

FLEMMER FAMILY HISTORY

THE DANISH NAESTED FAMILY

MIKKEL NAESTED (before 1700) to HANS MICHAEL NAESTED (1827 - 1907)

Hans Michael Naested was born in Holbæk on 13th March 1827. He arrived in South Africa in 1853 with the Flemmers and von Abos and in 1860 he married Camilla Henriette Flemmer in Cradock. Further details of him and of his descendants can be found in THE STORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLEMMERS.

To give an idea of how the Naesteds, Flemmers and Abos are connected as families here is a brief picture of my own direct line of descent:-

Mikkel Naested was born before 1700 in Denmark

His son - Niels Michelsen Naested c.1700 married Anne Kirstine Willumsdatter Bergreen

Their son - Michael Naested 1736-1807 married Anne Magdalene Sophie Lyders 1752-1804

Their daughter - Louise Dorothea Naested 1793-1823 married Christian Johannes Abo 1787-1869

Their daughter - Betty Camilla Abo 1816-1896 married Christian August Flemmer 1813-1870

One of their sons Hans Christian Flemmer 1847-1896 married Aletta Alida Hopley 1853-1934

Of their children one of the sons - Marius Toger Flemmer 1877-1965 married Kathleen Nolan Neylan 1884-1948

One of thier daughters - Kathleen Norah Flemmer 1912-1972 married Ronald Harold Herbert 1914-1988

One of their sons - Stephen Wilfred Herbert 1946- married Judith Ann Delbridge 1948-

There was another connection as well - this may seem a little confusing, but is interesting:-

Christian Johannes Abo (above) married a second time. One of his daughters from the second marriage was Wilhelmina Johanna von Abo 1833-1893 who married Frederick Hurlingh Hopley 1828-1895. She was therefore a half sister of Betty Camilla Flemmer (Abo).

One of the daughters of the von Abo/Hopley marriage was Aletta Alida Hopley 1853-1934 who married Hans Christian Flemmer 1847-1896 [see above] Hans Christian Flemmer and Aletta Alida Hopley were therefore half first cousins.

Johan Henrik Naested, one of the sons of Michael Naested 1736-1807 [see above], was the direct ancestor of the South African Naested family:

He, Johan Henrik Naested 1782-1862 married Christine Bertelsen

Their son, Hans Michael Naested 1827-1907 married Camilla Henrietta Flemmer [daughter of Christian August Flemmer and Betty von Abo]

We can see from this that the Naested family was connected to the South African Flemmers both through descent and by marriage.

The origin of the name is not known but the family was probably originally centred on Northern Jylland or the town of Næstved in Denmark. The correct form of the name is in fact Næsted, which has come into common use in South Africa as the spelling we see today. In the family notes handed down among the South African family it was said that Hans Michael Naested 1827-1907, stamvader of the South African Naesteds was descended from the family of a Silesian count. His obituary, published the 'Midland News' in 1907 is more specific, saying "He was the direct heir to the estate of a Silecian (sic) nobleman, Count von Eiksted, which was lost through the burning of the Church of St. Nikolai, Copenhagen, at the bombardment of that city in 1801, at which the marriage register of his great-grandfather and mother were kept..... His ancestry can be traced back to 1006."

There is a certain romance to this story that is intriguing, but unfortunately it does not seem to be true, as we shall see:-

Hans Michael Naested's great-grandfather was not a count called von Eiksted, nor have we found any record in Denmark of the family dating back to 1006, wonderful though this would be. What we do know beyond doubt is a line of descent pre-dating 1700

*Steve Herbert
Kalk Bay June 2002*

The family members covered by this section are:

MICHEL (OR MIKKEL) NAESTED

NIELS MICHELSEN NAESTED c.1700 -

MICHAEL NAESTED 1736 - 1807

LOUISE DOROTHEA NAESTED 1793 - 1823

JOHAN HENRIK NAESTED 1782 - 1826

HANS MICHAEL NAESTED 1827 - 1907

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MICHEL (OR MIKKEL) NAESTED

He would have been the great-grandfather of Hans Michael Naested. I know nothing of him, apart from his name and the fact that he was born before 1700.

