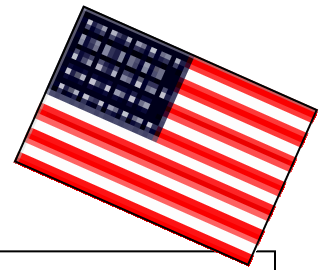


# JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library

May — August 2016

## THE DAAL TIME MACHINE

3rd Adams 1941  
Dec 14 ALV 992  
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Luke 1:67-80 Light in Darkness

There is much darkness in the World today.  
There is something terrifying about physical darkness.  
No one fearing being in it.  
The history of man might well be written  
from the standpoint of elementary darkness.  
So much has been grasped with the touch.  
Early man learned that fire produced light.  
When the sun set, fire brands were used.  
Then oil - then candles - lamps. Electric light.  
What would we do without light?  
No one loves darkness - only those who wish to  
exploit by it. That is why danger lurks in  
darkness - men growl about seeing & destroying.  
We hear of Blackouts - we can hardly  
imagine what that means - and the fear of  
sudden destruction and death! And yet God  
is able to use even darkness as a protection.  
I There is a more devastating darkness  
than physical darkness. More and more we  
are reminded of its enveloping power. I  
am thinking of the mental, moral and  
spiritual darkness which nullifies the light of God.  
It  
+ keen as ever may be in its attempt  
to illuminate darkness - it can not  
solve the problem of the darkness of the soul.  
These moments of man are darkened - they cannot  
wear their way back to God.

Who among us wouldn't jump at the chance to enter a time machine and travel back through history to witness first hand some of the events we have always learned about in books or from family stories?

At the DAAL, we can't offer an actual time machine, but we do have a virtual one that can transport you back as far as the 1500s with some of our Danish Bibles, or into the beginning of WWII with documents such as this sermon written and presented by Reverend Alvin M. Petersen just days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which shows the struggle to make sense of that horrific event.

Imagine being able to hold in your hand a postcard (the e-mail of the day) that your great-grandmother wrote to her sister back in Denmark, or to read a letter personally signed by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Can't make it to the Archive in person? You can see some of these documents by visiting the Collections page of the DAAL website. For example, on Alvin and Edel Petersen's listing you can access the complete sermon as well as a typed transcription. You can also see an original letter written in Danish by Alvin Petersen's mother, Petrea (Damskov) Petersen, to Alvin and two of his brothers, Adolph and Immanuel along with the English translation. Finally, you can see a photo of Alvin Petersen on the day of his ordination, along with three of his brothers, all of whom were ordained Lutheran ministers.

Of the 26 collections listed on the Collections page, we have expanded 11 to include scanned documents and photos to provide visitors with a taste of what is available at the DAAL. Our intermediate goal is to give the same treatment to the remaining 15 collections. And our long-term goal is to digitize everything in the Archive and make our virtual time machine large enough to accommodate anyone who wants to make the journey.

This is the first page of a five-page hand-written sermon presented by Reverend Alvin M. Petersen one week after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Cont. Page 2

## Time Machine (Cont.)

Volunteers at the DAAL have made a good start on this long-term goal in scanning documents and photos, and you can access much of this information through the Digital Archive from the DAAL web site home page.

Collections found in the Digital Archive so far are:

- ◆ The papers of Einar Vig, which are of special interest to descendants of former inhabitants of Washington County, Nebraska
- ◆ The P.C. Jensen files, which contain biographical information about pastors of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church
- ◆ Dana College yearbooks, a project still in progress
- ◆ Back issues of the DAAL newsletter

We also provide a link to the digitized versions of the Danish language newspapers *Bien*, *Dannevirke*, and *Den Danske Pioneer*, as well as the pages from the scrapbooks of the great Danish opera singer Lauritz Melchior. All of the files found in the Digital Archive are searchable through optical character reader (OCR).

So anytime you feel the need to travel back through time, just hop aboard the DAAL virtual time machine through our web site, or better yet come to the DAAL and travel to the past in person. ■

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## VOLUNTEER FAQ

Because several new volunteers have joined the DAAL during the past year we now provide the following list of frequently asked questions as an initial guide.

