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





Imagine leaving the snug home in the upper picture to come to the New World, where you marry and settle down in a small settled Danish-American town in Iowa, only to be uprooted once again to create a new home on the plains of northern Montana. Such was the fate of Nielsine Johansen, of Tarp in Ribe County, who came to America in 1901. Less than a year after her arrival, "Sine" married Jens Clausen Brinkman in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Shortly after their marriage the couple moved to Emmet County in northwestern Iowa, where they joined the Danish immigrant community around Ringsted. After five years' residence there they were among the families who heeded the call of Rev. Henrik Plambeck to settle virgin territory on the far northern plains. In early 1908 first Jens (and the family dog), followed by Nielsine and their three children a month later, moved to near Volmer, Montana, where Jens had filed a 160-acre homestead claim. The building in the lower picture is the house built by O. P. Olsen, a fellow migrant from Iowa, to help "prove" the claim and begin their life as plains pioneers. The story of Nielsine's and Jens' lives has been vividly chronicled in Drømmen om Amerika/The Dream of America, a new addition to the FHGC collection. The above pictures formed part of the library's photo exhibit during Elk Horn's Tivoli Fest celebration in May 2007. We would like to have additional photographs of the homes immigrant ancestors left behind and the ones they came to in America. Please contact us if you have photos you would like to share.