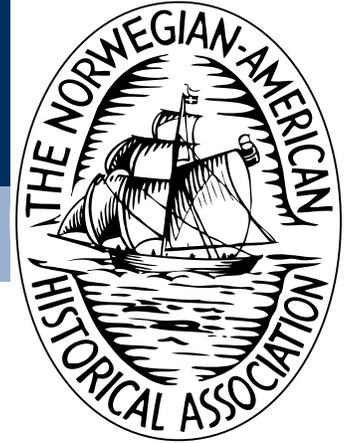


Norwegian-American Historical Association

Vol 151

Fall 2013



A Newsletter From the NAHA Office
to Association Members

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From the President

November is here...how fast 2013 has flown!

This has been a good year for your Norwegian-American Historical Association. Memberships have largely been stable and our budget is in the black. We have had successful outreach events in the Midwest and on the West Coast. Our archives receive regular visitors and we continue to collect materials. Our Executive Director Jackie Henry spent time in Norway, building important connections for our organization.

For the NAHA Board, 2013 has been a year of thoughtful consideration of our future.

Early in the year, with the help of the Neuger Communications Group in Northfield, the Board engaged in a strategic planning exercise. We tried to be realistic and practical in our effort...we wanted a plan that would challenge us but a plan that is doable given the resources we have or can realistically obtain.

Committees of the Board and members individually worked to evaluate recommendations, and at our October Board meeting, we unanimously voted to adopt the Strategic Plan. We'd be happy to share it with anyone who is interested.

The plan envisions ways to continue and improve on our two core missions: building and maintaining the archives of the Norwegian-American story, and, secondly, continuing to produce scholarly publications on the Norwegian-American experience.

At our October meeting, we voted to proceed with the most critical project we face: installing climate control for our priceless archives. We have formally committed to St. Olaf College that we will fund this project when it is ready to go. Second, we voted to launch a capital campaign to fund this project.

We are also planning to produce another volume of Norwegian-American letters which will be available to all our members in 2014.

We have an incredibly talented Board with a sense of determination, energy and a noble purpose. I am honored to head it, and to share in our efforts to serve you our members and to honor the legacy of those who have gone before us.

Best wishes for a wonderful end to the year for you and your family, and all good wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

NAHA President

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1510 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057
www.naha.stolaf.edu
naha@stolaf.edu

Phone: 507-786-3221

What We are Reading by Jackie Henry

Dear Unforgettable Brother, The Stavig Letters From Norway and America, 1881-1937. (2013), South Dakota State Historical Society Press.

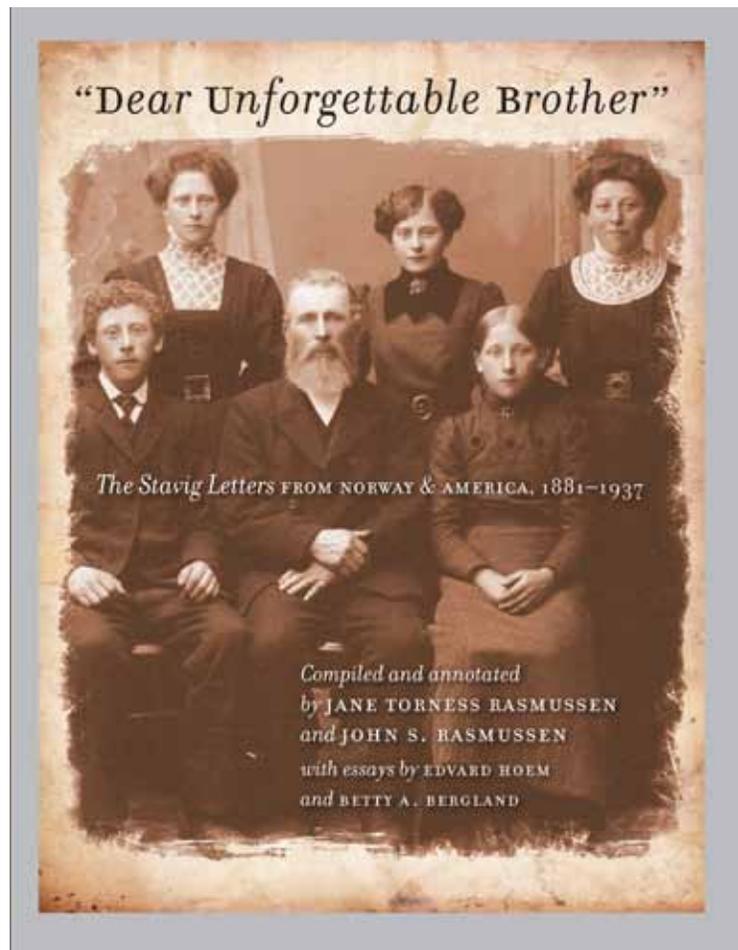
In late 2011, the Norwegian-American Historical Association acquired a DVD copy of the South Dakota Public Broadcasting's documentary, "The Stavig Letters," based on the collection of letters exchanged between Lars Stavig, along with his family, and his half-brother Knut Stavig between 1876 and 1950. *Dear Unforgettable Brother* expands the family's story through excerpts from the letters, commentary and two insightful essays providing a broader historical context to the story of the brother who stayed in Norway and the brother who immigrated to Sisseton, South Dakota.

