

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021 VOLUME 2



WINTER 2021 AT THE MUSEUM

What is happening at the museum? Well in the off season and due to COVID closure, its been pretty quiet, busy, but quiet. January is the month of grants, budgets, season hopes and plans. February our focus is on our Website, virtual and online presence. The Valentines Event that we had hoped for is going to happen for Easter. Its an interactive, scavenger hunt, with a picnic lunch. watch for more info to follow on the Website. We are currently working on over due maintenance to get us ready to open for 2021 Season. We have weekly Blogs on the website watch for them every Friday. March will be hiring and the finalizing of plans for the Spring, new menu items and season schedule.

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"DÅRLIG ER
ALDRIG GODT,
INDTIL VÆRRE
SKER."

"BAD IS NEVER
GOOD UNTIL
WORSE
HAPPENS."

DANISH PROVERB



A GÆKKEBREVE

A LOVE LETTER

Translated from Danish, gækkebreve means 'Easter letter'. These special letters that are sent between Valentine's Day and Easter, are a Danish tradition. They are not particularly 'love letters' but secret letters. The sender could be a potential-lover, a child to an auntie, a friend to a friend, or anyone to anyone. In Denmark it is done mostly by children to their relatives, but can be done by an admirer or friend. Everyone and anyone can send a gækkebreve. The goal of the letter is to make it as cryptic as possible, so the receiver cannot guess who it is from.



Would you rather a store bought Valentine's card with a cheesy saying, or a hand made, hand written poem written by a mysterious stranger?

Everything about a gækkebreve is unique compared to a Valentine's Day card. Let's break down the process to help you make your own gækkebreve.

1. Get a blank piece of paper. Preferably squared. Fold it into four halves. Then grab some scissors and cut shapes into the folds. Cut hearts, squares or any shape you can think of. (kind of like when cutting paper snowflakes, but with more room on them to write your letter). This will probably take some practice to get how you want your pretty paper to look.
2. Add a snowdrop flower. It is tradition to either press a snowdrop into the letter, or draw the springtime flower somewhere on the paper. Snowdrops are common in Denmark, and are a beautiful add on to your letter.
3. Write a poem or prose on the cut paper. You can use other peoples poems, but it is more sentimental if you can come up with your own sweet little ditty.
4. Do not sign the letter. It is a secret letter, so don't put your name anywhere on it. Instead of signing your name at the bottom, or leaving it blank. The sender puts dots at the bottom, the same number of dots that are in your name. (Example: If John Smith sent a gækkebreve, he would sign it at the bottom like this:). Giving the receiver a clue as to who they are.
5. and lastly, After sending the letter. The receiver has to guess who sent it. The receiver has about a week to guess. If they think they know, they must call the sender to ask. If they guess correctly, the sender then owes the receiver a chocolate egg at Easter time. If unable to guess, the receiver owes the sender the chocolate egg.

It is a fun tradition, only the Danes do, but anyone can pick it up. If you want some extra chocolates during Easter, it is sneaky way to get some from your friends and relatives. Share the idea with your friends, and relatives, and have fun starting a new tradition!



RØDE PØLSER

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH RED SAUSAGES?

January 18, 1921 was when the first special hot dog stands were introduced to Denmark. Serving strictly røde pølser in their mobile carts. It is now over 100 years that these hot dog stands have been around.

You might be asking, what's the big deal about a hot dog? If you've ever had one, you would already know. The Danish hot dog, better known as røde pølser, is found all over Scandinavian countries. It is a staple to the Danish culture. If you ever go to Denmark, look for the røde pølser carts they have on their streets, specializing in this delicacy. It is not fast food, comfort food, or hang over food, it is an experience you will love.

So, what is a røde pølser? Obviously, it is not a regular old hot dog with ketchup and mustard. Not even the 'dog' is a regular hot dog you can buy at your local grocery store. The pølser or grillpølser are two special sausages, that are long and thin. That's not all of it though. You also need the special sauce. The remoulade! It is an absolute must when eating a røde pølser. At the museum we make the sauce right in our kitchen, and it is a great favourite among our guests. Lastly make sure to add the crispy onions to give the røde pølser the crunch it deserves. Some people also add sliced pickles, and the regular toppings to it as well. Your choice. It will be worth it however you make up your røde pølser.



