



# America Letter



**The Danish Immigrant Museum**

AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER

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Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations:  
The Nelsons



# Director's Corner

*"Det kimer nu til julefest."*

In English this beloved Danish Christmas carol is known as "The Happy Christmas Comes Once More." Christmas is a happy time, but *julefest*, or Christmas festival, suggests a range of festive customs that are important to Danes and Danish Americans. The celebration of all the rituals associated with a Danish Christmas, I believe, is a contributing factor to why Danes are the happiest people in the world.

Many Americans view Danes as a rather liberal people. And yet when it comes to the celebration of certain festivals throughout the year, Danes are a very conservative people. This is best seen in the celebration of a Danish Christmas.

Much of December is given over to rituals celebrated in homes, schools and offices. The Christmas season begins with the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath or children unwrapping daily little packages found on the Advent calendar. It continues on, culminating in attending church on Christmas Eve, the family dinners after the service and the many gatherings in the following days with friends and loved ones. Throughout, there is

warmth and light to counter the dark Scandinavian winter months; a Danish Christmas is not a Christmas if these rituals are not repeated.

*"Nu har vi jul igen."* This is the opening line of another short Christmas song, often sung as the family dances around the Christmas tree. The words in English are: "Now, it's Christmas again, and Christmas lasts until Easter." The following verse states: "No, that's not true, for in between comes the Lenten season." My mother recalls that when she was a child her Uncle Nick would arrive at her home in Watsonville, California, singing this song.

Christmas is a festival of light in the midst of darkness, an affirmation of the hope for the return of light and the renewal of the earth. Spring and Easter will come, the trees will bud and flowers burst into bloom. Summer will follow. Then, in the bonfires on *Sankt Hans Aften* and the celebration of midsummer, there is a

recognition that the sun will retreat and the darkness of winter will return. Implicit is recognition of the passage of time and the cyclical nature of the seasons. We mark the passing of time, even as we rejoice and celebrate the present. And our traditions affirm that even in an unknown future, important values will be preserved.

Here at The Danish Immigrant Museum we are dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing the material culture of a heritage that over time does evolve. I am grateful for each of you who support us in this mission and I ask for your continued support. Discovering our dynamic heritage gives additional meaning and richness to life. But it is wonderful to celebrate traditional Christmas rituals that are slower to change. For this, I am glad. I hope you have *en rigtig glædelig jul!*

**John Mark Nielsen**  
Executive Director

## Editor's Note

In the article "Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations: Celebrating the Seventieth Birthday of H.M. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark" in the summer edition of *America Letter*, we neglected to credit a photo properly. The photo of the Queen visiting an exhibit of her decoupage work on page five was used courtesy of the Odense City Museums, Denmark.

**COVER PHOTO:** Lee Nelson on wheel watch on a tender boat off the coast of Alaska. "Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations: The Nelsons" begins on page four.



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# Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton Named Iowa Great Places

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has named Elk Horn-Kimballton one of the newest additions to the Great Places Program.

Now in its sixth year, Iowa Great Places is a program that combines state resources with local assets to build capacity in communities that cultivate their unique local qualities. Through the program, the state works in partnership with each Great Place, identifying existing grant programs and providing technical assistance that may be applicable to their projects.

The plan of the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton is to become a model green community based on practices currently used in Denmark. The museum's Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, to be developed on the 20 acres of land north of the building, is one of three projects approved by the Great Places Citizen's Advisory Board.

Jens Jensen, a Danish immigrant, designed elements of the Chicago Park system, as well as hundreds of landscapes for schools and universities and



*The Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park will provide picturesque landscaping, a pergola covered picnic area, walkways, interpretive areas and a pond.*

wealthy industrialists in the early 1900s. He believed that our gardens, parks, playgrounds, roads and cities should be harmonious with nature – a belief that was to become a major theme of modern American landscape design. The hope is that visitors leave the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park thinking about the choices they make in their own gardens, local parks and landscapes.

As part of their Great Places work plan the city of Elk Horn will build a LEED certified conference center and fire station on land donated by Marne Elk Horn Telephone Company, south of the AmericInn. The community will also build the Little Mermaid Recreational Trail, which will connect Elk Horn and Kimballton as well as The Danish Immigrant Museum. The hard surface trail will have a series of sculptures depicting thirteen of the most famous characters from the stories of Hans Christian Andersen, new park equipment and ball fields in Kimballton, a new band shell at the Danish Windmill and a disk golf course along the trail.

In developing their proposals, Great Places applicants are asked to address seven dimensions that make places special: engaging experiences; rich, diverse populations and cultures; a vital, creative economy; clean and accessible natural and built environments; well-designed infrastructure; a shared attitude of optimism that welcomes new ideas; and a diverse and inclusive cultural mosaic.

Terri Johnson, the museum's representative on the Great Places Steering Committee, attended the award banquet in Des Moines on Friday, October 22 to accept the award with fellow committee members.

Elk Horn-Kimballton joins twenty-seven other Iowa communities in the Iowa Great Places program. The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is responsible for developing the state's interest in the areas of the arts, history and other cultural matters with the advice and assistance from its two divisions: the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Iowa Arts Council.



*Gustav Waldemar Nelson was piloting the Felicia through a heavy storm when he and four crewmembers rescued a British crew from their waterlogged vessel. Gustav became a captain in the age of sail and later piloted steamships.*

*Inset: Gustav Waldemar Nelson, born in Frederikshavn, Denmark, captained numerous boats in a sailing career that lasted over fifty years.*

## Across Oceans, Across Time, Across Generations: The Nelson Family

by Eva Nielsen

Lee Nelson went to sea as a 23-year-old. He's spent the past couple summers on a tender boat off the coast of Alaska, taking the catch from fishing boats, writing fish tickets, delivering the fish to the cannery.

"I love it," Lee says. "Every summer that I can, I'll do it. The money is nice, but it's also a lot of fun. It's simple: we work our routes, problem solve, joke around."

In 1832, Lee's great-great-great-grandfather signed on as a ship's cabin boy at 14-years-old, leaving his parents and siblings in

Frederikshavn, Denmark. Gustav Waldemar Nelson née Nielsen would go on to have brilliant adventures at sea, captaining numerous ships throughout a career that lasted over fifty years.

Today, Lee Nelson and his family have artifacts from Gustav's life and they have stories of his exploits. And, perhaps, this family has inherited something else from Gustav:

"I know a lot of Nelsons, descendants of Gustav, who have an affinity for water," says Lee's dad, Charles Nelson, sitting in his home in New Orleans'

Uptown neighborhood.

Charles Nelson is one of Gustav's great-great-grandsons. He's an engineer, working along with his brother and sister in a firm established by their father. Much of their work is for oil companies. The firm designs production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, the pipeline systems to bring the gas and oil to shore and the treatment plants that clean up the gas before delivering it to people's homes. They also work in the public sector, designing flood and drainage systems; this is



*Gustav Waldemar Nelson left Frederikshavn, Denmark, where his father was artillery officer at the Round Tower, when he was 14-years-old. Years later, Gustav's great-great-granddaughter, Mary Sue Nelson Roniger, and her husband pose in front of the tower.*

New Orleans, after all.

