

Dr. Mikael {Michael, Mikko} Livson  
Sortavala 23.8.1910 – Helsinki 21.1.1990

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Mikael = Mi Ka El = Hebrew for the  
archangel Who “Mi” is like “Ka” God “El”

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## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

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## Dr. Mikael {Michael, Mikko} Livson Sortavala 23.8.1910 – Helsinki 21.1.1990

*Mikael = Mi Ka El = Hebrew for the archangel Who "Mi" is like "Ka" God "El"*

*With Love to Ayala*

**Dear Matan and Ori,**

This is for you - a biography of your grandfather Dr. Mikael {Mikko, Michael} Livson. It is now seventeen years since my father passed away and I have now after all these years gathered courage to tell his story to you. Ever since my mother passed away in 1966, when I was fourteen years old, I lived with my father for the next twenty years and the bond between us was very unique.

I felt after all these years that at least I should preserve my father's work in legal research and his historic work 'Jesus from Galilee' and hence the memorial web-site [Mikael Livson](#) which also includes all the important documents and certificates of his career and scholarly achievement as well as an ever expanding collection of photographs. The intent is to re-publish the books via [Google Books](#).

Your grandfather was a very special person. He grew from very humble origins to study and fight his way through as a penniless student, through war in the service of his country, to become Dr. of Laws, Reader of Law {Docent}, First Crown Prosecutor of Helsinki and a long serving District Court Judge & Chairman.

I have written the 'truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' but I hope in an interesting, personal and entertaining way to the reader describing the earthly human side of my father and his relations. This is not about writing some dry impersonal scientific matter-of-the-fact treatise. I have tried to tell my father's story with 'warts and all' including the very traumatic experiences that scarred him for life. Yes, this is a story of overcoming great hardship, wonderful achievement and also about a lot of needless self-inflicted suffering.

Also, I felt that I need to tell about the 'Blue Book' and the 'Swiss Episode' - two fascinating secrets that father shared with me and I felt that I am no longer bound by the oath of secrecy except that I have suppressed telling the names of actual people in the episodes as the lack of names really does not detract from the story.

I have carefully marked the veracity by chapter headers with a 'truth' classifier T1, T2 or T3 with T1 being facts from official documents under the memorial web-site [Mikael Livson](#), T2 is my own first experience or what father told me and T3 is what others told about father, pure hearsay, speculation or my personal opinion. A chapter may have more than one marker as applicable. In this way, you should have a clear idea of what is fact and what may be fiction. Last but not least I thank my sister Anita and my brother Jerry Elis, uncle Aron, many of my cousins for their contributions and support. With lots of love and pride,

**Your father Ben Uriel, Sydney, February 2007**

## Lifson/Livson – Tabakoff/Tabatsnikoff Ancestry {T2 & T3}

*The man who has nothing to boast of but his illustrious ancestry is like the potato - the best part under ground. -- Thomas Overbury (1581 - 1613)*

The ravages of numerous wars in Russia and the Baltic countries have destroyed any archived documentary evidence about our ancestry. The Lifsons {as well as the Nemeschansky family from my mother's side} migrated to Finland from the village of Ula {T3} near the town of Vitsebsk in the north-eastern tip of Belarus bordering the Baltics. According to the First All-Russia Census of 1897 for the Vitebsk gubernia Ula had a population of 2,485 and Vitebsk 65,719.

The family name Lifson possibly dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the Baltics by Sweden with the population and in particular the Jews forced to take on Swedish surnames as a measure of population control. The Swedes were the first to invent surnames. Prior to the Swedish adoption of surnames a person was called by place name e.g. 'Mikael of Sortavala' or by profession 'Mikael the fisherman' or by son of so and so 'Mikael son of Simon'. The 'son' ending in Lifson indicates an early surname. Mikael and brother Aron modernised 'Lifson' into 'Livson' in the 1930s but Grandfather Simon stayed a Lifson. The old 'f' became a 'v' in many Swedish names. The name 'Livson' may be from 'Livets Son' or 'son of life'.

The Lifsons were apparently from very humble origins. Grandfather Simon's father Michail {b 1857?} e.g. my great grandfather from my father's side was a lumberman that drowned in 1884 in a tug boat accident falling in between floating logs. Michail had six children: Abraham, daughter N.N., Wilhem (Mottel?), Simon, Lazar {Louis}, and Mitchell {T3}. My grandfather Simon Lifson b. 1881 became an orphan aged three. Mikael's mother Hane Ite "Anjuta" {Anita} maiden name is Tabakov/Tabatsnikoff – a wealthier family with a Tabakoff in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century apparently being a builder of the Moscow-to-Tashkent railway to Caucasus and its oil fields. Anjuta's father Samuil Tabakov b 1861 was a builder with a saw mill and perished in the Holocaust. Samuil's father was Aron Tabakov. Mikael's daughter was named Anita after Anjuta and Mikael's brother was named Aron after our great grandfather.

We are of north Russian Jewry. Jews settled with their families in Finland – an autonomous principality under imperial Russia - during the nineteenth century as long-serving soldiers of the imperial Russian army with Jews forcibly conscripted up to 25-years and allowed to stay with their families in their final garrison town which in their case was in Finland.

There is extensive literature of the origins and history of Finland's Jewry so I will not repeat it here. Suffice to say that there is precious little information even of our great grandfather Mikael. My late uncle Abbi Nemes has researched the family tree of Nemes/Nemeschansky from my mother's side but anything beyond Wulf Nemeschansky son of Abraham b 1857- the father of Benjamin Nemeschansky my great grandfather- is pure supposition. There is a mention of a Lewis(?) Lifson born 1857 in Vitsebsk {T3} as a possible ancestor {T3}. The maximum we can reliably go back in history from either side of the family is 150 years.

The one notable exception may be from my mother's side her grandmother Sifra Liebkind whose grandfather may {T3} have been related to Israel Salanter who was one the greatest Rabbis ever and was called the Gaon {Genius} from Vilna: Rabbi **Yisrael Lipkin**, better known as "**Rav Yisrael Salanter**", (1810- February 2, 1883) was the father of the Mussar movement in Orthodox Judaism and a famed Rosh yeshiva and Talmudist.

Contrast this with many Swedish-Finnish farmers that can trace back via Land Title and church records their family roots up to 800 years. In summary, what I can tell about family roots before my grand fathers is insignificant and mainly pure supposition {T3}.



View of Vitsebsk early 19<sup>th</sup> century



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitsebsk>

Vitebsk developed from a river harbor where the Vita River (from which it derives its name) flows into the larger [Dvina](#), which is spanned in the city by the [Kirov Bridge](#). The first mention in historical records dates from [1021](#), but its official founding year is [974](#), for reasons unknown, the most likely being vanity.

In the [12th](#) and [13th](#) centuries Vitebsk was the seat of a minor principality, which thrived on the crossroads of the river routes between the [Baltic](#), [Black](#) and [Mediterranean](#) seas. In [1320](#) the city was incorporated into the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#);

In [1569](#) it became a part of the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](#). In [1597](#) Vitebsk was granted the [Magdeburg Rights](#). In [1772](#) it was taken over by [Russia](#) in the [First Partition of Poland](#). Under [Imperial Russia](#) Vitebsk downtown was rebuilt in the neoclassical style. The town was a significant [shtetl](#) in the [Pale of Settlement](#), with around half its population [Orthodox Jewish](#) at the turn of the [20th century](#). The most famous of its Jewish natives was the painter [Marc Chagall](#). In January [1991](#), Vitebsk celebrated the first Marc Chagall Festival. In June [1992](#), a monument to Chagall was erected on his native Pokrovskaja Street and a memorial inscription placed on the wall of his house.

In the years [1919-1991](#) Vitebsk was part of the [Soviet Union](#). During the [World War II](#), the city was under German occupation (1941-44). As a result, much of the old city was destroyed in the ensuing battles with the [Red Army](#).

**Shtetl Vitebsk**, a Jewish town in the Russian empire

**Vitebsk** was the tenth largest Jewish center in the Pale of Settlement, after Warsaw (219,149 Jews), Odessa (138,915), Lodz (98,677), Vilna (64,000), Kishinev (50,237), Minsk (47,562), Bialystok (41,900), Berdichev (41,617), Yekaterinoslavl (aka Dnepropetrovsk, 40,009). Vitebsk, on the shores of Dvina River, was a major trade and cultural center, a stronghold of Orthodox Judaism with a strong Hasidic presence. At the turn of the XX century there were almost 35,000 Jews living in Vitebsk, 52.4% of the total population.

From the data of *The First All-Russia Census of 1897* for the Vitebsk gubernia (LDS microfilm 1732226):

- Total population of Vitebsk gubernia: 1,489,246 (of those, 215,919 living in cities)
- Jews and karaims: 175,635 (113,848 in cities)
- Yiddish as mother tongue: 174,240 (112,455 in cities)
- Total population of Vitebsk: 33,345 men; 32,374 women
- Jews in Vitebsk: 15,897 men; 17,555 women

We have managed to maintain some contact with our relatives on the Russian {Soviet Union} side. Mikael's grandfather Samuil Tabakov was able to visit Finland until 1930s. All his property was confiscated by the communists but the old man was allowed to live in one room of his house. Samuil survived by hiding the spare parts of his saw mill and then selling them back to the new communist operators for a living. Samuil b.1861 was into his early eighties when the Nazi German occupiers burst into his house and kicked the old man to death as Mikael and Aron were informed by the International Red Cross after the war. Several other Vitebsk relatives perished in the Holocaust and Mikael could never forgive the Germans.

In the 1970s a cousin called Braine from Minsk – a loyal fervent official of the communist party – visited us to tell about the paradise called Soviet Union – a place of great abundance.

She bought just about everything imaginable from the Finnish shops and cried bitterly when the Soviet Consulate refused her umpteenth request to extend her stay. She had to leave her son behind to make sure that she returned to the Soviet paradise.

We did have some interesting discussions with her. She did confirm the longevity of the Tabakoff family with several being able to live up to a hundred years.

## Simon Lifson 26.05.1881 – 16.01.1954 {T2}

I don't know who my grandfather was; I'm much more concerned to know what his grandson will be. --

### Abraham Lincoln

Grandfather Simon Lifson b. 1881 was an orphan from age three and brought up as a child slave in an artisans' hat makers' guild. Simon was illiterate until his marriage with new wife Anita Tabakoff-Tabatsnikoff teaching him to read and write.

Simon graduated a hat master age 17 from his guild in St Petersburg, married Anita and settled in Sortavala – a village on Ladoga – the largest sweet water lake in Europe. Sortavala belonged to Finland's Karelia province until the Second World War but always had a strong Russian Slavic influence. Mikael was equally fluent in Russian as in Finnish until his late teens and maintained a fine command of Russian enhanced by study of the giants in Russian literature, Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy.

Simon was a successful hard working artisan with his own workshop "East Finland Hat Factory" {Itä-Suomen Lakkitehtaan and Suomen Lakkitehdas Oy} first in Sortavala and subsequently in Vyborg and kept accumulating significant wealth until the Russian revolution. The Lifsons owned two residential apartment buildings in Vyborg the capital of Karelia by 1917.

Simon being a very simple man with no schooling made a catastrophic mistake by converting all his assets into imperial Russian rubles by thinking that the Tsar of Russia would make a comeback and oust the communists. Not only did Simon lose all his assets but had borrowed heavily to maximise his purchase of rubles that ended up as wall paper when informed of the slaughter of the Tsar and his family.

Simon instead of declaring himself bankrupt paid off all his debts over the next thirty years as a man of absolute honor. Simon passed away in 1954 completely debt free and left his second wife Paula a house in Tikkurila some 20 km from Helsinki. Simon's financial recovery was even more remarkable as his workshop for manufacturing hats burned down in the late twenties with the insurer refusing to reimburse more than a third of the sum insured. It was either accept 'a third' or 'we'll bankrupt you in courts for the next five years'. Obviously, Simon was forced to accept the dictate from the insurer.

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Simon's happiest time was until 1917 with sons Mikael b. 1910 and Aron b. 1916. Mother Anjuta perished from Spanish fever in 1918 among the 20 million Europeans killed by the fever that could have been cured by penicillin that was not to be invented for another twenty years.

Simon married Paula – Anjuta's sister – according to the old Jewish tradition. Paula was a good wife and practically a mother to Aron. Simon and Paula had a daughter Bebi {Braine} in the early 1930s. Bebi had a tragic life by marrying a mentally disturbed Finnish poet Lehtovaara who later on committed suicide. Also, their son Joel committed suicide.

Brothers Mikael and Aron had to often look after Bebi and Paula and to sort out numerous very tragic situations. The second marriage between Simon and Paula was not always the happiest. Paula left Simon after catching Simon in bed with another woman.

Simon was too shy to call Mikael – the lawyer son – for help but uncle Aron came to the rescue and brought Paula back home. Aron simply explained to Paula that nothing of the kind had ever happened and that she was imagining it all up. Divorce would have been unthinkable those days so a solution had to be found thanks to the ever resourceful uncle Aron.

Simon was a skilled hat master that designed and manufactured the winter hats for the Finnish army.

Simon, Mikael and Aron were subjects of imperial Russia and subsequently stateless after the 1917 revolution until the Jews were finally granted citizenship in the early 1920s. Finland's backwardness and resistance to granting citizenship to Jews in Finland is well documented. Perhaps less known is that Finland was forced to grant citizenship to Jews by England and USA as a condition for providing food aid in 1919. Mannerheim as caretaker of Finland received an ultimatum where grant of citizenship to Jews was one of the conditions for grain shipments that Finland so desperately needed after a debilitating civil war with some 60,000 perished - mainly 'Red' socialist brethren starved to death or simply murdered in the horrendous concentration camps run by Mannerheim's victorious white army supported by Kaiser's German elements. During the [Finnish Civil War](#), Urho Kekkonen – the future President - fought for the [White Guard](#) and led a [firing squad](#) in [Hamina](#). Kekkonen personally admitted to having killed a man in battle, but not to a mass [execution](#) of Red troops committed by his squad. However, a photograph taken at the time seems to prove that Kekkonen was there during the execution.

Over the next twenty years from 1920 to 1944 Finland was a fascist country with at times extreme sympathies and collaboration with the rising Nazi movement in Germany and subsequently Finland was forced to surrender unconditionally to the Soviet Union having been defeated as an ally of Nazi Germany.

Interestingly, Finland's president Svinhuvud did stop the Finnish black shirts "Lapuan Liike" from wresting power in Finland in the early 1930s. Svinhuvud, although an extreme right winger and fascist, could not as a former judge tolerate any lawlessness.

Hence his famous radio address "This is the president. I am telling you all to go home" and all the armed Lapuans quickly laid down their arms and went home as they knew that Svinhuvud would not hesitate to slaughter them if the mutiny were to continue.

In the 1930s there was constant intimidation of Jews by pro German Finnish extremists. Simon when threatened chased them out of his workshop with his hat makers' long scissors. Aron and Mikael took turns every night to guard Simon for many months to come.

Young Aron was very much a fearless man of direct action, incredibly strong and on many occasions beat the daylighters out of the worst anti-Semites.

I was only two years old, when my grandfather Simon Lifson passed away, and thus I have no recollection of him except what my father has told of him.

Grandfather Simon Lifson had a sailor brother that left offspring in the USA {and possibly South Africa}. Uncle Aron and my brother Jerry have kept contact with the US Lifsons/Livsons but this book is focused on the family in Finland. In 1953 grandfather Simon and uncle Aron flew to the USA - in one of the earlier transatlantic flights - to meet their relatives. Uncle Aron joked that some of our relatives in the USA were not overly keen to see us. The first question was along the lines "*and when are you leaving?*". However, Aron, Dennis and Jerry have since maintained regular contact with the US Livsons and most recently all this has been covered by a genealogy written by Dennis Livson and his friend Raimo Vallius.

Aron was very much the Esau working from a young age in Simon's workshop assisting Simon through very difficult times whereas Mikael was the Jacob who studied but did not have to 'steal the birthright' unlike Jacob being the elder son. However, I think Simon was always much closer to Aron. Also, since 1930s Mikael was studying law in Helsinki whereas Aron stayed at home in Vyborg to help out the family.

Simon was not a religious Jew and often called the Rabbis 'God's Ganavim' {thieves of God}. Simon was a gabbai in the Viborg synagogue where Simon's main task was to shush the members up in the back rows from talking too loud about business so as not to disturb prayers that often enough were an incomprehensible mumble as many of the Jews in Golah do not understand Hebrew or what they are praying but rock back and forth and mumble out of habit. Surprisingly, the congregation somehow manages to join in with the Rabbi at the right time although most of them do not actually understand what's being prayed but do understand how to behave when praying and what is expected of them in the Synagogue.

Simon pushed young Mikael very hard in his schooling to matriculate. Also, Mikael was forced to play the piano and by his early twenties approached the competencies of a concert pianist playing virtuoso Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

Mikael, however, never wanted to continue as a pianist or even as a hobbyist of piano playing because Simon forced him into it. Mikael's true love at high school was history. Mikael stayed class twice for excessive study of history consuming all his energies.

Mikael's passion was to become a historian and probably he would have ended up as a professor of history but Simon simply ordered him to study law and those days your father's wish was your command. Attitudes have changed since and nowadays children mold their future as they please. A parent may no longer dictate what a child may do but just offer gentle guidance.

Well for the next fifty years Mikael had his career in law, excelled in it but probably was sad that he never could take up history as his true passion. As a late compensation Mikael once again became a student and researcher of history after his retirement and wrote a historic study called '[Jesus from Galilee](#)'.

## Brother Aron - {T2}

Am I my brother's keeper? Bible, Genesis iv. 9. .. The Big Brother is watching you, George Orwell

Like Esau and Jacob, Aron {b 25.05.1916 in Sortavala} and Mikael were extreme opposites. Aron was six years younger than Mikael and could not be offered nor had any inclination for much schooling. Aron was the most charming and colorful character imaginable. Aron specialised in getting into huge trouble and then, of course, blaming it all on elder brother Mikael whether it was throwing all the washed clothes onto a pile of coals or breaking up all the windows. Wherever Aron went there was action. One of Aron's favorite stories is his sexual exploits at the age of thirteen (13) bonking the poor housemaid that had her employment terminated after that. Aron dropped out of school year 7 or 8 to help out Simon in the workshop. Simon was always very close to Aron.

Aron was a fearless young man and a true commando in the Winter War 1939-1940 thrown deep behind the enemy Soviet lines as a platoon commander of a light mortar group.

Aron despite limited education had a natural talent for business. In the Second World War Aron served by organising large scale collection of scrap metal which was very important for the war economy. Aron then continued in civilian life as a successful builder and real estate property manager.

