

STORA HÄLSINGEGÅRDARS VÄG

Farms and a soldier's cottage in Roteberg

ROTEBERG IS A TYPICAL FARMING VILLAGE with ancient roots. In recent years, new and modern buildings have sprung up in the village. The village lies on the sunny side of the valley, with fields and meadows stretching down to lake Ullungen. The farms were built in a row along the edge of the forest in the north. Roteberg is a long, linear village conjoined with Östra Roteberg, Mellanbyn and Västra Roteberg. Since the early 20th century, the centre of the village has been at the shop, surrounded by the big farms Pallas, Uddas, Prans, Lassa, Lill Svens and Svens

The road winds through the long village.



Ollas. Before the land division reforms, the centre of the village was located at Backa farm and the big Backa stone that marks the boundary with Västra Roteberg.

Outlying buildings, housing tradesmen and soldiers, were located behind the farms. This has come down to us in farm names like Skomakra (cobbler), Glasmästars (glazier) Skräddarns (tailor) and Smens (smith). These farms are also relatively big.

A list of the richest farms in the province dating from 1276 includes one farm in Roteberg, but the history of the farms cannot be more clearly traced until the mid-16th century. In 1542, there were 14 named farms in Roteberg. The family history of some farms can be traced back to then. The Pallas farm, for example, has been passed down in the same family since 1575. As at many other farms, the best room contains a framed diploma confirming the family's connection to the farm. The oldest pre-

The big farms and their outbuildings appear one after the other.



The family certificate and the big farm of Pallas.

served building in the village belongs to the same farm: a grain store from the 1690s. Farms are often named after the farmer who lived there early in the farm's history. Pallas, Svens Ollas, Ersk-Ols and Lassas are examples of this.

A number of the farms still have many old documents. At Svens Ollas farm, the owners are historians of the farm and the village, and their documents tell us about the life on the farm in bygone days. For example, the hard life of John and Sigrid in the mid-18th century is briefly described thus: Sigrid; baptised and satisfactorily versed in Christian teachings, worked in service for a while, married aged 39, had two sons who both died young, was a quiet and gentle person, suffered from a cough and heavy chest and died on 16 March 1772. John; worked in service for while, was a loving father, led a quiet and commendable life, perished suddenly through drowning...

The summer pastures

The village's summer pasturelands are located within a radius of 20–30 km in the vast wooded areas of the north and west. Animals were driven to these areas to graze in summer, and the maids made cheese, whey cheese and butter. At the Väsbo



Maids with cows and goats at Väsbo summer pastures, around 1920.

summer pastures (World Heritage Site candidate) the land is kept open by grazing.

Lim-Johan

His real name was Johan Erik Olsson and he lived from 1865 to 1944. After his death he was recognised as one of Sweden's – perhaps one of the world's – foremost painters of the naïve school. He lived in the villages around Ovanåker, with the exception of a few years at Uppsala hospital. In Roteberg, he worked as a farmhand. He left the words Johan Erik Olsson from Nybo uti Voxna (Johan Erik Olsson from Nybo in Voxna) as a kind of business card.

Kungajakt (Royal Hunt) and other paintings by Lim-Johan are on view at Edsbyn Museum.



WWW.STORAHALSINGEGARDARSVAG.SE

Alfta and Edsbyn Tourist Office tfn 0271-556 61

SIGNPOSTED HÄLSINGLAND FARMS IN OVANÅKER

OL-ANDERS
0271-556 61

LÖKA
0271-556 49

MÅRTEŠ
0271-205 81