

Carl Anders Breitholtz



Life of Lieutenant-Colonel
Magnus Anders Breitholtz

Translation and some footnotes (signed SW) by Stefan Wijkström, Uppsala (1996).

The life of Lieutenant-Colonel Magnus Anders Breitholtz

The early years

The last mutual progenitor of the three branches of the Breitholtz family is the Lieutenant-Colonel Magnus Anders Breitholtz, eldest son of Major-General Claes Breitholtz and his wife Margareta Ödla¹. He was born at Margretholm² in the county of Västergötland, probably around 1653-1656. There he spent his earliest years together with his parents and his brothers and sisters – Ebba Agnes, Carl, Claes, Maria and (possibly also) Margareta.

Already as a little toddler in the summertime of 1658 Magnus Breitholtz had his first impressions of a war. His mother Margareta or "Greta" then left their home Margretholm Manor and entered a naval ship for Poland together with her children³ in order to see her husband, then a Lieutenant-Colonel, who since three years had been engaged in King Karl X Gustaf's war with Poland.

In his youth Magnus Breitholtz had been courting as a page⁴ at the Royal Court of Tre Kronor⁵ during the years 1668 to 1672. In a letter to the King his father made an application for his son Magnus Anders Breitholtz to be admitted and enroled as a cornet⁶ in the Värmland Company of The Household Cavalry, where Claes Breitholtz at that time was Lieutenant-

1 Claes Breitholtz (1620-1706) was born on the 1 st December 1620 in Reval or Revalia in the Swedish duchy of Estonia (since 1918 Tallinn, Estonia). He was made a Swedish nobleman in 1650 and was introduced at the House of Nobility in Stockholm. In the same year Claes Breitholtz and Margareta Ödla (abt 1624-1680) married at S:t Jakob's Church in Stockholm.

2 Margretholm is located by the southwestern shores of lake Stråken in Sandhem parish, near the little village Mullsjö, in the province of Västergötland. In the 1660's Claes Breitholtz formed this manorial estate of some farms that he owned in the area and named it after his wife Margareta Ödla. After his death in 1706 his son Carl Breitholtz inherited Margretholm.

3 Knut Fredriksson, Sandhems gårdskronikor, del II, Sandhems hembygdsböcker nr 6 och 7, Falköping 1978-79, sid 177.

4 A page was a young nobleman attending on persons of rank or in the Royal Household, as part of his education. This type of education existed already during the antiquity and was especially common in the Middle Ages. (SW)

5 Tre Kronor, meaning "Three Crowns", as in the national coat of arms of Sweden. In this case "Tre Kronor" refers to the old royal castle in Stockholm, where the Swedish kings lived more permanently from 1520. This castle was named Tre Kronor after the three crowns on the spire of the main tower. On May 7 1697, Tre Kronor was burnt down, and the present royal castle was erected on the same site. (SW)

6 Cornet, formerly the lowest commissioned officer in a cavalry regiment; 2nd lieutenant, ensign. (SW)

Colonel. The Household Cavalry had been established quite recently and thanks to its commander, Count Nils Bielke, this regiment became one of the foremost in the Swedish army.

With the Household Cavalry in the war against Denmark 1675-1679

After the war against Denmark had broken out in 1675 there followed times when Magnus Breitholtz had to fight for King and Country. He participated in the entire war with The Household Cavalry. In 1676 he took an active part in the fencing fight at Ystad⁷ and on August 15th the same year he was promoted first lieutenant of the prospective Östra Västmanlands Company. Two days after his appointment he participated in the battle of Halmstad⁸, and on December 4 in the bloody battle of Lund⁹, where his regiment made a brilliant achievement. In 1677 Magnus Breitholtz was among the 1000 horsemen with whom Nils Bielke reconnoitred the Danish army from the heights of Runneberga. From Runneberga they retired to Kristianstad and shortly after that, they took part in the battle of Landskrona. Then, in 1678, Magnus Breitholtz rose to be cavalry captain and one of the company commanders of this Life Guard Regiment, the Household Cavalry. At the time he probably was just about 25 years old. He became commander of a company from Värmland

- *” where he soon received orders for service under His Excellency Count Axel Wachtmeister in Wanneberga, where the enemy there landed were, was attacked, then accompanied Herr Johan Gyllenstierna to Puggevik, when the enemy likewise was driven away, furthermore he was present at the battle of Karlshamn where his right arm was shot off” –.*

The following year came the peace of Lund, which meant that Sweden did not have to make any cessions of land to Denmark.

