

America Letter



**The Danish
Immigrant Museum**

AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER

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Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations: The Comprehensive Campaign

By Dr. John Mark Nielsen, executive director

"For those who wonder why... The Danish Immigrant Museum was located here [in Iowa], they need only see this landscape on a sunny June day and make a comparison to Jutland's stretched-out rolling hills and green fields. Or chat with locals at a gas station, in a restaurant, or a coffee shop. How they must have felt at home, the immigrants of yore, even if the land was covered with tall prairie grass. Their inner eyes must have seen the home country. They passed on their souls, their values to future generations."

Dr. Borge M. Christensen, former board member, Rochester, Minnesota

How do we feel before starting a new journey? Excitement? Anticipation? Anxiety? Certainly, we have dreams of what might be, but we

also know we will have to adapt to realities beyond

our imagination. Countless generations of immigrants have, I am sure, shared such emotions.

When The Danish Immigrant Museum was founded in 1983, I recall many who felt the same: we had hopes, yet we knew challenges lay ahead.

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Danish Immigrant Museum
Elk Horn, Iowa

An expanded museum building will house the Family History and Genealogy Center, a core exhibition hall, a public gathering space and additional artifact storage.

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Your Museum in the Heart of the Continent

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I am pleased to report that today The Danish Immigrant Museum is solidly established in these rolling Iowa hills. Now, we are ready for the next stage of the journey!

Shortly after I came to the museum as executive director in 2003, we embarked on a strategic planning effort. The museum had recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary, the museum building had been completed in 1993 and the core exhibit *Across Oceans, Across Time* had been on view for ten years. It was time to look ahead and develop plans that would ensure the museum's future.

After a year-long self-assessment involving board members and staff, a new mission statement was adopted and the following broad goals were articulated:

Our Mission Statement: The Danish Immigrant Museum shares the legacy and continuing influence of Danish culture as realized in the experiences and contributions of Danish immigrants, their descendents and Danes living in America.

- Growing the endowment to provide earnings in support of annual operations (ongoing);
- Continuing preparation of one major annual exhibit while developing a Danish-American Artists

Series and initiating a traveling exhibit program (ongoing);

- Developing a plan to address the backlog of unaccessioned gift lots dating from 1996 to 2003 (high priority);
- Redesigning the museum's core exhibit that was created in 1994 (high priority);
- Redesigning the museum's website and initiating planning for a virtual museum (high priority);
- Begin planning for building expansion that would provide space for the Family History and Genealogy Center and include a core exhibition hall, a public gathering place and additional artifact storage (as funding is available);
- Developing the thirty acres of grounds surrounding the museum into a Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park (as funding is available).

In November 2005, outside consultants were retained to test the plan. *Two hundred of our nearly three thousand museum members completed a written survey and eighty members or couples were interviewed.* The findings indicated strong support for the planned projects and the willingness to assist financially in achieving the goals.

At the February 2006 board meeting, the board of directors voted to begin a comprehensive campaign, entitled *Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations*, to raise \$15 million. Specifically the goals for the campaign were to raise the following:

- \$1 million in cash for the endowment
- \$7 million in pledges towards investment in the endowment
- \$750,000 to achieve redesign of the core exhibition, creation of a virtual museum, and expand the traveling exhibit program
- \$6,250,000 to build a core exhibits building and develop a Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park

Why these projects? What is our progress in meeting our goals?

Preparing for any journey requires planning and preparation. Since September 1, 2006, we have quietly been sharing our plans with individuals. Now it is time to share with our membership. To date we have raised \$8,226,756 in cash and pledges towards realizing our goal of \$15 million! This is exciting. Clearly, there is support across the country as we strive to realize our vision.



The redesigned core exhibit includes a section on contemporary Danish design.



The Danish Immigrant Museum Endowment

It is essential that The Danish Immigrant Museum build a strong endowment supported by \$1 million in outright gifts restricted to the endowment and \$7 million in long-term, deferred gifts through planned giving. Annual earnings from the endowment support programming and artifact preservation. Endowment earnings pay for staff positions such as the museum's curator, collection's manager/registrar, and librarian/genealogist, assuring that the museum has the resources to maintain a highly qualified, professional team. Increased endowment earnings will provide future opportunity to add a traveling exhibits designer and coordinator for programming and educational outreach. Building our endowment will ensure that The Danish Immigrant Museum can continue telling the unfolding story of migration and relations between Denmark and the United States.

Where are we in reaching our goal for endowment growth?

In 2001, the Board of Directors established a formal endowment fund. The first contributions were made to this fund in 2002. By 2004, the endowment totaled \$473,298. Today, because of generous gifts and despite the 2008 downturn in the economy, the endowment exceeds \$1.9 million. Additionally, we have received pledges of deferred gifts to the endowment totaling over \$4.4 million!

We are well on our way to meeting our goal for endowment growth. This is important as it demonstrates to donors that they are supporting an institution with a sound fiscal foundation.

Redesign of the current core exhibit *Across Oceans, Across Time*, Expanded Traveling Exhibit Program, and Virtual Museum

The museum has a responsibility to tell the immigrant story to a wider audience, raising important questions about the opportunities and challenges that arise from the migration of peoples. In a world being drawn more closely together by travel, work and communications, visitors should leave our museum having considered the implications of immigration and how it contributes to the reshaping of culture.

Across Oceans, Across Time

An expanded core exhibit with a broader focus, incorporating state-of-the-art



The redesigned core exhibit includes spaces to draw in children. Children play in the Lego building area (top) and crouch down in the hold of a fishing boat.

The Comprehensive Campaign . . . continued

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technologies, is critical to fulfilling this responsibility. Moreover, it hints at how the story can be told in greater detail with an expanded exhibit space.

“The museum needs to have more interactive displays and needs to share information about Denmark today.” (This and all subsequent quotations are from the Museum Feasibility Study completed in January 2006.)

“The museum needs to draw in the younger generation—get them excited about who they are and where their families began. It needs to find ways to bring children to the museum; they will communicate their excitement and their families will return.”

Thanks to gifts totaling almost \$500,000, the museum has been able to move forward in realizing these goals. In May 2008, our redesigned and expanded core exhibit opened as a part of our twenty-fifth anniversary celebration.



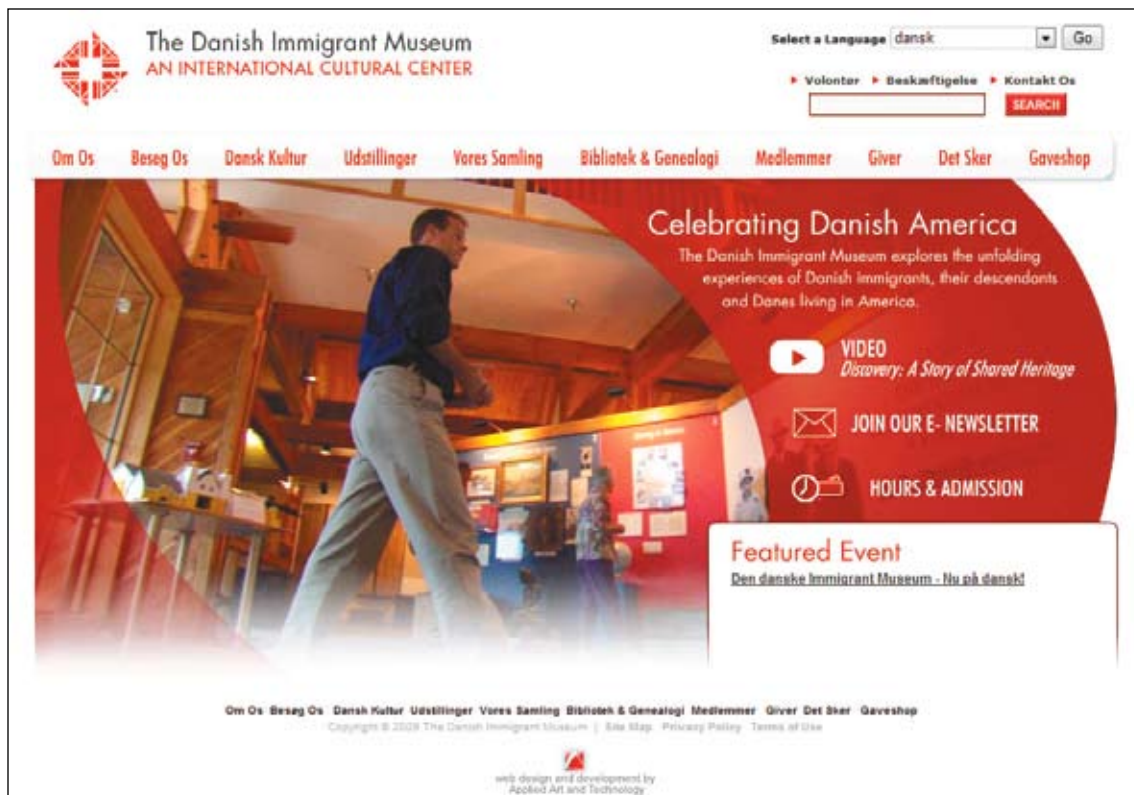
An expanded traveling exhibit program will allow the museum to reach wider audiences. The traveling exhibit kiosk celebrating Victor Borge's birth (pictured on this page) has been crisscrossing the nation and is booked well into 2010.

