

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



*From the NAHA Office to the Association Members*

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EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

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## CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE IN NEW YORK

Norwegian-Americans across the United States have been celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Norway's independence all year. There are still more opportunities to celebrate in these fall months. You are invited to join the Edvard Grieg Society, Inc. of New York along with the Royal Norwegian Consulate General and the Sons of Norway for a concert on **Sunday, November 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City.** Two U.S. Premieres will be featured: Norwegian Composer Arne Nordheim's Violin Concerto with Soloist Arve Tellefsen and Johan Halvorsen's "Norway's Greeting to Theodore Roosevelt." Per Brevig will conduct the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Advanced Sale: call the Edvard Grieg Society at (201)327-5412.

**On November 4<sup>th</sup>, The Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, New York City, 10016, will be hosting a pre-concert colloquium on Norwegian Music, Past, Present and Future.** For information, call (201)750-0526, or see [www.amscan.org](http://www.amscan.org).

## RECOMMENDED READING: *BOLD SPIRIT*, by Linda Lawrence Hunt

NAHA is fortunate to have many types of researchers come and use the variety of information in our collections. Several years ago an English professor from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington stopped in and met with Lloyd Hustvedt and Forrest Brown. Her research involved a Norwegian-American woman and her family who had lived in Minnesota before moving to Washington state.

The resulting project is a fascinating narrative about a Norwegian immigrant, Helga Estby, who dared to cross 3,500 miles of the American continent in 1896 to win a \$10,000 wager. On Foot. *Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk across Victorian America* introduces you to a fascinating journey and an audacious act of courage

and love of a mother trying to save her family's farm. The 36-year-old mother of eight demonstrated extraordinary courage and perseverance during the treacherous journey from Spokane to New York City. Leaving with her oldest daughter and only \$5 each, the wager required the women to earn their way across America. Helga and her daughter challenged contemporary Norwegian and American assumptions about Victorian femininity. Because of devastating consequences which occurred at home during their journey, their remarkable achievement was blanketed in silence until author Linda Lawrence Hunt encountered the story a century later.

Hunt used both the NAHA archives and NAHA publications in her research. *The Norwegian-American Studies* were helpful to her, as well as *New Land, New Lives* by Janet Rasmussen and *Grass of the Earth* by Aagot Raaen. We invite you to read this incredible story of challenge, family, and resilience. You will gain a sense of Helga Estby's immigrant story and her faith in America and her new life. *Bold Spirit* can be purchased at most bookstores and online through Barnes and Noble, or Amazon.com.

The Norwegian Embassy, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Associates, is hosting Linda Lawrence Hunt at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C. on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. For details see the Smithsonian Associates website at [www.ResidentAssociates.org](http://www.ResidentAssociates.org).

NAHA invites you to meet the author and discover some of the talented people who utilize the wonderful resources of the Association's archives. An engaging author and speaker, Dr. Hunt presents Helga's adventures and explains why the women's achievement was unknown for so long. **Linda Hunt author of, *Bold Spirit*, will be coming to NAHA and St. Olaf College in mid-March 2006.** Details about the location and times for Hunt's March 2006 appearance will be provided in NAHA's next newsletter. You will want to read this appealing book and meet the author in either Washington, D.C., or in Northfield, Minnesota!

**ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS:  
DELAY IN PUBLICATION of 2005 NAHA BOOK**

The NAHA office has been informed of a major delay in the printing of NAHA's upcoming publication, *The Rise of Jonas Olsen*. Your books are distributed using the media rate through the United States Post Service. Media rate does not permit a book to be forwarded. If you have a "hold" place on your mail or have your mail forwarded while you are in a warmer location the book is returned to NAHA. NAHA ends up paying postage for book's return trip to Northfield and again to you at your regular address. For this one and ONLY time, the NAHA office will send *The Rise of Jonas Olsen* to you if you provide us your temporary address for the period between December 1, 2005 and January 15, 2006. Drop us a note via email at: [naha@stolaf.edu](mailto:naha@stolaf.edu) or call us at (507) 646-3221 so we can get your book to you without further delay.

**IMAGES ACROSS THE SEA: Sweden and America 2025**

You are invited to a landmark conference on Sweden and America as part of the observance of Bethany College's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The conference will be held on the Bethany College campus in Lindsborg, Kansas, November 17-19, 2005. Complete information about the conference is available at [www.bethanycollege1b.edu](http://www.bethanycollege1b.edu) Click on "Special Events" to see the variety of topics and speakers. The weekend includes a tour of historic Lindsborg and a Gala banquet held in the historic Swedish Pavilion from the 1904 World's Fair.

