

English



# Aika matka



Northern  
Periphery  
Programme  
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Innovatively investing  
in Europe's Northern  
Periphery for a sustainable  
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European Union  
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**Aika matka** - A Mighty Journey - is a 3-kilometer environmental trail located in downtown Rantasalmi. Starting from Visitor Centre Oskari it consists of nine stops and 12 fascinating stories of which five deal with the geology and the rest with the culture history of the region. **Aika matka** welcomes you to a trip throughout time.

The culture historical stories in this brochure are marked with a key symbol, whereas those dealing with geological topics bear the sign of an ancient granite rock.

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## Stop 1: Rantasalmi Museum



### The origin of the landscape

The Finnish landscape as we see it today is the result of billions of years of evolution caused by forces such as natural disasters, glacial and human impact, and erosion by wind and water. It is characterised by a multitude of lakes, rugged rocks, stony fells, vast coniferous forests, and barren bogs.

The age of our planet Earth is about 4,6 billion, i.e. 4 600 000 000 years. The oldest part of the landscape, the bedrock, dates back some 1,8 billion years in this region. In order to understand these kind of huge numbers we need to be able to illustrate them. Supposing that the average age of man, 80 years, corresponds to a 1 by 1 millimeter square, then the age of the Earth would make up a sheet of millimeter paper 1 meter in width and nearly 60 meters in length! This is an example we should always have in mind when considering our responsibility for the environment and this landscape around us.



The bedrock on this spot is not in sight. Instead, it's covered by soil which in Finland was formed mainly during the end and after the latest ice age, known as Weichselian glaciation, that began some 115 000 and ended about 10 000 years ago. Thus, it's a far younger part of the landscape than the bedrock.

The soil consists of unconsolidated materials. Its thickness in Finland varies from an average of 3 - 4 to over 100 meters.

Although not in sight here, the bedrock is everywhere beneath our feet. The rocky landscapes of Rantasalmi can be enjoyed on a hike along the geological nature trail in Porosalmi some 10 km from here.

Compared with what we usually call mountains, rocks in Finland are relatively low. There have been Alp-like fold mountains in Finland, too, but over the time glaciers have eroded them to the extent that only the bases have remained. It's estimated, for instance, that during the latest ice age some 7 m of the bedrock was carved away by glacial erosion.



### History and presence of wood building

At present, Rantasalmi is perhaps best known for its log house industry, whereas the buildings here at the Rantasalmi Museum are an example of a much older wood building craftsmanship. The main house was built more than 200 years ago and removed here from its original site, the Konttila farm, in the 1960's. Like most human dwellings of the time, the house was chimneyless until the early 1900's, i.e. it was heated with a stone fireplace and the smoke was let out through a small vent in the roof.

Wood building has had its ups and downs even in Rantasalmi. In the 1700's, the struggle for existence was so hard that most woodlands in the region were used for slash-and-burn agriculture. When the owner of a large farm in Kolkontaipale village lost his drying barn in a fire in the 1740's, he wasn't able to get the logs for a new one from his own land. Proper forests were available mainly on the islands of Lake Haukivesi and in the north of the parish, in present Heinävesi that also became a center of saw industry after Finland was annexed to the Russian Empire and trade started picking up.



For woodwork there was enough raw material, though. In 1801, the Finnish Rural Economy and Agriculture Society granted its honorary award to the brothers Pesonen who, in order to provide for their four families, did carpentry work on their farm. This included items such as cabinets - even gilded ones for the gentry - chests, window frames, sleighs, and carts. Their legacy is carried on by companies such as Parlatuote, Parla Wood, manufacturer of wood panels and edge-glued boards and one of the largest employers in Rantasalmi.

Forests also were the source of building material for the numerous manors of the region many of which exemplify Finnish wood architecture at its best. Attitudes towards wood building left a lot to be desired, though. When the old wooden church from 1740 started to decay in the 1820's, there was a strong argument for replacing it by one built of stone. According to popular opinion, building a stone church wouldn't even be more expensive, since the landowners, in lack of proper forests, would have to buy the logs for the church from the outside and, in addition, pay a dear price for having them transported. The decision was delayed another 80 years, but finally the old church was torn down and replaced by a new one built of brick. Brick and mortar was also used to build a new and impressive old people's home - nowadays Hotel Ruusuhoivi - at Lake Rauanvesi.

In past decades, many beautiful wooden buildings have been torn down. Now the tide seems to have turned and the trend is towards fostering the traditions of wood building and repairing instead of destroying. To this end, a house restorer's "spare part bank" was opened in downtown Rantasalmi in the summer of 2009.

## Stop 2: Cadet Park



### Haapaniemi Military Academy

In 1828, young Elias Lönnrot, composer of the Finnish national epic Kalevala, toured the countryside of Häme, Savo and Karelia collecting poems. On May 30, he wrote in his diary: *"On Friday, I arrived from Juva to the vicarage of Rantasalmi where I met my old acquaintance Curate Siljander, assistant to Vicar and Knight Cleve. On Sunday, I had the opportunity to see peasants in their church clothing. I had been told that the peasants of Rantasalmi were the most civilised in Savo, and therefore, I wanted to see them dressed for the church. Men were wearing long grey shepherd-style coatees or short jackets. Women didn't wear any accessories either. The cut of the coats, however, was more stylish and their skirts were shorter than I had seen elsewhere. My attention was also caught by a funeral procession. All the carriers were dressed in white girdled shepherd-style coatees. I can't deny that the procession appeared more beautiful than those in Häme and Uusimaa where the carriers are dressed in black."*

At the end of his diary record Lönnrot writes:

*"There's hardly a place that has made me feel at home like the vicarage of Rantasalmi. Even after a short visit, some people tend to get attached to others to the extent that the mere thought of departure makes them feel unease. The simple, straightforward manner of Mrs. Cleve and the solid, friendly way of Vicar Cleve to deal with people will make me remember my week at Rantasalmi for a long time."*

What then made the reputation of Rantasalmi as a parish where even the peasants were more civilised than in other parts of Savo? To this questions you'll find answers from these culture historical stories as you go.

The name Cadet Park refers to the most significant aspect to the history and culture of Rantasalmi, the Haapaniemi Military Academy that, however, was not located here in downtown Rantasalmi but in the village of Haapaniemi some 15 km from here on the way to Joroinen. The founder of the Academy, Georg Magnus Sprengtporten, apparently believed that young noble boys would be better off far away from the temptations of downtown. Haapaniemi was the first army military academy in the entire Kingdom of Sweden. It was founded in May 1781 and destroyed in a fire on March 26, 1818. The initial plan after the fire was to continue training officers at Rantasalmi, but finally the new Military Academy was built in Hamina, closer to St. Petersburg, the capital of the Russian Empire.

