



A Newsletter From the NAHA Office
to Association Members

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President

Archive Highlight: Centennial Exposition Scrapbook	2-3
Book Review: <i>Norsk utvandringshistorie</i>	4-5
Club 2014: Campaign for Archive Climate Control	6-7
Book Review: <i>Nordmenn i Amerika</i>	8
Model Life of Borger Hanson	9
Bridging Continents, 10-11 Bridging the River Tour	
From the Front Desk	12

The NAHA Board of Directors met the end of April in Northfield to review the financial statements for the year 2013, and begin implementation of the strategic plan approved in preliminary form last October. With strong support from our members and a healthy return on our invested funds, we ended 2013 well situated for an ambitious 2014, including a new publication, several member events and updated marketing materials.

The strategic plan is a three year effort focused on strengthening our core functions of membership, archives and publications. While all three areas are important, the board identified the preservation of our archival assets as our highest priority. Toward that end, the board approved a fundraising campaign to finance the installation of a climate control system in the NAHA archives. Building on the momentum of the 200th anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution, in May we launched Club 2014 with a goal of raising \$160,000 by May 2017. I proud to announce that to date the NAHA's current and past board members along with several other NAHA members have committed over \$73,500 to the effort. We are working with our hosts at St. Olaf College to determine the best location for the climate controlled archive, as our current space, with its exterior wall, is less than ideal for attaining our goal of moderating temperature and humidity fluctuations. Once the college determines the best location for the NAHA archives and other special collections housed there, we'll be ready to fund our part of the project.

On May 9th, at the Norwegian Heritage Day event at St. Olaf College, we recognized members in attendance who committed to the project, and we now invite the larger NAHA community of members and friends to participate in Club 2014. Donors with commitments of \$20.14/month for 36 months (\$725.04) or higher, will received a commemorative pin created exclusively for Club 2014 members. All donors will received recognition for their support at the conclusion of the effort. Inside this newsletter, you'll find more information on why climate control is needed, and how you can help our effort succeed.

**NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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

Phone: 507-786-3221

Brian Rude, NAHA President

Archive Highlights: A Centennial Celebration



*Program cover from the July 4th, 1914
America day celebration*

Preserved in the Waldemar Ager Collection of the NAHA archives, editor and author Ager compiled a scrapbook of memorabilia collected during the 1914 Centennial Exposition in Christiania (Oslo). Some of the treasures to be found within the covers include postcards, photographs, menus, passenger lists from the Norwegian America Line on which he traveled to and from the Exposition, clippings, programs, speeches, calling cards, ticket stubs and commemorative items, just to name just a few. Here are a several highlights:

“The Fourth of July In Norway”

Written by Hanna A. Larsen, editor of the *American Scandinavian Review* and published in September 1914. Ager included a copy of the article in his scrapbook.

“In the wooden slopes of the park below old Frogner Mansion, in the heart of Christiania, a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln stands framed in two large pines, a permanent memorial of America’s day at the Centennial Exposition of Norway. The Stars and Stripes mingle their folds with the Norwegian cross on the Fourth of July, when the bust was formally presented by [North Dakota] Governor L. B. Hanna to the Norwegian people. With them stood a precious relic now on exhibition in the pavilion of “Norway Abroad”, the bullet-riddled banner with a Norse inscription which led the Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment, — composed almost entirely of Norwegian immigrants — in the bloody battles of the Civil War. Successive speakers emphasized the similarity of ideals which made the Lincoln monument appropriate.

At the Storting Building, the Mindegave, or Memorial Gift, amounting to 245,000 kroner, was formally presented by Dr. H.G. Stub and accepted on behalf of the Storting by its president, Mr. J. Lövlund, to be administered for the benefit of sufferers from great national calamities, and so be forever a token of the love of emigrated Norwegians for their homeland. A list was also read of the various gifts to particular districts in Norway, amounting in all to 237,000, thus almost doubling the total sum.

A monster banquet in the evening was successfully arranged by the American Club and Nordmannsforbundet in the great Hall of Song on the Exhibition grounds. Two thousand six hundred people took part, while many hundreds were turned away for lack of room. Norway’s democratic king was present to welcome American visitors and to send greetings through them to their kinsmen who, though present in spirit, were



Commemorative stamp issued in conjunction with the 100th Jubilee.

