



# America Letter

THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

An International Cultural Center

BOX 470 • ELK HORN, IOWA 51531

August 1999

Vol. XIII, No. 3

## The exhibition, **A Consecration of Hope: Baptismal Clothing from Immigrant Families**, which opened May 28, celebrates the richness of the Museum's textile collection

The display features thirty-five small baptismal garments, plus bonnets and booties. Six of the garments are on loan; the rest are from the Museum's permanent collection, attesting to the range and extent of the Museum's holdings, which are significant for a young institution.



Some of these garments have been worn by successive generations of babies. One of the beautiful dresses in the exhibit features hardanger inserts and was made from the donor's mother's wedding gown. On this baptismal dress are embroidered the names of 28 babies who have worn it over the years (see photo at right). The oldest garment in the exhibit is a lovely long dress with lace inserts that was made for a baptism in 1888 and has since been worn by two great grandchildren of that infant. Another Christening outfit on display was worn for a baptism in Denmark. Years after that baby grew up and immigrated to the United States he returned to Denmark on a visit in 1938 and brought the garments back with him. They have since been worn by a great-grandchild.

The over forty garments on display include baptismal dresses, slips, coats, bonnets, and booties. The love and skill that went into the making of these tiny garments is immediately apparent. We see examples of beautiful embroidery, tatting, lace, hardanger, crocheting and knitting.

Each little garment tells a story about Danish immigrants and their children. Exhibit documentation answers, when possible, such questions as: Where did the immigrants come from? Where did they settle? What did they do for a living? Who made these garments? Who first wore them? Who has since worn them? Each unfolding story illuminates the Danish immigrant experience.

The exhibit will continue through November 7, 1999.



# Pastor H. J. Pedersen: Founder of Danebod

Hans Jorgen Pedersen (1851 - 1905) was educated at the Ryslunge Folk School in Denmark as a beginning preacher to be sent to the United States to serve Danish immigrant families. He arrived in the United States in 1875 and served the congregation in Gowen, Michigan for five years and then went on to serve as President of the Folk School in Elk Horn, Iowa for two years. He returned to Michigan to build the Ashland Folk School in Grant.

In 1888, Hans Jorgen Pedersen accepted a call to become the first pastor of the Danish colony of Danebod in Tyler, Minnesota. A natural leader and eloquent speaker, Pedersen became the driving force behind the development of the colony, the church, and the well-known Danebod Folk School that attracted students from all over the United States. The Danebod Folk School continues in operation to this day, drawing participants from across the country. It is the only one of the original folk schools founded by Danish immigrants which continues in the folk school tradition.



**H. J. Pedersen family c. 1895**, back row from left to right: Ane Marie Pedersen (mother), Ingrid Marie, Svend Sigurd, Thyra Elisabeth, H. J. Pedersen; front row: Ansgar Johannes, Astrid Christine, Holger Wilhelm.

Much of what we know about Hans Jorgen Pedersen is revealed in the writings and recollections of his son Sigurd Pedersen, a journalist and teacher who edited the Tyler

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**Key Danebod buildings:** clockwise from bottom left: Danebod Folk School, Danebod Lutheran Church, H. J. Pedersen, Stone Hall, The Children’s School, church sanctuary. Photo at lower left records the subsequent growth and development of the Danebod Folk School.

Eagerly embracing the opportunity to develop a folk school, H. J. Pedersen enthusiastically accepted the call to the fledgling Danish colony of Danebod in Tyler, Minnesota. He arrived there on April 12, 1888, accompanied by his wife and six children. He soon selected land on which to build a school and church.

An eloquent speaker and natural leader, Pedersen was successful in raising money and recruiting volunteer labor. The folk school soon was a reality. The three story wooden structure for the folk school opened in December 1888 and was the largest building in Danebod. This was a remarkable achievement because the Danebod congregation at that time was quite small and the community was struggling economically.

At first church services were held in the school’s lecture hall but the congregation quickly outgrew the space. Pedersen sought funds to build an assembly hall because, unlike a church, it could be used for many purposes including church services, gym classes and meetings. He told the congregation that a church could come later. Some of the members objected so Pedersen offered to pay \$200 (an enormous sum on his small salary) for the necessary bricks. Free labor was provided by Kristian Klink, a professional stone mason, and other volunteers who had studied under Pedersen. Stone Hall was finished late in the fall of 1889 and became the new center of the community.

In 1892 a parochial school was built and in April 30, 1893 the congregation voted to build a new church west of the parochial school. “The Cross Church” at Danebod was dedicated June 16, 1895. Pedersen served as its pastor until the fall of 1903



when he stepped down as pastor and the family moved to Ruthton.

# Wall of Honor

These are the registered names of immigrants who have been placed on the Wall of Honor in The Danish Immigrant Museum, from March 1, 1999 to June 30, 1999. Following the registered name are the names of the family and friends who have made contributions toward this special recognition of the immigrant. Family and friends are also asked to submit the story of the immigrant and their family history, where it is then placed in the Family History and Genealogy Center. The Wall of Honor is an excellent starting point for visitors to the Museum when searching for their own name, or that of a family member.

**Jacob Martin Andersen and Anna Maria Jensen Andersen , Brayton, IA** - Irma Crawford, Omaha, NE

**Nelsena Kristene Christensen-Carl, Harlan, IA** - Marlene Y. Larsen, T., Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation, Calistoga, CA

**Ane Dorthea Nielsen Christensen, Jacksonville, IA** - Marlene Y. Larsen, T., Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation, Calistoga, CA

**Christian Christensen, Fremont, NE** - Marie Robb, Indianapolis, IN, David and Cynthia Christensen, Fremont, NE

**Ellen Marie Christensen, Jacksonville, IA** - Marlene Y. Larsen, T., Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation, Calistoga, CA

**Jacob Peter Christensen, Jacksonville, IA** - Marlene Y. Larsen, T., Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation Calistoga, CA

**Jeppie Elmand Christensen, Jacksonville, IA** - Marlene Y. Larsen, T., Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation, Calistoga, CA

**Nels T. and Maren Hansen Christensen, Shelby County, IA** - Mae Petersen, Harlan, IA; Wayne, Stacie and Jason Petersen, Harlan, IA; Carl Petersen, Harlan, IA

**Hans Christian and Esther Constance Clement, Tacoma, WA** - Monica Clement, Manhattan, KS; Frank Clement, Allyn, WA

**Holger Andersen Dahl, Red Oak, IA** - Pete and Diana Dahl, Lewis, IA

**Jens Jensen Dahl, Hay Springs, NE** - Milda Gade, Ft. Collins, CO; Jean and Vera Hoefer, Hay Springs, NE; Orval and Dorothy Dahl, Albuquerque, NM

**Anna Emilie Ehrlich, Detroit, MI** - Ruth Lund Ostrom, Seven Hills, OH

**Anton Hansen, West Point, NE** - James and Shirley Norlem, Monticello, MN

**Jacob Christian Jacobsen, Granly, MS** - Ruth Jacobsen, Topeka, KS; Paul Jacobsen, Chicago, IL

**Jacob Paul and Mette Kirstine Kristen Jacobsen, Omaha, NE** - Martha Helligso, Omaha, NE

**Anders and Syrena Augusta Laura Pedersen Jensen, Tacoma, WA** - Alice Singleton, San Diego, CA

**Marinus Larsen** - Linda Tellefsen, Brooklyn Park, MN; Robert L. Petersen, Anza, CA; Helen Petersen, Atlantic, IA; Alice Smith, Marshalltown, IA

