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Editorial Statement

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Editorial Statement

This issue of The Bridge contains a variety of articles which bring to our readers reports of Danish American individuals as well as families. The lead article steps back before the immigrants arrived and assesses one major characteristic of Danish (and perhaps all) immigrants then as well as now: their "tradition of learning." "As the Twig Bends, So Grows the Tree" takes a close look at one village school's attendance and examination class registers from the late nineteenth century. the author concludes that immigrants have an "above average willingness to invest in themselves and their children" which they acquired in their country of origin, in this case Denmark.

"Chris Madsen—A Dane in the Wild West" chronicles the life of one immigrant's participation in the conquest and opening for European settlement of the American west. Chris Madsen led an active life in the military and as a law enforcement officer in the late nineteenth century. We are happy that we are able to introduce him to those who may not have heard of him.

"A Family Sketchbook" is reprinted from part one of Eva Maria Johnson's autobiography I Too Shall Wear Purple. This selection contains most of the first section of the book about her early years growing up on the family farm in Colorado. The book is out of print, but for those whose appetite is whetted we urge you to visit your used bookstores and look for Johnson, Eva Maria, I Too Shall Wear Purple, Carlton Press, New York, NY, 1987. (ISBN 0-8062-2977-2)

We conclude this issue with a review of Union of Opposites. Letters from Rit Svane Wengel. This collection of letters is put together with commentary and photographs by Craig Miller who was in the Department of English at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for 34 years.