



The Memorial Park at Kongenshus is an independent organization with the purpose of establishing and running a memorial park for the moorland cultivators.

In 1942 about 1200 hectares of uncultivated moor situated 25 km southwest of Viborg were bought for the purpose.

The area lies untouched - covered with heather and glacial gorges. In the southern part of the area a coniferous plantation of 70 ha has been laid out as an example of modern moorland forestry.

About 1850 the moor in Jutland took up 1 million hectares of land or about 1/3 of the total area of Jutland. Today, only 80,000 hectares of real moorland are left in Jutland spread out in many small areas, excluding the large bogs covered with heather.

The heath at Kongenshus was part of the large "Alhede" which was royal game preserves.

In 1754 the idea of reclamation was realized by letting an officer of Mecklenburg - Mr. von Kahlen - reclaim and keep sheep. He was supported by the King (Frederik V) and received financial assistance for building the house and that is why the house was called "Kongenshus" (the King's House).

However, the task was too big for Mr. von Kahlen. The servants he had brought with him from Mecklenburg fled, and in 1766, after having struggled with the heather for 12 years, he left Kongenshus which fully decayed as time went by.

Simultaneously with Mr. von Kahlen's attempt, another campaign for reclamation was made in 1759-1760 when about 1000 Germans from the Heidelberg area were set to work at the moors. A colony of these Germans settled down at Grønhøj. However, most of the Germans returned to their native country and only a few stayed on and led a miserable life for nearly a century until modern technique and various improvements eventually made life tolerable.

The purpose of the Memorial Park - to set a dignified memory of the faithful first hard workers at the moorland - is founded carried out in the Memorial Valley where 1200 names have - district and parish-wise - been carved on stones.

Sheepfold: In 1997, the Memorial Park was turned into a large sheepfold surrounded by a fence. A shepherd herds the sheep into different smaller folds by means of dogs.



At the entrance near Kongenshus Hotel, a exhibition centre (Naturcenter) is attached to the hotel where photos and a short biography of the honoured persons can be found (entrance free of charge). Furthermore, some exhibition cases illustrating the moorland fauna and animal life as well as household utensils are placed here.

The Memorial Park owns Kongenshus Hotel, which has rooms to let and a restaurant, and is leased. Telephone + 45 97 54 81 25.

The Memorial Park is managed by a board of 5 directors of which 2 are elected by Hedeselskabet (the Danish Land Development Service), 1 by Landboforeningerne (Danish Farmers' Union), 1 by Dansk Familielandbrug (Danish Family Farmers' Association), and 1 by Landbrugsministeriet (The Ministry of Agriculture).

The Chairman of the Board of Directors is Mr. Ove Kloch.

The daily work is administrated by a secretariat situated at the office of Hedeselskabet in Viborg:

Kongenshus Mindepark
c/o Hedeselskabet
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Opening hours

The park is open 24 hours a day and admission is free.

Visit us at:

Kongenshus Mindepark
Vestre Skivevej 142
Daugbjerg
8800 Viborg