**Oluf M. and Marie Larsen, Boone, IA** - Bernadine K. Barrow, Ames, IA; Betty J. Jorgensen, Des Moines, IA

**Laurits Hansen Lassen, Phoenix, AZ** - Dr. Keith Lassen, Mesa, AZ

**Obed Marius Lassen, Tempe, AZ** - John and Elinor Lassen, Tempe, AZ

**Anna Margrethe Hojer Lee, Oldham, SD** - Lucille Reed, Sheldon, IA; Donald Lee, Arlington, SD; Maxine Berg, Arlington, SD; Warren Lee, Arlington, SD; Lorraine Risch, Alexandria, MN

**Kirsten Krabbe Lubkeman, Coulter, IA** - Duane Lubkeman, Hampton, IA; Kathryn Christensen, Lincoln, NE; Maxine Scott, Council Bluffs, IA  
**Lauritz Melchior, Beverly Hills, CA** - Danish Luncheon Club of Los Angeles, Inc., Saugus, CA

**Christian Larsen and Dagmar Sorene Nielsen, Harlan, IA** - Harley Nielsen, Council Bluffs, IA; Myrna J. Nielsen Criss, Wichita, KS

**Edward Vendelboe and Karen Marie Hansen Nielsen, Bridgeport, CT** - Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Nielsen, Escondido, CA; Mr. and Mrs. O.V. Nielsen, Des Moines, IA; Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Nielsen, Altoona, IA; Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Nielsen, Danville, CA; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Turmon, Lewiston, CA

**Marcus Christian and Andrea Larsen Nielsen, Tyler, MN** - Roger Nielsen, Solvang, CA

**Jens Olson, Shelby County, IA** - Constance Simonsen w/ 150 descendants of Olson's reunion in Bemidji, MN

**Sven Olson, Shelby County, IA** - Constance Simonsen w/ 150 descendants of Olson's reunion, Bemidji, MN

**Jens P. and Johanna J. Pedersen, Harlan, IA** - Family of Leona Pedersen Rasmussen, Burlington Junction, MO

**Eske L. and Karen Nissen Petersen, Jacksonville, IA** - Mae Petersen, Harlan, IA; Wayne, Stacie and Jason Petersen, Harlan, IA; Carl Petersen, Harlan, IA; Lyle Faaborg, Atlantic, IA; Gerald Faaborg, Joplin, MO; Darwin Faaborg, Colorado Springs, CO; Judy Patten, Harlan, IA

**Holger Rasmussen, Audubon, IA** - William Rasmussen, Brentwood, CA

**Sigrid K. Rasmussen, Audubon, IA** - Julie Jorgensen and Tom Micheletti, Wayzata, MN

**Christian and Soren Hjalmar Sorensen** - Eileen Petri, Mt. Prospect, IL  
**Anton Peder Steffensen, Omaha, NE** - Kristine Steffensen, Omaha, NE

**Ellen Marie Lassen Thomsen, Ferndale, CA** - James Thomsen, Fortuna, CA

**Jens Thomsen, Ferndale, CA** - Nor-West Real Estate Appraisal Serv., Fortuna, CA

**Valbrog Keldsen Titus, Alpena, MI** - James and Inga Keldsen, Walnut Creek, CA

**Holger Voetmann, Askov, MN** - Rose Grindheim Sims, Ridge Manor, FL

**Hans Jorgen Willadsen, Irwin, IA** - Astrid Willadsen, Irwin, IA

**Lars C. A. Willadsen, Irwin, IA** - Astrid Willadsen, Irwin, IA



## Danish agricultural students include a visit to the Museum in their 15 day tour of the United States

Agricultural students from Nordjyllands Landburgsskole in Denmark visited the Museum on June 23rd. Their tour, organized by Kristensen International Travel & Tours Co. of Minneapolis, provided them with insight into a wide range of agricultural practices in this country as well as an understanding of diverse businesses related to agriculture. Most members of the group will actively participate in Denmark's agricultural future. During their visit to the Museum's Family History and Genealogy Center, interest was expressed in learning about the families who had earlier emigrated from regions in Denmark where the students lived.

**The America Letter:** Published Quarterly  
Available through annual membership in The Danish Immigrant Museum. Contact the Museum for membership levels and benefits.

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# Pastor H. J. Pedersen

– continued from page 2

Journal-Herald for many years and was a key resource for the book “Seventy-Five Years at Danebod” by Enok Mortensen. Sigurd Pedersen’s rich descriptions illuminate the dedication of Hans Jorgen Pedersen and take the reader back in time to the difficult but challenging pioneer days of early Danebod and its settlers.



**Ruthton church and parsonage associated with the Pedersen family:** As part of their reunion activities, the family traveled from Tyler to Ruthton, where they visited the Danish Hope Evangelical Church, which was built in 1899 under H. J. Pedersen’s direction. Pastor Pedersen served in Ruthton from 1888 to 1903, even when he lived in Tyler and was Pastor at Danebod. Prior to 1899, services were held in homes, in a school and in a dance hall. H. J. P. relocated to Ruthton in 1903 and built the parsonage (moved from Ruthton in 1934). It was in this parsonage that he experienced his final illness, passing away in 1905.



## Descendants of H. J. Pedersen share information and memorabilia at family reunion

On June 14, 1999, the Curatorial Department at The Danish Immigrant Museum hosted a very special event for descendants of Pastor H. J. Pedersen, founder of the colony, the church and the folk school comprising Danebod in Tyler, Minnesota. The visit to the museum was the finale to a family reunion that drew descendants from many different states. By the time they reached Elk Horn, Iowa, the H. J. Pedersen family had already spent a weekend in Minnesota visiting the culturally-rich Danebod area and exploring their heritage.

The Danish Immigrant Museum has a great many artifacts related to H. J. Pedersen (donated by Pedersen’s granddaughter, Allegra Stehr) and the family made a special trip from the initial reunion site for the purpose of viewing them. A display of the artifacts was prepared for the event so descendants could view many of the items used by the H. J. Pedersen family.

On the morning of the event, Curator Barbara-Lund Jones conducted family tours of the museum that ended at the large display case filled with the H. J. Pedersen family artifacts. Following a catered lunch at the museum, the group was honored by a talk on the Danish Immigrant Experience by noted authority Dr. John W. Nielsen of Dana College.

In a special gesture of welcome, the museum staff made available for inspection a wide range of archival documents

**Danebod Folk School 1891** H. J. Pedersen and his wife are in the back row, second and third from left; five of the Pedersen children are identified in the front row: Thyra Elisabeth (holding child), Astrid Christine, Ingrid Marie, Holger Wilhelm and Svend Sigurd.

Education was very important to Danish immigrant families and folk schools such as the one established at the Danish colony of Danebod in Tyler, Minnesota, were magnets for young people of Danish descent seeking education and enlightenment.

The folk school at Danebod was based on the philosophy of N.F.S. Gruntvig who believed that education has a larger purpose than preparation for making a livelihood. Rather, it is a source of learning, enlightenment and growth. A product of a Danish folk school himself, Pedersen believed that the success of Danebod depended upon education. He served as head master of the school for five years and then continued as a teacher.

