



OCTOBER 2012

E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

Next in the Brown Bag Lunch Series

October 25 Kristi Planck Johnson, "The Secrets of Hans Christian Andersen"

Kristi Planck Johnson is emeritus Professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia – and currently serves on the Museum's Board of Directors. Her research interests include refugee and immigrant education, historical policy studies in international education, and Hans Christian Andersen.

All Brown Bag Lunch programs begin at 12 noon and are FREE to the public! Bring your own lunch – we'll provide the coffee!

Jens Jensen Heritage Path Flag Courtyard Connects to Little Mermaid Trail



The Little Mermaid Trail connecting Elk Horn and Kimballton, IA was one of three projects approved when the Danish Villages was selected as an Iowa Great Place in 2010. Work on Phase I of the trail, hard surfacing of the "Friends Walk" (a .6 mile walk) connecting The Danish Immigrant Museum and Bedstemor's House, was completed September 5.

During the last week of September, Country Landscapes, Inc., Ames, IA returned to the Museum to build a 'connecting' brick walkway between the concrete Trail and the Jens Jensen Heritage Path flag courtyard.

Within the Jens Jensen Heritage Path, three brick sizes may be engraved to pay tribute to a special person or occasion and support the creation of a distinctive Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park at the Museum. Your next opportunity to have a "Tribute Brick" placed in the path will be next spring. Winter conditions prohibit 'onsite' engraving. For more details, visit our [website](#).

Volunteers Help Digitize Museum Photo Collection

Volunteers in the Collections department have spent many months inventorying and digitizing original photographs like this one. The Museum's photo collection, numbering approximately 6500, contains remarkable images of a wide array of subjects from adorable children like this little girl to the advancement of the railroad system to the Midwest, as well as life and culture in Denmark both past and present. These photos are not only being preserved and made available for the public to view in person and online, but are also often used within exhibit panels and in advertising and marketing materials.



Family History & Genealogy Center: Danish Roots, American Branches

October is Family History Month



Every October genealogical libraries and societies celebrate Family History Month with special programming and displays. In the FHGC lobby this month, you can see ancestral charts for Danish immigrants Sophus Neble, long-time *Danish Pioneer* editor, and landscape architect Jens Jensen. October is also the last month to view the “Long-term Lovers” display.

And here are a few things you can do on a personal level to celebrate your family’s history:

- Submit information on your Danish immigrant ancestors to the FHGC (you can find our Immigrant Information Form on the museum webpage under Library & Genealogy > FHGC Donations & Wish List).
- Write a biographical sketch on an ancestor and share it with your family as part of your Christmas or end-of-year letter.
- Share a story from your youth with a child (or make a book of stories as a special gift).
- Record the history of your family heirlooms and how you came to have them.
- Cook up or share some family recipes, along with any stories or memories associated with them.
- Scan copies of family photos and share them by email, posting to a family website or printing them out.
- Visit or contact that older relative you’ve been meaning to get in touch with.
- Create some memories to preserve for your own family.

For those of you close enough to visit the Museum, the current Danish-American Artist exhibit by Neoma Thomas also has some interesting ideas of how family mementos may be preserved.

Donation Highlights

Special visitors this past month included descendants of several siblings with the uncommon Danish surname Jeremiassen who emigrated from Stjær parish in Aarhus County in the late 19th century, initially settling in Iowa before moving on to Weld County, Colorado. A number of artifacts were donated to the Collections Department and personal and family information was given to the FHGC.



(1940's) Christine Cowan receives hug from granddaughter, Vera Agnes Wind Spaulding, now 90 years old.



(L-R) Curator of Collections Angela Stanford, FHGC's Librarian & Genealogist Michele McNabb, and three American Jeremiassen cousins of Inger Føns Kristensen (far right). The stacks on table represent information on each of the five siblings who emigrated.

Another donation shared between the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL) in Blair, NE, and the FHGC is a series of letters written between 1906 and 1938 by immigrant Christine Nielsen Wind Cowan to her sisters back in Denmark. In 1884 Christine became the second wife of William Wind, the first President of the Danish Brotherhood in America. The letters, lost to the family for decades, were found by great-granddaughter Susan Simpson of Castle Rock, Colorado, and translated by Helene Humble, of Roskilde, Denmark (who turned out to be a distant cousin of Susan's!). Since DAAL has an extensive Danish Brotherhood documentary collection, the original letters and translations were given to them, with copies made for our collection.

