America Letter

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The Danish Immigrant Museum

AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER

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Director's Corner

by John Mark Nielsen

We've been busy at The Danish Immigrant Museum! Since our last newsletter, we have received a major gift to pursue planning for a curatorial center, we have been awarded a generous grant from a major foundation in Denmark to begin an important project documenting Danish-American history, we have surveyed you, our members, as we enter discussions with other Danish-American organizations concerning how we might more effectively work together, and we have completed a record end-of-the-year appeal. In addition to all this, we were offered the opportunity to purchase precious artifacts from the now-closed Dana College. Through a special appeal to former Dana donors, we have acquired these "Dana Treasures." This *America Letter* focuses on the closing of Dana College and a few of the valuable artifacts now a part of the Museum's collection.

Bill and Berniece Grewcock of Omaha, Nebraska have presented the Museum with a gift of $100,000 to complete studies and develop construction plans to expand the Museum's curatorial facilities. Their gift was motivated by concern that the Museum lacks adequate facilities to store artifacts and design exhibits. Mrs. Grewcock wrote in her note accompanying their gift: "We hope this [gift] inspires everyone to help quickly." Already in January, museum consultants completed studies on storage and HVAC (heating, ventilation, air-conditioning) needs for an expanded facility and these reports have been forwarded to AHTS Architects in Waterloo, Iowa.

In December, the Museum received a letter from The A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation of Copenhagen announcing that we had been awarded a major grant of $158,000 to digitize and provide global, online access to historic Danish-American archival newspaper collections. This is the foundation for the Mærsk Company – the world's largest, privately-held shipping company. The project, organized and administered by the Museum, is a partnership with the Danish American Archive and Library, the Danish Immigrant Archive – Grand View University, the Danish American Heritage Society, and the Library and Archive of the Church of Latter Day Saints. The newspapers that will be preserved are *Den Danske Pioneer* and *Bien* (both secular), *Dannevirke* and *Danskeren* (both Lutheran), and *Bikuben* (LDS).

In January, we surveyed our membership to learn what members value and what they might like to see in future publications. More than 2,000 surveys were sent out electronically or by mail. We received over 450 responses. Over 80% said that opportunity to preserve Danish heritage was very important and a major reason they were members. Of Museum benefits, our *America Letter* was listed as being most important with the articles about families ("Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations") being the favorite. If we were to partner with other publications, members wanted to learn more about current events in Denmark and news from Danish-American organizations around the country. This information will help shape our conversations with representatives of the Rebild National Park Society and the Danish American Heritage Society, two groups that have expressed interest in working more closely with our museum.

Finally, thanks to many generous donors, our annual end-of-year appeal resulted in record gifting. Over $213,000 was raised, exceeding our 2008 end-of-year appeal when the museum celebrated its 25th anniversary by over $100,000. A change from the past is that over $70,000 of this year's appeal has been restricted for investment in our endowment and to make capital improvements. I am personally grateful and I hope you too share in this sense of accomplishment. You are a part of the success!

Though we celebrate and are grateful, I know all of us realize there are challenges ahead and much work to do. I do hope, for example, that you will consider buying commemorative pavers for the Heritage Path to celebrate special events or loved ones. And, most importantly, I invite you once again to consider providing for our museum in your estate planning. These are investments that can assure our future success.

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 rent at a reduced price–and all proceeds will be donated to the 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.

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Dana College – 1884 to 2010: The Close of an Immigrant Institution

By John Mark Nielsen, executive director of The Danish Immigrant Museum

Dana College was founded in Blair, Nebraska as an educational institution serving a Danish Lutheran immigrant population in 1884. As that population assimilated, the college's mission became less clear. Additional forces outside the institution's control contributed both to the assimilation process and exerted pressures that the institution was unable to overcome. Dana College closed in 2010.

On Wednesday, June 27, 2010 an email message notified faculty and staff that Dana College was closing. Offices needed to be vacated by that Friday. Less than two months before classes were to open for the 127th academic year, Dana College students suddenly had to find another school to attend; faculty and staff were left to scramble for employment at a time when most educational institutions had already finalized their hiring for the academic year; Dana alumni across the country and Blair residents were in shock.

On July 8, Wells Fargo Bank filed papers in the District Court of Washington County, Nebraska, requesting that a receiver be appointed: Dana College was in default of bonds financed through the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority. The following Monday, the doors of the thirteen buildings on the 155-acre campus were chained and padlocked. For the last year and half, the once vibrant campus has stood empty.

What led to this dramatic action? Naturally, individuals have wanted to find blame, identifying the final college administration for ineffective fundraising, the Higher Learning Commission for not approving the transfer of Dana's accreditation to a for-profit educational corporation, and even President Obama, the Department of Education, and the U.S. Congress for scrutinizing for-profit education. There is, however, no simple answer; no single individual is responsible. Rather, multiple forces contributed to the college's close.

One of the three Copenhagen gas lamps that stood on Dana's campus.

My purpose here is to describe those forces. My reasons are many. First, I believe that the college was a significant Danish-American institution. Second, the forces that contributed to Dana's closure are ones that other Danish-American institutions – from the Danish Brotherhood in America to folk high schools to Danish-American homes

Dana's Pioneer Memorial building.

for the elderly – have faced. Third, the Danish Immigrant Museum continues to confront these forces, as do organizations like the Rebild National Park Society, *Den Danske Pioneer*, and *Bien*. Understanding the complex interplay of issues that led to the demise of Dana College may help us as we continue to shape a vision for our Museum and the other institutions that knit the Danish-American community together.

It should be noted that I am not a dispassionate bystander to Dana's story. My family, like many others, had a long history with Dana College. My parents met there; fourteen of my aunts and uncles attended; I and my four siblings graduated from Dana; I met my wife, Dawn, there; and we're proud that our youngest son, Kaj is a Dana graduate. Following graduate school, I joined the Dana faculty in 1978 and taught there for over thirty years until the college closed. My connection to Dana is deep; my perspective is not objective.

An Institution Mirroring the Times

Founded in 1884 as Trinity Seminary to train young men as pastors to serve the newly formed Danish Lutheran Church Association (DLCA), it was located in Blair, Nebraska because the railroad bridge over the Missouri River provided easy access to Danish immigrant communities in western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. Seeing an opportunity to attract prospective buyers, local land developers in Blair gave the church four lots to entice the church and its school to locate in the community. They stipulated, however, that the institution should also offer academic classes, including commercial courses.

In 1896, the DLCA merged with the Danish Evangelical Church in North America to form the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UDELC). (Later, the word "Danish" was dropped, and it was known as the UELC.) This merger also brought about the union of Trinity Seminary and what was then known as Blair College with the Elk Horn Folk High School, the first Danish folk high school, founded in Elk Horn, Iowa in 1878. Out of this union came Dana College, the name first being used in 1902.

The story of Dana College has been well documented in two histories: *The Saga of the Tower* by William Christensen published in 1959 when the college celebrated its 75th anniversary and *A Place Called Dana* by Peter Petersen published in 1984 to celebrate the college's centennial. Each makes clear that the fortunes of Dana College have mirrored the nation's economy. During times of economic depression and war, enrollment dropped and budgets were tight; when the economy flourished, the college did well. In the post-World War II era and, particularly, in the 1960s, Dana College expanded rapidly to meet the swelling demand arising from the baby boom as well as the merger of the UELC with German and Norwegian Lutheran synods to form the American Lutheran Church (ALC).

I entered Dana College in 1969 when enrollment reached 1,063, the largest the college would ever have; I graduated in 1973 in the college's largest graduating class of 170. After 1969, enrollments declined, falling to a low point of 392 – the total student population at the beginning of 1985. This drop occurred in part as the Vietnam War drew to a close and the military draft ended, but also because of changes in higher education both in the Nebraska and surrounding states.

Further, because Dana was no longer the only college of a nationwide synod, the student body became more regional. Competition for declining student populations increased. From 1985, enrollments began to climb, reaching a peak

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of 669 students in 2004. When Dana College closed, enrollment had fallen back to just over 550 students. Throughout this period of ebbing and flowing enrollment, Dana administration, faculty and staff – myself included – attempted to understand the forces at work and how to respond in order to strengthen the college.

A Danish-American Institution

One of the forces that was both a strength and a challenge for Dana College throughout its history was its identity as a Danish-American institution. Dana College had a rich Danish heritage. This was most clearly evidenced in 1976, when Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II chose Dana College to deliver her only official speech during her tour of the United States honoring the nation's bicentennial.

When she visited the campus, the Queen walked under gas lamps dating from 1857 that had been gifted to the college by the City of Copenhagen. She passed beech trees from the city of Odense, planted near where her father and mother – then Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid – had themselves planted a tree during their visit in 1939. She visited the Lauritz Melchior Collection, documenting the career of the great Danish-American tenor who sang more Wagnerian roles at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City than any other artist. (This collection was an important part of what was to become the Danish American Archive and Library, an archive containing thousands of letters, diaries and journals written by immigrants of diverse social standing.) Over the years, thousands of students, many of them the children or grandchildren of Danish immigrants, had been educated on the campus. The Queen's visit was an affirmation of Dana's Danish heritage.

That said, the challenge for Dana College, as for every institution founded by Danish immigrants, rests in part on the Danish character. Danes, even today, are incredibly skilled at assimilating. Indeed, those who study the American immigrant experience point to the Danes as the group who assimilated more quickly than any other national group: they were white, they were Anglo-Saxon, they were Protestant, and they were educated (universal education in Denmark having been adopted in 1814). Danish immigrants were literate and fit an identity that reflected the American social ideal of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

What's more, the Danes spread across the country. In few places did they reach a critical mass that might lead them to stand out or pose a threat to surrounding populations. Only in scattered rural communities like Elk Horn and Kimballton, Iowa; Dannebrog, Nebraska; Askov and Tyler, Minnesota; Luck and Milltown, Wisconsin; Kenmare, North Dakota; Dannevang, Texas; or Solvang, California would one hear Danish spoken in the streets well into the early twentieth century.

The Danish character is often described as being shaped by *Jantelovn* or the Law of Jante. Formulated by Danish-Norwegian novelist Axel Sandemose in his 1933 novel, *A Fugitive Crosses His Tracks*, it is a radically egalitarian mindset, emphasizing collective and community effort over individual accomplishment and achievement. Individuals in the community are guided by community norms and discouraged from standing out. (Indeed, Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, one of our younger board members

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II delivers the Dana commencement speech in 1976.

and a recent immigrant, spoke out forcefully about how this inhibited Danish institutions at our October 2011 board meeting.) When Danish immigrants came to this country, they looked for opportunity and how to become a part of the community in which they settled. One didn't boast about what one did; one didn't make oneself out to be better than others.

Jantelovn values influenced many who served Dana College. They made it difficult to emphasize a reputation of excellence, even when it was achieved. Likewise, I believe Jantelovn engendered a feeling both among immigrants and their offspring: why would one study at an institution that celebrated a Danish heritage when one was becoming or was American? Additionally, why would one attend a small college, in a small town environment, distant from larger metropolitan areas with little national reputation? It was more advantageous to attend an institution of greater reputation. From a pragmatic perspective, attending a state college or university made more economic sense as tuition at these institutions was often substantially lower.

An Institution Impacted by Location and Higher Education Policy Changes

Geographical location and changes in higher education contributed to the closing. Located on the border between Iowa and Nebraska, Dana College traditionally depended upon high numbers of students from both states. The 1960s saw a growth in community colleges across the country. This was also true in Nebraska and Iowa. Tuition at these institutions was less than at private, church-related colleges. In addition, the State of Iowa adopted a generous tuition assistance program for graduates of Iowa high schools who chose to remain in state as they pursued their education. While the State of Nebraska later adopted a similar program, the funding for this program was minimal; at the time Dana College closed, Nebraska ranked forty-ninth in its support for this program.

In order to attract Iowa students, Dana College had to keep its tuition below what it would cost these students to attend college in Iowa with support of the Iowa in-state tuition program, or it had to find donor dollars for scholarships to offset the difference. Finally, the college-aged population in Nebraska is not great enough to support the many post-secondary institutions in Nebraska, and the University of Nebraska system casts a long shadow across the state. Many Nebraska students found it more exciting to attend the universities in Lincoln and Omaha than in a small town like Blair.

Dana's Sights and Sounds of Christmas celebration was a treasured annual tradition.

Institutional Attempts to Adjust

Dana's Board of Regents, administration, and faculty pursued a number of strategies to counter declining enrollments. Changes were made in the curriculum, resulting in the dropping or "watering down" of signature programs. Throughout the 60s and 70s, Dana College had gained a reputation for a number of integrated multidisciplinary programs. Certainly the best known of these were the Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP) and the Humanities Program. LARP was a program where all students and faculty met once a week throughout much of the academic year to discuss books from a reading list selected by a faculty-student committee. "Humanities" was a four semester course, integrating the disciplines of history, philosophy, religion, literature, music and art. Later it was reduced to three semesters. These kinds of courses, however, are not easily transferred, nor did these courses seem valuable to students transferring into the college when they were required to enroll in them. As enrollments declined, this led to many calling for their elimination. These were replaced by discipline-oriented courses of a more traditional nature. To appeal to an adult market, the college experimented with "weekend" college and "distance learning." These experiments failed, however, from an inability to financially support them long enough to build them into

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The Dana College Classroom Center replaced Dana's Old Main which burned down in 1988.