**PBS DOCUMENTARY – "DESTINATION AMERICA"**

In the spring of 2004 NAHA was asked to assist some producers from New York City working on a documentary about immigrants and the various reasons why they emigrated to the United States. The four part series will start airing the week of October 17, 2005. Please check your local public television station for specific times and dates. The first episode, "The Golden Door" deals with, among other nationalities, the Norwegians who left and settled in Koshkonong, Wisconsin; the second episode is called, "The Art of the Departure"; The third episode is called "The Earth is the Lord's"; followed by the final episode, "Breaking Free: A Woman's Journey."

**LET NAHA'S WEBSITE BE YOUR GUIDE**

We invite you to check on the latest version of NAHA's website at [www.naha.stolaf.edu](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu). NAHA got off to a very good start thanks to our former webmaster, Gary Hillman. Websites are constantly changing, and new technologies are becoming available all the time. You will find we are continually trying to simplify and make your visit to the website as straightforward and user friendly as possible.

The first thirty-three volumes of the Studies have been scanned and are available in their entirety on line. Great information resides in each volume of the Studies, and we have a NAHA Site Index for searching the information within the Studies.

The newest addition to NAHA's information finding tool kit is "Leif". Leif is an online search engine for the NAHA manuscript collection. It expands the User Guide to the Archives by allowing in-depth collection content searches. Leif allows keyword searches in two distinct categories: a broad collection search as well as specific document search within collections. As an example – if you may want to learn what the Norwegian Americans wrote about the winter blizzards here in America, that key word search is now possible with Leif. New data is being added monthly to Leif. Our goal is to make as much information as possible accessible to our members and other researchers.

**BEQUEST RECEIVED**

The NAHA Board of Directors is grateful to long-time NAHA member, Rakel Erickson, who valued the mission of NAHA and included NAHA as a beneficiary in a portion of the remainder of her estate. Rakel's gift reminds our members and friends that a bequest to NAHA can help you leave a legacy and continue your interests in preserving Norwegian-American history. If your priorities include preserving the history of Norwegians in America and documenting their contributions to life in the United States you will want to consider including NAHA in your estate planning. Call (507)646-3221 if you wish to be sent estate planning information.

**ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES**

Received from Phillip K. Lunderberg, a packet of materials from his father and grandfather, Olav K. and Knute O. Lunderberg. Includes K.O. Lunderberg's sermon notes for the wedding of his son Olav and Vivian Juliet Boraas; essays by K.O. Lunderberg's children about him and his death in 1942; and a copy of "Grandfather's Christmas Memory," a nine page story about the dangers in delivering the mail pouch on foot one

Christmas Eve in Norway. Additionally, there are off-prints of 13 scholarly articles by Olav. K. Lunderberg.

Received from the Aust-Agder-Arv Cultural History Center, *Aust-Agder-Arv Årbok 2004*, hard-cover, 149 pages, in Norwegian. The new format is reader friendly and includes articles about Andreas Faye and his brother Christian Faye, the Dypvåg church during the middle-ages, information about Agder in the Norwegian state collection, and the development of Home Economics schools in Aust-Augder.

Received from Per Øverland, *Øverlandslekta, Peder Gjert Øverland og hans slekt*. Soft-cover, 108 pages, in Norwegian. A family history with photos and lists of children and important dates.

Received from Per Øverland, *Andrine Larsdatter Stokke og hennes slekt*. Soft-cover, 105 pages, in Norwegian. Andrine Larsdatter came from the farm Stokke of Klieve, east of Molde in Romsdal. Includes lists of children and important family dates.

Received from Bruce Heimark, *Pieces of the Dream: Drømmens Realisering –Halvorson and Heimark*, 3-ring binder, approximately 300 pages. Includes maps, copies of family photos – with most people identified, family charts, newspaper clippings, certificates, and a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history of the Bergen Lutheran Congregation in Yellow Medicine County, as well as the official communications from the War Department upon the death of Andrew Halvorson while fighting in France during W.W.I.

Received from Dale Sommers, *Anders Gilje from Åseral*, Hard-cover, 584 pages in both English and Norwegian. The authors tried to track every descendant of their great-great grandfather, Anders Eriksen Gilje. Includes an index, many photos of family and contact information. Family stories have been translated into English so American relatives can easily read about their family members.

