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THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

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Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations®: **Ernst Harboe**

by Eva Nielsen

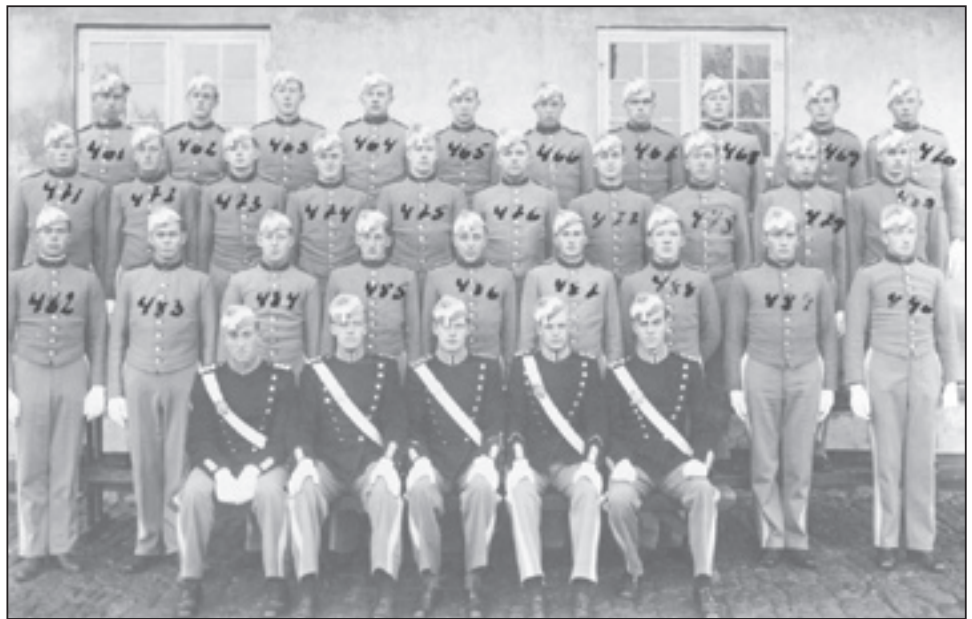
"I wanted to serve. Since I was a little boy, I loved the guys with the bearskin hats," says Ernst Harboe of Northfield, Illinois.

Those guys with the bearskin hats are the members of the Royal Danish Guard, the ones who stand guard outside Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen—the regiment of the Danish Army that has been charged for the past 350 years with protecting the Danish monarch.

Harboe reported for guard duty on November 17, 1939, finishing the five-month training one week before the German invasion of Denmark in April of 1940. "And," says Harboe, "I have never, ever worn the blue uniform or the bearskin hat. It's terrible."

Harboe did perform guard duty at Amalienborg Palace. But after the Germans invaded, the guard no longer wore the traditional dress uniforms. Instead, they used khaki uniforms and steel helmets.

This is not the only way in which Harboe's guard experience was to be remarkable. His connection to the guard spanned the World War II years in Denmark and followed him as he immigrated to the United States. And even this summer—



Ernst Harboe finished training for the Royal Danish Guard one week before the German invasion of Denmark in 1940. Harboe is in the second row on the far left; his guard number, written on the photo, was 482.

as the Royal Danish Guard celebrated its 350th anniversary in Copenhagen—Harboe, at 88-years-old, was there.

Let's back up. When the war first broke out—when Hitler invaded Poland in September of 1939—Harboe was not actually in Denmark. He was in the United States, in Los Angeles, having his first experience with the country that would one day be his home. At that time, though, Harboe was a tourist. He was traveling in the company of one of the Danish princes, Prince Georg, who had been Harboe's best friend from first grade and who was planning to be a guardsman as well. (Prince Georg's great grandfather was Christian IX. His father was the first cousin of Christian X. On his mother's side, Prince Georg's grandmother, Princess Ingeborg, was the sister of Christian X.)

Harboe shrugs off his association with royalty, saying, "There were so many princes back in those days. All through my teen years I had been sitting at the table with kings and queens from all over Europe because I was so often invited for lunch at Georg's house which was only a block away from our house, so it was just like family... I just grew up with this as a natural thing, never really thinking much about it. But it sure changed my life in many ways."



Harboe (left) pictured with Prince Georg (right) and Georg's father before departing for their boat trip. The two young men were in Los Angeles when WWII started.

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Director's Corner

By John Mark Nielsen

It is the time of year when we give thanks for those so important to us. The same is true at The Danish Immigrant Museum. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the staff, I extend our heartfelt appreciation for all the support you have provided us throughout the years and especially this, our 25th year!

Turbulence in the financial markets, however, is concerning all of us. This has been true too for those of us here at the museum. As a private, non-profit institution, we depend on the generosity of you, our members; when you face economic uncertainties, so do we.

An important source of revenue to operate the museum is earnings from the Holger Danske Endowment. While we **cannot** touch the principal, earnings may be used to support operations. For the past three years, we have needed to draw upon these earnings at the end of our fiscal year which ends on August 31. This past fiscal year it became increasingly clear that because of market conditions there would be no earnings. Fortunately, we had anticipated a down-turn in the markets and had dramatically lowered our expectations when we planned last year's budget.

I know that we must be good stewards of the funds you so generously provide us, and I believe we have. The result of our care was that we stayed well under budget. Despite this, we ended the year with a debt of \$100,000 on our line-of-credit. (This we need since the timing of contributions doesn't always match when we need to make expenditures.) In past years we have been able to draw on planned endowment earnings to pay off our line-of-credit.

On August 31, there were no earnings from the Holger Danske Endowment. Though we could celebrate paying off the museum's mortgage in June, we were

beginning our 25th year with operational debt. How to retire this debt, strengthen the museum and enhance its reputation, even as we remain frugal -- these were the questions.

In consultation with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, we determined how to proceed. We will first pay down our operational debt and build a cash reserve to avoid finance charges that accrue when drawing upon our line-of-credit. Next, we will continue to contribute to our endowment. And, finally, we will be strategic in our programming, focusing on services that impact our widely scattered membership.

Early in September, I visited with Berniece Grewcock. Readers of past *America Letters* and *Annual Reports* will recognize that she and her husband, Bill, have generously supported what I call "infrastructure projects," projects that are not so glitzy, but absolutely necessary. These have included replacing our climate control systems, paving the parking lot, and providing a new roof for the museum. In response to my appeal, we received a gift in the amount of \$100,000 from the William and Berniece Grewcock Foundation. When I called to thank Mrs. Grewcock for the gift, she said "I don't think the museum should have that debt!"

Such a gift is dramatic and important, and I am very, very grateful to the Grewcocks for this timely contribution. Equally important are the many smaller gifts we receive. One recent donor wrote in a note that he wished his gift could be larger, that he could do more. All of us know, however, that it takes many drops to fill a bucket. There is a Danish phrase that expresses the same idea: *mange bække små, gør en stor å!* It means, "Many small streams or brooks join to form a great river." And that's what it takes and will continue to take to assure our museum survives and grows.