New Orleans. That's where Gustav settled years ago. Situated at the mouth of the huge funnel that is the Mississippi River drainage system, New Orleans was an especially critical port in the days before railroads and highways. Timber, grains, all manner of goods were sent down the river and shipped out to ports beyond, through New Orleans.

Of course, Gustav wasn't particularly settled in New Orleans. He met his wife there, Adele Angelika Meyer, herself an immigrant from Hannover, Germany, and the two married in 1848. He had a home there and children. But Gustav was mostly at sea.

"He was," says Charles, "basically in the business of delivering goods and working to make money

and he went to the ports where the cargo was. At that time those places were Liverpool, England; Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Mobile, Alabama; New Orleans and then later down into Central America."

Though imagining a Danish immigrant in Louisiana in the 1800s may seem like a stretch, it is clear there were other Scandinavians in the New Orleans area at the time. Gustav's great-great-granddaughter, Mary Sue Nelson Roniger, discovered, for example, that a Henry Frellsen, Danish Consul to New Orleans and perhaps the entire South, came to Louisiana in about 1840. He purchased a plantation upriver from New Orleans and dealt in selling cotton, which is what Gustav Waldemar Nelson transported on his sailing ships.

Some of Gustav's sailing stories were recorded in New Orleans newspapers at the time of his death. The family has some of Gustav's letters. And one of Gustav's great-great-granddaughters, Delilah Stokes Foster, researched and wrote a book about Gustav Nelson and his descendants. (By the time of Gustav's death, "Nelson" had replaced "Nielsen" in most official documents.) Naturally, though, Charles Nelson grew up hearing stories of his great-great-grandfather, Gustav the sea captain.

Here's one of the stories that came down through the family: a rescue story. Gustav – Captain Nelson, that is – was commanding the ship *Felicia* through a hurricane in the Atlantic just off the coast of the Azores when they happened upon a waterlogged British vessel, *Penelope*. The eleven-man crew of the *Penelope* was clinging to the rigging and maintop, flying distress signals. Gustav led four of his crew members in a dangerous rescue effort, successfully saving all eleven men.

Captain Nelson and the four crew members who carried out the rescue were offered a monetary reward. Gustav told his guys to take the reward money but refused it for himself. Charles explains his attitude this way: "He was going to pay it forward: If he were ever in a similar circumstance, he wanted someone to do the same for him. He seemed a very responsible person."

The British government recognized Captain

Nelson's heroism, rewarding him with a silver telescope that today is on display in the Nelsons' engineering firm.

In his career, then, Gustav Waldemar Nelson got to be a hero. He also got to be a blockade runner. During the American Civil War, the Union positioned its fleet off the coast of the Confederate States in an effort to staunch the flow of cargo – particularly the arms, ammunition, and other war materials the Confederacy needed – in and out of ports. Captains and crews that could run these blockades earned good money. So, Gustav continued to sail. It was, after all, his family's bread and butter.

Charles says, "He knew the back channels and where the Mississippi River spreads out into a bunch of different channels into the Gulf of Mexico. Sometimes one of them would shoal up and there would be sandbars you couldn't get by. He was so familiar with that he could sneak around the Federal gunboats that were down there trying to stop people coming and going."

Gustav had started his career in the age of sail, but by this point in his life the steamship had been developed. Blockade runners used smaller steamships, which were faster, more maneuverable, and sat lower in the water than sailing ships. They were often painted grey to camouflage them as they sneaked past the Union

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# The Nelsons

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ships under cover of darkness.

Gustav ran various shipments between New Orleans, Mobile, Alabama and Havana, Cuba. He might take cotton, for example, which the South was still able to produce, and deliver it to Havana, a neutral port. Then, Gustav would deliver supplies back to New Orleans or to Mobile (the last Confederate port to be captured).

Gustav didn't seem to have a strong allegiance to the Confederacy or the Union at that point because after the port of New Orleans fell to Federal troops in 1862, he signed an Oath of Allegiance to the United States. Then, he sailed for the Federals.

"He wasn't a man without a country," says Charles, "but he hadn't lived in the U.S. so long that he was going to take up with one side or the other."

Gustav's choice to sail for the Federals led to another adventure: the mutiny.

As Charles puts it, Captain Nelson's



*Charles Waldemar Nelson (left), Hunter Waldemar Nelson and Dorothy Duval Nelson visit the U.S.S. Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. Charles's great-great-grandfather ran the Union blockade of Mobile during the Civil War.*



*Three descendants of Captain Gustav Waldemar Nelson pictured at the Wooden Boat Festival in Madisonville, Louisiana. Charles Waldemar Nelson (left) and Kenneth Hutson Nelson (right), great-great-grandsons of Gustav flank their father, Waldemar Stanley Nelson, great-grandson of Gustav.*

decision to sign an Oath of Allegiance to the United States, "didn't sit too well with the locals."

Here's the story. Eight men booked passage as businessmen on a Federal paddlewheel steamer, *Ike Davis*, that Captain Nelson was to sail from a port in Mexico back to New Orleans. Once the ship was off the coast of Texas, however, the eight men overpowered the crew, forcing them below deck. The mutineers left Gustav and his crew off in Galveston, Texas, escaping with the Federal ship.

The eight men, as it turns out, were working on behalf of the Confederacy, which desperately needed ships, as they didn't have a Navy or significant ship-building facilities in the South.

And what became of Captain Nelson, left ashore in Galveston without a ship? He walked the 1,000 miles back to New Orleans. Gustav walked. He wasn't superhuman, though: the

experience did apparently leave him with rheumatism.

Gustav lived to a ripe old age, leaving stories and beautiful artifacts behind – as well as three surviving children, who had children, who had children and so on. And, call it what you will (coincidence, genetics, cultural inheritance), but many of Gustav's descendants like boats.

Here are some examples. Charles's grandfather (Gustav's grandson) owned and built his own boats – and the engines too. "He had a workshop in the basement of the house that my father grew up in where he could do all that kind of stuff," Charles explains. "I could see my dad enjoyed being on the water too. We always had boats of different descriptions."

Charles's cousins have built boats too – and built them well. Charles explains that one cousin, Eric Nelson, had just finished building a 35-foot cabin cruiser when Hurricane



Waldemar Stanley Nelson, great-grandson of Gustav and a lover of boats, started the engineering firm Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc. in New Orleans.

Katrina struck. After Katrina passed, he found his boat: it had been washed a mile inland. After using a bulldozer and cable to drag the boat back to the water and after swapping out the

engine, the boat was good to go again.

Then, there's Lee. Lee is currently in Denmark (yes, Denmark!), working on a master's degree in

philosophy at the University of Aarhus.

But he's spent the past couple summers in Alaska, working as a sailor. When there, Lee's tender boat, a power scow, works out of Petersburg. They start off the season "tending" the salmon fishing vessels in Bristol Bay in the Bering Sea for three weeks before heading down to Southeast Alaska to tend boats in that area.

