



# America Letter

THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

An International Cultural Center

BOX 470 • ELK HORN, IOWA 51531

Summer 2000

Vol. XIV, No. 1

## An in-depth look at a unique educational offering

Benedicte Riis, an educator from Ebeltoft, Denmark, spent the week of October 25, 1999 at The Danish Immigrant Museum where she taught approximately 265 of the area's 3rd and 4th grade school children. As Tante Andante, her program of song, round games and paper cutting art kept her audience captivated. They joyfully learned Danish and English songs and Danish American immigrant history.

In Denmark, Benedicte Riis directs the Tante Andante Hus in Ebeltoft from which she has branched out her program for children to Racine, Wisconsin and also to children in Rumania. She is an educator with unusual musical talent, unbounded energy, and resourceful creativity. After learning of The Danish Immigrant Museum she came to us in the fall of 1998 offering her program. She was invited to Elk Horn in 1999 so our children could also experience her energy, creativity, and musical talent.

Area school teachers enthusiastically embraced this unique educational offering. It was determined that the 3rd and 4th grade students from the Elk Horn-Kimballton Public School would come to the Museum every afternoon of the week that Benedicte was here and that in the mornings, the area schools of Atlantic, Audubon, Exira, Walnut and Shelby would come to the museum. Funding for Benedicte's program was secured from several different sources: an Iowa Arts Council grant, and contributions from the Elk Horn-Kimballton School,



the Aid Association for Lutherans, the Audubon County Players, and The Danish Immigrant Museum.

That Monday morning, on the dot of 9:00, a bus load of energetic and eager children were at the front door of the Museum. They were invited to sit on the floor toward the front of the museum near a piano with an accompanying banner announcing Tante Andante. Shortly after they had taken their places, Benedicte Riis made her dramatic appearance, costumed in a distinctive cap, wooden shoes,

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## The Museum produces a summer theatre event

The Danish Immigrant Museum is pleased to announce the production of an exciting new play based on Lois Lowry's internationally acclaimed young adult novel, *Number the Stars*. The play is based on the story of the Danish rescue of the Jews in World War II, told through the lives of three young Danish girls.

The play is being performed in a natural amphitheatre outside the Museum each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening for five weekends through August 5th. This is the pilot project that will become a long-term outdoor summer theatre experience in the years to come.

The Museum is fortunate to have engaged the services of the play's author, Dr. Doug Larche as director of the production. Dr. Larche is an internationally known playwright, director, children's book author, composer and poet. He holds

four academic degrees and is a member of the Playwrights Workshops of Yale, Oxford and the University of Iowa. His works have appeared on National Best-Seller lists, on Broadway and at the United Nations in New York, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and on the Tonight Show and Saturday Night Live, to name a few. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his work. Artistic Director of over 160 plays and 40 film projects, he is a long-time professor of Theatre at Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. He and his wife and creative colleague, Susan, live in Indianola, Iowa.

# Education . . .

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net stockings, and pantaloons. She introduced herself, telling the children that she was from Denmark and explaining why she was dressed as she was. Housewives in Denmark had once worn caps such as hers, her shoes were like those worn in Denmark even today, and on a bustle were pinned little cloth dolls that represented the members of her band who had stayed home in Denmark. Now she proceeded to introduce those four musicians by singing about Mrs. Sonne, Bob the Bass, Charlie, and Charlotte. Her songs were lively and captivating and held the interest of her audience.

Benedicte used these songs, sung in English, to engage the children and bring them into her imaginative world. She went on to introduce the children to some Danish songs and song-play. As she sang the words, she had the children repeat them and then she introduced them to movements that went with the words. “Brevduen: Hvilket postbud, en due. Kom kun her med dit brev, Det er sikkert fra moder, for til hende jeg skrev.” Another one was “Aborren svømmer, og garnet gaar sonder, og hvor den finder hullet, det smutter den ud.” And finally “Kore I Skoven: Vil du med I skoven, ja saa kom. Vil du med derud og se dig om? Vi korer, vi korer, vi korer, en, to, tre.”

To hear the children singing these Danish songs, to watch them dancing around a large circle performing the song movements that Benedicte had taught them was a source of delight to the onlooking adults. The children were now participants, demonstrating how an enthusiastic director could engage them in singing and in making movements that previously had been entirely unknown to them.

Following the songs, Benedicte took the children to the Museum’s Lower Level and introduced them to the permanent collection housed there. Using a collection of post cards, Benedicte told the children stories of the immigrant experience; she also read to them from a Danish child’s book of poetry, Rim og Remser. She told the children of the Tante Andante’s Hus in Rumania and showed them bright, colorful drawings depicting Rumanian history drawn by Rumanian children.

Benedicte then took the children back upstairs to a work station specially prepared for them in the kitchen area. The children sat at the tables using paper and scissors as Benedicte demonstrated the next activity: guessing letters. Guessing letters were cut from folded paper as snowflakes are cut. With so many children participating, a variety of shapes were produced. Benedicte explained that these shapes, called guessing letters, traditionally have been sent to a friend at Easter time (but without revealing the identity of the sender on the cut shape). A Danish verse is written somewhere on the snowflake shape: “Gaek, Gaek, Gaek, Put \_\_\_ I en saek, Send ham til Paris, Paa ryggen af en gris.” In the blank the children were to put the name of the person to whom they



School children eagerly perform a series of song movements directed by Benedicte Riis.



Benedicte Riis, dressed as Tane Andante, works with the children.

were sending the guessing letter.

For their final activity, the children watched a video of Benedicte and her band making a trip to the United States. It was a quiet activity that concluded a morning of many learning experiences. As the children left, the teachers expressed their thanks and appreciation of a morning well spent at The Danish Immigrant Museum.

In the afternoons when the Elk Horn-Kimballton students came, the same program was presented with an emphasis on learning the Danish songs and song-play so that they

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# Jack A. Rye writes of an Earlier Chicago

As an accompaniment to the Chicago exhibit, memories have been gathered from many who lived in Chicago's Danish community during the first several decades of the 20th century. The following article was contributed by Jack A. Rye who grew up in Chicago's Danish community and who spent the greater part of his working life in journalism. For several years, he was associated with the Sacramento Bee in California. Now in his 80's, his memories of Chicago's Danish community are exceptionally vivid and he has contributed importantly to the memories and materials gathered for the exhibit.

## CHICAGO'S NORTHWEST SIDE

Let's say the year is 1910 or 1921 or 1927 and a Danish immigrant lands in Chicago. Where does he go? First, it would be the Northwest Side and, second, it would be along the North Avenue corridor and, more pointedly, it would be near Humboldt Park. That's because that's where almost all Danes settled in those years, and it took a good many more years before any of them began moving farther out or even to the suburbs, like Evanston, Park Ridge, Norwood Park.

The Northwest Side was better known to many as the "Nort'west" Side and North Avenue as "Nort" Avenue because Danes and a lot of other Europeans were not accustomed to the "th" pronunciation. This little failing often was passed on to the second generation too.

