

America Letter

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THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

*Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Protector
Member of the American Association of Museums*

Your Museum in the
Heart of the Continent
BOX 470 • ELK HORN, IOWA 51531

Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations®: The Nybys

By Eva Nielsen

"You'll never amount to anything." That's what Folmer Nyby was told.

He laughs about the comment now. And why shouldn't he?

Folmer immigrated to the United States as a 19-year-old in 1950 carrying only a suitcase and plans to marry Vera Lodahl, a second generation Dane from Dagmar, Montana. They married. They built several successful businesses. They raised three children. They have grandchildren, even great-grandchildren. They enjoy their home by a lake in Indiana. They drive to Arizona for the winter. And, then, the Nybys spend time at their summer home in Denmark—just down the road from Vestervig, the town where Folmer was born.

Folmer was just 13-years-old when he finished school and was confirmed in the Vestervig church. In 1944—at age 14—he began his professional career as an apprentice in a grocery store. "The grocery store owner and I did not get along," Folmer says. "And he said to me that one time, 'You'll never amount



Folmer and Vera Nyby met in Denmark in 1948. Vera grew up in Dagmar, Montana, the daughter of Danish immigrant parents. While visiting Denmark, she met Folmer at a dance in his hometown of Vestervig. The picture of Vera was taken in Denmark in 1948 so that Folmer could have it when she returned home to the United States.

to anything.' I'll tell you, when somebody tells you that when you're young... you build in something in yourself that says I'll show him." Then Folmer adds, "I'll betcha it was good for me; it gave me a drive."

That drive, along with a desire to see the world, led him to leave Vestervig for the United States.

In 1947 Folmer's cousin, a captain in the United States Air Force who was stationed in Germany, visited Vestervig along with his wife and baby. "He says to me," Folmer remembers, "'Why don't you come to America?' And I thought that would be a good idea."

A further incentive to immigrate to the United States came along in 1948. That's when Folmer met Vera.

Vera Lodahl was born in Montana to Danish parents. Her father immigrated in 1927, her mother in 1929. They settled in Dagmar, Montana, a Danish community where Vera grew up speaking Danish. There were many Lodahls in the area—Vera's father had four uncles, two brothers and a sister who had immigrated to Montana as well.

In 1948 Vera's family set off for Denmark for a three-month trip; this would be her parents' first time back to Denmark. The family took a train from Williston, North

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Folmer was baptized and confirmed at Vestervig Kirke in northwest Jutland.



Director's Corner By John Mark Nielsen

In the film *Field of Dreams*, the oft quoted line is **"If you build it, they will come."** Over

the last four years I've come to recognize that this phrase has captured my approach to leading The Danish Immigrant Museum. Despite having one fewer staff person than when I arrived in 2003, the Museum's staff has done an incredible job in expanding the programming and reaching out to a broader constituency. Here are some of the highlights.

We have begun to market the Museum programming in a more strategic and effective manner. "What's Up at the Museum," a weekly press release is sent to over ninety newspapers, every issue of *Den Danske Pioneer* and *Bien* carries our column "Across Oceans, Across Time: Stories from the Collection or Family History and Genealogy Center," and a five minute weekly program broadcast by radio station KJAN of Atlantic, Iowa, is available. And last, but certainly not least, our website at www.danishmuseum.org is both attractive and informative.

Moving the Family History and Genealogy Center to Main Street allowed us to increase our exhibit space. This has led to such notable exhibits as one focusing on the innovative character of Hans Hansen, an immigrant farmer who settled in rural West Branch, Iowa or an exceptional exhibit on Danish gymnastics. Additionally, a Danish-American artists' series allows us to celebrate the work of contemporary artists for a period of six months. Finally, we have expanded our traveling exhibit program, mounting exhibits of our own that have been displayed around the country and partnering, as we did,

with the Funen Graphic Workshop this past year to travel an exhibit to Seattle, Solvang, Omaha, Minneapolis, Des Moines and Columbus.

Members can take pride in the educational opportunities The Danish Immigrant Museum provides the public. The essay contest, "Tribute to the Rescuers" and our partnership with the Maia String Quartet of the University of Iowa are examples. Most importantly, at least to me, is our internship program. Hosting graduate student interns from Danish and American universities has benefited our programming and staff, creating a learning environment at the Museum. We have provided interns hands-on experience; they bring to us knowledge of recent approaches to exhibitions and collection care and challenge us to stay current.

As we approach our 25th anniversary year, I can proudly point to progress. It is our dedicated staff and you, our members, who have made this possible. **However, I find that as we have made progress we have created a perception that all is well at The Danish Immigrant Museum. It is, but, ironically, it's not. It seems that we are at once getting ahead and falling behind!** What do I mean?

In addition to expanding our programming and marketing, we have grown our endowment to \$1.5 million and our total assets to almost \$5 million. To many, this indicates success. But strangely enough, our cash flow lags behind. As we enter the 2007-2008 fiscal year, we have an accrued cash-flow shortfall of \$129,000. This perplexes me the most, particularly operating with the philosophy, "If you build it, they will come!" We have been active; we have been working hard; how can this be?

I have learned this is not an unusual

situation, particularly for private, non-profit institutions. We do not sell a commodity; we preserve and share a heritage. The Museum can depend that there will be visitors and that some of these visitors will spend dollars in our museum shop, but we do not realize revenue from much that we do. Even the revenue realized from traveling exhibits, basically pays for the traveling and does not cover the full costs of researching and fabricating such exhibits. Public museums can depend on the resources of the governmental constituency they serve. I will admit to moments when I have envied the administrators of these institutions.

What can you do to help?

Renew your membership when you receive your first renewal notice. (Perhaps you might even consider increasing your membership level!)

Respond to our summer and end-of-the-year appeals when you are able. (To me, appealing to you who are so generous is the most onerous part of this job.)

Consider giving gift memberships for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries. (This increases our membership roles and the potential for creating relationships that grow closer over time.)

Visit the Museum, whether in person or through our website and share with us what works and where we could make improvements. (And then please be patient when change takes time.)

Celebrate our heritage and our history! We have come far in twenty-four years. With your support and encouragement, we will continue to build in reputation and quality, and future generations will appreciate and "will come."

America Letter

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The Danish Immigrant Museum
2212 Washington, POBox 470
Elk Horn, Iowa 51531
712-764-7001 800-759-9192
FAX 712-764-7002
Eva Nielsen, editor
www.danishmuseum.org
email: info@danishmuseum.org

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Executive Director: Dr. John Mark Nielsen,
director@danishmuseum.org
Director of Development: Thomas Hansen,
developmentdirector@danishmuseum.org
General Information, Group Tours,
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info@danishmuseum.org
Wall of Honor, Donations, Memorial Gifts
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ment@danishmuseum.org
Bookkeeping & Financial Inquiries: Jen-
nifer Winters, acctng@danishmuseum.org
Collections & Exhibit Questions:
Barbara Lund-Jones, M.Phil, curator@
danishmuseum.org
Artifact Donations & Museum Loans:
Angela Stanford, M.A., registrar@danish-
museum.org
Museum Shop: Pamela Parker, giftshop@
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danishmuseum.org
Genealogical & Translation Inquiries:
genealogy@danishmuseum.org
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Tour Denmark

with The Danish Immigrant Museum



Travel through Denmark, sleeping in castles, staying in Danish homes, eating at unique restaurants, participating in behind-the-scenes tours of museums, and celebrating the Fourth of July in Rebild, Denmark.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is offering a special tour of Denmark in the summer of 2008. The tour will begin in Copenhagen on July 1, 2008 and will conclude back in the capital city on July 13 after experiencing such places as Æbletoft, Århus, Ålborg, the Fourth of July at Rebild, Ribe, Silkeborg, Rømø, Odense, Roskilde, and Helsingør.



**12-night, 13-day
Adventure
estimated cost is
\$3,000 per person**
Includes transport while in
Denmark, food, lodging,
sightseeing &
Fourth of July festivities
(airfare purchased separately)

For information, call The Danish
Immigrant Museum at 1-800-759-9192

Nybys . . .

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Dakota to Chicago where they spent the night at the Hotel Arthur, near Union Station. "First time," Vera says, "I've ever known of a revolving door...scared the tar out of me." The family boarded another train to New York City the next morning and, from there, traveled by ship to Denmark.

Vera's relations lived in Hurup, Denmark. One evening, she attended a dance in the neighboring town—Vestervig. There, she met Folmer.

