

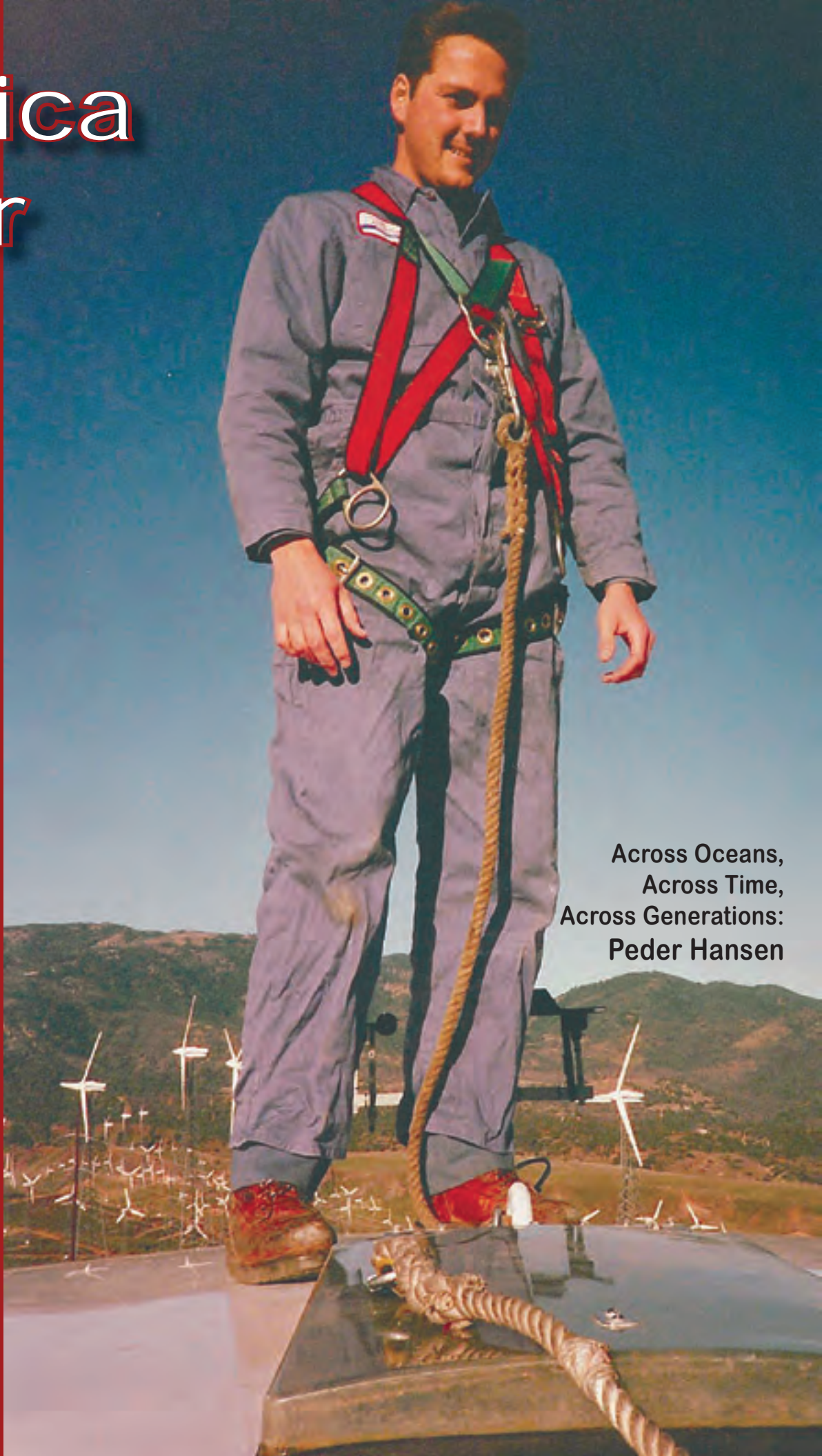
# America Letter

Summer 2011  
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**The Danish  
Immigrant  
Museum**

AN INTERNATIONAL  
CULTURAL CENTER



**Across Oceans,  
Across Time,  
Across Generations:  
Peder Hansen**



# Director's Corner

## “The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.”

Over the past year, the museum's board of directors and staff have been working on a strategic and operational plan that will guide us for the next five years. (A summary of the strategic plan can be found on page 13.) Among the goals discussed was articulating a new mission statement. During the formulation of our plan, a number of mission statements were discussed.

At our June meeting in Denver, Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, our youngest board member and a recently naturalized American citizen, argued persuasively that the statement should be short and easily remembered. He, along with board members Ane-Grethe Delaney and Kristi Planck Johnson, proposed the above statement, which was discussed and accepted with enthusiasm.

I am pleased. Embedded in this statement are ideas that have guided The Danish Immigrant Museum from its founding in 1983, but there is a freshness and a directness that will serve us well. “Danish roots” works for the immigrant generation and those Danes who today are living and working in the United States or elsewhere in the Americas. It also works for those of us who are descendents of Danish immigrants. The idea of American dreams (note that “dreams” is not capitalized and in the plural case) captures the individual nature of the dreams that inspire and motivate immigrant and descendant alike.

We “celebrate” all by collecting, preserving, studying and interpreting the artifacts of those who emigrated from Denmark, those Danes who today work here, and those of us who are the descendents of Danish immigrants. In celebrating, we are also commemorating, remembering and honoring an important way in which the Americas have been continuously reshaped by waves of immigrants.

The stories of migration are dynamic narratives reflecting a deep human instinct to improve individual and social conditions.

Elsewhere in the strategic plan is the goal to partner with other Danish and Danish-American organizations and institutions. Our new mission statement challenges us to collaborate with all who work to “celebrate Danish roots and American dreams.” Potentially, we can enhance and strengthen each other by working together, even as we recognize that each organization has its own aspirations and dreams.

No organization or institution can thrive without financial support. The Danish Immigrant Museum depends on the generosity of its members. You, our members, have been loyal in renewing your museum membership. Typically, history and culture museums have an average membership renewal rate of 40%. Over the past years, our average rate of renewal is 79%, almost twice the national average! I thank all of you who help make this possible.

To assure that The Danish Immigrant Museum continues to grow in strength and achieve long-term financial sustainability, our most important goal is to increase our endowment. An important way you may be able to support this goal is by providing for the museum in your estate. If you make the decision to do so, I ask you to share your plans with us. This information is treated with utmost confidentiality, and we also recognize that it is subject to change. Knowing, however, that the museum may be the beneficiary of future bequests does assist us as we plan for the future.

The Danish Immigrant Museum's strategic plan outlines our dreams for the future. These dreams are rooted in a Danish heritage that provides richness and depth to our American experience.

*John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director*

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**COVER PHOTO:** *Peder Hansen, who has been climbing wind turbines since age 11, stands atop a Zond 750 kilowatt wind turbine in Tehachapi, California in the 1990s. “Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations: Peder Hansen” begins on page 4.*



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## Museum Breaks Ground on First Phase of Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park

During Elk Horn’s Tivoli Fest celebration over Memorial Day weekend, the museum began Phase I of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park by holding a groundbreaking ceremony for the new brick courtyard to be installed on the front east lawn of the museum.



*John Mark Nielsen, executive director, and Julie Andersen, Scan|Design intern at the groundbreaking ceremony.*

Commemorative bricks have been sold for this new addition for the past several years and installation will begin this summer. Features of the courtyard are flagpoles for the United States, Danish and State of Iowa flags, benches and a circular courtyard with a brick path leading north to the Jens Jensen Landscape Park.

The museum has contracted with internationally known Cardno JFNew and its Wisconsin office for the landscape design. Jens Jensen, the great-great-grandson of Jens Jensen himself, is heading up the project. Working with Jensen is William Tishler, retired professor of landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a leading Jens Jensen expert. Tishler provided the original master landscape plan for the museum.

Jensen’s goal is to restore the grounds in a way that his great-great-grandfather may have done. He also plans to highlight the ecological and cultural significance of Jensen’s designs and philosophies.

In early May Jensen and Tishler visited the museum to conduct a site survey. Shortly thereafter, a local surveyor completed a topographical survey. Jensen and Tishler are developing a native plant restoration and planting proposal, which will be presented to the museum’s board of directors at its October meeting. Museum staff anticipates breaking ground for the park in Spring 2012.

**If you would like to learn more about purchasing a commemorative brick or giving opportunities for the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, please contact the museum.**

# Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations: Peder Hansen

By Eva Nielsen

Peder Hansen topped his first wind turbine at age eleven.

Why did he get to climb a wind turbine? “Because I begged,” laughs Hansen.