Lee explains that tender vessels go out and take the fish from the fishing boats, which don't have time to deliver their catch while the fish are running. Then, the tender boats deliver the catch to the cannery within six to twenty-four hours. The tender boats also sell food and supplies to fishing boats. And the tender boats have showers and washing machines and fresh water.



On the tender boat off the coast of Alaska, Lee, says, the workdays revolve around the tides. "When we could travel, how early we had to leave to make it into port before the tide became too low, and how long a journey would take us, all had to be factored into our daily lives. We weren't really working days based on the sun as much as we were working by the moon. My captain's old lady calls it 'living the lunar lifestyle.'"

"It's such a nice contrast with graduate school," says Lee. "Here [in Denmark], I read, read, read. I'm not doing anything physical. There [in Alaska], I'm using a different part of my brain, working with an engine and changing oil and using my hands. There, sitting down feels so good after 24 hours of work."

It's a little silly to compare Lee's experience with what can be surmised of Gustav's experience. Obviously, the times are different. The equipment is different. Sailing isn't Lee's fulltime career. And Gustav wasn't dealing with fish in Alaska. That said, there are some common threads.

Gustav, like Lee, worked with a small group of men in isolation, in cramped quarters for long stretches of time. No doubt, Gustav also was adept at solving the problems that a boat and the seas throw at sailors.

And here's one more story that Lee tells: In the late summer of 2008, Lee was working on a boat in the Gulf of Alaska, preparing to head to Denmark for graduate school. Meanwhile, Hurricane Gustav was making its way through the Gulf of Mexico bound, many feared, for New Orleans.

"It tied my different worlds together," says Lee, a New Orleans native, at sea, anticipating a trip to Denmark to study in the country his great-great-great-grandfather left as a boy.



## Exhibitions On the Road...

The popular exhibition, *Victor Borge: A Centennial Celebration*, will be traveling to new audiences in the next several months. If you missed the opportunity to see the exhibition in Elk Horn or at Scandinavia House in New York City, you have a chance in Seattle and Minneapolis in the coming months.

The Danish Immigrant Museum is proud to work with the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle to share Victor Borge's life and work from December 3, 2010 to February 6, 2011. You can get details about hours and admission at [www.nordicmuseum.org](http://www.nordicmuseum.org) or by calling (206)789-5707.

After Seattle, the Borge exhibition moves to Minneapolis for a showing at the American Swedish Institute from February 19 through May 1, 2011. Visitors in Minneapolis will enjoy the exhibition within the context of other comedians, under the title *Victor Borge: Life and Laughs of a Scandinavian Humorist*. For more information, visit [www.americanswedishinst.org](http://www.americanswedishinst.org) or call 612-871-4907.



*Victor Borge, from the collection of The Danish Immigrant Museum*

And the smaller version of the Borge exhibition continues to travel! This streamlined portable version will be spending a month on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands next

spring. It is still available for lending to groups and organizations throughout the country; please contact Tova Brandt, curator of exhibitions, for more information.



## ...and Online!

The exhibition *Sampling the Collection, A to Å* is now on the museum's website! You can enjoy many of the wonderful artifacts and stories from the gallery exhibition in a new "virtual" format. If you see an artifact you particularly like, you can even instantly post it to your Facebook page, email it to friends, or share it in a whole variety of ways.

On the museum's website, you will find *Sampling the Collection* under the Collections menu. We will keep adding artifacts to the online version, so be sure to check it out regularly! *Sampling the Collection* is the museum's first truly online exhibition, and it is made possible thanks to a generous gift from Lissi Vange of Wilmette, Illinois.



# The Collection Connection

By Angela Stanford, curator of collections

A year ago, the museum received a complete weaving loom from a donor in Osage, Iowa. It had been given to her mother, Laura Johanne Amalia Nielsen, who was a second generation American, her parents being Danish immigrants who settled in Nuckolls County, Nebraska.

Laura was born to Christian and Ane Hansen Nielsen in Marquette, Nebraska in 1900. Laura married Niels Wodder on January 1, 1920. When their daughter Anne, the donor of this loom, took a confirmation class instructed by Pastor Marius Krog, the Wodder and Krog families became well acquainted.

Over the years, both Laura and Marius lost their spouses. Because of their existing friendship and

newfound commonality, Laura and Marius became closer and married on March 7, 1965.

The donated loom originally belonged to Marius's mother in Denmark. He brought it to the United States and Laura used it to create clothing, bedding, and other items, some of which have been donated to the museum in the past several months.

Recently, the collection relating to Laura Wodder Krog grew when Anne donated folk costumes Laura made for herself and her first husband Niels in the 1920s. The couple danced at the parish hall in Kronborg, Nebraska.

Each of the pieces in this collection adds depth and context to the biography of Laura Wodder Krog, something we strive for in all artifact donations. The more information shared



*Laura and Niels Wodder, circa 1920, in folk costumes made by Laura.*

with the museum at the time of donation, the better preserved are the stories of the artifacts and the people associated with them.



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## Gymnasts wow crowd in Elk Horn while on tour



The Danish Immigrant Museum hosted the National Danish Performance Team on the American leg of their 2010-2011 World Tour in October. The gymnastics team will have performed in sixteen U.S. cities by the end of their tour. A traveling exhibit, created by The Danish Immigrant Museum, travels with the team to all performance venues.

*Photos by Alan Mores, Harlan, Iowa, Tribune*



## Tak for Sidst!

Danish culture is so rich, so special! What are some of the traits that make us uniquely, wonderfully Danish? I

commissioned a “panel of experts” to help me identify some. Here’s what they suggested.

### Danish Customs

We Danes enjoy observing festivals and holidays like *Fastelavn*, *Grundlovsdag*, *Sankt Hans Aften* and *Julefest*. There are many customs surrounding food and drink—the order in which foods are served and drinking traditions (*skål!*), for example. There’s coffee, pastries and cookies (*småkager*). There’s *smørrebrød*, *frikadeller*, *medisterpølse*, *rullepølse*, *rødspætte*, *rødbeder*, and *æbelskiver* (I’m getting hungry), wonderful breads and cheeses, and for dessert—of course—*rødgrød med fløde!* Now for some exercise: soccer, folk dancing, bicycling and gymnastics.

Religious customs come to mind, along with the use of candles to create a *hyggelig* experience and the pride and use of the Danish flag (*Dannebrog*). The tradition of Danish fishing and the mastery of the sea (Viking history) are legendary in Danish culture. And let’s not forget the wonderful Danish language and the dialects that represent the different regions of the country.

### Danish Beliefs

Although the Danes are not known for regular church attendance, their Christian beliefs have deep historic roots. The teachings and philosophies of N.F.S. Grundtvig (including the folk school tradition) and the Inner Mission beliefs are important. The belief in cooperation, not only socially, but also in business (for example, the formation of co-ops), is significant. There is an openness and practicality about sex and sex education in Danish culture. Denmark is setting an example for the world in their belief that energy conservation and sustainability is achievable. And the Danish monarchy, the world’s oldest existing monarchy, is a source of Danish pride.