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NIELS MICHELSEN NAESTED c.1700 -

He was born about 1700 and married Anna Kirstine Willumsdatter Berngreen. We can see from his second name - Michelsen (literally Michel's son) - that he was the son of Michel Naested and not Count von Eiksted. He and Anna had 11 children of whom I have traced the following:-

Jorgen Nielsen Naested born 1734, he became a burgher of the city of Copenhagen 1772 and married Anne at the church of St. Nikolai, Copenhagen 1775. There is a record of four children. In the 1787 census we find the family at 115 Myntergarden, Copenhagen:-

Jorgen Naested	man	44	married once	sword maker
Anne	his wife	36		
Frederick		6		
Niels Asmus		1	their children	
Brigitte		10		
Elisabeth		8		
Nicolai Christiansen		11	an orphan	
Jorgen Mathiasen		22		
Maren Tonsberg		35		maid

Vilhelm Naested was born 1746 in Copenhagen, and married Vilhelmine Beate Heglund 1749-84 in Hjørring in 1780. In 1786 he married Margarethe Falck and there is a record of one son - Niels Michael Naested baptised 1787. Vilhelm Naested was a surgeon with the Countess Danneskjold Samsøe from 1771-73 and county surgeon at Hjørring in 1778 where he died aged only 51 in 1797.

Juliane Marie Naested born 1753 married Hans Jorgen Wangel 1724-1786. A direct descendant of this marriage, Jorgen Wangel, has supplied me with a lot of information on this family. Juliane died in 1820.

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MICHAEL NAESTED 1736 - 1807

He was the brother of the people shown above and is of particular interest as he is an ancestor of the South African Flemmers. He was probably born in Copenhagen in about 1736. In 1756 aged 20, he qualified as a lawyer and in 1763 obtained an Honours degree. University education would have been something of a rarity at this time. This, and other information indicates that the Naesteds were of the wealthy upper classes.

Over the next few years he held several positions, in 1771 becoming a secretary with the Agricultural Commission and in 1775, aged 39 Korrespondence Chef with the Royal lottery. Over these years it seems that his career was on a fast upward path, in modern parlance, a man on the move.

On the 9th December 1778, aged 42, he married 26 year old Anna Magdalene Sophie Lyders (1752-1804) at the Vor Frue (Our Lady) Church in Copenhagen. The record shows that he paid 50

rigsdalers for his marriage license. As the normal rate was 4 rdl., this tells us he was a wealthy man. Some further idea of his financial position can be seen from the house he bought in Copenhagen in the following year. I have a copy of the Deed of Sale which gives a full description of the property:-

I, the undersigned Carl Frederich Hofman, citizen and county surgeon here in the Royal town of Copenhagen, hereby make public that I have sold from myself and my heirs to Kancelliraad Michael Naested here in Copenhagen as well as to his heirs a house, belonging to me in Raadhusstraedet, Snarens Quarter, new land registration number 42, which said house consists of 10 bays, 2 floors high with an attic 3 bays broad, built of stone towards the street and towards the yard, plus a basement under all of the house, and a stone built side house of 7 bays and 2 floors high and with an attic 3 bays broad with a basement, and a back house 11 bays broad, built of stone with timber frame and with a thatched roof 2 floors high and with an attic 3 bays broad, in which the lower floor is a stable and a garage for 2 wagons. In the yard is a sweet water pump. In the rooms there are 8 windows and two enclosed stoves...”

The word ‘bays’ was used at this time to measure the size of houses. It means window, and gives a clear idea of the scale of the house, which was huge. It can still be seen today at 42 Raadhus-trade (Town Hall Street) in Copenhagen. We even have a drawing of the house:-

The selling price was 9 000 rigsdalers, an enormous sum in 1779. A comparison can be made with the house of Fredrich Flemmer (see History of the South African Flemmers 1703-1870). He died in 1777, two years before Michael Naested bought his house. In the probate record the Flemmer house in Odense, 8 bays and 2 storeys high, was valued at 200 rigsdalers!

Nine years after their marriage we find the Naested family in the census of 1787:-

Michael Naested	man	50	married once	'kancelliraad' and Royal Balance Chief with the Lottery
Sofie Magdalene	wife	34	married once	
Kristine Dorthe Naested		8		
Henrik Naested		6		
Christian Naested		3		
Vilhelmine Vinkler		11	the wife's niece	
Niels Erlandsen		29		mercenary/free man/house servant
Karen Andersdatter		40	married once	maid and wet nurse
Abelone Sharlotte Benrod		29		maid

This shows us that Michael Naested is an important and wealthy man. Copenhagen was the centre of Denmark, with a population of about 100 000, 10% of the total population of the country. Three children have been born, the youngest has a wet nurse, although already 3, and there are three servants in the house.

Denmark had been going through a period of immense social and political upheaval during this period, with many reforms being passed as the old order in Europe changed. In June 1795, aged

59, Michael Naested was appointed as scribe to a commission that was to present an acceptable plan for the better use of the property of Copenhagen and the University. This work seems to have occupied him until his death in 1807.

