

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS LETTER



From the NAHA Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 121

EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

SUMMER 2004

TAKING NAHA TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

On March 26th, Norway's Ambassador to the United States, Knut Vollebæk and his wife Ellen hosted a reception at the Ambassador's residence to introduce guests to the important work the Association has undertaken for 79 years. NAHA President, Lois Rand, and I are grateful we met so many people who share our desire to preserve the written material and photographs from Norwegian immigrants of long ago, as well as our more recent arrivals from Norway. We publicly thank Ambassador and Mrs. Vollebæk for their generosity and for introducing NAHA to the engaging people in the New York and Washington D.C. area.



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Georg Sverdrup Society is currently accepting papers on the 2004 topic "Georg Sverdrup's Theology of the Congregation." Papers should be between 1,000 and 4,000 words. The Society is also soliciting translations of Sverdrup's works from his *Samlede Skrifter i Udvalig*, Andreas Helland, editor. Translations of Sverdrup's works about the congregation are especially desired for this year's *Sverdrup Journal*.

Deadline for submissions is August 1, 2004. Writers will be notified by September 15. Selected papers will be read at the Georg Sverdrup Society Annual Meeting, Saturday, October 9, 2004, and will appear in the *Sverdrup Journal* published later. Please send inquiries and submissions to Rev. Robert Lee, Editor, *Sverdrup Journal*, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55441. Email address: president@afhc.org.

For a selected bibliography of Sverdrup's writings germane to the topic, contact Rev. Martin Horn, Secretary, 317 S. 3rd St., Kenyon, MN 55946: mhorn@lakes.com

NEW RESEARCH TOOL AVAILABLE

A new edition of *Norsk Biografisk Leksikon* (the standard scholarly Norwegian biographical encyclopedia) is nearing completion: volumes 1-7 (through Samuelson) are available. So far it includes more than 50 entries on people important in Norwegian-American history, born both in Norway and in America. The three NAHA editors (Blegen, Bjork and Lovoll) are included. Among others are churchmen, educators and librarians (J.H. Blegen, Breda, J.W.C. Dietrichson, Flom, Gjerset, J.C.M. Hanson, Einar Haugen, Laur. Larson, Muus, Norborg, Rølvaag); physicians (H. Fjelde, Paoli); publishers (John Anderson, R.B. Anderson, Anundsen, Grevstad, C.G.O. Hansen, Lyche, Mengshoel, Svein Nilsson, Prestegaard), artists (Jonas Lie, Jacob Fjelde, Fremstad); pioneers and entrepreneurs of various types (Magnus Andersen, Bernt Balchen, Barlien, Evinrude, S. Norheim, Knute Rockne, Rue (Snowshoe Thompson)); politicians, labor leaders (Knute Nelson, Furuseth, Pihlfeldt); and, finally mass murderer (Belle Gunness)! John R. Christianson, Øyvind Gulliksen and Odd Lovoll each contributed several biographies. (Ask yourself how many of the names you can identify!?)

NAHA BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

From time to time we thought you might like to know something about the volunteers serving on the NAHA Board of Directors. Today we introduce Karen Davidson, a second generation Board member. Karen's father, Dr. Arthur Davidson, served on the NAHA Board in the 1970's.

Karen is the deputy director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, responsible for policy, planning and administration as well as the current \$850 million expansion and renovation project.

Prior to joining MoMA, Karen held positions at the Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard University, and was a vice-president at Sotheby's art auction house from 1984-1992. With all this experience Karen is a sought after speaker on museum management, cultural issues and project planning in the arts world.

Karen is a 1973 graduate of Luther College with a degree in Scandinavian studies, and holds a master of education degree with a concentration in arts administration from Harvard University.

In addition to serving on the NAHA Board of Directors, Karen is active in the American Scandinavian Foundation and the Norwegian Immigration Association. She served as a consultant for an exhibition on the Norwegian urban immigrant experience which was held at Ellis Island in 2000. In 2003 Karen was one of sixteen Luther College Alumni presented with a Distinguished Service Award.

NAHA & YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Please feel free to contact the NAHA office (naha@stolaf.edu or at 507.646.3221) if you would like information sent to you about including NAHA in your estate planning. Estate planning is just the right thing to do for your heirs and wouldn't it be nice to include a gift to the Norwegian-American Historical Association so your legacy can live on into the future?

