

The Granly News

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



Granly History: Opening of the Forsamlingshus

The following article describes the opening of the Granly forsamlingshus in November of 1936. The article is from a dispatch submitted by Pastor Frost to the Danish-American newspaper, Dannerirke, which published it on December 2 of that year. Translation by Brian Martin.



Granly, Mississippi

On November 8, a day of remembrance was held at Bethany congregation at Granly, Mississippi. The day dawned with delightful weather, and the majority of the colony's population, approximately 80 children and adults, gathered to take the congregation's new home into use, which the Danish Women's Mission, the Danish Church's women's associations, and other friends had helped them build. The interior of the house had been decorated by the young people under Mrs. Mortensen's management the day before, and the women had everything ready for the celebration. It was festive people who greeted us.

Invitations to the party were sent out to all the Danish people whose addresses were known in the area. From Mobile and Theodore, Ala-

bama, and from the towns on the Mississippi coast, they responded to the invitation. Pastor Holger Nielsen had kindly promised to make the journey from Danevang and helped us to have a celebration. He himself was enriched by the trip.

On Sunday morning we all gathered at the forsamlingshus's foundation stone. The house is built on the congregation's land near the location where it was originally intended, and it can be seen from almost every home there. As Pastor Knud Knudsen did not think he had the strength to preside over the consecration, it fell to me, as a neighboring priest, to lead the celebrations. After the hymn "På Jerusalem det ny" (On the New Jerusalem), I read, among other things, the following "Main points of the Congregation's History", written by Pastor Knudsen:



Completed in 1936, the forsamlingshus was the much-needed gathering place for Granly colonists. The picture above is believed to be a Sunday School class from 1939 or 1940. Note: Not all of those pictured could be identified so we are seeking help to assign names. If you have any information on the photo such as exact date, circumstance, or can identify anyone, please submit replies to the editor.

"The people who started the Granly colony belonged ecclesiastically to the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Den Danske Kirke). The first Danish priest who visited Granly was A.E. Frost, Askov, Minn. At a small ceremony on the forest plain, 4 November 1930, he featured Pastor Kr. Østergaard's song: "God, You are good and strong" and this prayer:

"Let it happen in this place;
What you can be known
for. So here must grow
in Christian Danish homes;
A life for you, and the honor of the Danish people"

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Future Events

Granly Christmas
December 26 at 6pm

2023 Annual Meeting
October 14, 2023 at 10am

2023 Annual Workday
October 13, 2023

Visit Our Facebook Page at:

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Share your Family Photos and Memories with us to be posted on our Granly Facebook Page and in the Newsletter.

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We want to hear from you!

Please send your family photos, current news and your comments and suggestions to the editor.

We want to hear from all Granly descendants – trips to Denmark, Reunions, Holiday traditions, recipes, etc.

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Forsamlingshus opening cont.

The next priest's visit was Easter Sunday 1931. Pastor Evald Kristensen from Solvang, Calif., thought of moving here and building a youth home and school. A congregation was formed with Christian Pedersen as chairman and Evald Kristensen was elected priest. A constitution was later adopted. Pastor Kristensen thought of coming here on September 1. He waited for a tour [arrangements to visit Danish-American communities] on his trip to this place in order to collect funds for the enterprise, but it did not succeed. In June he asked to be released from his promise.

Retired priest, K. Knudsen, who had bought land and built a house, stepped in, in accordance with a previous promise, with temporary, unpaid service. From then on, the services were held in the parsonage.

A few women who were here came together for small meetings and agreed to form a Danish Congregational Women's Association (Den Danske Menigheds Kvindeforening). Among their tasks, they especially looked forward to the time when a forsamlingshus would be needed. Danske Kvinders Missionfond donated the first \$25 to achieve this goal. Next, a quilt was created [by the Granly women], on which lots were sold to women's associations in the Danish Church. The total sum was later handed over to the congregation, which at a reorganization meeting had adopted the name Bethany Congregation, as help for the construction of a forsamlingshus.

In 1935 there was talk of a cemetery. Pastor Knudsen then promised to donate two acres on the northwest corner of his property for such use. When Reverend Frost, now Danevang, Texas, in March 1936 stayed a few weeks in Granly on the occasion of confirmation, the idea of buying three acres out of the above mentioned for the property of the congregation was put forward. This land was fenced, cleared and under cultivation. The case won support in the congregation. A legal quit claim deed was handed

over to the congregation. It was also given the right to build a road from State Highway 63 to the cemetery. On the east of this piece of land, so many people have worked on building this forsamlingshus, in whose cornerstone today, 8 November 1936, this is laid down with the prayer from 4 November 1930 in memory and thought that in Granly:

"... a quilt was created [by the Granly women], on which lots were sold to women's associations in the Danish Church. The total sum was later handed over to the congregation ... as help for the construction of a forsamlingshus.

