

DAILY GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

There is so much news to give and so little time! It has been a whirlwind these last few weeks between preparing for the holidays and executing Phase 1 of our Back on the Grind capital campaign. We'll try to unpack it all here, but know that a full recap of the restoration work will be coming soon and available for viewing at danishwindmill.org.

First, we are extremely excited to announce that the repairs and improvements made by Møllebygger Petersen could not have gone any better. The two serious repairs we needed, repositioning the sliders on the cap frame and repairing the windshaft, both took significantly less time than expected. And as a result, Erik Batenburg and Ronald Scheltens were able to spend more time focusing on other detailed repairs than we initially planned for including re-shimming both wings, fixing the alignment of the gearboxes, replacing floors, adjusting teeth, and more. Everything went according to plan without issue and we could not have asked for better weather during the entire process either. We even had some steady winds before the millwrights left that allowed them to really test the mill and even grind a few bushels of rye! They left us for Denmark on October 26 and the mill is in the best shape it has been in for a very long time.

We have several community members to thank for their help in this project as well including Logan Aalbers, Kodie Haas, Colton and Eric Juelsgaard, and Mike's Welding of Kimballton for getting us materials we needed as well as the fabrication of our new grease bank. We also want to thank Mike and Lisa Riggs for their hospitality in housing the millwrights during the two weeks they were here, no matter how much grease they tracked back with them at the end of the day. Finally, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to Mike & Lou Howard. Their \$50,000 donation made this critical project possible. We are grateful

to have such a strong community of supporters and could not have taken this project on without their help. We extended this appreciation by hosting a banquet following the last day of work where locals, the millwrights, and our own board of directors and staff gathered for a night of Danish food and music. Bill Peterson and Nate Kemperman came to town to play some folk music and tell Dwight Lamb's famous story while Shelli Lange of Master Griller Catering prepared a delicious frikadeller meal. Shaun gave a brief overview of the work accomplished and took the time to explain that we do still have work to be done to get our mill to where it needs to be, and we know we'll get there with this community behind us.

Meanwhile in the store, the holiday season has quickly crept up on us. We've already stocked up on some of our signature Danish companies including the gingerbread mouse house from Maileg, felt Christmas decorations from Gry and Sif, new ceramic figurines from Klaborg, and refreshing winter flavors of Lakrids's chocolate-coated licorice. Our shipment of gløgg is also here and we anticipate our container arriving from Denmark within the next two weeks. We have a lot of new and exciting items coming this year including some long-awaited restocks such as our tapered dinner candles. We've greatly expanded on our selection of Brink Nordic glass-blown ornaments and are also bringing in a number of sharp LED candles for everyday or advent-related use.

For those still waiting, our 2024 Gifts & Collectibles Catalog is going out very soon! It is already available for viewing online and we can tell people are excited with all of the new brands we've added for this year.

Finally, Julefest is almost here and the annual brochure is now out. View the brochure online on our new event page: JulefestDV.com. We're doing something completely new this year called Santa in the Forge which will feature a Viking-themed Santa and some blacksmith demonstrations in the Vikinghjem. Don't miss it!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Wanda Sornson

For the past seventeen years I have been doing Danish genealogy. During that time, I became fascinated both by the similarity of Danish names and by the stranger names that I saw in the church books. At one time I began to record some of the unusual names that I encountered.

For many years the patronymic naming system was used in Denmark. This means that the son of Jens Nielsen would have the surname of Jensen or Jens's son. His daughter's surname would be Jensdatter or Jens's daughter. In later years the daughter's surname would also become Jensen rather than Jensdatter. In the early 1800s and late 1700s, the patronymic system was used almost exclusively. I had to learn that when looking for a birth or baptism record for Niels Jensen, for example, I had to look for a record that just had the name "Niels" together with a father who was named Jens. Unfortunately, the very early records did not bother to record the mother's name. Then it was necessary to find a census record for the family which would include the mother's name. There were different attempts in Denmark over time to do away with the patronymic naming system. However, it could often still be found especially in rural areas.

Everyone comments on the "sameness" of Danish names. And it is true that Jens, Lars, Niels, Mads, Christen/ian, were very common names and the surnames would have the added "sen" ending. Common female names were Ane, Marie, Margrethe, Dorthe, to name a few. Often the first male child born would have the grandfather's given name, and the first female child would have a grandmother's given name. It was not uncommon to find that when a child died, the next child born of the same sex would be given the same name. I have found instances

of the first generation male having the name of Niels Madsen, the second generation male being named Mads Nielsen, the third generation male again being named Niels Madsen and so on. It can get confusing trying to keep birth years organized. It was also not uncommon for a son to have the mother's maiden name as a middle name.

In the U.S., certain names become popular at various times. Would you be surprised to know that that also happened in Denmark? On one page of a Danish church book in a certain parish I found five out of the seven boys named Kaj. In a Hjørring church book in the 1860s on two pages there were nine boys out of twelve named Christian. On a page in the female birth section I found four out of five girls named Ane, but with various second names.

