



18-Bebyggelsen-på-Tangen-sett-fra-Kjeøya_Foto-Svein-Norheim_DSC_6268.jpg

waiting for suitable winds. The land on the other side became part of Sweden in 1658.

SPONVIKEN

Archaeological finds from the Neolithic period, approximately 4500 BC, have been made in and around Sponviken bay. During the 1400s Sponviken was a coastal town. Dutch ships came here to buy lumber intended for processing back home. Around 1500, water-powered sawmills were built along the Tista river by Halden, and the sailing ships would often lie in Sponviken

Abundant fishing

The docks were the first major commercial activity, and later came the fisheries. In the 1800s herring was plentiful, and a canning plant was established. In 1928 a new building was erected and at its peak, 120 workers were employed in this industry. In the middle of the 1940s a shrimp cannery was established. Both these operations were closed down toward the end of the 1950s.

Industry and school

In 1895 Fredrikshald Wood Company Limited started its sawmill operations, while Sponvikens damp-sag (steam sawmill) started up in 1907. The first merchant trader established his business in 1839. In 1874 Sponvikens indremisjonsforening (evangelist mission) was founded. The school was established in 1865, and a separate school building was built in 1879.

Busy times

Around 1915 Sponviken experienced its busiest period and had around five hundred inhabitants. In the summers Kjeøya was a popular holiday spot for bathers. In the 1970s new housing estates were built and the number of inhabitants has been rising ever since.