

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

Number Twenty-Eight

April, 1952

## News Letter

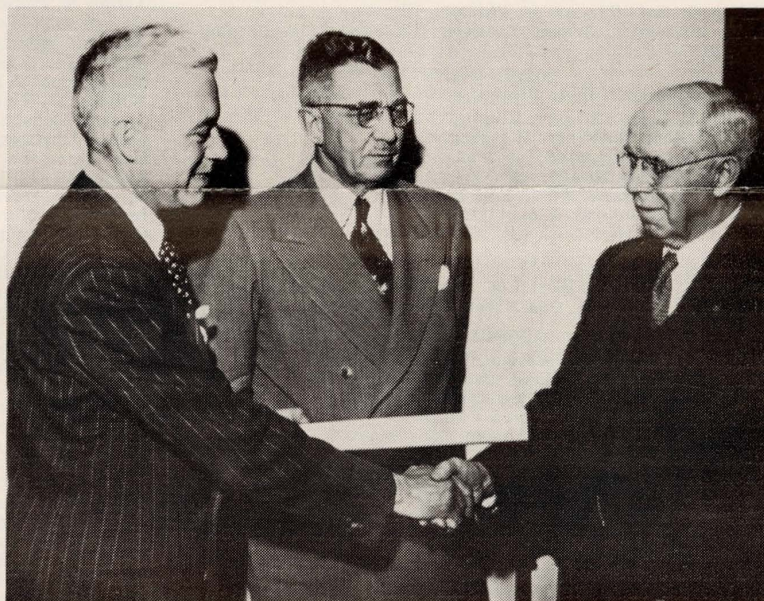
FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
TO THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The February issue of the Minnesota Historical Society NEWS FOR MEMBERS carried the following news item:  
TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE

"December 14 was a doubly big day for the Norwegian-American Historical Association. Not only was it publication day for the Association's newest book but it also marked the presentation of an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.

"The award was presented by Harold Dean Cater, on behalf of the American Association for State and Local History to J. Jørgen Thompson, secretary. Also present at the ceremony were: Dean Theodore C. Blegen, the Association's managing editor, Mrs. Blegen, Professors Carlton Qualey and Kenneth Bjork of the Board of Editors, Mrs. Helen Katz, Mrs. Zephyra Shepard, and Bertha Heilbron.

"The Association's new book, the thirty-fourth it has published, is entitled *A Chronicle of Old Muskego, the Diary of Søren Bache, 1839-1847*, translated and edited by Clarence A. Clausen and Andreas Elviken."



Dr. Harold Dean Cater, Director, Minnesota Historical Society (at the left), presenting to Professor J. Jørgen Thompson, Norwegian-American Historical Association, Certificate of an Award of Merit with citation from the American Association for State and Local History. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, Managing Editor of the Board of Editors, N.A.H.A., is in the center.

### AWARD OF MERIT

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

TO THE

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

For celebrating in a most appropriate manner its 25th anniversary; for publishing three outstanding contributions to the field of state and local history *Grass of the Earth* by Aagot Raaen; *Frontier Mother, Letters of Gro Svendsen* translated and edited by Pauline Farseth and Theodore C. Blegen, and the annual volume of *Studies and Records*; for publishing the best single history of a nationality group, *The American Transition*, by Theodore C. Blegen; and for achieving an enviable reputation by continuous publication for over a quarter century.

Voted at the annual meeting of the Association  
in Newark, Delaware on June 15, 1951

[SEAL]

ALBERT B. COREY, President  
CLIFFORD L. LORD, Chairman  
Committee on Awards

## NEW MEMBERSHIPS—1950-'51

## LIFE

New members received during the Twenty-fifth Anniversary year, 1950, and changes in classification. Also additions and changes covering the year 1951.

Carl F. Berg, Cary, Illinois. (Changed from Associate.)  
 Esther Gulbrandson, Northfield, Minnesota. (Changed from Associate.)  
 Marthinus A. Strand, Salt Lake City, Utah. (Changed from Sustaining.)  
 Stanley R. Anderson, Milan, Minnesota.  
 Arnold Kirkeby, New York City, N. Y.  
 Wilma Johnson, Blanchardville, Wisconsin.  
 Lillian Georgel Thorsness, Chicago, Illinois.  
 A. E. Wigeland, Chicago, Illinois. (Changed from Associate.)