This was the early 1980s in Hansen’s hometown of Lem, Denmark, not far from Ringkøbing on Jutland’s west coast. Hansen’s father, Finn, climbed with him and so did another engineer from Vestas, a company that today is one of the world’s leading wind turbine manufacturers – a company founded by the Hansen family.

That particular wind turbine, Hansen points out, was an early model: the rotor was a mere fifty feet in diameter and had a generator size of just fifty kilowatts of electricity. Today’s giants, by comparison, have 328 feet diameter rotors and have generator sizes of up to and above three thousand kilowatts (three megawatts) of electricity.

The wind industry has grown – is growing – and Peder Hansen has grown up right along with it. In fact, he’s still climbing up on top of those turbines, now in places like China, Argentina, and in the United States where he makes his home. And these days Hansen doesn’t have to beg for permission, it’s his job.

Hansen is chief technology officer for LK Wind Power, a company based in Hong Kong. LK Wind Power buys wind turbines, buys land at various sites around the globe, sets up the turbines and sells the electricity. Hansen’s job: “I take all of the technologies that we are looking at for our wind sites. And I take the data we are collecting from the sites and try to pair up the best turbine and wind turbine configurations for each of the areas we are developing projects on,” he says.

When he’s not out in the field, Hansen works from his home office in Omaha, Nebraska. He has a little sign on his wall there that says, “No coffee, no workee,” which makes sense because the guy is an early riser. China time is thirteen hours ahead of Omaha time, so Hansen gets up to connect with his colleagues who are just

ending their workday in Hong Kong.

Then, Hansen talks to folks around the globe – gathering wind data, discussing land issues, evaluating wind turbines, looking at his spreadsheets. “As the time zones roll across the world,” Hansen says, “I follow people’s schedules to get our questions answered and our customers’ questions and vendors’ questions answered and basically end up in the mid-evening – 8 or 9 o’clock – back on the phone with China to report what has happened during the day.”

Hansen is well qualified for this line of work: he is an engineer, a trained machinist, and a businessman. It also doesn’t hurt that he’s Danish. Denmark is a world leader in wind power generation. Twenty-four percent of all power used in Denmark is generated by wind turbines, according to Hansen. In the United States – just to compare – Hansen says wind, solar, biomass, and small hydroelectric combined account for only 2.2% of our energy generation.

Not surprisingly, then, the wind industry itself is riddled with Danes. However, Hansen says, more than being Danish, he gets extra credibility in the industry because of one Dane in particular: Finn Hansen, his dad.

This is where we pause to give what Hansen calls his “20-second version” of how the Hansen family started a business that eventually became Vestas, the world’s largest wind turbine manufacturer. “It was a dark and stormy night,” Hansen begins, then laughs.

Here’s the basic outline. Peder’s great-grandfather, H.S. Hansen, a blacksmith, set up a shop in Lem in 1898. Then, in the aftermath of World War II, his son Peder, our Peder Hansen’s *farfar* (paternal grandfather) and name-sake, took the business in a different direction because, as Hansen puts it, “Nobody in Denmark had anything at that time, so basic needs weren’t being met.”

Hansen’s *farfar* bought some old wooden barracks left behind by the German army and converted the space into what Hansen describes as “the Kitchenaid of Denmark” – a company making cookware. Then, he transitioned to making larger things, like wagons to be drawn behind horses and then



*The first turbine Peder Hansen climbed, pictured here, was near his hometown of Lem, Denmark.*



*Peder Hansen's dad, Finn, was chief operating officer for Clipper Wind Power in the U.S. during the design and manufacturing start up of the facility. Finn is on the far right, pictured in front of a 2.5-megawatt turbine nacelle (which sits on top of the tower and houses all the generating components of the turbine). Also pictured is Jim Dehlsen (second from right), the founder of the U.S. wind industry; Colin Moynihan (third from right), former executive chairman of Clipper; and Brent Dehlsen (left), Jim Dehlsen's son.*

tractors. He made manure spreaders and chemical dispensers and then small cranes for the farming and transportation industry. The company had now become, says Hansen, "the John Deere of Denmark."

In the early 1970s Finn Hansen, Peder Hansen's dad, took over the company. Shortly after, in the mid-seventies, the oil crisis hit and – because Denmark was importing 80% of their oil – it hit the Danes hard. Instead of running from the problem, the Danish government chose to tackle it. They put heavy incentives into place to encourage the development and use of alternative energies.

Meanwhile, one day a man shows up at the Hansen household in Lem, wearing, in Hansen's words, "Birkenstocks and a sheepskin vest."

"Here comes this hippie guy," says Hansen, "who wants Vestas, one of Denmark's renowned and conservative companies, to make little windmills."

Finn Hansen was not so sure about this idea, but Finn's wife Jonna convinced him to give it a try. Jonna, herself, was a chief salesperson for farm equipment at

Vestas. She knew the area farmers well and knew there were big government incentives to put up wind turbines.

Hansen says, "I remember them discussing it at the dinner table and my dad finally said, 'Okay, okay! As long as you don't *tell* anybody.'"

So, the engineers were given a corner of the shop where they got to play around with this wind turbine design – away from the Vestas factory, so no one would know. Once a design was developed, the farmers did, in fact, take an interest. When the Vestas brand was finally put on it, sales took off.

Vestas started selling the turbines internationally too. By the end of 1985 a company that has since become General Electric had bought nearly a thousand wind turbines from Vestas. "That Danish technology just held up," Hansen says. "It was very solidly built because it was based on the farm industry. Many of them are still running today."

Oh, and the "hippie guy" who proposed the windmill notion to the Hansens? Today he is chief technology officer at Siemens, a world leader in wind turbine manufacturing.

When he was 13, Hansen started working for Vestas too. He swept floors and helped at summer exhibitions. As he got older, after school he worked in the inventory department, checking requests for parts, locating them, packaging them up, and biking them to the post office to be shipped.

Life's twists and turns pulled the Hansens away from Vestas in the mid-eighties and the family moved to Skagen where Finn continued to build wind turbines with a company called Wind World (which today, through mergers and buy-outs, is owned by none other than Vestas). Peder Hansen worked there too, mainly in sales and marketing as an assistant to his mom, Jonna, and taking customers out to climb the turbines.

Hansen attended engineering school outside Århus, but he continues to count his early, less formal learning as critical. Says Hansen, "Both on my mom's and dad's side, we are

blacksmiths first, then machinists, then engineers." Hansen's *morfar* – maternal grandfather – taught him how to make a horseshoe on an anvil. And his *farfar* encouraged him to go out and get a machinist's education.

"You have a practical view of life that way," Hansen says. "You start getting a fairly quick gut feeling, if ideas are feasible or not. And you know where to spend your time. I think, unfortunately, we are educating ourselves so quickly now, we don't get to build up that gut feeling that tells you whether or not you're spinning your wheels."

The point is this: Peder and Finn Hansen both know their craft intimately and this has served them well. To put it in the terminology of the field, they are not "pencil engineers."

Here's an example. Finn Hansen was invited over to Tehachapi, California – a huge center of wind power generation in the United States – in the 1990s to help develop the first American-designed 500 kilowatt wind turbine for a company

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# Hansen

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called Zond Energy Systems.

Hansen explains that when his dad was fairly new there, the young guys from the field would come in, claiming his drawings would not work in reality.

Finn would stand up, put on his coveralls, go down to the workshop and show them himself. "He never had a question since," says Hansen.

Hansen knows about this because he got to work with his dad on this project too. He was supposed to be in Tehachapi just for a year and then return to Denmark to complete his engineering degree, but – as it happened – love struck. Hansen says, "I had to pick up my mom from the hair stylist one afternoon because her car was in the shop and that's where I found my future wife. I was instantly in love."

Hansen's wife, Andrea, by the way, was the hair-stylist that day. She and Hansen have been married for 15 years. Another fun thing: when Hansen and Andrea met, he also gained Kayla, Andrea's daughter, who was a 5-year-old at the time.

Because of these developments, Hansen stayed and worked on creating that American-designed wind turbine too, starting with an apprenticeship, then an internship and eventually as a full-time employee with Zond. "We were a part of everything: from making the drawing, to making the actual parts, to putting them together to driving the crane out to the site, to installing it, to testing it, to going back to the drawing board and changing what was not right."

Hansen also felt lucky to get to be part of the business development part of the experience. Hansen compared selling an American turbine to selling a Malibu to a guy that's been buying Hondas his whole life. "It was a tough sell," says Hansen, "to sell an American-built wind turbine in the U.S. when they were used to, hey, the Danes rule this and we want to buy Danish turbines."

