

americaletter

SPRING 2015 + ANNUAL REPORT | A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA



"Hip, Hip, Hurrah! Artists' Party, Skagen"

P. S. Krøyer (1851-1909), Denmark, painted 1887-1888

Gothenburg Museum of Art, used with permission

INSIDE

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits

Danish Design for Children

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America Letter

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director's corner

THE STATE OF OUR MUSEUM

The spring issue of the *America Letter* once again includes our Annual Report. I am pleased to share that 2014 was another successful year. Our museum continues to grow and is increasingly recognized as a significant institution in the museum world. Your membership support and contributions have played an important role in our success, and for this I thank you.

Because I invite your continued support, I want to provide you with a clear vision of how we are developing our museum. In October 2013, the Board of Directors adopted a mission statement: "The Museum of Danish America celebrates Danish roots and American dreams." Along with this simple, straightforward mission statement, the board also approved values and vision statements. Following is our greater vision for the museum:

- To be widely recognized as the world's leading compiler and communicator of the history and inspirational achievements of Danish Americans.
- To turn the museum and the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton into one of Iowa's top destinations for tourists, educators and local family excursions – and to support other local communities featuring Danish-American history.

- To be widely recognized as a thought leader and trendsetter in the international museum industry, constantly featuring new and inspiring experiences for worldwide audiences through innovative exhibits, events, publications and online media tools.

This is an ambitious vision that we strive to realize, and we are making progress. This vision continues to guide us as we look to the future.

CURATORIAL CENTER

The completion of our state-of-the-art Curatorial Center with an innovative, prairie-style green roof means that we have increased space to collect and preserve artifacts that tell the story of Danish immigrants to the United States and their descendants. We have a professional staff, led by Angela Stanford, our Curator of Collections & Registrar, trained in preserving and caring for artifacts. Angela serves on a national committee of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and recently completed service as president of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Museum Association.

Our museum has a collection of well over 35,000 artifacts that are catalogued using the most recognized museum computer software. This offers our members the possibility of viewing photographs and reading the stories of each artifact. It also enables other museums the possibility of identifying and borrowing artifacts for exhibits. Artifact loans are managed following the highest standards set by the AAM, of which our museum is a member. Currently, we have six crates of artifacts on loan to an exhibit touring Danish museums. We are the repository of artifacts that tell the story of Danish-American immigration and relations.

EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMMING

To continue realizing our vision, we are expanding our reputation through creating significant traveling exhibits, both large and small. Our exhibit *Danish Modern: Design for Living* is currently open at the Figge Museum in Davenport, Iowa after being exhibited in the Twin Cities and Seattle. Additionally, we have ten smaller, traveling exhibits that are suitable for exhibiting at festivals and community centers.



By
John Mark
Nielsen



An exciting development is the creation of *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*, presented by Aalborg and Linie Aquavits. This exhibit has been initiated by the Museum of Danish America and created by our Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture, Tova Brandt. Participating in the exhibit's creation are five other Scandinavian-American museums. After closing at the Museum of Danish America, it will travel through 2018 and be seen at museums in six other cities, including Seattle, Minneapolis, Chicago and Philadelphia.

JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK

In addition to the many and changing exhibits at the museum, we continue developing the 30 acres surrounding the museum. As our prairie park matures, we believe it will become an additional attraction for those interested in horticulture and landscaping using native grasses and forbs. This will be enhanced by additional outdoor spaces for visitor use.

ONLINE PRESENCE

The museum's website, Facebook, Tumblr, and other social media sites have grown in popularity. These efforts have been led by Nicky Christensen, supported by staff and our Danish and American interns. Postings regularly generate active and spirited online conversations. To stay fresh and attractive, websites need to be updated regularly. It's been six years since our last major redesign. Currently, we are engaged in a total design update that will make accessing

information about the museum's collection and our genealogy resources easier. The new site will also enhance online shopping through the museum's Design Store.

GENEALOGY CENTER

We pride ourselves in offering professional genealogy research services through our staff and dedicated volunteers. Michele McNabb and Wanda Sornson have helped numerous families discover Danish ancestors or the descendants of Danish immigrants in the United States and all over the world. We've also enhanced the online genealogical resources with the addition of our searchable Digital Library of Danish-American Newspapers and Journals.

DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH AND ENDOWMENT GROWTH

Your museum membership has enabled us to make progress in achieving our vision. Continued membership support and donations to our two annual appeals are critical to meeting our yearly operational needs. Significant steps in growing our endowment and expanding our programming have come from estate gifts.

Recently, we received two estate gifts that illustrate how important bequests are to our museum. In late November we received word that we were the beneficiary of a gift of over \$560,000 from the Charles and Norma Wilson Charitable Remainder Trust. The Wilsons, of Red Oak, Iowa directed that this gift be invested in the museum's endowment.

(Since the gift occurred in this current fiscal year, it is NOT included in the consolidated financial statement found on page 40.) Days later we received an unrestricted gift from the trust of Marianne K. Festersen of Omaha. Her generosity enables us to redesign our website and make investments in exhibits and programming. We also take a designated part of all unrestricted bequest gifts for investment in our endowment.

ESTATE PLANNING

An important factor in the continued success of our museum is growing our endowment. Currently it is over \$3.5 million, and I have hopes of reaching \$5 million soon. The earnings from our endowments have and will continue to help us meet annual programming and operational needs. Because estate gifts are important in achieving this growth, we have embarked on a campaign to encourage providing for the museum through estate planning.

Through the leadership of Deb Christensen Larsen, our Development Manager, we have retained the services of Paul Johnson, a Certified Financial Planner® and a long-time museum member. He and his wife, Liz, have provided for our museum in their own estate plans. Paul is available to work with each of you and your financial advisor, should you be interested in providing for our museum. You can learn more about this resource by contacting Deb at 800.759.9192 or deb.larsen@danishmuseum.org. I invite you to do so.

It does take financial resources to operate our museum. I believe we have been good financial stewards of the generous gifts you have provided to our institution. As you review the consolidated financial statement in the Annual Report, you will note our assets dramatically exceed our liabilities.

Indeed as I write this, we have no debt and our fixed assets (land, buildings, equipment, exhibits and artifacts) and our endowments exceed \$9 million, an increase of over \$1 million since the close of our fiscal year on August 31, 2014.

I hope you will continue to help us, knowing that we are financially responsible and that we have a clear vision for the museum's development. All of us working together will assure our museum remains strong and growing.

We do need your membership support and your contributions to pursue our active programming.

introducing paul johnson

PLANNED GIVING CONSULTANT FOR THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA

This past November, the Museum of Danish America and the Danish American Archive and Library entered into a contract with Paul Johnson of Fremont, Nebraska to work with both organizations as a part-time Planned Giving Consultant. Paul is a Certified Financial Planner® with deep roots in several Danish-American organizations.

In this new role, Paul will be calling on our donors (after an introductory letter) to see if they have or would like to include the Museum of Danish America

as a beneficiary of their estate. For those interested, Paul can work with them and their current advisors to help customize a planned gift that accomplishes their personal, family, and charitable objectives. The museum is providing this service to its donors free of charge in gratitude for the generous support they've given over the years.

Even though Paul professes to be a lousy fundraiser, he says it's easy for him to visit with others about charitable estate gifts because "you can't take it with

you!" Since future generations will likely be more and more ethnically diverse, it's important for today's donors to consider planned estate gifts that will help leave the museum on solid financial ground for many years to come.

If you're interested in remembering the museum in your estate plans, please give Paul a call at 402.201.7024 or contact Deb Christensen Larsen, the museum's Development Manager, at 712.764.7001. We'd love to visit with you!



PAUL D. JOHNSON

As the son of a United Evangelical Lutheran Church pastor, Paul grew up among Danish-

Americans. He followed his parents at Dana College where he studied Danish for two years, participated in

Danish folk dancing, and sang with the Dana Choir in many Danish Lutheran churches. Following his 1976 graduation from Dana (with Queen Margrethe II of Denmark providing the commencement address), he worked in Dana's Office of Admissions, visiting many Danish Lutheran communities in the Midwest. Chairing Dana's Alumni Association and participating in several UELC reunions as a musician have given him further appreciation for the Danish-American experience.

Following his work at Dana, Paul taught music in Fremont, Nebraska for six years and has worked in financial services since 1986, earning his Certified Financial Planner® designation in 2001. In addition to his professional work, he has served as president of the Fremont Area Community Foundation, the Fremont Rotary Club, and First Lutheran Church in Fremont, a congregation founded by Danish immigrants over 125 years ago.

staff & interns



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BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE STAFF
David Thurston,
Trudy Juelsgaard,
Rochelle Bruns,
Doug Palmer

new danish interns

IN EARLY FEBRUARY WE WELCOMED TWO NEW DANISH INTERNS, THANKS TO THE GRANT SUPPORT OF THE SCAN | DESIGN FOUNDATION BY INGER AND JENS BRUUN.

CHARLOTTE KEIMIG, 23

I am the newest Collections Intern at the Museum of Danish America. In Denmark, I live in an apartment just outside of Copenhagen, but I actually grew up in a small suburb called Frederikssund.

I just finished my Bachelor's degree in History from Copenhagen University, and have, until my internship, been working and trying to save up some money. Back home, I have a part-time job at an auction house. My job is to help customers get their antiques evaluated--which I am slowly learning to do myself. In this business, you come across some peculiar stuff but also beautiful artwork. I am specifically fascinated by the Danish Modern furniture.

My plan is to start on my Master's degree, in History as well, in the summer of 2015. In my education I have been focusing on World War II, and more specifically, on the Holocaust. The 20th century is of great interest to me. I also took some minors in American and British History, where I found the Cold War very fascinating.

With the internship at the museum, I am hoping to learn more about the psychology behind the Danish emigration to America and the whole concept of pursuing the American Dream. I will be completing my internship on June 30.

JOHANNES SVEND BRASK KRISTOFFERSEN, 26

I am the newest Exhibits and Development Intern from Copenhagen, Denmark. I am a graduate student in History at the University of Copenhagen. My Bachelor's degree is in History from the University of Copenhagen with a minor in Near Eastern Archeology and Southeast Asian studies. My historic interest is quite wide. In my studies I have so far been focusing on the British Empire in the 19th to early 20th centuries, but my interest in general is on this time period. I especially find the different cultural encounters interesting, which is why working on emigration history is appropriate.

Prior to coming to the museum, I was working at the Danish Museum of Technology as part of the national museum educational

program. Here I was teaching a wide variety of subjects to classes visiting the museum, from kindergarten to college student.

Besides working at the museum, I have also been working at a local bookstore in Copenhagen. In addition to being a clerk in the store, I have had the extra challenge of starting and participating in the management of social media. On top of that I have hosted events in and out of the store.

Last but not least, I have been working for the Danish Cancer Society in the Prevention and Awareness Department. Here I was assisting the secretariat and the accounting staff in different tasks.

In my internship at the Museum of Danish America, I will be working on the *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits* exhibition and other smaller exhibitions while also assisting in the planning and execution of different events. My internship will end at the end of July.

This is my first visit to the U.S., and I am looking forward to fully experiencing American culture.



By
Charlotte
Keimig



By
Johannes
Kristoffersen

february board of directors meeting held in atlanta

Board members from across the country gathered in Atlanta, Georgia from February 5 to 7 for the museum's 99th regular meeting. Former board member and Atlanta resident Dennis Andersen participated in meetings and social gatherings and was instrumental in helping staff with accommodations and preparations.

The majority of the meeting was spent on strategic planning, led by another former board member, Erik Andersen of Croton-on-Hudson, New York. Erik generously traveled to Atlanta at his own expense, as current board members do, to serve in

this role. The strategic planning process will continue through the coming year, culminating in a new five-year strategic plan for the museum.

After adjournment of the meetings on Saturday, February 7, a luncheon was held with museum members, members of the Danish American Chamber of Commerce, and the Danish Consul for Georgia, Christopher Smith. The program was a presentation by Lars and Hanne Andersen of Maileg North America (our cover story). This charming line of toys and accessories is now available in the museum's Design Store.

2014-2015 BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Adams, Littleton, CO
Ron Bro, Cedar Falls, IA
Beth Bro-Roof, Cedar Rapids, IA
Tim Burchill, Jamestown, ND
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Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA
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Linda Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL
Mark Strandskov, Mount Pleasant, MI
Karen Suchomel, West Branch, IA



By
Terri
Johnson

Strategic Planning Former Board Member Erik Andersen (standing, far right) leads attending board members in a strategic planning exercise.

the magical world of maileg



TWO COUPLES JOIN FORCES TO BRING QUALITY DANISH DESIGN TO AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Bringing Danish design to the American market isn't easy – just ask our Design Store Buyer. Thankfully, there are a handful of great brands developing in the U.S. that share the Scandinavian aesthetic and commitment to quality. One such company is Maileg (pronounced *my-lye*), purveyors of award-winning, nostalgic goods designed in Denmark for children.

A person can create and live in a Maileg world. It's a poetic universe filled with magical creatures who appear as if they jumped right out of the pages of a storybook--and in a way they have, since their designer has done significant work as an illustrator. The products aren't just playthings; instead, it's a whole concept of play involving families and kingdoms with many stories to tell. *You just have to use your imagination.*

In 1999 Dorthe Mailil, a well-known graphic designer for books and magazines, started Maileg with her husband, Erik. The name is derived from the first three letters of their last name plus *leg*, the Danish word for play. Dorthe's designs were a hit from the beginning; at one of their very first shows, Maileg won the design prize for their clay pixies. Subsequently, they received a lot of orders and attempted to hand-produce the items until demand became too much. Dorthe's artistic background served the company well in its most essential aspects – but with her talents lying in art and design, and a personality not suited to hard-driving sales tactics, she needed production support to continue Maileg's success.

In 2001 she met a man that would become a crucial part of her team. Lars Andersen had just returned to Denmark with his wife of now 25 years, Hanne, from working several years in Asia matching

factories with European retailers. His position in Shanghai had been eliminated immediately following the September 11 terror attacks. Hanne, previously a top salesperson with L'Oreal Paris, had stopped working to focus on family when they first moved to Indonesia. With two kids, no jobs, and no house, Lars and Hanne were wide open for new opportunities.

Upon their meeting, Dorthe saw that Lars wasn't just looking to make a business deal, but that he really loved the products and appreciated the whimsy in their design. Having been a toy buyer for a Scandinavian furniture giant in the 1980s, Lars had experienced his share of cheap, plastic toys and knew it was not a direction he would be willing to head in the future. He wanted



By
Nicky
Christensen



01



02

to bring products to the market that would be a part of a healthy upbringing and change the lives of kids for the better. He made it his mission to help Dorthe bring her ideas to life.

Dorthe's experience with manufacturing companies had left much to be desired. One container shipment of figures arrived to Denmark crumbling in pieces. Another production company just wasn't delivering the quality that Dorthe had envisioned or expected for the brand. In conjunction, Maileg had made the decision to move toward more fabric offerings--and no *ordinary* fabrics would do. The quality of the fabrics and materials was of utmost importance to Dorthe; she needed the feel of the products to match the high visual standards of the brand.

Sensory play is a crucial part of a child's development, and with the increasing presence of screens in

children's lives today, tactile toys are a welcome return to the "old-fashioned" style of play. Batteries aren't required with Maileg toys but imagination is. Without a pre-set storyline for the products, children are free to be creative in their play. They have a choice to mimic the reality of everyday life (as children often do when role playing with babydolls) or explore entirely different storylines and fantasies of their own creation. Investigating materials with no preconceived knowledge helps develop and refine cognitive, social and emotional, physical, creative and linguistic skills.

Sourcing natural materials that "feel good" and will withstand the rigors of play was Lars' first task with Maileg. Armed with a few patterns and samples to guide him, Lars returned to China in early 2002 to meet with old business contacts and friends in the manufacturing industry. He visited mills with the hope of first

finding the right feel and then the right weave and dye. Several tries were needed. He found resistance at the mills because Maileg did not have a finished product to guide them.

Meeting Dorthe's standards was also a complication. Hanne remembers, "Lars would come back with fabrics, and Dorthe would say to me: 'What do you think, Hanne? Try to feel. Wouldn't it be nice if it were a *little* thicker?' And she was looking me in the eyes, and I would say (hesitantly), 'Uh, yes.' And then I would look Lars in the eye and he was like, 'I've been to China for several months finding this fabric, and you girls are sitting there deciding it should be changed just a little bit?!'"

Eventually, they found what they needed. In the summer of 2002, Maileg placed their first order for the new goods and received the

01. Clay pixies were one of the company's first products. 02. Export Award In 2012, the Danish Consul General in New York, Jarl Frijs-Madsen, presented Maileg's Creative Director, Dorthe Mailil, with the *Danish Export Association Diploma & His Royal Highness Prince Henrik's Medal of Honor* in appreciation of remarkable efforts in promoting and marketing Danish products and services abroad.

shipment in October. With the new products in hand, the business grew dramatically from 2003 to 2008, increasing the collection and its availability all over Scandinavia and across Europe. Lars continued to handle the relations between Denmark and China, including manufacturing, shipping, and communications.

Because of the company's growth, Lars developed and trained a new buying department in China between 2007 and 2008. It was in the summer of 2008 that Dorthe and Erik offered Lars and Hanne a new challenge. At a gathering of Maileg distributors, the Mailils realized that their American team at the time wasn't the right fit to represent the company. And just as so many important business decisions are made, the combination of a glass of red wine, a nice summer evening, and a paper napkin to write on came together to determine that Lars and Hanne would take care of the U.S.

market and become co-owners with Dorthe (Creative Director) and Erik (Managing Director).

The timing was right for the Andersens. Their two children, then ages 17 and 19, were out of high school and pretty much off on their own. In fact, their son was just returning from an exchange program in the U.S. when Lars and Hanne told him they would be moving to America. They credit the strength and support of their children as the reason they were able to take such a risk and make the move.

Lars and Hanne had never been to the U.S. They chose to settle in Georgia, where the largest gift show in America, The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market, takes place. At the 2008 show they found 84 new customers and saw then that the product could sell well – even in the midst of the financial crisis. Many show booths were empty that year. The Andersens believe

they benefitted from entering the market at such a low point; they could learn the market very slowly, compared to when things were booming. Rentals were available and inexpensive. Labor was easy to find.

The Andersens made the move across the ocean with their H-1B (temporary worker) visas in 2009, and despite the financial downturn, they were able to double their revenues and find healthy growth in the first three years. After two years, their investment costs were paid off.

Now Maileg North America has nearly 2,000 open retail accounts, with 800 of those being active, regular buyers in the past year. Major retailers include Bergdorf Goodman, Barneys New York, and Saks Fifth Avenue – businesses who sought out Maileg, not the other way around. Maileg's sales tactic is anything but aggressive. They say they only want to do business with those who love the brand and who discover them of their own free will. Customer requests have been a primary source of discovery for retailers. Maileg is most popular in the Northeast and California, which account for 75% of their U.S. business.



03. **The Princess and the Pea** is a popular play set that has become a “classic” for the brand. 04. **Matchbox Mouse** Created for Dorthe’s fussy daughter, the matchbox mice are now bestsellers. ►

The product line has grown impressively as well. Dorthe started with the pixie figurines for the first 3-4 years. However, the pixies were really only a hit during the Christmas season. Noticing this, Maileg developed bunnies for the Easter season. And just like bunnies do in nature, the bunny toys quickly turned into a family of bunnies – but with clothing sets and furniture to boot. The bunnies and their accessories became year-round bestsellers. More toy sets followed in 2003 and 2004, including a very popular Princess and the Pea set.

