Tracing George
Stories of dwelling and the experience of place in archival records
Hagström, Charlotte

2017

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
Panel
Dwelling in the cultural archives: traces, experiences and meanings

Title
Tracing George. Stories of dwelling and the experience of place in archival records

Name and email address
Charlotte Hagström
charlotte.hagstrom@kultur.lu.se

Short Abstract (300 characters) (304 inkl blanksteg)
Based on a written recollection in the Folklife Archives, I trace the movements of George who, now in his 70’s, uses bicycle riding to describe his childhood in a small town. By focusing on descriptions and memories of dwelling, I ask what kinds of places are mentioned and what meaning they come to have.

Long Abstract (250 words) (236)
In 2015, I received a document entitled “Bicycle memories” by George, a man in his 70’s. He had learned that the Folklife Archives, where I had previously worked as an archivist, ran a project documenting bicycling and bicyclists past and present. This spurred him to recall the role that the bicycle had played in various periods of his life, and to remember specific bicycle rides. Based on his own memories and bicycle diaries, together with conversations with childhood friends and his father’s photographs, he compiled a document of 128 pages. In this presentation I will concentrate on the first part of the text, which centres on his boyhood years in Gamleby in southern Sweden. Though the bicycle is central in the different narratives that the story consists of, and the very reason for retelling them at all, it is often used as a starting point for recollections of various aspects of growing up in a small town in the 1940’s and 1950’s. Reading the text closely I intend to trace George as he moves in and around Gamleby, focusing on descriptions and memories of dwelling. What kinds of places are mentioned in the narrative, which experiences are they connected to, and what meaning do they have? What can a biographical story, initially set out to centre on a specific aspect such as bicycling, tell us about experiences of dwelling and everyday life in a local community?