July 4th, 1914 in Kristiania, Norway

unable to come in person. The visiting Norwegian-American male chorus led the singing of the national anthems, and it would be difficult to say whether "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" or "Ja, vi elsker dette landet" was sung with greater vim; while equally thunderous applause greeted Consul H.F. Gade's speech on "The Spirit of America", and Governor Hanna's eulogy of Norway. A message from President Wilson completed the most imposing celebration of Independence Day



Ager saved the passenger lists of fellow travelers to and from the Exposition. He sailed round trip on S.S. Bergensfjord leaving Tuesday, May 26, 1914 from New York to Christiania, with stops in Bergen, Stavanger and Kristiansand along the way. He began the return trip on Saturday, the 25th of July from Bergen, arriving in New York on August 4th.

ever held outside the United States." Ager prepared a post Exhibition report from the Committee for the Wisconsin Exhibit at the Norway Centennial Exposition. In it he observed, "We did not have as many farm pictures as North Dakota and Minnesota but we had more than 200, and it was all that most people cared to see. Besides we had special city exhibits to show how people lived. From Eau Claire we had 50 homes photographed - workmen's as well as others from all stations of life. From Stoughton we also had a complete set of pictures of public buildings, parks etc., also old pictures to show progress made."

"Our exhibit of civil war relics and about 200 photographs of officers and soldiers of the well known 15th Wis. Vol. Regiment with war

maps showing the position of the regiment in different battles, Andersonville prison, monuments, etc. was a great drawing card. We also had the regimental colors that had belonged to the regiment and also the tattered old silk banner presented to the regiment by Norwegian ladies in Chicago. All this we had in a specially made large show case and it advertised our exhibit more than anything else. No other collection received as much attention as this did."

Ager reported donations and income of \$2,037.00 and expenditures of \$1,943.44, excluding travel expenses, as well as a list of individual and institutional donors who contributed to the effort.



Newspaper clipping showing the Wisconsin Exhibit at the Norway Centennial Exposition

Different ways of reading Norwegian history



Book Review:

Østrem, Nils Olav

Norsk utvandringshistorie

[*Norwegian history of emigration*]

Second edition, 147 pages

Oslo: Samlaget, 2014

Nils Olav Østrem's book on Norwegian emigration history, first published in 2006, has been published in a new and revised edition. Østrem is a professor of history at the University of Stavanger. His book is not a retelling of details in Norwegian emigration history. It is a much needed analysis, in Norwegian, of ways to interpret the history of emigration from Norway to the United States. We do not need another retelling of the Cleng Peerson story. We need to know how this and other stories from Norwegian emigration have been applied.

The study presents different schools of interpreting Norwegian mass emigration to the United States since the beginning in 1825. There is not much difference between these schools of reading, yet emphasis may vary and nuances should be noticed. First Østrem sets up what he calls "the Semmingsen-school," after Ingrid Semmingsen's study, entitled *Veien mot vest [Journey to the West]*, volumes I and II (published in 1941 and 1950). As Østrem indicates, there were studies of Norwegian emigration before Semmingsen published her books, but in Norway she is a pioneer in this field of study, where – as Østrem correctly argues – her work is still regarded as "the main study of Norwegian emigration to North America."

Semmingsen (1910–1995) was professor of history at the University of Oslo. She represented what we might perhaps call the "Oslo-school" in studies of Norwegian emigration. Østrem gives a summary of the history of published research in Norwegian-American studies,

without suggesting names of successive schools of thought, yet he is leading us in that direction. In an effort to systematize his presentation in addition to the Oslo school, it may be useful to apply such terms as "the Midwestern school," "the Bergen-school," "the Vesterheim school," and the "Stavanger-school" of Norwegian emigration studies. The geographical terms should not be taken too strictly. An American scholar may for instance find him- or herself within the Bergen school of thought. The five schools are not separate entities. One scholar may indeed be inspired by all; all have contributed to make the study of Norwegians-American history such a fruitful and expanding field of study. We should use Østrem's book to pay attention to schools of thought within our field.

