

Revisiting Svenskby, Southeastern Finland: Communications Regarding Low-Magnitude Earthquakes in 1751–1752 by Päivi B. Mäntyniemi

Supplementary materials

Table S1: Reports regarding the earthquake sequence in present Southeastern Finland in 1751–1752

Contents	pages
Report by Carl Östberg	i–iii
Report by Carl Johan von Holthusen	iv–v
Report by David Starck	vi–viii
Stockholms Post-Tidningar I	ix
Stockholms Post-Tidningar II	x
St. Petersburgische Zeitung	xi
Санкт-Петербургские Ведомости	xi
Minutes of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	xii

The transcribed correspondence and newspaper accounts are given in the original language (Swedish, German, or Russian) and as English translations.

The contents inside square parentheses are additions made by the author. The curly parentheses indicate that the translation is not fully clear.

The modern spelling of the target village is Svenskby. In the original reports, it is spelled as Swenskby, Swänskby, Svänskby, Swanskby, Svenske-by, or Swenskeby. The river border is spelled as Kieltis, Kiältis, or Kymänä.

A frequently used measure of distance is a Swedish mile, which is approximately 10 km.

Berättelse om de sällsamma Smäl-
len i Svenskby.

År 1751 den 27 Octobr., Kl. wid pass 10 om af-
tonen, har man i Svenskby hört en myc=
ket stark smäll, närmast lik det grofwaste
Byskeskott, hwarwid husen med fönster och
spjäll darrat, samt pärtstickorna¹, som legat
på stängen fallit ned på golfwet. Bonden
{Gundruh} Jöransson, som wid detta tilfälle
råkat att stå ute, har derwid dignat ned
til jorden. Sedermera har man samma
natt hört fyra andra smällar, något swa=
gare än den första, dock alla så wäldsam=
ma, att en skälfning skedt i husen, såsom
man med en stor stock skulle stööta på
wäggen. Man har intet sedt någon eld el=
ler rök ej eller Känt någon lukt såsom
owanlig, utan marken omkring har gif=
wit tillbaka ett gräseligt knall och gen=
ljud. Dessa och andra alla smällar af det=
ta slag hafwa skedt mycket hastigt, såsom
ett styckeskott. Intet har man heller kun=
nat pröfwa, huru högt i luften smällar=
na blifwit hörda emedan dånet warit
mycket nära. På tilfrågan om öronen haft
någon olägenhet för dem som ute på marken
hört

[2. sida]

hört alt detta, swarades: att öronen härwid
dofnat, såsom wid ett annat häftigt skott.
Man har ock i den första skräcken tyckt sig
känna en swafwel rök, som dock ej sedan wa=
rit. Alla dessa smällar hafwa blifwit hör=
da {in lovo²} i wäster och sydwäst, sålunda, att
den, som stått åt öster, har tyckt smällens
ske några steg framför sig emot wäster, och
en annan åter, som stått mera i wäster
har tyckt att samma smäll skedt ännu län=
gre fram för sig. Dock hafwa alla smällar
blifwit hörda inom en terrain af 500 steg
wid pass.

Account of the peculiar bangs in Svenskby.

Year 1751 on 27th Oct., at around 10 o'clock in
the evening, a very strong bang was heard in
Svenskby, nearest to resembling the heaviest
gunshots, which made windows and stove
dampers in the houses shake, as well as slivers
of wood¹ fall from the rod to the floor. The
farmer {Gundruh} Jöransson, who on this
occasion happened to be standing outdoors,
collapsed to the ground. Later on during the
same night, four other bangs were heard,
somewhat weaker than the first one, all
however so intense that a shaking occurred in
the house, as if the wall had been hit by a big
stock. No fire or smoke was seen, either an
unusual smell was noticed, but the ground
around made a dreadful bang and an echo.
These and all the other bangs of the same kind
have occurred very rapidly, like a gunshot.
Neither has it been possible to try out how high
in the air the bangs were heard, because the
roar was very close. When asked whether the
ears felt any discomfort of those who outdoors
have heard

[2nd page]

heard all this, the reply was: that the ears
thereby deafened, as if during another fierce
shot. In the first fright people have imagined to
note a Sulphur smoke, which however was not
then. All these bangs have been heard in {²} in
the west and southwest, so that he who stood
facing the east thought that the bangs occurred
a few steps ahead of him toward the west,
while another one who stood more westward
thought that the shock occurred even further
away in front of him. Yet have all the bangs
been heard within a terrain of approximately
500 steps.

