One of the first agenda items of every NAHA board meeting is a progress report on our strategic plan. The plan includes measurable goals for events, publications, archives, membership, and fundraising. I introduced this plan in *Currents* in the fall of 2016, and since we are nearing the plan’s halfway point, I want to update you on our progress as well.

And as I write this, members of the Publications Committee are reviewing editor candidates to fill the vacancy created by Todd Nichol’s retirement last August. Despite missing an editor, we have finished the *From America to Norway* series with the publication of a volume of indexes. We also plan a co-publication with MNHS Press this fall. Perhaps most newsworthy is the development of a new, long-range publications strategy — look for the announcement of our new editor later this spring and a journal launching in Fall 2019!

The Archives Committee has been busy as well. After NAHA Archivist Gary De Krey retired in August, Kristell Benson joined the Association as our interim archivist. She not only continues the daily work of serving our patrons and donors, but she is also helping us clarify our our long-term needs for the Archives. With Kristell in place, the committee has turned its attention to seeking funding to digitize one of our largest collections — the papers of O. E. Rølvaag. We also continue to plan for our future vault and facility in Rølvaag Memorial Library, which will be shared with St. Olaf College Archives and Special Collections.

Our strategic plan calls for developing a member recruitment strategy, and we plan to focus on this effort in 2018. For starters, we want to hear from our members, so we are sending a survey to our annually renewing membership later this spring. If you receive a survey, I encourage you to participate.

The strategic plan calls for aggressive membership goals, and we fell a bit short of our target for 2017. Fortunately, the shortfall in membership revenue was met and exceeded by successful fundraising. Thank you for your generosity in 2017! Annual gifts are the bread and butter of our operational budget. Along with planned giving and gifts to special campaigns, they create a fundraising “tripod” that supports our mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the Norwegian-American experience.

Finally, we have two exciting member opportunities planned for this spring and summer. Check out page 3 to learn about an April gathering in Minneapolis and a three-day tour on Lake Superior’s North Shore in August. Please join us, and invite a friend!

Amy Boxrud, Director
NORTH SHORE FISHERFOLK TOUR
Aug. 28–30, 2018

Commercial fishing on the North Shore of Lake Superior flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An immigrant population, largely Norwegian, played a major role in this industry and in the settlement of related communities.

Join NAHA this August as we explore the history and culture of North Shore fisherfolk, drawing on local residents with family and personal stories of fishing on Lake Superior and local museums, historians, and craftspeople who are working to preserve the archival and material record of this region.

Traveling by bus, we’ll depart from the Twin Cities and take in the sights, sounds, and tastes of the North Shore from Duluth to Hovland. A lake cruise (weather permitting) will provide a fisherman’s view of the shoreline, fishing grounds, and communities that formed the basis for this chapter in Great Lakes history.

More information, including itinerary, cost, and registration, will be available on the NAHA website soon. Space is limited. To reserve your spot, contact us at naha@stolaf.edu or 507-786-3221.

SPRING MEMBER MEETUP

Members and friends of NAHA are invited to a reception, followed by a program featuring Henrik Williams, professor of Scandinavian Languages at Uppsala University in Sweden.

The Importance of Runic Inscriptions for History – And the Dangers of Fake History in Runology
Runic inscriptions are unique sources to our ancient history. Not all historians deal honestly with the runic evidence, however. Williams will illustrate how runic inscriptions offer surprising insights into the past but also why some sensational runic items are just too good to be true. Williams will also discuss contributions to the field by NAHA editor Theodore Blegen.

Wednesday, April 11
Norway House
913 East Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis
5 pm Reception
6 pm Program

Members $10
Non-members $15
To register, visit naha.stolaf.edu.
“My car runs on duct tape.” Perhaps you’ve heard a comment similar to this. The internet is filled with images of do-it-yourself “fixes” that utilize tape. But in an archive, tape can do more damage than good.

The negative effects of adhesive (also called pressure-sensitive) tape on archival holdings is significant. Tape and archival paper or artifacts simply do not mix. The presence of tape increases the likelihood of rips and tears on the edges of the taped area. The adhesives used on tape will permanently discolor objects and leave behind a brown-colored residue. If humidity is present, the adhesive may retain its sticky characteristics and cause nearby items to adhere to one another, which can lead to discoloration or tearing on the adjacent pages. And finally, adhesive tape is very difficult to remove. Even seasoned conservators will face a challenging process to remediate a taped item.

It is understandable that a person may reach for the convenience of tape to repair ripped paper or pages in a book or to “strengthen” the spine of a book. Unfortunately, the future damage caused by tape will outweigh its benefits. It is better to maintain a torn page or damaged spine through gentle handling than to apply tape. Enjoy and gently use your family treasures, and leave the tape to MacGyver.

**PRESERVATION TIPS**

Simple conservation techniques to practice in your own home:

- **Handle objects gently with freshly washed hands to avoid the transfer of oils and dirt.** Hand sanitizers and lotions can also stain and damage materials.
- **Limit an object’s exposure to light.** Light may cause the text or images to fade and can darken or weaken paper fibers.
- **Store items in a stable environment with lower humidity and temperatures below 72 degrees, as heat and humidity accelerate deterioration.**
- **If an item is extremely rare or valuable, consider contacting a professional conservator.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Use these online resources to learn more about archival care of family collections:

- Caring for your Treasures, American Institute of Conservation [conservation-us.org/about-conservation/caring-for-your-treasures](http://conservation-us.org/about-conservation/caring-for-your-treasures)
- Collections Care, Library of Congress [loc.gov/preservation/care](http://loc.gov/preservation/care)
- Preservation Leaflets, Northeast Document Conservation Center [nedcc.org](http://nedcc.org)
- Preservation and Family Archives, National Archives [archives.gov/preservation](http://archives.gov/preservation)
Sometimes Norwegian church books contain more than dates for religious milestones — they also can offer valuable information on migration. Church books from the 19th and early 20th centuries may contain clergy-written records of parishioners moving into or out of a parish. At the time of migration, the minister was often called upon to generate an attest (certificate), which served as an identification paper and included dates of significant life events. The minister would then note the issuing of this certificate in the church records.

To begin exploring scanned church books, visit media.digitalarkivet.no/en/kb/browse. This Digital Archives Web page includes links to information on:

- Digitized church books — the scanning and transcribing (indexing) of the books
- Church book release dates — privacy rules on when books can be opened to the public
- Local parish history — information, in Norwegian, on parishes all over the land, including which church books are available

- User guide for church book search — information on accessing records (Norwegian version only)

The books are generally searched by browsing. Some are also searchable using individuals’ names.

For a general introduction to these church books, see “Understanding Church Records” in the Fall 2015 and Winter 2016 issues of *Currents* (available on naha.stolaf.edu).

Twenty-nine years before becoming a founder of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Ole Rølvaag left his home on the Norwegian island Dønna, bound for the American Midwest. Rølvaag’s emigration was recorded on Page 341 of the 1881–1910 Dønnes Church book. The attest created by the minister may have accompanied him on his journey to America.

### Contents of reported certificates and certificate dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relocations (including children)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Departure was July 1896 to America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full name and civil standing: Bachelor Ole Edvard Pedersen Rølvaag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth year: Born 24 April 1876, baptized 21 May 1876 (these dates conflict with other entries in the same church book), confirmed 14 June 1891. He is unmarried. The attest was written on 23 July 1896.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEMBER SURVEY ARRIVING

Keep an eye out for an upcoming NAHA membership survey, which will be sent to all annually renewing members later this spring. The 2016–19 NAHA strategic plan calls for developing and implementing a member recruitment strategy. An important part of that strategy is to better understand why NAHA is important to current members and which benefits they value most. The board of directors plans to use the survey findings to shape its membership plan. If you receive a questionnaire, we encourage you to participate in the survey, which can be completed online or by mail. Thanks in advance for helping to make NAHA the best organization it can be.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Join generations of NAHA members who have made a lasting gift to the Association and the Norwegian-American community. When you make a planned gift to NAHA and become a member of the Legacy Circle, you become a vital partner in our mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the Norwegian-American experience. With a little planning and some common financial tools, you can leave a larger legacy than you might have imagined, without affecting your current lifestyle or your family’s financial security. For more information, please contact Amy Boxrud at boxrud@stolaf.edu or 507-786-3221.

