

DAILY

GRIND



NEWS FROM THE MILL

Shaun Sayres

Now that the editor-and-chief of this publication is back from vacation, we can get back to business.

The mill enjoyed another very busy month in August this year. Usually there is a noticeable drop in visitor traffic once the state fair kicks off, but even then people just kept coming in. We had over 1,800 signatures in our guestbook, mostly visitors from Iowa and Nebraska as expected.

Many of the big projects we discussed in our last issue are now complete with the exception of one. We are still working on getting the live stream up on YouTube to our liking. There have been some technological hiccups in the process, but it should not be much longer before we are finally live.

In the gift shop, we're excited to announce the long-awaited return of our electrical aebleskiver pans, now back in stock. On another note, however, we won't be bringing in a container from Denmark this year. Between last year's late arrival and this year's tariffs, we do not have the funds to place a shipment this year. But, we also have a good stock, so while we may run out of some things sooner than later, we're confident we can move into the Christmas season with a plentiful inventory. We will just have to manage with what we can. And we have some other custom products in the pipeline as well that we hope to get by the start of the

SPARTAN SPECIAL

Contributions from EEHK High School

This year, Exira Elk-Horn Kimbolton High School is honored to welcome, Johanne Lyager as a foreign exchange student coming from Esbjerg. Who just so happens to know our last exchange student from Denmark, Oscar Olsen. She is being hosted by Brenda Nelson and her partner, Tony Hough. She was able to come to America through a direct placement program. They chose this option since Johanne's family has been close with Brenda's family since Johanne's mom was here in 1992. Johanne has experienced many new things while staying

ELK HORN LIBRARY LANTERN

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



The Elk Horn Public Library had at great Summer Reading Program this year! We had 1,020 total participants in our 79 programs this summer. 48 programs served 653 children, 4 programs served 31 young adults, 20 programs served 129 adults and 7 general interest programs for all ages served 207 participants. We also had 66 reading logs turned in for children and adults, and some amazing stories and videos were produced through our Storytime programs on Wednesdays. Stop in to the library to see some of their storylines and Mad Libs! We have some future authors and actors in our midst!

The Friends of the Library have met and plan to have a community birthday calendar, a book sale and they will provide refreshments for our third Monday of each month's program. Those programs are open to everyone-they are just 'sponsored' by the group. Feel free to join the group, or sign-up to be a volunteer at the library. Thank-you all for all that you do for our library!

We had a wonderful turn-out for our Labors of Love event on September 1st! We dealt with the showers by having it at the library and the Norse Horse helped us out with sandwiches and donations!

Be sure to have your children participate in the Monday No School Day Programming! We will have activities for all ages and abilities. Nikki has a theme for September, "Decoding the School

holiday season.

Julefest aadvertising forms have gone out as we gear up for another exciting festival that is just around the corner. We have printed new quarter sheets about the festival to hand out, and encourage local businesses to pick some up to help advertise the event. The Kringle Man is already distributing them at all of their travel shows.

Finally, we are excited to announce that we have received an HRDP grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa to be put towards a new set of millstones. The awarded funds are enough to cover the cost of ordering a new set of stones. This is important as it remains unclear how much longer the industry will continue given the lack of new craftsmen in the profession. Stone cutting of this kind is a dying trade, and it was critical to get a pair of stones ordered as soon as possible.

Møllebygger Petersen is in the process of ordering the new stones. Once received, they will continue to hold the stones at their facility in Denmark until we are ready to have them shipped here and installed. We still have a long way to go in fundraising for this project, but having the millstones secured is a major step forward. We hope to have more literature out on the project in the coming weeks as we advance into Phase II of our *Back on the Grind* campaign.

We're also very excited to welcome EEHK's Danish exchange student, Johanne Lyager to our team. Johanne will be volunteering her time with us on Mondays for at least part of the school year. She has indicated an interest in boosting our social media presence. We believe she will be a great asset for us and offer a fresh perspective.

here. For instance, how the school day is set up is extremely different than how it is at her old school. The students here are more extroverted and easy-going. One of the hardest adjustments coming here is transitioning into English. However, Johanne says that the thing she misses the most from Denmark has to be the food. Coming here has given her a different perspective on the cultural differences in playing sports and competitions. Johanne is looking forward to meeting new people and trying new things. She is extremely grateful for this experience to come to the US, and is excited for the many opportunities to come.

