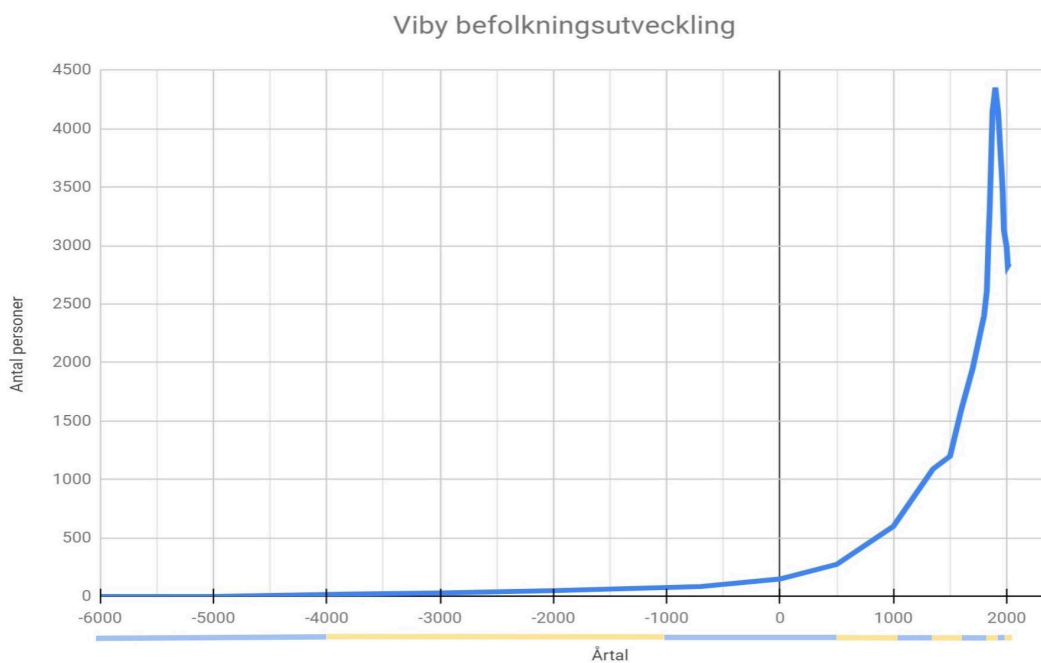


Viby a quick history

Introduction

The goal of the quick history is to be able to more easily follow the accelerating development in Viby from period to period and thus gain a good understanding of the situation in today's Viby. The population curve shows, for example, the increasingly rapid development of agriculture from 4000BCE to the end of the 19th century.

Population in Viby, number of people/year



Each period in the text contains marked sections for landscape changes (always first), technical development (grey color) and local power and organization (blue). The idea is that if you follow one episode at a time for all the periods, you get a better picture of the long lines of development.

I suggest you to start by downloading the 20 maps and charts that are collected in **QhistorySlides**.

In the text section below there are references (picture x) to the pictures/slides.

6000 - 4000BCE Stone Age hunters

Before 6000BCE, the landscape underwent major changes. First all Sweden was covered by ice, then the land surface in the south of Närke formed a mountainous coastal stretch which

before 8800BCE via the Närke-sund was part of the North Sea (picture 3). At Odensvi there was a strait which then formed Vättern's northern outlet. Later, the mountain in south of Viby became the coast of the Baltic Sea after the Närke-sundet was closed.

Shortly before 6000BCE, the Viby plain emerged and the plain lakes were formed. The plain landscape consisted of low drumlines (After the ice age, hills were created on a plain) and longer ridges. Between them lay plain lakes and shallow stream valleys (picture 4). In addition to pine and birch, hazel, alder, oak, elm and willow grew there as well as grass. In the fertile area, animal life was extensive with land animals, birds and fish in the lakes.

Groups of hunters used the plains for seasonal hunting. They wintered in the northern Vättern area or Motala and moved along the Snavlundaleden.

The hunters were equipped with weapons and tools made of stone material, bone and wood.

Archaeological sites are at Västra Backa, Sägebol and Skävi.