Folmer says, "The funny part was, I did not know and she didn't either, that my father had two sisters and one brother who lived in the same Danish community in Montana. They had immigrated to the same town. And Vera's parents knew my father's sisters and brother." Folmer and Vera figured out that connection one day when Vera and her family showed up at Folmer's home in Vestervig. Vera's parents had promised to bring greetings from the family in Montana to the Nyby family in Vestervig.

Vera and Folmer dated while she was in Denmark. After she returned home, they corresponded by letter.

Folmer received notice from the American Embassy in the fall of 1949 that he was cleared for immigration. He sailed from Copenhagen on February 5, 1950 on the *M/S Batory*, a ship that started in Gdynia, Poland, traveled to Copenhagen, stopped in Southampton, England and sailed on to New York City.

After visiting Danes in Fords, New Jersey, Danish connections in Chicago, and a Danish uncle in Humboldt, Iowa, Folmer made his way to Montana.

Folmer's cousin and her husband were wheat farmers in Montana. In the spring of 1950, Folmer worked with them, putting in the spring wheat.



Folmer and Vera married in Chicago in 1950 with two Danish co-workers from the Wanzer Dairy as the only attendees. Years later, the two renewed their wedding vows at Vestervig Kirke.



Folmer and his brother Knud started a long-distance trucking company. They worked together, making runs to both coasts. One would drive while the other slept, switching every five hours.

When the planting was complete, Folmer's cousin offered him the option to do odd jobs around the place until harvest. They didn't have the money to pay him, but could feed him and let him live in a small wooden shack. Folmer says, "I thought to myself, well, I didn't come to America to work for food and board."

So, Folmer wrote to his Danish connections in Chicago, people in the garbage business. "He had told me when I was there, you can always



Folmer and Vera have three children: Andy (left), Kai and Osa. Kai and Osa live nearby their parents in Indiana. Andy lives north of Houston, Texas. Kai Nyby just finished serving six years on the Museum's board of directors, the last two as president.

find a job in Chicago. So they wrote back and said come on down—and I did.”

Folmer worked temporarily on a garbage truck and then got a job at Wanzer Dairy on 55th Street and Wentworth on Chicago's south side. He was one of many Danish immigrants living and working in the area at the time. Folmer says that a large Danish district centered around 75th Street and there were two Danish churches in the area, St. Stephen's and Golgotha.

Folmer explains, “The Danes in Chicago were predominantly garbage men, ice men—delivering boxes of ice to people for their ice boxes. They were also in the coal business, and in the dairy business. The dairy that I worked for had a Danish president and I would say at least 75% of the people who worked there were Danish.”

In August of 1950 Vera took the

train to Chicago again—this time to marry Folmer. They married at St. Stephen's Church with two co-workers of Folmer's acting as witnesses. “There was no wedding except just that,” says Folmer. “I didn't even know you were supposed to have wedding bands.”

“We couldn't afford any anyway,” Vera adds.

“After we were married,” Folmer continues, “the four of us went out to a restaurant on the south side of Chicago and had a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. And then after that those two guys took Vera and I to our apartment, and the two fellows picked up their wives and then Vera made dinner for the six of us.”

They had pork roast. And they bought a 6-pack of beer.

After they were married, Folmer and Vera considered moving to Denmark permanently. But they didn't.

Meanwhile, Folmer's older brother Knud had immigrated to Chicago as well and was working in a garbage business. Folmer joined him and then saved money to buy a truck of his own; “That truck wasn't much,” Folmer says. But in the winter of 1952, when a garbage business went up for sale in Hammond, Indiana, they used that truck as a down payment to buy the business.

They built up the garbage business. Folmer explains, “You go out and haul garbage from morning until noon and then you go home and change your clothes and go around to businesses and ask if you can get the job of hauling their waste.” Soon, Knud came to join the business as well. They worked, grew the business, had success and sold it in 1957.

By then Folmer and Vera had children, Andy, Kai, and Osa. After selling the garbage business, the family took a trip to Denmark—the first time back for Folmer. Taking advantage of

a special trip offered by the Danish Brotherhood, the family sailed on a ship called the *M/S Stockholm*.

Back in Indiana, Folmer and Knud had started another business, long-distance trucking. They made runs from Chicago to New York, Boston, Salt Lake City and, a few years later, to California, bringing back produce to the Midwest. Folmer would drive five hours and then Knud would drive while Folmer slept. He says, “It was interesting. It gave you a chance to see a lot of the United States you would not otherwise get the chance to see.”

After another family trip to Denmark in 1963, the Nybys moved to Portage, Indiana. Weary of truck driving, Knud and Folmer started another garbage business, this time around Portage, Indiana. Starting from scratch, they bought a truck, started soliciting costumers, bought out a competitor and kept growing. Eventually, in 1972, Waste Management, the largest disposal company in the world, bought out their business and made Folmer the president of their operations in Indiana.

In 1978 Folmer retired. He still drives long distances, but it's in a motor coach to Arizona with Vera. They continue to travel back to Denmark, but these days it's by plane. And when he looks back now, in his Indiana home, Folmer says, “It has been fun. We have really enjoyed it.”

But remember what the grocery store owner said? “You'll never amount to anything.” Folmer remembered. “When we went [to Denmark] in '57, I bought a new Cadillac and we took that with on the ship so I could show him that I could.” He considers, “It was kind of a... what do you call that? An ego trip.”

“That's it, you're right,” Vera says.

Folmer adds, “I don't have that problem anymore.”

Museum Hosts Evenings with Artist- in-Residence Helle Jørvad

During September, The Danish Immigrant Museum's first artist-in-residence, Helle Jørvad, held several invitational evening demonstrations of her art. A Danish goldsmith and designer, Jørvad shared stories and answered questions about her experiences in specialty design and fine metalworking.

Jørvad's demonstration evenings offered a unique experience for Museum members and area residents. Jørvad conducted her demonstration evenings in different styles. During one of the demonstrations, Jørvad engaged visitors in playacting. The group selected a "client" from among their members and this client then entered into an extended dialogue with Jørvad, regarding the commission of a personalized,



Artist-in-residence Helle Jørvad works as visitors watch. The Museum hosted a series of evening events showcasing the talents of this Danish designer and goldsmith.

one-of-a-kind jewelry piece. The result was a large, uniquely shaped brooch, designed specifically for one individual. The questions and answers that flowed back-and-forth between Jørvad and her client gave a sense of the interplay that shapes commissioned pieces.

An exhibition of Jørvad's work is currently on display at the Museum. Jørvad has produced commissioned works for

the royal Danish family and for members of the Danish government. She is a member of the association of Danish silversmiths approved to carry out works of art for churches. Examples of her work may be found in churches on the islands of Sjælland and Fyn. Photographs and miniature reproductions of selected commissions are part of the exhibit.



The Danish Immigrant Museum Hosts Car Show

The Danish Immigrant Museum was the site of Elk Horn's Liberty Car Show, sponsored by Liberty Auto Restoration, on Saturday, October 6. There were 28 cars registered with trophies awarded for first, second, and third places in a variety of categories.

The Kimballton Quasquicentennial Committee served food and a DJ provided music throughout the day. Mike Howard, owner of Liberty Labs in Kimballton and Liberty Auto Restoration in



A World War II Weasel creeps over the grounds of The Danish Immigrant Museum during the Liberty Car Show.

Elk Horn, gave free rides on a World War II Weasel, a tracked military vehicle.

Many participants commented that the Museum was a great place to hold the

show and would like to return next year. The Museum has hosted several Liberty Auto events in the past year and appreciates the opportunity to partner with businesses from the Danish Villages.

Museum Event Held at Walter and Vesta Hansen's, West Branch, Iowa

It was a beautiful, warm Saturday afternoon in late August when Museum supporters and friends were treated to an unforgettable experience at the farm home of Walter and Vesta Hansen, outside West Branch, Iowa near the Cedar River.

Walter Hansen's father, Hans Hansen, emigrated from Denmark in 1899, settling in the West Branch area in 1909. Hans brought farming equipment with him from Denmark. What he didn't have, he created himself. Today, on their farmstead, Walter and Vesta continue to use the same tools and equipment invented by Hans. And, like his father, Walter has made equipment himself. As a result, when you step on the Hansen farm today, it feels as if you've traveled back in time to the early 1900s.