As Cavalry Captain of the Household Cavalry

It appears that the Cavalry Captain Magnus Breitholtz was residing in Västergötland during the next time after the end of the war. In 1681 he resided in Töreboda. But this year his company was transferred from Värmland and was stationed in Roslagen. There it was subdivided and became the Company of Roslagen. Thereby Magnus Breitholtz moved to Uppland, where he was domiciled for the remainder of his days. He settled down at the recently set up cavalry captain residence of Vittsjö (or Vitsjö) in the parish of Estuna. It was probably in 1683, when Vittsjö became crown lands. Those days Vittsjö counted four mantal¹⁰.

⁷ A little town on the extreme south coast of Sweden in the province of Skåne. (SW)

⁸ A town on the west coast of Sweden in the province of Halland, between Gothenburg and Malmö. (SW)

⁹ An old university town near Malmö in the deep south of Sweden in the province of Skåne. (SW)

¹⁰ The Swedish word *mantal* means literally number of men and is an assessment of land. In a military sense *mantal* roughly corresponds to the British term *hide*, which means a certain portion of land variously estimated

His missing arm appears not to have been an impediment to his service in the regiment to any greater degree, because he held the command of the Company of Roslagen all the time up till the 26th of June 1700, when Magnus Breitholtz retired from The Household Cavalry. This was one month before king Karl XII landed on Själland¹¹ and the Great Nordic War broke out.

The diary kept by King Karl XI illustrates very well the daily life of the regiments inspected by the King. In his day-book there are among other things entries concerning the companies commanded by the two Cavalry Captains Breitholtz and Cruse, for instance the following from the 9th of July 1694,

- *"On the 9th I left Ulriksdal for Märsta and inspected my Life-Company and the Rosslag Company of Cavalry Captain Brethols, having my dinner there. Then I drilled them, and in the evening I went to Uppsala"*¹² –.

Military uniforms was a novelty for the times. The uniform for the Royal Household Cavalry consisted of a blue coat, trousers of skin, a red scarf, and - as a distinction from the battle of Lund - a gold-braided hat. The armament consisted of a rapier hanging from a sword-belt made of of elk-skin, a carbine and a couple of pistols.

As Lieutenant-Colonel of Upplands' Femmännings Cavalry Regiment

Three years after his resignation from his appointment by the Household Cavalry, Magnus Breitholtz once again entered upon his duty on active service in the cavalry. In 1703 he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of Uppland's Femmännings¹³ Cavalry Regiment. It was a recently established regiment and it was formed by, among others, riders of the Household Cavalry. Magnus Breitholtz's time in the regiment became however short since he left already the same year as he was appointed.

Magnus Breitholtz's first wife: Metta Kafle

from 60 to 120 acres, originally enough to support a family and its dependants.(SW)

11 Själland, in Danish Sjælland, is the Danish island where Copenhagen is situated. (SW)

12 Ulriksdal is a royal castle in the city of Solna, bordering on Stockholm. It was erected in 1639-44. Märsta was at the time a village between Stockholm and Uppsala, now a suburban area. Uppsala is Sweden's 4th city, one of the oldest in the country. In Uppsala you will find e.g. Scandinavia's oldest university, the biggest cathedral in northern Europe, the seat of the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden, the house and garden of Carolus Linneaus (Carl von Linné) and much more. (SW)

13 The *femmännings* regiments were set up by decree from King Karl XI, starting out in 1700 as reserve forces for the standing army. These regiments were set up through the bringing together of 5 so called *rusthåll* or *rote*, which were units of land for the equipment of one rider or one soldier or one seaman. These troupes formed special regiments, that were disbanded after the war or converted to enlistment regiments, very often named after their respective commanders. (SW)