Aron married after the war Ruth Drisin and had three children Dennis, Ariel and Margalit. I am till this day very fond of cousin Ariel. Aron genuinely loved Ruth and it was sad that they separated with Ruth leaving to live in Switzerland where they both had a house and assets. Aron helped Ruth financially long after their marriage ended. Their divorce was rare in being managed in a civilised intelligent manner as opposed to the typical Jewish divorce with the parties often clobbering each other to death.

Subsequently, Aron met Sigrun Margaretha Lindfors, a charming nurse with whom Aron has lived some thirty years and most recently Aron and Margareta have married 08.04.2005. Margareta is a nurse by training and helps out Ruth who is nowadays ill. Uncle Aron is now 90 and has had a wonderful life still playing golf and enjoying some very colorful jokes. Aron is the president of the Jewish war veterans in Finland and I have to say has lived a longer, healthier and a nicer life than his older brother Mikael.

The relationship between Aron and Mikael had huge ups and downs perhaps because at times Mikael was too serious or sensitive and could not cope with Aron's earthly sense of humor. Aron never showed any respect to anybody and certainly not for his elder brother but Mikael should have been a lot wiser and simply ignored Aron's often rude hurtful manner. Probably in part it must have hurt Aron that he did not have the chance or inclination to study so there may have been an inferiority complex behind Aron's rude manner. However, I strongly believe that the brothers loved and cared for each other. It is a shame that some pettiness spoiled a relationship that could have been stronger. The brothers nevertheless saw eye-to-eye in all important matters.

## Mikael's University of Helsinki Student Days and Conscription {T1 & T2}

A fool's brain digests philosophy into folly, science into superstition, and art into pedantry. Hence University education. - **George Bernard Shaw**

Mikael completed his Higher School Certificate on 31.5.1933 at the age of almost 23. His extracurricular activities with piano and in particular his passion for history delayed his matriculation by 2-3 years. Mikael by order of his father Simon commenced study of law in autumn 1933. Mikael was a poor penniless student that had to support his studies by teaching the dumb school kids of rich parents sharing a room with another law student Erkkilä. Mikael and Erkkilä were so poor that often enough they went to the university canteen to share the same bowl of porridge and the same fag of cigarette. Subsequently both became distinguished lawyers and judges commemorating their experience once every year by sharing a bowl of porridge and a cigarette.

By the way, Mikael smoked a pack of cigarettes every day until 63 when Mikael got fed up by my continuous nagging about how harmful cigarettes are and simply stopped altogether cold turkey and never smoked a cigarette ever since. Mikael certainly had a very strong will power.

Mikael met as a law student Issi Nemes – the oldest of Benjamin Nemeschansky's five children in 1935. Benjamin and Issi were great Zionists, both had laid the foundation stone of the Hebrew University Mount Scopus faculty of law in 1930s with Issi staying in Israel for a couple of years to study law.

Issi spoke fluent Hebrew. Issi then in 1935 introduced Mikael to the Nemes family and Mikael fleetingly saw a young 13 year old girl called Maj-Lis who eight years later became his wife.

Mikael was conscripted for 18 months of national service in 1936 and served with great pride and enthusiasm being released as a sergeant. Mikael was scarred for life for not being chosen for the officer school and blamed it all for anti-Semitism. The real reason according to Aron was that Mikael contracted a Venereal Disease VD during his army service. Having a VD before antibiotics became available was difficult to treat and had a stigma. Quite a few Jews before and after Mikael were accepted as officers so I would have to accept Aron's version of events. In fact, a mathematically bright Jewish officer was serving the air force anti-aircraft A/A unit where Mikael started as a conscript. Hence I do not think there was ever a blanket ban for Jews to serve as officers in the Finnish army.

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Mikael was in fact later on offered officer training serving the Finnish Navy on Lake Ladoga late 1941 but was transferred to an A/A unit of the air force in Helsinki before that could happen.

Mikael ended up serving as the air force legal officer with a lieutenant's pay towards the end of the war. Failing to qualify as an officer was always an open sore for Mikael and he failed to mentally move on. I never achieved anything in my military service so I could not care less whether father was an officer or not.

Mikael [enlisted](#) to fight in the winter war from 7 October 1939 to 25 July 1940 – the troops were not released for four months after the war for fear of a further flare-up.

Mikael [enlisted](#) in the army for the main Second World War known in Finland as the continuation war {jatkosota} from 20 June 1941 to 14 November 1944.

Despite some five and half years of military service Michael managed to complete his studies attaining his Master of Law Degree 29.4.1943 and admitted as an Attorney of Law 3.5.1943. This was followed by the Candidate of Law 13.9.1945 which was commuted to the Licentiate of Law degree 21.1.1949.

I will later on present Mikael's admission to the bar, his doctorate and docent degrees. I have scanned in all of Mikael's degrees and certificates under:

[Dosentti Nimitys - Appointment as Reader of Law University of Helsinki](#) 1954

[Lakitieteen Tohtori - Doctor of Laws](#) 1949

[Lakitieteen Tohtori - Doctor of Laws Promovation](#)

[Lakitieteen Lisensiaati - Licentiate of Law](#) 1949

[Lakitieteen Kandidaatti - Candidate of Law](#) 1945

[Varatuomari - Barrister](#) 1946

[Master of Law](#) and [Solicitor](#) 1943

[Ansioluettelo - Nimikirja - Official State Record of Merit](#) 1970

[Suositus - Recommendation {in Swedish}](#) 1949

Suffice to say that Mikael managed to complete the bulk of his legal studies by the end of World War Two and acted successfully in his law practice between 1944 and 1958.

Last but not least was Mikael's first marriage. Father never spoke much about the marriage except that his ex expressed her sympathy after the war and after the horrors of the Holocaust became known. The official information about Mikael's first marriage is as follows: Mikael married Svea Linnea Söderlund, daughter of Karl Albinus Söderlund and Elin Matilda Hagert, on 27.11.1941 in Helsinki. The marriage ended in divorce on 05.11.1942. Svea was born on 14.01.1915 in Helsinki and died on 03.07.1998 in Helsinki at age 83. Other names for Svea were Svea Linnea Harms, and Svea Linnea Livson. They had no children.

Reference: [Ansioluettelo - Nimikirja - Official State Record of Merit](#) 1970

## Wartime Service 1941-1944 {T2}

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones. **Albert Einstein.**

Mikael was promoted to “sergeant” in 1940 during Winter War. He enlisted in the navy at the beginning of the Second World War to serve on a tug boat armed with an A/A gun on Lake Ladoga. Mikael applied for a transfer to the A/A units in Helsinki to complete his law studies war service permitting. The transfer in October 1941 was very fortunate as a week later a Soviet torpedo boat ambushed the tug boat killing eight of the nine man crew. Without the transfer I would not be here writing the book and you reading it.

Mikael served the next three years until his end of war release in November 1944 in the air force A/A unit posted on top of the Post Master General’s Head Quarters right next to the Helsinki central railway station.

The roof top had a battery of Bofors A/A guns as part of the Helsinki aerial defence brilliantly designed by a young mathematician lieutenant Olli Lokki who was to become Professor of Applied Mathematics at the Helsinki University and Helsinki Polytechnic University. I had the great privilege of Olli Lokki supervising my Licentiate of Philosophy dissertation and for serving as his junior assistant. Lokki was a brilliant thinker who organised the air defenses so that the various A/A batteries according to the radar direction and altitude finder were shooting into pre-defined matrices, thus making sure that the various guns were used in the mathematically most optimal way. Lokki’s other master stroke was to organise the A/A light projectors far out of Helsinki on the frozen Baltic sea. The Soviets in fact were stupid enough to drop many of their bombs on ice far away from Helsinki.

The Soviets launched in 1942 and 1944 three massive air raids with 800 bombers in each wave with the aim of forcing Finland into unconditional surrender which did happen after a major Soviet army breakthrough in the Karelian peninsula but not because of the aerial mass bombings of Helsinki which in fact did not achieve much. The Soviet air force was always the weakest link in their vast military.

Mikael stationed in Helsinki did have the time to complete his law studies. Surprisingly, Mikael did manage a social life, too. Back in 1942 a young 20-year old party going woman Maj-Lis Nemes stops Mikael to ask what he thought of the sinful Helsinki and Mikael, of course, answered that he in particular liked the sinful Helsinki. The rest is history and both get married shortly afterwards. The first child daughter Anita was born 16 May 1944 followed by Jerry b 6 January 1946.

Mikael was very lucky to exit the war unharmed and in relatively good health apart from partial balding and dental damage due to the poor military diet. The troops in the trenches against the Soviets lost almost 200,000 men including 85,000 killed and the rest wounded out of a nation of three million. Many troops wrecked their backs for life having to sleep for years in wet damp bunkers that froze in the night and often thawed daytime depending on season. The suffering of the men was horrible and scarred them for the rest of their lives.

The cemetery in Helsinki has the graves of 23 Jewish soldiers including mother's brother Elis Nemes, who was killed in 1941. Uncle Aron is the president of the Jewish war veterans; the Finnish Jews were saved from being sent to the Nazi concentration camps thanks to their army service and thanks to Marshall Mannerheim:

Mannerheim was a Finnish-Swedish noble man that served as the palace guard of the Russian Tsar rising to the rank of colonel to lead an imperial expedition to Tibet. In the First World War general Mannerheim lead an imperial Russian cavalry division. Back in Finland after the Russian Revolution Mannerheim lead the white farmer-burger forces with the help of troops from Germany to unseat the legally elected social democratic "red" government Finland after the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1917 independence from Russia. The Finnish civil war and Mannerheim were exceptionately brutal with 60,000 "red" brethren killed or starved to death in concentration camps. Mannerheim was a caretaker of Finland from 1919 to 1921. As mentioned earlier, the allies USA and England forced Mannerheim to grant the Jews Finnish citizenship as a condition for Finland receiving grain shipments that were desperately needed after the horrible civil war.

At the onset of the Winter War Mannerheim was once again called in as Commander-in-Chief and promoted to Field Marshal. Mannerheim had the soul of a white Russian general which he was and Mannerheim absolutely despised the German allies.

As an anecdote, Adolf Hitler secretly flies to Helsinki in 1942 to congratulate Mannerheim on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sergeant Mikael is on that day posted as an A/A battery commander on the roof of the Post Master General's Head Office with strict orders not to open fire on the incoming planes that turn out to be Messerschmitt Me109 fighters escorting Hitler's Junkers JU-52 transport.

If only Mikael had known what we know today, the Second World War might have been stopped in 1942 saving the lives of 50-60 million people including millions of Jews who perished in Nazi concentration camps. Mikael, of course, as well as all the Jews in Finland would have been immediately executed; I would not be writing this book and you would not be reading it.

The 1942 assassination of Reinhard Heidrich {the German Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia} leads to the butchering of thousands of innocent civilians as a Nazi act of revenge.

A lot has been written about the poor nine Austrian Jews interned in Finland and after a long fight by 'Uncle Stiller' – a colorful champion of the Jewish community in Helsinki – were deported to Germany and bar one perished in Nazi concentration camps. What is oddly not written about at all is that by spring 1944 the Nazis with the help of Arno Anthoni the head of Finnish "Gestapo" Valpo had catalogued all the Finnish Jews for deportation to Germany and president Risto Ryti was guiding the preparations for arresting all the Finnish Jews – men, women and children alike – for deportation enmasse to Germany.

Field Marshal C.G.E. Mannerheim sent his second-in-command lieutenant-general Aksel Fredrik Airo from the Mikkeli Military Headquarters to the government in Helsinki to inquire about the planned deportation. Airo was in no uncertain terms told that the deportation of the Jews is not a military matter and is none of Mannerheim's business anyway.

Mannerheim sent Airo a second time to remind the Government of Finland that that he is talking 'With the might of the armed forces and that he will not tolerate any deportation'. This did put a definite stop to any plans to deport the Finnish Jews to Germany.

Oddly, Mannerheim as a white Russian general was an anti-Semite or certainly not favorable to Jews but Mannerheim's extreme dislike of the Germans saved Finnish Jews.

Interestingly, Mannerheim back in late 1941 stopped the Finnish troops from cutting off the Murmansk to Leningrad {St Petersburg} railway line and ordered the Finnish to pull back 60km to the west despite German troops and Gestapo being stationed in Lapland in the north as well as in the Finnish Baltic port of Kotka and Lake Ladoga area. Mannerheim's hatred of the Germans saved Finland.

If Mannerheim had not stopped the Finnish army from cutting off allied supplies via Murmansk to the besieged Soviets in Leningrad, the Germans would have captured Leningrad prolonging the Second World War and knowing the extreme criticality of allied supplies via Murmansk, the Soviets would have lost millions of more men before eventually overcoming the Germans. The Soviets would never have forgiven Finland for cutting off the Murmansk supply line. Finland would have been occupied; the Finns would have been killed and/or deported into the Asiatic Gulags of the Soviet Union and populated by the Asiatic people of the Soviet Union as happened to a large extent in Karelia.

The Finns do not even realise that they have to thank Mannerheim for being alive let alone an independent prosperous nation. Mannerheim already in 1941 realised that the war would be lost to the allies two years before the blind fascist administration of Risto Ryti.

Mikael Livson as a young attorney unsuccessfully tried to prosecute Arno Anthoni— head of the Finnish State Police Valpo - for murder and attempted murder after the war but the Soviet Military Commission had already then imprisoned Arno Anthoni for four years without trial and the Finnish judges who in any case wanted to white wash the crimes simply sentenced Anthoni for four and half years which he had already served e.g. effectively releasing Anthoni. As part of the process Mikael established the Mannerheim-Airo connection which oddly enough has never been quoted in the extensive literature written about the deportation of Jews from Finland to Germany.

In 1944 Mikael was able to commence as an advocate and served the last few months of the war as an air force legal officer with a lieutenant's pay commission.

Incidentally, Mikael's posting to man the A/A guns on the roof of the main Post Office next to the central railway station was a lot more dangerous assignment than one would think. The roof was completely exposed as a prime target to Soviet aerial bombing and strafing. Thanks only to the incredible incompetence of the Soviet air force everybody was saved from an otherwise certain death.

Placing the completely exposed A/A battery on the roof of the main Post Office next to the railway yards was incredibly stupid.

Risto Ryti – the Finnish President – got off lightly with a ten year jail sentence. Ryti was warned in no uncertain terms by Finland's ambassador to Germany in 1942 describing the Holocaust by sending the famous cable about 'the earth in Germany weeps from the terrible crimes'.

The war with the Soviet Union ended with Finland's unconditional surrender, loss of Karelia and Petsamo nickel mines and access to the Arctic Ocean between Norway's arctic coast and Murmansk. Half a million Finnish Karelians fled west into Finland and everybody was settled rapidly with great sacrifice.

No Karelian was ever kept in a refugee camp like the Arabs treat their Palestinian brethren but everybody was settled back to Finland as soon as possible.

Finland after the war from 1944 to 1952 was controlled by the Soviet Military Commission enforcing the terms of the unconditional surrender including massive repatriations of manufactured goods and materials to compensate the Soviets with a Soviet division occupying Porkkala a short 30km drive south-west of Helsinki. These were very trying times for Finland and the 'Blue Book' was a state secret record of what happened in Finland between 1944 until late 1950s but more about that later.

## Marriage with Maj-Lis Nemeschansky 1922-1966 {T2}

A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' comes together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences. **Dave Meurer, "Daze of Our Wives"**

Mikael next married Maj-Lis Nemes, daughter of Benjamin Nemes and Sara Seligson, on 11.04.1943 in Helsinki. Maj-Lis was born on 02.04.1922 in Helsinki, died on 14.09.1966 in Helsinki at age 44, and was buried in Helsinki, Jewish cemetery. Other names for Maj-Lis were Maj-Lis Livson, Maj-Lis Nemes, and Majlis Malka Zise Nemeschansky. They had three children: Anita, Jerry Elis, and Ben Uriel.

It was by and large a good marriage with Anita, Jerry and Ben having happy childhood first in inner Helsinki apartments until mid 1950s until a very grand 3-storey house was built in Lauttasaari and in 1960 we moved to a lovely smaller house in Kulosaari.

Maj-Lis completed the lower bachelor of law degree in the University of Helsinki, the Cambridge English teaching diploma and subsequently taught Jewish History for many years at the local Helsinki Jewish secondary school.

Maj-Lis was from a traditional religious and fervently Zionistic family. Maj-Lis and grand mother Sarah were both presidents of WIZO Finland. Grandfather Benjamin and uncle Issi visited the Hebrew University Faculty of Law in the 1930s with Issi staying for a couple of years to study law. Uncle Abbi Nemes graduated as one of the first architects from Technion in Israel in the 1930s.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

Maj-Lis had four brothers: Issi – the eldest, Abbi in Israel, Elis who was killed 1941 in the service of his country and Jussi the closest brother. I will write about Issi, Abbi and Jussi.

Benjamin Nemes was a true Zionist, and Israel's first ambassador to Finland visited Benjamin on his death bed. Maj-Lis on her death bed swore all her children to emigrate to make Aliyah into Israel which we all did although I left many years later for Australia for economic and life-style reasons.

Maj-Lis was a voracious social networker and threw constant parties to her Finnish high society friends that gladly enjoyed her boundless hospitality. None of these people stayed in touch with my father after Maj-Lis passed away. Mikael was of no benefit to them.

Maj-Lis was all about making an impression on the high society which meant in particular after Benjamin's death of spending her inheritance fast. Some of the families Maj-Lis used to throw endless parties for include Halmeet, Kantit, Pesoset, Erkkilät, Motzkinit and Gumplerit. None of these people stayed in touch with Mikael after Maj-Lis passed away. Mikael could not offer the boundless hospitality so these people had no interest in staying in touch with Mikael the widower.

Building and in particular maintaining the massive mansion in Lauttasaari was way above the financial means of Mikael as a public servant. Mikael unsuccessfully tried to talk Maj-Lis into investing in real estate and land. Mikael did buy a 110 acre forest in remote Tohmajärvi together with a 60 acre forest in Rantasalmi. The family bought early 1950s a summer place first in Hiidenvesi (Vihti) and subsequently a lovely 60 acre forest with 1.5km of lake-front with a small charming islet in Inkoo only 70km from Helsinki. We had many fond childhood memories from our weekends in Hiidenvesi and Inkoo. Apparently in Hiidenvesi, Anita and Jerry were fighting who could carry the new born baby Ben and dropped Ben on his head and were punished for that. The high point for Mikael was his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday as the first crown prosecutor of Helsinki with reception in Inkoo. It was a birthday party that required the family to toil weeks on end to improve road access to Inkoo for four kilometers of our private forest road.

By 1960 Maj-Lis and Mikael had to sell Lauttasaari to downsize to a much more modest but still a very practical and beautiful house in Kulosaari that was just a short stroll from uncle Jussi's house.

Brother has a different recollection: *"The house in Lauttasaari was sold to a builder because land value tripled itself in 6 months due to the Finnish Government changing the tax laws subject to the block being built within 12 months. That is the reason for the sale and subsequent demolition of the house in Pohjoiskaari 20."*

Maj-Lis and Mikael had a very busy fast paced life, moving residence every few years, selling and buying property, interesting careers, and interesting travel such as visiting Israel Dec 1949 after the Independence War and driving through Europe in 1950.