Fourteen years later after the 1787 census, the family are living at the same address and the household has expanded considerably. It is interesting to look at these census returns in full as they show how the family had grown by 1801:-

Michael Naested	62	married	'kancelleraad' and lottery administrator
Sophie Magdalene Lyders	47	married	
Christine Naested	20		
Johan Henrich Naested	18		student
Michael Christian Naested	14		student
Anne Maria Naested	12		
Louise Dorothea Naested	8		
Charlotte Henriette Naested	6		
Maria Bech	21		maid
Kirstine Jensen	25		maid
Johan Lyders	21		lodging student
Wilhelm Lyders	23		lodging student

The ages shown for Michael and his wife Anna Sophie are slightly inaccurate as they would have been 65 and 49 respectively at this time. Although I believe they had 7 children it seems from this census that one had died young as only 6 are shown. The two Lyders boys are probably nephews of Anna Sophie. It is also interesting to see that, although the Naested boys are 'students' their sisters are not. Presumably at that time girls were not considered for formal education, rather learning the genteel arts of sewing, music and art at home from private tutors.

Up until 1795, the Danish lottery had been drawn at the Town Hall, which was very close to the Naested house. A devastating fire swept Copenhagen that year, destroying large parts of the city. One can imagine the terror as the inferno swept towards their home, destroying the Town Hall and most of the buildings in their street. Fortunately the fire stopped a few metres away and all was saved.

For the administrators of the lottery the loss of the Town Hall presented a huge problem. It was solved by the magistrate offering to buy the Naested's home. After the fire, good buildings in that part of Copenhagen would have been at an absolute premium, which is shown by the price negotiated- 14 000 rigsdalers, a comfortable profit given the 9 000 paid for it!

Although the deed of sale said that the house would be handed over to the Royal Lottery Institute of Copenhagen in September of 1795, the Naested family continued to live there until the time of Michael's death 12 years later. I presume that they would have shared the house with the admin-

istrative offices of the lottery. The public draw was made from the house for many decades afterwards, and this picture shows the lottery being drawn outside the house in about 1840.

On 28th June 1804, at age 52, the mother of the family, Anna Sophie Magdalene Naested died at her home of 'convulsions'. She was buried from the Helliggeist (Holy Ghost) Church and buried at Assistens Cemetery. What a great sadness for the family and especially for the young girls then aged about 17, 10 and 11.

Worse was to follow when three years later, their father Michael died of 'apoplexy' on 27th April 1807. Like his wife he was buried at Assistens Cemetery from the Helliggeist Church.

Moving with what today may be considered indecent haste, the probate commission met at the house on the day of death, 27th April 1807. It may well be that Michael Naested had been ill for some time and that the children and others felt that it was better to begin the work of the commission as soon as possible. The purpose of the commission was to list all property, heirs and creditors of the estate so that fair distribution of assets could take place. It is worth seeing an extract of this first meeting of the probate commission-

On 27th April 1807 the probate commission appeared at the request of Mr. H. Naested, in the house no. 42 Raadhusstraede on the first floor to make a probate record after cancelliraad Naested, who has died here today. Present here was the son Michael Christian, who declared that he was 22 years old and a student, and that he and his brother, candidatus juris Henrk Naested, 26, plus their four sisters, Anne Christine 26, Anne Marie 18, Louise Dorothea 15, and Charlotte Henriette 12, all not married, are the only right heirs after their deceased parents.... These children were all present as well as the maids Lene and Anne, and they showed the effects and furniture of the estate to the probate commission.....

Present also was sword-maker [Jorgen Nielsen] Naested. The heirs declared that they had shown the commission everything, and that the things concerning his work as a secretary of the lottery and university, will be in his office, which was now sealed...Lastly the sons present asked that lawyer Bronlund be appointed curator of the children.

There seems to have been some concerns about the property of the university as the commission met the children at the house two days later. The university and the community "emanded delivery of its books, documents and maps, which may be here in the house as well as whatever money belonging to the commission may be here in the house..." A list of property found is included.

A further meeting took place the following week about this matter. Michael Christian Naested asked for 10 rigsdalers a week to support the family and pay the maids. He also wanted to be refunded for the costs of his father's funeral.

The settlement of the affairs of the estate seems to have been a problem as it was still being dealt with three years later, in 1810, when a nephew, Niels Naested, a ship's surgeon, demanded payment of his account. He subsequently renounced his claim, but it is interesting to wonder whether the account was for attending Michael Naested in his final illness.

