## Pure pleasure of the past

This moment on a Saturday afternoon in an Upper Savo farmhouse was almost sacred. Several generations of the family were sitting on benches at the table having dinner. During the day, the women had baked either raised barley flatbread or thinner, fist-kneaded flatbread. It was now being eaten warm, and melting butter ran down their fingers to their wrists until they had to lick it off with their tongues.

Lumpy buttermilk and berry porridge were also often served. In the evening, after the sauna, the adults had coffee and wheat bread, and the children were given cold milk.

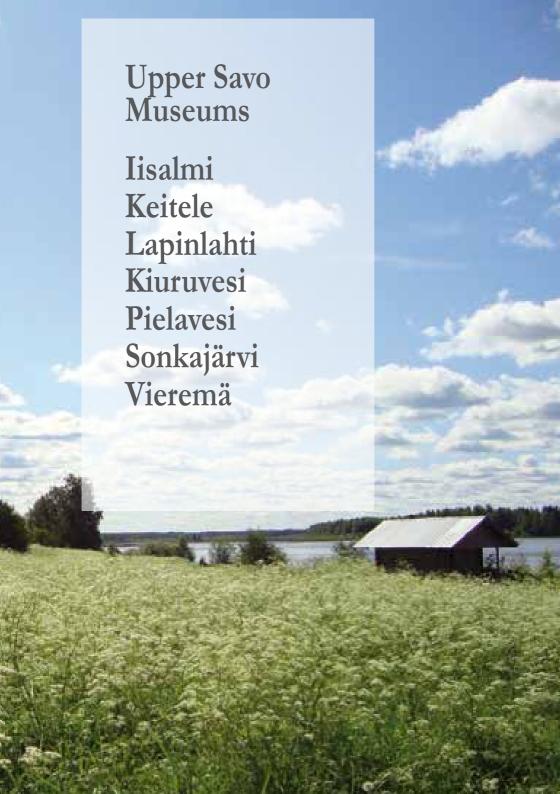
After that, they all fell into bed.

### Barley flatbread recipe:

½ l water
50 g yeast
3 dl rye flour
½ l cultured buttermilk
1 tbsp salt

barley and rye flour

Directions: In the evening, make a loose dough. In the morning, add the salt and lukewarm buttermilk. Knead with the barley and rye flour. The dough can be quite loose. Let the dough rise and then bake it into bread. Let the bread rise for a while and brush with buttermilk. Bake in a hot oven. The bread is done if there is a hollow sound when you knock the bottom of the loaf with your knuckles.

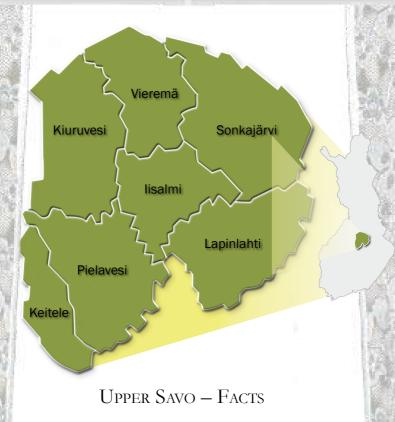


#### UPPER SAVO – A PLACE OF GENUINE PEOPLE

Upper Savo comprises more or less the area of the former Parish of Iisalmi, founded in 1627, which is today composed of seven municipalities: Iisalmi, Keitele, Kiuruvesi, Lapinlahti, Pielavesi, Sonkajärvi and Vieremä. Originally, the area was known as Northernmost Savo, but in 1948, with the start of cooperation between the municipalities after the war, the Advisory Economic Council for Upper Savo was set up, involving the formation of an area called Upper Savo, which is not a separate province, but part of a province.

Upper Savo is one of the last lush areas on the way to the more barren north. The heart of the landscape is the lakes, whose shores are lined with deciduous forests and fields. Upper Savo lies on the headwaters of two large lakes, Saimaa and Päijänne. On the waterways, you can get to the Baltic Sea. The watersheds are formed by the Karelian and Savo Ridges.

Joy is brought to daily life by the genuine Savonian mentality: openness, geniality and spontaneous humour. Another of the region's riches is the verbal dexterity of the Savonians. The local dialect is characterised by the copious use of descriptive words and phrases.

