

## DANEVILLE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



### Calendar:

DHA Museum: 101 N. State St., Viborg, SD 57070; open Sundays and federal no-mail holidays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Next Holiday July 4th). Weather and circumstances permitting.

Museum tours also available by appointment: On call: Richard 605-766-5675 or Lester 605-563-2732.

Also traditionally open all three days of Danish Days, July 18-19-20, 2008. (This will be the fifth year!)

DHA Board Meeting, Museum, Wed. July 2, 1:30 p.m. Museum News:

MANGE TAK for the visitors, financial help and for the artifacts and archival that are the museum's purpose in life.

There are no visitors to tour the Museum Sunday, June 22. But. There is often, if not always a "but!" Sunday had one of those "buts". This host was busy with routine chores most of the day. Thus, time does not lag. (It vanishes!) One of DHA's most avid suppliers of artifacts and archival is Emma V. Selken-Sorenson. This day she brought in a box of diaries and another form of record to be described down below.

Mrs. Sorenson (Emma), as visitors know, has a display case overflowing with historical artifacts. She also has on the case two thick ring-binders full of family history and genealogy. Including, especially, Earl Klitgaard Sorenson. (More Below)

The writer learns of rare instances of personal or family stories that get recorded for at least the family. Too often, these are lost with old age or death, of the person/people that experienced or witnessed them, and recorded them.

All such recollections, good or bad, are important. They, along with records, diaries, etc., are vital to the preservation of the community and the country history.

The saying, "If we do not learn from history, we will be forced to repeat it". (Or maybe our successors will!)

Even unpleasant or painful stories should be preserved. If wished, they can be sealed until a specified future time, when the presently living (and maybe their immediate descendants) will not feel pained by history. (Future generations welcome them).

Life's experiences are often valuable, as well as interesting. And sharing may be as helpful to the sharer as to the shared-with.

Marriage or births are often ideal times to start such records. (Some mothers have started a child's record event before its' birth, recording her thoughts and emotions, for her (and the child's) later information. Children's re-

cords must be kept by the parents. When old enough, the child may be asked for thoughts to be included. When old enough, and interested, the child may take over the record. (Or start one its' own).

And, please, if you will, give to museums (such as DHA's) where your extended family has lived or been involved. (In places with no museum, libraries often like to preserve such records).

DHA also wants sets of local and area papers and magazines for similar preservation as historical records and information. Viborg, Hurley, Centerville, Irene, etc., papers and maybe any that no longer exist. "Q&EC Cooking", "Living Here", etc. are also magazines to use as future sources of historical information.

Family histories and family genealogies record the lives of each of us, whether only in memory, or on paper for permanent record.

And, please do not leave anyone out, no matter how unlikely or despised. The writer has heard of one family historian that left out a family member, due to an illegal or immoral past, and untimely end. Three or four generations of that would be fascinating and valued history. I've heard of another family (accepted with better grace) story of ancestors hanged as "witches!" Winston Churchill said that "If there is a skeleton in your closet, you should make it dance."

Family genealogy is a vital part of family history. Family history influences the family genealogy.

And, photos (or copies, etc.) enhance both. Photos can often record history that is difficult (for many) to put into words.

Family life, and occupational activities, are the history of their times, and of the communities, villages or nations.

Without families, fathers, mothers, and children, there would be no villages, towns, cities, states, provinces, or nations. Not one. No businesses. No schools. No churches. No communities. "No Nuttin At All!"

Viborg's DHA Museum has had only a few small examples of genealogies. Individuals and families are urged to provide such to the DHA, preferably now or sooner, but definitely for the future.

Please remember also, that records and histories of businesses, governments, organizations, churches, schools, towns, townships and counties are extended history of the people, that created, occupied, and used them, for the good and life of all the people.

All forms of historic records are vital to preserve the lives and history if all people, and the areas they live in.

One of DHA's purposes in Daneville-Viborg is to preserve

such. But history has to be recorded and preserved by each individual, family, business, group or organization or it will be lost forever.

