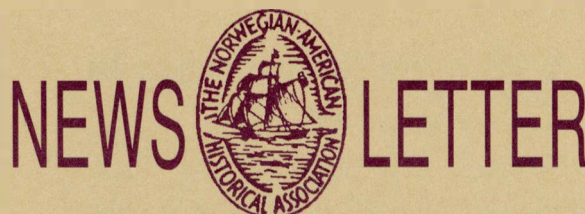


The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 92

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

JUNE 1995

Nelson Biography to Be Celebrated

This time our "book party," as we have come to call it, will take place a good distance from Northfield — in Alexandria, Minnesota, where Knute Nelson lived after moving there from Wisconsin in 1871. The Nelson home, now a museum, houses the Douglas County Historical Society, currently headed by Barbara Grover.

A reception recognizing the publication of *Norwegian Yankee* and its authors will be held at the Nelson house, 1219 South Nokomis, on Saturday, June 24, at 2:00 p.m. Members who can make the trip are urged to come. A brief program will take place at 2:30 p.m. The program will include statements from Editor Odd S. Lovoll and from co-author Steven J. Keillor. Millard L. Gieske, who began this work, died before it was completed. His widow Emilie will represent him. Commentary

about and a tour of the Nelson home will conclude the program.

A noon-hour luncheon will precede the reception, where Douglas county and Alexandria civic leaders will be guests of the NAHA. Some current and past state officials will also be invited. It is too early to report on how many of these will find it possible to attend.

As has been true for past book celebrations, our president, Lawrence O. Hauge, will host both the luncheon and the reception. NAHA funds are therefore not used for social events that could be seen as benefitting only a few.

Norwegian Yankee has been sent out to all members in good standing. Should you not have received your copy by the time you read this, contact the secretary.

Rølvaag Seminar

An international seminar on O.E. Rølvaag will be held at Sandnessjøen, August 6 - 8, 1995, sponsored by Nesna College.

The program for Sunday, August 6, offers an excursion to the island of Dønna, Rølvaag's place of birth. The Rølvaag home still stands, occupied by the Rølvaag family. Guided tours to the Petter Dass Museum, the Alstahaug Church and other points of interest will be available Monday evening.

Eleven papers from as many speakers will be delivered on August 7 and 8. The North American participants are Kristoffer Paulson, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia; Matthew Roy, Harold P. Simonson, and Jan Sjaavik,

all of the University of Washington; and, Solveig Zempel, St. Olaf College. From Norway: Ingeborg Kongslie, Research Council of Norway; Øyvind T. Gulliksen, Telemark College; Hans Skie, University of Oslo; and Orm Øverland, University of Bergen. Jan Myrdal, a writer, is from Sweden.

Those interested in attending the conference should apply to The Rølvaag Seminar, Nesna College, N-8700 Nesna, Norway.

- Aug. 5 - Aug. 8
- Aug. 6 - Aug. 8
- Single Room NOK 700 per night
- Double Room NOK 500 per night
- I wish to participate in the Dønna excursion.

Registration fee NOK 500

A Haugen Scholarship in the Future?

Not long after Einar Ingvald Haugen, the undisputed dean of Norwegian-American studies, died in June, 1994, a former student proposed that a memorial be created having the name The Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Scholarship. The proposal grew into a plan. The NAHA has agreed to serve as the fund's fiscal agent and also agreed to lend its facilities toward implementing the fund drive. The goal is an endowment of \$100,000.

A Founders Committee, which has grown to sixteen members, consists of former Haugen students and colleagues who have each contributed \$1,000 or more to create a start-up fund which now stands at \$18,000.

The first phase of the campaign will be aimed at the 300 members of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. Strong support is expected from this sector.

When this segment of the campaign is over, plans are underway to contact a large number of Norwegian Americans through existing Norwegian-American organizations. The justifiable assumption is that all Norwegian Americans owe the memory of Einar Haugen a few dollars for the attention he gave them through his scholarship. The committee wishes to stress that the appeal goes out to Norwegian Americans as individuals and not as members of this or that organization. The organization serves as a convenient vehicle for contact but nothing more.

