

Antonius and Anne Margrethe (Frandsen) Holm: Nineteenth-Century Emigrants from Fredericia, Denmark to Chicago, Illinois

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Antonius and Anne Margrethe (Frandsen) Holm are the pioneer Danish emigrant ancestors of the McNelley family line. In May of 1870, Antonius emigrated from Fredericia, Vejle, Denmark to America, bringing with him his wife and eight of his ten offspring. The children ranged in age from fourteen years to ten months. Andres, the oldest child of Antonius and Anne Margrethe, was not with them when they emigrated; he had come to New York six months earlier. (There is an emigration record for Andres Holm, age 18, listed as emigrating from Fredericia in December of 1869.) Apparently the couple's sixth child, Johannes Vilhelm, had died before the family emigrated from Denmark.

The Antonius (Anton) Holm family is found on both Danish emigration records and U.S. immigration records, as well as on New York and Hamburg Passenger lists. The Danish emigration records for the Holm family state that the family was headed for New York State. The occupation for both Antonius and his son Andres is given as Blikkenslager, or plumber, on the Danish emigration records. According to the U.S. Immigration Record, the family arrived in New York on May 28, 1870, on the ship *Bavaria*, which sailed from Hamburg, Germany and Le Havre, France. Antonius Holm was immigrating with his wife Anna and 8 children: Louise, Emilie, Marie, Mathilde, Emma, Anna, Theodore and Ida.

Prior to coming to America, the family lived in the small city of Fredericia on the eastern coast of Jutland in Denmark. This city was founded in 1650 as a garrison town and named in honor of King Frederick III who fortified the site so that the community was better able to defend itself and Jutland against invaders. St. Michaelis Church in Fredericia was established in 1687 as a German church to serve the many German immigrants in the settlement. It also served as a military serviceman's church.

During much of the nineteenth century, bloody wars were waged in Central Europe. Denmark saw its share of warfare. In 1849, during the First War of Schleswig, Danish troops won a victory in Fredericia over Schleswig-Holstein rebels who had laid siege to the city. (Schleswig-Holstein is the northernmost of the German states.) Perhaps it was the economic and social devastation that accompanied the wars which compelled Antonius to decide to take his large family to America. The actual reasons for his emigration are not known. Certainly there must have been a measure of both desperation and hope in the decision.

Baptism, marriage, and census records of Fredericia (available online through the Danish State Archives) provide more information on the family. The marriage record of Antonius Holm and Anne Margrethe Frandsen, along with the baptism records of seven of the ten children, have been found in the records of St. Michaelis Church. According to these records, Antonius and Anne Margrethe were married there in November of 1852 (the day of the marriage is not discernible). Records for daughters Mathilda Elise, Anne Margrethe and Ida were not found in Fredericia. Later, the baptism record for Anne Margrethe was found in Asperup, Odense, Denmark. Apparently, the parents were not in Fredericia when the infant Anna Margrethe was baptized. Baptism records have yet to be found for Mathilda and Ida.

Antonius and Anne Margrethe had the following children:

1. Andres Holm, baptized on December 28, 1852
2. Louise Dorteia Christine Holm, baptized on February 19, 1855
3. Emilie Wilhemine Holm, baptized on September 29, 1856
4. Marie Antoinette Holm, baptized on September 23, 1858
5. Mathilda Elise Holm, born on September 5, 1860 (according to her death record)
6. Johannes Vilhelm Holm, baptized on November 18, 1861
7. Emma Alvine Holm, baptized on January 13, 1863
8. Anne Margrethe Holm, baptized on February 14, 1864
9. Theodor Antonius Holm, baptized on May 16, 1867
10. Ida Frederikke Holm, born in June of 1868 (according to the US census of 1900)

In addition to the church records, the family is also found in Fredericia's census records. Antonius, his wife and four of his children are listed on page 169 of the 1860 census record for the city. Antonius is listed as age 35, Anne age 28, Andres age 8, Louise age 6, Emilie age 4 and Marie age 2.

