

# Norwegian-American Historical Association



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From the NAHA Office to Association Members

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## NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The mission statement for your Norwegian American Historical Association is only one sentence long:

***“The goal of NAHA is to locate, collect, preserve and interpret the Norwegian-American part of the whole of American history, and to do so with accuracy, integrity and liveliness.”***

Your Board affirmed this simple yet powerful statement of mission as we met April 8-9 for our regular meeting with a special emphasis on working to update our 2007 strategic plan. We are not a large or complex organization, but we have an extraordinary history and record of success to build upon. It is remarkable what members and largely volunteer labor were able to accomplish in our past. Now we need to move forward with a renewed sense of dedication and energy to continue to deliver on the promise of the mission.

Since 2007, many of the governance goals of the strategic plan have been met. We have moved to a biennial meeting, adopted board and officer term limits, modernized election processes and have clear expectations for board members. We have also completed much of the analysis of our membership and expanded our outreach to sister organizations. We have adopted important financial policies to ensure our fiduciary obligations to our members.

There are, however, areas of that 2007 plan which have not been

completed. At our meeting, we agreed to focus on two specific overreaching goals going forward. The first is to improve the preservation and security of our archives. Our archives are an absolutely priceless resource, but we are not treating these treasures with appropriate climate control and security. We need to raise funds to address this challenge. The second is to get our publications program back on track to develop and produce more value for our members and to continue our reputation of important scholarship in the field. The costs of publications goes up regularly, so this will also be a financial challenge.

From our mission statement, maintaining and growing our archives and publications are critical goals. We realize meeting these challenges will require financial development from memberships, gifts and outside sources. If you have ideas or want to help, please let us know!

I am encouraged by the optimism and energy of your board and dedicated staff. We will continue to develop our new strategic plan in a realistic and thoughtful fashion. For your support, I say “tusen takk.”

Brian D. Rude  
President  
NAHA Board of Directors

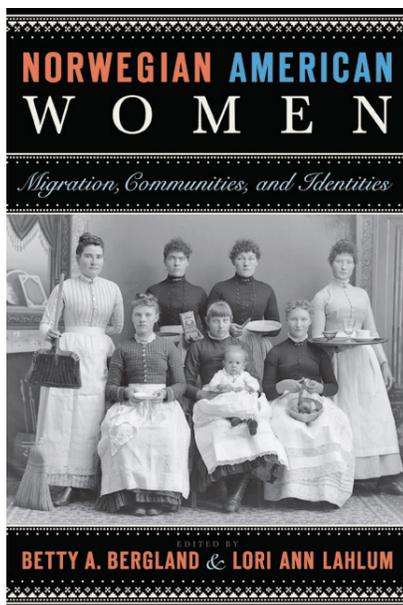
# NORWEGIAN AMERICAN WOMEN:

Excerpt of the Introduction by  
Betty A. Bergland

In 1925, Norwegian activist women dedicated a new edition of *Norske Kvinder, 1814–1914* (*Norwegian Women: 1814–1914*) to their *norske søstre i Amerika* (Norwegian sisters in America): “This work is dedicated to the Norwegian American women for the Centennial Celebration in the year 1925.” The first edition, published in 1914 on the occasion of the hundred-year anniversary of the Norwegian constitution, focused on the collective achievements of women in Norway from 1814 to 1914. In the 1925 edition, Fredrikke Marie Qvam discusses why the Norwegian women decided to publish a sequel. Representing the Norwegian National Women’s Rights Association, Qvam explained that her countrywomen initially believed their sisters in America lacked interest in the women’s struggle in Norway—until they received the symbolic gift of a peace and freedom clock, sent to Norwegian women for their centennial on behalf of Norwegian American women. Thus, the Norwegian women decided to extend their history up to 1925 and dedicate the new edition to the Norwegian American women to mark their hundred years in the United States. Qvam wrote, “the gift must be yours, dear sisters, to enjoy, and promote our intellectual connection—even though an ocean lies between us.” Following her

dedication, Qvam concluded, “We thank you for your gift and hope that bonds between us may never break.”<sup>1</sup>

