

america|letter

WINTER 2017 | A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA



Military aircraft in Greenland set to resupply stations for the harsh Arctic winter.

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Hair Art
Ephemera of a Saboteur

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RESISTANCE



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A Royal Canadian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III and two C-130J Super Hercules aircraft from the 8th Wing Canadian Forces Base out of Trenton, Canada, are parked on the ramp at Thule Air Base. *Photo: Tech. Sgt. David Buchanan*

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**WHY "AMERICA LETTER?"**

Letters that were written by immigrants to family and friends back in Denmark are called "America letters" by historians. These letters are often given credit for influencing people to come to America, because they were full of details of how good life was here. We call our magazine *America Letter* because we also want to tell the good news about the museum and encourage people to join us!

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

director's corner

Christmas this year will be special for me. It will be my first one back in Denmark since 2011 and my wife Jennifer's first Christmas ever in Denmark. We will sing the songs ('*Glade jul*'—the Danish version of 'Silent Night'—is a personal favorite), attend service in the church I was baptized in, spoil some children with gifts and exotic candy from America, dance around the tree, and stuff our faces like Thanksgiving never ended.

The world has gotten a lot smaller since the first wave of Danish immigrants came over looking for land, opportunity, and a better future for themselves and their children. Instead of waiting for mail to make it across the Atlantic on a ship, I use my phone to Skype handsfree via Bluetooth during my morning commute from Omaha to Elk Horn. Communication is instant now, but technology is never going to be a substitute for being physically present. Like so many other immigrants, I have two homes now, and I know that I am very fortunate that I get to go back to the one I left behind. Especially for Christmas.

The holidays will also be a good time for me to reflect on my first year with the museum. I introduced myself in the Winter Issue *America Letter* last year and wrote that "it is all about the stories" for me. This is still very much the case. One year of total immersion in Danish America has only reaffirmed this. No matter

where I go, I am met with nothing but kindness, generosity, and a desire to share, discuss, and reflect on our cultural heritage. As someone who loves stories, people, and passion, *Celebrating Danish Roots and American Dreams* is the perfect mission to be on!

This summer, our good friend Walter Hansen passed away. He was the amazing storyteller in the movie *The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove*, a movie our museum helped produce and that you owe it to yourself to see. The memorial donations in his honor serve as a reminder of the deep connection between the museum and our community. We receive support in so many ways throughout the year. Our two annual appeals always receive a wonderful response. Word of mouth recommendations of our museum, gift memberships, and positive reviews on social media continue to be an important way for us to grow our membership. Our Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor is ever-growing, and we continue to receive financial support from organizations, clubs, and individuals for each event and exhibit. One of the most important components continues to be our Heritage Builder program.

One way to become a Heritage Builder is to name the museum in your will or trust. Another is to designate a portion of your life insurance policy to the museum. Jennifer and I did that earlier this year, because it is never too early

to start planning. You can also make the museum a beneficiary of your IRA, which can help your heir(s) avoid income tax and potential estate taxes. Finally, there is the option of establishing a charitable remainder trust, which will allow you to mitigate taxes and earn an income off your gift. If you want to know more about the program, I and members of the development staff, as well as our planned giving consultant, Paul Johnson, are always happy to discuss your options. We will feature our Heritage Builders in the upcoming editions of the *America Letter*, starting in this issue with Joy Ibsen. She does a great job of explaining why our cause is worth supporting and why you should consider making the Museum of Danish America part of your legacy.

Along with several board members, our Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture Tova Brandt, and our Genealogy Center Manager Kara McKeever, I had the pleasure of attending the "Danish American Fusion: a Blending of Cultures" conference in Schaumburg, Illinois on October 5-7. The conference was organized by our sister organization the Danish American Heritage Society and co-sponsored by the museum, Danish American Archive & Library, and Grand View University. The conference served to commemorate the society's 40th anniversary. The eclectic mix of great presentations from Denmark and America perfectly



By
Rasmus
Thøgersen

illustrated how our two countries have so much in common and yet still have so much to learn from each other. It is also important to remember that our museum would not have existed if it hadn't been for the Great Danes in the Danish American Heritage Society who began a conversation in 1979 about building a museum for us. Now an institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, we are approaching our 35th anniversary. We have come such a long way.

Speaking of Great Danes—at our board meeting in Elk Horn in October we got to unveil two very special portraits: one of King Frederik the 8th and one of King Christian the 9th. They came to America with Christian Castenskiold, cousin of Queen Margrethe the 2nd of Denmark, when he immigrated to California in 1951. Both paintings used to belong to the Danish royal family, and they hung in Amalienborg until they were acquired by Christian's family. Christian and his wife, Cecily, have been heavily involved in Danish America since they came over. I had the pleasure of visiting them both this summer, and they are just about the nicest people I have ever met. We are thrilled that they have trusted us with these two wonderful pieces, and we hope you will have the chance to see them in Elk Horn.

On September 29, we had a successful opening reception for our new exhibit *Denmark – America's Smallest and Biggest Ally*. We are grateful to the Deputy Chief of Mission from the Danish Embassy in Washington DC, Lars Bo Møller, and retired Naval Commander Jim O'Keefe

for representing American veterans for their attendance at the opening. We are grateful for the expert advice we received while creating the exhibit. We are grateful for the generous support we received from sponsors as well as the great responses we already have gotten. Most of all, we are grateful for the presence of two Danish veterans, Nikolaj "Blåøje" Frederiksen and Benjamin Kragsskjold. They are part of the Danish Wounded Warriors group and came over from Denmark just to attend our event and to celebrate the alliance between our countries. To honor them and their fellow veterans, entrance to the museum will be free for all veterans for the duration of the exhibit (through September 3, 2018).

On a personal note, I want to share why this particular exhibit means so much to me. These are chaotic and divisive times. The polarization of public discourse in America seems to get worse with each 24-hour news cycle. Amidst heated debate that frustrates anyone looking for moderate voices, there is too much "us vs. them." I fear that many Americans feel that they are growing isolated. Isolated from each other. Isolated as a country.

There is no single answer, no simple solution, but I am a believer in the transformative power of museums. We tell our stories in order to encourage thinking, learning, and growing as human beings. A recent review in *The Seattle Times* described our *Whimsical World of Bjørn Wiinblad* exhibit, which is had been at the Nordic Heritage Museum, as a "lighthearted show that

feels almost custom-designed to neutralize politics-fueled anxieties." Our current big exhibit, while being far from lighthearted, will hopefully be able to appease troubled minds in a very different way. I'm speaking specifically of the part of the exhibit dedicated to the modern coalition—of which Denmark has been a part since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

We are well aware that such a topic can be controversial and easily politicized. Most of us have strong opinions on the conflict, and, at face value, a war isn't the best place to start mending wounds. However, our story isn't about war. It is about an alliance. A partnership. It is about Danes who have stood alongside Americans in Afghanistan and Iraq. Who have fought, suffered, and sacrificed under the same foreign skies as their American brothers and sisters. Compared to the size of the Danish population, Denmark committed more soldiers to combat in Afghanistan than most other members of the coalition and suffered among the highest casualties per capita of any coalition nation. That is what makes the story of the alliance between our two countries, Denmark and the United States, such an important one to tell.

It is a reminder that we are part of a wider world, not separate from it. It is my hope that the story of our alliance can reach those who may feel isolated and inspire feelings of belonging in the world—no matter our heritage.

Glædelig jul allesammen!

Rasmus

board of directors meet in elk horn

OCTOBER 19 – 21

Many people might think that a three-day meeting would be a bit dull and even boring. You wouldn't know it to look at our board of directors and staff at the recent annual meeting held in Elk Horn. This group looks forward to seeing each other three times a year, working together to execute the museum's mission, and having great fun along the way.

After each day of meetings, a social gathering is planned for the evening. With over 100 people in attendance, Thursday evening was spent at the Cottonwood Barn in Kimballton having dinner and watching "The Voices of Ellis Island" presented by actor and storyteller, Pippa White.

During our day of meetings on Friday, we took a break to have lunch at the newly constructed Kimballton Town Hall. Long-time Kimballton resident and museum supporter Annette Andersen gave the group a short history lesson, then a walking tour of the Little Mermaid Fountain and Hans Christian Andersen Sculpture Park. If you haven't visited Kimballton recently, you should take some time to do so the next time you come to the Danish Villages.

We welcomed two new board members, Peder Hansen (Omaha, NE) and Eric Olesen (Racine, WI) and thanked out-going board members Ron Bro (Cedar Falls, IA) and Jerry Schrader (Elk Horn, IA) for their six years of service to the museum.

There was also an outing for spouses – Dawn Nielsen led a group into the prairie to harvest and sow wildflower seeds, something that may become an annual event, weather permitting!

The board of directors is comprised of 25 men and women from across the U.S. as well as one currently living in Denmark. They have a variety of backgrounds, talents, and interests, with the common denominator of continuing our mission of "*celebrating Danish roots and American dreams.*"

If you're interested in learning more about becoming a board member, please contact Deb Christensen Larsen at the museum.

BOARD MEMBERS

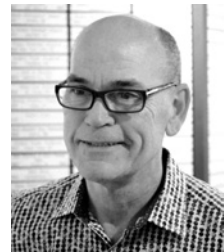
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By
Terri
Johnson



Photos from board meeting courtesy of David Hendee, Omaha, NE.

the joy of giving

I am very grateful to be a Danish American. If I could choose to live at another time, it would be in Denmark at the same time as three historic figures: the great storyteller Hans Christian Andersen (who helped raise me), the great philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (who motivated me to attend graduate school at the University of Chicago Divinity School), and N.F.S. Grundtvig (the great theologian-hymn writer-educator-nation builder, who has my unstrained admiration). What a legacy we have! These are three Danes who left their mark on Denmark and on the world.

