



1805-2005 - The Bicentennial of Hans Christian Andersen's Birth

Exhibits, story-telling, a conference and a tour are ways The Danish Immigrant Museum is celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of one of the world's most beloved storytellers, Hans Christian Andersen. Born to a poor couple in Odense, Denmark, on April 2, 1805, Andersen, like so many characters in his well-known sto-

ries, rose to prominence and found success. While he is best remembered for his stories, (some 190 in all), he

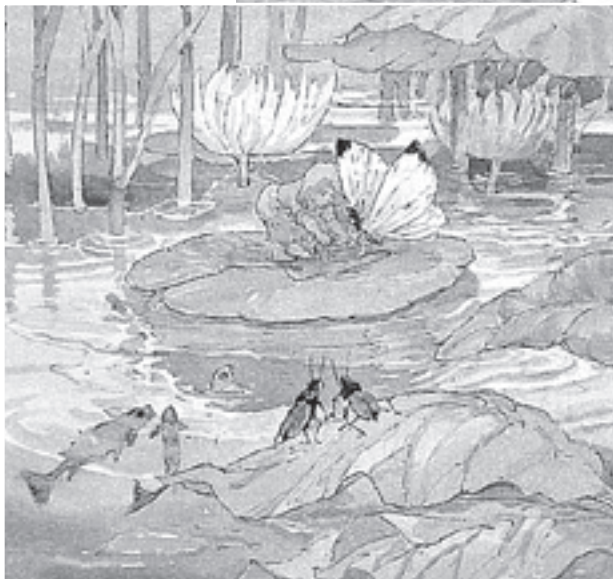
this anniversary year with readings of some of Andersen's lesser known *eventyr*. These can be heard during the week following the first Tuesday of each month by visiting the Museum's website and clicking on the link to radio station KJAN.

An exhibit of prints and photographs depicting scenes from favorite stories are on view in the Museum's lower level throughout the year. This exhibit features work by Danish artists Svend Otto S. and Mads Stage and photographer Frederik Johs. Matted or framed copies of exhibited works are available in the Museum Shop and on-line.

Through a generous gift from former Board member Dennis Andersen of Atlanta, Georgia, The Danish Immigrant Museum will be a national sponsor of *Hans Christian Andersen on Parade*. This tour features a performance by twenty-four Danish actors who represent favorite Andersen characters. Tour stops include New York, Boston, Chicago, Omaha, and Des Moines, as well as Elk Horn and Kimballton, Iowa!

Culminating the year's celebration is the Museum's co-sponsorship of a major conference *Danish Culture, Past and Present the Last 200 Years*. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Des Moines, Iowa, from October 13-

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Artwork by Danish artists depicting favorite Andersen tales is on exhibit this year at the Museum. Among the prints exhibited, from top to bottom, *Ugly Duckling*, *Thumbelina*, and *the Nightingale*.





Director's Corner

By John Mark Nielsen

As I travel the country, visiting members and potential supporters, I more fully appreciate both the challenges

and the opportunities facing The Danish Immigrant Museum. Our history is diverse, our communities are scattered, and the population of Danish Americans and Danes living in the United States is relatively small. Each community and Danish American organization has its own history and identity of which it is justifiably proud.

Recently, I had the privilege of speaking to the Scandinavian American Association of Washington D.C. and meeting with the staff of the American Scandinavian Foundation at Scandinavia House in New York City. These visits followed trips to the Pacific Northwest and the Southwest as well as speaking engagements in small communities like Tyler, Minnesota, and Ringsted, Iowa. It is easy to conclude that the Danish American community is divided into regions each with a different center of activity.

Our history and the institutions that represent the Danish American community are varied. The Danish Brotherhood in America founded by Mark Hansen in Omaha in 1882, the American Scandinavian Foundation founded in New York City in 1910 by the Danish American industrialist, Niels Poulsen, and The Rebuild National Park Society founded in 1912 by Max Henius in Chicago have had local lodges or chapters that have spanned the country. Today many of the local chapters and lodges struggle to maintain or attract younger members.

Those of us who support The Danish Immigrant Museum recognize there are museums that serve local or regional populations. Elverhoj Museum in Solvang, California, tells the rich history of the Danes in the Santa Inez Valley of Southern California. The Nordic Heritage Museum of Seattle, Washington, founded in 1980 celebrates the history of Scandinavians in the Pacific Northwest. Two newcomers, The Danish American Cultural Center of Danevang, Texas,

founded in 2002 and the Daneville Heritage Museum founded last year in Viborg, South Dakota, focus on the history of important Danish American settlements.

The central challenge for The Danish Immigrant Museum is to support and serve this diverse and widely scattered community. To do so, we must think strategically and creatively as we look to the future. We must be open to possibilities of partnering with other organizations and institutions without compromising the standards of caring for the over 35,000 artifacts that have been entrusted to us. We must explore new technologies and develop creative ways of reaching out with traveling exhibits and program resources to communities across the country.

I am pleased that the Board of Directors has embarked on a strategic planning process. Important to me, and I believe to our membership, is that members have done so, not by going out and hiring a consultant firm, but by drawing on the proven experience of board members who have been professionally involved in strategic planning. I am also impressed that we have on our Board of Directors members who, at their own expense, are willing to make major commitments in time and their own financial resources in meeting monthly to plan for our future.

We cannot be reminded too often that members of our Board of Directors receive NO reimbursement for their service and they pay ALL the costs of attending board meetings three times a year. In addition, many of them make sizeable annual contributions as well. These are individuals who are devoted to working on your behalf in fulfilling the mission of The Danish Immigrant Museum.

I appreciate that many of you support other organizations and institutions that have been important to the Danish American community. I encourage you to continue that support. I am also grateful that you have chosen to support The Danish Immigrant Museum as well. I invite you to continue that support as we strive to be "your Museum in the Heart of the Continent."



Annual Christmas Card Wins Award

On Saturday, January 22, 2005 at the Annual "Excellence in Printing Banquet" held at the Des Moines Hilton Inn Garden Hotel, Garner Printing was very proud to accept the first place Gold Award for Greeting Cards. Garner had submitted The Danish Immigrant Museum's 2004 Christmas Card designed by Audubon resident, Lorraine Larsen, into the Greeting Card Division for Judging of the Des Moines Club of Printing House Craftsmen. The Card Division was open state-wide to all the members of the Craftsmen Club. The judges overseeing the competition were from printing companies in Kansas City, Omaha and Cedar Falls. Copies of the Award will be presented to the Museum at a later date. Kudos to Museum Shop Manager, Jan Paulsen, for her hard work and attention to detail in producing this award winning Christmas Card!



Hans Christian Andersen . . .

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15, 2005, and will include presentations on Andersen.

For more information on any of these events, please contact the Museum at 1-800-759-9192.

America Letter

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Canadian Danes to Meet at the Museum

The Danish Immigrant Museum, Dana College, and the Danish American Heritage Society are hosting the 24th annual meeting of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada on May 26th through June 1st. Meetings will take place on the Dana College campus in Blair, Nebraska, with an all-day tour to The Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, on Saturday, May 28th.

