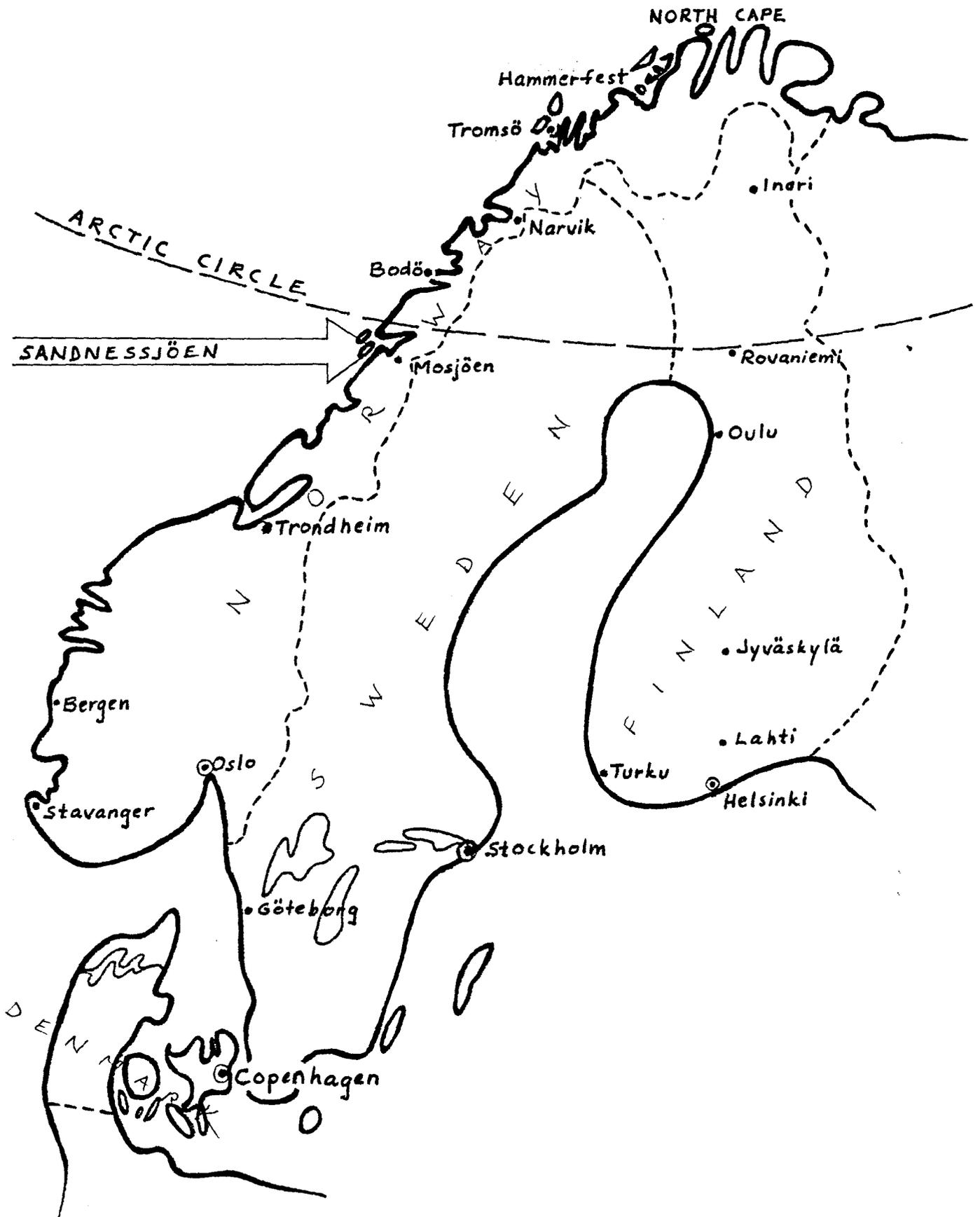


Sandnessjøen

In the fall of 1966, we took our vacation, touring Scandinavia by car. Starting from Roskilde, Denmark, where we had lived two years before, we drove across Sweden and north through Finland to the North Cape. All this was a good adventure, of course; but ahead of us down the Norwegian coast lay the city of Sandnessjøen.

We had discovered from an old Danish-language small-pox vaccination certificate that Bill's grandfather, Ole Andersen, had been born in Sandnessjøen. We had easily located the city on a map, helped by family recollections of a city on an island off the coast and of midnight suns. We had written ahead to the harbormaster and the parish priest; the latter had been able to verify our information.