As all of you know, the days and months ahead are fraught with uncer-

tainty. After caring for your needs and those of your loved ones, should you be in a position to help, I invite you to think of The Danish Immigrant Museum when considering your charitable giving.

What else can you do to help?

Renew your membership when you receive your first renewal notice. (Perhaps you might even consider increasing your membership level!) This helps us avoid the additional expenses of sending out follow-up reminders.

Give 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 do your Christmas shopping in the Museum Shop (you can do so online too!).

Consider providing for the museum in your estate. I invite you to contact us to explore ways in which you might do this.

Celebrate our Danish and Danish-American heritage, history and culture! We have come far in twenty-five years. With your support and encouragement, we will continue to grow in reputation and quality. For this we thank you.

Another way some of you may be able to assist us, is through the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Congress recently extended this act through 2009 which gives those at least 70½ the opportunity to make tax-free charitable gifts. Individuals with traditional or Roth IRAs will be able to make tax-free gifts directly to qualified charities. Donors may choose to make charitable distributions in any amount up to \$100,000 per year, if so desired. A couple with separate IRAs could each give up to that amount. Individuals who are required to take unneeded IRA withdrawals, and others who have experienced limitations on tax benefits in the past, will find the new law of particular interest.

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The Danish Immigrant Museum Named Tourism Attraction of the Year

The Danish Immigrant Museum was named Tourism Attraction of the Year during the 2008 Iowa Tourism Conference held in Sioux City, Iowa October 19 through 23.

The museum was chosen from eighty entries in the category for communities with a population of up to ten thousand. The museum tied with the University of Okoboji Athletic Events for the award. The winning attractions were chosen based on several criteria, including outstanding performance in 2007-2008, outstanding economic impact, effective marketing

and impressive attendance figures.

Nancy Landess, Iowa tourism manager, and Kathy Dirks, Travel Federal of Iowa president, presented a total of twenty awards at the conference. Professionals representing several facets of the Iowa tourism industry judged the nominations. Accepting the award on behalf of the museum was Terri Johnson, administrative manager. Johnson has been involved in the tourism industry for a number of years and is currently vice president of the Western Iowa Tourism Region.



Terri Johnson (center) of The Danish Immigrant Museum accepts the museum's award during the 2008 Iowa Tourism Conference.

Volunteer Spotlight: a Tribute to Howard Christensen



In this "Volunteer Spotlight" we take the opportunity to pay tribute to Howard Christensen, of Atlantic, Iowa, who passed away unexpectedly on October 18, 2008.

Howard and his wife Shirley became members of the museum in 1985. In 1991 he took his dedication to the museum one step further when he made the very generous offer to excavate the ground on which The Danish Immigrant Museum was to be built.

Howard served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and he spent three years in Liberia, Africa working for Raymond International Concrete and Pile Works, building roads. When Howard returned home to Atlantic he continued

to work in excavation and eventually began his own business.

Howard was involved in many community organizations and is remembered for digging a lot of basements for homes in the area as well as the grading work he did on Interstate 80 while it was being constructed.

Howard and Shirley were familiar faces at the museum and were glad to help out on various projects. We are deeply indebted to Howard for his generosity and will miss him.

Harboe . . .

continued from page 1

One of the ways in which it changed his life: Georg's father was the president of a Danish steamship line. After completing school Georg invited Harboe to accompany him on a boat trip to America.

Harboe and Georg spent three months on the *M/S Canada*, traveling from Denmark through the Panama Canal all the way up the west coast of the United States to Vancouver and then back again. "It was an unbelievable experience at 19-years-old," says Harboe.

When the war broke out in Europe, Georg and Harboe both felt they would like to stay in the U.S. "But we were told by Georg's father that we had to come home," says Harboe. "So that's what we did."

Returning to Denmark proved tricky. By the time Harboe and Georg's ship reached London the Germans had blocked the North Sea route between England and Denmark. Eventually, the two were able to take a small boat from Newcastle to Bergen, Norway.

In Norway, Harboe and Georg made their way to Georg's aunt's home, Skaugum, outside Oslo—Prince Georg's aunt, Princess Märtha, was married to Crown Prince Olav of Norway.

One of the days they were there, they were invited to lunch by King Haakon of Norway. Harboe remembers, "At the lunch at the castle in Oslo there was a lady sitting between the king and me at the table and at some point in the middle of the lunch the king leaned over and asked in Danish—because he was a grandson of Christian IX—'Vil du ha' en øl til?' So one of the few times I've been spoken to by a king he asked, 'Do you want another beer?'"

Harboe and Georg made it back to Denmark, beginning their guard training in November. And, when Harboe recalls the ensuing German invasion of Denmark and the years following, he shakes his head and says, "It was such a crazy time."

Harboe was stationed at Jægersborg Kaeserne outside Copenhagen when the



Harboe, at 88-years-old, traveled to Copenhagen for the 350th anniversary celebration of the Royal Danish Guard. Approximately seven thousand former guardsmen paraded through the streets of Copenhagen in celebration.

Germans invaded. He remembers waking at 5:00 a.m. the morning of April 9, 1940 to the sounds of low-flying airplanes.

He and his fellow guard trainees hoped the planes were British. But as the skies grew lighter, they saw the Iron Cross, the symbol of the German Army, under the planes' wings.

At breakfast that morning a lieutenant came around the mess hall asking for volunteers to go out to the streets around the barracks. "And," says Harboe, "I volunteered, like an idiot."

Harboe and another trainee were set up about a block away from the barracks, lying flat on their stomachs behind a machine gun. Every half hour or so a lieutenant came around on a bicycle, each time with a different message: if the Germans come, shoot. Then, the next time, the lieutenant told them to hold their fire. "It went on all morning," says Harboe. "And we didn't know whether we were going to shoot or hold our fire. Luckily, we never saw a German; they never came."

Ten days after the invasion, Harboe had opportunity to travel to the main barracks at Rosenborg Castle; he wanted to see the Germans for himself. "I remember standing in a window, looking at these columns of Germans marching by with horse-drawn carriages...I can still remember the sound of their marching

feet and horses hooves and that was very strange."

Despite the German invasion, guard duty continued at Amalienborg. Harboe guarded Christian X and did office work at the barracks. He finished his six months of service and was sent home in the fall of 1940. (The German Army later occupied all Danish military installations and interred Danish soldiers, ending guard duty at Amalienborg. The Copenhagen police took over guard duty.)

In 1943, Harboe reconnected with other former guardsmen. That year, he joined the Danish Resistance Movement, the underground insurgency that was working against the German occupation. Harboe worked with a group of former guardsmen who lived in the suburbs of Copenhagen.

Harboe was involved in the printing and distribution of illegal anti-occupation publications that were printed on the old fashioned duplicators and then distributed as secretly as possible.

He was also involved in the receiving and distribution of weapons—mostly American weapons—that were parachuted from British airplanes over Jylland. The plan was that when the war ended, every underground member would have a weapon.

