

Summary

Småland place-name studies

By Staffan Fridell

There has long been assumed to be a link between the village name *Kårestad* (Furuby parish, Konga *härad*) and the district name *Konga härad* in Varend in southern Småland. The author argues that *Kårestad* derives from an Old Swedish form **Kārastadhir*, with the man's name OSw. *Kāre*, corresponding to the modern Swedish name *Kåre*, as its first element, while *Konga härad* can be traced to OSw. *Kūrunga hæradh*, with an inhabitant designation **kūrungar* 'inhabitants of Kårestad' as its first element. He suggests that **kūrungar* was formed from the first element of the village name by *u*-mutation. According to the author, the name of the part of Vissefjärda parish that belonged to Konga *härad*, *Kåraböket*, is a contraction of an OSw. **Kāra[stadha]bøke*, and this name, too, points to a close connection in medieval times between the village of Kårestad and Konga *härad*. In the late Middle Ages, the assembly place of the district was the village of Ryd in Nöbbele parish, but several circumstances suggest that Kårestad was its predecessor.

The parish name *Lannaskede* in Småland has been interpreted as formed from an Old Swedish compound noun **landaskedhe* 'land boundary', referring to the boundary between Västra and Östra *härad* in the *land*, or minor province, of Njudung. It has also been assumed that this boundary was in fact an old border between an earlier, smaller *land* of Njudung and an earlier, larger *land* of Aspeland. The author rejects this hypothesis and suggests instead that the vicarage of Lannaskede parish had the name *Landa*, which in the early Middle Ages also served as the name of the parish. The phrase *in landda kirkiu*, recorded in 1314, thus means 'in the church of Landa parish'. With that interpretation, the late medieval parish name *Landaskedhe* (which superseded *Landa*) means 'the (district) boundary with Landa parish'. An important highway crossed the parish and district boundary with Lannaskede parish, where the boundaries of three parishes meet. A Viking Age rune stone on the site records how a man by the name of Torsten, who had the stone erected, also made a bridge here, i.e. built a road.

In a 1652 copy of a letter from 1379, we find the phrase *aff Hyndiga waru*. The author interprets this as an Old Swedish name **Hyndinga vara*, with the genitive of an inhabitant designation **hyndingar* 'inhabitants of Hunna' as its first element and **vara* 'gravel elevation, gravelly outfield, sandy heath' as its final element. *Hunna* is the name of a village in Skatelöv parish in Allbo *härad*, Småland.

The village name *Attsjö*, in Furuby parish, Konga *härad*, probably means ‘the ridge lake’, i.e. its first element is OSw. *as* [*ās*?] ‘ridge’.