Received from Neil Kachur, *A Faith Journey 1904-2004, Centennial of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Iola, Wisconsin*. Soft-cover, 134 pages. Norwegian immigrants from Telemark settled in the Waupaca County, Wisconsin area. Includes a history of the Norwegian Lutheran church in Wisconsin and this congregation's start in 1904. Photos of the buildings, information about the pastors, interesting or important excerpts from the minutes of the congregational meetings, and memories about the congregation from members give one a warm sense of the church and its people.

Received from Vigdis Devik, *Privileged Family – Privileged Ethnicity, Ethnic Parental Polarization and Historical Contexts that Shaped the Life of Norwegian-American Columnist Brenda Ueland*. A Master's Thesis submitted to the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, soft-cover, 99 pages. The author recounts the life story of Brenda Ueland, a political liberal, feminist intellectual living in Minneapolis. The daughter of a Norwegian born father, Ueland wrote articles for twelve newspapers and magazines from 1930 until she died in 1985. The author analyzes Ueland's evolving understanding of herself and her relationships to Norway and Norwegians as well as her relationship to the United States and Americans.

Received from author, Kenneth G. Clare, *Intrepid Sloopers*. Paperback novel, 208 pages. The author has written an imaginative novel, bringing to life the story of 51

Norwegians who left Stavanger, Norway for New York in the summer of 1825. Clare's story helps readers to better understand what life was like on the ship *Restoration*, as the sloopers crossed the Atlantic Ocean. After arriving in New York the group traveled to upstate New York. Some members of the group moved to Illinois and other locations.

Received from Norman Erickson, *Juli I Vesterheimen, 1912*, and additional information about the Norwegian Plow Company from Dubuque, Iowa.

Received from Ruth Hanold Crane, *Ole T. Rong/Ole Tillerson, Marta Nyre, and Christie E. Sleen: Their Ancestors in Norway and Descendants in America*, approximately 900 pages, 3 ring binder. Ole Tillotson was the father to eleven children with his first wife and nine children with his second wife. Includes maps, photos from Norway and the farm in Illinois, copies of documents, and an inventory of the estate of Ole Tillerson. Includes information about the many descendants of the two families.

Received from H. Ronken Lynton, *The Sawdust House*, 184 pages, Soft-cover. Lynton's novel creates a sense of the people and the land as it was during early settlement in southern Minnesota. Ansgar Thoreson leaves Norway in 1858 for south-eastern Minnesota. His pregnant wife, Ida, unhappily follows him one year later with their son who is tragically killed after their arrival in the United States. From here, their lives unravel. The author incorporates stories from letters and those her immigrant grandparents shared with her as she was growing up in southern Minnesota. There was a mystery within the family and the author wrote this book as a possible resolution to a family member's unsolved disappearance. Lynton's book is available at bookstores or through Amazon.com.

Received from Tom Sorenson, *From Brufat, Norway to Clearwater County, The Tollef Sorenson Family Story*. 396 pages, spiral bound. Includes maps, photos, copies of letters, obituaries, documents and memories written by family members over the years. The family story begins in the Etnedal area of Valdres, Norway.

Received from Numedalslågen Laget, Group photos from the 1927, 1935, and 1936 Stevnes. Several people from the 1935 Stevne have been identified.

Received from Lois Rand, *Waldorf College, Continuity and Change: 100 years- Waldorf College, 1903-2003*. Hard-cover, 194 pages. Waldorf College was started by Norwegian-American pastor C.S. Salvesson in what had been the Waldorf Hotel in Forest City, Iowa. Waldorf College has evolved through the decades and thrives today. Includes an index and biographies of the important pioneering staff and faculty at Waldorf.

Received from Christine Anderson, 1998-1999 Membership Directory for the Leif Erickson Lodge No.1, Sons of Norway, Seattle, Washington. The book contains photos of the different buildings that have housed the lodge, the committees serving the lodge and the beautiful 1916 murals painted in Leif Erickson Hall, as well as photos of the members.

Received from Marlene Hustad Engstrom, *From Sigdal, Norway to Grant County, Minnesota and Beyond. The C.O. Rustand Family and Their Descendants*, 281 pages, hard-cover. Includes a wide range of information about people and the buildings around Sigdal, Norway and the United States. Contains genealogical information, photographs, newspaper articles, obituaries and memories written by family members.

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St. Olaf College  
Northfield, Minnesota 55057  
[www.naha.stolaf.edu](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu)  
507-646-3221

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