The Tauriainen Family in the Settlement History of Finland

1. Kainuu, a province of wild forests in 1500-1750

These few pages will follow the early footsteps of the Tauriainen-family in the history of Finland between 1450-1750. The main task is to present the early phases of the story of the family in the history of Kainuu province in 1630-1750. In addition to this, some words are said about the history of the Tauriainen-family before their arrival at Kainuu area. The data originates from the book published in 2006 by Doctor of Pol. Sci. Juhani Tauriainen Kamppaillen kiinni korpimaihin Kiannalla (The persistent settlers of deep backwoods at Kianta lake district in Finland between1630-1750)

Kainuu - a small province in Eastern Finland- was nearly unsettled wilderness in days of the arrival of Tauriainens during the first part of the 16th century. One could say, that Kainuu was a centuries-long battlefield between east and west. The early history of Kainuu Province was born on the tracks of trading and travelling routes of different Finnish, Swedish, Carelian and Russian tribes, hunters, fishermen and merchants. Kainuu was left outside the western (Swedish) regional domination in the Treaty of Pähkinäsaari in 1323 and was submitted to the eastern (Russian) political and religious powers and influence.

Kainuu became a part of western world as a result of the many and long wars of Swedish Kings of Wasa - family. The foreign policy and settlement policy of the Swedish King Gustav Wasa were closely intertwined. The birth of Oulujärvi erämaa parish in 1555 was a consequence of migration of peasantry from Savo province, which had a considerable excess of population and worsening economic conditions.

The development of permanent, tiny settlements in Kainuu was very slow and endangered by several, severe battles and bloody wars between Sweden and Russia. The first generations of settlers had often to escape from their homes in order to keep alive in hiding huts and forest saunas inside deep backwoods. The years from 1570 to 1595 were most drastic, because of the wars between Russian Tzars and the sons and heirs to the throne of King Gustav Wasa. The King's sons fought for power with each other, too. The Swedish Kings were sometimes like “hawks” in their martial Russian and Middle-European conquering policy. They often failed and their wars changed into desperate fight of survival of the last soldier and local settler. At last, in 1595 a treaty, called Treaty of Täyssinä brought a temporary solution. The settlement of the deserted small villages in Kainuu could continue. The permanent settlements in Kainuu were still fragile, and new difficulties rose, when King Gustav II Adolf needed men, taxrevenues and arms for his troops fighting in Middle Europe in 1618-1648.

Anyway, the number of permanenttaxpaying farmsteads in Kainuu grew up to 260, and the size of population was circa 1800 in 1641-42. The permanent settlers moved slowly to the most distant areas of Kainuu Province, near the new Russian borderline in the most eastern lake districts of Suomussalmi and Kuhmo villages.
Administratively, Kainuu province was part of the parish, called Paltamo. It was the other of the parishes of Kainuu, belonging to the Kainuu County under a Swedish Count, Peter Brahe. The Count, Peter Brahe owned between 1650-1680 the largest County in Finland including provinces of Kainuu, Savo and Northern Pohjanmaa and some smaller areas. The center of his County was the small town of Kajaani, which was founded by Peter Brahe in 1650. The administrative and military center of his County was the Castle of Kajaani, a small military fortress, erected between 1605-1619, reconstructed during the *Age of the Count* and ruined during the *Great Hate* in winter 1716.

In Peter Brahe's time the local administrative structure of Kainuu was finally formed. The first permanent signs of economic and cultural development of the area were clearly in progress. The settlement policies were guided and regulated by taxation. The basic infrastructure of economic development and religious culture were improved. The status of Kajaani as an administrative and fur trade center of Kainuu was strengthening. In addition, the living conditions of people improved because of the relatively stable and peaceful relations between Sweden and Russia in 1650-1680. The number of taxpaying farmsteads in Kainuu increased from 260 to 550 in 1642-1680 and the number of population from 1800 to 4700.

This favorable period of development in Kainuu was cut down drastically, when new Swedish kings and Russian Tzars, especially Carl the XII and Peter the Great began their fights for the mastership of Baltic Sea and Baltic areas. In the bloody wars between 1710-1721 Sweden lost its leading position in Baltic region. Also Finland was occupied by Russians troops during the *Great Hate*. Kainuu province was for several years under chaos and destruction like other provinces of Eastern Finland, too. Maybe, one can however say, that Kainuu Province was most severely destructed and ruined when compared to most other Finnish provinces. The number of population decreased by half, to the level of 2700 inhabitants in 1723. About 410 farmsteads of the total (642) were deserted and completely unable to pay their taxes, when the *Great Hate* ended in the treaty of Uusikaupunki in 1721. It took more than three decades, before the worst ruins of the war were repaired and the people of Kainuu had reached again a new, proper start in their homes in the 1750's.

The wars between Sweden and Russia were not the only threats to the settlers. In normal years – years without the need to defend tiny farmsteads and homes and fight against the Russian invaders – growth of the villages and population was severely threatened and often interrupted by natural plagues and disasters like frost, famine, epidemic fevers and other contagious deceases. The years of *Great Hunger* in 1695-97 were most disastrous with many fatal consequences. Population growth stopped for decades, for instance. Those, who were the last comers in Kainuu's wildernesses and the poorest groups of population - small children, elderly people and the sick - were always in hardest position, only praying mercy from God and neighbouring people, who were mainly as poor as they themselves. They suffered most from frost and famine. They were often forced to live by begging before starving. Thousands of them died from starvation and diseases. It has been estimated, that circa 40 % of the population died in Kainuu during the *Great Hunger*, in some distant villages even much more that the average. Even whole families were lost in cold and hunger, and their farmsteads deserted.