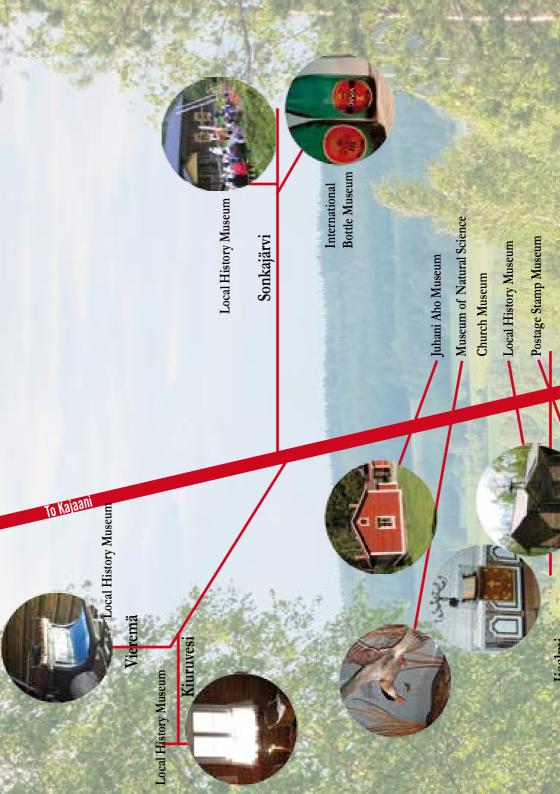


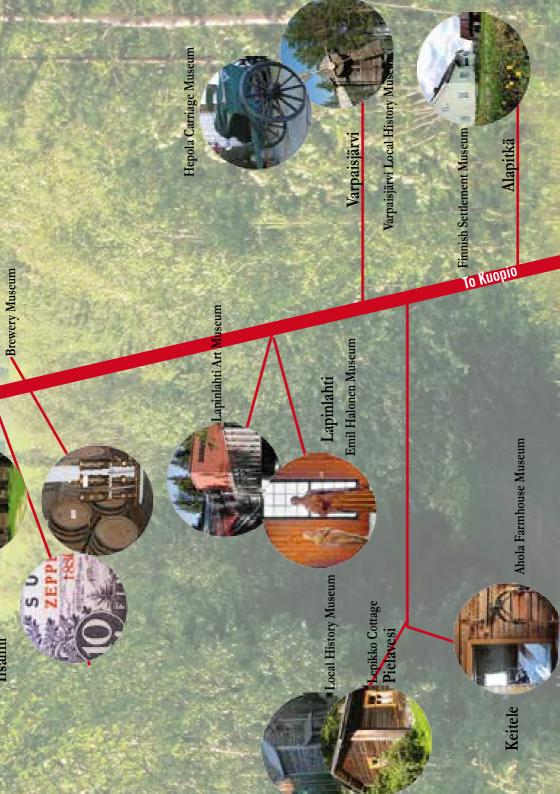
Inhabitants 57,688 (31 december 2011) Age distribution:

0-14 years, 8,800; 15-64 years, 35,826; 65 years and above, 13,062

Average age of the population: 43.6-48.7 years The upper savo sub-region as a percentage of the whole of North Savo:

- MILK PRODUCTION 56.2
- Arable Land 53.4
- Number of working farms 46.5
- Jobs in Primary Production 46.3
- Total area 39.6







At the Juhani Aho Museum, you can learn about the life of the Finnish author in the setting of a 19th century parsonage. The old exhibits with their fascinating stories take you back for a moment to the past, to a time when oil lamps appeared in homes...

Juhani Aho (1861–1921) lived in the small parsonage in Mansikkaniemi from 1865–1876. Aho's father, Theodor Brofeldt, who was known in Iisalmi as "Old Man Brofeldt", served as the parson of the Parish of Iisalmi for 55 years.

Opened in 1958, the museum's exhibits have come from the Aho family and the Iisalmi parsonage. Items that belonged to Aho are on display in the office, incl. a typewriter, writing chair and desk. A curiosity exhibited in the drawing room is his bicycle registration certificate. Aho was one of the first cyclists in Finland. The buildings in the museum courtyard date from the 1840s. Besides the main building, they include a servants' cottage, outbuildings, a windmill and a "war outbuilding" (where Finnish soldiers wounded in the Battle of Koljonvirta were treated) brought from Koljonvirta.

Open: 15 May-31 Aug, daily 10am-6pm. At other times by appointment.