In a period of 37 years, a total of 210 officers were trained at Haapaniemi for the Swedish and Russian armies, and of those who took part in the Finnish War (1808 - 1809), 130 were Haapaniemi graduates. The supervisors, teachers, and students of the Academy had a great influence on social life in Rantasalmi and the neighbouring Joroinen and Juva. But Rantasalmi was a significant place already before that. Its area was much larger than today, and in 1780, it had a population of nearly 10 000 people, whereas Helsinki that was founded more than 200 years earlier was just a tiny village compared to it. At that time, Rantasalmi was probably one of the densest populated places in Finland after Turku.



The area and population of the parish were hardly a sufficient reason to locate the first military academy of the kingdom at Rantasalmi, though. Furthermore, Sprengtporten himself lived at the Brahelinna Manor in Ristiina where he provided training for young boys intending to enter a military career, and of the exercise sites used by the Savo Brigade under his command, Mikkeli was more important than Rantasalmi.

One of the main reasons for the choice of Rantasalmi becomes obvious by looking from the Cadet Park towards Lake Rauanvesi. The Treaty of Turku in 1743 left Savonlinna, located half an hour away by a fast boat, on the Russian side of the border that ran some 10 km from here. It also divided Rantasalmi between two states giving the economy a boost. A number of merchants from Savonlinna moved their business here, and Rantasalmi even had a customs chambre. For the local church, the border didn't seem to be an obstacle as it was common to row over from the Russian side of the parish for Sunday services, weddings and funerals as if the border didn't exist at all.



Locating the Military Academy at Rantasalmi was undoubtedly an attempt to strengthen the eastern border of Sweden, although it was commonly believed that it would be the first one to be occupied by the Russians if a war broke out. In the Finnish War, this didn't happen, however, as the Russians declared Haapaniemi a neutral zone.

Another significant factor in choosing a place for the Military Academy was definitely the fact that there were more nobility manors and officer residences at Rantasalmi and Joroinen than in other parts of Savo. In the early years of Haapaniemi, noble origin was in fact required for admission to officer training. In view of this, it can be said that the Military Academy was further strengthening the existing nobility culture at Rantasalmi.

The history of the Haapaniemi Military Academy includes three distinctive men each of whom is commemorated in the path names of this park. Georg Magnus Sprengtporten was the founder of the Academy, but he never became its commandant. He had been one of those to support Gustav III's coup d'état in 1772, but after disagreements with the King he was sent to the backlands of Savo to command the Savo Jaeger Regiment in 1775. By the time Gustav III gave his concession to found the Academy in 1779, Sprengtporten had already moved abroad and finally entered into the service of the Russian Empire at the invitation of Empress Catherine II. He played a vital role in planning the Russian strategy in the Russo-Swedish War of 1788 - 90. This also marked his final break with Sweden. In February 1790, the Turku Appeal Court sentenced him in absentia to death for treason. After the Finnish War, Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire, and Sprengtporten was appointed its first Governor-General.



Samuel Möller who had been studying the art of topography under Sprengtporten at Brahelinna was the first commandant of the Military Academy. For his broad pedagogical view he is regarded as the pioneer of Finnish military training. Apart from war science, he considered it important that the cadets received a good overall education. To this end, the curriculum included subjects like theology, history, moral science, geography, and more importantly, French and Finnish but also German and Russian. Furthermore, Möller emphasised the importance of theatre and drama and, therefore, not only his establishment but also many a manor house in the neighbourhood got an attic stage. Discipline at the Academy was based on encouragement and collegiality rather than punishment and authority. Möller retired in 1799, but was reassigned to teach at Haapaniemi under Otto Carl von Fieandt after the Finnish War.

Otto Carl von Fieandt, not to be confused with Otto Henrik von Fieandt of *The Tales of Ensign Stål* by Johan Ludvig Runeberg, became the commandant of the Haapaniemi Topographic Corps, successor of the Military Academy, after the Finnish War. The situation was peculiar. The Academy had been training officers for the Swedish army, but now, Finland was a part of the Russian Empire and the army was dissolved. What could be the role of the school in a situation like this? Von Fieandt's solution was topography in which the school already had long experience. In 1816, officer training was reassumed at Haapaniemi, but this final bloom came to an abrupt end with the destructive fire two years later.



## A flood that lasted for millenia

The Weichselian ice sheet started to retreat from the territory of present-day Finland some 13 000 years ago. The melting water, earth materials carried by it, and isostatic rebound caused dramatic water level alterations of the Saimaa lake system including this Lake Rauanvesi.



Baltic Ice Lake



Yoldia Sea

12 000 years ago, the Saimaa basin was a part of the Baltic Ice Lake, a freshwater lake that drained into the ocean through the Danish straits and the water level of which was about 30 m above the present stand. At that time, the church of Rantasalmi that can be seen from here would have been flooded up to 5 m above the ground.

The Ice Lake phase came to an end and the Yoldia Sea stage started

when the Närke Strait opened in central Sweden 11 600 years ago. This allowed the Baltic Ice Lake to empty into the ocean and caused the water level to rapidly sink 10 m below the present stand.

After the formation of the first Salpausselkä ridge in front of the retreating ice sheet and with the uplift of the earth crust, the Saimaa basin slowly started to emerge from the Yoldia Sea as an ice lake of its own some 11 000 years ago. The first independent body of water to develop was Southern Saimaa around present Savonlinna. Its water level at that time was some 20 m below the present stand.

Soon after that, the water level of Saimaa started to rise and continued to climb several thousand years until the water penetrated the Salpausselkä ridge and the present outlet, River Vuoksi that drains into Lake Ladoga, was formed in the southeast of the basin some 5 700 years ago. Just before that, the water level in this area was about 18 m higher than today, i.e. some 5 m above the rooftop of the windmill standing in the museum yard. After this, it started to gradually sink to its present height at 76 m above the sea level.

The reason for this flood that lasted for millenia was the fact that the rate of the isostatic rebound was higher in the north of the basin, i.e. in the area from which the ice sheet had receded later, than in the south. This led to a gradual incline of the basin and flooding of the lake from northwest to southeast. The pressure of the flood in the south of the basin caused the water to break itself two outlets into the Gulf of Finland before the Vuoksi River.