On Thursday and Friday, May 26th and 27th, the Federation and the Danish Canadian National Museum Society will be holding their annual board and general meetings at the College. Meetings will conclude on Sunday, May 29th, with a church service and luncheon.

Beginning on Sunday afternoon, the Federation will hold its annual seminar. Sessions will focus on the westward

expansion in the United States, Danish immigrant history, wind technology, and Missouri River ecology. There will also be sessions focusing on the history and work of The Danish Immigrant Museum and the Danish Immigrant Archive-Dana College.

Seminar participants will also take tours to Fort Atkinson State Historical Park, the Mormon Trail Center, DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge and Bertrand Steamboat Museum.

For further information concerning the annual meeting and seminar of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, please contact The Danish Immigrant Museum, Box 470; Elk Horn, Iowa 51531; telephone: 1-800-759-9192; email: info@danishmuseum.org

Out with the Old, In with the New

Keeping pace with a rapidly changing computer technology is not an easy thing to do. Programming and equipment become outdated in a very short time and it is cost prohibitive to maintain updates. The Danish Immigrant Museum's archaic computer technology had almost come to the point of a non-functional use as it had not seen an upgrade in many years. But, all of that has changed thanks to the generosity and vision of Folmer and Vera Nyby of Michigan City, Indiana.

The Nyby's have graciously given an investment designated for a complete renovation of the Museum's computer system. Each staff person's workstation proudly boasts having new high-tech computer towers, flat screen monitors, and the most recent museum programming software installed. Additionally, a shared network link was made between the Family History and Genealogy Center and the Museum. The productivity and efficiency of the staff has seen a

dramatic increase.

The Nyby name is no stranger to the Museum. Folmer and Vera's names are inscribed on The Lifetime Leadership Society plaque, The Heritage Builders plaque, and The Wall of Honor bears Folmer's name and Vera's parents' name. Needless to say, the staff at the Museum would like to take this opportunity to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation!!!



Folmer and Vera Nyby

Holocaust Survivor Challenges Students to Consider Acts of Moral Courage

Judy Meisel, who as a young girl survived Stutthof Concentration Camp and was nursed back to health in Denmark following World War II, spoke to over 600 high school students at Audubon, Harlan and Elk Horn-Kimballton High Schools. Her visit on November 10th and 11th to The Danish Immigrant Museum and area schools is part of our effort to expand the Museum's audience.

In preparation for Meisel's visit, the Museum sponsored a workshop for area teachers that focused on using the Danish experience in World War II as a way of teaching about the holocaust and making moral decisions. At the workshop, *Tak for Alt* (Thank You for Everything), a film about Meisel's wartime experiences and her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement here in this country, was shown. Participating schools also



received a "toolkit" that contained *Tak for Alt* as well as other teaching resources, including books, study guides and videos.

These activities were all in preparation for a pilot project the Museum has initiated during the spring of 2005. High school students in Atlantic, Audubon, Elk Horn-Kimballton, Exira and Harlan

have been invited to participate in an essay contest. In their essays, students are to explore an historical act of courage and then link their example to situations faced today. Based on the experience of this year's contest, the Museum hopes to expand this project to include students in Danish American communities around the country.

The Museum wishes to acknowledge and express its gratitude to the Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust of Glenview, Illinois, for providing the funding that has made these activities possible.

Museum members may borrow a DVD or VHS version of the film *Tak for Alt*, the film documenting Meisel's story and expressing her appreciation to the Danes for restoring her faith in humanity. It is available by calling the Museum at 1-800-759-9192.



Celebrating 100 Years of the Danish Christmas Seals

Conrad Pedersen of St. Paul, Minnesota has graciously made his personal collection of Danish Christmas Seals available for this commemorative exhibition. Initially his collection was mounted in wooden frames made by his father. The frames varied somewhat from year-to-year in terms of the woods used and their manner of construction.

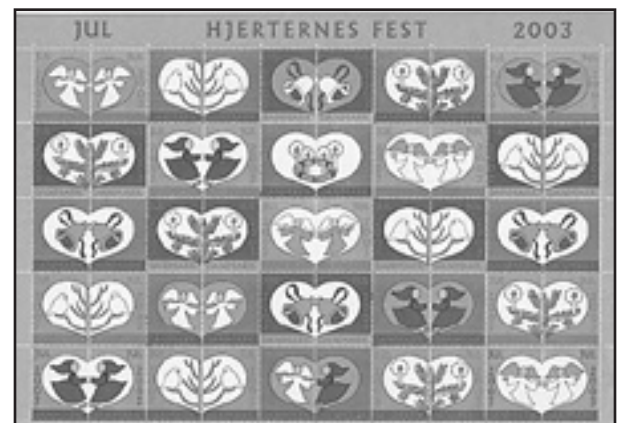
As his collection grew, Conrad sought to make its presentation more uniform. He commissioned the Minnesota-based Danish American framing company, Juhl Pacific, to evaluate and recommend an appropriate presentation. The results of that collaboration are presented here for the viewer's pleasure.

Christmas Seals, now popular worldwide and issued in numerous countries, originated in Denmark in 1904. The idea for the Seal was first

proposed by Einar Holbøll (1865-1927), a Danish postal clerk, who was deeply involved in work with charitable societies.

As a postal clerk, the huge volumes of Christmas mail that Holbøll processed, led him to realize the financial potential inherent in a special issue holiday seal affixed to letters and packages as a goodwill gesture. He envisioned such revenue as a means to assist ill children.

Holbøll's proposal was received with interest and a Christmas Seal Committee was appointed to set up and administer the program. Over the years, the Committee achieved remarkable results. A series of Christmas Seal Homes were established to help children. The first



of these buildings, the Christmas Seal Sanatorium near Kolding, was completed in 1910 and was committed to the care of children suffering from tuberculosis.

Over time, the Christmas Seal Homes addressed a range of illnesses and handicaps in children, including learning disabilities and emotional problems. Additionally, grants from the Christmas Seal funds were extended to a number of organizations whose missions focused on children with special needs.



Danish Culture, Past and Present: The Last 200 Years

Christian Andersen Parade, featuring 24 actors dressed as Andersen characters.

Since 2005 marks the 150th anniversary of Søren Kierkegaard's death, there will be a session featuring Denmark's foremost Kierkegaard scholar, Professor Joakim Garff, University of Copenhagen, and by Dr. Gordon Marino, Director of the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College.

Other important contributors to Danish culture will also be discussed. Three speakers will offer differing perspectives on N.F.S. Grundtvig as prophet and reformer. Professor Marianne Stecher-Hansen, University of Washington, and Linda Donelson, MD, from Iowa City, will share the podium to discuss Karen Blixen, alias Isak Dinesen. Author Karin Michaelis will be explored by author-lecturer Merete von Eyben from Los Angeles.

2005 is also the 150th anniversary of the birth of Kristian Østergaard, an important Danish American author and the poet who wrote the lyrics for the Grand View College anthem. He and other Danish American writers will be discussed in several sessions.