Magnus Breitholtz was married three times. His first wife was Metta Kafle. Probably the marriage took place immediately before the year 1685. Metta Kafle was the daughter of the vice president Erland Kafle and his first wife Brita Månesköld of Seglinge. Her grandfather, the county governor Bengt Kafle, owned Ledinge in the parish of Knivsta, Uddeboö in the parish of Estuna and Dagsnäs. Ledinge fell to Erland Kafle's lot. Very likely our Metta Kafle grew up there and probably she died in Estuna or in Söderby in 1701. Uddeboö, that was situated in the same parish as Magnus Breitholtz's Vittsjö, fell on the lot of Metta's uncle Åke Kafle. Supposedly Magnus Breitholtz met his Metta through his social intercourse with Åke Kafle's widow at Uddeboö.

After the decease of Erland Kafle, there was a partition of Ledinge. The part that fell to Metta Kafle's lot, half a mantal Ledingenäs and one mantal Ledinge, went to Magnus Breitholtz when she married him. Very likely they never lived at Ledinge. They had their Vittsjö in the parish Estuna, where they lived all the time until his resignation.

A hot-headed and self-willed gentleman

Most of his life Magnus Breitholtz lived in Uppland. There he was the owner of three estates. In addition to the manor of Ledinge he owned Brölunda in the parish of Söderby and the manor of Ora in the parish of Faringe. Shortly after his resignation in 1700, Magnus Breitholtz left Vittsjö and took up his residence at Brölunda, that was a rusthåll at two mantal. The little Brölunda could hardly have yielded its owner any greater returns, probably not more than the daily bread. Besides that, The Great Nordic War had broken out, so anyway hard times were in store for them.

Judging from an episode at Brölunda, Magnus Breitholtz was both a self-willed and a hot-tempered man. In January 1702 he had let out Brölunda on a lease to Lars Westberg for four years, for an annual rent of 400 daler¹⁴. But in spite of the lease agreed upon, Magnus Breitholtz changed his mind and tried to cancel the lease. In May the same year he obtained permission by force to, - *"move in with his children and his cattle"* – and to change the lease to a moiety¹⁵. When Westberg the following year wanted to gather in his part of the harvest, Magnus Breitholtz denied him that, telling him that,

- *"in case Westberg dared to gather in anything of the crops, murder would be the consequence"*-.

But this was not enough. In the autumn of 1703, on a Saturday morning, Magnus Breitholtz,

¹⁴ *Daler* was a silver coin introduced by King Gustav Vasa in 1534, weighing 28,06 grams. The name *daler* comes from the German *Thaler*, short for *Joachimstal* in Bohemia, a silver mine and town where coinage was performed. (SW)

¹⁵ *Moiety*, a juridical term (in American *sharecropping*, in Swedish *hälftenbruk*): a piece of land is let out on a lease, on agreement that the tenant farmer and the owner share the harvest. (SW)

- *had arrived together with Westberg's farm hands in order to throw Westberg's things out and whatever there was in the house, thereby using such cruelty that a small child who was asleep, was thrown down to the floor, and a shed holding some more of Westberg's belongings was broken up, and on Sunday morning Westberg's cattle was driven out into the open in the dark and the sleet, so that Westberg the same morning was forced to get himself horses in order to remove his belongings"-.*

This was ruling with too much severity which did neither pass unnoticed by – "*Christian and upright honest people*" – nor without punishment. The consequences of the following legal proceedings against Magnus Breitholtz were that he was fined 400 daler in order to compensate Westberg for the damage and also 500 daler to the Crown in court costs.

After all there is a touching and bizarre tone in this description of the events at Brölunda. Maybe there were extenuating circumstances; the times were hard and Magnus Breitholtz now, after Metta Kafle's death, had the sole responsibility for his seven or eight children, and the youngest one was just one year old.

Magnus Breitholtz's second wife: Helena Wijnbladh

After Metta Kafle's death at the beginning of the eighteenth century Magnus Breitholtz married again. The bride was Helena Wijnbladh, who was born in 1685, daughter of the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Household Cavalry Olof Wijnbladh and Catharina Silfversparre of Qualsta¹⁶.