2. **Suomussalmi and the arrival of the Tauriainen - family at Kianta**

As was mentioned above, the settlement of most distant areas of Kainuu got a new spirit and vigor after the Treaty of Täyssinä in 1695. The living conditions began to stabilize around the new Russian borderline in the most eastern lake districts of Suomussalmi and Kuhmo villages. There was
at least a subtle, but strengthening feeling of external safety among those, willing to finally settle down as settlers to distant areas. The Tauriainen - family was among them, too.

The first Tauriainens came to an uncleared plot of land, in order to clear their own farmstead in Kianta village, a vast backwoods area in the northern part of Suomussalmi. They were among the first settlers of Kianta region. It has been estimated that the number of farm-houses in Suomussalmi – which was divided into villages of Kianta and Vuokki – in 1604 was only four, in 1610-1625 about 10 and in 1640 only 15, for being in 1633 about 20.

The archives do not reveal any clear dates or verified reason or single factor for the long journey of the Tauriainen-family to Kianta region. The origin of the family has still remained hidden. It is probable, that the first Tauriainen-settlers like Lauri (Lars) Tauriainen were born outside Kainuu Province, and they migrated to the area from southern Finland. It has been supposed, that the name of Lauri’s father was Niilo (Niels), which is one of the traditional Christian names of Tauriainen family. It is known, that the first Lauri Tauriainen arrived at Kianta village in Peranka Lake at the end of 1630’s. He had come with his family a few years earlier, probably in 1635, before his name was written in the land register of Kainuu in 1640-1641.

Lauri Tauriainen was the first farmer who settled down in the area concerned, on the bank of Peranka Lake, on a small sandy cape turning slightly to northwest from surrounding dense forests. Water routes nearby Peranka region and the Lake of Kianta were important ways for trade between Russia and the fur market center of Kajaani and the most important northern center, Town of Oulu at the coast of Bothnia Gulf. Local peasants traded in market of the provincial center, Kajaani. They also sold their products illegally directly to travelling Russian peddlars or to other trade partners in trade of fur, grain, cloth, luxury goods, salt, game and fish.

His enterprise was a daring and risky task. Clearing the land and erecting buildings demanded boldness, risktaking and overcoming the fears and worries in seeing towards the unknown future. However, the conditions for a success seemed reasonable. The natural areas for burnt-over clearings and game and fish of Peranka farmstead were extensive. The farming prospects was quite well on the same level as they were on already existing and best farmsteads in the nearby regions.

Lauri Tauriainen's family:

From different registers one can conclude that quite probably Lauri Tauriainen's family was following in the beginning of the 1650’s:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born circa</th>
<th>Died circa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lauri (Lars) Tauriainen</td>
<td>1590</td>
<td>1653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of his spouse is unknown</td>
<td>1595</td>
<td>1652-53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born circa</th>
<th>Died circa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niilo (Niels)</td>
<td>1620-25</td>
<td>1687-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauri (Lars)</td>
<td>1620-25</td>
<td>1682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antti (Anders)</td>
<td>1630-35</td>
<td>1697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matti (Matts)</td>
<td>1630-35</td>
<td>1677</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Great sons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lauri (son of Lauri)</td>
<td>1640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matti (son of Lauri)</td>
<td>1642</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The first generation or Lauri’s family lived in a smokehouse, built the farm and got its living from surrounding nature, from burnt-over plots, fish, wild game, berries and forests. During the life of the first Lauri Peranka farmstead was risen to the front row of farms in Kianta region. This was achieved in spite of some very bad years of frost. For instance, in 1642 there was a complete crop failure in all farms of Kianta village. Some other bad years were experienced during the 1640’s. The weather conditions improved somewhat in the beginning of the 1650’s. Peranka farmstead became the largest taxpaying farmhouse of the region in 1652-1654. This was mainly due to the good supply of labor in the farm. The several sons of the family lived their best manhood years. They lived with their father and worked together clearing their burnt-over plots, which required plenty of heavy work around the year. Burnt-over clearings and arable field plots grew rye and barley. Of course, the family had a horse, maybe two, some cows and sheeps. From the registers we know, that Lauri had a horse and two cows and some sheeps, when he paid his ground taxes and tithes, first time in 1641. In his time Lauri’s animal herds were quite similar to the average of farms in Kianta.

A jungle of different permanent and temporary taxes was Lauri’s everlasting worry and burden. Lauri of Peranka managed to pay his taxes without any taxresidues, but the time of his sons was already other and their taxworries were much greater and exceeded their possibilities.

3. The Story of Simo (Simon) Tauriainen

The time of the first generation of the Tauriainen family at Kianta wouldn't be complete without mentioning Simo Tauriainen, too. The archives do not tell about Simo as much as about Lauri. We do not know, whether he was Lauri Tauriainen's son or brother or cousin. The exact time of his arrival at Kianta area is unknown, too. In this connection, it has been supposed, that Simo and Lauri were brothers and they came to Peranka Lake at the same time for living together, at least for the beginning. Simo Tauriainen was mentioned in the land register of Kianta village first time in 1645. His farm was at the Lake of Piispajärvi, a few miles west from Peranka Lake.

