

The Granly News

A Publication of the Danish Historical Foundation, Inc., Hurley, Mississippi



Granly Ten Year Anniversary

The following article, written by Granly resident Christian Petersen, describes the colony's 10th anniversary celebration. It is reprinted from November 20, 1940 edition of Dannevirke. Ed.

Message from Granly, Miss.

This year marks 10 years since we started the Granly Colony. Therefore, in conjunction with our regular Fall Meeting, we celebrated the Colony's 10th Anniversary. We had fine weather all 4 days of the festival (October 31—November 3) and a high and happy atmosphere all over the place. We had, if I may say so, already begun the celebration a couple of weeks before the actual celebration began, as we have been busy getting the inside of the Community Hall restored, especially with regard to the paneling and painting of the walls. We did the work ourselves to save on labor. The money to buy materials, yes, came from a fund that our good Women's Association has built up for this purpose this past year. Furthermore, we have received gifts for this purpose from thoughtful friends both in the Colony and around the country. The Danish Women's Mission in particular sent us a large gift. A. P. Nielsen, Escatawpa, surprised us with a very beautiful pulpit that he had made himself. We thank you very much for these gifts and hope that we will, in some way or other, be able to repay them. But you can

believe that we got the meeting house in festive attire.

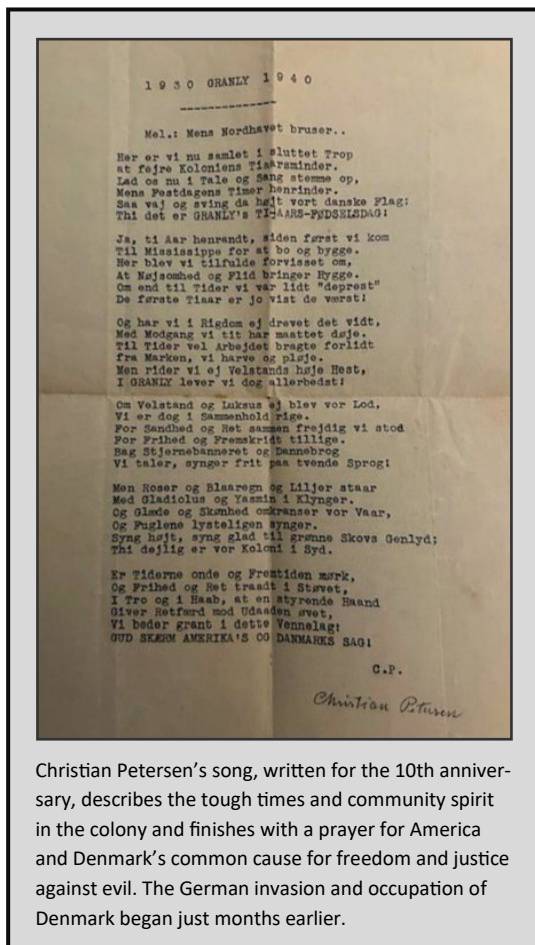
Our guest speaker this year was Pastor Clemens Sørensen from Vancouver, B. C., Canada. Pastor Sørensen is an excellent speaker, a serious and heart-touching preacher, with a brilliant ability to interpret the Gospel in such a way that we can all understand it, learn from it and rejoice in it. He also possesses a completely artistic ability as a reader. He speaks a sonorous Danish language that is a joy to sit and listen to, and which fills one with joy and pride in old Denmark.

The first three meetings were very interesting evening

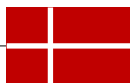
meetings, with lectures, readings, songs and conversations. Sunday was, as always, the big feast day, because then all our friends who live outside the colony in the various towns can have time to join in. In the morning there was a service with Altar. Pastor Sørensen preached on the text: "Jesus' Conversation with the Samaritan Woman". Here he drew a parallel between the Jews, who considered themselves too good to have anything to do with the Samaritans, and the skepticism of Christian congregations towards those who stand outside.