Jane Torness Rasmussen introduces the book with a description of how the collection of the letters transpired, how the Stavig letters related to her family, and the events that led to the production of the documentary and book. John Rasmussen provides commentary on the excerpts, lending context to the exchange between the two brothers. Edvard Hoem's essay describes the social, political and environmental forces that influenced the massive outflow of families and individuals from Norway to the United States, Canada and other regions of the world. NAHA board member Betty Bergland's essay describes

the history of immigrants in the United States, and placed the Stavig family's experience within the larger historical forces that shaped the immigrant experience. In particular she focused on the experience of Lars and his sense of isolation as his children and their families embraced American culture, customs and language.

The liberal use of historic family photographs, maps and the personal connection of the commentators make this a particularly intimate telling of one family's immigration story.

You can read more about the Stavig Family letters, and view the entire SDPB documentary on their website at <http://sdpb.org/stavigletters/>. The book is available from the South Dakota State Historical Society Press at www.sdshspress.com for \$19.95 plus tax and shipping.



In Search of Peter Storm, California Pioneer

by Jackie Henry

During my travels through the western states in September, I spent a few days in the northern Sonoma County community of Cloverdale, California. Local history as well as family history, has always been a passion of mine, leading me to explore the historical societies and local libraries of many communities I visit. Frequently I'll search census records of specific areas for early Norwegian settlers, and while on my trip I did so for California. The 1850 census listed Peter Storm, a 51 year-old single man of Norwegian birth with the occupation of seaman residing in "Nappa Valley, Nappa California". I also found listed a Pedro Aldrich, in Sonora Township, Tuolumne County but that is research for another day.

For some reason, the name Peter Storm stuck in my mind. The next day, my husband and I visited the Cloverdale Public Library so he could track down a clue from his family in their records. While I waited, I picked up a small book from the local history section titled *Pioneer Sonoma* by Robert D. Parmelee (Sonoma Index Tribune, 1972). As I skimmed through a few pages, I ran across the photograph of an elderly man holding a white flag with a bear on it. The caption indicated he was none other than Peter Storm!

Naturally I decided that I needed to find out more information on Peter, the significance of the flag in the photograph, and how a seaman from Norway ended up in the



Photo courtesy of Sonoma State University Library

agricultural area of Napa Valley, California.

Of course the NAHA website was the first place I searched, and I quickly found a mention in Volume 24 of *Norwegian-American Studies* (1970). The article by Thomas I. Benson "Gold, Salt Air and Callouses" featured Norwegians in early Californian history. In the article, Mr. Benson includes the following:

"Peter Storm, a sailor, is one of the most intriguing of all the Norwegians who lived in California during the

last century, not only because of his early arrival, but because of his participation in revolutionary activities. Bancroft lists him as one of the forty-seven pioneers who came to California in 1833. He was also one of about fifty men arrested in the Graham Affair, in which a number of foreigners allegedly conspired to overthrow the Alvarado (Mexican) government in 1840.