Østrem points to important nuances between different ways of reading the history of Norwegian emigration. Sometimes variations can be explained according to where studies are published or who the intended readers are. Semmingsen emphasized the process of emigration, as a movement out of Norway. She wrote primarily for a Norwegian readership. She and scholars after her have listed economic, religious, and political reasons why people emigrated from Norway to the Upper Midwest during the period of mass emigration. Within this school, a vast number of studies from different regions in Norway have subsequently been produced, mostly as Ph.D.s and M.A. theses in history. As Østrem points out, Anders Svalestuen's (1939–1992) study of emigration from the rural district of Tinn in Telemark

of emigration, a book review by Øyvind Gulliksen

(published in 1972), still provides one of the best known studies in this category. It helped to shape a pattern for others in the field.

At the same time, American scholars have primarily emphasized the same process as an experience of immigration. For them, the focus has mainly been on patterns of integration of settlers from Norway in American communities. Professor Theodore C. Blegen's (1891–1969) great work, *Norwegian Migration to America*, volume II (1940), is a major contribution here. Østrem mentions how Blegen's early work (particularly volume I) inspired Semmingsen. Successive American research have been promoted by such writers as Jon Gjerde (1953–2008), Karen V. Hansen, and Odd S. Lovoll. Of the many titles in Lovoll's solid production, his book about Norwegian immigrants in Chicago, *A Century of Urban Life* (1988) probably ranks highest. "The Midwestern school" (mentioned by Østrem as Midwestern culture, p. 71–73) has emphasized Norwegian immigration to towns, large or small, not only farm communities.

Both of the above mentioned schools have been, and still are, mostly constituted by historians with teaching positions in history. But in the United States and in Norway an interest in Norwegian-American immigrant culture has developed among scholars who teach various disciplines within "American Studies". Central here is Orm Overland, now a professor emeritus at the University of Bergen, Norway. With his comprehensive study of Norwegian-American literature, *The Western Home* (1996) and his collections and

commentaries to America-letters in multiple volumes, both in Norwegian and in English, he has broadened the field of Norwegian emigration history to focus on the history of written materials. Letters written by Norwegian immigrants in the United States are, as Østrem correctly states, important sources for historians, but Overland and others have shown that these are letters are far more than historical sources. They make out a literary genre of its own, a field in which the scholar may enter with linguistic and literary tools. Overland is the most well-known representative of the "Bergen school" in Norwegian-American studies.

The "Vesterheim school" of thought centers around art, folk art and material culture and the collections of the Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. Marion Nelson (1924–2000) is the pivotal figure here, represented by *Material Culture and People's Art among Norwegians in America*, a book he edited in 1994, a classic study which unfortunately Østrem fails to mention.

In the end, and as the newest addition to the field, we have what we may designate as "the Stavanger school," of which professor Østrem himself is an example, even if too modest to include himself in any such school of thought. Østrem is associated with the University of Stavanger, where he and others have focused on Rogaland as a center of emigration. His own dissertation, *Utvandrarkultur. Ei migrasjonshistorisk undersøkning av Skjold prestegjeld 1837–1914* may serve as an example. In a way, we have come back, geographically, to

the starting point of emigration from Norway, to the sloop "Restoration", who in 1825 pulled out from Stavanger with 52 people on board. The truly new trend, however, represented by "the Stavanger school" is that the terms "emigration" and "immigration," are often replaced by "migration" and "migration theory." Typically, they offer courses in "Migration and Intercultural Relations". The international is brought into the local in new ways.

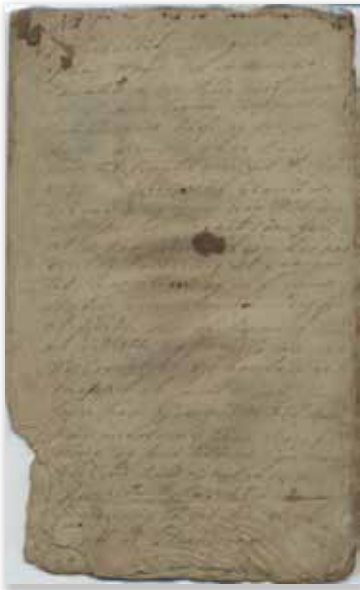
Østrem's fine study leads us to think of various schools of thought in the history of Norwegian-American studies, a field which continues to be dependent on both American and Scandinavian scholars.

