

# ARCHIVE JOTTINGS

John W. Nielsen

November/December 2001

Danish Immigrant Archive/Dana College

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**THANK YOU:** I have often experienced the reality of the opening lines of a well-known spiritual during the past few months:

Sometimes I feel discouraged  
And think my works in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again.

For all who have been and are agents of renewal, I give thanks. We as volunteers depend so much upon your interest and support. Thank you.

**REGULAR VOLUNTEERS:** From Blair: Norman C. Bansen, Ninna Engskow, Ann George, Sara Hansen-Walter, Helga Hanson, Verlan Hanson, Bee Krantz, Elizabeth Nielsen, John W. Nielsen, Luella Nielsen, Ron Vig, Dorothy Wright and Harold Wright. From Omaha: Eunice Neve and Ruth Rasmussen. From Fremont: Esther Freund and Janice Hansen. Working regularly with the Vig papers for The Washington county Genealogical Society is Pat Hünsche. New to our ranks is Lorraine Pagel Jensen. A special welcome to her. Some of these volunteers come monthly, most weekly, and several two or more times a week.

**SIGNIFICANT GIFTS:** The Archive has been the recipient of two significant gifts that will increase its ability to handle materials. One is a scanner and burner from Albert Girtz of Salina, Kansas. The other is a computer and printer from Ruth Rasmussen of Omaha. We are most appreciative of both gifts. The Archive has purchased a larger, up-graded computer to use in connection with the first gift.

**UPDATE:** Bee Krantz has returned to Blair from South Carolina where she underwent a successful hip surgery. She expects to return to the Archive next week. Ruth Herman Nielsen is active conducting Bible studies and other activities at Montclair. Both wish to thank all those who have remembered them with cards, letters, and other expressions of friendship. I have been asked to include the address of former volunteer Florence Hansen who might also appreciate cards. It is Florence Hansen, Tucson Mountain Home, 3730 East Calle Barcelona, Tucson, AZ 85716.

## HONOR THE LIVING - REMEMBER THE DEAD - GIVE TO THE CAUSE

### GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND ENDOWMENT:

The following financial contributions to The Danish Immigrant Archive are received with sincere appreciation.

#### GENERAL FUND:

Katherine Lund (Apple Valley, CA)	\$ 3.50
Dody & Oscar Johnson (Cedar Falls, IA)	5.00
Darlene & Lawrence Olsen (Lyons, NE)	5.00
Luella Nielsen (Blair, NE)	3.00
Ron Vig (Blair, NE)	1.00
Marjorie & Don Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)	25.00
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND:</b>	
Lois Eagleton (Umpqua, OR)	100.00
Herbert & Ruth Jeppesen (Des Plaines, IL)	20.00
Thompsons memorial	20.00
Ralph & Marilyn Olsen (Albert Lea, MN) gift	30.00
Marilyn Nielsen (Dearborn, MI) gift	25.00
Dana Jerome Hansen (Sacramento, CA) gift	25.00
Margaret Jacobsen (Alden, MN) gift	25.00

Phyllis Krumrey (Des Moines, IA) Edel Petersen memorial	25.00
Ernest Kersgaard (Eugene, OR) gift	25.00
Robert & Betty Hansen (Harmony, MN) Laurice DeLaurant memorial	50.00
St. Peter's Danish Festival (Northfield, MN) gift	50.00
Helen & Frank Hengeveld (Eugene, OR) gift	100.00
Jane Ann Nielsen (Knoxville, TN) gift	200.00
Norman Hagen (Montevideo, MN) gift	50.00
Duane & Anna Pedersen (Ames, IA) Niels M. Pedersen memorial	20.00
Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR) gift	200.00
Norma Bickel (Northfield, MN) Ruth Miller memorial	15.00
Richard & Janyce Hunt (Blair, NE) gift	55.00
Esther & John Grindberg (Forest Lake, MN) gift	50.00
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)	
Howard Madsen memorial	20.00

