PRESERVING SOURCES AND SPACES

The Archives of the Norwegian-American Historical Association are, without question, its heart and soul.

How might we describe these Archives? Collecting began shortly after NAHA’s founding in 1925, carried out by distinguished scholars like Ole Rolvaag, Theodore Blegen, and Carlton Qualey. Today, more than 1720 individual collections together constitute the primary repository of manuscript material on Norwegian-American history.

As we look more closely at the holdings in the Archives, its breadth and richness are revealed. One approach is to think about the places where the documents in each individual collection were created and kept—the people, the buildings, the communities. These associated places are the arena for the story of Norwegian migration to America. We owe a special debt to the individuals and organizations who work to preserve many of these places, adding a valuable dimension to the research base for scholarship and interpretation.

The support of the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies helped launch a new project entitled “Engaging Artists and Communities to Preserve Nordic Heritage Churches.” Sponsored by the Partners for Sacred Places, a national nonprofit organization that promotes the care of historic sacred places, the project encompasses Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Wisconsin, and the upper peninsula of Michigan. Currently, an inventory of churches with Nordic heritage (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland) is underway. From this group, 10 to 16 locations will be selected for special efforts in planning, financing, and implementing repair and restoration projects, working with local craftspeople, artisans, and artists.

For those engaged in archives and interpretation work, the regional, pan-Nordic nature of this project holds promise to foster some interesting opportunities and comparisons.

Soon, you will receive our Annual Fund appeal letter. 2017 has been filled with retirements and transitions; significant additions to our Archives; the production of volume four of "From America to Norway"; initial steps toward revival of our journal; a Northern Migrations tour to northern Norway; the 13th triennial conference of NAHA-Norge in Stavanger; and a members evening at Mill City Museum in Minneapolis. As always, our work centers on preserving primary sources and solidly interpreting the Norwegian-American experience. As we move into 2018, we look forward to your participation and your support.

Dennis A. Gimmestad, President
O’LEARY AWARDED ROYAL ORDER OF MERIT

NAHA board member Margaret Hayford O’Leary, King Olav V Chair of Scandinavian-American Studies at St. Olaf College and associate dean for humanities, was awarded the rank of Officer of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit on Sept. 16. The award was conferred by Norwegian Ambassador to the United States Kåre Aas in a special ceremony held on the St. Olaf College campus.

The Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was instituted by King Olav V in 1985 as a reward for outstanding service in the interests of Norway. The king serves as grand master of the order.

“It is an incredible honor to be recognized in this way,” O’Leary says. “I am grateful to have had the opportunity to teach Norwegian to generations of St. Olaf students over the past 40 years!”

O’Leary has taught Norwegian at St. Olaf since 1977. She completed her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Scandinavian studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her B.A. degree at Concordia College (Moorhead) in German and education.

She specializes in language pedagogy, particularly the use of technology in teaching Norwegian.

She joined the NAHA board of directors in October of 2014. She also serves a member of the NAHA Publications Committee and as a board liaison to the St. Olaf College SpArCs Committee, a special collections and archives planning group in Rolvaag Library. She is the immediate past president of the Society for the Advancement for Scandinavian Study (SASS).

ANNUAL FUND APPEAL

The end of 2017 marks an exciting year for NAHA. In May, members gathered in conjunction with the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS) in downtown Minneapolis. June brought our Northern Migrations Tour and the NAHA-Norge triennial seminar in Stavanger. We celebrated the retirements of our longtime editor, Todd Nichol, and archivist, Gary De Krey, in August. And in November, members gathered at the Mill City Museum for a forum on Norwegian foodways. Throughout the year, we assisted scholars, students, and family historians in their archival research, both in person and remotely, while producing the final index volume of our “From America to Norway” series.

All of these activities would be impossible without our members, whose support accounts for nearly half of our operating budget each year. Help us finish the year in strong financial shape so we can carry out our plans for 2018. To donate to our 2017 Annual Fund, look for the year-end mailing or donate online at naha.stolaf.edu.
NAHA SEEKS JOURNAL EDITOR

With the retirement of NAHA Editor Todd Nichol, the Association is seeking a new editor. At the same time, the Publications Committee is planning to launch a “new” project with roots that run deep in the Association’s history: a peer-reviewed journal, with the first issue scheduled for fall 2019.

