

America Letter



The Danish Immigrant Museum

AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER

Winter 2011 • Vol. XXIV, No. 3

2212 WASHINGTON STREET • ELK HORN, IOWA 51531 • 712-764-7001 • www.danishmuseum.org

Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår



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Director's Corner

"The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams."

On August 31, The Danish Immigrant Museum ended its twenty-eighth fiscal year. Careful control of spending by the staff and timely advice on managing our endowment funds provided us with earnings that allowed us to close the year by paying off our operating line of credit and begin the new fiscal year with a modest surplus. This is important in a time of continued financial uncertainty. It also underscores the importance of building endowment.

While personally, I am more interested in the history behind each of the museum's artifacts as well as the human stories that I hear from members and visitors and that are told in our *America Letter*, I recognize the museum needs to maintain a sound financial foundation.

Because of your membership and support and the efforts of our staff and board of directors, we have been able to pay our bills, avoid debt and slowly build our endowment. One reason is that individuals have provided for the museum in their estates. In 2009 and 2010, the museum was fortunate to receive a number of large bequests. Some of the funds were used to support operations; most, however, were directed to endowment building. I continue to encourage you to consider providing for the museum in your estate. Should you do so, letting us know is helpful, as it allows for better planning.

We have been looking for other ways to build the museum's financial stability while benefiting individual members.

Thanks to former board member, Gordon Esbeck, the museum has entered into a relationship with the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF). OCF serves as the umbrella organization for community foundations of southwest Iowa, which includes Shelby County, where the museum is located.

Our partnership with OCF allows the museum to offer a number of investment possibilities that may interest members and will benefit the museum. Among these are Charitable Gift Annuities, which allows an individual to invest a minimum of \$10,000 and, depending on age, receive returns of 4% to 5%. (One of our members is getting over 8%!) When the owner of the annuity passes away, remaining funds are paid out to the museum or they can be directed to the newly created Dannebrog Fund, our endowment fund managed by OCF. The museum will then receive annual earnings from this fund. In coming months, we will share more information about a number of opportunities that may be of mutual benefit.

In addition to careful budget management, continued strategic planning is important. As you read in the summer issue of the *America Letter*, the board of directors has adopted a strategic and operational plan that provides direction over the next five years. One of the museum's goals is to explore cooperating with other organizations and institutions with similar interests. Conversations have begun with representatives of the Danish American Heritage Society, the Danish American Archive and Library, Grand View University, and the Rebuild National Park Society. The desired outcome is greater vitality for all, even as we pursue the museum's unique mission of celebrating Danish roots and American dreams.



Announcing the Victor Borge Legacy Award

The Danish Immigrant Museum is proud to announce a new program to support young piano students and celebrate the legacy of Victor Borge, Danish entertainer. In partnership with the Omaha Music Teachers Association and the Southwest Iowa Music Teachers Association, the museum will be offering prizes of \$1000 and \$500 for piano performances by talented high school students in the region. Winning performers will then perform in recitals on the museum's Victor Borge piano and be eligible for an additional \$500

essay prize. Watch for more details about the first winners and recitals in the Spring 2012 issue of the *America Letter*.

Funding for the Victor Borge Legacy Award is provided through a generous gift from R. James and Janet Borge Crowle of Saint Michaels, Maryland.

If you live in the southwest Iowa or Omaha region and are interested in participating, you can find links to competition details on the museum's website, under the Special Events menu.



America Letter

Published three times annually by
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Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations: Flemming Behrend

By Eva Nielsen

Flemming Behrend describes himself as a troubadour.

Troubadour is a term he came to as a fan of the French comic book series *The Adventures of Asterix and Obelix*. One of the characters in the series is the bard of the fictional Gaulish village where the action is set. His name – in the Danish translations – is Trubadurix.

“In all societies, in all communities everyone has a function,” Flemming explains. “I have always felt that my role has been the person that sings – that has a guitar and sings...That is my art. That is my function.”

Flemming has been a troubadour in multiple communities since he first started picking at a guitar as a 15-year-old in Copenhagen. Today, he lives in Olympia, Washington, but – thanks to the Internet, to CDs and to relatively easy global travel – this bard’s reach goes far beyond the borders of one village.

Flemming plays folk music. (His music, by the way, would provide nice ambience as you read this article. Check out some of his songs on his website: www.samarkandfolk.com.)

When he was growing up in the sixties, folk music was everywhere. Think Arlo and Woody Guthrie, Peter, Paul and Mary, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan. Flemming names British folk singer Donovan as one of his early influences. He also liked the music of Danish folksinger Frode Veddinge, as well as Birgitte Grimstad, who sings both in Norwegian and Danish (Flemming still plays a couple of her songs). Flemming has sung in various bands throughout his musical life; he has sung in different languages (German, English, Macedonian – to name a few). Today,



Flemming, the baby in this family photo, says that immigration is probably in his DNA. His mother, Lycke, was born to a half-Danish, half-German family in eastern Germany and immigrated to Denmark. Flemming lived in Germany and has been in the United States for thirty years. And now Flemming’s oldest son, Bastian, lives with his wife and two children in Australia.

however, he mostly performs and records solo and in Danish. And that feels like the right fit to him – one that took some years to come to.

Flemming didn’t begin performing publicly until he was well into his twenties – and until he had left Denmark. A couple factors motivated him to leave. Flemming was trained as a dental technician and, at the time, he says, it was normal for people who were educated to work with their hands, to travel around Europe, work, try out other cultures. Plus, Flemming was ready to escape Denmark for a while. Flemming’s older sister, a dancer and actor, became a star at age ten and Flemming feels he very much grew up in her shadow. So, when he was offered a job in a dental lab in Trier, Germany, he chose to go.

In Trier, Flemming quickly connected with some other musicians and they formed a trio, playing old German folk music from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. They played in restaurants in exchange for meals and drinks and performed at a summer festival in front of masses of people, Flemming’s first experience in front of an audience of that size.

Flemming also met his wife-to-be, Silvia, in Trier. Silvia was studying languages on an exchange program from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Together, the two traveled through France and to Spain, where they made several discoveries. First, they found they were unable to access their bank accounts as they had



Flemming, the teenage troubadour, in the late 1960s in Denmark.

planned. Second, Flemming realized he could make money with his music.

Flemming remembers an evening in an archetypal Spanish village –

in a square, surrounded by white buildings, the moon shining above. People were home, windows were lit, but the square was empty. Then Flemming pulled out his guitar and started playing Donovan songs. People trickled out of the buildings into the square, throwing money to him.

“We both felt we were too old to be hippies like that,” comments Flemming. But busking got Silvia and Flemming all the way back to Trier.

When Silvia became pregnant with their first child, she and Flemming started considering a move. They were, of course, immigrants – a Dane and an American in Trier, expecting a baby with no family nearby to give support – and that was complicated enough. But there was more to it than that. Silvia and Flemming were uncomfortable with some of the events happening around Germany at the time.

Flemming notes that – even in the early 1980s, years after World War II – there was still an undercurrent of anti-Semitism present in Germany. While Silvia and Flemming were living in Trier, for example, people

fired at the synagogue in Frankfurt with machine guns. This was all the more unsettling because Silvia is Jewish and their child would be Jewish. Silvia, by the way, was born in Argentina, a place her Russian and Hungarian grandparents had immigrated to in the 1920s seeking a safer, more tolerant home for people of the Jewish faith. Argentina was that place for her grandparents’ generation, but the political climate evolved and by the time her parents’ generation reached adulthood, harassment of Jews became common. When she was nine, Silvia’s family left Argentina and immigrated to the United States.

Another issue for Flemming and Silvia in their deliberations about where to make a permanent home was the tension that rippled across Eastern Europe and up to the German border as a result of the Polish Solidarity Movement. (This was when a group of Poles, led by future Polish president Lech Walesa went on strike in the shipyards in Gdansk, Poland, demanding – among other things – the right to form a union independent from the sanctioned unions of the Communist party.) This movement troubled Soviet leaders. Choosing to flex their military muscles westward, they sent 300,000 Soviet troops right up against the border with Germany. Flemming says, “There was a sense that World War III could happen and we wanted to get as far away from that as possible.”