Half of the estate of Ora in Faringe fell to Helena Wijnbladh's lot after her father's death. It was a crown manor of three mantal and the other half went to her sister. By marrying Helena Wijnbladh, Magnus Breitholtz became the owner of the estate. They probably settled at Ora around the time of the legal proceedings at Brölunda - in 1704.

Helena Wijnbladh's only son, Olof Magnus, was born at Ora in May 1705. His birth was probably difficult and trying because his young mother, only about 20 years old, died shortly after, on June 11th 1705, and in August the same year Olof Magnus died himself.

Reductions, conversions, contributions and reorganization¹⁷

By the time of the foundation of the estate of Margrethholm, Claes Breitholtz had come to agreements with the Crown, as to estate conversions on July 7th 1662, but never finished these conversions during his lifetime. Then the Deputies of the Reduction demanded in a letter of 1707 that Claes Breitholtz's son Magnus should carry out his father's obligations. Magnus Breitholtz thereby had to relinquish three estates in the province of Uppland to the Crown. The first one was Kallesta in the parish of Rasbo, from which he assigned half a

¹⁶ Qualsta or Kvallsta, manor in the parish of Knivsta, 21 kms south-east of Uppsala.

mantal to the Crown, together with the interest¹⁸ of 1707. Three years later a tax of 3/8 was placed on Kallesta.

The second estate was Bärby of half a mantal in the parish of Faringe. Probably Magnus Breitholtz conveyed Bärby to the Crown at about the same time as Kallesta.

Vattensta of one mantal in the parish of Hökhuvud was the mutual property of Olof Wijnbladh and Gustaf Svinhufvud, who owned one half each during the 1690's. Gustaf Svinhufvud later sold his share to Erik Dahlberg¹⁹, who in 1699 relinquished the whole estate to the Crown at a conversion the same year. After Olof Wijnbladh's death, the heirs-at-law brought an action against the Crown in order to get back their lawful parts of Olof Wijnbladh's Vattensta. Magnus Breitholtz then resigned his part of Vattensta to the Crown with the interest of 1707 at a conversion made on the 14th september 1711. The whole estate then belonged to the Crown and was given to the local tax inspector as emoluments.

So not until 1713 these conversions were laid down, which Claes Breitholtz had come to an agreement on with the Crown fifty years earlier, costing his son three estates.

Magnus Breitholtz third wife: Catharina Christina Adlerhielm

The third time Magnus Breitholtz married, the bride was Catharina Christina Adlerhielm. She was born on the 21st of September 1675, the daughter of the assessor Johan Hartman, who assumed the name Adlerhielm when he was made a baronet, and Birgitta Clerck, a descendant of a family in Scotland. Magnus Breitholtz and Catharina Adlerhielm married on the 18th of July 1711 in the parish of Knutby. As morning gift²⁰ her husband gave her the estate of Ora,

17 When the fight over the province of Skåne was over, the Swedish parliament gathered in 1680 for a new session. The young King Karl XI had shown great audacity and sometimes also imprudence in the battle of Lund in december 1676, but later on his personality changed considerably. He did not become - like his father Karl X Gustav and his son Karl XII – a war lord, but a specialist of public administration and finances. In 1680 King Karl XI told the Parliament of his worries about the public finances and demanded that measures be taken for a reorganization. But the demand for reorganization of the finances at the same time brought up the old demand for *reduction*, meaning confiscation of estates and interests etc. In short: in Swedish history the term *reduction* stands for a confiscation or withdrawal to the Crown of earlier to private persons donated enfeoffed, pledged, sold or otherwise given estates, interests or privileges. This was nothing new. Already during the fifteenth century, reductions were carried out by King Karl Knutsson and later, during the sixteenth century by King Gustav Vasa, who confiscated great parts of property belonging to the (previously Roman Catholic) Church of Sweden. This reduction of 1680 ended the dominant position of the Swedish high nobility, the financial state of the Crown improved and future independence of the Peasants was secured. (SW)