Hansen still needed to spend some stretches of time in Denmark to finish up his engineering degree. He and Andrea cleverly organized their lives so that William, their son who is



*This family photo of Peder and Andrea Hansen, with son, William, daughter, Kayla and Kayla's fiancé, DJ, also includes a Vestas V-47 wind turbine with a generator capacity of 660 kilowatts. The wind turbine is located in Valley, Nebraska, not far from the Hansen home in Omaha.*

now 12, could be born in Denmark and, thereby, have dual citizenship. "I don't do many things that are not strategically planned out," Hansen laughs.

Since the mid-nineties, then, Hansen has lived and worked in the U.S., now, of course, in Omaha, Nebraska. And even though he is "playing with turbines" all day long with LK Wind Power, Hansen is generating more wind ideas in his spare time.

"We have a major problem in the U.S. in that everything we do and touch and buy is cost influenced by imported gas and oil," says Hansen.

Like the pragmatic Danish government of the 1970s, Hansen feels this problem should be, can be, addressed. He and some colleagues sit on the board of two companies they have founded, DyneGen and Aetodyne, which are creating wind-based technologies that offer solutions to the big energy challenges of our time.

One string of developments came about because of a conversation Hansen had with a Nebraska farmer back in 2008. This was a moment when fuel prices spiked and this farmer mentioned to Hansen that he couldn't afford the cost of fertilizer anymore.



*Peder Hansen alongside a row of Vestas wind turbines at the Sky River site in Tehachapi, California. In Tehachapi, Hansen and his father, Finn, helped Zond Energy Systems develop the first American-designed wind turbine.*



*A wind turbine installation process.*

Through this need came the idea for invention. Hansen explains. The major component of most fertilizers is anhydrous ammonia, which is largely produced – using imported compressed natural gas – on the west coast or in Texas. Natural gas prices are tied to oil prices: when oil prices go up, natural gas prices go up, so anhydrous ammonia prices go up, and, finally, fertilizer costs go up. Plus, most fertilizer is used in the Midwest corn belt, so when oil prices jump, the cost of transporting anhydrous ammonia to the Midwest increases, pushing the cost of fertilizer even higher.

Well, Hansen and colleagues have come up with a way for the farmer to make his own anhydrous ammonia – using the wind, instead of natural gas. It sounds straight-forward enough: take nitrogen from the air and hydrogen from water vapor, push it through a catalytic converter set-up using the electrons generated by the turbine and out the other end comes anhydrous ammonia. Now fertilizer can be made locally, without natural gas – free from the volatility of oil prices.

There's another benefit. Hansen points out that this is all done without creating the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide. "Every time you make one ton of anhydrous ammonia from natural gas, first of all you use a ton of natural gas. But, second, you also produce two tons of carbon dioxide, plus the carbon dioxide produced in transportation to wherever it is used."

Hansen and friends have developed something else: an internal combustion engine that can run on anhydrous ammonia. "So the exhaust gas on that engine is water that was pulled out of the earth and the nitrogen which we already pulled out of the air," says Hansen.

Not only that, but Hansen and colleagues have also figured out a way to convert diesel engines to run on anhydrous ammonia. This is important in a state like Nebraska, says Hansen, where farmers are pumping water out of the enormous Ogallala aquifer – which lies below the state – to irrigate crops. All those pumps run on diesel or propane or natural gas. Now, however, those engines can be converted to run on anhydrous ammonia, which the farmer himself can produce.

Hansen summarizes: "Well, now the farmer can make his own fuel for the tractor, he can make his own fuel to pump the water, and he can also make his own anhydrous ammonia. So we are making him more independent again and in the big picture we're making the U.S. more independent from foreign oil sources."

And this is all thanks to a wind turbine. "Isn't that fun?" asks Hansen.

This all speaks to why Hansen still likes to climb those turbines today. "Wind turbines solve so many problems for us: they create an enormous amount of jobs; they create income for rural America; they create sustainability for local areas. For the nation they mean a freeing of fossil fuels. So climbing them, first of all, there's 300 feet up there, so it's a challenge just to climb it, and then you get up on top of it and you have that feeling of both personally accomplishing getting up there *and* accomplishing getting a wind turbine up there to do what it needs to do efficiently."

Isn't that fun!

# Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad

By Tova Brandt  
Curator of Exhibitions

*This article is based on the current exhibition, Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad on view at the museum until October 31, 2011.*

**Church-based missions can take many forms: schools, hospitals, orphanages, retirement homes, and – of course – new churches. In the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, before state governments provided comprehensive social services, churches often filled the need to care for vulnerable children and adults.**

But the churches did not limit themselves to caring for their neighbors; many churches looked beyond their own communities to more distant places. From Iowa to Oklahoma, and from Nigeria to Japan, Danish-American churches were involved in missions that created global connections – connections that reached all the way back to the churches and church basements in which congregations organized their mission support.

For many Danish-American churches, missions offered a window into distant places and different cultures. While on furlough back “at home,” many missionaries would visit congregations to describe the history and culture of the people they served. Sunday school lessons, women’s missionary society meetings, and other organized events could include a description of a particular mission as well as an introduction to the geography, food, and cultural traditions of far-away places.

## Children's Homes

Before day care centers were widely available, before foster care was organized by the states, church-sponsored children’s homes often provided care



*Photo of Danish Ladies Aid officers at First Lutheran Church, Blair, Nebraska, 1954. Courtesy of First Lutheran Church, Blair, Nebraska*

for children who had lost one or both parents – or whose parents were either physically or financially unable to care for them. Many churches across the United States organized children’s homes in different communities. Danish-American churches supported them in Chicago; Elk Horn, Iowa; Waupaca, Wisconsin; Tyler, Minnesota; and Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

While the staff and boards of the children’s homes were Danish-American, they welcomed children of all backgrounds. Children attended the local public schools and everyone had chores to keep the home clean. In small towns like Elk Horn and Tyler, the children’s homes often had several acres to provide their own vegetables, eggs, and milk. The Danish Children’s Home in Chicago usually sent their children to spend the summers with farm families in Danish-American communities in Michigan, Iowa, and other rural areas.

## A Bridge to Japan

For centuries, Japan kept very close control over the activities of Europeans and American within the country. Foreign missionaries, banned for over 200 years, were allowed back into the country in 1859. In 1898, Dr. J.M.T. Winther arrived in Japan to begin the “Danish Mission” of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UDEL) based in Blair, Nebraska. The “Danish Mission” combined the efforts of Danish-American missionaries and Japanese pastors to organize new churches, Sunday schools, kindergartens, and a theological seminary, among other services.

Among Danish-American churches, the visits from Japanese church leaders and missionaries in Japan were occasions for special programs and events. A visiting speaker from Japan might be met with Japanese-themed decorations such as cherry blossoms (made of crepe paper), kites, and gold fish in bowls. Menu suggestions for a 1935 Luther League event include rice pudding, tea (hot or cold), and sponge cake cut into squares.





*Kindergarten was a special focus of the Japan Mission. The Mission provided a valued social service to young children, while openly promoting Christian education and values.*

Photo courtesy of the Danish-American Archive and Library, Blair, Nebraska.

## Efforts in India

The Santal Mission in eastern India was an example of several church synods collaborating to support a single mission organization. The two major Danish-American Lutheran church bodies (UELC and AELC) contributed to the effort, as well as other Scandinavian-American churches and the churches in Denmark, Norway, and Canada. Health care was a major component of the mission work, sending medical missionaries to hospitals and leper colonies among the Santal people.

American support for the Santal Mission was headquartered in Minneapolis. The

supporters of the mission.

The Northern Baptist Conference also supported efforts in India. The Danish-American congregation of Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan, Iowa, provided significant support for a member of their community to be a missionary in Tura, India. Trained as a teacher, Fern Rold spent thirty-two years teaching girls in kindergarten and grade school under the auspices of the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

## Oaks Indian Mission, Oklahoma

In the midst of the Cherokee Nation, Danish-American

missionaries established a church, school, children's home, and a circuit of "preaching stations" that brought Lutheran services to a radius of communities around Oaks, Oklahoma. Building on the foundations of a former Moravian mission, the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELC) established the Oaks Indian Mission in the early 1890s – and it still is active today. The mission started a school in 1903, which was incorporated into the public school system by mid-century. The mission also owned and operated a tea plantation in Assam, India, marketing the tea for sale to churches and individual

missionaries established a church, school, children's home, and a circuit of "preaching stations" that brought Lutheran services to a radius of communities around Oaks, Oklahoma. Building on the foundations of a former Moravian mission, the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELC) established the Oaks Indian Mission in the early 1890s – and it still is active today. The mission started a school in 1903, which was incorporated into the public school system by mid-century.