After the service we had a communal meal in the community hall at a well-laid and beautifully decorated table. The actual anniversary program was held when we gathered around the coffee table at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The meeting began with a song, after which the chairman of the congregation, Axel C. Pedersen, gave a short welcome speech to the congregation. After the chairman's speech, a song

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Christian Petersen's song, written for the 10th anniversary, describes the tough times and community spirit in the colony and finishes with a prayer for America and Denmark's common cause for freedom and justice against evil. The German invasion and occupation of Denmark began just months earlier.



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Daughter of Joy Mortensen Ask

Future Events

Granly Christmas
December 26, 2025 at 6pm

Annual Work Days
October 2-3, 2026

Annual Meeting
October 3, 2026 at 10:00
Breakfast will be provided at 8:30

Visit Our Facebook Page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/GranlyDanish/>

Share your Family Photos and Memories with us to be
posted online and in the Newsletter.

Send to Else Martin
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The Granly News

*A Publication of the Danish
Historical Foundation, Inc.,
Hurley, Mississippi*

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We want to hear from you!
Send your family photos, current news,
comments and suggestions to the editor.

Publishing Dates & Deadlines:

Issue: Spring-Summer 2026
Deadline: May 1, 2026
Mailed: May 15, 2026



Granly Ten Year Anniversary cont.

was sung, which one of the colonists had written for the occasion of the day. It goes on Mel.: "While the North Sea is roaring"

Here we are now gathered in a united troop
To celebrate the colony's ten-year anniversary.
Let us now raise our voices in speech and song,
While the hours of the feast day are running out.
Then wave and swing our Danish flag high;
For it is Granly's Tenth Birthday.

Yes, ten years have passed since we first came
To Mississippi to live and build.
Here we are fully assured,
That frugality and industry bring comfort.
Although at times we were a little depress'd
The first decades are probably the worst.

And if we have not advanced far in wealth,
With hardship we often had to die.
At times, work brought too little
From the fields we harrow and plow.
Though we do not ride the high horse of prosperity
In Granly we live our best life.

If prosperity and luxury have not become our lot,
Then we are rich in unity.
For truth and justice together we stood.
For freedom and progress too.
Behind the Star-Spangled Banner and the Dannebrog
We speak and sing freely in two languages.

Here roses and bluebells and lilies stand,
With gladiolus and jasmine in clusters.
And joy and beauty surround our spring,
And the birds sing so merrily.
Sing loudly, sing happily to the echo of green forests;
For lovely is our colony in the South

Times are evil and the future is dark
And freedom and justice are trampled in the dust.
In faith and in hope that a guiding hand
Gives justice against death practiced,
We pray in this friendship:
"God, protect the cause of America and Denmark"

After the singing of this song, the Chairman gave the floor to Mrs. Dagmar Pedersen, who gave a very interesting report on the most important events in the 10-year history of the Colony. We owe Mrs. Dagmar Pedersen many thanks for all the date records that she has made. It is always interesting to have solid points of reference when we look back on the past of a Colony.

Pastor Sørensen was the main speaker of the party, and gave an interesting and weighty speech full of sparkling humor in between, which gave evidence that he had a good understanding of life as it is lived in Danish Colonies.

A. P. Nielsen then gave a short speech in which he expressed his joy and satisfaction at living so close to a Danish colony. — "Because," said Nielsen, "we Danes often find better understanding among our own nationality than we find among others." After Nielsen's speech, the chairman raised the table, as the time had advanced, and people were to go home and do their business; but he promised that those who still had something to say would have an opportunity to do so after the closing meeting in the evening.

At the evening meeting, Pastor Sørensen read one of his own sailor's stories, which was very interesting. Pastor Sørensen has a great ability to portray his characters so that they come to life for us. After the reading, coffee was offered again and then the conversation got going again, and those who had not had the opportunity to say what they wanted in the afternoon now had a good opportunity to speak out, and what was said in these small speeches was a true recognition of how much good and great Pastor Sørensen had been to us during these lovely festive days. When the meeting was adjourned and we parted, happy and satisfied, it was with full certainty that another great and memorable gathering had gone down in history.

Before I end this letter, I could also tell you a little about the conditions in general down here. With regard to our congregational work, things are going so well. Mrs. Pastor Knudsen is still our leader in our Sunday services and she does it so well that we do not feel the loss of not having a priest, as we first thought we wanted, and since Mrs. Anne Jacobsen came to play the organ for us, and our singing became more atmospheric. The Sunday school work is done by Mr. J. Jacobsen and his wife. They seem to have a happy ability to interest and win the young people, so that they almost turn up in full every Sunday.