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viable programs.

As Dana College struggled to maintain enrollments, administrations turned to consulting firms to analyze markets and provide possible directions. Surveys of potential students indicated that there was an important segment of the population that wanted to continue playing competitive sports at the college level; for the average student-athlete this would be difficult at Division I and II institutions. As a result, the college added a variety of competitive sports, including golf, bowling, lacrosse and competitive cheerleading. The addition of each sport brought additional costs for coaches and need for expanded sports facilities.

As Dana College transitioned into the twenty-first century, the administration and Board of Regents determined that expanded sports facilities were needed to remain competitive with other institutions in the Great Plains Athletic Conference of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) of which the college was a member. Additionally, residence halls needed to be upgraded. Across the country, the old style of dormitories consisting of cell like rooms for two, opening on a long central hall were being replaced at many institutions with apartment-style units.

To finance these changes, the college began a major fundraising effort, receiving important major gifts. Administration also turned to the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority, negotiating a bond issue to enable immediate construction. By 2003 the Gardner-Hawks Center was completed, housing new basketball courts, athletic offices, and an indoor track. The football field was also renovated and additional bleachers were constructed. A year later the new apartment-style residence hall opened. Expanded athletic offerings, appropriate sports facilities and a contemporary residence life hall were supposed to attract students, generating the revenue to retire the accrued debt.

Dana College also used financial incentives to attract students. As the cost of post-secondary education has increased, particularly among small private colleges, parents and students have become savvy, shopping around and playing one college off of another. When admissions representatives or coaches meet with prospective students and discuss attendance, scholarship availability is an important incentive. Parents and students often share what other colleges have offered, in essence playing one institution against another and creating a bidding war. To maintain or grow enrollments, institutions like Dana College have to offer scholarships or other financial incentives for students to attend. In the business of higher education, this is known as "tuition discounting."

A college can function when discounting its tuition by as much as 40%. Earnings from endowment and annual support from alumni and friends can make up the difference. However, during the last fifteen years of Dana College's existence, the tuition discount rate rose to and hovered at over 55%. Essentially, the college was slowly bleeding to death; this despite the hard work of the development office and generous giving by alumni and friends. Endowment earnings might have supported deficits created by tuition discounting, but Dana College never had a large endowment.

Endowments are a critical source of revenue for colleges and universities. Endowment building, however, did not mesh with UELC culture. As the only college of the UELC, the national church had covered any shortfalls that occurred at Dana College and Trinity Seminary. When there were surpluses, the funds were often applied to other missions. This reflected a pietistic tradition that "God would provide." (Some UELC members well into the twentieth century viewed even insurance with skepticism; purchasing it was an indication that one did not have faith in God.) When the UELC became a part of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in 1960, the dramatic growth in enrollments led to capital investments in building and programs rather than in endowment. If revenue from endowed funds is not available

to support scholarships, development offices at these institutions must raise this support through annual donations.

Finally, in Dana's later years, as the financial situation worsened, administration and Board of Regents turned to borrowing against the modest endowment that had been created. No one anticipated or had planned for the collapse of the financial markets in late 2008. Dana College's remaining endowment lost value. Gone was collateral used to guarantee the bonds used to finance construction; gone were potential funds that could be borrowed to underwrite tuition discounting. The story of Dana College had reached its end.

Lessons from an Institution

There are lessons from the story of Dana College for The Danish Immigrant Museum. We must have a clear and forward looking mission – one that recognizes that we focus on the lives of Danish-Americans and Danes living and working abroad today. The items we use today are the artifacts that in the future will tell the history of our time. Even as we preserve artifacts at our museum, we must use them in programming that reaches outward. And we must work closely with archives and educational institutions with similar goals. In a global community, we must be about cultivating relationships with organizations and institutions across the country and across the oceans.

We must continue to grow our endowment. Because of generous bequests we have an endowment of $2 million. But it is not enough. To substantially sustain the museum, an endowment of at least $10 million is necessary with the potential to grow the endowment to even $15 or $20 million. There is something in the Danish/Danish-American character that looks at success and concludes, "They have enough – they don't need more." The need, however, is not for "us." It is for the future.

Over the years some Dana students took part in a Danish folk dancing group--another way in which Danish heritage was alive at Dana.

We must not live or build beyond our means. Too often members ask, "When are you going to build that core exhibit building or a *forsamlingshus*?" Too often we take expansion and building to be success. If construction is not paid for or if the endowment funds do not exist to sustain the operating costs, we add debt that can be difficult to retire. It can even be fatal to the organization.

We must innovate, realizing that the successful museums of tomorrow may not look like the traditional ones we have known. We may share more of the unfolding story of migration, assimilation, and relationship virtually than we can even imagine now. Yes, there will be cherished experiences that are lost, but the visitors of tomorrow may have a sense of why and how those experiences shaped the lives we know and love.

Dana College is gone. Its history has mirrored that of so many immigrant institutions. The Museum's responsibility is to celebrate the roots of the experience that brought Dana into existence, to preserve the artifacts and archival materials that tell its story, and to anticipate and adapt to the needs of an ever-evolving future.

Highlights from the Dana Treasures

At the time Dana College closed in July 2010, the college's Board of Regents acted to enable The Danish Immigrant Museum and the Danish American Archive and Library to secure and protect selected artifacts and archival materials. All items were inventoried, and this inventory of hundreds of artifacts was provided to the receivers.

In November 2011, The Danish Immigrant Museum received a request for a proposal to buy the entire inventory. A price of $30,000 was accepted. Several weeks later, a second purchase of the Copenhagen Gas Lamps that had stood on the campus since 1959 was negotiated for $2,000, with an additional $3,000 needed to move and re-erect them on the museum grounds.

As these purchases were not a part of the 2011-12 museum budget and because Executive Director John Mark Nielsen felt that the museum's membership should not be responsible, a special appeal to "Save the Dana Treasures" was launched. Nielsen and former Dana College president Myrv Christopherson approached Dana College donors who were most generous. Since there is a special story behind the Copenhagen Gas Lamps, Nielsen, who graduated from Dana College in 1973 with a degree in English, approached another group of donors who also were very supportive.

The Danish Immigrant Museum has acquired many valuable artifacts which now become a part of the collection. Here are stories behind just a few of the "Dana Treasures."

Copenhagen Gas Lamps

In 1857, the City of Copenhagen erected gas lamps to light the streets through the long winter nights. A hundred years later, some of these lamps were being replaced with electric street lights. Learning of this, Dana College professor Norman C. Bansen wrote to the Lord Mayor suggesting that some of these antique lamps be given to the college to celebrate its 75th anniversary in 1959.

Copenhagen responded generously, gifting four gas lamps. One was damaged beyond repair during the trans-Atlantic voyage, but three stood along the sidewalk on the Dana College campus between Old Main and Pioneer Memorial. Prior to 1988 two of them were electrified and placed on the Korshoj Terrace in front of the newly finished Durham Classroom Center that replaced Old Main after it burned down in 1988.

Professor Norman Bansen served as chairman of the English Department at Dana College from 1958 to 1986. He was also the individual who, along with Thorvald Hansen of Grand View University, suggested the creation of The Danish Immigrant Museum. Both of them were charter members of the museum's Board of Directors. To honor the memory of Professor Bansen, Dana College English graduates donated the funds to purchase the Copenhagen gas lamps and to erect them on the sidewalk leading up to the museum. We would like to think that Hans Christian Andersen, who died in 1875, walked under the very lamps that now stand proudly in Elk Horn, Iowa.

Christmas Plates

Royal Copenhagen has been creating porcelain since 1777 when it opened its manufactory in a converted post office. For the first 91 years of business, the company was run by the Royal Family and created the royal dining sets. The company became privately owned in 1868. In 1987, Royal Copenhagen merged with the other major Danish porcelain producer, Bing & Grøndahl, and the union continues to be known as Royal Copenhagen. In 1908, the first Royal Copenhagen Christmas plate was released and titled "Mary With Child."

The Danish Immigrant Museum has nearly complete sets of both the Royal Copenhagen and Bing & Grøndahl Christmas plates, thanks largely to the generosity of donors and, most recently, the purchase of collections from Dana College.

"Scouting The Desert," By Olaf Wieghorst

Olaf Wieghorst is widely recognized for his paintings of Western genre, Native Americans, cowboys, and horses. Born in Viborg, Denmark in 1899, Wieghorst learned horseback acrobatics at a young age and even trained as a stunt rider for the Danish Circus at Tivoli in Copenhagen. His experiences with horses continued after he immigrated to the United States in 1918, specifically as a member of the U.S. Cavalry, as a cowboy in New Mexico and Arizona, and as a New York City mounted policeman.

In 1944, Wieghorst and his wife and son moved to El Cajon, California, where he furthered his work, focusing more on horses and cowboys. His technique, while self-taught, was especially realistic. Throughout his life, he continued to keep horses both for pleasure and as modeling subjects for paintings. Before he died in 1988, Wieghorst had created about 3,000 paintings and sculptures.

Unknown Title, By O.C. Seltzer

Olaf Carl Seltzer, born in 1877 in Copenhagen, began to study art at the Danish Art School and Polytechnic Institute at the age of 12. A few years later, following the death of his father, Seltzer immigrated to the United States with his mother, settling in Great Falls, Montana. This location, and his introduction to and later collaboration with fellow painter Charles Russell, would spark Seltzer's interest in the Western themes so prevalent in his work. Seltzer took jobs as a rancher and cowboy before being hired to work on the railroad. In 1921, due to the post-war economy, Seltzer lost his railroad job and became a fulltime painter.

Much of Seltzer's knowledge of technique came from practice and his studies of books. His earliest paintings date from 1897. By 1930, Seltzer was recognized as a leading Western artist, leading to a commission by Dr. Phillip Cole of Great Falls for 100 works that told the history of Montana. His eyesight was failing later in his career and he had to use a magnifying glass to complete the commission. Seltzer died in 1957 after amassing a collection of more than 2,500 pieces. His work is recognized for its bold lines, natural use of color, and accurate portrayals of the human figure.

Chinese Chair By Hans Wegner

Hans Wegner (1914-2007) was one of the leading designers of Danish furniture throughout the twentieth century. Drawing on his training in traditional cabinetmaking, his work often displays an appreciation for historical forms, re-interpreted to their essential lines. In his Chinese Chair, first designed in 1943, Wegner borrowed the round-back style that can be found in historical Chinese furniture, along with the center back splat and the subtly ornamented front apron under the seat cushion.

This particular example of the Chinese Chair was specially commissioned as a presentation gift from Queen Margrethe to Dana College during her 1976 visit to the United States. In honor of the American bicentennial, this particular chair was built using American walnut. The Queen's visit coincided with Dana College's commencement weekend, during which she delivered the commencement address.

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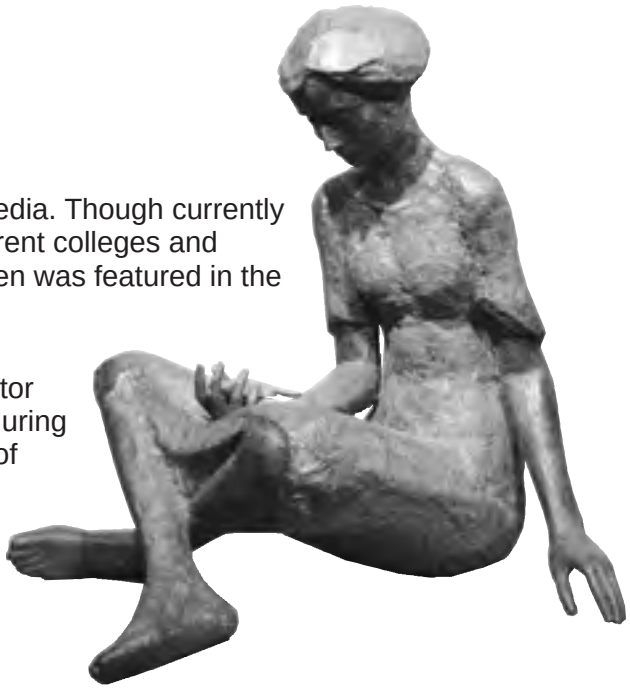

Seated Woman With Bird By Elmer Petersen

Elmer Petersen is a Danish-American sculptor specializing in metal media. Though currently based in southwest Wisconsin, his career has taken him to many different colleges and universities as a faculty member and artist-in-residence. Elmer Petersen was featured in the museum's Danish-American Artist Series with a retrospective exhibit in 2007.

