

## **The Heikkinens: Inhabitants and Opinion Leaders in Kainuu**



The Monument of Populating of Kainuu in Kiehimänvaara, Paltamo.

### **Early Stages of the Populating of Kainuu**

The roots of the populating of Kainuu reach behind thousands of years. This is proved by many archeological findings done in the area; the earliest of them are from the era just after the last Ice Age.

Usually, the people inhabiting Kainuu were hunters, hunting deer and other large game, among others. During the Iron Age in 500 bCr – 1300 AD the population of the area increased somewhat. In those times, also some Lappish people settled in Kainuu; this is the reason for many names beginning with the word 'Lappi'. Originally, the word Lappi has referred to a person living in a distant place. The Lapps lived by traditional means of livelihood, hunting and fishing. In addition, they may have had tamed deer. In the winter, they hunted around their winter villages, but in the summer they scattered around to their different fishing waters. They could live fairly peacefully in Kainuu until Finns started to populate the area; then they had to retreat from the new comers. Karelians, Ostro-bothnians and Savo people also came regularly to gather taxes from them.

The position of the Lapps was essentially weakened when the pioneer settlers from Savo started to rush into the wilderness of the Oulujärvi region by mid 1500's. In the beginning, the newcomers came just for short periods, and only came to the wilderness to take their share of the rich game and fish resources of the area.

### **Slash-burning as a Means of Livelihood**

For the first time, Savo people in larger numbers were met with in the wilderness of Oulujärvi in 1531, but after that, the real migration started which resulted in the Lapps having to retreat towards the northern wildernesses. The Savo settlers primarily settled around waterways, around Lake Oulujärvi above all, wishing to exploit its rich fishing grounds.

However, in the Middle Ages, slash-burning was the dominant means of livelihood for the Savo people. It yielded clearly better crops than field cultivation, as the best slash burning areas might yield as much as 10 000 kg of rye by hectare. So, the expansion of the population of the Savo people into the stony and woody wildernesses was based on the superior profitability of the slash-burning method.

Slash-burning was an archaic form of farming in which the coniferous forest was cut down and, either in the same year or a couple years later, the area was burned. The burned area was called 'palo'; after it was sown, it was 'huhta', and when the crops started to grow, it was 'halme'. In the beginning, the burned area was sown with rye or barley for one or two years. After the rye crop, oats or buckwheat could be grown for a year or two, but sometimes also turnip. Although the burned area, the 'kaski', first yielded a rich crop, the ground was soon impoverished, so it could only be used as a pasture for animals, and then it was called 'aho'. The slash-burning method demanded very large farming areas, and it also resulted in the inhabitation not becoming very fixed. The slash-burning farmers always had to look for new slash-burning grounds. It could be said that the migration toward Kainuu was speeded up by this very feature of the slash-burning method.

### **Settlers from Savo**

Another important factor promoting the migration towards Kainuu in addition to the slash-burning method was the strong growth of population in Savo. In the 1500's, there were about 3400 "smokes", i.e. farms in Savo, which meant that new farming land was badly needed. That is why the Savo settlers spread their superior slash-burning method to other areas. At first, the slash-burners came from the southern Savo to the northern Savo, which was still rather sparsely populated. From there, the settlers started to migrate towards Kainuu, not worrying about the border of the Pähkinäsaari Peace Treaty. At that time, the area was called the wilderness of Oulujärvi.

The positive attitude of the Crown also boosted the migration of the Savo people to Kainuu. Particularly, it was promoted by Gustaf Wasa, who became the king of Sweden in 1523; he started to create a state-wide system of government in order to increase the assets of the central government. He hired bailiffs loyal to himself and with their help, he soon governed two thirds of the country. To get more farmers paying taxes to the country, Savo people, for instance, were urged to move to the east side of the border.