We have had two visits from priests this year. Pastor Frost from Dannevang in the spring and Pastor M. Mikkelsen from Askov in the summer; they visited us on their way

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Granly Ten Year Anniversary cont.

from Dannevang, Tex. Both priests brought us some lovely moments.

Breeding as a whole was poor in Mississippi due to too much rain during the fertilization period. The poultry industry is still an important factor in the colony's income. In recent years, however, there has been so much work available for craftsmen, especially carpenters, that several from the colony are seeking this work to increase their income. We have had a shipyard built here in Pascagoula, where at present about 1,700 men are employed, and a woolen mill in Moss Point, which gives employment to about 2,000 persons when it is running at full capacity. It is mostly women who work at the woolen mill. We just had the country road that runs through Granly paved this summer. Also, K. E. A. has built an electric line through here, so that everyone who is near enough can have both light and power, if they want it, on reasonable terms.

Kind regards from Granly via Hurley, Miss.
Christian Pedersen.

Dannevirke, November 20, 1940, Volume 61, Issue 47

Excerpts from another article from the time, describing the Granly community from an outsider's perspective. It was written by Ida Jensen, a friend of Mrs. Marie Knudsen, visiting from Dagmar, Montana. It is reprinted from May 1, 1940 edition of Dannevirke. Ed.

A Winter in Granly, Mississippi

Last fall I received an invitation from my old friend, Mrs. K. Knudsen, in Granly to come down and spend the winter with her.

It so happened that Jens Brinkman and son Christian from down there were up here in Dagmar, where Brinkman has property, and I was allowed to drive down there with them. We left Dagmar on the morning of September 28th and reached Granly Sunday morning, October 1st.

The trip went through North Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, a corner of Louisiana and into Mississippi. A most interesting trip. I had never been further south than Iowa before, so much of what we saw was new to me.

The vegetation changed as we went further south. The

first half of Arkansas was mostly oak forest, though not large oaks; later it changed to spruce, and in Louisiana and Mississippi it is mostly pine, mixed with various kinds of deciduous trees, such as the common oak besides the "live oak" (this is often covered with "Spanish moss"), Dogwood, Holly, and the magnificent Magnolia tree. Unfortunately, I could not stay in the South long enough to see it in bloom, but even without flowers it is beautiful with its large shiny leaves. It has a straight trunk with a large crown.

There are many different kinds of pine trees. When I saw a part that had a notch in it, I thought they were marked to be felled, but I was told that the notch was there to extract turpentine. There was a small metal cup attached at the bottom to receive the liquid.

One kind of pine tree is the so-called "Long Needle Pines". Their needles can grow up to 18 inches long. They are beautiful trees with the long, green tassels. In December, in the heart of every tassel comes the beginning of a new one, and the tree looks as if it is full of white lights. As the old needles mature, they fall to the ground, and you can use them to make many beautiful and useful things, such as various kinds of baskets, trays, brushes, vases, etc. Some of the women in Granly have learned the art and earn a little "needle money" from it. — It is quite interesting to work with.

My stay in Granly was a great pleasure to me. — First of all, I was glad to see my old friend again, whom I had not seen for over 30 years. We also had time to discuss a lot during the almost five months I was there. But I also quickly felt at home among the nice Granly people.

There are not many of them, and they still live partly under the rule of settlers. As in other new areas, they have tried different things and had to pay tuition. Most of them seem to have come to the point where they believe that chicken farming is the surest way forward. During the winter it was common to hear people ask each other: "How many eggs did you get?" Now it has probably changed to: "How are the chickens!"

As early as October orders were sent in for chickens, which were to be delivered in February or early March. I heard of orders for from 500 to 1000 chickens. One man tried "broilers" during the winter, buying chickens every other week and selling them to hotels in the larger cities when they had reached a certain size. The same man delivers eggs and gets a certain price all year round. This will probably become common. But to get started it is necessary to have money, both for building and for buying



chickens and feed, in addition to living on until the income begins to come in. After all, land is not given away for free. I understood that in order not to be in too much trouble, people who were thinking of settling there should preferably have at least \$2,000 to start with.

