

Aagaard - Story



On West-Seeland, southwest of the lake Tissø, at the mouth of the river Halleby and slightly north of Gørlev, you find the estate **Aagaard** (Ågård). It is surrounded by large forests and beautiful gardens. The town of Gørlev was owned by the Sparre family during most of the 14th century. In those days, there were two Aagaard but were united in 1605 into a one single floor, three-WINGED main building. The middle part was re-built in 1907. The entire main building is made of bricks which the typical for this part of Denmark. Aagaard became a proper estate (*manor*) as late as 1660 when **Henrik Müller (pictured)** converted large sums of funds which he had earned during the war with the Sweden 1657-1660. At the same time, he established another estate in Roskilde county - Camp Gaard, later to become Ledreborg. Both estates were given to his daughter Drude. Henrik Müller was a very wealthy and important person in the society who owned several buildings and houses in Copenhagen. However, he died in 1692, broken down by debts and money speculation. Drude His daughter married Thomas Fincke (1632-1677), a capable man of a noble family from South Jutland. The family was very rich and could send their sons abroad to study. Thomas Fincke and his brother John both traveled to Venice where they studied together with Peder Schumacher. In 1676, Thomas returned home and became administrative officer Amtmand on the island of Bornholm. He died of a fall in the Hammershus courtyard in 1677. His son, Marine captain **Henrik Fincke** inherited the estates Aagaard, Camp Gaard and some other estates. After his death in 1705, his Widow Karen Golden mate, sold Camp Gaard two madam Mette Reedtz for a sum of 13,000 rdl. In 1719, Aagaard was bought by **R. Melvin**, who was married to Cathrine Jacobins Fincke. Already in 1721, the estate was sold to **Lars Benzon** (1687-1742) who also owned the estate Gjedesdal and Kornerup. He sold the estate to his brother **Jacob Benzon** (1688-1775) in 1725. Jacob Benzon was governor in Norway and was a highly unpopular person. Aagaard was sold in 1731 to **Peder Benzon** who died in 1737 and the estate was put up for sales at an auction. The new owner was **Peder Scavenius** who bought it for 18,000 rdl. However, he died shortly thereafter and the estate was taken over by his Widow **Helene Benzon** Aagaard who sold in 1753 to 40,000 rdl. to a tradesman from Trondheim, Norway. His name was **William Hammond** who kept the estate until 1763 when he sold it to **Hans Lindholm**. In 1781, he sold it on to **Christian Linddam** who kept it until 1787 when Captain **PF Mourier** Aagaard bought for 70,000 rdl. He renovated and improved the estate and could collect 112,000 rdl. when he sold it in 1796 to Iver Quistgaard. In 1801, the estate was bought by count **Joachim Moltke** and chamberman Bjelke. The year thereafter, the estate was taken over by **Carl Emil Moltke**, a career diplomat who retreated Thursday 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 to Aagaard and Søgaard together with the churches in Gørlev and Helsingø were assumed by **J. Helleman** from Rumohrsgaard by Als. When he died in 1899, the son-in-law John Olsen bought Aagaard. His Widow extended the running of the estate to his son Johan Helleman Olsen who bought the estate in 1911 to 519,000 kr Today, Aagaard is still in the ownership of the Helleman family.

[Back to facts](#)

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