

THE FAMILY MEIDELL

in

NORWAY and DENMARK

WITH NUMEROUS CLOSELY CONNECTED FAMILIES

PREPARED BY

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WITH PICTURES OF THE FAMILY COAT OF ARMS
AND ANCESTRAL HOMES

KRISTIANIA

ON CONSIGNMENT WITH HOLM & MEJDELL, WHOLESALERS

KONGENS GATE 20^{II}

1903

FORWARD

During the last fifty years while compiling material to serve as the basis for the Family Gløersen, which was published in 1897, I came upon frequently and regularly information about the Family Meidell, particularly its oldest branch, the Skirstad line, that the family Gløersen for many years has been closely connected. When this publisher later, in 1864, moved to the western part of the country, he had ample opportunity while traveling for thirty years in the dioceses of Bergen and Kristiansand to research the other Meidell branches and to follow in the footprints of the family prior to the time it split into the main branches.

At the same time or even earlier, but entirely unknown to this publisher, an outstanding member of the Skirstad line, Major General J. G. Meydell, took pains to gather information about the family advancing a theory concerning its origin. However this was refuted in short time according to page 14 of this book. His work apparently stopped as early as 1864 at the death of his son, first lieutenant LARS EDVARD MEYDELL, his collaborator. Some of his papers were given this publisher a few years ago by the general's oldest daughter.

The Danish Meidells, Legal Council CONRAD G. B. MEIDELL and Captain FREDRIK V. B. MEIDELL, were obviously correct in assuming that the Norwegian-Danish Meidell family has its origin in the present Russian Baltic provinces. These energetic researchers mainly worked to find proof of descent from the Estonian families by the same name (see page 10). Some of the legal council's documents were loaned out a few years ago to this publisher. He also possesses some printed pages from "Udsigt over Familien Maydells Historie" (An Overview over the History of the Family Maydell) (i.e. the Baltic Maydells) up to the end of the 16th century. This material was especially supported by information found in Baron Carl v. Maydell's genealogy, Helsingfors 1868, and included a family tree by Fr. Meidell¹.

Captain Fr. Meidell has assisted with data concerning the Danish Meidells during the writing of this book.

Approximately twenty years ago a descendant of the Helleland-Meidell family (see page 122), an owner of a bookstore in Larvik, SEVERIN MEIDELL DEHLY, now in America, showed great interest in having the family's history known. In 1883 he even had printed eight pages of a family tree he was considering for the family Meidell. Besides, at the same time he took care of Fr. Meidell's "Overview" by getting it published. When this publisher, after having completed all the data, heard about this, he entered into correspondence with Mr. Dehly, who had left the country quite

¹ It is questionable whether the findings including the family tree from "The Overview" were ever printed as far as this publisher knows.

some time ago. In 1898 he was given what remained of the family documents. These papers show that he had done his work with great zeal, and that he especially had the ability to get the people he had written to to answer giving the information they had. The fact that Mr. Dehly decided to give up printing the material mentioned possibly was influenced by the need to do many more years of work in the archives. Now that the undersigned has undertaken such work, having had his "The Family Meidell" printed, possibly one or another reader still will find that this has been done too early. - But, "now the evening is just about here, and the day is ending", therefore, it is time to stop having second thoughts about publishing it before losing track of the material gathered together. Not only that, the words of Seneca² apply in this case: "MULTUM ADHUC RESTAT OPERIS, MULTUMQVE RESTABIT; NEC ULLI NATO POST MILLE SAECULA PRAECLUDETUR OCCASIO ALIQVID ADHUC ADJICIENDI". In any case it will be acknowledged that this publisher has spent much time on the family tree, on its preparation and completion.

The mass of handwritten documents and records supporting the family tree could not have been obtained without the help of the National Archives and the State Archives in Bergen. A thank you is hereby given to the employees of the archives. They have given me a hand so essential to my work. In the same manner many others in and outside the family have in the most friendly way made my work easier by giving information. Access to the valuable collection that Bureau Chief W. Lassen possesses has been of great assistance.

The book has been written most of all for the family, and one could not fail to consider their wishes as far as it was possible. Therefore, some of the relatives on the female side have been included. In many cases they are just as closely tied in with the family as the male side. Something would be missing, if they were left out. For the readers who do not agree in principle with this viewpoint, there is a way to easily skip the relatives on the female side. Their names in the lists are always printed in italics, while the relatives on the male side including their spouses immediately can be recognized by the boldface.

Only a very few of the approximately 2000 persons mentioned in the book have previously been written about in genealogical literature. The oldest generations, that are the most interesting, but also the most difficult to find out about, have been covered by the author more fully than the younger generations. Particularly the presently living, still active persons, whose future might require many pages, are only mentioned briefly regardless of the prominent positions they hold.

The various ways of writing the family name Meidell have been discussed in detail on page nine. There are differences in the first names, especially when considering the controversial point concerning: "Ch" or "K". When we know the circumstances, we use the way of writing the name the way the person involved used. The reader is asked to keep this in mind when feeling tempted to criticise the publisher for being inconsistent. Under the present

² Epistle LXIV

state of confusion in our spelling it just is not possible to satisfy everyone. Where old documents have been quoted literally, this happening most frequently among the supplements, any inconsistencies are, of course, the responsibility of the author involved or the keeper of the protocols. One has hesitated to correct any inconsistencies that appeared rather frequently, as they are typical of that time period. At times one has not been in a position to obtain the original itself to copy from. One has had to be satisfied with older or newer copies - a new source of error in other words.

The six tables printed in the text we hope will make the summary easier to understand. To make this still easier the publisher has further divided the family into specific main lines, and taken upon himself to give them names never previously used. The family real estate, the names of which have been put to this use, will be found shown in the book. In as much as there are hardly any family portraits available, they just cannot be reproduced.

The book in the course of about two years has had to be published in two parts. Together, they represent the finished product showing consecutive page numbering and a common index. There is a new title: for the entire book. This comes with the second part. There was a request made for a supplement to be added to the first part giving information about the families Barclay de Tolly and de Rochlenge. One has chosen to issue this - probably within one year - as a special and independent booklet. The Meidell book's second part turned out unexpectedly to be considerably larger anyway, and it would be unwise to increase the cost for the buyers by adding pages. Now a choice can be made when buying as far as the supplement goes.

Kristiania in April, 1903.

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