



THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY 1862-1962

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CHAPTER I

1862-1872

The history of Dania Society is essentially immigrant history, and is greatly influenced by the sizable Scandinavian-German influx of immigrants in the last decades of the 19th Century. Thus it can be said that the history of Dania is not only the record of the Danes in Chicago but is also an integral part of the early history of the American Midwest. Dania is the oldest Danish society outside Denmark, not only in the United States but in the entire world, and its centennial history, 1862-1962, reveals the part which the Danes have played in Chicago's history. It should be remembered, however, that the chronicle of the Danish churches in Chicago, from 1871 to date, also constitutes an important chapter of this history.

In 1862, twenty five years after the incorporation of Chicago as a city (1837), the future metropolis began burgeoning. The giants of industry and commerce were establishing themselves, and Chicago was slowly losing the appearance of a muddy, Indian frontier town. The Bureau of Census reported in 1860 that there were 712 Danes in the State of Illinois, 600 of whom lived in Chicago. The first large influx of Danish immigrants took place in the early 1860's, and by 1870 the number of Danes in Illinois had increased to 3,711. The Danish immigrants, mostly artisans and journeymen, settled mostly in the vicinity of La Salle and Kinzie Streets where the rent and living expenses were the most reasonable.

Emigration has always been an economic-socio-politically motivated movement of population toward freedom and better living conditions. People leave their native land either because of the existence of tyranny in one form or another, or because of the lack of opportunities to make a decent living. Consequently, emigrants were from the underprivileged classes of society, and those from Denmark were, by and large, no exception. The Danish immigrants had no knowledge of foreign languages, and arriving in a multi-racial city like Chicago they had to look to themselves for their own entertainment and social intercourse. It was only natural for the comparatively few Chicago Danes to meet, for instance, at the Kinzie Inn (later known as the Klondyke Inn), next to the corner of La Salle St., and receive their mail and read "Foster's Newspaper," –a two month old "Berlingske Tidende." It was also in keeping with their national heritage to want to form a Danish society, or club, where they could meet, speak their mother tongue, and enjoy their common cultural and national traditions.

It was during the days of the Civil War that a Danish society was born in Chicago on Sunday, November 23, 1862. Johan Foster, a painter by trade but also an artist, organized the important meeting on that date at the Kinzie Inn. Twelve Danish immigrant artisans were present, but it was Johan Foster who conceived the idea and must rightfully be considered the founder. A resolution was passed which read: "That we are today forming a Danish society in Chicago, and that the name of said society shall be the "Society Dana." The signers of Dana's birth certificate were: Johan Foster;

P. C. Petersen; George Hoffman; Martin Brodthagen; Peter Bennediksen; S. Mikkelsen; Jens Skov; S. Moller; A. Winter; E. Salling; I.S.Pedersen; H.W.Hansen. Underneath the signatures of these men, the elected president, Johan Foster, wrote in his fine handwriting: "The Society concluded its meeting with the injunction that a meeting place be rented and put in order for use on the coming Sunday, November 30th." The original name chosen for this Danish society that of "Dana," is a derivative of "Daner" which means Danes. The name clearly indicated the national origin, and the choice may have been influenced by the names of the Swedish club, "Svea" and the Norwegian club, "Nora". In 1865 the name was changed to "Dania," which is Medieval Latin for "Denmark." In order to spare the reader from any confusion arising from the references to "Dana" and "Dania" the name "Dania" will be used throughout, even though the reference may be to the Society's activities prior to the name change in 1865.

The location of the second meeting cannot be stated with certainty; it was probably in Johan Foster's home at 53 West Randolph Street. Evidently it was difficult to find a suitable place to convene regularly, so the next weekly meetings were held in Wilken's Cafe on La Salle Street. Here the members sat at a round table, conversing in Danish and reminiscing about Denmark. For a score of years Wilken's Cafe was the regular meeting place of Chicago's most prominent Danes. Their private table, -a big, mahogany round table,- became so famous that some sixty years later Dr. Max Henius had it shipped to the University Cafe in Copenhagen: during the Nazi occupation, 1940-45, the table mysteriously disappeared and has not been seen since. Conviviality reigned at Wilken's Cafe, and many glasses of good beer and wine were consumed, many priceless stories told, and many speeches held. If only the "Round Table" could have told its own story!

A constitution and bylaws, drafted by E. Salling, Martin Brodthagen and George Hoffman, was presented at the second Dania meeting and written down in old Gothic letters by the secretary, P. C. Petersen. There were seventeen articles: Article 1 read as follows; "The purpose of this Society is to contribute by united efforts to the entertainment (of the members) by reading, discussion and other useful means." Another article permitted Swedes and Norwegians to become members, while another provided for the cancellation of membership if a member's behavior was indecent or questionable. The bylaws stipulated that the initiation fee was two dollars, and the dues were fifty cents per month. Meetings were to be held every Sunday, and a general meeting and election of officers every three months. An illuminative sidelight from this meeting was that the Society voted to purchase four spittoons and a deck of cards for its members.

It was still a pressing problem to obtain a meeting place at a reasonable price, as there was hardly any money in Dania's treasury. George Hoffman came to the rescue and offered the club a room in his home on Kinzie Street for five dollars a month, -light, heat, and cleaning included. Hoffman also offered to pick up Dania's mail twice a week at the Post Office for a fee of two dollars. Dania moved into Hoffman's apartment in February of 1863. It was at this time that many books were purchased, and these became the foundation of a large library which was much used by the members during these early years. Johan Foster was the driving force behind the acquisition of these books which he paid for with money earned from his painting.

During its first two years Dania had a most difficult time keeping its head above water. Times were bad, the few members were too poor to keep up with their dues, and the society was not generating too much interest among the Danes in Chicago. At a meeting on December 30, 1863, Johan Foster proposed the following amendment to Dania's constitution: "In the probable case that this Society has to dissolve, its chattels cannot be sold but should be turned over to the Danish Consul, Dr. Petersen, or if circumstances forbid that, to a person whose duty it would be to turn it over to him, or to those who in the future will support Danish honor by maintaining a Danish society by the name of Dania. Such a society should be held together by a constitution like ours. However, if the Dania Society should dissolve and be in debt, the Society's chattels can be sold to liquidate the debt."

If Dania had to draw its last breath, it had to be with honor and dignity. But Dania did not die. New members of the finest caliber came upon the scene and with their enthusiasm and energetic drive, sustained and vitalized the fledgling society.

Dania's founder and first president, Johan Foster, was a man who gave all his time and effort to furthering the development of the budding society. It is unfortunate that a biography of Foster was never written. Although directly connected with Dania for less than four years, Foster was the one who conceived the idea of such an organization as Dania, and it was he who got the new fledged group off the ground and flying.

The printer, Rasmus Egebergh, before his death, told Anton Kvist that Johan Foster supposedly had come with his parents from Norway to Copenhagen. Regardless of his place of birth, however, Foster spent his entire life among the Danes and the Danish immigrants in America.

The summer of 1866 saw Foster's departure from Chicago. On December 2nd of that same year, Dr. N. P. Petersen (Pearson) proposed that "a letter of gratitude be sent the founder of the Society, Johan Foster, now absent, for his never failing diligence to matters that concerned Dania's welfare, and especially for the items he gave to the theatre wardrobe before his departure". The records do not indicate whether the letter was sent or not, but Foster's inimitable service to Dania apparently had slipped the minds of the members because a month later they expelled the Society's founder because of a few dollars of unpaid dues. New Orleans, Foster's new home, had not been good to him, and his meager earnings weren't sufficient to keep up his membership dues in Dania. This callous and undeserved treatment of Foster was severely criticized a year later by the president, Johan Klug, and he demanded that Foster be reinstated as a non-paying member for the rest of his life. The shamefaced members agreed, and shortly thereafter a touching reply was received from Foster; he was grateful to again become a member of a society which always had been his special interest. (This letter, never copied, was lost, together with a Christmas letter from Foster, sent from Milwaukee in 1875).

