



Danish American
Archive & Library

Summer 2023

Jottings
NEWSLETTER

THE DAAL'S DIGITAL LIFE

In the Fall 2007 Jottings, John W. Nielsen announced a name change for the organization (at that time still within Dana College) from The Danish Immigrant Archive to The Danish American Archive and Library to more accurately reflect the expanding nature of its focus and holdings. In addition, Dr. Nielsen described upcoming work on the DAAL's first web site, which would be designed by Nathan Kramer, as well as the registration of two domain names, danishamericanarchive.com and danishamericanarchive.org, to provide a space for presenting the work of the DAAL to the general public in the form of explanations and brief examples of holdings.

Since that time, the DAAL's online presence has grown from that single web site to include a Facebook page where current news and event notices are posted and discussed; a much larger "Digital Archive" site where complete collections can be made available for research; and a related "Projects" site for use by the DAAL's volunteers. Other digital resources have been developed for use within the Archive.

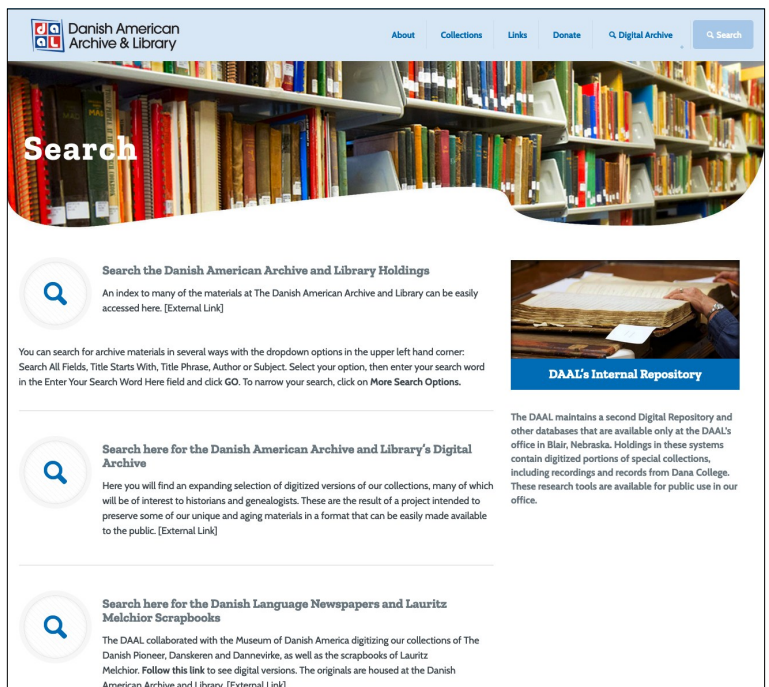
The purpose of this article is to give readers a clear idea of what kinds of information are available, where and how they can be accessed; and what plans are afoot to improve those services.

DAAL's Principal Web Site

DAAL's first and "main" web site (danishamericanarchive.com) presents general information about the purposes and functions of our organization. Just as when it was first created, examples and summaries of what is available at the office are still present. The site is home to the Jottings newsletter.

It also serves as a hub for connecting to our other sites, one of particular usefulness is the DAAL's online catalog listing and describing the entire Library portion of the holdings as well as many of the materials from the Archive. To use this catalog, click on the Search menu (with magnifying glass icon) at the upper right of the site. This will offer you several possible searches from which you should select the first, "Search the Danish American Archive and Library Holdings".

The catalog will then appear. There you can search by using the "Find" text box at the upper left of the



window, selecting the record fields you wish to search and clicking “GO!” Results that have a Dewey Decimal entry in the “Label” field are books in the Library. Archive collections are labeled using three capital letters followed by a hyphen and numbers, such as “VIG-995”, sometimes with additional information. Clicking on a line number in the results will show you the detailed entry for that item.

Facebook

DAAL’s Facebook site (reached by clicking on Facebook’s “f” icon on the main site) is the place where DAAL staff and volunteers post interesting items from the collections, news items, community events and upcoming plans. Other Facebook users can comment and offer their own contributions to discussions

