

The Path of Finnish Immigration

Wright County Historical Society

Presented by Richard Tormanen

June 7, 2010

Finnish

Faith

Family

Friends

Fellowship

Farmers

Fisherman

Foreigners

The First Finns

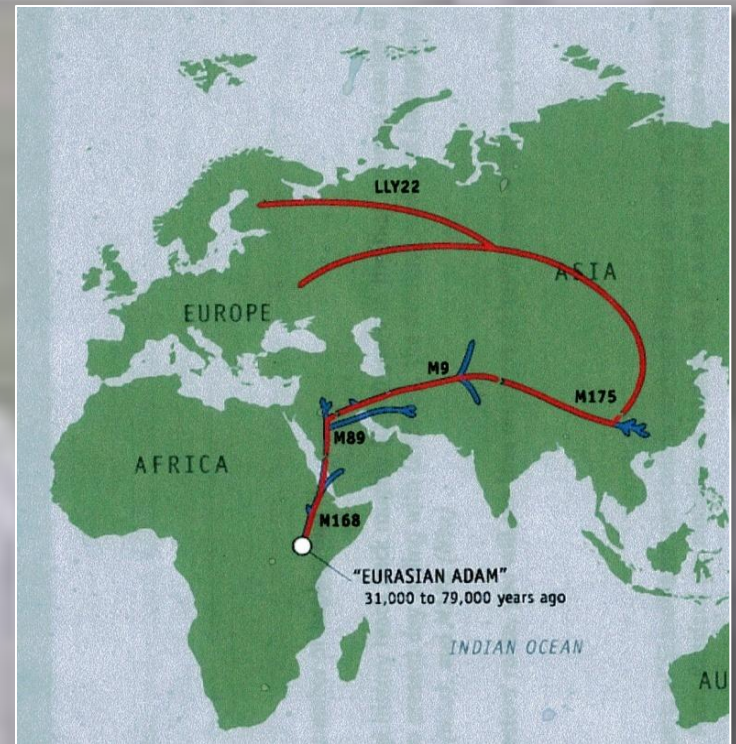
National Geographic Genographic Project using DNA to chart human migration shows two routes of the first Finnish people.

WWW.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM/GENOGRAPIC

Haplogroup U5



Haplogroup N

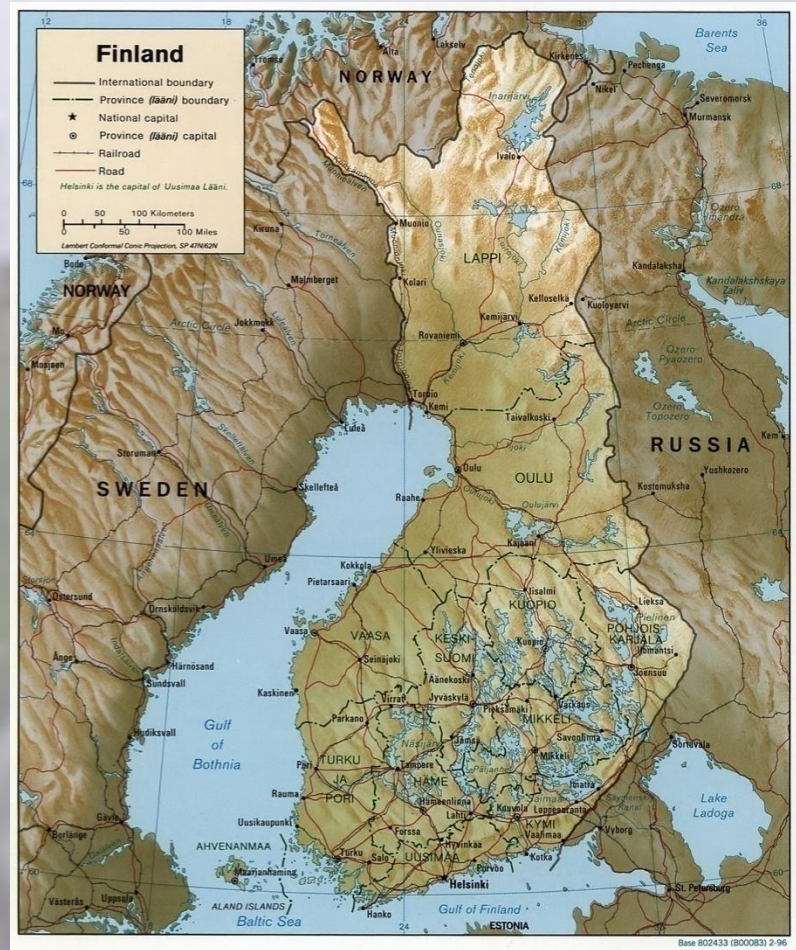


Finns and Finnish People

- The terms **Finns** and **Finnish people** (*Finnish: suomalaiset* and *Swedish: finnar*) are used in English to mean "a native or inhabitant of Finland". They are also used to refer to the ethnic group historically associated with [Finland](#).
- The Finnish speaking inhabitants of Finland, including [Kvens](#) (people of Finnish descent in [Norway](#)), [Tornedalians](#) (people of Finnish descent in northernmost [Sweden](#)), [Karelians](#) in the historic Finnish province of [Karelia](#) and Evangelical Lutheran [Ingrian Finns](#) (in the northwestern [Russian Federation](#)), as well as Finnish expatriates in various countries, are usually considered [Finnish people](#).
- The first **Finnish** people to immigrate to **Cokato, Dassel, French Lake, and Kingston** townships of Minnesota were from [Northern Norway](#) ([Kvens](#)), Tornio and Muonio river valley of [Sweden](#) and [Finland](#) ([Tornedalians](#)) and Rybachiy Peninsula of [Russia](#).

Finland History

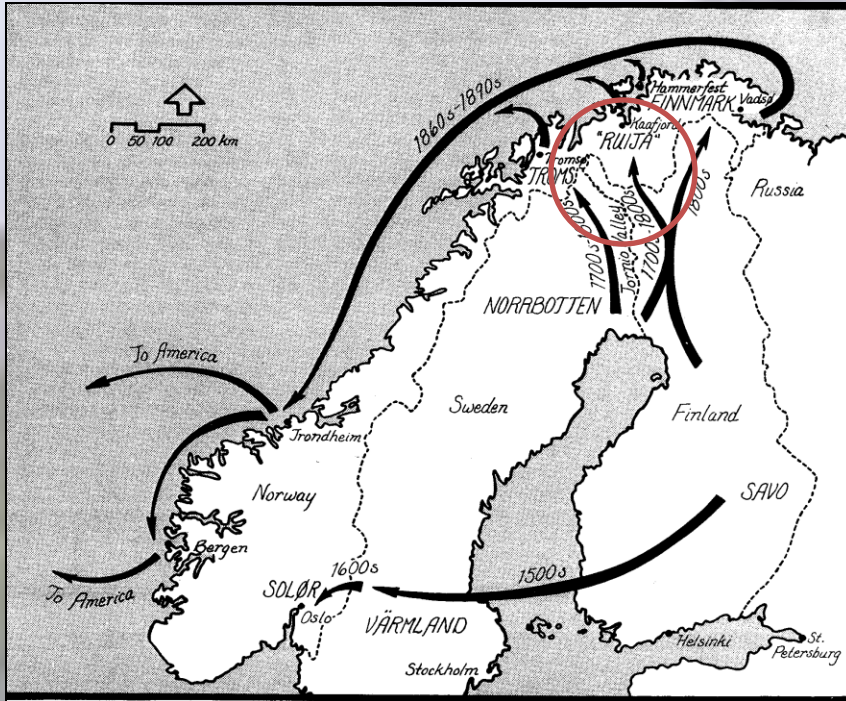
- The Finns arrived in their present territory thousands of years ago, pushing the indigenous Lapps into the more remote northern regions. Finnish and Lappish (Sami) are Finno-Ugric languages and are in the Uralic rather than the Indo-European family.
- Finland's nearly 700-year association with the Kingdom of Sweden began in 1154 with the introduction of Christianity by Sweden's King Eric.
- During the ensuing centuries, Finland played an important role in the political life of the Swedish-Finnish realm, and Finnish soldiers often predominated in the Swedish armies.
- Finns also formed a significant proportion of the first "Swedish" settlers in 17th-century America.