Harboe recalls, "I was in Nyhavn once when two fishing boats came from

Sweden with boxes that looked like they had fish in them, but really they had Husqvarna guns in them. And we unloaded those boxes right there in Nyhavn right under the noses of everybody.” He continues, “And another time I traveled out in the suburbs with a big burlap sack on my bicycle full of German hand grenades.”

When the Germans arrested some of Harboe’s friends, he and his brother Frederik, also a former guardsman and underground member, knew they were at risk; the Germans would pressure their friends to learn the names of other underground members. Frederik and Harboe started sleeping elsewhere at night. Frederik stayed with a neighbor and Harboe rented a room a couple blocks away from the family home in Gentofte under an assumed name.

The two young men continued to return to the family home every morning to eat breakfast and bathe. However, the family put a warning system in place. Harboe explains that his parents had a balcony on the second floor outside their bedroom. Every morning when his father woke, he would go out on the balcony and take a breath of fresh air. If the balcony door was open when Harboe approached the house, it was safe. If the door was closed, this meant the Germans had come to search the house in the night.

“One morning,” remembers Harboe,

“I was pumping my bicycle up the hill to get home and my brother came walking down the sidewalk toward me white as a sheet. And all he said was, ‘The door is closed.’ So we knew they had been there.”

The Germans had come in the middle of the night, looking for the Harboe brothers. Harboe’s family told the Germans that neither lived there, but they searched the house anyway. The German lieutenant became suspicious, Harboe says, because the breakfast table was already set for four people: for Harboe’s father, his sister, his brother Frederik and for him. When questioned about it, Harboe’s sister lied, saying that the two live-in maids joined her and her father for breakfast at the table. Harboe’s mother was out of town.

Harboe knew that the Germans would next come for him at his work. “But,” says Harboe, “One of the headmen at the advertising agency where I worked was very sympathetic towards all this underground business. So he arranged that I got a job at *Berlingske Tidende* under an assumed name.”

So Harboe changed his job, working at the newspaper as a copywriter. But he was still being paid by his advertising agency.

When liberation day came in May of 1945, Harboe and his underground group were charged with taking over guarding Amalienborg. “At 7:00 a.m.

on May 5, I gathered together with my group, which consisted of about eight or ten other guards, and we met out in a garden in the suburb of Hellerup. We had our armbands on and our weapons and, this is so ridiculous, we bicycled to Amalienborg because our duty was to take over the guard duty at Amalienborg—the first ones after the

Germans surrendered.”

Harboe was also there on May 6 when the first British soldiers came in a jeep to report to King Christian X that they were there as liberators. He and the guards stayed at Amalienborg for about a week longer, until the Danish Army could organize the guardsmen and get them back into uniform, ready for guard duty.

When he tells these stories, Harboe stresses that he didn’t do anything particularly special, that about ninety percent of young Danish men were doing the same. “But,” he says of the occupation, “it seemed endless—five years seemed a long, long, long time.”

Shortly after the war, Harboe returned to the United States. Curious to pursue his advertising career, Harboe enrolled in a journalism and advertising program at Penn State. He met his wife Suzanna in 1947 while working for an ad agency in Chicago and the two married in 1948 and moved back to Denmark.

Though they lived in Denmark for a time, the Harboes ultimately settled in the United States in 1950; they have three sons—and now four grandsons. And the family’s connection to Denmark remains strong.

Harboe’s connection to the guard remains as well. Harboe has been part of the *garderforening* for years. These are associations of Royal Danish Guards formed around the world by former guardsmen—there are three in the United States and three in Canada, for example. These clubs were started by the famous Danish tenor and former guard member, Lauritz Melchior. Harboe himself became the president of the Royal Danish Guard in foreign countries, serving in that role for five years.

That connection with the Royal Danish Guard led Harboe back to Denmark once again this past summer. There he attended the 350th anniversary celebration of the founding of the guard in Copenhagen. Harboe says, “It was 7,000 old guard and new guardsmen marching through Copenhagen and I just sat there at the parade ground in a wheelchair.”

“It was a fantastic experience to see,” says Harboe—a former guardsman who truly has seen a lot.



Harboe on his 89th birthday with grandsons (left to right) Graham, Henry, Brory, and Louis.

A Living Heirloom: The Royal Danish Guard

by Yvonne Skov Grønlund,
Scan|Design Intern

For the past 350 years, the Royal Danish Guard has been on duty to protect the monarch at Amalienborg Palace. In the summer of 2008 their anniversary was celebrated in Copenhagen with music, speeches and a parade. However, it is not just in Denmark that the anniversary is marked. From October through December an exhibit about the guard is on display at The Family History & Genealogy Center.

The Royal Danish Guard was founded in 1658 by King Frederik III. The king had two plans for the guard. First, he wanted his own personal bodyguard; second, he wanted to strengthen the Danish Army with a new unit. This division has been maintained up to the present, with soldiers from the guard serving in Afghanistan and also as the Queen's Life Guard in Copenhagen.

Over the years the Royal Danish Guard has almost become an embodiment of "Danishness." Along with other national symbols, such as the Danish flag, the Little Mermaid and the fairytales of Hans Christian Andersen, images of the Guard have been printed on thousands of postcards, stamps, and tourism brochures. How did this happen? How did the Danish Royal Guard become a symbol of Danishness?

When the guard was founded in the mid-17th century, Denmark was a country quite different from that of today: the nobility and the well-educated class spoke and wrote almost exclusively German, Latin or French; Danish was a language for the poor. A national symbol such as the red and white flag, Dannebrog, was not normally used among the people. In the Danes' everyday life, nationality did not play a big role. The peasant felt like a peasant and the blacksmith like a blacksmith, rather than a Dane. It had been like that for generations.

However, during the next two centuries things would change. The forming of the guard in 1658 is one indication of some of these changes. Never before had a king formed an entirely Danish force. At that time in Europe, the typical army was a so-called contract army. This means that soldiers were mercenaries who came from all over Europe. A German soldier, for example, might go to war for the

Danish king against the Swedish. The mercenaries fought for their pay wages rather than for a nationality or an ideology.

However, by the mid-17th century a new political landscape in Europe was emerging. In Denmark, King Frederik III (son of the famous King Christian IV who built the Round Tower in Copenhagen) wrested power from the nobility and became the first king of Denmark with absolute power. The Royal Danish Guard became a force strongly attached to the king's person, but it was also associated with the creation of Danish national feelings. So since its beginning the guard has stood out as a special military unit.

Later, in 1799, a royal decree declared that the guards should only be selected from among the most handsome and cultured men, representing, in this sense, the ideal Danish man.

Today the king's officials do not select the guards; instead, the guards sign up to perform their national service within the Danish Royal Guard. Nonetheless, the guard still recruits men and women with a certain character or at least a special eagerness to be a part of the unit. While ordinary military service lasts four months, soldiers in the guard must serve for eight months. Being a guard is somewhat a matter of patriotic pride; this is also indicated by the official



The Royal Danish Guard was founded in 1658 by King Frederik III.

Royal Danish Guard motto: *pro rege et grege*, meaning, "for the king and the people."

