

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the NAHA Office to the Association Members

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EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

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HARRIET HUSTVEDT
1922-2005

Harriet Hustvedt believed the Norwegian-American Historical Association was special. From her upbringing in Highwood, Illinois Harriet valued her Norwegian-American heritage and the work of the Norwegian-American Historical Association. Harriet joined NAHA in 1943 and faithfully supported NAHA's annual giving over the decades.

Harriet's mother (Othelie Marie Haugen) and her father (David Hustvedt) emigrated from Voss, Norway in the early 1900's. David was a fine craftsman and built a 3 bedroom, frame house for his family in Highwood, Illinois outside of Chicago. Harriet was born in 1922 and lived in the family home until 2005.

Harriet attended grammar school in Highwood, where she would return to teach fourth grade for 43 years. She enrolled at St. Olaf College in the fall of 1940. After graduation Harriet received a Masters Degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana in 1946. Following this degree she participated in a six-month study program at the American School at the University of Oslo.

During this program her mother visited Norway and the two of them spent time in Voss, her parents' home. Here they visited relatives and friends and Harriet's passion for Norway was ignited.

Harriet was a member of the American Association of University Women for 40 years, volunteered in the library of Highland Park Hospital and served on the Board of Family Services in Lake County, Illinois.

Harriet's principal wish was that Norwegian culture, language and traditions live on for the next generation. She was very supportive of NAHA over the years and was especially proud of the work contributed by her cousin, Dr. Lloyd Hustvedt.

We thank Harriet for the generosity she exhibited during her life and for the example she set with her bequest to NAHA. Through Harriet's estate we are pleased to say that her generosity has contributed \$150,000 to the Rolvaag Fund at NAHA. Thank you - Harriet. We are grateful for the assistance of Harriet's friend, Mary Ann Johnson in Door County, Wisconsin for supplying so much information about Harriet and her interests.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE



Former St. Olaf College President Christopher Thomforde, NAHA Past President, Lois M. Rand and NAHA President John R. Tunheim at the signing of the agreement with St. Olaf College.

In the spring of 2005 the NAHA Board of Directors was presented with an offer from the President of St. Olaf College, Christopher Thomforde, to consider a closer working relationship with the College. The Board looked to the future and wished to secure NAHA's place in a rapidly changing world. After thorough deliberations and much discussion the NAHA Board is pleased to announce the signing of an agreement in June 2006 which formalizes the relationship between these two venerable institutions. NAHA's home has been at St. Olaf since the Association was created in 1925.

Should space become tight on campus, the Association now has assurances that it will always have a home with St. Olaf College. NAHA's extensive book and newspaper collections are cataloged in the Rolvaag Library and they will continue to be available to members, students and to patrons through inter-library loan.

NAHA remains an independent membership organization with its IRS designation as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Your financial donations of money or appreciated stock to NAHA remain a tax deductible gift. The Association will continue to serve, you, our members through the publications program and the growing archives collection. Please keep the NAHA archives in mind when you are going through family papers. Donating those family letters, diaries, photographs and documents can tell the story of a family or an individual that might otherwise go unnoticed.

NAHA's 2006 PUBLICATION

We are pleased to announce that your NAHA publication this year will be *Norwegians on the Prairie, Ethnicity and the Development of the Country Town* by noted Norwegian-American scholar and former NAHA editor, Odd S. Lovoll. This book has been published in cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society. Against the backdrop of the expanding western frontier, Lovoll explores the country town through the lens of ethnicity in this pioneering study. Benson, Madison and Starbuck, all located on the western Minnesota prairie, were settled primarily by Norwegians and served as urban centers – railroad hubs, destinations for trade, and social activities- for the farming communities that surrounded them. The book sells for \$32.95 but will be sent to you as part of your NAHA membership! Your book will be mailed this fall.

MEET ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST-JEFF SAUVE

In the last newsletter we introduced you to Dr. Gary DeKrey, NAHA's new Archivist. Now we want you to introduce the assistant NAHA archivist, Jeff Sauve. The archivists are here to assist you in your questions about items in the NAHA collection of letters, diaries, manuscripts and documents. I asked Jeff to share a bit about himself so the NAHA members might gain a better sense of who is working in the archives.

"Someone once said I was aptly named— "Sauve" is a French verb meaning "to save." I've served as an archivist for many years in various capacities. I started my career as a senior archivist for Control Data/Quorum Systems. I joined St. Olaf College as the Associate College Archivist in 1999. Since that time I have served as a consultant to many local historical societies and organizations. In 2003, I directed a two-year grant to transfer NAHA's holdings to a database. (See Leif at www.naha.stolaf.edu) and of course now I'm working several hours a week as the associate archivist for NAHA.

