

Sweden, Vimmerby and Pelarne in the year 1914

1914 is a year that we all remember as the year when World War I started. This did off cause affect Sweden, Vimmerby and Pelarne. The inhabitants read about the war in the newspaper "Vimmerby tidning" that was issued twice a week. They discussed and worried about the situation even though Sweden did not take part in the war.

Sweden

Sweden has almost 6 million inhabitants in 1914. There is a big migration from the countryside and the farms to towns and cities. People are looking for a better life and work in the industry. We are also in the late period of the emigration to America that lasted until 1930. Large families with lot`s of children are common in Sweden. All Swedes are allowed to vote for parliament for the firs time in 1919. King in Sweden is Gustav V and Prime minister is Hjalmar Hammarskjöld.

Vimmerby and Pelarne

Vimmerby town has about 3000 inhabitants. They are mostly craftsmen and salesmen. There are also some smaller industries as Mills and Saws, Åbro brewery and several tanneries. Pelarne parish has about 700 inhabitants. Most of them are involved in farming. The church (from the 13th century), the vicarage, the school and the poorhouse are the centre of the parish and are surrounded by villages, farms and cottages. Almost all of the houses look typically Swedish, red painted wooden houses with white corners. There are tree major farms in the parish, Rostorp, Herrestad and Mossebo.

Astrid Lindgren

Astrid Lindgren is the most wellknown author of children`s books in Sweden and the author of Pippi Longstocking, Emil and many other characters. She has been translated almost 90 languages. Astrid was born at Näs in Vimmerby 14th of November in 1907. Astrids parents were Samuel August and Hanna Ericsson. Hanna was born in Pelarne at the farm in Pelarnehult. Astrid spent a lot of time in Pelarne and her books are influenced from many people and places in Pelarne parish.

The scenario, Pelarne, November 14th 1914

Today is the 14th of November in 1914. Some relatives and friends of Astrids family have gathered in Pelarne to have a small feast in the dark November. This is also Astrids Birthday so they take the opportunity to celebrate this event a little more than usual.

The afternoon starts with an evening song and prayer led by churchwarden Carl Larsson, Eldstorp in Pelarne Church. We sing some of Astrids favourite hymns. The afternoon continues with us walking to Marias house that is situated near the church. Maria is a good friend of Astrids mothers. In Marias house we will prepare the evening meal and feast, we'll churn butter and make sandwiches. We'll also wrap a gift for Astrid and make some paper decorations. There are of course things to be done as wood chopping and woodcarving. When we are done, we'll bring all the things and leave for Astrids grandmothers house in Pelarnehult. When the afternoon turns into evening grandmother Lovisa will greet us in her house and we'll all share a meal and celebrate Astrid on her 7th birthday.

There is a lot to talk about when we all get together. The war of course, the future –will it be better? woman's right to vote and America. There is always lots of gossip, who is getting married, who is having a new baby, who is emigrating or returning from America, what happened on the market in Vimmerby last month and so on.

Rolecards

Lovisa

Astrids mormor, duglig och sträng. Vävde och spann. Stod på trappan och sa ! ”Alle mie barn och alle mia barnbarn”, varnade alltid för att springa till Mossjön (bakom ditt hus) och drunkna.

Carl Larsson

You are Carl Larsson from Eldstorp. You are a farmer and you are also churchward. You are married with children.

Hardine

You are Astrids aunt, and sister to Hanna, Astrids mother. You live in a small cottage in Pelarne together with your family of 5 children. Your oldest son is not behaving very well in school or in church and you are worried about that and asking other mothers and fathers of advices.

Emil

You are Astrids uncle and the oldest son of grandma Lovisa in Pelarnehult. You are very fond of your mother and help her as much as you can.

Albin

You are Astrids uncle and you have a farm in Pelarne Parish. You are worried about your horse that is about to have a fowl.

Ida

You are Astrids aunt. You live in Rumskulla parish. You like to read books and you dream of becoming a teacher but that is just a dream because you have a small farm to run with your husband.

Ida Sofia

You work as a maid at the big farm in Mossebo. Mossebo is runned by the Drangel family, they are well off and they always have the best places in church. You are fond of one of the farmworkers at Mossebo, Karl-Oskar.