As we drove south from Hammerfest through Narvik, Tromsø, and Bodø, we were surely looking forward to seeing Sandnessjøen.



N: 14.

Kokoppe-Indpodnings-Attest.

{ Denne Attest, som skal meddeles uden Betaling, bør forevises vedkommende Sognepræst }
inden 6 Uger efter Modtagelsen.

Ue Andreas
født i *Sannisjøe* af Forældrene *Andreas og*
Ue Andersen og *Suzberg* *Anna*
og boende i *Sannisjøe*

1/2 Aar gammel, er af mig Underskrevne, Aar *1861* den *19*
Junii indpodet med Kokopper. Ved nøiagtigt Eftersyn
imellem den 7de og 9de Dag efter Indpodningen har jeg fundet
alle de Tegne, som vise dem at være de ægte Kokopper: de vare
nemlig hele og ubeskadigede, opfyldte med en klar Bædske, i
Midten nedtrykkede, og omgivne med en rød Cirkel;

Ue Andreas har da ordentlig gennemgaaet de
ægte Kokopper, som beskytte for Børnekopper; hvilket herved,
paa Ære og Samvittighed, bevidnes af *Ue Jørgensen*
den *9de* Aar. *1861.*

Denne Attest er mig forevist den *18de* August 18 *61*

H. J. Jørgensen
Sognepræst til *Reppeløng*

No. 14

COWPOX - VACCINATION - CERTIFICATE

This certificate, which shall be issued without fee, should be shown to the local Parish Priest within 6 weeks after receipt

Ole Andreas

born in Sannesj  en in Stamnes of the parents Merchant

Ole Andreas and Housewife Ingeborg Anna

and living in Sannesj  e

1½ years old, was by me the undersigned, year 1861 the 19th of June vaccinated with cowpox. Through careful examination between the 7th and 9th day after vaccination I have found all the indications, which shown it to be a true cowpox reaction: it was, namely, whole and intact, filled with a clear fluid, depressed in the middle, and surrounded with a red circle;

Ole Andreas has thus properly undergone the true cowpox reaction, which protects against smallpox; which herewith in honor and conscience, is certified by (Signature)

the 9th of July year 1861 .

This certificate has been shown to me the 18th August 1861

(Signature)

Parish Priest to Alstahaug .

613-47th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.A.
Oktober 17, 1965

Til Sognepræsten eller Borgmesteren
Byen af Sandnessjøen, Norge

Herrer:

Ville De være så venlig at hjælpe mig? Mit navn er Wilbur Brown og jeg bor i Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.A.. En halvdel af min familie kom til U.S.A. fra Skandinavien - min mormor fra Danmark, og min morfars far fra Norge. Min morfars navn var Ole Andreas Andersen, og han immigrerede til Californien cirka 1890.

Jeg har et enkelt dokument at vises hvor han boede i Norge. Det er en Kokoppe Indpodnings Attest skrevet i 1861. Jeg sender en kopi med dette brev.

Hvis jeg læser den rigtig, og hvis endele af min morfars familie bor stadigvæk i Sandnessjøen, ville De give dette brev til dem, eller sende mig navnet af familien for at jeg kan skrive direkte til dem?

Jeg har en chance at rejse over til Danmark næste sommer med min kone og søn, og arbejde på Forsøgsanlægget Risø, ved siden af Roskilde. Jeg vil gerne rejse nord til Sandnessjøen.

Jeg takker på forhånd.

Med venlig hilsen,

Wilbur K. Brown

613-47th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.A.
October 17, 1965

To the Parish Priest or The Mayor
The city of Sandnessjøen, Norway

Gentlemen:

Would you be kind enough to help me? My name is Wilbur Brown, and I live in Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.A.. Half of my family came to the U.S.A. from Scandinavia - my grandmother from Denmark, and my grandfather from Norway. My grandfather's name was Ole Andreas Andersen, and he immigrated to California about 1890.

I have a single document that shows where he lived in Norway. It is a Smallpox Vaccination Certificate written in 1861. I am sending a copy with this letter.

If I read it right, and if a part of my grandfather's family still lives in Sandnessjøen, would you give this letter to them, or send me the name of the family so that I can write directly to them?

I have a chance to travel over to Denmark next summer with my wife and son, and work at Research Establishment Risø near Roskilde. I surely want to travel north to Sandnessjøen.

I thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Wilbur K. Brown

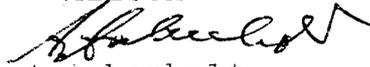
Herr Wilbur K. Brown,
Los Alamos,
U. S. A.