A new family of toys was born in 2006 thanks to a new arrival to Dorthe's own family. Dorthe and Erik's youngest daughter, born in 2005, was quite restless, as Lars remembers. In an effort to appease her, Dorthe stitched together a mouse and tucked him in a matchbox for a bed. Her daughter was delighted and calmed by the creature, so the company put it into production for other parents and children to discover. It's now Maileg's bestselling item—and, like the bunnies, the little mouse now has siblings, friends, and many accessories.

Today Maileg has around 1,200 products, including paper goods,

ribbons, and clothing. They put out two new collections each year. To keep the line fresh, collections are discontinued regularly to make room for new designs. Yet the classics, like the Princess and the Pea, have remained for several years unchanged. There are also products designed with adults in mind, such as seasonal decorations, cards, gift wrap, storage tins, and napkins. New this year are real clothes for kids ages 4-8 years old. Called the "magic wardrobe," these dress-up outfits are in the style of princes, princesses, and knights.

The company is constantly innovating, led by the spirits of children and Dorthe's fairytale universe. Lars says he tried for four years to get Dorthe to follow a timeline and Excel spreadsheets, but it is not her style as a creative professional to run a business that way. She will work all night if she needs to on ideas she is passionate about and let other ideas pass that are not as essential to her vision. The Andersens say she is a great designer to work with because she has the ability to convey humor, interesting twists, and love.

Because the toys are so similar to the toys of the past, it's no

wonder that some of the top purchasers of Maileg products are grandmothers. Grandmothers enjoy the nostalgia from their own days playing with simple, natural, and often handmade toys. With Maileg's collections, they are able to easily create a contemporary display of this experience for their grandchildren.

However, it's not just nostalgic grandmothers creating play worlds for their grandchildren (and themselves). Parents today are fed up with the buying and throwing-away cycle that comes with the inexpensive and low-quality children's products that are now so plentiful. Parents want to buy toys that will be respected and can be passed on to the next generation – something Lars and Hanne appreciated about the brand from the beginning. One can easily envision Maileg goods being sold on the antique market one day.

As for the longevity of Lars and Hanne in the U.S., their visas will expire in September. Though the couple has moved 24 times in their lives and say they find moving to be both inspiring and physically beneficial, they've had a wonderful experience in America and hope to remain in the country on another category of visa.



Maileg North America is a member of the Danish American Chamber of Commerce, Georgia. There are five other Danish American Chambers of Commerce in the U.S. including New York, Southern California, Northern California, Midwest, and Southwest. The chambers are membership organizations designed to promote commerce between Denmark and the United States. They create events and networking opportunities for Danes and Americans, and together with their members, have been excellent cultural partners for the Museum of Danish America.

roots and wings: reflections on dual citizenship

“Parents can give their children two lasting things: One is roots, the other is wings.” My father-in-law quoted this saying in his speech at my wedding reception in Minnesota in 2004. His words have stayed with me ever since.

As a Danish immigrant to the United States, I am acutely aware of the value of both roots and wings. From a very young age, I yearned to spread my wings and fly to America. Pursuing this dream has allowed me to truly thrive and be who I want to be. I had happy tears in my eyes when I became an American citizen in 2010.

Yet the more time I spend away from Denmark, the more I appreciate my Danish heritage. Now that I am myself the parent of young children, it is important for me that they learn about their Danish roots as well as their American roots even as they start to grow their own wings. I hope that they will become patriotic Americans with a deep appreciation for Denmark and with the whole world to spread their wings in.

I used the title “Roots and Wings” in an opinion editorial I wrote for *Berlingske*, Denmark’s oldest newspaper, in 2008. The occasion for my piece was the introduction in the Danish parliament of a bill that would allow dual citizenship for Danish citizens. The bill failed back then, but a similar bill passed in December 2014, which will take effect on September 1 this year. It will now be possible for Danish emigrants to retain their Danish citizenship even if they become citizens of other countries such as the United States. Emigrants like myself, who have already lost their Danish citizenship, will be able to apply to get it back.

In my article for *Berlingske*, I stated that I considered myself first and foremost an American and that I would therefore apply for American citizenship (I was still a Danish citizen at the time). I also stated that I would nevertheless like to retain my Danish citizenship to honor my roots.

I feel the same way about my Danish roots that I did when I wrote my article seven years ago, but I have since then changed my mind about dual citizenship. Even though I now have the opportunity to do so, I will not apply to get my Danish citizenship back.

I care deeply about Denmark and my family and friends there. I will work hard to be a bridge-builder between the United States and Denmark. But America is where I truly belong and where I would like to focus my contributions as a citizen. Citizenship obliges, and I cannot in good conscience become a Danish citizen when the strongest and most urgent obligations I feel are to the United States.

I am no longer Danish, but I will remain a proud Danish-American. That is how I will honor my roots.

Henrik Fogh Rasmussen is a board member at the Museum of Danish America. He lives in Springfield, Illinois with his wife and three daughters.



By
**Henrik
Fogh
Rasmussen**

On December 18, 2014, the Danish parliament voted to allow Danes to become citizens of another country without having to give up their Danish citizenship. The new law will also make it possible for people who have lost their Danish citizenship by becoming citizens of another country to reinstate their Danish citizenship during a five-year period, from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2020.

the cream of the crop

DANISH-AMERICAN DAIRIES & CREAMERIES

Beginning as a way of providing for one's own family, the dairy industry quickly became profitable on a much larger scale with the advent of commercial milk bottles, milking machines, and standardized testing and regulations on the manufacturing of dairy products. Within the museum's collection of over 35,000 artifacts, a few hundred pertain to the dairy and creamery industry, providing a small glimpse into a business that continues today.

Of the over one dozen dairies and creameries represented in the artifact collection, several were active in the Midwest. The stories of Eagle Dairy and Locust Lane Dairy, of Omaha and Irvington, Nebraska, respectively, are told through many pieces including milk bottles, wooden and metal milk crates, milking stools, cleaning brushes, testing tubes, and more.

Eagle Dairy was owned by Peter "Mule Pete" Jensen and his wife Mary, who had emigrated from Denmark in 1904. In 1912 this dairy was divided into three businesses and sold. One of the portions was purchased by Chris Jensen, son of Peter and Mary, and continued until 1920.

Chris Jensen had worked at multiple dairies in the Omaha metro area in his younger years, including Anton P. Grobeck's Spring Lake Park Dairy, also represented in the museum's collection. It was there that he met his future wife, Minnie. Chris Jensen started Locust Lane Dairy shortly after acquiring his father's Eagle Dairy and continued this venture until 1945.

Crystal Springs Creamery was located on the south end



of Kimballton, Iowa, just a few miles north of where the museum now stands. In 1890 a creamery cooperative was established by local residents and the "Kimballton Creamery," as it is known locally, began. It continued to supply the area until it was sold in 1965. Recently, the museum received a set of objects representing Crystal Springs Creamery, including a cream separator, a milk can, documents emblazoned with the creamery's name, and a series of testing tubes and other tools used to test milk samples.

Dairy production has changed drastically in the last several decades with the mechanization of testing, bottling, deliveries, and even the milking itself. Stories about these early dairies are important community history and are able to be shared through the museum's collection.

CREAMERIES & DAIRIES REPRESENTED IN OUR COLLECTION

Brentwood Dairy Company, California
Cedar Falls Creamery, Cedar Falls, IA
Crystal Springs Creamery, Kimballton, IA
Dream City Dairy, Omaha, NE
Eagle Dairy, Omaha, NE
Ellendale Creamery, Ellendale, MN
Grobeck's Spring Lake Park Dairy, Omaha, NE
Knudsen Creamery Company, California
Locust Lane Dairy, Irvington, NE
Santa Maria Milk Company Ltd., California
The Danish Creamery, Fresno, CA
West Hamlin Creamery Company, Exira, IA

02



By
Angela
Stanford

01. Caps Archival materials representing Crystal Springs Creamery, Grobeck's Dairy, and Cedar Falls Creamery. **02.** Other interesting dairy-related pieces in our collection not pictured here include sanitary inspection score cards, cards with details of milk and cream samples, and even a pillow constructed with ribbons received from creamery conventions. Photos of these items are at [View Our Collection](#) on our website.

helping
america's
dairyland
get its start

One of Wisconsin's first incorporated creameries, the Luck Creamery Company, was organized by Danish immigrants in Luck, Wisconsin on March 28, 1885.

The seven Danish immigrants declared that only members of the corporation could own stock in it, and the sale of 160 shares at \$15 per share was authorized. The first creamery was built eight-tenths of a mile west of Luck on the north shore of Little Butternut Lake. The first buttermaker was a Danish woman who made the butter in large wooden churns.

In the early days the farmers brought their milk to the creamery in cans which had glass tubes or gauges on the side, marked down to one-eighth inches. The cream, as shown by the gauge, was measured and paid for by the inch. The cream was then skimmed off and the farmer kept the skimmed milk.

Many groups of farmers adopted the cooperative principle to make dairying a leading industry in Wisconsin.

Information from the Wisconsin Historical Society.



03



04



05



06

03. Crystal Springs Creamery, Kimballton, IA. 04. Creamery Operators, Class of 1893-94, Iowa State College, Ames, IA. 05. Milk Can from Crystal Springs Creamery in Kimballton, IA; bucket and stool used at either Eagle Dairy in Omaha, NE or Locust Lane Dairy in Irvington, NE. 06. Milk bottles and a crate used by Locust Lane Dairy in Irvington, NE.



skål! scandinavian spirits

Raise your glass.

Look your companions in the eye.

Say “skål!” with gusto. (pronounced “skoal”)

Take a drink.

Look your companions in the eye again.

Set down your glass.

For many Scandinavian Americans, this ritual is an expression of their heritage. What’s in the glass? If the contents match the custom, then it’s probably either beer or aquavit.

The word *skål* itself means “bowl” in Danish, Swedish and Norwegian. For many centuries, wooden bowls – sometimes elaborately decorated – would be filled with beer and passed from person to person at community gatherings like weddings or festivals. From that tradition of

passing the bowl, the term *skål* is now also a toast: “Cheers!”

A SPIRITED HISTORY

Scandinavians have brewed beer for over 1,500 years. In pre-Christian times, the Norse god Odin was credited with teaching humans how to brew beer, and drinking beer was often involved in worship and as offering to the deities. The Norse sagas mention drinking beer, especially in celebration of battle victories, and sometimes in the form of drinking challenges. When harvests were small, beer brewing was restricted



By
Tova
Brandt

01. Horse-handled ale bowl, Norway, 1829. *Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.*

to special occasions in order to reserve enough grain for food preparation.

Through the Middle Ages and up to the 19th century, beer remained an important part of daily life and festive traditions. As in much of northern Europe, beer was a common beverage for everyone in society – men, women and children. Beer provided more sustenance and was usually safer to drink than local water sources, which were often contaminated. The alcohol content was likely around 2%, much lower than most beers made today.

For special events, brewing and consuming beer followed long-established traditions. In Norway, wedding preparations might include brewing 10 to 12 barrels of ale to share with guests over many days. Similar brewing traditions marked Easter, Pentecost, and other life events like harvests or funerals. The Christmas ale was required by law to be ready for sampling by

December 21. Decorative ale bowls reinforced the festive nature of the celebration; passing those bowls from person to person reinforced the social ties within the community.

In the 1500s *brændevin* (distilled liquor) became known through Scandinavia, initially distributed as a medical cure-all. But more extensive – and disruptive – use was clearly becoming common by 1551, when King Christian III of Denmark and Norway banned the serving of *brændevin* on holidays in an attempt to prevent people attending church while drunk. Two generations later, Christian IV ordered the parliament to meet at 7 a.m. so that members weren't too intoxicated to conduct business. Between the growing production of *brændevin* and the regular consumption of beer, this period has been called "The Great Nordic Intoxication" by several historians. Even livestock became tipsy when fed the fermented by-products of alcohol production.

GLOSSARY

Aquavit (*akvavit* in Danish and Swedish, *akevitt* in Norwegian) is a specific term for vodka flavored with caraway and other herbs and spices. Literally, the term comes from the Latin *aqua vitae*, the water of life.

Brændevin (in Danish) / *brännvin* (in Swedish) / *brennevin* (in Norwegian) is the term for distilled liquor – usually what we would call vodka today. Literally the term translates to “burnt wine” which refers to the early history of distilling in Scandinavia when wine was used as a raw material. *Brændevin* is sometimes translated as “brandy”, but in Scandinavian history the term applies to distilled liquor from grain, and later from potatoes. In the early period of distilling, the results often tasted awful – this led to adding herbs and other plants to improve the flavor, creating what we now know as aquavit.

Øl (in Danish and Norwegian) / *öl* (in Swedish) is beer or ale.

Snaps is a more general term for flavored liquor – it could be caraway-flavored aquavit, or it could feature different ingredients. Using the term “snaps” is more common in Denmark than in Norway or Sweden.

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 Vine og Spirituosa
 Specialiteter fra Skandinavien
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 Faa vor Prislister
FERDINAND HOLTUM
 517 CALIFORNIA STREET

ØL OG SPIRITUOSA FRA SKANDINAVIEN
 ØL
 Schous Lager (Oslo); Lys Carlsberg, Carlsberg Imperial Stout Porter, Carlsberg Nr. 22-B (mørk); Ceres Pilsner, Ceres Stout-Porter, Ceres Ale (Aarhus); Tuborg Pilsner, Tuborg Stout-Porter, Tuborg Lager; Wibroe Pilsner (Helsingør).
 SPECIALITETER FRA FENLAND (ØY Alkoholiller A. B. Helsinki)
 VODEKA (101.8 Proof)
 AKVAVIT (Barnet paa Skovlyde)
 FINNPUNCH
 SPIRITUS OG VIN:
 Vincon Vin; Cherry Kjøls; Kjøls-Cassis; Laitens Aquavit (Oslo); Aalborg Akvavit; Cherry Heering; C. L. O. C. Gin og Løkerer (Cacao, Bivn Etiket, Orange); Svensk Arak Punch; Carlshans Pilsch Punch; O. P. Andersens Prima Aquavit; Reinersholms Kron-Brännvin; Vin-Glogg (A. B. Vin & Spiritcentralen, Stockholm).
 Købet paa Eksemp. Forsendes overalt i Guld og Prøve paa Forbrugers.
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02. Advertisements for imported aquavit (*brendevin*) in Scandinavian-American newspapers, *Bien* (The Bee), California, 1903, 1956, and 1934. *Museum of Danish America, Digital Library of Danish-American Newspapers.*

By the 1600s, *brændevin* was widely available through home-based distilling in Denmark and Sweden; the results often tasted awful and therefore required additional ingredients to mask the taste. Thus, caraway-flavored aquavit was born. Taxes on *brændevin* and the copper kettles used in distilling started to appear in the 1600s, as did attempts by the State to restrict distilleries to towns. Illegal distilling continued, however, and by the mid-1700s nearly half of Danish families were able to distill their own *brændevin* – a legacy that is still evident in the Danish root word for brewing (*brygge*) found in the name of what Americans would call the home utility room (*bryggers*).

Starting in the 1800s, Scandinavian governments grew more successful at controlling the production and sale of alcohol. Industrialization led to a better

product, and also to larger businesses taking the lion's share of the alcohol trade. Through the 19th century and into the early 20th the numbers of distilleries and breweries continued to shrink.

MIGRATION OF DRINKING TRADITIONS

Large waves of Scandinavian immigrants arrived in the United States beginning in the middle of the 19th century and reaching a peak in the years around 1900. As Scandinavians started new lives in America, some traditions remained and some did not. Many immigrants in the 19th century continued to brew beer for weddings and other uses. In some Norwegian-American communities in North Dakota, large weddings still included alcohol provided by the hosts, even after the state became dry in 1890. Home-based distilling,

though, had largely declined in Scandinavia by the time mass emigration began and did not continue as a common tradition in the United States. Many immigrants frequented taverns or saloons for a drink with neighbors or co-workers; these taverns were largely the domain of working men and shifted the balance of alcohol and community that had been part of Scandinavian tradition.

TAVERNS AND TEMPERANCE

Temperance movements were on the rise throughout Scandinavia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Increasing alcohol abuse prompted some reformers to seek moderating strategies, such as promoting beer as an alternative to strong liquor. Religious revivals inspired pietists to call for an end to drinking, as well as dancing, card games, and other perceived



03. Senn Engraving “*Brændeviinsmand*” engraving by Johannes Senn, early 1800s. *Used with permission from the Copenhagen City Museum.* 04. **Carlsberg Beer Factory** A small army of wagons deliver crates of bottles from the Carlsberg beer factory in Copenhagen, Denmark, early 20th century. *Museum of Danish America.*

sources of temptation. Many Scandinavian immigrants to the United States were pietists and carried their convictions with them to America.

Through the early 20th century, Norway, Sweden and Denmark each developed different ways to exert state control over production and consumption. Norway banned production and importation of alcohol from 1919 to 1926. After repealing the ban, all sales were required to go through the *Vinmonopol* (Wine

Monopoly). Sweden rationed alcohol from 1919 to 1955 and limited all sales to state-controlled stores. Denmark imposed a high alcohol tax in 1917 which was unpopular, but probably avoided a system of state control or outright prohibition.

In the United States, the National Prohibition Act of 1919 – informally known as the Volstead Act – became the law of the land in 1920. It was named for the U.S. Representative who introduced the legislation, Andrew John

Volstead, a Norwegian-American born in Kenyon, Minnesota, and a graduate of St. Olaf College. Most conservative Scandinavian Americans were great supporters of Prohibition. They saw alcohol as a social evil, often an outright sin, and thus saw it as their Christian duty to completely rid society of it – by law, if needed. More liberal communities opposed the prohibitive approach; they recognized drunkenness was a problem, but they thought Prohibition limited personal freedom and simply didn't work.



05. Good Templars Meeting of the International Order of the Good Templars, Seattle, Washington. *Nordic Heritage Museum.*

SCANDINAVIAN SPIRITS

Scandinavian drinking traditions offer one way for Scandinavian Americans to connect to their heritage within families, social groups, or ethnic institutions. Even in the early 20th century, Scandinavian-American groups included aquavit in their event menus – and apologized if it wasn't there! After Prohibition was repealed in 1933, heritage organizations could again officially include alcohol in their programs.

Christmas / Jul

December and January are filled with celebrations of good food, good drink, and good company. In Scandinavia today, a popular part of the season is the Julbord or Julefrokost, a holiday party shared with co-workers, friends, families, or other groups. One might attend several events through the holidays, all accompanied with Christmas beers and aquavit.

Midsummer

The longest day of the year has always been reason to celebrate in Scandinavia, as the contrast with short winter days is so dramatic. Celebrated with bonfires, music, and a picnic atmosphere, midsummer is a perfect opportunity to share a *skål* with friends and neighbors.

Crayfish Parties

This Swedish tradition celebrates the traditional opening of the crayfish season in August. The consumed crayfish need “something to swim in” in one's stomach; therefore, beer and aquavit are in ample supply.

Increasing global trade through the 20th century provided regular access to imported beer and aquavit from Scandinavia, allowing Americans to seek out these beverages directly from their ancestral homelands. The dominant breweries and distilleries in Scandinavia sought

export markets for their products, and marketed them accordingly.

More recently, American companies have started to produce Scandinavian-style aquavit. Gamle Ode, founded in 2012 in Minnesota, inspired by Danish hospitality traditions, engaged members of the Danish American Center in Minneapolis as taste-testers when the founders experimented with recipes.

Opened in 2013, the Old Ballard Liquor Company in Seattle creates spirits – including a seasonal selection of aquavit and snaps – that celebrate the blue-collar Scandinavian heritage of the Ballard neighborhood.

