There is something about this time of year that causes us to draw our chairs closer to the home fires and share stories of family and friends, to celebrate and remember, to learn and grow from the experiences. These stories often touch the heart and keep memories alive of those who have paved a way before us. And while these stories illuminate the past, they also give us strength and perspective for our lives today—and for the future.

We are so fortunate, as members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, to be keepers and caretakers of the stories of a people who have contributed much to the history of our country—the great archive of the Norwegian immigrant experience in the rich treasure of letters, diaries, photographs, family histories and other documents and records that comprise the NAHA Archives.

As keepers and caretakers, we also have a promise to fulfill for future generations. Earlier this year the Executive Council initiated a campaign for a climate control project that will safeguard the collection to ensure that its contents will be available and appreciated for years to come.

Karen Annexstad Humphrey is the new president of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, elected at the October 2014 biennial meeting. Her own stories and love of history begin at the country crossroads farming community of Norseland in Nicollet County where her family settled in the 1850s from Toten, Gudbransdal, and Hallingdal. Karen works at the Minnesota Historical Society with families and individuals in philanthropy.

Before the campaign went public, every one of the Executive Council
members made a financial commitment to this project. And now many members have joined in this effort so that we have raised $105,000 toward our goal of $160,000. If you have made a gift, thank you! If you are contemplating a gift and might have some questions, please contact us and we’ll be glad to assist you in any way we can. Please remember that your gift is tax deductible.

And as we tell the stories of our own organization this season, great thanks are given to Brian Rude, Jack Tunheim, and Lois Rand who, as presidents of the NAHA over the past 14 years, governed with distinguished integrity and wisdom.

And our deep and heartfelt thanks to Administrative Director Jackie Henry who has brought the NAHA to a new horizon during her much too brief four years in office. Those who have worked with Jackie know of her exceptional energy, her personal commitment to the organization, her undaunted organizational skills, and her sincere interest and warmth in working with members, donors, friends. Jackie has made the decision to retire. We wish her all the very best, but we will miss her so much.

2014 Biennial Meeting

The NAHA Biennial Members meeting was held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 11 a.m. at St. Olaf College. The required quorum of 30 members as specified in our by-laws was met. The meeting was recorded, along with our keynote presentation by Orm Øverland, and can be viewed online through the link to the NAHA web page at www.naha.stolaf.edu. Meeting materials distributed to members are also posted with the presentation. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you simply give our office a call or send an email to naha@stolaf.edu. Outgoing board members were recognized at the luncheon following the presentation. They are:

Ruth Hanold Crane, board member since 2000
Frankie Shackelford, board member since 2012
Marvin Slind, board member since 2010
Solveig Zempel, board member since 1993
Claudia Berguson stepped down in Dec. 2013

NAHA Board of Directors, Effective October 2014

* Indicates new board member elected at the Biennial Meeting, serving a first term from 2014-2018
^ Indicates board member re-elected to the 2014-2018 term

Executive Committee
President, Karen Annexstad Humphrey, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Vice President, Dennis Gimmestad, St. Louis Park, Minnesota
Secretary, Karen Davidson, New York, New York
Treasurer, Blaine Hedberg^, Westby, Wisconsin
At-Large, Leslee Lane Hoyum, Rockford, Minnesota

Board
Betty Bergland^, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Amy Boxrud^, Northfield, Minnesota
Sarah Halvorson Brunko*, Andover, Minnesota
Dan Dressen, St. Olaf College Representative
Katherine Hanson^, Shoreline, Washington
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Liv Hustvedt, Northfield, Minnesota
Kim Kittilsby*, Auburn, Washington
Ronald Johnson*, Madison, Wisconsin
John Thomas Nilson^, Regina, Saskatchewan
Margaret Hayford O’Leary*, Northfield, Minnesota
Daron W. Olson*, Richmond, Indiana
Anna Peterson*, Decorah, Iowa
Cynthia Elyce Rubin^, Orlando, Florida
Brian D. Rude, Coon Valley, Wisconsin
Marci Sortor, St. Olaf College Representative
John R. Tunheim^, Stillwater, Minnesota
Bruce Willis*, Wayzata, Minnesota
Nils Olav Østrem, NAHA-Norge Representative
Leaving a Legacy - William O. Running

William O. Running, age 82, died on Friday, March 25, 2011 at the Manor Court of Liberty Village in Freeport, Illinois. He was a resident of Savannah, Illinois. William was born on May 11, 1928 in Westby, Wisconsin, the son of Oscar and Carla (Landgard) Running. He graduated from Westby High School in 1946, Vernon County Normal school in 1949 and Lacrosse State Teacher’s College in 1953. In 1954 he received his Masters Degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He served his country in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953.

