

## **Has the name Korhonen any meaning?**

Over a third of Finnish surnames end with the same ending -nen as Korhonen. In the older days, the ending had an extra i, consequently -inen. Usually, it signifies belonging to something, e.g. "suomalainen" means a Finn and "amerikkalainen" an American, or having some quality or feature, e.g. "valkoinen" means white, "vihainen" angry and "tuulinen" windy.

In Eastern Finland, the common people had surnames already in the Middle Ages. A unique exception in the whole world, isn't it? There are names which have been in daily use up to today, i. e. nearly one thousand years time. Korhonen is one of them.

During the centuries, scholars have tried to explain the meaning of the name Korhonen by comparing it to dialect words sounding like it. There are about ten different explanations presented, the most common perhaps deaf. However, all those findings come from years five or more centuries after the introduction of the name. So, no one knows how the name Korhonen came into existence originally.

In this millenium, some scholars have begun to suspect that those explanations are distorted attempts only. It is possible namely that Korhonen comes from Gorgo which is a vulgar form of Georgios, the Greek form of the name of Saint Great-martyr George the Conqueror. There are many examples of this kind of names from Karelia in the Middle Ages and in the sixteenth century.