Johan Foster was made an honorary member of Dania in 1869. When death came to Foster on October 9, 1877, however, it was hardly even noticed by Dania. He

had been away from Dania for eleven years, and once again we get proof of the old adage: "out of sight, out of mind". It would seem that Dania could have shown a little more sincere appreciation for its founder.

One of the Founding Fathers of Dania was George Hoffman. A farm manager on a Jutland estate, Hoffman immigrated as a young man to America. He enlisted voluntarily in General Grant's Army and during a battle received a bullet wound in his right leg which never completely healed. After the Civil War he started a cigar store (he made his own cigars) and sold newspapers and railroad steamship tickets. He was an industrious worker and soon saved enough money for a return visit to Denmark.

Hoffman represented in many ways the best Danish qualities: he was an exemplar of solidarity and stability. For two years he was the elected Democratic leader among the Chicago Danes. He did not, however, look with kindness on the many Danish jailbirds and other queer birds that flew over the Atlantic and landed on the shores of Lake Michigan: he knew that many of these "birds" would fare no better here than they did back in Denmark.

In 1863 Hoffman was elected President of Dania and later made an honorary member of the Society. Because of the old wound in his right leg Hoffman finally had to give up his business, and he died shortly after.

Across from George Hoffman's store on Milwaukee Ave. was a haberdashery owned by William Harlev, another Dania member. Harlev was a robust Jutlander who left Denmark after completing his required service in the Danish cavalry. When he arrived in Chicago, like most immigrants he tried his hand at several things before opening a haberdasher's store. Harlev had rather imaginative and advanced ideas in the field of advertising. His advertisements were original as well as topical: on the day of a solar eclipse he advertised, "-In spite of the sun-eclipse today; Harlev's shirts will shine with their usual whiteness".

For a while Harlev's business income increased and he purchased several buildings as well as the newspaper, "Heimdal", which he enlarged and made the biggest Scandinavian newspaper in the country. Harlev moved the "Heimdal" publishing office into one of his larger buildings, and for many years this was known as the Heimdal Building.

Harlev eventually fell on hard times, however, and his business became so unprofitable that he was compelled to close his store. He refused to give up without a fight and consequently went into the building construction business, and not just on a small scale. He built a section of Chicago's insane asylum, and together with the Danish architect, Meldahl, supervised the construction of the State of Illinois Building at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Through political influence, Harlev received several large contracts, one of them for a portion of the Chicago drainage canal. Harlev was thus one of those who helped make the Chicago River flow backwards, thereby saving Chicago's drinking water from contamination.

In the construction business it was not unusual then, nor is it now, for a builder to fail to complete his contract work within the specified time and at his estimated cost. Harlev had that unfortunate experience. He requested extra remuneration to cover his loss on the Drainage Canal project but lost his case in court and was generally considered a financially ruined man. Again Harlev's indomitable spirit prevailed and he started anew as an agent for a window manufacturer. This job didn't provide him with an adequate income so he started a men's novelty and jewelry store which didn't fare much better. Due to these various business fizzles, Harlev finally severed all his social connections with his Danish friends and the various Danish organizations.

At a meeting held on April 7, 1864, Anton Skov informed the members that he knew of a spacious apartment at Kinzie and LaSalle Street which was suitable for Dania's use and could be had for ten dollars a month. He received unanimous permission to rent and repair the apartment. It was also decided that on the windowpane above the new entrance door, the name Dania Society should be painted in large letters and that in a box behind the window, a candle should burn every evening so that Dania's sign could be seen in the dark. It was also agreed that a strong rope should be attached to the window sill so that members could slide down and escape in case of fire. This is certainly what Hans Christian Andersen would strongly have suggested.

One of the first actions taken in their new quarters was the establishing of Peter von der Recke as the manager and steward. Kitchen utensils and an icebox were purchased so that the members could be served food at the meetings. Everyone wanted carpets for the new Dania headquarters, but there was only money enough to buy some spittoons. When Otto von Bismark provoked the disastrous Prussian-Austrian War against Denmark in 1864, Dania learned about it through a letter from the Scandinavian Society of New York which asked for Dania's "vigorous support and help in collecting money in America for the war-torn Denmark". Peter von der Recke, the steward, offered to collect the donations from the Dania members for a commission of ten per cent. Generous contributions were collected and forwarded to the proper authorities in Denmark, but apparently von der Recke took in forty dollars more than he forwarded to Denmark. He was strongly censured for this at several meetings and he finally resigned. Sometime later, however, Dania sent a letter of thanks to von der Recke not only for the missing forty dollars but also for his own donation of twenty five dollars, taken from his meager pay as a Union soldier during the American Civil War.

Even after the cessation of hostilities between Germany and Denmark, Dania and Svea and Nora continued to gather funds for the indigent families of the soldiers who were killed or wounded during that war. Denmark was grateful for this help and expressed her appreciation in several letters to these organizations.

After von der Recke's resignation as steward, Niels Uhrenholdt was hired for that job. Called "Niels in the Tower", Uhrenholdt was a middle sized, strongly built man with reddish hair and whiskers. He was one of the many Danes who had worked as a messenger for Ferdinand Winslow before the latter's bank failed.

Uhrenholdt was an excellent steward. In a small room a counter was set up where he served beer, schnapps, and Danish sandwiches at a reasonable price, but he was most careful as to whom he extended credit for this food and drinks. Uhrenholdt took his job seriously, and even helped the treasurers send out the bills and collect the member's dues.

The one thing that Uhrenholdt prided himself most on was his ability to serve a first class banquet dinner. His right-hand in the kitchen was Marie, whom he married, and both of them had to appear after the banquet feast to receive the tumultuous applause. One reason for Uhrenholdt's popularity might have been that for one dollar the members each got a beer, a schnapps, & half bottle of wine, and a full course dinner.

It was then, as it still is now, the custom to drink toasts at a banquet until the wine ran dry. Toasts were made to Denmark, the United States, Dania, Schlesvig, the ladies present, and then the Uhrenholdts.

In 1864, the first proposal was made to organize some type of sickness insurance plan. The leading proponent was Robert E. Gad, who was vigorously opposed by President Anton Skov, who would not even permit discussion on the idea during the meetings, and who continued his fight against the idea even after his resignation as president. Consul N. P. Petersen took over the presidency, and the Sickness Benefit Association became a reality on August 4, 1866. As far as can be determined, this was the first Danish organization of its kind in America.

The Sickness Benefit Association occasionally had its problems. One incident which was much discussed among the members, and which was even reported in the Chicago newspapers, concerned the claim of a Mads Jensen. Jensen owned a saloon on Milwaukee Avenue and was a member of the Association. Declaring himself ill, he made a claim for benefits. The Association's doctor, however, discovered that Jensen was suffering from a chronic disease and was not entitled to any sickness benefits according to the rules of the plan. Jensen, believing that he was being bamboozled out of his legitimate claim, hired some lawyers. They in turn persuaded a Justice of Peace to issue a warrant for the seizure of enough of Dania's property to cover Jensen's claim. Several police officers then arrived at Dania and proceeded to fill their police wagon up with chairs, tables, pictures, and other furnishings. The portrait of Frederik VII and the Danish flag were carried out: the driver placed Frederik VII's picture between his knees, and "Dannebrog" waved from the top of the furniture load. Several of Dania's members chased after the police wagon but were unable to overtake it. Through legal channels, however, Dania's property was recovered, and shortly thereafter Mads Jensen passed away.