Professor Palle Pedersen from Iowa State University will answer his question: "What can we learn from Danish farmers?" And a major development in contemporary Danish culture, Danish cinema, will be illustrated at Grand View College with the screening of three recent Danish movies and an exploration

of the globalization of Danish cinema. The recent documentary, "The Danish Solution," about the rescue of the Danish Jews in 1943 will be introduced by its maker, Karen Cantor.

Danish and Danish American art, painting, and sculpture will be explored from several angles by Dr. Philip Conisbee, Curator of European Collections at the National Gallery in Washington D.C., as well as Dr. Lea Rosson DeLong, and Dr. J.R. Christianson.

Finally, music, including a one-woman show, a piano recital by Dr. Solon Pierce, and a musical presentation with sing along of Danish songs by composer Joy Ibsen, will also delight and instruct the attendees.

Plan now to attend this exciting conference and look for more information soon.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is pleased to be a co-sponsor of an exciting conference celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen and Danish culture over the past 200 years. The conference will be held on October 13-15, 2005 at the Embassy Suites and Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. Organized and sponsored by the Danish American Heritage Society, this conference follows in the footsteps of the successful conference held in Omaha in 2002. Other conference co-sponsors are Grand View College, Dana College and the Danish Immigrant Archive-Dana College.

Over forty presenters will participate, with individuals coming from Odense and Copenhagen, Denmark, and from across the United States. Featured will be several presentations on Hans Christian Andersen, including "Hans Christian Andersen in Musical Translation," and an interesting perspective on the great Danish storyteller by Torben Grøngaard Jeppesen, Director of Odense Museums. The conference will conclude with a banquet and a performance by the Hans



Jan Paulsen Named to Iowa Group Travel Association Board

Museum Shop Manager, Jan Paulsen has been elected to serve as Secretary and Director at-large for the Iowa Group Travel Association. When Jan first worked at the Museum 10 years ago, she managed the gift shop and was also the Tourism Coordinator. Since that time she served as Tourism



Coordinator for the Danish Windmill and currently holds that same spot at Audubon County. Jan brings a wealth of experience, ideas and enthusiasm to her new post so her 10+ years experience in the tourism industry was just what the IGTA was looking for to fill their vacancy. Congratulations, Jan!

Renewed Strategic Planning Process

In 1998, the Board of Directors adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan that was annually updated by staff. After assuming the position of Executive Director in July 2003, John Mark Nielsen reviewed the plan with staff and found that the reality of the Museum's situation was much different than what had been assumed when the plan was adopted. While the curatorial staff was able to make progress in meeting the adopted

goals, other areas were unable to meet the goals that were set. Most glaring was the inability to achieve the projections for membership growth. Furthermore, Nielsen found that strategic planning was not central to building the annual budgets.

At the June 2004 board meeting in

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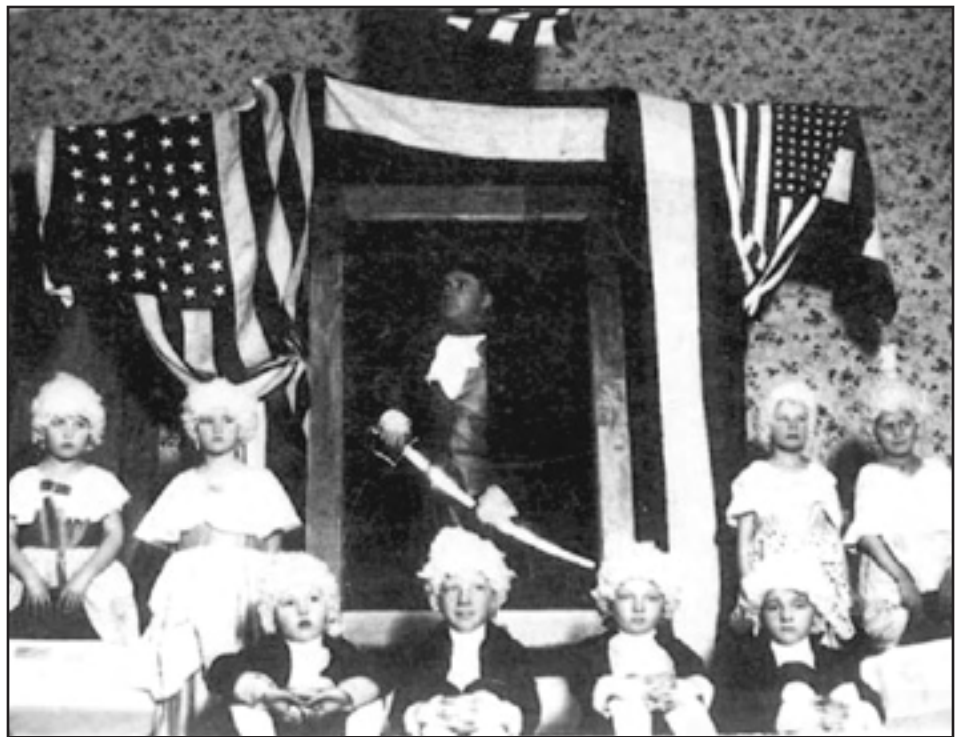
From A Curatorial Perspective . . .

by Barbara Lund-Jones

In this column, I am using a photograph to share a remarkable story from the Northern Plains. The photo dates from 1932 and depicts a vignette from a play celebrating the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. The setting is the Cleveland School in rural Ransom County, North Dakota in the southeastern part of the state.

As you can see from a close study of the photograph, a large, life-size frame draped with American flags dominates the background. Posing in the frame, standing at attention and dressed as George Washington with his hands on his sword, is the principal of the school. Four young schoolgirls sit by the frame, two on either side. In the foreground are four young boys. All of the children are dressed in period costume; each of them wears a curly white wig characteristic of the period.

In addition to being an interesting study in and of itself, this photograph documents one of the many projects of a Danish immigrant couple who farmed in rural Ransom County. This couple, Henri Fugl and his wife Lydia Palmvig Fugl, were the creative force behind this play honoring George Washington. Henri Fugl built the sets. Lydia Fugl made the costumes. The wigs were made from the newly shorn wool of the Fugl's



sheep, which Lydia caught and sheared herself for this play.

Henri Fugl, Lydia's husband, organized large gatherings of Danish Americans annually during the later 1930's in the area of Lisbon, North Dakota. His is a remarkable story and has been told elsewhere. In this column, I want to share with you the story of Lydia Palmvig Fugl, who was quite remarkable in her own right. Lydia emigrated from Co-

penhagen, Denmark to New York City in 1922. In 1924, she left the city to marry Henri Fugl, a widowed Danish immigrant with three young daughters. She joined him on his farm in rural Ransom County, North Dakota. The two of them were very active in rural community life and initiated many projects and activities.

When 4-H was introduced to the Ransom County area in the 1930's, Lydia became the first leader of the local girl's 4-H club, a position that she held for many years. The club was called the Cleveland Cookies and meetings were held after school in the Fugl home. After school was over, 24 girls would walk the mile from their Cleveland school to the Fugl's farm. After eating a hearty dinner, the girls, led by Lydia Fugl, became involved in lessons and demonstrations that embraced cooking, table setting and serving projects and bed making demonstrations.

