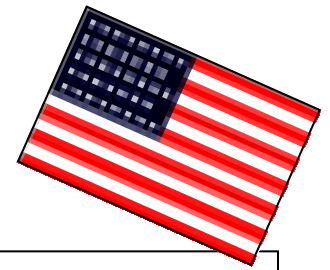


JOTTINGS



A publication of the Danish American Archive and Library

Sept.-Dec, 2015

SHARPENING OUR FOCUS

After more than five years of navigating through the stormy seas of the closing of Dana College and searching for a permanent home, the DAAL has finally sailed into safe harbor where we can stay for the next several years. And now we have the time to focus completely on our mission.

With the purchase of our building at 1738 Washington Street in Blair, staff and volunteers can finally turn their full attention to the actual business of accessioning, sorting and cataloging the priceless materials that continue to come in the door. One of our first priorities is to go through all the collections to eliminate duplicates and materials that don't apply to Danish American history. For example, the Dana College collection contains thousands of duplicate minutes of meetings. If six people attended a faculty meeting or a faculty senate meeting, we have six sets of minutes. And this is true of meetings of every sort from board of regents to student senate meetings.

Volunteer Joan Krogh of Blair spends all her time at the Archive going through this paperwork to eliminate the duplicates. "So far we have two bankers boxes just crammed with nothing but duplicates," she says, "and we still have binders full of duplicates that we haven't even started on."

At the same time we are reducing the size of some of the collections by eliminating duplicates and non-applicable materials, we continue to encourage donations of materials that we want to add to our collections. The types of materials we are looking for include:

- ◆ Books and periodicals written in Danish, English and even some Norwegian, and anything published by a Danish American publishing house
- ◆ Documents of all kinds, such as diaries, passports, medical records, citizenship paperwork, certificates showing membership in fraternal or social organizations, personal letters and postcards, photos, lecture notes, business and farm records, tax returns, church records and anything else that sheds light on the lives of Danish Americans
- ◆ Recorded and sheet music composed or performed by Danish or Danish American artists

As an archive we generally don't accept artifacts such as plates, figurines and framed paintings. Also materials written in languages other than those mentioned above that don't pertain to Danish or Danish American history.

We would especially like to receive materials such as:

- ◆ Military records—enlistment and discharge records, etc.
- ◆ Anything showing involvement in wars, including Danish wars
- ◆ Documents describing the experiences of women. Women often disappear from the records. For example, while we have extensive records about Lutheran pastors, their wives are mostly referred to as "Mrs. Jens Jensen" or "Mrs. Hans Hansen" and nothing more
- ◆ Danish American community histories and cemetery records
- ◆ Documents showing political or social activism or membership in labor unions

While our efforts to make the most of our space by eliminating some materials seems to conflict with our desire to encourage the addition of more materials, it all goes to sharpen the focus of the DAAL in collecting and providing to the public the most complete picture of the Danish American experience. ■



The Dana Room, located in the center of the DAAL, contains tens of thousands of documents. The goal is to eventually eliminate all the duplicates and digitize the collection.

FROM THE DANA ROOM

DANISH ROYAL COUPLE'S VISIT HELPS LAUNCH DANA'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

by Ann Harms George

When Denmark's Queen Margrethe II and Prince Consort Henrik left the Dana College campus after their May 20, 1976, visit, they carried with them a gift from the college of Dana T-shirts for their young sons, Frederik and Joachim.

On March 24, 2009, 33 years after his parents' visit and 70 years after his grandparents', Crown Prince Frederik, with his wife, Crown Princess Mary, spent an afternoon at Dana while on an eight-day tour of the U.S. As with the two earlier visits, they were accompanied by assistants, embassy staff members, Secret Service agents and Danish and American journalists.



Crown Princess Mary helps Crown Prince Frederik with his tassel after he received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Dana College.

Their Blair visit had two purposes: to participate in the convocation that would open the observance of Dana's 125th anniversary, and, after the campus events, to participate in a ground-breaking for the Novozymes plant on the Cargill campus. (Novozyymes, a Danish company, is a leader in bio-innovation.)