The Oaks Indian Mission continues to be "a child care and community services ministry in the heart of the Cherokee Nation." As of Fall 2010, there were forty children of various tribal backgrounds living in the four cottages at Oaks. The mission continues to be supported by gifts from individuals and Lutheran churches across the United States, including some churches that have had a relationship with the Oaks Indian Mission for over a century.

Because of limited space, this article and the associated exhibition highlights only a few of the many mission efforts supported by Danish-American churches and individuals. Many more stories are found in the writings, photographs, and memories of thousands of Danish Americans. Visit the Danish Immigrant Museum Channel on YouTube.com to watch videos from the exhibit.

**B**eginning in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Protestant mission societies in Europe and America were active all over the world. As Western nations expanded their economic and military interests to other lands – especially in Africa and South Asia – foreign missionary societies sought to bring a Christian message to new peoples.

The *Hymnal For Church and Home*, published jointly by the two Danish Evangelical Lutheran Synods in America, included several hymns on the theme of missions. The following example, though written by an English clergyman in 1819, was included in editions well into the twentieth century.

*From Greenland's icy mountains, from India's coral strand,  
Where Afric's sunny fountains roll down their golden sand;  
From many an ancient river, from many a palmy plain,  
They call us to deliver their land from error's chain.  
Can we, whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high,  
Can we to men benighted the lamp of life deny?  
Salvation, o salvation! The joyful sound proclaim,  
Till each remotest nation has learn'd Messiah's name.*

Hymn text by Reginald Heber (1783-1826), written in 1819.

Heber was an Anglican priest from England, appointed Bishop of Calcutta in 1823.



*The Santal Mission encompassed several locations and many different activities. This 1947 pamphlet tells the story of a doctor specializing in eye surgery.*

Collection of the Family History & Genealogy Center, The Danish Immigrant Museum.

A traveling version of the exhibition, *Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad*, is also available; for more information, please contact Tova Brandt, Curator of Exhibitions, at [dkcur@metc.net](mailto:dkcur@metc.net). This exhibition is supported by a grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The views and opinions expressed by this exhibition do not necessarily reflect those of Humanities Iowa or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

# Upcoming Exhibitions

## Danish-American Artist Series presents: Silverwork of Yngve Olsson

Immigrant silversmith Yngve Olsson worked for over fifty years in Chicago's Kalo Shop. He designed and created hand-crafted tableware and jewelry in silver and copper. Born, raised, and educated in Denmark, Olsson immigrated to the United States in 1918. By 1920 he was working for the Kalo Shop, a craft studio, and continued until his death in 1970.

Thanks to the Olsson family, the museum will highlight finished works by Yngve Olsson, the tools of his trade, and photographs and drawings that reveal the full range of his creativity.

On view August 6, 2011 to January 8, 2012.



## Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev

Contemporary photographer Itzick Lev turned his camera on individuals currently living and working in cosmopolitan Copenhagen. Over forty portraits capture the diversity of people that contribute to this international city.

On view November 25, 2011 to February 25, 2012

## Traveling Exhibitions

Would you like to bring a piece of the museum to your community? Enhance a Danish cultural event? Share a Danish story with a nearby museum or library?

Traveling exhibitions from The Danish Immigrant Museum are available for a wide variety of places and events. For more information about the following exhibitions, or to reserve an exhibition for your organization, contact Tova Brandt, curator of exhibitions, at [dkcur@metc.net](mailto:dkcur@metc.net)

*Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad*

*Victor Borge: A Smile is the Shortest Distance*

*Danish Gymnastics in America*

*Denmark October 1943: Rescue of the Danish Jews*

# The Collection Connection

By Angela Stanford, Curator of Collections

## The Conservation Assessment Program

In February of this year, The Danish Immigrant Museum was accepted into the 2011 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP), co-sponsored by Heritage Preservation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The museum joins 2,600 museums that have participated in CAP in its twenty-one year history of serving small to mid-sized museums.

The museum's acceptance into the program includes a general conservation assessment of the museum's collections by a professional conservator and a historic buildings assessment of appropriate structures by a preservation architect. It also includes a grant of almost \$7,000 towards the cost of the assessors' expertise as well as travel and accommodations.

In June, a conservator from the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis and a preservation architect from Lincoln, Nebraska, met in Elk Horn for an intensive two-day site visit to the museum. The conservator surveyed all six buildings where collections are housed and



*The assessors evaluated how the museum's collections are cared for, security surrounding artifacts while on exhibition and in storage, and policies relating to all aspects of collections management. Here, staff examine a knipling (or lace making) cushion, recording a detailed description and condition assessment. This is part of the museum's ongoing efforts to completely document all of its 35,000 artifacts.*

evaluated collections care policies, procedures, and environmental conditions. The preservation architect focused on the museum's historic structures and identified preservation priorities for the Jens Dixen Cabin, Morning Star Chapel, and Bedstemor's House.

Near the end of their site visit, the assessors provided preliminary feedback in a wrap-up session with staff. Each assessor praised the museum for efforts already

in place to maintain professional standards in collections management and offered suggestions for improvement. The assessors will write a detailed report for the museum by October. These reports will help the museum plan appropriate improvements for the immediate, mid-range, and long-range care of our collections and buildings.

Heritage Preservation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. By identifying risks, developing innovative programs, and providing broad public access to expert advice, Heritage Preservation assists museums, libraries, archives, historic preservation, and other organizations in caring for our endangered heritage.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 17,500 museums and 123,000 libraries. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. It works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.



# From the Development Director

We at The Danish Immigrant Museum are regularly reminded of how people of Danish descent in the U.S. value their Danish heritage and culture.

In June our summer board of directors meeting was held in Denver, Colorado at the Sheraton Denver West. There are four active Danish groups in the Denver area: the Denver Danes, Danish Sisterhood, Rebild Society, and Den Danske Klub 88. The museum has maintained great relationships with these groups over the years, so it was not surprising that during the course of our board meeting, the Denver area Danish groups showed enthusiastic support for the museum.

On Thursday, the first day of the meeting, Bob and Lois Jorgensen held a reception at their home. The couple had beautifully adorned their home in Danish décor, flags and colors. The atmosphere was festive and warm – very *hyggelig!* It was a great beginning to three days of meetings. *Tusind Tak*, Bob and Lois, for the special evening.

Friday evening the museum hosted a cocktail party at the hotel to thank all four clubs for their support. We also unveiled the traveling exhibit *Church Basements and Children's Homes* for the group to view that evening. Denver Danes President Marianne Owen told the gathering how much her club enjoyed its relationship with the museum, and how the museum has been able to inject enthusiasm and interest into the club's activities. We presented the four clubs with a commemorative brick, thanking the Denver - area Danish community for its support. The bricks will

be placed in the Jens Jensen Heritage Path at the museum. Marianne Owen (Denver Danes), Marianne Swanson (Rebild Society), Pia Edgar (Danish Sisterhood) and Helle Bonaparte (Den Danske Klub 88) accepted the gift on behalf of their respective organizations.

Saturday afternoon, after the conclusion of the board's business meetings, the Denver Danes invited us to their summer picnic. The weather cooperated, the food was delicious, there was live music and singing. It was a warm, fitting conclusion to our time in Denver. The Denver groups were wonderful hosts, but they were doing what simply comes naturally to Danes: being friendly and having fun!

The Denver Danish community also enthusiastically attended the genealogy workshops held in conjunction with the board meeting. We had one of the greatest participations ever for the workshops. Family History & Genealogy Center Librarian Michele McNabb continues to impress her audiences with her knowledge and ability to assist in finding long lost ancestors and interesting Danish history for workshop attendees around the country.

This gathering in Denver models exactly why we move our meetings from place to place around the country: we are able to bring the museum to others who may not easily travel to Elk Horn and engage with Danish groups in their hometowns. We love hosting guests at our museum, but we also treasure any chance we get to meet larger numbers of Danes where they live.

Your generosity to us when we visit you, as well as your continued support of all of our activities helps us preserve and promote Danish culture. Thank You! With the economy still struggling, donations to the museum are lagging. If you can help us with a monetary gift, or include us in your estate we would be most grateful. Please contact me or anyone at the museum if you have any questions regarding giving. We depend on your generosity to maintain our precious heritage for future generations. *Mange Tak!*

**Bruce Bro, Development Director**



# Museum Board Meets in Denver, Colorado

The Danish Immigrant Museum's Board of Directors held its 88th regular board meeting at the Sheraton West Hotel in Denver, Colorado, June 9 through 11, 2011. Major issues on the agenda were adopting a new strategic plan for the years 2011 through 2015 and a revised *Collections Management Policy*. In addition, the board adopted a new mission statement.

