

Serving the
Danish Sisterhood of America Since 1947

Danish Sisterhood News

January 2025



In this issue: * Learn About *Members Only Page* * Famous Danish Explorer *
* Zoom Meeting in February 2025 with Jamie Lago in Copenhagen * Apply for Scholarship *



President's Corner



Happy New Year –

I hope you all had a great holiday season. Celebrating Danish traditions at Christmas time is one of my favorite parts of being Danish. I hope you all had a chance to enjoy some of your favorite traditions at this special time of year.

In the last column, I told you a little about the fall board meeting. One of the main focuses at that board meeting was the website. Vice President Anna Nielsen is our webmaster and we looked at ways to change our website and make it more user friendly. If you have looked at the web page (www.danishsisterhood.org) you will notice some new headings and different titles under the pull down menu. We hope this makes them more understandable for what you are looking for.

I once again want to encourage you to go to the website and look at the “members only page.” (If you don’t have access, directions are in the December president’s column.) You will find the entire 2022-2023 audit report is located there. Only the summary part is printed in the newsletter as it would take too much space to print the entire report. I know many of you are interested in this and we are glad to make it available in its entirety for you. Also, all the minutes from our board meetings, both in person and virtual are located there, so you can see what your board is doing,

Anna and the Board are also working on updating resources for you. We are starting with ideas for meetings and favorite recipes of the board. Each board member has submitted at least one recipe and one idea for an activity for your meeting. Please look at them AND add your own ideas: Send them to Anna at vicepresident@danishsisterhood.com.

The other thing I especially like on the website is the newsletter in color. If you haven’t looked at it online, in color, it is amazing in that format. Try it – you will be surprised at how easy it is to read and how fun it is to see it in color.

As always, let us know how we can help you. We are here for you.

Happy New Year!—Nealna

PS: Thanks to Lodge #15 and MoDA for the ZOOM program on February 1, at 11:00 a.m. CST on Royal Copenhagen porcelain. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to see it and share it with your Sisters/Mr. Sisters. Looking forward to seeing you on ZOOM.

Danish Sisterhood News

www.danishsisterhood.com
Volume 78, Number 1

**Honorary Member Her Majesty
Queen Margrethe II of Denmark**

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Dear Sisters and Mister Sisters:

Velkommen

I hope your Christmas and New Year holidays were a remarkable time of celebrating with your family, friends, and Danish lodge members!



Charlene M. Jensen,
Editor

One of the special Danish Christmas events for me is December 23rd when the Danish celebrate Little Christmas Eve, also known as Lillejuleaften. This holiday takes place the day before Christmas Eve. A variety of celebratory events and decorations are used to honor this day. In Portland, Oregon, we always celebrate Lillejuleaften with a church service. Often times we must be flexible on when we can celebrate Lillejuleaften. This year our celebration of Lillejuleaften took place on 12/21/2024. We listened to a sermon in the Danish language as well as in the English language. It was such a joy to hear the various Christmas carols that the people present for the service sang harmoniously. The Lucia Court also attends the Danish Christmas Service yearly. It is a joy to have the Lucia Court present at our Danish Christmas Service. If you would like to watch the crowning of the 2024 Lucia, please click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/VCnquSq6h4Q>

Feel free to send me any photos that you have concerning your lodge events that took place during Christmas 2024 and New Year of 2025. Also, if there are particular Christmas crafts that your lodge made this year, please send me an article with photos of the project/projects that was/were created.

~~Charlene Jensen, Editor

Send articles/stories/photos to: editor@danishsisterhood.com

PHOTO BELOW: This is the photo of those who attended the Christmas Luncheon sponsored by the Haabets Fremtid Lodge #78, Troy, New York.

Photograph by **Marjorie Wheeler of Haabets Fremtid Lodge #78.**



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ON THE COVER:

This photo is, Nyhavn, Copenhagen, DK.

This photo was taken in 2022 while on a family trip to Denmark.

Photograph by
Laurel Covell
Lodge #185
Cleveland, OH



**Are you interested
in Skovsøen?**



If so, please go to:
[Concordia Language Villages](#)

NEWS FROM THE LODGES

IN MEMORIAM January 2025

NAME	Cert #	Lodge #	Location	Birth Date	Birth Place	Initiated	Died	Benefit
Marianne Kovacs	1336	36	Perth Amboy, NJ	7.25.40	New Brunswick, NJ	1.19.07	10.28.24	-0-
Verna Slender	21439	126	Petaluma, CA	11.28.40	Petaluma, CA	1.9.57	9.6.24	250.

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION for January 2025

LODGE	NEW MEMBER	SPONSOR
40	Margie Hussey	Emily Olsen
300	Lisa Riggs	online
300	Carol Stutts	online
300	Toni Battaglia	online
300	Kim Becker	online

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS January 2025

Name	Lodge	Age
Layla Fritz	81	14
Athena Christiansson	165	14



Apply **NOW** for a College Scholarship

The Danish Sisterhood of America offers 10 scholarships, some which are \$2,500 each, to Danish Sisterhood Members and their children.

Information about these scholarships and an application can be found on the website Danishsisterhood.org under the drop down menu

“What We Do”

or by contacting Nealna Gylling at

president@danishsisterhood.com

or 612.390.1374

The due date for these scholarship applications is **March 1, 2025**.

Start applying **NOW!**



DSS Angel Status Members

This status belongs to those members that wish to gift their funeral benefit back to the Sisterhood. We believe this is a generous and significant gift and wish to honor them. If you are interested in becoming an Angel member, please request a beneficiary change form from your lodge secretary or the National Secretary.

From Jan 1, 2024

MEMBER and Lodge #

Ulla Pereira 300
Margaret Omodt 21
Anlaug Nielsen 177
Kristie Hansen-Mendez 4
Cheryl Brinkman 102
Karol Johnson 177

MEMBER and Lodge #

Jacque Wagstaffe 177
Marilyn Kramme 102
Vibeke Petersen-Jensen 24



Did you attend the Denmark trip in October 2024?

If so, please share your pictures of Denmark with Vice President Anna; she will use your photos to update our website. Send your photos to: vicepresident@danishsisterhood.com.

YEARLY AUDIT FINDINGS—SUPREME LODGE OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD (1st page)

SUPREME LODGE OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD OF AMERICA STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS MODIFIED CASH BASIS

AUGUST 31, 2023

(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR AUGUST 31, 2022)

ASSETS

	2023 (Audited)	2022 (Reviewed)
ASSETS		
Cash	33,435	13,234
Restricted cash	17,860	18,462
Investments	886,519	847,778
Computer and office equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$5,820 in 2023 and \$5,603 in 2022	<u>126</u>	<u>343</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	937,940	879,817

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Credit card payable	2,259	1,459
Payroll liabilities and accrued expenses	778	672
Certificate life reserves	<u>231,211</u>	<u>240,030</u>
Total liabilities	<u>234,248</u>	<u>242,161</u>

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions

Designated for national camp grants	2,977	4,395
Available for operations	<u>435,949</u>	<u>374,004</u>
Total net assets without donor restrictions	<u>438,926</u>	<u>378,399</u>

With donor restrictions

Betty Hansen scholarships	229,105	224,503
Other scholarships	29,930	29,022
Disaster relief	<u>5,731</u>	<u>5,732</u>
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u>264,766</u>	<u>259,257</u>

Total net assets	<u>703,692</u>	<u>637,656</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>937,940</u>	<u>879,817</u>
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***This is a converted version to word of the original Audit that was in PDF format. The whole audit will be posted in the Members Only section of our website soon.

YEARLY AUDIT FINDINGS—SUPREME LODGE OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD (2nd page)

SUPREME LODGE OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD OF AMERICA STATEMENT OF
REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS MODIFIED CASH BASIS
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR AUGUST 31, 2022)

*****This is a converted version to word of the original Audit that was in PDF format. The whole audit will be posted in the Members Only section of our website soon.

