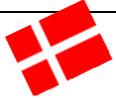


ARCHIVE JOTTINGS



Executive Director Report

What do we have in the Archive, and how can we make it more accessible? While last year was spent organizing our physical location, we want to spend this year working on internal operations and outreach.

To this end, we have received a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council to help create a traveling exhibit entitled *The Danish Pioneer—Connecting an Immigrant Community*. We will be working closely with the Danish Immigrant Museum in the creation of the exhibit. It is tentatively slated to be on display at the Archive April 16-24. *The Danish Pioneer*, or *Den Danske Pioneer*, is a Danish newspaper that began in Omaha in 1872. Our extensive collection of this newspaper, as well as our collection of the newspaper *Danskeren*, will be digitized in the first phase of a cooperative effort spearheaded by the Danish Immigrant Museum.

We are also increasing our outreach with the University of Nebraska at Omaha. See the article on page 3. We look forward to providing internship opportunities for University students.

As we increase our efforts to organize and preserve our collections, we are also looking for more volunteers. Our Spring Volunteer Week is April 23-27. Please contact Dody Johnson at dodyrj@aol.com or 3352 Hanover Court, Iowa City, IA 52245, if you are able to join us. If you reside in the Blair area and have considered volunteering, now would be a perfect time! Give me a call or, better yet, stop by any morning at 10:00 for our daily coffee session to discuss the possibilities.

One of our biggest challenges has been to find workspace—whether it be for visiting researchers, weekly volunteers who need a place to call their own, or for big projects that need room to spread out. Through generous donations from Esther Jensen, Phil & Florence Larsen and Shirley Moore, we will be purchasing six new tables and 24 new chairs to meet these needs.

This Jottings issue includes our 2011 Annual Financial Report. With your help, we finished 2011 “in the black”. Phil Larsen and Rita McManigal will conduct a financial review in February.

Thank you for your support in this team effort to enable our Archive to thrive.



Executive Director Jill Hennick and President Tim Jensen receive a donation from Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35 of Chicago, Illinois

The Danish Brotherhood in America: The Story Continues

To emigrate means to begin, and then begin again. Sometimes this means moving repeatedly from one community. For 19th century Danish immigrants these places could be a folk high school, a farm, then a bakery and perhaps a carpenter’s bench. Although not often mentioned, it might also mean years in military service. The US Army offered immigrants a path toward community, a connection with a goal, and a way to become part of a strange and compelling new land. One such immigrant was Mark Hansen. Born in Denmark and formerly a member of the Danish Army, after emigrating, he—like a number of Danes—fought in the War Between the States. While for him the US military was not a final destination, nevertheless it decisively formed his identity as both a Dane and an American.

The great wave of Danish immigration in the second half of the twentieth century included both veterans of the American Civil War and survivors of the disastrous Dano-Prussian War of 1864. Mark Hansen, who by now had settled in Omaha, recognized both how much military veterans shared, and

how much they needed each other. With this understanding he founded the *Danske Vaabenbrødre* (“Danish Brothers in Arms”). Several similar groups developed during this same period, and five of these groups gathered to form a national association of Danish American veterans. However, the scope of the new organization did not stop there. There was an almost immediate realization that there were thousands of Danish American men who, although not military veterans, also wanted and needed to be part of a group of “honorable men, born of Danish parents, or who were of Danish extraction.” Thus, in 1882 the *Vaabenbrødre* was transformed into the Danish Brotherhood in America, the DBIA.

The DBIA quickly became America’s largest secular organization for Danish immigrants. At its peak the Danish Brotherhood had over 350 lodges, including three in Canada and even one in Copenhagen.

From the beginning the DBIA made it possible for its members to have insurance protection. It also provided social activities and the opportunity to speak Danish and sing Danish songs. It offered a Danish community in the midst of a decidedly non-Danish

(continued on page 2)



The Danish Brotherhood (continued)

world. Over the years the DBIA gradually expanded its identity from that of a men's group to a family association. Gradually membership was opened to children, to spouses, and eventually to anyone who wished to join.

