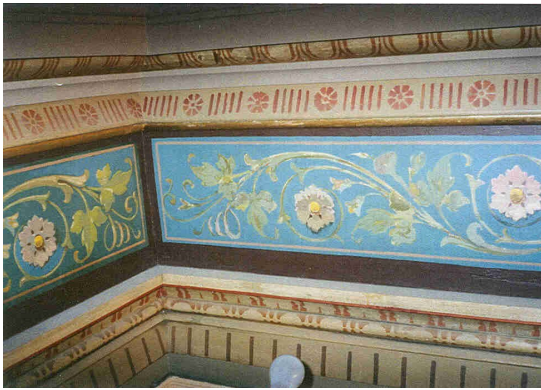


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The above images show some of the artistry of Danish-born muralist **Andreas Hansen** that may still be seen in the Iowa State Capitol building in Des Moines. Offices he decorated there include the reception room and private office of the Secretary of State, represented by these pictures. Documentation indicates that he also did the design work in rooms belonging to the Speaker of the House and Lt. Governor and parts of the Capitol's dome, but unfortunately some of these areas later suffered water damage. -- Born into a farm family in the village of Fardrup, in Ribe County, in 1826, Andreas studied at the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen and was apprenticed to a master painter, Carl Johannes Løffer, before serving in the Danish military during the Dano-Prussian War of 1848-50, marrying, and starting a family. In 1872 he and his second wife, Katrine, and children Niels, Helene and Kristine, left for the U.S. After three years in New York and New Jersey, where Andreas is said to have assisted in decorating one of the Vanderbilt mansions and painted murals for the Philadelphia Exposition, the family moved to Des Moines. His work in the capitol building was done during the 1880s. Following his wife's death Andreas moved to Shelby County, Iowa, to live with his daughter Kristine and her husband, Jens Rasmussen. He remained locally active, painting ceilings and walls in local homes, specializing in motifs with angels, stars and blue skies. He also created altar pieces for the former Oak Hill Lutheran Church and Elk Horn Lutheran Church. The former is now part of the Nathaniel Hamlin Park Museum in Audubon. Andreas died in Elk Horn in March, 1898. His son, Niels Ebbesen Hansen, became a noted horticulturalist. Additional family information is on file at the FHGC. Images of Andreas Hansen's work have been graciously donated by art researcher and historian Rosa Snyder.