

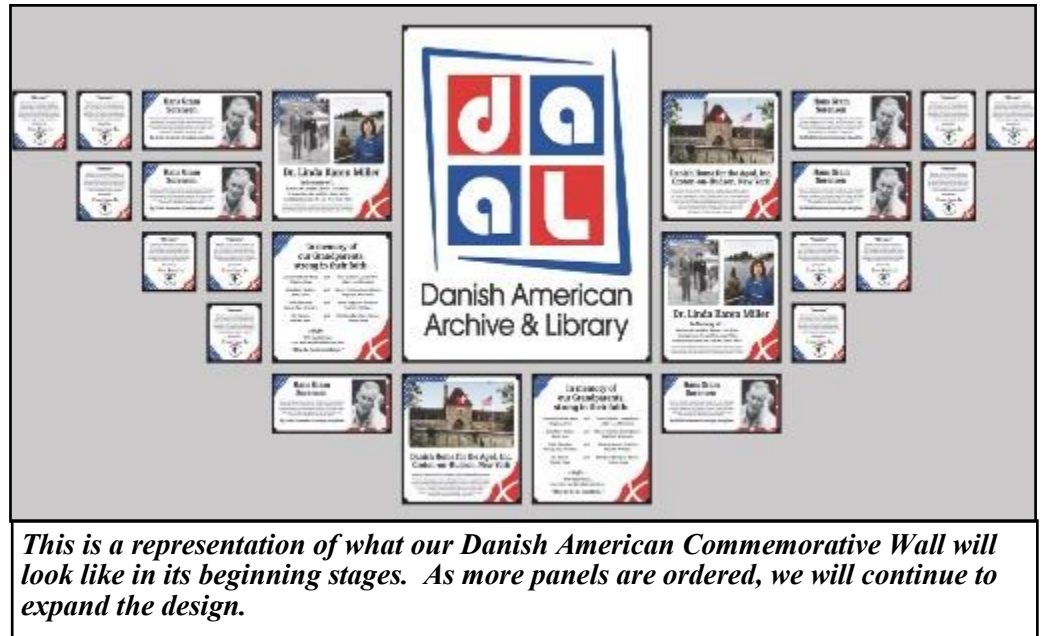
JOTTINGS

A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library

Sept. - Dec. 2021

THE COMMEMORATIVE WALL: HONORING DANISH AMERICA

A conversation between Executive Director Jill Hennick and Dr. Linda Miller of Henderson, Nevada, sparked the idea for our Danish American Commemorative Wall. Dr. Miller asked Jill if the DAAL had any naming opportunities. Linda explained that she had a plaque dedicated to her Danish American family displayed in the library at Kansas University, and thus the idea for the DAAL's Danish American Commemorative Wall was born.



For our wall, Jill envisioned a design made up of three different sized panels. A \$5,000 donation earns a 12" x 12" panel containing text and one or two photos; \$2,500 earns a 5.5" x 12" panel with one photo and text; and \$1,000 earns a 5.5" x 5.5" panel containing text only. Graphic designer Mark Hennick of Plum Design, who also designed our website and logo, conceived a design that incorporates several iterations of each sized panel.

Most of the panels will probably feature Danish American families like that of Dr. Miller, but other aspects of Danish American life also will be displayed. Among the panels already created is a panel dedicated to *Hermes*, the Dana College newspaper. This panel was sponsored by Pounds Printing of Blair, which prints *Jottings* among other things for us. Another panel features the Danish Home for the Aged, which recently donated all of their records to the DAAL. In another example, we received a \$1,000 grant from the Washington County Community Foundation to help pay for our moveable shelving. At this level, the grant will also provide a 5.5" x 5.5" panel for the Commemorative Wall.

Our plan is for the finished wall to reflect the broad spectrum of everyday Danish Americans who contributed to our society, such as teachers, farmers and ranchers, shopkeepers, homemakers, those who served in the military or the church and office workers to name a few. Many other Danish Americans became well-known by being experts in their fields or by having careers in performing arts, athletics or politics. Panel sponsors will be descendants of these Danish Americans, or businesses that want to highlight a Danish American enterprise.

The Danish American Commemorative Wall will be the first thing hundreds of visitors see when they enter the DAAL. The panels will be affixed to the wall bordering our moveable shelving, and the flexibility of the design allows us to start with a few panels and expand from there. It is our hope to fill the entire space with wonderful tributes to Danish America. Nearly 20 panels already have been ordered. Donors who indicate their interest in sponsoring a panel by the extended deadline of March 1, 2022, will be part of the initial design. Those sponsoring a panel will have input during every stage of design of their panel. ■

FROM THE DANA ROOM

The Hans Christian Andersen Festival

By Michael Hennick, Library Director



The planting of the beech trees given by the city of Odense to Dana; pictured: R. E. Morton, Paul Nyholm, Norman Bansen, Frank Lawson, Raymond Hansen & Leif Hauge.

