

america|letter

WINTER 2015 | A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA



Jens Dixen Homesteader's Cabin, restored for the Museum of Danish America by the Cedar Valley Danes in 1999.

INSIDE

Connecting with the land
and putting down roots

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ON THE COVER

This homesteader's cabin was originally located just north of Kenmare, North Dakota where Jens Dixen first moved when he arrived in the area around 1901. Dixen was a Danish immigrant, school teacher, and lay preacher. The house recently received a facelift by Building and Grounds Manager Tim Fredericksen.

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director's corner

Recently we received a request from an individual whose family has very generously donated more than 180 artifacts to the museum's collection over the years. The person wanted descriptions and scanned pictures as he was creating a family history. This is information we have and want to provide. In responding to this request, I recognized once again the costs of preserving cherished artifacts – costs that many of us don't think about but that are an important part of why we welcome your financial support for our museum.

As museum members, and if you've read recent past issues of the *America Letter* or receive and read our monthly *E-Newsletter*, you know that we are seeking accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). Already our core documents have been received and approved by AAM – documents that include our mission and values statement, code of ethics, collection policy, emergency plan, and strategic plan. These reflect our commitment to practice the highest professional standards in the museum world as we care for the artifacts entrusted to us.

I know that each artifact in our collection was treasured or was seen as being important in contributing to the lives of loved ones. The fact that subsequent generations know that their family treasures are preserved and can be shared is a real and important value we provide. But each artifact gift comes with an ongoing cost. Why? When we accept an artifact, we are committing to providing the highest professional standards of care into the future.

Here are some of the details of that care, the costs, and why we must discriminate in selecting what we accept into the collection. In doing so, I invite you to consider when making an artifact donation also including providing financial support for the care of that artifact. For you who have not made artifact donations, I hope this provides an additional reason for why we need your support.

First of all, we can't just be an attic, taking everything offered to us! That's why we take great care now in accepting artifacts. When an artifact is offered to the museum, our Collections Committee, made up of the professional staff and a local

volunteer, asks a series of questions about the artifact. What's the story behind the artifact? How can it be used to show some aspect of the immigrant experience or to demonstrate how subsequent generations have maintained contact with their Danish roots? Do we have any other examples in the collection? Is it unique? What costs will be associated with caring for it?

Textiles, paintings, porcelain, artifacts made from leather, wood, iron, paper (and, yes, even straw); each has different standards of care. All benefit from a constant temperature and humidity level; some need to be wrapped in acid-free tissue and stored in acid-free boxes; some need to be stored in lower UV light levels or in darkness. Do we have the capacity and the resources to physically care for the artifact? Members may be surprised that providing the temperature and humidity control for artifact care in the new Curatorial Center alone added an additional \$1,000 a month in utility bills. Our total utility bill for this past year was almost \$45,000, including the \$12,000 increase!



By
John Mark
Nielsen



Utility costs do not take into account the annual costs of providing a safe and secure environment to preserve artifacts or the special “fine arts” insurance that might help us replace them should they be damaged or destroyed. Annually, we spend \$3,500 for insurance and to maintain and test our sprinkler and security systems. Because the security system has not been upgraded since 1994 and there have been important technological advances, we will spend an additional \$40,000 to upgrade this system.

When the artifact is accepted into the collection, it is then processed. This means it is digitally photographed from numerous angles and these photographs and any information provided by the donor is entered into our software system. The kind of care the artifact needs is identified and where the item is stored is recorded. Our information technology expenses exceed \$26,000 annually, a significant portion devoted to collection documentation and management. Materials for collection care and exhibit costs added another \$85,000 this past year.

The costs I’ve mentioned don’t take into consideration staff salaries and benefits. To determine these, each year I use a report created by the Association of Midwest Museums. We want to attract and retain a qualified staff, but we also have to be mindful of the resources we have. Over the past years, I have been pleased that we have been able to meet, though not exceed, the reported average salaries and benefits recommended for each position at a museum of our size, constituency and budget. Our excellent staff deserves more, but we all recognize that we must be prudent.

Seeking accreditation from the AAM comes with costs. It also has its benefits. Becoming an accredited museum will acknowledge that the nation’s leading professional museum organization has determined that in all areas of museum work the Museum of Danish America adheres to the highest of standards. It means that other AAM accredited museums can loan artifacts to help us create engaging and informative exhibits, knowing that their artifacts will be treated according to the highest standards of care. It also will be helpful as we seek corporate and foundation support for our exhibits and programming.

From our beginnings in 1983, we have set out to assemble a representative collection telling the story of the Danish presence here in the United States. This has led to a collection of well over 40,000 artifacts. With the completion of the new Curatorial Center, we have room to collect and care for more. We have used, and will continue to use, these artifacts in numerous exhibits. We have also shared, and will continue to share, these artifacts through loans to other museums both in this country and in Denmark. We will do so while holding ourselves to the highest standards in the museum world.

To do this, we continue to depend on your generosity. You can be assured that you are supporting an institution that is committed to quality.

museum of danish america staff & interns

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Ida Jensen, Denmark
Jennifer Olsson, US

**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 to 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 House, Jens Jensen
Prairie Landscape Park, Genealogy
Center, and Bedstemor's House.

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

To Contact Staff Use the prefix for the staff member shown after E:, followed by @danishmuseum.org.

new interns



JENNIFER OLSSON

After driving a total of 20 hours (over a week's time), I finally arrived in Elk Horn, my new home

for the next year. I was anxious but downright elated to finally be here. I met my fellow interns, Ida and Niels-Peter, and began to learn about Iowa and this area.

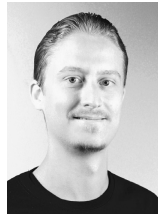
Although I grew up and attended college outside of Boston, Massachusetts, Wilmington, North Carolina has been my home for several years. In Wilmington I worked at the Cameron Art Museum in Visitor Services, and for the past few months I volunteered with the museum registrar at the Cape Fear Museum.

I have earned two Bachelor's degrees, one in Natural Science from Bradford College in Haverhill, Massachusetts and the second in Design from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This past spring I earned a Master's degree in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. During this internship I will continue my education by helping to finish the ongoing inventory of the collection and assisting with exhibits.

Books, movies, traveling and, of course, museums are all interests of mine, but it all comes down

to my love of learning. Reading about a person or an event and then traveling to see where it all happened has always held a certain amount of curiosity and awe for me. Unfortunately, this love of learning has not helped me learn a second language, but I am hoping to catch a few words of Danish from my fellow interns.

My time in Elk Horn has been very nice so far, and everyone has been really welcoming. I am looking forward to an adventurous year here.



NIELS-PETER GADE

I am 24 years old, and I was born and raised in Haderslev, *Sønderjylland* (Southern Jutland).

This is also where I went to both elementary school and *gymnasium* (high school). My main courses in the gymnasium were Social Sciences and English. In 2011 I moved to Aarhus in order to study History at the university. My main courses were about nation-building in Early Modern Europe and Danish foreign policy from 1914-1945. I wrote my Bachelor's assignment on American Paratroopers in World War II. Currently I am a year into my Master's program,

which means that I have to write my thesis after this internship is done, and then I will (hopefully) be graduated by the summer/fall of 2016. My Master's program is called "International and Global History" and is a new approach to historical subjects where history is attempted to be written from a non-nationalistic /non-nation-centered perspective, thereby achieving a more global viewpoint. (That is the short version without getting too technical.)

I chose to send an application for an internship at the Museum of Danish America primarily because of two reasons: The one being that I wanted my internship to be in the United States, and the other that I wanted it to be at a museum. I must admit that I did not know much about the connection between the US and Denmark - at least, not in terms of immigration and immigrants - but I think that was also part of the reason why I chose this internship, to learn more about and explore this topic. From an academic point of view, the choice of this particular museum makes perfect sense, since it ties in very well with my Master's program, and it gives me a chance to see how some of the theories and historical approaches I have learned about at the university work in practice. Immigration, and especially transcontinental immigration, is one of the main areas of research for international and global historians.



IDA JENSEN

My name Ida Jensen, and I am 25 years old. I am living in Aalborg in the northern part of Denmark with my boyfriend and dog, where I currently am doing my Masters in Library and Information Science at Copenhagen University in Aalborg. I have a Bachelor's

degree in the same subject. My internship will therefore take place at the Genealogy Center and maybe once or twice a week at the museum. At the Genealogy Center I will primarily be doing cataloging and working with the library collections.

In Aalborg I work at the Aalborg Public Libraries, so I find it very interesting exploring this aspect

of being a librarian at a research library.

Originally I come from the area near Brønderslev, a little bit more north than Aalborg.

In my spare time I am a volunteer for Save the Children, and I also love to travel. Now, with North America, I have been in five out of seven continents. So far I love being in Elk Horn and the US!

where are they now?

Ten years ago this fall, as a young museum professional, I was headed to Elk Horn, Iowa. Fresh out of graduate school with a Masters in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, I was eager to gain much-needed experience via an internship at the Museum of Danish America, which would land me a full-time job in the field. A native of Bellevue, Iowa, I was excited to be in my home state and to learn more about its history. I had no idea so many Danes had settled in the state, the history of the institutions they founded, or the role Danish Americans play in many aspects of American life.