Finland History

- In 1809, Finland was conquered by the armies of Czar Alexander I and thereafter remained an autonomous grand duchy connected with the Russian Empire until the end of 1917. On December 6, 1917, shortly after the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, Finland declared its independence.
- In 1918, the country experienced a brief but bitter civil war that colored domestic politics for many years. During World War II, Finland fought the Soviet Union twice--in the Winter War of 1939-40 and again in the Continuation War of 1941-44. This was followed by the Lapland War of 1944-45, when Finland fought against the Germans as they withdrew their forces from northern Finland.
- The Finnish families of the area were diligent and generous in sending much needed items to friends, family and others in Finland during these war years.

Finnish Immigration

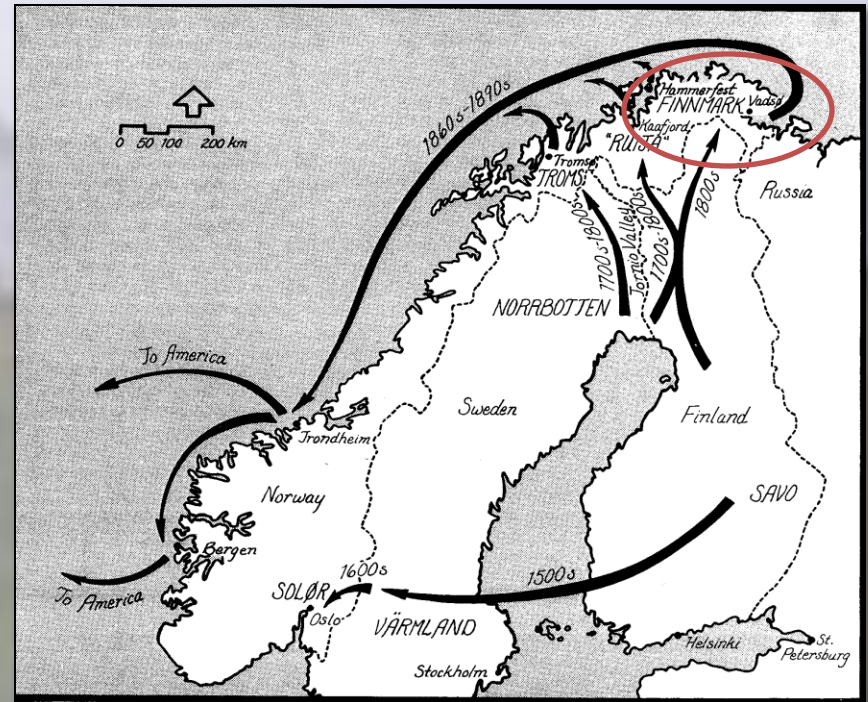


Map is from "The Norwegian Connection" by Arnold Alanen

- The first large immigration was from 1720 to 1820, when Finnish speaking people from northern Finland and the Tornio river valley moved to river basins and fjord-ends in Troms and western parts of Finnmark.
- The immigration can be seen as a continuation of Finnish **Farmers** colonizing Lapland.

Finnish Immigration

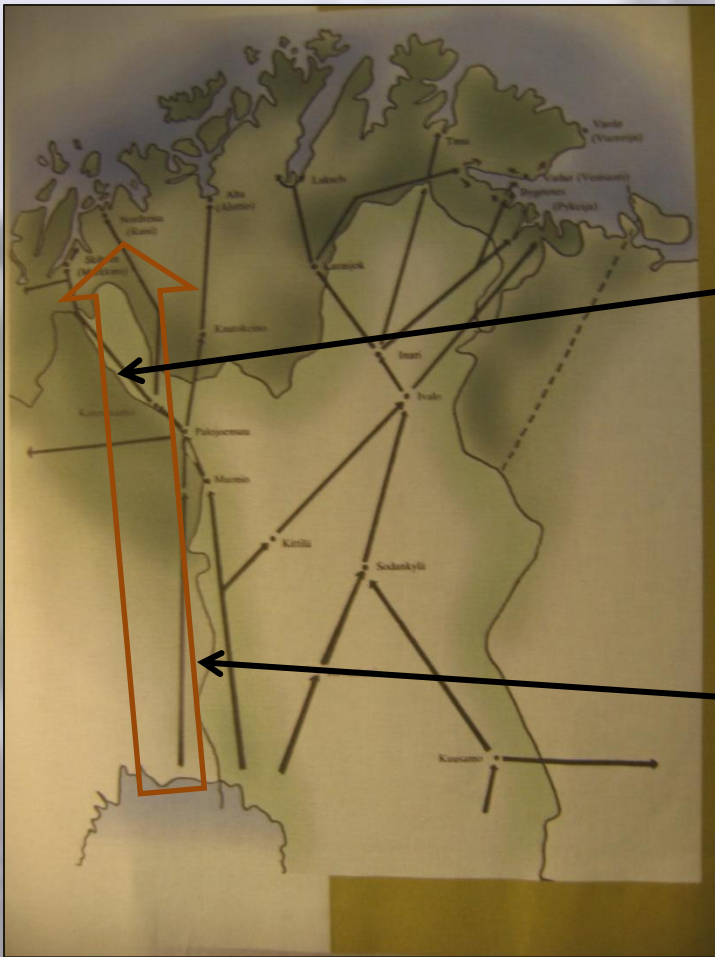
- The second and larger immigration was from 1820 to 1890 to coastal areas of eastern Finnmark, motivated by the **fishing** industry in Northern Norway.
- The second immigration also included Kola Lapland and the Arctic coast of Russia.



Map is from "The Norwegian Connection" by Arnold Alanen

Finnish Immigration

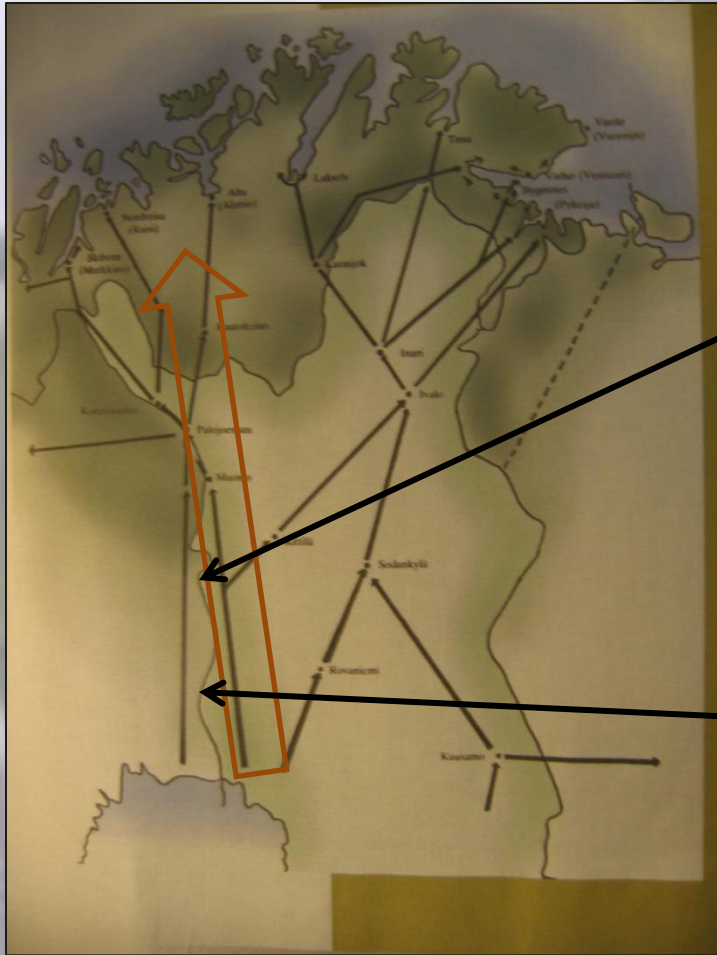
Following the Swedish side of the Tornio and Muonio Rivers