I love Danish music and singing, enjoy folk dancing and gymnastics. Even today I like to start my morning with simple exercises I learned as a child in Danish gymnastics class. The more I learn about Denmark and Danish values, the more influenced I am by “Danishness,” and the happier and more grateful I am to be part of it. Experiencing Danish traditions is necessary to re-energize “Danishness”—*æbleskiver* days, kringle, open-faced Danish sandwiches, an almond in the *risengrod* at Christmas, *nisseman* in the garden, and a shot or two of aquavit. SKÅL!

As I have grown “more Danish” with age, I have learned that treasuring my heritage has increased my interest and empathy for other cultures – Hispanic, African-American, Chinese, Native American, etc. I can’t help but identify with their feelings and share in their love of traditions and honoring cultural expressions – whether at a powwow, jazz festival, tea, or simply being with friends.

Most important to me are Danish values, three of which Edward and Hanna Broadbridge and I presented at the Danish American Heritage Society’s “Danish-American Fusion” conference in Schaumburg, Illinois this October. My role was the Danish-American aspect of three major Danish values: *hygge* (cozy well-being), *lighed* (egalitarianism), and *fornuft* (what is reasonable). Can you think of anything more important to bring into our American culture at this time? I can’t. And the best way to bring more *hygge*, more *lighed*, and more *fornuft* into American life is by “living accordingly.”

One way to “keep Danish” is via the Museum of Danish America, because the museum is as much – even more – about the future than it is about the past. Why should we remember the past except to help us build our future? The stories of the immigrants are critical. Think of the courage, the stamina, the faith it took our great-grandparents to build new lives. In many ways, life has become easier, but it has also become much more complicated. Later immigrants who came in the 20th century may not have had as many problems meeting basic living needs (health, food, shelter) as those in the 19th century, but they did have challenges, increased responsibilities, unexpected accountabilities, and confusing ethical choices that needed to be handled. Today’s challenges are at least equally worrisome – climate change, toxic wastes, robots taking jobs, increased violence – for example.



By
Joy
Ibsen,
Editor:
Church and Life

Our Museum of Danish America reaches to the past and touches to the future. Learning how past issues were resolved, or survived, are helpful in meeting the difficulties we face today. We come to the museum to learn about our past – to feel a bit of awe, understanding some of what it must have been like out on the prairie in 1890 or struggling to build a folk school in 1905, or resisting the Nazis in the early 1940s. When I look for my grandparents or great-grandparents' names on the Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor, I recall how my grandmother Marie's confidence in her grandchildren always overshadowed any self-doubt any of us could possibly have; how great-grandfather Mads managed to celebrate Christmas with his sons in a cave because the railroad went broke and they lost two months' pay; how Harald, my father, rode a freight car to serve his first church in Oakland, California. When we have strength like that in our ancestry, we can't help but feel better prepared for the future.

For most of my working career I was a fundraiser for hospitals and also a consultant. I learned that giving gifts is the healthy, and the happy, thing to do. It is good for your heart. (The cardiac rehab patients thought I was kidding them, but I was serious!) People who give money are happier people! Giving is something to enjoy doing. It is a way of concretely expressing gratitude. A gift can heal by bringing closure or providing an opening, a new opportunity. More than once I have known a gift to be healing for families who gave gifts in memory of their loved ones. I have seen firsthand how powerful an unexpected estate gift can be to the future of an organization. You have no idea how much your gift, large or small, can really mean! As much as I enjoyed hospital work, I realize many hospitals change ownership and ways of providing services. But museums will always be there; they are soldered to their purposes and rarely, if ever, change ownership. Giving to the Museum of Danish America is a solid investment, a link to the past – a gift for the future!

More than a decade ago, I was on the board of the museum. As far as I know, all of the goals we made for the museum in those somewhat trying years have been realized – including the recent certification by the American Alliance of Museums. This happened only through the cooperation of a talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous donors.

THANK YOU – all of you – for investing in the future!

hair jewelry and memorial art in danish america

From the mid to late 19th century, hair became an expression of an intense longing for those not present. The locket, wreath, ring, or brooch made from the hair of a loved one (living or dead) were common aspects of Victorian culture, and at the Museum of

Danish America, there is a very fine collection of these mournful and sentimental pieces. In this setting they raise new and interesting questions about loss, longing, and physical distance, and how the Danish immigrants sought to bridge this gap.

In order to better understand the cultural significance of hair pieces in the 19th century, it is important to contextualize it. To the Victorians, these hair pieces were more than just mementos. In fact, they were a way for individuals to physically connect with one another, despite distance or death. Deborah Lutz, Ph.D., author of *Relics of Death in Victorian Literature and Culture*, draws an interesting parallel between the lock of hair and relic culture when she argues that “Nineteenth-century relic culture speaks [...] of a desire to see death as not permanent, in that material remains might be proof that the loved one still exists somewhere, somehow.”

As such, the lock of hair signified that the dead were still present.¹ In addition, Lutz’ argument shows that the lock of hair is tied up with the notion of a continued physical presence of the deceased or loved one far away. So strongly is the lock of hair tied to the idea of a physical presence that Lutz argues that “[t]o possess a piece of the beloved might provide a link to that body lost.”² This direct link between the body of the hair donor and the lock of hair itself then shows a level of intimacy and closeness that would remind the owner of the lock of a corporeal person.



01

¹Lutz, Deborah, “The Dead Still Among Us: Victorian Secular Relics, Hair Jewelry, and Death Culture”, source: *Victorian Literature and Culture*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2011, pp. 127 - 142, published by: Cambridge University Press, accessed: 07-03-2017, URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41307854>, pp. 128 (Reference: Lutz. Brackets added). ²Lutz, pp. 130 (brackets added).



By
Peter Hansen,
former Scan
Design Intern

01. Hair flowers Weaving the hair of several individuals together suggests a desire to make a physical expression of closeness and intimacy. This, coupled with the personal message, shows that there was a mother in Denmark who missed her child dearly. A hair flower like this displaces the feelings of loss and longing felt by family members left behind in Denmark. 1996.141.001 - *Gift of Birthe Tøvlum*

If jewelry, wreaths, or other sentimental things were so intimately tied up with the donors of the hair, then how does this relate to the Danish immigrant story? In the museum's collection there is a fascinating artifact which will serve as a case study. The piece is a flower made by a Danish mother from the hair of several family members that was then shipped over to her child in the States. It rests on a pillow that says "A flower I would like to send to you, of mine and your dear ones' hair. It shall be a memory from me, your old mother."

I will argue that this artifact reveals an important, but often overlooked aspect of the emigration narrative: not only did the immigrants have to leave their country behind, but their departure was deeply felt by those who stayed in the home country. This argument is strengthened by a statement from Lutz, who argues that "the piece of the person can bring the presence of the whole."

This is particularly relevant as it shows a deep loss felt by those in Denmark and an intense longing for some sort of physical nearness, felt by this Danish mother.³

Another interesting aspect is that this piece is made from the hair of several individuals. While this practice was not uncommon, it does provide an insight into the emotional life of the Danish immigrants and their loved ones in Denmark. Lutz argues that "[i]ntertwining the hair of two or more individuals made present, some believed, a relationship consigned in reality only to memory, or fantasy."

This flower made from hair is then not only a sentimental reminder of home, it is a physical signifier of strong familial bonds.⁴ In other words, the hair flower becomes a way for individuals to cement a feeling of family and unity, despite long distances.

To us, the custom of making hair wreaths and jewelry may seem odd and even off-putting, but to the 19th-century immigrants, they were real and tangible proofs of family relations. As such, they may have provided some measure of comfort and sense of connection to Denmark, as well as being physically close to one's family.

To see more hair-related artifacts from the museum's collection, you can see the mini exhibit "Hair Jewelry and Memorial Art" in the lower level at the Museum of Danish America.

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Lutz, Deborah
 "The Dead Still Among Us: Victorian Secular Relics, Hair Jewelry, and Death Culture"
 Source: *Victorian Literature and Culture*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 2011, pp. 127 - 142
 Published by: Cambridge University Press
 Accessed: 07-03-2017
 URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41307854>



³Lutz, pp. 131. ⁴Lutz, pp. 132 (brackets added).

02. Hair flowers Museum records on the pieces showed that they belonged to a Nels Peter Petersen and his wife Martha Marie. They also claimed that they were married in 1878 and that Martha Marie came to the U.S. in 1877. However, thanks to the Genealogy Center, it was revealed that the couple had in fact been married in 1876, and most likely commemorated their wedding with these memorial pieces. *2000.018.001 & 2000.018.002 - Gift of Donald Peterson*

inventory complete

Earlier this year, the Museum of Danish America was awarded accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums, something that fewer than three percent of U.S. museums have accomplished! A key component in that was the level at which we document and care for our artifact collections. At the end of August, we completed a major project that started in the fall of 2006: a complete inventory, cataloging, and digitization of our object collection.

The object collection includes all three-dimensional pieces such as tools, jewelry, garments, furniture, and more. We now know that within this object collection are a total of more than 15,000 individual artifacts. Over the course of this 11-year project, 1 full-time staff member, 16 interns, and at least 9 volunteers were part of its successful completion.

So why did it take so long? Museums routinely inventory their collections either by section or in totality. A standard inventory involves two basic steps: recording the artifact's identification number and recording its home location. In addition to these two, our project had a few more steps which increased the time dedicated to it:

1. Writing a detailed description of what every single piece looks like and is made of, including color, shape, inscriptions, maker's marks, and more
2. Recording dimensions – height, length, width, diameter
3. Recording all damage and wear, including scratches, cracks, stains, and missing or broken parts
4. Taking photographs from all angles of every artifact for documentary purposes

5. Retrieving all known historical information about each piece from paper donation files and additional research

6. Entering all data and photographs into PastPerfect, our collections database

7. Considering some artifacts for removal from the collection if they do not have significant history, do not support our mission, are duplicates, or are in poor condition

8. Rehousing artifacts as needed, such as moving a fragile artifact to a box or mounting it on a backing board for support, or providing padding for textiles to alleviate damage caused by hard folds



By
Angela
Stanford

01.-02. Trunks, suitcases, and tables in their home locations in the Main Vault of the Christensen Curatorial Center.

