In memory of

PEDER CHRISTIAN PEDERSEN (1810-1878)

And wife

INGEBORG CLAUSDATTER (1817-1870)

In Vridsted, Denmark

A mid-Jutland peasant family history through approx. 350 years

This is an English translation of a Danish genealogy book by A.P. Dueholm, originally published April 20, 1951 in Copenhagen.

Translated in 2013 by John Høegh Baumann, grandson of A.P. Dueholm.

Animals lose interest in their offspring when their young are half-grown. After that time the parental instinct ends and adult animals no longer have any interest in their progeny. There are some people that take a similar attitude toward their own bloodline.

In preparing this book, it has been my pleasure and pride to learn that many of our kinfolk have shown considerable interest in our lineage, so I welcome them, convinced that interest will grow even more in the generations that follow.

A.P. Dueholm.
PART 1: From 1590 to 1837.
Lineages of the Early Ancestry, Leading to the Marriage of Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter in 1837

The early ancestry (1590-1837) is illustrated in the roots of this family tree (see PART 1), Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter form the trunk of the tree, and their 13 children (born 1838 to 1859) make up the branches above ground (see PART 2).
Note: The feudal tenant farmer in Denmark was a free man in his dealings with all people except his lord (estate owner). He worked his lord's land and paid him certain dues in return for the use of the land, the possession (not the ownership) of which could be inherited. Before the end of the Adscription in approximately 1800, a tenant farmer was tied to his farm, that is, he could not leave the farm or travel freely except with special permission from his lord. However, women were more mobile and moved readily for purposes of marriage, etc. In contrast to tenant farmers, there were also freehold farm owners who owned their farms and did not work for a lord.

Note: In this book, each generation's additional names are included, as long as they followed the lineage. In part I of this book, the numbers in red in bold parentheses (1) show where one lineage has been incorporated into another. An outline method is used throughout in describing ancestors and their descendants, wherein paragraphs describing each succeeding generation are indented a half inch from its parent generation. When all the children of a family are outlined in a single paragraph, each child's name is preceded by a dash. English translations of Danish names and places are shown in square brackets [ ]. Additional information that has been added to the English translation is shown in curly brackets { }. Where a surname ends in “datter” (“daughter” in English) or “son” or “søn” (“son” in English), the surname usually originated by adding it as a suffix to the father's first name. In Danish, the letter “å” is interchangeable with “aa”.


The lineage in **Trevad Mølle** (page 7) [mølle = mill]: Christen Christensen Møller [møller = miller]: (married to Anne Clemensdatter, born approx. 1645). - Christen Christensen Møller (4) 1672-1738.


The **Torp** lineage (page 17): Laust Torp 1668-1720. - Jens Laustsen Torp 1697 or 1709-1789. - Edel Jensdatter Torp (8) 1740-1800.

The **Villads** lineage (page 21): Villads Pedersen born 1737 (married to Kirsten Christensdatter, born 1748). - Peder Villadsen, born 1776 (married to Anne Pedersdatter, born 1771 or 1772). - Peder Christian Pedersen, born May 9, 1810, died June 16, 1878 (married to Ingeborg Clausdatter (9), born Oct 30, 1817, died Oct 14, 1870.

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**Damgård in Sevel**

The damgård [farm] in Sevel is a large and bountiful farm, producing over 7 acres of hard grain. In 1700 it was the northernmost farm in the city and one of the best in the area. I will describe the condition of these farms in order to give a picture of them, as they were not the most humble, but among the best.

In these large farmhouses there were usually two tenant farmers who shared both the land and buildings, and who would each share in the maintenance duties of the farm. In general, each was responsible for half the farm. The farmhouse had four wings. The barn was in the south, and the farmhouse itself in the north. At both east and west ends of the farmhouse were stables, one for each farmer. The stables were each about 24 feet long and contained enough space for 2 horses. The stables were divided so that the farmer who had the east stables also had the eastern side of the barn, and vice versa. In the barn each farmer would have 4 cows, 1 heifer, 1 calf and 7 rams, 17 sheep, 12 of which had lambs, totaling a value of 38 rdl, 1 marks 8 shillings [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar].

In the middle of the farmhouse was enough room for the peat of both farmers, and on both sides of this was the washroom or utility room plus one living room, only one. This room contained a fireplace for cooking, with the smoke going up under the roof and out, either through the straw roof itself or through a smoke hole, which was also used for lighting the room. The fireplace gave both warmth and light in winter (stoves with chimneys were not in use in rural areas at this time). The living room also contained 2 alcove beds. If necessary, additional sleeping space could be found under the table or benches, if there wasn’t a bed in the utility room. Sleeping quarters could also be found in the barn or stables. A large part of the farm’s livestock, sometimes all of it, belonged to the estate owner of the farm who collected revenue from it. In 1686, beneath the estate owner of Damgård was a single tenant farmer, and his level of ownership in the farm consisted of 1 filly, 1 colt, 1 cow, 1 young ox and 3 sheep, and this was at a time that was 26 years after the Swedish war’s end (1657 to 1660). I repeat that this is a depiction of one of the area's best farms, operated by a clever tenant farmer.

**Mikkel Nielsen,** 1620-1705,  
married to **Karen Jensdatter,** 1623-1688. At this time it was customary for unmarried siblings to live at home for as long as they lived. They received no wages, only food and the basic needs of life such as clothing, which they made themselves, care during illness and a decent burial. Mikkel had 4 siblings: - Christen, who did eventually marry Mogenstrup at the age of 50. - Jens, who died at 80 years old. - Karen, who died at 65 years old. - Dorthe, who died in 1697 at the age of 78. When all his siblings had died and he himself was 77 years old, Mikkel sold half of his farm tenancy to a new man who was also working on the farm in 1700. Mikkel had two children:

- **Jens,** who in 1704 took over the other half of the farm from Mikkel as tenant farmer, and

- **Margrethe Mikkelsdatter Damgård,** born approx. 1668,  
in 1690 married to **Niels Frandsen (1),** born approx 1660, probably a son of **Frank Knudsen** in Sevel Skovby (1617-1689). There is a suggestion that Niels Frandsen was a soldier, but in any event Margrethe had a number of her children in Damgård. Children:  
  - Niels 1695.  
  - Karen, in 1729 married to Christen Jensen in Djeld.  
  - **Ingeborg Nielsdatter Damgård (2),** born 1699, in 1719 married to Christen Kjeldsen Smed (see the Smed lineage).
The Smed Lineage

The Smed Lineage [Smed = Smith] originates in Djeld, and its descendants still live there. Djeld is in the most beautiful and fertile part of Sevel parish with views over lakes, plantations and moors in the parish, and well into neighboring parishes, even all the way into Salling. The Smed lineage has lived here from around 1600 or before, and the earliest person we know is:

**Stephen Knudsen**, approx.1605-1680, a burly farmer, who was involved in 1642 in the fight to rescue the Reverend Lauridsen Friis from the evil forces represented by the pious Christenze Juel and Christian IV (see Dueholm lineage 1630-1720). His large freehold farm with over 7 acres of hard grain gave him a certain reputation, but also made the farm desirable to the king, just as with many other farms. Not long after Stephen’s death, in 1688, records show that the farm is owned by the king, probably after the king imposed very heavy taxes that could not be paid, in order that he could take over the farm. The Church record books say nothing about Stephen’s family situation, but we do, however, know his son:

**Knud Stephensen, 1645 - 1727,**
Married to **Karin Nielsdatter.** We know Knud mainly from his many court cases. He was the tenant farmer in the city's largest farm (No. 6, the Smed farm), where it is likely his wife was born. He was also the king’s tenant farmer in the farm where he was born (No. 4) and because of this he became embroiled in several court cases, where he was accused partly of having turned over the king’s farm (No.4) to another tenant farmer (Chr. Nielsen) and partly of having moved the crop from that farm over to the other farm. Still, in 1691 he won the case, probably more because of his wisdom and reputation than his innocence. He was also involved in many other cases. One of these was with a number of men in Sevel city and Søren Christensen in Holmkjær as witness regarding a meadow, which he himself was freehold owner of. At that time freehold owners had various privileges when they were to represent others or act with a certain responsibility on their own behalf. He brought court action regarding this meadow in both 1692 and 1694, but already in the following year, he had again brought an action against a large number of people who, in his assertion had piled up a mountain of heather in a heath that he was also freehold owner of. However, this case eventually died, and he was not reprimanded even though he had confiscated the people’s pitchforks and rakes, etc. He had a son:

In 1703 Knud Stephensen sold his tenant farm in Djeld to his son, Christen Knudsen Smed (who died in 1745), and Knud moved to Store Hessel [Store Hessel = Large Hessel] in Borbjerg, at that time belonging to Christian Linde. In his younger days Christian Linde wandered as a pedlar, and once in a courtyard on the west coast he spotted a strange type of dish that was used as a duck trough (the legend says as a pig trough). He bought the dish for almost nothing, and from this he became so rich that he was able to buy several mansions, Volstrup where he lived, among others, because the dish was actually a baptismal font made of gold, which had been swept up by the sea. Store Hessel was practically a mansion which had previously been occupied by nobility, so because Knud Stephensen lived there, he died a well known man and was buried at Borbjerg cemetery in 1727.

The records in Sevel church have been lost from 1733-1769. There is hardly anything remaining of the parish register in Sevel from this time. In addition, ownership and probate records as well anything else in writing from those years has been lost, and since the Vridsted church records [Vridsted = Twisting Place] burned with the rectory in 1776, it is understandable that it has not been easy to find information about the life and death of these old generations, and that I must sometimes let some events remain unknown. We know, however, that Knud Stephensens had 5, possibly 7 children:

- Niels,
- Christen Knudsen Smed,
- Johanne,
- Anne,
- Maren, but there was likely at least two more children, namely:
- Stephen, who perhaps died very young, and
- Kjeld Knudsen Smed.

One of these sons, **Christen Knudsen Smed**, was married twice and had 8 children. After that, the well-known Vestergård lineage in Sevel ends through Stephen. Like his father and brothers, Christen Knudsen worked as a blacksmith and forged his craft in the courtyard. Being a blacksmith was a
much better occupation than being a tenant farmer. It was considered a sort of rank. This is precisely why the family had the surname Smed [Smed = blacksmith]. Christen Knudsen Smed died in 1745. His son:

- Mads Christensen, born 1717, took over the farm and married Karen Christensdatter Skræder, born 1727, who as a widow again later married into the lineage.

Another of these sons, **Kjeld Knudsen Smed**, became the father of

- **Christen Kjeldsen Smed**, 1690-1778,
  married to **Ingeborg Nielsdatter Damgaard (2)**, born approx. 1699. They lived at the farm in Djeld, where in around 1725 people were speaking of ‘old Kræn Smed’ (Christen Knudsen) and ‘young Kræn Smed’ (Christen Kjeldsen). Their children:
  - Lisbeth, born 1720.
  - Anne, born 1723 died 1726.
  - Kjeld, born 1724.
  - Anne, born 1726.

- **Christen Christensen Smed (3)**, 1729-1778,
  married to **Karen Christensdatter Skræder**, born 1727, who was the widow of Mads Christensen (see above). She must have been married to her first husband’s uncle's grandson. Karen’s ancestry includes the lineages in Trevad Mølle and Hjelm Mølle, as well as the Paaske lineage (see the next three lineages). In her late productive years she gave birth to a daughter:
  - **Ingeborg**, 1770-1805, a talented woman who entered into the Dueholm lineage as Chr. Dueholm’s wife.

In 1703, a severance was granted for the farm in Djeld, and part of it given to a city blacksmith as a tenant farm (Christian Jensen, given 2 acres hard grain) with a yearly output of 3 Ørte rye, 3 Ørte barley, 2 pounds of butter, 1 goose, 2 hens, 1 lamb and 1 pig. (1 Ørte rye = 6 1/2 skp. 1 Ørte barley = 8 skp. 1 Ørte oats = 13 1/2 skp. 2 pounds back then was equal to 24 current pounds.) One can see that the farm in Djeld was not a small farm. With the new valuation, which Chr Dueholm helped set before 1699, the tax for the whole farm in Djeld became: 3 rdl 3 shillings, 3 acres of rye, 2 pounds of butter, 1 pig, 1 forest wagon, 1 cattle, 1 lamb, 1 goose, 2 hens, 20 eggs and 1 load of roofing material [rdl = rigsdaler = royal dollar]. The farm produced 6 1/2 acres of hard grain, and the whole farm lineage in general was very prosperous. This can be seen from the death of Christen Kjeldsen Smed in 1778, who died at the same time as his son, Christen Christensen Smed (mentioned above). They were both buried on Fastelavns Sunday (a carnival held the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, similar to Mardi Gras), and their clothes, which essentially had belonged to the father, were soon after taxed and sold for 18 rdl 4 mark and 2 shillings, that is to say, the price of two good horses. This farm is still owned by the same family that has held it for 7 generations, or over 300 years.
The Lineage in Trevad Mølle

Trevad Mølle (mølle = mill) is located one kilometer north of Vridsted [Vridsted = twisting place] and has fluctuated through time between prosperity and poverty, depending on the tenant’s skill or drunkeness. Around 1650 it was owned by the crown after a tax default, and lay fallow and deserted, yet 125 years later it owned all 9 farms in the town of Vridsted. Originally the mill had almost no land, but because it was a mill it had been burdened with taxes in the amount of 5 acres and 7 1/2 skpr of hard grain, and was confiscated by the crown because it could not pay. In the mill lived:

Anne Clemensdatter, born approx. 1645,
married to Christen Christensen, 3 children
married to Christen Christensen Møller, 3 children
married to Thomas Larsen, 0 children.

Children with the first Christen:
- Peder, born 1641, married to the mill widow in Sønder Mølle [Sønder Mølle = southern mill], no children.
- Jørgen, died as an old bachelor in Sønder Mølle.
- Peder, also remained unmarried in Sønder Mølle.

Children with the second Christen:
- Niels, lived in Vridsted, no children.
- Gunder, traveled abroad and perished.
- Christen Christensen Møller (4) 1672-1738, married to Hjelm Mølle’s Dorthe Pedersdatter (see below).
The Lineage in Hjelm Mølle

While farmers at this time often lived in poverty, millers in contrast, were people of rank who had a good income. Hjelm Mølle [Hjelm Mølle = helmet mill], which has long since closed, was throughout the Middle Ages a powerful organization that milled grain for Stubbergaard [Stubbergård = stump farm], Sevel, Sahl, Trandum, Dueholm, Mogenstrup, Sebstrup, Estvad, and others. Above the marsh at Hjelm Mølle are many deep-worn roads, now overgrown with heather, over a large barren stretch that shows the impact the mill has had. The church records in the area show how popular the millers and their wives were as godparents and groomsmen at the family celebrations held at the large farms. In return the miller’s children in Hjelm Mølle often had the minister’s wife or young ladies of the manor as godparents or bridesmaids. The hard grain that came from the soil was only 1½ acres, but from the mill came 7½ acres, and the tenancy in Stubbergaard paid 40 acres in a flour tax. It was a great honor for a person from one of the region’s largest farms to marry into this distinguished family. Here lived:

Peder Pedersen, 1652-1692,
Married to ?
Married to Kirsten Jensdatter 1650-1692.
Children from the first marriage:
  - Dorthe Pedersdatter, 1675-1735.
  - Maren.
  - Gunder, married to Niels Christensen in Hale, likely a Dueholm.

Children from the second marriage:
  - Margrethe, born 1688.
  - Lisbeth, died 1691.
  - Kirsten, (died).

Dorthe Pedersdatter, born approx.1675, died approx.1735 (became Dorthe Pedersdatter Møller),
married to Christen Christensen Møller (4) from Trevd Mølle 1672-1738. These two appeared very often in the area’s Church records as godparents, etc. along with the Dueholm family, with whom they were close friends. Their children:
  - Kirsten, born 1694, died.

  - Christen Christensen Skråder (5), born 1696 [skråder = tailor]. He left mill management and became a tailor, which a that time was much more distinguished than being a tenant farmer. In 1722 he married Anne Paaskedatter who herself sewed, just like her father and grandfather. He moved in with her and thus acquired the surname Skråder (see Paaske lineage below).
  - Kirsten, born 1697, and in 1720 married Mads Pedersen in Norstoft.
  - Anne, born 1701, and in 1719 married Peder Andersen in Raa.
  - Peder, born 1705, died 1727.
  - Laurids, born 1707. There were also more children.
The Paaske Lineage

In the year 1600 the Paaske lineage [Paaske = Easter] existed as a very large lineage in the area where Vinderup is now located, including Ryde, Rout, Handbjerg, Egebjerg, Sønder Bjert and Sevel Skovby. They were incredibly good and honest folk. The pastor of Sevel writes about one of them, Jens Paaskesen, who died in 1677 at the age of 69: "He was a good man and true, who after much prosperity ended up in poverty". This was the fate of farmers under the control of estate ownership during the foolish regime of king Christian IV. - A large portion of the Paaske lineage became soldiers in order to be free of the estate owner’s power and heavy taxes, and ended up being scattered throughout country. This made them initially better off than other farmers, but at the same time, those farmers who did stay with their farms regained the chance for prosperity again when farm tenancy was reformed. In Sønder Bjert lived Jens Paaskesen’s brother:

Niels Paaskesen, 1608-1689,
married to Mette Eriksdatter, 1611-1689, they both died the same year. Their children:
- Karen, married to Niels Mikkelsen in Kjellerup in Ejsing. There were also other children:
  - Erik Nielsen Paaske, no data is available for him, but we know he had several children, among others:
    - Niels, and
    - Paaske Eriksen (who had been a soldier for many years), married to Anne Christensdatter, 1653-1694, married to?
      As a soldier’s wife Anne had followed Paaske from place to place in accordance with custom and constantly had children. Both Paaske and his brother Niels became tenant farmers in the same farm in Sevel Skovby. Niels got his tenancy by marrying the widow of the previous tenant farmer whose name was Mads Thomsens, and his brother Paaske then followed along and became the tenant farmer for the other half of the farm, that was on almost 7 acres of hard grain. Paaske’s children:
      - Erik, married to the widow in Bjørnkjær which is on the outskirts of Sevel toward Haderup. Because of this marriage he became one of the region's biggest farmers.
      - Jens, born 1691.
      - Christen (who died).
  - Anne Paaskedatter, born in 1699 from Paaske’s second marriage, named after his first wife, married to Christen Christensen Skræder (5), born 1696, from Hjelm Mølle. Children:
    - Anne, born 1723.
    - Dorthe, born 1725.
  - Karen Christensdatter Skræder, born 1727. Karen's godparents were Dueholm, and her daughter marries into this lineage.
    married to Mads Christensen, son of Chr. Knudsen Smed, died 1760.
    married to Christen Christensen Smed (3) 1729~1778 (see Smed lineage).
      Children from her first marriage:
      - Maren, born 1747.
      - Christen, born 1749.
      - Peder, born 1754.
      - Anne, born 1760.
    Children from her second marriage:
      - Ingeborg (6) (full name Ingeborg Christensdatter Smed) 1770-1805, (see Smed lineage).
The Lineage in Dueholm

Dueholm [dueholm = dove island] (located about a mile southwest of Vridsted) is one of the many freehold farms, or family owned properties, which in medieval times were far enough away from the large manors that they could not easily be reached and forced into farm tenancies. A number of these free farms existed on both sides of Karup Å [Karup Å = Karup Creek], and they regarded each other as neighbors. East of the creek we know of Brårup, Gammelgaard, Svanø, Egebjerg, and others, and west of the creek was Dueholm, Faarbækgaard, Bækgard, Barslund (in Haderup), Feldborggaard (in Nederfeldborg), Bjørnkjær (near Sevel Kalkværk [kalkværk = lime mill]), Trevold (Trevel, Trelv) and to the north were Bersholm, also Estvadgaard, which was the only one of these freehold farms that ended up in a state of dependence to the king and became a manor with an ennobled estate owner.

Place names in red on map are included in the text. (This map added to 2013 English translation)
For a more detailed map of the same area, click Here for .PDF file, or Here for .jpg file.
Stubbergård (near Sevel) [Stubbergård = stump farm], and partly Rydhave (between Vinderup and Holstebro), and later Estvdagård, were the closest manor houses, but they were all so far away thatDueholm, even in its humblest times, escaped the kings legislation, although it sometimes had to provide “relief work” and had to pay an annual sum of money in compensation.

Its land stretched about 3 kilometers along Karup creek and included the whole area where the Hale farm and the Dueholm farm and houses now stand, that is, approximately 450 acres of land. It also included a large stretch of heath and bog (the Great Marsh), and it was considered to be like a manor since it was one of the biggest family farms that continued from father to son, generation after generation.