The roots of article publishing in NAHA go back to 1926, when the Association released the first issue of *Studies and Records*. Since then, NAHA has published 36 volumes of studies. Over the years, the name of the series has evolved from *Studies and Records* to *Norwegian-American Studies and Records* to *Norwegian-American Studies*. However, the intent has remained the same: to encourage and support scholarship in the field by offering a peer-reviewed platform and an audience composed of NAHA members, the scholarly community, and beyond. The Association aims for this new journal to have broad appeal to members and the academic community by seeking engaging content, employing a fresh, appealing design, and offering a digital edition as well as print.

For more information and to view the job description, visit [naha.stolaf.edu](http://naha.stolaf.edu). Questions regarding the editorial appointment, the new journal, or the publications program in general can be directed to NAHA Director Amy Boxrud (boxrud@stolaf.edu) or Publications Committee Chair Daron Olson (darolson@iue.edu).

HOLIDAY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

A membership to NAHA is a welcomed gift for the history or genealogy lover on your list. It can also be the perfect way to introduce friends or family members to their Norwegian roots. A membership includes four quarterly issues of *Currents*, a 14-oz. ceramic NAHA mug, free use of the archives, and more. Memberships start at $55 ($40 for students). Order by Dec. 19 to ensure mug delivery by Dec. 24. For more information, visit [naha.stolaf.edu](http://naha.stolaf.edu).
In following your Norwegian ancestors’ migration across the Atlantic, NAHA volunteer Dale Hovland has some suggestions. The Norwegian Digital Archives (digitalarkivet.no/en) are an excellent resource, including when tracking migration. “Emigration was a very significant event for folks, and descendants today are interested in details of the journey to the new home,” Hovland says. In addition to learning your ancestors’ age, occupation, marital status, and destination, the name of the ship they traveled on may be available in the digital archives.

After you have a few important details, the Norway Heritage website (norwayheritage.com) can also be useful in learning more about your family migration story. This website has general information on the history of emigrant ships and emigration from Norway. Researchers can also search for a specific voyage by departure or arrival date, ship company, or ship name.

When researching these records, it’s important to keep in mind that Norwegian emigrants often did not go directly from Norway to their final destination. Many ships that left ports in Norway stopped in England, where passengers would stay for a few days before boarding another ship to America. “The Norway Heritage site shows all the stops that a given ship would make. If the last stop was England, then that obviously was not their last stop,” Hovland says.

To use an earlier example, it is possible to search for the ship Juno, which was the name of the ship Waldemar and Camilla Ager took in April of 1885, according to information from the Norwegian Digital Archives. (For more on the Ager family migration, see Currents, Vol. 165, p.5.) This leads to a list of ships named Juno and the corresponding dates they were active. Clicking on a ship name leads to a list of its voyages. Following Waldemar and Camilla’s path leads to the 1885 entry, Christiania - Christiansand - Hull, which links to a list of the ships taking this route in 1885. After finding their ship, Juno (4), and the date they left Christiania (now Oslo), click the steering wheel icon next to the entry to see a list of possible ships they could have taken from England to the United States.

The ships that have a small arrow next to them are considered confirmed connections, meaning there is documentation that the ship departed and arrived as reported. Hovland got lucky when tracking the Agers’ journey: He found records of the exact ship they took to America. “It doesn’t happen that way usually, but there was other documentation also, because Camilla’s memoirs mention [their ship] the S/S Baltic specifically,” Hovland says.

“EMIGRATION was a very significant event for folks, and descendants today are interested in details of the journey to the new home.” – Dale Hovland
On Nov. 2, the Norwegian-American Historical Association teamed up with the Mill City Museum in the historic Mill District of Minneapolis for From the Norwegian-American Table, a forum on Norwegian-American foodways, past and present.

NAHA board member Debbie Miller, co-author of “Potluck Paradise,” convened a panel of Norwegian food and drink experts: Darlene Fossum-Martin, educational specialist at Vesterheim Museum; Chris Dorff, president of Olsen Fish Company; Haakon Nelson, brand ambassador for Vikre Distillery; and Solveig Tofte, founder of Sun Street Breads.

In addition to the panel discussion, about 120 attendees enjoyed lefse and fløtegrøt demos and samples of herring, aquavit, and several baked goods. Many of the recipes from the evening are featured on the following pages. Participants also had the opportunity to enjoy the museum exhibits and attractions.