April 2, 1955, marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen, a man known throughout the world as a writer of fairy tales. Dana College joined in the celebration by presenting a program of songs, music, drama, ballet, stories and the planting of five beech trees given to the school by the city of Odense, Andersen's hometown. The class of 1956 and the Dana Chapter of the American-Scandinavian Foundation co-sponsored the event.

The tree planting took place on April 2nd in what was called the Hans Christian Andersen Grove between Old Main and the Pioneer Memorial building. On hand for the festivities, and to do some ceremonial shoveling, were Dana's President R. E. Morton, Rev. Dr. Paul Nyholm, Prof. Norman Bansen, Danish Vice Consul Frank Lawson of Omaha, Mayor Raymond Hansen of Blair and Leif Hauge of Scandinavian Airlines. Flags were flown, the

bells of Old Main chimed and the Dana Choir performed the national anthems of the United States and Denmark.



Jean Coffey as the Little Mermaid.

The Festival Program was given in three performances on April 14-16. The crowd was so large at the initial matinee on Thursday that it was decided to add a third performance on Saturday evening. The Festival Folk Dancers in Danish costume opened the program. The Dana College Choir, Women's Chorus, Men's Glee Club, and soloists Dorothy Jensen and Dick Jensen sang songs in both Danish and English. Guest violinist Rev. F. O. Lund of the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, and a native of Odense, performed a Fantasy on Danish Melodies. Two tableaus of H. C. Andersen stories were presented. One featured Phil Pagel from the class of 1956 in the role of Andersen himself and the other, Jean Coffey, as the little mermaid. An original ballet by Prof. A. Gordon and Mrs.



Phil Pagel as H. C. Andersen reads to four "College Hill" kids.

Lucile Ferguson of Dana College entitled "The Rose and the Nightingale" was the big production of the evening. The event concluded with, of course, the singing of "Wonderful Copenhagen."

In the 1950s Dana College was still a predominantly Danish-American school that could combine all of its time and talent for such an event in honor of Denmark's most famous author. ■



Danish American
Archive & Library

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E-mail: info@danishamericanarchive.com
Hours: 8am-3 pm, Monday-Friday

VOLUNTEERS: 790 hours by 42 volunteers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

VISITORS: 152 visitors from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

USERS: 70 users from Arizona, California, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada, Denmark, Germany and email.

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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. We appreciate your financial donations to support the processing and storage of your materials.

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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 DAAL by giving a
minimum of \$600 per year (given monthly,
quarterly, or yearly according to the donor's
preference). Those at the Founder's 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
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donations, rather than getting a separate
acknowledgment for each financial
contribution. These donations are part of the
General Fund.

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These donors have named DAAL in their
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Ada Stokes Jeppesen Fund	\$ 100,000
Deloris Hansen Bengtson Fund	62,500
Oscar & Dody Johnson Fund	13,000
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling Fund	10,000
John T. & Virginia (Lippincott) Beck Fund	7,500
Rev. Aster & Ruth Neve Family Fund	7,500
Dagmar Vasby Fund	7,000
Martin & Else Andersen Fund	4,000
Earl Jensen Family Fund	4,000
Rev. Sigurd D. & Dorothy M. Petersen Fund	1,500
Rev. C.I. Jerry Lund Fund	1,000
Subtotal of named funds with balances over \$1,000	218,000
General Endowment Fund	114,000
Total Endowment Funds	\$ 332,000

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Annual report 2021

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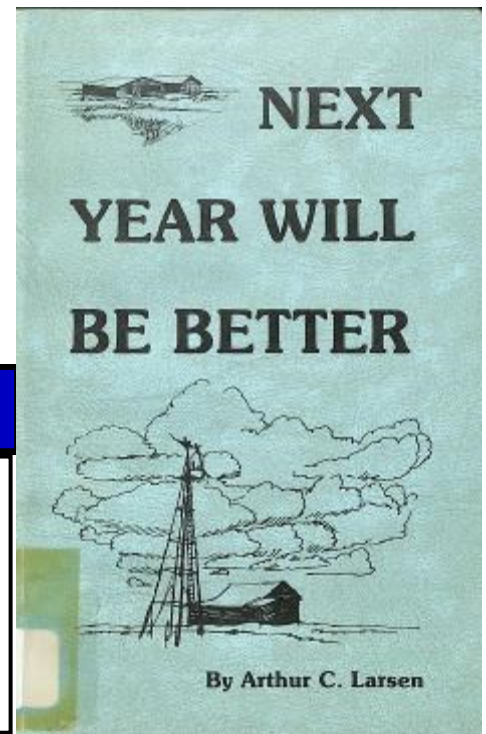
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OLD BOOK ON THE SHELF

Next Year Will Be Better by Arthur C. Larsen was published in 1980. The story is about the Lars and Inger Sorensen family and their experiences homesteading near Dagmar, Montana in the early 1900s. The first sentence is ominous: "The land was free and there was a lot of it, and it was good land they said, if it rained."