But the most remarkable aspect of the club's activities was their folk dancing. Lydia trained the girls in folk dancing and made costumes for them. They danced Danish folk dances, as well as some dances from other countries. A number of the girls were dressed as male folk dancers so as to make possible a full range of performance. The dancers initially performed at local 4-H achievement day but as their popularity grew, they

Planning Process . . . – continued from page 5

Elk Horn, Iowa, Nielsen asked that a renewed effort be made to develop a realistic and on-going strategic planning process, one that was flexible enough to adapt to changing realities and yet providing focus and direction for decision making. At the meeting, rather than retaining a consulting firm, the Board charged Nielsen to prepare a proposed planning process to be presented at the October 2004 board meeting.

After reading widely and visiting with directors from a number of museums, most notably the Executive Director of Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Nielsen proposed a planning process that the Board agreed to pursue. The Board of Directors established a Strategic Planning Committee consisting of Borge M. Christiansen (who has

had corporate planning experience with General Electric), Lois Christensen, Vern Hunter, Harold Jensen, Clark Mathisen, John Mark Nielsen, and Kai Nyby. Marc Petersen, a native of Elk Horn, who worked for Arthur Andersen and Northern Natural Gas before joining Tenasko, a diversified energy services company, agreed to chair the committee.

The Strategic Planning Committee has met monthly and will be updating the Board of Directors on its progress at the winter meeting in Tucson, Arizona, in February. Proposals, some of which may be rather significant, will be presented at the June meeting in Seattle, Washington. Following that meeting the Board looks forward to sharing the proposal with members and donors.

Perspective . . .

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made a number of appearances. They came to the attention of both state and national 4-H leaders. The folk dancers of Cleveland Cookies won praise from many sources.

In 1939, Lydia founded the Cleveland Folk Dancers, a distinct folk dancing group. Drawing upon her Danish girlhood, Lydia Fugl sought to bring meaningful activities to the girls of rural Ransom County. Lydia organized an exercise club of 12 girls. She designed and made one-piece white uniforms for them. The group performed calisthenics and grand marches. They performed widely at schools, county fairs and achievement days.

Lydia Palmvig Fugl gave generously of her time and creativity. She was named outstanding local leader in 4-H Home Economics for Ransom County. She received county, state and national recognition for her leadership in activities for rural girls.

I have been able to share Lydia's story with our readers because of family papers and memorabilia given to the Museum by her daughter, Esther Fugl Frost. Ms. Frost's gifts included the photograph accompanying this column, a scrapbook of the 4-H activities, several photographs of the folk dancers at various performances and a costume vest worn by one of the young girls when they assumed a male folk dancing role.



Admission & Hours

ADMISSION

(Includes Bedstemor's House)

Current Museum Members:

FREE with Membership Card

Non-Members: Adults, \$5;

Children (ages 8-17), \$2

MUSEUM HOURS

Mon.-Fri.: 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Sat.: 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Sun.: 12:00 noon-5:00 pm

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER HOURS

May-Oct.: Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

1st & 3rd Saturday: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Nov.-April: Tues., Wed., Fri.: 10 am-4 pm

Other Times By Appointment

All facilities are closed on New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving & Christmas.

(Local weather conditions may cause occasional closures.)



Museum representatives greet visitors to Minot's Høstfest (from left to right) Michele McNabb, FHGC Librarian; Vern Hunter, President of the Board of Directors; Tina Wittorff, Danish Intern from Aalborg University; and Deb Larsen, Development Associate.

Sharing the Warmth in North Dakota

Thousands of spectators from across the United States, Canada and abroad visited Minot, North Dakota for the 2004 *Norsk Høstfest*, held between October 7th and 10th. This year's theme was "Share the Warmth." The Danish Immigrant Museum also participated with a display entitled "Share the Warmth of a Danish Christmas." Representing the Museum's staff were Michele McNabb, Deb Larsen, and Tina Wittorff.

Visitors learned about the only national Danish museum in America, our many exhibits, and our outstanding genealogy and research center. The staff encouraged those with Danish heritage, especially the younger generation, to celebrate the rich traditions of a Danish Christmas.

To compliment the booth's theme, four, miniature Christmas trees were decorated, each adorned for a specific place and time. The first pair represented Christmas trees from 1900, one from a Danish home, the other from a Danish American home. The second pair demonstrated trees from 2000; again one illustrating the decorations of a Danish tree, the other of a Danish American tree.

The Museum provided "handouts" with instructions for making the traditional *papirklip* ornaments and paper stars. These were so popular, additional sheets had to be printed during the event. Tina and Deb, who were dressed in folk costumes, helped make the booth an attraction by demonstrating how to make

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Michele McNabb assists a guest with family research at Høstfest.

A Dane stopped by...

by Tina Wittorff

Once upon a time in a little kingdom far, far away there was a young girl who wanted to go on an adventure.

This could very well have been the beginning of a fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen, but as it turns out it happens to be MY story! You were introduced to me in the last America Letter, but to those of you who don't know me, I have been interning at The Danish Immigrant Museum for the past 5 months. I'm a Master student currently finishing my program in Tourism Studies at Aalborg University in Denmark.



When I first started talking about interning at The Danish Immigrant Museum in Iowa, my friends were ready to admit me to a mental hospital – “Tina, WHY do you want to go to Iowa of all places?” they were asking me. Honestly, for a while there they had me convinced, but then another friend said to me that she was positive that I would get a great experience no matter where I went, and from her experience in the Midwest (Minnesota) she knew that I would not find a friendlier place. I am so glad that I followed her advice, and I have sent her many friendly thoughts during these past five months. Let me first of all thank all the people I have met here, who have made this one of the most memorable and wonderful times in my life. Both on the personal and professional level this has been a terrific experience for me, and I am very grateful for being given this opportunity.

During my time at the Museum I have been involved in many different projects mainly focused on my field of study, which is tourism. I have also had the opportunity to familiarize myself with the daily work at the Museum. This has been a very positive educational event and has provided me with a lot of experience, which I hope to be able to use later on in my professional life. Just to mention a few of the things I have been involved in, I would like to highlight design of brochure material and planning of events like booth designs at Høstfest, Minot, ND and Scandinavian Day, South Elgin, IL



“Share the Warmth of a Danish Christmas” was the theme of the Museum’s display at Høstfest.

Sharing the Warmth . . . – continued from page 6

the ornaments. Their picture and a story appeared on the front page of the Minot newspaper during the festival.

Modern technology was also utilized once again at the Museum’s booth. With a laptop computer and a connection to the Internet, Michele assisted visitors in researching records that might reveal

information about their families. This proved very popular.

Vern Hunter of Fargo, North Dakota, and the current President of the Museum’s Board of Directors, graciously made the entire trip possible through a generous donation. He was also present daily to greet and speak with visitors.



and the “Julestue” here at the Museum. This has been extremely valuable to me professionally and personally.

If I was to mention all the things I have learned in my time here in the United States, I would be able to fill out the next four America Letters, but if I have to mention one thing in particular, it would have to be that I have realized the importance of the community for a tourist attraction. Iowa is in the fortunate position of having a very well-functioning state tourism organization, and it is of great value to the Museum. It is, in my opinion, very important that the community of Elk Horn continues to work on creating a master plan for the regional development in the area, and one of the resources, which we have is the experiences of others. Therefore, networking is very important, and I urge the Museum to continue exploring cooperation with others as well as continuing to develop the tourism product in Elk Horn. That I believe is the key to the survival of Elk

Horn as a tourist destination.