The first definite record of Peter Storm shows him living in San Francisco in 1844, when he was forty [-five] years old. In early 1846 a group of American insurgents seized the town of Sonoma and

Continued on Page 4

In Search of Peter Storm, cont.

proclaimed a republic under the "Bear Flag." The controversy over whether Storm or someone else painted the original Bear Flag is still unresolved. Bancroft believed that Storm "probably" took part in the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, but that it was William L. Todd who did the actual painting of the flag. Todd later explained that Storm was asked to paint it, declined, but did help to gather the materials and to mix the paint. Bancroft finally concludes that Storm did indeed paint a Bear Flag, but that it was done later and in Napa. Peter Storm went to Napa County about 1844 to live near Calistoga and was the only Norwegian native listed in that county in the censuses of 1850 and 1852. He died at Calistoga in 1877."

Benson refers to Kenneth Bjork's publication *West of the Great Divide* (NAHA, 1958) in which Bjork refers to Californian historian Hubert Howe Bancroft. In a footnote, Bjork states:

"Bancroft also says that Peter Storm, a 'Norwegian sailor,' was a pioneer of about 1833; he probably participated in the Bear revolt of 1846, and may have been the painter of the Bear flag; in 1844, at the age of 40, he definitely was living in San Francisco. *History of California*, 3:409, 4:17, 5:110, 147-149, 736."

The 1881 *History of Napa and Lake Counties* recounts:

"Among other characters who floated to the surface in early days in the vicinity of Calistoga was Peter Storm. This old pioneer was born in Christiansend [sic], Norway, in September, 1799. When he was

fourteen years of age he left his home and followed the sea until he came to California in 1833, having traveled over many parts of the earth. His life in the early days of California was full of adventure. While he lived in this county he followed hunting and trapping mostly in this and Lake and Mendocino Counties. He was a member of the Bear Flag Party, and many believe him to be the man who made the Bear Flag. Such however, is not the case. There is a flag in existence which is known as the Storm Bear Flag and which was made by him, but it was made several years after the occasion of using the first Bear Flag and was designed in imitation of the original, and was used on the occasion of some celebration of Admission Day in Napa or Sonoma."

I was able to confirm Peter Storm's date and location of birth with the help of NAHA volunteer genealogist Dale Hovland, who quickly found a census record for a Peder George Storm, age 2, in Christiansand in 1801. The census listed his parents Johan F. Storm age 35 and Else M. Malthe age 36. Johan's occupation was listed as stads musikant, a type of town musician contracted to provide sacred and secular music. The household included two siblings, Gurine Marie age 5 and Johan Lauritz age 4. Another member of the household was Peder Jensen, a 20 year old music apprentice, and Maren Groosmand, an 18 year old servant. Church records indicate he was confirmed at the age of 13, lending credence to the story of him going to sea at that tender age. Ultimately, the Storm household grew to a total of seven children.

A letter published in the January 13, 1878 *Daily Los Angeles Herald* and accessed through the Library of Congress Chronicling America website substantiates the historical events surrounding the creation of the Bear Flag by one of the eye witnesses, William L. Todd, rumored to be a cousin or nephew of Mary Todd Lincoln. He writes to the editor:

"Your letter of the 9th just came to hand, and in answer I have to say, in regard to the making of the original "Bear Flag" of California, at Sonoma, in 1846, that when the Americans, who had taken up arms against the Spanish regime, had determined what kind of a flag should be adopted, the following persons performed the work: Granville P. Swift, Peter Storm, Henry L. Ford, and myself. We procured in the house where we made our headquarters, a piece of new unbleached domestic, not quite a yard wide, with strips of red flannel about four inches wide, furnished by Mrs. John Sears, on the upper and lower sides of the canvas. On the upper left hand corner was a star, and in the centre was the image made to represent a grizzly bear *passant*, so common in this State at the time. The bear and star were painted with paint made of linseed oil and Venetian red or Spanish brown. Underneath the bear were the words "California Republic." The other persons engaged with me got the materials together whilst I acted as artist. The forms of the bear and star and of the letters were first lined out with pen and ink by myself, and the two former were filled in with the red paint, but the latter by ink. The flag mentioned by Mr. Hittell with the bear *rampant*, was made, as I always understood, at Santa Barbara, and was painted black. Allow me to say that at

that time there was not a wheelwright shop in California. The flag I painted I saw in the rooms of the California Pioneers in San Francisco in 1870, and the Secretary will show it to any person who will call on him at any time. If it is the one I painted, it will be known by the mistake I made in lining out the words "CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC". The letters were first lined out with a pen and I left out the letter "I", and lined out the letter "C" in its place. But afterwards I lined out the letter "I" over the letter "C" so that the last syllable of "REPUBLIC" looks as if the two last letters were blended. Your respectfully,
Wm. L. Todd"

