

Genealogy at Work. . .

www.rootsweb.com/~njdane/index.html

a "sunbeam story" Wendy Hansen Hudson describes a typical search.

Through our genealogy work for DANE, we have been in touch with many wonderful people throughout the world! A number of times, we are able to connect families and provide significant information. These family "reunions" are among the most rewarding experiences in our genealogy work.

We are contacted by many people in Denmark looking for their relatives that went to the United States. Sometimes they only know that their relatives went to the New York area, but some have letters or pictures. All have lost touch at some point with their relatives that crossed the Atlantic. Most of the time, they locate our Website and email us or sign the Guestbook. When we get contacted, the team at DANE moves into action to help.

In one recent case, a man in Denmark was looking for two daughters from a Christensen family that lived in northern New Jersey. The family had visited Denmark in the 1950s,

and after that time contact was lost. The married names of the daughters were not known.

In the Social Security Death Index, we were able to find the death dates for the parents. The next step was to try to track down the newspaper obituaries. We were successful in finding one of the obituaries in the library at Rutgers University. Our luck was that it contained information on both the daughters and their married names. Through the Web, we were able to possibly identify the address for one of the daughters who was still living in northern New Jersey. We wrote a letter to this address and crossed our fingers hoping that we had found the right person and she would answer our letter. A few weeks later, we received an email confirming that we had found the right person! Between them, the two sisters have eight children and 22 grandchildren.

We next contacted the man in Denmark to let him know

the good news. He was so thrilled - he called it a "sunbeam story." He has written us a wonderful thank you email and when last we heard, both families were writing letters and emails back and forth. A real happy ending!

Calendar

May 17
Genealogy Meeting/Celebration
Victor Borge at 100
Janet Borge Crowle

June 7
Grundslav Day
Croton-on-Hudson

June 14
Genealogy Meeting
Danish Monarchy

August 31
SCANFEST
Budd Lake
DANE will exhibit. Come see us.

September
Genealogy Meeting
The Ship Danmark
plus
A Visit to Aarhus (re-scheduled
from January's inclement weather
cancelled meeting)



Danish Newspapers in Perth Amboy

Today newspapers everywhere are shutting down, reducing their staff, relying on out-sourcing for coverage. At one time – during the later part of the 19th century – there were six Danish language publications published in Perth Amboy. They served different and important purposes.

The 1908 City Directory of Perth Amboy has addresses for: The Dansk-Amerikaneren (The Danish American) 90 Smith Street Nordlyset, really a New York newspaper but maintained a Perth Amboy office and address at 170 Smith Street.

We know that Perth Amboy was a clearing house for Danes coming in to this country some of whom would stay and others who would move on to other places. Immigrants needed information about their new home. They needed a bridge between the two cultures. At the same time they needed a way of passing on the old culture from one generation to the next. As always, Danes needed to laugh.

The early copies of Spøgefuglen that I have been able to find were written in Swedish and published in Minneapolis.

A GENEALOGICAL JOKE

Grounds for Furnishing a Man with a Coat-of-Arms

A man applied to the college for a coat-of-arms, and was asked if any of his ancestors had been renowned for any singular achievement, says the Cornhill Magazine. The man paused and considered, but could recollect nothing.

“Your father?” said the herald aiding his memory.

“Your grandfather? Your great-grandfather?”

“No,” returns the applicant, “I never knew that I had a grandfather or a great-grandfather.”

“Of yourself?” asks the creator of dignity.

“I know nothing remarkable of myself,” returned the man, “only that being once locked up in Ludgate prison for debt, I found means to escape from an upper window; and that you know, is no honor in a man’s ‘scutcheon.’”

“And how did you get down?” said the herald.

“Odd enough,” retorts the man. “I procured a cord, fixed it round the neck of the statue of King Lud, on the outside of the building, and thus let myself down.”

“I have it,” said the herald; “no honor! Lineally descended from King Lud! And his coat-of-arms will do for you.”

Editor’s Note: In trying to find examples of Danish humor published in Perth Amboy’s Danish-American newspapers, the editor was stymied - so far - but has not given up. After many hours of fruitless searching, this genealogical joke was found in the October 1, 1899 issue of the *Brooklyn Eagle Online*. It fits with this issue’s genealogical theme.

