



Anders Bo Rasmussen describes his research for “Civil War Settlers: Scandinavians, Citizenship, and American Empire, 1848-1870” at the DAHS conference in June. The book received the inaugural DAHS Book Award.

BEST BOOK AWARD NO. 2

The second DAHS Best Book Award will be awarded in 2025. It will include books published in 2022 and 2023. The submission deadline is March 2024. The third book prize will be awarded in 2027, coinciding with DAHS’s 50th year.

BODTKER GRANT



Redsand

A Bodtker Grant of \$4,860 was awarded to Anna Redsand of Elk Horn, Iowa, to fund transcription and translation of Civil War letters with Anders Bo Rasmussen of the University of Southern Denmark.

The collaborators will translate from Danish to English 41 letters from Danish immigrant and U.S. Civil War soldier Sgt. Christian Peter Andersen to his sweetheart, Anne C. Jensen, also a Danish immigrant. Redsand and Rasmussen are to produce an article for publication to The Bridge.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Desiree Ohrbeck of Bellevue, Washington, and Carol Svendsen of Denver, Colorado, officially joined the board Jan. 1. (Svendsen had been filing a vacant seat.) One at-large position remains vacant. Board members Julie Allen of Orem, Utah, and Linda Steffensen of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, concluded their service on the board Dec. 31. Allen remains editor of The Bridge.

YOUNG SCHOLARS

The board approved \$5,000 for up to 10 college students to receive \$500 stipends to create a pilot Young Scholars Program. A mentoring faculty member would receive a \$1,000 stipend. The program would invite students from any institution to apply. The outcome would be a polished, reflective essay for possible publication in The Bridge. Bridge editor Julie Allen was authorized to develop the pilot project and report results at the fall 2024 board meeting.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: John Mark Nielsen, Blair, Nebraska
Vice President: David Hendee, Northfield, Minnesota
Secretary: Sheri Muller, Roland, Iowa
Treasurer: Tova Brandt, Decorah, Iowa
 Sune Frederiksen, Berea, Kentucky
 Lise Kildegaard, Decorah, Iowa
 Desiree Ohrbeck, Bellevue, Washington
 Matthew Plowman, Des Moines, Iowa
 Anders Sand, Miami, Florida
 Nete Schmidt, Madison, Wisconsin
 Carol Svendsen, Denver, Colorado

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WINTER 2023-24 BULLETIN

BOARD REFORMS STUDIED

The DAHS board structure may be revamped this year to benefit the organization’s publications, grants, communications, board management and conference committees. Board president John Mark Nielsen addressed the issue during the board’s Nov. 4, 2023, meeting at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. Nielsen said the current three-year terms for volunteer board members seem too short, given the board’s twice-yearly meetings. He also questioned if member orientation is comprehensive enough. Julie Allen said five-year terms may be more appropriate to help board members create relationships, find their role and contribute effectively. Tova Brandt suggested re-examining roles to ease the division of labor and help new members orient themselves. Sune Frederiksen asked if it might be helpful to enlarge the size of the 12-member board. The board formed a working group of Brandt, Carol Svendsen and Sheri Muller to bring recommendations via a Zoom meeting this winter. A new structure could be in place by the board’s April meeting. DAHS was organized as a nonprofit corporation in 1977 to promote stories of the Danish immigrant experience.

THE BRIDGE

The Bridge's first edition of 2024 will feature Bodtker Grant recipient Kassandra Schreiber's article on Soren Kierkegaard's "The Seducer's Diary" from the point of view of character Cordelia. Schreiber, a teaching assistant at Brigham Young University, received \$3,000 to travel to Copenhagen to familiarize herself with the historic city center of the 1800s, the time frame of the original narrative.

The Bridge is the DAHS journal published twice a year.

KENTUCKY MEETING

The board plans to meet April 6, 2024, in Covington, Kentucky. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Rebuild National Park Society's annual meeting April 4-7 at Embassy Suites on the River.

CHRISTENSEN BEQUEST

Former DAHS and MoDA board member Borge Christensen of Rochester, Minnesota, who died in March 2023, provided a sum of money to DAHS in his estate. The terms of the bequest provide a \$10,000 cash gift each to DAHS, the Museum of Danish American and the Danish American Archive and Library. Other funds for grants will be released later.

DANSKE KOLDE BORD

DAHS board members attended the annual *Det Danske Kolde Bord*, sponsored at Grand View University by Danish Brotherhood Lodge 15, after their day-long board meeting in early November. The evening featured Danish food, drinks, singing and a silent auction.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

One hundred fifty-four DAHS members renewed their memberships as of early November.



DAHS CONFERENCE HELPS MoDA CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

Members of DAHS gathered in Elk Horn, Iowa, for the organization's seventh international conference June 22-24. The event was held in conjunction with Museum of Danish America's 40th anniversary celebrations. The 100 people who attended the DAHS conference were part of a crowd of 400 who turned out for the MoDA anniversary events.

John Mark Nielsen, president of DAHS, said it was appropriate to gather in Elk Horn. "Here, 40 years ago, a committee of DAHS members met to determine a site for a museum preserving and telling the story of Danish immigration and settlement in the United States," he said. "No community put forth such a sustained effort to host the museum as the people of Elk Horn, Kimballton and surrounding towns. No state joined their effort the way the State of Iowa did. The DAHS committee recommended that Elk Horn be the site for this museum."

The conference theme was "Ecologies and Ethnicity."

Nielsen said the story of human migration continues to be important. So too, although not anticipated by most people 40 years ago, is the sustainability of our environment, he said.

Conference speakers explored the intersection of migration and the environment as attendees celebrated the founding of MoDA.



Annette Andersen and Tim Burchill lead a rousing rendition of "Han Skal Leve."



Virginia Small discussed landscape architect Jens Jensen's influence and legacies.



Jens Jensen, a great-great-grandson and namesake of the famed Danish immigrant, led a walking tour of the 30-acre Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park.

For more photos and news from the conference, go to the DAHS website at www.danishheritage.org, click on "What We Do" and scroll to "DAHS News."