This includes a children's play area at the museum's entrance, featuring Lego building blocks, and exhibits that overview Danish and Danish-American relations since 1940. Contemporary Danish design and immigration issues both in Denmark and the United States are presented.

Traveling Exhibits

Additionally, an expanded traveling exhibit program – from basic poster-easel displays to fully interactive audio-visual kiosks – will allow the museum to share its wealth of information and artifacts with schools, social and fraternal organizations, churches and businesses nationwide.

“The traveling exhibits are a great idea—they will help expose more people to the museum and the story of Danish immigration.”



In June 2009 the museum's newly designed website was launched. The next step is to create a platform for interactive virtual exhibits, so that members everywhere can visit the exhibits online.

Working with the Victor Borge family and the American-Scandinavian Foundation, the museum created a traveling exhibit kiosk celebrating the centennial of Victor Borge's birth. This kiosk exhibit has crisscrossed the country and is booked well into 2010. Building on the experience of this exhibit, the museum is planning future traveling exhibits that are easily assembled and bring the unfolding story of the Danish and Danish-American cultural experience to a wider audience.

Reaching out to our membership through programming is an important part of our traveling exhibit program. I am pleased to announce that your museum will be the American sponsor and host for the National Danish Performance Team. This

well-known gymnastics group representing the Danish Gymnastics and Sports Association will tour the United States from October through December as a part of their 2010-2011 World Tour. We are planning museum events that will involve museum members in the communities the team visits.

Virtual Museum

A virtual museum provides interactive panoramic photography and an enhanced experience for website visitors. In 2008, the museum took the first step by offering over 20,000 artifacts on-line through *View Our Collection*. Members and researchers can access digital photographs and descriptions of individual artifacts in the collection. The next step is the

redesign of the website to create a platform for interactive virtual exhibits, which can then be developed.

"The virtual museum is a good idea—it will allow the museum to reach more people, particularly a younger audience."

"The virtual museum will hopefully help to get the next generation connected to the museum and to their Danish heritage."

Where are we in achieving core exhibit redesign, expanding our traveling exhibit program and developing a virtual museum?

In June 2009, the newly designed website was launched. It includes an introductory video, background on Danish immigration, genealogy, and contemporary Danish

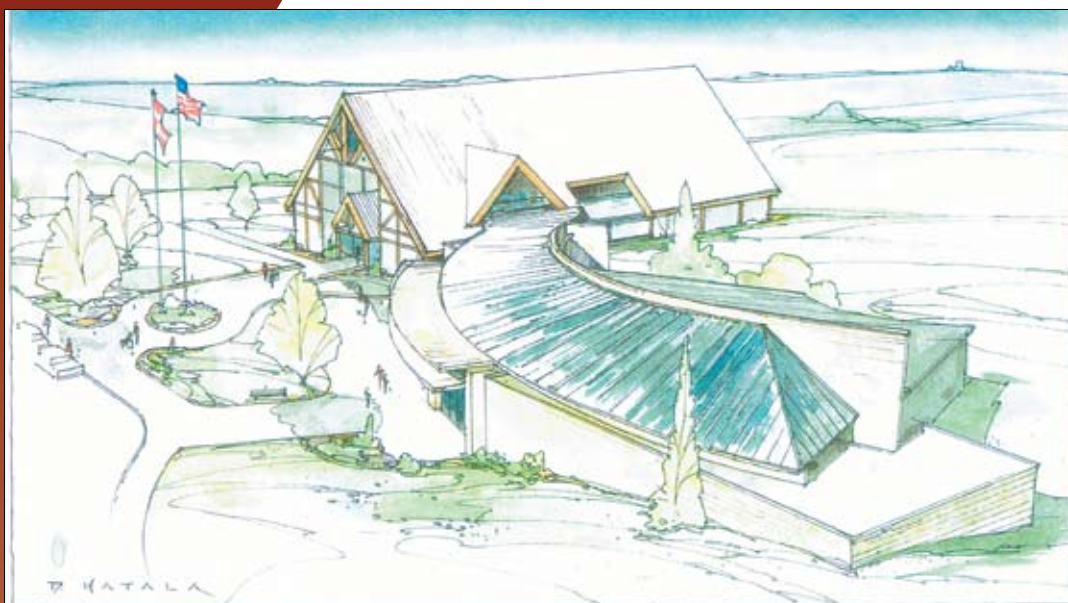
culture as well as links to many organizations and companies. Work continues on the site. Just this month, a Danish language feature was added, providing website visitors the opportunity to read the text in English or Danish.

Forsamlingshuset/Core Exhibition Building – A New Building

Forsamlingshuset/Core Exhibition Building will be the living heart of The Danish Immigrant Museum. Artifacts are important in the preservation of a past heritage and identity, but it is the sharing of ideas, technologies, music, film, dance, and food that breathes life into a culture. The cultural exhibit space provided by this new building will further the museum's strategic plan to serve as a cultural bridge between Denmark and the United States by enabling the museum to host activities on the museum grounds that have not been possible due to lack of appropriate space.

Connected to the existing museum building, the new building will add 10,000 square feet on the main level of multipurpose space and 10,000 square feet on the lower level, providing additional space for artifact and archival storage. It will be constructed using green technologies and incorporate solar panels to achieve energy sustainability. There will be a terrace overlooking the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park on

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Danish Immigrant Museum
Elk Horn, Iowa



The Forsamlingshuset/Core Exhibition Building will be the living heart of The Danish Immigrant Museum. Though modern and curving, the roof is reminiscent of the rooflines of the buildings at Fyrkat, Aggersborg, and Trølleborg.

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the museum grounds and the Iowa countryside beyond. The new building will include state-of-the-art multi-media capabilities as well as wireless internet access. The décor and design are inspired by contemporary Danish aesthetics.

Building a new

suggests an inverted ship's keel and is reminiscent of the roofline of structures within the ring forts at Aggersborg, Fyrkat and Trølleborg.

As noted above, the south exposure of the roof will include solar panels. A passageway through the concourse suggests the gate or portal into a Danish farm and provides access to the amphitheater and landscaped grounds beyond. These spaces have been used for the annual *Sankt Hans Aften* festival, open-air theater, and other public events. Finally, a large wall within the spacious lobby will feature the museum's *Wall of Honor*, which recognizes the names of individuals who emigrated from Denmark.

Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park:

The Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park will celebrate the Danish immigrant who designed important elements of the Chicago Park system and who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright. Jensen pioneered "the prairie school" of landscape architecture that focused attention on using native plantings to emulate natural environments. This will attract visitors interested in horticulture and landscaping.

This new outdoor venue will provide picturesque landscaping, a pergola covered picnic area, walkways, interpretive areas and a pond. The park will include two recreated Danish "free-holder" or "small-holder" cottages. One cottage will illustrate mid-nineteenth century life in rural Denmark when population growth and a downturn in the farm economy forced



An artist's rendering of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape from the east. Landscape architect and Danish immigrant Jens Jensen used native plantings to emulate native environments in his work.



The park will include two recreated Danish 'free-holder' or 'small-holder' cottages. One cottage (similar to above) will illustrate mid-nineteenth century life in rural Denmark. The other cottage will have a modern interior and provide housing for the museum's interns.

many small farmers into bankruptcy and contributed to increased emigration. The other cottage will have

a modern interior and provide housing for the museum's interns.

"All the proposed ideas are good, especially the park and the conference center. These will attract visitors and provide additional income to the museum."

The Danish Immigrant Museum is dedicated to faithfully preserving and accurately presenting this dramatic story through its unparalleled collection of artifacts, archives and exhibits. Not only is