Mikael had a fascinating career as a scholar, studying his Doctor of Laws in Uppsala, Sweden subsequently becoming a Docent {Reader} of Law, crown prosecutor and judge.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

I will tell all about this in detail but Mikael's hectic study meant that he had to spend a lot of time away from his young family in the late 1940s. This was not acceptable with Maj-Lis having a lover and openly telling Mikael about her love affair. This, of course, put a terrible strain on the marriage and Mikael in fact could never forgive or move on with life. Mikael was scarred for life with suspicion and lack of trust becoming a constant poison that ate Mikael's soul.

Jerry has a very different recollection: *“Mother's adultery was never proven and was only hearsay. I think that Mother only wanted to reach Father and receive his attention Maj-Lis thought very highly of father and she was a good wife to Him. They were really different in many ways; Father did not have a good sense of humor. Mother should have married someone like Uncle Aron. They were at the same level in many ways. Father did not show his feelings and mother did not find softness in him.”*

In Anita's opinion “Mother did not have a {long time} lover but a love affair of a few days with an Israel man that Issi had introduced to Maj-Lis in some ball dance”. If so then this would explain some of the ill feeling between Mikael and Issi. Out of respect Mikael refrained discussing Maj-Lis'es affair with Benjamin who by then was nearing death.

Jerry was extremely close to Maj-Lis and was the last person to hold mother's hand when she passed away. I was the extreme opposite with mother always way too busy to look after me. I was brought up by nannies and then living together with father for twenty years after mother passed away I grew a very close bond with father.

Eldest daughter Anita was a very solid student, had an active courtship as an attractive young girl, wanted to study fashion design in London but was stopped by Mikael.

Instead, Anita was sent in 1963 to Israel to study a BA in English & French in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where she met Shmuel Edelstein her future husband for some 26 years to come. Maj-Lis and Mikael warmly welcomed Shmuel – a very bright Doctoral student - to the family and bought for them an apartment in Jerusalem – their first home.

Jerry had by that time graduated high school with a slight delay having to repeat Mathematics for excessive fishing and hunting as well as large scale womanising. Yes, Jerry was every bit like dear uncle Aron.

I have some fond memories of those times including being beaten up having laughed at Jerry then 16 telling that he was 26 to a much older woman over the phone. Never laugh at the wrong place.

Yes, Jerry always had every possible excuse for being late to school often pulling out a dirty spark plug from his Vespa and showing it to the teacher to explain yet again why he was late again. Come May 31 1964 would be HSC student {ylioppilas} Jerry complains to Maj-Lis about not being able to find his name in the daily newspaper listing all the new students. Maj-Lis starts shouting in the typical Nemes-family fashion and blaming Jerry and Mikael for excessively watching the TV and in particular the Wagon Train Wild Western series.

Mikael very calmly claimed that the 'berries in the forest always ripen by autumn' and yes Jerry did pass his mathematics exam in the autumn of 1964. As an anecdote, Jerry had made a bet with his school Principal Matti Karstikko about getting the top mark in mathematics. Well it did not quite happen like that so Karstikko gave Jerry as a present from school a book about 'Great Men in Mathematics' which I fondly read and subsequently had a great love affair as a student of mathematics.

Jerry has a different recollection of the events: *"I did not have to look for it the newspaper. I did not do well at School because it did not interest me and I did not make an effort either. Hunting and fishing, boy scouts and other things, were more important. I was not a womanizer or a sexmaniac ..."*

Jerry Elis went on to become an officer in the Finnish army coastal artillery as part of his national service in 1965 and commenced studying to become a commercial pilot. Jerry was not accepted to Finnair so shortly after Maj-Lis passed away Jerry left for Israel in a dark blue sport Saab Monaco rally car, and unfortunately killed a drunken man on a Yugoslavian highway before eventually reaching Haifa by ferry. Jerry had a very successful still on-going career in Israel as a commercial pilot.

I was a good student and brought the family unexpected joy by winning the popular TV-series 'Double or Nothing {Tupla tai Kuitti}' competition in astronomy and space exploration as my hobby and subsequently successfully represented Finland in the all Scandinavian knowledge competition.

Maj-Lis very much wanted to become a grandmother but cruel fate intervened with a cervical cancer that later spread to the liver was detected too late in early 1966. She lasted only eight months but we did manage to spend a lovely last holiday together as a family in the summer of 1966 in Gabeache Mare in Italy.

By September 1966 Maj-Lis was terminally ill with liver cancer and by mutual agreement with the doctors, her and family, voluntary Euthanasia was performed. Maj-Lis was disconnected from the drip feed after Anita arrived from Israel to be next to her death bed. I remember writing according mother's dictation some of her last letters when she was too weak to write.

Maj-Lis died of starvation in three days after disconnection from drip feed but without much pain receiving morphine. Jerry was the last person to be with mother and Maj-Lis knew exactly when her time was up embracing Jerry at her last breath. Maj-Lis as her last words expressed that 'she will live as long as we remembered her' and we will always remember her.

Voluntary euthanasia saved Maj-Lis from a further six weeks of completely pointless suffering and, of course, freed up a badly needed hospital place for somebody in greater need of care. I have ever since resented all the hypocrites objecting to Euthanasia. In reality thousands of doctors, nurses, patients and close family every day have to make these decisions because otherwise the hospital system would collapse. Maj-Lis despite sadly cut short of her best years to come nevertheless had a wonderful life and a loving family.

## Benjamin and Sarah Nemeschansky {T2}

Humor is always based on a modicum of truth. Have you ever heard a joke about a father-in-law? **Dick Clark**

My grandfather Benjamin Nemes was a quiet scholar, a successful and cautious businessman who over a life-time had carefully built a profitable textile fabric manufacturer {Helsingin Verkatehdas with factory in Hyvinkää}. Benjamin every year transferred part of the profit into a reserve fund for the rainy day. Benjamin passed away in 1949 and left to Issi the eldest son a thriving textile manufacturing business without debt and with significant reserve capital.

Benjamin and Sarah had five children. Issi the first born, Abbi who left for Israel in 1933, Elis passed away in the war, Jussi the “black sheep” was given a share in a failing boat yard called Vator which Jussi turned around and made it to a great financial success and Maj-Lis my mother.

Conscience is a mother-in-law whose visit never ends. **H.L. Mencken**

Sarah was a very special person with a welcoming relationship with Mikael her son-in-law. Sarah received very little education which was then the norm for Jewish women of that era but she was a great mother and as a practical woman who kept a good traditional Jewish household for Benjamin.

Sarah shared Mikael’s passion for fishing. Maj-Lis complained that the family could have eaten salmon all year around for the money Mikael spent buying fishing gear. When Maj-Lis complained to Sarah about Mikael spending too much time fishing, Sarah of course bought Mikael the finest fishing jacket and gear. In her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday Sarah suddenly disappeared only to be found fishing with a hook and bait from the nearby boat jetty.

Sarah had Hilma - a long serving housemaid. Hilma was quite a character and kept the family well fed and stocked with the best produce during the austere years of the war.

Hilma did not in particular appreciate Mikael’s question when preparing Hilma’s tax return whether her job title should be marked as ‘master dealer in the black market’?

Sarah and Benjamin despite being completely different had a long, great and happy marriage with Sarah respecting Benjamin. Not many wives in this day and age make a husband’s life as easy as Sarah did for Benjamin.

Sarah suffered from diabetes and Benjamin from arteriosclerosis. Both died at a relatively young age of 63-64. From memory Benjamin passed away in 1949 and Sarah in 1952 just around the time I was born. Mikael was received warmly as a son-in-law by both Sarah and Benjamin and had a wonderful relationship with them.

## Issi {Isak} and Ettu {Ethel} Nemes {T2}

*Criticism comes easier than craftsmanship.*

**Zeuxis (~400 BC), from Pliny the Elder, Natural History**

I have asked Elis Nemes the son of the late Isak and Ethel Nemes to rewrite this section.

Issi {Isak Nachum Yitzchack Nemeschansky 26.07.1912 - 25.07.1981}, as I have already told, introduced Mikael to the Nemes family back in 1935 and eight years later that lead to Mikael marrying Maj-Lis. Issi was a businessman but well learned with the higher degree Licenciante of Law.

## Abbi, Tanya and Heidi Nemes {T2}

**Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Leo Tolstoy.**

Uncle Abbi {Abraham} Nemes graduated as one of the first architects from Technion in Israel in the 1930s, rose to the rank of major in the engineering corps of Hagana, fought in Israel's War of Independence in 1948-1949 and subsequently was a successful businessman and part-owner of an aluminum window pane manufacturing plant near Acco with a lovely stone-clad house on mount Carmel in Haifa.

Abbi was very much a self-made man who inherited very little. In the early fifties he employed a talented Swiss engineer to set up the Alubim aluminum window frame factory. Heidi was the Swiss engineer's wife and a life-long relationship grew between Abbi and Heidi since then. The Swiss engineer was infatuated by the oriental Yemenite women and eventually they divorced.

Abbi was for many years married to Tanya Gurevitsch from a formerly rich Russian Jewish family. The marriage was childless. Apparently, Abbi could not have any children due to a childhood inflammation. Neither Tanya nor her sister Gina had any children. With Anita and Jerry and later on I all in Israel we were in relatively frequent contact with Abbi. Abbi had a very good life almost to the end.

Abbi's downfall was typical to the Nemes-family; Abbi was often arrogant and never listened to any advice. Hence when the Israeli Mossad Intelligence Agency in 1979 warned Abbi to cut his losses and get out of Iran ASAP knowing that Shah will fall, Abbi of course refused to listen and racked up further massive needless losses. Abbi then engaged Mikael as a lawyer, of course, free of charge. All the Nemes brothers at various times engaged Mikael as a lawyer and never paid a cent.

Mikael advised Abbi that Iran's revolution is a 'force major' and that Abbi has no recourse to claim any losses. Abbi, of course, dismissed Mikael as his 'no-good' lawyer and engaged Tebe Obstenbaum – Finland's most expensive lawyer – and 'surprise, surprise' never got out of Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran one cent but did have to pay Obsmaum's astronomic fee for being told the bleeding obvious.

Abbi's Alubim had a silent Argentinean partner and an enormously rich Canadian partner that owned the Zinc-aluminum unit. The Canadian owned some twenty similar plants around the world.

Abbi upset many people including Mikael but Abbi made the mistake of his life by provoking the Canadian who then bought the Argentinean silent partner out and on the same day fired both Abbi and Gideon Nemes, Issi's son whom Abbi had employed.

Abbi after Tanya passed away married Adelheid Judith Kienler – a truly charming lady.

The nasty sequel to the marriage was that Abbi inherited his house to Technion and Heidi was only allowed to stay in the house rent free. This bondage of Heidi to the house continued for several years but in the end the Technion did the right thing and simply paid Heidi out. Now Heidi is happy with Werner in Switzerland and we all wish her well.

## Jussi { Yosef Aharon Nemeschansky} and Chaje Nemes {T2}

There is no such thing as "fun for the whole family." **Jerry Seinfeld.**

Maj-Lis was closest to her youngest brother Jussi. Unfairly, Jussi was always treated as the black sheep of the family and even in Benjamin's inheritance he was just given a share of a then failing boat yard called Vator. Jussi had practical college based training as an engineer. Jussi fought as an officer with the other Nemes brothers except for Abbi in the Finnish army against the Soviet Union.

Jussi always had a well developed imagination. At school he had some Spanish influence and called himself 'Hose'. Ever since Jussi was nick named 'Hossiger Nemes' with Hossiger in Yiddish meaning a 'hassler'.

Jussi's imagination about his military service knew no bounds. For example, Jussi shot no less than 'five bears' and gave the penis bones from the bears to his girl friend. Samuel Masslovat – a major – and Mikael were always wondering whether anybody else was in the war from the Finnish side but Jussi. Also it was crystal clear to everybody why Finland had to unconditionally surrender to the Soviets as the Hossiger Jussi was there conducting all the military operations on Finland's behalf.

Well, Jussi married Chaje Mary Steinbock, daughter of Aleksanteri "Sach" Steinbock and Gulle Pergament during the war to Chaje – a young intelligent Jewish woman who had the incredible misfortune of developing a debilitating paralysis shortly after her third child birth. Chaje was bed ridden for the rest of her life for some thirty years. Things were not made any easier by Chaje's father – a medical professor in Oulu – blaming it all on Jussi. Poor Jussi suffered horribly and Chaje's terrible illness must have affected the children as well although all the children came out well.

Jussi had great luck as well. Vator had a license to import American Mercury/Mariner outboards and Mercruiser half-boards.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

When Finland's post war import restrictions were finally lifted in the late fifties and the Finns started to prosper and discover their lake summer houses, a great demand for these marine motors was created almost overnight with Vator's annual revenue shooting up from practically nothing to several tens of millions of dollars.

Mikael introduced Jussi to Railio a branch manager in the Finnish National Bank KOP to finance Vator and thus released Vator from the claws of the Wihuri-company that used to take the lion's share of profits for financing the annual marine engine purchases by Vator.

Jussi managed to buy out the third silent partner of Vator thus gaining a 75% majority stake. Issi as the chairman of Vator refused for a long time to call a board meeting to recognise the new shareholdings. Mikael forced via the appeals court "Hovioikeus" for the provincial government "Lääninhallitus" to order Issi to convene the Vator board after which Issi was, of course, voted out as the chairman. Issi ended up selling his 25% share of Vator to Jussi.

Vator was subsequently owned by Jussi with 2498 shares, Chaiye had 1 share and Jolli the eldest son had 1 share. Mikael was the trustee of Jolli then underage and both use to joke about how energetically Mikael defended Jolli's single share. Jolli used to work for his father from a very young age and Jussi always won the argument by requesting a shareholders' vote. I think Jolli showed infinite stamina for keeping up with Jussi.

Thanks to Jolli's financial training Vator was later on saved from mounting losses from the boat manufacturing with Vator focusing on selling the more profitable marine engines.

Also, one has to say that Jussi was lucky with fire burning his enterprise not once but twice! In 1963 the old part of Vator was burned down and Vator was rebuilt greatly enhanced. Then later on the loss making Puumala boat yard burned down. Jussi by then was a director in the insurance company board without much difficulty had the insured sum once again paid out.

I wish our grandfather Simon Lifson had such a fair go with the insurance company in the 1920s. Poor Simon was forced to accept a third of the insured sum.

Jussi had many failings of character like all the Nemes brothers did but he suffered a lot and was a very decent man who looked after his family and even felt compassion for his older brother. Jussi was very ill with diabetes, flatulence and a bad asthma.

Jolli was everything to Jussi. When Jerry my pilot brother called in to take Jolli for a joy flight, Jussi quickly put a stop to this but offered Jerry to take his daughters for the flight instead of risking Jolli.

Jussi like all his siblings and also Mikael to a great extent was very much influenced by how the gentiles viewed them and any state order of merit or honorary title had an absurdly huge impact on them. I always was bemused by all this nonsense. Jussi used to say that a man needs "nikkeli, titteli and kikkeli" – a Finnish word play for money, title and prowess.

Jussi was quite a strict father. Aviva the eldest daughter had to flee to auntie Maj-Lis for putting on lipstick. Jolli many times was in trouble and came to us in particular to eat shinken {pork} sandwiches. Jolli would have been in real trouble had Jussi caught him eating shinken. However, it seems Jussi kept Kosher only at home. Mikael claims to have spotted Jussi munching through shinken in restaurants.

All in all Jussi was a very good uncle and a colorful character. Jussi and Jolli had great fun designing and manufacturing some of the finest sailing boats in the world and being Olympic class sailors.

Jussi like the other Nemes brothers was extremely arrogant but I think God will be very kind to Jussi. The poor man on the one hand suffered a lot but on the other hand also was incredibly lucky. I have been very close to Jolli and Jolli has been a wonderful cousin.

## Barrister 1946 {T1 and T2}

Marriage is really tough because you have to deal with feelings... and lawyers. **Richard Pryor**

Mikael was appointed [Varatuomari - Barrister](#) 20 December 1946 by the Turku Crown Court "Hovioikeus" based on the 1754 Crown Statute {Finland belonged to the Swedish Crown since 1155 till 1809 and was an autonomous imperial Russian principality since 1809 till independence 6 December 1917}.

The Finnish process of becoming a barrister was quite unique and lengthy; after attaining an LLB you were supposed to attend the court for a year, followed by a year as a scribe to the court with the final year acting as a Judge under the supervision of a senior Judge.

Mikael had the good fortune of serving his final year as a judge under the supervision of the famous Baron R.F. Wrede from the Swedish-Finnish nobility in Anjala of Itis in Eastern Finland near Karelia, see [Suositus - Recommendation {in Swedish}](#) 1949.

Things were very different those days in Finland. Whilst the current court system in Finland is based on professional judges accompanied by a social worker and under the supervision of the Justice Ministry and the Attorney following the central European German model, those days court districts in the country had Juries. Baron Wrede was given a life-long commission for the court district of Itis responsible for covering all the cost including salaries from the commission. So Baron Wrede most certainly was not a public servant but rather a feudal land lord although the bondage of farmers in Scandinavia never quite reached the levels of Central European slavery in the Middle Ages.

Baron Wrede was famous for doing whatever he pleased. The queues that nowadays plague the court system were very short. Whenever possible Wrede's crown prosecutor asked the criminals whether they wanted to face the court or whether they wished to settle with him out of court.

Most settled with him which meant that the crown prosecutor caned them blue with a heavy belt and the matter was then considered settled. Unfortunately, in this age of political correctness things are a bit more complicated.

The Finnish country courts unlike their city counterparts had a Jury. The rule was that the Judge always decided unless the Jurors voted unanimously.

Mikael only once had an issue with the Jury composed of the local farmers as Mikael was born in their area on Lake Ladoga and raised in very humble circumstances.

The one and only clash that Mikael had with the Jury was when a man was convicted of sodomising their cows. Mikael wanted to send the man for psychiatric treatment.

The all farmer Jury furious about their cows being screwed refused to hear about any treatment but unanimously voted to send the man for many years in prison. Other than that Mikael and the Jury always agreed on the hundreds of other cases.

Mikael one day came embarrassed and upset to Baron Wrede to tell that the appeals court "Hovioikeus" has issued a warning about Mikael issuing a sentence three days short of the full seven years nine months and sixteen days; when combining the tens of crimes Mikael had overlooked that the crimes also included a small theft from a shop lifting.

Baron Wrede wryly ordered Mikael to calm down telling that he had been warned 169 times by the appeals court "Hovioikeus" and the paper used for writing all these warnings is far too hard to be used in the toilet. Mikael did not quite reach the lofty height of Wrede's 169 warnings. It took another 22 years until Mikael got his second and last warning from the appeals court "Hovioikeus" 29.1.1968 in circumstances almost identical to the first of failing to include a minor crime in a massive combination sentence.

