

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS LETTER



From the NAHA Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 123

EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

WINTER 2004

NAHA BOOK PARTY

Unless you have indicated you wish to be on the “newsletters only” list, you have received your copy of NAHA’s 2004 publication, *Ethnic Leadership and Midwestern Politics, Scandinavian-Americans and the Progressive Movement in Wisconsin, 1890-1914*. Please join us on **Saturday the 8th of January at 10:30 a.m.** at the **Kings Room 3rd** floor of Buntrock Commons here at St. Olaf College. Editor Todd W. Nichol will talk briefly about the book and introduce former President of the Wisconsin State Senate and NAHA Secretary, Brian Rude. Rude will talk about Wisconsin state politics as he knows them, and what he knows about the “Progressive Era” discussed in the NAHA publication.

For our Wisconsin members and friends – NAHA will be holding a Book Party in the Madison area in April when the traveling weather is more reliable! Details will be announced later.

Postcard reminders for the book party will be sent to members in the Northfield and Twin Cities area. If you are planning to attend, please email us or call and leave a message at (naha@stolaf.edu or 507.646.3221) so we can order coffee for everyone. If you live outside the local area but wish to attend, please let us know. It is always pleasant to gather with friends who share the same interest in Norwegian-American history!

ANNUAL DUES UPDATE

NAHA has long offered both Life memberships and annual memberships. While a Life membership was a bargain for the individual member, it is no longer a prudent business practice for the Association in today’s rapidly changing world. NAHA’s publication program makes it unlike most other membership groups where one simply receives periodic newsletters. The Association is known for its original scholarship, the publication program and the treasure-filled archives devoted to Norwegians who came to the United States. The costs of publishing, maintaining an archive and running an office have increased tremendously since NAHA was created in 1925.

Association dues have been so low that after publishing and mailing out the books to members each year, little revenue remained to maintain the archives and run the Association, both of which are crucial elements of NAHA’s mission.

Recently the NAHA Board voted to end the sale of Life memberships. However *-Have no fear - existing Life memberships will continue to be honored!*

The 2005 levels of membership will include: **Associate level: \$55, Sustaining Level: \$125 and Patron: \$250.** NAHA will also offer five-year and ten-year membership options so you won’t be bothered with the annual dues notices. NAHA will also begin charging an extra postage fee for overseas members. We appreciate your support and know you want NAHA to succeed well into the future.

CHANGES AT THE NAHA ARCHIVES

After much thought and consideration, the NAHA archives committee has recommended moving to an “appointment only” basis after January 1, 2005. With our limited space and staff of three part-time people, patrons are better served if we know you are coming to the archives and the general area of interest you wish to research. (507.646.3221 or naha@stolaf.edu) We will continue to do our best to accommodate you, but from time to time you may hear us say, “Sorry, we are a full house – may we find an alternate date for you?” We are joining many archives in making the best use of limited space and staff with an “appointment only” policy.

The Board of Directors has agreed that a basic user fee is one way to supplement the membership fee and to support the important work of the NAHA archives, including indexing, cataloging and organizing archival materials, serving patrons and spreading the word about Norwegian-American history. As many similar organizations do, NAHA will begin charging a modest fee for archival access. Starting in January 2005, members will be charged \$5.00 per day, and non-members will be charged \$10 per day to use the archives.

Thank you for your patience as we implement these changes and improvements. We look forward to seeing you in the future.

RECOMMENDED READING

A new book is out that will be of interest to anyone whose relatives lived in the upper Midwest and heard stories about surviving the harsh winters. About two years ago, author David Laskin came to Northfield to use the NAHA archives. While in Northfield he spoke with NAHA member Brynhild Rowberg.

Two years later, after many interviews and much more research on his part, the result is a fascinating book, *The Children's Blizzard*. The book chronicles the historic January 12 blizzard of 1888. Clearly the author is fascinated by history, weather and people. Imagine – no radios, no weather broadcasts, no phones, no transportation other than foot or horse, and the weather changes from calm and unseasonably warm to brutally cold with hurricane force winds and zero visibility. Laskin used recent immigrants to the United States and pioneers who settled in the prairies of the Dakotas, Nebraska and Minnesota to showcase their reasons for settling on the prairie and the harsh realities of life in the heartland.