Their visit also included Crown Prince Frederik's participation in the college's first Sustainable Enterprise Conference, held in the Gardner-Hawks Center. Denmark is a world leader in sustainability, and in his concluding remarks at the conference, he noted that "By going green, Denmark has become one of the most energy-efficient countries in the world. . . . No matter where we live, and no matter who we are, meeting the challenge of climate change is not an option, it is a responsibility."

While he spoke at the conference, Crown Princess Mary was accompanied to the Durham Center, where she interacted with local preschool and kindergarten

children in learning games led by several Dana education majors.

She then joined her husband for the convocation, where he was given an honorary doctorate of humane letters. He was cited for his "wide view of the world," "great interest in the world's diversity of languages, religion and traditions" and his "patronage of a wide variety of cultural and charitable organizations in Denmark."

Among his remarks in his subsequent keynote address, Crown Prince Frederik said, "For some of the students here this afternoon, the friendships, fun and comfort of college days will soon be coming to an end. As you leave the confines of Dana College and Blair to sail out into the broader reaches, I am confident that what you have been taught here will help you thrive in your chosen careers and make you responsible citizens, as well."

The program also included the Danish national anthem, sung in Danish by the Dana College Chorale.

After the convocation, several Dana students met with the couple for an academic showcase featuring their science and history projects and art.

Dana's president, Dr. Janet Philipp, described the eventful day as a remarkable one for the college. ■



Ann George greets Crown Prince Frederik in the Gardner-Hawks Center at Dana College.

Information in this article is from personal recollection, the Dana Review (the alumni news magazine), the Washington County Enterprise and Pilot-Tribune, Omaha World-Herald and USA Today.



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Editor's Note: *Passages from India*, and all Lur Publications books, can be purchased at discount prices directly from the DAAL. For more information and prices, please contact us at 402-426-7910 or info@danishamericanarchive.com.

Passages from India: Letters, Essays and Poems, 1944-1946.

By Norman C. Bansen

Reviewed by Catrine Kyster Giery

Norman Bansen as a Young Man.

Norman C. Bansen, is closely intertwined with the Danish American community and the effort to document and share its history and culture. Bansen, who passed away in 2004, was a long-time professor at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. He was instrumental in establishing the Museum of Danish America, located in Elk Horn, Iowa, and was named a Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog in 1970. Supporting Bansen's importance are also 73 acid-free boxes containing his letters, essays and poems which can be studied at the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL). Knowing Bansen's later role in the Danish American community is one of several aspects which make *Passages from India* a

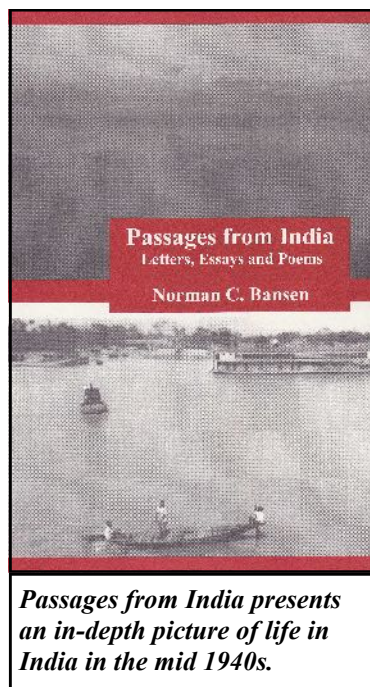
worth-while read and an interesting document attesting to Danish American as well as Danish American-Indian history. In this book, the reader gets to know young Bansen in the 1940s as he encounters both the colorful world of India and interacts in the multi-ethnic world of the U.S. Army. Reading the book, it is easy to imagine that

the author's time in India stimulated his interest in learning about different cultures as well as his understanding and appreciation of the importance of

members of different cultures getting to know each other. Bansen writes: "I look for the day when there'll no longer be patriotism as we know it today. True patriotism, as I see it, is love for one's own country and love of other nations, too."

In 1939, Bansen came to Dana College as a freshman from California; however, in 1942, WWII temporarily interrupted his studies. He joined up and was sent to India where he served as a captain at a U.S. Army hospital. The insights that he shares in this book – the

administrative work of an officer in the army, the daily life in the living quarters, his interactions with the Indian workers at the base, other Indians as well as Westerners living in the area – are unique as they provide a different perspective on the war than many other WWII accounts, which focus on combat. Bansen's war was relatively peaceful – mostly the constant daily enemy was the weather. However, Bansen, driven by curiosity and an open mind, takes every opportunity to explore. His visits to locations with Danish history are especially interesting to read as these aspects of history are not very well known, and Bansen describes them vividly. Such visits include the Assam Colony of the Lutheran Santal Mission of the Northern Churches, a mission which was supported by the two Danish church branches in the United States as well as the Lutheran churches of Denmark and Norway, and Serampore, a Danish settlement known as Frederiksnagore from around 1755 to 1845.