Do it now! Yesterday would have been better. Yesterday is always gone. We have only a short today, and an uncertain tomorrow.

Often overlooked in family histories are children's school work and records. These too are a part of each person's life and history, and important parts of not only family history, but also of the communities, states and nations. And academics are more important than the often over emphasized "sports".

Save it now and forever! Bingo!

Almost coincidental with the hand-scratched drafting of the above the evening of June 8, on Sunday forenoon June 15, Emma V. Selken-Sorenson brought to Viborg's museum a large box of goodies which consisted of a considerable quantity of diaries and "book reports".

Time was too limited. A brief study of the diaries showed they recorded Earl and Emma Sorenson's daily activities, which fields and work Earl did. Which livestock he bought or sold. What Emma did. When and where they went for business. Who they visited: relatives, friends. What Emma did. What they had for meals.

During this brief perusal, this reviewer was struck by the similarity with records that he has kept. He started with a five-year bound diary 1/1/1941. This was too confining for his wordiness. After that, he used ring binder paper and file folders for preservation. With the return of typewriters to availability, about 1947-48, he obtained one, and continued his diary, storing pages in file folders. Years later, with chance finding of a volume called "A Personal Chronicle" (copyrighted), he adopted that name, and continues to use it while continuing in typewritten form.

If or when time permits, the writer will enjoy doing a better appraisal of Mrs. Sorenson's Diaries.

But, the message is, "To Go Thou and Do Likewise".

In the story, with the information to follow, SD Magazine publisher Bernie Hunhoff, reported many interesting stories that he had used. One about a sheep herder in Harding County who has kept a 9,000 page journal. A "Journal" being another name for a diary type records. That would likely be several times the writer's output.

Huh? Has Viborg-Daneville Disappeared From the Map?

The June 20 issue of Yankton's Observer carried a report of a meeting of the Yankton Area "Sons of Norway" meeting.

Of interest was announcement of "Nordic Celebrations in the Area".

The celebrations held at Moorhead (Fargo-Moorhead, reported here in the DHA news recently), Dalesburg, SD (N. of Vermillion); Nordland Fest at Augustana College (Sioux Falls), and ScandjfordNord horse cart rides.

Hmmmm, isn't Viborg-Daneville Danish and thus Nordic?

Webster's big dictionary defines Nordic as: "Of or pertaining to the Germanic people of Northern Europe, especially Scandinavians and their languages."

"A Nordic Individual"

"Nordicism: The belief in the superiority of the Nordic Race types, and its cultural capacities."

"Nordicise": "To introduce Nordic blood into a population; also to Nordify a people in culture under Nordic influence."

So why is Viborg's Danish Days celebration not included? Isn't Viborg and Daneville Danish enough? Is Viborg being ignored?

"Book Reports"

Emma V.'s "Book Reports" was a new one on me. My only experience with book reports was in high school, where students were required to read and-report on a book each semester. (The book report to prove that you had read the book). While I always liked reading, book reports were not a part of the pleasure.

The worst one was "All Quiet on the Western Front".

Yes, Western Front. Don't forget, the "Allies" invaded Europe, and then Germany, the goal of their war.

The western front was where Germany tried to defend itself from the invading hoards.

The book was by one of Germany's soldiers defending that front. I do not remember a lot of the soldier's story, but what I do seems to be when there was no fighting.

For a book report, the book was a pain. There was no plot that could be summarized to prove to the teacher that the book had been read.

Students could check a book out of the school library for 2 weeks, plus another 2 weeks, in succession, if needed. Without a plot, all of the book had to be mentioned. After four weeks, I had to ask a classmate to check it out for me, so that I could finish its book report, just in time.

I only had time to glance over a couple of Mrs. Sorenson's reports, but they appeared to be summaries of the characters and plots.

Emma V. must be one of Daneville's most prolific book readers. The city librarians must have valued her patronage highly.

Reading of good books (and papers and magazines) is one of the better ways of expanding one's knowledge, if not character.

Out of space. More next week.

by Lester R. Lauritzen RR 2 Box 117 Centerville, SD 57014