The North Bay Digital Collection of the Sonoma State University Library holds the image of Peter Storm with the Bear Flag. In a letter accompanying the photograph, dated May 2nd, 1940, Mrs. Ward Wallet of Berkeley says:

"In regard to the Bear Flag you may be interested to know that my husband's notes as taken from his grandfather, Henry Fowler, say that a group of agitators of the Bear Flag revolt, met at the ranch the evening before the insurrection.

While the assembly discussed the coup of the following day, Peter Storm made a flag and on it painted a red-brown grizzly bear reared on its hind legs ready to spring on its prey. The star and the words "California Republic" were added and this is the original and authentic banner taken to Sonoma the next day by the insurrectionists. There were probably many more bear flags made the next day and one with the bear prowling, found its way to the Pioneer Society and later the prowling

bear was accepted by the State Legislature as the California emblem. Mr. Peter Storm carried the original flag at many parades and I understand it was draped on his coffin but we do not know of its ultimate disposal."

In 1872, the *San Francisco Bulletin* published a brief piece,

"Peter G. Storm, aged 74 years, walked from Vallejo to Napa, on Friday last, arriving in five hours. Mr. Storm has resided in Napa Valley since 1842. He painted the Sonoma bear flag in 1846."

Peter lived in California to a ripe age. On February 28, 1878 the Winnsboro, S.C. *News and Herald* reported,

"It is noted that probably the oldest settler in California is Peter Storm, who arrived in the Golden State in '33. He was maker of the famous "bear flag" of Sonoma, when, in 1864, the citizens of that state declared that California should be an independent state."

Of course their fact-checker didn't notice the nearly 20 year discrepancy in the date of the Bear rebellion. It is also apparent that they didn't receive the news that Peter Storm had already passed away. On December 15, 1877, the *Daily Alta California* included the following brief article.

"Peter Storm, who dropped dead at Calistoga yesterday, came to California in 1833. He was a member of the Bear Party which took possession of Sonoma, and the reputed maker of the Bear Flag"

In a July 24, 1884 article in the *San Diego Union*, fellow Bear uprising participant W.M. Boggs wrote,

"There are a number of the old Bear party men living around Napa, and they do not like to have the capture of Sonoma accredited to Colonel Fremont, although the Colonel came there afterward and advised them to adopt a flag, which resulted in the making of the Bear flag by Bill Todd, assisted by old Peter Storm, an old Norwegian, whom we interred in the Napa Cemetery some years ago."

We know little of Peter Storm's day to day life in Sonoma County, or his migration from Norway to the wilderness that was early California. He apparently never married, and census records list his occupation as seaman, day laborer and painter over the years. He generally lived as a boarder, and early histories of Calistoga and Napa place him as a resident of various ranches in the 1840s and '50s. His role as a front row participant in the progression of California to statehood, however, is worth wider recognition within the Norwegian-American community.

Nora Fauchald Morgan



*Photo from the Carl O.G. Hansen Collection,
Norwegian-American Historical Association*

From the papers of Knut Gjerset:
 “Jennie Nora Fauchald Morgan was born in Toten, Norway [1898] while her mother was on a visit there. With Nora and two other children, her mother returned to their home in Minot, North Dakota, when Nora was six months old. Her Father was Julius Fauchald and her mother was Ingemarie (Nerseth) Fauchald. While very young, Nora showed great talent for music, playing the violin and singing at public gatherings when she was six years old. In 1913 her father took the family to Norway, where

she found the opportunity to pursue studies at the Oslo Conservatory. They remained there until the World War broke out, when they returned to America. After graduating from the high school in Minot she went to New York to study in the Institute of Musical Art [now the Juilliard School of Music] of which Frank Damrosch was the director. Here she took violin, voice and piano for three years and received her artist’s diploma with honors. She then sang in various churches in New York until she began to travel with the [John Philip] Sousa band. One day she happened to meet the choir