But back to the immigrant from København or Slesvig or Esbjerg: On North Avenue he found a haven stretching from about Western Avenue to even Narragansett Avenue (the end, then, of the streetcar line) where Dorothy Skafgaard and her family lived. And that was practically "out in the country." It was along that corridor that the immigrant would find bakeries, restaurants, doctors' offices, delicatessens, boarding houses and any number of other businesses – all run by Danes. He also would find socializing, such as at the Dania Society, 1651 North Kedzie Ave.; Harmonien Singing Society, 1653 North Rockwell Ave., and the Danish-American Athletic Club (D.A.A.C.), 1639 North Washtenaw Ave. Danish groups, all, and just an aebelskiver's toss from North Avenue. On certain days, the newcomer, further, could attend Danish movies in the Crystal Theater, also in the area.

A little farther west, there was Christ Brix's office where he published not only The Northwesttown Booster but The Danish Times. Brix had been in newspaper work previously in downtown Chicago and in Copenhagen. Sadly, one of his two sons, Viggo, died in the crash of a bomber which he was piloting over Italy in World War II. Another Brix was Christ's brother, Martin, who operated a Danish bakery on Fullerton Avenue (not exactly on North Avenue but still within the Northwest Side).

Also on North Avenue was Leistikow's Delicatessen, sort of around the corner from the D.A.A.C.. Down near Christ Brix's place was the upholstery shop of William Iversen of Ringkøbing — the address was 3837 — where, on a Saturday

# Wall of Honor

These are the registered names of immigrants who have been placed on The Danish Immigrant Museum Wall of Honor between October 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999. Following the registered names below, 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 and family history of the immigrant, 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.

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Louise Bertramsen Allen, Clinton, IA - Erik Abild Andersen, Detroit, MI - Christen (Andersen) Anderson, Deerbrook, WI - Jens Jorgen Anderson, Blair, NE - Elisa Sleiborg (Laren) Duus, Viborg, SD - Carl Fredrickson - John Phillip Gundersen, Exira, IA - Henrik Marinus Henriksen, Arco, MN -  
Elenora Matilda Marie Ingerslev, Audubon, IA - Anders Peter and Margaret Skow Jensen, Askov, MN - Soren and Olga (Jensen) Jensen, Chicago, IL - Jes Hansen Jorgensen, Jacksonville, IA - Christen Kjolhede, Alta, IA - Christen and Juliana (Moller) Madsen, Moorhead, IA - Signe Mosbaek, Askov, MN - Niels Christian and Anna Marie Hansen Nelson, Boise, ID - Gunder and Ana Johanne Nielsen, Exira, IA - Hermann and Inger Thomsen Nielsen, Harlan, IA - Andrew Patterson - Lars Hyldgaard and Ethel E. Andersen Pedersen, Omaha, NE - Johanne K. Nielsen Petersen, Dagmar, MT - Svend Oluf Petersen, Dagmar, MT -  
Peter Christian and Mette B. Nielsen Petersen, Westby, MT - Anna Kristense Andersen Rodda, Newell, IA - John and Pauline Sanderson, Honey Creek, IA -  
Marshall Siegh, Chicago, IL - Erik Sorensen, Monroe, IA - Mildred Sand Sullivan, Aurora, CO -

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# Coveted Award Bestowed on Victor Borge

A “friend of the museum” whose very first piano has a place of prominence in our permanent collection received late last year what is considered America’s greatest honor for those in the performing arts. The wit, humor and incredible talent of America’s favorite Danish/American placed piano virtuoso Victor Borge in the elite winner’s circle of the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors. He was among just five performers recognized for lifetime contributions to American culture through the performing arts at the 1999 awards in December.

The Kennedy Center Honors were presented December 4th at a State Department dinner hosted by Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright. The following night the honorees were received at the White House and then escorted to the Kennedy Center’s Opera House where they, the President and Mrs. Clinton, and, artists from across the country were treated to a gala performance by top international stars. The Kennedy Center Honors Gala is a major fund-raising benefit for the Kennedy Center and those in attendance paid \$2,200 a seat (after having first been invited to purchase a ticket). The rest of the nation was able to watch the Honors Gala free when it aired on CBS in prime time on December 29th in what has become an annual TV highlight.

Referring to Borge, Kennedy Center Chairman James A. Johnson said, “we honor a beloved entertainer who has created his very own art form out of laughter and music.” Those who have heard him in concert know what Johnson meant by “his very own art form”. Borge will be playing a difficult composition one moment and break into a chorus of “Happy Birthday to You” in the next. He is a master of timing with his sight gags, his one-liners and his deliberately exaggerated pronunciation. Talk about life time achievements! Borge has charmed American audiences for over half a century after having already been a star in his native Denmark for over a decade. He celebrated his 91st birthday on January 3, 2000 and he is still entertaining audiences.

Victor Borge was born Borge Rosenbaum in Copenhagen on January 3, 1909, the son of a distinguished violinist with the Danish Symphony Orchestra. He began to play the piano at the age of three and soon showed great promise as a child prodigy. His scholarship to the Royal Danish Music Conservatory enabled him to study under renowned pianists. He made his professional debut in 1926 and during the next 10 years he became one of Scandinavia’s top performers. As Nazi forces began to sweep through Europe Borge, a Jew, began increasingly to mock Hitler from the stage. When German forces invaded Denmark in 1940 Borge was briefly blacklisted but he was able to escape from Finland via the S.S. American Legion, the last American passenger ship to leave Northern Europe prior to World War II.

Borge did not know a word of English when he arrived in New York City but learned quickly and was soon performing as an opening act for the Rudy Vallee radio show. He earned more audience exposure on the Bing Crosby program and became a favorite on both radio and television. In 1953 Borge captivated Broadway as the star of Comedy in Music which, with its 849 performances, earned him a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest-running one man show. Although beloved for his comic antics he is also a respected soloist on the piano and has played with many of the world’s finest orchestras.

Borge has even co-authored two books, *My Favorite Intermissions* and *My Favorite Comedies in Music*.

Borge is the epitome of the Danish American success story. We delight in the fact that this great world talent is one of our own.



## Jack A. Rye . . .

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morning, some Danish immigrants were prone to congregate and hold court, so to speak.

Cross to the other side of North Avenue, walk down about three blocks and there was Christensen & Jensen’s Danish bakery with clerks who all spoke Danish, of course — and a few who spoke no English. But everybody knew rugbrød and kringle and Napoleon kager. A Danish dentist nearby was Folmer Nymark with offices on the second floor of a building at the southwest corner of Pulaski Road and North Avenue. (Pulaski Road was previously known as Crawford Avenue. Some Danes never forgave the city for naming the

street after a Polish hero. Well, perhaps there were some Chicago Poles who never forgave the city for naming a park on Fullerton Avenue for Jacob Riis, famous Danish social reformer.)

A rather little known gathering place for Danes and some other Scandinavians in the pre-World War I period was The Coffee Pot on Milwaukee Avenue near Maplewood Avenue. The new immigrant might have had difficulty finding it — it was not on North Avenue. But any kindly soul could have directed him. At The Coffee Pot one probably would have learned about a boarding house on Maplewood Avenue, just around the corner, operated by Anna Christiansen of Copenhagen and Marie Nielsen of Kolding. They were cousins. Marie Nielsen, many years later, lived at The Danish Home on Newcastle Avenue in Norwood Park.