Thanks to the inventory, the museum can collect in a more focused and strategic way because we know where the gaps are in terms of time periods, events, and types of objects. Artifacts can be easily located for exhibit or research use because of accurate home locations. More catalog records and related photos are in the database, which is available online to our members at and above the \$100 level. Here, it is known as “View Our Collection.”

Looking ahead, the paper collections will be processed in the same fashion. This year’s American intern, Sadie, will work with the photograph collection over her six months in Elk Horn. A newly hired, two-year, grant-funded Archival Collections Manager, Cheyenne, will work with the archival collections – original documents, passports, letters, publications, and more. By 2020, all artifact collections are scheduled to be finished.

Because this project has been so thorough, future inventories will be quick and easy, which will allow staff, interns, and volunteers to focus time, energy, and resources on other important projects. Intellectual and physical control over collections is important on a practical level for any museum, and it is required for accreditation. We are thrilled with all that we have accomplished!



In case you’re curious, in the museum’s object collections are...

- 1 taxidermy bird
- 3 union suits (long johns!)
- 5 hammers
- 7 barometers
- 12 razors
- 19 æbleskiver pans
- 44 necklaces
- 57 chairs
- 64 trunks and suitcases
- 194 dolls
- 209 doilies
- 239 paintings
- 633 commemorative plates

03.-04. Medals and shoes in Visual Storage, a room with glass on three sides so that visitors can enjoy many of the more than 8,500 pieces stored here. **05. Paintings** arranged on the hanging racks in Permanent Storage.

archives grant project

In June, the Museum of Danish America was awarded a grant from the Historical Resource Development Program, administered by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. This grant funds a two-year, full-time Archival Collections Manager who is tasked with processing the museum's archival collections.

Over the course of many years, the Curatorial Department and the Genealogy Center have

each developed independent collections of passports, letters, documents, and other paper materials. The two collections essentially duplicate each other, and the processing systems differ between departments. Over the next two years, these collections will be merged into one, sorted into a consistent and usable system, and listed on a finding aid that will allow us to know what the collection contains and where it is.

In October, Cheyenne Jansdatter began her position as Archival Collections Manager. Cheyenne has a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Denver, and experience with several projects like this one. She is excited to join the staff of the Museum of Danish America not only to further her professional experience, but also to connect to her own heritage – her father is Danish!

Greetings! My name is Cheyenne Jansdatter. I am the newly appointed Archival Collections Manager at the museum. I am extremely excited to join the Museum of Danish America family. My position combines two of my great passions — archival work and being a Danish American. I am first-generation American on

my father's side and have split time between both countries.

I attended Dana College for my undergraduate degree and double majored in German language and International Studies with an emphasis in history, taking a minor in Danish language. After working various jobs following graduation and trying to decide what my life's work would be, I became a high school assistant librarian. This position piqued my interest, and I realized how many options were available in the field of Library and Information Science. I attended graduate school at the University of Denver and received my M.L.I.S. in 2015.

I have done several internships in both digital and analog archives, most recently at the American Alpine Club Library, the University of Colorado - Boulder's Norlin Library, and History Colorado Center.

During my time at the Museum of Danish America I will focus primarily on combining two archival collections. The collections are comprised of 472 boxes of archived materials that were accessioned by the Genealogy Center and 182 boxes accessioned by the Curatorial Department. The goal of this process is to make one cohesive archive that can be easily accessed by future users. The archives will often be used by those doing research, either for personal or professional reasons.

I am excited to return to the Midwest and to be working with a group that is so committed to preserving Danish-American history, making sure that the information is easily accessible to whomever wants to access it.



new interns

NICOLAJ STENGAARD JENSEN

Hello there! My name is Nicolaj, and I am the Scan Design Foundation intern! I have been here since August 14 and am very excited to work at a museum that is dedicated to showing the culture of my home country. I am currently studying Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Copenhagen, where I am slowly finishing my master's degree, to be completed in 2018. I currently possess a bachelor's degree in the same subject (with a specialty in museology), which I earned in February 2016. During my time of study, I have joined two excavations, one in Jordan (2014) and Egypt (2016). Being on an excavation is very hot and tiring, but immensely interesting at the same time! I also took museology at the university, which is one of the biggest reasons why I am at the museum today.



As the exhibitions intern, I will be assisting in preparing for future exhibitions, which includes doing a ton of translations and research. My big project will involve creating my very own (small) exhibition, which will be up sometime before I leave on January 28. So far I have enjoyed meeting the people of Elk Horn, who have been very kind and welcoming to us new interns. I look forward to continuing my time here, creating my own exhibition, and getting to know everyone better.

SADIE COLEBANK

Hello, my name is Sadie. I am the new collections intern at the museum, and I am very excited to join the team. My hometown is in Pennsylvania. I majored in Anthropology and minored in History and Japanese at Penn State as an undergraduate.



Between finishing my bachelor's degree and beginning graduate school, I taught English in Japan for two years. In May I graduated from The George Washington University with an M.A. in Anthropology and Museum Training. While in graduate school I was fortunate enough to take classes at the National Museum of Natural History with professors who work for the Smithsonian. It was an amazing experience. Also during that time I interned at Alexandria Archaeology, The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, and The Textile Museum at The George Washington University.

At the Museum of Danish America, my project will be to inventory the photograph collection and ensure that all the photographs are digitized, cataloged, and in good condition. There are over 6,000 photographs, so it will be a big job! Additionally, I will be helping out with any other collections-related tasks that arise. I look forward to learning more about the museum, its collections, and the wonderful people who work and visit here!

denmark – america's smallest and biggest ally



01

**ON VIEW THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 3, 2018 IN THE
KRAMME GALLERY**

For over two centuries, Denmark and the United States have shared an uninterrupted diplomatic relationship. Though each nation has experienced dramatic changes during that time, they have maintained an open communication about shared interests and concerns.

This exhibition explores the relationship between Denmark and the United States on an individual and national level. Global leaders make policy decisions in response to world events, and those decisions impact the lives and experiences of individual people.

EARLY HISTORY

Denmark first recognized the United States as an independent nation in 1792. Since 1801 there has not been any interruption in that diplomatic relationship.



By
Tova
Brandt

01. Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen (left) and President George W. Bush meet at Camp David, Friday, June 9, 2006. *White House photo by Eric Draper.*

Through the 1800s, Denmark and the United States had little direct involvement in each other's affairs. Each nation had its own internal issues: in the United States, the North/South conflict that would erupt into the Civil War; in Denmark, two wars fought over the duchies of Slesvig and Holsten. By the end of the 19th century, the United States was a rising global power while Denmark had lost significant territory and population to Germany.

Though the two nations did not officially collaborate on major issues in the 19th century, many Danish immigrants and Danish Americans were personally involved in American conflicts.

One notable early example is Christian Febiger, a Dane who enlisted during the Revolutionary War; known as "Old Denmark," Febiger rose through the ranks to become one of George Washington's most trusted officers.

An estimated 1,500 Danish immigrants fought in the American Civil War (1861-1865), most for the Union Army. Several enlisted in the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment, often called the "Scandinavian Regiment" because it specifically recruited Norwegians, Swedes, and Danes to fight under a Norwegian immigrant colonel, Hans Christian Heg.

WORLD WAR I

As continental Europe descended into war in 1914, both Denmark and the United States aimed to remain neutral in the conflict. Having lost the Second Slesvig War to Germany in 1864, Denmark was very concerned about the prospect of German invasion and occupation. The United States remained neutral for the first years of the war, until finally joining the Allies in April 1917.

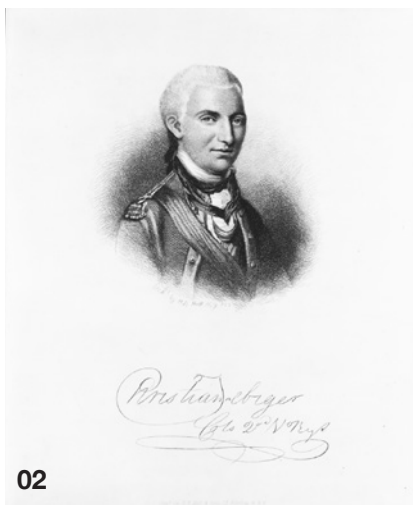
When the United States committed to the war, it mobilized a vast effort to recruit and train soldiers from all walks of life. Immigrants who enlisted could

earn a faster route to American citizenship.

World War I ended with Germany's surrender on November 11, 1918. The Treaty of Versailles laid out the terms of post-war reparations and reconstruction. One of the provisions called for a public referendum in Slesvig, to determine whether the Danish-majority sections would remain part of Germany or be joined with Denmark. As a result, northern Slesvig became part of Denmark in 1920.

CARIBBEAN

For almost 300 years the islands of St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Croix were known as the Danish West Indies. Though nominally Danish, the colonists were a mix of Danish, British, and Dutch settlers and many enslaved people from Africa. The economy of the islands centered around sugar plantations and trade, making the most of the islands' deep harbors.