18 Interest, a revenue from the taxation of the *mantal* or *rusthåll*. (SW)

19 Count Erik Dahlberg (1625-1703) was an officer of the fortifications corps, Privy Councillor and field marshall in 1693. He was a Quartermaster General during King Karl X Gustav's war in Denmark. His military achievements before and during the war concerning the province of Skåne 1675-79 was of great importance for the prosperous outcome of this war. But, to the ordinary Swede, Erik Dahlberg is best known for his great work "Svecia antiqua et hodierna" (Ancient and Modern Sweden). Dahlberg was a brilliant architect and drawer and "Svecia antiqua et hodierna" has 488 copperplate engravings showing in detail cities, fortresses, castles and bigger buildings in Sweden during the latter part of the seventeenth century. (SW)

where the couple lived for the rest of their respective lives; Magnus Anders died in January 21st 1720 and Catharina Adlerhielm died in May 1734.

The older branch of the Breitholtz family originates from Magnus Breitholtz's and Metta Kafle's marriage. Its progenitor, Captain Edvard Breitholtz, sold his share in Ora in 1746 and moved to Finland. The younger branch originates from Magnus Breitholtz's marriage to Catharina Adlerhielm. Their son Claës Didrik became Lieutenant-Colonel of the Admiralty. He is the progenitor of the younger branch. He too sold his part of the Ora manor and settled down on the estate of Stjärnevik in the province of Östergötland.



Two portraits

There is a portrait (above right) in oil on canvas which shows Magnus Anders Breitholtz wearing a wig and a thin moustache, dressed as a cavalry officer in a suit of armour over a buff-coat made of elk-skin and a gold-braided white scarf around his neck. His wig and moustache was in fashion during the years around 1710. The portrait isn't signed by the artist, who therefore remains unknown. It was fairly common to order paintings like this in connection with marriages. As Magnus Breitholtz and Catharina Adlerhielm married in 1711

20 The morning gift is mentioned in all the oldest laws of all Germanic peoples. It's a gift from the bridegroom to the bride on the morning after the betrothal or after the wedding night. It had to do with the fact that the wife didn't have any statutory share of inheritance, or simpler, no lawful portion of the estate of her husband. This regulation remained in Swedish law until 1920. About 28 miles west of Uppsala there is a village named Morgongåva, meaning Morning gift. (SW)

there is reason to believe it was painted then and for that purpose.²¹ There is however no known portrait of his wife Catharina.

There is another portrait (above left) of Magnus Breitholtz as a young nobleman, wearing an allonge whig and dressed in a gold-braided pale blue coat and a white scarf around his neck. It's a miniature painting by Elias Brenner, a well-known artist in Stockholm in these years, who in 1684 was appointed miniature painter at the court of King Karl XI. The portrait is placed in a brooch depicting Magnus Breitholtz, when he was around 29 or 30 years of age. At the time it was à la mode that the suitor gave a portrait brooch of himself to the young lady he was courting. As Magnus Breitholtz and Metta Kafle married in 1684 it can be fairly accurately dated to this year or the year before. The miniature, measuring 3x3,5 cms, is painted in gouache or egg tempera and is framed in an oval set of 29 brilliant cut chrystals.²²

The last members of the Breitholtz family residing in Ora

After Catharina Adlerhielm's death at Ora in 1734 Magnus Breitholtz children in his first marriage with Metta Kafle requested that the manor of Ora be split up between the two groups of children. As Catharina Adlerhielm's children, Claës Didrik and Beata Catharina, had special claims to the inheritance of their father, their mother having sold part of her land, the question arose of protection of their rights by the distribution of the inheritance. Since Claës Didrik Breitholtz was in Dutch naval duty, his sister Beata Catharina had to pick out and appoint a guardian. She suggested to the Svea Court of Appeal one of her mother's closest kinsmen, the colonel viscount Vilhelm Ludvig Taube,

"in whose House the Maid is residing".

The "Maid"²³ was Beata Catharina Breitholtz. Taube had also shown,

"a particular affection concerning the education and welfare of the minors and promised to take upon himself to provide for them, including the administration of any property they might inherit, until the Brother would be able to return."

