

The Norwegian-American
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

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Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

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The Promise of America in New Garb

A family statutory group with the title "The Promise of America" was dedicated at Lake Mills, Iowa, on October 8, 1995. The moving ceremony included addresses by Governor Terry E. Branstad, Consul General Anfinn Ullern (Minneapolis) and Clifford J. Carlson, the creator of the monument.

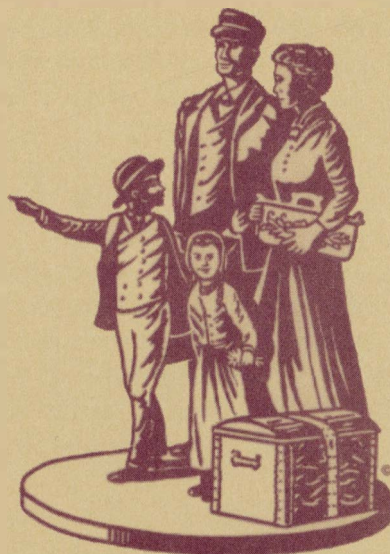
The Immigrant Family Monument, as it is also called, stands next to Highway 105, east of Lake Mills, on a piece of open meadow, free of urban distractions.

The monument speaks for more than the Lake Mills settlement: "In gratitude to all immigrants who settled on the prairie so long ago, we dedicate this monument." The bronze plaque text concludes as follows: TIL GUD ALENE ÆREN (To God alone the honor).

This may be the first monument Norwegian-Americans have erected in honor of the immigrant movement itself. There are a number of monuments to individuals: Colonel Hans Heg, Knute Nelson, Leif Erickson, Ole Bull, etc.

Virginia Kingland (of Irish background!) headed the commission that raised the needed \$200,000. In recognition of Kingland's leadership role, the sculptor managed to place upon the monument the imprint of a shamrock he had himself picked. Should you visit the monument, do not overlook this charming, but otherwise mysterious, touch.

Lake Mills has a population of 2,300, but its spirit is clearly larger than that. Odd S. Lovoll's book, *The Promise of America*, inspired the title of this monument.



*From the dedication program.
cover design by Floyd Thomas.*

OBS!

Volume 34 of *Studies*, scheduled to arrive on November 15, has seen a three-week delay. Volume 34 will now in all likelihood do its bit to clog our post offices for the next two weeks.

Should you, after a proper waiting period, not have received this book, please notify the secretary. Books are not forwardable. They are returned to the mailer at double the postage cost. In case

of address change please contact us.

The NAHA has published fifteen books over the past ten years. This was possible because of a sizable reserve in our Current Fund. This reserve now faces depletion and we will for a time, at least, reduce production to one book per year. This does not mean setting aside any publications on our agenda, only a delay in time of delivery.

Editorial

As explained in a letter you received earlier from the Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Scholarship Founders Committee, a campaign is underway to seek a modest contribution from Norwegian Americans wherever they are found. The strategy has been to reach Norwegian Americans through the different organizations to which they belong. There seems to be no other method to realize a goal that has grassroots origins, as is true in this case.

While contributions to this scholarship must be viewed as individual in character, and not credited to this or that organization, records to date make it clear that members of the NAHA outdistance by far any other group. This is true both for number of donors and for the dimension of their gifts.

The Committee salutes the members of the NAHA for their idealism and generosity. A booklet will be distributed to all who have given a helping hand. It will list the donors as well as the rules and regulations that will govern the scholarship they have created.

The undersigned is at this moment proud of and grateful for being an officer of the NAHA. L.H.

Eva Lund Haugen

Eva Lund Haugen (1907-1995) died on October 25 at the home of her daughter Anne H. Littlefield in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was a daughter of Einar and Lully Lund. Her father, a distinguished Norwegian-American journalist, devoted the largest portion of his working life to *Decorah-Posten*, Decorah, Iowa. Eva married Einar Haugen in 1932.

Eva participated in many of her husband's scholarly projects. For example, she carried the main burden as co-editor and translator of *Land of the Free: Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's America Letters, 1880-1881*, published by the NAHA in 1978.

Her husband Einar died in June, 1994, at Belmont, Massachusetts, where the Haugens had lived after Professor Haugen left the University of Wisconsin for Harvard in 1965. There is a second daughter, Camilla Cai. She lives in Gambier, Ohio.

There have been two memorial services. One on November 11 in Fort Wayne and a memorial concert that took place at King's Chapel, Boston, on November 25.

Eva's friends will remember her as a warm, gracious, courageous, and intelligent woman with a stately bearing. A quip of wisdom found in one of her more recent letters merits quoting: "Getting old is not for sissies."