There is very little additional data and descriptions of his family life. He was the only taxpaying person of his family, if he was married at all. He seemed to have lived mainly from fishing, because his taxes from farm keeping were much smaller than Lauri’s and the farm was smaller, too. One could conclude, that Simo remained on his farm to year 1657. After this, his name disappears from the land register, and we don't know anything about his later life. Maybe, he died or migrated elsewhere, and the farm got a new owner. For a few years later his farm was given (by Crown) for newcultivation to the one of the sons of Lauri of Peranka (Matts).

Simo Tauriainen has however remained in the history of early settlement of Kianta region. Maybe, just the rich fishing waters of Piispajärvi tempted Simo to settle down at Piispajärvi. He wanted eagerly to exploit good fishing waters around his farmstead Some others were interested in same waters of Piispajärvi, too. The lake had belonged since much earlier times to the fishing areas of the family Anttonen. This man appealed to the traditional rights of his ancestors to fish in the waters of Piispajärvi, which situated about at 150 kilometer’s distance from the home of Anttonen - family. However, Anttonen sued Simo Tauriainen in the local Court for severe violation of the traditional fishing rights of the Anttonens. The court decision in 1652 was quite neutral, but slightly in favor of the new settlers. It was decided, that both parts were – for a while - entitled to fish in Piispajärvi, Simo Tauriainen by full rights, but Anttonen's rights were limited. The family could enjoy their previous rights only as long as the migrating settlers' needs for fishing waters would grow greater and the traditional rights of old farms to exploit their distant wilderness plots and wild waters would be completely cancelled in favor of the settlers. The case at the Court in Kajaani concerning Simo’s rights to fish on nearby waters changed the existing legislation for favor of the settlers.
4. The second generation of Tauriainen - family and the new settlements in Kianta

The whole picture of different families of Tauriainen belonging to second generation living in Kianta is partly uncleared and therefore uncertain and based on assumptions. In the following main characteristics of family structure of the sons of the first Lauri of Peranka have been described.

**Lauri (Lars) Laurinpoika (The second son of Lauri of Peranka):**

Lauri Laurinpoika moved from Peranka to Pisto farm at Lake Pisto about 1655. It is probable, that Lauri inherited Pisto farm from his father-in-law, Klemetti (Clemett) Heinonen. His family was a big one, consisting of seven sons and at least one daughter. The children and their approximate dates of birth were: Lauri (Lars, 1640), Matti (Matts, 1642), Pekka (Peer, 1648), Risto (Christer, 1655), Antti (Anders, 1658), Klemetti ( Clemett, 1660), Marketta (Margareta, 1662 ja Juho (Johan, 1665).

The next generation shift of the Pisto farm took place in the beginning of the 1680's. Several of the sons were acting as husbands in the farm since that. A permanent success let wait for itself, and it turned out to be impossible due to several bad crop years and scarce yield of the burnt-over plots and natural meadows. Risto Laurinpoika - belonging to the third generation - had the mastership of Pisto in the 1680's and 1690's, for a longer time than any other of his brothers. However, he also like several of his brothers finally migrated as a settler to north. The village of Soivio in neighbouring parish of Pudasjärvi and Kuusamo in Lappland became their new home region since the 1680's. They became the ancestors of the extensive branch of the Tauriainens in northeastern Finland.

**Niilo (Nils) Laurinpoika (The oldest son of Lauri of Peranka):**

Niilo Laurinpoika got the mastership of the original Peranka farm after his father Lauri about 1655. He had the main responsibility of the development of the farm until his death in 1687. The story of his family is better documented than any other of the Tauriainen-families, except the data about his wife, which is totally missing. The family was quite similar in size as families in the region in general. The children and their approximate dates of birth were: Lauri (Lars, 1655), Niilo (Nils, 1661), Matti (Matts, 1665), Riitta (Brita, 1668), Valpuri (Wahlborg, 1673) and probable also Tuomas (Thomas, 1657).

During Niilo’s lifetime the original farm was slightly growing and the family managed quite well, although several cold years brought deep difficulties. By and then, the farm suffered from burden of taxation, and local administration had to grant temporarily some tax reliefs. Two of his sons became later most crucial forefathers of the future increase of Tauriainens in Kianta and Suomussalmi, namely Lauri and Niilo.

**Lauri Niilonpoika** continued farming in Peranka farmstead until the years of Great Hate. Lauri Niilonpoika was married twice, first to Riitta (Brita) and later to Silja (Cecilia) Kerätä. Lauri’s children and their birth dates were: Niilo (Nils, 1676), Antti (Anders, 1678), Kaarina (Carin, 1683), Matti (Matts, 1685), Marketta (Margretta, 1687), Tuomas (Thomas, 1692), Heikki (Hendric, 1694) Jussi and Lauri (Johan and Lars 1697) and Vappu (Wahlborg, 1700). The later data concerning Kaarina, Tuomas and Heikki are best documented, and one can follow the story of their descendants quite well for some decades, partly until today.
Niilo Niilonpoika, the younger of the sons moved away from his parents home, Peranka in the 1680's. He was married to Marketta (Marget) Lieppa, a daughter of Tuomas (Thomas) Lieppa from Keinälänniemi, a farm situating on one of the most fertile and favorable farming area on the banks of Lake Kianta. He lived about 20 years as a son-in-law of Tuomas Lieppa taking care of the old-age living of his farther-and mother-in-law. In the beginning of the 17th century he moved to a nearby farmstead of his own, called Vikiö. In spite of severe times of hunger, crop failures and chaos during the Great Hate, he managed better than most of the neighbouring farmers. His role as helper and advisor and as temporary master of Pisto were very significant for the future existence of the farmproperties of the Tauriainen-family. He lived to the age of about 85 years and died (circa 1745) as highly honoured and esteemed by his relatives and local villagers.

