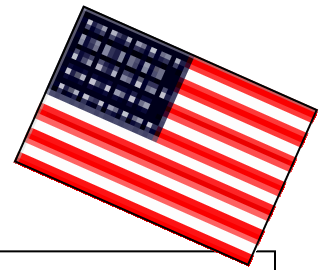


# JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library **May – August, 2014**

## A NEW LOOK FOR THE DAAL WEBSITE

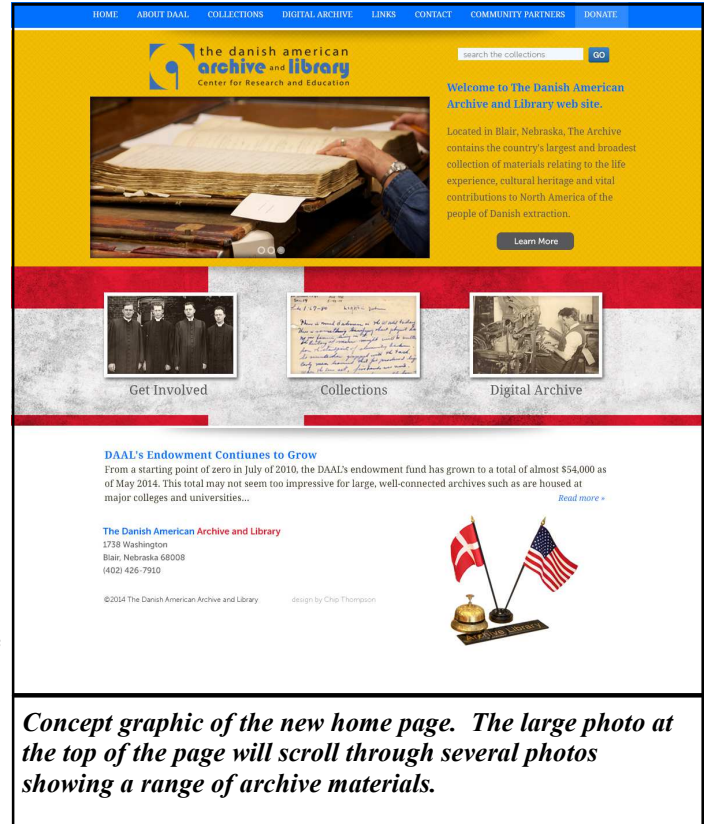
The Danish American Archive and Library website has taken on a whole new, more colorful look. But it is more than just appearance. Significant changes to the way the site operates makes it more user-friendly and the information more accessible.

Because of the recent remarkable success of the DAAL, site administrators Sandra Wigdahl, Marty Koefoed and Matt Petersen concluded that it was time to update and upgrade the site. “The original site has served us well,” says Wigdahl. “When it first appeared online in 2007, we were thrilled with the reception from our volunteers and other visitors to the site.” Wigdahl went on to say that the look of the original site was meant to show the clean, deceptively simple designs common to Danish style furniture, dishes and architecture. The color blue predominated because of the Danish blue of Bing and Grondahl dishes and to reflect the close relationship Danes have with water and the oceans.

The new look is more dynamic and colorful. There are fewer links from the home page, but all the information from the original interior pages is still accessible, although part of the goal will

be to make this more concise. Koefoed feels it was important to get the new site operational, and that the actual content can be refined over time. “We hope visitors find this design more appealing and easier to navigate, and we are looking forward to visitors’ comments—positive or negative,” he said. Koefoed went on to explain that the trend in the past was to continue to add material to the site, but that has made it so text heavy that many people don’t take the time to read it. The goal is to present the information we really want people to know without overwhelming them, and to motivate them to get in touch with the Archive to find out more.

