

## TØMMEREN FRA "DANETOWN"

På det nordlige Mors, i henholdsvis Ejerslev og Sejerslev, voksede Peder Møller Pedersen og hans kommende hustru Kirsten Kjærgaard Andersen op i 1860'erne. Om de kendte hinanden som børn er uvist. Peder voksede op som uægte barn, og i folketællingerne 1880 står han listet som landarbejder. Det har med stor sandsynlighed ikke været noget muntert liv, og grunden til, at Peder rejste til Amerika i 1885, skal sikkert findes her. Så snart morsingboen Peder kom til Amerika, ændrede han, som så mange andre, sit navn, så det blev mere mundret på det nye sprog. Peder Møller Pedersen blev til Peter Miller.

Hvad Peter foretog sig i Amerika de første fem år, ved vi ikke, men i 1890 giftede han sig med Kirsten hjemme fra Nordmors. På dette tidspunkt boede parret i Chicago, hvor også det første af i alt 10 børn blev født. Familien rejste siden til byen Windom i Cottonwood County, Minnesota.

Familien Miller slog sig først for alvor ned, da de omkring 1905 flyttede til den lille by Wilbur i staten Washington. Her bosatte familien sig blandt mange andre danske i den del af byen, som fik navnet "Danetown". På trods af den massive tilstedeværelse af danskere insisterede især Kirsten dog på, at familien skulle tale amerikansk i hjemmet. Nogle danske traditioner, især omkring årets højtider, fejrede man til gengæld stadig på dansk manér. I Wilbur arbejdede Peter som tømrer, og Kirsten supplerede familiens økonomi ved at gå ud som vasker og sælge æg fra familiens høns.

Familien Millers mange børn stiftede selv familier, som i dag lever spredt ud over mange amerikanske stater.



*Kirsten og familiens ældste søn Adolph. Kirsten supplerede familiens økonomi ved at vaske for folk i Wilbur, og et stort hønsehold med salg af æg gav også lidt ekstra penge. Adolph blev farmer nær Wilbur og fik 5 børn.*

*Kirsten and Adolph, the family's oldest son. Kirsten worked as a washer woman for the townspeople of Wilbur, and a large flock of hens provided eggs, which also added to the income. Adolph became a farmer near Wilbur, and he had five children.*



*Familien Millers hus i Wilbur. Huset var bygget i en del af byen, hvor mange danskere havde slået sig ned, derfor blev bydelen kaldet "Danetown". Peter, der arbejdede som tømrer, lavede selv store dele af huset.*

*The Miller family house in Wilbur. The house was built in a part of Wilbur that was home to many Danes, and accordingly the neighbourhood was called Danetown. Peter, who was a carpenter, built most of the house himself.*

## THE CARPENTER FROM "DANETOWN"

On northern Mors, in Ejerslev and Sejerslev respectively, Peder Møller Pedersen and his future wife, Kirsten Kjærgaard Andersen, grew up in the 1860s. It is unknown whether they knew each other as children. Peder was an illegitimate child, and in the 1880 census, he was listed as a farm worker. It was probably not a cheerful life, and could be the reason Peder left for America in 1885. Like so many others before him, Peder changed his name to something more idiomatic when he came to America. Peder Møller Pedersen became Peter Miller.

How Peter occupied himself for the first five years is unknown, but in 1890, he married Kirsten from back home. At this time the couple lived in Chicago, where the first of their 10 children was born. Later on, the family moved to Windom in Cottonwood County, Minnesota.

The Millers didn't become truly settled until they moved to the small town of Wilbur, Washington, in 1905. Here they settled amongst the Danish community, which was called "Danetown". Despite a massive presence of Danes, Kirsten especially insisted that the family had to speak American at home. Some Danish traditions, particular those related to holidays, were still celebrated in Danish style. In Wilbur, Peter worked as a carpenter, and Kirsten added to the family income by working as a washerwoman and by selling eggs.

In time, the Miller children started their own families, which today have spread across many American states.



*Peter Miller, som startede sin tilværelse i Ejerslev med navnet Peder Møller Pedersen. Peter arbejdede som tømrer det meste af sit liv i Amerika. Fotografiapparatet var han ikke vild med, og derfor findes der kun dette ene foto.*

*Peter Miller was born in Ejerslev with the name Peder Møller Pedersen. Peter worked as a carpenter for most of his life in America. He wasn't fond of cameras, so only this one photo of him exist.*



*Alle familien Millers voksne børn med familie – sikkert taget ved Kirstens begravelse. Bagerste række fra venstre: Echo og Agnes, Victor (delvist skjult), Folmer, Otto, Harold, Adolph (delvist skjult), Margaret (Victors hustru). Forreste række fra venstre: Flora, Etler, Jean (Folmers hustru), Lyla (Ottos hustru), Betty (Harolds hustru), Etta (Adolphs hustru), Viola og Ralph Green*

*The Miller children with their spouses, probably at Kirsten's funeral. Back row from the left: Echo and Agnes, Victor (partly hidden), Folmer, Otto, Harold (partly hidden), Margaret (Victor's wife). Front row from the left: Flora, Etler, Jean (Folmer's wife), Lyla (Otto's wife), Betty (Harold's wife), Etta (Adolph's wife), Viola and Ralph Green.*