

Dorothea Vilhelmine Mathilde Sophie Reese (1860 – 1946)

According to my mother, her grandmother, Dorothea, stayed on Hørning Kro (Kro = Inn) after Dorothea's father, mother and three siblings had traveled to Norway (why she had been on Hørning Kro or why she had been left behind in Denmark my mother didn't know). It led me to investigate whether she should be in a census in 1870 from Hørning parish, Skanderborg County. And yes she was. She was referred to as "Dorthea Marie Mathilde Sophie Meyer", 9 years old, born in Nørkjærsgaard and was foster child, but it fit with age, place of birth and the housewife named Reese "Kathrine Margaret Dorthea Resse" (this name is written in many different ways in censuses and church records) born in Holstein and the housefather named Heinrich Meyer. So it looked like Dorothea had been left with relatives, but who was this family? Maybe she was a sister of Frederik Wilhelm Reese. I later found out, that this was right. And why did the parents traveled with her older sister, younger brother and sister without her?

One day I talked to my aunt (who is now 83 years old) about the mysterious in that they had left a little daughter in Denmark. My aunt had heard that Dorothea's father Frederick did not believe that he was the father of her. The reason for this is unknown. Many years later he accepted (again according to my aunt) that he was her father, because he could see that she looked like him. He agreed to it at their silver anniversary when Dorothea was in Norway. One can wonder why the mother agreed to leave her daughter, but it was a different time back then than today. I do not know why they left Denmark.

I've looked at the picture of Frederick William Reese and think he looks like my grandfather ☺

Census in Horning, Denmark (in Danish):

FT-1870 Skanderborg, Hjemlev Herred, Hørning sogn, en kro (opslag 28):

Heinrich Meyer, 49 år, forpagter af kroen

Kathrine Margrethe Dorthea Resse, 43 år, født i Holsten, hans kone

August Frederik Rex, 21 år, født i Holsten, barn

Johan Jakob Heinrich Meyer, 8 år, f. Eldrup sogn Ålborg amt, barn

Kathrine Mathilde Meyer, 4 år, f. i Sorø amt, barn

Dorthea Marie Mathilde Sofie Meyer, 9 år, f. i Nørkjærsgaard, plejebarn (red: min oldemor)

Frederike Sofie Kave, 52 år, gift, født i Holsten, tjener

Frederike Johanne Christiane Lafrands, 22 år, ugift, født i Holsten,

Peder Olesen, 37 år, ugift, f. Sverige, tjener

I have also seen in various places that Frederick William Reese came from Kiel and Holstein. I have therefore searched in censuses in Holstein and found him in a census taken in 1835 in Holstein. At first I was not sure, but there was so much that pointed that it was him and his family. Especially, because many of the names of Frederick's children's are similar to the names of the family and the age of Frederick also fitted. There has always been a tradition that the oldest son was named after his grandfather and the father's name was "Marx Detlev Reese", as was the name of Frederik's firstborn. In addition, there was a census in Denmark in 1860, which stated that he was born in "Svalsted Location, Bornholm County" - they've got a little wrong address, you can say, because the right place is the city Schmalstede, Bordesholm, located south of Kiel (midway between Kiel and Neumünster in Germany).

Census from 1835 (<http://www.ddd.dda.dk>)

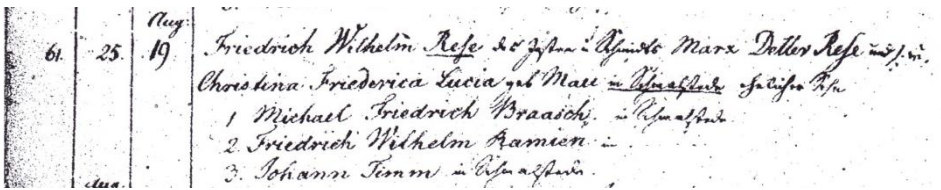
Holsten, Kirchspiel Bordesholm, Dorf Schmalstede m. Mühle, Schmalstede Dorf, Ksp. Bordesholm, 8. 1/2 Hufe, Abnahmehaus, T08bF02, Vz-1835

Navn:	Alder:	Civilstand:	Stilling i husstanden:	Erhverv:	Fødested:
Marx Detlev Reese	47	Verheir.		Kleinschmidt und Inste	
Christina Lucia Reese, geb. Mau	45	Verheir.			
Johann Fr. Reese	19	Unverheir.		Lehrling	
Carl Reese	14	Unverheir.			
Detlev Reese	10	Unverheir.			
Dorothea Reese	8	Unverheir.			

