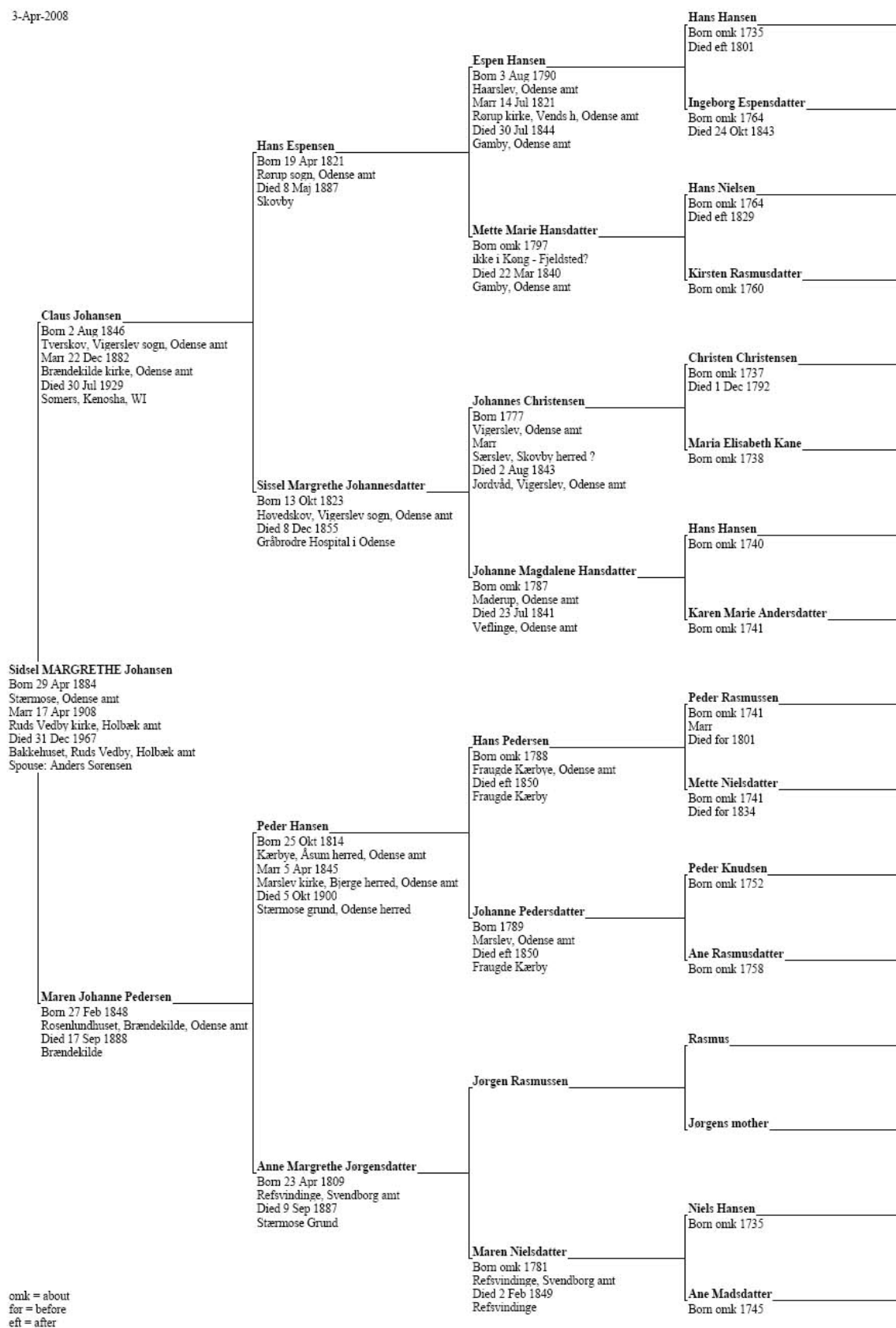


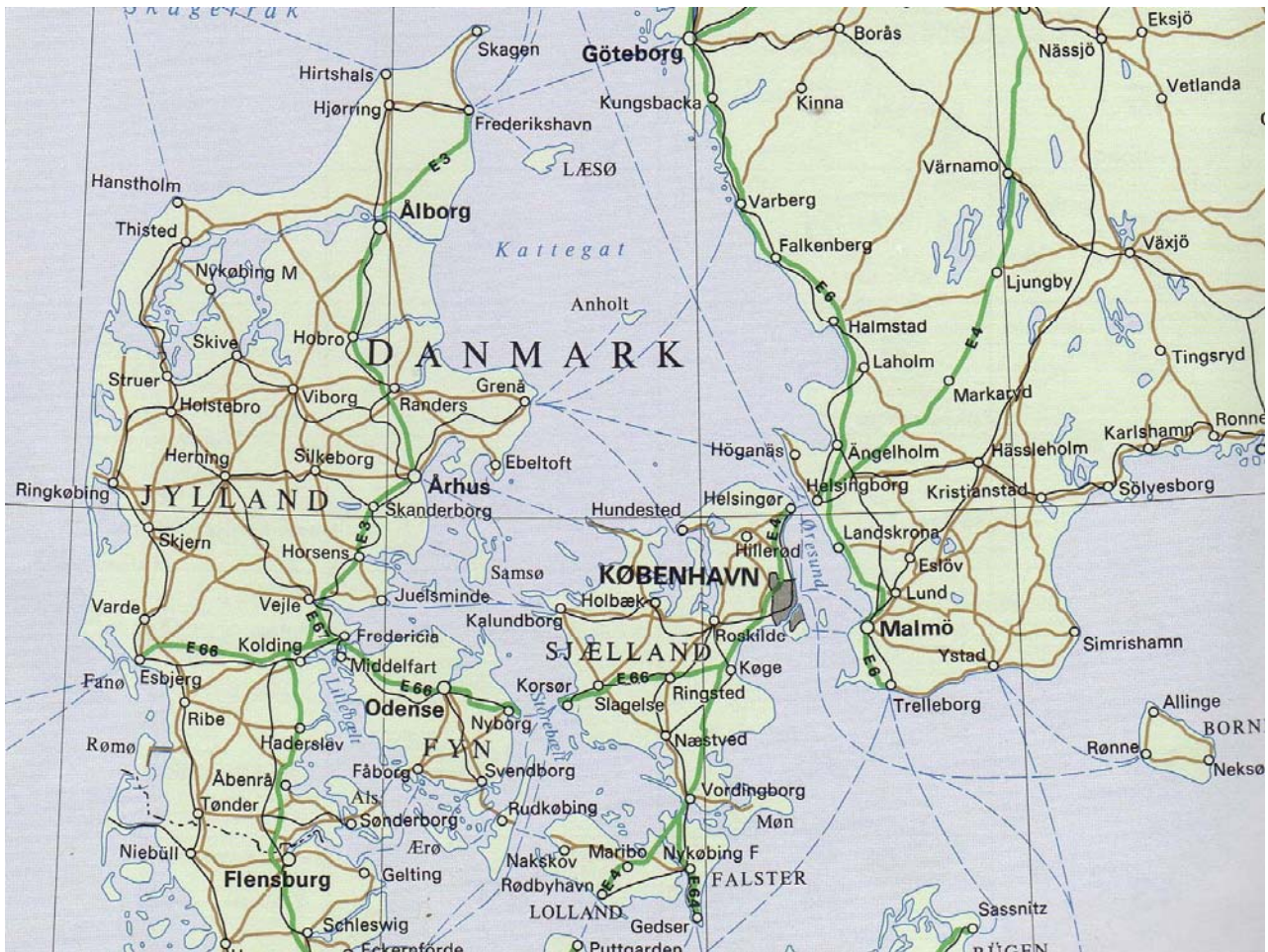
Part 1

Claus's life in Denmark

Claus and Maren Johanne's ancestors

3-Apr-2008





Denmark

The northern part of Fyn
with points of interest marqued

Claus Johansen was born 2. Aug. 1846 in, Tverskov in Vigerslev parish, Odense County. His mother was 23-year old **Sissel Margrethe Johannesdatter**. In the autumn of 1845 she had an affair with a blacksmith in Vigerslev near Sønderby **Hans Espensen** (1821-1887) from Rørup, he was 2 years older than Sissel, and they were not married. He was considered to be the father of Claus.

In 1845 (census February 1), Margrethe was living with farmer Hans Jørgensen and his wife Karen Marie Jensen in Vigerslev (presumably serving as a housemaid). Because Claus was born in Tverskov, and because smallholder Claus Larsen, Tverskov was a sponsor at Claus's baptism, I assume Claus was born at Claus Larsen and his wife Kirstine Jørgensdatter in Tverskov. In 1850 (census February 1) Margrethe lived with her son Claus at Claus Larsen's home.