We invite you to join the *Norwegian-American Legacy Circle*. The Circle was created to recognize individuals who have remembered NAHA in their wills and estate planning. Knowledge of bequest intentions allows us the opportunity to thank individuals for their foresight and generosity. Requests for confidentiality are carefully honored as well.

NORSKEDALEN & NAHA

NAHA has been invited to present a program at Norskedalen on September 26, 2004. We look forward to meeting NAHA members and new friends in the Wisconsin area. Plan a field trip for that day and join us at the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center in Coon Valley, Wisconsin. Located about 15 miles southeast of La Crosse, the setting is lovely and you will be sure to enjoy gathering with those who care about their Norwegian immigrant ancestors. See www.norskedalen.org for more details.

SUMMER AT NAHA

We always look forward to meeting our members and helping them in their projects involving Norwegian-American history. Please call before you make your trip to NAHA and check on our hours. Our staff is small and we have family vacations planned too. We want to assist you and we can do that best when we know you are coming to Northfield. Call 507-646-3221 and leave a message if we are not available in person.

CROSSINGS - ALREADY "OUT OF PRINT"

NAHA's most recent publication has achieved the "out of print" status. We welcome back copies of NAHA books you have already read. There are people who are just starting their journey into Norwegian-American history and would be happy to read "previously loved" publications. You may drop off your books at the NAHA office in the lower level of Rolvaag Library at St. Olaf College or mail your book(s) to us at 1510 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057.

CALL FOR PAPERS Conference on Norwegian Woven Textiles

Conference organizers invite abstracts for 30 minute presentations (in English) on topics related to the Norwegian textile tradition in Norway and North America, including: weaving and embellishment techniques, fibers and fiber preparation (including spinning and dyeing), equipment for creation and care of textiles, design and aesthetics, historical and economic aspects, cultural perspective, the impact of immigration on textiles and textile-making skills, Norwegian textiles within Scandinavian or global contexts, teaching methods, textile collections or collectors, and contemporary fiber art and artists.

The theme of the conference is Norwegian weaving, although papers on related topics will be considered.

Abstracts should be one page in length. Place the title of the presentation on the abstract, but not the names of the authors. On a separate cover page include the title of the presentation, name and affiliation of the author or authors, mailing addresses, daytime phone numbers, and email addresses. Authors will be notified in late February.

Mail 3 copies of the abstract and one copy of the title page to Laurann Gilbertson, Textile Curator, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, P.O. Box 379, Decorah IA 52101-0379, USA. *Envelopes must be postmarked on or before January 15, 2005.* Abstracts will not be accepted by email or fax. For questions, details, or a sample abstract contact Laurann Gilbertson at 563-382-9681, or textiles@vesterheim.org. The conference will be held October 21-23, 2005.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Jean Olsen, *En Norsk Sjømann Som Blev Amerikansk Soldat Under Krigen 1939-1945*. Spiral bound, 37 pages. The experience of Norwegian Mikael Granum who fought for the United States during World War II.

Received from Jens Christian Eldal, *Kirker I Norge Bind 3 Med historiske forbilder 1800-tallet*. 256 pages, hard cover. Beautiful photographs and historical illustrations show the different periods of architectural church design and influences during the nineteenth century. Many churches have been restored to their original splendor.

Received from the Alf Altern collection at the The Vesterheim Museum—4 copies of a program from the Chicago Norske Klub 18th Anniversary Dinner and Ball January 31, 1970. Two copies of a program for Chicago Norske Klub 79th Annual Herremiddag (gentlemen only) dinner, December 5, 1969. Includes menu for meal served and copy of club's song. One program for the Royal Anniversary Concert, Chicago, October 16, 1975, in honor of Olav V commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Norwegian American Immigration. Includes guest list.

Received from Mildred (Mickey) Monsen, a brief biography of her husband, Dr. Harry Monsen, who arrived with many other Norwegian students after the war in the United States aboard the Stavangerfjord. Monsen finished his Master's degree in Anatomy at the University of Minnesota and completed his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois Medical College. Monsen taught in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Illinois Medical College for his professional career.

Received from Dave Holt, *The Holt Family Heritage*, Soft cover, 180 pages, compiled by Theresa Holt, Mavis Espinosa and Evelyn and Bayard Holt, published in 1977. The book includes the descendents of Peter Knute and Martha Ostrus Holt who left Holta, Norway in 1866. The book contains quality copies of letters, photos and newspaper articles documenting the area of Norway they left in 1866 and the life they established in the United States where eight sons called the United States their home.