¹ typically made of pine, thinner than shingles,
used e.g. to light up a room or to build a roof

² unclear

Dn: 6 derpå följande Novembr: straxt efter Kl. 9 om aftonen har detta buller på samma art åter igen begynt höras, med lika häftighet som tilförnen, då man likwäl ej märkt mera än 3 smällar. Sexman³ Anders Möter, som då warit ute, har smälens våldsamhet kastat up ifrån jorden fast än han intet fallit ned.

Emellan den 9 och 10 Nov: har åter om natten twänne smällar blifwit hörde, hwarwid hönsen hos Bonden Hans Swedis begynt att flyga omkring i dess då mörka stuga.

Natten emellan den 17 och 18 Nov: Kl. 1 begynte åter dessa smällar höras och blifwit

[3. sida]

wit räknade til 14, hwilka efter hwarannan in til Kl. 7 om morgonen påstått. Af dessa hafwa de 2ne första och den 11te warit de våldsammste, hwarwid man ej annat anmärkt, än att Bonden Mårten Jacobsson, med de Soldater af Kongl. Jönköpings Regemente som hållit wakt om Brödmagasinet, hört emot Wästnordan ett mycket sälsamt skry. Man har flere resor ännu inom denna tid hört detta buller, som altid warit lika med de här upräknade smällar, och synas derföre onödige att beskrifwas.

Alla smällar hafwa skedt om nattetid och då himmelen merendels warit klar och luften stilla, samt ingen köld warit märkelig. Orten där dessa sälsamheter sig tildragit är en stor by, Svenskby kallad bestående af 20 Soldateheman och 2 Rusthåll⁴ belägen i Pyttis Sockn och Kymenegårds län 1 ½ mil norr om byn lilla Abborforss, och något mer än ¼ mil wäster om sistagrenen af Kieltis Ström. Planen hwarpå större delen af byn ligger är något ojämn. På den sydwästra sidan ser man en backe

On the 6th of the following Novembr. shortly after 9 o'clock in the evening the same kind of rumbling began to be heard again, similarly intense as earlier, when no more than 3 bangs were noticed. Sixman³ Anders Möter, who was outdoors at the time, was thrown upward from the ground by the fury of the bang, but he did not fall down.

Between the 9th and 10th of Nov. two bangs were again heard at night, whereupon the hens at farmer Hans Svedis's began to fly around in the then dark cottage.

The night between the 17th and 18th Nov. at 1 o'clock the bangs began to be heard again and were

[3rd page]

were counted up to 14, which after one another continued until 7 o'clock in the morning. Of them the 2nd and the 11th were the most intense, at which nothing else was noticed, except for that farmer Mårten Jacobsson, together with the soldiers of the Royal Jönköping's Regiment who kept guard on the bread storehouse, heard toward the west a very strange cry. This roar was still heard many times during this time, and was always alike the counted bangs, and therefore it appears needless to describe [them].

All the bangs have occurred nighttime when the sky had usually been clear and the air calm, as well as no frost being noticeable. The district where these peculiar things have appeared is a large village named Svenskby consisting of 20 soldier houses and 2 riding farms⁴ situated in the municipality of Pyttis and the province of Kymenegård 1.5 [Swedish] miles north of the village of Lilla Abborforss, and somewhat more than a ¼ mile west of the last branch of River Kieltis. The village lies on a somewhat uneven ground. On the southwestern side one sees a slope

³ kind of a parish police, translated literally

⁴ a larger household obliged to furnish a cavarlyman to the army

med berg och sand i söder är en sjö af $\frac{1}{4}$
mil

[4. sida]

mil twärtigenom, som är intet djup, men har en djup gyttja til botte. Af den norra sidan ligga byns åkrar och ängar med en slät mark om $\frac{3}{4}$ mil: hennes jordmon är lera med sandiga och steniga backar på både sidor. Och ehuru härigenom ännu als ingen skada skedt, så wördar man likwäl detta för ett besynnerligt Guds underwerk och önskar att det med wördsamma sinnen betraktas af dem, som ega någon kunskap i Naturens fördolda hemligheter. Wissheten af denna händelse beror på samtel. Swenskby Åboers enhälliga, ehuru bestörta wittnes börd, ibland hwilka med seder nämnas {Öfwerste Lieutenanten} H. Alescander {Nordelin} och dess förnåma fru=timer, så wäl som de härstädes inquarterade af Kongl. Jönköpings Regemente och ibland dem i synnerhet {fendricken Wärb.} H. Carl Joh: Trotzig, hwilka alla äro friska och sunda personer. Underteknad kallade i dessa förnämas när=waro alla de beskedeligaste män i Byn til swäran och efter en alfwarsam föreställning att ej annat säga än ren sanning gjorde den 21 i denna månad en sådan under sökning, som här beskrifwas. Pyttis den 22 November 1751.