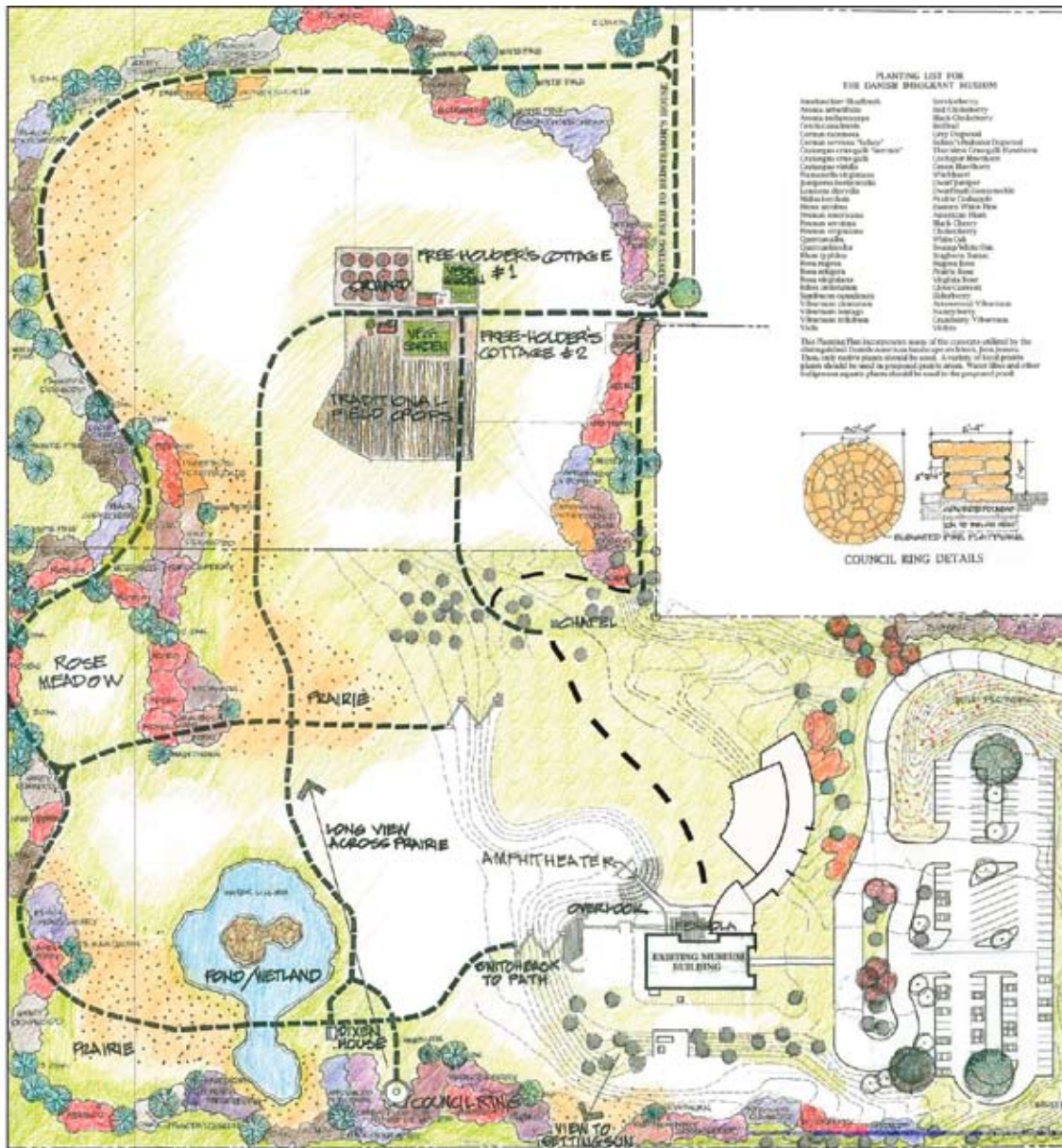
the museum a place to remember and honor the immigrant experience, it is also a vital institution for introducing non-Danish visitors to the colors, textures, tastes and traditions of Danish and Danish-American peoples.

"I especially appreciate The Danish Immigrant Museum as I feel it has become an institution that draws Danes and Danish-Americans together. I am extremely happy to see the dreams of the museum continuing to grow."

"It is important that the Danish immigrants keep the story alive as it reminds us that we here in the United States are all the children of immigrants."

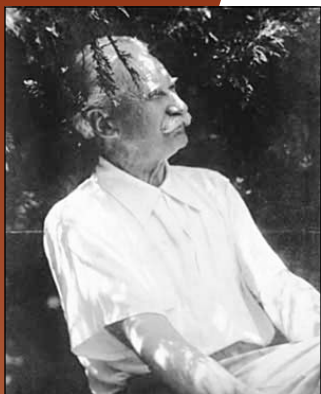
Our vision for the museum will provide space, programs and resources needed to bring an unfolding story of the Danish and Danish-American cultural experience to a wider audience. It celebrates a proud past, defines a dynamic present, and challenges us to consider the future!

All of us associated with The Danish Immigrant Museum are grateful for your membership and support, and we look forward to visiting with you, as together we work to make this vision for our museum a reality. Yes, we can say, "The journey continues!"



The Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park will provide picturesque landscaping, a pergola covered picnic area, walkways, interpretive areas and a pond.

Remembering Jens Jensen, a Danish Immigrant and Maker of Parks



Jens Jensen (1860-1951) is pictured here in 1943.

His work can be seen in many Chicago parks. He designed estate grounds for the wealthy, collaborated with thinkers, activists and artists of his time—Jane Addams and Frank Lloyd Wright to name just two, he fought for the preservation of natural spaces and founded his own school. He is remembered as a pioneer of the prairie style of landscape design,

using native plants and horizontal lines to evoke the feel of the great Midwestern prairies.

So, it would not be an exaggeration to describe Jens Jensen as a giant in the history of landscape architecture. The way Jensen wanted to be known, however, reveals much more about his design ethic: he liked to be called a maker of natural parks and gardens.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is developing the grounds surrounding the museum building into the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, a natural park that will allow visitors to experience the design philosophy of this Danish immigrant.

Jensen wanted people to feel the power of nature in his landscapes. According to Robert Grese of the University of Michigan and author of *Jens Jensen Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens*, “He wanted people to feel connected to a sense of place – to feel in touch with the seasons, to enjoy sunlight and the sky and the plants and wildlife. He wanted to encourage a reverence for the out-of-doors using artistic skill to capture an idealization of the wider landscape.”

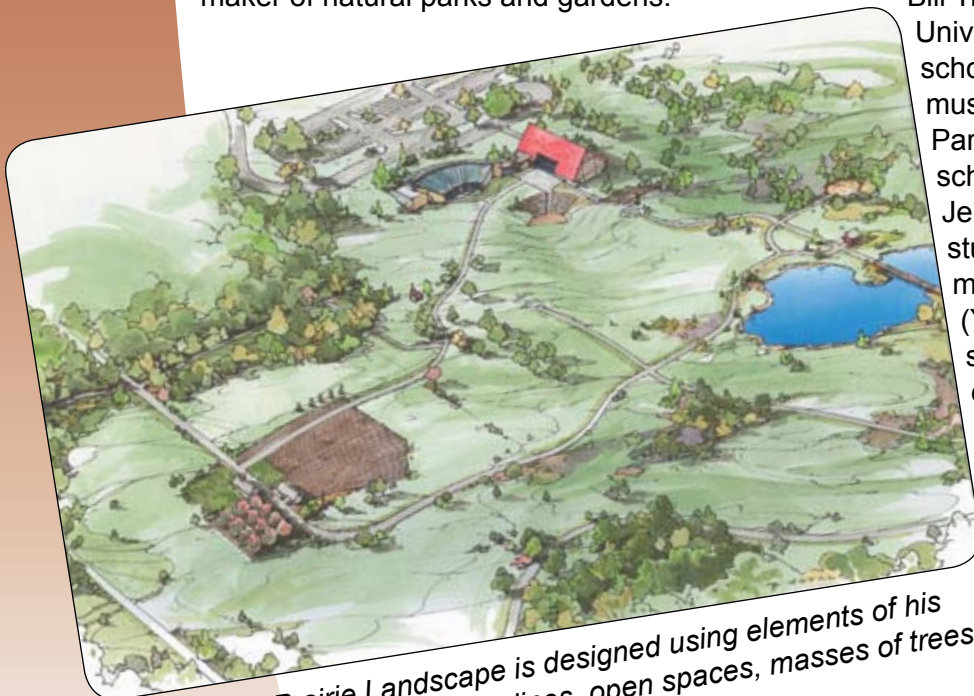
Jensen himself grew up immersed in the out-of-doors. He was born in 1860 in Dybbøl in the Schleswig province of Denmark. When he was 4-years-old, Denmark lost control of the province to Germany in the Second Schleswig War of 1864.

Growing up, Jensen walked three miles to attend one of the many Danish folk high schools that sprung up to preserve and celebrate Danish traditions after the loss of territory to Germany.

Bill Tishler is a professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin Madison, a Jensen scholar, and the designer of the plan for the museum’s Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park. Tishler explains that Jensen’s folk school experience was formative. There Jensen would have spent time outdoors studying horticulture and Nordic lore, making gardens and planting trees. (Years later, the Danish folk high school philosophy influenced Jensen’s development of The Clearing, his school in Door County, Wisconsin.)

Another element of Jensen’s childhood in Denmark that would influence his appreciation of the Midwest was the sea. In Schleswig, Jensen’s family owned a farm near the sea, which, Tishler notes, Jensen could have seen from an upstairs window in the farmhouse. When he came to the

Midwest, says Tishler, Jensen was “fascinated by the flat prairies and the way the wind would blow through reminded him of the ocean.”



The Jensen Prairie Landscape is designed using elements of his style: native plantings, curving lines, open spaces, masses of trees and shrubs, and a council ring.



Designed in 1916, Jensen considered Chicago's Columbus Park, pictured here, his most successful park landscape. Jensen often used stonework in his designs to suggest the bluffs of the Midwest.

As a young man, Jensen served out his compulsory military service in the German army in Berlin, where he was exposed to the city's parks and their varying design styles. Jensen was not a fan of the French-style formal parks with their straight lines and symmetrical plantings. Grese says that Jensen viewed these parks as "a reflection of an autocratic style of government." He preferred English gardens, considering them more democratic.