AROUND THE ARCHIVE

- ◆ The process that began with closing the DAAL on October 11 is now nearly complete. Our moveable shelving is installed and the shelves are populated with acid-free boxes full of Danish American history with room to spare for more. All that remains is to replace the last of the books that were removed to make way for the new shelving.
- ◆ Some of our volunteers returned in December, but are working on projects other than their usual, because their normal work stations are not yet ready. Several new people have joined our regular corps of volunteers, which bodes well for the future. Our volunteers are the fuel that keeps the DAAL running.
- ◆ A group of dedicated volunteers have worked on cataloging the thousands of obituaries of Danish Americans we receive each year. Fran Anderson, Sherry Forrest, Julie Rohlfing and Lynda Truhlsen have worked for years gleaning valuable information from these articles. As a result, they have devised a list of information that should be included in any obituary:



- Full name of deceased including nickname and/or maiden name
- City, state and full date of birth (month, day and year)
- Full date of death, name of cemetery and city and state of cemetery location
- Full name of spouse including maiden name of wife
- Full name of any previous spouses
- In cases of divorce the name of mother or father of the children
- Names of parents, siblings and children of the deceased
- Ethnic background of deceased, such as "...was proud of his/her Danish heritage." ■

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



*Executive Director
Jill Hennick*

The transformation into the “new and improved” Archive is underway. Replacing the library books and archive collections onto shelves is about 90% complete. When you visit,

you may expect to see a lot of empty shelves since we expanded our capacity by a third. However, we have needed most of that extra space to integrate new acquisitions, to leave some space within the stacks, and to move materials off the floor and away from the ceiling. In 2021 we received materials from 92 families and organizations!

Covid-19 kept some who planned to come to the Fall Volunteer Week away, but we still had 50 volunteers in 2021 and 10 were new! We have about 20 local volunteers who come in on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings. Right now they can't get to their desks, computers and usual projects, but many are helping with special projects in the meantime. Special projects include helping to organize Laurtiz Melchior collection. Part of the remodeling will also include adding electrical outlets to improve the layout of our workstations.

Even though we didn't open until June 1st due to the pandemic and closed again October 15th for our remodeling and rearranging, we had 470 visitors and users in 2021. With a Holiday Inn Express and a newly expanded Scooters coffee shop being built, visits to Blair should become more enjoyable.

We hope the danger of the pandemic will lessen in 2022. The Spring volunteer week has not been scheduled yet. Please let us know if you would like it to be a certain week to fit into your schedule. We anticipate having at least one Dana

Volunteer Week in 2022, where all the projects will be with Dana College materials. Other possible events include gatherings to show off our Commemorative Wall and our “new and improved” Archive.

Thank you for your support during this transformation. We look forward to sharing our future accomplishments with you. ■



Before: Obviously we needed more shelf space.



After: So much better! Room to spare.

IN THE STACKS

The New Danish Home Collection

In 2021 the Danish American Archive and Library received one of its largest material donations ever from the Danish Home for the Aged, Inc. in the village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York. This included over thirty large boxes of photographs, documents, resident files, financial records, brochures, meeting minutes, articles, and more, covering over a century of the Home's existence. The whole collection will be archived and partially digitized for future reference. The Home closed at the end of 2020.

The Danish Home opened to residents in December of 1906.



Main building entrance, courtyard and fountain at Croton-on-Hudson.



Houses of the Danish Home in Brooklyn.

A dozen Danish American

organizations came together to create a home whose purpose was "rendering aid to and caring for those persons resident in the State of New York, who were born in the Kingdom of Denmark or those born within the United States to Danish parents."

The house was located on 41st Street in Brooklyn. In the 1920s

two adjacent houses were acquired as the Home expanded.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s the Board of Directors was looking for a new site for the Home. They eventually settled on a fifty acre property in the town of Cortlandt, New York, which is about thirty miles north of Manhattan. This facility was the former estate of J. M. Kaplan, a



Christmas in the library.

successful New York businessman. He had taken what were farm buildings

and transformed them into an elegant residence. The beautiful stonework included an entrance arch, courtyard and fountain; the interiors were graced with beautiful woodwork. All of this was in the style of a European chateau. Residents moved into this new Danish Home in 1953.

Danish heritage and culture were always a priority at the Home. The yearly celebration of "Grundlovsdag" (Denmark's Constitution Day) on the grounds of the facility was a major community event. It featured Danish and American guest speakers, music and dancing by various groups, games and raffles, art shows and lectures, and plenty of food and drink. Danish organizations from throughout the greater New York City area both sponsored and made appearances at the gathering.

Danes opened and operated many of what used to be called "old people's homes," and the DAAL has material from a dozen such places. We are pleased to have been entrusted with preserving the records of the Danish Home in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. The Home's goal of providing high quality care to retirees in an atmosphere of Danish hospitality and tradition is an



HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark at Grundlovsdag in 1988.

important piece of Danish American history. ■

PARTING SHOT



These cute kids are bundled up appropriately for the weather that has hit most of us this winter.

This photo is from an album of the Damskov extended family. Most of the photos in the album were taken between the two World Wars.

Members of the Damskov family, Milburn and Kathy Goetz, donated the album and other materials when they visited the DAAL last June.