Across the Atlantic, Norwegian American women conceived a similar book. In 1925 Alma A. Guttersen, who emigrated from Norway in 1866 as an infant and eventually settled in St. Paul, proposed the publication of a work on a hundred years of Norwegian American women in the United States. The Norse American Centennial Daughters embraced the project and voted to support it; published in 1926, the result was titled *Souvenir, Norse-American Women, 1825–1925: A Symposium of Prose and Poetry, Newspaper Articles and Biographies, Contributed by One Hundred Prominent Women*, demonstrating the influence and inspiration of Norwegian Women. Comparable in vision and format to the Norwegian work, *Souvenir* covered one hundred years of Norwegian women in America—including biographies, essays, photographs, and newspaper articles—as the subtitle suggests, and marked the women’s conditions and collective achievements. These two publications devoted to Norwegian and Norwegian American women suggest both the continuity and discontinuity of their lives. In addition, the two works, published in 1925 and 1926 in Oslo and Minneapolis, respectively, reveal that Norwegian American women maintained



Reprinted with permission from *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities* edited by Betty A. Bergland and Lori Ann Lahlum, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press (2011). Available at bookstores, online retailers, or at [www.mhspress.org](http://www.mhspress.org).

# MIGRATION, COMMUNITIES AND IDENTITIES

contact with their homeland not only as family members but also as active participants in a transatlantic women's movement. While the centennial occasions that generated these publications signify different moments (a constitution and a migration), the works share the larger context of women's struggles on both sides of the Atlantic.<sup>2</sup>

The Norwegian American women living in North America in 1925—both the subject of and the audience for *Souvenir*—represent first-, second-, and third generation immigrants, wives and mothers, single and professional women, homesteaders, teachers, nurses, seamstresses, domestic servants, laborers, farmers, missionaries, club women, and activists engaged in social welfare, peace and justice, and women's rights through national and international associations. The re-release of *Norwegian Women* in 1925, its dedication, Qvam's transmission letter, and its influence on the 1926 American work all signify an alliance of Norwegian and Norwegian American women who were internationally engaged, active agents in their communities, an alliance more complex than is generally understood by both descendants and historians. Such an image stands in stark contrast to the prevailing view of Norwegian immigrant and Norwegian American women. This book begins to explore the complexity and diversity of that history by foregrounding the

gendered dimensions of migration.

Despite this complexity and diversity, for general readers and scholars a more singular image is posited by the most well-known Norwegian American woman: Beret Holm, a fictional character in the celebrated novel *Giants in the Earth* by Ole E. Rølvaag. Beret represents a gendered perspective on migration from Norway to the South Dakota frontier where the characters homesteaded; however, that image has come to dominate thinking about Norwegian immigrant women. In this imaginative and compelling portrait, Rølvaag's Beret conveys grief on leaving her parents and native land, desperation at the expansive and treeless landscape of the prairie, and anxiety about her family's place in this isolated and desolate land. She is contrasted with her energetic, practical, and future-oriented husband Per Hansa, who leads a small band of immigrants into a new life in the West. In this fictional work, Rølvaag captures the complexity, daring, and vision leading the emigrants in that westward migration, while he also evokes the sacrifices of settlement on the frontier. For most readers, Beret signifies the cost of migration, following her husband into alien and hostile territory, finding regret, guilt, and a deep sense of loss. Furthermore, she has signified the Norwegian immigrant woman as a frontier wife and mother, an image often reinforced by primary

source materials centered on the frontier. This prevailing vision of the Norwegian immigrant woman as pioneer, rural wife, and mother struggling on the frontier, often reluctantly, remains incomplete and inadequate: the urban working women, along with their daughters and granddaughters, go unrepresented and unimagined. This book attempts to imagine, document, and interpret these historically neglected women by examining their lives in the context of gendered communities, both American and Norwegian American.<sup>3</sup>

Norwegian women migrating to the United States did so along with millions of other women from Europe, Asia, and Latin America in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In general, as Ingrid Semmingsen and Odd S. Lovoll have demonstrated, women represented 41 percent of all Norwegian immigrants in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which totaled just under one million. Also, women were more likely than men to settle permanently. The first Norwegian immigrants, mostly religious dissenters, arrived in the United States in 1825; they were followed in the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s by farm families responding to population growth and diminished possibilities in Norway in the first half of the nineteenth century. (Continued on Page 10)

