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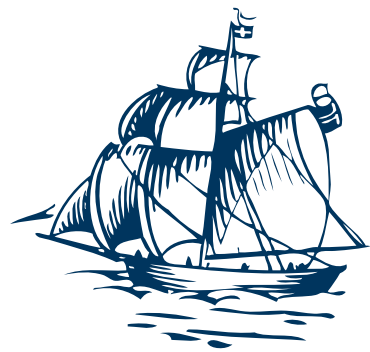


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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION | FALL 2019 VOLUME 173



2018
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INSIDE



OUR MINNESOTA SCHOOL ROOTS

on the cover

Waldemar Ager is second from right in this photo taken outside the Fremad Publishing Company in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where the *Reform* newspaper was printed. His sons Trygve (center) and Eyvind (second from left) worked with him. The photo is part of the Ager Collection in the NAHA archives.

There is already a buzz among Norwegian-American organizations about 2025, the bicentennial year of organized emigration from Norway to America. The same year, NAHA will observe its centennial.

NAHA's founding in 1925 evidenced a heightened awareness among Norwegian Americans of the importance of preserving and interpreting the immigration story. It was part of a national trend. Several other immigrant and ethnic groups formed similar organizations in the early 20th century, including the Swedish Historical Society in America in 1905.

The beginnings of NAHA were also tied to an emerging thread in the field of American immigration history. Called the "Minnesota School" by immigration scholar Donna Gabaccia, this approach was developed at several Midwestern land-grant universities, most notably by historians Theodore Blegen and George Stephenson at the University of Minnesota. The methods were centered on the immigrants themselves, with an emphasis on their experiences and voices and ethnic culture.

Historians Arthur Schlesinger, Sr., Oscar Handlin, and Marcus Hansen at Harvard, and other scholars at primarily East Coast universities, interpreted immigration quite differently. Their work focused more generally on the assimilation of immigrants into the American workforce and culture, and the resulting effects on American society.

Blegen had a long association with NAHA, serving as its editor from 1925 until 1960. The establishment of the NAHA archives in the late 1920s, under Ole Rølvaag's direction, was squarely in line with the Minnesota School approach of creating archives in collaboration with both academic researchers and immigrant groups. The letters, diaries, and photographs in these collections were essential sources for a research focus on immigrant viewpoints and communities. Certainly, the archives are an important aspect of the association's own history.

Our work in collecting, cataloging, preserving, and digitizing continues. Look for more initiatives regarding the archives in coming months.

Meanwhile, for those curious about the Minnesota School of immigration history, there is more to read on the topic from Donna Gabaccia. Now a professor of history at the University of Toronto—Scarborough, she is a former director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Her article "The Minnesota School and Immigration History at Midwestern Land Grant Universities, 1890–2005" appeared in the *Journal of Migration History* in 2015. It can be accessed online at <https://cla.umn.edu/sites/cla.umn.edu/files/minnesotaschool.pdf>.

Dennis Gimmestad

Dennis Gimmestad, President



in brief



JOIN NAHA IN NORWAY NEXT JUNE

Two memorable travel opportunities are coming up in June 2020. Both are open to members and friends of NAHA.

The Norwegian-American Historical Association in Norway (NAHA-Norge), will host its triennial seminar at the Norwegian Emigration Museum near Hamar, June 18–21. See more information and the call for papers below.

Following the seminar, NAHA will offer a week-long tour, "Artistry and Industry of Norway." The group will meet in Norway's capital, Oslo, before traveling west through the stunning Telemark and Hardanger

regions, and finally arriving in Bergen. Highlights of the tentative itinerary include the Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Telemark Canal, built in the 19th century.

Other tour sites also offer a blend of history, industry, and artistry, including Hadeland Glassworks, built in 1762; the Hardanger Bestikk cutlery factory on the Hardangerfjord; and the Oleana knitwear factory, which continues the rich history of Norwegian

textile design and production. Along the way, there will be spectacular landscapes, locally sourced cuisine, and opportunities to learn how industrialization and migration affected these regions from the 18th century to the present. The tour will be guided by NAHA Editor Anna Peterson, associate professor of history at Luther College, and led by Amy Boxrud, executive director of NAHA, together with local experts.

