G eography and culture are fundamental aspects of a migration movement: sending place, receiving place, human transition. Deeply embedded in our global history, stories of migration are as current as the evening news.

This summer, NAHA’s Northern Migrations tour will offer an up-close look at the movement of people in Northern Norway between Trondheim and Bodø. The fisheries, farming areas, and natural resources of this region have influenced both seasonal and long-term migration in many directions — including emigration of several persons who became well-known in America. Much of our journey along the Helgeland coastline and on Lofoten will follow two of Norway’s new and innovative tourist routes, about which the Norwegian Roads Administration says this: “Along these routes we would like time to be something that does not simply vanish, but something you experience.”

A highlight of the tour promises to be a day on the island of Donna, the site of Ole Rølvaag’s birthplace and a landscape often reflected in his novels. Our tour guide, St. Olaf College Professor Emerita Solveig Zempel, is Rølvaag’s granddaughter. (See page 3 for more on Solveig’s background and registration information. Register soon!)

Indeed, Rølvaag was one of the founders of NAHA in 1925. Those founders established an archives and a publications program which have remained the focus of the Association’s work. Nine decades of collecting materials about a single immigrant group have given the NAHA Archives a special depth and richness. An invaluable source for both scholarly pursuits and family historians, our research materials and publications continue to promote a solid understanding of the Norwegian-American experience — the achievements, yes, but the shortcomings and heartaches as well. The better we appreciate the authentic story of each immigrant group, the better we can grasp the similarities, the differences, and the shared humanity among all migrating people, ancient and modern.

We have much to accomplish as we work to grow our archives, re-imagine our publications program, and widen our audience. Please join us. NAHA is about Norwegian Americans, but not just for Norwegian Americans. The story, like those of so many people on the move, is a fascinating one.

Dennis Gimmedstad, President

DENNIS Gimmedstad

is the new president of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, elected at the 2016 Biennial Meeting. He is retired from a career with the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, where he worked with the preservation of historic buildings and archaeological properties. Dennis grew up in southwestern Minnesota, and has Norwegian ancestors from Nordfjord, Solør, and Telemark.

NAHA EXPLORES NORTHERN NORWAY IN JUNE

June 9–20 Northern Migrations Tour
June 21–24 NAHA-Norge seminar in Stavanger (optional)

Join NAHA as we explore migration to, from, and within Northern Norway. The Northern Migrations tour begins in Norway’s medieval capital city of Trondheim and continues northward to Bodø.

Our guide is Solveig Zempel, professor emerita at St. Olaf College, where she taught Norwegian language and literature as well as American immigrant literature. Her scholarly publications include articles and reviews of Norwegian and Norwegian-American literature, translation of Norwegian immigrant letters, and translations of three works by O.E. Rølvaag. She is a granddaughter of Rølvaag, has visited his home on Donna several times, and has given numerous presentations on his life and work. Following the tour, she will be a keynote speaker at the NAHA-Norge seminar in Stavanger.

For more information, including a detailed itinerary, visit naha.stolaf.edu. As of press time, limited space is still available. To make a reservation, contact Nicole Anderson by March 15 at bortonoverseas.com, 612-821-9701.

COST

$2832 per person for NAHA members,* double occupancy
$3032 per person for non-members,* double occupancy
$507 single supplement

Registered by Mar. 15!

*Preliminary price based on 20 participants. Price does not include lunches, some dinners (as noted on detailed itinerary), and airfare to Trondheim and from Bodø. Also excluded are Stavanger conference registration and fees and personal expenses. Be sure you acquire a valid passport well in advance, and note that if your passport expires within six months of the trip you will need to renew before traveling.

SPRING MEMBER MEETUP

NAHA members are invited to gather in Minneapolis for a public lecture and reception to kick off the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS). Linguist and medievalist Anatoly Liberman of the University of Minnesota will deliver the conference’s keynote address, titled “Some (In)soluble Questions of Saga Origins.” Look for more details to come.