Subjects taught at the school included all academic subjects required for a well-rounded education as well as practical skills such as manual training and home economics. (Boys attended school in the winter months and girls in the summer months.) Naturally, the Pedersen children attended the school. Items carved by Sigurd Pedersen while a student at the Danebod School in the early 1890’s are a part of the Museum’s collection.

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# Reunion . . .

— continued from page 4

and photographs related to the family. These were placed on viewing tables where relatives were able to put on white gloves and go through archival documents under the required curatorial department supervision. This made it possible to compare other family records with those held by the Museum.

While most of the family members left Elk Horn on Monday a few stayed on to share genealogical information and to identify persons in family photo albums that comprise part of the Museum's H. J. Pedersen collection. A great deal of valuable information was exchanged between the family and the museum staff thereby fortifying documentation of the collection.



Pedersen descendants review early family photographs and documents preserved in the Museum's collection. A display of Pedersen family artifacts is recorded on video.



## Grindsted Youth Choir tours the Museum

On June 24, seventy-two energetic and talented members of the Grindsted Music School Choir and Band from Grindsted, Denmark, came to see The Danish Immigrant Museum. Interestingly enough, their visit coincided with the exhibit, currently on loan from Odense, of Denmark's most famous composer, Carl Nielsen.

The group, composed of young people ages 13 to 20, has performed regularly at LEGOLAND in Denmark and other locations throughout Europe during the 20 years since it was founded. This visit was their first to the United States and they were singing and dancing their way across the U.S. on their way to perform at the grand opening the new LEGOLAND Park in Carlsbad, California.

Although their visit was hurried, the Museum was very pleased to be included in the noted youth choir's busy U.S. tour schedule. They came to The Danish Immigrant Museum from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, where they stayed during their three day stay in Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa and where they had performed just the day before.

That evening the Elk Horn/Kimballton community was treated to a special concert appearance by the young Danes at the Danish Windmill Stage in Elk Horn. A lively presentation of their pop/rock repertoire was enthusiastically received.



### Article on "Growing up in an early Danish American community" elicits many responses

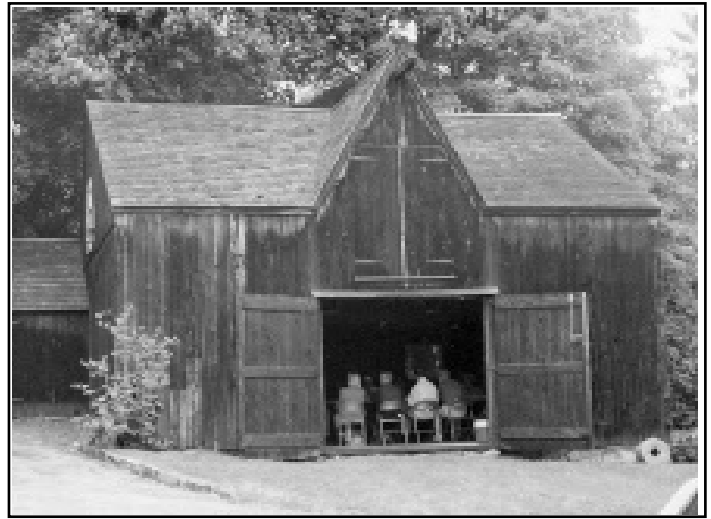
Connections from his past have been reestablished and new contacts made for S. P. (Peter) Christensen, who, in the last issue of the America Letter, wrote about his experiences of growing up in Cedar Falls, IA during the first third of this century. The range and variety of response to Mr. Christensen's article attests to the wide readership of the America Letter.

# Site of Summer Board Meeting rich with historical associations

The Board of Directors summer meeting was held at the Bush-Holley Historic Site in Greenwich, Connecticut. This National Historic Landmark reflects two periods of historic importance: a home for over a century for the Bush family, and later, a boarding house and intellectual center for Connecticut's first Impressionist art colony between 1890 and 1920. The site is maintained by the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, including the colorful meandering gardens which served as inspiration to the artists.

Bush is the anglicized version of the Danish name Bosch. The family's Danish ancestry is traced to Hendrick Bosch, born in 1620 in Randerhuys, Denmark. He emigrated as a hopeful 20-year old from Denmark to Holland to escape the devastation of the Thirty Years War, married and matured as a sword cutler. In mid-life he immigrated to New Netherland (New York area) where he believed he would have the rich resources of metals to ply to his cutler trade and religious freedom as a Lutheran in the New World. However, after years of struggling with religious intolerance, he died as a member of a fractionalized Dutch Reformed Church in New York City in 1703. His three wives, all originally from the Netherlands, bore him 16 children. He was preceded in death by two of his wives and 14 of his children. His great grandson Justus Bosch, born in New York City in 1699 changed the spelling of his surname to Bush. In 1738 Justus Bosch/Bush purchased what is now known as the Bush-Holley House in Cos Cob, Connecticut.

In later years when the home was acquired by the Holley



The Board held their committee meetings and general session in the barn built in 1850. Other buildings on the approximately 4-acre site include the Bush-Holley house itself, constructed in 1730; the Visitor's Center and History Theater which originally housed a dry goods store until the first Cos Cob Post Office was established there in 1805. An Archives building was added in 1987 in keeping with the architectural look of the other buildings, but with modern facilities.

family, it became home for more than 200 art students who studied at the Holley's boarding house with such leading American Impressionists as John Henry Twachtman, J. Alden Weir, Theodore Robinson and Childe Hassam. Displayed in the home are examples of 18th and 19th century Impressionist art, much of the subject matter being the home, grounds, cove and other boarders at the colony. The home is period-furnished with a fine collection of early Connecticut furniture which can be appreciated for its simplicity of design and execution.



## Board of Director's June meeting held in Greenwich, CN

The summer meeting of The Danish Immigrant Museum Board of Directors was held in Greenwich Connecticut on June 10-12. Board members stayed at the Harbor Inn on the Long Island Sound and the meetings were conducted at the Bush-Holley Historic Site in Greenwich. The highlight of the business meeting on Saturday was the discussion and revision of the strategic planning document that has been in the design process since February, 1998. A final draft will be presented to the Board for approval at the annual meeting which will be held in Elk Horn, Iowa during October.

On the evening of June 12, the Board hosted a reception



at the Greenwich Country Club for Danish Americans living in the New York and southern New England area. Flemming Heilmann, President of the Danish American Club of New York welcomed the guests. Hon. Ole Poul, Royal Danish Consul of New York, spoke of the importance of the mission of the Museum to Danish Americans throughout the nation. The Greenwich meeting and reception marked the first time since its inception that the Board of Directors has held one of their meetings in the northeast United States.

