

**Ryttaren, bonden, nämndemannen
och riksdagsmannen**

Olof Svensson (ca 1580 – ca 1670)

i Hetseryd Kåragård, Hjälmseeryds socken

1248 Olof Svensson
1249 Kerstin Nilsdotter
 second wife Ingeborg
 son Bengt Olofsson
 son Truls Olofsson (Troelius Olavi Choraeus)
 daughter Cecilia Olofsdotter
 Three as to the name unknown sons

Olof Svensson was born about 1580 in Hetseryd Kåragård in Hjälmseryd parish and died therein 1670

His first wife Kerstin Nilsdotter came from Hällaryd in Stockaryd parish and died about 1645 in Hetseryd Kåragård

Olof married for the second time about 1653 Ingeborg, who lived 1684 in Hetseryd Kåragård

Kerstin Nilsdotter is mentioned first in the schedule of rate-payers (census paper) in 1644. After that year Olof's wife is not mentioned. Therefore you can presume that she died in 1645 in Hetseryd Kåragård
Ingeborg is mentioned as his new wife from 1653 till 1684
1683-1684 is mentioned the widow Ingeborg and daughter (though without name)

At the assizes 27 September 1610 a half mantal (assessment standard for land) Hetseryd Kåragård was for the third time proclaimed as sold. /According to the intention in 3 Moses Book 25:23-28 the land did not belong to a single man but to the family or kinsmen. When a farmer or the survivors would sell a farm, this intention should at three different assizes be proclaimed in order to make it possible for the nearest relatives to buy the farm previous to an outsider or stranger. After three such proclamations should elaps "year and night". If, during this time, no nearer relative of the seller than the intended buyer had given notice of his will to take over the farm, the purchase was confirmed. And the buyer got registration of title of land/

It is possible that Olof Svensson at this occasion bought Hetseryd Kåragård, for he is farmer there from 1612 till 1656. The latter year is mentioned that Olof and his wife are maintained by their children. Olof had earlier sold a part of his farm to his son Bengt Olofsson who was farmer in Hetseryd Kåragård from 1644 till 1679. Another part of the farm was owned by Truls Olofsson, who however did not live in that farm but in Hjälmseryd vicarage.

Olof was a horse-soldier from 1612 till 1636. In 1613 he was a horse-soldier under commander Måns Stierna, raised against Russia in Jon Brorsson's company. 1631 he was a horse-soldier under commander Erik Stenbock, 1635 under commander Sabelfält and 1636 under commander Arvid.

Olof came back from all battles alive, but three of his sons were killed in battles against Denmark in 1643-1645. Another member of the family was a horse-soldier too, daughter Cecilia's husband Sven Svensson, who lived in Hetseryd Södergård 1644-1659 and in Hetseryd Norregård 1661-1665. He too came back from the battles alive

Olof was a large peasant-proprietor in parish Hjälmseryd and was chosen a member of court in 1633 after his neighbour, Måns Jonsson in Hetseryd Norregård. In 1656 Olof was succeeded by his son Bengt Olofsson in Hetseryd Norregård. In 1636 Olof was sexman (revenue-collector) of the church and in 1650 something he was church warden. On the 11th of August 1652 he delivered the supply of the church (e.g. benevolences from the people, taxes to the state, tribute to the poor and salary to the vicar)

At the assizes 24/2 1650 Olof was elected a member of herredagen (parliament) for Västra härad (West township)
"This same day was recited Her Royal Majesty's proclamations
1. about a National Parliament session in Stockholm 24/5 1650
2. about Her Royal Majesty's coronation ceremony and
3. about election of two members of the parliament from West township."

Olof Svensson in Hetseryd Kåragård and Jon Jonsson in Rödja in Sandsjö parish were elected "both of them honourable and law-abiding men". They were granted 2 mark current coin as allowance from krono and skatte farmers and 1 mark from frälse farmers.

At the assizes Olof and Jon were ordered to give these messages from the country-people:

1. that the crown would graciously preserve krono and skatte farms with the usual taxes as Swedish Regents have done in days long past
2. that - when peace is made - the farmers may be saved from extra war-expences, but - if that is not possible immediately - frälse, krono and skatte farmers may pay the same taxes because all of us will have the same peace, legality and rights,
3. that the jurymen may be exempted from the posting tax because they have to travel so much in order to see that the laws are observed,
4. That the noblemen may give up the burdensome obligation for the farmers to work for the noblemen, the driving job and other obligations above their old rights.

When Olof was in Stockholm he requested audiens before the Queen. And in spite of the Coronation Ceremony and the presence of so many royal families and ambassadors from all Europe, the Queen gave audiens for the farmer from Småland. Olof asked the Queen to recommend his son Truls to the bishop's court, that they would elect Truls as vicar in Hjälmseryd parish.