In due time members of the NAHA will be invited to participate. Along with the appeal will be a progress report as to how the campaign has fared and what needs yet to be done.

Ingrid Semmingsen †

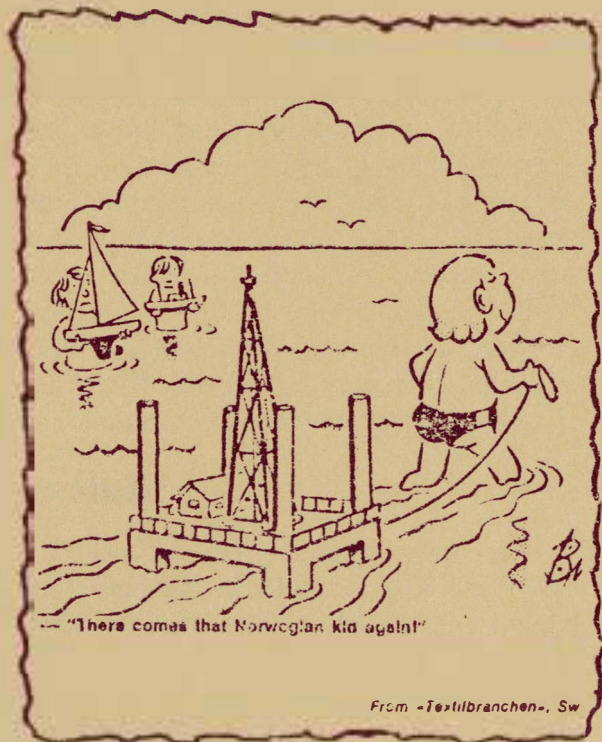
Word just arrived that Ingrid Semmingsen, Norway's eminent emigration scholar, died May 30. Our editor, Odd S. Lovoll, who is currently in Norway will represent the NAHA at a memorial service scheduled for June 8. A longer statement will appear in our next newsletter.

Ager's Novel Translated

On the Way to the Melting Pot, Harry T. Cleven's translation of Waldemar Ager's *Paa veien til smeltepotten*, has just been published by Prairie Oak Press, 821 Prospect Place, Madison WI 53703.

"The setting of the novel is an unspecified American city with a Norwegian population of fairly recent immigrants, no doubt drawn from Ager's experiences in Eau Claire. From beginning to end it is a satirical depiction of a population in full flight from their Norwegian past to their American future." (Cited from *Immigrant Idealist* by Einar Haugen, NAHA, 1989).

The book can be ordered from the publisher at the address mentioned above. Softbound, 208 pages, \$14.95 + \$2.00 postage and handling.



Random News

- Received from D.W. Thorsen his *Faded Blue, Forest Green*, a 247-page autobiography covering the first twenty years of his life (1925-1945). Thorsen grew up on a farm near Stoughton, Wisconsin. The final half of the book is devoted to his experiences in the Army Air Force during World War II. The book, paperbound, is privately printed (1994) and sells for \$9.95. Thorsen can be reached at P.O. Box 42, Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

- Barbara Levorsen, Pelican Rapids, Minne-

sota, died on Christmas Day, at age 99. She was the author of two articles in our *Norwegian-American Studies*, "Early Years in Dakota" (volume 21), and "Our Bread and Meat" (volume 22). Both articles are later included in her well received book *The Quiet Conquest* published in 1976, which provides a detailed account of life on the Dakota prairie around the turn of the century.

- Received from Grace L. Olson *Rollin Olson: 15th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry*. Second printing, 1994. Paperbound, 167 pages. The late Morgan A. Olson first published the Civil War letters of Rollin Olson to his wife (January 7, 1862-December 4, 1864) in 1981. Rollin Olson was captured by the enemy at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 19, 1863. Seriously ill with scurvy, he was released through a prisoner exchange arrangement and ultimately returned to his family in Argyle, Wisconsin, around Christmas, 1864.

The letters are supplemented with annotations and Civil War commentary. The book is available through Grace L. Olson (Mrs. Morgan), 7600 Golden Valley Road #809, Minneapolis, MN 55427. \$10 postpaid.