Thursday evening, May 11
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, 55403

Anatoly Liberman

Solveig Zempel

IN MEMORIAM
FORREST BROWN
1928–2016
BY CASSIDY NEUNER ’18

Former NAHA Archivist Forrest Brown passed away on December 2, 2016, at the age of 88. He began working for NAHA after retiring from his job as director of the St. Olaf College Library, and he spent his time helping patrons there until his retirement in 2004.

“FORREST SET AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE for the archivists who followed him.”

— NAHA Archivist Gary De Krey

“Forrest set an outstanding example for the archivists who followed him,” current NAHA Archivist Gary De Krey says. “He was devoted to NAHA and to its archives, and he unselfishly made his time available to patrons pursuing their family histories. His knowledge of the Goodhue County Norwegian settlements was unrivaled, and he drew upon that familiarity and his general knowledge of Norwegian-American history to assist researchers. He was careful, methodical, and accurate in everything he undertook.”

Forrest Brown was born on August 22, 1928, in Princeton, Minn. He graduated from Hamline University and went on to receive his masters in both history and library science from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He first worked as an assistant librarian at Lawrence College in Appleton, Wis., and then as library director at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, before settling in Northfield at St. Olaf College. Under his leadership, St. Olaf’s library expanded greatly, moved from a card catalog to an automated system, joined the interlibrary loan system, and opened two branch libraries in the music and science buildings.

Forrest spent his free time reading and pursuing his passion for history and Norwegian-American genealogy. He also loved to travel and took part in several guided tours led by St. Olaf professors. Whenever he could, he spent his time at the family cabin on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Forrest is survived by his wife, Virley, three of his children, and nine grandchildren. A great-grandchild is on the way.

FORREST BROWN
1928–2016

NAHA LEGACY CIRCLE

Since 1925, NAHA has collected, preserved, and shared the stories of Norwegian-American immigrants and their descendants. Nearly a century later, it continues to thrive, thanks to generous members who have designated a portion of their estates to support NAHA archives, publications, and programs, leaving a lasting legacy and ensuring the Association’s financial stability for future generations.

Become a member of the NAHA Legacy Circle by including the Norwegian-American Historical Association as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. To learn more, contact Amy Boxrud at naha@stolaf.edu or 507-786-3221.

TIPS AND TOOLS FOR TRANSLATING NYNORSK

By Dale Hovland

The two written standards of the Norwegian language are Bokmål and Nynorsk. When researching family history, Bokmål is more widespread; however, material written in Nynorsk may be encountered.

When translating Nynorsk using online tools, results vary widely. For example, this excerpt is from a bygdebok from Vinje and Rauland in Telemark:

Saki vart utsett og me veit ikkje koss det enda.

Nynorsk to English

Google Translate (translate.google.com) can be used to translate from Nynorsk to English, but the result contains many errors.

Såki vart utsett og me vet ikke hvordan det endte.

Bokmål to Nynorsk

Apertium (apertium.org) is a free online tool that translates between the two types of Norwegian. Translating the same passage from Nynorsk to Bokmål yields better results.

Apertium (apertium.org) is a free online tool that translates between the two types of Norwegian. Translating the same passage from Nynorsk to Bokmål yields better results.

Saken ble utsett og vi vet ikke hvordan det endte.

Bokmål to English

By using the better input of the above translation, the Google translation from Bokmål to English is not perfect, but much more accurate:

The matter was postponed and we do not know how it ended.

Map courtesy of Kåre–Olav; book image courtesy of NAHA archives.

THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE FORMS OF NORWEGIAN MUNICIPALITIES. Nynorsk is the official written standard used in rural areas of Rogaland, Hordaland, Sogn og Fjordane, and Møre og Romsdal. Some of the rural parts of Oppland, Buskerud, Telemark, Aust- and Vest-Agder also primarily use Nynorsk.

To learn more about Bokmål and Nynorsk from the Norwegian Language Council (Språkrådet), visit tinyurl.com/bokmal-nynorsk.
April 6, 1917, marks the centennial of the United States entering World War I. Under the command of Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing, more than 2 million U.S. soldiers joined their allies to fight on the battlefields of the Western Front. Immigrants faced challenges during this time, which, according to American historian John Higham, was known for “the most strenuous nationalism and the most pervasive nativism that the United States had known.”

