

October 10, 2012

Translation Tuula Piirainen

Dear member of the family society

30th Anniversary of Eskil Piira Family Society

takes place in Kuhmo in July 6th and 7th 2013. Welcome! Detailed program will be published next spring.

As the year 2012 is coming to its end it's time to report to the members how the year has passed and how our plans have come true. According to our rules the main tasks of the society are to cherish traditions of the family and to promote feeling of togetherness e.g. by means of genealogical research.

Our most important work of genealogical research, the Family Book *Eskilin jälkeläisiä (Eskil's Descendants)* has sold well and has received only positive reactions. With the book many new questions arose to its writers. We have found several areas in Finland where people are called by names Piira, Piirainen, Piironen and Piironen, but do they all belong to the same family? It has not been possible to find written evidence to prove the connection. The first mentioned Piira citizens lived in Sastamala, in the south-west of Finland, in 1460's. Therefore the society arranged a family research seminar in Heinävesi in May. The board then decided to start a project in finding out the possible relationship between different family tribes by means of gene research.

Soon after midsummer the society arranged a trip to White Karelia (Vienan Karjala). The main destination was the Solovetski monastery island in White Sea. It's known that members of Piira family were involved in the salt trade of the monastery in the 15th and 16th century. The other main visit was to Tsuba village, where Ewgil Piira, "the father of all the Piiras' ", is said to have worked. Read the story and look at the pictures from the trip on the web sites: eskilpiira.fi.

Picture: travelers in front of the skete on Mountain Sekirnaja in Solovets.

Reorganizing is the word in many public and private communities. We have also reason to evaluate and if needed update the administration of our society. Responsibilities and division of work need to be reconsidered so that the voluntary work needed in everyday functions of the society would not become overwhelming to anyone. We may turn to our members later in this matter.

30th Anniversary in Kuhmo in July 6th and 7th 2013

New winds in genealogical research and the 30 years of activity will be emphasized in celebrating our family society next summer. Tentatively we have agreed on following program: On Saturday we will arrange a seminar on genealogical research and the official meeting will be held. On Sunday we celebrate the 30 years of the Piira-tribe.

In search of Eskil's ancestors and relationship between different Piira-tribes

Year ago the board of the family society decided to focus in the genealogical research on finding out the ancestors of Eskil Piira and on connecting the different and possible lineages of Piira-tribes. Judging from the written sources available it is possible and even obvious that the Piiras (as well as the Piirainens, Piironens and Piironens) living in the areas of Sastamala, Mäntyharju, Leppävirta, Heinävesi, Liperi and Polvijärvi are related to Eskil Piira and his descendants. This will now be researched by means of gene technology.

Study scheme has been written (you find it in Finnish on our home pages). Professor Kalevi Wiik from Turku has promised to act as consultant. He is one of the top authorities in gene research. He has already checked the study scheme.

Taking of the gene samples for the research has begun. The samples will be analyzed in the USA and the results received during the winter. The results and conclusions will be presented in the seminar to be held during the family weekend next summer.

If you are interested in joining the research please contact Jorma Piirainen. The costs are about 200 euro/person.

We wish you all bright autumn and light in the darkness!

Pekka Piironen
president

Jorma Piirainen
vice president

P.S.

Remember to pay your membership fee (if still unsettled the payment form is enclosed). Otherwise your membership will not continue.