Despite the fact that Denmark was heading for very stormy financial waters at this time we must assume that the children were left with a comfortable living, although I do not have final details of the estate settlement.

Johan Henrik and his sister, Louise Dorothea Naested have a special interest for the South African families and I will deal with them separately below. Some of the other children of Michael Naested and Anna Sophie Magadelene Naested are also of interest. Brief details are-

Anne Christine Dorthe Naested b. 17th December 1779, married the vicar Andreas Hansen Kjeldberg 1790-1848 (see Flemmer Family History Part 1). She died aged 34, in 1813 leaving a son. Andreas Hansen Kjeldberg subsequently married his deceased wife's sister-

Charlotte Henriette Naested 1794-1868. They were married at the Vor Frue Church Copenhagen on 23rd May 1820 and they had at least one child- Methea Sophia Kjeldberg, born in 1820. In 1853 this child married her cousin, Toger Abo 1813-1879. The Kjeldbergs were guardians to Toger's sister, Betty Camilla Augusta Abo-see below.

Michael Christian Naested b. 1784, married Anne Catherine Addit b. 1791, and they had at least four children. A census in 1834 finds them living in the town of Næstved, where Michael Christian is a wine dealer and innkeeper. The census list is long, showing not only the family, but also guests at the inn. There are the 4 children, 8 maids and servants, an Icelandic merchant, a doctor, and a colonel and men of the Lancers Regiment! Of special interest is that the couple are guardians to the sister of Betty and Toger Abo, Marie Sophie Frederikke Abo, whose age is shown as 22-see below.

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LOUISE DOROTHEA NAESTED 1793 - 1823



She was the second youngest daughter of the family, and as we have seen, was 15 years old when she was orphaned by the death of her father in 1807. It seems to me that she had a difficult life, having lost both parents at such a young age. Although she herself died very young, and in unhappy circumstances, she is of great importance to the South African Flemmer family. As we have seen at the opening of this section, all of our Flemmer family in South Africa descended from her.

Louise Dorothea Naested married 23-year-old Johannes Christian Abo in Copenhagen in 1810, when she would have been about 17. He was the son of a famous Danish naval Captain, Toger Abo 1747-1806 and more details of this family can be found in my History of the Abos. Louise and Christian Johannes Abo had three children - Marie Sophie Frederikke b. 1812, Toger b. 1813 and Betty Camilla Augusta, b. 1816.

Denmark was lurching from financial crisis to crisis in the period after their marriage and it was probably for this reason that Johannes Christian Abo decided to try to make a new life for his family in South Africa. He had been trained in surveying in the Danish Navy, and could use his skills as a surveyor in the new country. We do not know when he left, but Betty was said to be 6 months old, which would put it at 1817. He would then have left his young wife aged about 24 with three children the oldest being only 5 years old.

As far as I know he never came back to Denmark, nor apparently made his fortune in South Africa. On 16th July 1823 six years after he left, his wife Louise Dorothea died in Holbæk aged 30, at the home of her brother Johan Henrik. Family legend has it that she died of a broken heart, as she had heard nothing from her husband in South Africa for several years. It is said that the day after her funeral, a parcel of 10 letters arrived for her from South Africa, and this may be so. Life must have been very difficult for the young mother and her three children. She was apparently living on the charity of her brother and sharing the home with her mother-in-law, Maria Abo (van der Spuy).

We have the probate record for Louise Dorothea Naested and as with all translations, one has to be careful that the real meaning has been understood. I think it makes for sad reading as there is a certain note of bitterness in it. One has the sense that this poor young woman had been inflicted

on her mother-in-law by the departure of her husband for South Africa-

On Wednesday 23rd July 1823 the probate commission came to the house of Generaladjutant Mrs. Abo [her late husband Toger Abo's title] to register and deal with the estate of her son's wife Mrs. Louise Dorothea Abo, born Naested. Present were Mrs. Abo and the brother of the deceased the lawyer [Johan Henrik] Naested, who was supposed to take care of the children of the deceased, all minors, as their father had been absent at the Cape for some years. According to the information given the deceased left behind the following children:-

- A daughter Maria 11 years old
- A son Toger 10 years old
- A daughter Betty 6 and a half years old

Mrs. Abo declared that since she had undivided estate after the death of her husband and her son therefore owned nothing here and as he, when he was living here, as well as his wife, contributed nothing to the home, all the property here belonged to her, apart from the clothes of the deceased. As the value of these clothes was less than the cost of the funeral and the expenses of the deceased and her children, she abstained from further claim on the estate, if the estate could be given to her. Lawyer Naested agreed with this and the probate was finished.

