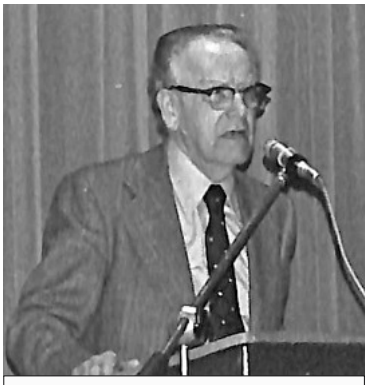
Danish American Archive & Library

Jottings NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

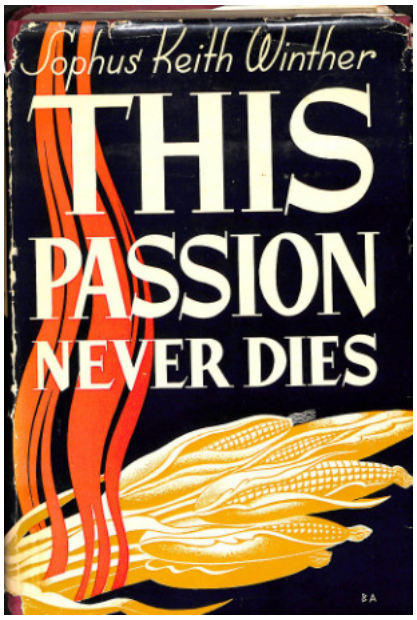
Sophus Keith Winther and the Immigrant Story

"Even in his dreams he saw Denmark only at rare intervals; it was always the new land of America with its great difficulties that disturbed his sleep."*



Winther lecturing at Dana in 1976

An important collection at the Danish American Archive and Library is that of Sophus Keith Winther (1893-1983). He was born in Denmark and came to America with his family at the age of two in 1895. After two years on the East Coast the family settled near Weeping Water, Nebraska. In 1912, when Sophus was eighteen, he followed the family to Oregon. There he was educated at the University of Oregon and later at the University of Washington. Eventually he became a professor of English at the latter school and held that position for forty-one years. In 1925 he married one of his former students, Mabel Eline Peterson, an Icelander from North Dakota.



Winther was a passionate student and teacher of literature. He published six books in his lifetime (and attempted to publish many more) as well as numerous critical reviews and articles. He was considered one of the leading experts on the life and work of American playwright Eugene O'Neill, whom he befriended. Winther is primarily remembered for his Grimsen trilogy. These three works of fiction tell the story of the Grimsens, a family of Danish immigrants who settled on the Nebraska prairies in the early 20th century. The books are entitled *Take All to Nebraska*; *Mortgage Your Heart*; and *This Passion Never Dies*.

Winther's youth in Nebraska was always the focus of his works. Only one novel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, was set in the Pacific Northwest. His trilogy is no tale of rags to riches in America, but rather a harsh story of the struggle to make a living and adapt oneself to an alien world. The first generation is lost between Denmark and America while their children become evermore American and thus strangers to their parents. The family must overcome both the stigma of being "foreigners" and the ugly truth that a farmer's hard work alone cannot overcome the unpredictability of nature, the weight of debt and the fluctuations of the market. Winther does not spare the reader any of the psychological pain that his two generations of characters experience as immigrant farmers in the process of Americanization.

One of Winther's dime novels from 1909

The Sophus Keith Winther collection at the DAAL encompasses thirty-six boxes of manuscripts, correspondence, reviews, addresses, articles, clippings, photographs and a collection of dime novels from the early 20th century, the latter of which Winther credits as the beginning of his literary interests. ■

*Sophus Keith Winther, *Take All to Nebraska*. (New York: Macmillan, 1938), p. 23.

In The Stacks

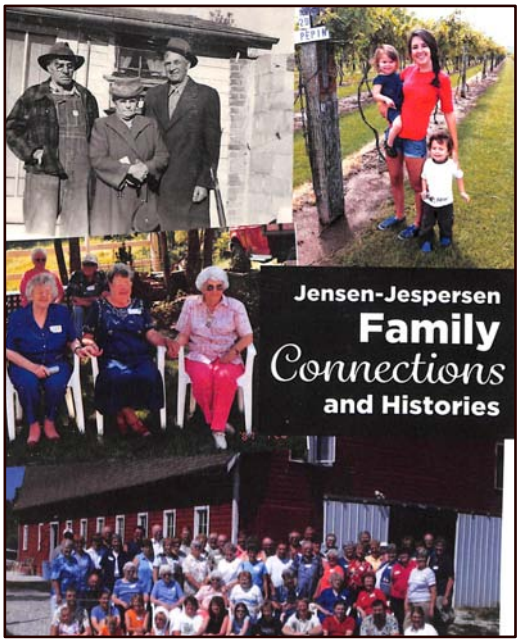
The Family History

By Michael L. Hennick

"Life must be understood backwards. But it must be lived forwards."
- Søren Kierkegaard