# Jack A. Rye . . .

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But back to North Avenue: For a good many years a shopper could stop at Boserup's Variety Store on North near St. Louis Avenue and end up with a strange variety of merchandise. He sold dolls and toys and magazines and what-not, but he also was favored by Danes, like himself, for his tobacco products. One of Boserup's tobacco "delicacies" was a plug of chew – en Dansk skraa – which sold for five cents and looked like something that somebody had already thrown out. Yet, a lot of old-timers, Christian Iversen of Ringkøbing, for one, walked many blocks to purchase such a skraa.

All immigrant organizations were not so well known as Dania, Harmonien, or the D.A. A. C. There was, for instance, the Minnow Bucket Club which was more or less devoted to fishing and whose members included Emil Henriksen of Silkeborg, an engineer at Bell & Howell Camera Co. Henriksen and his fellow Danes would go out to Wauconda, for instance, to fish in nearby lakes, sometimes accompanied by Henry Beck, upholsterer William Iversen, Aage C. Rye and Carl Christiansen, the latter two a couple of cronies from early days in København.

There also was the Christmas Morning Club, a more family-oriented group, that held some meetings in Iversen's upholstery shop. This group earned some notoriety, in a sense, by presenting to its members such birthday gifts as a horse (in Chicago, and on the Northwest Side!), a live pig (also on the Northwest Side!), a huge tackle box full of spoiled fish bait, and a kayak, the latter to Louis Carlson who had just bought a cottage site on Wonder Lake, which had not yet had water. Carlson was a Swede who lived on Monticello Avenue, just off of North.

Grundlov's Dag brought together almost every Dane, and in Chicago years ago it was celebrated with a huge outing on the picnic grounds of Riverview Park, an amusement center on North Western Avenue which no longer exists. Various Danish clubs would enter teams for soccer, softball, folk dancing, and other events — and many of them came to the festival from Wisconsin and Indiana. It was a memorable day, to say the least.

There were great places to eat along the North Avenue corridor, such as The Green Lantern on North near California Boulevard, The Wee Lunch Room on North near Kedzie, and Nielsen's Restaurant on North far out near Harlem Avenue. All Danish. A Dane named Quist had a tiny restaurant on Grand Avenue, just around the corner from D. R. Cameron Grade School, where a child could buy a plate of spaghetti for five cents.

Jack A. Rye



## Elk Horn's Højskole

The first Danish Folk School in America was founded in Elk Horn, Iowa in 1878. The school served as a magnet for Danish immigrants, drawing them to Elk Horn in great numbers. Historian P. S. Vig estimated that between two and three thousand Danish men and women studied at the school before fanning out across the globe to take up their different positions in life. Many of those associated with Elk Horn's Højskole - students, teachers and administrators alike - became distinguished names in Danish American history.

During the thirty-nine years of its existence, the primary identity of the school remained definitively Danish, but through its various reorganizations, it bore testimony to the processes of acculturation. The school's last classes were held in 1917.

And the People Came . . . Elk Horn's Folk School, a Crucible of Danish Immigrant History was on display at the the Museum from November 26, 1999 through June 11, 2000.



### FIRST LUTHERAN PARSONAGE, C. LATE 1870S

Digitalized photographic reproduction  
Inset photo upper left (panel at right)

Courtesy of the Danish Immigrant Archive, Grand View College

The first parsonage was built in 1876 to house Pastor

# Højskole...

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O. L. Kirkeberg who came to serve the Elk Horn Lutheran congregation in April of that year. Kirkeberg played a very active role in the founding of America's first Danish folk school and it is his presence in Elk Horn that was a decisive element in the location of the school. Chicago, Illinois was the site originally suggested, but owing to a complex play of circumstances, Elk Horn was chosen as the home for this deeply significant educational venture.

Charismatic personalities played an important role in the development of the Danish folk schools. And Kirkeberg was no exception. It is said that his lectures carried the school in its beginnings. At his best, he was eloquent and poetic, capable of deeply moving his listeners.

At the Højskole, classes were offered in the usage of the English language. All other instruction was conducted in Danish. Lectures were given in the assembly hall and were open to the community. Teachers and students lived in close proximity, sharing a social situation that was family-like in its structure. Communal meals were served in the parsonage, which stood near the school buildings.

## ELK HORN'S FOLK SCHOOL, C. 1878-1880

Digitalized photographic reproduction (right panel, page 5)

Courtesy of the Danish Immigrant Archive, Grand View College

Elk Horn's first folk school building was erected during the summer of 1878. It was built on a three acre site donated by Elk Horn's Danish Lutheran congregation. The bottom floor of the school building was divided into four rooms, one of which served as a dormitory facility for the students. The upper floor housed an assembly hall which was used for meetings. It also served as a place for worship services until the congregation was able to build its first church in 1882.

Elk Horn's Højskole has the distinction of being the birthplace of *Dannevirke*, the distinguished Danish language publication that was to engage its readers for 70 years. The Folk School's first President, O. L. Kirkeberg and his assistant, Kristian Østergaard, were the first editors of *Dannevirke*. Three of the school's students helped to finance and print the paper. The initial issue appeared on January 1, 1880. Within a short time, *Dannevirke* was moved to Racine, Wisconsin and then to Cedar Falls, Iowa, where it was published for many years, ceasing in 1950.

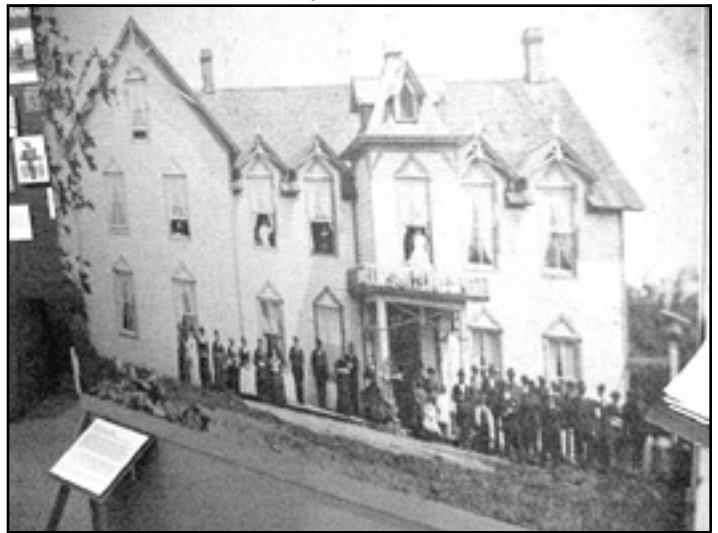
Gladhjem, the small building seen in the background, was also built during the summer of 1878. It served as a home for the teachers. It is within one of its rooms that *Dannevirke* was printed.

