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Editorial Statement

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Editorial Statement

Vejele Amt in the southeastern part of Danish Jutland was the home of the immigrants whose stories are found in this issue of *The Bridge*. This area came to have one of the highest rates of emigration in Denmark. Perhaps some of your ancestors came from the parts of Denmark around Vejele, as some of mine did.

The two documents featured in this issue are separated by an interval of seventy years. The first is a long letter, written from Iowa during the Christmas season of 1868 by a recent immigrant from Hvejsel parish, north of Vejele. The second is the autobiography of an immigrant from Give parish, northwest of Hvejsel, who had lived in America for half a century and wrote in English. Ten years after arriving in America, he had become the son-in-law of the Iowa letter writer, so these two documents reflect the same family circle.

This is my last issue as editor of *The Bridge*. My four years as editor have been enjoyable and rewarding, and I want to thank the many people who have made them so. Authors have contributed manuscripts that became interesting, informative articles, none more frequently than Thorvald Hansen. Peter L. Petersen served as book review editor and recruited some fine reviewers. President James Iversen and the whole Executive Board of the Danish American Heritage Society gave tremendous support to *The Bridge* as the journal of the society. The late Arnold N. Bodtker and Egon Bodtker laid a solid foundation as previous editors. Greg Tiburzi redesigned the cover in 1999, and Anundsen Publishing Company, led by Erik Anundsen, has done a splendid job of printing, binding, and distributing *The Bridge*. To all of them, and to numerous unnamed individuals who have supported the enterprise, I send my gratitude and thanks.

Beginning with the next issue, Peter L. Petersen will take over as editor of *The Bridge*. Many of you know him as the historian of Dana College and a prominent scholar in the field of immigration history. The transition should be a smooth one, and we look forward to many exciting future issues under his editorship.