NAHA asked Daron W. Olson, associate professor of European and world history at Indiana University East, to share his insights on the Norwegian-American experience during WWI.

NAHA: What challenges did immigrants in the United States face after WWI broke out?

Daron Olson: Randolph Bourne, a critic of the war effort at the time, stated that “War is the health of the state.” For immigrants in the United States, the outbreak of the war with its “100 percent Americanism” induced pressures to conform from the federal government as well as state and local governments. In 1917 the U.S. Congress overrode President Wilson’s veto to require a literacy test for immigrants. In 1918 the states of Iowa and Nebraska outlawed oral communication in any language other than English. Many immigrants ceased to speak their native language, especially in public. Immigrant churches also stopped using the language of the immigrants in their services and switched to English. Immigrants would participate in patriotic rallies, donate money, and turn against other immigrants for not being loyal Americans. Young children of immigrants were especially prone to the pressure to speak and act like Americans.

NAHA: How did immigrants change their behavior to seem more “American”?

D.O.: Immigrants used a variety of approaches. Some changed their names to sound more American. One example is the Norwegian name Bjerkager, which became Birchfield. Many immigrants ceased to speak their native language, especially in public. Immigrant churches also stopped using the language of the immigrants in their services and switched to English. Immigrants would participate in patriotic rallies, donate money, and turn against other immigrants for not being loyal Americans. Young children of immigrants were especially prone to the pressure to speak and act like Americans.

NAHA: Did Norway’s neutrality in WWI have any effect on Norwegian immigrants in the United States?

D.O.: Many Norwegian-American newspapers preferred that the U.S. remain neutral in the conflict. While outright support of Germany was rare — Waldemar Ager was an exception — Norwegian-American continued on page 8

Patriot Pancakes

By Jeff Sauve, Associate NAHA Archivist

This article first appeared in the January 2014 issue of the Sons of Norway’s Viking magazine.

During World War I, many wintry morning breakfasts started with a hot griddle and a pledge — eat at least one wheatless meal per week and help feed the soldiers abroad. The use of substitute flours such as barley, buckwheat, graham, oat, potato, rice, and rye was encouraged as the homemakers’ duty to help win the war.

A popular poem of the time, “Patriot Pancakes,” includes the following humorous lines that attested to the cooking adversity imposed by the war:

I might not win medal
In a trench or anywhere;
So mix the batter quickly
And keep the griddle hot;
Enlist me in the service
As a pancake patriot!

Ellen Knudtson Howard recalled in her memoirs the difficulty of homesteading near Malta, Mont., and of food rationing during the war: “It was hard to make nice bread and other baked goods with the strange flours.” If a recipe worked after experimenting, it was shared with others, according to Howard. Often successful recipes such as Liberty Bread, Barley Muffins, or Buckwheat Griddle Cakes were reprinted in local newspapers.

A common saying of the time, “Better to eat war bread now than eat the black bread of Germany later!” reminded everyone of a possible fate of not adhering to the pledge. Howard added, “I remember going to a certain home one Sunday and they served some of the finest white bread, so I thought perhaps they were pro-German, or at least not very patriotic.”

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**WWI SOURCE MATERIALS IN THE NAHA ARCHIVES**

**COMPILED BY JEFF SAUVE**

The NAHA Archives offer researchers a wealth of WWI materials, some of which are highlighted here. See NAHA online catalog, Leif, for a complete inventory: naha.stolaf.edu/archivesdata/leif.**

**General**

- Norwegian-American Servicemen in World War I (1914-1918) Papers, P1711. Encompassing collection includes monographs, clippings, correspondence, photographs, memoirs and other ephemera illustrating Norwegian-American service during World War I.
- Veblen, Andrew A. (1848–1932) Papers, P0539. The papers consist mostly of manuscript material (data, research notes, genealogical information) for Veblen’s "The Valdris Book" (1920), and of World War I military service records of natives of Valdres, Norway.

