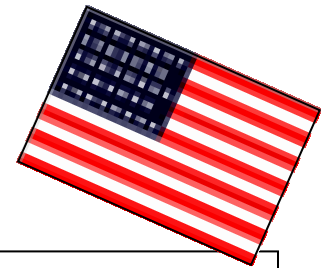


# JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library      Sept.—Dec. 2013

[Editor's note: As a result of the DAAL's community cooperation agreement with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Heather Hannaford worked as an intern for the fall semester of 2013. Heather is currently working on her masters degree in British literature, and plans to then pursue her doctorate in the same field. She wrote the following to describe the exciting experience she had at the DAAL.]

## MY EXPERIENCE AS A DAAL INTERN

By Heather Hannaford

As a new graduate student at UNO, I decided I wanted to take on an internship during my first semester. My advisor, Dr. Kristin Girten, placed me at the Danish American Archive and Library to give me a feel for the kind of archival work I will be expected to do if I pursue a PhD. I was excited to work there because my family has ties to Denmark. I never imagined all the exciting finds I would make while working on my first assignment!

I was given five boxes of assorted documents relating to the life of Elna Smith Melvin to sort through and catalog. The collection was sent from the University of Kentucky where Elna's friend and executor, Abbie Marlatt, had been employed. Elna was born in Chicago in 1903. Her parents were H. Skov Nielsen and Anine K. Jensen Nielsen. Elna graduated from Blair High School in 1920 and attended Dana College for one year before transferring to University of Nebraska at Lincoln and eventually doing graduate work at UC Berkeley. She was married twice, and both her husbands were involved in scholarly pursuits. Maurice Greer Smith, her first husband, was an anthropologist, and Bruce Melvin was a sociologist. Elna's own interests aligned with those of her two husbands, leading her to very unique and interesting experiences throughout her life. Her collection reflects some of the truly exciting moments of her career.

While married to her first husband, Elna worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Oklahoma. I found many previously undocumented photographs of Native American tribal members dating from the 1920's and 1930's. The collection contains photographs from various tribes and needs to be further investigated. Elna wrote her thesis about suicide among Native Americans based on research she accomplished during this period. Her thesis and notes are contained in the collection as well.

Elna's work with the BIA led her to investigate Peyote Cults among Native Americans. This became a lifelong interest. In the 1950's she wrote to Aldous Huxley regarding his book *The Doors of Perception*. Huxley wrote two personal letters to Elna dated 1954 and 1956 that discuss his own experience with Peyote. Both letters are in excellent condition and are contained in the collection, along with a copy of the original letter she sent to Huxley. The letters are a truly spectacular find for future researchers.

Elna's second husband's work led to another incredible discovery. The introduction to Bruce Melvin's book, *Millions Too Many*, was written by Eleanor Roosevelt. Among the documents relating to the book are several letters written by Eleanor Roosevelt to Dr. Melvin. A photograph of Dr. Melvin with Mrs. Roosevelt is included in the collection. Elna and Dr. Melvin also dined at the White House with President and Eleanor Roosevelt in an intimate party that included only one other couple. The place card from the dinner is among the artifacts in the collection.

It is unusual to find anything as remarkable as hand written letters from Aldous Huxley or personal notes from Eleanor Roosevelt, but to find both, along with significant photographs of Native American tribes is amazing. This collection is of great importance for researchers across many disciplines, including English, American history, Native American studies, sociology, and anthropology to name a few. Elna's life story is very interesting and could also provide a wonderful perspective on Danish American life in the twentieth century. I am so thrilled to be involved with the work of uncovering her story. In fact, I enjoyed my time as an intern so much that I decided to continue my work as a volunteer.



*L-R: Tim Jensen, Heather Hannaford and John W. Nielsen. Jensen acts as liaison between the DAAL and UNO, and Nielsen acts as Heather's "coach" in working with the materials.*

# FROM THE DANA ROOM

## A HISTORY OF DANA'S KLINE HOUSE

By Ann Harms George

Until 1961, Old Main wasn't the oldest building on the Dana hill. It became the oldest only when the Kline House, built in the late 1860s or very early 1870s by Lewis Mines and Emily Rittenhouse Kline, was razed to make way for the C.A. Dana Hall of Science.

Dana College bought the five-bedroom house and adjacent property in 1921, and the house became a faculty home, although it continued to be known as "the Kline House." Trinity professor Dr. C.B. and Mrs. Larsen and their family were among those who lived there. Their son Phil, a DAAL volunteer, was born in the house, and he says that he has "really good memories" of his childhood home.

A number of alumni will have memories of the house, too, because they

lived in it in the mid-to-late 1950s when it was a dormitory annex.

In its early years, when the north entrance into Blair was on what is now North 28th Street with a left turn onto College Drive, the east-facing Kline House was probably the first Blair home travelers would see. What they'd also see was a front yard with peonies, rose bushes, and a large, heart-shaped flowerbed outlined with bricks. If they looked to the south, where there's now a parking lot and the Madsen Fine Arts Center, they'd have seen a well, an outhouse, chickens, grape vines, fruit trees, a garden, a carriage house, a sorghum mill, and somewhere near the house, a storm shelter dug into the hill.

Although Lewis Kline was born into a Baptist family of German descent (he changed the spelling of the family name from "Klein," but his siblings didn't), the name is associated with the beginnings of Danish Lutheran Trinity

Seminary for a reason: In 1885, the Klines' son, J.C.W., and fellow Blair developer H.B. Dexter donated land for the "Trinity Seminary" building, later called "Old Main."

Several years ago, we learned the above and more about the Klines and their home through an article on the website of the Nebraska State Genealogical Society. Titled "Lament for a House," it was written by Kline descendant Eugene C. Titus of Ashton, Maryland, and published in the NSGS's Spring 1983 issue of "Nebraska Ancestry."\*

Pat (Lippincott) Hunsche, a member of the Washington County Genealogical Society, has also given the Archive photocopies of Kline family obituaries from Blair newspapers.

Titus's article about Lewis and Emily Kline excerpts descriptions of the house from a 1941 memoir by Kline granddaughter Rena Belle Kline Farr. She was a child in 1886 when her father, Doddridge Henderson Kline, died, and her mother sent her to live with her widowed grandmother Emily. Her Aunt Louise, a teenager, would have been living there, too, as well as, perhaps, one or more other aunts. Fifty years later, her childhood memories remained vivid, and she describes in colorful detail the home of what Titus describes as "a moderately well-to-do family living in Blair."