### Danish Social Forms

Danes are known for their sense of community, egalitarianism and openness. On leaving a room, everyone shakes hands with everyone. Spirited conversation over dinner or coffee on topics of politics and religion is traditional. The responsibility to care for each other is shown in the Danish social welfare system. *Janteloven* is still prominent.

### Material Traits

The beauty of Danish porcelain is known throughout the world. Although influenced by other European designs, Danish architecture has many unique features, found especially in the churches and historic windmills scattered across the country. The simple, clean lines and functional design of Danish furniture is world renowned.

At the museum, our task is to preserve and promote these uniquely Danish customs, beliefs and traits. If you agree with our mission, we ask for your help. If you love Danish culture, we ask you to support us financially.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you about the many projects in the works at the museum and about our wonderful Danish culture!

**Bruce Bro**  
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*Thanks to my panel of experts: Mark Mussari of Tucson, Mark Nussle of Chicago, Exhibitions Curator Tova Brandt, Development Associate Debra Christensen Larsen, Curator of Collections Angela Stanford, FHGC Director Michele McNabb and Executive Director John Mark Nielsen.*





*Front Row, from left: Janet M. Thuesen, Kurt Hansen, Harriet Albertsen Spanel (president), Cynthia McKeen, Vice Consul Anna Thomsen Holliday (secretary), Kay Esbeck North, Carol Jensen Mills, Mittie Ostergaard. Back Row, from left: John Mark Nielsen (executive director), Clark Mathisen (treasurer), Mark Nussle (vice president), Consul Lynette Rasmussen, Jon Borgman, Dennis Andersen, Kenneth Larsen, Mark Strandskov, Henrik Fogh Rasmussen, Eric Smitsdorff, Kristi Johnson, Lone Christensen, Ane-Grethe Delaney, Dennis Larson, Benedikte Ehlers Olesen. Not pictured: Carlo Christensen, Mark Frederiksen, Mia Hansen, Steven Lund.*

## Board of Directors Meet in Elk Horn

The museum's board of directors held its eighty-sixth regular and twenty-seventh annual meetings in Elk Horn, October 20 through 23. The Danish Immigrant Museum is pleased to welcome four new members to the board. They are:

Jon Borgman from Harlan, Iowa. Borgman has a M.A. in business administration, public administration and human resources, and, for more than fifteen years, has worked as a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial. He spent time in Denmark as an International 4H Youth Exchange student near Aalborg. Jon has been an active advocate for the museum in the Shelby County area.

Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, resides in Mission Viejo,

California, has a degree in physical education and taught in Anaheim, California. She is treasurer of the Danish Woman's Club in Los Angeles, board member of the Danish American Club in Orange County, and serves as president of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. Her parents were Danish and she has two children, a son in Arizona and a daughter in Anaheim Hills, CA.

Henrik Fogh Rasmussen was born in Denmark and became a U.S. citizen on April 9, 2010. He is an author, commentator and public affairs strategist, currently serving as Vice President at DCI Group, a global strategic communications firm located in Washington, D.C. He has a M.A. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania and graduated summa

cum laude from Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia. He currently writes a monthly column for *Berlingske Tidende*, Denmark's oldest newspaper. Henrik and his wife, Kristina, reside in Springfield, Illinois and are expecting twins in January. Flemming "Eric" Smitsdorff was born in Esbjerg, Denmark and moved with his family as a young boy to the U.S. He received his B.S. degree from University of Wisconsin with graduate work at Old Dominion and Marquette Universities. Fluent in Danish, Eric has worked with Danish companies and distribution networks, and in the eighties managed a joint venture business relationship with a Danish company. His work experience has been primarily in sales and marketing with Bolens Corporation, Milwaukee

Machine, Jacobsen-Textron and Douglas Dynamics.

The meeting schedule began Wednesday with a strategic planning meeting and included orientation for new members and committee meetings, ending with the annual and regular meetings on Saturday. Board members spent Thursday evening watching the National Danish Performance Team at the Elk Horn-Kimballton School.

The board of directors meets in February, June and October. The February meeting is scheduled for February 9 through 12, 2011 in Chandler, Arizona. The museum is always looking for volunteers. If you or someone you know would like to know more about serving on the board of directors and the mission of the museum contact Mark Nussle at: [marknussle@att.net](mailto:marknussle@att.net).

# Thank You Businesses and Organizations

These businesses and organizations have contributed annual memberships of at least \$100. We recognize their generosity and support in each newsletter during their membership.

A & A Framing (Annette Andersen), Kimballton, IA  
Answers (Rick Tighe), Atlantic, IA  
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, IA  
Audubon Family Chiropractic (Douglas & Nichole Olsen), Audubon, IA  
Carroll Control Systems, Inc., Carroll, IA  
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA  
Danish American Athletic Club, Chicago, IL  
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Overland Park, KS  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #75, Albert Lea, MN  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84, Lincoln, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #126, Los Angeles, CA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #219, Webster City, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Junction City, OR  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #341, Kimballton-Elk Horn, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #348, Eugene, OR  
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ  
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Johnston, IA  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Dike, IA  
Danish Vennelyst Club, Omaha, NE  
Den Danske Klub, Washington, MO

Den Danske Pioneer, Hoffman Estates, IL  
Des Moines-Winterset-Atlantic Memorials, Des Moines, IA  
Elk Horn Pharmacy (Tim & Mary Waymire), Elk Horn, IA  
Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School, Elk Horn, IA  
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn, IA  
Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, CA  
Grand View Danish Immigrant Archive, Des Moines, IA  
Harboe Architects (T. Gunny Harboe), Chicago, IL  
Harlan Newspapers, Harlan, IA  
Heartland District of the DBIA, Ventura, IA  
Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA  
House of Denmark, San Diego, CA  
Jensen World Travel, Ltd. (Tor & Jeanette Jensen), Wilmette, IL  
Kessler Funeral Homes, Inc. (Mark Kessler), Audubon, IA  
King of Kings Fishing Guide Service & Lodge (Richard & Bonnie Andersen), Anchor Point, AK  
Knudsen Old Timers of The Danish Lutheran Church, Glendale, CA  
Leman USA, Sturtevant, WI  
Marge's Hair Hut (Kent & Marge Ingerslev), Elk Horn, IA  
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company, Elk Horn, IA  
NE Gen Comm Danish Brotherhood, Omaha, NE  
Nelsen & Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE  
O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI  
Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P., Carroll, IA  
Outlook Study Club, Elk Horn, IA

Pacific NW District Lodges D.B.I.A., Eugene, OR  
Proongily (Cynthia McKeen), St. Paul, MN  
Rebild National Park Society, Southern California, Glendale, CA  
Red River Danes, Fargo, ND  
Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA  
Shelby County State Bank, Elk Horn, IA  
Sons of Norway (Solglimt Lodge #1-547), Waverly, IA  
Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA  
The Danish Inn (Verne Klein), Elk Horn, IA  
The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA

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## In Honor June 5, 2010 – October 5, 2010

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

Pastor Melias Bollesen  
A. Gwendolyn Christiansen  
John & Esther Frost  
Carsten & Sharon Fugl  
Roger & Marilyn Hanson's 60th wedding anniversary  
Ernst G. Harboe  
Isabel Hoegh  
Jim & Marge Iversen's 50th wedding anniversary  
Thorvald & Gail Jacobsen's 65th wedding anniversary  
Pastor Paul Johnsen  
Bee Krantz  
Edith Larsen's 90th birthday  
Karen Lux  
Gladys McCrory, museum volunteer  
John W. Nielsen  
Liz & John W. Nielsen  
B. Joan Sorensen's birthday and family reunion  
Robert M. Swanson  
Don & Marjorie Wahlgren's 65th wedding anniversary



# New Additions to the Wall of Honor

June 5, 2010 – October 5, 2010

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.

