Summary
The härad name Frökind

By Lennart Elmevik

How the Västergötland härad (district) name Frökind, OSw. Frøkin(d)shæradh, is to be interpreted has been the subject of quite lively discussion. It has usually been assumed to contain the place-name element *kind, known from Västergötland, Östergötland and Småland, an element generally, and no doubt correctly, regarded as identical to OWScand. *kind f. ‘family, kin’. The genitive form in "-s", rather than the expected "-a(r)", could then be understood as having arisen by analogy with other Västergötland place-names with an original "-s" genitive. Any interpretation of Frökind also needs to take into account the village and parish name Kinneved in the härad in question, first recorded as Kindiwi in an original letter from 1382. A suggestion that this name, whose final element is OSw. vi (ve, vae) ‘sacred place, cult site’, has as its first element the genitive singular of OSw. *kind ‘family, kin’ is unsatisfactory on phonological grounds. The author subscribes, rather, to a suggestion by Jöran Sahlgren that OSw. Frøkin(d)shæradh does not contain *kind, but a synonym *kindi neut. formed from it, and that this *kindi also forms the first element of Kinneved. A form *Frökindishæradh no doubt developed early on into Frökindshæradh. The element Frö-, in which the author sees the adjective frö ‘fruitful, lush, fertile’ known from Swedish dialects, OSw. fror (attested in the compound ofror), was not in his view part of the name from the outset, but is a later addition. *Frökindishæradh was originally, he suggests, the name of only the fertile part of present-day Frökinds härad.