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## *Annual Leadership Society*

Those persons who have contributed \$2500 or more in the past 12 months, from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999:

Anonymous

Anonymous

Harold and Lois Berg, Ogden, IA

Mervin Bro, Scottsdale, AZ

Lydell and Barbara Christensen, Pittstown, NJ

Charles and Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA

Gronbech Family Trust, San Diego, CA

\*Laura Hansen, Irwin, IA

Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE

Clyde and Emma Johnson, Omaha, NE

Lowell and Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA

Bruce Lauritzen, Omaha, NE

Richard Ledet, Des Moines, IA

Ruth Rasmussen Nelson, St. Cloud, MN

Margaret A. Nielsen Estate, Beaverton, OR

Irene Nissen, Cedar Falls, IA

Erik and Jackie Olsen, Mesa, AZ

Tom and Nadine Paulsen, Bellevue, WA

Rand and Mary Louise Petersen, Harlan, IA

Halvor Strandskov, Arlington, VA

Janet Thuesen, Falls Church, VA

Wilber Williamson, Des Moines, IA

Bro Business Center Corporation, Harlan, IA

Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA

Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Urbandale, IA

Marne and Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA

Viking Metal Cabinets, Chicago, IL

\* deceased

Those persons who have given a cumulative amount of \$25,000 or more:

Anonymous

Anonymous

Mervin Bro, Scottsdale, AZ

Alma O. Hartvigsen, Harlan, IA

Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE

Gertrude Gronbech Estate, Washington, DC

Roland Jensen, Des Moines, IA

Clyde and Emma Johnson, Omaha, NE

Martha Jorgensen Estate, Audubon, IA

Lowell and Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA

Bruce Lauritzen, Omaha, NE

Folmer and Vera Nyby, Fountain Hills, AZ

Erik and Jackie Olsen, Mesa, AZ

\*Olga Olsen, Watertown, SD

John I. Petersen Estate, Waterloo, IA

Archie Petersen Estate, Harlan, IA

Rand and Mary Louise Petersen, Harlan, IA

Eugene M. Robinson, Pensacola, FL

Schultz & Schultz-Nielsen Memorial, Tustin, CA

\*Ava Simonsen, Audubon, IA

\*Harold L. Sorensen, Exira, IA

Wilber Williamson, Des Moines, IA

Danish Brotherhood in America, Highlands Ranch, CO

Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA

Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA

Kulturministeriet, Copenhagen, Denmark

Lutheran Brotherhood, Minneapolis, MN

Marne and Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA

Peter Kiewit Foundation, Omaha, NE

Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, IA

State of Iowa, Des Moines, IA

Viking Metal Cabinets, Chicago, IL

\* deceased

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## *Lifetime Leadership Society*



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## **Why do people give to charitable causes? Its the "Mission"**

Development professionals have conducted many studies in the past decade to try to determine what motivates people to give to organizations, community projects and other charitable causes. Some of the motivational factors one might expect to hear as to why people make charitable gifts are charitable tax deductions and recognition. However, several studies have indicated that, far and away, the most important factor for people in making a gift is that they believe in the mission of the organization they are supporting.

The mission of The Danish Immigrant Museum is to tell the story of the Danish immigrant experience and to preserve the history, traditions and culture of Danish Americans. Most people make at least one charitable gift each year to a worthy cause or organization. Those who contribute to the Museum most often do so because they believe in our mission.

One way to share in the continuation of the mission of The Danish Immigrant Museum is to include the Museum in your will. A bequest will ensure that the values expressed in the Museum's mission are passed to future generations.

Leaving a portion of your estate to the Museum in your estate plan will leave a legacy of your values for generations to come.

Many individuals have already remembered the Museum in their will as part of their estate plan. Some very generous gifts have been left to the Museum that have made a difference and have allowed the Museum to progress to its present level.

Remembering The Danish Immigrant Museum in your will is, in many cases, the most effective way to transfer a very generous gift to The Danish Immigrant Museum. In the process you will have an opportunity to transfer your values of preserving your history, traditions and culture to future generations of Danish Americans.

Leo Hensley, Executive Director



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# Exhibition Schedule

1999

## **A Consecration of Hope: Baptismal Clothing from Immigrant Families**

May 28, 1999 - November 7, 1999

The baptismal clothing worn by immigrant children was frequently passed down through families as a treasured heirloom. Many of the small gowns demonstrate intricate and beautiful needlework. This exhibition will display the range of baptismal gowns that have come into the Museum's collection, as well as some material loaned specifically for this exhibit.

## **Carl Nielsen: The Man and the Music**

June 3 - August 31, 1999

A traveling exhibition organized by the Odense City Museums in Denmark and accompanied by a special video presenting Nielsen's music in relation to the contemporary Danish landscape. The exhibition is a multi-panel display illuminating the life and work of Carl (August) Nielsen (1885-1931). Denmark's foremost composer. He was particularly admired for his symphonies.

## **In Search of History: Documenting Elk Horn's Early Years**

November 26, 1999 - May 7, 2000

Elk Horn, Iowa, site of the first Danish Folk School in the United States, was, and has continued to be, a key Danish American community. Yet there is little written or collected history for this town. This exhibition will parallel and complement a community history book currently underway.

2000

## **In Search of History: Documenting Elk Horn's Early Years**

closes May 7, 2000

## **Danish American Cultural Life in Chicago**

May 26, 2000 - November 5, 2000

Through the years, Danish American social groups and institutions in Chicago have taken many forms, ranging from homes for the young and the aged to clubs for socializing and singing. One of the more prominent of these has been the Dania Society of Chicago, considered to be the oldest Danish society in America. This exhibition will examine the richness and range of Chicago's Danish American cultural life from a historical perspective.



## **Calendar of 1999 Events for the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton**

**OCTOBER - STATE HAND CORN HUSKING CONTESTS** in Kimballton. Parade of horses, huskers & wagons, Iowa's Best Huskers, Danish & American foods, etc.

**OCTOBER 14, 15, 16 - 16th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** Meetings and events scheduled at Museum and in surrounding area

**NOVEMBER 26, 27, 28 - JULEFEST 1999.** Craft boutiques, Danish foods, entertainment, Father Christmas visit



## **Seattle Danes celebrate Danish Constitution Day**

Executive Director Leo Hensley enjoys dinner with Seattle Danes. Hensley spoke to the Danish Club of Seattle at their May 5th dinner celebrating Danish Constitution Day. Seated in the foreground are Liana and Egon Molbak. Jette Bunch and her husband Dr. Stephen Bunch are seated next to Leo Hensley. Former Royal Danish Consul Martin Metz on is seated at the far right.



## **The Board of Directors' 16th Annual Meeting will be held October 14-16**

The Board of Directors will convene in Elk Horn, Iowa for their 16th Annual Meeting on October 14, 15 and 16. The gathering will also mark the Board's 53rd Regular Meeting. Plans are being developed for the Board of Directors to host a dinner for members of the Museum on Saturday, October 16.



# Tivoli Fest 1999

The annual Tivoli Fest in Elk Horn, celebrated on Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29 created an opportunity for a great many people to visit and enjoy a variety of exhibits and activities featured at The Danish Immigrant Museum.

The festival marked the opening of the Museum's new temporary exhibit, "A Consecration of Hope," featuring baptismal clothing worn in Danish immigrant families. The rich array of small garments and the variety of fine needlework delighted many. An extensive exhibition of baby quilts, new and old, was coordinated by Julie Larsen of Prairie Star Quilts and displayed in the community dining area. Visitors enjoyed the quilts as they gathered for refreshments served with traditional Danish hospitality by volunteers of the Danish Brotherhood organization.