Tornio and Muonio Rivers

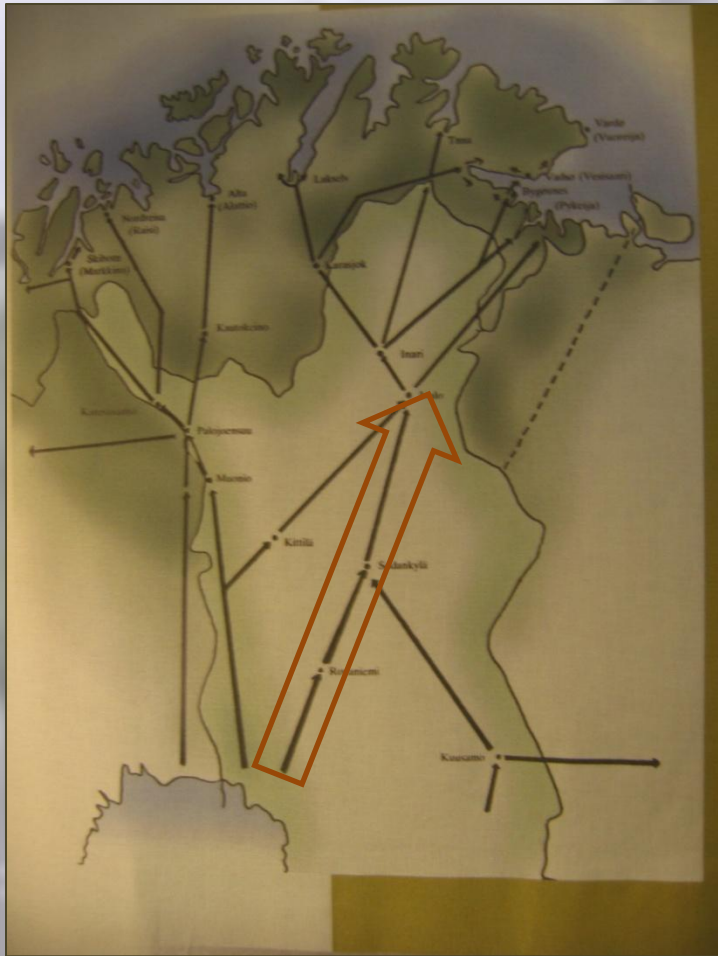
Finnish Immigration

Following the Finnish side of the Tornio and Muonio Rivers



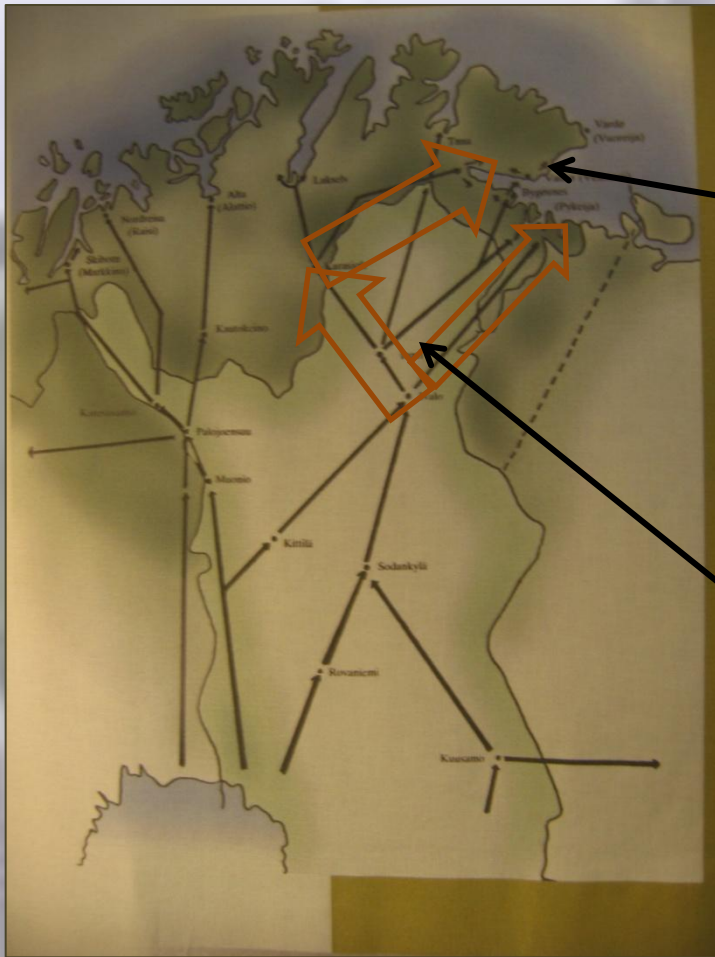
Finnish Immigration

Central Route from Kemi to Rovaniemi to Sodankyla



Finnish Immigration

From Ivalo to Inari with the western route going to Karasjok and Hammerfest and the central route going to Vadso