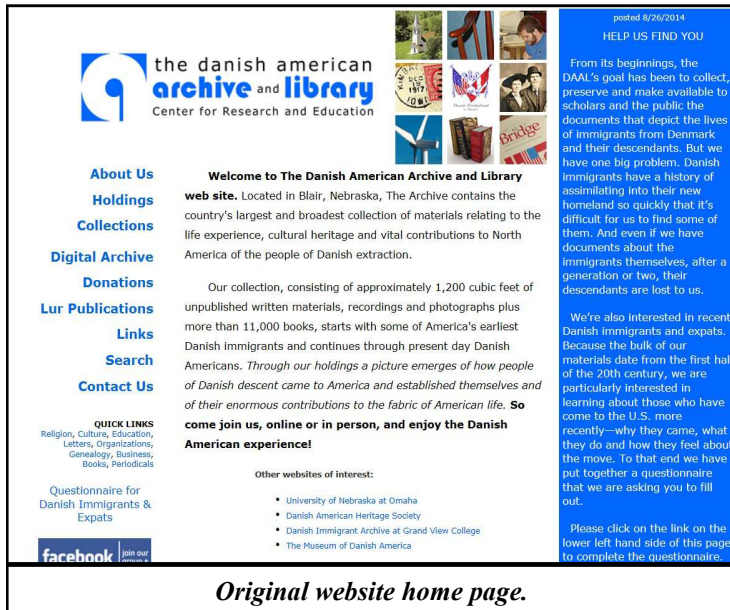
While the original site functioned well for its time, developments in website programming in the years since have come a long way toward making websites more easily navigable. Professional site



*Concept graphic of the new home page. The large photo at the top of the page will scroll through several photos showing a range of archive materials.*

adding photos and documents, it's all super easy which allows DAAL to focus on providing content without ‘fighting’ the technology.” Petersen, who currently updates the site from his home in Des Moines, Iowa, agrees. “The system we have now requires that any updates be e-mailed to me, and then I update the site. With the new programming, volunteers right there in the Archive can update the site themselves as events happen, making it much more current.” Working alongside the new primary site is the Digital Archive, which is accessible from the home page. This contains a growing number of documents scanned from various collections held by the DAAL. The current 60,000+ scans located there are of interest to historians and persons interested in genealogy. Digital versions of *Jottings*, the DAAL’s newsletter, are also available in the Digital Archive.

The new DAAL website will soon be operational, so please visit [www.danishamericanarchive.com](http://www.danishamericanarchive.com) to see it, and revisit it often to see how it evolves. ■



*Original website home page.*

## Organization of the Danish Brotherhood Collection

By Andrew H. Nielsen

During my time as a volunteer for the Danish American Archive and Library, I've performed a variety of tasks such as inventorying the number of boxes in every collection among other things. Overall, my work here has been interesting and rewarding. The biggest and most challenging of these tasks, though, has been dealing with the collection of materials from the Danish Brotherhood in America.

The Danish Brotherhood was formed in 1882 as an organization to help Danish immigrants settle into life in the United States, providing its members with insurance and social activities relating to Danish culture. Eventually lodges of the Brotherhood became primarily places where people could celebrate their Danish heritage. Then in the 1970s and 1980s membership declined, and due to increasing financial difficulties, the national headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska, was forced to close, and many of their records came to the Danish American Archive and Library. Many of the items in this collection of more than a hundred boxes and unopened packages consisted of old bits of correspondence, meeting minutes, and financial material from individual lodges. In November of 2012, it became my job to try to organize the entire collection.

My little odyssey began one morning when our archive director, Jill Hennick, asked me to do an inventory of the items in the Danish Brotherhood collection for the computer. The collection was very disorganized in the beginning. None of the acid-free boxes even had numbers. At the time, the best I could do was make two spreadsheets in the computer listing how many boxes we had and how many of the smaller manageable ledgers and binders we had, a process that only took an hour or two. Once that preliminary inventory had been completed, I told Jill that the only way to do anything more in-depth for the computer would be to number each box. Jill agreed, and I was

given the okay to begin what would come to be a massive reorganization.

The first step of the project was to move everything on the shelves so that the collection was in order of state and city, and then to identify what was actually Brotherhood and what wasn't. Some of the items that were mixed into the collection were items from the Danish Sisterhood. Much of this first step of the project involved examining unopened packages of Brotherhood material and placing the items in the proper acid-free containers. Once during a two-week period in December, I sorted material from four file boxes containing pieces of correspondence and "sick benefits." I had to use four different tables in order to spread out those documents and organize them by year.

