



AUGUST 2011

## News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

### Danish-American Artist Series Presents Silverwork of Yngve Olsson

Exhibit opens August 6. On view through January 8, 2012

Yngve Olsson (1896-1970) was a Danish immigrant silversmith who spent his career with the Kalo Shop in Chicago. Like other Kalo Shop craftsmen, he was a master of hand-wrought silver and copper, especially jewelry and hollow ware. Examples of his works will be on display, as well as the tools and design drawings that were part of the process of transforming metal into works of art.



### Brown Bag Lunch Programs Continue!



Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, "Iraq and Afghanistan . . . A Decade Later"  
Former museum executive director, Rick Burns shares experiences and observations from his recent tour of duty.

Program begins at 12 noon in the Bro Dining Room and is FREE to the public. Bring your own lunch, we'll provide the coffee!

### Future Brown Bag Lunch Programs:

- September 8, "The Journey Continues: Remembering the Past and Looking to the Future at the Danish American Archive and Library," with Tim Jensen of the DAAL board in Blair, Nebraska.
- October 13, "Secrets of Hans Christian Andersen", shared by Kristi Planck Johnson, professor emeritus of education at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

### An Invitation for You

Our new mission statement is **The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.** Support our celebration and dream when you become an active member. Your support makes possible all of the activities described in this e-newsletter. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#).

## Special Saturdays at Bedstemor's House

Step back in time to 1908 when you visit Bedstemor's House, open daily 1 to 4pm. On Saturdays this summer, you can also enjoy crafts, demonstrations, or other activities from a century ago. Admission is FREE to museum members and with a fully-paid museum admission; or, pay just \$1 to visit Bedstemor's House.

Upcoming Special Saturdays:

August 6	Nordic Knitting with Tova Brandt
August 13	Danish-style needlework with Aveline Marks
August 20	Bobbin-lace demonstration by Melissa Dinesen
August 27	Paper-cutting activities with Annette Andersen

## Museum's Newest Acquisition

One of the most recent acquisitions of The Danish Immigrant Museum offers a unique glimpse into the immigration narrative by illustrating the process of preparing to leave Denmark. It was originally used by agents who were contracted with the Copenhagen Police to collect information from and prepare paperwork for those interested in emigrating. Pieces like this were used between the 1880s and 1920, and similar ones are held in collections at the *Nationalmuseet* in Copenhagen and the Museum of Copenhagen.



Emigration badge

## Family History & Genealogy Center: Danish Roots, American Branches

### Summer Time is Reunion Time

The summer months are often when distant kin get together to catch up on each others' activities or to meet new relatives at family reunions. For some families these events take place annually; others are special occasions several years in the planning. When your family has a reunion the FHGC would like to have copies of any family histories or charts, group photographs (preferably with individuals identified) or lists of attendees to add to our family files. Material may be mailed to the FHGC at PO Box 249, Elk Horn IA 51531. Contact Michele at [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org) for further information.



Descendants of immigrants Poul Christian Larsen and Caroline Petersen, who settled in Holstein, Nebraska, came from as far away as Florida and Washington State to a recent gathering in Hastings, Nebraska.

## Danish Genealogy on the Road



. . . will come to Yorba Linda, California, from September 29 to October 1. Six different workshops will be given. For further information see the Workshops & Talks menu under Library & Genealogy on the museum's webpage [www.DanishMuseum.org](http://www.DanishMuseum.org).

## Hats of the Month

The FHGC summer photo exhibit, "Heady Stuff / Hatte og Huer," is on display in the FHGC lobby through the end of October. Stop by to look at what our ancestors wore on their heads and to vote for your favorite headwear!

Shown here is the hat worn by Dora Nielsen Sorensen (1875-1947) on the occasion of the baptism of her only child, Norman, in 1895, and the work cap of cabinetmaker Hans P. Gronbech, who pursued his trade in Rochester, New York and Jewell, Iowa before settling down in San Diego, California.



Dora Nielsen Sorensen  
holding son Norman Holm



Hans P. Gronbech

## Wanted: Obituary Clippers!

Looking at obituaries in local newspapers is often a favorite pastime. But did you know that the FHGC collects obituaries, death notices and funeral cards for Danish immigrants and Danish Americans nationwide? We rely on volunteers to do this, and while we have sets of eyes in Ames/Des Moines, Audubon, Atlantic and Manning, Iowa, Wichita, Kansas, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, Racine, Wisconsin, and Las Vegas, Nevada, we need volunteers in other locations! If you are a habitual obituary reader, can wield a pair of scissors, and would be interested in volunteering in this way, contact Michele at the FHGC [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org) for instructions.