“The crowd looked like they were enjoying the sociability created by the food and drink, and they were interested in the stories behind the consumables as well,” Miller says.
GRANDMA LOU’S LEFSE

8 cups of riced potatoes
1/2 cup of whipping cream (not whipped)
1-1/2 sticks of butter
1 tablespoon salt (skimpy)
1 teaspoon sugar
1-1/2 – 3 cups flour

Fast boil 5 lbs of russet potatoes with jackets on. Peel while hot and rice the potatoes. Combine with cream, butter, salt, and sugar. Refrigerate overnight (or 8 hours).

Assemble electric lefse grill, rolling pin with cotton cover, board with pastry cloth, and lefse turning stick. Flour the pastry cloth and sock on the rolling pin well. Preheat grill to 460 degrees F.

Just before rolling out the dough, add 2-1/2 – 3 cups of flour to the potato mixture (use less flour at first, since the dough needs to be just right—not too sticky, not too dry). Mix well with hands. Roll dough into balls that are approximately ½ cup and place them in the refrigerator so they are easier to roll.

Place ball of dough in the center of the cloth and roll from the center out. Be careful not to roll over the center too much. Roll the dough until it is thin and nearly the size of the lefse grill. It should be thin enough to be translucent, but not so thin that it tears.

Slide a floured stick under the rolled dough and lift it onto the hot grill. When bubbles cover the surface and brown spots begin to appear on the bottom (after about 1 minute), flip the lefse using the stick. Repeat on the other side, which will cook more rapidly.

Place cooked lefse on a clean towel and cover it with another towel. Continue stacking the lefse after it is cooked.

Recipe from Nikoline Tushar, former museum interpreter at Mill City Museum

Recipes continue on page 8...
TRADITIONAL BAKED LUTEFISK

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place fish in a casserole dish and cover with foil. Bake 30 minutes or until fish flakes. Do not overbake! Remove fish from pan and serve immediately with melted butter or cream sauce.

Recipe shared by Chris Dorff of Olsen Fish Company, Minneapolis. To be served with boiled potatoes, lefse, and creamed peas.

FLØTEGRØT
(SWEET CREAM PORRIDGE)

1 quart milk
1 cup half & half cream
1 cup butter
3/4 – 1 cup flour
1/2 cup sugar

In a saucepan, heat milk and half & half, stirring often to prevent scorching.

In a second, heavy saucepan, melt butter and add flour; cook about 3 minutes, stirring constantly with a wire whisk. Pour in scalding milk and half & half and cook, stirring frequently until mixture bubbles and thickens. Stir in sugar. Pour into bowl and pour melted butter on top. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon.

Makes about 10 8-oz. servings. May be kept warm and served from a crockpot on low heat. May be refrigerated and reheated in microwave.

Agnes Ford’s recipe, shared by Darlene Fossum-Martin, is used at events at Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa.

KRUMKAKE

Yield: 9 cookies per egg

Eggs (in shells to start) — about 60 grams for a large egg

Scale the following ingredients equal to the weight of the egg in shell:
Sugar — 60 grams, or 1/3 cup minus 1 tsp
Unsalted butter, melted — 60 grams, or 4 Tbsp plus 1 tsp
All-purpose flour — 60 grams, or 1/2 cup minus 1 Tbsp.

And for each egg, use:
1/8 tsp cardamom
1/8 tsp kosher salt

Whisk the egg a bit, and add the rest of the ingredients. Whisk to combine (the butter should be lukewarm). Use 1 Tbsp of batter on hot krumkake iron, cook until done and roll around cone. (This takes about 30-35 seconds per cookie on my iron.) Let the cookie set a few seconds, then remove from cone and cool on a wire rack.

Sons of Norway recipe adapted by Solveig Tofte. She says this is the “more sturdy” type of krumkake she grew up on.

NORWEGIAN COFFEE

Add a shot of Vikre Voyageur Aquavit to a mug of strong coffee. Add brown sugar to taste, plus cream or whipped cream.