02. Hans Christian Febiger (1749-1796) served as a colonel in the Revolutionary Army and was known as "Old Denmark." *Engraving by H.B. Hall, from the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, DC.*

03. Andrew Overgaard and Jens Jensen, Danish immigrants who enlisted in Iowa in 1918. *2004.044.013 - Gift of Glen and Rosa Clemens, in memory of Jens P. Jensen.* **04. Andrew Patterson**, a Danish immigrant who served in the U.S. Navy. *2002.029.011 - Gift of Henry D. Patterson.*

By the 1860s, the United States was openly considering purchasing the islands, and Denmark was openly considering selling them. Though several rounds of negotiations failed to reach an agreement, the circumstances around World War I made the United States more determined to complete the purchase. With Europe engaged in war, the United States was concerned that Denmark might be pressured to sell the islands to Germany – which would then provide Germany with a naval base in the Western Hemisphere from which they could launch submarine attacks or interrupt international shipping. Anticipating the United States entering the war, the Americans completed the purchase of the Danish West Indies – now the U.S. Virgin Islands – on March 31, 1917, just one week before declaring war on Germany.

The U.S. Virgin Islands continue to be a U.S. territory, administered by Governor Kenneth E. Mapp. Cultural ties to Denmark can be seen in the names of the main

towns, the ongoing presence of Danish heritage organizations, and the commemoration of their history on Transfer Day, March 31.

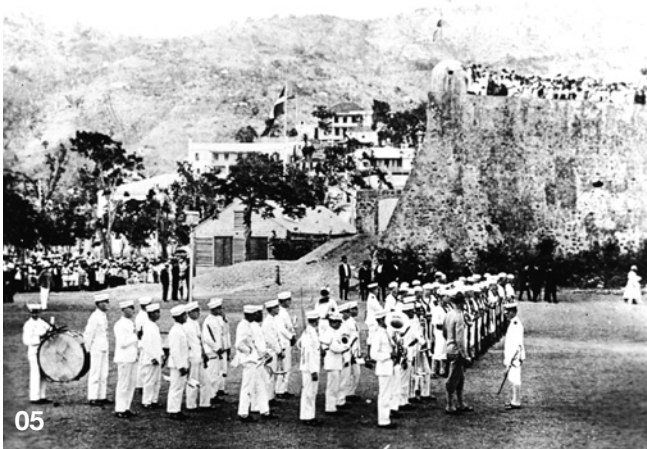
WORLD WAR II

Just like in World War I, both Denmark and the United States sought to remain neutral when war again broke out in Europe in 1939. However, Nazi Germany invaded Denmark on April 9, 1940, beginning a five-year occupation. America entered the war in December 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Danish Ambassador to the United States, Henrik Kauffmann, proved to be a critical person in maintaining and shaping U.S. – Danish relations through the war. Kauffmann argued that the Danish government was being held hostage by the Germans, and therefore did not represent the best interests of the Danish people. The Nazi-influenced government in Copenhagen tried to recall Kauffmann and replace him with their own ambassador, but Kauffmann refused to leave Washington D.C. and remained to represent “Free Denmark.”

Henrik Kauffmann actively promoted Danish interests and closer ties with Washington. When the Danish government collapsed in 1943, Kauffmann continued to represent “Free Denmark” in defiance of the Nazi occupation. After the war, the Danish state officially pardoned Kauffmann and rewarded him for his wartime service.

At the end of the war, the victorious Allies established the United Nations and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), both intended to protect the new world order. Denmark, having never officially declared war on Germany, was in a difficult situation. Were they Allies? Had they been too compliant with the German occupiers? Several factors ensured that Denmark was included in the post-war alliance of victorious nations: during the war 6,300 Danish sailors had joined Allied merchant navies; the Danish Resistance coordinated efforts with the British SOE (Special Operations Executive); many Danish ships were intentionally sunk to prevent Germany from using them; and in 1943 Danish citizens went on strike to oppose the Nazi occupation.



05. Danish and U.S. Navy bands preparing to play prior to the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States on the Island of St. Thomas, March 31, 1917. The U.S. bought the Islands for \$25 million, the highest price ever paid for an American territorial acquisition. *Photo courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command.* **06. Anton, Robert, and Harold Berg** grew up in Des Moines, the three sons of Danish immigrant parents. All three served in World War II. During the war their mother wrote a letter to each son every week, totaling over 600 letters. *Photo courtesy of Harold Berg.*

GREENLAND

Greenland is the largest island in the world, positioned in the Arctic, and mostly covered by glaciers. It has a long history of human settlement, both with native Inuit people and European settlements dating to the Viking Age. Since 1721 Greenland has been a colony of Denmark; it achieved home rule in 1979 and self government in 2009.

When Denmark was occupied by Nazi Germany, its territories were cut off. In the case of Greenland, this caused a lot of uncertainty. Who was in charge? Which side of the war would control the territory?

The United States recognized the strategic importance of Greenland as a stepping stone to Europe. Through negotiations with Henrik Kauffmann, the Danish Ambassador in Washington, D.C., the United States signed a treaty to allow the building of U.S. military bases on Greenland. During World War II, Greenland was an important stopover site for American planes traveling to Europe. After the war, as tensions rose between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, Greenland remained a strategic outpost for monitoring Soviet missile activity.

One provision of the Greenland treaty was that Denmark did not allow any presence of nuclear material on Greenland or other Danish territories. In 1968 an American B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons crashed 10 kilometers south of Thule Air Force Base. The crash exposed the fact that top-level Danish officials had tacitly allowed the U.S. to deploy nuclear weapons around Greenland, and led to a

political crisis between the two nations. Diplomatic relations became hostile for a time, but eventually the situation calmed down and led to an agreement that the United States could no longer store or carry nuclear weapons within Greenland without informing the Danish government.

Over time 36 sites were developed by the American military and then abandoned. Currently the Thule Air Force Base remains an active U.S. military site, important for military observation, missile defense, and scientific research.

Greenland now enjoys self government. Foreign policy and defense policy are still the responsibility of Denmark but in close cooperation with Greenland in matters of interest and relevance for Greenland.



07. Residents of Narsarsuaq raised the flags of Greenland, Denmark, and the United States on June 6, 2016, the 75th anniversary of the Americans' arrival on the site to create an air base. The former base is now a museum. *Photo courtesy of Ole Guldager / Narsarsuaq Museum.*

COLD WAR

After World War II, the world order was reorganized around two new super powers: the United States and the Soviet Union. Most nations in Europe, North America, and Asia aligned themselves with one or the other, making an American-leaning Western bloc and a Soviet-leaning Eastern bloc. Though some nations chose to remain neutral in this new Cold War, Denmark was persuaded to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a founding member in 1949. This would assure the mutual defense of member countries in the event of military aggression from any other source.

The dividing lines of the Cold War left Denmark in a precarious position. Denmark sits at the mouth of the Baltic Sea, and therefore held a strategic position for monitoring naval traffic from the Soviet Union. In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a majority of missiles headed for Cuba had to pass close to the coastal areas of Denmark. *Langelangsfortet* (the Fortress of Langeland) played a role in observing the Soviet ships and reporting back to the NATO high command. After U.S. President Kennedy had given a speech warning the Soviets to back down, the crew stationed at the *Langelandsfortet* reported that one of the Soviet ships had turned around and was sailing back to the Baltic Sea.

NATO

For over a century, since the 1864 war, Denmark had followed a policy of neutrality when it came to foreign conflicts. During the second half of the 20th century, Denmark participated in many United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world but remained out of conflict zones that directly involved the United States or the Soviet Union. Even as a member of NATO, a military alliance, Denmark still had a strong desire to promote neutrality and anti-nuclear policy in its relations with other nations. For a time this was called the “footnote policy,” as Denmark included a dissenting footnote in all NATO formal statements.

With new elected officials taking power in the late 1980s, the “footnote policy” came to an end. Danish leaders started to recognize that the end of the Cold War marked the appearance of new kinds of threats, some of them located far from Denmark’s geographical boundaries. Even though there was some political reluctance to getting involved in the first Gulf War, the Danish government managed to get support from parliament to deploy a corvette in support of the American-led effort. The corvette, *HDMS Offert Fischer*, was limited to blockade only and was not to engage in combat. When the Americans asked for Danish shipping support, the private shipping company Maersk volunteered its fleet of cargo vessels free of charge; this was a reflection of the fact that Maersk possessed a capacity the Danish Government did not.



08

08. President Truman signs the North Atlantic Treaty in the Oval Office on August 24, 1949. Dignitaries include (left to right): Sir Derick Boyer Millar, United Kingdom; Henrik Kauffmann, Denmark; W. D. Matthews, Canada; Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson; Wilhelm Munthe de Morgenstjerne, Norway; Henri Bonnet, France; Pedro Theotónio Pereira, Portugal; Secretary of State Dean Acheson; Jonkheer O. Reuchlin, the Netherlands; and Mario Lucielli, Italy. *White House photo by Abbie Rowe.*

The deployment of *HDMS Offert Fischer* marked a new direction in Danish foreign policy. For the first time in over 100 years, Denmark took an active role in global conflicts. This set the stage for a more robust international activism in the years to come. Danish troops participated in peace-

keeping missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995-2003) and in Kosovo (1999-present).

EVOLUTION IN DANISH DEFENSE POLICY

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, took place on U.S. territory, but the impact

was felt around the world. Denmark was quick to affirm its support of the United States, both as an ally and as a member of NATO. When the United Nations authorized a NATO-led force to fight the Taliban in Afghanistan, the Danish parliament supported the move and committed Danish soldiers to the effort.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen (prime minister 2001-2009) became a passionate advocate for support of the United States in Afghanistan and, later, Iraq. In addition to political and military alliance, he forged a close personal bond with President George W. Bush. Fogh Rasmussen wanted to break with the past Danish policies that he felt were too passive and failed in a moral obligation to defend the Danish people. When his term as prime minister was complete, he served as Secretary General for NATO from 2009-2014, continuing his advocacy for a robust military alliance.