Deres brev 17.oktober 1965

Etter de undersøkelser som en har foretatt, har det ikke lyktes å oppspore noen slektninger etter handelsmann Ole Andersen og hustru Ingeborg Anna. Disse var jo foreldre til Deres morfar.

Denne Ole Andersen er sannsynlig^{identisk} med den handelsmann Ole Andersen, som man regner som Sandnessjøens grunnlegger. Men en vet ikke av at denne har noen slektninger her, som lever i dag.

Hilsen



A. Aakerholt

sokneprest

P.s.

Dersom De allikevel hadde interesse av å se det stedet hvor Deres morfar var fra og høre om morfars far, vil jeg anbefale Dem å søke kontakt med havnefoged Chr. Røring, Sandnessjøen. Han sitter inne med de beste kunnskaper fra det gamle Sandnessjøen. Han taler dessuten godt engelsk.

AS.

Sandnessjøen 11/3-66

Mr. Wilbur K. Brown,
Los Alamos,
U. S. A.

Your letter of October 17, 1965

In regard to the search that has been undertaken, it has not been possible to track down any relatives of handelsmann (merchant) Ole Andersen and hustru (housewife) Ingeborg Anna. These were indeed the parents of your grandfather.

This Ole Andersen is probably identical with the handelsmann Ole Andersen, whom people consider Sandnessjøen's founder. But it is not known whether he has any relatives here, that are living today.

Greetings

A. Aakerholt

Country Priest

P. S.

If you nevertheless are interested in seeing the place where your grandfather was from and hear about your grandfather's father, I will suggest that you contact Harbormaster Christian Røring, Sandnessjøen. He is familiar with the best knowledge from the old Sandnessjøen. He speaks, in addition, good English.

A.Aa.

613 - 47th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.A.
April 25, 1966

Hr. Chr. Røring, Havnefoged
Sandnessjøen, Norge

Kære Hr. Røring,

Maa jeg presenterer mig? Mit navn er Wilbur Brown, dattersøn af Ole Andreas Anderson fra Sandnessjøen.

Jeg har skrev til hr. Søkneprest A. Aakerholt, og nu skrive til Dem paa hans anbefaling.

Min familie og jeg bor her i byen af Los Alamos, New Mexico. Jeg er en fysiker, 33 aar gammel, og arbejde i Los Alamos Laboratorium. I August eller September rejser jeg med min familie til Danmark at arbejde paa Forsøgsinstitute Risø. Vi skal prøve at køre op til Sandnessjøen i vores bil med det samme, før vinteren.

Det er ikke let at se fra kortet hvordan man skulle komme til Sandnessjøen. Jeg kan se at vejen gaar til Mosjøen, men fortsætter den over til Sandnessjøen? Er der en faerge fra Mosjøen, maaske? Og jeg spekulerer hvor sent i aaret vejen fra Trondheim op til Mosjøen er aaben? Undskyld de her masse af spørgsmaal!

Min kone og jeg har set et billede af De Syv Søstre, og det synes storslaet. Hvor mange mennesker bor i Sandnessjøen? Vi er meget ivrig at se byen og ser hen til at møde og tale med Dem.

med venlig hilsen,

Wilbur K. Brown

613 - 47th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.A.
April 25, 1966

Mr. Chr. Røring, Harbormaster
Sandnessjøen, Norway

Dear Mr. Røring:

May I introduce myself? My name is Wilbur Brown, grandson of Ole Andreas Anderson from Sandnessjøen.

I have written to Mr. A. Aakerholt, the Parish Priest, and am now writing to you at his suggestion.

My family and I live here in the city of Los Alamos, New Mexico. I am a physicist, 33 years old, and work here in Los Alamos Laboratory. In August or September I will travel with my family to Denmark to work at Research Institute Risø. We shall try to drive to Sandnessjøen in our car immediately, before the winter comes.

It is not easy to see from the map how one should come to Sandnessjøen. I can see that the road goes to Mosjøen, but does it continue over to Sandnessjøen? Is there a ferry from Mosjøen, perhaps? And I wonder how late in the year the road from Trondheim up to Mosjøen is open? Please pardon this mass of questions!

My wife and I have seen a picture of the Seven Sisters, and it seems magnificent. How many people live in Sandnessjøen? We are very eager to see the city, and are looking forward to meeting and talking with you.