The couple decided to move to the United States – a place they viewed as more open and hospitable to differences, a safe place for their new baby boy, Bastian. They immigrated to Washington, D.C., and when they arrived, jobless, without much money, music came in handy again. Flemming pulled out his guitar and made his way from restaurant to restaurant in Georgetown, playing



Flemming and his group Saitenspinner play at a street fair in Germany in the 1970s.

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Behrend

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at tables for money until he got a job in a dental practice. Flemming calls those early days in the U.S. “tough.”

Yet the move felt right. Flemming says, “There is a certain openness when you come from a small country and you come to the U.S. and it’s so gigantic and open. And there’s a very easy way people have with each other here – speaking to each other on the street. You certainly don’t have that in Europe.”

In D.C., Silvia got connected with the Unitarian church and started a master’s in theology. Meanwhile, wanting more experience playing in front of crowds, Flemming started playing at open mic nights at neighborhood bars.

After ten years in D.C. (where, by the by, their middle and youngest children, Gabriel and Katrina, were born) Silvia decided to take a job as director of religious education at a church in Salt Lake City, Utah. When they arrived, Flemming felt that he had arrived in “Denmark in the mountains.” He says, “Everybody



Playing in Germany in 1979. Flemming met his wife Silvia in Trier, Germany. They chose to leave Germany for the United States.

was blond and white; it was very homogenous and clean and orderly.” (And, as Flemming notes, there truly are many Danish Americans in the area. A large influx of Danish pioneers made their way to Salt Lake City during the nineteenth century because of the Mormon Church’s heavy missionary activity in Denmark at that time.)

Flemming played regularly in the church there – in jazz ensembles, as a percussionist, a singer with an acoustic guitar, all kinds of configurations and styles. And he also had enough time and money to buy equipment and start recording. Some weekends he would head to the Salt Lake City farmers’ market to play and sell CDs.

As much as Salt Lake City had in common with Denmark, however, it was missing something critical for this Dane: the sea. So after fourteen years in Utah, Silvia and Flemming went west, toward the coast, to Olympia,

Washington.

As it happened, the move led Flemming back to his Danish roots in other ways too. Initially in Olympia, Flemming performed with a band, singing Eastern European and American music. But he found the organizational logistics of making music with others both complicated and time-consuming. So, Flemming sort of threw up his hands and decided, “Maybe I should just sing my Danish songs. Go back to what I know – just sing what I grew up with.”

And that has been something of a revelation. Because, as Flemming discovered, playing in your own language is a powerful thing. “I realized when I started singing only Danish songs how much passion I could put into it because, even though I’ve been in America for thirty years and speak English very well, I still don’t have the same feeling when I sing in English as when I sing in my mother tongue. I can really express to people what I feel; it’s just a different feeling.”

Soon Flemming developed a repertoire of Danish music and started singing at a couple venues and his music, says Flemming, “took



Today Flemming has returned to his Danish roots and mostly sings Danish folk songs.

Peters Jul



Sunget og fortalt af: Flemming Behrend

Flemming's Music

Flemming has recorded a number of CDs—all available on his website, www.samarkandfolk.com.

Peters jul (En dansk julehistorie)

Vi er Ravnen (Danish folk music)

Sangen om Tordenskjold (Danish folksongs)

So Troll'n Wir Uns (German folk music)

Guld på ruderne (original music by Flemming Behrend)

on its own life."

Here are some specifics. Grammercy Records, a record label in Seattle, Washington has shown interest in Flemming. They want to produce the CD that he currently has in the works. Flemming has also made ninety videos, mostly with Danish folk music, which can be viewed on YouTube. And, as it happened, the girlfriend of a Danish television producer, Thomas Skov Gaardsvig, saw these videos and suggested to her boyfriend that Flemming's music should be part of his television program. So, now Flemming is back in Denmark, on the TV screen, anyway; a video of Flemming performing a Danish folk



Flemming and Silvia with their children, Katrina, Bastian, and Gabriel, in Salt Lake City in 2002.

song is featured at the end of each episode of the show *Verdens bedste tv-program*.

Flemming played in Denmark this past summer and mentions that there's a difference between performing for Danes and for Americans. He says, "If I sing there, all I can expect is a little smile, a little nodding of the head – and that means they really like it...In America people laugh and clap and there will be laughter and it's very big." He adds, "As Danish people we sometimes feel that Americans will show all this enthusiasm over things that aren't even that good."

That said, Flemming confesses that he prefers to perform in America where audiences "show their enthusiasm right away."

And Flemming is also performing around the northwest U.S. when he can (he does still have a day job) and often plays troubadour for his fellow immigrants at Scandinavian gatherings. "We are the people who travel out," says Flemming. "And we leave our country – and we leave it for many different reasons – but then we seek each other out again and we get together and we celebrate



Flemming and his sister, actress Sonja Oppenhagen, at her home in Copenhagen. Flemming was born in Copenhagen and still calls it "the very best place in the world."

our tribe, while being away from our tribe."

Flemming adds that he particularly enjoys performing for these Scandinavian-American groups. "They get it." He says. "They appreciate it. It's a way I can contribute." It is, in other words, his function.

Exhibitions on view

Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev

On view November 25, 2011 through February 26, 2012.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is proud to host *Faces of Copenhagen*, an exhibit of over forty contemporary portraits from the streets of the Danish capital. This exhibition was organized by the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle and the installation in Elk Horn marks the final venue in its United States tour.

In the words of the photographer, Itzick Lev, "Copenhagen today is an international metropolis, with many culturally different inhabitants and a lot of tourists and foreign businessmen. They enrich the culture and the gallery



of faces. The idea with the present exhibition is to show Copenhagen's rich gallery of people to the public, and in this way bring the people of Copenhagen closer to the viewer."

The installation is supported in part by a grant from The American-Scandinavian Foundation based in New York.



"Copper Wall" by Mia Furlong

Danish-American Artist Series presents

Mia Furlong – Artist with a Danish Spirit

On view January 21 through July 8, 2012.

Mia Furlong is not a typical lawyer: she works four days a week, so that she has time available to pursue her painting. Artistic expression has always been integrated into her life, whether as a dancer, a poet, or a painter. Her mother is a Danish immigrant and Mia frequently visits family in Denmark. She credits her Danish heritage for the choices and values in her life, such as keeping room in her life for creative arts. Her work reflects a strong interest in color, geometry, and organic forms such as trees, leaves and flowers.



Jens Jensen Heritage Path Completed

The Danish Immigrant Museum held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, October 13 to celebrate the completion of the Jens Jensen Heritage Path on the front lawn of the museum.

The brick pathway is the first phase of and the entrance to the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park – a vision the museum has for the 20-acre area north of the museum.

Jens Jensen (1860-1951) emigrated from Denmark to America in 1884, settled in the Chicago area and pioneered the Prairie School of landscape architecture. The park will represent Jensen's nature-based approach to landscape design.

The newly dedicated path provides an on-going opportunity to honor the memory of loved ones, recognize individual achievements, celebrate an occasion, individual club or business or a special gift. New names will be added to the path throughout the year. If you are interested in purchasing a brick in the Jens Jensen Heritage Path, please call Debra Christensen Larsen at 712.764.7001 or 800.759.9192 or visit the museum's website at www.danishmuseum.org.



The original idea for the commemorative brick path came from former board of directors member Kurt Klarskov Larsen of Oneonta, Alabama. Klarskov Larsen's idea was brought to reality by board member Mark Nussle and his wife, Lori. Mark and Lori Nussle are pictured here, cutting the ribbon with the oversized scissors.



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

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

(Local weather conditions may cause occasional closures.)