Following the incitement of Gustaf Wasa, the scribe of the Olavinlinna castle in Savonlinna from 1542, Klemetti Heikinpoika Krook particularly favoured the migration. After him, the same good work was continued by the castellan Gustaf Fincke (1510–1566) at whose urging, 140 Savo farmers moved to Kainuu in 1552 after obtaining a three-year exemption from taxes. These settlers divided into two groups: the quarter of Melalahti with 64 taxpaying farmers, and Jaalanka quarter with 69 farmers.

### **The Periods of the Disquiet in the 1500's**

Naturally, the Russians did not like the fact that Savo people moved into their area. As a result of this, there were border conflicts lasting for several decades in which thousands of settlers of the border areas and Viena-Karelians lost their lives. In the war of years 1555–1557, many

newsettlers' houses were burned down and the inhabitants were speared on the yard. The worst attack was made on St Olaf's day, on July 30, 1555, when the Karelians attacked the habitations around Oulujärvi for the first time. In the attacks made around Kainuu, more than 300 men, women and children died.

Gustaf Wasa criticised the bailiff of Korsholm, Joen Bagge for these losses, as he had not prepared for the war activities almost at all. It was calculated that there were 213 farms left in the wilderness of Oulujärvi in 1558; 18 of these were deserted. In the tax bookkeeping of the year 1561 by the bailiff, it was mentioned that there were only 169 tax paying farms left. After this, the number increased somewhat, but it did not reach the level of the period before the attack.

After this, a short period of peace followed, but after this, the war-like disquiet continued in year 1570; then started the war known as Pitkä viha ("Long Enmity"). The period is also referred to as the 25-Year War. In Kainuu, this period is known as 'Rappasodat'.

In the beginning, it was not much felt in the wilderness of Oulujärvi, but in summer 1578, Karelians forced their way to Kainuu in great numbers and quickly destroyed almost all inhabitation of the region. The worst destruction took place in the shorefront villages of Oulujärvi. Also after this, the enmities continued. In year 1580, as many as 232 farms of the 280 ones standing in the wilderness of Oulujärvi were burned down, and as the attacks continued in year 1581, only 18 farms of the whole large commune were still capable of paying taxes. In the tythes list of the wilderness of Oulujärvi, there is only a short statement of the bailiff: "No tythes were paid in the wilderness of Oulu in crops, as the Russians have burned down the inhabitants." The farm yards, earlier pulsing with life, were now quiet and deserted with slowly smoking embers and wreckage.

However, the settlers were adamant and built new huts in place of the burned ones. A short respite was offered in the attacks by the intermediary peace agreed upon between Russia and Sweden in August, 1583. It attracted new settlers from Savo to the wilderness of Oulujärvi. However, the new period of peace did not last for very long, since the Karelians considered the Oulujärvi area theirs and therefore, the peace treaty did not cover it as they saw the matter.

After St Olaf's day, the raiders, so-called 'Rapparit', again appeared in the hilly scenery of Kainuu and started to destroy the area in an orderly manner. Only six farms wealthy enough to pay taxes were left in the extensive commune. The others were burned down and the inhabitants killed, unless they had time to escape to their hidden huts. Only the wildernesses of Ristijärvi and Kivesjärvi were saved from the raiders. Some houses were destroyed for the second time, and there were even some which were burned for the third time since the beginning of the war.

The enemy made sure of a complete destruction in the autumn of 1585 by attacking once again the habitations of the wilderness of Oulujärvi. After that, the bailiff could note down in his books simply that all the inhabitants of the commune had been killed by the Russians and that all the farms of the region were deserted and burned. This destruction meant the final death blow to the wilderness commune of Oulujärvi: its name was wiped out of books, it was abolished as a governed commune, and joined back to the mother commune of Liminka until year 1599. The wilderness of Oulujärvi was the one of the Finnish communes which suffered the most of the destruction of the war. Elsewhere the destruction had a considerably smaller influence.

