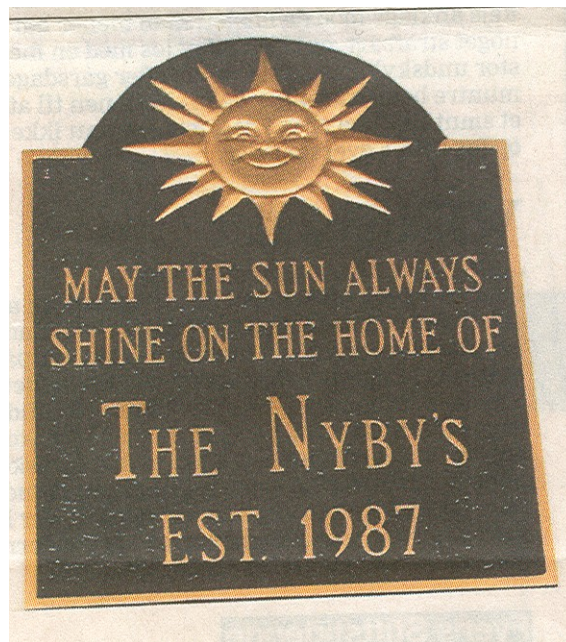


Across Oceans, Across Time® ...

Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



"Paying it Forward" - In Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg's saga of emigrants from his homeland one of the characters, having established herself in America, sends a gift of a bridal crown back to the church in the parish in which she was raised. Like this fictional character, many immigrants retained fond memories and close ties with their native country, and the idea of giving something back to their home community after having succeeded in their new life is not new and can take many forms. The very first article in this series dealt with Omaha immigrant Ingvard Sibbernsen, who along with a brother contributed to establishing and building a public library in his home town of Nyborg. Other Danish Americans have sponsored a newer generation of immigrants, hosted exchange students or guest workers, contributed to scholarships or participated in the many organizations that promote or maintain links between Denmark and America. -- **Folmer Nyby**, born in Vestervig in 1930, and his wife Vera represent one of the more recent generations of immigrants carrying on this tradition. Folmer emigrated as a 19-year-old in 1950 to marry Vera Lodahl, a 2nd-generation Danish American from Dagmar, Montana, whom he had met during her family's visit to Denmark. They settled in northern Indiana, where Folmer started and ran a number of increasingly larger and successful trucking and garbage disposal businesses. Through frequent visits to Denmark, where they bought a summer house in Agger, the Nybys -- now including the next generation, Andy, Kai and Osa, in-laws, grand- and great-grandchildren - have kept up ties of family and friendship in Denmark. Over the years they donated benches and a bridge to the Vestervig town park. To celebrate Folmer's 75th birthday in 2005 a pavilion was added, providing a beautiful space for music and other festivities and a tangible link between Denmark and America.

The Family History & Genealogy Center would like to know of other examples of how successful Danish immigrants have "paid it forward" by giving back to Denmark.