

More attractions

The area is best known for the World Heritage Grimeton Radio Station with its still functioning longwave transmitter. The station was built in 1924 and was the first wireless link for telegram traffic from Sweden to America.

There is an unusual attraction in Rolfstorp, namely a rose that grows between the panes in one of the windows. The glass functions like a greenhouse, so the rose blooms early, usually in May. One of two preserved wooden churches in Halland can be seen in Nöslinge. It was built in 1688 and probably replaced a medieval wooden church from 1200 - or 1300s.

The area is also rich in archaeological remains and there are two large burial grounds, well worth visiting. Broåsen is an Iron Age burial ground consisting of approximately 55 ancient monuments, and about 85 relics from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age can be seen at Högaberg.

For a map and more tips about attractions, please visit www.varldsarvsbygd.se

Use the map to find the stones mentioned in this folder. Stone nr. 1: 57,107520°, 12,514680° (WGS84 dec).



Alfred Bexell (1831-1900)



Alfred Bexell, the son of a clergyman, was an independent and forthright person who went his own way. He disliked school and perhaps the strict discipline posed a problem to him. Therefore, he sometimes had home schooling with his father, who was a very learned man. Exercise books show that he had to write texts in Swedish, English and Latin, which probably was not part of the regular school work.

As a 15-year-old he started training to join the armed forces, but discontinued the education and instead became a farmer. He was an enterprising and energetic man who, thanks to his efforts in agriculture and forestry, became known far beyond the borders of the region Halland.

Bexell was considered a man of the future, whose advice people gladly listened to and followed. He hated oppression and coercion and therefore he distanced himself from all forms of authority. This was reflected, among other things, in his political work in 1884 when he was elected into Parliament. Bexell was far ahead of his time and expressed his views on universal suffrage.

During the 1880- and 1890s he had, with the help of some stonemasons, proverbs and names carved on stones and rock walls. Today, there are 180 sentences and 600 names known; however, we also know from Bexell's own notes that there are other stones, yet to be discovered, in the woods.

In 1900 Alfred Bexell died, 69 years old. On his tombstone the following inscription can be seen: "Man's history is his character."

Åkulla beech forest

Åkulla beech forest is a 50-acre nature area located in the inner parts of Halland. Within the area there are about twenty lakes and several nature reserves. There are also twelve interconnected trails, developed by the association Åkulla Bokskogar and Länsstyrelsen. Most of Bexell's rocks are situated in the 58-acre nature reserve Toppbjär. The forest bears many traces of Bexell's time, when the animals were grazing in the forest and much wood was retrieved. For instance, old oak trees with large crowns as well as poly-trunk beeches still remain at Rörsjön's waterside. The forest became more closed and moist when forest grazing and deforestation ended, at the same time as more dead wood (trunks and stumps) started forming. This has fostered a variety of rare mosses, lichens, fungi and insects.



The management of the reserve means that the spruces growing up under deciduous trees are cleared away, and planted spruces transform into deciduous forests.

Grimeton's historical society

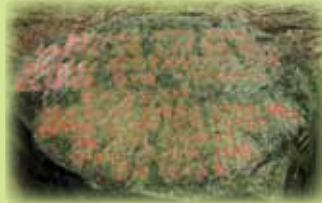
Bexell's talking stones are managed by Grimeton's historical society that ensures that the carvings on the stones are filled in.



BEXELL'S TALKING STONES



A walk around the stones



BEVARA DITT GODA RYKTE TY
DÅT ÄR OCH SKALL BESTÄNDIGT
FÖRBLIFVA DIN STÖRSTA
RIKEDOM

(PRESERVE YOUR GOOD
REPUTATION BECAUSE IT IS AND
WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR BIGGEST
WEALTH)

ICKE BLOTT SYNAS UTAN VARA
(NOT ONLY TO BE SEEN BUT ALSO TO BE)

BÄTTRE SLINTA MED FOTEN ÄN MED TUNGAN
(BETTER SLIPPING WITH THE FOOT THAN WITH THE TONGUE)

MYRAN ÄFVEN HAR SIN GALLA
(EVEN THE ANT HAS ITS GALL)

1. The first sentence is written by an unknown stonemason. The other three are made by Elof, who saved a stem when writing a double T.

DEN SOM ÖNSKAR FINNA DE
MEST GYLLENE UTSIGTER DEN
BÖR STÅ UPP MED SOLUPP-
GÅNGEN

(THOSE WHO WISH TO FIND
THE MOST GOLDEN PROSPECTS
SHOULD RISE WITH THE SUN)



2. Alfred Bexell himself had a brilliant career. He started training to join the armed forces, but eventually he became a landlord and an MP. He owned Torstorp in Grimeton (the largest farm), Göingegården in Lindberg and Hovgården in Rolfstorp.



W.W. THOMAS JR MINISTER OF THE
UNITED STATES PORTLAND MAIN 1883

LAPIDES LOQUENTES SEMPER
HABEMUS

3. Bexell had this maxim carved on the initiative of the U.S. ambassador W.W. Thomas, Jr. The text is a quote from the poet Virgil and means

”We always have speaking stones”, which is considered an explanation to why Bexell carved sayings on stones.

FÖR ATT FÖRARGA ANDRA SKADA WI
OSS MÅNGEN GÅNG SJELWA

(WHEN ANNOYING OTHERS, WE OFTEN
HURT OURSELVES)

4. There are many theories on why Bexell had sayings and names engraved in stones. He was passionate about the Swedish language, as well as culturally interested and perhaps he wanted to save his own name to posterity. The main reason for the carvings was probably that he wanted his values to be preserved and disseminated.