## SUSTAINING

S. T. Gullicksen, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Casper Apeland, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Thos. C. Birk, Aberdeen, Washington.  
 Walter Geist, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
 Leif Strand, Anchorage, Alaska.  
 Andrew H. Nerland, Nome, Alaska.  
 Hubert H. Humphrey, Washington, D. C.  
 John A. Gade, New York City, New York.

*Following changed from ASSOCIATE to SUSTAINING—*

Andreas Stenseth, Albert Lea, Minnesota.  
 Axel G. H. Andersen, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

## ASSOCIATE

Julian O. Sandsness, Peterson, Minnesota.  
 Cornelius Hansen, Oakland, California.  
 Mrs. Lillian G. Sterling, Oakland, California.  
 Mrs. Louise Carlson, Modesto, California.  
 Einar Morris Hansen, Fair Lawn, New Jersey.  
 Alfred Johansen, Berkeley, California.  
 Martin J. Bolstad, Pescadero, California.  
 Professor G. Nordberg, Oneonta, New York.  
 Andrew C. Bendixen, Worthington, Ohio.  
 Trygve Devik Jandon, University of California, Los Angeles, California.  
 Leif Skadberg, Park Ridge, Illinois.  
 Ole Lervick, Lake Stevens, Washington.  
 Carl L. Lokke, Washington, D. C.  
 Claus Clausen, Govan, Sask., Canada.  
 B. O. Wolden, Estherville, Iowa.  
 Mrs. Olga Berglund, Northfield, Minnesota.  
 Esther I. Boe, Northfield, Minnesota.  
 Arne Bergsgard, Trondheim, Norway.  
 Karl Marthinussen, Stavanger, Norway.  
 Sigurd Nørstebø, Trondheim, Norway.  
 Norsk Rikskringkasting, Oslo, Norway.  
 Trondheim Folkebibliotek, Trondheim, Norway.  
 Torstein Selvik, Bergen, Norway.  
 Deichmanske Bibliotek, Oslo, Norway.  
 Lars Christensen, Sandefjord, Norway.  
 Odd Everre, Tysfjord, Norway.  
 Den Norske Ingeniørforening, Oslo, Norway.  
 Franklin D. Scott, Evanston, Illinois.  
 Mrs. Susan M. Amland, St. Paul, Minnesota.  
 Mrs. H. P. Field, Decorah, Iowa.  
 Edward W. Barth, Huron, South Dakota.  
 E. L. Tvetene, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 Mrs. E. O. Ringstad, Northfield, Minnesota.  
 John Eide, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Walter Lyche, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 J. A. Holvik, Moorhead, Minnesota.  
 Mrs. B. A. Benson, Northfield, Minnesota.  
 Harold Severson, Kenyon, Minnesota.  
 Harald W. Strand, St. James, Minnesota.  
 LeRoy Gaarder, Albert Lea, Minnesota.  
 W. C. Schnackenberg, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.  
 Richard W. Solberg, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.  
 E. J. Belsheim, Oslo, Norway.  
 E. Clifford Nelson, Northfield, Minnesota.  
 O. C. Christopher, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 Karsten Roedder, Brooklyn, New York.  
 Mrs. Bergliot Lindbergh-Goldberg, New York, New York.  
 Niels Tjelmeland, Brooklyn, New York.  
 Karl O. Karlsen, Brooklyn 26, New York.