As a peculiar sequel, Baron Wrede had written a recommendation for Mikael to open doors for his doctoral studies in the famous Carolina Rediviva, Uppsala Sweden 1949, see [Suositus - Recommendation {in Swedish}](#).

Mikael presented the recommendation from the famous Baron Wrede and all of a sudden everybody started opening the door for Mikael and talking to him with utmost respect in the third person as if he was some sort royalty. Mikael was completely confused and after a couple days of inquiries it dawned on Mikael that the barrister title viceheradshövding had been abolished in Sweden early in the century and reserved only for the cream of the cream for the top half-a-dozen lawyers in Sweden similar to the British Commonwealth practice of appointing the most senior barristers as Queen's Counsel QC. Wrede's recommendation was quite a boost for Mikael's doctoral studies in Uppsala.

Later on Baron Wrede when invited to Mikael's Doctoral Promovation commented on the sail shape sandwiches served on the occasion that 'they reminded him of the people of Israel long sail to freedom'. This was just after Israel won its war of independence against incredible odds against six Arab armies attacking the tiny Jewish settlement {as a footnote of history, Marshall Montgomery had predicted that 'Israel would be finished and the bloody Jews thrown out to the sea before he'll reach the ninth hole of the golf course'}. Baron Wrede, unlike this crude British anti-Semite, was a true friend of Mikael and the Jews.

## Doctor of Laws 1949 and Docent {Reader} of Law 1954 {T1}

University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small. **Henry Kissinger**

Mikael was sent in the late 1940s to complete his doctorate at the cradle of Scandinavian civilisation the eight hundred year old Carolina Rediviva library in the old university town of Uppsala.

Mikael was sent from an impoverished war ravaged Finland by boat to arrive in Stockholm. In his first letter to the family Mikael writes “Today I visited in Stockholm a colonial shop and to my amasement the shop sold bananas, oranges and real coffee!”

Yes, the Swedes had been blessed by 250 years of peace and Mikael, when we celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in Stockholm, took me to the ‘Gyllene Frede’ {Golden Peace} restaurant frequented by the ‘who is who of Sweden’ in the old city {gamla stan}.

Mikael like his grandson Matan had a gift for languages: He was fluent Finnish, Russian, Swedish, German and Yiddish and in his later years picked up Spanish and English, and with lesser success also Hebrew.

The doctoral studies in Uppsala left a lifelong impression on Mikael and so towards the end of his life in 1985-1988 he returned to Carolina Rediviva to research his historic study on [Jeesus-Jeshua Galilealainen - Historiallinen Tutkimus](#) realising his passion to study history as well.

Mikael’s [Doctoral Dissertation A-36 Epävarsinainen Laiminlyöntirikos](#) {17.5MB summary in German 1949} [searchable](#) on the ‘indirect causality of crime by neglect’ is a fascinating study more topical nowadays in our complex society than ever before.

Mikael’s doctorate was followed by eleven years of intensive legal research:

[Näennäinen Rikskonkurrenssi B-64](#) {6MB Reader of Law Docent Thesis 1954} [searchable](#)

[Kotirauhan Rikosoikeudellinen Suoja B-92](#) {5.1MB summary in German 1958} [searchable](#)

[Avuttomaan Tilaan Saattaminen tai Jättäminen B-95](#) {4MB 1958} [searchable](#)

[Kiskomisrikos B-103](#) {4MB 1960} [searchable](#)

My intent is in the first instance to re-publish Mikael’s lifetime work via [Google Books](#) and hopefully later on to have all of his work professionally translated into English.

Mikael’s last body of legal work was on ‘financial extortion’ [Kiskomisrikos B-103](#) as his response to the rising anti-Semitism in the Helsinki University. Mikael’s doctoral supervisor professor Brynolf Honkasalo commented that it will be very interesting to read what a ‘Jew has to write about financial extortion’. In the early years after the Second World War Honkasalo would not have dared saying anything of the kind but anti-Semitism is an untreatable disease.

Mikael was a highly successful Docent – Reader of Law between 1954 and 1960, and it came as quite a shock that Mikael was bypassed in the nomination of the Professorship for Law by greatly inferior staff. This was a severe blow to Mikael and incomprehensible to many of his students.

Mikael was a hugely popular Docent-Reader of Law adored by his students. Mikael had a gift to lecture in a fascinating way. There was always constant friction in the Helsinki University when Mikael's lectures were packed to the brim whereas lectures delivered by others were usually poorly attended.

One of his students Ilkka Saraviitta some forty-five years later writes in the Kide publication no 6, 2006 of the Lapland University:

“During my studies in the level of teaching greatly varied with a professor even forced to silence his students ... one of my very best lecturers {Mikael Livson} lost in the selection for professorship to a drab competitor”.

Mikael's downfall in Helsinki University was purely for commercial reasons. Mikael as a Crown Prosecutor of Helsinki in the late fifties had to prosecute on the Crown's behalf Peugeot – a French car manufacturer – for fraud. Peugeot was defended by two of the greatest law professors of Helsinki University Brynolf Honkasalo and Bruno A. Salmiala. Unfortunately for Mikael, the court did convict Peugeot for fraud. The law professors never forgave Mikael for prosecuting and defeating their client to their great embarrassment and for the obvious financial loss to their client. Whilst Mikael could not have acted any other way as a Crown Prosecutor, the Peugeot trial in effect destroyed Mikael's academic career. Ever since both Honkasalo and Salmiala in particular were engaged systematically destroying any chance Mikael had to obtain a professorship in the university.

Interestingly, professor Salmiala was vicious enough to request the Senate of the Helsinki University to disqualify Mikael's application for the Finnish speakers' Professorship for Law {Finland protects the rights of its Swedish speaking minority by separating professorships by guaranteeing certain professorships only for the native Swedish speaking} on the grounds of Mikael's "Sweticism" e.g. mixing Swedish loan words into Finnish {some 10% of words in Finnish are loan words from Swedish. Finland after all was part of the Swedish crown more than 650 years}. Salmiala for example pointed out as a proof that Mikael in his dissertation in one instance had used the Swedish loan word 'veitsi' for knife instead of the original 'true' Finnish word 'puukko' for knife. It just happened that Mikael was quoting in the passage in verbatim a court transcript where the word 'veitsi' was used. The farce of accusing Mikael for "Sweticism" was an absurd witch hunt with Mikael born in Sortavala on Lake Ladoga in an area that never had any Swedish influence.

## **Mikael Livson: Advocate 1944 – 1958 {T2}**

**Lawyers, I suppose, were children once. Charles Lamb**

The recently married Mikael commenced his advocate practice in 1944 to support his family and post graduate studies. Initially, Benjamin Nemes kindly provided Mikael office space but soon set up his law office in Mikonkatu in the centre of Helsinki. The busiest and most profitable period of Mikael's advocacy was between the years 1950 and 1955.

Mikael was nominated in 1955 as the eleventh crown prosecutor of Helsinki. This significantly restricted Mikael's ability to act as an advocate and by the time Mikael was nominated the first crown prosecutor he had to shut down his advocacy business. Later on, as a Judge Mikael, was restricted to advisory work and to an executor of estates.

Obviously any case work that would require court representation was not possible for a crown prosecutor or a judge without a conflict of interest so Mikael largely had to abandon the profitable advocacy business to his great regret.

After retiring as a district court judge Mikael resumed advocacy but on a much smaller scale largely inhibited by his extended overseas stays.

## **Mikael Livson Crown Prosecutor 1955 – 1963 {T1 and T2}**

They named him Sheriff. The affair was opened; it is said, with prayer. J. Milton Sloluck

Mikael was appointed XI Crown Prosecutor of Helsinki 1 June 1955 and on 1 February 1959 was promoted to First Crown Prosecutor reporting directly to the then Attorney General Olavi Honka.

Mikael reorganised the Crown Prosecutor's Office and was a first class administrator. Mikael saw his role as a defender of the public and if it was not in his judgment in the public's interest to excessively punish an offender Mikael would appeal for the sentence to be reduced. This was quite unique and his right as a prosecutor to appeal for a sentence to be reduced was contested in court as it was unheard that a prosecutor would appeal against an excessive sentence. The court then confirmed Mikael's position that a Crown Prosecutor's serves the interest of the public which may on occasion be best served by requesting leniency.

By no means was Mikael in general a lenient prosecutor or judge. Quite on the contrary Mikael was greatly feared when Crown Prosecutor but he always acted with the greatest integrity without fear or favor.

Mikael greatly supported Police in their field work but instituted a strict discipline of never allowing the police to beat an offender in custody. This was quite the opposite to what was happening with police cowed into timid behavior in the field for political correctness but then often beating suspects in custody.

Mikael's perhaps finest hour as a crown prosecutor was suppressing the bikie gang riots of 1960. Back then several Swedish boat loads of bikie gangs armed with motorcycle chains landed in Helsinki to terrorise the public like never before. Helsinki Police approached Mikael terrified out of their brain. Mikael empowered the Police like never before. Mikael ordered anybody complaining about Police to be immediately arrested as a threat to public security {as a Crown Prosecutor Mikael had the right to arrest anybody up to 17 days and that could be repeated any number of times}. Mikael ordered all the Police to be equipped with the long batons of the mounted police.

One night of full warfare was enough for the Swedish bikie gangs who were sent back to Stockholm profusely bleeding and never again to return. After all it was so much easier for the bikies to terrorise the Swedes with their policitically correct police force.

Mikael's more gruesome task was to head the castration committee. After the Second World War many of the repatriated soldiers regressed into alcoholism and violence including rape. Hence the castration committee was established with some 40 of the most violent re-offending rapists castrated.

In a famous debate professor Honkasalo was enraged about Salmiala 'taking the upper head' {supporting the capital punishment} and Livson 'taking the lower head' {supporting castration} to which Mikael injected: "Get your order right. Take first the 'lower head' and only afterwards the 'upper head'.

Mikael always protected the weak and helpless. In one instance a son in collusion with a medical doctor in a mental institution had locked up his aging mother to kill her for fast inheritance. Mikael was contacted by the mother's distressed friends about her terrible plight of having been taken by force to a mental institution. Doctors in mental institutions at least in Finland were practically above the law. You could not get a patient released without the permission of the supervising doctor who naturally refused Mikael's request but Mikael told the medical doctor: "Fine. You do not release her so I will have to arrest you for the maximum 17 days permitted by law and every time five minutes after we have to release I will re-arrest you for another 17 days until you are a very old man with a walking cane". Well, "surprise surprise" the poor old lady was released from the mental institution and the charming son probably did not end up inheriting much.

Mikael was a modern prosecutor who often resolved cases by using more universal principles such as resorting to the constitution and in particular overturned many discriminatory decisions by the Helsinki City Council against small business that he found unconstitutional.

All sort of unusual characters requested Mikael's audience to be heard on any matter imaginable. One person for instance requested Mikael to stop the church from disturbing the peace by ringing bells on Sunday. Mikael had to provide a written legal opinion that whilst the church ringing bells on a Sunday morning may be construed to disturb the peace, however, the church has enjoyed this right from time immemorial, thus extinguishing any other right. Mikael's legal opinion that went back to all the old King's precedents including the famous 80-year legal battle between the farmers of the "Pohjanmaa" province about Salmon fishing rights of the Crown with the final verdict stating that clearly the Crown in 1280 had fraudulently obtained the salmon fishing rights to the rivers in northern Finland but since the Crown had enjoyed these rights since time immemorial the Crown's right is superior to anybody else's rights.

Mikael's life as the fearless 1<sup>st</sup> crown prosecutor was often threatened. However, I do not think he had any sleepless nights. Mikael was big time into guns of all calibers and a passionate hunter and fisherman. For example, he hunted and killed five German deer with a 9mm heavy rifle. There were quite a few newspaper articles about Mikael as the 1<sup>st</sup> crown prosecutor including an incident where Mikael was threatened by the underworld. Mikael was interviewed with his 45-calibre Colt blazing in the police shooting range.

Mikael in addition to pistols and revolvers had rifles and shot guns some of which were collector items bought from Austria with game to be hunted beautifully engraved in silver. Mikael and Maj-Lis were collectors of beautiful antiques whereas I have never cared much of such possessions.

Mikael flew early 1963 to Israel straight into a surprise. In the Lod Ben-Gurion airport loudspeakers requested Mikael to contact the Interpol desk.

Helsinki Police had contacted the office of the state prosecutor in Tel-Aviv and Mikael's counterpart – the 1<sup>st</sup> prosecutor in Tel-Aviv – coincidentally with the same surname Livson but no relation to us - warmly welcomed and showed Mikael how the Israeli legal system works.

Mikael's most fascinating case as the 1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor of Helsinki was the 'Blue Book' episode that had major national security ramifications.

## Blue Book 1960 {T2 & T3}

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read. **Groucho Marx**

An underground printing press in absolute secrecy was printing copies of a 250-page document with dark blue ink often used in architectural blue print drawings and hence the name Blue Book.

The Blue Book is still an official Finnish state secret .The Blue Book was written as a payback by disgruntled politicians to destroy Urho Kekkonen. What made the Blue Book real political dynamite was its detailed description of the workings of the Soviet Military Control Commission from 1944 to 1952 and subsequent events until 1960 detailing cooperation between Urho Kekkonen and the Soviets that perhaps could have been construed as treason?

Urho Kekkonen - [Prime Minister of Finland \(1950-1953, 1954-1956\)](#) and later as [President of Finland \(1956–1981\)](#) – destroyed the careers of his political opponents, by blaming or insinuating that his opponents are a danger to the Finnish-Soviet bilateral friendship treaty and thus endanger the independence of Finland. To make matters worse the Soviet troops were until mid 1950s in Porkkala some 30km from Helsinki so it was very easy for Kekkonen to destroy his opponents although some were from the very same agrarian political party 'Maaseudun Puolue' which later on was aptly renamed the Centre Party 'Keskusta'.

Here is what is written under [Wikipedia](#) about those times:

"In the [presidential election of 1956](#), Kekkonen defeated the Social Democrat [Karl-August Fagerholm](#) by two votes in the Electoral College (151-149) and was elected as President.

As president, Kekkonen continued the neutrality policy of [President Paasikivi](#), which came to be known as the [Paasikivi-Kekkonen line](#).

From the beginning he ruled with the assumption that the Soviet Union accepted only him; the country at the time was sometimes called *Kekkoslovakia*.

Because of defectors like [Oleg Gordievsky](#) and the opening of the Soviet archives it is known that keeping Kekkonen in power was the main task of Soviet Union in its relations with Finland.

Kekkonen's policies, especially towards the [USSR](#), were criticised within his own party by [Veikko Vennamo](#), who broke off his Centre Party affiliation when Urho Kekkonen was elected president of Finland (1956). In [1959](#), Vennamo established his populist **Agrarian Party**, forerunner of nationalist [True Finns](#).

In April [1961](#) Kekkonen was already planning to dissolve parliament in order to influence the alliance behind his potential presidential rival [Olavi Honka](#). In addition, the Soviet Union sent a diplomatic note in late October, citing an article of the [FCMA treaty](#) referring to the threat of war. Concerning this 'note crisis', the most common view is that the Soviet Union was motivated by a desire to ensure Kekkonen's re-election. After Honka dropped his candidacy, Kekkonen was re-elected by an overwhelming vote of 199 out of 300 Electoral College votes in the [1962](#) Presidential election. In addition to his own party, Kekkonen had received the backing of the [Swedish People's Party](#) and the Finnish People's Party.

As a result of the note crisis, genuine opposition to Kekkonen disappeared, and he acquired an especially strong - later even autocratic - status as the political leader of Finland ... In [1973](#), he was re-elected by emergency law which saw his presidency extended by four years. The elimination of any significant opposition and competition meant de facto political autocracy for Kekkonen. In 1979 Urho Kekkonen was awarded the [Lenin Peace Prize!](#)"

The blue book had to be stopped as it was genuinely embarrassing to the Soviets and not only to Kekkonen and was thus considered a risk of the highest order to the national security.

Kekkonen ordered his Attorney General Olavi Honka to stop the publication of the Blue Book at any cost. Olavi Honka passed the order onto Mikael who then acted on some fabricated technicalities to order Helsinki Police to raid the underground Blue Book printing press to confiscate any copies of the blue book and also to confiscate all printing equipment. This sort of suppression was possible in the years before the Internet. Nowadays this would work only in North Korea or perhaps Cuba or Iran.

As mentioned: "In April [1961](#) Kekkonen was already planning to dissolve parliament in order to influence the alliance behind his potential presidential rival [Olavi Honka](#). In addition, the Soviet Union sent a diplomatic note in late October, citing an article of the [FCMA treaty](#) referring to the threat of war."

Things got even nastier. Kekkonen later on refused to extend Honka's term as Attorney General. Mikael's position as 1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor would have become utterly untenable without the support of Honka.

Then early 1963 the City Council of Helsinki using the old 'Hansa town' rights convened to appoint a new District Court Judge – Chairman {vanhempi oikeusneuvosmie}. Mikael gladly applied to be appointed Judge as there was no loss of salary and the position of a Judge in those days was very secure.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

Whilst District Court Judges were under the administrative supervision by the Justice Ministry, Attorney General and Appeals Court {Hovioikeus}, a judge – even such a politically incorrect straight talking Judge as Mikael – could not be fired unless proven of gross willful misconduct.

Mikael was elected 20 March 1963 by a huge almost unheard landslide of 45 votes to 23, see [Nimitys Vanhemmaksii Oikeusneuvosmieheksi - Appointment as District Court Judge & Chairman 1963](#).

Interestingly, all political parties from the right, centre and to the communists voted for Mikael.

I have often thought why the communists voted for Mikael and this had lead me to believe that Kekkonen and the Soviet Union wanted to reward Mikael for stopping the Blue Book. President Urho Kekkonen had sent an emissary to thank Mikael for stopping the publication of the Blue Book.

Mikael's victory was unprecedented in particular as he was a Jew and the Jews were barely tolerated by the Finns, never had belonged to a political party and never before had enjoyed their support. Mikael's election lead to a vexatious complaint rejected by the province government {lääninhallitus} by 29 June 1963 and Mikael's appointment was finalised on 1 July 1963. Mikael in the interim spent three lovely months fishing in Eilat on the Red Sea with a Swiss gentleman and an Israeli miner from the nearby Timna copper mines.

Around that time Mikael received the Finnish 1<sup>st</sup> Officer of the White Rose Order of Merit and medal. This was as close as ever that Mikael came to being accepted to the Finnish establishment. Receiving such orders of merit was very important to Mikael and to many of his contemporary Jews such as my uncles who all received orders of merit of one kind or another for success whether in business or otherwise. Issuing these orders were a nice little earner for the Finnish Treasury.