Carl Östberg
V. Pastor

of a mountain and sand in the south lies a lake of a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile

[4th page]

mile in diameter, which is not deep, but has a bottom of deep mud. On the northern side lie the fields and meadows of the village on even ground of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile: the soil is clay with sandy and stony slopes on both sides. And because by this no damage at all was sustained, one respects this as an extraordinary miracle of God and wishes that it is in a respecting sense contemplated by those who possess some knowledge of the hidden secrets of Nature. The assurance of this occurrence hinges on {many} Svenskby residents' unanimous even if dismayed testimonies, in their midst customarily mentioned {Lieutenant} Alescander {Nordelin} and his distinguished wife, as well as the here billeted soldiers of the Royal Jönköping's Regiment and among them in particular {second lieutenant} Mr Carl Joh: Trotzig, who all are healthy and sound persons. The undersigned requested, in the presence of the named persons, the most obliging men of the village to swear the truth and after a strict demand of only tell the truth on the 21st of this month conducted such an investigation as here is described. Pyttis 22nd November 1751.
Carl Östberg
V[ice] Pastor

Berättelse om det, här i Finland, Kymänä gårds
Län ok Svänskby, tid efter annan hörde
dånande ok Jordskälfnig. 1751

Svänskby eller Routzin Kyllä, består af 22
heman, belägit i Pyttis Sⁿ 3 mil nordost åfvan
för Degerby, ok ¼ mil ungefärt Väster om
Kiältis el. Kymänä ström vid Ryska gränsen ok
Landsvägen som går af Safvolax ok
Tafvastehus; under 60 gr 32 m: Pol. högd. Söder
ok en del öster om byn, Ligger Små bärg ok
skogvunne backar; Väster öppen för
flackafälter, nor jemn bevinnen skog. 2 a 300
steg sudost från byn, en liten insjö, kallad
Tafvastby träsk, af ¾ mils omkrets. något mer
än ¼ mil från byn ligger utan för bärg ok
skogen, Kär ok Stora mässar, hvarifrån löper,
byn förbi, en liten bäck, uti förste insjö. Sielfva
byn ligger på en högländt ort, hafvandes til
grund stark lera ok någon sand.

den 28 octbr.

Eller natten mel. sön- ok måndagen hördes, vid
en stilla väderlek, först något susande, hvarpå
följde 2ne starka knallar, några min: mel.
hvardera; den första så förskräckel= med dån
ok brak, at hus ok mark skälfvat; bondfolket så
väl som de inqvarterade, blefvo af förskräckelse
i sömnen up väkte, ej vetande annat, än
krutmagazinet sprungit; hvilket alt den gången
slutades med några svaragre Knallar,
som hade {Cartainer⁵} på någon distance blifvit
Låssade.

Den 5 novbr.

Något för på kvällen, har i luften hörds
susande, dån ok hvinande, hvarvid hästar ok
andra Creatur

[2. sida]

Gnaggat ok Vrålat, hönsen flugit kring ok
skrikit ok så vidare; hvarpå 2ne smällar, som
mötande hvarandra från nor ok söder, stöt
tilhopa i en ganska hård knall, så hus ok mark
rist sig, ok några af bondfolket, af förskräckelse
bortdånat. bägge natterna har varit stilla väder
ok ingen frost. De mästa ok hårdaste knallar äro
observerade från Söder ok Väster.