In the 1920's **the torrent of immigrants to the US** was reduced to a trickle. The American government established tight restrictions on who would be allowed to immigrate, and then the Depression and the Second World War made emigration distinctly unappealing. There were years in the 1930's when net migration was from the US to Europe rather than the other way around. At this time the DBIA changed its emphasis from helping immigrants adjust to life in the United States to celebrating the delights in being Danish. This change in emphasis worked well for nearly seventy years. In 1967 a new headquarters modeled after Børsen (the Danish stock exchange building in Copenhagen) was built on Harney Street in Omaha. New lodges were established around the nation. Scholarships, camp grants, and orphans' benefits were added.

Hidden behind the prospering years of the late twentieth century, however, were two challenges that eventually became overwhelming. First, the years of Danish immigrants flooding through Ellis Island receded ever further into the past. Those born in the 1970's and 1980's were likely to be fourth generation Americans. Inevitably, for many of them that meant a greatly reduced identification with Denmark and the distinctive qualities of Danish life. Second, the administrative costs and the regulatory requirements for operating a fraternal insurance program eventually became prohibitive. In August 1995 the DBIA's insurance policies were transferred to the Woodmen of the World and the Omaha headquarters were closed. Several individual lodges resolved to remain active and many do to this day. Current total membership stands at about 8,000.

The end of the DBIA as a national organization means the **closing of one special chapter in the story of Danish immigration**. However, the Danish American Archive and Library has been able to preserve a great deal of information by and about this period. When the DBIA's Omaha headquarters closed,

most of its records were transferred to DAAL. These records include handwritten membership rolls covering the better part of a century. Membership information was recorded in 15 massive ledger books, each weighing up to 40 pounds or more. Since carrying these books from one part of the Archive to another is not for the faint of heart, they have been placed on special tables toward the front of the Archive. Each volume contains details about a person's birthplace, occupation, marital status, and as a special bonus for genealogists, clear evidence for the correct spelling of his name. Through the work of Helga Hanson and other Archive volunteers over nearly two decades, this information has been transcribed, sorted, and computerized. It is now available for searching on the web site of the Danish Immigrant Museum. Click on "The Danish Brotherhood & Sisterhood" under the "Library & Genealogy" menu at www.DanishMuseum.org. This is an outstanding example of cooperation between the Archive and the Museum.

See Related Volunteer Spotlight on page 8.

The DBIA published a monthly magazine from 1916 through 1995. Its name and form took three different shapes over the years. **The names themselves trace the transformation** from a primarily Danish identity to one clearly American. Initially the magazine was a Danish publication entitled *Det danske Brodersamfunds Blad*. In 1941 it became an English periodical called *The Danish Brotherhood Magazine*. Finally in 1972 it was renamed *The American Dane*. The Archive has a nearly complete run of all these periodicals, a treasure trove for those interested in discovering the DBIA's activities and tracing the organization's gradual Americanization. The earliest issues are fragile and easily damaged, so they have been carefully stored in acid-free boxes.

The Archive has also been the recipient of thousands of pages of mate-

rial from individual lodges. These include minutes of business meetings, financial statements, Christmas programs, insurance guidelines, joint celebrations with Danish Sisterhood lodges, correspondence between lodges and the Omaha office, anniversary booklets, national conventions, membership guidelines, and much, much more. This material is stored in approximately 100 boxes, not to mention ledger books stacked on shelves and a filing drawer filled with folders. Of particular importance is the collection for Milwaukee lodge #36 donated by Nancy Larsen of Ashland, Ohio. Since her father, Albert Larsen, was so thorough in preserving information on lodge #36, this collection more than any other reveals what a Danish Brotherhood lodge is like.

The DBIA was not the only organization of its type. The Danish Sisterhood of America was founded in Negaunee in Michigan's upper peninsula in 1883, just one year after the DBIA was organized. Like the DBIA, the Sisterhood was established to provide social and financial assistance to Danish immigrants. Unlike the DBIA, it has to this day retained a national office and its own archive. There are currently 48 lodges, including two in Canada. DAAL has an extensive collection of applications for membership in the Danish Sisterhood. These applications provide an exceptional window into the lives of Danish Sisterhood members. The Archive also has information on some individual lodges

The range of materials in DAAL on the Danish Brotherhood and the Sisterhood is enormous. Partly because there are so many documents from so many different lodges, there is a great deal of work to do in order for this information to be properly organized, indexed, and preserved. If there are current or former members of the DBIA or other Danish lodges or anyone else curious about these societies, their assistance in accessioning these materials would be most welcome. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Archive, and volunteers willing to explore the story of the DBIA are particularly needed. Archival work, like immigration itself, requires beginning again and again, and so it is with the Danish Brotherhood in America.

