

Fydkoster 2/8-89.

Dear Gauth!

It was a pleasure to see you and Cristine here with us. I hope that you did find your visit to Norway - Sweden interesting. Your stay with us was very short. But I am glad that you cared to come to Koster, which no doubt complicated your traveling program.

It is always valuable to meet personally. Pictures and letters can not replace shaking hands to each other. Now we know that you are a very fine fruit on the Gullbrand Tjelthe's family tree!

The other day Majli and I visited an interesting place at Tanum some 35 km. south from Strömstad. There are a lot of rock carvings along the coast of our rocky Proserpina. You may get some idea of it in the small booklet I enclose.

People long ago made the carvings on large smooth and hard granit(?) rocks well polished by ice and sea water waves.

Now some experts are worried of the fact that your rain and atmosphere seem to affect the rock surface so that the carvings could be destroyed. Attempts are being made to protect them by some special chemical treatment, which may

is
granit
correct
English?

help, we hope. One conscience together with many others of to days industrialized society!

A small neck chain from the place at Tammur for Christine may remember her of her first visit to Sweden!

I hope that we can exchange thoughts and experiences further on, perhaps not only in genealogic matters. Of course they are always very interesting. And I am happy to know that I have an engaged brother in Canada.

I think that we both agree upon that genealogic research is not merely to find names, dates of birth and death of persons in the past. The real value is to find out what kind of persons they were, how they lived, worked and so on. Perhaps you will find traces in their characters, that reminds you of yourself. (And of course especially if they were good characters!)

Unfortunately my sister Greta's health is not too good. But she was very happy to meet you here.

I bring best regards to you, your family, your mother and all the rest of the Tjelke-tree in Canada. And hope to hear from you in the near future.

Your cousin
Eugen

P.S. I hope that you can read my English writing. Spelling may perhaps not always be correct, which I hope you will excuse!
D.S.

Partille 19/9-90.

Dear Cousine Ruth,

a year has passed since I had the pleasure to see your son Garth at Koster. It was very exciting to meet a new cousin and especially a very fine looking fellow like Garth! You must be very proud of your son!

I have not heard from him since he left Sweden, so I guess he is a very busy man. Anyhow I got from him a lot of information about your family in Canada and the way things developed for your father and mother in the Scandinavian settlement many years ago.

Thank you very much for your nice xmas card last year. It's your time to thank you for this now! Really I must be a slow writer!

We have had a fine summer in our part of Sweden. Koster is normally favoured with a lot of sunshine. And this summer has not been an exception from this pleasant rule. We had a great meeting there during the midsummer days. My children and grand children all together 17 persons came together. My eldest daughter Margareta celebrated her 50-years birthday the 20 June, my third daughter Katarina 45 years in May, myself 80-years in March.

Sort of Jubilee or to say. Days of general feasting and rejoicing! -

I think I have told you, that I have some problems with my eyes, which amongst other things gives me trouble to read books. So I am very happy with the service offered by the libraries, where you can get a great choice of talking books. An excellent help for those who suffer from reduced eye sight. -

My brother Kjell has moved from Örnstöldsvik to Glanshammar a small place not far from the town of Örebro somewhere between Stockholm and Göteborg. His son Per, the chemist, has helped my brother to arrange a residence in an annex to his house. I believe that Kjell is very satisfied with this arrangement. He has got there a shop for his woodwork and also a birching in his small house. - Unfortunately also Kjell has got some problems with his eyes, and his legs are not willing to walk as they did when he was an active land-surveyor. He has therefore bought a small motor bike, to be able to move around. He spent this summer with his bike at Fellingö, the old place, where he and his family have enjoyed many happy years together. His address is:

Kjell Hårding
Lögtorp, Södra gården
71023 Glanshammars by
Sweden.

I hope you are all well, and send my best regards to Peder, Garth and to all of you. And so does Majli.
With love, your cousin
Sven

Parville 2 dec 1990.

Dear Gørth!