agent of that band who told her that Sousa was looking for a soloist for his band. She decided to try, and in competition with fifty others she was successful and was signed up. She traveled with Sousa on two trans-continental tours, until she married. After that she sang for him three summers in Willow Grove and Atlantic City. After her daughter Ingemarie was born she went with the band only once a year. She then won the Dresden opera scholarship and went to Berlin to study in the opera school of the Hochschule für Musik. She also studied lieder with Michael Raucheisen, who afterward became her accompanist for concerts over there. She sang in the opera in Brünn, in Chechoslovakia and in Berlin, and gave concerts in Germany and Australia. After a year and a half she returned to America and gave her Town Hall recital in New York, January 24, 1930, which was very successful. Since then she has been connected with the management of Haensel and Jones and the Community Concerts and has given concerts all over the country. The musical press praises her very highly. Her husband, George Harold Morgan, is master of music at Taft School, Watertown, Connecticut. He is a fine pianist, organist and composer, and plays her accompaniments often.”

The file assembled by Mr. Gjerset contains a number of clippings about Nora Fauchald, from various newspapers. A Minneapolis paper published Nov. 18, 1923 included the following quote from Mr. Sousa and why he selected her as a soloist.

from the Knut Gjerset and C.G.O Hansen Papers

“The girls of today in the east, particularly in New York, will not succeed in concert or on the stage.” says Mr. Sousa. “The nervous tension of a city such as New York has become all but unbearable to a young, impressionable girl. The result is that the New York girl is likely to ‘burn out’ readily. She will develop faster than the westerner, but three to five years will be the extreme limit of time at which she will remain her best. The western girl, with a more quiet and orderly life, will develop what I like to call ‘serenity of the soul’. She will bear the nervous tension of a career, because she will have fortified herself physically before her career began. I am most serious when I say that it will be such towns as Minot, N.D. which produced Miss Fauchald, from which our new singers - both for the opera and the concert stage - will come.”

An April 12, 1929 press release from C.E. LeMassena promotes Miss Fauchald’s European performances.

“The accompanying (following) cablegram from Berlin announces the successful debut of Nora Fauchald, American soprano, who went abroad last fall with other winners of the 1928 Juilliard Foundation Scholarships entitling them to study in Europe for several years. Miss Fauchald left a fine concert record in this country having filled important engagements as soloist with music clubs and secular organizations. She is an honorary member of the Rotary Clubs of America bearing the unique title of

‘Sweetheart of Rotary.’

She was chosen in 1927, at the New York Stadium auditions to appear with the Philharmonic Orchestra, prior to which she was soloist with John Philip Sousa’s famous band, on a coast-to-coast tour and re-engaged for three successive years. “A slender, dark-haired girl with a voice like a nightingale, put Sousa in the shade,” said a prominent southern critic, “but as she was selected by him from all the sopranos in the world some of the credit for her victory should go to the March King.” She also sang eight summer engagements with him at various resorts. Miss Fauchald was born in Norway of Norwegian-American parents whose home city is Minneapolis, and has since passed her entire life in the United States. A musician from early youth, she is a skilled pianist and violinist as well as a finished vocalist. Until her departure last year, she was a pupil of Mrs. Ella Toedt in New York. During a recent visit to Norway, she met Mme. Grieg who gave the young artist valuable points on the interpretation of her husband’s songs of which she is making a specialty, and in which she has created a distinct field for herself. Previous to the Berlin debut, in which she was accompanied by the celebrated Raucheisen, Miss Fauchald gave a successful recital in Stettin and will soon appear in opera at one of the leading houses.”

Included in the Knut Gjerset file on Miss Fauchald are a number of programs and clippings of her

recitals and concerts, as well as reviews and promotional photographs. In the C.G.O. Hansen Papers of the Norwegian-American Historical Association are several letters from Nora to Mr. Hansen regarding recitals she was planning with the Minneapolis Norwegian Glee Club between 1935 and 1939.

Nora Fauchald eventually taught at the Juilliard School for 12 years. She had three daughters, Ingemarie, Karen and Ellen. Nora passed away at the age of 73 at the Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in December 1971.