Sincerely,

Wilbur K. Brown

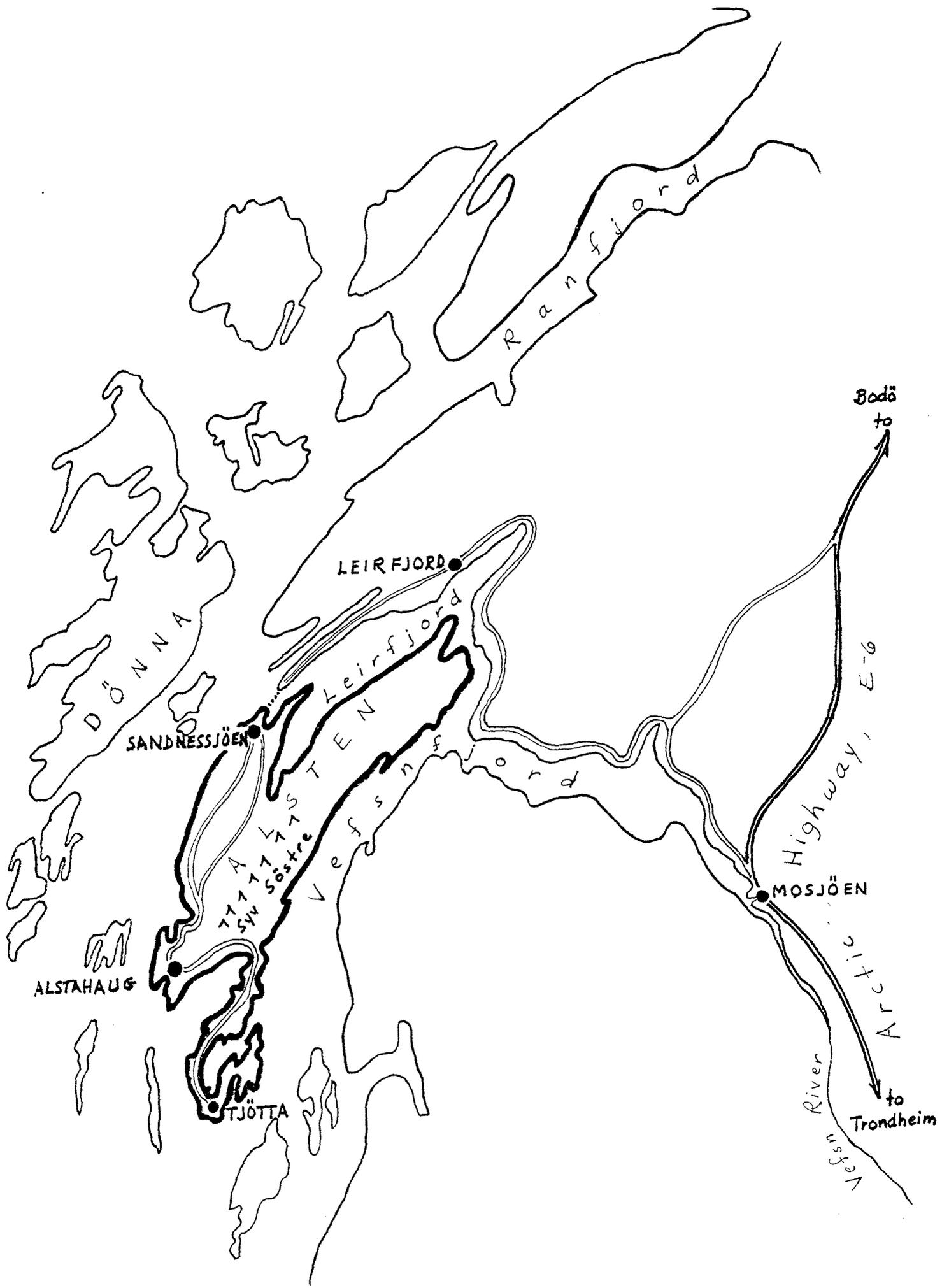
We arrived in Sandnessjøen in the middle of September 1966. The approach to the city down Vefsnfjord and Leirfjord was most impressive. Sandnessjøen is located on the island of Alsten which is dominated by a stony ridge along its eastern side, called the "Seven Sisters." A short ferry ride brought us to the city itself.