A number of handcraft exhibits and living history demonstrations entertained visitors throughout the weekend. Handcraft exhibits included Hardanger by Karma Sorensen, papir klip by Annette Andersen, Danish cross-stitch by Aveline Marks, knippling by Elie Steffensen, wood carving by Harlan Simonds and stained glass creations by Lyle Witttrup. Living history demonstrations were an addition to the educational exhibits this year and included cream separating by John Jensen, butter churning by Lucille Wiges, wool spinning by Wayne McFadden and blacksmithing by Steve Nelson and Tim Branan.

In addition to the demonstrations and exhibits, the Museum Shop was bustling with activity as a clearance sale was in progress. Many took advantage of the bargains offered and stocked up on gifts and souvenirs.

On Saturday, the Museum staff was pleased to receive the news that The Danish Immigrant Museum's entry in the Tivoli Fest parade had won the contest for best float. The Parade theme was "Danish Storybook" and the Museum depicted Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling" in a whimsical



interpretation, which included staff members costumed as baby ducklings, each with its own special characteristics. Onlookers, both young and old, were delighted and amused by the antics of the duck characters.



## Danish by design: Skagen Denmark products available

Clean lines and simple elegance are cornerstones of Danish design. These elements are easily recognized in every Skagen Denmark product. Charlotte and Henrik Jorst, the founders of Skagen Denmark, were born in Copenhagen and raised with the Danish sense of classic taste and understated expression. The designer couple settled in the U.S. ten years ago when they founded the company. Skagen Denmark is still family owned and operated and has enjoyed great success with its line of watches, desk clocks and writing pens. The Jorsts reside in Reno, Nevada with their two daughters but never give up taking holidays with their children and going back to the fishing village of Skagen which is famous for its attraction to artists and other creative souls and has served as inspiration for their creativity as well.

The Museum Shop offers a large selection of Skagen Denmark designs and features the line in the 1999 Spring/Summer catalog.

The watches can also be viewed on The Danish Immigrant Museum website at <http://dkmuseum.org>. The company has printed a four-color tri-fold brochure featuring a range of their watch styles. The brochure is available upon request by writing or phoning the Museum (712/764-7001).

The Museum Shop is managed by Pat McClure. She joined the Museum in April, 1999, replacing Jan Paulsen who had been responsible for the development and growth of the Shop since the 1994 opening of the Museum's current building. Jan's dedicated commitment to the Museum Shop gave it a distinctive presence. Its possibilities for continued growth are a challenge eagerly embraced by Ms. McClure.

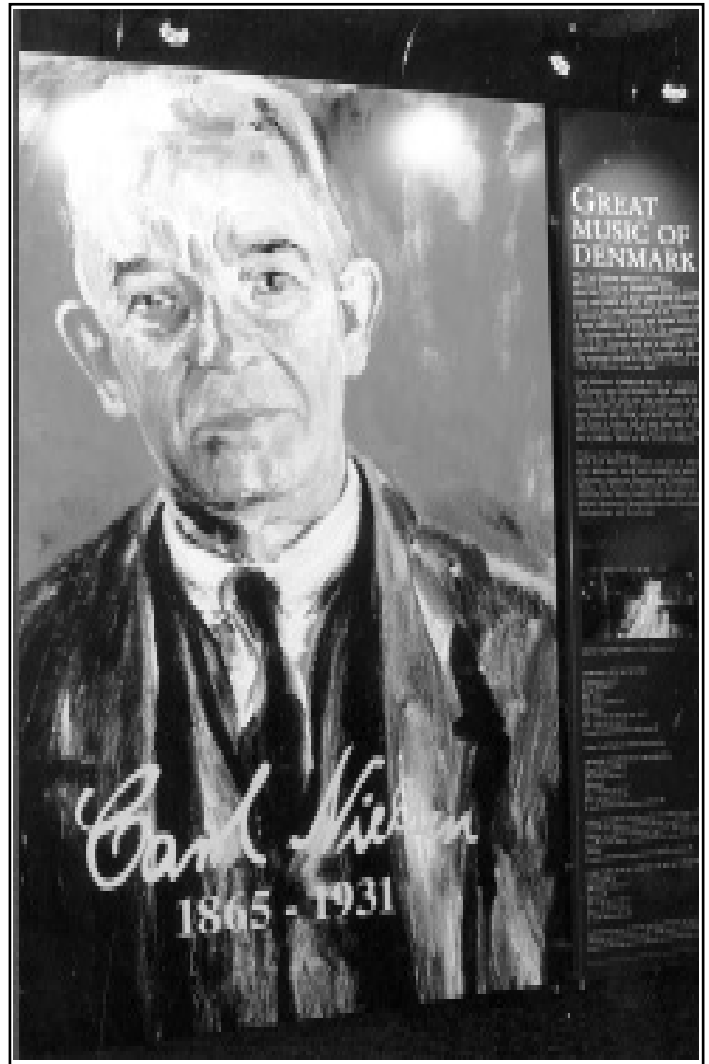
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## Carl Nielsen's life and work are the subject of a major traveling exhibition from Denmark

The Museum is currently exhibiting an impressive collection of photos, graphics and interpretative text featuring Denmark's foremost composer, Carl Nielsen (1865-1931). The exhibit is on loan from the Carl Nielsen Museum in Odense, Denmark, and is being distributed in the United States through Denmark's cultural attachee in Los Angeles. This summer, the free standing exhibit (complete with accompanying video) can be seen on the Museum's lower level.

The exhibit traces Nielsen's life through his career as a violinist, conductor and composer and his marriage to sculptress Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen. After studying at the Royal Conservatory in Copenhagen from 1884 to 1886, he served as a violinist in the court orchestra, a kapelmeister at the Royal Theatre and conductor of the Copenhagen Musical Society. He wrote six symphonies between the years 1890 and 1925. The best known of these are the second, *The Four Temperaments*; the third, *Sinfonia Espansiva*; and the fourth, *The Inextinguishable*. Considered one of the 20th century's greatest composers, Nielsen also wrote two operas (*Saul og David* and *Maskarad*), three concertos, four string quartets, two quintets, and, a number of choral and keyboard works. Folk music was always close to his heart and he wrote a number of popular songs based on Danish traditions in addition to his classical works.

Prior to its June 1st arrival at the Museum, the exhibit was at the Northwest Danish Foundation in Portland, Oregon. Its next stop will be in October at Lincoln Center in New York City for a national violin competition.



## Chicago area benefit buffet raises funds and awareness for The Danish Immigrant Museum

Editorial note: This article appeared in the June 21st edition of Den Danske Pioneer. The paper has given permission to reprint the article here.

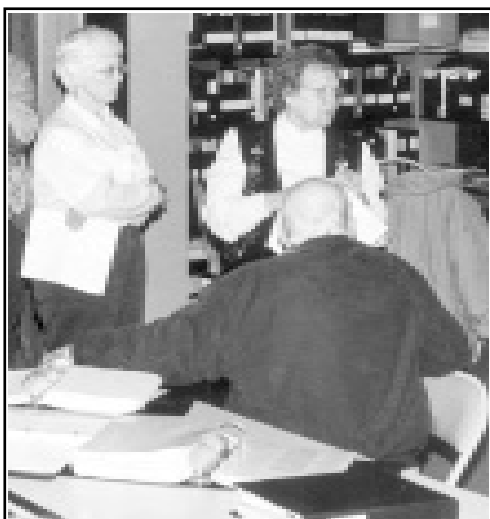
More than 100 people gathered at the Scandinavian Club in Arlington Heights, Illinois on Friday, May 7 for a Benefit Buffet for The Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa. The diverse crowd offered strong support from the local communities, including the city [Chicago], the north and northwest suburbs, the southside communities and also Wisconsin. Almost \$2,300 was raised in support of the national museum.

