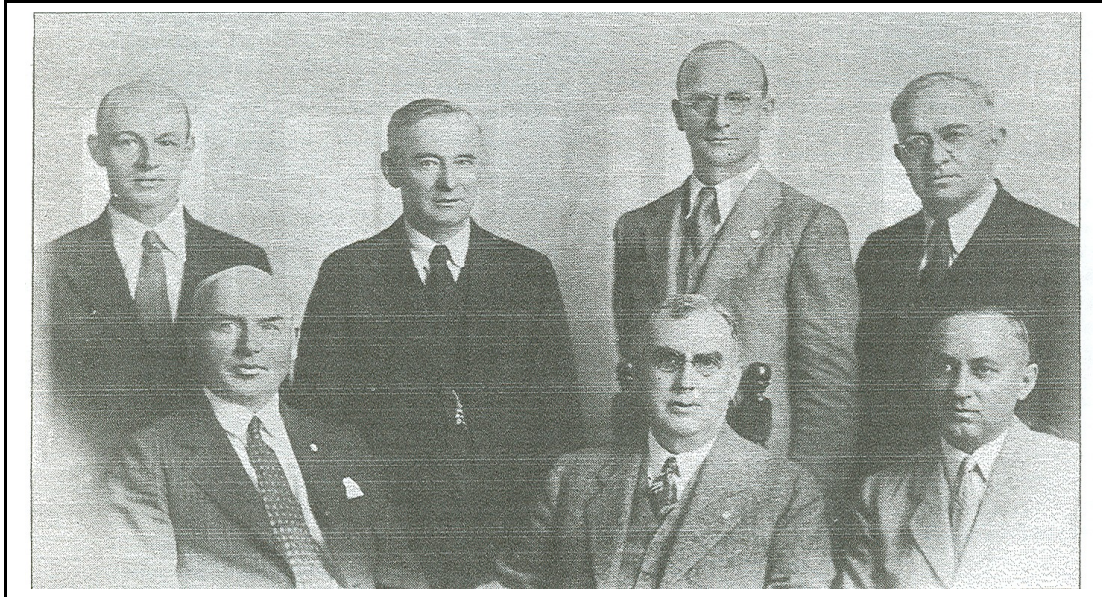


Across Oceans, Across Time[®] ...
Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



Among the many Danish immigrant organizations founded in North America - churches, folk high schools and Danish children's schools, benevolent and charitable institutions, singing societies, athletic clubs, reading groups, theatrical clubs, and the like - the Danish Brotherhood in America stands out as one of the more widespread and enduring. The Brotherhood was founded in 1882 in Omaha, Nebraska, in a consolidation of several Danish veterans' organizations, and in its heyday consisted of more than 300 lodges in 31 states, British Columbia, and Copenhagen. Its initial purpose was two-fold: to provide assistance to immigrant families in the form of life insurance and financial assistance in times of illness or death, and to provide a familiar and comfortable place where new immigrants and old could meet fellow countrymen, speak their native tongue, and celebrate the festivals and holidays they had grown up with, providing a tie between their motherland and their new home. The Brotherhood was originally open to all Danish-born men of good repute. Later, membership was extended to male children of Danish immigrants, and eventually to female descendants and their spouses. Some 85,000 persons became members of the Danish Brotherhood between 1882 and 1975. Available at the Family History & Genealogy Center, these membership records include valuable information for tracing Danish origins, including the place and date of birth and the names of insurance beneficiaries. The above photograph shows the stewards of the Danish Brotherhood at the time of its 50th anniversary in 1932. Standing from left to right are C.B. Christensen, Rolf Rasmussen, John Hansen, and N.B. Nelsen; sitting: L. Fred Muller, John Christensen, and Frank V. Lawson.