



The Beech Tree



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From the Editor

If you are like many family historians, you may have a trove of old and cherished family photos that are in various stages of organization and preservation. A person often has a goal of "doing something someday" with the photos. This is a wonderful goal. A good place to start when working with old photos is to go through to them first to determine which photos are in need of preservation.

Once an old photo deteriorates to a certain point, it may be lost forever. Restoring an old photo is something you may be able to do yourself with the right software, but it very well may be something you would want to seriously consider having done the first time by a professional.

The article "Photo Restoration" in this newsletter, will show the before and after results of having a valuable old photo professionally restored. We hope it will motivate you to think about what photos in your possession could benefit from restoration and how to go about the restoration process.

Bill Holmquist, Editor

PHOTO RESTORATION

BY BILL HOLMQUIST



It seemed like an omen. While in my living room holding album with old photographs, a picture dropped out and landed face up on a coffee table. Reaching down and picking it up, I saw that it was a very old family photo of my Danish ancestors who came to Minnesota in 1869. The two oldest ancestors in the photo were born in the 1830s. The photo was in terrible condition and could be lost forever if it could not be replaced. I needed to find a photo restoration specialist and I needed to find one quickly. Photos are prone to all kinds of damage. They are susceptible to wear and tear from handling, humidity, sunlight exposure, chemical and biological damage, etc.

I had never had a photo restored before and didn't know where to start. I began my search online. There happened to be such a service near me. I chose a company called *Images of the Past* in Stillwater, Minnesota. You will see the *original* and the *restored* versions of the photo accompanying this story, on the next page.

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ORIGINAL Hansen Family Photo, Rosendale MN



RESTORED PHOTO

If you are in possession of a photograph that needs restoration, here are a few avenues for you to explore:

- **Locate a photo restoration service:** If you look on line you will be surprised at how many photo restoration services are available. There will probably be at least one in your area and you should give them a phone call to discuss their services or get a price quote.
- **Photo restoration software:** If you would like to learn how to restore photos and are comfortable with computers, you could consider purchasing some photo restoration software. Finding photo restoration software is easy. Just do an online search and plenty of options will appear. This could be a good option if you have multiple photos that need fixing.
- **Photo restoration app:** A photo restoration app can be found in the Google play store. Just do a search and you will find it. This is a great option if you only have a digital copy of an old photo.
- **Face book:** There is a photo restoration group on Facebook that you can join and the have the opportunity to share information and learn from others.
- **Adobe Photo Shop:** Photo enhancement techniques are available with Adobe Photo Shop. You would need to purchase Adobe Photo Shop which is easily purchased online. Tutorials are available if you need to learn how to use it.

Don't make the mistake of neglecting to save a damaged photo. Many options are available today to save those valuable old photos. ▪

Fixing Mistaken Assumptions with DNA



By Heather Nelsen

For quite some time, I had been at a dead end in finding the parental names of one of my Danish great-great-great-grandmothers. I had pretty much written off finding anything further, when a breakthrough happened from a new feature in my DNA testing results. Even beyond the success that this lead ultimately brought, were the valuable lessons I learned along the way. Things I had “assumed” were not actually correct and were holding back my research, probably something that all genealogists can relate to, but something we always to be on guard for. Hopefully the tips I share here will help some of you avoid these mistakes and also learn a bit about using DNA in your research.

Mistaken Assumption #1: *Because my great x 3 grandfather was born the tiny village of Tornby in northern Denmark, and he and his wife married in Tornby, I mistakenly believed that she too was born in Tornby.*

When I couldn’t find my great x 3 grandmother’s birth record the Tornby parish register for her estimated birth time frame, I contacted the Tornby Historical Archives in Denmark. They said that all the records for that time period (the very early 1800’s) had been destroyed by either fire or water damage and no longer existed. Danish law did not require a second set of records to be kept at different locations until 1814, so the records for her estimated birth year of 1805 were gone. Discouraged, I stopped researching her and then kind of forgot about her branch of the tree.