George P. Bay was one of the early members of Dania. Born in Viborg, Denmark, and trained as a turner, he immigrated with his brother in the early 1850's to Chicago. Bay first found work at the city's largest carriage factory, and then became manager of a hospital for contagious diseases which was located in a cemetery which is now Lincoln Park. Later Bay started a grocery business which was successful, and then joined Andrew Petersen in his banking establishment which was subsequently called

"Petersen & Bay". Bay acquired considerable real estate, and in 1866 built a beautiful home, the plans for which were drawn by the Danish architect, Soren Peter Hammerich.

The name of Captain Emanuel Engelstedt is a prominent one in the early history of Dania. He came to Chicago before the Civil War, in which he later served as a captain, and together with George Bay was admitted into Dania on August 10, 1864. His devotion to the Society and its founder, Johan Foster, was unceasing. His interest in the theatrical performances and in the library never diminished, and he invariably supported Foster in the latter's requests for money for new stage plays.

In culture and intelligence Engelstedt was heads above most of the members of Dania. He was kind and unaffected in his manner, and very popular with his fellow members, who always listened attentively when he spoke out for his favorite causes. He was active on many committees and was several times a member of the Board of Directors.

Captain Engelstedt died in September of 1872. The following tribute to him was printed in "Skandinaven": "Dania has suffered a painful and sudden loss in the parting of one of its oldest and bravest members, Captain Emanuel Engelstedt, who on the 17th inst. came to his eternal rest. In his best years and with a lovely family and a large circle of friends, he will be mourned by many and by us. His unselfishness, his kind attitude to unknown but needy countrymen won him the hearts of all those that now sorrow at his too early departure from life. Therefore, it is resolved that Dania Society hereby expresses its deepest regrets at the altogether too early passing of Captain Emanuel Engelstedt, and that it considers the loss of him the loss of a dearly beloved member. Hereby, the Dania Society expresses its heartiest and most sincere sympathy for his bereaved wife and relatives.

(Signed) Charles Martens, Corresponding Secretary"

The first anniversary festival held by Dania was on November 23, 1864. To defray the cost of the celebration, subscription lists for donations were tacked up in the club rooms, and the more affluent members were asked to indicate the amount of their contributions. For the festival, the entrance door and the banquet hall were decorated in the Danish colors, and the members and their guests showed up in their finest, most fashionable clothes. The food and drinks were of the best, the dancing lively, and the spirits ran high, -a pattern adhered to at all the later anniversary parties. Since everything was "on the house", several celebrants imbibed too much, and as a result several fist fights broke out. All those who couldn't behave were thrown out.

A debating club was formed by the members of Dania in 1864, and the first meeting took place on the 4th of June of that same year. It is rather amusing to note that the subject of the first debate was: "Is Woman Stronger Than Man?" the first argument was given by Dania member N. P. Morin, a Danish speaking Frenchman. Unfortunately the records do not indicate the outcome of this important debate.

On St. Stephen's Day, December 26, 1864, the first theatrical performance within Chicago's Danish colony took place. Dania's Johan Foster was the director, stage

manager and scene designer. The Dania minutes indicate that he was allocated \$60.00 for this venture, but no mention is made of the name of the play or the names of the performers. It is reported that Foster had been very successful with the backdrop: it was a scene of white swans and blue water, against a background of green beech trees and neat houses over which waved a "Dannebrog". Like most plays, Foster's was a success as entertainment but not as a money making venture. Nevertheless, Foster received Dania's sincere thanks, and it was decided to keep the stage and retain Foster as the theatre director, a position he kept for several years.

Dania's first flag was sewn by Mmes. H. Bay and G. Bay in 1864; in 1867 another banner was sewn by Mmes. A. Skov and G. Bay. Dania then purchased a Danish flag together with an American one, and these flags were always present at the various festivals held in the three Scandinavian societies. These banners and flags were also lent to various groups: a Methodist Church and an American social club were given the use of the Danish colors, but not the high-toned, uppish Scandinavian Society.

The Scandinavian Society was formed in 1865 by Ferdinand Winslow, the banker. Its members were mainly Emil Dreier's friends who had bolted Dania, and its quarters of finely appointed rooms were located in Uhlich's Block near the Clark Street Bridge. When Winslow went bankrupt in 1872 the Scandinavian Society went down with him, and most of the members returned to Dania's fold. Although Dania refused to lend its banners to this organization, the relationship between the two societies was rather friendly during the very last years before the Scandinavian Society folded up.

The name of the society was changed from Dana to Dania in 1865. Emil Dreier, who had just become a member, was not satisfied with the name, "Dana"; he felt it was too feminine and not fitting for a society of men. Although the founder of Dana, Johan Foster, was very vocal in his opposition to this change, it was voted at the annual meeting on January 25, 1865, that the new name should be "Dania". It was also decided to make considerable changes in the bylaws and to incorporate Dania under the Statutes of the State of Illinois.

The esteemed Civil War veteran, and lawyer, Colonel Augustus Jacobsen, was chosen to take care of the legal procedure necessitated by this name change. On February 16, 1865, Dania Society was duly incorporated, and it became officially known that there was a Dania Society of the City of Chicago, & corporation not for profit, created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Illinois.

A Bylaws Committee was formed, consisting of Consul N. P. Petersen (who as president had the honor of being Dana's last, and Dania's first president), Anton Skov, Emil Dreier, Christian Hedegaard, and a Mr. Larsen. The first three paragraphs of the new bylaws read as follows: "The purpose of the Dania Society is to promote a closer social intercourse between the Scandinavians and mainly the Danish element in Chicago; also to occasionally provide lectures, recitals and debates with the intention to create taste for spiritual improvement; and through the establishing of a library, to further the general enlightenment of the members".

Even though "Dania" was the new name of the society, it was difficult for many members to accept it: some refused to use the new name, preferring "Dana" and "The Danish Society" to "Dania". Long after the name was changed, various Recording Secretaries still adhered to the old name, "Dana"

The driving force and human dynamo behind Dania's growth was Peter Emil Dreier. He joined Dania on November 26, 1864, and the following year he took over the presidency from Consul Petersen. Under Dreier's powerful leadership Dania grew in membership and in financial resources. Because of Dreier's social status, many of the Danish colony's prominent physicians, architects, bankers, lawyers and contractors played follow-the-leader and trailed "The Pied Piper of Milwaukee Avenue" into Dania. There is no question but that Dreier was an invaluable asset to the new organization, and that through his ability and effort Dania attained many of her objectives and created a deep respect for both the Danish colony and Denmark.

When Dreier became Dania's chief executive in 1865, Dania had \$3300.00 in its treasury. It was decided to purchase property and erect a club building which would contain a banquet hall, library, barroom and an apartment for the steward. Consul Petersen, H. Renee and Lieutenant Hammerich, an architect, were authorized to act in behalf of Dania, and Johan Foster took it upon himself to locate a suitable site. Hammerich drew the plans and specifications as his contribution to the cause, but for some reason the project never came to fruition.

Emil Dreier was a side-whiskered, corpulent man who was exceedingly energetic and possessed a jolly disposition, -except when plagued by the gout or hot weather. Dreier came from a long line of jurists, but he himself chose pharmacy as his vocation. In 1854, he immigrated to America together with Dr. N. P. Petersen, and both went directly to Chicago where Dreier first worked for A. J. Miller's soft drink manufacturing company before establishing his pharmacy on Milwaukee Avenue. In 1867 he married a German girl, Augusta Fischer, who learned to speak fluent Danish, and became better acquainted with Danish literature than most Danes were. Dreier was very Danish, and he once admitted at a banquet in Dania that his one big mistake had been to become a naturalized American citizen because he was, and would always remain, Danish in his outlook and sympathies.