Lewis and Emily Kline, Titus records, were pioneers who arrived in Nebraska Territory in 1856. Lewis was born in Waterford, Virginia, in 1815. He moved to Cumberland, Maryland, sometime before 1837, and married Emily Rittenhouse (born in 1826, per findagrave.com) of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in 1849.

Their son, John Crawford Wright – J.C.W., was born in 1850 in Cumberland, the first of eleven children. That same year the Klines "left by covered wagon for the California gold fields," Titus writes.

**(Continued Page 3)**



*The east-facing Kline House wasn't always painted white. A granddaughter recalls cream-colored brick with designs of red brick at the corners and on the walls.*

## Kline House (Cont.)

Rena Kline Farr remembers her grandmother as “tall with big bones, strong will and character, honest, God fearing.” The family’s journey west was “wearisome,” however, and when young Emily became “sick, homesick, and afraid,” they ended their journey in Kanessville (now Council Bluffs, Iowa) and lived there for several years.

Then, soon after Nebraska Territory opened to settlers in 1854, Lewis and Emily and their growing family moved to the short-lived -- but for a while, prosperous -- settlement of Cuming City. (Highway 75 north of Blair, where it passes the River Wilds golf course – the “Blair golf course” – on the east and private property and several houses on the west, was once the community’s main north-south street.)\*\*

Lewis, a farmer and lawyer, was editor and publisher of the “Nebraska Pioneer” and, in 1857, the town’s mayor, Titus writes. He also represented Washington County in the Nebraska Territorial Legislature.

Referring to Daniel H. Carr’s 1903 “Men and Women of Nebraska, Washington County Edition,” Titus notes that Lewis was also the first supplier of fruit trees to Nebraska settlers.

In 1867, after the railroad came to Blair, Cuming City residents, among them the Klimes, moved there. Some moved their houses as well, but the Klimes perhaps moved directly into their new house, built on a hillside looking east over the growing community.

Only a few years later, in September 1872, Lewis died suddenly of a heatstroke brought on while working in the sorghum mill, Titus writes. At the time, Emily was pregnant with their eleventh child, Louise, who was born in February 1873. As the oldest, J.C.W., who was in his early twenties, “took a man’s place and helped [Emily] with all,” granddaughter Rena writes. “As [Emily] put it, [he] was her staff on which she leaned.”

She describes several rooms in the Kline House in detail: The family’s “sitting room” had lace curtains, “wall paper with designs that looked to me like turtles,” and a stove with “tiles with Grecian designs.” Furniture included a bookcase, her grandmother’s rocking chair, a lamp with “scenes of water, sailboats, mountains, and blue sky with white clouds,” and a plant stand with many kinds of plants, including cacti. There was a whatnot with “sea shells and coral brought all the way from Virginia, Indian arrows and beads given by friendly Indians [in exchange] for chickens, statuettes of Dresden china. . . .” And “there was always a vase with flowers.”

In the memoir excerpts, she describes in similar detail her grandmother’s bedroom and the parlor, operation of the sorghum mill, scary nighttime trips to the outhouse they called “Old Peggy,” and driving to church in the phaeton, first with horse “Betsy, who was fat and so old that white hairs showed all over her body,” and then with “Rob, a big black horse” who “used any excuse (or none) to run away.”

“On the top of the hill west of the house,” she remembers, “stood the Danish college rising tall and majestic [that] could be seen for a long ways off in every direction. When the windows were open we could hear the choir singing.”

Emily died in 1903 and was buried near her husband in the Cuming City Cemetery on a hilltop overlooking the Missouri River valley.\*\*\* The Klimes had donated land for the cemetery when they lived in Cuming City, and Titus writes that the first burial was for a 20-year-old relative who had drowned in the Missouri River. All but one of Lewis and Emily’s children, as well as several descendants, are also buried there.

The most recent burial, in 1974, was of their grandson, Marvin Lewis Kline, who, according to his obituary in the May 30, 1974, Blair “Enterprise,” had been mayor of Minneapolis from 1941-45. Kline descendants are scattered across the U.S., but none remain in Blair. A photo of eight relatives who attended Marvin’s funeral accompanies his obituary, and the caption identifies them and their locations. They’d traveled to Blair from Staten Island, New York; Minnesota (town not identified); New York City; Santa Paula, California; Minneapolis; and Silver Spring, Maryland.

*For the NSGS website, type nebraska  
ancestry vol 5 no 4, scroll down past  
Officers’ names, Contents, Staff, and the  
President’s letter, and then click “Next.”  
For the BHPA website, type kline  
painting blair ne. The article follows  
several photos, including one of J.C.W.  
Kline.*

*\*\* Information on a Nebraska State  
Historical Society marker at the Cuming  
City Cemetery includes a brief  
description of the former town.*

*\*\*\* Since 1976, the pioneer cemetery, a  
tract of never-plowed tall grass prairie,  
has been under the protection of The  
Nature Conservancy. Initially deeded to  
Dana College for its care (primarily for  
a periodic controlled grass burn), it is  
now being cared for by The Nature  
Conservancy’s Omaha Office.*

## THE DAAL AND THE JAPANESE CONNECTION

Recently three different people with connections to Japan have contacted the DAAL.

First, Maya Jones of Roseville, Minnesota, sent materials that belonged to her grandfather, J.M.T. Winther, who was a missionary from Denmark to Japan from the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. These materials include two articles about her grandfather and his missionary work.

Next came Christian M. Hermansen, a missionary and a professor at the school of law and politics, Kwansai Gakuin University in Nisinomiya, Japan. Christian earned his doctorate in Japanese studies in his native Denmark, moved to Japan, married a Japanese woman and has lived there ever since. Ironically, in September, Christian had sent to the Archive digital articles about J.M.T. Winther as well as an interview with Muriel Neve, who along with her husband Lloyd served as a missionary to Japan for more than 40 years. Christian is doing research for a book he is writing about Danish Lutheran missionary work in Japan. While in Blair he met with Lloyd and Muriel Neve, who now make their home here.

Finally Hiroshi Yamane, a professor of geography at the University of Toyama, located on the west coast of Japan stopped in. Hiroshi had lived in Denmark for about a year and was interested in learning about, as he phrased it, “the state of Danish Americans.” Tim Jensen also took him to meet and visit with Lloyd and Muriel Neve.

