



kampene-ved-prestebakke-ill-andreas-bloch.jpg

PRESTEBAKKE

The ground is sand and stone left by the huge Scandinavian glacier around 13.000 years ago. Here is where the ice found the sea. When the ice melted, it left thousands of tons of gravel that had been scraped from the mountains inland.

This ridge of sand and gravel at Prestebakke is called a moraine. More moraine ridges can be found north of Ørsjøen, where the edge of the ice remained for some hundred years after it had withdrawn from Prestebakke.

Ørsjøen is fringed with fine sandy beaches all round that have given the lake its name; Ørsjøen means Sand Lake.

Prestens Bakke – Vicar's Hill

There is evidence that people have lived at Prestebakke for centuries. If you are lucky you may find flints on the beaches. "Hill" in the name refers to the slope down to the lake and the river. The farm was called Vicar's Hill because it was owned by the church.

Prestebakke church was constructed over four years from 1793 to 1796. It was built of timber and had a beautiful interior in the Nordic classicist style typical of the 1700s.

Kings and warriors

Prestebakke lies in a border area. Time and again Norwegian and foreign soldiers, have passed through here over the centuries. Karl XII of Sweden stopped here in 1718 on his way to Fredriksten fortress, where he was shot dead on 11 December (Swedish calendar: 30 November). In May 1808 Swedish soldiers made their camp by Prestebakke church. In the greying dawn on 10 June 1808 the Swedish soldiers were surprised by a large Norwegian force and they were forced to surrender. The fallen soldiers were buried in a mass grave in the churchyard.

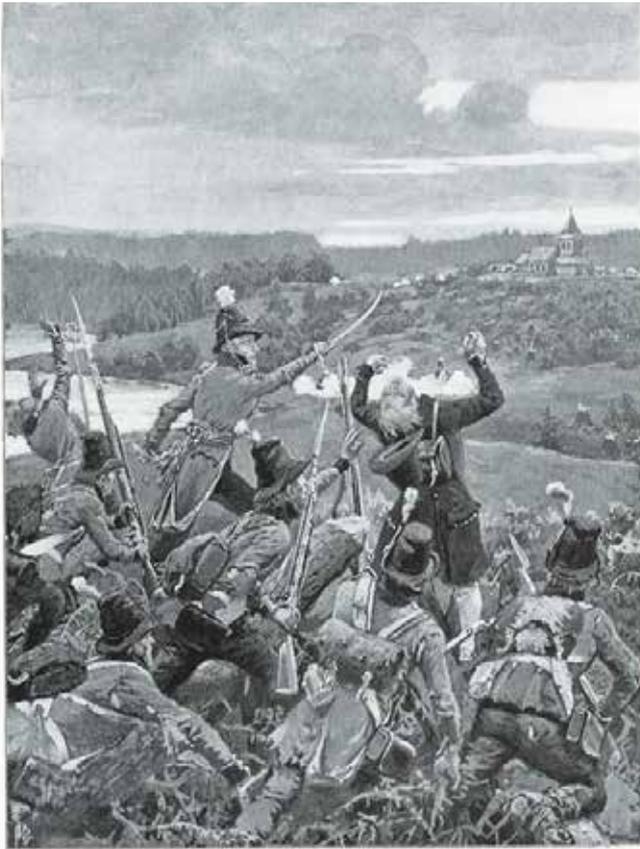
The church still has bullet holes in its walls. A memorial stone has been erected close to the church in memory of the battle of 1808. The churchyard also has a headstone for Norwegian soldier Svend Asmundsen, who "... was shot by Swedes and buried by Swedes."

Road and rail

King Karl Johan's highway between Norway and Sweden was constructed through Prestebakke in 1823. Today it is called national road no. 101, in memory of the time when it was highway no. 1.

Many Swedes used to travel through Prestebakke on their way to the town of Fredrikshald (Halden). They would often bring large herds of cows on their way to the market and abattoirs in Norway.

The railway leading abroad was opened in 1879, and Prestebakke had its own station. The station houses were designed by architect Peter Andreas Blix. Prestebakke station today is a heritage historical



Prestebakke_laytnant-Birch-stormer-forhugningene_Scan10047.jpg

Originally painted red on the outside without wood cladding, and with small-paned lead glass windows. The interior is in the elegant Nordic classicist style, painted pearl grey, blue and dark grey, with marble tiles on the floor, and marble decorations in the pulpit and altarpiece. The walls are bare logs, and are witness to the work of a master carpenter.

The baptismal font is made of soapstone and one of the tower bells is from the old Enningdalen church. The organ, from 1993, is placed in the Chancellor's old pew box above the entrance.

The hostilities of 1808

In May 1808 Swedish soldiers crossed the border and made their camp by Prestebakke church. On 10 June 1808 in the early hours of the morning they were attacked by Norwegian forces. Surprised by the attack, The Swedes were forced to surrender after a bloody fight. Many soldiers were killed and buried in a mass grave north of the church. Bullet holes can still be seen inside the church.

The churchyard

South of the church you will find Chancellor Wiel's large tomb made of cast iron. North of the church is a headstone for the Norwegian soldier Svend Asmundsen Spielgårdvigen, raised by the Swedish soldiers in 1808, with an epitaph written by Lieutenant Elfmann:

"A soldier from Norway's brave army
has laid down his life in battle.
Brought down by a shot from the Swedes,
who also laid him in his grave."

site.

Old Prestebakke

Between the road and the railway tracks is the farm's building, built around 1825. The largest room in the house is called Svenskestua ("the Swedish parlor") in memory of the time it was an inn serving the many Swedish travelers. The house was also used as the assembly room for the local council, polling station, clinic and country shop, and also used as the headquarters for the border watch of 1905. Today Old Prestebakke is owned by Idd and Enningdalen historical society.

PRESTEBAKKE KIRKE – PRESTEBAKKE CHURCH

Truls Wiel, the powerful Chancellor, had the church built from 1793 to 1796. The Chancellor made his fortune in the lumber trade and settled at Berby manor where the Enningdalen River flows into the Iddefjord.

The church was built of notched logs, originally painted red on the outside without wood cladding, and with small-paned lead glass windows. The interior is in the elegant Nordic classicist style, painted pearl grey, blue and dark grey, with marble tiles on the floor, and marble decorations in the pulpit and altarpiece. The walls are bare logs, and are witness to the work of a master carpenter.

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A memorial stone in the churchyard commemorates the battle of 1808.