

Power of attorney.

Hereby the inspector G. Bjelke is authorized on behalf of Sandvikens Sägerverksaktiebolag to plead the cause of the company at coming meetings in bankruptcies, at sessions beating the bounds and at land surveying performances and its rights of voting exercise and in general see to the concerns of the company within the parishes of Åsle, Dödsåsa and Vilhelmina and I will approve on behalf of the company what the proxy on account of this power of attorney legally makes and permits.

Sandviken 4 June 1887

F. H. Versberg

Witness: O. Lavelius Johan Sundgrist

Inspector Gullbrand Tjelker, Åsle
was born the 1st of november 1842 at
Tjelker Hylanden, a farm in North-Odal, Norway.
He was the next youngest of seven children.
Oldest was an other son Gullbrand, born 1824.
He died however 1841. His brother, born the next
year, inherited thus the name.

Father was Isak Olsen, born at Skjultås,
Storrumen, South-Odal in 1792. He died 1873.

Mother was Ragnhild Gullbrandsdatter, born
at Tjelker 1803. Dead 1859.

The farm Tjelker is said to have old an-
cestry, going back to the Viking age. In the
book "Nord-Odal", published by the community
1969 you can read a description of the farm and
its owners through the times.

Appendix 1.

Tjelker Hylanda today is owned
by Anne Tjelker. On the premises there still is
an old house "where the old people used to live".
Gullbrand most likely was born there. A photo
of Anne Tjelker and the old house, taken by
Sune and Majli Harding at a visit there in the
summer 1983 you can see in

Appendix 2.

The North-Odal book shows that Gullbrand
Isaksson married Thore Andrea Gundersdatter
from Ivarvered 1868. Ivarvered is a neighbouring
house to Tjelker. A picture of the existing estate
as well as names of Thore Andrea's parents is
found on page 193 in the book.

The record office at Hamar, Norway has very

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kindly contributed with some further information about Gullbrand and Thore Andrea.

Appendix 3

It is said that Gullbrand was a sergeant in 1869, he was this year "indekst", that means a lodger at Trarverud, married to Thore Andrea. They had their son Gustaf Reinhard there on the 12th april 1869. They were married the 4th december 1868.

Sweden and Norway were a union at that time, so you can say that Gullbrand was N.C.O. in Oscar II's army.

The possibilities to earn a good living for the sergeant and his family in their native place seemed obviously not too good. They decided to look for their fortune some other place. In the North-odal book says that Gullbrand and Thore Andrea went to Finland, while the record office at Hamar, that gathered their information from the parish register of Nord-odal, verify that the family left for Sweden in 1870.

Gullbrand's and Thore Andrea's way to Aale

There exists a family bible, owned by Bjelvik where time and place of birth for all the children is documented:

"Our oldest daughter Clara Mathilda was born into the world at Gerdjø the 8th of may 1871."

"Second daughter Tyeby was born 1872"

the 7th December at Dyrås."

"Second son, Gullbrand Adolf
was born at Dyrås the 20th
December 1874."

"Third daughter Mina Lovisa
born at Måstrand the 27th
April 1877."

"Arndt Teodor born the 19th
March 1879 at Måstrand"

"Otto Bernhard born the 21
June 1880."

and: "Vores eldste søn Gustaf
(Danmarks) Reinhard fødd till Verden
(in the bible) på Græverud den 12 April 1869."

Some original documents:

1. A letter from Gullbrand, written in
Måstrand the 6th July 1876 to a
friend, obviously in Dyrås. Appendix 4
2. A purchase resp. selling contract for
a crofters place in Dyrås the year
1873 resp. 1876. Appendix 5

The places mentioned here are situated in
Oslo or next to it at Tvedestrand, where Oslo
lies. There you also can find Gardsjø (or Gassjø)
not far away from Tvedestrand, that will show
up later on. See Routemap of Sundraal Appendix 6

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Now that we know where and when Clara Matilda was born, we should look for her in the parish register, in order to find the starting point in Sweden. The question is, where is Gäddjö? Obviously some where in Edalen. On the maps we find one Gäddjö (there are several of them in Sweden) nearby Gideåberg, that belongs to the parish of Edsle. And very true, there she is:

" 8th May 1871. Clara Matilda

Parents: Father Gullbrand Isaksson
His wife Thoré Andrea Gundersdotter
from Gudmundrå. Married 2 years.

note

Christened by C. Håkstrand. Certificat of baptism
sent to the parish at Gudmundrå 23 May 1871"

They were not mentioned in the file for the catechetical meeting in Edsle this year. In the file from Gudmundrå on the other hand you find them in 171: 5 A page 76, corresponding to Sandviken at Dynäs. There is mentioned that they moved in the 1st July 1870 from Norway. Gullbrand is mentioned as "workman".

