

The Granly News

A Publication of the Danish Historical Foundation, Inc., Hurley, Mississippi



Granly History

This article is reproduced from a Works Progress Administration publication from 1938. It serves as a valuable contemporary history of the early colony from a founding member, Dagmar Pedersen. Dagmar, husband Axel Pedersen and son Paul arrived at Granly in November 1930 from Iowa.

A Danish Colony

In the northeastern section of Jackson County live twenty-three families of Danish descent, who make up what is known as GRANLY COLONY, the newest community in the county. Eight other Danish families live nearby, outside of the limits of the actual colony, drawn there because of its establishment.

The idea of such a colony was conceived by Han Madsen, an Iowa banker, and his daughter, Alma Madsen Holst, in 1930. He made the statement in a Danish paper, published in 1930, that due to his past observation of the difficulties encountered by young farming people in getting started on a farm of their own in Iowa, and realizing the stabilizing factor of home ownership, he and his daughter had traveled extensively in the South trying to locate a place where reasonably good land could be procured cheaply, where climatic conditions were favorable, where taxes were reasonable, and markets not too far away. He

emphasized his belief that the northeastern section of Jackson County was such a place.

A number of Danish people immediately became interested, and on October 19, 1930, five men from Dagmar, Montana, came to Jackson County to see for themselves. One — Mr. Christian Pedersen — decided to remain and have his household effects shipped to him. The next month — November 7 — Axel Buck and his family arrived, followed the next day by Axel Pedersen and family. Within a week, fourteen people were housed in three rooms and a large garage in Hurley.

Immediately, the men and boys started building Mr. Buck's home. Then two and three-room cabins were erect-

ed as rapidly as possible, so that new settlers would have a place in which to live, immediately upon arrival. By the end of the month, seven more had come, and the future of the colony seemed unusually hopeful. About that time, Mrs. Holst was killed in an automobile accident, so the colony was without a leader until Messrs. Buck and Pedersen took charge.

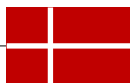
There is a store and grist mill in the community. Diversified farming is the general rule, farms ranging in size from twenty to 120 acres, the aver-

age being forty. About 400 acres are now (1936), in crops, and more land is being put into cultivation each year. New farm buildings are conservatively estimated as worth \$25,000. Every farmer has a few cows and hogs, in addition to a flock of chickens.



Easter 1931. Early colonists gathered for this group photo at the "park", a popular gathering place near Granly. The colony was less than 6 months old at the time. The photo belonged to Dagmar Pedersen (standing in front of tree with husband Axel).

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Granly Officials

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Son of Lee & Rita Mortensen Shepherd

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Son-in-law of Davis Mortensen, the
Son of Ejner & Marie

SECRETARY

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Granddaughter of Carl & Astrid Brinkman
Daughter of Margaret Brinkman

Important Granly Dates

Granly Christmas Gathering

December 26, 2021

(bring your friends, your relatives, your
favorite dish and your dancing shoes)

Granly Annual Meeting

and Workdays

October, 2022

Visit Our Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GranlyDanish/>

Share your Family Photos and Memories with us to
be posted on our Granly Facebook Page and in the
Newsletter.

Send to Else Martin,
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We want to hear from you!

Please send your old (and new) family photos, current
news and your comments and suggestions to the editor.

We want to see photos from all Granly descendants –
trips to Denmark, Reunions, Holiday traditions, recipes,
etc.

Newsletter Publishing Dates & Deadlines:

<i>Issue:</i>	Spring 2022
<i>Deadline:</i>	April 1, 2022
<i>Mailed:</i>	Late April 2022



A Danish Colony cont.

Poultry has a definite part in the farm program. There are several flocks with approximately 1000 hens, and a number with 300 and 500. Most of the poultry is marketed through Jackson County's Co-operative Association. Twice a week during the summer months, and once a week in winter, a truck collects all poultry and eggs, bringing them to Ocean Springs, and returning with about two tons of feed.

Several of the farmers ship cream to the creamery. During the spring of 1937, four carloads of Irish potatoes were shipped to northern markets, and a number trucked to nearby markets.

The Granly Co-operative Association has been duly incorporated for co-operative purchases of seed, fertilizer, and any other commodity that might benefit the community. It also sells some of the farm products co-operatively.

The people of Granly do not confine their activities to local problems, but a number take part in county activities. Since becoming members of the Poultry Association, they have been represented on the board of directors, with Mr. Madsen at present a member. Axel Pedersen is one of the directors of the County Co-operative. Women take an active part in home demonstration work, serving on the County Council and holding office in the local club. They are actively interested in the county fair, and many of their entries take first prize, especially in needle work, poultry, and in general farm exhibits.

