



Merry Christmas!

Snow swirling through a winter evening brings with it a familiar feeling – a quiet sense that Christmas is drawing near.

At this time of year, many of us find ourselves reflecting on past Christmases. In childhood family gatherings, the greatest magic was often found in different generations sitting around the same table, the familiar murmur of conversation, and the comforting feeling of belonging to something lasting.

A family society can offer that same sense of togetherness. It also provides meaningful opportunities to gather – just the kind many of us begin to long for as Christmas approaches.

In the Luoma-Mielty family, we are descendants of Henrik Antti's son and Kaisa Antti's daughter. Over the centuries, the family lived on its ancestral farms in Southern Ostrobothnia, later gradually settling across different parts of Finland and beyond.

The stories of these farms, villages and journeys together form part of the Ostrobothnian continuum of generations – a story to which we all belong.

Our family roots give us continuity in a time when many things are changing rapidly. This was evident in August in Seinäjoki, when our family gathered for its tenth family reunion. Many first-time participants attended, eager to explore their ancestral paths and family history. Interest extended beyond parish records alone, reaching further back in time. DNA research carried out within the family is opening doors to an even older, fascinating past.

While we fondly remember last summer's reunion, our gaze is already turning to the future. The next family reunion is planned to take place in Seinäjoki on 5 August 2028.

In addition, we wish to create more opportunities to meet. In the coming years, we will also organise smaller family gatherings, theatre visits and excursions in different parts of Finland. We hope these will create opportunities for family members to meet, share news and continue strengthening our shared heritage.



The participants gathered for a joint photograph at the family reunion. Photo: Seppälä Photo Studio



According to Kari-Matti Piilahti, the Henrik Luoma-Mielty Family Society carries out modern family association activities.



The new honorary members of the Henrik Luoma-Mielty Family Society are Erkki Hautala, Seppo Luhtasaari, Lauri Rantamäki, Helena Jussila, Seija Knookala, Arja-Leena Rajala, Erkki Trompari and Matti Korpiaho.

FAMILY REUNION IN SEINÄJOKI

The family gathered on Saturday, 2 August 2025, in Seinäjoki at the Frami building of the University Centre to celebrate its tenth family reunion. Around 160 participants attended.

The day offered opportunities to meet one another, share memories, and learn about current family research and the future of the society's activities. Before the celebration and during the programme's coffee breaks, participants could explore their own family lines leading back to Henrik and Kaisa at dedicated information points.

The event was hosted by Jaana Puskala. The devotional moment was led by Reverend Aino Vesti, and the music was provided by accordionist Jaakko Rajala. The Chair of the Family Society, Matti Korpiaho, welcomed the guests, and in the keynote speech, Kari-Matti Piilahti, Executive Director of Finland's Family History Association (FFHA), spoke about the wide range of activities family societies can develop in addition to publishing family books and organising reunions. The programme also included a nostalgic video from the family's first reunion in Isokyrö in 1998.

International guests arrived from Canada: Lorne Mielty and Trine, as well as Stephanie and Andreas Hinkkala. The programme also featured presentations on the development of the society's website, the family's Y-DNA research, and a new e-book on the descendants of Maria Tuomaantytär.

Eight members were awarded honorary membership of the Family Society, and Arja-Leena Rajala received the Silver Medal of Merit for Finnish Genealogy awarded by the Finnish Genealogy Society. After the celebration, members gathered for the annual meeting, where Jaana Puskala was elected as the new Chair. Long-serving Chair Matti Korpiaho was elected Vice Chair.

Happy New Year!

EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

During the year, the Family Society took part in the national Suku 2025 event held in Turku on 15–16 March. The society's exhibition stand was hosted by Markku and Kalevi Kortessmaa together with Matti Korpiaho, with assistance from Venla Valkama, who lives in Turku.

Visitors had the opportunity to explore family materials and ask whether they might have roots in the Luoma-Mielty family. The event also offered an excellent opportunity to connect with others working in the field. Genealogical events provide rich experiences and help to deepen family research.

In August, following tradition, the Family Society participated in the 18th-century market in Isokyrö as well as the Peräseinäjoki market, where the weekend was filled with activity and lively encounters.

On Saturday, 18 October, the Family Society organised its first local gathering in Tampere at the Vapriikki Museum in connection with a themed day on genetic genealogy. Fifteen members from the Pirkanmaa region attended. Participants discussed their family roots and shared stories from different branches. A presentation on DNA test results by Markku Kortessmaa sparked lively discussion and served as an excellent introduction to the theme of the day.



The family society took part in the 18th-century market in Isokyrö and the Peräseinäjoki market. The top photo shows the Suku 2025 event in Turku.



The family association organised its first regional family meeting in Tampere in connection with the Genetic Genealogy Theme Day.

Upcoming in March 2026



Family gathering and self-paid lunch on 21 March in Seinäjoki at Restaurant Alma from 11:30 to 13:30, followed by the play "Vales-Jaakkoo" at the Arina Theatre at 14:00.

The family society has a limited number of discounted tickets available for the performance.

Tickets can be purchased from the society's online shop:

luomamieltynsuku.fi/tuote/teatterilippu

Lorne Mielty, who lives on Vancouver Island in Canada, at the grave of his great-great-grandfather Matti Mielty (1828–1913) in Isokyrö.



Peräseinäjoki Church.

Photo: Kotivalo, Wikipedia CC BY-SA



PUBLICATIONS AND FAMILY RESEARCH

Six volumes of the Henrik Luoma-Mielty Family book series have been published. The latest release is a significantly expanded second edition of Volume 2, focusing on the descendants of Maria Tuomaantytär. This digital e-book contains three times as many individuals as the previously printed version.

The new e-book and volumes 1–6 can be ordered from the Family Society's website luomamieltynsuku.fi or from the Vice Chair, Matti Korpiaho (matti.korpiaho@gmail.com).

Part 1 Kuusi vanhinta sukupolvea, 30 €

Part 2 Maria Tuomaantytär Luoman jälkeläiset, 20 €

Part 2 E-book version Maria Tuomaantytär Luoman jälkeläiset, 25 € / 35 €

Part 3 Simo Henrikinpoika Mieltyin jälkeläiset, 40 €

Part 4 Heikki Björnin, Kaarle Myllärin ja Juho Vähä-Minnin jälkeläiset, 40 €

Part 5 Antti Tuomaanpoika Luoman jälkeläiset, 40 €

Part 6 Helena Tuomaantytär Viitasaaren ja Liisa Tuomaantytär Kihniän jälkeläiset, 50 €

Pins as well as T-shirts for adults and children are also available on the Family Society's website.



Family data updates continue actively within the Family Society. We still rely on the help of relatives, especially in updating information on family members who lived in the 20th century. In addition to birth, marriage and death records, we also seek to enrich our research by collecting life stories of family members.



Please contact us via our website luomamieltynsuku.fi, email, Facebook or by phone.

*We wish you
a Merry Christmas*

Board of the Henrik Luoma-Mielty
Family Society