



- PLACE NAMES -

Original place names in the area of the former Pasvik Skolt Saami siida

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Nikel, where the Local History Museum of the Pechenga district is located, is in the territory of the former Pasvik Skolt Saami siida. This minority nation had a tragic fate. The clock of history had a negative effect on it. First, there was a demarcation of the Russian-Norwegian border in 1826 and it passed through their siida. Later the Government of Finland sold their fishing areas to the Kingdom of Norway. And in 1944 they were forced to leave their native land for good when the Petsamo region ceased to be Finnish.

Initially geographical names were of Saami origin but later on they were adapted to or translated into Finnish. In this article we have tried to tell you about original names of the places where we live.



Picture: Svetlana Otinova

BIT OF OLD HISTORY

Skolt Saami used to be an indigenous population of the Pasvik river valley and adjacent lakes. Their life was closely connected with Lake Inari and the Pasvik river basin.

Saami settlements were few in number and people, who used live in them, led a nomadic life. They migrated from one place to another depending upon the season. In spring and summer they went fishing to the seashore and in autumn – to the lakes and upstream the Pasvik river. Reindeer husbandry was not their priority.

Most of the time Saami spent in their winter siidas (from December 25 to March 25, Old Style). They had weddings and visited Saami living in Petsamo and Motovski siidas in January. In February they harvested firewood. There was a winter road from St. Boris and Gleb Church to Petsamo.



Retrieved from:

https://origin-production.wikiwand.com/no/Grensekonvensjonen_av_1826 [Accessed 29/10/2021]

WINTER VILLAGE OF PASVIK SKOLT SAAMI



1) The Kolosjoki-river in its middle steam where the Malaya Kolsjoki river (the Sechkaloki) flows into it. Picture of Elisif Wessel. Retrieved from:

<https://digitaltmuseum.org/011013359152/skoltesamer-voksne-og-barn-utenfor-en-bygning-i-boris-gleb-russland-eller> [Accessed 29/10/2021]

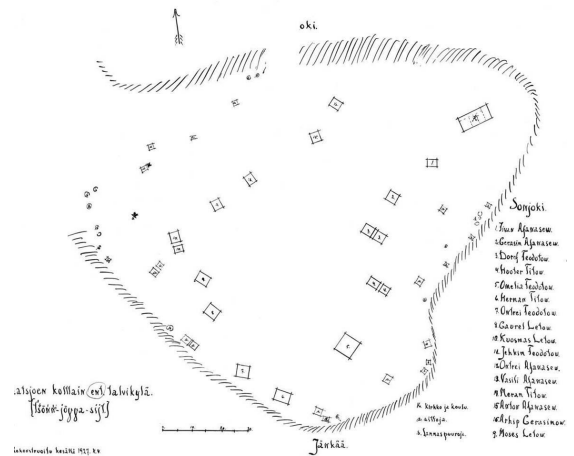
2) The mouth of the Kolosjoki river and its right bank. The river flows into Kuetsjärvi Lake

Picture: Elena Muzychenko

3) The Sjuonijoki river and the outskirts of the waterfall.



Picture: Svetlana Otinova



Retrieved from: Sør-Varanger – en samisk kommune /Utgitt av Kulturukenkomiteen 1981.-Kirkenes: Dagfinn Hansens Trykkeri, 1981.-51s

MEANING OF PLACE NAMES

The Kuetsjärvi

T-r 303 (c.): Kuešš' jaur (Pa), (f.): "Kuotsjärvi", Lake Kuetsjarvi.

(c.): kuešš = (ϕ.): rove, tuohinen = a small box made of birch bark, a small box; origin: from birch bark; tues/small box (dial.). Here it means kota – a dwelling of Skolt Saami covered with birch bark. Word-for-word: a box made of birch bark, birch bark lake.

Thus Kuestjarvi Lake, literally: marquee (koty) lake. The lake was named after the dwellings of Skolt Saami which were available on its shores.

(ϕ.) kota = (c.) kuatt = 1) Saami tent, Lappish tent, Lappish kuda (dwelling);
2) box.

The Kolosjoki

T-r 268 (c.): Kõllsa'johkk, (1.Kõlla 'johkk) = (f.): Kolosjoki,

(c.): kōlas –sing., kōllaz – pl. (c.): kōllsa = (f.): "kalhu" = a right ski for pushing, a reindeer or seal hide was fixed on its back side for better pushing. A left ski (c.): "lyly" – for sliding.