Arrangements for both events will be made by Borton Travel, which also can assist with pre- and post-tour travel for those interested. The finalized tour itinerary, cost, and registration instructions will be posted on the NAHA website in coming weeks. Space is limited. To receive details as they become available, contact us at naha@stolaf.edu or 507-786-3221.

June 18–21

Tentative dates for the NAHA-Norge seminar at the Norwegian Emigration Museum in Ottestad, near Hamar

June 21–28

Tour: "Artistry and Industry of Norway"

NAHA-Norge Call for Papers

The Norwegian-American Historical Association in Norway announces its next seminar, "Nordic Identity Formation in a Transnational Context," to be held June 18–21, 2020 (dates are still tentative), at the Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, near Hamar, Norway. The seminar will focus on ties between emigrants from the Nordic countries and their countries of origin, and how this contact shaped the identity of Nordic Americans. Presentations may be delivered in English or Norwegian. Prospective speakers are invited to submit a proposal and a one-page curriculum vitae to NAHA-Norway Chair Nils Olav Østrem by January 1, 2020 (nils.o.ostrem@uis.no). More information is available at nahanorge.wordpress.com.



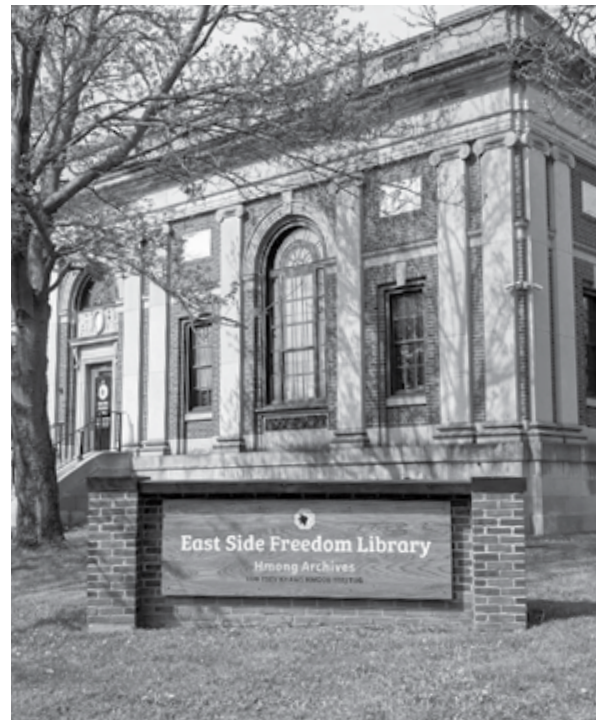
IMAGE (FACING PAGE, TOP): TROLLTUNGA ACTIVE

FALL MEMBER EVENT: EXPLORE ST. PAUL'S EAST SIDE

Save the date, Saturday, October 19, 2019, for a NAHA event focused on ethnic settlement on St. Paul's East Side. We will gather at 10 a.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, and from there will take a walking tour of the city's Payne-Phalen neighborhood with Macalester College emeritus professor of history Peter Rachleff as our guide.

Rachleff is co-executive director of the Freedom Library, an institution dedicated to telling the stories of residents on the East Side, including the Dakota who first lived there, European immigrants who came in the 19th and early 20th centuries, African Americans and Mexicans who came between the world wars, and more recent immigrants from Southeast Asia, Central America, and East Africa, who are revitalizing the neighborhood. Following the tour, we'll reconvene at the library for refreshments and a discussion to further explore the history of the neighborhood.

Plan to attend and invite a friend—the public is always welcome. More information and online registration will be available at naha.stolaf.edu by September 1.



RECENT HAPPENINGS



A Gathering of Presidents

Current and past NAHA presidents enjoyed a meal together in Northfield in May. They met to hear an update on the association and discuss plans for its future. Front row: Brian Rude, Lois Rand. Back row: Dennis Gimmestad, Karen Humphrey, and John Tunheim.



Spring Member Meetup

About 50 members and friends of NAHA gathered on April 30 to hear Sigrid Lien (left) present research from her book *Pictures of Longing: Photography and the Norwegian-American Migration* (University of Minnesota Press, 2018). NAHA hosted the event at Norway House in Minneapolis. Pictured with Lien is the book's editor, Kristian Tvedten.