**Autobiography/Memoirs**

- Howard, Ellen Knudtson (1891–1987) Memoir, P0539. Topics include youth in Norway, his emigration to the United States in 1913, his school days at Jewell Lutheran School, service at Augsburg, being a piano dealer in Minneapolis, and his work in Iowa schools and at the Ebenezer Home in Minneapolis. He retired to Northfield, Minn., in 1962.

**Clippings**


**Conscientious objector**

- Lunde, Theodore H. (1863–1938) Papers, P1080. Documents of a Norwegian emigrant from Hamar, Norway, to Chicago in 1882. In 1901 Lunde established the American Telephone Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of piano hardware. Because of his refusal to make war materials during World War I, he lost his factory. A son, Erling Lunde, was court-martialed in 1918 for being a conscientious objector. A pamphlet covering his defense is among the papers, as is a letter from Senator Robert La Follette, 1919, and some anti-war statements from the Congressional Record, September–October 1939.

**Poetry**

- Winger, Bjorn (1892–1945) Papers, P1379. Numerous WWI poems. He taught English in an Indianapols high school from these areas as being less than desirable, due to their religious differences (many were Catholics, Jews, Orthodox), political differences (socialists, anarchists), and physical appearances. While not entirely happy with the law, most Norwegian-American leaders realized the law did not target Norwegian immigrants too much. The real challenge, however, came in 1927 with the National Origins Proviso, which was added to the 1924 Act. It limited new immigration severely for all except those from the British Isles. There was substantial opposition to it, including harsh condemnation in Norway.

**Biographies, contributed by one hundred prominent women.** Chapter: Gold Star and War Mothers — A.A.G. Women’s Mission.

- Short, Caroline Marie Stuverud (1870–1945) Papers, P0752. Her son, marine Pvt. Lloyd Short, died in The Battle of the Marne, France (1918). Correspondence regarding the American Pilgrimage Gold Star Mothers and Widows to American Cemeteries in France (1930).

**Photographs**


**Publications**

The most significant additions to the archives over the past few months are listed here. We welcome donations from members and friends illustrating all aspects of Norwegian-American history and culture. The current NAHA strategic plan emphasizes the continuing solicitation of new archival collections.

Do you have Norwegian-American letters, diaries, photographs, family histories, recordings, and community or congregational materials at home? Do you know of such items in the hands of others? If so, please contact us at naha-archives@stolaf.edu. Perhaps this list of recent donations will suggest some possibilities. Keep your eyes open at flea markets: The story that follows of the discovery of an early tintype of a well-known member of the St. Olaf faculty suggests what a vigilant eye can still find! The focus of this issue suggests another important collecting emphasis: Norwegian-American involvement in the First World War. We also have continuing interests in Canadian materials and in materials that concern the experiences of post-World War II Norwegian immigrants.

For guidance on what we collect, please consult the guidelines near the end of the Archives page on the NAHA website: naha.stolaf.edu/archives/guidelines.pdf. Please be aware that we do not collect Norwegian-language books other than rare Norwegian-American imprints (books published in North America for a Norwegian-language audience), bygdebøker, and other printed genealogical material.

Although we aren’t able to acknowledge all donations here, we do appreciate every donation, large and small. Families may be sure that important donations made to the NAHA archives will remain open for future family consultations.