Itk. (c.): Kõlḗs'jo kka(ḗ) = (f.): the Kolosjoki = the Kolosjoki river (Xap. 71) – the Kolos-Joki river =

= P Kōl sa-jo kk(ḗ) (Tr P, 268) = Kõllsa'johkk 1. Kõlla 'johkk = (f.): the Kolosjoki = the Kolosjoki river flows into Kuetsjavi Lake .

K.-siīd(ḗ) (Tr 105. Kõlla 'jokk-sit) – ex- winter siidas (villages and settlements of Pasvik Saami).

K.-siid-saij - an ex - winter siida on the Pasvik river. (kōlḗ d kōl s)

Itk. P (Tr 105, see.) Sit'jaur-sit - winter siidas of Pasvik Saami in the vicinity of Lake Kuetsjarvi and the Kolosjoki river.

The Sjuonijoki

T-r 83 (p.): Čuonn'johkk-sit (Pa) = "Pasrjetsk" = Pazretsk, cuonn - sjuoni –see below; johkk = joki = river;

T-r 494 (p.): Paččie-sit; 1. Čuonni'jokk-sit = (f.): Patsjoenkylä = village of the Pasvik Lapps on the Sjuoni river;

Itk. T'su n-jo'kk (a) Suonijoki, S; čuonni-(i)'johkk (S); čuonn(i) – is a thing that has not been in use (e.g. sjouni – saim – a new net). The name supposedly means a fast flowing river with rapids which has not been used for boating (Tanner).

This place name has another explanation. «Čuonn» might mean sedge which is abundant on the banks of the rivers and the lake. Saami dried it and after that they used it as soles in their footwear to make it soft, warm, waterproof and comfortable for walking in the mountains.



Picture: Äimä Frans. Retrieved from:

<https://pastvu.com/p/555059>. [Accessed 29/10/2021]

SUMMER SIIDA OF PASVIK SKOLT SAAMI

Pasvik Skolt Saami summer siida used to be on the left bank of the Pasvik river. St. Trifon of Pechenga christened Saami at Kolttakengas. It took place on the bank of the Pasvik river in 1565 and later he built a church in the name of saints Boris and Gleb.

Meaning of the name:

N-I 294-296: (c.): Keynges;

T-r 220: (c.): Keunjes (Pa) = (f.): Kolttaköngas = rapid (waterfall) Skolt Saami;

Itk.: (p.): Ke'sk-na'vve – on the Pasvik river, in the place where there was a summer siida of Saami on the Pasvik river;

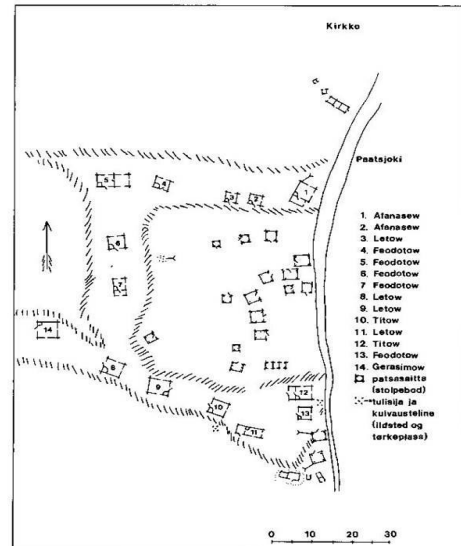
T-r 497 (c.): Paččiöž (S, Pe) = (ф.) Patsjoen lappalaiset = Pasvik Saami who used to live in the territory of the Pasvik river basin;

ltk. (c.): Paot't'šja-jögk, Pattsje-johkk, Paottsja-jogk = (фю): Paatsjoki (earlier as well

Patsjoki, norj. (Norwegian) Pasvikelva, Russian: Пазрека; река Пась, г.1608, (Хар.), Paz river, Pazy rivers; siida Pazriver; Кезь-Сидь (кезь – summer).



Figur 11: Boris Gleb 1927.



Tegning etter Kustaa Viikuna: Paatsjoen ja Petsamon Kolttien kylästä

Kilde: Museiverket Helsingfors SUK 535:3

Retrieved from: <https://pastvu.com/p/604438>

[Accessed 29/10/2021]

On August 6, 2018 a large delegation from Finland attended a festive service in the Boris-Gleb Church. Some descendants of Pasvik Skolt Saami were there, too. After the service, all the guests had a pleasure of attending a concert; the singing was in the Skolt Sami language. One had a feeling of joy and sadness at the same time when the spirit of the place and the souls of those people who used to live there miraculously united. And it became clear why one of the interpretations of the name Pasvik river originates from the Skolt Saami word "pačče" which means "saint".





Pictures: Svetlana Otinova

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