Looking Ahead NAHA board member Kyle Jansson (standing) and strategic planning consultant Beth Kallestad (standing, left) facilitated a visioning discussion during a retreat held May 10–11 at the Minnesota Center for the Humanities in St. Paul. Seated (from left) are board members Scott Knudson, Debbie Miller, Kristin Anderson, and NAHA Archivist Kristina Warner.

RELAUNCH OF NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN STUDIES COMING SOON

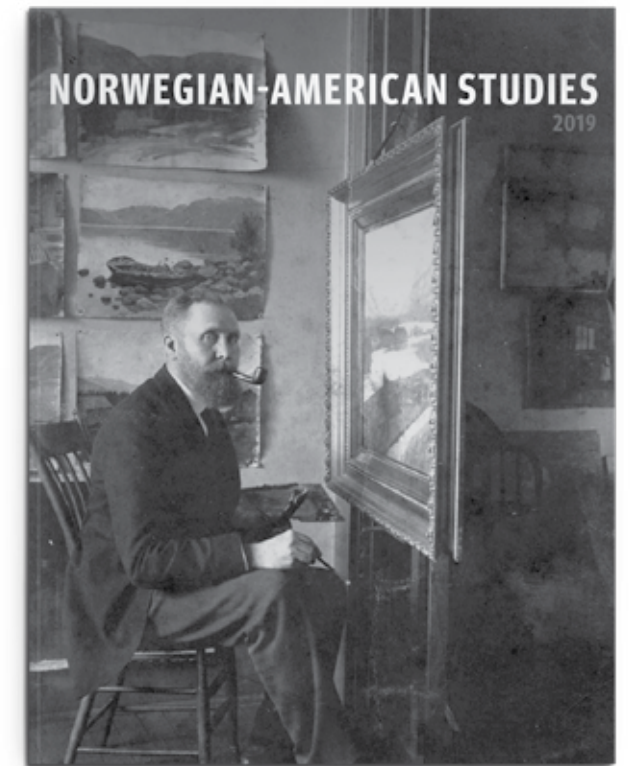
NAHA is pleased to announce the redesign and relaunch of its academic journal, *Norwegian-American Studies*. Since 1926, the association has published 36 volumes of the journal, detailing and interpreting the Norwegian-American experience. While the look and feel of the journal have changed, its primary mission has not. “*Studies* remains focused on showcasing new scholarship in the field of Norwegian-American studies, including the related fields of history, literature, religion, art, and cultural studies,” says NAHA Editor Anna Peterson.

Now published annually, the journal also aims to facilitate intellectual exchange. “Perhaps one of the biggest changes is the variety of content readers can now expect,” Peterson says. The journal will feature original, peer-reviewed research alongside discussions of scholarly works in progress, an ongoing dialog about the teaching and learning of Norwegian-American studies, reviews of books recently published, and more.

While NAHA retains editorial control and copyright for the journal, it will be published as part of the University of Minnesota’s journal program. “We are thrilled to be partnering with the University of Minnesota Press,” says Peterson. “They have an impressive record of publishing scholarship in the field of Scandinavian studies and a longstanding relationship with NAHA, co-publishing several manuscripts with us. We are building on this historic relationship to offer *Studies* in both print and electronic forms. All of these factors made the collaboration a natural fit.”

NAHA members in good standing can expect an issue of *Studies* to arrive by the end of the year. A digital version, along with back issues of the journal, will be available free to members via JSTOR, a digital library of more than 12 million academic journal articles, books, and primary sources in 75 disciplines.

Submission guidelines for *Norwegian-American Studies* can be found at naha.stolaf.edu/pubs/guidelines.htm. For more information, contact Anna Peterson at naha-editor@stolaf.edu.



“ONE OF THE BIGGEST
CHANGES IS THE VARIETY
OF CONTENT READERS
CAN NOW EXPECT.”

— NAHA Editor Anna Peterson

Kari Garnett is 2019 Summer Intern

This year for the second time, NAHA has created a summer internship for a St. Olaf student. Kari Garnett ('21) began a 10-week internship on July 1, working closely with NAHA staff to gain exposure to many facets of archives and nonprofit management.

