



The Beech Tree



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From the Editor

One of the best things about genealogy is the opportunity to learn new things. Even if you don't always find exactly what you're looking for, the search itself will uncover new and interesting information which increases your knowledge of genealogy and history in general. No time spent researching is ever time wasted. You'll always come away with something!

One of the things that we in our genealogy group have learned over the past few years is the number of people whose Danish ancestry is from the Schleswig-Holstein region. This group of people has always seemed to me to be somewhat of a "hidden" population. At genealogy conferences and within the group itself, we have been surprised by the number of people with Schleswig – Holstein ancestry.

With these people in mind, we have put together this newsletter. If you have Schleswig-Holstein ancestry, we hope the *continued on page 11*

Still Wrestling with Schleswig-Holstein?

By Bill Holmquist



The duchies of Schleswig-Holstein present a unique set of challenges to researchers whose Danish ancestry comes from those regions. Wars were fought and national boundaries changed – and then, changed again depending on who won the last war. No less than three ethnic groups (Danish, German and Frisian) were often intermingled in the same area. The combination of the threat of war, political uncertainty and the close proximity of three major ports of embarkation (Hamburg, Bremen and Copenhagen) resulted in large numbers of emigrants from Schleswig-Holstein leaving for the new world, especially North America.

If you've discovered that you have Danish ancestry from the Schleswig-Holstein region, there are steps you can take to get your research off to a good start. They are as follows:

- 1.) **Organize before you start.** The need to be organized will *continued on page 2*

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confront you eventually. You may as well deal with it right away. Find a container in which to start storing what you collect about your research subject. Having information scattered never works. You will misplace things. You can develop more elaborate organization techniques as time passes you find more information.

- 2.) **Do you know the year of emigration?** If not, you can narrow it down by researching American census records, for example. This will give you a time slot in which to start. You can also try the Danish Emigration Archives if they may have left through a Danish port. Finding the port of arrival is always great fun and a valuable source of information. If you do not know the port, go to the on-line data bases such as Ancestry.com, Castle Garden (before 1892) Ellis Island (after 1892.).
- 3.) **Find the birth place or residence of your ancestor.** Starting in 1803 and then jumping to 1835 a Schleswig-Holstein census was taken. Starting in 1845, birth information was recorded. To find more census records, search on line for Schleswig-Holstein at <http://www.akv3.de/index.html>. Census records can also be found on sites such as FamilySearch.com and in Family Search articles. Their Schleswig-Holstein Wiki can be found at: <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein> [Online Genealogy Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein)



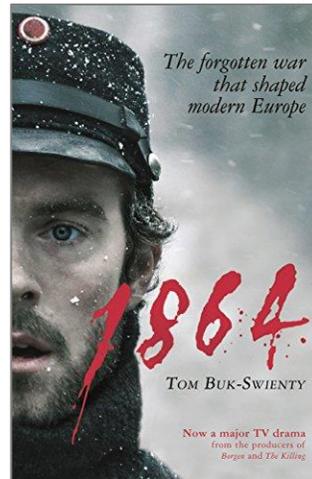
Image Attribution: By Ulamm 19:02, 5 February 2008 (UTC) - <http://www.maps-for-free.com>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3507000>

- 4.) **If no church records are listed on Family Search, you will need to go in a different direction.** From the 1600's to 1874, several towns may have been assigned to the town where a minister lived. This minister would have recorded birth, marriages and deaths. To locate a parish, look at: [Meyers Orts- und Verkehrslexikon online](https://www.meyersgaz.org/). This is a searchable database of towns in the German Empire. It's web address is: <https://www.meyersgaz.org/> You can also research the Family Search wiki portal Germany, Schleswig-Holstein and look under "place names."

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Book Review: 1864: The Forgotten War That Shaped Modern Europe

By Myra Madsen



Book written by Tom Buk-Swienty

Translated by Annette Buk-Swienty

London: Profile Books: 2008, 2015

1864: The Forgotten War That Shaped Modern Europe may be one of those books with an appeal to a variety of readers, whether it be those intrigued by European history; by war strategy and weaponry; by character-driven narrative; by rich, though unflinching, descriptive detail; or by simply Denmark.