William was employed as a teacher and principal of the Franklin Park High School in Franklin Park, Illinois. In 1956, he taught 6th grade. During the period between 1959 and 1960, Mr. Running taught 7th and 8th grade. In 1960, he became Assistant Principal at North School in Franklin Park, and in 1961, became Principal. He served as Principal at North School until 1979, when he returned to teaching. He taught 5th and 6th grades at North until 1983.

Mr. Running enjoyed skiing, skating, fishing and photography. He was a member of the Junior Chapter of the Wisconsin State Historical Society while in grade school. He later became a member of the Wisconsin State Historical Society and the Norwegian-American Historical Association. He was also a member of the National Education Society.

William was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Carol Running. He is survived by a special friend, William Engel of Freeport, Illinois.

The Norwegian-American Historical Association was notified in August 2014 that Mr. Running’s will included a provision for the NAHA to receive an unrestricted bequest totaling 10% of Mr. Running’s estate. Following receipt of the funds in September, the NAHA board voted to apply a portion of the gift toward our annual 2014 fundraising goal and place the majority of the gift into the Rolvaag Endowed Fund, the income of which is used to support the ongoing expenses of the organization. Mr. Running’s name will be added to our Legacy Circle, which recognizes donors for their bequests and other planned gifts supporting our work.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Running and to all members and friends of the Association who have made provisions in their estate plans, or who have designated NAHA as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. If you have made a planned gift designation, and would like the funds used to support a specific purpose, please let us know so that we can document your wishes. If you would like to discuss how you can leave your own legacy, contact the NAHA office at (507) 786-3221 and ask for Jackie Henry.

Biographical information and photo provided by the Office of the District Superintendent of Franklin Park, Illinois, and by William Engel.
From the Archives - World War I

In 2007, John Holland Tamlin Redfern donated a small collection of letters written by his father between May and September 1918. He included the following information about Tamlin Silas Holland:

“Tamlin was the youngest of seven surviving children of Larsen Holland and Hannah Matena Hage. By 1911, Tamlin moved to his sister, Minnie Holland Bergusson’s home in Sioux City in order to attend Morningside High School, from which he graduated in 1915. He then began working for a small bank in Hudson, South Dakota. When the U.S. entered World War I, Tamlin enlisted in the South Dakota National Guard which was soon federalized. This became the 147th Field Artillery of the 32nd Division. He went to France in early 1918 where the division participated in the major battles of Somme and Meuse-Argonne. By the end of the war he had been promoted to battalion sergeant.

Returning home in 1919 he enrolled in the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania and following a year there, went to work for a Chicago bank bond department. In 1921 he married my mother, Alma Lukken. By 1924 he had been hired by the Des Moines National Bank to head their bond department. On a business trip to New York City for the bank he suddenly died in February 1927.

Alma was devastated by this event. She sold their home in Des Moines and effectively separated herself and me from the Hollands. Accompanied by her sister Ellen Lukken and her one year old son she drove to California eventually settling in Los Angeles. This was a courageous undertaking for a thirty year old widow in 1927.

It was only after I turned twenty in 1946 that I finally became acquainted with my Holland relatives. They are remarkable people whom I wish I had known sooner.”

Tamlin’s mother and father emigrated from Skuddeness, Norway in 1869, finally settling in Newhall, Iowa. The family name in Norway was originally Sand-Haaland, which was changed upon arrival in this county to Holland.

Headquarters Company 147th F.A. France, May 21, 1918

Dear Brother and Family:

Received your very welcome letter today and was mighty glad to hear from you, letters are the chief factor in this great war it seems to me, as far as I am concerned at present at any rate. The mail is arriving a little more promptly now than formerly for unknown some reason, and we are blessed with letters about once a week. I also received one from Hiram and Clara today, consequently I am pretty well supplied with Newhall News at present.

Am glad that everyone is feeling so well and that you are getting along nicely, I sincerely hope you lots of success in the present year and many others to follow, which it no doubt will be, as all patriotic people are entitled to great success.

We have been very busy since such beautiful spring weather as we are having now came to us. Every day the Batteries fire on the range and I go out there with my instrument detail to observe fire and figure data, deflection and etc. for them. I am very much interested in the work as it is the very best to my notion, the Artillery I mean. It is about 8 kilometers from camp to the range and we ride our horses out each morning. We received the horses the first of the month and I was issued a dandy bay mount. It takes quite a bit of school. At present I am asst. to the First Serg’t. therefore have a
great deal of responsible work to do which I like.

I often think while riding to and fro to the range how you would like the Artillery work Elmer, and you know that you would be a wonder in it, of course I mean as an Officer, and you would like the work very much as it has a great deal of mathematical work to it. Now don't think that I am insinuating that you should be in the army but I take it just at it is. You are doing your duty by staying home and taking care of that fine family of yours. When I begin talking about slackers, well I don't think I shall say anything as you can anticipate my thoughts as to that. Never would I regret for a second my joining the Army. I have often thought of making it my life's work, as it is good business. I don't intend to remain in the ranks all my life you know.

I wish I could describe this most beautiful country in my letter but you know that the censor would not allow it to pass, so I will have to wait until I return to tell that. Every thing is wonderful now that spring has come, the trees all in leaf and the grass green. I like to ride my horse out in the woods on Sunday afternoons and just look the country over.

Well Elmo I certainly enjoyed your fine little letter and wish I had time to write one to you alone. Am glad you are getting on so great in your school work. Suppose you are busy taking care of Cleo and June, that school is out. What are you going to do this summer, Elmo? Work on the farm?

Received a letter from Hazel today also, telling me a great deal of the news and happenings about Morningside. It keeps me busy in the evenings taking care of my correspondence as I must write about two letters a day. I certainly am willing to answer them as I appreciate all the letters that come to me.

We have a fine YMCA here, that sells lunches, tobacco and almost every thing one would like to have. There are about six American women working there now. I attend Sunday Morning Services almost every Sunday. Our band plays a concert semi-weekly. There were six of the old 4th S.D. Band now 17th F.A. transferred to Pershing's Band so you can imagine their value.

I can hardly realize that a year has slipped by already since I enlisted at Hudson. The time surely does fly by with great rapidity. The reason for that is probably because I have seen so many interesting things and been so many places in the stated time. I can hardly realize the fact, and I often believe it to be a dream “wish I could wake up right now in a certain spot in S.D. for a while”. Well I must be contented and no doubt the time is not far distant when we shall come marching home VICTORIOUS, then the quiet little battle with a few slackers.

We can buy a daily New York Herald printed in Paris each morning so are able to keep pretty well posted on the war.

Well, there is nothing more of great interest to write about so will bid you good night. I am feeling great and have gained about 40 pounds in the last 11 months and 2 inches in height so the army must be agreeing with me. We have some very good meals, such as steak, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, bread pudding, bread and butter, coffee with milk (last Sunday's dinner).

Greet all the folks that I know, giving them my best regards.

Kindly hand this letter to Hiram and tell him I shall write to him as soon as I get time. Will alternate letters if that is OK with you.

With lots of love from your Loving Bro. and Uncle
Tamlin (signature)
Serg’t T. S. Holland
Hdqtrs. Co., 147th F.A.
A.E.F.

John Holland Redfern died in June 2011 in La Jolla, California. He made a number of other contributions of family material to the NAHA archives.
Letters from the Great War - Norwegian-American

The following letters are located in the Carl G.O. Hansen clippings file in the NAHA archives. Unfortunately the newspaper and publication date were not generally noted on the clippings in this collection.

