

# America Letter

Spring 2009

Vol. XXII, No. 1

An International  
Cultural Center



**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 Andersen Family**

*by Eva Nielsen*

Hans Andersen must have been a gutsy soul.

Here's an example. In the late 1800s Hans had faced some setbacks. For one, he'd lost his wife, becoming a single father to three young children. For another, an economic downturn and a fire had destroyed his sawmill in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Nearly broke, Hans scraped together enough money to buy millions of feet of timber from a lumber dealer in Hudson, Wisconsin—a center of the timber industry in the North Woods.

It was winter. The St. Croix River that divided Wisconsin from Minnesota was frozen. If Hans could find a way to get the lumber across the frozen river to the train depot in Afton, Minnesota, the lumber could be shipped out for sale.

There weren't any bridges across the river there at the time. Boats, obviously, couldn't run. And the ice was unreliable. Hans, however, meticulously studied the strong currents of the river and used long pieces of lumber to bridge the weak spots in the ice. Then, he slid the timber over the river to Minnesota.

It worked. Hans regained his financial footing. Hudson, Wisconsin was to become his family's permanent home and the launching pad for the company known today as the Andersen Corporation, makers of Andersen windows and doors – an international company that employs roughly 11,000 people.

Hans Andersen was a Danish immigrant. He left home as a 15-year-old in 1870 and it doesn't seem that he looked back.

Hans spent several years on the East Coast fell-



*Hans Andersen and his three children (left to right) Fred, Herbert, and Molly, pictured around 1892.*

ing trees and clearing fields, working his way west to Chicago where he laid bricks. Wanting to find a non-Danish community where he could immerse himself in the English language, Hans settled in Spring Valley, Minnesota.

There, Hans established himself as a jack-of-all-trades, a contractor, an architect, a businessman. He started a construction business in Spring Valley and designed and constructed several buildings there,

– continued on page 4



# Director's Corner

By John Mark Nielsen

January 3, 2009 was the centennial of Victor Borge's birth. Beginning in the 1930s in Denmark and then following his arrival in America in 1940, he charmed and amused audiences on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, making him the most well-known Danish-American of the 20th Century.

Born Børge Rosenbaum, his father was a violinist in the Danish Royal Orchestra and his mother was a gifted pianist. Børge, himself, began playing the piano at age three! Trained as a classical pianist in Copenhagen, Vienna and Berlin, Børge made his debut on the concert stage as a 17-year-old, performing Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt. However, it was on what could be called the Danish vaudeville stage that he was most comfortable and enjoyed his greatest successes.

During the Nazi occupation of Denmark, before the United States entered the war, Børge had to flee Europe. This was due to his Jewish roots. On arriving in New York, he changed his name to Victor Borge. "Rosenbaum" was too German and "Victor" suggested success. This name change was, indeed, prescient: he went on to many successes before his death on December 23, 2000. His show "Comedy in Music," for example, holds the record for the longest running one-man show on Broadway and is not likely to be surpassed!

While Victor Borge mingled

with kings, queens and presidents, as well as the most famous of the entertainment world, he was equally comfortable with "every day folks." Many experienced this, even those in the communities of Elk Horn and Kimballton. Following a visit to the two "Danish villages," he presented The Danish Immigrant Museum with his first piano as well as many other artifacts from his long career.

Given this generosity, the museum was anxious to celebrate Victor Borge and to share his story with as many museum members as possible. The opportunity came when we began working with Janet Borge Crowle and her husband, Jim, as well as with Ed Gallagher who is president of the American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF).

Working together, ASF has created a wonderful exhibit that opened at Scandinavia House in New York City on January 24. On May 22 this exhibit will open at The Danish Immigrant Museum and will be our main exhibit through February 2010. Both the Crowles and the Sanne and Victor Borge Memorial Fund have provided very generous support to make these exhibits possible.

Since many will not be able to see *Victor Borge – A Centennial Celebration* in New York or Elk Horn, The Danish Immigrant Museum has created a traveling kiosk exhibit. This has already been on display in Washington, D.C. and at the Danish Church in Yorba Linda, California. It is also scheduled to appear in Kentucky,

Seattle, Minneapolis, Solvang and Chicago.

Due to the generosity of Leman USA, a Danish transportation company, and its director, Steen Sanderhoff, the expense of hosting the exhibit has been dramatically reduced; Leman USA is providing logistical support in transporting the exhibit.

Finally, Consul and Mrs. Lowell B. and Marilyn Kramme of Des Moines, Iowa, have provided a generous gift to restore one of the museum's most prized possessions, Victor Borge's first piano. Since being damaged by Hurricane Hugo when it struck the Borge winter home in the Virgin Islands, the piano has not been playable. Now, thanks to Lowell and Marilyn, we can look forward to hearing the sounds of Victor Borge's first piano echoing through our museum as part of this centennial celebration.

I hope that you will be able to see this exhibit, in one of the many venues where it will be on display. As this exhibit makes its way across the country, the visibility of The Danish Immigrant Museum increases. Already articles and pictures have appeared in both Danish and U.S. newspapers.

As ever, it is you who empower us—through your interest, your membership and your contributions—to preserve, share and celebrate our Danish heritage. Hopefully our successes will affirm your generosity. I certainly thank you even as I seek your continued support.

## America Letter

Published Three Times Annually By  
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

### Board of Directors

*President* – Marc Petersen, Omaha, NE  
*Vice-President* – Harriet Albertsen Spanel,  
Bellingham, WA  
*Secretary* – Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA  
*Treasurer* – John Molgaard, Atlantic, IA  
Carlo Christensen, Glendale, CA  
Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI  
Ane-Grethe Delaney, Wayzata, MN  
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO  
Janell Hansen, Elk Horn, IA  
Kurt Hansen, Rosemount, MN  
Mia Hansen, Tucson, AZ  
Vice Consul Anna Thomsen Holliday,  
Houston, TX  
Erna Jensen, Des Moines, IA  
Kurt Klarskov Larsen, Oneonta, AL  
Steven Lund, Yuma, AZ  
Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN  
Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA  
Mark Nussle, Palos Park, IL  
Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR  
Lynette Skow Rasmussen, Johnston, IA  
Consul Eva Robinson, Butler, PA  
Linda Sloth-Gibbs, Yuma, AZ  
Janet M. Thuesen, Sausalito, CA  
*Ex-Officio*  
Kai Nyby, LaPorte, IN  
Vern Hunter, Fargo, ND  
Nils Jensen, Portland, OR  
Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA

### Staff

*Executive Director:* Dr. John Mark Nielsen,  
director@danishmuseum.org  
*General Information, Group Tours,  
Volunteering Opportunities:* Terri Johnson,  
info@danishmuseum.org  
*Development Director:* Bruce Bro,  
development@danishmuseum.org  
*Wall of Honor, Donations, Memorial Gifts  
& Memberships:* Debra Christensen  
Larsen, development@danishmuseum.org  
*Bookkeeping & Financial Inquiries:* Jen-  
nifer Winters, acctng@danishmuseum.org  
*Exhibit Questions:*  
Erin Harney, curator@danishmuseum.org  
*Artifact Donations & Museum Loans:*  
Angela Stanford,  
registrar@danishmuseum.org  
*Museum Shop:* Joni Soe-Butts  
giftshop@danishmuseum.org  
*Donation of Books & Library Questions:*  
Michele McNabb,  
librarian@danishmuseum.org  
*Genealogical & Translation Inquiries:*  
genealogy@danishmuseum.org  
*Custodian:* Tim Frederiksen  
*Museum & FHGC Data Entry:* Wanda Sornson



INNOVATION THE DANISH WAY

A Conference sponsored by  
the Danish American Heritage Society  
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota

# SAVE THE DATES . . . October 1-3, 2009

## Radisson Plaza Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Discover new approaches to understanding both contemporary and historical Danish and Danish-American innovation in science and technology, architecture and design, social innovation, the arts and literature.

