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Front Matter

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MANY AMERICANS are becoming aware of a desire to perpetuate their cultural heritage. Although many early immigrants wanted to blend into American society and did not emphasize their cultural traditions, succeeding generations of Americans of Danish and other ethnic descent have recently discovered an interest in their intellectual, cultural and social heritage.

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

THE DANISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY was established in 1977 to explore and record the history of Danish immigrants — a history reflecting the ideals, strengths and traditions they brought with them. The Society is committed to stimulating interest in the Danish cultural contribution and to preserving it for future generations.

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Inquiries concerning membership in the Society and subscription to **The Bridge** should be sent to Egon Bodtker, 1132 Newport Drive, Salem, Oregon 97306.

The Bridge and the **Newsletter** are semi-annual publications of the Society. We 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. 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 learning from readers of books and booklets which deserve announcement and review in **The Bridge**.

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