SALOMON IS 2017 HAUGEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS) has awarded the 2017 Haugen Scholarship to Charlotte Abney Salomon of Yale University. Charlotte is a Ph.D. student in the department of history and in the History of Science and Medicine program at Yale University. She is researching Swedish chemistry at the turn of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century.

The Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship is an annual stipend intended to support an outstanding graduate student whose doctoral dissertation examines a Scandinavian or Scandinavian-American topic in the social sciences or history, broadly defined. Administration of the scholarship was transferred from NAHA to SASS in 2008, and a NAHA representative participates in the annual selection process. NAHA board member Ann Marie Legreid is serving on the current committee — look for news on the 2018 recipient soon. For more information, visit scandinavianstudy.org.
PLAY BALL!

THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING BRINGS THE RETURN OF BASEBALL. HERE ARE SOME SURPRISING NORWEGIAN CONNECTIONS TO AMERICA’S PASTIME. BY AMY BOXRUD

THE FREDRICKSON BROTHERS BASEBALL TEAM

When 17-year-old Norwegian immigrant Emelia Elvestad married Nels Fredrickson, a Danish-born farmer 10 years her senior, she likely had no idea the couple would go on to raise 16 children: four girls and 12 boys. The outsized family would at one point comprise half the population of Eidswold, Minn., the community where they farmed near Elko. Emelia would have been more surprised, and perhaps more than a little disappointed, to learn that her 12 sons would in 1927 form the legendary Fredrickson Brothers Baseball Team.

For the 12 ball-playing brothers — Arthur, Axel, Edwin, Fred, Herman, Joe, Martin, Nels Jr., Otto, Soren, Walter, and William — the game was an escape from their monotonous work at the family’s 220-acre farm, which included daily milking of the cows and hauling water from a well.

“Playing baseball was the only enjoyment my brothers and I got out of life,” Arthur Fredrickson said in a 1994 interview with *Sports Illustrated*. “There was literally nothing else to do.”

The team earned a reputation even before they played their first game. Over the next three summers, the brothers traveled a 30-mile

continue on page 8...
“WHEN IN THE HELL ARE YOU GOING TO FIND 12 BROTHERS, LET ALONE 12 PLAYING BASEBALL TOGETHER?”
— Arthur Fredrickson

Nels and Emelia Fredrickson (seated, center) photographed with their grown children in Northfield, Minn.

The Fredrickson Brothers’ best-known game was at the Scott County Fair in Jordan, Minn., the summer of 1929. Their opponents were the House of David, mostly members of an Adventist sect that abstained from alcohol, sex, tobacco, meat, and shaving. The team entertained audiences with their skill and antics, distributed religious literature to the packed stands, and sent their winning proceeds back to their commune in Benton Harbor, Mich. Barnstorming the country for more than five decades, the House of David were later regarded as the Harlem Globetrotters of baseball.

When the House of David played another team of Minnesota Valley all-stars that summer, the Shakopee Argus-Tribune reported "the be-whiskered clan ... will endeavor to overwhelm the all-stars with an avalanche of whiskers and brilliant playing." The coach of the all-stars goes on to declare; if they beat his team, "it will be by a whisker."

The Fredrickson Brothers’ matchup against the House of David helped to attract a crowd of more than 4,000 to the Scott County fairgrounds that day. “We had a following,” Edwin Fredrickson told Sports Illustrated, “and they were passionate. Some of them used to fight in he stands more than we did on the field.”

