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Borge M. Christensen

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Doc Christy

by Borge M. Christensen

On February 17, 1892, a young man of twenty-five boarded the transatlantic steamer *Hekla* in the port of Copenhagen to emigrate to the United States of America as had many Danes before him. When he took the decision to emigrate we do not know; but that he was determined to leave is certain. His father died shortly before the departure date and the burial coincided with the sailing date. Why did he leave his home? What happened to him?

One hundred years later, out of the blue, my aunt said, "Do you know that you have an uncle in the United States?" It came as a shock. I had no idea. Pressing her for more details, she shut her mouth as a little girl does when having spoken out of turn or betrayed a confidence. She would not add to the statement. It hung in the air. Who was this American uncle? Did I have relatives in the United States?

I had presented a posthumous Paul Harris Fellow recognition to her father-in-law, my maternal grandfather. Attending the ceremony together with her son and daughter-in-law, my eighty-five year old aunt was the only surviving family member of that generation. Why would she not elaborate?¹

Later that evening, my cousin's wife produced a clipping from a Copenhagen newspaper dated 1957, a year after I left for the United States. The article was about children of people born before October 6, 1814, and who were still alive. One child mentioned in the article was my maternal grandmother, Cornelia Kruise, then eighty-eight years old. However, another was a brother of hers in America, Axel Herluf Christensen.²

As I was growing up, I felt closest to my maternal grandmother. Yet, to my recollection, she never mentioned a brother in the USA. Not even when I stood for emigration to America in the spring of 1956. It was odd. Why had she not mentioned him? Was he an embarrassment? A family black sheep? Apparently, he was still alive when I arrived in America. I could have looked him up and

met him here. Neither my cousin, nor anyone else in my immediate family, seemed to know anything about Axel.

For the past ten years, as time permitted, I have tried to answer these questions while attempting to uncover information about his early years in Denmark as well as his life in the United States. The following summarizes the results of my research.

Early Years and Emigration

Born on June 13, 1867, Axel Herluf Christensen was my maternal grandmother's two-year older brother. They were among the last four children of nineteen born to schoolteacher Jens Christensen and his wife, Susanne Marie Brammer. Eleven of the nineteen lived to adulthood. Jens Christensen hailed from generations of farmers in North Jutland. He was the first, however, to get an education beyond that offered in a village school. He graduated from the seminary in Snedsted with high honors. He was a God fearing man with dreams of becoming a pastor, but his lack of resources never allowed him to reach his goal. His wife, Susanne Marie, was the daughter of a schoolteacher. She grew up in the home of her uncle, headmaster of Snedsted Seminary, later Bishop G. P. Brammer where she and Jens met. Both lived long and peaceful lives. Susanne Marie died in 1890 at the age of sixty-four; Jens Christensen was almost eighty when he died in 1892.³

In poor families with many children, it was common for one or more of the children to be sent to live in the households of others, such as uncles, aunts, or older siblings. This became the case for Axel. When his oldest brother, a schoolteacher like his father, received a call to a village school about fifty miles from Copenhagen and but twenty miles from the home of his parents and thus was in a position to marry, thirteen-year old Axel went to live with the newlyweds. He remained there until his confirmation at age fifteen. What happened to him during the following four years, I do not yet know. However, from 1886 to 1888, he worked for an older brother who had established himself as a greengrocer and merchant in Copenhagen.⁴

Another gap in Axel's whereabouts is from 1889 until February 17, 1892 when he boarded Thingvalla Lines' SS *Hekla*. Ice packed the

harbor of Copenhagen. The temperature dropped to 16° F. Icebreakers kept enough open water for the steamer to leave nearly on time. "Nearly" because according to a newspaper notice the following morning, a young man arrived just as the steamer let go of her moorings. The captain reversed the engine and the passenger jumped aboard. Was that Axel Herluf Christensen? It could have been. He might have come directly from his father's funeral.⁵

Records also show that after an unremarkable crossing, he and 266 other *Hekla* passengers docked in the Port of New York on March 5, 1892. By barge, the steerage passengers transferred to Ellis Island. This new immigration facility replaced the older inadequate immigrant entry station known as Castle Garden at Manhattan's southern tip. In 1890, Congress had approved the building of a larger facility on a low-lying, twenty-seven-acre island in Upper New York Bay. The new station opened New Year's Day, 1892. Thus, Axel was among the first to pass through this "Ellis Island" portal to the American Dream.⁶