## Attempts at Protecting Civilian Population

The long and exhausting war was finally ended when the Teusina Peace Treaty was signed between Sweden and Russia on May 18, 1595; Sweden gave up the Inkeri and Käkisalme counties, which she had conquered, to Russia. Correspondingly, Sweden got the areas which it had de facto taken on the east and northern side of the Pähkinäsaari Peace Border. In August 1595, a Swedish border delegation travelled to Maanselkä, where the borderline should be agreed on. It was still unclear in the region of Oulujärvi, whether there was peace or not. The civilian population still feared new attacks. However, by January the following year, the sheriff of Liminka, Gabriel Thomasson, equipped a new group of about a hundred men for the demarcation. Finally, the delegation was able to agree on the borderline. The eastern border of Kainuu was put in the place where it still runs today. The eastern borderline reached as far as the Arctic Ocean. The Agreement and Border Pact of Rajasuo was signed on April 1, 1596.

The central government had already promised to defend the settlements in the wilderness of Oulujärvi in the 1550's. The bailiff of St Olaf's castle, Gustaf Fincke told the settlers that troopers would be sent to Oulujärvi to defend the inhabitants of the region. Three row boats were given to the troopers; they should take the soldiers to safeguard the life of the fishermen and the inhabitants of the shorefront villages. In addition to this, Gustaf Wasa let the people know, via Fincke, that a king's mansion would be built in the wilderness commune to safeguard the inhabitants.

The king's mansions in those times were farms belonging to the Crown estates. They were also central points of the state government and a kind of model farms where the bailiffs gathered the taxes paid in produce. In regions where there was no castle yet, the king's mansions could also function as Crown military bases. In border regions, weapon arsenals and foodstuff storages could also be placed in the king's mansions for the safety of the civilian population.

The mansion project was forgotten for some time, but came up again in autumn 1554, when Gustaf Fincke proposed that there should be some lord in the wilderness who could manage the settlers and take care of them. The same autumn, Gustaf Wasa announced that Fincke could build a mansion in a place where it would be possible to clamp down the Russians moving around in the region. A cape which the Russians had to pass when going to Oulu was selected as the place for the mansion.

The King's Mansion was built at the mouth of the river Vuohenki, or the Kajaani River in years 1554 to 1556. On the basis of the story by the so-called Nousia the Russian, we know that the mansion was completed after year 1554 and that it functioned in year 1556. It was called the 'Aulo' or 'Ulo palte'. It is, however, best known as the 'Oulu palte'.

Guesses have been made on its location, but most often it has been assumed to have been located on the shores of Paltasalmi at the Kirkkoniemi of Paltaniemi, somewhere around Rovastinkivi. As far as is known, also the mansion bailiff of the Oulujärvi wilderness, Olaf Persson lived in the mansion in years 1555 till 1558, and most probably also his successor, Olaf Warg. However, the mansion stayed unfinished in 1559, when the wilderness of Oulujärvi was joined to the commune under the Liminka bailiff. Due to this, the Oulu palte became redundant as the centre of the bailiff government. It seems that the mansion retained some defensive tasks. It seems probable that the King's Mansion was destroyed not later than in the unrests of the 'Rappasodat'.

In the terror of the Rappasodat, it became clear to the farmers hiding in the hideaway huts around the region that it is indispensable to get a sufficient number of soldiers in the area and a good fortification to safeguard the civilian population. The forces of the people in the region were insufficient to frustrate the threat of the east. This became clear to the leadership in Sweden, too, but most of all to Carl IX, who had become the king. The deserted commune of Oulujärvi became the object of strong populating by the central government to make sure that it would stay under the government of Sweden. In the autumn 1597, Duke Carl ordered that the surroundings of Lake Oulujärvi must be repopulated. In July 1598, the settlers moving to the region were promised a six-year exemption from taxes as an attraction. In addition to this, it was promised that a castle would be built to safeguard those settling in the wilderness; the building started on the rock in the middle of the Kajaani River in 1604. After many phases, the first stage of the building of the Kajaani Castle was completed in 1619, and the whole castle in years 1666-1766.