# THE ROSE - François Grosjean



*Einar Haugen was a highly respected author, scholar, NAHA board member and contributor to NAHA publications. Eva Lund Haugen, a scholar and translator in her own right, also contributed material to the Norwegian-American Studies publications. Through their estate, the Haugens established a scholarship fund for Scandinavian Studies at NAHA. Administration of the scholarship was transferred to the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in 2008.*

The end of a year is always a time of reflection, on the events that are to come but also on the years that have gone by, as well as on important moments in one's life. My own life as a bilingual, and researcher on bilingualism, would not have been the same had I not met, and become friends with, Einar and Eva Haugen.

When I was preparing my Master's thesis at the University of Paris, I came across a book with a specialized title, *The Norwegian Language in America* but an appealing subtitle, *A Study in Bilingual Behavior*. I quickly became enthralled by its scientific content but also by its very human touch. Clearly the author, Einar Haugen, a Harvard professor and a bilingual himself, had analyzed bilingualism in both its academic and its human perspectives. His book was later to become a classic.

Never did I dream that I would meet Einar Haugen some years later and

become friends with him. Having moved to the United States, and whilst I was preparing my first book on bilingualism, in the early eighties, I phoned him (we happened to live close by in Massachusetts), and asked if I could come and see him. I expected him to give me an appointment in his university office but he very kindly asked me over to his home.

I was greeted by a rather tall, very genteel, elderly man who showed me into his living room. As he was getting me a drink, Eva Haugen came in and introduced herself. She looked like a dream grandmother with very fine features, her grey hair in a bun, a soft voice and a wonderful smile.

The first part of our meeting was more academic - I told Einar Haugen about my manuscript and we talked about topics in bilingualism such as language planning, language choice, code-switching, and so on. After about an hour, Eva joined us. Little by little, I realized that she too had had an impressive career as an author, editor and translator of several books related to Norwegian-American subjects.

The Haugens were clearly comfortable in their lives as bilinguals and biculturals, and in their love of both America and Norway. They were ideal examples of bilingualism and biculturalism as it can be lived, as well as very fine scholars in their respective fields.

# Remembering two inspirational bilinguals

My first visit was followed by many others and, each time, I came away feeling more confident in the work I was doing and more serene as a bilingual and bicultural person myself. These visits had a very real impact on my career and on my life.

When I returned to Europe after some twelve years in the United States, I stayed in touch with the Haugens and visited them every time I came back. Then, in 1994, I heard that Einar Haugen had passed away. I wrote to Eva and promised that I would come and see her and, indeed, the following summer, when I was back, I gave her a call. There was no answer. So I drove to her home but found no-one there. I went to the neighbor's and asked if they had seen her. They replied that she had had an accident and had broken her hip. She was now recuperating in a nursing home near by.

I visited her the next day and, despite her health problems, I found her as lovely and as warm as usual. We talked about many things and she mentioned her move to the Midwest a few days later where she would live with one of her daughters. I suddenly had an idea: "Do you want to go and see your house before leaving?" She hesitated and then declined, "It wouldn't be wise", she said. This may have been because the house had been rented for the summer. But then, several minutes later, she changed her mind and said with a smile, "Oh, I would

love to see my home again". So she got prepared and I drove the car up to the nursing home entrance as she could walk only with great difficulty.

When we reached her home, she looked at it for a long while and then said that she would like to see the yard. We walked around it slowly, Eva holding on to my arm, and she commented on her favorite trees and plants. We only stayed a short while and when I had helped her back into the car, I asked her to wait just a bit. I went to the side garden and carefully cut off a rose that had been climbing up the wall of her house. I brought it back to her and said: "To accompany you on your trip, Eva". She thanked me with one of her wonderful smiles. I then drove her back to her nursing home and spent a bit more time with her before giving her a goodbye hug.

Eva left for her daughter's home a few days later and I flew back to Europe. She passed away just three months later.