The Children's Blizzard, by David Laskin, will be available through major bookstores, the St. Olaf bookstore (www.stolafbookstore.com) and Internet book-sellers. Barnes & Noble has chosen to feature *The Children's Blizzard* in their "Discover Great New Writers" program. You will appreciate the strength of your ancestors in an entirely new way after reading about the children who perished in this blizzard, the parents and teachers who tried to save them and the scientists responsible for forecasting and tracking storms. Laskin will be in a variety of Minneapolis bookstores on January 20 and 21st, 2005. Please keep your eyes open for this informative book and the chance to learn the more about the times and conditions and what surviving a blizzard was really all about! The website www.childrens-blizzard.com lists the other locations where the author will be which include Sioux Falls, S.D, Fargo, ND, Seattle, WA, Lincoln, NE and Chicago.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN PUBLISHERS and THEIR BOOK COVERS

Susanne Nevin, a Special Collections Cataloger and Materials Preservationist with the St. Olaf College Library, will present a program on Norwegian-American Publishers and their book covers. Susanne has presented her research on this topic at the Association of College and Resource Libraries meetings and at the NAHA-Norge meeting in Bergen in June, 2003. The program is co-sponsored by Northfield chapter of Nordmanns-Forbundet and the Norwegian-American Historical Association. Please join us on Saturday, February 26, 2005 from

10-11:30 a.m. in the Kings Room at Buntrock Commons, St. Olaf College in Northfield.

NEEDS OF NAHA

We hope you will keep NAHA on the top of your list for charitable giving in 2005. To give you an idea about what your gift(s) might sponsor:

- The cost of the quarterly newsletters is approximately \$800 each.
- The postage for the last book cost over \$3,500. Would you like to sponsor a mailing?
- You could sponsor the student workers we employ for \$3,000 annually

THANKS TO DONORS

Below are friends of NAHA who have given gifts to NAHA between September 1, 2004 and November 31, 2004. We appreciate your generosity!

\$1000-\$4999

·Luther Forde

\$501-\$999

·Sons of Norway

\$251-\$500

·Mr. & Mrs. Glen Annexstad· Harold Bakke· Michael Bovre· Ruth Hanold Crane· Nancy Gossell· Gary & Miriam Grandrud· David Hill· Karen Annexstad Humphrey· Trygve Lonnebotn· W.O. and Phyllis Lyders· Mr. & Mrs. David Monson· Adrienne Morrison· Dr. & Mrs. John A Nilsen· Lois Rand· David & Lee Rokke· Carole Stempfley & Gary Hillman· Lloyd Svendsbye

\$101-\$250

·Liv Dahl· William Georgeson· Richard Graving· Kim Holland· Dave Holt· James Honsvall· Fritjof T. Lokensgard· Odd Lovoll· Lila Nelson· Mary Ann Olsen· S/N Faerder Lodge #108· Paul Scheffel· Frank Tysver

\$51-\$100

·Fran Debnam· Richard Domholt· Marlene Engstrom· Sarah Epstein· Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Fox· Harland Grinde· Carl Hansen· Thelma and Mark Johnson· Ruth Kahn· Elizabeth Paulson Miller· Paul Monson· Amelia Rugland· Karen Schneble· Gerald Sime· Robert Tollund· Ole Tweet

\$1-\$50

·Owen Anderson· Virginia Blood· Bennie Bungum·Alva Calvin· John Dahle· Audrey Erdman· Bernhard Fedde· Cheryl Larson Freitag· Richard Gilman· Iris Hemmingson· Mrs. Joan Iverson· Gladys Johannesen· Mary Keenan· Victoria Kingslien· Lori Lahlum· Joan Losen· John Mahlum· Zona Mathison· Robert Minish· Thomas N. Olson· Margaret Paulson· David Preus· S/N Valhall #167·John Serkland· Marvin Slind· Dr. Christopher Thomforde· Arlen Twedt· Orlando Tweet

MEMORIAL GIFTS

John R. Christianson – In memory of Dr. Mary Towley Swanson
Reidar Dittmann – In memory of Lloyd Hustvedt, Charlotte Jacobson & Beulah Folkedahl and their contributions to NAHA
Lois Rand - In memory of Margaret Stork, mother of Adrienne Morrison
Paul Scheffel – In honor of Jo Scheffel's birthday

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Alan G. Solomonson, *North Prairie: Boyhood Memories of a Country Church*. Spiral bound, approximately 36 pages. Recalls the importance of the church in the life of the Solomonson family and the other Norwegian-American families in the Lake Mills, Iowa area. The church served the rural congregation for 135 years and was formally closed in July of 2004. Changing rural customs are noted and intertwined with recollections of Norwegian Lutheran adjustments in the larger Lutheran world. The official church records, some of which are in Norwegian, are stored at Immanuel Lutheran in Scarville, Iowa.