An alumnus of Dana College, Petersen returned to Dana as an instructor during 1962-63. The work "Seated Woman with Bird" was completed during that year as a commission from members of the Neve family in honor of their parents, Pastor A.V. Neve and Dora Larsen Neve.

Christian IV Bible

The English-speaking world is familiar with the King James Bible – the first widely-available English translation of the Bible, first printed in 1611. In Denmark, a complete Danish-language bible was commissioned by King Christian IV (brother-in-law to King James of England) and was published in 1633. Woodcut illustrations depict scenes throughout the Old Testament books, though New Testament illustrations are limited to one woodcut for each of the four gospel writers; no illustrations depict scenes from the lives of Jesus or the Apostles.

According to the inscription inside the front cover, this copy of the Christian IV Bible was purchased by a Danish physician as a gift to his wife in 1664. The bible was obviously treasured by its owners, enough to carry it with them when they immigrated to the United States (no small commitment since the bible is 16 inches tall, 11 inches wide, and 6 inches thick). Bible scholars estimate that only 200 copies of the Christian IV Bible survive.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is deeply grateful to the individuals whose donations help preserve the artifacts and archival materials that tell Dana's story. A complete listing of these who contributed can be found in the Annual Report on page 34.

Collections Department welcomes Danish intern

Karen Brøcker, current Danish intern at The Danish Immigrant Museum, arrived in Elk Horn in early February to begin her five-month position in the Collections Department. Karen, a 2011 graduate of Aarhus University, has a bachelor's degree in linguistics. This field of study complements the work she will be doing during her internship which is cataloging a primarily archival collection of more than 800 pieces in the Danish, English, and Japanese languages.

Last summer, the museum received a large donation documenting the life of Annelise Clement Stoaks and her parents Aage and Magda Clement. Aage and Magda, Danish citizens, each went to work in Japan just before the beginning of World War II. The couple met and married in Japan and their only child Annelise was born there. During the War, Aage was arrested and interred for two and a half months before being downgraded to house arrest. Following the War and Aage's release, the family immigrated to the United States to settle in Tacoma, Washington. Immigration papers, letters, documents relating to Aage's internment and release, and postcards collected on travels comprise this collection. Additional context to the story comes from photographs showing the family in Japan and the United States, Aage's briefcase, and Annelise's childhood doll.

Annelise Clement Stoakes (center) with her parents Aage and Magda Clement, who met and married while working in Japan just before World War II.

Karen's primary task is to arrange this collection chronologically by topic and then catalog it. Because much of the collection is in Danish, Karen's language skills are invaluable. The process involves translating the many pages of documents and letters and summarizing the contents within the corresponding catalog records. In addition to the story that the collection tells, Karen will also work directly with the donor and other sources related to the family in order to obtain further details about the lives of Aage, Magda, and Annelise.

Because of the nature of the position, Karen was drawn to an internship in Elk Horn. She enjoys the collection and is also excited to experience the workings of a cultural institution firsthand. More importantly, she looks forward to studying how Danish culture is maintained and practiced by Danish immigrants and their descendants. She has a specific interest in how being in the United States affected immigrants' use of language and what part the Danish language plays today in the lives of their descendants.

Once Karen finishes her internship, she will return to Denmark to continue her studies in linguistics. The museum's Danish internship program is made possible by a grant from the scan|design foundation BY INGER & JENS BRUUN of Seattle, Washington.

Celebrating Jens Jensen – Inside, Outside, and On the Road!

This year The Danish Immigrant Museum will be exploring the life, career, and ongoing legacy of landscape architect Jens Jensen (1860-1951). Beginning this spring, the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park will start to take shape on the museum's 30-acre property. Inside the museum galleries, the exhibition "Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie" will introduce Jens Jensen as a pioneer of landscape design in America, an advocate for using native plants in parks and gardens, and a passionate believer in the power of nature to inspire human creativity. Throughout the year, guest speakers will present different aspects of Jensen's legacy in events at the museum, in Omaha and throughout Iowa.

Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park

Museum members will already be familiar with the plans to transform the museum grounds into a landscaped prairie environment, inspired by the philosophy and signature design elements of Jens Jensen. Thanks to major funding from Iowa Great Places, the Iowa West Foundation, the Shelby County Community Foundation, Prairie Meadows, and many private donors, the museum is ready to implement the creation of the park through the spring and summer of 2012. At different times through the year, museum visitors can expect to see excavation and re-grading of the site, seeding of native grasses and wildflowers, planting beds of more established plants and trees, and the construction of a stone council ring (a seating circle found in many Jensen designs).

By the end of this growing season, seeds will have started to send roots deep into the earth. In fact, most of the growing this first year will be underground, as native grasses and flowers establish themselves. Over the next two to three years, the prairie plants will mature above ground as well and develop a healthy prairie ecosystem. Walking trails through the park will provide visitors a chance to enjoy it up close.

Jens Jensen: Celebrating The Native Prairie

The museum galleries will feature a special exhibition to introduce Jens Jensen's life and career. On view March 24, 2012 through March 3, 2013, photographs and drawings will illustrate Jensen's design ideas and the evolution of his landscapes over the past several decades. His own words from his book *Siftings* preserve Jensen's voice when describing experiences and philosophies developed over a career of working with the land. A traveling version of the exhibition will be available for groups across the United States who wish to share Jensen's story with their community. Support for both gallery and traveling versions comes from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Jensen's work in Chicago's Humboldt Park featured a "prairie river" that created a natural-looking space in contrast with the surrounding urban environment. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Park District Special Collections.

From the Development Department

Join Us for Grundlovsfest in New York!

Each year, two of the three meetings of The Danish Immigrant Museum Board of Directors are held at off-site locations around the country, while the annual meeting in October is always held in Elk Horn. The February and June meetings move around the U.S., giving us an opportunity to mingle with Danish-American groups and individuals interested in Danish culture and heritage throughout the country. In the last few years, we have met in Tucson, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, and Brea, California. This June, we are looking forward to our meeting in New York City!

The New York meeting will be extra special as we are cooperating with the Danish Home at Croton-On-Hudson in conjunction with the Home's annual Grundlovsfest celebration on June 10. Board member Erik Andersen is the Home's executive director. The Danish Home has a long and distinguished history of serving Danish-Americans and their elderly family members. It is a beautiful setting about thirty minutes north of Manhattan in a historic facility surrounded by a beautiful park. If you live in the New York area, or would like to visit New York this spring, we hope you will join us!

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

Share the celebration of Danish heritage with family and friends

Gift Memberships are now:

$25 for **"NEW"** museum members

All members receive:

- **Free** Admission to the Museum
- **Free** Admission to Family History & Genealogy Center and Bedstemor's House
- **Reduced** translation and research fees from the Family History & Genealogy Center
- **10% Discount** on most Museum Shop purchases
- **Free** *America Letter* newsletter
- **Free** Annual Report
- **Free** E-Newsletter
- **Free** or Discounted prices to museum-sponsored events

A new member is defined as any individual or household who has not been a member in the past three years. Your active membership helps support and fund activities sponsored by the museum.

Our Mission – *The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.*

New Members October 24, 2011 - February 24, 2012

The Danish Immigrant Museum 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.

Brenda Accola, W Melbourne, FL
Andrew & Susan Andersen, Tampa, FL
Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-On-Hudson, NY
Keith & Paula Anderson, Gaylord, MN
Norm & Sonya Anderson, Phoenix, AZ
Jack & Lois Beal, Bothell, WA
Jim & Linda Bertelsen, Arlington Heights, IL
Larry & Lois Bornemeier, Danbury, CT
Timothy & Lucille Brown, Blair, NE
Marcia Cameron, Elgin, IL
Candice, Chamberlin, Kearney, NE
Aron Christensen, Portland, OR
Daniel & Diane Christensen, West Des Moines, IA
Philip & Sally Clausen, Roland, IA
Willa Cleary, Arlington, VA
Robert & Kristine Coffey, Blair, NE
Kay Cota, Sgt. Bluff, IA
Country Landscapes, Inc., Ames, IA
Myron & Mariann Cram, Corwith, IA
Danish Ladies Aid, Faith Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, OR
Kent Day, Omaha, NE
Anna Duncan, Flandreau, SD
Anonymous
Ted & Vicki Ellis, Emmetsburg, IA
Anne Eppley, Omaha, NE
Ellen Fisher, Fox Lake, WI
Janet Francis, Lincoln, NE
Albert Girtz, Mankato, MN
Julie Goertzen, Bradshaw, NE
Robert Granvin, Minneapolis, MN
Thomas Hansen, Waterloo, IA
Wayne Hansen Real Estate, LLC, Elk Horn, IA
Glen Haselbarth, Minden, NE
Joy Heckman, Johnston, IA
Mary Henneman, Boardman, OH
Joel & Margot Hermann, Friedeburg, Denmark
Justin & Tracy Howland, Redding, CA
Gaylin & Marcia Huey, Audubon, IA
Daniel & Mary Beth Hunt, Blair, NE
Bob & Nita Jacobsen, Honolulu, HI
Jim & Ruth Jacobsen, St. Paul, NE
Lavonne Jacobsen, San Francisco, CA
Shane Jacobsen, Park City, NV
Hannelore Jasa, Omaha, NE
Verner Jensen, Darien, CT
Betty Johansen, Algona, IA
Brook Laci Johnson, Denver, CO
Joyce Johnson, Spring Hill, KS
Carl & Mary Kantner, Arvada, CO
Leo Kirchhoff, Chico, CA
David Kjeldgaard, Omaha, NE
Michael Newell & Barbara Knapp, Urbandale, IA
Marie Knudsen, Hamilton, OH
Mogens Knudsen, Omaha, NE
Susan Kotecki, Des Moines, IA
Paul & Lois Ann Kuska, Fairmont, NE
Mary Beth Lake, Eden Prairie, MN
Carol Larsen, Chicago, IL
Gail Laursen, Lincoln, NE
John & Patty Lentfer, Geneva, NE
Thomas & Janice Lippincott, Blair, NE
LPB, Inc. (Lars Boerre), Earlham, IA
Larry & Doris Lubbert, Decorah, IA
Bruce & Linda Magelky, Houston, TX
Barbara McConnell, Fort Collins, CO
Gaylord & Judy Mickelsen, Jr., Mesquite, NV
Roger & Marilyn Moller, Lakeville, MN
Judith Morris, Winchester, MA
Donna Nelson, Blair, NE
David Nielsen, Winfield, KS
Peter & Faith Nielsen, Naples, FL
Simon Nielsen, Ames, IA
Ernst Niemann, Omaha, NE
Clayton & Lila Nietfeld, Greeley, CO
Dennis Norgaard, Harlan, IA
Arlyce Olsen, Missouri Valley, IA
James & Susan Olsen, Blair, NE
Donna Olson, Kimballton, IA
Marianne Olson, Des Moines, IA
Pamela Oviatt, Logan, IA
Ole & Mitra Pedersen, Pacific Grove, CA
Everitt & Theresea Petersen, Marion, IA
Richard & Beverly Petersen, Sioux Falls, SD
Juel Pierce, Saint Joseph, MO
Joseph Price, Omaha, NE
Robert & Darlene Rademacher, Lincoln, NE
James & Suzanne Rasmussen, Burlington Junction, MO
Jeffery & Beverly Rockwell, Missouri Valley, IA
Earl & Constance Rogers, Omaha, NE
Douglas & Barbara Rossbach, Humboldt, IA
James & Mary Ruden, Littleton, CO
Cecilia Ruley, Lincoln, NE
Paul Schneider, Omaha, NE
Linda Scholz, Omaha, NE
Linda Scranton, Norfolk, NE
Preben & Lene Sepstrup, Malling, Denmark
Roger & Sharon Sorensen, Corning, IA
Kenneth & Ruth Stoner, Lawrence, KS
Mark & Terri Summey, Emporia, KS
The Vault Antiques (David & Rashelle Thompson), Walnut, IA
Paul Thisted, Evergreen, CO
Tina Trent, Chandler, AZ
Philip Vasby, Cambridge, WI
Charles & Norma Wilson, Red Oak, IA
Yah-Whooo Organic, (Kurt Rasmussen), Vacaville, CA
John & Kristin Yeske, Alton, IA

In Honor October 24, 2011 - February 17, 2012

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

Family History & Genealogy Center's fantastic, professional and enthusiastic performance
Ken Gregersen's 80th birthday
Alvina Hjortsvang's birthday and in appreciation of her Danish heritage and the enthusiasm with which she shares it!
Carol Hubert (Lois Bornemeier's sister)
Jim & Marge Iversen
Tasha, Tonya & Brian, Garey & Sherry Knudsen's children
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Layton of Edina, MN
John Mark Nielsen
John Mark Nielsen, "For all you've done for The Danish Immigrant Museum!"
Benedikte Ehlers Olesen's fundraising dinner
Rebild's Centennial in 2012 in Chicago
Margaret Rodenburg's brother, John, and sister, Eleanor
Burdette & Nancella Thomsen's 60th Wedding Anniversary (11/2/1951)
Lis L. Trent's 70th birthday

Thank You Businesses and Organizations

October 24, 2011 – February 17, 2012

These businesses and organizations have contributed annual memberships of $100 or more. 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
Audubon Family Chiropractic (Douglas & Nichole Olsen), Audubon, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc., Carroll, IA
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls area, IA
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lenexa, KS
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 Centennial 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, Littleton, 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
Wayne Hansen Real Estate, LLC, Elk Horn, IA
Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA
Heartland District of the Danish Sisterhood of America, Johnston, IA
Heartland District of the Danish Brotherhood in America, Des Moines, IA
Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA
House of Denmark, San Diego, CA
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, Monrovia, CA
LPB, Inc. (Lars Boerre), Earlham, IA
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
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
The Vault Antiques (David & Rashelle Thompson), Walnut, IA
Yah-Whooo Organic Garden (Kurt Rasmussen), Vacaville, CA

New Additions to the Wall of Honor

October 24, 2011 – February 17, 2012

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.