You Can Make A Difference

Myrv Christopherson
Senior Advisor for Advancement
mchristo1@hotmail.com
(563) 382-1939



I joined the DAAL team because I believe it is important. The collection of archival material begun by Dr. John W. Nielsen a couple decades ago, offers a rich insight into the contributions of Danish Americans and their churches, colleges, and social organizations to the life and welfare of their communities. For example, DAAL—I often just call it the Archive—is the one institution clearly dedicated to preserving and telling the story of Dana College and its marvelous 126 year history, offering documents—letters, reports, records, books, and accounts in other media—of the people who taught or worked there, the students who studied, sang, or played in band or sports, and the communities that benefitted from their lives of service. Not all who studied there were Danes, but all were influenced by an institution founded and given identity by its Danish-American character and heritage. Dana is but one of these Danish-American institutions whose stories are collected, organized, catalogued, translated, and made available at DAAL.

I don't want this marvelous collection to be lost to future generations. That's why I invite Danish Americans and others who know about or have personally benefited from this heritage to contribute to ensure that the Archive survives and prospers. The substantial endowment funds raised for the Archive were lost as part of the closing of Dana. I want to see that endowment restored—approximately \$325,000—and annual support enriched.

Please, if you share in my caring, consider making a substantial gift -- one time or monthly or annually—by check, bank withdrawal, appreciated stock gifts, estate gifts and memorials—all are welcomed. Let me or Jill Hennick or a DAAL Board member know of your interest. Givers ensure that our collection will enrich generations to come. Many thanks go to those readers who already volunteer their time, their money, and/or add to our archival collection.

Visit the Danish American Archive and Library website at:
www.DanishAmericanArchive.com

Three Issues of *Jottings* Per Year

Beginning in 2012 *Jottings* will be published three times per year rather than four. Reducing the number of issues will make it possible for more time to be devoted to running the Archive and to responding to the increasing number of visitors and of research requests. We are now a far more visible part of the community, which means that volunteers are busier than ever. We will continue to use the *Jottings* format that Nathan Kramer designed for the special “grand re-opening edition.” Each issue will list donations for the previous four months and the January issue will include the annual report.

Archive and UNO Plan for Future Cooperation

Officials from the University of Nebraska-Omaha recently met with DAAL staff to expand on the agreement that was signed last September to work together on projects that will benefit both institutions as well as the community at large.

Attending the meeting from UNO were Chancellor John Christensen, Library Dean Steve Shorb and University Archivist Les Valentine. Chancellor Christensen outlined two main areas in which UNO and the Archive can collaborate in the future:

Internships—UNO currently collaborates with the University of Missouri for archival interns, and the DAAL provides prime materials on which these interns can work. Two of the areas in which they will be able to provide invaluable help are acquisitions and organizing and properly storing materials.

Exhibits—An exhibit, including materials from both the DAAL and the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, to be displayed at the UNO library.

Archivist Valentine and Dean Shorb are making themselves available to Archive staff to answer questions about procedures for sorting and storing photos, lending materials, etc. They will also help us to begin digitizing our collections. This is important both for preservation of fragile materials and to make the materials more accessible to the public.

Chancellor Christensen invited the Archive staff to visit UNO at a future date to tour the library and see where exhibits are displayed.

“We are delighted to be working with UNO on these projects,” says Archive Board President Tim Jensen. “We feel that this association is going to be of great benefit to not only the Archive, but also to the scholars, interns and students from UNO who will have access to our materials. We look forward to expanding this relationship even further.”

VOLUNTEERS: 2236 hours by 49 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Texas.

VISITORS: 229 visitors from California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and Japan.

USERS: 20 users from California, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Virginia and Denmark.

