

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS LETTER



From the NAHA Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 131

EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

SPRING 2007

UPDATE FROM NAHA's PRESIDENT JOHN R. TUNHEIM

The NAHA Board of Directors, working closely with our staff, has been very busy during these first two years of the triennial. After a productive first year in which the Board led a process that has resulted in a closer working partnership with St. Olaf College, the Board set its sights on developing a planning process to guide NAHA over the next five years. At the April Board Meeting, the Board unanimously approved the plan, and work is underway to implement its provisions.

The Plan focuses on six different areas:

Governance, the Archives, Publications, Finance and Budget, Membership, and Development. The Governance Committee, chaired by Vice President Brian Rude, will work on making the Board more productive and effective and will consider changes to NAHA's Mission Statement. The Archives Committee, chaired by Board member Solveig Zempel, will work with Archivist Gary DeKrey, to modernize access to the NAHA Archives and increase the already valuable collection we maintain at St. Olaf College. The Publications Committee, chaired by Board member Katherine Hanson, will work with Editor Todd Nichol and will focus on increasing our Publications Endowment and developing publishing partnerships. The Finance and Budget Committee, chaired by Treasurer Layne Haugen, will continue to modernize and clarify our financial stewardship of NAHA's assets. The Membership Committee, chaired by Secretary Liv Hustvedt, will engage the Board in important discussions on the role, value and benefits of membership in NAHA. The Development Committee, chaired by Board member Ted Grindal, will lead the Board and staff as we seek to substantially increase the number of NAHA's donors to build our endowments. Administrative Director Kim Holland will work closely with all committees.

The Plan is much more substantial than these brief descriptions of each area, but this provides a good overview of a very substantial effort by the Board and staff to build NAHA into an even stronger organization. NAHA has thrived for so many years on the strength of a very clear vision and foundation established by our founders, a vision nurtured through the years by strong staff members with supportive Boards.

NAHA's current Board takes very seriously our responsibility to build NAHA and secure its future. There is an air of excitement on the Board as we completed a very good arrangement with the College and put in motion our Plan for the future. We will be talking about a lot of good ideas and seeking the participation of our members as we move forward. There is an old adage that if you don't know where you are going, you will never get there. I am certain that a Norwegian first came up with that very practical and common sense phrase! NAHA hopes to make sure we know exactly where we are going and how we are going to get there, and the new Plan will help guide us along the way. Yes, it has been a very busy triennial, and the Board and staff are anxious to begin our third year.

FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS? SWEDES and NORWEGIANS in the UNITED STATES

This intriguing conference will take place on **October 19-20, 2007** at the Swenson Center on the campus of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. The conference, co-sponsored by the Swedish-American Historical Society, will explore the contacts and interaction between Swedish and Norwegian immigrants and their descendants in America. Swedes and Norwegians were often neighbors, had similar occupations, married each other, co-operated, and developed comparable-but not identical-religious, cultural and ethnic traditions. Friction and competition was also present between these two groups. Well-known historian H. Arnold

Barton will talk about the “sibling relationship between Norwegians and Swedes” in America.

Conference presenters will include leading scholars from the United States, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. The conference will focus on the Swedish-Norwegian inter-relationships or comparisons. Topics covered will include the immigrant experience with discussions on settlement histories, politics, cultural traditions intermarriage patterns and more.

The conference is free and open to the public. Over the summer the final program and registration information will be posted at the Swenson Center’s website at www.augustana.edu/swenson. This event will mark the 25th anniversary of the Swenson Center at Augustana College in Rock Island.

1893 VIKING SHIP ON ENDANGERED LIST

The “Viking,” a hand-built replica of an 8th-century Viking sailing vessel, is one of the most endangered historic places in Illinois. Built at the Framnes Shipyard in Sandefjord, Norway in 1892, the “Viking’s” historic design was inspired by the ancient Viking ship “Gokstad.” The Viking ship sailed, under Captain Magnus Andersen, from Bergen, Norway in 1893 and arrived at the World’s Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. The Norwegian government donated the ship to the people of Chicago after the exposition ended. The Viking ship spent seven decades at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

Today the Chicago Park District still owns the ship, but it languishes in dry-dock on private land in Kane County, Illinois. Those familiar with the ship’s condition stress the need for immediate action and fear that continued deterioration will make the restoration impossible. Landmarks Illinois has information about this interesting piece of Norwegian-American history at their website www.landmarks.org and the Norwegian National League of Chicago invites you to visit their website at www.nnleague.org and click on “Viking Ship” to learn more about what you might do to aid in restoration efforts.