I am very sorry to hear that your mother Ruth is dead. She must have been a most remarkable and wonderful person, as you have told me, and from what has been written about her. I pity that I never had the opportunity to meet her.

Peter sent me a letter too. I understand he feels very lonesome now after a long happy marriage. I understand he has a farm together with Richard not far away. Saseaton is further away obviously.

Thank you for all details about the Bjelke family. You have been very active and I am impressed. Is there any detail I can help you to complete, please let me know.

Your visit to Bjelke at Nord-Ødal ended obviously very sadly. I did not know that Arne Bjelkes father is still alive. If so he must be round 100 years.

I can see before me an old angry fellow wiping his gun, chasing away encroachers like they used to do in Wild Western films! I have made up a table with some of the people from Bjelke to show the relations between two branches, one belonging to our grandfather Gulbrand Bjelke, Åslo, the other relating to Arne Bjelke and his brother Gulbrand Bjelke, who are living there now. They are both single persons. I am not sure if there are any more Bjelkes left after them. I also send you a copy from the Nord-Ødal book and what it says about Bjelke. Hope you

read norwegian or perhaps can have it trans-
lated if you are interested.

Thank you also for copies of Aunt Clara and cousin
Maartes letters. Clara was a remarkable person
in her way. She has been very valuable for Kjell and
me. She kept household with firm hands for Märta
and Poo Ritzen, Kjell and me at Falem during our time
at the state secondary school there 1925-1929. My mother
lived there with us, but she was at that time already
marked by her illness. It was an important time
for us. Not least our uncle Otto Bjelke stood behind as an
economic supporter.

Among pictures you sent there was one of a clock that
is said to be Gullbrand Bjelkes grandfathers. A fine
specimen indeed. Where is it now? I bought a simi-
lar clock at the auction after Gullbrand Bjelke in
Dyngås. I paid 15 crowns for it, but it needed some
repairs. It hangs now in our Partille house and I feel
happy for it.

You also sent a genealogical table of the noble fa-
mily Bielke. They have nothing to do with Gullbrand
Bjelke. They have played an important roll in Swedish
history from early 1500. They spell their name with an
i not j as you can see. Gullbrand took his name from
his homestead Bjelkel. Personally I think it had been
better if he had taken epp this norwegian name.

With this I end this letter. We wish to you and your
family a Merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

I am glad that Kristan liked the small neckties.

D.S

Cousin Sune

P.R.1 Red Deer alle' Can the 1 Dec 1944.

Mother Gullbrand

Dynäs

Thanks for the letter that I have received. It was very nice having letter from you after a 40 years silence. I see that you are well. I also feel well after my age. Up till now I have been good in health. Soon I am 76 years so I am getting rather old.

As you may know my ~~son~~^{wife} died 1929. We had 7 children, 5 boys, 2 girls. The girls are married and are doing very well. 2 of the boys are in England one in Skaterra (the States?) I have 2 boys on farm, only one at home who manage the farm, that I own.

I must say that I am all right in my old age that means a lot. I am very grateful that I came away from Vilhelmina. Certainly I do not want to change with any other place in the old country.

I have a 200 acres arable land, I get good crop this year and well payed. We also have quite a number of cattle and pigs and horses.

We have fine weather here, not very much snow. If you see Hårlund some time, remember me to him. I have not had any letter from Vilhelmina for years, so I do not know if they are alive or dead.

I do not have very much to write about, that

could be of interest to you. So I will finish
with many Christmas and New Year
greetings to you and your ~~brother~~ wife.

Your brother
Gustaf T.

Portville 15/1-89.

Dear Gail,

Thank you very much for your letter of Nov. 30, and the foto of your fine family and nice house. You seem to get on very well in Canada.