Hans Espensen was born 19. Apr. 1821 in Rørup, to blacksmith and smallholder Espen Hansen (1790-1844) and wife (1787-1840). He had 6 younger siblings. He was confirmed in 1835 in Hårslev church.

In 1845 (census February 1), Hans Espensen lived (and worked) as a blacksmith at blacksmith Jens Hansen Christiansen and wife Maren Knudsen in Vigerslev. When Claus was born August 1846, Hans lived in Eskildstrup. Margrethe never married Hans Espensen. Instead Hans was married 12. Dec. 1845, in Skovby church, to **Johanne Margrethe Mathiasdatter** (1819-1879) from Eskilstrup and settled as a blacksmith in Eskilstrup, Odense County. They had 4 children, before Johanne died 10. Sep. 1879. 64 years old, Hans remarried 16 Aug 1885, in Skovby church, to 36 years old **Rasmine Jensine Caroline Hansen** (1849-1917). They had no children, and Hans died 8 Maj 1887 in Eskildstrup, buried 13. May. 1887, in Skovby church yard.

Claus was baptized 30. Aug. 1846 in Vigerslev church, Skovby district, held by Karen Marie Johannesdatter (Margrethe's 7 years older sister) and named **Claus Johannesen**. Sponsors: smallholder Claus Larsen, Tverskov, farm worker Andreas Carl Madsen, Sønderød, Hans Jørgensen and wife Karen Marie Jensdatter, Vigerslev. Later Claus used the name Johansen.



Vigerslev church, Skovby district, Odense County.

Sissel Margrethe Johannesdatter was born 13. Okt. 1823, in Høvedskov (1 km north of Tværskov), in Vigerslev parish to weaver **Johannes Christensen** (1777-1843) and wife **Johanne Magdalene Hansdatter** (1787-1841). She had 4 older siblings. Later her parents moved to Veflinge, and she was confirmed in Veflinge church in 1838. Then she worked as a housemaid different places. November 1, 1851 she arrived at Søndersø parish from Vigerslev. Presumably to work at the manor Dallund.

In the spring of 1854 she had an affair with farm worker **Rasmus Andersen**, who worked at the farm Margård in Vigerslev. Rasmus was born 30. May 1821, in Boltinggårds Enemærke, Ringe parish, Svendborg County, to smallholder and cooper **Anders Jørgensen** (1787-1860) and wife **Lucie Charlotte Magdalene Hansdatter** (1781-1835).

He became father to her child **Bodil Marie Rasmussen**, born 1. Dec. 1854, in Søndersø, baptized 14. Jan. 1855 in Søndersø church, held by Peder Nielsen's wife, Karen Nielsine Pedersen. Sponsors: farm workers Hans Larsen, Poul Larsen and Rasmus Hansen, all living in Søndersø. In 1855 (census February 1) Sissel lived with farmer Claus Hansen in Søndersø, and she was a day labourer (at Dallund?). Her 9 years old son Claus lived with her, but not Bodil Marie. Where she lived at this time is unknown.

Marie's story is in part 6.



Dallund

The manor Dallund was from 1792 to 1915 the entailed estate of the family von Blixen-Finecke. In 1855 it was owned by Baron Carl Frederik Axel Bror von Blixen-Finecke(1822-1873). He was a member of the Danish Parliament 1858-61 and foreign minister 1859-60. In 1873 he married komtesse Clara (1855-1925), who was a sister to the later Queen Louise of Denmark, married to king Christian IX of Denmark. Carl and Clara's grandchild, baron Bror Frederik von Blixen-Finecke(1886-1946), married in 1912 to the famous Danish writer Karen Constance Dinesen (Karen Blixen)(1885-1962).

In the autumn of 1855 Grethe was ill. October 19, 1855, manager Dahl on Dallund, where she worked, took her the doctor in Odense. The doctor examined her, and she was seriously ill, more than he could handle. He wrote a message to Gråbrødre Hospital in Odense.

Hyea Gotta Jokaasee, Jau Jauu Looing.
 low lach para dal lona. auptab-e-lungk
 para Jorputakak-i. Olchape fur Jauu
 Looing. - Jau fur i. magha Looing
 lach af au tabuchpungkery lachak
 i. Luchukhach. low Jorputakakery au op.
 Jorach Jauu Looing af lachakakak. -
 Luchukhachery lach, uauu lach Jorputakak,
 a-lachak lachakakery fur Jauu
 Looing i. Jorputakak. - a-lachakakery
 Olchape l. 19th October E. F. Looing
 1859 Jorach. Looing.

