NAHA Heads West

As director of the NAHA, I love meeting our members in person. We have many such opportunities in the Midwest, but the chance to visit members in other areas is a rare treat. I am planning a trip to visit our members in the Pacific Northwest and northern California in September. Those who live in the regions where I’ll be traveling will receive a letter with details on the series of ‘Meet and Greet’ events in Seattle, Portland, Eugene and San Francisco. You’ll have a chance to get updated on the latest happenings at NAHA and learn how to use NAHA resources even when you can’t be here in person. I hope you will also provide me with important feedback on how we are doing as an Association, and how we can best serve you, particularly those of you who aren’t in close proximity to the NAHA archives.

Confirmed dates and locations are as follows:

**Seattle/Tacoma/Whidbey Island, Washington**
*Wednesday, September 11* - Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
3014 NW 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117

*Friday, September 13* - Lunch at 208 Garfield Restaurant, 208 Garfield St., Tacoma, Wash., noon - 2 p.m. This will be an informal Dutch treat lunch with opportunity to meet other NAHA members from the Tacoma area.

*Saturday, September 14* - Daughters of Norway, Whidbey Island, 9:30 a.m., St. Peter's Church, 6309 S. Wilson St., Clinton, Wash. Open to all, you do not need to be a Daughters of Norway member to attend.

**Portland/Eugene, Oregon**
*Monday, September 16th*, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

*Tuesday, September 17*, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Oslo Lounge, Sonja Lodge #38, 710 McKinley St., Eugene, OR 97402.

**San Francisco, California**
*Monday, September 23*, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - The Presideo Social Club, 563 Ruger St., San Francisco, CA 94129. Informal gathering, join us for dessert and coffee.

If you have any questions, I’ll be in the NAHA office until Monday, September 9th. I hope to see those of you on the west coast!

Ha de bra!

Jackie Henry
NAHA Administrative Director/Newsletter Editor
The 2011 NAHA-Norge Seminar in Decorah, Iowa was well attended by NAHA members in the U.S. and Canada. To encourage participation at the 2014 Seminar the organizers are working with Brekke Travel, Grand Forks, North Dakota, to arrange a tour of Norway centered around the Fagernes seminar. While the specific tour information is still being developed, here is a sneak peak at what we have planned.

The tentative tour dates are June 14 to 24, 2014. Briefly, the tour would include:

- Transportation to and from Minneapolis to Oslo (other origination cities can be arranged for as well).
- Three nights in Oslo with city sightseeing tours, a trip to Eidsvoll to view the Norwegian Independence Hall and a visit to the Norwegian Emigration Museum in Hamar.
- Three nights stay in Fagernes, Valdres for the Seminar.
- Proceed toward Bergen by bus through the Valdres Valley, tour the Borgund Stave Church, view the Aurland Fjord and cruise the Aurland and Nærøy Fjords to Gudvangen. Motor coach to Flåm for dinner and overnight.
- Travel from Flåm to Bergen/Os via train and bus, staying at the beautiful Solstrand hotel for two nights before heading back to the U.S. or extending your stay on your own.

If you would like to reserve a space on the tour, you can contact Char Rustan Brekke at 800-437-5302 to arrange to hold your spot.

We’ll include the final tour itinerary on the NAHA website when arrangements are complete. You can also register for the seminar separately, registration for that will open after January 2014.
I just returned home from a very unique and enriching summer experience attending the University of Oslo International Summer School (ISS). This summer’s session welcomed over 550 students from 96 different countries. Attendees chose among bachelor and masters level courses ranging from three levels of Norwegian language to peace and justice studies, special education in Norway, Norwegian literature, culture and politics, international politics and my course of study, Norwegian history. The classes are all held in English and most students live in the Blindern Dormitory near the University of Oslo Blindern campus. While the majority of students are between the ages of 20 and 30, the range of attendees spanned from age 19 to age 80. NAHA members and their relatives were well represented among the contingent of U.S. participants, teachers and ISS staff. Many of the U.S. students have attended multiple years, a true testament to the program’s appeal.

In addition to the academic program, the ISS organizers offered cultural events, an international movie festival, travel opportunities, field trips and excursions to Oslo cultural institutions. One of the highlights of my stay was a weekend excursion to Telemark, where we stayed at the historic Uppigård Natadal farm near Fløtdal, saw the Vrangfoss locks in the Telemark Canal and visited the Hotel Dalen and the West Telemark Folkmuseum. My personal highlight was driving by the Neshaug farm on the shores of Hartsjåvatnet near Hjartdal, Telemark, because my fourth great-grandmother Kjirsti Jarandsdatter and her children emigrated from the farm in 1843. One hundred and seventy years later, it was humbling to know I was likely the first family member to return to that area.