I am glad that you found something of interest in my letter to you as you say genealogic research is rather time consuming, but can be rather thrilling too. Following traces in old documents written by clergymen and other people who knew how to write centuries ago, can be a sort of adventure and similar to detective work. I consider it a very entertaining hobby not least for retired people. -

As to church records the case is normally such that, at least in this country, they stay at the parish registers office for the last 90 years before they are sent to the archives. That means that the church records for Vilhelmina say from round 1900 are not yet transferred to microfilm or microcards. I suppose this is the case also in Salt Lake city.

So information of Gustaf Fogelke, his marriage to Lina Selström and their emigration to Canada would be obtainable in Vilhelmina. A couple of years ago I had a short telephonic

talk with a person, working at the parish office in Vilhelmina regarding Gustaf Tjelke. I was told that he left V. the 22nd Dec 1902, obviously for Åsle. (His mother Thora Andrea Gundersdatter, then widow after Gullbrand Tjelke, was living there with some of her children). Gustaf returned to V. the 1st January 1903, married Lina Selström the 31st January 1903. She left alone for America the 16th March 1903. His wife followed him one year later the 18th March 1904. There was no information that Gustaf had come for fetching her.

The address of the parish office is:
Pastorsämbetet, Volgsjövägen 28, 912 00
Vilhelmina.

In Norway you could contact:
"Stadsarchivet i Hamar, Strandgatan 71
2300 Hamar," to get information about Gull-
brand Tselström and Thora Andrea Gunders-
datter from Nord Odal. I suppose that Salt
Lake City has microfilm, which could give
the same information.

Nord Odal lies North East of Oslo about
200 km by car, situated at the North-West
side of the lake "Storsjön" in "Hedmark fylke"
(county).

If you want to follow Gullbrand Tjelke
and his family on his way to Åsle, you

will find him in church records for
Åsede and Gullemundå parish.

They are belonging to Angermanland in
the county of Västerbotten.

Åsede and Vilhelmina parishes belong to
S. Lappland and the county of Västerbotten.

I suppose that you might be interested
to know about Gullbrand Tjelkes children,
grand children, grand grand children and soon.
here in Sweden. But that could be an
other story perhaps. I hope I will have the
chance to put together a complete (almost) picture
of this in due time.

I am staying at Parkhill, a suburb
to Göteborg. The easiest way to go from Oslo
to Göteborg or reverse is by plane, less than
an hour I believe. If you plan to visit us in
June I suggest that you let us know in good
time before. Best would be in the beginning
of the month for us. Could you go to Oslo via
Göteborg?

I look forward to hear more from you and
to see you here anytime.

Best regards to your wife and to your mother!
And all the best for the new year.

Truly yours

Leine Heiding

✓

a map over the region where all started I suppose could complete the picture.

I am afraid that my letter to your mother might have upset her, especially as her health is not the best. Will you please ask her to forgive me. My intention is of course not to wake up bad feelings. I think your mother is a most wonderful woman. I should very much wish, that I had been able to visit you in Canada. Now I think it might be a little late, as my eyes are not very good for a long distant traveller any more.

But I ~~am~~ very much like to get and write letters so if you have some further questions do not hesitate. You are welcome!

In the paper, you sent me, I have noted, that your Grandmother's brother Oscar Selström came to Canada some years earlier than Gustaf Tjelte. I suppose that Gustaf had some contact with his brother in law before he left Sweden.

Now I will finish, and hope you will be able to read my handwriting and understand my English. Best regards to all of you!

your cousin
Gunnar Heiding)

P.S. I should perhaps mention that I have a copy
of the inventory after Subbrand Byelke.
If you are interested I could send you a
copy, not translated I am afraid, as that could
be a little complicated to produce for me.

D.S.

RR1 Red Deer alle Can the 1 dec 1944.

Brother Guðbróund

Dynäs.

Thanks for the letter, that I have received. I was very pleased to have letter from you after a 40 years silence. I can see that you are well. I am also well for my age. Up till now I have been at good health. Soon I am 76 years & I am getting rather old.

As you may know my old woman died 1929. We had 7 children, 5 boys and 2 girls. The girls are married are doing excellently. 1 of the boys are in England, one in the States.