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

The Collection Connection

By Angela Stanford, Curator of Collections

The collections department is knee-deep in a large and long-running project: the complete inventory and cataloging of the objects collection. This collection is rich and varied and contains around 30,000 artifacts – artifacts as different from one another as a chiffon wedding dress is from a set of hand-made molds for creating car parts. Many of the pieces are unique. Most support the museum's goal of telling the stories of Danish immigrants and their descendants

inventory and cataloging project will be completed during the summer of 2013.

The project involves recording all identifying information about every artifact – including identification numbers, physical descriptions, measurements, and the current home location of each piece. Additionally, photographs are taken to create a visual record that supports the written one. We are also adding all the

- All of the supporting documentation, or stories, associated with our collection will be known.
- Every artifact will have an electronic record and will require less handling, thereby reducing the risk of further wear and tear.
- Artifacts will be more easily accessible to staff when granting a donor's request to see the pieces they donated or when developing exhibitions.
- All records will be available online through "View Our Collection" to qualified museum members.
- Collections care and management will improve because the needs of specific artifacts are addressed as the project progresses. For example, especially fragile artifacts are given more physical support and boxes are relieved of overcrowding.
- Completing the inventory and cataloging project will inform the museum's long-range plans both for caring for and growing the collection.



The museum's collection contains around 30,000 artifacts, 6,000 photographs, 8,000 pieces of archival material, and 7,000 library volumes.

and those of the Danish-American communities that still exist today.

The project began in the fall of 2006 as a part-time task that our collections intern and I worked on together. Since that time, all subsequent collections interns and all of the dedicated department volunteers have contributed to the project. Thanks to a grant from the Historical Resources Development Program, funded through the State Historical Society of Iowa, this

documentary information currently maintained in paper files to the electronic database, so that once an artifact is fully inventoried and cataloged, everything we know about it is in one place.

Once finished, the inventory and cataloging project will have a number of outcomes, some of which are highlighted here:

- We will know exactly what artifacts we have and where they are located.

The museum also has a collection of about 6,000 photographs, 8,000 pieces of archival material and 7,000 library volumes. These collections are part of the larger inventory plan and will become the focus of the kind of detailed evaluation that the objects collection is currently undergoing. Already, the library collection is being evaluated for its consistency with the mission of the museum and for duplication within the museum collections. Additionally, volunteers are currently digitizing the full collection of photographs, and the archival collection will follow.

Inventory is a painstaking project, one that demands patience and attention to detail. But the results are invaluable.



Do you have "The Chair" designed by Hans J. Wegner?

Photo from the museum's collection, 2007.050.052, gift of the Royal Danish Embassy.

Do you have an Ant, an Egg, or a Swan?

The museum is planning an exhibition on Danish modern design from the 1950s and 1960s. If you have vintage furniture or decorative arts from that period – especially by a known designer – we would love to talk to you! Ant chairs, Egg chairs, and Swan chairs by Arne Jacobsen are just some of iconic designs that we hope to include.

The Danish modern design exhibition will open in Elk Horn in 2013, in time to celebrate the museum's 30th anniversary. We then hope to share this exhibition with other museums across the country in 2014 and 2015. If you have original pieces in good condition that you might consider lending to this multi-year project, please contact curator of exhibitions Tova Brandt at 712-764-7001 or curator@danishmuseum.org.

Meet Anna Mullen, Collections Inventory Intern

One of the key factors in the success of the inventory and cataloging of the museum's object collection project has been the involvement of a number of interns with education and experience in the museum field.

Our current collections inventory intern is Anna Mullen of Davenport, Iowa. In July, Anna began working with large objects, such as furniture, field plows, trunks, and cabinet sewing machines (the latter being her favorite pieces so far). As she works with an artifact, Anna records the object's physical characteristics, records the home location, and takes a number of photographs. This information is combined with the written documentary information

in the paper file and added to the electronic database.

Once large objects are complete, Anna will move on to the framed collections where she will work with paintings, photographs, works on paper and some needlework samples. These pieces will be evaluated in the same way as large objects, but considerations will also be made for reframing needs. Many of the backing materials used are acidic cardboard or wood and will be replaced with acid-free archival materials.

Anna grew up in a family that valued historical and cultural resources so she feels the museum field is a comfortable fit for her. In her four

months at The Danish Immigrant Museum, she has participated in several other projects and events, one being the recent on-site meeting of the museum's board of directors. Anna says, "Attending the board meeting exposed me to the multiple facets of running a national museum. It was also a great opportunity to

meet other professionals who are as passionate about The Danish Immigrant Museum as I am."

She also shares, "For the longest part of my childhood I used to say that when I grew up I wanted to be a dolphin trainer. While that dream has changed quite a bit, I have definitely transferred the same amount of passion into museums."

Specifically, after earning her master's degree, Anna hopes to work in several different kinds of museum settings. She would like to get involved in professional museum organizations like the Iowa Museum Association and the American Association of Museums and become a contributing author for publications such as *Preservation*, the magazine for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Anna says that down the road she would also be interested in earning her PhD and teaching in a museum studies program.

Anna graduated from Iowa State University in May of this year with a dual degree in anthropology and history. After completing her one-year internship here at The Danish Immigrant Museum next summer (funded in part by a grant from the Historical Resources Development Program through the State Historical Society of Iowa), Anna will begin courses for her master's degree in museum studies.



Intern Anna Mullen has been cataloging the large objects in the museum collection. She is particularly fond of the museum's sewing machine collection.

Beyond Fairy Tales

What else has Hans Christian Andersen given us?

Kristi Planck Johnson is Professor Emerita at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, where she taught international education. Her main research interests are in the area of refugee/minority education policy in Scandinavia and biographical research related to Hans Christian Andersen. Kristi's interest in Andersen began with a curiosity about his education. From there, she moved on to document his travels and life in Italy. Currently, she is exploring Jean Hersholt's collection of Andersen in the Rare Book Room at the Library of Congress as well as the development of Andersen's scrapbooks. Kristi is a member of The Danish Immigrant Museum's Board of Directors.

By Kristi Planck Johnson

Yes, once upon a time, there was a young gentleman, born in Denmark, who lived a life filled with fairy tales he created all by himself (or almost: he did borrow ideas from others on more than one occasion!) and a myriad of other literary creations that are seldom recognized outside of Scandinavia. The gentleman's name was Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875). While many know him only because his fairy tales were translated into many languages, he was also a writer of diaries, autobiographies, plays, song lyrics, poems, travel memoirs, novels, and short stories. Through each of these genres, he taught us about the ordinary things in life and how our imaginations can serve as jumping off points for expanding our minds.

Andersen grew up enjoying writer Ludvig Holberg, the Arabian Nights, and puppet shows. His father made sure he had a theatrical upbringing and foundation in the classics despite a meager home environment where little formal education was available. Andersen borrowed ideas from this classical training and incorporated them into his own philosophy, thus creating his unique works of art. He was also briefly a singer and an actor and so knew how to connect with an audience. The morals in his stories were mostly for

adults and hard for children to understand.

From this platform, Andersen became an author widely known in his own time, not least because he traveled widely in Europe and his works were translated into more than one hundred languages. In addition, his letters and his personal diaries are voluminous, published, and a source of much insight into his life. Popular in Germany and in England, Andersen became a huge success partly because of the extensive availability of his works.

Scholars have done much research into Andersen's literary style and translations. At the Second International Hans Christian Andersen Conference in 1996, one of the five major sessions was devoted to "Language, Style, and Translation." At the third such international conference, Frank Hugus from the University of Massachusetts referred to Andersen as "an accomplished translator," who translated eight theatrical works from the German and the French into Danish. Ironically, Andersen himself is not easy to translate. His writing is replete with unusual circumstances and vocabulary. Many of his stories were meant to be read aloud, which he did, and his style was close to the spoken colloquial language.

Published first in Denmark in 1822, Andersen's first book was the play *Youthful Attempts* published under the name William Christian Walter – "William" because of his love of William Shakespeare; "Christian," his own given name; and "Walter" from his fondness for Sir Walter Scott.

