

## SUPPLEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

### Concerning the origin of the Family Name and Origins

There is a legend<sup>1</sup> reported concerning the origin for the family name Meidell and its coat-of-arms. How much credit one wants to give to such tradition, which never can be measured with any kind of historical yardstick, is up to the reader to determine. That there also have been other opinions about the origin of the name is obvious. Therefore, Hupel on page 209 in Nord. Miscellanen (Riga 1792) based on J. F. Gauhe's "Des heiligen Römischen Reiches genealogisch historisches Adelslexicon", second part, (Leipaig 1747) has presumed, that the family has borrowed its name from some estates located in Estonia and Lifland named Maydel, Maidla, originally Maydalae. One can take exception to this, something already stated on page 2 in this book, the fact that this name lacks any meaning in the Estonian and Latvian languages, also that most likely the estates have taken the name of an immigrant called Meidel (Maydel) rather than the other way around.

According to another legend, coming from Hartknock's Prussian History<sup>2</sup>, second volume, page 287, one of the heathen Prussian chieftains, TIRSKO, and his son, MAYDELO, have protected their fortress Welau by the Pregel river against the Knights of the German Order. However, their superior power and greater knowledge of the science of war resulted in the capture of the fortress. The conquered not only had to hand over the fortress and the district Wohnsdorf to the Knights of the Order, but also had to accept the Christian religion letting themselves be baptized. On the seventh Sunday after Trinity this baptism took place in the presence of the Master of the Order in Prussia, Burchard von Hornhausen, and the sermon of the day, from which one preached, was the feeding in the desert of the 4,000 people

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<sup>1</sup> Page 140 - It is by the respected collector of legends, Prince Paul Friederich August of Holstein-Oldenburg, who during the years 1814-16 was the Governor General in Estonia, reported by Baron K. G. von Maydell to Kurro.

<sup>2</sup> Page 140 - Alleged to have been printed in Frankfurt in 1684, but for sale in bookstores in Leipzig.

with seven loaves of bread and a few small fish. After his baptism, it is said that Maydelo, who according to this legend became the progenitor of the Meidell family, took as his shield insignia the seven loaves of bread and the few (3) small fish from the sermon. The historical event backing this legend happened in 1255.

As one can see, the last mentioned legend entirely disagrees with what was stated on pages 6-7. It is only in agreement this way: both legends state that the family originates from Germany.

The oldest preserved document, upon which the old Meidell coat-of-arms with its heraldically most important emblem was imprinted, the three fish swimming in the river, was issued in 1524 by Goszwin Hansen Maydel (Estonia).

Obviously, the connection that the Meidell name has with these freshwater fish (Maidel Sik, *Coregonus lavaretus*, or Maydl, the one year old perch, *Perca fluviatilis*)<sup>3</sup> is neither proved nor incontestable, but assuming that the family name or its place name, that it might have some connection with, does have some meaning - and one hardly wants to assume the opposite - skeptical writers of biographies, experts in heraldry or linguists who are involved, will have to try to obtain a better explanation, if they can.

During the 13th and 14th centuries a highly regarded family, VON MADELEN (MEDELE) lived in the area of the lower Elben and the Weser rivers. Considering the irregular spelling of those days it might be possible, that it belonged to the oldest known Meidells. In the earlier quoted (page 1) book, "Hamburgisches Urkundenbuch" by Lappenberg, first volume, page 435, there is a document in Latin issued 23 April, 1237 by Duke Albert of Saxony. Among the witnesses mentioned, immediately after that of Count Adolph of Holstein, the name of THEODORICUS MADELEN appears. Georg von Bevern, quoted on page 2, even assumes that this Theodoricus Madelen (Dietrich von Maydel) accompanied

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<sup>3</sup> Page 141 - One has also guessed "Mallen" (in German: Stadling or Maidling), but this one is Europe's largest freshwater fish; also it does not have any scales, very clearly seen on the large colored copies of the Meidell coat-of-arms.

Valdemar the Victor on his expedition into Estonia in 1219, named the previously mentioned estates after himself (Maydalae), and subsequently at an advanced age returned to his home in Germany after having sold the estates mentioned to others. In Liber Census Daniae (completed 1239-40), see page 2, none named Maydel is recorded during those years as owner of the estates Maydalae<sup>4</sup>

Another von Madelen was a councilor in Bremen, JOHAN VON MADELEN. At the same location HEINRICH VON MADELEN AND CATHARINA VON MELELE did reside as well. All three of them lived in the 14th century.