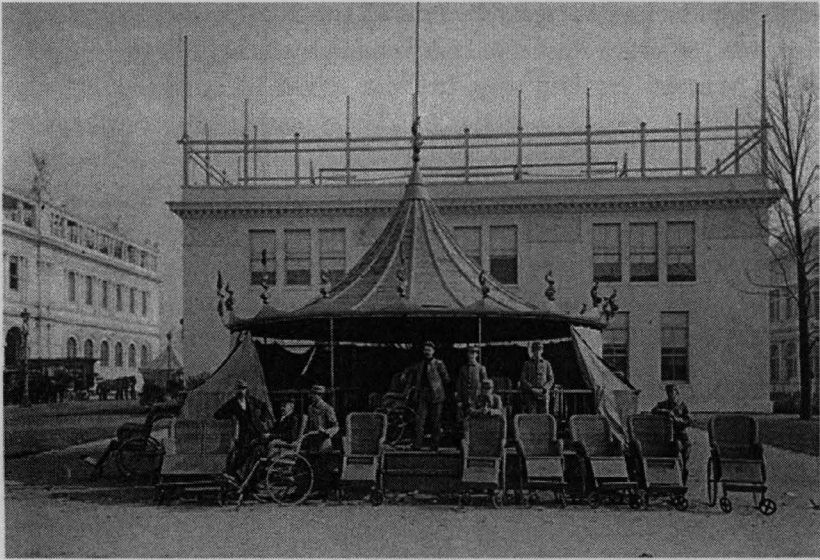
Chicago, Illinois

After arranging travel plans, Axel received a tag that showed the railroad line he was supposed to take, connections, and his final destination of Chicago. From Chicago he went to Kenosha, Wisconsin. There he attended the N. A. Rowe School, and later, the Northern Indiana Normal School in Valparaiso, Indiana.⁷

How he financed his education, I do not know with certainty. I failed to find relatives, acquaintances, or possible friends from Denmark from whom he could have elicited support even though Kenosha had a large, prosperous Danish community. One way he earned his living was to push wheelchairs, so called "roller chairs", around the 633-acre World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and its 65,000 exhibits. People called him "Sandy" probably referring to his head of blond hair.⁸

While pushing weary visitors around in roller chairs, Axel became acquainted with Hahnemann Medical College. Two buildings near the entrance to the Fair housed a medical bureau and an emergency homeopathic hospital. It had resident and attending physicians and a trained nursing staff. During the Fair, fifteen

thousand visitors came in for a rest, and two thousand physicians called at the hospital. It was a model hospital built through the generosity of Howard N. Higinbotham, the Fair's president from 1892 to its close.⁹

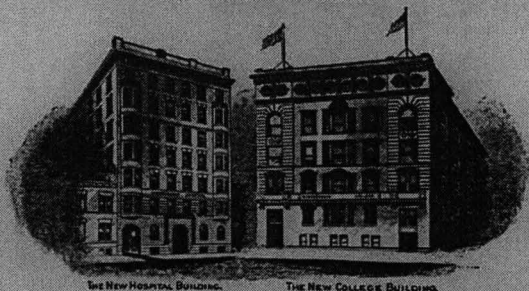


Wicker roller chairs by tent pavilion seen from the entrance to the Homeopathic Hospital at the World's Columbian Exposition; c. 1894. (Photo Charles Dudley Arnold. By kind permission of the Art Institute of Chicago)

Howard N. Higinbotham (1838-1919) was among Chicago's most civically active men of the day. He was president of the Chicago Home for Incurables, the Chicago Free Kindergarten Association, and the Municipal Sanatorium for Tuberculosis, and associated with many other charities and institutions. He became widely known in Chicago as a merchant, philanthropist, civic leader, and art collector. In his early youth, he left his father's farm in Joliet, Illinois, and completed his education at Lombard College in Galesburg, Illinois. His first employment was as a bank clerk in Joliet, as a bank cashier, and then as an assistant bookkeeper in a Chicago dry-goods house. During the Civil War, he served with distinction in the Quartermaster Corps of the Union Army. After the war, he was a bookkeeper in the new dry-goods firm of Field, Palmer and Leiter. He joined Marshall Field's firm where he rose to partnership. He possessed great administrative and managerial

abilities, which he put to good use as president of the World's Columbian Exposition. He worked closely with its overall architect, David H. Burnham who had designed Higinbotham's magnificent home three miles east of Joliet completed in 1893. Higinbotham's leadership secured a positive financial result for the Exposition. Moreover, he was a trustee of Hahnemann Medical College.¹⁰

Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital OF CHICAGO.