I have read some thirty years ago Mikael's copy of the Blue Book and found it most fascinating reading. The copy that Mikael kept vanished after his death. It may have been discarded or more likely the executor took it or possibly was requested by the Finnish FBI/CIA {Suojelupoliisi/KRP/Valpo}. You never know these things.

## Chairman of the Jewish Congregation in Helsinki 1960-1963 {T2}

Jews don't go camping. Life is hard enough as it is. **Carol Siskind**

Mikael at the peak of his career as 1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor was appointed Chairman of the Jewish Congregation. In this capacity Mikael received President Urho Kekkonen in 1960 visiting the congregation. Urho Kekkonen was a Doctor of Laws and many years a Justice Minister before becoming Prime Minister and thereafter President. Kekkonen knew about and appreciated Mikael's legal research and work as a crown prosecutor.

Chairing the unruly Jewish congregation was anything but easy. Mikael to restore order to the Jews always interrupting the speaker and never waiting for their turn to speak, Mikael had to threaten to come armed next time to restore a semblance of order. The Jews started to scream about Mikael being a 'Dictator' and that he is not a Crown Prosecutor here. Exasperated Mikael at one stage compared his congregation to the 'Savages in Borneo' to which his deputy chair sternly whispered:

"Why do you insult the savages in Borneo by comparing them to your wretched congregation?" It was one of those very loud "whispers" meant to be heard by everybody.

But a lot of good was achieved during Mikael's term chairing the congregation. Uncle Aron for instance built the Jewish nursing home and in Aron's wisdom requested a rectangular elevator that mystified the architect. Aron practical as ever explained that the 'patients come in standing and leave in a coffin from the nursing home'.

Mikael had a serious blow-up with Love Motzkin's father as head of the ancient Hevre Kadishe Jewish Burial organisation. Motzkin made it clear that 'the bodies belong to me' and that the congregation's chairman has no business meddling in the affairs of Hevre Kadishe and so it was.

## District Court Judge Mikael: 1 July 1963 - 31 December 1975 {T1 and T2}

A judge is a law student who marks his own examination papers. **H. L. Mencken**

Mikael had a wonderful role as a senior judge of the district court which those days was not only respected by all but was the last gentleman's bastion. The King of Sweden back in 1618 in his wisdom had decided that a 'Judge must not be tired' and hence there were only two days a week when the court convened. The judges were supposed to study the evidence and police reports for the rest of the week. Mikael refused all that so as not to be prejudiced by police reports e.g. for the 13.5 years as a judge he worked two days a week and fished and hunted for the remaining five days. Mikael had achieved the ultimate nirvana of turning a two day weekend into a five day weekend. On top of that he was paid a respectable salary, his pension was always bigger than my salary and Mikael was respected by all and in the most secure job imaginable. Now in Finland things have all changed; Judges have been made bureaucrats that have to show up for work 8-to-5 five days a week under the ever increasing supervision of the Justice Ministry, Attorney General, Provincial Government and higher appeal courts. Judges now are under constant re-training for political correctness. We felt that the winds are changing and thanks to my persistence I managed to convince Mikael to resign [Erokirja - Resignation & Retirement as District Court Judge and Chairman 31.12.1975](#). I was quite afraid that Mikael the straight talking Judge would get himself to ever increasing trouble. In any case Mikael was close to receiving a full pension which was two-thirds of his salary so there was little point working much longer. Mikael was accredited for his war time service and thus ended up having some 27 years of public service out of the 30 years required for full pension.

Mikael served the first four years as chairman of the Patent Court. This was certainly intellectually the most challenging section of the court. I remember the fascinating stories about giant American corporations such as Pfizer and American Cyanamid taking on Polish corporations for patent infringement for manufacturing antibiotics in Finland. The Americans could only sue Orion - the Finnish arm of the Eastern bloc clandestine operators. It was interesting to hear about all the expert witnesses and the Eastern Block antibiotics having an "Orion" effect of not quite managing to copy the cultures and techniques required to manufacture Terramycin and Vibramycin.

Mikael always mischievous used to rock into a pharmacy as "Dr." Livson and order Terramycin or Vibramycin without any checks ever made about his medical credentials. Well, he did this only for his own medication and not for others.

Another huge court case that Mikael Livson presided was the Finnish State suing the Dutch multinational Unilever. The Dutch were quite careless about their manufacturing of margarine. Everything was thrown in for the good measure: dead cats, cleaning brushes etc. you name it. The Health Authorities in Finland were not too impressed by the business practices of Unilever and the Livson Family from then on most certainly always spread butter and not margarine.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

Four years of presiding the patent court became a burden for Mikael as many of the cases dragged on for years so Mikael switched into criminal justice and in particular to chair the court for juveniles. This in fact turned out to be very stressful for Mikael. Juvenile courts had three professional Judges and a social worker.

The juveniles in 1960s and 1970s committed horrible crimes such as mugging old people and kicking them in the head and crippling their victims by breaking all of their ribs. Mikael wanted to sentence these juveniles up to ten years of prison whereas the social worker and sometimes the other judges overruled Mikael as the Chairman and by majority decision reduced the sentences to a couple of years. The Crown Prosecutors that had earlier on worked under Mikael as their 1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor always appealed against the leniency of the sentence and insisted on the Court of Appeal to accept the Chairman's position. In most cases the Court of Appeal then restored Mikael's original sentence.

The District Court those days was in very dilapidated premises in Aleksaterinkatu in the heart of Helsinki. As a youngster I was always very disappointed to see the miserable working conditions of the Judges and other staff. Since then the courts have been moved to the outskirts of Helsinki in Pasila to very drab modern buildings. I do not think it would have been wise for Mikael to continue beyond his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday as a Judge. There is a time and a place for everything.

The characters in court were very colorful and Mikael always at the dinner table told us the children most fascinating stories. I wish I had something interesting I could have told my boys about my work in information technology and telecommunications. Sometimes I talk with my elder son about technology trends but rarely about work itself.

Interestingly, Mikael never wanted me to study Law and I am now telling my boys to study anything but IT. I am actually very pleased that my son Matan has chosen to study Engineering & Commerce and not followed the footsteps of either his grandfather or his father.

## Third Marriage and Fourth Child {T2}

*"See, the problem is that God gives men a brain and a penis, and only enough blood to run one at a time." --Robin Williams*

Mikael after a marriage of 24 years with my mother Maj-Lis passing away in 14.9.1966 was desperately lonely. Sister Anita spent a few months helping us out but then, of course, returned to her husband in Israel. Brother Jerry by that time had progressed in his commercial pilot training and was ready to immigrate to Israel. Also, father and Jerry did not always get along too well. Father executed the inheritance by dividing the Kulosaari house as the primary asset equally amongst his three children being two-thirds of the total inheritance although Mikael would have been entitled by law to a half of everything. Mikael as a man of absolute honor felt that the house was old inherited wealth from my mother's side and should all go to her children and so it was.

Mikael and I moved to a small house in Pirkkola. Mikael next married Leena Kyllikki Laasanen, daughter of Leanteri Antinpoika Laasanen and Anna Matilta Jaakontytär Siponkoski, on 30.12.1967 in Helsinki. The marriage ended in divorce on 20.03.1970 with an earlier separation by late 1968. Leena was born on 31.10.1933 in Veteli. Another name for Leena is Leena Kyllikki Livson. They had one daughter: Laura Matleena. Mikael married Leena a secretary 22 years his younger from Veho the local Mercedes Benz dealer. Leena was a very attractive blonde lady but both were utterly unsuited to each other.

The marriage did not last for more than a year or so. Mikael carrying the old baggage from his previous marriage was desperately jealous. A daughter Laura Matleena Livson {married name Pankakoski} was born on 03.04.1969 in Helsinki.

These were terrible times and the best was that the marriage was over rather sooner than later. Mikael wrongly claimed that the daughter was not his. When you see 'Matleena' she is a carbon copy of Mikael. None of his children has a stronger physical likeness of Mikael than Matleena. Like her father she is talented and has a doctorate. My sister and brother maintain occasional contact with her during their frequent long stays in Finland. The courts ordered Mikael to pay child support which Mikael did for the next twenty years almost to his dying days. Also, Leena was bought an apartment as part of the divorce settlement.

After the divorce we sold Pirkkola and built a small house in Järvenpää some 40 km north of Helsinki as well as Mikael rented a small office in central Helsinki which proved to be very handy when we wanted to stay in the city overnight. These were very lonely times. Friends such Dr. Herman Skurnik, legal assessor Johannes Åberg and the charming Hoikkala-family were few and far between. We had a very earthy sense of humor with our medical Doctor Herman Skurnik. For instance, when Herman called in to tell that he is back from summer holidays, Mikael answered: "Yes, we already know from the much increased obituaries in the newspapers that you are back." Mikael was into hunting and especially fishing in a very big way and especially after having retired.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

Father and I lived together as bachelors until my immigration to Israel in September 1977. I studied in Mikael's Helsinki University Mathematics B.Sc, MSc and Licenciate of Philosophy as well as did my national service in the Finnish army signal corps and later on in the Electrotechnic Department of the H.Q.

Father stayed from 1977 every summer from May to September in Finland and then from October to April in a warm country to escape the harsh Finnish winter.

Most winters until my 1988 migration to Australia father spent with me first in my apartment first in Rehovot Israel and subsequently in Givat-Savyon closer to Tel-Aviv. One winter Mikael spent in the USA, mainly in California with a trip to Mexico. Another winter Mikael spent in Spain.

1. Mikael spent almost three years in Uppsala researching his historic study [Jesus-Jeshua Galilealainen](#) in the Carolina Rediviva library where Mikael had forty years earlier researched for his Doctor of Laws. I met father for his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in Stockholm and he took me by train to Uppsala to show the library and his domicile. A charming article about Mikael's Uppsala years has been written by [Existens Maximum - Jag vill vara som Mikael Livson](#) told by a student 50 years his younger.

Almost every summer I spent a month or so with father in our island in Puulavesi fishing and enjoying the wonderful Finnish summer nights with almost never ending sunlight some 240km north of Helsinki.

In many ways father had a wonderful life after his retirement but spending half-a-year overseas every year meant that he never could establish a permanent base. Mikael could not really serve as an advocate as the clients could not depend on his services for anything that took longer six months. Mostly, Mikael was an executor for last wills. Also, from the human relations perspective Mikael spending six months overseas every year was quite unsettling. Many of his war time friends had passed away and Mikael's world started to slowly shrink and he became quite a bitter old man who was on occasion desperately lonely.

Obviously, my elder siblings Anita and Jerry were both married with children and had their lives, and I was an old boy bachelor with quite a few of my own problems living with my dad year after year. Whilst I always loved him dearly, living together was not always the best thing. I married when I was 34 in 17.11.1986 to your mother Ayala.

Shortly thereafter I to everybody's displeasure resigned from the Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd after nine years of service to set up my own business as developer of software engineering tools. Financially, my business was a complete failure and after a year and a half when running low on cash we migrated to Australia which was terribly sad in that Australia was so far from father and Finland but there really were not many choices at that time.

## The Swiss Episode {T2}

If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name in a Swiss bank.

**Woody Allen.**

The Swiss Episode was one of the highlights of Mikael's life and reads like the James Bond 007 story but without the gimmicks and fast cars. Mr. X who tried desperately to escape Finland by boat as a stowaway towards the end of the Second World War - was arrested to be executed. X had no alternative but to escape as he was in the highest risk of Finnish Jews to be deported to Germany to be perished in its concentration camps. Mikael was appointed as his advocate and by stalling the process saved his life and secured his release from jail shortly after Finland's unconditional surrender to the Soviets.

A life-long relationship evolved between X and Mikael. I fondly remember the many chess games I played against X but consistently losing to X. Yes, X was a very clever businessman who amassed considerable wealth.

In the 1940s and 1950s Finland had severe import restrictions so the only way to smuggle out money to Switzerland was physically by couriers transporting. Later on from 1960s with import restrictions abolished, importers and exporters handled all that via transfer pricing but in the 1940s and 1950s people in Finland were desperate to smuggle money out to Switzerland for the rainy day living always in fear about the Soviets taking over Finland. Nobody ever envisaged the eventual fall of communism and the collapse of the Soviet Union. That would have been quite unthinkable. X became very wealthy as a courier.

In the 1970s X kept a stunningly beautiful courtesan. She was one of the most beautiful and elegant women I've ever seen. Late in the 1970s X passed away and his children engaged Mikael to trace the money and try to recover some of their inheritance. The trail, of course, lead to Switzerland. Mikael spent a couple of years dealing with the Swiss banks in a real chess game where the Swiss Banks used every excuse known to man to hide the trail of money. If Mikael did not ask a question exactly in the right way, the answer was a misleading 'there is no money' or 'not known to us'.

Mikael had to become quite an expert in the Swiss banking system. Many years earlier on as the 1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor in the late 1950s Mikael had tried to investigate a similar case but the Swiss bank contacted the Swiss authorities and was threatened with a 24-hour deportation. The Swiss law those days in the 1950s protected banking secrecy against any 'white collar' crime. All documents had to be translated into German and witnessed by the Swiss consulate.

An investigator had to know the bank, account numbers and branch involved and be very specific about the date in question as funds could be transferred at a moment's notice as was the case with X's funds immediately transferred after his death to a different branch.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

Recovering anything from the Swiss banks was next to unheard. It took fifty years of legal battles and massive pressure by the US Government for the survivors of Holocaust to reclaim some of their Swiss assets with the vast bulk still today embezzled by the Swiss banks.

The Swiss are a nation that has grown wealthy from blood money and in that light it was next to a miracle and thanks to Mikael's exceptional skills that he managed to recover some of X's assets from the claws of Swiss Banks.

The added complexity was that Mikael was in conflict with Finnish laws as X had obtained the proceeds by illegal means. Hence everybody involved had to be sworn to secrecy.

In the end Mikael caught up with the courtesan in Zurich and arrived at a settlement. The lady admitted planning to kill Mikael and dump his body over a bridge during their nightly walk. Everything, however, worked out well and the lady even after the settlement remained very wealthy.

As an epilogue a few years later X's courtesan had a passionate tryst with Mikael. Yes, Mikael shared bed with one of the most glamorous women known to man. Mikael certainly had Pizzazz in his life.

## Growing Old with Medical Problems {T2}

Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many. **Anon.**

Mikael was mentally and physically very healthy until the summer of 1986. Then he went for a minor elective bloodless operation where his prostate was worked on with a special medical implement in the private Mehiläinen hospital in Helsinki. The operation was successful but unfortunately Mikael fell in the bathroom the same night still drugged by the anesthesia. Mikael broke his hip and was rushed by ambulance to the casualty ward of an old public hospital in Töölö. Two miscarriages happened. Firstly, the young casualty ward attendant in the wee hours of the morning installed a replacement hip one size too big. Secondly, Mikael was infected by the Golden Staph virus in the very old Töölö hospital that over all these years had become a deadly disease pit.

I rushed from Israel to Finland for a month to look after father. Mikael suffered from the nearly incurable Golden Staph for months with the virus resistant to all known antibiotics. I was changing his bandages for a month with this awful slime oozing out of his wounds. I had to return back to Israel and leave Mikael once again at the hands of the Töölö hospital. The head doctor was absolutely awful to me wanting to kick out my half dead father with 40°C fever telling that the public hospital is not meant for geriatric patients and that he needs Mikael's bed back.

After Mikael recovered, we contemplated taking this doctor to the court but knowing how well protected the medical profession is we decided not to pursue this awful man.

Mikael's problem was that he had a wrong size hip implement and he could not have another operation to replace the implement for another year. Mikael then was operated in Israel – not in Finland – and received the right sized hip replacement but in the meantime Mikael had to limp along for a year with a wrong size hip. It was very painful for Mikael.

## Fourth Wife Ania Roering Spring 1989 till Death 21.1.1990 {T2}

My doctor gave me two weeks to live. I hope they're in August. **Ronnie Shakes.**

Mikael married for the fourth time **Ania Elisabet Untamo {Roering}**, daughter of Otto Laurentius Untamo and Aino Matilda Rantanen, on 07.06.1989 in Helsinki. Ania was born on 26.12.1925 in Somero and died on 23.04.1996 in Helsinki at age 70. Other names for Ania were Ania Elisabet Roering, and Ania Elisabet Roering-Livson.

Ania Roering was a very charming and kind retired head bank teller of the National Bank KOP whom father had known since early 1960s. I was very happy for father as Ania was a lovely lady. It was very regrettable that father had not married Ania after mother's death as this would have spared father from the terrible third marriage but Mikael unfortunately was absolutely besotted by the third wife and refused to listen to anybody's advice that the relationship will end in a disaster. By marrying Ania, Mikael might have had a long and happy marriage.

Mikael was happy with Ania although he became restless and dreamed of spending a year on a Greek Island. Mikael had hoped to retire on our island in Puulavesi but the tiny house and the extreme remoteness of the island would have made life next to impossible over the long and dark Finnish winter.

My father did try winter living on the island but it was all too hard and desperately lonely. I remember one of our drives in the winter over the frozen Puulavesi Lake on a clear sunny February day with -38°C in the cottage when we arrived at noon.

It took seven hours to heat the little house to 0°C using the big fireplace and the adjacent sauna and another three hours to reach a comfortable 20°C so that we could go to sleep. Life on that little island would have been next to impossible.

We in fact saw a deserted farmhouse on a larger island where the occupants had left everything behind even food being cooked in the pans and pots was left unattended. The people in the Finnish countryside and in particular in the islands always had a harsh wretched life. Finland's great prosperity with Nokia churning out mobile phones is only very recent and the Finns were mostly desperately poor even living together with their farm animals to preserve heat in the house during winter was not uncommon until the 20<sup>th</sup> century with women giving birth in the sauna with the help of a mid-wife.

I am telling to you my sons so that you may understand what adversity is in life and that you should not ever take things for granted.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

Mikael's last few months were quite sad according to Ania. Mikael already had serious mobility problems. Walking was difficult after the hip operations. Things were made a lot worse because of Mikael's awful eating habits. The older Mikael got the more frugal he became and did not wish to spend the money on proper food such as fruit, vegetables and meat.

In the years past he was partly able to compensate this by catching fish during the Finnish summer. Mikael ate colossal quantities of bread, butter and sugar as his staple food. No physique could tolerate that forever.

Mikael's aorta – the largest artery in the body that carries oxygen-rich blood away from the heart to vessels that reach the rest of the body – burst shortly before midnight on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 1990. Mikael complained to Ania about very sore stomach and was rushed by ambulance to the casualty ward. Mikael drifted in and out of consciousness in the ambulance and managed only to ask to be taken back home. In the casualty ward the attending doctor as usual decided on life and death.

The casualty ward doctor decided to carry out Euthanasia and not to operate Mikael as he was an old frail man. Mikael then bled to death within half-an-hour.