Because he and his wife Marketta had a big family, heredity traits of Tauriainen-family diffused widely in Suomussalmi villages and in nearby villages of Pudasjärvi. Their children and the dates of their births were: Johannes (Johannes,1691), Katri (Carin, 1691), Elina (Elin, 1695), Anna (1699), Marketta (Marget, 1702), Lauri (Lars, 1705), Maila (Malin, 1712 and Riitta (Brita, 1713). The daughters of the family were very popular among the young men of region, and all of them got good homes as spouses in the best farmsteads of villages nearby.

Antti (Anders) Laurinpoika (The third son of Lauri of Peranka):

He became a settler at Lake Peranka, and he built a new farm to his family. In this connection, his farm was called Anttila. His family was a typical one, and the names were very traditional to Tauriainen-family. The children were: Lauri (Lars, 1665), Matti (Matts, 1667) and Antti (Anders, 1670). Life in a small new farm was often very difficult, because of the frost and poor crops. Antti was several times unable to pay fully his taxes and tithes.

His lifetime ended to a winterly tragedy during the Great Hunger in 1697, when life of the people was at the outmost limits of mental and physic sustainability His story remained in land and tax registers for decades. The short explanatory notes of land register-books told, that the whole family of Antti Antinpoika (7 persons in all) was died in February 1697, probably of hunger and of some fatal diseases. Maybe, some of the family members remained alive, for being elsewhere during the tragedy. The farm was later given to others, who might have been relatives to the wife of Antti. However, they didn’t manage well in the frosty and small farm. In spite of growing difficulties the farm remained for being reconstructed after the Great Hate. From the ruins of Anttila farm rose later a wellkept farm, called Hemmilä, which was owned by Hemminki (Hemming) Tauriainen, a son of Antti Laurinpoika or a son of Pekka Tauriainen.

Matti (Matts) Laurinpoika (The fourth son of Lauri of Peranka):

He started recultivation of Piispajärvi farm a few years after Simo Tauriainen. The data of his time in the farm is scarce. He was married, and his wife came probably from Tervonen-family of Runtti-farm, situating quite close to Piispajärvi. The family of Matti Laurinpoika could enjoy only a short time from the rich fish resources of Lake Piispajärvi. At the age of about 50 years Matti died in 1677-78. His widow remained to live in the farm with their children. Her ownership was short, because the tax officials wanted to transfer farm to other owners, better able to pay taxes. The data on their family tells quite little, but we know something, however. The children were: Lauri (Lars, 1660), Matti (Matts, 1663) and Antti (Anders, 1665). Lauri built a small tenant farm (cottage) for his family in the 1680's. His descendants lived in the village, and later their conditions improved. Some of them even moved back to Piispajärvi-farm as co-owners of the original farmstead.
5. The Tauriainen-family between the Great Hate and the 1750's in Kianta village

The Tauriainen-family had settled permanently to farms of the most northern part of Kianta village before 1700. They owned five permanent farms. A couple of cottages (tenant farms) belonged to men and families, originating from the Tauriainen-family. The land-areas of all farmsteads of the Tauriainens were extensive. Estimates based on later data and the history of farms tell, that

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm</th>
<th>Land Area (hectars)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peranka</td>
<td>948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisto</td>
<td>1650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anttila</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piispajarvi</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Tauriainens had managed in their farms as well as the settlerfarmers of the Suomussalmi villages in general. Some of them, especially two sons of Niilo Laurinpoika of Peranka were perhaps clearly better off than most of their neighbours. The Tauriainens had to cope with the hardships, brought by the *Great Hate* like other people of Suomussalmi, as well as with the ordinary plagues like frost, crop damage, hunger and diseases. Their life was hard and epidemics and chaotic war years created continuous fear and pain among people.

Already in bad crop years of the beginning of 1700's and especially during the *Great Hate* living conditions at all the farms owned by Tauriainens detiorated. Farm buildings were mostly ruined and, fields and burnt-over plots became into decay. The original *Peranka* farm became deserted when the family ran away (1710-11) for seeking better natural meadows for their cattle. A son of Lauri Niilonpoika, *Heikki Laurinpoika* returned at the end of the *Great Hate* to reconstruct the remains and to rise it again for cultivation. Heikki's time was however short. He got into severe difficulties because of his unpaid taxes and crop failures in the 1730's. A new family, *Räisänen*, moved to the farm and it remained to their possession for a longer period. Some of the Tauriainen-family lived as cohabitant in Peranka, now and then. The Räisänen-family and The Tauriainen-family were also joined by ties of several marriages.

The original owners and the new tenant farmers of *Pisto* farm became exhausted continuously because of the natural conditions on the depleted, unfertile and nutrientpoor soils of Pisto-farm. Several different persons tried to reraise Pisto-farm from its rotten condition between 1699-1713 after Risto Laurinpoika left the farm in 1698 and migrated to Lappland or Kuusamo. All of them failed in their endeavours. Only the years under the mastership of Niilo Niilonpoika of Vikiö saved the farm from total loss. The Tauriainen-family returned permanently back to Pisto, when *Tuomas* (Thomas) *Laurinpoika* and his wife *Kaarina* (Carin) arrived at farm in 1713. In the beginning they were accompanied by the ageing farther of Tuomas. He moved a few years later back to the original Peranka-farm. Tuomas and Kaarina raised their big family on the Pisto-farm. Their sons, Lauri (Lars, 1718) and Niilo (Nils, 1722) belong to the core of the Tauriainenens, who continued the story of the Tauriainen-family in Suomussalmi and even in the USA.

