



**THANKFUL FOR THE GIFT OF VOLUNTEERS**

by Jill Hennick, Executive Director

Our volunteers have always been the lifeblood of our organization. John W. Nielsen, Ninna Engskow, Ruth Herman Nielsen and Flo Hansen started recording volunteer hours on July 28, 1992. By September the regular volunteers grew to include Elizabeth Nielsen, Bee Krantz, Sara Hansen-Walter, Lorraine Madsen, Elaine Christensen, Dorothy Wright, and Eunice Neve.

Dody Johnson organized the first volunteer week in October 1992. The following volunteers joined the regulars: Carol Mengers

Johnson, Marian Anderson, Inga Larsen, Dody Johnson, Ed & Shirley Hansen, Norman Bansen and Margaret Madsen.

Volunteer weeks in April and October 1993 included additional volunteers Marion Svendsen and Oscar Johnson. And by the end of that year the locals added Janice Hansen, Luella Nielsen and Helga Hanson.

During the time that the Archive was housed at Dana College, the years with the most volunteers were 2002 and 2003 with 59 different people working. The most people volunteered in 2010, when Dana College closed and the Archive had to move out in three days. That year, we had 132 volunteers.

The second highest year was 2018 with 82 individuals. 2019 was still high with 65. However, COVID made a big difference in our numbers. 2023 is now the highest post-pandemic year with 52 volunteers so far. We're hoping to continue that upward swing.

Two of our new volunteers in 2023 were Debbie and Al Henke. They brought old, deteriorating church records from two Danish American churches in Wisconsin. They used our equipment to scan those records. After they put in the labor to complete the scans, they returned home with the original records and digital files, while leaving us a digital copy that can be used by researchers at the Archive. It also serves as an offsite backup if something happens to their records.

Sometimes people only volunteer for a day, but many more commit to volunteering at the Archive over the course of a number of years. Sixty-nine people have volunteered here 10 years or more.

- 28 years: Dody Johnson, John W. Nielsen
- 27 years: Ralf Hoifeldt
- 26 years: Helga Hanson, Inga Hoifeldt



*2011 group of volunteers. Front row: Beverly Petersen, Joan Sorensen, John W. Nielsen, Erna Berthelsen, Dody Johnson. Middle row: Helga Hanson, Sharon Jensen, Tim Jensen, Ralf Hoifeldt, Fritz Hansen, Nancy Larsen, Inga Hoifeldt, Borge M. Christensen, Palma Plume, Julie Johnson. Back row: Pete Petersen, Verlan Hanson, Myrvin Christopherson, Jill Hennick, Sandra Wigdahl, Anne Christopherson, Marilyn Svendgard, Ruth Rasmussen, Marjorie Wahlgren, Don Wahlgren, Marty Koefoed, Larry Plume.*

25 years: Verlan Hanson  
 24 years: Ann George  
 23 years: Elizabeth Nielsen, Joan (Jody) Sorensen  
 22 years: Ruth Rasmussen  
 20 years: Sara Hansen-Walter, Bee Krantz  
 18 years: Roger Hanson, Sharon Jensen, Eunice Neve, Sandra Wigdahl  
 17 years: Marilyn Hanson, Tim Jensen  
 16 years: Ed Hansen, Shirley Hansen, Pat Hunsche, Palma Plume, Marjorie Wahlgren  
 15 years: Christie Jensen Gehringer, Margaret Madsen, Sandy Sonderup  
 14 years: Ninna Engskow  
 13 years: Pat Bentsen, Arvin Hernes, Oscar Johnson, Marty Koefoed, Julie Rohlfing, Dorothy Wright  
 12 years: Erna Berthelsen, Janice Hansen, Jill Hennick, Lorraine "Toots" Jensen, Julie Johnson, Gary Madsen, Rita McManigal, Matt Petersen, Pete Petersen, Eileen Simonsen, Jens Simonsen, Marion Svendsen  
 11 years: Fran Anderson, Norman Bansen, Elaine Christensen, Esther Freund, Michael Hennick, Joan Krogh, Inga Larsen, Marilyn Nielsen  
 10 years: Betsy Anderson, Borge M. Christensen, Sherry Forrest, Barbara Garrett, Frederick "Fritz" Hansen, Lynette Hunt, Ada Jeppesen, David Johnson, George Madsen, John Mark Nielsen, LeVern Nielsen, Luella Nielsen, Ruth Herman Nielsen, Shirley Petersen, Larry Plume, Harold Wright

We've been so blessed to know and work with so many wonderful people over the years. We've had a total of 398 volunteers and they have provided over 149,000 hours of work! That's like having had 2 full-time employees working the entire 32 years since 1992. Amazing!