"Here must grow, in Christian, Danish homes,
A life for the honor of God and the Danish people"

In addition to this, 57 letters of friendship from the women's associations and others who had contributed to the construction of the house, lists of the names of Bethany congregation and women's association members, as well as some small coins were embedded in the foundation stone, as we remembered the many who had given funds and worked so that the house could stand completed and debt free.

The following excerpt is from my words at the dedication: "When we gather here today on the Bethany Congregation's property to take the congregation's new forsamlingshus into use, we all do it with heartfelt joy and gratitude to God and the people who have made it possible to

raise this community house here in Granly, Mississippi. This is how they have started in many Danish colonies with the help of friends."

When we stood here that evening six years ago, it was with great hope and desire for the future well-being of the colony. That evening there were just four of us, namely Hans Madsen and his wife, Christian Pedersen, and the undersigned. Today there are many here. That evening we saw no settler homes from the plain here. Now there are flashing lights to meet us from many homes. And now you have come so

far that you have a community house in order to gather from the many homes to promote all that is good. What we glimpsed in our minds that evening is already well on its

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Forsamlingshus opening cont.

way to being realized. I wish Bethany parishioners today and all those who will come in the future and will help to share the blessing and responsibility of living together here, good luck with what has been achieved here. May some of the trembling hope for the future be known in you at this time, as we knew it in 1930, so that you retain a wide-awake sense of everything small and great and with longing to reach further still.

You have named your congregation after the home in Bethany, a place from which one always left enriched. May young and old here succeed in safeguarding that the feeling that prevails in the best Christian homes must also prevail in the forsamlingshus here. If it succeeds for you, then the co-existence will probably be to the glory of God and our people. A welcome to everyone who wants to cherish the feeling from the best homes here.

“Healthy souls, strong wills,” may it be known here as the badge of nobility of Danish men and women.

After the hymn:

“God’s word, it’s our

heritage”, everyone went inside, where Pastor Knudsen welcomed us all to the new home, after which we took it into use for the service and altar walk. From today’s text, I tried to bring out the one necessary question that Jesus emphasized to his disciples when they were preoccupied with the rank relationship in the kingdom, namely this: “See if you can become small enough in mind to enter.”

Because this pales in comparison to all the little things we can argue about. How happy it is that Jesus does not stop us at the entrance and say, “This far but no further. It is enough for you to be a spectator and long for the benefits of the kingdom.” He invites us all the way into the commu-

nity around his own table, that we must experience the fullness of his life and always become “richer and richer in knowledge.”

To the Bethany congregation, the congregation in Cedar Falls, Iowa, had sent two beautiful silver candlesticks. From Dr. and Mrs. Skands Hansen’s estate, sent by Pastor O. Jørgensen, an approximately 30-inch-tall reproduction of Thorvaldsen’s Christ statue. The widow of Pastor O. Jacobsen, Troy, N.Y., had previously given them their seven-armed candlestick. All these gifts appeared beautifully on the altars of the settlers, and they were grateful for these as well as for a gift of books from J. Nielsen, Mobile, Ala.

In the afternoon and evening Pastor Nielsen captivated

the congregation with two good lectures. It is enjoyable to speak when young and old listen intently.

The closing words were spoken when we sat down for the third time around the women’s well-stocked tables. Nielsen gave them good wishes for the future. Mrs. Smidt, the president of the women’s association, thanked them for everything they had enjoyed on this day of celebration. Madsen from Alabama gave the farmers such good advice on the improve-

ment and preservation of the topsoil that it seems that all the people would like to have kept him and his family in Granly. From that loam to the spiritual loam in the chest, thoughts found their way easily and Mrs. K. Knudsen so fervently hoped that their expectations for this shared home would now be fulfilled. They remembered Alma Holst and her parents, who first called Danish people here.

The chairman of the congregation, Christian Pedersen, then surprised the gathering by reciting his speech in the following poem for the day of celebration:



The forsamlingshus circa 1942. Pictured are Sine Nygaard visiting from Danevang and Granly resident Paul Pedersen. The photo shows the original brick chimney that was connected to a pot bellied wood stove used for heating the building. The landscape then was very different with open farmland and very few trees. In the *Dannevirke* article Pastor Frost wrote that the building “can be seen from almost every home there”.



Melody: Blev nu til spot dine tusindaars minder? (A Danish hymn) Note: In Christian Pedersen's poem in Danish, the 2nd and 4th lines of each stanza rhyme.