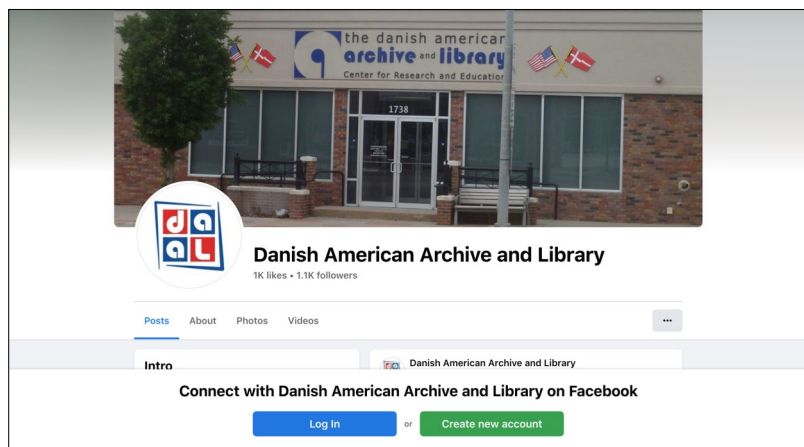
Digital Archive

The desire to have a site where portions of the DAAL’s archival holdings could be made available online led to the creation of the Digital Archive (archive.danishamericanarchive.net/). Beginning in 2013, the first large project was to upload the 40,000+ scans of handwritten work of Einar Vig (1905-1972), a Blair native and son of P. S. Vig (1854-1929), one of the professors and first presidents of Trinity Seminary and Dana College. In his spare time over many decades, Einar had poured over local newspapers, census records, maps, cemetery and legal records to compile data sheets for residents of Washington County, Nebraska. Although the initial focus was on the Danish immigrants to the area, he branched out to cover anyone who had lived there from the early pioneer days up to his death in the early 1970s. This compilation has proven invaluable to the genealogical work of many persons.

Other materials housed in the Digital Archive are: P. C. Jensen’s biographical data on pastors of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELCC); archives of Lauritz Melchior; Dana College yearbooks and other publications of the college; and audio and video recordings of Dana events. We are currently moving the Digital Archive to a new server where its contents will be combined with scanned materials from many of the collections housed at the DAAL.

The Projects Workspace

This specialized online resource (projects.danishamericanarchive.net) provides work areas for off-site volunteers. It provides a portal for persons and families to inquire about donating materials to the archive and to submit digitized items (pictures, documents, family trees, audio-visual files) for direct inclusion in the DAAL’s holdings. Also under discussion is a system for submitting Danish language documents for translation by volunteers.



In-Office Databases

The DAAL has several other resources that are available within the office, though not through the internet. These include –

Databases containing:

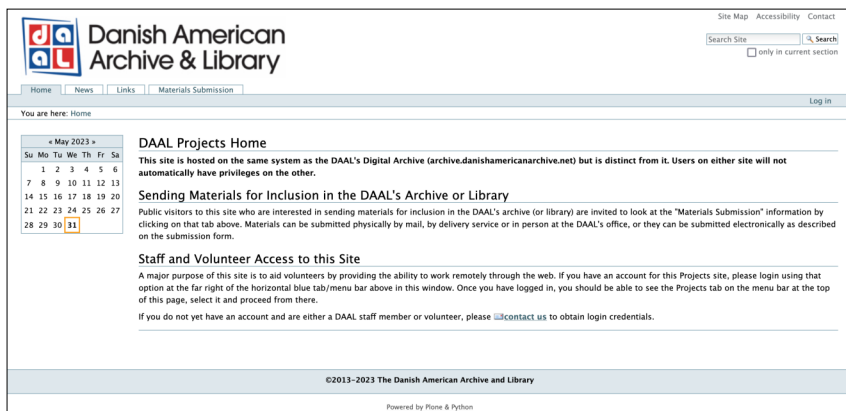
- Obituaries scanned and entered by volunteers as an ongoing project
- Dana Student List
- Dana Faculty & Staff List
- Indices to the records of the Danish Brotherhood
- Listings of periodicals held by the DAAL
- Lists of recordings (vinyl, cassette tapes) at the DAAL
- Indices to the various collections held at the DAAL

A second “**Digital Archive**” that houses much of the Dana College information and scans from the family collections donated to the DAAL. This material is in the process of being added to the online Digital Archive in order to make the materials more readily available to researchers and family members.

Genealogy software into which family genealogical files can be loaded and made available for study.

Current Developments

We are in the process of moving our Digital Archive, Projects Workspace and the internal Digital Archive into a single web site intended to simplify research and to provide a showcase of content from the various collections. That site is at p5da.danishamericanarchive.net; eventually it will fully replace the old version and also use its address (archive.danishamericanarchive.net). This transition will hopefully be accomplished over the next several months. ■



IN THE STACKS

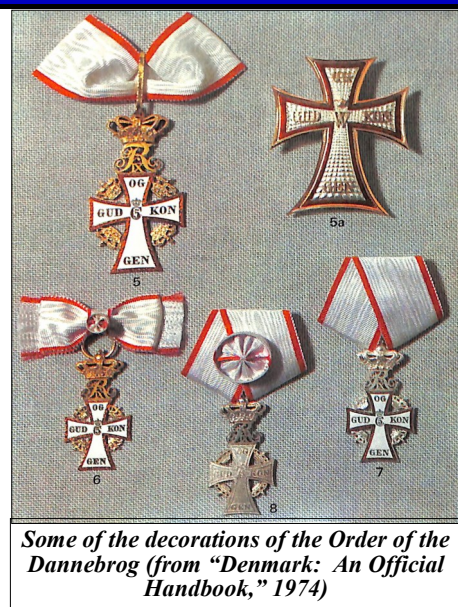
Danish Knights in North America

by Michael L. Hennick, Collections

The Kingdom of Denmark has two orders of chivalry: the Order of the Elephant and the Order of the Dannebrog. These decorations are awarded based on the recipient's family, position or accomplishments. The Elephant is reserved almost entirely for heads of state and royalty, with some exceptions. The Dannebrog is awarded far more frequently and to a much wider group of people.