When their mother died the three children, Marie now aged 11; Toger 10 and Betty nearly 7 were split up and brought up by their mother's brother and sisters.

As we have seen above, Marie, at age 22 was living with her uncle Michael Christian in Næstved in 1834. I have no other record of her.

I believe Toger grew up in the home of his uncle Johan Henrik Naested. He went to the Cape in about 1836 aged 23, to join his father Christian Johannes (von) Abo. He settled in Cradock where he was prominent in town affairs for many years. He also collected wild animals, skins and plants for export back to Europe. In 1852 he returned to Denmark and married his cousin Methea Sophia Kjeldberg (see below). He encouraged his sister Betty, by then the wife of Dr. Christian August Flemmer, to move to the Cape, partly financing the cost of the voyage. They all sailed together from London on the 'Corsairs Bride', which arrived at Port Elizabeth after a voyage of nearly three months, in February 1853. He apparently also persuaded his cousin, Hans Michael Naested 1827-1907, to emigrate to Cradock at this time. Toger (von) Abo died in Cradock 9th April 1879. His death certificate notes he is 'unmarried' so it is possible his wife Methea, had returned to Denmark

After her mother died, Betty went to her aunt Charlotte Henriette Naested who had married the vicar Andreas Hansen Kjeldberg. They had a daughter of their own, Methea Sophia who was four years younger than Betty. Kjeldberg was the vicar for the parish of Havrebjerg, about 3kms. from Stillinge, the home of the Flemmer family. They were obviously old friends of the Flemmers as the vicar Kjeldberg made the graveside funeral oration at the burial of Hans Christian Flemmer in 1847. Betty married Dr. Christian August Flemmer in Havrebjerg on 24th September 1839. They emigrated to Cradock, Cape Colony, arriving with their 7 children in 1853. She died in Cradock aged 79 on 19th September 1896.

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JOHAN HENRIK NAESTED 1782 - 1826

Johan Henrik Naested was born in Copenhagen on the 24th November 1782, and baptised at the Church of the Holy Ghost. (Helliggeist). In 1800 he started his studies as a lawyer and was

made candidatus juris (lawyer) on 15th June 1805 aged 23. In 1808 he received very good marks in his examinations as Forester and Surveyor. In January 1815 he was living in Holbæk aged 33, and was given permission to act as Procurator in all the courts of Sjaelland, Copenhagen excepted.

He was clearly a highly intelligent and successful man. On 28th October 1826 at age 44, he married Christiane Berthelsen 1789-1843 at the St. Nikolai Church in Holbaek. She was 37 at the time, and was the daughter of distiller Hans Berthelsen and Ingeborg Christiansdatter. Christiane Berthelsen had been married previously to distiller Jens Jorgensen Roed, but the marriage was ended by royal permission in 1826.

Their first child was Hans Michael Naested who was born on the 13th March 1827. It is interesting to look at the list of witnesses and sponsors of the newborn boy-

Madam Dall, Miss Anne M. Naested (his aunt), Cancellieraad Bierfrund, Pastor Kjeldberg, Lawyer Arboe (was this an Abo relative?), Merchants Frandsen, Petersen and Herlov, Dyer Nehammer, Stadshauptman Godtfredsen. No doubt this represented some very important people in the local community.

In 1830 a second child, Ingeborg Sophie Magdalene was born and was baptised at St. Nikolai. As far as I know, there were no other children.

In 1834, Johan Henrik Naested aged 52, was granted a great honour and elected to the Estates of the Realm for the towns of Holbaek, Kalundborg and Nykoebing. In the obituary of his son, Hans Michael, published in Cradock in 1907 it says Johan Henrik was appointed by King Frederick VII to a commission to investigate changes to the constitution of Denmark. For this he was awarded a 'massive silver medal, now in the possession of the family.' I have no way of finding out whether this is in fact so.

On the 8th July 1843, his wife Christiane died at Holbæk aged 54. Johan Henrik died nearly 20 years later, on the estate ' Eriksholm' aged 80 on the 23rd August 1862.

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HANS MICHAEL NAESTED 1827 - 1907



As we have seen, Hans Michael Naested was born in Holbæk on 13th March 1827. He was baptised at the Church of St. Nikolai where he was confirmed, aged 14 in 1841. He arrived in South Africa in 1853 with the Flemmers and von Abos and in 1860 he married Camilla Henriette Flemmer in Cradock. Further details of him and of his descendants can be found in THE STORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLEMMERS.