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Front Matter

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A GREAT MANY AMERICANS are becoming aware of a need to perpetuate their cultural heritage. Efforts by early immigrants to blend into American society created a melting pot, often without emphasis on cultural traditions. Second, third, and fourth generation Americans of Danish and other ethnic descent recently have discovered an interest in their intellectual, cultural, and social heritage and are determined, at least in part, to retain it.

DANISH AMERICANS have a unique opportunity to participate in two cultures. Yet, because of a rapid blending into American society, few enjoy the completeness of this dual heritage of Danish and American traditions. Fortunately, however, many individuals from the present generation have discovered that their interest in Danish culture is shared by others.

DANISH AMERICANS should understand the significance of preserving the history found in the records and artifacts of Danish immigrants. This history reflects the ideals, capabilities, and traditions brought to the New World. Here it was blended with contributions from immigrants of other nationalities into contemporary American life. It is important that Americans who have an interest in the Danish cultural contribution to the United States make an effort to preserve those customs and historical artifacts for future generations.

The Danish American Heritage Society
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The Bridge is the semiannual publication of the Society. The editors invite manuscripts dealing with all aspects of the Danish immigrant experience in North America. Our goal is broad: it is to promote the study of Danish- and Scandinavian-American history and culture. All material which illuminates the lives of Danish-American individuals, groups, organizations, and communities, as well as material dealing with themes in history and culture, will be considered for publication. Please address submissions to the Editor, Donald K. Watkins, and correspondence concerning book reviews to the Book Review Editor, Arnold Bodtker. We have frequently observed that many publications of interest to readers (local histories, for example) are distributed on a small scale and may escape the attention of the editors. We look forward to being informed by readers of books and booklets which deserve announcement and review in **The Bridge**.