## Stop 3: At the mouth of the Pappilanjoki River



### Quadrille and manor culture

Unsatisfied with the borders drawn in the Treaty of Turku (1743), King Gustav III of Sweden declared war against the Russian Empire in 1788. This war, known as Gustav III's War was unsuccessful for Sweden. The Treaty of Värälä (1790) included no territorial gains for either side, and Rantasalmi remained divided between two states. At the Battle of Parkumäki in 1789, the Swedish army - or rather its Finnish units - won a victory over the Rus-

sians. This victory at Parkumäki, located some 15 km from here on the way to Savonlinna, was the first one since the glorious days of King Charles XII and, therefore, important. To honour it, the King ordered a thanksgiving service to be held in every church of his realm.



*Gustaf*

In the next year, the King visited Rantasalmi and stayed over night at the old vicarage that was located here at the mouth of the Pappilanjoki River. He wasn't able to visit the site of the battle, though, as it was on the Russian side of the border again. Therefore, he had to settle for inspecting the troops of the Savo Jaeger Regiment still gathered at Sääminki. He didn't pay a visit to Haapamäki either, since the Military Academy was still inoperative after the wartime suspension. For the gentry of Rantasalmi, however, the royal visit was an important occasion. A delegation was sent out to welcome the King at the border of the parish and, after the visit, he was escorted all the way to Juva.

Even more grandiose was the visit of Gustav III's son and successor Gustav IV Adolf and Queen Dorothea Wilhelmina in July of 1802. The royal entourage was large and included cooks and confectioners. The King obviously didn't have any high expectations of local travel services, since his convoy, drawn by 236 horses, even carried beds for the royal guests. This time, the main destination of the visit was the Military Academy where the King inspected the corps and awarded distinctions.

These royal visits undoubtedly brought new glamour to the lives of the nobility manors and officer residences of Rantasalmi. Leading families of the Gustavian era were the Harnskiölds, the Heinzius's, the Eschners, the Pontáns, the Pistolekors's, the Tigerstedts, the Brunows, the Kyanders, the Aminoffs, the Harlins, and the Ehrnrooths. Manors had large properties. In 1804, there were 167 crofters - or tenant farmers - at Rantasalmi, while, for instance, in Mikkeli, the corresponding number was 122. Obviously, the life of crofters at Rantasalmi was quite tolerable, as only 11 crofts had to contribute corvée labour, whereas in Mikkeli, practically all crofters had this obligation.

Life in the manors, such as Pyyvilä owned by the Pistolekors family and located at this lake, included both work and vivid social interaction. An additional colour to this was given by the teachers and aristocratic students of the Military Academy. Since many of the teachers spent their holidays in Stockholm, some even at the Royal Court, newest trends and cultivated manners arrived at Rantasalmi practically at the same time as in the major towns of Turku and Porvoo. This is the reason why the peasants of Rantasalmi were considered more civilised than those in other parts of Savo, as Lönnrot wrote in his diary. It also explains the alleged arrogance of the local people, a quality that hardly exists any longer.

Contemporary descriptions of social life in the manors of the region originate from Joroinen rather than Rantasalmi, hence the self-proclaimed name Little Paris or the Paris of Savo sometimes used of Joroinen. And true it is that in the wintertime, when the ice was shiny, it wasn't too hard for the noble boys of Haapaniemi to skate over to Joroinen to court the daughters of the local manors. But there's no doubt that social life in the manors of Rantasalmi was vivid, too. Pyyvilä, for instance, was one of the places with a theatre stage built on the attic.

Social life and customs in the Gustavian era (ca. 1775 - 1810) were characterised by extravagant meals, endless toasts, card games, and especially dancing that was done day and night at every feast and banquet.

The first written record of waltz dancing comes from Rantasalmi from Christmas Eve 1800 suggesting that if Joroinen is known as Little Paris, Rantasalmi could perhaps be called Little Vienna. For this piece of information we are indebted to Miss Jacobina Munsterhielm,

a 14 year old girl and daughter of the Tavastby manor in Elimäki. Five days before Christmas 1800, her family set off for Rantasalmi to spend the holidays at the Leislahti manor located a few kilometers from here and hosted by Ulrika Aminoff, Jacobina's aunt and widow to Major General Adolf Aminoff who had passed away earlier the same year. After a long travel, they finally arrived at Rantasalmi on the day before Christmas Eve.



Christmas Eve was spent at Leislahti playing and dancing. "...quadrille and a few waltzes", Jacobina, who had been given the permission to dance at 13 the year before, writes in her diary, "whereas at Elimäki, we had only been dancing quadrille, minuet, and polska".

On the next day, everyone attended the Christmas service, but after that, the program was filled with festivities. Christmas lunch and New Year's reception at Leislahti were attended by a large crowd of guests, and visits were paid at

least to Kupiala, Rouhiala, and Pyyvilä manors. In the preserved part of her diary, Jacobina writes furthermore that there was dancing everywhere. Waltz, however, is not mentioned in the diary after Christmas Eve. At Pyyvilä, dancing went on till 3 a.m. In addition to local aristocracy, the list of party guests included at least teachers and cadets of Haapaniemi. Otto Henrik von Fieandt of The Tales of Ensign Stål was also present. At Leislahti on January 4, 1801, he proposed to Ulla Rehbinder who was Jacobina's cousin and travelling with the family and received her consent.



### **From earth elevation to earth hunger**

The mouth of the Pappilanjoki River where the old vicarage that was destroyed in a fire once was standing is an appropriate place to have a look at how river and lake landscapes have changed over time and what has caused these changes. Pappilanjoki that runs from Kosulanlampi Pond to Lake Rauanvesi is a part of a slow-flowing water course between Lake Haapaselkä in the northwest and Lake Haukivesi in the southeast. A few years ago, the river was heavily eutrophicated, but now it has been restored for recreational purposes and especially for canoeing.

With a total range of more than 50 m from 12 000 ago to present times, the water level alterations of the Saimaa basin have been truly dramatic as told above.

In recent centuries, shoreline alterations have also been caused by the earth hunger of man. To create new arable land bogs have been drained and the water level of lakes lowered by dredging existing outlet channels or digging new ones. Artificial lowering of lakes was quite common in Finland from the early 1700's to the mid-1900's. Usually, the water level was lowered by 1 - 2 m, but sometimes, entire lakes were drained. Lowering attempts

were not always successful. In 1859, that of Lake Höytiäinen in North Karelia got out of hand and the uncontrolled drop of the water level caused substantial damage.

Infilling that threatens shallow slow-flowing water courses like the one here can be caused by many reasons. One of them is lowering of lakes which, however, is very rare in modern times. Usually, the blame is put on agricultural nutrient runoffs that cause eutrophication of natural waters. What people often seem to forget is that there's also a natural cause to this phenomenon, one entirely independent of human impact, namely isostatic rebound that has its roots in the latest glacial period.