As a result of the dispute over the Danish Consul post with George Bay and Anton Skov, Dreier resigned from Dania in 1867. Many of those who followed Dreier into Dania followed him out, and these included such men as Captain Engelstedt, Ferdinand Winslow and George Hoffman. Many of Dreier's cronies soon returned to Dania, and Dreier himself rejoined the Society five years later.

Dreier served the City of Chicago four years as a member of the Board of Education, and was a Park Commissioner for the same length of time. In 1882 he became the Danish Consul in Chicago, and was knighted by the King of Denmark.

In 1892, on a return trip from Denmark, Emil Dreier died suddenly aboard the old Thingvalla boat, "Hekla", while it was in quarantine at Liberty Island.

Being a dyed in the wool atheist, no clergyman officiated at Dreier's funeral. The President of Dania, Henry Ockenholdt, stood by the open grave where the small wooden box containing the ashes of the deceased rested on a large Danish flag, and eulogized the late Consul and Dania member in well-chosen words.

A year after Emil Dreier passed away, Andrew Petersen, the brother of Dr. Pearson, took over Dreier's post as the Danish Consul in Chicago. Andrew Petersen was a banker by profession, and together with George Buy, formed the banking firm of "Petersen & Bay" which later was known as the Western Trust & Savings Bank.

A most respected businessman, Andrew Petersen died in 1899, and left a fortune of \$ 150,000.00. Although a member of Dania, Petersen spent most of his time at the Union League Club.

Consul Andrew Petersen was succeeded as Consul by Christian H. Hansen, a man of great influence in all affairs affecting Danish immigrants. He founded a business for manufacturing stamps and stencils, and to differentiate him from the many other Hansens, he was consequently called, "Stempel-Hansen" ("Stamp Hansen"). Many immigrants found their first employment in Chicago at Hansen's factory, probably at low but very welcome wages. As Consul, Hansen helped many poor countrymen who were in dire circumstances, and he and his wife contributed large sums of money to various Danish projects: they both were instrumental in creating a home for Danish old people. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hansen were decorated by the King of Denmark in recognition of their good works. Christian Hansen was the last Danish Consul who was also an American citizen. After his death all future Consuls were selected and sent over by the Danish government.

One of Dania's pioneer members who was seen only occasionally was the sculptor, J. Gelert. Gelert was not too popular because he was rather tight-fisted; he would always accept a drink but would never return the treat. Emil Dreier had established Gelert in a studio behind his pharmacy and had secured for him his first sculpture order, that of a bust for an affluent Chicagoan. Later Gelert executed a monument, based on a St. Louis reporter's sketch, to the memory of the seven Chicago policemen killed in the 1886 Haymarket Riot. This monument has since disappeared, but not his imposing statue of General Grant which still stands in Galena, Illinois. Gelert modeled some animal heads for one of the Chicago packing houses, but he is mainly known for his statue of Hans Christian Andersen which stands in Lincoln Park.

It was during Andrew Petersen's tenure as Danish Consul that the idea of erecting a monument to the world famous fairy tale writer was born. It received immediate approval from the Consul, and some 100 Danes were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the idea. Gelert and his ardent supporters, however, were adamant in their demand that there be no competition for the sculpture work. At a later meeting the sculptor and his alter egos were in the majority and again demanded that no rival candidates be allowed; the opposition stalked out of the meeting.

The type of statue was also the subject of much discussion; one committeeman wanted a "standing" Andersen, another wanted a "sitting" Andersen, while others

pressed for a statue identical to the one in "The King's Garden" in Copenhagen. Gelert's drawings (a "sitting" Andersen) and cost estimate were finally approved, and the uphill drive for money began. It took five to six years before the statue was finished, but even then there wasn't enough money for the foundation. If it hadn't been for the generosity of Consul Christian Hansen it undoubtedly would have taken several additional years before the unveiling could take place. It did take place on the 100th anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen's birth, April 2, 1905.

Gelert became a rather prosperous man and built a large studio on the near North Side where he gathered his admiring but penniless students. He is said to have turned his back on his old friends who had helped him so much in his early days, and as work diminished in Chicago he moved to New York.

One of Gelert's severest critics was a Danish architect by the name of Lautrup who called Gelert a "peasant-artist", -an altogether too harsh censure. Lautrup came to Chicago from Washington D.C. and quickly found work here as an architect. He was a handsome man of many abilities, a bit flighty but witty, and a favorite with Consul Dreier who immediately invited him to sit at the Round Table in Wilken's Cafe. Whenever Dreier lapsed into a melancholy mood it was Lautrup who was called upon to be the court jester. Lautrup once made a caricature of Dreier as a Mikado, and it was so cleverly done that Dreier had it framed and placed on his office desk. After Dreier's death Lautrup disappeared from Dania and the Danish colony.

Anton Skov, the strong-willed President of Dania in 1864 and in 1865, was definitely one of the guiding forces in the young Society. He was active in every facet of Dania's development, and put his shoulder behind every project and cause which he felt was good for the organization. That he was not afraid to speak his mind was shown in his violent dispute with Emil Dreier over the Danish Consul post. In that same year (1867) Skov found himself battling another vital issue.

Shortly after Anton Skov had been made Dania's first honorary member in 1867, it was proposed at a meeting that the Swedish and Norwegian members be denied the right to vote at the meetings. Skov protested vehemently, but in vain. He took off his badge of honor and returned it to the Society, saying that he couldn't remain a member of a society where such a ruling would be a personal affront to his Norwegian friend, and one of Dania's members, Markus Thrane.

Markus Thrane had been imprisoned for four years in Norway for his fight for religious liberty. He immigrated to Chicago, became a member of Dania in 1863, and was for several years one of the best recording secretaries that the Society ever had.

In Dania's early days it was the custom for members to donate books, pictures, statues, etc. for decorative purposes. Among such donations only a few can be mentioned, such as Jens Skov's gift of six books and two large picture frames for the photographs of Dania's members and the membership list. Skov and the vice president, Fritz Frantzen, were assigned the task of assembling and inserting the various pictures. In May of 1870, J. Josephsen, the secretary, wrote in the minutes: "A portrait of King Frederik VII, of blessed memory, has been given the Society by I. Z. (Major) Alstrup. It

is resolved to send the donor a letter of thanks and to defray the expense of framing it". And so this is how the old and now faded picture of "Frederik the Beloved" came into Dania's possession. Its preservation borders on the miraculous, for it has survived fires, court injunctions, and numerous movings.

During this same period, Dania also served as a clearing house for information about missing relatives, friends, and even deserting fathers. In December of 1886, Dania received a letter from a Miss Gomard of Lindevad Mill (near Svendborg), asking the Society to locate a N. Jacobsen who had departed for Chicago several months before. He apparently had left her in "painful circumstances". N. Jacobsen was found on the South Side and brought in touch with Miss Gomard. Half a year later, another letter came from Miss Gomard, who bitterly complained that Jacobsen again had stopped writing, even after he had been informed that he was the father of her child. Dania was asked to pay for his return trip to Denmark, but this request was politely turned down.