The guard is founded on deeply rooted traditions, rituals and ceremonies. Nothing is random. There are even guidelines for the correct polishing of ones duty bag, which can take up to eighty hours. And these routines and traditions have been around for hundreds of years.

When the Danish Royal Guard celebrated their 350th anniversary this summer, it was, therefore, also a celebration of a national history. History, roots and traditions can build up national identities and that is exactly what the Royal Danish Guard symbolizes.



Royal Danish Guards march through Copenhagen during this summer's 350th anniversary celebration.

Former Guardsmen Remember their Service

by Eva Nielsen

It is one of Denmark's famous images: the Royal Danish Guard, dressed in his red tunic, wool trousers and bearskin hat, standing tall in front of his guard house outside Amalienborg Palace.

Now imagine a day so hot that three guards faint, dropping like flies while they wait in full uniform to start their 24-hour duty at the palace. Picture a heavy wet towel stuffed up in that bearskin hat to keep the guard cool. Feel the hat's chinstrap so saturated with sweat that the guard develops an itchy rash on his chin.

This year as Denmark celebrates the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Danish Guard, three former guardsmen and Danish immigrants to the United States, share some of their stories—some of the lesser known realities—of being a famous symbol of Denmark.

Paul Larsen, Oakdale, California



Paul Larsen started guard duty in the summer of 1955.

Paul Larsen was conscripted in 1954 and chosen for the guards. He says, "I think I was hoping for the guard; it was an honor to do that."

Larsen started his guard duty in the summer of 1955. At that time, the guards were on duty for 24 hours—one hour



Paul Larsen stands in the courtyard of Amalienborg Palace where he performed guard duty over fifty years ago.

guarding and two hours off in the guard quarters. Larsen explains that while they were on guard they had to stand for five minutes outside the guardhouses and then walk back and forth for ten minutes—cuing off the clock that strikes in Amalienborg's courtyard every 15 minutes. Larsen says, "The walking was better, the standing just kills you."

The guard uniforms, which are wool and lined, complicated matters. Larsen says, "You wear nothing underneath because it's too hot in the summer. We would clean the uniform with water and a soap and a brush, but it would still stink."

Each guard was in charge of caring for his uniform. Larsen remembers how the guards pressed their wool pants by wetting them down with water at night, laying them under a sheet on the bunks and then sleeping on the sheet. Larsen says, "If at inspection you had a crease, you would get a demerit."

A demerit meant a guard would have to scrub the kitchen floor with a toothbrush or be confined to barracks—"all kinds of silly things," Larsen laughs. "I did them all."

He adds, "Today I can laugh at it..."

But people would get depressed and sometimes break down. You had to play mental games with yourself and tell yourself, "I can do this, I can do this."

Larsen remembers guarding while Queen Margrethe, a young girl at the time, was running in and out of the palace with the other children. "And of course whenever a member of the royal family came out we would have to do a salute with our rifle," says Larsen. "And the kids would run in and out because they thought it was fun to get the guards to do this."

Sometimes the Danish Royal Guard has duty at other royal palaces. Larsen remembers guarding at Fredensborg Palace when Queen Elizabeth II of England and Prince Philip were there for a visit. "We were guarding in back by a big balcony where they must have been having a good party," Larsen remembers, "when Philip came falling down the stairs. But we couldn't do anything; we had to pretend that we saw nothing. We stayed tight-faced and stood at attention."

Larsen immigrated to Canada in May of 1957. It was both "curiosity and feeling dead-ended in Denmark" that led him to go. Larsen worked and waited

Former Guardsmen . . . continued from page 7

in Canada for two years before he got a visa to enter the United States.

Six months after arriving in the United States, men were required to register for the draft. "And, of course," says Larsen, "I was drafted."

Larsen served in the U.S. Army south of Munich, Germany.

How did the U.S. military experience compare to his training and service in the Danish Royal Guard? "It was," says Larsen, "a breeze."

Paul is a member of the Royal Danish Guard Association in California. He attended both the 325th and the 350th anniversary celebrations of the guards in Copenhagen.

Jørgen Viltoft, Wayzata, Minnesota

"We all served with pride and have stuck together ever since." That's how Jørgen Viltoft describes being a member of the Royal Danish Guard.

As a young Danish man in August of 1945, Viltoft was called in for mandatory national military service. After a physical examination, a military panel assigned him to Royal Danish Guard training.

Viltoft's group was the first one called up to guard duty following World War II. After six months of training at Sandholmlejren, the Royal Danish Guard training camp north of Copenhagen, they were deemed ready to guard King Christian X and his family at Amalienborg Palace.

Viltoft remembers night shifts assigned to the backyard, the *baghaven*, of the palace where King Christian X had his bedroom and a balcony. "There were some garbage cans there and when we got tired we would sit on the garbage cans, but keep our feet stomping, so it sounded like we were still marching," says Viltoft. "Well, King Christian must have been able to tell the difference in the marching sound because he would yell out, 'Guard!'" The guards would get up and continue marching.

Viltoft spent six months on Amalienborg duty and—soon after—decided "on a lark" to immigrate to the United States along with a couple of other friends. As Viltoft explains it, "From the time I was

15 until I was 20, Denmark was occupied [by the German Army]. We couldn't wait to get out of there."

Like many immigrant guardsmen, Viltoft's connection to the Royal Danish Guard remained even as he settled in a new country. There are many associations in Denmark for former guard members. And as guard members emigrated from Denmark they formed associations where they settled: in the United States and Canada, as well as places as far flung as Australia, Singapore, and Argentina.

Viltoft feels there is a special connection between former guard members.

He cites this example. In 1950, Viltoft was drafted to fight in the Korean War. Though he wasn't a U.S. citizen and, therefore, not obligated to go, he enlisted. As he says, "I decided to live here, so I decided it was good enough to fight for."

Before leaving for duty, he and his wife went to see Lauritz Melchior, the famous Danish tenor, sing in the opera *Tristan und Isolde* in Colorado. Afterwards, Viltoft had the opportunity to meet Melchior, who was also a former member of the Royal Danish Guard. Viltoft mentioned to Melchior that he was on his way to serve in Korea. Then, while in Korea, Viltoft received half a dozen letters from Melchior.

Viltoft finishes, saying of the guard, "It's an *esprit de corps*, like the Marine Corps. There's a great deal of pride. I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

Kurt Klaskov Larsen, Oneonta, Alabama

Kurt Klaskov Larsen reported for the Royal Danish Guard's six-month training camp on November 1, 1950. Upon arrival, he and the other recruits were told they were no longer names, they were numbers—and to replace them would cost no more than a stamp. Larsen's number was 726-50II. As Larsen says, he was "generally, named, called, or shouted at as 'twenty-six'" throughout training.

At the end of training, Larsen's guard experience took an unusual turn. He was



Jørgen Viltoft was assigned to the Royal Danish Guard in 1945.

told that instead of serving his six months of duty guarding Amalienborg that he had been recommended for officer training. But before reporting to corporal school, he would get to guard at Amalienborg for one day.