In most families there is someone who functions as the family historian or genealogist. For many it is a labor of love and for others it is a duty that has been somehow assigned to them. Either way the results of their research can be a mine of wealth concerning one's ancestors. The DAAL has over 120 books on the shelf and hundreds of boxed or filed collections that can be categorized as family histories or genealogies. These works come in many shapes and sizes, from loose papers and binders put together at home to lavish productions published by professional printers. Some of them focus on genealogy with charts that might go back in time for hundreds of years. Others are histories that read like a collection of short stories focusing on just one person or one immediate family at a time.

HARVESTING OUR BOYSEN HERITAGE: FROM FJELSTRUP TO FREDSVILLE was compiled by George Glenn Boysen in 1993. This large family history contains all the features that one would expect: genealogical charts, photographs, documents, maps, newspaper clippings and obituaries. It tells the story of Jørgen and Maren Boisen (Boysen in the USA) and three of their sons, Adam, Hans and Jørgen, They immigrated to America from southern Jutland in the 1860s, and the family settled in and around Cedar Falls, Iowa.



JENSEN-JESPERSEN FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND HISTORIES is a beautifully done family history that is well written and professionally organized and published. Edited by Jean Jaspersen-Naegele it is part of a series of works focused on these families. Jens Gorm Jensen and Erasmine Nielsdatter Jensen and their children are the Danish immigrants at the heart of this story. Most of the family settled in the Blair, Nebraska area. Bergitte, the only surviving daughter, married Nels Jespersen in America, bringing that name into the family history.

THE MADSENS – FROM DENMARK TO AMERICA was compiled by Linda Madsen, and is another attractive and well organized family history. The focus of the work is on Kristen and Inger Madsen. They and their nine children emigrated from northern Jutland in 1923-24 and settled in Laurel, Nebraska. Genealogical material, photos, documents and newspaper clippings are backed up by a lot of good information about Denmark, immigration, naming customs, crossing the Atlantic, churches and more. All of this is helpful in providing a wider context.

This is just a small sampling of the many family histories and genealogies housed at the Danish American Archive and Library. We are grateful that so many Danish families have been willing to entrust us with copies of their stories. We also want to encourage others to share their research with us or to take up the task of compiling their own histories and genealogies. Assuredly, someone, someday is going to want to know the results of your research. ▪

Meet a DAAL Board Member: Christie Jensen Gehringer

Not many Americans can say they are a Viking through and through. Christie Jensen Gehringer can. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri and her father was a Danish Vice Consul. She actually grew up in Omaha and attended North High School, home of the Vikings. She is currently the board secretary of the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska. Of course, there are more chapters to her life. She attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha earning Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Secondary Education. Her core studies were Language Arts and History. In 1965 Christie became part of the Omaha Public School System. She especially enjoyed teaching novels which connected English and History. During her years at OPS, Christie taught at several schools, ending at Burke High School. She coached cheerleading, pom squad, track, drama and student government, retiring in 1998. Following her retirement, she audited a Danish class at Dana College, joined an AAUW book club, and became more active in outreach activities at Trinity Lutheran Church on North 30th Street in Omaha, serving on council and participating in Bible studies.

Christie has been associated with the Danish American Archive and Library since the closing of Dana College in 2010. Her parents Dorthea and Earl Jensen have a collection of archival boxes containing their history, writings and personal papers. Christie also served on the National Board of the Danish American Heritage Society. Traveling often to Denmark, she was visiting Copenhagen at the time of the 9/11 attack.