To
 Jauu lachakakak, Jorputakakery lachak
 Jauu.

19 Oct

The doctor's message to the hospital:

The girl Grethe Johansen, who serves at manager Dahl on Dallund wants to be treated in the Hospital in Odense on his account. She has for some weeks suffered from an abdominal festering like tumour, supposedly due to ague. The undersigned will, upon request, pay for her treatment and for her stay at the Hospital.

Yours truly
E.F. Teisen
Prac. Doctor.

Odense 19th October
1855

ST
Mr Cancelliraad Hospital principal
Bondo.

Grethe's abdominal festering tumour could not be cured. She died, 32 years old, in Gråbrødre Hospital, 5. Dec. 1855, buried 17. Dec. 1855, in Gråbrødre church yard, Odense.

(The famous Danish writer H.C. Andersen celebrated 50 år 2. apr. 1855).



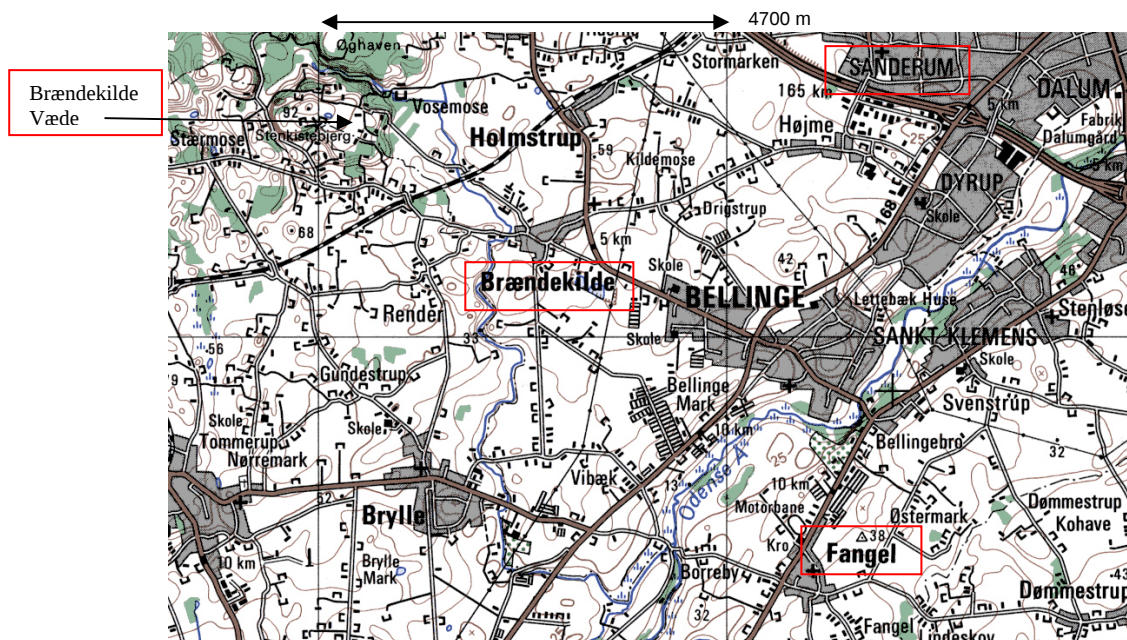
Gråbrødre Hospital in Odense

Gråbrødre (grey brothers) was at the time of H.C. Andersen a complex with (originally) a church, a hospital and a madhouse. The church was gone, demolished in 1819, after Napoleon's Spanish troops left it at about 1809. Remaining are many of the old buildings. Here Hans Christian's grandmother cared for the garden, her husband was in the madhouse from 1823. 10 years later H.C. Andersen's mother died, as an alcoholic, in the poorhouse, the so-called "Doctor's Booths".

Here H.C. Andersen was told stories by the old and poor people, and here he shuddered at the inmates mentally handicaps and madness.

Claus was confirmed 29. Sep. 1860, in Vigerslev church. At the time of his confirmation, Claus was a fosterchild at farmer Rasmus Andersen, Ryehuus in Vigerslev.