CARL A. BANG (1865) Fremont, NE – Alan V. & Lorene Thomsen, Fremont, NE

BENDIX NIELSEN BROWN & IDA SOPHIE NIELSEN BROWN (1883 & 1886) Cedar Falls, IA - Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO

CHRIS CHRISTENSEN (1926) Cedar Falls, IA – Daniel & Diane Christensen, West Des Moines, IA

PETER CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSEN (1926) Cedar Falls, IA – Daniel & Diane Christensen, West Des Moines, IA

ANE KIRSTINE (JENSEN) CHRISTIANSEN (1869) Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA – Christiansen Cousins: Carolyn Christiansen, Johnston, IA, Donald Christiansen & Mercedes Martin, Carlsbad, CA, Gene & Karon Christiansen, Persia, IA, Gail Christiansen, Portsmouth, IA, Jeannette & Scott Haasarud, Phoenix, AZ, Wanda & Ralph Peterson, Surprise, AZ, Kathryn Hanson, Mankato, MN, and Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ

CHRISTEN OLE CHRISTIANSEN (1869) Council Bluffs, IA – Christiansen Cousins: Carolyn Christiansen, Johnston, IA, Donald Christiansen & Mercedes Martin, Carlsbad, CA, Gene & Karon Christiansen, Persia, IA, Gail Christiansen, Portsmouth, IA, Jeannette & Scott Haasarud, Phoenix, AZ, Wanda & Ralph Peterson, Surprise, AZ, Kathryn Hanson, Mankato, MN, and Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ

CHRISTIAN CHRISTIANSEN (1869) Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA – Christiansen Cousins: Carolyn Christiansen, Johnston, IA, Donald Christiansen & Mercedes Martin, Carlsbad, CA, Gene & Karon Christiansen, Persia, IA, Gail Christiansen, Portsmouth, IA, Jeannette & Scott Haasarud, Phoenix, AZ, Wanda & Ralph Peterson, Surprise, AZ, Kathryn Hanson, Mankato, MN, and Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ

JAMES P. "JIM" CHRISTIANSEN (1869) Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA – Christiansen Cousins: Carolyn Christiansen, Johnston, IA, Donald Christiansen & Mercedes Martin, Carlsbad, CA, Gene & Karon Christiansen, Persia, IA, Gail Christiansen, Portsmouth, IA, Jeannette & Scott Haasarud, Phoenix, AZ, Wanda & Ralph Peterson, Surprise, AZ, Kathryn Hanson, Mankato, MN, and Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ

NIELS ANDERSEN HANSEN (1880) Kimballton, IA – Dallas Hansen, Kimballton, IA

ANTON (NIELSEN) NELSON (1890) Meckling, Clay County, SD – Louis & Elaine Bredesky, Des Moines, IA

HANSINE NIELSEN NELSON (1903) Meckling, Clay County, SD – Louis & Elaine Bredesky, Des Moines, IA

HANS JORGENSEN SCOTT (1908) Greenfield, SD – Kay M. Cota, Sgt. Bluffs, IA

ANDERS LARSEN & DOROTHEA MARIE SORENSON (1880 & 1885) Blair, NE – Anna Bates, Orem, UT

KAREN HANSEN SORENSEN (1912) Vermillion, SD – Louis & Elaine Bredesky, Des Moines, IA

NIELS SORENSEN (1900) Vermillion, SD – Louis & Elaine Bredesky, Des Moines, IA

Memorials October 24, 2011 – February 17, 2012

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

Henning C. Andersen
Norman Bansen
Charlie Brehm
Manville I. Bro
Hjalmar & Anna Christensen
Merrill & Gertrude Christiansen
Knud Dyby
Ole Ebbesen
Melvin & Wilfred Eskov
William Esbeck, Elk Horn, IA
Albert H. L. Eve
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Allen Carsten Fugl
Arnie Grau
Harvey H. Greve
Janice Madsen Grindle, Groveland, FL
Vesta N. Hansen
Hans & Mary Hanson, great grandparents
Harold Hanson, grandfather
Marilyn (Petersen) Heckman
Tom Henningsen
Carol Larsen Horton
Verner Jensen
Harold Jespersen
Børge, Claus Peter, and Casper Oliver Jessen
Kenneth & Verna Mae Jessen
Verna Mae Jessen
JoAnne D. Johnson
Leonard & Clara Johnson
Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen
Virginia Jorgensen
Ove Kilgren
Marjorie Christiansen King
Andrew Klitgaard
Richard Larsen
Paul Laursen, my husband
Dorothea Laursen
Eivind Lillehoj
Arne D. Madsen
Harold & Lenora Madsen
Pastor & Mrs. C.C. Mengers
Earl & Helga Mikkelsen
Bertha Molgaard
Ole Møllgaard, Aalborg, DK
John & Ruth Nelson, Racine, WI
Paul & Lela Neve
Beulah Nielsen
Edith Nielsen
Verna Nielsen, loving sister and devoted member of The Danish Immigrant Museum
Eric & Joan Norgaard
Mrs. Lois Alberta Olsen
Lone Hindsgaul Paxton
Harriet Pedersen
Leroy Pedersen
Paul D. Pedersen
Bill Petersen
Olga Petersen, my grandmother from Copenhagen
Richard W. Peterson, my husband
Delbert Rasmussen
Hans Christian Rasmussen
Mr. Rasmussen of Denmark (brother of Anna Pedersen)
Virginia Rasmussen
Sylvia Rattenborg
Arlene Rockwell
Betty Hoegh Schukei
Helen Christensen Shahan
Fred & Helga Sorensen
Elie Steffensen
Poul & Elie Steffensen
Robert M. Swanson
Miller Sweningsen
Thyra Valade
Manuella Warner, my mother from Copenhagen
Norma Valborg Jensen Wegwart

Help Us Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of The Danish Emigration Archives!

By Marianne Sletten Paasch, project member at The Danish Emigration Archives and former intern at The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn.

Eighty years ago on July 3, 1932, prominent Danes and Danish-Americans gathered in the park in front of the beautiful nineteenth century manor Sohngaardsholm in Aalborg, Denmark. Among the many festive participants were the renowned Danish Prime Minister, Th. Stauning, the mayor of the city of Aalborg, Marinus Jørgensen, and the founder, Dr. Max Henius. The occasion was the long anticipated opening of the Danish Emigration Archives, which on this day officially started its work of gathering historical material about the Danes who had left Denmark through the years to begin a new life in another part of the world.

Today – 80 years later – The Danish Emigration Archives is by no means feeling the pressure of age. Actually, it is quite the opposite! The archive is currently being thoroughly updated as part of the project, Digital Migration. This project will make The Danish Emigration Archives the first archive in Denmark with a fully digitized collection, which will be available online and pave the way for an entirely new approach to working with the archive's collection.

Consequently, July 3, 2012 will be a big day for The Danish Emigration Archives – as we will not only be celebrating our eightieth anniversary but also officially launching project Digital Migration.

We are very proud to invite everyone on a journey back to the beginnings of the archive – and at the same time also on a journey into its exciting future. The celebrations will take place in the park in front of Sohngaardsholm Manor – where it all began – with guest speakers, song and a presentation of project Digital Migration and the many new possibilities the future holds.

On the day of our anniversary we are also celebrating the people who have helped create it. The huge amount of work that archivists, employees, volunteers, Danish emigrants and many more have put into the founding and the continuation of the Danish Emigration Archives during the past eighty years have led to the creation of the largest collection of emigrant records in Denmark. Today the collection reflects the many different fates and motives for emigration; it ranges from the anonymous Dane who traveled to the U.S. to make a better life for himself, to the soldier stationed in far off regions of Africa, to the explorer on the North Pole as well as the missionary in Canada. In other words, the collection provides unique insight into the meetings between Danish culture and others around the world through a period of almost 200 years.

We hope you will join us for the festivities and help make the anniversary a new beginning for The Danish Emigration Archives – and a celebration of old as well as new friends of the archive. The preparations for this big day are well underway and, though we will not reveal the entire program just yet, we can promise you that it will be a festive afternoon with entertainment and fun surprises.

We look forward to seeing you at Sohngaardsholm Manor in Aalborg on July 3, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.!

For more information please contact The Danish Emigration Archives: +45 99 31 42 20 or email emiarch@emiarch.dk

FOLKEHØJSKOLEN Danish Folk Schools: Then and Now

By Erik Bruun, Gitte Mohr, and Ed Anderson

Today folk schools are found in many countries and in many manifestations, but the concept originated in Denmark in the 1840s, the brain child of N.F.S. Grundtvig. Inspired by the ideas that were sparking changes in governments across the Western world, Grundtvig set out to create a school for the people, *folket*. The folk school would stand in contrast to the academic high school, *Latin Skolen*, which was geared towards educating the elite. Grundtvig recognized that a broad-based education of the population was a prerequisite for a healthy democracy.

Unlike the prevailing pedagogical model of the day that focused on classical education and functioned through rote learning, repetition, and testing, the folk school did not have a narrowly defined educational objective. There were a great variety of classes: literature, history, religion, social skills needed to function in the world, gymnastics, and art. However, there was no testing and no formal diploma. It was a school where students learned from each other, learned to live, and to recognize that life could be rich with many opportunities.

The folk schools were private schools, mostly in the countryside and primarily geared to the rural population, who had very few other educational options after primary school ended at age twelve.

Many Danish emigrants to America came from the rural population and they established folk schools in eight places across North America. As the American public school system expanded, the need for additional educational opportunities for children and young people declined. During the 1920s the Danish American folk schools started to close for lack of students. Some buildings were converted to other uses and some were torn down.

Some folk schools still carry on in different forms. One folk school, **Danebod Folk School** in Tyler, Minnesota, has been recast as a family camp. Since 1949, Danebod has been home to three, one-week family camps each summer. The family camps are run on the same principles that guided the Danish Folk Schools. They are very popular and attract more than four-hundred people every year from all over the nation, though most participants are from the Midwest.

Another folk school, **The Solvang Folk School**, evolved significantly over the years. Solvang Folk School was founded in 1911 when three Danish immigrants bought 10,000 acres of prime land in the Santa Ynez Valley in California to start a new community for Danish Immigrants with farms, homes, a school and a church. The founders wanted to attract settlers to buy the land so they agreed to start a "college" as an attraction. This college opened as the Solvang Youth School with twenty-one students in a primitive building with additional tents.

The school also served as a Danish language church and center of town activities. By 1914 donations of land, money and local labor resulted in the construction of a new building, which included classrooms and residences for the students and staff and classrooms. The new facility was called Atterdag College and became the heart and soul of Solvang. In addition to the folk school, Atterdag served as a community meeting hall, arts venue, gymnastics center and a summer school. Bethania Lutheran Church used Atterdag as a home until they built a new church building in 1928.

The First World War slowed immigration from Denmark, the expansion of public school education reduced demand and the impact of the Great Depression all reduced Atterdag's annual enrollment and the school closed in 1936. The buildings were used for summer vacation school and a conference center until 1951. Atterdag College was converted to an old people's home and served that role until it was replaced in 1970 with a new retirement home. The Solvang Folk School tradition continues today as the Farstrup-Mortensen lectures series sponsored each February by the Bethania Lutheran Church in Solvang, California.

A new Folk School is currently in the planning stages at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis. The facility, a former retirement home, has rooms for up to 26 participants and overlooks the picturesque Mississippi River. The first Folk School session, scheduled for September 2012, will feature watercolor and woodcarving classes, folk dance instruction, singing, lectures, and field trips to area museums and attractions, and will cater mostly to older adults. Watch for more information on the website www.dac.mn.

SAVE THE DATE:

2012 66th Annual Danebod Folk Meeting

Danebod Campus, Tyler, MN

August 15-19, 2012

Contact Ricke Bly at r.bly@mchsi.com or call the Danebod Church, 507-247-3000 to be included in the registration materials mailing.

