

## The Death of Bengt Söderberg and Helena Telosius Söderberg in 1808

Entry made in the Dead Book by the Parish Priest in Christianopel, Blekinge for 9 September 1808: *Den 9. Kl mellan 7 och 8 om aftonen hände den olyckan att logarfwaremästaren Bengt Söderberg och dess hustru Helena Maria Telosius ifrån Christianopels köping, som ernade sig till Öland, medelst båtens omstjelpande i vattnet mitt för Krogsnäs begge vådes omkomma och drunknade. Hennes kropp blev genast funnen av folk som kom till deras räddning, ehuru försent, men hans fanns först efter några dagar. Begge begrovs på Nya Kyrkogård Söndagen den 18de påföljd, han 48 år och hon 42 år gamle.*

Translation:

On the 9th, at the time between 7 and 8 in the evening the tragedy happened that the master tanner Bengt Söderberg and his wife Helena Maria Telosius from the Christianopel township, who had intended to go to Öland, by way of the boat upturning in the waters opposite Krogsnäs, both accidentally died and drowned. Her body was immediately found by people who came to their rescue, albeit too late, but his was not found until after a few days. Both were buried at the New Churchyard on Sunday the 18th following, he was 48 years and she 42 years old.

If you look at a map you will find Krogsnäs up in the northernmost part of the Blekinge County east coast. The Söderbergs seem to have taken the safer route through the archipelago along the mainland coast in a northerly direction towards the merchant towns on the westcoast of Öland, presumably to avoid the more treacherous open waters.

The Söderbergs were likely sailing/rowing in a small boat, a so called Blekingseka, which was ubiquitous in the province of Blekinge in the 18th and 19th centuries. They appear to have been alone in the boat when it upturned as no other people were mentioned either as victims or survivors. This further points to them having travelled in a small Blekingseka – commonly between 13 and 15 ft in length - which is easily sailed by one person.

(Picture from Wikipedia)



In September 2019 Anna Herbst of Sweden and Australia provided the above document concerning the untimely death of our common 4x-Great Grandparents:

- Bengt Söderberg born 1760 (?) in Sweden
- Helena Maria Tilosius born 23 Nov 1765 in Karlskrona, Blekinge, Sweden.

Anna Herbst is descended from their child Dorothea Söderberg born 14 Apr 1796 in Karlskrona tyska, Blekinge, Sweden.

Dave Jordan is descended from their child Charlotta Söderberg born 11 July 1799 in Kristianopel, Blekinge län, Sweden.

Dave Jordan  
September 2019