

Barkeryd Church

In the village of Barkeryd in northern Barkeryd Parish is Barkeryd Church, a church that is associated with at least eight generations of the High family's ancestors. Maria Svensdotter, Sven Hög's mother, was baptized at Barkeryd Church on February 10, 1771. Maria attended Barkeryd Church for the first eighteen years of her life. There, she learned how to read and was instructed in the teachings of the Bible and the Catechism. On December 12, 1797, Maria married Anders Andersson at Barkeryd Church. Both Maria's parents, Sven Nilsson and Anna Månsdotter, are buried in the cemetery of Barkeryd Church, as are her three siblings, Jonas, Sven, and Beata.



Barkeryd Church	
Parish: Barkeryd	
Congregation: Barkeryd-Forserum	
Significance to High Family:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Joen Persson was baptized. • Where Per Joensson was baptized and buried. • Where Måns Persson and Elisabeth Månsdotter were baptized and buried. • Where Bengt Månsson Engdahl was baptized. • Where Beata Urbansdotter was baptized and buried. • Where Maria Engdahl was baptized in 1704. • Where Måns Olofsson and Maria Engdahl were married in 1732. • Where Sven Nilsson and Anna Månsdotter are buried. • Where Maria Svensdotter was baptized in 1771. • Where Anders Andersson and Maria Svensdotter were married in 1797. 	
Coordinates: 57°43'16.4"N 14°35'5.59"E	
Founded in: 1100s	
Current Building from: 1847	

Maria Engdahl, Maria Svensdotter's maternal grandmother, was baptized at Barkeryd Church on October 8, 1704. Her parents, Bengt Månsson Engdahl and Beata Urbansdotter, attended Barkeryd Church for their entire lives. The two were married there on June 18, 1699 and Beata Urbansdotter is buried in the church's cemetery. Several of Bengt Månsson Engdahl's ancestors are also buried in the cemetery of Barkeryd Church, such as his parents, Måns Persson and Elisabeth Månsdotter, his paternal grandparents, Per Joensson and his wife, his great-grandmother (the wife of Joen Persson), and his great-great-grandmother (the wife of Per i Äng). Dozens more of the High family's unknown ancestors from the 12th to 16th Centuries may also be buried in the church's cemetery.

Barkeryd Church was originally built in the early 12th Century, and was most likely wooden. The church was built along the main road between Jönköping and Eskjö. Barkeryd Church, and was part of Växjö diocese. The second church was built in 1174. In 1355, a stone church was built, which was a half-cross church that spanned from west to east. The stone church was 35 cubits long, 14 cubits wide, and 8 cubits tall. The church's stone walls were painted white. Prior to the 18th Century, the altar was located in the eastern side of the church, while the pulpit stood in the southern end. Wooden extensions were added to the northern and southern sections of the church in 1738, which were each 16½ cubits long. The church's wooden extensions and roof were painted red. Ten stained glass windows surrounded the church's sacristy. Upon the completion of the expansion, the altar was moved to the southern end of the church, while the pulpit was relocated to the church's eastern corner. Until this time, Barkeryd Church had a free standing bell tower. In 1763, a bell tower was added to the church.¹

Timeline of Barkeryd Church

Early 1100s	Barkeryd Church is founded.
1174	The second building for Barkeryd Church is constructed.
1355	The third building for Barkeryd Church is constructed from stone.
1738	Wooden extensions are added to the northern and southern sections of the church.
1835	Construction begins on the fourth and current building of Barkeryd Church.
1847	The current building of Barkeryd Church is constructed.
1997	The current building of Barkeryd Church celebrates its 150 th Anniversary.



How Barkeryd Church looked from 1355 to 1738

¹ *Barkeryds Kyrka* (brochure)



Altar at Barkeryd church

In the 18th Century, Barkeryd Church's pulpit stood over the altar, which was surrounded by a pillar on either side. The pulpit was adorned with wood carvings of Christ and his apostles. Behind the pulpit was a beautiful painting of the Nativity.

A staircase led from the choir to the east side of the pulpit. A small desk stood in the pulpit, where several books were kept. There was also an hourglass on this desk, which was donated by Marcus Berg, the third husband of Beata Urbansdotter, in 1734. A large statue of an angel hung over the pulpit with outstretched wings. Just west of the pulpit was a bench room.

A large crucifix hung on the western wall of the church. Four chandeliers hung in Barkeryd Church: two over the northern aisle, one in the east section of the church, and one in the west. The ceiling of Barkeryd Church was adorned with several lavish paintings and inscriptions. In the north wing of the church, facing the pulpit and the altar, was a large gallery. The gallery was divided with benches, which were reserved for soldiers and their families.²

Johan Fovelin's Description of the Altar at Old Barkeryd Church

"The altar mentioned above is by the south wall and is surrounded by a framed choir. The setup is great and enough for what it's needed for. On top there is a white cloth with wide lace over a red desk dressed in red velvet, with silver lace at the edges for books, and a cross of the same type. On both sides of the desk stand large candlesticks, two of tin and two of ore; in front of the altar from the table to the floor hangs an altar adornment of gold with rich silk tassels. On each side of the altar table is a chair."