DE SOM HAFVA MYCKET
ÖFVRSEENDE MED SIG
SIELVE HAFVA SÄLLAN
ÖFVERSEENDE MED ANDRA
(THOSE WHO HAVE
INDULGENCE WITH
THEMSELVES RARELY HAVE
INDULGENCE WITH OTHERS)

5. Alfred Bexell was very strict, but beyond that he was a loyal and generous man with great hospitality. The farmhand August Skoog said of his master: ”Bexell was well liked, he could put down the courage of many, and he was hot-tempered, and could flare up for nothing, but he had so many good points, that I can’t say them all.”

WJ TYKKA ALTID OM DEM
SOM BEUNDRA OSS MEN
ICKE ALTID OM DEM SOM WJ
BEUNDRA

(WE ALWAYS LIKE THOSE
WHO ADMIRE US, BUT NOT
ALWAYS THE ONES WE
ADMIRE)



6. Large areas of arable land, meadows, bogs, outlying land, pastureland and forest belonged to Bexell’s farm. The beautiful mountain Älmeberget as well as the lakes Grytsjön, Rörsjön and Valasjön are located in the area. The inland ice has contributed to the hilly terrain with steep rocky walls, boulders and stones. Bexell indeed picked a beautiful environment for his carvings! We can stroll around here, pondering on the words of wisdom that endure any weather.

ATT FÖRSAKA ÄR SVÅRT
ATT RÄTT NIUTA ÄR ÄNNU
SVÅRARE

(SACRIFICING IS DIFFICULT,
TO TRULY ENJOY EVEN MORE
DIFFICULT)



DEN SOM ICKE BLIR LYCKLIG GENOM EGEN KRAFT BLIR DET ALLRIG
(UNLESS YOU REACH HAPPINESS BY YOUR OWN EFFORTS, YOU WILL
NEVER BE HAPPY)

KARAKTEREN MEDELAR STÖRRE LÄRDOMAR ÄN VI BERÄKNAT
(THE CHARACTER ANNOUNCES MORE LESSONS THAN WE EXPECTED)

DEN STÖRSTA NIUTNINGEN SOM ICKE MEDFÖR NÅGON AFSMAK ÄR
HVILAN EFTER ARBETE

(THE GREATEST PLEASURE, NOT INVOLVING DISGUST, IS THE REST AFTER
WORK)

MAN ÄR ALDRIG SÅ LYCKLIG OCH ALDRIG SÅ OLYCKLIG SOM MAN
INBILLAR SIG

(YOU ARE NEVER AS HAPPY OR UNHAPPY AS YOU IMAGINES)

7. The reason why some of the words on the stones are spelled differently (on this stone ALLRIG and ALDRIG), is that during Bexell’s time there was yet no standardized spelling. The Spelling reform was introduced in 1906, but it took some time before it was used everywhere. There are also some stones with misspelled names and words.



NATUREN ÄR
(THE NATURE IS)

8. This stone is most likely not incomplete, as one might think. Without doubt, Alfred Bexell wanted to encourage reflection!

A similar maxim is NATURE IS THE SOUL OF ART. Among the engravings are a mixture of wisdom, philosophical reflections, moralities and social and political thoughts. Bexell seems to have taken inspiration from proverb books, his daily social life, from religious sources and old law books. His favourite themes seem to have been knowledge and wisdom as well as love and friendship.

MEDAN WJ PÅTRÄFFA TUSEN
SOM ÄRO GNIDARE FINNA
WJ BLOTT EN SOM ÄR PÅ
ETT TILLBÖRLIGT SÄTT
EKONOMISK



(WHILE WE ENCOUNTER THOUSANDS WHO ARE STINGY, WE ONLY FIND
ONE THAT IS ADEQUATELY ECONOMIC)

DET FINNES EN SKÖN UPPRIKTIGHET HVILKEN LIKSOM BLOMSTREN
ÖPPNAR SIG BLOTT FÖR ATT DOFTA

(THERE IS A NICE SINCERITY WHICH, LIKE THE FLOWERS, OPENS UP ONLY
TO SMELL)

TALANGEN DANAS J DET STILLA KARAKTEREN I WERLDENS STRÖM
(THE TALENT IS FORMED IN THE QUIET, THE CHARACTER IN THE
WORLD’S STREAM)

DEN SOM I SÄLSKAP BLOTT TÄNKER PÅ ATT VARA ROLIG BLIR SNART
TRÅKIG

(THE PERSON IN THE COMPANY WHO MERELY THINKS ABOUT BEING
FUNNY SOON BECOMES BORING)

9. There were two active stonemasons - Sund and Elofsson. In addition to them, there have been seven or eight temporary stonemasons. Bexell didn’t tolerate badly performed work and that’s why he employed only skilful professionals. Maybe he tried a few different stonemasons before he decided to employ Sund and Elofsson.



DEN MEST BILDADE ÄR JCKE DEN SOM BESITTER DE FLESTA KUNSKAPER
UTAN DEN SOM HAR DE MINSTA FEL

(THE MOST EDUCATED PERSON IS NOT THE ONE POSSESSING THE MOST
KNOWLEDGE, BUT THE ONE WITH THE SLIGHTEST ERRORS)

10. After Bexell’s death the stones fell into oblivion but were rediscovered by chance in 1925. The Sjöblom family had an outing in the woods when one of the children saw the letters ANT on a rock. The children then spent the entire summer holiday to look for more stones.