Summary

The lake name Silingen

By Svante Strandberg

Silinge (*i silinge* 1379) is a farm in the parish of Flen in Södermanland. It is located by a small lake, Silingen, which has a sunken, sheltered situation. An earlier scholar regarded the farm name as primary in relation to the lake name, suggesting that the settlement name had a word denoting a family or tribal group as its base. The present author, however, assumes that it was the name of the lake that gave rise to the farm name. He discusses various possible explanations for the hydronym, tracing it either to the common noun *sel* (< *sil*-) 'calm stretch of water in a river', to the adjective *sid* 'low-lying and marshy', to the verb stem *si*- 'trickle, drip', or to the noun *sil* 'vendace, whitefish etc.'. He is inclined to link the lake name primarily to the stem *sil*-, meaning 'calm water' or the like.