Soon after Skipper Clement’s time (he was captured December 28, 1534, and beheaded, dismembered and put on public display in 1536) the farm fell into poverty, like so many others. The same happened to almost all of Jutland’s freehold farms that were confiscated by king Christian III because their owners under Skipper Clement had joined the tenant farmers in a revolt against the estate owners of the king. However, many owners were allowed to stay on the farms, and they became the king's tenant farmers. They then had to pay a yearly farm tax, but were generally free from having to do labor for the king.

Whether the Dueholm lineage continued on this farm, we do not know for certain, but if this were the case they would have been reduced to tenant farmers, just like other former freehold farm owners in the area. And since the king at that time, like all other kings, was a large-scale consumer of money, he sold these ravished farms, mostly to the region's estate owners or to wealthy merchants. Only very rarely could a previous freehold farm owner afford to buy back the farm that had been stolen from him.

Dueholm was sold to Stubbergård around 1550 to Iver Juel (it was he - and not Knud Gyldenstjerne who destroyed Trandum church). The farm had to pay an annual farm tenancy tax of 4 acres of rye, 3 acres of barley, 16 pounds butter, 1 pig, 1 heifer cow, 1 goose, 2 hens, 1 forest wagon, and 3 marks in money. Its hard grain production had been estimated at a little over 15 acres, although only the northernmost part of the tillable land (also the part closest to the farm house) had been cultivated. It was the good pasture and meadow that caused the high tariff.

As a tenant farm it could now be sold, and it has changed ownership numerous times, with one creditor after another taking it over. The farm has belonged to Lergrav (in Aulum parish), and to Dronninglund in Vendsyssel, and many others.

But the tenant farmers stayed on the farm, which - as said before - was so far from the manors and other possible owners that they were left in peace when they paid their farm tax, just as owners of farms nowadays are left in peace if they pay their taxes and mortgages.

Shortly after the year 1600, we come across a man named Christen. His surname was perhaps Jørgensen, but he came to be called Christen Dueholm:

**Christen Dueholm**, born approx. 1590.

He was, by birth, not an ordinary tenant farmer, because his circle of friends included mainly owners of old family farms, and his many children, 13 of them, were all married off to sons and daughters from these old family owned farms or similar farms.

- Jørgen was married to Bersholm.
- Jens and - Niels together got a shared farm tenency in the farm at Viborg Domkirke [Domkirke = Cathedral] in Lånum.
- One daughter was married off to Povl Christensen Mørch, who was a very respected and distinguished man in Fly.
- Another of the sisters married Christian Justesen in Daugbjerggård [Daugbjerggård = Daugbjerg Farm], which was considerably larger than Dueholm and had 3 tenant farmers.
- Others of his flock were married to Munkgård [Munkgård = Munk farm], Vognstrup, Barslund etc, all old, large and prestigious farms that stood far above the ordinary tenant farms.
- One of the sons was called - Visti, which according to old reports from Viborg, ‘is such a rare name that it is known only in a small area here in the district’.
Since in those days people never gave their children random names, but always “named them after others”, then it is reasonable to assume that the Dueholm lineage is related to the well-known Visti lineage in Egebjerggård which was situated between Vridsted and Hagebro.

One of the daughters of Christen Dueholm (born approx. 1640), whose name is unknown, took over the farm tenancy after the father, and she married one of the sons from Feldborggård [Feldborggård = Feldborg Farm]. His name was Christen Pedersen, but he adopted her surname and thus was called:

**Christen Pedersen Dueholm, 1630- 1720.**
It was fairly common back then to have two tenants on these large farms. These tenants did not necessarily know each other before becoming tenants in the same farm, since tenancy arrangements were made only by the farm’s owner. Both Chr. Dueholm and Chr. Pedersen Dueholm actually had only half of the farm in their tenancy. One of their co-tenants, Jeppe Pedersen, is not part of our lineage, but he has played a large enough role that he needs to be mentioned in order to demonstrate that naïve piety and treachery existed at that time.

Mrs. Christenze Juel in Stubbergård farm (the widow of Iver Juel's son, Kjeld Juel) felt outrage for the priest in Sevel, pastor Jørgen Lauridsen Friis, and accused him of heresy to the king (Christian IV) because he preached that God’s grace was acquired more by faith than by good works. Although Luther's Sunday teachings in Odense in 1527 were compared to the Catholic viewpoint, and shortly afterwards (in 1530) introduced in Denmark (during the Reformation), and although the pastor’s teachings were quite in accordance with Luther's teachings which he had been asked to proclaim “purely and cleanly”, Christian IV deposed him in 1643, had his tongue cut off (the penalty for false doctrine by both church and king), put him in irons next to a coarse, mentally deficient criminal, and many years later “pardoned” him and sent him into exile.

The pastor's preaching had done much to awaken religious life in his parish, and the people did everything they could to save their beloved pastor, so they chose the above mentioned Jeppe Pedersen to defend the priest at his trial in Ribe. He had people's respect and trust, and his defense was good, but all was in vain: Christian IV listened more to the pious and vicious Mrs. Christenze than to the parishioners and to what would have been a just outcome, and he passed his sinister verdict. Fortunately, Jeppe Pedersen's half of the Dueholm farm did not fall under the jurisdiction of Stubbergård, so the pious Mrs. Christenze was unable to inflict her malice on him.

However, he probably had a positive influence on his co-tenants, and Chr. Pedersen Dueholm was also a very respectable man, not only in the parish, but also with the authorities. He became one of the three men who, in 1683, were selected to reassess all the farmland in the parish for tax purposes.

Christen Pedersen Dueholm was married twice, but his second wife's ancestry is unknown, and she likely had no children. Her name was Kirsten, but we do not know anything else about her. However, his first wife (the above mentioned daughter from Dueholm, who died in approx. 1685), did have two sons and two daughters:

- **Peder,** who in 1693 married Kirsten Povlsdatter in Holmkjær in Sevel and received a farm tenancy in that farm.

- **Christen Christensen Dueholm,** born approx. 1675, died approx. 1750, and in 1702 or 1703 was given half of Dueholm as a farm tenancy.

- **Johanne,** who in 1693 married the half-noble Søren Folmersen in Gårdsdal. His farm was 1 mile west of Viborg and belonged to the bishop in Viborg.

- **Maren,** who in 1687 married Jørgen Iversen of Bjørnkjær (south of Sevel lime works). When she became a widow two years later, she longed to go home to her father and in the end gave up the farm tenancy at Bjørnkjær. But, according to a royal edict of 1682, tenant farmers no longer had the right to terminate their farm tenancy “if the landowner wished them to continue the tenancy and considered them healthy and capable enough to operate the farm.”

Maren's termination was not accepted (by Stubbergård), and when she left Bjørnkjær anyway, the owners of Stubbergård (there were several owners at the time) brought suit against her and her father, who was to act on her behalf.

It was a lengthy, complicated and costly situation, and the old father did not feel strong enough to face the many days in court so far away - and was not learned in the law enough to conduct the case. So he asked his before-mentioned brother-in-law in Fly, Povl Christensen Mørch, to pursue the case. He did this very well, but Maren was “place bound” because of the royal edict of 1682, and in the end it was expensive for her to leave Bjørnkjær.
Some years earlier Jeppe Pedersen and his widow, and also their son, all died in quick succession, and his half of the farm was then given to a royal equestrian estate, and handed over to the horseman Peder Svenningsen. When Maren came home from Bjørnkjær, she was quickly betrothed and married to him (in 1694), and thus the Dueholm farm came to be operated by a single family, even though two tenant farmers each operated half of it.

This was a difficult time for farmers. On examining the events surrounding Maren’s trial, it could be seen that Bjørnkjær was in a pathetic state at the time, and from looking at other farms, we see the same dismal picture of farmers’ circumstances and poverty in general. In addition to being a tenant farmer in Dueholm, Chr. Pedersen was also freehold owner of part of a farm, perhaps his birth farm, Feldborggård in Haderup parish [Feldborggård = Feldborg Farm]. He was therefore originally a wealthy man, probably one of the region’s most wealthy, otherwise he could hardly have become a tax assessor. But conditions deteriorated for him as for all others, and when, in the year 1706 widespread crop failures were seen throughout west Jutland (drought, likely along with severe bug attacks), he could not cope with the taxes and expenses of his freehold farm, which he then lost to the king, who had a surprising ability to acquire the best farms. If a farm wasn’t confiscated under some pretext or other, it was taxed so heavily that, sooner or later the tax could not be paid, and then the farm would be seized and drawn into the king’s riches. Taxes were imposed on cattle, wagons, fireplaces, grain, land, and many other things. Moreover, a large part of a farm's livestock, often most of it, would be placed with a tenant farmer by the farm’s owner, who then claimed the income from that livestock. Chr. Pedersen operated the farm with the help of his children and a farmhand, and his ownership in the farm’s livestock consisted of only 1 mare, 1 colt, 1 cow, 1 calf (nearly 2 years old), and 2 sheep. For these animals he had to pay a livestock tax. The rest of the farm’s livestock belonged to the farm owner, but we do not know how many animals there were, since the owner did not have to pay a livestock tax.

Christen Pedersen Dueholm died in 1720, at 90 years of age. Some years earlier he had come close to poverty, and in 1702 or 1703 he passed on his farm tenancy to his son Christen and retired there:

Christen Christensen Dueholm, approx. 1675 - approx. 1750,
in 1712 married to Johanne Jensdatter Hvid from Jegstrupgård, 1689-1723 [Hvid = white].

He had a rebellious nature, not directly toward the king and estate owners, for it was impossible for a tenant farmer to stand up to them, but toward all the false religion and “morality” which was everywhere in those times, and toward the unjust laws and general unfairness that seemed to be so common. He thumbed his nose at gossip and public opinion, and did as he wished, but he was certainly not a bad person. On the contrary, there is substantial evidence that he was really a good man. He married late and had a number of children with just as many different mothers, but he took care of them and let them grow up with him on the farm. And when his daughter, Anna, became pregnant in Salling where she worked, he brought her back to the farm to give birth, took care of them both and allowed the child to grow up on the farm. One gets the impression that he was a good father to them all and helped them in every way.

In those times one had to go to public confession in the church when one had sinned against the church’s laws, and since Christen had so many romantic entanglements, he had to go time and again and “confess his sins” for the congregation in Sevel church and receive “the priest's admonitions”. One could not escape this. If someone was summoned and did not go voluntarily, he would be picked up by the bailiff or someone else appointed for the job. After being summoned on a particular occasion, it seems that Christen went to the church, but was then welcomed and told he was free to “stand in chains” either inside the church or outside its entrance. So it was not pleasant to go to public confession, not for Christen nor for the various women he made pregnant, but he shrugged it off and there were still enough young girls who let themselves be fascinated by him.

Also the unjust military law troubled him, and when Jens, one of his sons, ran away after being conscripted into military service, which could sometimes last for over ten years, it is likely that Christen encouraged him and helped him escape it.

It was in his 37th year (1712) that Christen married Johanne Jensdatter. She was the daughter of Jens Hvid from Krarupgård in Salling, where the Hvid families had lived as tenant farmers for as long as this farm’s history can be traced back. This was a farm with 12 3/4 acres of hard grain, which was owned by the nobleman on Kjærgårdsholm, Jacob Ulfeld, who, in 1689, Christian V had shot down by a band of soldiers, when he could not otherwise control him.
In addition to being a tenant farmer in Krarupgård, just like his father (Christen), and his grandfather on his father’s side (Jens) had been, this younger Jens was also the freehold owner of several farms. For example, he owned a farm in Hem that produced over 5 acres of hard grain, and he had the priest himself as tenant farmer. He also owned 2 or 3 farms in Sennels in Thy, which he also had tenant farmers on. He was consequently no ordinary tenant farmer, since tenant farmers were not usually well off or rich. His brother, Ole Hvid, was a parish clerk in Hem, Hindborg and Dølby, and when Ole’s daughter, Anna, was married in 1701, Jens Hvid gave his farm tenancy in Krarupgård to Anna’s husband, and moved to a farm he either purchased or had previously owned in Jegstrup by the then existing Tastum lake. Jens was still living in Jegstrupgård when his daughter Johanne married Chr. Dueholm and with him had 4 children:

- Christen, and - Peder, both died in 1724,
- Jens Christensen Dueholm, 1716-1799,
- In 1723 Johanne gave birth to a daughter, but the mother died in childbirth. The daughter was christened the same day as her mother was buried, and was given her mother’s name, Johanne.

When one looks at the surname “Hvid”, and considers how names tended to follow their lineage throughout the middle ages, one ends up thinking about Skjalm Hvide (approx. 1040-1115), one of the most influential and powerful chiefs in Denmark in the late Viking age and early medieval age. Of course it is impossible to trace a Danish farm lineage, or any other lineage outside of the royal family, back that far in time, partly because the only existing records are those found in Saxos Danmarkshistorie [Saxos History of Denmark] or in later additions to it, and partly because at that time people had only one name, their personal name. It was only if one gained some form of distinction, either good or bad, that one would likely be given a surname, possibly also a farm, or a parcel of land if one moved to a new area. Otherwise one was usually given the father's first name with the addition of the suffix “søn” [søn = son] or “datter” [datter = daughter]. The sons of Skjalm Hvide that are known include Toke, Ebbe and Asger Ryg [ryg = rich, the rich one] who was the father of Biskop Absalon and Esbern Snare [biskop = bishop]. Absalon was known by his title and therefore had no surname. From Ebbe's (Esbern’s) son, Sune, come the famous Sunesønner [Sunesønner = Sune sons]. All of them were the king's men and great men who possessed large estates, particularly in Sjælland [Sjælland = island of Zealand] and in Skåne [Skåne = Scania county in Sweden], which at that time belonged to Denmark. Many bishops and several archbishops in Lund belonged to this lineage, of which some or most continued to carry the surname “Hvid” [hvíd = white] or ”den Hvide” [den Hvide = the white] in addition to the surname they received from their father’s first name. After the time of Valdemar, the Hvid lineage fell out of favor with the king, and even though Jacob Erlandsen, Jens Grand and Marsk Stig went to the king on bended knee, the result was still that they lost their farms in the same old way (confiscation). They were declared outlaws and fled the king's jurisdiction by escaping to Sprogø, Samsø, or Hjelm, to Vendsyssel, Thy, and even to foreign countries. When they left, they took their skill with them. Several of them founded large farms and became owners with their own tenant farmers. This is how the Dueholm lineage began, as well as many others. In modern history there is not a single Danish farm that carries the name Hvid, that could have given rise to the use of the name as a surname. As already mentioned, it is impossible to trace a family as far back as the middle ages, but for someone to have the surname “Hvid” in modern times, it is certainly not unlikely that he is descended from the medieval Skjalm Hvide. The fact that Solomon’s Lexicon claims that “Hvid” died out in the 16th century, only indicates the name was no longer mentioned in Danish history. An ancestral branch may die, but this does not necessarily mean the whole lineage has died.

After Johannes death, Christen became more set in his ways and refused to go to public confession anymore. He married again soon, but since the parish records from that time were lost, we know nothing about this wife’s ancestry. It appears that both she and Christen went to a better world around 1750. From later parish records we know that she had two daughters:

- Karen who was confirmed in 1742,
- Maren who was confirmed in 1744.

By about 1573 the southernmost area of Dueholm, the heath land, was cultivated and inhabited. It was not such a bad piece of land, because it produced 4½ acres of hard grain, but one could hardly distinguish between that farm, called Hale (“Haal”), and the main farm. There was plenty of land at the time. The only thing that mattered was hard grain. The more of the hard grain that was attributed to Hale, the less
Dueholm had to account for, and it all went to the same place, to Stubbergård, which had to give part of it to the King).

However it happened that Maren Juel at Stubbergård lost her farm, so Dueholm got one of the owners and Hale got the other. This led in 1710 to a hefty lawsuit about some peat dug from the moorland, that Christen Dueholm thought was dug from his heath (at the Great Marsh), while the people at Hale (grocer Niels Pedersen Lejrskov in Skive) thought it was dug from the heath belonging to Hale, and he won the case, so Christen Dueholm had to pay costs of 16 rdl (about the value of 2 good horses) [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar].

As it turns out, Dueholm changed owners a number of times within a few years. It had been owned by Bent Møller in Lergrav, Rasmus Andersen of Søgård [Søgård = lake farm], Anders Kjerulf of Bjørnsholm (now a large ruin in the Løgstør district), Fr. Chr. Rantzau of Estvådgård, Fr. Sehested of Rydhave, among others.

But these ownership changes did not have much effect on the tenant farmer. As said before, Christen Christensen Dueholm stayed until his death in about 1750, and was succeeded by his son:

**Jens Christensen Dueholm, 1716-1799,**

married to **Lene Marie Christensdatter, 1721-1800.**

During this time, circumstances for tenant farmers were subject to strong fluctuations. There had been some good years with plenty of rainfall, but more bad years, accompanied by violent attacks by goose beetles and cockchafers. Poverty was everywhere among the farmers and their lives were often pure misery. Homemade liquor was their only consolation, but that led them into even greater poverty and misery. When the situation was at its worst, it became clear to some of the country’s best men that something had to be done, and then the reforms came: The Adscription (tenant farmer tied to a manor) introduced by Frederik IV (in 1701) was repealed by Christian VII (partly on June 20, 1788, the rest Jan 1, 1800), and a new law replaced farm tenency and made it possible to buy property and own it.

This completely transformed the lives of farmers. However, it didn’t benefit Dueholm as much as it did most tenant farmers, since the farmers at Dueholm had been exempted from being tied to a manor by paying an annual amount of 13 rdl [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar], which was a much older arrangement than the adscription.

Over the years, in Dueholm and on similar farms, for the most part there was a general level of prosperity, compared to conditions of the time, but that does not change the the fact that there was still misery and poverty, as measured by today’s standards. Furniture was very simple. Things like a wardrobe or a chest of drawers were rarely seen. In the better homes (such as Dueholm) might be found a chest, perhaps more than one, and if the master of the house had a hanging cupboard for storing his papers, and if this cupboard had iron hinges and a lock and key, the home was considered wealthy, because so much prosperity existed only rarely in farmhouses. The level of poverty revealed itself when there was a death in the family. Before 1770, even on the more prosperous farms, a person generally left behind only some clothing, which would be carefully gone through piece by piece. One brother would get a pair of trousers, another a vest, another would get the cloth curtain that hangs around the milk shelf, since there were usually fewer pieces of clothing than there were children. Nowadays we would not even give a thought to these kinds of things, but then everything was valuable because people were poor. The table, bench and stool were considered fixtures and belonged to the farm itself. The floors in the house were either bare earth or trampled clay. There was never usually an attic in the smaller or normal size farms, and there were often no windows, or only a few very small windows with lead borders. Light also came down through the smoke hole in the roof which was above the fireplace. The fireplace had three big, somewhat pointed boulders which held a large cooking pot, and also had enough room for burning peat from the moors when used with a bellows. There was no chimney, but the better-off farms had fireplaces that were bricked up to stove height, and sometimes there was a low wall on one side to guide the smoke up toward the roof. Since most farms had no stoves, and chimneys were unknown until after 1800, the fireplace provided both heat and light in winter.

Jens and Lene Marie retired in 1790, two years after the Adscription was partially repealed, and died ten years later. Jens and Lene Marie had three children:
- Maren, born 1757.
- Karen, born 1761, in 1787 married to Chr. Gadegaard in Sevel.
- Christen Jensen Dueholm, born 1764.

Christen Jensen Dueholm, 1764-1838 (or 1764-1837), married to Ingeborg Christensdatter Smed (6), 1765-1805 (or 1770-1805). She was the only child of Christen Christensen Smed and Karen Christensdatter Skræder, which was Karen’s second marriage. Karen was previously the widow of Mads Christensen, with whom she had several children.

There is no doubt that Ingeborg came with a good dowry, and Chr. Dueholm was a skilled farmer who was able to exploit times of prosperity. In 1805, 16 years after taking over the farm, he was able to buy the other half of the farm from Mr. Niels Sehested of Rydhave for 3000 rdl [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar]. This was now the value of about 125 good horses, since the value of a good horse had risen from 10 rdl. to 25 rdl in the last 20 years or so. He had only 1800 of the 3000 rdl he needed, so Niels Sehested arranged for him to borrow the other 1120 rdl from “The General Widows Fund”, which also had confidence in his skill.

The purchase included the farm itself, its livestock, equipment, furnishings, and everything on the farm, both inside and outside. It was understood that a farmer generally would already have some livestock on the farm himself, and Chr. Dueholm had a private herd of 11 cows and heifers, 3 calves, 30 sheep with 22 lambs. He also had a couple of pig wallows, which is a whole different thing from what is normally found on farms at the time.