In the book, Bansen refers to himself as a Danish American but at other times as a Scandinavian from California and as an American. His ethnic self-identification seems inclusive, relational and fluent, not traditional and stringent. Signs of "Danishness" include sometimes using Danish words in

his letters to his family back home, longing for Danish Christmas hymns, enjoying a special comradeship with other Americans of Scandinavian descent, and referring to Danish culinary habits. However, Bansen is also very proud of being an American and writes highly of the way that Americans treat Indians. He is also fascinated by the variety of ethnic groups who are present in the U.S. Army: "I always enjoy thinking about all the different nationalities represented in groups such as the one last night. One must acknowledge the fact that therein lies America's greatness. Among the men last night there was a Jew, a German, one of English descent, two Virginians, descendants of French Huguenots; among the women two Canadians, one Irish, one English, and a German, a Norwegian, a Swede and one of Scotch descent. Wonderfully conglomerate America!" With this attitude, Bansen went on to become a very influential person who helped propel the Danish American community forwards. ■

The recently re-designed Lur brochure lists all the available books and the discount prices for direct sales.

VOLUNTEERS: 1,993 hours by 52 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Texas.

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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.

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The name of the 50/100 Club was inspired by the idea that if 100 members gave \$50 per month, most of our operating expenses would be met. Members sustain DAAL by giving a minimum of \$600 per year (given monthly, quarterly, or yearly according to the donor's preference). Those at the Founder's Level give at least \$2,000 per year. An added benefit of being part of the 50/100 club is receiving one donation acknowledgement for tax purposes in January reflecting a yearly total of all donations, rather than getting a separate acknowledgment for each financial contribution. These donations are part of the General Fund.

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 W. Clayton Nielsen
 Larry & Palma Plume
 Joan Sorensen ■

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Net Worth: \$282,000, \$50,000 building equity; \$147,000 liquid assets (\$28,000 designated); and \$85,000 endowment.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Founder Level, \$2,000 and over

Harold Andersen, Omaha, NE
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\$500 - \$999
 Stephanie Adams, Blair, NE
 Keith & Paula Anderson, Gaylord, MN
 Thomas Bengtson, Rock Island, IL
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 Becky Bryant, West Des Moines, IA
 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1, Omaha, NE
 Norman Freund, Fremont, NE
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 Verlan & Helga Hanson, Blair, NE
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 James Peterson, Richfield, MN
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 Sandra Rasmussen, Des Moines, IA
 Sandy Sonderup, Blair, NE
 Elaine Steenblock, Ames, IA
 Doug & Jane Wilson, Farragut, IA
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 Sandra Wunder, Greeley, CO
\$250 - \$499
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 Dennis Barten, Kirkwood, MO
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 Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35, Homewood, IL
 Katherine Dudrick, Blair, NE
 Eugene Gnuse, Arlington, NE
 Arvin Hernes, Blair, NE
 Lorraine Jensen, Blair, NE
 Herb & Carol Jorgensen, Green Lake, WI
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Patricia & Reynold Kube, Blair, NE
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Charles Lang, Orlando, FL
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Ruth McMaster, Nebraska City, NE
Gene & Susie Meyer, Blair, NE
Mary Miller, Blair, NE
Maxine Mitchell, Fremont, NE
Ellie Mommsen, Blair, NE
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**DEEPEST THANKS FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY!**

IN THE STACKS

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles by Library Assistant Michael Hennick. Michael provides invaluable service in organizing and streamlining the DAAL's book collections.

DANISH HYMNBOOKS (PSALMBØGER)

By Michael L. Hennick



The Danish psalmebøger currently occupy one section of shelving on the library side of the DAAL.

