

# americaletter

SPRING 2014 + ANNUAL REPORT | A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA



Otto Bache, *Soldiers Returning to Copenhagen, 1894*.  
Credit: The Museum of National History, Frederiksborg  
Castle. Photo by: Kit Weiss

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## SPECIAL SECTION

Read the 2013 Annual Report  
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## COVER PHOTO

For Danish people, events from the 1848-1850 war became romanticized as high points of national achievement. For Denmark, the First Schleswig War was "the war we won," and Otto Bache's painting shows Danish soldiers returning to a hero's welcome. This painting was done in 1894, when Danish identity preferred to look to the victories of 1848-50 rather than the defeat of 1864.

# director's corner

In early February, as the Midwest was in the grips of an intensive cold spell, our Board of Directors, several staff members and I met in San Diego for our annual February meeting. In addition to escaping the bitter cold, we could celebrate with our many members and supporters over a festive luncheon on Saturday, February 8th. The food wasn't Danish, but Mexican, which seemed appropriate given the rich Hispanic heritage of the region.

We also had the opportunity to highlight our relationship with the "House of Denmark" located in San Diego's Balboa Park. This is one of over thirty "national" cottages located in San Diego's Balboa Park. Created as a part of the House of Pacific Relations exposition in 1935, each cottage showcases the traditions of the country it represents. Among the nations represented are England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Israel and on and on. Every Sunday afternoon throughout the year, volunteers staff each house and visitors can learn a little about the culture of each country.

Several years ago, former Development Director Bruce Bro visited the House of Denmark

and established relations with the volunteer group. In fact he returned to help fry æbleskiver during the International Christmas Festival – December Nights in Balboa Park. For three days, the park is filled with throngs of people celebrating the season. Since Bruce's first appearance, staff or area board members have returned to assist. It's a wonderful opportunity for our museum to reach out and provide a little help to a local community.

**"All of us know that when Danish-American organizations at the local level are strong, our museum benefits too!"**

René Gross Kærskov, entrepreneur, adventurer and the new owner of the Danish-American newspaper *BIEN* (spotlighted in our last *America Letter*) was our luncheon speaker. He was joined by his wife, Alicia, and two children, Thorbjørn and Amalie. In his remarks, René shared with us the standards to which he holds himself, his company and the organizations with which he's associated.

**TEST** is the acronym Kærskov uses to summarize the ideas that drive him:

Think big.

Extreme goals.

Seek competition.

Timing is everything!

As I reflect back over the years I've been associated with our museum, dating back to its founding in 1983, I think we embody these standards. Certainly, those of us who were on the organizing committee and who became charter board members were thinking big! If you've ever seen the original plans for the museum, you'll conclude that we and our architects at Astle Ericson & Associates were thinking big. The present museum is only a small part of what was originally conceived. Even with the addition of the new curatorial center, the building remains smaller than originally planned.

At the museum's founding, we envisioned an institution that played an important role in knitting together the Danish-American community. It was really an "extreme goal!" Was it not presumptuous to think that



Article by  
John Mark Nielsen



we could create an institution in a small, rural, western Iowa community? Slowly over the years, we have established a firm foundation and have increasingly become recognized as the institution preserving the artifacts that tell the story of the Danish immigrant presence in the United States. Who would have thought in 1983 that we would have graduate students from Danish universities applying to spend time working and learning at our museum?

I don't know if it's seeking competition; maybe in the museum world it's better to say "Seek cooperation." Our creation of a major exhibit,

*Danish Modern: Design for Living*, that we are now sharing with other museums, indicates cooperation. Our partnership with the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa this year and our plans to organize with other Scandinavian-American museums a major exhibit, *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*, for 2015 suggest a new level of cooperation. But maybe, too, there is a little competition when our museum is seen alongside other museums?

Timing is everything. Certainly, our museum came into existence at a time when there was renewed interest in ethnic heritage.

**Had we not acted, who knows how many artifacts and stories from the Danish immigrant experience might have been lost.**

That they are being preserved is valuable. But timing also requires that we adapt. Our efforts to digitally preserve Danish-American newspapers and make them available online, or to invite visitors to think about sustainability when visiting our Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park, or to get out and be active on the new Norwell exercise equipment designed and manufactured in Denmark, suggest that we are not just a museum where visitors look at things. We must continue to respond to the times, and I believe we are.

Life is full of **TESTs**. I appreciated René Kærskov's enthusiastic outlook on life and the challenges we and all institutions face. I think all who heard his luncheon speech in San Diego had similar reactions.

I hope, when you consider your membership in the Museum of Danish America, you too feel a part of meeting an important and exciting **TEST**: *celebrating our Danish roots and our American dreams!*



#### Bee of the Year

John Mark Nielsen pictured with his award from *BIEN* news

# a clock from aabenraa

ACROSS OCEANS, ACROSS TIME, ACROSS GENERATIONS . . . LITERALLY



**A CHERISHED FAMILY HEIRLOOM LINKS THE STORY OF A FAMILY, MIGRATION AND TURMOIL ON THE DANISH-GERMAN BORDER.**

Today, the old clock stands tall in the living room of a home in Harlan, Iowa. *Apenrade*, the German spelling of the Danish city, Aabenraa, appears on the clock's face; painted on the glass cover is the date – 1772. 242 years and almost 4,500 miles separate the clock from when and where the swing of its pendulum and distinctive, rhythmic “tock, tock, tock” began marking time.

The clock is the prized possession of the Muller family, a family who has its roots in the Duchy of Schleswig (*Slesvig* in Danish). Following the disastrous defeat of the Danish army in the Dano-Prussian War of 1864, Schleswig became a part of the German Empire. In 1885, largely due to treatment of the Danish minority, the Muller family immigrated to the United States, bringing the clock with them. The family



Article by  
John Mark Nielsen

#### Parlor

Interior of the T. G. Muller home showing the clock at left with Muller, Mette Overgaard Muller, daughters Dagny & Gudrun and niece Thyra Rasmussen, about 1914 in Kimballton, Iowa. Collection of the Museum of Danish America, gift of Muriel Muller Bacon. ►



settled first on the prairies of central Nebraska; later, in 1904, some of the family and the clock moved to Kimballton, Iowa.

In 1772, when the clock was made in Aabenraa, the world was a different place. The American Revolution had not yet occurred; Denmark was an absolute monarchy; and the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, though ruled by the Danish monarch who was both Duke of Schleswig and Duke of Holstein, were not a part of the Kingdom of Denmark. The concepts of national identity that developed in the 19th Century were not yet known.

The Duchy of Schleswig was a border area between Danish and German speaking peoples. Those who lived in the south tended to speak German, while in the north they spoke Danish. The language of business tended to be German (even throughout Denmark) as there was much trade with German cities to the south, especially Hamburg. Whether citizens spoke Danish or German, they considered themselves "Schleswigers."

The Schleswig cities of Flensburg and Aabenraa, located on the east side of the Jutland peninsula, and their merchant fleets were important port cities for the Danish monarch, exceeded only by the port and merchant fleet based in Copenhagen. However, both Schleswig ports were well known for their shipbuilding yards. Merchant ships from these cities carried on active trade with countries as far-flung as Argentina and Australia, and the taxes from this trade provided important revenue to the monarch.

It was out of this world that the first records of the Muller family emerge. An ancestor, Jess Lauridsen Muller, was a successful trader in the mid-1700s, buying oxen and wool throughout northern Jutland and then taking these commodities south to Germany and selling them in Hamburg. As he amassed a fortune, he bought property in the area of Bevtoft, about twenty miles northwest of Aabenraa. Here, according to a great-great grandson, Lauritz Muller in a letter from 1952, he owned an estate, a mill, tavern and restaurant. Family lore also has it that it was here the clock was brought after being purchased in Aabenraa.

The 1800s were a period of dramatic social, economic and political change throughout Europe. The rise of nationalism and the desire for democratic participation affected Denmark and the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. In 1440 the Danish King Christian I had declared that the two duchies would always be united. The German Duchy of Holstein naturally wished to ally itself with the German peoples to the south while the Danish speaking peoples in Schleswig wanted to be a part of Denmark.

Between 1848 and 1851 and again in 1864, two wars were fought. Known as the First and Second Schleswig Wars, the final outcome in 1864 was the disastrous defeat of the Danes at the Battle of Dybbøl Mill. The Prussian and Austrian armies occupied the entire Jutland Peninsula and did not withdraw until the Danish monarch gave up all claims to the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

### The clockmaker

William Green was the oldest son of the English family of clockmakers who worked in Aabenraa from the middle of the 18th century. Parts of the cases were made by cabinetmaker Lorents Nielsen, who gave a Danish interpretation to the neo-classicist style.



**War of 1864**

From The Cambridge Modern History Atlas, 1912. Used with permission from the University of Texas Libraries.



As a part of further negotiations in 1866, a plebiscite was to be held in the northern half of Schleswig to determine a boundary between German and Danish speaking peoples, but this provision was unilaterally set aside by Prussia in 1878. It was not until 1920, following the defeat of Germany in World War I, that the long promised plebiscite was held and the border redrawn.

Following Denmark's defeat, Danish speaking peoples in Schleswig were subjected to repression. Children had to attend German schools, and young men upon reaching the age of 18, had to serve in the German Army. Most problematic was the fact that Danish landowners could not sell to other Danish speakers

but had to sell to Germans. And finally, it was illegal for Danes in Schleswig to fly the Danish flag.

The family of Jess Lauridsen Muller was caught up in the socio-political fallout. Danish speakers and proud of their Danish heritage, they chafed under the increasingly harsh treatment of the Danish minority. Finally, in 1885, Jess Lauridsen Muller (named after his great grandfather) and his wife, Johanne, sold their farm near Brostrup and with their five children, Dagmar, Laurits, Thorvald, Viggo and Kristine Marie, emigrated. Their two older sons were approaching the age when they would have to serve in the German Army, and their parents did not want this to happen.

The Muller family's destination was Ord, Nebraska, the county seat of Valley County and near the Danish communities of Dannebrog and Nysted. Among the prized possessions that they took with them was the clock. In 1952, 81-year-old Laurids remembered that his brother Thorvald carried the clock weights in a gunny sack during the family's voyage across the Atlantic and journey by train to Nebraska. Perhaps the fact that he carried the weights gave Thorvald a claim to the clock, as he was the child to inherit it.

The family settled in a sod house on the Nebraska prairie. Another brother, Viggo, remembered that one of the first things his mother did was to sew a Danish flag.

## Kimballton

Part of Kimballton, Iowa's Main Street circa 1907-1908.  
Collection of the Museum of Danish America, gift of Judy Meehan.





**“It gave us a certain independent satisfaction and pride in raising our flag and knowing that no one would force us to take it down.”**

The family prospered, and eventually the parents were able to send each of their five children to folk high schools in Nysted, Nebraska or Tyler, Minnesota and some on to Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa.

In early 1904 Jess and Johanne moved to Kimballton, Iowa, to join extended family and with them went the clock. Two of their sons, Thorvald and Viggo, stayed on in Nebraska to continue farming the Muller land there.

As two bachelors, they quickly realized they needed help so they advertised for a house keeper and a hired hand in the Danish newspaper *Højskolebladet*. A brother and sister, Aksel and Mette Overgaard responded, arriving on February 22, 1904. As often happened when there was a bachelor and an eligible young Danish woman, Mette and Thorvald quickly were engaged and in September 1904, they were married in Kimballton!

In 1908 Thorvald and Mette left the farm in Nebraska and joined family in Kimballton. Thorvald eventually opened *T.G. Muller – Fancy Groceries*. “Fancy groceries” was a term used for items that were prepackaged or canned; wine, shoes, boots

and china were also sold in the store. Mette and Thorvald had a beautiful home in Kimballton in which they raised their six children, Dagny, Gudrun, Ove, Svend, Kaj and Eva. And the clock, whose weights Thorvald had carried from Denmark in 1885, stood in the parlor of their home.

The Muller store and home in Kimballton quickly became a center of politics and culture, whether Danish or American. Mette, a cultivated woman educated in the Danish folk high school tradition, organized reading clubs and wrote occasional verse; Thorvald, or “T.G.” as he now was known, took an interest in politics, especially the continued struggle of the Danish minority in Schleswig.

#### Front porch

The T.G. Muller residence in Kimballton, Iowa. The house was very large with a wraparound porch on the front and an overlook area around the second story. The back of the photo reads: “L to R: / T.G. Muller, owner / twin / Oswald J\_\_\_ / Eva / Niels Overgaard / twin / Mette (Mrs. T.G.M.) / Gudrun (Dutte).” Collection of the Museum of Danish America, gift of Judy Meehan.

This interest was especially piqued during World War I when Schleswig Danes were drafted into the German Army. (Today, those who were killed in action are remembered in Southern Denmark as “those who fell for a cause that was not theirs.”)

As World War I came to a close, the Danish government and Danish-Americans requested that the long promised plebiscite occur, allowing the people of northern Schleswig to determine in which country they wished to live and thus redraw the border between Denmark and Germany. This request was accepted by the Versailles Peace Conference. Accordingly, on February 10, 1920 the vote was held in the northern part of Schleswig. Almost 75% of the votes cast expressed a desire

for Danish rule. (Interestingly, in the city of Aabenraa, the vote was 55% for remaining in Germany, but in the surrounding district 68% voted to become a part of Denmark.) On March 14, 1920, a vote was held in mid-Schleswig, including the city of Flensburg. The outcome was that 80% voted for remaining a part of Germany.

That T.G. Muller was excited by events in the area of his birth is indicated by family lore. Stories have him returning to Denmark to participate in the vote on February 10, 1920. While it is true that the Danish government did encourage former residents of the Duchy to return and cast their vote, T.G. did not depart the United States until late April, returning later in August. Before he departed for Denmark, T.G. wrote a letter in Danish on April 29th to his wife, Mette, and their children, explaining his reasons for the trip.

**“I won’t have peace before I’ve been ‘home’ and witnessed South Jutland free – free from the Germans and returned to ‘Old Denmark.’ That is a promise I made and must keep, in spite of everything.”**

Though T.G. was too late to participate in the vote, he was present on June 15, 1920, when King Christian X rode across the border, officially incorporating the peoples of South Jutland into the Kingdom of Denmark. One can imagine T.G. on his return to Kimballton surrounded by family and friends in the parlor of his home regaling them with stories of his visit to the land of his birth – in the background, the “tock, tock, tock” of the clock marking the passage of time.



01

**01. Slesvigs Jord Genvundet**

T.G. Muller brought back this plaque as a reminder of the celebration in 1920. Collection of the Museum of Danish America, gift of Eva Muller Machutas.



02

**02. Medal of Liberation**

An example of a Medal of Liberation similar to the one awarded to T.G. Muller. Collection of the Museum of Danish America, gift of BebeAnna Buck and Marie Payne.

This was not to be T.G.'s only contact with King Christian X. Following Denmark's occupation by Nazi Germany in April 1940, T.G. Muller and the community of Kimballton sprang into action. Between 1940 and late 1943 when postal communication stopped, he and his family personally sent over 400 packages of food and clothing to occupied Denmark. On December 12, 1949, the Danish Ambassador to the United States, Henrik Kauffman, wrote: "It affords me great pleasure to inform you that His Majesty the King of Denmark has conferred upon you *Kong Christian de Tiendes Frihedsmedaille* as an appreciation of your contribution to Denmark's cause during the occupation." This medal and the accompanying citation has become another cherished family heirloom.

