Danes in America: Kansas and Nebraska

Rudolf Jensen

Reviewer Rudolf Jensen is professor of Scandinavian studies at Grand View College. His research interests include Scandinavian emigration and immigration, as well as Scandinavian history and literature.

This translation of selected articles originally written in Danish by various authors is the second in a series from Lur Publications about late nineteenth-century Danish immigrants in the Midwest. The first volume focused on the history of Danish American Lutheran history from 1860 to 1908; this second volume focuses on Danish immigration to Kansas and especially Nebraska. Editor John W. Nielsen explains that “even before they were linked together in the Kansas-Nebraska Bill of the 1850s ... Kansas and Nebraska shared a common history” (xi). That may be true, but why focus on these states? There were many more Danish immigrants and Danish settlements in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Perhaps we may anticipate a third volume from Lur Publications on those states.

In any case, the editor and the translator deserve congratulations for translating and publishing this long out-of-print history of Danish immigration to the Midwest. Their project makes the common experience of nineteenth-century mass immigration accessible to the general public. Two earlier publications, still in print, are definitive studies of the Danish-American experience in the United States: A New Life, by Niels Peter Stilling and Anne Lisbeth Olsen (1994); and Danish Emigration to the U.S.A., edited by Birgit Flemming Larsen and Henning Bender (1992).


Reviewer Betty Bergland is professor of history at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls. Her research and writing have focused on immigrant women.

Immigration history and women’s history have been parallel fields for too long. Suzanne Sinke’s publication on Dutch immigrant women represents a rich and refreshing integration of these two fields. Her work thus contributes to a growing scholarship that clearly demonstrates the gendered nature of immigration, and, further, that a full