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R.L. & Virginia Bartley (Springfield, MO) gift	10.00	John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE) Dora Paulsen memorial	20.00
Doris & Donald Madison (Gurnee, IL) gift	25.00	Paul A. Thisted (Colorado Springs, CO) Pat Thisted memorial	20.00
Letha & John Grutzik (Buena Park, CA) gift	200.00	Norma Bickel (Northfield, MN) Tina Larson memorial	10.00
Lorraine Madsen (Loveland, CO) gift	100.00	A. Richard & Beverley Petersen (Sioux Falls, SD) gift	100.00
Carl & Alice Schattauer (Omaha, NE) Howard Madsen memorial	10.00	Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN) Tina Larson memorial	10.00
Myra & John Christensen (Fortuna, CA) gift	25.00	Harold Stadsvold (Exira, IA) gift	100.00
James W. Olsen (Loveland, CO) Verna Olsen memorial	25.00	Loeymae Lange (Sun City, AZ) gift	25.00
Borge & Lotte Christensen (Tucson, AZ) gift	100.00	Niel & V.G. Johnson (Independence, MO) gift	100.00
Edward & Carol Sorenson (Northfield, MN) Sophus & Verna Sorenson and Kenneth & Violet Sorenson memorial	20.00	Richard & Evelyn Dankert (Waukesha, WI) gift	25.00
Ruth Peterson (Portland, OR) gift	25.00	Egil Povelsen (Santa Rosa, CA) gift	50.00
Grace Lundberg (Northfield, MN) gift	10.00	Letha & John Grutzik (Buena Park, CA) gift	100.00
Raymond Hansen	100.00	Thomas Hansen (Blair, NE) gift	58.34
Margaret Madsen (Anaheim, CA) gift	400.00	Sharon & Timothy Jensen (Blair, NE) gift	190.00

GIFT OF TIME: Ron and Jason Vig have presented the Archive with a special clock that conveys both Danish and American time. Now we know instantly what the time is at the Archive in Aalborg! Many thanks to Ron and Jason.

DEATHS: We have become aware of three deaths that we will report. Rev. Harry Thomsen died the end of December; Esther Madsen, last week; and Pat Thisted, wife of archive contributor Paul Thisted, last summer. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families of each of these.

YES, I AM: Inquiries have been made as to whether I am leading a travel tour to Europe this summer. Yes, I am lecturing on the tour, but I am not organizing or conducting it. Our ten day trip will focus on Paris and Normandy and Munich and Bavaria. We would love to have you along. The dates are June 17-27. For information of costs, terms and conditions contact Dana alumna Kathy Shaw, 125 Homestead Ave., Weymouth, MA 02188. Phone 800-800-5743. Email: KatiDid63@aol.com.

NO PERSONAL NOTES: If this January 1 letter is to reach you before Valentine's Day, I must forgo writing personal notes on each of the 300 Jottings. Some may breathe a sigh of relief; a few may be disappointed. To the latter I express my regrets. This means, however, that if you submitted materials or made a financial gift to the Archive that arrived in January, it won't be acknowledged until the next letter. The absence of a personal note does not mean that your gift was less appreciated. Thank you so much. My only excuse is an energy draining cold and mountains of wonderful work that have accumulated over Christmas.

DANISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - Release Submitted by John Mark Nielsen:

The DAHS will host a major international conference on Danish-American Relations since World War II on October 10th through 13th this year. Cosponsoring the conference are the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, Dana College in Blair, Nebraska and Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa.

Conference sessions will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Omaha, the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn and the Danish Immigrant Archive-Dana College, providing participants with the opportunity to visit important sites in the Danish-American immigrant experience. An important part of the conference will be a focus on immigration after World War II with every effort made to spotlight the stories of individual immigrants.

Two major addresses will frame the conference. At the opening session on Thursday evening, October 10th, Bo Lidegaard, a member of Denmark's diplo-

TO: Buz Wehrman, Library Director

FROM: Sharon Jensen, Assistant Director

PREPARED: John W. Nielsen, Director of Special Projects

VOLUNTEERS: 864 hours by 21 volunteers from Blair, Fremont and Omaha, Nebraska, Iowa and Wisconsin.

VISITORS: 13 visitors from Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Denmark.

USERS: 15 archive users from California, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Canada.

