

What I found in my mother's things left.
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What I found in my mother's things left!

My mother died in 1966, when I was 15 years old. In her things left my father and I found an old cloth with crossstitches and other stitches. My father knew nothing of its origin, so it was not from his family. My mother had never shown me or told me anything about it, so I knew nothing of its history, beyond that I could see that it was old, and guess that one of my ancestors' mothers had embroidered it.

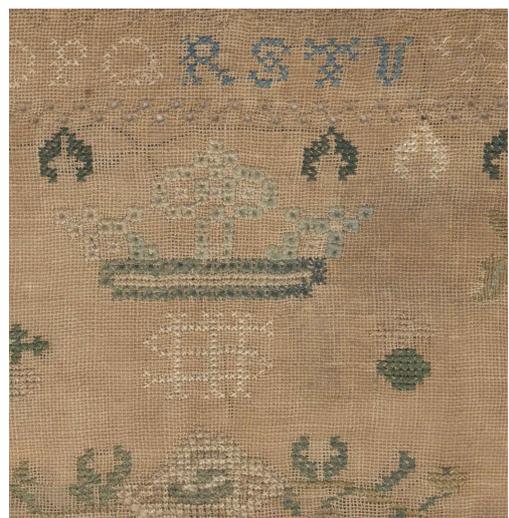
It is a "navneklud", directly translated "name cloth". Girls embroidered and sewed navneklude/ name clothes in schools to learn to embroider. For those economically disadvantaged teaching in needlework was a kind of education, so the girls had a chance to earn their daily living.

I washed it very carefully by hand. I did not think that the colours could come out of the embroidered parts on to the white parts, although I had heard much about it from my mother throughout my childhood. A glazier framed it. I had heard about paper without acid, but this glazier did not have that.

Now 40 years later navnekluden/ the name cloth has been treated by a conservator to be preserved, put carefully on cardboard without acid and reframed by Bevaringscenter Næstved - Art and Culture (www.bevaringscenter-naestved.dk), located in Næstved (Naestved), where I live. In the future it will hang in a place where there will never be sunlight, and which is not normally in direct light.

When we took navnekluden/the name cloth out of the frame, we had it scanned, before it was sent to preservation. Our scanner could not take it all in a picture, but we managed to get the parts of the picture together for one whole picture, as you can see in high solution on our website www.krat-holt.dk.

Motiverne på navnekluden



One of the typical motives on navneklude is the tree of life, here the tree of paradise, with the appels, the snake, Adam og Eva. In top of the cloth is a line with letters an a motive with a king's crown and the christian sign IHS.

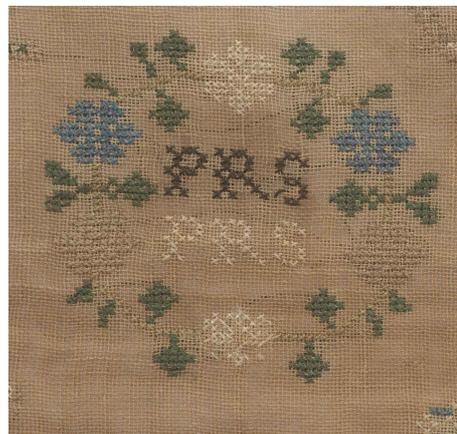
Where did the navnekluden/name cloth come from?

Around 1990 I started to do genealogy, and after some time I had the names of the initials. From the locations of the initials and the date which are on navnekluden/the name cloth, I can see, that it is my great-great-grandmother Inger Rasmusdatter from Ballerup Mark (Ballerup Field, just north of Copenhagen), who has made it about three years after her confirmation.

There are 17 initials on navnekluden/the name cloth, and most of them belong to Inger's close family; Inger's parents, grandparents and her siblings, both those who were alive and those who were dead. There are a few initials, not from the immediate family, nor is it any of the godfathers/godmothers (testimonies) from Ingers baptism in 1828. .

PRS		HRS
IPD		GPD
MOD	RPS	RHS
	KHD	
	1845	
PRS		HRS
PRS		IRS
	MPD	IPD
	IRD	
	GDRD	M1RD

Initialerne fra Ingers navneklud



The names behind the initials

In the light of the information I now have about Inger Rasmusdatter and her family, I have made this statement, when the initials are read from the top:

PRS...Peder Rasmussøn, Inger's paternal grandfather, born 1770, died 1820, black thread.

HRS...Hans Rasmussøn, Inger's maternal grandfather, born 1767, died 1836, elder brother to Peder Rasmussøn, black thread.

IPD...Inger Pedersdatter, the paternal grandmother of Inger, whom Inger is named after, born 1778, died 1807, black thread.

GPD...Giertrud Pedersdatter, the maternal grandmother of Inger, born 1764, died 1825, black thread.