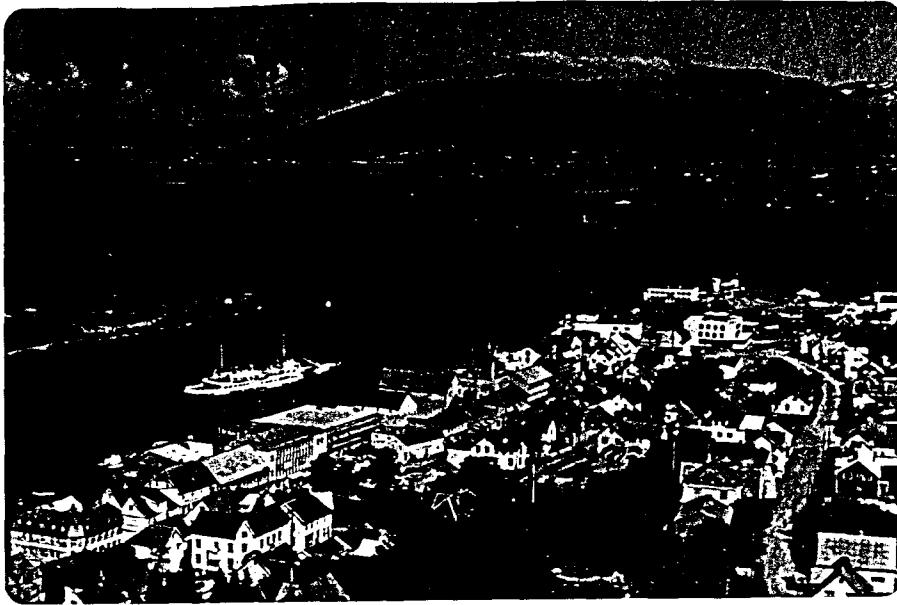
We stayed in Sandnessjøen for almost a week, living in its excellent new hotel, "Syv Søstre" ("Seven Sisters"). On one of the first days we talked with the parish priest, Mr. Aakerholt, who had looked through the church records and found some information on the Andersen family. Ole Andreas Andersen, Bill's great-grandfather was considered to be the founder of the city. Capt. Lorenzen, of the harbor office, helped us - in Harbormaster Røring's absence - to find the family home on the city square at 43 Torolv Kveldulvsøns Gate (street). We quickly found Ole Andreas' grave in the churchyard. The gravestone bears the inscription "You were morally pure. Blessed is your memory." that his wife, Anna, had had inscribed at the time of his death in 1865.

During the week we explored the island and its villages. We talked to many people, who seemed to go out of their way to be friendly.

Craig, at six months, was too young to remember; but Walter certainly recalls the excitement we felt watching the coastal steamer arrive at the Sandnessjøen harbor. These steamers make every port from Bergen to Kirkenes all year long, and it crossed our minds that some day we would surely like to travel this route!

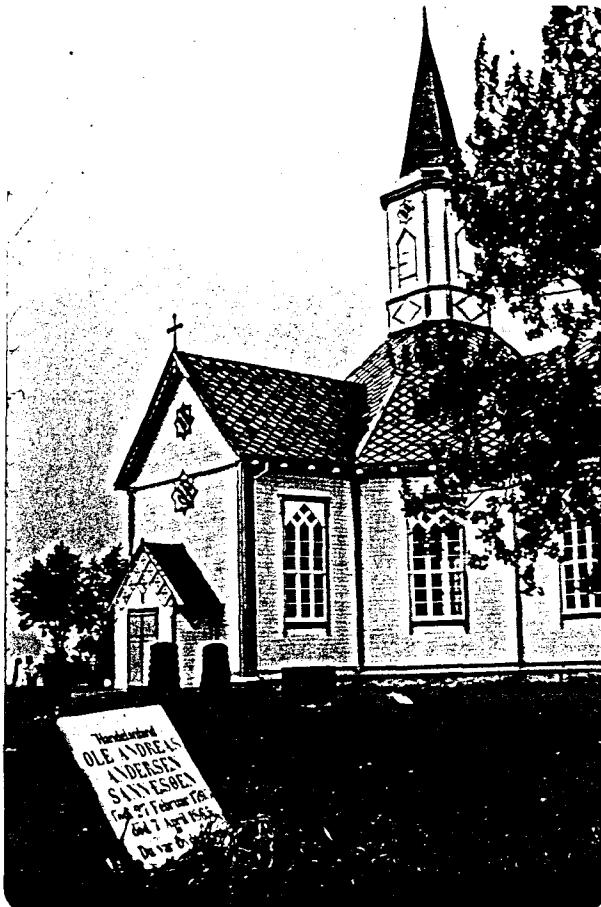
Near the end of our stay, we were visited by Mr. Muribø, an officer of Nordlandsbanken in Sandnessjøen. Mr. Muribø had a personal interest in the city's history, and had written a short account of the Andersen family and Sandnessjøen's beginnings - a copy of which he gave us and which is included in this collection. This meeting completed "the picture" for us, and we left Sandnessjøen feeling somewhat acquainted with the city and also feeling that we would be back again some day.