Another highlight for me was the opportunity to meet with some of our Oslo based NAHA Norge colleagues. Dina Tolfsby, who recently retired from the Norwegian National Library as curator of the Norwegian-American emigration collection, gave me a tour of the library’s physical and digital resources. We ran into NAHA member Terje Leiren, University of Washington professor of Scandinavian Studies, who was using the library for a research project. NAHA board member Claudia Berguson, who was teaching Norwegian literature at ISS, and I met with NAHA Norge president Terje Joranger and current and past NAHA Norge board members Kari-Ann Fekjaer and Harry Cleven. We discussed the events being planned around the 12th NAHA Norge Seminar to be held next year in Fagernes, Norway. I was lucky enough to join other ISS staff and faculty for a lovely dinner at the home of Kjetil and Penny Flatin in Nesodden on the Oslofjord. Ellen Vollebæk and I had a chance to meet at the ISS opening reception held at the Oslo Town Hall. I also visited with Sverre Merkhagen and Ingvild Hagen about projects they are or have worked on related to Norwegian-American immigration.

I came away from my course in Norwegian history with a greater understanding of Norway’s place in European history, what life was like for early Norwegians in the rural areas, and the forces that created such an impetus for emigration to the United States and other countries during the 19th and 20th century. I also gained a greater understanding of and appreciation for contemporary life in Oslo.

If you are interested in more information on the ISS program, their website is http://www.uio.no/english/studies/summerschool/. Fees are extremely reasonable for a six week stay in Oslo, including room and board, a weekend excursion, local walking tours and social activities. Registration for next year’s session will begin in November 2013. The program is enriching in so many ways. I highly recommend it for those who can take the time to attend. A number of scholarships are available for those who might find the tuition out of reach financially.

I want to especially thank the NAHA board of directors for their support of my remote working arrangement so I could attend, and to St. Olaf College for providing a faculty/staff grant. It was a wonderful opportunity on so many levels.

Jackie Henry
NAHA Administrative Director
A Photo Album in Search of a Family

The eBay™ listing in June of 2010 caught my eye: “1920 Norwegian Professional 80-photo album ex. cond.” The seller offered few details—only that the photos documented a summer trip through Norway by several people, including a clearly skilled photographer. Among the locations identified in the photo captions provided by the seller was Vik i Sogn, in the province of Sogn og Fjordane. I bid on the album and purchased it for about $75. My interest stemmed from the fact that my grandmother, Andrine Tonning, emigrated from Sogn og Fjordane as a young woman. Her home there, to be sure, was not Vik i Sogn, but Stryn, miles away at the head of the Nordfjord. Still, I wanted to see what her part of the world looked like only 25 years after her leaving.

When I unwrapped the package from the seller, I found a large album with cardboard covers, 20 pages in all, with four 5”x5” photos on each page. In the 90 years since their pasting into the album, the photos had taken on a sepia tone, but they were—as the seller had assured—in excellent condition. Someone had kept the album from damp and other hazards that can be devastating to paper.

The cover carried the handwritten inscription: “Norge Sommeren 1920, to sister Jennie with all good wishes, Bill.” There were handwritten captions on each of the photos, but no names. I could only assume that Bill might be the photographer who had carefully and lovingly assembled the album and that his sister, Jennie, might be one of the two women who appeared in many of the photos.

I wanted to know more, so I emailed the seller, in New Jersey, to ask if she could tell me anything more about the album. The answer was no. I was on my own.

Our mystery travelers started in Nesttun, now a part of the city of Bergen. Their route took them to Lysøen, the island home of violinist Ole Bull (1810–1880), and on to Vik i Sogn, where they clearly stayed a while, visiting a mountain farm (or støl).

My thinking at that point was that I wanted to reunite the album with the family of someone in the photos, in the U.S. or Norway. Since the very last photos in the album were of the ocean liner Stavangerfjord departing from Bergen, I started by checking ellisisland.org for the ship’s passenger lists for Bergen departures in the summer and fall of 1920. I had no last names, so I looked for all the Jennies who might be the right age to match the photo images in the album. No luck. I didn’t look for passengers named Bill, since he clearly had to have been on shore to take the photos of the departing ship.