Five years ago my wife, Evelyn, and I moved to Zumbrota, where I have become quite involved in local history research; particularly focusing on Iver Davidson, a.k.a. "The Roscoe Giant." This 7' 2" Norwegian-American joined P.T. Barnum's circus in 1887 and remained for several years. I have given numerous presentations about Davidson and recently portrayed him during the Zumbrota cemetery tour.

With a master's degree in creative writing, I have decided to finally put my skills to use and write my first novel. I chose to recount the lives of two Norwegian-Americans, Halvor and Elise Kittelsby Ytterboe; both prominent members of St. Olaf College in the early days, ca. 1880s-1900s. NAHA's archive has many manuscripts which helped immensely in my research. With a completed draft I am currently seeking a publisher.

Evelyn and I are blessed with two boys, Holden (11) and Bailey (2). We also share our home with a dog named Ole (12). My wife works as an executive editor for MSP Communications."

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank the generous donors who have supported NAHA. This list is for the months of January through June of 2006.

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LEARN NORWEGIAN WITH THE NEXT GENERATION

Incorporate your heritage with something new for your child or grandchild! Young preschool children can experience the language and culture of Norway through music, dance, crafts, games, stories and food hosted by the experienced staff at the Concordia Language Villages. Check out the website at www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org or email for information at pre-K@cord.edu.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from L.O. Hauge, *Taming Death, An Early Norwegian Immigrant Church and Its Burial Customs in Western Minnesota*. Sixteen page pamphlet by Evelyn Ostlie. The author examined the church records and interviewed the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Montevideo, Minnesota and a funeral director from Montevideo. The transition from strict Norwegian customs to the practicality of dealing with life on the prairie is noted. Ostlie observes that a funeral transitioned over time from a private family gathering to a community gathering.

Received from Eric Christenson, *Karlsøy og Helgøy Bygdebok, Bind II*, Hard-cover, 592 pages. This bygdebok covers the period from 1700 to 1860.

Received from James Knudson, *The Knudson Family Story*, spiral bound, approximately 120 pages. Includes background on the years Norway was ruled by Denmark and the evolution to Norwegian independence, as well as the Kleppe, Drange, Solheim, Rolse and Lee family lines. Contains photos, maps, information on dialects and names, ancestor charts and excerpts from memoirs from the author's grandfather who left Norway on May 17th 1888 and arrived in Denver, Colorado on July 13, 1888.

Received from Kenneth Clare, *Flight From Flanders*, hard-cover, 149 pages. A family history in the form of an historical novel. The 16th Century Flemish family became Protestants and immigrated to Denmark and then later to Norway. One of the descendants of Ludvig Hanson Munthe, emigrated to the United States in 1900 and from the heartland of the mid-west moved to California to work in the defense industry.

Received from John Holland Redfern, a 1965 letter from Albert Lukken addressed to his relatives in America, the Lukkens (in Norway Ottaslokken), Gedstads and Petersons. The letter provides background to the family tree that Albert had been working on for years. Albert visited the family home in Vinastrå, Norway in 1954 and learned from family members how his father, Peder Johannes Lukken, earned money for the ticket to Madison, Wisconsin. While working in Mt. Horeb for two years Albert's father saved enough money to relocate to Beloit, Iowa. The fertile land in the Sioux River Valley was the object of his 4,000 mile journey. As newlyweds the couple spent their first year of married life in a sod house and survived the wicked winter of 1880. The family tree is included.

Received from the Northfield Nordic Arts Guild, meeting minutes from 1994-November 2005. Also included are newspaper articles about the Guild and its various members, exhibits, correspondence and membership rosters.

Received from Torbjørn Greipsland copies of articles he has written about Norwegian Americans for various periodicals over the years. Most of the articles appear in his book *Drøm og dramattikk I det norkse Amerika*.

Received from Bruce Weaver, an original *Gleason's Pictorial* from September 11, 1852 which includes an article about the collision on Lake Erie between the steamer *Atlantic* and the propeller-driven *Ogdensburg*. Weaver's great, great-grandmother, Marit Rødvang, and her family miraculously survived the shipwreck. An article about the 1852 collision was written by Abraham Jacobson, and was featured in a 1902 issue of the *Decorah Posten* about Marit Rødvang and the family's harrowing journey to America. Approximately 500 people were on board the *Atlantic* and only 200 were rescued. More than 68 Norwegians drown in this ship wreck. The 1902 newspaper article mentioned the contrast from 1852 travel with the comfortable and fast trips from Norway to America "today!"

Received from Bradley Stewig, Five issues of *Julehelg & Julegleder* from the 1950's, illustrated with stories for the Christmas season.