House Spirits Distillery, founded in 2004 in Portland, Oregon, features two flavors of their Krogstad Aquavit, as well as Volstead Vodka named in honor of the Norwegian-American sponsor of Prohibition.



06

06. Sankt Hans Aften in Decorah, Iowa, 2014. Photograph by Charlie Langton.

Skål!

Scandinavian Spirits

This exhibition is organized by the Museum of Danish America and presented by Aalborg and Linie Aquavits.

Additional support comes from:

Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, Washington
 American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 The American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, New York

NATIONAL TOUR

Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa.....April 24 – October 25, 2015
 Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WashingtonDec 11, 2015 – Feb 28, 2016
 Swedish American Museum, Chicago, IllinoisMarch – July 2016
 Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, IowaAugust – December 2016
 American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.....January – June 2017
 American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota.....July – December 2017
 Elverhoj Museum, Solvang, CaliforniaJanuary 2018 – TBD

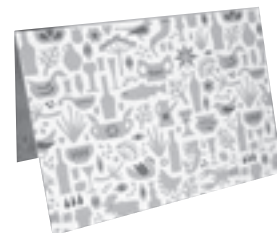
Would you like the book version of this exhibition – including recipes for do-it-yourself aquavit and snaps? Order it today from the museum’s Design Store, along with these other exhibit-related products. Museum members receive a 10% discount.



07



08



09



10

07. Exhibition catalog, wire bound, full-color: \$19.95. **08. Commemorative 18” x 24”** screen-printed poster: \$38. **09. Set of 10 notecards** with envelopes: \$10. **10. Set of 20 double-sided recipe cards**, 4” x 6”: \$8 . **Also available** Mousepad: \$8

update:

BRICK PAVERS IN THE JENS JENSEN HERITAGE PATH

Five years ago the museum embarked on a landscaping project in harmony with its Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park. Museum donors could personalize a paver of three sizes in the Jens Jensen Heritage Path with its origins leading to and encircling the Flag Plaza. To date, 327 engraved pavers have been donated. Much to the museum's dismay, the engraving paint weathered away, making

many of the pavers illegible. In the spring of 2014, a moratorium was placed on further engravings until a permanent solution could be found.

After much investigation, a problem with the pavers' composition was discovered and the museum has taken every step to find a suitable solution. Replacement of existing pavers by engraving on new, granite-based pavers will begin this year.

The Museum of Danish America apologizes for this inconvenience.

We are grateful for the patience and understanding you have shown us. Thank you for trusting that a lasting solution would be found. We are excited to once again make the Jens Jensen Heritage Path a place to celebrate an occasion or achievement, recognize an individual or organization, or honor the memory of a loved one.



By
Deb
Christensen
Larsen

events calendar

**Rebild National Park Society's
Annual Meeting Cohosted by
the Museum of Danish America**

April 22 – 26
Omaha, NE and the Danish
Villages of Elk Horn & Kimballton

**Skål! Scandinavian Spirits
Members' Preview**

April 24, 4-6 p.m.

Spring Open House

April 25
Design Store

**Victor Borge Legacy Award
Piano Recital**

April 26, 2 p.m.
Bro Dining Room

**Brown Bag Lunch:
Coal Mining in Iowa**

by Doug Wilson
May 14, Noon
Bro Dining Room

Tivoli Fest

May 23-24

Board of Directors Meeting

June 11-13
Portland, OR*

Sankt Hans Aften Celebration

June 27

EXHIBITS ON VIEW

Exploring Danish Happiness

Now until April 30
Multimedia Room

***Curator's Choice: Art from the
Permanent Collection***

Now until May 10
Main Floor Gallery

***Across Oceans,
Across Time***

Permanent
Lower and Main Levels

COMING EXHIBITS

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits

April 24 – October 25
Kramme Gallery

***Photography by Diana Velasco:
Sense of Place***

May 15 – Fall 2015
Multimedia Room

***Glass and Mosaic by Helle
Scharling-Todd***

May 23 – September 30
Main Floor Gallery

MUSEUM

VISITOR HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm
Saturday 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday Noon – 5 pm

Business hours are
Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm

GENEALOGY CENTER

4210 Main Street, PO Box 249

May-October

Tuesday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm

Saturdays 10 am – 5 pm

November-April

Tuesday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm

Research assistance appointments
welcomed at 712.764.7008.

BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE

2105 College Street

Memorial Day – Labor Day

1 pm – 4 pm

ADMISSION

Museum members FREE
with membership card
Non-member Adults \$5
Children (ages 8-17) \$2

Price includes one-day admission
to Jens Dixen Cabin, Jens Jensen
Prairie Landscape Park, Genealogy
Center, and Bedstemor's House.

All facilities are closed on New
Years, Easter, Thanksgiving, and
Christmas.

*Live in the Portland area? Keep Saturday, June 13 open for a museum friends luncheon.

news from the genealogy center

IN MEMORIAM

Long-time museum and Genealogy Center volunteer Jimmie Kelgor passed away in January 2015. An inveterate indexer, Jim was responsible for the initial creation of handwritten membership lists for most Danish Brotherhood lodges, as well as a number of our obituary indexes, which he maintained until shortly before his death. His generous contribution of time earned him several 1,000-hour stars on the museum's Volunteer Recognition Board. All honor to his memory.

ARE YOU A DANISH IMMIGRANT OR LONG-TERM RESIDENT?

Many Danes have immigrated to the U.S. since World War II, have been exchange students or resided in this country for longer periods of time. We would like to have some information in our library on more recent immigrants or long-term residents from Denmark. If you would be willing to fill out an Immigrant Information Form or distribute it at meetings of your local Danish-American organization, contact Michele at the Genealogy Center, 712.764.7008.

WISH LIST

We are always looking for additions to the Genealogy Center collection. Our listing of most wanted titles in both Danish and English may be found on www.danishmuseum.org under Library & Genealogy > Genealogy Center Donations and Wish List. We welcome donations of or toward these materials, but

since this list changes frequently, please contact us at librarian@danishmuseum.org before purchasing or sending items so that we may avoid duplicate donations.

CENTENARIANS PHOTO EXHIBIT

This year's Genealogy Center photo exhibit will feature Danish immigrants who reached the age of 100 or more. If you have such a centenarian in your family, brush off their history, find one or more photographs and send them along with the Permission to Display Form (found at www.danishmuseum.org/photo-gallery.cfm) to the Genealogy Center.

Here's a taste of what's to come:

a hundred-year-old dane
in missouri*

Ninety-eight years ago – and that is no typographical error – a sturdy milkmaid rowed a boat out to one of the small islands in Odense Fjord. Her master's small son, Henrik, had come along and was sitting quietly in his red smock on one of the thwarts.

They landed on the island, where a flock of cows were pastured, and the girl began milking while little Henrik played along the beach. All was well until [the return trip], when the boy, turning abruptly, lost his balance and fell overboard. An instant later the quick-thinking milkmaid grabbed

a boathook and caught it on the small red smock to everyone's good fortune.

This is Henrik Ruge's first memory. If things had gone awry that day on Odense Fjord I would not have had the interesting experience of hearing the story from his own lips and in the speech of our common Funen childhood.

The little boy in the red smock, Henrik Ruge, is living today. He sits in a wheelchair in his daughter's pleasant home in Augusta, Missouri. He is over 100 years old and has spent 96 of them here in this country.

In 1834 his parents and their four children landed in Missouri after a long sailing voyage from Denmark to New Orleans and up the Mississippi River by steamboat. His father was a physician. The journey went well right up until when the steamer docked at the landing stage. The passengers, among whom were the six emigrants from Odense, had disembarked in order to stretch their legs. Then the steamboat exploded, there having been gunpowder among the cargo. All the people from Odense rescued were their lives, the clothing on their backs, and a bit of hand-luggage.

The old man looked at me with his clear eyes and said, "It was difficult, especially for Mother, but we managed nonetheless. We got a roof over our heads, and Father began a medical practice. There was enough to do in those days."



By
Michele
McNabb

*Article written by J. Christian Bay; originally published in Danish in *Ungdom*, v. 28, Nos. 7-8, Jan. 1, 1935.

A couple of years later the wreck was pulled out of the way onto the river bank and on that occasion a few of the family's treasures were found, including a couple of oil paintings, portraits of the Ruge grandparents, and the keyboard of the family's Marschall piano. These keys were laid in mother of pearl.

Dr. Ruge – most likely a surgeon from the old Danish Surgical Academy – practiced successfully in northern Missouri. The family was respected; the boys found their lives' paths. Two of them became physicians in St. Louis. . .

Henrik became a carpenter; he wanted to build things. "I've built far too much!" he told me. "But I enjoyed it and there was always more than enough to do. But then came the war."

The Civil War.

While we were sitting and talking I had noticed that his left hand sat askew on his arm, which was also quite deformed. The Boys in Blue were creeping on their hands and knees up Missionary Ridge when Henrik took a bullet in his arm from his hand to his elbow. The arm was patched up at a field hospital. Nevertheless, Henrik Ruge still managed to dig in his garden with one and a half arms until he was ninety-seven.

His pretty granddaughter left the room for a moment and returned with the bullet. It was "mushroomed" and lay heavily in my hand.

"It's going to my grave with me," the old man stated.

After the war there was still plenty to do for an industrious man. Ruge took over a harness factory

in Lincoln, Illinois, and managed its operations until the end of the century, when he was nearly seventy and might have thoughts about relaxing.

He is very much preoccupied with the idea that it really is quite unreasonable to live so long in this odd world. As a child he was in mortal danger twice; thirty years later he was hit in the war. He was sitting in the railroad car which *didn't* fall through the broken bridge near Hermann, Missouri, where dozens of people perished. But, he said, all of his contemporaries have gradually died and he alone remains. "And now," he concluded with a sigh, "I'm of no use at all and can't even go out and mess around in the garden."

In 1866 Ruge was married to Louise Kersten of St. Louis. Only two of their seven children are still living. Their eldest daughter was married in the small town of Augusta, Missouri, where the two old people settled at the beginning of the century. Until two years ago the old folks had their own little cottage, but then his wife died and since then Ruge has resided with his daughter. Of course, everyone from St. Charles westwards knows him; he is one of Augusta's "sights" and everyone is proud of the old Danish soldier.

What struck me that sun-lit fall day several weeks ago when I visited our old fellow countryman was the joy he felt in speaking Danish and the ease with which he expressed himself in our mother tongue. He has never visited Denmark since he landed in St. Genevieve in 1838, and yet he expressed himself so naturally that I inadvertently had to think

about the many functioning patriots from whose mouths – or from whose children – hardly a proper Danish syllable falls.

I could mention that Henrik Ruge has occupied many offices in the towns in which he has worked and in his old age he became a justice of the peace in Augusta. Much more interesting is that now, in the evening of his life, his thoughts go back to Odense. Odense and the Mississippi River are the central nodes of his saga. His eyes lit up with joy, for example when I spoke about dear old St. Knud's church back home.

Thanks to his faithfulness he can now entertain himself with his daughter and granddaughter in the language which he recalls better and better.

Henrik Ruge looks like a man who has lived a long time, but his handshake is firm and his thoughts still clear. He has never laid importance on taking care of himself, and as far as tobacco is concerned, he has smoked bushels of pipes and railroad cars full of tobacco. His eyesight is so-so, but has lasted from the era of whale-oil lamps to that of electricity, just as his experiences encompass the period from the pioneers' covered wagons to streamlined luxury trains. . .

The old man will probably also live to see the coming Christmas. I would remind the generous reader to consider that he left Denmark at the time when his fellow townsman, Han Christian Andersen, was publishing *The Improvisor* and was writing his first fairy tales, "The Tinder Box" and "The Princess and the Pea." And to think that this old man so enjoys hearing the Danish sounds with which he grew up.

bits & pieces from the newspapers

A LONG JOURNEY BY TRACTOR

A. H. Jørgensen, who farms near Kearney, Neb., has acquired a new tractor, purchased in Kansas City. Instead of having it sent by train or truck, he went to K.C. himself, mounted his iron horse, and set out on the 450-mile-long road home. In the first 10 hours he drove 165 miles to Clay Center, Kansas, where he put his "horse" in a stable and went to bed. The next morning he continued his ride, which perhaps is now being continued on a field at his home. (From *Den Danske Pioneer*, vol. 65, issue 14, April 8, 1937; translated by Michele McNabb)

A JILTED LOVER

Today there has been plenty of talk about the city concerning the recent marriage of Jens Jensen, of the Jensen Manufacturing Company, and it is alleged that upon his return with the bride, a suit will be commenced for breach of promise. It is alleged that Karen Maria Nelson, the bride, was engaged to Nels Rasmussen, in Denmark. He came to this country and settled in Racine. Soon after, he sent a ticket to his affianced in Denmark, and she came to Racine and worked as a servant for Mr. Jensen. In the meantime, Rasmussen had built a house, furnished the same,

and all arrangements were made for the matrimonial event, which was to have occurred last week. On the evening before, the girl "skipped" with Jensen; they went to Chicago, were married and then departed on a trip to New Orleans. On the afternoon before she left, Rasmussen states that he was with her and she was protesting her undying love for him. His heart is lacerated and he has consulted an attorney for the purpose of commencing suit against the girl when she returns. How much he lays the damage at, for his lacerated affection, is not known. (From the *Racine Daily Journal*, February 15, 1885)

new books in the genealogy center

The Nielsen Letters: Doorway to the Past, by James D. Iversen (Hampton, Iowa: Franklin County Historical Society, c2014; ISBN 978-0-9897930-1-8)



Christian and Anna Nielsen married in Haslev, Denmark on November 15, 1902. After immigrating in 1905, they started farming and purchased

the Harriman acreage on the west side of Hampton in 1920. They and their two daughters, Petrea and Nielsine, lived on the property for the rest of their lives until Nielsine's death in 2001. Besides land, the Nielsen estate encompassed more than 2,000 letters and many other documentary materials dating from the 1890s to 1999. This book tells the story of the Nielsen family through this fascinating collection of family letters, documents and photographs.

Jorgy's War, by A. W. Jorgensen (Madison, Wisconsin: Jensen-Jørgensen & Associates, Ltd., c1988. In print and available through Amazon and other stores)



The author, one of five children born to Danish immigrant parents near Waupaca, Wisconsin, began his adult life as a history and speech teacher prior to the outbreak of WWII, but found himself in uniform and on his way

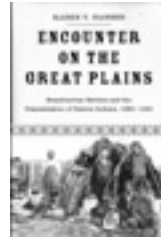
to England with 8,000 other men shortly after Pearl Harbor. Setting up a base with no prior ground rules, Jorgensen ended up as a peripatetic aircraft recognition instructor before returning to civilian life as a state conservation educator. This personal account of his wartime experiences provides an intimate look at the civilian-to-soldier experience.

Lad Svalerne Flyve Højt (Let the Swallows Fly High), by Aage Bernhard Jensen (Kalundborg, Denmark: www.privatbogen.dk, c2009).



Born in 1927, Jensen was trained as a gardener. Following his military service he worked in England in 1950-51 and in the U.S. from 1951-53 before returning to Denmark to establish his own landscaping business. His biography covers a childhood before and during the German occupation of Denmark, realizing a long-held dream of travel, experiencing culture shock in England and the Cold War in a small town in New England, and about the new possibilities that arise from broken dreams as a young man matures.

Encounter on the Great Plains: Scandinavian Settlers and the Dispossession of Dakota Indians, 1890-1930, by Karen V. Hansen (New York: Oxford University Press, c2013; ISBN 978-0-19-974681-1)



In 1904 the first Scandinavian settlers moved onto the Spirit Lake Dakota Indian Reservation. By 1929 Scandinavians owned more reservation acreage than their Dakota neighbors. In this carefully documented book, Hansen chronicles the intertwined stories of Dakotas and immigrants and their shared struggles to maintain a language, sustain a culture, and navigate their complex ties to more than one nation and thus provides a new perspective on the processes of immigration and land-taking.

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp: the First 90 Years of God at Work, by Jeanne Sorensen and Camp Friends (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform: the Author, 2014; ISBN 978-1-50309000-2)



With roots in the Danish Lutheran Church, the name Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp will be familiar to many Midwesterners. This profusely illustrated book covers the history of the camp and should be of interest to those who participated in its youth ministry over nearly a century, beginning in a modest tent in northern Iowa.

Trespassing in Time: Family History as Microhistory: Navigating the Historical Records as Shown Through the Narrative of a Danish-American Seafarer's Life, by Anne Patterson Rodda (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform: the Author, 2014; ISBN 978-1-50566917-6)



In this book the author, a Certified Genealogist, explores a number of approaches to historical research, including microhistory, which she feels is the most useful method for genealogists. She applies it to her Danish family (and German family branch) as she relates the story of her grandfather, Anders Pedersen (Andrew Patterson), one of the honorees on the museum's Wall of Honor. Genealogists interested in writing their own family histories can learn a great deal from this volume.

bringing kokomo's noble dane out of the shadows

THE TALE OF PETER HERSLEB (1816-1894)¹

Prior to the Civil War most Danes who immigrated to America were either businessmen arriving with or without their families or single men of an adventuresome spirit who wanted to experience the New World. Finding information about the origins of these individuals who pushed the frontier westwards is complicated by their having arrived at a time before detailed ships' passenger lists, censuses and vital records, plus the fact that they often lived on the fringes of civilization where there was little infrastructure such as newspapers. One such person was Peter Hersleb, who settled in central Indiana in the early 1840s.

While most immigrants to Howard County, Indiana prior to the late 19th-century gas boom era hailed from either Ireland or Germany, one early pioneer who made Kokomo his adopted home was a native of Denmark named Peter Hersleb. A self-designated "fruit grower" and horticulturalist, Hersleb settled in the seat of what was then Richardville County in 1845.² For nearly four decades he was a familiar figure in local business and social affairs, but he remained throughout a mysterious and solitary figure.

Hersleb's exact origins were unknown. According to census records he was born in Denmark about 1816³, reportedly into a noble family. Well-educated, he spoke five languages and was a trained musician – so what brought him to a nearly non-existent village in central Indiana in the 1840s?

Ed Souder, an early 20th century editor of the *Kokomo Tribune*, wrote a story about him that

2878

RETURN OF A DEATH
IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CORONER'S CERTIFICATE.

1. Name of Deceased, *Peter Hersleb*
2. Color, *White*
3. Sex, *Male*
4. Age, *79 years*
5. Married or Single, _____
6. Date of Death, *July 21 1894*
7. Cause of Death, *Senile Debility*

14

UNDERTAKER'S CERTIFICATE IN RELATION TO DECEASED.

8. Occupation, *Gent*
9. Place of Birth, *Denmark*
10. Was a Minor { Name of Father, _____
Name of Mother, _____ }
11. Ward, *29th*
12. Street and Number, *914 N 26*
13. Date of Burial, *Aug 2nd*
14. Place of Burial, *Odd Fellows*
J. P. Honey Undertaker.
Residence, *914 N 26*

This Constitutes one Certificate, to be returned to the Health Office on Saturday of each week, before 12 M.



By
Michele
McNabb

Peter Hersleb's 1894 death certificate gives his occupation as Gent [Gentleman] and place of birth as Denmark. He was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Philadelphia.

was picked up and amplified by a later columnist, Glen Danner. According to Danner,⁴ “Count” Peter Hersleb was said to have left his native country following a broken engagement, a duel with a member of the Danish royal family, or for being on the wrong side of some domestic Danish politics. The veracity of these suppositions was never proven. He was said to have escaped to Sweden, making his way to America, where he worked for a number of years in Pennsylvania prior to deciding to move west.