#### Concerning the Progenitor and his son Christopher

Customs official Jørgen Erboe's<sup>5</sup> letter of 11 November, 1695 (found as a transcript at the National Archives) to Mssrs. Deputies of the Royal Commissariat General reads as follows: -- "The second ship, Nepthunus, capable of carrying 57 "laester", along with some other ships on their way to France, was seized and brought to Duene<sup>6</sup> (Downs) in England. There the son of the ship owner, Giert Meidel, was arrested for a debt owing by his father, a minister serving a Lutheran congregation in London. It was only a short time earlier that the denomination had gone into debt. The ship and the cargo were sold at auction. This resulted in the poor old father's total ruin. Thus ended the voyage to France. The creditors of Giert Meidel saw to it that he had nothing at all. He could not even pay his debt. In order to survive (to eat and have a place to live), he had to leave his home here, from which he was evicted, traveling to Telemark to his other son who was better off, a minister of Holden parish. There he is so loaded down with debts. Even everything the

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<sup>4</sup> Page 141 - Dominus Saxo and Johannes Cocus are mentioned as the owners at that time of the two estates named Maydalae in the eastern part of Estonia.

<sup>5</sup> Page 141 - Jørgen Jørgensen Erboe was born in Flensburg 1657, died as a customs official at Langesund 1701, married to Inger Clausdatter, see "Samlinger" (Collections) for "Det norske Folks Sprog og Historie III (The Norwegian Peoples Language and History), page 45.

<sup>6</sup> Page 131 - That is Downs, north east of Dover, a place ships usually are brought, that have been seized at the entrance to the English Channel. A little more than one hundred years later the Danish-Norwegian frigate "Freia", Captain Peter Krabbe, with a convoy was brought to Downs (25 July, 1800).

minister has saved while being very careful in his lifetime, as well as all the money he might earn from that time forward, is paid to the father's creditors to save his old, yes his half dead father, from going to jail. One problem follows the other. After this there is nothing left.

Langesund Customs Office,  
11 November, 1695

High-born and Most Noble  
High-born and Men of High Standing  
Your most humble servant Jørgen Erboe.

The Progenitor's Mortgage of 8 August, 1695

Copied from Lower Telemark's Deed of Conveyance and Mortgage  
Records for 1695

Year 1695, 29 October, the fall court session is held at Søvve court at Holden Parish, where the following letters have been read in a clear way - namely:

The undersigned, Gerhard Meidel, known to me, and hereby witnessed, having mortgaged, also herewith mortgages to my dear son, Mr. Gerhard Meidel, parish minister to Holden Parish; having for me paid Monsieur Jens Rasmussen, Customs Official, Langesund, a sum of money amounting to one hundred riksdaler, remaining with Jens Rasmussen household goods, namely, 2 heavy quilts, 2 pair of fine sheets, 1 pair of the same with lining decorated with lacework, 1 damask towel, 1 damask tablecloth with hemstitching, 3 Hørganes Dreyels tablecloths, 3 pieces of bed curtains with a cape and bedspread of yellow silk cloth, 3 pieces of the same, and the bedspread of blue flowers blooming, elegant, 1 green bedspread, 1 flowery English tablecloth, 1 of the same, printed in yellow, 2 large pewter dishes, 1 of the same, hollowed out much smaller, 3 large common pewter dishes, 2 large brass dishes (turned on a lathe), 1 large brass mortar with supports, 1 pair of new brass

candlesticks (turned on a lathe), 1 pair of pewter candlesticks (turned on a lathe), 1 wide hanging brass chandelier, 1 large eight-sided pewter flask, 2 brass arms for a chandelier, 11 dozen of filigree silver buttons, 1 silver butter tray (turned on a lathe), 1 brass chafing dish, 1 brass carved table wreath, 2 pewter mugs, 2 four-sided pewter flasks, 1 frying pan, 1 sleigh chest decorated with metal, 1 large oak chest decorated with metal, with tin under the ornamentation, 1 mug with a silver cover, 1 gilded leather skin, 2 Flemish ditto, green, 2 Flemish ditto with embroidery (pictures woven from drawings), 1 blue pillow of cloth with small silver braids, 1 symphony (a musical instrument), 1 old boat, which goods will become his and his heirs providing that I do not manage to redeem them no later than the firstcoming 1 November, this thus I in truth confirm with my hand and signet, and most friendly beg the two good, honest men, the undersigned, to serve as my witnesses.

Dated Hollen Parsonage, 8 August, 1695.

Gerhard Meidel

L.S.

As Witnesses  
Bertel Bomhof  
Janssen

As Witness  
Søfren Søfrens  
L.S.

With somebody else holding the pen.  
(meaning of mpp.)

Concerning Gerhard Meidel's appointment as a minister at Holden  
Applications and resolutions copied from open royal letters  
in the National Archives. The documents contain the usual  
and are only included here because they belong  
to the Norwegian Meidel family's  
oldest preserved papers.

His Reverence, Mr. Bishop.

In as much as the honorable and well learned gentleman, Mr. Michel Nielsen Thone, parish minister to Hollen Parish in Lower Telemark due to oncoming weakness and age needs a curate, and

towards that end has petitioned our most gracious King, inheritor of the throne, and lord most humbly to consider the undersigned poor university student during his lifetime, and after his departure to have him succeed as the parish minister.

