

## Summary

The older names of the rectories of Danmark and Alsike

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In Uppland, it can often be suspected that what are now rectories can be traced back to prehistoric settlements, but that their pre-Christian names have been forgotten.

The parish of Danmark is in Vaksala *härad*, to the east of Uppsala. The rectory is not in the village containing the church, but forms a settlement unit of its own called *Prästgården* ‘The Rectory’, roughly a kilometre to the east along the road to Tjocksta. The settlement and the house were, from the middle of the 19th century at least, situated to the south of the Tjocksta road, while to the north of it there is a prehistoric cemetery of a Late Iron Age character. Since the cemetery is centrally located in the area of land belonging to the rectory, close to the site occupied by the house in the 1640s, it is likely that *Prästgården* was preceded by an older farm. Up to now, however, the name of this farm has not been known.

In the regional archives of the Uppsala land survey authority, there were until 2005 around a hundred draft maps by Mårten Christiernsson. These drafts are the original maps produced in the field, which served as a basis for the fair copies that were submitted to the National Land Survey. It turns out that the drafts contain a good deal of information that is omitted from the fair copies. Inscribed on the draft map of Danmark village, on the other side of the south-eastern boundary, are the words *Engby ägor* ‘Engby land’, and somewhat to the north of this, the word *prestebol* ‘rectory’, crossed out, and below it *Egby ägor*. Here, in other words, we find a previously unknown name for the rectory. On the map of the rectory land, Christiernsson has noted, under the letter A: *Eggeby eller Danmarks Prästegårdh* ‘Eggeby or Danmark Rectory’. According to these records, the old name of the rectory was thus *Egby* or *Eggeby*. These forms reflect an old *Ekby*, with the cluster *-kb-* partially assimilated to *-gb-*. This *Ekby* which appears to have existed in Danmark parish should not be confused with the village name *Ekeby* in the same parish.

In the parish of Alsike, the rectory is some two kilometres north-east of the church. The position of the house and the arable land, the overall shape of the rectory land, and to some extent the archaic names of the neighbouring villages suggest that what is now called *Prästgården* constitutes an old, prehistoric settlement unit. There are no draft maps of *Prästgården* in Alsike parish, and Thomas Christiernsson’s fair copies provide no information about an earlier name for the settlement. There are other sources, however. In May 1420, there is a reference to the Revd Nils, rector of Alsike, having appropriated two *örtugland* of

land in Berga (*i Berghom*) in Alsike parish which had belonged to the Cistercian abbey of Sko. No settlement with the name *Berga* is known from later times. The dispute between the rector and Sko Abbey may have arisen from a transaction in 1412, in which Olof Larsson of Årby exchanged 17 örtugland in Säby for the abbey's 17 örtugland (5 2/3 öresland) in Berga in Alsike parish. For some unknown reason, the abbey retained its share of Berga, perhaps as a gift from Olof Larsson. The Alsike priest's interest in Berga presumably goes back to Archbishop Magnus Bosson's will of March 1288, the provisions of which included the gift of half a markland *i Biærgum* for the support of the parish priest of Alsike and his successors. That the rectory was located in this Berga is shown by a letter from 1392, which refers to a royal provincial assize (*räfsteting*) being held 'at the rectory in Berga in Alsike' (*j præstegardenom i Berghum jnan alszeke*). There is thus much to suggest that the lost Berga in Alsike parish is identical to what later became Prästgården.

In both Danmark and Alsike, the old names of the settlement units occupied by the rectories were displaced by the originally appellative designation *Prästgården*. However, the sources show that the earlier names were still known in the 17th century, in Alsike even in the early 18th. It is quite possible that these names in fact continued to be used in certain linguistic contexts until quite recent times and that, in both places, two different, context-bound designations thus existed for the same settlement.