



THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY 1862-1962

By H.EINAR MOSE

To
The Members of Dania Society
Past and Present
Who Have Served and Supported
The Society
During
It's First One Hundred Years

Recognition

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Foreword

This centennial history of the oldest Danish society in America has been both an easy and difficult one to write. It has been easy in the sense that almost all the material contained in this history has either been extracted from the published writings of several former Dania members or has been culled from the official records and protocols which the various Dania secretaries have written. It has been difficult in that all of the original records from 1862 to 1921 are no longer in existence, as is the case with many of the manuscripts pertaining to Dania's early history. This writer has no firsthand knowledge of the train of events in Dania, as he only as recently as April '62 became a Dania member. It is undoubtedly the first time that a neophyte-member has had the effrontery to attempt such an awesome task. I hope that my fellow Dania members will consider the above mentioned limitations and accept this centennial history as a sincere effort to portray the first one hundred years of the Dania Society of Chicago.

The various published authoritative writings about Dania which have been of inestimable value to this writer are as follows : "Amerika's Danske Pioneer-Forening Dania, Chicago, 1862-1930 -Fra Lincoln til Hoover: Et Bidrag til Dania's Historie," (Politikens Hus, Kobenhavn, 1930) by Anton Kvist; "Brogede Minder fra Fyrretyve Aars Ophold i Chicago," (Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag, Kobenhavn, 1913) by Morris Salmonsens. With the kind permission of Anton Kvist and Miss Ella M. Salmonsens, these sources have frequently been quoted verbatim in this centennial history.

The unpublished manuscripts which are still available that have also been used extensively are: "Society Dania's Mindevaerdige Erindringer, et Autoriseret Uddrag af Protokollerne fra 1885 til 1935 -Samlede og Tilegnede Foreninger," by Charles L. Wilde; "Dania's Historie 1935-1952," by Axel M. Andersen; and "En Fortsaettelse af Foreningen Dania's Historie" by Anton Kvist. Also referred to were: Professor P. S. Vig's "Danske i Amerika" Vol. I; "Max Henius-A Biography Published by the Max Henius Memoir Committee"; Poul Hoff Kunst's "Dania's 75 Aar. Korte Traek of Foreningens Historie" (1937 Dania Jubilee Book); Axel M. Andersen's "Dania -90 Years" (1952 Anniversary Program); and Anton Kvist's series of articles, "Mindeblade af Dana og Dania's Bog," which appeared in the November and December 1937 issues of the "Danish Times." My thanks to the many people who made these manuscripts and documents available to me.

It is inevitable that a history such as this will not provide a totally accurate or complete account of Dania's activities during the past one hundred years. It can only be as defect-free and exhaustive as the source materials used, and it should be pointed out that the various writings on Dania which have been referred to have frequently conflicted with one another as to dates, names, spelling, and opinions. Where such conflicts and contradictions have occurred, I have selected and used that data which seemed most logical and cogent. This centennial history may inadvertently emphasize the unimportant, de-emphasize the important, or even omit some personages and events which are significant to Dania's history. Any omissions or distortions of fact, if they do occur, are unintentional and perhaps even unavoidable under the circumstances.

Men make up an organization such as Dania Society, and the history of Dania cannot merely be a chronicle of events which have taken place but must also be an account of those men who made Dania what it is today. In this history, therefore, an attempt has been made to give the reader not only a recital of Dania's functions and activities throughout its 100 year existence, but also to describe, where biographical material is available, the many important and colorful members who have helped perpetuate the Society for a full century.

Dania's history is probably best presented in a general chronological sequence which does not necessarily demand strict adherence to the exact order of time. Wherever possible the Dania epic is presented as it unraveled, but no attempt has been made to fracture the biographical sketches into the many different time periods which would have been necessary in a strictly chronological procedure. It is the flow of Dania's history which I have tried to present, not a blow by blow account.

This centennial history of Dania would not have been possible but for the help and cooperation of many people. Various members and Officers of Dania have given me their invaluable assistance, and several wives of former members have lent me source material for which I am most grateful. Finally, I am indebted to my son, Donald E. Mose, for his editing and typing of my manuscript.

Dania's history is a rich one, and in many of its stages, a fascinating one. My hope is that the readers of this centennial history of Dania will also find it so.