At that point, I realized the challenge in identifying Jennie and Bill. It was possible that Jennie was not even
Submitted by Ann Cole, NAHA member

one of the travellers. Maybe Bill gave her the album simply to document a trip he took with someone else.

A couple of years went by before I tried again. I decided to explore the Norway connection. Looking online for a way to make contact in Vik i Sogn, I found vikjavev.no, a site that offers information about Vik and includes a live camera and hundreds of photos of the high mountain farms in the area. The site is maintained by Torstein Hønsi. The email I posted to his guest book explained in a nutshell what I was trying to do. It took a few days to get a response, but then Torstein replied with a request to send him scans of some of the photos. Scans in hand, he came back with:

Yup, I can see right away where this is.

The first image, with the rock slide, is Turvoll. . . .

The other images are from the støl (= sæter) called Hang. The house in the images is Søbbeselet as far as I can see. It belongs to the Sæbø farm. . . . In my website, you can see an image of Søbbeselet and what it looked like in 2000. . . . Today it is in worse shape.

I'm copying Arne Inge Sæbo on this email. Not only is he the leader of Vik lokalhistoriske arkiv, he is also a relative of the owners of Sæbø and Søbbeselet.

So I had a breakthrough, made possible only by the communication offered by the internet. Thirty years ago, it might have taken months to learn what in 2012 became available through a couple of email messages and scanning technology.

In my reply to Torstein, I mentioned the possibility of donating the album to the archive in Vik.

Arne Inge Sæbo, the keeper of the Vik archive, emailed me a few days later:

Dear Ann Cole

I was very thrilled to see the pictures from the summerfarm Hang in Vik, especially since my grandfather is on one of the pictures, and a brother of my father, and the old woman that is on several photos is a sister of my grandfather. All with the last name Sæbø which is the name of a farm here in Vik. The building is still standing, but is falling down now. My grandfather was born 1898, so he was 22 years when the picture was taken, and Johannes was born 1905, 15 years, he is the boy with one of the horses.

I am a teacher, but am working 20% in the local archive here in Vik. I edit a local magazine where we mostly write about Vik in older days. I would like to print some of the pictures there.

Do you know anything more about those people who visited Vik? I am very interested to have the album in the archive where

Continued on page 4
we already have many hundred old photos from Vik.

Arne Inge printed several pictures in his magazine Pridlao in December of 2012. On the cover is the photo he refers to in his email, and a spread inside includes five more photos from the album.

I felt great satisfaction in making the connection with Torstein and Arne Inge and in seeing the photos in print. But we were no closer to identifying the American travellers who had visited Arne Inge's family.

Then, another breakthrough. In January of 2013, Arne Inge emailed me again.

Dear Ann

I think we have found out whom the Americans visiting Vik in 1920 were. It is probably Merriam Hartwick Trytten (1894-1978) and his wife Hedvig Kathinka Frøseth. They married May 20 1920 in Albert Lea, Minnesota and went to Norway shortly after. Merriam's parents were from Vik, Ola Kristofferson Tryti (Ole C. Trytten) and Brita Jonsdtr. Ovri, Ole emigrated in 1879.

A man who is related to Merriam has been in contact with his son George and has sent him the pictures, they are not quite sure, but think it is their father. And I do not think so many Americans

were in Vik in 1920.

Merriam became a well known physicist; he was leader of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. He was involved in the Manhattan project which developed the nuclear bomb. He studied one year at the university in Oslo in 1920.

We are not 100% sure about this, but I will say 99%.

Med helsing

Arne Inge Sæbø

So the tall young man in the photos at the mountain farm is very likely Merriam Hartwick Trytten, who served in the American forces in World War I and went on to a distinguished career as a physicist.

Some key questions remain. Why is Trytten not in any of the photos taken before the travellers' arrival at the farm? Is one of the two women in many of the photos his wife, Hedvig? Did she take a tour with Jennie and Bill while Trytten went on to begin his studies in Oslo? Did they reunite in Vik? I rather like this theory and want to examine and compare photos to see if I am right. And I would like to identify the photographer, Bill, and the second woman in the photos, who may or may not be the Jennie who was the original owner of the album. Might Bill or Jennie have family in the U.S. who would be excited to see these photos?

For now, I have to be content to know that the photos have found a good home in Vik, with someone who is passionate about local history. I have a feeling, though, that there is more to this story of the eBay™ album. I just have to be patient.