Received from Robert and Lois Jorstad, *Indherred Lutheran Church's 125th Anniversary*, from Starbuck, Minnesota. Paperback, 40 pages. The church celebrated 125 years in 1995. The booklet recalls the organization of the church by the Norwegian immigrants in Pope County. Important dates, people and practices are highlighted. In 1875 each farmer was asked to donate one bushel of oats and one-half bushel of wheat for the pastor's horse and cow. Confirmation class members are listed for each year. Indherred's confirmation classes were conducted totally in English for the first time in 1933.

Received from Robert and Lois Jorstad, the letters of Edwin August Engebretson from the period 1916-1918, from the papers of Alfred Peter Engebretson. The letters, mainly between the two brothers, cover the banking and mortgage business as well as the matters related to World War I and the personnel/business decisions when key staff members were called up to serve their country.

Received from Robert and Lois Jorstad, Engebretson family letters from 1914 through 1921, and letters among siblings from 1957 to 1969. The early letters are in Norwegian. The later letters include daily life stories as well as travel experiences to California, and the community crisis endured and handled by the relative who was the school superintendent at the time a young student was murdered at the school.

Received from Robert and Lois Jorstad, *The Engebretson-Ronning Genealogy*. Originally produced by Alfred Engebretson in Helena, Montana in 1963 and then supplemented by Jorstads. Contains background information about the land around Gudbrandsdalen where Peder Engebretson emigrated from in 1867. Peder married Anne Ronning and settled in Starbuck, Minnesota in its earliest stages of formation. Includes striking photographs, clippings from local newspapers, and updated information about the succeeding generations.

Received from Dr. E. Richard Ensrud, early photos of the Einar and Betsy (Thompson) Hooverson, in 1905 from Vernon County, Wisconsin, the 1910 wedding photo of Torger Steenson and Rhodie Hooverson Steenson, early family photo of Chris and Johanna Hooverson Kvale, 1905 family photo of Bernt and Randi Henjum Ensrud from Wells, Minnesota, obituaries of Bernt O. Ensrud and Johanna Hooverson Kvale.

Received from Garth Ulrich, 1990 Plat books for Sibley, Yellow Medicine and Nicollet Counties in Minnesota.

Received from Gloria and Gordon Thorpe, *Horten: Kort Omrids Af Stedets Historie*, by Johan Beck, soft-cover, approximately 140 pages. Includes detailed maps, photos of people, interiors of buildings, exteriors of buildings and various streets in Norway.

Received from Gloria and Gordon Thorpe, *75 Års Biografisk Jubileums-Festskrift, Horten Tekniske Skole 1855-1930*. Hard-cover, 431 pages. Includes a history of the school, professors, and brief biographic material for students, many of whom emigrated to the United States.

From Deb Nelson Gourley, *Astri, My Astri: Norwegian Heritage Stories*. Hard-cover, 244 pages. The stories were first published in the Fillmore County Journal and now have been expanded to include photos and tied together with even more information. The author was an eight year old girl who found an old painted trunk with the name of an ancestor and the date 1812. This started a life long journey to know more about her Norwegian relatives and the country they left. Written in both English and Norwegian.

Received from Torbjørn Greipsland, *Aloha, Fra Glemte Nordmenn på Hawaii, Fra Slaveliv til Ferieparadis*. (From Forgotten Norwegians in Hawaii From Life in Slavery to Live in Vacation Paradise.) Hardcover, 176 pages, in Norwegian, with an English condensed version provided. A glimpse into the lives of those who emigrated to Hawaii and those Norwegian-Americans now living in Hawaii.

Received from Delana Ruud, *American Fever, A Biography of Ole Ruud, Pioneer of Washington Territory*, By Esther Ruud Stadling. Soft-cover, 182 pages. Extensively using the letters her grandfather, Ole Ruud, sent to Norway, the author incorporates an incredible amount of data into a fascinating, well documented story of Ole Ruud's emigration in 1879 to the United States where he homesteaded near Waterville, Washington in 1883. Ole successfully found a mail order Scandinavian bride when he placed an advertisement in a Chicago newsletter. Ruud farmed in the rich soil of Washington where he introduced others to Bing cherries when they were a novelty crop in Washington. Ole died in 1928 at the age of 80 in California where most of his children settled. This was a true pioneer in an interesting, atypical location for most Norwegian Americans.