That day, Larsen was given the job of queen's ordinance. This meant, Larsen says, that he was the queen's errand boy for that day. "I simply stood in front of the door to the queen's private room and saluted all the folks coming and going—of course, also the queen herself. By 3:30 the queen sent me a 'Thank you and, guard twenty-six, you may be off for the day!'"

That was all. Days later, Larsen reported for officer training and shortly after was chosen to train instead for the Danish military police, followed by an assignment at the Danish command in Itzhoe, Germany.

Larsen returned to Denmark this past summer for the 350th anniversary celebration of the Royal Danish Guards where he marched with thousands of other guardsmen in a parade through the streets of Copenhagen and before the Danish royals. "Let's face it," says Larsen, "When you're part of a group of thousands...that's a bit of nostalgia."

The Danish Immigrant Museum Celebrates Twenty-Five Years

On Saturday, October 18, a luncheon was held in a sprawling white tent on the rolling east lawn of the museum, marking The Danish Immigrant Museum's 25th anniversary. The intent was to recreate the experience of the tent luncheons held in the Rebild Hills of Denmark each 4th of July.

The 220 guests included current and former members of the Board of Directors, museum members, volunteers, friends of the museum from the community, staff and honored guests. On the program for the afternoon's event were remarks by Danish Ambassador to the United States, Friis Arne Petersen, Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, co-founder of Competere Geopolitical Management and son of the Danish Prime Minister and Lynette Rasmussen, of Johnston, Iowa who serves on the museum's board.

A traditional Danish meal was served starting with a first course of herring and rye bread, followed by *frikadeller* (meatballs), stuffed pork loin, new potatoes, red cabbage, and cucumbers and onions in a cream sauce. The meal ended with delicious desserts including Danish layer cake, cheesecake, and blueberry tarts with plenty of strong coffee. Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, a member of the museum board, arrived in Elk Horn early in the week to prepare the 23 layer cakes that were served.

In traditional Danish custom the meal was interrupted with many rousing toasts, speeches, salutes, and singing. The songs were led by Ehlers Olesen, accompanied by Glenn Henriksen, an accomplished pianist and member of the museum from Armstrong, Iowa.



From left to right, Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, co-founder of Competere Geopolitical Management and son of the Danish Prime Minister; Lisa Riggs, manager of the Danish Windmill; Janell Hansen, manager of Marne Elk Horn Telephone Company and a member of the museum's board of directors; Danish Ambassador to the United States Friis Arne Petersen; and Bruce Lauritzen, chairman of First National Bank of Omaha and the Honorary Royal Danish Consul for Nebraska. All attended the 25th anniversary celebration.



Former and current board members, museum members, volunteers, community members, staff and honored guests gathered to celebrate the museum's 25th anniversary.



The luncheon was held in tents on museum grounds.

Two Danes at Norsk Høstfest

The Museum's Danish Interns reflect on their experience at a Scandinavian-American festival

*By Yvonne Skov Grønlund and
Helle Hovmand-Olsen*

As the current Danish interns at The Danish Immigrant Museum, we had the pleasure of joining museum staff members Debra Christensen Larsen and Michele McNabb on their trip to Norsk Høstfest, a Scandinavian festival in Minot, North Dakota, from October 1-4.

Before leaving, we were told that Høstfest is the largest Scandinavian festival in North America, that there would be booths with crafts, food, clothes, music from all five Scandinavian countries, and that five halls named after the Scandinavian capitals would be packed with people coming from all over the United States and Canada to celebrate their Scandinavian heritage. This information filled our minds with curiosity as we made the fourteen-hour drive to Minot.

As the festival started, we quickly saw the reality of the things we had been told. There really were people all over the place; hundreds had driven their RVs to the Høstfest grounds and an incredible number of tour buses came in from Canada. The atmosphere was amazing in the five halls! The Danish Immigrant Museum's booth was in the Copenhagen Hall alongside craftsmen spinning wool,

weaving, and carving wood. Historical institutions like Vesterheim, the Norwegian immigrant museum, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota were there too.

Our job at the booth was to converse with people visiting us—to share information about the museum and about Denmark. We also helped Deb sell merchandise from the museum's gift shop.

One thing that caught us by surprise during the four days was the large number of people who came to our booth and told us they were Danish, meaning their parents or grandparents had come from Denmark. That forced the two of us Danish interns to rethink our conception of nationality; we are used to connecting the notion of being a nationality with speaking the country's language and living in the country. But this was rarely the definition used by people at Høstfest. One example, Yvonne had a conversation with a man who told her that he was German, so naturally she began speaking German to him. The man looked at her, perplexed; he didn't know the language.

The lesson for us: as Europeans we have a different conception of nationality than Americans. In America people

(except Native Americans, of course) are aware that their ancestors came from somewhere else and often identify themselves of being that nationality. But does having Danish parents and grandparents make a person Danish? Isn't the influence from living in Danish society a big part of it too? However, having been in the States and in a Danish community for some time now, we have become conscious that we cannot fully comprehend how important it is for many people in America to be of Danish descent.

Høstfest passed quickly and we were on our way back to Elk Horn. Now we are left wondering: How long can Høstfest continue to exist? Right now it is a huge success, but the majority of guests were in their early seventies and older. How long will Scandinavian-Americans continue to celebrate this Scandinavian heritage? In our experience the younger generations don't seem to have the same interest in their roots as the older generations do. Whatever the reason for that may be, we hope that Norsk Høstfest will continue for years to come, not only because it gives joy to people who attend, but also because it is a festival that says something about what it means to be Scandinavian-American.



Museum Shop has New Manager

Joni Soe-Butts has managed the museum shop since September 8 and is a welcome addition to the museum staff. This position was a natural fit for Soe-Butts as she has experience in both marketing and merchandising.

Soe-Butts is happy to be working in her hometown of Elk Horn where her

parents Darrell and Rosemary Soe still reside. Soe-Butts and her husband Kevin live on an acreage in Earlham. When not at work she likes to relax at home with her cats and large golden retriever, Abbey. She also enjoys helping her husband with the remodeling of a barn that sits on a farm north of Kimballton.



Meet Danish Interns Helle Hovmand- Olsen and Yvonne Skov Grønlund

Helle Hovmand-Olsen

Helle Hovmand-Olsen is one of two Danish interns at the museum this fall. She grew up in a suburb of Esbjerg on the west coast of Jutland. Four years ago Hovmand-Olsen moved to Copenhagen to attend the University of Copenhagen where she is studying American Indian languages and cultures. After returning from this internship she will have one year of studies left to earn her master's degree.

Hovmand-Olsen is a docent at Denmark's National Museum where she leads school class tours in the North and South American rooms in the Ethnographic Collection.

Hovmand-Olsen began her four and a half month internship at The Danish Immigrant Museum in September. She hopes the internship provides her with some knowledge of the way American museums are operated and some practical training in the areas of exhibits and collections.