DANISH PAPER HEARTS

The paper crafts have been a Danish tradition for so long, many families across Scandinavia have done this craft together.

Did you know that the paper hearts were first described in Hans Christian Andersen's story, *The Fir tree*?

"The servants, as well as the young ladies, decorated it. On one branch there hung little nets cut out of coloured paper, and each net was filled with sugar-plums..."

Although the paper crafts were originally for Christmas time, to create and decorate your Christmas tree with, they are a great Valentine's craft. Since they are heart shaped. They great for slipping into a Valentine's Day card, or stuffing them full of candies to give to your loved ones.

The woven hearts are usually just straight strips cut and woven together, but you can find different patterns to make pretty designs with the coloured papers. Then fill them with sugary sweets, like heart candies, or sugar plums.

It is a fun activity to do with your family, if you have not tried it yet. There are easy ones for kids, and a bit more complicated ones adults can try to fold without wrecking the paper. Maybe try handing these out on Valentine's Day.

Curator's Corner

Præstekjoleog krave
priest gown and collar (ruff)

Pastor Kai Glud

January 11, 1940 -September 8, 2008

The featured black gown and white collar, also known as a ruff, belonged to Pastor Kai Glud. Pastor Kai Glud served at several churches in Denmark before immigrating to Canada:

Lemvig, Nørlem, and Heldum
1975-1984.

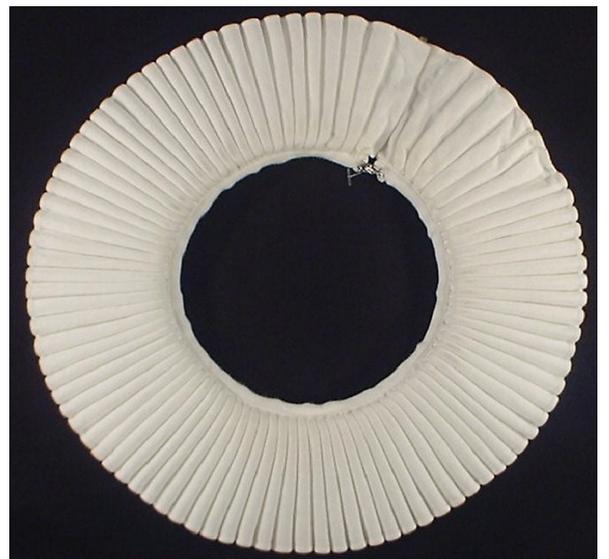
Hjordkær 1984 to 1987

Rønninge and Roldsted 1987
to 1991.

In September 1991 Kai Glud

became the pastor at the Danish Lutheran Church
of Vancouver, British Columbia

He served at this parish until his retirement in 2004 The history of the ruff dates back to the 1500's, worn by both men and women it was a sign of wealth and status. After the ruff went out of fashion, it has only survived as part of the clerical dress of the Danish Lutheran Church. In 1639 Danish ministers were ordered to wear the ruff so, they could be distinguished from others.



LET US MEET THE NEW YEAR WITH "SAMFUNDSSIND"



A word buried in the history books was chosen as the word of the year 2020 in Denmark. The word is "samfundssind," and like "hygge," it is a Danish word that is difficult to translate into English. But maybe it is a word English speaking people need to know because it had a big impact in sharing light and hope in dark times.

It was the Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen who re-introduced the word "samfundssind" in March 2020 at the beginning of the Pandemic. The word is about putting the good of the greater society above your own personal interests. Since then, this word has played a vital role in Denmark's response to the Pandemic, and I think it can be a great inspiration for us here in Canada - and the rest of the world. Samfundssind is a compound noun of 'samfund' (society) and 'sind' (mind). It dates back to 1936 and was used in a call for solidarity at the outbreak of World War II. After that, the word was not used a lot until it came back on everybody's lips in March 2020.

At that time, the Danish prime minister called upon the Danes to show "samfundssind," meaning two things: collective responsibility and community spirit.