Explore the unique advantages of a metro area made up of two magnificent cities. With its top-notch arts scene, exquisite dining, fan-favorite teams and stunning views, Minneapolis-Saint Paul is a must-visit destination.

Hear Jørgen M. Clausen, a prominent Danish innovator in industry and education and past President and CEO of Danfoss, one of Denmark's large multinational corporations, and Chairman of the Board of Sauer-Danfoss, a major global manufacturing company.

Join friends from around the country in downtown Minneapolis for engaging talks Thursday through Saturday. Then, stay on for the Sunday's Twin Cities Marathon where runners will pass a half block from the conference hotel on Sunday, October 4.

Program updates and registration on-line coming soon at [www.danishamericanheritagesociety.org](http://www.danishamericanheritagesociety.org).

Susan Jacobsen, Conference Chair » 515 5th Avenue S.E. #1 Minneapolis, MN 55414  
(+1) 612-378-2694 » [susan.jacobsen@gmail.com](mailto:susan.jacobsen@gmail.com) » [www.danishamericanheritagesociety.org](http://www.danishamericanheritagesociety.org)





# Andersen ■ ■ ■ continued from page 1

including the Spring Valley Methodist Episcopal Church, today listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

He also met his wife, Mary Cummings, in Spring Grove. In 1887, Hans and his growing family moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin where Hans had purchased a lumber whole-sale company. Two years later, they moved on to St. Cloud, Minnesota; that's when Hans lost his wife and his business.

He kept moving forward, though.

In Hudson, Wisconsin, Hans started over. There in 1903, Hans and his new wife, Sarah "Sadie" McDonald, and the three children, Herbert, Mary known as "Molly," and Fred started the window manufacturing business.

Hans had some novel ideas. At that time, most window frames were built by carpenters from scratch, typically at the construction site or at local lumber yards. Hans, however, decided to make reliable frame parts that builders could assemble quickly on site—in about ten minutes. Hans also decided to build standard sizes, designing eleven horizontal pieces and eleven vertical pieces, combinations of which could create windows of 121 different sizes for customers to choose from. Then, Hans created a way of packaging the window frame parts together, called the "two-bundle method," so that the window frame parts could be transported easily to dealers.

Hans Andersen had come up with an efficient, innovative way to mass produce a standardized



*The Andersen family settled in Hudson, Wisconsin, starting their window frame business there. The company moved to a new plant in South Stillwater, Minnesota—now known as Bayport—in 1913.*

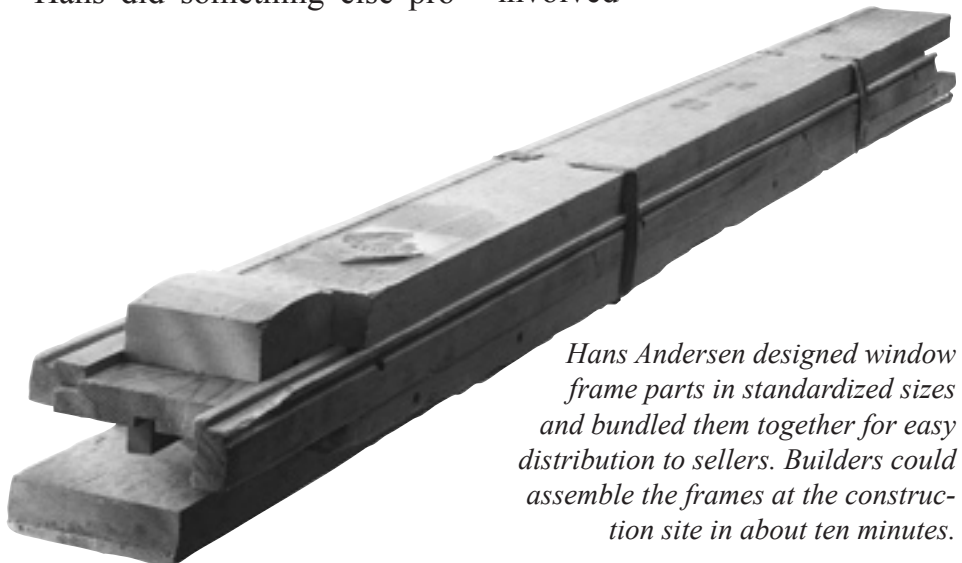
product—this before automaker Henry Ford revolutionized American industry with his assembly line concept in 1913.

People liked Andersen's idea. By 1915 just twelve years after the company was founded, Andersen had sold a million window frames. By 1924 they were selling one million units a year.

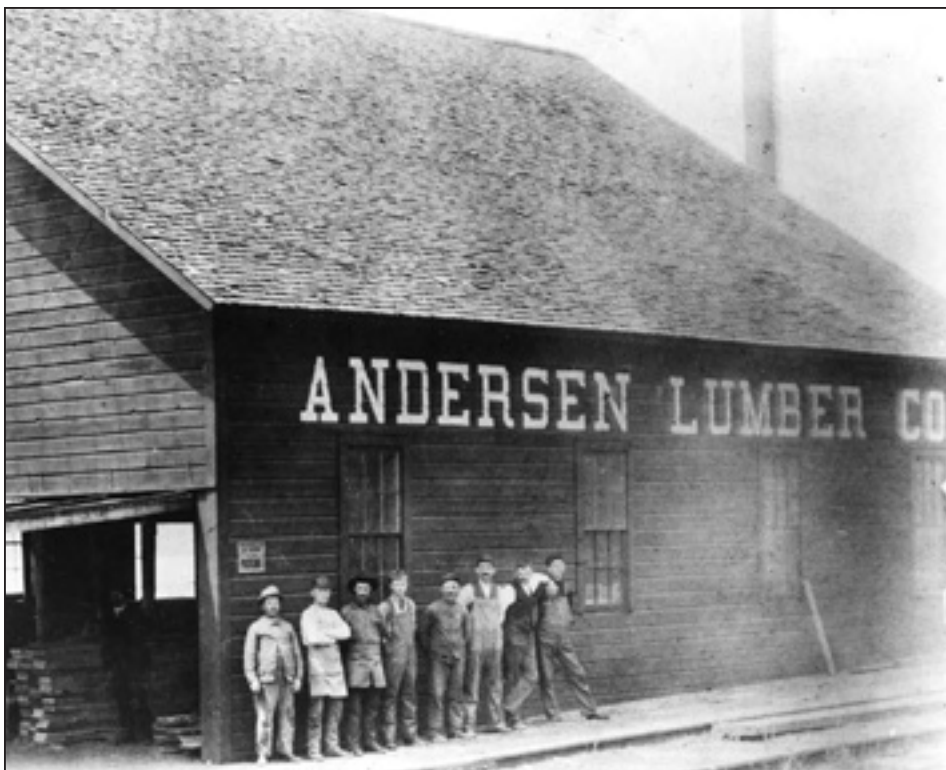
Hans did something else pro-

gressive: he treated his workers well. He instituted employee profit-sharing, and in 1915 workers received their first checks.