*\* The nine-page “Lament for a House” is on the websites of the Nebraska State Genealogical Society and the Blair Historic Preservation Alliance. It’s easy to access both with a search engine.*



**VOLUNTEERS:** 2,882 hours by 50 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas, Washington and Denmark.

**VISITORS:** 100 visitors from California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, Denmark and Japan.

**USERS:** 30 users from California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Denmark and Japan.

**ACQUISITIONS**

The following are the donations of materials we have received from September through December. 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**

Lemay Anderson (Lynwood, NE)  
 Cherie Begin (Arvada, CO)  
 Ruth Benson (Blair, NE)  
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Ann Boos (Washington, DC)  
 Lois Bornemeier (Danbury, CT)  
 Henry & Patricia Brock (Selma, CA)  
 Betty Jensen Bryan (Cary, NC)  
 Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)  
 Elfriede Carlson (Ellicott City, MD)  
 Roy Christensen (Gloucester ON)  
 Paul Christoffersen (Underwood, IA)  
 Robert Creekmore (Old Fort, NC)  
 Danish American Historical Society Conference  
 Danish Immigrant Archives, Grand View University  
 Lois Eagleton (Umpqua, OR)  
 Pia Edgar (Aurora, CO)  
 First Baptist Church (Clarks Grove, MN)  
 Kate Garrett, Blair High School FBLA (Blair, NE)  
 Esther Grindberg (Circle Pines, MN)  
 Greta & Erik Hansen (Racine, WI)  
 Nancy Sue Hansen (Aurora, NE)  
 Marianne Hauser (Lake Mills, WI)  
 Marilyn Hawes (Ft. Calhoun, NE)  
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Christian Hermanson (Japan)  
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)  
 Elaine Hoyer (Blair, NE)  
 Lynette Hunt (Blair, NE)  
 Lee Indahl (Burke, SD)

Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)  
 Elise Jensen (Newell, IA)  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
 Niel Johnson (Independence, MO)  
 Maya Jones (Roseville, MN)  
 Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen (Blair, NE)  
 Marty Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)  
 Frank Korshoj (Herman, NE)  
 Bob & Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
 Nancy Larsen (Ashland, OH)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Johannes Laursen (Rockville Centre, NY)  
 Margaret & Frank Madsen (Milwaukee, WI)  
 George Madsen (Omaha, NE)  
 Linda Miller (Henderson, NV)  
 Museum of Danish America (Elk Horn, IA)  
 Lloyd & Muriel Neve (Blair, NE)  
 N. Michigan U. History Dept. (Marquette, MI)  
 Ruth & Allan Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)  
 Marlene Paulsen (Denmark)  
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
 Pete & Shirley Petersen (Canyon, TX)  
 Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)  
 Ingvard Rasmussen (Denmark)  
 Ole Sonnichsen (Denmark)  
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
 Karen Sorensen (Overland Park, KS)  
 Paul & Marie Sorensen (DeKalb, IL)  
 Curtis Sorenson (Georgetown, TX)  
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
 Martha Stone (Boston, MA)  
 Pat Swanson (Omaha, NE)  
 Donna Thomas (Papillion, NE)  
 Peter H. Tveskov (Branford, CT)  
 Ron Vig (Lincoln, NE)  
 Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)

Clarice Andersen  
 Lorene Andersen (Washington, NE)  
 Herbert Anderson  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Bill & Elna Bellows  
 Ruth Connett (Pasadena, CA)  
 Kay Berthelsen  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Dana College  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Ninna Engskow  
 Eugene Gnuse (Arlington, NE)  
 Ken Fricker  
 Margaret Madsen (Milwaukee, WI)  
 Becky Gnuse  
 Eugene Gnuse (Arlington, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Letha Sorensen Grutzik  
 Marilyn Meyer (Everly, IA)  
 Clifford K. & Veola Hansen  
 James & Annette Brown (Mishicot, WI)  
 Herb Hjortsvang  
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)  
 Mrs. Beatrice Jenkins  
 Duane & Dixie Petersen (Wichita, KS)  
 Ron Jensen  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Oscar Johnson  
 Margaret Madsen (Milwaukee, WI)  
 Eunice Carlson Larsen  
 Alice Hanson (Oregon, WI)  
 Anita Lyngard  
 Mary Jane Anthony (Nebraska City, NE)  
 Pat & Elaine Gregory (Blair, NE)  
 Robert & Karen Lenox (Lake Shore, MN)  
 Beth & Gerald Timperley (Blair, NE)  
 David & Lois Warrick (Blair, NE)  
 Inga Larsen  
 Molly Bogh (Highland, CA)  
 Eugene Gnuse (Arlington, NE)  
 Larry & Charlotte Travis (San Antonio, TX)  
 Oluf & Lillie Bondo Larsen  
 Ruth Benson (Apple Valley, MN)

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Memorials**

A.M. Andersen  
 Karen & Mike Brodie (Richardson, TX)

**THANKS FOR THE SCANNER**

One of the long-term goals of the DAAL is to get all of our holdings digitized. Doing so not only will save space, but also ensure the safety and accessibility of the materials. The DAAL recently was able to purchase a scanner capable of accommodating documents as large as 11” by 17” thanks to contributions from Myrv and Anne Christopherson of Decorah, Iowa, and memorial gifts in honor of Anita Lyngard from:

Mary Jane Anthony  
 Pat and Elaine Gregory  
 Robert and Karen Lenox  
 David and Lois Warrick  
 Phil Pagel and Lorraine Jensen  
 Chuck & Joyce Jorgensen  
 Beth and Gerald Timperley

This memorial fund was given to the DAAL by Anita’s son-in-law, Chuck Jorgensen of Blair.

The donations together covered the cost of the scanner as well as all the peripheral supplies needed for operation. Many of the documents and photographs that will be scanned are oversized, so having a scanner with a large-size bed is essential. Our thanks go out to all who contributed.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Memorials (Cont.)