Account of the here in Finland, province of
Kymänägård and Svänskby, time after time
heard rumbling and Earthquake. 1751

Svänskby or Ruotsinkylä consists of 22 houses
situated in Pyttis municipality 3 [Swedish]
miles northeast above of Degerby, and ¼ mile
approximately west of River Kiältis or Kymänä
at the Russian border and the main road from
Savolax and Tafvastehus, at 60 deg 32 min
Polar lat. South and a little east of the village
are small rocks and hills covered by forest;
West flat fields, north flat acquired forest. 2 to
300 steps southeast of the village, a little lake
named Tafvastby lake, ¾ mile in circumference.
A little over a ¼ mile from the village are hills
and forest, marsh and large swamps, from
where runs a brook past the village into the first
lake. The village is situated on an uplifted area
and has a ground of strong clay and some sand.
the 28th Oct.

Or the night between Sunday and Monday, in
calm weather, first was heard some
murmuring, followed by 2 strong bangs, a few
min between them; the first so frightening with
a roar and noise, that houses and the ground
shook; the farmers as well as the billeted
[soldiers] were awakened with fright, and
thought that the gunpowder storage had
exploded; all of which this time came to an end
with a few lesser bangs, as if {Cartainer⁵} had
been shot at a distance.

The 5th Nov.

At some point in the evening, murmuring, roar
and whistling was heard in the air, which made
horses and other creatures

[2nd page]

neigh and bellow, hens fly around and cry out
etc.; on which 2 bangs as if merging from the
north and the south, collided into a rather
severe bang, so that houses and the ground
were lifted, and some of the farmers fainted in
their alarm. The weather was calm without any
frost on both nights. The most and hardest
bangs were observed from the south and west.

⁵ the word is overwritten, presumably it refers to
some kind of ammunition or a gun

den 18 novbr.

Mot morgon har hörds 14 knallar, 2ne tät på hvarandra, har varit så häftiga, at fönster ok spield i spisarne, samt det som hängt på Väggarne, ringat ok rist sig; på några ställen , har deras, så kallade pärter⁶ el. finska bondlins, fallit ned af bielkarne.

den 11 Decembr.

Då Cronobefalningsman i orten Smalen var på kallelse hos mig, hördes kl. 8 om qvällen, en underjordisk knal, komande från sudväst mot nordost, tvärt under min stuga, med så häftigt dån at han sittande kände sig med stol ok gålf ristas; ei olik til alla delar, när man, i sträng vinter åker öfver en stor is, som i sama remnar.

Den 14 decembr.

Om morgonen kl. ½ 7 hördes en stark knall

[3. sida]

hvarvid huset så darrade, at veden som stod uprest i spisen föl omkull, spieldet ringade, ok oc ute varande qvinfolk ok barn gofvo et förskräkel. anskri

den 25.

Eller Juldagseftermiddag kl. 3 hördes 4 starka knallar af hvilka den första varit häftigast. Tvänne gånger har jag sielf, varit när varande Vitne, af desse svåra tilstöter det öfriga har jag af de trovärdigaste i byn inhämtad; hvarmed hela mit, här i byn liggande Comp. både befäl ok soldater enhälligt instämt. Detta har intet blifvit märkt, i de på mindre, än half mil när intil liggande byar; det berättas äfven af någon svafvelaktig stank då känds, hvilket jag ej märkt, icke eller ännu någon åkomma på marken, oaktad min flitiga efterspaning, så framt sig intet yppar vid snöns afgang. märkel. är äfven, at slikt vet aldrig någon berätta sig hafva hört för, å denna ort. Cantoner qvart: Svänsby den 1 Marti 1752.

Carl Joh: von Holthusen

Capit: af Kongl. Jönköp: Läns Reg^{te}

the 18th Nov.

Towards the morning 14 bangs were heard, two close to one another, were so violent that windows and stove dampers as well as objects hanging on the walls chimed and were lifted; in some places the so-called päre⁶ or Finnish slivers of wood fell from the rods.

the 11th Dec.

When the county sheriff Smalen was paying me a visit, at 8 o'clock in the evening, an underground roar was heard, coming from the southwest toward northeast, directly under my cottage, with such a violent roar that as he was sitting he felt the chair lift with the floor; not unlike in all parts when in cold winter one travels over a large ice which then cracks.

The 14th dec.

In the morning at 6:30 a strong bang was heard,

[3rd page]

making houses shake so that the firewood standing upright in a furnace shell fell, stove dampers rattled, and outdoors women and children screamed out of fright.

the 25th

Or afternoon of the Christmas day at 3 o'clock 4 strong bangs were heard, of which the first was the most violent.