1864 takes place during the Second Schleswig War, also known as the Dano-Prussian War, in the duchy of Schleswig, an area contested frequently between Denmark and Prussia. On February 1, 1864, the Prussian army surprised Denmark by crossing the Eider River, the border between Schleswig and Holstein, and attacking. This history focusses on April 17 – 19. On the night of the 17th, steadily advancing Prussian troops concentrated as many as 10,000 men just south of the Danish lines; on the 18th a massive assault was unleashed against the Danes in the Battle of Dybbøl.

In this David and Goliath tale, David was incredibly short-sighted, foolish, ill-advised, and unprepared.

Denmark instigated the clash by ignoring the London Protocol of 1852, which set out territorial guidelines for combatants following the First Schleswig War of 1848. Denmark passed the November Constitution of 1863 which effectively stated that Schleswig would be its sole domain. Buk-Swienty writes, “Seen through a twentieth-century lens, the new Danish constitution was decidedly discriminatory against the German majority of Schleswig, whose natural affiliation was with Holstein and the German Confederation rather than with Denmark and the Danes, with whom they felt little kinship” (116).

In David’s defense, Denmark had been led to believe that Sweden would come to its assistance, and it felt that Britain and Russia would come to its defense, as they had in 1848. However, David should have known that Goliath was represented not only by Prussia but also by Austria, another of the Germanic states, which wanted to show its prowess.

Someone asked me if the book contained any romance.

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HINTS FROM THE HELPDESK

by Edward J. "Ed" Steenberg



Over the past several months we've visited the issues of Danish Censuses, Emigration and Probate Records as well as Place names; all tools from our genealogy toolbox. Today I will share with you an actual case that was submitted recently to the Helpdesk from Denmark (yes, we do get requests from other countries), wherein each of the aforementioned tools were utilized to successfully complete a specific task, all done within a four-day period.

When one thinks about genealogy one normally thinks about seeking one's ancestors, working from the current time period *backwards* in an ancestor-ordered format. But the case being discussed today works *forward* in a descendant-ordered format, all starting with an email received on **Sunday, April 8, 2018** from one Berit Tops, a Danish citizen:

*"Hello :) I wonder if you are able to guide me in the right direction. My grandmother's two brothers immigrated to the US in around 1916. Their last name was **Sejling**. It is a rare name in Denmark so must also be in the U.S., but I don't really know where to look? Thanks for any help you can offer. Kind regards Berit Tops."* [Ms. Top's communications have been edited for brevity and clarity. It should be noted that this case study was written with the expressed permission of Ms. Berit Tops.– EJS]

Immediately requesting additional information, Ms. Tops responded on **Monday, April 9, 2018** with the following:

*"I was mistaken about the family name of **Sejling** – that was my grandmother's married name."* The two brothers' names were now given as:

- **Martin Andersen** born on April 24, 1894 in Ørby, Tranebjerg, Samsø, Denmark
- **Johannes Marius Andersen** born on July 6, 1896 in Ørby, Tranebjerg, Samsø, Denmark

Checking the gazetteer ***Krabsens Stednavnebase*** (<http://www.krabsen.dk/stednavnebase/>)

for the place-name of Ørby provided me with the following geographical facts:

- The Settlement of Ørby, at the time, was located in Transbjerg Parish, Samsø District, Holbæk County, Denmark.

Searching the Danish Census Records (1901, 1906, 1911 & 1921) for the two brothers through the ***Dansk Demografisk Database*** (http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm) provided me with:

- Confirmation of the brothers' names, birth dates and location, as well as some information on their parents and each of their siblings.
- Ms. Tops's grandmother was **Petra Methea [Andersen] Sejling** born on December 23, 1906 also in Tranebjerg Parish.