I especially enjoyed getting to know the museum staff, the

Danish intern Helene Christensen, and eating æbleskiver. I felt right at home in the museum atmosphere of staff comradery and the mindset of getting things done as a team with no job being too big or too small for even the director to pitch in when necessary.

From Angela Stanford, my supervisor, I learned great collections management tips for organizing and tracking donations that I still use today. I was also able to experience and learn firsthand from some collections management challenges that all museums face, such as, "Is that WWI German 'potato-masher' hand grenade still live?" Thankfully, that hair-raising issue was quickly resolved

(i.e., the grenade was not live) during a rather interesting phone conversation with a curator at an Iowa military museum.

Shortly after completing the internship, I landed a full-time museum job. I am happy to say that for the past nine years I have been the Curator of Collections for the Missouri State Museum in Jefferson City, Missouri where I live with my new husband and our two dogs.

I will always look back at my time in Elk Horn with fondness and am grateful I could learn from the talented staff at the Museum of Danish America. Thank you to the "happy Danes" for the overwhelming kindness and generosity you showed me.



By
Katherine "Katie"
(Keil) Owens

Group photo Katie posing with two statues while inventorying and cleaning the artifacts that are stored on the ledges above the main floor.

board of directors meet in elk horn

OCTOBER 22-24, 2015

It's a flurry of activity throughout Elk Horn and at the Museum of Danish America when the museum's Board of Directors holds its October meeting--and this meeting was especially busy with current members catching up with one another, new board members having orientation sessions with staff, meetings, lunches, dinners and *more meetings!*

Outgoing board members were honored by John Mark Nielsen at a dinner held at the museum on Thursday evening. These members include Kristi Planck Johnson (Bethesda, MD), Kenneth Larsen (Calistoga, CA and Harlan, IA), Eric Smitsdorff (Germantown, WI) and Mark Strandskov (Mount Pleasant, MI).

New additions to the board are introduced on page 9.

The board meets three times a year with the October meeting always being held in Elk Horn, as required by the bylaws. This is a hardworking volunteer board with members paying their own expenses for all board meetings, including travel, hotel and food. The usual term is for three years, not to exceed two consecutive terms.

If you would like to learn more about how you may support the museum by becoming a board member, please contact Deb Christensen Larsen at the museum.



Board members Front row (l-r), David Esbeck, Randy Ruggaard, Linda Steffensen, David Hendee, John Mark Nielsen; second row, Craig Molgaard, Jerry Schrader, Bente Ellis, Mittie Ostergaard, Cindy Adams, Karen Suchomel, Carolyn Larson, Dorothy Stadvold Feisel, Beth Bro-Rooft; third row, Dagmar Muthamia, Kristi Johnson, Carl Steffensen, Dennis Larson, Ken Larsen; back row, Garey Knudsen, Mark Strandskov, Brent Norlem, Ron Bro. Not pictured: Tim Burchill, Glenn Henriksen, Anna Thomsen Holliday, Peter Nielsen, Eric Smitsdorff, Ole Sønnichsen.



By
Terri
Johnson

introducing the new board members

At the June meeting, the museum's Board of Directors elected four people to serve a three-year term and one to a single-year term left vacant by a resigning board member. A board member may serve two consecutive terms but is not eligible to serve again until three years have passed. New board members officially assumed their positions following the annual meeting on Saturday, October 24 in Elk Horn.

David Esbeck, originally from Elk Horn, has been a resident of San Diego, California, since 1983. The owner and principal of Esbeck Consulting Services, he has extensive global experience in the energy industries.

Randy Ruggard, CPA and CFP®, founded Ruggard & Associates, Inc. 20 years ago in Twinsburg, Ohio. The company provides financial planning, investment management and tax services.

Carl Steffensen, of Houston, Texas, received geology degrees from the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University, and has more than 30 years of experience in the oil industry. Steffensen is the current president of the Danish Club of Houston.

Ole Sønnichsen, who lives in Bjert, Denmark, is a journalist, writer, communication strategist and lecturer. He heads concept making of non-fiction titles at Denmark's second-largest publishing house. Sønnichsen is the owner of Storyhouse, a communications company with a focus on journalistic products and communications strategies.

Peter Nielsen, of Naples, Florida, (serving a one-year term) is one of the founding partners of Paratech, a company that manufactures emergency service, industrial and law enforcement products. Headquartered in Frankfort, Illinois, the company also has facilities in North Carolina and Denmark.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President

Garey Knudsen

Vice President

Tim Burchill

Secretary

Carolyn Larson

Treasurer

Karen Suchomel

park advisory committee formed

If you visited the museum recently and were able to walk about the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, you couldn't help but notice its beauty and how well it's maintained. However, knowledge and experience in caring for the park long-term is something we as a museum staff are lacking.

After a visit to the museum in the fall of 2014, long-time museum supporters Peter Ørum and Krista Ørum-Keller of Midwest Groundcovers and Midwest Trading suggested we form a Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park Advisory Committee. Krista offered to chair the committee

if Jens Jensen (descendant of the park's namesake) would also serve. Jensen, who is owner of Jensen Ecology and was instrumental in development of the park in 2012, agreed.

Other members of the committee include Rhett Faaborg and Rick Fox of Country Landscapes, the company that has done the majority of planting and landscaping here at the museum, and Justin Verbeck of KloosKutters, the company who planted our green roof.

Along with staff members, the committee held its first meeting

on September 26 which included a 90-minute walk through the park. The committee plans to meet on-site twice a year with conference calls in between. The committee's first call to action was to determine management zones within the park and set priorities within those zones, which Jensen then set down in the 2015 Site Management Plan.

The committee's next on-site meeting will be April 29. We are grateful to those who have agreed to serve – for their expertise, passion and commitment in wanting us to succeed!



By
Terri
Johnson

Entrance to the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park.

home and away in the valley

With its scenic, rolling hills and picturesque bluffs, it's no wonder the lower Wisconsin River Valley near Spring Green, Wisconsin has captured the hearts of some of America's most famous creative minds. It has gained the affection of some passionate business-minded folks as well, including the subjects of this article.

Nestled into the natural beauty of south-central Wisconsin, next to the attractions of Taliesin (Frank Lloyd Wright's home and workshop), American Players Theater, and The House on the Rock, sits an attractive motel in the style of the area's most popular architect.

The Spring Valley Inn, located one mile from the Wisconsin River at the intersection of Highways 14 and C, has provided the area's visitors a comfortable place to rest their weary heads since 1990, when John and Patricia Rasmussen (perhaps weary themselves from careers as traders on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange) saw a spark of opportunity near their summer home in Spring Green. The space of land now known as the "Gateway to Frank Lloyd Wright Territory" had been under

development but had fallen into bankruptcy. The Rasmussens wisely jumped at the chance to make an investment and decided to transform the site into a small sanctuary for the tourists and travelers that flock to the region.

Back then, it was a motel that wasn't. As the site of the development's Visitors Center, the prairie-style structure on the property lacked guest rooms. With the help of Taliesin Associated Architects, a firm



founded by Wright, the spired building became the lobby, gift shop, and a restaurant known as "Pat's Place". There are natural rock walls, recessed lighting, and sweeping views of the surrounding 10 acres of woodland.

A long, low string of 35 guest rooms was added and stretched out over 30,000 square feet to the southwest--the end punctuated by one of the area's largest swimming pools in a sky-lit wellness area that also features a steam room, sauna, and

whirlpool. Prints of many of Frank Lloyd Wright's works hang in the hallways and rooms. The tables and chairs in the lounge and the guest rooms are all designed by a former Taliesin architect.

Besides their work with the motel, the Rasmussens also cultivated a sense of hospitality and adventure in their five children. Son Travis, 28, manages a restaurant in Sauk City, Wisconsin. Daughter Rebecca, 37, teaches writing at UCLA. Her debut novel, *The Bird Sisters*, was partially inspired by her and her brother Erik's childhood experiences in Wisconsin's abundant nature settings.



By
Nicky
Christensen

Erik, now 40, is still tromping about in the wild outdoors. His North Carolina-based travel company, Erik's Adventures, has led groups on expeditions to Machu Picchu, Kenya, India, Thailand, and Greece, among others. In 2010 Erik and John trekked the Inca Trail in Peru. Together they have also summited Mount Kilimanjaro.

The family's characteristic combination of hospitality and adventure continues in brothers Cole, 30, and Brenner, 26, (named for his grandmother's surname). They have also traveled far and wide, though they have learned to use their hometown's tourist season to their advantage. Working at the motel during its May to October run, they depart the cold Wisconsin winters in the off season in favor of more temperate locales--this winter their sights are set on Myanmar in Southeast Asia.

It was the charismatic "Chef Cole" who was at the helm when we visited and enjoyed the Rasmussen's establishment. He was eager to share his culinary talents with our staff at Pat's Place, which has historically had an Italian flair. However, given Cole's educational background, work experience, and travels, the restaurant is taking a more worldly tilt.