I have twice been an eyewitness of these strong shocks, of the others I have learned from the most reliable persons of the village; with these my entire troop both commanders and soldiers unanimously concur. This has not been noticed in less than nearby villages within half a mile; it is also told about a Sulphur-like stench then noticed, which I did not notice, neither any affliction underfoot, despite my intense search, unless something is revealed when the snow melts. peculiar is also that no one is able to tell about such in this area.

Cantoner house, Svänsby the 1st March 1752.

Carl Johan von Holthusen

Captain of the Royal Jönköping's Regiment

⁶ same as ¹ on page i

Malooren och Högaste Herr Archiator.

Högaste Herr Archiatorns höggunstiga skrifwelse af d 30 Jan: hafwer iag haft den äran at bekomma. Sedermera hafwer iag haft tilfälle at uti Swänskby, i näst alla denna bynes åboarns närwaro, än vidare befråga och göra mig underrättad om de smällar eller jord=skalf som utom oftast i förleden höst hörts uti denna byn, och i den närmaste negden deromkring. Sedan d 18 Novemb: eller ifrån den tiden som Gd Vice Pastorens Carl Östbergs berättelse om denna saken stadnar, så hafwer man ej hört sådana smällar här i byn flere gånger, än som om sielfwa jule=

[2. sida]

dagen. På denna dagen hördes igen wid klockan tre efter middagen, i hela denna byn fyra nog starka och ansenliga smällar. Allenast några minuter hafwer warit emellan hwar smäll. Den första hafwer warit starkast såsom et tämmeligit styckeskot, så at det daldat i spelet och stelaren i huset {något skalast} som en mig berättade; men de senare tvenne smällarne hafwa warit något lindrigare. Luften war mulen och en lenn winter på den dagen. De wåldsammaste smällar som man hördt här i byn hafwa de warit som hördes natten för Simonis Juda el^{er} d 27 Octob: om qwällen. Dessa smällar hafwa påståt något längre än styckeskot, och warit like {dynstungar⁷}, som de dem kallade. De som warit in i husen sade at de kiände smällen bete sig på det sättet lika som man slagit med en stor stock i väggen eller knuten utanför. Dessa smällar hafwa äfwen hörds i en annan by, Kungsböle benämd, som ligger en fierndels mil ifrån Swänskby men sielfwa dånet hafwer dock hörds bunta ifrån denna nyssnämde byn. Swänskbyggarna kommo

[3. sida]

mäst med hwarannan derutuman öfwer ens at skotten blifwit hörd ifrån den i sydwäst. Iag frågade altså, om åt den tracten eller någon

{My Lord} and Highest Sir Archiator.

I was honored to receive the distinguished letter of 30th Jan. from Highest Sir Archiator. Later on I had the opportunity in Svenskby, in the presence of almost all its residents, to further inquire and be informed about the bangs or earthquakes that were most frequently heard last autumn in this village, and in the surrounding nearby areas. Since the 18th November or the time of Resp. Vice Pastors Carl Östbergs report on this matter stems from, such bangs have not been heard in this village several times except for the very Christmas

[2nd page]

day. On this day around 3 o'clock in the afternoon again were heard in the entire village four strong enough and considerable bangs. They came at only a few minutes' intervals. The first one was the strongest and resembled a considerable gunshot, so that the stove dampers and {some other parts} of houses quivered {somewhat strongly}, like I was told by one [villager]; but the next two bangs were somewhat weaker. The air was cloudy and a mild winter that day. The most violent bangs that have been heard here in the village were those heard on the night of Simonis Juda or the 27th Oct: in the evening. These bangs lasted for a little longer than a gunshot, and were alike {thuds⁷} as they [villagers] them called. Those who had been indoors said that they felt the bangs in the way similar to a big stock been hit on the wall or corner from the outside. These bangs have also been heard in another village, named Kungsböle, which is situated a quarter of a mile from Svänskby but the roar itself has however been heard from the newly named village. Svänskby villagers came

[3rd page]

mostly to the mutual agreement with one another that the bangs had been heard from the southwest. I thus inquired whether there are

⁷ assumed to be similar to the modern word *duns*, a thud, but this is speculative

annorstädes derifrån skulle finnas några underjordiska håål eller gryttor.