When Vilhelm Ludvig Taube promised that *"he had no intention of evading this inconvenience"*, he was appointed lawful guardian of Beata Catharina Breitholtz on the 21st of February 1735. Taube then was her guardian for the remainder of his life.

After the distribution of the inheritance the children kept the estate of Ora till the middle of the eighteenth century. Then the question arose of selling the estate. After Edvard Breitholtz had moved to Hietamäki in Finland, having sold his part of Ora, there was no reason anymore for keeping the dwindling estate, so Johan and Claës Didrik Breitholtz sold their

²¹ Carl Anders Breitholtz, Ätten Breitholtz del II, sid 77 ff.

²² Ibid.

²³ *Maid* refers here to a maiden and unmarried young noblewomen, in Swedish *Jungfru*, the same word as *Junge Frau* in German.

shares. According to a bill of sale their sister Brita Margareta Werdenhoff sold her share for 1975 daler. The purchaser was Lieutenant-Colonel Berendt Wallenstierna. Beata Catharina was now the only one still keeping her share of the Ora estate.

After later on Privy Councillor Vilhelm Ludvig Taube 's death Beata Catharina Breitholtz needed a new guardian. Claës Didrik Breitholtz sent in an application and the Svea Court of Appeal immediately granted his request, and he applied to the court for permission to sell Beata's eighth part of the estate. Berendt Wallenstierna was summoned, and now a conflict was threatening. He explained that the *Maid Breitholtz* did not own any part of the manor of Ora, but that she had been the owner of one half of an estate exempt from tax in the parish of Tuna in Uppland. Berendt Wallenstierna said that he had bought it from her for 6000 daler. The court of appeal was not satisfied, so in March 1752 Claës Didrik Breitholtz was summoned. He said, that after his half-siblings' claim to the right of possession of the Ora manor, legal proceedings had been taken against them, "resulting in very high costs in the end".

Obviously the mortgagee also had changed the mortgage, so that the estate now was encumbered by a bigger debt than before. The verdict of the court of appeal then read:

"... since the Manor of Ohra, of which the Maid Breitholtz only had a small share, was found to be encumbered by a considerable mortgage, and that the other owners earlier also had sold their shares, which the Maid Breitholtz could not redeem, and since she was unable to make any use of her eighth part of the said manor without separating it from the rest of the estate – The Royal Cort of Appeal found it reasonable and legitimate to consent to the application at issue, so that the maid Breitholtz's share of the inheritance was to be sold". (March 2, 1752).

So Beata Catharina still owned a share of Ora. Probably this share was sold a short time after the verdict of the court of appeal in March 1752. After Berendt Wallenstierna's, now a Baron and Major-General, taking charge of the whole estate in 1752, the Ora estate had been the property of the Breitholtz family for almost exactly fifty years, 1701-1752.

Ora, being the last mutual manor of the three today existing branches of the Breitholtz family, has always been essential in the history of the family.

Magnus Breitholtz's children

in his 1st marriage with Metta Kafle:

Claes III, born 1685; drowned in 1706 together with his brothers Carl and Bengt in lake Stamsjön in the parish of Faringe when they all three went out in a rowing-boat to check their fishing hooks, and they were buried in the tomb at Ora on the 24th of May the same year.

Carl II, born 1687, drowned in 1706.

Evert IV or **Edvard**, born in 1688; captain, died in 1762.

Bengt, born in 1692, drowned in 1706.

Erland, born in Tensta, Uppland, baptized on the 2nd of October 1695 in the parish of Estuna. The godfathers were Captain Lieutenant²⁴ Heidman and Miss Elsa Catharina Stierna. Erland was förare²⁵ in the regiment of Jönköping in 1713, sergeant in the regiment of Västmanland in 1714; he took part in the Norwegian campaign in 1716, "*caught 7 bullets at Moss and was taken prisoner*"; dismissed on the 16th of December 1716; Regimental Sergeant Major of the regiment of Skaraborg in 1717; 2nd lieutenant there on the 6th June 1718; he took part in the Norwegian campaign in 1718, dismissed on the 30th of September 1719; to the Life Guard (the Halberdiers) on the 30th of March 1722; dismissed on the 15th of October 1726; accepted for duty in the army in Finland and took part in the campaign until the end of November the same year; was found drowned in the river at Horsbråten in the parish of Kila in the province of Södermanland on the 24th of August 1756 and was buried on the 29th of August the same year. – Married to baroness *Maria Elisabet von Löwen*, born about 1716 in Estonia, who died on the 15th of November 1783 in St. Petersburg, Russia and was buried at Vasiliovstrov south of St. Petersburg.