"We fought hard for the house we built
Here on Granly's wings, surrounded by forest.
The thought we have long nurtured and cherished;
Therefore happy today we will sing its praise.

Witness we want the thought that grows
For a noble cause with a lofty goal in mind,
Nor is he subdued for those who only believe,
Even if it costs a little effort.

The house we built for gathering and church
For every noble sport on the ground of spiritual life,
Lust for life and strength for our daily work,
To summon great deeds from the depths of the soul.

Show we want that where unity lives,
Tasks are fun, even if they are heavy.
The resistance is broken, even if it is great.
By the unity of old and young.

Here let's gather for united action
About each common solution for the benefit of society,
Bringing together the forces now scattered,
To safely carry our case out of port.

Then it must be known that the luck jumped
Out of a shared desire to please each other.
Then, even if the road seems a little narrow,
Courage in the heart get a seat.

Were we few and at times forlorn,
However, we moved forward despite the cloud of adversity.
Have we just laid our foundation in faithfulness,
We lead our work to a victorious dawn.

Is the heart sometimes oppressed by wages,
However, we will valiantly, as time goes on,
Swing us joyfully with song and in prayer
Up towards brighter times.

Let us then fight and not give up,
What we have set ourselves here as the goal of the future;
Freedom and equality and evil days,
Protect our residence with wills of steel.

Be alert for the free spirit of an interpreter
Without any hesitation or dissonance in the sound,
So we can claim for country and for people,
That Danes live in the South.

After singing and worship, everyone went their separate ways, richer for this day's togetherness and with the will to face the new tasks as they come forward. I guess we all understood that we must be on guard, the mood must be kept in harmony with the best of the home, and it must turn into the growth of Christian life and public life.

A.E. Frost
Danevang, Texas, 24. Nov. 1936

Source: *Dannevirke*, Volume 56, Issue 49, page 4, December 2, 1936. Holst Printing Company. Archived by Danish Immigrant Museum at: <https://box2.nmtvault.com/DanishIM/jsp/RcWebBrowseCollections.jsp>

Confirmation services held at forsamlingshus in 1938



Granly's second confirmation class ever and the first at the forsamlingshus was recorded in this photo from October 1938. Pictured next to the forsamlingshus are from left Pastor A.E. Frost, Paul Pedersen, Erik Ramberg, Wolfgang Ramberg; in front from left, Edna Jensen, Ida Larsen, Dora Larsen, Alice Buck, Esther Larsen.

The first confirmation class was in the Spring of 1936, just before the building was constructed and took place at Pastor Knudsen's home.



Granly History

The passage below is from Chapter X of Drommen om Amerika: The Dream of America. A Chronicle of the Lives of Nielsine Margrethe Johansen and Jens Clausen Brinkman.

The chapter describes the Brinkman family's last few months in Dagmar, Montana and eventual move to Granly in 1934 and features four letters from Sine Brinkman. Reprinted with permission of author Carol Stacy Brinkman.

Favel (Farewell)

Early spring in Mississippi was still winter in Montana, and Jens and Sine seemed quite content to extend their winter stay in Granly. However, in March Sine and Jens were notified by telegram of the death of Ida Jessen, Marie and Niels' first-born and Sine's favored niece. Ida had contracted tuberculosis while attending Teacher's College in Miles City, Montana and had been ill for some time. Sine and Jens returned to Montana in time for the funeral.

Back in Montana – 1934

The hurried return to Montana meant that Jens and Sine had to stay with Carl and Astrid because, once again, renters must vacate, and repairs and cleaning must be done before they can move back into their own house. Sine's next letters to Chris and Rigmor were written while she and Jens were staying with Carl and Astrid after the funeral. Sine comments on the difficulties of finding work in grim times and talks of the wide circle of friends among Danes. And, of course, she expresses her sadness about Ida's death and her concern for Marie. She writes, too, about Kirstine Henriksen, the friend who had also made the 1919 trip to Denmark.

Onsdag morgen, 21 March 1934, Dagmar, Montana

Kaere Christian!

Thank you for the letter that I got yesterday. Henry came up early because of the big meeting. Papa and Carl were there. Carl had left that morning before we got up. He also did this morning to go to

Grenora [North Dakota] to get freight. He's not coming home to-night. He had to go to Williston [North Dakota] to get another load. As you understand we are still down here [at Carl and Astrid's], but we are going home one of these days. Should have already been up there [so that we could have] some people to Papa's birthday on Friday. Hope you're finding or will find good work where you are because that darn work is not good for you. That means it's too uncertain to work here. Harvey [Andersen] and five more went [to see about Relief work] last week. He talked about writing to you. They got quite a lot of paperwork to fill out and were to send their pictures with it. They had to be examined like they were soldiers. They have to fill it out and send it in and then stay home until they are called. Harvey and two others put it in the fire. The other three filled it out and that will probably be the last they hear. So you see it is all humbug. They just sit and wait for work and probably never get it, but they have to show up any time they are wanted as soon as they have filled and sent it in.