ACQUISITIONS:

1. Article on Earl Bascom, father of modern rodeo. (Donor: John Bascom).
2. Funeral service and obituary for Madagascar worker Rev. Leonard Jacobsen, family history of Ole & Anna Olsen, "My Life in Montana" by Arline Evenson Bentsen, family letters and journals. (Donor: Pat Bentsen, Blair, Nebraska).
3. Clipping on Peter Berthelsen. (Donor: Erna Berthelsen, Albert Lea, Minnesota).
4. Four church organization pins. (Donor: Lois Bornemeier, Danbury, Connecticut).
5. Five sound recordings, article on Borge M. & Lotte Christensen in Mayo Clinic newsletter, Ivan Jacobsen obituary. (Donors: Borge M. Christensen, Rochester, Minnesota).
6. Danish Brotherhood 30th National convention booklet, 3 brochures, Directory of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. (Donor: Rolf Buschardt Christensen, Gloucester, Ontario, Canada).
7. Eight books. (Donor: William Christensen, Fremont, Nebraska).
8. Pictures of Dana students & faculty, 12 periodicals, 1 brochure, Helen May Christensen obituary. (Donors: Bob & Joan Coffey, Hartford, Wisconsin).
9. Dana College stickers. (Donor: The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn, Iowa).
10. Dana College booklets and publications, Dana cheerleading sweater. (Donor: Ellen Andrews Fisher, Fox Lake, Wisconsin).
11. Four issues of Christmas Chimes. (Donor: Lorraine Gunderson, Northfield, Minnesota).
12. 32 obituaries. (Donor: Fritz Hansen, Wichita, Kansas).
13. Disk of 50th class reunion photos. (Donors: Norma & Don Heeren, Madison, Wisconsin).
14. Personal correspondence regarding Axel Hermansen, newspapers and articles of Danish activities. (Donor: Hans Hermansen, Racine, Wisconsin).
15. Clippings, brochures and programs from Dana College, clipping on dedication of Brayton Lutheran Church, 40 obituaries. (Donor: Isabel Hoegh, Atlantic, IA).
16. Brochures, programs, bulletins from St. Peter's church, two obituaries and funeral folder. (Donor: Gerry Jasan, Northfield, Minnesota).
17. Clipping: "Danish Lodge Has Disbanded". (Donors: Ken & Bonnie Jensen, Albert Lea, Minnesota).
18. Funeral folder & obituary for Deloris Bengtson, five newspaper articles. (Donors: Tim & Sharon Jensen, Blair, Nebraska).
19. Clippings on Peter & Mary Clausen, material on Deppe and Anna Jensen and their family, six obituaries. (Donor: Dody Johnson, Iowa City, Iowa).
20. Audiotape by Blanche Paulsen, funeral folder for Dorothy Petersen. (Donors: Richard & Delores Jorgensen, Poy Sippi, WI).
21. Articles relating to Dana College and alumni, five obituaries and funeral folders. (Donors: Richard & Pat Jorgensen, Blair, NE).
22. Obituary & funeral folder for Alan Knudsen. (Donor: Avis Jorgenson, Tucson, Arizona).
23. Eight issues of *The Viking Log* and *The Sower*. (Deborah Katt, Herman, Nebraska).
24. Dana College publications, Danish Christmas publications, 50th anniversary booklet from Our Savior's Evan. Lutheran Church, 2 books. (Donors: Doris & Luther Kloth, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin).
25. 27 Danish songs. (Donor: Svend Koch, Cedar Falls, Iowa).
26. Eight posters of Dana College athletic teams. (Donors: Bob & Joan Krogh, Blair, Nebraska).
27. *Folk Games of Denmark and Sweden*. (Donor: Judith Larsen, Racine, Wisconsin).
28. Magazine, *A Fiery Peace in a Cold War*, family Christmas photo. (Donor: Nancy Larsen, Ashland, OH).
29. Mementos from CB & Abelone Larsen family, Ron Jensen family, 8 photographs, 3 clippings, 2 letters. (Donors: Phil & Florence Larsen, Blair, Nebraska).
30. Waupaca and Racine church booklets. (Donors: Bill & Toni Lawson, Green Bay, Wisconsin).
31. Alma Petersen obituary. (Donors: Jerry & Shirley Lincoln, Lincoln, California).
32. Family Bible, song book, 3 Danians. (Donors: Gary & Diane Madsen, Verona, Wisconsin).
33. Seventeen obituaries, magazine, article. (Donor: Frances McGee, San Leandro, California).
34. Clipping on Homer Larsen. (Donor: Deb McWhirter, Allison Iowa).
35. Paul & Lela Neve family mementos—family trees, photos, reminiscences, certificates, awards. Dana College mementos, music, magazines. (Donors: the Paul Neve family).
36. *Mass Communications* by Virginia Nielsen. Reports about book, obituary, and funeral folder. Materials reporting W. Clayton Nielsen's receiving the Danish Preservation award from Grand View. (Donor: W. Clayton Nielsen, Elk Horn, Iowa).
37. Ted Bansen obituary. (Donors: John Mark & Dawn Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska).
38. Funeral folder & remarks given at Bee Krantz's funeral. Political items, 2 clippings, "The Spirituality of John and Meta Nielsen" by Cindy Schou. (Donors: John W & Elizabeth Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska).
39. Eighteen obituaries, programs, clippings, bulletins, letters, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection 50th booklet. (Donors: LeVern & Marilyn Nielsen, Racine, Wisconsin).
40. Twelve obituaries. (Donors: Allan & Ruth Nyegaard, Eugene, Oregon).
41. Dana College Class of 1961 50th reunion booklet, newspaper article. (Donor: Arlyce Olsen, Missouri Valley, Iowa).
42. Five obituaries. (Donor: Shirley Phelps, St Cloud, Minnesota).
42. James Russell Stroud obituary. (Donors: Larry & Palma Plume, Evergreen, Colorado).
43. Online obituaries and articles about Knud Dyby. (Donor: Ruth Rasmussen, Omaha, Nebraska).
44. Numerous articles, letters, accounts, pictures, and publications from the Luella Nielsen estate. Twenty obituaries. (Donors: Eleanor & Don Schou, Albert Lea, MN).
45. Four obituaries. Funeral folder for Melius Bollesen. (Donor: Fern Sembach, Spencer, Iowa).
46. *Am I Big? Or am I Little?* by Eileen Simonsen. Christmas letter. (Donors: Jens & Eileen Simonsen, Oakdale, Nebraska).
47. Material on CS & Tomina Vammen, Verner Jensen obituary. (Donor: Joan Sorensen, Richardson, Texas).
48. Ten books. (Donor: Elsa Steffensen, Hoffman Estates, IL).
49. Material on Marion Hudson, slides of Queen Margrete's visit to Blair, book. (Donor: Larrie Stone, Blair, Nebraska).
50. Six clippings, 33 obituaries. (Donor: Martha Stone, Boston, Massachusetts).
51. Hometown USA: Family Fun Board Game of Blair. (Donor: Marilyn Svendgard, Blair, Nebraska).
52. Emery & Carol (Oleson) Petersen family materials, including licenses, certificates, and programs. Emery Petersen's sermons and church booklets from Hutchinson, MN; Aurora, CO; and Nain Lutheran Church. (Donor: Naomi Theye, Winona, Minnesota).
53. Four Christmas booklets, 2 books. (Donor: Caroline True, Blair, Nebraska).
54. Annual reports and issues of "Mission Afrika". (Donors: Don & Marge Wahlgren, Gowrie, Iowa).
55. Dana College pictures, clippings, letters, booklet, papers, including 109 issues of "Dana Review". (Donor: Barbara Ward, Hopkins, Minnesota).