### What are the Archive's hours?

The DAAL is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are free to come in anytime during these hours. Coffee time is held every weekday morning at 10:00 a.m. with treats provided by volunteers. Although bringing treats is not expected, it is always greatly appreciated.

### Who uses the Archive?

There are volunteers who come to the Archive regularly to aid in preserving the many collections housed here. In addition, researchers, scholars, genealogists, and other visitors come to the Archive to utilize its vast resources and learn more about Danish Americans and their contributions to American society. Several of the volunteers also assist the Executive Director in day-to-day decisions and projects.

### What can I do at the Archive?

The Archive's immense existing collections, coupled with new materials constantly coming in, create many opportunities for volunteers. Organizing, coding, and cataloging collections; translating documents from Danish to English; summarizing the contents of a single family packet, box, or collection; organizing materials in the Dana Room; and filing obituaries and correspondence are just some of the numerous projects that need to be completed.

### Should I wear gloves while working with the archival materials?

No, gloves are not necessary. However, all volunteers should wash their hands after eating and before handling any materials. This is a vital step in protecting our documents. Other measures, such as not using metal staples or paper clips, are taken to ensure the materials stay well preserved for as long as possible. Each box and packet used to store documents is acid-free and certified for archival use. All original documents must be preserved as is.

### How do I record my volunteer hours?

A book is available on the front desk for volunteers to record their name, along with the time they spent at the Archive for a particular day. It is important to always sign in so that an accurate record of volunteer hours can be kept.



*Jody Sorensen and Dody Johnson have been volunteering at the DAAL since the 1990s.*

Cont. Page 5



## LAURITZ MELCHIOR AND DANA COLLEGE

begin “a warm and  
lasting friendship”

*Editor’s Note: The DAAL holds a vast collection of memorabilia documenting Melchior’s life.*

On October 25, 1950, Denmark-born Lauritz Melchior, still regarded by many today as the greatest of all heroic tenors, gave a concert at Dana College. Earlier that year, on February 2, singing in Wagner’s “Lohengrin,” he’d closed his 24-year career at the Metropolitan Opera with 14 curtain calls.

Melchior’s Dana performance marked the start of his winter concert season. Arrangements to bring him to the Blair campus were made under the auspices of the Dana chapter of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, under the leadership of Professors Paul C. Nyholm and H. F. Swanson.

The *Alumni Quarterly* reports that his program included selections from operas, semi-classical and popular songs, and “a small child’s song which he had learned as a boy, and which he sang in his native tongue.”

He also sang “Den Store Hvide Flok” as soloist with the Dana Choir, directed by Dr. Paul E. Neve -- the first of three times he would sing this beloved Danish hymn with the choir.

In his *A Place Called Dana: The Centennial History of Dana College and Trinity Seminary*, Peter L. Petersen describes the event as “the beginning of a warm and lasting friendship between Melchior and Dana College.”

Petersen notes that in a letter from Melchior to Dana President Richard E. Morton, sent a few days after the concert, Melchior wrote, “We enjoyed every minute of it,” and he thanked “all the charming people” he’d met.

He didn’t forget singing with the choir and Dana’s warm reception. In 1963 the choir celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, and an article in the *Dana Review* quotes from a letter he wrote to Dana President Clifford C. Madsen: “I remember with great pleasure my work together with the choir and the magnificent way in which they were



*As Dana Choir Director Paul Neve and members of the 1965 choir look on, Public Relations Director Phil Pagel presents Lauritz Melchior with a plaque naming the heroic tenor an honorary alumnus of Dana College. The event took place at the end of the touring choir’s concert at Olivet Lutheran Church in Inglewood, California.*

performing their beautiful and often difficult music. It is a blessing for any ear today to be able to listen to beautiful music beautifully performed . . . .”