After nearly 250 years, this half of Dueholm again became a freehold farm, probably owned by the same lineage that had founded it and occupied it throughout the Middle Ages. The other half of Dueholm had previously been severed, and now had its own buildings and the name Sønder Dueholm [Sønder = southern] (later changed to Mellem Dueholm) [mellem = middle], which in 1813 was bought by Niels Sørensen in Vridsted for well over 8000 rdl. It was a time of speculation, and Niels Sørensen got burned financially, because prices plummeted after after the national bankruptcy of 1813, and he had to sell it for 3000 rdl.

After becoming freehold owners, it was much easier for Christen Jensen Dueholm and Ingeborg to develop the farm to its full potential. Normally a farm at that time had only what was necessary to feed and clothe (in sheep’s wool) its own people, but Christen had many cows, and Ingeborg churned butter and made cheese, which was sold to Skive and to others who needed these products.

After Ingeborg’s death in 1805, Christen married another Ingeborg, (Ingeborg Espersdatter) the daughter of Esper Jensen in Vroue. She carried on the processing of dairy products for sale, and it is no mere coincidence that the Dueholm daughters developed a reputation for their skill, and were instrumental in the prosperity of the coming generations.

Children from the first Ingeborg:

- Lene Marie, born 1791, married to Jens Jensen Torp in Vridsted. She, in turn, had a daughter, Ingeborg, born March 29, 1826, who in 1855 married Carl Hansen from Vinde Vestergård [Vinde is a town just north of Skive, Vestergård = western farm], and who became mother to member of parliament Carl Hansen, editor of the newspaper “Skive Folkeblad”.

- Karen Christensdatter Dueholm (7), born August 24, 1792, died July 8, 1871. In 1815 Karen was married to Claus Jensen from Vridsted, born Jan 18, 1781, died May 6, 1848 (see the Claus lineage), and in this way the Dueholm lineage is carried on down to Peder Christian Pedersen, since Karen was the mother of Peder Christian Pedersen’s wife, Ingeborg Claudsdatter.

- Christen, born 1795.
- Jens, born and died in 1797.
- Another Jens, born in 1799, but also died shortly after birth.
- Christian, born 1802.
- Kathrine, born 1805. In that same year (8 months later) Ingeborg died, leaving five small children.

Although the lineage has now been mapped out all the way to Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter, I must also mention the children from the other Ingeborg (Ingeborg Espersdatter from Vroue). There were five of them, and they grew up with the other five, and regarded each other as full siblings:

- Esper, born 1807,
- Jens, born 1809,
- Morten, born 1812. Morten took over the farm, and I remember him in the 1880’s as a tall, slender, good looking older man. His son, Christen took over the farm after him, and now as this book is being written, the farm is owned by Christen’s son Morten.
- Ingeborg, born 1819.
- Johanne, born 1825.
The Torp Lineage

Laust Torp, 1668-1720, was from Over-Torp [Over-Torp = High-Torp] in Høgild in Resen parish. He was a tenant farmer for the district revenue officer in Skive, Andreas Mikkelsen Lund, a powerful man who, among other things, owned the town of Høgild, the farms in Overtorp and the city of Vridsted, and this made it possible for Laust to move from Overtorp to Vridsted.

At that time, farmers were not only impoverished and tied to their manor, but they were in many ways also subject to their lords mercy, to his favor or his disapproval. In order to get a decent farm tenancy, a young man often had to marry one of his Lord’s discarded mistresses, not to mention something much worse. One of Laust’s sons is:

Jens Laustsen Torp, 1697-1789 (according to church records he was born in 1709, but the census list says 1697). In approximately 1730 he had to marry an older widow in Vridsted and take over the obligation of her farm tenancy (cost of 6 rdl 2 mk. - the farm produced 3 acres, 2 skp of hard grain) [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar].

Such forced marriages were quite common at that time since the Adscription tied farmers to their Lord’s territory and placed them under his will. The widow died, however, and Jens married a second time (her name is not known), and he had 4 children:

- Edel Jensdatter Torp (8), born 1740 or 1741, died 1800, and in 1779 married to Jens Clausen (see Claus lineage).
- Laust, born 1742.
- Ane, born 1751, and
- Marie, who both died unmarried.

In Jens Torp’s time, the whole city of Vridsted, consisting of 9 farms, was sold at auction to grocer Chr. Nyboe in Viborg for 50 rdl. per acre of hard grain, which amounted to 1565 rdl, 3 mk, and 12 shillings [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar]. However, this was really too much, since 5 years later, in 1773, he had to sell it all for 1450 rdl. to Jens Feldingbjerg, the miller in Trevad. This was a most humiliating time for farmers, even though it was a time of increase in the trade of agricultural products and consequently higher prices. Soon afterwards, the Adscription was partially repealed, and several of the tenant farmers in Vridsted bought their farms from Jens Feldingbjerg, and from his widow, Ane Pedersdatter after his death in 1795.
The Claus Lineage in Trevadgård

This was a distinctive and sturdy family, very robust in nature. They never went out of their way to be diplomatic or become polished. Honesty and authenticity were central to their character, and this was evident both in their words and actions. They said what they meant, and they meant what they said. They did what they wanted, without considering what others might think. In any case, they always took into account what was right or wrong, or at least what they considered the right thing to do. They were skilled and clever, and knew how to assemble wealth, if one can use this expression when speaking of the farmers of that time, because poverty was rampant. Trevadgård produced 4 acres and 6 skpr. of hard grain. It was originally owned by the owners of Estvadgård, but when one of them, Anders Brønsdorff, went bankrupt in 1726, the ownership of Trevadgård was taken over by Jesper Jespersen from Høgholt, and we will begin during this era:

Claus Christensen, 1707-1781,
married to Inger Pedersdatter, 
moved to Sidsel Christensdatter, died 1782.
Inger was from Daugbjerggård, which was a big freehold farm with a large manor house with three tenant farmers, almost like an estate. They had three children:

- Christen, born 1735, who received the birth farm.
- Jens Clausen, born 1740, died March 29, 1817.
- Mette Marie, born 1741 or 1742, married to Mørup in Laanum with tenant farmer Niels Christensen, whose first five wives had all died. Her courage in marrying a five time widower was not rewarded - she died several years later, and Niels married for the seventh time.

Inger died shortly after Mette Marie's birth, but Claus comforted himself soon and married Sidsel, who gave birth to two children:

- Iger, named after the first wife, born 1744,
- Christian, born 1747, died May 8, 1803, on Nov 16, 1779 he married Bodil Andersdatter in Trevad.

Jens Clausen, born 1740, died March 29, 1817.
moved to Edel Jensdatter Torp (8), born 1740, died June 22, 1800.
Jens and Edel were married Nov 19, 1779, three days after Jens' half-brother Christian, so guests had probably been to a wedding continuously for 6-7 days. Jens and Edel were each nearly 40 years old when they married, but they still had 3 children:

- Claus Jensen, born Jan 18, 1781, died May 6, 1848.
- Jens Torp, 1782-1861, married to Lene Marie from Dueholm. Jens Torp was named after his maternal grandfather, and should have been called Jens Torp Jensen instead of Jens Jensen Torp, since he was the son of Jens Clausen and not the son of Jens Laustsen Torp. He was the brother of Claus Jensen, and when he in 1818 married Karen's sister, Lene Marie, from Dueholm (she was then widowed and 27 years old), there was a dual family connection by marriage, one branch (the Claus branch) continues in our lineage, while the other branch (Jens Torp’s branch) continues into the lineage Vinde Vestergård, from which editor Carl Hansen came (see Christen Dueholm, 1764-1838).
- Thomas, born 1785, was injured as a soldier, and had a stiff leg.

Mr. Chr. Friis from Lundgård in the meantime had bought all of the town of Vridsted from Jesper Jespersen from Høgholt. This was of no small importance, since he was father-in-law to Pastor Bredsdorff in Vridsted. Since the pastor also was on good terms with Viborg grocer, Chr. Nyboe, who owned Vridsted up until 1773, it became possible to get Jens Clausen moved across the adscription border between the two nearby towns, Trevad and Vridsted, so that he could work as the stud groom (breeding farmhand) in the parsonage and later (in 1779) could get his father-in-law’s farm, Vridstedgård, as tenant farmer under the usual conditions, which included supporting his father-in-law, Jens Torp. (Note: A son of grocer Chr. Nyboe was later married to Pastor Bredsdorff’s daughter and became pastor Bredsdorff’s successor in Vridsted, and it is he, H. Nyboe, who tells in the 1787 census that the Vridsted church records burned in the parsonage farm fire in 1776.)
Jens Clausen’s employment, and later his farm tenancy, was all arranged by the priest, whose special favor and attention Jens had acquired by his honesty and skill. That his brother, Christian, became his successor as stud groom, and that Jens’s own son, Jens Torp, born 1782, many years later received the same position in the parsonage farm, can be taken as a hint of this lineage’s skill and reliability.

Before her marriage to Jens Clausen, Edel Torp worked for Jens Feldingbjerg in Trevad Mølle [Trevad Mølle = three mill], (women were not tied to the manor, so they could leave). Also, she had won favor with her master, and when this mill owner bought the whole town of Vridsted in 1773 from Nyboe (see Torp lineage), it was relatively easy for the newlyweds to become tenant farmers in Edel father’s (Jens Torp’s) farm in Vridsted (Vridstedgård).

Jens Clausen was not only incredibly talented as stud groom at the parsonage farm, but also later on his own farm, and was a kind of pioneer. In about the year 1799 he built a chimney on his farmhouse, which was probably the first chimney in Vridsted. In 1800 he bought a piece of meadow valued at 100 rdl [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar], and in 1802 he bought Vridstedgård, his farm (presumably from Feldingbjergs widow). We do not know the price, since the deed was never registered, but we know that the livestock and equipment belonged to the owner, and Jens bought it all and thus became freehold owner of the farm and everything on it. The farm’s livestock was estimated at a total value of 107 rdl and 8 mrk. It included 2 mares and a 5-year old colt (24, 16 and 12 rdl), 2 old worn-out horses, approx. 20 years (5 and 3 rdl), 4 cows (7, 6, 5, and 4 rdl), 2 heifers in their second year (7 rdl for both), 1 bull, same age (3 rdl), 12 sheep with lambs (12 rdl), 1 ram, 3 years old (1 rdl), 2 rams, 2 years old (4 and 4 mark), 1 sow with young (2 rdl).

On Vridsted’s sandy soils, there was no grass and fodder for any more cattle on a farm like Vridstedgård, that produced 4 acres of hard grain. The grain grew only sparsely and the kernels were poor, and grazing was mostly weeds, sorrel, grass tufts and heather. The people of Vristed normally bought their grain seed in Salling, and for a number of years Jens bought his seed from Chr. Kjærsgaard in Lyby, enough for 4 acres, and paid 3 rdl per barrel for it. Although a barrel probably was a "large barrel", ie 12 bushels, we can see how expensive grain was compared to livestock, so this was obviously a difficult time for people living on poor soil. Nevertheless, Jens became a wealthy man, and each of his sons inherited 210 rdl, which is what Claus had to pay to take over the farm. Jens Torp also received 6 tin plates, and Thomas got 2 brass candlesticks. Since the old fashioned meticulous reckoning was still in use, it was carefully figured out how Jens’ clothes would be shared between the three brothers, and for his part Claus got his nice blue cloth vest.

**Claus Jensen**, born Jan 18, 1781, died May 6, 1848, married to **Karen Christendatter Dueholm (7)**, born Aug 24, 1792, died July 8, 1871. They were married in 1815 and had 7 children:

- Jens, born June 20, 1816, was mentally deficient.

- **Ingeborg Clausdatter (9)**, born Oct 30, 1817, died Oct 14, 1870
  on March 17, 1837 married to **Peder Christian Pedersen** (see Villads lineage), and had 13 children, who are individually described in detail in Part 2: "The Children and Grandchildren of Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter". In the cemetery at Vridsted one can still see the grave stones of Karen and Claus, pictured below (and also of Ingeborg and Peder Christian, see page 25).

- Edel, born Feb 23, 1821, died May 12, 1880, in 1842 married to Mayor Ole Vistisen in Søndergård in Vroue, born June 13, 1802, died April 12, 1870.

- Christen, born July 29, 1825, (had a twin sister, - Karen, who died), got the birth farm in Vridsted, now moved a distance northwest outside the city. Had only one child, Karen, who died as a teenager.

- Jens Christian, born 1831, in 1862 married to Maren Nielsdatter from Agerbæk. In 1863 he bought Koustrupgård [Koustrupgård = Koustrup farm] near Mønsted city. Through Jens (see Christen in Ballekær) the farm is still owned by the family. A daughter, Ingeborg, (died in 1934) was married to Ole Johansen, whose father was from Dåsbjerg in Fly, while his mother, Ane Marie, was from Søndergård in Vroue. Ole Johansen had 3 children: Hilda, born Sept 4, 1910, - Kristian, born Oct 23, 1913, and – Agnete, born July 30, 1915, married.

- Claus Jensen's seventh child was Ane Marie, born in 1834, in 1854 married to Jens Olsen in Vroue. She was widowed three times, and the Vestergård farm is still owned by the family.
Claus Jensen’s grave memorial
Farmer Claus Jensen of Vridsted, born January 18, 1781, died May 6, 1848 at the age of 67⅛, married for 31 years to Karen Christensdatter of Dueholm, and fathered her 6 children.

Karen’s grave memorial
Karen Christensdatter, born August 24, 1792, died July 8, 1871, 79 years old, married for 31 years to Claus Jensen of Vridsted Farm and had 6 children by him.
The Villads Lineage

This lineage was in some respects a little more distinguished and better looking than most rural families at that time. They were also not true peasant families, which makes their lineage more difficult to explain. One of them, Christen Ladefoged (1681-1771) was a farm supervisor in Ramsing in Salling. He must have been given the surname Ladefoged which means “farm supervisor” [lade = barn, foged = bailiff or manager]. His son, Jens Christensen Ladefoged, was a tenant farmer under Bustrup, an estate in Ramsing, from approx 1750 to 1780, and this gives us an insight into the unfortunate circumstances of farmers in those times, brought about by oppression, corruption and misunderstanding. In order to curb the abuse of peasants by estate owners, Johann Friedrich Struensee [also spelled Struenese], minister in the Danish government and royal physician to the mentally ill King Christian VII, issued a regulation on Feb 20, 1771, which emphasized that “the burdens and obligations of farmers must not only be defined but also tolerable”. It referred to an earlier regulation from May 6, 1769, which could not be exceeded. In Table 2 of that regulation it said that farms producing between 4 and 10 acres (of hard grain), each week during the harvest (and haying) “must provide 3 days of working with a wagon for every 6 days of walking”, and the time was divided so that the farmer could demand the use of this wagon for 1/3 of each day for 3 days of a week. Also that farmers had to have a receipt for labor performed.

At the time, the owner of the Bustrup estate was Council member Peder Schow, whose many demands had awakened the resentment and anger of the farmers. They became rebellious and unwilling to perform the required labor for the estate owner, at least when Schow would not give them the required receipt for it. Jens Ladefoged had received a copy of the 1771 regulation in Skive and he knew all about it. However, he interpreted one of the points incorrectly when he thought the farmers needed to work only for one third of each day. The farmers continued to work the whole day, but they did refuse to place the harvested grain in rows and to rake up the stumps. They were also defiant and obstinate in other ways, and subsequently were summoned to appear before the county commissioner on Krabbesholm, who ordered them to do double the amount of labor as a fine. This they did not comply with, which is why Schow reported them to the king by writing: "I am therefore obliged to graciously ask your Royal Majesty to let these stubborn farmers be considered according to their merits.”

Meanwhile, Struense had fallen out of favor with the king and had been placed under lock and key, so who was then to protect the farmers. His right hand was cut off first, and then his head was severed at “Københavns Østerfælled” [Copenhagen’s East Commons]. His head was placed on a pole, and his body was cut into pieces and placed on a wheel which was also raised on a pole. The many reforms he had instituted, including the ones to protect farmers and the oppressed, were repealed, and the setback came with full force. Yes, the mad king and his henchmen knew how to fix things.

Eight of the Bustrup farmers were sentenced to Rasphuset [“the breadcrumbs house”] in Viborg. Some got 4 months, others 2 months. Some of the other farmers were ordered to do double the amount of labor (likely for an undetermined time) and some were sentenced to 2 days extra labor. But, as the instigator, Jens Ladefoged received a 6 month prison sentence in Rensborg fortress. When he arrived there, his clothes, knife, etc were taken from him, and he was given prisoner’s clothes, "which crawled like a sackful of lice”. A ball and chain was also tied to his right foot. During the 6 months he had to "daily pull a pushcart up the rampart of the fortress, perform very hard work for a measly amount of food, receive many beatings and sleep at night on the bare ground. Yes, they understood how to tame the farmers at that time.

Only a limited number of farmers were sentenced to Rasphuset, probably because Bustrup needed to keep most of its farmers available for working. For the same reason the verdicts, which were pronounced for these farmers on March 9, 1772, was not carried out until November 14, when the autumn work was finished.

We also find others from the Villads lineage outside the farm environment. Villads Jensen, born in 1769, was a veterinarian in Naesborg. His son, Lars Christian Villadsen was small shopkeeper in Aalborg, according to those that can still be found. Another was an innkeeper in Viborg. The lineage has also intermarried into the skilled Baggesen lineage from Stenum (Innkeepers and later distillers in Aalborg). Similarly, the lineage has also intermarried into the respected and intelligent Melchior lineage, also from Stenum in Vendsyskel. The name “Melchior” is a recurring name that shows up in the Villads lineage in Bundgård, Otting and Frammerslev in Salling, and it is likely the same lineage.
So far as I have been able to determine, the Villads lineage has distinguished itself by its spontaneous friendliness and great hospitality. It was a distinguished family, but nevertheless straightforward and plain by nature. In Vridsted we know:

**Villads Pedersen**, born 1737,
married to **Kirsten Christensdatter**, born 1748, according to census list, since the church records in Vridsted were burned for that period.

Villads was the freehold owner of Vridsted city’s southernmost farm, which lay very close to the now vanished Korshøj [korshøj = high cross], a little hill that had previously carried a wooden cross along with a container that travelers could put money in, and thereby become “under God's gracious protection against thieves, attack, sickness, broken limbs and other disasters”. We do not know when or how this hill disappeared. Of Villads’ children we know:

- **Peder Villadsen**, born 1776
- Johan, died in 1880, only 21 weeks old.
- Maren, born 1782
- Morten, born 1786.

These were perhaps the only children from his first marriage, but Villads became widowed and, as an old man he must have remarried a young woman, since on Dec 15, 1802 his 2-year-old son drowned in the creek near Vridsted. Another son, Christen, became a farmer in Løvig, but Peder was married before that happened. He remained living at home together with his wife and helped operate the farm.

**Peder Villadsen**, born 1776, died approx. 1848
married to **Anne Pedersdatter**, born 1771 or 1772
It seems that the older and younger generations got along well together. There was no trace of disharmony, and there was hardly any significant change in the farm when Peder took it over. He became the Parish official for Vridsted and was a respected man. In 1837 he sold the farm to his son Peder Christian, but his circumstances remained essentially the same, and it didn’t really seem to matter much whether he was a young man working on the farm, or its owner, or an old man living on the farm. He had 7 children:

- Villads, born Aug 12, 1802.
- Kjersten, born Aug 19, 1803.
- Karen, born Oct 11, 1804.
- Peder Christian, born June 23, 1808, died.
- **Peder Christian Pedersen**, born May 9, 1810.
  - Christen, born Oct 11, 1813.
  - Foster child Anne Kjerstine, born 1829.

Although our family continues through Peder Christian, before continuing I wish to mention a lateral family branch, and the shining example of a man who started a company which grew through the skill of his sons and has gone world-wide. This man is Jens Villadsen (the son of Villads above), born Feb 7, 1842 in Aalborg. He started as a carpenter in his hometown, and became recognized as a master carpenter in Copenhagen in 1872. In 1894 he founded a factory that, according to Villadsen’s experience gained from numerous experiments, was capable of manufacturing a roofing felt of better quality than had been known previously. Today this company has a large manufacturing facility in Tømmerup (on Amager), as well as a factory near Malmö in Sweden. These two factories make the excellent and world famous roofing material “Icopal”, as well as roofing tarpaper, roofing felt, road building materials and insulation materials. A factory near Oslo also manufactures these materials, as well as a raw cardboard that has been used as a foundation to produce a better Icopal than anything produced anywhere else. This factory also manufactures bookbinder cardboard and imitation leather of world-famous quality.