This doctor's mercy saved my father from being crippled and possibly even from being a vegetable for the rest of his life. Whoever opposes euthanasia is a callous coward that shunts these decisions to be made by countless doctors, nurses, patients and family as applicable in the circumstance. Make no mistake the health care system would collapse if euthanasia was not practiced on a massive scale. Both of my parents have been subject to mercy euthanasia that spared them from terrible needless suffering.

My father was very lucky indeed; Mikael had to suffer for less than half-an-hour and Mikael was both mentally and physically healthy apart from his terrible eating habits until his last day. Contrast Mikael to my wife's father who died from a debilitating Alzheimer's disease over many years.

## Burial and Unfinished Epilogue

From the moment I picked up your book until I laid it down, I was convulsed with laughter. Some day I intend reading it. **Groucho Marx.**

**Dear Matan and Ori,**

Mikael was buried next to my mother in the Jewish cemetery on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 1990. Mikael had earlier on wished to be cremated with his ashes spread in the Island of Silmäsalo on Lake Puulavesi but during his last year Mikael approached Hevre Kadishe to make his funeral arrangements. I am glad that he was buried in the Jewish way next to my mother. I was happy to see my sister and brother, uncle Aron, cousin Jolli and Ariel who are all very dear to me.

It took me seventeen years to gather the courage to tell my father's story and work out how to tell it. I sincerely apologise if I have inadvertently offended anybody but I felt that I have to tell the *'truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth'* but I hope in an interesting, personal and entertaining way to the reader describing the earthly human side of my father and his relations. This is not about writing some dry impersonal scientific matter-of-the-fact treatise. I have tried to tell my father's story with 'warts and all' including the very traumatic experiences that scarred him for life. Yes, this is a story of overcoming great hardship, wonderful achievement and also about a lot of needless self-inflicted suffering.

This book is not about our family genealogy but about my great love of my father Mikael as a person, the events and experiences that shaped Mikael's life and lastly faithfully describing Mikael's relations "through his eyes" the way he described them to me. Mikael was often in sharp conflict with many of his relations. There was rarely ever any grayness in Mikael's relations but he often saw people 'black and white' – as relations of hate or love but never indifferent. My sisters and cousins have on occasion objected to the way I have described these relations but being faithful to Mikael's memory has been my guide.

I feel that I have to add an epilogue to this biography but do not quite know how to go about it. Perhaps my dear Sister with her wonderful literary ability may come to my rescue here. I hope it won't take another fifteen years.

My sons I have written for you this biography of my father the way he lived with warts and all to show you my deep love and affection of Mikael that I loved as deeply as I love you.

**With the greatest love and affection your father**

The End

Mikael Livson Memorial Web-Site [www.bal.com.au/Mikael.htm](http://www.bal.com.au/Mikael.htm) {T1}

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[Jeesus-Jeshua Galilealainen - Historiallinen Tutkimus {6.2MB April 1988} searchable](#)

[Doctoral Dissertation A-36 Epävarsinainen Laiminlyöntirikos {17.5MB summary in German 1949} searchable](#)

[Näennäinen Rikoskonkurrenssi B-64 {6MB Reader of Law Docent Thesis 1954} searchable](#)

[Kotirauhan Rikosoikeudellinen Suoja B-92 {5.1MB summary in German 1958} searchable](#)

[Avuttomaan Tilaan Saattaminen tai Jättäminen B-95 {4MB 1958} searchable](#)

[Kiskomisrikos B-103 {4MB 1960} searchable](#)

[Dositentti Nimitys - Appointment as Reader of Law University of Helsinki {1954, 1.1MB}](#)

[Lakitieteen Tohtori - Doctor of Law 1949](#)

[Lakitieteen Tohtori - Doctor of Law Promovation](#)

[Lakitieteen Licensiaati - Licenciate of Law 1949](#)

[Lakitieteen Kandidaatti - Candidate of Law 1945](#)

[Varatuomari - Barrister 1946](#)

[Master of Law and Solicitor 1943](#)

[Ansioluettelo - Nimikirja - Official State Record of Merit 1970](#)

[Suositus - Recommendation {in Swedish} 1949](#)

[Valtakirja 1 Syyttäjän Virkaan - Appointment as Chief Crown Prosecutor of Helsinki 1959](#)

[Nimitys Vanhemmaksi Oikeusneuvosmieheksi - Appointment as District Court Judge & Chairman 1963](#)

[Erokirja - Resignation & Retirement as District Court Judge and Chairman 1975](#)

[Citations](#)

[Photos Dr. Mikael Livson 23.8.1910 - 21.1.1990](#)

## Appendices

### List of Mikael's Key Relations

Fate chooses your relations, you choose your friends.

Jacques Delille

1. Father: Simon Lifson. Father's father: Mikael Lifson.
2. Mother: Anjuta Tabakov. Step-mother and Aunt Paula Tabakov
3. Brother: Aron Livson
4. Half-Sister: Bebi {Braine} Lifson daughter of Simon Lifson and Aunt Paula
5. Primary Wife No 2 Maj-Lis Nemeschansky and children: Anita, Jerry Elis and Ben Uriel
6. Parents of Maj-Lis: Benjamin and Sarah Nemeschansky
7. Brothers of Maj-Lis: Issi, Abbi, Elis and Jussi
8. Wife No 1 Svea Linnea Söderlund
9. Wife No 3 Leena Kyllikki Laasanen and fourth child Laura Mat-Leena Pankakoski
10. Wife No 4 Ania Roering { Ania Elisabet Untamo }

## Citations on Google

The surest way to make a monkey of a man is to quote him - **Robert Benchley**.

### [Suomalaisen Lakimiesyhdistyksen kustantama kirjallisuus syyskuu ...](#)

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - [View as HTML](#)

B92 **Mikael Livson**, Yksityisen kotirauhan rikosoikeudellinen suoja Suomen oikeuden mu- ... B95

**Mikael Livson**, Avuttomaan tilaan saattaminen tai jättäminen. ...

[www.lakimies.org/tiedostot/sivu152/1178\\_1187.pdf](http://www.lakimies.org/tiedostot/sivu152/1178_1187.pdf) - [Similar pages](#)

### [Helsinki, Finland, Jewish Cemetery](#)

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885, Maj-Lis, **LIVSON**, Malka Zise, (Khaber) Binyamin Elchanan, 02-Apr-1922, 14-Sep-1966. 884,

**Mikael, LIVSON**, Shimon, 23-Aug-1910, 21-Jan-1990, "Lakit. Tri" ...

[www.geocities.com/eladler/helsinki.htm](http://www.geocities.com/eladler/helsinki.htm) - [Similar pages](#)

### [PDF] [Lapin yliopiston yhteisölehti 6 • 2006](#)

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luennoitsijoista (**Mikael Livson**) hävisi viranhaussa itseään. merkittävästi värittömämmälle kilpahakijalle.

Tasapainoilua luentoja ja ... - [Similar pages](#)

[www.ulapland.fi/includes/file\\_download.asp?deptid=8079&fileid=9570&file=20061103140701.pdf&pdf=1](http://www.ulapland.fi/includes/file_download.asp?deptid=8079&fileid=9570&file=20061103140701.pdf&pdf=1)

### [Helsingin yliopiston opettaja- ja virkamiesluettelo 1918-2000 ...](#)

1954-60 **Livson, Mikael** (\* 1910), rikosoikeus 1956-85 Reinikainen, Veikko Olavi (\* 1920 † 1998),

prosessioikeus 1965-71 Ailio, Erkki Olavi Johannes (\* 1922), ...

[www.helsinki.fi/keskusarkisto/virkamiehet/oikeustiede/oikeustdkrikosikeus.htm](http://www.helsinki.fi/keskusarkisto/virkamiehet/oikeustiede/oikeustdkrikosikeus.htm) - [Similar pages](#)

### [JUUTALAISET SUOMEN ARMEIJASSA](#)

**Livson** ei joutunut saksalaisten kanssa samalle rintamalle eikä hän joutunut kiperän ongelman eteen. - Veljeni **Mikael** oli ilmavoimien esikunnan lainopillinen ...

[www.verkkouutiset.fi/arkisto/Arkisto\\_1997/5.joulukuu/JUUTSOTA.HTM](http://www.verkkouutiset.fi/arkisto/Arkisto_1997/5.joulukuu/JUUTSOTA.HTM) - [Similar pages](#)

### [PDF] [oikeus taitto](#)

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - [View as HTML](#)

**Livson, Mikael**: Epävarsinainen laiminlyöntirikos. Vammala 1949. **Livson, Mikael**: Avuttomaan tilaan saattaminen tai jättäminen. Vammala 1958. ...

[www.oikeus.fi/uploads/4ll34p.pdf](http://www.oikeus.fi/uploads/4ll34p.pdf) - [Similar pages](#)

### [Journal Lakimies : all pages](#)

1959 :10, **Livson, Mikael** ..... 379 Kirjoittajat:. 1959 :10, Makkonen, Kaarle ..... 49, 891 Kirjoittajat:.

1959 :10, Mali, Matti . ...

[www.nrl.fi:3000/digiphpt/zrnlakimiesen.php?page=189](http://www.nrl.fi:3000/digiphpt/zrnlakimiesen.php?page=189) - [Similar pages](#)

22. [Journal Lakimies : all pages](#) 1949 :2, Livson, **Mikael** Epävarsinainen laiminlyöntirikos Arv Brynolf Honkasalo 549 Kirjallisuutta. 1949 :2, Melander, Ilman Asumusero Arv A R Heikonen 345 ... A-

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

35www.nrl.fi:3000/digiphpt/zrnlakimiesen.php?page=10...

[FINLEX® - Hovioikeuden päätöksiä: I-SHO 30.03.1982 PÄ-1846/81](#)

**Livson:** Yksityisen kotirauhan rikosoikeudellinen suoja Suomen oikeuden mukaan, 1958, s. 93. KKO:n ratkaisu.

Päätös n:o 3992, A:22.9.1982: ei valituslupaa.

[www.finlex.fi/fi/oikeus/ho/1982/19820597](http://www.finlex.fi/fi/oikeus/ho/1982/19820597) - 7k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

### [Existens Maximum - Jag vill vara som Mikael Livson](#)

Jag vill vara som **Mikael Livson**. Skrivetav Janne 22 februari 2008, klockan 15:56. Ni som läste mitt inlägg om Flogstavrådet, kanske reagerade när jag sa att ...

[blogg.aftonbladet.se/21512/perma/743386/](http://blogg.aftonbladet.se/21512/perma/743386/) - 44k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#) - a charming article about Mikael's life in the Upsala University told by a student 50 years his younger.

## List of Document Scans

It is difficult to produce a television documentary that is both incisive and probing when every twelve minutes one is interrupted by twelve dancing rabbits singing about toilet paper. **Rod Serling**

*University Degrees – State Record of Merit*

*Recommendation by Baron Wrede*

*Dr. of Laws Promovation*

*Appointment for Docent – Reader of Laws by Chancellor of Helsinki University*

*Legal Research Publications*

*Appointment for 1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor by Attorney General*

*Appointment for Judge*

*Resignation as Judge*

### *Future Plans*

The best way to predict the future is to invent it. **Alan Kay.**

We do have a very large collection of some 150 of Mikael's beautifully handwritten letters which we may later on scan-in and include in the web-site. I have included in the biography a tiny sample of two letters and a post card written in Upsala 1985-1986. Also, I have included a newspaper article of Mikael as the 1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor from 1962. Also, I have made some use of the Lifson and Nemeschansky family genealogy by Raimo Vallius and Dennis Livson.

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

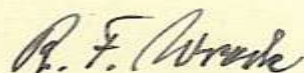
1. Henkilötiedot (*)	Suku- ja etunimet, entiset nimet sukuisia <b>L i v s o n , Mikael</b>	
	Syntyäpaikka <b>Sortavala</b>	Syntymäaika <b>23.8.1910</b>
2. Opinnot, tut- *) kinnot, eriva- paat	Tullut ylioppilaaksi suomenkielisestä oppilaitoksesta	Päivämäärä p. kk. v. <b>31.5.1933</b>
Koulutustyyppi, yli- oppilastutkinto, muu tutkinto, kurssi, oppimäärä ja oppiarvo,	Suorittanut ylempään oikeustutkinnon	<b>29.4.1943</b>
missä ja minkä- kielisessä oppilai- toksesta tai kaa- nalla ne on suorit- ettu; virkakel- pöytäkirjasta	Suorittanut lakitieteen kandidatin tut- kinnon	<b>13.9.1945</b>
myönnetty eri- vapaus; opinto- maksu ulkomaille sillä varain myönnettyä til- pändin tai apu- rahan turvin ja maksan tarkoitus	Saanut lakitieteen lisensiaatin arvon	<b>21.1.1949</b>
	Saanut lakitieteen tohtorin arvon	<b>13.10.1949</b>
	Otettu nuskultantiksi Turun hovioikeuteen	<b>3. 5.1943</b>
	Saanut ensimmäisen tuomarinammatyksen tasami- kuun 24 päivänä 1946, jolloin määrätty toi- mittamaan vuoden 1946 varsinaiset talvik- rajat Elisabetin kirkkikunnassa.	
	Hoitanut Iitin tuomiokunnan tuomarinvir- kaa	<b>1. 9.1946</b> <b>13.10.1946</b>
3. Kielellä	Kypeysnäyte yliopistossa suomen kielellä. Asianomaisen tutkintolautakunnan epäsuorin antaman todistuksen mukaan osoittanut hyvää taitoa suullisesti ja kirjallisesti käyttäen ruotsin kieltä	<b>30. 4.1955</b>
4. Virkavala ja tuomarinvala	Vannonut virka- ja tuomarinvalan	<b>3. 5.1943</b>

Eläkkeen hakemista varten annettavan nimikirjastonnoitteen merkittävään (\*) varustetussa kohdissa 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 ja 13 mainitut tiedot

## University Degrees – State Record of Merit

Juriskandidaten viceshäradshövdingen Mikael Livson har i egenskap av lagfaret biträde varit mig behjälplig vid skötseln av Itis domsaga samt därvid utfört alla de domaruppdrag och förrättningar, som erfordras för undfående av viceshäradshövdingtitel. Under detta vårt samarbete har jag varit i tillfälle konstatera viceshäradshövdingen Livson vara i besittning av juridiska kunskaper, i hög grad överstigande dem domarbiträden i allmänhet hos oss kunnat uppvisa, äga ett sällsynt iudicium och skicklighet i domarvärv samt visat berömvärd flit och energi. Då viceshäradshövdingen Livson därjämte till sin karaktär är i allo redbar, osjälvisk och tillmötesgående, kan jag på heder och samvete giva honom min bästa rekommendation.

Wredeby i Anjala den 9 oktober 1947. .

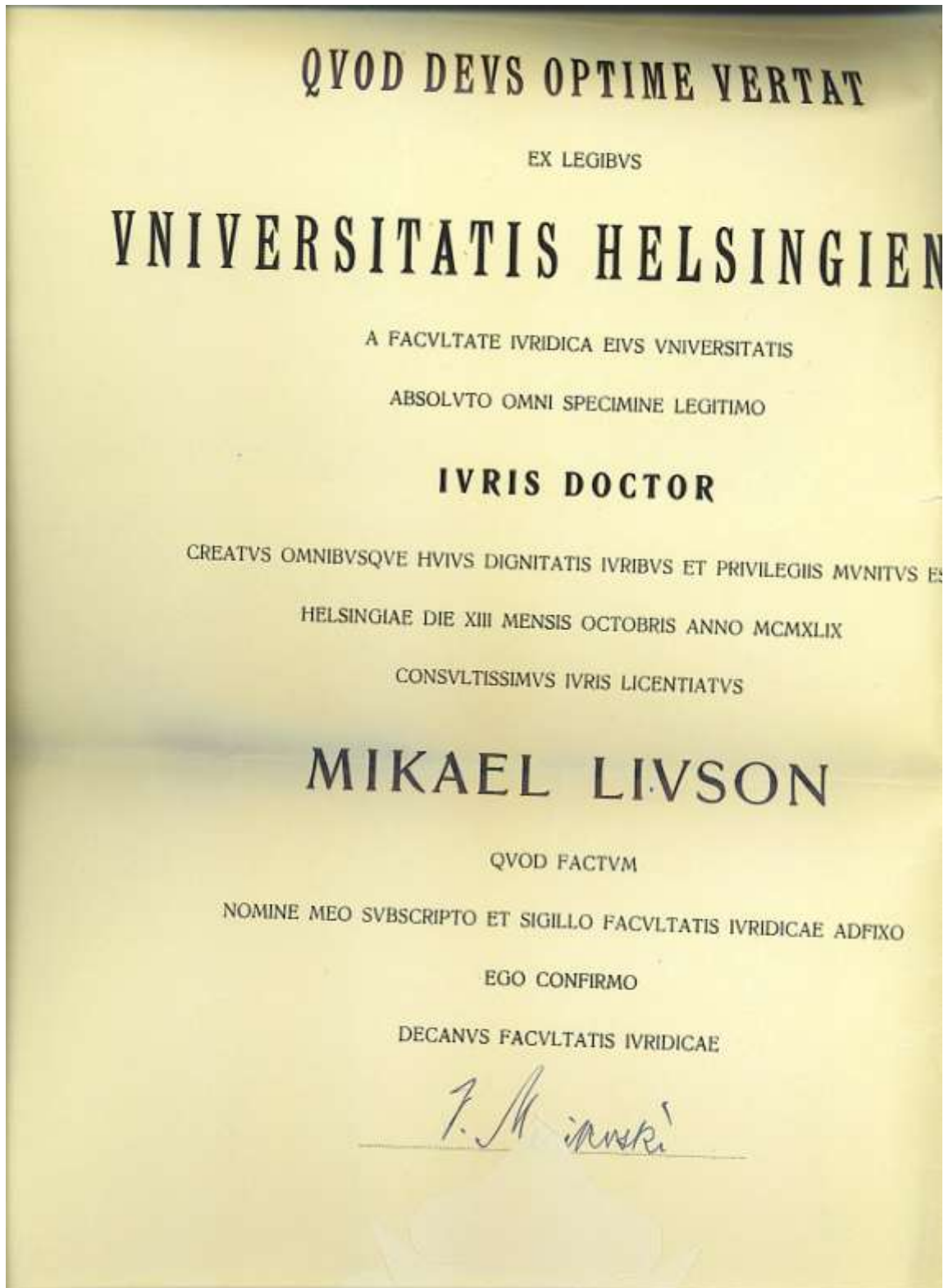


frilherre, f.d. hovrättsråd och justitiesekreterare samt för närvarande häradshövding i Itis domsaga i Finland.