4000 - 1000BCE Immigration of farmers

The first cultivation areas consisted of a settlement located on a low drumlin (After the ice age, hills were created on a plain) with silt soil and close to a plain lake (pictures 4 and 5).

The animals grazed on the grassy areas at the plain lakes, which were further expanded with the help of swidden. After a few hundred years, the soil became nutrient-poor and new nearby soils were put to use. The plain landscape changed very slowly. Over time, there were a few cultivation areas near the plain lakes with a few two-nave houses surrounded by small fields and with park-like pastures along the shores of the plain lakes.

Around 4000BCE, a farming population immigrated from the south via the Snavlundaleden. Their culture was called funnel cup culture after the shape of their clay pots. Weapons and tools were still made of stone material. The small fields were worked with digging sticks, which were soon replaced by årder (plough-like tools made of wood).

A settlement at Frotoft has been excavated. The hällkista (A burial place made of stone slabs) at Ybby probably belongs to the funnel cup culture.

Around 2500BCE, a new group of herders and farmers called the boat-axe people, immigrated who probably spoke an Indo-European language. They introduced the horse and had the knowledge of the wheel and carts and made beautiful stone axes with a boat-like shape.

The dominant part of our DNA in Sweden today corresponds to that of the boat ax people. The new immigrants eventually came to dominate the funnel cup culture. It is unclear how it happened.

The leading boat ax families were part of so-called gift economies that could cover larger areas.

Friendships were sealed with gifts such as beautifully crafted stone boat axes. There are several loose finds of boat axes in Viby.

1000BCE - 500CE Manors

The cultivation areas of Skävi, Nalavi and Vikby (picture 5) developed to dominate their surroundings. Grain was grown on fertilized strip plots that were also covering the slopes of larger drumlines. The cultivated areas grew and were surrounded by fences and ever larger areas along the plain lakes were grazed. Around the year 0, the fir began to grow into the midlands between plains and mountain areas. Over time, the houses became larger and three-nave with single room for people and animals.

The field was plowed with årder (Plough-like tools made of wood) drawn by oxen or horses. Tools began to be made of iron and soon even the årder could be reinforced with iron. Wool began to be used for fabrics. At the end of the period, oven-baked bread became increasingly common.

Skävi early became a center for iron handling. As early as 900BCE there was a blast furnace in Sågebol. The complicated knowledge of iron handling perhaps came from aristocratic circles in Östergötland. Skävi developed strongly during the period and became the leading farm. All the leading farms were run by extended families. Smaller farms in the surroundings were run by a family in the family group and in collaboration with the leading farm.

The leading farms in the region were part of networks that usually included Västra Närke. Marital relationships were important.

At the end of the period there were burial grounds with cremation graves at Skävi, at Sörbyhammarn and at Oxaryggen (near Nalavi).

500CE - 1050CE Farm systems that collaborates regionally

The cultivation areas grew and during the period they came to cover the entire plain area, but crop fields and meadows were still a small part of the surface. Parts of the edges of the plain also began to be used, mainly for grazing. The strip plots were now plowed over and larger fields were formed. The shores of the plain lakes were used for gathering grass and pasture was found on the large open fields in the plain area. Simple bridleways connected the farms on the plain, and Västgötaleden and Snavlundaleden were used for long-distance contacts. At the end of the period, log houses began to be built.

Examples of technical innovations: iron harrows, wooden shovels with treads and scythes for harvesting hay.

The three large farms were structured as large farm systems with the leader's farm/manor in the center and other dependant farms in the surrounding (picture 5). The leader's family ran the manor with the help of serfs. On the farm there were also various craftsmen such as blacksmiths. The sons were trained as warriors. At the end of the period, trade was also carried on. The smaller farms were usually run by a family that was part of the leaders family group.

The leaders of Skävi, Vikby and Nalavi were part of networks with direct contact within western Närke, which also meant more long-range influences that extended across all of Scandinavia. The leading farm Nalavi was located by Sörbyhammarn, which was an old local gathering place that developed into

the local court for Vibyslätten and the Hackvad area. After the 9th century, Grimsten's older district was formed, which was a war organization for the same area.

