



Minnenas stig

THE PATH OF MEMORIES

13 The Watermill

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Bergby watermill has been located at this location since the late 1800s. century. At the turn of the century, the mill was run by farmer Erik Ersson. The natural rapids were previously considerably stronger and are known as 'Juliaforsen'. The mill is modern for its time – it has a vertical water wheel. There were previously several water mills in the area. But they were probably simple watermills with horizontal waterwheels. When Bergby windmill was rebuilt and modernized (see sign no. 5), the old watermill became redundant. It was taken out of use in 1929 and soon dismantled, only the foundation remains today.

In 1894, Brita Stina Olsdotter bought and moved an old timbered semi-detached cottage from Nordanskog to this location. The cottage was expanded in 1907 with an upper floor that was furnished with summer rooms. In 1927, the widow Julia Olsson from Västerkulla Gård moved down to the house, which was then nicknamed '**Julia's**'. The property was actually called Kristinedal. During the 1930s and 40s, a small boarding house business was run here in the summers. Well-off city dwellers came here to rest by the water and get some rural peace. Julia lived in the house and the guests in the summer rooms upstairs.

The author Vilhelm Moberg lived from 1940 until his death in 1973 on the other side of Vaddövikén at Söderängs Gård in Tomta. He converted an old village forge into his writing cabin, where he wrote, among other things, *The Emigrants* and *My Swedish History*. It is said that he often swims over to Julia's to play cards with the gentlemen upstairs. After a lot of card playing – and some drinking – he gets a rose in the oak! The farm today bears the name 'Sjöhaga'.



Bergby watermill 1924