Mr. Buck grows approximately four acres of gladiolas each year, selling a number to local markets, but shipping the majority to Chicago. He has about 200 varieties, of which 125 are named and grown separate. He sells many thousand bulbs each winter and has over 20,000 for his own planting. During the "Glad" season, visitors come from many miles around to see and admire the gorgeous blossoms.

In 1936, a community house, which serves for religious purposes as well as all community activities, was built. Services are conducted by Rev. Knudsen, retired pastor of the Danish Lutheran Church of America, who came to Granly in 1931 to rest after forty years of active service in the Synod. Ever since his arrival he has conducted services twice a month without remuneration.

Three Sunday School teachers instruct the children, and the Ladies Aid Society, which has done splendid

From the President

Greetings, I hope everyone is doing well and healthy this year. We will be having the Christmas night as usual on December 26th, with all the usual festivities. The work week was canceled due to scheduling complications and the fact that there is not much needed to be done this year at Granly. The landscaper has done very well with maintaining the grounds.

We will have the work-weekend and annual meeting in October 2022. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in December.

Lee Sheperd

work in helping raise funds for community house and church work, meets twice a month.

The Granly community sponsors a number of purely social activities. Every Wednesday night Gunnar Knudsen teaches gymnasium to a class of girls and boys. Folk dancing is a part of community life, with Knudsen an able teacher.

Once a month a community birthday party is held, when all having a birthday that particular month are responsible for entertainment and coffee. The others bring cake or sandwiches. On the second Sunday afternoon of each month, the entire group meets for some community singing and the inevitable coffee and cake.

The whole community is vitally interested in the schools, and eager to help in any way to secure the best possible education for the children.

Reference

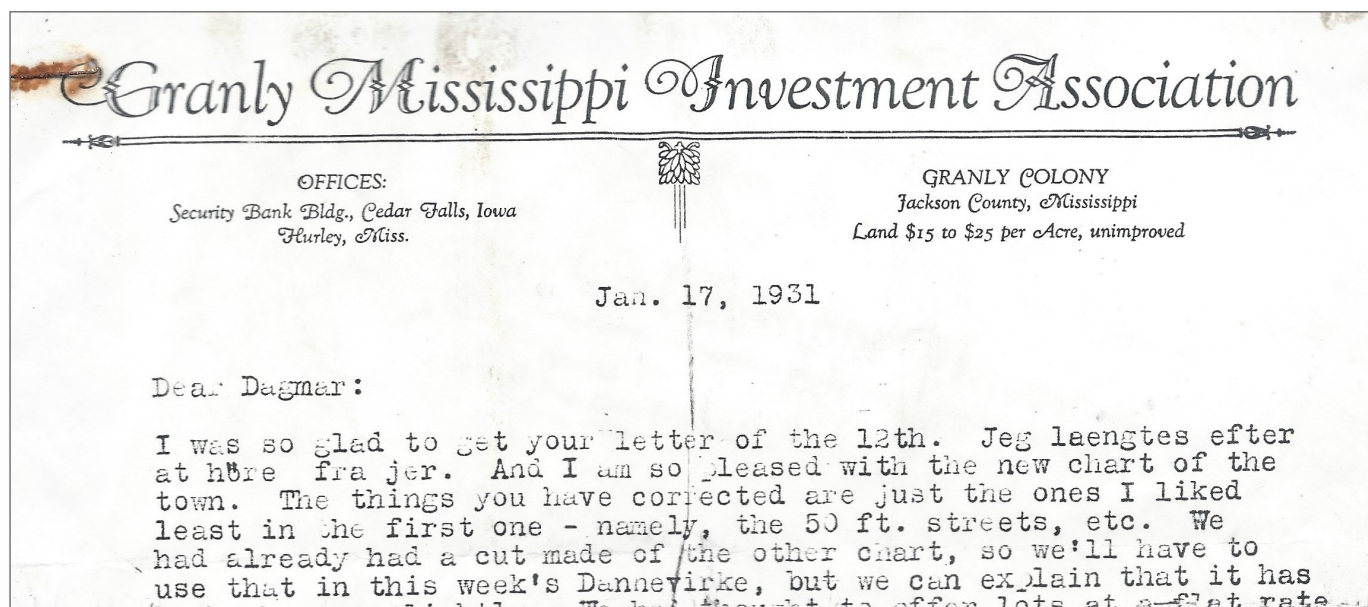
Pedersen, Mrs. Dagmar, (member of the community), Hurley, Miss.



Granly History

Letter from Alma Holst to Dagmar Pedersen January 17, 1931

Big Dreams of a Granly Town Site



The letter from Alma Holst to Dagmar Pedersen — with passages in both English and Danish — talked of big dreams to further develop Granly into a town site with planned streets and small lots for sale. It also expressed the difficulties that come with such an endeavor, convey Holst's determination and enduring passion for Granly and Dagmar Pedersen's important role as a pioneering colonist.