The new strategic plan, developed by board and staff members over the past year, envisions progress on five major areas. The challenges are to:

- Grow a foundation of financial stability by adding \$1 million to the endowment, and diversifying operating revenue.
- Develop campus infrastructure with a Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, a Curatorial Center, and future plans to bring the Family

History and Genealogy Center back to the museum grounds.

- Engage new audiences through traveling exhibits, social media and collaboration with other Danish and Danish-American institutions and organizations.
- Focus on the strengths of the collection by completing collections inventory and digitizing projects and building a stronger post-World War II and contemporary collection.
- Build institutional strength by participating in the Museum Assessment Program of the American Association of Museums, encouraging board and staff development and making staff succession plans.

The Collections Committee of the board under the leadership of its chair, Ane-Grethe Delaney, and museum curators, Angela Stanford

and Tova Brandt, developed a revised *Collections Management Policy*. This document of twenty-three pages outlines all policies relating to the management of the museum's collection. It clarifies the procedures followed for accessioning and de-accessioning artifacts, loaning artifacts to other museums and general collections care.

Finally, as a part of the strategic planning process, board members have been reviewing the mission and vision of The Danish Immigrant Museum. There was consensus that a shorter, more succinct mission statement was wanted. The idea that the museum is grounded in Danish roots but inspired by the individual dreams that lead people to migrate resulted in a mission statement that was adopted with enthusiasm: "The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams."

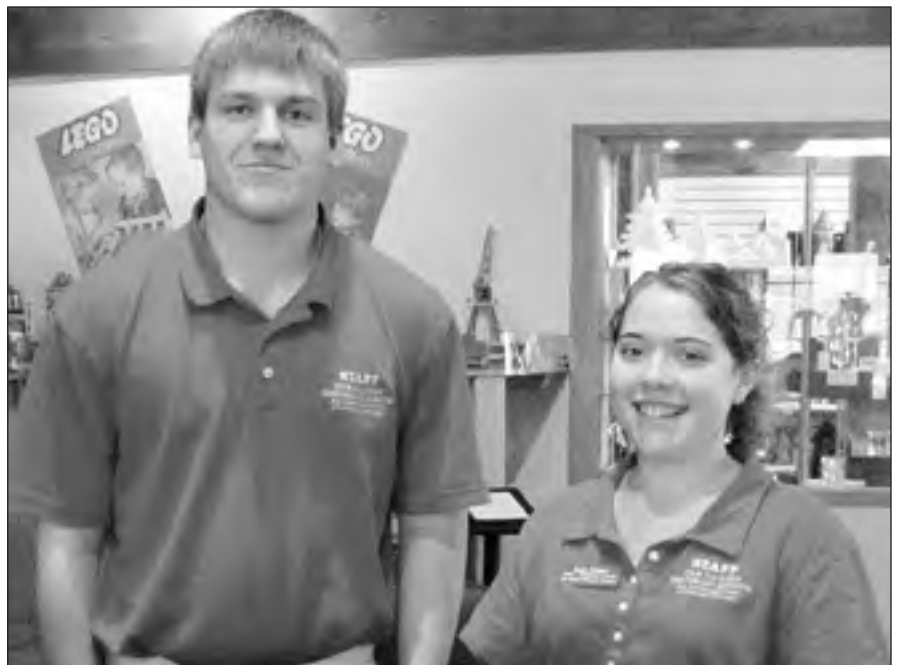


## Summer Helpers

Last summer, Katie Zellmer and Preston Waymire were hired to work the summer at Bedstemor's House. This summer they were both interested in working for the museum again and, fortunately, we were able to hire them both back. Because our volunteer base is down and summer is a busy time with tourists, we have Katie and Preston "job-sharing;" they are at the museum in the mornings and at Bedstemor's House in the afternoon. This has been an especially big help at the museum as they greet guests, answer the phone, ring up sales in the gift shop and assist the staff with a variety of projects.

Preston, the son of Tim and Mary Waymire of Elk Horn, will be a senior at Elk Horn- Kimballton High School this fall. He's active in basketball, football, band and chorus. He is also very involved in community activities and events.

Katie Zellmer will be a sophomore at Central College in Pella, Iowa this fall, majoring in history and anthropology. Katie, the daughter of Mike and Lisa Haas, lives in Kimballton.



## *Volunteer Spotlight:* Marilyn Andersen

Development volunteer Marilyn Anderson has been asked numerous times why she is delighted to volunteer at the museum and she replies with one answer: “My dad passed away in my early twenties and I have always regretted in later years not talking to my father about him living in Denmark and coming to America—have always regretted not learning about his Danish heritage. My working here is my way of honoring my dad.”

Marilyn’s father, Nels Christensen Kirk, immigrated with his family at the age of seven to settle in the Elk Horn-Kimballton area. Her grandparents, Kristine and Peter Kirk, owned and operated a restaurant and bakery in Kimballton for many years. It was her aunt and uncle, Emma and Alfred Hansen, who once lived in Bedstemor’s House, now on the National Register of Historic Places and operated by The Danish Immigrant Museum. Marilyn can remember spending a Christmas Eve with relatives in Bedstemor’s House. She has fond memories of holding hands and dancing around the Christmas tree there.

Marilyn began her volunteer duties at The Danish Immigrant Museum’s front desk a year ago, welcoming visitors with her friendly smile. While at the front desk, Deb Christensen Larsen with the development department asked Marilyn to help with stuffing envelopes. It didn’t take Marilyn long to see that there was a need for more help on that front.



Shortly after, Marilyn began working closely with the development department, assembling the paperwork necessary to accompany membership renewals, donation and membership thank you letters, and tax receipts to be sent to museum members and donors. Marilyn is always on stand-by and her help is only a phone call away. Her valued assistance is priceless.

Marilyn is not always sitting behind a desk. She also gives tours to visitors at Bedstemor’s House. Last October, Andersen helped serve refreshments at a community gathering hosted by the museum board of directors.

Born and raised in Harlan, Iowa, Marilyn attended Harlan High School where she met her husband-to-be, Keith Andersen. They married shortly after graduation. The Andersens have lived in the Jacksonville, Iowa area all their married lives, with the exception of two years in Alameda, California when Keith was in the Navy. Marilyn is proud of her four children, eleven grandchildren, and as of this date, nine great-grandchildren.

We at The Danish Immigrant Museum appreciate all our volunteers who donate their time and talent so generously. If you would like to learn more about joining our volunteer team, contact the museum at 712-764-7001.



# Museum Wish List

If you would like to donate or contribute toward the purchase of one or more of the following needed items, please contact Terri Johnson at [info@danishmuseum.org](mailto:info@danishmuseum.org) or at 712-764-7001.

## COLLECTIONS

### *HOBO U10-003 Temperature-Relative Humidity Data Logger*

Data loggers will allow the Museum to efficiently and accurately monitor the temperature and humidity levels in our exhibition and artifact storage spaces at both the Museum and at the Family History and Genealogy Center. To best cover all spaces, we request 20 data loggers and two shuttles and two cables (one of each for both buildings).

HOBO Data Logger: .....	\$75 each for orders of 10+
Total: .....	\$1500
Required Accessories:..	\$35 for software
	\$260 each for shuttle to download data
	\$15 for extra batteries
	\$10 each for cables to connect
	data logger to shuttle
Total: .....	\$580
Total Cost for Full Set: ..	\$2080

## EXHIBITIONS

Digital camcorder, \$500

Good quality hand tools, including:

- Cordless drill with batteries and charger, \$250
- Drill bits and accessories, \$50
- Laser level, \$100
- Vice-grips, Needle-nose pliers, Wire cutters, Utility blades, \$100
- Paint brushes, rollers, drop cloths, \$100
- Self-healing cutting mat at least 18"x24", \$30

## FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

Good-quality picnic benches, \$500 each

## ADMINISTRATION

LCD Projector, \$500

6-6' long banquet tables, \$75/each

## FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER

### *English-language:*

- *Historical Dictionary of Denmark*, by Alastair H. Thomas (Scarecrow Press, 2009; \$90 on Amazon.com)
- *Dressed for the Photographer: Ordinary Americans and Fashion, 1840-1900* (\$48 on Amazon.com)
- *Mastering the Mission: A Brief History of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Frederiksted, St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands*, by Elizabeth Rezende (CRIC Productions, 1990). Out of print.
- *St. Croix (Historic Photos, Historiske Fotos)*, by Elizabeth Rezende (Danish West Indian Society; \$15 on Amazon.com; DKK 200 from DWIS)
- *An Introduction to Danish Culture*, by Norman Berdichevsky (\$45; forthcoming)
- *Muscle and Manliness*, by Axel Bundgaard (2005; \$29.95 on Amazon.com)
- *The journey of the Knudson-Christiansen family: Danes on three continents* (self-published, 2005)
- Dana College yearbooks: anything before 1927, 1928-1930, 1932-1944, 1946-1954, 1957-1963, 1968 to 2010
- Grand View College yearbooks: anything before 1920, 1928-1929, 1933, 1935, 1940, 1944, 1947, 1950, 1953, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1972, 1977 to the present

### *Danish-language:*

- *Jorden rundt efter guld; mine rejser og oplevelser some guldgraver*, by Robert Andersen (København, Gyldendal, 1938) – out of print.
- *I centrum ved grænsen - portræt af Sønderborg Kommune* (In the Middle at the Border – A Portrait of Sønderborg Municipality), by Peter Dragsbo. (2006; available from Historisk Samfund for Als og Sundeved).
- *Danske børnehjem i billeder og tekst* (Danish Orphanages in Picture and Text, by various authors, 1900).
- *Find din slægt -- og gør den levende*, by Jytte Skaaning og Bente Klercke Rasmussen.
- *Ordbog for slægtsforskere*, by Heini Madsen. 2nd ed.
- *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.

# Thank You Businesses and Organizations

**February 16, 2011 –  
May 31, 2011**

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  
Andersen Windows (Sarah Andersen), Bayport, MN  
Answers (Frank R. 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 area, IA  
Danish American Athletic Club, Roselle, IL  
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA  
Danish Brotherhood Centennial Lodge #348, Eugene, OR  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #126, Los Angeles, CA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #161, Superior, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #211, Cairo, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Junction City, OR  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #341, Kimballton-Elk Horn, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Overland Park, KS  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #75, Albert Lea, MN  
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ  
Danish Lutheran Church & Cultural Center, Yorba Linda, CA  
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA  
Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Dike, IA  
Danish Vennelyst Park, Omaha, NE  
Den Danske Klub, Washington, MO  
Den Danske Pioneer, Hoffman Estates, IL  
Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District, Elk Horn, IA  
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn, IA  
Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, Solvang, CA  
Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, CA  
Hall Hudson, P.C., Attorneys at Law (Robert Hall), Harlan, IA  
Harboe Architects, PC (Thomas "Gunny" Harboe), Chicago, IL  
Harlan Newspapers (Steve & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA  
Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA  
House of Denmark, San Diego, CA  
Jensen World Travel, Ltd. (Tor & Jeanette Jensen), Wilmette, IL  
King of Kings Fishing Guide Service & Lodge (Richard & Bonnie Andersen), Anchor Point, AK  
Knudsen Old Timers, Glendale, CA  
Leman USA (Steen Sanderhoff), Sturtevant, WI  
Liberty Labs, Inc., Kimballton, IA  
Los Angeles Naver Club, Los Angeles, CA  
Marge's Hair Hut (Kent & Marge Ingerslev), Elk Horn, IA  
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA  
NE Gen Comm Danish Brotherhood, Omaha, NE  
Nelsen and Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE  
O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI  
Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P., Carroll, IA  
Outlook Study Club, Elk Horn, IA  
Pacific NW District Lodges D.B.I.A., Eugene, OR  
Proongily (Cynthia McKeen), St. Paul, MN  
Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Glendale, CA  
Red River Danes, Fargo, ND  
Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA  
scan|design foundation by INGER & JENS BRUUN, Seattle, WA  
Shelby County State Bank, Elk Horn, IA  
Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA  
The Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, NE  
The Danish Inn, Elk Horn, IA  
The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA

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## In Honor February 16, 2011– May 31, 2011

Through various funds, gifts have been received in honor of people or special events:

**Leonard C. Andersen's** 100th birthday

**Hans J. Jørgensen**

**Dr. Jim & Minnie Jorgensen**

**John Mark Nielsen's** 60th birthday

**LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen,** my loving parents

**Danielle Olson's** 30th birthday

# Memorials February 16, 2011 – May 31, 2011

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

Herbert Andeson  
Evelyn Baasfield, my sister  
Mr. & Mrs. Anton Berg, Sr.  
Dr. Lloyd (Bud) Bollesen  
Axel C. Bundgaard  
Christian Olaf Christiansen  
Gertrude Christiansen  
Midge Cramer  
Ole og Tage Damsgard  
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup

Grandfather Nels P. Frandsen.  
Solveig Gregory  
Harvey Greve  
Clifford K. & Anna Veola Hansen  
Rosie Hansen  
Jim Hunt  
Brian C. Jensen  
Earl & Dorthea Jensen  
Ernst & Esther Jensen  
Kristin Kjelsen Jensen & Mathea Christiansen Jensen

Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen  
Svend Kjaer  
Don Knudsen  
Gunnar Kristiansen  
Carl Laursen  
Mardell Miller  
Finn Mølviq, ten years since the passing of  
Richard F. Nelsen  
Erma E. Nelson  
Alton & Becky Neve  
Dr. Paul & Lela Neve

Andy Nielsen  
Einar V. Nielsen  
Verna Nielsen  
Lavern Paulsen  
Burton Petersen  
Lyle Poldberg  
Carl Rasmussen, my father  
Robert E. Rosene  
Jens and Olga Sahl  
Marilyn Storms  
Josephine S. Strong, my mother



## New Additions to the Wall of Honor

February 16, 2011 – May 31, 2011

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 to the growing repository of family histories at the museum's Family History and Genealogy Center.

**MARINUS CHRISTENSEN (1884) Moorhead, Iowa** – Clayton L. Christensen, Storm Lake, IA

**KIRSTEN HAVREHED (1948) San Francisco, California** – Kirsten Havrehed, San Francisco, CA

**AMELIA HIKOLAISEN (1888) Moorhead, Iowa** – Clayton L. Christensen, Storm Lake, IA

**HANS CHRISTIAN JENSEN (1911) Port Clinton, Ohio** – The Jensen Descendents by Judith Jensen, Iowa City, IA

**KAREN HANSEN JENSEN (1911) Port Clinton, Ohio** – The Jensen Descendents by Judith Jensen, Iowa City, IA

**VALDEMAR (WALTER) LAURITZ ROUTHE (1892) Redwood Falls, Minnesota** – Roger, Charles, Tom & Hal Routhe, St. Paul, MN



## New Members February 16, 2011 – May 31, 2011

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

Mary Ann Andersen, Stillwater, MN  
James & Cherry Brouwer, Bemidji, MN

Christopher & Lori Burgess, Urbandale, IA  
Cynthia Christensen, Rushford, MN  
Hanne Damsgård, Dendermonde, BELGIUM  
David Detrick, Exira, IA  
Rikke Dierssen-Morice, Stillwater, MN  
Melvin & Nancy Easton, Macedonia, IA  
Dallas Hansen, Kimballton, IA  
Joanne Hansen, Saint Paul, MN  
Stephanie Harrington, Grayslake, IL  
Dennis Holt, Saddle Brooke, AZ

Noreen Howard, Crossville, TN  
Joann Jarvis, Omaha, NE  
Judith Jensen, Iowa City, IA  
Roger & Patricia Klotz, Anaheim, CA  
Reginald & Jerilyn Laursen, Decorah, IA  
Main Street Market, Panama, IA  
Beverly McAllister, Sanborn, ND  
Birgitte Mølviq, Paradise, CA  
Robert & Stella Mosborg, Champaign, IL  
Ned & Natalie Nelson, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Dan Olsson, Itasca, IL

Pam Quinn, Bouton, IA  
Arvin & Joan Quist, Oak Ridge, TN  
Nadine "Dino" Rosene, Boone, IA  
Roger Routhe, St. Paul, MN  
Denise Schoening, Shelby, IA  
Karen Shuman, Denver, CO  
Tyler Sorensen, Kimballton, IA  
Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL  
Mike & Carol Wilson, Fountain Hills, AZ





# Stamtræ –

## Danish Roots, American Branches

News from the Museum's Family History & Genealogy Center

By Michele McNabb, librarian  
genealogy@danishmuseum.org; librarian@danishmuseum.org

### Whatever Happened to Karl Ferdinand Kofoed/Cofoed (1872-1903+)?

This story begins in 1919, when 3-year-old Elva Fay Cofoed was placed in the Elim Children's Home in Elk Horn, Iowa by her mother, Olga "Overshruddle." She resided at the home until she finished her schooling and was confirmed in Elk Horn Lutheran Church on Palm Sunday 1931 as "Alva Cofoed." There is no indication that she ever saw either of her parents after being placed in the home.