TACOMA’S NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN TREASURE

The legend of Norwegian-American Thea Foss is now available in a 24 minute documentary. Norwegian immigrants Thea Christiansen Foss and her husband Andrew Foss arrived in Tacoma, Washington in 1889 just as Washington achieved statehood. With transporta-

tion limited to train, horse-drawn buggies, and boats, Thea quickly recognized a business opportunity in the growing demand for water travel. Beginning with an initial \$5 purchase of a rowboat, the marine transport business that she and her husband Andrew founded on the Tacoma waterfront has grown over more than a century into the largest, most modern fleet of tugs on the West Coast.

Through her life and work, Thea Foss became a pioneer archetype for women in the first half of the twentieth century. In 1931, Thea became the inspiration for a fictional character in Norman Reilly Raine’s famed “Tugboat Annie” stories published in the *Saturday Evening Post*. These popular tales led to Hollywood motion pictures and a 1950’s television series. NAHA holds the related publication, *Foss Maritime: A Living Legend*. More information is available at the website created for the film www.findingthea.com. The DVD is available for purchase for \$24.95 (**with tax, WA residents \$27.15**) + \$5.00 shipping. Order forms are available at the website.

INSPIRING BEQUEST TO NAHA

Several months ago NAHA received notification that Elizabeth Rowe Roed had died and that she had included NAHA in her will. Elizabeth was born in Toronto in 1925. During W.W.II Elizabeth encouraged her parents to invite two Norwegian airmen for Christmas dinner since they were stationed at nearby Camp Little Norway.

Elizabeth was smitten with one of the Norwegian guests, Oistein Roed. Following the war, they were married and settled in New York, where Elizabeth taught elementary school. Through her husband’s devotion to Norwegian history, she increased her own interest in Norwegian culture and history. NAHA is pleased to be one of the important groups Elizabeth recognized through her estate planning.

A charitable bequest is deductible for federal estate-tax purposes with no limit on the amount of the deduction. In addition, bequests are generally not subject to state inheritance or estate taxes. Should you wish more information about including NAHA in your estate planning, please contact us by phone at 507-786-3221, email at naha@stolaf.edu, or our mailing address: NAHA, 1510 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057. We have examples of language you can use or show to your attorney when preparing a new will or adding a codicil to your present will.

NEW PHONE NUMBER for NAHA

As part of a growing campus we have been informed that St. Olaf College is changing the prefix of all the campus phone numbers. NAHA's new phone number is **507-786-3221**. If you dial the old NAHA phone number after August 15th you will hear a recording saying the number has been changed and you will be asked to dial the 786 prefix along with the current last four digits. We appreciate your patience in the time of transition and hope the inconvenience will be minor!

SUMMER PLANS THAT INVOLVE YOUR HERITAGE

IS IT ALL DOOM AND GLOOM in NORWEGIAN LITERATURE?

On **Saturday, June 2, 2007** literary scholar and translator, Dr. Katherine Hanson will give a lecture followed by a reception at Portland, Oregon's Norse Hall. A NAHA Board member, professor and translator of Norwegian literature based at the University of Washington in Seattle, Dr. Hanson will visit the question: Is It All Gloom and Doom in Norwegian literature? Hanson will guide us on "a ramble through the Norwegian literary landscape," touching on the historical events as well as the ideas and trends that have influenced Norwegian authors. She will give attention to books that have been translated into English, and she has made a special effort to find literature that is not dark and dreary! Audience participation encouraged, so come prepared with questions and comments. Please contact the S/N Grieg Lodge and give the number in your party (503-236-3401 or 503-231-5199). Reservations are suggested. Admission is free. Norse Hall: 111 NE 11th Ave in Portland, Oregon.

HJEMKOMST FESTIVAL: June 22-24, 2007

This year's festival in Fargo, North Dakota, Moorhead, Minnesota celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the sailing of the replica Viking ship "Hjemkomst" and Norwegian Expo 2007 with special programs highlighting both. Friday features the Parade of Flags and Opening Ceremonies and the Nordic Style Show. Sunday concludes with a

Worship Services in the replica Hopperstad Stave Church and a Festival Concert featuring a Smorgåsbord of music. For more information, contact 218-299-5452, FMSHF@ci.moorhead.mn.us, or www.ScandinavianHjemkomstFestival.org.