Cole attended the Culinary Institute of America in New York, got a bachelor's degree in Cultural Geography and Anthropology, and wrote his Master's thesis on Culinary Tourism. He has worked front-of-house at the acclaimed Charlie Trotter's in Chicago and in the kitchen at Milwaukee's Sanford Restaurant under a James Beard Award-winning chef. Following a trip to Africa,

he returned to Spring Valley Inn to manage the day-to-day operations, groundskeeping, and the restaurant.

He has been to South America, India, and Thailand--each time bringing home new ideas and flavors to try at Pat's Place, from empanadas to a bánh mì sandwich. Since its inception, the 32-seat restaurant has grown organic vegetables and used locally-grown foods, which Cole continues. He hopes the influence of his continental style will keep the regulars interested and delight the new diners to Pat's Place.

Though he and Brenner are still building their personal travel portfolios, Cole hopes to one day lead those who are similarly afflicted by wanderlust on excursions that will satisfy literal and metaphorical tastes for adventure.



01. John Rasmussen at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. At 19,340 feet above sea level, it is the highest mountain on the African continent. **02. At Pat's Place** meals are served indoors under this spire skylight or outdoors on the fountain patio surrounding a stone fire pit.

It might have been a sense of adventure that led John's great-grandparents to immigrate to Colorado from Denmark between 1869 and 1874. His grandfather later put down his family's roots in Evanston, Illinois. Since then, the Rasmussen men have continued to take every opportunity to

explore the world. Who knows, maybe it's ingrained in their genetics!

The moral of this story may be, "Experience all the globe has to offer, but don't forget your roots." The present-day Rasmussen

clan, through all their travels, is still beckoned home to their fresh roots in the unglaciated earth of south-central Wisconsin—where they so graciously and skillfully provide a bit of respite for likeminded travelers.



03. Cole Rasmussen at work in the restaurant. **04. A stone entry sign** greets visitors. **05. The restaurant**, reception area, breakfast nook, and gift shop are housed in the main building. The guest rooms and wellness area are connected to it by a breezeway (not pictured).

horti- & agri- culture

ITEMS IN OUR COLLECTION THAT REPRESENT DANISH AMERICANS' INFLUENCE ON THE NATURAL WORLD

Farming and gardening were, and still are, not only essential ways to feed families and provide economic stability, but also ways people enjoyed and became one with the land around them. Because the Museum of Danish America sits on 30 acres of recreated prairie, the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, and because the grounds are surrounded by fields of corn and

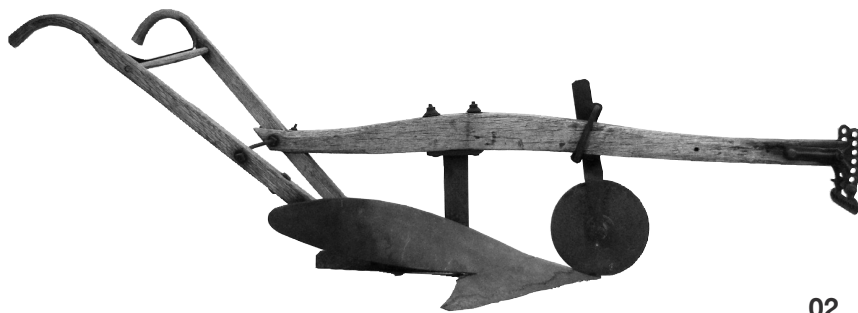
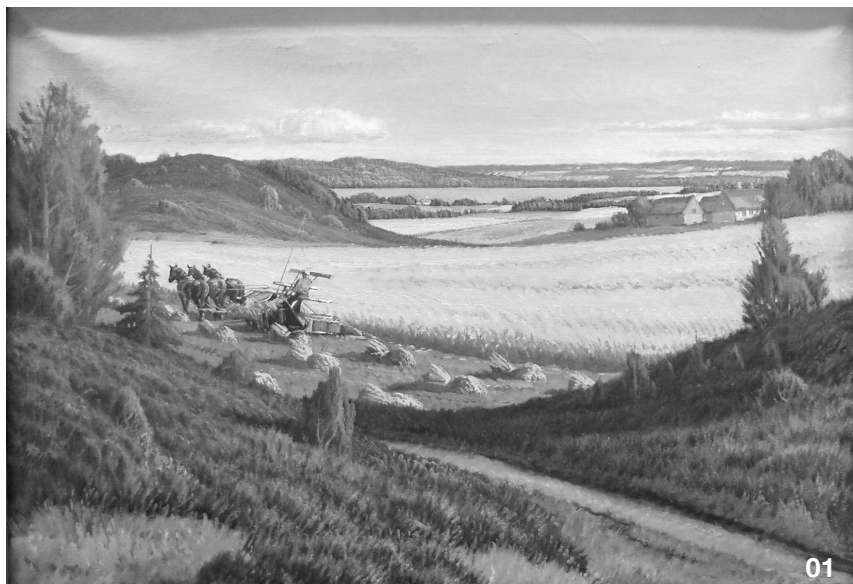
soybeans, it seems appropriate to highlight some of the artifacts in the collection that speak to the agricultural history of Danish America.

When one thinks of gardening and farming, large equipment like tractors, combines, and even plows hooked to horses or oxen come to mind. Smaller tools like shovels, scythes, hoes, and

spades are also common. Many of these objects are within the museum's permanent collection.

One of three large plows in the collection was owned and used by Jens T. Larsen on his farm. He and his wife Karenstine were a few of the first settlers of the Kimballton-Elk Horn, Iowa area, arriving about 1874 from Ærø, Denmark. Jens and his son Lars, who was young at the time of immigration, farmed together until their deaths, which were unusually close together – Lars in 1928 and Jens in 1930. The family is buried at Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in Kimballton.

In the late 1860s, Nils Petersen came to the United States from Copenhagen, Denmark after having served in the Army during the war with Germany in the 1860s. He homesteaded in Orum, Nebraska, about seven miles west of Blair. A hand-walked seed planter Nils used in the family garden is now among the artifacts here at the museum. From Nils the planter passed to his son A.P. Petersen, who lived southwest of Blair for a time. Years after it was retired, the planter was donated to the museum, showing heavy evidence of its use.



By
Angela
Stanford

01. **Painting of field**, 2003.109.001. Donor: Russ Overgård. This painting shows a man harvesting a field in Denmark, possibly near Lake Silkeborg in central Jutland. The art came from the donor's uncle in Denmark, Niels Overgård. 02. **Breaking plow**, 2005.017.001. Donor: Eivind Lillehoj.

Two smaller implements in the collection – a shovel and a scythe – came from the same user, an immigrant who originated in the Slesvig-Holsten region and completed nurseryman's training there. Hans Peter Jorgensen had planned to start his own plant nursery, but fears of being drafted into the German army led him to the United States in 1907. After brief stops in Connecticut and Ohio, he finally settled in Des Moines, Iowa. It was there that he and his wife Petrea ultimately

operated their own nursery in the 1940s and 50s. The shovel and scythe were used in this business.

Serving as visual documentation of agricultural life, within the collections are dozens of photographs and paintings, all depicting scenes of fields in the process of being plowed, planted, and harvested, and gardens in progress and being enjoyed by families and used as backdrops for photos.

People are drawn to the natural – fresh air, beautiful flowers, the fruits of hard work, the wildlife that shares our spaces. It is an important part of a rural story, connecting economics with beauty and people with nature.



03. Photo of family in garden, 2006.002.004. Donor: William Jones. Unknown family enjoying a garden. 04. Photo of disking, 1995.036.002.186a. Donor: Sven Raven. Unknown man on a tractor disking at a place called Quince Orchard on June 6, 1931. 05. Photo of large garden, man on right, 2008.019.002. Donor: Loeymae Lange. This is the birthplace and home of Martin Lange in Skærup, Denmark. Paul Lange, Martin's grandson, is seen on the viewer's right. Einar Lange, Paul's father and son of Martin, was the photographer. 06. Scythe, 1994.202.009. Donor: Iver and Lis Jorgensen and Shovel, 1993.123.017. Donor: Iver Jorgensen. 07. Garden planter, 1988.053.001. Donor: Armand Zahle Thomsen.

now open

Home: Sculpture by Dennis Andersen

On view through May 8, 2016

Dennis J. Andersen was born in 1940 and raised in Elk Horn, Iowa. His first involvement in art was when, as a very young child, he constructed objects from the orange crates routinely requested from the local general store when his family “went to town” on Wednesday nights. However, this

interest was later placed on hold as he pursued a more mainstream profession. After graduating with Bachelor’s degrees in Accounting and Marketing, he proceeded with military obligations and a 30-year career in the “corporate world.”

After retiring from an adventurous and enjoyable career, he was drawn back to his original artistic interest. He recently received a BFA with a concentration in Sculpturing from Georgia State

University’s Welch School at the Arts. His mediums of choice are drawing, printmaking, ceramics, wood carving, metal casting and fabrication. He has exhibited in numerous local galleries and juried shows in Atlanta. He had his first solo exhibit in 2011 and had work exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art – Georgia in 2013. He has a permanent installation at the Mill of Noth sculpture collection in Ryhne (highlands), Scotland.