Mistaken Assumption #2: *Thinking that the marriage record I found in Tornby for my great x 3 grandfather and his wife was from his **only** marriage (the one to my blood line great x 3 grandmother).*

While certain things about this marriage record seemed odd, as well as their census records, it was easy enough to “write off” or “explain away” any confusion. The date of the marriage record was significantly after the birth of their first child, (1836 for the marriage but their first child was born in 1829). Definitely odd, but perhaps they had put in marriage bans and did not do a full ceremony, which would have been unusual but not completely unheard of in Scandinavian countries. Little did I suspect that my great x 3 grandmother had actually died very young, at age 29, and the marriage record I was seeing was from my great x 3 grandfather’s second marriage which took place one year after my great x 3 grandmother had died.

Mistaken Assumption #3: *Assuming that name inconsistencies on Danish census records were due to females going by middle names or nicknames, or the various ways surnames appeared during the transition from the patronymic naming system to consistent surnames for familial lines.*

Being blind to the thought that my great x 3 grandmother had died so young and that her spouse remarried shortly after, made me overlook inconsistencies on the Danish census records. (One other huge problematic area is that their marriage and early lives took place in the time period when Denmark didn’t do any censuses between 1804-1834). Women’s names on Danish census records can be tricky, sometimes an Ane Johanne may appear as Ane one year, and later as Johanna or even Hanna. Danish women’s last names can sometimes appear in varied forms as well. For example, another one of my Danish great x 3 grandmother’s last name appeared

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in various ways on census records: as Christiansdatter or Christensen (her dad's first name), Pedersen (her dad's last name), Dahl (when he added that after Danish law was moving toward unique surnames and away from the patronymic system), and finally as Caspersen once she was married.

Of course it doesn't help that so many Danes had the same or similar names!

Mistaken Assumption #4: *Not looking through enough years of death records.*

I knew for certain what farm my great x 3 grandparents lived on in Denmark, a farm named Høirup Bye in the tiny village of Horne. Paging through death records for such a tiny town isn't an overwhelming task, but you will definitely come up empty handed if you aren't looking in the right time period. I had inadvertently only been looking for her death records well after her actual death date because I was wrong about when she died. I had assumed the woman found married to my great x 3 grandfather on the census records 1840 and after was still my great x 3 grandmother Ane Marie. WRONG! In the 6 years between the 1834 and 1840 census, Ane Marie died at just 29 years old and he had remarried and started having kids again with his second wife of a similar name.

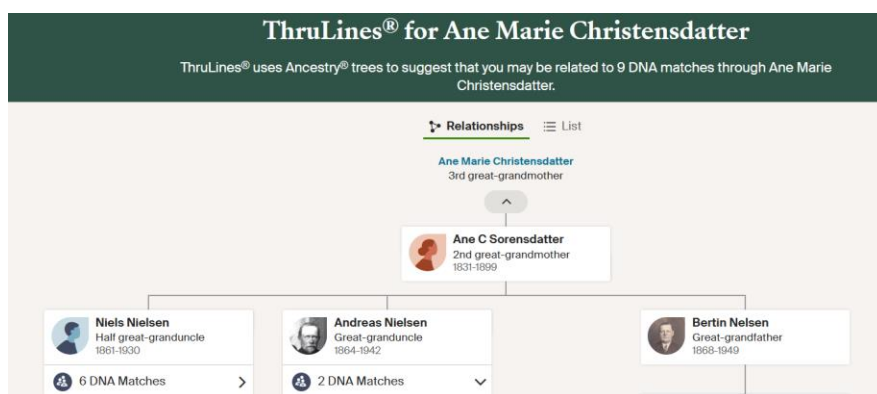
So how then did I manage to make a breakthrough, and correct all these mistaken assumptions?

The first step came from my DNA profile on Ancestry.com. A section called ThruLines® shows you how you might be related to your DNA matches through shared ancestors. When ancestors in your tree match ancestors in a DNA match's tree, they will appear in the ThruLines® section and can show hits for possible ancestors up to 5th great-grandparents. Note: your tree and those of matches need to be public to see ThruLines® suggestions, and if the information in your DNA match's tree (or your own) is inaccurate, it might not be the true name of your ancestor (although the DNA match that you and the other "tree maker" share are indeed real).

If there is an ancestor that one of your DNA matches has on their tree and you don't, you get an alert of a "*Potential Ancestor Match*" that looks like the one below. I received Potential Ancestor matches for the parents of my great-great-great-grandmother Ane Marie Christensdatter (1805-1835), who was discussed above.