A MIRROR OF NATURE NORDIC LANDSCAPE PAINTING 1840-1910

This much anticipated exhibit opens **June 24, and runs through September 2, 2007** at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55404. The exhibit is a collaborative effort among the national galleries of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark and features 115 masterworks by 65 artists. The only stop in the United States for this traveling exhibit will be in Minneapolis. "A Mirror of Nature" sheds light on the evolution of nineteenth-century Nordic painting. Edvard Munch and others liberated landscape from its traditional descriptive purpose and some will say ultimately laid the groundwork for Expressionism. The exhibit will move to Copenhagen after it closes in Minneapolis. Go to www.artsmia.org for more information.

JULY 8th - NORWAY DAY in MINNEAPOLIS

Mark your calendars and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Norway Day at Minnehaha Park. An open air worship service begins at **10:30 a.m.** followed by a *barnetog* and a traditional flag-waving march. The afternoon includes music, song, and dance.

CLAUS HOIE: NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN ART EXHIBIT

The exhibit *The Natural and Imaginary Worlds* will open on May 10th at the Trygve Lie Gallery in New York City, 317 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022. The Trygve Lie Gallery exhibition spans 40 years of Hoie's resonant work and includes examples of his often symbolic treatments of real and imaginary insects, seafaring subjects, still life, and natural phenomena. Hoie was born in Stavanger, Norway, and emigrated to the United States at age twelve. During World War II, Hoie was a member of an elite Norwegian-American battalion in the United States Army, which trained as Mountain Ski Infantry in the event a proposed invasion to liberate Norway transpired. Paintings from this period of his career are now in the Akershus Museum in Oslo. Hoie later

studied formally at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris and Pratt Institute, New York. **The exhibit runs until September 9.** For more information see www.trygveliegallery.com

**FOR THE NEXT GENERATION
NORDIC HERITAGE MUSEUM DAY CAMP:
Nordic Stories**

A week of Nordic fun for boys and girls in the Seattle area! Children will learn about Nordic children's literature and make related art projects. Camp is for children ages 7 to 11. **Monday, June 25-Friday, June 29, 2007** (Tentative dates)

Reservations are needed, and can be made starting in April by calling the NHM at **206-789-5707**. Cost is \$95 per child for family members of NHM members, and \$110 per child for non-museum members.

**NORWEGIAN ~ WEST COAST
LANGUAGE & CULTURE CAMPS**

Two-week Sons of Norway language and culture camps will be offered this summer on the West Coast. **Camp Trollhaugen** (ages 13-15) is located in Easton, Washington, and will run **July 1 -14, 2007**. **Camp Nidaros** (ages 9-12) is located in Gearhart, Oregon, and will run **July 15-28, 2007**. **Camp Normanna** (ages 9-12) is located at Lake Riley, outside Arlington, Washington, and will run **July 29-August 11, 2007**. **Tuition:** \$425 with the balance due by June 10, 2007. Children must have a parent or sponsor who is a Sons of Norway member in District 2 to attend. **Contact:** www.sofncamps.com for forms. Staff members are needed! Contact Regina Agerter at agerter@peak.org, or Chris Hicks at hicks1015@msn.com

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Kari Bergeson, the transcribed diary in both Norwegian and English of Ragnvald Bergeson who left Viken, Norway for the United States in 1910. The diary details Ragnvald's unannounced trip home to Norway in 1923 to reconnect with family, friends, and neighbors after his long absence. In the intervening years, he had worked as a farm hired hand, attended school when he could to improve his English, enrolled at Augustana College in South Dakota, earned his Electrical Engineering degree at South Dakota State, and served his new country in France during WWI. Also includes Ragnvald's recollections of adventures and changes in his life written during his retirement years.

Received from John Holland Redfern, information about his father, Tamlin Silas Holland, the youngest child of Larson Holland and Hannah Matena Hage. Both parents emigrated from Skuddenness, Norway in 1869. They settled in Newhall, Iowa. Tamlin graduated

from high school in Sioux City, Iowa and started working at a bank in Hudson, South Dakota. While in Hudson Tamlin enlisted in the South Dakota National Guard, which was soon federalized after the United States entered World War I. In 1918 Tamlin was sent to France. Includes three letters he wrote home while serving in France. Tamlin returned home in 1919 and entered the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania and was hired by the Des Moines National Bank in Iowa to head their bond department.