A great advantage is that it is easy to get good water. It is soft as rain water and is available in a few feet. A well with a pump costs them about \$10 and takes only a couple of hours of work, (I wish we could do it here in Montana). They are exempt from taxes on cattle, hogs and chickens. In the same way, all "Farm Improvements" are tax-free for a period of five years.

This past winter they got "Rural Electrification," and the Highway that runs through the Colony and down to the Gulf of Mexico has been "black topped," or will be. It was not finished when I left.

On this Highway there is a bus that transports the children to and from school. The younger children are sent to Hurley and those in High School to Moss Point.

I had imagined that the Granly Colony lay in a dark, dense spruce forest, but was pleasantly surprised, — (The name Granly is misleading, by the way, as there are no spruce trees at all, but pine trees). The colony land has been cleared, except for the stumps, and these are good as fuel. Otherwise, people go out into the forest to fetch their firewood.

In addition to what I have mentioned here, I would also like to tell you a little about the social life in the colony. On the first and third Sundays of the month they meet in the community hall for church service, where Mrs. Knudsen leads. Once in a while Pastor Frost from Dannevang comes up there. To my great disappointment, he did not come while I was there. (Pastor V. S. Jensen was there a few days last fall on his way to Dannevang).

One evening a month is a singing evening. And on the last Saturday evening, they hold a joint birthday party for everyone who has had a birthday in the month in question. The families where there has been a birthday provide a program and coffee and cream. The rest bring sandwiches or cake. And that evening they have a swing. One Sunday a month they have a social gathering, also with a program and coffee table. There are several good talents in the colony, so they can probably offer enjoyable entertainment. They also have a women's association in Granly; it meets alternately at the members' places.

It is worth mentioning that when St. Stephen's congregation in Chicago got a new organ in the new church, it donated the old one to the congregation in Granly.

The organist is Mrs. J. Jacobsen, who has played it in St. Stephen's Church for 20 years. It goes without saying that it is a joy for her to play it, as well as for the congregation to hear it. Mrs. Jacobsen and her husband also conduct the Sunday school work. Both languages are used.

During my stay in Granly I had the happy experience of having the opportunity to make a trip to New Orleans, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jens Møller of Waterloo, Iowa, who were kind enough to take me along.

It would be tempting to describe that trip, but it would take up too much space in "Dannevirke". But I would recommend that anyone who comes to the South, and is able to do so, not to miss seeing New Orleans. And, hire a guide, it is worth the dollar an hour it costs. Finally, I would be glad to have permission to send the Granly people a greeting through "Dannevirke" — Likewise other friends whom I met on the way home, in Chicago, Clinton, Minneapolis and St. Peter, Minn.

Ida Jensen, Reserve, Montana

A third Dannevirke article from that era written by a visiting pastor Marius Krog offers another perspective on the colony. It is from the December 14, 1938 edition of Dannevirke. Ed.

Travel Impressions from Granly

After a kind invitation from the congregations in Danevang, Texas, and Granly, Miss., I had the opportunity to visit not only these two circles, but also to look around there, including the strange city of New Orleans. There are many interesting things to tell about that, but I will save all that for *Child's Friend* until after New Year's. Here it is the settler colony of Granly that needs to be told a little about.

There is no small contrast between the Danevang colony and Granly. The former has gained a reputation and experience over the years and the self-confidence that often accompanies prosperity. Not so with Granly, which is still in its infancy and readily admits that at eight years old it still has a lot to learn. Both places are good places to visit. One thing is for sure, when you come there as a speaker, you will be used. I experienced again that an audience can do a lot to make you, as a priest, a better tool for higher

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Travel Impressions from Granly cont.

powers than you dared to expect. The opposite can also be the case. I owe the congregations whose guests I was, a warm thank you for good days.

The Danevang people will not like it if I say that it was beneficial to come from the great, boring plains of Texas to the cozy forests of Mississippi, but that's how it was now. The name Granly is well chosen. But to the knowledgeable, it probably speaks its own language: Where fir trees grow, there is poor soil. And yet, what have those tough West Jutland people done with their ancestral land?