From teenage theatrical writing, Andersen moved to writing poetry and, then, in 1828/1829 a comical piece called *A Walking Tour of Copenhagen!*

Recommended Books by or about Hans Christian Andersen

By Hans Christian Andersen

- *The Diaries of Hans Christian Andersen*. Selected and translated by Patricia Conroy and Sven Rossel.
- *Fairy Tales*. Translated by Tiina Nunnally
- *Hans Christian Andersen on Copenhagen*. Johan de Mylius, Editor.
- *Seven Poems*. Translated by R. P. Keigwin.
- *Travels*. Translated and edited by Anastazia Little.

About Hans Christian Andersen

- *Hans Christian Andersen: The Story of His Life and Work 1805-1875* by Elias Bredsdorff
- *The Amazing Paper Cuttings of Hans Christian Andersen* by Beth Wagner Brust.
- *That Land I Saw: Hans Christian Andersen's Sketches During His Travels in Italy – 1833-34* by Hans Edvard Nørregård-Nielsen
- *Hans Christian Andersen and His World* by Reginald Spink
- *Hans Christian Andersen: His Fairy Tale Life* by Hjørdis Varmer and Lilian Brøgger (translated by Tiina Nunnally.)
- *Hans Christian Andersen: The Life of a Storyteller* by Jackie Wullschlager
- *Hans Christian Andersen and Music: The Nightingale Revealed* by Anna Harwell Celenza

Andersen loved traveling. We read in his diary, "To Travel is to Live." His travels took him, among other places, to Italy, France, Germany, England, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Scotland, and the Balkans.

A very unusual Andersen piece is an unpublished manuscript located in the Jean Hersholt collection at the Library of Congress, "Eduard and Kunigunde." This dramatic piece is a signed holograph probably written between 1833 and 1836. It is a parody based on J. N. Nestroy's aria, "Eduard and Kunigunde" (from Nestroy's comedy, *Lumpacivagamunduss*). "Eduard and Kunigunde" is a burlesque about two young lovers and a heartless father. The father sends Kunigunde to a cloister. Kunigunde and Eduard grieve so severely that they die. When Kunigunde's father learns of this tragedy, he is saddened and ends up erecting a monument on their grave. The manuscript includes music and stage direction. Niels Peter Moeller, a school pal of Andersen's, was the recipient of this piece. The story goes, as read in the Collin family collection of papers, that Moeller asked Andersen to lend it to him for use among a group of friends. Moeller, a contemporary of Andersen's, left Denmark as a ship's doctor and moved to Chile, where he was a vice-consul for Denmark.

Throughout his life, Andersen seemed to write on topics of interest to ordinary citizens: transportation, birds, a darning needle, clothes, family, trees, pigs, cows, shoes, elves, frogs, professors, fleas, chimneys. One of the last stories he wrote was an autobiographical tale of a toothache. Indeed, a list of his writings follows closely with the experiences he had along his life's journey. Andersen himself is often the

centerpiece or main character in the work.

Nora Seton wrote in the *Houston Chronicle* in May 2005 as follows: "In the 1830s children were not taken seriously and very few adults respected the child for his own nature or for the emotional and imaginative life that Andersen allows to blossom." Seton went on to say: "Hans Christian Andersen was perfectly tuned to a child's mind. He glorified the idea of being 'childishly pure,' which makes excellent sense for a man seemingly unable to grow up. When telling his stories aloud he inhabited the imagined world of his characters. He riddled his tales with a child's patois, 'plenty of prattle, nonsense, and unaesthetic words like 'baa' and 'boo' in his pockets. What an assault was about to commence on the royal palaces of art!"

When Andersen's tales were first published, Jens Andersen (author and biographer of *Hans Christian Andersen: A New Life*, translated by Tiina Nunnally in 2005) notes that they were criticized for their naturalism: "In the 1830s, to write the way that people talked was regarded as a means of undermining the true and beautiful values of literature. It was unheard of to replace the standard written language with the free language of thoughts – to grumble, hum, sob, and plainly speak your mind as Andersen did in these tales intended for children." Indeed, in a poem from the 1830s, Andersen writes: "A child myself, I would rather play with the young. They are best able to know my magic world."

Beyond fairy tales, Andersen has left a legacy of much literary variety; we enjoy and rejoice in his interest in writing for children of all ages.

From the Development Director

Join our Tivoli Fest Tour in May 2012

In recent years, I have visited many Danish festivals around the country. All are rich in Danish culture and tradition, but one of my favorites continues to be Elk Horn's own Tivoli Fest held each year on Memorial Day weekend.

This coming year will be extra special as The Danish Immigrant Museum is inviting you to participate in a midwestern museum and sightseeing tour during Tivoli Fest week. Not only can you participate in all the Tivoli Fest activities including the parade, the food, the fireworks and all the events in and around Elk Horn, but we will be taking you, by luxury coach, to several other museums and attractions around the area.

Our tour will begin on Monday, May 21, 2012 as guests arrive at Eppley Airfield in Omaha and are shuttled to the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Omaha for an evening welcome reception.

Then on Tuesday we will visit the fascinating Strategic Air and Space Museum in west Omaha. In the afternoon we will travel to Elk Horn for a tour of our museum followed by a group dinner there.

After spending the night at the AmericInn in Elk Horn, we will depart Wednesday morning for Des Moines to visit the wonderful Living History

Farms. After an enjoyable day, followed by an evening dinner at the classic Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant, we will spend the night at the Comfort Suites Living History Farms in Urbandale.

The next morning the group departs for a short visit to Grand View University and coffee with Kent Henning, Grand View President. We will leave Grand View for the next stop and lunch at the enchanting Amana Colonies. The afternoon and evening will be spent touring the colonies, concluding with a family style dinner at one of Amana's charming restaurants and overnight in Amana.

Friday is another exciting day with a tour of the Bridges of Madison County and a stop at the John Wayne Museum in Winterset. Friday evening, we will arrive back in Elk Horn for a restful night before the Tivoli Fest celebration on Saturday.

Sunday, our coach will provide transportation back to the airport for flights home.

Mittie Ostergaard, of the museum board of directors, and I are organizing the tour and will serve as your hosts. If you are interested or have any questions please call the museum, or contact me directly. We anticipate a lot of interest, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. We believe this will be a wonderful tour and hope you can be a part of it!

Glædelig Jul og Godt Nytår!

Bruce Bro
dkdevdir@metc.net
515-314-2190 (cell)



Tivoli Fest Tour Itinerary

PRICE:

- \$1,100 Individual
 - \$1,500 Couple
- (\$200 deposit per person reserves your place)

PRICE INCLUDES:

- All bus transportation
- 6 nights hotel
- 6 Breakfasts
- Opening night cocktail party
- Admission to four museums
- Group dinners on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings • 1-Year membership to The Danish Immigrant Museum

Day 1 • Monday, May 21

Morning departure from your local airport. Afternoon arrival in Omaha. Evening Meet and Greet cocktail reception. Meals on your own. Overnight in Omaha.

Day 2 • Tuesday, May 22

Breakfast included at hotel. 9:30am Leave Omaha hotel. 10:00am arrival at Strategic Air & Space Museum. Lunch on your own at the SAC Museum. 2:30pm Departure from SAC Museum for AmericInn - Elk Horn. 4:30pm Tour of The Danish Immigrant Museum and catered dinner. Overnight at AmericInn in Elk Horn.

Day 3 • Wednesday, May 23

Breakfast included at hotel. 8:30am Leave Elk Horn for Living History Farms, Des Moines. Lunch on your own at Living History Farms. Evening Dinner at Machine Shed Restaurant.

Day 4 • Thursday, May 24

Breakfast included at hotel. 8:30am Leave for

Grand View University. Late morning arrival at Amana Colonies. Lunch on your own at Amana Colonies. Evening dinner in Amana Colonies featuring "Family style" dinner. Overnight in Amana.