#### Admission:

Adults €3. Children, students, unemployed and senior citizens €2. Groups (min. 10 people) €2/€1.50.

#### Contact details:

Juhani Aho Museum Ouluntie 37, 74120 Iisalmi tel. +358 40 489 4026 www.iisalmi.fi/juhaniahon museo

# IISALMI Church Museum



The Church Museum is housed in the Gustav Adolf Church, which dates from 1779. The permanent exhibition presents the history of the Parish of Iisalmi, from its foundation in 1627 to the present day. Among the gems of the exhibition are a church bell acquired from Stockholm in 1627 and paintings on the gallery rails dating from the 1780s.

The gallery rail paintings were revealed in 1926, when the church was being repaired. After the renovation, some of them were put on the new gallery rails and the remaining five in the museum room of the church. The paintings were previously thought to be by Mikael Toppelius, but the latest research has identified the artist as Johan Fredrik Scheiderman, a Swedish-born decorative painter who did painting work in the church in 1785 and 1788.

Open: 10 Jun–20 Aug, Mon–Fri 11am–6pm At other times by appointment

**Admission:** Free entry

#### Contact details:

Church Museum Kirkkokatu 20, 74120 Iisalmi tel. +358 44 733 5204, +358 17 83 351 www.iisalmenseurakunta.fi

## **I**ISALMI

## Local History Museum of Upper Savo



The Local History Museum of Upper Savo is located in a beautiful setting just outside the town. The heart of the old main building is the approximately 300-year-old chimneyless living room. In the area, there are also outbuildings, a cowshed, a traditional Lapp hut, a smithy and a windmill, which have been moved there from different parts of Upper Savo.

At the museum, you can learn about rural culture through exhibits relating particularly to farming, fishing and hunting. Also on display are pieces of furniture from an upper-class home, artisans' tools and a coin collection. On the ground floor, you can also learn about the Battle of Koljonvirta of 1808, made famous by the national poet Runeberg. The War Room presents a portait of Iisalmi during the Second World War through photographs and texts. There are also exhibits relating to the lives of soldiers, members of the women's auxiliary services and those on the home front.

**Open:** 15 May–15 Aug, Tue–Fri 12 noon–6pm, Sat 11am–4pm, Sun 12 noon–4pm

#### Admission:

Adults €3, children, students, unemployed, senior citizens €1.50. Children under 7 yrs: free.

#### Contact details:

Local History Museum of Upper S Virrankatu 4, 74100 Iisalmi tel. +358 17 825 865, +358 44 784 4077 info@ylasavonkotiseutumuseo.fi www.ylasavonkotiseutumuseo.fi

## **I**ISALMI

## Museum of Natural Science



At the Iisalmi Museum of Natural Science, you can learn about the flora and fauna of Upper Savo. The museum is located in the basement of the Iisalmi Cultural Centre, right in the town centre. The exhibition space covers a total of two hundred square metres, some of which is reserved for storage of various samples and collections. The museum has archived many samples: 40,000 plants, over 40,000 mammal samples, lepidopterans, research offprints and tens of thousands of samples of other materials.

The museum has dioramas of natural biotopes in Upper Savo. A small piece of ground has been put in each display case, together with the most typical organisms. You can see beautiful wood anemones, a flying squirrel in its own habitat, a feeding otter and much more.

Open: Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri 9am-2pm and Tue 11am-6pm

#### Admission:

Adults €2, children free. Groups: every fifth personfree. School groups: under 15 pupils €10, 15 or more €20. Guide by appointment, surcharge €10.

#### Contact details:

Iisalmi Museum of Natural Science Kirkkopuistonkatu 9, 74100 Iisalmi tel. +358 17 818 387 www.iisalmenluontomuseo.net Administered by: Iisalmi Naturalists' Society

## IISALMI Brewery Museum





Beer has a history going back thousands of years, and even in Iisalmi it has been brewed for 130 years. Beside the Olvi Brewery, the Olvi Beer Hall houses the Brewery Museum, which has extensive collections and presents the long history of beer and the various stages of production. Olvi's long-serving head brewer, Herbert Groschup, has gathered a unique collection of exhibits from Finland and Europe. Some of the items have been donated to the museum.

The exhibits are mainly from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The gems of the museum are beer barrels from the early 20th century, a bottling machine for homemade beer, a trub sack and a corking machine that was used for the tear-off soft drink bottle caps still remembered by many. You can also see a 1950s laboratory, a 1910s office and a 1980s advertising workroom.