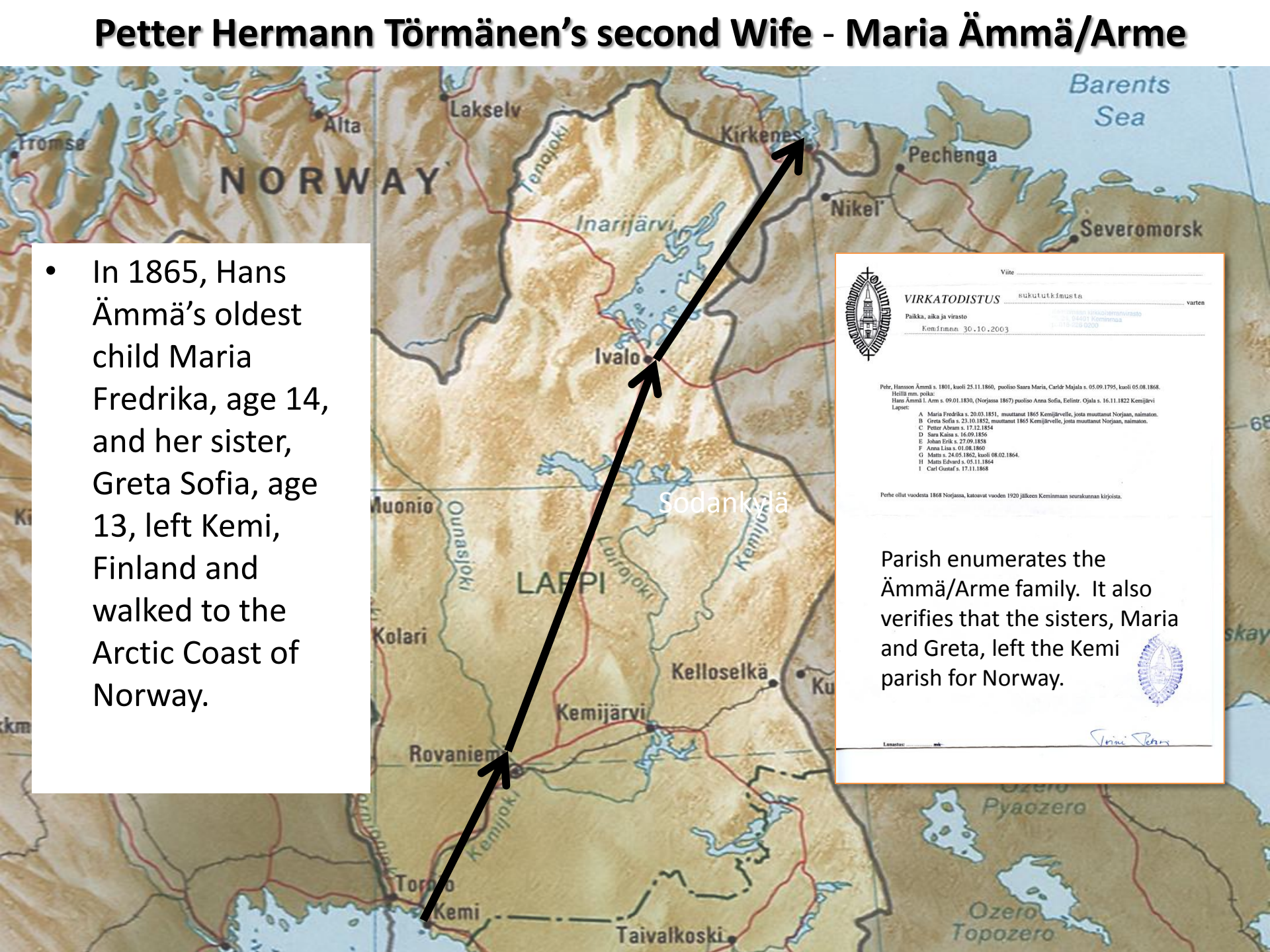
Vadso



Inarijärvi

Petter Hermann Törmänen's second Wife - Maria Ämmä/Arme

- In 1865, Hans Ämmä's oldest child Maria Fredrika, age 14, and her sister, Greta Sofia, age 13, left Kemi, Finland and walked to the Arctic Coast of Norway.



Viite _____
VIRKATODISTUS sukututkimusta varten
Paikka, aika ja virasto _____
Kemijärven 30.10.2003

Petr, Hansson Ämmä s. 1801, kuoli 25.11.1860, puoliso Saara Maria, Carlré Majala s. 05.09.1795, kuoli 05.08.1868.
Heillä mm. poika:
Hans Ämmä I, Arn s. 09.01.1830, (Norjassa 1867) puoliso Anna Sofia, Felintr. Ojala s. 16.11.1822 Kemijärvi
Lapset:
A Maria Fredrika s. 20.03.1831, muuttanut 1865 Kemijärvelle, josta muuttanut Norjaan, naimaton.
B Greta Sofia s. 23.10.1832, muuttanut 1865 Kemijärvelle, josta muuttanut Norjaan, naimaton.
C Petter Abram s. 17.12.1854
D Sara Kallia s. 16.09.1856
E Johan Erik s. 27.09.1858
F Anna Lisa s. 01.08.1860
G Matts s. 24.05.1862, kuoli 08.02.1864.
H Matts Edvard s. 05.11.1864
I Carl Gustaf s. 17.11.1868

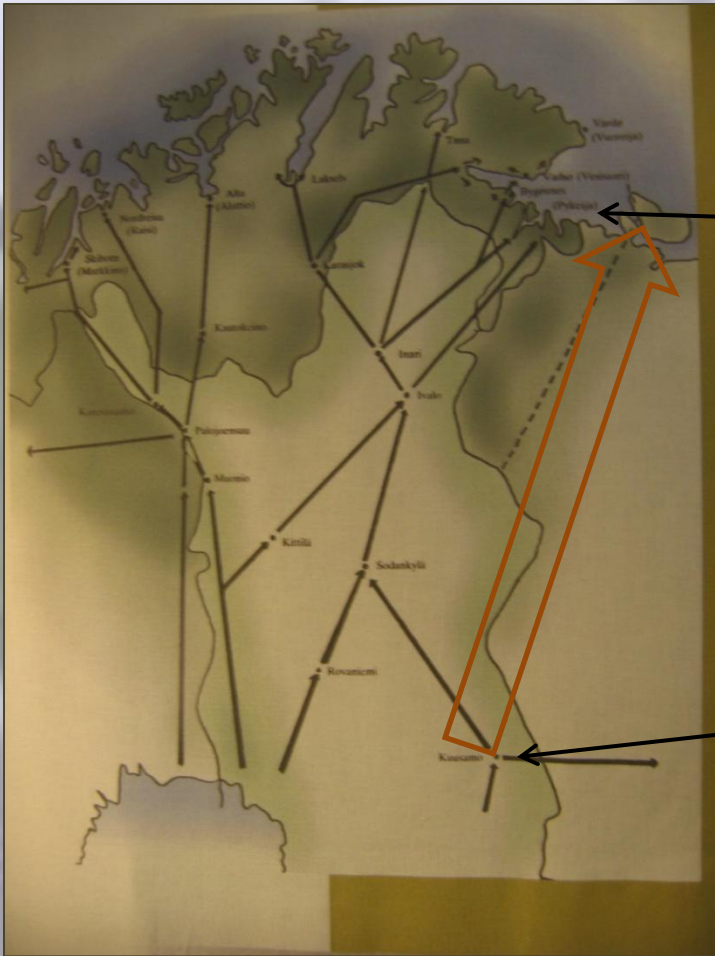
Perhe ollut vuodesta 1868 Norjassa, katsovat vuoden 1920 jälkeen Kemintaman seurakunnan kirjoista.

Parish enumerates the Ämmä/Arme family. It also verifies that the sisters, Maria and Greta, left the Kemi parish for Norway.

Luottamuskirje
Lisämerkintä _____
Voini Petrus

Finnish Immigration

Route From Kuusamo to Pummanki in the Russian Arctic



Törmänen's Immigration to the Arctic Ocean

The Törmänen's left this location near Kuusamo when they immigrated to Pummanki on the Arctic Coast in the early 1870s.



Emigrants Travel to the Arctic Ocean

- The Emigrants left in late February to reach the Arctic Ocean by March 25th in time for the spring cod run.
- They traveled by foot, skis or sleighs.
- They traveled in groups of 20 to 30, including young and old of both sexes.
- The more affluent hired horses or reindeer and rode in sleighs.
- The distance ranged from 400 to 800 kilometers.
- The trip took from 19 to 35 days.
- Expenditures were as high as 250 Finnish marks.



Why Finnish People Migrated to the Arctic Shores of Norway and Russia

- Life was difficult in the rural settlements scattered throughout the northern region of Finland and Sweden.
- The forests and streams provided insufficient game and fish.
- Agriculture faced unfavorable climatic and soil conditions.
- The famine years of the 1860's caused severe crop failures and food shortages.
- Title to their holdings became difficult to acquire.
- Small landowners felt they had no future because of high taxes.
- Finns touched by the Laestadian Awakening found their countrymen unsympathetic to the movement.
- They had the hope that Arctic fishing would provide an income to support their families.

Finnish Farmers

On the Arctic Coast of Norway and Russia

- The Finns brought agriculture to the Arctic region.
- Small parcels of land were broken into garden plots with plows and harrows which they brought with them.
- Seeds came from Finland for the first plantings of potatoes, turnips, radishes, barley, and rye.
- Conditions were difficult; rocky, peaty soil, polar climatic conditions with sudden frosts, cold winds, and a short growing season.
- There was a lack of pasturage and hay fields for cattle and sheep.

Finnish Fisherman

On the Arctic Coast of Norway and Russia



Vardo, Norway



Finnish Fisherman

Invisible Fences

- The fishing industry in Norway was largely controlled by merchant houses to whom the **fishermen** sold the fish before they were caught under the prevailing truck and barter system.
- In Kola Lapland and Finnmark, the **fishermen** often ended the season still indebted to the merchants.
- On the Russian shore, the **fishermen** used a share basis where each fisherman on the boat crew received an agreed share of the total catch.
- A concern of the Finns was the discrimination against alien **fishermen**.
- The Norwegian statutes of the late sixties and seventies attempted to protect the interest of permanent residents and citizens from migratory **fishermen**.
- Under their provisions, free fishing rights were taken away from aliens. They could only hire themselves out to merchants or fish on a share basis in a vessel owned and piloted by a Norwegian citizen. A special fishing fee was also charged.