Many outstanding men contributed to the intellectual life of Dania. Their talents were employed mostly in the newspapers published in the Danish language. These papers were for the most part short-lived, most of them ceasing publication soon after the Chicago Fire. Among these newspapers was "Fremad" ("Forward" -Americans pronounced it "Fremad" which in Danish means something like "free lunch"). "Fremad" was first published in Milwaukee by a Just Kahn who later moved the paper to Chicago, and became a member of Dania. The manager was a Mr. Beder, a Danish Bachelor of Law and close friend of the banker, Ferdinand Winslow. The editor was Gustav Mueller, a former Danish army officer.

Just Kahn was a man of imagination and ideas. He was supposed to have been part owner of a freight-passenger boat which plied between Copenhagen and New York. Kahn on one occasion was forced to take a trip back to Denmark, and his anxious Danish creditors were more than happy to bid him a hearty welcome home. Kahn wiggled out of this dilemma by inviting his creditors to an elegant dinner party aboard his ship. At the height of the conviviality Kahn signaled his captain to start the engines. A little later, and some distance from shore, the guests woke up to the fact that they were sailing, and they demanded to be brought back to land. Kahn complied with their wishes and put them into some small boats which he had rented just for that purpose. A most clever way to get rid of one's creditors!

Some years later Just Kahn returned permanently to Denmark where he started another newspaper called "Dagsavisen" ("The Daily Paper"). Apparently things didn't fare too well for Kahn for he died in rather poor circumstances.

In spite of its many subscribers, "Fremad" was continually plagued during the 1870's with financial difficulties. This was in large part due to the editor, Gustav Mueller (or, Muller), who was a poor administrator as well as having an alcoholic problem. The son of a Ribe minister, Mueller taught school for a while in Denmark and was a lieutenant in the Danish army during the War of 1864. He was decorated with the Cross of the Order of Dannebrog for his bravery at the Battle of Sankelmark. Later when visiting in Copenhagen, Mueller called on King Christian IX and asked him to take back the decoration since he, Mueller, was out of work and probably would end in the

poorhouse. King Christian IX thought this an undignified prospect for a decorated soldier and found Mueller a job on the Copenhagen police force. According to the late Rev. Rasmus Andersen of Brooklyn, "the bottle was a too strict master for him (Mueller) so he was sent to America".

In New York, Gustav Mueller worked for a while with John Volk, the founder of "Nordlyset" ("The Northern Lights"), and labored occasionally at a cork factory at Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Once, when under the influence, he pawned his decoration, but the Danish Consulate in New York redeemed it for him.

Mueller became a member of Dania on March 5, 1870, and four weeks later was elected as vice-president. Dania's records seem to indicate that Mueller's main contribution to the Society was entertaining the members by reading aloud.

When Gustav Mueller came to Chicago he brought his soldierly spirit with him. He always retained his military appearance, and the old soldier in him occasionally came to life a gun. At a German parade commemorating the battle at Sedan, Mueller unfurled a large American flag which bore the inscription: "We Mourn France". This naturally nearly caused a riot, but some sympathetic Irishmen came to his rescue.

Another of Mueller's idiosyncrasies was his fear of getting a sunstroke, and he often walked down Chicago's sunlit streets with an open umbrella. That there were other facets to Mueller's personality, however, was shown by the fact that he founded Dania's first glee club in 1870, and that he wrote poetry in the Danish and Norwegian newspapers. Mueller's last poem was a heart rendering cry of a dying man in agony and doubt, a sinful man asking for peace of mind. During his last days, in the late 1870's, Mueller apparently stayed at some type of Salvation Army shelter, for it was a Salvation Army man who brought a Danish minister to Mueller's deathbed: communion was given Mueller before death put an end to his misery.

The man who succeeded Gustav Mueller as the editor of "Fremad" was Hoffman-Schmidt, another Dania member. Well-liked by his countrymen, he supposedly came from a prominent family in Denmark, where he was the proud owner of a coach-and-four and was the editor of a humorous magazine, "Pjerrot". Due to some questionable financial transactions in Copenhagen he came, or was sent, to America. In the presence of cultured people, Hoffman-Schmidt was a suave, urbane and polished man. When introduced to a lady he would stand still, click his heels, bow, and tip his hat, -the perfect gentleman. Among his cronies, however, with a stein of beer in his hand, he could be rather crude and frightening.

When "Fremad" ceased publication, a German publisher gave Hoffman-Schmidt money to start "Friheden" ("Liberty"), a newspaper which was to oppose a temperance paper. The teetotalists lost in an election and consequently "Friheden" was no longer necessary and lost its financial support.

Hoffman-Schmidt was once again without a livelihood and became, as a result, a dipsomaniac, spending most of his time in saloons. One of his favorite haunts had two entrances: one on Milwaukee Ave. called the "Evening Star"; and the other on Indiana

Ave. called the "Morning Star". Hoffman-Schmidt could also be found in "Hulen" ("The Cave"), a dive of dubious reputation, located near Emil Dreier's pharmacy. The saloon keeper at "Hulen" always stood at the entrance, watching for the police, as he had no license to sell alcoholic beverages. In a small back room Hoffman-Schmidt drank and played poker, which was also illegal. The obvious end to such living was incurable cirrhosis of the liver. After months of intense suffering Hoffman-Schmidt died. Rev. Heiberg of the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church preached at his funeral but made no reference to the decedent's turbulent life, a kindness for which Hoffman-Schmidt's friends were most grateful.

Another Dania member who achieved some success in the political arena was George P. Hansen. Born in Odense and trained as both a painter and a typographer, Hansen served in the U. S. Navy for three years before coming to Chicago in 1839. At first he worked as a photographer and then became an owner of a cigar store. He also ran a general store together with Captain George "The Old Whale" Petersen.

Hansen was a gifted and intelligent man with an insatiable interest in American politics. He became a County Agent and for some time was City Coroner. Busy as he was, Hansen found time to translate some of the Icelandic sagas, but these, with a few exceptions, were never printed due to his lack of money.

Hansen became the American Consul in Elsinore, and joined Dania upon his return to Chicago. He died here in the early 1880's, and left no family or property.

Another member of the Round Table coterie, and one of Dania's most outstanding early members, was Dr. Christian Fenger, a man who is still highly respected by all, whether they have any connections with Denmark or not. Passed by for an appointment to a medical position at the University of Copenhagen, Fenger, as a young man, traveled through Europe from one big city to another, and ended up serving in the French army during the French-German War of 1870. Later he went to Egypt where he offered his services to the ruling khedive. He finally wended his way to Chicago where he arrived penniless: his only possession was a mummy which not only caused him no end of trouble but which he had to sell in order to subsist.

Dr. Fenger was a man of unusual skill and ability as a physician and surgeon but he lacked the knack of trumpeting his own talents and only a few patients found their way to his office near Milwaukee Ave. Fenger's luck changed when a bricklayer by the name of Hansen came to him with trichinosis and went away cured. Hansen was related to William Harlev who publicized Fenger's medical achievement and got the case mentioned in various medical journals as well as the Chicago newspapers. This served to permanently establish Fenger in the medical world.

Through William Harlev's political influence Fenger was placed on the staff of Cook County Hospital where he performed many difficult operations which astounded his medical colleagues. He received no salary for this work but acquired not only invaluable experience but also much fame as a surgeon. He became the first doctor of anatomical pathology in the City of Chicago.

Dr. Fenger was rather brusque in manner and would often scare his patients with his sometimes too frank language. His professional adversaries accused him of being too eager to use the knife. After several years at Cook County Hospital he took up private practice and had a large clientele. His income at this time was said to have been enormous but he was not considered a good fiscal manager. He built a large; handsome residence on Lake Michigan, and being a Champagne devotee had a well-stocked wine cellar. Fenger made a trip to Denmark when he was an older man but returned to Chicago, and shortly after his sixtieth birthday contracted pneumonia and died. His passing was mourned by both his American friends and the Danish colony. Cook County Hospital honored him with a bronze plaque, and the City of Chicago immortalized him by naming one of its high schools for him.