Barnstorming the country for more than five decades, the House of David were later regarded as the Harlem Globetrotters of baseball.
John Anderson, also known as “Honest John,” was born in 1873 in Sarpsborg. He was 20 years old when he broke into the big leagues on Sept. 8, 1894, with the Brooklyn Bridegrooms. An outfielder and first baseman, he also played for the Washington Nationals, the Brooklyn Superbas, St. Louis Browns, New York Highlanders, Washington Senators, and Chicago White Sox. John retired from baseball in 1908. He died on July 23, 1949, in Worcester, Mass.

Jimmy Wiggs was born in 1876 in Trondheim. Growing to a height of 6’4”, he gained the nickname “Big Jim.” Jimmy was 26 years old in 1903 when he made his major league debut with the Cincinnati Reds. He played only two games for the Reds before moving to Detroit, where he pitched 11 games for the Tigers during the 1905–06 seasons. After being cut by the Tigers, Jimmy played for the Toledo Mud Hens. He died in 1963 in Xenia, Ohio.

Art Jorgens, from Modum in Buskerud, was born in 1905. Art was 23 years old when he entered the big leagues in 1929 as a catcher for the New York Yankees, the team he would play with for the rest of his 10-year career. He died in 1980 in Wilmette, Ill. His American-born brother, Orville Jorgens, also played major-league baseball, pitching for the Philadelphia Phillies from 1935 to 1937.

Norwegians and baseball may not be an obvious combination. In fact, only three Norwegian-born athletes have played in the American Major Leagues.

SOURCE: BASEBALL ALMANAC (BASEBALL-ALMANAC.COM)
KRISTELL BENSON, INTERIM ARCHIVIST

Some significant additions to the Archives over the past few months are listed here. We welcome donations from members and friends illustrating all aspects of Norwegian-American history and culture. Do you have Norwegian-American letters, diaries, photographs, family histories, and community and congregational materials at home? If you know of such items in the hands of others? If so, please contact the archives at naha-archivist@stolaf.edu. Perhaps this list of recent donations will suggest some possibilities. We also have continuing interests in Canadian materials and in materials relating to the experiences of post-World War II Norwegian immigrants.

NAHA collection guidelines are available on the archives page on our website: naha.stolaf.edu/archives/guidelines.pdf. Please be aware that we do not collect Norwegian language books other than rare Norwegian-American imprints (books published in North America for a Norwegian-language audience), bygdebøker, and other printed genealogical material. The Archives continue to benefit from the generosity of members and friends who have made important donations, and we welcome your help in building the collection. Although we aren’t able to acknowledge all donations here, we do appreciate every donation, large and small. Families may be sure that donations made to the NAHA archives will remain open for future family consultations.

DONATED OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2017

MANUSCRIPTS AND PUBLISHED MATERIAL:

• Gilje Family Histories (ca. 1886–1992) A collection of histories on the Gilje family and others including: Gilje-Tastad Families by Paul Gilje and others; Howerson, Hillestad, Halverson: A Part of the Stream by Elaine Anderson Thurston; The Diary of Odd Gilje: Memories of a Childhood in China by Odd Gilje; Gilje Genealogy (Hans Martinus Gilje and Nikolene Nilsdtr. Kalberg), Pioneer Norwegian Settlement in North Dakota to 1900 by Carlton C. Qualey; A Missionary Journey on the Dakota Prairies in 1886 by John H. Blegen; North Dakota Country Schools by Warren A. Henke, editor; When I Was Little by Esten Moen. Added to P0539 Family Histories. Donated by Paul Gilje. Also donated with this gift were numerous volumes of bygdebøker.

• Love, Hilma: Letters Home and Family Stories from a First-Generation American and World War II Nurse (2016, privately published). Norwegian-American Hilma Granum was a U.S. Army Corps nurse in World War II and went on to be an instructor at Fairview Hospital nursing school. Written by her friend and student Karen A. Lindesmith, this collection of correspondence and memories tells the story of a Minnesota woman, her family and their experiences. Added to P0539 Family Histories. Donated by Karen A. Lindesmith.