Ann Cole is a resident of Rockport, Maine.
Sandra Hendrickson, a NAHA member from Lakeville, Minnesota recently completed a book of translated letters exchanged between her great-grandmother Sigrid H. (Borseth) Bordson and friends and relatives in Norway and Goodhue County. The letters were written between the time she immigrated in 1914 and her death in 1927.

Her project began when Sandra’s mother passed on to her a trunk used by Sigrid when she emigrated from Hegra, Nord-Trøndelag to Goodhue County, Minnesota in 1914. The letters and photos were carefully preserved in their own box within the trunk. From Sandra’s introduction:

“Topics ranged from the Spanish flu and 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. A mother’s grief, a sister’s amusement, and the longing of a former sweetheart fill the pages.”

The book contains scans of the original letters, the Norwegian transcription and an English translation. Sandra was assisted by her Norwegian cousins Håkon and Sigrun Børseth and Kari Børseth as well as many others. Sandra has done a thorough job of indexing photographs and letter writers as well as documenting the process she went through to put the book together.

The book is available through the online publisher Lulu.com. The book can be ordered through their online bookstore at www.lulu.com/shop. Type the title into the search bar (the search is case sensitive so be sure to capitalize the first letters). The book retails for $30.00 plus shipping.

I was particularly interested in the letters from Hegra because part of my family comes from the Smågard farm, located very near the Leirfall farm in Hegra. Although my ancestors left the region a generation before these letters were penned, distant cousins still live on the Smågard farm.
The early Norwegian kings were constantly on the move around the country, partly on military or judicial business and partly in order to collect taxes which were rendered in the form of farm produce. They had farms known as Kongsgaarder in the country districts; in the cities were the Ladegaarder where they resided with members of their retinue. Here they collected and disbursed taxes. The Ladegaard in Oslo included Ladegaard Island, which is now a peninsula separating the Frognerkilen and Bestumkilen areas of the Oslofjord.

Although Oslo had been the capital of the country since the twelfth century, it only began expanding during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The burghers had summer estates in the surrounding district of Aker, so-called lokker, and these began to be parcelled out in the middle of the nineteenth century. These parcels were used for housing construction. From then on the city grew rapidly. Thus our parents, after their marriage in 1886, established their first home on Cort Adelers gate, and it was here their first four children were born. In 1894 they moved to Vestheim gate where the last two arrived. Finally, there about the turn of the century, we moved to Olav Kyrres gate near the Frognerkilen bay. By this time the entire intervening territory had been covered by apartment houses and other town buildings, and the number of inhabitants increased from some ten thousand in 1800 to about two hundred thousand.

At the end of the 1890s the boundary line between Oslo and Aker ran along Frogner Creek and north toward Ullevål Hospital. About half-way up the creek were the ruins of an old mill which was said to be located on the same spot as the mill where St. Halvard, patron saint of Oslo, had preached Christianity in the city for the first time. This was more or less conjecture, but this is unimportant, as Mother said, because it could well be true. As the name implies, St. Halvard may have belonged to a Viking brotherhood known as the Halvs battlers. These were known to have made numerous raids on Great Britain and Ireland, and the sagas describe them as a particularly fierce and hardy body of men. According to their code, they were not allowed to sleep ‘under a sooty roof’ (i.e. a room containing a fire) nor to ‘drink by the fireside’. In any event St. Halvard was supposed to have embraced the new faith in Ireland which was by this time fully Christianized. Upon his return to Norway he renounced the brotherhood and settled in the Oslo district, preaching in an old mill. He was persecuted by the inhabitants and fled to the Lier district near the present city of Drammen. Here he was apprehended and shot to death with three arrows - one through the head, one through the heart and one through the loins. He was then dropped into the Drammensfjord with a millstone around his neck. In the night his followers saw a bright light shining over the fjord, and they found the body of the saint floating on the surface of the water. After the Christianization of Norway by King Olaf, the remains of St. Halvard were entombed in a shrine in the Oslo cathedral which was named after him. Old paintings and carved stone figures portray the saint with a millstone and three arrows in his hands. The cathedral has now disappeared together with many of the other medieval churches of the city, destroyed by fires that have ravaged Oslo over the centuries. The only one left is the Old Akers Church which is still in use. It was then far outside the city.