Her father, Julius Fauchald, emigrated from Toten, Norway to Minot, North Dakota in 1886 where he met and married her mother. According to early newspaper reports, he came to Minot with 35 cents in his pocket, went to work for a retail establishment and eventually rose to first become partner and then buy out his early employer. In addition to the New York Stores in Minot, Julius owned a hardware store, numerous business properties and a number of five and dime stores in surrounding communities. The Minot newspaper gave detailed accounts of their travels to Norway and eventual residences in Minneapolis and New York. In addition to Nora, her parents had two daughters and three sons.

Additions to the Archives

July 1- September 30, 2013

The Archives continue to benefit from the generosity of members and friends who have made important donations. Although we aren't able to acknowledge all donations here, we do appreciate every donation, large and small. We welcome additional donations of Norwegian-American letters, diaries, photographs, family histories, and congregational materials. Families may be sure that their donations will remain open for family consultation in the NAHA archives. They can also be certain that family treasures will not be discarded in a hasty move or by future generations who may have lost touch with their Norwegian-American heritage.

Gary DeKrey - Archivist

Jeff Sauve - Associate
Archivist

Recent additions to the manuscripts collection include:

- Drevland, Petter Strøm. "Norwegian Immigrants in the American Civil War: Reasons for Enlistment according to the America Letters" (University of Oslo, M.A. Thesis, 2013). Added to Civil War Papers, P0468. Drevland addresses four main reasons for enlisting: sense of duty, ideological (including the slavery issue and becoming true Americans), religious, and financial advantages for enlisting. Donated by the author.
- Hetle, Erik Papers (1873-1962), P0155. Added "The Erik Hetle Story," written by Hetle, professor emeritus of physics, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, between 1956 and 1959. The story details his early life in Breim, Norway and his subsequent emigration in 1891 to South Dakota. Hetle tells about learning the English language and his quest for an education. He graduated from St. Olaf College in 1903. Donated by Edward Buttenhoff.

Recently donated Norwegian-American family histories, memoirs, and organizational histories:

- Ahlund, Claed, ed. *Scandinavia in the First World War: Studies in the War Experience of the Northern Neutrals* (2013). Added to Norwegian-American Servicemen in World War I (1914-1918), P1711. The authors

analyze some of the military and economic consequences of the Great War, and they explore how intellectuals engaged in political propaganda and the peace movement. They also look at the experiences of different groups of people with direct involvement in the war: seamen, journalists, volunteer nurses, and thousands of Scandinavian soldiers. Donated by contributing authors Nik. Brandal and Ola Teige.

- Amundson, Ruth and Sadie Lensch. *Borseth Family* (Descendants of Erick and Mari Erickson, photocopied, ca. 1978). Added to Family Histories and Genealogies, P0539. Erick Borseth emigrated from Trondheim, Norway, in 1882; his wife and children emigrated the following year. The family settled in Calmar, Winneshiek County, Iowa. Donated by Jay Clasen, a NAHA member.
- Hendrickson, Sandra. *Kjære Sigrid. Letters to Sigrid H. (Børseth) Bordson, Born 1894, Immigrant to America, 1914-1927* (2013). Added to Family Histories and Genealogies, P0539. Donated by author, a NAHA member. (Also see article by Jackie Henry in the NAHA summer newsletter.)
- *The Norwegian Fulbright Alumni Association 40th Anniversary Anthology of Essays* (2011). Added to Publications

Pay it Forward, Preserve our Past!

and Pamphlets, P0436. The handsome 150-page book “Den vanskelige kjærligheten” (The Difficult Love), examines U.S. foreign policy, politics, technology, economics, and culture from a Norwegian perspective. The foreword is written by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and contributors include some of Norway’s most respected researchers, journalists and politicians. The unifying theme of the book is the challenge of sustaining an extremely close and mutually rewarding relationship between the U.S. and Norway, despite significant cultural and political differences between the two countries. Donated by Per Overrein.

- *Ulgeblad* newspaper, Fergus Falls, Minn. 1915-16, 1919, 1921-22, 1924-25, 1927, 1930-34; and single copy (Feb. 22, 1939). Transferred to Rolvaag Library, St. Olaf College. Donated by Kevin Anderson, Midwest Printing, Fergus Falls (via Chet Habberstad).

Help ***Pay it Forward*** today by giving generously!

Through the foresight of the founders of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, today you benefit from access to a collection of Norwegian-American immigrant materials unmatched in the U.S. And we continue to build our collections as new materials are found.

