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0521381002 - A Place of their Own: Family Farming in Eastern Finland

Ray Abrahams

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Based on field research in eastern Finland not far from the Russian border, this study examines the connections between farm and family, and their links with wider Finnish society. The author discusses in detail marriage patterns, kinship and succession to farms, and the significance of mechanisation and other modern developments for the persistence of the family as a farming unit. In this and in other contexts, he draws attention to the adaptability of families in a changing world, and to the wide range of collaboration between farming families, whose members nevertheless commonly portray themselves as uncooperative individualists. Another major theme of the book is the relation between law and custom, which is not always what it seems on the surface. In the final chapter, Dr Abrahams explores the ideological significance of family farming within Finnish culture and society, and discusses the problems which arise in the comparative study of family farming systems in different periods and places, both within and outside Europe.

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Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology
Editors: Ernest Gellner, Jack Goody, Stephen Gudeman,
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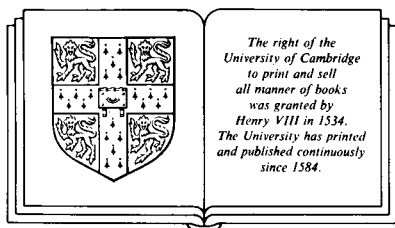
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A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

Family farming in eastern Finland

RAY ABRAHAMS

Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521381000

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First published 1991
 This digitally printed first paperback version 2006

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Abrahams, Ray.

A place of their own: family farming in eastern Finland / Ray Abrahams.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in social and cultural anthropology; 81)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 38100 2

1. Vieki (Finland) – Rural conditions. 2. Villages – Finland – Case studies. 3. Rural families – Finland – Case studies. 4. Kinship – Finland – Case studies. I. Title. II. Series.

HN534.V54A27 1991

306.85'094897 – dc20 90–24168 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-38100-0 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-38100-2 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-02645-1 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-02645-8 paperback

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Acknowledgments

I have received support from a wide variety of sources in putting together the material for this book. My field research in North Karelia in 1980–1 was funded by a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council, and my summer visit in 1982 was supported by the Crowther-Beynon and Scandinavian Studies Funds of the University of Cambridge. Churchill College has also provided valuable support. The University of Helsinki's Institute of Comparative Sociology provided me with desk space and a friendly institutional base in Helsinki.

As with all such work, my task would have been quite impossible without the generous help of many individuals. Jack Goody has been an important source of intellectual stimulus and advice, and I have enjoyed helpful discussions with Ernest Gellner, Chris Hann, Tim Ingold, Alan Macfarlane, Bill Mead and Frances Pine. Dr P. Wells of Goldsmiths College, London and Professor J. Langbein of the University of Chicago provided useful access to comparative material. Sylvia Hicks, in Churchill College, has given secretarial help and valuable advice on the English terminology of farm machinery. I am also grateful to Heather Murphy in Churchill, and to Anne Farmer, Humphrey Hinton, Mary McGinley and Margaret Storey in the Department of Social Anthropology for secretarial and technical support, and to Barbara Bodenhorn, Mario Guarino and Megan Thorold for help with the figures.

In Helsinki I received extremely helpful advice and support from Professor Erik Allardt, and I am also grateful for the advice which Dr T. Köppä and Dr I. Vainio-Mattila of the Pellervo Institute generously provided. In Joensuu, officials of the Co-operative Dairy, the Co-operative Bank and the National Archives Centre were very helpful, as was Professor H. Kirkinen and other staff of the University of Joensuu. In Lieksa I was much helped by Ms S. Kärkkäinen and other Commune officers. In Juuka,

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the staff of the Henkikirjoitus offices provided valuable assistance. I am also grateful for assistance from the staff of the Pielisjärvi parish offices, and from the then vicar, Osmo Seppänen, and his wife and staff in Viekijärvi parish.

My debt to the people of Vieki is naturally enormous. Aino and Ilmari Turunen kindly gave me my first home in the village, and Inkeri and Otto Holma generously provided accommodation for me and my family, as did Anni and Teuvo Honkanen. Helka and Veikko Kiiskinen and their family were brave enough to take me in as an unrelated stranger who became a friend. It would be impossible to list all the others who gave me, and my family, help and hospitality, but many will recognise themselves in the text, and I am deeply grateful to them all for their kindness and good company. My wife Eeva was an important source of personal support, in addition to providing invaluable help with the interpretation, and in some cases, the collection, of fieldwork material. I am also indebted to my mother-in-law, Mrs Kristiina Turunen, for her patience as my Finnish teacher during my time in Helsinki, to Pirjo Björkman for her help with transport, and to Reetta and Juha Luukkainen in Kallislahti for their hospitality on several occasions.

I dedicate this book to the memory of Inkeri Holma and Ilmari Turunen.