T.G. Muller died in 1952 and the tall, old clock and the King Christian X's Medal of Liberation passed to his oldest son, Ove. In 1967, Ove died, but the framed medal still hangs on the wall and

the clock still stands in the home of Muriel Bacon, Ove's 95-year-old widow who later remarried. It is her wish that the clock should one day come to the museum. Whether it does or not, the clock stands as an artifact of Danish and German tension in Schleswig and one that marks the passage of time and generations.



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Much of the information regarding the Muller family comes from the book, *Embracing Two Worlds: The Thorvald Muller Family of Kimballton*, edited by Barbara Lund-Jones and John W. Nielsen. Blair, Nebraska: Lur Publications, 1998. Copies of the book are available in our Museum Shop for the price of \$14.95 + \$5.50 postage and handling. **Don't forget your 10% membership discount!** The book is also available through the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska.

#### The clock today

95-year-old Muriel Bacon of Harlan, Iowa, pictured with the clock in February 2014.

# schleswig-holstein: turmoil on the danish-german border

For centuries, the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein (in Danish, Slesvig and Holsten) have been both a bridge and a borderland between Scandinavia and continental Europe. Located on the southern end of the Jutland peninsula, the region has been home to Danish, German, and Frisian peoples. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, nationalistic tensions in Schleswig-Holstein reflected power struggles between larger European nations. Events in this small corner of the world have re-shaped the boundaries between nations and inspired waves of both Danish- and German-speaking immigrants to the United States.



Article by  
Tova Brandt

## Battle of Isted

In the era before photography, printed engravings brought military campaigns into the homes of thousands of citizens. The Battle of Isted in July 1850 was one of the major Danish victories in the First Schleswig War. “Battle of Isted” from J. F. C. Knudsen *Danmarks Kamp for Slesvig i Aarene 1848, 49 og 50* (1852), used with permission from the Schleswig Collection of the Danish Central Library in Flensburg, Germany.

## 1848 | THE FIRST SCHLESWIG WAR

A wave of revolutionary movements swept Europe in 1848, from France to Austria-Hungary. In most countries, the revolutions were quickly and brutally suppressed, but in Denmark, a bloodless revolution led to constitutional reforms that incorporated the democratic values of the revolutionary leaders. Under the influence of Danish nationalists, the first Danish constitution was passed on June 5, 1849 – it included Schleswig, but excluded Holstein. Convinced that national liberals hostile to their cause had seized control of the Danish government, Schleswig-Holstein leaders installed a provisional government in Kiel and rebelled against Denmark.

The revolutionary movements in the German states inspired representatives to convene in Frankfurt with the goal of creating a united Germany. The Frankfurt Assembly resolved to include Schleswig and Holstein in the new Germany, and supported a new provisional government in Kiel. In response, Denmark suppressed the revolt and moved to integrate Schleswig more firmly into the Danish nation and its reformed constitution. The Frankfurt Assembly called on the Prussian Army to support the German cause in Schleswig, sparking an all-out war. Other European powers, especially Britain and Russia, did not want to risk Germans gaining control of access to the Baltic Sea; they negotiated peace between Denmark and Prussia, which the

Frankfurt Assembly was forced to accept.

Denmark interpreted the outcome of the war as a clear Danish victory, despite the fact that the government could not integrate Schleswig into the Danish kingdom as Danish nationalists had hoped. However, the Danish government still controlled the area and they promoted laws requiring people living in parts of Schleswig to speak Danish in schools and churches.

Many of the German-minded leaders throughout Schleswig and Holstein became political exiles and immigrated to the United States. Many others felt that the United States offered more opportunity to live out their political ideals and social values, and also chose to immigrate. As a group, these German immigrants are often called the “48ers” and became successful civic leaders, entrepreneurs and educators in their new homes.



### Folk costume from Schleswig

A married woman from Østfeldt in Schleswig, wearing her Sunday clothes as depicted by F.C. Lund. Lund traveled throughout Denmark in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, documenting folk costumes of different regions. Though Schleswig was not part of Denmark at the time this print was created or published, Lund included this costume and others from northern Schleswig in his collection. Collection of the Museum of Danish America, gift of Johanne K. Knudsen.

The area north of the Eider river becomes known as the duchy of Schleswig.

The First Schleswig War concludes with Denmark still in possession of Schleswig and Holstein.

1200

1460

1848-1850

1864

King Christian I of Denmark is elected Duke of Schleswig and Count of Holstein. The duchies receive significant political independence and are declared “forever united and indivisible” (*up ewig ungedeelt*).

The Second Schleswig War (Dano-Prussian War) results in Denmark losing both duchies to Prussia. In 1871, Prussia and other German states consolidate to form a united German Empire.

## 1864 | THE SECOND SCHLESWIG WAR

In a new constitution signed by King Christian IX in November 1863, Denmark once again sought to separate Schleswig—with its mixed Danish and German population—from Holstein and incorporate it into the Danish state. This move antagonized the German population of Schleswig, as well as the people of Holstein who had historically been “forever united and indivisible” from Schleswig. The German Confederation called for an all-German war against the Danes; between February and July 1864, a massive Prussian-Austrian army with cutting-edge

weaponry defeated Denmark’s outnumbered, poorly equipped forces in a series of battles at Dannevirke, Dybbøl, and Als, bringing both Schleswig and Holstein under Prussian control. In 1871, after Prussia’s defeat of Austria and France in consecutive wars, a united German Empire was consolidated around the sphere of Prussian influence under Chancellor Otto von Bismarck’s leadership.

For Denmark, the loss of Schleswig and Holstein had a dramatic impact on the country’s national identity, economy, and international political standing.

**Denmark lost 40% of its territory and experienced a similar decrease in total population, with devastating economic consequences.**

Danish foreign policy shifted toward a policy of neutrality and disarmament, as it was clear that Denmark could not win a military engagement with its southern neighbor. Danish culture took an inward-focused turn, while Danish nationalism found expression in literature, song, and the development of folk high schools that promoted a shared Danish culture.

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### 01. In formation

Danish soldiers stand in formation during the 1864 war, photographed by the Royal Court Photographer from Copenhagen. Used with permission from the Schleswig Collection of the Danish Central Library in Flensburg, Germany.

Following Germany's defeat in World War I, a plebiscite (popular vote) shifts the Danish-German border, joining northern Schleswig (*Sønderjylland*) to Denmark.

The Bonn / Copenhagen Declaration articulates rights for the Danish minority in Germany and the German minority in Denmark.

1920

1949

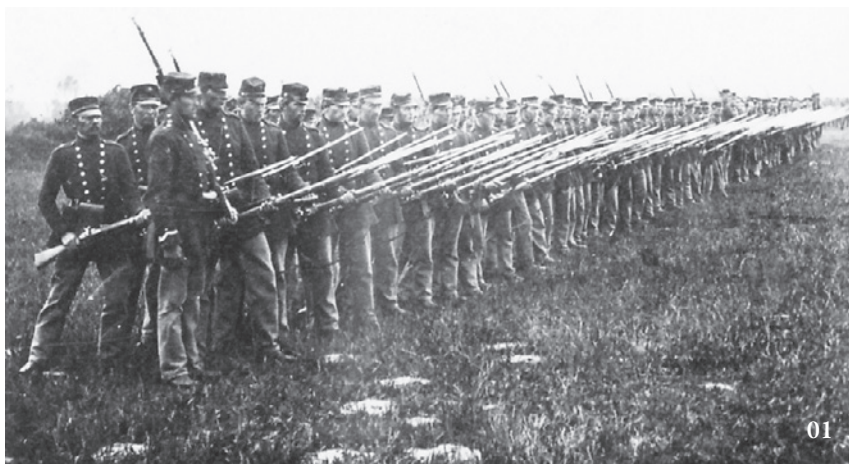
1955

1997

Schleswig-Holstein becomes a state in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Southern Denmark and northernmost Germany are designated an EU Border Region entitled "Sønderjylland-Schleswig"

In Schleswig and Holstein, the shift from Danish to German rule had far-reaching consequences throughout daily life. Much as Denmark had done after 1850, Prussia instituted oppressive language laws that mandated the use of German in schools, churches, and government. Moreover, young men were required to perform military service with the Prussian army and Danish property owners could only sell their land to Germans, not Danes. These new regulations motivated many Danish speakers, including many public officials, school teachers, and church leaders, to leave Schleswig, sometimes for Denmark but often for the United States. Approximately 100,000 people left Schleswig, especially between 1870 and 1890.



## 02. Dybbøl

The Danish army constructed massive defensive earthworks at Dybbøl in 1864, photographed by the Royal Court Photographer from Copenhagen. Used with permission from the Schleswig Collection of the Danish Central Library in Flensburg, Germany.

**MOR!**  
**STEM** **DANSK**



**TÆNK PAA MIG**

“Mother! Vote Danish – Think of me.”

Pro-Denmark propaganda poster for the 1920 plebiscite. Women gained the right to vote in 1915, five years earlier than the U.S. Used with permission from Museum Sønderjylland – Sønderborg Castle, Denmark.





“For 1,000 years we are Schleswigers”

German poster promoting the effort to keep Schleswig undivided and therefore part of Germany. Used with permission from Museum Sønderjylland – Sønderborg Castle, Denmark.

## 1920 | THE PEOPLE DECIDE

After Germany was defeated in the First World War, Denmark and the Danish minority in Schleswig advocated for self-determination to the people of Schleswig. The Treaty of Versailles called for public ballots in northern and central Schleswig to determine whether those areas would be joined with Denmark or remain with Germany. The first plebiscite, held in February 1920, resulted in 75% of northern zone voters choosing Denmark. In the second plebiscite, held in March, 80% of those in central Schleswig – including the city of Flensburg – chose to remain in Germany. The border was then shifted in accordance with the popular vote, dividing Schleswig between the two nations.

## PRESENT DAY | PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

In contemporary Europe, multi-cultural border regions have often been sites of conflict – consider the former Yugoslavia, northern Spain, or Northern Ireland. In contrast, Schleswig-Holstein is seen as a success story for the protection of minority rights and a peaceful border. The Bonn / Copenhagen Declaration in 1955 assured parity in the treatment of minority populations on both sides of the border. In 1997, the European Union, of which both Germany and Denmark are members, created an official Border Region called “Sønderjylland-Schleswig” which further supported open borders and shared public services like ambulances and police. Thousands of border crossings

occur each day by tourists, shoppers, commuters, and freight vehicles with little to no barrier between the two countries.

A peaceful border does not mean a lack of awareness of cultural differences, however. Approximately 50,000 people living in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein identify themselves as Danes. Fifty Danish-language schools in the region offer the option to be educated in alignment with Danish curriculum and those students often choose to attend university in Denmark. A similar array of schools, choirs, and support organizations serve the more than 15,000 people living in southern Denmark who hold Danish citizenship but self-identify as ethnic Germans.

**SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN: TURMOIL ON THE DANISH-GERMAN BORDER IS AN EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 2014. IT IS DEVELOPED BY THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER (DAVENPORT, IOWA). SUPPORT FOR THIS EXHIBITION IS PROVIDED BY HUMANITIES IOWA AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES.**

# stories from the military collection

Throughout our collections, numerous aspects of the lives of Danish immigrants are remembered through photographs, documents, and the material objects that immigrants owned and used. Recently we inventoried the military collection, including pieces from the American Civil War, the Danish War of 1864, the Spanish American War, and both World Wars. Below are just two of the personal stories arising from larger parts of this military collection.

In 1917, Hans Peter Jorgensen joined the United States Army and served in France. In 1918, Axel Christian Madsen was drafted into the U.S. Army at the age of 21, and served with the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Division. Both of these men, immigrants from Denmark, earned their American citizenship through their service in the First World War.

## HANS PETER JORGENSEN

H.P. Jorgensen was born on July 11, 1886 and was the oldest of Iver and Anna Jorgensen's eight children. After completing nurseryman's trade school, he planned to start his own plant nursery, but because his family lived in German-occupied southern Denmark (Slesvig-Holstein), he had concerns about being called to serve in the German Army. Instead, he immigrated to the United States in 1907.

Hans settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut for a few years, and learned English, in part, from the "funny papers." After a few years, Hans moved to Ohio, and then learned about Grand View College (now University) in Des Moines, Iowa. He attended winter school there in 1910, and later worked for Iowa Seed and Nursery Company in Des Moines. In June of 1923, Hans married Petrea A. Pedersen in Ringsted, Iowa.

Hans, a gardener for Mr. F.H. Luthe of Des Moines, planted

about 500 pansy flowers in front of his own home for decoration, but people would stop to inquire if the plants were for sale. He and Petrea sold the flowers and planted more the next year. The accidental business continued to grow.

At the end of the 1958 season, the same year that Petrea died, Hans closed the business and retired. He then moved into an apartment across from their home and continued to garden on some of the land. It became a hobby in which he shared produce and cut flowers with neighbors, the Danish Old People's Home, and Luther Memorial Church. He continued to be active until his death in 1966.



Article by  
Angela Stanford

### 01. Gas Mask Set

Hans P. Jorgensen used this gas mask, anti-dimming stick, and carrier during the War.

### 02. Anti-Personnel Grenade

Typically used by the German army during the First World War, this anti-personnel grenade was brought back as a souvenir by Jorgensen.

### 03. Metal Helmet

The singular piece in the collection from Jorgensen's uniform is this helmet, standard for most soldiers.



01



02



03

## AXEL CHRISTIAN MADSEN

Christian and Petrina (Rasmussen) Madsen's son Axel C. Madsen was born on April 30, 1896, in Asnas, Sjælland, Denmark. He left Copenhagen and immigrated to America early in 1916 aboard the Frederik VIII. He settled in the Dike, Iowa area where he worked on local farms.

Axel was discharged from the Army in 1918, and later trained at the American School in Chicago in the tool and die trade. He returned to Iowa and worked for Viking Pump Company in Cedar Falls, Iowa, then went to California for three years to work for Ford Motor Company, Pacific Gas and Electric, and American Can Company. Following that, he returned to Cedar Falls and to Viking Pump Company for the next 37 years.

At age 62, Axel married Elvina Olsen Nielsen on March 21,

1958. He had not been married previously. Until his marriage, Axel was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, but after marriage, he joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church in adjoining Waterloo.

Axel had one brother and two sisters, but only he immigrated to the U.S. Axel belonged to the Danish Brotherhood in America and the American Legion, as well as the Odd Fellows Lodge. He died on September 11, 1995.

## CONTEMPORARY ARTIFACTS NEEDED

While the scope of the military collection is impressive, the date range is limited. The museum would be interested in learning about pieces from any post-World War II military service used by a Danish immigrant or Danish American. Please contact Angela Stanford at [registrar@danishmuseum.org](mailto:registrar@danishmuseum.org).

### 01. Identification Tags

This set of aluminum tags were assigned to Axel Madsen during his term of service.

### 02. World War I Victory Medal

This medal was awarded to Axel Madsen in recognition of his service. The battle clasps attached at the top denote battle participation and campaign credit.