While at the museum Hovmand-Olsen will work to translate the English exhibit panels into Danish, help inventory the contents of Bedstemor's House, develop and organize children's activities at the



The internships of Hovmand-Olsen (right) and Skov Grønlund are funded through a grant from the Scan|Design by Inger and Jens Bruun Foundation of Seattle.

museum for Halloween and Julefest, and assist the curator of exhibits with the upcoming exhibit in the Danish-American Artist Series and the travelling exhibit on Victor Borge.

Yvonne Skov Grønlund

Yvonne Skov Grønlund grew up in a small town near Roskilde. Today she lives in Copenhagen, but travels back to her hometown daily to attend Roskilde University. In January she completed her bachelor's degree in social science and history. When she returns to Denmark

she will begin preparing for her thesis.

Skov Grønlund applied for this internship looking for more museum and archives experience. The challenge of being an intern in a foreign country also attracted her attention. However, the reason she really wanted to come to Elk Horn was to learn more about the cultural encounter between American society and the Danes that came to the U.S. in the 1800s. Likewise, she finds it interesting to study how culture and traditions today are interpreted, maintained and developed abroad.

Glædelig jul og godt nytår!



Intern Hayley Chambers Joins Collections Department

Hayley Chambers is the newest American intern working in the collections department of The Danish Immigrant Museum.

Chambers grew up in Daytona Beach, Florida. She completed her undergraduate work at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia and then earned her master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. There, she majored in history with an emphasis in European history, and had a concentration in museum studies. She graduated this past May.

Among Chambers' primary duties at The Danish Immigrant Museum will be the daily cataloging of new artifact donations. She will assist the curator of collections/registrar, writing detailed descriptions of artifacts, assessing their physical condition, and digitizing artifact records. Chambers will also take a lead role in the complete inventory of Bedstemor's House, the historic Victorian home that is operated by the museum.

Outside work, Chambers enjoys traveling, meeting new people, and learning about new cultures. She is looking forward to reading for pleasure again now that her studies are complete. Chambers also has a unique goal for her time spent here in the Midwest: she wants to learn to work on a farm! She enjoys the outdoors and spent a few weeks hiking and camping through Canada on her trip between an internship in Alaska and her latest in Elk Horn.

Chambers' internship will last six months. We are excited to welcome her both to the museum and to Elk Horn.

The Collection Connection

By Angela Stanford

How does a museum keep track of thousands of artifacts? How do museums know if the physical condition of an object changes?

The answer: an inventory!

An inventory gives the exact location of every single artifact and, preferably, is electronically accessible and searchable. If the process has been done accurately, for example, any donor could ask a museum to see the artifact they donated years ago and a staff member would be able to locate it in a moment. Conducting a complete inventory of a collection is a time-consuming process. But the information gained is integral to professionally cataloging, preserving, and interpreting the artifacts in a collection.

Ideally, a museum should have a full and accurate inventory of every object in its collection. Obviously, the ideal is sometimes a challenge to achieve, but that is what staff at The Danish Immigrant Museum is striving for.

Since the late-1990s, collections staff have been using PastPerfect, a database that allows us to process and track the collection electronically. Most of the artifacts donated since then have been added to this system and are completely accessible and up-to-date. However, the artifacts that arrived prior to the late-1990s are, for the most part, not yet in the system. For those, only paper records exist, making searching for information, and even the artifacts themselves, difficult.

About two years ago, we set out to create a complete inventory of the museum's approximately 35,000 artifacts. While we have made good progress, the task has proven greater than expected—more than one staff person and an intern can tackle in a reasonable amount of time.

Our inventory is more involved than the standard location-only process. The first stage is recording the identification number assigned to and found on the surface of each artifact, along

with the location of the piece within the museum. We also write a brief physical description, and evaluate each artifact's physical condition. Finally, photographs are taken of all sides, details, and damage.

The second stage involves taking all of that information and entering it into PastPerfect. That way, all known information is searchable within the system, making it accessible not only to staff, but also to members who are able to view the collection through the museum's new PastPerfect On-line feature (available at our website).

Completing the inventory process will have numerous benefits, not the least of which are:

- Updated records which in turn will help us verify legal ownership of all artifacts;
- Almost immediate access to any piece we search for, which will benefit anyone who comes to the museum asking to see an artifact;
- An accurate total of the number of artifacts in the collection;
- The ability to assist researchers to a much larger degree than currently possible because we will know what people, events, and places are represented in the collection;
- Eligibility for more grants;
- Assistance as we look to our future goal of becoming accredited through the American Association of Museums, a prestigious honor.

Would you like rare, direct access to our artifacts? Are you interested in being involved with this essential project? If you are a detailed, patient person capable of safely handling artifacts, you may be able to help. Perhaps you are only interested in computer data entry; you may be perfect for the second stage of entering the information into our database. For more information about the inventory process and the training provided, or for any other collections-related questions, please contact me by phone (712-764-7001) or by e-mail (registrar@danishmuseum.org). I look forward to building a strong, capable team of inventory experts!

ON DISPLAY

Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations®



Christopher Olesen, 1979, O&H Danish Bakeries in Racine, Wisconsin



Hans Andersen and children of Bayport, Minnesota.

Since the opening of The Danish Immigrant Museum in its current location, 14 years ago, the museum has told the story of the journey of the Danish immigrant through the exhibition entitled, *Across Oceans, Across Time*. On August 25, 2008 the museum continued this story in an exhibition, located on the mezzanine level, entitled, *Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations*.

Across Oceans, Across Time, Across



Peter & Anne Bansen wedding December 1919.

Generations highlights the success that three Danish immigrants found in the United States, both through their business ambitions and their family's ability to preserve and maintain the businesses through successive generations.

The three families featured in the exhibition are the Olesens of the O & H Danish Bakeries in Racine, Wisconsin, the Bansens of Bansen Dairies in Oregon and California, and the Andersens of the Andersen Window Corporation in Bayport, Minnesota. While each of these families differ in history and their approach to business, each of their businesses began with one individual's dedication and affection for a particular trade.

In addition to the sections dedicated to the Olesens, Bansens, and Andersens, there is also a section with handouts that encourage visitors to begin thinking about their own family histories. There are memory books located within that section for visitors to record their own family memories and traditions to be accessioned into the permanent collection for future generations to read and enjoy.

Across Oceans, Across Times, Across Generations will run through May of 2009.



Museum Staff Attend Conferences

The Danish Immigrant Museum provides an opportunity for visitors to further their knowledge of Denmark, the story of Danish immigration, and the immigrant story in the United States.

In order to best tell this story, museum staff must be continuously bettering themselves in the current practices and schools of thought regarding exhibition

and artifact care. In this spirit, during the month of October, Erin Harney, curator of exhibitions, Angela Stanford, curator of collections/registrar, and Hayley Chambers, the collections/registration intern, participated in the Iowa Museum Association Conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa and the Association of Midwest

Museums Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

These conferences provided the staff members the opportunity to meet with and learn from other museum professionals from around the country. They also visited a range of museums and libraries, where they saw the most current trends in museum practice.