Year" with many coding activities. We are also partnering with the Museum of Danish America for one of the programs!

Here is our September schedule:

September 6 – Adult Board Game Night 6 – 9 pm

September 8 – Decoding the School Year 1 – 4 pm

September 13 – Teen Hangout 6 – 8 pm Grades 7 - 12

September 15- Solving Puzzles with the Museum of Danish America 1 – 4

September 15 – Warren Watson ‘A Ride on the Atlantic Northern’ 6 pm

September 20 – Young Adult Coffee and Silent Book Club 2 – 4 pm

September 22- Analyzing Clues 1 – 4 pm

September 24 – Community Coffee and Craft 9 am

September 26 – Book Discussion: ‘Faculty Lounge’ by Jennifer Mathieu 2 – 4 pm

September 27 – Let Off Some STEAM at the Library 10 am – 12

September 27 – Adult Murder Mystery – Murder at the Circus – Sign-up by September 19th!

September 29 – Crime Scene Simulations 1 – 4 pm

October 4 – Adult Board Game Night 6 – 9 pm

October 6 – Mad Scientist 1 – 4 pm

October 11 – Teen Hangout 6 – 8 pm Grades 7 - 12

October 13 – Witch’s Brew 1 – 4 pm

Thank-you for your donations to the Master Gardener produce stand. It helps everyone to share your excess!

We have a compost bin below our library for your use, it is easy to get to from the alley. We hope you can make use of it.

OLDE NEWS

CAMEL MERCHANT NOT GETTING OVER THE HUMP

1002 CE: The new millennium could be going a bit better for Erik Eriksen, aspiring camel merchant based in Marrakesh. Eriksen took over the business following a quick raid through Morocco, but is struggling to find a demand for camels back home. “My camels get better mileage and carry heavier loads than horses,” Eriksen explained, “if you’re going to travel, camels are the pack animal of the future.”

The recent boost in travel to Greenland seemed promising, but apparently, Greenland is not as green as he thought. “I just think it’s confusing to call a place ‘Greenland’ if there’s nothing green there,” Eriksen grumbled. This comes as the latest in a series of complaints regarding Greenland. The initial excitement for Erik the Red’s discovery in 985 has mostly faded as more disgruntled colonists have returned.

Despite the rumors, the Viking Travel Federation published a new runestone last week on Greenland’s “fair weather” and potential for Summer tourism. “The media needs to hold these companies accountable,” says Eriksen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 18:

MODA Brown Bag Lunch: Shaun Sayres presents on the Danish History of the Danish Windmill
- Sept. 20-21:

Audubon Country Players presents Hans Christian Andersen Audubon High School

Help us keep this going by making a donation to the Danish Windmill. Give online at danishwindmill.org or send by mail to:

Danish Windmill
PO Box 245
Elk Horn, Iowa 51531

Thank you for your support.

Printed issues available for **FREE** at select locations in Elk Horn and Kimballton

For all inquiries, contact Shaun Sayres at 712-764-7472 or via email at mgr@danishwindmill.com

All issues available online at **danishwindmill.org**

*The articles and opinions shared by authors in this publication are not endorsements held by the Danish Windmill.

View this issue online:



NAVIGATING DANISH GENEALOGY

Eric Mortensen

What can we learn from census records? Census records are one of several primary sources used in genealogy research.

In the United States, the Constitution mandates that a national census occurs every 10 years. The first federal census occurred in 1790, and the most recent in 2020. Data from the 1890 census is mostly non-existent since these documents were destroyed in a fire. Data on individuals is not available for 72 years by law for privacy reasons. Currently in 2025, the most recent publicly available census is 1950.

In addition to the federal census, most states conducted censuses at various points in time, particularly during peak periods of pioneer settlement and immigration. These state census records generally contain less data but can be useful for tracking individuals in the gaps between federal censuses, particularly in the 1880s and 1890s given the lack of a federal 1890 census.