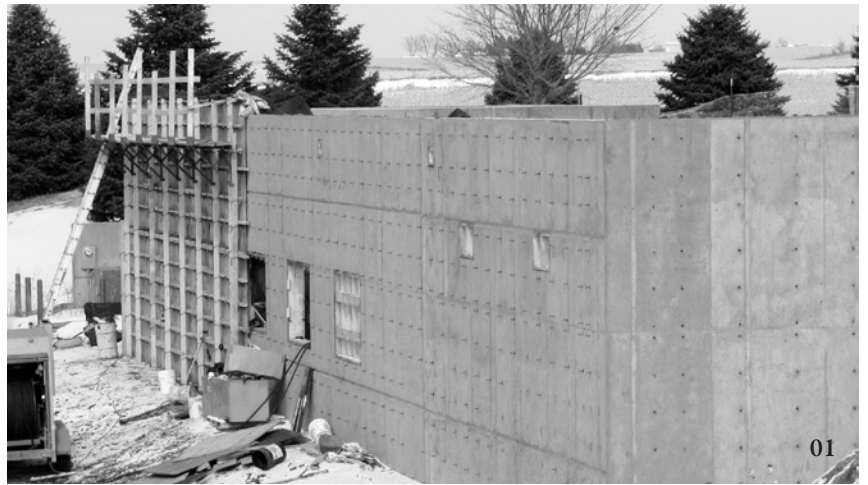
### 03. Trench Shovel and Cover

Used during the war to dig trenches, Madsen kept his shovel and its original cover.

# work continues on the curatorial center

Despite the bitter winter temperatures and a few rounds of snow, progress on the Curatorial Center addition continues. The concrete walls of the entire perimeter have been completed, and the crew is currently pouring the floor after using heaters to thaw the frozen ground. As the floor goes down, rails will be embedded in the concrete to accommodate the mobile compact storage units that will eventually hold furniture, trunks, and other large objects, as well as our textile collection. Two sections of the existing building's wall have also been cut – one that will connect to the corridor of the addition and one that will open into the exhibit preparation room.

The expected completion for the Curatorial Center is the end of June. Two interns have been hired for the summer to assist the curatorial staff with preparing the shelving units and moving collections.



Article by  
Angela Stanford

**01. Exterior**  
Wooden concrete forms are shown still attached at the far end of the west-facing wall after the final wall section was poured.

**02. Interior**  
To pour the concrete floor, the ground was thawed and rock, plastic, and rebar are being added.

**03. Making Connections**  
Two doorways are cut into the existing building. This one will lead into the new exhibition prep room.

# board meets in san diego

The museum's Board of Directors held its 96th regular meeting February 6 - 8 in California at the San Diego Marriott Del Mar, with 17 of its 23 members in attendance. The three days of meetings concluded with a luncheon on Saturday afternoon with nearly 50 invited guests, including museum members and friends from the House of Denmark located in Balboa Park.

The guest speaker was René Gross Kærskov, who was featured in the Winter 2013 *America Letter*. Kærskov, publisher of *BIEN*, surprised John Mark Nielsen with

the "Årets Bien 2013" (Bee of the Year) award "for exceptional and dedicated efforts in promoting and servicing the Danish Community in America."

The Board of Directors will hold its next meeting June 12 - 14 in Luck, Wisconsin. The annual meeting is held each October in Elk Horn, Iowa.

## BOARD MEMBERS IN SAN DIEGO

First Row: Vice President Garey Knudsen, Hutchinson, MN; Ron Bro, Cedar Falls, IA; Linda

Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL; Bill Jensen, Urbandale, IA. Second Row: Dorothy Feisel, St. Michaels, MD; Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD; Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA; Mitte Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA. Third Row: President Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA; Jerry Schrader, Elk Horn, IA; Carolyn Larson, St. Paul, MN; Tim Burchill, Jamestown, ND. Fourth Row: Executive Director John Mark Nielsen, Treasurer Kenneth Larsen, Calistoga, CA & Harlan, IA; Craig Molgaard, Missoula, MT; Henrik Rasmussen, Springfield, IL; Mark Strandskov, Mount Pleasant, MI.



Article by  
Terri Johnson

Board members not pictured: Secretary Flemming Smitsdorff, Germantown, WI; Cindy Adams, Littleton, CO; Erik Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY; Daniel Christensen, West Des Moines, IA; Anna Thomsen Holliday, Houston, TX; Cynthia McKeen, St. Paul, MN; Brent Norlem, Monticello, MN

# staff



Executive Director:  
Dr. John Mark  
Nielsen  
E: director



General  
Information, Group  
Tours, Volunteering  
Opportunities:  
Terri Johnson  
E: info



Wall of Honor,  
Donations,  
Memorial Gifts &  
Memberships:  
Debra Christensen  
Larsen  
E: development



Development &  
Social Media:  
Nicky Christensen  
E: media



Bookkeeping &  
Financial Inquiries:  
Jennifer Winters,  
E: acctng



Exhibit Questions:  
Tova Brandt  
E: curator



Artifact Donations  
& Museum Loans:  
Angela Stanford  
E: registrar



Museum Shop  
Manager:  
Joni Soe-Butts  
E: giftshop



Building and  
Grounds Manager:  
Tim Fredericksen



Donation of  
Books & Library  
Questions:  
Michele McNabb  
E: librarian



Genealogy Library  
Assistant:  
Wanda Sornson  
E: genealogyasst



Administrative  
Assistant:  
Kathy Pellegrini  
E: dkasst

**TO CONTACT STAFF**

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



USA Intern  
Inventory Assistant:  
Madeline Mongar



Danish Intern  
Exhibits:  
Sofie Nielsen



Danish Intern  
Genealogy Center:  
Helle Christensen

**WEEKEND STAFF**  
Beth Rasmussen,  
Rodger  
Rasmussen,  
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Rochelle Bruns  
**BEDSTEMOR'S  
HOUSE STAFF**  
David Thurston,  
Trudy Juelsgaard,  
Rochelle Bruns,  
Doug Palmer



# where are they now?

**TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED  
SINCE THE MUSEUM'S 'FIRST  
DAUGHTER' FREJA BØRSTING  
ARRIVED FROM DENMARK IN  
THE SPRING OF 2004**

At the University of Copenhagen I studied “Modern Culture and Cultural Communication” with a focus on museums and cultural heritage. My internship at The Danish Immigrant Museum (now Museum of Danish America) was a part of a two-year master’s program.

I remember arriving in February 2004, and the roads were covered with so much snow you could barely see where you were going. Also, the Iowa sky seems higher and wider than the Danish one. I don’t know if that makes sense. It’s probably just because the prairie horizon is wider than the one I see every day in Copenhagen.

**“Being from a very small country and all of a sudden finding yourself looking over the endless rolling hills surrounding Elk Horn and imagining the wagons carrying Danish immigrants was quite an experience!”**

My time at the museum really sparked my interest in the history of the Danes that had emigrated from Denmark to the U.S. and the communities their descendants live in today (i.e. how they still celebrate Danish traditions). I decided to do my master’s thesis on the subject of how Danish culture is being preserved in the small Danish communities in the American Midwest, such as Elk Horn, Kimballton, and Ringsted in Iowa, Dannebrog, Nebraska, Luck, Wisconsin, and Tyler, Minnesota.

In preparation for writing the thesis, I travelled the Midwest in the summer of 2006, interviewing descendants of Danish immigrants and visiting the communities. This was made possible by The Edith and Arnold N. Bodtker Grant for Research and Internship and by the museum since they were kind enough to let me have an office space at the museum where I worked on my project in between driving around to interview people.

Since 2009 I’ve worked as a curator at the Danish Immigration Museum in Farum, north of Copenhagen. The Danish Immigration Museum tells the story of 500 years of immigration to Denmark. I’m in charge of exhibits, web, social media, etc.

I believe that my internship at the museum in Elk Horn has helped me immensely with my career! Getting a job at a museum in Denmark is not always easy, but I gained a lot of experience with collections and exhibits while working in Elk Horn, and it gave me a clear advantage when I started applying for jobs in Denmark. Also, having worked with the topic of immigration made me a good candidate for my current job.

I live in the island of Amager, just outside of Copenhagen, with my wife. I visit Elk Horn whenever I have the opportunity and I enjoy seeing how the museum grows and develops.

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Article by  
Freja Børsting

Curator  
Now at The Danish Immigration  
Museum, Freja’s experience has come  
full-circle.



# of genealogical interest

## TIDBITS AND UPDATES FOR THOSE IN THE THROES OF GENEALOGY

- ◆ The Genealogy Center is now on CyndisList! We are located in the 'Denmark' section under Museums and Libraries and Newspapers.
- ◆ A 2014 listing of the 100 most popular genealogical websites may be found in a recent posting of the online journal [www.Genealogyintime.com](http://www.Genealogyintime.com).
- ◆ Images from Bethany Cemetery in Audubon County, Iowa, are now viewable on the Iowa GenWeb Iowa Gravestone Photo Project, found at [http://iowagravestones.org/cemetery\\_list.php?CID=5&cName=Bethany+Lutheran](http://iowagravestones.org/cemetery_list.php?CID=5&cName=Bethany+Lutheran)
- ◆ Danish military conscription district rolls (lægdssruller) are linked to parishes and are presently not online, although many have been microfilmed by the LDS church and are available on loan. A large but useful PDF document which provides information on the military and naval conscription district numbers affiliated with each parish may be found at [https://www.sa.dk/media%284843,1030%29/L%C3%A6gdssruller,\\_sognefortegnelse.pdf](https://www.sa.dk/media%284843,1030%29/L%C3%A6gdssruller,_sognefortegnelse.pdf).
- ◆ Information on over 13,000 Danish sea-captains and first mates (*stjormænd*) who passed navigation exams held by the Copenhagen seaman's guild between 1707 and 1839 may be found at [www.skipperedk.dk](http://www.skipperedk.dk). There is also information on some 4000 ships and over 10,000 destinations of these ships. Information varies for each entry but information about individuals such as place of birth, age, residence, citizenship and date of examination may prove useful.
- ◆ Did you know that many Danish institutions had their own church books? The Horsens Museum has an interesting page on the *tugthus* (jail) that opened in the town in 1853 as an adjunct to the Viborg jail. For the following four decades the jail maintained its own church books, images of which may be found on Arkivalieronline under Skanderborg County > Horsens Tugthus.
- ◆ Don't forget that searchable images of major Danish-American newspapers, *The Danish Pioneer* (Omaha & Elmwood Park, IL), *Bien* (California), *Dannevirke* (Cedar Falls), and *Danskeren* (Blair, NE) are now online via the museum webpage. These are useful sources to search for obituaries (*dødsfald* or *nekrologer* are key Danish terms) and other information on people or localities of interest. To access, go to Online Media, click on The **Digital Library of Danish American Newspapers and Journals** and follow the instructions.
- ◆ Digital images of *Church and Life* may also be searched now at <http://archives.grandview.edu/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp>.
- ◆ A collection of searchable Minneapolis city directories from 1859-1917 may be found at <http://box2.nmtvault.com/Hennepin2/>.



Resources compiled by  
Michele McNabb



- ◆ The Danish Central Library for Southern Slesvig has just made public its searchable collection of digitized books and literature, dating from 1591-1880 at [www.dcbib.dk/slesvigske-samling/digital-kulturarv](http://www.dcbib.dk/slesvigske-samling/digital-kulturarv). There's a link (*'her'*) in the 3rd paragraph under the heading that will produce a listing of digitized materials, which appear to be in a number of languages, but predominantly German and Danish. The titles can apparently be downloaded and then searched with the 'find' function on one's computer.
- ◆ Many new records and updates may be found at Online Searchable Death Records, Indexes and Obituaries, <http://www.deathindexes.com/>. Of prime interest to Danish descendants may be links to new material in California, Iowa, Nebraska, St. Louis, Yates Co. NY and Wisconsin, but there are many other additions, so the page is well worth bookmarking.
- ◆ For anyone wanting to try their hand at Danish, a downloadable free book on the 1864 war has just been published by the Museum in Sønderborg Castle. The link is <http://www.museum-sonderjylland.dk/SIDERNE/Det-sker/documents/1864-Dansk.pdf>.
- ◆ The subscription database GenealogyBank ([www.GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com)) has 40 Chicago newspaper titles in its archives from 1854 to the present; hence a good place to look for local obituaries.
- ◆ FamilySearch.org has recently added over 24 million New York passenger & crew lists, 1909-1957, over 2 million records/images of Canadian passenger lists, 1881-1922 and over 3 million records from New York passenger lists from 1820-1891.
- ◆ The 1921 Canadian census, the most recently available, is now indexed and searchable by name and other criteria on [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca). The latest census available on [ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) appears to be that from 1911; the 1921 Canadian census may be available on personal subscriptions, however.
- ◆ Burials in Enumclaw Evergreen Memorial Park in King Co. WA (near Seattle) is now searchable at <http://www.enumclawcemetery.com/cemetery-search-by-name.html>.
- ◆ California digitized newspapers from 1846 to the present may be searched at <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc>.

# enkekassen

## THE WIDOWS' PENSION FUND: WHAT IT IS, AND HOW TO USE THE ONLINE DATABASE

The original purpose of Enkekassen, the widows' pension fund, was to provide pensions for the widows of military and naval officers and those employed by the Crown in the kingdom as well as its associated duchies and territories. Contributions, based on the salary levels of the contributors, were to yield pensions that were 30-50% of the contributors' annual wage. The pension belonged to the widow. If she entered into a new marriage, however, her pension ceased unless she once again became a widow. This provision may have played a role on a woman's decision to remarry or not.

In 1788 the fund was reorganized so that any man who was appointed to a position by the Crown or its representatives and received a salary from the State had to start contributions at the time he married. Pastors were not allowed to marry civil servants without an assurance that this had been initiated on pain of a fine of 100 rigsdaler. As of the same year, married officials who had not contributed to the fund or ensured a pension for their wives by other means had to sign up and make additional retrospective payments for four years. This broader coverage included all pastors, judges, prosecutors, bailiffs, Court staff and those employed in State-chartered institutions.

Prior to 1814 the fund also included those who were employed in Norway. After separation of the two kingdoms, a separate Norwegian Widow's Pension Fund was established and monies were transferred from the Danish fund to cover those who had contributed but who were now citizens of Norway.

The Enkekasse ceased to take in contributions in 1845, but the final payment from the fund occurred in 1915.

Although in Danish, this database [ available at [www.fogsgaard.org](http://www.fogsgaard.org) > Enkekassen ] still can be useful in finding information about individuals who were employed by the Danish government between 1775 and 1845 and their spouses. It can be searched by the name of a person who contributed to the fund (indskyder) or by a widow (*hustru*). In the covered period nearly 15,000 men in 16,000 marriages who contributed to this fund are listed.

## EXAMPLES OF DATA THAT MAY BE FOUND IN THIS DATABASE

A search for a contributor named "Grundtvig" yielded four results (below). The first two were pastors in Viborg and Ringkøbing Counties, the third was a sexton at Trinitatis Church in Copenhagen, the fourth a forage-master in Copenhagen.

### *Kasenummer / navn*

5918 Hans Jørgen Grundtvig Sognepræst for Tostrup etc. i Viborg Amt  
Født: 07-08-1769 Død: 17-09-1831

12407 Søren Jacobsen Grundtvig Sognepræst for Nørresnede etc. i Ringkøbing Amt  
Født: 23-06-1766 Død: 13-01-1827

13796 Johan Wilhelm Grundtvig Graver ved Trinitatis Kirke  
Født: 13-02-1771 Død: 18-08-1828

18243 Hans Nicolai Edinger Grundtvig Foriemester her i Kiøbenhavn  
Født: 02-06-1807 Død: --



Article by  
Michele McNabb

If we click on #5918 in the last example to take a closer look, we get the following information:

5918

Hans Jørgen Grundtvig Sognepræst for Tostrup etc. i Wiborg Amt

Født: 07-08-1769 Seyerøe Stempelmærke: Danmark

Død: 17-09-1831

Notat: Dåsattest i RA.