The Danish Immigrant Museum strives to tell the story of the Danish immigrants and the Danish American experiences through the collection, display and study of artifacts.

In 2000, The Danish Immigrant Museum will debut an exhibit on Danish Cultural Life in Chicago from ca. 1890

through the middle of the 20th century. You can help prepare for this exhibit by identifying the artifacts that you have or your organization has that tell a story from that time. A gavel, a gymsuit, a banner, emblems, and trophies are all possibilities. Please call either Barbara Lund-Jones (800) 759-9192 or Katrine Keller (847) 920-1983 for more information.

The evening included a speech by Ambassador Consul General Bent Kiilerich on the recent Danish Heritage Survey in Chicago and Racine and a fascinating, detailed presentation by The Danish Immigrant Museum Curator Barbara Lund-Jones on "The Stories Our Artifacts Tell".



## Red River Danes visit Museum

On Saturday, April 10, the Museum hosted the Red River Danes, who had made a special weekend trip from their home base in the Fargo, ND/Moorhead, MN area to visit the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton. During the morning, the group was given a special tour of the Museum by Curator Barbara Lund-Jones, who included a behind-the-scenes look at the Lower Level area. The group was able to observe the Museum's developing storage facilities and to see the work rooms where incoming artifacts are reviewed and cataloged.

Many members of the Red River Danes returned later that afternoon to view the Museum and its exhibits in greater detail, to spend time in the Family History and Genealogy Center and to relax and visit with staff members who had come specifically to spend their day with the group. All parties thoroughly enjoyed their visit. The Red River Danes are important supporters of The Danish Immigrant Museum and took pleasure in observing the progress being made at the Museum.



## Sankt Hans Aften

On the evening of June 26th, a large crowd gathered on Museum grounds for the annual Sankt Hans Aften ceremony or Mid-Summer Eve festival, an event sponsored by the local Danish Brotherhood Lodge #341. Among those present were many members of the Christensen-Bjerg-Berg reunion.

The evening's festivities included children's games such as sack races, egg toss and soccer led by Thomas Hansen, who also helped the children make snog-brød, bread dough wrapped around a stick and cooked over an open fire. The crowd was entertained by Scandinavian accordion player, Ron Johnson, who played many tunes and accompanied a "sing along" led by Annette Andersen later in the evening. Tours of the Museum were held; Brotherhood members served ice cream and cake.

One of the evening's highlights was a visit by a film crew for TV 2 from Odense, Denmark. The crew had been attending a caucus in Des Moines, Iowa and, hearing of Elk Horn's Sankt Hans Aften event, they felt compelled to come see how a ceremony, which in Denmark occurs on the beaches, is celebrated by those who live in the middle of corn and bean fields. The crew leader spoke of his memories of Sankt Hans Aften. He recalled celebrating the event every year but not really understanding why. Nevertheless, it was something he looked forward to each year "it's something we always did." Members of the crew made their way through the crowd filming the festivities to be shown on television in Denmark.

At sunset a bonfire was lit to send all the evil spirits away and ensure a good crop year.

## Director's Corner

Mission, vision and strategic planning have been major topics at the Museum's Board of Directors' meetings over the past two years. It seems that most people who are associated with organizations in the business world, education or in the non-profit sector have toiled with their planning concepts repeatedly in recent years. The major challenge that they have faced is that of genuinely moving their organization forward to a new level of growth and development.

The Board of Directors at The Danish Immigrant Museum realize that the Museum will have to move forward to maintain viability in the future. The strategic planning process for The Danish Immigrant Museum will be a call to action and it will change the Museum, its landscape and its programs. The strategic plan will be our road map to the future.

Where will the Museum be in twenty years? The year 2020, a date previously reserved for science fiction tales, is not so far away. Those of us who are over forty know how quickly twenty years can go. Will the Museum be important to the next generation of Danish Americans? Our strategic planning process will address these issues and create the programs necessary to serve the Danish American community of 2020.

Our strategic plan, which addresses mission, vision, and the strategy of implementation, is in its final form and will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the October Board meetings. These are exciting and challenging times for the Museum. I will report to you in the next America Letter on our new strategic plan. I hope you will also find our vision for the future and the strategic plan exciting, bold and worthy of your continued support.



Leo Hensley

Asta Forrest, Fountain Hills, AZ  
Charles and Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA  
Earl and LaVena Fries, Des Moines, IA  
Rosa Hansen, Hampton, IA  
Stew Hansen, West Des Moines, IA  
Martha Helligso, Omaha, NE  
Leo and Judy Hensley, Elk Horn, IA  
Gunnar Horn, Omaha, NE  
Vern Hunter, Fargo, ND  
James and Marge Iversen, Ames, IA  
Frode and Catherine Jensen, New Canaan, CT  
Clyde and Emma Johnson, Omaha, NE  
Lis and Iver Jorgensen, Gilroy, CA  
Virgil Karmgard, Fargo, ND  
Peter and Susan Kelly, Glastonbury, CT  
Lowell and Marilyn Kramme, Des Moines, IA  
Lawrence and Jane Larsen, Harlan, IA  
Marlene Larsen, Calistoga, CA  
Richard Ledet, Des Moines, IA  
Eivind and Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA  
Margaret Lykke, Council Bluffs, IA  
Charles Manatt, Washington, DC  
John and Karen Molgaard, Atlantic, IA  
Elcar and Norma Nielsen, Prairie Village, KS  
Margaret Nielsen Estate, Beaverton, OR  
Ruth Nielsen, Omaha, NE  
Irene Nissen, Cedar Falls, IA  
Mark and Lori Nussle, Palos Park, IL  
Folmer and Vera Nyby, Fountain Hills, AZ  
Henry and Sharon Olesen, Woodstock, IL  
Erik and Jackie Olsen, Mesa, AZ  
Robert Olsen, Carroll, IA  
Nadjeschda Overgaard, Kimballton, IA  
Tom and Nadine Paulsen, Bellevue, WA  
Rand and Mary Louise Petersen, Harlan, IA  
Thelma Petersen, Harlan, IA  
Tom and Julie Rosen, Fairmont, MN  
Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN  
Dorothy Schulze, Caledonia, MN  
Rose and Jim Sims, Ridge Manor, FL  
Lemuel and Edith Sprow, Mound, MN  
Halvor Strandskov, Arlington, VA  
Janet Thuesen, Falls Church, VA  
Svend and Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR  
Erik and Lissi Vange, Palatine, IL  
Wilber Williamson, Des Moines, IA

Audubon State Bank Charitable Foundation, Audubon, IA  
Bro Business Center Corporation, Harlan, IA  
Charitable Gift Fund, Boston, MA  
Danish American Club of Orange County, Villa Park, CA  
Danish Brotherhood Columbine Lodge #43, Aurora, CO  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Urbandale, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #183-Troy, Cohoes, NY  
Danish Old People's Home, Rochester Hills, MI  
Emerald Excavating, Inc., Eugene, OR  
Leman USA, Inc., Sturtevant, WI  
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA  
Royal Danish Embassy, Washington, DC  
Viking Metal Cabinets, Chicago, IL