Stamtræ –
Danish Roots, American Branches
News from the Museum's Family History & Genealogy Center

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

Verifying the Origins of Fred Johnson aka Fritz Jensen

One of the frustrations of Danish immigrant research is that many immigrants changed their names when putting down roots in America or used various names at different times, making it difficult to determine what their original Danish names were. Sometimes the changes are small and/or obvious; in other cases they are not so clear-cut. In either case, researchers must find and analyze whatever clues they can find in various documents in order to determine their immigrant's original name.

According to family information *Frederick Goldman "Fred" Johnson* emigrated from Denmark to Wisconsin around 1870, settling in the Mt. Pleasant area of Racine County, Wisconsin, prior to 1888. His Danish name was thought to have been *Fritz Jensen* and his origins in the Aalborg area, possibly Mou parish. Family stories reported that he had been born to a domestic servant and a wealthy Jew named Guldmann from whom he had received his middle name. His birth date of September 13, 1849 came from a family Bible, now in the possession of an unknown person.

Fred Johnson was known to have married three times: 1) about 1874 to *Christine -?-*; 2) before 1888 to *Christine Marie Thorsen* (later determined to be "Thomsen"), who died in 1892; and in 1894 to a Swedish immigrant, *Inga Ingemansen Johnson*. Part of the documentation of this last marriage record gave Fred's parents' names as *Mads P. and Ocilia/Cecilia -?- Johnson*. His ten children by these wives were Mary (birth year unknown), Emma (1873), Anna Elizabeth (1877), Carl Wm. (1878), Fred Goldman (1879), Alfred Walter (1881), Jessie and Jossie (1884), Celia Marie (1888) and Helen (1889).

U.S. Records: If Fred indeed immigrated in the late 1860s he should be listed in the federal censuses from 1870 to 1930 (he died in 1931). The censuses from 1900 to 1930 were consistent as to his name, but varied somewhat with respect to his year of birth and when he came to the U.S. Key pieces of information gleaned were that his first marriage may have taken place as early as 1872/73 and that he was naturalized between 1900 and 1920, likely around 1915.

Census year	Name	Age	Date of arrival	Notes
1900...	Fred Johnson	49 (born Sept. 1850)...	1868...	Married, but living alone; 1st papers
1910...	Fred Johnson	61 (b. c1849).....	1869...	Reports being in 2nd marriage; naturalized
1920...	Fread [sic] Johnson...	72 (b. c1848).....	1870...	Naturalized in 1915
1930...	Fred Johnson	82 (b. c1848).....	1860...	Mar. 1st time at age 24 (i.e., ca. 1872/73)

Given the birth dates of his children, Fred should have appeared in the 1880 census as a married man or widower. In that year there were no Fritz Jensen/Jensons in Racine County, but two Frederick Johnsons were enumerated, one living in Mt. Pleasant Township:

Frederick Johnson, 38 (b. c1842 in DK to Danish-born parents), works in machine shop

"Mrs. Johnson," wife, 35 (b. c1845 in DK to Danish-born parents)

Emma Johnson, daughter, 6, born in WI

Annie Johnson, daughter, 4, born in WI

Peter Rasmussen, father-in-law, 60, born in Denmark to Danish-born parents.

The names and ages of the two children in the household, plus the location of the family in the township where Fred Johnson was known to be living from 1900 on meant that this household deserved a closer look and suggested that perhaps this and a subsequent marriage might have taken place in Racine County.

The marriage of **Fritz Jensen** to **Larine C.** [later determined to be Larsine Christine] Rasmussen in Racine County on 9 July 1871 found in a pre-1907 Wisconsin marriage index on Ancestry.com appeared to relate to this couple. Since Wisconsin marriage applications list parents from a very early date, this record and that for a second marriage should list names of parents. The

application for the July 1871 marriage reported that Fritz Jensen's parents were named *Jens Rasmussen* and *Osillie Marie Rasmussen*. Osillie/Ocilia is an extremely uncommon female name, so there was little doubt that this was Fred's first marriage. His May 5, 1885 marriage record to Johanne M. C. Thomsen subsequently listed his parents as *Jens Rasmussen* and *Marie O. Jensen*.

If Fred immigrated between 1868 and early 1870 he should be listed in the 1870 census, most likely as a single man. Two Danish-born possibilities were found in Racine County. They are:

1. 3rd ward Racine: **Fred Johnson**, 28 (b. ca1842), works in wagon shop, citizen of U.S. eligible to vote.
2. Waterford Twp.: **Frederick Johnson**, 22 (b. ca1848), wagon maker, citizen of U.S. eligible to vote.

The first enumeration was made on 28 June 1870, the second on 6 July. The occupation of both men is the same, so it is unclear whether or not they are the same person residing in two different places on different dates, but with different ages supplied (bear in mind that we can't know who provided the information to the census-taker). The citizenship status suggests that the man/men served in the Civil War and thereby acquired citizenship; if this is the case, then neither could be the FJ who supposedly arrived in the late 1860s. The age of the first entry corresponds with the man found in Mt. Pleasant Twp. in 1880 and his occupation is somewhat similar, but the age of the second entry corresponds more closely with information provided by his descendants.

Immigration: The Danish Emigration Index was searched for a Fritz/Frederik Jensen arriving between 1868 – when the database commences – and 1870. Only one possible entry was found, that of a 20-year-old *landmand*, or farmer, named Fritz Jensen, last residing in the city of Aalborg, whose ticket to New York City was registered with the Danish police on April 15, 1869. This Fritz sailed from Copenhagen to New York on the *Ariel*, arriving in New York on May 10. In this record his occupation was given as "mercantile clerk." While there is a strong possibility that this was the FJ of interest, these records by themselves are inconclusive.

If Fred Johnson was actually naturalized in 1915, as the 1920 census stated, then his Declaration of Intent to become a citizen should be quite detailed as to his arrival. A search for this record was requested and a Petition for Naturalization dated 17 October 1914 located. In the petition *Frits Jensen* stated that he was born on September 13, 1848 at Aalborg, and emigrated from Copenhagen on or about April 15, 1869, arriving in May of that year. He had resided in Racine County since that date and had originally declared his intent to become a citizen in Racine County in November of 1870. Information on his wife and children corresponded with family information, thus proving that the 1868 travel documents did indeed pertain to Fred Johnson, albeit under another name. The document was signed both "Frist Jensen" and "Fritz Johnson." The 1870 document was also found, signed by "Fritz Jensen," born in Denmark in 1848 and arriving in New York in May of 1869.

So, the earliest American records and his emigrant/immigration documents were consistently signed Fritz Jensen, suggesting that this was his original name, or a close approximation, but who were his parents?

1. *Jens Rasmussen and Osillie Marie Rasmussen (1871 marriage)*
2. *Jens Rasmussen and Marie O. Jensen (1885 marriage)*
3. *Mads P. Johnson and Ocilia/Cecilia -?- (1894 marriage)*

Danish records: Aalborg-area census and church records were consulted to see if a Fritz or Frederik Jensen might be found born on either September 13, 1849 (the date reportedly written in the family Bible) or 1848 (the date cited on Fred's naturalization petition). A familysearch.org reference was found to the birth of a Fritz Jensen in Mou parish in Aalborg County, and this led to the actual baptismal record, verifying that Fred was indeed born *Fritz [no middle name] Jensen* on September 13, 1848, baptized at home on November 28 and presented in church on December 26 that year.

Fritz's parents were not married. His mother, **Ossille Johanne Marie Jensdatter** of the village of Egense, was born in Dronninglund parish, Hjørring County in 1828. His recorded father was master cabinet-maker **Frederik Guldmann** of the city of Randers. The fact that the infant was given his mother's patronymic suggests that the father either did not know of or did not acknowledge paternity. A marginal note indicates that his conception probably took place in Randers. Fritz (a variation of Frederik) may have been named after his father or, more likely, his maternal uncle, Frederik Jensen, who was one of his baptismal sponsors.

His parents never married and it is not presently known what happened to his mother. His father, Frederik Christian Guldmann, was born in Skelund parish in Aalborg County in 1810 and remained in Randers most of his adult life. In the 1860s he married there and fathered at least one daughter; his household was found in Randers as late as 1880. In the 1850 census two-year-old Fritz Jensen was living in Egense with his maternal grandparents, carpenter **Jens Rasmussen** and **Mette Jensdatter**. He lived with them until leaving school and his confirmation in 1863, after which he then started working for local farmers in the parish until moving to take a position on the farm Lundbygaard in nearby Gunderup parish in November 1867. From there he appears to have left to seek his fortune in America, taking his father's surname as a middle name and gradually assuming the American *Johnson* as his surname. His having been raised by his maternal grandparents probably accounts for his grandfather's name being listed as his father on his first two marriage records.

Documentation on Frederik Johnson aka Fritz Jensen is on file in the Family History & Genealogy Center.

Stamtræ
Activities and News

If you haven't already, take a look at the new additions to the Library & Genealogy section of the webpage, including Viewed through the Lens: Visual Resources. Here you will see selections of images from past summer photo exhibits as well as samples of primary sources encountered when researching Danish ancestors.

We are now accepting submissions for the 2012 FHGC photo exhibit, "Long-term Lovers," which will feature Danish immigrants married for at least 50 years and their descendants married at least 60 years. Further details and a submission and permission-to-display form may be found on the webpage under Library & Genealogy>Photo Gallery or obtained by contacting us at the above email addresses or by calling 712.764.7008. The deadline for submission of photographs and stories is May 1, 2012.

Thanks to Sean and Laurie Sartorio McNabb, who purchased *My Dear, Dear Rigmor* by Joan C. Brock and *Holy Dane, Happy Dane: My Indomitable Grandfathers* by Avis Jorgenson from our wish list published in the last *America Letter*. Also, thanks to Leo and Gayle Stuart, Meg Bale, Lene and Preben Sepstrup, and Julie Houser, who have contributed funds toward the purchase of additional filing cabinets.

A small but enthusiastic group of students attended the Danish genealogy workshops held in San Mateo in conjunction with the February board meeting there.

Of Genealogical Interest

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

- April 2, 2012 marks the date for the release of the long-awaited (72 years!) 1940 census! How many of you will be on it? While the 3.8 million images will be viewable free of charge on that date, name indexes await a large volunteer indexing program, the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project, which will be immediately getting underway. Many state and local genealogical societies are participating with the hope of making name indexes available to researchers within the next few months. To volunteer, contact 1940censusproject@familysearch.org; for further information on the census, see www.archives/gov/research/census/1940/index.html.
- 1940 enumeration districts, a census street finder and other information can be found at http://stevemorse.org/, where you can also find 1-step searches of passenger lists and New York City deaths and marriages.
- The Rootsweb Social Security Death Index has been moved into AncestryLE/.com due to privacy concerns. If you have a subscription to Ancestry.com you can still see the familiar SSDI by accessing Ancestry.com>Search>Births, Marriages and Deaths. The SSDI button is on the right-hand side of the page. Another version of the SSDI may be found in Familysearch.org.
- The Copenhagen death index has been moved from www.fogsgaard.org to the Copenhagen City Archives webpage, www.ksa.kk.dk/, and has been embedded under "Politiets Registerblade" (Police Census Records) on the lower right-hand side of the page. A username and password is requested; however, one can also just register as guest (*gæst*).
- An interesting Danish-language website dealing with the participation of individuals from southern Jutland in World War I is www.elurobeast.dk/verdenskrig. Included are both photographs and biographies.
- Another Danish-language website, danmarkskirker.natmus.dk, is the digital version of Danmarks kirker, an illustrated description of hundreds of Danish churches and their inventories. The first 14,000 pages are now accessible, with more to come.