**Hustru:**

Policenummer: 5918

Pensionspolice oprettet: 21-07-1800

Årlig Pension: 200 Indbetalt: 1004 Afdragsordning: 0

Anne Cathrine Hedeveg Raupach

Født: 02-05-1783 Randers Stempelmærke: Danmark

Død: 20-06-1867

Notat: Dåsattest i RA.

Hans Jørgen Grundtvig, pastor in Tostrup and adjunct parishes in Viborg Co, was born in the island of Sejerø on August 7, 1769 and died on September 17, 1831. His baptismal certificate is in the State Archives (and should be also viewable through Arkivalieronline.dk). A pension file was begun on July 21, 1800, and, 1004 rigsdaler were paid in, resulting in an annual pension of 200 rigsdaler for his wife, Anne Cathrine Hedeveg Raupach, who was born May 2, 1783 in Randers and died on June 20, 1867. Her baptismal certificate is also on file in the State Archives. In this case, Hans Jørgen's pension provided income for his widow for over 35 years.

A search of women with the Grundtvig surname yielded some 13 names, including one Frederikke Severine Grundtvig (1795-1876), a pastor's wife from Jutland whose name closely mirrors that of a close contemporary--Denmark's most famous 19th-century clergyman, Nicolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig (1783-1872), also from Jutland--suggesting a possible family relationship.

## special thanks

Thanks go to our intrepid volunteers who clip and send obituaries of Danish-born or affiliated persons for our files. These generally unsung individuals include Terri Hansen, Gary & MaryJo Rasmussen, Marge & Jim Iversen, Jim Kelgor, Deanna Hagedorn, Fritz Hansen, Anelise Sawkins, Iver & Lis Jorgensen, Allis Sega and Wm. R. Jones. If you would like to join this group, please contact Michele at [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org) to see if your area is covered.

## are you a danish immigrant or long-term resident?

Many Danes have immigrated to the US since WWII, participated in exchange student or internship programs or resided in this country for prolonged periods of time. We would like to have some information in our files on these more recent immigrants and shorter- or long-term residents. A downloadable Immigrant Information Form may be found on the museum webpage under Library & Genealogy > Research & Translations > Danish Immigrants. Please feel free to distribute it at meetings of your local Danish-American organizations.

# adoption in denmark

**TO FIND ADOPTION RECORDS, IT IS NECESSARY TO KNOW THE NAMES OF THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS, THE YEAR OF THE ADOPTION AND WHERE IT TOOK PLACE**

## **LEGAL BACKGROUND**

By royal decree of December 13, 1815 the Danish Chancellery (from 1849 on, the “Ministry of Justice”) was authorized to grant adoptions in cases where the prospective adoptive parents had no direct heirs. The adopted child could then carry the name of his/her adoptive parents and inherit from them as a legitimate child.

In a Ministry of Church and Education circular dated September 30, 1897 authorization was given for information about adoptions and recording of the date of the adoption decree being entered into the parish registers. However, this was not made a legal requirement until May 7, 1923.

With the Law on Adoption of March 26, 1923 adoptions were based on a ‘dual family principle,’ which meant that in terms of inheritance a child retained an association with its biological parents as well as assuming the surname of his/her new family.

The Law of May 25, 1956 broke with this principle, so that the connection of a right of inheritance between an adopted child and its biological parents was broken. After this date the child’s position was that as if he/she were the natural child of the adoptive parents. In special circumstances, however, the law allowed the possibility of a child both keeping the biological parents’ surname and the right to inherit from them.

With the Law of June 7, 1972 adoption matters were transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the various county authorities. This law also legally broke every connection with respect to name and inheritance between an adopted child and its biological parents.

## **RECORD-KEEPING**

**1815-1923:** Adoption cases are located at the National Archives in Copenhagen. The county functioned as the expediting office, but adoptions were granted and adoption certificates were issued to the adoptive parents by the Ministry of Justice.

**1923-1972:** The County Administrator functions as the case officer and could receive authorization by the Ministry of Justice to complete the adoption certificate. Copies of adoption certificates are found in the county archives from 1923 on.

**1972 on:** All matters pertaining to adoptions (case files and certificates) were transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the county authorities.

## **ACCESS**

Adoption records are generally only accessible after they are 75 years old. An adopted child or adoptive parents can, however, request access to their own adoption files, even if they are not this old. At present access is only available in person at the various regional archives or through a hired researcher.



Translated by  
**Michele McNabb**  
from a handout prepared by the Provincial Archives for  
Northern Jutland, <http://www.sa.dk/content/us/>



# veterans of 1864

## PHOTOS AND STORIES NEEDED FOR THE 2014 GENEALOGY CENTER PHOTO EXHIBIT

*Veterans of '64* will be the title of the 2014 Genealogy Center photo exhibit. Linking to this year's major museum exhibition, *Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border*, we are looking for photographs and stories of both immigrant military veterans of the Dano-Prussian War of 1864 and of individuals (male and female) who lived through the war and its aftermath, when Denmark had to surrender the duchies of Slesvig and Holsten, over one-third of its land mass, to Germany. A Permission to Display form to accompany submissions may be requested by mail, by emailing [librarian@danishmuseum.org](mailto:librarian@danishmuseum.org) or may be downloaded from the museum webpage. See Library & Genealogy > Photo Gallery.

## danish pioneer newspaper exhibit at the genealogy center

The Danish Pioneer traveling exhibit will be in the Genealogy Center lobby through the end of April. If you're in Elk Horn, drop in during the Genealogy Center's open hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm) to learn about the early days of Danish-American publishing. And while you're there, pick up a copy of our Immigrant Information Sheet or latest update of useful genealogical webpages, and chat with our friendly volunteers!

## church register genealogy microfilms center wishlist available

We have recently added a number of microfilms of Danish-American church registers to the Genealogy Center collection. An up-to-date listing of current holdings (mostly Lutheran congregations, but some Baptist as well) may be downloaded from the webpage at Library & Genealogy > Genealogical Resources. The contents of these church registers vary greatly. Information about research fees for searching for individual records may also be found in this section of the webpage.

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 under Library & Genealogy > Genealogy Center Donations and Wish List. We welcome donations of or toward these materials, but since this list changes frequently please contact us before purchasing or sending items so that we may avoid duplicate donations.

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News by  
Michele McNabb

Poul Poulsen

Great grandfather of the museum's Executive Director who served in the War of 1864.

# new additions to the wall of honor

**OCTOBER 16, 2013 – FEBRUARY 14, 2014**

The Museum of Danish America's Immigrant Wall of Honor provides families and friends with a means of preserving the memory of or honoring 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. The information below includes the immigrant names, year of immigration, location where they settled and the name and city of the donor.

**WALTER ANDERSEN (HANS THEODOR WALDEMAR) & GUNHILDA HANDRUP** (1910) (1912) Cedar Falls, Iowa - Daniel Christensen, West Des Moines, IA

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

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

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

**SØREN CHRISTIAN MIKKELSEN** (1921) Junction City, Oregon - David L. & Pauline Mikkelsen, Silverton, OR

**JENS PETERSEN (JENSEN) & ANNA MARIE HANSEN PETERSEN** (1869) (1875) Jacksonville, Iowa - Richard and Julienne (Obrecht) Ferry, Harlan, IA; LaVerne & Pam Obrecht, Malvern, IA

**JENS HOLM PETERSEN** (1888) Sidney, Montana - Lynden Earl Petersen, Aurora, CO

**M. PETER PETERSEN & ANE PEDERSEN PETERSEN** (1868) (1869) Cordova (West Blue), Nebraska - Sandra Petersen, Loveland, CO

**THEODOR PETERSEN & MARIE JACOBSEN PETERSEN** (1878) (1889) Solvang, California - Robert T. & Sandra E. Petersen, Loveland, CO

**REINER & GERDA NIELSEN SANDERSEN** (1939) (1939) Brown Deer, Wisconsin - Joan Hudziak, Two Rivers, WI

**MATHIAS THOMSEN & INGEBORG HANSINE REGGELSEN** (1889) (1889) Selma, California - Robert T. & Sandra E. Petersen, Loveland, CO

**GERDA EDEL GRANE HENRIKSEN WESTENBERGER** (1923) Chicago, Illinois - Gloria Culpepper, Long Beach, CA



Information compiled by  
Debra Christensen Larsen

You, too, can memorialize your name or a forbearer's on the Danish Immigrant Wall of Honor. Contact us to request information, or print a form from [www.danishmuseum.org/wall-of-honor.cfm](http://www.danishmuseum.org/wall-of-honor.cfm) and submit with a contribution of \$250 per name.

# in honor

**OCTOBER 16, 2013 – FEBRUARY 14, 2014**

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

Robert Warren Brown  
Virgil & Joyce Christensen's 63rd wedding anniversary  
Danish Club of Tucson's 40th anniversary  
Lillian Eggers  
Dorothy & Lyle Feisel

Lotte Hansen, Danish intern  
Laurits & Laura Jepsen  
Dagmar Johnson  
Rev. & Mrs. Carsten Christian Kloth  
Gloria & Bill Layton  
Earl Madsen  
Jean M. Matteson of Weeping Water, NE  
Museum of Danish America Staff  
John Mark Nielsen

John Mark Nielsen's outstanding work this year  
Dr. John Mark Nielsen for the leadership he has shown. His contribution of time and talent has made the Museum of Danish America the success it is today  
Roger & Dorothy Olson  
Erik Østergaard  
The Sigrid Riddle Family  
Eiler & Hanne Marie Thomsen

# memorials

**OCTOBER 16, 2013 – FEBRUARY 14, 2014**

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

Hakon Andersen  
Lauritz & Marie Andersen  
Donald R. Bickel  
Charles E. R. Boye  
Charlie Brehm  
Niels & Laura Bro  
Clarice Christensen  
Kathryn Ann Clausen  
Glen Clemsen  
Glen Clemsen, my husband  
Hans & Mathilde Farstrup  
Cleo & Esther Hansen  
Clifford K. & A. Veola Hansen  
William Julius Hansen  
Laura Henriksen  
Emery Hoegh  
Hans & Genevieve Hoiberg  
Jens & Anna Holland  
Kenneth O. Jacobsen & Vera C. Jacobsen  
Oskar & Ellen Jensen  
Vahn Jensen  
Arthur A. Jersild  
Leslie Johansen  
Julius A. Johnson & Helen Jorgine Rasmussen Johnson

Leonard & Clara Johnson  
Annis Jepsen Juhl  
Stuart J. Karr  
Ranny & Rhoda Kelloway  
Rhoda L. Kelloway  
Evelyn Kjestine Faaborg Jessen Kelso  
Arthur K. Knudsen  
John Kobe  
Virginia Elaine (Jessen) Kraatz  
Jens Hans Christian & Thora Krog  
Shirley Lange  
Else Lansman  
Hans Peter Larsen  
Paul M. & Johanne Larsen  
William B. Larsen  
Anna E. (Frost) Laursen  
Dorothea Laursen  
Bent Lernø  
Eivind Lillehoj  
Loved Ones  
Robert E. Lovejoy  
Judith Meehan  
Mardell R. (Fries) Miller  
Erna Moller  
Bonnie J. (Noah) Moore  
Aunt Myrtle Molgaard Nelson  
Myrtle Nelson

Virginia E. (Nielsen) Nelson (1926-2012)  
Harold R. Nielsen  
Tom Nielsen  
Eric & Joan Norgaard  
Kay Ann North  
Elsie Obermeyer  
Dick Olsen  
Niels & Nadjeschda Overgaard  
Marianne Owen  
Howard Eugene Paulson  
Flemming V. Pedersen  
Lars H. Pedersen  
Niels M. Pedersen  
Peder & Olga Pedersen  
Hans & Ivy Peitersen  
Gerald Rasmussen  
Hans Christian Rasmussen  
Florence Keller Ries  
Kaj & Astrid Roge  
Kevin Ruggaard and Knute Ruggaard  
Anker Siersbeck  
Rev. & Mrs. Holger Strandskov  
Arthur Thompson  
Svend Waendelin, Archivist  
Jim Weedman  
Charles W. Wilson  
Renate Wittrup



# new members

OCTOBER 16, 2013 – FEBRUARY 14, 2014

Museum of Danish America is pleased to identify the following 57 individuals and organizations as its newest members:

Carol Bassoni, Gilroy, CA  
Lorraine Beaumont, Davis, CA  
Roger & Margo Behler, Avon, CO  
Gary & Carolyn Carlsen, Monterey, CA  
Gregory & Delores Clouse, Altoona, IA  
Gloria Culpepper, Long Beach, CA  
Nellie Curran, Pittsburgh, PA  
Paul Danielsen, Waterloo, IA  
Danish American Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Alden & Birgitte Flanders, North Andover, MA  
Dean & Kim Foresman, Atlantic, IA

Tim Gier, Montgomery Village, MD  
Christine Hansen, Washington, DC  
Ethan & Patricia Hansen, Atascadero, CA  
Rhonda Hardy, Ames, IA  
Claude & Harriet Hayes, Decorah, IA  
Tim Hayes, Decorah, IA  
Claudia Holcomb, Altoona, IA  
Joan Hudziak, Two Rivers, WI  
Connie Jacobsen, Puyallup, WA  
Ronald & Marlene Jensen, Rochester, MN  
Vagn Jensen, Richfield, MN  
Paul & Kirsten Jepsen, Hinsdale, IL  
Hans & Anna Jorgensen, Roseville, MN  
Don & Barb Julesgard, Saint Libory, NE  
Roy Julie, Queenstown, MD

Dennis & Patricia Kirlin, Council Bluffs, IA  
Laverne Lansman, Audubon, IA  
Juliene Larsen, Gilroy, CA  
Reed Larsen, San Jose, CA  
Richard Larsen, Santa Rosa, CA  
Ryan & Stacie Larsen, Elk Horn, IA  
Jeannie Maples, Corona Del Mar, CA  
John & Janet Mehr, Dumfries, VA  
Kimira Miller, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Jan Milroy, Des Moines, IA  
Darold Nelson, Omaha, NE  
Verne & Ilene Nelson, Harlan, IA  
Michael & Karma Nielsen, Altoona, IA  
Vagn Nielsen, Sonoma, CA  
Mogens & Hanne Norlem, Møldrup, DK  
Roger & Judy Olson, Gray, IA  
Susan Ouverson, Clear Lake, IA  
Torben & Bridget Ovesen, Mount Pleasant, WI  
Hans & Jeanette Pedersen, Haines City, FL  
Bob & Kathy Pellegrini, Elk Horn, IA  
Lynden & Thelma Petersen, Aurora, CO  
Barbara Pomeroy, Detroit, ME  
Annette Rachlin, Washington, DC  
Philip & Karen Royce, Jr., St. Cloud, MN  
Kathleen Rudolph, Paw Paw, IL  
Randall & Margaret Ruggaard, Hudson, OH  
Randi Selehdar, Potomac, MD  
Daniel & Joan Shurtliff, Seward, NE  
Victor & Shirley Thomsen, Avon, CT  
Mary Topp, Mankato, MN  
Thomas & Diann Weinman, Des Moines, IA

## UNIQUE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Membership to the Museum of Danish America makes a meaningful gift for any occasion. Give the gift that keeps giving all year round. Make shopping easy while supporting the museum – Remember, we “gift-wrap” and ship, too!

