



Main parlor heated by a stove. Note narrow door to master bedroom shown below.



SLIBESTENEN FARM, GØRLEV, DENMARK by Karen Board Moran

My thoughts on ownership of #15 Slibestenen:

The law in Denmark, from 1523 onward, stated that as long as a peasant kept up his part of the lease agreement on his farm - such as paying the taxes, improving the land, and working on the estate - the landowner could not take the lease away from him. This meant that a farmer could keep his land until his death. When a man got too old to work the farm, he would usually sign over the lease to his oldest son. The legal document signing over the lease would include a section guaranteeing that the farmer and his wife receive undentag - meaning that they received room and board for the rest of their lives.

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/colin.swift/history.htm>

This property was originally part of Aagaard, a large estate owned in 1725 by Jacob Benzon, governor in Norway. Aagaard changed hands several times until 1787 (Census year) when Captain PF Mourier Aagaard bought, renovated and improved the estate. It changed hands again and in 1801 (Census year), the estate was bought by Count Joachim Moltke and Chamberman Bjelke. The next year the estate was taken over by Carl Emil Moltke, a career diplomat who retreated to Aagaard after having served his country for many years abroad. He died in 1858 and his Heir combined the farming part of Aagaard with the estate Nørager. The remaining buildings of Aagaard and Søgaaard together with the churches in Gørlev and Helsingør were assumed by J. Helleman from Rumohrsgaard by Als. (between Census years) Today, Aagaard is still owned by the Helleman family. (Hofman-Bang Family www.hofman-bang.net/AagaardFacts.htm)

The 1787 Census was taken just before adscription (a form of serfdom) ended as the first step towards independent land ownership. In Holbæk County 5 out of 6 farmers were still copyholders in the 1840s. In the 1850's landed proprietors could voluntarily sell their copyhold farms and keep for his estate 1 farm for every 9 sold. So looking at the pattern from 1834-1880 shows how the original copyhold remained in the family via son or son-in-law.

Slibestenen was copyhold land that became privately owned. We know that Jens Larsen owned an 8 acre farm known as the grindstone because a grist mill was located there, according to Betty Jane Larsen Andrew.

The parish marriage record says Jens Larsen is a bachelor on Slibestenen indicating that his father owned the farm. Before that it looks like his father Lars Jensen inherited through his wife's father Soren Rasmussen of Svallerup (following 1860 and 1845 Census). Soren may have inherited through his wife's line (Mads).

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By comparing the census records from 1787 and 1801 with the series 30 years later in 1834, 1850, 1855, 1860 and 1880, one appreciates the joys of the Danish naming pattern. From 1787 the neighbors are a mix of Sorens, Mads, Jens, Lars and Niels to provide a fertile combination of similar names. Over the years the holdings were divided or shared with growing families.

It seems that Jens Olsen born in 1746 started an inheritance line next door to Aagaard (1787-1801 census) that evolved to Peder Pedersen b 1818 (1834-1880 census).

The next family was Jens Jensen born 1733 (1787-1801 census) whose son Jens Jensen born 1767 is confirmed by the 1787 Census and seems to inherit the land in 1801 Census. I believe this is our line. BOTH the Jens and Rasmussen-Mads owned land in this area and property deeds and probate records NEED TO BE CHECKED for a definitive line of ownership. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FARM IN 1937 when Jens passed away? Lena said her grandmother was too sad to continue living on the farm.