## Protector

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark

## Patron Members

The following members have made a membership gift of \$1,000 or more in the past 12 months, between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 1999.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA

Helmer Andersen, Chippewa Falls, WI

Mildred Andersen, Elk Horn, IA

Robert and Jean Beck, Cedar Falls, IA

Harold and Lois Berg, Ogden, IA

Arnold Bodtker, Junction City, OR

Mervin Bro, Scottsdale, AZ

Jack and Barbara Christensen, Yankton, SD

Lydell and Barbara Christensen, Pittstown, NJ

Ross Christensen, Waterloo, IA

Thomas and Jan Christensen, Bettendorf, IA

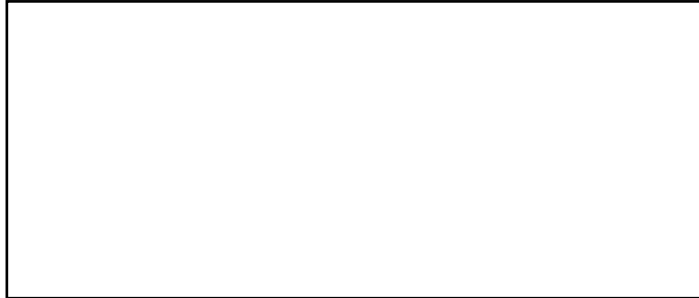
Gordon and Janice Esbeck, Tipton, IA

Stuart and Rosalyn Fallgatter, Mesa, AZ





FAMILY HISTORY  
&  
GENEALOGY CENTER  
**Stamtræ**



The Family History and Genealogy Center's three core volunteers: Mae Petersen standing at far left, Norma Lange Nelson and Margaret Christensen.

Editorial note: The Family History and Genealogy Center is open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Since the Center's opening in 1996, many family mysteries have been resolved and important family linkages established. The next three issues of the Stamtræ column will be devoted to such stories. The current article is written by core volunteer Norma Lange Nelson.

Stephen asked me to help him solve a mystery. He had, in his possession, a painting of an ancestral home in Denmark. They had found the painting among some articles from his grandmother. His grandmother, Evelyn, was born in Nebraska, raised in an orphanage in Minnesota, and passed away in 1987. Evelyn had two brothers, also raised in the orphanage, but the family knew very little of the brothers. One brother had sent Evelyn the painting from Oklahoma; he died in 1983. Along with the painting was a note stating:

"The enclosed photograph is of a painting of Refshoj, our ancestral home in Denmark. Here Andreas was born and lived until his marriage. Here his father, Peder, was born in 1811 and lived his entire life. The date of the building of Refshoj, is at present unknown by me. Some of the buildings were in existence prior to 1811, and most likely some date in the late 18th century. For 170-200 (plus) years, Refshoj has been the family home place. Our family has owned it for that entire time."

Stephen and his family knew little of Evelyn's father, Hans. Among Evelyn's possessions was a letter from her Dad, dated about fifty years before. In the letter Hans asked Evelyn how old she was and when her birthday was. He apologized for not knowing.

This was all the information that Stephen had available to him.

I sent Stephen an address in Nebraska where he could write for information about Evelyn, her parents and siblings. From

this inquiry, they learned that the parents had been married in Nebraska, and that Hans' father had signed a permission slip. So Hans' father lived in Nebraska, also.

Using the beginning of the name of the ancestral home, Ref, I found a parish in Denmark named Refs Vindinge. I wrote to a small archive in that area. We soon received an answer. They would try to find the location of the home. Could we send a picture? We gladly sent it.

We received a letter; they were sorry but could not locate the home in Funen, but they had sent the picture to a parish in Jutland. Meanwhile, they enclosed a newspaper article in which they had written of our desire to locate Refshoj. We waited with anticipation.

Two weeks later we received the letter from Jens Erik Starup. He had located the farm in Jutland where the ancestral home was located. He sent the names of the family members born at Refshoj from 1811 to 1880, and the address where we could write to the farm. Stephen and his wife were thrilled.



## The Museum's artifact collections area receives an important gift from the Viking Metal Cabinet Co. in Chicago

The Museum's behind-the-scenes artifact storage facilities have been dramatically improved through a generous gift from the Viking Metal Cabinet Co. in Chicago. During the course of the last two years, the company has given several museum quality storage units for use in the collections area.

Metal storage units meeting museum standards must have very specific finishes, so as to avoid long term damage to artifacts stored in the units. The specificity governing these storage units makes their acquisition an expensive matter. As a result, museums often deal with inadequate storage facilities because financial considerations do not allow them to acquire the units they need. It is little wonder, then, that the truckload of cabinets which arrived in early May was greeted with such enthusiasm by the curatorial staff.

In mid-May, the Curatorial Department oversaw a major resettling of storage units in the collection work areas. Some of the new acquisitions were moved into the "secure storage" area off the Registrar's office, where all incoming gifts are stored until they can be accessioned. The remaining units were grouped in the comparatively larger collections work area that is immediately off the visual storage section. These most recent units, in combination with Viking's previous gift, give The Danish Immigrant Museum a sophisticated and well developed collections storage system.

Editorial note: Trucking services for the Viking deliveries were provided as a gift-in-kind by Leman USA, Inc. based in Sturtevant, WI.



# Volunteer spotlight



Karma Sorensen



Linda Hansen

What do Linda Hansen, Karma Sorensen and Neoma Steen have in common? Among other things, they have pride in their Danish heritage, close ties with their families, and, they all are involved with their grandchildren. They also share a special talent that is vitally important to the Curatorial Department of The Danish Immigrant Museum . . . they are skilled at numbering artifacts.

Every item that becomes part of the museum's collection must have a permanent identification number. This number will forever serve to link the object to its donor and to its documentation. Therefore, every object . . . no matter how large or how small . . . must have its number neatly applied in an inconspicuous area. This number consists of the year that the accession was officially accepted into the permanent collection, a sequential number for this accession; and, the number the specific item within that gift lot. For example, an artifact bearing the number 97.144.39 would have been taken into the permanent collection in 1997 as the 144th accession of that year and as the 39th item within that "gift lot". Sometimes, when dealing with a gift consisting of many parts, the number is extended even further.

By the time an artifact is ready to be numbered, it has been carefully measured, thoroughly described, and entered into the computer by the Curatorial staff. A temporary identification tag has been attached, a condition report prepared, and the item placed on one of the "to be numbered" shelves in the visual storage area. Because the number must last indefinitely, different techniques are used depending upon the material of the artifact (wood, glass, pottery, leather, etc.). This calls for experienced judgment on the part of the volunteer doing the numbering.

The volunteers sit at a special numbering table containing bottles of barrier, and sealers; q-tips, and black pen. Using



Neoma Steen examines a model of a Viking ship to determine the best location for its number, as all permanent numbers must be discretely placed. They should not interfere with the object's exhibition, nor should they require excessive staff handling to read.

a tiny brush and wearing white gloves to protect the artifact from skin oils, the volunteer applies a barrier layer to the area where the number will be written, after first deciding whether to use a clear barrier layer or a white one. The clear barrier is preferred but white is used on very dark backgrounds so that number will be readable. After the barrier layer dries, a museum-approved fine-point black ink pen is used to write the number. These numbers are quite small and on very tiny objects they may be so small that a magnifying glass is needed to read them. Naturally, this requires a very steady hand because, above all, the number must be completely readable. Finally, after the ink has thoroughly dried, a clear top coat is applied to protect the number. None of these steps can be rushed so great patience is required.