In Denmark, censuses have been held at irregular intervals (usually 5-10 years), with the first census occurring in 1769. Data is publicly available for all censuses up to 1940. Since 1971, Denmark has used its Civil Registration System (CPR) to track births, deaths, marriages, and other personal information, and data from this database is used to generate population and demographic information, rather than a census.

Analysis of census data can give us insight into individuals, families, and historical and cultural norms. The most obvious piece of information is revealing where a person lived at a particular point in time. In most cases, a census may be the only piece of information to confirm a person’s existence in time and place. Just as important, though, it reveals personal relationships.

Census data tells us everyone living in one household, and the relationships between them. Households may often be a married couple with children of various ages. There may be paid servants in the household (which didn’t mean someone was wealthy). There could be multiple generations in the household, including elderly parents – it was common for a widowed parent to live in the household of one of their children.

Most of my research experience with Danish census information has come from rural areas of Denmark in the 19th century, so these observations are reflective of that subset. Children often left home as teenagers to seek work, unless they were able to be employed in the family farm operations. Normally they would move to a nearby farmstead to live and work as a servant or farmhand.

In the case of a spouse’s death at a young age, it was common for the widowed spouse to remarry within a few months, likely for economic reasons. Married couples would often have a significant number of children born over an extended period. Women would continue to give birth in their late 30s and early 40s as long as nature allowed. Child mortality rates were relatively high – 15% of children did not survive their first year of life in 1835.

In general, reviewing census records from 19th century Denmark points to two of the major factors that led to emigration from Denmark – poverty and overpopulation. The population grew rapidly in 19th century Denmark, and economic conditions made it difficult for young people to find livelihoods, particularly in rural areas. This led many to risk everything to seek new opportunities in North America.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Warren Watson

In celebration of Salem Lutheran’s 150th anniversary, this segment will feature monthly histories of the church’s inaugural year, 1876.

April 1876

4/13: Early Danish settlers in Clay Township found no organized religious congregations. The first Danish settlers, Christian Jensen and his wife, were converted to Seventh-day Adventism by Johan Gottlieb Mathiasen from New Denmark, Wisconsin. Many of the newly arriving Danes found not only a new home but a new religion. It was not until the spring of 1874 that Danish Lutheran Pastor A.S. Nielsen of Cedar Falls, IA answered an ad in a Chicago newspaper.

IT’S ONLY SCIENCE

Bob Mortenson

Of the five distinct sources of capital for economic and community development environmental capital is often overlooked. Yet a careful examination of your environment will provide you with vital information about what is a good fit for your efforts. It may show you that something you have considered may not be feasible. Or give you an entirely new idea for development. Here are some things you should determine about your environment.

What is your normal weather like? Do you have concerns about hurricanes? Or is it tornadoes that might discourage new investment and/or residents to come to your town? Those who are not familiar with tornadoes might be overly concerned with them. It could be pointed out that a small hurricane will affect a swath 200 miles wide, while a large tornado might be one mile wide. This would give them the proper perspective for concern. Is your area often troubled with extreme flooding issues and/or mud slides? Are you in an active earthquake fault zone? Knowing and addressing these issues with a prospective resident or business is crucial to successful recruitment.

What is it about your environment that makes it attractive to people and businesses? Are you in what is considered a scenic area? Do you have the type of soil that is good for crops? Are there still natural areas nearby that could offer recreational

YES, THERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Bill Rollins

The following article is one written in 2017 and recommended to me to be presented anew.

The death, burial and resurrection of the Son of God! It really is quite a story. It begins, well ... before time began, actually. We catch a glimpse of this in the book of 1 Peter 1:20, “He (Jesus Christ) was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.” The Apostle Paul says it this way in his letter to Titus 1:2, “... the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness and rests on the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the beginning of time.” This understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done is really the crux of all that may be called “good news.”