Asatron (The older religion of the northerners is usually also called asatro because their most important gods were asar. Asatron was present in all the Germanic peoples of Northern Europe before Christianity displaced it.) dominated, but at the end of the period, Christianity was known in aristocratic circles.

From the time around 1050 there are signs indicating that a change of power took place in western Närke. Now the royal power could control that the farm Vikby divided land and the royal farm Husby was formed.

Some finds from this time: The Viby bracteate made of gold, A rune stone by the Vikby farm, the Sandtorp treasure, a large silver treasure from the late Viking Ag. Närke's largest burial ground may have had around 400 graves and is found at Stensätter near Nalavi.

1050 - 1350 Villages and landbor (Farmers who cultivate but do not own the land. Owns the cattle and pays land rent). **The church as local center.**

During the 13th century, two shifts began to be introduced, which meant that a field was fallow every two years. The total arable area then increased at the expense of the meadow, which in turn took possession of part of the utmark (Uncultivated forest, mountain or wetland area that is part of a farm). The farm buildings became more and larger and took on a village-like shape with several family-run farms. They began to divide the fields into narrow strips. One for each farm in the village. Farms were newly established on the best soils in the outer areas of the plain (picture 6). The stone church at Vikby and the fortification at Borgholmen became two unusual novelties in the landscape.

Some innovations in agriculture: threshing beater, harrow, better seldon, iron shod spade and watermills.

One or more aristocratic family groups that were close to the royal power took over the ownership of the three large farm systems/estates.

The aristocratic owners no longer lived in Viby, but the management of the estates was taken over by a bryte or a trusted member of the family group and the work was carried out by serfs. The underlying farms were run by landbor (Farmers who cultivate but do not own the land. Owns the cattle and pays land rent). When the serfs began to be freed, they were allowed to run rentpaying farms. Ownership of the estates soon spread through gifts to the monasteries, inheritance, sale, and gifts as political rewards. The new properties were of varying size. The new owners belonged to the most prominent families in Sweden, such as the Bjälboätten family.

At royal urging a stone church was built at the end of the 12th century on the land of the Vikby estate, near Husby. The priest's residence Stommen was separated from Vikby's land. The local court location moved to the church square and Grimsten's district was developed to refer to the legal area.

After 1280, all landowners who fielded riders and horses could be tax-exempt. Most of the farms in Viby became frälse (Farm providing warriors against tax exemption) (picture 7)

In 1280, the designation Vigby parish was used for the first time in writing (image 8). The church financed its activities through the tithe collected by the priest. The king's tax was collected by the bailiff at Örebro house, but since most of the farms in Viby were taxfree, contacts were few.

Surplus from agriculture began to be sold on the market in Örebro.

Some memorials from the time: the foundation wall of the first stone church, a castle ruin, the Viby runsten (Raised stone monument with runic inscription) and a silver ring with a runic inscription.

1350 - 1600 Peasants as warriors, taxes and the black death

The black death caused a temporary population decline at the beginning of the period. Soon the population increased again and the villages grew and more new farms were formed on the plain's outlands. The farmers had a good provision for the agricultural surplus to Örebro and the nearest areas in Bergslagen (often payment in iron). The open fields on the edges of the plain were used more and more for new cultivation (picture 6). Since ancient times, Viby was centrally located between Göta- and Svealandskapen. Eriksgatan (Each new king made a journey through the most important parts of Sweden) went through Viby and both road maintenance and inns along the thoroughfares were handled by the Viby farmers. The Västgötaleden past Bodarne became increasingly important and at the end of the 15th century there was a Ramundeboda monastery for a short time. Viby church was expanded into a large vaulted church in 1421.

The most important technical innovation in agriculture was the introduction of the reversible plough.

The Kalmar union battles during the 15th and early 16th centuries affected Viby on several occasions. The villagers could decide for themselves via the local court which groups they would support.