En karl sade mig at i den negden war et stort håål uti berget, uti hwilket kunde rymmas några tunnor, och til hwilken underjordiska gömma wore en trången ingång. Iag let wisa mig til detta stället; men fant det aldeles wara med snö öfwerbetäckt, så at man ej kunde se der något besynnerligit, eller något spår af någon ändring. Några swafwel malm eller swafwel jord hafwer ej någon blifwit warse omkring Svänsky; men brun järn=ockro finnes här nog, såsom ock mineral haltiga ell^{er} swart-kiellor, som bonderna dem kalla. Brunnar äro nog i byn, uti hwilka ej funnos någon minskning eller ökning af watnet under dessa underliga natursens händelser; dock berättade mig en förnan fen, som darstädes är boendes, at emellan den 11 och 18 Novembris när detta smällandet som oftast hördest, at watnet då blifwit yrunligt i en brunn, der de brukat uttaga watn utur. Tät inwid denna byn ligger en insjö som på flästa stielen ej är öfwer halfan famns diup, och hafwer

[4. sida]

en så dynstig botn, at enär man sticker en stång i botnen til två alnars duplek, och om man stwarckt släpper lös den samma; så upswäller eller upstiger stången igen utaf sig sielf utur gytjan; men om man håller den fast en stund sedan man den undstuckit, så tager der nog rätt fast i botnen, at man kan binda båten fast wid en sådan i botnen nedstucken stång och daga not: emedan härstädes brukas ut daga not på detta sättet ehwarest man hälst wil mil på side, utan at nalkas stränderne. Det tor wara wärt at i afttaga, om några {ädla} fiskar skulle finnas i denna siön war i hwaduppa iag och bedt bonderna taga wara. På några ställen omkring denna by skal äfwen finnas gung=jord, eller sådan jord som ligger såsom flytande på en lös dy eller botn. Och skal en sådan jord hälst gunga eller kiennas wara lös om wären.

any subsurface holes or caves in the district or elsewhere from there.

A man told me that in the area there was a large hole in a hill, in which one could keep a few barrels, and to which underground hiding-place was a narrow entrance. I was led to this place; but found it to be completely covered with snow, so that one could not see anything extraordinary or any traces of any change there. No one is aware of any Sulphur ore or Sulphur soil around Svänsky; but brown iron ochre is found here, as well as mineral-bearing or black springs, as the farmers call them. Wells are located in the village, and no decrease or increase of water occurred in them during these curious natural phenomena; however an {old friend} who lives in the area told me that, between the 11th and 18th of November when this banging was most often heard, the water began to whirl in a well out of which they used to take water. Close to this village a lake is situated that in most places is no deeper than half a *famn*⁸, and has

[4th page]

such a muddy bottom that if one sticks a rod in the bottom to a depth of two *alnar*⁹, and if one lets it loose, then the rod swells up or rises again by itself out of the mud; but if one holds it for a while after it is stuck in the bottom, it does take hold properly in the bottom, and one can tie the boat to such a rod stuck in the bottom and fish with a seine: because here it is customary to fish with a seine in this way, preferably [local fishing habits] without approaching the shores. It should be worth to find out if any {game} fish can be found in this lake which I and the requested farmers controlled. In some places in this village should also be found {swing-soil¹⁰} or such soil that lies kind of lurching on a loose mud or bottom. And should such soil rather {lurch} or feel loose in the spring.

⁸ an old measure of length, 1.78 m

⁹ the singular form is *aln*: 59.58 cm

¹⁰ the soil type is translated literally

Swänskby ligger 2 mile ifrån Saltsjön, norrut på
tämmerl.n flackt falte. Til soder och väster, til
en fiendels mile ifrån byn är nog bärg och skog;
men åt norra sidan är jämt och flakt till några
mile, med sedskog. Åt öster ligger den omtalte
lilla sjön, ungefär lägen til en misls omkrets.
Lungen färdens eller besynnerlig luckt hafwer
man efter dessa besynnerliga händelser kunnat
kienna i luften; dock sade en Capitainska at hon
kiendt om mångdene efter det starka
smällandet såsom om jord stig luft. En karl
berättade mig äfwen, at han wid smällarne
hördt eller kient såsom et sudsande eller
hwinande för öronen, men alla kommo
hwarstenan intet öfwerens, dock sade de alla at
desse åhu förorsakat något besvär för öronen.
Iag är med en duper wördnad
Högaste Hr Archiaturens
alraockunnekeste tienare
David Starck
Degerby d 30 Mart: 1752