My perception of this youngest colony of ours was a collection of detached impressions from here and there, but by seeing it for myself I got a completely different understanding of the conditions. Granly is therefore not some tropical swamp with humidity everywhere, oppressive heat and air that is against the lungs. There was none of this during my visit down there. The colony is located in a lovely, gently rolling forest. In particular, there was a spot, "so fresh and fine and beautiful" right nearby, with a stream and spring and wide leafy crowns. A real fairy tale forest. It was here that Evald Kristensen had planned to build a college. If I had had my way, I would have become a forest owner.

The first Granly residents have gone through some strict apprenticeships under the new heavens; but now they seem to have found the right approach and have a better handle on things. In any case, there is general satisfaction in the homes and confidence in the future. The south is growing up. Large industries are moving south, so there is economic growth and great demand for skilled craftsmen; and this naturally also creates better conditions for farmers. It seems to me that Granly is a small piece of "frontier" where those who have been beaten in the hard struggle for existence can dig new economic trenches with reasonable prospects of getting by.

Our old pioneers still say: Yes, how happy we were in the early days of settlement. Back then we really knew how to stick together and get by with a little. We were all just under the frugal yoke, and that led to our willingness to share with each other. This very community is now experienced in Granly (despite a few disagreements). In the midst of these people you get the feeling that it is good to be followed with "brotherly hearts in the common home". In their new community center, which is a hub for seriousness and fun, everyone in the homes draws strength for the tiring hustle and bustle of everyday life. Every little im-

provement to this common property evokes joy. Now the building had recently been painted. Now they had just got new benches — and soon the walls will be covered — and perhaps electric light. "Yes, we can certainly do that".

Good times are passing quickly. I will sooner or later forget the times I spent with the Granly settlers. Thank you, thank you. And my thanks especially go to Mrs. K. Knudsen. Thank you for your hospitality, conversations, etc. God has given you a work to do in Granly.

Merry Christmas, with peace and blessings everywhere in your home and in your mind.

Marius Krog.

Dannevirke, December 14, 1938, Volume 59, Issue 50.

Granly-USM Collaboration Update

The Granly collaboration with the University of Southern Mississippi to preserve and digitize colony history is continuing with oral history interviews, cataloguing and digital archiving efforts moving forward.

Oral interviews completed so far include: Else Martin (three sessions); Rita Shepherd and Gina Linton represented the Mortensen family in separate interviews; sisters Agnes Hughes and Karen Pope (Larsen family) had a joint interview; and Wayne Adkinson (Outzen).

Else and Larry Martin are meticulously cataloguing boxes of letters, documents and photos to be handed over to USM. This crucial last step prior to donation will provide the university archivists with proper context about each of the items so they can be archived and digitized with relevant metadata.

The Granly board approved expenditures for a web hosting service that will be Granly's future digital home. The site will integrate with the Granly-USM digital archive with the goal of becoming an interactive resource for researchers, historians and the Granly community for generations to come.

Denmark in Mississippi

The Danish Embassy posted the Denmark in Mississippi video reel that was referenced in the last issue. It features information and photos about Granly, including a video of Brian Martin explaining Granly and our Danish Christmas celebration.

Link: https://www.instagram.com/p/DOtOP7_kpAI/



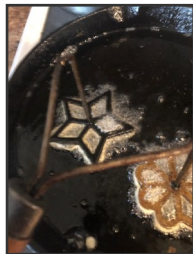
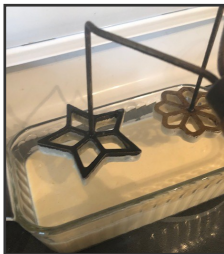
Rosettes

Recipe by Herdis Laursen Nygaard shared by Else Martin

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 cup all-purpose flour | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 1 cup milk | ½ teaspoon salt. |
| 1 egg beaten | |

Blend ingredients until smooth. Heat special iron in deep fry oil of choice. Shake loose oil off of iron, then dip into the batter.

Put the battered iron into the oil. The rosettes should fall off and float. Turn rosettes over, take out with fork or wood pick and place on paper towels to drain and dry. Shake sifted confectioners sugar on the rosettes. Store in container with lid.