Maybe you've considered joining our team. June 18, 19 and 20, 2024, we are having Dana College work days. All the projects will be related to Dana College, with an emphasis on identifying photos and sorting materials. There is no requirement to work a certain amount of time, so feel free to drop in and see if you can help. We'll be serving coffee and treats at 10 AM and 3 PM. ■

*1993 group of volunteers:  
 Elizabeth Nielsen, Marian  
 Anderson, John W. Nielsen, Flo  
 Hansen, Ruth Herman Nielsen  
 and Bee Krantz*



*New volunteers Debbie and Al  
 Henke scanning church records  
 from St. John's Lutheran  
 Church in Oregon, Wisconsin.*



**Danish American  
 Archive & Library**

Jill Hennick, Executive Director  
 1738 Washington Street, Blair, Nebraska 68008  
 Telephone: (402) 426-7910  
 E-mail: [info@danishamericanarchive.com](mailto:info@danishamericanarchive.com)  
 Hours: 8am-3 pm, Monday-Friday

## Lars Einar Vig (1905-1972)

One of the larger and more frequently used collections at the DAAL is that compiled by Einar Vig, ninth of the thirteen sons of Peter Sørensen (“P. S.”) Vig, who was an early president and long-time professor at Dana College and Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska. Born Lars Ejnar Vig in 1905, he would be known by the Americanized form of his middle name, “Einar.” Like many of his siblings, he would attend Dana’s Academy, which provided a high school level education, although he did not go on to college level. While at Dana, Einar played tennis and was the “long shot specialist” on the basketball team.

Thereafter, he tried his hand at a variety of occupations: farming, raising poultry, electrical and mechanical work, and carpentry. Barbara Beck’s 1974 biography of Einar Vig makes it clear that he was very independent-minded and was most comfortable working alone and on his own terms.

As described in that work, Einar moved in 1964 to a small house next to the railroad tracks on North 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Blair, where his primary activity was genealogical research focused on Washington County with a non-exclusive interest in its Danish inhabitants, a pursuit that continued until his death in 1972.

What resulted is now referred to as “The Vig Collection.” This contains tens of thousands of handwritten pages documenting every person that Einar could identify as having lived in Washington County, Nebraska, from the early pioneer days to the 1970s. Using census records, court records, plat maps, histories of the area and newspapers, he created an index based primarily on heads of households, listing their spouses, children, dates of birth and death, spouses of children and burial locations. Most of these index entries, or “Family Sheets” as he called them, also include references to every local newspaper article relevant to the persons and families in question, sometimes with short descriptions of the article’s content. An example with explanation is on the following page.

The collection contains box after box of several iterations of these index sheets, showing how Einar compiled and re-compiled them over the years as he refined his work.

Einar applied the same attention to the cemeteries of Washington and surrounding counties in Nebraska, putting together lists of burials sorted alphabetically and by date of burial. His data is sometimes more complete than more recent references, no doubt because the stones were not as weathered when he did his work.

A non-exhaustive (but exhausting) listing of Einar’s work can be seen on the DAAL’s Digital Archive (<http://archive.danishamericanarchive.net/images-for-articles-news-etc/collection-index-pages/vig-collection>). Scans of his major collections are also available online there. Barbara Beck’s biography of Einar Vig can be downloaded from: <http://p5da.danishamericanarchive.net/repository/archive/collections-in-the-stacks/vig-996-vig-family-collection/einar-vig-biography.pdf/download>. That last link will immediately download the document to whatever location your browser is set to use. ■



*Einar Vig's 1925 graduation photo (Dana Academy)*



*Einar Vig later in life*

**Explanation of Family Sheet Example**

Einar used many abbreviations for towns, townships, cemeteries, names of newspapers and so on.