Nelson Book Strikes a Chord

Statements like the one below merit sharing with the members at large. They make our publications possible:

This is a good time to let you and the staff know how much we appreciate receiving the fine books you publish. We were particularly interested in the Knute Nelson story as we had seen his statue in Evanger, the area from which my husband's family came. We learned so much from reading about this outstanding Norwegian American.

Returning from Fargo in May we stopped at Alexandria overnight in order to visit the home and we found his grave at the cemetery. Thanks to the NAHA, we made the 'discovery' of the Knute Nelson story. Sincerely, Charlene Schjeldahl.

Ager Association Formed

The Waldemar Ager Association has a sharply-focused goal. It hopes to preserve the Waldemar Ager home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. If plans are realized, Ager's study and the parlor would be restored to its original form. The other rooms, including the basement, would be used for practical things like meetings and workshops.

Literary historians regard O. E. Rølvaag and Waldemar Ager as the foremost authors (fiction) and cultural leaders in the Norwegian-American community. Ager was also the publisher and editor of the newspaper *Reform* in Eau Claire.

Ager and his wife Gurolle Blestren had nine children. Four are still living. The Agers moved into this home in 1897, five years after it was built. Anyone interested in learning more about this worthwhile endeavor may write to Waldemar Ager Association, P.O. Box 1742, Eau Claire, WI 54702.

Random News

•Received *Little Visits with a Journal Reporter*, Iver M. Kalnes (1884-1959). *Little Visits* was a cover title for Kalnes articles that appeared in the *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison) from 1933 and into 1935, which have been compiled and published in book form by Ronald J. Larson, a grandson. Kalnes covered mainly Dane county, heavily populated by Norwegians. Kalnes became a journalist after he graduated from Luther College in 1907.

•Received from Perry Historical Center, 1057 Hiway 78 South, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572, *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Soft cover, 237 pages, maps, photos and charts, 1994. \$23.50 includes postage.

•Received *Ytterbo to Thykeson*. Typescript reproduction, staple-bound booklet of 90 pages, photos and charts, 1995. The above named families left Telemark around 1852, settling first in Wisconsin.

•Received *Our Norwegian Family* by Virginia Dahleen Brooks. Typescript reproduction, photos and charts, 154 pages, 1974. Deals mainly with the Flaten family from Vang in Valdres. Ole I. Flaten, first to emigrate, came to Goodhue county in 1868.

•Received from Floie Vane her *A Family History: James and Maren Vane*. Typescript reproduction, spiral-bound, photos, maps, charts, 55 pages, 1995.

•Received from Philip Karl Boraas Lundeberg a collection of 70 newspaper articles that cover the Carstater-Rockwell controversy in 1940-1941. As chairman of the State Board of Education (Minnesota), Julius Boraas was implicated.

•Received from James E. Schlosser his *Lugland Family Tree*. Typescript reproduction, spiral-bound, 43 pages, 1991. Ola Olson Laugaland and his family left Hjelmeland, Norway, in 1856, settling in LaSalle county, Illinois.

•Received from Harvey Richard Haugen his *The Haugen-Berge Family: Norwegian Pioneers of Manitowoc County*. Staple-bound, photos, 80 pages. Members of this family began to leave Vang, Valdres, in 1849. Also, *The Haugen-Berge Book - 1995* by Harvey Haugen and Janie Haugen Peak. This staplebound history of 85 pages traces the family through six generations.

•Received *Brookings County History Book*. Hardcover, 829 pages, 1989. Brookings county, located in eastern South Dakota, was heavily settled by Norwegians.

•Received from Tommy Fossum his *Utvandringshistorie fra Sunndal*, a student semester paper, University of Trondheim, 1994,

36 pages. Fossum did extensive research in the NAHA archives this past spring.

•Received from Marion Voxland *Three Leaf Clover* (Trekløver) by Emma Quie Bonhus and translated by Marie Voxland. This slightly disguised story about the Dr. Christian Just Grønvold family, who lived near the Holden church in Goodhue county, Minnesota, ran as a serial in *Decorah-Posten* in 1943.

•Received from Carol P. Pedretti her *Norge til Amerika: A Family Genealogy*. Spiral-bound, maps, photos, 200 pages, 1995[?]. The history treats many families from many locales in Norway: Aasen, Gjesteborg, Finnerud, Loken, Moen, Nybraaten, Toen, Staum and Røisum.

•Received from Avonelle Ostbee *Families of Hodneffeld-Hodenfield of Mosterøy Island, Rogaland District, Norway, and Related Families of Norway and America* by Wilma Hodenfield Trebil. Paperbound typescript reproduction of 430 pages, 1993. Emigration dates back to 1836.

•Received from Inger Pedersen her *Utvandring til Amerika fra Sogndal i perioden 1844-1853*. Spiral-bound, typescript reproduction, 49 pages, 1993. This is a detailed examination of emigration from a single community from the very beginning and the following ten years.