Øyvind Gulliksen, PhD is professor emeritus of American culture and literature, Hogskol i Telemark. He has also taught at the University of Oslo and been a guest lecturer at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Club 2014: A Campaign

The Norwegian Constitution of 1814 is a precious document, Europe’s oldest and the world’s second oldest written constitution — kept in a safely controlled environment so that we who are 200 years removed from that remarkable event at Eidsvoll can see the Constitution, and understand how it changed history.

As a NAHA member you know that the Norwegian American Historical Association also has a trust with future generations as we hold and care for the archive that tells the story of the Norwegian immigration to America.



150 year old notebook from the Johan Reiersen collection

WHY CLIMATE CONTROL?

We know that in order for us to fulfill one of our most important objectives — preserving the materials in our possession to ensure that they can be appreciated for generations to come — we must see that our collection is cared for properly.

The biggest drawback of our current space is the lack of climate control. The great variation of temperature and humidity has taken a toll on the historical documents. The evidence is in the crumbling newsprint that is left behind on a table after a patron reads an article, the fading of a photograph, the faint ink on a handwritten document. We want to take action today to mitigate the impact of time and the environment on NAHA’s collection, which if not addressed will significantly undercut our ability to deliver on our mission.

Research has shown that newsprint has a typical lifespan of 100 years. Many of the materials in NAHA’s collection are at least 90 years old, some are over 150 years old. While we can’t reverse existing damage, studies indicate that the lifespan of materials can be extended by lowering the temperature and restricting variations in humidity where documents are stored.

NAHA seeks to install air handling and conditioning systems that will hold the collection space steady at an industry standard temperature and a steady relative humidity of 30 to 50 percent. These internal conditions are consistent with the standards used by some of the nation’s top collections, including the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress and the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

The installation of this system is the first step in the organization’s efforts to ensure relevance in the future. Stabilization is the goal. Once these environmental steps have been taken and the system is installed, a

plan will be put into place to digitize parts of the collection in order to fully realize NAHA’s potential.

FINANCING THE PROJECT

NAHA is fortunate to have a long-standing partnership with St. Olaf College. Over the course of the last 90 years, St. Olaf has graciously contributed over and over again to NAHA’s mission, giving us the necessary space to gather and expand our collection, all the while covering some of the necessary operating costs. As the college considers its long-term facility needs, NAHA continues to engage in a regular conversation with the planning team about how to best meet the needs of the various special collections on campus. Everyone at the table understands how important it is that NAHA’s archive be equipped with climate control systems that will ensure that its most precious assets are cared for long into the future.



1862 letter from Civil War soldier Knud Ivarsen

for Climate Controlled Archives

Once a comprehensive plan emerges, NAHA has agreed to pay for the cost of building out the space and furnishing equipment needed to ensure a steady temperature and relative humidity. Preparation is necessary to move forward as expeditiously as possible. We simply can't afford to wait. For this reason, we're seeking support from our partners now.

Through conversations with consultants we are confident that our \$160,000 goal will sufficiently cover our portion of the endeavor. Throughout the initiative, we will solicit gifts from our members, visitors of the collection, volunteers, granting organizations, partners and more, and aim to secure the funds to advance the project by May 2017.

Prior to this official launch of the climate control initiative, we have raised more than \$73,500 toward our \$160,000 goal. Notable fundraising achievements include:

- Having full participation of our Board of Directors
- Securing a challenge grant of \$10,000 and meeting our objective to see it matched, dollar for dollar.

WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP

We know firsthand the joy that comes from viewing our one-of-a-kind materials, finding the answer to a long pondered question, losing track of time in the stories of days gone by. We also know that the only way we'll be able to ensure the collection's continued use is if the materials are kept in good condition.

The depth and caliber of the NAHA archive is one that many organizations can only dream of, and we are more energized today than ever before to make a significant impact on its future and guarantee its long-lasting care. Ensuring a climate-controlled archive is an important step in our efforts to continue to share the rich stories that have been entrusted to us.



1890 diary of Lingah Anderson

NAHA is uniquely equipped to meet the needs of scholars, writers, historians and individuals seeking ancestral connections alike. Our expert staff, carefully cataloged collections and commitment to the pursuit of knowledge position us to serve the expanding need as people search for understanding by looking to the past.

