



Did You know that

Tallinn has one of Estonia's oldest wooden churches?

Located at the Estonian Open Air Museum, Sutlepa Chapel is one of two wooden churches to have survived in Estonia from Swedish times. Originally located in the Village of Sutlepa in Lääne County, the chapel is mentioned in archival sources as early as 1627, while the year on the outside of the door frame is 1699.

Tiesitkö, että Tallinnassa sijaitsee yksi Viron vanhimmista puukirkoista?

Viron ulkoilmamuseossa sijaitseva Sutlepan kappeli on toinen Virossa säilyneistä Ruotsin vallan aikaisista puukirkoista. Alun perin Läänemaalla Sutlepan kylässä sijainnut kappeli mainitaan arkistolähteissä jo vuonna 1627, ovenkarmin ulkokaarella on vuosiluku 1699.

Знаете ли вы, что в Таллинне стоит одна из старейших в Эстонии деревянных церквей?

Находящаяся в Эстонском музее под открытым небом часовня Сутлепа — одна из двух сохранившихся в Эстонии деревянных церквей шведского периода. Первоначально она пребывала в деревне Сутлепа Ляэнемааского уезда и впервые упоминается в архивном источнике уже в 1627 году, а на внешней арке ее дверного косяка есть дата — 1699.

Kas teadsid, et Tallinnas asub üks Eesti vanimaid puukirikuid?

Eesti Vabaõhumuuseumis paiknev Sutlepa kabel on üks kahest Eestis säilinud rootsiaegsest puukirikust. Algselt Läänemaal Sutlepa külas asunud kabelit mainitakse arhiiviallikais juba 1627. aastal, uksepiida väliskaarel on aastaarv 1699.



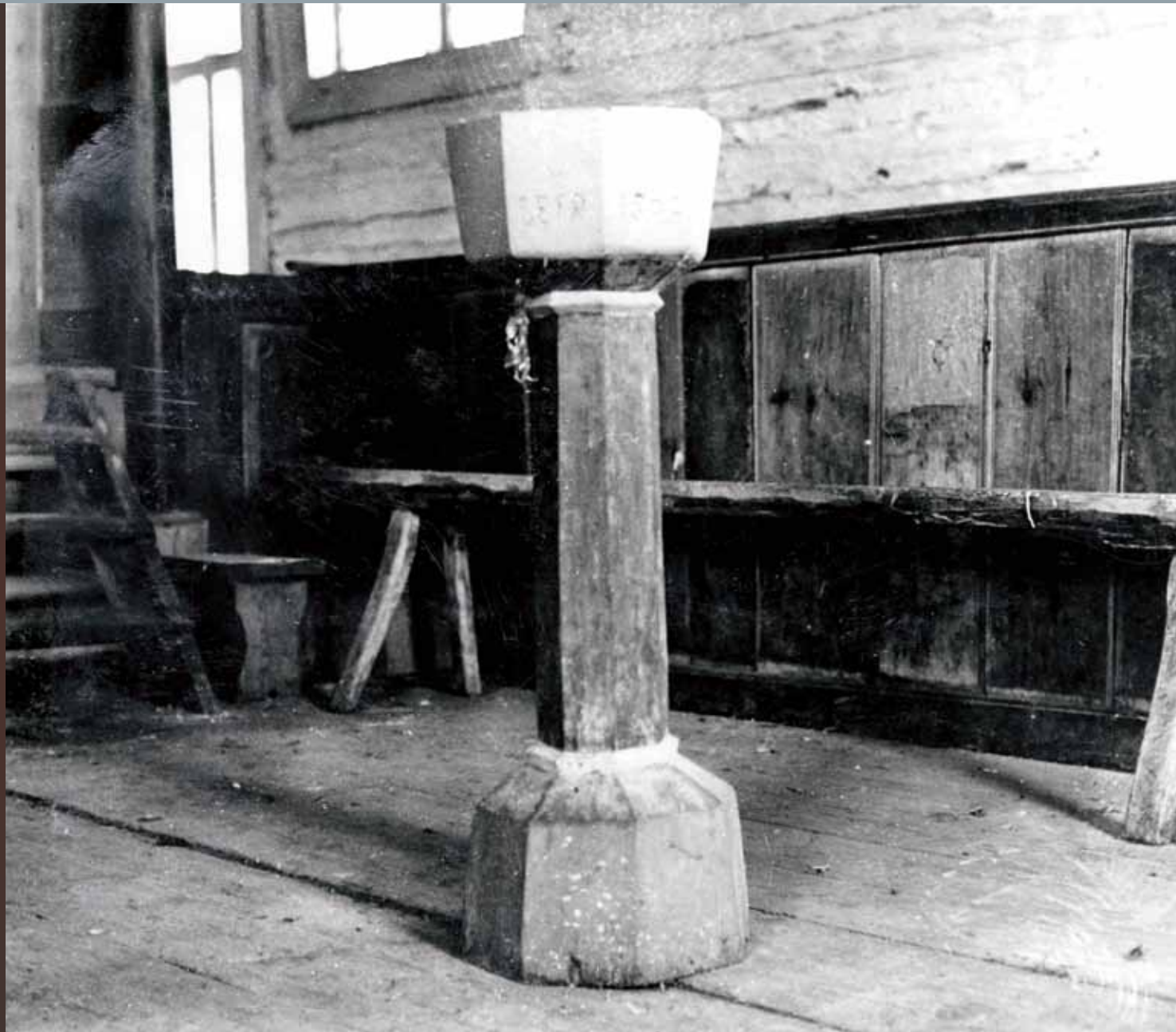
The year of 1837 marks the disassembly and re-erection of the chapel, which had become dilapidated by then.