Jensen was the oldest son in the family and stood to inherit his father's farm, but he didn't want to be a farmer. He fell in love with a woman, Anna Marie Hansen, but his parents disapproved of the match. Jensen and Anna Marie immigrated to the United

States.

After brief stays in Florida and Iowa, the couple settled in Chicago where Jensen worked as a street sweeper before landing a job with the Chicago parks. On weekends, Jensen explored the surrounding countryside becoming increasingly appreciative of the beauty of the Midwest.

Jensen's excursions influenced his earliest known landscape design, the American Garden in Chicago's Union Park in 1888; there Jensen used the native plants, shrubs and grasses he had been seeing in these trips out of the city.

Jensen was not working in a cultural vacuum, however. Grese says that Jensen's work was influenced by other

landscape architects, such as Frederick Law Olmsted and O.C. Simonds, a contemporary of Jensen's in Chicago, as well as the thinking of architects like Luis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. "He learned design principles from those other folks," says Grese, "but blended them with what he was finding and seeing."

Jensen worked on and off with the Chicago parks for much of his career, developing his design approach. For Jensen this meant spending time in a space, getting to know it well before putting a plan on paper—a plan that wouldn't impose straight lines or formal flower beds, but one that would enhance the natural beauty of a setting.

Grese explains some of the characteristics of Jensen's style, saying that Jensen paid a lot of attention to how the direction of sunlight would change over a landscape throughout the course of the day—to light and to shadow, trying particularly to make views of the morning and evening sun.

Jensen also manipulated space, creating masses of woodlands and shrubs, places of mystery that would open up to a large open space. He made paths in more shady areas so that a person could feel secure and sheltered in the trees while looking out into those open spaces. Also, he had an ability, says Grese, to make a space

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The council ring became a trademark of Jensen landscapes. This one at Chicago's Promontory Point was designed by Alfred Caldwell, who worked for Jensen and was a landscape architect in his own right.

seem larger by taking advantage of long views across a landscape.

Though he wasn't a complete purist, Jensen used mostly native trees and shrubs—hawthorns, crabapples, sumac and native roses, for example. Throughout his career, says Grese, "Jensen talked a lot about plants as almost friends... He was respectful of plants and the suitability of growth conditions."

Another trademark of Jensen's style was the use of natural stonework.

Jensen used rockwork, for example, to create council rings in many of his designs—a place to sit, to gather, to have a bonfire. Tishler explains that Jensen would have sat around many bonfires as a child on field trips with the Danish folk high school. And as a Dane, Jensen was familiar with Viking lore—according to which the Vikings would light bonfires along the sea for ceremonial or for navigational purposes.

"Jensen felt," says Tishler, "that they [council rings] were very democratic: no one sat at the

head of the table, you could look people in the eye."

Grese adds that Jensen didn't feel we had enough outdoor celebrations in this country and he wanted his landscapes to provide settings for those. The council rings could be one such venue.

Jensen did a great deal of private contract work as well, landscaping, for example, Henry and Clara Ford's estate in Dearborn, Michigan.

But making public parks, that was Jensen's passion.

"He wanted to use his talents to create places that the majority of people would enjoy," says Grese.

Jensen also felt that in this country we don't know enough about our natural heritage. He felt, says Grese, "there was a general separation between our children and nature. It [nature] was an important part of his childhood and he wanted children in the city to have that connection too."

Jensen was aware of how quickly the natural spaces of this country were being destroyed. He became an advocate for preserving natural spaces, fighting, for example, to preserve the dunes area along the Lake Michigan shore in northern Indiana.

"He was," says Tishler, "a conservation visionary. Everybody knows of John Muir and Aldo Leopold, but not as many know about Jens Jensen."

The Danish Immigrant Museum's Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park will celebrate the philosophy and artistic vision of this giant of landscape architecture. The park will showcase the same plant palette that Jensen used in his landscapes. There will be a pond, a council ring, and open spaces; there will be places for public gathering and places to look out into the Iowa countryside.

The Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park will be a space where visitors can feel a sense of place, designed in the spirit of the Danish immigrant who was a master at making natural parks.

The Collection Connection

By Angela Stanford, curator of collections

One year ago, I shared in this column that the museum had been fortunate to receive full funding for the conservation treatment of a 1922 Danish American Athletic Club banner, donated in 2007. Now, I am delighted to report that this banner has completed its treatment and is back onsite at the museum!

Shortly after receiving the banner, we obtained a

treatment estimate from the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis. Once we received word that the \$9,520 project would be fully funded by the Danish Athletic Club of Illinois and by Irma Ørum of St. Charles, Illinois the banner began treatment.

The process was a detail-oriented one that took about five months to complete. The conservator first carefully vacuumed the front and back, removing

any debris and dust. Because the front layer of the banner is silk, the burlap lining had abraded the silk, leaving it extremely shattered. This lining was removed along with the silk backing, so that the front of the banner could be stabilized.

Next, the banner was spot treated with deionized water, which helped lighten many of the surface stains. The entire piece was then placed inside a humidification tent with warm deionized water. This process relaxed the heavy creases that had developed from hanging for many years and then being creased as it was later rolled for storage.

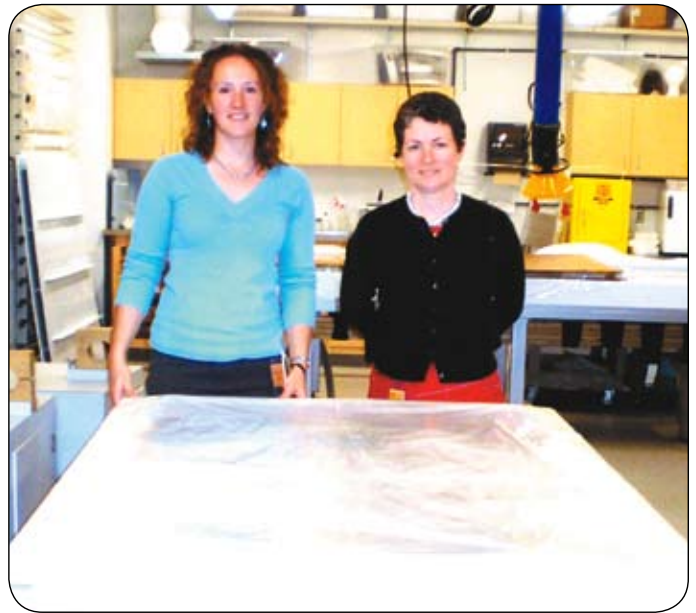
The largest areas of shattering in the silk were meticulously repaired. A material called reemay was cut to size for each area and adhered to the existing silk fabric using a specific mixture of chemicals and deionized water. This prevents more shattering from occurring and gives a more solid appearance.

Once the process was completed, the conservator attached the banner to a backer board made of aluminum, covered with polyester felt and muslin fabric. The banner was stitched to the backing fabric for stability and security.

Our DAAC banner will be featured in next year's main exhibition which will highlight numerous pieces from the museum's own collection. This show will take an alphabetical approach to showing unique pieces that would otherwise be difficult to work into other exhibitions.

This project has been a wonderful opportunity to work with another Danish American group and with members of the museum. It has also established a great communication between the museum and the Conservation Center. With continued funds for projects like these, the museum can provide even the most extensive care artifacts may need.

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Angela Stanford and conservator Beth McLaughlin in the textile lab at the Midwest Art Conservation Center. The banner is wrapped and ready for return to the museum.



The 1922 Danish American Athletic Club banner, after treatment.

Brandt to Serve as Curator of Exhibits



Brandt is developing projects that reach members, visitors, and interested individuals wherever they are.

Tova Brandt is The Danish Immigrant Museum's new curator of exhibitions.

Brandt comes to us from Vesterheim, The Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, where she served for eight years as curator with responsibilities for temporary and core exhibitions as well as all non-textile artifacts.

During her tenure at Vesterheim, she curated or co-curated sixteen exhibitions and secured fourteen grants. As Janet Pultz, Vesterheim's past executive director stated, "She was my top fund-raiser through her ability to secure grant support for exhibits and programming."

A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Tova received her Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* from Bryn Mawr College in May 1997 with a major in history and minor in music. She received her Master of Early American Culture from The Winterthur Program of the University of Delaware in 2001.

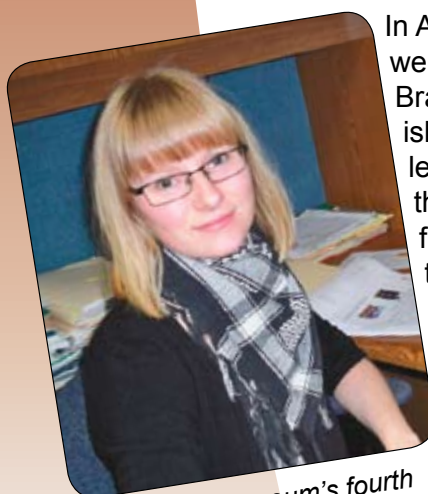
Brandt has been very active professionally. In addition to her membership in the American Association of Museums, the Society of Winterthur Fellows, and the Norwegian-American Historical Association, she was the driving force in forming the Iowa Museum Association's Group of Ethnic Museums organizations. Since October 2006, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis. She has also presented

at numerous conferences and lectured and published widely.