MOD...Could be Ane Margrethe Olesdatter, born about 1783, died 1844. She was Peder Rasmussens 2nd wife, ie step paternal grandmother, embroidered in black thread.

RPS...Rasmus Pedersen, Inger's father, born 1801, died 1871, embroidered with light thread because he's alive.

RHS...Could be Rasmus Hanssøn, Inger's uncle, born 1791, black thread.

KHD...Kirsten Hansdatter, Inger's mother, born 1805, died 1862, light thread.

PRS...Peder Rasmussøn, Inger's brother born 1830 and died 1832, black thread.

HRS...Hans Rasmussøn, Inger's brother, born 1834, light thread.

PRS...Peder Rasmussøn, Inger's brother, born 1832, died 1878, embroidered with bright thread, because he is alive.

IRS...Jens Rasmussøn, Inger's brother, born 1843, light thread.

MPD...Embroidered with black thread, presumably dead. It could be Maren Pedersdatter born 1804, Inger's aunt, sister of her father. This aunt died as a small child. In 1816 Peder Rasmussen and his second wife, Ane Margrethe Olesdatter, got a daughter, also named Maren Pedersdatter, but she still lived in 1845, so it is not that Maren because of the black thread..

IPD...With black thread, can also be a sister of Inge's father Inger Pedersdatter, born 1816, died 1819, but Peder Rasmussøn and Ane Margrethe Olesdatter got their last daughter Inger Pedersdatter the year after in 1820, and she was alive in 1845.

IRD...Inger Rasmusdatter, Inger Rasmusdatter, my great-great-grandmother, who has sewn navnekluden, born 1828, died 1873, see below - light thread.

GDRD Giertrud Dorteia Rasmusdatter, Inger's sister, born 1837, with the blue thread.

M1RD Maren Margrethe Rasmusdatter, Inger's sister, born 1840 died 1905, the blue thread.

My great-great-grandmother

My great-great-grandmother Inger Rasmusdatter was born on 11 March 1828 at Dyregård in Ballerup Mark/Ballerup Field. At some places in the parish register (kirkebog) and population censuses, it is referred to as Skovlunde, elsewhere Ballerup Mark. For example at Inger's confirmation in 1842 her dwelling place in the parish register has been changed from Skovlunde to Ballerup Mark, but the parents as living at Ballerup Mark. In 1856 Inger married Hans Larsen at Stuvehøjgård in Ågerup, and she died as a 45-year-old on 6 April 1873.

The initials are embroidered with various colors. Some initials are black, the other is tan coloured (or what color it may originally have been) and two are blue. The black initials belong to people who were dead in 1845.

Inger had two brothers, who were baptized Peder. The brothers are to the left, a black PRS over a pale brown PRS. The first was born in 1830, and died as a 2-year-old in 1832. Later that year Inger's mother, Kirsten Hansdatter gave birth to another son, who was also baptized Peder.

In addition, we can see how the oldest girl was named after the paternal grandmother, the second after the maternal grandmother, and similarly with the boys, the first was named after the paternal grandfather, the next after the maternal grandmother. This pattern of naming after we can see in the family, was used in Jutland (Jylland) and on Zealand (Sjælland).

Inger's family

Below you can see Inger's family tree, as I now know it. Inger's parents were cousins, as their fathers were brothers.

	Inger Rasmusdatter born 1826, died 1873							
Parents	Rasmus Peersen/Pedersen born 1801 died 1871				Kirsten Hansdatter born 1805 died 1862			
Grand-parents	Peder Rasmussen born 1770 died 1820		Inger Pedersdatter born 1778 died 1807		Hans Rasmussen born 1767 died 1836		Giertrud Pedersdatter born 1764 died 1825	
Great-grand-parents	Rasmus Mickelsen born 1731	Dorthe Hansdatter born 1737			Rasmus Mickelsen born 1731	Dorthe Hansdatter born 1737	Peder Madsen born 1734	Maren Mathias- datter born 1740

We know Inger and her family from parish registers (kirkebøger) and population censuses (folketællinger). Inger's youngest sister Karen Marie was born in november 1845, and her initials are not on navnekluden/the name cloth, so it must have been finished in spring 1845.

Navn	born	died
Inger Rasmusdatter	1828	1873
Peder Rasmussøn	1830	1832
Peder Rasmussøn	1832	1878
Hans Rasmussøn	1834	
Giertrud Dorthea Rasmusdatter	1837	
Maren Margrethe Rasmusdatter	1840	1905
Jens Rasmussøn	1843	
Karen Marie Rasmusdatter	1845	

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Literature:

Minna Kragelund: Navneklude. National Museum of Denmark, 1977 ISBN 87-480-0133-3