

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



*From the NAHA Office to the Association Members*

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## WINTER 2001 NEWSLETTER NAHA CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

In the spirit of the NAHA charter members, we recognized our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the exact day of NAHA's founding - October 6<sup>th</sup> - with a dinner in the Kings' Room of Buntrock Commons at St. Olaf College. Norwegian Consul General Ulf Christiansen, Dean James Pence from St. Olaf College and NAHA Secretary Emeritus Lloyd Hustvedt recognized the relationships and contributions NAHA has made over the past 75 years. To showcase our beginnings, Archivist Forrest Brown organized a special exhibit highlighting a few of the treasures contained in the archives. Part of that collection about the Norse-American Centennial is now on display outside the NAHA office in the lower level of Rolvaag Library. Stop by and see the beautiful vellum book that was the official gift from the Government of Norway to the Norwegian-American people in 1925.

## NAHA RECEIVES LARGEST GIFT IN ITS HISTORY

At the anniversary dinner, we were pleased to announce a gift of stock from Ella Rolvaag Tweet. The gift exceeded \$75,000 to commemorate NAHA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ella is the daughter of NAHA's first Secretary, O.E. Rolvaag. As a young girl Ella recalls stuffing envelopes for her father in the initial membership drive for the newly formed group - the Norwegian-American Historical Association!! Ella also recalls typing (badly she says) letters for NAHA. In adulthood Ella contributed her talents as an author in NAHA *Studies and Records*. Ella -with this gift you have more than made up for a few, early typographical errors!!! We believe Ella's generosity will also inspire others to remember NAHA with an immediate gift or by placing NAHA in their will. As a non-profit organization NAHA can receive appreciated stock or other property and this can have great tax benefits to you the donor.

## SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

Did you know NAHA has a group of dedicated volunteers who have contributed countless hours toward making NAHA's resources more accessible? **Lee Rokke** has for years been indexing many collections of letters in various collections, including that of Rolvaag. She has organized and indexed the photograph collection and also a large collection of newspaper clippings. **Neil Hofland** has scanned the out-of-print volumes of *Studies and Records* for entry on to the NAHA website at [www.naha.stolaf.edu](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu). This allows you to access the earliest books NAHA published from the comfort of your own home. **Jimmilee Miller** spent hours reading old Decorah Posten newspapers last summer. Articles of interest to future scholars were copied and added to many collections in the Archives. Her work makes the pertinent articles available to more people since there is no index to the paper. **Paul Rusten** helped NAHA get the original 1925 Norse-American Centennial film to a point where you can share in the excitement of what it was like to have 200,000 Norwegian-Americans gathered in St. Paul for activities and an address by President Calvin Coolidge. (Paul and Jimmilee are new members in the year 2000. They were so impressed by what NAHA offers that they volunteered their expertise to benefit NAHA.) If you know these four individuals - please stop them and say THANKS! We are grateful for their efforts in making NAHA an even better resource for you.

## KING OLAV V CHAIR UPDATE

This summer Professor Odd S. Lovoll informed us of his impending retirement. St. Olaf College has been working with the NAHA Board to find a scholar possessing the talents and skills to be the editor of our NAHA publications as well as a dynamic professor of Scandinavian-American History for the College. It is appropriate to report that progress is being made and by the next newsletter we will have an announcement for you! We are still working on selecting a date to honor Professor Lovoll for his 20 years of service to NAHA. The Lovoll list of accomplishments is long and we look forward to a festive celebration of them this spring.

## 1925 NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL FILM NOW AVAILABLE

The rediscovered film has been professionally restored and is now available in video format. Those in attendance at NAHA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, who saw an abbreviated version, will tell you there are some delightful fashions as well as important people and events to see. Your parents or grandparents might be in this 59-minute, silent film documentary! Cost is \$28.95 plus tax and postage. (Minnesota residents must pay 6.5% sales tax @ \$1.89) Postage will be \$3.00 for the first video and \$1.00 for each additional video. To order please send your request to the NAHA office and enclose a check for the proper amount.

## MARION NELSON TRIBUTE

The Norwegian-American community lost one of its giants with the sudden death on September 6, 2000 of Marion Nelson. Many of you know Marion as the visionary leader of the Vesterheim Museum, but Marion was also a long-time member of the NAHA Board. Marion's last publication before his death was the NAHA catalog *Painting by Minnesotans of Norwegian Background*, a companion to the exhibit Marion curated for the April Vandring Conference. We have heard how much you enjoyed that catalog and are glad you all have a small piece of Marion's talent in your personal libraries. Long-time members also have another NAHA book edited by Marion Nelson, *Material Culture and People's Art Among the Norwegians in America*, published in 1994.

## ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Brynhild Rowberg, a letter from Halvor Shipstead to Nils Aakre in 1928, telling of the death of his last sibling. Shipstead was the uncle to U.S. Senator Henrik Shipstead. The letter will be added to the Aaker family papers.