On August 25, nearly 60 people from as far away as Davenport, Elk Horn, and Decorah, Iowa joined local Danes and Danish-Americans from the West Branch, Tipton, and Iowa City area to see this lovely tract of land and to

experience first-hand how Walter and Vesta and their family have continued the ingenious self-sufficiency inherited from Walter's father. After a brief introduction and welcome, Walter shared the fascinating story of his father, Hans, coming to America and making a life for himself and his family. He went on to talk about the use of tools and equipment invented by his father and himself.

Guests were also given hands-on demonstrations of the various tools and equipment, such as the lathe, still in use today, as well as a tour of the farm. The highlight of the afternoon took place when Walter operated the sawmill his father had acquired in 1918.

On behalf of The Danish Immigrant Museum, we would like to thank Walter and Vesta Hansen and their daughters, Carolyn and Lucy, along with the family of Gordon and Jan Esbeck of Tipton, Iowa for their generous assistance in making this event a most interesting experience.



Walter Hansen uses equipment that his father Hans Hansen, a Danish immigrant, created himself in the early 1900s. Here he demonstrates for Museum members and friends.





Cynthia McKeen's Christmas card design celebrates her grandmother Anna Christofferson who emigrated from Denmark at age 14.

2007 Christmas Card Inspired by Danish Immigrant

The Danish Immigrant Museum is proud to present the 2007 Christmas card, created by artist Cynthia McKeen. A native of Exira, Iowa and resident of St. Paul, Minnesota, McKeen's design was inspired by her Danish grandmother.

McKeen's grandmother, Anna Christoffersen, emigrated from Denmark at age 14 with her younger sister Marie. Together they arrived in this country with one small wooden box and skillful hands. Anna was ambidextrous and—among many other talents—could cut whimsical cookie designs with a knife.

When McKeen was a girl, her Grandma Anna lived with the family.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the kitchen produced tins of treats. Grandma's molasses cookies were among everyone's favorites. Anna cut, McKeen decorated and McKeen's tireless mother kept it all running smoothly. An unheated room off the kitchen became a treasure trove of Danish delicacies (a temptation to *nisser* of all kinds), all ready for a Danish Christmas when the house filled with aunts, uncles, cousins and pets.

The cookies were also sent to other Danish immigrants. Anna's Danish cousins had settled in Oregon, California and Texas. At the holidays the cousins sent holly, almonds and grapefruit to

Iowa. And from Iowa, Grandma Anna and her family sent wild plum butter, black walnuts, hazelnuts and molasses cookies.

Grandma Anna had a rare sense of humor and told stories while they worked. McKeen remembers a story about Hans Christian Andersen cutting patterns for cookies for a woman in Sweden.

The annual Christmas card and ornaments can be purchased through the Museum Shop by calling 1-800-759-9192 or online at www.danishmuseum.org. The cards are \$10.00 for a package of 10 and the ornaments are \$14.95 each.

From a Curatorial Perspective

By Barbara Lund-Jones

We are settling some of the smaller items within our collection in a series of viewing drawers located in the lower level of the Museum. These drawers provide our visitors a close encounter with some of the treasures from the collection. I share with you now stories associated with two pieces of hair work jewelry recently added to these units.

Braided hair jewelry was quite popular during the mid-1800s through the early 1900s. Such jewelry often held considerable sentimental value, as it was woven from the hair of a loved one, a close family member or a valued friend. At the height of its popularity, there were even a number of hair work jewelry instruction manuals printed; instruction sessions were offered in this art.

The popular tradition of hair work jewelry has long receded into the past but many families have a woven hair heirloom that has passed down through generations. The Danish immigrants and their descendants are no exception.

One of our jewelry pieces is a long, delicate single strand necklace of braided hair brought to this country in 1929 by the Danish immigrant Signe Jorgensen, who left a comfortable city apartment in Denmark to join her only child, a married daughter who lived in a small Iowa farmhouse near Ringsted. Signe Jorgensen's apartment in Denmark had had electricity

and running water; the farmhouse was another matter entirely. Kerosene lamps provided light and water was pumped from a well and brought to the house in pails. The adjustment for Signe Jorgensen was enormous. The woven hair necklace was made from hair belonging to Signe's sister, Augusta Rasmussen, who remained in Denmark. For Signe, the necklace most likely served as a very important bond with her sister, reaching



This necklace was brought to the United States by Danish Immigrant Signe Jorgensen; the necklace was woven from the hair of her sister Augusta Rasmussen.

across oceans and time. Ellen H. Nielsen gave this heirloom to the Museum in 2002.

Another woven hair-piece on view



A watch fob made from the hair of Inger Christiansen, carried by her husband Niels.

is a braided watch fob, which belonged to Niels Christensen, who immigrated to America in 1875. It was woven from the hair of his much younger wife, Inger, whom he married in 1887. They made their home in Wisconsin and had a family of ten children. Inger was in poor health for many years and passed away in 1920. The fob was carefully preserved within the family. It passed to Niels's children and grandchildren. His granddaughter, Shirley Cherkasky, gave the fob to the Museum in 2003.

These and other unique pieces may be seen in our viewing drawer in the lower level. We invite you to visit and view.



Scheduled Exhibitions at The Danish Immigrant Museum

❖ MEZZANINE

From Postcards to Instant Messaging: Family and Friends Stay in Touch

March 30, 2007–February 25, 2008

Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations®

March 18, 2008–February 16, 2009

❖ LOWER LEVEL GALLERY

Danish-American Artist Series
Cynthia McKeen

July 29, 2007 – January 2, 2008

Works from the Museum's Collection
January 17, 2008 – July 7, 2008

Jens T. Carstensen
July 24, 2008 – January 5, 2009

Gerthe Herlin and Lone Hansen
(mother and daughter)
January 22, 2009 – July 7, 2009

Evelyn Matthies
July 23, 2009 – January 4, 2010

❖ BRO ALCOVE:

Whimsical Cuttings by Annette Andersen

July 29, 2007 – January 2, 2008
Andersen's paper cuttings feature whimsical motifs from everyday life.

❖ MAIN FLOOR FRONT:

The Work of Helle Jørvad, Danish Goldsmith and Designer
May 24, 2007 – June 1, 2008

The Danish-American Artist Series Features the Work of Cynthia McKeen

Cynthia McKeen's artwork and photographs are currently featured in the *Danish-American Artist Series*. Her display in the Museum's lower level is a wonderland of imagination and engagement. Fairy tale mobiles swing gently in the air. A field of intricately cut paper trees delights the eye. Fanciful creatures intermingle with delicate watercolors, intricate paper cuttings and remarkable photographs.

Although the exhibition documents considerable diversity of expression, McKeen's primary medium as an artist is paper. Upon entering the exhibit, the visitor's attention quickly travels to a large, beautifully rendered depiction of Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale, *The Wild Swans*, composed from cut papers, gold, and pastel. Leaving this image, the visitor is treated to numerous other pieces of cut paper artwork. The exhibition is interspersed with McKeen's observations and comments about her work.

The importance of paper as a medium to McKeen is best conveyed in her own words: "I very much enjoy paper as a medium. Its lightness seems to make the expression of lightness easy. It is my view that this world often overlooks the significance of lightheartedness. The day that people take joy as seriously as they do sorrow, perhaps we can turn a corner . . ."

A graduate of Grinnell College and Drake University, McKeen studied design in Denmark in the late 1960s at Charlottenborg, Denmark's Art Academy. While in Copenhagen, McKeen worked in several design stores, learning the art of store design. Her studies there were interrupted by her father's failing health. She returned to the United States, eventually establishing herself in St. Paul.

Under the name of *proongily*, McKeen spent eighteen years in store, graphic, interior and exhibit design before changing to the die cut and custom paper cutting business in the



Artist Cynthia McKeen's primary medium is paper. "Its lightness," she says, "seems to make the expression of lightness easy."

late 1980s. Her paper work has sold in museum stores across the country. Her work in a variety of mediums has been shown in several cities in the United States and Japan.

During the 1990s McKeen and her husband, John McKeen, lived for a period in Tokyo, where John was engaged in architectural projects for 3M. These years played an exceptionally important role in McKeen's ongoing development as an artist, as well as marking an important passage in her own personal journey. Already an established presence in paper art, McKeen immersed herself in the time-honored traditions of Japanese paper art and related crafts, thereby expanding the depth and understanding of her own art practice. The current exhibition contains several references to this passage, expressed through photographs, an original labyrinth design and *origami* foldings.