Svänskby lies 2 miles from Lake Saltsjö, toward
the north on a rather flat {slope}. To the south
and the west, up to a quarter of a mile from the
village is hills and forests; but to the north it is
flat up to a few miles, with {forest¹¹}. To the east
lies the small mentioned lake, approximately a
mile in circumference. {No failure} or a specific
odor has been felt in the air after these peculiar
occurrences; however the wife of a captain told
me that she felt {many times} after the strong
banging as if {the ground lifted}.
A man also told me that during the bangs he
heard or felt some kind of murmuring or
whistling in the ears, but not everyone agreed
with this; however all of them said that this
{noise} caused some discomfort to the ears.
I am with deep respect the most {humble}
servant of the Highest Sir Archiater
David Starck
Degerby d 30 Mart: 1752

¹¹ the type of forest meant is unclear

Stockholms Post-Tidningar den 30 December 1751, Nr. 101

Pyttis Sochn, den 12. Nov.

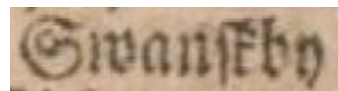
Uti Pyttis Sochn och Swanskby¹² wid Ryska Gränsen, har man den 27 sistledne Octob. klockan 10 om aftonen känt 5 starka skakningar, som de starkaste stycke- och mousquett skott, och så wåldsamma, at golf fönster och spiell deraf darrat. En illa lucktande swafwelstank har man äfwen wid samma tilfälle känt. På et afstånd af 500 steg har skakningen warit starkast men äfwen kännbar på en fierdedels mil distance derifrån. Jordskakningens sträckning war ifrån Sydost til Nordwäst. Orten är belägen 2 mil ifrån Saltsjön och har en liten insjö in wid sig. Den 30 i samma månad kl. 10 om afton har man på samma ställe åter känt en liten skakning, och förtienar at märkas, det wid Byn ligger en backa och berg wid hwilkens norra sida denne händelse timadt.

Newspaper Stockholms Post-Tidningar, 30th December 1751, No. 101

Pyttis Municipality, 12th Nov.

In Pyttis municipality and Swanskby¹² at the Russian border, people have on the 27th of last Octob. at 10 o'clock in the evening felt 5 strong tremors, like the strongest shots of cannon and musket, and so violent that the floor, windows and stove dampers therefore shook. An unpleasant smell of Sulphur was noticed at the same time. Within a distance of 500 steps the shaking was strongest but also noticeable at a distance of a quarter of a mile from there. The earthquake extended from the southeast to the northwest. The area is situated 2 miles from the lake Saltsjön and has a small lake of its own. On the 30th of the same month at 10 o'clock in the evening people noticed again a minor shaking in the same place, and it is worth noticing that close to the village there is a hill and a mountain on whose northern side this event occurred.

¹² in the newspaper, the name is written as



cf. page xi

Stockholms Post-Tidningar den 5 mars 1752,
Nr. 19

Pyttis Sockn i Finland på Ryska Gränsen, den
30. Januar.

I förgårs firade Capitainen af Kongl. Jönköpings
Läns Regementet C. J. von Holthusen i
Svänsby, Hans Kongl. Höghets Prins CARLS
Namnsdag, i närvaru af åtskillige Regements
och andra Officerare samt der omkring boende
Herrskaper af begge könen, då under alla de
Kongl., Riksens Ständers, General
Gouverneurens och Generalitetes skålers
drickande, gafs salswor ur handgewärwn af det
närmast der omkring i byn stående manskap af
samma Regementet; efter måltiden dansades
långt på natten.

Denna by, som består af 22 Hemman, är
märkwärdig af de här tid efter annan skedde
dån och tekn af jordbäfning som den 28 Oct.
den 5 Nov. den 18 dito, den 11 Dec. den 14 dito
och Juldagen, warit alla så häftiga, at hus och
jorden skälfwat och rist sig och det under 60
grad. 32 min. Pol. högd.

Newspaper Stockholms Post-Tidningar, 5th
March 1752, No. 19

Pyttis municipality in Finland at the Russian
Border, 30th Jan.