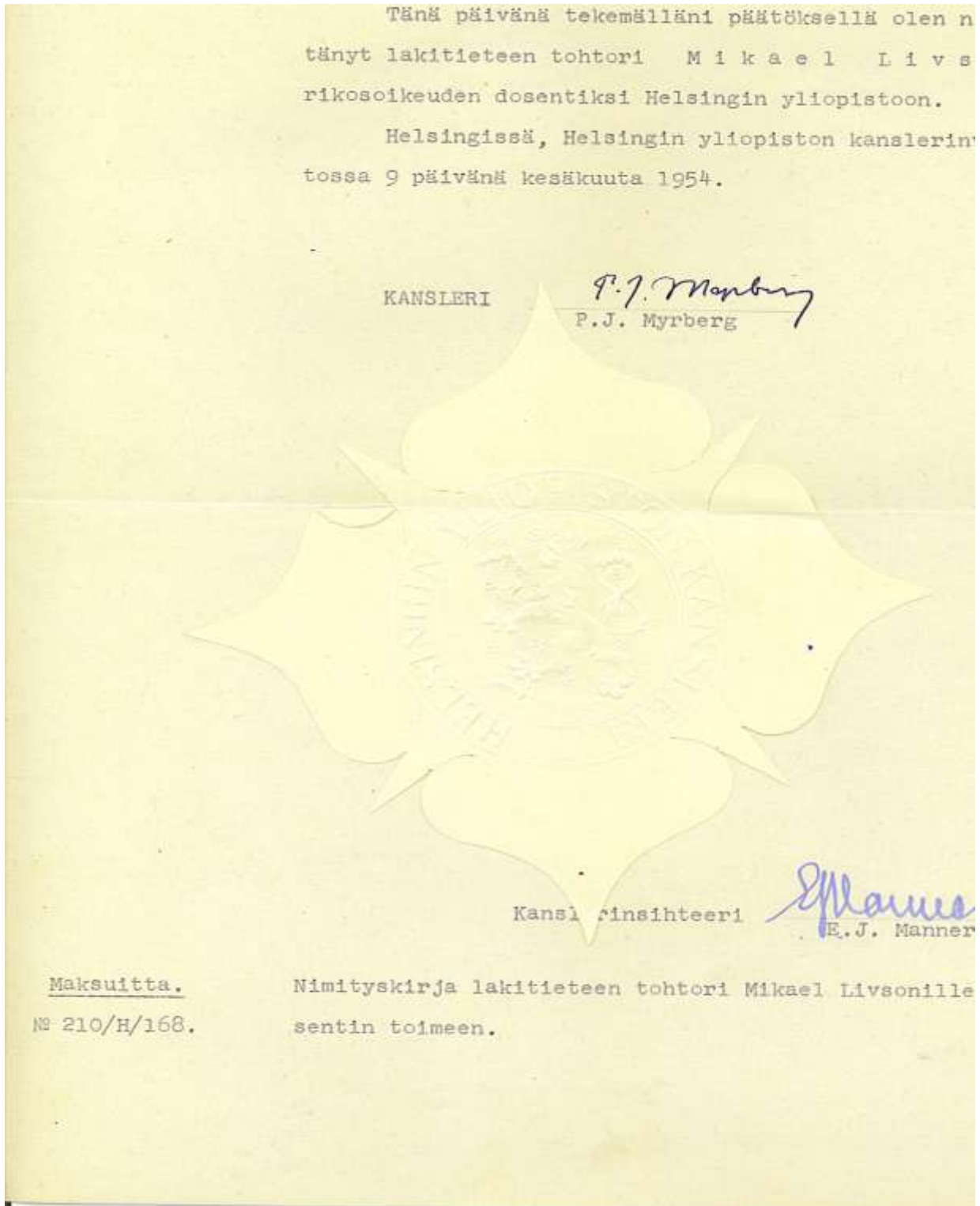
### *Recommendation by Baron Wrede*

Winning is not everything but losing has little to recommend it. **Diane Feinstein.**



*Dr. of Laws Promovation*

## Appointed to Helsinki University Docent - Reader of Laws



Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

B. Kirjallinen toiminta		Päivämäärä p. kk. v.
<p>sekä toimet tiedeilisessä yms. yhdistyksissä</p>	<p><b>Julkaisuja:</b>                      Epävarsinainen laiminlyöntirikos. Suomalaisen Lakimiesyhdistyksen julkaisuja A-sarja 1949.                      Näennäinen rikoskonkurrensi. Suomalaisen Lakimiesyhdistyksen julkaisuja B-sarja 1954.                      Epävarsinainen laiminlyöntirikoksen kausaliisuusprobleema pohjoismaisessa rikosoikeustieteessä. Honkasalon 60-vuotijulkaisu 1949.                      Avunantajanvastuun perustava laiminlyönti. Salmialan 60-vuotijulkaisu 1950. Kyseysvaarantamierikosten ja niiden sekä loukkamierikosten keskinäisestä konkurensisuhteesta moottoriajoneuvoliikenteestä annettuja säännöksiä silmälläpitäen. Defensor Legis 1954 n:o 1 - 2.                      Yksityisen kotirauhan rikosoikeudellinen suoja Suomen oikeuden mukaan. Suomalaisen Lakimiesyhdistyksen julkaisuja B-sarja n:o 92 1958.                      Avuttomaan tilaan saattaminen tai jättäminen. Edellä mainitun yhdistyksen B-sarja n:o 95 1958.                      Kiskomirikos. 1960.                      Suomen kriminalistiyhdistyksen hallitukseen jäsen ja sihteeri</p>	<p>1954-1957</p>

Legal Research Publications


V a l t a k i r j a .

Täytettäessä avoinna olevaa Helsingin kaupungin ensimmäisen kaupunginviskaalin virkaa on tänä päivänä tekeväni päätöksellä mainittuun virkaan 1 päivästä helmikuuta 1959 lukien nimitetty saman kaupungin yhdestoista kaupunginviskaali, lakitieteen tohtori Mikael Livson; jonka todistukseksi tämä valtakirja kaupunginviskaali Livsonille annetaan. Helsingissä, Valtioneuvoston oikeuskanslerinvirastossa 27 päivänä tammikuuta 1959.

Oikeuskansleri

  
Olavi Honka .



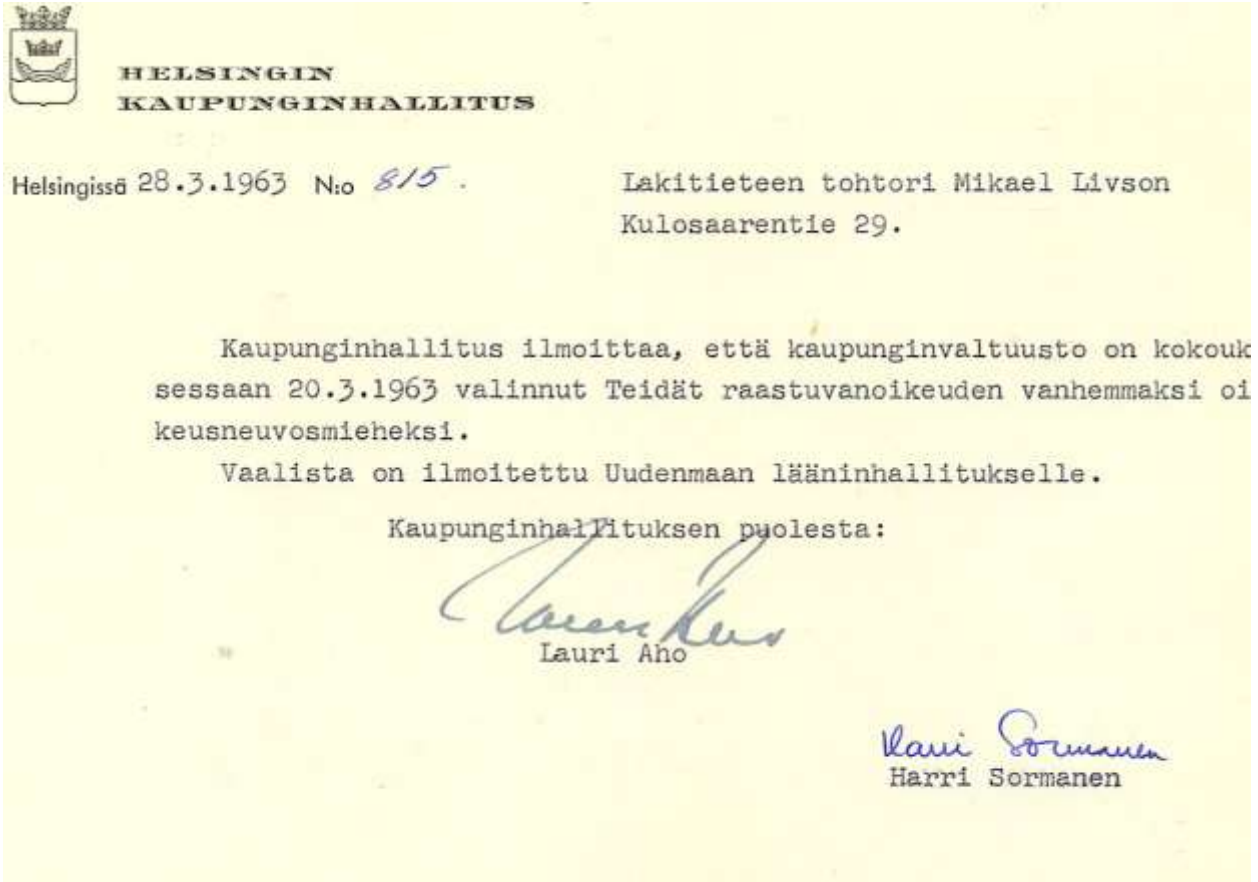
  
K.K. Vuorisalo

N:o 109.

DN:o 1/m 1959.

Valtakirja Helsingin kaupungin yhdennelletoista kaupunginviskaalille, lakitieteen tohtori Mikael Livsonille saman kaupungin ensimmäisen kaupunginviskaalin virkaan.

**1<sup>st</sup> Crown Prosecutor Appointment by the Attorney General**



### Appointed Judge

Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment. Anon

E r o k i r j a

Lääninhallitus on tänään tekemällään päätöksellä myöntänyt vanhemmalle oikeusneuvosmiehelle Mikael Livsonille hänen pyytämänsä eron Helsingin raastuvanoikeuden vanhemman oikeusneuvosmiehen virasta joulukuun 31 päivästä 1975 lukien; minkä todistukseksi tämä erokirja hänelle annetaan.

Helsingissä, lääninhallituksessa, marraskuun 10 päivänä 1975.

M a a h e r r a

*Kaarlo Pitsinki*  
Kaarlo Pitsinki

Kansliapäällikkö

*L. Aalto*  
L. Aalto



Leimaverotta

Erokirja Mikael Livsonille Helsingin raastuvanoikeuden vanhemman oikeusneuvosmiehen virasta

### Resignation as Judge and a Sample of Handwriting and Letters

We proceed by showing a tiny sample of Mikael's beautiful handwriting and fascinating letters

Uppsala 15. 3. 1985.

Rakas Piirani Ben!

Edistyn tutki multikin asi oi-  
kein pitrein kappalein.  
Terveysteni kukaan Suomessa  
kyrin. Kun ja mitkä jostus  
tulen vanhaasi, niin lapa-  
tan kaikin turat ja siltin  
vain kalastolen! Kirjoitan  
paranteen lukuja samaa me  
toivottavimmasta ajasta, kaseh-  
monaim, suomelien - kaseh-  
noidit. Vuonna 500 ennen  
ajanlastenamme Saavidin  
nimen häipyi historian nä-  
määrään, joka päivää nään  
tään aikaisin. 400 vuoden  
ajan jalommin jälkeä mino  
Saavidilaiset kunnit  
tuottivat kansalle p un-  
nattomia käreä myllyä pal-  
vesta palveen mielihyväli-  
sillä kiitoillaan ja sodillaan  
keskenään ja toisia vastaan.

Tupla tai kuitin kaikkien aikojen nuorin osanottaja valloitti Kirstin ja katsojien sydämet. Ei suinkaan nuoruudellaan vaan uskomattomilla tiedoillaan vaikeasta aiheesta.

- Pojan isä, lakitieteen tohtori Mikael Livson, soitti ja tarjosi poikaansa, vain 10-vuotiaasta Ben Livsonia. Pojan aiheena olisivat kiertotähdet ja tekokuut.

Monet aihepiirit kokenut Kirsti ymmärsi epäillä 10-vuotiaan mahdollisuuksia. Mutta isä ei lannistunut vaan sanoi, ettei tarjoaisi poikaansa jos hetkenkään pelkäisi tämän munaavan itsensä ja perheensä.

Kysymykset laati joko Pertti Jotuni tai Börje Hjelm, joita Kirsti käytti apuna avaruuskysymyksiä käsiteltäessä.

Ben Livson tuli mukaan ja voitti. Mutta hänen uransa ei päättynyt tähän. Kun Tuplan ja kuitin voittajien joukosta valittiin Pohjoisvisiokilpaan suuria tietäjiä kuten Esko Kivikoski, Keijo Virtamo, Väinö Sutinen, sillä periaatteella, että he mahdollisimman hyvin täydentäisivät toisiaan, ottivat herrat riemu mielin Ben-pojan tiimiin mukaan.

- Pojan nenä tuskin kunnolla näkyi pöydän takaa, mutta niin hän vaan pani keitoon kaikki muut pohjoismaalaiset kilpailijat, Kirsti riemuitsee suurten hetkien muistoa.

Seura 1/86

Uppsala 18. 12. 85

Rakka Ben.

Kotini kääntöpuolella muistusta sinulle. Täällä Ruvo-Mikko Repolainen. Ylös mumpe kuttaja, jota pyytin, kirjosti kioviokouluksi Kirjelmä, jossa onni oli herra nimellä: "Voitte muuttua nimenne Repolaiseksi, löllöis voitte jatkaa muuten minä supisuomalaisista py-

Rätkä hämmöilyanne." ja edelleen: "aijon järjestää teille viron Raivytteen joululahjaksi."

Frehe Weihnachten

und ein glückliches

Neues Jahr! Mikko

Ne abirat aiteja me. - Voi hyvin. Terveisiä Anitaalle ja Maku perheelle.

Rakkautella

Pappa

Why are our days numbered and not, say, lettered? **Woody Allen**

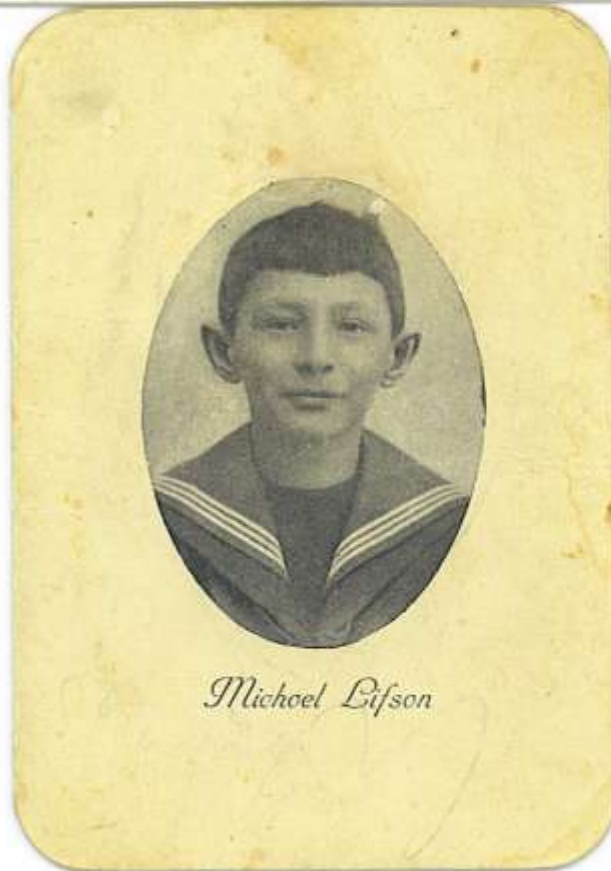
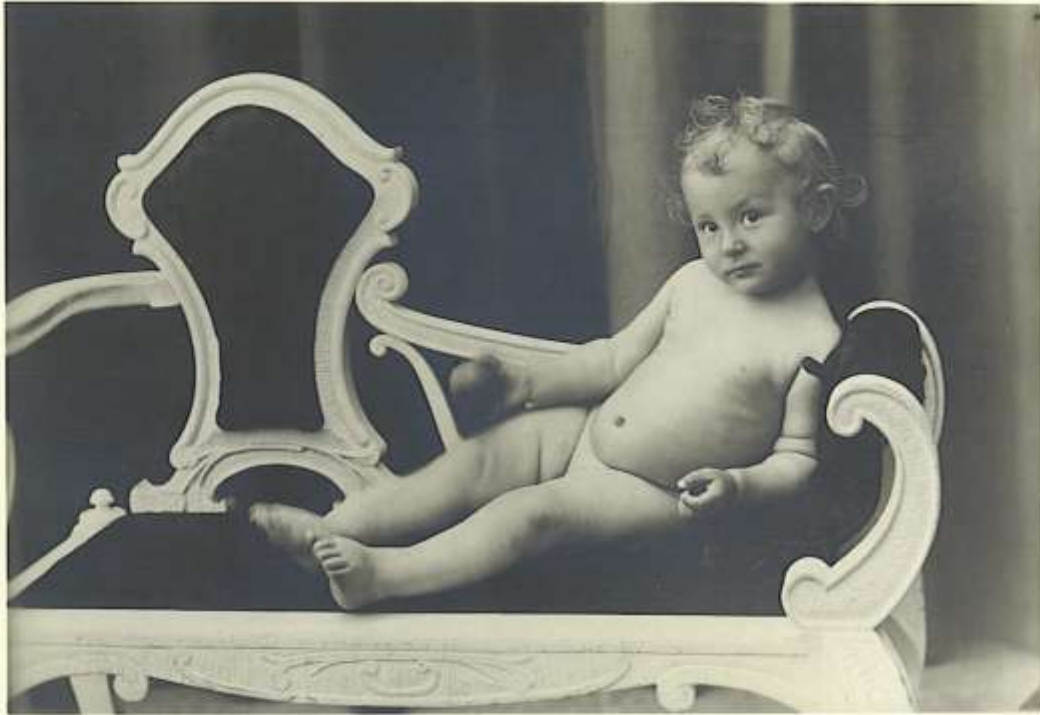
Uppsala 8. 3. 1986.