Around 1845 he arrived in Kokomo by ox-cart with strange-looking luggage: two large oaken sea chests and two heavy hampers of an unusual design and workmanship. Soon thereafter, he purchased two lots in what was to become downtown Kokomo. He spoke English with an accent and was always clean-shaven, unlike most men of his day.

Within a year, Hersleb became the first foreigner of record to become naturalized in Howard County.⁵ In 1848 he purchased 80 acres of land from the federal government⁶ and later, additional parcels of land nearby. In the 1850 census, Hersleb was boarding with David C. Tha[t]cher, who ran a “hotel and tavern”.⁷ Soon thereafter he built a one-room cabin, and later, a frame house called “The Hermitage,” where he resided – always alone – surrounded by books in Latin, Greek, French and Italian, well-thumbed sheet music, and many exotic curios.

Hersleb also had land interests outside of Howard County, including purchases of 240 acres of Illinois swamp land in 1854.⁸

He spent his years in Indiana cultivating the orchards and vineyards plants on his Center Township land, which provisioned the growing town for many years.

Hersleb was known as a kind and generous man who rarely turned down requests for assistance toward worthy causes. He once donated \$1,000 to keep settlers in Kansas from starving during a year of crop failures, and donated part of his land as a site for the newly established Howard County Orphans’ Home.⁹

But music was Hersleb’s great love. Before coming to Indiana he reportedly had been a concert violinist and orchestra leader in Philadelphia, but an injury to his left hand – which he refused to discuss when it was remarked upon – left his fingers unable to bend and kept him from playing his instrument. He was a member, however, of Kokomo’s first band, organized in 1854, and it was music and an encounter with a young girl, June Reed, in 1880 that brought the reclusive Dane somewhat out of his shell in later years. June showed great musical promise at a young age. Hearing of her ability, Hersleb invited her to his house to play for him, and impressed, subsequently assumed responsibility for her musical training. Their acquaintanceship was to last for the rest of his life.

Sometime in the early 1880s Hersleb grew restless. Kokomo had grown and the cultivated gentleman found himself surrounded by working-class neighbors – brickmakers, quarry workers and farm laborers – with whom he had little in common.¹⁰

He decided to leave Kokomo and held a public sale at his residence, selling off his land and most of his personal property. Packing his chests and hampers, Hersleb returned first to Philadelphia, but found his old haunts unrecognizable and no one left that he knew.

The following summer he reportedly sailed to Denmark, where he met brothers and other family who urged him to stay,¹¹ but within a year he once again took up residence in Philadelphia. He once again became a hermit. Toward the end of his life he was infirm and nearly blind and preferred to stay in a darkened room except for brief forays out to a corner grocery. Several days before his death at the age of 79 on July 29, 1894,¹² he was forcibly removed to a Philadelphia hospital. Both Kokomo newspapers carried accounts of his final days and demise.

Peter Hersleb died as he had lived most of his life – alone. His will left bequests to the Howard County Orphans’ Home and to various individuals. Generous to the end, he nonetheless died penniless and was buried in an unmarked grave in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Philadelphia.¹³ Although he left no direct descendants, at least one local child, Charles Hersleb Havens, bore his family’s name.¹⁴

The life of this pioneer was seemingly fairly well documented, but as of a decade or so ago many aspects of his early life were still shrouded in – let’s face it – rather romantic mystery. When did he actually come to the United States? Was he really a count or from a noble family? Who were his



parents and did he have siblings? Advances in recent years in accessing digitized records in both this country and Denmark helped piece together some of the answers to these questions.

Peter Hersleb was one of the steerage passengers on the sailing ship *Howard* that arrived in New York City from Hamburg in October of 1836¹⁵. His arrival record lists him as a 20-year-old Danish “economist.” The first currently known record of his presence in the States is a listing in The Philadelphia Saving Fund Society in 1840, where he was listed as a bookkeeper residing on the corner of 8th & Albert Streets in the city.¹⁶

Turning to Danish records, it turns out that “Hersleb,” while an uncommon surname originating in a respectable Dano-Norwegian upper-class family line of clergymen and civil officials going back into the 1600s, has had many family members with the given name “Peter” over the

centuries. Some of the many Peter Hersleb references found in various online sources referenced a person by that name living in America and several Peters were found who were born around 1815/16. Given this plethora of Peters, careful searching was necessary to ensure that the correct Peter Hersleb was identified, but the effort was successful. Some of the materials documenting his Danish origins are shown below:

Peter Ivar Hersleb was born in the market town of Nyborg, in Svendborg County on March 9, 1816, baptized at home on March 27, with the baptism confirmed in church on October 3 that year. His parents were another Peter Hersleb (1786-1844), who at the time was the town *byfoged* – the King’s representative with various responsibilities, including tax collections – and Louise Sophie Malling (1783-1854), both natives of Copenhagen. He only appears in one Danish census, that from

1834, when he is living with his parents and two siblings in the Jutland market town of Vejle, where his father was now a judge and town and district *foged* [Fig. 02]. At seventeen, Peter would have finished his basic schooling and been confirmed, but the census provides no clues as to his further education. As we know, he left for America two years later.

Peter’s father died after a brief illness on January 8, 1844. Lacking other means of rapid communication of his death, his widow placed a death notice in the local Vejle newspaper [Fig. 03]. As was frequently the custom, she opted that her husband’s estate not be probated until after her death, so no record of the elder Peter’s heirs and their whereabouts was documented at the time. However, the probate file of Louise Sophie Hersleb, State Councillor Peter Hersleb’s widow, was recorded following her death in 1854. Among the documents was one which listed the couple’s heirs: Juliane Louise Hersleb, unmarried, age 41; Ove Malling Hersleb, 39, himself now the *byfoged* in Vejle; Peter Iver Hersleb, 37, a farmer in North America; and Carl Frederik Hersleb, 35, an official in the Ministry of War [Fig. 04].

One document suggests that Peter intended to travel home shortly after his mother’s death, perhaps to receive his inheritance. Whether he actually made the journey remains unknown. As far as can be determined at this time, Peter Hersleb of Kokomo never returned to his homeland. Elusive

DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK—PORT OF NEW-YORK.

1 O. N. Jeter

As witness, deponent, and truly Certified for the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and sent forward by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New-York, consistent to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Howard* Ship *Howard* on board of which I am Master, since the 15th Oct. 1836, to July 31st 1836.

Arrived on the 15th Oct. 1836

Departed on the 15th Oct. 1836

LIST OF MANIFEST OF THE PASSENGERS who arrived for *Howard* Ship *Howard* on board of which I am Master, from *Denmark* on the 15th Oct. 1836.

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they are bound	Place of birth
<i>Eva</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Female</i>		<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Denmark</i>
<i>Nicholas Malling</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Maner</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Denmark</i>
<i>Sophia Malling</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Female</i>		<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Denmark</i>
<i>Peter Hersleb</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Economist</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Denmark</i>

Vejle, Nervang, Vejle Købstad, Nørregade no 14 og 19, 1 Familie, 42, FT-1834, C4924

Peter Hersleb	47	Gift	Justitsraad, Bye og Herredsfoged
Louise Malling	48	Gift	Hans Frue
Julie Hersleb	21	Ugift	deres Datter
Peter Ivar Hersleb	17	Ugift	deres Sønner
Carl Frederik Hersleb	15	Ugift	deres Sønner

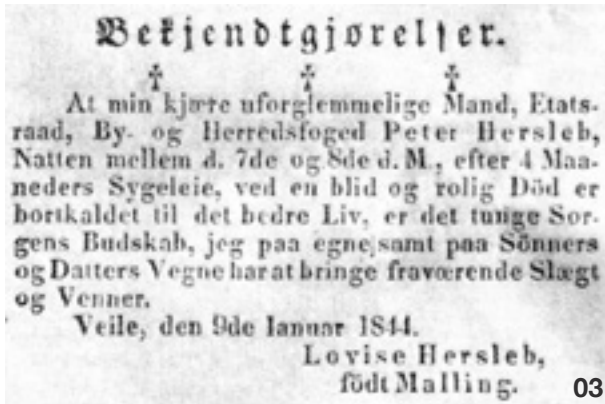
02

01. 1836 Arrival Peter Hersleb’s 1836 arrival record indicated that he traveled steerage from Hamburg to New York City, an uncomfortable journey that likely took a minimum of six weeks. 02. The 1834 census for the market town of Vejle shows Peter Hersleb living with his parents and siblings

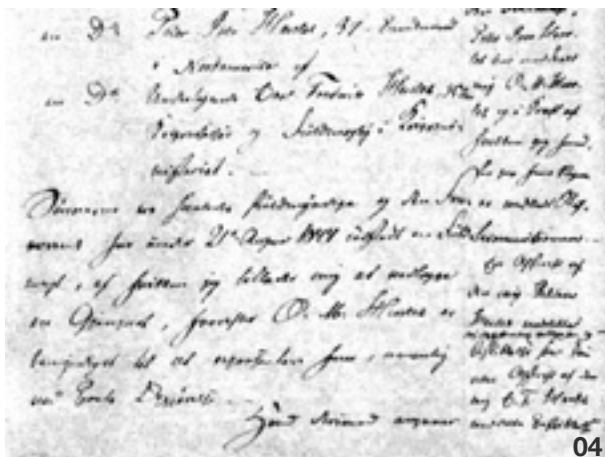
to the end, we have no portrait or photograph of Kokomo's melancholy Dane, only a rather whimsical signature on his passport application [Fig. 05].

While coming from a well-to-do family background and obviously highly educated, Peter Hersleb was *not* a member of the nobility. Barring in-depth research in Danish archival sources some of

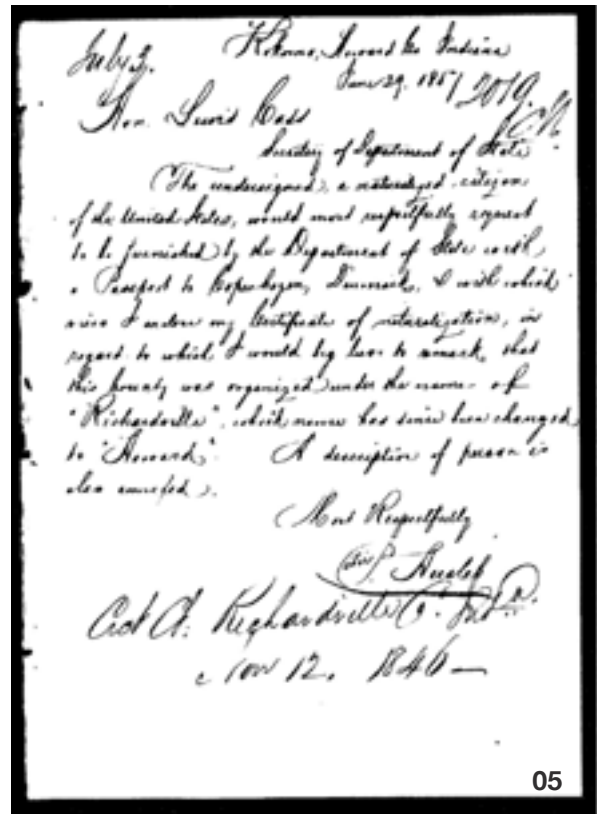
the other stories about his early life will likely remain in shadow, but now we know more about one of Indiana's early Danish residents.



03



04



05

¹This article was adapted and expanded from one written by the author in July, 2002 for the Howard County Genealogical Society. Many thanks to Danish researcher Erik Hogsbro Østergaard for running down details on the Danish Hersleb family. *Historical Atlas of Howard County, 1877*. ²See the U.S. federal censuses for Hersleb in Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana, for 1850-1880. ³Danner's "A Touch of Nostalgia" series about Peter Hersleb, referencing Souder's earlier article, ran in *The Kokomo Tribune* from January 33-March 26, 1978. Much of what he wrote has not been verified. ⁴Danner's "A Touch of Nostalgia" series about Peter Hersleb, referencing Souder's earlier article, ran in *The Kokomo Tribune* from January 33-March 26, 1978. Much of what he wrote has not been verified. ⁵This reportedly occurred in the Circuit Court in November, 1846. To do so, Hersleb would have had to have been a resident of the U.S. for at least five years, establishing an arrival date of 1841 or earlier. ⁶Preemption certificate #14322 dated 1 June 1848, for the E ½ of the SW ¼ Sec 30, T24N R4E. ⁷1850 U.S. federal census, Centre [sic] Township, Howard County, Indiana, household 16-26. ⁸Certificates #s 23,486 and 23,487, issued by the Springfield Land Office for land in Logan and Cass Counties, Illinois, Sept. 15, 1854. ⁹Article in *The Kokomo Democrat*, January 14, 1875. ¹⁰1880 U. S. federal census, Centre [sic] Township, Howard County, Indiana, p. 436b. ¹¹No evidence of his having traveled abroad at this time has been found. ¹²Peter Hersleb death certificate #2878, Coroner's Certificate, Return of a Death in the City of Philadelphia. ¹³Index to Interments, Odd Fellows Cemetery, Peter Hersleb entry, August 1, 1894, #39055. ¹⁴Charles Hersleb Havens was later editor of *The Kokomo Dispatch* and wrote a series of historical columns for a local newspaper in 1927. ¹⁵"New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1891," index and images, FamilySearch (familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1./QVXP-YRXP:accessed 10 December 2014), Peter "Hersbeb," 1836. ¹⁶Historical Society of Pennsylvania: Historic Pennsylvania Church and Town Records, The Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, (<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=PAChurchTownRecords&ch=2020727785>), Peter Hersleb entry #43222.

03. 1844 Death Notice The elder Peter Hersleb's death notice in a Vejle newspaper in 1844 took the form of a public announcement. It reads: *That my beloved unforgettable husband, Councilor of State and Town and District Judge Peter Hersleb, in the night between the 7th and 8th of this month, was called away to the better life in a gentle and quiet death after 4 months illness, is the heavy message of sorrow that I, on behalf of my sons and daughter, must bring to absent family and friends. Veile, 9 January 1844/ Lovise Hersleb, née Malling*

new additions to the wall of honor

OCTOBER 1, 2014 – FEBRUARY 15, 2015

The Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor provides families and friends with a means of preserving the memory of 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 Genealogy Center. You can find a list of the immigrants on the Wall at www.danishmuseum.org.

The information below includes the immigrant names, year of immigration, location where they settled, and the name and city of the donor(s).

PEDER EDVIN ANDERSEN
(1927) Livermore, California – Margaret Andersen of Livermore, CA

CONRAD JOHANNES ERIKSEN
(1881) Lawrence, Kansas – Conrad Dale Eriksen of Fort Collins, CO

CHRIS JOKUMSEN & ANNA DORTHEA (CHRISTENSEN) JOKUMSEN (1905) (1905) Cedar Falls, Iowa – Daniel Christensen of West Des Moines, IA

HANS JÖRN KNUDSEN & ANNA DOROTHEA MOLLSEN KNUDSEN (1872) (1874) Denver, Colorado – Carol Bassoni of Gilroy, CA

in honor

OCTOBER 1, 2014 – FEBRUARY 15, 2015

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

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Curatorial Center
Nancy Darst
Lillian Eggers
Lyle & Dorothy Feisel
Genealogy Center
Children of Cleo & Esther Hansen:
Stew Hansen, Wendell Hansen,
Marlene Fontanini, Judy

Campfield, Karen Anderson,
Susan Fisher and Kathryn
Hansen
Roger & Marilyn Hanson
Isabel Hoegh
Jim & Marge Iversen
LeRoy B. Jensen and family
James Lindberg family
Earl Madsen
Gladys McCrory's 90th birthday
Michele Christine McNabb's
birthday

Museum's Volunteers
Mr. & Mrs. James Petersen,
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Knudsen
Megan, Luke, & Zane Petersen
The Sigrid Riddle (Faaborg) family
Springwell Danish Cemetery,
Omaha, NE
Kirsten Strnad
Henry & Mardell Walter



Compiled by
Deb
Christensen
Larsen

new members

OCTOBER 1, 2014 – FEBRUARY 15, 2015

The Museum of Danish America is pleased to identify the following 104 individuals and organizations as its newest members:

- Ronald & Theresa Amaral, Elk Horn, IA
Dale Jay & Patricia Andersen, Omaha, NE
Tycho Andersen, Coralville, IA
Debra Anderson, Dover, NH
Victoria Arriola, South Pasadena, CA
Bill & Jan Baer, Lakewood, CO
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Darrell & Alana Cunningham, Haslett, MI
Robert & Sophie Davey, Omaha, NE
Matthew & Heidi Deuel, Pillager, MN
Lynn Diaz, Arden Hills, MN
Laurine Eden, Britt, IA
Jennifer Ewing, Urbandale, IA
Jeffrey & Jackie Westergaard Felder, Livonia, MI
Denny & Linda Fendley, Pesotum, IL
Dave & Eva Foulks, DeKalb, IL
Christine Fraizer, Salt Lake City, UT
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Julie Hahn, Lake Forest Park, WA
Patricia Hall, Plymouth, MN
Jerome & Joann Hansen, Lewiston, ID
Sten Hansen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Virginia Hanson, Onida, SD
Hastrup & Co A/S (Lars Hastrup), Hornbæk, Denmark
- James Hennick, Jr., Exira, IA
Stanley Hess, Bremerton, WA
Anne Hildebrand, Des Moines, IA
Lara Hildebrand, Des Moines, IA
Charles Holmes, Greeley, CO
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Norman & Venita Merk, Audubon, IA
Judith Miller, Audubon, IA
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Mike & Barb Nielsen, Council Bluffs, IA
Steve & Lisa Noble, Grimes, IA
Gerald & Murnell Olsen, Scandinavia, WI
Oxide Design Co. (Drew Davies), Omaha, NE
Judith Page, Madison, WI
Maren Palmer, Temple, TX
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Carolyn Rovner, Centennial, CO
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Rita Shaughnessy, Omaha, NE
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ThinkSpace IT (Jason & Jessa Erickson), Harlan, IA
Wendy Rahbek Thomsen, Store Heddinge, Denmark
John & Judy Thraen, Earling, IA
Molly Van Austen, Wilsonville, OR
Sharon Vonesh, Audubon, IA
Mary Lou Webber, Richmond, VA
Nancy Yackle, Omaha, NE

Gift Memberships Membership in the Museum of Danish America is a meaningful gift for any occasion. Make shopping easy while supporting the museum. As a member, your friend will enjoy year-round admission, the *America Letter* newsletter (three times a year), a 10% discount in our Design Store, and reduced translation and research fees at our Genealogy Center.

memorials

OCTOBER 1, 2014 – FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Through various funds, gifts have been received in memory of:

Dorothy Pedersen Book	Marion Iversen	Valborg Ellen Mary Grane
Charles E. R. Boye	A.L. Jensen	Henriksen McKinzie
Charlie Brehm	Grandpa Carl Christain Frederick Jensen	Elsie Rasmussen McNabb
Max Brodersen	Harald C. Jensen	Patricia Ann McNabb
Arlene Christensen	Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Jensen	Charles E. Nelson
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Lloyd Christensen	Henry & Alma Jensen	Norval & Helen Nelson
Roland M. Christensen	Knud Jensen	Paul & Lela Neve
C. Arthur Christiansen	Kristian Jensen	Marie Nielsen
Glen Clemson	Oluf Jensen	Rae Nielsen
Elna Nelson Crick	Peer J. Jensen	Anna M. Pedersen
Danish & Swedish grandparents	Rhonda Jensen	Hans & Ivy Peitersen
Danish & Swedish parents	Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen	Delbert Rasmussen
Augusta Mae Eiermann	Sylvia Juhl	Florence Helen Keller Ries
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Benjamin C. & Emma Clausen	Loved Ones	Peter Steffensen
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Emery Hoegh	Lars Madsen	Ethel (Larson) Torneten
Sue Holst	Signe Madsen	Erik Vange
		John & Doris Wegener
		Walter Westergaard
		Bodil Wilson

thank you, organizations

OCTOBER 1, 2014 – FEBRUARY 15, 2015

These organizations have contributed memberships or gifts-in-kind of \$100 or more or have received complimentary memberships in recognition of exemplary service to the museum. We acknowledge their generosity in each edition of the America Letter during their membership.