Our founders’ support for an active publications program established the NAHA as a leader in advancing the scholarly study of Norwegian immigration to the U.S. and Canada.

You have the opportunity to pay it forward to the next generation through your continued financial support.

Annual Gifts

One third of our budget is covered by donations from members over and above their annual dues or income from lifetime memberships. Donations directly support the services we provide to members and patrons, including publications, newsletters, educational programs and digitization projects.

You can make your gift by check to our address at 1510 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN 55057, or by [credit card](#). For gifts of stock or IRA transfers, call Jackie Henry at (507) 786-3221 to make arrangements.

Gift Memberships

Introducing a friend or family member to the NAHA is a great way to ensure a strong organization moving forward. A gift membership to the NAHA may be just the right fit for that hard to buy for person.

We’ll send a festive gift-wrapped copy of *From America to Norway, Volume One* with our welcome package, along with a personalized card so they know you thought of them during this holiday season. Use the enclosed gift envelope and include a payment for \$55.00 for each gift membership, along with the recipient’s contact information. We’ll take care of the rest!

Planned Gifts

From a simple bequest in your will or retirement plan, to gifts of life insurance policies or annuities, we will work with you to design a planned gift that meets your financial and philanthropic needs. Planned gifts can be the vehicle that transforms an organization from good to great.

No matter how you give, or how much you give, please know that we appreciate all you do in support of the Norwegian-American Historical Association

Thank you!

Folk Poetry: Threshing Song, unknown author

TRESKE-VISA

M. Strandvold har kjøbt maskine,
Og den tresker ganske fort;
Men den kan slet ikke kline,
Derfor blir de bare lort-
Hele aks gik op i straa,
Emil Lie han saa derpaa.
(repeat last two lines)

Emil Lie og Martin Werner kjörte
Straa fra maskinen en dag;
"Hvordan gaar det nu paalag?"
Emil svarte da som saa;
"Halve delen gaar i straa!"
(Repeat Emil svarte da som saa:
"Halve delen gaar i straa!")

"Vaage mig", sa mester Werner,
"Dette her kan ikka gaa,
Og nor dette set er ferdigt,
I da gjerne slutte maa."
Treskerne var enig i
At skyldten var hass Emil Lie.
(Repeat last two lines)

"Thusan", sagde Mr. Strandvold,
"Hvad vedkommer dette dig?
Du din hat jo holder under
Hver gang du der til har tid-
Maskinen har du og drit ned,
Derfor er jeg meget vred!"
(Repeat last two lines)

The Threshing Song

-Translation by Magne Teppen with
his comments indicated by asterisks.

Mister Strandvold has bought a
machine,
and it threshes quite fast;
but it cannot clean *),
so everything becomes dirt –
Whole spikes (ears?) were mixed
with straw.
Emil Lie was watching all.
(repeat last two lines).

Emil Lie and Martin Werner removed
straws from that machine one day;
Werner then came up and asked:
"About how does it work now?"
Emil answered then like this:
"Half of it mix with the straw!"
(Repeat: Emil answered then like this:
Half of it mix with the straw")

"Oh shit!" **) said master Werner,
"This here will never work.
And when this shift is over
all of you may go. ***)
And the threshers all agreed
that Emil Lie was the one to blame.
(Repeat last two lines).

"Damn!" said Mr. Strandvold,
"What have you to do with this?
You hold your hat beneath
whenever you have time for that. ****)
And you have mucked up the whole
machine,
that makes me very mad!"
(Repeat last two lines).

*) Kline: If it is the Norwegian word
kline (= muck up) it will be totally
meaningless in the context, so I suspect
he has norwegianized (!) the english
word "clean", which carries the exact
opposite meaning: Sift or purify.

**) "Vaage mig!" is an expletive, but
not as strong as "Damn!" or the more
modern [f-word]!"

***) "Go" – here in the meaning that
they may go and not come back, in
other words: They were sacked.

****) This is correctly translated, but
the meaning totally eludes me. I have
no idea what he is holding his hat
under, and why that have anything to
do with the machine mixing spikes and
straws instead of separating them.