Screenshot of Potential Ancestor Match



Screenshot with descendants of Ane Marie Christiansdatter who I have DNA matches with

When you click on a *Potential Ancestor* suggestion, it will open a screen like the one below. Click on the green **Evaluate** icon to see the results, and a window will pop up with different Ancestry Member trees and records to explore. For Ane, the possible ancestor suggestions were that her father was named

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Christen Jensen (1775-1839) and her mother was Anne Christine Andersdatter (1774-1862) and that Ane Marie was actually born in Asdahl, Denmark a tiny village very near Tornby (the town I had mistakenly believed she was born in).

The screenshot shows a genealogy website interface. On the left, a family tree is displayed with a profile for Jens Christensen (5th great-grandfather, 1739-1817) and a profile for Christen Jensen (4th great-grandfather, 1775-1839). Below the tree, it says '27 DNA Matches' and '5' with a dropdown arrow. On the right, a sidebar titled 'Ancestry Member Trees' lists several trees with their respective record counts: Thompson Family Tree (5 Records), Ethington Family Tree (4 Records), Thomsen Nace Family Tree 3 (3 Records), Christense Petersen Gregersen Goldbeck Family Trees (1 Record), Ryan Taylor McGowan Shields Family Tree (0 Records), and alanmuir (0 Records). A 'Next' button is at the bottom of the sidebar.

This is where old fashioned genealogy fact checking, document reading, cross referencing, and verifying sources comes in. Even though the DNA match you share with the person who made the tree is real, it doesn't mean that their tree is correct. **However, the beauty is it gave me a springboard and a direction to pursue that I didn't think was possible because I thought the Tornby records were destroyed and because I was blinded by the false assumptions I had made.**

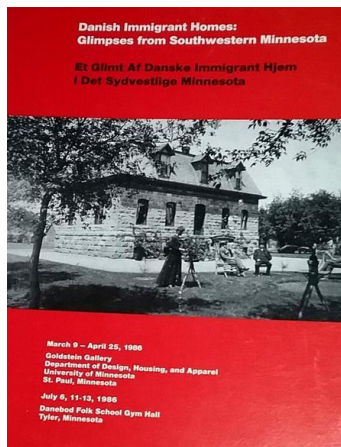
After scanning through all the suggested trees and sources, I delved into verifying everything myself. The biggest push in the right starting direction were the trees that showed a birth town for Ane Marie and the ones that showed a death date.

Starting with the website **Danish Family Search** at <https://www.danishfamilysearch.com/>, I used both the direct search criteria with name and vital statistics dates, as well as browsed the records page by page for the parish of Asdahl. To browse by parish on Danish Family Search, one can click on the county on the map of Denmark and then the name of the parish. This shows what records are available for that town, and for what dates, as well as the percentage that have been indexed to search. This website is a great starting point because you can search by name and town, but if you don't find any hits, remember that many documents are not yet scanned and indexed on this particular website.

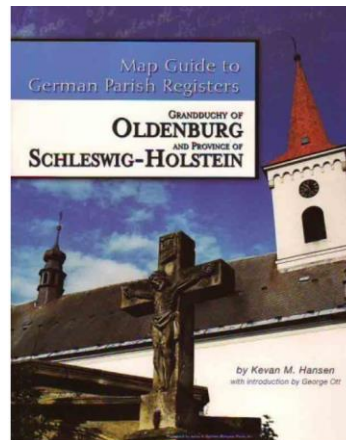
The screenshot shows the Danish Family Search website. The header includes the Danish flag, the text 'Danish Family Search', and language options 'Dansk' and 'English'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Search, Overview, Themes, Projects, Forum, User, Links, and Help. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: Overview / Hjørring / Vennebjerg / Asdal parish / Churchbooks. Below this is a tabbed interface with tabs for Database, Churchbooks (16), Census data (19), Placenames, Streets, and Other Sources. The 'Churchbooks (16)' tab is selected, showing a list of churchbooks for Asdal parish. The list has columns for Book type, From, To, Source Type, and Description. A sidebar on the left has a Facebook share button and a 'Share this page on Facebook' link. A small advertisement for 'DIGITAL MARKETING' is visible in the top right corner.

