

Collection Name:

Helge Høverstad papers, 1863-1945

Collection Number:

P0547

Extent:

3.2 cubic feet (8 archives boxes)

History/Biography:

Helge Høverstad was born on March 15, 1870 in Vang, Valdres, Norway. His parents were Torger Anderson Høverstad (1834-1883) and Gjertrude Helgesdatter Leine (1843-1939). Together they had four other children besides Helge, including: Torgeir who emigrated to Minnesota, and Boye, Torstein, and Berit who all stayed in Norway. Helge immigrated in June 1892, first landing in Quebec, Canada. He first settled in Holden, Goodhue County, Minnesota where his uncles, Anders and Torstein, had settled.

Helge first went to the Hamar Seminary in Norway from 1887-1889, and then went on to study at the United Church Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 1893-1896 (Now Augsburg University). From 1896-1897, he attended Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary. He served various congregations including: Elliot, Illinois (1897-1904); Perry, Wisconsin (1904-1909); and Sioux City, Iowa (1909-). He served on the board of the Foreign Missions and wrote for St. Petri tidende.

Helge's father Torger was born to Anders Anderson Hoverstad Berit Hambre. He had four siblings: brothers Anders and Torstein (both settled in Holden, Goodhue Co., MN), and sisters Berit and Kari. Berit married Kristoffer Lockren (Wangs, Goodhue Co.), and Kari married Ole H. Leine (Vang, Norway). Helge's mother Gjertrude was born to Helge Helgeson Leine and Gjertrud Boyesdatter. She had eight siblings: Helge, Ole Boye, Ove, Erik, Nils, Karn (married Lars Lenie) and Berthe (Married Trond Hambre).

Helge's brother Torstein, who stayed in Norway, conceived the idea of establishing a Norwegian teacher's college, and he worked actively from 1916 to 1922 to realize this idea through both the government and the Storting. He served as the publisher and editor of Norsk pedagogisk tidsskrift (the Norwegian Journal of Education). Torstein's son, Gunnar, was a Norwegian bomber pilot who was trained to fly in Canada at Camp Little Norway during World War I.

(Information gathered from Andrew Veblen's book "The Valdris Book," and from bibliography of Norwegian Lutheran pastors in the United States. Both available in the NAHA Archives.)

Scope and Content:

Papers of a Norwegian-born clergyman in the United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America (1897-1917), and in the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America (1917-1945).

The papers consist largely of letters received by Høverstad, including a number from Gertrude Høverstad, his mother, and other Norway relatives, from Torgeir A. Høverstad, his cousin in America; from Kristine Haugen, zealous protagonist of Norwegian-American culture; from Hans C. Ness, Norwegian consular agent in Sioux City, Iowa.

The correspondence deals with personal problems of friends; with affairs of church foreign missions in China, Madagascar, and Africa; with church politics; with relation of church and state and with the use of Norwegian language during World War I; with hypnotism and spiritualism; with personal problems as land owner; with problems connected with settlement of Torgeir Høverstad's estate; with Torstein Høverstad's book "Skularne i Amerika og det Praktiske Liv;" with the Veblen family (mostly in the T.A. Høverstad folder); with Valdres Bygdelag, of which he was a founder.

Correspondents include Lars W. Boe, Olaf M. Norlie, Einar Haugen, Missionary Harold Martinson, Governor W.L. Harding (Iowa), Kirkesanger (Precentor) John O. Quale (Bishop Jens Pederson Schelderup, 1557-1582). There are occasional carbon copies of letters by Høverstad.

The papers also contain newspaper clippings concerning his ideas and activities; his poems, lectures, newspaper articles, including such titles as "Rationalismen, Historie og Historie Undervisning," and "Address at Unveiling of Gjermund Høyeme portrait in Valdres, Norway, 1923;" his autobiography, 1893; his mother's autobiography, 1921; and many photographs.