Finally, I would again like to extend my gratitude to all the people at Museum; staff, volunteers, members and board members. I would also like to thank “The American Scandinavian Foundation” in New York and Danmark Amerika Fondet in Copenhagen for their assistance in obtaining a visa. You have made this a personal fairytale for me! Thank you all!

Tak til jer alle!

Tina Wittorff

Note: The Danish Immigrant Museum is working with Aalborg University and the Danmark Amerika Fondet to identify future interns. This past year Freja Børsting and Tina Wittorff have made invaluable contributions to the Museum while carrying on their individual studies. Their stays have also been made possible through the gracious hospitality of Deb Larsen, our Development Associate, with whom the interns have stayed. With the presence of Danish interns, we really are an international institution.



Volunteer spotlight: H. John Jones

On any given Saturday, the front desk greeter at the Museum will be J. John Jones. John has been volunteering at the Museum as a front desk greeter since 2000 and enjoys meeting and visiting with the people who visit from around the world and from all walks of life.

He was born in Wilmington, Delaware and when he was 11 years old his family moved to San Francisco, California while his dad served in World War II. Upon graduating from high school John joined the army and served as a sergeant during the Korean War. In 1955 John was studying to be an air craft mechanic in Inglewood, California where he met and married his wife, Doris, who is an Elk Horn native. John went to work for Continental Airlines in Los Angeles and later transferred to O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois. John later went on to become a police officer with the

Streamwood, Illinois Police Department, where he served for 21 years, retiring with the rank of sergeant. After retiring he worked as a security officer at First National Bank in Barrington, Illinois until the time he and Doris decided to move to Elk Horn to be closer to her family.

Since moving to this area, John has spent many hours volunteering in the community. He has served as an elder in the Elk Horn Lutheran Church, is active in the Optimist Club and is on the Elk Horn City Council. Both John and Doris are "on-call" drivers for the Salem Lutheran Home.

We all say thank you, John, and appreciate the many hours you have given to The Danish Immigrant Museum!

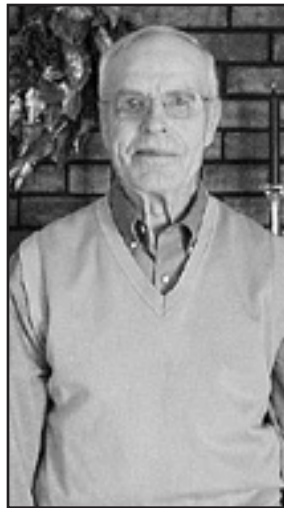
Joyce A. Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator

4,563½ Volunteer Hours!

Dick Nelson, who has worked as a volunteer in the curatorial department since 1997, retired in December to spend more time with his wife, Norma. During his seven years as a volunteer, he worked a total of 4,563½ hours. At a reception held in his honor at the Museum on January 10, 2005, one the volunteers asked him why he didn't finish that last half hour. Dick's laconic response; he'd finished the job!

The focus of Dick's work was in collections in the lower level visual storage area where he concentrated on both "artifact documentation" and "artifact settlement." It is in artifact settlement (matching artifacts that have been separated from their identifying number) where

he truly has distinguished himself. Over the years, he made a remarkable number of matches and, in the process, came to know the Museum's collection intimately. His commitment and his knowledge gave him a de facto status as a member of the collections staff. Because of his unerring matches, he came to be affectionately known as the "Sherlock Holmes" of the Lower Level. Dick will be greatly missed.



Connie Johnson Leaves the Staff

After six years as Co-Volunteer Coordinator, Connie Johnson resigned in December to spend more time with her husband, Lynn, traveling and visiting her children and grandchildren. Before coming to the Museum, Connie was a social worker where over the course of 28 years she developed many contacts with people in the surrounding communities. Her many contacts have been invaluable in identifying and recruiting volunteers for the Museum.

During Johnson's tenure, she has shared many creative ideas and was always willing to help wherever needed – preparing for tours, greeting groups and introducing them to the Museum, assisting with Museum Shop sales and catalog orders and any special projects that came along -- always with a smile. We will miss you, Connie, but if the rumor is true, we will soon be welcoming you back as a volunteer!



Creating a Visual Record of the Collection

Collections work, by nature is extremely detailed and can be very time-consuming. Accurate record keeping in collections is invaluable, and having images to accompany those records is an advantage. Each artifact that is accepted for either the permanent or education/in-use collection is fully documented in a software system called PastPerfect. Within that system are numerous screens into which mountains of information go. Such things as an artifact's dimensions are recorded, as is manufacturing information, materials it is composed of, and the history of the owners. A full and detailed description is given for every item as well, and that description is essentially a written photograph, a way for someone who is not looking at the item to know what it looks like.

Images of artifacts supplement those



News from the Genealogy & Family History Center

Thanks

As the New Year begins the volunteers who have made contributions to the FHGC in 2004 should receive hearty pats on the back. Mae Petersen, Dolores Connelly, Sharon Winchell, Jeanette Knudsen, Andy Kissel, Jim Kelgor, Lois Christensen, Gayle Stuart, Charlotte Sorensen, Esther Sand-Hendersen, and Herb Christensen have put in numerous hours at the Center, and were recently joined by Dorothy and Jens Sorensen, Alice Simonsen, and Ralf and Inga Hojfeldt. Ralf and Inga also worked from their homes on various projects, as did Sheiree Planck, Jens Christoffersen, Carolyn Sand, Fritz Hansen, Barbara Sullivan and Anne Keller. Herb Christensen has been busy photographing tombstones in Elk Horn and Kimballton area cemeteries. Then there are the

numerous individuals who regularly sent in obituaries of Danish immigrants and Danish-Americans, or other articles and items of interest (keep them coming!). All of these hours have resulted in prompt and useful patron assistance, timely translations, new informational databases, and additions to our collection.

Wish List

The increasing number of queries coming to the Center creates a continual demand for additional resources. The following items are currently at the top of the FHGC Wish List. If you wish to discuss making a donation toward the purchase of/subscription to any of them, contact Michele McNabb at 877-764-7008 or at librarian@danishmuseum.org.

- ◆ Subscription to Ancestry.com's *U.S. Immigration* Collection (\$80)



FHGC volunteers Gayle Stuart and Jim Kelgor work with Danish researcher, Pia Viscor.