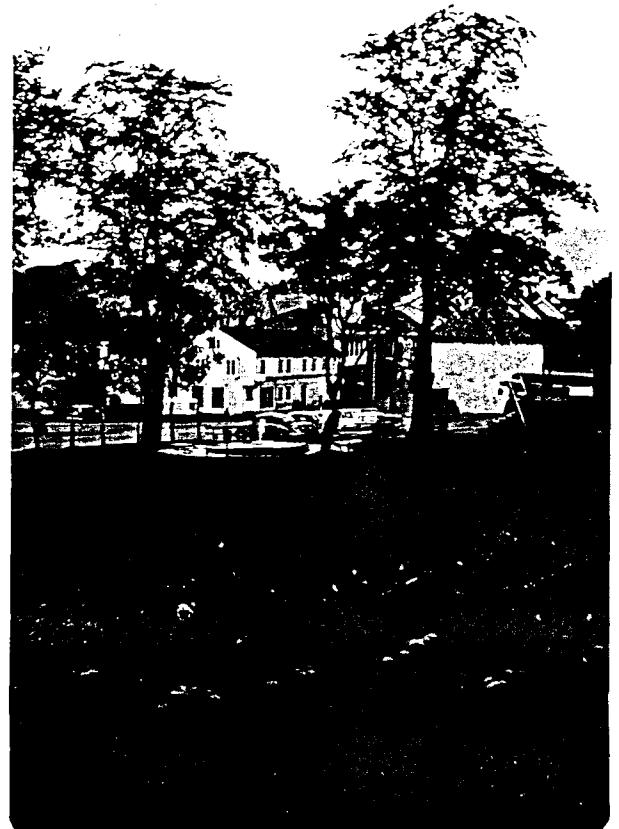


Sandnessjøen viewed north from a hilltop overlooking the city. Coastal steamer about to dock at the harbor. At the extreme right is the mainland ferry.

Stammes Church, Sandnessjøen. Ole Andreas Andersen's grave is in the foreground.



Sandnessjøen city square. The yellow building in the center of the picture was the home of Ole Andreas and Ingeborg Anna Andersen.



Ole Andreas Andersen.

Født

, død

Ole Andersen var født på gården Forsland i Leirfjord, og var fra unge år sjømann på jekte-fart fra Nordland til Bergen. Omsider fikk han i eie egen jekt, hvor han så var skipper (kaptein) i noen år. I 1833 kjøpte han handelsstedet Sandnessjøen med hus og jordarealer. Virksomheten omfattet jordbruk og handel, bevertning (hotell) og fiske etter torsk i Lofoten og etter sild på Helgelandskysten. Han hadde 5 storbåter på fiske i Lofoten hver vinter med mannskap fra omegnen, og fangsten ble saltet og ført til Sandnessjøen. Fisken ble så tørret på bergene til klippfisk og deretter ført på hans jekt til Bergen. Der ble fisken byttet i handelsvarer som behövdes i butikken, det var mel og salt, fiskeredskaper, kolonialvarer som sukker kaffe, gryn av alle arter, sirup, og ellers husholdningsvarer etter den tids meget beskjedne behov, samt en del finere tøyvarer i dyffel, fløyel og pyntebånd for kvinner. Dessuten omfattet bedriften salg og skjenking av brennevin. Bedriften gikk ganske bra.

Da Ole Andersen døde i 1865 fortsatte hans enke og barn bedriften med sønnen Anders Olai Andersen som ansvarlig, men det ble tunge år og vanskelig å holde bedriften i gang. Anders solgte derfor stedet i 1875 og flyttet til Göteborg i Sverige, hvor han kom inn i en vinforretning.

Ole Andreas Andersen bodde i hovedhuset i Sandnessjøen fra 1833 til sin død. Der var da flere andre hus rundt havnen, men alle er fjernet. Om Andersen selv bygget noe hus til bruk i sin omfattende virksomhet er ukjent. Folketallet i Sandnessjøen på den tid var ca. 80, men oppover Alsten öy bodde flere på sine små gårdsbruk, og stedet var da, som senere, et knutepunkt for alle öyer med lett adkomst over sjöen. Hovedhuset var bygget i 1795 og står fremdeles uforandret. Etter mannens død bygget enken eget hus (i 1867 ?), og dette hus står fremdeles i Håreks gate, bare litt forandret. Enken gikk bare under tittel "Madam Andersen", men også hun og visstnok alle barna flyttet til Göteborg. Hun ble visstnok begravet i Stockholm, og släkten i Sverige er nå ganske stor, spredt over ymse deler av Sverige.