Brita Margareta, born in 1696 ; + 1756 in Mariestad; married on the 6th of January 1717 in Källstorp parish by Trelleborg to Carl Julius Werdenhoff (1690-1742), major. The branch of the Werdenhoff family living today originates from Carl Julius Werdenhoff and his wife Brita

²⁴ Captain Lieutenant was an officer just below captain and just above lieutenant in rank; a captain's deputy. (SW)

²⁵ Förare was a non-commissioned officer, who was a sort of an assistant to the second lieutenant. The förare is the standard bearer when the regiment is marching. (SW)

Margareta Breitholtz. Carl Julius had become engaged in military service in 1706 at the age of sixteen, advanced two years later to sergeant major at a highly reputed cavalry regiment, d'Albedyhls Dragoon Regiment, in 1708. He was appointed ensign at Skaraborgs Regiment in 1709 and was titled second lieutenant in november 1711.

As an officer and gentleman it was very important to keep one's honour. An insult could occasionally even lead to the demand for a duell. In Sweden duelling had been forbidden by law already since 1662, but in spite of that duells occurred now and then. Due to an insult by a captain of the Admiralty, Baron Johan Sjöblad to Carl Julius von Werdenhoff, an officer and nobleman, who at the time was on guard at Stora Bommen in Göteborg (Gothenburg), the General Court of War sentenced them both to be deprived of their service as military officers, Johan Sjöblad in September of 1711 and Carl Julius Werdenhoff for some reason much later, in 1714.²⁶

After Carl Julius had married Brita Margareta they moved to Finland in 1718, where their three children were born. There Carl Julius was appointed captain at the Infantry Regiment of Tavastehus County, which he served for nineteen years till 1737, when he retired as a major. Carl Julius Werdenhoff died fiftytwo years of age and was buried in Helsing church, north of Helsingfors, Finland's capital.

Elsa Catharina, baptised in Estuna parish on the 9th January 1698, buried on the 18th January 1698.

Anna Magdalena, baptised in Estuna parish on the 7th April 1699, died young.

Johan, born on the 21st of February 1701. In 1716 Johan was engaged in the Royal Swedish Navy in Karlskrona and became a mate trainee at the Swedish Admiralty there. He attended the Sea Campaign in 1717. He then left the Navy for the Army and was engaged at Dalregementet, a landscape infantry regiment based in the province of Dalarna or Dalecarlia. He was appointed Sergeant in 1720, became ensign and an officer in 1733 and advanced to First Lieutenant at the regiment in 1741. He settled with his wife and children at the official residence Holm near Stora Tuna . In 1741-1743 Johan attended the war in Finland against Russia. The following year (1743) there was an uproar among peasants in Dalarna against "the Generals" in Stockholm, later known as "The Great Dalecarlia Dance". As an officer Johan was commanded to take actions in order to restate good order in the province. Johan Breitholtz retired from his military service and was appointed a Captain in 1748. He then lived with his second wife and family at Hovgården manor near Stora Tuna. He died on the 26th June 1760 and was buried in Stora Tuna Church on the 28th June 1760. – Johan was first married in 1733 with **Charlotta Cronstedt** (1709-abt 1750), a daughter of a Lieutenant General Gabriel Olderman who was nobilized Cronstedt, and his wife Brita Österling of a recently nobilized family. Charlotta gave birth to two daughters, Metta Christina and Brita Elisabeth. However Johan and Charlotta divorced in 1744 and in the same year as Charlotta