### Alma (Nielsen) Meyer

Alma lived the Danish dream as much as the land had land. Actually, the family and church were nearly one and the same. Faith and life were intertwined, so Sunday and Holyday with Tuesday and Thursday were not much different from one another. The social emphasis in the Lutheran Church on holy occasions in daily life was woven into the fabric of almost every thing.

She also served as organist at Denmark Lutheran, Minnesota, for 20 years, taught Sunday School, was an officer of the L.C.W., and did the other usual "church things" - like attending Danish and Lutheran Church convocations (including both in Seattle and Twin pine points in between in the 40s and 50s). Yes, it was an early member; local school teacher, school board member, and community service that Alma's faith was expressed most clearly.

She and her first husband, Harald (Hansen), traveled the country to sing and play for funerals, as well as to campaign for Christ's reign on the Minnesota landscape. Following the daily farm duties with her own hands, she left side-care work in a local store, Albert's, in "Star Line" pattern, then 1914, and taught the kindergarten until in Denmark, Lake where she and Harald met. Eight years after Harald died in 1918, she married a neighboring farmer, Hans Meyer, a life long member of Denmark Lutheran and a former Mount Park School student.

The working approach to death had been based on the faith of parents, brothers, a son, two children, both husbands, and many friends. While it is true that spiritual life left side-care work, the sense that awareness of God is present in her own life, and with others. She died on August 7, 1982 at the age of 86. Three sons, Clayton, Wayne and Everett succeeded her, along with 18 grand-children and 11 great-grandchildren. Wayne is an associate with Seattle Title to Los Angeles, while Clayton and Everett serve as LLA partners in door garden, Seattle.

At her funeral service held at Denmark Lutheran Church in Seattle, Minnesota, a hymn choir sang parts of her favorite hymns, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," "Children of the Heavenly Father," and "How Great Their Act." Hymns chosen and a meaningful service in the presence of her grand-children, and Danes Gary (with extended family) and members of Alma's son-in-law's church and family, as well as all the living hope on all lives in Jesus Christ, testament was at the Denmark Lutheran Cemetery, between the graves of the first wife, Alma's mother, her spiritual parents, Vincent J. F. Nelson and Hans Meyer.

Essene Station

# The Danish Immigrant Museum

## Danish Doings - *Kyst til Kyst*

The Danish Immigrant Museum is happy to share information about Danish- American events across the country - "coast to coast"

To include your organization's event, send complete information – including a contact phone or email – to Deb Christensen Larsen [development@danishmuseum.org](mailto:development@danishmuseum.org).

The Museum reserves the right to edit or condense the information at our discretion.



**August 6, Hoover's Hometown Days, West Branch, Iowa.** Join thousands of visitors at the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site for Hoover's Hometown Days, a celebration of the birthday of the 31st U.S. president—the only U.S. president from Iowa. The Museum will be represented – stop by its booth to visit with Michele McNabb, Deb Christensen Larsen, and American intern, Anna Mullen.



**August 11-14, Scandinavian Festival, Eugene, Oregon.** Celebrating their rich Scandinavian heritage, the downtown area is transformed into a charming old world town. Offering cultural entertainment and activities in the authentic Scandinavian spirit, this four day event pays homage to the cultures of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland.



**August 17-21, Fall Folk Meeting at Danebod, Tyler, Minnesota.** Program and registration (August 1 deadline) information is available online at [www.danebodlutheran.org](http://www.danebodlutheran.org). Click on the "Fall Folk Meeting" under the banner. The museum's curator of exhibitions, Tova Brandt will present "Ethnic Museums Creating Cultural Memory."



**August 18-21, Danish Festival, Greenville, Michigan.** The entire Greenville community comes together to celebrate its Danish heritage. The Danish Festival draws more than 75,000 visitors to Greenville. This 47th annual event includes a Hot Air Balloon Rally, a Dirt, Diggin' Danes Truck & Tractor Pull, and a fairytale parade.



**September 11, Scandinavian Day Festival, Vasa Park, South Elgin, Illinois.** Enjoyed by thousands who return each year to this late summer tradition of a great day of traditional food, crafts, gifts and entertainment representing the five Nordic Cultures. The Museum will once again participate in this event.



**September 16-18, Danish Days, Solvang, California.** Plan to visit Solvang for the 2011 Danish Days Celebration, sponsored by the Solvang Danish Days Foundation. We welcome visitors from around the world to join our celebration, as we reflect on our Danish culture in the 100 years of Solvang's existence. Danish Days is an open invitation for guests and locals to celebrate the history of our beautiful town, enjoy our Danish hospitality, and recognize our strong ties to our Danish heritage.