Reference: Haugen, Einar. (1969). *The Norwegian Language in America: A Study in Bilingual Behavior*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

François Grosjean's website:  
[www.francoisgrosjean.ch](http://www.francoisgrosjean.ch)

*This article originally appeared in the December 29, 2010 issue of Psychology Today. It is reprinted with the permission of the author, François Grosjean.*

# NEW ADDITIONS TO THE

Thanks to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAHA Archives. We aren't able to acknowledge every donation in the newsletter, but we do appreciate every single one of them! Our collection grows in volume and importance thanks to the generosity of our members and contributors. We continue to collect Norwegian-American letters, diaries, photographs, family histories, and community and congregational material; and we are especially interested in collecting items that reflect the experiences of post-World War II immigrants. If you are a post-World War II immigrant with personal papers that bear on your experiences as a Norwegian-American, or if you know such a person, please let us know! We do not generally collect Norwegian books, but we do collect Norwegian-American family histories, rare Norwegian language books published in the US, booklets about localities and churches associated with Norwegian-Americans, and bygdebøker that are not already in the St. Olaf College collection.

Recent additions to the manuscripts collection include:

- **Dietrichson-Preus Collection.** Correspondence, personal papers, and family history materials maintained by descendents of J.W.C Dietrichson. Donated by Larry Risser, Minneapolis, MN on behalf of William (Bill) Dietrichson, Jr.
- **Rolf Erickson Papers.** Three additional boxes of local history materials, mostly Wisconsin. Received from Rolf Erickson estate via Darrell Treptow, Northlake, IL. (Added to Collection P1395 Rolf Erickson Papers.)
- **Herigstad and Skaaden families:** additional family genealogies donated by Elouise M. Hazelett, Buckley, WA. (Added to Collection P0539 Family Histories and Genealogies.)
- **Amanda Mabel Johnson and Ragnvald Leland Letters (1891-1900).** Courtship missives and letters from Norwegian relatives, over 400 pages (1891-1900). Donated by Leland Kugelgen, Berkeley, CA.
- **Minneola Lutheran Church, Zumbrota.** Several boxes of early church records in Norwegian. (Added to Collection P0537 Congregations/Minneola Lutheran Church.)
- **Scandinavian Forum of Boston.** 9 files donated by Vera Ryen Gregg, President Scandinavian Forum of Boston. (Added to collection P1700 Boston Association of the American-Scandinavian Foundation.)
- **Solberg family material** (including Rasmus Hanson items) donated by Sharon

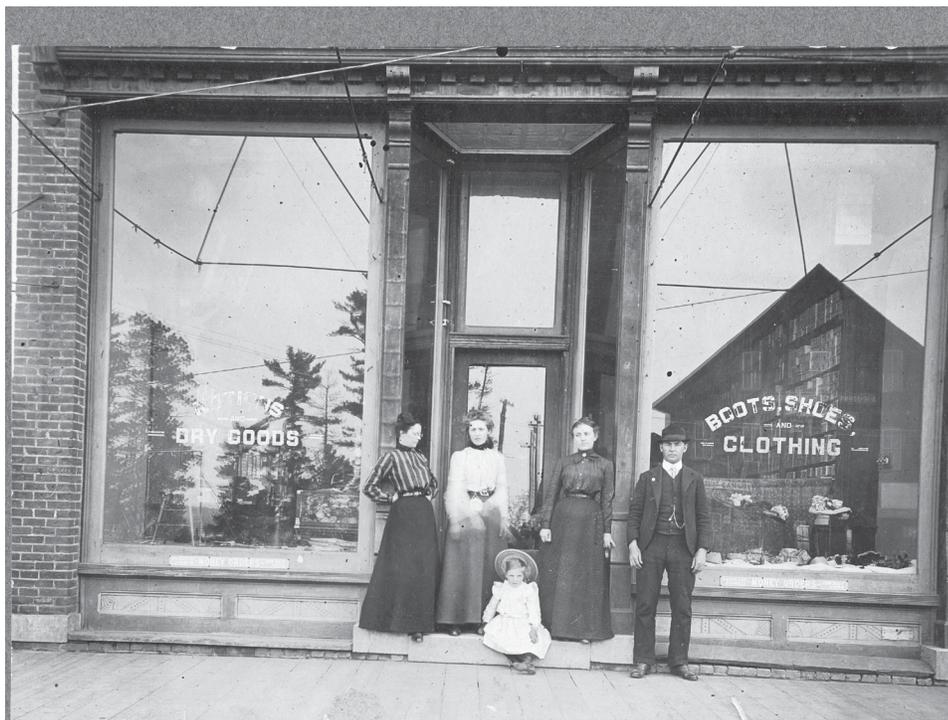


Photo from the Dietrichson-Preus Collection

# ARCHIVES - Gary De Krey and Jeff Sauve

Dwinnell-Smith. (Added to Collection P0135 Rasmus Hanson).

