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Editorial Statement

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Editorial Statement

In late 1992 the Danish American Heritage Society announced that it would grant an award of \$300 for the best article submitted in 1993 for publication in the historical journal, *The Bridge*. Several articles were submitted for consideration.

Articles submitted were judged by a committee of five evaluators appointed by the President of DAHS.

The three major criteria used by the committee in making its decision were that an article submitted should:

1. make an important contribution to the study of Danish immigrants or their descendants in North America;
2. have historical value in its own right, and make good use of historical documents, and
3. show appreciation and understanding of Danish heritage.

All articles were also judged on the basis of how well written they were, and to what extent they captured human interest.

We thank all of those people who submitted articles. We appreciate the time and effort the writers took in entering the contest. Our thanks to the authors for their contributions to the history of Danish Americans.

The committee felt that the article which most successfully met the criteria which were used to judge was "Sentenced to be Hanged: the Tragic Story of a Danish Immigrant," by Peter Thomsen. This is the story of an unsuccessful immigrant to the U.S. Shortly after arrival in this country he was convicted of murder and condemned to life imprisonment. Life's problems are not always surmountable.

In "Recollections From Our Voyage to America," Soren Pedersen relates some of his family's trials in getting from Denmark to Luck, Wisconsin. The narrative was originally written in 1902 and appeared in a slightly different form in Halvdan Helveg's biography of Soren Pedersen, "Den Gamle Smed."

"An Immigrant Story of Peter Petersen Thisted" is published this year — the 100th anniversary of his ordination. This story, written by his grandson, tells of the early years, conversion, and rather itinerant life of this "maverick" Danish Lutheran pastor.

In addition, we are publishing reviews of three books published by the Danes Worldwide Archives detailing aspects of Danish emigration to Canada, New Zealand and the United States. We believe you will find all of these of interest. They are all available from DAHS at Dana College, Blair, Nebraska.