Elva's father was a 25-year-old electrician, William Peter Cofoed, who had married Olga Towne in Freeborn County, Minnesota on December 20, 1915. Elva, who was born on the opposite side of the state in Pipestone, Minnesota the following November, appears to have been the only child of this short-lived marriage.

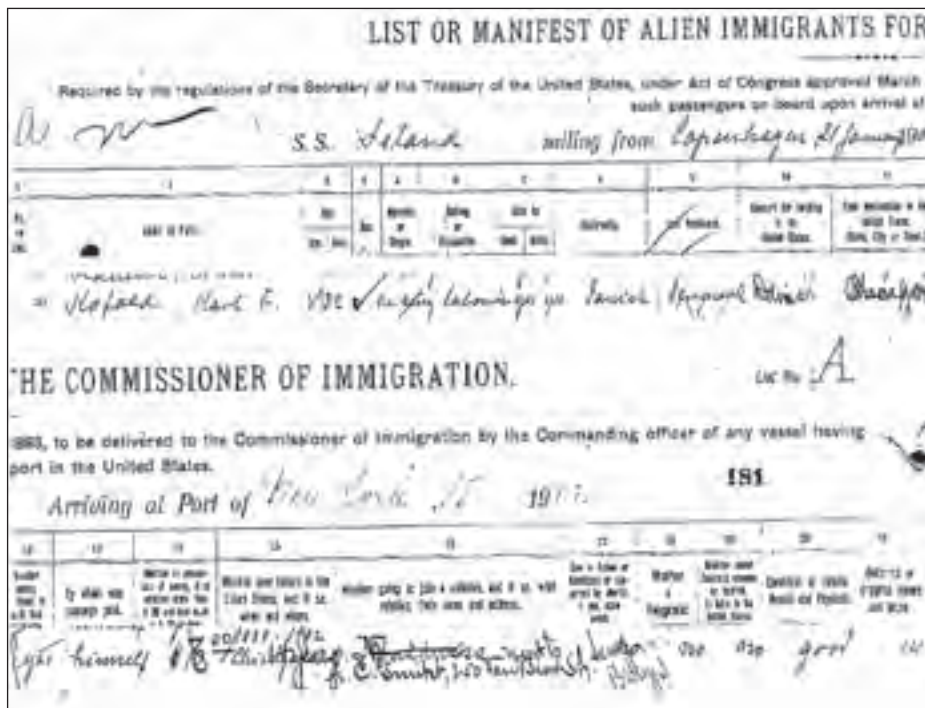
By 1917 William had moved down to Brookfield, Iowa, where he indicated that he was married with a "wife and child" to support on his WWI draft registration form. Shortly thereafter, the couple apparently split up. In the 1920 federal census, 25-year-old "Olga Cofoed" was living in a lodging-house in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was employed as a cashier. Where the "Overshruddle" name on Elva's intake record came from is unknown.

Meanwhile, now apparently divorced, "William F. Cofoed"

... tied the knot a second time on February 7, 1923 to Essie B. Baker, in Fulton County, Indiana. They moved north to the industrial center of South Bend where William was listed as a married roomer working as an electrician for the "Electric Light Co."

In 1942 he registered for the WWII draft, indicating that he was a 50-year-old electrician employed by the Indiana-Michigan Electric Company and giving Essie Cofoed, living at a separate address in South Bend, as his closest contact person. He apparently died prior to 1962, when Social Security Death Index entries generally begin. Essie died in nearby Wayne County, Indiana in 1974 at the age of 80.

William indicated in several of the above records that he was born on January 19, 1891 or 1892 in Alden, Freeborn County, Minnesota. Here he is found living in the household of his immigrant parents, Carl F. and "Hannah" Cofoed, in the 1900 census and with his mother in 1910. He was the eldest of six siblings born between 1891 and 1901. Carl F. and Johanne



The last known record for Karl F. Kofoed shows him arriving at Ellis Island on February 15, 1903, destined for Chicago.

ANNO 1931 *Palmer* Konfirmerede

No.	Konfirmerede Dato	Konfirmerede Næst	Forældre	Forældres Navne
1		Edith Marie Sørensen Aug 15-17		Olav Sørensen
2		Bobby Elaine Juelgaard Nov 17-19		Man Juelgaard
3		Planna Gladys Rasmus Sept 22-17		Alfred Rasmus
4		Roselle Morilla Peterson Oct 24-1916		George Peterson
5		Alva Lofsted Nov 16-16		Orphans Home.
6		Regina Josephine Mortensen Jan 10-17		Orphan-Asylum

Alva Cofloed's 1931 confirmation record lists her parents as "Orphans Home."

were married in Alden on March 14, 1891, so the latter birth year for William is likely correct.

Danish emigration records indicate that Carl Ferdinand Kofoed (the name, usually spelled with a "K," was changed sometime after 1891) and Johanne L. Rasmussen both registered their passenger contracts with the Danish police on March 16, 1889—Carl from his birth place of Copenhagen with a destination of Monmouth, Illinois and Johanne from Borre parish on the island of Møn with Alden as her destination.

They traveled via a third country, and hence may have met aboard ship. Carl must have been smitten since he ended up in Alden.

Like many immigrants, prosperity in the New World eluded Carl. Listed as a non-landowning day-laborer in the censuses after his marriage, he still somehow found the means to return to Denmark after thirteen years' residence in the U.S. and fathering six children. And here the mystery begins: his family never heard from him again! We know that on January 21, 1903, laborer Karl Ferdinand

Kofoed, age 32, registered a return ticket to New York on the S/S Island. He arrived at Ellis Island on February 15, with \$18 in his pocket. Here he indicated that his destination was Chicago, IL, where he was to visit a friend, presumably en route to Minnesota. Inexplicably he stated that he had lived in that city from 1888 to 1902. And here the trail disappears.

Forced to take in laundry to make ends meet, Hannah for a number of years apparently held out hope of Carl's reappearing; she listed her marital status as "Married" in both the 1905 and 1910 censuses, but called herself a widow in 1920. She died in Ramsey County, Minnesota, on November 14, 1964, still ignorant of the fate of her husband. Although several Carl/Karl Kofoeds of approximately the right age appear in post-1903 U.S. records, no connection has been ever been found to the man who purchased a return ticket to the U.S. in 1903. Did he die somewhere with no identification on himself or did he change his name and make a new life for himself elsewhere in the US? Descendants are wondering to this day.



## Danish Baptists in the United States

*A note from Julie Andersen, Scan|Design Intern, since February 2011*

Two days a week, I work at the Family History & Genealogy Center. My first project was to write a section for the webpage with the subject, "Danish Baptists Settling in the U.S." The goal was to tell the story of the beginning



The first Danish Baptist Church in Clarks Grove, MN, built in 1863.

of the Danish Baptists, but through my research, I learned a lot about the first Danish settlers in the U.S.

The first Danish Baptist congregation was founded in Raymond Township, Racine County, Wisconsin, in 1856 and soon the Danish Baptists spread to the rest of the country, founding congregations in California, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, just to name a few.

One of the things that surprised me was the fact that a lot of the congregations were really small. Also, the church and the congregation served just as well the aim of being the place where you would meet with other Danes and share the Danish culture and language – a way to maintain the feeling of still being Danish and a way to get through the difficult beginning in a new country.

Background information about Baptist history in Denmark and the emigration of Danish Baptists to the United States, a listing of congregations, and related photographs may now be viewed in both English and Danish on the Danish Baptists drop-down menu on the Library & Genealogy section of our webpage.



Rev. P. H. Dam, an early Danish Baptist minister.





# Activities and News

**Thanks to** James Stenseth, Ken Sand, Shirley and James Norlem, and an anonymous donor, whose generous gifts allowed us to purchase several titles from the Wish List published in the last *America Letter*.

**Danish genealogy workshops** in Urbana, Illinois, and Lakewood, Colorado were well-attended this spring and early summer. Our next set of workshops will be held at the Danish Church and Cultural Center in Yorba Linda, California, from September 29-October 1. Contact Pastor Anne-Grethe Krogh Nielsen at (714) 993-6362, Lilian Lykke at (714) 758-1186, or email [reservations@danishchurchsocal.com](mailto:reservations@danishchurchsocal.com) for a workshop schedule or to register. Information may also be found on the Workshops & Talks drop-down menu of the Library & Genealogy section of the museum webpage. If your Danish organization or local genealogical society would be interested in sponsoring a workshop series, contact Michele at (712)764-7008 or [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org).