Now, with the exact names and residences of the two brothers I could check with the Copenhagen Police Emigration Protocols and Vejle lists, also through *continued on page 6*

the **Dansk Demografisk Database** (http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm).

- Whoa! Ms. Tops said the brothers emigrated from Denmark in around 1916. The Copenhagen database at this time only covers the period from May 24, 1868 to December 1908 (some 394,000 emigrants). The Vejle lists were also checked with negative results.

Knowing that the brothers immigrated to America in about 1916, I went to the **Ellis Island Database: Passenger Search** (<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>), and in particular, the New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957. I hit **pay dirt!**

- **Martin Andersen** departed Copenhagen on **March 26, 1914** on the Scandinavian-American Line S/S Frederik VIII, arriving in New York on **April 7, 1914**. Passenger ID 100429050854. [601 Ellis Island Matches by this same name.]
- **Johannes M. Andersen** departed Copenhagen on **April 25, 1915** on the Scandinavian-American Line S/S Hellig Olav, arriving in New York on **May 7, 1915**. Passenger ID 102984080140. [23 Ellis Island Matches by this same name.]

Knowing the dates of the brother's arrival in America I was able to utilize the **U.S. Federal and State Census Records** to follow them through 1940. The 1940 census is the latest U.S. census record available based on the "72 year rule," wherein a waiting period is mandated by a federal law that protects the data for 72 years after the head count (census) is completed. In this case, I utilized both Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org to obtain said records.

- **Martin Andersen** relocated to Lake Benton, Lincoln County, Minnesota, USA. The records indicated that Martin was a carpenter and farmer in Lake Benton, and eventually owned his own farm. The records also provided the names and birthdates of his spouse as well as his many children, and the fact that he was a naturalized American citizen.
- **Johannes Marimus Andersen** also relocated to Lake Benton, Lincoln County, Minnesota, USA. The records indicated that Johannes was a bachelor farmer, who spent thirty-five years working on the Henry Black farm. Like his brother, he was a naturalized American citizen.

The next step was to check for MN digital death certificates through the **Minnesota Historical Society** (www.minnesotahistorycenter.org) and burial records through the **Find-A-Grave Index** (www.findagrave.com), which provided that:

- **Martin Andersen** died on October 28, 1976 in neighboring Ivanhoe, Lincoln County, Minnesota, USA. at age 82 (1976-MN-025380). He was a World War I Corporal in the U.S. Army, and is buried in the Memorial Hill Cemetery, Lake Benton, Lincoln County, Minnesota, USA. Digital information was also found on Martin's wife and most of his children.
- **Johannes Marimus Andersen** died on January 6, 1972 in neighboring Sioux Falls Veterans Hospital, Minnehaha County, South Dakota, USA. at age 75 (not MN death). He was a World War I Private in the U.S. Army, and is buried in the Diamond Lake Cemetery, Lake Benton, Lincoln County, Minnesota, USA. In the case of Johannes, the Find-A-Grave website provided a full obituary that had been published in the Lake Benton Valley News.

All of the above information was forwarded to Ms. Tops on

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- 5.) **Contact a church office.** This can be done on line at:
<http://www.nordelbien.de/kommunikation/kom.linkliste/kom.linkliste.kirchenkreise>.
(Note: German web addresses can be very long.) On this site, you can find the name of the church office where church records can be found.
- 6.) **Research Civil Registration records.** For records after 1874, you can research the records of a Civil Registration. Contact the parish for this information.
- 7.) If the place name you have is not actually a village name, but a cultural area or topographical feature like Danischer Wohld or Danishenhagen, you need to conduct a GNS search by using the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency database at <https://geonames.nga.mil-ggmagaz-geonames4.asp>.
- 8.) **Learn about the history of Schleswig-Holstein and general information about it.** To learn more information about Schleswig Holstein research, do an online search to see what you discover. A good place to start is Cyndi's List at <https://www.cyndislist.com/> You may also want to check out the interactive maps of Germany at <http://www.hoeckmann.de/germany/index.htm>

Note: source of map on page 1 : Erstellt aus Material des gemeinsamen Datenangebotes aus dem gemeinsamen Portal der statistischen Ämter des Bundes und der Länder (DeStatis)

[A Brief Timeline of Major Schleswig-Holstein Political Events](#)

1813: King Frederic VI of Denmark allied with Napoleon. This alliance ruined Denmark's economy and national bankruptcy was the result. Prussian, Swedish and Russian troops invaded Schleswig-Holstein. Russian troops did not leave until 1814. The Duchy Lauenburg was ruled by the Danish King who became the Duke of Lauenburg.