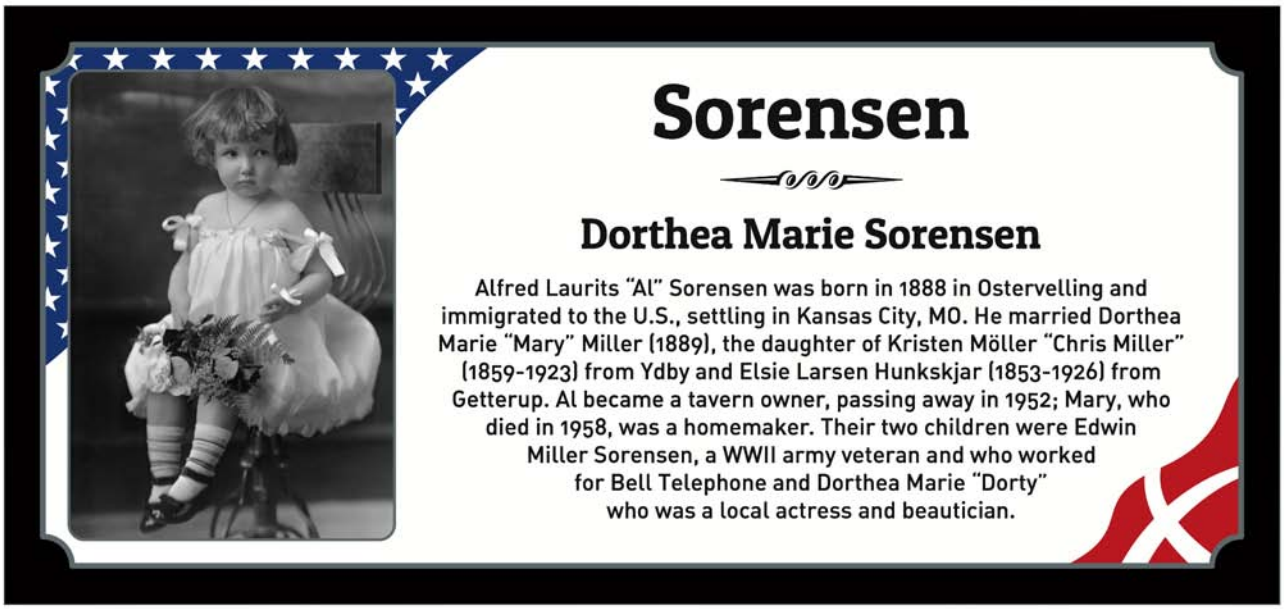
Among the many people and incidents in Christie's life from her Danish heritage is the story of her grandmother Emilie Jensen who arrived in Omaha in 1909. She had come to marry Christoffer Jensen, known as "Stoffer," who had emigrated two years earlier from Esbjerg, Denmark. They were members of Pella Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Omaha. The family soon grew to include four boys. Stoffer supported his family by working in the railroad yards. In 1919 he was killed when two trains came together. The accident left Emilie with no means of income to support her family of boys, ages 4, 6, 8 and 9. She was not even able to purchase a headstone for Stoffer at Omaha's Forest Lawn Cemetery. Soon after Stoffer's death, county child services informed Emilie that they were going to take custody of her children since she had no means of support. According to family history, she answered the edict with the statement, "You are NOT going to take my kids!"

Christian Nielsen, a family friend, who later became Emilie's second husband, noted that she did own her home, and there was a need for housing for railroad workers. She could set up a boarding house to provide an income for her family. Emilie and her boys shared her room while she rented out the remaining rooms, the first tenant being Nielsen himself. So the family was able to be safe and together through Emilie's "Viking" determination and resourcefulness. This story is part of the fabric of the life of Christie Jensen Gehringer who was born into a Danish family rooted in the true Viking heritage as the daughter of a Danish Vice Consul who later became a Knight of Dannebrog.

In 1967 she married Frank Gehringer and they have one son, Christopher Erik Lauritz Gehringer; and two grandsons, Rylan Christopher Lauritz and Sam Christopher Dean. She is also a North Omaha High "Viking of Distinction," and continues her work on the Executive Board of the Danish American Archive and Library, which houses the stories of hundreds of Danes, their families and institutions. So you see, Christie is truly a Viking through and through and very proud of her Danish heritage. ■

Featured Danish American Commemorative Wall Panels

https://danishamericanarchive.com/danish-american-commemorative-wall-gallery/



The Commemorative Wall at the DAAL was created to honor and remember Danish-American individuals, families and institutions.

