

**Across Oceans, Across Time® ...**  
**Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...**



As we look toward 2008 many of us will be making New Year's resolutions, usually knowing that they will be broken before too many days have gone by. But some resolutions can be started at any time during the year, put aside when life gets busy, and then taken up again at leisure. The two pictures above, taken nearly a century apart, represent a resolution made many decades ago by **Mildred Hansen Andersen** to one day write her memoirs so that her children and grandchildren would know what was important to her. From time to time over the years she would write down her recollections of significant events in her life and file them in a folder. Her notes covered such diverse subjects as incidents in her childhood and school years, family and neighborhood entertainments, working after she left school, church and club activities, a trip to California in the 1930s, her marriage and life as a farm wife, family Christmas get-togethers, and trips to Denmark, Hawaii and Texas made with her husband in later years. Turning 90 this year, Mildred decided to act on her long-held resolution and organized her notes. The result is an illustrated series of memoirs supplemented by brief histories of her Danish-born grandparents, her parents, and her husband Milo's Danish emigrant family. Under the Christmas trees of Mildred's descendants in print and CD formats will be a unique gift that cost little but time and effort.

As we grow older, time seems to pass faster, and the thought of writing a memoir or autobiography may seem daunting. But as can be seen from Mildred's example, such a narrative does not have to be done all at once. A person merely sits down for 15 or 30 minutes once a day (after one's morning coffee, perhaps) and writes about any subject or memory that comes to mind. Worrying about spelling and grammar comes later, but if the words don't get written down, the experiences they represent will be lost forever. Why not resolve to make time this year for some recollections as a gift for the future? *Mildred's Memories as They Come to Mind* are now part of the FHGC collection. We welcome yours!