Ed. Note:

The translation of this poem was sent
to the NAHA by accident but I thought
it would make a great addition to the
Fall newsletter so I asked the sender,
NAHA member Tulla Froyen, if I could
have her permission to include the
original poem as well as the translated
version. Here is what she said about
the origins of the piece:

"As to the threshing poem I
inadvertently sent to you. It wasn't
published as far as I know but I do
have the Norwegian version as typed
on a piece of paper which is old. I
don't know the author. The Emil Lie
mentioned was a brother to a professor
at St. Olaf, Olav Lie / Lee also from
Trysil originally. The Martin Werner
mentioned, also a Trysilinger, went
briefly to Quatsino and then settled
at Novato, CA where he farmed and
worked as a carpenter. Mr. Strandvold
mentioned would be my great uncle
Martin H. Strandvold. He donated part
of his farm in Harwood Township, Cass
Co, ND to build the Osterdalen church
before he and family moved west in
1894 to Prosser, WA in the Yakima
Valley. This family was also from Trysil.
So the poem tells about an incident in
the neighborhood prior to 1894."

Thanks Tulla, for sharing this piece of
folk poetry.

-Jackie Henry

NAHA-Norge Seminar and Tour - June 14-24, 2014

Brekke Tours and Travel has arranged a spectacular tour around the NAHA-Norge "Freedom and Migration" seminary to be held in Fagerness, Norway next June. Director of the Norwegian Immigration Museum director Knut Djupedal will serve as tour guide. Knut migrated from Norway to the U.S. with his parents and has earned degrees in History and Folklore from the University of Oregon and the University of Bergen.



Knut Djupedal - photo courtesy of Brekke Travel

The tour package will include transportation from Minneapolis (with the ability to arrange departures from other U.S. cities, or select a ground-only option), and first class/superior tourist class accommodations, including the classic Grand Hotel in central Oslo. The tour kicks off with sightseeing in Oslo, a tour to the home of the Norwegian Constitution in Eidsvoll, and a visit to the Emigrant Museum in Hamar. Included in the tour

package is the seminar registration fee, accommodations and most meals.

Following the seminar the tour continues to the beautiful fjord country and includes cruising the Aurland and Nærøy Fjords to Gudvangen, the scenic Flåm railway, the Western Norway Emigration Center and on to Bergen. While in Bergen you'll see the summer villa of Ole Bull, and Troidhaugen, home of Norway's most famous musician, Edvard Grieg.

If you attended the seminar in 2011 at Luther College, you know this is an experience not to be missed. Featured speakers include Dr. Daron W. Olson, author of the recently released *Vikings across the Atlantic: Emigration and the Building of a Greater Norway, 1860-1945* (University of Minnesota Press, December 2012). The opening lecture features Professor Ola Mestad, University of Oslo, speaking on the impact of the U.S.



Constitution on the Norwegian Constitution and on emigration. Many other scholars and speakers will fill out a full three days of events.

For more details, or to order a complete tour package brochure and application, contact Char Brekke or Amanda Hudson at Brekke Tours by email at info@brekketours.com or call (800) 437-5302.



Norwegian-American
Historical Association
1510 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057

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PERMIT NO. 21



www.naha.stolaf.edu
naha@stolaf.edu

Phone: 507-786-3221

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Tusen Takk!

Thank you to all who attended the NAHA West Coast events in Seattle, Whidbey Island, Portland, Eugene and San Francisco, especially to our newest members who joined the organization as a result of those gatherings! The presentation materials for the educational sessions have been posted online at <http://www.naha.stolaf.edu/resources/links>. If you are interested in learning more about using the NAHA website for research, or how to use secondary resources to tell your family history, I think you'll find these presentations useful.

In particular I want to thank the Nordic Heritage Museum for providing space for our learning session, and the Sons of Norway Lodges in Seattle, Portland and Eugene for their gracious hospitality. I also want to thank the Daughters of Norway, Ester Moe Lodge on Whidbey Island for opening up their meeting to me and other NAHA members, and for their gift in support of NAHA. Our members in San Francisco were also extremely helpful in steering me to important people and organizations in the Bay area with whom we should more closely collaborate.

This trip has impressed on me the importance of getting out to the various locations where NAHA members live, to meet face-to-face, to teach members how to use NAHA resources even if you aren't able to visit us in person, and listen to what is important to you and bring you the best possible value. Thank you for all of your thoughtful comments and warm camaraderie. It was a delightful trip!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Lachie Henry'.