The communion was taken the first time the 15th August 1871.

Obviously Gullbrand had some casual job at Gäddjö in Edsle. He is called "Faktor", which means that he was a sort of foreman, dealing in this case with timber in some way. The place of destination however was no doubt Sandviken at Dynäs.

This was the time when sawmills developed close to each other along the river mouths in Norland, as was the case in Ådalén within the town Flämnäs and "Saw by saw I saw where ever I saw" is a well-known remark by a Swedish poet, Scherstedt, after he had visited the region.

At Sandviken there existed for some time an one frame sawmill. Sandvikens Sägerverks AB had been founded in 1868 by Fredrik H. Versteegh. Gradually the mill expanded, 1876 to 4 frames. 1882 a totally new sawmill with 5 frames was built. 160 permanent workers were employed at the time.

The company possessed large forests within Västerbotten and Väster Norlands districts. Head man for the company was here above mentioned Versteegh.

In the file. FI: 57 for the catechetical meeting at the same time appears the wholesale merchant and consul Fred. Henrik Versteegh who came from Edam and Holland the 10th August 1870. He belonged to a wealthy Dutch family, who early carried on timber trade in Sweden, but now wanted to increase their activities within Sweden.

Gullbrand came to play an important part as a valuable fellow worker in the company. A close and trustful relation between Versteegh and Gullbrand was gradually formed during coming years. Versteegh needed lumber for his mill Gullbrand successfully helped him to get it.

Gullbrand's background as sergeant no doubt

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means that he had a good theoretical education as well as practical experience to lead and handle people. And as a son of a farmer he certainly had some ideas about forestry.

Versteegh and Gullbrand arrived to Sandviken almost at the same time (July - August) and learned to know each other from the beginning.

Gullbrand and Therese Andrea lived the first time obviously rather primitively in a workers lodging. The 25 November 1843 they bought, as mentioned before (page 3) a crofters place in Dynäs. They paid 1500:- Riksdaler Riksmünt for it.

Appendix 5:1

In this purchase contract the name Bjelke appears for the first time.

Also of interest is the fact that Gullbrand did not sign the contract himself. This was done by K. Isaksson by proxy.

The signers full name was Knut Isaksson, who in the files is said to be born in Kristiania (present Oslo) the 3rd February 1831. He came to Sweden several years before Gullbrand. He was married to Ingeborg Olsson also from Kristiania, lived 1860 in Hjörträ and was in Dynäs 1866. He moved 1877 to Övertälldrott. In a letter from Versteegh to Gullbrand is said that that Gullbrands brother Knut is dead (around 1881). Knut is not mentioned among Gullbrands brothers in the Hård-Odal book. The case is not further investigated. Anyhow Knut's existence in Dynäs could explain why Gullbrand happened to go

just to Sandviken.

In the files from the catechetical meetings these years Gullbrand is called "cropper". Their son Gullbrand Adolf was born there the 20th dec. 1874.

The property was sold to the son of a peasant Nils Jonas Proström for 1700 Kronor on the 17 april 1876. The selling contract is signed by Gullbrand Bjelke.

Appendix 5:1

Back to Sandviken he goes under the title "Factor". Shortly afterwards the family is moving to Edsle. Officially they are transferred from Dynäs to Gideåberg in Edsle the 25th October 1876.

From the files there we find that Gullbrand is a tenant of a farm Gideåberg nr 1, 5 island a farm that Sandvicens HTS has bought from the former owner Per Olofson, Hrs in Edsle.

There is a letter written by Gullbrand the 6th of July 1876 to a friend at Sandviken.

Appendix 4

Here he describes hardships and troubles during the journey, by steam ship to Holmstrand, then by land. One can easily imagine that Gullbrand and Thora Andrea with household goods and four children 17, 5, 3½ and 1½ years had some problems on their way to a new living.

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In Gideåberg, Edsle, the family is presented in the following way in the file from the catechetical meeting:

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" Bjelke, Gulbrand Tsakson, Tenant
w. Thore Andrea Gundersen =

S. Gustaf Reinhard (1) b. 1869 $1\frac{1}{4}$ in Norway

D. Clara Matilda (2) b. 1871 $8\frac{1}{5}$ in Oslo

D. Ingeby Katarina (3) b. 1872 $7\frac{1}{2}$ in Gudmundra

S. Gulbrand Adolf (4) b. 1874 $20\frac{1}{2}$ in --

D. Minna Lovisa (5) b. 1877 $2\frac{3}{4}$ in Oslo

S. Arndt Theodor (6) b. 1879 $1\frac{1}{3}$ in --

a dead born female child (7)

Man servant Carl Edward Gundersen b. 1849 $4\frac{1}{2}$
in Nordre Odalen, Norway.