**J Constant Cachelin**, who arrived in Washington County in 1855; Cabinetmaker; 57 in 1870, 47 in 1860

Born in Gormagne, France, Oct 13, 1812. Died Feb 11, 1896 in DeSoto; buried in Blair Cemetery, Block 8, Lot 7

Wed Sept 1840 in France, Elizabeth Grosboillot, who was born in 1810 in France. She died on Aug 11, 1879, in DeSoto and is buried in Blair Cemetery, Block 8, Lot 7. She was 59 in 1870 and 49 in 1860 census records.

**6 Children:**

Urban, born 11/1/1842 in Alabama, died 1/8/1928, buried in Blair Cemetery, Block 72, Lot 8; wife Frances Church; married in DeSoto

Alfred M, born in Alabama; 16 years old (in 1860 census)

Edward, born in Alabama in 1846; died on 11/11/1904 in Spearfish SD; wife Columbia Dotson

Theodore L, born in Alabama in 1847; died in 1871; buried in Blair Cemetery, Block 8, Lot 7

Josephine (aka Jane), born in Alabama in 1850 ("10 Ala"); married Wm Dunn who is buried in Fort Calhoun Cemetery; married Chas Perky; buried in Wahoo NE cemetery

George Constant, born on 9/10/1851 in Missouri; died 11/20/1930; buried in Blair Cemetery, Block 8, Lot 7; married Mary E Petersen in DeSoto.

**Sources:**

1860 US Census (De Soto) ("as listed" meaning as shown above)

1870 US Census (De Soto): 3 sons/1 daughter @ home (Urban and Ed have own households)

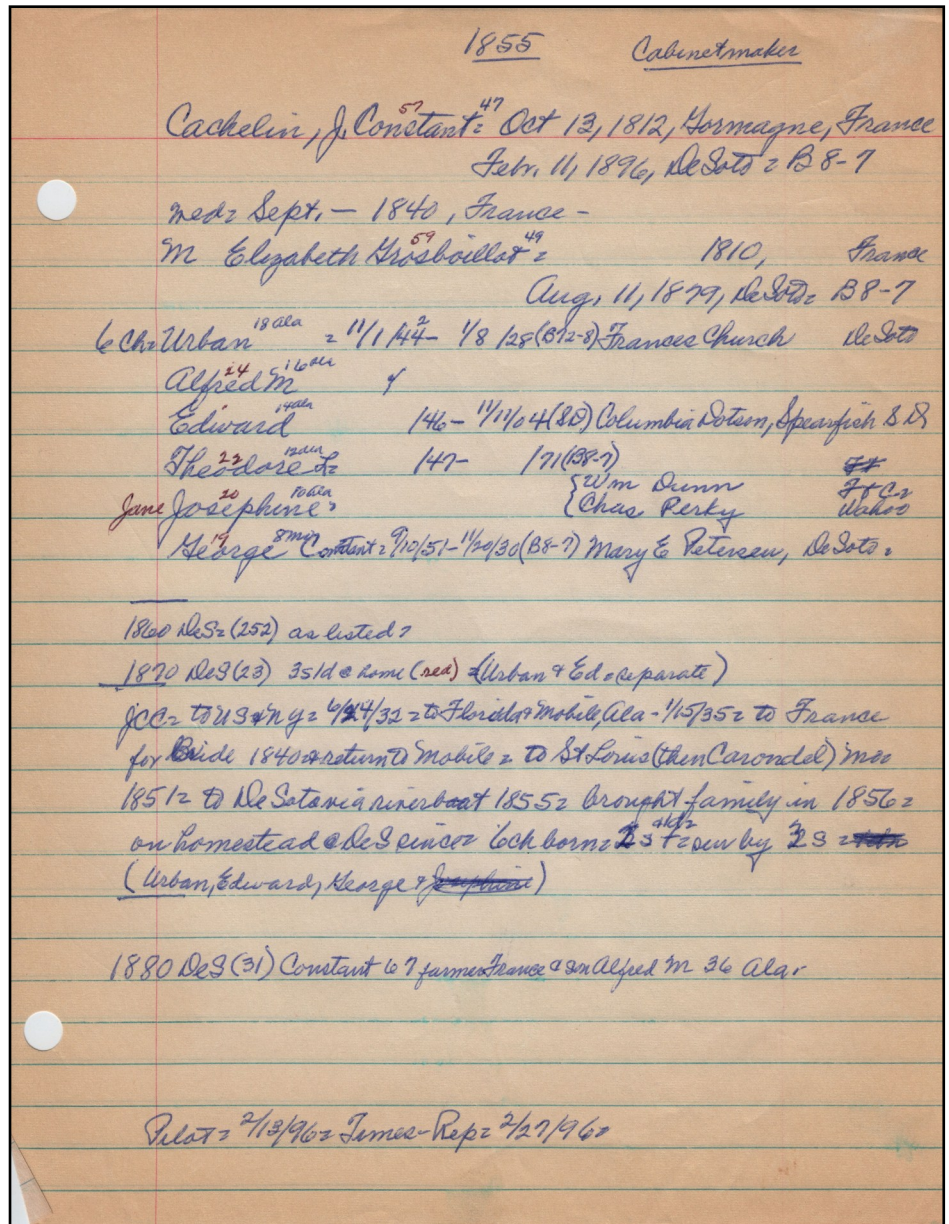
From obituary in the Times-Republican: J Constant Cachelin came to US (New York) 6/24/1832; to Florida then Mobile AL 1/15/1835; returned to France in 1840 for his bride, then returned to Mobile; to St Louis MO (then known as Carondel) in 1851; to De Soto NE by riverboat in 1855; brought family (from Missouri) in 1856; on homestead at De Soto since then; 6 children; 2 sons & 1 daughter deceased (†); survived by 3 sons (Urban, Edward and George).