I am so sad to hear about Betty. I hope that she is soon going to feel better. Maybe it was the place she worked that was too hard on her. We're not talking about it before others do. There are so many people from Dagmar out there, and they are always writing home about it. It's good for Betty to learn how to live and eat and she will there. Now it's Sigrid and Dagny out there. I didn't talk to them again before they left. I brought my clothes and was going to spend the night, but Hanna and Hazel were there. And I haven't been there since ... Ida had planned on coming [to Mississippi?] so we could really talk, but that wasn't going to happen. We miss her. When you think about it we will never see her again down here. We think it is a nice piece that Pastor Larsen spoke in Danish. It is going to be hardest for Tante. I don't think she is going to make it without Ida. She could talk to her about everything, and Tante always had her to nurse and take care of. Papa and Jeanne are asleep in the attic. I think they are sleeping good after Carl got up because it is late and they haven't got up yet. Lloyd had an ear pain for a while last night and Jeanne cried up there for what reason I don't know. Roy and Irene [daughter of Ingvard Jessen who was visiting from Iowa, perhaps?] were the only ones sleeping well. She is staying till the first of April. Astrid is to remain calm – not move. We went to Plentynwood Saturday. Astrid, Carl, me, Hanna, and Hazel went to see Kirstine Henriksen in hospital. My leg is doing a lot better.

Kaerlig Hilsen fra os Alle, Moder

In the last sentence of her letter, Sine is referring to an accident that happened shortly before she and Jens left Mississippi. Sine had tripped and fallen over a chicken crate causing a cut that was slow to heal. She will refer to it in



other letters. The day after writing Chris, Sine writes the following to Rigmor in California.

Torsdag eftermiddag, 22 March 1934, Dagmar, Montana

Kære Rigmor!

Here I am home again. We just arrived a half hour ago and everything is so clean here. Not like the morning we left. They have taken all of their stuff with them ... I've hung some of my clothes, and I don't feel like starting to do anything. Everything seems so quiet after coming from Carl's where all the kids were unruly all the time ... Papa also had to go to Carl's to milk the cows. Carl hasn't come home from Williston. He wanted me to go over tonight, and I also wanted to, but I've almost just been there, and they have to move next week ... They have been so busy packing and looking through all their stuff. Clara came with a box of clothes for Astrid ...

There are clothes for Roy for a long time, and it is good stuff ... I just wish that Astrid would be well, but she just can't take very much. Lloyd had a bad ear pain from the other night. So she had to be in bed yesterday. She had been up too much caring for him ... My leg is not healed. Otherwise, I would bring Roy up here ... Tomorrow we are going to a funeral. Kirstine Henriksen died the day before yesterday at 7 o'clock. It is hard to understand. We were just there Saturday, Hanna and me, and you wouldn't think she was ready to die. It is so sad for us, and we are so sorry for Henrik. He only had her, no children, and no one there to help him and comfort him. Her sister is staying with him for a while. She arrived as soon as Kirstine wrote that she was in bed. Henrik was there with her last night, and that is all I know so far. She had changed a little bit. Her eyes especially, but she was not weak. So I couldn't imagine that would be the last time I saw her and spoke with her. We will miss her a great deal because she was a very good friend of ours.

Good people you meet everywhere though. We also met good people in Mississippi, and I think I would like to move down there – not because I'm tired of living here. The weather has been good even though

it is cold and snowing. There had been some sand storms. In Minnesota and North Dakota there was smoke as we were driving there. Also, we saw some grasshoppers. People are talking a lot about them already. Tomorrow is Papa's birthday. Astrid baked a cake, and we had coffee before we came home. They wanted to celebrate today, because they can't come tomorrow, and we're not home anyway.

Monday morning! I should have written yesterday instead of having to hurry this morning after breakfast and after Elna went to school and Papa is out milking. Ja, we went to the funeral Friday. Carl and three from Uncle's and we. It was so cold, and the car was frozen. When Papa went to get Carl's and Uncle's the roads were bad. There were a lot of people, and the church was beautifully decorated ... There were a lot of pretty flowers. Carl had gotten some flowers from us, Uncles and Astrid. It was a bouquet of dark red roses. What is

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Brinkman family across America 1893 to 1934



Jens arrived in New York City in 1893 and Sine in 1901. Both were following dreams so large in their imaginations that they could dare to leave home and family with little expectation of ever seeing them again. Sine and Jens met and married in Black Hawk County, Iowa, in 1902. The dream they shared took them from Iowa to Montana to Mississippi. Today the five generations of their descendants are scattered across the country from Rhode Island to California, Florida to Washington state and points in between.