Also a noting on the family's ability to read
and their knowledge of divinity:

ability to read catechism, explanation, unknown

Gulbrand		I		
Thore Andrea		I		
Gustaf Reinhard	I	I		
Clara Matilda		I		
Ingeby Katarina	I	I	I	

The priest's own Testimonial scale:

ability to read

I has started to read

II reads slightly

III reads fairly

IV reads passably

V reads cleverly

I in catechism means that

he or she had learnt the

Lutheran catechism by heart

(at least part of it)

As to the explanations

I means that you know
the first article of the cate-
chism, II the second
and so on.

Gulbrand and Thore Andrea did not get V in

ability to read by book, which might be caused by the fact that they still were living with their norwegian language. (The letter that Gullbrand wrote from Meastrand was in norwegian). Otherwise there was nothing wrong with their knowledge according to the conception of the priest.

Notable is Clara's knowledge of all five articles.

In the file appears Carl Edward Gunderson. He is a brother to Thore Andrea. It is not known if he accompanied Gullbrand and Thore Andrea from Norway. According to the Nord-Odal book he was unmarried and back in Nord-Odal and Frarverud 1891.

Gullbrand seems to have rented Gideåby for some time. A common practice was that companies who bought a forest-home-stead rented the estate to a tenant just to be free from maintaining the house.

He still had a position as "Factor" for Sandvikens Ångsags AB under Verolgh. The family did obviously not live in the very Gideåby. The letter mentioned was written in Meastrand where also Mina Lovisa and Arndt Teodor are born. Meastrand lies quite near to Gideåby might have been a part of the estate rented.

The tragedy with the dead-born female child most likely occurred 1881. The last communion at Gideåby was taken 1881. Thore Andrea did not participate.

Meanwhile Gullbrand had bought a farm, Utande 1 island, still in Odsele a little further upstream.

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the river. To this place the family moved in 1882.

Gullbrand is here called "estate owner Gullbrand Bjelke, Faktor". They stayed here until 20 november 1886, when they left for Åsels. Sandvikens Aarslags ATS bought Utanede.

Children these years:

"1877 the 27th april

Mina Lovisa (5)

Faktor Gullbrand Bjelke and his wife
Thore Andrea Gundersdatter in Gideåbey
christened by kom. W. Hagström."

"1879 the 19th march

Arnet Theodor (6)

Gullbrand Bjelke, Faktor, Gideåbey
Thore Andrea Gundersdatter, g. 11 år."

"1882 born the 2 may

Johan Otto Bernhard (7)

Parents: Faktor Gullbrand Bjelke and
Thore Andrea Gundersdatter
in Utanede, 14 year marriage."

Some comments to Gullbrands time at Åsle.

1. The family moved in to Åsle the 21 november 1886. Gullbrand obtained the title "Inspektør".
2. Received from Versteegh and Sandviken's Selskabet a letter of attorney of 4 june 1887 to take care of the company's interests in Åsle, Drotta and Vilhelmina.

(appendix 7.)

3. Letters to Versteegh and Sandviken's reflect Gullbrands activities in lumbering, timberfloating, purchase of forest-homesteads and so on. Gullbrand as well as his sons Gustaf and Gullbrand Adolf travelled a lot in the district winter and summer.

4. In the Drotta district Gullbrand had an assistant Gull's Håslund, married to Hilda Kristina Alstegren (it was considered important to be married).

In Vilhelmina a man by name Vinter, who Gullbrand was not too pleased with, was removed from his employment, as Gullbrand thought he could deal with the Vilhelmina district himself. Fry and by Gustaf Njelke took over and moved finally to Vilhelmina the 17th okt 1892.

Gullbrand suggested to Versteegh in a letter 21 okt 1892

(appendix 8, instead)

that Gustaf should take over an employment, after a mr Burman at Bredbyn (a place further north, away from Gullbrands district). Apparently could this not be worked out.

In the same letter 21/10 1892 is mentioned that

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"The old man" Olof Johansson had payed
G. a visit in Åsels.

Olof Johansson is my (Sven's) grandfather
(father's side). He had a similar connection
to Versteij and Sandström as Gullbrand.

He had a homestead called Norrås at Boden
in Ängersmanland (not so far from Drottla).

He was born 1836 at Glara in Värmland, came
to (Sandström) Fåsjö 1868 and was employed
as "Timberfactor" by Versteij.

My father Erik Johansson came to Åsels 2nd
dec 1897 and worked for Gullbrand as his
amanuensis. Erik married Nina Lovisa
Bjelke 27th June 1901. He took over the Pro-
tea district during 1900 and Erik Håstund
came to Åsels to replace Gullbrand 16 sept
1900. Gustaf Stang in Vilhelmina.