- Received from Willis Miller *Young and Hungry: A Cookbook in the Form of a Memoir* by Suzanne Taylor. Boston, 1970, 207 pages. Taylor, whose home was in Maine, spent her childhood summers in Norway with her Norwegian-born mother. In this case memoirs and recipes do mix well.

- Received from Marcia Turcotte *The Jensen Clan: 1994*. It is a 300-page update of earlier histories produced in 1933 and 1972. The progenitor of the family, Jens Jensen, was born in 1814 near Stavanger and emigrated in 1846, settling in the Fox River Valley in Illinois.

- Received. *The Carl and Martha Shaw Family: Reminiscences by their Children*, paperbound, 514 pages, 1994. Contributors are Everett H. Shaw, Bonnie Shaw Larson, Clarence M. Shaw, Lyle H. Shaw, and Joseph M. Shaw who edited this impressive work. Carl E. Sjø, born on Halsnøy, Sunnhordland, in 1886, emigrated in 1903 and settled in Estherville, Iowa.

- Received from Jean Labadie *The History of the Norwegian Club of San Francisco*, compiled and edited by Ralph Enger, 1947. Reproduced, 100 unbound pages.

- Received from Ralph Rolland his *Rolland Family: Rolland-Tunes-Mjeldheim*. Paperbound, 193 pages, photos, maps, charts and letters. The Rollands began to emigrate from Arna, Norway in 1909, settling mainly in Iowa and Minnesota.

- Received from Genevieve K. Hagen her *The Solem-Øien Connection: The Story of the Descendants of Anders P. Solem, Marit L. Øien*

and their Siblings. Paperbound, 338 pages, 1995. This well-done history includes maps, sketches, an abundance of photos, family letters, and a carefully edited narrative.

- Received from Enoch Haga his *History of the Haga-Helgøy and Krick-Keller Families*. Photos, maps and sketches. Hardcover, 296 pages, 1994. The first Hagas left Høyland, Rogaland, for America in 1884.

- Received from Keith D. Hage *The Fredricksons of Jackson and Cottonwood Counties, Minnesota*. Two spiral-bound volumes, 94 and 109 pages, 1995. The first volume, which contains recorded oral histories, was prepared by Ross E. Fredrickson. Volume 2, a collection of newspaper articles about the Fredrickson family, was compiled by Keith D. Hage.

Fredrick Olsen Haagenstad left Lesja, Gudbrandsdalen, for Windom, Minnesota in 1874, 66 years old. Four of his children had emigrated earlier.

- Acquired. *The Problem of Cultural Identity in the Works of Waldemar Ager, Simon Johnson and Johannes B. Wist*, by James Phillip Nelson, Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, 1990. Paperbound, typescript reproduction, 229 pages. University Microfilm International Dissertation Services, 1995.

- Received. *Slekta etter Peter og Ane Følling*, by Peder Overein. Paperbound, 94 pages, 1993. The sections that treat family members who emigrated to the United States have been translated to English (unbound supplement of 10 pages). The Følling farm is located near Steinkjær.

- Received from Olav Golf his *Red Wing Seminarium, et haugiansk skoletiltak i Amerika: Forhistorie og pionértid frem til 1885*, a doctoral dissertation, Pedagogical Research Institute, University of Oslo, 1994. Paperbound typescript reproduction, 394 pages. This study is another example of how immigration topics are attracting the attention of Norwegian scholars.

- Received from Nora C. Stevens, *Malvik Lutheran Church Historical Cookbook*, third printing 1995, spiralbound, 312 pages. Church and community history is mingled with a wide assortment of recipes which carry the names of the contributors. Available through Nora Stevens, Route 1, Box 221, Guthrie, MN 56461. \$13 includes postage.

- Received from Carol Russell her *Sigrid*, paperbound, photos and charts, 33 pages, 1995. Sigrid Tufte, born in 1870 near Geilo, Hallingdal, came to Goodhue county, Minnesota, in 1888 and married Andreas Myhre the following year. They homesteaded near Devils Lake, North Dakota in 1889.