Joris Norby was born in Ada, Norman County, Minnesota on 24 April, 1899 and died 28 February 1972 in Harlingen, Cameron County Texas. He enlisted 7 May 1917 and was discharged May 1919 “after medical survey for disability incurred in the line of duty. Awarded character Excellent”. From the U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls accessed through Ancestry.com. His parents, Joris Norby and Valborg Shriver Norby were born in Klæbu and Oslo respectively.

“Norby Gassed at Soissons”
Excerpt from published account dated 1918 - unknown newspaper.

“Aug. - Have just received your letter of June 16th, the first since I landed in France. It was needless to say welcome as a letter coming from the states and from home. I am in the hospital now but expect to rejoin my company before long. This is the way it happened. When we came out of the lines it was about midnight. Just before sunrise the Boches began landing gas shells and pitched over nearly 1200 and laid down some about 100 yards from us. The alarm was given and I climbed into my mask in plenty of time. It was pitch dark. We were carrying out guns and equipment and the lenses in my mask blurred up. There was a fairly good wind blowing and as I was afraid I'd lose the company in the dark, I took off my mask. There didn't seem to be much gas left, but I guess I got what there was on hand as it knocked me out for a number of hours and then I began to feel better, but was very weak. I stayed with the company 'till we got to our rest billet and then my stomach and lungs went by the board. I received some emergency treatment and seemed to improve and was moved by train to another sector of the line, which however, put the finishing touches on me, so I finally landed in the hospital.”

In the book Norman County in the World War, C.E. Wentsel quotes another Joris letter under the heading, “JORIS NORBY writes a thrilling letter telling of the fight in which Ervin Betcher of this city was killed.”

“Shrapnel and high explosive shells were bursting like a hail storm around us. While crossing the wheat field about a thousand yards from the front lines, I saw Ervin Betcher. I yelled across to him and as he turned around a Boshe high explosive areo bomb struck him and then hell broke loose and we surely caught it heavy. We were deploying in open warfare with no permanent or designated front lines. The Germans had been occupying this land for quite a while and knew it well; as we came up to a position they threw a heavy barrage over us to cut off supporting reserves. It took us nearly three hours to cross a field about 600 yards wide. It seemed that every time we would advance that the place we had just left would be blown right up into the air; pieces of shrapnel hit my helmet and ripped through my clothes and one piece tore a chunk out of my pants, and I got a gash across the back of my hand from a piece of casing broken off from my machine gun; believe me, I never want to go through another battle like that. Entire companies of Marines next to us went over the top and considered themselves lucky if they returned with a tenth of their men. Richard Storberg and I were the only two Ada Marines to buck the line in this battle after Ervin was killed.”

Walter J. Nygaard was born in November 1893 in Halstad, Norman County, Minnesota to John O. and Bertha Nygaard. His father John immigrated from Norway in 1885. Walter enlisted 28 June 1918 with Company H. G., 341st Inf., 86th Div. and was discharged 16 July, 1919 at Camp Dodge. After the war, Walter married and lived in the Minneapolis and Columbia Heights area where he earned a living as a mechanic. He died in 1949 and is buried in the Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minnesota.
“Letter from Walter Nygaard”

On February 25th, 1918, Walter Nygaard writes his parents, and the letter is later published in an unknown newspaper.

Dear Folks:

I haven't heard from home for a long time. I can't see what is the matter with the mail service. Some of the fellows haven't had a letter for over two months. Suppose you have got most of my letters by this time. Well, I think we will be home in about four or five months. Gee! I hope so.

I was one of Gen. Foch's guards while he was at this place. He was here three days trying to make some terms of peace with the Germans. This is quite an important place. Whenever the Germans want to meet any of the allied officers in regard to the armistice they come to this town. Gen. Pershing has his headquarters just about a block from where I am staying. There is only one thing I like about this M.P. job and that is no one can tell you anything. We are the boss of the town and can even arrest officers. They sure respect us too. We haven't had much trouble with the Germans; they are afraid of us. If they start "chewing the rag" all you have to do is make a grab for your pistol and they just simply disappear. We are not allowed to talk to the German people. If a soldier is caught doing so he is arrested. I can talk German pretty good; have picked it up quick. Gee! I wish they would hurry and get that peace signed so we could go home. That's all you hear the soldiers talking about; they can't get home soon enough.