The taxes in Viby consisted of the tithe to the church for all farms and hospitality (accommodation for officials during travel). Land dwellers on the frälse farms and the Church farms also paid rent to the owner. Payment consisted of in-kind products.

Sven Månsson was born in Frotorp and was a priest in Viby when the reformation began to be implemented in the 1530s. At the end of the 1530s, Sven married Sigrid, who became the first priest-wife in several hundred years. It took almost 100 years before the new rules of faith were fully implemented.

The state now governed local life. The priest was the leading person in the parish and chairman of the parish meeting. The local court was handled by the häradshövding (Chairman of a local court) and nämndemän (Jury members) and the taxes and police by the länsman (Responsible for taxes and order within a district) and fjärdingsmän (Part-time help to the länsman to keep order within a parish).

In the event of war, there had previously been a system of enlisting warriors. In the 1550s, the rote system was established, which in Viby meant that 20 villagers appointed and maintained a full-time jack.

In 1568, Duke Karl got his own duchy, which he ran with an iron fist. An effective local tax organization was created based on a list of the taxing power of all the farms in the local court area. In addition a länsman named Bengt Birgersson was appointed, he had good knowledge of his farmers and their farms.

Taxes were tightened and hospitality was now charged as tax. Various additional taxes were added. Payment was made with in-kind products and services that were negotiated between Birgersson and the farmers.

After Gustav Wasa's confiscation of land from Vadstena and Riseberga monasteries in 1600, 70% were frälse and 30% belonged to the state/Crown (image 7). The frälse farms were run by landbor and the crown farms by families on roughly the same terms. On larger farms maids and servants now worked instead of serfs.

1600 - 1800 Estates, private ownership of land and rote division

The plain area was densely populated with villages of various sizes and single farms as well as three manor houses with a manor-like main building and a village for agricultural operations. The division of inheritance meant that the number of farms in the village increased. From the 18th century, there was a shortage of manure because the arable area had increased greatly at the expense of the meadow and a need for more animal husbandry arose. There were large local utmarker (Uncultivated forest, mountain or wetland area) on and around the plain as well as own by the state/Crown (image 9). New establishments on the utmarker continued with smaller farms/crofts that were suitable for animal husbandry. At the end of the period, farms/crofts were also established on land own by the Crown.

Storskifte began to be carried out at the end of the 18th century. The individual farms in the village now had their soil collected in their own fields near the farm plot.

The Bodarne area belonged to Viby until 1647 and thus a large part of the forests no longer belonged to Viby (picture 9).

Technical innovations: the iron harrow and roller began to be widely used during the period. Carts were increasingly used for transport. At the end of the 18th century, the scythe began to be used for harvesting grain.

The war economy during the 17th century meant a harsh governance locally in Viby. The länsman was a government official who was responsible for the law and order, legal matters (readers of the law and judges), taxes and follow-up of central decisions within the district. The parish priest in Viby was the undisputed spiritual and political leader (as help there were assistant priests, klockare and sexmen). He was a government official and a very important task was to motivate the people for the war effort.

Several farms became officers' residences and armories (tax exemption from providing horsemen and equipment) and crofts were assigned to rote soldiers. The discharge of jacks for the war was burdensome, but affordable in Viby because only half the normal number needed to stand up (as an example: in 1681 7 jacks were discharged). The reason was that the transport and road maintenance was extensive for the farmers on the important thoroughfares. In the

middle of the 17th century, Vretstorp's inn was established and there were now 3 inns. In 1636, a postal line was established between Gothenburg and Stockholm through Viby (during the 18th century there were 3 post houses with postiljon). The district of Grimstens appointed a member of parliament every year who was usually a landbo (Farmers who cultivate but do not own the land. Own the cattle and pays land rent).