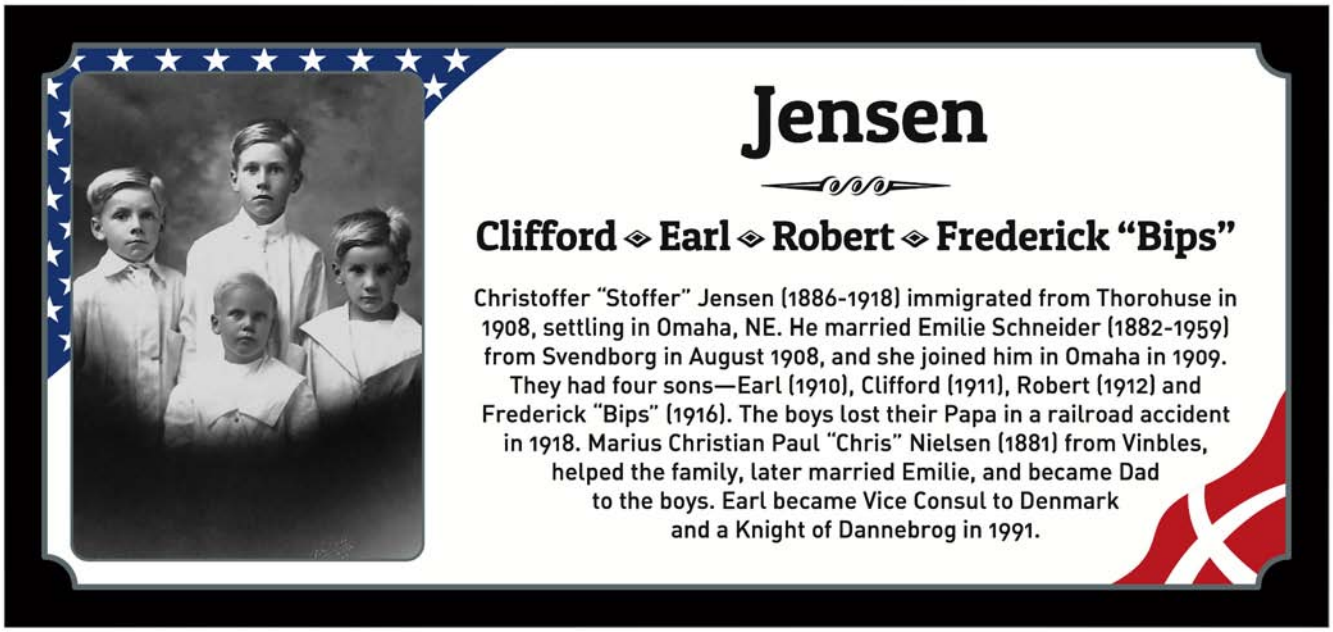
Instead of putting both sides of her family on one large commemorative wall panel, Chris Gehringer sponsored two medium-sized panels. She chose to use childhood photos of both her mother Dorthea Sorensen and her father Earl Jensen so the panels complement each other.

(Chris is featured in the Meet a Board Member section on page 3.)

The 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, you have two options. The first is to stop by and view the exhibit in person. The second is to visit the Commemorative Wall Gallery on our website. ▪



Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jill Hennick

Our supporters near and far find unique ways to volunteer for the DAAL.

Sometimes it is writing an article for the Jottings. The Dana Room articles are often written by guest authors. In this issue John Mark Nielsen takes us back to the 1890s and the library at Trinity Seminary.

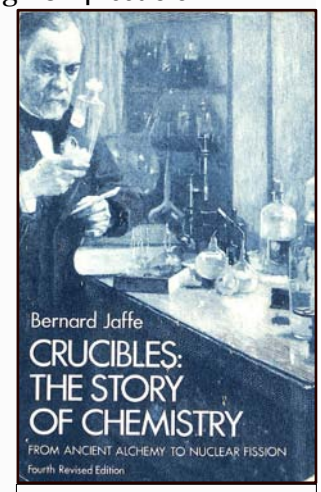
Sometimes it is spreading the word about the DAAL. Many of our volunteers introduce friends and family to the DAAL when they explain how we are preserving their family history or when they invite them to volunteer. One of our members sends copies of our newsletter to other institutions with ties to the subject matter in specific articles.

Rev. Brian Lunn speaking at the DAAL about Erik Pontoppidan's 1737 Lutheran Catechism on July 25, 2025

Sometimes it is providing a presentation at or about the DAAL. We have had a few different Dana Alumni speak at the Dana Alumni and Friends Association Homecoming about the DAAL over the years. In July, Rev. Brian Lunn gave a presentation at the Archive about confirmation and education in 1700s Denmark. He has recently published a translation of Erik Pontoppidan's 1737 Lutheran catechism, which prompted the talk.

Sometimes it is answering the call when we ask for your assistance.

Thank you to everyone who helped us complete our LARP books collection! In the Spring 2024 issue of Jottings, we reported on the Dana College Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP) and listed the missing books. A number of you were able to supply a few books which got us started. Then, in September 2024, Corinne Robinson, Dana College class of 1966, offered to find the remaining 21 books:



The last LARP book to be added to the collection.

