

STORA HÄLSINGEGÅRDARS VÄG

Passla and Ullungsfors

THE VILLAGE OF ROTEBERG STRETCHES NORTH towards Kyan and the woodland of the summer pastures beyond. One of the biggest farms in the parish is Passla, painted white and with many windows. One of the last farms in the elongated village of Roteberg, it stands out in the landscape. Archbishop Nathan Söderblom travelled through the area in 1927, and made the following note about his journey: 'The road passes the largest residence in Ovanåker, Passla, a farm, painted white, steeped in sorrow. In Ovanåker, all the way from Viksjöfors through the

Passla was built to be longer and wider than the vicarage.



whole parish up to Kyan, not a few farms with six windows on the gable and twelve along the side. The inspector also counted up to 14 windows on the long side of a house somewhere, an extravagance which is surpassed in Passla'.

Ullungsfors

Streams and rivulets from the north-west converge in lakes and watercourses past the bottleneck at Ullungsfors into lake Ullungen and finally the Voxna river. The rapids provided power for industries on both banks of the river. Ullungsfors, a small village with factories, shops and an independent church, grew up along its banks.

Forge and mill

Farmers have harnessed waterpower in simple water mills since Medieval times. The 17th and 18th centuries saw the growth of technology that made farm work more efficient and simpler. The population grew, and new trades found their place in agrarian society. Industry was born on the banks of rivers and other waterways. The first industry in Edsbyn, and indeed the entire parish, was established here in Ullungsfors in 1840: the forge, or, as it was popularly known, nail factory. Nails were the main product, but the forge also produced ploughs, hinges,

The farm and all its windows light up the landscape.



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Miller and smith, mill and smithy.



Industry flourished along the fast-flowing watercourse.

horseshoes, horseshoe nails, sleighs, sledges and cartwheels, and everything else that the farmers needed. There was a nearby mill, and there were constant disputes between the miller and the blacksmiths as both businesses argued over the waterpower. The miller was the one who finally gave in. Competition from factory-made nails led the far-seeing smith Olof Åberg to change his production. In 1857, he transformed the forge into Ullungsfors manufacturing works, which later became the axe factory. The new forestry industry created new businesses, which in turn created the need for new products. Manufacture of nails was replaced by axes and bark spades. By the close of the 19th century, the factory was so big that part of it was moved to Voxnan in central Edsbyn, where more energy was available,

but the remaining part of the smithy kept making tools for the forestry industry as late as the 1940s. The factory at Ullungsfors has closed, but there is still a thriving timber processing factory in Edsbyn.



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