Article continued
on page 9

BOOK REVIEW: "Danish Immigrant Homes: Glimpses from Southwestern Minnesota" and *"Map Guide to German Parish Registers: Grandduchy of Oldenburg and Province of Schleswig-Holstein"*



Goldstein Gallery,
University of
Minnesota, St. Paul,
Minnesota. Danebod
Folk School, Tyler,
Minnesota
Signe T. Nielsen
Betsinger, Guest
Curator and Exhibition
Designer. Spring and
Summer, 1986



Kevan M. Hansen
North Salt Lake,
UT: Heritage
Creations: 2004

Recently, when reorganizing my genealogy bookcases, I happened upon two copies of each of the two above publications. All four are up for grabs if anyone is interested.

The first is a booklet based on an art exhibit in St. Paul and Tyler, MN. Author Signe Betsinger visited many 19th century and early 20th century homes in the Tyler and Lake Benton vicinity and narrowed her focus to 28 houses. The brochure is divided into two sections: homes built in 1885-1896 and those in 1897-1930. Rich in detail, the brochure displays photographs of homes, furniture, artifacts, dishware, pyramid shelves, and family groups. The floor plans are especially fascinating. Mixed with the illustrations are reminiscences of family members about life in Lincoln County. The Introduction by Joanne Eicher states, "The objects for the exhibit document what the Danish immigrants had in their homes, either by choice or out of necessity, and illustrate their ingenuity in building and furnishing homes in a desolate area."

As a segue between "Glimpses" and "Map Guide," page 30 of the catalogue notes that "Hans Simonsen and his wife, Marie Pedersen Simonsen, both from Stubbum, Slesvig, were married in Denmark." When I consulted the "Map Guide," I learned that Stubbum is located in Aller parish in the northern part of Haderslev Kreis (amt/county), and a map shows that Haderslev is situated in northern Schleswig (Slesvig). Danish genealogists with a connection to southern Holstein (Holsten) may not be as successful in using this guide. Ultimately, it indicates that Stubbum records can be found on micro-film 48818, photographed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Of course, it is no longer possible to order films from Salt Lake City, so a different procedure is followed. (If anyone does not yet have a FamilySearch.org account, now is the time to register for one. It is free of charge.) Once you have signed in, click on "Search" on the top of the page, and then scroll down to "Catalog." Click on the Film/Fiche line and then enter 0048818; at the top of the next page "Kirkebøger" (church books) appears; click on that and a list of films pops up. The camera icon indicates that this film has been photographed; the magnifying glass indicates that the information on this film has been indexed. Using the "Map Guide to German Parish Registers," and two other sources, I was able to find out a lot of information about Hans and Marie, though the "Guide" is the source which gave me a game plan. This book is actually one of 57 similar publications by Kevan M. Hansen. Since I have German heritage, I have used another of these guides extensively.

In a way, both publications are niche works, each appealing to a select audience. However, both are gems of information, waiting for enthusiastic readers. Please contact me if you wish to peruse one or both of these guides: myraemadsen@msn.com ■

BUILT BY DANES



BY BILL HOLMQUIST

One can find buildings and structures of various kinds that were built by Danish immigrants in many parts of this country. One such building is the Danish American Center in Minneapolis, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

The Danish American Center, also known as Danebo - "Gathering place of the Danes," opened its doors in the spring of 1924. Danish pioneers throughout the Midwest collected contributions large and small, until enough funds were raised to purchase 2.5 acres along West River Parkway in Minneapolis and Danebo could be built.

It operated as a retirement home for elderly Danes for many decades until later years when it merged with the Danish American fellowship and became the very busy and popular Danish American Center. The National Danish American Genealogical Society is lucky to have such an historic and authentically Danish American place to have its headquarters. For more information about the Danish American Center and their programs and events, visit their website at <https://danishamericancenter.org> ▪

IDEAS WANTED!



NDAGS always strives to make our programs and articles informative and entertaining on a whole host of topics. As we begin planning our 2025 programs, we want to hear from you on what topics you would like to see included: more advanced research methods, more introductory level topics, general genealogy, writing? And if you know of an idea for a great speaker, or would be interested in writing an article for the Beech Tree, we'd love to hear about that too! Email Heather Nelsen at tillygenealogy@gmail.com with any suggestions!

