

## **Across Oceans, Across Time® ...**

### **Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...**



The above vine-bedecked residence is the home that **Clara Anna Sørensen** left behind when she and her new husband, **Anton Jørgen Kragh**, immigrated to America in April 1902. Her home, "Bækhuset," was located in the countryside outside Horslunde, on the island of Lolland. Clara's father, Rasmus Hjort Sørensen, was a gardener for the surrounding estate owners. From this picture of his own back garden one can see that here too his green thumb produced great beauty. In the garden were fruit trees in addition to flowers, including one tree on which he is said to have grafted six different types of pears. The small stream from which the house took its name was crossed with a bridge before flowing into the nearby woods, where the Sørensen's four daughters would play. The thatched roof had an opening at the top and marks running down from where the storks would nest. Since they were a sign of good luck, Rasmus put up with the mess, repairing the roof from time to time when the thatch got too stained. This 1910 photograph shows Rasmus and his wife, Anne Margarethe Gullicksen, seated in front of their two married daughters and families. The couple standing off to the side on the right is Clara's sister Hanne and her boyfriend; not yet a married couple, they are removed somewhat from the rest of the family. The unknown suitor was later killed while serving in the military. The photo was sent to the Kragh family, who began homesteading in Renville County, North Dakota, after spending a brief time in Minnesota. Pictures such as this one served to keep distant family members from forgetting those who had stayed behind. Material on the Kragh family's life in North Dakota was contributed to the FHGC by granddaughter Beverly Aper.