The Order of the Dannebrog officially began under King Christian V (1671), but its more legendary history takes it back to the time of Valdemar II when the Danish national flag (Dannebrog) was lowered from heaven in the midst of a battle in 1219. The order was reserved to the nobility until 1808 when Frederik VI ruled that the decoration could be given to commoners. A decree in 1951 opened the ranks to women as well. The order has different classes of commanders and knights, with the latter two classes of knights being the most widely bestowed. The medal must be returned to Denmark upon the death of the recipient. The device on the decoration's cross reads *Gud og Kongen* (God and the King).

Many Danes in North America have received this honor from the Kingdom of Denmark in recognition of their work with Danes, Danish culture, or in service to a greater humanity. The DAAL has a number of individual collections of those who were inducted into the Order of the Dannebrog. The following are just a few examples. (continued on page 7)



Some of the decorations of the Order of the Dannebrog (from "Denmark: An Official Handbook," 1974)

AROUND THE ARCHIVE

Congratulations! Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15, Des Moines, on their 140th anniversary. The Denver Danes on their 50th anniversary. The Museum of Danish America on their 40th anniversary. The Danish American Heritage Society on their 7th successful conference.

CORRECTION: What's the most important ingredient in a Danish recipe? That's right, BUTTER! Please disregard the kringle bar recipe in the last issue of the Jottings and use this one instead. Expect the consistency of this delicious treat to be more like *kranskekage* or the filling of an almond kringle, without the flaky crust.

Kringle Bars

- 1 cup almond paste
- 2 sticks of butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp almond flavoring
- Slivered almonds

Mix all but the almonds together and press into a greased 9" x 13" pan. Sprinkle generously with sugar and slivered almonds. Bake @ 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or slightly longer until golden.

Events: On April 27th 60 people attended the Washington County Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting for the new display of Rev. F. W. Thomsen's mosaic. On May 18th the Archive presented a Lunch and Learn "Discovering Danes in Washington County" for the Washington County Chamber of Commerce. On June 9th the archive welcomed the Jensen/Jaspersen family reunion for a presentation and refreshments.

October events: The "Kringle & Mingle" held in conjunction with the Dana College Alumni & Friends Homecoming will be October 7, 9am-11am at the Archive. The annual Meeting of Members will be held Tuesday, October 9th at 9:30 am. The next volunteer week is scheduled for October 9-13, 2023. ■



Dixie Petersen cuts the ribbon held by Michael Hennick and Jordan Rishel.

FROM THE DANA ROOM

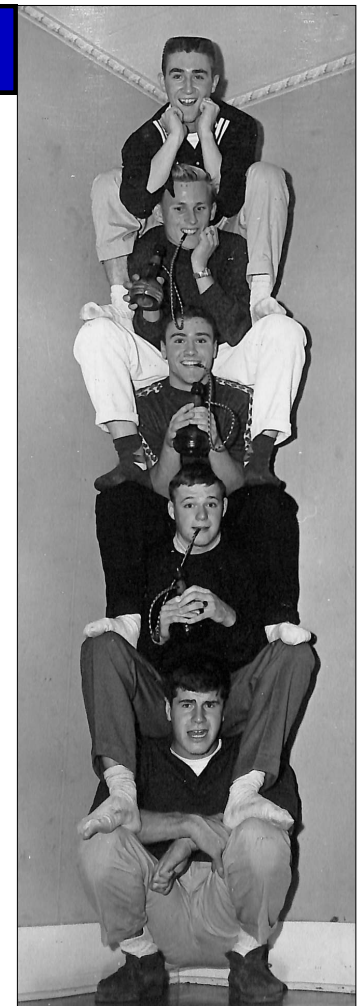
The Dana Hunkers

"Hunkering" was a college craze that swept the nation during the 1959-1960 school year. It began at the University of Arkansas, but soon affected the young men of Dana College. Hunkering is a bit of a fitness activity, for it requires the practitioners to squat for long periods of time as they talk, study, relax, or meditate. Supposedly the position promotes the deep pondering that is so often a part of college life. It is also a social activity that can put five men in a corner, fourteen on a bed, or as many as you can fit in a dorm room. To make hunkering a more exotic activity you can add the Arabian water pipes.

How long did the craze last? Well, sadly we did not find any evidence of hunkering at Dana College beyond this particular school year. (*Editor's note: And you thought Monty Python was strange?!*) ■



*Photo above, left to right: Dick Carr, Roger "Bud" Christensen, Jim Olsen, Dave Sinclair
Photo right, top to bottom: Lee Wiges, Mark Petrusson, Gary "Gig" Danielsen, Roger "Bud" Christensen, Tom Frank*



VOLUNTEERS: 1,343 hours by 36 volunteers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin.
VISITORS: 175 visitors from California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada, Denmark and Germany.
USERS: 90 researchers from California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Canada, Denmark, Germany and email/phone/Facebook.