Day 5 • Friday, May 25

Breakfast at hotel. Morning departure for tour of Bridges of Madison County. Lunch on your own in Winterset. Afternoon visit to John Wayne Birthplace. Afternoon return to Elk Horn. Dinner on your own. Overnight at AmericInn - Elk Horn.

Day 6 • Saturday, May 26

Breakfast included at hotel. Tivoli Fest in Elk Horn all day and evening. Lunch and dinner on your own. Evening fireworks in Elk Horn. Overnight at AmericInn in Elk Horn.

Day 7 • Sunday, May 27

Breakfast included at hotel. Mid-morning departure for Omaha Airport.

Museum Board Meets in Elk Horn, Iowa

The Danish Immigrant Museum's Board of Directors held its 89th regular board meeting and 28th annual meeting in Elk Horn, Iowa from October 13 through 15. Public events surrounding the meeting included a ribbon cutting on Thursday evening, opening the first phase of The Jens Jensen Heritage Path.

This was followed by a dinner in the Bro Dining Room and a presentation by Jens Jensen, great-great-grandson and namesake of the Danish immigrant landscape designer who pioneered the Prairie School of landscape architecture. The younger Jensen works for Cardno JFNew, a firm specializing in ecological restoration. Jensen presented plans for the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, which is being developed on the thirty acres surrounding the museum.

An important issue at the 89th regular meeting was a spirited, thoughtful discussion about and adoption of values and vision statements to accompany the new mission statement approved at the Denver meeting in June. They are as follows:

Our mission statement: The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.

Our core values

We are:

- **Inspirational:** We honor the vision, ambition and diligence of Danish-American achievers, and we seek to inspire future generations by telling their stories.
- **Deeply rooted:** We treasure our Danish heritage, and we are deeply committed to our local American communities.
- **Focused on the future:** We realize that to keep the past alive, we must always remain part of the future.

Our greater vision:

- To be widely recognized as the world's leading compiler and communicator of the history and inspirational achievements of Danish-Americans.
- To turn the museum and the Danish villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton into one of Iowa's top destinations for tourists, educators and local family excursions – and

to support other local communities featuring Danish-American history.

- To be widely recognized as a thought leader and trendsetter in the international museum industry, constantly featuring new and inspiring experiences for worldwide audiences through innovative exhibits, events, publications and online media tools.

During the 28th annual meeting on Saturday morning, October 15, new board members were welcomed. They are: Erik Andersen (Croton-on-Hudson, NY), Ron Bro (Cedar Falls, IA), Stew Hansen (West Des Moines, IA), Ken Jacobsen (Seattle, WA), Jesper Packert Pedersen (Washington, DC) and Jerry Schrader (Elk Horn, IA). Election of new officers was held. New officers are: president, Mark Frederiksen (Falcon, CO); vice president, Kay Esbeck North (Ames, IA); secretary, Eric Smitsdorff (Racine, WI); treasurer, Kenneth Larsen (Calistoga, CA). As the meetings closed, members leaving the board were thanked. These were Harriet Spanel, president (Bellingham, WA); Mark Nussle, vice-president (Palos Park, IL); Clark Mathisen, treasurer (Omaha, NE) and Stephen Lund (Yuma, AZ).

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.

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

Thank You Businesses and Organizations

June 1, 2011—October 23, 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 Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Overland Park, KS
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #75, Albert Lea, MN
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #126, Los Angeles, CA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #161, Superior, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #186, Luck, WI
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 #348, Eugene, OR
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 Pioneer, Hoffman Estates, IL
Denver Danes, Denver, CO

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
Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust, Crystal Lake, IL
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
Heartland District of the D.S.O.A., Johnston, IA
Heartland District of the D.B.I.A., Des Moines, Iowa
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
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 of 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

Memorials June 1, 2011 – October 23, 2011

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

Lee Anna Marie Jessen Adams, my sister
Jørn G. Andersen, Hellerup, Denmark
Darlene Blakely
Howard Bro
Manville & Marjorie Bro
Manville I. "Whitey" Bro
Gurli Christensen
Gertrude Christiansen
Harald L. Dinesen, son of Laurits D.S. Dinesen, Danish immigrant and inventor of the milking machine

Dorothy Ann Frederick Hansen
Larry Ingvert Hansen
Marion Mathilda Hanson
Verner Jensen
Ila Knudsen
Wendell Larsen
Ross H. Mardesen
H.C. (Matt) Mathison
Lillian M. Nielsen
Marlin (Dale) Peterson
Virginia Rasmussen
Phillip Sorensen
Elie Steffensen

New Additions to the Wall of Honor

June 1, 2011 – October 23, 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.

RICHARD LARSEN & KAREN JENSEN LARSEN (1911 & 1912) Omaha, NE – Heather Thomas, Steilacoom, WA

GEORGE MORTENSEN (1921) Elk Horn, Iowa – Margo Larsen, Elk Horn, IA

KATHERINE JUHL TOFT (1888) Oelwein, IA – Phyllis Lentz, Aurora, IA

NELS PETERSON TOFT (1882) Oelwein, Iowa – Phyllis Lentz, Aurora, IA

New Members June 1, 2011 – October 23, 2011

The Danish Immigrant is pleased to identify the following individuals and organizations as its newest members. Museum membership is achieved in various ways—through gifts, complimentary or annual gifting.

Ronald & Patricia Andersen, Council Bluffs, IA
Jillayne Arena, Cedar Rapids, IA
Kim Aronson, Berkeley, CA
Jay Atwood, Las Vegas, NV
Birthe Baekgaard, Santa Rosa, CA
Steffen & Sherri Balegno, Coal City, IL
Karen Bernard, Janesville, WI
Aleeta Bice, Brandon, FL
Helle Bonaparte, Highlands Ranch, CO
Bruce & Tamara Bonnicksen, Rochester, MN
Byron & Diana Boysen, Argyle, WI
Bridget Capo, West Bloomfield, MI
John & Jean Christensen, Fort Dodge, IA
Larry & Debra Christensen, Long Island City, NY

Ruth Connett, Pasadena, CA
Jerry & Judith Danielsen, Bruce, SD
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #186, Luck, WI
Denver Danes, Littleton, CO
Donna Easton, Macedonia, IA
Sam & Pia Edgar, Aurora, CO
Jeff & Sue Edwards, Vinton, IA
David & Ethel Evans, Parker, CO
Ardis Grace, Blair, NE
Larry Hansen, Norwalk, CA
Michelle Hansen, Mt. Pleasant, IA
Morry & Sandy Hansen, Johnston, IA
Heartland District of the Danish Sisterhood of America, Johnston, IA
Michael Heinlein, Fairhaven, NJ
Kathleen Hendricks, De Smet, SD
Allen & Roberta Hye, Spring Valley, OH
Gordon Jensen, Oak Brook, IL
Victor Jensen, Finlayson, MN
Richard & Raita Jergensen, Arvada, CO
Inger Jessen, Bailey, CO
Alice Johnson, Tucson, IA
Bruce Johnson, Lincolnshire, IL
Elisabeth Johnson Holod, St. Paul, MN

Robert & Lois Jorgenson, Englewood, CO
Amy Kardel, South Los Angeles, CA
Anna Kaarsberg-Puggaard, Copenhagen, Denmark
Warren & Brenda Kelloway, Adair, IA
Eda Keltner, Colfax, WI
Shirley Kuhlman, Denver, CO
Marti Laney, Pacific Palisades, CA
Margo Larsen, Elk Horn, IA
William Lauritsen, Arlington, VA
David & Sandra Lingard, Van Horne, IA
Ole Lyngklip, New York, NY
Dan & Cheryl Miller, Bennington, NE
Pamm Minden, St. Cloud, MN
Carl & Norma Mortensen, Roseville, CA
Ronald Mullen, Davenport, IA
Carl Nielsen, Hyattsville, MD
Terry & Carole Nissen, Council Bluffs, IA
Agnes Nussle, Bonney Lake, WA
Burt Olsson, Park Ridge, IL
Russell & Mary Olsson, Wilmette, IL
Andreas & Angela Perrigo, Ankeny, IA
Judith Pieper, Camano Island, WA
Hannah Powell, Middlebury, VT