\$25.00 gift for a new member\*  
\$30.00 gift for a member renewal

As a member, your friend or relative will enjoy year-round admission, *America Letter* newsletter (three times a year), 10% discount in our unique Museum Shop, and reduced translation and research fees at our Genealogy Center.

### TO ORDER

Visit [www.danishmuseum.org](http://www.danishmuseum.org) [Support – Gift Membership]  
Call our Development Office 712.764.7001  
E-mail: [development@danishmuseum.org](mailto:development@danishmuseum.org)

\*Never been a member, or membership has been lapsed for 3+ years.

Please allow 2–3 weeks from the date of your order for delivery of the gift membership packet. You may choose to have the packet sent to you or directly to your recipient.

# thank you, organizations

## OCTOBER 16, 2013 – FEBRUARY 14, 2014

These organizations have received “complimentary” memberships, contributed annual gift-in-kind or memberships of \$100 or more. We recognize their generosity in each newsletter during their membership.

A & A Framing (Annette Andersen), Kimballton, IA  
Andersen Windows (Sarah Andersen), Bayport, MN  
Answers (Frank R. Tighe), Atlantic, IA  
Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum, Atlantic, IA  
BIEN Publishing Inc. (René Gross Kærskov, Publisher), Pacific Palisades, CA  
Boose Building Construction (Marty & Connie Boose), Atlantic, IA  
Carroll Control Systems, Inc. (Todd Wanninger), Carroll, IA  
Cedar Valley Danes, Cedar Falls, IA  
Country Landscapes, Inc. (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA  
Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, MN  
The Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, NE  
Danish American Club in Orange County, Huntington Beach, CA  
Danish American Club of Milwaukee, West Bend, WI  
Danish American Heritage Society, Decorah, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #16, Minden, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lenexa, KS

Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84, Lincoln, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #144, Dike, IA  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #227, Detroit, MI  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #268, Junction City, OR  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #283, Dagmar, MT  
DBIA, Centennial Lodge #348, Eugene, OR  
The Danish Home, Chicago, IL  
Danish Home for the Aged, Croton-On-Hudson, NY  
Danish Ladies Relief Society of San Francisco, Novato, CA  
Danish Mutual Insurance Association, Elk Horn, IA  
Danish Sisterhood Ellen Lodge #21, Denver, CO  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #176, Aplington, IA  
Danish Sisterhood Midwest District, Elmwood Park, IL  
Den Danske Pioneer (Elsa Steffensen & Linda Steffensen), Hoffman Estates, IL  
Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn, IA  
Elk Horn-Kimballton Optimist Club, Elk Horn, IA  
Elk Horn-Kimballton-Exira Community School District, Elk Horn, IA  
Faith, Family, Freedom Foundation (Kenneth & Marlene Larsen), Calistoga, CA  
Fajen Construction (Larry Fajen), Elk Horn, IA  
Furniture from Scandinavia, Washington, DC

Hall Hudson, P.C., Attorneys at Law, Harlan, IA  
Hansen Interiors, Mount Pleasant, WI  
Harlan Newspapers (Steve Mores & Alan Mores), Harlan, IA  
Heartland District of the DBIA, Des Moines, IA  
Heartland District of the Danish Sisterhood, Johnston, IA  
Henningsen Construction, Inc., Atlantic, IA  
House of Denmark, San Diego, CA  
The Iron Shop, Exira, IA  
Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Jepsen), Hinsdale, IL  
Knudsen Old Timers, Glendale, CA  
Leman USA, Sturtevant, WI  
Los Angeles Naver Club, Los Angeles, CA  
Marge's Hair Hut (Kent & Marge Ingerslev), Elk Horn, IA  
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn, IA  
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, Audubon, IA  
Pacific NW District Lodges D.B.I.A., Eugene, OR  
Proongily (Cynthia McKeen), St. Paul, MN  
The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA  
Rebild National Park Society, Southern California Chapter, Glendale, CA  
Red River Danes, Fargo, ND  
Ringsted Danish American Fellowship, Ringsted, IA  
scan|design foundation BY INGER & JENS BRUUN, Seattle, WA  
Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, IA  
Sorrel Urban Bistro, Houston, TX  
Symra Literary Society, Decorah, IA  
Story Construction Co., Ames, IA  
TK Petersen (Thorvald K. Petersen), Santa Monica, CA

# upcoming events

## **DAILY LIFE IN DENMARK IN 1864**

presented by Sofie Krogh Nielsen  
April 10, Noon  
Bro dining room

## **EXHIBIT FINAL DAY**

*Søren Kierkegaard:*

*The Global Dane*

Main floor gallery

April 13

Contact Tova Brandt for  
information on how to host this  
exhibit at a venue near you

## **EXHIBIT OPENING**

*Nude Vases, Cubist Faces:*

*Modernism at Rookwood Pottery*

April 23 – October 19, 2014

Main floor gallery

## **SPRING OPEN HOUSE**

in the Museum Shop

April 26

## **VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARD PIANO RECITAL**

April 27, 2 pm

Bro dining room

## **VOLUNTEER BANQUET**

May 5

Danish Inn Restaurant

Elk Horn, IA

## **REMEMBERING THE SCHLESWIG WAR OF 1864: A TURNING POINT IN GERMAN AND DANISH NATIONAL IDENTITY**

presented by Julie Allen,  
Associate Professor of  
Scandinavian Studies at the  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

May 15, Noon

Bro dining room

## **TIVOLI FEST**

May 24-25

FREE admission

“Ringridning” kids’ bicycle  
game from 1:30-3:30 pm

*2014 theme: Denmark  
on the Prairie*

## **VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARD PIANO RECITAL**

June 1, 2 pm

Bro dining room

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

June 12-14

Luck, WI

## **SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN IMMIGRATION TO IOWA**

presented by Bill Roba, Professor  
of History at Scott Community  
College

June 19, Noon

Bro dining room

## **SANKT HANS AFTEN CELEBRATION**

June 21, Evening

Featuring a showing of the film,  
“Jens Jensen: The Living Green,”  
hot dogs, bonfires, music, and  
*hygge*

## **ADMISSION**

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

Price includes Jens Dixen Cabin,  
Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park,  
and Bedstemor’s House

## **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

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

## **GENEALOGY CENTER**

4210 Main Street, PO Box 249

Museum members FREE;

Non-members \$5

### **May-October**

Tuesday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm

Saturdays 10 am – 5 pm

### **November-April**

Tuesday-Friday 10 am – 4 pm

Visitors are always welcome, but  
if you wish research assistance we  
strongly urge you to make an  
appointment in advance.

## **BEDSTEMOR’S HOUSE**

2105 College Street

Open daily

Memorial Day – Labor Day

1 pm – 4 pm

America Letter

Spring 2014, No. 1

Published three times annually by Museum of Danish America

2212 Washington Street, Elk Horn, Iowa 51531

712-764-7001, 800-759-9192, FAX 712-764-7002

www.danishmuseum.org email: info@danishmuseum.org

## a letter from the president

Another year has passed. It was a milestone year for the museum which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and began construction of the Curatorial Center, the largest project undertaken since the original construction of the museum. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration held in June was a moving event attended by many who had been present at the original dedication such as the current governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad. Other dignitaries were also present including the Danish Ambassador to the United States, Peter Taksøe-Jensen. Many others in attendance were long-time members who have contributed financial support and/or volunteered as board members or unpaid staff.

While this celebration was a testament to the success of the museum and the dedication of supporters and staff, all museums face many challenges and have important choices to make. Prior to the recent

board meeting in San Diego, Executive Director John Mark Nielsen shared with the board several magazine and newspaper articles about the current and future possibilities for museums. Such articles provoke thought on the purpose of museums. For example: Do museums exist only as monuments containing the treasures of the past? Or, should they provide experiences, entertainment and education? How do they remain relevant and how do they meet the challenge of changing demographics? One of these challenges for the Museum of Danish America is how to remain relevant to the descendants of earlier Danish immigrants, who often move further away from their roots genetically and geographically. At the same time, how does the museum remain a vital institution in Western Iowa?

The museum has been proactive in meeting some of these challenges. Changing the name of the museum from The Danish

Immigrant Museum to the Museum of Danish America is one example; the creation of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park is another. While continuing to preserve the story of Danish Americans, these developments show ways in which a broader audience may find the Museum of Danish America relevant.

One of our challenges is to maintain both a local and national presence. There are several ways that this is being addressed. Exhibits, for example, are often collaborative efforts that travel to a number of different venues. In 2013 the successful exhibit *Danish Modern: Design for Living* was on display at our museum and is now at the Goldstein Museum of Design in St. Paul, Minnesota. From there it is scheduled to continue traveling to the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, Washington. This is an example of leveraging the resources of many different institutions and reaching a greater audience.



Letter by  
Dagmar Muthamia

Another traveling exhibit is *Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border* that has just recently opened in Elk Horn and will next travel to the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa. This one is particularly exciting because it deals with events that created the conditions that led to so many of our ancestors immigrating from Schleswig-Holstein to the United States. As with the Danish design exhibit, this is also an exhibit with varied audiences.

Another way that a national audience is reached is through the Museum Shop. The Christmas catalog was outstanding in presenting a wide variety of items that reflect the spirit of Danish culture. Many members of the museum were given the opportunity to purchase items of exceptional beauty and style without having to travel to the museum itself.

Providing education and experiences online is another way more people are reached. In fact, the museum's website ([danishmuseum.org](http://danishmuseum.org)) includes an exhibit of the museum's collection that is available to everyone called "**Sampling the Collection.**" You *must* go online and look at it if you haven't. It is very interesting and informative. A more extensive view of the collection is available to members with a membership at the \$100 annual level. Members are able to browse and search almost the entire collection. This is an example of meeting the challenges of an online world and yet another way the Danish American story can be told to members regardless of where they live.

All the amazing achievements of the museum would not be possible without our talented and dedicated staff. We are ever so thankful for the outstanding work, support and dedication of the staff. I am sure that all of you who have met and worked with

them will agree. At the recent board meeting in San Diego, this was exemplified by Terri Johnson, Deb Christensen Larsen and Michele McNabb who traveled to San Diego and worked from early in the morning until late at night to make the board meeting a success.

And, of course, we are very fortunate to have John Mark Nielsen as the Executive Director. To recognize the importance and value of his leadership, the board members have contributed the funds to furnish and equip the area at the entrance to the Curatorial Center as a theater where videos will be shown for the enjoyment and edification of museum visitors. We have asked that the theater be named in honor of John Mark and Dawn Nielsen.

Finally, you, the members of the Museum of Danish America, are essential to our success. Your continued membership and the generous support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

**HERE IS TO 2014 AND  
ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS  
AND ACHIEVEMENT.**

## board of directors

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

Participating at their own expense, the board members come together three times a year to share their skills and experience in providing oversight to the administration of the museum

and to develop ideas and plans that will contribute to its continuing vitality. It is the practice of the board to meet each February and June in different locations around the United States so that they may share and celebrate Danish heritage with those Danish Americans who may not otherwise be able to link directly with the museum. This year there was a slight deviation. In 2013, the board held its February meeting in Houston, Texas, and its June meeting was held in Elk Horn, Iowa, celebrating the museum's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and election of new board members. In October

the board meeting was held in Des Moines, Iowa, in conjunction with the Danish American Heritage Society Conference. The museum's annual meeting was held in Elk Horn with new board members assuming their office; outgoing members present and participating.

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING IN 2013

Cynthia Larsen Adams, *Littleton, CO*  
Dennis Andersen, *Atlanta, GA*  
Erik Andersen, *Croton-on-Hudson, NY*  
Jon Borgman, *Harlan, IA*  
Ron Bro, *Cedar Falls, IA*  
Tim Burchill, *Jamestown, ND*  
Dan Christensen,  
*West Des Moines, IA*  
Lone Christensen, *Brown Deer, WI*  
Bente Ellis, *San Jose, CA*  
Dorothy Stadsvold Feisel, *St.*  
*Michaels, MD*  
Kurt Hansen, *Rosemount, MN*  
Stewart Hansen, *West Des Moines, IA*  
Vice Consul Anna Thomsen Holliday,  
*Houston, TX*  
Kenneth Jacobsen, *Seattle, WA*

William (Bill) Jensen, *Urbandale, IA*  
Kristi Planck Johnson, *Bethesda, MD*  
Garey Knudsen, *Hutchinson, MN*  
Kenneth Larsen, *Calistoga, CA and*  
*Harlan, IA*  
Carolyn Larson, *St. Paul, MN*  
Cynthia McKeen, *St. Paul, MN*  
Craig Molgaard, *Missoula, MT*  
Dagmar Muthamia, *Long Beach, CA*  
Brent Norlem, *Monticello, MN*  
Marian (Mittie) Ostergaard, *Mission*  
*Viejo, CA*  
Henrik Rasmussen, *Springfield, IL*  
Jerry Schrader, *Elk Horn, IA*  
Flemming "Eric" Smitsdorff,  
*Germantown, WI*  
Linda Steffensen, *Hoffman Estates, IL*  
Mark Strandskov, *Mount Pleasant, MI*

### EX-OFFICIO

John Borgman, *Harlan, IA,*  
*Endowment*  
Mark Frederiksen, *Falcon, CO, Past*  
*President*  
Vern Hunter, *Fargo, ND, Past*  
*President*  
Nils Jensen, *Portland, OR*  
Dennis Larson, *Decorah, IA*  
Clark Mathisen, *Omaha, NE,*  
*Endowment*  
Kai E. Nyby, *LaPorte, IN, Past*  
*President*  
Marc Petersen, *Omaha, NE, Past*  
*President, Endowment*  
Harriet Albertsen Spanel, *Bellingham,*  
*WA, Past President*  
  
Dr. John Mark Nielsen, *Blair, NE,*  
*Executive Director*

# who we are

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION

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

## CORE VALUES

We are:

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

# staff & interns

### Executive Director

*Dr. John Mark Nielsen*

### Administrative Manager

*Terri Johnson*

### Albert Ravenholt Curator of Danish-American Culture

*Tova Brandt*

### Curator of Collections/Registrar

*Angela Stanford*

### Genealogy Center Manager

*Michele McNabb*

### Development Manager

*Debra Christensen Larsen*

### Development/Social Media Associate

*Nicky Christensen*

### Museum Shop Manager

*Joni Soe-Butts*

### Bookkeeper/Grounds/Facilities

*Jennifer Winters*

### Administrative Assistant

*Kathy Pellegrini*

### Genealogy Center Assistant

*Wanda Sornson*

### Custodian

*Tim Fredericksen*

### Weekend Staff

*Terri Amaral*

*Rochelle Bruns*

*Beth Rasmussen*

*Rodger Rasmussen*

### Bedstemor's House Staff

*Rochelle Bruns*

*Trudy Juelsgaard*

*Doug Palmer*

*David Thurston*

### \*Danish Interns

*Lotte Hansen*, University of Copenhagen in Aalborg, Denmark

*Jesper Jacobsen*, University of Southern Denmark

*Anne Mette Ravn Nielsen*, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

### \*Internships funded by a grant from scan/design foundation

**BY INGER AND JENS BRUUN, Seattle, WA**

### American Interns

*Madeline Mongar*, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO

*Natalie Smith*, New York University, New York, NY

## Condensed Financial Statements Years Ended August 31, 2013 and 2012

### Condensed Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

	2013	2012
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Investments.....	4,533,317	2,953,313
Inventory .....	65,795	49,284
Property and Equipment (Net).....	2,716,640	2,673,075
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b><u>7,315,752</u></b>	<b><u>5,675,672</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accrued Payroll Taxes .....	\$12,463	\$200
Lines of Credit .....	128,706	15,325
Note Payable.....	4,194	7,867
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b><u>145,363</u></b>	<b><u>23,392</u></b>
<b>Net Assets .....</b>	<b><u>7,170,389</u></b>	<b><u>6,263,692</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets .....</b>	<b><u>7,315,752</u></b>	<b><u>6,287,084</u></b>

### Condensed Statement of Revenue and Support, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis for Years Ended August 31

	2013	2012
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Contributions and Support.....	2,340,166	1,209,378
Admissions and Program Fees .....	17,719	17,793
Gift Shop Revenue (Net).....	42,217	46,802
Investment and Other Income.....	348,302	409,161
<b>Total Support and Revenue.....</b>	<b><u>2,748,404</u></b>	<b><u>1,683,134</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services .....	\$741,358	\$550,284
Supporting Activities .....	488,937	521,438
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b><u>1,230,295</u></b>	<b><u>1,071,722</u></b>
<b>Change in Net Assets .....</b>	<b><u>1,518,109</u></b>	<b><u>611,412</u></b>
<b>Net Assets - Beginning of Year .....</b>	<b><u>5,652,280</u></b>	<b><u>5,652,280</u></b>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year .....</b>	<b><u>7,170,389</u></b>	<b><u>6,263,692</u></b>

## endowment

The Museum of Danish America's endowments provide the opportunity for members to perpetuate their contributions and at the same time help guarantee the museum's long-term financial viability. Current market value as of December 31, 2013, was \$3,011,987.47.



