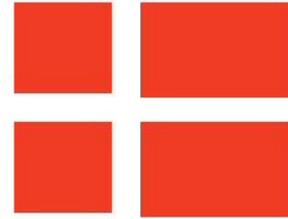


# GRØN ØST

The E-letter of the Danish Archive North East/DANE



## Spring 2012

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of Øst! We are a bit late getting this out. We have been furiously preparing for the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey meeting that will be held at DANE on June 9. Historical societies from throughout the state of New Jersey will be visiting us that day. It will be great publicity for DANE and what we are doing. Expect an article and pictures of the meeting in the next edition of Øst.

This edition contains four very interesting articles. Agnes Jespersen Hagmueller has an article on the history of the Danish Home where DANE is based. We helped John Hester with some research and he has provided us with a great article on a special story from his family's history. Joan Seguine LeVine wrote an entertaining article on Max Henius and beer. And the last article is by Chris Svane on how to create the eight special Danish letters on our computers.

We hope you enjoy this issue! Have a great summer!

*by Wendy Hansen Hudson*

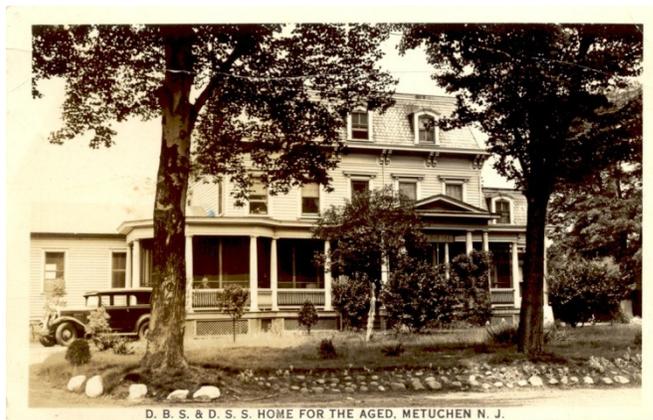
### Spring 2012 Øst Articles:

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- A Chicago Dane Comes to Atlantic City, Beer Gardens, Temperance Eating Houses, Danish Beer – Joan Seguine-LeVine
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## The Danish Home, Edison, NJ, 1914 – today

*by Agnes Hagmueller*



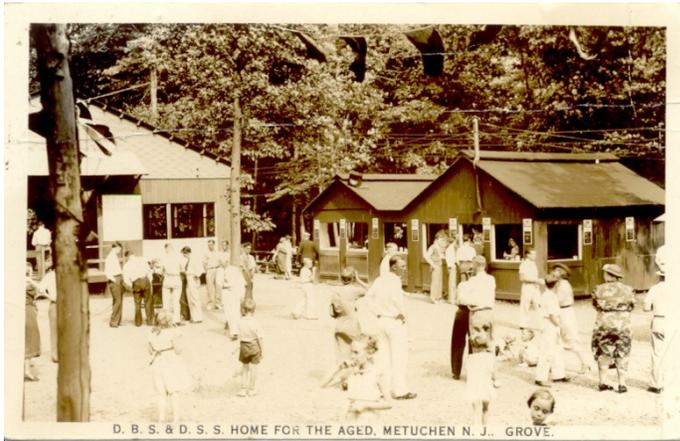
D. B. S. & D. S. S. HOME FOR THE AGED, METUCHEN N. J.

*"If we all pull together, the load is easier to carry"*

*8 May 1920 - The annual Home Board Convention Meeting*  
President D P Bland spoke to the gathered Officers and Delegates.

"Some years ago when the Home for the Aged in Metuchen was only a conversation topic in the Lodges, it would be of interest to remember those men and women who at that time led the way towards this enterprise. Everywhere at Bazaars, Festivals, Committees and Lodges, we met the challenge".

The enterprise was the Danish Home in the then Raritan Township NJ, later designated as Metuchen and finally now known as Edison NJ. It was to be a retirement place for members of the Danish Brotherhood and Danish Sisterhood of the Eastern United States. In 1914 the Lodges purchased a 72 acre tract with an old Victorian farm house. The Home was self efficient. There were regular plantings of wheat and vegetables. A manager was hired to tend the farm and by 1917 it was reported that there were 4 horses,



4 cows, 2 calves, 3 pigs, about 80 chickens and 10 ducks. The livestock provided meat and eggs along with the garden returns. The horses were used for the plowing and pulling the wagons. Meeting notes listed many food and produce donations from various local organizations.

A. R. A. Overgaard served as the first President of the Home Board. At that time he was also listed as the manager of the farm.