- **Thingvalla Line.** Photocopies of passenger lists donated by Prof. Odd Lovoll, with copy of his published article about the Danish line, which played an important role in transporting Scandinavian immigrants. (Added to Collection P1024 Thingvalla Line.)

Recent additions to the photo collection include:

- **Dietrichson-Preus Collection.** See above. Collection also includes over 300 family photographs.
- **Norse American Centennial** gathering in St. Paul, MN, June 8, 1925, panoramic photograph. Transferred from the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, Livingston, MT.
- **Den Norske Storfest,** Minneapolis, MN. June 10-12, 1930, panoramic photograph. Donated by Becky Markkanen, Minneapolis, MN.

Recent books accepted as donations include:

- Baumgart, Howard D. **Ancestors and Descendants of Torger Olsen Nerbye and Kari Hansdatter Lien:** A family from Fluberg, Søndre Land, Oppland, Norway. Named Quarum and Olson in America, 3rd ed. (2009). Donated by author. Added to Collection

P0539 Family Histories and Genealogies.

- Gulliksen, Øyvind T. **Twofold Identities: Norwegian-American Contributions to Midwestern Literature.** (2004). Donated by author. Added to College Library.
- Lien, Ronald L. **Our Norwegian Ancestors: The Turkups, Knudtsons, & Slettens.** (2010). Donated by author. Added to Collection P0539 Family Histories and Genealogies.
- Marler, Jackie, comp. **People's History of the Hallinglag of America 1907-2007.** (c. 2007). Added to collection P0465/Bygdelagene Papers/Hallinglag.
- Remole, Robert A. **An Account of Johan Mikkelsen: His Forebears and Life in Norway; His subsequent emigration, life and family in the United States where he was known as John Michaels.** (2010). Donated by author. Added to Collection P0539 Family Histories and Genealogies.
- Russell, Charles. **Light on the Prairie: New Writings of Elise Wærenskjold** (2010), which complements his *Undaunted: A Norwegian Woman in Frontier Texas* (2006). Donated by author. (Added to Collection P0683 Knut Gjerset Papers/Women/Elise Tvede Wærenskjold Papers.)



## Thingvalla Linie Advertisement

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# IN MEMORY OF NEIL ECKSTEIN

## 1923-2011 - Todd Nichol



Just before sitting down to write about something else for the newsletter, I learned of the death of Neil Eckstein. Although I did not know him well, we were well enough acquainted for me to be aware that he was a sterling human being. He was also an embodiment of all that NAHA hopes to represent in Norwegian-American life.

Neil Eckstein was born in 1923 on his family's farm near Winchester, Wisconsin and thus began his life in the heart of Norwegian-America. He enrolled at St. Olaf College in 1941, but quickly enlisted in the United States Navy when our country entered World War II. He commanded a landing craft during the invasions of islands around Okinawa before returning to complete a B.A. at St. Olaf. After earning a Bachelor of Theology degree at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN Eckstein became a parish pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. As a working pastor in Pennsylvania, he earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He later taught English at Wartburg College and at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh.

Carrying on the work of a Lutheran minister and then of a college teacher while raising a lively family with his wife Marie might have been sufficient for this gifted and energetic man, but it was not. He became a novelist who depicted

Norwegian-American life in the middle of the nineteenth century. His *Jacob's War*, for example, traced the life of an ancestor through the Civil War. He also became a skilled translator. In this field he will perhaps be best remembered for translating works by Winchester inhabitant Peer Strømme into fluent English. The most recent of Eckstein's translations to be published is *Young Helgeson*, the sequel to Strømme's beloved *How Halvor Became a Minister*.