These are only the materials received and processed from October-December 2011. Items received in 2012 will be listed in the next newsletter.

Memorials:

AM Andersen
 Karen & Mike Brodie (Richardson, TX)
 Janet & Charles Kahn (Gulf Breeze, FL)
 Kathy & Duncan Meldrum (Mertztown, PA)
 Jane Sorensen & David Marchant (Fairfax, VT)
 Clarice Andersen
 Lorene Andersen (Washington, NE)
 Ted Bansen
 Lloyd & Ann Bansen (Yamhill, OR)
 Clay & Marge Christensen (Appleton, WI)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
 Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)
 Deloris Bengston
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Melius Bollesen
 Jon & Sonya Pedersen (Santa Ana, CA)
 Charlie Brehm
 Judy Brehm (Blair, NE)
 Axel Bundgaard
 Ann Bundgaard (Burnsville, MN)
 Natalie Carlsen
 C I Jerry & Maryann Lund (Edmonds, WA)
 Dana College
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Knud Dyby
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)
 Janice Grindle
 Lorene Larsen (Omaha, NE)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Lorraine Olson Gunderson
 Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)
 Clifford K & A Veola Hansen
 James & Annette Brown (Mishicot, WI)
 Bee Krantz
 Charles & Carole Bagby (Blair, NE)
 Amy Barlow & Nathan Kramer (Blair, NE)
 Ann George (Blair, NE)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Ernest & Mavis Johnson (Omaha, NE)
 Memorial Comm Hospital Auxiliary (Blair, NE)
 Dianne Otte (Omaha, NE)
 Harold & Dorothy Wright (Blair, NE)
 My folks: Deppe & Anna Jensen
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 Knud Jensen
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Cindy Schou (Bloomington, MN)
 Donald & Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
 Deborah Wood (Oklahoma City, OK)
 Russell P Jensen
 Esther Jensen (Santa Maria, CA)
 Ingvar & Anne Landbo
 Harry Landbo (Fort Myers, FL)
 Paul Laursen
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Gene Lindblad's sister
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 C.I. Jerry Lund
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Maryann Lund (Mukilteo, WA)
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Jon & Sonya Pedersen (Santa Ana, CA)
 Doris Nelson
 Earl Nelson (Racine, WI)

