

Martti from Vanha-Halla (Old Halla) is responsible for the founding of the Ylönen Family Association

Martti Johannes Kauppinen (born 21.9.1934 in Suolivesi village in Hankasalmi, Finland) farmed his home farm Vanha-Halla. The Kauppinen family has lived on the farm estate for 18 generations. Since 1640, the farm has been permanently inhabited. Before that, the location was a cossack area with only a fishing hut on the lake shore.

The Kauppinen family farm in Vieru in Venetmäki village was divided into five parts: the four sons received 1600 hectares and the daughter half of it, 800 hectares, with her husband Eerikki Hämäläinen of Vanhan-Halla. The daughter had been born 1652, but there is no record of her name. They gave up Halla after some time and this is when Tapani Tapaninpoika Kauppinen (1647-1704) and his brother Heikki got the title to the Suoliniemi farm. Heikki returned to Suoliniemi and Tapani stayed in Halla and married Elina Ylönen, daughter from Joki-Ylönen farm.

Another Ylönen landlady in Halla was Eeva Ylönen from Heinäaho (Sauvamäki) in 1825-1887. She was married to Heikki Kauppinen. Their daughter Eeva Stiina was later the hostess of Joki-Ylönen - the wife of Jooseppi Ylönen. Their daughter Elsa-Maria Ylönen (1889-1972) was the third Ylönen as hostess of Halla.

After the death of his wife Loviisa, Halla's master Ville Matilainen needed a maid to look after his household. Ville asked Joki-Ylönen family which of the daughters in the house would take care of his household. Elsa was willing to do the job as a hired help. Ville was happy with Elsa as his maid and made her a will for the whole house.

Later, Ville became paralysed and a man was needed to care for him. By then, Elsa was involved with Niilo Kauppinen, a boy from a nearby farm, and soon married him. Thus the paralysed Ville found a carer in Niilo. In fact, Niilo came to the house as a son-in-law and then became the master after Ville Matilainen's death. Elsa was Martti's mother and Martti is the youngest of Elsa and Niilo (family 334 in the Ylöste family book).

Martti was interested in genealogy already in the 1950s, but there was no time for it when the farm work required all his time. In 1985, preparations for the Kauppinen family reunion were on the way. That's when Jarmo Ahlstrand (who is also related to the Ylönen). Martti told Jarmo also about the Ylönen family, because he was interested in the past of the both families. Martti called his cousins, Vilho Ylönen of Tikkakoski and Annikki Kokkonen of Savonlinna, and they too were interested in the matter. Martti also contacted Olavi Ylönen of Kotka, a deputy judge who had researched his own family line, which also led to Joki-Ylönen. That was the starting point for the foundation of the Ylönen Family Association.

The first Ylönen family meeting was in 1986 in Joki-Ylönen, with 18 Ylönen family members present. Martti was elected as a treasurer for three terms. Martti told that he had attended all the Ylönen Family Association meetings during the early years of the society. He told that there was no actual reason why he could not attend.