On the day before yesterday Captain of the
Royal Jönköping's Regiment C.J. von
Holthusen in Svänsby village celebrated the
name day of His Royal Highness Prince CARL,
in the company of several of the Regiment's
and other officers and the gentry of the area of
both genders and there, during the toasts to the
royalty, the estates of the realm, general
administration and the generalcy, gun salutes
were fired with rifles by the soldiers of the
Regiment billeted closest in the village; after the
meal there was dancing late into the night.
This village with its 22 houses is remarkable in
that there time after time occurred roar and
sign of earthquake, on 28th Oct., 5th Nov., 18th
dito, 11th Dec., 14th dito and on Christmas Day,
all of which were so violent that houses and the
ground shook and rose and this at 60 deg. 32
min. Polar latitude.

St. Petersburgische Zeitung den 7. Februarii
1752, No. 11

Swamki¹³, in Schwedisch=finnland vom 1. Dec.

Den 7 den des verwichenen Monaths spürete man allhier etliche Stösse von einem Erd=beben, so sich von Süd=Osten gegen Nord=Westen erstreckten. Sie waren mit einem starcken empfindlichen Schwefel=Geruche, begleitet: doch haben sie, ohngeachtet ihrer heftigkeit, keinen beträchtlichen Schaden gethan. Den 10ten es gemeldeten Monaths spüreten wir wieder einen Stoß; der aber ganz leicht war.

Санкт-Петербургские Ведомости 7 фев. 1752,
No. 11

Из Званица¹⁴, что въ Шведской Финляндии,
от 1 декабря

Минувшего месяца 7 числа чувствовали Мы несколько ударов от потрясения земли, которое простиралось от юго-востока на северо-запад. Притом происходил жестокий земной стук, и сильно пахло серою; однако сколь жестоко землетрясение ни было, но вреда великого от него не учинилось. Помянутого месяца 10 числа почувствовали мы паки (опять) трясение; однако было оное весьма невелико.

Newspaper St. Petersburgische Zeitung, 7th
February 1752, No. 11

Swamki¹³, in Swedish Finland, 1st Dec.

On the 7th of the last month several shocks of an earthquake were noticed here, which extended from the southeast to the northwest. They were accompanied by a strong Sulphur odor: they have however, despite their violence, caused no noticeable damage. On the 10th of the same month we again felt a shock; but it was quite weak.

Newspaper Санкт-Петербургские Ведомости,
7th February 1752, No. 11

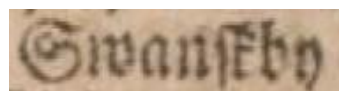
From Zvanitsa¹⁴, which is in Swedish Finland,
at 1 December

Last month day 7 we felt several shocks of an earth shaking, which extended from the southeast to the northwest. Moreover, it was accompanied with a strong earth knocking and a sulfur odor was felt; though the shaking was strong, it did not cause any strong harm. On day 10 of the same month we felt (again) a shaking; but it was quite small.

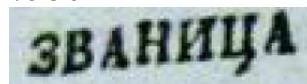
¹³ written as



Probably the original spelling, as in ¹² on page ix, became distorted and shortened in the German-language version of the news account



¹⁴ The Russian name was possibly translated directly from the original Swedish-language version



Kungliga vetenskapsakademien,
protokoll

den 18 Januari 1752

4. Academiens ämnesvän¹⁵, H. Ribe, Evaldson, inlemnade bevitnade berättelse om några underliga Smällar, som uti en By Svenske-by, på Ryska gränsen, blifvit hörde åtskilliga nätter, uti sistledne Oct. och Nov. månader.

Emedan ock något uti afvisorna derom blifvit berättat, ock här åberopas många förståndiga mäns vitnesbörd, kunde Akademien ei draga factum i tvifvelsmål. utan beslöt at låta införa et utdrag här af uti Handlingarna.

den 4 April 1752

4. H. Capitaine Holthusens berättelse, om Smällarna i Swenskeby: något omständilige än den förra, se N. 3. der af skal et utdrag införas i Handlingarna.

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Minutes
of the meetings

18th January 1752

4. The {¹⁵} of the Academy Mr Ribe, Evaldson, delivered an attested account of some curious bangs that have been heard in the village of Svenske-by at the Russian border on several nights during the past October and November. Because some excerpts of it were read, and here the testimonies of many wise men are cited, the Academy could not call it into question, but decided that an extract of the report shall be included in the Proceedings.

4th April 1752

4. Mr Captain Holthusen's report, about the bangs in Svenskby: somewhat more detailed than the previous, cf. No. 3 from it an excerpt shall be included in the Proceedings.

¹⁵ the word is unclear; speculatively, this could have been a task of the Academy attended to by Academy member Mr Ribe