Listed here are the recognized immigrants, their year of immigration, city and state named as their principal place of residence and donor(s) placing the name on the Wall of Honor.

If you would like to memorialize a family member or friend by adding their name to the Wall of Honor, contact Debra Christensen Larsen, development associate.

**ROSA ALVILDA CHRISTENSEN KARAS (1910) – Brayton, IA,** Dianna Marshall, Oakland, IA

**ANDERS LARSEN (1870) – Council Bluffs, IA,** Richard & Sharon Wells, Burlington, IA; Craig & Lynda Wilson, Council Bluffs, IA; Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ; and Michael & Marjorie Sorensen, Cincinnati, OH

**MAREN (LARSEN) LARSEN (1870) – Hazel Dell Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA,** Virginia (Halvorsen) Larsen, Austin, MN; Virginia "Ginny" Larsen, Austin, MN; Carolyn Christiansen, Johnston, IA; Donald Christiansen, Carlsbad, CA; Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ; Joanne & Steve Jacobs,

Marne, IA; Jo Ellen & James Kill, Muscatine, IA; Jeri Kolacny, Loveland, CO; Jeanette & Uwe Malchow, Council Bluffs, IA; Rosalie Nelson, Denver, CO; David & Dianne Rhode, Omaha, NE; LaVonne & Gail Sidebottom, Avoca, IA; Sylvia Snow, Lafayette, CO; Phyllis & Marshall Werth, Princeton, KS; Marilyn & Richard Formanek, Osage, IA; Phil & Evelyn Sherbondy, Council Bluffs, IA

**NIELS (CHRISTENSEN) LARSEN (late 1860s) – Hazel Dell Twp., Pottawattamie Co., IA,** Virginia (Halvorsen) Larsen, Austin, MN; Virginia "Ginny" Larsen, Austin, MN; Carolyn Christiansen, Johnston, IA; Donald Christiansen, Carlsbad, CA; Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ; Joanne & Steve Jacobs, Marne, IA; Jo Ellen & James Kill, Muscatine, IA; Jeri Kolacny, Loveland, CO; Jeanette & Uwe Malchow, Council Bluffs, IA; Rosalie Nelson, Denver, CO; David & Dianne Rhode, Omaha, NE; LaVonne & Gail Sidebottom, Avoca, IA; Sylvia Snow, Lafayette, CO; Phyllis & Marshall Werth, Princeton, KS; Marilyn & Richard Formanek, Osage, IA; Phil & Evelyn Sherbondy, Council Bluffs, IA

**MARTINUS MORTENSEN (1890) – Omaha, NE,** Lori Copes, Lincoln, NE

**NIELS NIELSEN (1914) – Alta, IA,** Merlin E. Nielsen, Virginia Beach, VA

**PETER FRITZ PETERSEN & MAGDALENA (GRONBECH) PETERSEN, Ames, IA,** Eda K. Keltner, Colfax, WI

**LARS PETER RASMUSSEN & MARIE OLIVE PETERSEN RASMUSSEN (1889 & 1903) – Blair, NE,** Joyce & Charles Gauck, Medina MN; Winnifred & Dean Ogle, Blair, NE; John & Marjorie Stolley, Boise, ID; Marilyn (deceased) & Robert Storms; Lyle & Trudy Truhlsen, Blair, NE; Kenneth & Norma Truhlsen, Blair, NE.

## Memorials – June 5, 2010 – October 5, 2010

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

"Speeny" Andersen  
Earl S. Andersen  
Hakon "Andy" Andersen  
Herbert C. Anderson  
Max Bacon  
JoAnn Bisaha  
Floyd & Jean Christensen  
Blakely  
Arnold Bodtker  
Walter (Mick) Bopp  
Harold E. Bro  
Belmont Byriel  
Janet Sue Sander  
Christensen  
C. Arthur Christiansen  
Ellen Hedegaard Christiansen  
Kai & Marie Jørgensen  
Christiansen  
Barbara Birkholm Clay  
Hans Christian Clement

Sylvia Crane  
Dick Dankert  
Carole Dickson  
Ninna Engskow  
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup  
Niels C. Fieglsang  
Gertrude Gronbech  
Lorraine Hall  
Clifford K. & A. Veola Hansen  
Frances Hansen  
Jane A. Hansen  
Peter Christian & Cecile  
Bergitha Marinke Langa  
Hansen  
Rev. Bill Hanson  
Svend-Aage Hestoft  
Emery Hoegh  
Leon Hoegh  
Hanne Friberg Hoepner  
Grandson Jonathan Hoifeldt  
Carl A. Jensen  
Rev. Russell P. Jensen  
Harriet A. Jessen  
Robert Johnson

Niels W. & Ingrid H.  
Jorgensen  
Dale Juelsgaard  
Dr. Milton Kaiser  
Chris J. & Gladys Knudsen  
Arlene Kroman  
Chester Larsen  
Lawrence "Larry" Larsen  
Dorothea Laursen  
Helen Macholan  
Oga & Ella Thomsen Madsen  
Elsie Rasmussen McNabb  
Alvin Mikkelsen  
Virgil E. Morse  
Alice Mortensen  
Lloyd Nelsen  
Dan Nelson  
Kenneth Nelson  
Larry A. Nelson  
1st Lt. Andrew B. Nelson, Co. D  
Rev. Ried Neve  
Pastor Niels Sorenson  
Nielsen

Tom Nielsen  
Walter & Else Pedersen  
Nielsen  
Felix & Anna Nussle  
Ellen O'Donnell  
Ole & Marie Olsen  
Marlys Paulson  
Amelia Petersen  
Clarence Petersen  
Otto A. Petersen  
Mary Poulsen  
Mr. & Mrs. Holm Rasmussen  
Lucia Respass  
Emma Morsing Safley  
Poul V. Steffensen  
Joyce Strong  
Leota Swenson  
Arthur Thompson  
Neal Walter  
Walter Westergaard  
Gerda Winther  
Stanley Zellmer

# New Members

## June 5, 2010 – October 5, 2010

The Danish Immigrant Museum is pleased to identify the following individuals as its newest members. Museum membership is achieved in various ways—through gifts, complimentary or annual gifting. We do appreciate your support.