Finnish Fisherman

Influences to Emigrate

- Whether working as hired seaman or fishing on shares under the so-called sweat system, a majority of the Finnish **fishermen** reaped a small financial reward.
- Some years the catch of cod was meager.
- Other years the bait fish failed to appear.
- Illness among the immigrants was common. Respiratory diseases and scurvy were consequences of crowded living and unbalanced diets.

The Laestadian Movement

- The starting point for Laestadianism is generally considered to be in 1845 when Laestadius' sermons acquired a new character.
- This was as a consequence of his personal conversion experience while in Karesuando, Sweden where he served as pastor 1826-1848.
- He served in Pajala, Sweden from 1848 until his death in 1861.



The cabin Laestadius built in 1828 in Karesuando for living quarters as well as home services and meetings.

The Laestadian Movement

Provost Lars Levi Laestadius

- Lars Levi Laestadius was highly educated. He served as a Provost in the State Church of Sweden and was a revivalist preacher, an educator, a temperance speaker, a scholar and thinker, a linguist, an ecologist, newspaper editor, and a renowned botanist. He was also the founder and leader of the religious movement.

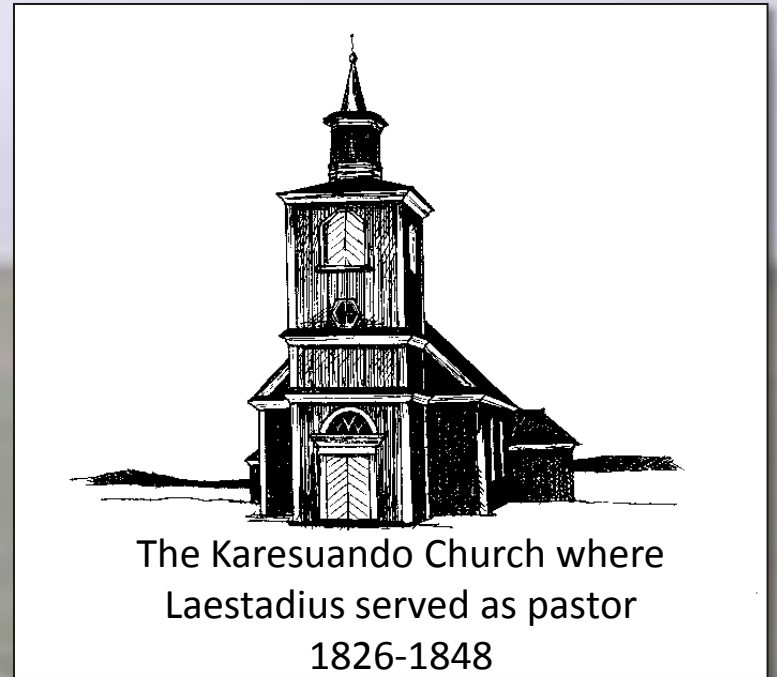


“The Prophet of Lapland”

Picture from “A Godly Heritage”

The Laestadian Movement

- The teachings stressed the reality of final judgment and the necessity of living in accordance with religious law, non-institutionalized Christianity and to find salvation through conversion and absolution, which was orally proclaimed by the true congregation of the believers.



Picture from "A Godly Heritage"

The Laestadian Movement

In Arctic Norway and Russia

The revivalist message spread into all Sámi regions within a course of a decade, from the Torne River Valley in Finland and Sweden, to the Kven fishermen on the Atlantic and Arctic coasts of Norway and Russia. This happened immediately prior to the great migration wave in the 1860s from the ports of Finnmark's coast to the North American continent.



Church near Vadso, Norway

Finnish Overseas Emigration

- In the beginning of the first immigration until the 1860's, the Norwegian government was positive to the Finns and the Sami's.
- However, from 1850's until World War II, the Norwegian government initiated the Norwegianization policy with its goal to assimilate the **Finnish** and Sami people and their culture into the national majority.
- During this period the use of the Kven (**Finnish**) language was forbidden in schools and government offices.

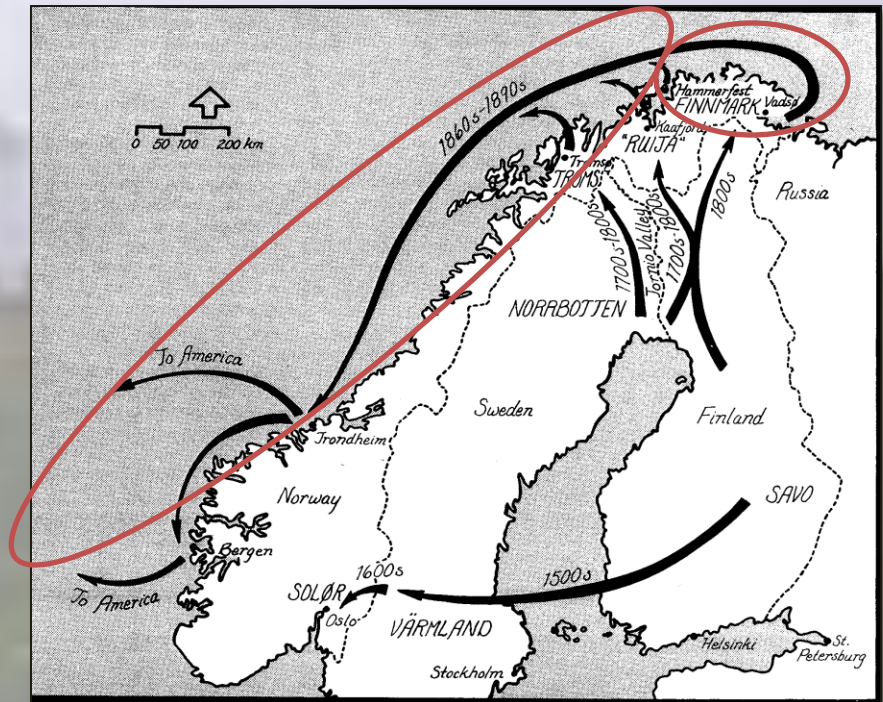
Finnish Overseas Emigration

- Land purchase was prohibited for those who did not acquire Norwegian family names.
- Eventually, selling land to non-speakers of the Norwegian language became prohibited.
- Many other aspects of Arctic life worried the followers of Laestadius.
- There was widespread drunkenness in the fishing towns, gambling, dancing, and riotous living.
- The followers had to worship in the privacy of their dwellings.

Finnish Overseas Emigration

From Arctic Norway and Russia

- In the 1860's, the Finns and Lapps in the fishing and mining regions of Finnmark and Tromsø, Norway, learned from the Norwegians, emigration agents, and from American letters that free and fertile land was available, and that there were jobs in the mines and lumbering.



The third great immigration was to America in the 1860's through the 1890's.

Finnish Overseas Emigration

From Arctic Norway and Russia

- In 1864, the first group of three Finnish Families and several single men left Tromso, Norway.
- The transatlantic voyage took about seven weeks.
- The trip inland via Chicago to Red Wing by rail and steamboat took about five weeks.
- They homesteaded in Birch Cooley Township, and Camp Township in Renville County (Franklin, MN).