Ernst Reese	6	Unverheir.
Friedrich Reese	4	Unverheir.
Maria Reese	1	Unverheir.

I was so sure in my case, but I lacked proof, so I went to Neumünster in Germany in summer 2011. Here I found Frederick William Reeses baptism in the church books and many of his siblings, and the best thing was, that I also found the death of his father in church records, because there was some information about his children and to whom they were married and how many children they had. I asked for a copy of the parish register of Frederick's baptism and his father's death as seen here below.

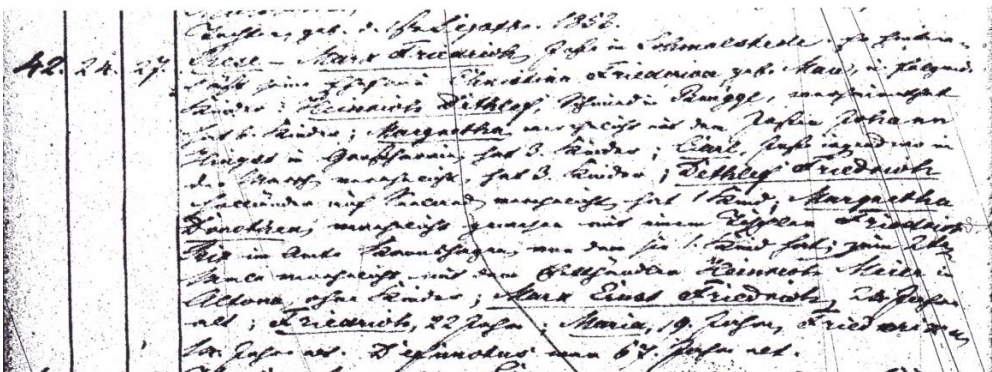
Frederick's baptism (or Friedrich as he was christened):



Frederik name was correctly **Friedrich Wilhelm Reese**. He is baptized 19th August 1832, the name of his father was **Marx Detlev Reese** and his mother's name was **Christina Friederica Lucia Mau**.

His father Marx Detlev Reese died 24th September 1853 in Schmalstede by Bordesholm, buried 27th September 1853 (see below), 67 year old. Here, there is a daughter Margretha Dorothea, married first time with Friedrich Rix, 1 child. Second time married with Heinrich Meier from Altona, no children. It fits with the census from 1870, where the father was called Heinrich Meyer and the mother Margretha Dorothea and they have a son who is not named Meyer but Rex. So that means that it was at a sister of Frederick Wilhlem Reese where Dorothea grew up. My grandfather always said, that his mother was very strict, because she had a very strict upbringing herself, so it was probably hard to be left alone with a family, who perhaps were not sure that she was in the family.

The Church book for the death of Marx Detlev Reese (he is here referred to as Marx Friedrich Rese, and perhaps it means that he was called Marx Detlev Friedrich Reese):



The children of Marx Detlev Reese and Christina Friederica Lucia Mau:

1. Heinrich Dethlef Reese
2. Margretha ... Reese
3. Johann Friedrich Reese, born 1815 (properly died before 1853)
4. Carl Hinrich Friedrich Reese, born 1820
5. Detlev Hinrich Friedrich Reese, born 1824

6. Anna Cathrina Dorothea Reese, born 1826
7. Marx Ernst Hinrich Reese, born 1829
8. **Friedrich Wilhelm Reese**, born 1832
9. Maria Christina Elisabeth Reese, born 1834

Some of these children went to Denmark before 1864 and I have found them in different places in Denmark.