Living in multicultural Canada but still having strong roots in Denmark, my New Year's wish for 2021 is that we in Canada and the rest of the world would learn the word "samfundssind" from the Danes. Like "Hygge" samfundssind is about relations. It is a way to be a part of the society you live in, respecting your neighbour through your actions and behaviour. I believe that having "samfundssind" is a way of vaccinating the world against the hopeless sides of the Pandemic. By showing and doing "samfundssind," we share light in the darkness. So let us meet the new year with "samfundssind."

Read more about the word of the year "samfundssind" on our website.

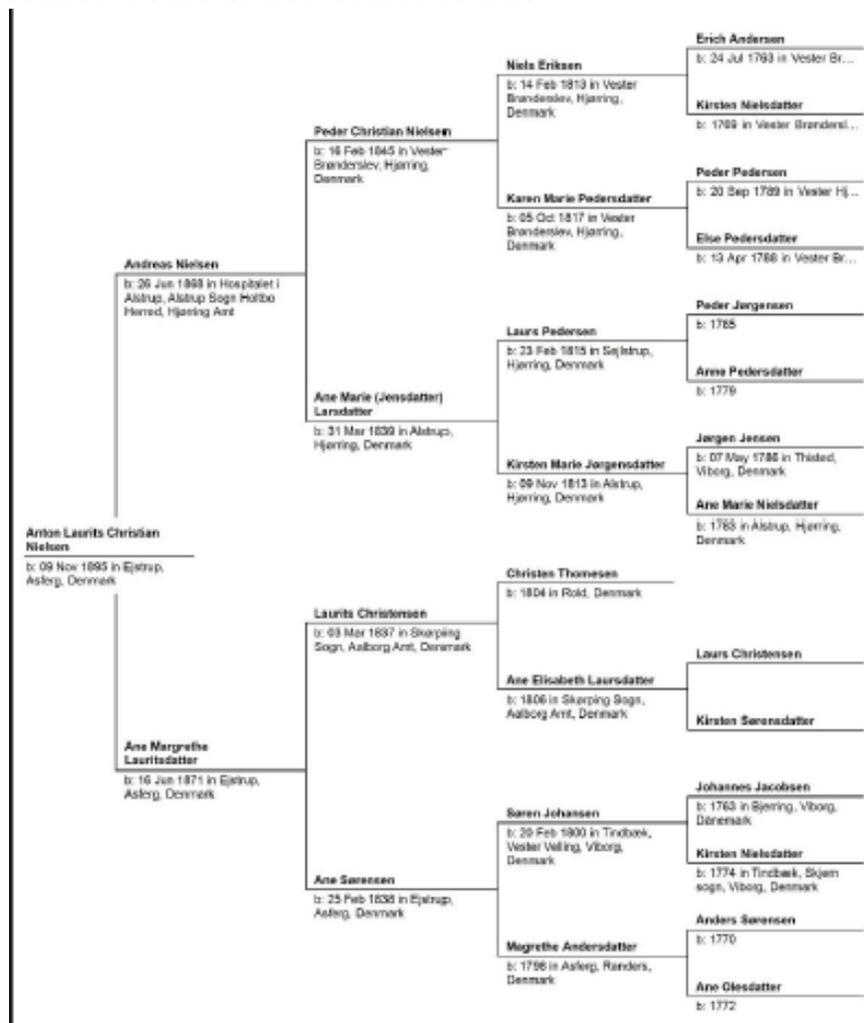
<https://danishchurchtoronto.ca/blog/71295>

Genealogy Corner

Origin of Danish Surnames

Tracing your family lineage prior to the 1850's, using your surname, is a daunting task.

It was not until the middle of the 1800's that Danish society began to adopt a "fixed family surname". Prior to this time, most of the people used patronymic surnames or surnames that would identify their occupation or the place they lived. Apparently, during the 1800s, 80% of the people in Denmark used only about 20 surnames such as Jensen, Nielsen, Hansen, and Pedersen. This was due to the patronymic surname system and the fact that there were only about 20 male given names in use (Jens, Niels, Hans, Peder etc). This makes it more challenging to find your ancestor as there will be many with the same name even in the same town.



