

Krookka Harbor, as reflected in this artist's painting, was the last place in Finland many emigrants saw.

**Submitted by Kaj Rekola**

## Lily's dream

**R**oots in Finland is a European Union-supported project to create an Internet-based searchable database of emigration records (passport and church records), travel (passenger lists) and U.S. and Canadian immigration and census records on emigrants from the Northern Satakunta region in western Finland, mostly in the early 1900s.

A region in southwestern Finland, called Pohjois-Satakunta, includes the following parishes, towns, or cities: Merikarvia at the shores of Bay of Bothnia, Honkajoki, Ikaalinen, Jämijärvi, Kankaanpää, Karvia, Kihniö, Parkano, Pomarkku, and Siikainen.

This region has in the past experienced a large-scale emigration to Canada, the United States, Australia, and Sweden. In many cases, the descendants of the emigrants have lost track of their kin in Finland.

The ever increasing use of social media and English as lingua franca worldwide has created interest among descendants of Finnish immigrants to search for their roots in Finland and contact their kin.

The objective of the Merikarvia Seura association is to assist these descendants of Finnish emigrants in their search by collecting historical information and stories about the emigrants and creating a data bank on the web for searching of one's roots in Finland.

Suddenly, Lily awakens from her dream, startled. She feels strange. How come her dream felt so real? She must wake her husband James and tell him about her dream. It's only 4 o'clock in the morning, but James, still half asleep, asks Lily to tell him her dream. Yesterday, Lily started thinking about her own roots, after a friend told about her interest in genealogy. Her friend's grandparents were also born in Finland. Now Lily recalls that her grandparents used to tell stories about how their relatives had made a long and wild journey over the ocean from a distant land to the country where they now live. James falls asleep again, but Lily keeps mulling over the matter. Now she is sure about what she is going to do. She had thought about this before, but now she will start searching for her roots.

Back in the early 1900s in the Old Country. It is early morning in the Krookka harbor in Merikarvia. A thin mist is floating above the sea. The cure house smokestacks are puffing smoke, the smell of smoked fish is spreading into the air. The harbor is filled with the tense hum of voices and seagulls' screeches. Small waves are rippling at the water's edge. The boat captains call for the last travellers on the shore to embark the boats. The long journey via Reposaari to a great unknown world will begin. The mood is tangible, a new country, a new continent, a long voyage over the ocean, is there a return? We must go now.

Does Lily's dream sound familiar to you? Would you like to find your Roots in Finland?

The Roots in Finland database (<http://www.sukujensilta.com/>) is still under construction and is not yet available for searching. It will be translated into English as well. It is based on passport and passenger list records in Finland. Many records are incomplete, such as birth dates and even last names. In many cases, the names, birth dates, and even the home parish may differ from records in the U.S. The names might have been spelled differently. Even the country of origin might be recorded as Russia.

Siirtolaisinstituutti - The Migration Institute in Turku, Finland provides a limited searchable database at <http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/fi/sukututkimus/siirtolaisrekisteri/>.

To complete the database with information from the U.S. and Canada regarding destinations, census, and death records, it is important for the project's success to get that information. If you think that your ancestors hail from the Pohjois-Satakunta region, and you have the above information, please contact the project's contact person in the Americas: Kaj Rekola, 2367 Laura Lane, Mountain View, CA 94043, 650-799-7945, [krekola@gmail.com](mailto:krekola@gmail.com)

15	Sipi, Sippo
16	Kai
17	Väino, Väinämö
18	Kaino
19	Eija
20	Heli, Helinä
21	Keijo
22	Tuulikki, Tuuli
23	Aslak
24	Matti, Mattias
25	Tuija, Tuire
26	Nestori
27	Torsti
28	Onni

## KALEVALA DAY

## February Name Days

**FAR EXISTS BECAUSE OF  
DONORS LIKE:**

**JOHN MAKINEN • Kaleva, Mich.**

**KAREN MICHAEL • Sun Lakes, Ariz.**



**CONCORDIA**  
LANGUAGE VILLAGES

**Salolampi**  
Finnish Language Village



**Register for Finnish Language Programs!**