1. New York City
2. Black Hawk County, Iowa
3. Maple Hill, Emmet County, Iowa
4. Dagmar, Sheridan County, Montana
5. Granly, Jackson County, Mississippi



Farewell cont.

poor Henrik supposed to do now? He is so alone ... Saturday the weather was milder, but cold again yesterday. Tomorrow will probably be good again. We haven't seen Carl's family since Friday, but in the evening came Tante and the girls to stay all night ... Saturday we cleaned house as usual ... Carl made ice cream ... Astrid got up to eat ice cream, but otherwise Carl said she should go back to bed ... I hope she's not going to do something that she will suffer from afterwards. Elna thought she would go down to Carl's tonight. I would also like to go down to check on them. We really should take Roy since Astrid is carrying him around too much. He has to be changed very often since he can't say yet when he has to go, and it is usually her doing it. Otherwise, we are doing well. My leg is healing slowly so I hope it will be healed soon ...

Kaerlig Hilsen fra os alle ved din Moder

Understandably, Sine is concerned about Astrid's health. At this time, Lloyd is five years old, Jeanne four, Roy not quite two, and Astrid is two months pregnant. Two more letters follow shortly after, and again it is a sad refrain of weather, woes and illness.

Lordag morgen, 14 April 1934, Dagmar, Montana

Kaere Christian!

It is soon a long time ago I have written to you, but I think we have heard from one another since. What terrible weather – sand storm every day – Monday and Thursday being the only days we missed it this week. Yesterday it started from the southeast but changed north/northwest, and wherever you looked you could not see anything. We could see the big storm clouds come from far away, and we have that cornfield right here north of us. It is destroying the fields and what a terrible house you get. Carl and Hans work at home still. I don't know how far they have gotten. Papa is burning thistles – some blow away – and others take their place ...

I don't know when Tante is thinking about leaving, but if it is going to be windy weather, we know Clara will soon be going. So far she hasn't thought that there was any hurry. I'm afraid that Tante is going to get very sad in LA sitting there all alone in a big house now

that she doesn't have Ida. When she calms down a bit, she will feel the loss even more. We miss her a lot, and I would have liked to have her here awhile as I had been looking forward to.

After Ida's death, Tante [Aunt – as Sine refers to Marie when she is speaking to Chris about her sister Marie], made the decision to move to California where all her daughters now were living. Her life had revolved around her daughters after Niels died, but then as each daughter grew up and moved away, the focus of Marie's life was

nursing Ida through her illness. Sine worried that the long hours in a strange city, while her daughters were at work, would be lonely hours for Marie.

Astrid has a very good, skilled girl in Dora, one of the Johnson girls. I just hope that Astrid will be well again. She wants to take care of the children and the house by herself. It is difficult for her to stay calm, and that is what she needs to do. She thinks though that she can come tomorrow and can sit and rest. It is not so

strange for her here at our house.

People are losing their good spirits when this weather just continues. It doesn't look like it's going to rain, but it could still come. We haven't gotten the papers on the 40 acres in Mississippi yet. I think it should have been here by now ...

Elna has five weeks left. She is very happy when that time has passed. It is a long way to go. Of news, I have none. I know that all I think about is wind and weather. My leg has just about healed, and it doesn't bother me any more for which I am very happy. Elna heard from Rigmor this week so we know she is not going to see you this Easter. Sigrid and Dagny would like to go though so we will have to see what happens. It is good that you went to see Betty. Please do it again if you can. It is so hard to be sick.

Kaerlig Hilsen fra os alle ved din Moder

Tirsdag morgen, 24 April 1934, Dagmar, Montana

Kaere Christian!

Thank you for the letter that we received last week ... What weather we have had. Sand storms, if not every day, then every second day mostly two to three days in a row. And yesterday we sowed 15



acres at Rasmussens, and then they came over here and plowed and sowed the corn land. I wish it would stop drifting until they are done with that piece of land. Maybe it will stop drifting. It has blown into the buildings just about every day since it is coming from the north all the time. It hasn't rained all spring, but it will come. Hope is doesn't take too long. Folks here are becoming very tired of it. Carl said Jalmer wouldn't sow anymore until we get some rain. The least he can sow is 160 acres to get the allotment. The least we can sow is 300 and the most is 480.