The predominant type of surname in Denmark is patronymic. This method was based on the father's given name with "sen" or "datter" added depending on whether the child was born a son or a daughter. As you can see in the example on the family tree Neils Eriksen's son was named Peder Christen Nielsen and Laurits Christensen's daughter was registered as Ane Margrethe Lauritsdatter. This family tree is an excellent example of the variance of names that had been registered in the church registries!

People may also have had a surname based on where they lived or their occupation; for example, if a person named Peder lived on a farm called "Vestergaard" then he many have been known as Peder Vestergaard but would have been registered in the church registry with a different surname based on the patronymic system. Apparently, it would often happen that someone who moved from the country into the city would take the farm or village name as his surname for the city records. Children from one family may have had different surnames depending on when the family adopted the fixed surname. For example, the first two children of Jens Nielsen may have the surname Jensen and his last two children may have the surname Nielsen because they adopted the fixed surname between the birth of the first two children and the last two children. It was common to give the name of a child who had died to the next child born of the same gender, therefore, two children with the same name would be listed in the church registry to the same parents only with different birthdates. If the next child born was not of the same gender then they may have been given a variant of the departed child's name such as Niels would be Nielsine for a girl. Illegitimate children were not uncommon and the parents often married later. In the church registry the mother would be listed as "ugift" or unmarried and the father as "ungkarl" or bachelor. The surname of the children born prior to marriage would be that of the mother and children born after the marriage of the parents would be that of the father, resulting in having children in the same family with different surnames. If you were born into nobility then your surname may go back to 1526 because it was then that King Frederik I ordered that Aristocrats were to have fixed family surnames. Around the 1700s, the next group to adopt fixed family surnames were the middle class merchants and tradesmen. In May of 1828, the first law was put in place specifying that the entire population of Denmark was to have fixed family surnames but that failed. In March 1857 a clarification came out to attempt to put in place the use of fixed family surnames but this was mostly ignored by many people as you can see in the example family tree: Ann Margrethe Lauritsdatter was born in 1871 and was registered in the church registry with the surname "Lauritsdatter". Whereas, Andreas Nielsen was born in 1868 and was registered with the surname "Nielsen". There was really no consistency until around 1903. To further complicate matters, Denmark had a spelling reform in 1872, 1889, 1892 and then again in 1948. In 1872, the use of double vowels was discontinued (for example the word for house: huus became hus). The letters "ø" and "ö" were to represent the sounds of "oe" but this was discontinued in 1892. The 1948 spelling reform introduced the letter "Å" which replaced "Aa". At first it was found at the beginning of the alphabet but was changed in 1955 to be the last letter of the alphabet. There were also variances in spelling such as interchanging "K" and "Ch". This was also the case with "W" and "V". In searching through Denmark's Census records you will note that married women were recorded under their maiden surname. This did not change until the 20th century. The old genealogy advice of "start with yourself and work backwards" is particularly applicable to research in Danish records as that is the one name that you do know for sure!

THE MASKED IMMIGRANT

Denmark's National Bird (since 1984), the Mute Swan, has a striking appearance. The sight of one brings superlative adjectives easily to mind – graceful, majestic, peaceful, beautiful, powerful, and natural. It is all of these things in its long established natural habitat in Europe.

The Mute Swan is so called because unlike other swans it does not “Trumpet” although it does communicate with a variety of grunting, hoarse whistling and snorting noises. In Denmark it is known as “Knopsvane”.

In North America, like so many of us, it is an immigrant. While Danish immigrants, the people, have transitioned smoothly into Canadian or American society causing scarcely a ripple, the Swan has been a bit of a trouble maker.

The Mute Swan was first brought to these shores in the late nineteenth century as an ornamental bird for parks, gardens and estates. It soon found its way into the wild and is now a part of wild North America, although it is considered an invasive species. There are populations of wild Swans along the U.S.

Atlantic coast, in the lower Great Lakes, in the Cypress Hills and in southern British Columbia. As well as beautiful, these very large birds are aggressive, highly territorial and voracious eaters. With their aggressive behavior and large appetites, they easily displace native species of birds and small mammals.

These immigrant birds are still beautiful and graceful, but their bad manners make them less than ideal immigrants. However, they are here to stay as all swan species are protected, making the Mute Swan one of the few non-native species to be afforded legal protection in Canada.