Received from Barbara Levorson Quinn, Family History of Helleck O. Tveten and Bergit Amundsdatter Levorsen. Helleck left Veggli, Buskerud, Norway and emigrated to Otter Tail County, Minnesota, before leaving for Williamsburg, Virginia, while Bergit was born in Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin and confirmed in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. In the early 1900's they left to join other family members in the state of Virginia. Bergit helped organize the Sunday School in at Our Savior's Lutheran in Norge, Virginia, and taught Norwegian at the Norwegian School in Lightfoot, Virginia. In a newspaper interview Bergit stated it was the climate that brought them to Virginia. They were tired of the long Minnesota winters. Includes copies of newspaper articles, plat maps, and photos.

Received from Barbara Levorson Quinn, Family History of John Larsen Trosvig and Åse Amundsdatter Levorson. John and Åsa (Louise) had 6 daughters and none of them married. Two of the daughters were elected members of Phi Beta Kappa at the College of William and Mary. The family was part of a large group of Midwestern Norwegian-American families that moved to Virginia and bought worn-out tobacco land. Trosvig was one of the first to start dairy farming in that area of Virginia. The center of their new community was Norge, Virginia, north of Williamsburg. Includes photos, copies of articles from the Rothsay newspapers, Pelican Rapids and Williamsburg, Virginia.

Received from Marlin Heis, the 1903 version of *Dr. Chase's Third, Last and Complete Receipt Book and Household*

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Physician. Hard-cover, 682 pages, in Norwegian, printed in Detroit. Contains information on home remedies, how to bandage, the afflictions of childhood, plants to be used for medicines and how to keep bees and be a successful farmer and many other pieces of useful information.

Received from Dick and Harriet Madson, *Mount Horeb, Presettlement to 1986, A History Celebrating Mount Horeb's Quasiquicentennial*. Soft-cover, 159 pages. Covers the earliest settlers who were of English and Scottish descent. The first Norwegian settler was from Sogn and had mustered out of the Union army. The Village grew and eventually became known as a very Norwegian community.

Received from Dick and Harriet Madson, *Edmore, N.D. and Countryside, Tales Beyond "No Man's Land" 1901-2001*. Hard-Cover, 635 pages. Includes background on the land, ranches, early settlers, and businesses, pictures of the community over the years, and plat maps. Also contains photos of the curling clubs and the families who have lived in Edmore over the years. Many Norwegian families settled in Edmore and have stayed in the area.

Received from Dick and Harriet Madson, *Look To The Rock, The Dybdahl/Anderson Episode*. by Ann Urness Gesme. Hard-cover, 453 pages. A family history covering the ancestral home in Norway and the family of John Peterson Dybdahl and his first wife, Anne Andersdatter Eidsand; and his second wife Thora Eriksdatter Eid. Includes photos, copies of church records, bibliography and index.

Received from Theresse Nelson Lundby, *Live Well*. Soft-cover, 158 pages. The book contains letters chiefly from Sigrid Gjeldaker Lillehaugen to her parents in Hallingdal, Norway. There are also letters from Sigrid's children to their grandparents. In 1885, Sigrid immigrated to the United States where she and her husband (Torsten Lillehaugen) later homesteaded in North Dakota. In the letters, which Sigrid often concluded by exhorting her family to "live well," Sigrid and her children vividly describe pioneer life on the prairie. Included are references to the birth, baptism, confirmation, schooling, sickness, death and burial of Sigrid's children. There are details about crop production and farming, grain and livestock prices as well as about snow storms, construction of farm buildings and Christmas celebrations. Also contains several pages of genealogy and glossy photos.

Received from Steinar Hybertsen, a video tape, "Alf Engen: Utah's Athlete of the Century." Engen emigrated from Norway after his father died and didn't expect that America would have serious snow or ski jumping. He is credited with placing Utah on the international ski map.

Received from Steinar Hubertsen, a DVD, *Stein Ericksen: Ski Legend*. It is said that Stein Ericksen changed the face of alpine skiing in the United States. An Olympic gold medal winner in the 1952 Olympics, Ericksen gained international recognition for his style and charm. Soon ski resorts were recruiting him to stay in the United States where he is still a legend. Even today Ericksen continues to ski and show off his famous flawless style.