After his confirmation he moved to Søndersø on 1. May 1861, probably to work on a farm. 1. Nov. 1863, he moved to Lunde, and later back to Søndersø. 1. Nov. 1865, he moved to Sanderum, and 1. Nov. 1870, he moved from Sanderum to Brændekilde.



Map of Brændekilde area south west of Odense

1. May 1872, he moved to Sweden, probably to work. I do not know where. He returned to Brændekilde, 1. Jun. 1874 and settled in Brændekilde Væde (about 3 km. NW of Brændekilde).

During his 2 year stay in Sweden, I assume he earned some money, because in 1877 when he married, his position was smallholder, which indicates that he owned a small farm.



From Brændekilde Væde. Newspaper drawing by S. B. Andersen.
(Frydendahl's Collection, Møntergården).

During the winter of 1876-77 Claus had been in Fangel, or Johanne was visiting Claus. Johanne worked in Fangel, they had a relationship.

Johanne Kirstine Pedersen was born 13. Feb. 1852, in 'Flinten' in Brændekilde, to smallholder and day labourer Peder Christensen (1807-1869) and wife Christiane Andersen (1805-1881) in Brændekilde. She was baptized 8. Apr. 1852, in Brændekilde church, held by the girl Christiane Hansen, Ubberud, farmer Mads Andersen, Brændekilde, farmer Christen Andersen, Brændekilde, and farmer Jens Andersen, Brændekilde.

She was confirmed 8. Apr. 1866, in Brændekilde church, Odense district.



Brændekilde church

They had been together, and she got pregnant, Claus declared to the vicar, that he was the father to her child, who was born 10. Oct. 1877, in Brændekilde Væde, probably in Claus' house, where Johanne already may have lived.

The child was baptized **Peder Christian Johansen**, 4. Dec. 1877, in Brændekilde church, held by Bodil Marie Rasmussen (Claus's 23 year old ½-sister), Sørslev, sponsors: smallholder Christen Pedersen, Erik Jørgensen, and labourer Niels Johnsen Pedersen (Johanne's 5 year older brother).

On the same day Claus married Johanne, in Brændekilde church, best men: smallholder Christen Pedersen, Brændekilde (Johanne's 11 year older brother), and Jacob Nielsen, Fangel.

Peder Christian died 2½ years old, 26. Feb. 1880, buried 3. Mar. 1880, in Brændekilde church yard.

At that time Johanne was pregnant again. 12. Aug. 1880, she gave birth to a boy. He was baptized, in their home in Brændekilde Væde, 17. Aug. 1880, and named after his dead brother, **Peder Christian Johansen**. The baptism was published, 28. Nov. 1880, in Brændekilde church. He was held by smallholder Christen Pedersen's wife, sponsors: smallholder Rasmus Larsen, smallholder Christen Pedersen, and smallholder Peder Christian Mørk.

Peder Christian died ½ year old 24. Feb. 1881, buried 2. Mar. 1881, in Brændekilde church yard. Johanne died 29 years old, 2. Jul. 1881, buried 9. Jul. 1881, in Brændekilde church yard.

Johanne's mother Christiane died, 75 years old, 30. Dec. 1881, buried 5. Jan. 1882, in Brændekilde church yard.

Claus was now a widower and alone, and probably sold his house in Brændekilde Væde. During the winter or spring 1882, he started a new relationship with another young girl from the area, Maren.

Maren Johanne Pedersen, born 27. Feb. 1848, in Rosenlundhuset in Brændekilde, to farmer Peder Hansen (1814-1900) and wife Ane Margrethe Jørgensdatter (1809-1887). Baptized 7. May 1848, in Brændekilde church, sponsors: Frederikke Frederiksdatter, Rønninge, painter Niels Nielsen, Brændekilde, farmer Hans Christian Jørgensen, Brylle, and bachelor Rasmus Hansen, Marslev.

She was confirmed 27. Apr. 1862, in Brændekilde church. In 1862-63 she worked in Sanderum.

In the winter of 1872-73, Maren had an affair with bachelor **Anders Pedersen**, living in Marienlund, Brændekilde, who became father to her child, **Hans Pedersen**, born 23. Sep. 1873, at Maren's parents in the farm Rosenlundhuset, Brændekilde. He was baptized at their home 4, Oct. 1873, just before he died 5. Oct. 1873, buried 12. Oct. 1873, in Brændekilde church yard.

