

Meeting: 1002, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, SS 3A, Special Session on The History of Mathematics

1002-01-194 **Lee J. Stemkoski*** (stemkoski@dartmouth.edu), 6188 Bradley Hall, Dartmouth College,
Hanover, NH 03755. *Thomas Clausen: Factoring Fermat numbers and Generating Graeco-Latin
squares.*

Thomas Clausen was a mathematician and astronomer during the first half of the 19th century. Although not as famous as other scientists of the day, he received high praise from contemporaries such as Gauss and Bessel for his work. I will discuss why he was worthy of this praise, in particular for some of the work he did completing two problems left unsolved by Leonhard Euler: factorization of the sixth Fermat number and resolution of the 36-officer problem. (Received September 14, 2004)