Finland's coastal line after the Weichselian glaciation

During the Weichselian glaciation, Finland was covered with ice sheets that were as thick as 2 - 3 km and the enormous weight of which caused the surface of the earth's crust to warp downward. The retreat of the glacier and removal of the weight led to a slow uplift or rebound of the earth. This rebound is still going on. The rate of it is highest in areas last deglaciated, i.e. some 8 mm a year at the bottom of the Gulf of Bothnia and about 3,5 mm at Rantasalmi. Therefore, if some elderly people remember a water course now blocked being still accessible by boat back in the 1950's, it's good to keep in mind that the uplift of the earth from that time to date has been nearly 20 cm.

Isostatic rebound increases the land area of Finland at a rate of some 7 km<sup>2</sup> a year. As a result, the Gulf of Bothnia is predicted to close up at Kvarken in about 2 000 years.

## Stop 4: Kinnulanmäki



### Succession of trees

Vegetation is the youngest part of the landscape. The first herbaceous plants appeared in this region some 9 900 years ago as the glacier retreated and more land emerged. The first tree to arrive was the birch that dominated the landscape 9 500 - 9 000 years ago. It spread so fast that after just a few hundred years of herbaceous predominance, new land uncovered by deglaciation was populated by birch woods.



The pine appeared on sunny slopes some 9 000 years ago. Over time, tall shield bark pines fell into the water where some of them were preserved under oxygenless conditions till our days. At Porosalmi some 10 km from here, these submerged trees have been recovered from the bottom of a small lake and used to build holiday cabins. According to radiocarbon dating, the oldest ones of them date back to over 8 000 years ago.

The postglacial warming reached its peak 8 000 - 5 000 years ago. The climate was clearly warmer than today which created favourable conditions for valuable broad-leaved trees. The hazel, the elm, and the lime were common with a few oaks and ashes growing here and there.

About 5 000 years ago, the climate started cooling again. Broad-leaved trees gave way to a new species, the spruce, which started competing for scarce living space with the birch and the pine. In this competition, the spruce has been successful. On moraine soils and in moist depressions it gradually takes hold of all space ousting its rival species. It is only after clear cuttings and forest fires that the birch and the pine stand a chance to reconquer their former habitats for a few tree generations.

## Stop 5: New vicarage



### Champagne and gospel preaching

The old vicarage at the mouth of the Pappilanjoki River burnt down in a fire in 1801 and a new one was erected here on the Myllyharju ridge. This house up on the hill, the second one in order, was designed by architect Georg Wilenius and built in 1870. As omnipotent as the manor lords were, true power at Rantasalmi was held by the vicar. Until the 1860's, the vicar was also the mayor, i.e. chairman of the parish meeting. The vicar's wife, together with the parish clerk, often treated diseases and injuries, although Rantasalmi was a forerunner of public health care, too, as the district doctor had his surgery here from the 1770's to the early years of the Russian reign after which it was relocated to Savonlinna.



Joakim Adolf Cleve, so much appreciated by Lönnrot above, was the vicar of Rantasalmi from 1816 to 1833. The parish was a large one as shown by the wealth of the vicarage. According to records from 1830, the vicarage of Rantasalmi had the largest staff in entire Savo. Cleve employed a housekeeper, a foreman, 4 farmhands and 8 maids. A large number of hands were definitely needed since the vicarage was not only a spiritual centre but one of a vivid social life.

An example of the colourful social life in manors is a diary record from 1820 describing the wedding of the daughter of Matias Gottlund, vicar of neighbouring Juva, and provided by Carl Axel Gottlung, brother of the bride and an influential spokesman of the regional culture: After a long marriage ceremony, the guests moved over to the vicarage where the reception started with a series of speeches and toasts followed by an 18-course dinner and frequent toasting. The wedding ball then continued until 3 p.m. The next day, eating and dancing started over and went on until 3 p.m. again. On Saturday, the day after, partying was cancelled as everyone had sore feet but continued on Sunday, this time until 2 p.m. only. And on Wednesday, another party was arranged for 90 peasants. And all of this at the vicarage!

No wonder, thus, that the merry life of the Gustavian era, by far not unfamiliar to the clergy either, gave rise to a revivalist movement all over Savo in the 1820's. This was particularly the case in Northern Savo, in the land of revivalist leader Paavo Ruotsalainen. Joakim Adolf Cleve already had connections with the renewalists, whereas Johan Fredrik Bergh, the most renowned vicar of Rantasalmi, was one of the leading figures of the 19<sup>th</sup> century revivalist movement.

Bergh is known as the founding father of the Finnish Sunday school institution. On Sunday evenings, people used to gather in the parish meeting hall to read and to sing hymns for

*"children must be taught to know God's holy word at an early age in order to awaken in them a true enduring love of it, because only earnest and living Christian faith is able to withstand the Evil."*

Bergh was the vicar of Rantasalmi from 1857 to 1866. He was a powerful preacher and physician of the soul. In his sermons, he attacked drunkenness and debauchery of any kind. Playing cards and dancing were, according to him, of the Devil himself. At the vicarage, every day started and ended with hymns and knee prayers. Within the revivalist movement, however, Bergh can be regarded as a conciliatory and tolerant person who took distance from direction disputes and to whom the message of love was at the end all that mattered. On the day of his death, he said to his assistant: *"Go and tell the parishioners these words: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Bergh's influence in Finland continued long after his death. One of the best selling books of the late 1800's was his *Postil* that contained his speeches and sermons and practically saved the newly established publishing company Weilin & Göös from a financial destruction.

A powerful but amicable revivalist leader, Bergh was surely beneficial to the spiritual life of Rantasalmi in that extremist religious movements were never able to gain ground here. To his successor, Johan Kristian Lampén, who had studied under Runeberg in Porvoo, renewalism remained distant. At this new vicarage built during his term, Bellman songs were sung alongside hymns, and the family with eight children led a busy life. Lampén's daughters were eagerly looking forward to dancing again at the vicarage, and at his silver wedding anniversary party, Lampén finally gave way to their wish. Of his children, Ernst Lampén (since 1936 Iso-Keisari) made a notable career as a journalist and writer depicting life at Rantasalmi during his childhood.



Eliel Saarinen, one of the most renowned Finnish architects, was born at the new vicarage in 1873

Canon of the Cathedral Chapter and clergy representative at the Diet, Johan Kristian Lampén spent long times away from Rantasalmi and, therefore, often required substitutes. One of these was Juho Saarinen, whose wife Selma gave birth to a boy child in the corner room of the vicarage on August 20, 1873. The child, christened Gottlieb Eliel, later became one of the most renowned Finnish architects. Eliel's childhood at the vicarage was cut short just two years after his birth when his father decided to go to Ingria to work there as a priest.

