

The Soldier Anders Modig

Andreas (Anders) Svenson Modig f 1762 and Greta Jonsdotter f 1764

By Hans Forsslund

Anders and Greta were living during what is called the time of Liberty in Sweden. In the midst of one of the worst crisis periods, which haunted our country's economy, Anders came to the world. He saw the light of day in August 9, 1762 at the cottage Moen belonging to Töretorp in Daretorp parish, where his father was a crofter¹. Anders was the third of seven siblings.

At around 1 year of age, they moved the Björnåsen in Daretorp parish, where his father became a tenant farmer. Here Anders and his family lived to 1771, when his father got a crofter's cottage belonging to Töretorps farm in Daretorp parish. Six years later the family moved to Södra Hagen belonging to the same farm, where his father also took on a tenant farmer. Anders left home when he got married.

At the age of 26 Anders was married on October 12, 1788 in Agnetorp parish with the 24-year-old Greta Jonsdotter. In connection with his marriage Anders became a crofter at Siggestorp, Agnetorp parish. On a summer day in 1789 a young son, who was named John was born.

The same year that Anders was married, Gustav III's Finnish-Russian war started, which lasted until the year 1790, when the peace treaty was signed. The same year Anders signed as soldier for Bengtstorp "rote"². The soldiers cottage belonged to Bengtstorp in Daretorp parish. As a soldier, he was named Modig (Brave) like four of the soldiers living before him at the same "Torp"

EKEBO 58°8'19.8"N 13°58'49.5"E



Pictures from the authors visit 2010-10-04. View over the meadow that slopes down toward southeast. This must have been the view they had from the cottage. It is a beautiful place. The oaks hundred of years old were growing when Anders and family lived there. They might have given rise to the name Ekebo (Ek=oak Bo=nest or living place) . Left: The metal flag that marks where the cottage was (viewing north). The hill I am standing on is the remains of the chimney.

Bengtstorp's soldier's cottage nr 843 Ekebo Skaraborg's regiment KÅKIND
Map of the "Legal shift" in 1830



Ekebo
Buildings are gone but traces of the barn can be seen.
At the place of the cottage there are remains of the chimney which is marked with a metal plate on a pole.

Map of today



At Svenstorp they had there second home.



Kjell Gustafsson, Huvudshemmet, came one morning when I was in Daretorp and showed me one of his father's albums. On of the pictures showing the "Modig" cottage with soldier emblem partially visible. "Royal Skaraborg Regiment, Kåkind's Rote". It is a later soldier and his wife standing in front of the house at Ekebo.

During his soldier service, Anders and his wife had five children, and so with John who was borne previous to Andres being a soldier, there were six little ones growing up in the cottage.



Sweden was at war from 1805 with France (Napoleon's army) under the lead of King Gustav IV Adolf. They meet French troops in Swedish Pomerania which 1648-1815 belonged to Sweden. Andreas attended this war 1805-1807. He was sent home 1807-01-28 because he was unhealthy, in what way it doesn't tell. This was just before the Swedish luck turned and the Swedish had to retreat to Rügen and sign a treaty with France 1807 September 7. The peace was then signed 1810 in Paris.

Anders was dismissed from his regiment 19/3 1807 and a successor Andes Färm took over the soldier's cottage Ekebo.

When Anders left his post as a soldier, he became a tenant farmer at the farm Svenstorp in Daretorp parish. (58° 7'58.33"N 14° 0'33.92"E) This tells us that he must not have been severely affected during his military service. Where this tenant cottage was situated at the grounds on Svenstorp is not known. On a summer day in 1811 they got another daughter. It was the family's youngest child. At Svenstorp Anders and his family, lived out their days. Anders became a guardian at Daretorp church, a honorable position. They continued there lives at that same cottage, and here, he also ended his lifetime. Karl XIV Johan, the imported king (the first Bernadotte of to days royal family and a competitor to Napoleon Bonaparte after French revolution as both were field marshals), was at that time regent of Sweden. Anders died at this cottage at the age of 66 years on April 9, 1829. The cause of death was "chest and head difficulties". Anders survived by his wife. After forty years of marriage Greta became a widow. The Daretorp church records are missing for the period 1812-1836 and it has not been possible to find anything about Greta's fate the years following her husband's death. 1837 at the latest she moved to the cottage "Lars Torp" on the grounds of Bengtstorp in Daretorp parish at her daughter Stina and husband crofter Anders Larsson. Here Greta ended her days on April 6, 1837, 72 years old. The cause of death was old age.

Children:

1. Johannes 26/7 1789
2. Jan 6/11 1791 had 4 children. Was found dead at the road to Fahlköping 49 years.
3. Stina 1/10 1794, two known children
4. Maria 13/8 1797, 9 known children and grandmother of Axel Wilhem Andén b. 1873 (<http://www.vandenberg.se/andren/AntavlaAndren.htm>).
5. Johanna (Anna) 9/7 1800, 7 known children
- 6. Lars 31/12 1803, the progenitor of Blombergs and Modigs**
7. Ulrica 30/7 1811

“Soldatbostället” Soldier’s Home. Church book 1790-1812

| Soldatbostället | | | |
|--|------|------|---------------|
| Sold. Anders, hustru, Madrig Forst Mon | 1762 | 7/6 | + + + + |
| H. Greta Jonsdotter Aklinge | 1764 | 10/6 | + + + + |
| S. Johannes | ibm | 1789 | 26/7 + + - + |
| Sig. Maria Jonsdotter ibm | 1754 | 14/6 | + + - + |
| S. Jan | ibm | 1791 | 6/11 + + - - |
| S. Stina | ibm | 1794 | + - - - |
| D. Maria | ibm | 1797 | 13/8 - - - - |
| D. Anna | ibm | 1800 | 7/7 - - - - |
| S. Lars | ibm | 1803 | 31/12 - - - - |

I have tried to find out more about their children but it is difficult as the church books between 1813 and 1837 are missing at the time when the children left home.

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Hans Forsslund
Södra Murgatan 47
621 57 Visby

¹ The croft is a small agricultural landholding a type which has been subject to special legislation. Crofter, one who rents and cultivates a croft; a tenant farmer. Essentially similar positions have been the medieval villein and the Swedish torpare and Norwegian husmenn. I am not sure of which term to use. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croft_\(land\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croft_(land))

² “Rote” 1682 introduced Karl XI General Allotment system. This meant that the country was divided into smaller administrative areas (rote) that would have at least one soldier. The farms included in the area were forced to provide and maintain a soldier in the division army.