- ◆ Subscription to Ancestry.com's *U.S. Records* Collection (\$80)
- ◆ Vols. 1-15 (1914-1939) of the *Danish Brotherhood Magazine*, and issues of *The American Dane* from 1997 on.
- ◆ *Strangers in Hollywood: the history of Scandinavian actors in American films from 1910 to World War II*, by Hans J. Wollstein (1994; \$59.50 on amazon.com)
- ◆ *What did they do? In Danish....*, by John E. Herl (\$13 from www.genealogystore.com)
- ◆ *From Copenhagen to Okanagon*, by Ulrik E. Fries (1949; \$9.95 and up used on abebooks.com)
- ◆ *But you can feel it*, by Emil B. Fries (1980; \$9.95 and up used on abebooks.com)

— continued on page 11

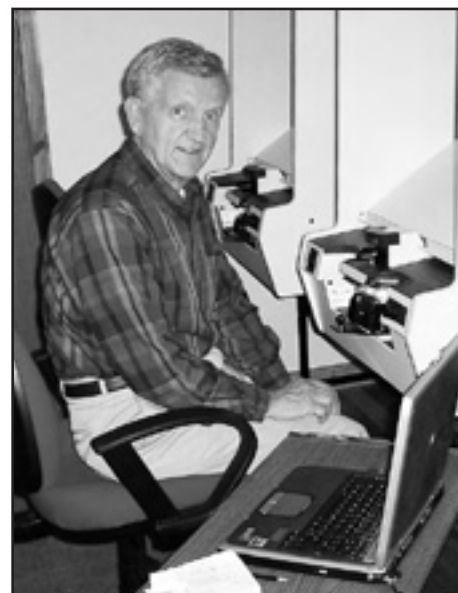
Visual Record . . . — continued from page 9

descriptions. Previously, only two-dimensional items had been scanned and attached to catalog records, but since July of 2004, images have been included with every catalog record. All artifacts being taken into both collections are now being scanned or photographed and attached to the appropriate catalog record in PastPerfect. This system has the capacity to hold up to 999 images for each artifact, making it possible to document it properly. For example, often all pages can be included in the visual record when scanning booklets, wills, and other archival materials. Three dimensional artifacts can be photographed from all sides and angles, and details can be shot up close.

Having images in our database also aids in documenting an artifact's condition. When the artifact is photographed or scanned at the time it is incorporated into

our collection, its condition is obvious. If at any point someone notices that the artifact has a crack or some evidence of insect activity, one can look at the images included in its catalog record and compare them with the item. If there appears to be new damage or wear, steps can be taken to better protect the item in its home location or to remove it from a potentially harmful area.

As museums strive to be more professional, the staff at The Danish Immigrant Museum also works toward that goal. We try to comply with the standards set by the American Association of Museums not only to offer our collection the best, most professional care possible, but also to provide for our visitors the most complete history there is on the artifacts we hold and on the lives they are forever connected to. Written and visual records help us do that.



Ralf Hojfeldt of Des Moines takes a break from doing research on a microfilm reader.

◆ Microfilm of 1928/29 Chicago city directory (\$149)

Thanks to Norma Lange Nelson, James & Shirley Mae Hansen Norlem, and Ib J. Mercebach Mørk, who recently ‘adopted’ six more large-scale Danish maps for our collection. The following map areas are still orphans: north and south Bornholm, and the areas of Thyborøn, Hundborg, Farsø, Struer, Holstebro, Ulfborg, Lemvig, Hammershøj, Bjerringbro, Karup, Viborg, Hadsten, Ebeltoft, Fornæs, Lohals, Reersø, Nykøbing Sjælland, Sejerø, and Saltholm. Each map costs \$15 and will be labeled with the adoptive patron’s name.

HeritageQuest Online™

Beginning in September the Museum began offering remote access to this valuable genealogical database to members making an annual contribution at the \$100 level and above. HeritageQuest Online™, is one of a group of subscription databases produced by ProQuest, and is used by FHGC staff and volunteers every day. At present the database allows searching of U.S. censuses from 1790-1930; over 25,000 local and family histories; PERSI, a valuable index to articles in genealogical periodicals, and selected records from Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land application files. It is easy to use and make printouts from.

Although there have been some bugs in getting the system up and running, remote access should now be available for those who have already signed up. If you have been given a username and are having problems, or have not yet received your username contact Michele at 1-877-764-7008. If you are interested in signing up, contact Development Associate Deb Larsen at 1-800-759-9192.

Researching Ancestors

Many times research queries answered by library staff and volunteers are fairly straightforward, taking little time to find the answer. Sometimes, however, the research strategy is more complicated, goes in unexpected directions, involves collaboration, or just plain serendipity. Such was one of the cases researched by volunteer Dolores Con-

date, that he was born in Dronninglund in then-Hjørring County, and thought to have a brother named Edward.

Deb brought back this request and gave it to Dolores, who searched on and off for several months with the resources then available, writing to a couple of archives in Denmark, but without finding additional information. Shortly after the library moved to its new location, Volunteer Coordinator Connie Johnson stopped to ask Dolores if she had time to talk to a man with a genealogy question. As he started to give her information, a bell rang ... the patron in question turned out to be Orville Jensen, of Mankato, Minnesota, Phil’s brother, who had come to put his father on the Museum Wall of Honor. He had no more information, but by then the library had more resources and Dolores started searching again, still unsuccessfully.

Dolores then contacted the Provincial Archives for Northern Jutland in Viborg, where she was given the name of a professional Danish researcher to give to Orville. Months passed, but the researcher was eventually able to tell Orville that his father’s name was recorded at birth as *Vilhelm Jensen Sanden*, son of Jens Steffensen Sanden of Vester Hassing parish. The added last name came from the farm where William was born. This researcher also found Ellis Island records

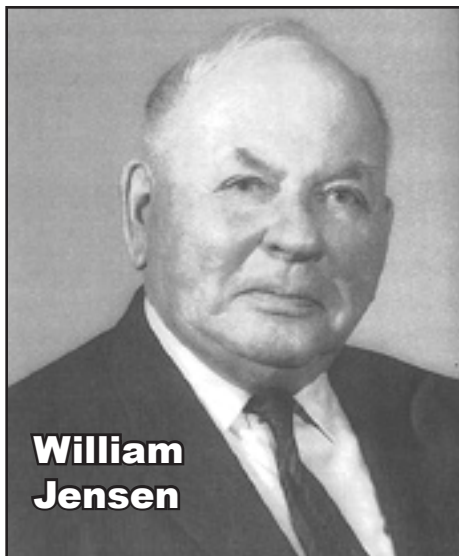
Wedding Pictures

Our TivoliFest photograph display last year of immigrant families was very popular. During this year’s festival the FHGC plans on displaying wedding pictures of Danish immigrants. If you have a photograph you would like to share, you can send a copy by mail or by email as a .jpg file to: librarian@danishmuseum.org between Feb. 1st and May 1st. Be sure to include the following information: names of bride and groom, date and place of marriage (which can be in either Denmark or the U.S.) and we’ll include them in the display.

for three of William’s four brothers, Jens, Ingvar and Valdemar, who all retained the Sanden name. She also found families of two of the brothers in Canada with living relatives and a living step-cousin in Denmark.

Just before receiving this last information, Dolores found what looked like a third brother, Ingvard Sanden, listed in the 1930 census in Champaign County, Illinois. Two emails were sent out, one to the local library and another to a genealogist named Nancy Sanden, to verify whether he was William’s brother. When the Danish researcher’s findings were received, it looked even more promising, and return emails from Illinois confirmed the findings.

