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Front Matter

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MANY AMERICANS are becoming aware of a desire to perpetuate their cultural heritage. Although some early immigrants wanted to blend into American society and did not emphasize their cultural traditions, succeeding generations of Americans of Danish and other descent have discovered an interest in their intellectual, cultural, and social heritage.

DANISH AMERICANS have an opportunity to participate in two cultures. However, because of a rapid blending into American society, few enjoy the completeness of this dual heritage of Danish and American traditions. Fortunately, many individuals are now discovering that their interest in Danish culture is shared by others.

THE DANISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY was established in 1977 to explore and record the history of Danish immigrants—a history reflecting the ideals, strengths and traditions they brought with them. The Society is committed to stimulating interest in the Danish cultural contribution and to preserving it for future generations

Danish American Heritage Society

4105 Stone Brooke Road

Ames, Iowa 50010

Phone 515.232.7479 or 480.816.8725

Executive Board

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Inquiries concerning membership in the Society and subscription to *The Bridge* should be sent to The Danish American Heritage Society, 4105 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010.

The Bridge and the *Newsletter* are semi-annual publications of the Society. *The Newsletter* contains items of current interest including occasional essays, book notes, and news of Danish organizations and activities in the United States and Canada. *The Bridge* contains articles, book reviews, and review essays dealing with all aspects of the Danish experience in North America.

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The Bridge: Journal of the Danish American Heritage Society appears twice a year and contains scholarly articles and book reviews dealing with all aspects of the Danish experience in North America. Past issues of *The Bridge* have also contained Danish-American memoirs, essays, short stories, collections of letters and historical documents. Book reviews and review essays in *The Bridge* deal with Danish life and history and the broader Scandinavian experience in North America as well as the Danish-American experience. *The Bridge* occasionally reprints previously published material.

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Please address all manuscript submissions to either of the following Co-Editors:

Birgit Flemming Larsen
Co-Editor of *The Bridge*
Klostermarken 13
DK-9000 Aalborg
Denmark

<birgit_f_larsen@hotmail.com>

Peter L. Petersen
Co-Editor of *The Bridge*
1407 26th Street
Canyon, TX 79015
806.655.2308

<repete71@hotmail.com>