames and other farm and croft names referring to women, recorded in three parishes in southern Dalarna

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Summary

The use of *gårdsnamn* – names used both as bynames placed before baptismal names and as designations for farms – still survives in southern Dalarna, though to a limited extent. In the parishes of Husby, Stora Skedvi and Säter, studied by the author, names of this kind referring to women are not particularly common. Of the ones that are found, most consist of forenames in the genitive, e.g. *Lenas*, *Saras* and *Ingeborgs*, while some are bynames in the genitive, e.g. *Dalmors*, *Lärkmors* and *Karimors*. The author has attempted to trace these names through genealogical research, chiefly in the parish registers of the parishes concerned. It emerges that, in almost every case, the woman after whom the name was given, or who herself gave it, had lived on the farm in question as a widow, often for many years. Most *gårdsnamn* derive from the first generation living on the farm, i.e. the original settlers, and first appear in the parish register as the byname of a child, grandchild, son-in-law or an even later descendant. Some farms had two *gårdsnamn*, one an ‘official’, male-related name, used by the clergy in the parish register, and the other a more unofficial, female-related one, which survived among the local population. This is the case with *Brittes (Daniels)* in Forsbo, Stora Skedvi parish, and *Kajs (Göstas)* in Dalsbyn, Säter parish.

*Ortnamnssällskapet i Uppsala årskrift (Yearbook of the Place-Name Society of Uppsala) 2006, ISSN 0473-4351, pp. 41–50.*