Garnett spent June in Norway on St. Olaf's Snåsa Youth Exchange program. “I learned so much about the people who decided to leave Norway and come to the U.S.,” Garnett says. A Norwegian and psychology major with a Nordic studies concentration, she looks forward to applying her summer learning to her future coursework. “It will be very helpful to be working with NAHA since I’m taking a class on Scandinavian emigration this fall.”

The internship is supported by the Sigvald Qvale Fund, which encourages undergraduate student activity in NAHA. “NAHA is fortunate to have these funds to involve students in our mission. Our student employees are an important part of our operations,” says NAHA Executive Director Amy Boxrud.



WALDEMAR AGER, 150 YEARS LATER

HE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT NORWEGIAN AND AMERICAN IDENTITY THAT STILL ECHO TODAY.

BY DENISE LOGELAND

What would Waldemar Ager say about Norwegian America in the year 2019? It’s impossible to know with certainty. Ager was born in 1869 in Fredrikstad, Norway, and died in 1941 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he spent most of his life. But during his long career as editor, author, temperance advocate, and champion of a multicultural America, Ager left a paper trail of his views on issues that still resonate today.

The Ager Collection at NAHA holds some of those documents. There are handwritten speeches from Syttende Mai celebrations and other events around the country. Ager’s penciled lines of text fill the backs of scrap paper from the print shop where his *Reform* newspaper was published. One archive box contains the newspaper’s mailing list from September 1941. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is among the subscribers, in exile from occupied Norway at a London address.

Words were Ager’s stock in trade and there are manuscripts for editorials and short stories, along with the ephemera of close family ties and friendships. The letters and telegrams that Ager wrote and kept show his wide correspondence with Norwegian America’s leading authors, pastors, temperance activists, and many others.



In his time, Ager was one of the best known Norwegian immigrants in the United States. His work was widely read. He was listed in *Who’s Who in America* in 1916. Norway’s King Haakon VII named him a knight of the Order of St. Olav in 1923. So it’s worth wondering, in this 150th anniversary year of Ager’s birth, not just what Ager would think about present-day Norwegian America, but also why so few in Norwegian America think about Ager these days.

The Young Prohibitionist

The Ager family didn’t leave Norway all at once. Martinius, Waldemar’s father, emigrated in 1880, opening a tailoring shop in Chicago. The children and their mother, Mathea, followed later. Waldemar emigrated in 1885, when he was 16. Norwegian-language institutions were thriving in America at the time. The 1870s and 1880s brought a high tide of Norwegian immigration to the United States. Immigrant churches held services and taught Sunday school in Norwegian. The Norwegian-language press in the 1880s included *Decorah Posten*, *Minneapolis Tidende*, and the Chicago papers *Skandinaven* and *Norden*, among dozens of others.

“If the language is lost, then interest for all that is Norwegian is lost,” Ager wrote in 1908. For him, the struggle to preserve the Norwegian language in America was a matter of cultural self-preservation, just as the temperance movement was.

Waldemar Ager apprenticed as a printer at *Norden*. But his decision to abstain from alcohol led him to write occasionally for other publications: the temperance journals *Afholdsbladet* and *Templarbladet*, and a similarly focused paper called *Reform*.

