

FEDJESTAD (FEGGESTAD)

(Translated from Lars Fr. Nuland's BYGDBOK FRA GYLAND Second Edition -1973)
[original translation by Olga Nuland Nelson, transcribed here by Ken Larson]

The first part of the farm name is "fitjar" (meadow near water) which means good marshy soil. The name has been written differently during the years. In 1594 it was Fiddisdall. In 1618 and 1668 Fiddisdal. In more recent times some write it Feggestad and others Fidjestad. The most usual spelling is Fedjestad.

If you look at a survey map (chart), you will find that Fedjestad and Kongesvoll lie adjacent in a large field (plain) with Homma being the nearest neighboring farm to the east and Grøtteland-Lian in the southeast. Kongevoll and Fedjestad were most likely together from the beginning and the earliest living place was most likely the hilly part where the pile of stones from clearing Rygla is. Later they moved further into the valley, but the first settlers liked best the hilly ground that was already stonefree and dry. They couldn't do much with ditches, and the hills were more frostfree.

Fedjestad is one of three full farms in Gyland, that is, where there are 4 huder in one relationship. It has been farm property from earliest times to the present.

POPULATION

The first names I have found is from 1594. It was listed as Sveinung and Brynild on Fedjestad. During the Kalmar War of 1611, Fedjestad is with Fedog in outfitting Peder Fedjestad as soldier, while Gunnar Fedjestad was soldier for Heggland, Li, and Nuland. [Kalmar War was conflict begun in 1611 by Christian IV of Denmark against Charles IX of Sweden and terminated in 1613 by Gustavus of Sweden, who bought off the Danish claims at the Peace of Knared. The war took its name from the fall of Kalmar to the Danes early in the conflict. – This note was added by Olga Nelson from THE COLUMBIA ENCYCLOPEDIA Second Edition 1950).

In 1613 there is listed Knut and Ivar as cotters (tenant farmers) on Fedjestad. There are also named in the tax roll of 1620. In 1625 there is also a Salve named. In the jordbok (book setting forth the ownership of the lands) of 1618, it lists Fedjestad as being 4 huder (a full farm) plus 1 eng. plus 1 'odegaard" (a freehold or ancestral farm based on the rights of ownership of farm or property held by a family for over 20 years). This is probably Skåland mentioned here, and which you can see marks of in Fedjestad-land. Those who owned land in Fedjestad in 1618 were:

Brynild 2 hud, 6 ½eng; Ivar 16 ½eng; Didrik Flikke ½hud; Sveinung 1 hud 6 ½ eng (but there must be error in this reckoning as it equals more than 4 hud 1 eng.).

In 1649 Fedjestad is listed as 4 huder 1 eng. of this Ivar is taxed for 8½, Håvard 10½, Knut 8¼, Tron 8¼, Gunnar 8 ½,Nils 5 ½, which equals 49eng. or 4 huder 1 eng. Of this

the owners are Jorjus Homma 8 eng; Knut Røyseland 1 1/3 hud; Ivar and Tron 1 hud each and the Gyland Church the remainder. As we can see, many are merely renters or tenants.

In 1661, there are some new folks. "Ivar Didrikssøn owns and operates 8 eng. Håvard Ivarsøn 2-2/3 eng and rents from Knut Røseland 8 eng; Lauritz Jennsøn owns and operates 8 eng; Stian owns and operates 5-1/3 eng, Torjus Homma owns 5-1/3 engt that Peder uses. Stian Gundersøn owns with his brothers and sisters 2-2/3 eng and works it himself. Olle Eriksdall (?) owns Odel (freehold) and a mortgage on 8 eng that Tron Sveinungsøn uses, and all use the 1 eng that belongs to the church."

At this time, there was at Fedjestad "2 mills in the creek and 'schouf' for the outbreak of fire."

In the census of 1664, these farmers are at Fedjestad: "Ivar Didriksøn, Lauritz Joensøn, Håvard Ivarsøn, Stigan Gundersøn, Peder Torgiussøn, Staale Tronsøn. Sons: Knud Håvardson, Boys and Tenants: Gointer Torsøn, Erik Tollaksøn, Peder Taraldsøn"

On Fedjestad there is an upper land and a lower farm. There are also other names on some of the lands used. There is Kyrkjeskaret (the church pass or gap) and Berkjeland (to remove the bark from a log). There is also one of the lands worked that they call Krabban (crab), the name being most likely of a later date. Many of the owners can claim long time ownership. One of these is Ivarsetta.

(O.N. Note- this is the geneological line of Karen Fedjestad Gyland – Mrs. Ole Gunnafson Gyland)