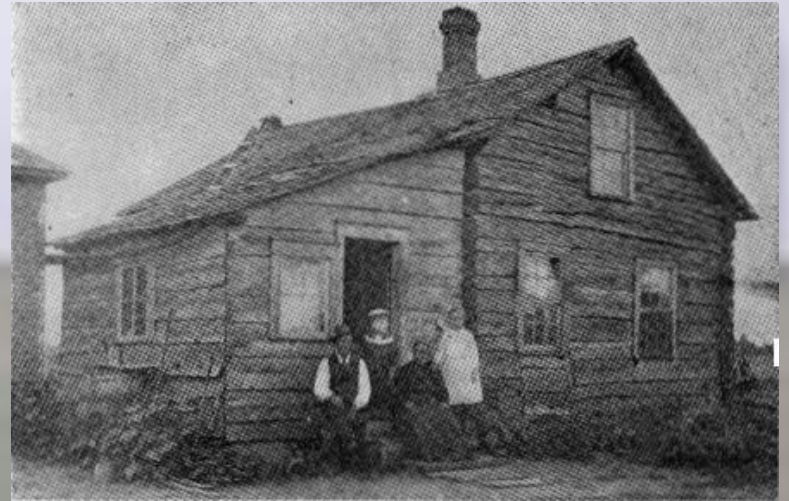
Finnish Overseas Emigration

From Arctic Norway and Russia

- In 1865, three Vadso Finns left with the specific plan to investigate the agricultural prospects of the Midwestern states and found a site to their liking in Cokato Township, Minnesota.
- Interested in finding farmland, they were Matias Kärjenaho (Abrahamson), Johan Wiinikka, and Olli Westerberg. They were joined by Elias Peltoperä who arrived in Red Wing, Minnesota in 1864.

Finnish Overseas Emigration

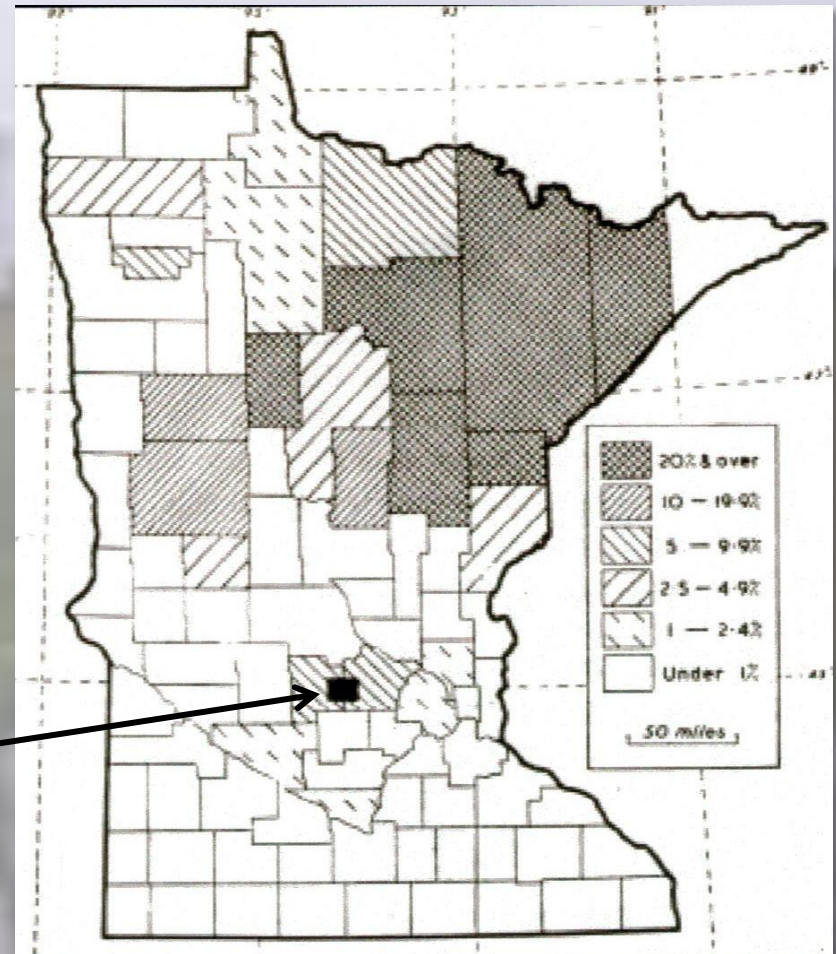
- The first Finns to arrive in French Lake were Nils O. Nelson in 1875, and Oscar Ingman and Oscar Romback in 1876.
- The first Finnish child to be born in French Lake was Albert J. Nelson, in 1877.



**One of the oldest Finnish homes at
French Lake**

A Finnish Settlement in Central Minnesota

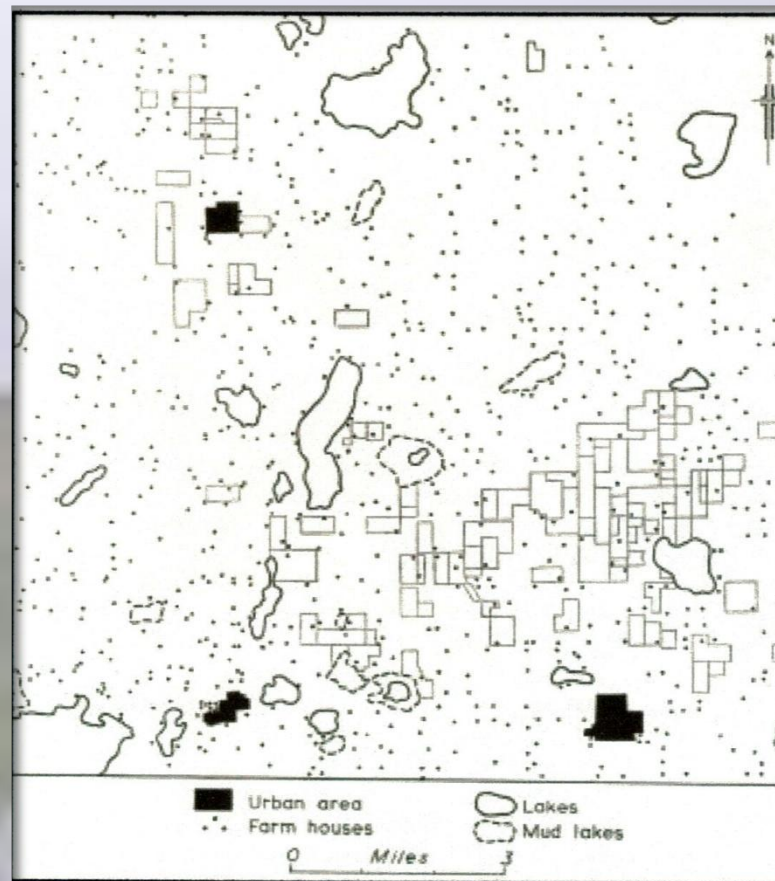
The area settled by some of the first immigrant Finns to come to Minnesota was largely restricted to four townships; two in Meeker County, which are Dassel (formerly known as Swan Lake) and Kingston, and two in Wright County, which are Cokato and French Lake Townships.



Finnish Owned Land Holdings in 1897

The map derived from the 1897 plat book of the four townships shows two features:

1. The location of the farmsteads.
2. The distribution of Finnish settlers and their farm properties within the area.



A Finnish Settlement in Central Minnesota

- One of the primary problems of accounting for the Finns is the “race” under which they were entered.
- They were initially classified as Russians if they emigrated from Finland or Russia.
- They were defined as Scandinavians or Norwegians if they emigrated from Hammerfest or Vadsö, Norway.
- In the 1885 census, Finns are recognized as a separate “racial” group for purposes of classification.