Eilif Volan, Brooklyn, New York.  
 Eivind G. F. Ramberg, Brooklyn, New York.  
 R. A. Ulvestad, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 Miss Dorothy Satterlie, Forest City, Iowa.  
 Mrs. E. Arneson, Elmwood Park, Illinois.  
 Arthur C. Linder, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Mrs. George T. Rygh, Northfield, Minnesota.  
 Miss Ruth T. Ringstad, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 Bjarne Mikal Thane, Ketchikan, Alaska.  
 Dyre Dyreson, Hutchinson, Minnesota.  
 Carl W. Sagen, Battle Creek, Michigan.  
 Mrs. Scott Hyde, Portland, Oregon.  
 Knut J. Norstog, Decorah, Iowa.  
 Gunnar Rusing, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Arthur T. C. Olson, Stoughton, Wisconsin.  
 Duluth Namdalslag, Duluth, Minnesota.  
 Rev. and Mrs. George P. Lottich, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Mrs. Ida Severson Saltness, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Mrs. Esther B. Decker, Chicago, Illinois.  
 William W. Thorsness, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Andrew Benson, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Carl J. Christie, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Len Thompson, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Arthur M. Gullickson, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Mrs. Hilda Hovi, Fargo, North Dakota.  
 Leonard T. Nordlie, McLean, Virginia.  
 O. E. Gunderson, Forest City, Iowa.  
 Mrs. Alfred J. Wickoren, St. Paul, Minnesota.  
 Clarence Swendseid, Grand Forks, North Dakota.  
 Jens H. Forshaug, King Cove, Alaska.  
 Miss Mali Korgen, Columbia, South Carolina.  
 L. L. Stenseth, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 Joseph Bredsteen, Oakland, California.  
 Mrs. Caroline Bjelland, Carpio, North Dakota.  
 Pastor Myrus L. Knutson, Los Angeles, California.  
 Ernest M. Owen, Decorah, Iowa.  
 Hagbarth Bue, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 Mrs. Walter Granner, Eldora, Iowa.  
 Miss Viola M. Rossing, Argyle, Wisconsin.  
 Miss Esther Williams, Litchfield, Minnesota.  
 Miss Esther Benson, Blanchardville, Wisconsin.  
 E. B. Thompson, Des Moines, Iowa.  
 Clarence A. Glasrud, Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
 Mrs. H. J. Aleckson, Whitehall, Wisconsin.  
 Pastor M. A. Dahlen, Saint Paul, Minnesota.  
 O. J. Skawden, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.  
 Lloyd Hustvedt, Decorah, Iowa.

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

The number of members who have joined the Association during the past two years totals up to an impressive figure. This is due largely to the efforts of individual members who have secured new members from among their friends, or they have sent to the Secretary names of people whom they have recommended for membership. The person who deserves mention as being the most active along this line is Miss Beulah Folke-dahl of Blanchardville, Wisconsin. We wish to make an urgent appeal to every member that he or she will endeavor to secure at least one new member.

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The Treasurer's report shows that gifts in two classes have been received during the past year. Some of these have been for current expenses, others to become part of a Permanent Fund. It is encouraging to note that a few of our members have developed the habit of sending in unsolicited gifts from time to time. Some of these have regularly sent in a dollar or two extra when remitting their membership dues. While the financial report shows that the Association enjoys a healthy economic status, still we are aware of the fact that the Executive Board, the Editorial Board and the Board of Archives are constantly being restricted in their plans for the future work of the Association because of lack of sufficient funds.

## STUDIES AND RECORDS, VOLUME 17

Our thirty-fifth book is in the proofreading stage. Dr. Carlton Qualey who is editing this volume expects to have it ready for distribution to the members during the month of April. He reports the following table of contents.

- 1—The Struggle over Norwegian . . . by Einar Haugen
- 2—Brother Ebben in His Native Country . . . by Oystein Ore
- 3—Norwegian Gold Seekers in the Rockies . . . by Kenneth Bjork
- 4—Søren Jaabæk: Americanizer in Norway . . . by Franklin D. Scott
- 5—First Sagas in a New World . . . by Gerald H. Thorson
- 6—Controlled Scholarship and Productive Nationalism . . . by Franklin D. Scott
- 7—The Second Twenty-five Years . . . by Theodore C. Blegen
- 8—Some Recent Publications relating to Norwegian-American History . . . by Jacob Hodnefield

## PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

- S. J. Arnesen, President, 67 - 87th Street, Brooklyn 9, New York.
- Lionel G. Thorsness, First Vice-President, 188 West Randolph Street, Suite 2900, Chicago 1, Illinois.
- Marthinus A. Strand, Second Vice-President, 137 West Second South, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Andrew E. Wigeland, Treasurer, 208 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.
- J. Jørgen Thompson, Secretary, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota.
- David T. Nelson, 404 High Street, Decorah, Iowa.
- Frederic Schaefer, Koppers Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Birger Osland, 1602 Chase Avenue, Chicago 26, Illinois.
- Magnus Bjørndal, 67 Kingswood Rd., Weekawken, New Jersey.

A book is a very welcome gift! When pondering over what the next birthday gift or the next thank you gift shall be remember that your Association offers a variety of thirty-four titles from which to select the next gift. Members are entitled to a discount of 25% from the list price.

## THE CONSTITUTION

Since the Articles of Incorporation were drawn up and adopted a number of changes have been enacted by the members assembled at various triennial meetings. These articles are the Constitution of the Association. For the benefit of the membership, the Constitution, as revised up to and including the Ninth Triennial Meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 5, 1951, is printed in this issue of the News Letter.