Road building materials play a big role nowadays, and the company now has factories producing these materials in Horsens, Randers, Ringsted, Sønderborg and near Tønsberg and Stavanger in Norway. There are also factories near Stockholm (Söndertälje), and near
Helsinki in Finland. In total there are 11 extensive factories whose products are so fine that no other products can compare with them or surpass them. To this can be added a factory, which in recent years has produced “Villadium”, which is similar to linoleum and is used for covering floors, kitchen tables, etc.

**Peder Christian Pedersen**, born May 9, 1810, died June 16, 1878, married to **Ingeborg Clausdatter** (9), born Oct 30, 1817, died Oct 14, 1870. They were married March 17, 1837, and are here regarded as our “stem-parents”, since the previous generations are gathered in them, and the later generations have branched out from them. In other words, they form the trunk of the family tree that is illustrated in the picture. It was at about this time in history that the younger generation started to demand a say in who to marry. It was the sons who first claimed this as a right, with the daughters following about 20 or 30 years later. But in the case of Peder Christian and Ingeborg, whether the choice was made by the older generation or by the young people themselves, it was almost certainly considered a good choice by the older generation, because the Claus’ farm and Peder Villadsen’s farm were two of the largest farms in the area east of Karup creek. The Claus’ farm had been the largest farm, but it was losing the name “Vridstedgård” to another farm, which had managed to cultivate some of its moorland on the south side, and had acquired some meadowland west of the river and had thus surpassed it in rank. But the Claus family was in some respects the strongest. The children of that lineage mattered in the region, and Ingeborg and Peder Christian took over his birth farm. And, as can be seen on her memorial cross, she ”blessed him with 13 children”. These 13 children, as well as their children and grandchildren are the subject of Part 2 below.

![Peder Christian Pedersen with his two youngest daughters, Marie and Edel. (Photo taken about 1872)](image_url)
Peder Christian's grave memorial
Here rests Peder Christian Pedersen of Vridsted, born May 9, 1810, died June 16, 1878, married to Ingeborg Clausdatter March 17, 1837 and had 13 children with her

Ingeborg's grave memorial
Here rests Ingeborg Clausdatter, born October 30, 1817, died October 14, 1870, married to Peder Christian Pedersen in Vridsted March 17, 1837 and blessed him with 13 children.

Vridsted Farm. The Manor farmhouse in Vridsted where Peder Christian and Ingeborg lived, and where their 13 children were born and raised. It still exists today.
PART 2: After 1837.
The Children and Grandchildren of
Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter

A Personal Look at Peder Christian Pedersen’s Family and Descendants

[Translator’s Note: The original Danish version of this book was written in 1951 by my grandfather, A. P. Dueholm. He had personal knowledge of the character and lifestyle, as well as the physical state of health and constitution of Peder Christian Pedersen and his 13 children, since Peder Christian was his grandfather, and one of his 13 children, Claus Pedersen, was his father.]

To try to portray the level of progress attained by the latter half of the nineteenth century, I will characterize in a general way, Peder Christian Pedersen's 13 children from Vridsted. Depicting the qualities and characteristics of a whole generation can often be difficult or nearly impossible, especially when there are so many siblings. Any previous visible links to prior generations on the maternal side have expired and are no longer evident, in part because of blending into the four old underlying lineages (Torp, Smed, Claus, and Dueholm), which have such similar looks and personality characteristics that one could almost speak of a kind of racial purity. Some of the elements brought in from other bloodlines have helped round out or give consistency to the lineages (among others the Daugbjerg and Damgård lineages and their branches). All the way up to and including Peder Christian Pedersen's children, one can speak of the intermarriage of lineages which have resulted in families with stable characteristics - bad or good, but typical, distinct and very stable.

At that time marriage rarely happened by chance or as a result of the young people meeting each other, but instead it was carefully considered and planned by the parents. Difficulty in transportation, being tied to a manor, ‘common practice’, and other things hampered freedom of movement before the adscription was lifted, so a family's many generations could often be found in the records of a single parish. This was very different from the freedom of movement that began soon after this time, where family members would often find themselves spread across the country, or across the world.

After approximately 1800, as freedom of movement became much more readily accessible, something similar happened in Peder Christian Pedersen’s family. This family, the Villads lineage, throughout the generations has been one of the region’s most solid families, esteemed and respected by their peers. They are, however, not a typical farm lineage, and many of them dispersed when the adscription was lifted. Some left the area to work in other rural farm areas, while others left to take a different kind of job. This is the reason Peder Christian got the birth farm in Vridsted, while Villads, who really should have had it, chose to leave the area instead.

Certain characteristics were typical of these siblings and occurred in all of them. They were all very hospitable, honest, fair, and reputable. There was not one that was different enough that you could point a finger at him. They were hard-working, industrious and capable, right-thinking, fair and truthful, and would never treat anyone in an unjust manner. This applies to all of them without exception. They were also all wise and sensible people, although none of them stood out above the masses, and almost none of them came to occupy leading positions in the parish council or held other office, perhaps mostly because they did not desire it, but would rather stay home and work on the farm, which they looked after with great care.

Virtually all of them were talkative, and it sometimes seemed that they talked more and thought less. However, this was hardly the case. They often had thoughts and opinions that at the time seemed revolutionary and rebellious, but which now (50 to 80 years later) are accepted or at least are beginning to be acknowledged. This applies both in social, religious and moral areas. Although born and brought up on the largest farm in Vridsted under solid financial conditions (not exactly rich, but quite well off), we see in many of them a pronounced tendency for liberal thinking, later to be called liberalism or socialism (a term barely known at that time). It was a consequence of their innate sense of justice, which would naturally emerge because workers and people of humble means lived in poor conditions at that time.

None of them took much pleasure in the naive religious viewpoints of that time. It is not that they were anti-religion or irreligious (without faith, faithless?), but almost all of them had their own distinctive religious opinions, which now, in somewhat altered form, are starting to prevail in religious circles that have freed themselves from the church's dogmas. They were predisposed to religious life and thought as part of their development, and this later expressed itself, especially in some of their children, especially if they had come under religious influence.
In these times the abuse of alcohol was so common that it implied no disgrace, but none of the 13 siblings abused alcohol, even though several of them had good reason for it, since in addition to their daily labor they dealt with horses, cattle, and for several of them, predominantly with pigs. Moreover, Peder Høker was, for several years, an innkeeper and grocer in Haderup. So, despite contemporary usage, they didn’t abuse alcohol, and it was their culture that discouraged them from it. The same held true (with a single exception) for all their spouses.

In the family's second generation, that is, among Peder Christian Pedersen's grandchildren, it occurred quite often that one or more of the children were mentally retarded (but not simple-minded, however). All were either intelligent or mentally retarded. This weakness in the children appeared spontaneously, and is a heavy ordeal that seems to culminate and conclude with this generation, for it has not shown itself in the following two generations which are visible today. As an example of this genetic weakness, Claus Jensen had a mentally retarded son, who also was the brother of Ingeborg Clausdatter.

In the family there has also been a predisposition for a weak spine, which nowadays is treated medically to keep it from developing as it did in those days. Also psoriasis, a non-contagious, but hereditary skin disorder, is found in the family. These genetic weaknesses can be detected in a few of the lines down to the youngest generations, but otherwise the lineage has been exceptionally healthy and strong in all ways. Mental illness, suicide, depression, etc, have been quite unknown in all the branches of the family.

The 13 Children of Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Grandchildren</th>
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<td>about 1925</td>
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<td>Edel Kirstine Pedersen</td>
<td>Nov 10, 1859</td>
<td>Jul 29, 1930</td>
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Total 102 397
1. Peder Pedersen
born July 27, 1838
married to Line, probably from Svansø.

Peder was an innkeeper and merchant in Haderup and was therefore called Per Høker [høker = small shopkeeper, also huckster]. Later on, they wanted more peace and quiet, and lived on a small farm in Haderis. In their old age they moved to Vridsted and Vroue and lived off their money. They had a son, Bertel Peder, who died young. Both Peder and Line were distinctly individual, and Per Høker dressed in national costume with silver buttons right up to his death. Good and pleasant people, friendly and honest through and through. Both died around 1925
In 1864, Peder Hedegaard was commanded to go with the Germans. It happened abruptly as he was about to spread fertilizer. The Germans suddenly stood beside him, and he had to leave so quickly that he wasn’t even allowed to wash or change his clothes. The Germans were on their way east, so they went on to Vridsted Farm, where they slept a little.

However, Peder saw his chance to escape when some peat wagons left the farm, and when he was far enough away he ran for home at rapid speed. But during this visit he had caught sight of Peder Christian's eldest daughter, Ane. She was an unusually bright girl, full of mischief and smiles. It was not easy to get her out of his head, and one day, when war was over, Peder went to see his neighbor, Kræn Holst. They put on their best clothes and high hat, saddled their horses and rode to Vridsted Farm. And yes, it seemed to Peder Christian and Ingeborg that an arrangement like this might work. Peder had a good farm (Lille Hegedård in Borbjerg) [Lille Hegedård = small moor farm]. The fact that he was 38 years older than Ane, they could probably ignore, especially since he was a handsome man and in every respect a good and honest man with an outstanding reputation. And Ane was a good daughter, who considered her parents’ wishes, so they were married in 1867 and she moved to her new home.

Peder Hedegaard, who was somewhat older than his father-in-law, was a clever man, but of the old school and he ran his farm using the old methods, where income was obtained more by hard work and thriftiness than by the quantity of crops produced. This meant that expenses were kept to a minimum. Money was not spent for grass seed or for other things that were not absolutely necessary. Therefore he carried only 1,000 rdl in fire insurance [rdl. = rigsdaler = royal dollar], but this frugality proved expensive when the farm burned in 1875. In her childhood home Ane was not accustomed to such frugality, and it may well be that her great hospitality and other expenditures in the home were more expensive than Peder had liked.

At any rate, she knew how to use a woman’s cunning and manipulation. "How do you look?" She would say to Peder, "You are surely ill, because you're so pale." Peder did not think he was really ill, although he could perhaps feel his heart beating. But Ane was certain that at least he was starting to become ill, which she could see when she looked at him. It was surely best he went to bed, so the disease could be stopped in its arrival. And when she had Peder tucked in bed, she could let a lamb be slaughtered, or sell a calf or other animals, and thus always have meat in the salt cellar and money in the cupboard, so that she could buy things that the farm itself could not produce. Her pantry and smoke box were always well stocked with eels and other good things. Peder was certainly not a stupid man, and he knew Ane was very competent. She kept the house, and he let her supervise the farm so he could spend all his time doing farmwork, which he took on all by himself. Ane could therefore easily let a lamb or other small creature disappear without being noticed. They lived happily together, in agreement, and in their god-fearing conduct, and lived that way until their death, as they both walked away from the earth in 1881. The marriage lasted for 14 years and produced five sons who now became orphans. They were placed in the care of friends and relatives, which, however, did not harm their feeling of kinship for each other. Says the elder brother: All the boys were with good people who understood the importance of the feeling of brotherhood, and therefore brought them together as much as possible. When the children grew up, they had a good opportunity to find their direction in life, since Peder Hedegaard and Ane left them 40,000 Kroner, a rather considerable sum at the time. One of the boys died. The four remaining children are:

1. Peder Christian Povlsen (Munksgaard), born June 12, 1868
   married to Kristine Jespersen from Brøbæk, died 1924,
   married to Ane Marie Sørensen, born July 14, 1875 in Sønderfleng, died August 20, 1947

As a 12-year-old, Peder Christian entered into foster care with his aunt, Ingeborg Pedersen of Hvam (the11th child of Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter), a good placement for him. Several years later he started to earn money and developed into a capable young man, who at 22 years old married Kristine. In 1890 they bought Munksgård in Borbjerg, a rather dilapidated and neglected farm with a dozen cattle and a couple of old horses. The buildings were also old and the land was not being worked, but his aunt and his previous jobs had taught him to not be afraid of work. He drained the land and fertilized it with marl, and he renovated or rebuilt the buildings. In 1910 he was able to afford a new farmhouse and stables. Over the years Peder Christian also planted many trees, especially around the farmhouse and garden, and thus made the farm as well as Denmark better and more beautiful. In 1932 he gave up the farm to his son Jesper, but remained living
there. It included 45 good cattle, 5 horses and a number of pigs. At that time Kristine had already been dead for eight years, and Peder Christian reminisces and quotes from a speech: “Then the best went away from Munksgård”. A more beautiful opinion cannot be given, and this I must not weaken with more words.

In the following year, on November 26, 1933, Peder Christian entered into a new marriage with Ane Marie Sørensen from Sønderfleng. She was the niece of Jens Jensen in Hvam (see 11. Ingeborg Pedersen). In Peder Christian’s first marriage there were 12 children, 7 of which died in infancy or youth. The remaining five:

1) Maren Povlsen, born Jan 13, 1893
   married to Marius Christensen from Mølgård. They have rural home in Sønder Hvam. 3 daughters.

2) Johanne Povlsen, born Feb 7, 1899

3) Agnes Margrethe Povlsen, born Sept 15, 1901
   married to teacher Nøhr in Hvam. 3 boys and 3 girls.

4) Jesper Brøbæk Povlsen, born Feb 27, 1903
   married to Clara Andersen from Brøbæk, born Feb 4, 1916. Now has his birth farm. 2 children.

5) Ane Povlsen, born June 29, 1897, died 1948,
   married to Johannes Krog from Krogslund, born Nov 6, 1899. Has his birth farm. 5 daughters.

2. Povl Christian Povlsen, born March 10, 1870, died 1933,
   Married to Sofie Christensen, Hammelmoose from Hjerm.

   Povl and the other two brothers can be spoken about with the same praise as the oldest brother, but beyond that I know little about them. Paul had a farm, Sønder Hjerm which had 50 cattle and 6 horses and was well run. The widow now lives near Hjerm st. No children.

3. Jens Christian Povlsen, born March 29, 1873, died 1951,
   married to Ane Marie Lauritsen, born Nov 24, 1870,
   married to Anne Nielsine Christine Pedersen, born April 1, 1888 in Ryde.

   Children from the first marriage:
     1) Peder Hedegaard Povlsen, born Jan 2, 1894.
     2) Jens Christian, born May 24, 1896.
     3) Johannes, born Dec 10, 1898.
     4) Ejner, born Dec 7, 1901.
     5) Aage, born Nov 24, 1903.
     6) Aksel Vilner, born May 16, 1906.
     7) Sigurd, born April 14, 1909.
     8) Helge, born Feb 10, 1912.

   Children from the second marriage:
     9) Ane Marie, born Nov 8, 1918.
    11) Asta, born Jan 10, 1918? (or 1922?).
    12) Lilly and Niels Fielsø, born June 9, 1924.
    13) Henning, born July 20, 1925.
    14) Johannes, born July 1, 1927.
    15) Orla, born Dec 21, 1929.

4. Anton Christian Povlsen, born Oct 4, 1876,
   married to Jensine Jensen, born Feb 8, 1882. Children:
     1) Frede, born Aug 9, 1909.
     2) Henry, born Oct 30, 1913.
    Six other children died.
3. Claus Pedersen  
born May 14, 1841, died March 3, 1931  
married to Ane Marie Torp, died March 17, 1872  
married to Ane Kathrine Christensen, born Dec 19, 1845, died Dec 18, 1927

(Trine and Claus)  
(In 1904 the family changed its surname to Dueholm) [dueholm = dove island]. Only a very few people were as hardworking and industrious as Claus. He began in the morning well before others and continued on till late in the evening. It is therefore no coincidence that his farm, Mellem Dueholm [mellem = middle], previously called Sønder Dueholm [sønder = southern], which for years had lain desolate, uncultivated and uninhabited, during his time changed from a poor piece of land to one of the area's best farms. No one believed at the time that this farm could feed a family, and that was why it had lain desolate and deserted, but Claus got hold of an old skinny cow and a steer, and started ploughing the rough fields.

However, he soon understood that the land was not good enough to feed his family. He then thought of the farm's large areas of worthless swamps and acidic water marshes, and he dug ditches to drain the land. He then began with the swamps, spreading sand on them, and when they became healthy he cultivated them. This was fruitful and showed Claus that his skillful approach could reap rewards. He was a distinct individual and progressive in outlook. Not only was he the first to drain and cultivate swamps and meadows, but he was also the first in the region to grow potatoes for animal feed, and the first to buy grass seed and fertilizer. He also put lime on the acidic fields to neutralize them, dug up peat to be sold, burned stones, planted a number of trees, and dealt in horses. As a 50-year-old, his farm became the region’s first to cultivate beets and buy concentrated feed for its cattle. His fatted animals and milk-filled buckets encouraged several of his neighbors to emulate his style of agriculture. Nearly a dozen times he had to add to his buildings in order to accommodate his constantly increasing herd. Each time he thought he had enough room, he soon learned that the farm’s constant breeding demanded more room for more cattle. As a person he had a cheerful and playful nature, and it was characteristic for him to treat his animals with great care and kindness, not just for them to survive, but so they would have a good life. In 1909 he gave up the farm to his eldest son, Peder Christian. After living to the age of almost 90, Claus died and was buried in the churchyard in Fly March 3, 1931.

In 1868 Claus married Ane Marie Torp from Vridsted (the same Torp lineage that had been earlier mixed into the family). She was a good and clever woman, but she died quite young from tuberculosis on March 17, 1872, leaving two small children: - Ingeborg, born June 21, 1870, and - Chresten who died young, also from tuberculosis. Ingeborg married Jacob Jacobsen from Kjeldbjerg. She died Sept 19, 1951 and was the mother of many children, 15 of whom grew to adulthood and married.
On May 30, 1872, Claus entered into a second marriage with a young woman named Ane Kathrine Christensen (or Christensdatter), daughter of farm owner Christen Pedersen in Trandum. She was a rare find, a wise and intelligent woman, whose skillfulness was almost equal to that of Claus. A prominent characteristic of hers was a pronounced modesty and thriftiness (not stingyness). At the same time she, oddly enough, was somewhat aristocratic and, in contrast to Claus, considered proper etiquette in social situations to be very important. Her quiet, balanced nature and religious beliefs set the keynote in the home, which was of great value to both her husband and children. They had 9 children:


   A distinction for Ane Marie was her strong feeling of family unity, not only toward her parents, but also toward her siblings. As the oldest one of the flock, she was always taking care of the others, eventually injuring her back from all the care giving. She loved them as with a mother's love, both when she was young and later in life, and would willingly make sacrifices for them. She also showed a great amount of care and concern for the young farm animals and small creatures. She was the most learned of Claus’ children, when you consider that she only had a primary school education, and her phenomenal skill in all kinds of handiwork, in cooking, especially fine pastries, was her pride. She died suddenly and unexpectedly on the first evening she spent at Holstebro Hospital, after a soporific injection without really being ill.

   Jesper, who was born in Djeld was an unusually capable man. He bought farms, and improved both their look and productivity by renovating the buildings and increasing the herd, and sold them for a good profit. Nobody could bustle and work as hard as him. Everything on his farm was looked after, both indoors and out. Finally he slowed down in Svendstrup in Sahl parish, where he had a stroke and was partially paralyzed for about 15 years before he died. Jesper and “Mari” had 5 children, of which the 4 youngest died as children:

   1) Karen Marie Jensine, the oldest one, born May 12, 1897, was a teacher for a few years before she married farm owner Anders Nielsen in Svendstrup and became the mother of 9 very capable children:
      - Hartvig, born Aug 31, 1925.
      - Laurits, also born Aug 31, 1925, married.
      - Kristian, born March 30, 1927, electrician.
      - Anna Marie, born Dec 9, 1928, teacher.
      - Hanne Kathrine, born Nov 8, 1930.
      - Bøgh, born Sept 19, 1932.
      - Tage, born May 20, 1934.
      - Bent, born Oct 1, 1937.

   2) Ane Kathrine, born July 5, 1898, died 1906.
   3) Laura Claudine, born Dec 25, 1899, died Oct 19, 1917.
   4) Laust, born April 7, 1902, died 1906.
   5) Claus Dueholm, born May 25, 1905, died 1916.

2. **Ane Marie**, born Sept 27, 1874, married to **Christian Michael Mørck**, born Nov 30, 1862 in Fly

Marie, who has the exact same name as her older sister, is the strongest of Claus’ children. When she was young she could lift 200 pounds, even though she was poised and had a beautiful figure. Her energy, vitality and willpower are noteworthy. She has not been content with just doing farmwork and having children, but has been a treasured cook almost up to the present time.