09. NATO state leaders at a meeting at headquarters in Paris, December 19, 1957. On the far right is President Eisenhower. *Photo courtesy of NATO.* **10. President George W. Bush** and Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark meet at Camp David, Friday, June 9, 2006. *White House Photo by Eric Draper.*

21ST CENTURY COALITION FORCES

Nearly 9,000 Danish soldiers have served in Afghanistan, up to 750 at a time, most of them to Helmand province in the southern part of the country. As one among many NATO-member states participating in the conflict, Denmark enjoyed broad political support for its contribution. The action was supported by the United Nations and seen as an appropriate response to the Al Qaeda attacks of September 11. Compared to the size of the Danish population, Denmark committed more soldiers to combat in Afghanistan than most other members of the coalition and suffered among the highest casualties per capita of any coalition nation.

Denmark's participation in the Iraq war, Operation Iraqi Freedom, was much more controversial within Denmark, just as it was in many parts of the world. The United States, Great Britain, and Australia were the first to launch combat operations in Iraq, beginning on March 20, 2003. Denmark and a handful of other countries landed in Iraq a few weeks later. Danish forces stayed in Iraq until December 2007, when they started to redeploy. In total, Denmark deployed over 5,000 troops to Iraq, with the peak reaching 550 at a single time.

In the 21st century, Denmark has established itself as a steadfast ally to the United States. The Danish armed forces have been transformed into an active international force; Denmark

has contributed military support to U.S.-led operations in Libya and in the fight against the Islamic State. Denmark has also supported anti-piracy operations off the Horn of Africa, anti-terror efforts in Mali, Operation Odyssey Dawn in Libya, and the removal of chemical weapons in Syria.

Denmark has paid in blood and treasure, but has also received support from the U.S. in the form of specialized training and equipment. Notably, Denmark will usually deploy her soldiers without caveats, which means they can participate right alongside American forces in the toughest combat zones. President Obama said that Denmark "punches above its weight." Anders Fogh Rasmussen called Denmark "America's smallest and biggest ally."

HOME GUARD / NATIONAL GUARD

In both Denmark and the United States, reserve branches of the military are dedicated to protecting the homeland in times of natural or man-made disaster. In 2012 the two nations signed a U.S.-Denmark Military Reserve Exchange Program memorandum of understanding. Since that time the Danish Home Guard has partnered with the U.S. National Guard for joint training missions, working together to hone their skills for logistics and engineering. In the first four years of cooperation, over 550 Danish and American soldiers have participated in each other's activities.



11

11. Danish soldiers on patrol to the village of Rahim in Helmand province, Afghanistan. *Photo by Christian Reinhold.*

One example of a joint training exercise between the U.S. National Guard and the Danish Home Guard is remote infrastructure. Members of the Danish 3rd Battalion Engineer Corps participated in the 2016 Golden Coyote training exercise by building a foot bridge in the Spearfish Canyon near Spearfish,

South Dakota. The bridge had been washed away by a storm three years earlier, and replacing it allowed two hiking trails to be reconnected.

“The Golden Coyote training exercise gives opportunities to train in an environment that is different from where some of the participants call home,” said project leader Sgt. 1st Class Jesper Tandrup. “This is a great project for us to work on because we don’t have this type of terrain in Denmark.”

Below are the activities that have taken place since 2012:

Denmark – America’s Smallest and Biggest Ally is made possible by support from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Additional support is provided by:

Albert V. Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, Washington

The T.G. Jensen Family in honor of all who served to protect America

Royal Danish Guard Society, Chicago, Illinois

Peter and Irma Ørum

Ole and Eva Sindberg



Year	Activities in Denmark	Year	Activities in the United States
2012	None	2012	60 people on Golden Coyote in South Dakota
2013	30 people on different courses at the Home Guard Academy 40 people on different exercises	2013	70 people on Golden Coyote in South Dakota
2014	30 people on different courses at the Home Guard Academy 40 people on different exercises	2014	70 people on Golden Coyote in South Dakota
2015	28 people on different courses at the Home Guard Academy 56 people on different exercises	2015	25 people on Golden Coyote in South Dakota 78 people on Arctic Eagle in Michigan
2016	30 people on different courses at the Home Guard Academy 97 people on different exercises	2016	16 people on Golden Coyote in South Dakota 84 people on Arctic Eagle in Michigan
2017	30 people on different courses at the Home Guard Academy 75 people on different exercises in Denmark Up to 90 people on an exercise in Greenland	2017	10 people on Arctic Eagle in Alaska 85 people on Northern Strike in Michigan

12. Members of the Danish 3rd Battalion Engineering Corps pose at the foot bridge they are building near Spearfish Falls in Spearfish Canyon, SD, June 14, 2016. They spent four days completing the bridge so tourists can have better access to the falls. *U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Joshua Quandt.*

A traveling version of this exhibition is also available. To learn more about bringing this exhibition to your community, contact curator Tova Brandt.

events calendar

CHRISTMAS HYGGE/ WINTER SOLSTICE

December 22, 3 - 7 pm

HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed December 24-25, 31,
and January 1

BOARD MEETING

February 8-10, 2018

Tempe, AZ

Area residents: expect a special
event invitation!

VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARD RECITALS

April 21 and 22, 2018

Bro Dining Room

TIVOLI FEST

May 25-27, 2018

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

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.

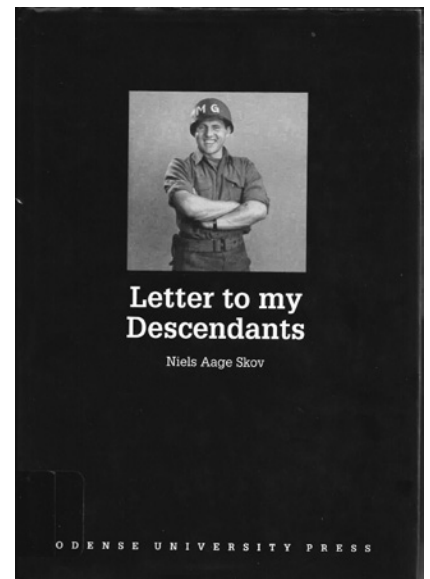
All facilities are closed on New
Years, Easter, Thanksgiving, and
Christmas.

the scraps that survive: excerpts from the life of niels aage skov

“Along the way I learned something about myself and my roots that had lain unnoticed in those unexplored recesses of memory that we all possess but rarely have reason or inclination to examine.” – Niels Aage Skov, *Letter to My Descendants*

When researching at the Genealogy Center, we are constantly made aware of the life documentation that can be lost over time—photographs, scraps of handwriting, names, dates, stories. With some digging we’re lucky if we can uncover and document some of the “facts” of a person’s life, mainly using records created by institutions. It is marvelous, then, to see a letter, or a postcard, or a portrait, or a diary, written in shaky cursive or smudged pencil, an amateur snapshot, an image only partly in focus—someone documenting their life as it happened. It is incredible when these materials survive the test of time, and more so when the people they document have survived war and imprisonment, moved their lives across oceans and all over the world.

Recently we have been cataloging a collection of documents related to Niels Aage Skov, a Danish immigrant who wrote about his experiences in the Danish resistance during World War II in a book called *Letter to My Descendants*. Born in Ribe in 1919, Skov moved to Copenhagen as a boy and was apprenticing as a machinist when Germany invaded Denmark in April 1940. “Seeing foreign soldiers take charge in my country affected me deeply, as if touching some primeval, defensive instinct,” he wrote later.



01



By
Kara
McKeever

01. Skov, Niels Aage. *Letter to My Descendants*. Odense University Press, 1997.



Within days he had committed his first act of sabotage—stealing two German bayonets and tossing them in a pond. It was the first of many acts against the Germans during Denmark’s occupation. Eventually Skov was forced to go underground, but he was caught and arrested in 1944, held in prison and then in concentration camps. He endured excruciating conditions, finally escaping when forced on a death march near the end of the war. With the American

army, he assisted in finding and arresting German war criminals. He immigrated to the United States in 1947, started his own engineering business, earned a Ph.D. in economics, and became a university professor. He died in 2015.

Thanks to Skov’s surviving wife, Diane, the museum’s artifact collection contains a screwdriver Skov used for sabotage, and a needlepoint he completed in

prison with hands chained. The collection of letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and ephemera—also donated by Diane Skov to the museum’s Special Collections—is a fascinating glimpse into Niels Skov’s life and a remarkable accompaniment to the books he wrote about his experiences.

The collection is breathtaking in scope: from Mother’s Day cards from Niels as a boy, to newspaper clippings noting funerals of resistance members, to news pamphlets published illegally in Denmark during World War II, to a song written by Niels for his father’s birthday in 1980, to lecture notes, correspondence, diplomas, photos, certificates, and so on. Knowing anything about Niels A. Skov, or having read his books, certain pieces jump to life.

For example, this issue of *Hjemmefronten* (“The Home Front”), an underground publication Skov began helping get printed in the fall of 1943. In *Letter to My Descendants*, he recounts his initial involvement with the paper:

I used a simple, direct approach, knocked on the door, and when a guard opened, stuck a gun in his ribs and told him and his buddy to hand over their guns *now*, which they meekly did. Then we herded the guards together with the half-score night shift employees into a back room where I could keep an eye on them, while Thies expertly typeset and printed 32,000 copies of the newsheet...



02. *Hjemmefronten* (“The Home Front”) published in 1944. 2016-197.011.