The Largest Homœopathic Medical College in the World.

**THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION
WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 14, 1897.**

THE COLLEGE CURRICULUM EMBRACES THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

1. A four years' graded Collegiate Course.
2. Hospital and Dispensary Clinical Instruction by the College Staff.
3. Fourteen General Clinics and Sixty Sub-clinics each and every week of the session.
4. During the year ending April 1, 1897, there were treated in the Hospital and Dispensary by our own staff, 29,973 cases.
5. Actual Laboratory Instruction in thoroughly equipped laboratories.

THE buildings are all new, commodious, and fitted with everything which thirty-six years of experience can suggest. Heated by steam, lighted by electricity, and modern in every particular. The hospital has large wards, private rooms, private operating rooms, sitting rooms for convalescents, an emergency examining and operating room, reception room, office, etc., all under the immediate charge of the college staff. The new college building has large, well-equipped anatomical, physiological, pathological, chemical, microscopical, biological and bacteriological laboratories, cloak room, smoking room, ladies' parlor, and toilet rooms.

For announcement and sample copy of *CLINIQUE*, address the registrar,

JOSEPH P. COBB, M.D.,

Advertisement for Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, "The Largest Homeopathic Medical College in the World." 1897. (Photo courtesy of Northwestern Memorial Hospital Archives, Chicago, Illinois)

College

The charter to organize and operate Hahnemann Medical College was drafted in the law offices of Abraham Lincoln; and granted to a group of homeopathic physicians from Chicago by the Illinois legislature in Springfield on Valentine's Day, 1855. At a meeting on the evening of March 15, 1860, they elected the first faculty consisting of seven medical men and an attorney. The college taught the principles of homeopathy. During the following sixty years, it grew in size and reputation. In 1894, Axel qualified to enter Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago. The same year, the college opened a new 150-bed hospital, a seven story building directly connected with a new college building. College and hospital were both acclaimed as models of their kind, with all the modern conveniences that science could contribute. In the closing years of the century, Hahnemann Medical College was a leading medical school in the nation. When Axel entered, it was at the height of renown. As was commonly the rule in medical colleges at the time, completing a two-year course was sufficient for graduation. Nevertheless, the Hahnemann faculty worked hard to add courses and eventually settled on a three-year program. Beginning in 1895-96, it expanded to a graded course of four years' duration. Axel graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery in 1897.¹¹

Joliet, Illinois

Upon graduation, Axel trained at the newly opened, thirty-three bed Silver Cross Hospital built at Joliet, Illinois. It had taken five years of planning and fund raising for the Christian charitable group, Will County Union of King's Daughters and Sons, before the two-story hospital first opened its doors on Thanksgiving Day, 1895. They named the facility for the emblem of Union of King's Daughters and Sons, the Silver Maltese Cross. World's Fair architects, Jenney and Mundie were architects for the hospital. The Fair's president, Howard N. Higinbotham was an enthusiastic proponent of the new hospital in his city, an early major donor, and an untiring fundraiser.¹²

The wealthy, civically motivated, and charitable Higginbotham, is a common denominator for Axel's early years in America. From the Columbian Exposition and its hospital *cum* rest station, to Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago, to Joliet and its Silver Cross Hospital his name ties together where Axel went and what he did. His benevolence helped Axel make a living and achieve an education.

With a Silver Cross Hospital patient base, Axel established his first practice in Joliet. On the way from his lodgings to his downtown office in the Cutting Building, he would pass Bates Machine Company, where Mary Etta Born worked as a bookkeeper. On July 26, 1900, they married in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Mary was the daughter of a German immigrant who came to the United States of America with his parents in 1842. Living first in New York and later in Iowa, widowed, in 1878 he moved to Joliet and set up in the lumber business. Philip C. Born (1836-1891) became a prosperous, respected, and well-liked man. Mary had two brothers and three sisters. One brother went to New York, but later returned to Joliet. He was a childless widower and settled at Geneva, Illinois. The name of one of the sisters was Cornelia, the same as Axel's sister, my maternal grandmother. Two of the daughters became schoolteachers. It is not surprising that the young physician was attracted to this family.¹³