In early to mid January of 2013, after everything had been identified and organized on the shelves, it finally came time to start relabeling the boxes. In addition to the number of each box, each label was also to have the lodge number, the city and state of the lodge, and if possible the dates of the material. In order to find the dates of the material in a box, I would often have to open it up and sort through what was inside. That was when a new difficulty arose. Many of the boxes had materials that were crammed together and bound with staples that were more rust than metal or dried out rubber bands that were very difficult to scrape off. It was hardly the fashion one would expect documents in an archive to be kept. Many times during the labeling process I had to pause so that I could get those documents into acid-free envelopes.

By March, the labeling process was completed and I was finally able to move on to what was originally the final stage of the project—entering it all into a spreadsheet on the computer. That stage of the project was relatively smooth compared to the earlier stages. By early 2013 the inventory spreadsheet for the

computer had been completed, but the project didn't end there. During the process of entering items into the computer, I noticed that some boxes had items crammed together like the ones I had discovered during the labeling process. I went back and repackaged the items in those boxes in the appropriate acid-free envelopes, and in the process a few of the boxes ended up being split in two. There were instances when, say, Box 10 from Lodge 332 ended up being divided into Box 10A and Box 10B. As a result, I had to update the inventory of items in the computer.

By the end of May, all of the remaining boxes in need of repackaging were taken care of and updates were made to the computer. At that point, my project of reorganizing the Danish Brotherhood collection had seemingly come to an end, with the collection having grown to more than three hundred boxes. Since that time, the entire collection has been moved to special shelving near the front of the archive building. Recently, however, my work on this project has started back up again. The organization of the collection still needs to be refined to the point where it's easier for people to find a specific type of item from a certain lodge. This will involve another long process of swapping material between boxes from each lodge and most likely relabeling boxes. Thus my adventure continues. ■



*Andy Nielsen has volunteered at the DAAL since June of 2012.*

## FROM THE DANA ROOM

### TRINITY AND DANA MEET EARLY EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

by Ann (Harms) George

“Although designated a seminary, it is evident that from its beginnings Trinity provided educational opportunities for a wide variety of young people,” Peter L. Petersen writes in *A Place Called Dana*, his 1984 centennial history of Trinity Seminary and Dana College. “Among them,” he continues, “were forty-one young women enrolled in one or more of three exclusively female summer sessions held on campus between 1891 and 1895.”

Trinity, a theological seminary founded by Danish Lutheran immigrants, also offered, in those early years, another program for young people -- an academy for high school juniors and seniors (the academy at first was for males only).

Then, a few years later, when Dana College became part of the Blair campus, its academic calendar included a popular winter term that young farm and construction workers could attend during their off season.

But first, about the summer sessions for young women. Conventional wisdom at the time held that educating men was more important than educating women, and so it's noteworthy that all-male Trinity would offer these classes. Although the first session met in 1891, Petersen writes in a footnote that the minutes of a July 2, 1888, Board of Trustees meeting record a discussion of “special summer classes for females.”

For these summer classes, William E. Christensen notes in his *Saga of the Tower*, the 75-year history of Trinity and Dana, that G.B. Christiansen (Trinity's second president), taught Danish subjects, and A.S. Nielsen, courses in English. (In 1884 Nielsen, a nephew of A.M. Andersen, Trinity's first president, was one of the seminary's first students, and he assisted his uncle as a part-time instructor in secular subjects.)



*Olga West, on the right (she became Mrs. Henry Hansen), and her unidentified roommate in their Women's Hall room sometime between 1910-12. Women's Hall was built in 1899 near the northwest corner of Old Main when the campus became coeducational. It was razed in 1923 upon completion of a new women's dormitory, later called Argo Hall.*

“Some of the common school subjects were offered,” Christensen writes, “and lectures discussing the activities and problems of woman in her service to society were presented.”

We don't know why these summer sessions were offered only three out of five years. Petersen notes that “Certainly the idea was popular with church members; at one annual convention the delegates rebuked seminary leaders for failing to continue the summer offering.”

We also don't know why they were dropped after 1895. Petersen speculates that a contributing factor was probably the Panic of 1893, a serious national economic depression that lasted for several years.