Two years later, in 1965, Melchior again sang with the choir, this time in California. But we’ll need to go back briefly to 1961, when the choir sang at Denmark’s annual Rebuild Festival that celebrates our country’s Fourth of July. Walt Disney was in the audience, and he invited the choir to sing sometime at Disneyland.

So to return to 1965 -- the touring Dana Choir accepted Disney’s invitation and sang on January 25 at Disneyland (and the Dana Folk Dancers, many of them also members of the choir, danced).

Melchior invited everyone to his Beverly Hills home, The Viking, for coffee the following afternoon. “Members of the 1965 Dana Choir,” an article in the *Dana Review* reports, “can tell you from personal experience that Lauritz Melchior is not only a

great operatic tenor, he is a marvelous host.”

That evening the choir gave a concert at Olivet Lutheran Church in Inglewood, and Melchior joined the choir as soloist in singing “Den Store Hvide Flok.”

At the end of the concert Phil Pagel, Dana’s director of public relations, named Melchior an honorary alumnus of Dana College and presented him with a plaque.

**(The story of Melchior and Dana will continue in the next *Jottings*.)**

*This article is based on information in “Tristanissimo: The Authorized Biography of Heroic Tenor Lauritz Melchior,” by Shirlee Emmons (1990); “A Place Called Dana: The Centennial History of Dana College and Trinity Seminary,” by Peter L. Petersen (1984); “Saga of the Tower: A History of Dana College and Trinity Seminary,” by William E Christensen (1959); “The Alumni Quarterly,” December 1950; and the “Dana Review,” February 1965. The photo is from the Dana Collection.*

**VOLUNTEERS:** 1,875 hours by 41 volunteers from Iowa and Nebraska.

**VISITORS:** 101 visitors from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, Canada, Denmark & Germany.

**USERS:** 34 users from Arizona, California, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada & Denmark

## ACQUISITIONS

The following are the donations of materials we have received from May through August. The Archive could not continue to document the history of Danish Americans without these wonderful materials including complete family collections, photos, books, periodicals, music and obituaries.

### Materials

Ann Lage Andersen (Milwaukee, WI)  
 Ruth Randall Benson (Burnsville, MN)  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Ann P. Boos (Washington, DC)  
 Paul & Leanna Christoffersen (Underwood, IA)  
 Esther Grindberg (Circle Pines, MN)  
 Bill & Gwen Groskurth (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Delores Hansen (Omaha, NE)  
 Frederick Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
 Helga & Verlan Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Susan Hettinger (Westminster, CO)  
 Lorraine Jensen (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Dody Johnson (Blair, NE)  
 Jean Clark Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)  
 Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Mark & Marcelyn Lund (Blair, NE)  
 Margaret Madsen (Milwaukee, WI)  
 Egon & Laina Molbak (Bellevue, WA)  
 Ruth Martensen (North Olmsted, OH)  
 Muriel Neve (Blair, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Ruth E. Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)  
 Marlene Paulsen (Denmark)  
 Donald B. Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
 A. Richard Petersen (Sioux Falls, SD)  
 Bill Petersen (Blair, NE)  
 Peter L. Petersen (Canyon, TX)  
 Janelle Petersen (Omaha, NE)  
 Lavonne Rolland (Blair, NE)  
 Esther Sand-Henderson (Carroll, IA)  
 Carole J. Schetter (Highlands Ranch, CO)  
 Eleanor & Don Schou (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Jody Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
 Marilyn Svendgard (Blair, NE)  
 Agneta Temali (Shoreview, MN)  
 Reuel & Lynne Vammen (Texarkana, TX)  
 Edith Vammen (Denmark)  
 Laureth Neve Walker (Swea City, IA)  
 Sandra & LeRoy Wiggdahl (Blair, NE)  
 Jane Wilson (Farragut IA)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Memorials:

Kay Boehr  
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)  
 Marilyn Hanson  
 Larry & Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)  
 JoAnn Hohensee  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Larrie Stone (Ames, IA)  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Mark Hoyer  
 Milo & Phyllis Shavlik (North Platte, NE)  
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)  
 Elaine Hoyer (Blair, NE)  
 Earl S. Jensen  
 Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
 Fred Jensen  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Lena & Vernon Jensen 3 generations shared birthday  
 Jill Jensen (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Joyce E. Jessen  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Floyd Jorgensen  
 Bob & Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
 Mary Lou Jorgensen  
 Duane & Dixie Petersen (Wichita, KS)  
 Donna Rector (Norfolk, NE)  
 Ronald Larsen  
 Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
 Rev. C.I. "Jerry" Lund on 65th anniversary  
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of In Faith  
 Community Foundation established in memory  
 of C.I. "Jerry" Lund by Maryann Lund &  
 Family (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Luella Nielsen  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Marilyn Nyegaard  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Dr. Jack & Ruth Petajan  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Rick Plugge  
 Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)  
 Dr. Leland Rosenau  
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)  
 Paul & Lil Strand  
 Paula Jean Wolf (Elmhurst, IL)  
 Jerry Thorsen  
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Doug Zobec  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)

### Honoraria:

Verlan & Helga Hanson's 65th anniversary  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Marty Kuhr's 90th birthday  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen's 65th anniversary  
 Dody Johnson (Blair, NE)  
 John & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Bette Marguerite Jensen Morgan  
 Joy Linnea Morgan (Austin, TX)  
 Elizabeth Nielsen's 90th birthday  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Don & Audrey Pedersen's 53rd anniversary  
 Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)

### General Fund:

All donations are placed in the General Fund

unless otherwise specified. Those who give through the 50/100 Club are listed in each issue of *Jottings*.

Stephanie Adams (Blair, NE)  
 Dennis Barten (Kirkwood, MO)  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Pat Brown (Burlington, WI)  
 Cargill (Blair, NE)  
 Niels Carlsen (Summerfield, FL)  
 Ingrid Christiansen (Brookline, MA)  
 Bob & Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)  
 Carol Donelan (Northfield, MN)  
 Erna Heiser (McMinnville, OR)  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)  
 Teresa Houser (Omaha, NE)  
 Ron & Rikki Hulsebus (Omaha, NE)  
 Kristen Jacobsen (Chicago, IL)  
 Jaspersen/Jensen Family Reunion  
 Descendants of P.C. Jensen  
 Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)  
 Dody Johnson (Blair, NE)  
 Joyce Johnson (Huntington Beach, CA)  
 Lis Jorgensen (Burnsville, MN)  
 Jean Clark Kahldahl (Port Townsend, WA)  
 Rodney & Nancy Kastrup (Gainesville, VA)  
 Tim & Jamie Kuiken (Fairfield, IA)  
 Roger Hans Larsen (Fremont, NE)  
 Carole Liljedahl (Missouri Valley, IA)  
 Ruth McMaster (Nebraska City, NE)  
 W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)  
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)  
 Elmer Petersen (Galesville, WI)  
 Matthew Petersen (Johnston, IA)  
 William Plume (Pine, CO)  
 Bill & Margaret Rodenburg (Centerville, OH)  
 D'Arlene Rosenau (Lodi, CA)  
 Milo & Phyllis Shavlik (North Platte, NE)  
 Robert Storms (Omaha, NE)  
 Washington County Genealogical Society (Blair, NE)  
 Nicholas Wilson (Shenandoah, IA)

### Building Fund:

Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
 Roger Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
 Dody Johnson (Blair, NE)  
 Luther & Doris Kloth (Blair, NE)  
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
 Larry & Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)  
 Jody Sorensen (Richardson, TX)

### 2016 Thrivent Choice Gifts:

Harlan & Norma Barney (Oregon City, OR)  
 Ruth Benson (Burnsville, MN)  
 Erling & Inez Bligard (Kerrville, TX)  
 Philip Christensen (Sparks, NV)  
 Myrvin Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
 Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)  
 James Falksen (Ava, MO)  
 Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)  
 Alice Hanson (Oregon, WI)  
 Janice Heath (Hardin, MT)  
 Susan Hettinger (Westminster, CO)

Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
Bill Lawson (Green Bay, WI)  
Jerry Lincoln (Lincoln, CA)  
John Loft (Long Beach, IN)  
Diane Madsen (Omaha, NE)  
Sandra Sonderup (Blair, NE)  
Elsa Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)  
Linda Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)  
Frederic & Janice Youra (Clatskanie, OR)

**Endowment:**

DELORIS HANSEN BENGTON FUND  
REV. C.I. "JERRY" LUND FUND  
REV. ASTER & RUTH NEVE FAMILY FUND  
DAGMAR VASBY FUND  
GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of Dody Johnson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Sherry Forrest (Omaha, NE)

Andy Johnson & Kathy Gerking (Iowa City, IA)  
David & Michele Johnson (Council Bluffs, IA)  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
Julie Johnson & Judy Pollack (Columbus, OH)  
Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Julie & Charlie Rohlfing (Blair, NE)

**50/100 Club:**

The name of the 50/100 Club was inspired by the idea that if 100 members gave \$50 per month, most of our operating expenses would be met. Members sustain the DAAL by giving a minimum of \$600 per year (given monthly, quarterly or annually according to the donor's preference). Those at the Founders Level give at least \$2,000 per year. An added benefit of being part of the 50/100 Club is receiving one donation acknowledgement for tax purposes in January, reflecting a yearly total of all

**donations, rather than getting a separate acknowledgement for each financial contribution. These donations are part of the General Fund.**

**50/100 FOUNDER LEVEL**

Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
John W & Elizabeth Nielsen

**50/100 GENERAL**

Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)  
Ruth Randall Benson (Apple Valley, MN)  
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
Mark & Erika Bondo (Freehold, NJ)  
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)  
Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)  
Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Norman Freund (Fremont, NE)  
Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)  
Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
Elaine & Mark Hoyer (Blair, NE)  
Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)  
Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
Julianne Johnson & Judy Pollock (Columbus, OH)  
Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen (Blair, NE)  
Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)  
Earl Nelson (Mt Pleasant, WI)  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Lisa Nielsen (St Marys, GA)  
Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)  
Donald & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
Karl Petersen & Joan Pearson (Bainbridge Island, WA)

Pete & Shirley Petersen (Canyon, TX)  
James Peterson (Richfield, MN)  
Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)  
Bill & Margaret Rodenburg (Centerville, OH)  
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)  
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
Elaine Steenblock (Ames, IA)  
Doug & Jane Wilson (Farragut, IA)  
John & Deb Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)  
Sandra Wunder (Omaha, NE)

**Legacy Builders:**

**These donors have named the DAAL in their estates (\* indicates deceased). If you are not on this list but should be, please contact Jill Hennick at 402-426-7910.**

Erna Berthelsen  
Judy Brehm  
Myrv & Anne Christopherson  
Kathryn (Olsen) & Milbern Goetz  
Michael & Jill Hennick  
Arnold & Marianne Jensen  
Russell P.\* & Esther A. Jensen  
Tim & Sharon Jensen  
Julianne Johnson & Judy Pollock  
Oscar\* & Dody Johnson  
Paul & Liz Johnson  
Lorene Larsen  
Phil & Florence Larsen  
Gene & Nancy Lindblad  
Gary & Diane Madsen  
George Madsen  
Ronald D. Johnson\* & Bodl Strom Muller  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen  
LeVern\* & Marilyn\* Nielsen  
W. Clayton Nielsen  
Larry & Palma Plume  
Joan Sorensen ■

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## Volunteer FAQ (Cont.)

### How are the boxes arranged within the Archive?

Generally, the boxes belonging to one specific collection are all shelved in the same area. The white label on the front of the box contains information regarding the collection, box number, and contents. More specifically, the boxes are arranged by number within one section of shelving, with the box number increasing down a stack on one shelf.

### Do I have to be Danish, or be able to speak or read Danish?

No, you can still volunteer! Many current volunteers have no Danish heritage at all. Most of the volunteers do not know Danish, and there are still plenty of opportunities available. If you do know Danish, your knowledge would be valuable in performing translations and other services.

