

The Norwegian-American
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 55

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

SEPTEMBER, 1978

Eighteenth Triennial Meeting

When they drew up the Charter, the founders of the NAHA did not exactly impose a heavy burden upon the members as far as general meetings are concerned — *once every three years*. Even so, triennial meetings accumulate with time, and the eighteenth such gathering will convene at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, September 30, at the Minneapolis Athletic Club, 615 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

With President Arthur O. Davidson presiding, the meeting will consist of reports from the Editor, Secretary, and Treasurer. Matters of business required by the Charter will be treated. The terms for all the Executive Board members expire at this time and a new board must be elected. The new board will convene and elect its officers and Executive Committee.

Distance understandably makes it prohibitive for many members to attend. Those who cannot do so are invited to forward their proxy (see page 3) to the Secretary and to express written opinions, suggestions, or offer criticism which will help assure the continued growth of the NAHA.

Those living in and near Minneapolis are urged to come. Fully as important as the business matters requiring board representation is the fellowship, the renewal of interest, and the mutual encouragement that takes place when many get together in support of a common cause. The officers of the NAHA in particular both need and appreciate contact with those who in the final analysis sustain the Association.

A banquet is scheduled for 7:30, with a preceding social hour beginning at 6:30 at the Minneapolis Athletic Club. The banquet is not exclusively for members. Members may bring guests; in fact, they are encouraged to do so. If our triennial functions can be so arranged that they win increased support for the NAHA, everything is working as it should. A banquet reservation form is found on page 3.

Norma Knutson and Howard Knutson of Minneapolis, and Lloyd Hustvedt, Northfield, Minnesota, serve on the arrangements committee. Details concerning the program for the evening will be announced later.

BJORNSON LETTERS

NEXT PUBLICATION

Dr. Kenneth O. Bjork reports that *Land of the Free: Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's America Letters, 1880-1881* is now at the press and should be available for distribution in November. The translation of the letters and accompanying commentary are by Eva and Einar Haugen. The book, which is estimated to run some 350 pages, will constitute volume five in our Authors Series.

Bjørnson arrived in Boston early in the fall of 1880. His lecture tour in the Middle West ran from January to April, 1881 (the year of the fearful winter). The book is organized accordingly: "Bjørnson's Letters from Cambridge and New York," and "Bjørnson's Letters from His Western Lecture Tour." The work includes a general introduction and an introduction for each of the two divisions cited above; it closes with an interpretive epilogue.

The observations Bjørnson made on American life, his reaction to his countrymen in the New World, and the controversies he stirred during his tour make this both a valuable and interesting book.

A BLEGEN TRANSLATION

Dr. Helmer Blegen of Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has provided an able translation of Hjalmar Rued Holand's work, *Den siste utvandring*, under the title *Norwegians in America: The Last Migration*. The book can be obtained through The Center for Western Studies (publishers), Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

MIGRATION STUDY AT PLU

One arm of a three-part plan for a Scandinavian Studies program at Pacific Lutheran University, Parkland, Washington, is entitled the "Scandinavian Immigrant Experience." The plan calls for the development of a special collection in the University library which will provide research opportunities for Scandinavian Studies majors and for scholars outside the University.

JOHN CHRISTIANSON

BANQUET SPEAKER

John Christianson, chairman of the department of history at Luther College, will speak on "Women in Norwegian-American Cultural Life" at our forthcoming Triennial banquet.

Dr. Christianson was born in Mankato, Minnesota, received his BA degree from Mankato State College and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, doing his dissertation on the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe. He has studied several years in Copenhagen.

Before joining the faculty at Luther College in 1967, Dr. Christianson taught at the University of South Dakota and at the University of Minnesota. He serves as liaison officer between Luther College and the Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, and has been active in the educational program of that museum.

He and his wife Brigitta are currently translating and editing a series of booklets on immigration for school use. The series was originally published in Danish by Munksgaard, Copenhagen. The Christiansons have two boys, Erik and Paul.

KOREN DIARY REPRINTED

The Norwegian-American Museum at Decorah, Iowa, has reprinted *The Diary of Elisabeth Koren*, a NAHA publication. It comes in an attractive paper bound edition and sells, we understand, for \$5.00. Orders for this book should be sent directly to The Museum.

INTERESTING

A New York bookstore dealing in old, rare, and out-of-print book lists a number of our publications for sale. We can only envy the prices quoted: *Saga in Steel and Concrete*, \$17.50; *West of the Great Divide*, \$20.00; *Civil War Letters of Colonel Heg*, \$20.00; and *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson: Pioneer Scholar*, which tops the list at \$27.50. The ironic twist is that — save for the last mentioned title — these books are in print and are available through the NAHA at half the price.

BANQUET RESERVATIONS

\$10.00 per plate

My check for \$_____ is enclosed for _____ reservations for the Eighteenth Triennial Banquet of members and friends of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, September 30, 1978, Minneapolis Athletic Club, 615 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Your banquet tickets will be issued upon your arrival. Please return reservation requests to Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota 55057.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROXY TO VOTE

Members who cannot attend the Eighteenth Triennial Meeting are requested to send their proxies to the Secretary. If you do not know of any member who will attend the convention, you may wish to appoint an Executive Board member as your proxy. Officers who have stated that they will attend are listed below:

Oscar A. Anderson
Kenneth O. Bjork
Arthur O. Davidson
Reidar Dittmann

Lloyd Hustvedt
Norma Arnesen Knutson
Elsie Melby
Rolf A. Syrdal

I _____ of _____ in the state of _____ appoint _____, with full power of substitution, to be my substitute and proxy, to vote at the meeting of the members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, to be held at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on September 30, 1978.

Date _____ Signature _____

Return to: Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota 55057.

A FAMILY HISTORY

It is always satisfying to come across books which supplement the work of the NAHA. Such a book is a family history entitled *Anything Worth Doing* by Hattie Gorsuch, Aberdeen, South Dakota. In twenty-two short chapters Gorsuch relates the life of Christopher Gederaas (1870-1922) and his family, who homesteaded northwest of Sisseton, South Dakota.

The narrative presents a practical and inventive man, firm in faith and conviction. Bound to traditional values, Gederaas was nevertheless a progressive, alert to the changing needs of home and community.

Other family names, which like Gederaas have their origins in Stjørdalen, Norway, enter the story: Boraas, Fossum, Greseth, Kyllo, Romo, and Storfloren.

The book can be obtained through Goldie Paulson, Box 508, Webster, South Dakota. Hardcover \$10.98, softcover \$7.98, plus sixty cents for postage.

FOR SALE

The NAHA has received publishers' remainders of two books, *Salt of the Earth: A History of Norwegian-Danish Methodism in America* (\$5.00) by Arlow Andersen, 1962, and *From Fjord to Prairie* (\$2.00), published by the Chicago Norwegian American Immigration Anniversary Commission, 1825-1975. Those interested may buy these books at the reduced price indicated plus seventy-five cents for postage.

A REMARKABLE MAN

Friends of the Reverend Carl Schevenius met at the Richfield United Methodist Church in Minneapolis on July 30 to honor him for "100 years of creative living." Schevenius responded to the many good words spoken that day with a lively twenty-minute address.

Schevenius, together with a Norwegian guest, visited our Archives recently. The NAHA has decreed that his membership in the Association is secure without further payment of dues. He is an honorary life member.

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