Received from Dave Holt, *Holt Family Heritage Update 2003*, soft-cover, 180 pages. This book updates the reader about the descendents of the eight Holt brothers. Includes some material from the first book and includes photos of the next generations, as well as a directory of the descendents with addresses, phone numbers and a calendar of birthdays throughout the year.

Received from Laurie Ann Lahlum, a copy of her Ph.D. dissertation, *There Are No Trees Here: Norwegian Women Encounter The Northern Prairies And Plains*. 271 pages, hardbound. Through many letters written by Norwegian women in America, the author looks at the adjustments and adaptations made by Norwegian women when they found themselves farming and living in an entirely unfamiliar environment. The forces of nature were harsh, the agricultural methods new, and interaction with Native Americans could be uncertain. However, the new land

was a means for economic opportunity and they were able to see the betterment for their families in that light.

Received from Jane Rassmussen, *Letters From Knut Stavig To Lars Stavig*, spiral bound, approximately 200 pages. Correspondence between two brothers, Lars who emigrated to America in 1876 and his brother Knut who stayed behind in Norway. Over 150 letters between the brothers have been translated into English. They detail their very different experiences between 1887 and 1933.

Received from Jane Rassmussen, *Vi Elsker Knut, Letters of Lars Stavig*, spiral bound, approximately 200 pages. Letters written by Lars Stavig and his family to family members in Norway between 1880 - 1940. Lars settled in Sisseton, South Dakota and corresponded with family numbers describing rural life, including cyclones, heat, hail and blizzards. In 1909 he took a trip and described his travels from South Dakota to the west coast where he again saw mountains and the Pacific Ocean that he said renewed both mind and spirit.

Received from Violet Jasensky, *150th Anniversary Directory of The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church*. Spiral bound, approximately 60 pages. The first twelve pages include the history of the church starting with Johannes Dietrichson who arrived from Norway to conduct the first service in a log barn. Eventually a church was built and the congregation has grown and persevered. The remaining portion contains the church photo directory.

Received from Ed Janus, an interview with Lloyd Hustvedt, conducted in 2002. On compact disk.

Received from three descendents of John T. Nystuen, *Reminiscence, Confluence of Two Worlds, An Autobiography of John T. Nystuen*. Spiral bound, approximately 100 pages. Contains the 1917 autobiography and other supplemental information added over the years. The additional material places the autobiographical story in context. The author, Dr. Robert Moylan, explains what was going on at the time both in America and the Norwegian-American community. Includes maps, photos and obituaries of various Nystuen descendents.

Received from Jule C. Tukua, *Historien Om Ole Og Gunhild Tukua Slekten*, hard cover, 310 pages. The book surveys the history of the Tukua family from 1325 to 2003. Includes genealogical material, the transcript of an oral history from a family member born in 1886. The family left Sigdal in 1882 and made a new life in southern Minnesota.

Received from Stephen C. Osman, *Bolsøy Boker*, volumes I, II and III published in 1939, 1948 and 1959. These bygdebøker are from the western coast of Norway.

Received from Cameron R. Stewart, *Genealogical Classification by Family Group Coding for Descent from Common Ancestors*. A 2 volume set, hard cover, approximately 1,000 pages each. The Norwegian ancestors were from the Margit Osmundsdatter-Knutson line in the Voss area. Includes photos, maps, copies of documents, letters and charts.

Received from Audrey Balchen, widow of Bert Balchen, additional material about her well-known husband, including: biographical information, military and civilian honors and awards, R. E. Byrd and the 1926 North Pole

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Flight, "The America" 1927 Transatlantic Flight, Antarctic expeditions in 1929 and Trans Antarctic expedition of 1932-1935, World War II service in Royal Norwegian Airforce, Little Norway in Canada and Greenland supply routes, the Bolero operation service with bases in Greenland, US Army Air Corps out of bases in Sweden, postwar service, polar air routes, Alaska, Scandinavian Airlines, and Bernt Balchen the artist.

Received from Frode H. Omang, *The Omang Family in Norway and the USA - an Essay and an Overview*. 7 pages typed, speech given at a family reunion of the grandchildren of Simen and Helga Omang.

Received from Gordon Otto Tunby, *The Lazy T and Beyond*, hard-cover, 136 pages. Covers family history including the grandparents' journey from Norway to a homestead in the Dakota Territory. Eventually Montana became home for the growing family. The author included the translation of his grandmother, Erika Heyerdahl Tunby's diary from 1886-1900 as well as family photos and reprints of newspaper articles.