



AUGUST 2013

E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

Festival Time: Meeting More Danes Every Day!

Hoover's Hometown Days

If you are traveling through eastern Iowa this weekend or live near West Branch, Iowa, and are looking for a fun family event, be sure to check out Hoover's Hometown Days on Saturday, August 3. Held on the grounds of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, this will be The Danish Immigrant Museum's third time exhibiting. We will be easy to spot with our distinctly red and white booth attended by the museum's Deb Christensen Larsen, Nicky Christensen, and American interns, Natalie Smith and Madeline Mongar. The museum booth will include a LEGO play area, display items from our Museum Shop, and information about museum activities. Former museum board member Gordon Esbeck and wife Jan will host museum staff at their home.



Danebod Folk Meeting

Since 1946 a folk school experience has been the basis of the Danebod Folk Meeting held at Tyler, Minnesota. The experience is so popular that it draws campers from across the U.S., Denmark, and occasionally other foreign countries. From August 21-25 the Danebod Folk School, Gym Hall and Danebod Lutheran Church will be filled with various activities. The museum is happy to be a part of this incredible meeting of enlightenment, fellowship, song, dance and dining. Participants look forward to morning and afternoon coffee time on "Kringler" Day hosted by the museum. John Mark Nielsen and Deb Christensen Larsen will be among the participants.



Orange International Street Fair

Over Labor Day weekend, The Danish Immigrant Museum will be represented at the Orange International Street Fair (OISF) in downtown Orange, California. Here one can experience a wide variety of food, music and dance from cultures and ethnicities throughout the world--including Denmark! Museum board member Mittie Ostergaard of Mission Viejo, CA and the museum's Deb Christensen Larsen will assist the Danish Club of Orange County, the Southern California Rebuild Society and the Danish Church of Yorba Linda in making an estimated 50,000 æbleskiver which will be sold to attendees. The Danish groups of California have been generous supporters of the museum over the years, and we at the museum always look forward to assisting them with this major fundraiser--and of course, the fun!



Brown Bag Lunch Series

Join us for Brown Bag Lunch programs – monthly public programs exploring topics related to Danish history and culture, museum activities, and the Elk Horn community. All programs begin at 12 noon and are FREE to the public, so grab your lunch and enjoy learning something new!

Next program, August 15: “Summer in the prairie: What is growing out there?”

Christina Roelofs, County Naturalist for both Shelby and Audubon counties, will talk about the seasonal residents of the native prairies and, weather permitting, lead a walk through the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park.

Upcoming programs:

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| September 12 | Tova Brandt, “Furnishing with a Scandinavian Accent” |
| October 17 | Anne Mette Ravn Nielsen, “New Nordic Cuisine” |
| November 14 | Nathan Buman, Shelby County Historical Society |
| December 12 | Christmas <i>Hygge</i> |

Watch Your Mailbox

America Letter on its way to museum membership



Our Summer 2013 edition of the *America Letter* is on its way to our loyal museum members. This edition features articles on the history of the museum building and curatorial departments, a gallery of photographs from our 30th anniversary celebration, and interesting stories about name changes and research.

The *America Letter* is published three times annually and is mailed only to current members. [Archived issues](#) can be found on our website.

This publication is a perk of membership and includes names of new members, business and organization associates, memorials, honorariums, and our annual report in the Spring issue. Other benefits of membership are free admission to the museum, Family History & Genealogy Center, Morning Star Chapel, Bedstemor’s House, and Jens Dixen House, a 10% discount on purchases from the Museum Shop and reduced translation and research fees from the Family History & Genealogy Center. We offer a subscription to our online collection database, “View Our Collection,” at a membership level of \$100 or above. Join or give the gift of membership today!

The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams. Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about membership [benefits](#). Join for as little as \$30/year!

Family History and Genealogy Center Summer Hours

The FHGC is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in addition to its usual Tuesday to Friday weekday hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location is 4210 Main Street in Elk Horn. Admission is free for museum members, \$5 non-members. Visitors are always welcome, but if you wish individualized research assistance we strongly urge you to make an appointment via genealogy@danishmuseum.org or 712.764.7008.

Using ArkivalierOnline

This group of digitized databases is available on the [Danish State Archives](#) web page and contains images of parish church registers, censuses through 1930, Copenhagen probates and civil marriages, probates from eastern Denmark and other potentially useful sources for locating family information. One drawback is that the page is only in Danish. Family researchers will be happy to learn that an English-language explanation for accessing most of these databases may now be found through [FamilySearch.org](#). Have fun exploring this invaluable and not-to-be-missed resource!