As an artist, McKeen engages with the visitor throughout her exhibit, inviting participation at a number of points. In an area featuring brightly colored animals, children are invited to play with origami animals and to make some small, simple *origami* creations. In another section, they are urged to pick up



McKeen's work has been influenced by her experiences in Denmark and Japan.

and examine *gækkebrev*, which the artist has especially designed for children. The most popular of all engagement points, however, is the labyrinth located on the far wall. Many visitors travel the path with their fingers, caught up in the challenge of making their way through the labyrinth.

Cynthia McKeen's work will be on display at the Museum through January 2, 2008.



Andersen, pictured here, has also shown her work at a folk life and ways celebration at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Museum Exhibits Annette Andersen's Papirklip

The Bro Alcove has been transformed into light-hearted merriment. A Charlie Chaplin mobile swings lightly in the air currents. Nearby, a family of paper sheep keeps him company. A black and white cow sways in the foreground. More traditional paper cuttings hang in frames along the walls. These pieces are part of *Whimsical Cuttings by Annette Andersen*.

Andersen, an exhibit of the Danish folk art, *papirklip*.

Andersen, a Kimballton, Iowa native, became interested in the German paper cutting tradition of *Sherensnitte* twenty years ago. Her work with *Sherensnitte* patterns soon led her to the *papirklip* of her Danish heritage. She fell in love with

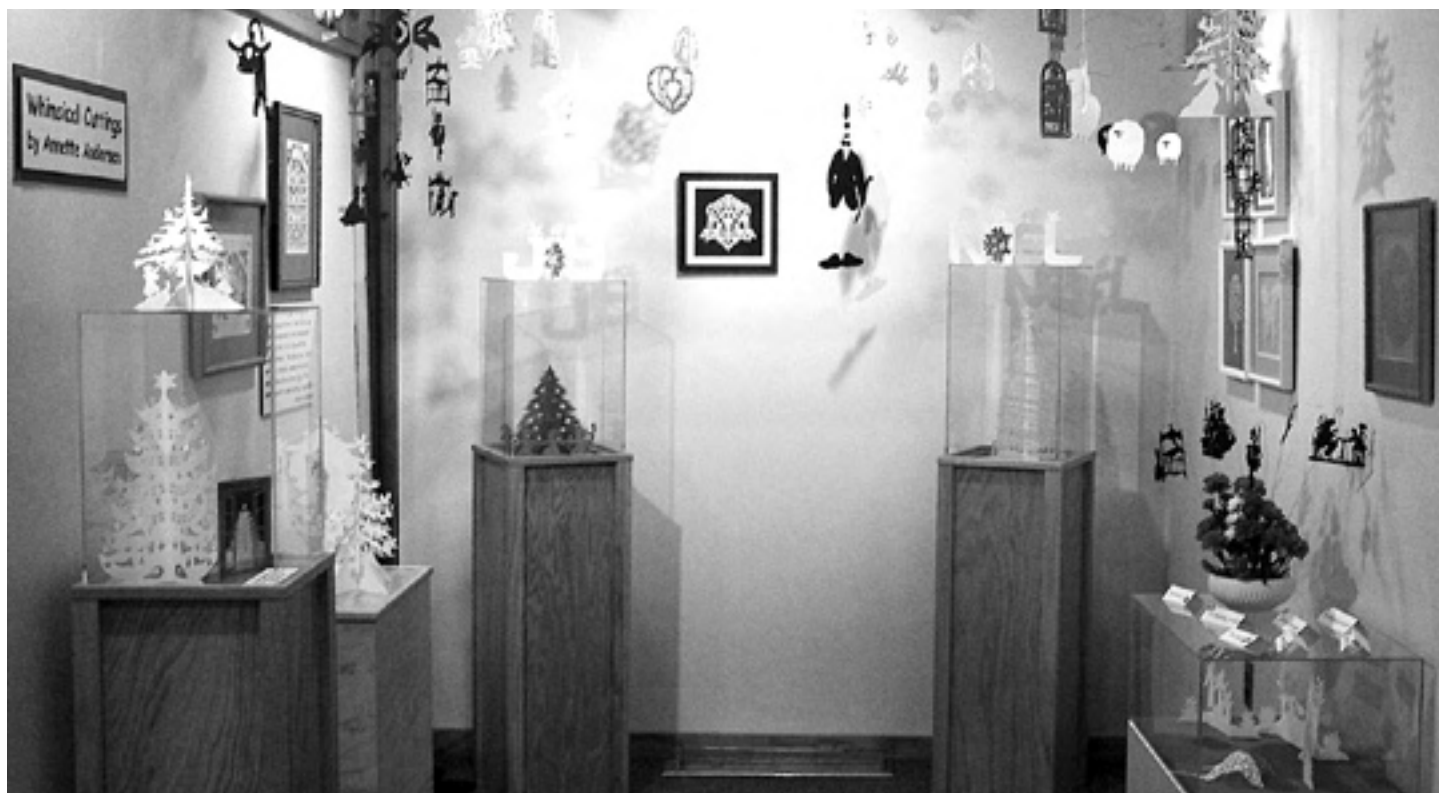
the Danish patterns, particularly those reflecting the Danish knack for taking everyday items and turning them into a thing of joy.

Andersen works primarily from patterns. She finds this kind of paper cutting relaxing, one of her favorite end-of-day activities. Andersen explains that settling in her favorite chair in the evening with her special cutting scissors and following a pattern allows her to clear her head and put the day behind her.

One of Andersen's pieces, a Danish Christmas tree and surrounding scene, was featured on the Museum's annual Christmas card in 2000. Andersen has also done *papirklip* demonstrations on both state and national levels. A few years back, she participated in a celebration of folk life and ways sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Andersen comes from a tradition of talent. Her mother, Nadjeschda Overgaard was a woman of many artistic gifts, such as painting, folk dancing, and handwork to name a few. She may be best known for her mastery of *Hardanger*, which earned her a National Heritage Fellowship in 1998. This award recognizes the contributions of outstanding folk and traditional artists.

Whimsical Cuttings by Annette Andersen is scheduled to run through the end of the year.





The Cedar Valley Danes, pictured in front of the Museum, spearheaded the project to move and restore the Jens Dixen House.

Jens Dixen House Dedicated in October

The Jens Dixen House was officially dedicated at the Museum's October board meeting. Moved to Museum grounds from North Dakota, Danish immigrant Jens Dixen lived in the house around 1906.

Opening ceremonies were initiated with a hymn, "Beauty Around Us," sung in the original Danish and led by board member, Benedikte Ehlers Olesen. After extending special greetings to the guests, John Mark Nielsen, executive director, gave a presentation entitled "Roots of the Inner Mission," providing context for Jens Dixen's life of missionary work.

Bertel Schou, whose family purchased the North Dakota house and land from Jens Dixen and whose father had been taught by him, spoke of Dixen as a person, providing insight into the nature of Dixen's religious commitment. Realizing the importance of preserving Dixen's story, the Schou family generously made a gift of the cabin to the Museum in 1999.

Special recognition

The Jens Dixen House, a homestead shanty moved to the Museum grounds from North Dakota, is open to visitors.

was given to the Cedar Valley Danes whose diligence and commitment brought the Dixen House project to fruition. While many members of the group participated in the project, the member of the group most consistently there through all stages was Ronald Bro, also a member of the Museum's board of directors. On behalf of the Cedar Valley Danes, Bro spoke to the guests about the project, describing the physical move of the cabin from North Dakota and the process of its restoration on Museum grounds.

Guests adjourned to Elk Horn's town hall, where a special picnic was held.

The menu was a recreation of a typical church dinner served in 1919 at Bethany Lutheran Church of Dickson in Alberta, Canada, which Missionary Jens Dixen attended after initiating congregations in the United States. The meal included: fried chicken, baked ham, scalloped potatoes, corn, applesauce, home baked bread with jams, carrot cake and pumpkin pie, coffee, tea, and lemonade.

Opening events, originally planned for the grounds surrounding the cabin, were held indoors, owing to rain, wind and chill. The sun came through in time to brighten individual visits to the cabin.





Board of Directors Meet in Elk Horn

The Danish Immigrant Museum's board of directors attended the 24th Annual and 77th Regular meetings in Elk Horn, October 18 – 20, 2007. The board of directors meets three times each year in February, June, and October. Generally, the February and June meetings are held out of state in locations where there is support from Museum members and local Danish groups in the area. The annual and regular meetings in October are held in Elk Horn.