In the beginning, the Andersen family worked together as business partners; Andersen Lumber Company—as it was called then—was a family run business. Hans's sons, Fred and Herbert, were directly involved



*Hans Andersen designed window frame parts in standardized sizes and bundled them together for easy distribution to sellers. Builders could assemble the frames at the construction site in about ten minutes.*



*The Andersen family founded a window frame manufacturing business in 1903 called Andersen Lumber Company. Today the company is known as the Andersen Corporation of Bayport, Minnesota, makers of Andersen windows and doors.*



*The Andersen manufacturing plant pictured here during the World War II years when women joined the Andersen workforce. Hans Andersen's son Fred was president of the company at the time.*

in the company. Fred, in fact, served as company president for forty-six years, steering the business through expansion, depression, a world war, and major manufacturing innovations.

Today, over 100 years after the company's founding, the Andersen family is still involved in the company's governance. Sarah Andersen, Hans's great-granddaughter, and Jordan Copeland, who is married to one of Hans's great-great granddaughters, both sit on the company's board of directors.

And for the Andersen Corporation, these are challenging times. With the current economic turmoil and the housing crisis, companies like Andersen that supply building materials are, obviously, vulnerable. Andersen has had to lay off workers.

So, how will the Andersen Corporation move forward?

They are, in part, drawing on the past—on the example provided by Hans Andersen and his family. Maureen McDonough, director of corporate communications, says “In good times and in bad, the company lives by the values established so long ago.” She adds, “I believe the Andersen family is proud of how we’ve done that.”

The Andersen family's story is featured in The Danish Immigrant Museum's current exhibit, *Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations*. The exhibit, which features three Danish immigrant families that started successful businesses in the United States, runs through Sunday, April 19, 2009.



# The Collection Connection

By Angela Stanford

Recently a woman from Virginia contacted me about a needlework sampler she inherited from her great-grandmother, who had made it years ago. Along with the e-mail came a photo of the work, and I was very surprised to find a sampler identical to one we have in the museum's permanent collection.

The Virginia woman wanted to know more about her piece. She was hoping for a literal translation of the words as well as a history of where it may have originated. She did not expect my reply to include a photo of the museum's piece, identical in every way.

In searching the file for any documentation that we might have on our own example of this needlework, I discovered, sadly, that we did not have any record of the story behind the piece. However, there was one gem in the file: a translation of all the words used in the sampler! Someone had taken the time to handwrite all the phrases in English.

So what is the history of this needlework sampler? It was a pattern designed after World War II by Louise Puck and sold by the thousands by a successful embroidery company called Clara Wæver until about 1970. The pattern includes phrases, names, dates, and some images associated with the War and with the Danish Resistance Movement. One of the names included is that of Monica Wichfeld, a Resistance worker caught by the Gestapo in early 1945, sentenced to death, and then commuted to a life imprisonment. In the end, she was executed in April, just a few weeks before the liberation.

Clara Wæver moved to Copenhagen in 1890 with her family. She had a life-long interest in needlework, so it

was only fitting that she would open her own shop. She worked with a number of artists and was always looking for new designs. In 1917, N.C. Dyrland assumed management of the shop, and in 1940 it changed ownership again, this time to Jacob Holst. It was under Holst and his sister, Migge, that this sampler pattern was developed and sold.

This sort of inquiry is beneficial to both the researcher and the museum. The Virginia woman now knows a little more about her great-grandmother's sampler. For the museum's part, we were able to fill in holes in the documentation for one more artifact in our collection, something we strive to do with all of our pieces.

There is another more far-reaching benefit to this type of inquiry. Through researching this request, I—and by extension The Danish Immigrant Museum—broadened contacts in the larger museum community. In this particular case, even though the sampler is a Danish piece and, in most cases, not at all relevant to most other museums' collections, it was talked about by collections professionals across the country through a listserv I posted

to. I also contacted the Frihedsmuseet (the Museum of Danish Resistance 1940-1945) in Copenhagen. This contact provided me with the verification that these two pieces were, indeed, from a pattern used after WWII. This gentleman also shared the designer and company name that issued this pattern.

Research questions, like this one, serve to make our artifact collection stronger. Further, artifacts with a full history and strong documentation are able to supplement stories—exhibits—in a way that those without cannot.

The Danish Immigrant Museum welcomes questions about artifacts in our collection or those within your own collections at home. Contact me anytime by phone or e-mail and I will be happy to do what I can to answer questions or provide good sources for research.



*This needlework sampler, designed after World War II, includes names, phrases, dates and images associated with the War and with the Danish Resistance Movement.*



*The artwork of Lone Hansen and her mother Grethe Herlin are on display through July of this year at The Danish Immigrant Museum. Pictured here is “Tea by the Sea/Te ved havet” by Hansen.*

# ON DISPLAY

## *The Artwork of Grethe Herlin and Lone Hansen*

On January 18, The Danish Immigrant Museum opened a new Danish-American Artist Series exhibition featuring mother and daughter artists, Grethe Herlin and Lone Hansen. Both artists are self-taught and currently reside in Washington State.

Hansen's childhood in Denmark was filled with drawing and coloring. She explains that these activities were a way to brighten her life in a part of the world that experiences a lot of darkness throughout the

year. This, she says, is also why she loves color. Lone has spent much of her adult life selling other people's art through Art Soup, a gallery on Bainbridge Island, Washington. But now, as she puts it, it is her time to “have some fun.”

Herlin, who is the mother in the pair, notes that as far back as she can recall she has been interested in art in various forms—flowers, colors, the written word—though she did not begin painting until the age

of 79, at the encouragement of her daughter. In the art world, Grethe is known as Mormor and her work is known as Mormor's Art. Cards that depict her paintings sell throughout the country. Grethe says that her painting comes “from the deep of her soul,” a very peaceful place.

The colorful artwork of these two extraordinary artists will be on display and for sale, in the Lower Level Gallery of The Danish Immigrant Museum through July 5, 2009.