The period of peace during the 18th century meant new changes in Viby. The ownership of land began to change. The rule that the owner of a frälse farm (Farm whose owner does services for the state against tax exemption. The owner does not live on the farm) should be noble was changed in several rounds, and scattered frälse farms began to be sold to country people, but were still designated as frälse. The state needed money and crown estates began to be sold and thus became tax estates. The group of farmers now consisted of landbor (Farmers who cultivate but do not own the land. Owns the cattle and pays land rent) and homesteaders, and the group of propertyless people consisted of torpare (User of smaller farm that the family does not own. Perform work for the owner) and backstugsittare (Lives in a house with little land and lives on paid work) (see pictures 7, 14). During the 18th century, the parish assembly became increasingly involved in school issues as well as health and poor care. The local courthouse was moved from the church to Vretstorp's inn and in 1820 a new courthouse was built on the site.

1800 - 1900 The village disappears, sjösänkningar (Plain lakes are dug out and new agricultural land is created) and railway communities

During the 19th century, extensive changes were made to the landscape. After 1827, the villages began to be organized according to laga skifte (The village's land is divided up and with each farm's land and buildings gathered in one area). The village community disappeared over time. The plain landscape with some manor houses and single farms was created and in the forest areas there were small farms and crofts. The residential buildings were fitted with chimneys and window glass and painted with Falu red paint. At the end of the 19th century, a vestibule with carpentry was added.

The plain lakes were formed 8000 years ago. They became shallower over time but at different rates, but during spring floods and torrential rains they were flooded. The first lowering of the lakes began with Lake Vibysjön in 1857 and continued into the 20th century. Large areas of land now became new farmland.

The biggest change in Viby came after 1860. The main railway between Stockholm and Gothenburg was built through Viby and with 2 railway stations (Vretstorp and Laggartorp/Östansjö) around which stationssamhällen (Densely built-up area around a railway station. Trade, service and housing.) soon grew up.

Some technical news at the beginning of the 19th century. Breeding gave access to larger horses and high-milking cows (see picture 13). Better carts and wagons for longer transports of agricultural products (Örebro, Bergslagen), later also long-distance transports via rail.

At the end of the 19th century came a stream of news. Mowing machines, walking threshers, fertilisers, seeding machines. Korntal (One grain sown gives number of grain in harvest) (picture 12) the number of grains increased during the 19th century. In the 1840s crop rotation began to be introduced on farms. Other farms followed successively. In addition, potato cultivation spread widely.

Some examples of other innovations are: steam technology (railway locomotives, sawmills, dairy, locomobile for threshing and mills) and 1883 Vretstorp's telephone association (you could soon call over 700 subscribers in Örebro County).

During the 19th century, the population initially increased sharply (image 15). It was mainly due to reduced child mortality and a better nutritional intake. After 1875, a reduction of the population started that was due to emigration to urban areas and emigration. Labor shortages arose in agriculture and farmers began to introduce labour-saving technological innovations. The share of the population of the group "the propertyless" or torpare (User of smaller farm that the family does not own. Perform work for the owner.) and backstugsittare (Lives in a house with little land and lives on paid work) increased from 30 to 50 percent (Figure 14). The old basic taxes on agricultural property were removed and in 1902 a progressive tax based on self-declaration income was decided. The manors (Large farm system with dominant main building. The owner lives there and the farm is managed by employees) could now be owned by non-noble persons. The landbor (Farmers who cultivate but do not own the land. Owns the cattle and pays land rent) of the frälse farms (Farm whose owner does services for the state against tax exemption. The owner does not live on the farm) now bought out their farms and also some residents on torp (A smaller farm that the family does not own. Perform work for the owner) and backstugor (A house with little land that the family does not own. Lives on paid work) started to buy their farms.

In 1862, Örebro county council was created as the head of the kommun (Replaces the parish. Politically elected management). The Municipal Act of 1862 meant significant changes for Viby residents. The parish disappeared and the importance of the state and the church decreased and local self-government increased. Viby parish was now called Viby kommun, which was divided into an ecclesiastical municipality for ecclesiastical matters and school (until 1930 then municipal school) and a civil municipality for all other matters.

During the 19th century, the school's goals changed from religious education to more non-religious knowledge. The wave of spiritual revival that spread in the country outside the church was noticed in the 1830s and 40s.

