

## The First Church

In conjunction with Sune Linqvists 1926 excavation he unearthed a number of middle age graves (one under the western part of the church chancel, one in the under the eastern side) both under the original cathedral floor (Figure 8). These gave the implications of an earlier Christian cemetery next to an earlier church. Also the wall bases of the naves of the earlier cathedral were not parallel. A further piece of evidence was thought to be the near parallel running of the west chancel wall and the wooden post hole numbers 14-18 (Nordahl 1996, 26).

All this evidence can support the view of an earlier church. This must have been in wood in that time as stone church building in Sweden was not yet possible then. Its shape and structure was probably the same as other stave churches of this period, such as seen in similar post hole remains of the stave church in Lund. The lining up of the post holes with the west wall can be seen as the later stone cathedral adjusting itself around the then in use wooden church. However one of the medieval graves found, under the north transept, was orientated differently from the others. Graves are normally orientated parallel to the church. So the implications are that there was an even earlier church. The royal demesne lay just to the north of the present church so this earlier "First Church" is thought to be a small wooden stave church, possibly the kings private chapel.

As mentioned above, Alkarp and Price (2005) have used Ground Penetrating Radar to present more details of the outline of this first church. Their N3 anomaly, again shown in their Figure 2, extends precisely as if completing the square of postholes found under the floor of the northern transept, the north wall of the transept and the angle of the pre-cathedral grave that was found under the north transept's apse. Including the postholes in the square of the north transept and this new N3 anomaly then the church would have been about 8-10 meters wide and 22 meters long, a completely acceptable size for an early wooden church. The chancel is older than the central tower so the position of the old wooden church neatly explains the order of change over from the older church to the newer cathedral. First, services would be held in the old wooden church while the chancel was being built. Then on completion of the chancel, and as much of the outer transepts as possible, service would have been moved to the chancel, the old wooden church demolished and the central tower completed. This would nicely explain why the northern transept wall is at a different angle, since it had to adjust itself to the still in use old wooden church.

It is known that churches built in Scandinavia during the Viking period were not for ordinary people. The oldest of these were private wooden chapels that magnates built at their own expense. Services were held just for the chieftain and his family. There were no parishes or congregations in those times. The small stave church of the Royal Demesne of Uppsala likely had the chancel narrower than the nave. It was built entirely from local timber with its wall-staves hewn from logs. The church would likely have had only one entrance opposite the altar. It would have had a few small windows which would have made it very dark inside. Extra light would come from the candles in the chancel. In medieval