

## ***Interactive comment on “Documentary evidence of historical floods and extreme rainfall events in Sweden 1400–1800” by D. Retsö***

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Dr De Kraker raises many interesting issues in his comments. As to the majority of the comments my general reply must be this. This paper must be seen as a first survey of historical documents covering a four centuries long period with an increasing amount of sources into which much more and deepened research still has to be carried out, as is stated in the last section. As such, it must be seen as a highly preliminary study requiring caution in conclusions. That is also the reason for the time being for not using a more detailed evaluation scale. Details on the damage caused by floods in towns also requires specific attention for which there is no room here, but I mention in passing that no great demographical changes, e.g. increased urbanization, were noticeable

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during this period. As to the section on harvest failures and their possible correlation with floods it really requires a special study by itself, and it could even be argued that it should be excluded here altogether until then. The possible connection mentioned by Prof De Kraaker on the timing of floods in relation to warfare, harvest failures and social stress is interesting; it is well known that Sweden was deeply engaged in warfare on the continent in the 17th century, for which increased flood frequency has been possible to detect. However, in connection with another of Prof De Kraaker's comments, I have chosen not to tie myself too tight to the chronology of the Little Ice Age, as this is constantly under discussion. Flood marks in towns: there is only one flood mark to my knowledge in towns, that from the Söderköping church in 1684. Increase in documentary sources from the 1520s is explained by the centralization of power beginning with King Gustavus Vasa (1521-1560). A mentioning of this should be included. The reference on p 10090 will be corrected. 'Spatial scale' instead of 'spatial extension' is of course a better wording. Will be corrected.

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