

2006-2007: The Sabelskjöld Stone in Högsby

I promised a continuing of the story about the Sabelskjöld stone in Högsby if I found any traces. Well this is what I have found:

Known is that Carl Jönsson Sabelskjöld in 1616 was married to Magdalena Strang, who died in **Åseboholm in the parish of Högsby** and was buried in Högsby church. She was the daughter of the cavalry **captain Hans Strang and Karin Bagge of Berga**. It seems that **Carl Sabelskjöld** came to possession of Åseboholm through the marriage.

During the visit to the interested Birgit Körge at the **Kalmar Museum**, where we were investigating the maps from the inventory of ancient remains, we found information about **the Family of Stråle at Åsebo**, but the information was too recent. Thereafter the remains from the **Island Holmen** in the **River Emån** got our attention, because in the Kalmar Museum are findings of fireplace/console remains from **Åseboholm** or the freehold of **Åsebo (Aasebodom 1536)** as were the variable names in the 17th century. The console is from the 17th century with hewed out faces or lion masks and spirals, you can also see the latter ornamentation on the **Högsby stone** and this might come from a fireplace in the old castle.

During further investigation and many conversations with the people living at the **Ruda farm** and the present **Åsebo farm** I got information of a pamphlet named the Åsebo crofts. It contained traces that definitely pointed towards Holmen. Åseboholm was according to the tradition a castle/fortress from the early medieval time. What is left of it today is due to the building of a power transmission line is a badly hurt remain consisting of 10 by 8 meter big foundation with a pit in the center. Here also used to be a moat, about 1½ - 2 meters broad, which was destroyed during a river cleansing. In the Åsebo crofts pamphlet also is written: *"...att Majoren Sabelsköld först uppsatte sågkvarnen, då han och hade gårdar i Ruda."* (The Major Sabelskjöld built the saw mill, since he owned farms in Ruda as well).

It was a location that in the time of the Stråle family caused troubles and a forced removal of buildings. There still are hollows in the river bank of the Ruda side; this is the remains of the mill.

On a **map from the 24th of May 1706** there is a building marked on the island Holmen. And when I followed the owner's document from Carl Sabelskjöld to the Stråle family, I found out that it had to be Holmen and not the place of the present Åsebo further upstream.

1. **Elisabet Sabelsköld**, dead 1659 at Åsebo, married to Magnus Stråle of Ekna born 1617 in the parish of Hult i Jönköping, dead 1674 at Åseboholm.
2. The son **Anders Stråle of Åseboholm**, inherited the manor of Åsebo. Born at Åseboholm 1652, unmarried and dead 1684 at Åseboholm and buried in the family grave in Högsby church where his coat of arms was set up.
3. His brother, **Magnus Stråle of Åseboholm**, born in 1656 at Åseboholm, dead 1732 at Väderum in the parish Tuna and buried in the family grave in Högsby church.
4. His son, **Magnus Johan Stråle of Åsebo**, born 1688, dead 1736 at Åsebo.
5. His son, **Daniel Stråle of Åsebo**, born 1720 at Åsebo. Inherited after his father the half part of Åsebo which he sold in 1759. (It's hard to decide if it's the new or the old Åsebo that is referred to in 4 & 5. Things from the late 18th century which belonged to the Stråle family are preserved at the present Åsebo farm.

The reason why the once so rich Åsebo almost has disappeared is that after Peter Fredrik von Hegart in the 18th century bought the farm no one have been living there. Åsebo was used as a farm belonging to Ruda farm, even though it was twice as big.

Maybe the Sabelskjöld stone ended up in **Storgatan in Högsby** in this way; when the castle more and more fell into decay one started to reuse the stones in new buildings as was the habit. When the old declined **Kambacksgården** (Kamback farm) was pulled down and 1825 replaced by a new farm further up the street Storgatan the Högsby stone was used in the ground of the cow house. It was in this place of the now long gone cow house of Kambacksgården, pulled down in the 1950-60s, the stone was found 1973 in the garden behind the **Wickberg confectioner's shop** at Storgatan 45 in Högsby. We will never know for sure, but it's a very possible scenario.



Weronicha Svaleng, member number 1368.
Translated by Thomas Linderöth.