Phil and Orville contacted the families of the two brothers in Canada, and were invited to visit them this past September. Nancy Sanden and Orville were contacted in turn by the step-cousin from Denmark, who had visited the Canadian cousins more than once – knowing nothing about what had become of William Jensen or Ingvar (who turned out to be ‘Edward’) Sanden. There are 50 relatives of William Jensen in Canada and an undetermined number in Illinois and Denmark. From going from knowing little about their father, Phil and Orville are now inundated with family!



**William
Jensen**

nelly. At *Norsk Høstfest* in Minot ND in the fall of 2002 Development Associate Deb Larsen spoke with local resident Phil Jensen, who requested help searching for his father’s birthplace and family in Denmark. His only information was his father’s name, William Jensen, his birth



Activities and News

- Phase 1 of our project of inputting and alphabetizing **Danish Brotherhood lodge memberships** between 1881 and 1974 is now completed! This enormous project, which encompasses 341 lodges and an estimated 85,000 names, took two years to complete. The indexes are currently available in binders at the FHGC. After volunteers at Dana College proofread names and add additional information to the rosters, and corrections are made, the indexes will be accessible on the Museum website.
- After the Danish Immigrant Archive at Dana College kindly lent us back issues of **The Danish Brotherhood Magazine**, Jim Kelgor and Jens Sorensen have been working on deaths recorded in the periodical between 1916 and 1940.
- The FHGC was the venue for two workshops on general **online genealogical resources** held for southwest Iowa librarians in late October. Librarian Michele McNabb and Atlantic Public Library director Carol Stanger spoke about resources available on a number of topics of interest to family researchers.
- Michele also held two **presentations** on Danish and Danish-American genealogical research at the 29th Family History Workshop held at Minnesota State University in Morehead on Oct. 2nd, 2004. A PowerPoint presentation was developed for this event, and then used when Michele joined Deb Larsen and intern Tina Wittorff in Minot, North Dakota, for *Norsk Høstfest*, where the Museum's booth with decorated Danish and Danish-American Christmas trees past and present, got a lot of attention. (Incoming Board President Vern Hunter also got front-page coverage in the local newspaper!)
- **Danish researcher** Pia Viscor spent the first two weeks in November at the Museum and FHGC. Her research, which centered on some 400 Danes who emigrated from four parishes near the manor estate of Skjoldenæsholm between 1850 and 1900, resulted in her finding additional information on a great number of individuals.
- Thanks to the generosity of several individuals the FHGC has or will be getting some **new equipment**. Kai Nyby graciously provided funding for a digital camera, desktop scanner, and several display easels, and thanks to contributions from Dolores Connelly and Dennis Andersen, we'll soon have a large-bed scanner, which will enable us to scan church registers and other large-paged items.
- **Computer upgrades** now mean that patrons and staff have wireless access at the FHGC. Soon we should be linked to the Museum computer network, which will greatly facilitate communication between the main building and the library.
- **Over 800 items** were added to the FHGC collection in 2004. In addition to a large number of books transferred from the Curatorial Department, the library is now the repository for over 300 oral history tapes made in the mid-1980s. Volunteer Gayle Stuart is currently inventorying the latter.
- **Spring classes and workshops** will include two series of workshops on Danish genealogy. Registration for the workshops, which will be held on Saturday, March 5, 12, and 19 from 10am-noon and Thursdays April 21, 28 and May 5 from 6:30-8:30 pm may be done through Iowa Western Community College (712-755-3568). If your organization would be interested in having a Danish genealogy workshop day, contact Michele at the library number 1-877-764-7008.

Are You a Danish Immigrant?

Many people responded to the Immigrant Information Form that was appended in the fall *America Letter*. We would like to have some information on all immigrants or long-term residents from Denmark. Perhaps some of you might be willing to distribute the form at meetings of your local Danish-American organization. For copies, contact Michele at the FHGC.



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Wall of Honor – September 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

Egon Calundann, Olympia, WA – *Egon Calundann, Olympia, WA*

Lars Hendrick Nelson (Nielsen), Council Bluffs, IA – *Susan Hallock, Council Bluffs, IA*

Peter Sorenson (Sorensen), Council Bluffs, IA – *Susan Hallock, Council Bluffs, IA*

Paul (Poul) Christian Larsen, Fremont, NE – *Paula Fanshier, Salem, OR*

Lars Christian Rasmussen & Karen Marie (Andersen) Rasmussen, Neola, IA – *by their grandchildren:*

Junior Rasmussen, Council Bluffs, IA; Ethan Rasmussen, Council Bluffs, IA; Roland Rasmussen, Pacific Junction, IA; Quentin Rasmussen, Omaha, NE; Rosehannah (Rasmussen) Russell, Council Bluffs, IA; and their great-grandchildren: Mary Ellen (Martison) Engdahl, Omaha, NE; Kathryn (Thompson) Han-

son, Mankato, MN; Jeannette (Thompson) Haasarud, Phoenix, AZ; Robert Christiansen, Tempe, AZ; Carolyn Christiansen, Des Moines, IA; Gerald Christiansen, Shelby, IA; Gail Christiansen, Portsmouth, IA; Vernon Magnussen, Council Bluffs, IA; Alvina (Larsen) Hjorstsvang, Council Bluffs, IA; Ruth (Larsen) Benson, Council Bluffs, IA; Dorothy Larsen, Omaha, NE; Arthur Larsen, Underwood, IA; Kenneth Christensen, Ventura, CA; Elaine (Bondo) Hoyer, Washington, IL; Phyllis (Bondo) Shavlik, North Platte, NE; and Paul Bondo, South Bend, IN

Mads Jorgen Barsoe, Chicago, IL – *Maxine Kent Callinan, Carmel Valley, CA*

Julius Peter Christensen & Helga Dortehea Christensen, Glendale, CA – *Carlo & Barbara Christensen, Glendale, CA*

Valdemar Edward Hoppe, Chicago, IL – *Ronald B. Hoppe, Sr., Niles, IL*

Thomas Thomsen & Jensine Petrine Nielsen, Dwight, IL – *Marie Kjolhede, Novi, MI*

Andreas Sorensen & Else Bendixen Bekker, Reddick, IL – *Marie Kjolhede, Novi, MI*



Wall of Honor commemorating immigrants grows.

The Danish Pioneer Rebild National Park Society The Danish Immigrant Museum Classic Denmark Rebild Tour 2005



Rosenborg Palace

Day 1.....June 23, Thursday Departure USA
 Day 2.....June 24 Copenhagen Tivoli overnight hotel Absalon
 Day 3.....June 25 Copenhagen city tour
 Day 4.....June 26 Copenhagen North Sealand Castle tour
 Day 5.....June 27 Copenhagen Odense Langeland Ærø
 Day 6.....June 28 Ærø
 Day 7.....June 29 Fyn - Hvedholm Castle for overnight at Castle.
 Day 8.....June 30 Egeskov Castle to Møgeltønder to Schackenborg Castle Inn
 Day 9.....July 01 Ribe Hotel Dagmar
 Day 10...July 2 Aalborg via Aarhus. Overnight at Hotel Hvide Hus Aalborg
 Day 11...July 3 Aalborg private invitation to reception Lord Mayors office
 Day 12...July 4 Aalborg + 4th of July celebration with Gala Dinner
 Day 13...July 5 Ebeltoft farewell dinner
 Day 14...July 6 Departure Aarhus Copenhagen - USA

Deposit required at time of booking: \$500.00 per person

Partial payment due: \$1000.00 on April 1

Full and Final payment due: May 15

Credit cards:

Visa, Mastercard, Diners Club, Discover, American Express are accepted:

Number: _____

Exp. Date _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Name of passengers: _____

Phone () _____

TOUR PRICE:

From Chicago: \$3695.00, From Chicago with add-on fare from other cities.