As curator of exhibitions, Brandt will develop projects that reach members, visitors, and interested individuals wherever they are. For the Elk Horn community and surrounding region, she plans to offer a vibrant calendar of exhibitions, programs and events that appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds. For Danish-American communities across the United States, that means reaching out with traveling exhibitions that bring stories and artifacts to people outside of Iowa. For individuals wherever they are, she intends to use the tools of the Internet to engage people in Danish and Danish-American history and experience.

Welcome Tova!

Museum Welcomes Ann Christine Brandt



Brandt, the museum's fourth Scan|Design by Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation intern, translated the museum's website into Danish.

In August, the museum welcomed Ann Christine Brandt, the fourth Danish graduate student selected to participate in the internship program funded by a grant from the Scan|Design by Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation.

Brandt is a graduate student in the American Studies program at the University of Southern Den-

mark, Odense and expects to finish her studies in December 2009. Brandt divides her time between the collections and development departments working closely with Angela Stanford, curator of collections / registrar and Bruce Bro and Debra Christensen Larsen in development. One of the major projects she recently completed was the translation of the museum's website into Danish.

She has had the opportu-

nity to attend the Danish American Heritage Society Conference in Minneapolis, several ethnic festivals and is currently working on a 4-week project at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle. Upon her return she will travel to Tempe, Arizona with museum staff to help with the Petersen House Museum annual Christmas celebration. Brandt will complete her internship in January 2010.



Fair is working on an exhibit for Bedstemor's House.

Jennifer is the museum's latest collections intern, the fifth since 2005. She assists with the daily processing of new artifact donations, providing descriptions, measurements, photographs, and details of their physical condition for the collections database, PastPerfect. All of the records she adds to the system translate into more records available to museum members who have access to "View Our Collection" via the website.

Collections Intern Jennifer Fair

Jennifer Fair is not quite sure what place to choose when asked where she is from. She grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, but she and her family later moved to Virginia, which is where her parents still reside. She lived in Brooklyn, New York while working at Ellis Island and she did her graduate studies in Charleston, Illinois. Her move to Elk Horn, Iowa in July is just another step along her path.

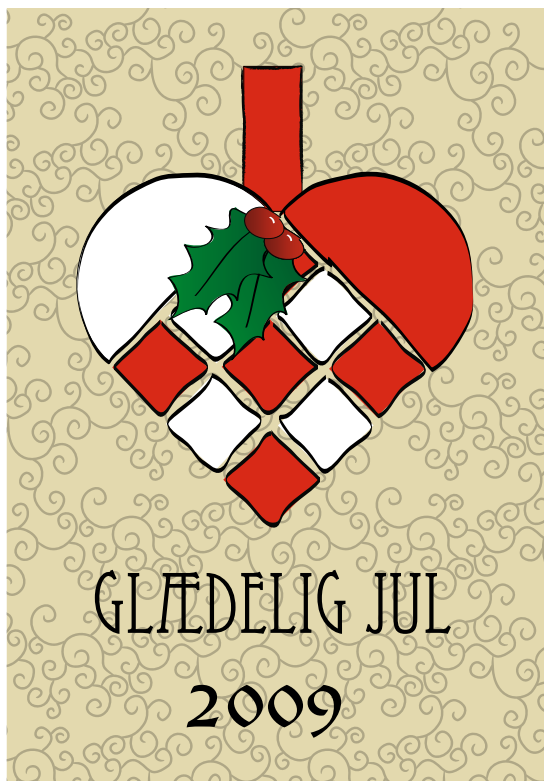
In addition to the day-to-day processing of gifts, Jennifer also helps handle artifact loans, install exhibitions, update the museum's Facebook page, and supervise collections' volunteer projects.

One of two big projects Jennifer has been working on is a small exhibit to be installed in the extra upstairs room at Bedstemor's House, the museum's Victorian home in Elk Horn. This room, unlike the children's and adult's bedrooms adjoining it, is unused space. The exhibit will talk about the history of the house itself and the man who built it, providing a historical context within the town of Elk Horn at that time.

Jennifer's second big project is creating outdoor signs for each of the museum's three historic buildings, Bedstemor's House, the Dixen House, and Morning Star Chapel. These signs will provide a brief history of the buildings and images of the inside for people who visit during closed hours.

In December, Jennifer will graduate with her masters degree in historical administration from Eastern Illinois University and she will complete her internship at the museum on January 29.

Annual Christmas Card and Keepsake Ornament now available at Museum Shop

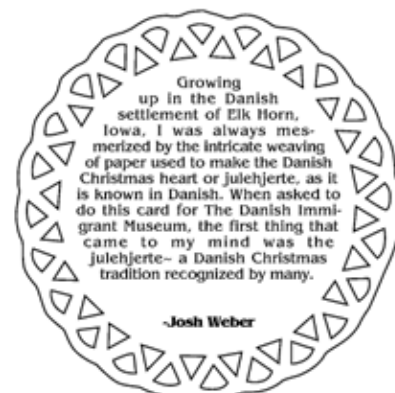
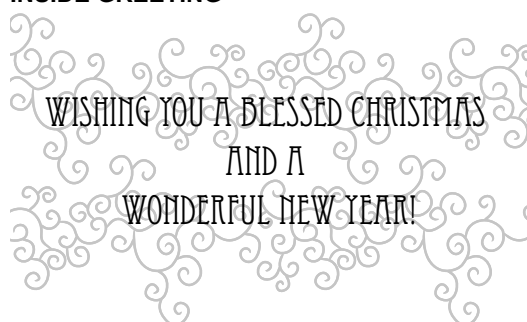


Cards (left) • \$10.00/pkg of 10
Individual Card/Envelope • \$1.25
Printed on elegant linen card stock

Ornament • \$12.95
Porcelain

To order: call the Museum Shop at 800-759-9192; go online at www.danishmuseum.org or email: giftshop@danishmuseum.org

INSIDE GREETING





From the Development Director

As a reader of the *America Letter*, you are most likely a member of The Danish Immigrant Museum. We are so thankful for the support of you and all our

members. Without you, we cannot exist.

Recently while traveling back from the Scandinavian Festival in Vasa Park near Chicago, I was thinking about the many members and friends of the museum that I saw at the festival. The festival celebrated the food, music, dance, crafts and art of Scandinavia as well as the friendships that we have established within our common Scandinavian culture. It occurred to me that being a member of the museum means that maintaining Danish culture and tradition is important to you. There might be any number of things that you enjoy about Danish culture. It might be the food or the music and dance, or the history or the art, or the language, or a combination of all these things.

I've visited many museums in my lifetime. On my recent trip to Denmark, I visited nine museums around the country and enjoyed each of them. But it seems that people who visit our museum do much more than view our collections.

Our visitors participate and celebrate Danish culture.

Being a member of The Danish Immigrant Museum means that maintaining and participating in Danish culture enhances your life.

This is a great reason for us to maintain and grow the museum for ourselves

and future generations. We at the museum are proud of what we do to help maintain Danish culture in America.

Recently there was an article in USA Today about the ethnic makeup of America. The article was based on a book recently released which described what America would be like if it only contained 100 people. It said out of the population of 100, seventeen would be of German descent, thirteen would be Irish, nine would be African, seven would be Mexican and on down the line...two would be Norwegian and one Swedish. Danish did not make the group.

We are a small ethnic group. But I think that makes our culture that much more precious. If they don't already, someday our children and grandchildren will want to know about Danish culture and tradition. And once they discover it, like us, they will appreciate how it enriches their lives.

At our June Board of Directors meeting in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the board reaffirmed its commitment to the Museum Strategic Campaign. We are moving forward with our plan to create the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, the museum addition construction project, the virtual museum, additional traveling exhibits, and endowment growth sufficient to support the infrastructure. We are seeking an additional \$7 million to reach our \$15 million goal. We wish to have the facilities and funds to support Danish cultural activities around the country. It's our desire to have the resources to support and enhance the activities of your local groups, as well as being a center of research and culture for the Danish-American community. In the coming weeks I'll be traveling to the Northwestern U.S., California, Arizona and around the Midwest to talk about our plans.

So thank you for your participation in the museum and for celebrating Danish culture in America. If you would like more information, and are interested in participating in our campaign, please give me a call or an email. I'd be happy to share the details of our plans with you.

Skål!