1815-1848: Nationalistic and Patriotic activities on both sides of the Eider River, mainly about the status of Schleswig being the main point of contention.

1848: The Danish King granted a right of constitution to the Duchy of Holstein and then allowed the same thing to Schleswig. The constitution for Schleswig was valid for the entire Danish Kingdom.

1848 – 1851: War between Germany and Denmark. Denmark won this first Schleswig War. When Denmark imposed the Danish language upon large parts of Schleswig and expected it to be spoken in schools, at court and in church. Pro-German officers in the army, public officials and teachers and pastors were dismissed from their positions. This resulted in many emigrating to North America and Australia.

1864: Second Schleswig War results in the defeat of Denmark.

1864 – 1866: Holstein under Austrian control, Schleswig and Lauenburg under Prussian control.

1914 -1918: World War One results in the defeat of Germany. Denmark remained neutral.

1920: As the result of referendum to determine to which country they wished to belong, a new border was drawn between Denmark and Germany. There were however, Danish and German minorities still living on both sides of the new border. They were allowed to retain their language and rights. ■

No, not unless poignant letters to wives at home and husbands on the front can be included. Romanticism is evident, though, as Danes considered Queen Thyra's fortress at the Dannevirke and the Dybbøl Mill to be of symbolic importance and thus infallible. As the author states, "Incredibly, the poor planning at the root of the men's misery was all due to an unfortunate mix of fable, myth, past glory and misunderstanding of Prussian strategy" (150).

1864 benefits from the inclusion of photographs and other illustrations, a chronology of the war, capsule sketches of the main characters and quotations from memoirs, letters, and war correspondence. One thing missing from this scholarly work, however, is footnotes; the author explains, "I have decided to forego footnotes in this book as it is not in the strictest sense a history book, but first and foremost the story of regular soldiers' experiences of being on the front and participating in the battle that came to define Denmark...Letting their story stand uninterrupted by tiny numbers swarming about on the page seemed the right thing to do "(360-61)." Also missing is a traditional bibliography though a chapter on sources addresses this omission.

1864 was translated from the Danish into English by Annette Buk-Swienty, the author's wife. It is written with vitality and clarity which is a credit to both of them. The book is incredibly informative and well-researched. Even tangents, such as a chapter on the Red Cross, provide valuable reading.

By the war's end in June, David had to return home limping and bruised. He had lost his sandals, his slingshot, his dignity and his resolve. Goliath marched home triumphant. In 1871 he would become the German Confederation. Before too long, Germany, perhaps emboldened by previous successes, instigated The Great War, the 100-year conclusion of which we are commemorating today, Veterans' Day 2018.

Note: As of the publishing date of this newsletter, the electronic Kindle version of this book can be purchased for a mere \$3.17!

2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

As the year draws to a close, it is time for National Danish-American Genealogical Society membership dues renewal. Your dues help us provide top quality speakers, pay rent for meeting space, bring you a one-of-a-kind newsletter, maintain affiliation with the Minnesota Genealogical Society, liability insurance and more. We will again keep dues prices stable at \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a household. Renewal can be conveniently and securely made online at our website at www.danishgenealogy.org or by mail via check to:

National Danish-American Genealogical Society (Membership)
Danish American Center
3030 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Please note: new members who joined since September do NOT need to submit another renewal for 2019.

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 just two days after her initial enquiry.