# a year of success

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Celebrated the museum's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a tent banquet on museum grounds on Sankt Hans Aften with Iowa Governor Terry Brandstad and Danish Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen present.
- ◆ Adopted the name Museum of Danish America while also retaining the legal name The Danish Immigrant Museum.
- ◆ Executive director, John Mark Nielsen, received the *Order of the Knight of the Dannebrog* from Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.
- ◆ Hired Nicky Christensen to manage our social media outreach.
- ◆ Again reached a population of over 100,000 through visits to the museum, traveling exhibits, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Tumblr, LinkedIn and programs and presentations around the country.
- ◆ Completion of the *Digital Library of Danish American Newspapers and Journals* that is now available to all on the museum's homepage under "Online Media".
- ◆ Participation in numerous festivals and events across the country from California's Orange International Street Fair and December Nights in San Diego's Balboa Park to the annual meeting of the Rebuild National Park Society in Morristown, New Jersey.
- ◆ Continued our partnership with the Petersen House Museum in Tempe, Arizona.

## EXHIBITS

The museum continued its active exhibits program in 2013.

- ◆ *Danish Modern – Design for Living* Containing over 50 items of Danish modern furniture and household wares and occupying over 1,500 sq. ft., this exhibit represents the first major exhibit organized and curated by our museum that will travel to other major museums, including the Goldstein Museum of Design, the Nordic Heritage Museum and the Figge Art Museum. A 44-page, four-color exhibition catalog was also produced – a first for the museum.
- ◆ Six of the museum's traveling exhibits were hosted by fifteen different venues in eight different states and seen by over 113,637 visitors.

## COLLECTIONS

Among the many valuable artifact donations in 2013, the museum received the following:

- ◆ Typesetter's cabinet used in the offices of *BIEN*, the West Coast Danish newspaper founded in 1882.
- ◆ A Danish designed and manufactured *Principia* bicycle that was ridden across the United States by Danish journalist, Lars Toft Rasmussen, who was covering the 2012 U.S. presidential election.
- ◆ A collection of 10 porcelain pieces by the iconic Danish designer, Bjørn Windblad.

## CONSTRUCTION

- ◆ On August 26, ground was broken and construction began on an 8,200 sq. ft. curatorial center, designed by AHTS Architects of Waterloo, Iowa and built by Meco-Henne Construction of Omaha, Nebraska and Carroll Control of Carroll, Iowa.

- ◆ Construction on the second phase of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park continues with the completion of an interpretive pergola, a second council ring and the installation of Norwell exercise equipment, designed and manufactured in Denmark.

## GRANTS

- ◆ scan|design foundation BY INGER AND JENS BRUUN
- ◆ Iowa West Foundation
- ◆ Shelby County Health Foundation
- ◆ Prairie Meadows
- ◆ Shelby County Community Foundation grants
- ◆ *Iowa Great Places* Program awarded the Museum a second grant for continued construction of the Jens Jensen Heritage Park
- ◆ Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities
- ◆ *A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Fondet* of Copenhagen for digitizing important Danish-American newspapers
- ◆ Eric and Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust
- ◆ Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund
- ◆ *Direktor Ib Henriksens Fond*

## GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNS

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

## merit of recognition

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

### LIFETIME LEGACY GIVING

NEW! In 2013 Lifetime Legacy Giving was created and replaces the Lifetime Leadership Society. Recognition includes five categories of giving. This change reflects ALL cumulative donations of \$25,000 or more from individuals or their estates, foundations, trusts and organizations. These names are inscribed on a large plaque at the entrance of the museum. Many *new* names have been added to this prestigious list recognizing donors who previously did not qualify under the former rules governing Lifetime Leadership Society.

#### NEW TO THE LIST

During 2013 the Board of Directors was pleased to add the names of Mogens & Cindy Bay, Esther "E.J." Carlson Estate, Gordon, Mary Lou & Janice Esbeck, Cornelius C.J. Jensen Estate, Robert S. Kroman Estate, Iowa West Foundation, Carl & Marilyn Mehr, A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation, and Shelby County Community Foundation.

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

Anonymous (3)  
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Carol Svendsen, *Denver, CO*  
Margaret Syring\*, *St. Paul, MN*  
Sandra Wunder, *Omaha, NE*

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### For more information

If you would like more information on how you can become a member of *Lifetime Legacy Giving* or *Heritage Builders*, contact John Mark Nielsen, Executive Director, Debra Christensen Larsen, Development Manager, or any member of the Board of Directors, who will be pleased to work with you.

Please contact them by calling (712)764-7001 or toll free (800)759-9192; email address: [director@danishmuseum.org](mailto:director@danishmuseum.org) or [development@danishmuseum.org](mailto:development@danishmuseum.org). Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

## matching in-kind bequests gifts gifts

The Museum of Danish America is especially grateful for gifts received from the following estates, trusts and annuities:

Esther "E.J." Carlson, Columbus, OH  
Rita Neergaard Hansen, Kenosha, WI  
Richard Hellman, Oceanside, CA  
Cornelius "C.J." Jensen, Edmonds, WA  
Robert Kroman, Elk Horn, IA  
Inez Mortensen, Omaha, NE  
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, Racine, WI  
Conrad J. Pedersen, New Brighton, MN  
Meta J. Reed, Hot Springs Village, AR

The Museum of Danish America wishes to thank our members and donors for initiating matching gifts from the following corporations and foundations:

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The following companies and individuals, through their kind gifts, supported the Museum of Danish America:

Answers (Frank R. Tighe), Atlantic, IA  
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The Iron Shop (John Asberry), Exira, IA  
Leo Kirchoff, Chico, CA  
Michele McNabb, Atlantic, IA  
Marian "Mittie" Ostergaard, Mission Viejo, CA

## collections

Once again, it is time to thank our very generous artifact donors. In 2013, a total of 176 pieces were added to the artifact collections here at the Museum of Danish America. Objects ranging from commemorative plates to projectile points to art pieces – even a bicycle! – as well as a few documents and original photographs have enriched our collections.

We thank you most sincerely.

Angela Stanford

### ARTIFACT DONORS

Judy Andersen, Cary, NC  
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John Steen, Elk Horn, IA  
Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, Decorah, IA



Letter by  
Angela Stanford

# exhibitions

## DEAR FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM OF DANISH AMERICA,

If you visited the museum during most of 2013, you know that it was the “Year of Danish Modern” here in Elk Horn! *Danish Modern: Design for Living* was a signature part of the museum’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The exhibit brought together icons of Danish modern furniture, including the Egg Chair, Artichoke Lamp, Peacock Chair, and many other classics. Newspaper coverage in Omaha and Des Moines brought many first-time museum visitors to see *Danish Modern* and immerse themselves in mid-century Danish design. *Danish Modern* also produced a full-color exhibition catalog, a portable version of the exhibit.

If you missed *Danish Modern* in Elk Horn, don’t worry – it is traveling to other museums in 2014 and beyond! See it at the Goldstein Museum of Design in St. Paul, Minnesota until April 27, or enjoy the exhibition at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle from May through August.

*Danish Modern: Design for Living* may be the largest traveling exhibition our museum has

created, but it is far from the only one! In 2013 over 115,000 people saw one of the museum’s traveling exhibits; five different exhibits were on the road to eight different states. Notably, over 90,000 visitors to Mount Rushmore saw the poster exhibit *Denmark October 1943* on the rescue of the Danish Jews; the museum was honored to participate in marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the boatlift.

From Danish Modern chairs to immigrant newspapers, Victor Borge’s comedy to Jens Jensen’s landscapes, the museum’s exhibitions engage a wide range of interests and audiences. Watch for news of an exhibit coming to your community, or contact me to host an exhibit in 2014.

## GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

*Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie*  
March 24, 2012 – March 3, 2013

*Danish-American Artist Series: Meeting My Makers – Portraits by Neoma Thomas*  
July 21, 2012 – March 10, 2013

*Danish Modern: Design for Living*  
April 6, 2013 – January 5, 2014

## TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

*Jens Jensen: Celebrating the Native Prairie*  
Goldstein Museum of Design, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Danish American Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
German American Heritage Center, Davenport, Iowa  
Danish-American Heritage Society, Des Moines, Iowa  
The Danish Home, Chicago, Illinois

*Denmark October 1943: Rescue of the Danish Jews*  
Mount Rushmore National Monument, Keystone, South Dakota  
Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston, Texas

*The Danish Pioneer*  
Luck Historical Museum, Luck, Wisconsin  
Danish-American Heritage Society, Des Moines, Iowa  
Danish Club of Washington, DC

*Victor Borge: A Smile is the Shortest Distance*  
Copenhagen Imports, Tucson, Arizona

*Danish Gymnastics in America*  
National Danish Performance Team, various locations in Arizona  
Danish-American Heritage Society, Des Moines, Iowa



Letter by  
Tova Brandt

## genealogy center

2013 saw the Genealogy Center collection grow by leaps and bounds! Among other things, we upgraded our patron computer stations, purchased a heavy-duty printer-scanner, added over 350 individual immigrant files and a large number of books and other materials to our collection, had an interesting summer photo exhibit, added to the databases in the Library & Genealogy section of the museum webpage, and made inroads into our backlog of unaccessioned materials. Thanks to Danish interns Jesper Jacobsen and Lotte Hansen and the generosity of the following individuals, who all helped enhance our ability in the past year to provide information on Danish immigrants and their families.

Palle Abramsson, Søby, Denmark  
 Jane Andersen, Orinda, CA  
 Dennis Barten, Kirkwood, MO  
 Esther Bates, Solvang, CA  
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 Alice Ziegler, Naples, FL

# volunteers

In 2013 **Iowa** ranked fifth (down from 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2012) in the nation for volunteers.\* The top five states are: Utah (43.8%), Minnesota (37.7%), Idaho (36.5%), Kansas (36.4%) and **Iowa (36%)**.

In 2013 volunteers at both the museum and Genealogy Center contributed a total of **3,642** hours. Even though our volunteer pool dropped from 55 to 46 last year, they averaged **79** hours each.

Our volunteers logged anywhere from 3 hours to 344 hours assisting staff with greeting visitors, data entry, indexing, mailings, translations, research, and setting up for special events, such as our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in June 2013. Staff could not do what we do on a daily basis without assistance from volunteers - we are so grateful for each and every hour.

The following are volunteers for whom we have **documented** hours in 2013.

## MUSEUM

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

## GENEALOGY

Bent Christensen  
 June Haas  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt  
 Connie Johnson  
 Jimmie Kelgor  
 Andy Kissel  
 Jeanette Knudsen

Jeanette Lillehoj  
 Elinor Olsen  
 Suzanne Rasmussen  
 Carolyn Sand  
 Nancy Sand  
 Lene Sepstrup  
 Charlotte Sorensen  
 Gayle Stuart  
 Sharon Winchell  
 Carolyn Wittrup  
 Erik Høgsbro Østergaard

We also want to recognize members of the **Atlantic Friends of The Danish Immigrant Museum** who provide us with delicious cookies to serve to museum guests during our annual celebrations of Tivoli Fest held the weekend preceding Memorial Day and Julefest, held the weekend following Thanksgiving:

Norma Andersen, Ramona Andersen, Connie Boose, Janet Bornholdt, Mary Ann Christensen, Eileen Denne, Verna Esbeck, Kathleen Eyberg, Priscilla Hansen, Mary Lou Hoegh, Izzy Hoegh, Phyllis Hoegh, Marj Holland, Betty Lillard, Fern Lindvall, Gladys McCrory, Sonya Mikkelsen, Beverly Nelson, Delores Nelson, Frances Nelson, Colleen Nichols, Joan Ohms, Mary Ellen Olsen, Helen Petersen, Evelyn Rechtenbach, Bertha Schroeter, Aleen Weaver, Nadine Williamson.



Compiled by  
 Terri Johnson

\*State rankings are for volunteers registered with AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, reported by "The Volunteering in America Report", developed through a partnership of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau for Labor Statistics.