1880 US Census (De Soto): Constant age 67, farmer born in France; son Alfred M age 36, born in Alabama

**Newspaper references:**

Pilot 2/13/1896;

Times-Republican 2/27/1896



**VOLUNTEERS:** 1,543 hours by 42 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, South Carolina and Wisconsin  
**VISITORS:** 208 visitors from Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, Denmark and Greece.  
**USERS:** 60 researchers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Virginia, Wisconsin, Argentina, Canada, Greece and email/phone/Facebook.

## ACQUISITIONS

### Materials

**The Archive could not continue to document the history of Danish Americans without these wonderful materials including complete family collections, photos, books, periodicals, music and obituaries. We appreciate your financial donations to support the processing and storage of your materials.**

Elisabeth Bruun Andersen (Wilmington, DE)  
Erik Andersen (Croton on Hudson, New York)  
Anonymous (Blair, NE)  
Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
Nelson Block (Houston, TX)  
Joan Bucy (Tekamah, NE)  
Rolf Buschart Christensen (Ontario, Canada)  
Bent & Lee Collin (Cedar Hill, MO)  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #113 (Enumclaw, WA)  
Eileen Ellis (Panora, IA)  
Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
Genealogy Center (Elk Horn, IA)  
Eric George (Blair, NE)  
Catrine Giery (Myrtle Beach, SC)  
Bonnie Grams (Hastings, NE)  
Linda (Jensen) Hall (Cedar Falls, IA)  
Duane & Deloris Hansen (Omaha, NE)  
Ron Hansen (Johnstown, CO)  
Karen Hansen (Omaha, NE)  
Alan Hanson (Omaha, NE)  
Debbie Henke (Fitchburg, WI)  
Mary Lou Henneman (Youngstown, OH)  
Susan Hettinger (Westminster, CO)  
Alvina Hjortsvang estate (Omaha, NE)  
Jim Iversen (Decorah, IA)  
Robin Jensen (New Franken, WI)  
Vibeke Jensen (Bennington, NE)  
Arne Jessen (Woodbury, MN)  
Andy Johnson & Kathy Gerking (Omaha, NE)  
Dave & Michele Johnson (Council Bluffs, IA)  
Julie Johnson (Columbus, OH)  
Paul & Liz Johnson (Loveland, CO)  
Andrea Jones (Kansas City, MO)  
Phil Jorgensen (Alberta, Canada)  
Rich & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)  
Joseph's Coat (Blair, NE)  
Nancy B. Larsen (Milwaukee, WI)  
Brian Lunn (Upsala, MN)  
Gary & Diane Madsen (Omaha, NE)  
Peter Mathiasen (British Columbia, Canada)  
Barbara Meduna (Monument, CO)  
Ruth Mortensen (North Olmstead, OH)  
Museum of Danish America (Elk Horn, IA)