On **Wednesday, April 11, 2018** I pulled the death certificates of **Martin Andersen** and of his wife **Mae Anna [Rhodes] Andersen** at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. Said documents are important because they can corroborate previously obtained information, but will also provide:

- The name of the document's Informant, usually a family member or close friend. One of Martin's sons, Walter Soren Andersen (now deceased), was the Informant for his death certificate and a daughter, Martha Mae [Andersen] Yonker, was the Informant for that of Martin's wife Mae Anna [Rhodes] Andersen.
- The name of the funeral home as well as the date and location of burial. In this case I contacted the **Utoft-Johansen Funeral Home (now Hartquist Funeral Home)** in Lake Benton for additional information. This has worked well for me in the past, but because the funeral home had changed ownership in 1981, their records on the family were no longer available.

That added information was forwarded to Ms. Tops on the same day and on **Thursday, April 12, 2018** I received an email from Berit exclaiming **"YEAH, I think I've found them :)"** Using information provided, including names of Martin Andersen's descendants, Ms. Tops was able to make direct contact utilizing social media (**Facebook.com**) with Martha Mae [Andersen] Yonker in Lake Benton, Martin's last living offspring, as well as two of his granddaughters. Case closed. Four days.

Ms. Tops is now planning a trip to the U.S., to include a stop at Ellis Island, New York and, of course, a future trip to take her west to Lake Benton, Minnesota. ▪

Records from Our Beginnings *continued from page 4*

of the book ***"They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups"*** (Edited by June Drenning Holmquist, Minnesota Historical Society Press). Even 30 years later, genealogists with Minnesota roots will find this book a treasure.

Some of the "pressing issues" noted in the original meeting minutes from the 80's seem amusingly quaint now, such as the note of the blandness of the macaroni salad at the potluck, the lessons on how to use 35 mm cameras, the amount of money in the "coffee kitty," and the revelation that the 1910 census (non-indexed!) was released. Other topics however, are just as relevant today, like book reviews of *Danes Go West* and *Flight to America* and a tutorial on Gothic script. Some happenings logged in the original files we can only wish we could still have access to, like the presentation of a 7-volume translation of *"The Dream of America,"* which was published in Danish in 1976-79, and translated to English by J.R Christiansen and his wife (no name listed) of Luther College.

Obviously over the last 35 years, the Internet and social media have completely revolutionized *how* we do genealogy, so much so that many of us can't even fathom how it was done before computers. But reading these old notes reminds us that our genealogy goals remain surprisingly constant over time, and we still are a group of like-minded seekers of our past, our culture, and our Danish heritage. ▪

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER: No NDAGS Meeting

Tour of George Latimer Central Library's Genealogical Resources

Saturday January 19, 2019 1:00- 2:30 p.m.

Local libraries can hold some unexpected and helpful genealogical resources, especially large and long-standing ones like downtown St. Paul. Our annual January "field trip" will take us on a tour of what in-house and online resources Ramsey County has to offer. Meet on the 2nd floor in the Nicolson Information Commons. Location: George Latimer Central Library 90 W. 4th Street, Saint Paul, MN

Denmark: The Plague and Other Pestilence

Monday February 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Our ancestors led difficult lives just making a daily existence, but illnesses like plague, smallpox and more brought difficulty to an entirely new level. Learn how these contagious hardships affected Danes of years ago and learn how to incorporate this information into your genealogical studies. Presented by NDAGS President Heather Nelsen-Mullen. Location: Danish American Center, 3030 West River Parkway South, Minneapolis.

Using Social Media in Your Genealogy

Monday March 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Using social media for genealogy is a newer trend – it's not just for posting pictures of your cat and catching up with old friends. See how you might use social media to discover family, research techniques, and connect with other genealogists. Speaker is Jean Bielke-Rodenbiker, a Hennepin County librarian who works with genealogy and teaches classes at the Southdale and Minneapolis Central libraries. She has been researching her family genealogy and helping patrons with theirs for over 19 years. Her special interests include German, Irish, Swedish and early American (and Quaker) genealogy research. Location: Danish American Center, 3030 West River Parkway South, Minneapolis.

