

Summary

Gråska

By Simon Karlin Björk

The village name *Gråska* in the parish of Edebo in Uppland has been interpreted by Karin Calissendorff (1986) as containing a word **grytug* ‘stony’, which is also considered to be present in the Swedish lake names *Grycken*, *Gröcken*, *Grucken* and *Gryttjen*. Against that background, the present author suggests that the name, recorded in 1342 as *(in) grydkum*, derives from a definite feminine form of this word, and that it underwent the following development: **Grȳtugha* > **Grytga* > **Grytka*. The subsequent vowel change has parallels in *Rytne* > *Rotne* and **Bylmorydh* > *Bolmaryd*, while the shift of *tk* > *sk* is compared with OSw. *mapker* > Mod.Sw. *mask* ‘worm’. Early records of the name with the ending *-um* are attributed to assimilation to a group of plural place-names in *-a*. The author suggests that *Gråska* is to be regarded as an older name for the Ränkaån, which flows through the village, and that it could possibly have been given because of a particularly rocky stretch of the river that may have been an important crossing place in early times.