In 1877 Maren again had an affair, this time with bachelor **Rasmus Andersen**, who became father to her child **Kathrine Petrine Rasmussen**, born 20. Feb. 1878, at Maren's parents in Rosenlundhuset, Brændekilde. She was baptized 7. Apr. 1878, in Brændekilde church. In 1880 (census) Maren lived with her 2 year old Katrine with her parents at the farm Højenlund in Brændekilde.

20. Feb. 1888 Kathrine came to the poorhouse in Brændekilde. Here she died, 13 years old, 25. Jul. 1891, buried 30. Jul. 1891, i, Brændekilde church yard.

Claus and Maren had been together, and she became pregnant. 12. Nov. 1882, she gave birth in Stærmose, Brændekilde to a girl. She was baptized **Johanne Kirstine Johansen**, 22. Dec. 1882, in Brændekilde church, held by smallholder Rasmus Madsen's wife, sponsors: smallholder Poul Christian Knudsen, smallholder Peder Hansen, and smallholder Rasmus Madsen.

On the same day Claus married Maren, in Brændekilde church, best men: manager Jørgen Pedersen Oddegaard, and smallholder Poul Christian Knudsen, Stærmose.

In the Parish register Claus is listed as worker and lodger, which means he did not own his house.

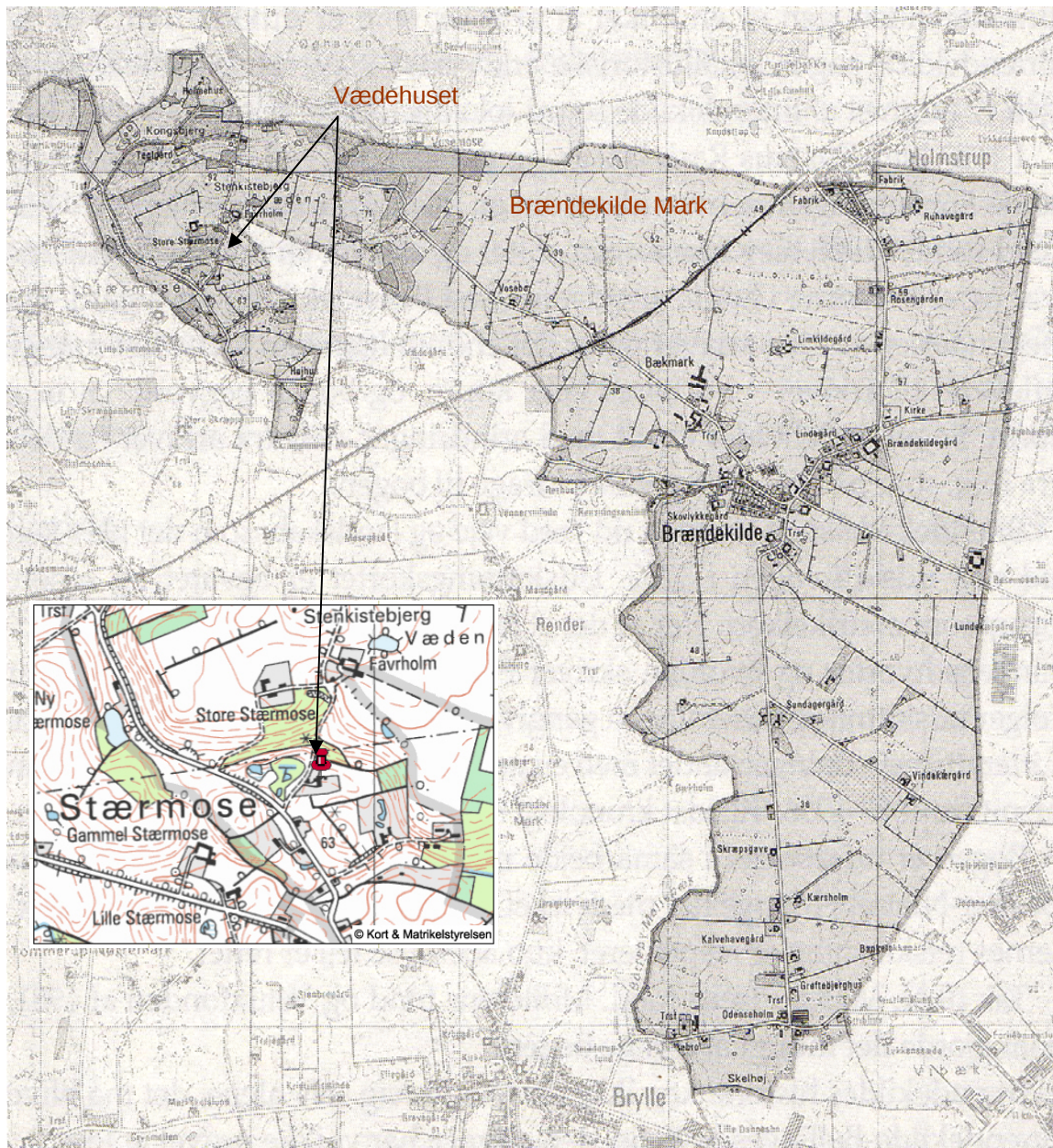
Johanne died ½ year old, 25. Apr. 1883, in Stærmose, buried 3. May 1883, in Brændekilde church yard.

