



Nordøst

Danish Archive North East
December 2015

Hello!

In addition to the President's Letter, we have an article on Royal Copenhagen Christmas blue plates, photos from the Harvest Festival this past September, and an article on our recent work on the files of the Danish Home in Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

It is time for our annual fund raising campaign. At the end of the newsletter is our request for donations. We really hope for your support!

If you are in the New Jersey area, join us for the Julefest on December 20 and for the DANE programs (schedule at the end of this newsletter). Please visit our website (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njdane/index.html>) to see what we are up to.

Enjoy!

DANE President's Message



Kære Alle,

2015 has been a productive and successful year for DANE. Thanks to a lot of hard working and dedicated volunteers, much has been accomplished.

Thanks goes to Wendy Hudson for her continuous genealogical pursuits, our files are filled with over 29,000 Danish individuals and their families.

On a visit to Alpine Cemetery, Perth Amboy one might see Janice Grace with her trusty camera photographing headstones of past Danes. In addition she is knee deep into sorting, scanning and trying to ID the many, many photos which have come into DANE's collections.

Our culture programs were Danish celebrations of Fastelavn and upcoming Julefest on December 20th. This year we had a program on the history of the Danish Home, Croton, NY with interesting stories about its residents past and present.

All enjoyed a balmy September Sunday at the Harvest Festival. There was good food, games and music. There was also a wonderful exhibit "Skål" about Scandinavian Spirits (Aquavit and Beers that is) which is on tour from the Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa. And YUM! a delicious pastry demo in November.

Other meetings were dedicated to recording and archiving DANE's collections. Our monthly sessions always end with a good cup of coffee, cake and sharing of stories and ideas.

DANE invites you to join in saving our precious Danish Heritage. All is needed is some of your time and input. Would you like to submit a family story to our Newsletter? Can you possibly identify some of the photos yet to be named? Or just come for a tour of the museum or maybe find some of your Danish "Roots" in our files. We can arrange tours for your group as well. Give us a call: 732-287-6445 or e-mail DANE at danenj@aol.com. Even better visit our website:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njdane/

All of us at DANE...Danish Archive North East wish you and your families a Wonderful Holiday Season with Good Health and Joy in the New Year.

Med Venlig Hilsen,
Agnes Jespersen Hagmueller

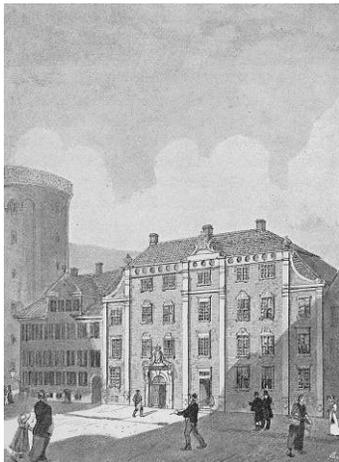
The Story of Royal Copenhagen Christmas Blue Plates

By Agnes Jespersen Hagmueller

Long ago Europeans of wealth decided to start a Christmas custom of giving their servants wooden platters loaded with fruit, cookies, candies and other food stuffs.

The servants looked forward each Holiday season to these gifts. After the Holidays they began to decorate their cottage walls with these carved or painted platters.

In the 1760's, the Danish royal family became interested in white hard paste porcelain which had originated in China. After much experimentation Frantz Henrich Muller, a Danish pharmacist and chemist, came upon the formula.



1775 Danish Porcelain Factory

He created samples and sent them to Juliane Marie, the Queen Dowager. She was so impressed that she approved and supported "The Danish Porcelain Factory" founded by Muller.

During the 19th Century, the company now known as "Royal Copenhagen" worked on improving the porcelain. In 1885 Arnold Krog, director of the Royal Porcelain manufacture, created what is now known as Danish underglaze painting. The Christmas plates were now an example of this process.



Arnold Krog

In 1908 Royal Porcelain began making the now familiar Blue & White Christmas plates.



**Madonna & Child
By Chr. Thomsen**

Then ever since that year a plate was made for one year only and dated in the year it was made. The molds were then destroyed and the plate was never made again.

There were competitions among factory employees Three main prizes are still given to contestants for yearly designs.



1936



1962



1970

Throughout the years, the plates have depicted religious themes, Christmas scenes, Danish places, people, and events as well as favorite animal scenes. They have been the object of Danish collectors for many years.