The board of directors is made up of 25 members from around the country and, currently, 22 of the 25 board member positions are filled. Each board member is responsible for all costs associated with the meeting, including travel, meals, meeting room/facility expense. Each board member serves on at least one if not more of the following committees: Collections, Development, Endowment, Executive, Facilities, Family History, Finance, Marketing, Museum Shop, and Nominating. After a board retreat on Thursday, committee meetings Friday and Saturday, the annual and regular meetings were held at the Elk Horn Town Hall.

Front row, left to right – Benedikte Ehlers Olesen (Eugene, Oregon and Denmark), Mark Nussle (Palos Park, Illinois), Marc

Petersen (Omaha, Nebraska), Kai Nyby (outgoing president from LaPorte, Indiana), Ane-Grethe Delaney (Wayzata, Minnesota), Lois Christensen (outgoing member from Elk Horn, Iowa), Dagmar Muthamia (Long Beach, California);

Second row, left to right – John Molgaard (Atlantic, Iowa), John Mark Nielsen, executive director (Blair, Nebraska), Lone Christensen (Brown Deer, Wisconsin), Ken Gregersen (Ankeny, Iowa), Harold Jensen (Ames, Iowa), Dennis Andersen (Atlanta, Georgia), Janet M. Thuesen (Sausalito, California), Linda Sloth-Gibbs (Yuma, Arizona), Anelise Sawkins (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Kurt Larsen (Oneonta, Alabama), Erna Jensen (Des Moines, Iowa), Lynette Skow Rasmussen (Johnston, Iowa), Janell Hansen (Elk Horn, Iowa);

Third Row, left to right Mark Frederiksen (Falcon, Colorado), Dennis Larson, ex-officio (Decorah, Iowa). Missing from the picture are Carlo Christensen (Glendale, California), Bridget Jensen (Houston, Texas), Kay Esbeck North (Ames, Iowa), Harriet Albertsen Spanel (Bellingham, Washington) as well as outgoing board members Gordon Esbeck (Tipton, Iowa) and Ronald Bro (Cedar Falls, Iowa).



Gift Allows Museum to Create Promotional Video

In June, The Danish Immigrant Museum received a generous gift from the Rasmussen Foundation/Rasmussen Group of Des Moines, Iowa to underwrite the production of a Danish Immigrant Museum promotional video.

We are excited to show you this new video in the near future. We are especially grateful to Sandra Rasmussen and her son and daughter-in-law, Kurt and Lynette

Skow Rasmussen for their wonderful support. Lynette is a current member of the Museum's board of directors.

Thank You Businesses and Organizations

These businesses and organizations have contributed annual memberships of at least \$100. We recognize their generosity and support in each newsletter during their membership.

A & A Framing (Annette Andersen), Kimballton, Iowa
AmericInn of Elk Horn, Elk Horn, Iowa
Answers (Rick Tighe), Atlantic, Iowa
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, Iowa
Carroll Control Systems, Inc., Carroll, Iowa
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, Iowa and surrounding communities
Childs & Hall, P.C., Attorneys at Law (Mike Childs), Harlan, Iowa
Cutler Funeral Home (Bob & Cindy Cutler), LaPorte, Indiana
Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, Minnesota
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, California
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, West Bend, Wisconsin
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, Nebraska
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, Wisconsin
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, Iowa
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lawrence, Kansas
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #75, Albert Lea, Minnesota
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84, Lincoln, Nebraska
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Waterloo, Iowa
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Eugene, Oregon
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Plentywood, Montana
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #341, Kimballton/Elk Horn, Iowa

Danish Brotherhood Lodge #348, Eugene, Oregon
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, Arizona
Danish Countryside Vines & Wines (Allan & Carol Petersen), Exira, Iowa
Danish Ladies Relief Society, Santa Rosa, California
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, Iowa
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Johnston, Iowa
Danish Vennelyst Club, Omaha, Nebraska
Dike Danish Sisterhood #176, Waterloo, Iowa
Elk Horn Pharmacy (Tim & Mary Waymire), Elk Horn, Iowa
Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School, Elk Horn, Iowa
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn, Iowa
Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, Solvang, California
Exira Family Medicine Clinic (Dr. Dana & Joan Shaffer), Exira, Iowa
Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, California
Goldsmith Master & Designer Helge Jørvad, Ringsted, Denmark
Haldor Topsoe, Inc. (Niels K. Sorensen), Houston, Texas
Hardi Midwest, Inc., Davenport, Iowa
Harlan Newspapers, Harlan, Iowa
Heartland District of the DBIA, Ventura, Iowa
Jacquelyn's Danish Bake Shoppe, Elk Horn, Iowa
Kessler Funeral Homes, Inc. (Mark Kessler), Audubon, Iowa
King of Kings (Richard & Bonnie Andersen), Anchor Point, Alaska
KJAN Radio, Atlantic, Iowa
KNOD Radio, Harlan, Iowa
Knudsen Old Timers, Glendale,

California
Marge's Hair Hut (Kent & Marge Ingerslev), Elk Horn, Iowa
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, Iowa
Midwest Groundcovers (Peter & Irma Ørum), St. Charles, Illinois
Nebraska District of DBIA, Kearney, Nebraska
Nelsen & Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, Nebraska
O & H Danish Bakery, Racine, Wisconsin
Odense City Museums (Torben Gronggaard Jeppesen, Director), Odense, Denmark
Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P., Carroll, Iowa
Outlook Study Club, Elk Horn, Iowa
Pacific NW District Lodges Danish Brotherhood, Spokane Valley, Washington
Proongily (Cynthia McKeen), St. Paul, Minnesota
Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Glendale, California
Rebild National Park Society, Upper Midwest Chapter, Maple Plain, Minnesota
Red River Danes, Fargo, North Dakota
Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, Iowa
Royal Danish Embassy, Washington, D.C.
Shelby County State Bank, Elk Horn, Iowa
Symra Literary Society, Decorah, Iowa
The Viking Club of Orange County, Seal Beach, California
Westergaard Farms and Scandinavian Bed & Breakfast (Dale & Ellen Westergaard Jackson), Whiting, Iowa

New Additions to the Wall of Honor

June 1, 2007-October 8, 2007

The Danish Immigrant Museum's Wall of Honor provides families and friends with a means of preserving the memory of those who emigrated from Denmark to America. Over 4,500 immigrants are currently recognized on the Wall. Their stories and the stories of their families contribute importantly to the growing repository of family histories at the Museum's Family History and Genealogy Center.

If you would like to memorialize your forbearers by adding their names to the Wall of Honor, contact Deb Larsen, development associate.

REVERAND KNUD C. BODHOLDT, *Agnete Buhl, Tyler, Minnesota; Kristian & Ruby Frost, Maple Plain, Minnesota; Iver & Lis Jorgensen, Burnsville, Minnesota; Richard & Rita Juhl, Edina, Minnesota; Carl Laursen & Karen Kadighn, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Svend & Elin Koch, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Anna Laursen, North Canton, Ohio; Alma Metzler, Evanston, Illinois; Paul Pedersen, Honolulu, Hawaii; Axel & Lou Ann Thomsen, Ringsted, Iowa*
SWEND AAGE CHRISTENSEN, *David & Mary Jo Christensen, Paradise Valley, Arizona*

ALFRED FABER, *Gordon & Sally Faber, Des Moines, Iowa*
INGVARD LAURITS FABER, *Gordon & Sally Faber, Des Moines, Iowa*
NIELSINE (LARSEN) FABER, *Gordon & Sally Faber, Des Moines, Iowa*
PETER FABER, *Gordon & Sally Faber, Des Moines, Iowa*
EINAR SPELLING HANSEN & MAREN JOHANNA HEIBERG HANSEN, *Helen Marr, St. Paul, Minnesota*
PER KRISTENSEN HESEL, *Laurie Hesel, Pawnee City, Nebraska*
ANE JENSEN JACOBSEN, *Martin Pedersen, Bennington, Nebraska*
CHRIS P. LARSEN, *Doris J. Larsen Hedgcock, Colorado Springs, Colorado*
TOMMY IVAN NIELSEN, *Tommy & Judith Nielsen, Kenosha, Wisconsin*
CHRISTIAN PETERSEN RATTENBORG & GUDRUN SORENSEN RATTENBORG, *William & Christine Rattenborg, Fort Collins, Colorado*
AXEL SORENSEN & ELLEN (HANSEN) SORENSEN, *Evelyn Petersen, Van Horne, Iowa*

Memorials – May 31, 2007-October 8, 2007

Memorials have been received in loving memory of the following individuals:

Darlene (Soe) Andersen
 Emmert Andersen
 Harold Andersen
 Ruth Boast
 Charles Christensen
 Jan Christensen
 Viola Cook
 Donald Esbeck
 Einar A. Faaborg
 Alice M. Flynn
 Imo Jean Griffin

Erik Hansen
 Vera Ledet Haworth
 Howard Krogh Jensen
 Bill Karwal
 Kirstine Knudsen
 Hardy Miller Ledet
 Eivind Lillehoj
 Sigurd Molgaard
 Jeanette Nixon
 Ollivene Olsen

Ardis N. Petersen
 Edith Rachlitz
 Shirley Rosse
 Bessie Mae Sorensen
 Merlin Sorensen
 Jytta Svendsen
 Dorothy Marie Albertsen Swensen
 Edward C. Terkelsen
 Marian Karr Weiss
 Bodil Ruggard Wilson

Volunteer Spotlight: Sharon Winchell

People who come to the Family History and Genealogy Center on Wednesdays for help researching their ancestors will often find Sharon Winchell at the front desk, where she's been a regular fixture for several years.

