

Summary

Bergkvara in Kalmar county

By Staffan Fridell

Today there are two different settlements called *Bergkvara* in Småland. One of them is a manor, formerly a hamlet, in Bergunda parish just west of Växjö, the other a large village on the coast south of Kalmar.

The earliest record of the first of these settlements is *j Byärqwarum* (1354). *Bergkvara* near Kalmar, on the other hand, was first documented in 1600 as *Berqware hafn*. It is thus possible that its name is secondary in relation to *Bergkvara* in Bergunda.

Geographically, *Bergkvara hamn* would have been advantageously located as a harbour for shipping goods to and from the vast late medieval complex of estates, belonging to the Trolle family, that had *Bergkvara* as its principal house. It is thus conceivable that, in the name *Bergkvara hamn*, the manor name *Bergkvara* stands for the entire estate complex, and that the present-day form *Bergkvara* is an abbreviation of the longer, more original *Bergkvara hamn*.