The inheritance of Antti Laurinpoika from *Anttila* farm remained in the possession of the Tauriainen-family in spite of the several turns of its history. After the tragedy of Antti Laurinpoika's family in 1697, the Luukkonen-family came to recultivate the farm. Somehow the farm remained alive, during the chaos of the *Great Hate*. The sons of Marketta (widow of one of the sons of Antti Laurinpoika or widow of Pekka Tauriainen and later wife of Tarassia Luukkonen) grew up, and the farm was
given to **Hemminki** (Hemming) **Tauriainen** in 1720. He was an energetic fellow and was able to raise the farm again. He reached a very high age of 90. His descendants live still today on the same bank of Peranka Lake. Some of descendants of this branch of the Tauriainens have emigrated to the USA, in the 1800th century, too.

Niilo Nilonpoika managed well at **Vikiö** farm, where he moved from the farm of his father in law. Niilo became a patriarch of the family during the Great Hate, because he assisted other members of Tauriainen-family to keep their inherited farmlands in their possession. He was also highly esteemed among his neighbours as a local leader in juridical and religious matters and because of his craftmanship in farming. His son **Johannes Tauriainen** continued as the husband of Vikiö.

One of the sons of Lauri Laurinpoika of Pisto, namely **Klemetti** (Clemett) **Laurinpoika** has to be mentioned, too. He was eager to try an independent life as a farmer like his farther has been. He might have lived mainly at his fathers home. He worked as cofarmer of Pisto-farm during the mastership of Risto Laurinpoika. A new possibility opened to Klemetti, when **Runtti**- farm from the neighbourhood became deserted and unable to pay taxes. The farm was transferred to Klemetti and his wife, **Helga**. The conditions at farm were very poor, and Klemetti’s endeavors were doomed to be without any success. Klemetti failed several times to fulfill his obligations, but he was allowed to try again a couple of times. He did not succeed, In spite of several attempts, he abandoned from attempts to restore the farm. After the **Great Hate** his name appeared in land register of **Utajärvi** parish on the banks of Ouulujoki River, where he with his sons has settled down in a deserted farm. His sons continued farming in the region, and the Utajärvi-branch of the Tauriainen-family was born.

As was mentioned earlier, **Piispajärvi** farm was given to the **Tervonen-family** from Runtti (a newly settled farm near Piispajärvi) already at the end of 1670’s. It is possible, that the widow of Matti Laurinpoika Tauriainen was related to the Tervonen-family and the first new owner (Taneli Tervo- nen) was a close relative to her and her sons. The oldest son of Matti Laurinpoika, **Lauri Matinpoika Tauriainen** got married to **Kaarina**, and the Crown granted a tenant-farm (torppa) to the newly married family near Piispajärvi. Lauri and Kaarina lived there from 1683 on for several years, but their later life course is quite unknown. However, it is probable, that some of the descendants of Matti Laurinpoika Tauriainen lived near Piispajärvi for the whole of their life. Later in the 1700th century Matti’s grandson - also Matti by his name - returned back to the co-ownership of Piispajärvi-farm, which changed its ownership several times. At last, Piispajärvi was transferred to a new owner, when the **Moilanen-family** arrived at Piispajärvi-farm from region of Puolanka.

It was mentioned earlier, that many sons of **Pisto** farm migrated to north, to neighbouring parishes Pudasjärvi and Kuusamo. The first migrant settlers were the oldest sons of Lauri Laurinpoika of Pisto, Lauri and Matti by their names. The migration was perhaps caused by a settlement degree for settlers in Lapland, given by the King Charles XI of Sweden. He promised several advantages to settlers, who would move to northern regions inhabited earlier only by nomadic Lapps. Among the advantages were for instance 15 years’ tax-freedom and exempt from ordinary military service.

The other part of the migration decision in Pisto, was the abundant number of full working-aged sons in Pisto. It exceeded the maximum number (3 men per a farm-family), which was allowed in Kainuu province. By this statute the Crown tried to prohibit the growth of the size of families to a level, which would be unbearable compared to the living conditions. This was also an attempt to get more permanent settlers to unpopulated regions in north for the security of the border between Russia and Sweden-Finland and for getting new taxpayers for growing tax needs of the kingdom.
The details of the migration of the Tauriainens to Lappland are difficult to trace. A new “parent-farm”, called Tauriala on the shore of Soivio Lake was born, when the Tauriainen-brothers of Pisto migrated to Lappland. Administratively, they settled down in the parish of Pudasjärvi, and the area was later joined to its present home parish of Kuusamo. The migrants from Pisto were Lauri Laurinpoika (born 1740) and Matti Laurinpoika (born circa 1742).

The families of Lauri and Matti Tauriainen at the Lake of Soivio were like families in general consisting of wife and 3-6 children. If the wife died, her widow married soon again and families grew in size. The second generation of Tauriainens of Soivio moved to neighbouring areas around the big lakes of Kuusamo. According to the house and land registers in 1738 members of Tauriainen-family owned at least three “parent-farms” in Kuusamo's area. Some of the later descendants of Risto Laurinpoika of Pisto moved to the northern part of Kuusamo, to Juuma village. Some other stayed in Pudasjärvi, in villages of Kollaja and Kelahaara. The Tauriainen-family in Kuusamo gave also the roots to the Tauriainens, who migrated during 17th and 18th century further to north, crossing the Norwegian and Russian borders, too. In addition to this, one has to remember, that several of the daughters of the Tauriainens in Kianta were married to families in Taivalkoski and Pudasjärvi.