Therkel Hansen was the first resident. The resident numbers increased throughout the years. It was a most probably an ideal setting for the early aging Danes. In those years Social Security had not been enacted. Most residents were individuals but from records we found there were several husbands and wives living at the Home.

Over the years parcels of land were sold off. A large section went to the building of the now route 287 highway. It became obvious that the old farm house could no longer



provide enough room for the many new applicants. In 1949 the cornerstone was laid for a new and enlarged building. Today it is located directly across from the site of the old Home. The building was constructed in the shape of a traditional Danish house. Most of the construction was done by the men of the Lodges. They were all tradesmen, carpenters, masons, plumbers and tinsmiths. This new facility was equipped with the modern conveniences of the day. Rooms on the second floor housed a live in manager and

cook. There is also a large room for meetings of the Lodges and monthly Home Board meetings. To the rear of the grounds is the Mindehoyen/Mausoleum. Built in the shape of a Viking burial mound, it holds the cremates of Brotherhood and Sisterhood members.



Today the facility is used in a very different way. There are no longer any residents. The last to leave was in 2002. The Home is now a Cultural and Heritage Center with a museum to honor all those Danes and their families who came to the area. The Home Board still meets monthly and has its' Convention in the Spring. The Brotherhoods

and Sisterhoods regularly hold meetings. The picnic grounds are used for Summer and Fall get togethers. DANE..Danish Archive North East has offices within the building. The Archive is devoted to collecting and recording Danish history and traditions. It hosts several programs throughout the year that celebrate Danish customs. DANE's goal is to preserve the wonderful and interesting history of Danes for future generations.

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## **Danish Genealogy - Through the Years**

*by John Hester*

When I began delving into the online records of the Danish Archives a few years ago, my biggest goal was to piece together the bare-bones outline of my family's history. Names, births, deaths, parents and children of ancestors were all I had expected to find. I was able to find that, but the more I researched, and the more bits and pieces of information I was able to string together, I found I was able to piece together some stories of their lives, nearly all of which had been lost over the years.

One story, which occurred in Hårby parish on the island of Funen, began nearly two centuries ago.

Hårby parish lies near the southwestern edge of what was once Odense County. The parish is situated along the waters of Helnæs Bay, which marks its southern border. Just to the north lie the parishes of Dreslette, Flemløse and Køng.

In the early nineteenth century, as it still does today, Hårby parish mainly consisted of small farming villages which dotted its landscape. These include Strandby, Akkerup, Sarup, Nellemøse, and many others. The parish also includes Løgismose, one of the great, ancient manors that can be found throughout the island of Funen.

On a Sunday morning in 1823, families gathered in Hårby Kirke to witness the confirmation of thirty five of the area's children. Nineteen boys and sixteen girls, all around the age of 14, were to take part in the ceremony on that day. We don't know the

exact date, since the surviving parish register only lists the year, but the event likely occurred in late March or early April, a traditional time for confirmations in Denmark.

About half of the children being confirmed that day were students at Hårby Skole, while the rest attended nearby Sarup Skole, a few miles away. Hårby Skole mainly served those students who lived in the town of Hårby itself, with a few students coming from some of the parish's northern villages. The other, Sarup Skole, was attended by students living in the smaller towns and villages throughout the southern portion of the parish; Strandby, Sarup and Nellemøse, as well as the children of workers living on the grounds of Løgismose Manor at the southern end of the parish.

Two of those being confirmed that day were fourteen-year-old Johan Jørgensen and Morten Hansen, classmates at Sarup Skole.

Johan was born in September of 1808, the fourth of nine children of Jørgen Mortensen, a smallholder living in the village of Nellemøse, and his wife Magrethe Johansdatter. Johan's roots ran deep in the parish on both sides of his family, going back at least as far as his great grandparents.

Morten Hansen was born in March of 1809. He was the tenth of eleven children born to Hans Pedersen and his first wife, Giertrud Pedersdatter, who had died when Morten was only five years old. The family, which included their four oldest surviving children, had moved to the parish from Flemløse in 1800. They first settled in Nellemøse before finally settling at neighboring Løgismose manor where Hans worked as a laborer. Shortly after the death of his first wife in 1814, Hans married Karen Jespersdatter, and they continued to add to the family.

Whether or not an actual friendship had ever existed between young Johan Jørgensen and Morten Hansen isn't known. What is clear, however, is that the boys had likely known each other from a very early age. As previously stated, both boys were students together in the same class at Sarup Skole. Some of their older siblings would have known each other as well. Morten's older sister Maren had been confirmed with Johan's brother Peder in 1818, and Morten's sister Caroline was confirmed in 1821 with Johan's brother, also named Morten. The families certainly would have known each other through church, and with Johan's family living in Nellemøse and Morten's family living close by at Løgismose, the boys grew up in very close proximity to each other.