In the countryside there was some production, for example: shoe manufacturing via publishers around Laggartorp, In Kårkulla threshing machines were manufactured, in Körtingsberg there was a windmill and a dairy. In addition, Viby Sparbank ran its banking business in Viby parish cottage until 1881, then the office was moved to Fredriksberg's school. In the late 1840s, the first country store started in Højda. In 1866, market days for farm goods and livestock started at Vretstorp's inn 1 - 2 times a week and once a year a so-called free market was held in November.

After 1862, the transport pattern in Viby changed. Two passenger trains stopped daily at Vretstorp station. Wagons for goods traffic were also connected to the passenger wagons. Freight traffic started slowly, but Vretstorp station soon became a center for the transport of goods. After the introduction of the railway, the nature of road traffic changed. The number of people and the amount of goods increased in total, but the long-distance through traffic via the Västgötaleden decreased at the same time that the connection traffic to Vretstorp station became large. The commodity flows of agricultural products to the cities were now concentrated

at Vretstorp station. The iron deliveries from Lerbäck largely went via the station. Everything was delivered by horse and cart. Travelers with stagecoaches and residents of Viby got off and on the trains. Many took the opportunity to shop in the stores. Trade and services grew rapidly (Figure 17). The similarity to the Wild West was probably great. In 1881 Vretstorp's inn was moved to Sällershög. At the end of the 1890s, Vretstorp's hotel was built opposite the post office. During the 1890s, a number of craft and industrial investments were made. 1890 Adolfs carpentry (craftsmanship), 1890 a windmill on Vretstorpsåsen, 1893 Askvik's carpentry (craftsmanship), 1893 Vretstorp's dairy and the sawmill that was powered by steam (southeast railway crossing). In 1900, 383 people lived in Vretstorp. A society had now been built there that was completely different from the surrounding countryside.

In 1882, the railwaystation was inaugurated at Laggartorp (moved in 1907 to Östansjö), which quickly developed into a smaller residential center. In 1900 there were about 20 families (mostly shoemakers), several shops, post office, a small private church, a glove maker, a shoe manufacturing plant.

1900 - 1945 Agriculture and growing urban areas with private trade and industry

The agriculture settlement on the plains did not change much, but it was split up among many owners. In the forest area, a large-scale closure of unprofitable small farms and arable farms began. The industrisamhällen grew with new buildings for trade, service, production and housing.

At the beginning of the period, extensive rationalization activities were carried out in agriculture to replace the lack of labor and to increase production. Mainly on large and medium-sized farms. Some examples: tractors, electrification, self-binders, motor-driven threshers, korntal (One grain sown gives number of grain in harvest) (picture 12), milk yield (picture 13), milking machines, barbed wire replaced hank fence farms, etc. During the 1930s, the government carried out a price regulation of agriculture to increase production.

Rural population decline continued. (picture 15), The most important reasons for the population decline were emigration abroad, emigration to cities/urban areas, the mechanization of agriculture and the ever-lower birth rate, as well as the fact that many arable farms became unprofitable and were closed down.

Public events: In 1906, the courthouse was moved from Vretstorp to Hallsberg. In 1913, a national pension was introduced. In 1918, Viby country municipality was organized into a governing municipal council and an executive municipal committee that managed the municipality's day-to-day work. The legendary chairman of the municipal board was David Aronsson from 1936. In the 1920s, a doctor's office, in 1925 the municipality formed its own police district subordinate to the county prosecutor (county council). In 1930, the municipal tax in Viby was SEK 4.50 per SEK 100 income. In 1931, sickness funds were introduced, in 1937 Örebro County's southern road district was placed in Vretstorp. In order to be able to tax the municipalsamhällen (densely built-up area with its own taxation) separately, Östansjö municipalsamhälle was formed in 1943 and Vretstorp municipalsamhälle in 1945.

Some technical news: After 1910, electrification started with lighting and electric motors and in 1926 the railway line was electrified. Before World War II, motorized vehicles began to appear. As early as 1914, the first car was at Vretstorp's hotel. In the 1930s, there was a radio in most homes.