Dr. N. P. Petersen (Pearson), who arrived together with Emil Dreier in New York in 1856 and who was Dania's President in 1864, was also a physician. He had a rather difficult nature, however, and was short of patience and self-control. He was jealous of Dr. Fenger and the other Danish doctor at that time, Dr. Sigismund Jacobsen. Pearson was induced to take over a position at a less reputable medical school where the questionable Dr. Graham (or Gram) received his diploma as a physician. The school was attacked by the press for making Graham a M.D. and Pearson believed that Dr. Jacobsen, then an eye specialist on the Cook County Hospital staff, was responsible for instigating the defamatory charge. Pearson reached an old age, but the news of his death was met with indifference by the Danish colony.

Dr. Fenger's successor, Dr. Niels Johnsen, and Dr. Jacobsen were both very Danish and represented the best in Danish culture. Both doctors were well liked by the Chicago Danes, but both eventually returned to Denmark, the tempo of American city life possibly being too hard on them.

Dania's social events were always well attended, and a gay and jolly time was had by everyone. Less desirable characters, however, were sometimes present, and brawls were rather common. In 1865, a rule was passed to the effect that, "no woman of a bad reputation and questionable looks should be admitted to the dances, and that each gentleman was responsible for the good behavior of his lady in the hall". At each dance two or three of the Society's biggest and strongest men were chosen as marshals and with their batons in hand and authoritative gold ribbon around their hats, they kept a watchful eye on the dancers. It happened, of course, that now and then someone suffered a cracked skull before the marshals could intervene. If the altercation was between nonmembers, they were turned over to the police. If between members, a jury of nine would deliberate the case and decide the fine.

At one particular dance, Peter Balle, a carpenter, and a few of his friends changed the contours of William Dreier's face. Balle had swung his massive fists down on Dreier's head with rather telling effect. The jury fixed the punishment at five dollars, together with an apology to both Dania and William Dreier: if Balle refused to comply he would have to leave Dania. The pugnacious carpenter made the proper apologies but had no money for the fine. The Balle-Dreier fracas finally was settled peacefully without any fine being paid.

During the 1860's, Dania received many requests for help from Danes not only in Chicago but even outside of Illinois. Dania was then, and has always been, most generous in coming to the aid of countrymen in need. The records show that Dania helped a certain Chicagoan who needed an artificial leg, and an Iowa farmer who had been wiped out by an invasion of grasshoppers. A young man in Illinois, critically ill with tuberculosis, received money from Dania for a ticket home to his mother in Denmark and his final resting place. Dania's coffers were dipped into in order to aid the victims of a disastrous fire in Frederiksminde near Omaha, Nebraska. These are but a few examples of Dania's charitableness during its early years.

It should not be thought, however, that Dania indiscriminately doled out its money to everyone that came knocking on its door for help. A request from a Dane in Missouri to finance the publishing of a book he had written was refused, as was that of a Copenhagen who wanted help in re-establishing his bankrupt friend. An unemployed Dane asked for money to go to Washington where he had been promised work, but Dania turned thumbs down. Dania was never a foolish benefactor!

The two Great Lakes captains, Christoffer Johnsen and Peter T. Allen, became Dania members on February 24, 1864, and January 7, 1866, respectively. Captain Johnsen was a diligent worker for both Dana and Dania: he was Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President (1866), as well as an active committee member. A man of few words, Johnsen commanded respect, and was always listened to when he did speak.

Captain Johnsen retired as a skipper in 1853, and went into the lumber business which later was completely destroyed in the Chicago Fire of 1871. Johnsen and his family then moved to their farm in Lamont, Illinois, where they stayed until 1883, at which time they returned to Chicago. In 1878, the Dania steward, Niels Uhrenholdt, suggested at a meeting that Dania donate or collect twenty five dollars for the purchase of a horse and wagon for the old Captain Johnsen; the motion was voted down.

Captain Peter Allen came to Chicago in 1837 (the first Dane in Chicago), and was a member of Dania for only two years, 1866 to 1868. Allen was known as the "Boy Captain": he had been promoted to captain after taking his schooner through the dangerous Soo-Saint Marie waters during a storm, and this feat made him the youngest captain on the Lakes. Allen gave up his sailing career and became an agent for a nail manufacturer in New York. He also dabbled in real estate, but ended, up selling hardware from door to door.

In 1903, Captain Allen was admitted to the Danish Old People's Home in Norwood Park, his wife entered an American old people's home, and in 1904 they celebrated their golden anniversary. Peter Allen died in 1908 and was buried in Union Ridge Cemetery, where one can still find a small gray stone, inscribed, "Peter Allen." Anton Kvist suggested that there should have been added to this inscription, -"The Boy Captain -The First Man of the Danes in Chicago."

The first masquerade party among the Chicago Danes was held under the auspices of Dania in Germania Hall on February 9, 1866. This was the beginning of a

long series of annual masquerades which for many years were the most important social events in Chicago's Danish colony. Each masquerade had some theme; one year it was Egyptian, another year, Chinese, and so on. At one such masquerade, where the theme was Farm Life, a pig somehow broke loose and ran in amongst the dancers. Whether the pig's squeals or the ladies' screams were the loudest was difficult to tell. The pig was eventually caught and placed in a box, but then completely forgotten about when the evening was over. The poor animal somehow escaped from the box and proceeded to romp all over the polished floors, making a true pigsty out of the hall. For several days and nights the pig trotted around, creating a maloder that nearly made Niels Uhrenholdt ill when he finally entered the hall to clean it. Through human forgetfulness and a pig's natural functions, Dania's hall had been transformed into Augean stables, and Niels Uhrenholdt's job was not an enviable one. He didn't regard this "pig episode" a funny one, but Dania members did. They laughed and laughed, much to Uhrenholdt's annoyance, but they ended up by paying their steward extra compensation for this work beyond the call of duty.

On June 5, 1866, Dania arranged the first Danish Constitution Day festival in the United States. This celebration was a welcome opportunity for an outing, and it served as a wonderful outlet for the Danes' patriotic feelings. With colorful banners and cacophonous music the celebrants marched to the festival grounds. They gathered around the speaker's platform, which was decorated with flags and garlands, and listened to the various orators extoll the merits of King Frederik VII and his morganatic wife, Countess Danner. Songs, written to Danish tunes, were lustily sung, accompanied by an amateur brass band. Everyone was in a merry mood, especially the younger ones on the dance floor which had been erected just for this celebration

For several years the Danish Constitution Day was celebrated in this manner. The Mayor of Chicago was always invited, and if unable to attend, sent his representative to speak on his behalf. Needless to say, Chicago's city officials only attended for political reasons. Mayor Carter Harrison always accepted the invitation, shrewdly explaining to the assembled Danes that his forefathers were Danish. (Harrison, however, changed from German to Polish to Hungarian descent depending on what ethnic group he was addressing).

The fifty year jubilee of the Danish Constitution Day, in 1899, was marked by a festival in Elliot Park, Illinois. Ten years later the 60th anniversary was planned by a committee made up of delegates from each of the then twenty seven Danish organizations in Chicago. This joint committee successfully carried out the duties which previously had been Dania's sole responsibility. This committee was then named the Danish National Committee, and has been in existence ever since. Dania delegates have always been active in this Committee, and all the presidents of the Danish National Committee have also been valuable members of Dania.

