

Jordberga

The main building at Jordberga has changed in appearance through rebuilding and new construction on four occasions in its almost 700-year history.

The estate was known as a manor farm in the 1300s, when a man from the Hollunger family was the owner. During the troubled times in the mid-1600s, the old manor farm was burned down in connection with Swedish ravages in Scania between 1643-1644. At that time, Jordberga was owned by the well-known landowner, Iver Krabbe, who soon had a new manor house built as well as a granite barn that was so solid that it could also be used for defensive purposes. The three-winged, one-storey building stood until the 1830s and the large granite barn is still used today for concerts and other events.

Carl Adam von Nolcken, the second generation of the family that lived at Jordberga, took over the estate in the late 1830s. He wanted to have a more elegant and modern main building and therefore commissioned Carl George Brunius, who was a professor of Greek, to design and plan both a new manor house and several new farm buildings. The owner's interest in history and Brunius's inclination for antiquity and the medieval were united in a building project that transformed Jordberga into a medieval-inspired castle with Romanesque and Gothic elements, and created brick farm buildings with features such as ventilation solutions from the Roman times.

The neo-Gothic main building only survived for around 60 years. In 1906, von Nolcken's daughter, Clara Amelia von Nolcken, widow of the former owner Carl Gustav Stiernswärd, began extensive rebuilding and modernisation of the castle based on designs by the Danish architect, Henry Glaesel. His inspiration was from the 1600s and the result is the present beautiful baroque castle modelled on Fredensborg, the Danish royal summer palace about 20 km south-west of Helsingör.

In previous times, Jordberga had a very extensive ownership line, which even created the myth that the estate never had an owner who could hold on to it for more than three generations. In those times, frequent changes of ownership were not uncommon for the Scanian estates, and in Jordberga's case this was perhaps influenced by the fact that the estate's acreage was changed and divided up during certain periods. However, since 1743 the estate has been in the same family.

Before the Krabbe family, the previously named Hollunger, as well as other individuals from the families Most, Gera and Geed were owners. Krabbe was followed by owners from the Vind, Bille and Kurck families, after which von Nolcken took over in 1811.

Carl Adam von Nolcken was a very capable farmer. During his time, several reforms were implemented regarding the farmers' relationship to the estate, and there were test activities concerning both livestock-rearing and new farming methods. Jordberga became a model large-scale farm, widely known outside Scania's borders.

After von Nolcken's time, Jordberga was taken over, through marriage, by Carl Gustav Stjernswärd of Widtsköfle, who continued to develop and modernise the farm. After the death of the son, Gustav Stiernswärd, first the widow, Wanda, and then the daughter, Clara, took over ownership. Today, it is her son, Otto von Arnold, and his wife, Catherine, who manage the estate.

Jordberga is situated 8 km south-west of Skurup, in the eastern part of the fertile Southern Plain, an area that is known as "south of the main road" between Malmö and Ystad.

A champion of the Middle Ages

One of Scania's most controversial people in the 1800s must have been Carl George Brunius, who was both a professor of Greek and a vicar. However, it is not as a professor and vicar that he became well-known, but as a self-taught architect with a strong affection for the Middle Ages. He had this inclination in common with the owner of Jordberga, Carl Adam von Nolcken, who in 1840 commissioned him for the rebuilding of the manor house and farm buildings at Jordberga.

Carl George Brunius was born in 1792 in the parish of Tanum in Bohuslän. He began student life in Lund in 1803, and went on to Uppsala to study there in 1811. He then returned to Lund and

remained in Scania for the rest of his life, with the exception of assignments in different parts of the country. He became a Doctor of Philosophy (1814), a senior lecturer in Greek (1815), and an assistant master in the same subject (1820). The following year, he became an assistant master in Roman oratory, and a couple of years later in poetry. In 1824, he became a professor of Greek and succeeded Esaias Tegnér. He became the vicar of the Stävie congregation in 1847, and a member of the Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities in 1853.

During the time he carried out his duties for the university, he devoted himself to "architectural theory and practice in the noble medieval building style" and Latin poetry. His research and literary work on Swedish medieval art made him an authority on the subject. He undertook archaeological studies between 1815-17 in Bohuslän, which were reported in *Nordic Ancient Relics* (1923) with Johan Gustav Liljegren as co-author.

In the period 1833-61, he carried out several extensive restoration projects for churches, public buildings and Scanian castles. During almost all his time as a practicing, but self-taught, architect he led the restoration of Lund Cathedral, where his changes included the bold raising of the crypt and the demolition of the pulpit wall in order to provide space for the chancel stairs.

Between 1849-52, he led the restoration of Växjö Cathedral, and 1854-57 of Kristinehamn Church. In addition to the major commissions, he led rebuilding and restoration work at over 20 town and country churches in Scania. His commissions for public buildings include the Lundagård House, the old library in Lund, the Emergency Services Institute in Stora Råby, the museum building and Bishop's House in Lund and the schoolhouse in Helsingborg. As well as the commission in Jordberga, he also carried out restorations at Sövdeborg, Knutstorp, Skarhult, Vrams Gunnarstorp, Axelvold and Trolleholm. He published over 10 art history and archaeological booklets.

Carl George Brunius died in Lund in 1869 and is buried in Östra churchyard under a large granite sun cross.