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	<u>(Audited)</u>		<u>(Reviewed)</u>	
REVENUES	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
Assessments	3,996		3,996	4,869
Donations	1,295	1,415	2,710	289
Dues	24,811		24,811	33,103
Convention income	5,597		5,597	
D.S.S. News	7,448		7,448	7,927
Disaster relief income				200
Denmark trip	2,000		2,000	161,050
Investment return	76,836	17,080	93,916	(108,511)
Miscellaneous income	359		359	3,664
Promotional items sold	<u>2,516</u>		<u>2,516</u>	<u>2,591</u>
	124,858	18,495	143,353	105,182
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>12,986</u>	<u>(12,986)</u>		-
Total revenues	<u>137,844</u>	<u>5,509</u>	<u>143,353</u>	<u>105,182</u>
EXPENSES				
Program Services				
Funeral Benefit				
Actuarial report	1350		1350	1,350
Certificate Life Reserves (decrease)	(8,819)		(8,819)	(10,323)
Funeral Benefits	6,250		6,250	11,500
Fraternal				
Scholarships	13,931		13,931	22,131
Other	1,357		1,357	1,680
Conventions, Meetings, and Trips				
Expenses of Board meeting (Spring and Fall)	27,847		27,847	21,034
Denmark trip				138,520
Convention Expense	(30,624)		(30,624)	4,111
Cultural and historical Preservation				
Historical Preservation	1,000		1,000	
Publishing and mailing D.S.S. News	<u>15,808</u>		<u>15,808</u>	<u>14,713</u>
Total program services	<u>28,100</u>		<u>28,100</u>	<u>204,716</u>

YEARLY AUDIT FINDINGS—SUPREME LODGE OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD (3rd page)

SUPREME LODGE OF THE DANISH SISTERHOOD OF AMERICA STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS MODIFIED CASH BASIS
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023
(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR AUGUST 31, 2022)

	2023		2022	
	(Audited)		(Reviewed)	
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restriction	Total	Total
<i>EXPENSES (Continued) Management and General</i>				
Review/audit	5,500		5,500	3,475
Expenses of district meetings	5,311		5,311	4,592
Office and administrative expenses	14,677		14,677	5,724
Payroll taxes	2,996		2,996	3,102
Promotional items	1,169		1,169	465
Salaries and compensation	19,348		19,348	25,438
Depreciation	<u>216</u>		<u>216</u>	<u>290</u>
Total management and general	<u>49,217</u>		<u>49,217</u>	<u>43,086</u>
 Total expenses	 <u>77,317</u>	 <u>5,509</u>	 <u>77,317</u>	 <u>247,802</u>
 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	 60,527	 5,509	 66,036	 (142,620)
 NET ASSETS, beginning of year	 <u>378,399</u>	 <u>259,257</u>	 <u>637,656</u>	 <u>780,276</u>
 NET ASSETS, end of year	 <u>438,926</u>	 <u>264,766</u>	 <u>703,692</u>	 <u>637,656</u>

*****This is a converted version to word of the original Audit that was in PDF format. The whole audit will be posted in the Members Only section of our website soon.

BROKEN DISHES? There is a unique tradition that takes place in Denmark every year on the 31st of December. Rather than throwing away unused dishes and plates, Danes save them until the end of the year when they affectionately shatter them against the doors of all their friends and relatives. This tradition is known as “smashing plates” or “plate smashing.” The origins of this tradition are not entirely clear, but it is thought to have started as a way to show appreciation for the people in one’s life. By smashing plates against someone’s door, it is a way of saying “thank you” and wishing them good luck in the coming year.

Plate smashing is also a way to let go of the past and start fresh. Breaking old dishes and plates symbolizes leaving behind any negative energy or bad luck from the previous year and making room for new opportunities and positive experiences in the upcoming year. To prepare for plate smashing, Danes collect unused plates throughout the year, often purchasing them at thrift stores or garage sales. Some even decorate the plates with messages or drawings before smashing them. On New Year’s Eve, the plates are brought to the homes of friends and family, where they are shattered against the front door. Plate smashing is a unique tradition in Denmark that has been passed down through generations.



Happy 250th Birthday Royal Copenhagen!

Join the party on February 1, 2025.

Did you know that in the 1700s it was good diplomatic practice amongst royalty and aristocracy to give fine porcelain as gifts?



Juliane Marie was the widow of King Frederik V and was known as a modern queen and a strong supporter of the country. Her greatest legacy was founding the Royal Danish Porcelain Factory in 1775. Queen Juliane Marie was adamant from the start that each piece of porcelain would be stamped with its unique factory mark: the three hand-painted waves that symbolize Denmark's waterways, the 'Oresund' or Sound, the Great Belt and the Little Belt. The queen also introduced the royal crown stamp to highlight the factory's royal association.

