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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### A CULINARY TALE OF DANISH TRADITION AND WESTERN LORE

**LIVERMORE, CA, (October 31, 2008)** - The 1860's were difficult years in California, plagued with floods, drought, and rogues who came from all over the world, lured by the attraction of gold. Farmer's crops died, as did thousands of head of livestock. Ida Jessen was a young girl living in the San Francisco east bay area during those years, and later recalled a bull insane from thirst, breaking through her family's front door. Her family survived these hard times by collecting the bones of the dead animals and selling them to button makers. She recalled mothers pushing their daughters under the bed when the clatter of horse hooves warned of unexpected visitors who may be intent on robbing or killing the inhabitants. In 1880 Ida Jessen married Carl Holm, an adventurous immigrant from Denmark, and together they had nine children. Their descendents remain in the Livermore Valley, and have creatively captured their family history through recipes, tales, photographs, and art in a book entitled, *The Holm Family Cookbook*. The 240-page fully illustrated book will be released for sale on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

A culinary tale of Danish tradition and western lore is a good summation of this book that will appeal to a large audience—even people that don't cook will find it an interesting read. Revealing the evolution of American meal preparation and progression of home cooking, the recipes, stories and photos in the book span five generations. The recipes run the gamut in ethnic influences, skills required and ingredients used, some for everyday meals, some for holidays and special occasions. The simplicity of a White Sauce taught in high school Home Economics classes in the 1930's contrasts with a more modern Salmon Poached in Wine with Dill Sauce. Our present-day food trends of natural ingredients and fresh, local produce are right in tune with recipes from the Holm family vegetable gardens, ranches, and farms.

Dr. P. Christiaan Klieger, *Senior Curator of the Oakland Museum of California* wrote this about the book, "Once in a blue moon a book is created that captures the intimate feeling of a particular family while appealing broadly to the sentiment of the placement of a family within the larger community. The Holm Family Cookbook revels in the equanimity of shared experience through the universal appeal of food—wonderful home recipes presented by real grandmothers and aunties. It blasts the stereotypes of ethereal "California cuisine," by

providing examples how immigrant Danish food culture has been layered with Mexican, Californio, Yankee, and other culinary expressions at one California ranch community. The results are surprising and wholly honest. The Holm Family Cookbook is California.”

“This book is a wonderful view into the history of a pioneer family in the Livermore Valley told through a rich selection of heritage recipes. The scope of stories, remembrances and recipes makes this a captivating read for the foodie and the historian. Very enjoyable in its simplicity about food woven into the fabric of life and how this is relevant to us all.” Carolyn Wentz, *Fourth Generation Winegrower, Wentz Vineyards*

More information about the book can be found at [www.holmfamilycookbook.com](http://www.holmfamilycookbook.com). The book will be available for purchase December 1, 2008 on-line and at the Livermore Art Association Gallery/Heritage Guild Gift Shop, Towne Center Books, Firehouse Bistro and Books, Retzlaff Winery, and Wentz Vineyards.

The Livermore Heritage Guild will host their monthly history talk featuring Holm family members Tilli Calhoun and daughters Susie Calhoun and Nancy Mueller. They will present “*The Holm Family Cookbook*,” *The Story of a Danish Pioneer Family in the Livermore Valley Told through Remembrances and Recipes*. It will be held at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue on Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Towne Center Books in Pleasanton will host an open house and book signing on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Ida Holm’s granddaughters Tilli Calhoun and Patsy Neely, and great-granddaughters Susie Calhoun, Merry Carter, Wendy Neely, and Nancy Mueller will be present to answer questions, sign the cookbook, and serve cookies made from recipes in the cookbook. Towne Center Books is located at 555 Main Street in Downtown Pleasanton.

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