We have a pipe organ in the church where we are staying. Some of the fellows can play it some; swell music. These Germans certainly have fine orchestras. I hear them every day. Say, I'm going to take a chance and send home a German gas mask. I have quite a few of them, so if you shouldn't get it, I can send another.

Gee! I've got a bunch of German souvenirs, I thought about sending a helmet, but there will be so many of them. Just about every soldier will be taking one home, but few are able to get these masks. I also have a bayonet hilt and an iron cross and a bunch of other junk, but I don't know how I'm going to get it home, but I'll try my darndest.

I have saved up enough money to take a trip to Nice, France; have got a 7-day pass and all my expenses are paid. I was going to Paris, but think there is more to see at Nice. Saving money in the army is some job. We don't get much and then you have to pay for your washing, coal, barber, the tailor for keeping clothes in press and the polish for our shoes. So everything counts up. Gosh! but they are strict; have to shave every day; sure have to be neat.

We have an hour's exercise every morning; have to get out in our shirt sleeves, and when we get thru with that, run about a mile. It would kill a person that wasn't used to it; he simple couldn't stand it. But it does us good and I rather like it.

I have been wanting to have my picture taken, but they charge so much here for them that I've been letting it go.

How is everybody at home? Gee! I wish I was there. I wouldn't go through what I have gone for a million dollars and I wouldn't take a million for the experience I've had. Some think it's just h-ll at camp; well they don't know what soldiering means. Why, I'd just as soon spend 10 years in a camp over in the States for one week over here. Just ask them how they'd like being called at two o'clock in the morning and told to pack up ready to move in an hour, and when you get your packs on your back ready to hike, six miles to the train, maybe you get a cup of coffee, maybe you don't, before you start out, and it is always sure to rain when you move and those packs we carry are not light like those we had at Camp Grant; they weigh about 90 pounds. Have to carry three days' grub with us, too. When you get to a train they pile 35 or 40 men, packs and all, in a boxcar. You can't even sit down; it's too crowded and then ride three days and nights, maybe more, and when you get to your place it's still raining and you have to pitch your tent, and chances are you go without supper. Well, that is some of what we have gone thru many times. Must close with love to all, from

Walter, Pvt. 1st Cl. W. J. Nygaard
G.H.A A.P.O. 930

Photos from Norman County: In the World War, Wentsel, C.A. (1922).
By Jeff Sauve
Associate NAHA Archivist

Ole A. Østby, the Hypnotizing Pastor

In the annals of the Norwegian American Lutheran church history one man clearly defined himself as such, Rev. Ole A. Østby (1862-c.1958). His story is lightly touched upon in Janice Uggen Johnson's recently published book, Faith of our Fathers: History of Markers Norwegian Lutheran Church & North Grove Church and Cemetery (see: Additions to the Archives). Johnson writes of Østby's interest in mysticism, which caused dissension within the Faribault, Minnesota, congregation and partly led to his subsequent resignation in March 1898.

As a recent 1888 graduate of the Redwing Seminary, Østby, a native of Grue, Solør, Norway, accepted the call in 1890. As a dedicated and enthusiastic pastor he helped raise funds and erect a new and larger church for the growing congregation in 1893. As a member of the Hauge Synod he served as founder and treasurer of the Lutheran China Mission Society. He edited the Society's semi-monthly newspaper, Kinamissionerem, which had a circulation of 6,000 in 1892. In addition his book, Kina og kineserne (China and the Chinese, 1893), furthered the cause.

For all that Østby accomplished, it became known that he was practicing hypnotism. Unable to remain as the congregation's pastor, he formally submitted his resignation on March 30, 1898. Over the next few years, Østby, who also claimed a medical degree (although no evidence suggests it was from a credible institution), practiced medicine and hypnotism in the Faribault area as well as serving the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Sadly in 1899, his wife, Olivia Skara passed away, leaving him with six children.

In November 1901, Østby headlined the Faribault Republican newspaper, "Interesting Psychic Phenomenon." Apparently he performed an experiment by telephone whereas a woman was hypnotized over the line and induced into a deep sleep. She could not be awakened until his arrival. The article also suggested he experimented with hypnosis through the mail with suggestive wording. The article concluded that Østby had performed for some time "many remarkable cures" with suggestive therapeutics.