Received from Lawrence O. Hauge, *Slegten Fra 1814*, by Carl W. Schnitler, reprinted in 1989, 511 pages.

Received from Lawrence O. Hauge, a 1928 photograph of the Minneapolis *Norrøna* Leikarring. All the participants have been identified.

Received from Philip and Lucy Ramstad, the exhibition catalog from the Tyron Fine Arts Center (33 pages) in Tyron, North Carolina, for the works of Homer Ellertson (1892-1935). Homer Ellertson, a River Falls, Wisconsin descendent of Norwegian immigrants, was a prominent designer in Manhattan during the 1920's and 30's. Relocating to North Carolina after success as a designer of commercial textiles, wallpapers and high-style rugs, Ellertson devoted himself to the fine arts and became one of the state's most famous artists before his death in 1935.

Received from Hans Eirik Aarek, *Ryfylke-Kvekerne! Utvandring! Essays og Myter*, by Martin Nags, soft-cover 256 pages.

Received from Lee Rokke, a comprehensive index of names of Norwegians who emigrated from Sigdal and Krødsherad starting with the first emigrant in 1839. Individuals are listed by first name and patronymic name, followed by the place they lived. Lee has cross-referenced where each individual is found in the bygdebok as well as other available information. This immense project has been ongoing for over 20 years.

Received, "The Story of Luther Valley, A Pioneer Lutheran Church: Pioneer Lutheranism in America Beginning in 1844," compiled and written by Eva Jean Rethwisch, 683 pages, hard-cover. The extensive research covers C.L. Clausen's records of this pioneer congregation, then known as "Rock Prairie." The history of this church is connected to Muskego, Koshkonong, Jefferson Prairie and other early Lutheran congregations. Many photos allow the reader to see the 14 pastors and members of the church.

Received from George Hardy, a supplement to "The Family History of Daniel Patrick Hardy." Chapter 8 deals with ancestors and relatives who served in the armed forces during times of war, while Chapter 9 covers the Spencer branch of Daniel's family.

Received from Darrel Gonyea, "Dale Church Confirmations 1900-1940, Children and

Grandchildren of the Early Pioneers," approximately 120 pages in a 3 ring binder. Dale Church was affiliated with Holden Church in Goodhue County, Minnesota. B.J. Muus was the pastor from 1859-1899. While he was pastor the records of Dale were entered in the Holden record books. 1900 marks the first year of separate confirmation records for Dale Church. Each available Confirmation picture has been identified and indexed by names, parents' names, and farm name in Norway. Also includes plat maps for Cherry Grove, Holden, Kenyon and Wanamingo townships.

Received from Duane Hoven, "The Jacobsons of Lac qui Parle," 66 pages, spiral bound. Includes written accounts, articles and obituaries, as well as photos and a supplement reviewing life in Rogaland, Norway.

Received from Duane Hoven, "A Hoven Saga – From North Trøndelag in Norway to Southern Minnesota, USA," 30 pages, spiral bound. Provides context by reviewing the economic pressures in 19<sup>th</sup> century Norway, background to the name Hoven, and the modest start of a new life in Minnesota. Color photos, a family mystery and family trees make the relatives seem very real and interesting.

Received from Carl T. Solberg, letters from Solberg to his parents, Carl K. and Sina Solberg. Carl, a journalist with Time Magazine, wrote these letters in the 1930's while overseas and from his post in New York, spanning a time frame from 1945-1966.

Received from Nordic Council of Ministers, *Scandinavian Roots-American Lives*, 48 pages soft cover. Catalog to an exhibit examining emigration from the Nordic Countries to North America between 1825 and 1930. The exhibit is designed to travel. Those with computers are invited to learn more at [www.migrationinstitute.fi/nordic](http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/nordic).

Received from Dyre Dyresen, teaching materials from the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) to teach soldiers the Norwegian language during W.W. II. Dyresen was recruited by Einar Haugen to be an instructor. The Army specified that the mimicry-memorization method be used and Haugen designed these teaching materials.

Received from Nils Lang-Ree, "The Sea Was Calling," by Oskar A. Moe, 235 pages, soft cover. The book describes the adventurous life of a young Norwegian man who thought the sea in the early 1940's offered more interesting challenges than life in an office behind a desk. His journeys included service during W.W.II with experiences in many countries around the world. Eventually, California became home for Moe.

Received from Marilyn B. Anderson, a catalog of paintings by Carl L. Boeckmann. 7 pages, listing the 94 paintings including titles, brief descriptions, dimensions, and current owners of the paintings.

Received from John Erickson, "Reflections and Translations by Julius P. Anderson of Times Past," 60 pages, soft cover. This was originally written in Norwegian by P. Langseth as a history of the people from Telemark who settled in the Santiago and Glendorado areas of Minnesota. Anderson translated Langseth's work from 1905 and added a synopsis to bring the history up to 1965.