For textiles, a different technique is used. The number is written on a small piece of barrier-coated twill tape that is then stitched onto the cloth by hand. Great care is taken not to damage the fabric while sewing on the label.

Although most of us might not want to even attempt the demanding job of applying permanent numbers to artifacts, Linda, Karma and Neoma, find this work quite satisfying. Linda comments "I'm used to detail work and enjoy getting to see the actual artifacts up close." Karma says she finds it a privilege to work inside the restricted-access visual storage area and to learn how to handle a large variety of artifacts. Both she and Linda have an interest in antiques and are pleased to be a part of the preservation of these artifacts. Neoma actually finds the work relaxing. She says she appreciates having a hands-on experience with museum artifacts, an opportunity the general public does not have.

How did these ladies become so active in the life of The Danish Immigrant Museum? Neoma's involvement with the

# Volunteer . . .

– continued from page 14

Museum goes back many years. She was a charter member and spent many hours helping in the restoration of Bedstemor's Hus. Karma's husband, Howard, long time General Manager of Marne-Elk Horn Telephone Company, is a past board member of The Danish Immigrant Museum. After the Museum opened, Karma and Howard frequently volunteered at the front desk as greeters. Karma also teaches Hardanger classes at the Museum. In 1991, Linda's design was chosen for the Museum's Christmas card but it wasn't until last year that she became involved as a volunteer. She saw the ad in the paper asking for volunteers in the visual storage area. Since it fell in with her interests, she attended the training session, during the course of which, she was asked to do numbering.

Neoma was born on a farm near Fiscus, second oldest of six children. Her mother, Minna Larsen, came from Denmark when she was 12 years old. After finishing high school in Audubon, Neoma attended Grand View College for a year, then married Emmert Steen, "a soldier", whom she had met through church. They lived in Texas while he was in the military, then in Audubon where he started the Farm Service Co. and later in Spencer where he was in charge of 22 counties with the Affiliated Company of Farm Bureau. They next moved to Elk Horn where Emmert went into partnership with his brother, Ed, in Steen's Produce and Feed. Neoma was asked to "help out" at Elk Horn's Salem Lutheran Homes as a nurse's aide which led to her returning to school to obtain her LPN license. Following her training, she worked at the hospital in Atlantic, Iowa for two years, then at Salem Lutheran Homes for a total of 27 years. Neoma and her husband raised five children and have eight grandchildren, four of whom are in the service. "I'm so proud of all of them", she states. Besides her interest in her family and Museum, Neoma is involved in her church, Elk Horn Lutheran, and volunteers as a "flower lady" at the Danish Windmill.

Karma was raised near Kimballton of Danish immigrant parents. She was one of seven children in a family whose members still keep many of the Danish traditions alive. Karma graduated from Elk Horn High School, married Howard Sorensen, and, together they raised five children. Now they have eleven grandchildren with whom they are involved. Karma was the postmistress in Elk Horn for 14 years until her retirement. However, Karma is not sitting idly. She enjoys Hardanger, quilting, flower gardening, genealogy and has learned to play the flute. She is also actively involved in the Elk Horn Lutheran Church and Danish Brotherhood. One of the highlights in Karma's life was her trip with several other family members to Washington, DC last October to attend a ceremony, organized through the National Endowment of the Arts, that recognized her mother, Nadjeschda Overgaard, as a 1998 National Heritage Fellow.

Linda has always had an interest in her Danish heritage. (Her fraternal grandparents immigrated from Denmark). The oldest of four children, she was raised in Audubon where she completed high school and where she has lived most of her life. Her interest in art led her to complete the Famous Artists correspondence course that Norman Rockwell founded. For the past 14 years, Linda has owned an antique shop, Linda's Antiques, in Audubon. She and her husband, Paul T. Hansen, a Realtor, have five children and six grandchildren. Besides her children and grandchildren, another very important part of her life is her church. Linda "loves" flower gardening. She also has researched her family history and compiled a book.

Thank you Linda, Karma and Neoma for your dedication, patience and skill! You are a vitally important part of the collections' work.



## Jens Dixen house is brought to Museum grounds

Jens Dixen immigrated to Iowa from Denmark in 1880 at the age of 22. He attended Elk Horn College for a period. Although the precise dates of his attendance are unknown, it is believed that he took classes during the 1880s. Dixen returned as a featured speaker to the College's 50th anniversary celebration in 1928.

Jens Dixen became a zealous lay missionary among Danish American Lutherans and before returning to Denmark for the final time in 1929, he had visited and performed missionary work in Australia (several times), New Zealand, Canada, Africa and India, and visited many of the islands in the South Pacific.

Around the turn of the century, Jens Dixen homesteaded in North Dakota on land a few miles north of Kenmare, where he founded the Brorson Folk High School. There are now permanent monuments to his memory on the Brorson site and at Jels Voldsted near the town of Jels in Denmark. His "homestead shanty", which he built on the homestead land in 1901, still exists after all these years, and thanks to the efforts and support of members of the Cedar Valley Danes of Cedar Falls, Iowa and SudanMissionen of Christiansfeld, Denmark, his shanty is now in Elk Horn and will soon be part of The Danish Immigrant Museum's Immigrant Park, which already includes the Morning Star Chapel and Bedstemor's House.

The Jens Dixen house will be restored by members of the Cedar Valley Danes. A book on Jens Dixen's life has been written by Kirsten & Knud Madsen of Denmark, Han Sled Bibler som Sko. It may be possible to obtain copies of the book by writing to SudanMissionen, Norregade 14, DK-6070 Christiansted, Denmark.

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# A miniature rendition of the Danish village of Ebeltoft will arrive at the Museum in late July

The miniature village was built by the late Richard Storkfelt, a Danish immigrant who, in his 80s and 90s, recreated in his backyard the village of Ebeltoft, Denmark. His grandmother had lived in this village and, as a boy, he had spent many summers there. He recreated the buildings from memory and with the help of photographs using a one-eighth scale. During his working years, he was an electrician by trade. Drawing upon the skills learned in this trade, he wired all of his miniature buildings for lighting.

The miniature village of Ebeltoft will be displayed on the Museum's main exhibition floor during the remainder of the summer and into the fall months. This folk art creation was

first brought to the Museum's attention by the curator at the Fuller Museum of Art in Brockton, Massachusetts. The Fuller Museum had mounted a special exhibition of the village late last year and, following its closing, inquired as to whether The Danish Immigrant Museum might be interested in acquiring this remarkable folk art achievement.



## Demonstrations in Danish cross-stitch continue

Aveline Marks of Omaha, NE, who has worked extensively in Danish cross-stitch and demonstrated widely in this form of needlework, will demonstrate her craft from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 21 and Saturday, September 18.

*Just a Reminder—*  
**The Museum's SPRING & SUMMER HOURS**  
**(May 15-September 15) are:**  
**Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**& Sun. Noon to 6 p.m.**  
**Admission: \$3.00, adults; \$1.50, children**  
**Free for current members**



— Harlan, IA Tribune Graphics

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