Christian is the grandson of teacher Mørch in Fly. When he married Ane Marie, he took over his birth farm, Dalum in Fly, and took on his father in his retirement. He is a even-tempered man, capable and cultivated, held in esteem by everyone who has come in contact with him. As an 89-year-old, he is still hale and hearty, and seemingly unmarked by age.
The peaceful home that he and Marie formed, also made a joyful home for her parents in their older years. To them she was a loving daughter who cared for them with great regard, both physically and mentally. No one could have done it better and in a more beautiful way. There are 4 children:

1) Johannes Mørck, born Nov 8, 1896
   married to Ane Rasmussen from Trandum, born Feb 20, 1898, has 3 children.

2) Ane Kathrine Mørck, born April 20, 1898
   married to Holger Dørcken, died 1930, no children.

3) Claus Pedersen Mørck, born April 20, 1901
   married to Ane Johanne Nielsen, daughter of the teacher in Rønland, now live in Vejrum, have 6 children.

4) Magnus Mørck, born April 9, 1902
   married to Laura Annine Mortensen, born June 12, 1899 in Tvis. Has his birth farm in Fly. Only 1
dughter, Inga.

3. Peder Christian Dueholm, born July 7, 1876, died Feb 1, 1946,
   married to Methea Eriksen, born July 13, 1875, died March 15, 1943.
   {Note: For more on this branch of the Dueholm family, see
   www.erikaagaard.dk/aagaarddueholmdownload.pdf}

   When he married Methea in 1898, Peder Christian took over Hvolbæk mølle [mølle = mill], which was her birthplace, and in 1909 he took over his own birthplace. He was in some ways a pioneer in the area, and this led him to take on a number of public duties, which at times affected the operation of the farm. In his own way he had a soft and gentle temperament, and in the prime of his life there were more than a few people who sought financial help from him and got it.

   Methea and Peder Christian had a hospitable home, and Methea’s friendly and happy nature was part of the reason she was so popular.

   Their children write: “In 1922 there was a spiritual stirring in the region brought about by the Ecclesiastical Society for Home Missions in Denmark, and this became a turning point for Methea and Peder Christian. In their more mature years they turned away from an ordinary Christianity to profess a more personal Christian faith. This faith sustained them, when in 1927 they had to move from his birth farm to Ågården in Røjback [Ågården = the creek farm], in the vicinity of Hagebro inn. In 1933 they moved to Skibbild [Skibbild = ship build] near Herning, where they spent their last years, and won many friends and were held in great esteem.”

   There were 8 children:

   1) Ejnar, born Jan 21, 1899
      married to Helga, born April 23, 1900, daughter of teacher Christensen Trandum. Ejnar has a pondering philosophical nature just like his maternal grandfather, who probably was from the Paaske lineage. They have 8 children:
      - Kirsten, born March 7, 1924, married.
      - Erik, born 1925, died 1951 from a spinal disorder.
      - Knud, born Dec 21, 1926, in commercial sales.
      - Lis, born May 11, 1928, married.
      - Poul Ejnar, born and died in 1931.
      - Thora, born Dec 12, 1934.
      - Birthe, born March 20, 1942.

   2) Kathrine Dueholm, born April 8, 1901
      married to Martin Pedersen (now Engelbreckt), born June 30, 1892 in Haderup. Martin came from a small but nice home, wherein as a 6 year old he had to begin to earn his keep. As a young man he ended up working for Peder Christian on the farm where Kathrine was born. It is natural that he never gets tired of praising Methea, who won over anyone who got to know her. From her always flowed an exceptional goodness and love toward everyone, rich or poor. “You are a very nice man,” she would jokingly say to Martin, ”you shall have my eldest daughter when she grows up, but come in now and
have a cup of coffee.” And Martin stayed on the farm until Kathrine grew up and became his wife. Martin's skill and principled character had given him a career, and he now is a responsible wholesale dealer in Herning. There are 2 children:

- Vagn, born March 26, 1922, married, a partner in his father’s wholesale business.
- Børge, born Nov 28, 1927, representative.

3) Claus, born May 13, 1902
married to Dagmar Andersen from Fårø, born May 21, 1905. Claus is a wholesaler in Århus.
3 children:
- Jens Harry, born Sept 19, 1930.
- Solveig, born Sept 12, 1941.
- Povl Erik, born Aug 31, 1943.

4) Carl, born Aug 5, 1903
married to Helga Else Andersen from Vindelev, born Oct 10, 1912.
Helga, whose father was a tailor and later a dry-goods dealer, is an unusually intelligent and capable woman who steadfastly stands by her husband, and together with Carl has created a beautiful home in Givskud where Carl is a church officer. In addition they operate a nursery and have a flower and vegetable business. 2 children:
- Christian, born Sept 1, 1937, a student.
- Hans, born Feb 8, 1943.

5) Laura, born July 5, 1908,
moved to Samuel Monrad Aagaard, born July 23, 1898, school headmaster in Århus. Children:
- Johannes Monrad Aagaard, born April 29, 1928, theology student.
- Erik Hesselvig Aagaard, born March 5, 1930, theology student.
- Karen Dueholm Aagaard, born March 10, 1932, a nurse.

6) and 7), twins who died very young.

8) Emma Dueholm, born Jan 3, 1919, trained nurse,
moved to Julius Pushinskas, born May 5, 1911 in Kaunas in Lithuania, came to Denmark as a wounded war refugee and met Emma at the hospital, and then, he is an electrical engineer, and lives in Salt Lake City, USA.
Emma is, by the way, like her sister Katherine, a true descendant of the Claus lineage in Trevadgård, always ready to put people in their place, and to speak her mind without regard to whether it is in harmony with the traditional mindset or not. There is no room for deceit with these sisters, who have also always been ready to sacrifice themselves when help is needed. This explains why Emma is an outstanding nurse who is never tired when the sick call upon her. Her first child is:
- Peder Einar, born July 25, 1951.

4. Christen Dueholm, born Feb 12, 1878,
moved to Kjerstine Houmark from Trabjerg, born June 27, 1884, died June 19, 1944.
Chresten is the most balanced of the flock and thus resembles his mother more than the other siblings. He did not do so well in school, but he did become a master of life itself, frequently demonstrating an insightful wisdom. In his younger days he was an unskilled laborer in an English coal mine. After returning home he bought Hasselholtgård near Vinderup, and later owned a couple of other farms. He always knew how to get them to work well for him. Kjerstine was always a good wife to him, but they had to bear the grief of their twin children who died very young. He now lives in Vinderup from his earlier endeavors. Typical for him and Kjerstine is the goodness and friendliness they have always shown the children of their siblings, which has always made them popular with both them and their parents.

5. Claus, born April 15, 1880, died seven and a half years later. A poor child without the slightest ability to learn anything or to grow. He weighed a mere 13 pounds when he died.

A.P. Dueholm, the book’s author

Anton differs in several respects from his brothers and sisters, and despite the best intentions, he has never really been quite in step with them. He has more of a revolutionary nature, and as far as that is concerned, he is the one who is most like his father. It is as if all the rebellious thoughts that have been simmering in this lineage throughout the centuries have been gathered in him, raising objections to all the dogmas and practices based on nothing but tradition, which exist in many moral, religious and political areas.

As a young person, he went to Germany, and for a time drifted around as an unskilled laborer. While traveling in England, he received his parents’ permission to study to become a teacher and therefore returned home. He became a teacher which, in spite of the paltry salary at the time, had always been his greatest wish, partly because, when he was in elementary school, a good teacher had taught him some transformative thinking in moral and religious areas. The teaching profession also became his greatest joy. He loved children and did all he could to give them the best possible education that could be had in a rural school. At the same time he had a rather extensive ornamental garden. He actually wore out his hips while working this garden and had to walk with two canes for two years. He then retired with a full pension, partly because of his hips and partly for other reasons, moved to Copenhagen, became a certified real estate agent and now runs a brokerage business with a couple of employees. He has written some books, mainly of a scientific nature.

Kristine, called Astrid, was a clever woman, a capable and very dutiful housewife and devoted to her children. She tended to be very sociable, possibly because she was quite pessimistic and this weighed her down when she was not in the company of others.

On Sept 15, 1949, Anton entered into a new marriage with Ella, who was a single woman of Norwegian origin. An unusually wise and good woman, an ideal wife in every respect.

In Anton’s marriage to Kristine there are 3 children:

1) Astrid Antonia Johanne, born April 30, 1910, died Sept 27, 1994. For almost 20 years she was married to foreman Jørgen Nielsen in Holbæk. They have a son, Henning, born May 19, 1943. {added to English translation: Jørgen Erik Jensen Nielsen was born May 26, 1907, died 1963. Astrid later married retired train driver and widower Julius Brenfelt. Astrid’s son from the first marriage:}

- Henning Tage Dueholm, born May 19, 1943, {added to English translation: on April 28, 1962 at City Hall in Korsør, Henning married Inge Nielsen, born Sept 4, 1941. Much of Henning’s childhood was spent as the son of a single mother. His father, Jørgen Erik Jensen Nielsen left his wife and son when Henning was 6 years old. His mother worked and struggled to raise him. Henning attended Østre Skole (Eastern High School) in Slagelse and obtained a lower secondary education. His employment as an auto mechanic at Ford Motor Co. resulted in his desire to become an engineer. He attended Copenhagen Technical College to study engineering and when this was completed he worked for Olivetti in Copenhagen. Eventually Henning took all of the
experience from several positions and on June 1, 1975 began his air conditioning company “Dansk Klima Center” [Danish Climate Centre] as a privately owned company. The company grew and in 1982 Inge began working with Henning in the firm as bookkeeper. Henning and Inge retired in September 2003 turning the operation over to a director. Henning is chairman of the board. Henning and Inge have one daughter:

- Tina Dueholm, born Oct 27, 1962. Tina works in the company and now owns 1/3 of the company, with 2/3 owned by Henning and Inge. Tina has one daughter:
  - Camilla Dueholm (Mille), born June 14, 1987.

2) Claus Katharos Zamenhof Dueholm, born Dec 17, 1913, {added to Eng. transl: died Dec 7, 1998}, married to Mary Magdalene Teschl, born June 17, 1913 in Vienna.

In 1939 Claus graduated from medical school with honors and was therefore carried in a gold chair from the University in Copenhagen to the student quarters [the gold chair is formed by two people tightly holding each other’s hands so that a third person can sit and be carried]. That evening the professors and examiners also held a celebration in his honor. He specialized in childhood diseases and has been sponsored by Denmark and USA for a trip to USA. He has been on a similar trip to Stockholm. In 1952 he received recognition as a specialist in pediatrics. There are 2 sons:

- Leif Christian, born Aug 1, 1942.
- Søren, born May 13, 1947.

3) Kathrine Maria Dueholm, born July 25, 1920, {added to English translation: died July 22, 2009 in Kingston, Ontario, Canada},

on July 14, 1940, she married Poul Edwin Høegh Baumann, born March 26, 1916 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, {added to English translation: died Jan 6, 2003 in San Jose, California}. Poul came to Denmark as a 20-year-old, has a factory that makes cutting and drilling tools. {added to English translation: In 1952, Poul and Kathrine immigrated to Canada with their children, entering via Ellis Island in USA. They divorced May 13, 1966 in Las Vegas. Kathrine moved to Las Palmas, Canary Islands where she had 2 ladies clothing boutiques. Poul moved to San Jose, California to pursue his inventions, and some years later became chief engineer at Teledyne Microwave. After retiring, Kathrine moved to Arizona to be with her son and daughter-in-law for several years before finally moving back to Kingston, Ontario.} 2 children:

- John Høegh Baumann, born Sept 7, 1941. {added to English translation: On April 6, 1988, John married Mildred Ann Sanders, born May 13, 1941 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. John immigrated to Canada with his family at age 10. He completed high school in Toronto and then attended Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario where he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. John worked as an engineer for 5 years and then began a career in commercial real estate sales. Over the years he accumulated a number of rental properties which allowed him a great deal of freedom to travel and follow his personal interests. John
and Mildred (Micki) lived in Campbell, California for 6 years and moved to Sedona, Arizona in 1993. Mildred has 2 sons from a previous marriage:
- John Thomas Heiney, born Jan 30, 1966 in Columbus, Ohio.
- Allan Høegh Baumann, born May 7, 1944, {added to Eng. transl: lives in Cincinnati, Ohio}.

7. Kristine Dueholm, born Feb 26, 1885 in Sevel parish, on Dec 4, 1909, married to Laurids Clausen Kjær, born June 22, 1879 in Estvad. When Kristine was engaged to Laurids, her father Claus said to him: “You are getting the most capable of my children”. Even though this was quite something for him to say, the rest of us siblings must simply keep silent and consent. Kristine is very versatile, clever at handiwork, a capable housewife and can also look after a garden. Her garden was so good that it, more than once, has won first prize and special awards, both in local associations and in the entire county of Ringkøbing as well as Ribe diocese. The garden, which surrounds their attractive house which she has designed herself, is also used for market gardening. In addition, she has acquired prizes for housekeeping, canning, etc.

Laurids who is the grandson of teacher Kjær in Estvad has, by being a loyal and considerate person, been entrusted with a position as head of the stables for cattle exports in Holstebro. He was first offered the job when the stables were established in 1916, but turned it down because he was already looking after some stables in Skive. When he was again offered the job later, he jumped at the opportunity and is still doing it.

There is only one child: - Helga, born Feb 5, 1911, married to Martin Norup Jacobsen. 3 children:

The garden of Laurids Kjaer and Kristine, which has repeatedly won 1st prize in both the county and diocese

8. Niels, born March 2, 1887, died 1904
He was a strong and capable young man who died abruptly from meningitis after being ill for only about 10 hours. A few days after funeral, I, the author, would bicycle back to Sandet [Sandet = the sand] near Troldhede where I was a teacher. The previous evening I had oiled my bike in the living room, and in order to lubricate the bearings I rode around the living room. Then there was suddenly a loud rattle from the peat box made of painted zinc. Just for fun, and in thinking that the noise was a dent in the box that just popped out, I said as I jumped off the bike, "Oh, there are ghosts in peat box!". But then it made the noise three more times, and again 3 more times, and 3 more times a third time, and maybe even a fourth time, for a total of 9 or 12 times in addition to the first, and each sounded as strong as a powerful fist can hit. We were only three people in the room, and we were all dumbfounded. Because of my ignorance and lack of understanding of these kinds of things at that time, I did not say a word. It could have had a greater meaning for me if I had even been aware of that kind of phenomena at the time. I could have gathered much information over the years from these kinds of things, and my love for Niels would not have been overgrown with moss.
9. **Claus Dueholm**, born Oct 15, 1888, married to **Anna Ingeborg Madsen**, born Feb 8, 1901 in Thise. Claus should really have had the birth farm because of old customs and how these things were usually determined, but he became a teacher instead. Not only had he inherited his mother's intelligence, but also her frame of mind, and he is therefore well suited to teach in a rural area, where convention and diplomatic ingenuity mean so much. From his father he basically just inherited something of a singing voice, so he became a capable church singer.

Anna is the daughter of parish councillor Madsen in Thise in Salling. She has been a good help to Claus in all areas, not the least of which comes from her calm and discerning wisdom, which is useful in difficult situations: She is an experienced organist and highly treasured by the church in Læsten, where they live.

Their first son died very young. The other children are: - Folmer, born July 3, 1924, married, and is a station manager in Randers. - Thorkild, born June 26, 1928, is a law student.
4. Chresten Pedersen
Born April 2, 1844, died May 5, 1916, married to Sine from Nørregård in Fly
married to Mette Kathrine Thomsen (Primdahl), born Sept 26, 1856, died Oct 31, 1938.

Chresten acquired his first wife's birth home by marriage, and he also got her parents when they retired. At that time it was a small farm, not very big, but with good soil, and this suited Chresten because he was more inclined for making deals. Industrious as he was, he traveled the region and bought up animals that were for sale, and resold them at a profit. Gradually he specialized in trading in pigs, which he bought and sold. Since he was an honest man who had people's trust, local farmers would often send him pigs, simply addressed to the square where he sold them on commission, sometimes at a higher price than he had offered the owner, sometimes at a lower price, but he was always fair, and he took pride in getting the owner as much as he himself would have bid for them. He kept only a small amount for each pig sold, but the volume of his business gave him a good profit. On several occasions he bought neighboring lands, and thus ended up with a good size farm.

In the first marriage there were 3 children:
1. Jens Peder, married, died 1938, 11 children,
2. Peder Christian, born June 8, 1874, died Dec 19, 1897.
3. Ingeborg, died.

Chresten entered into a new marriage with Mette Kathrine, the daughter of Thomas Primdahl in Fly. Mette Kathrine was also the sister of Jens Pedersen's wife (see Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter’s 5th child). Mette Kathrine was certainly an outstanding member of the family, distinguished in character as well as in manner and way of thinking. Also in appearance she looked like more a pastor's wife than a rural woman, but apparently she didn’t see that in herself. There was nothing stilted about her. Her fineness was genuine, both physically and psychologically. There were 6 children from the second marriage:

1. Jensine, born Sept 25, 1880, married, died May 22, 1908, shortly before her husband. She was like her mother. She had a child that died very young.

2. Ingeborg, born July 20, 1882
married to Jens Clausen in Koustrup near Mønsted, born Oct 11, 1871, died April 15, 1951. Jens is a nephew of Ingeborg Clausdatter (brother’s son), our ancestress. A prominent farmer and esteemed in the region. Their beautiful and solid home has produced 11 children:
   1) Jens Kristian Clausen, born Sept 27, 1903, married to Astrid Pedersen from Tastum, has 2 children.
   2) Magda Nielsine, born March 2, 1905, married to Alfred Dalsgaard in Børsting, 3 children.
   3) Jette Kathrine, born May 22, 1906, married to Peder Gammelgaard, farm owner in Feldingbjerg, 5 children.
4) Kristine Petrine, born April 18, 1908, unmarried.
5) Jens Sigvald, born Dec 14, 1910, married to Johanne Fløjgaard from Lånum. Is a farm owner and Mayor of Testrup, Lysgård, 3 children.
6) Kresten Pedersen Klausen, born May 1, 1912, married to Else Knudsen, Mønsted. They have his birthplace.
7) Niels Peder, born July 30, 1913, unmarried, has Frausing Nygård, Ans.
8) Ingvar, born Nov 8, 1914, married to Marie Kjær from Sønder Jylland Gårdforpagter in Arnetlund, 2 children.
10) Jenny Ingeborg, born Feb 9, 1922, married to farm owner Frode Sørensen in Ullerup. 2 children.
11) Ejner Magnus, born Nov 20, 1924, unmarried, lives in Rogenstrup by Løgstorp.

3. Thomas Pedersen, born March 24, 1885
in 1910 married to Ane Marie Sørensen from Ryde, died 1931, 10 children
in 1942 married to Kirstine Svejgaard from Ramsing, 3 children.
As a 20-year-old Thomas traveled to California, returned home several years later and bought his birth farm, which he sold in 1913 to his brother Kristen. Thomas has had several large farms and now owns “Kristianspris” near Roslev.

Children from the first marriage:
1) Henry, born Aug 18, 1911, married to Thyra Jørgensen from Junget.
2) Ragnhild, born Nov 18, 1912.
3) Erhardt, born Jan 8, 1914, married to Henny Kristensen from Harre.
5) Helga, born June 4, 1917, married to Roger Mortensen from Tøndering.
6) Ester, born July 9, 1918, married to Jakob Karner Nielsen in Hvam.
7) Anna Marie, born Dec 22, 1919, married to Stig Hjelm Andersen in Æbeltoft.
8) Thomas Primdahl Pedersen, born June 19, 1921, married to Inger Marie Bødker Hansen from Ryomgård.
9) Svend Aage, born Oct 20, 1922, died 1924.
10) Karen Margethe, born July 18, 1924, died 1931.

Children from the second marriage:
1) Karen Margethe, born April 29, 1943.
2) Poula Svejgaard Pedersen, born Nov 1, 1944.

4. Bodil Pedersen, born Jan 29, 1888
on Aug 31, 1908 married Søren Kristian Rosborg from the old well known manor Rosborg in the eastern parish of Mønsted. He is a merchant in Viborg. There are 4 children:

1) Sigvald Kristian, born Feb 16, 1909.
3) Kristen, born Dec 30, 1911.
4) Gunnar, born April 18, 1913, died 1940, otherwise all are living in Viborg and are merchants.