I know Jeanne and Roy have been sick since Friday. Jeanne is over it now, but Roy is still very sick. It is stomach illness. He sleeps most of the time. I haven't been down to see him, but Clara was with Carl down there yesterday. She said that he is so weak that it is taking all of his strength. Hope that he will be better today, or I think they should take him to the doctor ... Astrid was there also to see the doctor. It looks like it is the same. When the kids feel bad it is worse for her.

Happy to see that you have work even though it is on Sunday. Rasmussen has a little Relief work planting trees out by the exhibition building. He has to keep it under supervision. Strange that they would trust him in that. Hanna is also very bad, but she was up. Mrs. John Mortensen just had an operation but is feeling better though. It looks like everyone has their problems, but it has always been that way. I don't know if you are mudding things up or feeling bad when you are at home. But in weather like this, I'm sure that you are happy you are not here.

Kærlig Hilsen fra os alle ved din Moder

Sine's letters reveal a lot about her nature. Despite the continued drought, she optimistically says that the rain "can still come." This optimism, however, is balanced by her pragmatic nature as when she tells of the illness and problems of those around her – "It looks like everyone has their problems, but it has always been that way." And of course, there is her everlasting concern for her

children and grandchildren.

The Move to Mississippi

The spring and summer of 1934 was a busy time for the two Brinkman families of Dagmar. A decision had been made, and preparations were underway for the move to Mississippi. Once again, most of their possessions were sold at auction. Art Jonason would farm the homestead and share what income he might earn. A dinner was held at their honor at the Volmer Church, and they bid farewell to friends and neighbors of more than twenty-five years.

Somewhere near the end of September or the early part of October, two vehicles were loaded with children and belongings for another long drive across country. Astrid was in her eighth month of pregnancy and dared travel no further than her sister Herdis' home in Minneapolis. Elna stayed to help Astrid care for Jeanne and Roy as

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A farewell party was held at Volmer Lutheran Church to honor the Brinkman family who had been faithful, founding members of the congregation from its beginning in 1917. In the front row, center, are Jens and Sine. Carl is to the left of Jens, and Elna is to the right of Sine. The man just behind and between Jens and Sine is Hans Rasmussen, long-time friend and sometimes-partner. Behind Hans and to the left is Henrik Henriksen, friend and travel companion when the Brinkmans traveled to Denmark in 1919. Henrik's wife, Kirstine, had died only six months before this photo. Continuing to the left of Henriksen, the woman in the hat and glasses is Johanne Mortensen Rasmussen whose diary documents the early days of homesteading.



Farewell cont.

they awaited the birth of the baby. Jeanne was only four years old, but for her city life was fascinating. "I remember Roy and I sitting on the front steps in Minneapolis waiting for the milk to be delivered in a horse-drawn wagon. In my mind, I thought the fact that milk was delivered to the front porch, in a glass jar no less, was just short of a miracle," says Jeanne.

Jens, Sine, Carl and Lloyd continued on to Mississippi. Lloyd was only five years old at this time, but he has several vivid memories of the long drive. Carl and Sine were in the Model T; Lloyd was riding with his grandfather Jens in the old Model T truck. A passing vehicle caused a large rock to hit the windshield. "It made a terrible noise. When the windshield shattered, the glass hit Pop and me. I had small cuts all over me, and I thought I was bleeding to death!" Lloyd continues, "The trip took more than two weeks. None of the roads were paved, and it seems like we were always stuck in mud holes and ditches waiting for some

"Carl had purchased land in the town of Harleston and planned to build a grocery store. Jens had bought 40 acres two miles south of Harleston on State Highway 63."

farmer to come with his tractor or mule to pull us out."

The Granly Colony to which the families were heading was in actuality an area between the small communities of Hurley and Harleston with Harleston serving as the Post Office for Granly. Carl had purchased land in the town of Harleston and planned to build a grocery store. Jens had

bought 40 acres two miles south of Harleston on State Highway 63.

Glenn Laursen Brinkman was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 29 October 1934. As soon as mom and baby were well enough to travel, with Elna shepherding Roy and Jeanne, they boarded a train for Mississippi. In the meantime, Jens and Carl had bought the abandoned buildings of a defunct sawmill in Piave, Mississippi.

Elna was hardly off the train when she found herself on her way 50 miles north to Piave to cook for

the wrecking crew.

In the next issue of *Granly News* we will reprint Chapter XI, of *Drommen om Amerika*, describing the Brinkman family's early years at Granly from 1934 to 1938.



Friends and neighbors came to say *favel* and help load the car and truck for the move to Mississippi in 1934. That is Lloyd, age 5, walking back to the house. Roy, age 2, is standing on the cellar door against the house.