Family History & Genealogy Center: Danish Roots, American Branches - *cont.*

Webpage News

New under the Library & Genealogy section is the second in a series of indexes to biographical sketches found in works in our collection. The index, which covers the two volumes of *Danske i Amerika* (Danes in America) published a century ago, lists Danish immigrants from the 1600s through the early 20th century. The sketches vary in length, but often include information such as year and place of birth, place of settlement, and other personal information. Whether there is an accompanying photograph is also noted, as well as information on how to order copies (with translation) of the sketches. *Danske i Amerika* has also been digitized by Project Gutenberg and is available on the web. We plan to add more indexes in the coming months.

Museum Update Opportunities

In October, Bruce Bro, Development Officer for the Museum, will be speaking at three events in the western U.S. On October 6, he will be in Denver, CO speaking at the Denver Danes' annual Smørrebrød. On October 21 Bruce will be in Tucson, AZ presenting to the Tucson Danish Club. And on October 31, Bro will be a guest speaker at the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation in Thousand Oaks, CA. Bruce will present an update on Museum activities including current exhibits, and the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park project. If interested in scheduling a Museum representative to speak at your meeting or gathering, please contact Museum Administrative Manager Terri Johnson at 712-764-7001 or email info@danishmuseum.org.

Museum Board Members Hold Annual Meeting

For three days (October 25-27) The Danish Immigrant Museum will host the Museum's 29th Annual Meeting and 92nd Regular Meeting of Board of Directors. In between meetings, a special event will honor board members who have served their terms and are now going off the Board:

Mark Frederiksen of Falcon, CO, Carol Mills of Dubuque, IA, Benedikte Ehlers Olesen of Eugene, OR and Bryup, Denmark; Hon. Consul Lynette Skow Rasmussen of Johnston, IA; and Janet M. Thuesen of Sausalito, CA.

Newly elected Board members include Tim Burchill of Jamestown, ND; Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel of St. Michaels, MD; Anna Thomsen Holliday of Houston, TX; Garey Knudsen of Hutchinson, MN; Dagmar Muthamia of Long Beach, CA; and Linda Steffensen of Hoffman Estates, IL.



The Danish Immigrant Museum

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An Invitation For You

"The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams." Celebrate with us as we pursue our dreams by becoming a member of the museum. Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#).

Museum Calendar, October - November

- October 6 Auction of Dana College items in Blair, Nebraska, to benefit The Danish Immigrant Museum and the Danish American Archive and Library
- October 6 John Mark Nielsen, banquet speaker at the Nebraska District's Brotherhood Annual Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska
- October 9 Visit and dinner with Lilly Laursen and Countess Brita Bastogi from Sønderborg, Denmark, family and friends of Jens Jensen; accompanied by former Museum board members James and Marge Iversen, Mark and Lori Nussle, and Museum members David and Polly Hendee (David is writer for the *Omaha World Herald* newspaper)
- October 8-10 Danish filmmaker, Anton Gammelgård, interviewing and making a film about Nadjeschda Overgaard, a 1998 National Endowment of the Arts National Heritage Fellow - hardanger needleworker from Kimballton, Iowa
- October 9-11 Ole Sønnichsen, journalist, utilizing FHGC library research resources for a book on Danish immigration to the United States for *Gyldendal*, the major Danish publisher.
- October 21-23 *Iowa Museum Association*, Iowa City, John Mark Nielsen joined by a staff member from U.S. Senator Charles Grassley's office will give a presentation on cultivating relations with government agencies. Museum Curator of Collections Angela Stanford and our Danish and American interns will also be attending.
- October 25 Brown Bag Lunch: Kristi Planck Johnson, "The Secrets of Hans Christian Andersen"
- October 25-27 29th Annual Meeting and 92nd Regular Meeting of Board of Directors; – at closing luncheon, we celebrate Walter and Vesta Hansen of West Branch, IA and their family
- November 22 Thanksgiving Day – Museum Closed
- November 23-25 *Julefest* at the Museum and throughout Elk Horn and Kimballton, Iowa

Other Danish-American and Danish Events Coming Soon:

- October 10 World Debut of Odense City Museums' Traveling Exhibition *Carl Nielsen – Music is Life*; The Odense City Museums presents an exhibit on Danish composer Carl Nielsen. The multimedia, modular exhibit will use LED light screen images, short movie clips, and music to bring Nielsen's works to life and give viewers an idea of his personality and critical reception. New York Philharmonic, Avery Fisher Hall's Grand Promenade. For more information visit <http://nyphil.org/nielsenproject>.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is happy to share information about Danish-American and Danish events.

To include your organization's event, send complete information – including a contact phone or email – to Deb Christensen Larsen at development@danishmuseum.org.

The Museum reserves the right to edit or condense the information at its discretion.