

**Collection Name:**

Lars Nielssen Nesseim (Nesheim), papers, 1838-1961

**Collection Number:**

P0560

**Extent:**

0.8 cubic feet (2 archives boxes)

**Biography/History:**

Lars Nielsen Nesheim, a farmer in Øvre Lemme in Voss, Norway, was responsible for copying all of these letters. A man by the name of Ivar Davidson Hustvedt (who donated one copy to NAHA) knew the man personally, and described Nesheim as a self-taught man, and as an "original." Hustvedt said Nesheim had "bookshelves that reach from the floor up to the ceiling filling two walls" and "he spared no effort, often traveling great distances in order to get hold of these letters, as a loan or by other means, so he could copy them. He bound these copies into books" These letters were sent from America, and often helped convince or deter a person from emigrating. All of them are carefully copied in gothic script using different colors of ink.

**Scope and Content:**

The Lars Nielseen Nesseim papers consist of two volumes of copied immigrant letters. One volume was donated by Ivar Davidson Hustvedt, and the other by Rev. Sven Tverberg. The two volumes of America letters were written during the 1840s to friends and relatives in Voss and copied into books by Nesseim. Sophie Boe made typed transcriptions and translations of the Tverberg volume. Among the letters are some by Elling Eielsen, Sjur Jørgensen Haaeim, and John Haldorsen Quileqval, uncle of Knut Nelson.

Correspondence between Sophie Boe, O.E. Rølvaag, and Theordore Blegen about the Tverberg volume, and between Blegen and the Chicago Historical Society (now Chicago History Museum) about the Ekse volume. Note, the volume donated by Ida S. Ekse to the Chicago Historical Society may be the Lars Davidsen Reque volume. Two other volumes are at the Voss Folk Museum.

**Access Rights:**

This collection is open for research.

**Bibliographic Citation:**

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

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	1	Tverberg volume of copied immigrant letters, 1838-1844
1	2	Hustvedt volume of copied immigrant letters, 1841-1843
1	3	Sophie Boe transcripts of Tverberg volume, undated
1	4	Hustvedt volume letters published in Vossingen, undated Photocopies of Vossingen letters.
1	5	Articles and correspondence, 1924 March 1-1961 December 23
2	1-2	Sophie Boe translations of Tverberg volume, 1838-1844
2	3	Vossebrev scrapbook, 1931-1932 Features newspaper clippings of published letters.
2	4	Clippings from Skandinaven, 19031-1936
2	5-6	Newspaper clippings, circa 1930