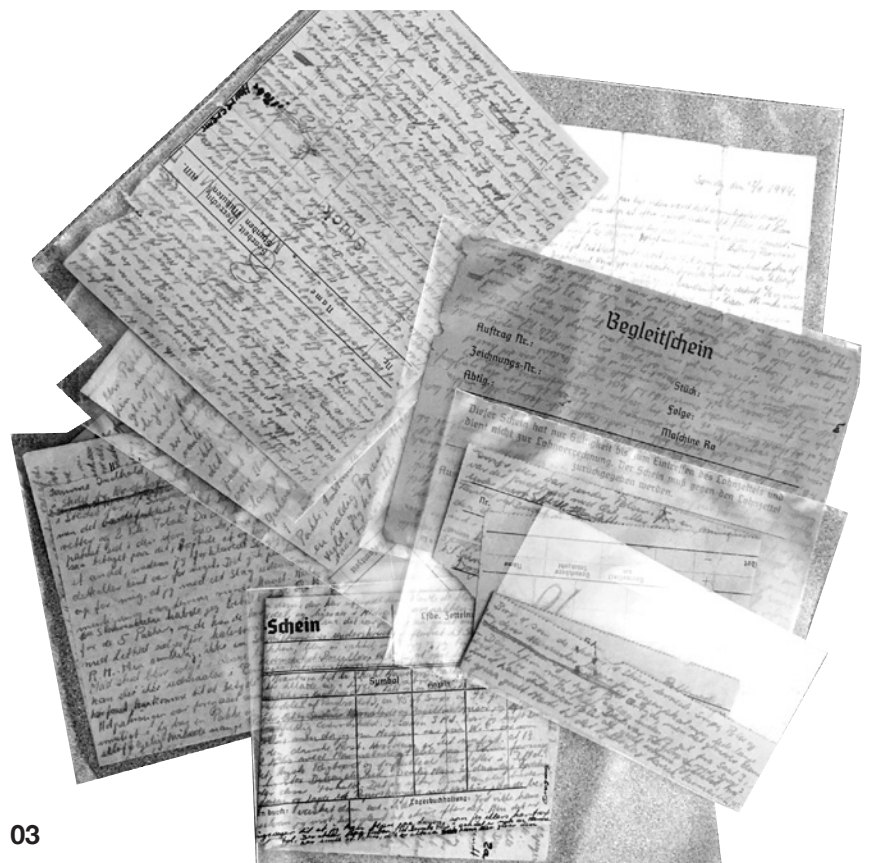
Skov used the network created by *Hjemmefronten* to acquire a boat similar to the regular canal boats in Copenhagen, and along with his friend Thies, he helped organize the movement of Jewish families out of the city via the canals to fishing boats that took them to safety in Sweden. In *Letter*, however, Skov acknowledges that his part in the boat lifts was small, his resistance efforts focused elsewhere: “Our activity ranged from the printing of *Hjemmefronten* newsheets to sabotage, with considerable time and effort devoted to moving caches of weapons and explosives from one hiding place to another, usually one short jump ahead of the Germans.”

In May 1944 Skov was still concerned with the publication of *Hjemmefronten*, as one by one the Gestapo were identifying and arresting resistance members. “If in fact I were the only one left,” Skov writes in *Letter to My Descendants*, “it seemed incumbent on me to get the paper out. Besides its intrinsic value it would appear to be evidence that *Hjemmefronten* was still in

business, thereby perhaps helping those now being interrogated. It suddenly became urgent to get the next issue into circulation.”

Shortly after having reached that conclusion, Skov was betrayed and picked up by Gestapo agents. He was interrogated in Dagmarhus headquarters and incarcerated in Vestre Fængsel, the main prison in Copenhagen. Within a few months he was moved to Frøslev concentration camp, just north of the Danish-German border. He and a friend had just arranged an escape plan when they were moved across the border to a German concentration camp; as one might imagine, things became much worse.

Incredibly, the collection of Skov’s papers includes scraps of notes and diary entries he wrote while imprisoned. Tiny, close-set lines in pencil cover bits of paper printed in German. It would take time to decipher each one, but just a glance shows Skov writing about a package he’s received and minimal rations.



03

Skov survives, and the war ends, and in the collection there is a scrapbook of photos he took while driving around Europe after the war: “Breaking the routine of hunting Nazis,” he writes in *Letter*, “the Counter Intelligence team spent weekends on sports and sightseeing. This photograph was taken on a trip through Austria. The car, a convertible Wanderer, was one of several ‘liberated’ vehicles formerly owned by Nazi officials.”

There are photos of the plane Skov learned to fly after the war, aerial views, and photos of the people he was spending time with during those years. The scrapbooks are only briefly labeled—a place name, a year—in Skov’s bold, block handwriting.

In 1947, Skov was on his way to the United States, where he would remain and become a citizen. “I don’t know how others have made the crucial decision to leave their place of origin and emigrate,” he writes near the end of *Letter to My Descendants*:

It should be obvious to anyone that our upbringing, education and cultural heritage all shape us to live our lives in the society of our birth, not to play the role of stranger in a foreign land. Nevertheless, I gave not even a passing thought to the adaptation that would be required to make my particular background mesh with the needs and demands of an alien country, and I suspect few immigrants do. Nothing prepares one for being an immigrant, and neither does anything lead one even to contemplate any problem beyond the obvious one of language. Besides, in the glow of hopeful expectation, the mind balks at analytical reflection.

Still, as I am writing this with the benefit of long hindsight, I am puzzled by the swiftness of both decision and execution. I was Danish to the core. I knew better than most my nation’s history, its songs and legends, language and literature, its customs, mores, and jokes. I knew and understood the poetry that could bring tears to my countrymen’s eyes, or smiles to their lips. I had been ready to die for my country’s cause, without regrets, yet I was now ready to leave with no thought of looking back.

There was much in store for Niels A. Skov in the United States, a full and rich life he went on to write about in another book, *Letter to My Descendants Part II: A Global Citizen*. Among his papers are many pieces from his life in America, including evidence of a moment with a fellow immigrant Dane, Børge Rosenbaum (Victor Borge), who escaped Denmark a few months into occupation and arrived in the United States on the front end of the war. Like Skov, Borge was immediately confronted with learning American English.

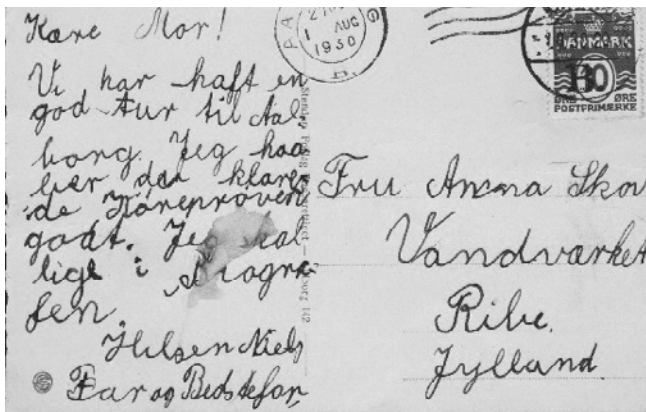


04. Niels Skov, left, in an airplane cockpit, ca. 1946. 2016-197.088.

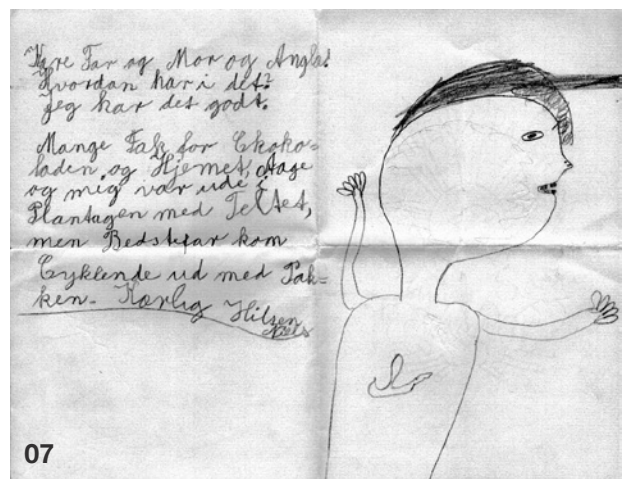
When Skov wrote *Letter to My Descendants*, he was looking back on events several decades old. In his introduction to the book, he wonders at his recollections, the fallacy and ambiguity of memory, his own evolving perspective. To look at his papers and photos is to contemplate story and memory, what we have been told about

history and what survives to be held and pored over. It is to see disparate pieces of a life in juxtaposition. Experiencing and exploring the range of this collection, like reading and rereading Skov's book, lends certain remnants, like young Niels's enthusiastic missives to his parents, a new poignancy. Skov wrote several chapters in

Letter about growing up in Ribe, about his parents, sister, good friend Aage, and the grandfather he so admired. Along with the trials and accomplishments and history-making that came later, young Niels is represented here, too. Sometimes when one knows the end of the story, it can be breathtaking to go back to the start.



06



07

05. Niels Skov with Victor Borge at the National Cemetery in Washington D.C., 1995. 2016-197.056. 06. A postcard from Niels to his mother during a visit to Aalborg with his father and grandfather, 1930. 2016-197.041. 07. Dear Father and Mother and Angla! How are you? I am fine. Many thanks for the chocolate. Aage and I were out in the orchard with the tent, but Grandfather came bicycling out with the package. Loving greetings, Niels. 2016-197.044.

how to self-publish your memoir

I have been asked to share my experience with self-publishing, and I am very pleased to do so, in particular since I believe it is very important that those of us Danish immigrants still alive share our experiences of when and how we arrived in America and what our lives have been like in years past—a past that is now history. Many have reached the age of octogenarians, so the timing is critical.

I will address the subject from the point of view of a novice, since I went through the experience of self-publishing my husband Georg's book, *My 48 Years at Sea: From Deck Boy in Denmark to Captain in America*, as well as his effort in writing it.



I am sure the task of starting to write a book is somewhat daunting, so I will start by explaining the difference between a memoir and an autobiography. The latter is the story from beginning to end, point by point - taxes and death - and not a very entertaining story for others to read. On the contrary, a memoir is the telling of high points as well as low points in our lives. I think we can all remember experiences that touched our lives deeply, like they were permanently implanted in our memory. When we begin to write about these experiences, they simply pop up because they have always been in our subconscious. These memories may also touch on recollection of other things that happened to us, and thus a book can be born. You start by describing who you are and your roots in Denmark and the rest will begin to flow.