### Do I need to know how to use a computer?

No, most of the work done at the Archive deals directly with the documents themselves, so computer skills are not required. However, if you do have computer experience, please let us know as we have some computer-related projects.

### Is the DAAL a lending library?

No, the Archive is not a public library and does not allow books to be checked out. The Danish American Archive and Library is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Our volunteers are the backbone of the DAAL, and without them we couldn't continue. We welcome anyone who has the time and is interested in helping to preserve the precious materials that continue to be donated to the DAAL. To volunteer, just call us at 402-426-7910 or contact us by email at [info@danishamericanarchive.com](mailto:info@danishamericanarchive.com). We have a job for you no matter what your skill set. ■

## DEBT REDUCTION

### A Progress Report

Most of you have followed the journey of the DAAL from our initial location in the basement of the Dana College library, to temporary headquarters at First Lutheran Church in Blair, to the building we leased on Washington Street, and finally to the purchase of the building in July of 2015.

Since then we have been making additional principal payments on our mortgage, and we're proud to tell you that after 15 months our balance has been reduced to just **\$67,000!**

Thanks to all of you who have made donations above and beyond what you normally give and designated them for our mortgage payments.

We are looking forward to being free from the lease and mortgage payments that have consumed such a large part of our budget.

We welcome any help you can provide to retire the rest of the debt.

## ON SALE FROM LUR PUBLICATIONS



For a limited time you can purchase this fascinating account of the lives of Danish immigrants both in Denmark and the places they emigrated to for a bargain price.

From September through December, 2016, you can purchase *Attracted to America* for just \$5.00 plus \$4.00 shipping, for a total of \$9.00. This is the lowest price we have ever charged for a Lur Publications book!

To order your copy simply contact the DAAL at 402-426-7910 or by email at [danishamericanarchive.com](http://danishamericanarchive.com)

**It's not too early to shop for  
Christmas!**

## AROUND THE ARCHIVE

◆ During the past several months, the DAAL was pleased to host participants of several family reunions. For each visit, Tim and Sharon Jensen led a tour of the archive with a short presentation about our history, and any materials the DAAL holds for that particular family. The three families who came were:

\*The Jaspersen/Jensen Family

\*Members of the Kuhr Family who brought in relatives from Denmark

\*The Tim Hannibal Family

◆ The DAAL was delighted to receive a collection of etching plates created by Marion Ardeith Christensen (1931-1985). She earned her bachelor's degree from Dana College and her Master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Iowa. She was an Art Teacher in the Davenport City Schools in Davenport, Iowa, for many years and was well known as an artist jeweler and print maker.

◆ The last issue of *Jottings* featured a photo of a wonderful portrait of N.C. Carlsen that we were fortunate to retrieve from the Dana College library. The artist who painted it, Elmer Petersen, of Galesville, Wisconsin, saw the article and contacted us, so now we can put the artist's name with the painting!

◆ As usual the first week of October will be filled with activity at the DAAL:

**October 1**—The popular Kringle Mingle for Dana College alumni, 9—11 a.m.

**October 2**—DAAL Board of Directors meet.

**October 3-7**—Fall volunteer week

**October 5**—Annual members meeting.

Voting members are those who have donated time, money or materials to the DAAL during the last two years. ■

## SHIPBUILDERS WANTED!



This wonderful model ship held a place of honor in the office of the late Tom Nielsen, Library Director at Dana College, and we brought it with us when we left the college.

Unfortunately, through the years, and through the move, the ship has sustained some minor damage that we want to correct.

If you have the skills needed to make these repairs, or know someone who does, please call us at 402-426-7910. We would love to get this beautiful boat back in ship-shape condition. ■

## Would you like to help?

Please cut out this card and send it in with your tax-deductible contribution.

A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (Please make payable to the Danish American Archive and Library.)

Or to pay by credit card:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Am Ex for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Danish American Archive and Library

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT A Word About Volunteers

So far in 2016, we have had 51 volunteers (7 of them new) donate over 3,400 hours of volunteer time. Those numbers will grow when we host our Fall Volunteer Week this coming October 3-7. Most new volunteers are friends or relatives of current volunteers. However, we also get younger volunteers who want to add experience to their resumes.