5. Kristen Pedersen, born Dec 12, 1891
married to Maren Sørensen, born March 23, 1896 in Routh. They have his birth farm, Ballekær in Fly. There are 9 children:

1) Molly Kathrine, born April 25, 1919, married to Kristen Dam, Bjerregaard in Fly.
2) Betty, born April 29, 1920, married to Harry Nielsen in Fly.
3) Kristen, born March 17, 1922, married to Ellen Sørensen from Hasselholt near Vinderup, lives in Lihme.
4) Jørgen Routh, born June 24, 1923, married to Rigmor Sørensen from Balling, live in Tøndering.
5) Jens, born July 8, 1925, married to Meta Pedersen from Hagebro inn, where they live.
6) Maren, born July 6, 1926, married to Gunner Werner in Gothenburg, Sweden, where they live.
8) Anna Marie, born Feb 22, 1933.

6. Alfred Martinus Pedersen, born Oct 18, 1895
married to Signe Johanne, daughter of farm owner Niels Sørensen Søndergaard in Åkjær, born Jan 13, 1905.
Alfred is a farm owner in Sepstrup in Sevel parish, and he and Johanne, by their diligence and skill have
created a beautiful home that provides a good upbringing for their 19 children:

1) Metha, born June 30, 1923, married to Kristian Kaastrup from Hjerk from where they live, 2 boys.
2) Maren, born July 16, 1924, married to Kristian Møgelbjerg from Herrup. They live in Hagebro and
   have 1 daughter.
3) Signe, born July 14, 1925, married to Jens P. Sørensen from Hjerk, live in Northern Andrup, 2
daughters.
4) Kristen, born May 20, 1927, married to Anna Jakobsen in Hjerk, live in Nissum in Salling, 1
daughter.
5) Niels, born Sept 20, 1928.
6) Thomas, born Sept 5, 1929.
7) Kaj, born April 21, 1931.
8) Magnus, born May 14, 1932.
9) Bent, born June 11, 1933.
10) Ingrid, born June 27, 1935.
11) Svend, born July 18, 1936.
14) Jens, born April 15, 1940.
15) Erik, born May 8, 1941.
16) Erna, born Feb 3, 1943.
17) Kristian, born March 18, 1944.
18) Ejvind, born April 21, 1945.

Alfred and Signe with their 19 children
5. Jens Pedersen
Born March 11, 1846, died April 28, 1917 in Naur,
murried to Mette Thomsen (Primdahl), born July 28, 1856, died Jan 16, 1938

One of their children writes: “My father and mother were respectable, reliable and considerate in their way of thinking, and for them it was a matter of conscience that no one was wronged. They were good and friendly people, and did everything to the best of their abilities. My mother especially had strong religious beliefs, but did not join a particular religious community. For her, the truth was of utmost importance. Both were hard working and industrious.”

These beautiful words, written in loving memory by a good daughter, are quite consistent with the opinion of others. Mette is the daughter of farm owner Thomas Prindal in Fly, whose farm the young people took over and held until they moved to “Dalgård” which lies next to Naur station. There are 7 children:

1. Thomas Prindahl Pedersen, born April 15, 1882, died Sept 7, 1911,
murried to Agnes Madsen, born May 13, 1879 in Holstebro.
Thomas was a cigar sorter in Holstebro, and after his marriage to Agnes he purchased a cigar shop in Frederiksgade [Frederiksgade = Frederik Street] in Skive. He later bought Skive Tobaksfabrik [Tobaksfabrik = tobacco factory], which he had to sell again because of sickness. He moved back to Holstebro, where, after his death, his wife worked as a milliner in Østerbrogade. Their children:
   1) Aage Prindal, born April 21, 1907, married.
   3) Ester Thomasine Prindal, born Nov 13, 1911.

2. Peder Christian Pedersen, born March 2, 1883,
murried to Bodil Kirstine Nørgaard, born Feb 16, 1880 in Idom, died Dec 12, 1941
married to ?
Peder Christian opened a men’s wear store in Vildbjerg, and after that he bought a large store of the same kind in Sæby. He sold this store after 10 years and bought Skotøjsbørsen [Skotøjsbørsen = footwear market] in Holstebro, which he operated until 1943. Now lives at Granbakken 5, where he has a sizable orchard. There are 10 children:
   1) Kirstine Marie, born April 1, 1908, married to waterworks assistant Erland Mogensen in Ribe.
   2) Gertrud Mathine, born Dec 18, 1909, married to journalist Knud Damtoft in Viborg.
   3) Jens Sigurd, born May 16, 1911, married and has a shoe store in Struer.
   4) Thomas Prindahl, born April 9, 1913, married and living in Durban, South Africa.
   5) Martha, born Nov 23, 1915, married to savings bank director Henry Kristensen in Struer.
   6) Dagny, born Oct 5, 1917, married to carpenter Erik Pedersen, lives in Cape Town in South Africa.
   7) Knud, born April 30, 1919, married and has shoe store in Eshøj.
   9) Ruth, born Oct 1, 1921, married to furniture designer Børge Kristoffersen, lives in Cape Town South Africa.
  10) Svend Aage, born Aug 22, 1923, unmarried.
3. **Ingvard Boas Pedersen**, born Jan 30, 1885
   married to **Marthine Kobborg**, born March 27, 1890 in Kobborg in Handbjerg. Has always been a farmer, first he had Bisgård near Holstebro; now lives at Holbergsvej 1. There are 5 children:
   1) Jens Sigurd, born Sept 21, 1917, married.
   2) Mary, born July 4, 1919.
   3) Gerda, born Dec 13, 1924.
   4) Henning, born March 25, 1928.
   5) Gunhild, born April 17, 1932.

   married to **Anna Pedersen “Gade”**, born June 11, 1897 in Måbjerg. First, Marius had Damholt in Hjerm, and later he took over Gade, Anna's birth farm in Måbjerg where they still live. There are 3 children:
   1) Christian Richardt, born May 31, 1926.
   2) Jens, born Nov 28, 1928.
   3) Anna Elizabeth Gade, born Aug 8, 1933.

5. **Holger Alfred Valdemar Pedersen**, born July 8, 1890,
   married to **Johanne Bjerregaard**, born May 23, 1899 in Nexø, Bornholm. Holger started as a grocer in Allégade in Holstebro, then a few years later he bought a major grocery business near Nørreport, then sold it and started a new business in Sct. Jørgensbakke 12, where he still lives, although he sold the business in 1943. There are 2 children:
   1) Henry Bjerregaard, born Jan 1, 1922, tenured hospital assistant in Copenhagen.
   2) Lilly Bjerregaard, born Nov 11, 1923, saleswoman.

6. **Ingeborg Bodil Pedersen**, born Sept 1, 1892,
   married to **Thomas Laursen**, born April 24, 1884 in Vroue, died in 1947 in Holstebro. Ingeborg is a rare woman, good and intelligent. She inherited all her parents’ best qualities. For 28 years her husband ran a grocery store in Naur. After that they moved to the large grocery store near Nørreport in Holstebro. When her husband died in 1947, their son, Johannes, took over the business. There are 4 children:
   1) Johannes Ingemann Laursen, born Jan 18, 1914, married.
   2) Edith, born April 22, 1915, married.
   3) Helga, born Dec 20, 1917, married.
   4) Christian Richardt, born Dec 8, 1922.

7. **Bodil Sigrid Juliane Helene Pedersen**, born March 6, 1895,
   married to **Bertil Staunstrup**, born Aug 18, 1895 in Falsinggård in Naur. When they married, they took over Bertil's birth farm, later moved to Vorager in Felding where they still live. There are 9 children:
   1) Peder Børge, born April 18, 1920.
   2) Jens Sigurd, born June 13, 1921.
   3) Gunnar, born July 12, 1923.
   4) Tage, born Sept 12, 1924.
   5) Herdis Agnethe, born Oct 9, 1925, married.
   8) Egon Thomas, born Dec 1, 1930.
   9) Ejgild Ove, born July 30, 1934.
6. Karen Pedersen
born April 28, 1848, died Oct 2, 1920,
on Dec 5, 1873, married to Gregers Christian Laursen, born June 5, 1850

Karen was probably the wisest one of the family. This is not to say anything negative about the others, but Karen had a razor-sharp mind, and a person would have to get up very early in the morning to pull anything over on her. She was also one of the most capable, although she was not strong physically since she had inherited the family predisposition for a weak spine, which obviously was a big obstacle, among other things in connection with obtaining an acceptable marriage. Yet she still got a handsome and good man. His goodness was so pronounced that it must be mentioned and especially emphasized. He was good not only to his wife and children, but to everyone. Whenever dad was home, there was cosiness and happiness, and if one of the children had acted up, he talked with this child in the same way he would speak to his best friend. Anger seemed unable to get a foothold in him, and “no” was a word he found difficult to use. Those that asked him for help, got it if it was at all possible, and he might even do without in order to help others. But he did bring a terrible bodily weakness into the family. He had inherited it through his father, who obviously had it from his ancestors. It can sometimes be seen in a child as early as its first year of life. The child seems fine, but the sclera in the eyes have a bluish tint, and if the child falls, or is carried the wrong way, there is a risk of breaking one or more limbs. Because the bones continue to be so fragile throughout life, this weakness is called bone brittleness, or osteogenesis imperfecta. At about 40 years of age, the person also becomes hard of hearing, and sometimes this develops into total deafness, so that not even the best hearing aids can help. This terrible disease is hereditary, seemingly only through a father or mother who has the disorder. Since not all the children in such families inherit the disease, perhaps in the course of time it will be cleaned out. In other respects, it is believed not to impair a person’s life, including their health, intelligence, longevity or well-being. Also, broken limbs or bones tend to heal faster than broken bones normally heal.

Gregers Christian Laursen was a bricklayer, a master of his profession, so everything went well, as long as he remained healthy. As a middle aged man, however, he sustained a leg injury that made one leg stiff. This was a great impediment, especially in the bricklaying profession where one must bend in order to pick up bricks. He continued working as a skilled mason, but nevertheless had trouble keeping up with the young and more flexible. To help in making a living, they bought a small shop in Vestergade in Skive, where they sold wood products, brushes, pottery, etc. and this helped them make ends meet. But it wasn’t enough to give their children a good start or to educate them. Their dowry and their initial capital consisted only of the skills they had learned from birth, but that was not without value.

It could be said that all Peder Christian's grandchildren are now living and building a good life for themselves. Many of them, yes, most of them, are even well off, perhaps because they had a good help starting out. But none of them have more drive than Karen's sons, who like the Villads lineage, lend lustre to the family and the country. There were 10 children:
1. Peder Christian Laursen, born Jan 5, 1875, married to Øllegaard Therkildsen, born Oct 21, 1886 in Gludsminde near Vejle.

When Peder Christian as a 9-year-old boy went to work in Vroue, he was mentioned as the most capable boy in town, and therefore it was easy for him to find work later. In 1893 he took leave of the flock of sheep and the heather hills near Karup Creek to seek education as gardener. 3 times he received support for a stay at Beder Havebrugskole [havebrugskole = horticultural school], and after that he took a job as assistant in several of the country’s largest nurseries, among others, in his place of learning, Beder Havebrugsskole. In 1901 he founded a nursery in Mårslet on 4 acres of land and managed to have a beautiful house built. He soon sold this for a nice profit in order to travel. He now had over 207 Danish Kroner, which he had saved from his time as a soldier and had used to begin with in Mårslet. He traveled up to the Norwegian mountains. After that he received a scholarship from the Ministry of Agriculture for a journey to Germany to study seed production at Gebrüder Dippe, Europe’s, perhaps the world's, largest seed company. In 1907 he traveled by bicycle through Germany and Switzerland to Italy.

Karen's eldest son: Peder Christian Laursen and wife (lineage honorary member)

On March 1st, 1908, Peder Christian started a nursery in Hasle near Århus. He later bought a farm in the same town, put up 12 large greenhouses and founded Hasle nursery. In 1941 he turned over the greenhouses to his son, Tage, but continued operating the nursery, which he still does at the age of 77.

On Peder Christian’s and Øllegaard’s silver wedding anniversary the 25th of April, 1936, an article appeared in the ‘Hasle Grundejer-Borgerblad’ [Hasle-Citizen Homeowners Magazine] which said, among other things: “The energy and industriousness which characterizes Laursen in everything he does, has yielded good fruit in his private business, just as he enjoys prestige and has been placed in a position of trust among his peers. We would like to especially thank him for his undertakings and the interest he has shown in the affairs of our town, where no major tasks are resolved without Peder Christian Laursen being a driving force in it. Accordingly, when the flag on this festive day is raised on the town’s flagpole, then it is all of us who say thanks for good citizenship, and the flag will fly over the facility Peder Christian Laursen and his wife at great cost created in this old village.”

Peder Christian is a typical descendant of the Claus family. There is nothing false about him, everything is real and true. He never gives a thought to formality or to the external.

But Peder Christian's story is also Øllegaard’s story. It is rare to see a couple that complement each other to such a high degree, both in character and competence. It might be thought that Øllegaard comes from a more polished lineage and has a different physiognomy. She possessed an unusual beauty as a young person which is only magnified and perfected by her friendliness and goodness of heart. By her nature she charms everyone she meets, and she is felt and remembered by all, even though they may not have seen her for many years.

But Peder Christian would not truly have been Gregers Christian Laursen's first son, if he didn’t always think about the care and welfare of others. In 1932 he started the “Jydske Gartneres Hjælpeforening” [Jutland
Gardener’s Relief Association] and he has since been its president. Its purpose is to give a helping hand to old gardeners or their widows, and it now has around 100,000 Danish Kroner. It is therefore natural, that the “Almindelig Dansk Gartnerforening (Århus kredsen)”, [Common Danish Gardener’s Association (Århus district)] in recognition appointed him an honorary member. For many years he has been a parish official and recruiter in Hasle. There are two children:

1) Tage Laursen, born Jan 20, 1915, married to Anna Andersen from Hune, has a part of the nursery in Hasle. They have 5 children.

2) Gerda Kristine Laursen, born April 25, 1920, married to farm owner Peder Bakkegaard Rasmussen, who now owns Ødum Damgaard. They have 1 son.

2. Dorthea Laursen, born Oct 17, 1876
married to Niels Jensen Køjborg, born Sept 21, 1873, died in 1932.
Køjborg was haulage contractor in Skive. In about 1900 he bought a property in Nørre Hvam [Nørre = northern] on 9 acres of land. Both he and Dorthea were immensely industrious. After his death Dorthea and the children kept the home for 6 years. After that, his son, Carl, took over the property, and for about 13 years he took care of both his wife and his mother, who already at that time was ill. When Carl himself fell ill in 1948 with a serious back injury, Dorthea went to be cared for by her son Geo Christian, who together with his wife have been a good and loving son and daughter-in-law. Dorthea suffers from the same terrible disease which she inherited from her father, Gregers Christian Laursen. I, who write this, remember Dorthea from my youth as a rare, bright and beautiful girl with an enormously sunny disposition. Fifty-five years later I saw her again, sick and bedridden. In the 20 years or so that she has been ill, she has occasionally been out of bed for short periods of time, but then has had to lie down again. This inherited disease, osteogenesis imperfecta, has made her very hard of hearing, nearly deaf, and diabetes and a cerebral hemorrhage have made her weak and deprived her of the ability to speak, so now she can only give inarticulate sounds. By shouting loudly into the funnel, she realized who I was. She remembered me, and she was so moved that tears also ran down my cheek as well as hers. I think she is being cared for by a good and loving daughter-in-law, but it is awful that our society in 1951 has become so poor that it can not help more in such cases. Of her 8 children, 3 have inherited this onerous disease. The children are:

1) Bolette, born Feb 17, 1901,
moved to Anders Routh Jensen, born 1895, died 1936. 1 daughter: Jenny Routh, born April 1, 1932.

2) Henry Jonas Jensen, born March 28, approx. 1905,
moved to Ane Caroline, has 2 children
married to Lis Møller, has 1 child. They now live in Ribe.

3) Carl, born Feb 7, 1910,
moved to Emma Marie Sørensen from Ejsing, born Oct 21, 1907.
They live in Carl's birth home and have 1 daughter,
Dorthea Nielsen, born April 4, 1940.

4) Karen Nielsine, born Oct 19, 1911 in Borbjerg,
moved to Alfred Richardt Sørensen, born Aug 24, 1909 in Mildgård in Handbjerg. Clever people who now own a farm in Mejrup. They have 4 children:
- Niels Erik, born Dec 18, 1934.
- Svend Henning, born Nov 7, 1938.
- Henning Andreas, born May 17, 1942.

5) Marie, born Feb 5, 1913,

6) Geo Christian, born Jan 17, 1915,
moved to Valborg Eriksen from Ryde, born May 1, 1915.
Valborg has an unusually good memory, and it seems that she is a good daughter-in-law and nurse for the sick Dorthea. They live in Sønder Hvam [Sønder = southern] and have 5 children. Geo has the family disease.
7) Jens Arne Jensen (Køjborg), born Aug 10, 1917, married to Ingrid Mortensen, born March 22, 1920. They live in Søndebyhus in Handbjerg. Jens has the family disease (osteogenesis imperfecta), which has gone over into 3 of their 6 children:
- Edith, born Feb 9, 1940.
- Frode, and - Bent, both born May 14, 1943.
- Kay, and - Tage, both born Jan 4, 1951.

8) Arne, born Aug 24, 1919, married to Elisabeth Frandsen, born April 24, 1926 in Ribe, where they live and have 3 children, of which 1 has the family illness.

3. Laust Laursen, died at 5 years of age, and during that time had broken his legs 8 times.

4. Ingeborg Laursen, born March 2, 1880, married to Jens Jensen from Hvam, born Jan 21, 1879. The two are cousins, but very different from each other. She is lively and quick-witted, he is calm and quiet, but despite their differences they work toward the same things and live well together.

As a two year old, Ingeborg was kind of adopted by Marie Clausdatter, called Marie Vestergaard, in Vroue, who was her mother’s aunt (her mother’s mother’s sister). Marie’s strong and somewhat rugged nature gave Ingeborg a solid upbringing, strict, but good, which has been meaningful for her as a housewife in a farm such as Venegård in Ryde, where Jens and Ingeborg live, and where they in broad agreement and with skill have brought up 7 children to be industrious and also have faith:

1) Niels Vestergaard Jensen, born Sept 21, 1904, died 1948, married to Inger Jensen from Lønbækkgård in Northern Felding, residing in Bredkjærgård near Ryde church. Niels died in a strange accident while working with a heifer that became afraid of a dog and jumped across him. He died two days later with a ruptured liver and other internal injuries. 6 children.

2) Johannes Vennegaard Jensen, born Jan 21, 1906, died March 29, 1951, married to Kirstine Lykkeskov from Sevel. They owned “lille Rydemølle” [the little mill in Ryde]. No children.

3) Ingrid Vennegaard Jensen, born March 5, 1907, married to Peder Jensen from Sønder Østerskov [south eastern forest], born Oct 9, 1902. They live in Kongsholm and have 4 children.

4) Christian Vennegaard Jensen, born May 20, 1908, married to Gerda Sørensen from Husmer in Hjerm. They live in Damholm in Hjerm. 2 daughters.

5) Arne Vennegaard Jensen, born June 2, 1909, married to Gerda Jørgensen from Skamby, Fyn. They live in Christianslund in Handbjerg. They have adopted 2 children.

6) Peder Vennegaard Jensen, born June 21, 1913, married to Ebba Nørgaard in Skave, have Nørregård in Skave [Nørregård = northern farm]. 3 children.

7) Ane Marie Vennegaard Jensen, born Jan 30, 1915, married to Aage Byskov from Gudum, born April 22, 1912. They lived for 10 years in Lindholm in Hjerm and took over Vennegård in 1950 [Vennegård = friends farm]. Byskov is full of energy as well as competence, which I immediately saw when I visited Vennegård. The parents, Ingeborg and Jens, have at least so far remained living on the farm. 3 children.


It is difficult to find something nice enough to describe Kirstine and Albert. All the family’s good qualities are combined in Kirstine, including her brother, Peder Christian Laursen’s good temperament, and since Albert was comparable to her in diligence and honesty, their country house was a beautiful home for the 9 children.
whose culture and upbringing are admirable. They sold their home in Øster Ausum [Øster = eastern] in Hjerm in 1933 to a daughter and son-in-law, and Kirstine now lives in Hjerm market town. Their children:

1) Harald Henrik Ferdinand Pedersen (now Frisenhøj) born July 29, 1902, married to Jenny Mæhle from Randers, born Sept 3, 1900. They have a hosiery business in Århus. One child: Elin.

2) Karen Petrea, born Jan 30, 1904, married to Laurids Bay, has her birth home in Hjerm. 3 children.

3) Dagmar Kirstine, born April 19, 1906, married to Thomas Røjbæk. Station worker in Hjerm. 2 sons.

4) Olga Augusta, born Aug 9, 1907, married to Christian Lund, bricklayer in Herning. 3 children.


7) Helga Junete, born June 20, 1912, married to Robert Lehmann Weng from Hammel.