ACQUISITIONS

Materials

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.

Anonymous (Blair, NE)
 Robin Bailey (Cairo, NE)
 Tom Bengtson (Rock Island, IL)
 Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Blair Fire Department (Blair, NE)
 Ginny Blood (Burnsville, MN)
 Marianne Bruhn (Denmark)
 Ina Knudsen Castillo (Thousand Oaks, CA)
 Rolf Buschart Christensen (Canada)
 Borge M. Christensen (Rochester, MN)
 Darlene Christensen (Isle, MN)
 Marion Christensen (Superior, WI)
 Hanne Correl (Chevy Chase, MD)
 Danish American Society (New York)
 Julienne Ferry (Harlan, IA)
 Janice Fletcher (Frankfort, IL)
 Christie Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Duane & Deloris Hansen (Omaha, NE)
 Karen Hansen (Omaha, NE)
 Judy Pat Healy (Omaha, NE)
 The Heide Family (Kenosha, WI)
 Christian Hermansen (Japan)
 Craig Heuton (Blair, NE)
 Bonnie Jensen (Eagan, MN)
 Vibeke Jensen (Bennington, NE)
 Jan Johnson (Bloomington, MN)
 Lis Jorgensen (Minneapolis, MN)
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
 Rich & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Ramona Klaasmeyer (Omaha, NE)
 Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)
 Vince Krysl (Blair, NE)
 Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Nancy B. Larsen (Milwaukee, WI)
 Sidel Munkholm McOmie (Carrabelle, FL)
 Barbara Meduna (Monument, CO)
 Museum of Danish America (Elk Horn, IA)
 Roger & Marilyn Nichols (Tucson, AZ)
 John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen Family
 Patti Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Liv Paulson Norderhaug (Chanhassen, MN)
 Jim & Sue Olsen (Blair, NE)
 Skip Pedersen (Omaha, NE)
 Dixie Petersen (Wichita, KS)
 Ethel Peterson Family (McPherson, KS)
 Matt Petersen (Johnston, IA)

Amy Schindler (Omaha, NE)
 Bob & Judy Schmoll (Omaha, NE)
 Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
 Jeffrey Spencer (Omaha, NE)
 Ellen Thain (Stoughton, WI)
 DeeAnn Vink (Fort Collins, CO)
 Deb Schou Wood (Bloomington, MN)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Memorials

Troy Buss
 Lori & Kevin Bayne (Omaha, NE)
 Luke Christiansen
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Verlan Hanson
 Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Bob & Kris Coffey (Blair, NE)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Alan Hanson & Mary Henriksen (Omaha, NE)
 Julie Johnson (Columbus, OH)
 Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 Lowell & Sue Madsen (Fresno, CA)
 John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Anne & Richard Rivers (Colorado Springs, CO)
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
 Larrie Stone (Ames, IA)
 Arvin Hernes
 Richard & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 The Jensen Family – Earl, Dorthea & Kurt
 Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Timothy A. Jensen
 A.A.U.W. Blair Branch (Blair, NE)
 Marilyn & Greek Abariotes (Blair, NE)
 Al & Fran Anderson (Omaha, NE)
 Tom Bengtson (Rock Island, IL)
 Miriam & Michael Bennett (Discovery Bay, CA)
 Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Patricia Corbin (Siloam Springs, AR)
 Timothy & Mary Coyle (Omaha, NE)
 Marieanne Cullen (Menlo Park, CA)
 Roger & Doris Daggett (Mission, TX)
 Geraldine Davis (Blair, NE)
 Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Catrine Giery (Myrtle Beach, SC)
 Great Plains Communications (Blair, NE)
 Ruth Harre (Omaha, NE)
 Loren & Dianne Havekost (Blair, NE)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Nick & Dianne Hildreth (Red Oak, IA)
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)
 Del & Trudy Hutton (Blair, NE)
 Mick & Sandra Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Opal Jensen (Blair, NE)