Bruce Bro

dkdevdir@metc.net

Facebook – bruce.dk.museum

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, IA
Andersen Windows (Sarah Andersen), Bayport, MN
Answers (Rick Tighe), Atlantic, IA
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, IA
Audubon Family Chiropractic (Douglas & Nichole Olsen), Audubon, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc., Carroll, IA
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA area
Central Iowa Associates of the American Scandinavian Foundation, West Des Moines, IA
Dana College Library Archives, Blair, NE
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #16, Minden, NE
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Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lawrence, KS
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Danish Brotherhood Vestens Stjerne Lodge #268, Eugene, OR
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #341, Kimballton-Elk Horn, IA
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Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ
Danish Ladies Relief Society, Castro Valley, CA
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
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Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Dike, IA
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Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA

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
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Grand View University Danish Immigrant Archive, Des Moines, IA
Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Allan Mores), Harlan, IA
Heartland District of the Danish Brotherhood Lodges, Ventura, IA
Heartland District of the Danish Sisterhood Lodges, Johnston, IA
Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA
JAWICO (Gert Lykke), Anaheim, CA
Guldsmedemester Helle Jørvad (Goldsmith), Ringsted, Denmark
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 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 & Counselors at Law, Cozad, NE
Nelson Machine & Forge (Steve Nelson), Marne, IA
Northwest Danish Foundation, Seattle, WA
O & H Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI
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Pacific NW District Lodges DBIA, Spokane Valley, WA
Proongily (Cynthia & John McKeen), St. Paul, MN
Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Glendale, CA
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Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA
Scan | Design Foundation by INGER & JENS BRUUN, Seattle, WA
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Sons of Norway, Solglimt Lodge #1-547, Cedar Falls, Waterloo & Waverly, IA
Steffenie's Good Eats Bakery & Grill, Elk Horn, IA
Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA
The Danish Inn, Elk Horn, IA
The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA
The Viking Club of Orange County, Seal Beach, CA
World Cal, Inc., Elk Horn, IA

In Honor

The Danish Immigrant Museum has received gifts in honor of the following people or special events from June 20 – October 31, 2009.

Shirley Johnson

Garey and Sherry Knudsen's 42nd Wedding Anniversary

Merlin & Sonja Mikkelsen's 50th Wedding Anniversary

*Glædelig jul og
godt nytår!*

Memorials

June 20 – October 31, 2009

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

Chris Andersen
Elmer Andersen
Peter and Ane Binderup
Jack Carmichael
Russell Chase
Hans C. Christensen
Karl Christensen
Lamont Christensen
Oluf M. Davidsen
Hans and Mathilde Farstrup

Lyle Fiscus
Luella Fredericksen
Kristine Marie Nelsen Fries
Karen Lee Frost
Gerald L. Gajda
Helen Esther Hansen
Margery Hansen
Rita Neergaard Hansen
Roy T. Holland
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Edna Jensen
Clifford Johnson
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Linda Nelson
Helen Neve
Paul E. Neve
Ole and Marie Olsen
Andrew Patterson
William and Marie Rugaard
Agnita M. Christensen
Stine Schreiber
Duane M. Skow
Ruth Sorensen
Bernice Wickersham

New Members June 1 – October 31, 2009

The Danish Immigrant Museum is
pleased to identify the following individu-
als as its newest members. Museum
membership is achieved in various
ways—through gifts, complimentary or
annual gifting. We do appreciate your
support.

Joe & Amy Black, Hastings, NE
Jerry Bly, Tyler, MN
Tova Brandt, Harlan, IA
Ellinor Larsen Brown, Roswell, NM
David & Linda Carlson, Leonardtown,
MD
Tim & Kathleen Carlson, Bellevue,
WA
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Manitoba, Canada
Steve & Bev Christensen, Mercer,
ND
Lee & Beth Christiansen, Portland,
OR
Dana College Library Archives,
Blair, NE
Dwight & Gloria Ellefson, Lafay-
ette, CO
Mark & Janice Feustel, Mason
City, IA
Jeff & Pam Furstenau, Fargo,
ND
Garrett Pedersen, Ankeny, IA

Judith Groves, Albuquerque, NM
Don & Val Guthrie, Fort Dodge, IA
Graham & Norma Hoeg, Lake View, IA
Donald Holm, Chandler, AZ
Suellen Hudson, Pennsacola, FL
Judith Jaschke, Des Moines, IA
Douglas & Marie Jensen, Aberdeen, SD
Jon Gade Jeppesen, Aarhus, Denmark
Gary & Suzanne Jespersen, Spokane, WA
Earl & Lois Johnson, Moorhead, MN
Julianne Johnson, Columbus, OH
Elly Jorgensen, Prairie Village, KS
Tove Jorgensen, Lone Tree, CO
Larry & Barbara Kessler, Granville, IL
Galen & Marcy Lillethorup, Omaha, NE
Ken & Lois Lucier, Moorhead, MN
David Lutterman, Tyler, MN
Laura Muresan, Des Plaines, IL
Justin & Jeanne Nelson, Audubon, IA
Opal Pratt Wharton, Aurelia, IA
Marianne Owen, Lone Tree, CO
Thomas & Beverly Patten, Temecula, CA
Charles & Donna Paulsen, Pueblo, CO
Frederik Qvist, Horbelev, Denmark
Ron & Judy Rasmussen, Humboldt, IA
Kevin & Julie Ruggaard, Oxford, OH
Agnes V. Sayles, Boone, NC
Margaret Skouby, Affton, MO
Christian T. Sorensen, Brantford, Ontario, Canada
Dale Sorensen, Urbandale, IA
Joyce Steen, Moorhead MN
James Tarrant, Falls Church, VA
Donald Valade, Plano TX

New Additions to the Wall of Honor

June 20 – October 31, 2009

The Danish Immigrant Museum's Wall of Honor provides families and friends with a means of preserving the memory of or honoring 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 name to the Wall of Honor, contact Debra Christensen Larsen, development associate.

PETER ØRUM, 1965, ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS, Irma B. Ørum, St. Charles, IL

JOHN (JENS) CHRISTIAN BORGAARD, 1889, MINDEN, NEBRASKA, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren Weldon & Martha Borgaard, Cheyenne, WY, Kelly & Kari (Borgaard) Rizley, Ft. Collins, CO, Kurt & Julie Borgaard, Cheyenne, WY, Kent & Mary Borgaard, Las Vegas, NV, Barbara Borgaard Strahl, Boni Borgaard Moretti,

Jay Kent Borgaard, David Marshall Borgaard, Luanne & Roger Johnson, Minden, NE, Deb & Phil Olsen, Minden, NE, Norris & Norma Christensen, Minden, NE, Gary & Muriel Thompson, Beatrice, NE; Joan Nelson, Denver, CO, Clair & Doris Johnson, Lenexa, KS, Doug & Judy Johnson, Lenexa, KS, Bruce & Charlene (Borgaard) Villars, Minden, NE, Don & Pat Erickson, Kearney, NE, Alex Myers & Monica Erickson, Omaha, NE, Rick Villars, Dallas, TX, and Dan Villars, Minden, NE

ANNA CHRISTINE JOHNSON BORGAARD, 1876, MINDEN, NEBRASKA, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren Weldon & Martha Borgaard, Cheyenne, WY, Kelly & Kari (Borgaard) Rizley, Ft. Collins, CO, Kurt & Julie Borgaard, Cheyenne, WY, Kent & Mary Borgaard, Las Vegas, NV, Barbara Borgaard Strahl, Boni Borgaard Moretti, Jay Kent Borgaard, David Marshall Borgaard, Luanne & Roger Johnson, Minden, NE, Deb & Phil Olsen, Minden, NE, Norris & Norma Christensen, Minden, NE, Gary & Muriel Thompson, Beatrice,

NE; Joan Nelson, Denver, CO, Clair & Doris Johnson, Lenexa, KS, Doug & Judy Johnson, Lenexa, KS, Bruce & Charlene (Borgaard) Villars, Minden, NE, Don & Pat Erickson, Kearney, NE, Alex Myers & Monica Erickson, Omaha, NE, Rick Villars, Dallas, TX, and Dan Villars, Minden, NE

PETER & ANE BINDERUP, 1894, SAVANNA, ILLINOIS, Raymond Holland, Bettendorf, IA, Verner Laursen, Appleton, WI, Vera Johnson, Eagle Grove, IA., Robert Andersen, Des Moines, IA, Esther Haahr, Newell, IA, Richard Andersen, Brayton, IA, Bertha Schroeter, Exira, IA, Paul Laursen, Crawfordsville, IN, Harvey Andersen, Bayonne, NJ, and Dorothy Jespersen, Rogers, AZ

ELVIN ANKER THOLSTRUP SORESENSEN, 1929, SIMCOE, ONTARIO, CANADA, Christian T. Sorensen, Brantford, Ontario, Canada

ELFRIDA MARIE NIELSEN JOHNSON, 1911, LITTLE FALLS, NEW YORK, Opal Pratt Wharton, Aurelia, IA

HANS C. CHRISTENSEN, 1870, CASS COUNTY, IOWA, Fred & Dorothy Christensen, Caldwell, ID, Richard and Mildred Wilcox, Cherry Hill, NJ, Great Grandson Frederick Andrew Christensen, Great-Great Grandsons Eric Lee Christensen, Marc Edward Christensen and David Wilcox, Great Granddaughter Mildred Mae Wilcox, and Great-Great Granddaughter Jennifer Zavorski

ANNE MARIE HANSEN CHRISTENSEN, 1883, RACINE, WISCONSIN, Kirsten Nielsen Strnad, Faribault, MN

PETER J. JOHNSON & ANNA PETRA CHRISTENSEN JOHNSON, 1874 & 1882, RACINE, WISCONSIN, Kirsten Nielsen Strnad, Faribault, MN

FREDERICK GOLDMAN JOHNSON (1869) & CHRISTINE THORSEN JOHNSON, RACINE, WISCONSIN, Kirsten Nielsen Strnad, Faribault, MN

RASMUS CHRISTENSEN, 1902, WEST BRANCH, IOWA, Marge Pedersen, West Branch, IA, Steve Pedersen, Adel, IA, and Garrett Pedersen, Ankeny, IA

Become a member of The Danish Immigrant Museum today!
It's easy to do, call 1-800-759-9192 or go online at
www.danishmuseum.org



Stamtræ –

Danish Roots, American Branches

News from the Museum's Family History & Genealogy Center

By Michele McNabb, librarian
genealogy@danishmuseum.org

WISH LIST – The FHGC wish list has migrated to the museum webpage. It may be found by clicking on the Library & Genealogy tab and scrolling down to Donations & Wish List. Items we would like to obtain are now divided into Danish- and English-language materials. If you would like to adopt one of the items or have books that you'd like to donate, instructions for doing so are also on the page.