Aebleskiver

Recipe by Herdis Laursen Nygaard shared by Else Martin

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups buttermilk or milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

Separate eggs. Beat egg yolks and add milk. Sift dry ingredients. Combine egg mixture with dry ingredients. (Some add 3 tablespoons melted butter.) Beat egg whites stiff and gently fold into batter.

Oil each cup in Aebleskiver pan, drop one tablespoon batter into each cup. Turn once. Cook about 5 to 8 minutes on each side. Watch heat closely and turn down if necessary. Should make about 3 dozen.

If desired, drop cooked apple, jam or applesauce in batter of each cup, then turn and brown. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar if desired. Great with syrup, jam or jelly of your choice.





The Mortensens Travel to Denmark

By Gina Linton

Plans started two years ago while we were visiting Aunt Dallas for her 90th birthday. My cousin, Ejna, said that she wanted to go to Denmark. Even though some of us had been to Denmark in 2013, we were ready to go back. There were eight of us that went to Denmark in 2013, but this time the number doubled! We had fun texting back and forth as travel plans changed and transportation went from two cars to a 46 seat bus.

After researching a few travel companies, we decided to use ScanTours again, and they helped us find lodging and transportation with specific guidelines for our itinerary. We told ScanTours what ancestry sites we wanted to visit, and they added suggestions for some fun activities as well. Because of the size of our group, it ended up being cheaper to get a bus (with our own bus driver) than to rent cars. All of our accommodations included an extensive breakfast buf-



fet. We almost always had rugbrod, chia seed pudding, and pickled herring.

Three generations traveled together. Our connection to Granly is through my grandparents, Ejner and Marie Mortensen, and my great grandfather, Morten Mortensen. My mother, Joy Ask, is buried near her grandfather at Granly. My uncle and aunt, Davis and Ann Mortensen, are buried next to my mom.

Of those that chose to go on this trip, Aunt Rita and Uncle Jerold Shepherd are from the second "Granly" generation. The third generation included: Ejna

Mitchell (daughter of Davis and Ann Mortensen), Keith Mitchell (Ejna's husband), Jimmy Etheridge (son-in-law of Davis and Ann Mortensen and Beth's husband), Darla Hughes (daughter of Dallas and Lee Harris), Jerry Worden (Darla's husband), Gina Linton (daughter of Joy Dreher Ask and John Dreher), Garry Linton (Gina's husband), Melodie Tebbs (daughter of Joy Dreher Ask and John Dreher), Brice Tebbs (Melodie's husband), Lee Shepherd (son of Rita and Jerold Shepherd), and Carmen Shepherd (Lee's





wife). The fourth generation included: Jamee Smith (daughter of Beth and Jimmy Etheridge), Phil Smith (Jamee's husband), and Katherine Mitchell (daughter of Ejna and Keith Mitchell).

Most of us flew on a direct flight overnight from Atlanta to Copenhagen. In Kobenhavn, we enjoyed touring Christianborg Palace, Marble Church, The King's Garden, City Hall, Tivoli, the zoo, and a few local bars. We all took a harbor boat ride together. One evening we met Aunt Rita's cousin, Ann Sorensen, her husband, daughter, and nephew for supper. Did you know that there is a store in Tivoli dedicated to selling licorice? (Yes, some of us like it.) Lakrids by Bulow sells an extensive variety of flavors. Jamee and Phil found a store that sold aebleskivers, but we never found them again!

Outside of Copenhagen, we went to Forest Tower at Camp Adventure Park. The 900 meter boardwalk connects to 45 meter tall spiral observation tower. We also spent an afternoon at Egoskov Slot, which has extensive gardens, a car museum, and a camping museum.

Gran Marie's family was from Funen, where we stopped to see several heritage sites. We drove by Krumstrup Gods and Toystrup Gods, which were owned by Marie's grandfather, Johannes Berntsen from 1912-1915 and about 1915-1917 respectively. There are over 700 manors in Denmark and the history of them as well as the farms/servants that served them is very interesting. We went to Assens to see the statue of Marie's uncle, Klaus Berntsen, who was Prime Minister of Denmark from

1910-1913 and the longest serving member of the Danish Parliament.