Luverne, Minnesota

Mary and Axel, she thirteen years his junior, moved several times, ever farther west. Their first stop after Joliet was Luverne in southwestern Minnesota where they arrived in April 1902. Luverne was a progressive and active city. It was a node in the extensive rail system that existed in those days in southwest Minnesota. Several physicians already practiced in Luverne, albeit some of them only part time. They combined their practice with other activities. One operated a hotel; others farmed. The railways provided access to the surrounding area and its potential patients. Axel joined the well-established practice of Dr. Horace F. Kilgore who had been in Luverne since 1872. A graduate of Missouri Homeopathic Medical College, Dr. Kilgore took courses at Chicago Homeopathic College

and Hospital, and a post-graduate course at Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago. His married stepdaughter graduated from Hahnemann in 1895.¹⁴

After slightly more than a year with Dr. Kilgore, in June 1903, Axel set up on his own. An advertisement in the local paper announces: "A. H. Christensen - Physician and Surgeon. Residence corner Main and Kniss Avenue. Phone 93. Office Arcade block. Phone 118." And below in Danish, "Skandinavisk Læge" [Scandinavian Physician.]¹⁵

This, too, did not last very long, less than a year. On February 25, 1904, under local news, the *Clark Pilot Review*, Clark, South Dakota carried a notice, "Dr. A. H. Christensen, of Chicago, was an arrival yesterday morning. He is out prospecting for a location." There are many reasons why Mary and Axel might have wanted to leave Luverne. Competition was strong. Axel's wanderlust drove him west seeking new and better opportunities as did so many immigrants (there are indications that he also prospected in Turton, a smaller community about twenty-two miles northwest of Clark.) Smallpox running rampant in Southwest Minnesota during the early 1900's scared many away. Petite Mary was in poor health and not a physically strong woman. The mere mention of the word "smallpox" would strike fear in even the strongest man's heart. A smallpox diagnosis was worse than receiving a prison sentence. The county neighboring Luverne had one of the largest outbreaks of smallpox in 1900-1903. A final factor contributing to his choice of Clark might well have been that one of its two physicians, Dr. D. O. Bennett was quite ill and not expected to live long. Dr. Bennett's obituary appeared in the local, weekly paper on April 21, 1904.¹⁶

Clark, South Dakota

Mary and Axel moved to the City of Clark, South Dakota, the seat of the county by the same name. Clark County is located in the rich farming region of the northeastern section of South Dakota. Established in 1881, Clark City's population was about eight hundred when Mary and Axel arrived, the entire county numbered 7,800 people, and growing. Mary did not particularly appreciate this move to what she considered a frontier town with homesteaders,

Indians, and all. Probably, she would have preferred to return to Joliet and her family there. However, on July 5, 1904, the Office of Register of Deeds in Clark County records the filing of Axel's license to practice medicine in the State of South Dakota. He did this for the next fifty years.¹⁷

Known in Clark as "Doc Christy," Axel, now thirty-seven years old, took Dr. Bennett's offices on the second floor above Desnoyer's hardware store on North Commercial Street. His waiting room, consulting room, and office remained there for as long as he practiced in Clark. At first, Mary and he lived next door to Hotel Conklin, a few hundred feet from his office. In 1920, they bought four lots behind the hotel on the corner of Smith Street and 2nd Avenue where they built a modest but comfortable home and lived for the following thirty-three years.¹⁸

Axel and Mary were not active in church or other social activities in Clark. Settled mostly by Norwegians and Germans, Clark did not have a significant Danish community or any Danish organizations. The closest Danish congregations were in Bryant, Conde, or Erwin, all thirty or forty miles distant. There was a chapter of the Danish Brotherhood in Henry, four miles east of Clark, but there is no record there of Dr. and Mrs. Christensen. However, in 1932, on the strength of her brother, George R. Born's membership in Joliet Lodge #42 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Joliet, Illinois, the Order of the Eastern Star's chapter in Clark inducted Mary as a member.¹⁹

Mary suffered from hysteria. Outside of the home, and usually inside, she was always in a wheelchair. She was afraid of becoming pregnant. She and Axel were childless, but cemetery records list an infant Christensen although without additional information about parents, gender, or dates. All it notes is: "Baby Christensen." A stillborn child could account for Mary's affliction.²⁰

Axel was not a tall man, perhaps five feet, seven inches and slight. His siblings, his mother, and her parents were all of small stature. His able, well-formed hands had long and slender fingers. Cleanly shaven with a patrician forehead, he had a full head of hair, combed straight back, graying at the temples. He would look directly at you with clear, blue eyes, wearing glasses only when

reading. His expression was earnest and solemn, professional, but his smile was warm; his voice was soft. He had a dapper appearance, always wearing a dark suit and a sparkling white shirt, usually smoking a cigar.²¹