More than 3,900 requests to access NAHA's archives are made in person, by phone, by email and through our online index each year, and we expect to see this number grow as we continue to inspire and encourage interest in the informative, timeless stories of Norwegian-American culture.

We will be forever grateful for a gift or pledge toward this critical project and invite you to consider two contribution levels, based on this year's celebration of the Eisdvoll bicentennial, to support this momentous campaign in NAHA's history:

- \$2,014 payable over three years
- \$20.14 month for three years, totaling \$725.04

In appreciation of your commitment at one of these levels, we will be pleased to present you with a commemorative pin created especially for NAHA contributors to this effort.

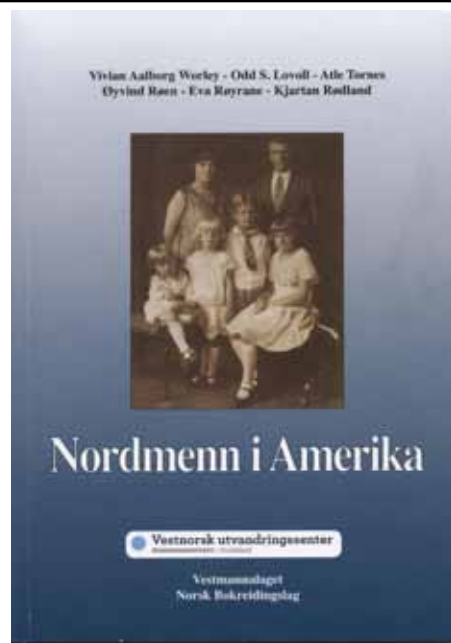
If you find that one of these levels isn't a match for you, we will gratefully accept a gift or pledge of any amount to support this project. Gifts can be made outright, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually, via check or credit card, gifts of stock or direct distributions from IRA accounts.

Please watch your mail for our campaign brochure or visit our website www.naha.stolaf.edu for more information.



Commemorative pin created exclusively for the members of Club 2014

Book review: *Nordmenn i Amerika*



Nordmenn i Amerika (2014)

Edited by Rolf Svellingen

Lectures from the Western Norwegian Immigration Center In Norwegian

This, the 10th edition of papers presented during the Western Norwegian Emigration Center's annual seminar on emigration, contains lectures presented at their 2013 conference. In addition to the six papers included from the conference, the volume contains an index to the previous 9 collections as well.

Å være norsk i Brooklyn

Vivian Aalbrog Worley writes about growing up Norwegian in Brooklyn. Born in the U.S., she moved to Norway at age 11. She writes about her personal experiences as well as the changes Brooklyn underwent from the 1950s to the 1970s when the Norwegian influence waned. This article is based on her masters thesis at the University of Bergen, which is available online in English through the Bergen Open Research

Archive at <https://bora.uib.no/handle/1956/2756>.

Norsk utvandring til USA etter 1945 Et samtidshistorisk perspektive

(Norwegian emigration to USA after 1945, a contemporary historical perspective)

Dr. Odd Lovoll's paper draws upon his personal experiences as well as his academic research. As one of the first families leaving Norway for the U.S. after the end of World War II, Dr. Lovoll places his family within the context of a changing pattern of emigration from Norway to America. Dr. Lovoll describes the differences and similarities of emigration trends pre- and postwar.

Tysnes i Amerika

Amateur historian Atle Tørnes provided a comprehensive analysis of the migration patterns of Norwegians in general, and specifically those who migrated between Tysnes, Hordaland and the Americas. He highlighted specific families and occupations, supported by US and Norwegian census data as well as other genealogy resources.

Knud Langeland: Frå omgangskulelærer i Samnanger til redaktør i Chicago

(From traveling schoolteacher in Samnanger to editor in Chicago)

Local historian Øyvind Røen provides a biographical sketch of Knud Langeland, including information on his early life within the strict class structure experienced in Samnanger, Hordaland. From his life as a traveling educator in rural Norway, through his struggles to improve the education of local children, Røen draws on Langeland's own words from his autobiography *Nordmændene i Amerika*. Røen

briefly touches on Langeland's life in the United States as a newspaper writer and editor, where Langeland continued to promote the social and educational development of Norwegian immigrants through reading and schooling.