This is just a slice of what we will learn on Saturday February 1, 2025!

Last year we enjoyed learning about Flora Danica Porcelain from Jamie Lago in Copenhagen. He is returning again this year, live from Copenhagen to teach us about the history of Royal Copenhagen. Jamie has 22 years of work experience in a variety of positions at Royal Copenhagen.

We will meet via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. CST on Saturday, February 1st.

The good news is this year we are partnering with the Museum of Danish America. We are fortunate that they were awarded a grant from the Iowa Arts and Humanities Council to support their new exhibit Danish Ceramics: Beyond Blue and White. The Zoom meeting this year with Jamie will be paid for through this grant which means it is FREE to you and your lodge. Thank you to the museum for partnering with us and making this program available.

To access the Zoom link go to the Museum of Danish America website: <https://www.danishmuseum.org/visit/events>

Vidste Du or Did you Know?

Did you know that the Danish Sisterhood Archives are now online? You can access whatever you want and whenever you want! ALL of the DSS News and all of the lodge ledgers and secretary books are now ready for you to explore. Our history is ALIVE and available 24/7!!

Did you know that the first issue of the *Danish Sisterhood News* was printed in February 15, 1947? A resolution was passed at the Oct 1946 Convention that a newsletter be published and sent to each member. We have been receiving DSS Newsletters ever since.



Did you know that in 1947 we had 147 lodges and 7443 members? Did you know that the San Francisco Lodge was the largest lodge with 192 Active Members and 117 Social Members?

All of this information was gleaned from our archives housed at the Museum of Danish America. The Link to the archives is: box2.nmtvault.com/DanishIM/

NOW it is your turn. We are looking for **YOU** and **YOUR LODGES** to share what you have learned by reading our archives. It is great fun, take some time and explore our rich history and let us know what you found! We are creating this monthly column and are dependent on you to write about something you discovered. Please let me know which month you would like to contribute a short story from our archives. Contact Marcia Jante at mjante@wi.rr.com. Thanks for your support!

—The Sisterhood and MoDA Archival Partnership Committee

LIST OF DONORS

We are so grateful Sisters, Mr. Sisters, Lodges and donors for your support of our Danish Sisterhood and Museum of Danish America Archival Campaign. Our history will now LIVE forever through the online library at the Museum! Below is the list of donors: Thank you so much!



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danish america

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** indicates multiple gifts.
 Hurra Hurra !

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John Rasmussen (Lodge 300)
Carol Rudisill (Lodge 102)
Elizabeth Steffensen (Lodge 4)
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PHOTO RIGHT: Peter Freuchen was born in Denmark in 1886. Peter Freuchen is known for his amazing accomplishments including escaping an ice cave armed with his bare hands and frozen feces, escaping a death warrant issued by Third Reich officers, and being the fifth person to win the jackpot on the game show *The \$64,000 Question*.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Membership Corner for January 2025 Danish Sisterhood Issue, by Carol Rudisill

Happy New Year Everyone! Here's to another great year as part of the Danish Sisterhood of America! Skål!

When I began thinking about this article for January, I started thinking of change. January and the first of the new year is a great time to make changes in our lives. Likewise, within the Danish Sisterhood, there has been change and evolution into a more updated version of itself. This is nothing new for 2025, but instead is a continued change for the future.

Back when the Danish Sisterhood was founded, it was men who were the board of directors and in all leadership positions. It took a few years, but that slowly changed when two Sisterhood members were elected to serve as National Trustees. I find this so interesting because it was the women who needed and wanted to support each other but the times made it imperative that men be the governing body. When the two women were asking to be on the board for Danish Sisterhood, it sure would have been interesting to be a fly on the wall. Were the men happy about the change? Was there excitement about this change? Was there celebration? Or was it a non-issue and I am thinking it more than it was? I'd be interested to hear the discussion. Perhaps if I go to the minutes from some of the first established lodges I'd be able to get a sense of the attitude of the time about women running their own organization.