Sharon Jensen (Omaha, NE)
 June & Clark Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Julie Johnson (Columbus, OH)
 Jerry & Joanne Jones (Omaha, NE)
 Jim & Linda Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Rich & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Debbie & Arnold Katt (Herman, NE)
 Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)
 Sarah & Charles Koch (Omaha, NE)
 Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)
 Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
 Roger Lorsch (Blair, NE)
 Gary & Diane Madsen (Omaha, NE)
 Kathy & Duncan Meldrum & Family (Mertztown, PA)
 Mercy High School (Omaha, NE)
 Robert & Sonja Messer (Pueblo West, CO)
 John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Dale & Terry Paulsen (Blair, NE)
 Mic & Susie Pinquoch
 Larry & Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)
 Bob & Darlene Rademacher (Lincoln, NE)
 Jens & Eileen Simonsen (Oakdale, NE)
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
 Larrie Stone (Ames, IA)
 Randy, Shawnda, Tom, Evan, Shad, Sarah, Ryan, Reid, Jess & Nick Tench (Olmsted Falls, OH)
 Donald & Karen Warrick (Omaha, NE)
 LeRoy Wigdahl (Blair, NE)
 Elliott Nielsen
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Elizabeth Nielsen
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Paula Wolf (Elmhurst, IL)
 Charles Olsen
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Rev. & Mrs. Ingward "Inky" Olsen
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Virginia (Jensen) Rhoades
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Rev. William "Bill" Thomsen
 Carol (Thomsen) Skogman (Seguin, TX)
 Sandra Wigdahl
 Richard & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
Honoraria
 Michael Hennick & DAAL staff
 Joy Schroeder (Columbus, OH)
 Richard Hunt's birthday & Dana Board Leadership
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Don & Joyce Jorgensen's 65th anniversary
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen's 65th anniversary
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Dana Difference Maker Rita McManigal
 Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

FINANCIAL REPORT (continued)

Dana Difference Makers Bob & Judy Schmol
Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Dana Difference Maker Sandy Sonderup Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

Endowment Fund

Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI) for the Rev. Sigurd D. & Dorothy M. Petersen Memorial Fund

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.

Tom Bengtson (Rock Island, IL)
Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
Ginny Blood (Burnsville, MN)
Connie & Steve Buller (Blair, NE)
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1 (Omaha, NE)
Travis DeWitt (Torrington, WY)
Scott & Shelly Grorud (Hutchinson, MN)
Frederick "Fritz" J. Hansen estate
Marilyn Hawes (Ft Calhoun, NE)
Jack Jensen (Springfield, NE)
Jim & Nona Jensen (Crossville, TN)
Vibeke Jensen (Bennington, NE)
Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)
Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)
Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
Jean Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)
Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)
Susan Larson (Minneapolis, MN)
Michael Lowe (Logan, IA)
Dave & Cathy Mehrens (Joplin, MO)
John & Jane Mehrens (Neosho, MO)
Ralph & Patricia Mehrens (Bellevue, NE)
Brian Nevermann (West Des Moines, IA)
Roger & Marilyn Nichols (Tucson, AZ)
Kathy Oftedahl (Waseca, MN)
Pacific Northwest Danish Sisterhood (Shoreline, WA)
Eric Petersen (Mission, KS)
Carol Prussa (Kearney, NE)
John Rasmussen (Hicksville, NY)
Bob & Judy Rasmussen (Elizabeth, CO)
Bill & Margaret Rodenburg (Centerville, OH)
Scandinavian Seminar (Amherst, MA)
Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
Mark Schulze (Omaha, NE)
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
Paul Sorensen (DeKalb, IL)
Arlene Stork (Fremont, NE)
Karen Taylor (Springville, IA)
Nancy Thompson (Urbandale, IA)
Helle White (Richardson, TX)
2023 Thrivent Choice/YourCause Gifts
Lee Barney (Oregon City, OR)
Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Roger Hanson (Saint Paul, MN)
Carol Haussermann (Blair, NE)
Susan Hettlinger (Westminster, CO)
Debbie Katt (Blair, NE)
Linda Kastrup (Blair, NE)
Kevin Knitt (Stevens Point, WI)
Lee Anne Lack (Montrose, MN)

Jeanette Larson (Pipestone, MN)
Norman Madsen (Monroe, IA)
Leon & Alice Neve (Saint Paul, MN)
Jim Olsen (Blair, NE)
James Ruden (Littleton, CO)
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Elsa Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)
Linda Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)

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 DAAL by giving a minimum of \$600 per year (given monthly, quarterly, or yearly according to the donor's preference). Those at the Founder Level give at least \$2,000 per year. An added benefit of being part of the 50/100 club is receiving one donation acknowledgment for tax purposes in January reflecting a yearly total of all donations, rather than getting a separate acknowledgment for each financial contribution. These donations are part of the General Fund.

(* indicates deceased)

50/100 FOUNDER LEVEL

Phil* & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
John W.* & Elizabeth* Nielsen (Blair, NE)

50/100 GENERAL

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
Mark & Erika* Bondo (Freehold, NJ)
Becky Bryant (East Dubuque, IL)
Myrv & Anne* Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Roger Hanson (Roseville, MN)
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
Tim* & Sharon Jensen (Omaha, NE)
Dody Johnson* (in our hearts)
Julianne Johnson & Judy Pollock* (Columbus, OH)
Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
Gene* & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
Barbara Meduna (Monument, CO)
Vordyn Nelson (Marshall, TX)
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)

Lisa Nielsen (Fairfield, PA)
Jay Planalp (Loveland, CO)
Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)
Scott & Colleen Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
Carol Svendsen & Jay Mead (Denver, CO)
Agnete Temali (Arden Hills, MN)
Nick Temali (Mahtomedi, MN)
Ron & Vicki Vig (Holdrege, NE)
Deb Schou Wood (Bloomington, MN)
Sandy Wunder (Eaton, CO)