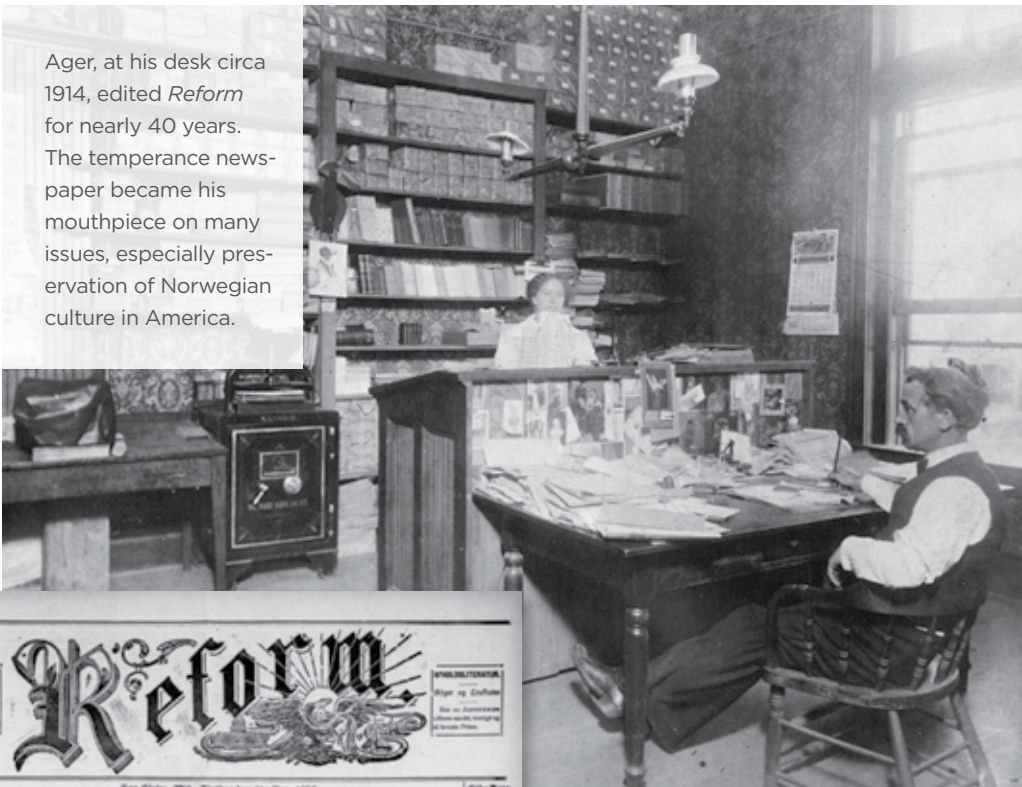
While immigrants and their community institutions were prevalent in America in the 1880s, so were saloons. They tripled in number from an estimated 100,000 in 1870 to about 300,000 by 1900. Ager, whose father struggled with alcohol abuse, had committed himself to a teetotaler’s life already at age 14, joining a temperance society when he lived for a time in Oslo. In Chicago, too, Ager joined an abstinence group, the Harmony Total Abstinence Society, in 1887.

Throughout his career, Ager was sympathetic toward those who were *drikkesyke*, drink sick. He saw alcohol as a seductive poison and the Norwegian temperance movement in America as a means of “self-preservation” for immigrants.

From Activist to Author

Ager became a United States citizen in October 1891. The next year, he left Chicago and moved to Eau Claire to work as a printer for *Reform*.

He was quick to organize a chapter of the Templar Order abstinence society in Eau Claire. Twelve charter members met in June 1892. As Einar Haugen explains in *Immigrant Idealist, a Literary Biography of Waldemar Ager, Norwegian American* (published by NAHA in 1989), abstinence societies were an alternative to church gatherings, a secular but safe social outlet for young immi-



grants. At temple meetings, they sang and enjoyed musical performances, folk dancing, and recitations of poetry and literature. Through the Excelsior Temple that Ager founded, he met Gurolle Blestren from Tromsø, Norway, who he married in 1899.

At *Reform*, Ager rose from printer to regular contributing writer to manager by 1896. When Editor Ole Olson died in 1903, Ager took his place.

For more than a decade, he had been developing his skills as a writer for the temperance cause, producing not just news items and opinion pieces but poems and short fiction. In 1894, he put out his first book, a collection of verse and short stories that he titled *Paa drikkeondets konto* (*Charged to the Account of the Evils of Drink*). Fremad Publishing Company, which published *Reform*, printed and distributed the book. Encouraged by positive reviews and good sales, Ager wrote a novel a few years later, *I strømmen* (*In the Stream*), published by Fremad in 1899.

His fiction was about the perils of drink, but reviewers found in Ager’s books much more than morality

REFORM, DIGITIZED

Issues of the *Reform* newspaper from 1896 through 1941 are available online on the website of the Waldemar Ager Association (agerhouse.org/reform-online.htm). The text is searchable, but with some limitations due to *Reform*’s Fraktur typeface.

For those who can’t read Norwegian, the association has published *A Reform Sampler: Selections from a Norwegian Language Newspaper, 1898-1941*. Find details on ordering the book at agerhouse.org/reform.htm.