Leon & Alice Neve (St. Paul, MN)  
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
John W. & Elizabeth Nielsen Family  
Patti Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Liv Paulson Norderhaug (Chanhassen, MN)  
Sally Oberg (Hooper, NE)  
Ivan & Pat Paulsen (Walker, MN)  
Lance & Monique Poldberg (email)  
Don & Sharon Seaton (Omaha, NE)  
Ed Shada (Omaha, NE)  
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)  
Jan Sorensen (Columbus, OH)  
St. John's Lutheran Church (Oregon, WI)  
Carol Svendsen (Denver, CO)  
John Thomsen (Greece)  
Charlotte Travis (San Antonio, TX)  
Kitty Wooley (Colorado Springs, CO)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Memorials

Gary F. Hansen  
Cynthia Schou (Bloomington, MN)  
Eleanor Schou (Albert Lea, MN)  
Arvin Hernes  
Jack & Lois Beal (Bothell, WA)  
Alvina Hjortsvang  
Bob & Martha Christiansen (Scottsdale, AZ)  
Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Paul Hjortsvang & Janet Schultz (Boone, IA)  
Paul & Liz Johnson (Loveland, CO)  
Clark & Christine Larsen (Columbus, OH)  
Earl, Dorthea & Kurt Jensen  
Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
Timothy A. Jensen  
Marvene & Dave Everson (Omaha, NE)  
Corinne Robinson (Minneapolis, MN)  
Dody Johnson  
Julianne Johnson (Columbus, OH)  
Mary (Jacobsen) Klopp  
Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
David J. Knutson  
Carol Knutson (Preston, MN)  
Elizabeth Nielsen  
Karla Broman (Omaha, NE)  
John W. Nielsen  
Karla Broman (Omaha, NE)  
Roger Olson  
Jack & Lois Beal (Bothell, WA)  
Karla Broman (Omaha, NE)  
Phil Pagel  
Lorraine Jensen (Bloomington, MN)  
Donald & Audrey Pedersen  
Ted Pedersen (Duluth, MN)  
Ruth Rasmussen  
Anthony Abboud (Bennington, NE)  
Larry & Marilyn Becherer (Omaha, NE)

Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)  
Karla Broman (Omaha, NE)  
Phyllis Bunten (Blair, NE)  
Margaret Castiglioni (St Charles, MO)  
Gary Christensen (Omaha, NE)  
Greg & Sally Christiansen (Kennard, NE)  
Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Kevin & Cheryl Dunbar (Wahoo, NE)  
Patricia Dutch (Omaha, NE)  
David & Kathleen Everhart (Omaha, NE)  
Greg & Kay Forest (Marion, IA)  
Barbara & Dennis Garrett (Blair, NE)  
Kate Garrett (Arlington, VA)  
James Harper (Omaha, NE)  
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, NE)  
Tom & Colleen Harper (Omaha, NE)  
Sally Hrdy (Omaha, NE)  
Del & Trudy Hutton (Blair, NE)  
Pamela Ivbulis (Elkhorn, NE)  
Sharon Jensen (Omaha, NE)  
Marjorie Johnson (Blair, NE)  
Rich & Pat Jorgensen (Blair, NE)  
Debbie & Arnold Katt (Herman, NE)  
Russ & Michelle Knapp (Bennington, NE)  
Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)  
Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
Rich & Lisa Leahy (Yutan, NE)  
Nancy Lindblad (Blair, NE)  
Tom & Janice Lippincott (Blair, NE)  
Donna Madsen (Omaha, NE)  
Joyce & Terry Moran (Cedar Rapids, IA)  
Roger & Donna Nelson (Blair, NE)  
Steve & Lynda Nelson (Cedar Rapids, IA)  
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen (Blair, NE)  
Dan & Donna Persson (Kearney, NE)  
Brent & Barbara Petersen (Norfolk, NE)  
Carol Prendergast (Omaha, NE)  
Russell & Marilyn Price (Omaha, NE)  
Bill Rasmussen (Blair, NE)  
Scott & Colleen Rasmussen (Omaha, NE)  
Roy & Suzie Rayner (Omaha, NE)  
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)  
Larrie Stone (Ames, IA)  
Arlene Stork (Fremont, NE)  
Sharon Tauke (Cedar Rapids, IA)  
Bill & Donna Taylor (Neligh, NE)  
Judy Thompson (Blair, NE)  
Peggy Trout (Omaha, NE)  
Martha Staby  
Karen Hansen (Omaha, NE)  
Greg Witte  
Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
**Honoraria**  
Betsy Anderson  
Lorraine Jensen (Bloomington, MN)  
Rev. Arden & Roxanne Dorn for leading efforts to help the people of Tanzania