FAMILY LETTERS, HISTORIES, MEMOIRS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES:

• Hvidston, Asmund “Andy” (1897-1968). Thirteen cubic feet of primary source materials that Alden Hvidston used to write the biography of his father, Asmund “Andy” Hvidston. Andy emigrated from Oslo in 1913, served in World War I, then became a U.S. citizen in 1918. He married Juliet Dyste in 1921. The collection contains Andy’s school records, military records, naturalization...
records, clippings, name and business cards, photographs, passport, ration stamps and books, speeches, and numerous letters attesting to Andy’s business acumen and success in the United States. Alden stated that the extent of his father’s education was the sixth grade; yet Andy achieved much success as a businessman and board member of several business associations. Collection also includes a birthday calendar from 1953 from the Olivet Lutheran Church of Fargo, N.D. 

**Added to P0539 Family Histories.** Donated by Alden Hvidston.

- Letter dated 11 February 1940 from Oslo to Ontario, Canada. 
**Added to P0435 America Letters.** Donated by Keith Pladsen.

- Morrison, Adrienne (2017). Short histories of three Norwegian immigrants who were ancestors of the author: Ragnild Framstad (Hanson-Olson), Ingeberg Tostensdotter, and Maren Johanna (Johannesdatter Hegg) Ligaarden. They came to the United States from Norway in the mid-1800s. 
**Added to P0539 Family Histories.** Donated by Adrienne Morrison, Lifetime Member.

- Rolvaag, O.E. (1906–2007). Materials in this donation were: photographs of Rolvaag home and backyard, drawing of boy in boat, funeral, road named after O.E. Rolvaag in the Norwegian town of Mo i Rana (1926–62, undated); 13 postcards from and to O.E. Rolvaag (1906–24, undated); Norwegian magazine article by O.E. Rolvaag, interview with Solveig Zempel, his granddaughter (1985); letter (in Norwegian) to Rolvaag from Kristian Noroy Bekkevold (1957); copies of and correspondence about the opera “Beret and Per Hansa” by Ernest Haugen, based on Rolvaag’s work (1975–86, undated); article about Rolvaag titles “O. E. Rolvaag: Lessons from an Immigrant Author” by his granddaughter, Solveig Zempel, printed in “Congratulations! An intellectual tribute to Ellen” (2007); Sundance on the Mountain by Olav Wallo (1987). 
**Added to P0584 O.E. Rolvaag Papers.** Donated by Solveig Zempel, Lifetime Member.

- Jacobsen, Marie, and Marcelius (1922–42). Letters written (in Norwegian) from four of the Jacobsens’ children and their spouses. The letters are written by the children who moved to New York in the 1920s: daughter Jenny and her husband, Egil Rorvik, daughter Monna and her husband, Charlie Hultmann, son Trygve and his wife, Gladys, and son Asbjørn and his wife, Paula. Their daughter, Gunvor, and two sons, Bjarne and Morten, stayed in Norway. 
**Added to P0435 America Letters.** Donated by Kirsten Limstrand (daughter of Morten).

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Added to P0655 Photograph Collection.** Donated by Luther Nervig.
Helena Rossing is pictured standing in the Rossing Millinery Shop in Argyle, Wisc. Her daughter Viola is seated to the far right. “The making of hats required a high degree of skill and workmanship. Girls who finished grade or high school were apprenticed to learn the trade. They learned first to construct hats: to make a wire frame and cover it with straw braid; or to cover a ready-made buckram frame with silk or velvet, for a winter hat. Having mastered this craft, they were ready to become designers and trimmers, which required much more artistry and imagination.” From “The Rossings and Their Store, 1870-1970,” by Elizabeth Rossing Forell. From the Lars A. Rossing Papers.