

STORA HÄLSINGEGÅRDARS VÄG

The village of Alfta Kyrkby and the surrounding community



ings from around the turn of the last century remain near the church and along Långgatan street. The magnificent inn opposite the church, built in the 1870s, set the tone with its avant-garde panel architecture and glassed-in verandas. Carpenter and master builder Jonas Holm was an important figure in most of this work. Originally from Bollnäs, he married and moved to Alfta in 1887. The strong expansion in the village suited him, and wherever there was something going on, you would find Jonas Holm.

The pulpit – a source of inspiration

The church was rebuilt after the Great Fire. Axel Almfeldt, architect at a government commissariat in Stockholm, designed the church and the beautifully decorated pulpit. Olof Brunk and Pehr Tulpan were two skilled and very popular local carpenters who were given the job of carving the pulpit. Their names and the date – 1815 – were modestly carved on the back of the pulpit. This job was to inspire them in their future work. Porches and ornamental woodwork came to be embellished with designs copied from the pulpit. Countless examples remain in the area. The Alfta rose, with its scalloped petals, has become the

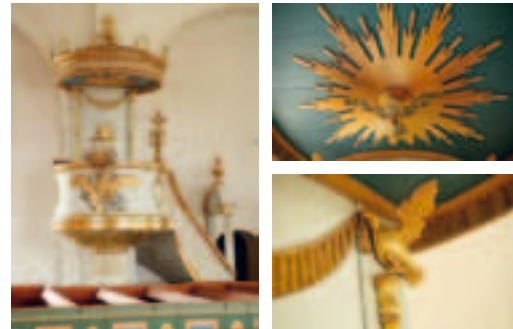
IN ALFTA, THE CHURCH, THE VICARAGE, THE SCHOOL AND THE VILLAGE AROUND THE STATION are all clustered close together and demonstrate a rich trove of carpentry. This village is classed as the best-preserved of its type in the county. A new village was rapidly built after the Great Fire of 1793 a new vicarage was completed only a year afterwards, and the church was completely rebuilt within a few years. Alfta grew quickly from the mid-19th until early 20th century. Many well-preserved build-

Alfta church, seen from the parish school.



PHOTO AGNES ANDERSSON

The magnificently ornamented pulpit in Alfta church.



Carved roses and leaves, by carpenters Brunk and Tulpan.



The Alfta rose and picked leaves are found on farmhouse doors and porches.

foremost symbol of the parish. It is still used as decoration in woodwork, jewellery and other items.

Double doors

The school, dating from 1847, stands next to the church. The work was directed by carpenter-farmer Hans Brunk of Näsbyn, son of master carpenter Olof Brunk, who had carved the pulpit 30 years before. The school porch with its two pillars is Hans Brunk's own design. The impressive wooden pillars, which are still standing, are a testament to Brunk's eye for proportion. The double doors and entrance were the inspiration for the porch of the big farm Jon-Lars in Långhed. Hans Brunk

was one of many in Alfta parish who accompanied the dissident preacher Erik Jansson to America. This emigration, which had great impact on Alfta parish, is described at the Emigrant Museum at Ol-Anders.

The school's entrance was the inspiration for the porch of the big farm Jon-Lars in Långhed.



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