NDAGS at the MINNESOTA STATE FAIR



The National Danish-American Genealogical Society is an affiliate organization with the Minnesota Genealogical Society, who hosted a booth in the Education Building of the great Minnesota State Fair. Thousands of people stopped by the booth over the course of the 12 days of the Fair, including many young people interested in learning how to start researching their family history. This is the second year that the MGS has had a booth at the MN State Fair and the second year that NDAGS has participated. ▪

UPCOMING EVENTS



Locating Your Ancestors' Passenger Records: Monday October 29, 2024 at 6:30 pm CST

Our ancestors' adventures in immigrating to America began when they set foot on the ship that would take them to America. But how much do you know about your ancestors' voyage to America? Did you know that you may be able to learn things like the date they purchased their ticket, the name of the ship on which they traveled, the port to which they sailed, see a photo of their ship and even learn about the weather when they arrived?

To learn how to locate these things, be sure and tune in to this month's program, presented by long-time genealogists Bill Holmquist and Linda Westrom. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86855905897>

Danish Adoption Records: Monday November 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Finding birth records and biological parents' names can be daunting, or even out-right dead ends, especially when you are searching records that aren't in English. But don't despair, with the right guidance and helpful instruction, you too may find success uncovering these records for your Danish ancestors. Experienced Accredited Genealogist Charlotte Noelle Champenois, native Dane and now long-time resident of Utah, will guide us through the world of Danish Adoption Records.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87943912640Program%C2%A0>

December: No meeting

"Unlocking the Past, Shaping the Future"

October 25-26, 2024

Eagan Community Center
1501 Central Parkway, Eagan, MN



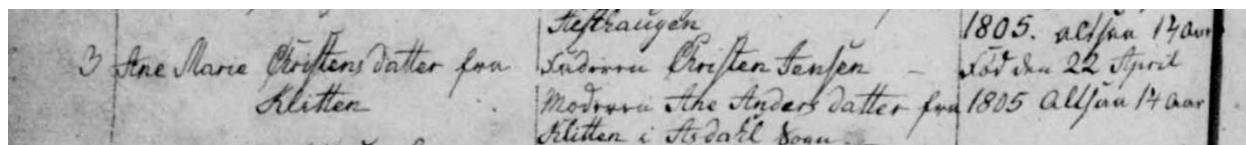
The 17th Annual NorthStar Conference, sponsored by NDAGS partner the Minnesota Genealogical Society is always an informative and fun event. This year's top-notch keynote speakers are Judy Russel (the Legal Genealogist) and Blaine Bettinger (the DNA Genealogist), among many others! Plus, you can visit us at the NDAGS booth for helpful Danish genealogy help! For information and registration to the event, please visit: <https://mngs.org/North-Star-2024>

Church Books	Marriage Books	Communion	Banns	Colour Scans	Other Books								
Book type		From Year	To Year	Source Types	Description	Status	No. Pages	Recorded Entries	Recorded Names	Dataentry Complete			
			Enesteminiesterialbog	1732	1814	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead	New edition	Open	282	1	25	0.71%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1814	1848	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead, Person register, Parish Arrivals, Parish Departures	New edition	Open	214	0	1219	85.51%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1848	1863	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead, Person register, Parish Arrivals, Parish Departures	New edition	Open	202	0	880	83.17%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1863	1877	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead, Person register, Parish Arrivals, Parish Departures	New edition	Open	216	0	968	68.98%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1876	1891	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead	New edition	Open	136	0	961	100.00%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1892	1898	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead		Open	78	2	447	100.00%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1899	1909	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead		Open	130	12	709	99.23%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1910	1926	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead		Open	210	2	1086	99.52%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1927	1949	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead		Open	213	1	839	70.89%	
			Kontraministerialbog	1950	1978	Born, Confirmation, Marriage, Dead		Open	95	2	499	94.74%	

Records found on Danish Family Search

The Rigsarkivet, the Danish National Archives, is the gold standard for locating Parish records (birth/baptism, confirmation, marriage, and death) and Census records. It can be found at: <https://en.rigsarkivet.dk/online-records/> When searching for records here, you must know the parish name. Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org are other great options as well. If you are searching for just census records, you can also search the Dansk Demografisk Database at https://www.ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm

Using the above websites, I was able to locate birth, confirmation, marriage, and death records for Ane Marie Christensdatter, along with confirming her parents' names and even their farm name of Klitten in Asdahl.