Even this was not enough for Neil Eckstein. He wrote in a number of other fields as well and took an active part in the community life of Winchester. He was instrumental in founding the Winchester Academy, an organization devoted to the intellectual life of the area, and was also a leading member of Winchester Area Historical Society.

Profoundly engaged with the story of Norwegian immigration and ethnicity in the United States and an acute interpreter of the American context, Neil Eckstein embodies the spirit of all that the Norwegian-American Historical Association hopes to contribute to life and letters in the United States. I salute his memory.

Todd W. Nichol  
Editor

# ONLINE INDEX TO *THE LUTHERAN HERALD* (1906 - 1960) Created by Dale Haaland

We are pleased to announce the latest electronic search facility on the Archives web page of the NAHA web site. The index to *The Lutheran Herald* covers most years between 1906 and 1960, when this journal was a critical religious publication for many Norwegian-American Lutherans. Articles were provided by leading pastors, church spokesmen, and others about such topics as denominational developments, Lutheran missionary endeavors, and Lutheran churches and institutions in the US. Key word searching with the names of particular individuals,

places, and churches provides lists of references linked to scans of annual alphabetized indexes in which those terms also appear. The online index is therefore a comprehensive finding guide to the 60,000 entries in the annual indexes of the *Herald*. It is based on the *Herald* volumes in the St. Olaf library collection, but the index may be used with volumes of the *Herald* located in any other library. The *Lutheran Herald* Index will contribute significantly to research bearing on the history of Norwegian-American Lutheranism in the first half of the twentieth

century. (A few *Herald* volumes are missing in the St. Olaf collection, and a few volumes of the *Herald* lacked annual indexes; so our index is not entirely complete.)

The index was created through the painstaking efforts of NAHA volunteer Dale Haaland, who has also done the hard work for our online Norwegian Newspapers in America index and our two online indexes to bygdebøker in the St. Olaf collection.

## FROM THE FRONT DESK - Jackie Henry

The *Norwegian-American Legacy Circle* was formed in 2004 to recognize a select group of NAHA members who have made provisions to support the organization through their estate plans. Becoming a member of the *Legacy Circle* is easy. We will be sharing information with all of our members over the summer but if you have made provisions for NAHA in your estate plans, and haven't conveyed that information to us, I encourage you to contact me to document your aspirations for how that support should be used.

Estate gifts of over \$10,000, unless otherwise designated, are added to our endowment fund. The board has established an investment and spending policy that will allow some of the earnings to be used annually, while building the value of

the endowment over time. Having a healthy endowment provides crucial support to the organization, particularly if the economy impacts donations and membership numbers. In 2011, earnings from the endowment will support just over 30% of NAHA's operating budget for the year.

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In September, the NAHA newsletter will include an annual report for 2010.

We will also include a special feature on Norwegian-Americans in the Civil War, as the nation commemorates the sesquicentennial anniversary.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Friday May 13th, NAHA is co-hosting Norwegian Heritage Day with St. Olaf College. NAHA Board Member Betty Bergland, along with her co-editor, Lori Lahlum, will be presenting the keynote address, featuring their new publication *Norwegian-American Women: Migration, Communities and Identities*. Registration information is on the back page of the newsletter. The deadline to register is **May 9th**. Please join us if you are in the area.

\*\*\*\*\*

The NAHA-Norge Seminar at Luther College in Decorah is rapidly approaching. Several staff and board members of NAHA will be attending. I hope to see many of you there.

## NORWEGIAN AMERICAN WOMEN:

(Continued from page 3)

Pioneering Norwegian scholar of migration Semmingsen refers to these early groups as a “preparatory stage in Norwegian migration.” Many significant frontier women who documented their experiences were counted among emigrants from this period, including Elisabeth Koren and Elise Wærenskjold. However, a truly mass migration from Norway began after the Civil War and continued until World War I. Eighty percent of all Norwegian emigrants left in this fifty-year period, and, Semmingsen reports, nearly three-quarters of the immigrants came from rural districts. At the same time, women constituted a higher percentage of the urban emigrants. These figures illuminate dramatic population growth in nineteenth-century Norway, a growth that pushed young, single girls into small towns or cities in search of employment; many of these women subsequently journeyed to urban areas in the United States in search of better wages, working conditions, and opportunities. Thus, while Norwegian emigrant women were part of the rural, mostly family migration of the mid-nineteenth century, they also represented a higher percentage of the urban and industrial migration of young and single emigrants at the turn of the twentieth century.<sup>4</sup>