It was at this same time Østby also found disfavor with the Lutheran Brethren, a Hauge sect rooted in a spiritual awakening. At a convention in 1901, the group went on record as "not approving pulpit fellowship" with Østby.

By 1903, Østby now known as Dr. Østby, moved to Minneapolis and established a practice called the Institute of Natural Healing that advertised, "All kinds of diseases cured without medicines or operations; rheumatism, nervousness, indigestion and female diseases a specialty." In the same year he issued a book, Sundhed og helbred (Health and Medical). He also remarried in 1901 to Nina Skara, his wife's sister. Together they had one child.

Whether business was good or not, by 1906 Østby was repentant and asked the Lutheran Brethren for forgiveness of his sin and error in the misuse of hypnotism and restoration to his former station. Several statewide newspapers carried the notice of this communication.

The church officials lifted the five-year-old ban imposed on Østby. Within a short time suspicions arose that Østby was up to his old tricks and hypnotizing locals. At the 1907 convention of the Lutheran Brethren, a constitutional amendment was passed: "No one that practices or defends the use of hypnotism, spiritism, or similar things can become a member of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren."

Without a church to call home, Østby devoted the remainder of his life to the study and practice of psychic healing. He lectured in the Minnesota area on the "science of spiritualism" stressing that the fundamental requisites for every individual included "know the truth and the truth shall make you free," "forgiveness," and "love one another." His signature book, An Awakening to the Universe (1927), is found at nearly a dozen libraries in the United States.
I first heard of Peter Sather while meeting with our NAHA members in the San Francisco, Calif. area in September 2013 - they emphasized Sather’s presence at the University of California Berkeley, and the dearth of attention paid to this man by the Norwegian-American community. When I saw that a biography of Peter Sather was newly released, I immediately ordered a copy to learn more about his life and role in the Norwegian-American community in California.

Sather’s biographer, Karin Sveen is a Norwegian poet, novelist and essayist who received the Cappelen Prize in 1984. The book begins with Sveen describing how her journey to tell Sather’s story began. While arriving for a sabbatical on the UC Berkeley campus, Sveen noted the Sather Gate and Campanile (also known as Sather Tower) as she explored the campus grounds during her first few hours in San Francisco. Her initial inquiries as to the history behind the gate and tower uncovered only a bare sketch of the landmarks’ namesake. Curiosity led her to dig further and further afield attempting to fill in the details about the Norwegian immigrant whose name graces not only the tower and gate but two named professorships and a center for advanced studies on the Berkeley campus.

An early immigrant, Sather left Norway in 1836 after learning he was expecting a child with a young woman who he was not prepared to marry. He came to New York with more education and experience in an urban setting than most immigrants of that era, which allowed him entry into service in one of the upper middle class homes in Manhattan. He soon took a position as clerk in a bank and eventually left to start his own banking establishment in partnership with the backing of several prominent financiers. When health issues nearly cost his life, he moved, without his family, to a rough and rowdy San Francisco, at the height of the gold rush boom. While Peder Sather’s life is the thread holding the narrative together, a great deal of the story line focuses on development of the San Francisco Bay area.

The lack of original source material found during Sveen’s research, in particular any personal correspondence left behind by Sather, leaves plenty of holes in the descriptions of his life. This lack of information becomes more and more apparent throughout the book as the author draws on her descriptive skills as a novelist to fill in hypothetical reactions and scenarios between the historical figures found in the book. Because of these musings, the book frequently seems to teeter on a line between historical biography and historical fiction. To her credit, the author is careful to note when events recounted were based on her imagination of how they might have occurred, rather than on documented historical facts.

The excellent translation work by Barbara Haveland along with the narrative style of Sveen made reading the book a pleasure with a comfortable conversational tone. As a casual historian, I enjoyed the book and came away with a greater understanding of the early days of the Bay region but felt mildly uncomfortable with the creative license used to fill in where documented evidence was lacking. At the end of the book, the figure of Peder Sather remains something of an enigma.