Rakas Ben,

Et ulko kuinka ilahduit minua tänään soitollasi. Kun olin sairaana, niin tunsin yhtäkkiä itteni minun kovin ystäväisenä ja olin kovin masentunut. Nyt on kaikki taas hyvin. Juna tuu nyt kaikki minun puolelta, etten usko, että maanantaina juna koskaan saakaan ilmenee mitään erikoista. Itse oletin, että minulla olisi mattoja. Mutta jissain laboratorioon kukaan kysyi, olitteko niillä ne mattoja. Sanoin kyllä, mutta vain kaksijalkaisija! Munten kun nyt Perit tuli tänne, niin minua kannoasti vätyttiä, motelon jalkojani kun olisin vanha äitiä. Todella kaipaen kovasti päästä maalle. Lihden täältä 12/5/86



Photo Gallery of Mikael Livson 23.10.1910–21.1.1990





**Judge Dr. Mikael Livson 1965**

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

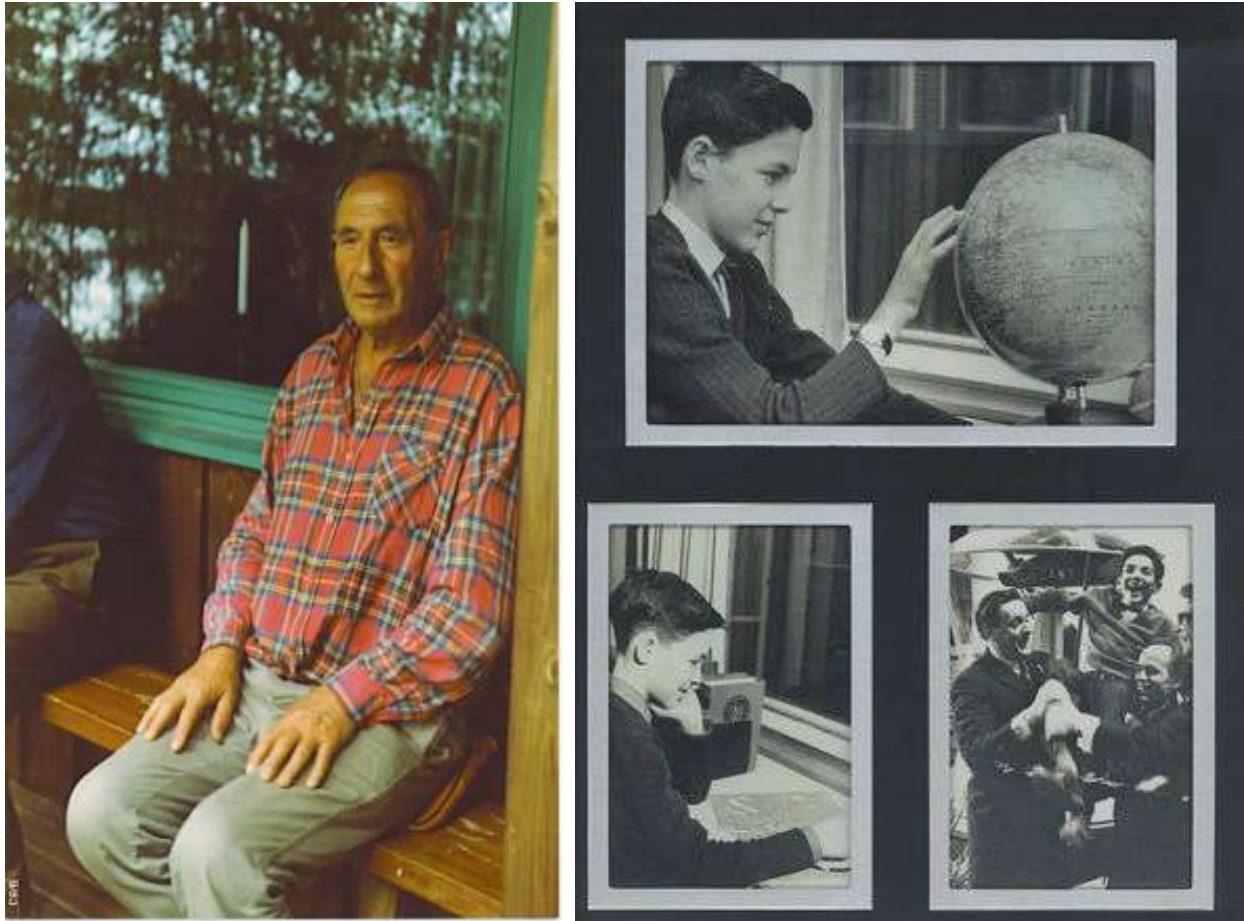


Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson

Above Livsons 1946 Top left to right: Aron, Ruth, Simon, Braine, Paula, baby Anita, Maj-Lis & Mikael

Middle above left 1925: Mikael, Simon & Aron; Middle above right: Aron & Mikael “boxing” 1987

Above bottom 1950: Aron, Simon, Braine & Mikael



Mikael 1980 a Puulavesi Island; Ben 1963

I don't have a photograph, but you can have my footprints. They're upstairs in my socks. **Groucho Marx**

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



Top Left-to-Right: Jussi, Ettu, Issi, Maj-Lis & Mikael 1950?

Bottom Left-to-Right: Mikael, Jerry, Benita, Ben, Ariel, Anita & Joel, Nov 1986

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



Top-to-Bottom and Lef-to-Right: Mikael in the army, Mikael and Simon, Mikael in Inkoo early 1960s, Mikael, Maj-Lis & Anita 1946, Mikael, Maj-Lis & Ben 1957, Mikael with a hunting & friend, Mikael and Maj-Lis early 1940s, Mikael & Simon riding bicycles 1930s, Mikael & Maj-Lis outside Helsinki University 1940s.

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



Around 1950: Mikael and Maj-Lis hold onto a lion in Spain. Maj-Lis with Jerry and Anita. Mikael and Jerry.

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



Top-to-Bottom and Lef-to-Right: Mikael & Jerry Inkoo 1960, Pikkusaari Islet Inkoo, Mikael shoots a deer .

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



*Pappa ja Ben Inkooissa.*



1) Family holiday in Hiidenvesi (Vihti); 2) Anita, Aron, Maj-Lis & Mikael; 3) Mikael & Ben Inkoo 1958; 4) Maj-Lis as a student 1941; 5) Maj-Lis, Shmuel, Anita & Mikael and 5) a Wartime Group Photo with Mikael in front-row second from left.

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



1) Maj-Lis; 2) Family photo Jerry, Maj-Lis, Mikael & Ben Kulosaari 1962; 3) Jerry Captain in Israeli Army; 4) Ben 2 Years Old; 5) Anita, Jerry and Ben 1956; 6) Mikael and Maj-Lis Joint Burial

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



- 1) Ben & Mikael 1970; 2) Dingo Dog 1964; 3) Anita & Mikael Jerusalem 1964; 4) Mikael with Anita & Jerry 1950.

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



- 1) Jerry and Ben 1962; Ben 1958; 3) Anita 1960s; 4) Brit Mila of a Grand Son; 5) Mikael with Anita and grand children Maya and Cobi; 6) Mikael and grandson Cobi

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



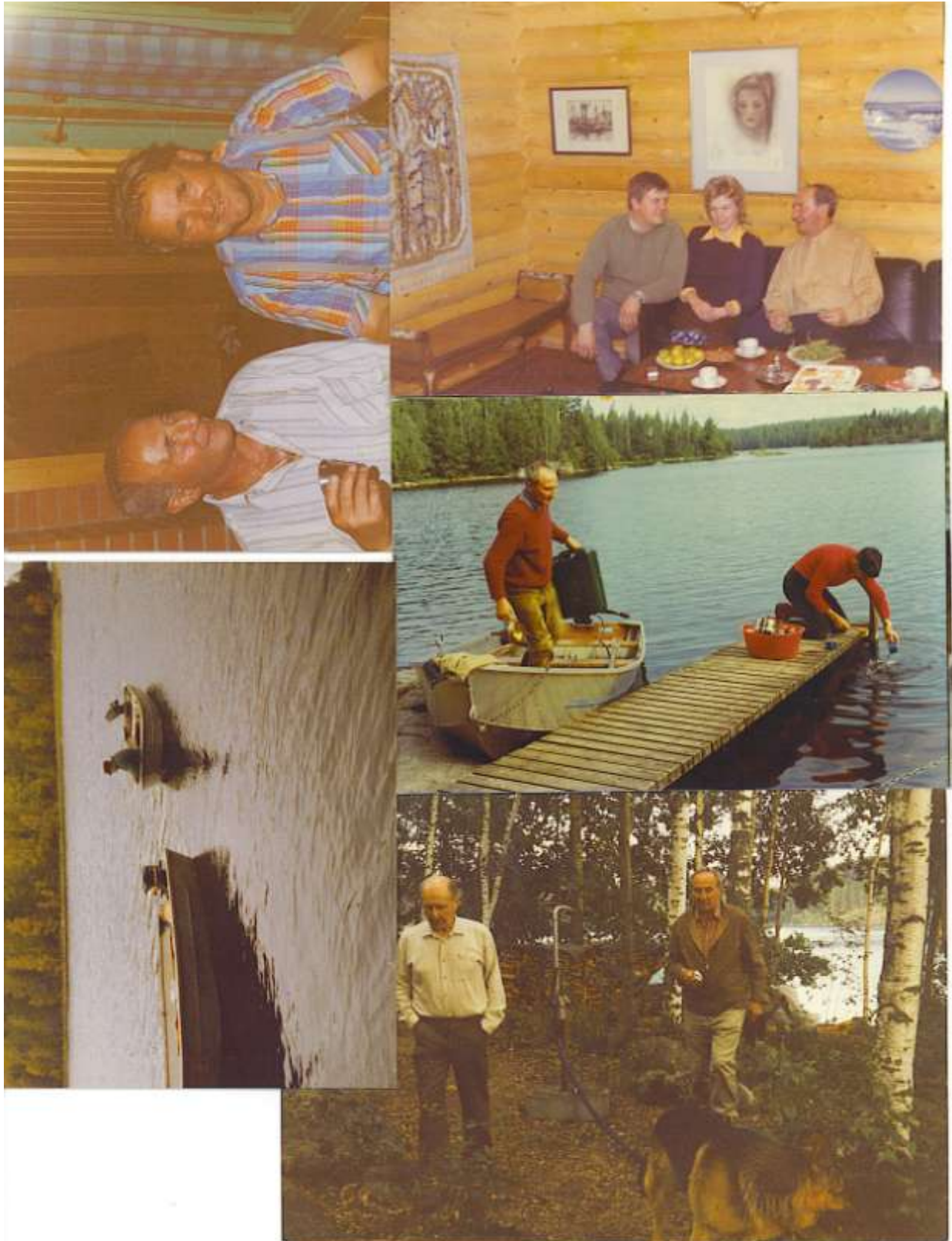
Mikael & Ben celebrating Ben's matriculation from High School

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



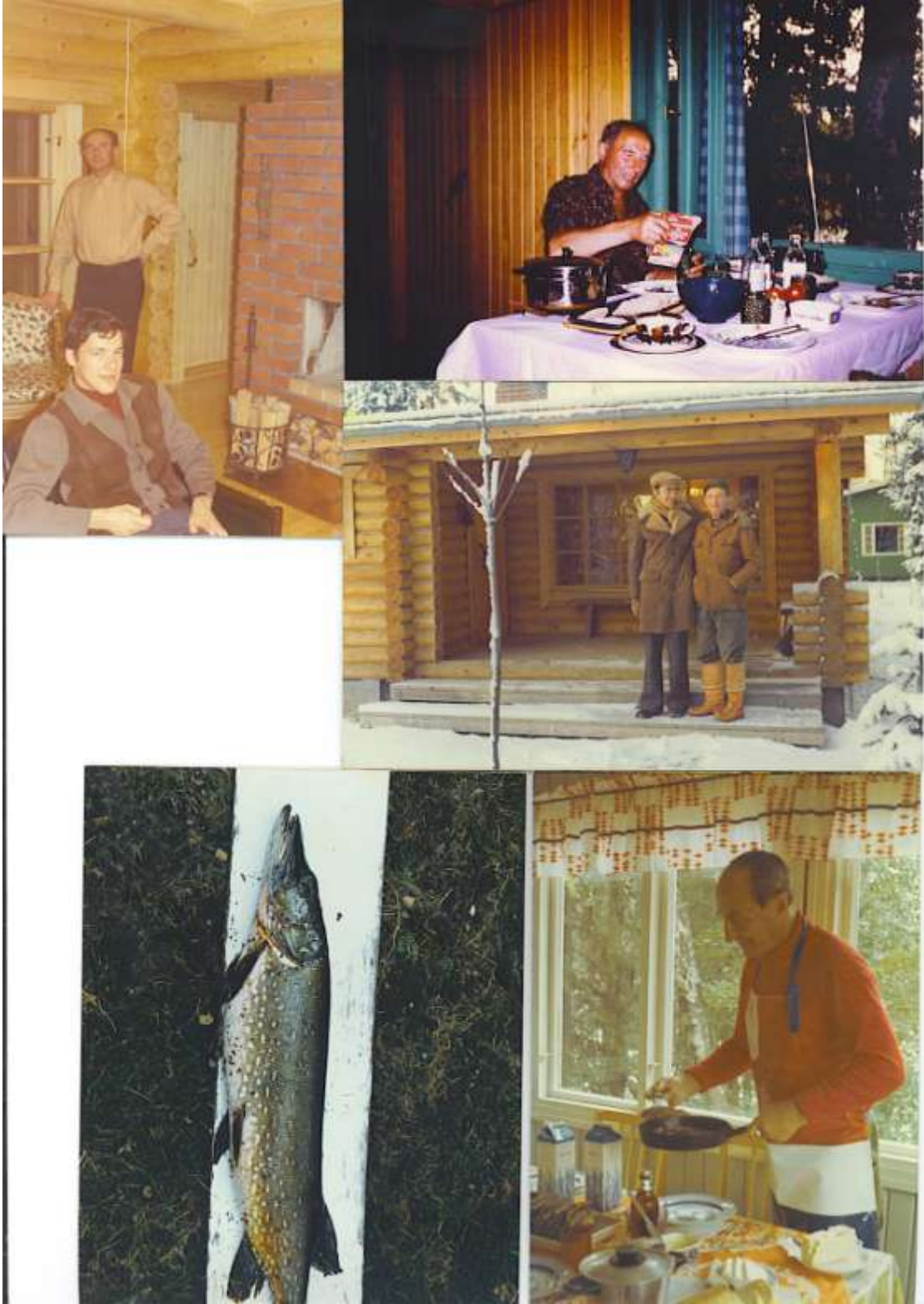
Inkoo Photos early 1960s and a Puulavesi sauna shot

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



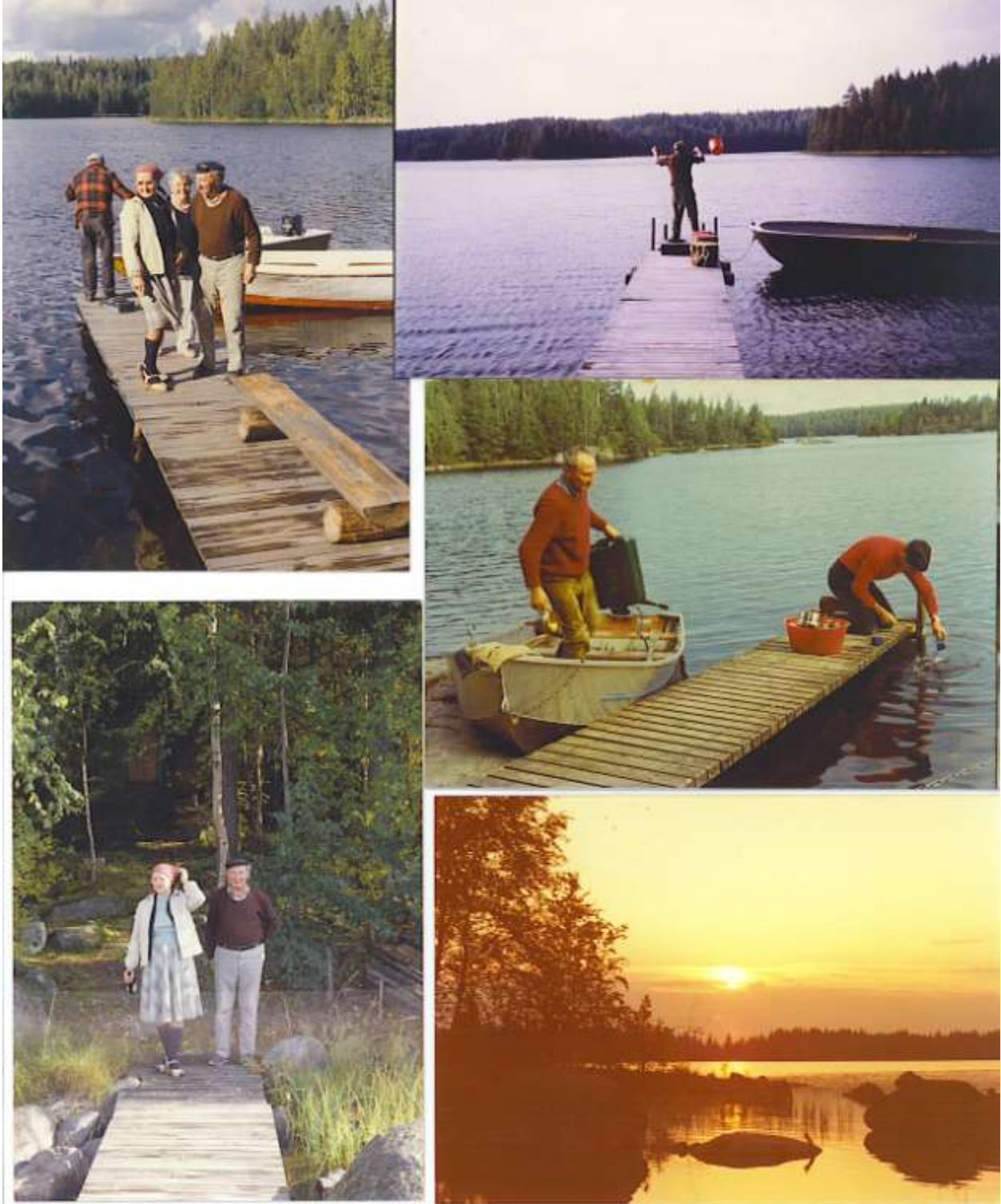
Puulavesi photos early 1980s. Top right is a photo from the Järvenpää home 1970s.

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



Miscellaneous: Järvenpää home 1970s fireplace and winter; Puulavesi cabin table.

Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



Moore Puulavesi Photos

## Biography of Dr. Mikael Livson



● 11-vuotias **BEN LIVSON**,  
yrittää tänään Tessinien Tup-  
lassa toi kuitissa yhdeksän  
kysymystä ja pöytäkirjaa, tu-  
hatta nykymerkkaa.  
Benin aiheena on tekokuu ja  
kierotukset ja viimeksi hän sel-  
vitti seuraavaa kysymyksen:  
"Luotto oikeassa oikeajärjestyk-  
sessä tekokuurataja saavuttaneet  
alukset, joissa on ollut ihmisen  
mukana. Mainitse myös henkilöiden  
nimi sekä lentotie ja lentokoneen  
luku maan ympäri."  
Ben luetti ja antoi lisätieto-  
jakin, kertoi testinaja **KIRSTI  
RAUTAINEN**.