Karl-Oskar

You work as a farmworker at the big farm in Mossebo. You are proud of the big and well runned farm and you like the owners, the Drangel family. You are fond of the maid at Mossebo, Ida Sofia who is just one year younger than you.

Frans Oskar Vilhelm from Kattarp

You live in Kattarp, Pelarne together with your wife, Kristina Maria and daughter Elin Helga Signe. You have a small cottage and you work as a slaughter. You travel around in the parish and help the farmers. You will be very busy now before Christmas. You are trying to find a good husband for you daughter that is unmarried and 34 years old.

Kristina Maria from Kattarp

You are married to Frans Oskar Vilhelm who works as a slaughter. In your cottage is also your dear daughter Elin Helga Signe. She is now 34 years old and you want her to find a

husband. This evening you are asking people if they know of any good unmarried men for her.

Elin Helga Signe from Kattarp

You are 34, unmarried and you live with your parents, Kristian Maria and Frans Oskar Vilhelm in Kattarp. They want you to get married and they are trying to find you a husband. What they don't know is that you are sacredly in love.... Maybe he is in church this afternoon?

Johan Ivan Ängqvist

You are teacher in Pelarne. You are 40 years old and married to Frida Lovisa. You have two sons, Karl Johan Ebbe, 17 and Inge Ivar, 14. You have a maid in the house, Augusta. You want you sons to be well educated and you hope they will be great men.

Frida Lovisa Ängqvist

You are married to the teacher in Pelarne, Johan Ivan and you have two sons, Karl Johan Ebbe, 17 and Inge Ivar, 14. You have a maid in the house, Augusta. You love your sons and you think your husband is pressing them to hard because he wants them to be succesfull. You would love to have a daughter an you are thinking of adopting a little girl from the poorhouse or from a poor family. You can ask around tonight if anyone knows about a little girl that needs help.

Karl Johan Ebbe

You are 17 and son of the teacher in Pelarne, Johan Ivar and his wife Frida Lovisa. Your father presses you hard and he wants you to be successful. You on the other hand are dreaming of America.... Maybe you can ask someone tonight about facts of America.

Samuel

You are Astrids grandfather on her fathers side. You live with Astrids family at Näs in Vimmerby. You often says: "Hå hå, ja ja"

Ida

You are Astrids grandmother on her fathers side. You are good at telling stories. You live with one of your sons. You can tell us all a lot about the family and things that have happened in Pelarne and Vimmerby.

Linnert "Illinoisaren"

You are Astrids uncle. You went to America and stayed for 6 years and you came back in the fall of 1895 when you were 22 years. You were called "Illinoisaren" the rest of your life.

Calle Tramp

Your name is Calle and you are a Tramp, that is a man who doesn't have a home. You walk around in the Vimmerby area and help people with different things. You are especially good at making paperdecorations. Tonight you invite yourself to the house to show how to make paper decorations. You hope that you can stay and have a meal.

Anna Sofia Jonsdotter

You are poor and live at the poorhouse near the church. You tell everybody that you and the other poor people need more wood to warm the house and more food. You ask everyone to give a generous gift for Christmas.

Lovisa Larsdotter

You are poor and live at the poorhouse near the church. You tell everybody that you and the other poor people need more wood to warm the house and more food. You ask everyone to give a generous gift for Christmas.

Anna Augusta

You are poor and live at the poorhouse near the church. You tell everybody that you and the other poor people need more wood to warm the house and more food. You ask everyone to give a generous gift for Christmas. You are trying to get work at one of the farms.

Samuel August

You are Astrids father and Hannas husband. You run the farm "Näs" as a tennant (The farm belongs to the church) in Vimmerby. You have some people employed and you are running the farm successfully.

Lars Olof Olofsson

You are tenant of a farm in Hult in Pelarne, you have a wife, Maria Charlotta and two sons and two daughters. Your dream is to be able to buy the farm and to pass it on to your eldest son.

Maria Charlotta

You are married to Lars Olof, tenant of a farm in Hult, Pelarne. You have two sons and two daughters. You are a very good cook and you often cook at weddings, funerals and feasts. You must make sure the butter turns out fine tonight.