Open: Mon-Fri 10am-3pm

Admission:

Free entry

Contact details:

Brewery Museum / Olvi Beer Hall Luuniemenkatu 4, 74100 Iisalm tel. +358 17 838 5203 www.olvisaatio.fi/panimomuseo

# IISALMI Postage Stamp Museum



In autumn 2010, Finland's first private stamp museum was opened in Iisalmi. The museum's exhibits come from both its own and visiting private collections. In addition to postage stamps, the museum also has changing displays of other philatelic exhibits, including postcards, letters and postmarks.

Besides stamp exhibitions, the museum offers insights into philately as a hobby, as well as stamp-related stories and historical background, in the form of temporary photographic and other exhibitions. The museum's permanent exhibition presents the history of postage stamps in Finland from the time of independence to the present.

Open: Mon–Fri 10am–3pm Admission:

Free entry

Contact details:

Postage Stamp Museum / Olvi Beer Hall Luuniemenkatu 4, 74100 Iisalmi tel. +358 290 00 1050

## Lapinlahti Art Museum



The Lapinlahti Art Museum is located beside a beautiful rock formation, close to the centre of the village of Lapinlahti. The Art Museum building was constructed in 1976 and designed by the architects Esa Koivuniemi and Georg Brystroff.

The watchwords of the Lapinlahti Art Museum's activities are regionalism and topicality. The Art Museum has about 10 exhibitions of art and arts & crafts a year. Also of key importance are the exhibitions aimed at children and young people produced in collaboration with the Lastu Children's Cultural Centre. The permanent exhibitions present works by the Halonen family of artists and the village of Lapinlahti in the early 1900s. In addition to exhibitions, the museum holds various events throughout the year, including concerts and lectures.

The Art Museum is fully wheelchair accessible and has a disabled toilet.

#### Open:

Winter season, Wed–Sun 12 noon–4pm; Summer season, Tue–Wed, Fri–Sun 11am–5pm, Thu 11am–8pm

#### Admission:

Adults 6/5/4 €, under 18 years free

#### Contact details:

Lapinlahti Art Museum Suistamontie 3, 73100 Lapinlahti tel. +358 40 187 2678 info@eemil.fi, www.eemil.fi

## **Eemil Halonen Museum**



The Eemil Halonen Museum was opened to the public in 1974. The museum is housed in the former stone cowshed of the parsonage, very close to the Art Museum. The museum's address is Eemil Halosentie 6.

The Eemil Halonen Museum offers visitors an insight into the history of Finnish sculpture. The permanent exhibition presents the life and work of the sculptor Eemil Halonen and his brother, the caster Arttu Halonen. On display is an extensive collection of sculptures by Eemil Halonen based on Kalevala themes and objects connected with Arttu Halonen's work as a bronze caster.

There is also an exhibition of the local history collections of the Lapinlahti Society that tells you about life in the days when cows were milked by hand and people made the things they needed themselves. The exhibition covers the history of Lapinlahti from the end of the Ice Age right up to the present day.

In the summer season, the museum has a topical temporary exhibition of art and arts & crafts..

**Open:** In June and July, Tue–Wed, Fri–Sun 11am–5pm, Thu 11am–8pm. At other times by appointment for groups.

#### Admission:

Adults €4 / €3, under 18 years free

#### Contact details:

Lapinlahti Art Museum Suistamontie 3, 73100 Lapinlahti tel. +358 40 187 2678 info@eemil.fi, www.eemil.fi

# Varpaisjärvi Local History Museum and Hepola Carriage Museum



The Local History Museum is housed in Varpaisjärvi's first elementary school, which is still in its original location. In the smaller classroom, there is an exhibition of an old classroom with objects from different periods in the history of Finnish schools. In the other classroom and the teacher's living quarters, there are displays of old tools and household utensils. In the museum courtyard, there is an old smithy and a windmill brought from the former home of the Finnish Pietist leader, Paavo Ruotsalainen, in Huhtamäki.

In 2002, the Finnish workhorse received a well-deserved tribute when, as a result of the joint effort of numerous organisations, the Hepola Carriage Museum was built alongside the home straight of the practice trotting track. Visitors are directed to the Carriage Museum at the Local History Museum.