10) Karl Anneberg Majgaard, born May 15, 1918, died as an infant June 1, 1918.

6. Anna Laursen, a goodhearted, friendly and clever girl, died 24 years old.

7. Carl Christian Ranghøj (name change from Laursen), born May 20, 1885, married to Sigrid Ernstsen, born May 2, 1895 in Odder, died 1945. Carl first became an apprentice for learning to make brushes, but left this fairly quickly and then studied photo frame making, and began a frame factory in Skive. He later moved the factory to Århus and continued under modest conditions. The factory grew steadily and he had to go into partnership with capitalists to raise money. He has been dogged by various accidents, among them five or six fires, of which the last one especially caused a huge loss, so that the factory had to close down.

Carl has inherited his father's kindness and helpfulness, but he also inherited the family illness, which has also been passed on to his only child, a daughter. Sigrid was a good wife to him, and looked after the home faithfully. Her early death at the age of 49 was a great loss, for Carl and for his daughter:

1) Edith Irene Ranghøj, born Oct 30, 1913, first married to Harry Pedersen (deceased in 1948), thereafter married to manufacturer Erik Dyhrberg, they live in Århus.

8. One child died immediately after birth.

9. Nielsine Anne Marie Laursen, born June 17, 1888, married to Hans A. Møller, born Sept 13, 1883 in Lureby. Miller has a bookbinding business in Fredericia. He started the business from scratch in 1913, and his solid and stable nature has caused the business to continue growing, but it is now mostly managed by his son.

Annine is the most lovable of all the siblings, and the happiest, extremely devoted to her family and relatives. Her goodness is so touching that it effectively almost grasps your heart. Her skill is unique. In needlework (artful sewing, etc.) she has accumulated many students, and this without neglecting her home. But this little lovable woman has inherited the family disease, and has for many years been so deaf that she is completely cut
off from all sounds around her. However, her skill is so outstanding that she has continued to this day to be sought after as a teacher of needlework, even though her students have to use a pencil if they want to ask questions. There are 3 children. One of them has inherited the terrible family disease, which has also been carried over to his daughter, who has had several leg fractures before she reached 2 years of age.

1) Hans Willy, born March 18, 1915,
married to Yrsa Nielsen, art dealer and glazier in Middelfart. 1 child:

2) Orla H. born July 23, 1920,
marrid to Jytte Dyhrberg. Co-owner of his father's bookbinding business. 2 children:
  - Inger Marie, born Feb 4, 1948.

3) Børge Vagn, born Dec 27, 1925,
marrid to Yrsa Christensen, an art dealer and glazier in Northern Åby. 1 child:
  Annie, born Dec 6, 1948.

10. Bertel Peder Ranghøj, born Sept 25, 1890, changed his name from Laursen in 1913, married to Astrid Mary Mæhle, born April 2, 1892 in Randers, but of Norwegian descent. Peder was educated in the brush manufacturing industry, but left shortly after completing his apprenticeship. In 1913, together with his brother Carl, he started a small firm for manufacturing wooden photo frames. The outbreak of World War I in 1914 necessitated an input of capital, so the brothers brought a wealthy partner into the business. However, this company had to close down, and Peder took a job as a salesman.

Karen's youngest son: Manufacturer B.P. Ranghøj and wife.

In 1916, Peder married Astrid Mæhle, the daughter of manufacturer R. A. Mæhle, from Randers, and in 1921 he founded his frame factory called “Jyden” [Jyden = the Jutlander, or person living in Jutland]. He did this in a rented location with no capital and under very modest conditions, but this was the beginning of Peder's adventurous life’s work. The company proved viable, and it continually progressed. They exhibited a rare skill and energy. Peder rode his bicycle all over Denmark, heavily loaded with sample cases, and took orders for the frames that he produced. Astrid shipped out the orders, did the bookkeeping and looked after collections in an excellent way, while she also took care of the home and the three sons after they were born.

In 1925, Peder bought a house on Kastanieallé [Kastanieallé = chestnut avenue] in Åbyhøj. On the land behind behind the house, a smaller building was immediately constructed for the manufacture and storage of picture frames. In the beginning only wooden frames were manufactured, but Peder soon realized that, by using metal instead of wood, he could produce more elaborate frames, and with greater variety. After just a few years this small factory had been changed, replaced and expanded for the fabrication of metal frames, using specialized machines that were mostly self-designed.
Progress after that was almost avalanche-like. New purchases of surrounding adjacent properties made room for factory expansion. Year after year, new additions were added to the factory. Altogether about twenty new structures were built. Between 1946 and 1949, a number of the additions were demolished and replaced with a large, modern 4-story building of brick, iron and concrete. Today the factory has 4000 square meters of floor space [about 43,000 sq ft], which is now the largest metal frame factory in Europe. In 1936, a branch of the factory was established in Copenhagen, and in 1945 a metal frame factory in Århus was purchased. Moreover, in recent years factories have been set up in Norway, Sweden and Holland. And now a factory is under construction in South America.

Right from the company’s humble beginnings, Astrid, as Peder's wife, was a loyal and good helpmate, and even now follows the factory’s daily operation with great interest. To this must be added that she is an excellent hostess for the factory’s customers that come to visit, both from home and abroad. Her phenomenal energy and vitality is breathtaking, and has also been passed down to her children. Her friendly nature has carried the beauty of her youth and protected it over the years, and her intelligence and skill are the reason she is cut out to be a great businessman's wife.

In 1947, Peder and Astrid's three sons were absorbed into the company as co-owners. The three sons are:

1) Ejgil Mæhle Ranghøj, born April 15, 1917, married to Else Rheinlænder, born Jan 1, 1919 in Odense. Ejgil graduated from business school in Germany, and for many years has managed the factories in Åbyhøj and Århus. He has 2 sons and 1 daughter.

2) Leif Mæhle Ranghøj, born Dec 25, 1920, married to Anna Christa Hedegaard, born Feb 24, 1928. Leif manages the factories in Norway and Sweden, as these are only 50 kilometers apart, and therefore can be managed by one person. He has one son.

3) Bjarne Peter Mæhle Ranghøj, born Nov 27, 1921, married to Ellen Margit Mortensen, born Aug 21, 1924 in Skanderborg. Bjarne received his law degree at Copenhagen University in the summer of 1949 and is now working as a lawyer in Århus until September 1952 to complete his legal training. After that he will become active in the management of the factories, probably as high court lawyer. He has a daughter and a son.

Over the years, “Jyden” has exported its products to countries all over the world. When I visited Astrid and Peder, I stood and looked at a map of the world and saw the many small frames that were plotted on it, showing where “Jyden” has representatives, and which countries the frames are exported to. I thought to myself: All over the world, even in Siberia, China, Australia, Africa, and in the heart of America, you can find homes with pictures in Danish frames, that are admired and loved. Even the Inuit people of the far north, just like us, are using Danish frames when they really want to decorate the image of someone they hold dear.

Peder has formed a company that has gone worldwide, and he has done it all without being changed by it. He is the same good and even-tempered cousin that I have always known him to be, and there is no pretense about him, but it is actually who he is.

Peder has refused to allow me to write more about him than about anyone else. He has pointed out to me that everyone in the lineage, be he a farmer, worker or craftsman, who in good faith has worked to provide for his family, has earned the same favorable mention, and in Peder's opinion, this also goes for the mother who has given her love and care to her home and children. During this trip I also visited my other cousins in order to collect information for this book. I discovered, incidentally with great pleasure and pride, partly from what I saw for myself and partly from reports by others, that virtually all of them deserved the same kind of favorable mention. So I will in some ways say that Peder is correct, but yet I also think it is right to emphasize Peder Ranghøj in particular. For the vast majority of us, too much mention just becomes repetition, since competence and skill manifest alike, but Peder, and incidentally also the oldest brother, Peder Christian, are quite extraordinary. So I think we can agree it is proper for me to attempt to give posterity a picture of what these brothers have accomplished. I'm quite sure that every cousin who personally knows them, would blame me a great deal if I had not included these accomplishments. What I write is for our lineage in general and for our descendants in particular, so that in a hundred years or two, people can see that they are permitted to be proud of their past and that they have a duty to continue this.
7. Maren Kjerstine Pedersen  
born March 11, 1850, died Jan 29, 1877,  
moved to Jens Peder Kudahl in Fly, born Sept 22, 1846, died March 16, 1923  

“Maren Kjerstin” was a bright girl, full of roguishness and temperament, distinguished herself by her accuracy and straightforwardness and therefore had everyone’s trust. She died only 27 years old and, during her brief marriage had only one daughter, namely:  

Ane Marie Jacobsen Kudahl, born Aug 10, 1874,  
moved to Peder Olsen, born Jan 20, 1863, died April 14, 1938.  
When Jens Peder Kudahl remarried, Ane Marie got a stepmother, and that has left her with some memories, even though her father was a good father and protective of his child, but quiet by nature, without strong words. “An Mari” was married quite young to farm owner Peder Olsen, called Peder Wollesen, to distinguish him from another farmer with the same name who also lived in Toftum in Mønsted parish. When I visited An Mari this year she was sick in bed. She had something in her throat which the doctors could not really come to grips with, but her friendliness could not hide the pain she was suffering. Even now, as a 77-year-old you have to admire her beauty which is only augmented by her friendliness. Just like her mother she has always been a woman you could rely on, and when you look at her home it was easy to see that she had also inherited the predisposition for order and skill. She has 4 children, one son lives in Løvskal. Two others live in Toftum; a daughter, Kjerstine, was married to Marie Bregendal’s nephew (brother’s son).
8. Mette Marie Pedersen
born April 21, 1851, died Oct 15, 1929,
moved to **Søren Jensen**, born Dec 22, 1844, died Mar 12, 1895,
moved to **Peder Christian Knudsen**.

Mette Marie and Søren Jensen

Of the many siblings, Mette Marie was the one that ended up moving around the most, and she was also the one who had the most children. She was an exceptionally charming woman, and I who write this, remember that I have never seen more beautiful eyes than hers, not because they were brown, which they were, nor simply because they were a reflection of her wisdom, but because they shone bright with great expressions of kindness and goodness.

Søren Jensen, or more correctly Mette Marie, started as a grocer in Vridsted, even though Søren was a carpenter and was experienced in his trade. They later moved to Bjert, and in 1883 bought the small farm” Trabjerglund” in Borbjerg parish, where they also had a grocery store. Here Søren died of pneumonia, but Mette Marie and the kids continued to run things for many years in an exemplary fashion, even though Mette Marie had always walked poorly because she was lame. Everywhere Mette Marie lived she had a beautiful garden, and Trabjerglund had absolutely the most beautiful garden in the parish and the region, magnificent with all kinds of fruit. In these times (around 1900), the gardens in West Jutland were still very modest, with perhaps some elderberries and a few trees, but otherwise not a lot of things other than the medieval cabbage patches with some berry bushes among them. But Trabjerglund was a garden where even the Nightingale would stop, as it was the only place of its kind west of Viborg. Mette Marie planted, grafted and pruned the trees herself, and they bore fruit, which trees in these West Jutland regions otherwise never did at that time. When the children were becoming adults, Mette Marie entered into a new marriage with Peder Christian who was a bricklayer. After that they moved to Handbjerg, to Daughbjerg and some years later again to Vridsted where this talented woman is buried with others from her lineage. From her marriage to Søren Jensen there were 14 children, one of whom died immediately:

1. **Peder Christian Jensen**, born Sept 21, 1873,
married to **Marie Pedersen** from Haderup, born 1872, died 1942. 2 children.

2. **Jens Jensen**, born May 17, 1875, died March 16, 1952,
married to **Ane Møller** from Barlund, died 1934.
Jens was a witty and warm Jutlander who would never harm anyone. He spent his younger days in England, then lived in Skave. 3 children. He died recently and was buried March 21, 1952.

3. **Carl Jensen Trabjerglund**, born Oct 10, 1876,
married to **Rebække Nielsen** from Giørding (Vemb, west of Holstebro), born Oct 1, 1896.
Carl is a capable farmer who also has the ability to imitate people's voice and gestures. 6 children, including one that died.

4. Ingvard Jensen, born Aug 21, 1878, died approx. 1919, married to Marie Jepsen from Trevel in Sevel. 9 children.

5. Ingeborg Jensen, born April 28, 1880, married to Jens Sørensen. They have one daughter.

6. Ane Jensen, born March 6, 1882 in Vridsted, on Nov 30, 1909, married Jens Nyboe, born Dec 29, 1880. Jens Nyboe is from the well-known Vestergaard lineage in Sevel, originating with Stephen Knudsen in Djeld (see “the Smed lineage” in Part I), which alone is enough to supersede anything else I could mention about him. He now lives as the continuing generation in Trabjerglund, a beautiful spot with fertile fields and gardens that leaves little to be desired, even when compared to bygone days when the farm was under the care of Søren and Mette Marie. Although Ane and her older siblings were born in Vridsted, Trabjerglund has always been, and still is the place that all the kids think of as their childhood home with its wonderful memories, colored by Søren Jensen’s upstanding character and Mette Marie’s goodness. Ane and Jens Nyboe have 4 children:

1) Ingeborg, born Nov 28, 1910, married to Thomas Jensen from Handbjerg. They live in Skovbæk in Trabjerg.
3) Dortha, born Nov 13, 1916, married to Jens Karstensen from Finderup, where they live.
4) Tage, born April 4, unmarried, living at home.

7. Anton Magnus Jensen, born June 28, 1884 in Trabjerglund, married to Kathrine Mortensen from Nørre Dueholm [nørre = northern], born Dec 26, 1888. They live in Holmgård in Vridsted, which has become a good farm as a result of Magnus’ skill. There are 8 children.

8. Ane Katrine Jensen, born April 7, 1886, died Feb 24, 1891.

9. Laura Marie Jensen, born Oct 17, 1887, on Sept 12, 1909, married Kristian Nielsen (Kusk) from Bjørnkær, died Nov 6, 1920, on Aug 24, 1922 married A. Andersen, born Feb 23, 1875 in Grinderslev in Salling. Childern from the first marriage:

1) Jens Kusk Nielsen, born Nov 29, 1909.
2) Johanne Marie, born Nov 27, 1912.
3) Dortha Marie, born June 8, 1917.

A couple of years after Kristian Kusk died in Lysgård, Laura married A. Anderson, a blacksmith there. Brought up in a poor but neat and good home where there were 16 children, Anderson learned that honesty and integrity are the principles that create value in a home. He, as well as his brothers and sisters have kept this in mind, and it has allowed them to reach forward to prosperity and the respect of others. When he, in 1920 became a widower with 3 children of his own, he joined with Laura, who, according to his own statements has been an outstanding wife to him who can not be praised enough. Their union has formed a good home for the 6 children they already had at the beginning of their marriage, which eventually grew to become 9 children, who all take after their honest and skillful parents. The last 3 children are:

7) Krista Marie Andersen, born July 28, 1923.
8) Mette Marie, born Sept 20, 1924.
9) Kaj Lund Andersen, born July 11, 1927.

11. **Petra Johanne Jensen**, born Oct 2, 1890, 
mixed to **Peder Nielsen** in Vridstedgård, born Dec 9, 1864, died Dec 10, 1922. 1 daughter, 
mixed to **Jens Christian Nielsen**, born Nov 7, 1886. They were married March 2, 1926. 1 son. 
Johanne’s first marriage was to widower Peder Nielsen on Sept 1, 1916, who bought Vridstedgård from Peder 
Nielsen in Vroue. Johanne thus ended up living on her grandmother's (mother’s mother) farm. Peder Nielsen 
was a handsome and pleasant man, but he did not get much out of the farm, so the farm had to be sold after his 
death.


13. **Jensine Ane Katrine Jensen**, born April 24, 1893, 
mixed to **Jens Krog** from Sevel. 2 daughters.
9. Jens Peder Pedersen  
born March 3, 1853, died Jan 6, 1919,  
married to Ane Kirstine Jensen from Mølgård in Resen, died Jan 3, 1937.

When Jens Peder got married, he bought a house on a moor in Mundbjerg. It was not very glorious, but he went to work on the heather covered areas, which he initially got his neighbors to plow for him in return for helping them with other things, especially with thatching roofs, and all of them had thatched roofs at that time. Jens Peder had in fact a reputation for being a skilled thatcher. The moor was not as bad as they thought, and Jens Peder cultivated it successfully, and soon was able to buy his own vehicle. After many years of hard work he eventually managed to cultivate the whole 55 acres, and thus attained some prosperity and a decent small farm house. Jens Peder was the one of the siblings who (in addition to Per Høker) spoke most slowly and in the lowest voice, and was probably also of a less fiery nature than the others. Perhaps his calmer and quieter nature was acquired by being with his wife, who on the whole gave the home its character. In particular, she took it as her task to give her husband and children an understanding of the value of a calm nature, and of living a religious life. She was very charitable, and she died after falling from a chair on Jan 3, 1937 at her son’s place in Goderum. There were 7 children:

1. Ingeborg Pedersen, born July 26, 1884,  
made to Carl Christensen Bjørnkjær from Hoager, owned his birth farm, died July 24, 1951, at the age of 68. 3 children.

2. Else Kristine Pedersen, born May 23, 1886, died 1926,  
made to Mads Damgaard from Sevel, where they lived. 3 children. One son is now an architect in Skive.

3. Peder Christian Pedersen, born May 7, 1888,  
made to Bodil Pedersen from Ilsø, got the birth farm, but moved around and now live in their older years near Mejrup church. 12 children.

4. Ane Kathrine Pedersen, born Jan 21, 1890, died while engaged in 1912.

5. Karen Sørine Pedersen, born Oct 12, 1897, died quite young from tuberculosis.

6. Jens Mølgaard Pedersen, born Nov 18, 1898,  
made to Magda Margrethe Mortensen, born Aug 15, 1903. Has a farm in Goderum in Sahl. 2 sons:  
   - Peder Mølgaard Pedersen, born March 16, 1929.  
   - Karl Kristian Mølgaard Pedersen, born March 7, 1933.

7. Jens Christian Pedersen, born May 21, 1901,  
made to Margrethe Jensen, a granddaughter (son’s daughter) of teacher Jensen in Mogenstrup.  
Christian and his children have always used Dueholm as their surname, and that is what we will also do, even though the children (at least some of them) were born with the name Pedersen. He is the one of the siblings that was the oldest when he got married. At about 18 years of age, he started to work in a number of places, especially for his brothers and sisters and other relatives. He worked 5 years in Koustrup, where he, as part of his pay, was allowed to keep sheep and other animals which he would then sell. A desire to trade in animals must have been in his blood, because already as a boy or young man he was purported to have owned most of sheep at home in the sheep pen.

When he got married, he started as a grocer in Sparkjær, and he also manufactured peat using this town's bog. But this life gave him no time to trade in animals, nor did he have room to keep them. So as early as in 1888, he bought a farm in Egebjerg in Ejsing, and then traded in animals, especially pigs, just like his brother, Chresten in Fly. In 1916 he sold the farm, including its 16 cows and 2 horses, but he continued to trade in animals until his death in 1935. "A good father has left, a father who always kept the interests and needs of his wife and children in mind" writes a son in loving memory of him. I can not say anything better or more beautiful about Christian Dueholm. Ane Dorthea was from Hvislund in Borbjerg. “She was a homemaker who looked after her home and her children in an exemplary way,” writes the same son, and this is in agreement with my knowledge of her. She is now the last remaining of the 13 siblings and their spouses, and is living with her daughter, Johanne, but old age (89 years) has weakened her and deprived her of the ability to remember and recognize. There were 8 children:

1. **Peder Christian Dueholm**, born Oct 4, 1886, married to **Agnes Nielle Nielsen** from Råst, born July 14, 1889. Peder learned carpentry when young. Has been a farmer in between. He now earns a living as a craftsman in Ejsing. 2 daughters and 4 sons.

2. **Laurits Dueholm**, born April 28, 1889, married to **Ida Pedersen**, who had 6 children from her first marriage, and 2 children in this one, a capable housewife and farmer's wife. Laurits is a farmer and has inherited his father's desire to trade, not in animals but with property. He has therefore moved from farm to farm, perhaps 20 times. At this time he lives in Børglum.

3. **Johannes**, died a few days old.

4. **Johanne**, born April 28, 1893, married to farm owner **Anders Jensen** in Ejsing, born Aug 22, 1883, has his birth farm. At the home of Johanne and Anders, her now 89-year-old mother has found good and loving care. They are both capable people. He is on the parish council, the parochial church, and he has chaired his local co-op and is now its treasurer. They have 8 children.