Following this election, more and more women took leadership roles in their local lodges as well as Districts, and National Boards. After several years the Danish Sisterhood became exclusively a female-only organization. Starting in the 2000's the National Board began hosting a Denmark tour. If you were/are a Sisterhood member you are given a discount on the cost of the trip. So at this time membership once again began to change. Men were welcome to join the Sisterhood and participate in all Sisterhood activities. What a great addition this has been to the Sisterhood. Men have now joined and regularly participate in meetings and events at the local and District level. Many lodges have men in leadership positions.

According to the current records we have a total of fifty-three "Mr. Sisters": Men who are members of the Danish Sisterhood of America. What a great addition these men have been to the Sisterhood. Consider signing up your husbands, significant other, children, and grandchildren. What a special thing it is to share all the Danish traditions and history with those we care about.



PHOTO RIGHT: "Vor Frelser Kirke" Our Savior's Church, Copenhagen, DK. Visitors can walk up the stairs on the outside of the tower.

Photo taken in 2017 during a family trip to Denmark.

Photograph taken in 2017 by Laurel Covell, Lodge #185, Cleveland, OH

WESTERN STAR LODGE #113, GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA



Seven members of Lodge #113 attended our annual Christmas party which was held at Sylvia McTavish's home. After having the Christmas story read aloud, we had a delicious meal with turkey, all the fixings and a tasty dessert.

We are working on learning numbers 1-10 in Danish. It is a work in progress!

Sylvia, our vice president, played the piano as we sang *Silent Night* in Danish. It was fun and also a work in progress! We exchanged Secret Sister Christmas gifts and then had a cookie exchange.

It's always enjoyable to fellowship with our DSH sisters.

Article by Christine Rindone of Western Star Lodge #113, Grand Island, Nebraska. Photography: Christine Rindone.

HAABETS FREMTID LODGE #78, TROY, NY

In the northeast we have enjoyed a lovely autumn with beautiful trees and wonderful warm weather until December arrived bringing in cooler breezes and some snow. We have taken a little time to visit some of our elderly over the past few months as Mildred Shea saw some family from Florida and Jensen's visited with Art and Jane Hansen, I believe Gladys Christensen also received a visit as well as our President, Marilyn Dore, often calls and checks up on our Sisters.

Fifteen of our members gathered at Van Shaick Golf course in Cohoes for our Christmas luncheon. We had a choice of several sandwiches followed with our rice pudding dessert and homemade Danish cookies. Of course, there was an almond hidden in the pudding and the lucky winner this year was Judy Jensen. She received a marzipan pig as the winner. There were gnome ornaments decorating the table and candy treats from our Schenectady Lodge member. We missed Gladys this year but our thoughts were with her as well as Mildred Shea.

We truly thank Marilyn Dore for planning this special day as well as preparing the rice pudding. She put a lot of thought and hours into making this such a lovely day. Also, thank you to the ladies who baked those delicious cookies we enjoyed so much!

We hope everyone will have a wonderful holiday season. Take time to rest and enjoy the beauty of the winter season.

Sincerely, **Marjorie Wheeler, Treasurer and Correspondent, Haabets Fremtid Lodge #78, Troy, NY**



PHOTO ABOVE: Judy Jensen with the winning almond in her hand.

MEET EJNAR MIKKELSEN, THE DANISH EXPLORER



PHOTO ABOVE: Einar Mikkelsen in 1907, two years before his fateful voyage to Greenland.
Photography: Wikipedia Commons

Meet Einar Mikkelsen, The Danish Explorer Who Survived Two Brutal Winters Stranded In The Arctic

By Marco Margaritoff | Edited By Adam Farley
Published February 28, 2022, Updated June 12, 2023

After they were abandoned by the rest of their expedition in 1910, Einar Mikkelsen and one inexperienced crewmate were forced to spend 28 months alone in the Arctic wilds of Greenland.

In 1909, Danish polar explorer Einar Mikkelsen set out on a mission to recover the lost maps and journals of a doomed Arctic expedition to the northeast coast of Greenland. But it would take him three years for him to make it back home.

In 1891, explorer Robert E. Peary outlined the eastern coast of Greenland and mapped a channel separating what he believed to be an island he called Peary Land from the mainland, allowing America to make a claim on the island. This led determined Danish sailors on a fatal voyage to dispute that claim in 1907, and Einar Mikkelsen on a quest to find them.