When she first visited the Museum years ago Sharon told herself that it was a place she'd like to volunteer when she retired. Starting out as a high school math teacher, she then spent 23 years as Cass County Treasurer working with both people and public records, skills that were to stand her in good stead in her post-work "career." After retiring in 2003, she knew she wanted to spend her volunteer time doing something interesting. About then she read an article in the Atlantic paper about the FHGC and learned that more volunteers were needed. She visited, filled out an application and began volunteering on a weekly basis.

Sharon says she had always been interested in the immigrant experience and admired the courage it took to pull up roots and leave one's homeland, knowing that one would likely never return or see one's family again. Her interest in genealogy was encouraged by an aunt who had compiled what was known about her Danish and Norwegian roots. Her aunt would ask from time to time whether Sharon thought there was anyone in her family who would be interested in any of it, and Sharon's reply was always, "Yes, someday, but not yet."

Sharon's Danish great-grandmother, Juliane Marie "Mary" Enevoldsen, was born in Lindved in Sindbjerg parish, Vejle County. Widowed young, she came to the United States in 1870 with daughters Bodil Marie and Antonie "Nea" Olesen. Like many Danes they initially settled in Chicago, where Mary met and married another recent immigrant, Hans Christensen, in 1871. Sharon's grandfather, Albert Simon, and two younger sisters, Thora and Clara, were born there. In 1878 the family moved to Story City, Iowa. Hans, a house-painter, died in 1886 at the age of 43. To support herself and her fam-

ily Mary did dressmaking and millinery. She married a third time in 1911 and died later that year at the age of 77. Sharon's grandfather, Albert Simon Christensen, was a champion bicycle rider in the early 1890s. A harness-maker by profession, he married Malinda Johnson, the daughter of Norwegian immigrants, in 1900. They made their home in Story City and, later, in Clemons, Iowa.

Sharon says the following about her FHGC work: "Family research is very interesting. Beginning with a few clues, you search and continue to search and document the names and lives of ancestors and/or descendants of patrons. It is very time-consuming, with many "brick walls," but with the help of colleagues,

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Sharon Winchell is one of the regular faces seen at the Family History & Genealogy Center, where she volunteers every Wednesday as a researcher.



Winchell's great-grandmother, Mary Christensen, was left a young widow with five children to support. Here she is seen with her children and grandchildren around 1900.

Volunteer . . .

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other paths are suggested and it's back on the trail. The most challenging part for me is putting all the information into a written narrative that often covers multiple generations in both the U.S. and Denmark. My last report had more than 80 pages of attachments, including translations of church records, documenting the material contained therein. Family research is very satisfying, especially when we hear from patrons who are so excited to learn of previously unknown ancestors and their families, or who now have immigration information or other documentation they have been searching for for many years."

While working as a volunteer Sharon has become the FHGC "expert" in Danish immigration to and through Canada and recently held an in-service session for her fellow volunteers to teach them about some of the available resources in this area. She has also twice traveled Fargo-Morehead to provide Danish genealogical expertise at the annual Hjemkomst Festival there.



Sharon Winchell's Danish-American grandfather, champion bicycle racer Albert Simon Christensen, spurred her interest in researching her roots.



Collections Department Welcomes a New Intern

In late August, Erin Harney joined the Museum staff as the new collections intern. She works most directly with Angela Stanford, collections manager and registrar, in the collections department and has already proven to be a valued member of the Museum staff.

Erin assists with ongoing activities: cataloging artifacts into the collection, monitoring pest activity and recording storage area temperatures and humidity levels. One of the larger projects she is assisting with is conducting a complete inventory of the Museum's collection. She and Angela record object identification numbers, descriptions, physical conditions, and locations of objects and enter those into PastPerfect, the Museum's cataloging database.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Erin is currently a student in the anthropology master's program at Northern Illinois University at DeKalb, where she is also completing

the Museum Studies Certificate Program. Following graduation, Erin plans to find a position as a collections manager at a natural history or anthropological museum.

Erin is the third American intern to work in The Danish Immigrant Museum's collections department. Each year, internship notices are sent to graduate level museum studies departments at colleges and universities across the United States. The internship is a six-month position beginning in September and running through the end of February. This program has been very successful; each year we have been fortunate to be able to select a distinguished individual such as Erin from a number of highly qualified applicants.

We at The Danish Immigrant Museum are happy to have Erin on board and extend to her a very warm Danish welcome.



Erin Harney, a graduate student at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, is the latest participant in The Danish Immigrant Museum's internship program.



News from the Family History & Genealogy Center

By Michele McNabb, librarian

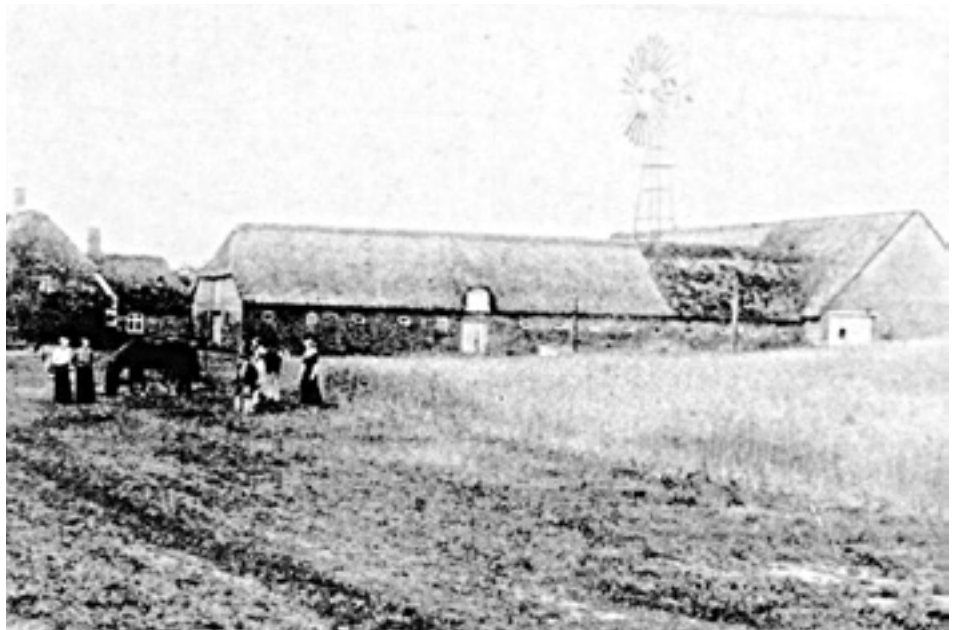
The Sand Family Reunion / Sammenkomst for Slægten Sand

Some families remain cohesive units for several generations, getting together periodically or holding regular family reunions. Other families disperse early and wide and later generations quickly become strangers to each other. Thanks to the efforts of Family History & Genealogy Center remote volunteers Kenneth and Carolyn Sand, one of these latter families bridged the years and waters to come together this past summer.

On August 4, 2007, the Sand family held its first ever reunion in Galena, Illinois. Seventy-eight descendants of Peder Andreas Sand (1804-1882) from Denmark and several American states attended the gathering. In addition, several families from Denmark and family members in many states sent letters and e-mails with greetings and well wishes.