A & A Framing (Annette Andersen), Kimballton, IA	Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ area	Independent Order of Svithiod, Verdandi Lodge #3, Chicago, IL
Andersen Windows (Sarah Andersen), Bayport, MN	Danish Crown USA (Stig Kjaeroe, President), Cranford, NJ	Ivy Marketing Group (Debra Sheridan), Glen Ellyn, IL
Answers (Frank R. Tighe), Atlantic, IA	The Danish Home, Chicago, IL	Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Andersen Jepsen), Burr Ridge, IL
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, IA	Danish Home for the Aged, Croton-On-Hudson, NY	Knudsen Old Timers, Yorba Linda, CA
BIEN Publishing Inc. (René Gross Kærskov, Publisher), Pacific Palisades, CA	Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA	Leman USA (Steen Sanderhoff), Sturtevant, WI
Boose Building Construction (Marty & Connie Boose), Atlantic, IA	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #3, Davenport, IA	Marge's Hair Hut (Kent & Marge Ingerslev), Elk Horn, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc. (Todd Wanninger), Carroll, IA	Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL	Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA area	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #20, Kenosha, WI	Nelsen and Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA	Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21, Denver, CO	O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI
Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, MN	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA	Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P., Carroll, IA
The Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, NE	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Dike, IA	Outlook Study Club, Audubon, IA
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA area	Danish Sisterhood Lodges, Heartland District, Johnston, IA area	Oxide Design Co. (Drew Davies), Omaha, NE
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI area	Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL	Proongily (Cynthia McKeen), St. Paul, MN
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE	Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA	The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI	Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn, IA	Raymond James (Honorable Consul John Larsen & Jillian Larsen), Scottsdale, AZ
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA	Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District, Elk Horn, IA	Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Los Angeles, CA area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #16, Minden, NE	Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, CA	Red River Danes, Fargo, ND area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lenexa, KS	Furniture from Scandinavia, Washington, DC	Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA	Hall Hudson, P.C. (Robert Hall), Attorneys at Law, Harlan, IA	Scan Design Foundation by Inger & Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Junction City, OR	Hansen Interiors (Torben & Bridget Ovesen), Mount Pleasant, WI	Shelby County State Bank, Harlan and Elk Horn, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT	Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA	Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodges, Heartland District, Des Moines, IA	Hastrup & Co A/S (Lars Hastrup), Hornbæk, Denmark	The Vault Antiques (David & Roshelle Thompson), Walnut, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodges, Pacific Northwest District, Eugene, OR area	Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA	ThinkSpace IT (Jason & Jessa Erickson), Harlan, IA
DBIA, Centennial Lodge #348, Eugene, OR	House of Denmark, San Diego, CA	TK Petersen (Thorvald K. Petersen), Santa Monica, CA

Did you know? Families, groups, clubs, or businesses can sponsor exhibits, events, free admission days, our website, Brown Bag Lunch programs, or the entire Brown Bag Lunch series! Contact us to discuss the possibilities that await you.

a letter from the president

It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board for the Museum of Danish America. Serving with so many people who are focused on the preservation of Danish culture and history is truly a pleasure! It has been great to have the opportunity to work with so many talented staff that makes the museum what it is today. It is due to the efforts of the staff and volunteers that the museum has been able to succeed over the last 30+ years. However, equally important are the generous financial contributions, both large and small, that have been made to the museum over the years.

The year 2014 was an eventful one. The new Curatorial Center was completed and dedicated on October 18, 2014. The added space that this facility provides is a great addition to the current museum structure. It provides the opportunity to receive, process and house donations of historical note made to the museum. Our staff has also been afforded the opportunity to move into much needed office space. The building

addition was made possible by the generous donation of museum patrons. It is with such generous contributions from these folks that we are able to continue the preservation of Danish culture and heritage. I encourage you to read the section of this Annual Report regarding Collections, authored by Angela Stanford, Curator of Collections/Registrar.

I certainly do not wish to “steal the thunder” of the additional staff who are also providing updates in this Annual Report. Therefore, I would encourage you to review the reports provided by the following staff: John Mark Nielsen-Executive Director, Tova Brandt-Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture, Michele McNabb-Genealogy Center Manager, Deb Christensen Larsen-Development Manager and Terri Johnson-Administrative Manager.

As we move into 2015, we face both challenges and opportunities. Some of the areas that need to be addressed are as follows:

1. STRATEGIC PLANNING

The current plan used by the museum covers the years 2011-2015. This plan has provided and continues to provide a “roadmap,” if you will, for guiding the activities of the museum. The technical term for strategic planning is as follows: An organization’s process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue the strategy. A new plan will be developed during 2015 that will be put into action for the 2016-2020 time period.

2. OUTREACH We must figure out ways to expand the reach of the museum. A fantastic job has been done thus far via exhibits, genealogy research, Brown Bag Lunches, electronic media, and countless hours of staff time traveling to various venues nationwide. How do we attract new members, especially with an emphasis on youth?



By
Gary
Knudsen

3. PARTNERSHIPS Our current strategic plan calls for expanding our partnerships with other Danish organizations. I am happy to report that we have moved in this direction during 2014. With the guidance and direction of John Mark Nielsen, our Executive Director, we have developed a partnership with the Rebild National Park Society, a Danish-American friendship organization. A partnership has also been approved with the Danish American Archive and Library, located in Blair, Nebraska. These partnerships tend to expand communication and mutual benefit to each organization. Are there other partnerships that can be developed for the mutual benefit of all?

4. ESTATE PLANNING The museum has been fortunate over the years to be on the

receiving end of generous contributions made to our endowment, building and general operating funds through bequests and estate gifts. The challenge remains on how to grow our endowment fund to a level that the revenue from that fund can assist in sustaining the operation of the museum. Those interested in contributing to the museum may certainly contact the museum staff.

5. ELECTRONIC MEDIA Web page updates/upgrades are going to be an ongoing essential activity. Our museum Design Store provides excellent items for purchase. Can we reach out even further electronically? We live in a social media world that young and old access on a daily basis. We need to have the technical and financial means to keep the museum in front of the world via electronic media. This effort takes staff time and a financial commitment.

6. STAFFING We all know that we would like to clone the current staff and keep them in their current positions forever, however, we also know that change is inevitable. As we anticipate some staff changes within the next year or two, a search committee has been pulled together to review our staffing needs and how to go about recruiting replacements. The search committee is composed of current and former board members.

There are probably additional challenges and opportunities that will come up throughout the year. It goes without saying that your continued financial support and membership is essential to the sustained success of the museum. Thank you!

board of directors

The 2014-2015 Board of Directors is a special group of men and women who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of their Danish American heritage and the mission of the museum. They join an elite group of individuals who, over the past 31 years, have worked to build and maintain a museum of which all Danes, Danish Americans and the American public can be proud.

Participating at their own expense, the board members come together three times a year to share their skills and experience in providing oversight to the administration of the museum and to develop ideas and plans that will contribute to its continuing vitality. It is the practice of the board to meet each February and June in different locations around the United States so that they may share and celebrate Danish heritage with those Danish Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. In 2014, the board held its February meeting in San Diego, California, and

its June meeting in Luck, Wisconsin, with election of new board members. In October the board meeting was held in Elk Horn, Iowa. The museum's annual meeting was held in Elk Horn with new board members assuming their office; outgoing members present and participating.

Without the dedication, energy, and support of a strong, team-oriented Board of Directors, the museum staff would not be able to work effectively in managing the day-to-day operations of the Museum of Danish America.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING IN 2014

Cynthia Larsen Adams, *Littleton, CO*
Erik Andersen, *Croton-on-Hudson, NY*
Ronald Bro, *Cedar Falls, IA*
Beth Bro-Roof, *Cedar Rapids, IA*
Tim Burchill, *Jamestown, ND*
Dan Christensen, *West Des Moines, IA*
Bente Ellis, *San Jose, CA*
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, *St. Michaels, MD*
David Hendee, *Omaha, NE*
Glenn Henriksen, *Armstrong, IA*
Consul Anna Thomsen Holliday, *Houston, TX*
William (Bill) Jensen, *Urbandale, IA*
Kristi Planck Johnson, *Bethesda, MD*
Garey Knudsen, *Hutchinson, MN*

Kenneth Larsen, *Calistoga, CA and Harlan, IA*
Carolyn Larson, *St. Paul, MN*
Cynthia McKeen, *St. Paul, MN*
Craig Molgaard, *Missoula, MT*
Dagmar Muthamia, *Long Beach, CA*
Brent Norlem, *Monticello, MN*
Marian (Mittie) Ostergaard, *Mission Viejo, CA*
Henrik Rasmussen, *Springfield, IL*
Jerry Schrader, *Elk Horn, IA*
Flemming "Eric" Smitsdorff, *Germantown, WI*
Linda Steffensen, *Hoffman Estates, IL*
Mark Strandskov, *Mount Pleasant, MI*
Karen Suchomel, *West Branch, IA*

EX-OFFICIO

Jon Borgman, *Harlan, IA, Endowment*
Nils Jensen, *Portland, OR, Development*
Dennis Larson, *Decorah, IA*
Clark Mathisen, *Omaha, NE, Endowment*
Kai E. Nyby, *LaPorte, IN, Past President, Development*
Marc Petersen, *Omaha, NE, Past President, Endowment*
Dagmar Muthamia, *Long Beach, CA, Past President*
John Mark Nielsen, *Blair, NE, Executive Director*

who we are

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of Danish America celebrates Danish roots and American dreams.

VISION

- ◆ To be widely recognized as the world's leading compiler and communicator of the history and inspirational achievements of Danish Americans.
- ◆ To turn the museum and the villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton into one of Iowa's top destinations for tourists, educators and local family excursions – and to support other local communities featuring Danish-American history.
- ◆ To be widely recognized as a thought leader and trendsetter in the international museum industry, constantly featuring new and inspiring experiences for worldwide audiences through innovative exhibits, events, publications and online media tools.

CORE VALUES

We are:

- ◆ **Inspirational:** We honor the vision, ambition and diligence of Danish-American achievers, and we seek to inspire future generations by telling their stories.
- ◆ **Deeply rooted:** We treasure our Danish heritage, and we are deeply committed to our local American communities.
- ◆ **Focused on the future:** We realize that to keep the past alive, we must always remain part of the future.

staff & interns

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. John Mark Nielsen

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Terri Johnson

ALBERT RAVENHOLT CURATOR OF DANISH-AMERICAN CULTURE

Tova Brandt

CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS & REGISTRAR

Angela Stanford

GENEALOGY CENTER MANAGER & LIBRARIAN

Michele McNabb

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Deb Christensen Larsen

DEVELOPMENT/SOCIAL MEDIA ASSOCIATE

Nicky Christensen

PLANNED GIVING CONSULTANT

Paul Johnson

DESIGN STORE MANAGER

Joni Soe-Butts

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Jennifer Winters

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kathy Pellegrini

GENEALOGY & LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Wanda Sornson

BUILDING & GROUNDS MANAGER

Tim Fredericksen

WEEKEND STAFF

Terri Amaral

Rochelle Bruns

Beth Rasmussen

Rodger Rasmussen

BEDSTEMOR'S HOUSE STAFF

Rochelle Bruns

Trudy Juelsgaard

Doug Palmer

David Thurston

DANISH INTERNS*

Helle Skovsgaard Christensen, *University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Genealogy Center)*

Sofie Krøgh Nielsen, *Århus University, Denmark (Exhibits)*

Marianne Frøsig Sørensen, *University of Southern Denmark in Odense, Denmark (Collections)*

Nick Kofod Mogensen, *University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Exhibits)*

AMERICAN INTERNS

Kate Ehrig-Page, *University College Dublin, Ireland (Genealogy Library Intern)*

Chelsea Jacobsen, *University of Iowa (Inventory Assistant)*

Madeline Mongar, *Northwest Missouri State University (Inventory Assistant)*

*Danish internships are funded through a generous grant from the scan | design foundation by INGER AND JENS BRUUN, Seattle, WA

a year of success

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2014

- ◆ Celebrated the completion of the 8,200 sq. ft. Curatorial Center, designed by AHTS Architects of Waterloo, Iowa and built by Meco-Henne Construction of Omaha, Nebraska and Carroll Control Systems, Inc. of Carroll, Iowa. The center also features a unique “green roof” of prairie grasses and forbs provided through in-kind gifts from the Peter Ørum family and its companies, Midwest Groundcovers and Midwest Trading of St. Charles, Illinois and a grant from the Iowa West Foundation.
- ◆ Redesign of the museum’s entrance by Country Landscapes of Ames, Iowa that features a welcoming plaza and incorporates the Copenhagen Gas Lamps.
- ◆ Reached a population of over 250,000 through visits to the museum, traveling exhibits, social media, and programs and presentations around the country.
- ◆ Participated in numerous festivals and events from December Nights in San Diego’s Balboa Park and the annual meeting of the Rebild National Park Society in Solvang, California across the continent to the Danish-American Chamber of Commerce – Atlanta in Georgia and the annual meeting of the Federation of Danish Associations in Ottawa, Canada.
- ◆ Continued our partnership with the Petersen House Museum in Tempe, Arizona.

EXHIBITS

- ◆ *Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border* – This exhibit created by our museum explores the events and results of the rise of Danish and German nationalism from the 150th anniversary of the disastrous defeat of the Danish Army in 1864 at the Battle of Dybøl Mill through the plebiscite held in 1920 after World War I when the Danish majority in North Schleswig voted to return to Denmark. Tensions in this area contributed to both German and Danish immigration to the United States between 1848 and 1920 with many immigrants settling in Iowa. Following display at our museum, the exhibit moved to the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa. Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities provided major funding for the exhibit and related programming.
- ◆ *Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery* – Following its display in Elk Horn, this exhibit, organized by our museum with guest curator Annemarie Sawkins, Ph.D., was on exhibit through March 2015 at Iowa’s oldest cultural institution, the Dubuque Museum of Art in downtown Dubuque.

- ◆ *Danish Modern: Design for Living* – Containing over 50 items of Danish modern furniture and housewares and occupying over 1,500 sq. ft., this exhibit represents the first major exhibit organized and curated by our museum that has traveled to other major museums. In 2014 it was exhibited at the Goldstein Museum of Design in Minneapolis and the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle. Through June 21, 2015 it will be at the Figge Museum in Davenport, Iowa.
- ◆ Eight of the museum’s traveling exhibits were hosted by eighteen different venues in seven different states and reached an audience of 91,143.

COLLECTIONS

Among the many valuable artifact donations in 2014, the museum received the following:

- ◆ Danish Sisterhood in America banner donated by the Danish American Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- ◆ Wood carving by Jes Smidt depicting in relief Queen Thyra directing the building of the *Dannevirke* donated by the Martin Holst Family of Cedar Falls, Iowa.
- ◆ Secretary/hutch owned by Aage and Magda Clements and then their daughter, Annelise Clement Stoakes. The story of this piece of furniture, donated by Annie Jones of Jefferson, South Dakota, follows the family as it travels from Denmark to Japan prior to and throughout World War II and then, following the war, back to Denmark and ultimately to the United States.
- ◆ Complete set of the Bing & Grøndahl Seagull pattern porcelain and glassware belonging to Poul and Elie Steffensen was donated for use at the museum by their son, Carl and Frances Steffensen, Houston, Texas.



By
John Mark
Nielsen



GRANTS

- ◆ scan|design foundation BY INGER AND JENS BRUUN
- ◆ Iowa West Foundation
- ◆ Prairie Meadows
- ◆ Shelby County Community Foundation
- ◆ Iowa Great Places Program awarded the museum a third and final grant to complete features in the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park
- ◆ Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities
- ◆ Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust
- ◆ Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNS

In addition, the museum continues to benefit from the work of graduate student interns. Danish interns were again sponsored through a grant from the scan|design foundation BY INGER AND JENS BRUUN of Seattle, and American interns were funded by grants from the Historical Resource Development Program through the State Historical Society of Iowa.

merit of recognition

THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA PERMANENTLY RECOGNIZES TWO GROUPS OF FRIENDS AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES THROUGH OUTSTANDING SUPPORT, BOTH WHILE LIVING AND IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS.

LIFETIME LEGACY GIVING

Five categories reflect all cumulative donations of \$25,000 and greater from individuals or their estates, foundations, trusts and organizations. These names are inscribed on a large plaque at the museum's entrance.

