

The Norwegian-American
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 65

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

FEBRUARY, 1983

FUND CROSSES FINISH LINE

To be precise, the Kenneth O. Bjork Chair (fund) in Immigration History was short of its goal by \$690 on December 31. But, by January 3, two gifts (\$2,000 and \$100) had lifted the amount beyond the established goal to \$101,410. This fund will remain open to future contributions, but the three-year campaign as initially planned is now officially and successfully concluded. Members and friends of the NAHA are to be congratulated.

Use of the Fund

The Executive Board ruled that the income accrued by this fund shall be used as follows: forty percent may be used to compensate for the reduction of the Editor's teaching load by one course (a full load being six courses); forty percent will be applied to salaries for editorial assistants; ten percent will be added to the basic fund as a hedge against inflation; five percent is allocated to the Editor's travel expenses; finally, five percent may be used as the Editor deems fit, with the stipulation that the expenses are related to NAHA publications.

Save for the ten percent that is fed back into the fund, all income will be directed toward the functions of the Editor and to expenses related to preparing manuscripts for publication. Most of the expenses this fund will cover have, of course, always been with us, but had to be met through revenue from dues or other means. Since the fund did not begin 1982 at full strength, we do not know at the moment how much interest will be available for use in 1983. Those interested in calculating the budget cited above in terms of dollars, may use an income estimate of \$10,000.

A LOOK AT 1982

General

As has been true for many years, the routine operation of the NAHA during 1982 has been "business as usual." Charlotte Jacobson, our Archivist, has been in her office each forenoon (8:00-12:00), processing incoming material, receiving visitors, and answering ever increasing written queries for information. The archives, thanks to Charlotte Jacobson, are in excellent condition.

Elaine Kringen, Assistant Secretary, is at her desk three days per week (Mon., Wed., and Fri.). All the clerical work related to membership, book sales, and monthly reports fall upon her. She has the pleasant duty of receiving and recording incoming dues, and also the unpleasant task of dropping from the roster those members who do not pay them. Out of courtesy to her, we can only say — *stop that!* In addition, she supervises the distribution of books to members and types correspondence and the NAHA manuscripts as they move through their different stages of editing. As is true with the archives, the countless duties that enter the day-to-day operation of an organization such as ours are in the hands of an experienced and efficient person.

Membership

A total of 126 members were added in 1982 (10% increase!). These gains, however, were offset by a cancellation figure of 95, for a net gain of 26. For a few months our membership total exceeded the long-sought 1300, but then slipped to 1296 at the turn of the year. By accepted standards our recruitment program is successful. We need, however, to examine why our cancellation rate is higher than a normal and understandable five percent. Over the past twelve years our membership has seen a net increase of 240. Had a five percent cancellation rate prevailed our increase would have been 700.

The figures below reveal our current membership picture.

	January 1, 1982	December 31, 1982	Gain or Loss
Associate	683	694	+ 11
Sustaining	160	147	- 13
Patron	43	36	- 7
Life	384	419	+ 35
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1270	1296	+ 26
Deceased Life*	99	103	+ 4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1369	1399	+ 30

*Because dues from life members provide perpetual income for the NAHA, deceased members are carried as a supplement to membership figures. In official quotations of membership, only living members are included.

Book Sales and Inventory

A total of 632 books (\$6,296.) were sold in 1982. *Ethnicity Challenged* (1981) led the sales with 135; *Pathfinder for Immigrants* (1981) was second with 100; and *Chronicler of Immigrant Life* (1982) was third with 67.

Out of a total of 68 publications, 23 titles are out of print; 19 have an inventory of less than 100 copies; 13 fall between 100 and 200; and 13 titles exceed 200 copies. Our total stock of unsold books stands at 7,797.

In recent years we have printed editions of 1700 copies. After distribution to members, reviewers and exchange stations, there are approximately 400 copies left for general sales. Income from book sales are important, not so much in terms of profits, but in terms of income that can be redirected toward costs of subsequent publications.

For the sake of example, we might cite that printing costs for *Studies* (volume 29), just published, came to \$14,000. Services of a professional artist who prepared the needed maps came to \$2,500. Ultimately production costs amounted to \$20,000, or a unit cost of \$12. Distribution of each book to members (postage, book bag and handling) costs \$2. Volume 29 has a retail price of \$16, but many of our sales (libraries and book dealers) include a discount. In a commercial sense, there are no profits, but there can be significant recovery of costs.

Emigrant Museum

An emigrant museum (Utvandrermuseet) has been established at Hamar, Norway. Although it is a sub-division of the Hedmark Musuem, its interests are national in scope and it is supported by a membership plan that involves individuals, communities and business firms throughout the country.

It promises to become a major center for emigration research and a

number of projects are underway. For example, the collecting and registration of America Letters, and a study of the Americanization process as revealed in the church records of selected immigrant congregations in the United States.

Reidar Bakken is the museum's curator. He visited the NAHA last fall. We provided that museum with a number of our publications.

Editorial

The early leaders of the NAHA hoped that Norwegian-American organizations, regardless of their special goals, would in one manner or another ally themselves with the NAHA. Their premise was both simple and sensible: The responsibility for history is a collective one, but it is better to allocate that responsibility to one organization rather than dilute it among many.

How did things go? When once founded, the NAHA tended to become one organization among many, more a congregation of believers than a "union station," more a spoke than the hub it had hoped to become.