Smidt Reunion

The 2022 Smidt Reunion in South Carolina was attended by three generations of descendants from Enevold and Thekla Smidt, former residents of Granly, MS. Five of Enevold and Thekla's grandchildren were present (picture). Families from Washington



State, South Carolina, Florida, Illinois, and Pennsylvania gathered in Chapin, South Carolina for a week-end of reminiscing, visiting and fellowship around the table (picture).

Highlights of the weekend were the new kittens, a tractor show and rides, an archery range, a nearby arcade, slideshow and albums, plus great food including marzipan for treats and aebelskiver for the Sunday morning brunch. Many thanks to Tim Schmidt, grandson of Gerda (Smidt) Schmidt and his wife, Laurie for hosting this year's reunion.



In 2017, 30 members of the Smidt family gathered in Granly (picture) to celebrate the installment of a garden bench (picture) in memory of Enevold and Thekla Smidt which was placed in the cemetery. Enevold and Thekla Smidt had moved to Granly from Askov, MN in 1933 and lived there until 1965 when they moved to CA. This gathering was highlighted in the Spring 2017 edition of the *Granly News*. Submitted by Richard Schmidt, grandson of Enevold and Thekla Smidt.



Granly 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Granly Danish Historic Foundation Annual Meeting was called to order by President Lee Shepherd at 10 am on Saturday, October 29, 2022. There were 18 members present.

President Shepherd welcomed all in attendance and commended Barbara Nygaard for all she does to keep up the grounds and everyone agreed that the lawn looks really good. He also commended Crystal on her cleaning and how good the buildings look.

Kevin Martin presented the Treasurer's Report. The checking account balance was \$10,927.46 on May 1, 2022 and the current balance is \$21,266.87. Report will be attached to the minutes when distributed.

There was a discussion on members paying their dues. Kevin reported that only 53 members were current on their annual dues.

Lee Shepherd read the trust agreement on spending/allocating funds.

Jerold Shepherd reported that he has not found a company to write fire insurance for the buildings. He will continue to look for coverage. It was noted that there are fire hydrants located nearby.

Lee Hedegaard suggested waiting on contribution to Lutheran World Relief. Patty King made motion to agree. Else Martin seconded and motion passed.

Lee Hedegaard and Jerold Shepherd have been meeting with HVAC contractors and getting bids for installing HVAC in the main building. Installing new windows in the main building will need to be done simultaneously to make the building climate controlled.

Discussion continued regarding the benefits of maintaining the temperature and humidity in the building. Once this is

accomplished, it will help preserve the interior and also make it possible to display photos, art work, etc. Davis Mortensen proposed approving the HVAC as well as window replacements with Lee and Jerold heading up the projects. Both Lee and Jerold agreed that they would do so. Davis made a motion to approve \$40,000.00 for the work. Wayne Adkinson amended the motion to take funds from the trust for the proposed work. Gina Linton seconded and all approved.

Lee Hedegaard said he is working on a sign for the road leading to Granly and what it would take to get approved by the highway department. There was discussion that the sign may bring unwanted attention. Will wait to see what Lee finds out before deciding.

Else Martin requested that Lee and Jerold speak to her contact with the Historical Society before choosing windows, etc. so that we could potentially be considered for the Historical Registry.

Jerold Shepherd presented the maintenance report and the work that was done on the work day and was going on during the meeting. During the meeting, the fence row was being mowed by a company hired to create a fire break around the property as well as clear the undergrowth among the trees in the cemetery. Gina Linton praised all the hard work done on Friday and again on Saturday morning.

The painting of the interior of the main building will be done in March. All stains will be treated and the battens on the walls will be painted the same color so as to keep them as they have been since the building was built. Lee Shepherd suggested Else choose the photo display she felt would work best. \$2000.00 was approved for this project last year.

Larry Martin will research how best to digitally store photos and documents for future generations. Else, Larry and Wayne volunteered to be on this committee. Larry said the newsletters will be distributed Fall and Spring. The next will be sent out mid-November. The newsletters will be highlighting the history of the families involved in Granly.

Lee recommended that the next annual workday and meeting be held the second weekend of October 2023. After group discussion, all approved.



Jerold motioned to keep all officers in place. All officers present agreed to stay on the board. All in attendance agreed.

Wayne Adkinson mentioned the cemetery landscape design and implementation that was discussed last year. There was discussion on obtaining a survey of the family burial plots and starting the design process. Else mentioned contacting Mississippi State to see if a student or students would design the landscape as a project. She also said that

once the plat was drawn up and the landscaping is done to have unified markers to designate each family's plot. Lee Hedegaard said he would organize the survey.