## ELK HORN'S FOLK SCHOOL, C. 1882-1887

Digitalized photographic reproduction

Courtesy of the Danish Immigrant Archive, Grand View College

The founding of Elk Horn's folk school grew from profound convictions held by leaders of "den danske Kirke i



Amerika". Many of the pastors who served in America's Danish Lutheran churches had received a significant part of their training in folk schools in Denmark. They brought with them a deep awareness of the many ways that the folk schools had enriched the lives of the Danish people and they were committed to implementing this educational ideal in America for the benefit of Danish immigrants and their families. It is not surprising, therefore, that the greater number of those men who directed Elk Horn's folk school were pastors. In this capacity, they simultaneously served Elk Horn's Lutheran congregation.

Pastor O. L. Kirkeberg resigned his position as Director of the Højskole within the first two years of the school's founding, leaving a discernible void in leadership. The day-to-day operation of the school was financially demanding and initial attendance was more modest than anticipated. As a result, the school entered into heavy debt during its first two years. These circumstances resulted in its closing for a few months during 1880. It reopened in December of that year under the direction of Pastor H. J. Pedersen who was called to Elk Horn from Gowen, Michigan.

Under Pedersen's financially astute administration and with the help of many supporters, the folk school achieved solid financial footing. Classes expanded; teachers were added. The Danish Folk School began to thrive in this new land.

The daily routine at Elk Horn resembled closely life as it was lived in the folk schools of Denmark. The main emphasis was on lectures which dealt with history, mythology, and religious or literary personalities. There were also classes with instruction in more practical subjects such as mathematics, physics, geography, penmanship and grammar. There were classes in sewing for girls, and the girls would often knit or embroider during lectures or when teachers read passages from classical literature. The day opened and closed with a

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Photographers: Ronald Jones, Museum Staff



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# Højskole...

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period of devotion, songs were sung at the beginning of nearly all classes. Swedish gymnastic sessions provided exercise and folk dancing was very popular. The newly arrived immigrants were taught English, but the Danish language was used almost exclusively.

Enok Mortensen, “Schools for Life”

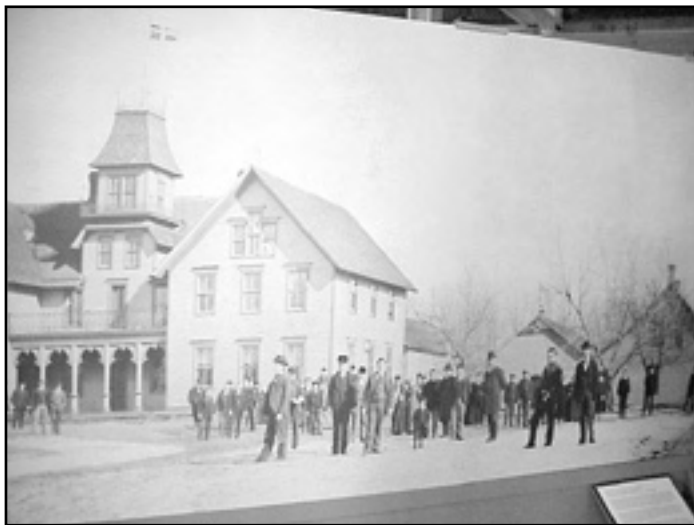
H. J. Pedersen resigned directorship of Elk Horn’s Folk School in 1882. He went on to found folk schools in Ashland, Michigan and the well known Danebod Folk School in Tyler, Minnesota. Kristian Anker, who had been serving as a pastor in Chicago, replaced Pedersen as the director of Elk Horn’s Højskole. The building addition shown reflects the school’s growing viability. The entire structure burned to the ground in 1887.

## ELK HORN’S FOLK SCHOOL, C. 1887 TO EARLY 1890’S

Digitalized photographic reproduction

Courtesy of the Danish Immigrant Archive, Dana College

Elk Horn’s first folk school building was destroyed by fire in 1887. It was replaced within months by the structure shown in this photograph. During the beginning years of the school, men and women were educated separately. The men attended the winter classes and a special session was held during the summer for girls and young women. It was shortly before the girls’ 1887 session that the first building burned. The second building was erected so quickly and



efficiently, however, that 15 girls were able to begin classes in the new structure by August 3, 1887.

The 1887 building was eventually destroyed by fire as well.<sup>2</sup> During the time (1887-1910) that it hosted classes, events and the closely knit dormitory living that characterized such schools, this building bore witness to profound changes in both the emphasis and structure of Elk Horn’s Folk School.

The Folk School and the three acres of land on which it

was built had originally been owned by its first president, O. L. Kirkeberg. Upon his resignation, the financially troubled school was turned over to the Danish Church (in America). In 1890, the school returned to private ownership. It was purchased at that time by Pastor Kristian Anker, who had served as the Folk School’s director since 1882. Under Anker’s combined leadership/ownership, a number of changes were effected in the school’s structure.

When Kristian Anker assumed ownership of Elk Horn’s Folk School in 1890, he began to expand and develop the curriculum, pushing the course offerings beyond those associated with Danish folk education in its pure form. It was around this time period that the school became known as Elk Horn College. Courses of study were added in business, teacher’s training and preparatory work for college and university matriculation. American students were now able to work toward county and state teaching certification at the college.

Under Anker’s leadership, the Elk Horn school flourished. A great many were drawn to study within its halls. But the folk school emphasis receded. It became one course of study, among others, offered within the larger whole. The College also became co-educational. The modification of the folk school emphasis did not go unnoticed. Some regarded the College’s expanded offerings as a betrayal of the folk school spirit; others saw them as an unacceptable expression of “Americanization.”

Kristian Anker himself perceived his changes as a means of preserving Danish identity among the young: “I realized that our talented young people who desired education which prepared them for various professional occupations, were unable to acquire this in an ordinary folk school, and must therefore necessarily attend American schools; and if our most able and progressive youth thus were thrust into an almost alien world without having been under our influence, they would scarcely return to us again; and even if they did they would be strangers to us, and we to them. They would no longer be accepted as our own, and it is precisely that kind of progressive elements we cannot be without . . .” (1903)

## ELK HORN’S FOLK SCHOOL, C. 1907 - 1910

Digitalized photographic reproduction

Enlargement made from gift of Caroline Hansen 92.19.7

In 1894, the shape and structure of Elk Horn’s school was again impacted — this time by powerful forces at play among the Danish Lutheran immigrant congregations. Conflicts between followers of Grundtvigian thinking and those of the Inner Mission persuasion were becoming increasingly sharp and divisive. The North Church (The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America), which was organized in Elk Horn in 1894 with an Inner Mission emphasis, bought back the Elk Horn school from Pastor Anker for use as a theological seminary and preparatory school. The North Church seminary classes began on the Elk Horn campus in

