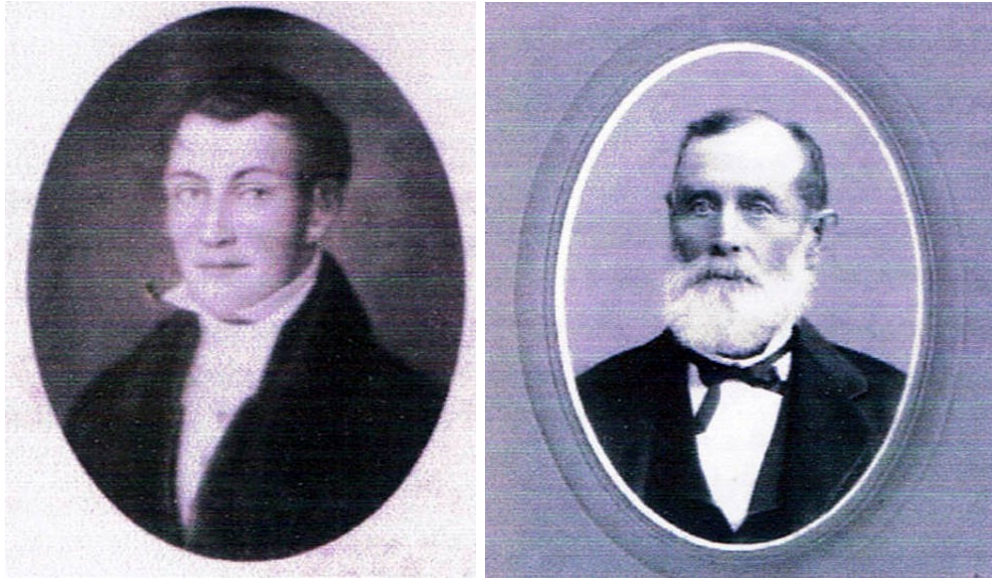


Across Oceans, Across Time® ...
Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center



It's not too often that one finds portraits of early Danish immigrants from both their youth and later years. One such fortunate pairing spans the life of **Niels** (later Niles) **Knudsen Borup** from around the time of his departure for America around 1831 to his old age in Bureau County, Illinois. Born in Copenhagen in 1811, Niels was most likely the son of brandy distiller and inn-keeper Knud Nielsen Borup and his wife, Maren Svendsen. After coming of age Niels learned the harness-making trade before deciding to try his luck in the new world. He arrived in America around 1831 and worked in an eastern state, where he met New York-born Elizabeth M. Hoover. Following their marriage around 1845 the young couple moved west, settling in the wilds of what became Arispie Township in Bureau County. Although ostensibly a farmer, the multi-talented Niels Borup also tanned his own leather and made shoes, including pairs for each of his grandsons that had sturdy brass toes so they wouldn't wear out. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the 50-year-old immigrant enlisted in the 57th IL Volunteer Infantry and saw service in Tennessee before contracting pneumonia and receiving a medical discharge. He was a proud member of the GAR after the war, and marched with fellow veterans each Decoration Day in Hennepin, the Bureau county seat. Niles K. Borup died at home at the age of 82 on May 30, 1893. His passing was related by several local newspapers, who noted his reputation for honest and being a model citizen. Three children, Mary Elizabeth, Charles and Louie, survived. The grave of this immigrant pioneer in Illinois in the Princeton Cemetery includes a Civil War marker verifying his military service. (Photographs and information from Ann S. Tomica, astomica@t-online.de).

The Danish Immigrant Museum

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