Danish Genealogy Workshop

If you are interested in researching your Danish family roots and live within driving distance of Council Bluffs, Iowa, you may be interested in the day-long workshop on Danish genealogy being offered by the Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society on Saturday, September 21. The Danish Immigrant Museum's Library Manager, Michele McNabb, will give four presentations on researching records in the U.S., Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein, as well as tips for utilizing the most useful Danish websites. Information and a registration form may be [found here](#). Keep tabs on future workshops on the museum web page under Library & Genealogy > Workshops and Talks.



2013 Christmas Card and Ornament Ready for Purchase

Get a jump on the holidays before the hustle and bustle with our inspiring new greeting card and ornament design. Featuring an elegant scene of The Danish Immigrant Museum building in a nighttime snowfall, the picturesque landscape includes the U.S., Denmark and Iowa flags flying just as they do in front of the museum. Snowfall blankets the area under a night sky, including a wreath high upon the building. A Copenhagen gas lamp, adorned with a red ribbon and holiday greenery, illuminates the silent entryway.

This peaceful image is a tribute to the 30 years that the museum has been educating and inspiring its audience about the heritage and culture of Danish America. Share the message of heritage with your card recipients and enjoy the scene on your tree.



- Cards come 10 to a package for \$11.
- Rectangle ceramic ornaments are \$14.50 ea.
- As always, museum members receive a 10% shop discount.
- Call the Museum Shop at (712) 764-7001 to order now, and watch for these items to arrive in the online shop Soon!

Inside greeting:

GLÆDELIG JUL
OG GODT NYTÅR

Innovation: The Danish Way

[REGISTER NOW](#) The Danish-American Heritage Society's upcoming conference, *Innovation: The Danish Way* will take place at the downtown Des Moines Embassy Suites October 10-12.

Ambassador Laurie Fulton to speak

US Ambassador to Denmark, Laurie Fulton, will speak at the banquet Saturday evening. Fulton served as Ambassador from July 2009 through February 2013. She co-founded a bilateral, public-private initiative Green Partnerships for Growth, developing a dedicated network for Danish and U.S. business opportunities in the sectors of green technology and sustainable growth.



Keynote by Søren Hermansen

As the Director of the Energiakademiet (Energy Academy) on the Danish island of Samsø, Hermansen has been a key player in a great social and scientific experiment—the effort to transform Samsø into Denmark's Renewable Energy Island. For his innovative work, Hermansen was named one of the "Heroes of the Environment" by Time magazine in 2008, and in 2009 he won the Gothenborg Award (which some call the Nobel Prize for the Environment).

Find details on the many other great presenters and activities on the [conference website](#).

News Tidbit

Professor Christian Bjørnskov, an economist at Aarhus University explained in a [BBC news article](#) the pace of life in the UK vs. Denmark today: "Danes are ambitious," he says, "but they don't like to show their ambition. They like to succeed but not in public. It means you can have social relations with people very different from yourself. So you play golf with your dustman or you're in a tennis club with someone living a completely different life than you. It also means you accept a lot of different lifestyles. There are no real lifestyles that are taboo. There's no right or wrong life so you can choose the life that fits you."

Museum Calendar, August

Museum Hours Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday Noon- 5:00 pm.
Jens Dixen House and Morning Star Chapel interiors are available to view on request during museum hours. Bedstemor's House is open 1 pm - 4 pm daily until Labor Day.

August 15 Brown Bag Lunch: "Summer in the prairie: What's growing out there?"

Other Upcoming Danish-American and Danish Events, August - September

Until October 27 "Land & Water" exhibit at the [German American Heritage Center](#) in Davenport, IA featuring an installation about Danish American landscape architect Jens Jensen

August 4-10 [Danebod Family Camp](#), Tyler, MN

August 5-9 [Danish Day Camp](#) for 5-10 year olds in Seattle at Harmony Hall

August 7 [Danish American Chamber of Commerce New York](#) Stambord, 6-9 p.m.

August 15-18 [Danish Festival](#) in Greenville, MI

August 21-25 [Danebod Folk Meeting](#), Tyler, MN

August 25-31 "A Taste of Denmark" at [Danebo Folk School](#) in Minneapolis, MN

September 8 [Scandinavian Day Festival](#) at Vasa Park, South Elgin, IL

September 15-21 "The Mississippi River" at [Danebo Folk School](#) in Minneapolis, MN

September 20 [Kierkegaard Repetitions](#), Baltimore, MD

September 20-22 [Danish Days](#) in Solvang, CA

Denmark-America Cup (Soccer) in Pennsylvania July 9-21, 2014. Registration is open for boys ages 15 & 16. For more information contact mail@edutours-festivals.com.

Connect with us on Social Media: [@DanishMuseum](#)