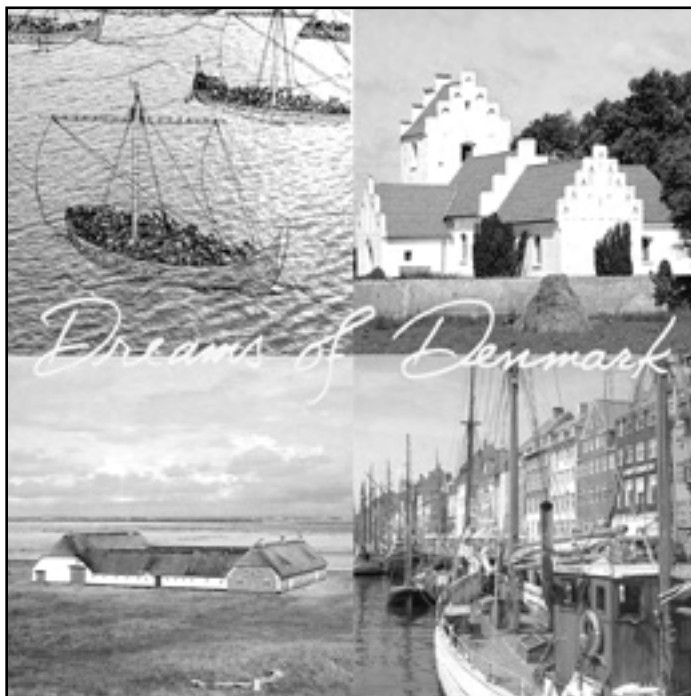
<sup>2</sup>A first hand account of the 1910 fire that took this building was provided in the reference notebook accompanying this exhibition (Paulus Falck memories).

## Dreams of Denmark available through Museum Shop

The Danish Immigrant Museum is pleased to announce the release of a new music CD and a video featuring the traditional songs of Denmark, composed and produced by Johnathan David Neal. Neal is a composer of Danish American heritage. He has enjoyed an extensive and varied music career in the US and Europe, composing music for films, television and CDs.

In the composer's words, "Those who grew up in Denmark will recognize this music as traditional music that describes a beautiful country with islands, oceans, coastline and forests. It tells the stories of Viking kings and queens, their castles and the Danish flag. The music is composed and arranged in a grand film score style that describes the grandeur of places like the magnificent Skagen where the Skagerrak Sea and the Kattegat Sea crash together, Roskilde, where the Viking ships are located and Krongorg Slot, the castle where the legendary Viking, Holger Danske, sleeps waiting to arise and protect Denmark. The major purpose of this music is to enrich our understanding of what Denmark and Danes are all about."

The CD features six suites of traditional Danish music. "It is a Lovely Land", "On Sealand's Fair Plains", and "There Stands a Castle in the West" are among the 18 songs presented. The video features beautiful scenes of familiar sites in Denmark set to the musical score that is on the CD. It is not a travel film, but rather, an artistic composition designed to engage the viewer in a journey of the imagination.



The CD and video are available for purchase through the Danish Immigrant Museum Gift Shop. You may order by phone (800) 759-9192; fax (712) 764-7002; e-mail [dkgift@netins.net](mailto:dkgift@netins.net) or mail a written request to The Danish Immigrant Museum, P.O. Box 470, Elk Horn, IA 51531.

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## Museum Shop's Summer Catalog now available

The Summer Museum Shop Catalog has been mailed to all members of The Danish Immigrant Museum. A complete updated book list is included in the catalog along with many new gift items, some from Denmark. We have extra copies of the catalog available for those who wish to have catalogs sent to friends or relatives. Simply e-mail us at [dkgift@netins.net](mailto:dkgift@netins.net) or phone (800) 759-9192.

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*Just a Reminder—*

### The Museum's SPRING AND 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**

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## February board meeting held in Atlanta

The 54th Regular Meeting of The Danish Immigrant Museum Board of Directors was held on February 17-19, 2000 in Atlanta, Georgia at the Holiday Inn-Buckhead. At the Thursday night's President Dinner, the newly elected Board of Directors were welcomed, along with the attending incumbent Board Members.

Committee Meetings were held all day Friday. On Saturday

the General Session was called to order by Board President, Halvor Strandskov. Other Officers of the Board are Janet Thuesen, Vice President, Helen Stub, Secretary and John Molgaard, Treasurer. The General Session reviewed and acted on each Committee's recommendations, adjourning in time to attend the Gala Evening at the Carter Center.



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# Gala evening at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia

On February 19, 2000, The Danish Immigrant Museum co-hosted a Gala Evening celebrating Danish tradition and culture with the Danish clubs and community of Atlanta.

Co-hosted by the Danish American Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta, Georgia, The Viking Club of Georgia, Den Danske Dameklub of Atlanta, Georgia and The Rebild National Society of Atlanta, the evening was a collaborative effort showcasing the Museum. Approximately 160 people attended the Gala Evening at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Center. An exquisite Danish/Southern theme dinner was served by Vagn and Lotte Nielsen's "Proof of the Pudding". Leisurely dinner courses unfolded throughout the evening.

Dinner and Silent Auction bidding was interspersed with lively social discourse and background music played by Dixie Knowles. Jonathan David Neal, composer and artist was spotlighted as after-dinner entertainment, performing renditions from his latest CD and video project, "Dreams of Denmark".

Silent Auction bidding transpired during the course of the evening and culminated in raising over \$3,800 for the Museum. Special recognition goes to all of the contributors who donated such wonderful items for the auction. There



was a variety of items from Carlsberg and Tuborg beer, gold and silver Dagmar crosses, Hardanger, and catered dinners. The apex of bidding was on a "Lil' Bit o' Denmark Trip to Elk Horn, Iowa", complete with airfare, car rental and Bed & Breakfast lodging. The lucky high bidders can be assured that the royal red Danish carpet will be rolled out for their visit.

Thank you to all who helped support the Museum through this event! A very special thank you to the people of Atlanta, the club members and the representatives of each club with whom we were privileged to work: Johnny Nielsen, Otto Schack von Brockdorff, Jette Bender, Kit Brandt and the core coordinator, Vagn Nielsen. Tusinde Tak!



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## Calendar of 2000 Events for the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton

- **OCTOBER 21, 22 – STATE AND NATIONAL HAND CORN HUSKING CONTESTS** in Kimballton. Parade of horses, huskers & wagons, Iowa's Best Huskers, Nation's Best Huskers, Danish and American foods, and much more.
- **NOVEMBER 24, 25, 26 - JULEFEST 2000** Craft boutiques, Danish foods, entertainment, Father Christmas visit.



## Exhibition to Travel to The Danish Home in Chicago

The Museum's exhibition Danish American Cultural Life in Chicago will travel to Chicago's Danish Home, where it will be on display from October 23, 2000 to January 7, 2001. The exhibition focuses on Chicago's remarkably vital Danish American community and its cultural activities from turn-of-the-century to the 1960's. During the time that the exhibition is in the Danish Home, it is expected that many who were active in Chicago's earlier Danish community will take advantage of this showing to revisit a very special chapter in their lives and heritage.

# “The Vikings Have Landed” in Elk Horn, Iowa May 27 and 28, 2000

Presiding over this 21st Annual Tivoli Fest were King Emmert and Queen Neoma Steen of Elk Horn. They were chosen by a community vote, recognizing their long history of service and commitment to the community. The Danish Immigrant Museum has also benefited from their community service and volunteerism, particularly in the area of Collections with Neoma Steen as an active long-time helper.