#### ACQUISITIONS:

1. R. Lundgren's Decade of Renewal (1971-1981), an account of Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Vermillion, SD (Presented by Emory Andersen, Silver Springs, MD).
2. Obituary for Arnold Bodtke, framed baptismal certificate from 1690, large packet of programs from Dana and various cultural events, article on Jim Borden, Dana College issue of Blair paper, clippings on Queen Margrethe's jewels and on Church of the Master, Omaha (Presented by Norman C. Bansen, Blair, Nebraska).
3. Clipping: "A Long-lived Lunch Bunch" (presented by Borge Christensen, Tucson, Arizona).
4. Clipping on Mark Christensen winning a case before the U.S. Supreme Court (Presented by John and Myra Christensen, Fortuna, California).
5. Clippings on Potter, NE, Love Day quilters at First Lutheran (Blair), Marie Christensen, Bad Segeberg's mayor's visit to Blair, Omaha hosting international Danish conference in October 2002, and Dana play affected by September 11th (Presented by Sigrid Christensen, Blair, Nebraska).
6. 50 Years, Preserving and Enjoying the Scandinavian Heritage in Kansas City 1950-1999 (Presented by Myrvin and Anne Christopherson, Blair, Nebraska).
7. Reprint of Dyby's article on "Amleth, Prince of Denmark" from The Scandinavian, Nov. 2001 (Presented by Knud Dyby, Novato, California).
8. Memories of the Danish Lutheran Church in Junction City, OR (Presented by Lois Eagleton, Umpqua, Oregon).
9. Clippings on Gerald Simonsen of Hampton, NE on "flour power," the 2002 Danish Conference, and Dana theatre production affected by September 11th; Kitchen Klatter ad sent to Mrs. Carl Sorensen (Presented by Ninna Engskow, Blair, Nebraska).
10. Article on James Willer and Charles Hansen, Danish artists (Presented by Ann George, Blair, Nebraska).
11. Picture of J.M. Girtz (1969), 2 copies of memorial service folders and obituaries for Girtz, photocopy of old photograph of early Girtz family reunion in California, picture of Victor Baggar family, Bestefar - Life of Frederick Vilhelm Girtz by Peggy Knudsen Lee, packet of materials on Olivet Lutheran, Los Angeles (1908-1993, 2 Salmebog (Presented by Albert Girtz, Salina, Kansas and Lois Halley, San Jose, California).
12. Obituary and tribute for Laurice De Laurant (Presented by Robert and Betty Hansen, Harmony, Minnesota).
13. Dana Welcome Edition of Blair newspaper (2001), Stjernen (Oct, Nov, Dec), Obituaries for Elsie Petersen, Virginia Curley, Ruth Hansen, Russell Jensen, Elna Lorentzen, James Taylor, Norma Andersen, Kathryn Petersen, Richard Petersen, Helen Walker, Russell Beck, Vivian Jensen, Ella Klingensmith, Reuben Paulsen, Allen Pearson, Howard Loftis, Roman Krzyski, Virgil Thomsen, Charles Boehle, Melvin Fredrichsen, Agnes Frost, Emily Jacobsen, Jacqueline Johnson, Carl Lange, Effie Nelson, Dorothy Schreies, Everett

