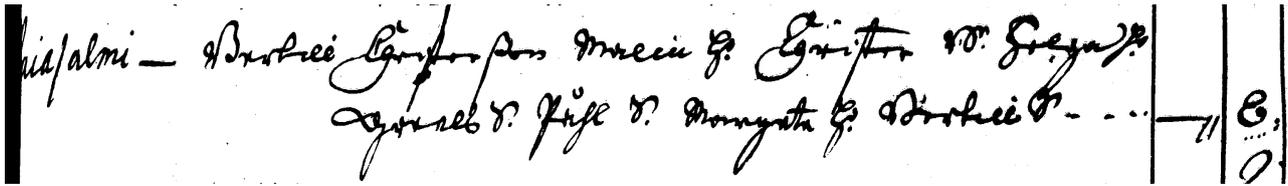
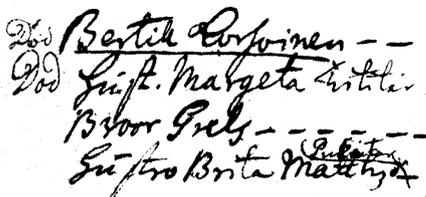


Grels Korhonen ca. 1655–1748



Near the end of the seventeenth century, there were living about ten persons who paid poll tax in Korhola farm, Vaajasalmi village, Rautalampi, Finland. For example in the poll tax record for the year 1684, there were in Vaajasalmi the householder Bertill Christersson and his wife Malin, brother Christer and wife Helga, son Grels, son Pahl and his wife Margeta and son Pahl.

The first communion book of Rautalampi parish, which has been preserved, comes from the years 1704–1713. The householder in Vaajasalmi was Bertill [Christersson] Korhonen, his (second) wife Margeta Tititär (female form of the surname Tiitinen), brother Reko and wife Brita Pukitar (Pukkinen) and other 17 Korhonen or their spouses not mentioned in the picture.



Is this Grels same Grels who is mentioned in the poll tax record? There are many entries for Grels in poll tax records and parish registers, but not his patronym in any one of them. In the history books of the Rautalampi parish, he is mentioned by name Grels Korhoin. Is there one Grels or two different men by the same name?

In the following communion book, there is sufficiently many pieces of information in order to make a clear decision. Now, Grels is living in his son Chirster's croft Ruokoniemi. There is also Christer's sister or consequently Grels's daughter Lisa b. ca. 1690. Because of her age, she cannot be Brita Pukitar's child, for Grels and Brita Pukitar were married not until September 25th 1699. Lisa must hence be born from Grels's first marriage

and therefore actually be Christer's stepsister. In an entry in the record for the buried people, it is said that Grels's wife had died in April 1697, she also called Brita. Grels mentioned in this communion book is thus the same person as Grels in the poll tax record. And therefore, our Grels is Christersson and Brita Pukitar his second wife.

The entries in the poll tax records are not a reliable source in this case. For example Christer, who is said to be Bertill Christersson's brother in the entry in the poll tax record mentioned earlier, has the same patronym in the years 1666–1670 and 1678, but erroneously Bertillsson in the years 1675 ja 1676. The cause for the error could have been the length of the set of the siblings. The difference between the birth of the oldest and the youngest ones is nearly twenty years (table 11).

Grels's life happened in a difficult period in the middle of hunger years and wars. He got at least eleven children with his two wives. From the first brood, only two eldest ones lived to adulthood. The others died in the hunger winters 1696 and 1697, one of them as young as only five weeks old, likewise Grels's first wife. From the second brood, also only two children lived to adulthood. One of them was Christer, the only son who lived elder. From him is descending the sub branch of our Korhonen whose descedants are still living in Saikari village in Rautalampi. Grels himself died 1748 in the Ruokoniemi croft in the age of 95 years.

Table 15

HK

Rautalammin Korhosten kuusi vanhinta sukupolvea, family book p. 114.