

Across Oceans, Across Time® ...
Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



Danish immigrant **Erik Carl Christian Eriksen** (1883-1966) was living in this house, the Head Forest Ranger's residence on the manor estate of Margaard in Vigerslev parish, northwest of the city of Odense on Funen, at the time of his 1919 marriage to **Dagmar Mathilde Hansen**. At the time Erik was an assistant to his father, Peder Larsen Eriksen, in managing the estate's extensive forested property. In 1924 the young couple immigrated to Askov, Minnesota, where they settled for a number of years and "Carl Eriksen" worked as a farm laborer. Later, they later moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where Dagmar was cook and Karl custodian and groundskeeper at Grand View College. He used his Danish training as "forester in residence" at the college from 1943-1958, single-handedly caring for more than 100 campus trees during these years. Fortunately, he did not live to see much of the fruits of his labors wiped out in the late 1960s when Dutch elm disease struck in Iowa, but later tree-planting efforts by faculty and students in his memory restored much of the tree population so that the campus is again verdant and inviting. Carl and Dagmar had no children, so this painting by an unknown artist of his childhood forest home in Margaard, which hung in the couple's home in the rolling hills of Iowa as a reminder of their origins, was donated to the museum. Carl and Dagmar were also placed on the museum's Wall of Honor by people whose lives they touched.

The Danish Immigrant Museum

Your Museum in the Heart of the Continent
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