Access Rights

Restriction: Box 5, Folder 2 is restricted and to be opened only with permission of the archivist.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. Helge Høverstad Papers. Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Biographical and genealogical miscellany, 1887 September 29-1943 April 15 Includes passport, diploma from Seminary, membership information on the Deaconess Hospitals and the Women's Missionary Federation.
1	2	Gertrude Høverstad correspondence, 1863 November 22 1863-1939 July 6

- Gertrude Høverstad was Helge's mother.
- 1 3 Gertrude Høverstad correspondence, 1883 July 1-1903 March 26
- 1 4 Gertrude Høverstad correspondence, 1904 January 8-1935 May 30
- 1 5 Correspondence, 1900 April 21-1915 December 14
Includes correspondence with Igvad Daehlen (Sinyang Seminary, China), Peter A. Bjelde (Fort Dauphin, Madagascar) Gerhard Rasmussen, J.D. Runsvold (Northwood Deaconess Hospital, North Dakota), T.H. Dahl, P.E. Moen, O.T. Naglestad (Farnsworth, Naglestad & Salinger Lawyers), Wallace Nye, "Norsk Lutherske Prester i Amerika. En Protest," Olaf Norlie.
- 1 6 Correspondence with Norway relatives and friends, 1887 September 22-1936 September 9
Postcards with images of family members in bunads and younger girls sewing, B. Hoverstad, Torger Hoverstad, Torstein Hoverstad, Berit Hoverstad Berit Gjevre, Norsk pedagogisk Tidsskrift, Bøye Hoverstad, Gunnar O. Gjevre, Totens fylkesskole, Olga Hoverstad, newspaper clipping "Fra det rike Amerika" av Dr. Torstein Hoverstad.
- 1 7 Torger A. Høverstad correspondence, 1934 September-1943 April
Torger Høverstad was Helge's cousin. Torger Hoverstad graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture in 1890, and from the College of Agriculture in 1894, making him the first graduate from the full course in agriculture at the University. After his graduation he was connected with the experiment stations at Coteau farm (1894-1895) and Crookston (1895-1905).
- 1 8 Torgeir A. Høverstad correspondence, 1903 April 16-1928 December 31
Torgeir A. Høverstad was Helge's brother. Includes certificate of citizenship, declaration of intent, the Minnesota Scandinavian Relief Association membership, Lars W. Boe, Knute Nelson, E.B. Hobe, J.P. Morgan, W.L. Harding, Lutheran Hospital Society of Southern California,
- 2 1 Kristine Haugen correspondence, 1932 March 13-1945 May 10
Includes correspondence with Einar Haugen, son of Kristine.
- 2 2 Hans C. Ness correspondence, 1933 January 8-1945 July 17
- 2 3 Correspondence, 1919 January 19-1919 December 6
Alvis Stolen, Board of Deacons (Sioux City), J.D. Runvold, Miss Selinsky, Frank Murphy (Brownsville, TX), W.L. Harding, J.M. Toliver, H.B. Kildahl, Harold Solvesberg, F.A. Schaffnit, Clarence Wright, Caroline Larson, Julius Johnson, H.G. Stub, Albert Tronvold, H.C. Holm, Erik Waldeland, James Toy, Mrs. Ronnei.
- 2 4 Correspondence, 1920 January 1-1923 December 27
Norwegian Lutheran Church of Canada, Pastor Voldal, H.C. Holm, P.J. Reinertsen, A.P. Soelberg, Theodore Olson, M.B. Finseth, Lee