The vicarage was the parish residence until the late 1990's after which it has been a private home.

## Stop 6: Jumikkala Manor



### Public education and innkeeping traditions

Throughout centuries, Jumikkala has been the most important estate in the center of Rantasalmi. Its name refers to the Jumikainen family, first mentioned in Johan Haberman's Land Register of Smaller Savo from the 1620's. In the 1660's, Jumikkala became a military residence for a captain and later a lieutenant of the Karelian Dragoons. Its location near

the church and the fact that military drills and parades used to take place in the vicinity of the church suggest that it was also a gathering place for army officers.

A new age for Jumikkala began after the Turku Treaty in 1743. With the annexation of the southeast parts of the country to the Russian Empire, Rantasalmi became the educational center of Eastern Finland. First, the Savonlinna Pedagogium, i.e. elementary school, was relocated to Rantasalmi where it wasn't able to establish itself despite all the efforts by its principal Mr. Winter. Some years later, the decision was made to relocate the Lappeenranta Trivium School to Rantasalmi. Accommodated in the courthouse, the Rantasalmi Trivium School was opened in 1749. Three years later, a new house was built for it here next to the Jumikkala Manor. Mr. Winter was appointed its first rector, and gradually the Pedagogium withered away.

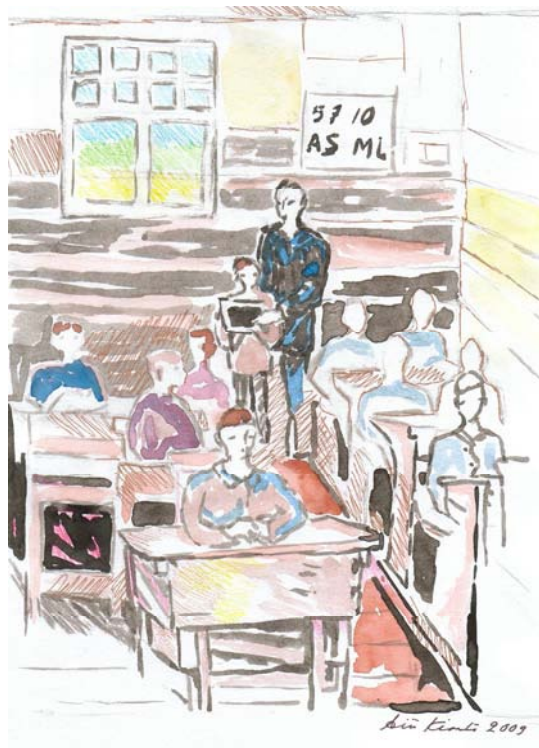
The first years of the Trivium School weren't easy either, because there wasn't enough accommodation for the pupils and teachers. When the new school dormitory was finally opened in 1771, teachers had to share it with the pupils. The locals were annoyed by the fact that the teachers were entitled to collect their salaries from certain landowners. Despite difficulties, the school was thriving. Records show that more graduates from Rantasalmi entered the gymnasium and ecclesiastical career than from the rest of the schools in the Diocese of Porvoo.

The Trivium School had four grades. Instruction was given in Swedish and the staff consisted of the Rector, the Conrector, and two Colleagues. The first thing to learn at the school was penmanship soon followed by Latin, Greek, Theology, Rhetoric, Logic and other liberal arts. School started at 5 a.m. A recess was scheduled from 8 to 9. At 10, the pupils went to church to hear God's word and returned to school for another three hours at noon.

The afternoon was reserved for homework until 5 p.m. after which the schoolday ended with a prayer. School holidays included one month in summer and another in winter. Discipline was based on corporal punishment, i.e. birching the wrongdoer on the hands or bare buttocks.

One of the key figures of public education in South Savo was Johan Fredrik Hörning, the son of a shoemaker from Liperi. Having noticed the talent of the 24-year-old, vicar Porthan of Kuopio parish decided to send him to the Trivium School of Rantasalmi. Having dropped the school in lack of money, Hörning was appointed assistant schoolmaster of the local parish school. The remarkable results he achieved with his excellent teaching methods made him a school developer widely known and desired beyond the boundaries of the local community.

Hörning was also one of the pioneers of female education. In his opinion, women were to receive the same education as men. At school, his daughter substituted him whenever needed. Hörning also insisted that her wife Lovisa should learn Latin, which she was reluctant to do. Finally, she prepared her husband a trap he fell into and refused to let him out until he had promised to give up teaching her Latin. Hörning was not only a skillful educator but also a businessman who acquired real properties in and outside Rantasalmi. In 1818, he bought himself half of the Jumikkala estate.



Soon after the Haapaniemi Military Academy was established, Kuopio, the first town of Savo, required the Trivium School to be relocated there. A corresponding decision was made in 1782, and six years later the school moved to Kuopio. Thus the time Rantasalmi was the home of both the first Military Academy in Finland and the only Trivium School in Eastern Finland, only lasted for less than 10 years. Nevertheless, this status of Rantasalmi as a significant educational center has had a great impact on the local culture.

The Trivium School building was dismantled before the turn of the century and its logs bought by vicar Samuel Krogius for a new outbuilding adjoining the vicarage. The oldest parts of the main building of Jumikkala probably date back to this time.



Jakov Grot

After the Finnish War, the other half of Jumikkala was owned by Vasily Kononov, the son of an innkeeper, who for some reason first called himself Garashimov at Rantasalmi. The reason may have been his father's reputation shadowed by dubious liquor sales business, or perhaps his own female adventures that gave him six illegitimate children with six different women. It is with certainty known that he kept an inn at Jumikkala in 1826 and maybe even earlier. He earned additional income in Savonlinna selling liquor, for which he was licensed from 1827 to 1829, and arranging public entertainment.

The Jumikkala Inn was well known. Jakov Grot, the future professor of Russian at the Imperial Alexander University in Helsinki, had fallen in love with it in 1846, and in his diary of a journey to Finland in 1853, Russian Alexander Milyukov describes it as an oasis in the gray of Savo: its stylishness, tidiness and service quality can well be compared with those of the best inns at the highways of Mother Russia; and the dining room even had two orange trees!

At about this time, the Jumikkala Inn was acquired by another Russian, Afanasi Tekin, who expanded the business by opening a shop on the premises. In 1881, Jumikkala was bought by A. W. Bagge who had a village shop at Kolkontaipale. He decided to concentrate on shopkeeping, although times were getting worse with the prohibition of spirit distilling. In 1881, the sanction for bootlegging alcohol at Jumikkala was 60 Marks fine or 8 days jail on bread and water.

