Contributors to This Issue
(in alphabetical order)

Julie K. Allen is professor of Comparative Literature and Scandinavian Studies at Brigham Young University. She teaches and writes about cultural identity and its expression through film, literature (including fairy tales), religion, and autobiography. She is a member of the board of the Danish American Heritage Society and has edited The Bridge since 2014.

Inge Ambrosius was born in Copenhagen in 1953 and raised in Jutland, in the provincial town of Randers. She graduated with a master’s degree in history and geography from Aarhus University in 1980. From 1981 to 2016, she worked as a high school teacher; she is now retired but still writes in her subject area. She has lived in Aabenraa on the Danish-German border since 1981. She is married, with three children and five grandchildren. She had the chance to go to Argentina in January 2020 to meet her Danish Argentinian relatives. She blogs about her family history, social issues, and environmental questions at https://bedsteblog.wordpress.com.

Carrie Eilderts is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, where she earned a BA in history in 2013 and an MA in history with a public history emphasis in 2015. As a graduate student, she studied the history of the Danish community in Cedar Falls, Iowa, which culminated in an exhibit at the Cedar Falls Historical Society titled “Danish Cedar Falls: The Immigrant Experience.” She is currently the executive director of the Cedar Falls Historical Society.

Christie Jensen Gehringer, daughter of Danish Consul Earl Jensen and Dorthea Sorensen, is a retired teacher of English and history with the Omaha public school system. She served on the board of the Danish American Heritage Society for seven years and continues to serve as the secretary for the board of the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska.

Catrine Kyster Giery has a journalism degree from the Danish School of Journalism, a master’s degree in international communication from Leeds University, UK, and she recently completed a master’s degree in public history from American Public University, receiving the Graduate Scholar Award for the School of Arts and Humanities.
For her practicum, Catrine worked with the Danish American Archive and Library. She has published articles on Danish American historical topics in *The Bridge*, *America Letter*, and *Munkiana*. After growing up in Denmark, Catrine lived for some years in Queens, New York, and now resides in coastal South Carolina. Catrine also writes historical fiction, crime fiction, and women's fiction and has been published in both the United States and Denmark. www.catrinekyster.com.

**David Hendee**, a retired *Omaha World-Herald* reporter and editor, is a board member of the Danish American Heritage Society. He served on the Museum of Danish America board from 2014 to 2020. A California native, he grew up in Sidney, Nebraska, about twenty-five miles from the farm homesteaded by his Danish immigrant great-grandparents, Julius and Sophie Nielsen, and their children in 1886. The Nielsens were the first Danish settlers in what became locally known as Little Denmark in Nebraska’s southern Panhandle. Hendee’s article in this issue of *The Bridge* is adapted from a family history he researched, wrote and published for a centennial reunion of the Nielsens’ descendants in 1986. *(1886: A Danish-American Family Saga* was reviewed by Gerald Rasmussen in the Vol. 9, No. 2 edition of *The Bridge* in 1986). Hendee and the story of his Nielsen ancestors were featured in an episode of “The Journey to America” (“Rejsen til Amerika”), a documentary that aired on Danish television in 2017. He is a graduate of Midland Lutheran College and lives in Northfield, Minnesota.

**John Everett Jones** is an architect and a native of Chautauqua County, New York who now lives outside Philadelphia. His research about the early Swedish immigrants in the Jamestown, New York area (1844-65) is presented on the website jamestownswedes.org and includes some material about Danish immigrants. Although of Swedish not Danish descent, Mr. Jones had the opportunity to study at the Arkitektskolen Aarhus while on exchange from the University of Buffalo School of Architecture.

**Cindy Larsen** is a third-generation descendant of Danish immigrants who settled in Audubon and Shelby counties in Iowa. She holds degrees in history and political theory from Metropolitan State University of Denver. She is retired after spending twenty-five years as an antiques dealer. Her time is now devoted to historical research.
and family genealogy. She is proud to have served two terms on the board of directors of the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa.

**Inger M. Olsen, MA**, is a retired assistant professor from Portland State University where she taught Danish language, literature, and film since 1980. She has presented numerous papers on Danish literature and history at professional conferences, and has published articles on Denmark, Danish literature, and the Danish language. She co-edited a two-volume anthology of Nordic women writers, and she has organized conferences for the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS) and the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) at PSU and served as chair of the Pacific Northwest Danish Cultural Conference.

**Bertel Schou** was born on a farm in Kenmare, North Dakota, married Diane in 1974, and has a son Paul, born in 1982. He spent four summers in Denmark near Kolding where his father was born. His father came to Iowa in 1912 at age eighteen, followed five years later by an older brother. Bert later bought his uncle’s farm, which is now a research station. He earned his BS and MS degrees from North Dakota State and a PhD at Michigan State in agronomy. He completed a postdoctorate at Ohio State at Wooster, followed by five years at a major chemical firm before he and Diane started the private firm ACRES (Ag Custom Research) in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He now lives in the Green Bank area of West Virginia. Bert helped found Cedar Valley Danes in the 1980s and later served as president. He has also been a district officer in the Danish Brotherhood, a member of the Museum of Danish America and the Rebilde Society, a vice president of Sons of Norway, President of Ruritan, district Eagle Scout commissioner, and church treasurer. After a trip to Senegal, he joined Self Help, a non-profit NGO in Ghana and Nicaragua, and has served as president and board member for more than three decades. He gave a talk in 2016 at the Danebod Folk Meeting at Tyler, Minnesota and several years earlier presented at a meeting of Danish groups in Des Moines, Iowa.