50th Anniversary Celebration Open House at Minnesota Genealogical Center

Saturday March 30, 2019 10:00 am- 3:00 pm

The MGS Library and Research Center will be hosting a free open house to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Come tour library facilities, see what online subscription resources one can use for free, attend free mini lectures, visit ethnic booths from MGS branches and affiliates (of which NDAGS is one), eat snacks and maybe win a door prize! No registration necessary. In case of inclement weather, alternate day will be Sunday March 31. Watch for further details on the MGS website at www.mngs.org Location: 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights

Remembering Florence



Florence C. (nee Kjaer) Schaller, long-time NDAGS member, passed away peacefully on October 25, 2018, at age 88. Originally from Janesville, WI, she later moved to St. Paul. For years and years, Florence never missed our Danish genealogy meetings, even in the dark days of winter. She always entered into the conversation. She had a kind, friendly demeanor, and was always eager to learn. After her husband's death Florence volunteered at the check-in desk at the MN History Center Library. She was preceded in death by husband, Sam. Survived by daughters, Cathy Henderson, Betsy Schaller and Barb (Mark) Wiggins; grandsons, Mat and Michael Henderson, and Ben and Jacob Wiggins; many nieces and nephews She was buried at Roselawn Cemetery. Memorials preferred to the church or Gustavus Adolphus College. Bradshaw Funeral Home, 671 South Snelling Avenue; 651-698-3878.

From the Editor *continued from page 1*

information will help you in your research. And, if you do not have Schleswig-Holstein ancestry, we hope you will read it anyway. It will be another example of genealogy research adding to your overall knowledge and further proof that time spent pursuing your genealogy interest is never time wasted!

Bill Holmquist,
Editor

2019 NDAGS Officers

President: Heather Mullen

Vice President: Steve Rixen

Secretary: Barbara Bahnson

Treasurer: Myra Madsen

"FINDING HYGGE" MOVIE A GREAT SUCCESS

Our November presentation of the film Finding Hygge brought 67 guests to our meeting, far and away our highest attendance ever. Special thanks to Barb Bahnson for securing the showing rights for us and for bringing in the awesome popcorn machine! Since the rights were for a one-time showing, we unfortunately can't reshow it at again at another date. However, if you would like to see the trailer for the movie, or learn more about it, the link is: <https://vimeo.com/257971795>

NDAGS breaks membership record again!

We are thrilled to report that our group now has 106 members...the highest in the history of the group! It is wonderful to know there are so many people interested in discovering their Danish ancestors, history, and culture. We are looking forward to 2019 with another year of top-notch programming and welcoming even more members.

Rødgrød Med Fløde: Red Berry Pudding with Cream



Photo by Olaf Simons, WikiCommons

Red berry pudding is Denmark's unofficial national dessert. Typically, red currants are used but any combination of red berries work. According to the internet, this traditional dessert is popular in both Denmark and in the Schleswig – Holstein region.

Ingredients:

1 ½ pounds red berries or fruit: red currants, black currants, raspberries, strawberries, lingonberries or mixture

3 cups water

1 cup sugar

1/4 cup potato starch or cornstarch, dissolved in 1/2 cup cold water

1 cup heavy cream, plain or whipped with 1 tablespoon sugar

Directions:

1. Wash fruit. If using strawberries, chop in bite-sized pieces.
2. Place the fruit into a nonreactive saucepan and cover with 3 cups water. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until the fruit falls apart.
3. Remove from heat and strain juice through cheesecloth or a fine-meshed sieve. Discard seeds.
4. Return juice to heat, stir in sugar and bring to a low boil.
5. Reduce heat to medium and add the dissolved potato flour or cornstarch liquid to thicken. Stir the mixture constantly until it begins to thicken to the consistency of a heavy syrup.
6. Remove from heat, pour into individual serving bowls, cover with cling wrap, and refrigerate for at least 2 hours and up to two days.

Serve chilled with whipped cream.