Home | This assemblage exhibit represents the various aspects of the houses that create the homes we desire and experience. It reflects the dreams, transitions, efforts and memories we have of this process. It also reflects the relationships and cohesiveness of the families within. The obstacles of unforeseen circumstances are part of this process but tend to be overlooked for more pleasant memories.

The individual pieces of this assemblage reflect the various developments and memories during my life as I experienced these stages of creating a home, by others as well as myself.

– *Dennis Andersen, Artist*



By
Tova
Brandt

Artist remarks on individual pieces:

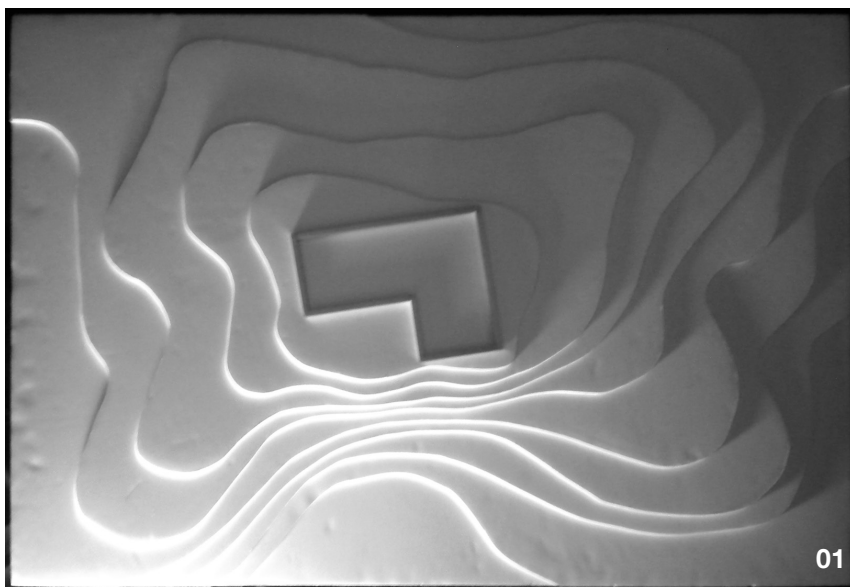
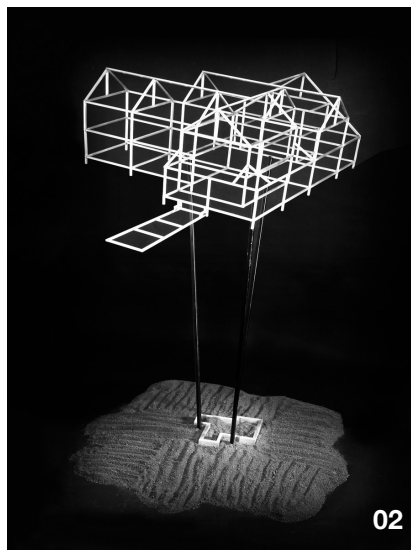
01. Beginnings | The creation of an architectural model is the fruition of one's dreams and desires in creating a home for ourselves and family. It is the "Beginning" of the visual understanding of the detailed blueprints created from these dreams.

02. Spiritual Memories | This piece reflects on the memories of the Elim Children's Home, no longer in existence, in Elk Horn, Iowa. While in operation from 1890 through 1961, the manager along with the community attempted to create a "home" for the children in need. Over three hundred children called it home during its existence.

This sculpture "Spiritual Memories" was created in honor of the children and families that were nurtured within the Elim Home.

03. Stability | There once was a family that suffered greatly during the Depression. In their attempt to recover, this family met with additional unforeseen instabilities as their new home fell through the bridge while being relocated.

Many today, as during the Depression, strive for stability in their lives in the form of income, family life and the homes that they establish. Daily routines can be disrupted by unforeseen circumstances. Weather, health, and economic conditions are common factors. These unforeseen events can test a family's desire for stability. This work recalls and reflects upon the unforeseen events that affected a Depression-era family as well as families today.



opening soon

Happy Danes on the Plains

**November 27, 2015 –
April 10, 2016**

A new installation, “Happy Danes on the Plains,” will open in The Kramme Gallery for Julefest on November 27. Through photos, text, and interviews, this exhibit describes the story of Danish-American communities which have worked to preserve Danish culture – even into the 21st century, long after the immigrant generation has passed on. Many of these towns were started as intentional colonies of Danes in the Midwest and Great Plains in an attempt to create communities that shared a common cultural heritage and worked to keep that heritage alive through generations.

This exhibition is an English-language version of “*Grundtvig på Prærien* (Grundtvig on the Prairie)” that is traveling among Danish

museums from 2013 to 2015. The Danish curator, Henrik Bredmose Simonsen, created the exhibition to explore how an immigrant culture could be maintained over several generations.

The Danish exhibit title refers to N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872), a Danish church leader whose influence encompassed social issues, education, and politics, and who continues to resonate today. Grundtvig was an advocate for “education for life” through the creation of folk schools. He believed that cultural heritage – songs, literature, dance, and other folk traditions – was important for communities to celebrate together.

At the Museum of Danish America, visitors will enjoy a special addition to the exhibition that highlights Kimballton, the Danish Village only three miles to the north of the

museum. Kimballton is one of the communities featured in “Happy Danes on the Plains,” and local artifacts, photographs, and interviews bring to life the experience of growing up in a “Happy Dane” town. Danish-style gymnastics, community bands, theater productions, and folk dancing were some of the activities that set Kimballton apart from its neighbors.

“Happy Danes on the Plains” has been traveling to Danish-American communities nationwide since Summer 2014: Tyler and Askov in Minnesota; Yorba Linda, California; Racine, Wisconsin; Greenville, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Denver, Colorado. After the exhibit closes at the Museum of Danish America in April 2016, it will again be available to travel.

Contact curator Tova Brandt to learn more about hosting this exhibit in your community.



01. Kimballton Cornet Band, 1917. 2002.154.012. Gift of Muriel Bacon. 02. Girls learning Danish-style gymnastics in Kimballton, Iowa, 2002.090.066. Gift of Barbara Kenny. 03. Postcard of Kimballton, Iowa, 1915, 2006.017.127. Gift of Paul Konopacki.

the simple gift of walnut grove

In October 2014 we premiered the film *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove* during the grand opening events for the Curatorial Center. Since then, the 17-minute documentary we helped produce with filmmaker John Richard has been shown in our Multimedia Room and screened throughout the country where it has won acclaim, awards, and the hearts of many.

The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove is about the life of an early 20th century Danish immigrant named Hans Hansen (1876-1953), as told by his son, 97-year-old Walter Hansen. Hans emigrated from Denmark to the United States in 1899 and built a farm out of the native timber he found alongside a marginal piece of land on the Cedar River near West Branch, Iowa.

The farm has been in continuous operation for over a hundred years and has been lovingly maintained and preserved by Walter and his family. Within Walter's soft-spoken account emerges the dynamic of a father-son relationship forged under the harsh conditions of the early Midwestern settlement. The film's powerful soundtrack includes works performed by Victor Borge and the Danish String Quartet.

"Run-away hit with the audience. This film is proof you don't need a car chase scene or special effects to win an audience over." – Tim Bottaro, film festival attendee

"It's the kind of beautifully shot, sensitive film we all wish we had of our ancestors. I don't have a drop of Danish in me, but I found myself tearing up at the stoicism and inventiveness of my own immigrant forebears." – Scott Samuelson of *Little Village Magazine*



By
Nicky
Christensen

Walter Hansen, subject and narrator of the documentary film *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove*.



Now that its festival run is complete, DVDs of the documentary are available exclusively through our Design Store for \$14.95 each, plus shipping. We also have the Danish String Quartet's Wood Works album, which much of the music in the documentary came from, available for purchase. \$16.99 for the CD, \$32.99 for vinyl. To order: 800.759.9192 or through our new webstore at www.danishmuseum.org

Past Screenings and Events

2/28/2015 - Siouxland Film Festival, Sioux City, IA - **Won Grand Prize for Iowa Films**

3/1/2015 - FilmScene, Iowa City, IA

4/11/2015 - Iowa City International Documentary Film Festival

4/17-4/18/2015 - Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival, Cedar Rapids, IA - **Won Best Professional Documentary**

4/26/2015 - Special Screening at the Herbert Hoover Museum, West Branch, IA

5/9/2015 - Central Michigan Art Co-op Rural Film Festival, Princeton, MN

6/27-6/28/2015 - Interrobang Film Festival, Des Moines, IA - **Honorable Mention**

8/6/2015 - Snake Alley Festival of Film, Burlington, IA - **Won Best Iowa Made Film**

9/1-9/7/2015 - Portland Film Festival - Portland, OR

9/10-10/20/2015 - Cincinnati Film Festival, Cincinnati, OH

9/27/2015 - Charlotte Film Festival, Charlotte, NC

9/30-10/4/2015 - South Dakota Film Festival, Aberdeen, SD

10/31-11/1/2015 - Nordic International Film Festival, New York, NY - **Won Best Short Documentary**

11/5-11/7/2015 - Muscatine Film Festival, Muscatine, IA

events calendar

Julefest

November 27-28

Visit the Danish Villages to start off the holiday season with Danish traditions. Events at the museum and throughout the community offer food, shopping, and family activities.