The FHGC would also like to expand our collection of Dana and Grand View yearbooks. If you are willing to part with any yearbooks from the following years, go to the above-mentioned section of the webpage or contact Michele McNabb to get a donor form.

Website/Database Updates

The following materials have been added to the Library & Genealogy section of the museum webpage in the past few months: listings of Danish Brotherhood and Danish Sisterhood lodges by lodge number and location; a list of Americans who have been knighted or awarded Danish and other Scandinavian medals; and "American Stories," approximately sixty vignettes on various topics or persons previously published in *The Danish Pioneer* and *Bien* newspapers. A listing of Danish Baptist congregations in the U.S., background information, and a short bibliography can be found under the new category of "Danish Baptists."

Dana College: anything before 1927, 1928-30, 1932-1944, 1946-54, 1957-63, 1968 to the present.

Grand View College: anything before 1920, 1928-29, 1933, 1935, 1940, 1944, 1947, 1950, 1953, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1972, 1977 to the present.

The FHGC is still looking for a good translation of the Danish card game Skærvindsel mentioned in the last *America Letter*. We have obtained several versions of Danish instructions. Does anyone have instructions in English?

Thanks to generous donations by Kirsten and Forest Strnad and Dennis Andersen, the library's computers will soon be updated. At present, staff computers are linked together through a fast server; these new gifts will help link up the patron computers so that everyone will have access to the same files through the same interface.



Erik Høgsbro Østergaard, the FHGC's volunteer researcher in Copenhagen, visited Elk Horn during the last week in August. He gave a very informative workshop for FHGC volunteers and interested parties on genealogical resources in the Copenhagen area, particularly those not accessible via the Internet.

Also during his stay, Østergaard helped answer patrons' genealogical questions. Here he speaks with Bev Maas of Atlantic about one of her ancestors.



Janet Crowle, daughter of Victor Borge, with her husband Jim in front of the Victor Borge genealogical display.



Victor Borge's maternal grandfather, Israel Lichtinger, manufactured these "Victoria" cigars in his Copenhagen factory.

Activities and News

THE VICTOR BORGE genealogical display and book is viewable in the FHGC lobby through March 8, 2010.

DURING TIVOLIFEST 2010 the centennial of Elk Horn's incorporation as a town will be celebrated. If you have photographs of businesses, activities or other interesting events that took place in town in the last 100 years, the FHGC would love to obtain a copy.



THE FHGC PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBIT next year is "Generations," featuring 3-, 4-, 5- or more generation photographs that include a Danish immigrant. Do you have a photograph that fits this criterion?

The FHGC will be holding a series of **WORKSHOPS ON DANISH GENEALOGY** at the Danish Lutheran Church Cultural Center in Yorba Linda, California on January 28-30, 2010. Contact the center for details about the sessions, times and cost. Registration will be through the FHGC.

WORKSHOP IN DENMARK: plans are underway to schedule a workshop in Denmark on American genealogical resources under the auspices of the Greater Copenhagen Genealogical Society. More details will be available in the next *America Letter*.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A REUNION, please keep the museum and library in mind when making copies of reunion booklets and souvenirs. Remember that they become historical artifacts as soon as the event is over!

FAMILY WEBSITES: If your Danish family has a webpage that is accessible to the public, we would like to know of it to start compiling a list for use in the FHGC as well as on the webpage.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED to the museum's FHGC over the past year, especially our numerous and often anonymous obituary clippers. Happy holidays to you all!

Proven by a Smallpox Vaccination

When various records are found in several different locations for persons with the same or similar names it is particularly important to differentiate between the various individuals and determine which, if any, is indeed the person one is searching for. One has to be particularly careful about this when doing Danish research, since the use of the patronymic as a surname, while widespread in rural areas until the latter half of the nineteenth century, was not always consistently used, especially in southern Jutland.

Some time ago museum member Nancy Martin approached us with an interesting research problem. Previous research had shown that her ancestor **Mette Cathrine Dixen** had been born in Magstrup parish in Haderslev County in 1840. Mette Cathrine married Peter Friedrich Thomsen in nearby Sønder Hygum parish in 1864. The couple had a family and later emigrated to the Graettinger, Iowa area, where Mette Cathrine died in 1892. Since Danish-American itinerant preacher **Jens Dixen** came from the same general area in Denmark and had also resided near Graettinger for a number of years, Nancy wanted to know if Mette Cathrine and Jens were

related and, if so, how.

According to the church book entry for her baptism, Mette Cathrine Dixen was the daughter of journeyman bricklayer **Hans Peter Lauesen Dixen** and Kjersten/Kirsten Frederichdatter. Her family moved to Øster Lindet parish by 1843 and was living there at the time Mette Cathrine was confirmed in 1854. Just a few years later, in 1858, Jens Dixen was born in the same parish to **Magnus Dixen** and Karen Jørgensdatter. (Family information for Magnus, who was brought to the U.S. by his son Jens around 1890, gave his birth as 22 March 1818, and the same month and year were reported in the 1900 census; he died in the Coulter area in December of that year.)

Births found in Øster Lindet parish for Mette Cathrine's younger siblings show close connections with other local Dixens:

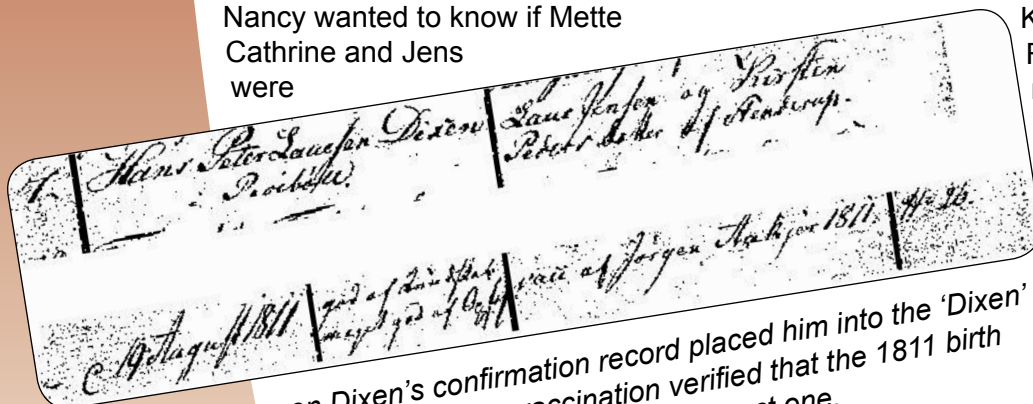
1. Peder Johansen Dixen, born 28 June 1843 (a bachelor Magnus Dixen of Stenderup was listed among the godparents)
2. Peder Hansen Dixen, born 4 March 1845 (several Dixen godparents)
3. Laura Dixen, born 7 January 1848 (one Dixen godparent from Stenderup)
4. Kirsten Dixen, born 9 September 1850 (several Dixen godparents)

No marriage record for Mette Cathrine's parents was found in either Øster Lindet or Magstrup parish. Additional searching located it in nearby Nustrup parish, where **Hans Peter Lauesen Dixen**, of Rødding parish, a 23-year-old cabinetmaker, wed