Population growth in the municipalsamhällen was strong. Immigration took place both from the countryside and other locations. Housing construction was extensive around the railway-stations. See examples from Vretstorp (pictures 19 and 20). Passenger and freight transport on the railway was extensive. In Vretstorp there were connecting bus lines to Askersund and Fjugesta. Industries were set up. The first shoe factory in Östansjö was established in the 1920s. Vretstorp's threshing machines factory started in 1923.

Trade flourished in the urban areas. In Vretstorp there were the following shops in 1940: Ironmonger 1, Country store 4, Meat shop 1, Milk 1, Kiosk 1, Cafe and bakery 3, Furniture 1, Women's/men's clothing, textiles, yarn 5, Shoes, leather 3, Bicycle and sports 2, Watches and optics 1, Tobacco and paper 1, Men's and women's hairdresser 2, Tailor 1, Cinema 1, Hotel 1, Bank 1.

In 1939, there were the following workplaces in Östansjö: 3 shoe factories, cement brick manufacturing, sawmills, tailors, butchers, 4 grocery stores, 1 patisserie, 1 home bakery, 1 charcuterie store, 1 manufacturing store, 1 electrical goods store, 1 guest house with kiosk and 1 nursery.

The State church of Sweden and The freelance movement was very active during the period. At the beginning of the 20th century there were prayer houses in Körtingsberg, Folkatorp, Tystinge, Törntorp, Vretstorp and Stenkulla (Evangelical Lutheran), in Lybby and Berga (Baptist) and in Gatugårda (Helgelseförbundet). From the beginning of the 20th century, the Friends of Pentecost, the Philadelphia congregation and the Salvation Army were added. Other associations were: Sports associations in Vretstorp and Östansjö, NTO, Red Cross. During the Second World War, the Home Guard and women's defense organizations were very active.

1945 - now Agriculture is industrialized and the industrisamhällen (Densely built-up area with production, trade, service and housing) become suburbs.

The landscape continued to change: motoring took off after the Second World War and local and national roads were expanded. Motorway was built in Viby in 1972 and 1995. The industrisamhällen continued their expansion until the 1970s, after that only residential construction developed. The electrical transformer station at Odensvi was built in the 1950s. The plain landscape was changed to a limited extent, but the farm buildings were modernized. Agricultural activities on smaller farms were shut down. Rational forest management, including clear cutting, changed the forest areas.

Technical innovations that changed Viby during the post-war period.

Transportation revolutions: Towards the end of the 1950s, most families had a car. Local shops found it difficult to compete (Figure 17). Municipal services were centralized to Hallsberg and passenger traffic on the railway was reduced. Work commuting is now done by car. Bus traffic in the 1940s and 1950s was intense, but it too had difficulties with competition from the car. The

breakthrough of the tractor after the war revolutionized agriculture. During the 1950s, horse-drawn transport was outcompeted by the lorry and in the 1960s the railway also felt the competition. In the mid-1980s, the last passenger transport by train disappeared.

Today, transport is a global phenomenon where we at Viby have access to products from all over the world and can basically travel wherever we want.

The electronics revolution: During the 1960s and 1970s, most families gained access to increasingly cheaper and better refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, electric stoves, washing machines, televisions and music systems. In the 1990s came the home computer and in the 2000s the mobile phone and network communication. An important consequence for more and more Viby residents is that it is now possible to manage work from home.

The mass media revolution. daily and weekly newspapers increased greatly after the war and radio was popular. There were cinemas in both Östansjö and Vretstorp. Most families soon got a phone. In the 1950s came the TV. Home computers began to appear in the 1990s. In the 2000s came the Internet, social media, mobile phones etc. The mass media revolution means that the differences between rural regions and metropolitan regions are decreasing.

Political changes

In 1956, the municipal communities were dissolved and the large municipality of Viby (incl. Tåneråsa) was formed. In 1965, Viby merged with Hallsberg, which soon became Hallsberg's municipality. The modern municipal service was quickly built up and is now in Hallsberg. The church was separated from the state.

The Riksdag, central government agencies, county councils and to some extent even the EU now remotely control life in Viby.