Single supplement: \$1070.00

Option: If you wish only to participate in Rebild, excluding thereby The Classic Denmark Tour, your cost will be \$1790.00 including airfare.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Overnights in Shared double room , with breakfast daily
- All transfers and tours, Ferries.
- All Rebild activities with invitations to private functions.
- Entrance fees at Tivoli Gardens, Kronborg, Frederiksborg, Egeskov Castle, Old Town of Århus and Skagen's Museum.

FOR PARTICIPATION:

Fax or email this page to us.
 For questions call or email.



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Insuring the Museum's Future: How You Can Contribute

The Danish Immigrant Museum's future can be assured through the continued support of its members. There are a number of ways in which you, our members, can make significant contributions.

CASH GIFTS

Cash gifts are the simplest way of realizing your charitable objectives and supporting the Museum's work. Cash gifts qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes and are fully deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income in the year that you make the gift. Deduction amounts exceeding this limit may be carried forward up to five additional years.

SECURITIES

Gifts of appreciated securities held longer than one year (stocks, bonds, and stock in closely held companies) may also be used to contribute to the Museum. You may completely avoid capital gains tax while deducting the full current fair market value of the gift. Transfer of

securities to the Museum can be done through the Atlantic, Iowa, Office of UBS Financial Services at 1.800.442.5887.

BEQUESTS

Through a will, you may assure the Museum's legacy. The Museum may be named as a residuary beneficiary of an estate, as the recipient of a specified gift or contingent bequest, or as the ultimate beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust. Bequests are deductible for federal estate tax purposes. Gifts of IRA assets are especially good bequests to the Museum.

LIFE INSURANCE

There are several ways that you can give to the Museum through life insurance. You can give a policy that you already own, assign the dividends as a gift, or name the Museum as a beneficiary of the death benefits. In addition to estate tax benefits, donors may also gain an income tax deduction while contributing to the Museum.

REAL ESTATE

A gift of property held for more than one year can provide the same federal tax advantages as a gift of securities. You may also choose to retain the right to live in a donated residence after your gift has been made.

GIFTS WITH AN INCOME INTEREST TO THE MUSEUM

Through a charitable lead trust, donors can provide income to the Museum for a period of years, at the end of which the principal reverts back to the donor or passes to other members of the individual's family. Often there is a significant estate tax benefit.

The staff at The Danish Immigrant Museum welcomes your questions and would be delighted to discuss gift opportunities with you.

Many members have made significant contributions of stock or named The Danish Immigrant Museum a beneficiary of their estate.



FHGC volunteers celebrate Christmas with a luncheon and gift exchange.



Christmas Atmosphere in a Danish “Julestue”

“What’s that smell?” That’s the question that the visitors at The Danish Immigrant Museum were asking themselves when they entered the museum in the week leading up to Thanksgiving. A strange odor of vanilla, cloves, cinnamon and cardamom was spreading from the kitchen where museum staff and volunteers were baking traditional Danish Christmas cookies for the upcoming Julefest celebration. This year the museum introduced a new dimension to the Danish concept of a “Julestue” (Christmas room) where visitors were invited to sit down in the Bro Dining Area and learn traditional Danish arts of papirklip (paper cuts), woven heart baskets, ribbon stars, candle decorations and knitting “nisser.” While doing so, they were provided with Danish Christmas cookies, coffee and apple cider.

Danish intern, Tina Wittorff, was responsible for this event which took place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and she was very pleased with the outcome: “People responded very positively and it was a true pleasure to see how everybody – old as well as young – had a good time with us. The children were especially enjoying themselves, and it was impressive to watch the creativity they produced,” Tina says. A lot of human resources were put into this event both

for the preparation and during Julefest where Deb Larsen and Tina Wittorff were in charge of teaching the art work with the help of the rest of the staff. The hard work paid off with the reimbursement being the smiles on the children’s faces when they left the museum with their OWN Christmas heart basket – now that is what Christmas is all about!

The event would not have been made possible without the help of volunteers Connie Johnson, Jeanette Lillehoej and Rosa Clemesen. They were all very helpful in the preparation for the “Julestue,” and the museum staff is very grateful for that. Furthermore, the museum wishes to extend its gratitude to Annette Andersen who provided patterns for papirklip, and a special appreciation to Solveig Wittorff, Hjørring, Denmark is also appropriate. Solveig, who is Tina’s mother, sent original recipes for cookies and knitting patterns which added that special authentic “Danish” touch to the event.

Next year the museum hopes to repeat the event, and the left over materials have been stored at the museum for later use. Hopefully, next year it will be possible to extend the activities, and have even more programs for the children. Ideas are floating in the air, and one thing is for sure: The visitors at The Danish Immigrant Museum are in for a treat again next year!

The following exhibits will open to visitors in late winter, early spring:

Hans Hansen: A Study in Danish American Ingenuity

Opening March 15

Hans Hansen immigrated to the United States during the first decade of the 1900s. He saved enough money from his first years of labor to purchase land on the bank of the Cedar River in eastern Iowa, where he set about establishing a farmstead. Clearing the heavily wooded land posed many challenges, each of which Hans addressed, often with tools of his own invention. He began construction of the farmhouse in 1908 and completed it the following year. Work on the farm’s outbuildings continued for an extended period. It was really Hans’ creativity and ingenuity that built the farm almost as much as muscle and sweat. Through the years, Hans fashioned many of his own tools, and developed solutions to typical problems on the farm. For example, to protect wooden fence posts from deteriorating from the weather, he covered each with a handmade metal cap. It is this ingenuity that will be the subject of the exhibit.

Contemporary Illustrations of Hans Christian Andersen’s Fairy Tales

Opening April 2

Through the years, many artists have tried their hand at illustrating the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen. This exhibition will feature some of the more contemporary illustrations of his work. A number of the pieces use vivid color; a few establish intensity of mood.

Americans at Work and at Play: Danish Influences in Everyday Life

Opening May 4

This exhibition is an exploration of Danish influences in the American home and workplace. It will highlight items from Denmark which recent immigrants and their families use in their American homes, demonstrating a continuing commitment to their Danish identity. But at its core, the exhibition is an exploration of ways in which subsequent generations of Danish Americans deliberately retain ties to Denmark through the use of Danish-made products at home and sometimes at work. These products may range from fine porcelains and glassware to textiles, writing and cutting instruments, lighting fixtures and sound systems, cooking products and toys, to name but a few possibilities. The exhibition is also an examination of the ways that Denmark and its products influence American life in a manner cutting across ethnicities.