The thought is worth reviving. Indeed, it is gaining momentum. But first, serious blood-letting is not required here. If Norwegian-American organizations subscribe to an institutional membership in the NAHA, much of the hoped for involvement and solidarity would be realized.

Currently 51 Sons of Norway lodges hold such membership, many of them donating the books due them to local libraries; in addition, we claim as members a dozen other organizations. The *Bygdelagenes Fellesråd* has for years been a generous friend. When *Det Norske Selskap* hung up its banner, it made the NAHA the custodian of its resources (\$5,000). The Duluth Bicentennial Celebration Committee, recently turned over its unused funds to the NAHA.

The picture is encouraging. Yet, more needs to be done by this office to promote expansion. Members of the NAHA who hold memberships in other organizations are invited to communicate our wishes for closer bonds. Institutional memberships are essentially life memberships with a 25-year limit. L.H.

Note! Volume 29 of *Studies* has now been sent to all members in good standing. If for some reason you have not received your copy, please notify the Secretary's office.

News in Brief

• It is always satisfying to receive works that supplement NAHA publications. One such work is *Rollin Olson Civil War Letters*, translated by Morgan A. Olsen. The book, a typescript reproduction of 164 pages, is equipped with maps, illustrations, notes, and commentary which place the letters in perspective regarding Civil War History.

• Received *Give Us This Day: The Story of a Family*, a typescript reproduction of 144 pages, by Beverly Rue Wellington. The history treats two families, the Cravens from Yorkshire, England, and the Rue family from Telemark, Norway.

• Received from Violet Petty Johnson, *Some People Called Fretty*, Anundsen Publishing Company, Iowa, 1982 (82 pages), an ably done family history presented with a sense of humor.

• Received *Nordic Heritage Northwest*, published (1982) in association with Nordic Heritage Museum on the occasion of *Scandinavia Today in Seattle*. Edited by Kristina Veirs, photography by Scotty Sapiro and text by Nancy Hausauer. Both soft and hard bound cover. Profusely illustrated. The Writing Works, 417 East Pine Street, Seattle, WA 98122.

• Received from Vera Beutlich, *A History of the Norwegian Woman's Club of Chicago* (1942) by Helga M. Ruud, the founder of that organization. Miss Beutlich is the club's recording secretary.

• Dr. Kjetil Flatin, Director of the International Summer School in Oslo, and our valuable Executive Board member living in Norway, taught an Interim course at St. Olaf College this past January.

• Received from Robert L. Lillestrand and Barbara Hanson Bulman their *John Hanson Heritage—Something More*, the fourth book treating this family. As is true for the earlier volumes, this is a first class work, commercially printed, hard bound with many photographic reproductions and careful organization. Published by Winnebago Industries, Forest City, Iowa, 1982.

Chicago History

The Chicago History Symposium, held at the Norway Center (Chicago) on October 23, 1982, merits far more attention than can be given here. Fortunately, the spirit and content of that symposium was well covered in the November 11, 1982, issue of *Vinland*.

Papers treating literature, art, journalism, architecture and general history merged to form a composite picture of urban Norwegian immigrant patterns. In addition, the more

rigorous academic features of the symposium were supplemented by elegance in dining and dress, supported by good music.

The symposium is a first step toward more ambitious plans, namely, the publication of a history of the Norwegians in Chicago. The planning committee and its chairman, Rolf Erickson (a member of the NAHA Executive Board), are to be congratulated.

Gifts to Kenneth O. Bjork Chair in Immigration History

(\$25 and above)

February, 1982 - January, 1983

Name	Gift		
Harriet Hustvedt*	\$2,000.00	Lawrence J. Opsahl*	50.00
Anonymous	1,000.00	M. W. Peterson*	50.00
Clarence Clausen*	500.00	Grace Weseth*	50.00
Mrs. Nils Seim*	500.00	Mrs. Charles F. Stroebel	45.00
Lawrence Hauge*	400.00	Det Litteraere Samfund*	35.00
Duluth Bicentennial Celebration	373.00	Sigurd Lovold	35.00
Eunice L. Thompson*	250.00	Einar H. Odland	35.00
S/N Norrona Lodge #50*	227.00	Rolf W. Stageberg*	35.00
Elmer L. Andersen*	200.00	Gerald F. Larsen*	30.00
R. I. Jacobson*	200.00	Joseph Aaberg	\$25.00
Mrs. Joel Stavlo	200.00	Erling Andersen*	25.00
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Elsie M. Melby*	126.00	Clarence Berdahl*	25.00
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Sigurd Gimnes	100.00	Ronald Flugum*	25.00
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Nils William Olsson	100.00	Arthur D. Larson*	25.00
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Jorgen Dahlie*	80.00	G. B. Odegaard	25.00
Mrs. Philip S. Duff, Jr.	75.00	Nels Quam	25.00
Robert L. Kittelson	75.00	Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Sanford	25.00
Alan Anderson	50.00	Fredrik A. Schiotz*	25.00
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Dreng Bjornaraa*	50.00	Stavangeren*	25.00
Kjetil Flatin	50.00	Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Syrdal*	25.00
Arne Hassing	50.00	Playford Thorson	25.00
Thelma J. Huebscher	50.00	Nancy O. Wick*	25.00
		<i>*Has contributed previously</i>	

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