"I did it because I felt LARP was a really special part of my Dana education and also it was a way I could 'volunteer' from a distance; if I lived in Blair or Omaha, I would have been volunteering at the Archives."

As Corinne was looking for books, she unearthed a puzzle. There was a book listed as *Scientific American Offprints* by W. H. Freeman from the 1968-69 school year. It turned out it wasn't a book at all, but photocopies of the following five articles from Scientific American magazine:

- "The Present Evolution of Man" by Dobzhansky;
- "Charles Darwin" by Eiseley;
- "The Origin of Life" by Wald;
- "The Genetic Basis of Evolution" by Dobzhansky; and
- "Could Life Originate Now" by Fox and McCauley.

Do any of you still have copies of these articles that you can provide for our collection?

We are so pleased to have an example of each book read in LARP. Our collection also includes many tests and discussion questions from the classes. To see a complete list of LARP books, arranged by school year, visit the Dana College section of the digital archive which can be accessed from our website.

The DAAL has always been an organization that relies heavily on volunteer labor and initiative. Thanks to all of you for your various forms of support. ▪

Danish American Archive & Library

Jill Hennick, Executive Director
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E-mail: info@danishamericanarchive.com
Hours: 8am-3 pm, Monday-Friday
A 501(c)(3) corporation funded by free-will donations

From The Dana Room

Discovering the Origins of the Dana College Library

By John Mark Nielsen

What were students reading in the early days of Trinity Seminary and before Dana College came into existence? Were students exposed to the writings of Søren Kierkegaard, N.F.S. Grundtvig, Vilhelm Beck and others who contributed to the evolution of theological thought in Denmark during the 19th Century? How might writings by these individuals shape the thought of seminary students as they prepared for the ministry here in the United States? These were questions that my father, John W. Nielsen, and I would sometimes discuss, but we lacked evidence to arrive at any conclusions.

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Trinitatis Seminarium,

tilhørende „Det danske evangelisk-lutherske Kirkesamfund i Amerika", giver Undervisning i almindelige Dannelsesfag og i Theologie. Der gives Religionsundervisning i alle Klasserne. Undervisningen meddeles dels i det danske og dels i det engelske Sprog.

Skriv for nøjere Underretning til Skolens Bestyrer,

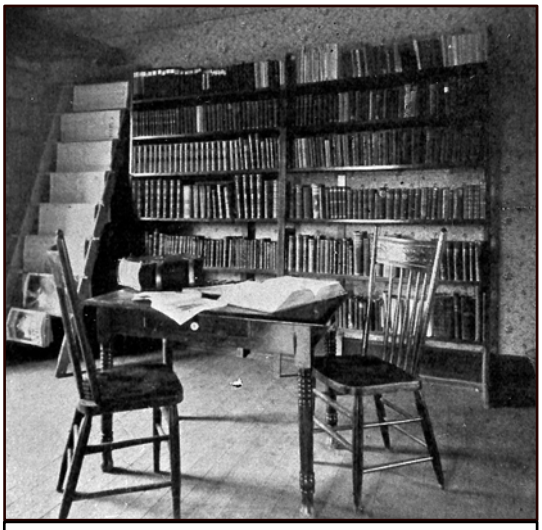
Pastor A. M. Andersen,
Trinity Seminary,
BLAIR, NEBR.

An 1889 Danish language advertisement for Trinity Seminary

Just recently I was reminded of the value of the work being done by DAAL to preserve the archival records of Trinity Seminary and Dana College. There are treasures to be unearthed and mysteries to solve!

In early June of this year Michael Hennick was contacted by Professor Robert Rix, Director of Research in the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Professor Rix has proposed a research project that will explore Denmark's cultural evolution in the 19th Century by constructing a data base of Danish library records. His thesis is that library records "can reveal the relationship between the circulation of ideas and significant cultural developments." Are there library records of who was reading what in the 19th century? Prior to the development of other media, reading provided an essential way in which people imagined and thought about their world. The scope of Professor Rix's proposed study also includes "hitherto unexplored records from Danish colonial and diaspora communities in Greenland, Argentina and the US (Nebraska, Wisconsin, Iowa, and New York). Could DAAL provide any evidence of Danish library records in the U.S.?

After receiving Professor Rix's inquiry, Michael contacted me to see if I had any ideas as to how he might respond. I wondered if the Dewey Decimal System that the Dana College Library used to process and organize the library collection contained information in the cataloging process that revealed when a work was obtained. A quick check indicated that no, it didn't.