### **Famine and Misery in the 1600's**

Although years of crop failure were not uncommon in the Northern Finland and in Kainuu, the crop failure of late summer 1695 was so bad that nothing similar had been seen before. The summer had been rainy and the hard frost which came in the beginning of September destroyed the whole crop. Therefore, no tythes could be collected from the communes of Paltamo or Sotkamo, and the same concerned most of the Northern Ostrobothnian communes.



Kajaani Castle

In the early winter of 1696, people suffered universally of famine. The emergency relief corn was not sufficient to all the hungry people who suffered of the diseases caused by famine. Many had to go begging. With the beggars, different kinds of pestilences spread with pernicious results: The death rate among the population of Kainuu increased drastically. However, summer 1696 did not improve the situation of the lack of corn, as the weather was again cool and rainy. Again a heavy frost destroyed the crops at the beginning of August.

In Kainuu, the worst situation was in Hyrnsalmi and Suomussalmi, but also

elsewhere the frost destroyed almost all crops. Since there were almost no corn in storage, the common people had to start eating 'pettu' (bark bread) and straw and other substitutes even at the beginning of the winter. Soon people started to perish in great numbers of famine and disease. In the desperation, the common people tried to eat whatever was available, such as animal carcasses, roots and straw bread. In Kajaani and Paltamo, even cannibalism was committed. Desperate troops of beggars wandered around in the communes looking for food and help. At that time, the society was almost paralysed due to the famine. The tax revenue of the Kajaani Castle was almost inexistent.

The death rate between September 1696 and September 1697 was higher than ever before. In Kajaani, there were 160 deaths, in the commune of Paltamo 1500 and in the commune of Sotkamo as many as 1584. The percentage of the deaths in Paltamo was 13.9 % and in Sotkamo 14.7 %, while elsewhere in the Northern Ostrobothnia it was considerably lower. In all, at that

time as many as 3244 people died in Kainuu.

### **The Heikkinens Settle in Kainuu**

Along with the settlers from Savo, many families with a family name ending in 'nen' arrived in Kainuu. Examples of them were the families of Tuppurainen, Karjalainen, Hallikainen, Karppinen, Lattunen, Keränen and Korhonen. According to the expert on the populating of Kainuu, docent *Jorma Keränen*, the first Heikkinen settling in Kainuu may have been Sven Heikkinen living in Säräisniemi, mentioned in the tax lists of year 1563. However, his name is given in other forms, too, in the tax list. Around the same time, a Heikki Heikkinen settled in the area of the Kiehimä mouth; according to Keränen, he is certainly a member of the Heikkinen family. His descendants, the Heikkinens, slowly became one of the strongest families of Kainuu, along with the Korhonen, Kempainen and Karjalainen. In addition to Paltamo and Säräisniemi, Heikkinens also start to occur in Hyrynsalmi, Kianta (now Suomussalmi), and Kuhmoniemi (now Kuhmo).

First, the Heikkinens and their children lived by slash-burning and later by fieldfarming. As the years went by, the family had many skilled village smiths who forged scythes and shaped 'puukkos' (knives) of wide renown. Around lake Oulujärvi, many also got extra income as handy boatbuilders, who built fishing boats and the long paltamo-boats used in carrying tar to Oulu. As early as in the 1600, on the shores of Oulujärvi, tar burning became a fairly important means of livelihood which gave addition to the narrow bread to many a Heikkinen.

However, the golden era of tar burning and transportation was from the mid 1800's to the early 1900's; then a myriad of upland tar peasants burned the black of the wilderness, squatted it for a rostock measure into their tar barrels, and rowed with difficulty from the distant villages of Kianta along the Emäjoki and the Kiehimäjoki rivers to Kiehimä and from there over the large open lake of Oulujärvi towards Oulu.