5. Gullbrand, at the end of 1890, began to
have problems with his health. In a letter
to Versteij the 9th November 1897 among
other things:

"With my health it is not the best,
as my stomach is rather bad and
I suspect that my smoking has
caused the most part of it, what
also the Doctor claims. I have now
had to stop smoking."

In a letter 28/4-98: Gullbrand mentions
that his health lately has been and is
bad - "and God knows what end
this will be". A journey to Stockholm
for an operation could possibly be undertaken.

around midsummer.

a letter the 15 June 1898:

Gulbrand intends to go south "and I think it would be best if Gustaf could come home, while I am away, for the accounts sake, and Johansson goes to Vilhelmina instead."

"I prefer to go by train and were it perhaps convenient if 'our Consul' could meet at Åmundsön, so we could go together to Långslet. kindly bring also 1000:- kr as all money being here will be spent this month."

"I feel rather poorly. I hope the journey will make me healthy again. What a happy day shouldn't I have then!"

The 19th June a further letter to Versteijh:

Gulbrand will leave Ösle the 1st July. He mentions that his intention had been to go by boat to Stockholm, but as his wife, who does not like the sea, wants to join him on her way to Norway "to collect a small legacy after her mother", they have to take the railway.

There are a couple of letters from Porla in July (Porla is a well known watering-place in the south of Sweden). Gulbrand is answering a letter from Versteijh of the 22nd. In this letter V. has mentioned that Gustaf was back in Vilhelmina already the 9th July. He obviously was travelling along Höron and Käljön (Jämtland) and intended to proceed to Hemsjö.

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Gullbrand does not find Porla to be a place for pleasure. It is an unpleasant place to stay at. It is raining all the time. But he is willing to accept all discomfort, only that his health is recovered.

Back to Åsle the 12th August: ¹⁸⁹⁸ Letter to Vevry:

He had stayed in Stockholm for 8 days. An eye specialist there had examined his eyes and had verified cataract in his right eye. The doctor did not believe an operation could help very much.

Gullbrand mentions that he suffers from Brights disease (better now after the treatment at Porla) and suspects that this could cause trouble with his eyes. His stomach is very well after the treatment he had at Porla.

He also mentions that the "carting parcellings" (?) are inspected and according to what Erik claims they should in general be very good.

Gustaf is said to have been at Stevse nevertheless this summer even if it has gone hastily, he is now supposed to be at Tranviken at present to buy markings. Appendix 9

The last letter from Gullbrand to Sandriken that was found at Bollstabukt was dated the 8th October 1898. It was countersigned by Erik Johanson. The receipt of 17,000:- kr. is acknowledged. - Gustaf is arriving to Sandriken next week for further information. Appendix 10

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Gulbrand received for the year 1899 a salary of 4000:- Krona, and a subsidy for journey to Pola burn 800:- Krona

6. The board of directors for Sandvikens papp-
verksamhet decided the 14 June 1900:

To the former employee in the company, Inspector G. Bjelke, Åsela who by reason of sickness retired from his appointment the 31st Oct. 1899 is granted as grateful acknowledgement for his lasting, faithful and ardent activity, an annual pension of three thousand Krona to be payed during his remaining lifetime.

Otho Gavelius "

Gulbrand died January the 13th 1901. (13/1-01)
Cause of death was cronical affection of the kidneys.

Fredrik H. Versteegh died the 23rd January 1901.

7. The new century brought important changes for the company. A new board of directors was constituted after F. H. Versteegh. A brother to him, younger Arndt Versteegh took over the lead. A group of three companies, Gravin, Åtångs and Sandvikens were reorganized and became "Gravinsverken".

Otho Gavelius became director for Sandvikens Ångkraft AB under the new group.

In 1900 it was decided in principle that Gräningsverket should stop buying more forests.

The forestry was more and more passed over to trained people like woodwards, and executed foresters.

This meant no doubt changes in tasks to the staff after Gullbrand Bjelke. The private owners of forests had become more aware of the value in their forests. Many owners no doubt regretted that they had sold too early. On the other hand it was first, that firms with a large capital had built up large ^{modern} factories, organized timber-cutting and timber-floating in a big scale that the inland forests got their value.

The Åsle-district, which had lived under Gullbrand Bjelke, was divided into three obviously more independent districts. To Åsle came from Drottens Grels Håkland. To Drottens Erik Johansson from Åsle, married to Nina Looisa Bjelke and Gustaf Bjelke remained in Vilhelmina.

What really happened to Gustaf Bjelke in Vilhelmina we do not know. Minutes from board meetings tell their story.

Appendix 11.

A letter from Gustaf Bjelke 1 Dec 1944 to his brother Gullbrand in Dynäs, Sweden translated to English in

Appendix 12