Ole Andreas Andersen ble begravet på Sandnessjøen kirkegård, og hans grav er ennå skjöttet med minneplate.

14. september 1966.

Ole Andreas Andersen

Ole Andersen was born on Forsland Farm in Leirfjord and was, from his early years, a sailor on a coastal freighter from Nordland to Bergen. In time, he acquired his own coastal freighter, of which he was captain for some years. In 1833 he bought the Sandnessjøen trading post with a house and land. The business included farming and trading, an inn, and fishing for cod in Lofoten and for herring on the Helgeland coast. He had 5 longboats fishing in Lofoten every winter with men from the area, and the catch was salted and taken to Sandnessjøen. The fish were dried on the rocks to make "klippfish" and then taken on his coastal freighter to Bergen. The fish were traded for goods needed for the store; there were flour and salt, fishing equipment, groceries such as sugar, coffee, grain of all kinds, syrup, and other household goods according to the times - very simple needs - together with some finer clothing of long-haired wool, velvet, and trimmings for the women. In addition, the business included the sale and serving of brandy. The business went quite well.

When Ole Andersen died in 1865, his widow and children continued the business with the son Anders Olai Andersen in charge; but there came bad years, and it was difficult to keep the business running. Anders therefore sold the place in 1875 and moved to Göteborg (Gothenburg) Sweden, where he entered into a wholesale wine business.

Ole Andreas Andersen lived in the main house in Sandnessjøen from 1833 until his death. There were several other houses around the harbor at that time, but all have been removed. Whether Andersen himself built some houses for use in his extensive business is unknown. The population in Sandnessjøen was, at this time, about 80; but all over Alsten Island were several small farms, and the place was then, as later, a center for all the islands, with easy access by water. The main house was built in 1795 and still stands, unchanged. After her husband's death, the widow built her own house (in 1867?) and this house still stands in Håreks street, only slightly changed. The widow wanted under the title of "Madame Andersen," but finally she and, presumably, all the children moved to Göteborg. She was supposedly buried in Stockholm, and the family in Sweden is very large now and is spread over various parts of Sweden.

Ole Andreas Andersen was buried in the Sandnessjøen cemetery, and his grave is marked with a gravestone.

14 September 1966

There is still another chapter to the story. When we talked with Mr. Aakerholt and Mr. Muribø, we learned that earlier in the summer, a Mr. Ulf Karsberg from Sweden had visited Sandnessjøen with his family. Mr. Karsberg's great-grandfather was also Ole Andreas Andersen; his grandfather, Anders Olai Andersen!

After our vacation, when we were settled into our house in Roskilde, we wrote to Mr. Karsberg, who lives in the town of Munkedal, on the Kattegat, north of Göteborg. He verified the family connection with his recollection of his grandfather's brothers. We intend to visit Mr. Karsberg the next time we find ourselves in Sweden!

We were thus able to establish an interesting fact: the entire Andersen family lived in the vicinity of Göteborg from 1869 until they went their various ways - Bill grandfather Ole married Johanna Møller in San Francisco in 1889 and made his home in that area.

An intriguing coincidence is that, until they came to Michigan in 1880, Kitty's father's parents lived only about 100 miles from Göteborg, near Lidköping and Tidaholm.

And so ended one of the finest vacation/adventures we have ever had...

Bill & Kitty Brown
Los Alamos
May 1967.

Ingenjör Ulf Karsberg

Munkedal, December 20, 1966

Postlåda 1596

MUNKEDAL/Sweden

Dear Mr. Brown,

I was very glad to receive your letter.

Andrew Your mother's family in San Francisco was not quite unknown for me and my family. As a little boy my mother often told us about her uncle Ole and his wife, who was born in Denmark, and I can remember that I found it very funny that your uncle Erik (the only boy and the youngest of the children) was so very often kissed by his six sisters, that he was wet all over his body.

However, the contact between the two brothers' families was broken in the beginning of this century. For that reason we all were so happy that it was possible by Mr. Moribø to renew the contact.

I enclose a complete list over my grandfather's (your mother's uncle) descendants until 1966.