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Historic Marker

A gift marking the site of the Danish Home has been given by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

This sign with explanatory text was obtained through the efforts of Agnes Hagmueller of DANE and the Danish Home Board. It will have an official dedication during the July 4th holiday.

A Danish language publication created by Axel Kringelback, singer and humorous writer. This was a small publication, a magazine with a size of 8 1/2" x 11". Mr. Kringelback started the venture in Minneapolis and brought it with him to Perth Amboy in 1894.

The magazine was published every other month. It had three columns and different styles – Gothic letters with the heavy black type was combined with Roman type.

Axel Kringelback wanted to make people laugh. *The Joking Bird* meant to “bring laughter like a ray of sunshine into the home and chase away troubles and lighten the mind.”

What did he think was funny? Different than American humor at that time which was more like the belly laugh, apparently *Spøgefuglen* had the wry Danish humor. It is reported this publication used ethnic and religious jokes that were typical of these years between 1893-1935.

Talk about Souvenirs!

Viking activity had astonishing range and effects



Dr. Bernice M. Yates, a member of DANE's Genealogy Group, was guest speaker on 20 April at VASA Linne Lodge 429 in New Providence, NJ. The topic of her talk was “The Vikings from the First Century AD and Onwards.” Using many visual displays and artifacts, Dr. Yates told of Viking explorations and travels. She also stressed the important role of the Viking women and their responsibilities on the home front while the men were off on their exploits.

Lodge members, over 40 in attendance, were very much impressed by Dr. Yates' presentation and her very extensive knowledge of these early Scandinavian peoples. A Q. & A. session followed the talk, and the audience was invited take a closer look at the photographs and items of interest on display.

Acquisitions DANE's collections continue to grow thanks to the generous donations of many. These are our recent gifts:

Eleanore Andersen Pattersen	Andersen Family documents and memorabilia
Borge Foundation	Complete set of VHS tapes of Victor Borge programs
Agnes Hagnueller	Book on Danish Press in America
Elsie Christensen Collections	Books on Danish Place
	Lace making devices
	Old meat/cheese slicer
John Daagan, Lutheran Archives, Staten Island, NY	Digitized Records of Vørs Felters Kirke, Brooklyn, NY
Fred Andersen	Set of Danish postcards
Dr. Bernice M. Yates	DVDs of Danish WWII and The Vikings

Remember

Genealogists never die. They just lose their census.

Online

www.rootsweb.com/~njdane/index.html to use the many research sources available, sign the guest book.

Not online

Call DANE 732/287-6445.

Leave a message for inquiries and genealogical help.

Corrections and Clarifications

Øst willingly corrects its factual errors. If you think we have made a mistake in our stories, please write to: Editor, Øst 855 New Durham Road; Edison, NJ 08817

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A piano has 88 keys.
There was only one Victor Borge
who said, *I only know two pieces.*
One is 'Clair de Lune' and
the other one isn't.
Celebrate Victor Borge's
100th birthday anniversary
Janet Borge Crowle
May 17th 2 pm
The Danish Home



Hello,

I am excited by two major events at DANE.

For our May 17th meeting, Janet Borge Crowle, the daughter of Victor Borge will visit us to talk about her father – and present a slide program produced by Mr. Crowle. It should be a special and wonderful meeting.

The second item is a major contribution to our genealogy records. We just received the photographed church records for Our Savior's Danish Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York. Many, many thanks to John R. Daggan who is the archivist at Sutter Memorial Archives at Wagner College. Many, many thanks to the photographer who digitized the records. We are in the process of indexing the records which should take about a year.

The records are very detailed and interesting. The marriage records usually include the full birth dates and the birth places for both the bride and groom. Sometimes the records contain the ship and arrival dates. In addition to the Brooklyn marriages, there are some marriages from throughout New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania included. Also, some couples married and then went west; these records contain their destination. These records are a fantastic addition to our database and will significantly help us in our genealogy research in the years to come.

Wendy