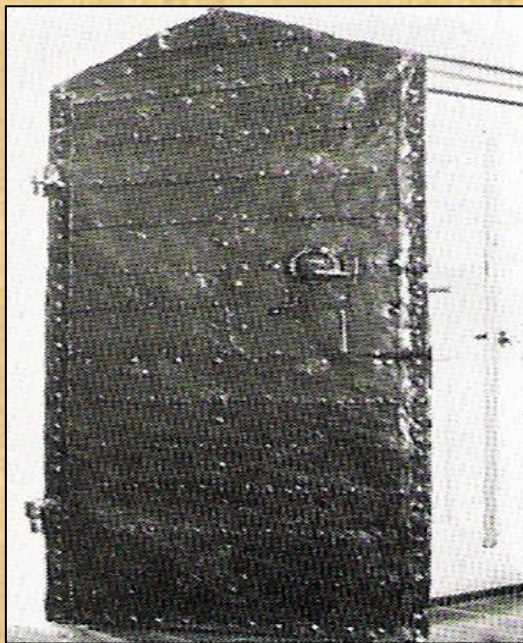
Johan Fovelin's Descriptions of Barkeryd and Nässjö Parishes - 1785



Painting of how Barkeryd Church looked from 1763 to 1847

² Johan Fovelin's Descriptions of Barkeryd and Nässjö Parishes

The Sacristy of Barkeryd Church



Iron door to the sacristy

The sacristy was located at the east end of the church. The iron door that led into the sacristy was built during the 17th Century. During times of war, parishioners would seek protection from invaders by staying within the secured church. The iron door, which is filled with bullet marks from earlier times of strife, was preserved and now leads into the sacristy of the current church building. Inside the sacristy was a table, a long bench, and a large chest where several of the church's funds and valuable artifacts were kept. The sacristy also stored a tin box for sacramental wafers and several jugs of wine for use at communion. A blue painted cupboard also hung in the sacristy, where various clergy vestments were kept.

The old church's bell tower had two doors and a window. In 1775, twelve years after the tower's completion, Pastor Sven Fovelin decided that it was time for the church to have a new bell. In 1776, a new bell was cast by Elisa Fries Thoresson of Jönköping.

Several of Barkeryd Church's former vicars and prominent members were buried in the old church. Magister Magnus Tegnелиus, a vicar of Barkeryd Church during the early 18th Century, was buried in the east wing of the church. Sven Fovelin was buried in the northeast corner of the church alongside his wife, Christina. Barkeryd Church also contained vaults for the Modelinska's and Alanderska's, two prominent families who lived in Barkeryd in the 17th and 18th Centuries.



The cemetery of Barkeryd Church

Thousands of parishioners from Barkeryd's past are buried in the church's cemetery. There is a tomb in the cemetery where Nils Areus, one of the former vicars of Barkeryd Church, is buried. The Dukerska family, one of the wealthiest families in Barkeryd in the 17th and 18th Centuries, also has an impressive tomb in the cemetery. Several of the High family's ancestors, such as Sven Nilsson and Anna Månsdotter are also buried in the cemetery.

The Engraving on the Old Organ

Before the construction of the new church, the old organ stood in the church's gallery. The organ was engraved with the inscription: *"O God, let it happen that whoever plays these pipes and those who hear them, may eternally rejoice in the music that the angels do."*

By the beginning of the 19th Century, Barkeryd's population had expanded to the point that the church had become too small and crowded. The old church was also in poor condition and needed major repairs. In 1835, the parish decided to build a new church. At this time, the Bishop in Sweden was Esaias Tenger. Tenger preferred large churches that were "light and airy."



Interior of Barkeryd Church



Barkeryd Church – erected in 1847

In accordance with the Bishop's preference, the clergy constructed a new large, bright pink, stone building. Throughout much of the 1840s, the inhabitants of Barkeryd contributed their time to help build the new church. In 1847, the new building was completed.

Once the new church was completed, the old one was torn down. Several of the items from the old church, such as the chandeliers, candlesticks, Holy Communion silver, and textiles, were taken from the old church and placed in the new building.



Communion goblet and dish from Barkeryd Church

The Baptism Font

The baptism font is the oldest item in Barkeryd Church, dating from 1150. The gold baptism bowl which rests over it was dedicated to the church in 1777 by Sven Fovelin, the vicar of Barkeryd Church, shortly before his death. Numerous of the High family's ancestors have been baptized by this font, including Maria Svensdotter, Maria Engdahl, Bengt Månsson Engdahl, Beata Urbansdotter, Måns Persson, Elisabeth Månsdotter, Per Joensson, and Joen Persson.



Baptism font

The Pipe Organ



Pipe organ at Barkeryd Church

The pipe organ that currently rests at the back of Barkeryd Church is from 1872. Some of the relics from the old church were sold at an auction to raise the money to afford it.

The Candlestick that Returned to Barkeryd Church from Canada



Candle that was returned to Barkeryd Church in 1976

From the late 19th Century to early 20th Century, around 900 people from Barkeryd immigrated to the New World. When the auction was held to raise money for the new organ, a candlestick was sold to a family whose granddaughter, Greta, immigrated to Vancouver, Canada. Greta brought the candlestick with her to Canada and treasured it, telling her children and grandchildren how it reminded her of home and how she obtained it. Greta died in 1976. In 1997, her family returned the candlestick to the Barkeryd Homestead Association at a ceremony celebrating the 150th anniversary of the new church. The candlestick can now be found on the pulpit at the front of the church.



There have been a number of improvements and modernizations to Barkeryd Church since the second half of the 20th Century, which include the addition of stairs from the church room to the organ loft, a cloakroom, a small waiting room for baptisms, and a handicap toilet.

Vicars of Barkeryd Church: 1307-1807		
Year(s)	Chaplain	Notes
1307	Bo	
1530	Gödeke	
1579	Mats	
1579-1609	Laurentius Andreae Sr.	
1610-1641	Laurentius Andreae Jr.	
1642-1665	Johannes Ludovici	
1666-1705	Johannes Barck	
1705-1712	Jonas Leonardi Haglinus	
1712-1732	Magnus Tegnelin	
1733-1777	Sven Fovelin	
1778-1807	Johan Fovelin	