



ESKIL PIIRA SUKUSEURA RY

c/o Risto Piironen
Mujejärventie 3
75500 NURMES
+358400579453
ristopiironen1@gmail.com

Bulletin 2 / 2017

8th Sept 2017

Dear Relatives!

This summer is drawing to its end, but we got to enjoy its bounty. The sun shone on our Family Reunion. Great many thanks to everyone who participated! This letter is mainly about that event. Pictures of the Family Reunion can be found on our web page at the gallery. Thanks to Roine and Marti for the photos!

Saturday 1st of July

We begun the starting ceremonies with greetings from the Huotari Family Society's chairman of the board Jorma Komulainen, who also gifted us with their standard.

The main lecturer of the day was Ari Kolehmainen from Mikkeli, who the Family Society has contracted for more family research. His work will be about Piira-family in Savo and North Karelia in the 1500' and 1600's. Plan is to publish the research in the Family Meeting of 2019. Kolehmainen's work is to complement our own researcher's, Jorma Piirainen's work from the aforementioned centuries.

In the afternoon we got to enjoy musical entertainment. In the Oli ilo -concert of the Sommelo-event performed kantele group from USA, led by Sarah Gummings. One of the players was Loraine Piirainen.

The day ended with vesper and revealing of the family memorial stone at Kuhmonniemi, photo included in the letter. The stone was brought from the Kiekinniemi yard, where it used to be a cornerstone. Same yard, where Eskil himself walked barefooted or in his birchbark shoes. We wanted to stone to commemorate both Suomi Finland 100 event and the 400th anniversary of birth of Eskil. Another historical moment for our Family Society.

Sunday 2nd of July

The morning went as scheduled. People came to the depositing the wreath on soldier's grave and the church. The sermon was held by Riikka Pääkkönen (nee Piirainen).

Next we got to enjoy some music by singer Risto Piirainen, accompanied by accordionist Pentti Karjalainen, who performed several times during that day. Also young dancers of Piirais-tytöt from Kuhmo and Sotkamo took the stage. The host of the event was Tapio Piirainen.

As a surprise number we got to hear old Kuhmo dialect from early 1900's, when Veikko Piirainen from Maine, USA sent his regards via video to us. Unforgettable moment. Thanks to Dale Piirainen, who brought us the message.

In the oration Jorma Piirainen, the honorary chairman of the board, spoke of Karelians of Tver and the Piira-family's connection to them. His clear presentation gave us a good picture of a minority's situation inside a big nation. Historical facts about battle, survival, success and continuing to live to this day.

Family Meeting went without a hitch. Members accepted the board's accounts and the action plan for 2017-2019. Some of these can be found on our web page.

For the chairman of the board was chosen Risto Piironen, thank you for your trust in me. Few changes happened in the board. Anja Pulkkinen and Antero Piirainen left, and were replaced by Tarja Piironen from Varkaus and Ismo Markkanen from Siilinjärvi, respectively. Deputy members Liisa

Leppihalme and Juha Kampman were replaced by Jani Piirainen from Sastamala and Jorma Piirainen from Kajaani. Many thanks to the retiring board members for the work they have done. Terttu Piirainen from Kuhmo won the lottery for the family pennon.

30 feedback forms were returned filled. From the options for the possible travel plans majority picked North Scandinavia route, and Tver Karelia. The board will decide on the travel plans, and will announce then in the beginning of the coming year. We want to examine the connections to our family thorough the past and present on the trip.

The form also asked for suggestions on how to improve the Family Society's work. There wasn't much feedback on the subject. From this can be drawn the conclusion that majority of the members are happy with our work.

On the other hand, we accept any new "follies". If we go through with them, remains to be seen, but we'll catch the drift. Do speak out loud, should you have any thoughts.

At the end of the day the new board held the assembly meeting of the board. All public decisions are available on our web site.



Foto: Martti Piironen

Memorial Stone Reveal on the Kuhmonniemi Old Church Memorial, Anja Pulkkinen (left) and Roine Piirainen. Speech and reveal by Risto Piirainen, chairman of the board.

Prior to the reveal about hundred people listened to the vesper bells, and after being brought to the site with a rowing boat, vicar Timo Suutari performed the vesper.

Laatan teksti: *Menneitten sukupolvien muistolle (Text in a tile: For the memory of past generations) Eskil Piira Sukuseura ry 2017*

Risto Piironen
puheenjohtaja

Translation Anna Haverinen