A Reading Room in Old Main in the 1890s

Michael, however, checked Pete Petersen's *A Place Called Dana*, and discovered that one of the earliest student organizations at Trinity Seminary was the Student Library Association. In Petersen's brief description of this student association on page 38, he indicated that there was an early ledger containing the list of books that were a part of the early library. Was this treasure still in existence? Michael not only found the ledger in DAAL's collection but discovered there were five ledgers! He scanned various pages and provided them to Professor Rix, who responded "It is exactly the kind of information I'm looking for. This list of books is most useful for the project I'm preparing."

My curiosity was piqued and I have spent several days pouring over the five ledgers. With each discovery, the find became more exciting. Why? The first of the five ledgers contains the Bylaws of the Student Library Association, that was founded on February 19, 1892, just eight years after Trinity Seminary and the associated academy classes began and six years after the completion of the first phase of Old Main. Written in Danish by G.B. Christiansen, then a professor at Trinity Seminary, the bylaws describe how the association is to function and the dues to be paid to allow borrowing rights from the library. Dues were 25 cents a term. (At the back of this ledger, I discovered an additional listing of books procured by the library between 1900 and 1903.)

Continued on page 8

Archive Report March – June 2025

VOLUNTEERS: 1800 hours by 36 volunteers from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and New York.
VISITORS: 94 visitors from Arizona, California, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Denmark.
RESEARCHERS: 64 researchers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, Washington D.C., Wisconsin, Denmark, Germany 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.

Tiffany Abeloe (Grover Beach, CA)
Betsy & Bill Anderson (Blair, NE)
Fran & Al Anderson (Omaha, NE)
Anonymous
Bruce & Mary Barkley (Blair, NE)
Pat Bentsen (Blair, NE)
Linda Brink (Liberty, MO)
Rolf Buschart Christensen (Ontario, Canada)
Mike Christenson (Missouri Valley, IA)
Danish American Society (New York, NY)
Merri & Dan Dibben (Blair, NE)
Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
Susan Hettinger (Bennington, NE)
Richard & Delores Jorgensen (Poy Sippi, WI)
Marty & Linda Koefoed (Missouri Valley, IA)
Joan Krogh (Blair, NE)
Lorene Larsen (Omaha, NE)
Keith & Lori Larsen (Blair, NE)
Gary & Diane Madsen (Omaha, NE)
Ruth McMaster (Omaha, NE)
Betty Megrue (Blair, NE)
Ruth Mortensen (North Olmstead, OH)
Ken Nelson (Baxter Springs, KS)
Marilyn Nichols (Oro Valley, AZ)
Dawn Nielsen (Chico, CA)
Norden Club (Lincoln, NE)
Liv Paulson Norderhaug (Chanhassen, MN)
Sharon Rozanski (Omaha, NE)
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Lisa Stenderup (Los Angeles, CA)
Roger Zieg (Omaha, NE)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Memorials

John Christensen
  Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Frank Gabby
  Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Beverly Gould
  LeRoy Wigdahl (Omaha, NE)
Larry Hansen
  Michael Bennett (Sioux City, IA)
  Linda Chevalier (Council Bluffs, IA)
  Clark & Claudette Gilbert (Aurora, CO)
  Sandra Hansen (Fremont, NE)
  Burdell & Diana Harnisch (Fremont, NE)
  Kathryn Haugebak-Parks (Fremont, NE)
  Steven & Mary Narans (Fremont, NE)
  Laree Skelton (Fremont, NE)
  John & Rita Skinner (Omaha, NE)
  Richard & Carol Smiley (Tekamah, NE)
  Bruce & Bonnie Wendt (Hammond, WI)
  Cirsten Wilson (Odessa, FL)
  Douglas & Lois Wilson (Lincoln, NE)
  R. C. & Phyllis Winter (Sun Prairie, WI)
Kurt Jensen
  Chris Gehringer (Omaha, NE)
Bennie C. Miller playing basketball at Dana
  Linda Miller (Henderson, NV)
John W. Nielsen & Dana College
  F. Paul Doerder (Brecksville, OH)
Lori Nielsen
  Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Phil Pagel & gratitude for his service to Dana College
  Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Mary Pedersen
  Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Sandra (Bergland) Soltis
  LeRoy Wigdahl (Omaha, NE)
Wayne Theye
  Corinne Robinson (Minneapolis, MN)

Honoraria

Jill & Michael Hennick at the Archive
  Myrv Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Hans K. Pedersen Family
  Caterpillar Foundation

Endowment Fund:

Myrvin Christopherson for the Myrvin & Anne Christopherson Fund
N. Temali Family Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation for the Agnete (Ahlefeldt-Laurvig) Temali Fund

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.