At the time of the letter the colony was just a couple of months old with a handful of settlers, the first crops had been planted, the children were attending new schools, and, in general, they were all in a new, unfamiliar environment with lots of uncertainty and hard work ahead. Just eight days after the letter was written Holst died in a car accident — forever altering Granly's future.

The Danish passages are shown in italics with English translations immediately following in parentheses. Translations by Ellen Thain.

Jan, 17, 1931

Dear Dagmar:

I was so glad to get your letter of the 12th. *Jeg laengtes efter at høre fra jer.* (I long to hear from you.) And I am so pleased with the new chart of the town. The things you have corrected are just the ones I liked least in the first one — namely, the 50 ft. streets, etc. We had already had a cut made of the other chart, so we'll have to use that in this week's Dannevirke, but we can explain that it has been changed slightly. We had thought to offer lots at a flat rate of \$100. to \$150. per lot for a short while, just as we offered the land at introductory prices. I'd rather sell lots than Units, and I believe we shall sell a number right from the start, especially the one acre tracts, which we are pricing at \$200. to \$300. Figuring these minimum prices the town site should bring us around \$10,000. when it is sold out. I am offering the lots on a monthly installment plan, as I



believe a number of city people might like to buy one that way.

You may be tired Dagmar, of having to push things, but just remember what it is you are pushing. I honestly believe that some day Granly will be one of our finest colonies, and I firmly believe Granly By will be one of the prettiest in the South, and don't you ever let them take the pep out of you; by and by, the rest of them will be the first to crow, then you can just sit back and enjoy your laurels.

No, you certainly haven't criticized, except as you say, to make constructive suggestions, and what I mentioned in my other letter, was aimed at the colonists (non-Unitholders) *og var bare en henstilling ifald I mente det traengtes a* (and was only a suggestion if you thought it was necessary to) "drop a hint" to them, that even though everyone is having a hard row to hoe (and who isn't these days, no matter where you are) then it would be well not to air it too much to strangers without at the same time showing up what good points there are. *Men det kan ogsaa vaere at de netop har gjort det, og at Hostrop kun fortalte det andet, for at hjaelpe os til at rette hvad der kunde rettes.* (But it can also be that they have just done it, and that Hostrop could tell something else, in order to help us to address what could be addressed.) It was all in a very friendly spirit and his article in Dannevirke shows that he enjoyed his trip.

I realize that the *Menighedshave* (parish or church garden) can't be realized now, but I still believe that now is the time to write about it and to accept donations for trees. *Jeg synes ikke I skylder at faa haven tilplanted fo r I er fa erdig til det, selv om du skrev om det og tog imod pengene.* (I don't think you should have the garden planted before you are ready for it, even though you wrote about it and took money towards it.) But I don't want to hurry you, I know you are just as busy as you can be.

Between you and me I think father enjoyed the little skirmish you and Petersen staged just before he left and I'll almost bet my hat that he was cheering for you up his sleeve.

Han havde sagt til Petersen da de km ud at han syntes han burde vaere mere hensynfuld. (He had said to Petersen that it came out that he thought he should be more considerate.) Father said



Granly founder Alma Madsen Holst wrote, "I honestly believe that some day Granly will be one of our finest colonies, and I firmly believe Granly By [town] will be one of the prettiest in the South, and don't you ever let them take the pep out of you ..." Photo provided by Holst's granddaughter, Lisa Stub.

you and Axel were doing good work "*med at samle folk til sang aftener og oplaesning; de go r et stort arbejde for kolonien der, og det vil ogsaa faa vidt raekkende betydning senere hen.*" ("with gathering people to sing vespers and readings; They do a great work for the colony there, and it will also have a far-reaching meaning in the future.") Keep that in mind when you get tired of "running things". *Jeg kan saa godt forstaa at I traenger til flere familiar dernede, men det kommer ogsaa inden laenge. Og det er vist lige saa godt at der ikke er altfor mange til at begynde ned.* (I can really understand that you are in need for more families down there, but that will come also in the long run. And it is certainly just as well that there aren't too many to begin with.) Some pioneering must be done by a few, otherwise there would be a grand chaos before you knew it. You can't know how earnestly I hope and pray for your peas and sweet potatoes — and that's no joke! I do hope the hard rain didn't wash

them out. Be sure to write about it later.

Gibson promised us that land at \$12. per acre, and we have a letter from him to that effect. Also some land at \$6. per acre, but that may be low land. Some at \$10. — it was owned by some people in California, and they were very anxious to sell. I haven't the files here, but I believe it was the tract south along the railroad, the three forties.

