

THE KOTILAINEN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

President 1999-2010: Leo Kotilainen

Secretary: Varpu Vuolanto

President 2010- : Kalevi Kotilainen

Secretary 2010- : Janina Lahti

REPORT OF THE BOARD REGARDING THE YEARS 2007-2010

During the past season the board has acted on the base of instructions made in our convention in Turku. Our goal has been to reinforce knowledge on our family history. This was aided by the confirmation of the family lines, which was done in the very same convention.

The summit in Turku instructed the board to search especially for means to contact relatives living in population centers. For this purpose we have published the "Kotilainen family" -magazine for 13 years. We have also had our own website for 9 years and it has been visited over 11 000 times. Thanks to the website, contacts between our relatives and the family association have increased significantly.

As a new way to strengthen kinship we have tried travelling with Kotilainen family members. These travels have included affordable skiing trips to Lapland, provided by travel agencies. Advertising has been done in the family magazine and our website. Also a journey to Sortavala and Valamo was organized to bring together relatives living far apart.

Durin the past season we discussed the role of grandparents in deepening knowledge of the family lineage. Travelling together offers an opportunity to strengthen solidarity among relatives, especially when family members live far away from their roots. When grandparents join in our activities, children get a view of the continuity of our lineage. During the travels we organize, it is also possible to meet even more distant relatives.

The common opinion of the board is that spreading knowledge of our ancestry is the most important part of our activity. Therefore we will continue to invest the most into this area. As a future plan we may even bring forth a book on the Kotilainen family history.

According to rule 2§ clause 3 of our association, we may economically support talented young relatives in their studies. This rule has been put to action this year, as a grant has been given to a student to fund an

important practical work phase. However, this kind of supporting activity isn't possible in the future unless the economical situation of our association strengthens.

The meeting in Turku 16.-17.6 2007

In Turku the names of four family branches were confirmed: The Kotilainen lines of Heinävesi, Kivijärvi, Pielisjärvi and Ylä-Savo. It was noted that naming family branches reinforces the fellowship of the family. In the future it is possible to name more branches, as long as appropriate clarifications are made.

The board met 8 times and the meetings were held at Vantaa. Many issues were also settled via email, which made it possible to convene less frequently.

Since 2009 participants of the board meetings have been given a refund of their travel costs.

Accountants: Liisa Kotilainen and Tuulikki Parttimaa-Vuorinen
Vice-accountants: Kirsti Elo and Ahti Pohjonen

Number of members: 678 registered names, paying members 321. The economical situation has remained stable, but there is a need to raise the membership fee from 20 to 30 euros (from a 3-year season). This would among other things enable the preparation of the book on our family ancestry. The membership fees have been collected by sending a bank transfer note with the "Kotilainen family" -magazine.

Website

The website of our family association (www.kotilaistensukuseura.fi) has been maintained by Ismo Kotilainen from Padasjoki. He has also been responsible for developing and updating the website. In the future the history section will offer good elementary knowledge on our ancestry. As almost 11 000 visits have been made to the website, knowledge on the Kotilainen family history has fine opportunities of spreading even further. The server has functioned well and we continue to have enough disk space.

The "Kotilainen family" -magazine

The board of our family association has been responsible of copy-editing, the editor-in-chief being Lauri Kotilainen. The magazine is published

once a year in the beginning of November. Help from the outside is used in the process. We haven't paid anything for the writers and the expenses have been covered by income from adverts. Also the mailing has been done by people in the board. In addition to the 600 copies delivered, the magazine can be read on our website. The magazine constitutes the best means of communication we have, especially in reaching the elderly.

The club-house and museum activity

Activity of the Kotilainen family in Pielisjärvi concentrates mainly around the family museum in Kylälahti, Lieksa.

In the summer of 2008 we held a museum week during which a considerable amount of family members got acquainted with an art exhibition by Marja-Leena Köpman and Varpu Vuolanto.

The museum association held its annual general meeting in 2009. During summer time family members have gathered to the museum, as coffee and pastry have been offered in honour of someone's special day. These informal gatherings have been very enjoyable events.

The Kotilainen family members of Ylä-Savo and Kivijärvi have held their own summer meetings annually.

In Helsinki, we have traditionally organized a get-together around Christmas. This meeting is open to all relatives regardless of family branch or home town. Lately it has been held in the famous "Allun Grilli" in Myyrmäki. This event in Helsinki serves the advice given in the meeting of Turku: connect with people living in the city. Today, most members of the Kotilainen family live in the Helsinki area. Consequently, we will continue to plan family meetings in the capital city.

We wish to thank the board, family association members and partners in cooperation for the unselfish work done benefiting the Kotilainen family during the past season.

Leo Kotilainen
President

Varpu Vuolanto
Secretary

Translation: Ada Kotilainen The Kotilainen lines of Kivijärvi