Christmas Hygge

December 17

Join museum staff for a celebration of the songs and traditions of the Danish holiday season.

Board Meeting

February 11-13, 2016
Las Vegas, Nevada

Victor Borge Legacy Award Piano Recitals

April 9-10, 2016 at 2 pm
Bro Dining Room

Tivoli Fest

May 28-29, 2016

EXHIBITS

Sense of Place

Through Spring 2016
Multimedia Room

Home: Sculpture by Dennis Andersen

Through May 8, 2016
Main Floor Gallery

Happy Danes on the Plains

Through April 2016
Kramme Gallery

Holiday Hours The museum will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will remain closed December 25-27. We will re-open with regular hours on Monday, December 28. The museum will close at noon on New Year's Eve and will remain closed January 1-3. We will re-open with regular hours on Monday, January 4.

museum purchases elim children's home property

On October 5, 2015 we closed on the purchase of land that adjoins our current property, adding five acres to the grounds. The land, purchased from the recently-dissolved First Baptist Church with the help of the congregation and a number of individual donors, is the site of the former Elim Children's Home. From 1890 to 1961 the Elk Horn Lutheran Church operated a children's home in a two-story house, and nearly 300 boys and girls passed through its doors. At times there were as many as 30 children living and working there. Following its

closure, the home was privately owned and later destroyed by fire. In 1983, 20 acres of the site were donated to the organizing body of The Danish Immigrant Museum by the Elk Horn Lutheran Church for the construction of the museum building.

"For many years, the museum's Board of Directors has felt that, should the Elim Children's Home property become available, because of its location, proximity, and historic nature, the museum should acquire it," stated John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director,

"We are especially grateful to the donors and congregation that have made this surprise opportunity possible."

In the exhibit video "Growing Up at Children's Homes" (<https://youtu.be/G9Fhb5pQrxo>) you can see interviews with former residents of the Elim Children's Home and Chicago Danish Children's Home, recounting memories of everyday life. The museum does not have any immediate plans for development of the site.



By
Nicky
Christensen

news from the genealogy center



MY FAVORITE DANE

Our display on Danish immigrant centenarians has come down and will migrate to the museum webpage during the winter. It's not too early to start planning for next year's photo exhibit, the theme of which will be "My Favorite Dane." If you have a photograph of a Danish

relative in your family that you just love, we hope you will share the image with us and tell us why it's meaningful to you or simply strikes your fancy. Further information and submission forms will be available on the museum webpage and via other media in early 2016.

OF LIBRARIES AND . . . FOOD!

Genealogy Center manager Michele McNabb spent a month in Denmark in August, visiting a number of libraries and local history collections, among other activities. As in the US, many of the latter are housed in public library buildings and depend upon volunteers, so are not open very many hours a week. Volunteers in these institutions are banding together to make their collections more available by scanning photographs and documents and putting them online at www.arkiv.dk. We can help you look for materials on this site (which is currently only in Danish) as well as locate local archives you may want to contact or visit when you go to Denmark.

Michele also learned that Danish eating habits have been changing in the last few decades and contemporary cuisine has very little in common with the recipes that we consider traditionally Danish. Having turned into a temporary "foodie," she offers this selection of views of her favorite meals from the trip. Note that, departing from her customary habit, no books are open next to the plates!



01. Karen Puggaard Karen Puggaard was an intrepid immigrant who lived in several western mining towns before settling in frontier New Mexico where, among other things, she ran a hotel. **02. Solbjerg** Like the Genealogy Center, the Solbjerg Area Archive south of Aarhus creates in-house exhibits from materials in their collection. **03. Solbjerg archive** Like the Genealogy Center, there is a wealth of archival and documentary resources that are not available online, well worth a visit.

NEW ADDITIONS to the Genealogy Special Collections include records from the Danish and English Baptist churches (which eventually merged) in Harlan, Iowa, and the Oakfield-Elk Horn Baptist church, which recently disbanded.

UPDATES TO OUR IN-HOUSE DATABASES include the Danish-American obituary index, an index to names from the Rorbeck, Iowa, area mentioned in the *Kimballton-Elk Horn Record* between 1916 and 1919, indexes to wedding anniversaries, marriages, and major birthdays printed in the *Audubon County Journal*, 1897-1975, as well as revised scanned images of Lutheran church books

from Audubon and the Bethany congregation near Kimballton. A long-term project, the scans will now allow us to search for specific types of records more quickly. We are also in the process of copying and scanning the early church records of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic.

GROWING PAINS (BUT THE NICE KIND)

Our library shelves are burgeoning once again. With the move of much of our Special Collections up to remote storage in the museum building over the summer, shelves were freed up to allow less-used parts of the collection to be moved from the Reading Room into a secondary room. Genealogy Center staff and volunteers are in the process of shifting the remaining books to allow more space for incoming materials. The current move should allow growth for about a year or so, after which we shall have to get creative!

VISITING the Genealogy Center during Julefest? Take a look at the small book truck in the lobby where duplicate or unneeded books are for sale at modest prices. There may just be something of particular interest to you!



04



05



06

In both restaurants and at home, Danish cuisine often turns into visual delights as well as being totally delicious. **04. Organic lunch in Aarhus** A fully organic lunch served at the Women's Museum in Aarhus. **05. Marianne's lunch offering** Former intern Marianne Frøsig Sørensen cooked up these delicacies for a lunch in Fredericia. **06. Harlan church** The Danish and English Baptist churches (which eventually merged) in Harlan, Iowa.

HOPE CHEST BLOG

The Danish Home of Chicago has a blog at <http://danishhomeofchicago.org/the-hope-chest/> that weaves historical fiction and a present-day storyline into a rich tale that you'll want to keep reading each week. You might learn something new about Danish and Danish-American culture! Subscribe to the blog to receive notifications of new posts by email.

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 the museum webpage. We welcome donations of or toward these materials, but since this list changes frequently, we ask that you contact us at librarian@danishmuseum.org before purchasing or sending items so that we may avoid duplicate donations.

ARE YOU A DANISH IMMIGRANT OR LONG-TERM RESIDENT?

Many Danes have immigrated to the US since WWII, have been exchange students or resided in this country for 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 for copies.

is everyone named jens peter?

CHANGES IN DANISH GIVEN NAMES, 1814-1954

When researching Danish ancestors it seems, at times, as if every second person on one's family tree is named Jens Peter or Hans Christian, Kristine/Kirstine or Ane Marie. While these given names were and are still quite common in Denmark, there was actually much variety in Danish names over the years.

Until fairly recently some restrictions were placed on the names that children could be baptized with (for example, they had to 'sound Danish' and could not be a frivolous name such as 'Glædelig' Juhl), but many of these have now been abolished. The most popular given names for newborns in Denmark today are a combination of traditional and

foreign: William, Liam, Frederik, Emil and Oliver being most popular for boys, and Sofie, Ida, Freja, Emma and Isabella, for girls.

Over the centuries the choice of Danish given names has been influenced by local tradition, historical events, geographical location, and ethnic affiliation, as well as social class. The use of multiple given names, for example, began in the upper classes and gradually filtered down into the urban middle class, and later, into the countryside. German naming patterns also influenced Danish given names, with stress often being on the second name, which became the person's "call name," or the name s/he was known by. To illustrate

this, I thought a comparison of names given to the first 10 males and 10 females baptized in parishes from several localities in Denmark over the period of a century and a half or so might be interesting. Names for the years 1814, 1864, 1914, and 1954 show some of these differences.

The localities chosen were Brovst parish in the former Hjørring County in northern Jutland, Hoptrup parish in the former Haderslev County in southern Jutland, Skt. Knud's parish in the central market town of Odense, Vor Frue Cathedral in Copenhagen, and Holmens parish, the traditional parish of the Danish navy and home parish of the many craftsmen who worked in the naval yards.