How are you standing the work? Father said you didn't say anything about it. Hope your back is getting stronger. How is Paul getting along in school? Does he like it?

I'll send the secretary a list of Unit holders before very long.

Continued on page 6 ...



Holst Letter cont.

Nordby in Kimballton is interested in a Unit, my uncle Hans wrote; and as father has to go to Kimballton the first of next week, he'll see him about it then.

I'll keep your library in mind.

Enclosed are the two vouchers signed. My love to the mules. Never did like mules, but I'm sure I'd be enthused over these.

We had a very nice letter from the Development director of the Gulf, Mississippi Export Railroad. We're referring him to you. I wonder if he couldn't be of service to you. Roberts — is the name. Also had a letter from the Lampton people offering us the town sites of Hurley and Harleston at a bargain. Father wrote them that we had

sold the land surrounding Granly with the promise of putting in a town, so we couldn't very well change it, but we'd be interested in the town sites at farm land prices.

Must close. I want to mail this letter this evening, Saturday. Our new addr. is simply Box 82. We're out here on the Drive now. You'd like our little new office.

Dagmar, any time you get disgusted with things just unload to me. That often helps a lot, and you know you can always bank on my enthusiasm and understanding. Best regards to you all.

Sincerely — Alma

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— Holst letter to Pedersen

Vanillekranse

“Vanillekranse” Danish Vanilla Wreath Cookies

Recipe shared by Sonja Adkison and Else Allen

3 ½ cups flour	2 eggs
2 ¼ cups sugar	½ cup finely chopped almonds
1 ¼ cups butter	1 tsp vanilla



Cream sugar and butter. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add almonds, vanilla. Add flour. Grease cookie sheet well with butter.

Place in pastry tube and squirt out in rings. Bake in slow oven, 350 degrees until golden brown. These may be decorated if desired.



Granly History

Memories shared by Alice Buck Fremlin

My parents, Axel and Ella Buck, my brother Alvin and I, (Alice) arrived in Hurley, Mississippi on the afternoon of Thursday, November 6th 1930. Arrangements must have been made in advance because we were shown an empty building just a few feet north of the grocery store (J. B. Gibson Store and building) and we stayed there until a building could be built on the land my Dad had bought a few months earlier. We also brought our dog "Pal" along.

The next day Axel and Dagmar Pedersen and son Paul arrived and we all lived in the same building.

Alvin was 11 and I was 7 and Paul, I think, was 8. We all started school the next week in Hurley's two-room school house. Since our family had come from northern Minnesota, where the first frosts of the season usually started in mid-September, I am quite sure Alvin & I were dressed in heavy winter clothes!

I remember the three of us standing side by side and being stared at. One girl asked me, "Ya all kin?" and I told her I didn't know since I had never heard the word "kin". Then she asked if we were brothers and sisters, and I could answer to that! At morning recess two girls asked me to go over "yonder". I had never heard that word, so I followed and we went to sit under a tree, in the shade.

The teacher would have me read out loud and everyone would giggle, teacher too, because of how I pronounced words. I was very shy and then being laughed at. Second grade was not a happy year for me but by the 3rd grade we could all understand each other better.

I believe it was in late 1936 or 1937 that enough money was collected

to build a community house (forsamlingshus). It seemed like a huge building to me at that time. We had many happy gatherings and parties there. One Saturday night each month we would gather, and each family would bring cakes, cookies, etc., and those who had birthdays that month would have to put on a program. The cake that I remember was Mrs. Borgesen's prune cake. Many small layers with a prune filling between each layer and then completely covered with real whipped cream. Not what you have nowadays.

On the Saturday nights everyone usually brought their children and after coffee and cake, etc., there was often some dancing. Someone could usually play a harmonica or some type of music. Mr. Mortensen had come along that night and danced a couple of dances, and started another dance and fell to the floor. (That was the first night of celebrating the new forsamlingshus when he had a heart attack and died.)

In the early to mid-30's we would all go to Dog River for a picnic on the Fourth of July.

In September of 1937 we started being bussed to the Moss Point High School. We always missed the first period, because elementary students were picked up on Hurley route and couldn't be left at the school at 7 a.m., so we could not get to Moss Point in time. We always went to the study hall as soon as we arrived.

My grandparents were all born in Denmark. They came over with their parents or other relatives. My parents were born in Nebraska and Minnesota, Alvin and I learned Danish first so we could speak to our grandparents. Our first grade teacher spoke both Danish and English.



Alice Buck (right) with mother Ella at their home in Hurley circa 1940s.

I remember the three of us standing side by side and being stared at. One girl asked me, "Ya all kin?" and I told her I didn't know since I had never heard the word "kin".

Alice Buck, describing her first day at Hurley school after arriving from Minnesota in November 1930

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