

## Danielle Danielsdotter Nesse Her Ancestry

When I was in Norway a number of years ago, I was shown the Bremnes Bygdebok, the history of the farms and families of Bremnes Parish, on the island of Bomlo, off the west coast of Norway. I copied a few pages out of it, and with Janice's help, translated them. Last summer Art Nesse obtained a copy of the book for me. I thought I would see what I could find about Danielle's family. This volume is the result! Hans Martin Hansson Nesse is also from the farm Nera Nese in Bremnes parish, but I have not even looked into his ancestry.

I am sure there is an interesting story about why Hans Nesse and Danielle Nesse, close neighbors in Norway, went to neighboring mission fields in China, and were married there.

As I studied the Bygdebok, I tried to get a feel for life on the West Coast of Norway through the centuries. I was surprised that taxes were assessed in butter and/or fish in the 1600's and 1700's. I learned that in Norway a wife inherited the farm when her husband died, and that daughters as well as sons inherited from their parents. While these were listed as farms, when I looked more closely at the amount a farm produced, I realized that these people really got their livelihood from the sea. They were fishermen, pilots, seamen, or boat builders.

I also tried to imagine living on an island where you were related to everyone else, where your forebears had lived on the same island for hundreds, even thousands of years, where everyone belonged to the same church. There would be a great sense of security from being surrounded by such a large family. Would there also be tensions? For me, a typical American, who moved far from where I was born, and whose children have moved from where they were born, this stability is hard to imagine.

During the 1600's and 1700's about half the farms were owned by local people. The other half were owned by "higher ups", primarily the church and the priests. By the mid 1800's, almost all the farms were locally owned.

The first half of this book is a listing of ancestors. All of this information (except some on the first page) came from the Bygdebok. Each person is numbered, and his number is just to the left of his name. If your number is 4, your father would be twice that, (8) and your mother twice your number, plus 1 (9).

Above and to the right of the name are numbers such as 361-49. That means that there was a biography of that person on page 361 of Volume I of the Bygdebok, in paragraph 49. If the number is II 246-31, it means the reference is in Volume II of the Bygdebok. The Bygdebok is organized by farms, and at the beginning of the section on each farm is a history of the farm name, a story about the farm, and the history of the farm before about 1500 or 1600. This is followed by information on the owners (Eigerer) of the farm. Then comes the detailed story of the people who lived on the farm. (Brukar).

The second half of this book is biographies of the ancestors. These are organized by farm, just the way they are in the Bygdebok. It seems unbelievable to us that there is such detailed information on so many people for so many hundred years. For the farm Nera Nese, I have included more information than for other farms, and also the translation Jan and I did.

I hope someone will translate these biographies, for they include both basic facts, and interesting stories. The writers of the Bygdebok wrote down the facts, whether they were complimentary or uncomplimentary.

Sometime I hope to make a similar book on Hans Martin Hansson Nesse's ancestry.

Sincerely,

Caroline Hedges  
November 1994

## AVKORTINGAR

adv. — adverb	m.a. — mellom anna among others
b.p. — bur (budde) på lived on	m. fl. — med fleire with several
b.nr. — bruksnummer tract number	mrk. — mark a kind of money
br. — bruk tract	NG — Norske Gaardsnavne
d. — død, doydde died	o.fl. — og fleire and others
dtr. — dotter daughter	oppattg. — oppattgift married again
f. — fødd born	rdl. — riksdalar a kind of money
g. — gong, gift married	rb.dl. — riksbankdalar a kind of money
gbr. — gardbrukar farmer	s. — side page
gl. — gamal old	skill. — skilling shilling
gen. — genitiv genitive	sk.m. — skyldmark a kind of money
gno. — gamalnorsk old Norse	spd. — speciedalar " " " "
gnr. — gardsnummer farm number	seign. (Sr.) — seigneur
g.m. — gift med married to	t — tønne about a bushel
konf. — konfirmert confirmed	ug. — ugift unmarried
m. — med with	v. — våg road

Namn i parentes ( ) vert ikkje brukte