- At http://homepage.mac.com/sootica/DenmarkFAQ/militaryrecords.html is an informative overview of the Danish military levying rolls (lægdsruller). Most are not online, but rolls for many areas have been filmed by the LDS church and may be rented through local Family History Centers or affiliate libraries, such as the FHGC.
- Facebook has a Danish Genealogy Research Community that one can join. (Just type that name into the blank at the top of the page and it will pop up; then click on Like.) It is just one of several interactive communities for those interested in Danish roots.
- Denmark allowed civil marriages beginning in 1851 for non-members of the state (Lutheran) church or those who chose to marry outside it. The earliest records were written in narrative style; from 1923 on pre-printed forms were used. About 45,000 images of Danish civil marriage records from 1851-1961 may be found on the new version of FamilySearch. The collection does not include the counties of Haderslev, Tønder, Sønderborg and Aabenraa, and the time period varies for other parts of the country. Records for Copenhagen are currently included for 1851-75, for Hjørring for 1923-32; the Sunds district of Svendborg County, 1851-1920; and Otterup parish from 1924-1958. Some are indexed; others are not. Additions will come at regular intervals.
- Sioux Falls, SD area obituary and cemetery databases may be found at http://siouxvalleygenealogicalsociety.org/ . The obituaries link has more than 100K records; the cemeteries link connects to three separate databases for Minnehaha and Lincoln counties and the South Dakota Gravestones website, which contains more than 124,000 gravestone photographs.
- If you want practice in reading Scandinavian Gothic script, there is an interactive lesson at https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/reading-scandinavian-gothic-handwritten-records-lesson1-scandinavian-gothic-letters/255. If this URL is too much for you, try going to the Learning Center part of FamilySearch!
- There is a nice monthly newsletter of what's going on in Copenhagen at www.copenhagenet.dk.
- On January 1, 2012 the Danish National Archives (Rigsarkivet) and the Provincial Archives (Landsarkiv) for Zealand and Eastern Denmark combined their collections. Their joint reading room is located at the National Archives; their webpage addresses remain the same. Many records for the greater Copenhagen area formerly only accessible in the Provincial Archives reading room, including probate records, civil marriages, fire insurance records, and welfare documents have been digitized and are searchable at www.sa.dk/ao/andre/default.aspx. These records are indexed and searchable, but explanations are currently only in Danish. The Danish word for index is register.
- The Danish Digital Archives has added Nygårds sedler (a collection of notes about Jutland families), biographical information on Danish East Indian Company personnel and St. Croix (Danish West Indies; now one of the US Virgin Islands) at http://ddd.dda.dk/andrekilder.html.
- www.genealogi.se/portratt/files/28.html lists photographs taken by Danish photographers or studios that have landed in Swedish hands. They are arranged by community and then by the name of the photographer. However, one can search by photographer's name by using Edit>Find. This is one way one might locate a Danish photographer's name whose business location is not known.
- www.archives.com/genealogy/family-heritage-danish.html is an introductory webpage on Danish genealogy produced by Archives.com, a subscription database that states that it contains over one billion records. One can try a one-week subscription for free; a year's subscription costs $39.95.
- Another place to check for available obituaries, cemeteries and funeral homes is through www.cyndislist.com under those headings. Cyndi's crew adds new websites several times a week, so periodic checking under general headings such as these can unearth material that may be harder to find other places.
- At http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy/ are the state-wide MN Birth Index, 1900-1934 (plus ca. 2700 pre-1900 records) and the MN Death Certificates Index, 1904-2001. Ancestry.com has MN births from 1935-2002, but does not include illegitimate births or adoptions. Birth records were filed from the county where the birth took place, not the parents' county of residence. Each county may have earlier records of births and deaths.

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: PO Box 249, Elk Horn IA 51531.

Andre Arkivalier på Arkivalieronline

Der bliver nu lagt andre arkivalier end kirkebøger og folegællinger på Arkivalieronline. I første omgang fra Sjælland, men senere følger materale fra andre landsdele efter.

Skifeakivalier ..... Læs mere	Borgerlige ægteskabsbøger ..... Læs mere
Københavnske skiftearkivalier.... Læs mere	Brandforsikring..... Læs mere
	Københavns Overpræsidium

www.arkivalieronline now offers a variety of new searchable documents, including probate records for Copenhagen and other jurisdictions, civil marriages, real estate fire insurance documents, and a variety of welfare records.

Annual Report · 2011

A Letter from the President

To all of the friends and supporters of The Danish Immigrant Museum: *Godt Nytår!*

As the newly elected president of the museum's board of directors, one of my first responsibilities is to address the entire membership in the Annual Report. While we look forward to a very exciting year ahead, I want to first look back at the past year and express the appreciation of the entire board of directors for the exceptional generosity of museum members for all of your contributions of time, stories, artifacts and finances!

In 2011, the board adopted a revised mission statement for the museum: "*The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.*" We feel this statement helps bridge the gap between the stories of past immigrants and the achievements of the descendants of those immigrants, and the contributions they have made to the American way of life.

While I was born and raised in Ames, Iowa, my ancestors (on the Frederiksen side) formed a part of the Danish heritage that is captured and related so meaningfully at the museum. The many traditions that have been passed along to me, I now pass along to my children. The Danish heritage continues alive and well – from dancing around the Christmas tree, singing "*Nu har vi jul igen!*" to the many Danish foods that we enjoy to a hearty "*tak for mad*!" at the conclusion of our meals. In fact, while I am not the primary cook in our household, I am the one tasked with making æbleskiver for my family, just as my grandfather did when I was a child. I have been thankful to be able to share these traditions with my friends and neighbors over the years, and to relate my Danish heritage as we share my family traditions with others.

With the new web site and access to the museum's collections online, I can direct those same curious people to a virtual version of The Danish Immigrant Museum, to experience even more of this wonderful heritage. I encourage all of you, whether you have only recently discovered the museum or you have been with us from the beginning, to take another look at your museum – in person, online, or both – and see all that is offered and all that is planned.

These achievements are only possible because of your contributions in so many different ways. First, there are those that have contributed artifacts and the meaningful personal stories that are an integral part of each artifact. Then, there are those that contribute their time – as a volunteer, as a member of the board of directors, or as a visitor to the museum. There are also those that serve on the staff of the museum – all of whom are dedicated to their jobs and who contribute on a daily basis with their expertise and enthusiasm. This is clearly more than just a job to them. We can't forget the interns! There are those from Denmark, who bring a whole new perspective on Danish life, and also those from around the U.S. – all of whom are of such critical assistance to the museum staff and who, in turn, leave with professional experience and a sampling of life in the Midwest. And, of course, there are those that contribute with their finances to the museum – through memberships, donations, purchases from the Museum Shop, and estate planning. The Museum could not exist and tell OUR stories without each of you. Finally, we give our heartfelt thanks to Elk Horn and Kimballton and all of the surrounding communities who provide the everyday support and encouragement to the museum, its activities and all things Danish.

I look forward to 2012 and what lies ahead in my final year on the board! The projects and changes that will be happening at the museum this year are extraordinary. As you review the Annual Report, I hope you are as proud of YOUR museum as I am! After all, this report is simply a reflection of what you, as supporters of the Museum, have accomplished. A heartfelt *mange tak*! for making this possible, and for bringing our Danish heritage to life on an ongoing basis!

Mark Frederiksen

January 2012

Mission Statement

The Danish Immigrant Museum
celebrates Danish roots
and American dreams.

Staff & Interns

Executive Director –
Dr. John Mark Nielsen
Administrative Manager – *Terri Johnson*
Curator of Exhibitions – *Tova Brandt*
Curator of Collections/Registrar –
Angela Stanford
Family History & Genealogy Manager –
Michele McNabb
Development Officer – *Bruce Bro*
Development Associate & Membership Coordinator –
Debra Christensen Larsen
Bookkeeper/Grounds/Facilities –
Jennifer Winters
Museum Shop Manager – *Joni Soe-Butts*
Administrative Assistant –
Kathy Pellegrini
Family History & Genealogy Data Entry Clerk – *Wanda Sornson*
Bedstemor's House Staff –
Preston Waymire, Katie Zellmer
Weekend Staff – *Rodger Rasmussen, Beth Rasmussen*
Custodian – *Tim Fredericksen*
Danish Interns –
**Julie Andersen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
**Maria Beisheim, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
**René Rugholm Christiansen, University of Aalborg, Denmark*
**Bjoerg Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
**Sara Sjolin, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
American Interns –
Brittany Deeds, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN
Anna Mullen, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

****Internships funded through a grant from Scan\|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA***

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is a special group of men and women who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of their Danish-American heritage and the mission of the museum. They join an elite group of individuals who over the past twenty-eight years have worked to build and maintain a museum of which all Danes, Danish-Americans and the American public can be proud.

Participating at their own expense, the board members come together three times a year to share their skills and experience in providing oversight to the administration of the museum and to develop ideas and plans that will contribute to its continuing vitality. It is the practice of the board to meet each February and June in different locations around the United States so that they may share and celebrate Danish heritage with those Danish-Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. In 2011, the board held its February meeting in Chandler, Arizona, and its June meeting in Denver, Colorado, with election of new board members. In October the annual meeting was held in Elk Horn with new board members assuming their office; outgoing members present and participating.

Without the dedication, energy, and support of a strong, team-oriented Board of Directors, the museum staff would not be able to work effectively in managing the day-to-day operations of The Danish Immigrant Museum.

BOARD MEMBERS SERVING IN 2011

Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Jon Borgman, Harlan, IA
Ronald Bro, Cedar Falls, IA
Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI
Ane-Grethe Delaney, Wayzata, MN
Mark Frederiksen, Falcon, CO current President
Kurt Hansen, Rosemount, MN
Stewart Hansen, West Des Moines, IA
Kenneth "Jake" Jacobsen, Seattle, WA
Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD
Kenneth Larsen, Calistoga, CA current Treasurer
Steven Lund, Yuma, AZ
Clark Mathisen, Omaha, NE
Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN
Carol Jensen Mills, Dubuque, IA
Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA current Vice President
Mark Nussle, Palos Park, IL
Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR / Bryup, Denmark
Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA
Jesper Packert Pedersen, Washington, DC
Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, Springfield, IL
Consul Lynette Skow Rasmussen, Johnston, IA
Jerry Schrader, Elk Horn, IA
Flemming "Eric" Smitsdorff, Racine, WI current Secretary
Harriet Albertsen Spanel, Bellingham, WA
Mark Strandskov, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Janet M. Thuesen, Sausalito, CA

EX-OFFICIO

Vern Hunter, Fargo, ND, past president
Kai E. Nyby, LaPorte, IN, past president
Marc Petersen, Omaha, NE, past president
Harriet Albertsen Spanel, Bellingham, WA, past president
Nils Jensen, Portland, OR
Kurt Klarskov Larsen, Oneonta, AL (Endowment)
Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA
Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA
Consul Anelise Sawkins, Minneapolis, MN (Endowment)

Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE, executive director

2011 – A Year of Success

This year the museum saw great progress on long-term goals, while also looking forward into the future. The Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan that provides direction through 2015 as well as new mission and vision statements:

Our new 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.

In 2011 we worked to realize our vision through:

Exhibits: Mezzanine Gallery: *Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions at Home and Abroad*, funded in part by a grant from Iowa Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities; and *Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev* on loan from the Nordic Heritage Museum and funded in part by The American Scandinavian Foundation.

Danish-American Artist Series Exhibits: *Grete Schioler* (weaving and fiber art) and *Silverwork of Yngve Olsson.*

Traveling Exhibits: *Victor Borge: A Centennial Exhibition,* created by the American-Scandinavian Foundation and The Danish Immigrant Museum, was hosted by the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle and the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis; other traveling exhibits appeared in venues from the Virgin Islands and New York to California.

Collections: Through special appeals, the museum acquired Dana College Treasures and the Copenhagen Lamps.

Programs: Over 100 programs provided through talks and presentations, social media, radio, and newspaper.

Construction of the initial phase of Jens Jensen Heritage Path from the gifts of members who have purchased engraved paving bricks to recognize loved ones and friends – complementing the museum's Wall of Honor that commemorates the immigrant generation. Major construction of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park is to be completed by June 30, 2012.

Grants:

- Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Endowment Challenge Grant
- Conservation Assessment Program Grant (Heritage Preservation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services)
- Shelby County Community Foundation grants
- *Iowa Great Places* Program awarded the Museum a grant of $100,000 for construction of the Jens Jensen Heritage Park
- *A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Fondet* of Copenhagen for digitizing important Danish-American newspapers

Graduate Student Interns:
In addition, the museum continues to benefit from the work of graduate student interns. Danish interns were again sponsored through a grant from the Scan|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun of Seattle, Washington and American interns were funded by grants from the Historical Resource Development Program through the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Condensed Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2011

Condensed Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

Assets	
Cash and Investments	2,593,782
Gift Shop Inventory	34,634
Property and Equipment (Net)	2,599,566
Total Assets	5,227,982
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accrued Payroll Taxes	9,021
Line of Credit	167,093
Note Payable	11,099
Total Liabilities	187,114
Net Assets	5,040,868
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	5,227,982

Condensed Statement of Revenue and Support, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

Support and Revenue	
Contributions and Support	$52,751
Admissions and Program Fees	18,835
Gift Shop Revenue (Net)	20,204
Investment and Other Income	407,155
Total Support and Revenue	978,995
Expenses	
Program Services	416,632
Supporting Activities	663,524
Total Expenses	1,080,156
Change in Net Assets	(101,161)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year - As Restated	5,142,029
Net Assets - End of Year	5,040,868

Bequests

The Danish Immigrant Museum is especially grateful for gifts received from the following estates, trusts and annuities in 2011:

Gertrude Christiansen, Lyndhurst, OH
Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI
Theodor P. Repsholdt, Sr., Lincolnshire, IL

Matching Gifts

The Danish Immigrant Museum wishes to thank our members and donors for initiating matching gifts from the following corporations and foundations:

Alliant Energy Foundation
Bank of America
Dominion Foundation
GE Foundation
Sprint Foundation
The Boeing Company
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Woodmen of the World / Assured Life Association

Endowment

The Danish Immigrant Museum Endowment provides the opportunity for members to perpetuate their contributions and at the same time help guarantee the museum's long-term financial viability. Current market value as of December 31, 2011, was $2,135,798.11.