Brændende kærlighed (Burning love)



Recipe

Ingredients

600g russet potato's peeled and quarter roughly about 6 potatoes small

167 g bacon or 6 strips

1 whole yellow onion sliced

1/2 cup of cream

4 tbsp of butter

Parsley or leeks

Nutmeg

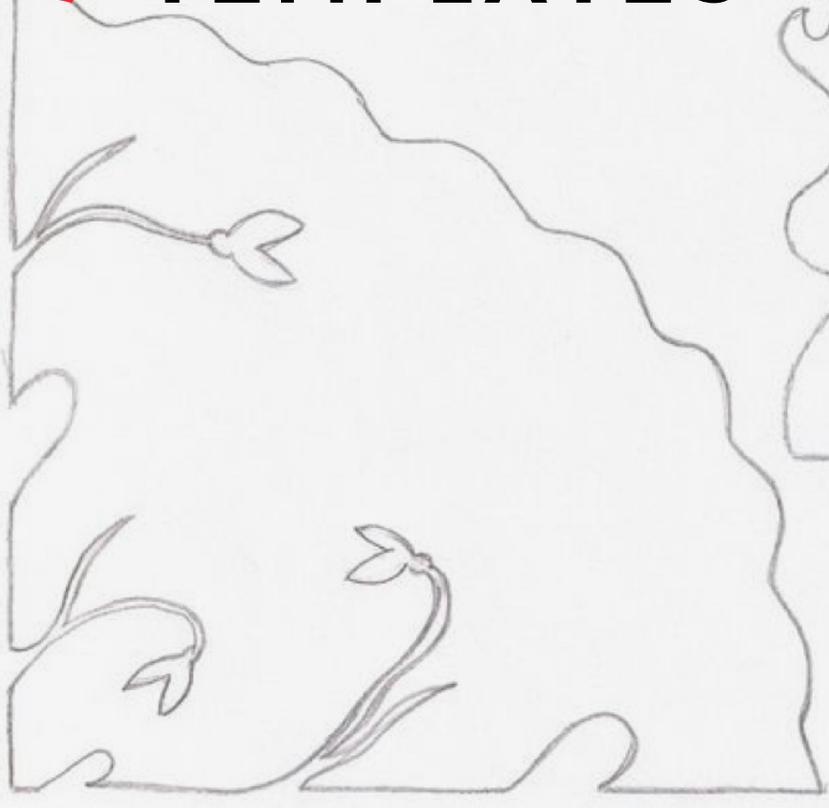
First you want to start by making mash potatoes, so clean and peel your potato's and cut them into quarters then let them boil on the stove. Then while the potatoes are boiling cut the onions into nice thin slices then set them aside and cut the bacon into strips and fry. Once the bacon is done frying set it aside and pour out the left-over bacon grease that is in the pan and put I the onions the same pan and fry them and add and tbsp of butter to caramelize them I fried mine on medium heat for about 6 to 7 min. Then once the potatoes are nice and tender add 3 tbsp of butter and 1/2 cup cream and whip them till nice a smooth. The layer your food and serve nice and warm

Serves 4 people





GÆKKEBREVE TEMPLATES



MANAGERS NOTE



I want to start off with saying THANK YOU!! I can honestly say I lost count of how many times I cried tears of joy and amazement at your letters, emails and cards of appreciation for our first ever Advent Calendar. Through the month of December, the number of late nights and INCREDIBLY early mornings, myself wondering what the heck I got myself into, finding New, Daily content hooahdda! I had come up with a million reasons in my head to justify quitting it early, but I did not. Why you may all wonder, well its because of all of you, your encouragement, the comments of the old memories and the new, trying out old traditions, learning, sharing. That filled my heart so much, and then a few photos and stories of how you were all waiting to see what you would get the next day. Well, that visual had me picturing what you all looked like excited waiting. How could I let you all down? I could not. Something else happened my love and passion for Danish culture (that has always been) began to grow, even more I started to love what had originally been my albatross. So, because of all your appreciation and my newfound passion for researching and writing our Weekly blog is born.



Our nisse are getting ready for Valentines Day

