



OCTOBER 2013

E-News from The Danish Immigrant Museum

Excavation Begins for Curatorial Center

Heavy machines arrived on the grounds of The Danish Immigrant Museum this week to begin excavating the site of a new Curatorial Center addition. Excavators, loaders, and dump trucks moved many tons of dirt to clear space for the 8,000 square foot addition on the west side of the building.

Orange fencing keeps the public at a safe distance from the construction site, but the best view is actually from a window inside the museum building. Along the west side of the first floor, a window offers both staff and visitors a great view of the work in progress.

The general contractor for the Curatorial Center project is Meco-Henne Contracting based in Omaha. Site supervisor Gordon Roesler is on hand to keep everything moving smoothly. Photos of the progress can be found on the museum's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/danishmuseum

Morning Star Chapel Moved; Additions to Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park



September 22, 2013 was moving day. With the help of volunteers and one church mouse the tiny 1951 Morning Star Chapel moved to the Danish Windmill grounds on Main Street in Elk Horn. It took most of the day and now it rests on its new foundation on the Windmill grounds. The next time you are in Elk Horn, be sure to visit Morning Star Chapel in its new place near the *VikingHjem* and Mill Stage.

The change of location for the chapel is in preparation for several pieces of Danish-designed outdoor fitness equipment to be installed in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park along the trail this fall. A second, smaller council ring was recently installed on the far east side of the park. Like the fitness equipment, the fire pit and surrounding seating area are open for the community and visitors to enjoy at their leisure.

Under the Faces of Mount Rushmore

Over 20,000 visitors to the Mount Rushmore National Memorial learned about an inspiring chapter in history – the efforts by Danish citizens to rescue their Jewish neighbors from deportation during the Nazi occupation in World War II. The museum's traveling exhibition, *Denmark October 1943: Rescue of the Danish Jews*, was on view for nine days beginning September 19, culminating in an event on Saturday, September 28 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the boatlift. South Dakota State Senator Stanford Adelstein was instrumental in organizing the commemoration and facilitating the museum's participation with the exhibition.

Did you miss the exhibit at Mount Rushmore? In October, the exhibition moves to the Holocaust Museum Houston where it will be on view from October 16 through November 3 in the museum's library.

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, October 17: “New Nordic Cuisine”

Anne Mette Ravn Nielsen, one of the museum’s interns from Denmark, will discuss the latest trends in Nordic food – including a recent interest in “Mormor Mad” (Grandmother’s food).

Upcoming programs:

November 14 Nathan Buman, Shelby County Historical Society “Were you born in a barn?
History of livestock in Shelby County”
December 12 Christmas *Hygge*

New Danish Intern and Blog

Lotte Hansen officially joined the team on September 16 and will be working at the Family History and Genealogy Center. Anne Mette and Lotte are interns through the Scan|Design Foundation. Lotte hails from Broager in southern Jutland and is currently a graduate Library & Information Science Student at the University of Copenhagen branch in Aalborg. She will be working on processing the backlog of books and other materials in our collection, making them accessible via PastPerfect. Lotte will also be at the DAHS conference in Des Moines and speaking at the meeting of The Cedar Valley Danes in mid-October.

The interns are currently sharing their experiences at the museum and around the country on a new Tumblr blog found at danishmuseuminterns.tumblr.com. Follow the blog to stay up-to-date on the latest!

*Pictured left to right:
Lotte Hansen, Danish intern;
Anne Mette Ravn Nielsen, Danish intern;
Madeline Mongar, American intern.*

Legacy of 1848: German-American History Conference

Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa | October 20-22

Museum staff will be participating in an upcoming conference that explores the legacy of immigrants who were leaders in the failed revolutions of 1848. What is the Danish connection? Many of the actions to promote reform during 1848 took place around Schleswig and Holstein, which were both ruled by the Danish crown at that time.

The conference will explore the goals of those “48ers” and their legacy, both in Europe and in the United States. Many immigrants among the “48ers” settled in Iowa and became influential community leaders. The conference will also look at parallels between different ethnic and immigrant museums; curator Tova Brandt will represent The Danish Immigrant Museum in that roundtable conversation.

The conference is open to all: for more information or to register, visit wartburg.edu/1848.

October is Family History Month

Those of you with access to PBS may be interested in a new series called [“Genealogy Roadshow”](#) which looks at genealogy in a slightly different way than programs such as “Who Do You Think You Are?” broadcast the last few years. Check your local PBS station listings for day and time; each program in the series may also be viewed online for a limited time.



FHGC librarian Michele McNabb will be doing her own roadshow in eastern Iowa in October. Newsletter subscribers wanting to know more about researching Danish ancestors will be able to learn more at the following two venues:

- Saturday, October 19th at the 2013 Family History Symposium in Cedar Rapids. For further information go [here](#).
- Monday, October 21st at the Waterloo Public Library. Information [here](#). Advance sign-up necessary.

Information about our genealogical programming may be found on [our website](#).

Genealogical Notes:

New in-house research databases in the FHGC cover wedding, anniversary and ‘round’ birthday notices published in *The Audubon County Journal* (a newspaper published in Exira, Iowa) between 1897 and 1995.