I have 2 boys on farm only one at home who has the care of the farm, that I own. I must say I am doing well in my old age that means a lot. I am very grateful that I came away from Víkkelvína. I do not wish to change for some inspectors appointment in the old country.

I have round 100 acres tilled ground, I got good crops this year and was well payed. We also have a good number of cattle and pigs and horses.

We have fine weather here not very much snow. If you see Háskuldur some time, remember me to him. I have not had any letters from Víkkelvína for years, so I do not know are they alive or dead. I do not have very much to write about, that could interest you - so I will finish

with many Christmas and new year
greetings to you and your old woman.

Your brother
Gustaf T.

Dear Gørth!

Parhille 24 okt 1988.

Many thanks for your kind and thoughtful letter.

Your mother Ruth has very kindly sent letters and pictures, so I have got some idea of how you are getting on. Your letter did of course give me a very good idea of the way of living you all have had in Canada.

I understand that you have learned a lot about your relatives here in Sweden through aunt Klara Tjelcke, Märta and her daughter Kristina. You also seem to have a lot of pictures. Interesting!

You seem to be interested in genealogy, and asks me to inform you of what I have been doing to put light upon older generations. I started some years ago in order to penetrate my father and grand father (Olof Johansson) descent, which we knew very little of. I have followed the family through generations back to the end of the 16th century (~1580). They were country people all the way through from Värmland. Some of them were soldiers. Most interesting is of course to learn to know grandfathers and grandmothers, perhaps their parents and find out how they spent their lives in a changing and eventful time not too long ago. But of course it can be a most thrilling hobby to search for links in old documents and try to connect them into a long chain through generations.

Then I also have tried to find out a little more about my mother and her genealogical table. So I arrived to Gullbrand Tretstam Tjelte and Hans Anders Gundersen. Where our family has started. I have tried to put together a little story about Gullbrand Tjelte's life, as I have been able to penetrate it. I hope you will find something of interest there. I was very lucky to get the permission to come to the record-office of Grangereken in Trondheim. There were a lot of information, not only of Gullbrand Tjelte. Also my father and grandfather (of Johansen) have left some traces as they also were employed parallel with Gullbrand. I think it is rather rare to find such a treasure!

There were 65 letters written by Gullbrand to Sandvikens Aunings RTB between 1880 and 1898. I could read them all and had also some copies made. I am afraid I can not give you a full information of the contents and I do not think that will be needed either. In connection with dates from parish registers I think you can get a rather good picture of Gullbrand and his family's life. In general I must say that I have got a very positive picture of Gullbrand Tretstam Tjelte's person. In his work for the company he had obviously good assistance by his son Gustaf, who is often mentioned in the letters (see letter of 2nd okt 1897 e.g.)

As to your grandfather Gustaf Tjelte you will find a couple of minutes from board meetings, which I suppose will give the background to Gustaf Tjelte's emigration-

Inspector Gullbrand Tjølker, Åsele
 was born the 1st of November 1842 at
 Tjølker Hylønda, a farm in North-Edal, 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 Olsson, born at Skjalstad,
 Staurmen, South-Edal in 1792. He died 1873.

Mother was Ragnhild Gullbrandsdotter, born
 at Tjølker 1803. Dead 1859.

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

Appendix 1.

Tjølker Hylønda to day is owned
 by Anne Tjølker. 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 Tjølker and the old house, taken by
 Sune and Magli Harding at a visit there in the
 summer 1983 you can see in

Appendix 2.

The North-Edal book shows that Gullbrand
 Isaksson married Thore Andrea Gundersdotter
 from Hoarverud 1868. Hoarverud is a neighbouring
 house to Tjølker. 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 Stavanger, Norway has very

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

Appendix 3

It is said that Gullbrand was a sergeant on 1869, he was this year "videst", that means a lodger at Trarverid, 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 see 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.