Doc Christy's patients came from all over Clark County. He made house calls throughout the area from Lake Township eighteen miles to the south to beyond Woodland Township twelve miles north of Clark. He spent many hours traveling Clark county roads. It made no difference to him whether it was day or night. Darkness, thunder or lightning; rain, snow or baking heat—it mattered little to Doc Christy. Early on, he traveled in a horse and buggy; he even owned a completely enclosed horse drawn sled. It had glass all around and a slit for the reins. Doc Christy used the sled as late as 1942. The first person in the area many were to know was Doc Christy. In many families, he delivered all of their children at home, sometimes assisted by a midwife that as frequently as not was an aunt or a neighbor.²²

In the thirties, Mrs. Shirk and Mrs. Stacey opened maternity homes in Clark. For a modest fee, an expectant mother could come there; give birth, and stay for about ten days, the length of time women stayed in bed even as late as the late 1940's. Both Mrs. Shirk and Mrs. Stacey had some limited nurses training. They acted as midwives. Together with the attending physician, they helped to deliver the babies. Later, they cared for both mother and child. There were times when Doc Christy would be back and forth between the two maternity homes throughout the night attending to women in labor. Fortunately, Mrs. Shirk and Mrs. Stacey had located right across the street from one another, and across the street from Mary and Axel's home.²³

Among the first babies delivered by Doc Christy was Albert Alness (1906-1994). As a boy, Albert fell from the grain elevator near the railroad tracks. To make sure nothing was broken, the owner told him to go and see Doc Christy. In the consultation room Doc Christy asked, "Did you walk up the stairs to see me?" "Yes," answered Albert. "Well, then there is nothing wrong with you. You can go back to work." Known for his straight talk, kind attention,

and success as a doctor, patients, and their families trusted and cherished Doc Christy.²⁴

Later, Doc Christy acquired one of Clark's first automobiles. As a boy, Ed Clausen and his brother would often be on the street when Doc Christy returned from house calls. He would tell them to jump in the car. That command, "Get in!" prompted an immediate response. The boys would ride along to a local garage just off the main street, not far from Doc Christy's home where he kept his car. Then he would have the boys open the garage doors for him. "As kids, we had much respect for Doc Christy," added Ed.²⁵

Although Doc Christy was not actively engaged in politics, he stood for election as coroner in 1936 but was defeated. In a 1942 repeat attempt, he won. Reelected in 1944, he lost when in 1946 he tried for a third term. He served on the Selective Service Board during both World Wars and received a congressional citation for his services.²⁶

Rotary

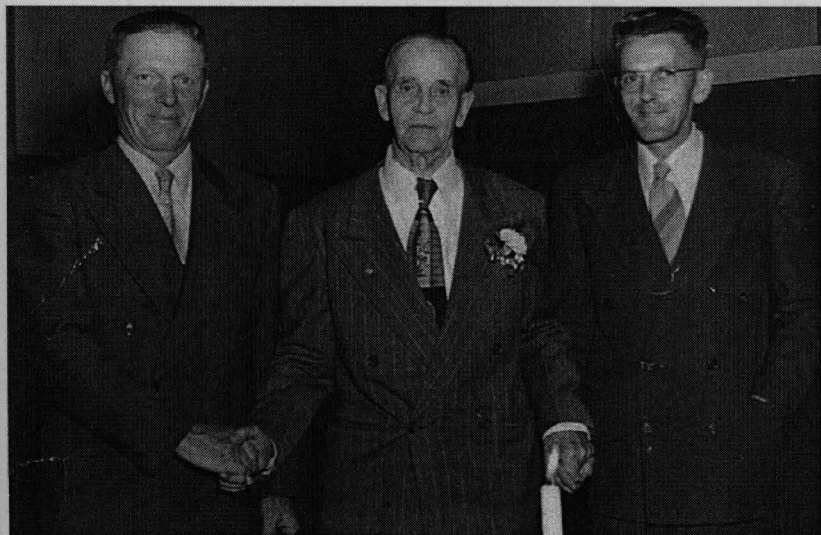
Invited into Rotary in 1929, Doc Christy was a long-time, very active member of the Rotary Club of Clark. He served on many club committees and as club president 1939-1940. Although his brother-in-law, P.A. Kruise served on Rotary International's Board of Directors and in that capacity visited Chicago in the mid-thirties, there is no evidence that the two of them ever met. However, Axel was among the 357 Rotarians and 219 lady guests attending the April 1940 Rotary District 119 Conference in Sioux Falls.* During his year as club president, attendance was consistently among the District's top three clubs with less than thirty members. Every year the Rotary Club of Clark held a farmers' meeting paying for the rural visitors' attendance. They held Christmas parties for Clark's boys and girls. In addition, every year, they sent one or more youths to Boys State.²⁷