As both he and I need your valued approval for the benefit of us both, I beg of you strongly that such approval be granted.

With the wishes of the good God, I remain

Yours in reverence,

Christianiae,  
18 December,  
Anno 1680

Respectfully, Your servant,  
Gerhardus Meidel

The bishop added this:

That the parish minister to Hollen, Mr. Michel Thone, (who is an upright and proper minister) due to oncoming weakness with the years needs a curate, and that this university student, Giert Meidel, has his appropriate testimonials from the Royal University in Copenhagen, and considering everything, I attest this before my most gracious King, the inheritor of the throne, in the most humble way.

Christianiae,  
18 December, 1680

H. Rosing

Parish Minister Thone's application to get Gerhard Meidel as his curate and successor was dated  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a year later and read as follows:

Mighty highborn  
King, most gracious lord,

In as much as I due to weakness and advancing age need a curate, who can serve me most gracefully in the trusted position in and outside of the church, for which I have chosen a university student of theology, Gerhardum Meidel, who with scholarly good gifts from God is suited for the pulpit.

It is therefore asked that His Royal Majesty graciously permit the same university student to become and to remain my curate and after my death to succeed me in the calling.

May His Royal Majesty most graciously be blessed with God's grace, with a long lasting happy life, this being wished by His Royal Majesty's most humble servant,

Mich. Nicolaj Thone

Hollen Parsonage,

Pastore gregis Hollensis

In Lower Telemark,

13 March, Anno 1681

Two and one half months after that followed Gerhard Meidel's appointment to become a curate at Holden in an open letter of 28 May, 1681, which read as follows:

C5 (Christian the Fifth) D(oes) W(itness) for A(ll):

that in as much as Mr. Michel Thone of Hollen Parish in Lower Telemark, Christiania Diocese, in our kingdom of Norway, due to weakness and advancing age of us most humbly has requested a curate, we have after having read his application, most humbly presented, hereby appoint and order that Gerhardum Meidel become Mr. Michel Nielsen's curate at previously mentioned Hollen Parish, assuming that after his exam, which was taken, he is found to be capable as a minister in the position, and provided that he in the same curacy in learning and lifestyle handles himself well, also he must succeed Mr. Michel Nielsen, if he outlives him, however, if the position becomes vacant for some other reason, he shall apply most humbly that we keep our most gracious letter concerning this calling in effect.

Hafniae, 28 May, 1681.

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When Mr. Michel Nielsen Thone died around Christmas time, 1683, Mr. Gerhard Meidel referring to this open letter

made an application dated Christmas Day, 1683 to be appointed to the position of parish minister on a permanent basis at Holden. The application read as follows:

Most High, Inheritor of the Throne,  
Most Gracious Sir,

In as much as letter dated 28 May, anno 81, signed by me, concerning the curacy and succession to Hollen's Parish in Lower Telemark of the Parish Minister, Mr. Michel Nielsøn Thone, and with reference to the latter's parish letter, Your Royal Majesty most graciously has granted my most humble application, and now that the parish is vacant after the death of the parish minister mentioned, therefore, here with my most humble application Your Royal Majesty would grant most graciously by a most gracious confirmation the same parish. In return for which according to my oath I promise to prove myself in my trusted position,

Your Royal Majesty's

Hollen Parsonage,  
25 December, 1683

Most Humble Subject and True Implorer  
Gerhard Meidel

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In a Royal open letter of 12 January, 1684 there followed a formal appointment of Mr. Gerhard Meidel to Parish Minister at Holden. The open letter read as follows:

C 5 G. A. V.

that, in as much as Mr. Gierhart Meidel the 28 May, anno 1681, has received our most gracious letter about coming to help Mr. Michel Nielsen Thone, parish minister to Hollen Parish in Lower Telemark in our Kingdom of Norway, when he himself could not serve due to weakness and advancing age, or for any other legal reason, and after his death to enjoy the position as parish minister, and to serve, and now that he has most humbly notified how the mentioned Mr. Michel Nielsen Thone has died, then We have most graciously appointed and ordered, therefore hereby also appoint and order the mentioned Mr. Gierhart Meidel to become Parish Minister to beforementioned Hollen's Parish in place of the late Mr. Michel Nielsen Thone.

Hafniae, 12 January 84

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*[Editor's Note: These paragraphs are included at the end of the supplement and are included as such even though there are only 42 pages in the original document as received.]*

To Page 65

About the HAAVIK~MEIDELL's it is added in conclusion that they constitute a numerous, strong, upwards striving family. The usual rule has been confirmed here: the old Meidell stock has had the benefit of a new stream of fresh country blood.

To Page 66

In the footnote about Flesje J. G. Meidell's name is misspelled twice as Meidel.

To Page 67

Mrs. BIRGITTE MUNTHE FINDE HOUGLAND, maiden name Tuchsén, died 12 November, 1901.

To Page 73

Mrs. GITTA MEIDELL was born 31 May, 1861 as correctly stated at the bottom of page 74.