## FINANCIAL REPORT (continued)

with assistance of other Dana alumni & friends

Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Ndewirwa & Eunice Kitomari for leading efforts to help the people of Tanzania with assistance of other Dana alumni & friends

Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)

### General Fund

**All donations are placed in the General Fund unless otherwise specified. Those who give through the 50/100 Club are listed in each issue of Jottings.**

Marilyn & Ernest Abariotes (Blair, NE)  
Anonymous/cash donations  
Dennis Barten (Manning, IA)  
Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)  
Frida Brewer (Lampasas, TX)  
Connie & Steve Buller (Blair, NE)  
Judith Clark (Florence, WI)  
Bent & Lee Collin (Cedar Hill, MO)  
William E. & Rose Marie Davis Foundation (Bennington, NE)  
Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)  
Milbern & Kathy Goetz (Greeley, CO)  
Cynthia Gunderson (Elgin, IL)  
Linda Hall (Cedar Falls, IA)  
Charles E. Hansen (Mt Prospect, IL)  
Kay Hansen (Minneapolis, MN)  
Stuart Hansen & Erica Eddy (Mount Pleasant, WI)  
Frederick "Fritz" J. Hansen estate  
Alan & Debbie Henke (Fitchburg, WI)  
Sharon Henricksen (Lincoln, NE)  
Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)  
David & Michele Johnson (Council Bluffs, IA)  
Alice M. Jorgensen (Royal Oak, MI)  
Jean Kaldahl (Port Townsend, WA)  
Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)  
Lowell & Marilyn J. Kramme (Des Moines, IA)  
Bill Krause (Columbia, MO)  
Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)  
Gilda McCorkle (Louisville, NE)  
Richard & Cheryl Mohr (Fountain Valley, CA)  
NE/CO Dist. Danish Sisterhood (Ceresco, NE)  
Norma Naby (Omaha, NE)  
Beth Paulsen-Olmstead (Westbrook, ME)  
Robert & Darlene Rademacher (Lincoln, NE)

Kathy Ryan (Beaver Dam, WI)  
Jan Sorensen (Columbus, OH)  
Kyle von Kamp (Ashland, OH)  
Kitty Wooley (Colorado Springs, CO)  
Kathy Zwanziger (Columbus, OH)  
**2023 Thrivent Choice/YourCause Gifts**  
Lee Barney (Oregon City, OR)  
Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)  
Roger Hanson (Saint Paul, MN)  
Carol Haussermann (Blair, NE)  
Susan Hettlinger (Westminster, CO)  
Debbie Katt (Blair, NE)  
Linda Kastrup (Blair, NE)  
Kevin Knitt (Stevens Point, WI)  
Lee Anne Lack (Montrose, MN)  
Jeanette Larson (Pipestone, MN)

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

*Note: We appreciate your Thrivent Choice designations to the Archive. We didn't receive a list of the individuals who designated the DAAL in August 2023, so if we've missed listing you this year, please let Jill Hennick know.*

### 50/100 Club

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

### 50/100 FOUNDER LEVEL

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

### 50/100 GENERAL

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

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

### Legacy Builders

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

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

## ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Ada Stokes Jeppesen Memorial Fund	100,000
Deloris Hansen Bengtson Memorial Fund	67,500
Oscar & Dody Johnson Memorial Fund	13,000
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling Memorial Fund	10,000
John T. & Virginia (Lippincott) Beck Memorial Fund	7,500
Rev. Aster & Ruth Neve Family Memorial Fund	7,500
Dagmar Vasby Memorial Fund	7,000
Martin & Else Andersen Memorial Fund	4,500
Earl Jensen Family Memorial Fund	4,000
Rev. Sigurd D. & Dorothy M. Petersen Memorial Fund	3,500
Maryann & Jerry Lund Memorial Fund	2,500
Subtotal of named funds with balances over \$1,000	227,000
General Endowment Fund	130,000
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	<b>357,000</b>

# IN THE STACKS

## A Danish Christmas in the Mail

By Michael Hennick, Collections

The Danish American Archive & Library has over 400 Danish and Danish American periodicals. Nearly seventy of these were Christmas (Jul) publications that various groups and publishers put out yearly during the holiday season. They were often aimed at specific readers or dealt with certain topics or locales. Others were simply any and all things Christmas. The custom of the Christmas issue or annual (Julebøger) continues to this day.