In-Kind Gifts

The following companies and individuals, through their in-kind gifts, supported The Danish Immigrant Museum in the calendar year of 2011:

Answers (Frank R. Tighe) Atlantic, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc. (Todd Wanninger), Carroll, IA
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA
Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL
Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA
Kristensen Realty Corporation (Carl Kristensen), Algonquin, IL
Michele McNabb, Atlantic, IA
Dennis Norgaard, Harlan, IA
Tom & Nadine Paulsen, Clyde Hill, WA

Collections

As we bring 2011 to a close, we are completing paperwork and cataloging for all 42 donations. We were offered just over 1,300 pieces and accepted about 1,280, almost 830 of which were included in a single gift of archival and photographic materials. The artifacts added contribute to our mission, as well as the story we tell of immigration and continued connections between the United States and Denmark.

For information about making an artifact donation, go to our website and read "Artifact Donations to The Danish Immigrant Museum" under the Collection tab or give me a call at the museum.

Thank you again to all of our donors, and very best wishes for a wonderful 2012.

Angela Stanford
Curator of Collections / Registrar

COLLECTIONS DONORS

Ardean Andersen, Aurora, NE
Dennis Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Jillayne Arena, Cedar Rapids, IA
Anton Berg, Jr., DeKalb, IL
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Roger Buhr, Decorah, IA
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Danish American Archive & Library, Blair, NE
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Gayle Prettyman, San Antonio, TX
Grete Schioler, Dayton, OH
Carey Snow, Jefferson, SD
Del & Ingrid Stites, Louisville, NE
Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR

Merit Of Recognition

The Danish Immigrant Museum permanently recognizes two groups of friends and members who have distinguished themselves with their outstanding support, both while living and in their estate plans.

The Lifetime Leadership Society is made up of persons, organizations, and businesses that have individually contributed a total of $25,000 and more. Their names are permanently inscribed on a plaque at the front entrance of the museum.

During 2011 the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of **Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney, Kay Esbeck North, Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, and Anonymous.**

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Anonymous (4)
Elna N. Bellows*, Edina, MN
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Danish Brotherhood in America, Highlands Ranch, CO
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
Ane-Grethe Olesen & Rory A.M. Delaney, Wayzata, MN
Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA
Ramona L. Esbeck, Ames, IA
Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, IA
Charles & Joanne Frederiksen, Ames, IA
Alf & Lili Gregerson, Ridgefield, WA
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James D. & Margery Iversen, Ames, IA
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Roland* & Joan Jensen, Ankeny, IA
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Hans Thyge* & Valborg Nielsen, Denver, CO
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Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust, Northbrook, IL
Kay Esbeck North, Ames, IA
Mark & Lori Nussle, Palos Park, IL
Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN
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H. Rand & Mary Louise Petersen, Harlan, IA
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The Rasmussen Family, Des Moines, IA
Eugene Robinson*, Pensacola, FL
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Scan\| Design foundation BY INGER & JENS BRUUN, Seattle, WA
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, IA
Harriet Albertsen Spanel, Bellingham, WA
Janet M. Thuesen, Sausalito, CA
Wilber Williamson*, Des Moines, IA
Erik* & Lissi Vange, Palatine, IL

* Deceased

Over the past twenty-eight years, The Danish Immigrant Museum has accomplished much because of special friends and members who have provided for the museum in their estate plans. With their permission while living or the permission of their executors, the names of ***Heritage Builders*** are permanently inscribed on a plaque near the museum entrance.

THE HERITAGE BUILDERS

Anonymous (3)
Anne Bansen*, *Ferndale, CA*
Norman C. Bansen*, *Blair, NE*
Constance Boggild*, *Delray Beach, FL*
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Lydia Sorensen Eriksen*, *Waterloo, IA*
David Esbeck, *Des Moines, IA*
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Gertrude Gronbeck*, *Washington, D.C.*
Caroline Hansen*, *Harlan, IA*
Hans Hansen*, *Des Moines, IA*
Laura E. Hansen*, *Irwin, IA*
Rita Neergaard Hansen*, *Kenosha, WI*
Rosa Hansen*, *Hampton, IA*
Alma Hartvigsen*, *Harlan, IA*
Richard Hellman, *Oceanside, CA*
Anna Marie Hjuler*, *Audubon, IA*
Gunnar Horn*, *Omaha, NE*
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Joy Ibsen, *Trout Creek, MI*
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Genevieve Jensen, *Plainview, NE*
Ruth Jensen*, *Ames, IA*
Agnes Johnson*, *Garden City, MI*
Clyde & Emma Johnson*, *Omaha, NE*
Paul & Liz Johnson, *Fremont, NE*
Martha Jorgensen*, *Audubon, IA*
Mogens H. Kiehn, *Scottsdale, AZ*
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Keith N. McFarland*, *New Brighton, MN*
Helga Mikkelsen*, *Waverly, IA*
Inez M. Mortensen, *Omaha, NE*
Ruth Rasmussen Nelson*, *St. Cloud, MN*
Einer Schultz Nielsen*, *Newport Beach, CA*
Jens Nielsen*, *Newell, IA*
Karen Madsen Nielsen, *Junction City, OR*
Margaret A. Nielsen, *King City, OR*
Ruth Herman Nielsen*, *Omaha, NE*
Raymond & Irene Nissen*, *Cedar Falls, IA*
Eric & Joan Norgaard*, *Glenview, IL*
Folmer & Vera Nyby, *Michigan City, IN*
Caroline Olsen*, *Minneapolis, MN*
Olga S. Olsen*, *Watertown, SD*
Dorothy C. Pedersen, *Omaha, NE*
Archie Petersen*, *Harlan, IA*
John I. Petersen*, *Waterloo, IA*
Lois Petersen*, *Atlantic, IA*
Peyton* & Lucia Respess*, *Omaha, NE*
Ava Simonsen*, *Audubon, IA*
Bodil Sorensen*, *Kirkland, WA*
Harold L. Sorensen*, *Exira, IA*
Halvor Strandskov, *Osterville, MA*
Carol Svendsen, *Denver, CO*
Margaret Syring*, *St. Paul, MN*
Sandra Wunder, *Cheyenne, WY*
*Deceased

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on how you can become a member of The Lifetime Leadership Society or a Heritage Builder, John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director, Bruce Bro, Development Officer, or any member of the Board of Directors, will be pleased to work with you.

Please contact them by calling (712)764-7001 or toll free (800)759-9192; email address: director@danishmuseum.org. Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

Wall of Honor

The Danish Immigrant Museum strives to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence in America and the evolving story of the Danish-American heritage. As a way of paying tribute, the Wall of Honor was established listing the name of the immigrant, year of entering the United States, and place of settlement. Their stories and family histories, if available, are part of the growing repository connected with the Museum's Family History and Genealogy Center. Listed below are the names of the immigrants placed on the museum's Wall of Honor in the year 2011:

Marinus Christensen, *Moorhead, IA*
Peter Christian Christensen, *Cedar Falls, IA*
Ane Kirstine (Jensen) Christiansen, *Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA*
Christen Ole Christiansen, *Council Bluffs, IA*
Christian Christiansen, *Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA*
James P. "Jim" Christiansen, *Boomer Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA*
Kirsten Havrehed, *San Francisco, CA*
Amelia Hikolaisen, *Moorhead, IA*
Hans Christian Jensen, *Port Clinton, OH*
Karen Hansen Jensen, *Port Clinton, OH*
Niels Andersen Hansen, *Kimballton, IA*
Richard Larsen & Karen Jensen Larsen, *Omaha, NE*
Bertel Peter Mortensen, *Cedar Falls, IA*
George Mortensen, *Elk Horn, IA*
Thora Lund Frederiksen Mortensen, *Cedar Falls, IA*
Anton (Nielsen) Nelson, *Meckling, Clay County, SD*
Hansine Nielsen Nelson, *Meckling, Clay County, SD*
Valdemar (Walter) Lauritz Routhe, *Redwood Falls, MN*
Anders Larsen & Dorothea Marie Sorenson, *Blair, NE*
Karen Hansen Sorensen, *Vermillion, SD*
Niels Sorensen, *Vermillion, SD*
Katherine Juhl Toft, *Oelwein, IA*
Nels Peterson Toft, *Oelwein, IA*

CORRECTIONS

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2010 Annual Report of Contributions is accurate. We respectfully regret and apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or misplacements. Please contact the Development Department with any questions or corrections.

Exhibitions in 2011

Dear Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum,

Whether or not you visit Elk Horn in person, you may have enjoyed the museum's exhibition program in 2011! The museum's exhibitions can be enjoyed in our galleries in Elk Horn, in museums and gathering places across the country, and even on the museum's website. In fact, 14,000 people encountered the museum through traveling exhibitions in the past year as they appeared in seven different states – including the U.S. Virgin Islands – and another 20,000 people were "virtual visitors" on the museum's website. Each exhibition tells a story that supports the museum's mission of "celebrating Danish roots and American dreams."

We look forward to continuing these efforts in 2012, bringing exhibitions and programs to Danish-American communities throughout the year. Visit the "Current Exhibitions" page on the museum's website to learn more about traveling exhibitions available for your community.

With best wishes,
Tova Brandt
Curator of Exhibitions; dkcur@metc.net

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS IN 2011

Danish-American Artist Series: Paul Solevad
July 24, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Sampling the Collection, A to Å
March 27, 2010 – March 6, 2011

Danish-American Artist Series: Grethe Schioler
January 15 – July 24, 2011

Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad
April 16 – October 31, 2011

Danish-American Artist Series: Silverwork by Yngve Olsson
August 6, 2011 – January 8, 2012

Faces of Copenhagen: Photographs by Itzick Lev
November 25, 2011 – February 26, 2012

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS IN 2011

Victor Borge: A Centennial Exhibition (installed with alternate titles)
Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, Washington
American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Victor Borge: A Smile is the Shortest Distance
St. Croix Friends of Denmark, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
Danish Home for the Aged, Croton-on-Hudson, New York
Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead, Minnesota
Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

Denmark, October 1943
Danish American Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bloomington Civic Plaza, Bloomington, Minnesota
Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin

Danish Gymnastics in America
Danish American Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Scandinavian Festival, Elgin, Illinois

Church Basements and Children's Homes: Danish-American Missions Here and Abroad
Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, Nebraska

Family History & Genealogy Center

The following individuals and groups donated books and other materials or made monetary contributions to the Family History & Genealogy Center in 2011. Their assistance in expanding our library and enhancing our ability to collect and preserve information on and research Danish-American families and communities is greatly appreciated. *Mange tak!*

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Ardean Andersen, Aurora, NE
Dennis J. Andersen, Atlanta, GA
Jerry E. Andersen, Chicago, IL
Margaret Andersen, Livermore, CA
Helen Paulsen Arndt, Boulder, CO
Meg Bale, Bloomington, MN
Ester Jacobsen Bates, Solvang, CA
Anton Berg, DeKalb, IL
Kirsten Blokhus, Los Angeles, CA
Herb Christensen, Elk Horn, IA
Ralf Christensen, Gloucester, Ontario, CAN
Robert A. Christiansen, Tempe, AZ
Danish American Archives & Library, Blair, NE
Henning B. Doest, Orange, CA
John J. Domingo, Williamsburg, VA
Knud Dyby, Novato, CA
Cora E. Fagre, Loveland, CO
Ester Fugl Frost, Sun City West, AZ
Nancy Gibbs, Kearney, NE
Ben E. Hall Jr., Omaha, NE
Robert A. & Donna Hall, Grain Valley, MO
Frederik J. "Fritz" Hansen, Witchita, KS
H. Philip & Nancy Hansen, Norwalk, IA
Susan Hansen, Kimballton, IA
Ruth A. Heggen, Wells, MN
Roger E. Howland, Blair, NE
Kenneth H. Ishoy, Winder, GA
Warren Jacobsen, Elk Horn, IA
Cornelius J. Jensen, Edmonds, WA
Robert I. Jensen, Underwood, IA
Jon Gadegaard Jeppesen, Aarhus, DK
Colleen Jersild, Norfolk, VA
JoAnn Johnson, LaPorte City, IA
Ellen Jordahn, Nederland, TX
Magne Juhl, Viborg, DK
Svend V. Koch, Cedar Falls, IA
Birgit Flemming Larsen, Aalborg, DK
Galen Lillethorup, Omaha, NE
Margot McDonnell, Phoenix, AZ
George G. Metzger, Cumberland, WI
Else Nielsen, Esbjerg, DK
John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE
Julle Nielsen, Rønne, DK
Shirley & James Norlem, Monticello, MN
Stacy Norris, Virginia Beach, VA
Erik H. Østergaard, Svogerslev, DK
Bruce Paulson, Gillett, WI
Niels Chr. Pedersen, Blokhus, DK
Eva M. Robinson, Butler, PA
Kenneth H. Sand, Prairie du Chien, WI
Rhoda M. Schjodt, Blair, NE
Ethel Mae Schneider, Cedar Falls, IA
John Scott, Sidney, IA
Bente M. Shoar, Napa, CA
Henrik Bredmose Simonsen, Skaderborg, DK
Robert Simonsen, Topeka, KS
Kathy Sonsalla, Webster City, IA
Charlotte Sorensen, Exira, IA
Wanda Sornson, Elk Horn, IA
Sharlot Steen, Elk Horn, IA
Elsa Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL
James Stenseth, Sioux Falls, SD
Gayle & Leo Stuart, Walnut, IA
Ann Svendsen, Tyler, MN
Carolyn L. Thomson, Lawrence, KS
Katherine Pedersen Wilson, Wheeler, WI
Eugene H. Wright, Stillwater, MN
Robin N. Yonash, Colfax, CA

Volunteers

Did you know that Iowa ranks second in the nation for its volunteer rate?* Here's another interesting statistic: the *national* median number of hours served by a volunteer in 2010 was 52 hours.* Volunteers of The Danish Immigrant Museum/FHGC averaged **81** hours last year! Our volunteers logged anywhere from 3 hours to 336 hours and we are grateful for each and every one of them! Our list of **58** registered volunteers gave a total of **4,722** hours in 2011 assisting staff with greeting visitors, data entry, mailings, translations, research, setting up for special events, and even ironing tablecloths. Each and every thing we ask them to do is important as we carry out the mission of the museum. We could not do what we do on a daily basis without their assistance and we are so grateful for them. The following are volunteers for whom we have **documented hours** in 2011. We apologize for any errors or omissions. (*Latest figures available from The Volunteering in America report, developed through a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau for Labor Statistics.)