Open: In July, Tue-Sun 12 noon-4pm

Admission:

Voluntary donation

Contact details:

Varpaisjärvi Museums Museotie 11 73200 Varpaisjärvi tel. +358 17 272 000

## Finnish Settlement Museum



As a consequence of the Second World War, Finland had to cede the Karelian Isthmus and the Petsamo area to the Soviet Union, forcing 420,000 people to leave their homes. About 2,000 evacuees, mainly from Salmi and Suistamo, were resettled in Lapinlahti.

At the Finnish Settlement Museum at Alapitkä in Lapinlahti, you can see what life was like on the resettlement farms – a rural life in which the roots of hundreds of thousands of today's Finns lie. In an authentic setting, time has stopped in the 1950s–1970s and the imprint of those who lived there is strongly present. The museum, set up on the home farm of brother and sister Yrjö and Anni Mure, provides a vivid picture of everyday life at that time and is also a tribute to the people who lived on resettlement farms and, after the war, worked for a better future.

The museum consists of a 1952 war veteran's house in its original state, a cowshed with a loft, a sauna and a threshing house. The exhibits are objects that originally belonged to the farm.

**Open:** 15 Jun–15 Aug, Tue–Fri, Sun 10am–6pm, Sat 10am–4pm. At other times by appointment for groups.

#### Admission:

€5, under 16 yrs free

#### Contact details:

Finnish Settlement Museum Asutusmuseontie 52 71910 Alapitkä tel. +358 440 734 366 www.lapinlahti/asutusmuseo.fi

## KEITELE

## Ahola Farmhouse Museum



Ahola is an old peasant's house in its original location in the village of Vuonamo. The Municipality of Keitele bought the house from the Huttunens for use as a museum in 1977. Visitors to Ahola experience the environment in which a peasant family lived at the turn of the 20th century. Also on display are exhibits from before and after that time.

Ahola has been a dwelling place for at least three hundred years. In 1928, the kitchen was extended and a small room was added. The small living room is equipped with a telephone and radio, which were still rarities some fifty years ago.

The occupants made a living from farming and animal husbandry. The farmer was a skilled joiner and many of the pieces of furniture and household objects were made by him. From 1928–36, there was a school at Ahola.

**Open:** The museum is open in midsummer.

#### Admission:

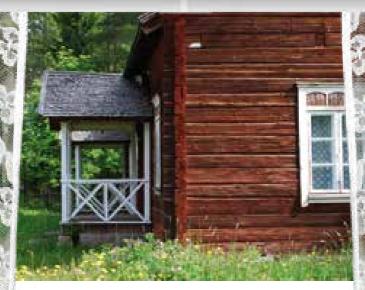
Adults €2, children (over 7 yrs) €1, groups (over 10) €1/person. Guide outside normal opening times €35.

#### Contact details:

Ahola Farmhouse Museum Aholantie 25, 72600 Keitele Keitele Library tel. +358 17 273 1303, +358 40 764 9904 www.keitele.fi

## **K**iuruvesi

## Kiuruvesi Local History Museum



Kiuruvesi's museum area is located at the junction of Kirkkokatu and Kirkkoharjuntie, near the cemetery. There is a museum with exhibits and a courtyard with typical old Savonian buildings.

The museum building was converted into a granary in 1860 by the owner of the farm, Antti Hyvärinen, for the Municipality of Kiuruvesi. The ground floor of the museum is divided into women's and men's sections. On display in the women's section are exhibits relating to food preparation, laundry and crafts. In the men's section, you can see tools and equipment connected with hunting, fishing, forest work and crafts. On the upper floor, there are annually changing exhibitions of objects from the museum's collections.

The main building in the courtyard dates from 1916. Its rooms have been furnished to show farmhouse interiors in different decades. The courtyard also has a cowshed, cattle shed, outbuilding with a loft, smoke sauna, windmill, hay barn and a small storehouse on legs.

**Open:** in June, July and August, Mon–Thu 12 noon–5pm, Sun 12 noon–3pm. At other times by appointment.

#### Admission:

Free entry

#### Contact details:

Kiuruvesi Local History Museum Kirkkoharjuntie 2, 74700 Kiuruvesi tel. +358 400 232 684, +358 40 484 8929 www.kiuruvesi.fi

## **P**IELAVESI

## Pielavesi Local History Museum



PHOTO: ENSIO PIETIKÄINEN

Located at Teijunmäki, the Pielavesi Local History Museum was founded in 1958. The courtyard is made up of six buildings that have been moved there from elsewhere. The main building was originally the servants' quarters of an old parsonage and has four rooms. These are furnished as in the early part of the last century, divided into sides for men and women.