1910 United States Federal Census

French Lake Township

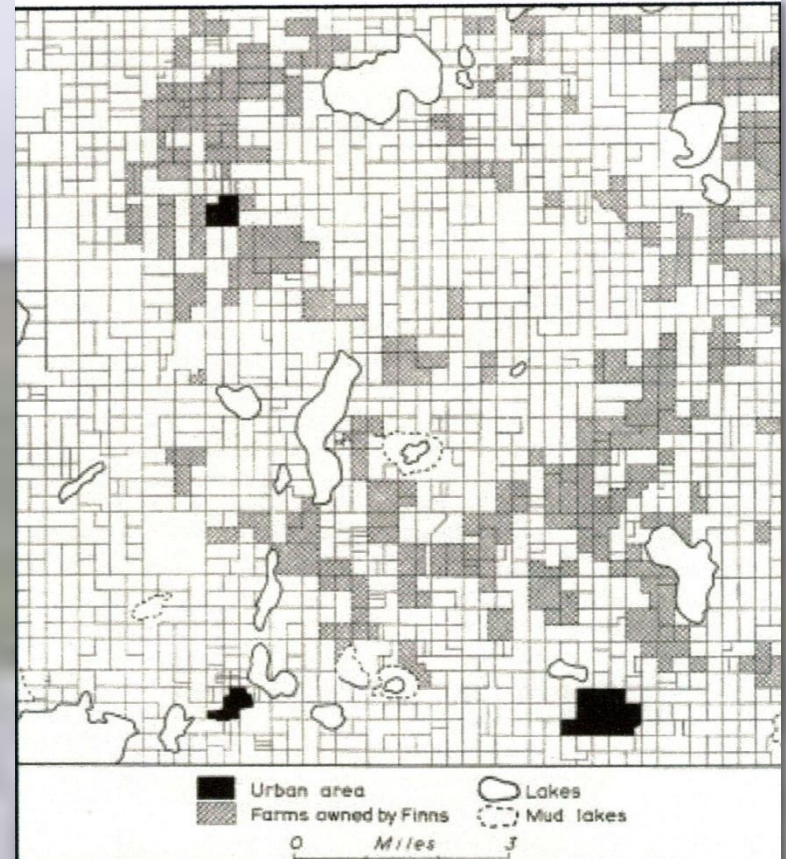
STATE: Minnesota DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
COUNTY: Douglas FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: French Lake SUPERVISORY DISTRICT No. 10 SHEET No. 5740
NAME OF INSTITUTION: _____ ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 7-8 DAY OF January 1920 Frank O. Hill ENUMERATION DISTRICT No. 92 SHEET No. B

PLACE OF BIRTH	SEX	RELATION	AGE	MARRIAGE	CITIZENSHIP	EDUCATION	FAMILY AND BIRTH TOWNS			OCCUPATION
							FATHER	MOTHER	SIBLINGS	
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>
<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Swedish</u>

- This sample of the 1910 Census shows some of the **Finnish** settlers.
- The Mattson's were Finnish speaking from North Dakota and Finland.
- Walter Hill came from Montana and his parents were born in Finland and **Finnish** speaking.
- The Kari's were **Finnish** speaking from Sweden or Tornedalians.

Finnish Owned Land Holdings in 1920

- The plat from twenty years later shows the area of farms owned by the **Finnish** settlers. The extension of **Finnish**-owned farm land suggests acquisition by purchase between the two dates.

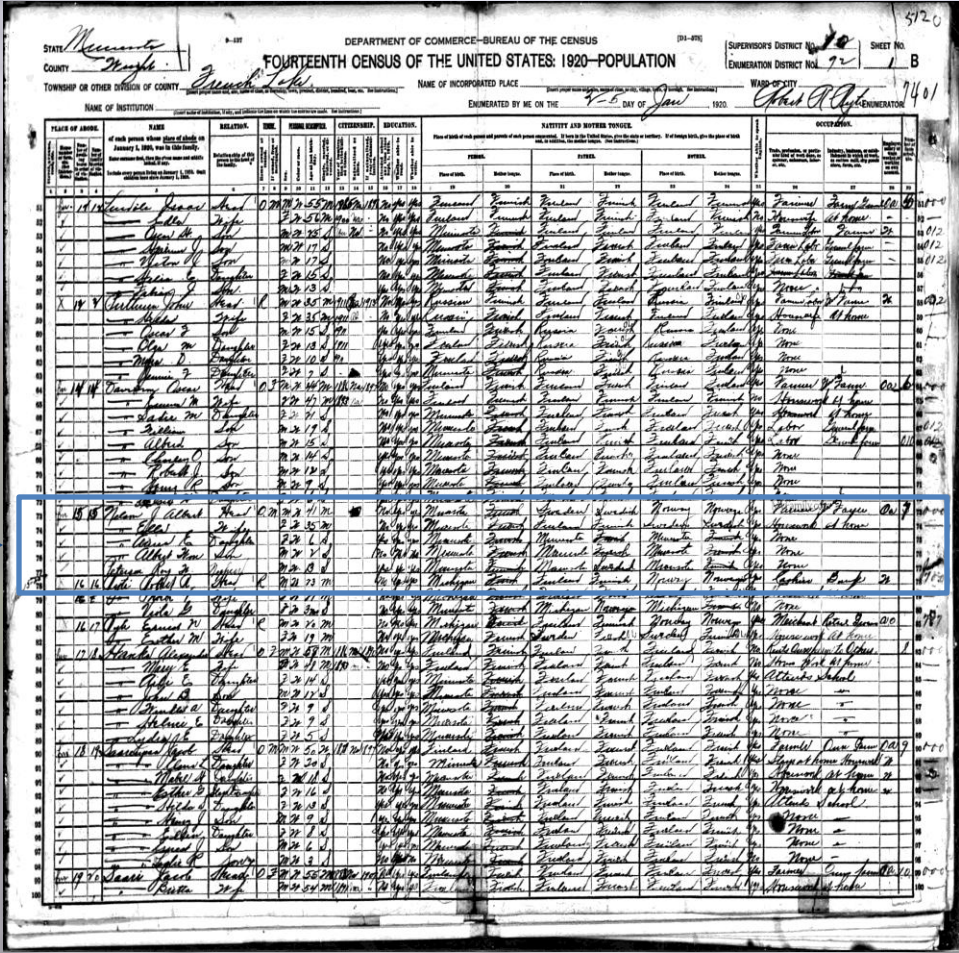


1920 United States Federal Census

French Lake Township

The mother tongue of all
The people listed on this
page is Finnish, with
parents place of birth
being Finland, Sweden,
Norway and Russia.

Albert J. Nelson, the first
Finnish child born in
French Lake, is 41 years
old, married with two
children, speaks Finnish in
the home, father is from
Sweden and mother is
from Norway.



The image shows a 1920 United States Federal Census form for French Lake Township, Michigan. The form is filled out with handwritten entries. The header includes the date of incorporation (July 1, 1903) and the population count (7401). The form is organized into columns for names, relationships, birth dates, and places of birth. The household of Albert J. Nelson is highlighted with a blue box. The entry for Albert J. Nelson is as follows:

NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE	GENERATED BY ME ON THE	DAY OF	YEAR
STATE <u>Michigan</u> COUNTY <u>Benzie</u> TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY <u>French Lake</u>	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION	(91-492)	SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. <u>10</u> ENUMERATOR DISTRICT NO. <u>92</u>	SHEET NO. <u>1</u> B
NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE	GENERATED BY ME ON THE	DAY OF	YEAR
		7-1	1	1920
NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE	GENERATED BY ME ON THE	DAY OF	YEAR
STATE <u>Michigan</u> COUNTY <u>Benzie</u> TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY <u>French Lake</u>	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION	(91-492)	SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. <u>10</u> ENUMERATOR DISTRICT NO. <u>92</u>	SHEET NO. <u>1</u> B
NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE	GENERATED BY ME ON THE	DAY OF	YEAR
		7-1	1	1920
NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE	GENERATED BY ME ON THE	DAY OF	YEAR

Finnish Overseas Emigration

From Finland

- Later in the 1880's, emigration became a mass movement in Finland.
- The most important centers of emigration shifted to the province of Vaasa and neighboring areas.



Herman and Mary Tormanen Family

In the 1900 Census

- Herman, age 48, is listed as Dormanen in the 1900 census.
- Herman is a farmer in French Lake Township.
- He immigrated to America in 1890 from Finland, has lived in the United States for 10 years and was a naturalized citizen.
- Mary, age 49, had 14 children with 9 living.
- It shows that Herman can read Finnish only and Mary can read and write Finnish. Neither can speak English.
- Sophia, Mary's daughter from her first marriage to Lassie Niemela, is 26, Charles is 18, Annie is 16, Andrew is 11, Maggie (Kreta) is 9, John (Hjalmar) is 6, Jennie is 4 months, and Ida, a niece is 1.
- The families living around them were mostly of Swedish descent, except for the John Leukuma family.