6. Some concluding notes

Since the days of the first settler in Kianta, Lauri Tauriainen of Peranka a considerable group of settlers and farmers grew up between 1640-1750. It is estimated, that nearly 1/10th of population of Suomussalmi carried name Tauriainen as his or her familyname. Suomussalmi was the main center of the Tauriainen-family in whole Finland around 1750. An other center was under rapid growth in Kuusamo. Through marriages the Tauriainen-family had much wider effect on the gene traits of local population, which as a whole was still quite small in size.

In Suomussalmi there were four main farms, owned by a Tauriainen before the middle of 17th century, Peranka, Pisto, Vikiö and Hemmilä (former Anttila). Two tenant-based smaller farms existed also in the hands of the Tauriainens. In seven farms of Suomussalmi, the housewife came from a Tauriainen-family. A couple of farms in Pudasjärvi had housewives, Tauriainen by their birth.

The locations of Tauriainen-families are presented in the maps enclosed. The history proves from the living strength of the family in difficult natural conditions, from the persistence in front of frost, famine, hunger and epidemic diseases, which were the everlasting plagues of people in those past days. The Tauriainen-family survived based on its adaptability, willingness to take risks, professional capabilities and mental strength and abilities.

The Lutheran peasantry was illiterate in general still in 16th century. The clergymen tried to learn some clever young men or women to read and write for creating local networks of literate young people, whose task was to teach the other people in villages. It is verified by archives, that at least some of the sons and daughters of the second generation of the Tauriainen family in Suomussalmi were literate. Some daughters in a few different Tauriainen-families were able to write, too in 17th century.

The families were also obedient people before the Law and the Church. The Church controlled quite strictly the religious and virtuous behavior of peasantry. The participation to The Holy Communion 2-4 times a year was obligatory and the absence was punished (fines, jalkapuu etc.). In general, the members of the Tauriainen family were obedient attendants to the Holy Communion and other traditions of religious life.
7. The long history of the name Tauriainen in Finland and the puzzle of the origin of the Tauriainen-family

History of the surname Tauriainen and of its sister names:

Earlier it was mentioned, that the route of migration of the family Tauriainen to Kianta is unknown. It is however well known and well documented, that the history of the Tauriainen-family extends centuries back to the settlement history of Finland. To argue, that there would be a direct bloodline between the early Tauriainens and those found in the 1640's in Kianta would be incorrect, because of the lack of proof based on written sources. Therefore it is better, that the findings presented in the following text and the conclusions would be interpreted as a history or story of the surname-cluster of Tauriainen. Names beginning with words like taura-, tauru-, tauri- and tauro and their transformations with ending like –nen and –la or –inen, -anen and – ila are all included into the surname-cluster of Tauriainen.

However, the Tauriainens living in the same village or same area, are quite probable directly or through blood ties related to each other.

The etymological meaning of the name/word Tauriainen:

There is no and fully settled explanation to the linguistic origin of the surname and its meaning. It seems to be a couple of theories. The first, suggested by an expert of the Finnish medieval history (professor Seppo Suvanto), the origin of the name derives from an old hunting and fishing culture, meaning a bite or a tender piece of game meat or fish meat, cooked in fire. The other relates the name to the old tar making culture in the meaning of a chip of pine wood, which was used in lighting the wood heap, when distillating tar. The third is derived from the name of a bull, taurus and its different derivatives, which are well known all over the world. For instance in an old Estonian dialect, word tauras has had a meaning of a big, strong man. The verb taurata in old western Finnish dialect means to fight, to struggle or to grasp or grip.

The personal favorite of the author is the last one. Maybe, for centuries ago, some clergyman or army officer gave to someone of his subordinates a nickname taurus, because of his physical or mental characteristics. When time passed, this name became his permanent surname and was inherited by his descendants as a name, by which they identified themselves and were separated from other families and people.
Table 1: The location of farms of the Tauriainens in Kianta c. 1641-1720

- **Tauriainens' farms:** Peranka (1641), Piispajärvi (1645), Pisto (1654), Anttila (1660), Vikiö (1700), Runtti (1660)

- **Neighbouring farms** (owners and name of the farm, about 1660):
  1. Paavo Tormua (Tormuala)
  2. Riku Luukkonen (Luukkola)
  3. Olavi Luukkonen (Luukkola)
  4. Pekka Kemiläinen (Kemilä)
  5. Paavo Kettunen (Kettula)
  6. Paavo Keinänen (Keinälä)
  7. Erkki Lieppa (Lieppala)
  8. Mikko Koistinen (Pärsämö)
  9. Tuomas Rönty (Röntylä)

- **Tauriainens' tenant-farms:** Lauri Matinpoika's farm in Piispajärvi (n. 1683) ja Pekka Pekanpoika's farm in Keinälänniemi (n. 1710)
8. The historical living areas of Tauriainen-families in Finland

An old surname from the 1450’s:

The family name -Tauriainen - was mentioned in the archives already in the Middle Age. The first memories come from the southwestern provinces of Satakunta and Southern-Häme in the later part of the 1450’ s, and more often soon after 1500. It seems, that the first Tauriainen-families were settled down in two relatively limited areas: around lakes of the old Tyrvää-Karkku parishes, which flowed through Kokemäenjoki River towards the Gulf of Botnia and in the parish of Pälkäne, 20-30 kilometers northeast of the provincial center, an medieval town called Hämeenlinna. One can assume, that the Tauranens and Tauras – as these persons were mainly called – have arrived through Kokemäenjoki valley at places, which were rich of fish situating near main waterways and near few main roads connecting provincial towns, most densely populated villages and centers of parishes in Finland of that time.