Do you have ancestors who lived or spent time in former Danish colonies? Danish National Museum researcher Louise Sebro is looking for letters, photographs, objects and stories from families whose ancestors were associated with the Danish West Indies (now the US Virgin Islands) and Denmark’s colonies in India and Africa. During the 18th and 19th centuries many Danish men, some accompanied by wives and children, were sent out as soldiers, officials, plantation owners, pastors, and slave-dealers. If you have any stories, documents or artifacts relating to this subject, she would be very happy to hear from you at louise.sebro@natmus.dk.

And finally, if you have some ancestors who were, shall we say, less than fine upstanding citizens, you may want to check out the following English-language webpage: <http://www.rakker.dk/>. There are a number of other interesting pages on the Web which do not yet have English interfaces that deal with vagrants, ne’er-do-wells and criminals, many of whom spent time in local hoosegows. Traces of these individuals also show up in church registers for the various institutions, such as the Horsens Tugthus (jail), *shown here*.



Now Available in the Museum Shop: Poul Henningsen Pendant Lighting by Louis Poulsen

LEFT PH 4/3 \$570

Poul Henningsen designed the three-shade system during 1925/1926. The first lights using the system were designed for an exhibition in Paris. His work with Louis Poulsen continued until his death in 1967. Throughout his life, PH sought to create glare-free lighting; aiming to direct light where it was most needed, and creating soft shadows while using incandescent bulbs as a light source. The PH 4/3 Metal Pendant was launched in 1966. Its design follows the general three-shade system based on the logarithmic spiral, with the center of the light source positioned at the axis of the spiral. This light is a simplification of the light PH designed in 1929, winning him the highest distinction at the world exhibition in Barcelona at that time. Metal pendants were produced in a number of formats and colors, and the underside of the shade was painted white to provide diffuse light. To achieve warmer lighting, metal pendants were also produced with a gold-coated underside. Metal pendants have been produced in a number of sizes and colors over the years, but the only metal pendant available today is the 4/3.

MIDDLE PH Snowball \$2,596

Poul Henningsen designed his first lights back in 1925/1926 for an exhibition in Paris. His work with Louis Poulsen continued right up until his death in 1967. Throughout his life, PH sought to create glare-free lighting; aiming to direct light where it was most needed, and creating soft shadows while using incandescent bulbs as a light source. Poul Henningsen designed Snowball in 1958 and it was exhibited together with PH 5 at the Danish Museum of Decorative Art. However, Snowball received no particular attention on this occasion, and was only re-launched and manufactured from 1983.

RIGHT PH Artichoke \$9,736

PH Artichoke was designed in 1958 by Poul Henningsen for the Langelinie Pavillonen restaurant in Copenhagen, where it still hangs today. PH Artichoke has a world-famous unique sculptural aesthetic, and is viewed internationally as an iconic design. The fixture displays 72 leaves, positioned to provide totally glare-free light from any angle. To ensure a high level of quality, much of the production process is still carried out by hand.

•Call the Museum Shop at (712) 764-7001 to order.



“The Danish Immigrant Museum celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.”
Your membership support makes possible the museum's many activities. Help us continue our 30-year legacy of excellence by becoming a member for as little as **\$30** per year. Many other giving opportunities are available; please [visit us online](#) to learn more about how to be a part of the preservation of Danish and American cultural experience.

Family History and Genealogy Center Saturday Hours End October 21

From October 21 until May, the FHGC will be open Tuesday- Friday from 9am-5pm. Location is 4210 Main Street in Elk Horn. Admission is free for museum members, \$5 non-members. We suggest that persons wanting individualized research assistance contact us by email or call 712.764.7008 to make an advance appointment.

October is also your last chance to view the “Coming of Age: Confirmation in Denmark and the US” photo display in the FHGC lobby.

Museum Calendar, October

- Museum Hours Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday Noon- 5:00 pm.
- Through October 27 Museum exhibition “Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie” on view at the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa, as part of their “Land and Water / *Land und Wasser*” installation.
- October 9-11 Museum Board of Directors meetings in Des Moines and Elk Horn. Annual Meeting on Friday evening in Elk Horn.
- October 13 Museum’s Danish interns speak at the Cedar Valley Danes event in Cedar Falls, Iowa.
- October 16 Exhibit “Denmark October 1943: Rescue of the Danish Jews” opens at the Holocaust Museum Houston. On view through November 3.
- October 17 Brown Bag Lunch, “New Nordic Cuisine” with Anne Mette Ravn Nielsen
- October 19 Researching Your Danish Ancestors at the [Family History Symposium](#) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- October 21 “Danish-American Genealogical Resources” and “Danish Resources - Where They Are and How to Use Them” at the [Waterloo Public Library](#).

Other Upcoming Danish-American and Danish Events

- October 10-12 “Innovation: The Danish Way” [Danish American Heritage Society](#) Conference
To have your Danish-American and Danish events considered for inclusion on the calendar, please [e-mail Nicky](#).

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