Today many self-publishing companies have popped up because the major publishing companies, of which there are five, simply are not interested in small stories; so self-publishing has filled the vacant space. We used createspace.com, which is an Amazon company, but independent. Createspace can assist you with all the tools necessary to bring about a publication, such as editing, design of the book cover (very important), formatting, marketing, etc. The book will be listed on Amazon and sold either in book form or Kindle, and you will receive agreed-upon proceeds. These books are printed whenever an order comes in, so there is no storage expense. Overseas orders, such as Danish, are also processed.

I am very convinced that many Danish immigrants have wonderful and interesting stories to tell, and I feel it is critical that these stories be told before it is too late. I hope I have inspired and motivated a few, or many, who have been thinking about telling their story, but haven't because of the "how to" stumbling block. Perhaps this article will give courage to many potential writers to get started!

2017: a rough year

From hurricanes to wildfires to the dark side of humanity, we know that several of our members and friends have been deeply affected by recent events. We here at the museum want you to know how sincerely we sympathize and are thinking of you.

The loss of property and human life reinforces our passion and drive to preserve the history and objects entrusted to us and to take as many precautions as we can to ensure their longevity. We also do this by sharing information with others. Sharing stories helps reduce the risk so that the loss of one life or heirloom will not result in the loss of its significance. We truly appreciate the role each of you play in safeguarding Danish America by reading this magazine, seeing our exhibits, or keeping up with our activities online.

Following the shootings in Las Vegas, former Development Director Bruce Bro shared with us this one example of how Danes and Danish Americans have been effecting far-reaching change in the U.S.:

“After the tragedy in Las Vegas, I was thinking about all the heroes and emergency personnel in Las Vegas, and I remembered meeting Dr.

Otto Ravenholt around 2010, shortly after I started working for the museum. I met him and his wife at his home, and I believe this was the first meeting that has led to the Ravenholt family becoming such strong supporters of the museum.

He passed away in 2012, and I attended his funeral. At the funeral, several people from the community were invited to speak, and they all called attention to the contributions Dr. Ravenholt made to emergency services in Las Vegas. At one point, I believe he was the administrator for University Medical Center there*, which is the only Level 1 trauma center in Nevada, and where many of the recent shooting victims were taken. The news has praised University hospital for its preparedness for such a tragic incident on such a large scale. But the work done by Dr. Ravenholt many years ago helped them be prepared for such an incident.

In 1980 and 1981 terrible fires at the MGM Hotel and at the Las Vegas Hilton claimed nearly 100 lives. Friends and colleagues of Dr. Ravenholt

pointed out at his funeral that the changes he spearheaded, and were subsequently implemented following the fires, have likely saved many lives. As I recall, he influenced significant changes in large-scale emergency procedures, as well as helping implement early fire protection and sprinkler system policies which are now mandatory at all Las Vegas hotels. No doubt, those emergency procedures also helped during the shooting tragedy.

Thought all of you at the museum would like to know this.

Warm greetings to you all,
Bruce”

Thinking of you, wishing you hope in the midst of sorrow, and comfort in the midst of pain.



By
Nicky
Christensen

***Otto Hakon Ravenholt, MD**, (May 17, 1927 - March 18, 2012) also served as Medical Director of Clark County Emergency Medical System, among many other distinguished roles. He was a public health pioneer, and it is our pleasure to honor him here.

royal portraits added to collection

In October the museum received two remarkable paintings that once graced the walls of Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen, Denmark. Christian Castenskiold, a cousin to Queen Margrethe and the only member of the Danish Royal Family to immigrate to the United States, decided – with the Queen’s approval – that the proper home for these portraits is the Museum of Danish America.

In the portraits two kings are depicted: the first, created by August Schiøtte in 1868, is King Christian IX; the second

features King Frederik VIII, son of King Christian IX. King Frederik’s portrait was painted by Otto Bache in 1909. Both artists studied at the Danish Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen and boast a large body of work.

Later in the lives of these paintings, they were placed into the private homes of Castenskiold’s mother and aunt. Christian later inherited both pieces and brought them to the U.S. where they have hung in his home ever since.

Following the completion of donation paperwork and some repairs on the frames, these paintings will be on view for a time in the lower level gallery of the museum. When they are removed from exhibition, they will be placed into storage for their preservation and viewable during behind-the-scenes tours. Full descriptions and details about the portraits, as well as many images of each, will be permanently accessible through the museum’s collections database. For information about how to enjoy this membership benefit, contact the museum.



By
Angela
Stanford

Catalog numbers 2017.049.001 and 2017.049.002

look up

NEW ART INSTALLATION GREETS VISITORS IN THE MUSEUM LOBBY

Assimilātus Mōbilis

Anni Holm, 2017

Silk ribbons, cotton fabric, and found materials

Commissioned by the Museum of Danish America

Assimilātus Mōbilis is a contemporary art installation made up of over 200 silk ribbons previously used by the Danish Brotherhood in America. The ribbons were deaccessioned from the museum's permanent collection because they were duplicates and had no association with any specific individual or lodge. The museum approached Anni Holm to develop an art piece that would creatively use the ribbons as an expression of the museum's mission. Anni is a conceptual artist and Danish immigrant living in West Chicago, and was previously featured in a solo art exhibition at the museum in 2009.

The installation is intended to resemble "Stars and Stripes" on one side, while the other side is composed of the multitude of Danish flag ribbons. *Assimilātus Mōbilis* was created in collaboration with community volunteers during the late summer of 2017, and serves as a celebration of Danish contributions to American culture and society.

Several volunteers assisted in assembling this piece:

Cynthia Larsen Adams
Deb Bieker
Rosa Clemesen
Greve family: Gabrielle, Jacob, Rebecca, Levi, and Tammie
Joyce Hansen
Susanne Hohlen
Barbara Martin
Marie Olson
Alex Peterson
Lauren Russell
Nancy Sand
Marjorie Sorrels
Karma Sorensen



ARTIST STATEMENT:

"As a Danish immigrant who nearly has lived half of my life here in the States, I at times feel neither Danish nor American, while I at other times feel both Danish and American. I envision that this piece will provide Danes living in the U.S., as well as Danish Americans, with a visual that clearly depicts this ever evolving feeling of who we are/ have become. It is my hope that *Assimilātus Mōbilis* will serve as a connection point between the past, present, and future, making the past more relevant to those of us who tend to live in the now - and inspire those that live in the past to explore the now."

– Anni Holm, 2017



By
Tova
Brandt

This artist-in-residence project is supported, in part, by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

new additions to the wall of honor

JUNE 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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 immigrant name, year of immigration, location where they settled, and the name and city of the donor.

JENS P.C. (CHRIS) JENSEN
(1906) Greenfield, Iowa - daughter
Verla Elliott, Woodward, IA

RENÉ GROSS KÆRSKOV (1991)
Solvang, California - Rene Gross
Kærskov, Solvang, CA

**CHRISTIAN FREDERICK
LARSEN** (1909) Bergenfield, New
Jersey - Brenda K. Ryan, Auburn
Hills, MI

**LARS J. LARSEN & LAURA
HANSEN LARSEN** (1905 | 1928)
Dagmar, Montana - Svend Larsen,
Dagmar, MT

**LOUIS PETERSON & MARIE
(JENSEN) PETERSON** (1887 |
1892) Stanhope, Iowa - Donald K.
Wall, Ames, IA

JETTE SKOUBYE (1964)
Corrales, New Mexico - husband
Jim Tritten, Corrales, NM

in honor

JUNE 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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

Berneta Mogensen Balsley
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102
Doris Jensen, Member & Treasurer
of Atlantic Friends of the
Museum
Norma Keating
Jens & Thora Krog

Britha Marie Larsen, Løgstør,
Denmark, my friend and
celebrating 40 years ago
living and working together as
volunteers in Tanzania
Kara McKeever and the
Genealogy Center
Norma Bernice Nelson, a woman
with great strength, courage
and wit. We are so happy to
have had the chance to meet
her

Norma Bernice Nelson
John Mark and Dawn Nielsen
Dawn & John Mark Nielsen-
hoping they are enjoying
retirement-such a life change
Merete Nieto's Birthday!
Poul Olesen and Benedikte Ehlers
Olesen
Anelise Sawkins, my mother
Eiler & Hanne Thomsen



By
Deb
Christensen
Larsen

memorials

JUNE 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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

Lori Barton
Lorraine Nielsen Barton,
Omaha, NE
Gunver Berg
Paul Blinkilde, my husband
Mr. and Mrs. Folmer Bonnesen
Peter Caroe
Jens & Magda Christensen
Christiansen Olaf Christiansen
Hans & Cecelia Clausen
George Clausen, my father
Donald L. Clausen, my husband
David M. Esbeck
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup
Thora Framsted, my mother
Herman and Marie Friis
Shirley M. (Bondo) Hansen
Walter E. Hansen
Walter & Vesta Hansen
Lydia Hansen of Rockford, IL
Carma M. Hansen, my wife
Tom Higgins
Francis Holland, Mason City, IA
Ahlmann Iversen
Ellen Westergaard Jackson
Jens & Anna Jacobsen
Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen
Dick Kramme
Clara Mathilda Larsen

Paul M. & Johanne Larsen
Dorothea Laursen
Rosella Nielsen Linquist
Dorothy Lund
Alfred (Fred) Madsen
Dr. Paul O. Madsen
H. C. Mathison
Ellen Mary Henriksen McKinzie
Gotleib Mogensen (Berneta
Mogensen Balsley's father)
Larry Nelson
Norma Nelson
Norma Lange Nelson
Carl H. Nielsen (a Dana grad)
Ole & Marie Olsen
Our parents (Richard & Rita Juhl)
Tom Paulsen
Flemming V. Pedersen
Hans & Ivy Peitersen
Arnold K. Petersen
Celius (Cy) Petersen
Harry & Frances Petersen, my
parents
Herbert & Mabel Petersen, my
parents
Delbert Rasmussen
Ruth Jensen Roberts