The Tauras and Taurainens of Satakunta Province:

They lived in the region of old Sastamala parish, in villages next to churches of Karkku and Vesilahti chapels. In Karkku, there were to villages, Haapaniemi and Rikainen, where the Taurainens lived. Among the farmowners of Rikainen were mentioned for instance Olavi (Oleff) Tauraynen and Johannes Taura between 1488-1511. Later, between 1540-1613 also Niilo (Nils) and Jaakko (Jakob) and Mikko (Mickel) Niilonpoika were found from land register. Examples of the Tauranen/Taura-family are for instance Esko (Eskel) and Heikki (Henrik) Taurainen/ Taura and a widow Vappu (Walborg) from years 1540-1617. Erkki (Erik), Sipi (Sigfrid) and Lauri (Lars) Taurainen lived in the neighbouring Haapaniemi village between 1540-1597.

It seems, that the story of families comes to its end in the beginning of 16th century. We cannot be quite sure of that, but something quite crucial happened to those independent farmstead owners. A good answer could be, that this relates to the changes in the social and power structure of communities and to the role of Nobility and Army officers. In this connection many independent farmowners become economically deserted and unable to pay their taxes to the Crown and to the Nobility. Taxation system consisted tens of different permanent and temporary or extraordinary taxes. They were often transformed according to the needs of the Nobility and needs of many wars, into which the Kings of Sweden were engaged. The tax burden was in general continuously increasing because of the wars of Swedish kings and of the costs of transport and living of soldiers and armament of the Army. The small and poor farmers were not able to carry out of their tax obligations. In many cases their farms were taken to the Crown and given to the hands of the Nobility.

The estates like Haapaniemi were usually owned by a wealthy landowner or a noble family or run by army officers belonging to the Nobility. They got considerable tax reliefs and other benefits for their services to the Crown. They had responsibilities like to provide and arm cavallery for the endless needs of the State. They had also right to carry taxes from independent farms in nearby villages and parishes. They had the full rights and power of a landlord towards their own tenant-farmers and cottagers, who formed also the necessary labor of their estates.

A good example is the birth of the Haapaniemi estate in Karkku. The footsteps of the Tauriainen disappeared, when Haapaniemi estate was established between 1584-1606. The farms owned by Taurainens were joined firstly with some larger farms, which in turn merged with each other as
bigger and more bigger estates. As such these were better able to fulfill all the financial and military obligations, which were required by the Crown and the King of Sweden. These new estates collected naturally their own revenues by taxating their tenant-farmers, cottagers and other subordinates. It is however possible, that people belonging to the old Tauriainen-families lived still in the region. They only lost their independent status and previous social position in the village. Their names were forgotten and disappeared from the land register.

The Tauras of Vesijärvi:

We will find the Tauras in Vesijärvi parish. They lived in one of the main villages of region – called Narva. The village was an old market place, where peasantry, merchants and peddlars met each other a couple times a year. The archives show, that at least three of the farms in Narva belonged to the Taura-family. Their possessions are mentioned in registers between years 1501-1640. Because the full list of husbands and housewives would require too much, let us mention only, that

- Typical names among the family were Matti (Matts), Jaakko (Jacob), Tuomas (Thomas), Antti (Anders), Heikki (Henrik) and Juho (Jöns) and Marketta (Margaretha)
- The Tauras were by and then - quite wealthy belonging to to biggest taxpayers of the region.
- The Tauras had special areas for fishing and hunting outside their own village at 150-200 kilometers’ distance from their homes.
- Some of the possessions of Tauras were joint to larger farms in the region in the 1610’s and 1640’s, mainly because growing tax burden, which they could not carry on. It means, that the footsteps of the Tauras nearly disappeared in the same pattern as in Karkku.

The Tauranens of Pälkäne:

The oldest proofs of the existence and life of the Tauranen-family have remained in the archives of Pälkäne. The farms of the Tauriainen were located in two villages on the banks of the Lake Pälkänevesi. They have lived in to villages, which were quite close to each other, villages of Salmentaka and Tauriala. The oldest registered marks from the family are from a Court register in 1455. They tell of a man, Eskil Taraynen and a farmstead called Tarainen. This man is probably the same Eskil Taura and Esko (Escill) Taurainen, who attended in the Court session in Hämeenlinna 1470 and 1473 as a local layman member of the jury. Also later, his name appeared quite often on the list of jury members of the Court. In addition to him Olavi (Oleff) Tauro was also mentioned in the jury register of Lehijärvi in 1470.

It can be concluded, that there has been at least two farms owned by some Taurainen. The other – maybe the larger one – was situated in Salmentaka village. Without going to the details, let us mention some main points of the Taurainens of Pälkäne.

- The typical names in the family were: Esko (Escill), Heikki (Henric) Erkki (Erik), Tuomas (Thomas), Juho (Jöns, Johan), Lauri (Lars) and Pekka (Peer)
- The Tauriainen-farms were among the most wealthy and prominent in their home villages.
- The Tauriainens were known by their energy and their social power and influence in their villages.
- The hunting and fishing trips were extended to hunting and fishing areas, located in wilderness of Northern Savo, more than 400 kilometers from Pälkäne. These wilderness areas were owned by Taurainens until the 1560's, when these were sold to a noble man from Lepaa estate.
The family left a considerable name inheritance into places and natural landmarks of the Pälkäne's region.