Reporting on his official visit in September 1939, then District Governor John Martin noted that the fellowship was excellent. "Dr. Christensen is most enthusiastic. It seems that last year's president

* After Rotary International's renumbering of districts, the Rotary Club of Clark is now in District 5610.

neglected his work and Dr. Christensen is devoting much time to his organization and endeavoring to build up real Rotary spirit. I believe he will do it." The Governor concludes his report to Rotary International with the observation, "Times are hard, money is scarce, but their bills are practically paid with a small reserve. I believe they will pull out all right."²⁸

In 1947, when Rotary's founder, Paul Harris died, Rotary International asked that individuals and clubs wishing to honor the founder make gifts in his name to The Rotary Foundation, suggesting \$10 per member. For the 1948 effort, his club appointed Doc Christy to head the undertaking locally. The governor at the time noted, "They appointed a Scandinavian, a very earnest Rotarian and very anxious to discharge this assignment." Governor John Martin was right. They pulled through. The club still exists and has almost forty active members.²⁹



Doc Christy flanked by Albert Alness on his right and Ordin Lean, two of the first babies Doc Christy delivered in Clark. The photo is from the 1951 Golden Reception for Dr. and Mrs. Axel H. Christensen. (Photo courtesy George Baldwin, Rotary Club of Clark, Clark, S.D.)

Golden Reception

So well liked and respected was Doc Christy that six months short of the fiftieth anniversary of the day he first hung his shingle in

Clark the community put on a so-called "Golden Reception" celebration for him. Clark Chamber of Commerce was in charge supported by other county groups and organizations such as the Rotary Club of Clark. They invited everyone, but particularly those who were infants under Doc Christy's care. Clark's high school auditorium filled with well-wishers. They listened to musical performances and speeches by the mayor, the president of the Chamber, and Rotary club officials. As a token of appreciation recognizing his near half century of service, they presented Mary and Doc Christy with a purse of money. Undoubtedly, they could use it. Often Doc Christy's honorarium was in kind rather than cash, sometimes none at all. Axel never became a well-to-do man.³⁰

Sunset Years

Early in 1953, having ministered to the needs of the people of Clark for nearly half a century, Mary and Axel Herluf Christensen sold their home. They retired to live in a large, beautiful house in Geneva, Illinois, on the Fox River. They inherited this property when Mary's brother died. Mary gave up her wheelchair. They lived quietly; an elderly, friendly couple sticking together; walking in the garden, and visiting neighbors. In late February 1957, Doc Christy contracted pneumonia. He died March 5, 1957, three months before his ninetieth birthday. Mary survived her husband and passed away January 8, 1969.³¹

Both were cremated and their urns interred in graves eight and nine, respectively of the Born family plot, lot number thirty-eight, Hillside Section of the Elmhurst Cemetery in Joliet, Illinois.³²

My knowledge of my grand uncle's life still has many holes. More research lies ahead, in the USA and in Denmark. However, no longer is Axel just a few lines in an old newspaper clipping. We know what happened to him. The other question, why he chose to emigrate remains unanswered. Probably it is true for him as it is for all who leave their native countries that a combination of reasons made Doc Christy take the step.

¹ In September 1992, I made the presentation at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Odense Vestre, Denmark where my grandfather, Consul P. A. Kruise was a founding member in 1927. In 1929-1930, he was club president. In 1934-1935, he served Rotary International as District Governor, and in 1935-1936 as a member of Rotary International's Board of Directors. He died in 1940. A Paul Harris Fellow is someone who contributes, or in whose name is contributed, \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. When by 1957, a decade after the death of Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, and seventeen years after my grandfather's death, donations to the Rotary Foundation began to decline, the trustees established the Paul Harris Fellow donor recognition program. In April 2004, there was 891,431 Paul Harris Fellows. De danske Rotarydistrikter, *Medlemsbogen 1997/98* (Roskilde, Denmark: Danske Rotary Distrikters Sekretariat 1997); Rotary International, *Manual of Procedures* (Evanston, IL: Rotary International 2001) 166; David C. Forward, *A Century of Service, The Story of Rotary International* (Evanston, IL: Rotary International 2003) 117; "Foundation Facts," *The Rotarian* 183, no. 1 (June 2004): 15.