Amerikaonklane - frå Ølve til

Montana (American Uncle - from Ølve to Montana)

Eva Røyraane recounts the journey from Ølve to Montana taken by her uncle, 19 year old Klement Røyraane, and three other village men in 1908. Klement joined his brother Jon who emigrated the previous year. By the end of 1909, two of the four travelers were dead, never to return. Eva received a grant from the Bergen Tidende to follow in the footsteps of Klement and Jon, through Ellis Island and on to Great Falls and Butte, Montana. A 17 minute film of their journey (in Norwegian) is online at <http://www.bt.no/tv/Amerikaonklane-2816681.html>.

Samfunnet som vende heim

Kjartan Rødland, editor of the Bergen Tidende, discusses the importance of the Norwegian Emigrant Center in Sletta. There you will find the pioneer house of Anders Seem from Underwood, Minnesota, the school and teacher's home of Foreman, North Dakota, the prairie clinic of Dr. Serkland from Rothsay, the town hall and prison of Elizabeth, Minnesota and the church from Brampton, North Dakota.

Copies of the this issue can be purchased by contacting the museum at: post@utvandringssenter.no

Cost is NK120 (about \$20 plus postage).

The Model Life of Borger Hanson (1856-1931) - Jeff Sauve

When 20-year-old Norwegian Borger Hanson immigrated in 1876, the U.S. was celebrating its centennial of independence. For the young man, the promise of the new land offered opportunities for skills as a cabinet maker and carpenter. Initially making his home in Decorah, Iowa, he engaged in building and contracting.

Two years later in 1878 he homesteaded in the Red River Valley, Trail County, North Dakota. As one of the early settlers, Hanson became owner of a large ranch comprising 400 acres. He married Norwegian Nicholine Myrann in 1880; to this union 10 children were born.

In 1895 the family returned to Decorah where Hanson engaged again building and contracting. Over the next few decades, he built several buildings on the Luther College campus as well as many homes in Winneshiek County. He was described as an “intelligent and enlightened man with many great interests beyond his actual profession.” His ability and integrity garnered him great respect in the Decorah community. As a prominent self-made man, Hanson typified the industrious Norwegian immigrant.

Proud of his Norwegian heritage, Hanson was one of the original founding members of NAHA in 1925. Upon his death in 1931, his estate, including books and a scaled model of the Eidsvoll House, was transferred to St. Olaf College.

Recently an article was discovered from the 1932 student newspaper with headline, “Mystery Solved! Pseudo-dorm Not Dorm But Model



The brass plaque affixed to the roof reads, “This model is of the private house in the town of Eidsvold, Norway, where the Norwegian Constitution was signed in 1814. The building is now called “Eidsvold”. It is a building very dear to the hearts of Norwegians because it marks the beginning of their life as a nation”. The Rolvaag Library at St. Olaf College will display the model through the month of May.

of Independence Hall Instead.” The article’s introduction said, “Have you looked up at the balcony during chapel and wondered what the white model building represents? No it isn’t...an architect’s model of a dormitory.” The remainder of the article described how and why Norway’s constitution was derived at Eidsvoll, the equivalent of Philadelphia’s Independence Hall.

For Norwegians, the Eidsvoll House represents one of its most important national symbols, inextricably tied to the constitution, independence and the dramatic events of 1814, which are celebrated annually on May 17. The original residence of Norwegian businessman, politician, and Managing Director of the Eidsvoll Iron Works, Carsten Anker (1840-1912), became Norway’s first national monument in 1837.

The article also identified Hanson as the model’s creator and cited “the workmanship is very fine.” Dating the model (41”L x 26”H x 32” W) is subjective, but it was likely created for either Norway’s independence from Sweden (1905); the centennial observance of Norway’s constitution (1914) or the centennial of the first formal Norwegian immigration (1925).

Since 1932, the Eidsvoll model has been placed on display at one time or another for visits of Norwegian royalty and dignitaries. On May 17, 2014, the model will be once again displayed in the college library to celebrate Norway’s constitution’s bicentenary. Future plans include a full restoration and a plaque identifying Hanson as the creator. The old adage, “He made good!” exemplifies his model life.