By
Michele
McNabb

1814 – Male Names				
Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Henrik Peter	Mathias	Johan Frederick	Carl	Frederic Wilhelm
Peder Christian	Peder	Christian	Ole Peter	Anthon Egenhard
Jens Andreas	Thomas	Henric	Hans Peter Julius	Andreas Georg
Peder Christian	Lauritz	Hans	Knud	Hans Peter
Niels	Hans Jørgen	Jens Peter	Søren Peter	Christian Ludvig
Jens Christian	Chresten	Hans	Jens Peter	Otto Didlev
Niels Christian	Hans Pedersen	Jens	Lauritz	Johan Christian Ludvig
Anders Christian	Nis Nielsen	Johan Peter	Kristian Elias	Christian
Søren	Hans	Julius	Frederick	Christian Peter
Niels	Mads	Marius	Mads Frederik	Wilhelm Bersenius
1814 – Female Names				
Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Anne Johanne	Maren Nielsen	Anna Kirstine	Johanne Cristiane	Jensine Susanna
Anne Johanne	Jensine Christine Marie	Hedevig Sophie	Josephine Theodora	Anne Rosine
Karen	Margrethe	Marie Caroline	Kristiana	Johanne Christiane
Anne	Elsebeth	Malfred Lovise	Anna Sophie Lovisa	Emilie Caroline
Kirsten	Christine	Birgithe Christiane	Kristiana Karolina	Caroline Kirstine
Kristen Marie	Maren Hansen	Anthonette Cathrine Regine Elisabeth	Ane Sophie	Marie Laurine
Karen Marie	Henriette Nielsen	Fredericke Regine	Ane Katrine	Anne Marie
Mette Marie	Johanne Kirstine	Charlotte Lovise Chamille	Oline Kristiana	Hedevig Kirstine
Mette Marie	Eline Cathrine	Karen	Birthe Boline	Serine Marie
Christiane	Ane Cathrine	Maren Johanne	Sophie Margrethe	Kirstine Caroline

In 1814, just after the Napoleonic Wars, most male given names were clearly traditional, often Biblical in origin, but the influence of German names can clearly be seen in the boys born in Holmens parish, where skilled craftsmen were often brought in from the Continent. In Jutland, traditional female names also predominate, while in Odense and the Copenhagen parishes girls' names have become more elaborate, often consisting of two or three elements.

1864 – Male Names				
Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Peder Jensen	Hans Christian Nielsen	Frederick August	Hans Frits Marius	Ludvig Christian
Lars	Johannes	Jacob	Carl Rudolph Ferdinand	Frederik Severin
Jens Peter	Hans Christian	Rasmus Peder	Christian Bredahl	Victor Emmanuel
Jens Christian	Theodor Nielsen	Peder Lauritz	Aage Valdemar	Johannes
Niels	Oluf	Rasmus Peder	Carl Vilhelm Alfred	Jørgen Brøkmann
Christen	Knud Egede	Marius Christian Vilhelm	Albert Viggo	Holger
Anton	Peter Hansen	Peder Christian	James Martin	Georg Anton Frederik
Carl	Iver Hansen	Hans Peder Marius	Niels Carl Marius	Frederik Rudolph
Niels Christen	Nis	Oskar Adolph	Edvard Emil	Thorvald Albert Justinus
	Jørgen Johansen	Martin Peder	Christian Frederik	Frantz Christian
1864 – Female Names				
Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Albertine Kirstine	Maren Nielsen	Johanne Marie Mathilde	Ida Frederikke	Marie Vilhelmine
Grete	Jensine Christine Marie	Karen Christine	Christine	Selma Johanna
Christiane	Margrethe	Dagmar Marie Augusta	Birthe Marie	Emma Adolphine Marie
Jensine	Elsebeth	Christiane Kirstine Jensene Petrine	Sophie Kirstine	Anna Elisabeth Jensine Christine
Ane Johanne	Christine	Karen Margrethe	Anna Bartholine Antonette	Johanna Magdalene
Ane Margrete	Maren Hansen	Laura Margrethe	Emma Christine	Theodora Emilie Vilhelmine
Grete Christine	Henriette Nielsen	Marie Kirstine Charlotte	Marybine Christine	Botilde Vilhelmine Agnes
Mette Marie	Johanne Kirstine	Johanne Cathrine Sophie Nicoline	Ellen Helvig	Marie Amalie
Nielsine Dorte	Eline Cathrine	Jørgine	Betty Henriette	Olga Marie Mathilde
Marie Natalie	Ane Cathrine	Mathilde Henriette Susanne	Wilhelmine Juliette	Hansine Marie
				Bombardine Georgine

In 1864, around the outbreak of the Second Dano-Prussian War and just before the great emigration period began, we see fairly traditional names still predominating in north Jutland. In southern Jutland, however, the appearance of a former patronymic as a “middle” name is evident, in part due to legislation encouraging families to use fixed surnames. In the towns and capital city, given names consisting of two or three elements had become extremely common, with only a small percentage of children receiving a single name.

1914 – Male Names

Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Niels Nørgaard	Jens	Poul Thorvald	Svend Aage	Ove William
Oskar Emanuel	Ejner Vibe	Niels Adam Sven	Helge Vilhelm Anton	Ole Grønborg
Marinus	Niels	Axel	Helge Karl	Poul Richard
Aage	August	Valdemar	Niels Peter Kjeld	Arne Elof
Emil Thorvald	Hans Juhl	Aage Robert	Jørgen Christian	Konrad Axel Bjerre
Kristen Jensen	Harald Henning	Carl Verner	Erhard William Mørkeberg	Helmuth Theodor
				Vilhelm Stage
Viggo Kristian	Andreas Jakobsen	Gunner	Jens Rudolph	Helge Hans
Jens Rikardt	Oluf Albert Ernst	Erich Edmund Friedrich	Svend Ove	Mogens Lappe
Herman Gunner Tegtmeyer	Nis	Hans Christian	Johan Mogens	Percy Ernst
Arnold Bruun	Hugo Christian	Svend Arne Leo Egon	Walter Einer Laurits	Erik

1914 – Female Names

Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Oda	Maria	Eva Gudrun Margrethe	Dorrit Schack	Else
Maren	Anna	Helga	Ally Riborg	Ebba Kirstine
Anna Sigrid	Maria Mathilde	Anna Margrethe	Edel Vita	Mabel Friede
Anne Dortna	Anna Margarete Ensold	Else Christine	Tova Frederikke Hortensia	Ester Minna
Margrethe	Kathrine	Inger Mette	Grethe Elisabeth	Grete
Johanne Petrea	Minnegrethe Christine	Elisa	Betty Christiane Cathrine	Gerda Alice Marie
Agnes Elisabeth	Marie Hansine	Gurli	Inger Elisabeth	Sigrid Magna Margrethe
Gudrun Victoria	Klara Marie	Else Margrethe	Ingeborg Edith Margareta	Hildur Solveig
Karen Viola Kirkegaard	Laura Mathea	Valborg	Agnes Hansine	Olga Julie Linnegaard
Anna Dorthea	Maria Johanna	Julie Else Egholdt	Asta Katrine Mary	Ingrid Valfrede

By 1914, just prior to the outbreak of the First World War, one sees a wide variety of given names in all the selected areas, as well as the appearance of a number of old Nordic names, such as Hildur, Aage, and Riborg. We still see the frequent use of compound given names, and farm or place-names are beginning to appear as “middle” names.

1954 – Male Names

Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Leif Kjær	Søren Henning	Finn Arvid	Preben	Michael Steen
Erik Boelskifte	Henning	Jørgen Rosenstand	Peter Andreas	Carsten Wang
Erik Hollen	Olav Ploug	Frank Nellemann	Ib	Kurt Lykke
Lars Peter	Jørgen Juhl	Ole Berg	Ken	Esben
Erik	Benny Uldahl	Johnny Poul	Bjarne Kirkegaard	Iver Steffan
Lau Hald	John Martin	Steen Kjerside	Erik Grann	Preben Egon
John Vestergaard	Bent Jørgen	Keld	Bo Holgar Lohmann	Johnny Steen
Poul	Gert	Johnny	Leif	Hans Henrik Skat
Frede	Gunnar	Torben Birk	Per Almstrup	Jan Poul
Karsten	Poul	Carsten	Bruno Holgaard	Michael Erik

1954 – Female Names

Brovst	Hoptrup	Skt. Knud	Vor Frue	Holmens
Ragnhild	Hanne Juhl	Viviane Blikfeld	Iben Jane	Vibeke Voigt
Anna Lise	Anne	Kirsten	Jessie Hanne	Lone
Else Marie	Eva	Brita Årup	Britta	Ingrid Elisabeth
Susanne	Doris	Birgit Kruse	Karen Birgitte	Libby Mørck
Anna Johanne	Helga Signe	Ulla	Hanne Stjernholm	Anne Bente
Maren Lisbeth	Birthe Gram	Marian Sundstrøm	Susanne	Alice Marion
Inger Elvira	Else Marie	Anne-Lise	Hanne Louise	Anni Hoffmann
Lone Søndermølle	Lone	Susanna	Birgitte	Tove
Lone Nohr	Bente	Hanne	Kathe Sophie	Lone Grethe Skougaard
Lisbeth Knusgaard	Anne Marie	Lene Engelbrecht	Dorte	Pernille Cathrine Marius

By the mid-20th century compound names have become less popular and traditional and older Nordic names are back in vogue. Throughout the country one can see the frequent use of farm, family or other identifying names as “middle” names. This last trend has continued to the present day, especially when a person’s last name is one of the common –sen names.

named gifts

For a more permanent legacy at the Museum of Danish America, we are pleased to offer a variety of naming opportunities. Support our vibrant and sustainable institution and help to preserve your Danish heritage, while ensuring that your generosity will be recognized for years to come. A range of named gifts are available for individuals, families, organizations, and corporations, enabling donors to pay tribute to their relationship with the museum or to honor and recognize someone special in their lives.

Please contact Development Manager Deb Christensen Larsen to see which of these may be available to suit your wishes.