6. **Alma**, born Feb 17, 1892, married to **Niels Peder Miltersen**, died at 32 years of age, married to **Peder Andersen**.
Miltersen lived in Folmentoft near Skive, but died 32 years old from a violent haemorrhage. He was a rare and good man who, we think, left much too quickly. There are 4 children, sound and healthy, presumably immune to tuberculosis. Alma’s second husband is some 20 years younger than her. His fine character can be seen from his kindness to Alma and the children, which no one could be a better father to. He has developed the home, Folmentoft, and brought prosperity to it. Has 2 children.

7. Niels P. Vestergaard Dueholm, born Jan 4, 1901, died from tuberculosis at the age of 16.

8. Ane Marie Vestergaard Dueholm, born Oct 22, 1904, married to Henrik Falkenberg, farm owner in Håsum near Skive. 6 children.
11. Ingeborg Pedersen  
born June 17, 1856, died 1936,  
married to Jens Jensen, born Aug 6, 1850, died 1925.

Ingeborg was the most independent of the 13 brothers and sisters. This turned out to be especially useful because her husband sought her advice in a great many things and was happy to take her wisdom into account. He was in fact an unusually calm person, balanced in all areas, and was one of the region’s most distinguished men, both among his circle of friends and in the parish council. He was a capable man and therefore had everyone's trust. He operated his large farm, Nørgård in Hvam, with great profit. Both he and Ingeborg were generous and helpful wherever it was needed, a characteristic which, incidentally, ran through the whole lineage on both his and her side. There were eleven children, but three of them were mentally retarded. These poor children were a heavy mental burden which Ingeborg and Jens bore with great patience. It was almost as if they possessed the exact qualities and abilities to provide a balanced and tolerable life for these poor children. But, almost as a kind of recompense, the other children seem to have inherited Ingeborg and Jens’ best characteristics:

1. Jens Jensen, born Jan 21, 1879,  
married to Ingeborg Laursen, born March 2, 1880. (see additional entry for Ingeborg Laursen, the 4th child of Karen Pedersen, who was the 6th child of Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter).

2. Peder Christian Jensen, born 1880, has the birth farm, unmarried.


4. Ane Marie Jensen, born Feb 9, 1885,  
married to Christian Nielsen from Hosager, lived on the farm “Enghoved” where they still live with a son, the only living of 5 children.

5. Ingeborg Jensen, born Nov 4, 1885,  
on Nov 4, 1914 married to Jens Sørensen from Brødbæk, who died Dec 6, 1946.  
Changed their surname to Brødbæk. Jens was a widower with three children and had his birth farm which he and Ingeborg ran with great skill. There are 4 children:

   1) Jens Christian S., born Jan 1, 1916, married to Inger Damgaard in Borbjerg. They live in Bladbjerg in Mejrup. They have one son:
      - Jens Damgaard Brødbæk, born June 17, 1948.


   3) Ingrid S. Brødbæk, born Aug 22, 1922.

   4) Frede S. Brødbæk, born Jan 26, 1928.

6. Peder Jensen, born 1888, died 49 years old, mentally retarded.

7. Ane Jensen, born Nov 26, in approx. 1890, still alive and looking after herself, can sweep, carry fuel inside etc.
8. Niels, died 5 years old, a quick and lovely boy.

9. Kirstine Jensen, mentally retarded, died at 23 years of age.

10. Dorthea Jensen, born Dec 24, 1897,  
married to Laurids Østergaard from Handbjerg, who has his birth farm. No children.

11. Niels Jensen, born Dec 21, 1899,  
married to Ingeborg Sanggaard from Kjelsmark. She has died. He still lives on the farm “Store Hæslund” in Borbjerg. 1 daughter.
12. Karen Marie Pedersen  
born April 17, 1858, died Dec 23, 1923,  
married to Peder Nielsen, born 1840, died Nov 8, 1896,  
married to Laust Johansen, born Aug 24, 1840, died Nov 9, 1914.

None of Peder Christian Pedersen’s children could compare with Marie in hospitality and courtesy, and that says not so little. “Aunt Marie” was a name that everyone in the family always liked to hear, and all her brothers and sisters’ children always looked forward to visiting her or having her as their guest.

She married farm owner Peder Nielsen in Vroue. He was a widower who apparently had 5 children from his earlier marriage, one of which, Jens, married Edel’s daughter Ingeborg (Edel was the 13th child of Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter). Another of Peder Nielsen’s children by his earlier marriage, Niels Christian, lives in Haderup and has 6 children, of which 4 are still alive.

Peder Nielsen was a well-to-do man and bought Marie’s birth farm, which he ran together with his own farm since the two farms were close to each other. He was thus the region’s largest farmer. He was also one of the most handsome and smartest men, elegant and cultured. As far we know he had no special training, but despite that was known and appreciated as a capable veterinarian. He was popular with everyone, not just because he was a big land owner, but also because he was an unusually pleasant and intelligent man. As an older man his health gave out, and he again sold Vridstedgård [Vridsted Farm] to Peder Nielsen from Fly, who later married Mette Marie’s daughter, Johanne (see Petra
Johanne Jensen, the 11th child of Mette Marie Pedersen, who was the 8th child of Peder Christian Pedersen and Ingeborg Clausdatter). With Marie, Peder Nielsen had 6 children:

1. **Johanne Nielsen**, born June 9, 1883, married to **Niels Severin Jensen**. They live in Vridsted and have 8 children:
   1) Otto Kjær Jensen, born Aug 25, 1907, married to Mette Maarbjerg from Råsted. Children:
      - Doris, born Sept 6, 1939.
      - Svend Erik, born March 3, 1945.
   2) Petra Laura Marie, born Dec 28, 1908, married to Laust Christensen in Vroue. One child:
      - Inger, born April 8, 1942.
   3) Kirstine, born July 7, 1910, unmarried.
   4) Mary Agnethe, born Sept 13, 1912, married to Sigvald Søndergaard, in Vridsted. One child:
      - Jacob, born Aug 2, 1943.
   5) Peder, born April 12, 1914, unmarried.
   6) Sigvard Kristian, born March 12, 1918, unmarried.
   7) Edith Helene, born Feb 9, 1920, married to Kristian Pedersen from Ørum. Children:
      - Birgit, born Dec 1, 1944.
   8) Anna Margrethe Irene, born June 8, 1924, unmarried.

2. **Peder Christian**, born March 24, 1884, unmarried, living in America.

3. **Marius**, without the ability to learn or grow, died 5 years old.

4. **Annine**, also mentally retarded, died at 28 years old.

5. **Laust Peder**, born Nov 19, 1889, married to **Dagnar Mortensen** from Vroue, born Jan 31, 1898. In 1918 Peder took over his birth farm after running it for several years. They have 4 daughters and 1 son.

6. **Nielsine Marie**, born Nov 11, 1896, married to **Niels Christian (Jensen) Østergaard**. Niels Østergaard has a farm in Sjørup. Of the 12 children born to them, 10 are alive, all christened with the name “Østergaard”:
   2) Svend, born June 18, 1919.
   3) Peder, born Oct 16, 1921.
   4) Martin, born Nov 27, 1923.
   5) Ernst, born May 2, 1926.
   6) Edith, born July 8, 1928.
   7) Asta, born Aug 4, 1930.
   9) Anna, born Sept 2, 1934.
   10) Ester, born May 31, 1936.

In 1900, Marie entered into a second marriage with Laust Johansen, who had already been running and partly managing the farm for several years, while Peder Nielsen was practicing his rather extensive profession as a veterinarian. Laust was an unusually good man, a faithful worker. Nothing was neglected that was under his care. He cared for the farm and the animals as if they were his own. However, it was too much for him to manage the whole farm, and so a portion of it was sold, in all 125 acres, as small holdings to others. There was one more child from this marriage:
7. Alma Johansen, born May 21, 1900, 
married to Elenius Grønbæk, carpenter and haulage contractor in Vridsted. 
Alma manages the post office in Vridsted, just as her parents did in Vroue. Children:

1) Richardt, born May 1, 1926, engineer, married, has 2 sons.
2) Karen, born March 9, 1930.
13. Edel Kirstine Pedersen
born Nov 10, 1859, died July 27, 1930,
made to Niels Peder Jensen, born June 2, 1848 in Mønsted, died Feb 13, 1937.

A salient characteristic of Edel was her devotion to those that were sick, and to those who needed help and comfort. She was always ready to be there for others, even though she might have to walk long distances through deserted areas and over rough terrain in the rain and darkness to bring help. The same can be said of several of her sisters, but she gave more of her heart’s goodness than physical things, and this was felt both at home and elsewhere. It was therefore always a pleasure to visit her, to see her garden, her bees and her kindness toward men, children and guests. She understood just how to make people feel at home in her and Peder Wollesen’s home, Annexgården [the annex farm] in Mønsted. Niels Peder Jensen was, in fact, always called Peder Wollesen, and so, we will also call him that. Only a very few people knew that his name was different from that.

Annexgården was Peder’s birthplace, which the young people took over after the death of his father, Jens Olesen, in 1899, who had lived on the farm after retiring. This was almost the only farm in Mønsted that had not sold its lime quarry to the corporation “De Jydske Kalkværker” [The Jutland Lime Works], so the farm had its own lime quarry right on the property, while all those who had sold their lime rights had to close down their quarries, and were prevented from competing in the production of lime. Even as a 6 year old boy, Peder Wollesen had helped deliver lime to places as far away as Ringkøbing, Århus, Vejle, Glyngøre, as well as many places closer to home. The roads at that time were so poor that the scrawny old horses could not pull more than 4 barrels of lime at a time. This meant that many wagons rattled down those crude roads both day and night, and such a 6-year-old might well be the coachman, and would be tied on tight to keep from falling off when sleep overpowered him. Peder has even told me how several days could easily go by without him getting any sleep other than what he could catch while in the rumbling wagon, or in a pile of straw while resting the horses.

As the owner of Annexgården, Edel had to look after the priest every holiday, and Peder Wollesen had to as call people to church and perform many duties, such as making sure the sun rose every morning and went down every evening in the correct way. He sounded the church bells for all the religious celebrations of the parish, whether they were in sorrow or joy. They had 11 children:

1. Ingeborg Jensen, born Sept 5, 1882, died,
made to Jens Nielsen, son of Peder Nielsen in Vroue [a small town west of Viborg] from a first marriage, was a small farmer in southern Resen [a town just north of Skive]. He drove cattle to markets and now lives as a 79-year-old in Skive. For three of their five children, a paralysis began around the age of puberty, weakening their abilities, and eventually becoming permanent. The five children are:

1) Ejner, paralyzed, especially in the lower body, died at 39 years of age, the same day as his mother, and was buried in the same grave.
2) Johanne, paralyzed, died at the age of 37.
3) Elna, married to Carl Jensen, lives near the lime works in Sevel, and has 2 children:
   - Inger Christa, born Jan 11, 1933.
- Eva Irena, born Feb 24, 1944.
4) Ingeborg, paralyzed, is still alive.
5) Grethe, born June 4, 1919, married to Harald Friis Pedersen, born July 2, 1919, lives in Skive and has 1 child:
   - Ejner Friis, born Jan 12, 1948.

2. Ole Jensen, born Jan 30, 1885, unmarried, farm owner in Mønsted.

3. Jens Mønsted Jensen, born Aug 6, 1887, married to Petra Sjørslev, daughter of restaurateur Sjørslev in Viborg. Jens was originally a painter, now owns the Theatre Cafe in Viborg, near Hestetorvet [The Horse Square]. All their children are christened with the name Mønsted Jensen. The children are:
   1) Arne, born Sept 18, 1914, a twin, died very young.
   2) Edvin, born Sept 18, 1914, a twin, married and works for the railroad in Copenhagen.
   3) Annemarie, born April 15, 1917, married in Kolsen mill and has 3 children.
   4) Jenna, born Aug 18, 1923, married to a chauffeur in Viborg, has 3 children.
   5) Hannemarie, born Sept 3, 1933.


5. Ane Marie Nielsine Laurine Vestergaard Jensen, born Jan 1, 1892, died Dec 23, 1937, married to Andreas Rydvad, was policeman in Skanderborg, now a traffic policeman in Viborg. There are 6 children, one of whom drowned as an adult in Skanderborg lake.

6. Maren Jensen, born March 16, 1894, married to Sofus Nielsen, manager in Copenhagen, died Oct 8, 1943. There are 3 children:
   1) Anni is married to a railroad assistant on the island of Fyn.
   2) Bent is a locksmith in Copenhagen.
   3) Olga is married to quartermaster Povl Nielsen and lives in Palestine.

7. Petra Kristine Jensen, born May 28, 1896, married to Reindorf Pedersen from Mønsted, a laborer in Mønsted. They have no children.

8. Magda Otildte Jensen, born Sept 15, 1894, married to Fridlev Lindum, teacher, died in 1924. Has one daughter:
   1) Ruth, born Sept 23, 1922.

9. Agnes Nikoline Jensen, born Feb 2, 1902, married to Christen Maagaard from Mønsted, where they have a farm and 5 children.

10. Fridlev Peder Jensen, born Jan 19, 1905, married to Marie Møller from Mogelbjerg. This talented woman, a granddaughter (daughter’s daughter) of teacher Juelsgaard in Mønsted, became a teacher and is currently a teaching in Mønsted. While visiting them, I got the impression that Fridlev is one of the region's finest farmers. There are 4 children:
   1) Edel Kirstine.
   2) Erna Laurine.
   3) Else Margrethe.
   4) Ludvig Møller Jensen.

11. Sigvard Ludvig Christian Jensen, born Jan 19, 1907, married to Helga Christensen. Farmers in Mønsted. Sigvard as well as many of his cousins living in the region are considered to be very skilled farmers. There are 6 children, one was killed in a car accident.
Life in the Time of our Ancestors

Several times we have seen glimpses of the conditions our ancestors lived in, but we really know very little about the actual men and women who lived through these times, and who passed our genes on to us. On the other hand, we do know something about the conditions under which they lived as farmers, and from this knowledge we can form a picture of them and their lives, which during the feudal era and time of adscription was quite dismal.

At the beginning of the Middle Ages in Denmark, and also in some other countries, farmers were free, independent and prosperous peasants. After about 1618, the typical farmer slipped into poverty, many even into brutally miserable conditions similar to slavery. During this time, kings had fun waging wars, which they used as predatory sources of income for themselves, bringing immense poverty and misery wherever the wars raged. In 1629, Wallenstein overran Jutland, confiscated all the old silverware, and drove hordes of cattle to the south. Farms and houses were burned. Animals, furniture and clothes were lost, woods and fields were laid waste, and many died from hunger and homelessness. In contrast, if the enemy army had missed a region or village, these places didn’t feel the war so much, but few villages escaped in these great wars.

Peace conditions could also be quite miserable for farmers. This depended mostly on the tenant farmer himself and on the estate owner who had power over him. If the estate owner was humane and fair-minded, the life of the tenant farmer could be fairly tolerable, and this was often the case in Mid- and Western Jutland during the earlier part of this time. The fact that the farmers were tenants and had to do labor for the estate owner, was in itself not so bad. One could even say that it was a good system which had its advantages over today’s debt obligations to credit unions and banks. This labor done by the tenant farmer for the owner of the estate was like a regular, unchanging yearly tax, just like interest payments are now, but often more reasonable. This kind of servitude was more unstable, but in reality, at the time it was much easier to get a property (as a tenant) than now, where properties must be purchased. A farm tenancy was actually a lifelong tenancy, and initially conditions were not bad. Before the Adscription, the miserable conditions of farmers were due more often to the farmers themselves and to the time they lived in, than to the king, and to the king more often than to the estate owners, who were always blamed for it. It was really only when the Adscription was introduced that the farmer sank into the deepest misery, because it was only then that estate owners and other representatives of the king acquired a power which could easily be abused, and often was. (Adscription was introduced in 1701, worsened in 1724 and was extended in 1733 to apply to all from 4 - 60 years.) From that time we also have the phrases “my lord”, the “riding bailiff”, the “wooden horse”, and the “dog hole”, (a very small dark, wet cell in basement of the palace). These make us visualize the peasant on his knees with his hat in hand, or on the wooden horse all day with a rock tied to each leg, or howling under the whip. It was during this time that the peasant farmer had to marry whoever the estate owner decided, and did not always know whether his firstborn child was his or his lord’s. The adscription lasted only about 100 years, but they were terrible years, and they are close enough to our own time that they were experienced by our grandparents and great grandparents if we are among the older generation. (Adscription was lifted January 1, 1800, but was already softened June 20, 1788).

Apart from the time of the Adscription and the years immediately before and after, the miserable conditions of peasants were in part due to the farmer himself, or to the time he lived in. There was virtually no trade in agricultural products before 1750. Poverty was great before that time because the farmer had no money, and yet there were some things that he had to buy. For many of the freehold farms it was particularly unreasonable that their taxes had to be paid to the king in money. Unlike the tenant farmers, they could not pay their taxes with labor and farm products. A hard grain tax was levied for the first time in 1662, changed and increased about 30 years later.

Another reason for poverty was common soil cultivation, and the lack of appropriate agricultural tools and fertilizers, also bad advice, and lack of agricultural knowledge, etc. All this kept farmers from a tolerable existence, made them despondent and shabby, which worsened a great deal during the Adscription, where there was so much lawlessness that farmers were completely at the mercy of their lord. They searched for comfort where they could find it, in the homemade brandy, which was not without fault in their misery. In Damgård we could see what a skillful farmer's large house looked like at the time. The open fireplace did not produce very good heat, and we often read that its smoke and soot were death for children and old people, and could be bad for even the young and strong. Before about 1800 only a few country houses had chimneys and stoves. It took almost another hundred years before the kitchen tripod fireplace was replaced by the stove, and earthen floors disappeared. Meanwhile, the price of agricultural products increased steadily after about 1750. It was only after 1870 or 1880 that the kerosene lamp even gained a
foothold. After 1788 when the Adscription was lifted, farmers could again own their land, and a clever man could again cultivate his land however he wished. Prosperity increased, and the bankruptcy of the state in 1813 could be tolerated, but it was still many years before farmers in general ended up living under tolerable conditions, mainly because their living conditions had been so depressed. Gradually, as chimneys were built, the lyre disappeared (the smoke hole in the roof above the fireplace), and windows were installed instead of just mud walls, which had been common in the sparsely wooded region where our family lived. If one could not afford windows, he would be content with using pig’s bladders. Ceilings were also now being installed in living rooms, perhaps not using boards, but as rafters covered with a layer of turf (called a roost). In better-off farms a well was dug. Although it was almost always just up from the dunghill, it nevertheless often gave better water than the bog water hole or the village pond, so it was beneficial for the health of the farmer. Some years later (around 1880 - 1900) many places had a toilet room installed, much to the detriment of the grass growing up the walls of the house.
As the moon shines behind dark clouds
and mitigates the darkness until the dawn,
so exists behind sorrow’s cloud
a light for us, ready with hope and comfort.

Often must we suffer the sorrow of losing friends,
where a burdened mind compels the fighting of tears,
and feel the fear of dying and being forgotten
like generations of ancestors, in the earth kept.

But stop, you soul, who such anguish must suffer,
look equally forward, let the eyes upward drift.
Let sorrow end, death is no enemy,
this understands every soul that learns to know it.

It is our short sight, our narrow thought,
that in doubt and sorrow we often wander.
But if we can see behind death's dark gates,
we see the light, and the grief goes yonder.

As birth is a joy here on earth:
A wave from the sea going into the fjord,
so is our death a wave going back,
a journey home, where friends meet us again.

A death on earth is a birth on high,
it is a sorrow? - No, a sparkle in our eye!
It's simply a trip before my own,
a goal reached, while I am only on my way.

(Melody: A Cross, it was ---)

Without the kindness and help from cousins I would not have been able to write this book. But these cousins who represent each of the 13 (12) families, are also responsible for the information and data given to me, and for the remarks passed on to the present generation.

When references are sometimes omitted or lacking, it is not because of reluctance on my part, or that I have not sought the information, but mainly because of modesty in those I have spoken to; modesty on its own, or on the family's behalf. Had I known this beforehand, I would have finished the book with the 13 siblings.

On the other hand, I take responsibility for what I have said about the cousins and nephews. It was obtained through archival research here in town and in Viborg, where I have been several times in the past year. To this must be added the work of author J. C. Hansen’s archival studies, documented in the book “Chr. Hansen and Ingeborg Jensdatter”, which has been a great help, as its data has proved to be solid and very thorough.

Ø. Farimagsgade 8, Copenhagen Ø., April 20, 1951.
A.P. Dueholm.

We have several dozen books in stock, and they are available for 15 Kroner at the above address. If this address should change, the book can be obtained from the frame factory “Jyden” in Aabyhøj.

S. MØLLER CHRISTENSEN A/S ÅRHUS