



Bakke.Stenh.-og-kilegutter-(2).jpg

paid for the farm with them.

Ole Svendsen Bakke (c. 1660-1716) acted as a spy during the Swedish attack on Norway in the spring of 1716. Together with two farmers, Jens Aas og Niels Nordbye, Ole set an ambush from a rock ledge on the Soverkollen hill and shot the Swedish lieutenant-colonel Baltzar, thus becoming a national hero. The defile where Baltzar was killed came to be called "Baltzar-bakken" (Baltzar Hill), and the place where Ole watched and waited was called "Klokkersenga" (the Sexton's Bed).

The stone industry

The industrial exploitation of the granite began at the beginning of the 1870s. Conditions were perfect here at Bakke: fine granite right next to the Iddefjorden good quay where the cargo ships could go right inshore.

Bakke has supplied granite so to speak to the whole world: The Schelde forts outside Antwerp, the docks of Kiel, Bremerhaven, Devonport, Seaham, Shields, Dover, Manchester, Ipswich, Liverpool and Chatham, The Ritz and the Morning Post building in London, the Liver Building in Liverpool, and the railway station in Buenos Aires. Most of all, however, Bakke cobbles and curbs have been supplied to the streets of Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Egypt, Argentina, Brazil and Cuba.

Just on the other side of the Iddefjorden is the biggest stonecutter community named Krokstrand. It grew out of the expansion of the granite industry from the 1870s. For a long time Krokstrand was dominated by the Norwegian stone companies, as was the whole of northern Bohuslän.

There was close contact between the communities across the fjord. Swedish and Norwegian stonecutters alternated workplaces – and often found their wives on the other side of the border.

BAKKE FARM

Bakke was mentioned for the first time in 1344, as the Crown owned a share in the farm. It appears to have been allodial property from the 1500s, and in 1593 it had yet to be subdivided.

Ole Svendsen Bakke

Around 1700 the lower Bakke farm was in the hands of Ole Svendsen Bakke, and his family continued to work it until 1899. This holding came to be called Orebakke after the owner by popular repute a giant who every day cut three cords of wood and