- Received from Alton J. Bjork *Bjork Family*

History, typescript reproduction, photos, maps, 41 pages, 1995. Simon Anderson Bjork was the first to leave the Bjork farm in Kaupanger, Sogndal, in 1844. Our former editor, the late Kenneth O. Bjork, is a member of this family.

- Received from Jeff Simms material related to Spokane College which merged with Pacific Lutheran University in 1928. Simms is writing a history of this now largely forgotten immigrant school.

- Received from Darrel E. Gonyea his *The Broins of Borgund*, a spiralbound family history of 210 pages, maps, charts, photos and legal documents. The Broins were among the earliest settlers in Goodhue county, the first arrived in 1854.

- Received from Andrew Rognes an untitled autobiography by Hogan Ouren who immigrated in 1853, eighteen years old. Having worked as a clerk in a general store in Oslo, his interests turned to business and industry. His early life is marked by a sequence of jobs and small business adventures, of which many end badly. He tried his luck in the early mining industry in Colorado, where he and his family endured the hardships of the frontier. Not until he buys land in western Iowa, does his luck change. He also buys and sells livestock on a large scale. Although the story relates little about life after moving to Iowa, it is clear that he became wealthy. His enterprises also included banking. Typewritten manuscript, 23 legal-size pages.

- Received from Agnes D. Vogel and Esther A. Horsted *Flatin: The Ancestors and Descendants of Jorgen Jorgensen and Marthe Andrea Haroldsdr. Flatin* and *The Ancestors and Descendants of John and Anna Dorthea Johnson*. Both titles were compiled by Horsted, both are paperbound booklets of 63 and 75 pages containing photos, maps, and charts, dated 1987 and 1995.

The Flatins left Telemark in 1871 and John Johnson Austberget left Stjørdalen, Trøndelag, in 1878. Both settled first in Goodhue county, Minnesota.

- Knut Djupedal, director of the Norwegian Emigrant Museum at Hamar, reports that plans

are underway to mark the 175th anniversary of emigration to America. Djupedal hopes for a celebration that is national in scope, including the erection of a monument at the museum.

- Received from A. Norman Arntzen *Sons of Norway Third District Lodge History*, by Einar Bredland and edited by Arntzen. Soft cover, 286 pages, 1995. The third district comprises the eastern states from Maine to Florida.

- Received from Esther and Robert Helvig their translation of *Secretary Minutes of the Waverly Norwegian Lutheran Church* (Truman, Minnesota), *April 10, 1899 to January 5, 1927*. Spiral bound, 80 pages, 1994.

- The sixty-third annual Norway Day celebration at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis will take place on Sunday, July 9. An open air worship service will be conducted by Reverend Conrad Thompson at 10:00 a.m. This will be followed by a full afternoon program.

- Received from Richard C. Madson his *Gjerpen to Gjerpen: The Madson Families Who Came to Wisconsin*. Hard cover, photos, maps and charts, 284 pages, 1995. The first Madsons settled in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, in 1847. This work is professional in execution and attractive in format.

- Received from Leland G. Pederson *Valdres Samband Treasurer's Books, 1934-1986* (three spiral bound volumes) and *Valdres Samband Secretary's Minutes, 1936-1988* (two spiral bound volumes). These are reproductions of the original records.

- Received from Ardyce M. Davies her *A History of the Ole & Mari (Eriksdr.) Shaw Family with Descendant Genealogy*. Typescript reproduction, 8 1/2 x 11, hard cover, 134 pages, 1992. The Shaws left Sauherad parish in 1869 and settled in Butternut Valley township in Blue Earth county, Minnesota.

Also received, *A History of the Johannes and Margrete Rorvick Family with Descendant Genealogy*. Typescript reproduction, 8 1/2 x 11, hard cover, 172 pages, 1994. Both volumes contain photos, maps, charts, documents and indexes. Six of Johannes and Margrete's sons came to America, the first left Vikedal in 1896. All of them settled in southern Minnesota.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota 55057
Tel: (507) 646-3221
Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Northfield, Minn.
Permit No. 107