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Editorial Statement

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Exploration of Danish immigrants' experiences reveals that most came to improve their economic status, though some, no doubt, were also driven by a spirit for adventure. Many of them transplanted old country institutions that had been meaningful in their lives - mostly churches. Among these were followers of Bishop N.F.S. Grundtvig who, in addition to being a Lutheran churchman, poet, statesman, and educator is considered to be the founder of the Danish Folkhighschool. His followers established Grand View College and Seminary in Des Moines, Iowa attempting at the same time to follow some of the Folkschool philosophy.

Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt's article outlines the difficulties and obstacles encountered in attempting to adapt some of the folkhighschool philosophy in an American small college setting. It might be supposed that Grand View College would have had an advantage because of its Danish heritage. However, Bielfeldt's outline argues that there has been little effort to try the adaptation, and he observes that the character of college students today reflect a society in which the Grundtvigian vision would not have a chance.

Abolene Larsen's article about her work among the Cherokee provides the story of an immigrant who came with a blend of interest in adventure and a desire "to serve God." Abolene Larsen tells of a young lady who came to the U.S. partly driven by a spirit of adventure, but largely

from a desire "to serve God." She tells us of her life among the Cherokee at the Oaks Mission from 1913 to 1919.

Nels Christian Nelson was certainly one of the immigrants who came to improve his economic status. But, in the end, he had made a life at least partially driven by the spirit of adventure. His determined rise from abject poverty to his status as one of the pioneers in early U.S. archaeology is an interesting and appealing story. It is the ideal story of immigrant success -- unlikely beginnings, work hard, study hard, succeed, become reknowned.

The story of the building of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton, Iowa provides us a story of those Grundtvigians who aspired to establish a church reflecting their contacts with Denmark. Here we meet the individuals involved, the decisions related to construction, and the involvement of the community members. It tells us of the outreach of the church and allied Danish organizations to the community of immigrants and their descendants.