

There are a few tales connected to names of some places. On the Vikefjellet there was a big stone jutting out from the top called "Skomakernibba" (Shoemaker-boulder). Apparently there was a shoemaker who was accused of having done something bad. The punishment was that he should sit at the end of this stone & put new soles on a pair of shoes. If he succeeded he could go free. He nearly finished his work, but when he put the very last nail into the sole, he fell off the stone, down the mountainside & was killed.

From the farm Førsvoll, there is a tale about a king who used to live there. His name was Ranod, & he is supposed to be buried on the highest mountain on the island, on the farm called Sel. There is a grave hill there with a memorial stone. From this king, Rennesøy is supposed to have been named.

The old houses were the common Jaerhouse, typical for this part of the country. It was a low building, actually 2 houses, built together. One served as the living house & the other as a storagehouse. The word "loft" was used for the room upstairs above the storagehouse & the word "lem" above the livinghouse. Today "loft" is used for upstairs in a house, but old people may still use "lem". The old types of houses are no longer built, but one may still see some around.

On most farms they had an "eldhus" (brew-house) which was some distance away from the main house. It was used for cooking and washing. There has probably also been "saunas" on some farms, because ruins from such houses have been found, as well as a few names indicating that saunas existed.

Most farms also used their own smiths, but there was, later, a common blacksmith for the whole island. This no longer exists in the traditional sense. It is now more like a garage where cars and machines are repaired. The smith was combined with a slipway and much used for fishing-tractors from all over Ryfylke area. Nowadays there is not much need for this and it has been replaced by a small slipway for motor-boats and cabin cruisers.

The old millhouses by the streams are no longer in use, but some of them are still there. These worked by the water in the stream, but now machines have taken over in modern mills.

In the olden days, they used to make butter and cheese themselves on the farms. Later farmers went together and built a dairy in Vikevåg, where butter, several kinds of cheeses & also "gome" were made. A few years back the dairy was taken over by a main dairy in Stavanger and most of the milk is now sent away from the islands to this dairy. Only the "gome" is still made at Rennesøy Meieri.

Before they had clocks and watches on the farms they had certain marks for when they were supposed to go home for a meal, while working in fields. When the sunshine came to a certain place, it was dinnertime, i.e. "Middags-haugen".

There is a tale about two trolls who met in Mastrafjorden (the fjord between Rennesøy & Mosterøy) and had a terrible fight. There was church service at the time and the fight did not end until the minister came out and read from the Bible. But then the sea was already red from blood. There is a big stone called "Raudesteinen" (Red Stone) which got its name from this.