The best manhood of many generations of Heikkinens was spent in the hard work of the tar business. Thanks to the tar, the past generations of Heikkinens could eke out a living, but the feared hunger still all the while intruded into their poor huts. Then, you had to take refuge to eating pettu, the bark bread, particularly in the years of the great famine in 1860's, when the family of Heikkinens had to suffer misery and famine along with the other inhabitants of Kainuu in the whole region. Then there was work for the grave digger. Often, the grave diggers in Hyrynsalmi seem to have been called Heikkinen. In the end of the 1800's, the men toiling away at the graveyard spadework included at least Kusti Heikkinen and Aku Heikkinen.

### **Momentary Images of the Kainuu Heikkinens in the Passage of History**

They say that the Heikkinens of the past were often taciturn and unsocial, but at the same time energetic men not afraid of hard work. Particularly, the Heikkinens of Moisiovaara, Hyrynsalmi seem to have been an active and enterprising family. Therefore, Lauri Heikkinen of the Heikkilä farm in Moisiovaara became the foremost corn grower of the whole commune at the turn of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also otherwise, the men of this same family were said to have been excellent farmers of a slash-burned field 'kaskihalme'.

Although the Heikkinens of Hyrynsalmi usually toiled away on the fields and meadows, they

also had men to offer to war-like work. A story from Hyrynsalmi tells that an old gaffer Heikkinen from Moisiovaara had acted as a guard of a hidden forest sauna. A large quantity of important tools and belongings of the village people had been gathered there. Once, two enemy Russians had appeared at the sauna demanding to get the belongings by shaking their cutlasses. The gaffer had just stared at the swordmen impassively, suddenly snatched the cutlass from one of them and using it, killed them both with it in his anger.



The Halla house in Seurasaari, Helsinki

There were Heikkinens in the jaeger company of Hyrynsalmi at the end of 1700's. Among others, private Kalle Heikkinen served in the 17th file of the company; he received the military name of Karl Sten. That is the name that he is known in the later documents. Due to the that, the small stepping stones near the Ollila farm is called 'Teinin silta' (Teini's bridge) according to him (the cluster of 'st' being difficult for the local people to pronounce, the 's' is left out). Later the Heikkinens of Hyrynsalmi were active in the independence battle of Finland, as for instance the Member of Parliament, J.A. Heikkinen. It seems that the Heikkinens have been active in the local politics, too, since sometimes almost a half of the members in the communal gatherings or municipal councils have been Heikkinen by surname.

This family was also numerous in Ristijärvi and Paltamo where there even runs a smallish river called the Heikkisenjoki. Sometimes, the Heikkinens seem to come up in the chronicles of both communes. There was a Heikkinen organising relief food distribution in Ristijärvi during the years of the great famine. When the poor welfare was being organised during the great recession of the 1930's, the owner of the Koivumäki farm, Jaakko Heikkinen, was chosen as the inspector of the poor welfare of the Pyhäntä village. He also belonged to the so called fur-hat delegation along with Salomon Pulkkinen; the delegation went to Helsinki in the mid 1930's to ask that the Siltasuo railway substation be built in Ristijärvi. The said Jaakko Heikkinen also acted in many other economical projects of Ristijärvi in his position of trust. The Heikkinens of both Paltamo and Ristijärvi were mainly farmers in the past centuries, but later they also worked as entrepreneurs and bus operators. Among others, we could mention bus operator Kalevi Heikkinen of Ristijärvi, who took care of the school children's transportation and also participated in the municipal politics.

In the phases of Suomussalmi, the Heikkinens also often occur together with the Kemppainens and the Luukkonens. Due to its remote location, the Savo settlers arrived in the commune later than elsewhere in Kainuu. In the 1600's, there was a farm called Naamansuu in Vuokki (a village of Suomussalmi), but already the following century, the farm was called Saarivaara. At that time, it was farmed by an active householder Antti Heikkinen (1712 – 1767). Later, the farm was divided into Anttila and Ahola. Other farmers worth mentioning seem to have been Fredrik and Pekka Heikkinen of Viianki, Suomussalmi, who took the Viianki farm as their tax house in the mid 1800's as they then obtained a whole ten-year exemption from taxes and a further six-year partial exemption from taxes. After the general parcelling out of land, the farmers of Tiikkajavaara in Ala-Vuokki were Niilo and Pekka Heikkinen. The whole surface area of the farm was 320.4 hectares, of which 5.9 hectares was field.