Kenneth & Karen Jacobsen Putt, Jr., Red Lion, PA
Bob & Martha Rasmussen, Fairfield, IA
Jim & Deb Rodenburg, Glenwood, IA
Richard & Sonja Rollins, Summerfield, FL
Solveig Sedlet, LaCross, WI
Daniel & Jessica Sellner, Charlotte, NC
Charles Silet, Ames, IA
Brenda Silva-Taylor, Tacoma, WA
Randall & Marie Smith, Lincoln, NE
Dennis & Betty Sorg, Coralville, IA
Greg & Susan Strottman, Sumner, IA
Gene & Carole Svebakken, Three Oaks, MI
Donald & Phyllis Swanson, Hudson, IA
Scott & Amy Swanson, Park Ridge, IL
Heather Thomas, Steilacoom, WA
Judith Walden, Des Moines, IA
Johan Windmuller, Blair, NE
Jennifer Worl, Omaha, NE
Debra Yurosek, Bakersfield, CA

In Honor June 1, 2011 – October 23, 2011

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

**Kjesten Christensen
William & Martha Hansen**
Celebrating
their lives!
Doris & Peder Hoy's 50th
anniversary

**Harriet Jorgensen
Philip Jorgenson
Rhoda Kelloway
Paul J. Lund's** 80th birthday
Steven Lund's Danish
Immigrant Museum board
term

**Michele McNabb & Wanda
Sornson's** professional
genealogy research efforts
**Nielsen Family
Consul Lynette Rasmussen**
speaking to the Cedar
Valley Danes

**Sandra Rasmussen
Suzanne Rasmussen's** kind
help with family genealogy
research



News from the Museum's Family History & Genealogy Center

genealogy@danishmuseum.org; librarian@danishmuseum.org

Solving a 42-year-old Mystery

Who was the Father of Hans George Hansen?

107	Ther. Hansen	38	107	107	107	107	107
108	Ther. Hansen	39	108	108	108	108	108
109	Ther. Hansen	40	109	109	109	109	109
110	Ther. Hansen	41	110	110	110	110	110
111	Ther. Hansen	42	111	111	111	111	111
112	Ther. Hansen	43	112	112	112	112	112
113	Ther. Hansen	44	113	113	113	113	113
114	Ther. Hansen	45	114	114	114	114	114
115	Ther. Hansen	46	115	115	115	115	115
116	Ther. Hansen	47	116	116	116	116	116
117	Ther. Hansen	48	117	117	117	117	117
118	Ther. Hansen	49	118	118	118	118	118
119	Ther. Hansen	50	119	119	119	119	119
120	Ther. Hansen	51	120	120	120	120	120
121	Ther. Hansen	52	121	121	121	121	121
122	Ther. Hansen	53	122	122	122	122	122
123	Ther. Hansen	54	123	123	123	123	123
124	Ther. Hansen	55	124	124	124	124	124
125	Ther. Hansen	56	125	125	125	125	125
126	Ther. Hansen	57	126	126	126	126	126
127	Ther. Hansen	58	127	127	127	127	127
128	Ther. Hansen	59	128	128	128	128	128
129	Ther. Hansen	60	129	129	129	129	129
130	Ther. Hansen	61	130	130	130	130	130
131	Ther. Hansen	62	131	131	131	131	131
132	Ther. Hansen	63	132	132	132	132	132
133	Ther. Hansen	64	133	133	133	133	133
134	Ther. Hansen	65	134	134	134	134	134
135	Ther. Hansen	66	135	135	135	135	135
136	Ther. Hansen	67	136	136	136	136	136
137	Ther. Hansen	68	137	137	137	137	137
138	Ther. Hansen	69	138	138	138	138	138
139	Ther. Hansen	70	139	139	139	139	139
140	Ther. Hansen	71	140	140	140	140	140
141	Ther. Hansen	72	141	141	141	141	141
142	Ther. Hansen	73	142	142	142	142	142
143	Ther. Hansen	74	143	143	143	143	143
144	Ther. Hansen	75	144	144	144	144	144
145	Ther. Hansen	76	145	145	145	145	145
146	Ther. Hansen	77	146	146	146	146	146
147	Ther. Hansen	78	147	147	147	147	147
148	Ther. Hansen	79	148	148	148	148	148
149	Ther. Hansen	80	149	149	149	149	149
150	Ther. Hansen	81	150	150	150	150	150
151	Ther. Hansen	82	151	151	151	151	151
152	Ther. Hansen	83	152	152	152	152	152
153	Ther. Hansen	84	153	153	153	153	153
154	Ther. Hansen	85	154	154	154	154	154
155	Ther. Hansen	86	155	155	155	155	155
156	Ther. Hansen	87	156	156	156	156	156
157	Ther. Hansen	88	157	157	157	157	157
158	Ther. Hansen	89	158	158	158	15	

The 1857 passenger list of the Sir Robert Peel showing the arrival of Hans Jørgen Hansen, his siblings and parents, and the man who became his future step-father, Niels Hansen.

The search then turned to the passenger list records in the AncestryLE™ database at the FHGC. Searches by the parents' names were unproductive, as were those for some of the immigrant children. It was only when Hans George was turned into the Danish variant Hans Jørgen that a likely result came to light. Listed as a passenger on the packet ship *Sir Robert Peel* out of Hamburg that arrived in New York Harbor on May 29, 1857, was infant **Hans Jørgen**, the youngest child in a family group headed for Ohio. Also listed were siblings Karen (age 4), and Margaretha (8), which matched the data on the 1860 census, as did the mother's name (Karen, often a variant of Caroline) and age (40). In the family were four previously unidentified older siblings: Anna (18), Bertha (15), Dorothea (14), and Anna (9). Heading this family, however, was **Lars Hansen**, age 42, a name and age that did not fit the family living in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Why the discrepancy?

A closer scrutiny of the passenger list provided an answer to the conundrum: in the last column of Lars Hansen's entry was the unemotional notation, "died May 18." In other words, the father of this immigrant family did not make it to America. Moreover, two lines down from Hans Jørgen's entry one finds a listing for 47-year-old farmer **Niels Hansen**, who was headed for Wisconsin, an age and destination that match the 1860 census record perfectly. Whether they were acquainted before the voyage is unknown. Perhaps this unattached fellow-traveler took pity on the widowed immigrant mother with her large flock of children and proposed that they join forces in the New World. The fact that the first-born child in Wisconsin was named Lars Hansen supports this theory.

But the age of the Hans Jørgen Hansen who arrived in 1857 was not firmly established. Was he indeed 2-years of age (in other words, born in 1855)? It took further searching, but the Lars Hansen family was eventually tracked back to Herritslev parish on the southern shore of the island of Lolland in Maribo County. Here the family's

departure was somewhat carelessly listed in the church register: "April 7, 1857: Lars Hansen & wife, with 8 [sic] children, age 50 and 49 (they were actually closer to 42 and 41), farmer in Stubberup, to America."

Lars and Karen were found living in Herritslev parish in the 1840, 1845 and 1850 censuses, where their family constellation, closely matching the passenger arrival record, was as follows:

Lars Hansen, born ca. 1815 in Fuglse parish

Karen Jørgensdatter, born ca. 1817 in Errindlev parish

Anne Sophie Amalie Larsdatter, born ca. 1839 in

Herritslev parish

Bodil Kirstine Larsdatter, born ca. 1841, Herritslev parish

Dorthe Larsdatter, born ca. 1843, Herritslev

Anna Larsdatter, born ca. 1845, Herritslev

Margrethe Larsdatter, born 26 July, 1847, Herritslev

Karen Margr. Larsen, born 1 January 1853, Herritslev

Hans Jørgen Larsen, born 23 March 1855, Herritslev

(named for both his grandparents)

Following the rural naming tradition of the day, the children's surname was a patronymic – their father's given name with a suffix denoting gender. No surnames other than Lars Hansen's were listed on the passenger list, but the family that started out for America in the spring of 1857 closely matches the one that arrived in New York in May of that year, minus a husband and father. And Hans Jørgen's birth information agrees with that given for Hans George in the 1900 census. Thus, Hans Jørgen Larsen became Hans George Hansen, and the sad fate of his father was discovered.