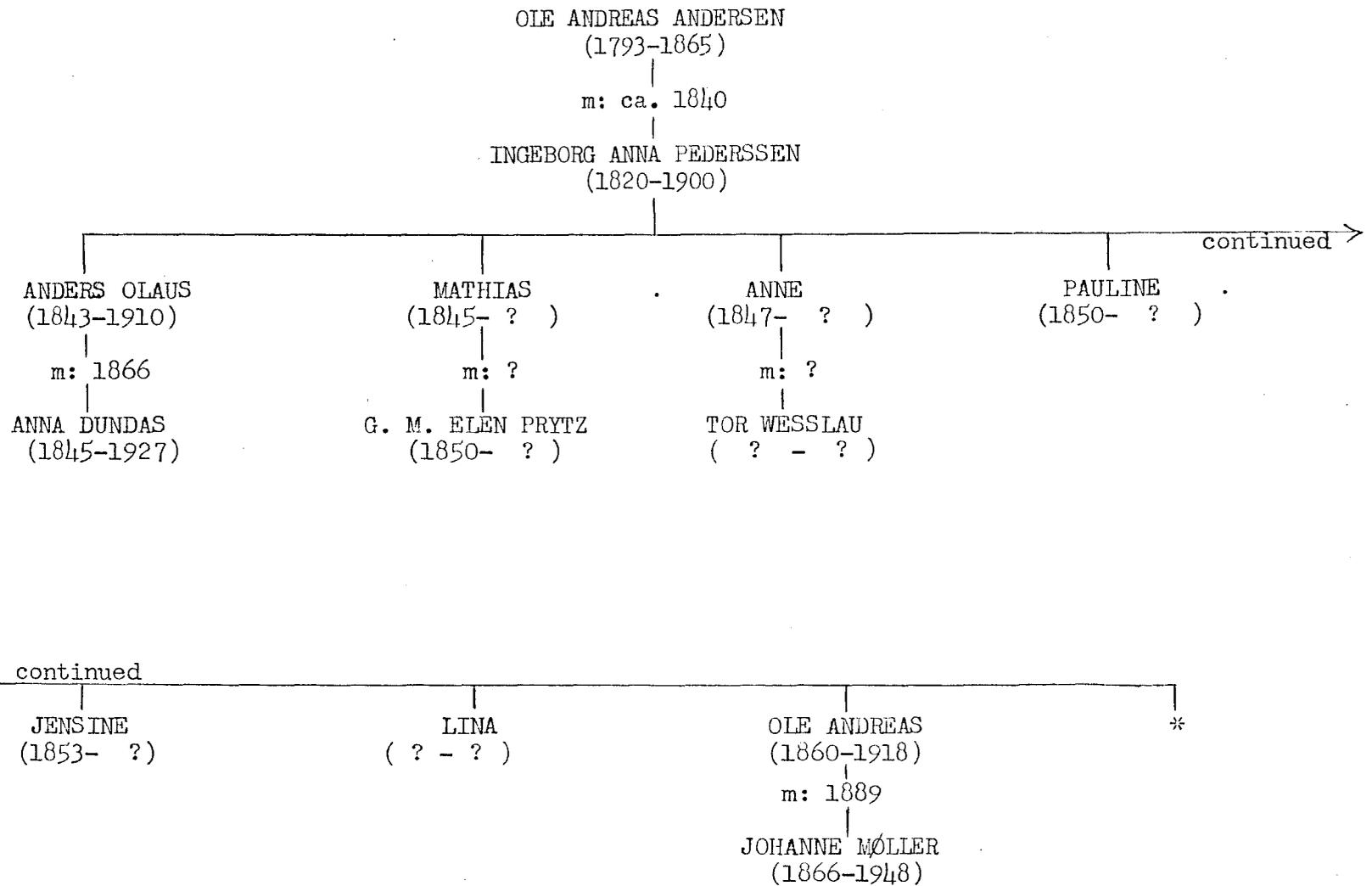
I know that our grandfathers had 3 or 4 sisters here in Sweden. Only one was married, "Wesslau", and I think that they have many descendants.

Our grandfathers also had a brother, living in Norway. He was a captain and married a girl born "Prytz". I have heard that the branch Prytz Andersen is going out.

We should be glad if you and your family could be able to visit us here in Munkedal, and I am sure that all your relatives here in Sweden should estimate to get familiarity with their American relatives.

Sincerely,

U. Karsberg
Ulf Karsberg



* Two other children were born to Ole Andreas and Ingeborg Anna and died in Sandnessjøen. They were a son, Adolph, and a daughter, Anna.