# Traveling Exhibit Celebrates the Centennial of Victor Borge's Birth

On January 10, 2009 The Danish Immigrant Museum debuted a traveling exhibition kiosk entitled, *Victor Borge: A Smile is the Shortest Distance Between People* that celebrates the centennial of the birth of Victor Borge. The exhibition features text and photographs spanning the life and career of Victor Borge, as well as video segments from some of his most famous music and comedy routines.

This traveling exhibition is a distillation of the exhibition *Victor Borge: A Centennial Exhibition* that is being presented from January 24 through May 9, 2009 at Scandinavian House: The Nordic Center in America in New York City and from May 22, 2009 through March 5, 2010 at The Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa.

The traveling exhibition kiosk opened at the Danish Embassy in Washington D.C., and will then travel to other venues throughout the United States, such as:

- **February 12-March 4:** The Danish Church of Southern California, Yorba Linda, CA
- **April 15-20:** Berea College-Hotel Boone Tavern, Berea, Kentucky
- **June 11-14:** location to be determined, Racine, Wisconsin
- **July 1-30:** location to be determined, Newport, Rhode Island
- **September 17-21:** Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, Solvang, CA
- **October 3-4:** DAHS Conference, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Minneapolis, MN
- **October 6-20:** North Park University, Chicago, IL
- **November 7:** ScanFest, Charlottesville, NC
- **December 2-9:** Dana College, Blair, NE

If your institution is interested in hosting the traveling exhibition, please contact the curator of exhibitions at The Danish Immigrant Museum at [curator@danishmuseum.org](mailto:curator@danishmuseum.org).



*The traveling exhibition kiosk opened at the Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C.*



*In addition to photos and text, the exhibition features video segments of some of Borge's performances.*



---

# A Danish Christmas at the Petersen House Museum

This past Christmas, the Tempe Historical Museum and The Danish Immigrant Museum sponsored a Danish Christmas celebration at the Petersen House Museum in Tempe,

Arizona. This marks the third year that the two organizations collaborated on this event.

From December 5, 2008 through January 3, 2009 the Petersen House

was decorated for a traditional Danish Christmas. On December 7, 14, and 21, actors from the East Valley Children's Theatre performed dramatizations of four fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen, *The Princess on the Pea*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Little Match Girl* and *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*.

John Mark Nielsen and Debra Christensen Larsen of The Danish Immigrant Museum and artist Annette Andersen of Kimballton, Iowa, helped with the annual Christmas activities held on the first weekend of December.

The Danish Immigrant Museum also participated in The Tempe Historical Museum's family-friendly annual celebration, Holiday Fantasia, held on Saturday, December 6. The hundreds who attended this free event could visit with Santa Claus, decorate a cookie, watch abridged performances of Hans Christian Andersen fairy tales and make *papirklip* ornaments.



Betty Dunn, curator of the Petersen House Museum, pictured with characters from Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales at the Petersen House Danish Christmas celebration.



## The Danish Immigrant Museum Cited in *The Washington Post*

In the travel section of the Sunday, January 25 issue of *The Washington Post*, K.C. Summers had a story entitled "Passports and More for Youths." Summers was responding to a question from a couple planning a trip to Copenhagen who wanted to find out where they could learn more about their Danish heritage.

After directing the couple to the Danish State Archives, the writer added:

"But to gain a little perspective, not to mention English-language[sic] help, you should start your search here in the United States, at Iowa's Danish Immigrant Museum... It's home to artifacts and memorabilia that tell

the Danish immigrant's story. Even better, its Family History and Genealogy Center provides research and translation services... Even if you're not searching for your ancestors, [the] website [is] full of fascinating tidbits..."

This story was also printed in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



*Museum board members and representatives of Danish American organizations met to explore ways the museum might better serve members in Southern California.*

## Board Meeting Held in Brea, California

The Board of Directors of The Danish Immigrant Museum held its eighty-first meeting February 12 through 14 in Brea, California.

In addition to board committee meetings, a joint meeting was held with members from the board of directors and members of a few of Southern California's Danish American organizations: The Danish American Club of Orange

County, The Danish Church of Southern California in Yorba Linda, The Danish National Committee, and The Naver Club. The goal was for participants to learn more about each organization and how the museum might better support other organizations and their needs. Many ideas were shared in this brainstorming session and the participants came away from the meeting with several

ideas for joint partnerships.

On Saturday, February 14, after the museum's board meeting was concluded, board members and staff attended a delightful luncheon at the Knudsen Hall Cultural Center in Yorba Linda, hosted by The Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter and The Viking Club of Orange County. The afternoon was filled with delicious food, singing and "skåls."



## A Special Thanks for New Flatware

In a recent edition of The Danish Immigrant Museum's e-mail newsletter, *E-museDK News*, we sent out a request for help. We asked if anyone had a set of silverware (place setting of twenty-four) that they might be willing to donate to the museum. Occasionally, The Danish Immigrant Museum hosts coffees and luncheons and what we had on hand was a hodge-podge of flatware. We did not request anything extravagant, just something nice and matching.

Within days, Jim Lorensen of Phillipsburg, Kansas and a museum member since 2007, contacted the development department, saying "I happened to find some extra money lying around."

Lone Christensen of Brown Deer,

Wisconsin and a member of the museum's board of directors, suggested that we purchase Danish design flatware. *Rosendahl's Grand Cru* pattern was chosen. The second gift,

making the purchase possible, came from former board member Charles Frederiksen and his wife, Joanne, of Ames, Iowa, both longtime museum members.



What's more, Lorensen has already kindly made another gift towards the purchase of Danish design dinnerware. The museum staff is grateful for the generosity of our membership. *Tusind Tak!*

# Museum Welcomes New Director of Development

The Danish Immigrant Museum is pleased to announce that Bruce Bro has been hired as the museum's director of development.

Bro was born in Exira, Iowa near Elk Horn and is a graduate of Dana College. He has lived most of his adult life in Western Iowa, currently residing near the small town of Blencoe in the Loess Hills area.

Bro was the owner/president of Bro Business Center Corporation in Harlan, Iowa, a business he began in 1989 and sold in 2004. He is currently the owner and president of BBC Leasing, Inc. a

commercial real estate business. His many interests include viticulture—which is wine making. Bro established Cedar Canyon Vineyard and Winery in 2003.

Aside from raising two great children, who now live in Arizona, Bro says his biggest accomplishment was climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa last October. Bro is excited to be a part of the museum's team and looks forward to traveling and getting to know the museum's growing membership.

Bro replaces former Director of Development Thomas Hansen who resigned last April and returned to Denmark.



*Bruce Bro, proud Danish-American and the museum's new director of development, atop Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro in October 2008.*



## 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 offering their Danish summer home for rental at a reduced price—and all proceeds will be donated to The Danish Immigrant Museum.

- Located in the middle of Jutland, a 10-minute drive from Viborg, 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.
- 45-minute drive to Århus, and 40-minutes to Aalborg.
- Views of the Limfjord from most rooms in the house.
- 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.

- Two bathrooms with showers and one has a hot tub.
- Kitchen with refrigerator, oven, and microwave.
- Flat screen television and DVD player.
- Five minute drive to shopping: bakery, butcher shop, bank, post office.
- 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.)