Before leaving Funen, we took a short tour of Odense, the home of H.C. Anderson (author of my favorite childhood book, "Thumbelina.") Our surprise for the day, thanks to Brice, was a short walk through the woods to see

Hans Hulehand, a troll by Thomas Dambo!

Papa Ejner's family was from Northern Jutland, where Ejner was born. We stopped to see Rørbæk Kirke, where Ejner and his family attended church. Ejner's father, Morten, built the tower on the church around 1910.

We visited Thy National Park, where Garry and Phil went swimming in the North Sea. The Hans-holm Bunker Museum, a WWII open air museum with sea views was toured by all of us. (We learned more about the bunkers in Denmark from watching the tv series, Seaside Hotel.) Another highlight of our trip was our stop at Grenen, the Northern tip of Denmark where the North Sea and the Baltic Sea meet. We all got our feet wet! Den Gamle By, an open air town museum where you can experience Denmark history through four time periods, was an afternoon stop. We went to Aarhus University to see the Dale T. Mortensen International Centre (Dale was Aunt Rita's cousin). We

saw a Viking ship museum in Roskilde and the Roskilde Cathedral.

What a blessing to have a family that can play together and pray together. It was one more family experience



The Thomas Dambo handcrafted wooden troll in Odense.



Rørbæk Kirke in Hobro in Northern Jutland, the church attended by Ejner Mortensen and family. The tower was built by Morten Mortensen around 1910.



Granly 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Granly annual meeting was called to order by President Jerold Shepherd at 10:30 am on October 11, 2025. There were 18 members and one visitor in attendance as follows: Else Martin, Kevin Martin, Larry Martin, Shane Martin, Jerold and Rita Shepherd, Davey and Ban Ban Shepherd, Lee and Carmen Shepherd, Mike O'Brien, Beth and Jimmy Etheridge, Ejna and Keith Mitchell, Darla Hughes (and Jerry Worden), Garry and Gina Linton.

The minutes were read by Gina Linton, secretary. They were approved as read.

The treasurer's report was read by Kevin Martin, treasurer. A copy of the financial report was provided to all in attendance. Donations were received from 63 of 120 households on Granly's mailing list and this is the highest percentage since Kevin has been serving as treasurer. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to transfer \$15,000 to our checking account for estimated expenditures this coming year.

Else Martin gave an update about the USM records of Granly's oral history. She requested that Darla ask Dallas Harris to provide her story for the USM records.

Larry Martin requested information for the upcoming newsletter. He also stated that he has researched a web posting service called WIX to use for posting information about Granly and its members. It would cost approximately \$25 per month for this service. It was moved and seconded that we subscribe to this service. The motion carried and Kevin will look into sending monthly payments electronically.

Jerold Shepherd provided the report of Trustees. Lee Hedegaard coordinated efforts to place cemetery markers at the corners of each plot. The roof was replaced on both buildings. Mike Phillips primed and repainted the ceiling after the roof leak. The annual work day was held on October 10 with 11 Mortensen ancestors involved. The storage closet and shower room were cleaned and organized, the buildings were pressure washed, the front porch railings were repaired, the porch floor was repainted, the plantings were trimmed and debris cleared, some fencing was repaired, and the beds were mulched. Jerold has arranged for

the sides of the property to be power mulched again this year. In addition, it is a possibility that an Eagle Scout may clear the trail. Jerold is looking into getting dirt delivered to fill in the hole on the north side of the building and toward the covered patio and walkway and will talk to Lee Hedegaard about being present for the delivery. We will need a tractor to spread the fill dirt.

Next year it is recommended that we paint the shower room and porch ceiling, replace the fans on the porch, add a fan in the shower room, replace the floor in the shower room, and clean and organize the storage shed. Thanks to Crystal Goldman for her cleaning services and to Barbara Nygaard for taking care of the lawn.

New business included a discussion about donating money to Lutheran World Relief. Gina read Article 5 regarding distribution of the principle. It was moved and seconded to donate \$100,000. The motion carried and Kevin will send the donation to Lutheran World Relief.