Legacy Builders

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

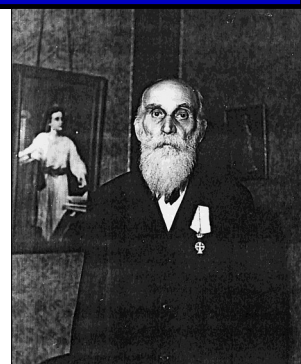
Erna Berthelsen
Judy Brehm
Borge M. Christensen*
Myrv & Anne* Christopherson
Bernhard* & Marilyn* Erling
Kathryn (Olsen) & Milbern Goetz
Lois Girtz Halley*
Frederick "Fritz" J. Hansen*
Roger J. Hanson
Michael and Jill Hennick
Russell P.* and Esther A. Jensen
Tim* & Sharon Jensen
Ada Jeppesen*
Julianne Johnson and Judy Pollock*
Oscar* & Dody* Johnson
Paul & Liz Johnson
Lorene Larsen
Phil* & Florence Larsen
Carol Madsen Larson*
Gene* & Nancy Lindblad
Gary & Diane Madsen
George Madsen*
Ronald D. Johnson* and Bodil Strom Muller
John W.* & Elizabeth* Nielsen
LeVern* & Marilyn* Nielsen
W. Clayton Nielsen*
Larry & Palma Plume
Joan Sorensen
Deb Schou Wood ■

ENDOWMENT FUND

The endowment fund is an investment in the future of the Archive. Some named funds have been established in memory of loved ones. The balance in the endowment follows. Figures are rounded to the nearest \$500 and are listed at historic cost.

Ada Stokes Jeppesen Memorial Fund	\$100,000
Deloris Hansen Bengtson Memorial Fund	67,500
Oscar & Dody Johnson Memorial Fund	13,000
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling Memorial Fund	10,000
John T. & Virginia (Lippincott) Beck Memorial Fund	7,500
Rev. Aster & Ruth Neve Family Memorial Fund	7,500
Dagmar Vasby Memorial Fund	7,000
Martin & Else Andersen Memorial Fund	4,500
Earl Jensen Family Memorial Fund	4,000
Rev. Sigurd D. & Dorothy M. Petersen Memorial Fund	3,500
Maryann & Jerry Lund Memorial Fund	2,500
<i>Subtotal of named funds with balances over \$1,000</i>	227,000
General Endowment Fund	127,500
Total Endowment Funds	\$354,500

Hans Petersen (1852-1939) came to America in 1883 to teach in Danish schools in the vicinity of Elk Horn, Iowa. He also ran a general store, and served as a secretary in the Danish Mutual Fire Insurance Company for over forty years. He was heavily involved with the Danish Folk School and the Lutheran Church in Elk Horn. He was made a Knight of the Dannebrog by Christian X at the age of eighty on Christmas Eve, 1933. On his death bed in 1939, Hans was most concerned that his decoration be returned to the King of Denmark as required.



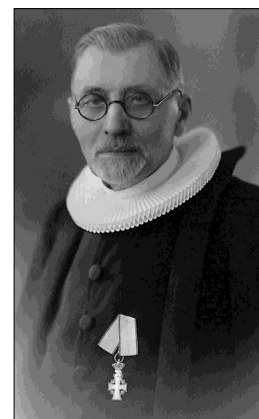
Hans Petersen with his decoration



Official Danish award certificate from the Chancellor of the Order to Hans Berthelsen

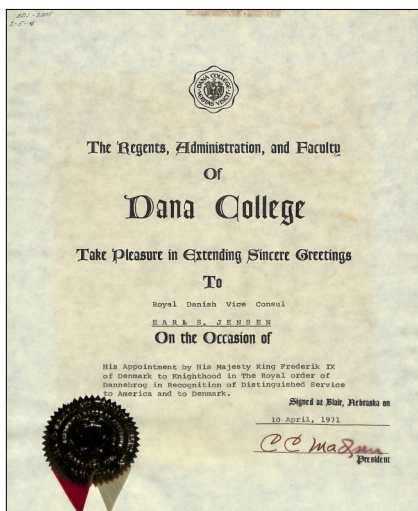
Hans P. Berthelsen (1869-1956) came to the United States in 1889, was ordained in 1894, and served numerous Lutheran churches from South Dakota to New Jersey. He was on the board of directors for the Danish Lutheran Publishing House in Blair, Nebraska, and was also involved in return tours to Denmark. In 1934 he was appointed by King Christian X to the Order of the Dannebrog for his “long and remarkable service among the Danes in America.”