Received from Shirley Lillehaugen Santoro, the transcribed autobiography of her father, Sigvald T. Lillehaugen, who attended high school in Fergus Falls, Minnesota and started at Concordia College before he enlisted with the U.S. Navy. After serving his country he enrolled at St. Olaf College where the autobiography was a class assignment. Sigvald went on to receive his master's degree from the University of North Dakota and his doctorate from New York University. He served as North Dakota's director of secondary education and later was a vocational counselor at the Veteran's Administration in Minneapolis and at the Minnesota Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Received from Kathleen Beale Patton, *Wait Until I'm Able, A Family Chronicle* by Arlene Nelson Beale. Soft-cover, 135 pages. The author writes about her childhood and the lives of her parents, who were the children of Norwegian immigrants and grew up in rural Ellsworth, Wisconsin. Includes photos and many recollections of growing up among supportive neighbors in a Norwegian-American community. The author recalls being sent home from school by a one-room school teacher because she was speaking Norwegian at school. She would not be welcome back at the school unless she spoke English. This changed the family practice of speaking Norwegian in the home.

Received from Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, *Highlights of the First Ten Years, 1995-2005*, Soft-cover, 93 pages plus appendices. This lag's predecessor was Østerdalslaget, which existed from 1901-1962 and encompassed many of the same *kommuner*. A stevne in 1928 reported 500 people in attendance, but by 1962 interest had waned and the lag was dissolved. This history reviews the highlights of stevne over the last 10 years, as well as genealogy resources. The last five chapters contain stories of emigration from Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken, stories of Norwegian settlements in America, and stories of Norwegian immigrants in America. The appendix section includes group photos and other valuable information from various stevnes. Stevne photos are available at www.nhohlag.org.

Received from Jens Christian Eldal, an off-print from *Forlaget Hikuin 2006*, number 33, (pages 99-114 with a one page summary in English) of Eldal's article about the Norwegian-American Lutheran churches of Valley Grove in southern Minnesota and First East Koshkonong in Wisconsin. According to Eldal's research he found that the Valley Grove church was a close copy of the Christiania Church with whom the congregation shared a pastor. The church was a common European and American form constructed in an American way, even though the congregation kept its own ethnic group when selecting the architect and contractors. The First East Koshkonong congregational minutes state that the model for their church was the First Methodist Church in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, which was completed in 1891 and burned down in 1928.

Received from Lee Rokke, *The Christiania Story, 150th Anniversary Celebration 1857-2007*. Soft-cover, 51 pages. Describes the beginnings of the congregation and the Norwegian settlers who arrived in what is now the Lakeville area of Minnesota after leaving Norway and the state of Wisconsin. Pioneer pastors Laur. Larson, B.J. Muus, and N.A. Quammen served the congregation in its early years. The congregation benefited from its proximity to St. Olaf College, and F. Melius Christiansen was active in the life of Christiania. Includes photos of the earliest churches, pastors, excerpts from letters and personal recollections, timelines, and important traditions of the Christiania congregations such as mission work, the women of the congregation, the youth and congregational life, including recovery after the devastating fire of 1957.

Received from Helen Brieske, *Lars and Martha Larson from Valdres Valley, Norway to Vernon County, Wisconsin*. Hard-cover, 597 pages. Lars and Martha Larson journeyed to Wisconsin in 1878 to raise their family. Includes many photos, information from *bygdebøker*, farming practices and the history of the farm in Norway, family recollections, and an index. Also contains information about the succeeding five generations spread across America. (Copies are available through Helen E. Brieske, 6731 Paradise Road, Salida, CO 81201-9703.)

Received from Ric Kilmer, a CD with the scanned images from the scrapbooks kept by his grandfather Pete Sanstøl, who was born in Norway in 1905 and won the Bantam Weight World Boxing title in 1935. Pete's life included travel and work in the United States and Canada. Sanstøl was a sports writer for different newspapers and died in California in 1982. Contains correspondence (in both Norwegian and English), photos, newspaper articles from his boxing career, an autobiography, as well as information about his family in Norway. Pete Sanstøl was inducted in to the World Boxing Hall of Fame in 2000.