David Alt, Yorba Linda, CA  
Romualdas Mickevicius & Judith Andersen, Baxter, MN  
Susan Angen, Crosby, MN  
Sally Blount, Des Moines, IA  
Eva Christensen, Houston, TX  
Terri Christenson, Portland, OR  
John & Mary Clark, Menominee, MI  
Lori Copes, Lincoln, NE  
Cynthia Dahlke, Derby, KS  
Wilma Davis, Indianola, IA  
Leonard & Lynn Davison, Kansas City, MO  
Patricia Debets, Oak Park, IL  
Melissa Dinesen, Harlan, IA  
Maria Donhauser, Claremont, CA  
Marilyn Duigou, Alberta, Canada  
Richard Durkop, Lakewood, CO  
Matt Edwards, Ankeny, IA  
John Arthur & Anne Marie Eggebroten, Santa Monica, CA  
Ben Hony & Annette Floystup, Oakland, CA  
Chris & Jan Glintborg, Elgin, IL  
Steen & Gitte Hagensen, Roswell, GA  
Suzanne Hansen, Gardena, CA  
Eldon & Janet Hattervig, Boise, ID  
Jan Hofer, Quasqueton, IA  
Philip & Dianna Howland, Omaha, NE  
Barbara Jorgenson, Emery, SD  
Robert & Ruth Kramme, Des Moines, IA

Jim Landfried, Cambridge, MA  
Curtis Larsen, Helena, MT  
Douglas & Ginger Larsen, Polk City, IA  
Gina Lucchi, Hollister, CA  
John & JoAnn Luedecke, Colorado Springs, CO  
Nancy Mankin, Mauldin, SC  
Dianna Marshall, Oakland, IA  
Carol McCarthy, Omaha, NE  
George & Mary Metzger, Cumberland, WI  
Gitte Mohr, Saint Paul, MN  
Daniel & Sarah Clausen Mooney, Clear Lake, IA  
Paul & Kaye Namkoong, Hollister, CA  
NE/CO District Danish Sisterhood, Lincoln, NE  
Donald & Margaret Nelson, Mission Hills, KS  
Marvin & Sandra Sue Nelson, Enumclaw, WA  
Anne Nielsen, Taastrup, Denmark  
Merlin Nielsen, Virginia Beach, VA  
Roald Nielsen, Glencoe, MN  
Ronald Nielsen, Plymouth, MN  
Karen Nute, St. Michael, MN  
Malene Vitus Østergård, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Wayne Palmquist, New Lenox, IL  
Marilyn Pearce, Haslett, MI  
Georg & Nina Pedersen, Seattle, WA  
Laurids & Judith Pedersen, Blair, NE  
Vera Petersen, Saint Paul, NE  
Ellenora Plugge, Blair, NE

Vincent Preuthun, Trenton, MI  
Colin & Kathryn Quinn, Carter Lake, IA  
Ellen Rasmussen, Newell, IA  
Lars & Bente Rasmussen, Libertyville, IL  
Thomas & Susan Richardson, Hayward, WI  
Winfred & Deloris Ross, Cherokee Village, AR  
Dawn Ryan, New York, NY  
Henrik Simonsen, Ry, Denmark  
Erica Skouby, Nevada, MO  
Jernsen & Jan Skouby, Belle, MO  
Lynelle Skouby Luther, Sikeston, MO  
Flemming 'Eric' & Lynn Smitsdorff, Racine, WI  
Paul & Kama Solevad, Camas, WA  
Jeff & Gerta Sorensen-London, Chicago, IL  
Miles Porter & Mary Staby, Frisco, CO  
Soren Stephansen, Gentofte, Denmark  
Kenneth & Norma Truhlsen, Blair, NE  
Karen Vig-Keathley, Elmwood Park, IL  
David & Bente Vinci, Skokie, IL  
Doug Wilson, Farragut, IA  
Jane Wilson, Farragut, IA  
Kristine Wilson, Farragut, IA  
Nick Wilson, Farragut, IA  
James & Patricia Wistrom, Des Moines, IA  
Doug & Kirsten Wood, Chino, CA  
Tim & Joy Wood, Denver, CO



## Are You a Danish Immigrant or Long-term Resident?

Many Danes have immigrated to the US since WWII, have been exchange students, or resided in this country for several decades. We would like to have some information in our library on more recent

immigrants or long-term residents from Denmark. If this is you or someone you know, please fill out an Immigrant Information Form or distribute it at meetings of your

local Danish-American organization. Forms may be downloaded from the Library & Genealogy section of our webpage or contact Michele McNabb for copies.





Former intern Helene Christensen took time out from her schedule to come for coffee in Aalborg.



Former intern Malene Vitus Østergård has made her primary mode of transportation easy to find among the hundreds in her dormitory bike lot.

# The Museum's Former Danish Interns *What are they doing now?*

During her trip to Denmark, Michele McNabb, FHGC librarian and genealogy manager, had time to catch up with a number of the museum's former Danish interns. Here's what they are doing now:

**FREJA GRY BØRSTING** (internship: spring 2004) is working full-time for an insurance company. In her free time she volunteers for special projects at Immigrantmuseet, Denmark's Immigrant Museum in the Copenhagen suburb of Farum. You can see some of the museum's exhibits at [www.danishimmigrationmuseum.com](http://www.danishimmigrationmuseum.com).

**HELENE CHRISTENSEN** (fall 2005) – Since finishing her degree at Aalborg University Helene has run a part-time business offering personal genealogy tours and

guided horseback trips in northern Jutland. With the season winding down she is currently employed as a letter-carrier and applying for full-time jobs in tourism and marketing.

**MARIANNE SLETTEN PAASCH** (spring 2008) – A student at Aalborg University, Marianne defies death on her bicycle to get to the university library, where she is busy writing her master's thesis on the late-19th-century split in the Danish American Lutheran Church.

**HELLE HOVMAND-OLSEN** (fall 2008) – Helle finished her master's degree shortly before giving birth this summer to a son, Jonathan. She and her family have just moved back from Copenhagen to their hometown of Esbjerg, where Helle hopes to find a job when her maternity leave ends.

**YVONNE SKOV GRØNLUND** (fall 2008) – Yvonne is busy researching and writing on her master's

thesis topic, how the city of Copenhagen was marketed to Danish tourists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An obdurate Copenhagener, she has no plans to move away from the capital!

**JON GADE JEPPESEN** (spring 2009) – Jon is writing his master's thesis at Aarhus University on the evolution of Denmark's bicycle culture. He also works part-time at Den gamle By, the open-air museum devoted to Danish town life ([www.dengambleby.dk/int/english.htm](http://www.dengambleby.dk/int/english.htm)).