Dania always maintained a much used reading room where members could glance through the Copenhagen newspapers, such as "Faedrelandet" ("The Fatherland") and "Dagbladet" ("The Daily News"), and also "Leslie's Weekly" and "Skandinaven." The dream of a library was finally realized when \$40.00 was earmarked for bookcases and \$100.00 was set aside for books. Members and friends had already

donated numerous books, and Dania's library officially came into being on July 10, 1866.

The Book Committee consisted of Anton Skov, C. Kanfeldt and M. Ballin. The funds allocated for books were sent to Consul George Hansen, the American consul in Elsinore, Denmark, who together with the famous Danish actor, Karl Mantzius, chose and purchased the many books which in the coming years greatly increased Dania's library. The amounts spent on books were by no means small: sums of \$100.00 and \$200.00 were used for the acquisition of books, which books were devoured immediately upon their arrival by the eager Dania readers. The conscientious librarian for a long period of time was the steward, Niels Uhrenholdt. He kept the book loan records in order, and also supervised the use of the books in the reading room.

That the love for books was deep and genuine in Dania at that time might be corroborated by the following incident. A certain shipment of books from Consul Hansen never reached Dania, a loss much bemoaned by the member readers. Dania was informed, however, that several cartons of books, marked "Dania," were seen in a New York bookstore, the owner of which having bought them at an auction in the belief that they were French books. Anton Skov offered to go to New York, and later proudly returned to Chicago with the missing books, for which he had to pay the book dealer \$59.00. Even though Dania ended up paying for these books twice, there was great joy among the members over these recaptured volumes.

The carpets that had been denied Dania in 1864 because of lack of funds were finally purchased two years later, and the old spittoons were discarded. The next desired item was a piano, and after much discussion it was finally decided in 1869 that a piano must be acquired even though it might cost \$500.00. George Bay spoke with feeling about the salutary effect of piano music on the Society's members. A friend of Dania's, a Mr. Rasmussen ("The Businessman"), advised that a piano could be borrowed from the Williams Hotel through its manager, a Mr. Thorsen. The talks with Thorsen led to nothing, and the members grew impatient with this "piano-talk" and decided to purchase one for \$200.00 down and \$10.00 a month until paid. At the next meeting there was much jubilation and applause when it was announced that a grand piano, valued at \$600.00, had been purchased and was already standing in the banquet hall. A bylaw pertaining to the use of the new piano was immediately passed, and it was decided to buy a cover for their precious new possession.

One of the most efficient and conscientious pioneer members was Johan Klug. He joined Dania on October 6, 1866, and seven months later, following Dr. Jacobsen's resignation as president; he took over the president's gavel. Klug's leadership became evident immediately. He increased the club's membership, which was so urgently needed due to the exit of Emil Dreier and his bosom friends. Klug also initiated the Immigrant Aid Committee and the English School, two of Dania's most worthwhile projects. During the period of 1867 to 1872, Klug served three times as Dania's president.

Johan Klug was a gnome-like man with a massive head, high cheek bones, and large, colorless lips. His speech was a whisper. Klug was said to have come from

Jutland where he had practiced as a veterinarian, but financial difficulties drove him first to London and then to Chicago. He had no success here as a veterinary and was compelled to do menial clerical work in order to subsist. He dabbled a little in politics, and when his party was victorious in a city election, he was made head of one of the tax divisions. Four years later, however, the opposition party was voted in, and Klug's days as a political henchman came to an end.

Klug was also a kind of amateur philosopher. He tackled various religious problems but ended up as a fanatical spiritualist who believed in the revelations through spiritualistic media. One evening some of his friends decided to have some fun with Klug, and they invited him to dinner in a private home. An aeolian harp had been hung in the fireplace, and when the wind made the harp sound, Klug swore he could hear a chorus of spirits and even the voice of a dear late friend.

Spiritism so dominated Klug's later life that eventually he was unable to work. He was forced to endure Chicago's hard winters without an overcoat or proper shoes, and as a result he contracted pneumonia which ended in consumption and his death in one of the city's hospitals. On June 5, 1890, Dania sent a funeral bouquet to its worthy member.

During its hundred year history, Dania has shown an unusual willingness to help her countrymen, especially the newcomers who needed assistance and help. The Immigrant Aid Committee, sponsored by Johan Klug, was created on April 26, 1867, and was composed of nine members, some of whom were: Anton Skov, Henry Buy, Dr. N. P. Petersen, Carl Kaufeldt, Carl Munck and Nie1s Uhrenholdt. The Committee contacted manufacturers, railroad companies, builders, etc., inquiring whether they might be able to hire Danish immigrants. The Committee advertised in the Danish papers, in "Castle Garden," in The Scandinavian Society of New York, and in the rooming houses of that port city. The Committee set up its headquarters in the anteroom of Dania and was open certain hours each forenoon and afternoon. Committee members were also present at the railroad stations when immigrants arrived, thereby preventing them from falling into the hands of swindlers and confidence men. Arrangements were also made with reliable American Express men who, with their identifying badge on their coats, guided the arriving immigrants to inexpensive but clean apartments.

The Immigrant Aid Committee met every two weeks to discuss matters, and a monthly report was filed with Dania. Fifty dollars was allotted to the Committee by Dania. This wasn't sufficient to support the Committee's work, and since penniless immigrants were arriving daily after a long, weary ocean voyage as steerage passengers, additional funds were desperately needed. It was decided that twenty per cent of the income derived from membership dues should be turned over to the Committee, and that these funds should be further augmented through public collections and receipts from concerts, dances and picnics.

The chairman of the Immigrant Aid Committee, Anton Skov, asked the Swedish society, Svea, and the Norwegian society, Nora, for support in this important work. The

appeal met with great success, and the three Scandinavian societies held a joint picnic in Haas Park, with all the profit going to the Immigrant Aid Committee.

Only six months after the Committee was formed, Johan Klug proudly reported that the Committee had given aid to five hundred needy immigrants, and even had a sizeable amount of money left in its coffers to continue with its fine work. The Immigrant Aid Committee ceased functioning sometime around 1874, but its charitable work is still remembered both in and outside of Chicago.

Anton Kvist tells a touching story which serves as a specific example of the fine work which the Immigrant Aid Committee performed. In the small town of Dannebrog, Nebraska, Kvist heard the following account from the town's postmaster, a Mr. Petersen: "I was eleven years old when, in 1871, I came to this town from Lolland. The founder of Dannebrog, Lars Hannibal, had advised my father to take homestead here. It was a long and disagreeable trip. My mother and the youngest of the family died when we came to Chicago. There we were helpless and distraught and desperate. But suddenly a couple of men from a Danish aid society (i.e. Immigrant Aid Committee) wanted to know if we needed help. When they learned our plight they immediately took us to a Danish boarding house and the next day they took care of our mother's and the little one's funeral, saw to it that we got on the right train and even gave us food for the long trip to Nebraska. It was only natural that this soothed us in our sorrow, and my father often spoke with respect and sadness about this unexpected kindness".

After Dr. N. P. Petersen (Pearson) resigned in 1867 as the Danish Consul, a rather bitter battle ensued for that position. The Danish Consulate in New York asked for suggestions of a well-qualified Chicago Dane who would be suitable for the post. Anton Skov recommended George Bay, a merchant who belonged to the elite in Dania. Emil Dreier was recommended and backed by Johan Foster and Ferdinand Winslow. Speaking for George Bay at a meeting in Dania where both candidates were present, the usually calm and self-controlled Anton Skov surprised those present by delivering a scathing and personal attack on Dreier and his personal life. Apparently Dreier had more supporters than Bay did, and Dania sent Dreier's name to the Danish Consulate in New York. Bay didn't give up: as a last resort he and Skov sent a letter to the New York Consulate, the content of which being identical to Skov's remarks about Dreier in Dania. The Danish Minister in Washington D.C. then wrote back to Dania and informed them that it was entirely up to the Danish Consulate in New York as to who was appointed to the Consul post in Chicago.