Snorre’s Kongesagaer (written about 1200 A.D.) tells us that King Sigurd Jorsalfarær was buried in 1130 A.D. in the chancel by the south wall of St. Halvard Cathedral. During the wars between his son Magnus Blinde and King Inge, Oslo was occupied by the Danes who set fire to the cathedral, but the burghers managed to save the Shrine of St. Halvard and rebuilt the cathedral. Both King Magnus and his rival were later also buried.
The Memoirs of Nicolai Andresen, 1889-1963

there. It is therefore safe to assume that it must have been built some time between 1030 (the time of the death of St. Olaf) and 1130. The meaning of the city’s name, Oslo, is unknown and has been the subject of much conjecture. The Sagas state that Harald Haardraade built a city in Oslo which would seem to indicate there was a district by that name before the city was built. In one instance ‘Oslofjorden’ is used to describe the inner part of the present Oslofjord (Olaf den Helliges Saga). The outer part of the Oslofjord was known as Folden and the country on both sides of it Østfold and Vestfold. The old name, Vingulmark, may have pertained to a wider territory around the inner Oslofjord, possibly including a district by the name of Oslo or perhaps the present Akershus Fylke, bordering on the south on Østfold and Vestfold and to the north on Romerike.

Snorre says that when King Harald built a city in Oslo it was because the countryside was rich and supplies easy to obtain. He resided there often to in order to defend the country against Danish raids and also for himself to mount raids on Denmark. It would thus appear that Aker and surrounding districts must have been pretty well under cultivation with a stable population even at that time. Such is indicated by the ancient farm names which are almost as difficult to trace as the name of the city itself.

The Skøyen farm, the home of our great-grandfather, lay at the head of the Frognerkilen and was later taken over by his oldest son, Augustus. Our grandfather and another brother, Christian, had their summer residences on the isthmus leading out to Ladegaard Island adjoining Skøyen. These were known as the Smedbratten and Karenslyst. Skøyen was by far the largest of the three properties and Augustus, a banker as was his father, was the brother who was economically the most successful. The brothers were great friends, but in character and interests they seem to have been quite different. Augustus was the family socialite, while our grandfather, also a businessman, had a greater interest in the intellectual and political life. This interest was shared by Christian, a Supreme Court justice, and another brother Jens, who was a practicing attorney. Our grandfather appears to have been very simple in his ways, perhaps even a little careless about his appearance. The story is told that he was once to attend a large dinner at the home of his brother Augustus, at Skøyen. He was driving along in his none-too-elegant gig when a lady stopped him on the road and requested that he direct her to Skøyen. Grandfather answered in the affirmative, and the lady, apparently taking him for a coachman, told him to drive her there. They both had a good laugh when they found they were table partners at dinner.

The only one of this older generation who we knew was our father’s mother who lived until 1917. Both of Mother’s parents died before we were born. Father’s father as well as all his six uncles and three aunts had also died before we were born. Grandmother lived at Smedbratten during the summer and in the winter she resided at Incognito gaten where the Italian embassy is presently situated. She was very kind but somewhat more strict than our parents, and we were consequently always on our best behavior when we visited her. I recall that I once stayed overnight and came down to supper in my bedroom slippers. I had to go back upstairs and change into shoes before I was allowed to sit down at the table. After dinner the men retired to a specially designated room to smoke. They were not allowed to smoke in Grandmother’s drawing room. Even Father, who could not refrain from putting his pipe in his mouth from time to time, had to go outside to light it... Although it was still the Victorian Age, mother thought it unreasonable to make such a fuss about smoking in view of the fact that we all had our living from tobacco. No women smoked at the time, except the old farmers’ and fishermen’s wives who claimed they needed it as a stimulant.

Editor’s note - This is a small excerpt of the 41 page memoir covering a wide range of topics including history, social life, and memories of his extended family. Nicolai appears to have first traveled to the U.S. in 1919, with a destination of Louisville, Kentucky and became a U.S. citizen in 1945.
Additions to the

Recent additions to the manuscripts collection include:


Recently added family histories, memoirs, and organizational histories include:

**Family Histories and Genealogies**, P0539:

- **Mary Broome Berhow. Hans & Anna Skinvik: From Norway to Wisconsin (2003)**. Selected chapters discuss various places of residence in Wisconsin: Minong/Frog Creek, Rice Lake, and Milwaukee. Donated by Bennett F. Berhow.


- **Elfrida H. Nord, Carol N. Johnson, and Solveig M. Shepherd. Fra Fjord til Praerien (2013)**. In 1997, the authors inherited a small farm in Norway from their maternal uncle. In cleaning the home, they discovered many letters written by their parents, Helmer and Elfrida Nord, Appam, North Dakota. These letters, from 1930 to 1950, which are transcribed in the book, complement previously known correspondence from 1923 to 1929. Donated by Elfrida H. Nord.