Following Saturday morning’s parade, festivities throughout town included serving of authentic Danish food (æbleskiver and medisterpølse, and of course open-face sandwiches), crafts, petting zoo, pony rides, Danish folk dancers, music, yo-yo workshop, basketball competitions and a spectacular closing fireworks display.

The free shuttle service between downtown and The Danish Immigrant Museum made it easy for visitors to take in the Prairie Star Quilt Show at the Museum, entitled Images from School. This particular theme was chosen to complement the current exhibit of And the People Came . . . Elk Horn’s Folk School, a Crucible of Danish Immigrant History. Also open for viewing and hands-on interaction at the Museum were handwork demonstrations of woodcarving, needlework, spinning wool, straw weaving and paper cutting (papirklip). A new addition to the demonstrations this year was a presentation of “Danish Floral Traditions through the Years”.

Travel films of Denmark featuring Nørre Snede (original home of the 150-year old windmill now in Elk Horn), Tivoli Gardens, LegoLand, Copenhagen and Odense were shown in the Family History and Genealogy Center on the mezzanine of the Museum building.

Sales were brisk and lively in the Museum Gift Shop and the newly published Summer 2000 catalog elicited many compliments as orders were placed.

Many visitors took advantage of the opportunity to take a peek inside Pedstømer’s Hus (Grandmother’s House) in all Hous



period finery. The 1000 Year Celebration of Leif Erickson’s discovery of America was also celebrated by the antics of the Frederikssund Vikingspil group from Denmark who playfully “invaded” Elk Horn for the two-day festivities.

They also gave several demonstrations about the weapons, dress and everyday lives of the Vikings at their encampment site.

Perhaps you would like to plan to spend your next Memorial Day weekend in Elk Horn, Iowa celebrating Tivolifest 2001 with us - it’s a great time for all ages.



## Hensley has left to pursue other interests

The Board of Directors of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn, Iowa wishes to announce that the Museum’s Executive Director, Mr. Leo Hensley, left the employ of the Museum in February of this year to pursue other interests. Mr. Hensley served as Executive Director since February 1998 and was instrumental in improvements in several aspects of the Museum. He was particularly involved with the development of signage and public awareness of the Museum, as he worked to lay the groundwork for later expansion. The Board wishes to extend its appreciation to Mr. Hensley for his service to the Museum and wishes him well for the future.

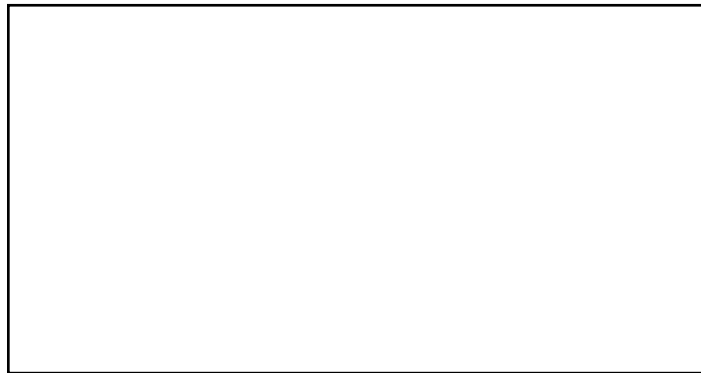
The Board is taking its time in selecting a new Director. During this time, Mr. Rick Burns has stepped in as the Interim Museum Director. Rick has lived in Elk Horn the past three years and speaks, reads and writes Danish fluently. We are very appreciative of Rick taking on the position of Interim Director.

Halvor H. Standskov, Board President



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. The Center is open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Editorial note: Since the Center's opening in 1996, many family mysteries have been resolved and important family linkages established. This is the third of three Stamtræ columns devoted to such stories. The current article is written by core volunteer Mae Petersen.

Four ladies who were going on a Scandinavian tour that would include several days in Denmark were hoping that they would be traveling through areas where their great-grandparents had lived before immigrating to the US. The challenge was that they did not know where in Denmark the great-grandparents had resided. They knew only the birth year dates and dates of death for the great-grandparents, that they were born in Denmark, and, buried in the Harlan, Iowa, cemetery. My assistance was sought in researching the family history so the ladies might make the most of their trip. A cousin of the tourists, who lives in Harlan, offered to help me do this research.

As with any search, you first begin with local records. I looked in old newspapers for an obituary and found the great-grandfather's in a 1924 paper. The great-grandmother's death in 1910 was just a news note of her death. In the local library I found a county history book and a small town centennial history book and both had biographies about this family. The great-grandfather's obituary gave Denmark as his place of birth and this was also indicated in the biographies. From the biographies I learned that he had a brother and sister who also had immigrated to this local area. I looked up his brother's obituary and it gave Sjaelland, Denmark as his birth place. In his sister's obituary Zembaek-Sjaelland, Denmark was given as her birthplace. I could not find Zembaek in a Denmark atlas but did find Hjembaek in Holbaek County in Sjaelland, Denmark.

Census records are very helpful. The 1925 state of Iowa census gives the names of the parents. The Federal 1900 census gives the year of immigration. These gave me more information about the great-grandparents. There are census records for Shelby County, Iowa at the Museum's Family History and Genealogy Center (FHGC).

I checked the Shelby County marriage records for this couple's six children. These records give the names of the parents too. However, the mother's given name and her surname were not consistent throughout the records. (In her daily life people addressed her with her two different given names.)

Now I could go to the FHGC to continue my research using the information I had found. Among the resources in the FHGC that are helpful to family history researchers are the Wall of Honor notebooks, Surname Index File and the Danish Brotherhood Lodge memberships on microfilm.

To do research about families in Denmark you must know the name of their parish (church) and the county in which it is located. This I now had from the sister's obituary. FHGC has the Danish International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.) on microfiche and I was hoping I could find these people in the index, as not all of the churches in Denmark have been indexed. Information from the I.G.I. includes birth, christening and marriage dates of Danish people. Names of parents and spouses and the parish where the event occurred are listed.

I found a lot of information about the great-grandfather from the I.G. I. including his marriage. I now had proof of his wife's given name and surname. Further research was done on her and I found her christening date and the names of her parents. She was from the parish Karlebo in Frederiksborg County, Sjaelland, Denmark.

The great-grandfather and a brother immigrated to Shelby County, Iowa in 1869 from Copenhagen. Later that year his wife and an infant daughter boarded a ship for the US. They would be living in a new log cabin in Jackson township. This immigration information was found in the Copenhagen Police Records (Immigration lists) in the FHGC. A story that the descendants of this couple had heard was that the infant died and was buried at sea. There are no early records of this child here in Shelby County, including the 1870 census.

The great-grandparents were married in early 1869 at the Trinitatis Church in Kobenhavn (city). This is the well-known church with the Rundetarn (Round Tower). The tour in Denmark took the ladies to Copenhagen and there they visited this church. The tour did not go through Hjembaek or Karlebo.