Currently proposed naming opportunities include:

MUSEUM

Main Level Gallery
Front Circle Entrance
Flag Plaza
Concourse
Future Core Exhibit Addition
Individual Exhibit Spaces
Future Exhibit Space
Contemporary Artist Exhibit
Traveling Display
Curatorial Center Addition
Main Vault
South Vault
Visual Artifact Storage
Conference Room
Offices – Upper North Wing
LEGO Play Area

JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK

East Council Ring
Amphitheater
Country Lane
Pergola
East Museum Terrace
Introductory Interpretive
Feature
Interpretive Signs
Benches & Picnic Tables
Trees (Mature with Bronze
Plaque)
Trees (Young with Stake)
Shrubs
Brick Pavers

MUSEUM CAMPUS SITES

Bedstemor's House
Jens Dixen House
Genealogy Center

ENDOWED POSITIONS

Librarian
Research/Translation Manager
Curator of Collections/
Registrar

PROGRAMMING & EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Website
Videos
Brown Bag Lunch
Dinner and a Movie
Sankt Hans Aften
Tivoli Fest
Julefest



By
Deb
Christensen
Larsen

Named Gifts Achieved To see a list of those who are currently honored with a plaque or signage at the museum and Genealogy Center, visit www.danishmuseum.org/get-involved/recognition/naming-opportunities

update:

JENS JENSEN HERITAGE PATH PAVERS TO BE REPLACED

Five years ago the museum embarked on a landscaping project in harmony with its Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park. Three hundred forty-five museum donors have personalized a paver of three sizes in the Jens Jensen Heritage Path with its origins leading to and encircling the Flag Plaza. To date, 330 engraved pavers have been donated. Much to the museum's dismay, the engraving paint weathered away, making many of the pavers illegible. Last year 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 laser engraving on new, clay-based pavers will begin in Spring 2016.

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

new additions to the wall of honor

JUNE 19, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 16, 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 of Honor at www.danishmuseum.org.

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

LAURITS JACOB KRISTENSEN. CAPTAIN (1941) San Francisco, California – Kaj E. Kristensen, San Francisco, CA

MARTIN JENSEN ODDE (1904) Thermopolis, Wyoming – Virginia Odde, Thermopolis, WY

JOHANNA MATILDA OLESEN (1884) Shelby County, Iowa – Shirley Heilesen Doonan, Alexandria, MN

NIELS OLSEN & KAREN ANDERSEN OLSEN (1881) & (1882) Ruthton, Minnesota – Shirley A. (Svendsen) Christiansen, Mill Creek, WA; Robert Olsen, Arden Hills, MN; Kitty L. (Svendsen) Mercie, Marshall, MN; Randy Svendsen, Minneapolis, MN; Steven M. Svendsen, St. Marys, GA; Darrel Svendsen, Mount Pleasant, WI; Laura M. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Anita J. (Thomsen) Young, Eden Prairie, MN; Joyce E. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Paul D. Thomsen, Tyler, MN; Maren A. Stransky, Durango, CO

WILLIAM SVENDSEN & MARIE JENSEN SVENDSEN (1878) & (1869) Tyler, Minnesota – Shirley A. (Svendsen) Christiansen, Mill Creek, WA; Robert Olsen, Arden Hills, MN; Kitty L. (Svendsen) Mercie, Marshall, MN; Randy Svendsen, Minneapolis, MN; Steven M. Svendsen, St. Marys, GA; Darrel Svendsen, Mount Pleasant, WI; Laura M. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Anita J. (Thomsen) Young, Eden Prairie, MN; Joyce E. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Paul D. Thomsen, Tyler, MN; Maren A. Stransky, Durango, CO

JEPPE THOMSEN & BODIL MARIE PETERSEN THOMSEN (1893) & (1894) Viborg, South

Dakota - Marvin L. Thomsen, Glen Flora, WI; Lowell A. Thomsen, Tyler, MN; Carole A. (Thomsen) Wiese, Worthington, MN; Leon R. Thomsen, Naperville, IL; Eric Thomsen, Plainfield, IL; Jerome C. Jorgenson, Minot, ND; Marty L. Jorgenson, Minot, ND; Alvin Barenthsen, Powers Lake, ND; Paul D. Thomsen, Tyler, MN; Joyce E. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Anita J. (Thomsen) Young, Eden Prairie, MN; Laura M. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Maren A. Stransky, Durango, CO

THOMAS JEPSEN THOMSEN (1894) Tyler, Minnesota - Marvin L. Thomsen, Glen Flora, WI; Lowell A. Thomsen, Tyler, MN; Carole A. (Thomsen) Wiese, Worthington, MN; Leon R. Thomsen, Naperville, IL; Eric Thomsen, Plainfield, IL; Jerome C. Jorgenson, Minot, ND; Marty L. Jorgenson, Minot, ND; Alvin Barenthsen, Powers Lake, ND; Paul D. Thomsen, Tyler, MN; Joyce E. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Anita J. (Thomsen) Young, Eden Prairie, MN; Laura M. (Thomsen) Stransky, Durango, CO; Maren A. Stransky, Durango, CO

CORRECTION to Summer 2015 America Letter:

CHRISTIAN JACOBSEN (1906) Britt, Iowa – Patrick & Jill Morelli, Seattle, WA

in honor

JUNE 19, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

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

Jim & Janet Borge Crowle's 50th anniversary
Esther Frost
Stew & LeNore Hansen
Deborah Jensen Hjortsvang
Christian & Laura Jepsen

Lisa, Lori & Lana (daughters of Berger & Jo Rasmussen)
Merete Nieto's birthday
Folmer & Vera Nyby's 65th wedding anniversary
Poul & Benedikte Olesen

memorials

JUNE 19, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

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

Delbert Andersen
Hakon Andersen
Jens T. Carstensen
Clarice Christensen
Lloyd Christensen
Jens Jorgensen Danger
Edith Eastergard
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Stella Gibson-Flansburg
Ila Hagen
Andrew Hansen
Johannes Jaeger
Elmer Jensen

Oluf Jensen
James Jepsen
Ronald N. Johnson
Mathias B. Kolding
Edward Larsen
Paul C. Larsen
Rev. Homer & Eunice Larsen
H.C. Mathison
Elsie Rasmussen McNabb
Lucille Nelsen
Larry A. Nelson
Ole & Marie Olsen
Raymond Paulsen

Pola Peters
Charles E. Routhe
Christian A. Skow
Harold C. Skow
Neoma Steen
Anna Juhl Stub
C. A. Stub
Axel Edward Thomsen
Peter Thomsen
Karen Margrethe Thomsen-Kadgihn
Al Traaseth
Walter Westergaard

new members

JUNE 19, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

The Museum of Danish America is pleased to identify the following 60 individuals and organizations as its newest members:

Tracey Anderson, Glenwood, IA
Bob & Hjordis Jacobsen-Batt, Grand Rapids, MI
Andrea Brooks, Wahoo, NE
Elizabeth Christensen, Parkville, MO
Paul & Shirley Christiansen, Mill Creek, WA
Danish Archive North East, Edison, NJ
The Danish Cultural Center of Greenville, Greenville, MI
Michael Gross, Plover, WI
Keith Haan, Davenport, IA
Marilyn Hansen, Omaha, NE
Nels P. & Lori Hansen, Greenville, MI
Stephen & Suzanne Hansen, Tucson, AZ
Brett Hartnett, Vail, AZ
Charles & Lisa MacGuire Huff,

Fayetteville, GA
Jean Jackson, Western Springs, IL
Eric Jacobsen, North Liberty, IA
Kris Jensen, Bemidji, MN
Bart Kjolhede, Laingsburg, MI
Bob Kjolhede, Bolding, MI
Chris Kjolhede, Fly Creek, NY
Jim Kjolhede, Colleyville, TX
Charlie & Janet Knight, Papillion, NE
Charles Larsen, Blair, NE
Gary Larsen, Brodhead, WI
Christine Lundsberg-Geiger, Buffalo Grove, IL
Cheryl Lustgraaf, Storm Lake, IA
Phil & Janis Lustgraaf, Crescent, IA
Kate Martinsen, Decorah, IA
Sean & Laurie McNabb, Salt Lake City, UT
John & Cynthia Monroe, Cedar Rapids, IA

James & Vicki Nordskog, Atlantic, IA
Virginia Odde, Thermopolis, WY
Gaetha Pace, Boise, ID
Sandra Pace, Yakima, WA
Craig Paulsen, San Jose, CA
Jytte Rauh, Bække, Denmark
Max Riekse, Fruitport, MI
John & Carol Rudisill, Des Moines, IA
Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, Portland, OR
Cynthia Schmidt, Treynor, IA
Jim Sleister, West Burlington, IA
Gerald & Diane Smith, Gregory, SD
Dianne Snell, Auburn, WA
Colin Sorensen, Papillion, NE
Brian & Jo Tourtelotte, St. Paul, MN
Suzanne Ulrich, Cedar City, UT
Anthony Vance, Virginia Beach, VA
Dan & Shelia Wertz, Buffalo Grove, IL

digital edition

Want to receive this publication online instead of through the mail? E-mail media@danishmuseum.org to sign up to receive a link to future America Letters on Issuu.com.

membership expiration

Please note the date of your membership renewal appearing on the mailing label, near your name. All future *America Letters* will include this information as a gentle reminder to our members.