Many of the Heikkinens were generally small holders who did forestry, smith's work or transportation in order to get extra income. At the beginning of the 1900's, labour agitators appeared in the wilderness commune; it was their effect that gave the labour movement a strong foothold among the poor, as Ilmari Kianto describes in his well-known book *The Red Line*. Many a Heikkinen who belonged to the poor drew eagerly the red line in the first general parliamentary election.

The first chairperson of the Suomussalmi Labour Association was Aate Heikkinen. One of the leading personalities of the association was also Mrs Henne Heikkinen, a enlightenment-spirited and energetic shopkeeper's wife; meetings were held in their house called Ilmola. Householder Jussi Heikkinen was also one of the leaders of the association. His nickname was Niskanjuntta (Neck's Rammer). Jussi Heikkinen had been to America and there had become familiar with the syndicalist labour movement and, when returning to Suomussalmi, he brought along information on the labour union and co-operative operations. His heirs were, among others, the widely-known Kurimo brothers, Setti, Jalmari and Otto Heikkinen, who, in addition to their other activities, were also active in the labour union.

In Suomussalmi, unemployment and belt-tightening were everyday phenomena in the early 1900's. The Heikkinens of the commune suffered of them as much as the Juntunens, Kinnunens and Manninens. To improve their living conditions, the Heikkinens were often active in the leftist labour movement before the war. There were many Heikkinens also in the lines of the Maalaisliitto (Agrarian League). When the Soviet Union attacked Finland in the winter of 1939, the Heikkinens along with other inhabitants of Suomussalmi were prepared to defend their country. Twenty Heikkinens of Suomussalmi were killed in the battles of the Winter War and the War of Continuation. Only the Juntunens gave an even heavier offer to their country.

Although the Heikkinens are generally considered grave people, there have also been some quick-witted individuals among them. This was also proved during the years of war when the men were measured in earnest. The bravery of the men was always under test, as can be seen in the following anecdote with Heikkinen as the subject: During the war of continuation, a lieutenant was ordering the men and wanted to find volunteers for an operation behind the enemy lines. Therefore he shouted: - Those volunteering for the task, take a step forward! No movement was seen in the line before a man from Hyrynsalmi, a private Heikkinen, took a step aside. The angry officer at once wanted to find out, why the man did not take a step forward. The answer of the inventive private Heikkinen was: (in dialect) – Not to hinder the volunteers in any way, Sir.



## Well-known Heikkinens from Kainuu

In the passage of years, the Heikkinens of Kainuu have gained fame as diligent and loyal workers. Their diligence has served them well in, for instance, academic studies. Of those Heikkinens of Kainuu who have made a career in the academic life, we can mention some of the most famous ones. Professor Väinö Heikkinen, 1924–1997 was an educationalist who had been born in Hyrynsalmi. He graduated highschool in 1946, became a Master of Arts in 1948 and defended his dissertation in the University of Turku in 1952 on the subject of *Arbeitskurvenversuche mit 9-13 jährigen Volksschülern*. Professor Heikkinen acted as the professor of education in the University of Tampere in years 1965–1991, as the dean of the Faculty of Humanistics of the same University in 1966–1968, and as the vice chancellor of the University of Tampere in 1969–1971. He was the dean of the Faculty of Education in years 1974–1978. Among other things, he studied the learning of young people and participated in collaborative Nordic youth study. He also studied the attitudes of teachers and the foundations of the educational research.