Dennis Andersen (Atlanta, GA)
Allan & Fran Anderson (Omaha, NE)
Ginny Blood (Burnsville, MN)
Steve & Connie Buller (Blair, NE)
Charities Aid Foundation
Borge M. Christensen estate of the Rochester Area Foundation
Danish Sisterhood Lodge 15 (Milwaukee, WI)
Danish Sisterhood PNW District (Shoreline, WA)
William E. & Rose Marie Davis Foundation (Bennington, NE)
Scott & Shelly Grorud (Hutchinson, MN)
Frederick "Fritz" J. Hansen estate
Stuart Hansen & Erica Eddy (Mount Pleasant, WI)
Lynda Jeppesen (Oak Park, IL)
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Phil Vasby (Cambridge, WI)

Thrivent Choice/YourCause Gifts:

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Kristine Gates (Cookeville, TN)
Carol Haussermann (Blair, NE)
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Kevin Knitt (Stevens Point, WI)
Toni Lawson (Green Bay, WI)
Bodil Strom Muller (Beaverton, OR)
Leon & Alice Neve (St. Paul, MN)
Skip Pedersen (Omaha, NE)
Matt Plowman (Des Moines, IA)
James Ruden (Littleton, CO)
Sandy Sonderup (Blair, NE)
Elsa Steffensen (Hofffman Estates, IL)
Linda Steffensen (Hoffman Estates, IL)

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). 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)

Erna Berthelsen (Albert Lea, MN)
Becky Bryant (East Dubuque, IL)
Myrv & Anne* Christopherson (Decorah, IA)
Arlene & Neil Grover (Zumbrota, MN)
Roger Hanson (Roseville, MN)
Michael & Jill Hennick (Blair, 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)
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*
Lynda Jeppesen

Archive Report continued

Julianne Johnson and Judy Pollock*
Oscar* & Dody* Johnson
Paul & Liz Johnson
Alice M. Jorgensen*
Lorene Larsen
Phil* & Florence* Larsen
Carol Madsen Larson*
Gene* & Nancy Lindblad
Gary & Diane Madsen
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Brian Nevermann
Howard Nicholson*
John W.* & Elizabeth* Nielsen
LeVern* & Marilyn* Nielsen
Lisa Nielsen
W. Clayton Nielsen*
Arthur* & Mary* Pedersen
Larry & Palma Plume
Joan Sorensen
Don * & Marjorie* Wahlgren
Deb Schou Wood ■

ENDOWMENT FUND

The endowment fund is an investment in the future of the Archive. Named funds have been established in memory of loved ones. Figures include realized earnings accumulated in each fund since the original donation. The figures are listed at historic cost and are rounded to the nearest $500.

Ada Stokes Jeppesen Memorial Fund	$123,500
Deloris Hansen Bengtson Memorial Fund	97,000
Oscar & Dody Johnson Memorial Fund	16,500
Bernhard & Marilyn Erling Memorial Fund	12,500
Rev. Aster & Ruth Neve Family Memorial Fund	10,000
Dagmar Vasby Memorial Fund	10,000
John T. & Virginia (Lippincott) Beck Memorial Fund	9,000
Martin & Else Andersen Memorial Fund	7,000
Earl Jensen Family Memorial Fund	5,000
Rev. Sigurd D. & Dorothy M. Petersen Memorial Fund	5,000
Maryann & Jerry Lund Memorial Fund	3,500
Agnete (Ahlefeldt-Laurvig) Temali Fund	3,000
Myrvin & Anne Christopherson Fund	2,000
Subtotal of named funds with balances over $1,000	304,000
General Endowment Fund	95,000
Total Endowment Funds	$399,000

Discovering the Origins of the Dana College Library

Continued from page 4

The second ledger, entitled, *Fortegnelse over Studenterbibliothekits Bøger ved Trinitatis Seminarium* (List of Books in the Student Library at Trinity Seminary) was even more exciting as it lists the first 57 books making up the library. By 1898, this list had grown to 183 titles. Why was this exciting? Now we could know what students were reading. Not only are there theological works, but also works of Danish, English and American literature. And what was the first work listed, *Webster's Dictionary*! And yes, there were works listed by both Kierkegaard and Grundtvig. But equally important to me were literary works by B.S. Ingemann, H.C. Andersen, Milton, Bunyan, Addison, Franklin, Irving and Longfellow. One title jumps out: *May Christians Dance?* by one Joseph H. Brookes, Doctor of Divinity! As each book was added to the library, it was assigned a number. That number became the identifying number in the two additional ledgers, which provided even more clues to early Trinity Seminary and Dana College history and the development of the library.