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- Stockholm, Beverly Volk1, Raymond Wadse, Art Webb, William Elwell, Arnold Frahm, Edgar Frahm, LeRoy Hansen, Robert L. Jensen, Helen Lallman, George Lund, Nathan Lundy, Elna Miller, Jeanice Oliver, Rosita Wolsmann, Corrin Nelsen, Dora Paulsen, Dorothy Paulson, Ted Weber, Clippings on Clara Quist, Kai Kastrup, Marion & Gladys Loftis, Ed Jensen, Christopherson-Achenbach, Dana Homecoming, Archive volunteers, Joyce Jorgensen, Hayden Christensen, Plow in tree at Exira, Lowell Petersen, Potter, NE, Vi Andersen, Paul Simon, Roger Petersen, depot ornament, Wm, Farr Christensen, First Lutheran Love Day, Ed Jipp, Dana Board of Regents, Stuart Hansen, Dannebrog, NE, Howard County Nebraska, Danish Brotherhood Lodge, Washington County Genealogical Sociert, Dana's Sights and Sounds and 30 other clippings on Dannebrog and Howard County, picture of 3rd and 4th graders at Dannebrog (1938-1939) (Presented by Sara Hansen-Walter, Blair, Nebraska).
14. Danish Sisterhood News (Dec.) (Presented by Thomas Hansen, Blair, Nebraska).
  15. Copies of 2 pictures of C.X. Hanson and his siblings (parents on one), 2 copies of pictures of Lauritz Hanson, information on C.X. Hanson and his family (Presented by Marion V. Hanson, Blair, Nebraska and Dorothy Hanson Farthing, Springdale, Arkansas).
  16. George Ellis Holberg's Ellis, Holberg and Allied Families in America and Europe Vol. II (Presented by Mildred Holberg, Loveland, Colorado).
  17. Northfield Retirement Newsletter, St. Peter's (Northfield, MN) annual report 2000, random copies of St. Peter's Ladies Aid minutes (1927, 1938, 1946, 1954), account books for St. Peter's Flower Fund for 1977-1985 and 1985-1998, 46 Sunday bulletins (2001), obituaries, funeral folders and/or bulletins for Christine Andersen Larson, Viola Johnson, Erwin Wiese, Alice Oleson, and Kenneth Sorenson, 2 clippings on Memorial Day and Veterans' Reunion, clipping on St. Peter's Danish Days 2001, clipping on The Anderson Chronicles, 2001 report of Hazelwood (Immanuel) Cemetery Association, St. Peter's-Immanuel bulletin (1951), Ladies Aid treasurer's report (1948-49), St. Peter's dedication booklet, committee directory (2001-2002), birthday calendar (1986-87), 11 Parish Visitors, Danmark i Billeder, Balslev's Bibelhistorie, Modersohn's Tre Minuter før Midnat, Krogsøe's De Kraftige Geringer (Presented by Geraldine Jasan, Northfield, Minnesota).
  18. Obituary for Elna Lorentzen, Brochure on Scandinavian Lutheran Church (1898-1965) St. Paul, NE (Presented by Herbert and Ruth Jeppesen, Des Plaines, Illinois).
  19. Copies of The Little Mermaid and the Portland Dane (Presented by Bodil Johnson, Hillsboro, Oregon).
  20. Archive Volunteer 2000 mailing list and replies (Presented by Dody Johnson, Cedar Falls, Iowa).
  21. Disk of Kofoed family history (Presented by Howard Kofoed, Kennard, Nebraska)
  22. Bing & Grøndal serving plate in Falling Leaves pattern (Presented by Nathan Kramer, Blair, Nebraska).
  23. Translation of accounts of Danes in Washington from Danske i Amerika (Presented by Inga Larsen, Cedar Falls, Iowa).
  24. Korch's Kampen om Torndal, Swan's Under Hjemmets Magt, Begtrup's Carlus Linns, Geismar's Jesus, Guds Søn (Presented by Ruby Larsen, Fremont, Nebraska).
  25. Information from Arkiv, Thisted Kommune, DK concerning Madison Roikjaer family, copy of picture of Caroline Rasmussen Madsen and Chresten Nielsen Madsen, 2001 Christmas letter about trip to Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway, 3 picture postcards from Thisted, information on Caroline Rasmussen, e-mail information on family search in DK, copies of pictures of birthplace and information on Johan Mortensen Nielsen Skjoldborg (Presented by Donald and Doris Madison, Gurinee, Illinois).
  26. Dana College bulletin (1945), Dana choir tour schedule (1946), obituary