MEMORIALS June 21, 2008 – October 13, 2008

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

Jens C. Andersen	Richard Hemmingsen	Kaja & Mads Peder Madsen	Charles Andrew Philipsen
Jan & Thomas Christensen	Valdemar E. Hoppe	Elsie Rasmussen McNabb	Alma & Niels Pilgaard of Denmark
Thomas L. Christensen	Deppe & Anna Jensen and 4 of their children who came to Albert Lea, MN from Denmark in May, 1910	Maren Kirsten Nielsen	Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild
Albert H.L. Eve		Niels Nielsen Family	Emma Morsing Safley
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup		Richard Norgard	Jo Sindlinger
Tom Flynn		Beverly Olsen	Gerda Sundberg
Mildred Hoegh Frederick	Byron Johnson	Mary Ann Olsen	Dagny Svendsen
Rhoda Graves	Folmer Johnson	Ole & Marie Olsen	Clifford Szpekowski
Louie O. Hansen	Lars Christian Larsen & Ma- rie Pedersen Larsen	Soren C. Pedersen Family husband, Scott Pettit	Wilbur J. Williamson
Ralph & Evelyn Hansen			

IN HONOR June 21, 2008 – October 13, 2008

The Danish Immigrant Museum has received gifts in honor of the following people or special events.

Lois & Barry Eldal's Marriage
Kris N. Kristensen

Stewart & LeNore Hansen's 60th Wedding Anniversary

New Additions to the Wall of Honor

June 21, 2008 – October 13, 2008

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 a family member or friend by adding their names to the Wall of Honor, contact Debra Christensen Larsen, development associate.

KRISTEN (CHRIS MILLER) MÖLLER & ELSIE LARSEN HUNSKJÆR MILLER, *Christie Jensen Gehringer, Omaha, NE; Karen L. Sorensen, Overland Park, KS*

ALFRED LAURITS SORESENSEN, *Christie Jensen Gehringer, Omaha, NE; Karen L. Sorensen, Overland Park, KS*

KRISTOFFER "STOFFER" JENSEN, *Grandchildren: Christie Jensen Gehringer, Omaha, NE; Gary C. Jensen, Sterling, AK; Linda Jensen Wade, Payson, AZ; Dr. Jan V. Jensen, Kearney, NE; Suzanne Jensen Medlock, Pine Bluff, AR*

EMILIE M.H. SCHNEIDER JENSEN NIELSEN, *Grandchildren: Christie Jensen Gehringer, Omaha, NE; Gary C. Jensen, Sterling, AK; Linda Jensen Wade, Payson, AZ; Dr. Jan V. Jensen, Kearney, NE; Suzanne Jensen Medlock, Pine Bluff, AR*

MARIUS KRISTIAN PAUL "CHRIS" NIELSEN, *Grandchildren: Christie Jensen Gehringer, Omaha, NE; Gary C. Jensen, Sterling, AK; Linda Jensen Wade,*

Payson, AZ; Dr. Jan V. Jensen, Kearney, NE; Suzanne Jensen Medlock, Pine Bluff, AR

ANKER & JOHANNE K. ANKERSEN NIELSEN, *Herbert & Carol Nielsen Jorgensen, Green Lake, WI*
ELLA INGEBORG CHRILLESEN PETERSON, *Larry & Jeanne Ent, College Station, TX; Dan & Lynn Carlson, Santa Rosa, CA; Robert Fletcher, Belgrade, MN; Galen C. Knutson, Burnsville, MN; Lanny D. Knutson, Winnipeg, MB, Canada; Twyla Knutson, Olathe, KS*

CHRISTOPHER SORESENSEN & AUGUSTA JEAN SORESENSEN, *Mary P. Cole, Tucson, AZ; George F. Hurst, Enterprise, OR*

RIGMOR ERNA NUSSLE PETERSEN, *Steven & Pamela Petersen, Washington, IL*

SOREN & MARIE CATHERINE FRIIS HANSEN, *Harry & Rowena Hansen Johnson, Lexington, KY; Donald G. & Jacqueline Hansen, Ankeny, IA; Gordon & Diane Hansen, Kingman, AZ*

GERTIE LAURSEN JOHNSON JORDAHL, *Richard and Jo Ann Kleber, Northfield, MN*

PAUL "PAT" MATHIAS KNUDSTRUP, *Robert & Barbara Knudstrup, Manistee, MI*

CHRISTIAN BIRK, *Don & Lila Huff, Anita, IA; Alan & Virginia Dressler, Fredericktown, MO*

CATHARINE MARIE VALBORG GADEBERG BIRK, *Don & Lila Huff, Anita, IA; Alan & Virginia Dressler, Fredericktown, MO*



An E-Newsletter Exclusively for Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum

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In an effort to help The Danish Immigrant Museum stay in touch with you while conserving both economically and environmentally, we would be pleased to have your subscription to our free e-mail outreach program, E-museDK News. Periodically, the museum will

e-mail you its current news and details of upcoming events.

HOW DO I SUBSCRIBE? Don't waste paper or a stamp. Instead, send an e-mail to Debra Christensen Larsen, development associate/membership coordinator, at development@danishmuseum.org.

In the subject field of the e-mail, type Subscribe E-museDK News. You will begin receiving your e-newsletters shortly. It's that easy!

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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, IA
AmericInn of Elk Horn, Elk Horn, IA
Answers (Rick Tighe), Atlantic, IA
Audubon Family Chiropractic (Douglas & Nichole Olsen), Audubon, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc., Carroll, IA
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA & surrounding communities
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, West Bend, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood (Chicago) Lodge #17, Lodi, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lawrence, KS
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84, Lincoln, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #126, Los Angeles, CA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #211, St. Paul, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Eugene, OR
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #341, Kimballton-Elk Horn, IA
Danish Brotherhood (Centennial) Lodge #348, Eugene, OR
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ
Danish Countryside Vines & Wines (Allan & Carol Petersen), Exira, IA
Danish Ladies Relief Society, Santa Rosa, CA
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
Danish Sisterhood (Heartland District) Lodge #102, Johnston, IA
Danish Sisterhood (Dike) Lodge #176, Cedar Falls, IA
Danish Vennelyst Club, Omaha, NE
Elk Horn Pharmacy (Tim & Mary Waymire), Elk Horn, IA
Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School, Elk Horn, IA
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn, IA

Faith, Family & Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, CA
Guldsmedemester Helle Jørvad (Goldsmith Master & Designer), Ringsted, Denmark
Harlan Newspapers, Harlan, IA
Heartland District of the Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Johnston, IA
Heartland District of the DBIA, Ventura, IA
JAWICO (Gert Lykke), Anaheim, CA
Kessler Funeral Homes, Inc., Audubon, IA
King of Kings Fishing Guide Service & Lodge (Richard & Bonnie Andersen), Anchor Point, AK
KJAN Radio, Atlantic, IA
Knudsen Old Timers of The Danish Lutheran Church, Yorba Linda, CA
Liberty Auto Restoration, Inc., Elk Horn, IA
Liberty Labs, Inc., Kimballton, IA
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA
NE Gen Comm. Danish Brotherhood, Omaha, NE
Nelsen & Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE
Northwest Danish Foundation, Seattle, WA
O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI
Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co, L.L.P., Carroll, IA
Pacific NW District Lodges D.B.I.A., Spokane Valley, WA
Proongily (Cynthia & John McKeen), St. Paul, MN
Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Glendale, CA
Red River Danes, Fargo, ND
Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA
Shelby County State Bank, Elk Horn, IA
Steffenie's Good Eats Bakery & Grill, Elk Horn, IA
Stig Hansen, Cooking Danish, LLC, Eden, UT
The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA
The Viking Club of Orange County, Seal Beach, CA
World Cal, Inc., Elk Horn, IA

