

Puolanka-Pirtti

Puolanka Local History Museum

Open: in July on Mon-Fri 10-16

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We warmly welcome you to visit our museum!

Puolanka-pirtti illustrates the local life and culture during the late 19th century up to the beginning of the 20th century. The museum is located in the center of Puolanka. The main building, built in the beginning of 1910, has been transferred to its current location from the village of Lylykylä that is located about 30 km from the center of Puolanka.

In the early 1950's, the local teachers started to collect objects in order to found a local history museum. At first the objects were preserved on the premises of the local elementary schools, until a suitable old residential building from the early 1910's was found in a place called Pellonpää in the village of Lylykylä.

The building was transferred to its current place in 1973, and the museum is now located in the heart of Puolanka: it is near to the church, the school and the town hall. The lot belongs to the local congregation and the property is owned by the municipality. Since the transfer of the house the museum courtyard has been expanded with two sheds which are old storehouses for meat and for fish. The museum also displays a shelter for *vesipasa*, a horse-drawn machine that was used in the winter to apply water in order to create a type of an icy winter road. These roads were then used to transport logs from the logging sites. This machine characterizes the lumber industry that once was locally very important.

In addition, a masonry stove and a fireplace as well as a new porch have been added to the building afterwards. The Environmental Administration also put up a traditional fence around the courtyard in 2003. The fence has been rebuilt in 2014.

The Collection

The collection includes approximately 500 objects. They have been received as donations from the local area and they are mainly rural and farming items that were typically used during the early 1900s. For example tools that were used to make skis are on display in the common room. In the entrance hall the visitors can see a big table that displays wooden dishes, as well as a loom and tools that were used by the contemporary womenfolk. The entrance hall has also served as a

kitchen. The objects that are more related to the typical men's tasks – such as spades – are placed in the corner.

The museum is for the most part furnished with pieces from the early 20th century, even though some items are from the 1950s. Some of the objects are displayed in the bigger shed.

The History of the Museum

Originally two brothers called Heikki and Lauri Oikarinen lived in the building in Pellonpää, Lylykylä. Heikkis family inhabited the bedroom facing the yard as Lauris family used the second bedroom. Later on the two rooms have been adjoined by a door. Lauris and Heikkis families shared the common room of the house. The kitchen was situated in the hallway passage where the two housewives had their own spots for cooking. The access to the attic was gained outside the house by using a ladder.

Lauris family moved to a building that was built to the same courtyard in 1930. Since 1934 parts of his house served as a boarding house. Heikki continued living in the old building. The school of Lylykylä also operated in the building during 1931–1938. The children would eat their meals in Heikkis room and sleep on the floor in the common room where the lessons were held as well. Pellonpää has even been used as a post office.