**MALENE VITUS ØSTERGÅRD** (spring 2010) took a break from her thesis writing, on a topic of communication involving a prominent politician, to represent the museum at the Jens Jensen conference held in southern Jutland in September. You can see photos from the event on the museum's Facebook page.

## ADMISSION & HOURS

### ADMISSION

(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

### FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY

#### CENTER HOURS

May-Oct.: 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

All facilities are closed on New Year's Day; Easter Sunday; Thanksgiving; Christmas  
(Local weather conditions may cause occasional closures.)



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

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

## Danes search for American relatives

Genealogists are alive and well in Denmark and very interested in learning about how to find their American relatives! Over 330 individuals attended six workshops on researching Danish emigrants in U.S. records that I held in Denmark in September and October.

Besides learning about the best ways to navigate the complex American records system to find out what happened to their relatives since they left for North America, attendees contributed information on their emigrant families or asked questions about how to find their American cousins. And, from Rønne on Bornholm to Copenhagen and Aalborg, Viborg and Aarhus in Jutland, past visitors to the museum and FHGC passed along greetings and talked about their research trips and experiences in the U.S. The museum's FHGC staff and volunteers were mentioned as being very helpful both in person in Elk Horn and in assisting with long-distance research.

In addition to the genealogical workshops, I also gave a presentation to graduate history students at Aalborg University on Danish emigration and the museum internship program, met with several former interns (see separate story), and visited or toured eleven different archives and historical collections including the Copenhagen City Archives ([www.ksa.kk.dk](http://www.ksa.kk.dk))



*Michele McNabb saying hello to Jon Gade Jeppesen, former museum intern.*

– where, among other things, I found several early records pertaining to Victor Borge's maternal grandfather, Denmark's Immigrant Museum ([www.immigrantmuseet.dk/](http://www.immigrantmuseet.dk/)), the Bornholm Island Archives ([www.brk.dk/brk/site.aspx?p=28965](http://www.brk.dk/brk/site.aspx?p=28965)), several of the Danish provincial archives ([www.sa.dk/content/us/](http://www.sa.dk/content/us/)), The Danish Emigration Archives ([www.emiarch.dk/home.php3?l=en](http://www.emiarch.dk/home.php3?l=en)), the local history collection in Husum in southern Schleswig, and one of over 400 local Danish archives, the Solbjerg Area Local Historical Archive ([www.lokalhistorieiaarhus.dk/solbjerg/](http://www.lokalhistorieiaarhus.dk/solbjerg/)), located in the public library of a small rural town in eastern Jutland. Both the information I gathered and

contacts made will be very useful for assisting patrons in the future.

A great deal of recent interest in genealogy has been generated by a current Danish TV program, "*Hvem tror du du er?*" (Who do you think you are?), which features prominent Danes and discusses their ancestry and connections. The FHGC has been contacted by several program producers for assistance in locating American relatives of several of these persons for upcoming segments of the program.

During my three weeks in Denmark I made five photo diaries of highlights of my trip which may be seen on the museum's Facebook page.

# Wish List

The following materials are currently at the top of the FHGC Wish List. If you would like to donate one or more of the following or contribute toward their purchase, please contact Michele McNabb at 712-764-7008 or [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org).

English-language:

- *Alice Nielsen and the Gayety of Nations*, by Dall Wilson. (2006; \$49.95 from the author).
- *The Trans-Mississippi West, 1804-1912: A Guide to Federal Records for the Territorial Period, Part IV: Section 3: Records of the General Land Office* (2008; \$49 from NARA).
- *Dressed for the Photographer: Ordinary Americans and Fashion, 1840-1900* (\$43.80 on amazon.com)
- Dana College yearbooks: anything before 1927, 1928-1930, 1932-1944, 1946-1954, 1957-1963, 1968 to 2010

- Grand View College yearbooks: anything before 1920, 1928-1929, 1933, 1935, 1940, 1944, 1947, 1950, 1953, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1972, 1977 to the present

Danish-language:

- *I centrum ved grænsen - portræt af Sønderborg Kommune* (In the Middle at the Border - Portrait of Sønderborg Municipality), by Peter Dragsbo. (2006; available from Historisk Samfund for Als og Sundeved).
- *Danske børnehjem i billeder og tekst* (Danish Orphanages in Picture and Text; 1900), by various authors.
- *Find din slægt -- og gør den levende*, by Jytte Skaaning og Bente Klercke Rasmussen.
- *Ordbog for slægtsforskere*, by Heini Madsen. 2nd ed.
- *Dansk adelsleksikon* (Encyclopedia of Danish Nobility). There are numerous editions of this title and accompanying volumes available from online antiquarian book dealers for a wide range of prices. We would like to obtain at least one set.



## Of Genealogical Interest

**Danish parish register books** through 1935 are now available at [www.arkivalieronline.dk](http://www.arkivalieronline.dk). Also new on this website is the 1930 census for all rural parishes in Denmark. The census for market towns and Copenhagen will follow.

The **Nebraska State Genealogical Society** tombstone photo project may be found at <http://tombstone.nesgs.org>. Photographs of nearly 55,000 tombstones have been uploaded.

Nebraska homestead documents and related papers are being digitized; those currently available may be viewed at <http://cdrh.unl.edu/homestead>.

Researchers interested in Minnesota should check out the holdings of the Iron Range Research Center at [www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org](http://www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org).

The Greater Omaha Genealogical Society has expanded the databases on its website ([www.gogsmembers.wordpress.com](http://www.gogsmembers.wordpress.com)) to include marriages from Hall, Cass, Rock, Sarpy, Thurston and Wayne Counties in Nebraska.

Denmark's Immigrant Museum ([www.immigrantmuseet.dk](http://www.immigrantmuseet.dk)), located in Farum, has 3 databases of possible interest: 1) over 100,000 foreign-born persons who sought work permits in Copenhagen and Frederiksborg Counties between 1812-1924; 2) individuals granted Danish citizenship, 1776-1960; and 3) some 31,000 individuals who were expelled from Denmark between 1873 and 1919.

The Copenhagen City Archives is in the process of digitizing the City police census lists from 1890-1923. These lists were created semi-annually and are invaluable for tracking residents of the capital. About half of the lists have been digitized and may be searched at [www.politietsregisterblade.dk/](http://www.politietsregisterblade.dk/) A listing of individuals who died in Copenhagen during the same time period may be found at [www.fogsgaard.org/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=14&lang=en](http://www.fogsgaard.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=14&lang=en).





# Stamtræ

## Activities and News

Thanks to a couple of generous donors the FHGC has acquired two new banks of shelving for the reading room.

A new in-house database contains the membership records from 1886-1915 of the Sioux Valley Baptist Church in Moody County, South Dakota.

You can purchase canvas bags and t-shirts with the "Danish Roots, American Branches" logo design through the Museum Shop or the FHGC.

The FHGC has acquired a volume of maps of Copenhagen districts dating from the mid-1750s, along with a listing of the residents in each building from fish-monger to aristocrat. This is the first map after the last of the capital city's disastrous fires, so many buildings and streets in the center of Copenhagen today may be found on the map, along with their inhabitants.