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



# MEMORIALS **October 14, 2008 – February 18, 2009**

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

Bertha Andersen	Jane A. Hansen	Evelyn Kjestine Faabord Jensen Kelso	Curtis Petersen
Dale Andersen	Louie O. Hansen	Pastor Adolph Kloth	Flo Ann Petersen
Harold & Esther Andersen	Marie Hansen	Chris J. & Gladys Knudsen	Manuella Werner & her mother, Olga Petersen
Alvina Rasmussen Bondo	Westi Hansen	Mrs. Fred (Edna) Lauritsen	Jacqueline Christensen
Charles E. R. Boye	Harold B. Hoegh	Victor Lauritsen	Dinesen Petry
Thomas & Ellen Brown	Dorothy Hogesen	Dorothea J. Laursen	Delbert Rasmussen
Kenny Campbell	Jonathan Hoifeldt	Gene E. Lehman	Franklin Rasmussen
Hazel Cherry	Jens & Anna Holland	Eivind Lillehoj	Hans Christian Rasmussen
Howard M. Christensen	Paula Jakobsen	Harold & Lenora Madsen	Lela Mae Rasmussen
Jacob Christensen	Arnold Lee Jensen	Elsie Rasmussen McNabb	Kaj & Astrid Roge
George Clausen	Clinton & Lyria Jensen	Patricia McNabb	Gwen Jacobsen Rosheim
Helene Jørgensen Danger	Ellen & Imel Jensen	Gustav Mikkelsen	John C. Ross
Jeanene Esbeck	Jens Aage & Magni Jensen	Einar & Mary Nielsen	Harald Schjodt
Ray Esbeck	Lars Peter Jensen	Eric & Joan Norgaard	Victor Schmidt
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup	Opal M. Jensen	George Norman	Agda Sørensen
Pastor Henry Flesner	Carl Ingward Jessen	Olga Strandvold Opfell	Karen Struckman
John Fredrickson	Viggo Johansen	Carl Anton & Ane	JoAnn Thielen
Diana (Nelson) Greer	Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen	Marie(Sorenson) Pedersen	Cozette Miller Tietge
Clifford K. Hansen			Mr. & Mrs. Wilhelm

# IN HONOR **October 14, 2008 – February 18, 2009**

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

Shirley Esbeck	Brian McNabb	Kai & Starr Nyby	In appreciation of Wanda Sornson's help at FHGC
Danish Student Internships Friends	The Nyby Family	Frank & Osa Nyby Burnett	Senator Harriet Albertsen
Joy Ibsen	Folmer & Vera Nyby	Benedikte Ehlers Olesen	Spanel

# View Our Collection

**Access The Danish Immigrant Museum's Collection from our website at:**  
**[www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org)**

The Danish Immigrant Museum's membership spans the entire United States, Denmark, Canada and five other countries. Now you can access the Museum's object, photograph, library and archive collections in the convenience and comfort of your own home or wherever you have an internet connection!

View our Collection includes 11,320 objects, 4,971 photographs, 7,105 archives entries, and 6,960 library records. There are more than 28,500 viewable images. Every day these numbers increase as the Museum's Curator of Collections, library staff and Danish and American interns process additions to our artifact and library holdings, and archival and special collections.

**To access this benefit, a minimum \$100 annual membership is necessary.**

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE NOW?

Simply call or e-mail the Museum's development department:

**1-800-759-9192**

**[development@danishmuseum.org](mailto:development@danishmuseum.org)**

**or go ON-LINE to Renew, Upgrade or Subscribe**



# New Additions to the Wall of Honor

**October 14, 2008 – February 18, 2009**

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.

**ELSIE NIELSEN ANDERSON**, Jean Gifford, West Des Moines, IA

**HANS PETER ANDERSON**, Jean Gifford, West Des Moines, IA

**FRANS JOHAN (JÆHGER) JAHGER**, Frans & Dorothy Jahger, Roswell, GA

**NIELS PETER MORTENSEN**, Erik Jespersen, Holte, Denmark

**CHRISTIAN PETERSEN**, Roger Petersen, West Des Moines, IA

**ERIK BJØRN RASMUSSEN**, Anne-Marie Douglas, Chicago, IL

**KAJ EGON ROGE**, Paul & Sharlene Roge, Northbrook, IL

**JORGEN SCHMIDT**, Jeanette Owens, Sturgeon Bay, WI

**SOREN ANDREAS SORESENSEN & SINE SORESEN JAKOBSEN SORESEN**, Geraldine Petersen Jasan, Northfield, MN

## 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*

*Andersen Windows (Sarah Andersen), Bayport, MN*

*Answers (Rick Tighe), Atlantic, IA*

*Audubon Family Chiropractic (Dr. Douglas & Nichole Olsen), Audubon, IA*

*Carroll Control Systems, Inc., Carroll, IA*

*Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA area*

*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 #11, St. Paul, NE*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #17, Lodi, WI*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lawrence, KS*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #75, Albert Lea, MN*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84, Lincoln, NE*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #126, Monrovia, CA*

*Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA*

*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 Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL*

*Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Cedar Falls, IA*

*Danish Vennelyst Club, Omaha, NE*

*Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen, publisher; Linda Steffensen, editor), Hoffman Estates, IL*

*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*

*Grand View College Danish Immigrant Archive, Des Moines, IA*

*Harlan Newspapers (Steve & Allan Mores), Harlan, IA*

*Heartland District of the DBIA, Ventura, IA*

*Helle Jørvad (Goldsmith), Ringsted, Denmark*

*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, Glendale, CA*

*Liberty Auto Restoration, Inc., Elk Horn, IA*

*Liberty Labs, Inc., Kimballton, IA*

*Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA*

*Marstal Smithy (Judy Hoch), Lakewood, CO*

*NE Gen Comm Danish Brotherhood, Omaha, NE*

*Nelsen & Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE*

*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*

*Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA*

*The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA*

*The Viking Club of Orange County, Seal Beach, CA*

*World Cal, Inc., Elk Horn, IA*

# Interns Host a Contemporary Danish Culture Evening

by Yvonne Skov Grønlund and Helle Hovmand-Olsen, Scan|Design by Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation interns

As a final salute to Elk Horn, Iowa and the surrounding communities, we Danish interns at The Danish Immigrant Museum hosted an interactive debate of current Danish culture at the Family History and Genealogy Center on January 8, 2009. We had a really interesting night, which we want to share with you by means of this article.

Our main purpose for arranging this interactive debate night was to show the participants that Danish culture is a very broad concept. So, we found some Danish resources online that reflect different perspectives on what Danish culture is.

First, however, we made the participants write down five words that captured their understanding of Danish culture. The following are some of the words people wrote: history, food and drinks (beer and aquavit), the monarchy, bicycles, the educational system, fashion, and architecture. Then, we Danes revealed our own understanding of Danish culture by each showing six or seven pictures that represented our view.