At Dania's next meeting, Anton Skov was severely criticized for his slanderous remarks about Dreier. It was the rule at that time (1867) that no defamatory talk about any fellow member would be permitted. A jury debated the case and it was decreed that Skov should go to the home of Dreier, accompanied by two fellow members, W. Lund and George Olsen, and ask Dreier's pardon. Skov agreed to this, but when he faced Dreier in the latter's home, he didn't tone down his opinions one bit: this, at least, was the report that the two witnesses gave at Dania's next meeting.

The capable and popular Dr. Sigismund D. Jacobsen became president of Dania on January 4, 1868, but resigned a week later when Emil Dreier walked out of Dania.

Dr. Jacobsen was at that time the Sickness Benefit Association's doctor, at a salary of seventy five dollars a year. He lost this job to former Consul Petersen who promised to donate his medical services. Dr. Petersen's assistant was a Danish speaking Frenchman by the name of Dr. Carlemann, who was a member of Dania, and thought very highly of because of the free medicines and professional services he rendered the immigrants.

The first Danish school in Chicago was sponsored by Dania, and had as its most important subject, instruction in English. The idea for an English school for the newly arrived immigrants was Johan Klug's. Johannes C. Kornerup, the capable Recording Secretary, wrote as follows on January 25, 1868: "Concerning the English School, President Klug made the proposal that John Andersen, editor of "skandinaven," be appointed teacher at the school, and that monthly dues for each pupil be fixed at fifty cents for four weekly hours. Dania should buy five Norwegian-Danish-English dictionaries and a copy of Webster's dictionary, as well as pay for all the writing material."

Evening classes were held on Wednesdays and Fridays, and the bar was closed during the instruction periods. The School Committee consisted of Johan Klug, Anton Skov, C. Munk, N. Uhrenholdt, C. Brodthagen, Dr. Petersen, N. Draflin and M. Moller. The teacher's salary was \$1.50 per evening session.

The subject of drawing was soon added to the curriculum through the generous offer of Lieutenant Soren Peter Hammerich, the architect, and Mr. Rasmussen, a painter. The instruction was free to the members, provided that Dania made available a heated room every Sunday forenoon, and furnished the drawing boards and other materials.

The School was in existence for two years, and was of immense benefit to many at a time when Chicago's public schools were rather inadequate. A formal expression of gratitude was sent to John Andersen for his interest in the welfare of the School and for the time and effort he had expended to make the School a success.

The idea of a Danish brotherhood in America was actually conceived in Dania in 1868, sixteen years before the Danish Brotherhood was founded. At a meeting on May 2, 1868, Anton Skov proposed the following: "Dania Society should get in touch with all the Danish organizations in the United States, through correspondence, with the intention of forming a union of all Danish societies, with Dania as the center of this union. After the formation of such an alliance, Dania would accept any member of any of the societies of this alliance as a brother without initiation fees. The same rights were to be extended to Dania's members." John Klug, Anton Skov and Fritz Frantzen were charged with furthering this idea, but for some reason it never became a reality.

A decade later, Henry Hertz fathered a similar idea by suggesting Dania lodges all over America, with Dania in Chicago as the main lodge: this idea did not win approval either.

In July of 1868, Dania caught on fire and suffered \$163.00 in damages. In the minutes, the rather jolly Secretary made rather light of the fire damage to the furniture, books and papers. The Swedish society, Svea, came to the rescue by permitting Dania the use of its hall for their meetings. Dania's Board of Directors were authorized to seek new quarters but some time elapsed and a Mr. Renee accused the Board of negligence in leaving Dania homeless for over a month and also for purchasing new furniture without receiving proper approval. Renee's charges came to nothing since the Directors apparently defended themselves to everyone's satisfaction.

Dania soon moved into new quarters, but there is no record of the exact location. The moving was celebrated with a fine supper, after which an auction was held. According to Secretary Emil Havelock (he called himself "Havlykke"), the old furniture and clothes which were auctioned off yielded Dania only thirty three dollars.

Emil Havlykke was not one of Dania's best writers, according to Anton Kvist, but his penmanship and humor were excellent. Havlykke, a Copenhagener, became a Dania member on March 24, 1866, and three weeks later became the Recording Secretary, an office to which he was repeatedly re-elected. Havlykke was the grandfather of Dr. Lewis Eastman whom we will speak of later.

Another minor note of discord was struck in 1868 when some members wanted to go to Racine, Wisconsin, and celebrate with the Dania Society of Racine on their first year's anniversary. Carl Munck, however, considered this a "trip abroad", and wanted Dania to go to Calumet on July 26th instead, this being the anniversary of the Battle of Isted (1850). Major Alstrup asked John Klug what had become of the Racine trip, and was told that it had been abandoned. Strong words were exchanged until it was agreed to compromise, and hold a picnic in "Skonk's Grove." The trip to Racine was realized at a later date, and the Racine Society returned the visit.

In 1868, the ever popular steward, Niels Uhrenholdt, promulgated the idea of a Dania emblem which could be worn by the members. The design and price of this emblem were left to a committee consisting of Anton Skov, Soren Hammerich and a Mr. Mikkelsen. Three weeks later three designs were submitted; a cross, a medal, and a heart. The cross design was selected, probably because it was reminiscent of the Cross of Dannebrog. The cross was to be of silver and worn with a red ribbon decorated with a white cross. At a later meeting, Havlykke reported that the members could purchase these silver cross emblems for \$1.74 each, and that Dania had subsidized about sixty three dollars of the total expense involved with the emblems.

The first Danish glee club was founded in 1868 by Ferdinand Winslow, a Dania member. (Winslow was president of the Scandinavian National Bank which later was forced to close, much to the detriment of Dania and many of the individual members). Winslow was willing and eager to be the director of this new glee club, and application sheets were hung up in Dania for potential singers to sign. After only three months, however, the glee club idea was dropped due to the lack of sufficient voices.

On March 12, 1870, Gustav Mueller recommended that a second attempt be made to form a glee club. He proposed that any Danish man with a good singing voice

could become a member after his name had been posted on the bulletin board and his qualifications had been approved. The initial name of the chorus was, "The Singing Society Dania": this was later changed to "Dania's Glee Club", and the change was celebrated with a party that ended in a brawl.

For eight years this glee club not only gave concerts, but produced plays and entertained at Dania's picnics, anniversaries, and masquerade parties. The last performance of this male chorus, on September 28, 1878, was a joint concert with other glee clubs for the benefit of the Danes in New Orleans who had been stricken with yellow fever.

There were Danes who still wanted to sing. In 1884 these songsters formed "Harmonien" ("The Harmony"), many of the original members being men from Dania. Both societies have cooperated nicely throughout the years, and "Harmonien" has entertained in Dania on numerous occasions. "Harmonien" proved to be not only an excellent chorus, but one with outstanding vitality as it is still in existence today

The Great Chicago Fire of October 8-10, 1871, did not spare Dania. According to Poul Hoff Kunst (in the 1937 Dania Jubilee Book) all the furniture, including the bookcases with the large collection of books, were incinerated by the roaring flames. The same fate was met by the Society's official records and accounts. At the last minute, fortunately, George Hansen, just recently returned from his Consul post in Elsinore, rescued the records and documents, and the ever-alert steward, Niels Uhrenholdt, rescued the picture of Frederik VII and the Danish flag. Dania's banner was later lost, but the painting of Frederik VII still hangs in Dania.