Then in 1899, when the merger of Trinity Seminary and coeducational Elk Horn College brought college classes to the Blair campus, special sessions for women were no longer needed. Elk Horn College had been founded in Elk Horn, Iowa, in 1878 as this country's first Danish folk school. Under the leadership of its president, Kristian Anker, its approach to education had “shifted to a more traditional curriculum,” Petersen writes. (Anker subsequently served as

Trinity's president from 1899 to 1902 and as Dana's from 1899 to 1905.)

After the merger, some of the young women coming to the campus enrolled in the college, but others enrolled in the academy.

The need for pre-seminary preparatory education had been recognized as essential when Trinity began, and the first preparatory classes on secular subjects were those taught by A.S. Nielsen. Only two years later, in 1886, Trinity announced the introduction of an academic department – i.e., an academy. The academy “appears to have been a part of the pre-seminary,” Christensen notes, “and students who were not preparing for the ministry could avail themselves of the general course offerings of this department.”

At the time, these general course offerings met a real need. Well into the twentieth century many small towns didn't have public high schools, and to prepare students for college-level work, some colleges – and perhaps theological seminaries as well – had academies.

Then with the 1899 merger, the pre-  
**Continued Page 6**

**VOLUNTEERS:** 2,272 hours by 46 volunteers from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Texas.

**VISITORS:** 48 visitors from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada and Denmark.

**USERS:** 27 users from Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Denmark and England.

## ACQUISITIONS

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

### Materials

Fran Anderson (Omaha, NE)  
 Richard Andersen (Sierra Vista, AZ)  
 Anonymous (Anacortes, WA)  
 Anundsen Publishing Co. (Decorah, IA)  
 Miriam Bennett (Discovery Bay, CA)  
 Patricia Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
 Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Arlene Bisson (Muskegon, MI)  
 Ann Boos (Washington, DC)  
 Lois M. Bornemeier (Danbury, CT)  
 Frida Moisen Brewer (Lubbock, TX)  
 R. B. Christensen (Gloucester, ON)  
 Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
 Eric George (Blair, NE)  
 Dick & Lorraine Hansen (Blair, NE)  
 Frederick J. "Fritz" Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
 Nancy Hansen (Aurora, NE)  
 Mrs. John Heaton (Novi, MI)  
 Christian M. Hermansen (Vegahara, Japan)  
 Susan Hettinger (Westminister, CO)  
 Alvina Hjortsvang (Council Bluffs, IA)  
 JoAnn Hohensee (Blair, NE)  
 Jim & Margery Iversen (Decorah, IA)  
 Geraldine Jasan (Northfield, MN)  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
 Ada Jeppesen (Blair, NE)  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA)  
 Paul D. Johnson (Fremont, NE)  
 Alice Jorgensen (Ferndale, MI)  
 Marty Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)  
 Frank Korshoj (Blair, NE)  
 Martin Kuhr (Blair, NE)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Bill & Toni Lawson (Green Bay, WI)  
 George Madsen (Omaha, NE)  
 Margaret Madsen (Milwaukee, WI)  
 Linda Miller (Henderson, NV)  
 Museum of Danish America (Elk Horn, IA)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)  
 Mr. & Mrs. John A. Osterberg (Lancaster, SC)  
 Ivan Paulsen (Walker, MN)  
 Donald Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
 Duane Petersen (Wichita, KS)  
 G. Rasmussen (Northfield, MN)  
 Ruth Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)  
 Carole Schetter (Highlands Ranch, CO)  
 Susan Simpson (Castle Rock, CO)  
 Harold & Carol Ann Sorensen (Albuquerque, NM)  
 Joan Sorensen (Richardson, TX)  
 John Thomsen (Brooklyn, NY)

University of Chicago Press (Chicago, IL)  
 Jane E. Wilson (Farragut, IA)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Memorials:

Chuck Eastlund  
 Don & Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Walter Granholm  
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1 (Omaha, NE)  
 Dorthea Sorensen Jensen  
 Chris & Frank Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
 Earl S. Jensen  
 Chris & Frank Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
 Jerry Kamtz  
 Don and Audrey Pedersen (Pea Ridge, AR)  
 Frances McGee  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Luella Nielsen  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Tom Nielsen  
 Patti Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
 Marilyn Nyegaard  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Phil Pagel  
 Kenneth & Nena Hankins (Kent, OH)  
 Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)  
 Arliss Stockdale (Ames, IA)  
 Dr. Jack & Mrs. Ruth Petajan  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Carolyn Potter  
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
 John & Kirsten Christopherson Clark  
 (Gibsonia, PA)  
 Richard Hunt (Blair, NE)  
 Don & Joyce Jorgensen (Ripon, WI)  
 Sharon Quale  
 Cynthia Schou (Bloomington, MN)  
 Donald & Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Norma Stone on anniversary  
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
 Paul Thuesen  
 Larry Syndergaard (Kalamazoo, MI)

### Honoraria:

John Beck's birthday  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Anne & Myrv Christopherson  
 John & Kirsten Christopherson Clark  
 (Gibsonia, PA)  
 Myrv Christopherson's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 John & Kirsten Christopherson Clark  
 (Gibsonia, PA)  
 Jill & Michael Hennick (Blair, NE)  
 Jill & Michael Hennick's anniversary  
 Arvin Hernes (Blair, NE)  
 Richard Hunt's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 Myrv & Ann Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
 Ezra Larsen's birthday  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Phil & Florence Larsen's anniversary  
 Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 Muriel Neve

Phil & Florence Larsen (Blair, NE)  
 John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen  
 Andrea Neve (Minneapolis, MN)

### General Fund:

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
 Steve & Connie Buller (Blair, NE)  
 Cargill Community Enrichment Campaign via Blair  
 Area Community Foundation (Blair, NE)  
 Jeremy & Jacqueline Caniglia (Omaha, NE)  
 Lois and Richard Carter (Blanchard, LA)  
 Joyce Christensen (Omaha, NE)  
 Vaughn & Clarice Christensen (Blair, NE)  
 Myrv & Anne Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
 Robert & Joan Coffey (Menomonee Falls, WI)  
 The Danish Sisterhood Pacific Northwest District  
 (Shoreline, WA)  
 The G.E. Foundation (Fairfield, CT)  
 The Green Kitty Cat Fund of the Lutheran  
 Community Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)  
 John Grutzik (Buena Park, CA)  
 Charles Hansen (Mt. Prospect, IL)  
 Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
 Verlan & Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Ralf & Inga Hoifeldt (Urbandale, IA)  
 John Hoos (Agoura Hills, CA)  
 Clement & Phyllis Hunter (Oregon City, OR)  
 Tim & Sharon Jensen (Blair, NE)  
 Frank Korshoj (Herman, NE)  
 Marty Kuhr (Blair, NE)  
 Barbara Martin (Morrison, CO)  
 Roger & Marilyn Nichols (Tucson, AZ)  
 W. Clayton Nielsen (Solvang, CA)  
 Clayton C. Niefert (Greeley, CO)  
 Robert & Karma Nilsen (Salinas, CA)  
 Ruth Nyegaard (Eugene, OR)  
 John E. Peterson (Plymouth Meeting, PA)  
 Sandra K. Rasmussen (Des Moines, IA)  
 Thomas & Margaret Richardson (Fond du Lac, WI)  
 William & Carole Schetter (Highlands Ranch, CO)  
 Larrie Stone (Blair, NE)  
 Karen Taylor (Springville, IA)  
 Thomson Reuters (Princeton, NJ)  
 Myrna Tostenson (Pine River, WI)  
 Sonja Walker (Minneapolis, MN)  
 Woodmen of the World (Greenwood Village, CO)

### Endowment:

Verlan and Helga Hanson (Blair, NE)  
 Dody Johnson (Iowa City, IA) in memory of Audrey  
 Berthelsen  
 Julie Johnson (Columbus, OH) in honor of Dody  
 Johnson

### 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)  
 Neil & Arlene Grover (Staples, MN)

## 50/100 (Cont.)

Fritz Hansen (Wichita, KS)  
Roger & Marilyn Hanson (Cedar Falls, IA)  
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
Elaine & Mark Hoyer (Blair, NE)  
Geraldine Jason (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)

## DANISH PIONEER NEWSPAPERS RETURN TO THE DAAL

After more than two years the DAAL's collection of the *Danish Pioneer* have been digitized and returned to Blair. The DAAL has the world's largest collection of the newspaper that was first published from Omaha in Danish and is currently published in Chicago. The DAAL's collection is even larger than the publisher's.