Shortly after Maren was pregnant again. 29. Apr. 1884, she gave birth in Stærmose, Odense County to **Sidsel Margrethe Johansen**, baptized 29. Jun. 1884, in Brændekilde church, held by her mother, sponsors: smallholder Rasmus Madsen's wife Kristine, smallholder Poul Kristian Knudsen, smallholder Rasmus Madsen, all living in Brændekilde, and her father Claus Johansen.

Margrethe's story is in part 2.

1½ year later they got their last child, **Hans Peder Johansen**, born 8. Sep. 1885, in Stærmose, Odense County, baptized, 8. Nov. 1885, in Brændekilde church, sponsors: carpenter Rasmus Larsen and wife Maren Rasmussen, smallholder Peder Hansen, Brændekilde, smallholder Poul Christian Knudsen, Brændekilde, and smallholder Jens Christiansen, Brændekilde.

Hans Peder's story is in part 3.



Brøndekilde parish, Odense district, Odense County.

In 1880 (census February 1) Claus lived as lodger with his wife Johanne Kirstine and their son Peder Christian in a house in Brøndekilde Mark. He worked as an unskilled worker at a farm.



From left: Margrethe (my grandmother), Hans Peder and presumably their ½-sister Kathrine and Claus. (The picture from about 1887-1888)

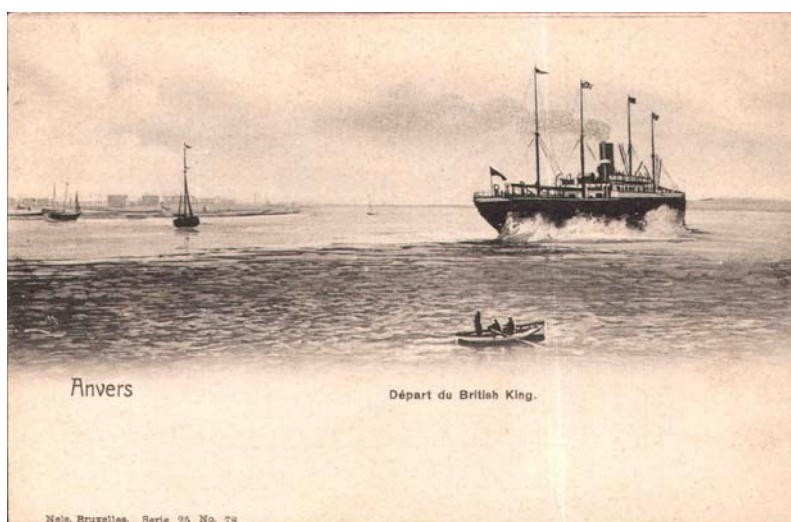
Claus's father Hans Espensen died, 66 years old, in Skovby 8. May 1887, buried 13. May 1887, in Skovby church yard.

Maren's mother Ane Margrethe died, 78 years old, 9. Sep. 1887, in Stærmose Grund, Brændekilde, buried 16. Sep. 1887, in Brændekilde church yard.

Maren died, 40 years old, 17. Sep. 1888, in Stærmose, buried 21. Sep. 1888, in Brændekilde church yard.

For the second time Claus became a widower. Within 8 years he experienced 8 deaths among close relatives, hereof 2 wives and 3 children! It is most likely the main reason for him to decide to leave the country.

5. May 1889 Claus bought a ticket to America, to the Danish authorities he said that he wanted to go to Chicago. He left Denmark and his 2 children 5 years and 4 years old. He had no relatives left, so he left them at friends, asking them to take care of Sidsel and Hans Peder.



American Line's British King leaving the harbour