Then we arrived at the point of the evening where we wanted to show other perspectives on Danish culture, so we played the Danish People's Party's elec-



Yvonne Skov Grønlund (left) and Helle Hovmand-Olsen

tion video from 2007 ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBS0MiG94Es](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBS0MiG94Es)) and showed the Danish webpage for the Society of Danish Culture ([www.danskkultur.dk](http://www.danskkultur.dk)). These organizations have the same main purpose: to preserve the "traditional" Danish culture.

We also presented the participants with the webpage for the Danish Cultural Canon, a manifesto prepared by the Ministry of Culture in 2005 that specifies the twelve most important contributions to Danish culture within eight categories, such as architecture, music, visual arts, and literature ([www.kulturkanon.kum.dk/](http://www.kulturkanon.kum.dk/)).

Next we showed pictures from a cam-

paign in the national Danish newspaper Politiken that aired in May 2008. The name of the campaign was "I am Danish, too" and had the purpose of showing the diversity of modern-day Danes ([www.politiken.dk/fotografier/article512912.ece](http://www.politiken.dk/fotografier/article512912.ece)).

Finally, we presented the official webpage for immigrants to Denmark, as it is an interesting angle of approach to studying how "official Denmark" presents itself to its new citizens ([www.nyidanmark.dk](http://www.nyidanmark.dk)).

Before rounding off the evening we gave the participants a "citizenship test" that consisted of ten questions from one of the tests that persons applying for citizenship in Denmark have to pass in order to become Danish citizens. One of the questions was:

*What is the name of Denmark's present Monarch and head of state?*

- ☐ Queen Dagmar
  - ☐ Queen Margrethe I
  - ☐ Queen Margrethe II
- (correct answer)

All in all, we were very excited about the outcome of the evening! We really appreciated the input of the participants and we hope that they took some new perspectives on Danish culture home with them. Now we encourage the readers of this article to explore the links that we have given and hopefully do some eye-opening exploration themselves on Danish culture.

---

## Museum and FHGC Welcome Newest Intern

Jon Gade Jeppesen, a graduate history student at Århus University, is the museum's newest Scan|Design by Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation intern. Jon will be in Elk Horn through the end of June, dividing his time between the Collections Department and Family History & Genealogy Center.

Jeppesen attended high school in Chetek, Wisconsin, in 1999-2000. In addition to his studies he has experience working at *Den gamle by* (The Old Town), an open-air museum in Århus.

Jeppesen's interest in museum work appears to be inherited: his father, Torben Grøngaard Jeppesen, a former museum board member, is head of the Odense City Museum system.



Jon settles in at his desk at FHGC.



# Fastelavn

by Jon Gade Jeppesen, Scan|Design by  
Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation intern

Jeppesen researched Fastelavn for The Danish Immigrant Museum's weekly radio spot on KJAN, AM 1220, a radio station serving southwest Iowa.

Fastelavn (Shrovetide or Shrove Tuesday) has been celebrated for centuries in Denmark and endures to this day.

Fastelavn arrived in Denmark during the time of King Christian II (1481-1559).

The word itself is of German origin and means the night before the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period before Easter when meat was not to be eaten. The equivalent to Fastelavn in Southern Europe is "Carne Vale," which in Latin means "goodbye to meat." This tradition, now known as Carnival, is still celebrated in New Orleans and elsewhere as Mardi Gras.

Initially, the established church authorities in Denmark tried to prohibit Fastelavn, which it regarded as a heathen celebration. They succeeded in this in 1683 during King Christian V's reign.

Many traditions are associated with Fastelavn. Some we still find in Denmark today, others have been modified or no longer exist. Traditionally in Denmark there would be a parade on Fastelavn. In rural areas the farmhands would put on costumes and imitate clowns and similar characters.

Fastelavn was supposed to be a feast day, and therefore people could eat whatever they wanted to. Later on, at the end of the 19th century, the *fastelavnsbolle* (Fastelavn's bun) and the *fastelavnskringle* (a special pretzel) were introduced.

Besides feasting one of the traditions involved is *slå katten af tønden*, or "hitting the cat out of the barrel." Up until the 1800s, a cat would be put into a suspended barrel, after which people would line up to beat on the barrel with a bat. This was done because cats were regarded with suspicion; it was even believed that killing a cat would free a town of the plague. By the 1800s the



Up until the 1800's, one of the traditions at Fastelavn is *slå katten af tønden*, or "hitting the cat out of the barrel."

cat was allowed to escape when the bottom of the barrel broke. Today children still try to hit and break the barrel, but the cat has been replaced by candy and other goodies. The child who successfully breaks the bottom of the barrel is crowned *kattekonge*, or "cat-king."

Another tradition that is still found is that of the *fastelavnsris*, which is a birch switch. Why this has been associated with the holiday is still a subject of debate, but it is believed that prior to the Reformation in 1536, it was used to beat children so that they would remember the sufferings of Jesus. Later on, it was used to beat other adults as a symbol of fertility. In the 1800s people started decorating the switches, and this remains a tradition today.

Today, Fastelavn has become a holiday for the youngest children. In schools children wear costumes, walk around playing with their *fastelavnsris*, wait to *slå katten af tønden*, hoping to be crowned at the end of the day, or at least hoping to get a fair share of the candy inside the barrel. After school, buns will be waiting for them at home. In rural areas older children will look forward to going trick-or-treating, a tradition that has, in the last decade, become popular in the cities of Denmark as well.

So even though Fastelavn is celebrated to prepare oneself for Lent or to get rid of the plague, this old Danish tradition lives on in a guise which resembles American

Halloween.

If you would like to celebrate Fastelavn, Danish-style, next year, here is a recipe:

## Fastelavn's buns:

150 grams butter  
5 dl milk or water  
50 grams fresh yeast  
a little salt  
1 dl sugar  
12-13 dl white flour

Melt the butter, add water and heat until lukewarm. Add salt and just a little sugar to the yeast to let the yeast melt. Add the water/butter mixture and stir well. Add the rest of the sugar and almost all of the flour. Knead this until dough is smooth, adding more flour if necessary. Let the dough rest and rise to double its size. Knead, cut into 25 small pieces and make rolls. Bake at 230°C (450°F) for 10-15 minutes. Enjoy!

More recipes for Fastelavn's buns may be found at:

[www.dk-kogebogen.dk/info/link-til-os/hoejtid/fastelavn/fastelavn\\_boller/Gammeldaws-Fastelavnsboller-med-creme.php](http://www.dk-kogebogen.dk/info/link-til-os/hoejtid/fastelavn/fastelavn_boller/Gammeldaws-Fastelavnsboller-med-creme.php)

or

[www.maduniverset.dk/opskrift.php/7624/Fastelavn-opskrifter/Fastelavnsboller](http://www.maduniverset.dk/opskrift.php/7624/Fastelavn-opskrifter/Fastelavnsboller)



# Stamtræ –

## *Danish Roots, American Branches*

News from the Family History & Genealogy Center

By Michele McNabb, librarian  
genealogy@danishmuseum.org

## 100 Pieces of Advice for Emigrants

In 1911 Holger Rosenberg published *100 Nyttige Raad for Udvandrere* (100 Useful Tips for Emigrants), a small book for Danes considering emigration. Each tip was followed by an explanation, for the most part left out below. Here are Rosenberg's tips for what to do before leaving.

