

Across Oceans, Across Time® ...
Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



As part of this year's TivoliFest celebration in Elk Horn, an exhibit of photographs will be on display at the Family History and Genealogy Center entitled "In Service to Country, Old and New." The exhibit spotlights Danish immigrants who served in the military in either their homeland or their adopted country. One of the more unusual images in the exhibit is this drawing of **Johannes Frederiksen**, of Ejdrup parish in Aalborg County. Born into a tenant smallholder's family in 1846, Johannes was initially called up as a soldier in January 1869, and attached to the 5th Dragoon Regiment, garrisoned in Randers. After training he served in this unit for 15 months and was then demobilized. The above drawing was made by an unknown artist about this time. In 1873 Johannes was called up again for 3 months' service and then transferred to the Danish reserves. In 1878 he, his wife Karen Marie (née Nielsen), and 2-year-old daughter Nielsine left Denmark for the United States. As John Frederickson, he and his family resided near Avoca, Iowa, for a number of years before moving to Pender, in Thurston County, Nebraska, in the late 1880s, possibly because of an outbreak of wheat smut or rust in Iowa. The couple had eight children born in the US.

The photograph exhibit will be on display at the Family History & Genealogy Center in Elk Horn through the end of July. During TivoliFest, which is held on Memorial Day weekend, a museum volunteer will also be interviewing military veterans for oral histories for the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. Anyone planning to attend the festival who would like to arrange an interview may contact Michele McNabb at librarian@danishmuseum.org or 712.764.7008.