But, needless to say, I found many surprises also in some very unusual names. I found many female names based on a male name with "sine" or just "ine" added. Some examples: Euphrosine, Pedersine, Rudolphine, Sørennine, Nielsine, Otteline, Edvardine, Ditlevine, Olerinne, Engelline, Andersmine, Gottfredine, Dukkedine, Halvordine, and Ferdinandine to name a few from my list. And it wasn't just female names that could be strange or different. A few other names were Thoracy, Kunigunda, Ellebinus Fjortinus, Adelheid, Hagbard, Ziffred. These were assumed to be male names but could have been either. Of eleven children in one family, five of them were named: Vermund, Frode Mykilate, Vigfus Skjold, Gorm Hjalte, and Esbern V. And the list could go on and on!

It has been said that names can evoke stereotypes or assumptions about a person. And there have been questions raised about how a name can affect our personality or our choice in life. After seeing some of these names, it may be best if we be thankful for the name we were given and the life we have led.

JULEFEST

November
29 & 30

JulefestDV.com



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ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

Shining the light on what is going on at your library!



The Elk Horn Public Library is looking forward to honoring Veterans this year with coffee on November 8th from 2-4pm. We have several items on display from Veterans and their families. Please stop in to see our Empty Table display to recognize those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

We are adding Community Christmas Trees to our decorating for Julefest. Consider bringing a tree to the library decorated by individuals or groups starting Monday, November 25th through Wednesday, November 27th.We look forward to adding to the Christmas Spirit!

Our team has been working on our January through May schedules. If there is a program you would like to see us do, please let us know so we can add it to our plans. We are already adding to reasons to come to the library!

Here is our November schedule:

- November 4 – Nature Nook with Woodland Creatures K-3
- November 6 – Bee what you want to be; pie 3 - 6
- November 6 – BrainFreeze for Teens
- November 7 – Beyond the Book Club-‘Second Sister’
- November 8 – Veterans’ Coffee 2-4
- November 11 – Nature Nook with rocks, Minerals and Fossils K-3
- November 13 – Coffee Time
- November 13-Reading Rainbow with Donna McClain – Veterans – all ages
- November 18 – Outlook Study Club with Vera Petersen presenting
- November 20- Bee Physically fit and Crafting 3 - 6
- November 25 – Nature Nook with Changing Leaves K-3
- November 25 – 27 Set-up Community Christmas Trees
- November 28 – Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 29 – Open usual hours
- November 30- Julefest Fun- Open 9 – 2

We look forward to serving you!

SCRATCHES FROM A RUSTY QUILL

Wava Petersen

Harvest is drawing to a close; fall must-do chores find people skirmishing to keep a step ahead of winter. And maybe, just maybe we’ll get a good, soaking rain before Thanksgiving. Regardless, we still have much to be thankful for in spite of the dust billowing from our crushed rock road with every passing vehicle. With half of my grandchildren living in Florida, Hurricane Milton had this grandma pretty worried. But all survived and lived to clean up the downed limbs and trash that covered their yards. Those in a suburb of Orlando had power outage and three leaks in one of their houses. Those living in a ground-level condo at Sarasota moved inland to a motel near Orlando in case of flooding. It took them six hours to make the two-hour trip. Benji, the toddler, and Taz the cat did not enjoy the long ride in the confines of the car and the parents reported that it was not a pleasant trip. Their home was spared with only the AC not working. Fortunately, the man of the house got it going again. And we all breathed a sigh of relief when it was over. That brings us to thoughts of the upcoming Thanksgiving Day. We have so much to be thankful for so I’ll share a poem I wrote a number of years ago entitled GRATITUDE:

The thankful heart asks not that untold riches come its way
But thanks our Maker for the meager sustenance received from day to day,
The thankful eye bids not new glorious vistas every morn
But looks for hidden beauties along the path well-worn.
The grateful hand seeks not the clasp of richly robed and royal kings
But thrives upon the joy that labor midst the humble and the lowly brings.
The thankful ear needs not a lofty choir or an orchestra divine
But knows the simple pleasure of cricket symphony beneath a dew-damp vine,
The grateful soul lives out each day with peace and with abiding love
And asks no special blessing for itself, but for each little joy
Gives thanks to God above.
May each one of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

PRAIRIE ROOTS RUN DEEP , Pt. 2

Warren Watson

The regression of the ice made way for the coming of the Tall Grass Prairie. Clay Township was transformed into a haven of flora that only God could have fashioned. One must not be misled by labels placed upon this lavish assembly. In the early 1800’s all prairie west of the Mississippi was known as the Great American Desert. At that time in history, a desert was defined as a treeless and uninhabited area. This was whether it was arid or not. The reports of Lewis and Clark strongly generated this idea. The good Lord did see fit to add scattered groves and small streamlets throughout western Iowa. Prairie grasses could range as high as 8 to 9 feet tall in the right conditions. Only lightning and Native American induced fires kept it somewhat manageable. I was a hired man working for a fourth generation Danish-American family in the 1970’s. There was a niche of giant corn growing between two windbreaks. A seed salesman stopped by, and I had him hold up a yard stick above his head for a photo op. The corn plants were two to three feet above the end of the stick. The root systems of these tall prairie grasses created an ocean of black gold on the plains. Pioneer wagons plodded west over these vast expanses of fertile

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

In the book of Isaiah 55:6-9 we find these words, “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

In our lives as humans upon this earth, we can have the tendency to be unforgiving, to be a little hard-hearted and maybe even a little hard-headed. So, it is refreshing to come to see that our heavenly Father is a God of compassion and willing to pardon the repentant ones.

