



# Stiftelsen BRÖDET

Newsletter  
November 2023  
ESTONIA

*Dear Friends and  
Supporters,*



SB Foundation's contact person, Ülo Kalm at Aibolands Museum in Hapsal tells us that the 100th camouflage net was completed on October 2nd. The nets were crafted for Ukraine on the museum's premises by 30 Ukrainian refugees and volunteers from Hapsal during the past year and a half. The event was celebrated with cake and an outing to Estonia's second largest island, Dagö (Hiiumaa Island). (The largest island is Ösel, Saaremaa.)

Dagö is the home of a lighthouse from 1531, the third oldest lighthouse in the world still in use. As we have noted in a previous Newsletter, Swedish speaking farmers have lived in today's coastal region of Estonia and



on the largest islands, since at least the 13th century. This population was largest and most widely dispersed during the 15th and 16th centuries. Dagö was a

Swedish territory from 1563 to 1721 and the island was long an important hub for Swedes in Estonia. At the end of the 18th century

approximately 2,000 Swedes lived there. Among these, approximately 1,200 were deported to Ukraine by the czarist Catharina II in 1781. The emigrants gathered at Ristimägi (Hill of Crosses), where they held their final worship service and marked the event by placing a cross on the site, before saying farewell to the island that had been home to Swedes for at least 400-500 years. The approximately 500 individuals who survived the year-long journey by foot to



Ukraine via Moscow founded the village of Gammel-svenskby [in Ukraine's Kherson-Oblast region]. To this day a few people on Dagö still identify as Swedish.

SB-Foundation co-financed the outing. The group visited Dagö's handicraft house, Suuremõisa Manor, which today is also a vocational school, Reigi Church, Mihkli Farmhouse Museum, as well as the Hill of Crosses, where over the years many more crosses have been added. – Only 10 days after the outing the Estonian coast was hit by strong wind gusts that felled trees and even lifted off roofs of house, broke a floating bridge, caused flooding, and disrupted ferry service. Unfortunately, part of the “food cabinet,” described in the June Newsletter, was also among the items destroyed in the storm.

We thank and congratulate all those who crafted the camouflage nets and are happy that the outing to Dagö was successful and rewarding, with its historic connections to Sweden-Estonia- Ukraine.

Greetings from SB Foundation and all of us on the Board, Arne, Elisabeth, Gloria, Lena, Roger.

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