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE NORWEGIAN - AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AS REVISED BY DECISIONS AT THE VARIOUS TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

## I.

The name of the corporation shall be the NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

## II.

Its general purpose shall be to seek and gather information about the people in the United States of Norwegian birth and

descent and to preserve the same in appropriate forms as historic records.

## III.

Its general plan of operation shall be to obtain by gift and from membership contributions the funds required for:

1. Helping to maintain and develop Norwegian-American historical archives at such places or institutions as in the judgment of the executive board shall be found to be advantageous and desirable; (at the first regular triennial meeting, 1927, a resolution was passed establishing the Archives at St. Olaf College);
2. Helping to maintain and develop the Norwegian-American museum at Decorah, Iowa, known as the "Norwegian-American Historical Museum";
3. Encouraging and promoting Norwegian-American historical research and literary work;
4. Publishing monographs and other works dealing with Norwegian-American history, literature, art, and culture; and
5. Publishing a periodical devoted to Norwegian-American history, literature and culture.

## IV.

The location and principal place at which the Association shall transact its affairs shall be the city of Minneapolis, in the state of Minnesota.

## V.

The Association shall have three classes of members: associate members, sustaining members, and life members: Each member, regardless of class, shall have one vote at all general and special meetings of the Association. Any person over eighteen years of age may become a member upon written application to the financial secretary stating name, address, and occupation, and paying to the secretary an admission fee, which is to be five dollars for associate members, ten dollars for sustaining members, and one hundred dollars for life members. The associate members shall pay an annual dues of five dollars and the sustaining members an annual dues of ten dollars after the year in which the admission fee is paid. Life members shall be subject to no dues or charges except the admission fee.

## VI.

The officers of the Association shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer, who shall be elected at a meeting of the members, which is to be held every third year at said city of Minneapolis on the first Saturday in May, unless that Saturday falls on the first day of the month, then the meeting is to be held on the second Saturday of May. Said officers shall be so elected and hold office for a term of three years. At the time and place of their election, said officers shall appoint four members of the Association to serve with them for a period of three years, who together with said officers, shall constitute and be designated the Executive Board of the Association and have the general management of its affairs. At the close of the triennial meeting of the members and at the place of such meeting, the Executive Board shall appoint, for a term of three years, a Board of Finance, which is to consist of five or more members of the Association, of which Board the Treasurer of the Association shall be a member ex officio. Of the members of this Board of Finance, one shall be designated assistant treasurer and he shall function in the place of the treasurer elected by the members when for any reason the latter is unable to act. It shall be the duty of the Board of Finance to devise ways and means for obtaining funds needed by the Association. The Executive Board, at the time and place of the election and appointment of the members thereof, shall also appoint for a term of three years a Board of Editors from among the members of the Association, to consist of three or more persons, one of whom is to be designated and is to act as Managing Editor. This Board shall edit and publish all the publications of the Association which previously have been authorized by the Executive Board. At the close of the triennial meeting of the members and at the place of such meeting, the Executive Board shall appoint for a term of three years a Board of Archives from among the members of the Association, to consist of five persons. It shall be the duty of this Board, in cooperation with the curator of the Museum, to build up and promote the efficiency of the archives and historical collection of the Association. The Executive Board may fill any vacancy on its Board, on the Board of Finance, on the Board of Editors, and on the Board of Archives.

THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
for the Eight Months Period May 1, to December 31, 1951

OPENING CASH BALANCE, 5-1-51.....\$ 1,630.42

RECEIPTS—

Life membership fees .....\$ 200.00  
Associate and sustaining dues ..... 3,596.56  
Book sales ..... 1,356.64  
Gifts and Bequests (Current) ..... 512.55  
Gifts and Bequests (Permanent) ..... 15.00  
Interest on Investments ..... 415.00

Total Receipts ..... 6,095.75

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE.....\$ 7,726.17

DISBURSEMENTS—

Publication expense—editorial, typing, etc. \$160.45  
News Letter expense ..... 10.00  
Secretary's Office expense:  
Archives ..... 154.22  
Publications ..... 236.35  
General and Unclassified ..... 413.33  
General expense ..... 133.51  
Advertising expense ..... 343.33