It is probable that this family was a parent-family to settlers, who moved through the waterways from Häme Province to a large network of inland lakes and rivers around Lake Päijänne.

The main farm of the family, Tauranen in Salmentaka village was quite much ahead compared to many others in the region both with respect to its economic and social power and status. Tauranen was able to pay the costs of 1-2 armed man for the cavalry-troops for the needs of Army in the first part of the 16th century. It was a “peasantry-estate”, however in a minor scale than the estates of the Nobility. It maintained its special status up to the end of 17th century. Its status granted to carry taxes for its own needs. The taxes were collected from a couple of other “augment farmsteads”.

**Other footsteps of the Tauriainens in southern Finland:**

From the Finnish settlement history one can pick up three other regions, where the Tauriainen-family has lived. The documentation relating to these is not as extensive as those described above.

In the late 14th and 15th centuries there are traits of the family in the river valley of Jämsänjoki and in the old Sysmä’s region. The earliest name was Antti (Anders) Taura, who was mentioned as a member of local jury in the Court of Sysmä in 1488. It has been impossible to trait his story further in time based on available documents. In Sysmä there exists however a considerable name tradition, relating to the family-name Taura. For instance, two of the nobility owned estates of Sysmä have been known by name Taurala.

In Jämsä, the Taurialas of Seppola village occupied the river banks of Jämsä in the 16th century, maybe already earlier in the 15th century. The first farm owner, identified as a member of Tauriainen-family was Matti (Matias) Tauria since 1619. His descendants remained in Tauriala house until 1710, until to the chaotic years of the Great Hate. At least for some time, Tauriala was transferred to the ownership of some nobility men. A more detailed analysis of the later story of the family has not been made. It is known, that people of Tauriala-family lived in Jämsä to the 19th century.

Some findings from Tauriainen-family have been made in the parish Lemi, too. The parish situates near the Lake Saimaa. In the village of Juvola the name Tauri is known as a name of a farm. The names of some landmarks in the region tell also about the traditions of the Tauriainen-family.

The most eastern findings of the life of the Tauriainens come from parishes of Jääski and Antrea on the Carelian Isthmus. The name tradition is quite rich. The name has been written in the form Tauru. In the book The Tauru family, published in 2009) is presented a good analysis of the living of different Tauru-families in the immediate vicinity of the Russian border. The first person, who is known from documents, was Hannu (Hans) Tauru. He had a very special occupation. He was a “knaapi”, partly a soldier, partly a settler. He was obliged to arm himself with a horse and basic fighting equipments like hand- and firearms in case of a war. A tax free settlement farm in a distant and unfertile wilderness area was granted to him as a fee for all of his obligations. In normal times his task was to guard the Russian border and spy upon the movements of Russians and upon possible armed men crossing illegally the borderline, plundering, outraging or disturbing the daily life of people in Finnish villages near the border. He had also to report of any strange and exceptional incidents to the commander of nearest army regiment.
Hannu Tauru served the Crown in this task in 1601-1620. Some of his sons continued in same way for several years, in spite of some changes of the original army system. However, soldier-farmers like Hannu Tauru formed a crucial extra military force for help to the ordinary troops. They even equipped themselves for defending their own farms and homesteads. Hannu Tauru's sons and daughters and their families remained in Carelia for centuries until the II World War. After the war they had to move to Finland with other Carelian refugees. The Tauru-family has participated also to the migration of the Finnish- Lutheran settlers to Keltto parish in Inkerinmaa after the Treaty of Stolbova in 1617. Some footsteps of Tauru-family have been found in land register of Keltto, situating close to St Petersburg in Russia.

9. In conclusion

The Finnish settlement history shows clearly, that the Tauriainen-family has lived for centuries in Finland. The documents prove, that in many areas they have been among the first to come for clearing wild forests and land areas, for growing rye and barley, raising cattle, building their farmsteads and defending their homes against frost and enemy. Their first settlements situated in southern Finland, some of which were shortly described above. These areas are not any more the main living concentrations of the Tauriainen-family. The Tauriainens are now a northern group of people, concentrating in Suomussalmi, Kuusamo and the provincial cities of Oulu, Rovaniemi and Kajaani with their surrounding communities. The total number of people, who are by their surname Tauriainen is just about 1700 by size in Finland. The second largest of the different Tauriainen related-name groups is now Tauru, about 250. The present size of all other versions of related names varies 20-35.

The interesting question, where the Tauriainen-families originate remains still open. Are they descendants of people, who lived somewhere in Baltic or German areas in the distant past ? If so, were the first to come merchants, who came to Finland for game, fish and fur ? Were they a knot in the trading chain of the Hansa League or were they soldiers ? There are no answers to these questions. The answers are missing with respect the origin of the northern Tauriainens, too. Are they genetically related to the Tauranens or Tauras, who lived in Satakunta and Häme at the end of Middle age ? How and why they migrated to Kainuu Province in the 1630's ? The genetical relatedness of the northeastern and northern Tauriainens are quite well verified.

However, the present situation with respect to the history of the Tauriainens is quite satisfactory. The main characteristics of the historical story of Tauriainen-family are already known. The open questions are still so many, that a deeply interested researcher may find it worthwhile to dive into the archives again for seeking a documented solution of the puzzles remaining.
Table 2: *The historical living areas of different families belonging to the family cluster of the Tauriainens c. 1450-1750* (The areas of Pudasjärvi and Kuusamo, to north from Kiantajärvi are missing from the map.)