Recipe from the website of Vikre Distillery, Duluth, Minn.
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, recordings, and community or congregational materials at home? Do 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. 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 JULY 1 – SEPT. 30, 2017

FAMILY LETTERS, HISTORIES, MEMOIRS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES:

• Bowen, S. S. (2017). *Letters from Ole Rocksvold*. Decorah, Iowa: Anundsen Publishing Company. 492-page bound volume of the life, letters, and family history of Ole Rocksvold, born 1832 at Roksvold(en) farm, Vestre Toten, Norway, and immigrated in 1853 to the United States via Quebec, Canada, then Wisconsin, and finally to Glenwood, Iowa. Served in the U.S. Civil War and was a captured prisoner of war at Shiloh/Pittsburg Landing, Tenn. He was released from prison, then also served at the battle of Vicksburg, Miss. After he was mustered out in 1864, he married Anne Gulbrandsdatter (Gilbertson) Strandbakken (born in 1839 at Strandbakken farm, Handeland, Norway) in Decorah, Iowa. Ole was postmaster of the Thoten Post Office for 25 years and a founder of the Glenwood Lutheran Church. He died in 1922. Also included in collection is companion CD. Added to P0539 Family Histories. Donated by Sharon Smith Bowen.


• Hall, Nils (1859–1951) family collection (1888–1978). Nils (Niels) Hall emigrated from Norway in 1882...
and married Hannah Olson in Hennepin County, Minn., in 1891. Throughout Nils’s career, he worked as a cabinet maker/carpenter. Collection includes correspondence, photographs, record books, passports, ornately framed baptismal record and portraits, books, and many items belonging to Nils’s sons, Elliott and Martin. Also included is a wooden block, 6.5” x 3.25” x 1.25” with an aged and deteriorated paper affixed to the top of the block. Handwritten text may have described the battles at Göta älv, 1717–19, between the Swedish Empire and Denmark-Norway. Added to P0539 Family Histories. Donated by the Museum of Lake Minnetonka, Excelsior, Minn., which received it from Katherine Porter, the current owner of the home previously lived in by the Halls.


- Heiberg family history (1800s–1997). Family history materials including family tree, family portraits, research, bible records, photographs, moving images, correspondence, biographies, maps, an electronic GEDCOM file to find ancestors’ names, and memorabilia of the Heiberg family history. The collection contains digital copies of the Heibergs’ German documents (Wellendorf family), which were donated to the German-American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa, and the Heibergs’ Northfield-related items, which were donated to the Northfield Historical Society. Images of all three collections are digitized and stored on a USB drive that is part of the collection. A selection of names in the Norwegian collection includes Hancock, Hulberg, and Rovelstad. Added to P0539 Family Histories. Donated by NAHA Lifetime members Dr. Elvin Heiberg and his son Keith Heiberg, as well as Dr. Heiberg’s son, Mark Heiberg.


- Walstad, Leif Norvald (1894–1948) family papers. Leif was born in Trondheim, emigrated in 1912, and married Margaret Schroeder (born 1897 in Asak) 1918 in Manhattan, Kansas. After Leif served in World War I, he was a linotype operator for Fremad, Dag Bladet, Sioux Falls Press, and The Argus Leader in South Dakota. The collection includes correspondence to his daughter in column inches following his linotype training, photographs, scrapbooks, family
history information, and Warrior yearbooks from Washington High School in Sioux Falls, S.D. for the years 1940–42, 1944. Added to P0539 Family Histories. Donated by Leif’s granddaughter, Margit Holakoui.


- Hoien, Iver (1871–1934) and Emilie Nelson Hoien (1880–94) cabinet cards. 33 cabinet cards, all with portraits of unidentified individuals. The Hoiens were born in Tiller, Norway; Emilie Nelson Hoien was from Østre Toten, Norway. Added to P0655 Photographic Collection. Donated by Jane Wallace.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Dalbotten-Midje photographs (circa 1857–1999). Black and white and colorized photographs of individual and family portraits of babies to adults; family events such as weddings, anniversaries, and funerals; women working in millinery shop, school class photograph, and male band photographs. Added to P0539 Family Histories; Dalbotten-Midje Families. Donated by NAHA Associate Member, Mary Dalbotten.

Christmas at Camp Little Norway — Located near Toronto, Canada, Camp Little Norway was a training camp for more than 2,500 members of the Royal Norwegian Air Force during World War 2. Financial support for the camp came from Camp Little Norway Association, a national organization founded in Minneapolis to raise funds to aid Norway and Norwegian nationals in Canada and in the United States. More about Camp Little Norway and related groups can be found in A. N. Rygg’s book American Relief for Norway (Arnesen Press Inc., 1947).