•Received *En Solørings Oplevelser* by Morris Halvorson and its translation, *A Soloringer's Adventures*, by Erik A. Halverson, a grandnephew. Also, *Our Norwegian Ancestors of 1868* by Morris Halverson, translated by Arup N. Carson, booklet of 32 pages. *Oplevelser* and *Adventures* are unbound manuscripts, 28 and 32 pages.

•Received from James E. Belgum his *Nora Lutheran Church, Rural Kensington, Minnesota: 125 Anniversary, 1870-1995*, a staple-bound history of 127 pages. Maps, photos and other illustrations. Blends church and community history.

•Received from Jorunn Laastad *Slektsbok for Beiarn*, compiled by M.B. Hansen, Alfred Troli and Jorunn Laastad. Hardcover, 580 pages, Bodø, Norway, 1979. The book accounts for farms and the families that ran them within the boundaries of Beiarn kommune in Northern Norway. The compilers are father, son, and granddaughter.

•Received from Betty J. Wolden her *From Norway Fjords to Iowa Prairies: The Sande Genealogy*. Spiral-bound, typescript reproduction, photos, maps and charts, 502 pages. Family origins are from inner Sogn: Balestrand, Vik, and Leikanger.

•Received from Northfield, Minnesota, Public Library *Johan Haldorsen (1848-1917) of Rubbestadneset, Bømlo Island, Sunnhordaland*,

Norway: His Ancestors, Life, Descendants, and Kin, by Douglas J. Tubb. Loose-leaf, typescript reproduction, photos, maps, charts, letters and documents, 430 pages, 1995.

Johan Haldorsen, a Norwegian lay preacher, emigrated in 1906, 58 years old, to serve Bethesda Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. Moved to Northfield in 1912.

•Received from Boral R. Biorn his *A Biography of Ludvig M. Biorn*, an unbound manuscript of 113 pages. Also, translations of *Til de Lutherske Menigheter i Manitowoc, Kewaunee and Door Co. Wisconsin*, and of a tract which uses proverbs 3:13 as a title: "Happy is the man who finds wisdom," 1887 and 1890 respectively.

L. M. Biørn (1835-1908) emigrated in 1861, serving parishes in Wisconsin and later in Goodhue county, Minnesota.

•Received from Bjarne Grindem *Then and Now: A History of the Forebears and Descendants of Ingebor Thoresdatter Røisen and Ole Tollefson Tollefsrud* by Joyce Redalen. Typescript reproduction, photos, charts, maps, index, spiral-bound, 208 pages. Ingebor left Hallingdal, Norway, for Luther Valley, Wisconsin, in 1848.

•Received from Carl F. Arneson *Memoirs by Carl M. Grimstad: Life in Dakota Territory from 1879 to 1887*, paperbound, typescript reproduction, 99 pages, 1994.

Much of this account, written by Grimstad in 1927, appeared in *Studies*, vol. 13 (1943) under the title "Pioneers in Dakota Territory, 1879-89," edited by Professor Henry Bakken, Gramstad's son-in-law.

•Received from Sidney Rand *Slægt og Levnetserendringer af A.B. Pedersen*. Pedersen left Sigdal in 1870 and settled in Rothsay,

Minnesota, where he was a community leader, farmer and merchant. His hand-written, readable account of 300 pages was written when he was 65, perhaps in 1905. The first two-thirds treats his life in Norway. He died in 1919.

Also received from Rand an oil painting (30" x 18") of the Braatlia farm in Sigdal by A. Kvisle in 1895.

•Received from Jostein Molde *Slekta etter Henrikka Simonsdatter Kjisbu og Petter Olsen Storstad, Vuku i Verdal*, hardcover, 71 pages, 1989.

•Received from Robert Singlestad copies of journals kept by Martin Nordgaard (1882-1952). Nordgaard, born near Northwood, Iowa, was a professor of mathematics, St. Olaf College, Wagner College, and Upsala College. It is reported that his journals amounted to 30 volumes. We received volumes 21 and 22. More may be forthcoming.

•Received from Jay M. and Dorothy Bergh Steinberg, *Kasa Family Genealogy*. Typescript reproduction, loose-leaf, 350 pages. Genealogical tables include biographical data. Pastor Olai Bergh and his brother, Johan Arndt Bergh, the church historian, are members of this family. Settled mainly in Goodhue and Rice counties, Minnesota. Index carries around 5,000 names.

•Received from Erling Lund *The Minutes of Vestkystens Nordmørslag*, January 1936 (beginning) to October 18, 1969. Translated from Norwegian.

•Received *The Story of the Molldrem Family and Its Related Branches* by Arill R. Molldrem. Typescript reproduction, photos, maps, charts, sketches, letters and name index, 400 pages. The Moldreheim farm is at Utvik, Nordfjord.

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