Norwegian immigrants tended to settle in the Upper Midwest, mostly in six states: Illinois, Wisconsin,

Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. The early settlers sought land and the preservation of a rural way of life, as scholars such as Semmingsen, Lovoll, and Jon Gjerde have argued. Furthermore, Theodore C. Blegen and Lovoll have demonstrated that the Norwegians were the most rural of all emigrant groups, even into the twentieth century. Because successful farming—and the rural way of life—required women’s contributions, the rural migration was predominantly a family affair. The urban migration, dominated by the young, the single, and a high percentage of women, centered in the towns and cities of the Upper Midwest, especially the larger urban centers of Chicago, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. In the cities, immigrant women from Norway (and some linked to secondary migrations from midwestern farming areas) sought jobs as domestic workers, where they were in demand because of their experience. Later, immigrants and secondary migrations from earlier colonies moved toward the Pacific Northwest, attracted by fishing, shipbuilding, lumbering, and employment prospects in Seattle and Portland. The highest concentration of Norwegians in the country was (and remains) in Minnesota, no doubt because of the mixed opportunities in both rural and urban areas: in farming, industry, manufacturing, mining, logging, and fishing and through

diverse educational possibilities. For immigrant women, domestic jobs, as well as the needle trades and health-care positions, offered decent wages, economic survival, and better possibilities for the future. By the second generation, many of the American-born children of immigrants had received postsecondary education and secured professional positions, especially in health and education. The prevailing vision of the pioneer wife or frontier mother does not permit those diverse and complex narratives to be told. The lives, experiences, impacts, and legacies of these women remain rich, important, and unexplored.<sup>5</sup> [*Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities and Identities* is devoted to that exploration.]

### Notes

1. Dedication in 1925 edition of *Norske Kvinder: En Oversigt over deres og Livsvilkaar i hundredeaaeret, 1814–1914* (*Norwegian Women: A Survey of Their Living Conditions Over One Hundred Years, 1814–1914*), eds. Marie Høgh and Fredrikke Mørck (Kristiania: Berg and Høgh’s Forlag, 1924). The dedication reads: “*Dette Verk tilegnes De Norsk-Amerikanske Kvinder ved Hundredaarsjubilæet Aar 1925.*” Translations are the author’s.

The one-page note (signed F. M. Qvam and dated 17 May 1925, without label or salutation) follows

# MIGRATION, COMMUNITIES AND IDENTITIES

the dedication, precedes the title page, and is located opposite a photograph of Queen Maud of Norway. Fredrikke Marie Qvam was involved in the Norwegian National Women's Rights Association (*Landskvindestemmeretsforening*) from its beginning in 1885 and was also involved in the Norwegian Women's Sanitation Association (*Norske Kvinders Sanitetsforening*). See Elisabeth Lønna, *Stolthet og Kvinnekamp: Norsk Kvinnesaksforenings Historie fra 1913 (Pride and Women's Struggles: Norwegian Feminist History from 1913)* (Oslo: Gyldendal Norsk Forlag, 1996), 17.

2. Mrs. Alma A. Guttersen and Mrs. Regina Hilleboe Christensen, eds., *Souvenir "Norse-American Women," 1825-1925: A Symposium of Prose and Poetry, Newspaper Articles and Biographies, Contributed by One Hundred Prominent Women* (St. Paul, MN: The Lutheran Free Church Publishing Co., 1926). The volume is available online through "Women and Social Movements in the United States," edited by Thomas Dublin, Kathryn Kish Sklar, and Alexander Street Press, LLC: <http://asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/wam2/wam2.object.details.aspx?dorpID=1000402456>, accessed 29 Oct. 2010.