Geriatrician Eino Matti Heikkinen was born in Ristijärvi on March 26, 1939. He graduated from highschool in 1958, became a Licentiate of Medicine in 1965 and defended his doctoral dissertation in Medicine and Surgery in 1968 and a Master of Physical Education in 1973. Eino Heikkinen acted as the professor of National Health in the University of Tampere in 1976–1979 and as a professor of Physical Education Hygiene in the University of Jyväskylä in 1979–1991 and as the professor of Gerontology and National Health from year 1992. He has studied above all gerontology, connective tissue chemistry, and sports physiology. Among his publications are, for instance *Liikunta ja terveystieteet (Physical Education and Health)* and *Vanhuus Suomessa (Old Age in Finland)*.

It was Timo Jaakkola Antero Heikkinen from Kuhmo who worked his way to become a Professor of History of Finland. He was born in Kuhmo on February 14, 1941. He graduated from highschool in 1961, graduated as a Master of Arts in 1966 and became a Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Helsinki in 1970. Antero Heikkinen is a versatile researcher of history who has studied, among other things, the history of sport, education and school as well as micro-history. He has also studied the methodology of history. Until his retirement in 1992, Antero Heikkinen worked as the Professor of the History of Finland at Joensuu University. His best known work is the series of books on the life of the “Kirveskansa” (Ax People); it has been considered a basic introduction to micro-history in Finland. He has also published books *Terveysten ja ilon tähden (Because of Health and Joy)* and *Ihminen historian rakenteissa (A Human Being in the Structures of History)*. He has also published the third part of the meritorious series on the History of the Kainuu Region *Kainuun maakuntahistoria*. Antero Heikkinen’s work has been particularly important in the study of the history of Kainuu; he has tutored many theses on Kainuu and acted as the pre reader of studies on Kainuu.

Author Jalo Heikkinen, born in 1942, on the other hand, is a Suomussalmi boy. He started school in the 1950’s and went to highschool in Kajaani and continued his studies after that in the University of Helsinki; he graduated as a Master of Arts in 1967. During his studies, he worked as a journalist for many leftist student newspapers and also as the editor-in-chief. In 1970–1983, Jalo Heikkinen worked as a journalist in the Me magazine, published by the E-co-operative movement (the leftist co-operation). After that he moved back to Suomussalmi where he worked as a Municipal Secretary of Cultural Affairs and later as the Manager of Cultural Affairs.

His career as an author started with novels *Yksiö (A Studio Apartment)* and *Vuorenpeikko (The Mountain Goblin)*, which were published as serials in a ladies magazine. In 1968, Jalo Heikkinen’s novel *Kolhoosi (The Kolhoz)* was published and after that, novels *Nälkämaan marssi (The March)*

*of the Hunger Region*) in 1969 and *Viides mahti (Fifth Power)* in 1970.

After moving back to Suomussalmi, his subjects have been closely connected to the home region and its past. This can clearly be seen in his play *Veteraani (The Veteran)* which had its opening night at the Kajaani City Theatre in 1981. In 1992, he published a book *Kainuu, matkojen maa (Kainuu, the Country of Distance)* as the 4th book of Cultural Year Book of Kainuu; in this, he describes eloquently his home region's nature and people. In addition to this, Jalo Heikkinen started municipal publication activities in Suomussalmi. As a result of this, a great number of writers from Suomussalmi have had their work published which otherwise would have remained hidden in the desk drawers. Beside his work as an author, Jalo Heikkinen has done intensive research on the extensive life's work of author Ilmari Kianto. On the basis of this, he published a licentiate thesis on Kianto's work in 2008.

Reporter Markku Heikkinen, on the other hand, can be considered a media personality originally from Kainuu; now-a-days he leads a discussion programme on topical phenomena in YLE Radio 1. He has also directed documentaries for the TV.

The Heikkinens have also represented the people of Kainuu in the Parliament. The best known of these is, naturally, MP Juho Alfred Heikkinen, a.k.a. Hallan Ukko (1863–1938). He was the member of Parliament in years 1907–1910 and again in years 1917–1921. J. A. Heikkinen was a representative of the Agrarian League and a distinguished promoter of independence. Another representative of the Heikkinen family who has obtained a seat in the Parliament is Kauko Heikkinen, born in Puolanka on April 12, 1938. Before his career as an MP, he was the Director of the Fiscal Office in Suomussalmi. Kauko Heikkinen was an MP for the Center Party in years 1987–1994.