- Gillis, Pastor Sundheim, Board of Foreign Missions, H.A.
 Knudson, J.L. Howie, O.T. Naglestad, Augsburg Publishing,
 Pastor Jordahl, Robert Coleman, J.M. Green, H.M. Thompson.
- 2 5 Correspondence, 1924 January 4-1926 December 24
 Rev. Berge, H.C. Holm, Charles E. Tower, John Andress, J.A.O.
 Stub, Erling Brodal, G. Smedal, P.B. Garberg, M.B. Finseth, Lars
 Foss, A.C. Kvennes, A.B. Cummings, Pastor Hoel, Pastor Sunner,
 Dr. Birkelund, Siloah Mission (For seamen, loggers, and city men),
 Charles Kloster, J.A. Aasgaard, P.B. Garberg, H.B. Kildahl, H.E.
 Rex, Ivar Ramseth, O.T. Naglestad.
- 2 6 Correspondence, 1927 January 11-1929 June 28
 J.A. Aasgaard, Glitne Lodge (Sønner af Norge), J.A.O. Stub, O.E.
 Brandt, Nels Pederson, Harold Larson, Norman Nelson, I.J.
 Tanner, J.R. Birkelund, A.L. Stueland, Martin Hegland, N. Astrup
 Larsen, L.O. Rue, Rees L. Phelps, George S. Natwick, O.H. Hain,
 Mrs. J.T. Jacobson, John Hjellum, O.O. Sovde, John Quale,
 Pastor H.O. Fjeldstad, Torger Olson, A.E. Cooper, E.O.F. Sletvold,
 N.T. Jaspersen, Ole Haugen, Thorstein Høverstad, Olaf Eger.
- 2 7 Correspondence, 1932 July 11-1933 December 14
 Camp Nidaros, Laymen's Missionary Movement, F.J. Michael, J.D.
 Runsvold, Olaf Carlson (Madagascar), G.N. Isolany, John O.
 Quale, Morningside College (Sioux City, Iowa), Sara Gulbrandsen
 (Madagascar), E.K. Matson, China Lutheran Theological
 Quarterly, Lutheran United Mission (Sinyeh, Honan, China), P.A.
 Bjelde, Lars Boe.
- 3 1 Correspondence, 1929 July 4-1932 June 27
 A.M. Bruschwein, Martin Scramstead, Enor Matson, Frank Bryson,
 Ivar Opdal, Rees Phelps, D.H. Silvius, Martin Seramstad, H.A.
 Hall, Christ Holm, Clarence Vigen, Selmer Berge, J. Qvale, Ivar
 Tenold, Emma Bonhus.
- 3 2 Correspondence, 1934 January 9-1937 May 27
 C.H. Kamphoefner, J.D. Runsvold, Bertha, Rorstad, M.c. Eidsmoe,
 Olaf Carlson, Erik Sovik, O.J. Bjornnes, Birger Osland, A.U.
 Anderson, G.V. Fait, Sarah Aus, A.M. Sundheim, P.B. Trestad,
 H.E. Solum, Laurence Field, H.A. Hall.
- 3 3 Correspondence, 1937 June 1-1940 June 28
 J.W. Taylor, Theodore Schenkey, Olaf Eger, H.C. Halvorson,
 Marcus Bockman, Oswald Veblen, Letter from Hankou area in
 China (Talking about the battles, bombing, and fighting, potentially
 related to the Battle of Wuhan), Nils Kleven, Axel Shefveland. J.M.
 Haaland.
- 3 4 Correspondence, 1940 July 5-1942 December 26
 Theodore Bjorka, Axel Schefveland, J.M. Haaland, C.L. Paulson,
 Knights of Luther, U.A. Turmo, Ole Haugen, Marvin Haugen, The