The museum's permanent exhibition, "Idle hands always find something to do", was opened in 1998. It presents the local craft tradition and different aspects of life, from birth to death and from the everyday to the festive. In two smaller rooms, there are exhibitions created in 1999–2000: the Shoemaker's Room displays the tools of a shoemaker and a tanner, while the Parsonage Room is furnished in the style of the early 1900s. In addition to the main building, visitors can see a smoke cabin and a fish storehouse, which has an exhibition, opened in summer 2004, that presents Pielavesi's fishing tradition. The museum area also has a windmill, an outbuilding with a loft and a drying barn. The museum also holds temporary exhibitions and various events.

The Local History Museum is also responsible for the preservation and storage of historically valuable objects. Objects are received as donations.

Open: in the summer, Tue-Sun 1.30-5pm

#### Admission:

Adults €2, children/students/ senior citizens €1 (under 7 yrs free)

#### Contact details:

Museotie 4 72400 Pielavesi, +358 40 831 7544, Museum Director +358 40 489 4833

## **P**IELAVESI

## Lepikko Cottage



PHOTO: ENSIO PIETIKÄINEN

Pielavesi is the birthplace of Finland's longest-serving president, Urho Kekkonen. The cottage where he was born was part of a leasehold farm created in the mid-19th century, one of 73,000 such farms in the then Grand Duchy of Finland. The future president's father, Juho Kekkonen, obtained the tenancy of the farm in the early spring of 1900 and moved to Pielavesi with his wife, Emilia, that summer. Their first son, Urho Kaleva, was born on 3 September 1900.

The Kekkonens left Pielavesi when the future president was six years old. After that, the building went through many phases. It frequently changed hands and its appearance was altered to the extent that finally the building was two-storeyed and weatherboarded. The Lepikko Foundation obtained ownership of the building in 1966, after which, under the supervision of the National Board of Antiquities, it was restored to its appearance in the early 1900s, when the Kekkonens were living there.

Lepikko Cottage deserves its place as a national monument, but it also provides an insight into the building tradition and living conditions in the early 1900s.

Open: in the summer, at other times by appointment

#### Admission:

Adults/children, students and senior citizens €5 / €3 Group tickets (30 people) €100 / €60 Group tickets (50 people) €150 / €80 Family ticket €10

#### Contact details:

Lepikko Cottage Urho Kekkosentie 121 72400 Pielavesi

#### Foundation representative:

Olavi Savonsalmi +358 44 274 7408

Administered by: Lepikko Foundation

## Sonkajärvi

## International Bottle Museum



In Sonkajärvi, you can see the results of the effort that has been put into collecting old and new bottles. The International Bottle Museum was opened in Sonkajärvi in 1986. The father of the idea is the former professor of physiology at the then University of Kuopio, Osmo Hänninen, who started collecting bottles in the 1970s. The Bottle Museum's collections comprise some 6,500 bottles from all over the world, including an old Finnish chestnut flask and square bottle, a Chinese acupuncture bottle, and perfume and mosquito repellent bottles.

The bottle collections provide a fascinatingly colourful insight into the cultural history of Finland and other countries. The Bottle Museum is an aesthetically pleasing attraction. In the lighted display cases, the beauty of the glass, the delicate colours and the wealth of shapes come into their own.

**Open:** In July, Tue–Sun 10am–4pm, at other times by appointment

#### Admission:

Adults €2, students, children and groups €1

#### Contact details:

International Bottle Museum Rutakontie 18 74300 Sonkajärvi tel. +358 40 675 0027 www.sonkajarvi.fi

## Sonkajärvi

## Sonkajärvi Local History Museum



The Local History Museum was built as a dwelling house in the village of Sonkakoski in 1850. It was originally a smoke cottage, and not until 1919 was a chimney added to the building.

The house was relatively large for that time. It has a narrow, short bed for two people, a cradle, a side-extending bed for a maid, long benches made from single pieces of wood and a large farmhouse table.

On display in the museum rooms are household items, including objects related to the processing of milk and crafts, e.g. tools for working flax.