The digitization was accomplished through the efforts of the Museum of Danish America (MoDA) in Elk Horn, Iowa with funding from a Danish charitable foundation. According to Tova Brandt, curator of MoDA, the museum had long been concerned about the fragile nature of historic Danish-American newspapers, many of which survive in only a few (and sometimes in only one) copies. In order to both preserve these important documents and make them more widely accessible to researchers, the

museum sought support to digitize five complete titles of Danish-American publications: *Bien, Den Danske Pioneer, Dannevirke, Danskeren, and Bikuben*. In December 2011 the museum was awarded a grant of \$158,000 from the A.P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation of Copenhagen. This grant would support the entire effort to digitize and provide global, online access to these historic newspapers.

"What is always difficult to convey is the effort, time, and expense invested in cultivating the foundation," says MoDA director, John Mark Nielsen. "It took five years, at least ten visits to the foundation, and three proposals, two which were turned down before we were successful. Due in part to changes Danish law our follow-up proposal was turned down. But we've been successful in preserving these newspapers! People can often conclude that all you have to do is ask—it sometimes takes more than this."

In 2012 the physical newspapers were packed and transported from the DAAL, MoDA, Grand View University Danish Immigrant Archive, and the current publishers of *Den Danske Pioneer*. Four complete sets of newspapers – 260,000 pages - were delivered to Northern Micrographics, Inc. of La Crosse, Wisconsin, a company that specializes in digitization of historic documents and archives. By the fall 2013, the pages were available online and searchable, thanks to OCR (optical character recognition) software that allows the program to identify typeface, even in older gothic font styles. (*Bikuben*, in the collection of the Library and Archive of the Church of Latter Day Saints, will be digitized through their facilities.)

The physical newspapers are now returned to their respective archives and museum collections, and the Digital Library of Danish American Newspapers and Journals is now available online to researchers and history-lovers around the world. The digital library has already assisted the development of new exhibitions at the museum, for example in documenting Danish-American reactions to the 1920

vote that joined northern Slesvig to Denmark. In researching a future exhibition called "Skål! Scandinavian Spirits," searching the newspapers for terms like "Akvavit" and "Prohibition" has been a wonderful tool for exploring how Danish Americans reacted to debates about alcohol use and restrictions on importing Danish aquavit.

You can access the digital versions of the newspapers from the DAAL website by clicking on the Digital Archive link on the home page and then the Den Danske Pioneer link toward the bottom of the left hand column.

## CAROLYN POTTER 1939-2014

Anyone who attended Dana College during the tenure of President Myrv Christopherson will remember his longtime secretary, Carolyn Potter. We were saddened to learn that Carolyn died on July 1 at age 75. She retired in 2005 after working at Dana College for a total of 40 years and moved to Des Moines, Iowa, to be near her sister and her family.

President Christopherson said, "She was a wonderful secretary to me and to other administrators before me. She had a good spirit, loved Dana, and was the consummate confidential secretary. She was loved by her sister and nieces and nephews in Des Moines and was a marvelous help to Anne and me and our children over her years with us. She will be missed." ■



Longtime Dana College employee, Carolyn Potter

**Educational Needs (Cont.)**

seminary preparatory and academic departments became separate entities. That year's catalog lists eight departments, among them the seminary, the seminary preparatory school (which, Christensen writes, appeared to be "a combination of the two years of the academic school and the first two years of the college course"), the academy, and the college. (The other four were the commercial, education, and music departments and a "Hojksolen" for non-English speaking immigrants.)

For a few years after the merger the academy continued to offer classes only for high school juniors and seniors, but by 1907-08, according to that year's catalog, it had expanded to include classes for freshmen and sophomores as well.

Many academy graduates, men and women, went on to attend Dana College, and some men, after completing their college years, remained on campus to attend Trinity Seminary.

In 1936, after 50 years, the academy closed. By then most communities had public high schools, and it was no longer needed.