Today, innkeeping traditions at Jumikkala are maintained by a catering service. The manor remained in the possession of the Bagge family until 2007 after which it was passed as a legacy to the Education and Culture Foundation of the Rantasalmi Cooperative Bank.

## Stop 7: Jumikkala Esker

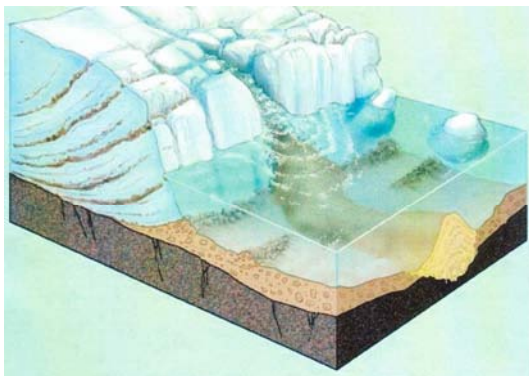


### A national landscape under threat

During the Weichselian glaciation, the enormous mass of the ice sheet caused abrasion of the underlying bedrock creating the abundant mineral soils typical of Finland. These were carried with the meltwater and deposited into land formations such as this esker.

Till is the most common soil type in Finland. It consists of glacial debris and erosion products varying from boulders to gravel, sand, and fine particles of clay. The Finnish word for till, *moreeni*, also refers to moraines which are mounds or ridges deposited by an advancing or retreating glacier and mainly consist of till.

The mineral soils gravel and sand are the main constituents of eskers which are a part of the Finnish national landscape. In popular language, the Finnish word for an esker, *harju*, can refer to any elongated natural elevation. In geology, the word is used for long winding ridges created by glacial streams that flowed within or under the ice sheet and consisting of stratified rock debris carried with the stream current. An esker always runs parallel to the



Forming of an esker

glacial retreat, i.e. in Finland usually from southeast to northwest. Therefore, the Salpausselkä ridges that run across southern Finland from southwest to northeast are not eskers but terminal moraines formed in front of the retreating ice sheet. The best known eskers in Finland are Punkaharju in South Savo and Pynnikinharju in Tampere. The latter is the highest esker in the world rising to 85 m above the level of adjacent Lake Pyhäjärvi.

Eskers are not only an inseparable part of the Finnish national landscape but also important ground water reservoirs. Throughout times, they have furthermore been exploited as a source of raw materials for civil engineering. Many natural esker landscapes, especially those located in the vicinity of big urban centers or highways, have been largely destroyed by sand and gravel extraction. To preserve the remaining ones for future generations, a national esker conservation program, covering a total of 159 eskers of significant geological or natural value, was launched in Finland in 1984.

## Stop 8: Cemetery



### From the execution stone to the churchyard

You are now standing at the site of the old church of Rantasalmi. From here, a birch alley led to the vicarage and from here, one could also see when the church boat of the Putkisaalo manor at the far end of Lake Rauanvesi was close enough for the beadle to start ringing the bells. At that time, it were namely the mighty Ungerns of Putkisalo who determined the schedule of services.

The parish of Rantasalmi was established in 1554, first a chappel parish of Sääminki and an indepent one since 1578. By that time, Rantasalmi as an independent administrative unit had already existed for over half a century. The first church was too small. According to a record from the 1640's, it was common that on main religious holidays sermons were delivered from the bell tower to a crowd standing in the churchyard, beacuse the church wasn't large enough to seat all those present. A new and bigger church was built around 1660, and a third one, wooden like its predecessor and commemorated in this column, in 1741.

The parish has had a lot of misfortune with its church bells. The old church had three bells of which one was cracked and therefore useless. However, the parish decided in 1748 to lend one of the remaining two bells for the new chapel of Heinävesi which at that time was a part of Rantasalmi. One of the reasons for the decision may have been that people from Heinävesi were said to have located and recovered the bell that had been sunk in Lake Ladoga to hide it from the Russian invaders during the Greater Wrath (1714 - 1721). Quite soon, however, having realised that their promise would leave them with one intact bell only, the people of Rantasalmi started having second thoughts. But despite an appeal to the Governor, the damage was already done, and on St. Mary's Day 1749 - in the secrecy

of the night, according to popular opinion at Rantasalmi - the Police Chief, assisted by people from Heinävesi, removed the bell from the tower.

A new bell was acquired from Stockholm with great financial sacrifices, but the ship that was carrying it to Finland grounded near the Estonian coast. The bell was saved and brought to Tallinn where it was auctioned by a local merchant. Its destination remained a mystery until it was recently located in Tallinn. It was only in 1787 that two new bells were hung in the belfry. They met their fate 200 years later in a devastating fire caused by a lightning stroke.



The execution stone of Rantasalmi was located below the old church. Among those who were beheaded there was Georg Fredrik Tigerstedt. Owner of the Pyyvilä manor and other large estates, he was known as a rich and greedy man.

When Gustav III's War broke out in 1788, Tigerstedt, convinced of a Russian victory, took contact with general Schultz, commander of the imperial troops, who was quartered at the vicarage.

Tigerstedt agreed with Schultz to provide the Russians with information in exchange for a ruling position over Rantasalmi after the war. To his misfortune, the war ended undecided and the border remained where it was. Tigerstedt was arrested for treason and condemned by the King to lose his head, his honour, and all his possessions, and the Royal Vaasa Appeal Court ordered the execution to take place at Rantasalmi. A partial amnesty was granted to him as King Gustav III decided that the headsman wouldn't have to cut off his right hand in addition to his head. Even his possessions were afterwards returned to his widow.

Noblemen and peasants rest side by side on this beautiful cemetery that has never had large burial chambers. The Aminoff family had a wooden mausoleum that fell into a decay and disrepair over a century ago. In addition to that, only the Pistolekors's of Pyyvilä have had their mausoleum here. A number of crosses and headstones tell their stories about aristocratic families but also peasants with typical rural names alternating with more exotic ones such as Quintus or Jordan.

Here is the final resting place of both Johan Kristian Lampén, who had the new vicarage built, and Johan Henrik Bergh, founding father of the Finnish Sunday school institution. This is also the burial site of Gustaf Henrik Ehrnrooth, progenitor of the Ehrnrooth military branch, who was merely a boy when he fought the battle of Kostianvirta in 1713. Severely wounded, he was taken prisoner of war in Isokyrö and transported to Siberia. Fearlessly, he escaped from captivity and returned to Finland in 1719 to join the final battles of the Great Northern War (1700 - 1721). He married Kristina Hästesko-Målagård, had three sons who entered a military career, and settled in Rantasalmi. Having first lived at the officer residence of Leislahti he acquired the Rouhiala manor where he spent the rest of his life hunting, fishing, yarning with oldtimers, and raising his children to love this country and its people. Among his descendants are heroes of both Gustav III's War and the Finnish War as well as a celebrated general of the Continuation War (1941 - 1944).