In 2014 the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of Anonymous
Country Landscapes, Inc., Ames, IA
R. James & Janet Borge Crowle, Saint Michaels, MD
Marianne K. Festersen Trust, Omaha, NE
Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Dagmar Marie Muthamia, Long Beach, CA
Svend & Lois Toftemark, Eugene, OR
Norma (Larsen) Wilson, Red Oak, IA
In addition, we acknowledge these donors as having achieved a new level of lifetime giving:

Richard Hellman, Oceanside, CA
Iowa West Foundation, Council Bluffs, IA
James D. & Margery Iversen, Ames, IA

DIAMOND \$1,000,000
WAYNE ALWILL ESTATE, Manning, IA
ANONYMOUS
BRUCE R. LAURITZEN FAMILY, Omaha, NE

PLATINUM \$500,000
WILLIAM & BERNIECE GREWCOCK, Omaha, NE
GUNNAR HORN, Omaha, NE
NORMA (LARSEN) WILSON, Red Oak, IA

GOLD \$250,000
ANONYMOUS
MERVIN BRO, Scottsdale, AZ
MARIANNE K. FESTERSEN TRUST, Omaha, NE
ROY J. & RITA NEERGAARD HANSEN, Kenosha, WI
RICHARD HELLMAN, Oceanside, CA
STATE OF IOWA
ALBERT VICTOR RAVENHOLT FUND, Seattle, WA

SILVER \$100,000
DENNIS J. ANDERSEN, Atlanta, GA
ANONYMOUS
ANONYMOUS
ANTON & GUNVER M. BERG, DeKalb, IL
ESTHER "E.J." CARLSON ESTATE, Columbus, OH
CARL AAGE CHRISTENSEN, Denver, CO
EDNA M. CHRISTENSEN, Atlantic, IA
TOM & JAN CHRISTENSEN, Bettendorf, IA
ELK HORN LUTHERAN CHURCH, Elk Horn, IA
ASTA FORREST, Fountain Hills, AZ
CHARLES & JOANNE FREDERIKSEN, Ames, IA
STEWART & LeNORE HANSEN, West Des Moines, IA
ROY & PATRICIA HOUGEN, Ames, IA
IOWA WEST FOUNDATION, Council Bluffs, IA
JAMES D. & MARGERY IVERSEN, Ames, IA
CLYDE & EMMA JOHNSON, Omaha, NE
MARTHA JORGENSEN, Audubon, IA
JOHN & AUDREY KOFOED, West Branch, IA
LOWELL & MARILYN KRAMME, Des Moines, IA
REOLA LERAGER, Wichita, KS
LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD, Minneapolis, MN
HERBERT C. MADISON, Washington, DC
ADELAIDE M. MADSEN ESTATE, Cedar Rapids, IA



By
Deb
Christensen
Larsen

A.P. MØLLER and CHASTINE Mc-KINNEY
MØLLER FOUNDATION,
Copenhagen, Denmark
MARK & LORI NUSSLE, Palos Park, IL
FOLMER & VERA NYBY, Michigan City, IN
OLGA S. OLSEN ESTATE, Watertown, SD
H. RAND & MARY LOUISE PETERSEN,
Harlan, IA
JOHN I. PETERSEN ESTATE, Kimballton, IA
scanIdesign foundation BY INGER & JENS
BRUUN, Seattle, WA
HARRIET ALBERTSEN SPANEL,
Bellingham, WA
CHRYSTAL HEMMINGSEN WILLIS
WAGNER ESTATE, Seattle, WA
WILBER WILLIAMSON, Des Moines, IA

BRONZE \$25,000

ANONYMOUS
ANONYMOUS
NORMAN C. BANSEN ESTATE, Blair, NE
MOGENS & CINDY BAY, Omaha,
Nebraska
ELNA N. BELLOWES, Edina, MN
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EGON & DIANA BODTKER, Salem, OR
SANNA and VICTOR BORGE MEMORIAL
FUND, New York, NY
MARIE A. BUDOLFSON ESTATE, Ames, IA
CEDAR VALLEY DANES, Cedar Falls, IA
Area
JACK & BARBARA CHRISTENSEN,
Yankton, SD
LAMONT & LOIS CHRISTENSEN,
Elk Horn, IA
DOLORES G. CONNELLY ESTATE,
Atlantic, IA
COUNTRY LANDSCAPES, INC., Ames, IA
R. JAMES & JANET BORGE CROWLE,
Saint Michaels, MD
DANISH BROTHERHOOD IN AMERICA,
Highlands Ranch, CO

DANISH MUTUAL INSURANCE
ASSOCIATION, Elk Horn, IA
ANE-GRETHER OLESEN & RORY A.M.
DELANEY, Wayzata, MN
GORDON, MARY LOU & JANICE ESBECK,
Tipton, Iowa
RAMONA L. ESBECK, Ames, IA
SALLY og GORDON FABER,
Urbandale, Iowa
J. EMORY & EDNA FREDRICKSON
ESTATE, Elk Horn, IA
MARGARET LOUISE GEE ESTATE,
West Des Moines, IA
MARILYN ANDERSEN GIFT & WILLIAM
GIFT, Des Moines, Iowa
ALF & LILI GREGERSON, Ridgefield, WA
CAROLINE L. HANSEN, Harlan, IA
WALTER & VESTA HANSEN,
West Branch, Iowa
ALMA O. HARTVIGSEN ESTATE, Harlan, IA
HENNINGSEN CONSTRUCTION, INC.,
Atlantic, IA
STANLEY & HELEN HOWE, Muscatine, IA
HUMANITIES IOWA, Iowa City, IA
VERN E. HUNTER, Fargo, ND
AL & BRIDGET JENSEN, Houston, TX
CORNELIUS C.J. JENSEN ESTATE,
Edmonds, WA
NILS & KATHLEEN JENSEN,
Portland, Oregon
ROLAND & JOAN JENSEN, Ankeny, IA
IVER (WHITEY) & LIS JORGENSEN,
Burnsville, Minnesota
PETER KIEWIT FOUNDATION, Omaha, NE
ROBERT S. KROMAN ESTATE, Elk Horn, IA
KULTURMINISTERIET, Copenhagen,
Denmark
KURT K. & JOY LARSEN, Oneonta, AL
RICHARD LEDET, Des Moines, IA
LEONARD K. & LENORA J. MADSEN
ESTATE, Kansas City, MO

MARNE & ELK HORN TELEPHONE CO.,
Elk Horn, IA
CARL & MARILYN MEHR, San Diego,
California
INEZ M. MORTENSEN ESTATE, Omaha, NE
DAGMAR MARIE MUTHAMIA,
Long Beach, CA
EINAR SCHULTZ NIELSEN, Tustin, CA
HANS THYGE & VALBORG NIELSEN,
Denver, CO
JOHN MARK & DAWN NIELSEN,
Blair, Nebraska
RUTH HERMAN NIELSEN ESTATE,
Omaha, NE
IRENE A. NISSEN ESTATE, Cedar Falls, IA
ERIC & JOAN NORGAARD CHARITABLE
TRUST, Northbrook, IL
KAY ESBECK NORTH, Ames, IA
KAI E. & MELODY STARR NYBY, LaPorte, IN
POUL OLESEN & BENEDIKTE EHLERS
OLESEN, Eugene, Oregon
ERIK & JACKIE OLSEN, Glenbrook, NV
GLENN & MARY ELLEN OLSEN,
Atlantic, Iowa
PETER & IRMA ØRUM, Saint Charles, IL
MARC & CARLENE PETERSEN, Omaha, NE
The RASMUSSEN FAMILY, Des Moines,
Iowa
EUGENE ROBINSON, Pensacola, FL
ANELISE SAWKINS, Minneapolis, MN
SHELBY COUNTY COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION, Shelby County, IA
SHELBY COUNTY STATE BANK, Harlan, IA
AVA SIMONSEN ESTATE, Audubon, IA
HAROLD L. SORENSON ESTATE, Exira, IA
WILBUR C. SORENSON ESTATE, Exira, IA
LEMUEL & EDITH SPROW ESTATE,
Mound, MN
JANET M. THUESEN, Falls Church, VA
SVEND & LOIS TOFTEMARK, Eugene, OR
ERIK & LISSI VANGE, Palatine, Illinois
MARION J. WALKER ESTATE, Solvang, CA

THE HERITAGE BUILDERS

Over the past 31 years, the Museum of Danish America has accomplished much because of special friends and members who have provided for the museum in their estate plans. With their permission while living or through the permission of their executors, the names of **Heritage Builders** are permanently inscribed on a plaque at the museum.

Anonymous (3)
Anne Bansen*, *Ferndale, CA*
Norman C. Bansen*, *Blair, NE*
Constance Boggild*, *Delray Beach, FL*
Victor Borge*, *Greenwich, CT*
Marie Budolfson*, *Ames, IA*
Borge & Lotte Christensen, *Tucson, AZ*
Charles R. Christensen*, *Omaha, NE*
Edna M. Christensen*, *Atlantic, IA*
Dolores Gregersen Connelly*, *Atlantic, IA*
Lydia Sorensen Eriksen*, *Waterloo, IA*
David Esbeck*, *Des Moines, IA*
Gordon R. & Jan Esbeck, *Tipton, IA*
Howard Esbeck*, *Ames, IA*
Ramona Esbeck, *Ames, IA*
Asta Forrest*, *Fountain Hills, AZ*
J. Emory* & Edna Frederickson*, *Elk Horn, IA*

Charles & Joanne Frederiksen, *Ames, IA*
Earl & LaVena Fries, *Des Moines, IA*
Margaret Gee*, *West Des Moines, IA*
Gertrude Gronbeck*, *Washington, D.C.*
Caroline Hansen*, *Harlan, IA*
Hans Hansen*, *Des Moines, IA*
Laura E. Hansen*, *Irwin, IA*
Rita Neergaard Hansen*, *Kenosha, WI*
Rosa Hansen*, *Hampton, IA*
Alma Hartvigsen*, *Harlan, IA*
Richard Hellman*, *Oceanside, CA*
Anna Marie Hjuler*, *Audubon, IA*
Gunnar Horn*, *Omaha, NE*
Roy E. & Patricia Hougen, *Ames, IA*
Joy Ibsen, *Trout Creek, MI*
James D. & Margery Iversen, *Ames, IA*
Genevieve Jensen*, *Plainview, NE*

*Deceased

If you would like information on how you can become a member of *Lifetime Legacy Giving* or a *Heritage Builder*, contact John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director, Deb Christensen Larsen, Development Manager, Paul Johnson, Planned Giving Consultant, or any member of the Board of Directors, who will be pleased to work with you. Please contact them by calling 712.764.7001 or toll-free 800.759.9192. E-mail addresses are JohnMark.Nielsen@danishmuseum.org, Deb.Larsen@danishmuseum.org, or PJohnson@firstheartland.com. Your inquiry will be treated confidentially. ►

Ruth Jensen*, *Ames, IA*
 Agnes Johnson*, *Garden City, MI*
 Clyde* & Emma Johnson*, *Omaha, NE*
 Paul & Liz Johnson, *Fremont, NE*
 Martha Jorgensen*, *Audubon, IA*
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 Halvor Strandskov, *Osterville, MA*
 Carol Svendsen, *Denver, CO*
 Margaret Syring*, *St. Paul, MN*
 Sandra Wunder, *Omaha, NE*

bequests

In 2014 the museum received \$1,361,520 in bequests. \$642,641 (47%) has been invested in the museum's endowment funds, \$300,000 (22%) is being held in a contingency fund, and the balance (31%) has been or is being used for special projects and programming. The Museum of Danish America gratefully acknowledges the following estates, trusts and individuals:

Marianne K. Festersen, *Omaha, NE*
 Rita Neergaard Hansen, *Kenosha, WI*
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 E. Irene Starrett, *Audubon, IA*
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matching gifts

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AIG
 Alliant Energy Foundation
 BP Foundation
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 The Boeing Company
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 The GE Foundation
 Shell Oil Company
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in-kind gifts

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 Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, *Mission Viejo, CA*
 Carl & Frances Steffensen, *Houston, TX*

collections

As our members have seen throughout the past year, 2014 brought about many changes for the museum. The biggest of those affecting the Collections Department was the addition

of our new Curatorial Center, officially opened in October. With increased space for working with our collections and for artifact storage, we have provided for decades of growth. This is

important as we continue to build our collection through such generous donations as the almost 500 pieces we received during 2014. Objects like children's clothing, artwork, photographs,



By
 Angela
 Stanford

*Deceased

and more add to the scope and strength of our collection and allow us broader options for programming and exhibitions.

Thank you to our members and donors for your continued and kind support.

ARTIFACT DONORS

Judy Andersen, Cary, NC
Karen Beall, Santa Fe, NM
Nancy & Malcom Branch, Virginia Beach, VA
BebeAnna Buck, Eau Claire, WI
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN
Joanna Christensen, Council Bluffs, IA
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Delores Jespersen, Des Moines, IA
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Mogens Kiehn, Scottsdale, AZ
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Estate of Heleen Nielsen, Storm Lake, IA
Marilynn & Eugene Paulson, Minneapolis, MN
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Paula Preuthun, Grosse Pointe, MI
Lars Toft Rasmussen, Kerteminde, Denmark
Frances Simmons, Paradise, CA
Judy Stalnaker, Denver, CO
John Steen, Elk Horn, IA
Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, Decorah, IA

exhibitions

Exhibitions are a museum's way of telling stories. Sometimes those stories are woven between artifacts, images, and historical experiences. Sometimes those stories share new artistic visions or new discoveries about the world around us. Sometimes those stories are told within a museum gallery, and sometimes they can be told in schools, libraries, and other community centers.

For a national museum like ours, exhibitions that can travel coast to coast are particularly important. We introduced five brand new traveling exhibitions to our program in 2014, which continues to expand the variety of stories to share with communities like

yours. Did you learn about the life and career of Søren Kierkegaard in Minneapolis or Iowa City? Did the history of Schleswig-Holstein help you understand some of your own family history? Are you one of those "Happy Danes on the Plains" discussed in the exhibit of the same name? Have you enjoyed the beauty of art pottery from Rookwood? Have you explored the reasons behind Denmark's rank as the happiest country? All of these stories have been shared with museum visitors and with communities across the country.

Your support of the Museum of Danish America makes these exhibitions possible. Whether in Elk Horn or in your own city, we hope you enjoy the stories of Danish America.

ON-SITE GALLERY EXHIBITIONS IN 2014

Danish Modern: Design for Living
April 6, 2013 – January 5, 2014
Søren Kierkegaard: The Global Dane

February 1 – April 13, 2014
Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border
Feb. 22 – September 1, 2014

Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery

April 26 – November 9, 2014
Danish Children Growing Up American

Sept. 27, 2014 – April 4, 2015
Exploring Danish Happiness
October 2014 – April 2015
Photography by Diana Velasco: Two Nationalities

Nov. 28, 2014 – March 15, 2015



By
Tova
Brandt



TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS IN 2014

Danish Modern: Design for Living
Goldstein Museum of Design,
St. Paul, Minnesota
Nordic Heritage Museum,
Seattle, Washington
*Nude Vases, Cubist Faces:
Modernism at Rookwood
Pottery*
Dubuque Museum of Art,
Dubuque, Iowa
Happy Danes on the Plains
Danebod Folk School, Tyler,
Minnesota
Pine County Historical Museum,
Askov, Minnesota
Danish Lutheran Church and
Cultural Center, Yorba Linda,
California

*Søren Kierkegaard: The Global
Dane*
Danish American Center,
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City,
Iowa
*Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on
the Danish-German Border*
German Hausbarn, Manning, Iowa
University of Wisconsin Memorial
Library, Madison, Wisconsin
Luck Historical Society, Luck,
Wisconsin
Danish Sisterhood #15,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
German American Heritage
Center, Davenport, Iowa
*Jens Jensen: Celebrating the
Native Prairie*
Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead,
Minnesota
*Denmark October 1943: Rescue
of the Danish Jews*

Sioux City Public Museum, Sioux
City, Iowa
The Danish Pioneer
Museum of Danish America
Genealogy Center, Elk Horn,
Iowa
The Danish Home, Chicago,
Illinois
Danish Gymnastics in America
The Danish Home, Chicago,
Illinois
West Denmark Lutheran Church,
Luck, Wisconsin
Danish Club of Washington, DC

genealogy center

2014 was another busy year and one of continued growth for the Genealogy Center. We added over 500 individual immigrant files to our database and, thanks to the diligent work of interns Helle Skovsgaard Christensen and Katherine Ehrig-Page, made significant inroads into the backlog of books and other materials needing processing and entering into our computer database – so much so that we are once again bursting at the seams! With the completion of the Curatorial Center, we look forward to moving some of our less-frequently used periodicals and Special Collections to a new

storage area in the main museum building. This will allow us to rearrange the reading room and relieve some of the congestion on our shelves. Our summer photo exhibit on immigrants to the US and Canada who participated in the 1864 Dano-Prussian War and numerous speaking engagements kept staff and our dedicated volunteers occupied, as did the dozens of requests for research and translation assistance. Wanda Sornson once again designed and set up an interesting display on the history of *julenisser* for Julefest and the holiday season.

In 2014 we received and/or processed donations from the following individuals and institutions:

Lorraine Aiegenfuss, Cedar Falls, IA
Jacqueline Alfonso, Minneapolis, MN
Wayne Alwill (estate of), Manning, IA
Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Edna C. Andersen, Lakewood, WA
Jerry & Linda Andersen, Chicago, IL
John Andersen, Kimballton, IA
Judy Andersen, Los Angeles, CA
Leonard Andersen, Sioux City, IA
Mildred Andersen (estate of), Elk Horn, IA
Anonymous (3)
Carmen Becker, Fenton, MO
Berry N. Bennett, Des Moines, IA
Gunver Berg, Long Grove, IL
Helle Berg, Ribe, Denmark
Karen Christensen Bernard, Janesville, WI
Anne Birdsell, Osage, IA
Arlene Bisson, Muskegon, MI
Paul & Gyriitha Blinkilde, Lathrup Village, MI



By
Michele
McNabb

Victor Borge (estate of), Greenwich, CT
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 Elverhøj Museum of History & Art, Solvang, CA
 C. Dale Eriksen, Fort Collins, CO
 Larry & Janis Fajen, Elk Horn, IA
 Larry Fajen family, Elk Horn, IA
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 Jeanine E. Ferguson, Seattle, WA
 Stuart Ferguson, Seattle, WA
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 Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm, Hampton, IA
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 Melayna & Damon Miller, Rennington, NE
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 Sylvia Morse, East Lansing, MI
 Robin Mower, Durham, NH
 Norma Lange Nelson, Elk Horn, IA
 Roger Nelson, Kenosha, WI
 Thomas G. Nelson, Bourbonnais, IL
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 Gary Nelson family
 Lyle Nelson family
 Arild Nielsen, Muskegon, MI
 John Mark Nielsen, Blair, NE
 Zita Nielsen, Solvang, CA
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 Linda Norderhaug, Brookfield, WI
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Nancy & Judy Walden, Des Moines, IA
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Jeanette Williams, Springfield, MO
Helen Wilson, Manti, UT
Katherine Pedersen Wilson, Wheeler, WI
Else Wolsgård, Rudkøbing, Denmark
Eugene Wright, Stillwater, MN
Lloyd Wright, Blair, NE
Diane Smith Yancy, Whittier, CA

volunteers

In 2014 volunteers at both the museum and our Genealogy Center contributed a total of **3,206** hours, down approximately 400 hours from 2013. However, we must take into consideration that we went from 46 volunteers to 41 volunteers in 2014. Individual volunteers logged from just under 10 hours to 470.

Our volunteers help with a number of tasks including assisting staff with greeting visitors, data entry, indexing, mailings, translations, research, and with special events such as the grand opening of our Curatorial Center in October 2014.

Staff could not do what we do on a daily basis without assistance from volunteers - we are so grateful for each and every hour.

The following are volunteers for whom we have **documented** hours in 2014.

MUSEUM

Annette Andersen
Marilyn Andersen
Rosalie Andersen
Virgil & Joyce Christensen
Rosa Clemens
Paul Hansen
Peggy Hansen
Jean (Tina) Hansen
Chet & Marj Holland
Merlyn Knudsen
Jeanette Lillehoj
Earl Madsen
Karolyn Ortgies
Rosie Petersen
Wava Petersen
Joanne Potts
Elva Rasmussen
Howard & Karma Sorensen
Mardell Walter

GENEALOGY CENTER

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Herb Christensen
June Haas
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt
Connie Johnson
Andy Kissel
Jeanette Knudsen
Jeanette Lillehoj
Suzanne Rasmussen
Carolyn Sand
Nancy Sand
Bertha Schroeter
Lene Sepstrup
Charlotte Sorensen
Gayle Stuart
Donna Thomas
Erik Høgsbro Østergaard

We also want to recognize members of the **Atlantic Chapter of the Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum** who have been long-time supporters and donors. The organization provides us cookies to serve to museum guests during our annual celebrations of Tivoli Fest, held the weekend preceding Memorial Day, and Julefest, held the weekend following Thanksgiving.

Its members include Norma Andersen, Delbert & Ramona Andersen, Marty & Connie Boose, Janet Bornholdt, Cliff & Mary Ann Christensen, Jack & Eileen Denne, Clayton Ellingson, Dean & Verna Esbeck, Gene & Kathleen Eyberg, Ed & Ileen Furne, Marcella Gaines, Priscilla Hansen, Izzy Hoegh, Calvin & Phyllis Hoegh, Chet & Marj Holland, Doris Jensen, Deb Larsen, Betty Lillard, Fern Lindvall, Gladys McCrory, Merlin & Sonya Mikkelsen, Beverly Nelson, Delores Nelson, Bob & Frances Nelson, Glenn & Joan Ohms, Glen & Mary Ellen Olsen, Wayne Olsen, Helen Petersen, Evelyn Rechtenbach, Darrell & Bertha Schroeter, and Nadine Williamson.



By
Terri
Johnson

memorials

The Museum of Danish America is the grateful recipient of gifts made in memory of deceased friends and relatives.