**DONATED OCT. 1 – DEC. 31, 2016**

**FAMILY LETTERS, HISTORIES, MEMOIRS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES:**

- Clausen, Clarence A. (1896–1991). Photographs and letters. Over 30 family photographs (1870s to 1900s) and 86 letters spanning 1911 to 1951, including 46 courtship letters (1911–1914) written by Marian Baker (1907–1986), in Lyncheburg, Va., to Clausen, a faculty member at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. Added to P1428, Clarence A. Clausen Papers. Donated by Judy Swanson.
- Gonyea, Darrel E. "The Brooks of Borgland U" (2016). Chapters include: The Voyage to America; Prof. J.F. Grose; The Holden, Wanamingo, Owatonna Bron Relationship; A Day at the Farm; Relative Rumors and Other Stories; Saturday Night; Living in Red Wing and Keynson; and Rev. Bert J. Maus. Transferred to the St. Olaf College Library Special Collections. Donated by Darrel Gonyea, NAHA Associate Member.
- Nervig, Casper B. (1905–1981). Hartington Memories of a "P.K." (2016). Casper B. Nervig was the son of Rev. Anders J. Nervig (1867–1951), who served Bow Valley Evangelical Lutheran, Lime Creek Evangelical Lutheran, and Paragon Evangelical Lutheran churches of Hartington, Neb., from 1907 until 1918. These recollections were prepared by Casper Nervig around 1972 in the hope of having them compiled by the 100th anniversary of the Hartington churches. They were never completed but were drawn from his papers in May 2016. Chapters are devoted to the parish and its people; the pastor and his family; the worship and service life of the parish; the Ladies’ Aid as seen by a boy; and the parsonage. Added to P1097, Casper B. Nervig Papers. Donated by Sylvia Nervig Schmid.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:**

- Three tintype photos, ca. 1868–74. Purchased by donor at a flea market in Indiana. Two of the images provide identification: “Peder Helgeland, Lisbon [Ill.]” and “Ole Felland, Utica, Wis.” The relationship between the images probably derives from their connection to Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, where both men were students: Felland in 1868–74, and Helgeland in 1870–73.
- Together NAHA and the St. Olaf College Archives contain as many as 1800 photographs taken by Felland, an early member of the college faculty and an avid photographer. The collections also include dozens of professional photographs taken of him, but none as early as the donated tintype. Added to P0708, Ole G. Felland Papers. Donated by Chris Lynch.
- The tintype of the 14-year-old Felland, taken in 1868, is likely none other than the one mentioned in his 1933 autobiography: “I gradually became obsessed with the idea of becoming a student and started a propaganda at home, but at first with no promise of success. Time began to fly, week after week passed, July was nearly gone, only a week before it was time to move. Father began to give way, perhaps it would be best to let him try a year anyway; he is not very strong—not much good on the farm anyway. It soon appeared that father was quite willing to give his consent, so it was decided that I should go, and now there was a very busy week of preparation. I had to have a new suit of clothes, linen, and bed clothes, including an empty mattress, etc. There was a cousin by the name of Martha staying in our house, a good needle woman, who helped make my suit. Coat and vest were made of black broadcloth that had been bought in Stoughton [Wis.], but dresses were made from a heavy homespun woolen, made right in the room in which we were living. [Ole] Mandt and I had agreed on the day of departure to meet in Stoughton. We went to the photograher, William A. Fermann, who took pictures of us and had our pictures taken and were weighed. I weighed only 68 pounds, and they all thought I was too light. It has often occurred to me that there must have been an error, but the year was 1868, which made it easy to remember. At college it soon became evident that I was the smallest boy there, and the lightest that had ever enrolled as a student at Luther College.”

Threshing crew enjoying a coffee break near Govan, Sask., 1913, from the Clarence Clausen Papers.
Nicolay Grevstad was an attorney and the editor of Oslo’s Dagbladet newspaper before emigrating to the United States in 1883. In America Grevstad worked in the Norwegian-American press as the editor of Nordvesten (St. Paul) and a leading editorial writer for Minneapolis Daily Tribune. He is pictured here at his desk as editor of Chicago’s Skandinaven, a position he held from 1892–1911.

In 1911, President Taft named Grevstad the American minister to Uruguay and Paraguay, a position he held until 1915. Following this post, he was appointed overseer of the Scandinavian-American Press in the Upper Midwest by the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, an agency that strove to energize the patriotism of the state’s foreign-born population. Grevstad was charged with monitoring non-English newspapers and institutions. His work with the Scandinavian-American Press during WWI is described in “Ethnicity Challenged: The Upper Midwest Norwegian-American Experience in World War I” (NAHA, 1981).

For more information, see also Nicolay A. Grevstad Papers.