The great-grandparents had four sons and two daughters. The wife of one of the son's is a distant relative of mine. She and my mother were second cousins. A nice find! Further research on the great-grandmother is needed to see if she had relatives who came to the United States.

I appreciated the cousin's help in the FHGC. She was happy to find so much information on her great-grandparents. This she shared with the four travelers before the trip and that is how they were able to visit the church in which the great-grandparents were married.

## Director's Corner

The Danish Immigrant Museum, which began as an idea in 1980, has grown into something spectacular. As we move into the new millennium, The Danish Immigrant Museum is dynamically positioned to explore and interpret the contributions and impact of Danish Americans. The Museum staff is actively exploring new and exciting ways of bringing the experiences of Danish Americans to life.

This summer, The Danish Immigrant Museum is producing an outdoor play based on Lois Lowery's book, *Number the Stars*. Lowery's book has won both the American Library Association Book of the Year award and the Newbery Medal award, as well as being a very popular book in schools across the country. The play, set in German occupied Denmark during World War II, tells the story of three Danish girls, one of whom is Jewish. In this fictionalized story, young Annemarie and Kirsti Johansen face soldiers, interrogations, fierce dogs, personal danger, the loss of loved ones, and their own fears as they try to help their friend, Ellen Rosen, escape across the ocean to Sweden and safety.

We feel this is an important step in expanding the programs at the Museum. While we are focusing on making this production a success this summer, we are also looking to the future and hope to make this type of outdoor theater experience an annual event. Please contact the Museum staff for more information if you are interested in participating in this outdoor event.

We are also actively engaged in indexing and packaging the information we have collected in our Family History



and Genealogy Center. Over the years, we have gathered large amounts of information about Danish immigrants. We have begun the long-term project of computerizing the information we have in order to make it more accessible and easier to use for research. We feel this is an important project and will make the Museum much more useful to those wishing to do research.

There are tremendous possibilities for exploring new and exciting Danish immigration topics. Post-World War II immigration, immigration trends in the future, the influence of global businesses on Danish immigration, etc are all areas that deserve consideration as we further develop the Museum. The Danish Immigration Museum is committed to becoming an even more important focal point for research into all aspects of Danish immigration.

The Museum has made gigantic leaps from its early beginnings. There are few, if any, who are not awe-struck by the beauty of the Museum facilities. Staff contributions to the growth, credibility, and maturity of the Museum over its short life have been nothing short of phenomenal. Coupled with your past and continued support, The Danish Immigrant Museum has a tremendous future. I am personally excited about the potential of adding new and broader programs and exhibits to our calendar in the coming years. I hope that you will join the excitement and help us increase the momentum through your continued support.

**Rick Burns**

## Education . . .

– continued from page 2

could present a Saturday program for their families. These students were also taught to make the Danish woven heart from brightly colored paper and to sing "Nu har vi Jul igen". For the Saturday performance they danced around a small Christmas tree on which the hearts were displayed. As they danced around the tree, their families were asked to join in and then the whole group wound around the museum in the traditional Danish fashion singing the well known Danish Christmas song. Two well attended performances were held on Saturday.

All who participated in the Tante Andante program at the museum whether as a volunteer, as a participating teacher or a student, or as the audience came away with a rewarding feeling. It was wonderful to see our local children come to

the museum and partake in an activity where they learned a little about Danish immigration and the Danish language, and had the opportunity to work with a young creative and talented Danish educator.

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# Højskole...

– continued from page 7

the Fall of 1894.

In 1896, the North Church merged with the Blair Church (The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Association in America), also Inner Mission in emphasis. The Blair Church already had an established seminary in Blair, Nebraska



and the two seminaries now joined forces. Classes for the 1896-97 academic year were held on the Elk Horn campus, but beginning with the fall of 1897, they were permanently moved to the Trinity Seminary location in Blair. The college department remained in Elk Horn until 1899 when it, too,

was moved to Blair. The synod's official college, now located in Blair, eventually became known as Dana College

In the early 1900's, Elk Horn's congregation, desiring to continue their school, formed a corporation to purchase the school property from the synod. The Elk Horn school remained open during the interval between the move of the college department and the congregation's purchase of the school property.

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## Protector

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark

## Patron Members

The following members have made a gift of \$1000 or more in the past 12 months, between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999:

Dennis J. Andersen - Atlanta, GA  
Mildred Andersen - Elk Horn, IA  
Harold and Lois Berg - Ogden, IA  
Arnold Bodtker - Junction City, OR  
Jack and Barbara Christensen - Yankton, SD  
Ross Christensen - Waterloo, IA  
Gordon and Janice Esbeck - Tipton, IA  
Howard Esbeck - Ames, IA  
Stuart and Rosalyn Fallgatter - Mesa, AZ  
Asta Forrest - Fountain Hills, AZ  
Harriet Fort - DeWitt, NE  
Earl and LaVena Fries - Des Moines, IA  
Richard Hansen - Aurora, NE  
Rosa Hansen - Hampton, IA  
Gunnar Horn - Omaha, NE  
James and Marge Iversen - Ames, IA  
Frode and Catherine Jensen - New Canaan, CT  
Iver and Lis Jorgensen - Gilroy, CA  
Virgil Karmgard - Fargo, ND  
Peter and Susan Kelly - Glastonbury, CT

Lawrence and Jane Larsen - Harlan, IA  
Richard Ledet - Des Moines, IA  
Margaret Lykke - Council Bluffs, IA  
Charles Manatt - Washington, DC  
John and Geri Martinsen - Bellevue, WA  
Ruth Nielsen - Omaha, NE  
Folmer and Vera Nyby - Fountain Hills, AZ  
Henry and Sharon Olesen - Woodstock, IL  
Robert Olsen - Carroll, IA  
Nadjeschda Overgaard - Kimballton, IA  
Tom and Julie Rosen - Fairmont, MN  
Anelise Sawkins - Minneapolis, MN  
Lemuel and Edith Sprow - Mound, MN  
Svend and Lois Toftemark - Eugene, OR  
Erik and Lissi Vange - Palatine, IL  
Wilber Williamson - Des Moines, IA

American Express Foundation - Princeton, NJ  
Audubon State Bank Charitable Foundation - Audubon, IA  
Charitable Gift Fund - Boston, MA  
Danish American Club in Orange County - Villa Park, CA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15 - Urbandale, IA  
Danish Old People's Home - Rochester Hills, MI  
General Mills Foundation - Minneapolis, MN  
Leman USA Inc. - Sturtevant, WI  
\*deceased



# Volunteer spotlight

In this America Letter, the Volunteer Spotlight is on Jeanette Lillehoj, a dedicated, versatile and knowledgeable volunteer who lives in Kimballton, Iowa. Jeanette's involvement with the Danish Immigrant Museum goes back to 1994 when the building opened.

Jeanette works at the front desk greeting visitors two to three Monday mornings a month, conducts group tours, teaches food classes when the Museum holds one of its Danish Heritage Series, and, sometimes assists Curator Barbara Lund-Jones with research projects. Jeanette is known as an inspiring tour guide, especially for tours by children. She knows how to make the immigrant experience come alive for children of all ages, stimulating their interest and sparking their curiosity.