Gullbrands and Thore Andrea's way to Isle

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

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

" Second daughter Nyelzy was born 1872

the 4th December at Dynäs."

"Second son Gullbrand Adelf was born at Dynäs the 20th December 1874."

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

"Fourth son Teodor born the 19th March 1879 at Måstrand"

"Fifth son Otto Reinhard born the 21 June 1880."

and: "Vores äldste son Gustaf (handwritten) Reinhard född till världen (in the bible) på Svärverud den 12 april 1869."

Some original documents:

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

The places mentioned here are situated in Adalen or next to it at Faxölven, where basele lies. There you also can find Gårdsjö (or Gäsjö) not far away from Gideåby, that will show up later on. See route map IF Sundsvall Appendix 6

4
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 Ådalen. On the maps we find one Gäddjö (there are several of them in Sweden) nearby Gideåby, that belongs to the parish of Edsle, and very true. There she is:

" 8th May 1871. Clara Matilda

Parents: Fackn Gullbrand Isakson

His wife Hove Andrea Gundersdotter
from Gudmundrå. Married 2 years.

note

Christened by C. Håkstrand. Certificate 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 FI: 5 A page 76, corresponding to Sandviken at Dynäs.

Here 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 "Fackn", 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 Flärnsånd "Saw by saw I saw where ever I saw" is a well-known remark by a Swedish poet, Selstedt, after he had visited the region.

At Sandviken there existed for some time an one frame sawmill. Sandvikens sågverks 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. No permanent workers were employed at the time.

The company possessed large forests within Väster-Norlands and Västerbottens 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 whole-sale 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

(6)

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

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

Appendix 5:1

In this purchase contract the name

Tojelke appears for the first time.

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

The signer's full name was Knut Tsaksson, who in the files is said to be born in Torstiana (present Oslo) the 3rd February 1831. He came to Sweden several years before Gulbrand. He was married to Ingeborg Olsdotter also from Kristiania, lived 1860 in Hjertån and was in Dynäs 1866. He moved 1877 to Gästaholmsvika. In a letter from Versteegh to Gulbrand is said that that Gulbrand's brother Knut is dead (around 1881).

Knut is not mentioned among Gulbrand's brothers in the Uus-ödal book. The case is not further investigated. Anyhow Knut's existence in Dynäs could explain why Gulbrand 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 Kroune on the 17 april 1876. The selling contract is signed by Gullbrand Tjelke.

Appendix 5:2

Back to Sandviken he goes under the title "Factor". Shortly afterwards the family is moving to Edsle. Officially they are transferred from Dynäs to Gideåby in Edsle the 23rd October 1876.

From the files there we find that Gullbrand is a tenant of a farm Gideåby nr 1, 5 island a farm that Sandvicens FTS has bought from the former owner Per Olofson, Fhs 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 Thore Andra with household goods and four children 17, 5, 3½ and 1½ years had some problems on their way to a new living.

- x -

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

(8)

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

- S. Gustaf Reinhard (1) b. 1869 $1\frac{1}{4}$ in Glorway
- D. Clara Matilda (2) b. 1871 $8\frac{1}{5}$ in Edsele
- 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 Edsele
- S. Arndt Theodor (6) b. 1879 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 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, understand

Gulbrand				
Thore Andrea				
Gustaf Reinhard				
Clara Matilda				
Ingeby Katarina				

The priest's own Testimonial scale:

ability to read	}	1 for catechism means that he or she had learnt the Lutheran catechism by heart (at least part of it)
1 has started to read		
reads slightly		
reads fairly		
reads passably		
reads cleverly		as to the explanations 1 means that you know the first article of the cate- chism, the second and so on.

Gulbrand and Thore Andrea did not get ||||| 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 exception 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 summoned and back in Nord-Odal and Trarverud 1891.

Gullbrand seems to have rented Gideåbey 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 Sandvicens ångsåg AB under Vestby. The family did obviously not live in the very Gideåbey. The letter mentioned was written in Meastrand where also Mina Lovisa and Arndt Teodor are born. Meastrand lies quite near to Gideåbey 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 Gideåbey was taken 1881. Thore Andrea did not participate.