2015

GLÆDELIG JUL OG GODT NYTÅR

(We have some plates for sale, if you are interested, then please contact us as danenj@aol.com)

Harvest Festival – September 20, 2015



Harvest Festival – September 20, 2015



Archive project: Records of the Danish Home in Brooklyn and then Croton-on-Hudson, New York

By Wendy Hansen Hudson

In July 2013, I had a very pleasant visit to the Danish Home in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. Erik Andersen, the Home administrator, was a wonderful host and I really enjoyed seeing this wonderful facility.



Erik showed me some of the books and boxes with the applications of the residents throughout the years, starting in 1906 in Brooklyn, New York and continuing in Croton. I was fascinated (as only a genealogist can be!) and I knew that the applications, books, and pamphlets contained a gold mine of genealogy information. I sheepishly asked Erik if I could index the files, but to do that right, I would need to take the records away and work on them. I held my breath, and then he said yes! I packed up about 6 large boxes and smiled all the way home.

The project was bigger than I knew. The first phase was done in November 2013, but there were still some additional boxes that Erik brought us until the project was finished in February 2015.

There are 516 resident files from 1906 until 2006. Of these, 399 were born in Denmark and 140 of those were born in Copenhagen. A very urban crowd! Many different countries were represented and many different states in the United States.

Each file was reviewed and all the genealogical information was put in a spreadsheet. In many cases, any additional information we were able to find was also put in the spreadsheet. In some cases, this included information on baptisms in Denmark, immigration information, and information on spouses or relatives.

Many of the earlier residents did not have family in the United States and many were single. The Home was obviously a place where they could find a familiar and comforting environment. 90 residents lived in the Home 10+ years. Most of these were in the early years of the Home. One resident was in the Home 1939 to 1971 – 31 years!

The files contained wonderful stories about the backgrounds of the residents. There was a famous artist (Aleth Christian Bjorn), the seventh person and second woman to swim the English Channel (Mille Gade Corson), a number of engineers with patents (Carl Eibye who in 1899 patented a new and improved leak-stopper for pipes), a number of people that worked in the Danish Underground during WWII, and many seamen who traveled all over the world. There are lots of stories in the files about residents that were very happy in the Home and friends with everyone around them.

The spreadsheet is now done and the files are all organized in new waterproof boxes and back with Erik in Croton. I was right – the files contained wonderful information! Many thanks to Erik for letting me walk off with the boxes, and many thanks to all the administrators through the years that preserved this wonderful information.

The spreadsheet is not yet on our website, but it will be soon. Until then, if anyone thinks that they may have had a relative in the Danish Home in Brooklyn or Croton, then please contact us and we can provide the information available.



December 2015

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Friend of DANE,

DANE is dedicated to preserving the great history and culture of those Danes and their descendants.

Our recording and archiving information is done by volunteers who spend many hours gathering data. Our databases contain over 25,000 names. These come from inquiries, digitized church and cemetery records as well as many records of Danish organizations. DANE celebrates traditional Holidays and Customs. We have monthly meetings dealing with Danish history, culture and help those who need family genealogical information and research.

Money is needed to support our events and work. We are asking you to support DANE by making a donation so the Archive can continue our progress in adding to our collections and making the public know how much the Danes have done for this country.

Tours are available by appointment. If you are in the neighborhood give us a call at 732-287-6445. Need help with family research? E-mail us at danenj@aol.com

Tusind Tak for your generous past support. With that help, the Archive has grown and with your on-going support it will continue to grow.

We wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and a great New Year!

*Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår
DANE Board of Trustees*



Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

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Amount enclosed: _____

Please include this form with your donation and send to:

**DANE—Nordøst
855 New Durham Road
Edison, New Jersey 08817**

DANE is a 501 c 3 non profit organization

DANE meetings:

- Dec 5 - Julemarked (Holiday sale)
 - Dec 20 - Julefest (Christmas party)
 - January – no meeting
 - February 21 – Fastelavn
 - March 20 – Danish DVD
 - April – no meeting
 - May 22 – TBD
 - June 26 – Archive work day
 - July & August – no meeting
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Web page: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njdane/index.html>

(28,566 visitors since 2002!)

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DANE has membership in:

- Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn Iowa
- Danish American Heritage Society
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