Received from Thomas Erdahl, family letters, documents and photographs ranging between 1837-1910 from the Aagot and Nils Miland family who first settled in the Rake, Iowa area and then in Mower County, Minnesota. The letters were found in two calf skin wallets. These letters will be added to the America letters collection.

Received from Hildegarde Vallevand, 22 notebooks kept by her father, Vigleik E. Bøe, between 1900-1904, while he attended what is today the Luther Seminary, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bøe was born in Odda, Hardanger, and immigrated to America in 1892. He married Maria Haugen in 1899. Rev. Bøe's first parish was in Finley, ND (1903-09). He later served parishes in New York and Osakis, MN.

Received from Thor A. Larsen, articles and information about the Norwegian-American winner of the 1973 Nobel Prize winner for physics, Dr. Ivar Giaever. Dr. Giaver was born in Norway in 1929 and received the degree of Mechanical Engineering from the Norwegian Institute of Technology in 1952. He immigrated to the United States in 1956 and received the Ph.D in theoretical physics in 1964 from Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute while working at General Electric.

Received from Numedalslag, copies of the Rollag (Norway) Church Records from 1781-1841.

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Received from the Sigdalslag, *The Sigdalslag Lag*, hard-cover, 275 pages. This is the seventh in a series, the only one published in English. The last book was published in 1949. The lag is an association of people with roots in Sigdal, Eddedal and Krødsherad, Norway. Contains family histories, insights into immigrant life, and many photos of early life in America as well as updated family photos.

Received from Clayton L. Johnson, a four volume, paper-back set of family histories, with the title "Ruth and Levi", the names of Clayton's parents. The books include general background about Norway, maps, photos, obituaries, copies of census records, copies of letters, information from *bygdebøker*, and citation for the references used. Also included are stories collected from trips to Norway as well as from relatives in the United States. Volume one has 206 pages, Volume 2, 408, pages; Volume 3, 260 pages; and Volume 4 covers Levi's Swedish ancestors with 399 pages.

Received from Wesley R. LaBar, a compact disk containing the book, *Anna, A Book of Memories* by Anna Regina Hilleboe Christensen. The early years of the memoir deal largely with Wisconsin and Adams County in particular. The names of people and places have been indexed.

Received from Kristin Risley, *Kindred Hands, Letters on Writing by British and American Women Authors, 1865-1935*, hard-cover, 247 pages. Includes a chapter about Norwegian-American writer Palma Pederson, who was born in Porsgrund, Norway and came to America at the age of 15 and soon found work as a "hired girl" in a LaCrosse, Wisconsin home. Palma wrote novels in Norwegian which mirrored her own life and she struggled with being a female artist in the Norwegian-American community. She viewed Rasmus B. Anderson as her mentor and corresponded with O.E. Rolvaag.

Received from Chris Susag and Mari Trine, *Norwegians Uniting in Duluth: A Century of Norwegian American Organizational Life*. Seventy-seven pages and a Compact Disk of photos. The project reviews some of the Norwegian-American groups which existed in

Duluth, Minnesota over the last 100 years. These groups include The Sons of Norway Lodge, the Sons of Norway Junior Lodge, The Daughters of Norway, Norden's Daughter's Choir, the Nordmanna Men's Choir and some of the various objects from the various bygdelags in the Duluth area. A brief history of the groups and their activities are listed. Included as part of the project were oral interviews. The transcripts of the interviews and tapes will be donated to NAHA at the end of the summer.

Received from Linda Berg Stafford, *The Berg and Larson Families, From Telemark, Norway to America, Volume I*. Hard-cover, 294 pages. The book reviews the family of Sigur Larson from the Jonsaas farm in Sauherad, Telemark, Norway. In 1851 the widow, Anne Sigursdatter Berg at age 68 and three of her adult children immigrated to Muskego, Wisconsin. Anne died of cholera shortly after arriving in America. By 1863 the three Berg brothers had moved to Fillmore County, Minnesota and their sister Kari and her husband moved to Winnebago County, Iowa. Includes many photos, copies of affidavits, obituaries, recollections and letters from children who were taken in by other family members when their own parents died unexpectedly, and from family members who worked their way through College and those who served in World War I.

Received from David W. Thronson, *My Love is Always Yours, The World War II Letters of Torrey Savereid 1942-1944*. Soft-cover, 280 pages. Torrey Savereid entered the armed forces with a background including being the son of a Norwegian immigrant, a Norwegian Lutheran and coming from rural Iowa. He had met a nice young Norwegian-American woman (Marjorie Thronson) who was working in Minneapolis before he left overseas. The letters tell of his early history (and life in the trenches) while the overseas courtship continued through war-time censorship and V-mail letters. In one letter Torrey explained that while it is fine with him that Marjorie enjoys dancing, dancing is not something his church approved of and he just plain was not a good dancer!