Not long after their confirmation, both Johan and Morten would leave the parish to find work elsewhere. It was common in those days for boys and girls living in rural farming areas to leave home in their teens and seek work on a farm, where they would also live. Johan and Morten would go their separate ways, and neither would live in Hårby parish again.

After years of moving from place to place, including a few years in the military where he lived in the city of Odense with his regiment, Morten eventually settled in Gamtofte parish, which is situated several parishes to the northwest of Hårby. He married a woman

named Maren Rasmusdatter in 1837, and they settled in her hometown of Voldbro, where Morten worked as a weaver. They had only two children, a very small family for the time. Their oldest child, a girl, was born in 1840. Their only other child, a boy, would be born eight years later.

Johan Jørgensen's trail grows cold until the late 1830's. We don't know exactly when he left Hårby parish, although it was likely not long after his confirmation. His absence from the parish is confirmed in the 1834 census records. Both of his parents had died in the early 1830's, and all of his siblings are known to have left the parish shortly after. Most had settled in nearby Dreslette parish, which is where we find Johan in 1839. In that year, he married Dorthe Hansdatter, a native of the town of Strærup. Their first four children were born here, and they would remain for nearly a decade before their final move. They settled in the town of Søllested, in the parish of the same name, in 1849. This is where their last child, a daughter, would be born in 1852.

From the records, there is no evidence at all that Johan and Morten maintained any contact in the decades after leaving the parish. Neither appears as a witness in any of the records of baptism of each other's children. No evidence has been found that any of their siblings had remained in touch with any siblings of the other. By all accounts, it appears that all contact between the two was lost.

Brahesborg is another of the great manors of Funen. It had already existed for centuries by the time Jørgen Steensen Brahe came into possession of the estate in the seventeenth century. Brahe, a very wealthy and influential man in his day, was known as the "Little King of Funen". The Brahes were a powerful family and included famed Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, Jørgen's uncle.

Brahe built a large manor house on the estate, which was completed in 1656. The house that existed in the nineteenth-century - and which still stands today - was largely rebuilt and modernized in 1756.



It was here, around 1869, that a young man by the name of Mads Hansen came to live and work. Mads was born in 1848, only a short distance from Brahesborg in the village of Voldbro. He was the only son of Morten Hansen. (Photo at left)

In the early months of 1870, seventeen-year-old Karen Kirstine Johansen came to work at Brahesborg. Originally from Søllested, she appears to have been living in Gamtofte parish since 1866 when she went to work at Hestholm, a smaller farm in the parish. Karen Kirstine was the youngest child of Johan Jørgensen.

A relationship soon developed between Mads and Karen Kirstine, and by the spring of 1870, she was expecting a child. Their daughter, Ane Margrethe Hansen, was born on January 31, 1871. At the time of the baby's birth, Karen Kirstine may have been living with Mads' parents in their home in Voldbro, and they may have cared for her and the new baby. Morten's name is listed in the baby's birth record alongside the names of her parents. It was also Morten who arranged Karen Kirstine's trip back home to her parents in Søllested in March, where she and the baby would live. By now, Morten would certainly have known that the mother of his new granddaughter was the daughter of his old classmate from Sarup Skole.

More than two years later, after the birth of their second child - a son named Jørgen - Mads and Karen Kirstine were married in Søllested Kirke on November 30, 1873. They were the only couple to be married in Søllested parish that year.

Morten Hansen and Johan Jørgensen would share five more grandchildren together, something they probably never could have imagined as they stood together for their confirmation in Hårby Kirke a half century earlier.

Johan Jørgensen died on June 12, 1883 at the age of 74. In a final, ironic twist to their story, the two boys from Hårby parish, born within six months of each other nearly three quarters of a century earlier, would die within six months of each other. Morten Hansen died on November 22, 1883.

Several years after Johan and Morten's deaths, three of their grandchildren, Ane Margrethe, Jørgen and Maren Dorthea (my great grandmother), would leave for America and settle in New Jersey.

Mads Hansen and Karen Kirstine Johansen would be married for 52 years before her death on March 5, 1926. Mads survived her by a little more than two years and died on October 2, 1928.

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## **A Chicago Dane Comes to Atlantic City Beer Gardens, Temperance Eating Houses, Danish Beer** *by Joan Seguine-LeVine*

In 1913 Max Henius came to Atlantic City, NJ. He was a Danish-American biochemist; closely associated with the founding of the Rebild Society, Dania Society supporter, co-founder of American Academy of Brewing in Chicago and temperance advocate. But on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1913 he spoke to The United States Brewers' Association at their convention. His subject: Danish Beer and Continental Beer Gardens.