Niels Damskov (1863-1945) immigrated to America with his wife Sophie in 1890, following other members of his family who were already settled there. He studied for the ministry at Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska, and was ordained in 1895. He served many Lutheran churches in both the United States and Canada. It was while working with three congregations in and around Winnipeg,



Niels Damskov in his clerical robes with his decoration

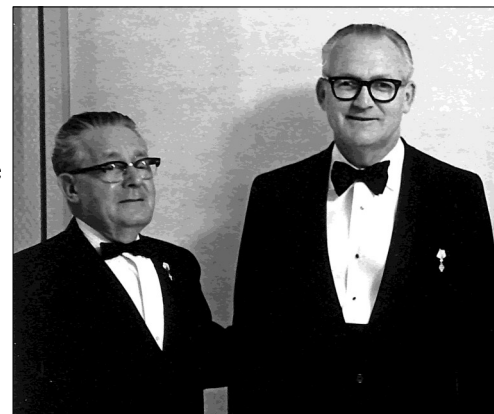
Manitoba, and serving as a chaplain for the Canadian Pacific Railroad (where he helped Danish immigrants find jobs and housing) that he was appointed to the Order of the Dannebrog in 1937 by King Christian X for his work with Danes in Canada.



Congratulatory certificate to Earl Jensen from Dana College on being admitted to the Order

Earl Jensen (1910-1979) was the son of Danish immigrants. He served as an officer in the Grain Dealers Insurance Company for over thirty years. Earl was a faithful member of the Danish Brotherhood throughout his adult life. From 1960-1975 he was the Vice-Consul for Denmark in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1971 King Frederik IX made Jensen a Knight of the Dannebrog for his work as a Consul and his dedication to Danish culture.

Dr. Norman Bansen (1920-2004) was a son of Danish immigrants who had settled in Ferndale, California. He was a U.S. Army officer in the China-Burma-India Theater in World War II. His early undergraduate work was at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, and he returned to the school to serve as a Professor of English and Danish for nearly forty years. Bansen did much to cultivate contacts with Denmark and the wider Danish American community. He was appointed to the Order of the Dannebrog by King Frederik IX in



Norman Bansen (right) at the ceremonies that marked his entrance into the Order of the Dannebrog; on the left is fellow knight Hjalmar Bertelsen

1970. Later he became one of the founders of the Museum of Danish America.

There are several more Danish Americans in the collections of the DAAL who have received this prestigious honor, and there are likely to be more. The Kingdom of Denmark continues to regularly create Knights of the Order of the Dannebrog. One of the latest was a promotion within the Order from Knight 2nd Class to Knight 1st Class for the current Danish Consul of Arizona and New Mexico, John Larsen, on March 25, 2023. ■

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ensuring a Future of Preserving the Past

It seems like every issue of the Jottings brings news of the loss of another Core Volunteer. This issue is no exception. We lost Dr. Timothy Jensen on April 15, 2023. Tim worked hard every day that he was here and was enjoyable to be around. For example, when asked, "What does the Archive collect?," his response was, "We never met a document we didn't like!"



Tim Jensen

Tim was as responsible as anyone for the creation and ongoing success of the DAAL as an institution. He was heavily involved in preserving the Archive following the close of Dana College, and helped establish the DAAL as an independent non-profit organization. He served as a board member and president of the board. He was involved with day-to-day operations, conducted extensive research, catalogued collections, gave presentations, and taught classes. His knowledge of Danish America was invaluable. Tim's good humor, keen mind, and sense of hospitality made him a welcoming host and

treasured colleague to everyone associated with the Archive.

With the passing of long-time volunteers, I find myself remembering how so many of them used their various talents to lay the groundwork for our success.

Volunteering Dody Johnson began coordinating Spring and Fall Volunteer Weeks in 1992. Those wonderful gatherings that bring in workers from across the nation have continued every year since, with only a pause for the pandemic. Most volunteers return after their initial time. Verlan Hanson, who died in February, was a loyal local volunteer for 24 years. Volunteers help in a variety of ways. With every issue of the Jottings, I miss Sandra Wigdahl who made the publication what it is today. She would have been pleased with the design of the new masthead at the top of this issue.

Hospitality Elizabeth Nielsen, who passed away in 2022, brewed strong coffee and made delicious treats for our coffee breaks. We have continued the habit of coffee breaks at 10 am (and afternoons at 3 pm during volunteer weeks). During this time of fellowship, we've probably covered every topic under the sun over the years (especially when John W. Nielsen was presiding). It is a wonderful time to meet new friends and strengthen long-term relationships.

Materials John W. Nielsen and Edward A. Hansen not only gave materials for their own large collections, but also encouraged their relatives and acquaintances to donate documents. This resulted in hundreds of boxes being added

to our Archive in the Hansen-Mengers, Jorgensen-Sorensen and Walker-Johnson collections. Borge M. Christensen, who died in March, also gave us one of our largest collections. He made every effort to organize his collection prior to donating it and spent many volunteer weeks here continuing that work.

Matching Funds Borge M. Christensen was able to have his financial contributions matched by his employer for a number of years. In this way he built up our reserves so we could continue to care for his collection and preserve all of the precious items in our facility.