- **Sandberg/Kjos Family Papers. Family of Johan Olaf Sandberg (1829-1872) and Tolline Thronsdatter Vestre Midsem (1830-1882)**. Files include some 18 letters dating from 1884 to 1889 from Caroline (1861-1902) to brother John Sandberg (1866-1942); land records (Mohall, North Dakota, and Miami, Florida, where John owned Quail Lodge, a small citrus grove); and family genealogy. Caroline immigrated in 1884 and worked as a domestic in St. Paul. She married Christian Andersen Kjos in 1889 in McIntosh, Polk County, Minnesota. John apprenticed as a seaman in 1883, immigrating to America in 1900 and settling first in Polk County, Minnesota, and later in Mohall, North Dakota. Donated by Pam Wood Solwey.

- **Tilda Akersmyr Tofteland Family Papers. Tilda Akersmyr Tofteland (1896 -1986)** was a charter member of Agderlag and was its secretary for 24 years. Agderlag photographs and programs, and a panoramic photograph of NAHA members taken in 1950, celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary. Donated by James R. Johnson

The Archives continue to benefit from the generosity of members and friends who have made important donations. Although we aren't able to acknowledge all donations here, we do appreciate every donation, large and small. We welcome additional donations of Norwegian-American letters, diaries, photographs, family histories, and community and congregational materials. Families can be sure that their donations will remain open for family consultation in the NAHA archives. They can also be certain that family treasures will not be discarded in a hasty move or by future generations who may have lost touch with their Norwegian-American heritage.
Archives

**Sons of Norway Papers, P0591.**
Solglyt Lodge No. 143, Edmonton, Alberta: The First 100 years (1913-2013). Donated by Dr. Kenneth Domier

**Hardanger Fiddle Association of America (HFAA), P1284.** Official archives of HFAA, comprising 11 boxes of materials: phonograph albums, audio cassette interviews of fiddlers, photographs, newsletters, organization records and correspondence, published history, and newspaper clippings. HFAA was founded in 1983 in order to stimulate interest in the instrument and in Scandinavian folk music and dance. Donated by Andrea Een, NAHA lifetime member.

**Local History, P1523.** Vikingen-A Norwegian-language newsletter published by the Scandinavian Young People's Society of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (December 1911-July 1914, photocopied). Note from editor in initial newsletter offering, Dec. 13, 1911: “The editor is a responsible editor as well as a responsible person and . . . announce[s] that if any reader . . . [is] offended on the account of anything printed in the newsletter, the editor will recommend that the reader purchase a potion of ‘deliberation solution’ and apply this to the entire body twice daily until completely cured.” Donated by Dr. Kenneth Domier

From the collection of Tilda Akersmyr Tofteland, a multi-stanza illustrated poem written January 22, 1928. The title translates to “Let me sing freely, as does the bird”.
CALL FOR PAPERS: NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN SEMINAR XII

Freedom and Migration in a Norwegian-American Context, Fagernes, Norway, June 18-21, 2014

The twelfth seminar of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Norway Chapter, entitled Freedom and Migration in a Norwegian-American Context will be held on June 18-21, 2014, in Fagernes, in the scenic Valdres Valley, Norway.

The seminar welcomes a wide range of topics within Norwegian-American studies. 2014 marks the bicentennial of the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in 1814, and we especially welcome papers on the topic of freedom and migration. Among others, we wish to include topics on individual and collective freedom, the relation between migration and personal freedom, various perceptions of the term “freedom”, etc. We would also be interested in papers on subjects related to the emigration / immigration process and the experience of the migrant in relation to the ethnic group, the host culture, and other ethnic cultures.

NAHA-Norway encourages seminar contributions based on many academic traditions. Topics related to literary, linguistic, and religious studies, to history, social science, fine and folk arts, and cultural studies—as well as multi- and interdisciplinary approaches—are appropriate. NAHA-Norway also emphasizes the need to see Norwegian-American Studies in the context of international migration and ethnic studies in general. Presentations may be delivered in English or Norwegian, and, except for invited lecturers, should not exceed twenty minutes. We require an abstract in English for all presentations, including those held in Norwegian. Prospective speakers are invited to submit a half-page proposal and a one-page CV to NAHA-Norway Chair Terje Hasle Joranger (tmh-jora@online.no) or Professor Ingeborg Kongslien (ingeborg.kongslien@iln.uio.no) by January 1, 2014. Further information on the conference will be available on the NAHA-Norway website http://welcome2.no/naha-norge/.