But in August 1909, Mikkelsen's ship would get trapped in Arctic ice some 200 miles from where he believed his predecessors had died. According to his autobiography *Two Against the Ice*, Mikkelsen began the journey with six men but would be abandoned by all but one novice crewmate, and endured two winters in the Arctic.

Since adapted into the Netflix movie *Against the Ice*, the book attempted to convey some semblance of how harrowing the world of exploration in the early 1900's was. From frostbite and scurvy to predatory wildlife, Einar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen endured terrifying hardship to survive.

The Seafaring Youth Of Einar Mikkelsen

Born on December 23, 1880, in Vester-Brønderslev, Denmark, Einar Mikkelsen gravitated to the seas since he was a child. Raised by generations that had risked their lives in treacherous expeditions, he grew up with tales of Arctic adventure and unprecedented discoveries. It soon became a lifelong passion to do the same.

Mikkelsen was only 14 years old when he set sail for the first time on his own. While invigorating, he would not be satisfied until he became a true sailor. In 1896, he purportedly walked 320 miles from Stockholm to Gothenburg to convince Swedish explorer Salomon August Andrée to take him on his Arctic balloon flight.

Einar Mikkelsen wouldn't know it yet, but he was lucky to be rejected. Andrée's perilous journey ended fatally in October 1897 when the hydrogen balloon failed to reach the North Pole, and all three of its passengers died. In 1900, however, Mikkelsen was welcomed aboard Sir George Carl Amdrup's expedition to eastern Greenland.



PHOTO ABOVE: Einar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen in 1910.

MEET EJNAR MIKKELSEN, THE DANISH EXPLORER (continued, 2nd page)

Mikkelsen and four others, including U.S. geologist Ernest de Koven Leffingwell, ended the 500-mile trip in 1902 by surveying a famously inaccessible coastline for the first time. The following year, he served as the cartographer on Evelyn Baldwin's expedition to Franz Josef Land, an Arctic archipelago used only by the Russian military today. In 1906, Leffingwell's father sponsored an Arctic expedition to map land that whalers had reportedly spotted in the Beaufort Sea north of Point Barrow, Alaska. With \$5,000 and an engine-less schooner, they set out to find it, but were forced to stop at Flaxman Island 200 miles from their goal.



PHOTO ABOVE, from left to right: Ernest de Koven Leffingwell, Einar Mikkelsen, G.P. Howe, and Einar Ditlevsen in 1906. *Photography Wikimedia Commons.*

Fortuitously befriending the local Inuk Sachawachiak people, they learned how to drive dogs across the ice and set out in February 1907. After traversing 120 miles over 60 days, the duo believed the route fatal and returned, only to find their ship had sunk. While Leffingwell stayed behind to study the ice, Mikkelsen had other plans. Taking his chances to make it back home, Mikkelsen trekked all 2,300 miles on sled and by foot. Passing through Point Barrow and Nome, he continued through Fairbanks, Valdez, and the Gulf of Alaska. His return heralded the arrival of a truly seasoned explorer, although Einar Mikkelsen's biggest challenge was yet to come.

The Expedition To Recover Lost Maps In Greenland

The ill-fated *Danmark* expedition of 1907 saw Ludvig Mylius-Erichsen, Niels Peter Høeg-Hagen, and Jørgen Brønlund set out to prove that Greenland was a single unified island that belonged exclusively to Denmark. But in doing so, they relied on Robert E. Peary's maps of northeast Greenland, which included the hypothetical "Peary Channel" dividing the region in two. Misled by the incomplete maps, even as they sought to disprove them, the men became lost in the Arctic and were soon trapped in the ice.

While Brønlund's body was found in 1908 with his maps and diary, Mylius-Erichsen and Høeg-Hagen's never were. As a Dane and fellow explorer, Einar Mikkelsen couldn't decline when British newspaper magnate Lord Northcliffe offered to finance a 1909 expedition to locate them. Patriotic to the core, however, Mikkelsen demanded that the trip be financed with Danish money. His government agreed to fund half the cost and let the public raise the rest. Mikkelsen chose a crew of six men and a 45-ton sloop named *Alabama* that ran on a 15-horsepower engine. It departed Copenhagen on June 20, 1909.