*Ved Julelampens Skær* (By the Christmas Lamp's Glow) is an ongoing magazine published in Copenhagen that began in 1918. It contains primarily inspiring short stories by various authors and illustrators. The DAAL has a nearly complete collection from 1924-1979. Another example of a general Christmas periodical is in the form of an almanac. *Jule-Kalender* had a short life from 1885-1887, and consisted of calendar pages, short stories and poems. Interestingly, its editor, Elith Reumert, was a Danish actor and author who later wrote a book about a journey to America in 1900 (*Min Amerikarejse*).



The 1925 issue of *Julegranen*  
(The Christmas Tree)

Many Christmas annuals focused on a particular town or region in Denmark. These had such titles as *Jul i Roskilde*; *Jul i Randers*, and *Jul i Græsneland* (the Danish-German border). The Danes in America also put out magazines for the Christmas season. One of the most renowned, and long-lived, was *Julegranen* (The Christmas Tree). Published in Cedar Falls, Iowa from 1896 to 1950, this periodical featured devotional articles, and original stories, poems, as well as articles about Danish America. Enok Mortensen, the pastor and historian, wrote of *Julegranen*: “for more than half a century this annual served as an important religious and cultural depository.” The DAAL is fortunate to have a nearly complete collection of this important Danish American publication.

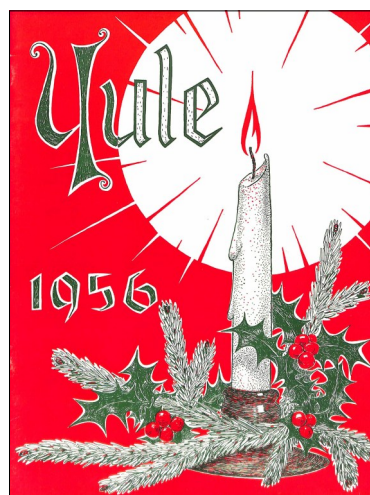
The yearly Christmas publications also focused on particular groups of people. Titles such as *Danske Kvinders Jul* (Danish Women’s Christmas); *Familiens Julebog* (The Family’s Christmas book); *Spejder Jul* (Scout’s Christmas); *Ungdommens Julebog* (The Youth’s Christmas Book); and *Ældres Julebog* (The Old Folks’ Christmas Book) are examples from Denmark. They featured a wide variety of articles, stories, poems, songs, and even puzzles and comics. An American example is *Yule* published from 1945-1961 by the youth and for the youth of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church based out of Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. It contained inspiring fiction and non-fiction articles for the holiday.



The 1964 issue of *Jul i Roskilde*  
(Christmas in Roskilde)



The 1939 issue of *Ved Julelampens Skær*  
(By the Christmas Lamp's Glow)



The 1956 issue of *Yule*

These are just a few of the many examples of Danish and Danish American Christmas publications in the collections of the Danish American Archive & Library. Jul may be the most important season of the year for Danes (as it is for many) and that includes both readers and writers doing their part to make it a blessed season. ■

## FROM THE DANA ROOM

The “Sights and Sounds of Christmas” was the annual holiday celebration at Dana College. Begun in 1973, and held on the first Sunday in December, the event was able to draw as many as 5,000 people to campus. Music, drama, worship, dancing, crafts, shopping, and lots of food filled the day. These events highlighted primarily Dana’s Danish and Scandinavian heritage.

The highlight for many was the smorgasbord. The following entry from Dana’s centennial cookbook, *Recipes and Reminiscence*, provides a description of the table. [The traditional Danish items marked with a star have recipes in the book.]