Jeanette Lillehoj

Last fall Jeanette played an instrumental role in bringing to the Museum Benedicte Riis, an educator from Denmark, who, as Tante Andante, presented a program of song, round games and paper cutting art to approximately 265 of the area's third and fourth grade children.

Jeanette, the oldest of five children, was born in Kimballton to Martha and Henning Rasmussen. She attended grade school in Kimballton and, for six weeks each summer, went to the Danish-English Church summer school. The teachers, some born in Denmark, came from Grand View College and according to Jeanette, imparted a "flavor of Danishness" to the children. Following graduation from Elk Horn High School, she married Eivind Lillehoj, who comes from the same small community. "We grew up together," she said. Eivind and Jeanette farmed for 10 years and, during this time, three of their children were born.

The couple decided to further their education and consequently moved to Ames where they attended Iowa State University. After Eivind received his doctorate degree in Plant Physiology, the family spent a year in Copenhagen, Denmark where he was employed by Carlsburg Laboratories. During this time they traveled whenever possible.

In 1965, they returned to the US and lived in Peoria, Illinois for 13 years. It was during this time that Jeanette attended Bradley University, obtained a BS degree in secondary educa-

tion, and, began teaching. While she taught, Jeanette earned her Masters degree in elementary education. It was also in Peoria that Eivind and Jeanette's fourth child was born.

From Peoria the family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana where they lived for 10 years, during which time Jeanette continued her teaching career. The couple returned to make their home in Kimballton when Eivind retired in 1989. Over the years, Jeanette and Eivind's family has grown to include ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Besides her commitment to the Museum, Jeanette is a member of the Community Heritage Society, is on the Board of Directors for Salem Lutheran Homes and is an active member in her church. She enjoys reading and traveling (they have been back to Denmark three times). Eivind is a past member of The Danish Immigrant Museum's Board of Directors and Jeanette says she made some good friends as she traveled with him to meetings around the country.

Jeanette's heritage (her paternal grandparents and maternal great-grandparents were Danish immigrants), and the fact that she grew up and has lived in a "closely-linked community" has given her an interest and love for Danish history and customs. We sometimes feel we ask a lot of Jeanette, as she is kept busy with tours, especially in the summer months. Jeanette's reply: "It's my heritage - not an imposition. It's a joy." To Jeanette, The Danish Immigrant Museum is very important as a cultural, historical and educational institution - a "benefit to southwest Iowa and to Iowa itself." Thanks Jeanette!



## Board of Director's June meeting held in Chicago

The Board of Directors of The Danish Immigrant Museum held their 55th Regular Meeting, June 8-10, 2000 at the Northbrook Hilton Hotel in Chicago. The group kicked-off their meetings with the President's Dinner on Thursday evening. Friday, Board members conducted Committee and General Session meetings. Saturday featured a "Traveling through Time" bus tour focusing on Danish-American history in Chicago. Saturday evening the Board dined at the Scandinavian Club in Arlington heights for an "Evening of Memories and Song".

# Kramme receives Danish Heritage Preservation Award

The Honorable Lowell B. Kramme, Royal Danish Consul, Des Moines, Iowa received Grand View College's Danish Heritage Preservation Award during its "Studentfest" April 15, 2000 in Des Moines.

Mr. Kramme's achievements were succinctly summarized by the College: "Whether visiting with Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, an ambassador, or Jane Doe, Kramme never misses an opportunity to share the story of the Danes and their contributions to America. He is a tireless promoter of the institutions which reflect and are preserving the Danish Heritage for future generations."

In his acceptance speech, Kramme shared his underlying vision: "In this new century I see yet a new frontier for Grand View College. Using the richness of its Danish heritage as a foundation as well as a bridge to the future, Grand View has boundless opportunities for cooperative efforts with Dana College, The Danish Immigrant Museum and The Danish Heritage Society. The story of Danes in America and their many contributions is a story which must be told as well as preserved. It is, most importantly, a story of values, one which can motivate and inspire present and future generations of young people from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. This story can show them what hard work, creative thinking, and commitment can accomplish.

"Among Danish Americans there is still a strong interest in keeping their Danish Heritage alive and a new interest in the History of Danish Immigration that occurred decades ago. Many Danes in Denmark share with their Danish American relatives a

sense that the relationship between them and between the United States and Denmark is an important one."

Kramme went on to speak of the ever increasing number of contacts between the US and Denmark in the business world and in cultural and academic areas. He mentioned the National Danish Gymnastics tour in 1997, The Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition held in New York's Lincoln Center last November (which was attended by Queen Margrethe II); and the Danish National Symphony Orchestra appearances earlier this year at Carnegie Hall in New York, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Symphony Center in Chicago.

Kramme firmly believes that the groundwork must be laid now if "this spirit of cooperation" is to continue to flourish in future generations. He spoke specifically to the Grand View audience, but Kramme's words apply to all Danish Heritage institutions in this country. Preservation of our heritage can only benefit through hands extended "Across Oceans - Across Time".



## *Annual Leadership Society*

Those members who have contributed \$2500 or more in the past 12 months, from January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999:

Anonymous

Anonymous

Charles and Joanne Frederiksen - Ames, IA

Gronbech Family Trust - San Diego, CA

Vernon Hunter - Fargo, ND

Clyde and Emma Johnson - Omaha, NE

Lowell and Marilyn Kramme - Des Moines, IA

Bruce Lauritzen - Omaha, NE

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 - Alexandria, VA

Cedar Valley Danes - Cedar Falls, IA

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

Sudan Mission (Sudanmissionen) - Christianfeld, DK and Kenmare, ND

Viking Metal Cabinets - Chicago, IL

Woodmen of the World - Highlands Ranch, CO

\*deceased

American Express Foundation, Princeton, NJ

Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA

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

Sudan Mission (Sudanmissionen), Christianfeld, DK and Kenmare, ND

Viking Metal Cabinets, Chicago, IL

Woodmen of the World, Highlands Ranch, CO

## *Lifetime Leadership Society*

Those members who have given a cumulative amount of \$25,000 or more during their lifetime:

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



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# Exhibition schedule

## Danish American

### Cultural Life in Chicago

June 19, 2000 - October 9, 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.

### Pictorial Treasures: The work of Nulle Øigaard and Ib Spang Olsen

August 7, 2000 - October 16, 2000

Danish tapestry artist Nulle Øigaard is recognized for her magnificent pictorial tapestries that often are referred to as paintings of cloth. Inspired by nature and the metaphysical world, she creates fabric collages filled with beauty and vivid colors. Ib Spang Olsen is one of Denmark's foremost graphic artists and illustrators. His extensive output includes book and magazine illustrations, book covers, pencil drawings and sketches. Among these are his much admired H. C. Andersen illustrations. The exhibition, organized by the Nordic Heritage Museum, provides an overview of their

work. Lena Torslow Hansen has contributed toward the exhibit in an advisory capacity.



### Leadership Society . . .

– continued from page 12

Eugene M. Robinson - Pensacola, FL  
Schultz and 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



– Harlan, IA Tribune Graphics

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