Have you ever considered volunteering at the Archive? On Page 2 you will find the Volunteer FAQ with answers to some frequently asked questions. We have a variety of opportunities—some of which are being worked on each week, and some of which are only in the conception stage.

Our main goal is to know what is in each section, box and file drawer and to create directories so that interested researchers can find the information they are looking for. To this end, we create computer spreadsheets and databases, which include lists of obituaries, Danish Brotherhood records, and family files, for example.

We have scanned Einer Vig's papers, our major Washington County genealogical resource, and are in the process of scanning Dana yearbooks and news releases, files and photographs. Each collection that contains one or more acid-free boxes must first have an initial grouping of similar items such as letters, clippings and photos. We still have a number of boxes in our Dana College and other collections that have never received this initial sort. Next, more detailed sorting occurs which includes chronological or subject groupings or identifying people in photographs.

Ideally, we get to the stage where each item in a collection is given a code which indicates the collection, box, envelope, and position within the envelope. We also summarize the contents of each box and this information is entered into an online database hosted by the Blair Public Library which can be accessed from the DAAL website. Items that need translating from Danish into English are identified, and several translators continue work on those.

Our second goal is to tell the story of Danish immigrants and their descendants. We have a treasure trove of primary source documents waiting to be analyzed by researchers. We could use creative minds to help us bring the stories alive through exhibits, presentations and group talks. We have taped one oral history recently, but know there are many more that would be worthy of attention. Future generations could be introduced to Danish culture through programs that use material found in the Archive. Internships could be crafted that enable you to mentor students in your own field. Potential resumé builders include marketing our Lur Publications books or developing and maintaining a social media presence.

One reason we have been able to accomplish as much as we have is that many of our retired volunteers contribute the skills they developed in their careers, such as library science, information technology, marketing and facility management. Our third goal is to take the operation of the DAAL to the next level. Therefore, we would welcome your talents and skills in any one of a number of areas. We are happy to train you, so no matter what your background, there is a place for you at the DAAL. ■



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## IN THE STACKS

### A HUNDRED YEARS ON THE TURNTABLE By Michael Hennick, Library Assistant



When someone walks in the door of the Danish American Archive and Library, they see the rows of more than 3,500 acid-free boxes that hold the family and institutional collections on one side, and on the other, the books and periodicals numbering nearly 12,000 volumes. Continued exploration would lead them to the audio-visual shelves. A major component of these materials is the record collection. The DAAL has roughly 2,000 records spanning the entire twentieth century. Three-fourths of those recordings are 78's, and more than ninety percent of the whole collection is in Danish.

The type of music varies widely. The big bands in Denmark are well represented by such groups as Teddy Petersen and his Orchestra and the Tivoli Promenade Orchestra. Soloists of all types were very popular, and we have dozens of recordings by one of the Danes' favorites, Aksel Schiøtz. The background of the DAAL shines forth in the many recordings of the Dana College Choir under the direction of Paul Neve. Judging by the number of copies that we have, a three-record set entitled *Dana College Choir*, published in 1951, made it into many Danish American homes with its selections of sacred music. Not surprisingly Christmas music is in abundance. It would take some time to count all the versions of "Glade jul, dejlige jul" in the collection. The songs of such classical composers as Carl Nielsen and J. P. E. Hartman have been done many times by many singers. We also have numerous compilations of Danish folksongs as well as music for children. The comedy of Victor Borge made it onto vinyl as did Danish language instruction. Not even included in these numbers, but kept in a special section, is the music of the great Danish tenor, Lauritz Melchior. The DAAL has hundreds of albums featuring Melchior that were once in his private collection.

This is just a quick overview of our record shelves, but it gives some idea of what we are preserving and organizing. Danish Americans, like most immigrants, eventually turned to the larger musical currents of America, but in many families the artists, songs, hymns and tunes of Denmark, and even the Danish language, held on for a time and in some homes, right into the 21st century. ■