The Smorgasbord: A smorgasbord, which can be served at any time of the year, traditionally has a cold table, a hot table, and cheese and dessert tables. Dana’s “Sights and Sounds” cold table can include herring in wine sauce, herring in sour cream, cucumber salad\*, beet pickles, cottage cheese, cold sliced ham, leverpostej\* (liver paste), smoked salmon, macaroni and gelatin salads, and pickles. Several breads, including pumpernickel, are at the beginning of the hot table. This part of the smorgasbord might feature frikadeller\* (meat patties), aebleskiver\* (smoked bacon with apples and onions), rødkaal\* (red cabbage), brunede kartofler\* (sugar browned potatoes), stuffed roast pork loin, and creamed peas and carrots. The cheese and dessert tables offer a variety of cheeses and a choice of desserts, such as ablekage\* (apple cake), lagkage\* (layer cake), or rødgrød med fløde\* (red fruit pudding with cream).

*Recipes and Reminiscence* was prepared by the Dana Women’s Club in 1984. Beyond a host of recipes it contains numerous Dana College bios, photographs, memories, events, and quotes from campus publications. The book is so important to Dana’s history, and so popular with visitors to the DAAL, that we have had to regularly reprint and offer it for sale at \$10.00 (or \$15.00 by mail).

From the chapter “Student-Faculty Memories” we include Norman C. Bansen’s recipe for aebleskiver. Bansen was professor of English and Danish at Dana College for nearly forty years. ■



### Aebleskiver

2 cups flour  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
½ teaspoon salt  
3 large eggs, separated  
2 cups buttermilk  
3 tablespoons butter, melted  
Optional: ½ teaspoon cardamom  
½ cup raisins

Mix dry ingredients, including optional cardamom. Beat egg yolks and add to buttermilk. Add dry ingredients and mix; add melted butter. Add raisins that have been soaked in hot water for a few minutes. Fold in thoroughly beaten egg whites. Bake in an aebleskiver pan generously greased with a mixture of melted butter and melted vegetable shortening over medium heat. Turn baked portion (traditional tool is a knitting needle) in order to bake other half. Serve hot with butter, sugar, applesauce, syrup, or jam.



Lleana Wright, Carla Andersen, and Anne Christopherson making aebleskivers in the Dana Campus Center kitchen



### Contact Information

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

OLD ADDRESS:  see label on reverse, *or*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW ADDRESS

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

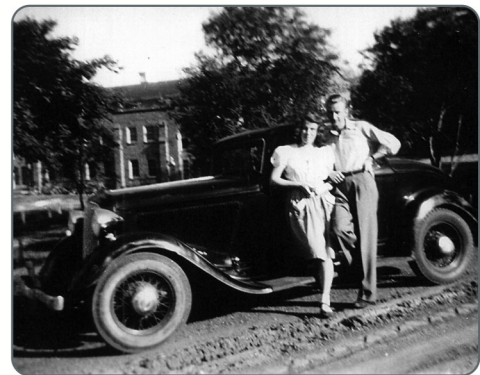
\_\_ Seasonal (repeat every year) from \_\_\_\_\_(month) to \_\_\_\_\_(month)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ ( send *Jottings* via email)

Additional information \_\_\_\_\_

## Featured Danish American Commemorative Wall Panel

As mentioned in the lead story, Dody Johnson began organizing Archive Volunteer weeks in 1992 and continued to volunteer for 28 years. Oscar Johnson volunteered for 13 years. The Danish American Commemorative Wall continues to grow. A limited number of panels are still available. We will continue to feature a panel in each issue of the newsletter. To see all of the panels, stop by the Archive or visit the Commemorative Wall Gallery on our website. ■



### Oscar and Dody Johnson

Dolores ("Dody") Jensen, the daughter and granddaughter of Danish immigrants, was raised in Albert Lea, MN. She attended Dana College where she met Oscar, the son of Norwegian immigrants, from Howard County, NE. Oscar was ordained by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, a historically Danish synod, in 1947. Dody and Oscar married in 1950. They served congregations in Brooklyn, NY; Avoca, IA; Detroit, MI; Harlan, IA and Carnegie, PA. His final call was at the Cedar Falls Lutheran Home in Cedar Falls, IA.

Both Oscar and Dody volunteered at the DAAL, with Dody coordinating volunteer weeks, twice a year, for over twenty years.

## PARTING SHOT

**Merry Christmas from the Danish American Archive and Library!**



The Wolter Family of Mankato MN, 1924 (from the John & Meta Nielsen Collection)