The Sand family traces its origins to a farm near Ringkøbing Fjord called Norkærgaard (North Farm), located near Mejlbj in Stauning Parish, in the former Ringkøbing County in Jutland. The Sand surname first came into usage around 1697-1700, when a man called Anders Albeck was referred to in the old records as Anders Albeck of Sand and Anders Albeck Sand (the name “Sand” derives from the sandy soil common to West Jutland).

The family tie to the Norkærgaard farm and the adoption of the family name Sand over 150 years before it became common practice in rural Denmark to adopt a fixed surname was significant for the Sand family. Joan Rockwell, in her biography of Danish folklorist Evald



Nærgaard in Stauning parish, Ringkøbing County, ca. 1890.

Tang Kristensen (Evald Tang’s mother was a Sand), says “The Sands, on the other hand, kept the same name, which Kristensen notes in his account as very exceptional and comes from a farm they owned for many generations in Stauning. To keep the same family name was an extraordinary sign of stability and security: it had only been the aristocracy and especially the most important of them, who in the past had taken and kept family names—and then only from 1526. The custom of permanent family names came late and gradually in Denmark, despite many royal edicts (1771, 1828, 1856, 1898) to enforce it. The Sands must really be reckoned, in some of the branches, as ‘perhaps a bit aristocratic...’.”



Memorial stone located at the entrance to Norkærgaard.

The Sand family had firm ties to West Jutland until the late 1800s, when the family began to immigrate to America

– continued on page 19



This Sand family genealogy board was created by Kenneth Sand to illustrate the various family lines at the family's recent reunion.

Sand Family . . . – continued from page 18

and also spread throughout Denmark and other countries. Prior to this time almost all members of this Sand family lived in the parishes of Stauning, Nysogn, Gammelsogn, Hover, Ringkøbing, and Brejning.

Peder Andreas Sand was born in Nysogn in 1804 and successfully farmed in Gammelsogn and Hover parishes prior to his retirement in the 1860s. At one time he owned 200 hectares of land, which was a very large farm in nineteenth century Denmark. With his two wives, Else Jensdatter and, then, Karen Marie Jakobsen, Peder Andreas Sand had the following children:

1. **Ane Catherine Sand.** She married Jens Iversen Brostrup. Her son, Peder Andreas Sand Brostrup, settled in Omaha, Nebraska.
2. **Karen Pedersen Sand,** who married Clemmen Jensen. Descendants of Karen and Clemmen settled in the Charles City, Iowa area.
3. **Ane Katrine Pedersen Sand.** She married Povl Andersen. Their descendants settled in New York City.
4. **Jens Christian Sand.** He married; his descendants stayed in Denmark.
5. **Karen Hvistendahl Sand.** She married Peder Jakobsen. Their son, Anton Jacobsen, came to America about 1904 and settled in Chicago. Twenty-one descendants of this family attended the reunion.
6. **Hans Peder Andreas Sand** married and had seven children. Fifty-two of his descendants attended the reunion. The following descendants of Hans Peder came to America:

- Anders Pedersen Sand, his wife Petrea and daughter Mildred settled on a farm in the Poplar area of Audubon County, Iowa. Anders initially came to America in 1902, then went back to Denmark in 1920. In 1925 he returned to the United States for good.
- Mariane Sand, her husband, Anders Thomsen, and children Thomas and Maren came to America in 1907. They farmed in Audubon and Guthrie counties in Iowa before moving to California in the early 1930s.
- Peter Marinus Grimstrup Sand immigrated in 1906. Peter raised his family on farms in Guthrie County, Iowa.
- Andrea Sand married Jens Block. Their children Niels, Chris, Hermann, and Emil Gustav Block, immigrated between 1920 and 1948 and all settled in the Lincoln, Nebraska, area.
- 7. **Susanne Elisabeth Dorteia Sand** married Jens Knudsen. Their many descendants live in Denmark. Six members of this family attended the reunion.

Since Anders Albeck Sand first used the Sand surname in about 1697 the Sand family has extended down twelve generations. Attendees at the reunion belonged to the eighth to eleventh generations.

While the Sand family for several centuries had its roots deep in the soil of West Jutland current research has found no member of the Sand family in the United States or Denmark still actively engaged in agriculture.



Activities and News from the Family History & Genealogy Center

- During October – Family History Month – there were two displays in the FHGC lobby. The first dealt with the life of Reverend Anders Hansen, the guiding spirit behind the Salem Home, which is now celebrating its 75th anniversary. The second, courtesy of FHGC volunteer Kenneth Sand, was a photographic overview of the ancestors and descendants of Peder Andreas Sand (1804-1882) of Stavning and Hove parishes in Ringkøbing County, showing one way of tracking family lines.
- From November through April the FHGC will be on winter hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10-4. Appointments outside these hours may be made by calling in advance of your intended visit.
- A notebook collection of the vignettes written by Barbara Lund-Jones, Angela Stanford and Michele McNabb for *The Danish Pioneer* and *Bien* has been compiled and is available for browsing in the FHGC lobby.
- An intern is coming to the FHGC! Paperwork is underway to prepare for the arrival of Danish history graduate student Marianne Sletten Paasche, who will be working in the FHGC next spring and early summer. We will also share her for a time with the Sheffield Historical Society in Sheffield, Illinois.
- The green light has also been given to begin searching for a library intern to assist Michele with cataloging the FHGC collection in PastPerfect™.
- A change has recently been made in the research assistance available to visitors who come to the FHGC. Library volunteers will continue to assist patrons in finding their family or ancestral information for the price of admission and photocopies. If in-depth research assistance is desired beyond what a volunteer is able to do, the library manager will be available to work with patrons at the regular FHGC research rates (\$20/hour for museum members; \$30/hour for non-members). Advance appointments are also recommended. This change was necessary, given the time-consuming nature of genealogical research, to allow the FHGC staff to spend more time on the numerous paid research inquiries received at the library.
- On Saturday, October 27, Michele presented a two-hour workshop on Danish-American genealogy during the Danish Sisterhood National Convention in Chicago. She also learned more about the records of the Sisterhood and how to access information about the various lodges and their members.
- Thanks go out to the many individuals who have donated to the FHGC 10th Anniversary campaign. To date we've raised about \$15,000 of the \$25,000 that will enable us to purchase additional materials, including microfilms of selected Danish-American newspapers and Danish church registers, add Danish Brotherhood lodge material to the Museum webpage, and start cataloging the library collection. Several fund-raising projects are underway. There's still time to help us realize our dreams through a gift of any amount designated "FHGC 10th Anniversary Fund." A listing of all donors will appear in the next issue of the *America Letter*.

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.)



Wish List • Family History & Genealogy Center

Thanks to J. Brent and Shirley Nörlem of Monticello, Minnesota, for adopting the compilation of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska Civil War veterans. It will be a welcome addition to the FHGC collection. The following are some of the materials that we would like to add to the library. If they are sitting unwanted on your bookshelves or you would like to make a donation toward their purchase please contact Michele McNabb at librarian@danishmuseum.org or 712-764-7008.

- *A History of Ida County [Iowa]*, edited by Bruce L. Godbersen (1977). This was a limited edition, so if anyone has a copy they no longer want it would find a good home at the FHGC.

- *Children of Ellis Island*, by Barry Moreno (Arcadia Publishing, \$19.99)
- *A Global Citizen: Letter to my Descendants, part II*, by Niels Aage Skov (University Press of Southern Denmark, 2006; \$30).
- *Ib Melchoir: Man of Imagination*, by Robert Skotak. (2000; \$15 on amazon.com).
- *With a Brush and Muslin Bag: the Life of Niels Ebbesen Hansen* (2003), by Helen H. Loen.
- *Among the Danes*, by F. M. Butlin (available from abebooks.com for ±\$50.)

We are also interested in acquiring older (pre-1950) telephone directories from Danish communities throughout the United States, Dana and Grand View College

yearbooks, and high school yearbooks (especially pre-1960) from Cass, Audubon and Shelby Counties and other Iowa communities with significant Danish-American populations.

If you have any of these items please contact Michele McNabb to see if we already have them before sending or bringing them to the Museum. Although we appreciate the underlying thoughtfulness of unsolicited donations of books, many times we receive duplicate titles or ones that do not fit our collection guidelines, and hence which will not be kept. An advance list of titles sent by mail or email or sometimes just a phone call can save both potential donors and FHGC staff time and money.



Are You a Danish Immigrant or Long-term Resident?