When the Danish American Archive and Library moved into our present location, we brought along box after box of uncounted Danish language hymnals. Most of these were small (4" to 7" high) books published from the 1860's until the 1960's. Called *psalmebøger* or *salmebøger* in Danish, they were a ubiquitous part of every church-going Dane's life. Most families had more than one copy if not one for every member. They were from a couple hundred pages to more than a thousand depending on hymn supplements or appendices (*tillæg*). Some editions contain the readings for the Sundays of the church year and various liturgical services, and before World War I they were printed in the old Gothic script. They were published in Denmark by various publishing houses and in the United States they were distributed in large numbers by the Danish Lutheran Publishing House in Blair.

Dana College had a vast collection of these books for use by students and given as donations to the library. All of them came to the DAAL to be organized and cataloged. We began with more than seven hundred copies of these small psalmebøger and had to decide what editions to keep. First, we wanted anything that could be directly connected to a family. Many of the hymnbooks have names in them, but most do not. Second, we wanted

a representative collection of all the many types and styles of salmebøger. Third, we had to discard any that were in appalling condition (mold, coverless, broken bindings, missing pages, etc.) and hopefully replace them with a better copy. Finally, when we had multiple copies we kept only the best one. In some case, though, if the edition is exceptionally rare, or if it was published by a Danish American publisher we held on to as many as four copies. One example of a rarity is a Danish Baptist *psalmebog* published in Chicago in 1867. Currently our cataloged collection of these small hymnbooks stands at about two hundred.

During the past five years we have continued to receive boxes of Danish books from families and organizations. Inevitably these donations will include an old, well-worn, and treasured psalmebog that linked someone to their Lord and their church in Denmark and then in America. The Danes are a "singing people" with a fine tradition of hymnody and we are pleased to help preserve it. ■

Why Not Have Your Cake, and Eat It Too!

Is the long-term financial strength of DAAL important to you? Would you like to receive more income from your savings and investments? Would you like to pay less in taxes?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you may want to consider a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) or a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). These gifting opportunities pay you income during your lifetime with the remainder amount benefitting your favorite charities.

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) pays you a guaranteed income as long as you and/or your spouse are living. And the older you are when you establish the gift annuity, the more income it pays! For example, a 70-year old currently gets 5.1%, an 80-year-old would get a 6.8% rate, while those 90 or over earn 9.0%.

A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is different in that it pays you a guaranteed *percentage* of the gifted asset (minimum of 5%), rather than a fixed dollar amount. While this means your income benefit will vary from year-to-year, it can benefit donors who expect to receive income for a longer time period because of the potential for income payments to keep pace with inflation. Another benefit of the CRT is that you can choose to have this income stream continue to your children.

So you can see that there's potential to provide you with more income. The tax benefits, of course, are a bit more complicated but, depending on whether you give cash or appreciated property and what payout arrangement you choose, there's potential for income tax deductions, reduced capital gains tax and possibly less estate tax. The good news is that we can calculate your approximate tax savings in advance so you'll have the information necessary to consult with your tax advisor before making a decision.

If you like the idea of enhancing your after-tax income by helping the Archive, please give Jill a call at the Archive, or you can call my cell phone, (402) 201-7024. *Tusind tak!* ■



Paul Johnson, Planned Giving Consultant for the DAAL and MoDA.



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:

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September marked my seventh anniversary of employment at the DAAL. This is noteworthy because it is the longest I have ever stayed at one job! It is fair to say that this job did not turn out at all as I expected when I arrived at Dana in September 2008. However, I am sure that most of our acid-free boxes are filled with life stories that didn't turn out as expected. As one of our loyal volunteers, the late Bee Krantz, used to say, "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans."

In October, we celebrated the fifth anniversary of occupying this building. As the *Blair Enterprise* noted in October 2010, "They may have only '1 percent of 1 percent' of their materials moved in, but the Danish American Archive is up and running – and in a new home." For our first volunteer week here, people were working on borrowed tables and even the floor! Now we are focusing on how to use this building to its maximum potential. Donations of materials continue, so we want to increase storage space while also enhancing work spaces through things like moveable shelving and digitization.

Already Library Assistant Michael Hennick has better organized our record collection, the audio visual materials and sheet music. He integrated the hymnals and bibles into our main library, which freed up shelf space for our newly acquired Lauritz Melchoir materials. Library Director Sharon Jensen evaluates all donations so that we add only books and materials that actually fit our specific criteria. And volunteers are systematically eliminating duplicate documents and photos in the Dana College collection.