# annual report | 2013

## memorials

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

Lee Anna M. Adams  
Loraine Nielsen Amos  
Anders Peder (AP) Andersen  
Andy Andersen  
Hakon Andersen  
Howard E. Andersen  
Lauritz & Marie Andersen  
Chris and Olga Anderson  
Lois Berg  
Peter Jacob Beyer  
Charles Ersnt Roland Boye  
Niels & Laura Bro  
Carol J. Christensen  
Clarice Christensen  
Elly & Svend Christensen  
Kathryn Ann Clausen  
Glen Clemsen  
my husband, Glen Clemsen  
Virgil L. Clemsen  
Betty Spandet Currie  
Elvin & Robina Elmquist  
Hans & Mathilde Faarstrup  
Esther Freund  
Mary Nelson Glihsmann  
Selma U. Henriksen Grumstrup  
Letha Cleone (Sorenson) Grutzik  
Cleo & Esther Hansen  
Clifford K. & A. Veola Hansen  
Mardell Hansen  
William Julius Hansen  
Clara Hassel  
Frank Heilesen Jr.  
Laura Henriksen  
Norman Henriksen  
Axel Hermansen  
Inga M. Hermansen  
Emery Hoegh  
Hanne Friberg Hoepner  
Hans & Genevieve Hoiberg  
Jens & Anna Holland  
Edward J. Houck  
Professor Niels Ingwersen  
Vera C. Jacobsen  
Ellis Jacobsen  
Karen Elfrida Elisabeth Jacobsen  
Kenneth O. Jacobsen

Virgil C. Jacobsen  
Warren & Gudrun Jacobsen  
Johannes Ane Jensen  
Niels Alfred & Edith Andrea Jensen  
Norma Valborg Jensen  
Oskar & Ellen Jensen  
T.G. & Kirstine Jensen  
Tage E. Jensen  
Raymond C. Jespersen  
Leslie Johansen  
Leonard & Clara Johnson  
Niels W. & Ingrid H. Jorgensen  
Annis Jepsen Juhl  
Stuart J. Karr  
Evelyn Kjestine Faaborg Jessen Kelso  
Eda K. Petersen Keltner  
Arthur K. Knudsen  
John Kobe  
John W. Kofoed  
MB Kolding  
Virginia Elaine (Jessen) Kraatz  
Jens Hans Christian & Thora Krog  
Ross V. Lange  
Shirley Lange  
Clyde Larsen  
Edward J. Larsen  
Inga Larsen  
Kurt Klarskov Larsen  
Lars & Marie Larsen  
Paul M. & Johanne Larsen  
Sena & Hans Larsen  
Anna E. (Frost) Laursen  
Ardyth Henriksen Laursen  
Bernhard & Kathrine (Wisborg) Laursen  
Dorothea Laursen  
Kathy Leistad  
Bent Lernø  
Eivind Lillehoj  
Loved Ones  
Robert E. Lovejoy  
Nola Jane Lund  
Harold & Lenora Madsen  
Karen Madsen  
Lars H. Madsen  
H.C. Mathison  
RuthAnn Jacobsen McKinstry  
Patricia Ann McNabb  
Elsie Rasmussen McNabb  
Helen Pedersen McNichols  
Judith Meehan  
Mardell R. (Fries) Miller  
Erna Moller  
Bonnie J. (Noah) Moore  
Elna K. Nelsen  
Aunt Myrtle Molgaard Nelson  
Myrtle Nelson  
Fern Nelson  
John Peter Nelson

Karen Lynn (Jensen) Nelson  
Leonard & Laura Nelson  
Virginia E. (Nielsen) Nelson (1926-2012)  
Anna Kirstine Nielsen  
Harley Nielsen  
Heleen Nielsen  
Marilyn Holm Nielsen  
Merlin J. "Smitty" Nielsen  
Pastor LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen  
Tom Nielsen  
Verna Nielsen  
Emil Noelck  
Inger & Emil Noelck  
Eric & Joan Norgaard  
Kay Ann North  
Elsie Obermeyer  
Ole & Marie Olsen  
Phyllis Olsen  
Oswald J. & Marie Olson  
Nadjeschda Overgaard  
Marianne Owen  
Jytte Lise Gudnitz Palazzolo  
Crystal Pash  
Conrad Jens Pedersen  
Flemming Vedsted Pedersen  
Lars H. Pedersen  
Peder & Olga Pedersen  
Hans & Ivy Peitersen  
Mildred & James Peterson  
Alma & Niels Pilgaard, Fjerritslev, Denmark  
Kurt & Ruth Ploger  
Vivian Poldberg  
Joan Camery Prather  
Delbert Rasmussen  
Gerald Rasmussen  
Hans Christian (Chris) Rasmussen  
Ruth Jensen Roberts  
Kaj & Astrid Roge  
Kevin Ruggaard  
Knutte Ruggaard  
SAFG  
John C. Scott  
Anker Siersbeck  
Alice M. Sorensen  
Rev. & Mrs. Holger Strandkov  
Rev. Forest Strnad  
Kristina Sandahl Swanson  
Arthur Thompson  
Thomas B. & Nettie (Jorgensen) Thomsen  
Christopher Miltersen Thorup  
Hanne Tjell  
Svend Waendelin, Archivist  
Jim Weedman  
Ernest W. Weiss, Jr.  
Walter Westergaard  
Charles W. Wilson  
Thelma "Sally" Nielsen Wold



Information compiled by  
Debra Christensen Larsen



# wall of honor

The purpose of the Museum, among other things, is to tell the continuing story of the Danish immigrant experience and influence in America and the evolving story of the Danish-American heritage. As a way of paying tribute, the Wall of Honor was established listing the name of the immigrant, year of entering the United States, and place of settlement. Their stories and family histories, if available, are part of the growing repository connected with the Museum of Danish America's Genealogy Center. Listed below are the names of the immigrants placed on the Museum's Wall of Honor in the year 2013:

**WALTER ANDERSEN (HANS THEODOR WALDEMAR) & GUNHILDA HANDRUP (1910) (1912) Cedar Falls, Iowa** – Daniel Christensen, West Des Moines, IA

**IRENE LILLI ANDREWS (1953) Santa Rosa, California** – Danish Ladies Relief Society of San Francisco, CA

**LARS PETER JENSEN & MARTENA NIELSEN JENSEN, Plainview, NE (1881) (1881) Plainview, Nebraska** – James & Marjorie Jensen, Ankeny, IA

**NIELS PETER JENSEN (1868) Chicago, Illinois** – Neil Collins, Poinciana, FL

**PETER JOHNSON & ANE KATHRINE BIRK (1870) (1895) Benton Twp., Cass, Iowa** – Ronald & Joyce Johnson of Raleigh, NC, Linda, Cindy & Kathy Johnson, Ashburn, VA

**JOKUM JOKUMSEN (unknown) Neola, Iowa** – Beverly Knapp, Panora, IA; Alice Masker, Waverly, IA

**CHRISTINE (LARSEN) LINSEL (1870) Council Bluffs, Iowa** – Carolyn Christiansen, Johnston, IA; Donald Christiansen & Mercedes Martin, Carlsbad, CA; and Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ

**CHRISTIAN MORTENSEN & MAREN PEDERSEN (1870) (1870) Crystal Lake, Iowa** – Jason Swalve, Rancho Mirage CA; Alison Treleaven, Santiago, Chile

**NIS & HERLIG JESPERSEN (LUND) NIELSEN (1883) (1883) Fredonia Twp., Plymouth County, Iowa** – Dean & Linda Mohning, Remsen, IA

**M. PETER PETERSEN & ANE PEDERSEN PETERSEN (1868) (1869) Cordova (West Blue), NE** – Sandra Petersen, Loveland, CO

**JENS POULSEN & EMILIE ANTOINE BOGH (1871) (1871) Winnebago County, Iowa** – Jason Swalve, Rancho Mirage CA; Alison Treleaven, Santiago, Chile

**HANNAH JACOBSON PETERSON (1863) Scranton, Iowa** – Michael & Karen Hudson, Bondurant, IA

**JENS PETERSEN (JENSEN) & ANNA MARIE HANSEN PETERSEN (1869) (1875) Jacksonville, Iowa** – Richard and Julienne (Obrecht) Ferry, Harlan, IA; LaVerne & Pam Obrecht, Malvern, IA

**JENS HOLM PETERSEN (1888) Sidney, Montana** – Lynden Earl Petersen, Aurora, CO

**THEODOR PETERSEN & MARIE JACOBSEN PETERSEN (1878) (1889) Solvang, California** – Robert T. & Sandra E. Petersen, Loveland, CO

**MARTIN PETERSON (1862) Scranton, Iowa** – Michael & Karen Hudson, Bondurant, IA

**REINER & GERDA NIELSEN SANDERSEN (1939) Brown Deer, Wisconsin** – Joan Hudziak, Two Rivers, WI

**BERTEL BUNDGAARD SCHOU (1907) Cedar Falls, Iowa** – John Bertel Schou, Cedar Falls, IA

**JOHANNES BUNDGAARD SCHOU (1912) Kenmare, North Dakota** – John Bertel Schou, Cedar Falls IA

**ASGER ROBERT SEPSTRUP-SØRENSEN (1992) Sac City, Iowa** – Mindy & Jonathan Wuebker, Polk City IA; Niels Sørensen and Scott & Rachel Sørensen

**HANS PETER & CATHERINE MADSON SORENSON (1878) Crystal Lake, Iowa** – David Dahle, North Liberty, IA

**MATHIAS THOMSEN & INGEBORG HANSINE REGGELSEN (1889) (1889) Selma, California** – Robert T. & Sandra E. Petersen, Loveland, CO

**DORTHEA MARIE LINDSTROM VITHEN (1892) Audubon, Iowa** – Jeanette Knudsen, Elk Horn, IA; Jeannine Poldberg, Carter Lake, IA

**ERNEST A. WESTERGAARD & HELGA WESTERGAARD CHRISTENSEN (1915) (1915) Audubon County, Iowa** – Donald & Lou Christensen, Sun City West, AZ

**NELS NIELSEN WESTERGAARD & MANNA CHRISTENSEN WESTERGAARD (1910) (1915) Audubon County, Iowa** – Donald & Lou Christensen, Sun City West, AZ

## in honor

The Museum of Danish America receives many contributions as gifts to honor beloved family members and friends on special occasions. In 2013 the following people were honored:

Annette Andersen, my Danish friend  
Irene Lilli Andrews  
Ron & Mary Bro's 80th birthdays  
Robert Warren Brown  
Virgil & Joyce Christensen's 63rd wedding anniversary  
Danish Club of Tucson's 40th anniversary  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102  
Lillian Eggers  
Ramona Esbeck  
Dorothy & Lyle Feisel  
Bill & Marilyn Gift's 50th wedding anniversary

Jesper Ø. Jacobsen's internship  
Laurits & Laura Jepsen  
Leslie Johansen 1918-2007  
Dagmar Johnson  
Leo Kirchhoff's birthday  
Rev. & Mrs. Carsten Christian Kloth  
Garey & Sherry Knudsen's grandchildren:  
Jack, Collin, Elise, Ethan, Caleb, Luke,  
& Kyler  
Gloria & Bill Layton  
Karen Lux  
Earl Madsen  
Harald Madsen  
Jean M. Matteson of Weeping Water, NE  
Museum of Danish America Staff  
Museum's 30th Anniversary  
John Mark Nielsen  
Dr. John Mark Nielsen for the leadership he has shown over the years. His contribution of time and talent has made the Museum of Danish America the success it is today.

John Mark Nielsen's Knighthood  
John Mark Nielsen's outstanding work this year  
John Mark Nielsen's selection as a Knight  
Merete Nieto's birthday  
Roger & Dorothy Olson  
Erik Østergaard  
Conrad J. Pedersen, loving father going through difficult times  
Evelyn L. Richards' 80th birthday  
The Sigrid Riddle Family  
Paul & Sharlene Roge's 50th anniversary (August 17, 2013)  
Eiler Thomsen & Hanne Marie Thomsen  
Nancy Walden and Judy Walden  
Cousins Nancy Walden and Judy Walden for the legacy they are leaving our family with their interest and research into our Larsen history  
Wayne & Peggy Wegwart

## special appeals

During the course of each year, the Museum of Danish America invites its supporters to make contributions to special appeals. The individuals, business, or foundations listed below contributed to these appeals in 2013 (and reflected in the Honor Roll of Contributors). Donors to the Summer Appeal and End-of-Year Appeal are included in the Honor Roll of Contributors, beginning on page 53.

### **VICTOR BORGE LEGACY AWARDS**

R. James & Janet Crowle,  
Saint Michaels, MD  
Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust,  
Crystal Lake, IL

### **ENDOWED CURATOR POSITION**

*(Albert Ravenholt Curator of  
Danish-American Culture)*  
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA

### **CURATORIAL CENTER**

Mogens & Cindy Bay, Omaha, NE  
William & Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE  
Stewart & LeNore Hansen,  
West Des Moines, IA  
Richard Hellman Estate, Oceanside, CA  
Historic Resource Development State  
Historical Society of Iowa (*Grant*)  
Irving & Elizabeth Jensen Foundation,  
Sioux City, IA  
Meta J. Reed Estate,  
Hot Springs Village, AR  
Charles & Eleanor Rosenquist, Pendleton,  
OR *in memory of Anna Kirstine Nielsen*

The Petersen Family Foundation, Inc. (H.  
Rand & Mary Louise Petersen), Harlan, IA  
Randall & Margaret Ruggaard, Hudson, OH

### **DIGITIZATION PROJECT – THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF DANISH AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS**

A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller  
Foundation of Copenhagen, Denmark

### **ENDOWMENT**

Esther "E.J." Carlson Estate, Columbus, OH  
Rita Neergaard Hansen Estate, Kenosha, WI  
Cornelius "C.J." Jensen Estate,  
Edmonds, WA  
Robert Kroman Estate, Elk Horn, IA  
Inez M. Mortensen Estate, Omaha, NE  
LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen Estates, Racine, WI  
Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, Atlantic, IA



Information compiled by  
Debra Christensen Larsen

## **JENS JENSEN HERITAGE PATH**

Norma Andersen, Atlantic, IA  
Scott & Nancy Armbrust, Green Bay, WI, *in special memory of Stuart Karr*  
Willis & Dolores Armbrust, Omaha, NE, *in special memory of Stuart Karr*  
James & Deb Bieker, Elk Horn, IA  
BIEN Publishing Inc., Pacific Palisades, CA  
Michael & Lisa Boesen, Bellaire, TX, *in special memory of Conrad Jens Pedersen*  
Reed & Jamie Bro, Colorado Springs, CO, *in special honor of our parents' Ron & Mary Bro's 80th birthdays*  
John & Beth Bro-Roof, Cedar Rapids, IA, *in special honor of our parents' Ron & Mary Bro's 80th birthdays*  
Marilyn Buckelew, Tucson, AZ, *in special honor of the Danish Club of Tucson's 40th Anniversary*  
Marcella Carey, San Clemente, CA  
Erik & Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI  
Brad & Sheridan Currie, Kettering, OH, *in special memory of Betty Spandet Currie*  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA, *in special honor of Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102*  
William & Doris Duff, Weeping Water, NE, *in special honor of Evelyn L. Richards' 80th birthday*  
William & Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE  
Spencer & Betty Holland, Colorado Springs, CO  
Janice Jacobsen, West Des Moines, IA  
Warren Jacobsen, Elk Horn, IA  
George & Dorothy Jensen, West Des Moines, IA  
Kristi Planck Johnson, Bethesda, MD  
Ruth Karr, Omaha, NE, *in special memory of my husband, Stuart Karr*  
Inger Kjær, Birkerød, Denmark  
LeaAnne Koppen, Mesa, AZ, *in special memory of Mary Nelson Glihsmann*  
Eric & Kris Lange, Osceola, IA, *in special*

*memory of Ross V. Lange*  
Herb Larsen, Cedar Falls, IA  
Jerry & Carolyn Larson, Saint Paul, MN, *in special honor of my father, Earl Madsen*  
Gracie Lernø, Simi Valley, CA  
Jamie Louzan, Ellicott City, MD, *in special memory of Chris & Olga Anderson*  
Mardell Miller Estate, Atlantic, IA, *in special memory of Mardell R. (Fries) Miller*  
Diana Murdoch, Medford, OR, *in special memory of Helen Pedersen McNichols*  
Darold Nelson, Omaha, NE, *in special memory of Stuart Karr*  
Erik Norkjaer, Aulum, Denmark, *in special memory of Sena & Hans Larsen*  
Kathy Ploger, Sunriver, OR, *in special memory of Kurt & Ruth Ploger*  
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Lynn Utter, Devon, PA  
Harold and Terry Weiss, Papillion, NE, *in special memory of Stuart Karr*  
Marti Welch, Omaha, NE, *in special memory of Stuart Karr*  
Mike & Kim Williams, Omaha, NE, *in special honor of my father, Earl Madsen*  
Robert & Chuck Witte, Omaha, NE, *in special memory of Stuart Karr*  
Marilyn Wittrup, Scituate, MA

## **JENS JENSEN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE PARK**

Douglas & Glenda Bro, Claremont, CA  
Rosa Clemesen, Exira, IA, *in memory of Glen Clemesen*  
Country Landscapes, Inc., (Rhett Faaborg), Ames, IA  
Great Places – Department of Cultural Affairs, State Historical Society of Iowa

