

What Do You Know About Mr Berglund?

Hjalmar Berglund (1901-1993) was born and grew up on Långören. He was the seventh generation descendant of a distinguished pilot family that began with Håkan Svensson Kraak.

Hjalmar Berglund was the first in the family to leave the pilot tradition. He became a well-known character and teacher on the island of Senoren. Hjalmar was especially respected for his research of the local area – his native land. He had a great interest for the people and nature of the eastern archipelago and wrote many papers about Blekinge's archipelago. For many years he wrote interesting articles in the *BlekingeBook*.



Mr Hjalmar Berglund

Many of us have heard about Hjalmar Berglund but not all had the chance to meet him. [Bertil Petersson](#) had the opportunity to speak to Hjalmar and Bertil recalls the following:

“Hjalmar Berglund had researched the pilots on Langoren for many years. Later he told me that his father could call to mind many generations back, and that those memories had stimulated Hjalmar to dig deeper into the archives.

Researching the pilot profession proved to be especially favourable because it often went from father to son. The pilot system was under supervision of the war archive and that made the pilots as well documented as any nobility, military officers, or naval boatswains.

Usually genealogists start their research from their own generation and then work back in time generation by generation. However, Hjalmar Berglund had the good fortune to use the war archives to follow generations of pilots from Håkan Svensson Kraak. Håkan, the first pilot on Langoren, and his wife Annica Larsdotter came to the island of Langoren from Stenshamn in 1706.

By searching “forward” in time the family tree spread out and became quite extensive for every new generation. Later, Hjalmar Berglund compiled these descendants in eleven pedigree charts and appendices - over 375 pages when all the data was added.

When Hjalmar reached the generations that were alive in the 1960s he contacted them personally or via letter. Many people were so smitten by his enthusiasm that it led to Hjalmar sending a letter on the first of February 1966 to all known relatives asking about their interest in having a family meeting on Langoren that July. The response was overwhelmingly positive and on May 31st an invitation was sent out for the family meeting the 10th of July.”