While being sure to disclaim any fear that Denmark had originated beer and supplied all the Nordic countries, he went on to suggest there was a certain historical and sociological link to Denmark and beer.

Historically, the Danes had not been drinking much beer. When they did it was heavy, something like the English porter. In 1840 Captain J.C. Jacobsen introduced a lager beer, a bottom-fermented beer, much lighter in alcohol than the top-fermented brew.

The brewers found that all beer with more than 2 1/4 percent was taxed. They began to brew beer with less than 2 1/4 percent.



Another factor in the low-alcohol beer was that the temperance groups in Denmark did not oppose it and in fact, used it. Why wasn't it drunk more?

The tax laws at the time again explain it. All beer containing 2 1/4 per cent alcohol or more has been taxed \$1.40 to \$1.80 per bottle, spirits have been taxed at 5.2 cents per liter or 22 cents per gallon.

Dr. Henius referred to "Licensing and Temperance in Sweden, Norway and Denmark." to explain The Copenhagen System was organized by the temperance societies of the city recognized the light beers as temperance drinks. There is more.

Sociologically, the Copenhagen System saw everyone as social beings and aimed to create places of maximum social enjoyment, where light beers, bubbly waters, coffee, tea, chocolate, sandwiches, cakes can be obtained.

The Gothenburg System as enforced in (what shall be nameless for this article) other countries was dedicated to satisfy thirst – men's thirst. In some places there were no seats so the men wouldn't be tempted to stick around talking to one another.

Max Henius' pitch was to get Americans used to the idea of how sociable and inclusive not only the Danish Temperance Houses were but the Continental beer gardens as well.

First, Dr, Henius targeted housewives and contrasted American housewives with European housewives who were more likely to go out for a walk and drop in at a garden

as opposed to American women “sitting in a rocking chair and reading a novel. Dr. Henius did not mention Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, the suffragists or the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on the brink of being submitted to the states for ratification. European women were accompanied by their husbands and children on a Sunday visit to a beer garden.

One American beer garden Dr. Henius overlooked - Castle Gardens which opened July 3, 1824 on the site of a fort meant to defend the British in the War of 1812. Never used as a fort it was leased to the City of New York and used for a beer garden, concert hall, and entertainment venue. Castle Gardens became an entry for immigrants.

Perhaps the Bohemian Citizens Benevolent Society heard the message in 1913 because in 1919 they opened Bohemia Hall in Astoria, Queens.

The concept of creating beer gardens and temperance eating houses or hotels where light beer would be served as a deterrent to alcohol abuse opens a window to the political, social and religious issues of the times.

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## How to create the eight special Danish letters

Æ æ Ø ø Å å Ö ö

*by Chris Svane*

In Danish, what is the difference between 'CHEESE' and 'EAST' ?,

It is simple to explain; 'CHEESE' is spelled OST while 'EAST' is spelled ØST.

Unfortunately the standard American computer keyboard does not contain the eight special Danish letters, so most people spell 'OST' for 'ØST' or 'AEBLESKIVER' for 'ÆBLESKIVER'. Not a big problem. Right?

But, wouldn't it be nice to be able to generate those eight special Danish letters and spell Danish words correctly?

Would I be writing this if there wasn't an easy way to do just that?

For Windows users:

Every letter or character on the computer keyboard generates a code, called the ASCII code that tells the computer which key was pressed. To generate the special Danish letters, while holding down the ALT key, you type in the ASCII code for the particular letter you want and the computer will generate it. For example, to type the word 'ØST', hold down the ALT key just while typing the numbers 0216 using the numeric keypad for the 'Ø', and then type 'ST' for the rest of the word.

Easy, right?

Here is a table showing the special Danish letters and the ASCII code needed to create them on a Windows PC.

Letter	ALT Key
Æ	146
æ	145
Ø	0216
ø	0248
Å	143
å	134
Ö	153
ö	148

Remember:

Hold down the ALT key while typing the numbers using only the numeric keypad.

For MAC users:

It is a bit easier as all you need do is hold down the Option key while typing the particular letter that corresponds to the special Danish letter you want to generate. For capital letters, hold down the Option key and the Shift key together.

Here is a table showing the letters needed to create the special Danish letters on a MAC.

Letter	Shift Option Key	Option Key
'	Æ	æ
o	Ø	ø
a	Å	å
uo	Ö	ö

That's all there is to do it. So now you can finally tell your friends in Denmark that you live on the east coast of America and not the cheese coast of America.

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