Publicity for the DAAL continues through our website, *Jottings* newsletter and newly redesigned brochures. Word about the Archive has traveled to several other states. The *Danish Children Growing Up American* exhibit was on display at the Denver Public Library from October through December. It was there at the same time the Danish Sisterhood National Convention and the Danish American Heritage Society board meeting took place in Denver. Board member Palma Plume and husband Larry maintained a DAAL table at the convention, and board members Tim Jensen and Chris Gehringer attended the DAHS meeting. Board member Palma Plume represented the Archive at the Midwest Archive Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. Our resident college student, Kate Garrett worked for us again during her summer and Christmas breaks in 2015. Kate posted an entry about the DAAL on a blog at The Ohio State University.

We continue to reach out to other institutions in the area. Our community cooperation agreement with the University of Nebraska at Omaha has continued to benefit both institutions. So far we have hosted four interns from UNO. In addition we have hosted an intern from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Approximately 40 people attended our annual Kringle Mingle, which is also part of the Dana Homecoming festivities. Tim Jensen presented a program to the Blair chapter of the American Association of University Women here at the Archive. We are currently designing a one-day "hands on" Introduction to Archives course, which students from Midland University will be taking in 2016, and we hope to offer it to other colleges in the area as well.

In 2016, we will be standardizing the times when the DAAL will be closed—one week each in the spring, summer and at Christmas. Our spring break is scheduled for March 25 though April 1.

Anniversaries are times to celebrate. So are relationships that provide mutual benefits. We continue to enjoy old relationships and create new ones. Your interest and support are what keeps us going. We invite you to join us as often as you can, whether to volunteer or just to have a cup of coffee and visit. ■`



**Executive Director
Jill Hennick**



1738 Washington Street
Blair, Nebraska 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AROUND THE ARCHIVE

- ◆ Love is in the air at the DAAL! Former interns, Heather Hannaford and Neil Polsen, succumbed to the romantic atmosphere of the Archive and became engaged last June. Actually Neil admitted that he pursued his own internship at the DAAL so he could develop a closer relationship with Heather. They plan to be married in July after each has completed work on a masters degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Lucky for us, Heather and Neil have continued to volunteer since their internships ended. All of the volunteers and staff of the DAAL wish Neil and Heather the very best for the future.
- ◆ A new display is occupying the glass case at the front of the DAAL. Thanks to volunteer Helga Hanson of Blair, interesting artifacts and documents from the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood lodges are attractively displayed. Included are symbols of office, ballot boxes, instruction booklets for procedures and rituals, a large record book, flags and pennants, and even a drill team apron. This display will remain on view for the next several months, so be sure to stop in and see it whenever you are in Blair.
- ◆ Beginning in 2016, acknowledgements for small donations of materials, such as obituaries and other newspaper clippings, will be sent at the end of the year instead of monthly. We will, of course, send an acknowledgement for any substantial collections of materials whenever we receive them, and we will be happy to provide a special acknowledgement upon request. All these materials are the DAAL's lifeblood, so please keep them coming. Financial donations will continue to be acknowledged as in the past.
- ◆ Bob and Diana Christensen of Los Molinos, California, visited the DAAL in November. Bob was looking for information on the Christensen family farms in the area, and although we weren't able to provide the information he was looking for, we were able to provide information on some of his ancestors. A highlight of the visit lingered on well after they had left—a huge bag of fresh California walnuts, which we enjoyed at coffee breaks for weeks afterward!
- ◆ The first weekend in October we hosted Dana College alumni for our annual homecoming Kringle Mingle. Some 40 alumni mingled over kringle, coffee and cookies. Our annual members meeting took place on Wednesday of that same week, and a custom-made cake featuring a picture of the building on the frosting was served to celebrate the fifth anniversary of moving into our building. This anniversary was especially sweet, since we now own the building we were just renting five years ago.
- ◆ Help us create a family tree for former UELC pastors. While we have an abundance of information about the pastors themselves, we don't always have the links to their descendants. If you are related to a UELC pastor, please send us your family's connection and any other information that would apply. Also, if you are interested in volunteering to create this family tree for us, please contact Jill Hennick at 402-426-7910 or info@danishamericanarchive.com