In Norway Gullbrand had bought a farm, Umaned 1 island, still in Odsele a little further upstream.

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

Gulbrand is here called "estate owner Gulbrand Bjelke, Faktor". They stayed here until 30 november 1886, when they left for Åsela. Sandvikens Auktions ATS bought Utanede.

Children these years:

"1877 the 27th april

Minna Lovisa (5)

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

"1879 the 19th march

Arnet Theodor (6)

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

"1882 born the 2 may

Johan Otto Bernhard (7)

Parents: Faktor Gulbrand 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 "Inspektör".
2. Received from Versteegh and Sandviken's Säg- och sågverksamhet a letter of attorney of 4 June 1887 to take care of the company's interests in Åsle, Drottna and Vilhelmina.

(appendix 7.)

3. Letters to Versteegh and Sandviken reflect Gullbrand's activities in lumbering, timberfloating, purchase of forest-homesites 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 Drottna district Gullbrand had an assistant Gull's Hålland, married to Hilda Kristina Alstergren (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 Tjelle took over and moved finally to Vilhelmina the 17th okt 1892.

Gullbrand suggested to Versteegh in a letter 21 okt 1892

(appendix 8, instans)

that Gustaf should take over an employment after a Mr Turman at Bredbyn (a place further north, away from Gullbrand's district). Apparently could this not be worked out.

In the same letter 21/10 1892 is mentioned that

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

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

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

He was born 1836 at Glara in Värmland. Came to (Sandritan) Täsjö 1868 and was employed as "Timberfactor" by Vessley.

My father Erik Johansson came to Åsela 2nd Dec 1897 and worked for Gullbrand as his amanuensis. Erik married Nina Lovisa Bjelke 23rd June 1901. He took over the Porvåa district during 1900 and Erik's Kåstlund came to Åsela to replace Gullbrand 16 Sept 1900. Gustaf stayed in Villhelmina.

5. Gullbrand, at the end of 1890, began to have problems with his health. In a letter to Vessley 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 "Mr Consul" could meet at Örnudsjö, so we could go together to Sämsjö. 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 Pörla in July (Pörla 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 Skryön and Källyön (Jämtland) and intended to proceed to Husele.

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 Verdy:
 He had stayed in Stockholm for 8 days. An eyespecialist 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 Steuere nevertheless this summer even if it has gone hastily, he is now supposed to be at Granviken at present to buy markings. Appendix 9

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

- X -

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

-x-

6. The board of directors for Sandviken's jägarverksamhet decided the 14 June 1900: To the former employee in the company, Inspector G. Pjeltke, 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 Kronor 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 Arudt Versteegh took over the lead. A group of three companies, Gravinje, Åtany and Sandviken were reorganized and became "Gravinverken".

Otho Gavelius became director for Sandviken's jägarverksamhet under the new group.

In 1900 it was decided in principle that Gräningsverken 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 led under Gullbrand Bjelke, was divided into three obviously more independent districts. To Åsle came from Dorothea Grel Hästrand. To Dorothea Erik Johansson from Åsle, married to Mina Lovisa 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

Åsels 9th June 1887.

H. Her Consul F. H. Varsleyh!
Sundriteen.

Referring you to my latest letter of 7th inst. I hereby only want to inform that I now can buy a very suitable place as residency for the representative of the company here in Åsels.

The owner is Märten Eriksson and the place is called Marickund, as a matter of fact where the preste (= jägmästare) Smedelin lives, I remember that we were together there last winter, so Mr Consul has seen it yourself.

