

Letter of Nobility for Carl Jönsson den 28 oktober 1617

English translation by Birger Bring

We, Gustaf Adolf, in the mercy of God, king of Sweden, Gote and Vende, ruler of Finland, Estonia, Karelen, Ingermanland etcetera, announces:

All around the world and in all times, it has been a practice, and this is consistent to nature itself, that those who have striven for virtue and honour, have been held as examples to others. This is true both for those who, as brave men have fulfilled their oath to defend their land, as well as to those who in other occupations have been true honest, and diligent to their King and have served their country. If then their emperors, kings or masters as well as their country have benefited from their doings they have been knighted and received privileges. It is from such remarkable and praised actions that all knighthood and nobility has its origin. Such noble titles and attributes have been introduced by the emperors so that all praiseworthy virtue and honour should be recognized and receive generous reward. Thus shall, those who in this way have striven more than others, enjoy their privileges, and in this way encourage others to noble conduct, chivalric spirit, commendable and brave actions, and so, even more care for the things that will promote the success of this country's and it's welfare.



As our honourable and courageous officer, second lieutenant in the cavalry Karl Jönsson is one of them who has been faithful to his King, served his country well and with noble conduct, and so the King and country of Sweden have benefited thereof. He has now further stated that he will be faithful to me and my successors and always strive for the best for the King and Kingdom of Sweden. I have therefore, in special honest and mercy and through the respect I shear for those who act honestly, and also in capacity of King and ruler of Sweden, given them, as I now also give him and all his legitimate descendants generation after generation forever, as coat of arms this following insignia: A blue shield with a white galloping horse, above an open helmet in blue and white and above the helmet a yellow cavalry banner with a sabre at one side and a pistol at the other, as the enclosed painting further shows. Same coat of arms and noble status shall he and his legitimate heirs have the right to carry and use in all honesty and noble doings, be that battle, charge, duel, tournament, fencing or used on his seal, either sculptured or painted according to his own liking. Likewise, he and his legitimate heirs shall generation after generation enjoy same noble freedom and benefits as other noble families in this country do, and shall so be in all respects equally treated and respected, however all rank and conditions as stated in the privileges. As further confirmation and higher protection I have personally signed this letter and had my royal seal hanged hereunder.

Uppsala, the 28th of October in the year after our Savior's merciful birth sixteen hundred and into the seventeenth.

Gustavus Adolphus

From his own hand.