Jerold discussed the need to have a maintenance coordinator for the property. This person would check the property periodically to identify needed maintenance. Jerold has already discussed this possibility with Brian Goldman, who is the spouse of Crystal Goldman. After discussion of Brian's qualifications, it was moved and seconded to pay Brian Goldman a sum of \$100 per month as a retainer for his services as maintenance coordinator. The motion carried and Jerold will inform Brian.

There was discussion about the need for additional landscaping services. Else stated that Barbara's son, Tim, may be available and willing to complete additional trimming of shrubs on the property. Else will discuss this with Barbara.

The officers that were elected last year will continue in their positions: Jerold Shepherd, President; Ejna Mitchell, Vice President; Gina Linton, Secretary; Kevin Martin, Treasurer. Larry Martin will continue to compile and send the newsletter. Trustees include Else Martin, Lee Shepherd, Carmen Shepherd, Keith Mitchell, Katherine Mitchell, and Garry Linton.

Our next annual meeting will be on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 10:00. Work day will be on Friday, October 2, 2026 and Saturday, October 3, 2026 following the meeting. A breakfast will be provided at 8:30 on Saturday morning to encourage attendance at our annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned in due form.

Gina Linton, Secretary



A Day's Work at Granly: Digging into History, One Shovel/Mop at a Time

By Gina Linton and Beth Etheridge

There's something special about a work day at Granly, our beloved Danish Historical site that sits tucked among the oaks and bamboo, where echoes of the past still mingle with the hum of power tools and laughter. What began as a routine annual cleanup turned into a full day of teamwork, discovery, and a reminder of how history hides in unexpected places. Those in attendance included Jerold Shepherd, Mike O'Brien, Jimmy and Beth Etheridge, Ejna and Keith Mitchell, Darla Hughes and Jerry Worden, Gina and Garry Linton, and Lee Shepherd.

The Mortensen contingent gathered early, after a stop for breakfast at Waffle House in Moss Point, ready to tackle a long list of projects that would help keep Granly in shape until our next annual workday. The morning air was crisp, the kind that makes hard work feel rewarding. Mulch piles were distributed across garden beds, pathways were cleared, and the sounds of rakes and a shop vac filled the air. Thankfully, Hurley Hardware was open that day!

As some volunteers trimmed back overgrown hedges and trees, others took to the storage buildings – long overdue for a cleanout. Dust danced in the sunlight filtering through the picnic tables as boxes, tools, chairs, and forgotten relics were sorted.

Meanwhile, Keith fired up the power washer to singlehandedly tackle the weathered exteriors of the buildings. Grime and mildew gave way to the beautiful white exterior. The rhythmic spray of water mixed with bursts of chatter – some about the best power-washing techniques, others about the history of Keith's skills. Uncle Jerold and Jerry tackled the rotten boards on the front porch, and the porch decking was painted a dark green.

Midday, as the Mortensens cleared out a back storage shed that hadn't been cleaned out in years, someone made an unexpected find: a box of military-style Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) tucked in the corner between boxes of holiday decora-

tions and craft supplies. The labels were faded, but the dates told the story – 2005.

After a few samplings, a few laughs, and some detective work, the team realized these were emergency rations likely placed there by Ray Nygaard, donated during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, nearly 20 years ago. The discovery was both a humorous and touching reminder of how compassion and community touched the Danes of Granly.

Sassy's provided a midday reprieve and time for nourishment before tackling yet more projects. By late afternoon, mulch beds were tidy, the grounds neatly trimmed, and the buildings gleamed as if newly painted. After showering, a delightful dinner meal was awaiting at the home of the Shepherds (thankfully not the MREs) where stories were shared of the day's work and finds.

The Granly work day was more than maintenance – it was a living connection between past and present. With each bag of mulch spread and each storage room cleaned and restored, volunteers didn't just care for a property; they helped preserve a shared history that continues to bring people together. As Beth said, "You never know what you'll find when you start cleaning up a piece of history." As Lee said, "Oh wow!"





You're invited!
GRANLY CHRISTMAS
December 26 at 6pm



THE GRANLY NEWS
The Danish Historical Foundation, Inc.
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Bay St. Louis, MS 39520