As noted, other colleges – and perhaps other early theological seminaries – also had academies. But Dana's winter term was probably unusual because it was also attended by young farm and construction workers and others with seasonal jobs who had slack time in the winter. Dating back to the turn of the twentieth century, it's listed in catalogs as a sixteen-week period, starting in late November and ending in late March. Christensen writes that the program was popular with seasonal workers because "it was as economical to live at the college during the idle months as it was to live in a boarding house, and they found it a far more profitable and interesting way to spend their time."

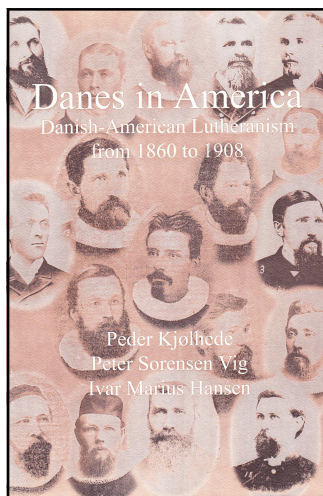
Participants could enroll in credit and noncredit courses, and Christensen notes that the latter appealed especially to Danish immigrants -- "young people who had no desire for degrees but who were eager to broaden their knowledge and understanding in various fields,

particularly English and American culture."

The last mention of the winter term is in the 1937-38 catalog, and Petersen writes that "its demise was no doubt related to the earlier decision to discontinue the academy."

To meet a variety of needs and situations, Dana College continued to offer educational opportunities outside its regular programs. From the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, for example, its Weekend College gave area residents, especially those with full-time jobs or with young children at home, an opportunity to work toward or complete their bachelor's degrees. ■

**DANES IN AMERICA  
ON SALE!**



Now is your chance to purchase and read in English about the difficult and turbulent events surrounding the formation of Danish Lutheranism in America from 1860 to 1908.

At just \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling, this wonderful book is available at a bargain over the \$22.50 cover price.

*(Nebraska residents add 7% sales tax.)*

Act soon. Just call 402-426-7910 order or by e-mail at [info@danishamericanarchive.com](mailto:info@danishamericanarchive.com)

- ◆ Nikolaj Christensen, a graduate student currently studying at Birmingham University in England spent the week of September 22 researching materials about the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Pentecostal movement. A native Dane, Nikolaj has lived and studied in England for the past three years, and plans to return there to write his thesis for his Ph.D. degree.
- ◆ Fall volunteer week is scheduled for October 6 through 10. A flu shot clinic is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7. The shots are free for anyone who has Medicare coverage. Our annual members meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 9 a.m. and will include election of several board members. Voting members are those who have donated time, money or materials within the past two years.
- ◆ The DAAL is hosting the Dana College alumni for our annual Kringle Mingle on Saturday, October 4. Once again we are offering good strong Danish coffee along with authentic Danish Kringle and homemade Danish cookies to go along with good visits, old friends and lots of fellowship.
- ◆ Our third intern from the University of Nebraska at Omaha started working at the DAAL in September. Daniel Harkins is a senior majoring in Library Science. He is working on the Erna and Robert Berthelsen collection, and says he is already leaning a lot.
- ◆ A good friend to the Archive is Bendt Jensen from Aabyhoej, Denmark. Bendt has visited us several times in the past, and we look forward to having him back in October. Bendt's cheerful helpfulness is always welcome.
- ◆ **Dates to remember**—The DAAL will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, and for Christmas December 22 through 26. We will reopen on Monday, December 29, 2014. We will be closed again at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31, and open again on Monday, January 2, 2015. Checks hand delivered by 3 p.m. or postmarked the 31st will be considered 2014 donations. ■

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Jill Hennick

We have many reasons to celebrate!

Because of a record number of donations in 2014, we have been in the black year-to-date since January. Adding that to the surpluses of the last four years, we

have a year's worth of operating income in liquid assets and a growing endowment of more than \$55,000. We have come a long way since July 2010!

On Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Blair City Council and Mayor Jim Realph voted to include the Archive in the plans for the new Blair City Library and Technology Center. DAAL would lease-purchase the 2,800 square feet we need for shelving and work space.