Lorrayne K. Andersen
 Maynard F. Andersen
 A. P. Andersen, Great Falls, MT
 Marian Peterson Anderson
 L. Dean Bartelson
 Ingeborg Beyer, Aurora, NE
 Donald R. Bickel
 Charles E. R. Boye
 Charlie Brehm
 Astrid Andersen Van Nordstrand Brewer
 Arlene Christensen
 Axel & Marie Christensen
 Clarice Christensen
 Kjer Christensen
 Lloyd Christensen
 Roland M. Christensen
 George Clausen, my father bn. 2-26-1897
 Glen Clemson
 My Danish and Swedish grandparents
 My Danish and Swedish parents
 Ralph E. Doonan
 Deceased graduates of the Elk Horn-Kimballton, Class of 1964
 Elk Horn-Kimballton High School, Class of 1964
 Orville & Amber Esbeck
 Millie Eskov
 Hans & Mathilde Faarstrup
 John Kelly Farris, Seattle, WA
 Hans Frederick Festersen
 Marianne K. Festersen
 Solveig Gregory
 Selma Henriksen Grumstrup
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 Kristian Jensen
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 Annabelle Madsen
 Dr. Paul O. Madsen
 Harald H. Madsen
 Harold & Lenora Madsen
 Lars Madsen
 Lorry I. Madsen
 Signe Madsen

Rev. Svend Marckmann
 Harlan C. Mathison
 Mary Julienne Jensen McDonald
 Valborg Ellen Mary Grane Henriksen McKinzie
 Judy Meehan
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 Vern Mikkelsen & his early effort to help get the museum started
 Frances (Sorensen) Miller
 Jean Routhe Mitchell
 Erna Møller
 John "Jack" Ericksen Mommer
 the T.G. Muller Family
 Charles E. Nelson
 Larry A. Nelson
 Martha J. Nelson
 Norval & Helen Nelson
 Paul & Lela Neve
 Anders & Anna Nielsen
 Einer Juhl Nielsen
 Harold R. Nielsen
 Jens J. & Ellen Nielsen
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By
**Deb
 Christensen
 Larsen**



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Christian Syndergaard
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Neils (Nels) Peterson Toft
Erik Vange
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Vange
Dolores Walker
John & Doris Wegener

Melvin Weisbrod
Chris, Godfrey, Niels & Nina Werner
Walter Westergaard
Bodil Wilson
Renate Wittrup
Mary (Mert) Yackie

wall of honor

The purpose of the museum, among other things, is to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence in America and the evolving story of Danish-American heritage. As a way of paying tribute, the Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor was established in 1992 listing the name of an immigrant, their year of entering the United States, and their place of settlement. The immigrants' stories and family histories, if available, are part of the growing repository at the Museum of Danish America's Genealogy Center.

Listed here are the names of the immigrants placed on the Wall in 2014:

PEDER EDVIN ANDERSEN (1927)
Livermore, California – Margaret Andersen of Livermore, CA

PEDER (BRODERSEN) BROTHERSON (1869) Tahiti, French Polynesia – Richard, Aldo, and Rexford Brotherson of Tahiti, French Polynesia

KNUD CHRISTENSEN (1872) Royal, Clay County, Iowa – David & Jane Kruse of Spirit Lake, IA

JULIUS A. ERIKSEN (1885) Lawrence, Kansas – Conrad Dale Eriksen of Fort Collins, CO

HANS HANSEN (1899) Centerdale, Iowa – Walter Hansen of West Branch, IA

JENS P. JENSEN (1885) Peterson, Clay County, Iowa – David & Jane Kruse of Spirit Lake, IA

JULIUS A. JOHNSEN & (HELEN) JORGINE RASMUSSEN JOHNSEN (1912) (1913) Santa Cruz, California – Carol Johnsen Bassoni of Gilroy, CA

CHRIS JOKUMSEN & ANNA DORTHEA (CHRISTENSEN) JOKUMSEN (1905) (1905) Cedar Falls, Iowa – Daniel Christensen of West Des Moines, IA

HANS JÖRN KNUDSEN & ANNA DOROTHEA MOLLSEN KNUDSEN (1872) (1874) Denver, Colorado – Carol Johnsen Bassoni of Gilroy, CA

MARGRETHE RASMUSSEN KVARNES (1890) St. Paul, Minnesota – Larry Peterson of Grove City, OH

KURT KLARSKOV LARSEN (1978) Pell City, Alabama – Joy Larsen of Oneonta, AL

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in honor

The Museum of Danish America receives many contributions made in honor of beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2014 the following people or special events were honored:

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The Curatorial Center "expansion"
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Nancy Darst
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Class of 1964
Lyle & Dorothy Feisel

Dorothy Stads vold Feisel's birthday
Esther Frost's 90th birthday
Genealogy Center
Children of Cleo & Esther Hansen: Stew Hansen, Wendell Hansen, Marlene Fontanini, Judy Campfield, Karen Anderson, Susan Fisher and Kathryn Hansen
Lotte Hansen, Danish intern at Genealogy Center
Roger & Marilyn Hanson
Isabel Hoegh
History translation performed by Jim Iversen
Jim & Marge Iversen
Father, LeRoy B. Jensen and family
Larsen Family Reunion, Hastings, NE
Laursen Family
James Lindberg Family
Earl Madsen
Gladys McCrory's 90th birthday

The Museum's Volunteers
John Mark Nielsen for writing the article about the old Muller clock and its history in the *America Letter* (Spring 2014)
John Mark Nielsen - awarded Bien of the Year
John Mark Nielsen
Merete Nieto's birthday
Mr. & Mrs. James Petersen, grandparents of Garey Knudsen
Megan, Luke & Zane Petersen
Gerald Rasmussen
Gerald Rasmussen on Father's Day
The Sigrid Riddle (Faaborg) Family
Alice Lauritzen Sittler's 70th birthday
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Kirsten Strnad
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Skål! Scandinavian Spirits
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA

Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border

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State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, IA

Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park

Iowa Great Places, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA
Prairie Meadows, Altoona, IA
Shelby County Community Foundation (Omaha Community Foundation), Omaha, NE

Exhibit: Photography by Diana Velasco: Two Nationalities (and Residency)

Rural Arts Development Grant, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA

Exhibit: Nude Vases, Cubist Faces: Modernism at Rookwood Pottery

Rural Arts Development Grant, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines, IA

Exhibit: Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border

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*See page 22 for an update on the Jens Jensen Heritage Path project.

the honor roll of contributors

The Honor Roll of Contributors recognizes all who have supported the Museum of Danish America during the 2014 calendar year.

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 J. Allan & Susan Hjelle, Elk Horn, IA
 Jeene Hobbs, Blair, NE
 Irene Hogan, Moorhead, MN
 Claudia Holcomb, Altoona, IA
 Spencer & Betty Holland, Colorado
 Springs, CO
 Ronald & Sally Hoppe, Niles, IL
 Poul & April Hornsleth, Gulfport, FL
 Curtis Hougen, Blair, NE
 Ruth Hovden, Minneapolis, MN
 Clement & Phyllis Hunter, Oregon City, OR
 R. Wayne & JoAnn Ingersoll,
 Chocowinity, NC
 George Jacobs, Columbus, OH
 Knud Jacobsen, Solvang, CA
 Lavonne Jacobsen, San Francisco, CA
 Marie Jaeger Nielsen, Solvang, CA
 Suzanne Jebe, Minneapolis, MN
 Dale & Barbara Jensen, Ellendale, MN
 Earl & Eileen Jensen, Minnetonka, MN
 Jean Jensen, Audubon, IA
 Jennifer Jensen, Omaha, NE
 Ralph and Lou Ann Jensen, Burlington, WI
 Timothy Jensen, Indianapolis, IN
 Vagn Jensen, Richfield, MN
 Paul & Marilyn Jersild, Norfolk, VA
 David & Karen Johnson, Petaluma, CA
 Dennis & Carole Johnson, Morris, MN
 Niel Johnson, Independence, MO
 Richard & Terri Johnson, Manning, IA
 Jerry & Janet Jorgensen, St. Charles, IA
 Tove Jorgensen, Lone Tree, CO
 Sylvia Juhl, Omaha, NE
 Roy Julie, Queenstown, MD
 Phyllis Just, Minneapolis, MN
 Cathy Karr, Monona, WI
 Ellinor Kasuga, Southold, NY
 Emmett & Anne Keller, Chippewa Falls, WI
 Howard & Alice Keller, Fort Myers, FL
 William & Joan Kelso, The Villages, FL
 Lise Kildegaard, Decorah, IA
 Richard & Nancy Kinney, Eureka, CA
 Donna Kirschenmann, Waverly, IA
 Kenneth & Jacquie Kluck, Omaha, NE
 Esther Knudsen, Spokane, WA

LeaAnne Koppen, Mesa, AZ
 John & Helene Kristensen, Monrovia, CA
 Sonja Kromann, Everett, WA
 Duane & Carol Kropf, Kimballton, IA
 Jody & Alissa LaCanne, Exira, IA
 Karl & Inge Lamberg, Eugene, OR
 David & Bernice Larsen, Gretna, NE
 Douglas & Virginia Larsen, Polk City, IA
 Jerol & Jo Ann Larsen, Zearing, IA
 Rodney Larsen, Kingaroy,
 Queensland, Australia
 Svend Larsen, Dagmar, MT
 W. Daniel & Yvonne Larsen, San Diego, CA
 Wilmer & Inger Larsen, Santa Rosa, CA
 Nita Larson, Harlan, IA
 Arthur & Cheryl Ann Laursen, Omaha, NE
 Reginald & Jerilyn Laursen, Decorah, IA
 Enfred Linder, Manson, IA
 Lary & Doris Lubbert, Decorah, IA
 Dorothy Lund, Omaha, NE
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 Donald & Andrea Maddock, Ypsilanti, MI
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 Renee Madsen, Omaha, NE
 Debra Marple, Ames, IA
 Gilbert & Ella Marten, Ames, IA
 Dr. & Mrs. Eric L. Matteson, Rochester, MN
 Merle & Sandra Mattson, Edina, MN
 Catherine McBride, Herman, NE
 Helen McRoberts, Ames, IA
 Florence Meng, Lopez Island, WA
 Norman & Venita Merk, Audubon, IA
 Joanne Meyer, Atlantic, IA
 Marlene Miller, Fallbrook, CA
 Ivy Mitchell, Rochester Hills, MI
 Daryle & Connie Moeller, Elk Horn, IA
 Leland & Virginia Molgaard, Ames, IA
 Patricia Morgan, Ottumwa, IA
 Wayne & Emma Mortensen, Scotia, NY
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 Douglas & Ingrid Neale, Decatur, GA
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 Beverly Nelson, Atlantic, IA
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 Liane Nichols, Cedar Falls, IA
 Alan & Susan Nielsen, Richfield, MN
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 Margaret Nielsen, Harlan, IA
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 Donald & Barbara Olsen, Rochester, MN
 William & Ruth Olsen, Warren, MI
 Roger & Dorothy Olson, Blair, NE
 Norma Opperman, Ralston, NE
 Erling & Henny Overgaard, Bixby, OK
 Maren Palmer, Temple, TX
 Steve & Mimi Payne, New London, MN
 Bente Pedersen, Junction City, OR
 Clara Pedersen, Elk Horn, IA
 Donald & Audrey Pedersen, Pea Ridge, AR
 Loetta Pedersen, Superior, NE
 Ole Pedersen, Pacific Grove, CA
 Bob & Kathy Pellegrini, Elk Horn, IA
 Ernest Petersen, Lomita, CA
 Glen & Katherine Petersen, Huxley, IA
 Inger Petersen, South Elgin, IL
 Lynden & Thelma Petersen, Aurora, CO
 Merle Petersen, Audubon, IA
 Buckley & Marilyn Peterson, Ames, IA
 Carol Peterson, Omaha, NE
 Gloria Peterson, Omaha, NE
 Karen Peterson, Kittery, ME

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 Florence Pueschel, Des Moines, IA
 Berger & Jo Rasmussen, Kenosha, WI
 Michael & Suzanne Rasmussen, Kirkman, IA
 Donna Rector, Green Valley, AZ
 Wendell & Grace Rehnbom, Des Moines, IA
 Roland & Barb Rinell, Urbandale, IA
 Donald & Karma Roberts, Marana, AZ
 Valda Rose, Vallejo, CA
 Birgitte Jappe Ross, Lakewood, CO
 Esther Rossman, Boone, IA
 Anders Sand, Kansas City, MO
 Donald & Jane Scaro, Edgerton, KS
 Grete Schioler, Kettering, OH
 John Bertel Schou, Cedar Falls, IA
 Darrell & Bertha Schroeter, Exira, IA
 Jay & Peggy Scott, Mesa, AZ
 Kelly & Joan Scott, Council Bluffs, IA
 Michael & Judith Showalter, Palmetto, FL
 Renee Showalter-Hanson, Minnetonka, MN
 Harry & Amy Skallerup, Ormond Beach, FL
 Selma Sloth, Minneapolis, MN
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 Theodora Sonntag, Pearl River, NY
 Sons of Norway (Solglimt Lodge #1-547),
 Cedar Falls, IA
 Anna Sorensen, LaVista, NE
 Margaret Sorensen, Grand Island, NE
 Meredith Sorensen, Fairport, NY
 Wanda Sornson, Elk Horn, IA
 Thaddeus & Grace Sosnicki,
 New Fairfield, CT
 Matthew Schipper & Angela Stanford,
 Neola, IA
 Helen Steen, Clinton, IA
 Kenneth & Ruth Stoner, Lawrence, KS
 William & Barbara Strauss, Mesa, AZ
 Holger Stub, Medford, NJ
 Anker & Dorothy Studsgaard, Delray
 Beach, FL
 Ann Svendsen, Tyler, MN
 Dwight & Darlene Klitgaard Taylor,
 St. Charles, MO
 James & Darlene Thompson, Hereford, AZ
 Nancy Thompson, Urbandale, IA
 Axel & Lou Ann Thomsen, Olathe, KS
 Mary Topp, Mankato, MN
 Larry & Charlotte Travis, San Antonio, TX
 Michael & Lis Trent, Sun City West, AZ
 Consul Steven Tuchman, Indianapolis, IN
 Austin & Ruth Turney, Lawrence, KS
 Thomas Van Hon, Des Moines, IA
 Winston & Linda Wade, Scottsdale, AZ
 William & Joanne Waghorne, Lapeer, MI
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 Bonnie Warrington, Decorah, IA
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 James & Janelle Willis, Applington, IA
 Elaine Winkler, Plymouth, MN
 Nina York, Christiansted, St. Croix,
 Virgin Islands

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 Dale Jay & Patricia Andersen, Omaha, NE
 Delbert & Ramona Andersen, Elk Horn, IA
 Dorothy Andersen, Sioux City, IA
 Dorothy Andersen, St. Paul, MN
 Emmert & Diane Andersen, Harlan, IA
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 Center Point, IA
 Lillian Andersen, Kenosha, WI
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 Rick & Shon Andersen, Marne, IA
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 Tim & Janice Andersen, Audubon, IA
 Viggo Odson Andersen, Great Falls, MT
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 James & Rose Andrews, Wilkesboro, NC
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 Marion Larsen Beck, Birmingham, MI
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 Jean Berg, Fargo, ND
 Karen Bernard, Jakesville, WI
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 Long Beach, CA
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 Anne Blackburn, Buriem, WA
 Ronald & Kathy Block, Harlan, IA
 Sally Blount, Des Moines, IA
 Dennis & Nancy Boehme, Davenport, IA
 David & Nancy Boettger, Harlan, IA
 Deloris Bollin, Litchfield, MN
 Helle Bonaparte, Ballerup, Denmark
 Ole & Tuula Bondesen, Jyllinge, Denmark
 DeWitt & Shirley Booth, Mt. Pleasant, IA
 Janice Bradley, Fort Gratiot, MI
 Gunter & Jane Brakner, Bemidji, MN
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 Donald & Lorraine Braun, Cedar Falls, IA
 Louis & Elaine Bredesky, Jr., Des Moines, IA
 Barbara Breining, West Des Moines, IA
 Dawn Breining, Des Moines, IA
 Peterson Brink, Omaha, NE
 Jim & Donna Brittsan, Sanford, FL
 Solveig Brodsky, Palo Alto, CA
 James & Cherry Brouwer, Bemidji, MN
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 Steve & Connie Buller, Blair, NE
 Christopher & Lori Burgess, Urbandale, IA
 James Burke, Tigard, OR
 Norma Burnham, Marion, IA

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 Lois Cardinal, Littleton, CO
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 Ronald & Margaret Carlson, Sauk Centre, MN
 Tim & Kathleen Carlson, Bellevue, WA
 David & Joeline Carper, Clarinda, IA
 John & Sondra Carver, Decorah, IA
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 Cynthia Christensen, Rushford, MN
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 John & Marion Christensen, Panora, IA
 Kent Christensen, Albuquerque, NM
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 Lyle & Dona Christensen, Lennox, SD
 Paul & Gloria Christensen, Columbia
 Heights, MN
 Preben & Claire Christensen, St. Louis, MO
 Rodger Christensen & Brian Christensen,
 Union, IA
 Roger & Mary Christensen, Ogden, IA
 Timothy Christensen, Moline, IL
 Verda Christensen, Baton Rouge, LA
 Carol Christiansen, West Des Moines, IA
 Rita Christianson, West Des Moines, IA
 Elna Christophersen, Clarkston, MI
 Willa Cleary, Arlington, VA
 Beverly Clemson, Alexandria, VA
 Larry & Nancy Cohen, Persia, IA
 Neil Collins, Poinciana, FL
 Jørgen & Conny Conradsen, Roswell, GA
 Mary Copp, Elk Horn, IA
 Kay Cota, Sergeant Bluff, IA
 Harold & Janice Cozad, Simi Valley, CA
 Nancy Cozine, Emmetsburg, IA
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 Ruth Crandall, Wheeling, IL
 LaVerna Crooks, Darien, IL
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 Linda Jensen Czarnecki, Papillion, NE
 Donald & Marilyn Dahlof, Kirkman, IA
 Joe & Susan Dale, Red Oak, TX
 Lyle & Judy Damgaard, Arvada, CO
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 Danish Sisterhood Lodge #90, Lincoln, NE
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 Tom & Susan Dean, Iowa City, IA
 Susan Diedrichsen, Omaha, NE
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 Jay & Jean Dunn, Highlands Ranch, CO
 Michael & Patricia Kragh-Durfee,
 Milwaukee, WI
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 Lois Eagleton, Umpqua, OR
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 Elinor Ehrman, Anita, IA
 Clayton Ellingson, Atlantic, IA
 Ted & Vicki Ellis, Emmetsburg, IA
 Johanne Ervin-Gade, Oakdale, CA
 Carl & Kathie Esbeck, Columbia, MO
 Dean & Verna Esbeck, Atlantic, IA
 Roger & Marian Esbeck, Panora, IA
 Jennifer Ewing, Urbandale, IA
 Dorothy Eyberg, Arispe, IA
 Jay & Linda Fahn, Harlan, IA