There are also many members of the Heikkinen family who have excelled in the sporting life. In 1920's and 1930's, the Heikkinens got fame in skiing more than anything else. The best known Heikkinen in sports life at that time was Frans Heikkinen. He was born in Paltamo on April 22, 1906 and later studied in the Kajaani teacher seminary and graduated as a primary school teacher in 1930. Already in his time as a student, he did well as a skier and participated in many skiing competitions with success and also won many titles. In 1932, Frans Heikkinen participated in the cross-country skiing in the Winter Olympic Games, but did not reach the top. He also participated in the 1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen Winter Olympic Games and was 7th in the 50 km skiing. Frans Heikkinen died in Lieksa during the War of Continuation in 1943. A distinguished skier was also Kalle Heikkinen, born in Paltamo on February 20, 1908. Like Frans Heikkinen, he participated in the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Winter Olympic Games and was 14<sup>th</sup> in the 50 km competition. He met an accident during his ski training in Hyvinkää on December 15, 1938 and died.

Of the present day athletes bearing the name of Heikkinen and of Kainuu origin, we can mention Janne Heikkinen, who was born in Kajaani on April 11, 1976. He has become famous as a volleyball player since year 1998. Janne Heikkinen has played top level volleyball in, for instance, Spain, Greece and Austria, and lately in Poland, in the team of Skra Belchatów which won the Polish Championship in 2008 and took the bronze medal in the League of Champions. In year 2007, he was voted the best volleyball player in Finland.

The ice-hockey player Eetu Heikkinen was born in Suomussalmi on July 8, 1988. In 2004, he transferred from Kajaanin Hokki junior team to the junior team of Porin Ässät, and then played in the league team of Ässät in seasons 2006–2008.

## **The Ever More Stable Family of Heikkinen**

During the years of reconstruction, the population of Kainuu increased heavily. For their part, the well breeding Heikkinens with their "indoor farming" made the different corners of Kainuu stronger. Once the fathers returned home from the battle fronts, the so-called large generations of 1945-1949 were conceived. Thanks to the increased birth rate, the Heikkinens became one of the stoutest families in Kainuu, alongside the Korhonens and Juntunens.

Now-a-days, it is estimated that there are about 18 000 Heikkinens in Finland. About 28 % of them, i.e. about 5000 live in Kainuu. Today, Heikkinen is the 9th in the list of the most common surnames. In Kainuu, it is among the three most common ones. We have an impish saying, even often repeated by the Heikkinens, "The most people in hell are called Heikkinen, but there are quite a few Kinnunen,too."

On the unscientific basis of the 1997 telephone catalogue of Kainuu, there were about eight pages of Heikkinens, i.e. about 1800 men and women. If it estimated that each family has three members in the average, there would be a bit more than 5000 Heikkinens in Kainuu. According to the most recent telephone catalogue of year 2009, however, much reduced, Heikkinen is still the most common surname in Kainuu. The Kempainens, Moilanens and Juntunens follow on the heels, but the other surnames only come far behind. The most common names seem to be, year in, year out, Martti Heikkinen and Matti Heikkinen. As they probably are elderly men, they have not yet shut down their wire telephone connections. Kalle Heikkinen is also among the most common names.

A great number of the Kainuu Heikkinens moved to southern Finland, Sweden and around Oulu in the 1960's and 1970's. Especially in the southern Finland, the Heikkinens have exceptionally good reputation in carpenter work, for example, where in addition to the professional skills you also need meticulousness. Everywhere, where the Heikkinens have moved, they have become known as diligent and skilled workers. Therefore, let us be proud of these quiet everyday workers and real working heros of our family.

### **Reijo Heikkinen**

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