Confirmation record for Ane Marie Christensdatter, Asdahl Denmark

After finding that her actual death date was much earlier than I had mistakenly believed (thought women on census records 1834 and after was her, not second wife), I used traditional sources to locate her actual death date, and hubby's remarriage in the town of Horne where they lived after marriage.

Now that I have confirmed Ane Marie Christiansdatter's parents, vital dates, and birth town, I will continue to use traditional sources to follow the lineage of her parents Christen Jensen and Anne Christine Andersdatter, my great x 4 grandparents, as well as explore the ThruLines® suggestions for their parents.

I feel fortunate that DNA opened up this new line of ancestors for me, but even more fortunate that this lesson has opened my eyes, and we all need reminding of this from time to time! My mistaken assumptions were both holding me back from tracing my ancestral line, and they created a narrative that didn't make sense. Take away point: if something doesn't seem quite right, keep checking and don't give up! You never know when an unexpected lead may appear. ■

Recipe: Blommerkage (Plum Cake)

By Barb Høgen Andersen

It's plum season and also time to write my food article for the Beech Tree. I can tell you that fruit trees were treasured by our Danish ancestors to sweeten and add texture to many dishes. Fruits were used in season and also dried for winter survival. Today, we also freeze and bottle the fruits for safekeeping when the crop is good. This cardamom flavored cake is pale greenish blue from the plum skins if you use blue plums like I have. This is the recipe I use when I have access to a pound of fresh pitted plums (any variety) or 1.5 cups frozen and thawed plums (include the juice and use no additional water). I have adapted it from "Danish Food & Cooking" by Judith H Dern.

Ingredients:

1-pound pitted fresh plums, coarsely chopped
9 extra plums, halved and pitted for decoration
½ cup water
½ cup unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
1 ¼ cup sugar
3 eggs
¾ cup Bob's Red Mill almond flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 ½ tsp baking powder
1 tsp ground cardamom
¼ tsp salt
2 ¼ cup flour
1 Tbsp Pearl Sugar to decorate



Instructions on next page: note this is a 2 day recipe.

Recipe: Blommerkage (Plum Cake)

Instructions: Day one: Place the chopped plums and water in a pan. Bring to a boil over medium heat and cook for 10-15 minutes, until soft. Set aside to cool (I find it easiest to set the plums in the refrigerator until resuming the cake making the next day.) You will need 1 ½ cups stewed plums for the cake.

Day two:

1. Bring plums, butter, and eggs to room temperature.
2. Preheat the oven to 350F.
3. Grease and flour a 9 ½ inch springform pan
4. Cream the softened butter and sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy.
5. Beat in eggs, one at a time.
6. Stir in the plums and almond flour
7. Add the baking soda, baking powder, cardamom, and salt and stir until blended.
8. Gradually stir in the flour and few spoons at a time.
9. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan. Place 15 plum halves around the circumference of the cake and use the last three halves in the center, cut side down.
10. Sprinkle the pearl sugar over the cake
11. Bake for one hour or until the top springs back when lightly touched.
12. Cool in the pan 15 minutes before unfastening the ring.

Topping:

1 cup whipping cream

2 tsp vanilla

2 tsp powdered sugar

Beat the cream until soft peaks form. Stir in the vanilla and the powdered sugar and until thick.

Serve the cake slightly warm or at room temperature in slices topped with whipped cream.

Notes: 1. If using frozen plums, defrost and measure 1 ½ cups thawed plums, do not add the water or drain the plums.

2. It makes 10 servings, so I think 10 or 20 halves around the circumference would be better than 15. Three in the center just make the cutting difficult, so I skip them.

3. Pearl sugar can be found in Scandinavian shops if your grocery doesn't have it. It is large crystals with a pearly sheen used to top pastries, buns and cakes (you really should have some on hand for Danish baking anyway). If you can't find it, use coarsely crushed sugar cubes (you always have those on hand, don't you?) You could also use regular sugar but it won't look quite as authentic.

4. It freezes well if there is too much left; however, your guests will love to have some to take home.

5. You can also use canned plums, so don't wait until next August to make this delicious cake. ■