## Stop 9: Churchyard



### Life emerges from ashes

The old church started to deteriorate towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was cold in the wintertime and hardly attractive to anyone. For the people of neighbouring Juva the wooden church of Rantasalmi was a regular subject of mockery. The decision to build a new church at the far end of the churchyard was made in 1894. Ten years later, the Neo-Gothic church designed by Josef Stenbäck and built of red bricks was ready to be consecrated. And a stately one it was seating no less than 2 500 people, quite enough to put an end to any ridicule by neighbours.



Saved from the fire: altarpiece by Louis Sparre

In the midsummer week of 1984, a lightning struck the belltower causing a fire that severely damaged the interior of the church. The roof collapsed and the bells fell from the tower. The new church, designed by architect Carl-Johan Slotte, was built within the old brick walls that were mainly undamaged after the fire.

Next to the church are the soldiers' graves. Here's a good time to break for awhile before entering the church to take a look at photographs of the fire and, more importantly, the new, much beloved church itself.

The civil war of 1918 treated Rantasalmi gently leaving it on the Whites' side of the front line and causing only eight deaths, whereas in the Winter War and the Continuation War more than 300 men from Rantasalmi lost their lives for the country.

The greatest tragedy happened just before the end of the Winter War on the island of Petäjäsäari of Lake Ladoga. In February 1940, Soviet troops assaulted the island held by a company of some 100 men from Rantasalmi and Nilsjä. Vastly outnumbered, the Finns first managed to repel the enemy that was attacking over the ice. But the Soviets didn't give up, but in an extreme chill, they launched an unprecedented shelling of the island from land and air.

Finally, the commander of the island, lieutenant Ahti Suhonen, went to the battalion headquarters and asked for permission to withdraw his troops from the island, because most of them were married men. Instead of them, he would stay alone to defend the island. The permission was denied and the company ordered to hold their positions until the last man.

In the dawn of March 6<sup>th</sup>, Finnish outposts could see the Soviet assault troops beyond the rifle range. The silence was deafening and then suddenly all hell broke loose. Supported by 94 bombers and 34 fighters, the enemy launched the heaviest artillery bombardment of the war on the Finnish positions, and by nine, Soviet troops had landed on the island. The last twelve defenders made a desperate effort to escape, but not one of them returned.

On one single day, 58 men from Rantasalmi and 26 from Nilsjä lost their lives in the battle for Petäjäsäari. They are honoured by this memorial designed by Kaija-Leena Hänninen and erected in 2001. It consists of three columns of local stone - firm like the defenders of the island - supporting a broken rock from Petäjäsäari.

## The making of **Aika matka**

### Financial basis

**Aika matka** was financed from two sources:

- ❑ the geological part was contracted with the Finnish Forest and Park Service and financed from the Northern Periphery Programme as a part of the NEED project (Northern Environmental Education Development);
- ❑ the culture historical part was financed by the Rantasalmi Municipality within the framework of its Regional and Business Development Program.

### The team

The **Aika matka** project was contracted and supervised by the Rantasalmi Institute of Environmental Education (RIEE). The project team in charge of planning and implementing the trail consisted of two RIEE staff members and six local experts who worked on the project on a voluntary, in-kind basis. The team members were:

- ❑ Mr. Pekka Hynninen, Program Director, RIEE
- ❑ Mr. Juha Rämö, translator, RIEE
- ❑ Mr. Jorma Kaimio, Docent (emer.)
- ❑ Mrs. Airi Kianto, art teacher, artist
- ❑ Mr. Jussi Leppäniemi, Minister of the Rantasalmi Parish
- ❑ Mr. Toni Auvinen, entrepreneur, chairman of the municipal council
- ❑ Mr. Janne Aaltonen, dentist, chairman of the South Savo Building Heritage Association
- ❑ Mrs. Mirjam Hartikainen, public health nurse

### The stories

The main criterion for the stories was to introduce the visitor to some true highlights in the past of the region. Some overall themes emerged: for geology, it was the time concept characterised by the evolution of the landscape and the water level alterations of the Saimaa basin, whereas the culture history of the region has evolved around the Haapaniemi Military Academy and the related manor culture.

The culture historical stories were written by Jorma Kaimio whose academic background is in Etruscan research. The geology part of the stories is based on expert knowledge produced by the Geological Survey of Finland and adapted by the RIEE.

The 12 stories were compiled into a brochure illustrated with watercolours by Airi Kianto and available to visitors at the Linnansaari National Park Visitor Centre Oskari which is the starting point of the trail.



NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT



Rantasalmi Institute of  
Environmental Education

## Aika matka Glossary

<b>Baltic Ice Lake</b>	The Baltic Ice Lake, dated to 14 500 - 11 600 BP, is a name given by geologists to a freshwater lake that gradually formed in the Baltic Sea basin as glaciation retreated from that region.
<b>Bellman, Carl Michael</b>	Carl Michael Bellman (1740 - 1795) was a Swedish poet and composer and a central figure in the Swedish song tradition. His main works are the <i>Songs of Fredman</i> and the <i>Epistles of Fredman</i> , each including some 70 songs, many of which are about social drinking and/or designed for the occasion of the same. A master of rhyme and rhythm, with a wonderful sense for combining words and music, he also wrote songs that were innovative and original in form as well as challenging in subject matter.
<b>birching</b>	A corporal punishment with a birch rod, typically applied to the recipient's bare buttocks, although occasionally to the back and/or shoulders.
<b>Continuation War</b>	see Winter War
<b>corvée labour</b>	Under the feudal system, compulsory, unpaid labour demanded by a lord or king and the system of such labour in general.
<b>eutrophication</b>	Nutrient enrichment causing excessive growth of algae and other aquatic plant life in a body of water.
<b>Finnish</b>	Finnish is one of the Finno-Ugric languages, a subdivision of the Uralic language family. It's related to Estonian, Hungarian, Sami, Karelian and a number of languages, usually marginal ones, spoken in Russia mainly west of the Ural Mountains. Finnish is characterised by its 15 cases and related suffixes added to the stem of a word and often having the same function as the prepositions and postpositions typical of English and other Germanic languages.
<b>Finnish history</b>	Some milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ 10 900 BP: earliest traces of modern humans</li><li>❑ ca. 1150 - 1809: Swedish rule that ends with the Finnish War (1808 - 1809)</li><li>❑ 1809 - 1917: Russian rule that factually ends with the Bolshevik October revolution</li><li>❑ 1906: universal suffrage granted to all citizens</li><li>❑ 1907: first general elections</li><li>❑ 6 December 1917: declaration of independence adopted by the Parliament of Finland</li></ul>