Do we really understand all of this? No, I mean really understand what this means to us? I try never to shy away from talking to others about this very important topic and yet when it comes right down to it, most people have no concept of the depth of love our Savior has for us! Yes, we pay some lip service to it. It is as a friend of mine once said to me, “most people only want 10 cents of Jesus Christ – just enough to save their consciences. They don’t want to change their lives so as to live for Him.” I have thought of that statement a lot and I have thought of my own commitment to my God and His Son. Paul in his letter to the Romans starts off with the statement, “Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ”. James in his letter says, “James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”. In Peter’s second letter, he begins the same way – he calls himself a slave.

It was placed by Ole Terkelsen inviting Danish Lutheran pastors to visit Clay Township. Pastor Nielsen preached and administered the sacraments to those willing in the settlement. The Adventists were soon to be in the minority.

4/20: As a sign of times to come, Norwegian Lutheran pastors P.I. Hilman and Olsen of Omaha came to the settlement and warned the multitude of newly arriving Lutherans from Denmark about Nielsen because he was a Grundtvigian. These pastors were hosted in the home of Rasmus Hansen. Hansen would later be a stout advocate of the Inner Mission movement. But Pastor Nielsen had won the heart of most settlers. On August 25th, 1875, during a visit by Pastor Nielsen he assisted the Danish immigrants in writing a congregational charter. The Danish Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Elk Horn was established. While there was no town of Elk Horn, the stagecoach mail drop-off location at the Winters farm ½ mile south of the grove had a name: Elk Horn.

activities? Good hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, bird watching, or just quiet time with nature can be a powerful source of capital. Even knowing what animals inhabit your area can be an asset to some interested parties.

Knowing what your seasonal weather averages are can be a selling point for many interested parties. You should be able to provide those interested with your average rainfall amounts. How much snow to you receive in an average winter? What are your monthly high and low temperatures? How many days of sunshine could they expect? What wind velocities can be expected with each season?

Developing a promotional package with the correct information about your environment may turn out to be a crucial step in securing that new business opportunity! Companies consider these issues to be important to their recruitment and retention of employees. The lack of this information could be why that potential new business decided against locating it in your community. Or why that individual or family decides to settle somewhere else.

I know that there are those who would say, “it’s easy to find that kind of information on the internet”. While that is true, let me ask a question. Would you buy a major purchase from someone who had to look up what the features of the item were? Or would you be more likely to buy from someone who already knew everything about the item?

Now, we may read these statements and our translations use the word “servant” but the Greek word is one that means “slave”. These guys were not fooling around. They understood who their master was and they acted like it.

The bible says that God changes not – He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is still the sovereign ruler over the entire universe. The heavenly hosts around the throne of God are found to “fall down before God and worship Him who is seated on the throne.” And it was not for angels that He gave up His life. Should we behave differently?

Jesus had made the trip from Galilee to Jerusalem many times but now He was making His final one. It was a journey of about 120 miles. He was going there to give up His life in a most horrifying death and even after telling the apostles about it four times, they still did not fully understand. Do we understand? We sit here with almost 2000 years of hindsight – do we fully understand?

The good news began before the start of time. The good news came to Mary as she was with child. The Good news came to the shepherds tending their flocks one night. The good news came to the multitude of Jews living in the land of Palestine. The good news came to 12 young men, 11 of who were to be sent out into the world to preach and teach. The good news came to a man named Pilate and he washed his hands of it. The good news came to 4 Roman soldiers who nailed Him to a cross after beating Him almost to death. And now the good news is come to you – what shall you do with it?

Until we meet again...

4/27: With the assistance of Pastor Nielsen Norwegian Pastor O.L. Kirkeberg of Indianapolis, IN answered the call as the first pastor. He arrived April 6th, 1876, and preached his first sermon Palm Sunday April 9th, 1876. Prior to the congregation building a church and establishing their own cemetery, religious activities took place most often in two structures. The Red School house built in 1872 located 2 miles south and ½ mile west and the Allen School house built in 1876 located 3 ½ miles directly west of Elk Horn. The new congregation’s 1st baptism was Jens Johansen, May 7th, 1876, in the Red School house. The second baptism was Bodil Jensen, May 14th, 1876, in the Allen School house.

To be continued...