Jane Lemon  
Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)  
Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)  
Leo McKillip  
Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Elna Smith Melvin  
Friends  
Karen Jensen Nelson  
Jennifer Jensen (Omaha, NE)  
Rev. A.V. & Dora Neve  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
Glenn Neve  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Lela Neve's birthday  
Lori Jones (Texarkana, TX)  
Marilyn & LeVern Nielsen  
Lisa Nielsen (Saint Mary's, GA)  
H. Milton "Bud" Peterson  
Alice Hanson (Oregon, WI)  
Ilean Rohe  
Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)  
Carl Schattauer  
Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Alice Hanson (Oregon, WI)  
Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Norma Stone  
Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
Don Swanson  
Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Marilyn Swanson  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary Class of 1952  
Joyce Johnsen (Huntington Beach, CA)  
Dagmar Vasby  
Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Archivist Svend Waendelin  
Steffen Waendelin (Homewood, AL)

## Honoraria

DBIA Lodge 15 "Lodge of the Year" Award  
Woodman of the World (Greenwood Village, CO)  
Carol Hubert  
Larry & Lois Bornemeier (Danbury, CT)  
Phil & Florence Larsen  
Ken & Bonnie Jensen (Albert Lea, MN)  
Phil & Florence Larsen's birthdays  
Keith & Lori Larsen, Joe & Jake  
Lorene Larsen  
Gary & Diane Madsen  
Lars & Julie Madsen  
Leif & Amanda Madsen, Cole  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen  
Milt & Elaine Brostrom (St. Peter, MN)  
John W. Nielsen's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
Ruth Nyegaard  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Donald Bondo Petersen  
Minnesota Aquarium Soci. (Apple Valley, MN)  
Ellenora Plugge's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

Ella Rahlfs 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Eleanor & Don Schou's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Joan Sorensen (Bedstemor)  
Charles & Janet Kahn (Gulf Breeze, FL)  
Sarah Meldrum (Lowell, MA)  
Melissa Mosley & James Meldrum (Boulder, CO)  
The Volunteers  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
Volunteers who helped with DAAL/UNO exhibit  
"Danish Children Growing Up American"  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)

## General Fund

David & Barbara Aanonson (Coralville, IA)  
Greek & Marilyn Abariotes (Blair, NE)  
N. Ann Andersen (Milwaukee, WI)  
Anonymous  
Ingvert & Sharon Appel (Eldora, IA)  
Lloyd & Ann Bansen (Yamhill, OR)  
Dennis Barten (Kirkwood, MO)  
Lori & Kevin Bayne (Omaha, NE)  
Grace Beck (Omaha, NE)  
Marcia Bergmeyer (De Witt, NE)  
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
Aase Besson (Lake Oswego, OR)  
Blair Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)  
Egon & Diana Bodtker (Salem, OR)  
Carol Bogacz (La Vista, NE)  
Judy Brehm (Blair, NE)  
Henry & Patricia Brock (Selma, CA)  
Elizabeth Bryan (Cary, NC)  
Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)  
Steve & Connie Buller (Blair, NE)  
Vaughn & Joanne Carlson (Omaha, NE)  
John & Myra Christensen (Fortuna, CA)  
Dale & Laurel Christiansen (Dannebrog, NE)  
John & Birgitte Christianson (Minneapolis, MN)  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1 (Omaha, NE)  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #14 (Kenosha, WI)  
Danish Vennelyst Park (Omaha, NE)  
Nancy Davis (Carroll, IA)  
Connie Derry (Omaha, NE)  
Jim Eastwood (Fridley, MN)  
Anne Eppley (Omaha, NE)  
Dorothy Farthing (Colorado Springs, CO)  
Don Freberg (Prairie Village, KS)  
Christie & Frank Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
Jerry & Joyce Gilbert (Eugene, OR)  
Milbern & Kathryn Goetz (Greeley, CO)  
Lili & Alf Gregerson (Ridgefield, WA)  
John & Esther Grindberg (Circle Pines, MN)  
Arlene & Neil Grover (Staples, MN)  
Charles Hansen (Mount Prospect, IL)  
Janice Hansen (Minnetonka, MN)  
Nancy Hansen (Aurora, NE)  
Shirley Hansen (Edina, MN)  
Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
Robert Hemmingson (Fergus Falls, MN)  
Jerry Hendrickson (Coronado, CA)  
Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)  
John & Anne Nielsen Hibbing (Lincoln, NE)  
Jeene Hobbs (Blair, NE)  
JoAnn Hohensee (Blair, NE)  
Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)  
Finn Hornum (Philadelphia, PA)  
Lynette Hunt (Blair, NE)  
Clement & Phyllis Hunter (Oregon City, OR)  
James & Margery Iversen (Decorah, IA)  
Bill & Joann Jensen (Urbandale, IA)  
Irving Jensen, Jr. (Sioux City, IA)  
Lorraine Jensen (Blair, NE)  
Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
David & Michelle Johnson (Laurence, KS)  
Niel Johnson (Independence, MO)  
Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)  
Alfred Jorgensen (Prescott, AZ)  
Alice M. Jorgensen (Ferndale, MI)  
Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)  
Herb & Carol Jorgensen (Green Lake, WI)  
Jim & Linda Jorgensen (Blair, NE)  
Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)  
Jean Clark Kahldahl (Port Townsend, WA)  
Dorothy Kingsmore (Colorado Springs, CO)  
Marty Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)  
Bob & Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
Phyllis Krumrey (Des Moines, IA)  
Charles Lang (Uehling, NE)  
Paul & Beulah Larsen (Fremont, NE)  
Johannes Laursen (Rockville Center, NY)  
Bill & Toni Lawson (Green Bay, WI)  
Galen Lillethorup (Omaha, NE)  
Maryann Lund (Mukilteo, WA)  
Claudia Martin (Omaha, NE)  
Nancy Martin (Mounds View, MN)  
Peter & Elna Mathiasen (Aldergrove, BC)  
Duncan & Kathryn Meldrum (Mertztown, PA)  
Gene & Susie Meyer (Blair, NE)  
Marilyn Meyer (Everly, IA)  
Linda Karen Miller (Henderson, NV)  
Maxine Mitchell (Fremont, NE)  
Paula Montgomery (Baltimore, MD)  
Bodil & Jom Muller (Hillsboro, OR)  
William C. & Margaret Nelsen (St Peter, MN)  
Leon & Alice Neve (St Paul, MN)  
Lloyd & Muriel Neve (Blair, NE)  
Lloyd & Marie Neve (Omaha, NE)  
Roger & Marilyn Nichols (Tucson, AZ)  
Carolyn Nielsen (St. Clair Shores, MI)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Stanley Nielsen (Monona, WI)  
W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)  
Duane & Lillian Ohlsen (Portland, OR)  
Jim & Sue Olsen (Blair, NE)  
Roger & Dorothy Olson (Blair, NE)  
Phil Pagel (Blair, NE)  
Agnes Paulsen (Tucson, AZ)  
Lilly Pedersen (Rockville, MD)  
Duane & Dixie Petersen (Wichita, KS)  
Eric Petersen (Mission, KS)  
Jon & Dorothy Petersen (Puyallup, WA)  
Palma & Larry Plume (Evergreen, CO)  
Arvin Quist (Oak Ridge, TN)  
Gary & Linda Rasmussen (Ankeny, IA)  
Gerald & Sigrid Rasmussen (Junction City, OR)  
Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)  
Sandra Rasmussen (Des Moines, IA)  
Robert Raun (Minden, NE)  
James & Mary Ruden (Littleton, CO)  
Mary Russell (Omaha, NE)  
Leroy & Norma Schafersman (Arlington, NE)