Although some scholars have written about the centennial celebration of 1925 marking Norwegian migration to the United States, the women's involvement and the gen-

dered dimensions of the celebration remain unexplored. See, for example, April R. Schultz, *Ethnicity on Parade: Inventing the Norwegian American Through Celebration* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1994), which does not address women or gendered dimensions. See also Schultz, "How Did Women Shape the Presentation of Norwegian American Ethnicity at the 1925 Norse-American Centennial?" (2009), in eds. Dublin, Sklar, and Press, "Women and Social Movements in the United States": <http://asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/wam2/wam2.object.details.aspx?dorpID=1001234510>

3. O. E. Rølvaag, *Giants in the Earth*, trans. Lincoln Colcord and the author (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1927), is the first English publication of the two-part novel originally published in Norwegian: *I de Dage: Fortælling om Norske Nykommere I Amerika (In Those Days: A Story of Norwegian Immigrants in America)* (Kristiania: H. Aschehoug og Co., 1924) and *I de Dage: Riket Grundlaegges (In Those Days: The Founding of the Kingdom)* (Kristiania: H. Aschehoug og Co., 1925). Rølvaag based the story (in part) on the Berdahl family experiences in South Dakota. The Berdahl Papers are located at the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD.

This image of Beret is linked essentially to *Giants in the Earth*. In

the two often overlooked sequels, Rølvaag focused on the second generation and widow Beret becomes a strong force in her family and the community: O. E. Rølvaag, *Peder Victorious: A Tale of the Pioneers Twenty Years Later*, trans. Nora O. Solum and the author (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1929), and O. E. Rølvaag, *Their Father's God*, trans. Trygve M. Ager (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1931).

4. Ingrid Semmingsen, "Norwegian Emigration in the Nineteenth Century," *Scandinavian Economic History Review* 8.2 (based on paper read at the Eleventh International Congress of Historical Sciences), 152, 156, 157; and Odd S. Lovoll, *The Promise of America: A History of the Norwegian American People* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press in cooperation with the Norwegian-American Historical Association [hereafter, NAHA], 1984), 23, 28. Lovoll reports that the total number of immigrants from 1846 to 1930 was 851,842, while approximately 677,000 (or 80 percent) migrated from 1865 to 1915. See also Odd S. Lovoll, "Norwegian Immigration and Women" in this volume.

5. Lovoll, *Promise of America*, 153; see also his *Norwegians on the Prairie: Ethnicity and the Development of the Country Town* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press [hereafter, MHS Press], published in cooperation with NAHA 2006).



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[naha@stolaf.edu](mailto:naha@stolaf.edu)

Phone: 507-786-3221

**Change Service Requested**

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**May 13, 2011 - Norwegian Heritage Day**, a joint event with NAHA and St. Olaf College. For information and registration go to <https://www.stolaf.edu/alumni/events/norwegianheritage.html> or call 888-865-6537 or 507-786-3028 by May 9 to register by phone. 11:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. Includes luncheon, speaker, book signing. Cost: \$20.00. Keynote speakers Betty Bergland and Lori Lahlum will discuss their new book.

**May 17, 2011 - Syttende Mai Banquet & Gala Celebration**, Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington. Hosted by the Royal Norwegian Honorary Consulate. Former U.S. Ambassador to Norway Benson K. Whitney will speak. Starts at 5:00 p.m. \$50 per person. Call 612-332-3338 for ticket information.

**May 17, 2011 - Sons of Norway, Vestland Lodge**, Koldtbort (cold dish buffet) and program by Dr. Odd Lovoll on his book, *Norwegian Newspapers in America*. 7:00 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55435. Call Jim Aakhus at 952-994-3174 for more information. No charge.

**June 14-17, 2011 - NAHA-Norge Norwegian-American Seminar XI**, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. "Migrant Journeys: The Norwegian-American Experience in a Multi-Cultural Context"  
Registration information at <http://www.luther.edu/150/events/conference/>. Conference registration fee: \$150 plus housing and closing banquet.

**July 14-17, 2011 - Seven Lag Stevne**, Fargo, North Dakota. Best Western Doublewood Inn and Conference Center, Fargo. Information, schedule and registration forms at [www.7lagstevne.com](http://www.7lagstevne.com). Registration: \$20 plus lodging, banquet and optional tours to the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead and Fergus Falls.