Wayne made a motion to get the cemetery surveyed and have the landscaping design drawn up. Gina Linton seconded and all approved.

President Lee Shepherd adjourned the meeting. The annual Christmas Celebration will be December 26 at 6pm.

Granly Danish Historical Foundation
Financial Report
 Current Status as of October 29, 2022 Board Meeting

Checking Account Balance 31 May 2021 (Last Meeting)	\$ 10,927.46
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Expenses:

Utilities	\$ 717.49
Postage/Checks	\$ 637.47
Newsletter/Printing/Envelopes	\$ 1,427.81
Repairs	\$ 9,600.00
CPA	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 654.22
Total Expenses	\$ 13,036.99

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 1,930.00
Bank Interest	\$ 16.40
Contributions	\$ 1,430.00
Trust Fund Withdrawal	\$ 20,000.00
Total Receipts	\$ 23,376.40

Checking Account Balance 30 September 2022	\$ 21,266.87
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Trust Fund Balance as of 30 September 2022	\$ 750,834.62
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Granly History - WWII

Young Men and Women of Granly Join War Effort

The Granly Record Book lists the 17 young men and women of the Granly community that joined the American forces in during World War II. They are:

Alvin Buck — Army
 Alice Buck — WAC
 Allen Hedegaard — Army
 Harvey Hedegaard — Navy
 Axel Christensen — Army
 Edna Jensen — WAC
 Anne Stine Larsen — Navy

Esther Larsen — Nurse
 Verner Larsen — Navy
 Raymond Nielsen — Army
 John Outzen — Army
 Svend Outzen — Merchant Marine
 Raymond Outzen — Navy
 Paul Pedersen — Navy
 Wolfgang Ramberg — Army
 Erik Ramberg — Merchant Marine
 Borge Smidt — Army



Pictured clockwise from left: Anne Stine Larsen and friend; Axel and Nellie Christensen; Verner Larsen; Anne Stine Larsen (far right) and Waves; Alice Buck; Harvey Hedegaard and sister Else Nygaard; the Outzen brothers — John, Raymond and Svend; Allen Hedegaard with brother Raymond Nygaard; in center Borge Smidt and Alvin Buck.



Wienerbrød

Wienerbrød

Recipe by Thekla Smidt

2 eggs	1 package yeast
1 cup chilled shortening	1 cup flour, + more if needed
Rich milk	Filling, as desired
½ teaspoon salt	Cinnamon and sugar topping
4 tablespoons sugar	

"I remember as a little girl watching Mrs. Smidt make these. She was so fast, rolling, folding, rolling over and over. When they were baking her kitchen smelled so good. We would use her recipe as well."
— Else Martin

Put 2 eggs into cup and fill with rich milk. In bowl, mix eggs and milk with sugar, salt and yeast. Stir in 1 cup flour; Add more until dough can be handled. Roll out dough on floured board. Cover half of dough with 1 cup chilled shortening. Fold over once and roll out again. Fold over three thicknesses. Roll out. Do this four times. Divide (cut) into three equal parts and roll into rectangular strips. Cover center of strip with desired filling. Fold edges to center, sprinkle top with cinnamon and sugar. Let rise. Bake in 350° oven about 20 minutes.

Danish Rum Pudding

Danish Rum Pudding with Raspberry Sauce

Recipe shared by Sonja Adkison

Rum Pudding:

½ cup cold water	½ cup cream
½ cup sugar	6 tbs rum (86 proof)
6 eggs, separated	2 cups milk
2 envelopes plain gelatin	

Sauce:

Juice from 2 cups raspberries
½ cup sugar
1 tbs cold water
1½ tsp corn starch

Pudding: Set out a 2½ quart mold. Pour water into a small bowl; sprinkle gelatin over water, let stand 5 minutes to soften. Beat egg yolks until thick and lemon-colored. Add sugar gradually, beating constantly. Gradually add milk and cream to egg mixture. Cook in double boiler, stirring constantly until mixture coats a spoon. Remove from heat. Stir in softened gelatin until completely dissolved. Chill until mixture begins to gel. Blend in rum and stiffly beaten egg whites.

Rinse mold in cold water. Pour mixture into mold and chill until firm. Unmold and serve with raspberry sauce or lingonberry preserves.

Sauce: Add sugar to raspberry juice; blend together 1 tbs cold water and 1½ tsp cornstarch. Boil over medium heat, stirring constantly, about 3 minutes. Chill and serve.



You're invited!

Granly Christmas

December 26 at 6pm



THE GRANLY NEWS

The Danish Historical Foundation, Inc.

C/O Larry Martin

1012 Breeden Place

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520