



# Nordøst

Danish Archive North East  
December 2021

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## **DANE Vice-President's Letter**

*by Hans Christian Svane*

Goddag til alle. I hope you all had a very happy Thanksgiving.

DANE received an early and generous Christmas gift from the estate of Agnes Hagmueller. Her love for DANE and the work that we do is still with us. From all of our hearts at DANE, tusind tak Agnes.

A big change has occurred at DANE. The Home, as a museum, has always been an ongoing project for DANE. Directed by Agnes, it has become a beautiful example of what a regional historical museum should be. Historical groups who have toured the Home museum have all commented on how good it is. The Home museum is not just a bunch of rooms filled with stuff. Each of the rooms has a theme and the artifacts displayed in that room reflect that theme. The museum as a whole reflects New Jersey Danish culture. But, it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to maintain the museum as it should be. It also takes a very creative eye. That is the very unique talent that Agnes had. That talent made the museum what it is. We at DANE do not have that ability. So, reluctantly, it has come to pass that the curatorship of the Home museum has been transferred to the Home board.

Paul Malchow will take over as curator of the Home museum. All of us at DANE wish Paul the best of luck and mange tak for taking on this endeavor. He has some pretty big footsteps to follow. I am quite sure he will do just fine. We invite Paul to introduce himself and tell us about his plans for the

Home museum in an upcoming issue of Øst.

As for DANE, our genealogy work will continue unabated. If you, or someone you know, needs genealogy help, or if you have questions about genealogy, please feel free to contact DANE. We have received requests from many states and from Denmark for assistance. We are always ready and willing to help.

A major project we are planning for next year is a major cleanup and modernization of our office in the Home. Over the years we have collected a massive amount of office supplies, old office furniture, just stuff, and antiquated technology. We will distribute what we can to those who may want it and toss anything that we can't give away. We will modernize our office technology. Something that is sorely needed with the changes in today's technology.

Do you know of anyone who could use a microfilm reader with a printer? I've been told a reader with a printer is a rare find. We have one that is available. Just contact us at [danenj@aol.com](mailto:danenj@aol.com) to make arrangements to pick it up.

From all of us at DANE we wish all of you and yours

**Glædelig Jul :: Merry Christmas & Godt Nytår :: Happy New Year**

# DANE genealogy database update

*By Wendy Hudson*

Since DANE started doing genealogy research many years ago, we collected a great deal of information in our genealogy computer program. We put a great deal of information on our website, but the vast part of our research was not accessible unless people contacted us and asked what information we had in the database.

A problem came up. The genealogy computer program that we were using was discontinued and there was not a good alternative available.

We discussed a lot about what to do with our data. We decided to put the database on ancestry.com, one of the largest and most popular genealogy sites. The data will be preserved long after we are no longer active in research.

We moved the database to ancestry.com a few months ago. At that time, we moved the information for about 35,000 people. Our database contains information on Danish families who settled in the northeastern United States or lived here for any period of time. We also tried to include information on the parents and siblings of those Danes. Many times parents, siblings, or relatives also came to the same area.

Currently, the DANE tree on ancestry is a private tree. That means that only people invited to view the tree can see it. We had to do this because through the years, we promised everyone that we corresponded with that we would not put information on living people on the web. We are now going through a process to edit the information on all the families in the database to take out any reference to living people.

The edits in the database has had some very great results. There is a lot of new information that shows up as hints from ancestry. One example is a Danish family in New Jersey who had 6 children, all born in New Jersey. One of the children could not be found in the records. Ancestry came up with a hint that said the child died in Denmark! It was correct. We did not know that the parents had taken a short trip to Denmark with the children. We would have never found this information without ancestry.com.

Anyone that wants to see the DANE tree on ancestry, then please contact us at [danenj@aol.com](mailto:danenj@aol.com). You do not need to join ancestry to see the tree.

We are working on cleaning up the tree and hope to make the tree a public tree. At that point, any ancestry member could see the information. We expect that it will take about four years to complete the cleanup work on the tree.



## **DANE will not be doing an appeal for donations this year**

Usually, at this time of year, DANE puts a request for donations in Nordøst and mails requests. This year, we will not be doing an appeal for donations.

We had generous donations the last two years and with the pandemic, our expenses were substantially reduced. We also had a generous bequest from the estate of Agnes Jespersen Hagmueller.

We will be using funds to update the office to facilitate our research activities. We will also support the museum.

Next year, we will consider if we need to do an appeal for donations.

Thank you to everyone for your generous support in the past years!

Events:

16 January 2022 – 11 AM – Work day at DANE – work on sorting through the office and files

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As we look to the future, we plan on continuing the work of DANE that our founders began. Our newsletters will be keeping everyone updated on our progress.

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DANE has membership in:

- Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn Iowa
- Danish American Heritage Society
- New Jersey League of Historical Societies