IMAGES: NAHA



ABOVE: Waldemar Ager (far left) was already an *avholdsmann*, temperance man, as a new arrival in Chicago, age 16. His father, Martinus, and mother, Mathea, stand next to him in this photo taken in front of Martinus's tailor shop. **RIGHT:** The Ager family home in Eau Claire has been restored and now houses the Waldemar Ager Association and the Ager Museum (agerhouse.org).

tales. They praised his vividly drawn characters, his exemplary use of the Norwegian language in a way that was both literary and unaffected, and his humor.

"The author is a young man," wrote one reviewer, "and it seems probable that he is destined to take a place at the front rank among Norwegian writers of fiction."

The Mother Tongue

Ager had found his voice as a writer, and it had the breadth and depth to carry his cultural ambitions. In a February 1900 letter to friend and fellow author Ole Amundsen Buslett, Ager talked about the need for Norwegian Americans "to create a literature of our own" that can gain respect.

His reasons were more than aesthetic. As the children of immigrants increasingly spoke English, preservation of the Norwegian language and culture in America became a growing concern for Ager. He did not want immigrants to remain outside the

American mainstream, rather he believed that their strength as contributors to America would come from being rooted in their own culture. He saw literature—and the Norwegian language itself—as bearers of that culture.

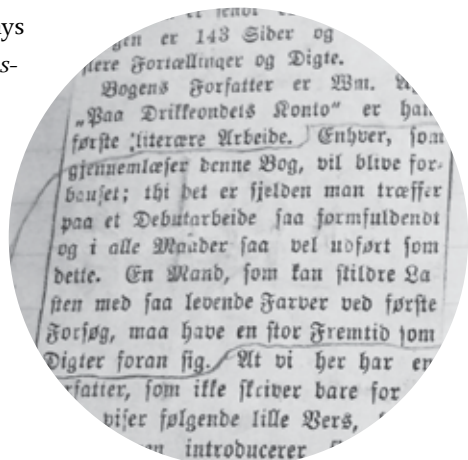
In a 1905 essay, "On Preserving Our Mother Tongue," he argued that retaining Norwegian would build character, honor forebears, and engender ethnic pride. In a 1908 piece called "The Most Important Thing," he warned that "if the language is lost, then interest for all that is Norwegian is lost."

Ager's own contribution to a Norwegian American literature included nine collections of stories and essays and six novels. His 1910 novel *Kristus for Pilatus: En Norsk Amerikansk Fortelling* (*Christ Before Pilate: A Norwegian American Story*) became the first by a Norwegian American to be republished in Norway, when Aschehoug, the Oslo publishing house, released it the next year.

Plural Issues and Pluralism

In his books and in his writing for *Reform*, temperance remained a thread, but other issues gained space as years passed. Among them were women's suffrage (which Ager favored), the possible involvement of America in the First World War (which he did not), and especially his campaign to promote Norwegian language and culture.

"*Reform* reflects Ager and his interests more through time," says Greg Kocken, president of the Waldemar Ager Association in Eau Claire. The newspaper "expresses



ABOVE, FAR RIGHT: Ager was a leader in the Norwegian Society of America, whose mission was promoting Norwegian language and culture. The Sigvald Qvale declamation contest for young adults was one of the group's projects, with medals awarded for dramatic recitations from Norwegian literature.

BELOW: Someone—Ager himself?—has circled a passage in a review of his first story collection in 1894: "... It is rare that one encounters a debut work so fully formed and in all ways so well done as this. A man who can portray misfortune in such living color on a first attempt must have a great future as an author ahead of him."

IMAGES: NAHA

the idea of Norwegian-American identity as observed through Ager's lens." With the arrival of prohibition, Ager promoted the fact that *Reform* had "added other causes to its program" besides temperance, and he encouraged readers to support the Norwegian-language press for their own ultimate benefit.

But Norwegian Americans' feelings of identity were changing. Through the 1910s and 1920s, Ager watched as church and other organizations abandoned Norwegian in favor of English. He was rankled by the decision of the brand new Norwegian-American Historical Association in 1925 to publish its works in English. He railed against anti-foreign propaganda and the "100 percent Americanism" promoted by U.S.-born citizens in the years surrounding World War I. But he also blamed Norwegian Americans themselves for "quietly choking" the language, as he wrote to his friend Buslett in 1921.

Kocken says it's worth noting that Ager was not parochial about the importance of preserving language and a distinct cultural identity. When anti-German feelings were strong in the 1910s, "German language classes were being dropped in high schools and universities, and [Ager] was opposed to that," Kocken says. To Ager, "German American didn't necessarily mean anti-American."