26 The incident with the court proceedings is told by Christopher Collstedt in his book *Duellanten och rättvisan. Duellbrott och synen på manlighet i stormaktsväldets slutskede. Doktorsavhandling i historia*, Lund 2007, p. 186-189.

remarried. Four years later, in 1748, Johan too entered a second marriage, now with a gentlewoman from Åbo in Finland, *Maria Christina Hasselqvist* (1707-1776), the daughter of a military officer and his noble wife. As Johan and his first wife Charlotta divorced soon after Johan had returned home after his service in the Finnish war it seems likely that both Charlotta and Johan had made new acquaintances which led to their divorce. Maria Christina, Johans second wife, gave birth to their only child, **Johan Magnus Breitholtz** (1750-1797). He was born on the family's manor farm Hovgården in Stora Tuna. At twelve years of age he became engaged as a page at the Royal Court in Stockholm. There, at the Royal Court of King Gustaf III, he advanced and was appointed the head stableman with the titles Stable Master and Cavalry Captain. Most of his life he lived in Stockholm with his wife and family.

Magnus Breitholtz's children

in his 2nd marriage with Helena Wijnbladh:

Olof Magnus, born 1705 on Ora; buried the same year in Faringe church on the 4th of August in an age of ten weeks.

Magnus Breitholtz's children

in his 3rd marriage with Catharina Christina Adlerhielm:

Claës Didrik I, born in 1712 and baptised on the 22nd July 1712 in Faringe parish, Stockholm county; Captain Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Swedish Admiralty in Karlskrona; died in 1783 and buried at Oppeby church, where his epitaph and a memorial was set up. – Claës began his military career in 1729 as a volunteer of the Volunteer Regiment, entered the Swedish navy as a mate (quartermaster) apprentice at the Admiralty and advanced as an artillery man to arch-master in 1732. He served six years at the Dutch Navy from 1733 to 1739, was appointed lieutenant in the Swedish navy in 1735 and in the Dutch navy in 1738. During these years he served at a ship engaged in keeping the coastal waters of Algeria, Tunisia and Maroc free from pirates, then made two voyages to South America serving on ships cruising along the Carribean islands from Dutch Surinam to Florida and back. As a Swedish navy officer Claës served at the fregate *Kristina* in 1744, at the *Yacht Warf* of the Royal Court in 1746 and at the Admiralty in Karlskrona from 1754-1765 and possibly even thereafter, as a Captain Commander from 1755 and a Lieutenant Commander of the Admiralty in the 1760's. Claës attended the parliaments in 1740 and 1741.

Claës married viscountess Eleonora Koskull (1729-1781) at Engaholm castle near Alvesta town (Aringsås parish, Kronoberg county) on the 1st October 1747, a daughter of Lord Lieutenant Anders Koskull, viscount Koskull, and his 1st wife countess Anna Catharina Stromberg The Breitholtz and Koskull coats of arms in alliance were set up at Oppeby and Misterhult churches, churches which Claës himself designed and financed.

Claës inherited together with his sister Beata Catharina and the children in their father's first marriage their father's manorial estate Ora in Uppland, which they sold the years around

1750. His wife Eleonora brought two large manorial states to their family, Stjärnevik and Vada (both in Oppeby parish, Östergötland). They lived on Stjärnevik, where their children grew up. Claes acquired some other manorial estates, mainly Misterhult and Gässhult north of Oskarshamn town in the province of Småland.

Magdalena Christina, baptised in Faringe parish on the 21st December 1713, buried in the Ora tomb at Faringe on the 27th December in the same year.

Beata Catharina, born on the 2nd February 1716 and baptised on the 7th February at Faringe parish, Uppland; died on the 7th January 1787 at Solhult manor in Frödinge parish, Kalmar county and buried in Locknevi parish near Vimmerby town, Kalmar county. – She married on the 14th August 1753 at Stjärnevik manor in Oppeby parish, Östergötland county, to Lieutenant-Colonel Staffan Klingspor of the noble family No. 195, in his 2nd marriage, born 1690, died 1766. – Beata Catharina and her husband donated in 1760 an antependium (altar cloth) to Locknevi church.