*Yorba Linda Danish Church & Cultural Center*

## Coming to Elk Horn this summer?

Don't miss the FHGC photo exhibit, "Heady Stuff / Hatte og Huer" (Hats and Caps), which may be viewed in the lobby through the end of October. Visitors may also vote for their favorite women's, men's, and children's photographs.

**We are compiling lists** on the following subjects to assist with research. Additional input is appreciated. Thanks to those individuals who responded to our earlier e-newsletter postings.

– Danish-born individuals who served in the American Civil War.

– Danish-American cemeteries, especially those in rural areas, and town/urban cemeteries in which large numbers of Danes are buried. The name of the cemetery and the township/town and county where it is located would be appreciated.

– IOOF (International Order of Odd Fellows) lodges with large numbers of Danish immigrants (we know at least one was organized in Omaha, Nebraska, but have no information about it).



*This hat worn by Ethel Christoffersen was designed by her two milliner aunts to go with the muskrat coat given to her by a grateful employer.*



*Farmer Peter Sand of Audubon County, Iowa, holds one of his grandchildren.*



*The earliest known photograph of Springwell Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska.*



# Of Genealogical Interest

Of Genealogical Interest (see the Library & Genealogy section of the museum webpage for a complete listing of websites we find particularly useful).

**www.mocavo.com** is a relatively new search engine for free genealogy websites.

**An interesting site for those who read Danish** is Danskere i tysk tjeneste (Danes in German service) at <http://ditt.almanet.dk>, which contains information on Danes who fraternized with or supported the German side during WWII. The site has a number of sub-pages, including one that lists individuals who were “liquidated” by the Danish underground for various reasons.

**The official Danish tourist site, www.visitdenmark.com/usa/en-us/menu/turist/turistforside.htm** contains useful information for persons planning a trip to Denmark.

**www.Ancestry.com** has a new search interface which suggests possible matching records to a query. Ancestry also notes that the Hamburg Passenger Lists have now been indexed from 1877 to 1914. Years preceding or following these dates have to be searched by reading the digitized indexes and passenger lists for the time period in question.

**Danish death notices and obituaries** are generally not very informative unless a person is somewhat prominent, but some death notices appear at [www.afdoede.dk](http://www.afdoede.dk). The site is in Danish and most of the notices appear to be fairly recent, but there is a search tab (Søgning) and some other date and geography parameters one can input to look for a notice.

**For information on Danes who served in the Civil War**, a website located at our sister institution, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, may be helpful (<http://vesterheim.org/cgi-bin/mt2.661/mt-search.cgi?search=denmark+Civil+War>). One can also search for WWI soldiers there.

**Lisa Petersen, webmaster for Kinqest.com, has added a listing of over 1000 people who registered at the American Consulate in Copenhagen** between 1896 and 1931 because they were on extended visits in Denmark for various reasons. Sample digital images are posted and she will do look-ups and make copies. See [www.kinqest.com/dkgenealogy/amcitindk.php](http://www.kinqest.com/dkgenealogy/amcitindk.php).

**Good overview and “zoomable” copies of Danish maps** may be found at [www.denmark.dk/en/menu/About-Denmark/Map-of-Denmark/](http://www.denmark.dk/en/menu/About-Denmark/Map-of-Denmark/).

**One Nebraska obituary source is www.obitsofnebraska.com.** Copies of listed obituaries may be obtained from the State Historical Society of Nebraska for a nominal fee.

**Material pertaining to those who espoused the Grundtvigian wing** (known as the “happy Danes”) of the Danish-American Lutheran Church may be found in the publication Church and Life (formerly Kirke og Folk) at [www.churchandlife.org](http://www.churchandlife.org).

**www.spets.dk/old\_danish\_main.htm** shows a wide assortment of images of Danish military badges and patches from one collector’s personal collection.

**Of interest to those with Copenhagen ancestry:** Traditionally, the capital city was divided into districts (kvarterer or ejerlav). Beginning in 1689, each property in a district had a distinctive identifying land tax number (matrikelnummer). These numbers were changed in 1756 and again in 1806, and should not be confused with the street or house numbers first introduced in 1859. Online Danish censuses give the district and often either the matrikelnummer (often abbreviated as Matr. nr.) or the street address. From there one can gain additional information by going to the comparative index at [www.kobenhavnshistorie.dk/bog/matrikel/index.html](http://www.kobenhavnshistorie.dk/bog/matrikel/index.html), which is arranged by the present and superceded tax numbers from 1806, to see the addresses a property was identified by over the years, who owned it at four different periods of time, and often the year the present building was constructed. Sample information for Matr. nr. 7 in Sankt Annæ Vester Kvarter is shown here:

<b>Matr.nr. 7 t</b>
<b>Matrikel</b>
1689 83 (del af)
1756 21
1806 7
1962 Incbefattet i 668
<b>Ejere</b>
1689 Peder Svane
1756 Julius Guione, gipsmager
1806 H. Fritsche, glashandler
<b>Matrikulære husnumre</b>
1689 Gothersgade 83
1756 Gothersgade 21
1806 Gothersgade 7
<b>Husnumre</b>
1859 Gothersgade 46

*Translated, the above record states that the property was part of Matr. nr. 83 in 1689, was listed as no. 21 in 1756 and no. 7 in 1806, and by 1962 had been incorporated into no. 668 (which one could also search). The building owners were Peder Svane in 1689, plasterer Julius Guione in 1756, and glass-dealer H. Fritsche in 1806. Located in Gothersgade, numbers associated with the property were the tax numbers for the first three listed years; in 1859 it became Gothersgade 46.*



## Basketball, anyone?

A hundred years ago gymnastics was part of the curriculum at Elk Horn College, but basketball teams were also organized by the students as an extra-curricular sport, according to the memoirs of Paulus Falck, who attended EHC during the winter terms of 1910/11 and 1912/13. Falck, team captain during the latter year, noted that since the college gym had no electrical lighting, gas lanterns had to be borrowed from local residents for evening games against surrounding towns and Dana College. Not to be left out, female students at the college organized a cheering squad and composed various yells, including the following:

**E – L – K H – O – R – N U – R – W A Y ,  
H A W K – E Y E , H A W K – E Y E , I – O – W A ,  
Z I Z Z A , C R A C K E R – B I Z Z A C R A C K E R ,  
B I Z Z , B O O M , R A H ,  
E L K – H O R N – C O L L E G E – R A H – R A H – R A H ! !**

### **A reminder about mailing addresses:**

Mail to all departments of the museum other than the Family History & Genealogy Center should be sent to the Museum's street address, 2212 Washington St., Elk Horn, IA 51531. Mail to the FHGC should be directed to a separate address: P.O. Box 249, Elk Horn, IA 51531.

**Board of Directors of the Minneapolis Danish Old Peoples' Home, 1927**  
(courtesy of John McKeen, who located the information in a contemporary issue of the newspaper Chicago-Posten, published in Minneapolis):

Martin Nelson, President  
H. J. Frandsen,  
Vice-President  
Meta L. Lillienkiold,  
Secretary  
Sam Boyesen, Financial  
Secretary  
Clyde Jørgensen, Treasurer

### **Auditing Committee:**

Andreas Lauritzen, Chair  
Angel Iversen  
Hans Nelsen  
Jens Lykke  
Peter Nielsen  
Dora Ingemann  
M. S. Rasmussen  
Carl Fisher  
Marie Larsen  
Kirstine Hansen  
Kathrine Larsen  
Myrtle Jensen  
Peter Jørgensen  
Olaf G. Moe  
Marie Iversen



## 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 2011 for a minimum of \$1,250 a week. (Usually, it costs around \$3,000.)

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

## 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:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Sunday, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm

### BUSINESS HOURS

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

### FAMILY HISTORY &

### GENEALOGY CENTER HOURS

May-October:

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

November-April:

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

**All facilities are closed on New Year's Day;**

**Easter Sunday;**

**Thanksgiving; Christmas**

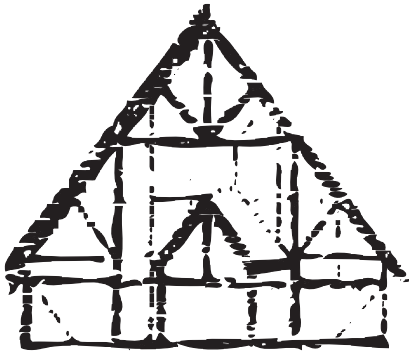
*(Local weather conditions may cause  
occasional closures.)*



THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM  
2212 WASHINGTON STREET  
ELK HORN IA 51531

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

712-764-7001  [www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org)



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