Questions That Still Matter

Earlier this year, when the Ager Association held events to commemorate the anniversary of Ager's birth, it invited local Hmong educators to the Ager House museum in Eau Claire. They spoke about their efforts to preserve their language

among the second and third generations of their immigrant community.

"The parallels between Ager's promotion of the Norwegian language during his lifetime and what we see with newer immigrant groups was striking," Kocken says.

How will the Hmong efforts fare? Today, despite Ager's decades of agitation, only a tiny percentage of Norwegian Americans can *snakke norsk*. Kocken concedes there is irony in the fact that the Ager Association has digitized 43 years of *Reform* to make it accessible online, but for most people it remains inaccessible. Ager, who championed the Norwegian language and Norwegianism, has mostly disappeared behind a

language barrier and can no longer reach his audience.

"By all of the measures that Ager would have applied, he probably would have seen himself as a failure" in 2019, Kocken says. For Ager, language was *the* defining feature of Norwegian ethnic identity. What Ager couldn't foresee, Kocken adds, is that there would still be millions of Americans who identify themselves, in part, through their Norwegian heritage, and that "other aspects of their lives would tie into that heritage and define that ethnicity." For some, the tie is music, for others it's food, for others, sports.

A durable sense of Norwegian-American identity is one of Ager's contributions to this country, but his greatest contribution may be something else, Kocken says. Ager still matters today because he asked questions about American identity for which we still seek answers. "That conversation of 'What does it mean to be an American?' 'What does it mean to be an immigrant?' is one of his most lasting legacies."

AGER IN TRANSLATION

Many of Waldemar Ager's books have been digitized in Norwegian and made available free of charge by the Hathi Trust Digital Library (search using Ager's name at hathitrust.org). The works listed here have been translated into English and may be available via a local library or interlibrary loan (check worldcat.org), or from online sellers of secondhand books.



I Sit Alone, 1931 / *Hundeøine* (Dog Eyes), 1929



Christ Before Pilate: an American Story, 1924 / *Kristus for Pilatus: en norsk amerikansk fortelling*, 1910



On the Way to the Melting Pot, 1995 / *Paa veien til smeltepotten*, 1917



Sons of the Old Country, 1983 / *Gamlelandets sønner*, 1926



When You Are Tired of Playing (Stories for Eyvind), 1907 / *Fortellinger for Eyvind*, 1906 (Available in English at hathitrust.org.)



Colonel Heg and His Boys: a Norwegian Regiment in the American Civil War, 2000 / *Oberst Heg og hans gutter*, 1916

KRISTINA WARNER, ARCHIVIST

Significant additions to the archives from recent months are listed below. Although we aren't able to acknowledge all donations here, we do appreciate every donation.

We also welcome your help in building the NAHA collection. Materials illustrating all aspects of Norwegian-American history and culture are of interest. NAHA collection guidelines are available on the "Archives" page of our website, naha.stolaf.edu/archives/guidelines.pdf. Please contact the archives at naha-archivist@stolaf.edu with your questions.

DONATED APRIL – JUNE 2019

- Barboe/Stene family letters, 1903–1908: Letters, documents, and photographs from Ole and Olena Stene. Ole, a second-generation Norwegian American, lived in Alcester, South Dakota. Olena lived in and around Sioux City, Iowa. The collection encompasses their courtship and includes details about life and community activities at the time. A packet of letters in Norwegian includes some about the death of Ole's father, Knute Barboe, in Kansas City. **Addition: NAHA 2019/009 Barboe/Stene family letters, 1903–08.** Donated by Heather Craig.

- Iver Kierland papers, 1873–1950: Kierland emigrated from Granvin, Norway, in 1890, when he was 18. He brought with him two *mindebøger*, journals of souvenirs and memories, from his high school years in Voss, Norway. Other items in the collection are examples of his classwork at the normal school in Moorhead, Minnesota; work papers, correspondence, and certification related to his teaching and further education at the University of Minnesota; and a speech he gave in the late 1940s that summarizes his life's journey. **Addition: NAHA 2019/038 Iver Kierland papers, 1873–1950.** Donated by Richard Long.