In addition to agriculture- and forestry-related exhibits, and a shoemaker's tools, there are exhibits connected with hunting and fishing, including a fox trap and equipment used in torch fishing. Also on display are exhibits relating to the history of the Jyrkkäkoski Ironworks.

#### Open:

In July, Tue–Sun 10am–4pm, at other times by appointment

#### Admission:

Free entry

#### Contact details:

Sonkajärvi Local History Museum Rutakontie 18, 74300 Sonkajärvi tel. +358 40 675 0027 www.sonkajarvi.fi

## **V**IEREMÄ

## Vieremä Local History Museum



In the Kulttuurimäki area, you can learn about the history of forestry. The Rahkamäki Cabin housed up to 40 men and two cooks. You can see how a forest cabin had a "blunt end" and a "sharp end" and what kinds of utensils were used by the cook in the kitchen. The Talashovi Cabin reflects living conditions in the 1920s. There are many buildings at Kulttuurimäki, including a dwelling house, storehouses, a sauna, stable, drying barn and sheep pen. Horse-drawn carriages and horse-related gear have a prominent place among the museum's exhibits. A traditional Christmas event is held at Kulttuurimäki each December.

Events are advertised in the press, on the internet and on the Facebook page of the Community College. While in Vieremä, it is also worth visiting the Kyrönniemi Centre of Silence, Haajaisten Koulukievari and the Elementary School Museum in the Old Schoolhouse of Valkeinen.

#### Open:

June–July, Mon–Fri 10am–1pm. At other times by appointment, tel. +358 40 594 9143. Free entry

#### Contact details:

Vieremä Local History Museum Petterintie 37, 74200 Vieremä tel. +358 40o 370 160 www.vieremä.fi

### More cultural attractions

#### IISALMI

Iisalmi Cultural Centre, Kirkkopuistonkatu 9, +358 17 272 3600 Artos Cultural Exhibition, Kirkkopuistonkatu 28, +358 17 812 244 Church of Elijah the Prophet (Orthodox), Kyllikinkatu 8, +358 17 812 244 Gustav Adolf Church, Kirkkotie 20, +358 17 817 975 Church of the Holy Cross, Haukiniemenkatu 10 B, +358 17 813 339

#### KEITELE

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Keitele, Kirkkotie 1, +358 50 303 2008 Keitele Library and Stable Gallery, Koulutie 1, +358 40 764 9927 Church of St Arsenius of Konevits (Orthodox), Arsenintie 1, +358 17 852 836

#### **KIURUVESI**

Cultural House of Kiuruvesi, Lähteentie 10 A Orthodox Church of Kiuruvesi, Niemistenkatu 6, +358 44 775 2278 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kiuruvesi, Kirkkokatu 8, +358 17 7700 421 Väre Gallery, Lähteentie 8, +358 50 564 2874 Kiuruvesi Craft Centre, Kirkkokatu 14, +358 50 540 7432

#### LAPINLAHTI

Väärni Parsonage, Juhani Ahontie 82, +358 50 330 3389 Luova Puu Woodcarving Studio and Galleria Café, Pajuharjuntie 16, +358 44 595 3301 Lapinlahti Church, Mykkäläntie 6 Granite Church of Varpaisjärvi, Kauppatie 17 Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Alapitkäntie 14

#### **PIELAVESI**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pielavesi, Kirkkotie 2 Pielavesi Library and exhibition space, Laurinpurontie 14 Kirkkosaari Bell Tower, Kirkkosaarentie Church of St Peter and St Paul and St Blaise the Martyr, Puistotie 2

Orthodox Church of Lapinlahti, Pekka Halosen tie 18

#### SONKAJÄRVI

Jyrkkäkoski Ironworks, Jyrkäntie 1881, +358 45 859 7889 Sonkakoski Dolls' House, Tetrikoskentie 16, +358 440 764 607 Sonkajärvi Church, Rutakontie 20, +358 40 132 5275 Männikkö Museum Bridge, River Raudanjoki, Sukeva

#### VIEREMÄ

Old Schoolhouse of Valkeinen and Elementary School Museum,
Ouluntie 1112, Iisalmi, +358 40 747 0903
Kyrönniemi, Kyrönniementie 62, +358 40 726 1040 or +358 400 718 826
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Vieremä, Kirkkotie 1, +358 400 714 554
Chapel of St Nicholas (Orthodox), Latokankaantie 83, +358 40 539 1344