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- for Mrs. N.H. Jorgensen (1947) (Presented by Eunice and Ried Neve, Omaha, Nebraska).
27. "Recollections of a Young Boy's Danish-American Christmas" by Alvin Nielsen (Presented by Jane Ann Nielsen, Knoxville, Tennessee).
  28. Invitation to and clipping on Emelda Rasmussen's honoring, 100th anniversary bulletin for First Evangelical Lutheran, Cushing, WI (1870-1970), 2 programs for Emelda's event, obituary and funeral folder for Tina Larson (Presented by Gerhard and Betty Nygaard, Northfield, Minnesota).
  29. 6 photographs of the Niels Peter Pallesen family gravesite (Presented by Peter J.M. Pallesen, Calgary, Alberta, Canada).
  30. "Peter Phillipsen, Founder-Manager 1929-1939" (Presented by Myrtle L. Phillipsen, Fortuna, California).
  31. MS account of Omaha dairies (Presented by Ruth Rasmussen, Omaha, Nebraska).
  32. Lars Kongensholm Nelson's Memories from My Childhood (Presented by Shirley Nelson Rosse of Omaha, Nebraska in honor of her grandparents, Lars Kongensholm and Anna Marie Nelson).
  33. Obituaries for John W. Petersen, Lawrence Jensen, Paul Svendsen, Howard Olsen, clippings on Richard Christiansen's column and Paul Simon (Presented by Ellen Schooley, Chicago, Illinois).
  34. Margaret Ellen Nielsen's The Life and Times of Doc Nielsen, pages from a scrapbook on Ron Vig and Julie Anderson, picture of class at Great Lakes and notes of Clown Vig's separation from U.S. Navy, obituaries and funeral folders for Clem Vig and Mary (Mrs. Soren) Vig, clipping on Charlie Gaydou, 4 pictures from Ruth Vig Olsen's wedding, picture and letter from Bernice (Mrs. Warren) Vig, summary of sermon preached at Clarence Vig's funeral by Harold Jorgensen, clippings and valentine of Einar Vig's, Dana group class picture (1923), page from Mary Vig's scrapbook, Mary Vig's article for Dana College Centennial Issue and notes for the same, 3-way correspondence of Ed Jipp, Marc and Peggy Beck, and Mary Vig about a ride in Ed Jipp's car, notes for various talks given by Mary Vig, 10 snapshots (one of 1st and 2nd grade class at West School, 5 pictures of friends, list of books read by Mary Vig (1938-39), 3 pieces of sheet music, 8 letters from 1960s, diary about Ron Vig (1951), book of clippings belonging to Einar Vig, Ove Anderson's 5th grade reader from Red Cloud, copy of Gettysburg Address made by Ove Anderson, picture of Ron Vig's 2nd grade class, 4 pieces of Ron's schoolwork, packet of copies of U.S. naval correspondence and interviews made and kept by Clarence Vig for Admiral Turner, page of The Beacon (soldier news from Blair), menu for July 4, 1945 dinner on U.S.S. Eldorado in the Western Pacific, U.S. Navy handkerchief sent by Clown to Mary, picture of enlisted men at Great Lakes (1943) (Presented by Ron Vig, Blair, Nebraska).
  35. Copy of picture of James H. Jensen home and family in Blair (Presented by Buz Wehrman, Lincoln, Nebraska).
  36. 2 Dana pennants: one from 1924 belonging to Edith Krogh Hafar, the other from 1950 belonging to Gaylen Hafar (Presented by Gaylen Hafar, Kimberling City, Missouri).

matic service, an historian and award-winning author, will speak on Henrik Kauffmann. Kauffmann, Denmark's ambassador to the United States during World War II, was largely responsible for keeping Danish international assets out of Nazi hands and assuring that Denmark was seen as one of the allies in the war effort. At the beginning of the Cold War, he played an important role in negotiating American use of Greenland for military bases.

Ambassador Edward E. Elson, who has been described as being "a very dynamic ambassador to Denmark" when he served there from 1993 to 1998, will speak at Saturday evening's banquet. Elson will assess the role that Denmark has played in current foreign policy and explore future relations between the United States and Denmark.

Plans are for sessions that are both popular and scholarly in nature. Scholars from Denmark, Canada and across the United States will give presentations on the economic, social, and cultural factors that have motivated immigration since World War II. Presentation titles include: "The Legacy of the Danish Resistance in World War II," "The Founding of Danish America," "The Ethnic Mirror: A Parallel Study of the Ways that Denmark and American Society Have Dealt With Ethnic Problems," "A Comparison of the Aging Experience in the United States and Denmark," and "The Teenage Ambassadors: Cultural Exchange for Young People."

An important reason for hosting the conference is to preserve the stories of post World War II immigrants. Plans are for moderated panels in which post-war immigrants will share their experiences in business, engineering, agriculture, construction, and trades as well as family life. This reflects an effort on the part of the Danish Immigrant Museum and the Danish Immigrant Archive at Dana College to collect artifacts, archival materials and oral histories from this period. The DAHS Board hopes many post World War II immigrants will participate in the conference.

An exciting dimension to the conference will be sessions at the Danish Immigrant Museum and the Danish Immigrant Archive at Dana College. In addition, there will be a tour of important Omaha sites, including the former headquarters of the Danish Brotherhood in America, the former building where Den Danske Pioneer was published, Spring Hill Cemetery and Venelyst Park. Bus transportation to the different venues will be provided.

A registration brochure will be sent to members in April. Please consider joining us in Omaha this October. It is a beautiful time to visit the Midwest, and this should be a wonderful way to learn more about the Danish American heritage.

If you are not a member of the DAHS and desire a registration brochure, please send your request to John W. Nielsen, Danish Immigrant Archive, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska 68008. Email: jwnielse@acad2.dana.edu  
Phone: 402-426-7910 (forenoons, Central Time).