## General Fund (Cont.)

Charlene Schjeldahl (Lenox, MA)  
Irene Schmidt (Audubon, IA)  
Jens & Eileen Simonsen (Oakdale, NE)  
David & Ellen Solevad (Washougal, WA)  
Harald & Carol Ann Sorensen (Albuquerque, NM)  
David Marchant & Jane Sorensen (Fairfax, VT)  
Margaret Sorensen (Grand Island, NE)  
Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
Arlene Stork (Arlington, NE)  
Starla Sweda (Selma, TX)  
Sonja Switzer (Omaha, NE)  
Karen Taylor (Springville, IA)  
Paul Thisted (Evergreen, CO)  
Myrna Tostensen (Pine River, WI)  
Asta & Arlen Twedt (Ankeny, IA)  
Thomson Reuters (Princeton, NJ)  
Anna Vetter (Oviedo, FL)  
Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)  
Barbara Ward (San Diego, CA)  
Virgil Witte (Northfield, MN)

## Endowment

Keith & Paula Anderson (Gaylord, MN)  
Earl Bengtson (Lincolnshire, IL)  
In memory of Marion Hansen  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)

John W. Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Dave & Julie Neve (Des Moines, IA)

## 50/100

John & 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)  
Christie Gehringer (Omaha, 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)  
Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)  
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
Julianne Johnson (Columbus, OH)  
Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)  
FOUNDER LEVEL  
Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
FOUNDER LEVEL  
Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)

Gary & Diane Madsen (Verona, WI)  
Earl Nelson (Mt Pleasant, WI)  
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)  
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
FOUNDER LEVEL  
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)

***Acknowledgement of gifts are sent the month following the donation. However, those giving 50/100 donations receive one acknowledgement in January for the total prior year's donations.***

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013

## Founder Level

Mogens & Cindy Bay (Omaha Community Foundation), Omaha, NE  
Earl Bengtson, Lincolnshire, IL  
Erna Berthelsen, Albert Lea, MN  
Alf & Lili Gregerson, Ridgfield, WA  
Fritz Hansen, Wichita, KS  
Roger & Marilyn Hanson, Cedar Falls, IA  
Tim & Sharon Jensen, Blair, NE  
Ada Jeppesen, Blair, NE  
Luther & Doris Kloth, Wauwatosa, WI  
Philip & Florence Larsen, Blair, NE  
Bruce Lauritzen, Omaha, NE  
David & Julie Neve, Des Moines, IA  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen, Blair, NE  
Estate of Marilyn & LeVern Nielsen (ELCA Foundation)  
Folmer & Vera Nyby, Michigan City, IN  
Joan Sorensen, Richardson, TX

## \$1,000-\$1,999

Ruth Benson, Apple Valley, MN  
Blair Area Community Foundation (Lynette Hunt, Dave & Lois Carlson, Carla Andersen, Cargill, David Ledding), Blair, NE  
Karen & Mike Brodie, Richardson, TX  
Becky Bryant, West Des Moines, IA  
Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, MN  
Myrv & Anne Christopherson, Decorah, IA  
Verlan & Helga Hanson, Blair, NE  
Dody Johnson, Iowa City, IA  
Richard & Delores Jorgensen, Poy Sippi, WI  
Charles & Janet Kahn, Gulf Breeze, FL  
Bill & Toni Lawson, Green Bay, WI  
Gene & Nancy Lindblad, Blair, NE  
Duncan & Kathryn Meldrum, Mertztown, PA  
Marilyn Meyer, Everly, IA  
Lisa Nielsen, St. Marys, GA  
Clayton Niefeld, Greeley, CO

Larry & Palma Plume, Evergreen, CO  
Sandra Rasmussen, Des Moines, IA  
Martha Staby, Loveland, CO  
Trivent Choice Program, Appleton, WI  
Sandra & LeRoy Wigdahl, Blair, NE

## \$500-\$999

Paula & Keith Anderson, Gaylord, MN  
Dennis Barten, Kirkwood, MO  
John & Ginny Beck, Colorado Springs, CO  
Patricia Bentsen, Blair, NE  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 16, Minden, NE  
Norman Freund, Fremont, NE  
Christie & Frank Gehringer, Omaha, NE  
Jerry & Joyce Gilbert, Eugene, OR  
Neil & Arlene Grover, Staples, MN  
Jill & Michael Hennick, Blair, NE  
Elaine & Mark Hoyer, Blair, NE  
Geraldine Jasan, Northfield, MN  
Julie Johnson, Columbus, OH  
Don & Joyce Jorgensen, Ripon, WI  
Maryann Lund, Mukilteo, WA  
Gary & Diane Madsen, Omaha, NE  
Earl Nelson, Racine, WI  
Andrea Neve, Minneapolis, MN  
Lloyd & Muriel Neve, Blair, NE  
David Nielsen, Winfield, KS  
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, NE  
Marilyn Nielsen Family, Racine, WI  
Ruth & Allan Nyegaard, Eugene, OR  
Don & Audrey Pedersen, Pea Ridge, AR  
Lilly Pedersen, Rockville, MD  
Karl Petersen & Joan Pearson, Bainbridge Island, WA  
Pete & Shirley Petersen, Canyon, TX  
James Peterson, Richfield, MN  
Bill & Margaret Rodenburg, Centerville, OH  
Sandy Sonderup, Blair, NE  
Elaine Steenblock, Ames, IA

Don & Marjorie Wahlgren, Gowrie, IA  
David Wallman, Lincoln, NE  
Doug & Jane Wilson, Farragut, IA  
John & Deb Wood, Oklahoma City, OK  
Woodman of the World, Greenwood Village, CO  
Sandra Wunder, Omaha, NE

## \$250-\$499

Mark & Erika Bondo, Freehold, NJ  
Don Freberg, Prairie Village, KS  
Arvin Hernes, Blair, NE  
Jeene Hobbs, Blair, NE  
Clement & Phyllis Hunter, Oregon City, OR  
Irving Jensen, Jr., Sioux City, IA  
Lynda Jeppesen, Oak Park, IL  
Paul & Liz Johnson, Fremont, NE  
Lori Jones, Texarkana, TX  
Herb & Carol Jorgensen, Green Lake, WI  
Jim & Linda Jorgensen, Blair, NE  
Jean Clark Kaldahl, Port Townsend, WA  
Linda Karen Miller, Henderson, NV  
Jon & Dorothy Petersen, Puyallup, WA  
Thomson Reuters My Community Program, Chicago, IL  
Myrna Tostensen, Pine River, WI  
Larrie Stone, Blair, NE