Rural depopulation continued until the 1970s, but production could be maintained through price regulation, consolidation into fewer farming units and extensive mechanization. After the 1970s, the population leveled off and now approximately the same number of people lived in the countryside as in Vretstorp and Östansjö, respectively (Figure 15). Many in rural areas commute to work or are holidaymakers.

During the 1950s and 1960s, agriculture underwent extensive development with plant breeding, animal breeding, artificial fertilizers, chemical control of weeds and pests, and mechanization.

During the 1960s, dissatisfaction with the regulated agricultural policy was great. Farmers had not received the standard increase they had been looking forward to, consumers felt that food prices were too high and municipalities lost residents and thus tax revenue at a time of increasing investment. In 1991, a completely new agricultural policy with market prices was introduced.

From In the 1970s, agriculture developed towards an increasingly high-tech industry. The tractor's uses developed, then came combine harvesters, agrochemicals and electrical-electronic equipment. The cost structure changed from labor-intensive operations to capital-intensive ones. Fewer people could now produce more using advanced equipment. The mixed farms disappeared and the agricultural companies specialized in e.g. dairy farms, meat farms, pig farms, grain farms, stud farms, horse farms, commercial gardens or part-time farming.

Agriculture in the 21st century has become a high-tech, specialized industry with a limited number of employees who cultivate approximately the same area as at the end of the 19th century. Agriculture on the Vibyslätten is dominated by about ten production units, each of which engages in large-scale agriculture on several farms, which may be owned or leased. "Other production units" are estimated to consist of around 25 - 35 medium-sized farms.

1945 – 1970 Vretstorp and Östansjö expand.

The period is often referred to as the golden age of industrialism. Business grew in Vretstorp and Östansjö. The manufacturing companies that existed in Viby after the war were based on agriculture and forestry. There were mills, silo facilities, dairies, threshing mill manufacturing, shoe industry (raw material leather), sawmills, furniture and carpentry manufacturing, pottery factory, cement foundry. The good times meant that companies had good demand and were able to grow. There were also mechanical workshops with other more technical products, e.g. conveyors, hydraulic steering devices, etc.

The post-war expansion of industry and agriculture and the good wage trend meant that trade and service activities in particular were initially profitable, but shops soon became exposed to competition from motoring to large shopping areas. New residential areas sprung up in the industrisamhällena (Densely built-up area with production, trade, service and housing) (pictures 19 and 20).

1970 – now Vretstorp and Östansjö change from industrisamhällena (Densely built-up area with production, trade, service and housing) to förorter (Densely built-up area with housing and low service near a larger town).

At the end of the 1970s, an industrial crisis arose in Sweden. The expansion stopped during the 1960s. First, the shoe industry suffered from declining profitability and closures. The traditional mechanical workshop companies had increasing problems and during the 1970s and 1980s they were successively closed down. Mills, dairies and sawmills were simultaneously centralized to locations outside Viby.

Shops with special focus were closed down at the beginning of the period. The growth of motoring in the late 1950s first meant that it became easier for the rural population to shop in Vretstorp och Östansjö, but from the late 1960s the competition from nearby centers such as Hallsberg and Örebro became too difficult and trade became increasingly difficult. Declining population figures and worse times during the 1970s started a downward spiral for trade, services and crafts that was only slowed in the 2000s (Figure 17).

The number of inhabitants in Vretstorp began to decline during the 1970s, but has recently stabilized and is now increasing slightly. Östansjö has grown since the 1940s thanks to its proximity to Hallsberg and Örebro and thus the possibility of commuting. At the beginning of the 2000s, Östansjö and Vretstorp had roughly the same population (picture 15). The residential areas continue to develop, but at a slower pace.

The communities of Vretstorp and Östansjö have developed from industrial communities to suburbs where people live and commute by car to work, supermarkets, etc.

A short summary

From the year 4000BCE until now, the leading occupation in Viby has been agriculture. During the 20th century, trade and industry were a good second.

One can also note the increasingly accelerating pace of technological development and the consequences for Viby.

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