Sutlepa Chapel was one of the three subordinate churches in Noarootsi Parish. In 1825, there was preaching at Sutlepa eight times a year; on Sundays, people were required to attend church at Noarootsi.



An influence on Estonian architecture in the 17th century, the plain Baroque of the Low Countries spread here via Sweden. The pulpit was made by the local village cabinet-maker Johannes Klingberg, in imitation of the outstanding Baroque master Tobias Heintze, whose works may be found in both Tallinn and Finland (Taivassalo pulpit, 1633).



Its small windows with lead frames, Communion table and altar rail (1810) and the base of the wooden baptismal font on a tall stem (1802) have also been preserved well.



Noarootsi hosted a large community of Estonian Swedes, and services were mainly in Swedish. Near the church, there was a cemetery, where mostly local poorer people were buried in the 18th century.



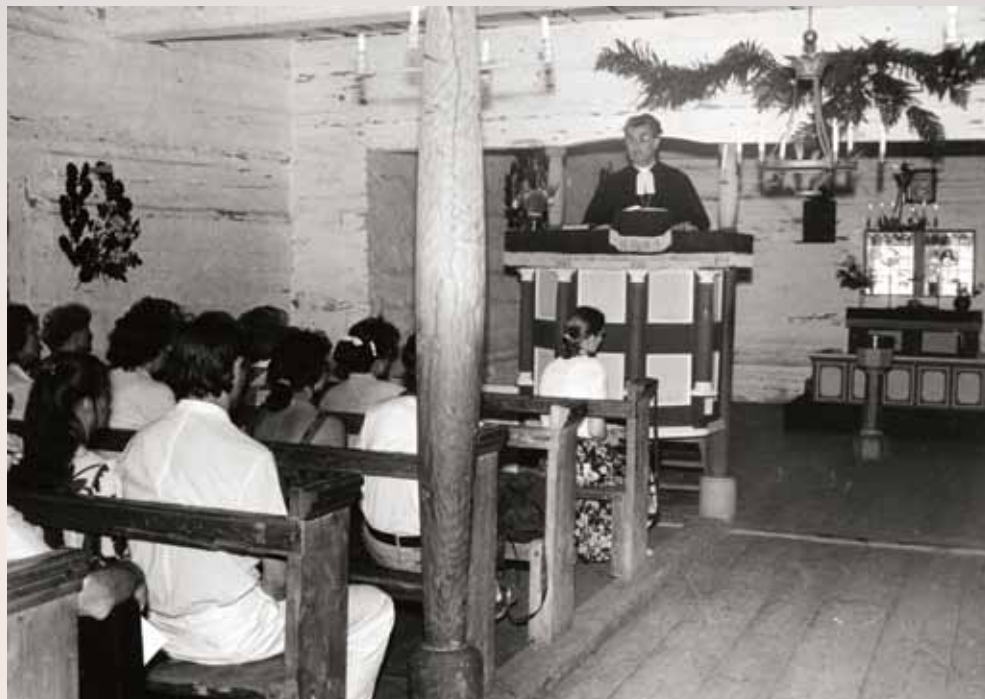
By the early 20th century, the chapel had become dilapidated, and plans were being made for its demolition. Luckily, the chapel was listed for heritage protection at the “eleventh hour” in 1932 as the only wooden house of God on the Estonian mainland.



Built in 1643 and 1644, the other rare wooden church in Estonia is located on the island of Ruhnu. The church acquired its current look in 1755. Having stood empty for a long time, the house of God was re-consecrated in 1999.



All of the oldest wooden churches in Estonia is linked to Swedes, who settled on the western shore and islands of Estonia as long ago as the Middle Ages. In 1943 and 1944, Estonian Swedes fled to Sweden to evade the Soviet occupation, with the wooden churches remaining as memorials to the departed community.



At risk of destruction, Sutlepa Chapel was re-located to the Estonian Open Air Museum in 1970 and was restored. Toomas Paul, Dr. Theol., re-consecrated the chapel as a shrine on 23 June 1989.



Currently, services are held inside the unique church on important days in the popular calendar, and it is also decorated for baptisms and weddings.