- Board of Book Mission of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, Martin Lien, Andrew Olson, G. Smedal, Helmer Hoverson, Lars Boe, B.A. Johnson, The National Tronderlag, Gertrude Giere.
- 3 5 Correspondence, 1943 January 3-1944 June 30
A.M. Sundheim, J.C. Malkewick V.E. Boe, Herbert Hoover, A.M. Skindlov, Iver Ytreeide, S.S. Reishus, David Stoeve, Roy Haugen, A.J. Bergsaker, H.F. Kalaas, T.F. Gullixson.
- 4 1 Correspondence, 1944 July 24-1945 August 21
Agnes Aastad, A.M. Romstad, R. Ulvilden, Anna Dennis, T.J. Weltzin, Henrik Shipstead, Mollie, Leraas, Severt Dahl, Layla Sivesind (Mission Americaine Fort Dauphin, Madagascar).
- 4 2 Clippings, 1902-1944
- 4 3 Poems, 1893 March-1938 December 31
- 4 4 Poems, 1939 January 9-1945 May, undated
- 4 5 Lectures and articles, undated
Topics: Valdris, Fra Amerika (Kapitalismens skyld?), Criss-crossing in Montana, The Dance Disappeared (A chapter from life), The value of music in Church, Our Madagascar and So. Africa Mission, Kvinden og missionen, Missionsinteressen og de andre arbeidsgrene i menigheten, The Church and Foreign Missions.
- 4 6 Lectures and articles, 1894 September 9-1915 August 29
Topics: Father and Son, A little survey of the Chinese Situation, Missionsmøte, Inwood, Iowa, Our South African Mission, Rationalismen, Luther and Reformation, How I discovered I was an American, I Dens Utspring, Tak - og lidt til, Congregational singing.
- 5 1 Lectures and articles, 1916 July 1-1934 March 21
Topics: Bokemeldelse, The cleaning out of the German Lutherans, Sak, ikke person, Ja det var menighet det!, Our Pericopes, Hvilke farer truer kirken i vor tid?, Psykiske faenomener, Biskop G. Hoyme, Spiritual Life Conference, Fra Eventyr-landet.
- 5 2 Lectures and articles, 1934 September 1-1944 August 6
Topics: En tur til Valdres Wisconsin, Fra Amerika (Hallvard Torgeirson), Amerika Brev. Valdres-stevnet, Tideskrift for Valdres Historielag, Gjennem Rocky Mountain District: En ny plan, Tideskrift for Valdres Historielag, The Dance Disappeared.
- 5 3 Miscellaneous, 1900-1947
Missionfest, Meeting minutes of the Joint Committee (1933).
- 5 4 Restricted correspondence, 1904-1937
Restricted. To be opened only with permission of the archivist.
- 5 5 Photographs
Gjertrud Høverstad; Høverstad i Vang; Eidsvold skole; Helge and Daniel Nelson (Missionary to China); Helge with T.T. and T.A.

Hoverstad; "Delivering Bishop Hoyme's picture (painting by A. Bryer (?) Minneapolis, Minnesota), Valdres, July 1923; Bestemor Hoverstad; Torgeir Hoverstad; Helge in Sioux City; Portrait by train in Valdres; Camp Nidaros; Helge's house on Longfellow Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Gjertrud Høverstad's family; Eidsvoll monument, Vang; Gjertrud Høverstad with her brothers and sisters.

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| 5 | 6 | Photographs
Helge going back to Norway; portraits. |
| 6 | 1 | Photograph
Helge going back to Norway; Helge "eskimo"; Bears; Toten Fylkesskole. |
| 6 | 2 | Photograph of Gertrude and her sons Helge, Torger, and Torstein in a Norwegian folk art frame, undated |
| 6 | 3 | Ministerial record book, 1896-1909 |
| 6 | 4 | Notebooks and autograph album, 1884-1935
Two notebooks on missions, 1900-1935 and 1924-1927. One notebook is listed as Hamar, Norway. |
| 6 | 5 | Memory book (undated) and Church service planning book, 1912 |
| 7 | 1 | Day book, 1897 June-1899 February |
| 7 | 2 | Sermons, 1899-1902 |
| 7 | 3 | Sermons, 1902-1907 |
| 7 | 4 | Sermons, 1907-1919, 1934-1945 |
| 8 | 1 | Almanacs, 1904, 1906, 1908, 1909, 1941, 1944 |
| 8 | 2 | Postcard album, undated |
| 8 | 3 | Biographical sketches, 1893 May 2
Photocopy and original. The original biographical sketch is extremely fragile. |