

Across Oceans, Across Time® ...

Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



This 1901 wedding picture of **Søren Damsgaard Rodholm** and **Marie Kjølhed** is one of some sixty Danish immigrant wedding photographs currently on display at the Family History & Genealogy Center. Marie and Søren met in Latin class at Grand View College in 1898. Peder Kjølhed, Marie's father, pastor of the Lutheran church in Newell, Iowa, was unhappy when the couple got engaged, so Søren only dared visit Marie and her mother when the minister went out of town. However, after the death of Marie's mother in February 1901 Rev. Kjølhed became reconciled to the marriage, which he decided should be held in conjunction with the dedication of the remodeled church building in November of that year. Marie played for the dedication service in the morning and was married at 4pm in the afternoon. The couple had six attendants, including Søren's sister, also named Marie, who was his only relative in the U.S. One bridesmaid fainted during the long ceremony and had to be carried out of the church. Marie's dress was partly made by her mother before she died. It is still in the possession of a granddaughter, but was again never worn by a family bride in part due to its 18-inch waistline. - Following the wedding Søren and Marie moved to Fredsville, Iowa, where Søren was the minister. Photo courtesy of Dagmar Marie Muthamia.