SAVE THE DATE: Bridging Continents,

Norwegian-American Engineers and the Mississippi in the Twin Cities



Broadway Bridge, looking east, undated

The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul owe their origins to the Mississippi River – for its water power and for its river commerce. And, as the Twin Cities grew, they became host to the one of the largest urban communities of Norwegian immigrants in the United States.

These two stories come together in a September 6 tour “Bridging Continents, Bridging the River: Norwegian-American Engineers and the Mississippi in the Twin Cities”, cosponsored by the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) and the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH). The tour will focus on the work of five immigrant engineers from Norway who played major roles in shaping the aesthetics and engineering of the river as it winds through both cities.

The engineers are Frederik Wilhelm Cappelen, Kristoffer Olsen Oustad, Andreas Wendelbo Münster, Martin Sigvart Grytbak, and Leif Johan Sverdrup. They were part of a

significant migration of Norwegian engineers to many parts of the U.S. in the decades surrounding the turn of the 19th century. From diverse backgrounds, most were educated in Norway, Sweden, or Germany, and found initial employment with American railroads. Collectively, they contributed over 115 years of work in the City Engineers Offices of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and also formed several engineering consulting firms.

The tour will launch at Augsburg College with a presentation on the work of the engineers in both cities. A bus and walking tour will provide a close look at several surviving bridges, primarily in Minneapolis, including the Third Avenue Bridge, the Washington Avenue Bridge, and the Ford (Intercity) Bridge. In addition to the history of the structures, the tour will discuss several bridge rehabilitation projects, exploring the collaboration between historians and engineers in efforts to preserve historical authenticity while providing for current and future travel needs.



Ford Bridge, Saint Paul, undated

The tour builds on the work of Kenneth Bjork (1909-1991), who served as NAHA Editor and Professor of History at St. Olaf College. Bjork’s research on Norwegian-American engineers and architects throughout the U.S., now in the NAHA archival collection, resulted in the 1947 NAHA publication *Saga in Steel and Concrete*.

The guide team for the tour includes Kristin Anderson, MNSAH and Augsburg College; Dennis



Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis, undated

Bridging the River, Sept. 6, 2014

Gimmestad, NAHA; Steve Olson, Olson & Nesvold Engineers; Charlene Roise, Hess Roise Historical Consultants; and Kristen Zschomler, Cultural Resources Unit, Minnesota Department of Transportation. Rolf Anderson, MNSAH, and Jackie Henry, NAHA, also serve on the planning committee. Others with specific expertise may be participating in the tour as well.

Note that this bus tour includes a good bit of walking and some stairs, and will be held rain or shine. Sturdy walking shoes and rain gear (if needed, depending on weather) are recommended. Lunch will be provided.