Audrey Kofoed, West Branch, IA, *in memory of John W. Kofoed*  
Randall & Margaret Ruggaard, Hudson, OH  
Shelby County Community Foundation – Southwest Iowa  
Shelby County Health Foundation, Harlan, IA

## **NADJESCHDA FILM**

Annette Andersen, Kimballton, IA  
Anonymous  
DeVore Fencing Service, LLC, Atlantic, IA  
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Jeff & Sue Edwards, Vinton, IA  
Matt Edwards, Ankeny, IA  
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Randy & Linette Hadley, Urbandale, IA  
Wayne Hansen Real Estate, LLC, Elk Horn, IA  
Jason & Heather Hauser, Walker, MN  
Lori Hayes, Aurora, CO  
Shawn Hunt, Des Moines, IA  
Ebba Johnson, Omaha, NE  
Kris & Michelle Johnson, Brimfield, IL  
Kurt Johnson, Audubon, IA  
William Johnson, San Francisco, CA  
James & Sheryl Krueger, Blair, NE  
Ryan & Stacie Larsen, Elk Horn, IA  
Marilyn Southard & Dennis Larson, Decorah, IA  
Rich & Diane Larson, Atlantic, IA  
Tyler & Marie Larson, Audubon, IA  
David & Denise Levy, Omaha, NE  
Lisa McLaren, Elk Horn, IA  
David & Jessica Northwick, Norwalk, IA  
Egon & Carol Overgaard, Longville, MN  
Jeff & Tammy Overgaard, St. Peter, MN  
Bruce & Marcia Roenfeld, Atlantic, IA  
Howard & Karma Sorensen, Elk Horn, IA  
Thomas & Karen Sorensen, Bellevue, NE  
Elsa West, Aurora, CO

## **WEBSITE RE-DESIGN**

The Rasmussen Group, Inc. (Kurt & Consul Lynette Rasmussen), Des Moines, IA

## gift memberships

Throughout 2013 the Museum of Danish America awarded complimentary memberships or received contributions directed towards gift memberships for the following businesses or individuals:

BIEN Publishing Inc., René Gross Kærskov, Publisher, Pacific Palisades, CA  
Michael & Lisa Boesen, Bellaire, TX  
Mary Lou Burke, Council Bluffs, IA  
Gary Christensen, Omaha, NE  
Kelsey Christensen, Northampton, MA  
Neil Collins, Poinciana, FL  
Country Landscapes, Inc., Rhett Faaborg, Owner, Ames, IA  
Garry & Carol Cupples, Quebec, Canada  
Brad & Sheridan Currie, Kettering, OH  
David Dahle, North Liberty, IA  
Danish Ladies Relief Society of SF, San Francisco, CA  
Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA  
Gladys Drey, Creston, IA  
Inge Esbeck, Brovst, Denmark  
April Esbeck, Iowa City, IA  
Craig Esbeck, Kampala, Uganda  
Dane Esbeck, Tipton, IA  
John & Mary Esbeck, Tipton, IA  
Nick Fitzgerald & Erica Esbeck, Ankeny, IA  
Nick Martin & Alecia Esbeck, West Branch, IA  
Paul Esbeck, Glenwood Springs, CO  
William & Teresa Esbeck, Tipton, IA  
Fajen Construction, Larry Fajen, Owner, Elk Horn, IA  
Alan & Marisa Gift, Omaha, NE  
Anna Jenks & Gary Gift, Richfield, MN  
David & Shayla Gift, Pella, IA

Tim Hayes, Decorah, IA  
Diane Heilesen, Forestville, CA  
Frank Heilesen, Santa Rosa, CA  
Michael & Karen Hudson, Bondurant, IA  
Joan Hudziak, Two Rivers, WI  
O. Elizabeth Ibsen, Urbandale, IA  
John Impagliazzo, Northport, NY  
James & Marjorie Jensen, Ankeny, IA  
Evelyn Johansen, Luck, WI  
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Inger Kjær, Birkerød, Denmark  
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Juliene Larsen, Gilroy, CA  
Reed Larsen, San Jose, CA  
Richard Larsen, Santa Rosa, CA  
Ryan & Stacie Larsen, Elk Horn, IA  
Mads Ledet, Gresham, OR  
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Jeff & Gerta Sorensen-London, Chicago, IL  
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John & Janet Mehr, Dumfries, VA  
Esther Miller, Spring Valley, CA  
Kimira Miller, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Chad & Laura Mitchell, Omaha, NE  
Dean & Linda Mohning, Remsen, IA  
Diana Murdoch, Medford, OR  
Lance & Wende Nielsen, Boise, ID  
Laurits Nielsen, Golden Valley, MN  
Vagn Nielsen, Sonoma, CA  
Warren & Erin Nielsen, Fremont, CA

Merete Nieto, Los Alamos, NM  
Nancy Norgaard, Bronx, NY  
Erik Norkjaer, Aulum, Denmark  
James & June Norlem, Curtis, NE  
Mogens & Hanne Norlem, Møldrup, Denmark  
Agnes Nussle, Lake Tapps, WA  
Erik Østergaard, Roskilde, Denmark  
Susan Oувerson, Clear Lake, IA  
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Joyce Ford & Jim Riddle, Winona, MN  
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Kathy Sonsalla, Webster City, IA  
Sorrel Urban Bistro, Soren Pedersen, Executive Chef, Houston, TX  
Jason Swalve, Rancho Mirage, CA  
The Danish American Archives and Library, Blair, NE  
The Iron Shop, John Asberry, Owner, Exira, IA  
Victor & Shirley Thomsen, Avon, CT  
Gloria Treinen, Remsen, IA  
Lynn Utter, Devon, PA  
Nick Wilson, Farragut, IA  
Jonathan & Mindy Wuebker, Polk City, IA

# the honor roll of contributors

The Honor Roll of Contributors recognizes all who have supported the Museum of Danish America during the 2013 calendar year.

It especially recognizes all who attained membership at the various designated levels with cumulative contributions amounting to \$30 or more, including gifts for annual

support, designated purposes, memorials, Wall of Honor, Jens Jensen Heritage Path, special appeals, matching gifts, endowment gifts, and gifts-in-kind.

This year's Honor Roll of Contributors includes nearly 2,500 members and donors from 47 states, Washington D.C., territory of Virgin Islands, and

six countries, Belgium, Denmark, Canada, Germany, Philippines and Uganda.

Additionally, we are pleased to include on the honor roll, our Organization Associate members who contribute \$100 or more to the museum. The Organization Associates are listed according to their giving level.

## ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

### ORDER OF JYLLAND

#### \$10,000 & ABOVE

Mogens & Cindy Bay, Omaha, NE  
Esther "E.J." Carlson (Estate of),  
Columbus, OH  
William & Berniece Grewcock, Omaha, NE  
Stewart & LeNore Hansen,  
West Des Moines, IA  
Richard Hellman (Estate of), Oceanside, CA  
DIREKTØR IB HENRIKSENS Fond,  
Hørsholm, Denmark  
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, State  
Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, IA  
Iowa West Foundation, Council Bluffs, IA  
Cornelius 'C.J.' Jensen (Estate of),  
Edmonds, WA  
Irving & Elizabeth Jensen Foundation,  
Sioux City, IA  
Audrey Kofoed, West Branch, IA  
Robert Kroman (Estate of), Elk Horn, IA  
A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller  
Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Inez Mortensen (Estate of), Omaha, NE  
Eric & Joan Norgaard Charitable Trust,  
Crystal Lake, IL  
Poul & Benedikte Ehlers Olesen, Eugene, OR  
The Petersen Family Foundation, Inc. (H.  
Rand & Mary Louise Petersen), Harlan, IA  
Albert Victor Ravenholt Fund, Seattle, WA  
scan|design foundation BY INGER & JENS  
BRUUN, Seattle, WA  
Shelby County Community Foundation,  
Southwest Iowa

### ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATE

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### ORDER OF SJÆLLAND

#### \$5,000 · \$9,999

Anonymous  
R. James & Janet Borge Crowle, Saint  
Michaels, MD  
Ramona Esbeck, Ames, IA  
Sally og Gordon Faber, Urbandale, IA  
Humanities Iowa, Iowa City, IA  
James & Margery Iversen, Decorah, IA  
Leo Kirchhoff, Chico, CA  
Joy Larsen, Oneonta, AL

Mark & Lori Nussle, Palos Park, IL  
Glenn & Mary Ellen Olsen, Atlantic, IA  
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Mark & Tammy Rosenberry, Granger, IA  
Scott & Tammy Sonksen, Linn Creek, MO  
Harriet Albertsen Spanel, Bellingham, WA

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#### \$2,500 · \$4,999

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Hal & Anna Thomsen Holliday, Houston, TX  
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John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, NE  
Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN  
The Rasmussen Group, Inc., Des Moines, IA  
Nancy Sandborn, Sebastopol, CA  
Shelby County Health Foundation, Harlan, IA  
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Carroll Control Systems, Inc., Carroll, IA  
TK PETERSEN (Thorvald Petersen),  
Santa Monica, CA

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#### \$1,000 · \$2,499

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Erik & Eva Andersen, Croton-on-Hudson, NY  
Judy Andersen, Cary, NC  
Richard & Rosalie Andersen, Harlan, IA  
Muriel Bacon, Harlan, IA  
James & Deb Bieker, Elk Horn, IA  
James & Elizabeth Bramsen, Barrington, IL  
Douglas & Glenda Bro, Claremont, CA  
Rich Inman & Melinda Brown, Littleton, CO  
Marcella Carey, San Clemente, CA  
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN  
Daniel Christensen, West Des Moines, IA  
Donald & Lou Christensen, Sun City West, AZ  
Erik & Lone Christensen, Brown Deer, WI  
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David & Helen Esbeck, San Diego, CA  
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Alden & Birgitte Flanders, North Andover, MA

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Earl & LaVena Fries, Des Moines, IA  
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Charles & Emma Hansen, Mt. Prospect, IL  
Frederick "Fritz" Hansen, Wichita, KS  
David & Paulette Hendee, Omaha, NE  
Curtis & Nancy Hoegh, Clive, IA  
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Dagmar Muthamia, Long Beach, CA  
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Racine, WI  
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Flemming & Lynn Smitsdorff, Germantown, WI  
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Leo & Gayle Stuart, Walnut, IA  
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Jason Swalve, Rancho Mirage, CA  
Janet M. Thuesen, Sausalito, CA  
Norma Wilson, Red Oak, IA  
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ANSWERS (Frank Tighe), Atlantic, IA  
Danish American Club in Orange County,  
Huntington Beach, CA  
Den Danske Pioneer, Hoffman Estates, IL  
Knudsen Old Timers, Glendale, CA  
Rebuild National Park Society, Southern  
California Chapter, Glendale, CA

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**\$500 • \$999**

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Ronald & Mary Bro, Cedar Falls, IA  
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Lois Christensen, Elk Horn, IA  
Philip & Deb Christiansen, Omaha, NE  
Rosa Clemsen, Exira, IA  
John & Marcia Copeland, Plymouth, MN  
Brad & Sheridan Currie, Kettering, OH  
David Dahle, North Liberty, IA  
Bente Ellis, San Jose, CA  
Gordon & Janice Esbeck, Tipton, IA  
Sally Farley, Perry, IA  
Richard & Julienne Ferry, Harlan, IA  
Rodney & Rosanne Fulton, Council Bluffs, IA  
Larry Gregory, Cedar Falls, IA  
Frank & Jerri Hemmingsen, Elk Horn, IA  
Peder & Doris Hoy, Modesto, CA  
Karen Hudson, Bondurant, IA  
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Warren Jacobsen, Elk Horn, IA  
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Cindi Rasmussen, Nevada, IA  
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Charlene Villars, Minden, NE

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Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #16, Minden, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #56, Lenexa, KS  
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Story Construction Co., Ames, IA

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**\$250 • \$499**

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Danish Brotherhood Lodge #84, Lincoln, NE  
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Danish Sisterhood Lodge #102, Des Moines, IA  
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Heartland District of the DBIA, Des Moines, IA  
The Iron Shop (John Asberry), Exira, IA  
Kirsten's Danish Bakery (Paul & Kirsten Jepsen), Hinsdale, IL  
O & H Danish Bakery (Eric Olesen), Racine, WI

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**\$100 • \$249**

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Alicia Henriksen, Chicago, IL  
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Noreen Howard, Crossville, TN  
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Shawn Hunt, Des Moines, IA  
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O. Elizabeth Ibsen, Urbandale, IA  
John Impagliazzo, Northport, NY  
Lis Ingerslev, Upland, CA  
Ahlmann & Herta Iversen, Oak Lawn, IL  
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Elaine Jensen, Merritt Island, FL  
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## Corrections

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information contained in the 2013 Annual Report of Contributions is accurate. We respectfully regret and apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or misplacements. Please contact the Development Department with any questions or corrections.

# membership survey

A membership survey was e-mailed to members on March 6, 2014. If you did not receive the e-mail or have not completed the survey, please do so at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/modamembers](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/modamembers) or request a paper copy by contacting us at 712.764.7001. Your prompt response is appreciated.

# museum e-news

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

# expiration date

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



Recipe from  
Gordon and  
Jan Esbeck

## finker

Finker is a type of comfort food developed by Danish immigrants and has been revived by Danish-Americans today. This recipe from “finker meister” Gordon Esbeck of Tipton, Iowa, yields about 50 pints of finker. Gordon's wife and “assistant to the chef” Jan shared that they like to eat their finker with toast.

### DIRECTIONS

Divide the bones between the kettles. Add 8 qts of water to each kettle. Bring to boil then simmer for 4 hours. Remove bones from the broth. Discard. Divide the roast meat between the 2 kettles. Simmer for 3 hours or until meat is done. Remove the meat from the broth and cool both overnight. The next day, skim fat from the broth with slotted spoon. Dice meat into ½-inch pieces. To each kettle of broth add the vinegar, salt, and pepper. Reheat to simmer. Fill sterile jars ¼ to 1/3 full of diced meat. Add hot broth to within ½ inch of full. STIR broth continuously to keep pepper afloat, or else the last few jars will get all of the pepper - yikes! Cap and seal. Chill. Freeze.

### YOU WILL NEED

2 large kettles  
From a meat locker or butcher, obtain 1 kettle full of long, large bones cut into 2-3 inch lengths  
About 20 lbs roast beef  
5 cups white vinegar  
8 tbsp salt  
2 tbsp pepper



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01



02



03



04



05

Bring timeless Danish design to your home while providing a priceless legacy to the future of the Museum of Danish America. Members receive a 10% discount. 01. *The Quotable Kierkegaard* A collection of some 800 quotations from the father of existentialism, Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), organized by topic. 02. *Smart Glass Jewelry* is made from recycled glass bottles. The Scandinavian artist uses her own patented method! Several unique pieces available. 03. *Menu Dropp! Bowl* is a whimsical container for all your stuff. Available in several colors. 04. *Menu Winebreather Carafe* by Norm Architects adds 10x more oxygen to your wine in under 2 minutes. 05. *Menu Water Jug* is simple and easy to grip. The lid automatically opens when you pour so ice cubes, slices of lemon and mint leaves stay in.

To order: 800.759.9192 or e-mail [giftshop@danishmuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@danishmuseum.org). Join us for the Spring Open House on Saturday, April 26!