Through His servant Isaiah, God tells us to seek Him while He may be found. Does this portend for us that there may come a time when He may not be found? I believe we may take this as a warning. There are times in our lives that we should take the time to examine ourselves. Have you ever done that? Have you ever spent time with your heavenly Father asking Him to show you how you might improve your thoughts and your ways? To come closer to Him?

Paul writes to us concerning this examination in the letter to the Corinthians, 1Cor. 11:27, “Therefore, whoever eats the bread and drinks

earth. Little did they realize what they were leaving behind for somewhat moderate rewards in Oregon. Men suffering from “Gold Colic” raced to find instant wealth and reward. They had little interest in discovering the vast fields of potential ‘golden’ grain.

It was not until the late 1840’s that the first white men, partially by accident, realized the riches beneath their feet. Mormons dissatisfied with Brigham Young filtered up rivers and creeks in western Iowa rather than follow Brigham Young to Zion around the Great Salt Lake. Traveling up the Boyer River and Mosquito Creek, dozens of families settled in NW Shelby County. The earliest settlement was called Galland’s Grove. Their homes were withing 25 miles of Clay Township. Their choice of a land that would provide a bountiful harvest for generations, if inspired by God or not, was the correct one. In Denmark during 1850’s and 60’s Mormon missionaries converted many Danes to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Galland’s Grove had a spattering of Danish families. They included the Ingvert Hansen family (1866), Ingvert Mathisen family (1876), Inger Petersen family (1876), and Rasmus Petersen family (1873). While they may have visited their fellow Danish-American immigrants in Clay Township, they remained settled with their Mormon brethren.

the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.”

Again, he tells the Corinthian church in his second letter to them, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ is in you – unless you fail the test?” (2 Cor. 13:5)

It has been said that “the greatest purpose for which God created man was that he might have fellowship with him.” God desires a relationship with you. Pure and simple, the reason you are reading this right now is that God has placed it in your hands so you might read that last sentence. Yes, you, God’s desire is to enter into a relationship with you!

Oh, you already have a relationship with your heavenly Father? How close have you been drawing yourself to Him? Do you regularly seek Him? Do you know Him well enough to seek Him?

Drawing upon the opening scripture, God tells us that His thoughts and ways are far above our thoughts and ways. God’s thoughts are perfect and my thoughts are a pittance! And I am reminded of an old song, “I Need Thee Every Hour”. God is not afar off. He is not aloof and indifferent to our needs and desires. The scripture tells us that He is near and He wants us to open up our hearts to Him. And that is the GOOD NEWS!

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Science is based on the observation of, or discovery of, facts. However, those facts must be relatable to actual situations to become truly valuable.

Did you know that half of the population of our country lives within fifty miles of the coast? This includes both the East and West Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. These areas have seen destructive hurricanes and extreme flooding events multiple times in the last decade. Some of the residents of these areas are being forced to file insurance claims on properties that still have unpaid claims from previous storms. Some of them are obviously considering re-locating to an area with less potential risk for such widespread dangerous weather events.

This presents us in the Midwest with both an opportunity, and a problem. We meet their requirements of fewer widespread catastrophic weather events. But we already have a shortage of available housing. When you break down the existing housing most do not fall into the affordable housing category. While many of the coastal residents are currently living in higher cost housing, it must be considered that their finances have taken a big hit. They may be seeking something in the affordable bracket until they have built up enough equity to step up to a higher priced home.

This really is no different than many first-time

home buyers. Owning your own property is the gateway to long term financial growth. The equity created by home ownership can give youan advantage in achieving your life goals.

The facts speak to the need for affordable housing creation in our area. Far too often we are building the type of homes that we want in our towns, while ignoring the type of homes that many potential buyers desire. So how do we address this problem?

Let us step outside the box for a moment and consider some alternatives. We could design homes that start out with less square footage. But that are designed to be easily expanded with minimal problems. Designed so that the addition blends seamlessly with the original structure. Perhaps instead of a garage, just a carport designed to be easily finished into a garage.

Or throw out the “standard” idea of a housing development. Do not allow any cul-de-sacs to be included. These cut off any future development without extensive roadway construction. We could create “Courtyard Cottages” instead. Smaller one- and two-bedroom dwellings around a central greenspace. These have the same advantages of shorter utility connections and less paving as a cul-de-sac offers to the developer. And provide an even greater concentration of housing per acre, This approach does not become a housing project, it becomes a neighborhood in an amazingly short time.