T-204
TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. 147 A

State Minnesota County Wright Township or other division of county French Lake Township Name of institution, X
 Enumeration District No. 216 Sheet No. 19
 Examined by me on the 25th day of June, 1900, John M. O'Rourke, Examiner.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

LOCATIONS	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY	CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION			SPEAKS ENGLISH
							Male	Female	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Caary	Wife	48	Finland	Naturalized	Farmer				
	Edna	Daughter	18	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Carl	Son	16	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Ellen	Daughter	14	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Andrew	Son	11	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Anna	Daughter	9	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	John	Son	6	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Sophia	Daughter	26	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Charles	Son	18	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Annie	Daughter	16	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Andrew	Son	11	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Maggie	Daughter	9	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	John	Son	6	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Jennie	Daughter	4	Finland	Naturalized	At School				
	Ida	Niece	1	Finland	Naturalized	At School				

The Tormanen Family Farm

French Lake Township, Minnesota

Early 1900's



Thank you, Dorothy Raisanen

The Early Immigrant Finns

- The Finns were members of the state church in Finland, Norway or Sweden and paid taxes to support the church.
- The church had been instrumental in developing literacy through mission schools, confirmation classes, and reading examinations.
- According to U.S. immigration records at the turn of the century, 98 percent of the **Finnish** immigrants to America over 14 years of age were literate.

The Laestadian Movement In America

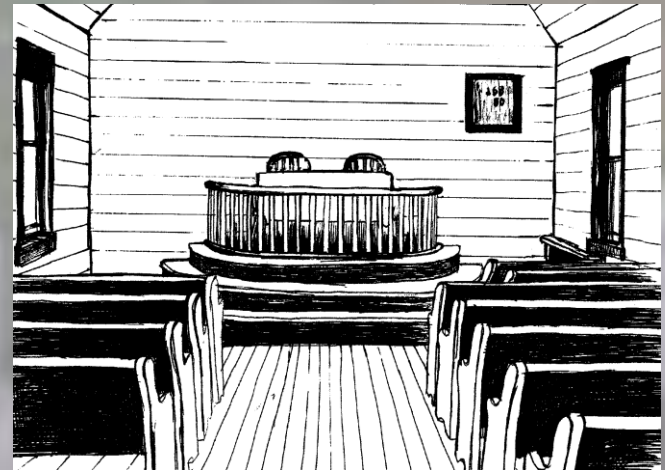
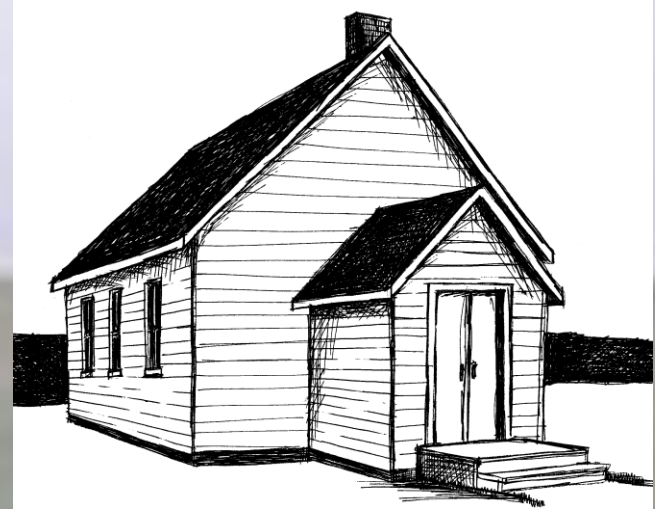
- The first Finns found the absence of a state church difficult.
- The state church in Scandinavia provided them with the sacraments and an educational system in which they could operate.
- They went to the village church to have their children baptized, to be confirmed, to receive communion, to be married and buried.

Early Apostolic Lutheran Church

- The Finns in Cokato tried to create a transitional church from between the village prayer house tradition and the necessary church organization which included the sacraments.
- The state church concept of open communion was followed so the church could serve all Finnish immigrants in the area.
- The Apostolic Lutheran church differed from the prayer houses in that they added an altar rail for communion.

First Apostolic Lutheran Church in Minnesota

- The railroad presented the congregation with a 40 acre plot of land in 1876.
- The Cokato church was built the same year, copying the plain four-square meeting houses of pietists in the old country.
- In 1903, the church officially called itself the Apostolic Lutheran Congregation.
- In 1913, the old church was moved to the Anderson farm and a new church was built.



Pictures from "A Godly Heritage"

Early Apostolic Lutheran Church

French Lake Riverside Church built in 1886

It was a spare and unadorned building, reflecting the spare and unadorned piety of its congregation. There was no cross, no stained-glass windows, none of the decoration that characterize many churches. The pews were hand-made of local Norway pine. The altar was a simple structure of the same material. Its walls were covered in tin. The ministers wore no vestments. The service was nearly always two hours long and consisted mainly of preaching. A long sermon and singing traditional **Finnish** Apostolic hymns, the service, like the building, was simple and unadorned.



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Published in the "The Annandale Advocate," July 9, 1986

Finnish Language

- The uniqueness of the **Finnish** language made it difficult for the immigrants to learn English and to assimilate with the other nationalities.
- The Finnish communities were reliant on each other for daily needs, advice and support.
- A large number of the first generation of children did not learn to properly communicate in English, nor did they receive formal instruction in the **Finnish** language.

The Finnish Sauna Traditions and Customs

- The first **Finnish** saunas were called savusaunas, or smoke saunas. These differed from present day saunas in that they were heated by heating a pile of rocks called kiuas by burning large amounts of wood for 6 to 8 hours. The smoke was allowed to escape before enjoying the löyly, the soothing sauna waves of steam. A properly heated savusauna gave heat for up to 12 hours.



The Finnish Sauna Traditions and Customs

- The first sauna in Cokato was built in 1868 on the boundary between Parbo's (Barberg) and Selvälä's land and was also shared by Salmonson's.
- The three neighbors took turns heating the sauna every Saturday.
- One family at a time would use the sauna together, all taking steam at the same time. When they had enough, they would stand outside naked, to cool themselves.



It was a ten by twelve savu sauna with no dressing room. Above is a photo of the rebuilt sauna at Temperance Corner, north of Cokato.

The Sauna and First Finnish Lawsuit

- Within a few years, the boundary between the two farms was turned into a country road with the sauna being almost in the middle of the road.
- People would have to pass by the sauna and could not help seeing the naked Finns cooling themselves.
- In 1885, the village authorities ordered the sauna be removed from the road.
- Nils Selvälä filed a lawsuit in Cokato and won. The village had to pay him \$30 damages and \$40 for moving the building away.

The Finnish Immigrants and The Temperance Movement

- The temperance movement played an important role in fostering moral and ethical education and guidance.
- The **Finnish** Temperance society was formed in 1896 and elected John Ojanperä its first chairman.
- The Temperance Hall was a modest two story building with the main room being an auditorium with a stage.
- The society had auxiliary groups to which members could belong: a dramatic group, a band, and sports groups.



The Temperance Hall at Temperance Corner, north of Cokato on County RD 3

Finns and the Cooperative Movement

- In 1894, the Finns and Swedes of Cokato founded the Cokato Creamery Association with August Hanno, Jacob Ojanperä, Peter Salmela, Peter Wanha and Peter Ylijarvi as its original members.
- In 1910, the Cokato Farmers' Mercantile Association was organized by the Finns and Swedes.
- The Cokato Farmers' Shipping Association was also formed.

Finns and the Cooperative Movement

- Annandale: Farmer's Elevator Company and Farmer's Shipping Company.
- Knapp: assisted in the establishment of a cooperative dairy in 1901.
- Albion: assisted in the establishment of a cooperative dairy in 1903.

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