- Gonwick/Gonwick family collection: Clippings and photographs about the Monsrud Lumber Mill,

Gonwick, Minnesota. Also histories and photographs of Anton Elias Knudsen Gonwick, Emma Mathilde Gonwick Monsrud, Clara Otilde Knudsdatter Gonwick. **Addition: NAHA 2019/037 Gonwick/Gonwick family collection.**

- L. A. Rossing papers, 1866–1963: Letters from Victor Bernell Rossing to Marie, his future wife, during and after World War I, July 1917–February 1919. Included are two letter collections in PDF format. **Added to P586 L. A. Rossing papers, 1866–1963.** Donated by Greg Rossing, associate member.

- Margaret Andersen journal, circa 1900: Journal kept during her time traveling with the Salvation Army. Contains mostly hymns written by hand in Norwegian, with some English text. **Addition: NAHA 2019/001 Margaret Andersen journal, circa 1900.** Donated by her granddaughter, Margaret Andersen.

- Nedberge (Berg): Family of Ivar Gulvsen Nedberge and Marta Torbjørnsdatter Horten: Family history by Ann Esterby Romo, self-published in 2013. This 389-page soft-bound volume outlines the family genealogy and includes photographs and records of the seven children who immigrated to America: Gilbert (Gulv), John (Johan), Tom (Torbjørn), Bertha (Brita), Sivert (Sjur), Martha (Marta), and Lars Berg/Nedberge. **Addition: NAHA 2019/004 Nedberge (Berg) family history.** Donated by Ann Esterby Romo, lifetime member.

- Ruth's Reminiscences: The Kittil Newhouse and Hans Williams Families: Self-published volume by Gwen Newhouse Jones. She tells stories gathered by Ruth Newhouse Anderson, who was born into the Norwegian settlement at Jefferson Prairie, Rock County, Wisconsin. Included are stories of immigration to the United States and three generations of family life, as well as photographs and a pedigree chart. **Addition: NAHA 2019/036 Kittil Newhouse and Hans Williams family history.** Donated by Gwen Jones, associate member.

- NORTANA records, 1987–2018: The nonprofit Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Association of North America (NORTANA) promotes the study of Norway and the Norwegian language, and encourages cooperation among scholars. Included in this collection are the organization's newsletters, correspondence, and membership information. **Addition: NAHA 2019/005 NORTANA records, 1987–2018.** Donated by Torild Homstad, lifetime member.



LEFT: The sawmill at Wildwood (now Gonvick), Minnesota, in the summer of 1900. Gonvick was named for Martin O. Gonvick, a settler whose parents emigrated from Norway.



This postcard of a log cabin, postmarked in 1910, is a mystery. It arrived on its own in NAHA's mailbox this spring, as if newly mailed in 2019.

HELP US DIGITIZE: ADOPT A CASSETTE

Former NAHA editor Odd S. Lovoll has made a donation of 44 cassette tapes containing interviews that he conducted during research for his book *The Promise Fulfilled: A Portrait of Norwegian Americans Today*. This is an exciting addition to the NAHA archives, and it presents a challenge to us in preserving the material and providing access to it. Cassette tapes have a short lifespan and need to be digitized quickly. Digitization in a preservation format is expensive.

If you want to help us preserve this important record of Norwegian-American history, please consider making a donation (suggested amount \$20 to \$30 per cassette) earmarked for digitizing these tapes. The donation form on the "Giving" page at naha.stolaf.edu allows you to specify the purpose of your gift. Whether you donate online or via check, we are grateful for your support of this project.

Addition: NAHA 2019/008 Odd Lovoll oral interviews. Donated by Odd Lovoll





NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Historical Association

Volume 173, Fall 2019

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IMAGE: NAHA

1925

The Norwegian Glee Club "Sympathy" Orchestra, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This image is part of a recent donation from the Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis, which was formed on August 7, 1912, by two members of other choruses: the Norwegian Good Templar Singing Society and the Hugnad Male Chorus. The glee club joined the Norwegian Singers Society and attended the society's Sangerfest for the first time in 1914. Carl G. O. Hansen, the club's first director, was an influential Norwegian-born journalist, musician, lecturer, and author. He also served as educational director of Sons of Norway, president of the Norwegian-Danish Press Association, and a founder of Det Norske Selskap and of NAHA.