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.



thank you, organizations

JUNE 19, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 16, 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 Brotherhood Lodge Centennial Lodge #348, Eugene, OR area	Hastrup & Co A/S (Lars Hastrup), Hornbæk, Denmark
Andersen Windows (Sarah Andersen), Bayport, MN	Danish Brotherhood Lodges, Heartland District, Iowa-Minnesota & surrounding states	Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA
Answers (Frank R. Tighe), Atlantic, IA	Danish Brotherhood Lodges, Pacific Northwest District, OR & WA area	House of Denmark, San Diego, CA
Arcus AS (Christer Andre Olsen, Business Area Manager), Hagan, Norway	Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ area	Independent Order of Svithiod, Verdandi Lodge #3, Chicago, IL area
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, IA	The Danish Home, Chicago, IL	Ivy Marketing Group (Debra Sheridan), Glen Ellyn, IL
BIEN Publishing Inc. (René Gross Kærskov, Publisher), Pacific Palisades, CA	Danish Home for the Aged, Croton-On-Hudson, NY	Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Andersen Jepsen), Burr Ridge, IL
Boose Building Construction (Marty & Connie Boose), Atlantic, IA	Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA	Knudsen Old Timers, Yorba Linda, CA area
Carroll Control Systems, Inc. (Todd Wanninger), Carroll, IA	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #3, Davenport, IA area	Leman USA (Steen Sanderhoff), Sturtevant, WI
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA area	Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL area	Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA
Copenhagen Imports (Jorgen Hansen), Phoenix, AZ	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #20, Kenosha, WI area	Nelsen and Nelsen, Attorneys at Law, Cozad, NE
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA	Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21, Denver, CO area	O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI
Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, MN	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA area	Old Ballard Liquor Co. (Lexi), Seattle, WA
The Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, NE	Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Dike, IA area	Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P., Carroll, IA
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA area	Danish Sisterhood Lodges, Heartland District, Iowa-Minnesota & surrounding states	Outlook Study Club, Elk Horn, IA area
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI area	Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL	Oxide Design Co. (Drew Davies), Omaha, NE
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE area	Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA	Proongily (Cynthia McKeen), St. Paul, MN
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI area	Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn & Kimballton, IA area	The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA area	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 area	Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, CA	Red River Danes, Fargo, ND area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL area	Gamle Ode (Mike McCarron), Minneapolis, MN	Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lenexa, KS area	Hacways (Helene & Nanna Christensen), Hals, Denmark	scan design foundation by Inger & Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA area	Hansen Interiors (Torben & Bridget Ovesen), Mount Pleasant, WI	Shelby County State Bank, Harlan and Elk Horn, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Junction City, OR area	Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA	Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT area		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 (including online videos for applicable presentations), or the whole Brown Bag Lunch series! Contact us to discuss the possibilities that await you: 712.764.7001 or deb.larsen@danishmuseum.org.

position opening: genealogy center manager

In June we will say a fond *farvel* to our Genealogy Center Manager and Librarian, Michele McNabb, as she starts a new chapter in her fascinating life. Though she will be impossible to replace, we are seeking a personable, organized and energetic individual to manage the Genealogy Center after Michele's retirement.

Please share this information with anyone you think may be interested in leading the genealogy department of a national ethnic institution in beautiful western Iowa. **This is a full-time position with benefits.**

The Genealogy Center houses a non-circulating reference collection serving both museum staff and programming as well as researchers interested in Danish-American immigration, family history, and genealogy. The collection contains nearly 1,000 volumes covering Danish and Danish-American family and local history, immigration history, biography, institutions, churches, and related materials, as well as over 100 Special Collections and a significant number of periodicals and newsletters.

Application Deadline:

February 15, 2016

Starting Date: July 1, 2016

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Managing the day-to-day operations and collections of the Genealogy Center
- Providing research and translation services for patrons
- Participating in collection development with the Executive Director, Curator of Collections/Registrar and the Curator of Exhibitions
- Recruiting, training, supervising and evaluating Genealogy Center staff, volunteers and interns
- Managing volunteer schedules and projects and participating in volunteer recognition events
- Maintaining and updating Genealogy Center sections of museum webpage
- Writing and coordinating submissions for museum print and online publications
- Programing related to Danish and Danish-American family history and genealogy
- Representing the Genealogy Center and the museum to external entities, including development partners and professional associations
- Communicating regularly with the Executive Director and other museum staff
- Implementing operational policies and procedures
- Creating and monitoring the annual budget for the Genealogy Center, preparing and submitting regular financial and statistical reports; participating in fund-raising, grant-writing and partnership development efforts
- Other duties as assigned



Minimum Qualifications

- Masters-level degree from an accredited college or university in history, genealogy, sociology, anthropology, library science, museum studies or a related field, or equivalent work experience
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including
 - reading, analyzing, and interpreting genealogical documents, museum journals, legal documents and policy statements;
 - interacting with patrons, volunteers, regulatory agencies or the museum or library communities;
 - creating oral presentations and articles for publication that conform to prescribed styles and formats;
 - presenting information effectively to colleagues, public groups and the Board of Directors

- Excellent technology skills, including office software applications and social media
- Ability to meet deadlines and perform detailed work with accuracy
- Ability to structure one's own work schedule and work independently
- Devotion to delivering quality customer service
- Ability to bend and lift/ carry up to 20 lbs.

Desirable Qualifications

Special attention will be given to applicants having any of the following qualifications:

- Proficiency in Danish or another Scandinavian language
- Familiarity with PastPerfect™ museum software
- Demonstrated genealogical research experience at the intermediate or advanced level
- At least 2 years' supervisory experience

Cover letter, resumé and three references should be submitted by February 15, 2016 to:

Dr. John Mark Nielsen,
Executive Director
Museum of Danish America
2212 Washington Street
Elk Horn IA 51531
Johnmark.nielsen@danishmuseum.org

kransekage

MARZIPAN RING CAKE

By Louise Dam, www.nordicfoodliving.dk
Serves 6 | Prep time: 90 minutes

MARZIPAN RINGS

18 oz marzipan
4.5 oz sugar
1 ½ egg whites

ICING

1 egg white
5.5 oz powdered sugar
½ tsp white wine vinegar or white balsamic vinegar

DIRECTIONS

Marzipan Rings:

1. Whip well the egg whites and the sugar using a fork. Let it rest for a minimum of 15 minutes, however 30 minutes is preferred.
2. Divide the marzipan into smaller pieces and put it in a large bowl. Add the egg white/sugar mixture little by little and knead well until it has a uniform and smooth consistency. It is normal that you don't have to use all the egg white/sugar mixture.
3. Cover the bowl with some plastic wrap or aluminum foil and place it in the fridge for a minimum 30 minutes; longer is preferred.
4. Roll out the dough into two equal-sized bars 24" long.

5. Cut the first bar into three pieces with a length of 6", 7", and 11".
6. Cut the second bar into three pieces each with a length of 5", 8", and 9.5". There is a little extra pieces of dough, roll it into a small cone for the top of the cake.
7. Assemble each of the bars into rings and place them on a baking tray lined with parchment/baking paper.
8. Give each of the rings a gentle push, using two fingers to make them a little pointy at the top.
9. Preheat the oven to 400F and bake the rings at the center position for 10 minutes. They should only get a little light brown at the top and bottom. The baking time is dependent on the size of the rings, so keep an eye on them.
10. Let the rings cool off a bit before you move them to a grid for final cooling.
11. When the rings are completely cooled, you can decorate them with icing. If you have the time, make the rings two days in advance, bag them in a plastic bag and store them in the freezer before you decorate them. This will only make the rings even more moist and delicious.

Icing:

12. Whip the egg white, white wine vinegar, and powdered sugar together into a chewy and firm icing. Pour the icing in a plastic bag and cut a small hole at one of the corners. Use your hands to press out the icing through the small hole. Use it to decorate the marzipan rings in a classic zig-zag grid.
13. Assemble the marzipan cake starting with the largest ring and moving upwards with the smaller rings.

Tip: Serve the cake at New Year's Eve with champagne.



Kransekage is basically a marzipan cake shaped in rings, decorated with icing, and assembled on top of each other. The combination of kransekage and champagne is a Danish New Year's Eve tradition. Kransekage is also eaten at weddings and other special occasions.



museum of
danish america

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ELK HORN, IA 51531

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01

Glædelig Jul
og Godt Nytår

INSIDE GREETING



02



BACK



03

01. Our Annual Christmas Card, \$11/pkg of 10 with envelopes; individual card/envelope, \$2 **02. Our Annual Keepsake Porcelain Ornament**, \$16. Comes in gift box. Order early – limited quantities. **03. Robin Ornament**, \$13.50. Pluto Produkter is a Scandinavian Company founded in 1996 which designs, produces and sells home accessories, gift items and Christmas decorations. The unique Pluto design, a Scandinavian style, combines traditional shapes and thinking with a new modern look. **To order, call 800.759.9192 or visit www.danishmuseum.org**