If you would like to read the rest of his advice, visit the museum's new webpage this summer.

### Planning for and Equipping Yourself for Emigration

1. If you have decided to emigrate, don't wait a minute before learning a little English.
2. Choose your travel route with care and buy a ticket directly to your destination.
3. Purchase a ticket for the cheapest class of travel and order it in good time.
4. Decide not to travel to the major cities.
5. The Americans have tightened up their immigration law [this occurred in 1907]. Make sure, therefore, that you fulfill the following requirements for even getting into the country. Admission is refused to:
  - a Idiots and persons with mental and physical deficiencies;
  - b Persons suffering from serious or dangerously contagious diseases;
  - c Persons convicted of disreputable acts;
  - d Polygamists;
  - e Except for personal servants, persons who report upon disembarkation that they have a written or oral promise of work;
  - f Persons who are recipients of alms, who are unable to work, or deemed to become a burden to the government, especially those who are over 60, crippled, blind, deaf and dumb, unmarried pregnant women, mothers with illegitimate children, single women traveling along with minor children, and children traveling alone under the age of 16.
- Under certain conditions, persons identified under f. may be admitted, namely when they can show notarized documentary evidence from close relatives in the U.S. that these individuals have the ability and desire to receive and support them.
6. Don't leave without forethought, but fulfill your military obligations before departure so that it is not a hindrance for your revisiting your homeland.
7. Don't bother acquiring a passport or other documents. Just fill out carefully the form given you by the steamship company agent.
8. Don't be afraid of taking too much baggage, but don't take what you can buy much more cheaply in the U.S.
9. Pack your baggage sensibly, and mark it carefully.
10. Don't take more ready cash with you than you need on the trip and to comfortably get to your destination.
11. A Danish newspaper will be comforting over there; it will be a faithful connection with your home, and it can be sent to you everywhere. Subscribe to one before you leave.
12. Acquire a nice and solid pocket-book with a pencil.
13. Dress warmly for your journey, even if it's mid-summer. On the ocean it is cold in the evenings and even during the daytime.

# Activities and News from the Family History & Genealogy Center



Wanda studies the title page of one of over 5000 books in the FHGC collection.

## New Faces at FHGC

A welcome addition to the FHGC staff is Wanda Sornson, who began work in December as part-time Cataloging Assistant. Actually, she is not a completely new face, since she has been an FHGC volunteer since late 2007. An Audubon native, Sornson spent many years working as a reading instructor and school administrator on the Navajo Nation, after several years in Omaha and on the Omaha Indian Reservation in Macy, Nebraska. Sornson spends two days a week cataloging the library's over 5000 books and related materials and preparing them for labeling. Since starting at FHGC, Sornson has also been "captured" by Debra Christensen Larsen to work a day a week in the Development Office, and she continues to volunteer as well.

The work generated by Sornson led to "labeling parties" and a need for additional processing volunteers this winter. We are happy to welcome June Haas, Elinor Olsen, Carolyn Wittrup and Suzanne Rasmussen to the FHGC volunteer family. They will join another new volunteer, Jeanette Lillehoj, who comes in weekly to proof-read database indexes.

- Our condolences go out to the family of former FHGC volunteer Kathryn Andersen Hansen, a lifelong resident of Audubon County, who died in Elk Horn on February 16, 2009. Kathryn was an enthusiastic Tuesday volunteer. Along with her daughter Linda, Kathryn also participated in the Danish language classes given last year by intern Marianne Paasch.
- The 2009 FHGC TivoliFest photograph display will feature immigrant children and photographs of young children of adult immigrants that were taken to send back to Denmark. If you have pictures of children who came to this country under the age of 8-10 or of families of children in the same age category whose parents were immigrants, we would love to have a copy. Please contact Michele McNabb at [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org) for a Permission to Display and information form.
- Thanks to Amy Christensen for her donation of Folmer Rudolf Christensen's memoirs of his three years as a dairyman in Chile in response to our appeal in the last *America Letter* for material on Danes who spent time in South America.

## DANGLISH

Anyone who has ever lived in a foreign country knows how difficult it is to learn a foreign language and express oneself well and the tendency to mix languages in order to say what one wants to convey, often with comic results. This was also true of immigrant Danes. After all, their first preoccupation was with earning a living, and if they were surrounded by fellow-countrymen, acquisition of the new tongue came slowly. We find many instances of this in the letters that the FHGC is asked to translate.

The following example of blended languages, a letter from an unhappy married woman to a lawyer, comes from Henrik Cavling's *Fra America*. Can you make sense of it?

*"Herr Skilsmisæløjer Patterson, Skvær"*

*Der sør!*

*Jeg tar den liberti to rejt til ju om en skilsmissekæs, da jeg gjerne vilde bli divorset, dersom det not koster to mitsj moni. Jeg har vær gift just 5 maant last frejdæ og har en little bøj. Min husbond er worken paa rejlrøden. Han vilde kille mig, førend vi blev marrid, bikaas jeg taal him, jeg vilde ha ham arrested, fordi han hadde brokken sin promissen.*

*Missis Murfy siger jeg skulle lade ham i pise. Hun selv er divorset fire tejms. But ej ges, han vil lave traabel, for jeg har en nejs litle sum moni kommen te mej fra de aal contri. Vi kan spik nærmere ved.*

*Werry truly jurs, Johanne M---, 13 Bluming Strit, St. Paul*

*N.B.: Missis Murfy er altid at home. Vi er grit frinds, sjur! Mit amerikanske Navn er Mæbel."*



# Wish List • Family History & Genealogy Center

The following are some materials that we would like to add to the FHGC collection. 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](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org) or 712-764-7008.

- *Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index* (\$139.50 on Alibris)
- *The Other Half: The Life of Jacob Riis and the World of Immigrant America*, by Tom Buk-Swienty and Annette Buk-Swienty. (\$15.59 on Amazon.com)
- *Gymnastics and Politics: Niels Bukh and Male Aesthetics* (\$54 on Amazon.com)
- *A History of Ida County [Iowa]*, ed-

ited 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 with us.

- *Emmet County Marriages, vols. 1 & 2, 1876-1917, 1918-1941* (\$15 each from the Emmet County, Iowa, Genealogical Society).
- *Alice Nielsen and the Gayety of Nations*, by Dall Wilson. (\$49.95 from the author).
- *St. Louis Family History Research Guide*, by Ann Fleming (2008; \$25 + \$5 s/h).
- *Children of Ellis Island*, by Barry Moreno (Arcadia Publishing, \$19.99)
- *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.
- *Dansk adelsleksikon* (Encyclopedia of Danish Nobility). There are numerous editions of this title and accompanying volumes available from online antiquarian book dealers for a wide range of prices. We would like to obtain at least one set.
- *Danish Cookbooks: Domesticity and National Identity*, by Carol Gold (University of Washington Press; \$24.95).
- *Among the Danes*, by F. M. Butlin (available from abebooks.com for ±\$50.)