Many Danes have immigrated to the United States since WWII, have been exchange students or resided in this country for longer periods of

time. If you fit one of these categories, we would like to have some information in our library on you! Contact the FHGC for copies of Immigrant

Information Forms for yourself or for distribution at meetings of your local Danish-American organization,



Database Updates

- The FHGC now has an index to obituaries found in the *Elk-Horn Kimballton Review* from 1916-21 and 1928-1997.
- For the past three years we have been able to offer remote access to HeritageQuest Online™ to Museum members at the \$100 level and above. We currently have around 275 subscribers. Due to a change

in marketing policy, however, the HQO vendor, ProQuest, no longer allows non-public libraries to offer remote access. We are currently negotiating an agreement with the firm that will allow current subscribers to finish out their subscription year, and will be notifying them once this is finalized. So, if you are a subscriber now and

have been putting off looking in the various HQO databases you may want to do so before your subscription lapses. For those members who will suffer from 'HQO-withdrawal,' many public libraries provide remote access to their card-holders. A visit to your local library may give you your fix!

Further Wall of Honor Information Requested

The FHGC would like to obtain more information on the following persons on the Museum Wall of Honor whose files are empty or rather uninforma-

tive. If you have information on any of the individuals below please contact Michele by phone at 712.764.7008 or email to librarian@danishmuseum.org.

Alternatively, a Wall of Honor Information form may be downloaded from the Museum website.

Surname	Given Names	Year of Immigration	County Settled	State Settled	Spouse(s)	WoH ID #
Aagaard	Bertha Koch	1891	Shelby	IA	Andreas Aagaard	419
Aagaard	Hans L.	1894	Audubon	IA	?	1806
Adelsen	Agnes Kirstine Houmann	1915	Kenosha	WI	Niels Peter Adelsen	4754
Adelsen	Niels Peter	1915	Kenosha	WI	Agnes Kirstine Houmann	4753
Albertsen	Ole Anton	1900	Hamlin	SD	?	4589
Amand	Fritze	1963	New York	NY	?	4569
Andersen	Anders Peder	1907	Cascade	MT	?	4669
Andersen	Andrew P.	1907	Aitkin	MN	?	1032
Andersen	Andrew Peter	1882	Audubon	IA	Johanna Marie -?-	37106
Andersen	Ane Marie Jensen	1903	Niobrara	WY	Peder Christian Andersen	40745
Andersen	Anna	?	O'Brien	IA	?	1649
Andersen	Anna Rasmussen	1891	Audubon	IA	?	1177
Andersen	Anne Marie	?	Shelby	IA	?	674
Andersen	Anton Carl	1910	Middlesex	NJ	Kristine Kaae	880
Andersen	Axel Miller	1906	Cook	IL	Olga Easterhope	39606
Andersen	Carl William	1909	Black Hawk	IA	?	4910
Andersen	Christian	c1896	Audubon	IA	Christiana Thomasen	1378
Andersen	Christine	?	Pottawattamie	IA	Nels P. Andersen	62
Andersen	Edvard	1910	British Columbia	CANADA	?	1035
Andersen	Emanuel T.	1916	Shelby	IA	?	960
Andersen	Erik M.	1955	Platte	MO	Anna Elisa -?-	1022
Andersen	George (Jorgen)	1915	Audubon	IA	Laura Kristine Rasmussen	1637
Andersen	Hans H.	?	Humboldt	CA	Helene Birgitte -?-	1181
Andersen	Helge E.	1927	Alameda	CA	Mette E. -?-	4957
Andersen	I. Margrethe	1912	Arapahoe	CO	?	1592
Andersen	Jacob Martin	1891	Audubon	IA	Anne Marie Jensen	5117
Andersen	Johanne Marie	1879	Audubon	IA	Andrew Peter Andersen	37106
Andersen	John C.	1906	Kenosha	WI	?	1174
Andersen	Kristine Kaae	1927	Middlesex	NJ	Anton Carl Andersen	880
Andersen	Lars Peter	1912	Linn	IA	Anna -?-	2111
Andersen	Laura Kristine Rasmussen	1906	Audubon	IA	George (Jorgen) Andersen	1638
Andersen	Lauritz Frederick	<1905	Lake	IL	Mette Marie Jacobsen	5090
Andersen	Marie Cecilia Jacobsen	1883	Dawson	NE	?	4573
Andersen	Marie Laurentine Nielsine Larsen	1909	Black Hawk	IA	Peder Chris-	4909
Andersen	Marius A.	1921	Douglas	NE	Augusta Pedersen	169
Andersen	Mette E.	1927	Alameda	CA	Helge E. Andersen	4957
Andersen	Nels P.	?	Pottawattamie	IA	Christine ?	62
Andersen	Niels Christian	?	Dawson	NE	Marie ?	4572
Andersen	Niels Peter	?	Sheridan	MT	?	1992
Andersen	Peder Christian	1909	Black Hawk	IA	Marie Laurentine Nielsine Larsen	4908
Andersen	Peder Christian	1903	Niobrara	WY	Ane Marie Jensen	40745
Andersen	Robert	1868	Wyandotte	KS	?	????
Andersen	Soren	?	McLeod	MN	Marie Christiansen	473
Andersen	Soren C.	1911	Polk	IA	?	922
Andersen	William	1855	Cook	IL	?	????
Anderson	Andrew	?	Cheyenne	NE	Elsie M. Jensen	1058
Anderson	Andrew H.	?	Lorah	IA	Anna Marie Jorgensen	632
Anderson	Anna Marie Jorgensen	?	Lorah	IA	Andrew H. Anderson	632
Anderson	Axel Emil Algren	1914	St. Clair	IL	Sophie Magdaline Anderson	5082
Anderson	Christen	1912	Langlade	WI	?	5192
Anderson	Christine Andersen	?	Hamilton	NE	?	731
Anderson	Dorothea Jorgensen	1872	New Denmark	WI	Peter Anderson	728
Anderson	Edward	?	Morgan	CO	?	1059
Anderson	Elsie M. Jensen	?	Cheyenne	NE	Andrew Anderson	1058
Anderson	Jens Jorgen	1877	Washington	NE	Anna -?-	5172
Anderson	Margaret Nelson	?	Washington	NE	?	1057
Anderson	Sophie Magdaline Anderson	1929	St. Clair	IL	Axel Emil Algren Anderson	5082



Vacation in Denmark and Support The Danish Immigrant Museum

Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, a member of The Danish Immigrant Museum's Board of Directors, and her husband Poul Olesen are making a fabulous offer. They are opening their Danish summer home for rental at a reduced price—and all proceeds will be donated to The Danish Immigrant Museum.

The summerhouse:

- The house is located in the middle of Jutland, a 10-minute drive from Viborg, Denmark's second oldest town (after Ribe). It's two hours to Skagen to the north, two hours to the German border to the south, one hour to the Atlantic Ocean on the west, and one hour to the Kattegat on the east.
- The house is a 45-minute drive to Århus, Denmark's second largest city, and a 40-minute drive to Ålborg.
- There are wonderful views of the Limfjord from most rooms in the house.
- The house has three bedrooms—two with queen-sized beds and one with two bunk beds. It sleeps six adults comfortably, but can sleep a total of eight.
- The house has two bathrooms, both have showers and one has a hot tub.
- There is a kitchen with refrigerator, oven, and microwave.
- The home has a flat screen television and DVD player.
- Beautiful views of unbelievable sunsets year-round from inside and from the outside decks.
- Stroll down the hill to the water, visit an inn or—some nights—watch sailboat races.
- The home is a five minute drive to shopping—bakery, butcher shop, bank, post office.
- With electric heat, this is a wonderful place to stay in any season.

The house is available for rental in 2008 and beyond. It costs a minimum of \$1,000 a week. (Usually, it costs around \$3,000.) Again, all proceeds are being generously given to The Danish Immigrant Museum.

Interested individuals should contact the Museum at 1-800-759-9192.





The Danish Immigrant Museum

2212 Washington Street • PO Box 470 • Elk Horn, Iowa 51531-0470
(712) 764-7001 • Toll Free (800) 759-9192 • FAX (712) 764-7002
E-Mail: info@danishmuseum.org

Family History & Genealogy Center

4210 Main Street • PO Box 249 • Elk Horn, IA 51531-0249
(712) 764-7008 • Toll Free (877) 764-7008 • FAX (712) 764-7010
E-Mail: fhgc@danishmuseum.org

WEBSITE: www.danishmuseum.org

Glædelig jul og godt nytår!

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