Because we are sharing so much space, such as the break room, conference room, computer space, etc., with the city library, we were able to reduce the actual number of square feet we have to finance. The maximum time to pay for our space would be the 40-year term of the loan, but as there is no penalty for prepayment, early payments would be to everyone's advantage. Our building committee consists of board members Marty

Koefoed and Nancy Sempek, DAAL volunteer Phil Larsen, and University of Nebraska at Omaha Archive Director Amy Schindler. They will meet with the architect soon.

The Blair City Library already hosts our online card catalog, and being in the new Blair City Library and Technology Center will enable us to take advantage of new technology without having to purchase it ourselves. Our inclusion will elevate the facility to a cultural center—there will be exhibit space where we will be encouraged to share our Danish history and traditions. Plans for a capital campaign are underway with goals of paying off the loan, perhaps expanding our space and building a sustainability fund. Now the real work begins!

It is good for us to wrestle with our vision for a long-term future. We know it is crucial for us to be tied to an institution of higher learning. Being located in Blair allows us to keep our partnership with UNO strong. Our third UNO intern started this fall, and the two previous interns continue to volunteer. Being in Blair also gives us the chance to partner with the Dana/Midland campus when it opens.

We have reasons to celebrate the progress made in other areas of the Archive as well. Kate Garrett completed her second summer as my

office/accounting intern. She started college this fall, and we wish her the best. Our second summer volunteer week was a rousing success. Our volunteers made a great deal of progress on obituaries, indexing the *Ansgar Lutheran*, the Jorgensen/Sorensen letters, protecting photographs and translating. We have started inventorying every box in our collection to determine what stage of processing they are in. Some need to be sorted, some coded, some indexed. These inventory forms will help us match necessary work with available volunteers.

We are also excited about our new collaborative effort with the Museum of Danish America to contract with former board member Paul Johnson as a Director of Planned Giving. You will hear more about that in the next issue of *Jottings*.

We celebrate the activity, the vision and the progress the Archive has made in the last four months. Thank you for all your ongoing support.





1738 Washington Street  
Blair, Nebraska 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### **BLAIR CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO INCLUDE THE DAAL IN NEW LIBRARY BUILDING**

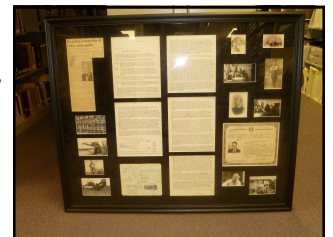
The Blair, Nebraska, City Council and Mayor Jim Realph voted to include space for the DAAL in plans for a new city library building at their meeting on September 23. This decision was key for the DAAL to begin raising the funds to finance their part of the building.

The plan is to add 2,800 square feet of space to the building along with an additional 1,000 square feet of exhibit space. The exhibit space would be available for exhibits such as the DAAL's "Danish Children Growing Up American" traveling exhibit, which is now on display at the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa, but it wouldn't be part of the space the DAAL has to finance. We were able to cut the required space for the DAAL nearly in half due to the space we will have access to from the Blair City Library. A conference room, break room, small auditorium and restrooms all will be shared space along with space for working on Archive materials and for digitizing and computer space.

Efforts are now underway to work out the floor plan with the selected architectural firm and to begin fundraising for this project. Be sure to watch for more information about the new DAAL building in the next issue of *Jottings*. ■

### **HANS GRAM SORENSEN**

For the past year, Linda Sorensen Grandage of Maryville, Tennessee, has been communicating with the DAAL regarding a wonderful collection of materials that detail the colorful career of her father, Hans Gram Sorensen.



Sorensen was born in Denmark and was educated in chemistry and agronomy. He immigrated to Canada at age 21, and later came to the United States where he worked as an agronomist for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. One of his major accomplishments was crossing two strains of rubber to create a hardier variety, which was important to the war effort during World War II. For this work he was awarded the Cruz de Boyaca by the Colombian government in 1952. He also created a superior strand of sugar for the American Sugar Company which had sugar plantations in Cuba at the time.

During his lifetime, Sorensen wrote several book chapters and magazine articles, and was featured in many more. His daughter, Linda Grandage has had many of these books and articles arranged into wonderful shadowboxes, which are currently on display at the DAAL. ■