Astrid Roge, Paul's mother
Andrew & Rosa Rosenkild
Leroy Sand
Harry Sand, Stuart, Iowa
Harry Sand, one great guy
Agnita M. Christensen Stine
Schreiber
Miriam Rodholm Showalter
Virgil Sorensen
James C. Sporleder
Fay Norris Staley
Beryl Elaine Christensen Stewart
Halvor & Joyce Pedersen
Strandskov
Burdette Leroy Thomsen
Burdette (Tommy) Thomsen (aka
to family as "Bear")
Capt. Lars E. Toftemark USAF
JAG
Henry Walters
Anton Whitehead
Anton LeeRoy (Tony) Whitehead,
Moorhead, MN
Peter & Dorothea Wolff, my
grandparents
Agnes Jorgensen Zimmerline, my
mother

new members

JUNE 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

The Museum of Danish America is pleased to identify the following **99** individual memberships and **2** organization as its newest members:

Consul General Jakob Andersen,
Consulate General of Denmark,
Chicago, IL

Kenneth & Sue Arentson,
Des Moines, IA

Colleen Augustin, Girard, KS

Barbara Bahnson, Edina, MN

Jan Bechtold, Billings, MT

Donald & Barbara Berg, Decorah, IA

Stephen Berg, DeKalb, IL

Anne Boyle, Omaha, NE

Patty Brewster, Overland Park, KS

Jeanne Christensen, Greensburg, PA

Tom Hall & Aelea Christofferson,
Bend, OR

Kathrine Clark, Sioux Falls, SD

Malcom & Jean Clarrissimeaux,
Dallas, TX

Kate Confer, Joliet, IL

The Copenhagen House,
Solvang, CA

Frank & Hanne Correl, Chevy
Chase, MD

Merrill Crawford, Dubuque, IA

Joan Dawson, Nebraska City, NE

Verla Elliott, Woodward, IA

Bruce & Mary Ellen Fleury,
New Orleans, LA

Chris & Tammie Greve, Chandler, AZ

Diane Pauk & Daniel Hall,
Cross Plains, WI

Louis & Anne-Mette Hansell,
Drexel Hill, PA

Cathy Villamor & Wayne Hansen,
Carmel, IN

J. Thomas & Deborah Louise
Hansen, Cedar, MN

Paul Hedlund, Salina, KS

Beverly Hilton, Eau Claire, WI

David & Andrea Hoffart, Lincoln, NE

Tom & Phyllis Holven, Toledo, IA

Amber Whisler & Liam Hutelmyer,
McLeansville, NC

Gerner Jacobsen, Valby, DENMARK

Craig Cadman & Pixie Jensen,
Sioux Rapids, IA

Ray & Julie Jensen, Aquilla, TX

Richard & Glenda Jessen,
Sun City West, AZ

Faye Johansen, Norfolk, VA

Ole Kofoed, Brondby, DENMARK

Matt & Bonnie Kosmider,
Paducah, KY

JoAnn Kramer, Clarion, IA

Barbara Larsen, Morrison, CO

Bruce & Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha, NE

James & Carol Leonard,
Hastings, MN

Cheryl Lucas, Lakeway, TX

Myra Madsen, Brooklyn Park, MN

Steven & Lisa Mattson,
Plymouth, MN

Elliott McDonald, Davenport, IA

Ole & Ilse Mikkelsen, San Rafael, CA

Ruth Modlin, Cedar Rapids, IA

Howard & Dee Nilson,
Rapid City, SD

Eric & Dani Olson, Wellsburg, IA

Jeannine Poldberg, Carter Lake, IA

Cynthia Priesmeyer, El Campo, TX

John Rasmussen, Palm Desert, CA

Leroy Rasmussen, Omaha, NE

Michael Rasmusson, Moorhead, MN

Matthew & Brittany Roberts,
Canton, MO

Jacob & Laura Robertson,
Des Moines, IA

Royal Danish Guard Society,
Chicago, IL

Robert & Donna Rugaard,
Audubon, IA

Brenda Ryan, Auburn Hills, MI

Anne Rybowski (Hansen),
Rahway, NJ

Stephen Sawtell, Omaha, NE

Marian Sheldon, Schuyler Falls, NY

Christian Slinkard, Tenino, WA

Patty Swartzbaugh, Omaha, NE

Ramona Teisan, Woodland Hills, CA

Jim & Jasmine Tritten, Corrales, NM

Douglas & Susan Tuve,
Vermillion, SD

Molly Martin & Torben Ulrich,
Tiburon, CA

Donald & Barbara Wall, Ames, IA

MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

... along with genealogy, translation, or Design Store gift certificates!
Contact us at info@danishmuseum.org or call 712.764.7001 to order.

thank you, organizations

JUNE 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

These 78 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.

- Andersen Windows (Sarah Andersen), Bayport, MN
Arcus AS (Christer Andre Olsen, Business Area Manager), Hagan, Norway
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, IA
Boose Building Construction (Marty & Connie Boose), Atlantic, IA
Carroll Control Systems, Inc. (Todd Wanninger), Carroll, IA
Christopher Ranch LLC (Donald & Karen Christopher), Gilroy, CA
The Copenhagen House (René G. Kærskov), Solvang, CA
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA
Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, MN
Dania Society of Chicago, Chicago, IL area
The Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, NE
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA area
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI area
Danish Archive North East, Edison, NJ
Danish Brotherhood, Heartland District Lodges, Iowa-Minnesota & surrounding states
Danish Brotherhood, Pacific Northwest Lodges, Washington area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #16, Minden, NE area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #29, Seattle, WA area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Junction City, OR area
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT area
Danish Brotherhood Centennial Lodge #348, Eugene, OR area
The Danish Canadian National Museum, Spruce View, Alberta, Canada
Danish Club of Tucson, Tucson, AZ area
Danish Cultural Center of Greenville, Greenville, MI
The Danish Home of Chicago, Chicago, IL
The Danish Home, Croton-On-Hudson, NY
Danish Luncheon Club of Los Angeles, Inc., Los Angeles, CA area
Danish Lutheran Church & Cultural Center, Yorba Linda, CA
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA
Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, Chicago, IL area
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #15, Burlington, WI area
Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21, Denver, CO area
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA area
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Dike, IA area
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #185, Cleveland, OH area
Danish Sisterhood Lodges, Heartland District, Iowa-Minnesota & surrounding states
Danish Sisterhood Lodges, Nebraska/Colorado Districts, Lincoln, NE & Denver CO areas
Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL
Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn & Kimballton, IA area
Elverhoj Museum of History and Art, Solvang, CA
Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District, Elk Horn, IA area
Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, CA
Hacways (Helene & Nanna Christensen), Hals, Denmark
Hansen Interiors (Torben & Bridget Ovesen), Mount Pleasant, WI
Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA
Henningsen Construction, Inc. (Brad Henningsen, Vice President), Atlantic, IA
House of Denmark, San Diego, CA
Independent Order of Svithiod, Verdandi Lodge #3, Chicago, IL area
Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Andersen Jepsen), Burr Ridge, IL
Knudsen Old Timers, Yorba Linda, CA area
Landmands Bank (Rod Rowland, President) Audubon, IA
Main Street Market, Panama, IA
Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA

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.

Nelsen and Nelsen, Attorneys at
Law, Cozad, NE
O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen),
Racine, WI
Olsen, Muhlbauer & Co., L.L.P.,
Carroll, IA
Outlook Study Club,
Elk Horn, IA area
Oxide Design Co., (Drew Davies),
Omaha, NE
Petersen Family Foundation, Inc.
(H. Rand & Mary Louise
Petersen), Harlan, IA

Proongily (Cynthia McKeen),
St. Paul, MN
The Rasmussen Group, Inc.,
Des Moines, IA
Red River Danes, Fargo, ND area
Ringsted Danish American
Fellowship, Ringsted, IA area
Royal Danish Embassy,
Washington, DC
Royal Danish Guard Society,
Algonquin, IL area
Scan Design Foundation by Inger &
Jens Bruun, Seattle, WA

Scandinavian Trade Association
(Tom Mortenson),
Detroit Lakes, MN
Shelby County Historical Society &
Museum, Harlan, IA
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan
and Elk Horn, IA
Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA
The Village Café (James Uren),
Elk Horn, IA
TK Petersen (Thorvald K. Petersen)
Santa Monica, CA
Vasa Order of America,
Omaha Lodge #330, Omaha, NE

jens jensen heritage path

JUNE 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

The Jens Jensen Heritage Path is a place to celebrate an occasion or achievement, recognize an individual or organization, or honor the memory of a loved one. Twice a year the pavers will be engraved and placed within the Flag Plaza: October and May.

These individuals have contributed
a paver in the sizes of small,
medium or large.

Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO
Beverly Hilton, Eau Claire, WI
Mark & Fae Lykke, Spencer, IA

Bruce & Calla Poldberg,
Kimballton, IA
Kenneth & Carolyn Sand,
Prairie du Chien, WI
Judith Thomsen, Glendora, CA

Paver order forms can be found at www.danishmuseum.org/get-involved/recognition/commemorative-bricks

medisterpølse

Recipe of Marilyn Gift, Des Moines, IA

- 4 lbs. ground pork
- 1 large onion, grated
- 1 Tbsp. salt
- 1 ½ tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. allspice
- ¼ tsp. ground cloves
- 1 cup chicken broth
- Several feet of pork casings (available at a meat market)

Mix all ingredients together in a mixer or by hand until well blended. Use a sausage maker to stuff the meat into the casings. At regular intervals, tie or twist to make the links. They can be frozen at this point.

To cook, simmer in a little water until almost done and then brown in a skillet until lightly browned. Serve with boiled potatoes, red cabbage, and cucumber salad. They may also be sliced cold for Danish open-faced sandwiches.

See a video demonstration of this recipe at <https://youtu.be/3o2g7MKjK80>





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