Front Matter

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

DANISH AMERICANS have an 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.
Submission Guidelines for The Bridge

_The Bridge: Journal of the Danish American Heritage Society_ appears twice a year and contains articles and book reviews dealing with all aspects of Danish and Danish American culture, literature, and history, particularly the Danish experience in North America. Manuscripts can be more scholarly or more popular in style, but all articles should demonstrate critical reflection and responsible scholarly practice.

Past issues of _The Bridge_ have also contained Danish American memoirs, essays, short stories, collections of letters, and historical documents. Book reviews and review essays in _The Bridge_ deal with Danish life and history and the broader Scandinavian experience in North America as well as the Danish American experience. _The Bridge_ occasionally reprints previously published material.

Manuscript submissions should conform to the _Chicago Manual of Style_. Please submit an electronic version of the manuscript file via the “Submit Article” link located in the left margin of the web page: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/thebridge, or as an attachment via email in MS Word or Open Office, with illustrations in a separate file, to Julie K. Allen, editor of _The Bridge_, at julie_allen@byu.edu. It is the author’s responsibility to obtain permission to publish any illustrations included in an article. Please include a brief, fifty- to one-hundred-word author’s biography suitable for the journal’s “Contributors to This Issue” section.

All manuscripts are reviewed by the editor. However, there is also an option to have manuscripts peer reviewed. Authors who want to have their articles subject to double-blind peer review should indicate this at the time of submission. Accepted peer-reviewed articles will be identified as such in the published issue of _The Bridge_ in which they appear. For more information or specific questions, please consult our website danishheritage.org or contact the editor:

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Editorial Statement

As I’ve traveled the world the past few decades, I’ve discovered that you can find traces of Danes almost everywhere, from the Hendrik Christian Andersen museum in the Villa Helene in Rome, Italy to Dansborg Fort in Tranquebar, India. While some such outposts were commercial or state-sponsored undertakings, most of them were created by individual Danes who ventured out into the world for adventure or economic opportunity. The story of each settlement is unique, with challenges specific to the physical and political climate of the place being settled, but, taken as a group, these Danish settlements and the intrepid souls who built them have left a remarkable legacy for their descendants and the rest of us. To honor and raise awareness of these fascinating stories of courage, faith, and adventure, this double issue of *The Bridge* brings together several stories of Danish immigrant settlements across the United States and elsewhere in the world, from Argentina to Australia.

The first two articles in the issue focus on Danish settlements in Nebraska by two DAHS board members: Christie Gehringer offers a tribute to the lovely town of Dannebrog, while David Hendee tells the remarkable stories of the settlers in the area once known as Little Denmark. The next two articles, by Cindy Larsen and Carrie Eilderts, chronicle some important aspects of Iowa’s Danish history, from Shelby and Audubon counties to Cedar Falls, demonstrating how intertwined the personal and community stories of immigration and settlement are. Even when few traces remain on the public face of a town, a little digging can reveal rich troves of memory, culture, and courage. The final article in this section of the issue is Bert Schou’s reminiscences of growing up among Danish settlers and pioneers in Kenmare, North Dakota, which celebrates its Danish heritage very publicly with its beautiful windmill.

In the second section of this issue, two substantial, meticulously-researched articles by John Everett James and Catrine Kyster Giery document the presence and activity of substantial Danish communities on the eastern seaboard of the United States. While the presence of Danes in the Midwest is more visible today and therefore more frequently celebrated, these two articles remind us of both the numerical significance and cultural strength of the Danes who settled in New
York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Alongside their tireless efforts to establish businesses and develop their towns, these Danes also created close ties of community with each other through churches, newspapers, cultural organizations, and more.

The final section of this issue goes a bit farther afield, to consider how the experience of Danish settlers in Australia, New Zealand, and Argentina compared to that of Danish immigrants to the United States. My article about the Danish communities in Australia and New Zealand is conceived as a companion piece to an earlier article, “Vikings of the Pacific: Reconsidering the Settler-Colonial Legacy of Danish Immigrants to New Zealand,” which appeared in the online journal *Kult* in 2013 and is available for download at researchgate.net (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329486624_Vikings_of_the_Pacific_Reconsidering_the_Settler_Colonial_Legacy_of_Danish_Immigrants_to_New_Zealand). In this article, I shift my focus from contemporary branding efforts that foreground the Viking heritage of these Dano-Norwegian towns on North Island to offer a broader overview of the historical patterns of Danish settlement in both New Zealand and Australia. The final article in this issue is Inge Ambrosius’s impressive personal history of her family’s immigration to Argentina at the end of the nineteenth century and the phenomenal success they experienced there, supported by a robust Danish community that has endured in some form until today. The fact that Queen Margrethe II appears in both articles, in connection with her visits to Australia in 1957 and Argentina in 2019, confirms the importance of these Danish culture outposts so far from northern Europe.

To round things off, this issue also contains Inger Olsen’s review of Edgar B. Madsen’s delightful book *The Shoestring Letters. A Tribute to the Immigrant* (2020), which tells his own parents’ fascinating immigration and adaptation story on the basis of the letters they wrote home to Denmark over several decades. They moved around between Chicago and Alabama in the early and mid-twentieth century, but they formed a distinctive little Danish community within their own family.