Anne Fege, San Diego, CA
 Jeffrey & Jackie Westergaard Felder, Livonia, MI
 Joan Felkner, Iowa City, IA
 Denny & Linda Fendley, Pesotum, IL
 Janet Fenton, Grand Island, NE
 Richard & Julieanne Ferry, Harlan, IA
 Sigrid Festersen, Omaha, NE
 Janice Feustel, Mason City, IA
 Edith Forsch, Olathe, KS
 Christine Fraizer, Salt Lake City, UT
 James & Lisa Fredericksen, West Hartford, CT
 Cynthia Friis, Minnetonka, MN
 Marian Froker, Exira, IA
 Esther Frost, Sun City West, AZ
 Bente Fuller, Lincoln, NE
 Charlotte Gabelhaus, Omaha, NE
 Gerald & Sandra Gallagher, Castle Rock, CO
 Ole Galsgaard, Houston, TX
 Stephen & Barbara Gardner, Ottumwa, IA
 Soren & Dawn Gerber, Avondale, AZ
 German American Heritage Center, Davenport, IA
 Alice Gibson, Voorheesville, NY
 William & Katherine Gibson, Aurora, IA
 Tim Gier, Montgomery Village, MD
 Chaya Morasha Gilbert-McNabb, Los Angeles, CA
 Robert & Julie Gilman, Lee's Summit, MO
 Susan Goodhope, Vernonia, OR
 Diane Gray, Santa Monica, CA
 Jame & Sue Greene, Round Rock, TX
 Lynn & Inga Grove, Wilmington, OH
 Neil & Arlene Grover, Staples, MN
 Donald & Nealna Gylling, Brainerd, MN
 Lowell & Esther Haahr, Newell, IA
 Anne Munk Haber, Colorado Springs, CO
 Julie Hahn, Lake Forest Park, WA
 Paul Haigh, Overland Park, KS
 Aase Hansen, Burbank, CA
 Andrew & Rina Hansen, Wilmette, IL
 Anna-Lisa Hansen, Villa Park, CA
 Bo & Lisa Hansen, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
 Charles Hansen, Atlantic, IA
 Christian & Jean Hansen, Napoleon, ND
 Donna Hansen, Superior, WI
 Hans Hansen, Milnor, ND
 Harlan & Virginia Hansen, Rutland, IA
 Ivan & Jan Hansen, Harlan, IA
 Kathleen Hansen, Ankeny, IA
 Keli Hansen, Ackworth, IA
 Lydia Hansen, Rockford, IL
 Marilyn Hansen, Manning, IA
 Maynard Hansen, Springfield, MO
 Priscilla Hansen, Elk Horn, IA
 Richard Kaudy & Terri Hansen, Littleton, CO
 Robert & Connie Hansen, Sioux City, IA
 Robert & Illa Mae Hansen, West Bend, WI
 Ronald & Wendy Hansen, Holts Summit, MO
 Verner & Joyce Hansen, Kimballton, IA
 Willis & Marjorie Hansen, Elk Horn, IA
 Virginia Hanson, Onida, SD
 James & Birthe Hardin, San Antonio, TX
 Rhonda Hardy, Ames, IA
 William & Beverly Hartranft, Elk Horn, IA
 Robert & Carolyn Harvey, Battle Creek, MI
 Glen Haselbarth, Minden, NE
 Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Centerville, UT
 William & Geraldine Hastrup, Fresno, CA
 Burnell & Patricia Haven, Independence, IA
 Claude & Harriet Hayes, Decorah, IA
 Ellen Head, Montrose, SD
 Joy Heckman, Johnston, IA
 Doris Larsen Hedgcock, Colorado Springs, CO
 Dennis & Angela Hemminger, Blair, NE
 Joanne Henderson, Ankeny, IA
 Mark & Joann Hendrickson, Wausau, WI
 Alan & Deborah Henke, Fitchburg, WI
 Ardyce Henriksen, Mesa, AZ
 Glenn Henriksen, Armstrong, IA
 Harry & Jeannine Henriksen, Mahomet, IL
 Howard & Rhoda Henriksen, Harlan, IA
 Gullvi Henriksson, Omaha, NE
 Manuel & Jeri Herrera, Lincoln, NE
 John & Mary Hess, Somerset, CA
 Stanley Hess, Bremerton, WA
 Steve & Joanie Heuton, Kimballton, IA
 Anne Hildebrand, Des Moines, IA
 Lara Hildebrand, Des Moines, IA
 Joan Hill, Brainerd, MN
 Cindy Hiltgen, Omaha, NE
 Anita Hinnert, Humboldt, IA
 Alvina Hjortsvang, Council Bluffs, IA
 Janet Hoegh, Atlantic, IA
 Linda Holz, West Des Moines, IA
 Margaret Hoover, Lewisburg, PA
 Joyce Houck, Zephyrhills, FL
 Don & Lila Rae Huff, Anita, IA
 Jenette Bergstrom & Charles Hunt, Macedonia, IA
 JoAnn Hunt, Lu Verne, IA
 Shawn & Rebecca Hunt, Des Moines, IA
 Michael & Hedy Hustedde, Davenport, IA
 Allen & Roberta Hye, Spring Valley, OH
 John Hyltoft, Luray, VA
 Janice Jacobsen, Elk Horn, IA
 Kristin Jacobsen, Skokie, IL
 Nadine Jacobsen, Kimballton, IA
 Shane Jacobsen, Park City, MT
 Doris Jensen, Atlantic, IA
 George & Dorothy Jensen, West Des Moines, IA
 Gerda Jensen, Phoenix, AZ
 John Jensen, Elk Horn, IA
 John & Marion Jensen, Naperville, IL
 Kathryn Jensen, Minneapolis, MN
 Kenneth & Bonnie Jensen, Albert Lea, MN
 Marianne Jensen, Clinton, IA
 Marilyn Jensen, Exira, IA
 Mark & Pamela Jensen, Council Bluffs, IA
 Timothy & Sharon Jensen, Blair, NE
 Vincent & Phyllis Jensen, Audubon, IA
 Lynda Jeppesen, Oak Park, IL
 Christopher & Lori Jirovec, Cottage Grove, MN
 Ann Johnson, Manson, IA
 Daniel & Brenda Johnson, Litchfield, MN
 David Johnson, Ocheyedan, IA
 Earl & Lois Johnson, Moorhead, MN
 Fred & Dee Ann Johnson, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Gary & Lizbeth Johnson, Bemidji, MN
 Harry & Jerry Johnson, Pasco, WA
 Harry & Rowena Johnson, Lexington, KY
 Kent & Emiko Johnson, Evergreen, CO
 Marlys Johnson, Bettendorf, IA
 Mary Jane Johnson, Marietta, GA
 Quentin & Marie Johnson, Ceresco, NE
 Richard & Louise Johnson, Ames, IA
 Robert & Donna Johnson, Sioux Falls, SD
 Verda Johnson, Atlantic, IA
 Floyd & Dorothy Jorgensen, Bemidji, MN
 Avis Jorgensen, Tucson, AZ
 Don & Barb Julesgard, Saint Libory, NE
 Edith Kahl, Denison, IA
 Neil & Julianne Kahn, Jr., Waterloo, IA
 Ruth Karr, Omaha, NE
 Penny Karrer, Sioux Falls, SD
 Charles & Linda Kauffman, Audubon, IA
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 Arlene Keith, West Liberty, IA
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 Lloyd & Donna Kelly, Audubon, IA
 Gladys Kempe, Tustin, CA
 Thelma Wendel Kerkman, Maquoketa, IA
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 Carlton King, Oro Valley, AZ
 Nancy Lee Christensen King, Raleigh, NC
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 Jean Knudson, Kimberling City, MO
 Karen Kokos, Aurora, CO
 Elisabeth Kolind, Christiansted, Virgin Islands
 Ove Krebs, Willow Street, PA
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 Hans & Dawn Kristensen, Crystal Lake, IL
 Shirley Kuebrich, Urbandale, IA
 Shirley Kuhlman, Denver, CO
 Jim & Mary Louise Landfried, Cambridge, MA
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 Carol Larsen, Chicago, IL
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 Deb Christensen Larsen, Harlan, IA
 Glenn Larsen, Solway, MN
 Lawrence & Betty Hughes Larsen, Harlan, IA
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 Peggy Larsen, Atlantic, IA
 Vernon & Dorothy Larsen, Audubon, IA
 Chris & Margaret Laursen, Sault Ste Marie, MI
 Ernst & Patricia Laursen, Swannanoa, NC
 Verner & Barbara Laursen, Appleton, WI
 Verner & Nadine Laursen, Concord, CA
 Lea Lautenschlager, Salem, VA
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 JoAnn Leo, Omaha, NE
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 Marlin & Mary Kay Lewis, Audubon, IA
 Kai & Inger Licht, Canton, OH
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 Richard & Ellen Lindauer, Bellevue, NE
 Dewey Linden, Elk Horn, IA
 Fern Lindvall, Atlantic, IA
 David & Evelyn Linner, Stillwater, MN
 Dennis & Sharon Littlejohn, Des Moines, IA
 Harry & JoAnne Lockhart, Woodstock, VA
 James Louzan, Ellicott City, MD
 Jean Lowe, Fullerton, CA
 Anthony & Jennifer Lund, Murray, UT
 James & Gladys Lundquist, Davenport, IA
 Marjorie Luth, Arroyo Grande, CA
 Gene & Inger Lutz, Cedar Falls, IA

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 George & Julie Madsen, Omaha, NE
 John Madsen, Drexel Hill, PA
 Paul & Barbara Madsen, Ottumwa, IA
 Robert & Mabel Madsen, Elk Horn, IA
 Joseph & Kristy Maggiore, Omaha, NE
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 Wayne & Eleanor Magnuson, Omaha, NE
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 Jonna Masek, Lincoln, NE
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 Jeannette Petersen May, Richardson, TX
 Martha McCord, Harlan, IA
 Suzanne McCoy, Spirit Lake, IA
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 Suzanne Gilbert & Brian McNabb,
 Los Angeles, CA
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 Chicago, IL
 Merlin & Sonya Mikkelsen, Atlantic, IA
 Clarice Miller, Bellevue, NE
 David Miller, Minneapolis, MN
 Terry & Gail Miller, Clarion, IA
 Pamm Minden, St. Cloud, MN
 Kirsten Mitchell, St. Paul, MN
 Dean & Linda Mohning, Remsen, IA
 Roger & Marilyn Moller, Lakeville, MN
 Birgitte Molvig, Paradise, CA
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 David Morehouse, Hopkins, MN
 Jean Morrissey, Montezuma, IA
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 Jean Mortensen, Omaha, NE
 John & Minna Mortensen, Brook Park, OH
 Dennis & Marcia Morton, Bondurant, IA
 Hope Mosier, Lake Benton, MN
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 Westwood, KS
 Agnes Nelsen, Storm Lake, IA
 Delores Nelson, Atlantic, IA
 Doreen Nelson, Minden, IA
 Jeneen Nelson, Rocky Ford, CO
 Roger Nelson, Kenosha, WI
 Larry & Wendy Neppel, Gretna, NE
 Leon & Alice Neve, St. Paul, MN
 Loyd & Marie Neve, Omaha, NE
 Glenn & Marie Nicholson, Loveland, OH
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 Denmark
 David Nielsen, Winfield, KS
 Diane Nielsen, Omaha, NE
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 Edith Nielsen, Omaha, NE
 Gail & Nancy Nielsen, Fremont, NE
 Helen Nielsen, Exira, IA
 Jan Nielsen, Tyler, MN
 John & Barbara Nielsen, Fremont, NE
 Joseph Mariano & Karen Nielsen,
 Chicago, IL
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 Laurits Nielsen, Golden Valley, MN
 Louis Nielsen, New Berlin, WI
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 Patricia Nielsen, Blair, NE
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 Russell & Wanda Nielsen, Cedar Falls, IA
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 Simon Nielsen, Ames, IA
 Vagn & Karen Nielsen, Sonoma, CA
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 Wilmer & Freda Noll, Ida Grove, IA
 Jeff Nordstrom, Castle Rock, CO
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 Erik Nørkjær, Aulum, Denmark
 Annabelle Norris, Council Bluffs, IA
 Northwest Danish Association, Seattle, WA
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 Dorothea Olsen, Clinton, IA
 Elinor Olsen, Elk Horn, IA
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 Roger & Judy Olson, Gray, IA
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 Russ & Dorothy Overgard, Lakewood, CO
 Jeanette Owens, Sturgeon Bay, WI
 Judith Page, Madison, WI
 Charles Palmer, Jefferson City, MO
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 Ivan & Patricia Paulsen, Walker, MN
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 Erik Pedersen, Solvang, CA
 Katherine Pedersen, New Richmond, WI
 Paul & Marolyn Pedersen, Kodiak, AK
 James and Sherry Pehrs, Eyota, MN
 Walfred & Lillian Pelto, Fairfax, CA
 Clifford Petersen, Hoffman Estates, IL
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 Elmer Petersen, Galesville, WI
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 Lawrence Petersen, Lake Forest Park, WA
 Michelle Petersen, Iowa City, IA
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 Sherry Pettit, Omaha, NE
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 Lance & Monique Poldberg,
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 Ted & April Poulsen, West Des Moines, IA
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 John Race, Elkhorn, WI
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 Erik & Elizabeth Rasmussen, Arlington, VA
 Erling & Ruth Rasmussen, Fairfield Bay, AR
 L. Dale & Helen Rasmussen, Omaha, NE
 Lawrence & Doris Rasmussen, Harlan, IA
 Ove Rasmussen, Kyle, TX
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 Fort Collins, CO
 Sharon Redfern, Helena, MT
 Barbara Rehmeier, Henderson, NV
 Barbara Rennert, Omaha, NE
 Mary Olsen Riber, Des Moines, IA
 Russell & Idella Richardson, Ames, IA
 William & Rusti Riddle, Colfax, IA
 Gregory & Merna Rierson, Casper, WY
 Everett & Randee Rissler, Arvada, CO
 Chris & Karen Holland Robb, Lenexa, KS
 Sherlyn Roberts, Westminster, CO
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 Vivian Rock, Spencer, IA
 Lisa Roed, Lutherville Timonium, MD
 Susann Rogberg-Lavars, Corralitos, CA
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 Anna Ronne, Salt Lake City, UT
 William & Ann Roof, Avoca, IA
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 David & Peggy Ross, Omaha, NE
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 Charles & Vergene Routhie, Shoreview, MN
 Carolyn Rovner, Centennial, CO
 Kathleen Rudolph, Paw Paw, IL
 Donna Ryterske, Lily Lake, IL
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 Esther Sand-Henderson, Carroll, IA
 Annemarie Sawkins, PhD., Shorewood, WI
 Marilyn Schaefer, Cedar Falls, IA
 Dwain & Ellen Schmidt, Rodney, IA
 Eldo & Dee Schornhorst, Iowa City, IA
 Steven & Kathleen Schou, Minneapolis, MN
 Janet Schroeder, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Lori Schultz, Harlan, IA
 Connie Scott, Sidney, IA
 Joann Scott, North Hollywood, CA
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 Preben & Lene Sepstrup, Malling, Denmark
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 Elvin & Helen Shew, Cedar Creek, NE
 Steven & Cynthia Shove, Gig Harbor, WA
 Daniel & Joan Shurtliff, Seward, NE
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 Susan Sievers, Audubon, IA
 Gary & Donna Simmer, Des Moines, IA
 James & Jane Simon, Ames, IA
 Henrik Bredmose Simonsen, Ry, Denmark

Helen Simpkins, Ames, IA
Dennis & Linda Sims, Anita, IA
Ole & Eva Sindberg, Cary, IL
Yvonne Skouby, Columbia, MO
Arnold & Helen Skov, Alden, MN
Doris Skow, Santa Clara, CA
Shirley Small, Fremont, NE
Carla Smalley, Charlotte, NC
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Joan Smith, Boone, IA
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Dale Sorensen, Clear Lake, IA
Harald & Carol Ann Sorensen,
Albuquerque, NM
Jens & Dorothy Sorensen, Valparaiso, NE
Jimmy & Esther Sorensen, Wood Dale, IL
Martin & Linda Sorensen, Lombard, IL
Richard Sorensen, Adel, IA
Richard & Carol Sorensen,
Independence, MO
Robert & Nerita Sorensen, Walnut, IA
Susanne Johansen & Ole Sorensen,
Sunds, Denmark
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Hele Spivack, Bellevue, NE
Marc & Virginia Sprenger, Ottumwa, IA
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Virginia Stafford, Ames, IA
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Dannebrog, NE
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Wendy Rahbek Thomsen, Store Heddinge,
Denmark
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Gerda Willis, Solvang, CA
Donna Wilson, Council Bluffs, IA
J. Roger & Annette Wilson, Harlan, IA
Katherine Wilson, Wheeler, WI
Jennifer Winters, Elk Horn, IA
Marilyn Wittrup, Scituate, MA
Jennifer Worl, Omaha, NE
Michael & Nancy Christensen Wright,
San Carlos, CA
Nancy Yackle, Omaha, NE
Virginia Youse, Hutchinson, KS
Todd & Diane Zygmuntowicz, Troy, MI

corrections

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2014 Annual Report is accurate. We respectfully regret and apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or misplacements.

Please contact the Development Department with any questions or corrections.

museum e-news

We are happy to include your club or organization's special event information in our monthly E-Newsletter! Please submit your information to media@danishmuseum.org prior to the beginning of a new month for consideration. Subscribe or unsubscribe at danishmuseum.org/e-news.cfm.

membership notice

Please note the expiration date of your membership on the mailing label. All future *America Letters* will include this information as a gentle reminder for our members.

Non-member 2014 donors receive a copy of this issue and Annual Report in acknowledgement of their generosity. We invite their membership.

Go Green Members may opt to receive this publication and/or their renewal notices electronically via e-mail by contacting deb.larsen@danishmuseum.org.



Recipe from
Arcus AS,
Norway

aquavit sherbet

Neither lemon nor sherbet belong to traditional Norwegian cuisine. The following combination proves, however, that aquavit is versatile and perfectly suited to exotic fruits and modern flavors.

- 2 cups water
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- Rind of one lemon
- Juice of ½ lemon
- ½ cup Linie Aquavit
- 2 egg whites

Remove the lemon rind with a potato peeler. Boil sugar, water and the rind for about five minutes. Add the lemon juice, allow to cool and then strain. Add aquavit to the syrup according to taste, and freeze until it has the consistency of a sherbet. Stir from time to time during the freezing process. Beat the egg whites until stiff and mix with the sherbet. Return to freezer until completely frozen. Serve in individual dishes and garnish with thin twists of lemon peel or toasted almonds.



Recipe from
Gamle Ode

dill martini

- 1 ½ oz Gamle Ode Dill Aquavit
- ½ oz gin
- ¾ oz Cocchi Vermouth di Torino (sweet vermouth)

- ¼ oz Dolin Dry Vermouth
- 1 dropper Bittercube Orange Bitters
- Lemon twist
- Fresh dill sprig

Stir ingredients over ice and strain into a martini glass. Garnish with a lemon twist and sprig of dill.



Recipe from
Old Ballard
Liquor Co.

knotty viking

- 2 oz Riktig Caraway Aquavit
- Lime wedge
- Splash simple syrup
- Dry Cucumber Soda
- Cucumber slice (for garnish)

Muddle the lime, aquavit and simple syrup with ice. Top with Dry Cucumber soda and garnish with a cucumber slice.



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01



02



03



04

NEW Skål! Scandinavian Spirits exhibit-related items on page 21!

HEIRLOOM QUALITY GIFTS BY MAILEG **01. Bunny Honey 5-piece Melamine Set** Dishwasher safe. Plate reads: “Every morning Bunny Honey wakes up the sun before it rises.” Bowl reads: “In the evening Bunny Honey eats star sprinkles with warm milk.” Comes in a gift storage box. \$48. **02. Baby Mouse - Boy or Girl** Delightful details from button pacifier to tail. Matchbox comes with knit bedding. For ages 3+, \$22. **03. Little Sister or Brother Mouse**, \$26. **04. Fairytale Finger Puppets** Pirate, Caribbean Princess, Prince, Soldier, or Princess, \$6. *Members receive a 10% discount on most Design Store purchases!*