## \$100-\$249

Greek & Marilyn Abariotes, Blair, NE  
Lloyd & Ann Bansen, Yamhill, OR  
Lori & Kevin Bayne, Omaha, NE  
Harley & Marcia Bergmeyer, DeWitt, NE  
Asse Besson, Lake Oswego, OR  
Carol Bogacz, LaVista, NE  
Molly Bogh, Highland, CA  
James & Annette Brown, Mishicot, WI  
Victor Buck, Wantagh, NY  
Niels Carlsen, Summerfield, FL  
John & Myra Christensen, Fortuna, CA

**\$100-\$249 (Cont.)**

Vaughn & Clarice Christensen, Blair, NE  
 Dale & Laurel Christiansen, Dannebrog, NE  
 Robert & Martha Christiansen, Tempe, AZ  
 John & Kirsten Christopherson Clark, Gibsonia, PA  
 Robert & Joan Coffey, Menomonee Falls, WI  
 Brent & Lee Collin, Washington, MO  
 Ruth Connett, Pasadena, CA  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 1, Omaha, NE  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 14, Kenosha, WI  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 143, Petaluma, CA  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 268, Eugene, OR  
 Danish Vennelyst Park, Omaha, NE  
 Anne Eppley, Omaha, NE  
 Milbern & Katheryn Goetz, Greeley, CO  
 Eugene Gnuse, Arlington, NE  
 John & Esther Grinberg, Blaine, MN  
 Shirley Hansen, Edina, MN  
 Robert Hemmingson, Fergus Falls, MN  
 Anne Nielsen & John Hibbing, Lincoln, NE  
 Alvina Hjortsvang, Council Bluffs, IA  
 JoAnn Hohensee, Blair, NE  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt, Urbandale, IA  
 Lynette Hunt, Blair, NE  
 James & Margery Iversen, Decorah, IA  
 Jean Jaspersen-Naegele, Columbus, NE  
 Ken & Bonnie Jensen, Albert Lea, MN  
 Lorraine Jensen, Blair, NE  
 Joyce Johnsen, Huntington Beach, CA  
 David Johnson, Lawrence, KS  
 Niel Johnson, Independence, MO  
 Alice M. Jorgensen, Ferndale, MI  
 Bob & Joan Krogh, Blair, NE  
 Johannes Laursen, Rockville Centre, NY  
 Jerry & Shirley Lincoln, Lincoln, CA  
 Galen & Marcy Lillithorp, Omaha, NE  
 Edgar Madsen, Princeton, NJ  
 Margaret Madsen, Milwaukee, WI  
 Claudia Martin, Omaha, NE  
 John Neitzel (Microsoft), Seattle, WA  
 Minn. Aquarium Soc., Robert Randall, Treas.,  
 Apple Valley, MN  
 Paula Montgomery, Baltimore, MD  
 K. Joyce Mynster, Council Bluffs, IA  
 William & Margaret Nelsen, St. Peter, MN  
 Leon & Alice Neve, St. Paul, MN  
 Roger & Marilyn Nichols, Tucson, AZ  
 Carolyn Nielsen, St. Clair Shores, MI  
 W. Clayton Nielsen, Solvang, CA  
 Jim & Sue Olsen, Blair, NE  
 Duane & Dixie Petersen, Wichita, KS  
 Arvin Quist, Oak Ridge, TN  
 Gerald & Sigrid Rasmussen, Junction City, OR  
 Charles & Julie Rohlfing, Blair, NE  
 James & Mary Ruden, Littleton, CO  
 Irene Schmidt, Audubon, IA  
 Greg Schou, Albert Lea, MN  
 Jens & Eileen Simonsen, Oakdale, NE  
 David & Ellen Solevad, Washougal, WA

Harold & Carol Ann Sorensen, Albuquerque, NM  
 Arliss Stockdale, Ames, IA  
 Starla Sweda, Selma, TX  
 Paul Thisted, Evergreen, CO  
 Asta & Arlen Twedt, Ankeny, IA  
 Steffen Waendelin, Homewood, AL  
 Virgil Witte, Northfield, MN  
 Frederick & Janice Youra, Clatskanie, OR

**\$50-\$99**

Ingvert & Sharon Appel, Eldora, IA  
 Egon & Diana Bodtker, Salem, OR  
 Judy Brehm, Blair, NE  
 Henry & Patricia Brock, Selma, CA  
 Milt & Elaine Brostrom, St. Peter, MN  
 Vaughn & Joanne Carlson, Omaha, NE  
 Phil & Marilyn Christensen, Sparks, NV  
 John & Birgitte Christianson, Minneapolis, MN  
 Robert Creekmore, Old Fort, NC  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge 206, Blair, NE  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge 342, Palmyra, NJ  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge 348, Eugene, OR  
 Nancy Davis, Carroll, IA  
 Jim Eastwood, Fridley, MN  
 Jon & Elizabeth Fredlund, Anoka, MN  
 Charles Hansen, Mt. Prospect, IL  
 Janice Hansen, Minnetonka, MN  
 Alice Hanson, Oregon, WI  
 Hans Hermansen, Racine, WI  
 David Hernes, Albert Lea, MN  
 Bill & Joann Jensen, Urbandale, IA  
 Alfred Jorgensen, Prescott, AZ  
 Lis Jorgensen, Burnsville, MN  
 Dorothy Kingsmore, Colorado Springs, CO  
 Judith Lamas, Port Townsend, WA  
 Charles Lang, Uehling, NE  
 Inga Larsen, Bremerton, WA  
 Harold & Barbara Laursen, Kearney, NE  
 Nancy Martin, Mounds View, MN  
 Peter & Elna Mathiasen, Aldergrove, BC  
 Sarah Meldrum, Lowell, MA  
 Bodil & Jorn Muller, Hillsboro, OR  
 NE/CO Dist. Danish Sisterhood, Lincoln, NE  
 Loyd & Marie Neve, Omaha, NE  
 Stanley Nielsen, Monona, WI  
 Duane & Lillian Ohlsen, Portland, OR  
 Roger & Dorothy Olson, Blair, NE  
 Phil Pagel & Lorraine Jensen, Blair, NE  
 Gary & Linda Rasmussen, Ankeny, IA  
 Mary Russell, Omaha, NE  
 Don & Eleanor Schou, Albert Lea, MN  
 David Merchant & Jane Sorensen, Fairfax, VT  
 Arlene Stork, Arlington, NE  
 Jody Stricker, Fergus Falls, MN  
 Verda Swanson, Des Moines, IA  
 Larry Snydergaard, Kalamazoo, MI  
 Nancy TeSelle, Tekamah, NE  
 Larry & Charlotte Travis, San Antonio, TX  
 Anna Vetter, Oviedo, FL