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THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

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

Clint Hansen, a fifth generation Danish American, designed this year's Christmas card and keepsake ornament

Hansen works with oils, scratch board, paper sculpture, stained glass mosaic and engraving. He's done work for the Smithsonian Institute, the NBA, Coca-Cola, and Disney among others. Hansen painted the oil painting of Iowa Congressman Jim Nussel hanging in the U.S. Capitol.



The annual Christmas card and ornament can be purchased through the Museum Shop by calling 1-800-759-9192. Cards cost \$10.00 for a package of ten and the ornament costs \$12.95.



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 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 North Sea 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 Aalborg.
- 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.
- There are 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 2009 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.





Stamtræ –

Danish Roots, American Branches

News from the Family History & Genealogy Center

By Michele McNabb, librarian
genealogy@danishmuseum.org

Activities and News from the Family History & Genealogy Center

- What turned out to be a very busy summer and early autumn saw, of course, library patrons from many parts of the US as well as Canada. The FHGC also had many Danish visitors this year. Residents of Holbæk, Nyborg, Højby, Toftlund, Rungsted Kyst, Jyllinge and Aalborg in Denmark, as well as Danes living in Australia and Luxembourg dropped in for assistance with finding relatives who had immigrated to the U.S.
- The FHGC is on its winter schedule, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from November through April. Appointments may be made for other days. If you are coming from out of town and wish research assistance, we recommend that you call in advance of your intended visit.
- The FHGC has a newly updated handout of useful websites for researching Danish genealogy, adding several new resources, and general information brochure. If you would like a copy of either, please call or e-mail the FHGC at genealogy@danishmuseum.org.



- Thanks to a suggestion from former FHGC Committee chair Mark Nussle the FHGC's street façade has been augmented by a beautiful new street sign. Located on the light pole outside the main door, detachable magnetic strips now let passers-by know when we are open for business.
- In recent months the FHGC has been the recipient of several major gifts:
- Kirsten and Forrest Strnad gave a cash gift to assist in upgrading the FHGC's six-year-old computer system.
- In late summer the FHGC received a major addition to the collection, when Jytte Madsen, editor and publisher of *Bien*, the Danish-language

newspaper published in California, donated the back issues of the publication. Although we are still sorting and organizing, it appears that the FHGC now has a nearly complete run of the paper from 1892 through the present—truly a gold mine of information for researchers!



- The above acquisition meant that more shelving was needed to house both bound and unbound issues of *Bien* as well as the expanding collection of the local Kimballton-Elk Horn paper, which dates back to 1927. A \$3000 grant from the Shelby County Endowment Fund has allowed us to purchase modular shelving appropriate for archival use.



Are You a Danish Immigrant or Long-term Resident? Many Danes have immigrated to the U.S. since WWII, have been exchange students or resided in this country for longer periods of time. If you fit one of these categories, the FHGC would like to have some information in our library on you! Contact Michele McNabb at the FHGC for copies of Immigrant Information Forms for yourself or for distribution at meetings of your local Danish-American organization.



Genealogical Tip - Military Records: Veterans of the Dano-Prussian Wars of 1848-50 and 1864

Following these military events a decision was made to create a medal for those who participated in the wars, but so much time elapsed before the final determination was made that it was decided to make commemorative medals instead. Three distinctive medals were struck, one for those serving in each war and one for those who served in both. Veterans of the two wars could apply for the medals beginning in 1876. It was estimated that around 46,000 men were eligible for the 1848-50 medal and some

58,000 could obtain the 1864 medal; fewer than 3000 men were eligible to receive both.

To be eligible for the medal a person had to have participated in active Danish Army or Naval service during either or both of the two engagements and received an honorable discharge.

In addition, beginning in 1914, King Christian X decreed that an annual monetary payment of 100 kroner should be given to those participants of the War of 1864 who were still living. Nearly all surviving veterans applied for the payments in 1913. Applications for the medals and payment may be found in the

National Archives in Denmark; some of the records have been microfilmed by the LDS Family History Library. A listing of around 1300 veterans of 1864 from Ringkøbing Co. may be found at www.holstebro-slaegtsforening.dk/Veteraner.doc. The FHGC is compiling a listing of those veterans who applied for the medal from the U.S..

Early members of the Danish Brotherhood in America may also have been eligible, since the organization was originally formed from the membership of four Danish-American veterans' groups.



Intern News

Early September saw the arrival of a new FHGC intern, Roskilde University history graduate student Yvonne Skov Grønlund, one of two interns the museum is currently hosting as part of a grant from the Scan|Design by Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation of Seattle.

In addition to inputting data into the FHGC's ever-growing database of

Danish immigrants, Skov Grønlund has created a commemorative display for the 350th anniversary of the Royal Danish Guards that can be viewed in the FHGC lobby through the end of the year.

As part of a collaborative arrangement with the Grand View College archives, Skov Grønlund is spending a week at

the college working with archivist Sheri Kleinwort Muller. During the latter part of her stay she will be visiting several other museums and archives, working on collection descriptions, and holding a series of Danish culture and language classes with fellow intern, Helle Hovmand-Olsen.

Information Wanted

- Do you have an obituary of a Danish immigrant? If so, the FHGC would like to have a copy to add to the obituary collection. If the obituary is in Danish, the FHGC would be happy to provide a complementary translation of the document. Obituaries may be sent to Obituary Collection, c/o the FHGC.
- Martin Alejandro Adair (martinadair@fibertel.com.ar) is the grandson of a Danish immigrant to Buenos Aires province in Argentina. He is looking for material comparing the experiences of Danish-American farmers in the U.S. with those who settled in Argentina. Does anyone have any material on family members who went to South America and perhaps later came to the U.S. to share with the FHGC?
- Carol Strazer (cstrazer@centurytel.net) is researching East German Mennonites who fled to Denmark and were placed in refugee camps established in Denmark following WWII for a book she is writing. She is particularly interested in the camps called *Rom 1* in western Jutland, *Hørup Klint* and *Kolding* in the southern part of the country, and *Kopenhagen*. She would like to have contact with anyone having information or photographs of the camps or who perhaps worked there after the war.

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

www.danishmuseum.org

Other Times By Appointment

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

*(Local weather conditions may
cause occasional closures.)*

Glædelig jul og godt nytår!



The Danish Immigrant Museum

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www.danishmuseum.org

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