Märten Eriksson demands 10.000 kr for the ~~homestead~~ and will be satisfied to get by selling the "fara"-homestead in Juvole against 5.000 kr difference for the company on the understanding that the company freely may dispose the wood needed for 50 years; normal for household use and firewood after marking out by the management of the company. - There are excellent and suitable houses which can not be built by anyone for 10.000:- kr. The estate is small but suitable. It can feed 1 horse and 3 cows; there is an obligation to maintain the deans wife Grönlund, but she is now 80 years and will most likely not very long be embarrassed by her obligation.

To the homestead belongs wood for household use

but not so very good, but in future with economy it can be good; this place has free disposal of the wood, that's why it is so bad. -

I very much wish that our Council would buy this place, so we could move in there; I do not wish to complain about our homestead here, but that is the trouble that it lies in a place where there are a great many disagreeable children, with whom now also ours are forced to mingle with; and what will come out of this in the end.

The estate here is not difficult to hire out for 150 hours a year, may be so:-

To-morrow I and Fougren will go to Vilhelmina in order to investigate the timber floating there; it is said to go badly according to information from Winter. I am afraid that a great deal of the timber at Vilhelmina is bound to stay there this year.

~~With true~~ Yours most respectfully

G. Bjelke.

P. S.

Please return the letter to me.

Minutes made at meeting with the board for Sæmdvikeus ságrekissakfelag in Hårnösand the 10th oktober 1902.

Present: Mr Lindley, Ulvødt, Lovelius.

§ 1

§ 2

Since the representative for the company at Vilhelmina, Gust. Pjeltke, has been found guilty of dishonest administration of the means of the company, Pjeltke was according to utterance of the board at verbal conference, immediately after the discovery separated from his appointment, and the management of the Vilhelmina district moved over to the administration at Åsle. Pjeltke immediately covered his deficit, but as means for this are said to be obtained by drawing a bill at six months' date in the bank at Åsle against security by persons with whom the company has done business, then the board decided, as the board consider it unworthy to throw the loss to innocent people, to redeem the bill at maturity on the presumption however that no account or further salary operations or improprieties from Pjeltke's side will come to light. Since the movement in Vilhelmina that belongs to the company through this has become suspicious the managing director was entrusted to try to sell the same.

The managing director reported that notification on Pjeltke being dismissed from his office has been made by a circular to former customers of the company.

§ 3

Was decided to take off to the savings fund the existing loans to the employees in Adalen namely:

Kr 739:27 through Mr J. Beerman
" 500 :- " " " Gr. Nöstrand and
" 1000 :- " " " Sv. Johansson

§ 4

§ 5

Recorder
O. Gavelius.

Minutes from meeting the 5th december
same year.

§ 1

§ 2

In order that the outcome of the business of the year should not suffer from the loss caused by the engagement to discharge the 7000:- Kr bill of Gustaf Rjelke, becoming due in the bank at Åsle in the beginning of next year, was decided to reserve mentioned amount by charging the surplus, deducting 1201:96 Kr, being the entered balance due to Rjelke.

§ 4

Dear Friend!

Moustraud 6 July 1876.

Thanks for your last. At last however we arrived to our destination, hardships and troubles, but the journey was rather troublesome as the steamboat did not sail further than to Holmstraud from where we had to carry on by land.

Remarkably fine weather and praise all plants the same, ~~to be~~ for here it looks really beautiful almost everywhere, I believe that there will be plenty of hay this year.

Regarding the contentment (happiness) here it will no doubt be all right with me (my person) but it is worse for Thore, but it will improve only she gets acquainted.

It was a horrible adventure with Postman he no doubt will get a hard punishment as he has beaten his father.

There is nothing new to tell except we are in good health and are quite well and are wishing the same to you.

Remember us to your mother and father and N. och Johanna and last and first are you greeted, your true friend

: and wife.

G. Bjelke

Do write to me again.

Power of attorney.

Hereby the inspector G. Bjelke is
 authorized on behalf of Sandvikens
 Sägverksaktiebolag to plead the cause of the
 company at coming meetings in bank-
 ruptcies, 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, Dödså 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. Vörstehj

Witness: O. Lavelius Johan Lundgrist