2. 23 March	Hans Jørgen Larsen	1844 1818	born 17 May 1855 Lars Hansen Karen Jørgensdatter Stubbstrup
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male births, #2: born 23 March [1855], Hans Jørgen Larsen, baptized in church on 17 May 1855; parents: farm-owner Lars Hansen and wife, Karen Jørgensdatter, age 37, of Stubbstrup.

Mother: Ane Sophie Larsen, spinster, b. 1818
 Father: Niels Mortensen, of Skibstrup.
 Baptized 17 May 1855.

born 17 May 1855
 born 17 May 1855

Godparents: The mother herself carried the child, spinster Ane Sophie Larsen, [?], bachelor Jørgen Knudsen, smallholder Niels Mortensen, of Skibstrup. Note: The wife (i.e., the mother) churched on 25 May 1855; [child] vaccinated on 31 July 1855 by W.

The baptismal record of Hans Jørgen Larsen from the parish register of Herritslev parish, Maribo County, Denmark.



Stamtræ Activities and News

Our next set of Danish genealogy workshops will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City-San Mateo from February 9 till 11, 2012. See the museum webpage under Library & Genealogy for further details and a registration form or contact Michele McNabb at 712-764-7008 or librarian@danishmuseum.org.

Intern Maria Beisheim has been working hard reviewing, updating, rearranging and creating various pages on the museum webpage related to the FHGC. Among other things there is a new photo gallery in the Danish-American Baptist section along with an expanded bibliography of materials on the subject, and an overview of and statistics about Danish immigration under Danish Culture. A new section, "Online Media," provides ready access to the museum's video library and Facebook pages.

The 2012 FHGC photo exhibit will be "Long-term Lovers," and will feature Danish immigrants who were married for at least 50 years and descendants of

immigrants married at least 60 years. Further details and a photograph submission form will be available on the museum webpage under "Library & Genealogy" toward the end of 2011.

Thanks to the many individuals who have volunteered to be obituary clippers in various parts of the country. Keep them coming!

And thanks to members who have provided information on rural cemeteries in various parts of the country. We are continuing to compile lists of cemeteries and the following other subjects to assist with research and your input is appreciated.

- **Danish-born individuals** who served in the American Civil War.
- **Danish immigrant midwives** (see list of known midwives on the next page).
- **IOOF** (International Order of Odd Fellows) lodges with large numbers of Danish immigrants (we know at least one was organized in Omaha, NE, but have no information about it).

Meet the Museum's Newest Scan|Design by Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation Interns



Maria Beisheim (left) was born in Charlottenlund outside Copenhagen, by the seaside overlooking the coast of Sweden. While studying for her degree in archaeology at the University of Copenhagen, she lived in a small town outside Rome for many years, working at an archaeological excavation. After returning to Copenhagen, she completed a degree in museum studies. This is her first visit to America and she is looking forward to seeing as much of the U.S. as she can before going home in January. Maria works four days at the museum and one day at the museum's Family History & Genealogy Center focusing on updating our website and social media and working on translations.

René Christiansen was born and raised in Hjørring, in the northern part of Jutland. He is working on a master's degree in history with specialization in museum work at Ålborg University. As part of the

course work, a semester as an intern is required. He has always wanted to experience America, so when he heard about the internship opportunity at The Danish Immigrant Museum he was hooked. Here he will get the opportunity to learn about museum work, to experience a whole new world at the same time, and to watch Monday Night Football live—earlier than he could in Denmark! René is assisting in the curatorial department with the installation and de-installation of exhibits and also generating on-line content through video and website applications, particularly his blog "Dana Danavang."



Does anyone have any information about these women?

Danish Immigrant Midwives (source: Danish Police Emigration Database)

Name	Born	Last Residence (Birthplace)	Immigration Yr	Destination
Christiansen, Christiane	1869/70	Østerild, Thisted	1897	New York
Møller, Emilie Stahfest.....	1864/65	Kolding (Svendborg)	1906	Spokane WA
Laursen, Serine	1834/35	Copenhagen	1893	Racine WI
Kamph, Maren Christine	1848/49	Præstø (Stubberup)	1906	New York
Aubræcht, Caroline.....	1836/37	Nakskov	1875	New York
Nielsen, Nicoline.....	1837/38	Aarup, Thisted.....	1888	New York
Hansen, Doris.....	1832/33	Copenhagen	1892	New York
Jensen, Johanne Nielsen	1839/40	Vrejlev (Ugilt).....	1904	Chicago IL
Petersen, Ane K.....	1849/50	Varde	1883	Chicago IL
Amundsen, Oline	1828/29	Norway	1872	New York
Mikkelsen, Ane K.....	1817/18	Rårup/Rærup, Vejle	1882	Rochester MN
Hansen, Anna	1847/48	Næstved.....	1883	St. Paul NE
Berthelsen, Mathilda.....	1876/77	Copenhagen	1893	Racine WI
Nielsen, Hansine	1838/39	Ulsted, Aalborg (Magleby)....	1902	Blairstown IA
Hansen, Margrethe.....	1874/75	Ringsted, Sorø	1902	St. Paul MN
Falk, Ane Cathrine.....	1836/37	Esbjerg, Ribe	1894	Boston MA
Lange, Ane Marie	1843/44	Egtved, Vejle	1889	Plumbrook NE

The story of one Danish-born midwife:

Maren Kirstine Nielsen Olesen (later Andersen)

Born 1850 in (Ørum, Thisted), Immigrated 1882/83 to Omaha & Nysted NE

Before hospitals and maternity wards were widespread, children were born at home, brought into the world by midwives. Often these were neighborhood “grannies” experienced with the birthing process, but sometimes the person on the receiving end was a professionally trained birth attendant, or *jordemoder*. In Denmark these women—often referred to as “Madam”—were allowed to hang out a shingle to advertise their craft like practitioners of other skilled trades and were respected members of the communities in which they lived.

One of several Danish *jordemødre* known to have immigrated to America in the nineteenth century was **Maren Kirstine Nielsen Olesen Andersen**, a native of Thisted County, who received a diploma from

the Department of Midwifery at the University of Copenhagen on June 30, 1879. After practicing in Denmark for three years Maren Kirstine immigrated to Omaha, where she worked for two years before being invited to settle in the heavily Danish community of Nysted, Nebraska.

Arriving there in July 1884, over the course of the following thirty-eight years she delivered 1,040 babies in Nysted and surrounding communities before her retirement in October 1922. When called out on a confinement case Maren would either drive out by horse and buggy or, when winter snows were too deep, bobsled (usually a lumber wagon converted with runners) to deliver the baby, cook the meals and care for mother and child until a hired girl or other help could be found. For over two decades her standard fee for these services was five dollars; only in 1908 was this raised to eight to ten. In 1917 her records listed her largest fee ever—thirty dollars—for delivering her own grandchild!



Danish midwife's 'shingle,' Danish National Archives

After several years in Nysted, Maren sent for her two children by a previous marriage in Denmark, Oline K. and Niels C. Olesen, who resided with her for several years. Oline married and had six children of her own, all delivered by her mother. In Nysted Maren also found a second spouse, a local farmer named Jens Andersen. They lived together until Jens' death in 1920. Maren died in 1929; both are buried in the Nysted Cemetery in Howard County, Nebraska.