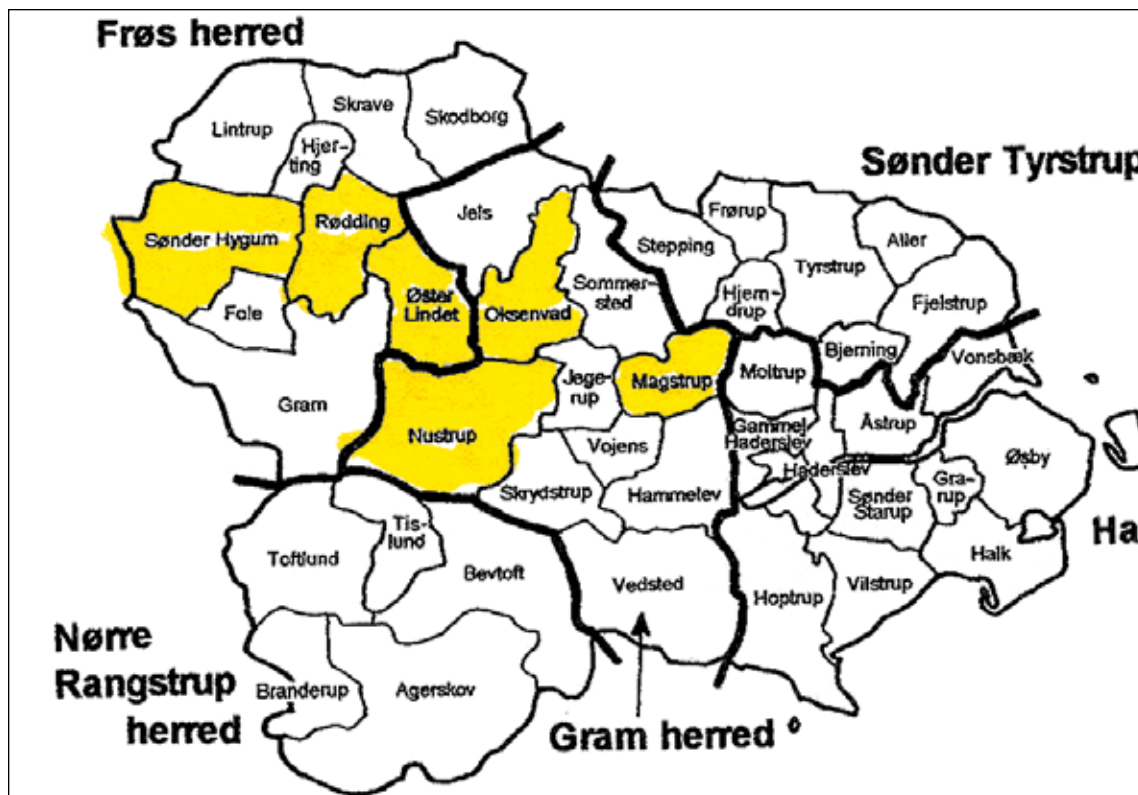
Kirsten Fredericksdatter in 1834. From his patronymic one can determine that the given name of Hans Peter's father was 'Laue,' but that was a common name in that area at the time. An additional entry on the marriage record indicated that Hans Peter was vaccinated against smallpox in September 1811 by Jørgen Aakjær. (In Denmark at this time individuals could neither be confirmed nor married unless they showed

proof of vaccination or of having had natural smallpox, and church books regularly noted the evidence.)

At the time the research was done online transcriptions of censuses for this part of Haderslev County were sparse, only existing for 1801 and 1845 for most parishes. In the



Hans Peter Lauesen Dixen's confirmation record placed him into the 'Dixen' family; the note about his smallpox vaccination verified that the 1811 birth record for 'Hans Peter Lauesen' was indeed the correct one.



Outline map of old Haderslev County in southern Jutland showing the parishes in which Dixen family members were found. Following the 1864 Dano-Prussian War the area fell under German rule and was only repatriated to Denmark in 1920.

latter year a 27-year-old servant named “Magnus Diksen” was found living in the household of the Oksenvad parish pastor. This census, which is the first in which individuals’ birthplaces were recorded, indicated that Magnus was born in ‘Brendstrup.’ Birthplaces in these records usually refer to parishes. There is no parish of this name in Haderslev County, but a small village, ‘Brændstrup,’ located in adjacent Rødding parish, seemed the likeliest locality for Magnus’s birth. A search of the parish records there found the birth of **Magnus Lausen Dixen** on 22 March 1818, to smallholder **Laue Jensen** of Brendstrup and Kirsten Pedersdatter. This date corresponded with family information and that reported on the U.S. census, so confirmed that the right Magnus had been

located.

Could we connect Hans Peter Lauesen Dixen, born around 1811 and living in Rødding parish at the time of his marriage in 1834, to the Laue Jensen who was the father of Magnus, born there in 1818? The lack of a Danish census between 1801 and 1834 means that family groupings for roughly

a generation cannot be ascertained by that means.

Further searching in the Rødding parish records, however, found the birth on 19 August 1811 of a **Hans Peter Lausen** to smallholder **Laue Jensen** of Brendstrup and Kirsten Pedersdatter—in other words, to Magnus’s parents. But was this the Hans Peter Laues-

en Dixen who was Mette Cathrine’s father?

There was no confirmation record for this child in Rødding parish, so possibly he might have died young or moved away. No death record for a child with this name was located in the parish, so the search turned to church books in the surrounding parishes, and in Øster Lindet parish pay dirt was struck!

An 1828 confirmation record was found for **Hans Peter Lauesen Dixen**, son of ‘Laus’ Jensen and Kirsten Pedersdatter. The facts in the record that verified that this Hans Peter was identical with the boy born in Rødding parish and the man marrying Kirsten Fredericksdatter in 1834, thereby cementing the link between the two Dixen lines, were his date of birth, 19 August 1811, and his vaccination by Jørgen Aakjær in 1811.

Thus Magnus Dixen (who rarely used his patronymic) and Hans Peter Lauesen Dixen were full brothers, and the itinerant pastor, who “wore out Bibles like shoes,” and Mette Cathrine Dixen Thomsen were first cousins.

Hjarbæk Ravstiberi

NEW & EXCLUSIVE!
Designed by Danish designer/silversmith Hans Heinrich Markén of Hjarbæk, DK are sculptured pieces of amber (honey, milky and jet), some with mammoth tooth. Most ambers are 20-50 million years old and jet (black) amber is 80 million years old. The mammoth tooth is approximately 10,000-12,000 years old.

1. Amber and Mammoth Tooth Necklace
2. Amber and Mammoth Tooth Necklace
3. Faceted Amber, Pearls and Amethyst Necklace with silver “S” closure
4. Faceted Amber, Pearls, Boulders Necklace with silver “S” closure
5. Split Amber, Rosa Pearls, Tiger Eye Necklace with brushed gold plated closure
6. Amber and Small Pearls Necklace with gold plated S-square closure
7. Triangle Necklace with mammoth tooth; milky and jet amber closure
8. Oval Mosaic Necklace with mammoth tooth; honey and jet amber
9. Honey and Green Amber, Pearls and Lava Necklace with gold plated S-square closure

Not pictured:
Olive Shaped Faceted Amber, Tiger Eye, Bullet Pearls Necklace with gold plated S-square closure

Please call the museum shop at 800-759-9192 for pricing on these exquisite one-of-a-kind designer pieces. Pricing starts at \$170; sorry, no discounts apply.

The Danish Immigrant Museum • Elk Horn, IA • 800-759-9192 • 13

Don't Miss Out!

If you haven't received your Museum Shop catalog, call 1-800-759-9192 or go online at www.danishmuseum.org to see what's new in the gift shop.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Charlotte Savage Sorensen

One of the longest-serving volunteers at the FHGC is Charlotte Savage Sorensen, who has faithfully worked nearly every Friday since she signed up as a volunteer in the spring of 2001, as well as volunteering for summer Saturday shifts.

A life-long resident of Audubon County, Charlotte received a nursing diploma from St. Anthony's School of Nursing in Carroll, Iowa, and worked as a registered nurse for 45 years. Charlotte and her husband Virgil raise sheep on a farm north of Exira. Between them they have three out of four sets of grandparents from Denmark, so Danish genealogy has occupied a lot of Charlotte's post-retirement time.

At the Family History & Genealogy Center Charlotte assists patrons with research and is in charge of processing all newly accessioned materials. This involves a number of tasks, such as mending torn pages or covers, affixing donor and title labels, creating acid-free slipcovers or binders for fragile items and updating finding aids in the library's special collections.

Charlotte is a member of Hamlin Lutheran Church and the Audubon County Historical Society as well as the museum.

In addition to genealogy, she enjoys gardening and sewing, helping with lambing in the spring, and doing things with her three granddaughters and five great-grandchildren.



Charlotte Savage Sorensen of Audubon County has been volunteering at the FHGC since 2001.

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Wall of Honor, Donations, Memorial Gifts & Memberships:
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Exhibit Questions: Tova Brandt
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Artifact Donations & Museum Loans:
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Museum Shop: Joni Soe-Butts
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Donation of Books & Library
Questions: Michele McNabb,
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Genealogical & Translation Inquiries:
genealogy@danishmuseum.org
Custodian: Tim Frederiksen
Museum & FHGC Data Entry: Wanda Sornson
Administrative Assistant: Annie Greve, dkasst@danishmuseum.org



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 2010 for a minimum of \$1,000 a week. (Usually, it costs around \$3,000.) In 2011 the cost will rise to a minimum of \$1,250 a week.

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



THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM
2212 WASHINGTON ST
ELK HORN IA 51531

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Jens Jensen Heritage Path:
An Opportunity to Preserve Your Name
Contact the Museum or visit our website
for more information

- Small Brick, 2-3 lines, 15 spaces per line\$110
- Medium Brick, 4 lines, 15 spaces per line.....\$250
- Large Brick, Logo & up to 6 lines, 18 spaces per line...\$500

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

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

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