We also received valuable financial advice to work towards paying off our mortgage, along with a substantial jump-start donation to help us with that. Thereafter, we received a grant of matching funds to finish the capital campaign and pay off the mortgage in 2017.

Matching funds from Duane "Bud" Petersen memorials enabled us to mount our unique F.W. Thomsen mosaic in 2023.

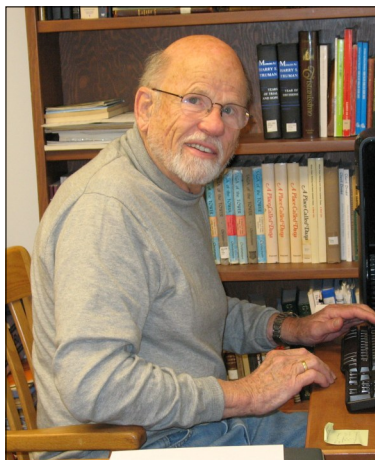
Endowment Shortly after Dana closed, a couple donated the first \$100 towards our endowment. With subsequent donations, that \$100 has grown into one of the named endowment funds. The named funds are an integral part of the total, which stands at over \$350,000! One of our former board members who passed away in 2022 was Frederick "Fritz" Hansen, who gave to both the general fund and the endowment fund every year.

Bequests The first bequest the Archive received after we were organized as a nonprofit corporation was from the estate of LeVern and Marilyn Nielsen. Donors who have let us know that they named the DAAL in their estates are listed in every issue of the newsletter under Legacy Builders in the Financial Report. This year alone the Archive received notification of bequests from John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen, Fritz Hansen and Borge M. Christensen.

It's not only the long-time volunteers of the past who formed the strong foundation that we continue to build upon. So many of you also deserve our sincere thanks for serving the Archive in the past, strengthening it in the present and continuing to provide valuable leadership for a successful future. Thank you. ■



*Executive Director
Jill Hennick*



Borge Christensen



"Fritz" Hansen with Elizabeth Nielsen

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in the Danish American Archive and Library. All members enjoy three issues of the *Jottings* newsletter each year and reduced program service fees. The newsletter is mailed in March, July and December. Please keep your contact information current.

OLD ADDRESS: see label on reverse, *or*

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW ADDRESS

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If not permanent: ___ Temporary from ___ / ___ (month/year) to ___ / ___ (month/year)

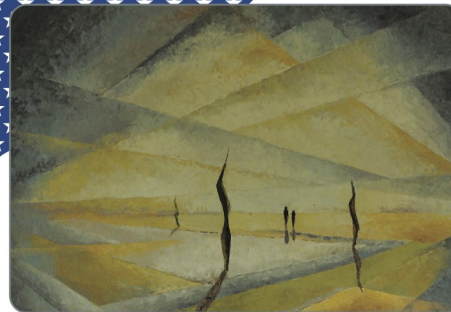
___ Seasonal (repeat every year) from ___ (month) to ___ (month)

Phone _____ Email _____ (send *Jottings* via email)

Additional information _____

Featured Danish American Commemorative Wall Panel

This Commemorative Wall panel describes the F.W. Thomson mosaic that was dedicated in April at the DAAL. (See **Around the Archive** on page 4 for a photo of the event.) We will continue to feature a panel in each issue of the newsletter. If you are interested in seeing all of them, you have two options. The first is to stop by and view the exhibit in person. The second is to visit the Commemorative Wall Gallery on our web-site.



The original painting



Thomsen in his studio

White Forevermore

The mosaic *White Forevermore* was created by Rev. F. W. "Bill" Thomsen. It was commissioned by Harold and Dorothy Wright of Blair, Nebraska to be displayed in their home. The mosaic was based on an earlier painting by Thomsen with the same name. *White Forevermore* was inspired by a four-line poem written by John T. McCutcheon in 1914.

Gold and green are the fields in peace
Red are the fields in war
Black are the fields when the cannons cease
And white forevermore

Bill Thomsen was born in Denmark in 1906 and came to America with his family in 1912. He went on to study both art and theology. For most of the years between 1935 and his retirement in 1975 he was an art instructor at Dana College. In 1945 he was ordained by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church and served as the pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Iowa until 1955. In the later years of his life, before his death in 1991, he was noted for his mosaics, which were installed in many public buildings throughout the Midwest. The largest of these is the "Tower of the Four Winds" in Blair, Nebraska.

Made possible through the generosity of:

The family of
Harold and Dorothy Wright

The family of
Duane "Bud" Petersen

Milt Heinrich
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PARTING SHOT

Dana College Mystery Photo

Do you know anything about this Dana College photo? The people? The event? The year? We need your help.

Do you have an inner “Sherlock Holmes” or “Agatha Christie” that’s intrigued by mystery? Here’s the event for you. We’re planning a Dana College work week next summer, June 18-20, 2024. We have hundreds of pictures like this one that need to be identified. We also have many other types of Dana materials to sort and organize.

Questions? Call 402-426-7910 or email us at info@danishamericanarchive.com ■