Total Disbursements .....\$ 1,451.19

CLOSING CASH BALANCE, 12-31-51 ..... 6,274.98

TOTAL FUNDS ACCOUNTED FOR.....\$ 7,726.17

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BALANCE SHEET  
as of Dec. 31, 1951

ASSETS

Cash .....\$ 6,274.98  
Investment—Permanent Fund and Current Funds 20,371.47

\$26,646.45

NET WORTH

Surplus Account "A" Permanent Fund ..... 9,170.00  
Surplus Account "B" Current Funds ..... 17,476.45

\$26,646.45

Investments carried at \$20,371.47 consists of the following bonds:

Maturity	or Par Value	Market Price	Market Value
\$ 2,000	U. S. Savings Bonds Series "G" dated 1-1-44 due 1-1-56		
5,000	U. S. Savings Bonds Series "G" dated 6-1-46 due 6-1-58		
100	U. S. Savings Bonds Series "F" dated 11-1-44 due 11-1-56		
5,000	U. S. Treasury 2½% Bonds due 12-15-72/67	96	\$4,800
8,000	The Laclede Gas Light Company 3½% First Mortgage Bonds due 1-2-65	101½	8,100

\$20,100 Total

The difference between the book value of \$20,371.47 and the Maturity or Par Value of \$20,100 results from the fact that the marketable securities were acquired at premiums above par.

ANDREW E. WIGELAND, *Treasurer*

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For comparative purposes the following report of receipts and disbursements for the entire year 1951 has been prepared by consolidating the report of Birger Osland, Treasurer for the period January 1, 1951 to April 30, 1951 and the report of Andrew E. Wigeland, Treasurer for the period May 1, 1951 to December 31, 1951.

OPENING CASH BALANCE, 1-1-51 .....\$ 1,636.10

RECEIPTS

Life membership fees .....\$ 300.00  
Associate and sustaining membership due 4,169.56  
Book sales ..... 2,132.64

Refund from 25th anniversary sponsoring committee ..... 306.86  
Donations ..... 51.00  
Gifts and Bequests (Current) ..... 512.55  
Gifts and Bequests (Permanent) ..... 15.00  
Interest on Investments ..... 580.00

Total Receipts ..... 8,067.61

Total Funds Available .....\$ 9,703.71

DISBURSEMENTS

Publication expense .....\$1,380.20  
News letter expense ..... 95.00  
Secretary's Office expense:  
Archives ..... 154.22  
Publications ..... 236.35  
General and Unclassified ..... 964.78  
General expense ..... 138.51  
Advertising expense ..... 459.67

Total Disbursements .....\$ 3,428.73

CLOSING CASH BALANCE, 12-31-51 ..... 6,274.98

TOTAL FUNDS ACCOUNTED FOR .....\$ 9,703.71

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

The following letter from Attorney Frederick W. Nelson of Racine, Wisconsin, seemed so interesting to us that we immediately wrote Mr. Nelson and asked his permission to share the letter with our members:

"I just finished reading your latest book on Old Muskego concerning the translation of Søren Bache's diary. Toward the end of the book Bache mentions something about his duties as administrator of the estate of his late friend, Johannes Johansen.

"Today when I was at the court house I checked the files for this estate and sure enough there it is in Box 9, File 161. The proceedings were started about in May or April, 1846. Everything is written in long hand. Years ago the court house in Racine burned and most of the records were destroyed, but these records show they went thru the fire. Besides being old the records are also charred, all of which makes it all very interesting.

"Bache must have had quite a job. The inventory is complete right down to the last pants button, and I mean that literally. Everything was sold and each item listed as sold even down to the last and individual cent. The undertaker was paid \$8.50, the doctor in the last illness received \$15.00, and Bache got \$15.00 or \$20.00 as administrator, about \$1.00 a day. There is no lawyer in the case, the judge in those days did all the work. The administrator was also paid an extra \$8.00 for translating."

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More and more people are remembering the Archives of the Association. Our newspaper collection has been augmented to a marked degree during the past two years.

The Waldemar Ager family in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, has presented a complete set of "REFORM," the paper edited by the late Waldemar Ager. All volumes of the set are bound. Except for three volumes, we now have complete, "AMERIKA," edited by Rasmus B. Anderson. We have not had the time nor the funds necessary to sort and arrange the stock we have of "SKANDINAVEN," and likewise of "DECORAH POSTEN." Apparently we have almost complete sets of these two publications. "NORDISK TIDENDE" has promised to provide the missing numbers as soon as we have taken inventory of what we already have.