### DELAYED AND GROWING GIFT

In conjunction with the visit to Minnesota by Crown Prince Haakon in June of 1999, a tree was planted to honor His Royal Highness. Pledges were made based on the amount of the tree's growth each year. NAHA was one of the four recipients of the proceeds, receiving \$428.13 for the year 2000. We appreciate gifts that keep on giving! Thanks to Roe Hatlen for organizing the Royal Tree concept and to Liv Dahl from the Sons of Norway Foundation who serves as the fiscal agent for the Royal Tree Fund.

### NEW WEBSITES

The Norwegian-American Bydelagenes Fellesraad (NABF), is the National Council for the 32 affiliated Norwegian-American bygdelaag. The Fellesraad was founded in 1916 and has been continuously active in the bygdelaag movement for over eighty-three years. Their new website contains many links you will find useful for your own family research see [www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com).

The National Library of Norway and the Norwegian Emigrant Museum announced an exciting new website you may wish to check out. Many people and organizations, including the American Embassy, worked together to make these sources available. [www.nb.no/emigration](http://www.nb.no/emigration) contains books and articles you are sure to enjoy.

## MANY THANKS FOR GIFTS TO NAHA

We wish to thank the members and friends below who made gifts to NAHA this year. The following gifts were made to honor a friend or celebrate a special event. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

### **In Memory of Eivind Hognestad**

Lawrence and Lynn Pekoe, Paul Kleiger and Minna Picard, Glenview Garden Club, EDS Network Assistance, Pearl Lussky, CTL Officers and Staff, Deborah Bowers, Dr. and Mrs. W. Gene Corley.

### **In honor of Ruth Crane's service to NAHA**

Lee Rokke, Solveig Zempel, John R. Tunheim, Lloyd and Ester Hustvedt, Northfield Nordic Arts Club.

### **In Honor of NAHA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Reidar Dittmann, Sidney and Lois Rand, Larry Hauge, Karen Davidson, Nils and Marie Lang-Ree, Severt and Mary Kvamme, Nancy Gossell, Ella Rolvaag Tweet, Phillip L. Hansen, Duane and Joan Olson

### **In Memory of Freda Johnson Houden**

Elaine H. Seeger

### **In Honor of Lloyd Hustvedt**

Russell Fridley

### **In Memory of Marion J. Nelson**

Ruth Hanold Crane, Lloyd and Ester Hustvedt, John R. Christianson, Richard Tvedten, Karl Schultz, Mary Ann Olsen, Selma Rud, Albert and Gretchen Quie, Lee Rokke, Magne and Esther Smedvig, Joan

Losen, Karen Sack, Helen Heitmann, Robert Tollund, Delores Lewis, Imogene Nelson, Owen Bekkum, Conrad Christianson, Zay Rugland, William Georgeson, Luther and Ilene Forde, Nils and Marie Lang-Ree, Brain Rude, Sylvia Meagher, Barbara Bulman, Janet Rasmussen, Brit Aabakken Peterson, Shirley Santoro

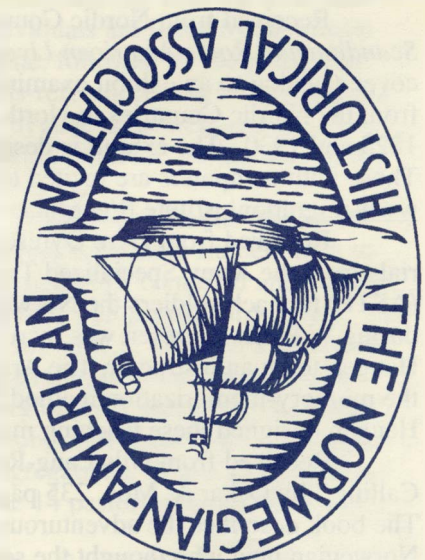
### **Year End Gifts to the Rolvaag Fund**

Ardis Nier, Janet Larson Shickell, Kathleen Bergan Schmidt, Verla Williams, Ole Tweet, Virginia Papcke, Gregg Orwoll, Dennis Sorheim, Trygve Lonnebotn, Ansgar Sovik, Willy Heggoy, Glen Fors, Louis Blumengarten, Sidney and Lois Rand, Warren and Margaret Saetre, James Hillestad, Douglas Fox, Robert Granrud, Orrin Helstad, Pearl Husby, Marguerite and Dave Monson, David Hardy, Margit Weingarten, Elaine Schulstad, Margaret Egekvis, Wayne Rohne, Claire Husby, Merlin Seal, Harlan Grinde

### **Merry Christmas to Lee Rokke**

John and Carla Rokke

Have you reached the point where you no longer have the space or the desire for another sweater, coffee-maker or electronic toy? Are your children or friends wondering what in the world to give you? Tell them a donation to NAHA would make you happy! (You won't need to dust it, buy batteries to operate it and it will really go to good use!)



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