Antonius, his wife and eight children are found in the 1870 census for Fredericia, enumerated in February of that year. According to this census, Antonius was born in Copenhagen. The couple's oldest child, Andres, is not listed with them. (He had emigrated to New York in December of the previous year.) The record also does not list Johannes Vilhelm, born to the couple and baptized on November 18, 1861. This child died sometime between his birth and 1870. No other records have been found for Johannes.

Other Holm and Frandsen families appear in the church and census records for Fredericia. However, no linkage to these families can be determined. No record of the birth of Anne Margrethe Frandsen (wife of Antonius Holm) has been found in the church records of Fredericia; the quality of the older church records is very poor.

The Holm family moved to Chicago shortly after coming to the United States and Antonius Holm became Anton or Anthony Holmes. In the US Census of 1880 for Chicago, Anton is listed, along with his wife Anna and children: Mary (21), Anna (16), Theodore (13), and Ida (11). They are living on Rucker Street in Chicago. Anton is working as a stencil cutter. His daughter Mary is working as a dressmaker. By 1880, his daughter Emily was married to Theodore Mikkelsen, another Danish immigrant, and living elsewhere. Emily's sister Emma was living with her.

Our Family History

Emma would later marry Theodore Mikkelsen's brother Ernst. Louise had married Christian Hanson in 1872. This couple and their three children were living in the Lakeview district of Chicago. Louise's sister Mathilda was living with her.

In the US Census of 1900 for Chicago, Anton is listed as age 75 and still working as a stencil cutter. Anna, age 67, is listed as the mother of nine children, eight of them living. Three children are still residing with their parents: Anna, age 35 and a school teacher; Theodore, age 33 and a steel engraver, and Ida, 31. No occupation is given for Ida. The family is living on N. Campbell Avenue in Chicago. Andrew appears in the US Census of 1900 for Chicago and also lists 1870 as his year of immigration to the United States.

Antonius was 83 years old when he died on February 15, 1909. He was 44 years old when he left Denmark. According to his death certificate, Antonius had lived in Chicago for 39 years. His wife, Anne Margrethe, died on the same day eight years later, on February 15, 1917. She was 87 years old and living with her youngest son, Theo, in Chicago.

(Sources of information: Church, census, and emigration records from the online Danish State Archives, Hamburg and New York Passenger Lists compiled by Ancestry.com; death records from the online Illinois death index, US Census records, Online articles on Fredericia, Denmark)

N ^o	Zu- und Vorname und Familie.	Geburts- und Wohnort.	Landes.	Gewerbe.	Alter	Geschlecht		Recapitulation.			
						männl.	weibl.	Total	Erwachsene und Kinder über 10 Jahr.	Kinder unter 10 Jahr.	unter 1 Jahr.
						283	234	517	393	91	33
518	Schmidt, Wm. Kl. Radow.	br.	castr.		15	1		1			
9	Andersen, C. Dänemark				25	1		1			
520	Holm, Antonius			Jimany	44	1		1			
1	do Anna			frau	37			1			
2	do Louise				15			1			
3	do Sophie				10			1			
4	do Marie				10			1			
5	do Mathie			Kinder	9			1			
6	do Emma				7			1			
7	do Anna				6			1			
8	do Theodor				2 1/2	1		1			
9	do Ida							1			
530	Rasmussen, Hans			Arbter	28	1		1			
1	do Maria	Copenhagen		frau	20			1			
1	do Mathie			castr.	20	1		1			

The Holm family sailed from Hamburg on the ship "Bavaria." A portion of the Hamburg Passenger List, dated May 7, 1870 is shown here; Source: Staatsarchiv Hamburg; Hamburg, Deutschland; Hamburger Passagierlisten; Volume: 373-71, VIII A 1 Band 024; Page: 366.; downloaded from Ancestry.com 13 Dec 2014.