While Lieutenants Vilhelm Laub and C.H. Jørgensen, shipmates Hans P. Olsen and George Poulson, and carpenter Carl Unger were suited for the job, Mikkelsen's mechanic turned out to be an incompetent alcoholic. En route to Greenland, the *Alabama* stopped in Iceland where a young mechanic named Iver Iversen volunteered to replace him. When they arrived in the Faroe Islands, the expedition suffered a setback. They had planned to board dogs that would allow them to drive across the ice in Greenland, but the animals they had contracted were infected with rabies. While they found replacements on Ammassalik Island, their arrival in Greenland was delayed until late August.

At the tail-end of summer, the wooden sloop became trapped in the ice of Shannon Island. On Aug. 27, 1909, Mikkelsen was forced to have his crew establish their quarters on land. Ominously, they were now 200 miles from the Danmarkshavn site where Mylius-Erichsen had reportedly wintered before dying.

MEET EJNAR MIKKELSEN, THE DANISH EXPLORER (continued, 3rd page)

On September 25th, Ejnar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen set out while the rest of their crew stayed behind. After finding information that the other crew members had made it some 500 miles farther north, they returned to the *Alabama* for the winter, determined to set out the following spring.

How Ejnar Mikkelsen And Iver Iversen Battled Against The Ice

As chronicled in his 1913 book *Lost in the Arctic*, Ejnar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen left the ship once again in March 1910. By May, they had found the diary of Mylius-Erichsen and confirmed that Peary Channel did not exist, however, their struggles had just begun.

Summer had arrived, and the ice they had traversed by sled to get to the site was melting fast. It took them eight months to return to the ship. Along the way, they'd resorted to eating their sled dogs to survive and suffered daily hallucinations after the last of their dogs died.

When they finally made it back to the *Alabama*, they found they had been abandoned by their shipmates, who found passage home aboard a sealing vessel.

Ejnar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen would be forced to endure two further winters in Greenland, surviving on abandoned rations from previous expeditions and evading predatory wildlife.

The explorers used their quarters on Shannon Island as long as they could, but it would prove insufficient for the long winter ahead. So, they used timber and planking from *Alabama* wreckage to construct a small cottage. When it appeared as though all hope was lost, the two men were rescued on July 19, 1912, by Norwegian steamer *Sjøblimsten*.

Not dissuaded from adventure, the Danish explorer led an expedition to the Sermersoq municipality in eastern Greenland in 1924. Then, he settled what became one of the most remote inhabited places on Earth, which was henceforth known as Scoresbysund and had no more than 345 residents in 1920.

In 1932, he led a crew of eight on the "Second East-Greenland Expedition" to clarify the geological area between Cape Dalton and Kangerdlugsuak.

And wherever Mikkelsen went, he recounted his harrowing adventures in numerous books, one of which has now become a Netflix film about his winters stranded in Greenland. Called *Against the Ice*, the film stars Nicolaj Coster-Waldau as Mikkelsen and premiered on March 2, 2022.

On Ejnar Mikkelsen's 90th birthday in 1970, he was given a national tribute by the Danish government. He died mere months later on May 1, 1971. With a Danish patrol vessel and Greenland mountain range named after him, the explorer had truly become the kind of famed adventurer he dreamed of as a child.



Ejnar Mikkelsen's ship *Alabama* in the summer of 1909.
Photography: Wikimedia Commons



Ejnar Mikkelsen in 1912, shortly before he and Iver Iversen were rescued. *Photography: Arktisk Institut/Public Domain*

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Description	Dansk: Ejnar Mikkelsen og Iver P. Iversen i 1910, dagen før de forlod resten af Alabama-ekspeditionen 1909-12. English: Ejnar Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen on the day before they left the rest of the Alabama expedition. Deutsch: Ejnar Mikkelsen und Iver Iversen am 9. April 1910, einen Tag bevor sie den Rest der Mannschaft der Alabama-Expedition verließen und für zwei Jahre in der Arktis isoliert waren.
Date	9 April 1910
Source	Det Kongelige Bibliotek
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Description	Deutsch: Der dänische Polarforscher und Schriftsteller Peter Freuchen
Date	before 1915
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Author	Knud Rasmussen (1879-1933)?

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