**\$49 and Under**

David & Barbara Aanonson, Coralville, IA  
 Lorene Andersen, Washington, NE  
 N. Ann Andersen, Milwaukee, WI  
 Anonymous  
 Mary Jane Anthony, Nebraska City, NE  
 Lois Barnes, Ashland, WI  
 Grace Beck, Omaha, NE  
 Larry and Lois Bornemeier, Danbury, CT  
 Ann Bundgaard, Burnsville, MN  
 Elizabeth Bryan, Cary, NC  
 Steve & Connie Buller, Blair, NE  
 Lois Carter, Blanchard, LA  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge 126, Valencia, CA  
 Connie Derry, Omaha, NE  
 Dorothy Farthing, Colorado Springs, CO  
 Pat & Elaine Gregory, Blair, NE  
 Nancy Hansen, Aurora, NE  
 Jerry Hendrickson, Coronado, CA  
 Finn Hornum, Philadelphia, PA  
 Janice Hurd, Wayzata, MN  
 Ron & Rikki Hulsebus, Omaha, NE  
 Jennifer Jensen, Omaha, NE  
 Marjorie Johnson, Blair, NE  
 Marty Koefoed, Missouri Valley, IA  
 Phyllis Krumrey, Des Moines, IA  
 Paul & Beulah Larsen, Fremont, NE  
 Larry & Susan Legore, Algona, IA  
 Robert & Karen Lenox, Lake Shore, MN  
 Darrell McGhghy, Lincoln, NE  
 Melissa Mosely & James Meldrum, Boulder, CO  
 Gene & Susie Meyer, Blair, NE  
 Maxine Mitchell, Fremont, NE  
 Patti Nielsen, Blair, NE  
 Court & Jean Nystuen, Menomonie, WI  
 Margaret Omodt, Ft. Collins, CO  
 Agnes Paulsen, Tucson, AZ  
 Eric Petersen, Mission, KS  
 Ruth Rasmussen, Omaha, NE  
 Sarah Rasmussen, Blair, NE  
 Robert Raun, Minden, NE  
 Leroy & Norma Schafersman, Arlington, NE  
 Charlene Schjeldahl, Lenox, MA  
 Cindy Schou, Bloomington, MN  
 Karen Sorenson, Overland Park, NE  
 Margaret Sorensen, Grand Island, NE  
 Martha Stone, Boston, MA  
 Marilyn Svendgard, Blair, NE  
 Dick & Sonja Switzer, Omaha, NE  
 Karen Taylor, Springville, IA  
 Mary Teten, Talmage, NE  
 Beth & Gerald Timperley, Blair, NE  
 Barbara Ward, San Diego, CA  
 David & Lois Warrick, Blair, NE  
 WA County Genealogy Society., Blair, NE



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

It was another good year at the Archive. We finished 2013 with a net gain of over \$13,500. Our endowment fund has grown to over \$53,500.

Donors continue to provide additional funds through employer matching programs, charitable funds and direct contributions from IRAs.

As noted in our last newsletter, we have become eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars. In 2013 we received \$1,276 through the program. If you qualify for this benefit and wish to designate DAAL as a beneficiary, you can contact Thrivent by computer or telephone. Contact Jill at DAAL if you need any additional instructions.

[Editor's Note: Kate Garrett, a senior at Blair High School, interned at the DAAL the summer of 2013. The following is a college entrance essay she wrote about her experience.]

*Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there and why is it meaningful to you?*

With a renewed sense of accomplishment, I close the simple gray archival box and place it back in its assigned spot on the shelf. Next to the hundreds of other gray boxes, the contents of a single one can seem like merely a trivial stack of documents. As I open the next numbered box, though, I know this is not true. The first envelope reveals a series of letters between a new wife and her husband, who is in the South Pacific during World War II. The correspondence instantly reels me in, and I am transported to a different world in the 1940s. This world was once very real for these two people, who probably never thought their letters would be read by a high school student in Blair, Nebraska. Such fascinating discoveries of history are a typical occurrence at the Danish American Archive and Library, the place where I feel perfectly content.

My interest in the Danish American Archive was a result of the Danish ancestry in my own family tree. During the summer before my sophomore year of high school, aimless lazy days prompted me to contact the Archive and inquire about their need for



*Kate Garrett interned as a business office assistant during the summer of 2013.*

volunteers. I was met with a grateful response, and started volunteering the very next week. I immediately fell in love with the tasks I was given. I would systematically open each box, read the enclosed letters and documents, and catalog the contents for later reference. The sheer amount of history and culture that is contained in the Archive's collections is simply astounding. I have always had a special interest in history, so an entire facility committed to the preservation of historical letters, pictures, and documents is irresistible.

The Danish American Archive is only open on weekday mornings, so my volunteering was limited to summer break. I stayed in contact with the Archive during the school year, and could hardly wait to return during the summer before my junior year. By the end of that second summer, I had spent nearly one hundred hours working with the Archive's immense collection of historical documents. As the end of my junior year approached, the Executive Director, knowing my interest in business, offered me an accounting and finance internship. I accepted with wholehearted enthusiasm. The internship proved to be a perfect match: I learned an array of business and accounting procedures, while still working in the ideal archive atmosphere. This experience also helped to cement my goal of becoming a business major.

Spending time at the Archive is meaningful to me because it preserves a culture that is often lost in today's society. I have realized the importance of paper documents in tracking history, and this has changed my perspective as a young adult in the digital age. Electronic files, mail, and information will never be as significant to future generations as the ability to hold a tangible letter, feel the creases in the paper, and actually connect with the story it tells. I now write more letters to family and friends, and make an effort to save important papers and documentation that portrays life in today's world. I can only hope that one day my descendants will find just as much joy and satisfaction in reading my letters as I find at the Danish American Archive and Library.