Received from Steve Monson, *Henry and Anna Monson, The Life and Times of Henry and Anna Monson and their family in Minnesota, 1856-1936*. Hard-cover, 122 pages. The author started with the simple project – identify the people in the photo with Henry. That was not as simple as it sounded. The resulting work took decades to complete but in the process, the author learned that Henry served in the United States Army during the Civil War, homesteaded in Dodge County, Minnesota, experienced the coming of the railroad three times, and relocated to improve the prospects of his growing family. Clarkfield in Yellow Medicine County eventually became home, and Henry served as the first mayor and city council president. Includes copies of church records, enlistment documents, census reports, photos, newspaper advertisements of the time, detailed maps, and many excerpts on events from the local newspapers.

*Family Historian in Kentucky
Donates Decades of Research*

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of Jens Bendtsen Hovland, who was born in Fåberg, Oppland, Norway and married Kirsti Larsdatter Rindal. They registered their intent to immigrate to America in 1857. At one time the family belonged to Luther Valley Lutheran Church in Rock County, Wisconsin. (Over time the cemetery stones have been lost and church records reflect "one acre of Norwegian people.") The family history includes copies of church records, maps, obituaries, census records, military records, homestead records, and general affidavits. The author has included her unanswered questions about names and moves, which include Minnesota's Goodhue County and later Nicollet County at the time of the Sioux uprising in 1862.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of Levor and Åse Levorsen and their children in America. The family eventually settled in Fergus Falls, Minnesota and then participated in the migration of approximately 100 Norwegians from the Midwest who moved east to the state of Virginia. The author used many newspaper articles, church jubilee publications, and census lists to document their lives in these different locations.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of Knute A. Levorsen from Buskerud, Norway and Berte Lundhagen from Hedmark, Norway, who married in Minnesota in 1887 and settled in Ottertail County, Minnesota before moving east to York County, Virginia in 1901. This family includes the Stenerson brothers, who built a lumber yard that became an important business in Pelican Rapids. Includes translated information from *bygdebøker*, copies of church records, obituaries, articles from Pelican Rapids and Fergus Fall newspapers, photos, and postcards.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of Knud Olson Dovre and his wife Anne Olesdatter Skaar. The two were both born in the North Aurdal, Oppland area of Norway. After Knud's father died and his mother remarried a younger man, Knud and his family left for America in 1869. They arrived in Quebec and went by boxcar

to Michigan and eventually to Northfield, Minnesota. One of their children died here and Anne contracted typhoid fever, losing all her hair and fingernails to the fever. Later they settled in Lyon County, Minnesota. Knud died in 1899 and Anne died in 1922 in Eidsvold Township.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of Knut Gigstad (1800-1874). Knut married Joren Olsdatter Rogne in 1821. Joren died after giving birth to her tenth child. Knud married his third wife when he was 68 years old, and from this last marriage three children were born. Knud's descendants who left for America were all from his first marriage. These children settled in western Minnesota and North Dakota. Included are remembrances from the children born in the United States to Norwegian-American parents, *Gigstad Newsletters*, and charts of marriages and births with addresses.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history for Johannes Larson Kindlieie and Christence Lundhagen family and their children. They were married at the Ringsaker Church, Hedmark Norway in 1866 and emigrated to America in 1871. Their stated destination was Lanesboro, Minnesota, where Christence's sister, Karen (Mrs. Lars Hemme) lived. They traveled by oxen and covered wagon to Pelican Rapids, where they were among the earliest settlers. Johannes was a carpenter and was often called upon to build a coffin when someone died. They changed their name from Larson to Lundhagen, the name of the farm owned by Christence's father. Includes copies of obituaries, census records, photographs, church records, land records, and family stories. Johannes filed a dispute over a homestead claim in 1874. It was finally settled in his favor, and he received title to the land in 1908!