² "Gæve Mænd født før 6. oktober 1814 og alligevel har nulevende børn," *Berlingske Tidende* (Copenhagen), January 27, 1957, p. 6, col. 2.

³ In the process of researching the life of Axel Herluf Christensen (AHC), I found the unpublished memoirs of his father, Jens Christensen covering the time from Jens Christensen's birth until 1888. With a genealogical review of the Jens Christensen family, annotated and transcribed from its gothic handwriting, it appeared in Borge M. Christensen, "Skolelærer Jens Christensens livserindringer" (Schoolteacher Jens Christensen's Memoirs), *Personalthistorisk Tidsskrift, Samfundet for dansk genealogi og Personalthistorie*, (Copenhagen), no. 1999:2 (1999): 187-226. Unfortunately, Jens Christensen stopped writing before AHC's emigration. The memoirs do not provide clues to AHC's decision.

⁴ For a discussion of the rural Danish school in the latter half of the 19th century and, specifically, the Kindertoft school attended by AHC, see Borge M. Christensen, "As You Bend the Twig, So Grows the Tree," *The Bridge*, 20, no. 2 (1997): 9-24. According to the enumeration for Kindertoft parish in *Folketælling 1880*, Rigsarkivet (Copenhagen) microfilm M15.424, AHC lived with his brother, Johannes Frederik Christensen at the Kindertoft village school in 1880. From 1886 to 1888, he worked for an older brother, Emil Theodor Christensen. *Københavns Politis Mandtaller, 1886-1892*, Stadsarkivet (Copenhagen) fiche 40510, 40511.

⁵ "Fra Havnen," *Politiken* (Copenhagen), February 18, 1892.

⁶ AHC arrived at New York with intended destination Chicago. *Passenger List S.S. Hekla*, District of the City of New York, Port of New York, March 5, 1892, line 94.

⁷ Listed as a high school student, AHC boarded at N. A. Rowe's University School. Breitzman & Thompson, comps., *Kenosha City Directory, 1893-94* (Fond Du Lac, WI: P. B. Haber Printing House, 1893), 51. The *Eighty-eighth Quarterly Catalogue of the Normal School and Business Institute Valparaiso, Indiana* (Valparaiso, IN: Messenger Steam Printing House, 1895), 32 lists AHC from Kenosha, Wis. as a student in the Preparatory Department.

⁸ Dorothy and Carol Shirk, interview by author, tape recording. Clark, South Dakota, July 23 and 24, 1993. Mrs. Shirk's father worked with AHC at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

⁹ John Moses and Joseph Kirkland, "Medical Profession and Institutions," in *History of Chicago Illinois* (Chicago & New York: Munsell & Co., 1895), 2:280; Helen M. Richards, "The Hospital" in *History of Silver Cross Hospital School of Nursing* (Silver Cross Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association, 1960), 1:4.

¹⁰ Hubert Howe Bancroft, "Results, Awards, and Incidents," in *The Book of the Fair*, (Chicago, San Francisco: The Bancroft Company, 1893), 27:972; Robert E. Sterling, *Joliet, A Pictorial History* (St. Louis, MO: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1988), 92; Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, March 15, 1892, Northwestern Memorial Hospital Archives, Chicago, IL.

¹¹ John E. Gilman, "History of the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital," in H. G. Cutler, ed., *Medical and Dental Colleges of the West: Chicago*. (Chicago: n.p., 1896), 201-213; Howard R. Chislett, "Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago," in William Harvey King, ed., *History of Homeopathy and Its Institutions in America* (n.p., 1905), 341; Minutes, Board of Trustees of Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, March 22, 1897, Northwestern Memorial Hospital Archives, Chicago, IL.

¹² Helen M. Richards, "The Hospital," chap. 1, in *History of Silver Cross Hospital School of Nursing* (Silver Cross Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association, 1960), 1:4; Mrs. Wm. (Hannah M.) Harwood and G. W. Carpenter, comps. *Silver Cross Hospital* (Joliet, IL: Privately printed by Will County Union of the King's Daughters, n.d.)

