

**Collection Name:**

NAHA financial records, 1925-2013

Collection Number:

P1002

Extent:

4.4 cubic feet (11 archive boxes)

Biography/History:

The Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) was founded on October 6, 1925, in the wake of the Norse-American Centennial—a four-day celebration that became a pivotal moment of cultural identity building, balancing pride in Norwegian heritage with a growing American identity. From its inception, NAHA has been headquartered at St. Olaf College, where it remains today. Now a century old, this independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is supported by more than 1,000 members from across the United States, Canada, and Norway.

NAHA's founders were driven by a desire to move beyond the sentimental myths and hero-worship of early immigrant narratives. They sought instead a more rigorous, scholarly approach to preserving and interpreting the Norwegian-American experience. Their vision gave rise to a remarkable archive, dedicated to capturing and protecting the lived stories of Norwegian immigrants. Among NAHA's early leaders were influential figures such as novelist and professor O.E. Rølvaag, historian Knut Gjerset, journalist Kristian Prestgard, and academic Laurence Larson.

Central to NAHA's mission was American historian Theodore Blegen, who became the founding editor of the Association's publications. Blegen championed what he called a "grass-roots" approach to history—an emphasis on the everyday lives and voices of immigrants. Rather than spotlighting only the extraordinary, he focused on letters, diaries, and other primary sources to capture the experiences of ordinary men and women navigating the challenges of migration and settlement.

Since 1926, NAHA has published *Norwegian-American Studies*, a scholarly journal now produced in partnership with the University of Minnesota Press. The journal, along with NAHA's robust book publishing program, highlights research in fields such as history, literature, religion, art, and cultural studies. The organization has also played a vital role in amplifying women's ethnic history, publishing works by and about immigrant women like Aagot Raaen, Gro Svendsen, Elisabeth Koren, and Elise Waerenskjold.

Scope and Content:

Financial records of the Norwegian-American Historical Association. Related collections in the NAHA Institutional Records include: Publication Records (P1000), Secretary Records (P1001), Financial Records (P1002), and Archivist Records (P1003).

Funding:

Funding to rehouse and describe the NAHA institutional records provided to the Norwegian American Historical Association through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, a component of the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy constitutional amendment, ratified by Minnesota voters in 2008.

**Access Rights:**

Portions of the collection are restricted. Contact the archivist for permission to view materials in the NAHA Financial Records.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicated cited item here]. NAHA Financial Records. Norwegian American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Processing Information:

Collection processed and described by Kristina Warner.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Auditor's reports 1925-28, 1936-1938
1	2	Treasurer's reports 1926-1952, 1955
1	3	Monthly, quarterly, and various reports 1927-1959
1	4	Birger Osland correspondence, 1933-1937
1	5	Membership reports, 1939-1959
1	6	Book sales reports, 1933, 1943-1959
1	7	Membership correspondence, 1934-1937
1	8	Receipts (1938) and disbursements, 1938-1942
2	1-2	Account book, 1925 November 14-1951 April 30
2	3	Book sales reports, 1937-1944, 1960-1962
2	4	Book sales reports, 1939-1945
2	5	Account book, 1932 March 10-1938 January 10
2	6	Book sales, 1948 June 1-1953 May 27

3	1	Financial file, 1951
3	2-3	Financial file, 1952
3	4	Financial file, 1953
3	5	Financial file, 1954
3	6	Financial file, 1955
4	1	Financial file, 1956
4	2	Financial file, 1957
4	3	Financial file, 1958
4	4	Treasurer's reports, 1955-1962
4	5	Book sales, 1960-1962
5	1-2	Book sales monthly report, 1986-2005
5	3-5	Gifts monthly report, 1986-2000
5	6-7	Membership report, 1986-1995
6	1	Royalites, 2000-2005
6	2	Nygaard Cataloging Project, 1907-2003
6	3	Virchow, Karuse, Helgeson correspondence, 1992-2001
6	4	Minnesota Humanities Commission Grant, 2001
6	5	Twin Cities History Project, 1998-2001
6	6	Twin Cities History Project correspondence and schedule, 1997-2000
6	7	Twin Cities History Project pledges and gifts, 1997-2001
6	8	Twin Cities History Project, Dain Bosworth, 1997
6	9	Twin Cities History Project, Norwest Investment, 1997
6	10	Twin Cities History Project investment, 1999
7	1	Ledger, 1999
7	2-5	Ledger, 2001
7	6	Ledge, 1997-1998
8	1	Certificate of exempt status, 1946-1972
8	2	King Olav V/Bjork Chair fund correspondence, 1993-2000
8	3	Delayed pledges for Bjork fund/Olav V and Haugen fund, 1992-2000
8	4	Jostein Molde research account, 1989
8	5	Ella Tweet gift, 2000
		Includes photographs from the 75th anniversary.
8	6	Grethe Seim estate, 2001
8	7	Jan and Joseph Anderson estate, 2008
8	8	Selma Casberg estate, 1985
8	9	Carl Chrislock estate, 2008
8	10	Henry Dahl estate, 1969
8	11	Carlin E. Dahler Trust, 2001
8	12	G.A. Ellestad bequest, 1997
8	13	Norman Erickson estate, 2001
8	14	Rolf Erickson estate, 1993
8	15	Sanford Fosholt archives fund, 1984-1985
8	16	Gunnar E. Gunderson bequest, 1973
8	17	Richard Halom estate, 2007

8	18-19	Harriet Hustvedt bequest, 2006-2009
8	20	Thor Ohme bequest, 1993
8	21	Odmund L. Hydle estate, 1985
8	22	John Langum memorial, 200
8	23	Elsie Mebly trust, 2001
8	24	Leif Melgaard bequest, 1991-1992
9	1	Elizabeth Rowe Roed bequest, 2007
9	2	Royal Tree fund, 2000
9	3	Lillian Thorsness estate, 2012
9	4	Ruth Vigness estate, 2001
9	5	Knut Magnus Wefald bequest, 1991
9	6	Alice Serkland estate, 1996
9	7	Harry Williams bequest, 1992
9	8	Severt and Mary Kvamme stock gift, 2005
9	9	Annaul/Rølvaag fund, 1997-2001
9	10	Donations, 2002, 2004
9	11	First Asset Management agreements, 1992
9	12	Audit, 2003
9	13	Transfer funds Chicago/First Asset, 1990-1993
9	14-23	Financial records, 1989-1998
10	1-6	Financial records, 1999-2004
10	7	Photographs, 2004
11	1-10	Financial records, 2005-2013
		Includes photographs.