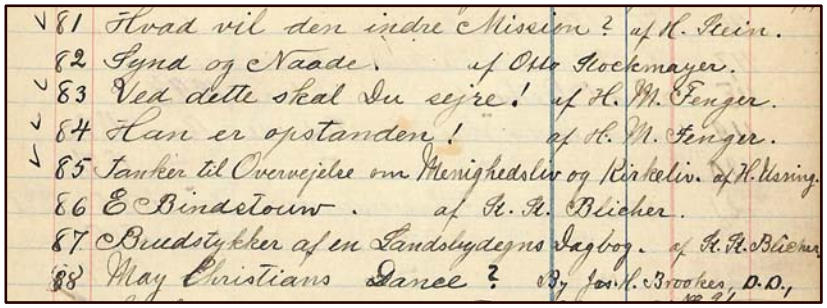
The third ledger is a record of the books borrowed by students and it contains the date titles are checked out as well as the date they are to be returned. Why is this exciting? Because not only do we now know the titles contained in the library, but we can also learn who was reading what works and which books were most popular! This can contribute in a more refined way to providing evidence for Professor Rix's proposed study.

The fourth ledger contains the financial accounts of the Student Library Association. Students are listed for each term with the 25 cents they paid to be members. Also listed are the expenditures of the Association such as for subscriptions to newspapers like *Danskeren* (published in Blair), *Dannevirke* and *Dansk Missionsblad*. There are also receipts from the Danish Lutheran Publishing House in Blair for the purchase of books. These titles appear in the second ledger and each are assigned numbers for record keeping.

The final ledger contains a list of books loaned out to both Trinity Seminary and Dana College students between 1907 and 1920. By this point, the titles of books indicate that more are in English and reflect a changing student population. As the library expanded, the old and unique numbering system ceased to be effective, and the Trinity Seminary and Dana College Library transitioned to the more familiar Dewey Decimal System.

Professor Rix's inquiry and Michael Hennick's work has inspired in me all sorts of ideas about possible research topics. Perhaps the five ledgers that Michael unearthed can provide answers to the questions that my father and I posed years ago.

This discovery of the five ledgers at the very least underscores the value of the work being done by The Danish American Archive and Library. It also affirms my father's dedication and that of many others to preserving archival records, and it hopefully inspires all of us to support financially this important institution. ■


81 Hvad vil den indre Mission? af H. Rein.
82 Synd og Naade. af Otto Stockmayer.
83 Ved dette skal Du sejre! af H. M. Fenger.
84 Han er opstanden! af H. M. Fenger.
85 Tanker til Overvejelse om Menighedsliv og Kirkeliv. af H. Ussing.
86 E Bindestreg. af R. R. Blicher.
87 Brudstykker af en Landsbydegns Dagbog. af R. R. Blicher.
88 May Christians Dance? By Jos. H. Brookes, D.D.,

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_____

_____

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Around the Archive

On May 7th John Mark Nielsen spoke to a meeting of the Washington County Genealogical Society about the types of materials available at the DAAL. Donna Henton, the President of the Society, introduced him.

The second annual "Dana Work Days" at the DAAL was held from June 17th through June 19th. Eighteen volunteers worked on organizing materials, scanning documents, and captioning photographs.

The current and all past issues of the Jottings are available on our main website (https://danishamericanarchive.com) and in our Digital Archive (http://archive.danishamericanarchive.net).

Upcoming Volunteer Events

Fall Volunteer Week

October 6-10, 2025

Additions to the Digital Archive

- Dana Family Album added in Dana College Publications [1996 reminiscences]
- Dana Band Concert (April 2000) added to Audio-Visual Collection (Musical Performances) [mp3 audio]
- 2006 Dana Commencement added to Audio-Visual Collection (events) [video] ▪

Danish American Archive & Library
1738 Washington Street
Blair, Nebraska 68008

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PARTING SHOT

The DAAL believes this to be a late, 19th century photograph taken in the small, rural settlement of Orum, Nebraska. Located in Washington County, the site was named after Peter Orum, a Danish immigrant who operated the local post office out of his country store. The view is possibly looking east along the road leading to the town of Blair. The surrounding township of Lincoln became one of the county's most solidly Danish areas. Many of these Danes worshipped at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The majority of gravestones in the adjacent township cemetery feature Danish names. ▪