¹³ On its four floors, the distinctive, narrow Cutting building housed a dentist, an insurance company, attorneys, and seven physicians. In 1899, AHC occupied room 302 on the third floor in front of the building. *Wiggins' Joliet City Directory, 1899-1900*, (R. L. Polk & Company, Joliet, IL, 1899) 7:225. The following year, he moved to smaller premises in room 305. His practice may have diminished. *Wiggins' Joliet City Directory, 1900-1901*, (R. L. Polk &

Company, Joliet, IL, 1900) 8:242; "Biographical Index, Phillip C. Born," in W. W. Stevens, ed. *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois*, (Chicago, IL: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1907) 2:707-708.

¹⁴ *Star-Herald Rock County Herald* (Luverne, MI) April 25, 1902, p. 5; *Memorial Record of Southwestern Minnesota* (Chicago, IL: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1897)

¹⁵ *Star-Herald* June 12, 1903.

¹⁶ Joe Ager, "The Pipestone Smallpox Scandal." *Journal of the Pipestone County Historical Society, Coteau Heritage* 5, no. 1 (January 1993): 14-16; *Clark Public Courier* (Clark, SD), April 14, 1904; *idem*, April 21, 1904.

¹⁷ The Clark County History Committee, *Centennial History of Clark County, 1881-1981* (Clark, SD: n. p., 1981); Clara F. Bixler, "Former Resident Recalls Doctor's History in County," in *Clark County Courier* (Clark, SD), March 14, 1957, p. 1.

¹⁸ Advertisement, *Clark Pilot Review* (Clark, SD), June 30, 1904, p. 4. It read: "Dr. A. H. Christensen, Physician and Surgeon. Clark, S.D. Office, Desnoyers block, formerly occupied by Dr. Bennett. Residence, first door north of Hotel Conklin"; Ailene Luckhurst to author, Clark, SD, March 21, 1993, including transcript of deed for lots 15-18, Original Plat of Clark, 1881-1992.

¹⁹ Thomas P. Christensen, "The Danes in South Dakota," in State Department of History, comp., *South Dakota Historical Collections* (Pierre, SD: Hipple Printing Company, 1928) 14: 539-552; Dorothy Shirk, letter to the author, September 11, 1993.

²⁰ Bert Moritz to author, Clark, SD, [December 1992]; Max Benson to author, Clark, SD, December 22, 1992.

²¹ Marvin D. Anderson, interview by author, tape recording. Clark, South Dakota, July, 24, 1993

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Dorothy and Carol Shirk, interview by author, tape recording. Clark, South Dakota, July, 23-24, 1993.

²⁴ Marvin D. Anderson, interview by author, tape recording. Clark, South Dakota, July 24, 1993; Albert Alness, interview by author, tape recording. Clark, South Dakota, July, 26, 1993.

²⁵ Bert Moritz to author, Clark, SD, March 4, 1993.

²⁶ Bert Moritz to author, Clark, SD, March 11, 1993; Ailene Luckhurst to author, Clark, SD, March 21, 1993.

²⁷ Rotary International Archives, Evanston, IL. *District 119 (1939-1940)*; George Baldwin, conversation with the author, July 24, 1993.

²⁸ John E. Martin, Governor District 119, *Memo of Official Visit of District Governor*, October 30, 1930, Rotary International Archives, Evanston, IL.

²⁹ David C. Forward, *A Century of Service, The Story of Rotary International* (Evanston, IL: Rotary International 2003) 116; Rotary International Archives, Evanston, IL. *District 119 (1948-1949)*; Rotary International, 2003-2004 *Official Directory*, (Evanston, IL: Rotary International, 2003) p. C-655.

³⁰ *Clark County Courier* (Clark, SD), August 2, 16, 23, 1951.

³¹ John Anderson to author, South Haven, MI, September 30, 1993; "Friends Hear From Dr. A .H. Christensen," *Clark County Courier*, December 15, 1955, p. 1, col. 1; Deaths, "CHRISTENSEN, Axel H., Dr. ", *The Herald-News* (Joliet) March 6, 1957; State of Illinois *Medical Certificate of Death*-Axel H. Christensen, March 6, 1957. (Date of death: March 5, 1957, cause of death: terminal pneumonia); State of Illinois, *Medical Certificate of Death*-Mary Ette [sic] Christensen, January 10, 1969. Date of death: January 8, 1969. (Cause of death: myocardial infarcts.)

³² The Elmhurst Cemetery Company of Joliet, "Interment No. 8436, Dr. Axel H. Christensen," *Record of Interments* (1957), 2:156; *idem* "Interment No. 12051, Mary E. Christiansen [sic]," *Record of Interments* (1969), 4:93.