Sveen includes a comprehensive bibliography of sources, and index.

The Emigrant and the University, Peder Sather and Gold Rush California (2014) by Karin Sveen, translated by Barbara J. Haveland with a foreword by Kevin Starr.

The Immigrant and the University is available through:

University of California Press
http://www.ucpress.edu
$34.95 plus shipping
New Additions to the NAHA Archives

NAHA received the following donations of archive materials between July 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014

Recent additions to the manuscripts collection include:


- Additions to **P0539 Family Histories**. 300+ original letters that were the sources for Sandra Hendrickson’s 2013 book, *Kjere Sigrid; Letters to Sigrid H. (Børseth) Bordson, Immigrant to America, 1914-1927*. Sigrid emigrated from Hegra, Nord-Trøndelag, to Goodhue County, Minnesota, in 1914. From Sandra Hendrickson’s book introduction: “Topics ranged from the Spanish flu to the Great War to automobiles, telephones and electricity. Neighborhood news from Hegra included births, marriages and deaths as well as parties, soldiers, and young peoples’ meetings. Farm life revolved around planting and harvest, haying and milking, life at the mountain farm and building a new house.” Also see NAHA summer 2014 newsletter article by Jackie Henry, “What we are reading.” Donated by Sandra Hendrickson, NAHA Associate Member (August 2014).

Recent additions to Norwegian-American family and local histories, memoirs, biographies, and organizational histories include:


by Gary DeKrey, Archivist and Jeff Sauve, Assoc. Archivist


We have also recently accepted the donation of the following audio recordings:

*Added to P1719 Audio Recordings Collection.*

- Phonograph recordings of Luther Bjerke, a.k.a. “The Wild Norwegian” from Hatton, North Dakota: That Old Dry Lutefisk & Jolly Nincompoop (Deltron Records, 45 rpm); Looking Back With Luther (Beaver Creek Records, 33 rpm). Songs include: “Yust a Little Lefse,” “Someone Spiked the Punch at Lena's Wedding” and “Lena”; and The Best of Luther Bjerke, Vol. 1 (Encore Productions, 33 rpm). Songs include: “My Lena,” “Smorgasbord” and “Hello Lena.” Donated by Linda Bjerke.

Also found in the P1523 Local History - New Jersey file:

The Brooklyn, New York based newspaper *Nordisk Tidende* published the above photo on 5 October, 1950 with an accompanying article on the history of Lake Telemark, started by Stephen and Hallvard Bergdal, immigrants from Kviteseid, Telemark, in the summer of 1929.
From the Front Desk by Jackie Henry

The centennial year of the start of The Great War prompted me to delve into the archives for examples of Norwegian-American influence. While the U.S. didn't enter the war until 1917, activity by German U-boats damaged the maritime industry, disrupted communications and travel between Europe and the U.S. and led to the loss of over 1000 Norwegian sailors. We have and will be posting more information from the archives related to the Great War on our Facebook page - you don't have to be a Facebook member to view the page. You'll find a link on the bottom of our home page at www.naha.stolaf.edu.

As our new president Karen Annexstad Humphrey mentioned in her letter, at a meeting of the board of directors just prior to the NAHA Biennial meeting, I announced my decision to retire at the end of February 2015. Serving as administrative director of the NAHA has been the highlight of my professional career and I look forward to remaining active with the organization as a member, supporter and volunteer. The timing for the change feels right, both from a personal perspective, and from the perspective of one who hopes she has moved the institution forward during her tenure. We are in a good position for a transition, with a stable membership, and adequate funding for the day-to-day work. We have made many improvements behind the scenes in the way we maintain membership and donor records, manage our financial transactions, as well as more visible improvements in the ways we communicate with you. The posting for my replacement will be coordinated through the Human Resources Department at St. Olaf College and I encourage you to share the opening with parties you think might have an interest.

From America to Norway, Vol. II is taking a bit longer in production than we anticipated. Delivery to us is scheduled for Friday, November 14th. We will begin shipping the books as soon as possible with the hopes to have all copies for our U.S. and Canadian members in the mail before our Thanksgiving break. Members in Norway will be contacted to arrange for shipment once we determine the postage cost.