---

---

## FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS VISIT DAAL

Kate Garrett not only interned at the DAAL last summer, but as their new president she also brought in members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) from Blair High School to learn about and do archival work, and more importantly, to record oral history interviews. Their focus for this year is on local area history and specifically historic Washington County businesses.

Based on her DAAL experience, both as a volunteer and as an intern, Garrett encouraged the group to work with the DAAL to do a history project once a month and to tie their experiences in with other history projects, such as a business partnership with the Washington County Museum located in the neighboring town of Ft. Calhoun.

Through the DAAL the students hope to learn about historic businesses in Blair and to perform community service, which is also a major goal for them.

The group has visited the Archive three times so far. The first visit was to interview Lili Gregerson, a Danish immigrant and niece of Simon Korshoj, a prominent Blair construction business owner in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was known for bringing Danish craftsmanship to his construction projects. The Korshoj collection is one of the Archive's largest. Lili talked about her memories as an immigrant and of the construction company. The students recorded the interview and presented it to the DAAL as an oral history piece.

In November they toured the Archive and learned some of the techniques of archival work by coding photos from the Korshoj collection. Then in December they

interviewed Frank Korshoj, Simon's nephew who was able to relate stories about the construction company and about his time in the Nebraska Unicameral. This interview will also become part of the Korshoj collection as oral history.

According to Garrett, the students didn't even realize the Archive was in Blair and were especially impressed by meeting an actual immigrant! The FBLA group plans to continue their monthly visits and to work on materials from the Lutheran Publishing House collection. The Lutheran Publishing House was another historic Blair business from 1893 to 1960. The students may conduct one more interview as well.

"We got a lot done," says Garrett. "I was amazed at how quickly the work went. We want to do more to see how much we can get through."





### 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 REPORT

(From the October 2013 Annual Meeting of Members.)



Jill Hennick

As we begin another successful year at the Archive, it's a good time to say thank you to our core of volunteers who return daily, weekly, monthly or annually. You provide support that we could never afford to

purchase. Your talents and experience play a crucial part in making this a thriving institution. We would never have accomplished everything we have without your efforts and contributions.

2013 was an extremely active and positive year for us, with new people coming in to work. We had our first summer volunteer week in July. Most of our seven new volunteers were able to start working here because that option was available.

Kate Garrett, who had previously been part of our volunteer force, joined us as a paid office assistant for three months this summer and by the end of the summer she was doing most of our accounting clerk duties. That allowed me to focus on working with our volunteers and helping them with their various projects.

This fall Heather Hannaford became our first intern from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her project is organizing the Elna Nielsen Smith Melvin collection. We had received the collection in September 2012 and it

remained in boxes for an entire year until Heather started her project. Who would have guessed the rich discoveries awaiting her? She found numerous original photos of Native Americans from the 1930s and a few personal letters from Eleanor Roosevelt. Most recently she found letters from Aldous Huxley, the unconventional author of *Brave New World*.

We are making huge progress in digitizing our materials. Our most popular genealogy tool is the Vig collection. Einar Vig took meticulous notes on residents of Washington County, Nebraska, gleaned from cemetery records and newspapers. After about a year of scanning by two members of the Washington County Genealogical Society and two DAAL volunteers, that collection is now available online through our website. Although the information is there, it isn't all labeled yet. This is something that can be done remotely. If you have any interest in helping with this, please let us know.

We are part of a collaborative effort with the Museum of Danish America and the Danish Immigrant Archives at Grand View University to digitize newspapers. Many are available online, including our issues of *The Danish Pioneer* and *Danskeren*. To access these materials go to [box2.nmtvault.com/danishim/](http://box2.nmtvault.com/danishim/). Ralf and Inga Hoifeldt take advantage of reading *The Danish Pioneer* online when they are translating articles.

2013 also resulted in a leap forward in our cooperative efforts with the Blair

community. Ann George helped the Blair Historical Preservation Association with their 2014 calendar. Many of the photos in the calendar will be from our Dana collection. We hosted our third Kringle Mingle event during the Dana Alumni & Friends Homecoming on Saturday. This resulted in about 70 people with Dana College connections visiting the Archive.

The new shelving was installed for our Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood materials. We received a grant of \$1,000 toward the shelving from the Blair Area Community Foundation. This proved to be a catalyst for additional donations from Danish Brotherhood lodges and some of our members, which made the purchase possible. It is wonderful to have all of the DB and DS records in one place, and it gave us more work space on the tables which formerly housed the large membership books.

Our photo exhibit, *Danish Children Growing Up American*, was a huge success, and is engaged in more venues for the coming year. The exhibit and the internship are indications that our relationship with UNO is growing stronger.

Although fundraising continues to be a challenge for us, I feel that through the efforts of our volunteers we have come an astonishing way from where we were when we vacated Dana College 3 ½ years ago. I look forward to more exciting developments in 2014.

1738 Washington Street  
Blair, Nebraska 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## AROUND THE ARCHIVE

- ◆ January 3, 2014—Tamra Rosanes of Copenhagen, Denmark, and her brother, Brant Miller of Nashville, Tennessee, visited the DAAL. Tamra is an American singer who has become a noted country music songwriter and performer in Denmark. She is researching Danish music of all kinds as well as letters and other types of writing by Danish immigrants in preparation for writing songs for a new album. Although she normally performs in English, she would like to write and perform these new songs in Danish.
- ◆ February through April, 2014—The DAAL is hosting an exhibit that focuses on the life writings of Sophus Keith Winther. This exhibit is the result of a joint effort of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, and Buffalo State University in Buffalo, New York. The goal of the organization, called *The Rural Lit RALLY Initiative*, is to focus attention on rural-based literature. Winther is just one of many authors who are highlighted in these displays. Since the DAAL has a significant collection of Winther's personal papers, we plan to supplement the *RALLY* exhibit with some of our own holdings. For more information about the *RALLY* organization, go to [www.rurallitrally.org](http://www.rurallitrally.org).
- ◆ April 24-26, 2014—The Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting will be held in Kansas City. If you can represent the DAAL at this meeting, please contact Tim Jensen at 402-426-7910.
- ◆ April 27, 2014—The DAAL spring board of directors meeting will be held prior to Volunteer Week.
- ◆ April 28-May 2, 2014—Spring Volunteer Week. Once again volunteers from all over come to the DAAL to turn out a tremendous amount of archival work and further our main mission of preserving these valuable materials. If you would like to attend, contact Dody Johnson at [dodyrj@aol.com](mailto:dodyrj@aol.com) or 319-354-2939. Please join us!