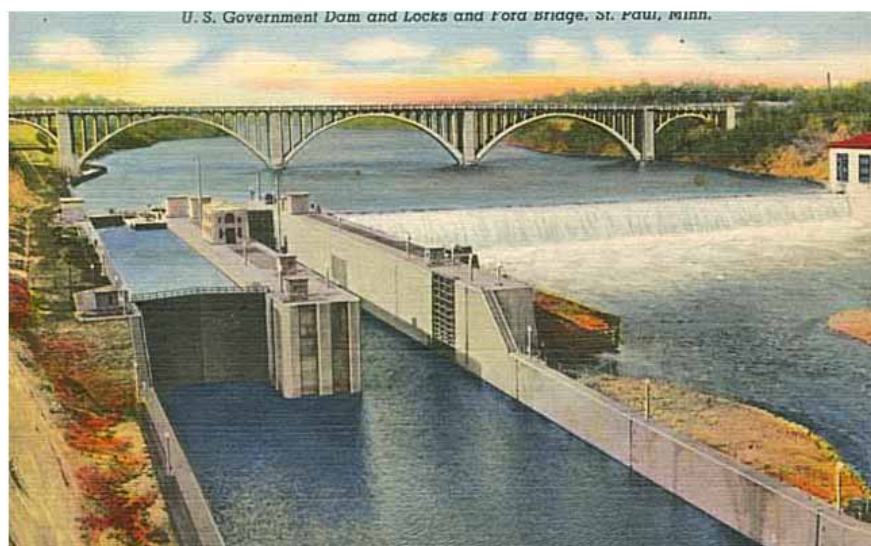
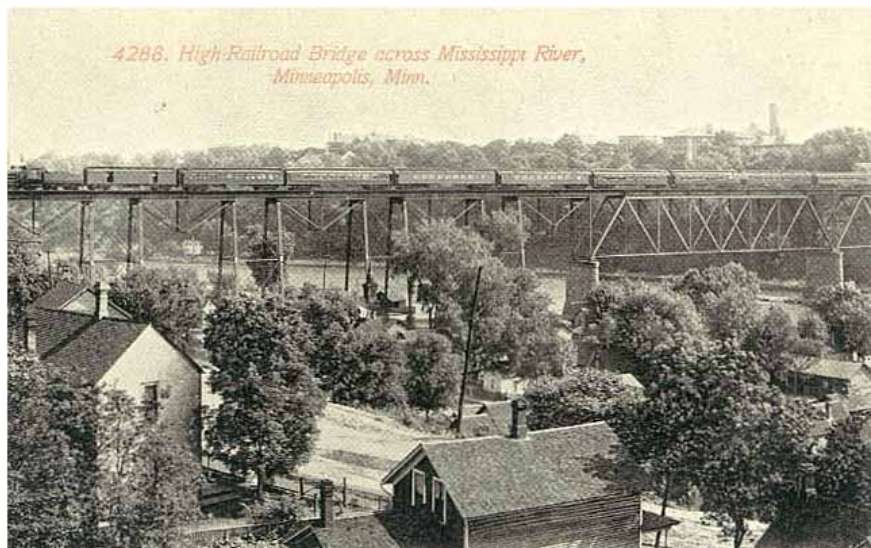
More information on tour details and registration will be sent to NAHA members in the Twin Cities area mid-summer. If you would live elsewhere and would like to be on the mailing list, call or email Jackie Henry at naha@stolaf.edu by July 1. Because space is limited and we anticipate an early sell-out, this event is limited to members of NAHA or the MNSAH.

All bridge photos and postcards are from the Minnesota Historical Society archives. Used with permission.

Top Postcard: Third Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis, ca. 1925

Middle Postcard: High Railroad Bridge, Minneapolis, undated

Bottom Postcard: U.S. Government Dam and Locks and Ford Bridge, Saint Paul, Minn., 1967





NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FARIBAUT, MN
PERMIT NO. 21**

Norwegian-American Historical Association

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

Phone: (507) 786-3221

Change Service Requested



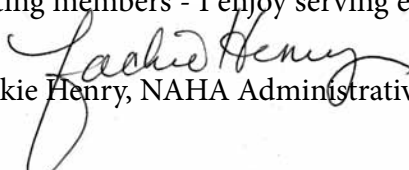
BICENTENARY
NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION
1814-2014

From the Front Desk

In this issue we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution by highlighting parts of our collection that reflect the celebration that was held 100 years ago.

- Waldemar Ager traveled to Norway as part of the Wisconsin Exhibition at the Norway Centennial Exposition held in Christiania the summer of 1914. Just as Norway participated in the United States centennial celebration in Philadelphia in 1876, many states created their own 1914 exhibits in Oslo highlighting the success of their Norwegian immigrants.
- Eidsvoll will be the center of attention on May 17th, and at St. Olaf College we have our own Eidsvoll model, perhaps built for the 1914 celebration, by Norwegian immigrant Borger Hanson, who arrived during the U.S. Centennial in 1876.
- We feature one recently released, and one newly re-released Norwegian language publication brought to our attention by respected scholars Øyvind Gulliksen and Odd Lovoll.
- Finally, and most importantly, this month we launch Club 2014, a campaign for archive climate control. The need for climate control was really brought home to me as I researched our collection for materials related to the 1914 centennial celebrations in the U.S. and Norway. Materials from that era are becoming increasingly fragile, and while we can't reverse the effects of time and environment, we can mitigate their impact in the future. Please read about the need, the project and how you can help on pages 6 and 7.
- See a sneak preview of our fall tour of Norwegian-American designed Twin Cities bridges on page 10-11.

Welcome to our new members, and thank you to all of our existing members - I enjoy serving each and every one of you!


Jackie Henry, NAHA Administrative Director