



Tomte Times

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Welcome to the Tomte Times

I am so excited that you have subscribed to my newsletter. In these pages, and in upcoming issues, you will learn about a very curious family of American Tomte that immigrated to America and have been trying to adapt to a new culture.

First, you may ask, What is a Tomte? In an article in [The Swedish Times, Inc.](#) written by Laura Anderson (Saturday December 22, 2018) she gives us a little information:

The Genealogy of the Swedish Tomte

If you have ever visited a Swede's house in December, it's very likely you've come across a stuffed, gnome-like figure with a woolly beard and a conical cap cheerfully perched upon the fireplace or on the dining-room table. These little men, alongside Sweden's quintessential straw goats, or julbockar, are integral to Scandinavian folklore and tradition. While many know and recognize these classic decorations, not all appreciate the far-reaching history of the Tomte.

Tomte, derived from the Swedish word "tomt," or plot of land, literally means "homestead man." If you've ever heard the beloved character referred to as a "nisse" it is likely in reference to a Norwegian variant of the mythological figure, as Nisse is a Norwegian nickname for the name Nils. Typically depicted as small and elderly, the Tomte is roughly half the size of a man, with

rags for clothes and a heavy white beard. This miniature sprite has long been a symbol for the winter solstice and the celebration of yuletide, though his connotations have evolved over the years.

Originally, the "homestead man" was believed to be the ancestral spirit of the first farmer to have worked a given plot of land. Dwelling around the farm but careful to always remain out of sight, the Tomte is known to be a dutiful, hard worker. He cares for the animals, children and property at the homestead, asking very little in return but respect and the occasional bowl of porridge. At the inkling of disrespect – which can come in the form of foul language or a sudden change in an age-old tradition – he will not hesitate to stir up trouble. Tomtes are known to be mischievous and fiery-tempered, acting out through something as benign as mixing up the animals in the barn to much more extreme shows of chaos and violence.

And here's what I know..... the picture above is a drawing I did of Sven. He is the patriarch of the family that immigrated to the United States many years ago. He had several children who had children and more children.... There are a lot of them. And as it goes, the modern day tomtes are looking for clues to their culture. Sven has many tales to tell. Follow this newsletter as his stories come to life.



The Tomte's Hat

Here is a little black and white drawing of the cover of the book **The Tomte's Hat.**

This is Grandpa Sven, a Swedish Tomte who immigrated to this country many, many years ago. Sven is quite the story teller and is committed to telling his heirs all about the culture in the "Old Country" that he feels was a much gentler time. But times change—and his heirs are up to adapting with the times. In this first book, Grandpa Sven tells about how he got his hat—and it's a story that will solve an age old mystery for everyone, even for you.

Release date ~ Hopeful to have this

first book done and printed for Christmas 202 gift giving. Since I am still working out a few different printing/publishing options, I am not sure what the date will be. I will keep you updated in this newsletter.

Additional Titles on the Drawing Board

A Tomte's Favorite Words: From A to Z

Tomte's Friends: A Book of Prayers and Poems

Grandma's Knitting Needles

The Mystery Quilt Sage

Grandpa's Garden

Stringed Instruments of the World



These character are from the limited 2018 edition of Tomtes named "**Otto.**" I will have a new limited edition of



"**Sven**" Tomtes this year. Sven will feature his hand knit hat. If you are interested please let me know. I will only be making 20 and the price will be \$75.00. (plus s&h)