From biographical material submitted by grandson Emil Andy Dwehus, Dannebrog, NE



Stamtræ Of Genealogical Interest

See the “Library & Genealogy” section of the museum webpage for a full listing of websites we find particularly useful.

- Those with Norwegian as well as Danish ancestors will want to look at <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no>, which contains scans of the original Norwegian church books (i.e., the equivalent of the Danish www.arkivalieronline.dk).
- North Dakota death records may be found online at <http://recordsproject.com/death/north-dakota.asp>. One of two types of copies of the death certificates, depending on the relationship to the deceased person, may be obtained.
- www.shipindex.org is a free listing of 140,000+ references to ships in various books, and a subscription index to over 1 million entries. Possibly a useful site for researching information on the ship your ancestor arrived on, particularly if it was early or not part of the major passenger lines that ran in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- A useful overview of naturalization legislation may be found at the following site: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa/natrec.html.
- www.FamilyTreeTemplates.net is a site for finding more than 60 tree designs for pedigree and ancestor charts, ranging from ones appropriate for children to more sophisticated designs. There are also versions for stepfamilies, adoptive families, and more. The site is part of the larger www.freeprintable.net, which has templates for all occasions.

- Former intern Julie Andersen suggested <http://ordnet.dk> as a source of meanings of Danish terms. The Danish-language site contains the *Dictionary of Modern Danish Usage*; the huge *Dictionary of the Danish Language, 1700-1950*, and *KorpusDK*, which covers colloquial usage and new language and terminology. Used in conjunction with gramtrans.com or a translation site such as Google, you might get a decent English translation of a Danish word.
- <http://stass.dk/ordbog/stillinger.asp> is a dictionary of archaic Danish occupations and titles, which could also be useful along with a translation site.
- To find out the genealogy of a particular parish, especially those in Copenhagen or other urban areas, try <http://www.denjyskekirkebog.dk/>. Divided up into Jutland (Jyske), Funen (Fynske) and Zealand (Sjællandske) sections, click on ‘Sognehistorie’ to get an alphabetical listing of parishes and when they were formed.
- The subscription database Footnote.com has changed its name and direction to www.Fold3.com. Its future focus will be on military records, although older, non-military databases will still be available on the site. Recent additions include War of 1812 pension files, Mexican War service records, and, more importantly for us: WWII “Old Man’s Draft” registration cards from 1942, which covered men between the ages of 45 and 64 to create an inventory of persons who could provide essential skills to the home front during the Second World War.

There are several video tutorials to assist researchers in using the database.

- The new URL for Danish church pictures is www.slaegtogdata.dk/kilder/kirkebilleder. The look of the webpage is different, but the results are the same.
- Searchable PDF files with indexes and biographical information on Danish lawyers between 1869 and 1919, persons receiving Danish law degrees from 1736-1936, and Danish Lutheran ministers may be found at www.rosekamp.dk.
- www.findagrave.com has over 66 million grave records, so is one general source for searching by name or cemetery location.
- www.dearphotograph.com is an interactive website which allows viewers to upload photos of old snapshots held against the background of the same setting in the present – very interesting!
- The 1885 census for Copenhagen and parts of Hellerup is now searchable at <http://ddd.dda.dk>.
- The digitizing staff at Arkivalieronline is hard at work digitizing church books up to 1960 as part of the move of the Eastern DK Provincial Archives to new quarters at the National Archives. The consolidation means that additional materials are being prepared for digitization, including the 1930 census for market towns, probate records from 1850-1919 and another set going up to 1936, the Copenhagen probate index, 1731-1970, civil marriage records for Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and Gentofte, 1936-1961, and indexes to Copenhagen insurance and tax records. These are

- anticipated to be done by the first half of 2012
- Lisa Petersen has put up an informative page on Danish Civil Registrations of Deaths (Dødsattester og Dødeblade) at www.kinquest.com. Most date from 1840-1933 and, while not online, are available on microfilm loan from Salt Lake City.
- Google Alerts will monitor almost anything on Google that you specify, by subject, type of content, and how often to alert you to something new (daily, weekly or "as it happens"). This means that one could ask for alerts for a topic such as "Danish Immigrants" or "Kinnerup family." To create your own Google Alerts, go to www.google.com/alerts.
- <http://tombstones.nesgs.org/index.php> has Nebraska tombstone images that may be searched in various ways.
- An easy way to improve your overall genealogical knowledge is through a Tip of the Day, available at <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>.

- A name index to a Danish-language website with information taken from a volume on the oldest businesses in Denmark prior to 1910 may be found at http://www.coneliand.dk/personregistersider/person_register_a.html. Here is a sample page [with translation] to show the type of information one might find:

Danmarks ældste forretninger, m.m.

Side 96

Chri - Chri

N. A. Christensen & Co.

A/S, Morsø-jernstøberi, maskinfabrik og emaillefabrik, - kgl. hofleverandør. Grundl.

d. 28. april 1853 af Niels

Andreas Christensen (f. 1830 i Stauning ved Ringkøbing, d. 1914)

N. A. Christensen

som samme år optog fabrikant W. Bonne fra Thisted som kompanion; sidstnævnte udtrådte dog allerede året efter. I 1887 optoges K. E. Messerschmidt (f. 1857, d. 1939) i forretningen som teknisk leder, senere parthaver, og i 1893 indtrådte Rasmus Aarup (f. 1867, d. 1924) som merkantil leder.

I 1897 omdannedes virksomheden til et aktieselskab med N. A. Christensen som formand i bestyrelsen og K. E. Messerschmidt og Rs. Aarup som direktører. Ved N. A. Christensens død i 1914 blev hans søn, apoteker, konsul James Watt Christensen, Stege (f. 1862, d. 1932), formand i hans sted.



I 1924 døde Rs. Aarup og hans broder, P. Aarup (f. 1874, d. 1942) indtrådte i hans sted i direktionen. I 1932 udtrådte direktør Messerschmidt, og P. Aarup var enedirektør indtil 1940, i hvilket år Laurits Møller (f. 1867, d. 1945) indtrådte i direktionen.

TRANSLATION:

Iron-works on Mors, machine-works and enameling factory; purveyor to the Royal Court. Founded April 28, 1853 by Niels Andreas Christensen (born 1830 in Stauning, near Ringkøbing, died 1914). That same year he partnered with manufacturer W. Bonne of Thisted, but the latter left the following year. In 1887 K. E. Messerschmidt (b. 1857, d. 1939) became technical head of the firm, and later, a partner, and in 1893 Rasmus Aarup (b. 1867, d. 1924) started as business head. In 1897 the firm was incorporated with N. A. Christensen as president of the board and K. E. Messerschmidt and Rs. Aarup as directors. Upon N. A. Christensen's death in 1914, his son, pharmacist and consul James Watt Christensen, of Stege (born 1862, d. 1932), was named board president in his place. In 1924 Rs. Aarup died and his brother, P. Aarup (b. 1874, d. 1942) replaced him. In 1932 director Messerschmidt left and P. Aarup was the firm's sole director until 1940, when Laurits Møller (b. 1867, d. 1945) came on board.

- The above webpage also has a link to 'Criminals in Denmark through the Ages,' so if you have one of *those* ancestors, you might look to see if his/her name is mentioned.

Wish List – Books we'd like to add to the FHGC Collection

English-language:

Holy Dane – Happy Dane: My Indomitable Grandfathers, by Avis E. Jorgensen. (ISBN 978-1-257-82509-7). Available through www.lulu.com.

My Dear, Dear Rigmor: Helga's letters written during World War II, by Joan C. Brock (978-1456868413). \$15.00 through www.amazon.com.

Lars' and Dorthe's Kith and Kin, by Sylvia D. Neilson. North Conway, NH: The Reporter Press, 1977. Out of print.

Danish language:

Straffelejren. Fårhus, landssvigerne og retsopgøret (Fårhus, traitors and their judicial reckoning), by Henrik Skov Kristensen. Available from Landsarkivet for Sønderjylland.

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