

Sjaper Hunden

July 20, 2022

Hellevad, Denmark

My Great, Great Uncle Andreas Niels Bekker showed us around his store in Hellevad today, which is quite a trick considering he died sixty years ago.



Andreas, in front of “A.N. Bekker Manufacturer and Kolonialware Business”, in about 1914. The note on the right translates: “Andreas on the left with Sjaper the dog. The big store in Hellevad.”

We drove to Hellevad to see if we could locate the A.N. Bekker store, if it still existed. I have a copy of the photo above stored on my iPad, so I pulled off the main highway onto a shady spot to retrieve it. The building in the photo is over 100 years old, so the chances of finding it seemed remote. As I was studying the image, I glanced up and noticed this two-story brick building on the corner. Could it be?! I counted the windows, looked at the doors and the brickwork – it was a perfect match!

Surely, Uncle Andreas was guiding us!

Me, standing where Uncle Andreas stood a century ago.

I wouldn't have been any less surprised if a dog came around the corner and introduced himself as ...

... Sjaper Hunden