Lela Neve on birthday
 Lois Carter (Blanchard, LA)
 Tom Nielsen
 Lois Halley (Tacoma, WA)
 Alma Petersen
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Dorothy M. Petersen
 Dorothy Clapper (Beloit, WI)
 Family & Friends
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
 Lyle & Marianne Meyers (Rock Island, IL)
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Donald & Hope Seeger (Clinton, WI)
 My parents: Peter & Katherine Petersen
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Dorothy & Walter Sorenson
 Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)
 Norma Stone on birthday
 Larrie Stone
 Billie Swendseid
 Jackie Dudley (Downey, CA)
Honoraria:
 DAAL Volunteers
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 John W. & Elizabeth (Solevad) Nielsen
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Ann Bundgaard (Burnsville, MN)
 Lois Carter (Blanchard, LA)
 Jon & Elizabeth Fredlund (Anoka, MN)
 Christie Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
 Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)
 JoAnn Hohensee (Blair, NE)
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)
 Mark & Elaine Hoyer (Blair, NE)
 Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 Julianne Johnson (Columbus, OH)
 Niel Johnson (Independence, MO)
 Paul & Liz Johnson (Fremont, NE)
 Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)
 Wayne Josephson (Fowler, CO)
 Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)
 Inga Larsen (Bremerton, WA)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Bill & Toni Lawson (Green Bay, WI)
 Gary & Diane Madsen (Verona, WI)
 Peter & Elna Mathiasen (Aldergrove, BC)
 Duane & Lillian Ohlsen (Portland, OR)
 Jim & Sue Olsen (Blair, NE)
 Don & Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)
 Larry & Palma Plume (Evergreen, CO)
 Phyllis & Milo Shavlik (North Platte, NE)
 Jens & Eileen Simonsen (Oakdale, NE)
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)
 Charlotte & Larry Travis (San Antonio, TX)
 Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)
 Leroy & Sandra Wigdahl (Blair, NE)
 November & December birthdays: Matt, Dawn & JB
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 Lloyd & Muriel Neve
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
 Margaret & Bill Rodenberg's 50th anniversary

John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Donald & Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)
 Joan Andersen Sorensen's volunteer work, service
 on the Board & commitment to the Archive
 Karen & Mike Brodie (Richardson, TX)
 Janet & Charles Kahn (Gulf Breeze, FL)
 Kathy & Duncan Meldrum (Mertztown, PA)
 Jane Sorensen & David Marchant (Fairfax, VT)
 Marion Svendsen's 95th
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)
 Ordell Witte's 90th
 John W & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)

General Fund:

Marilyn & Ernest (Greek) Abariotes (Blair, NE)
 Anonymous
 Bill & Betsy Anderson (Blair, NE)
 Lee Barney (Oregon City, OR)
 Dennis Barten (Kirkwood, MO)
 Grace Beck (Omaha, NE)
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
 Tim & Lu Brown (Blair, NE)
 Becky Bryant (West Des Moines, IA)
 Ingrid Christiansen (Brookline, MA)
 Glen & Margret Christoffersen (Redwood City, CA)
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
 Dana College Class of 1961
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge 35 (Chicago, IL)
 Lyle & Dorothy Feisel (St Michaels, MD)
 Trine & Travis Feuerborn (Noble, OK)
 Don Freberg (Prairie Village, KS)
 Joyce & Jerry Gilbert (Eugene, OR)
 Charles & Emma Hansen (Mount Prospect, IL)
 Ethan & Pat Hansen (Atascadero, CA)
 Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)
 Nira Horeis (Lafayette, CA)
 Lynette Hunt (Blair, NE)
 Margie Hussey (Bellevue, WA)
 Genevieve Jensen (Plainview, NE)
 Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)
 Jim Jirousek (Blair, NE)
 Julianne Johnson (Columbus, OH)
 Niel Johnson (Independence, MO)
 Alice Jorgensen (Ferndale, MI)
 Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)
 Herb & Carol Jorgensen (Green Lake, WI)
 Jim & Linda Jorgensen (Blair, NE)
 Jean Clark Kahldahl (Port Townsend, WA)
 Miriam Kindrick (Marcus, IA)
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)
 Johannes Laursen (Rockville Centre, NY)
 Marilyn Meyer (Everly, IA)
 Lizette Miller (Shoreview, MN)
 Shirley Moore (Blair, NE)
 David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
 W Clayton Nielsen (Elk Horn, IA)
 Darlene Olsen (Lyons, NE)
 Jim & Sue Olsen (Blair, NE)
 Paul & Lois Olson (Prior Lake, MN)
 Robert Rasmussen (New Brighton, MN)
 Corinne Robinson (Minneapolis, MN)
 Elga Rohrer (Kenosha, WI)
 Cindy Schou (Bloomington, MN)
 Steven & Kathleen Schou (Dickinson, ND)
 Jens & Eileen Simonsen (Oakdale, NE)
 Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
 Martha Stone (Boston, MA)

Wayne & Naomi Theye (Winona, MN)
John Thomsen (Brooklyn, NY)
Myrna Tostenson (Pine River, WI)
Robert & Carol Watson (Overland Park, KS)
Don & Marjorie Wahlgren (Gowrie, IA)

Endowment:

Keith & Paula Anderson in memory of Martin & Else Andersen and in honor of John W Nielsen

Grants:

Washington County Thrivent

\$50/100:

John & Ginny Beck (Colorado Springs, CO)
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
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)
Clement & Phyllis Hunter (Oregon City, OR)
John Hibbing & Anne Nielsen (Lincoln, NE)
Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)
Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)
Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)
Luther & Doris Kloth (Wauwatosa, WI)
Gene & Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)
Gary & Diane Madsen (Verona, WI)
Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)
David Nielsen (Winfield, KS)
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)
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Veteran Volunteer Helga Hanson



Helga Hanson first began as a volunteer at the Danish American Archive and Library in 1994 when it was still the Danish Immigrant Archive located at Dana College. When she was given the task of making accessible to historians and scholars the wealth of information found in the Danish Brotherhood record books, little did she realize that 18 years later she would still be doing the same thing.

To put into perspective the enormity of the job, the Archive houses 15 Danish Brotherhood record books. Each book measures approximately 18" high, 16" wide and 5" deep and weighs from 15 to 40 pounds. Tens of thousands of entries are contained within these books consisting of members' names, birth and death dates, spouses' names, occupations, where they came from in Denmark and when they joined and left the Brotherhood. This last information was once used by a Dana College student for a paper in which he was able to draw parallels between the Danish Brotherhood membership and the economic conditions of the times.

Helga's task has evolved over the years to become more digitized. She began by copying the information from the re-

cord books into a form by hand, but now enters the information into an Excel document on the computer. The Excel documents are then shared with the Family History and Genealogy Center, which is a subsidiary of the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, IA.

Although Helga has been the most consistent and long-term worker on these records, she's quick to point out that she's had plenty of help from many dedicated workers. "For years we had three volunteers, Esther Freund and Janice Hansen, who drove 30 miles once a week from Fremont, Nebraska, and Eunice Neve, who drove in from Omaha," she said. "Plus twice a year we have from four to eight volunteers working on the records during our Volunteer Week in the spring and fall."

Helga's parents, Boy and Kirstine Jessen, emigrated from Denmark in 1926 with her five older siblings. She and her six younger siblings were born in the United States. She obtained a two-year teaching certificate from Dana in 1949, completed her bachelors degree at Augustana College in 1970, and her masters from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1984. An elementary school teacher, she taught for 28 years—the last 15 in the Blair Community Schools. Her teaching experience has come in handy for the Archive, because she has created displays for the local Sugar Plum Festival and the Archive's tables at Dana's Homecoming and Sights and Sounds events.

Asked what she found most interesting about her work on the Brotherhood records, Helga laughed and said, "So many names that end in *sen*. There are thousands of them!"

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