

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



Following the Civil War Danes began settling in Montcalm County, Michigan, in communities such as Gowan, Sidney, Trufant and Greenville. One of these settlements was Little Denmark near Gowan. The church serving the community, still housing an active congregation, was constructed in 1879, and like many early Danish churches, its first pastor was actually a Norwegian, Rev. Ole Amble (1847-1934). A native of Sogndal, Norway, Amble attended Stavanger Mission School before emigrating in 1871. He attended Augsburg Seminary for a year and was ordained in 1872 in the Norwegian-Danish Conference. After a short stint in Allamakee County, Iowa, Rev. Amble was called to the Greenville area, where he was to serve as pastor of the Little Denmark Settlement church and other area congregations for the next 44 years. Judging from the many relics associated with him in the local historical society collection, he appears to have left a vivid imprint on the community. One of his traditions was the presentation of a photograph of himself to the couples he married (above). Rev. Amble authored several books on religious topics and continued to serve his communities after his retirement. He died in Greenville on March 8, 1934, and is buried in the Little Denmark, Cemetery north of Gowan. The lengthy epitaph on his tombstone recounts his many accomplishments during his decades of service in his adopted home.



**The Danish Immigrant Museum**

*Your Museum in the Heart of the Continent*

Box 470, Elk Horn, Iowa 51531

Become a member

Contact us at: 1-800-759-9192 or [www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org)

Member of the American Association of Museums