- ❑ 1917 - 18: approval of Finland's independence by the Soviet Council of the People's Commissars on Dec. 30, 1917, and by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee on Jan. 4, 1918
- ❑ 27 January to 15 May 1918: Civil War
- ❑ 9 October 1918: Prince Frederick Charles of Hesse is elected the "King of Finland and Karelia, Duke of Åland, Grand Prince of Lapland and Lord of Kaleva and the North" by the Parliament
- ❑ 14 December 1918: Prince Frederick Charles of Hesse renounces the throne of Finland without ever arriving in the country and Finland subsequently adopts a republican constitution
- ❑ 1919 - 1932: prohibition of alcoholic beverages
- ❑ 1 January 1995: having seen the dissolution of the Kalmar Union (1397 - 1523) and successfully defended her independence in the Winter War of 1939 - 40 and the Continuation War of 1941 - 44, Finland joins the European Union
- ❑ 7 May 1995: Finland wins her first ever ice hockey world championship
- ❑ 28 February 2002: Finnish markka ceases to be legal tender and is replaced by the euro
- ❑ 20 May 2006: Finnish hard rock band Lordi wins the 51<sup>st</sup> European Song Contest with the song "Hard Rock Hallelujah"

### **Finnish War**

The Finnish War was fought between Sweden and Russia. It started in February 1808 and ended with the Treaty of Fredrikshamn (Hamina) in September 1809. As a result of the war, the eastern third of Sweden was established as the autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland within the Russian Empire.

### **Great Northern War**

The Great Northern War (1700 - 1721) was fought between Sweden and a coalition of allies including Russia, Denmark, Poland-Lithuania, and Prussia and ended with the treaties of Stockholm, Fredrikshamn and Nystad (Uusikaupunki). For Sweden, the war marked an end of both its position as a major power in the Baltic Sea and the era of absolute monarchy. For Finland, it meant a 7-year period (1714 - 1721) of Russian occupation known as the Greater Wrath.

### **Greater Wrath**

see Great Northern War

### **Gustav III's War**

see Russo-Swedish War of 1788 - 90

**isostatic rebound** (post-glacial rebound, uplift, elevation)

Isostatic rebound is the rise of land masses that were depressed by the huge weight of ice sheets during the last glacial period, through a process

known as isostasy. It affects northern Europe (especially Scotland, Fennoscandia and northern Denmark), Siberia, Canada, and the Great Lakes basin.

**Kalevala**

The Kalevala is a book and epic poem compiled by Elias Lönnrot (1802 - 1884), a Finnish physician, botanist, and philologist, from Finnish and Karelian folklore in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The national epic of Finland, it is said to be an inspiration for J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Silmarillion* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

**Kvarken**

Narrow region in the Gulf of Bothnia between Finland and Sweden. The water depth in the Kvarken region is only around 25 meters. The region also has an unusual rate of isostatic rebound at about 1 cm a year.

**Lesser Wrath**

see Russo-Swedish War of 1741 - 43

**Lönnrot, Elias**

see Kalevala

**quadrille**

A square dance of 5 or more figures for 4 or more couples.

**Runeberg, Johan Ludvig**

Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804 - 1877) is the national poet of Finland. His most famous work is *The Tales of Ensign Stål*, an epic poem containing tales of the Finnish War and lauding the heroism of the Finns. Its first poem *Vårt land* (Our land) became the Finnish National Anthem. Runeberg wrote all his works in Swedish and he is highly regarded also in Sweden.

**Russo-Swedish War of 1741 - 43**

The Russo-Swedish War of 1741 - 43, known as the Hats' Russian War in Sweden and Hat's War in Finland, was fought between Sweden and Russia and ended with the Treaty of Turku. The war marked a further decline of Sweden as a great power in Northern Europe. In Finland, the war resulted in a 2-year period of Russian occupation known as the Lesser Wrath.

**Russo-Swedish War of 1788 - 90**

The Russo-Swedish War of 1788 - 90, known as Gustav III's War in Sweden, Gustav's War in Finland and Catherine II's Swedish War in Russia, was fought between Sweden and Russia from June 1788 to August 1790 and ended with the Treaty of Värälä.

**Saarinen, Eliel**

Eliel Saarinen (1873 - 1950) was a Finnish architect who became famous for his art nouveau buildings in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His significant works include the Central Railway Station and the National Museum in Helsinki, the Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, NY, the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, MI, and the Christ Church

Lutheran in Minneapolis, MN.

**Savo** (Savonia)

One of the historical provinces of Finland. Savo represents the original area of Savonians, one of the so-called tribes of Finns and the heartland of East Finnish dialects. Nowadays Savo is a part of the Province of Eastern Finland that consists of three regions, South Savo, North Savo, and North Karelia.

**slash and burn** (assarting, swidden, fire-fallow cultivation)

Cutting and burning of forests or woodlands to create fields for agriculture or pasture for livestock. Historically, slash and burn has been widely practiced throughout most of the world. Today the term is mainly associated with tropical rain forests.

**The Tales of Ensign Stål**

see Runeberg, Johan Ludvig

**Weichselian glaciation** (Weichsel or Vistulian glaciation, named after the Polish river Vistula or its German name Weichsel)

Geological name of the latest ice age or glacial period in Northern Europe. The Weichselian glaciation began some 115 000 and ended about 10 000 years ago.

**Winter War**

For Finland, the World War II consisted of 3 separate wars, the Winter War (30 November 1939 - 13 March 1940), the Continuation War (25 June 1941 - 19 September 1944), and the Lapland War (September 1944 - April 1945). As a result of the Winter War and the Continuation War against the Soviet Union, Finland ceded a number of territories, including the Karelian regions, suffered 290 000 casualties, including 87 000 dead, and paid reparations amounting to 300 million USD equalling half of its annual gross domestic product in 1939 while the nation retained its independence. The Moscow Armistice that ended the Continuation War compelled Finland to drive German troops from its territory which led to the Lapland War.

**Yoldia Sea**

Yoldia Sea, dated to 11 600 - 10 800 BP, is a name given by geologists to a variable brackish-water stage in the Baltic Sea basin that prevailed after the Baltic Ice Lake was drained to sea level during the Weichselian glaciation.