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Marilyn Andersen, Harlan, IA
Rosalie Andersen, Harlan, IA
Jo Avey, Atlantic, IA
Herb Christensen, Elk Horn, IA
Virgil & Joyce Christensen, Harlan, IA
Rosa Clemsen, Exira, IA
Anne-Marie Douglas, Chicago, IL
Millie Eskov, Elk Horn, IA
Bill & Marilyn Gift, Des Moines, IA
Joy Gonnerman, Kimballton, IA
June Haas, Kimballton, IA
Paul Hansen, Elk Horn, IA
Peggy Hansen, Elk Horn, IA
Tina Hansen, Elk Horn, IA
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt, Des Moines, IA
Chet & Marj Holland, Atlantic, IA
Jackie Jensen, Harlan, IA
Connie Johnson, Elk Horn, IA
H. John Jones, Elk Horn, IA
Jimmie Kelgor, Atlantic, IA
Rhoda Kelloway, Anita, IA
Andy Kissel, Elk Horn, IA
Jeanette Knudsen, Harlan, IA
Edith Larsen, Harlan, IA
Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, IA
Earl Madsen, Elk Horn, IA
Gladys McCrory, Atlantic, IA
Dick Nelson, Elk Horn, IA
W. Clayton Nielsen, Elk Horn, IA
Elinor Olsen, Elk Horn, IA
Karolyn Ortgies, Massena, IA
Clara Pedersen, Elk Horn, IA
Helen Petersen, Atlantic, IA
Lisa Petersen, Owings, MD
Wava Petersen, Elk Horn, IA
Rosie Petersen, Elk Horn, IA
Joanne Potts, Elk Horn, IA
Elva Rasmussen, Elk Horn, IA
Suzanne Rasmussen, Kirkman, IA
Carolyn Sand, Prairie du Chien, WI
Bertha Schroeter, Exira, IA
Lene Sepstrup, Denmark
Howard & Karma Sorensen, Elk Horn, IA
Jens & Dorothy Sorensen, Kimballton, IA
Charlotte Sorensen, Exira, IA
Wanda Sornson, Elk Horn, IA
Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA
Alene Weaver, Atlantic, IA
Sharon Winchell, Atlantic, IA
Burt & Carolyn Wittrup, Elk Horn, IA

We also want to recognize members of the **Atlantic, Iowa Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum** who provide delicious cookies to serve to museum guests during Tivoli Fest and Julefest: Ramona Andersen, Connie Boose, Janet Bornholdt, Mary Ann Christensen, Eieleen Denne, Verna Esbeck, Kathleen Eyberg, Priscilla Hansen, Mary Lou Hoegh, Izzy Hoegh, Phyllis Hoegh, Marj Holland, Betty Lillard, Fern Lindvall, Gladys McCrory, Sonya Mikkelsen, Beverly Nelson, Delores Nelson, Fern Nelson, Frances Nelson, Colleen Nichols, Joan Ohms, Mary Ellen Olsen, Phyllis Olsen, Helen Petersen, Evelyn Rechtenbach, Bertha Schroeter, Norma Jean Sothman, Aleen Weaver, Linda Weaver, Nadine Williamson.

Memorials

The Danish Immigrant Museum is the grateful recipient of gifts made in memory of deceased friends and relatives.

Lee Anna Marie Jessen Adams, my sister
Jens Agesen and Celebration of his Life
Clifford & Glenda Andersen
Jørn G. Andersen, Hellerup, Denmark
Anna Hansen Anderson
Herbert Andeson
Michael Andreasen
Evelyn Baasfield, my sister
Bill & Elna Bellows
Mr. & Mrs. Anton Berg, Sr.
Darlene Blakely
Edith Bodtker
Dr. Lloyd (Bud) Bollesen
Charlie Brehm
Howard Bro
Manville & Marjorie Bro
Manville I. "Whitey" Bro
Axel C. Buudgaard
Gurli Christensen
Jacob Christensen
Nels Christensen's Family
Christian Olaf Christiansen
Gertrude Christiansen
Merrill & Gertrude Christiansen
Arthur B. & Neelna Clausen
Joann Elaine Clausen
George Clausen 2-26-1897
Barbara Birkholm Clay
Midge Cramer
Ole og Tage Damsgard
Harald L. Dinesen, son of Laurits D.S. Dinesen, Danish immigrant
Knud Dyby
Ole Ebbesen
Ray Esbeck
William Esbeck
Melvin & Wilfred Eskov
Albert H. L. Eve
Roland Fagre
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Nels P. Frandsen, Grandfather
John Frost
Allen Carsten Fugl
Dr. Les Grace
Solveig Gregory
Harvey H. Greve
Janice Madsen Grindle, Groveland, FL
Allan Hansen
Clifford K. & Anna Veola Hansen
Dorothy Ann Frederick Hansen
Ebbe J. Hansen
Larry Ingvert Hansen
Larry Hansen, our friend and business associate
Rosie Hansen
Vesta N. Hansen
Great grandparents Hans & Mary Hanson and grandfather Harold Hanson
Marion Mathilda Hanson
Marion Sorensen Hanson
Marilyn (Petersen) Heckman
Tom Henningsen
Dean Holland, my brother
Carol Larsen Horton
Jim Hunt
Alfred & Asta Iversen
Dale Jackson 1923-2011
Barbara Brandt Jensen
Brian C. Jensen
Earl & Dorthea Jensen
Ernst & Esther Jensen
Evelyn Jensen
Johanne "Irene" Jensen
Kristin Kjelsen Jensen & Mathea Christiansen Jensen
Roland Jensen
Verner Jensen
Harold Jespersen
Børge, Claus Peter & Casper Oliver Jessen
Kenneth & Verna Mae Jessen
Verna Mae Jessen
Leonard & Clara Johnson
Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen
Peter Juul
Ove Kilgren
Marjorie Christiansen King
Svend Kjaer
Andrew Klitgaard
Donald L. Knudsen
Harald & Viola Knudsen
Ila Knudsen
Eugene Koch
Hans Edward Koefoed
Gunnar Kristiansen
Lars & Marie Larsen
Mary Larsen
Paul Laursen, my husband
Wendell Larsen
Carl Laursen
Dorothea Laursen
Eivind Lillehoj
Paul J. Lund's parents, who began our family's story in America
Harold & Lenora Madsen
Ross H. Mardesen
H.C. (Matt) Mathison
Pastor & Mrs. C.C. Mengers
Earl & Helga Mikkelsen
Mardell Miller
Milton Miller
Bertha Molgaard
Ole Møllgaard, Aalborg, DK
Finn Mølvig, ten years since passing
Alice Mortensen
Martin & Ida Mortensen
Richard F. Nelsen
Erma E. Nelson
Larry Arnold Nelson
John & Ruth Nelson, Racine, WI
Alton & Becky Neve
Dr. Paul & Lela Neve
Andy Nielsen
Edith Nielsen
Einar V. Nielsen
Hans Thyge Nielsen
Lillian M. Nielsen
Verna Nielsen
Walter & Else (Pedersen) Nielsen
Eric & Joan Norgaard
George Norman
Mr. & Mrs. Anton Olsen
Mrs. Lois Alberta Olsen
Ole & Marie Olsen
Stig P. Ørum, our son
Lavern Paulsen
Lone Hindsgaul Paxton
Harriet Pedersen
Henry J. Pedersen
Leroy Pedersen
Paul D. Pedersen
Bill Petersen
Burton Petersen
Harry & Frances Petersen, my parents
Herbert & Mabel Petersen
Olga Petersen, my grandmother from Copenhagen
Marlin (Dale) Peterson
Richard W. Peterson, my husband
Lyle Poldberg
Carl Rasmussen, my father
Delbert Rasmussen
Hans Christian Rasmussen
Virginia Rasmussen
Sylvia Rattenborg
Arlene Rockwell
Robert E. Rosene
Jens & Olga Sahl
Betty Hoegh Schukei
Helen Christensen Shahan
Kay Helen Silet
Arne Sorensen
Fred & Helga Sorensen
Phillip Sorensen
Elie Steffensen
Poul & Elie Steffensen
Marilyn Storms
Josephine S. Strong, my mother
Robert M. Swanson
Miller Sweningsen
Adeline & Bill Tarsitano
Neva Theede
Capt. Lars E. Toftemark USA7
Jack Jensen Unkenholz, our grandson
Thyra Valade
Manuella Warner, my mother from Copenhagen
Norma Valborg Jensen Wegwart
Walter Westergaard
Gene & Doris Lindstrom Wolfe

In Honor

The Danish Immigrant Museum receives many contributions as gifts to honor beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2011 the following people were honored:

Leonard C. Andersen's 100th birthday
Marjorie F. Bro
Kjesten Christensen
Shirley Esbeck
Ken Gregersen's 80th birthday
William & Martha Hansen Celebrating Their Lives!
Alvina Hjortsvang's generous spirit, Danish heritage and the enthusiasm with which she shares it!
Doris & Peder Hoy's 50th anniversary
Carol Hubert, Lois Bornemeier's sister
Jim & Marge Iversen
Hans J. Jørgensen
Dr. Jim & Minnie Jorgensen
Harriet Jorgenson
Philip Jorgenson
Rhoda Kelloway
Garey & Sherry Knudsen's children, Tasha, Tonya and Brian
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Layton of Edina, MN
Paul J. Lund, my father's 80th birthday
Steven Lund's end of DIM board term
Michele McNabb & Wanda Sornson's professional genealogy research efforts and friendly efficient manner
Michele McNabb's & Wanda Sornson's thorough genealogy research help
Nielsen Family
John Mark Nielsen, "For all you've done for the DIM!"
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, my loving parents
John Mark Nielsen's 60th birthday
Benedikte Ehlers Olesen's fundraising dinner
Danielle Olson's 30th birthday
Sandra Rasmussen
Consul Lynette Rasmussen speaking to Cedar Valley Danes
Suzanne Rasmussen's kind help with family genealogy research
Rebild's Centennial in 2012 in Chicago
Margaret Rodenburg's brother, John, and sister, Eleanor
Burdette "Bear" & Nanette Thomsen's 60th Wedding Anniversary (11/2/51)
Lis L. Trent's 70th birthday

Gift Memberships

Throughout 2011 The Danish Immigrant Museum awarded complimentary memberships or received contributions directed towards gift memberships for the following businesses or individuals:

Brenda Accola, W Melbourne, FL
Andrew & Susan Andersen, Tampa, FL
Keith & Paula Anderson, Gaylord, MN
Sonya & Norm Anderson, Phoenix, AZ
Birthe Baekgaard, Santa Rosa, CA
Jack & Lois Beal, Bothell, WA
Doug & Glenda Bro, Claremont, CA
Timothy & Lucille Brown, Blair, NE
Phillip & Becky Bryant, West Des Moines, IA
Myrvin & Anne Christopherson, Decorah, IA
Willa Cleary, Arlington, VA
Robert & Kristine Coffey, Blair, NE
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Charles Pluth, Madison, WI
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Dennis & Betty Sorg, Coralville, IA
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(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