Danish Genealogy workshops will be held in conjunction with the museum board of directors meeting in Chandler, Arizona in February 2011. For workshop information and registration forms see the Workshops & Talks drop-down menu on the Library & Genealogy section of the museum webpage.



## Residents of the Danevirk Hotel

This enumeration of **Residents of the Danevirk Hotel**, taken in Chicago, 27 July 1870, by census-taker R. Henderson, shows occupations of some of the many young immigrants in the city prior to the Great Fire of 1871: The location of the hotel was not given on the census, but obviously catered to Scandinavian immigrants.

1. Christian Hansen, 43, hotel keeper, born Denmark
2. Nickoline Hansen, 31, keeps house, born Denmark
3. Anna Gelstrop, 21, domestic servant, born Denmark
4. Dora Rasmussen, 24, domestic servant, born Denmark
5. Julius Smid, 33, watchmaker, born Denmark
6. H. C. Andersen, 25 cigarmaker, born Denmark
7. C. Nelsen, 32, house carpenter, born Denmark
8. Nels Svesen[?], 32, house carpenter, born Denmark
9. Theo Paulsen, 26, machinist, born Denmark
10. Peter Petersen, 28, tailor, born Denmark
11. Fred Dahl, 28, journalist, born Denmark
12. And. Sivertsen, 36, painter, born Norway
13. Ed Laforce, 30, day laborer, born France
14. Fred Bensen, 28, cabinetmaker, born Denmark
15. Rasmus Pedersen, 31, house carpenter, born Denmark
16. C. Thompson, 27, brewer, born Denmark
17. Christ Phupher[?], 53, jeweler, born Denmark
18. John Hansen, 28, cigarmaker, born Denmark
19. Wm.[?] Hansen, 30, house carpenter, born Norway
20. Christ Kock, 31, machinist, born Prussia
21. Aug. Petersen, 27, cigarmaker, born Prussia
22. C. Molgaard, 26, clerk in office, born Denmark
23. B. Hensen, 30, sailor, born Denmark
24. Aug. Prost/Præst, 30, sailor, born Denmark
25. John Philip, 27, house carpenter, born England
26. Andr. Galman, 28, baker, born England
27. John Rule, 24, plasterer, born England
28. San Johnsen, 25, sailor, born Norway
29. Christ Sorensen, 26, house carpenter, born Denmark
30. Pal Sebahn[?], 34, day laborer, born Denmark
31. Christ Jensen, 28, dike[?] capt., born Denmark
32. J. Fredricksen, 29, fur dealer, born Denmark



# Hats, Caps or Shawls?

What did your immigrant ancestor wear on his/her head? In days of yore respectable people always covered their heads when they went out in public (it was also a way of not coming down with a cold!). For its 2011 summer photo exhibit the museum's FHGC will display photographs that illustrate what Danish immigrants wore on their heads. So rummage through your photo albums and see what you can find.



## Researching a Lost Gravestone

by FHGC volunteer Suzanne Rasmussen

One never knows what a day of volunteering at the FHGC might bring. On August 25 I opened an email with an inquiry concerning a gravestone that had been discovered abandoned in a remote area in Oregon.

Engraved on the stone was the following information:

*Adolph M. A. Wisborg  
Born in Denmark July 7, 1826  
Died July 2, 1893*

The only information the sender had been able to verify was the date of Mr. Wisborg's death through the Oregon Historical Records Index. Might we be able to help locate the cemetery from which the stone had been removed, perhaps by vandals?

Since Mr. Wisborg was purportedly a Danish immigrant the first place I searched was the U.S. Immigration Collection in the subscription database, AncestryLE. There, I was able to locate an Adolph Wesborg, born about 1827, who had immigrated to the United States from Hamburg on the SS Wieland. Traveling with him was his wife, Nelse (also referred to in this article as Nellie Marie or Marie), and daughter, Bothilde. Former

residents of Aarhus, Denmark, they left Hamburg on March 6, 1892. Adolph's occupation was listed in German as mauerer (mason).

With this information we were able to locate 1880 Danish census records in Randers that put the following individuals together as a family unit:

Adolph Mauritz Wisborg, 53, mason

Marie Wisborg, née Hyllested, 52, wife

Boltelthe Serine Petrea Wisborg, 24, daughter, seamstress

Francisca Wisborg, 18, daughter, seamstress

Anine Margrethe Visborg, 25, women's tailor

Anders Marius Christoffer Visborg, 16, shop apprentice

In the Danish Police Emigration Index we confirmed that 20-year-old clerk Anders Wisborg left Denmark for the United States around April 14, 1884, accompanied by his two unmarried sisters, Franciska, age 22, and Bothilde Wisborg, age 27. There was no 1892 emigration index listing for Adolph or his wife, which indicates that their tickets were purchased outside of Denmark. Their daughter Bothilde, we can surmise, had returned to Denmark to bring

her parents to the U.S.

According to census data, by 1900, Marie, Annie and Bothilde Wisborg were living together at 839 Missouri Avenue in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. In 1910, Marie, now age 83, was the head of the household at the same address where Annie M., 56, Bothilde S., 53, and bookkeeper son Anders M. C., 46, all single, resided. In 1920 Anders, 56, was listed as the head of the household that consisted of his sisters Bothilde, 63, and Annie, 65. Those three siblings were still living there together in 1930.

In the online death index of the Oregon State Archives, listings were found for both Adolph M. A. Wisborg, on July 2, 1893, and Nellie Marie Wisborg on August 13, 1911. A mortuary notice for Nellie Wisborg was found in the subscription database [www.GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com) which reported that she was buried in Lone Fir Cemetery in Portland, and was survived by A. B. C. Wisborg, daughters Anine and Bothilda Wisborg and Mrs. Christina Hald.

A search in the Oregon section of the USGenWeb for cemeteries in the Portland area provided the information that the Lone Fir Cemetery, as a pioneer cemetery, was under the jurisdiction of the government of Metropolitan

Portland. A phone call to the cemetery office listed on the [Oregonmetro.gov](http://Oregonmetro.gov) website confirmed that Adolph Wisborg, his wife Nellie, and son, "Andres" Wisborg, were all buried in the cemetery. Adolph had died of hypopneumonia slightly over a year after having immigrated.

Further information obtained included the name of the undertaker, the Holman Funeral Home, who buried Nellie Wisborg; a firm still in business today. Bothilde and Annie died on March 28, 1932, and April 4, 1932, respectively. Both were buried in the Multnomah Park Pioneer Cemetery. Anders Wisborg, the last of the unmarried siblings, died in 1950. According to cemetery records at that time, his nephew (Adolph and Nellie Marie's grandson, Carl Hald) had placed markers on their graves.

Whether the gravestone that started this search was an older marker that was replaced in 1950 or whether it is the one placed there in 1950 by Carl Hald is not clear at this time. But the cemetery was glad to know about the stone and our patron to have the information about where it once had been placed. And, thus, a story about another immigrant family can be added to the FHGC files.

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