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of Simon Jensen Hovland. Simund (Simon) was born in 1838 near Saksumdal, Oppland, Norway and immigrated to America in 1857. Simon served with the "River Rock Rangers" of Company G of the 15th Wisconsin Regiment for the Union Army during the Civil War. After being discharged from the service Simon moved to Goodhue County, Minnesota. His first wife (Ingeborg Ribberud) died during the birth of their fourth child. Simon remarried and had 13 more children with Beret Johanson. In 1878 the family moved to the Eidsvold Township in Lyons County, Minnesota. Includes copies of Civil War documents, death certificates, church records, obituaries, memories of soldiers from the 15th Wisconsin Regiment, maps, and a 1937 W.P.A. pioneer interview of John Hovland who settled in North Dakota.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the Lars Olsen Onstad family history. In 1860 Lars (61 years old), his wife Ingeborg (Loven, 57 years old) and their children Alv, Gjert, Knut, and Marta registered at the Aurland church their intent to emigrate and follow their sons Ole and Thor who had already emigrated to America. Goodhue County, Minnesota became home for the family. Alf moved to Lac qui Parle County and became a U.S. citizen in 1881, eventually retiring to Madison, Minnesota before spending his last five years in Los Angeles, California, where he died in 1919. Includes brief memories from surviving family members, information from the *Aurland Ættebok*, copies of land records, pre-emption proof testimony, census records, copies of some church records, articles from local newspapers, cemetery records, maps, and two photos.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, a family history for Jens Oluf Hovland and his wife Barbro Knudsdatter Dovre. Jens' 1866 birth and baptism are recorded in the Holden Lutheran Church records. Barbro was born in Oppland, Norway and emigrated to America in 1870 with her family. Later the family moved to Wells County, North Dakota. Barbro died at age 28, just 13 days after giving birth to her fourth child. Jens married Anne Svennes, and together they had four more children. Includes memories from children and grandchildren, copies of land office records, church records, detailed maps, photos, newspaper articles, and obituaries. (Land with remnants of the tall prairie grasses found by the early settlers near Minneota, Minnesota has been registered with the Nature Conservancy and named the Jens Oluf Hovland Memorial Prairie.)

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of John L. Trosvig and Åse (Louise) Amundsdatter Levorsen. John was

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born in Hedemarken, Norway in 1849 and emigrated to the United States in 1867. Åse was baptized at Veggli in 1856, arriving in the United States in 1868. Louise was one of the first teachers in Otter Tail County and was married to John Trosving in 1887. John homesteaded in Otter Tail County in 1870. Otter Tail County was home for 30 years before the Trosvigs, with other Norwegian Americans from the area, looked for other options for farm land. After exploratory trips to Texas and New England, a group of about 100 families moved to Virginia and purchased worn out tobacco land. Norge, Virginia was the name of the new home for the family. The Trosvigs had six daughters, none of whom married. Education was their passion and two of the daughters were Phi Beta Kappa members at the College of William and Mary. Includes many photos, articles from local newspapers, copies of church records from Numedal, Norway, maps, census records, and obituaries.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history of Helleck Tveten and Bergit (Bessie) Levorsen Tveten. Helleck was born in Rollag in 1865 and came to the United States with his parent in 1869. Bessie was born in the United States and married Helleck in Otter Tail County. They were part of the Midwestern migration to Norge, Virginia after 1901. As a carpenter Hellek helped build the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Norge, Virginia. Bessie had been a teacher in Minnesota and taught at the Norwegian School in Lightfoot, Virginia. At 84 years old Bessie took her first plane trip to attend the Lutheran Church convention in Minneapolis and later attended the diamond jubilee celebration for Pelican Rapids in 1958. Includes photos and newspaper articles.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history for Ingebjorg Jonsdatter Ribberud, who was born in the Numedal area of Norway. Ingebjorg's father died in 1854, and in 1855 she emigrated with her mother Ragnild and her brother Ola and his family. Holden Church records record the marriage of Ingebjorg to Simon Jensen Hovland in 1864. They homesteaded 80 acres in Goodhue County. Ingebjorg died in childbirth with her fourth child at age 35, with committal at the Lands Church in Minneota. Includes records from

Norwegian census reports and information from *bygdebøker*. Family charts go back to the ninth and tenth generations in the late 1500's and 1600's.

Received from Barbara Levorsen Quinn, the family history for Amund Levorsen and Ingeborg Stenersdatter Helle from the Numedal area of Norway. According to family lore, Amund became interested in America after reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In 1868 the family crossed the ocean by steamship. Rock County, Wisconsin, was their destination where Ingeborg's aunt Ragnild Skavlem had settled. Minnesota still held land for sale, but there was fear about land in Minnesota due to the 1862 Sioux Indian Uprising. Amund went ahead to scope out land while the family remained in Wisconsin. After a winter in a dugout on the side of a hill, Amund brought his family to Otter Tail County, Minnesota, along with others from the Numedal area. Around the turn of the century, they left Pelican Rapids and moved to Norge, Virginia. Includes copies of maps, letters translated from Norwegian into English, census records, church records from the US and Norway, obituaries, newspaper articles, deeds, and photos of their plantation home built in the early 1800's that Levorsen purchased in 1901.