



3_Berby_Skolebygningen-på-Berby-og-som-huset-husmorskolen,en-periode-Smålenenes-Amts-praktiske-Jenteskole, Statens-Hagebruksskole-for-Kvinner-og-Berby-Hagebruksskole-for-Kvinner.jpg

BERBY – A MANOR ON THE BORDER

Situated in the innermost reaches of the Iddefjord, and close to the Swedish border, Berby is the last property with manorial rights from 1639. The Lord of the manor, Gerlof Nettelhorst, built Berby without a royal permit. The resources included forests, lakes and waterfalls. Today the property is owned and operated

by Knut Golden and his family, and is based on forestry, grain and pig breeding.

A central role

Reference to the property is found in written sources dating back to 1344. During the Middle Ages Berby was divided into two farms, and in the latter part of that era Dutch and Danish ships would anchor to barter goods for lumber supplied by local farmers. In 1628 an immigrant nobleman from Holstein, Anders Blomme, was the owner of Berby. He sold it to the lord who joined the two Berby farms together again.

Bourgeois owners

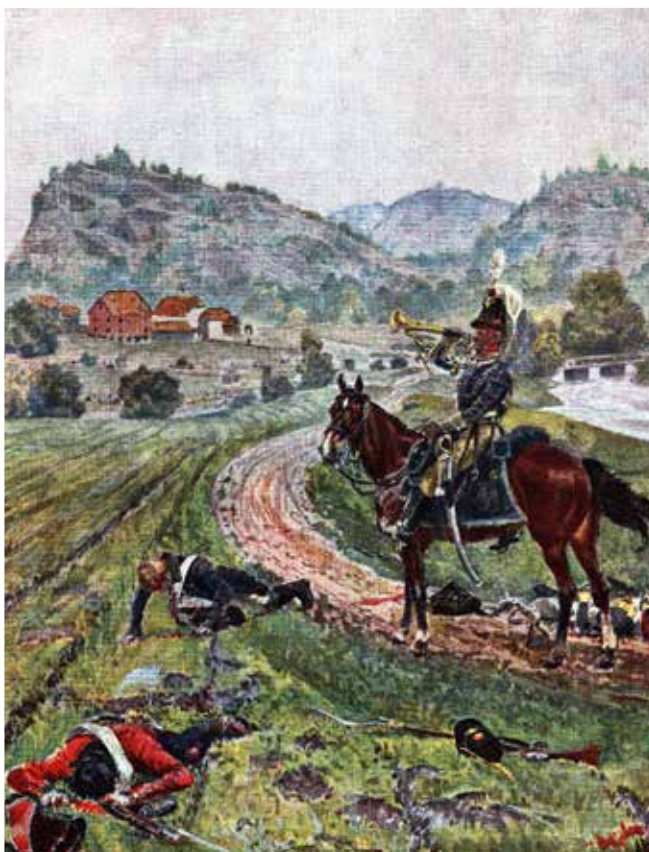
Gerlof Nettelhorst and his inheritors owned Berby for many years, but later well-off traders from Fredrikshald took over, and in 1780 Counsellor Truels Wiel bought Berby with 21 tenant farms, sawmills, grinding mills and salmon fishing as sources of income. He expanded the manor through the purchase of various properties in Idd. He operated sawmills, grinding mills and a spirits distillery, and was known as a generous man. On his death Berby was taken over by his son, Johannes Arbo Wiel who left the manor to his son Truels Wiel the younger in 1844.

School at Berby

In 1891 Berby was sold to Jens M. Golden who continued the sawmill and grinding mill operations. He was also engaged in lumber trade and granite quarrying. Later a large nursery was established here.

In 1899 Smålenenes amts praktiske jenteskole (the practical school for girls in the county of Smålenene) was stationed at the manor, and from 1901 to 1908 Statens havebruksskole for kvinner (The National Gardening School for Women) was located at Berby. From 1915 to 1938 Jenny Golden operated Berby Hagebruksskole for kvinner (Berby Gardening School for Women). From 1940 Alette Golden operated a private home economics school, which was continued by her niece, Ragna Hejer, until it closed in 1952.

Apart from the basements and the four-story pillared storehouse there are few remnants of the oldest buildings. Nevertheless visitors can still see traces of past glory. There is a special ambience about Berby, in a sheltered environment nestled among wooded hills.



7_Berby__Fra-kampene-på-Berby-12-september-1808_-_I-bakgrunnen-bygningene-på-Berby-gård_III-Andreas-Bloch.jpg

Theatre of war

When the Swedes attacked Norway from 1658 to 1660, Swedish troops set up their main quarters at Berby. Through the Peace Treaty of Roskilde, Denmark-Norway was forced to relinquish the county of Bohuslän to Sweden, and in 1661 the Border Commission placed the new national border ten kilometres south of Berby. This meant that large forestry districts that had supplied lumber to Berby were now situated in Sweden.

In 1808 Swedish forces of close to 1500 troops attacked the Norwegian advance positions at Berby. The Norwegians managed to repel the Swedish attack. A memorial stone has been erected at Berby to mark the site of this battle.