## Thinking of down-sizing?

The FHGC would be interested in church directories and histories, town and county histories, cemetery/tombstone compilations, biographical materials or compilations, and family histories, particularly those from the following counties or areas:

- CA: Alameda, Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sonoma & Santa Barbara
- CO: Arapahoe, Denver & Morgan
- IA: Audubon, Black Hawk, Buena Vista, Cass, Clinton, Grundy, Pottawattamie, Shelby, Story & Woodbury
- IL: Cook, Kane, Lake, Livingston & Rock Island
- KS: entire state
- NE: Dodge, Douglas, Howard, Nuckolls, Kearney, Sarpy and Washington
- MN: Freeborn, Hennepin, Lincoln, McLeod, Ramsey, Redwood-Brown, St. Louis & Steele
- MO: St. Louis
- NJ-NY: NY metro area
- OH: Cuyahoga
- SD: Brookings, Clay, Kingsbury, Turner & Yankton
- WA: King, Pierce, Spokane & Whatcom
- WI: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Polk, Racine, Waupaca & Winnebago

If you own or run across any of these items please contact Michele McNabb.



## Information Wanted:

In the late 1920s Den Danske Landsby was built near Scarborough, Maine, to replicate a typical Danish village. It became a major tourist attraction throughout the 1930s, but fell into neglect during World War II. Several fires and changes in ownership resulted in the village's gradual decay and by 1970 only the imposing Town Hall building was left.

The FHGC has received a postcard of the village dating from the 1930s, but we would like to have other images and further information about this now-defunct New England attraction.

## Computer Upgrade Help Needed

Thanks to several generous donations the FHGC is moving toward a badly needed upgrade of its now six-year-old computer system. However, with a tight budget we will also have to borrow from other budget lines to get the type of system needed. Any donations of funds toward this project would be greatly welcomed, so that in addition to being efficient catalogers and researchers we can also continue to mend books and appropriately preserve our collection.

# Danish Cultural Program Opportunities in the Pacific Northwest

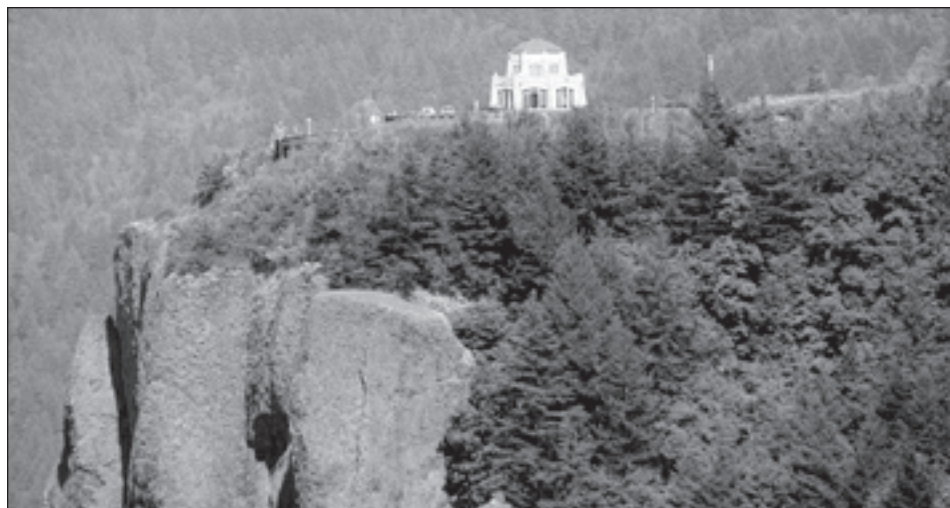
*By Charlotte Rasmussen, Northwest Danish Foundation board member and Melony Beaird, program manager, Northwest Danish Foundation.*

Are you interested in immersing yourself in Danish culture while making new friends at one of the most picturesque locations in the Pacific Northwest? If so, the Northwest Danish Foundation invites you to attend the 2009 Danish Cultural Conference (DCC) for adults or Himmelbjerget Danish Camp for youth, ages 10 through 18.

Both programs are held at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett Oregon, a one hundred acre forest sanctuary in the Columbia River Gorge.

## Danish Cultural Conference (DCC)

One of the Northwest Danish Foundation's flagship programs, the 2009 DCC will be held Friday, June 26 through Sunday, June 28. This program consists of high quality presentations and programming covering a broad range of topics including contemporary issues in Danish society and politics, Danish literature, art, music and Danish history in the Pacific Northwest. The format



*Menucha, site of these two programs, is located in Corbett, Oregon, seven hundred feet above the Columbia River.*

resembles that of a Danish højskole.

The conference opens with a traditional flag hoisting ceremony, followed by several days of activities, including Danish language lessons, guided nature walks, traditional folk dancing, evening entertainment and stimulating presentations and discussions.

This year's program will include presentations on Danish cartoons by Dr. Marianne Stecher-Hansen of the University of Washington, the history of Danish porcelain by Sonja Kromann, and Denmark's role in international affairs by Soren Jensen, deputy chief of the Danish

Embassy in Washington D.C.

More information about the DCC and how to register can be found on the NWDF web site <http://www.northwest-danishfoundation.org/>.

## Himmelbjerget Danish Camp

Adult DCC participants enjoyed the cultural experiences and friendships that they formed while attending the Danish Cultural Conferences so much that in 1989 they organized a similar program, Himmelbjerget Danish Camp, for their children. Today, Himmelbjerget hosts a maximum of sixty campers.

From arrival to departure, efforts are made to immerse the youngsters in "little Denmark." The campers participate in numerous activities that pertain to Danish history, architecture, people, culture, and traditions. Campers experience Danish food, crafts, and folk dancing. There are Danish-speaking counselors and three lessons of Danish daily.

The 21st annual Himmelbjerget Danish Camp starts Sunday, June 28 and runs through Saturday, July 4. This year's theme, Copenhagen, will let campers explore one of the world's great capitals, virtually visiting sites across the city from the Rundetårn to the Little Mermaid.

For more information about Himmelbjerget and how to register go to the NWDF website and follow the Himmelbjerget logo or visit our new camp website at [www.nwdanishcamp.com](http://www.nwdanishcamp.com).



*At Himmelbjerget Danish Camp, campers from ages ten to eighteen are immersed in Danish culture from arrival to departure.*

**THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM**  
**PO BOX 470**  
**2212 WASHINGTON ST**  
**ELK HORN IA 51531-0470**

*PRSR STD*  
*NONPROFIT*  
*U.S. POSTAGE*  
**PAID**  
*Permit No. 19*  
*Elk Horn, IA*

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED



## **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

Saturday: 10:00 am-5:00 pm

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

[www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org)

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

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

**(712) 764-7001 • Toll Free (800) 759-9192 • FAX (712) 764-7002**  
**[www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org)**