

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

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## NEWS LETTER

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE TO  
THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Edited by J. JÖRGEN THOMPSON, Secretary NORMAN NORDSTRAND, Co-editor

### The President's Letter

At the Executive Board meeting of the Norwegian-American Historical Association recently held in Chicago it was suggested that we should broaden our field of interest in a very definite way, and so it was decided that our next research problem should deal with Norwegians on the West Coast.

Mr. Axel Waerenskjold of Piedmont, California, an eminent engineer and inventor, has been secured as Vice-president. Mr. Waerenskjold is a well-known philanthropist interested in the history, literature, and art as well as in other traditions of Norway. Having lived here upwards of fifty years, he has grown up with the early settlers of the West, both Norwegians and others. He will be of great assistance to anyone coming out here to write an account of the early Norwegian settlers.

We have a very efficient corps of editors with Dr. Theodore Blegen, Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, as managing editor; Paul Knaplund of Madison, Wisconsin; C. C. Qualey of New York; Einar Haugen of Madison, Wisconsin, and Kenneth Björk, Northfield, Minnesota, as associate editors. The history of Norwegians of the Middle West has been well taken care of by Dr. Blegen and his associates in twenty-five well written and interesting volumes published during the last seventeen years. Thus we have a very fine record of our early settlers, schools, and other institutions of culture started in the Middle West.

In the East we have the excellent work of Dr. A. N. Rygg, who has written a splendid account of the early settlers of New York from 1825 to 1925.

Now it is up to us on the West Coast to have recorded the stories of the early settlers of the Pacific Coast. Let us try to find some one in the West who could write a sympathetic and interesting account of the early settlers of California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. If this could be done at an early date, it certainly would contribute and create much interest in our people who made early settlements in these states. What a fund of interesting knowledge to our future historians would not that be to draw from for the cultural and spiritual development of the early Norwegian settlers.

The sooner we can get started on this work, the better it will be, because so many of the early Norwegian settlers are dying off rather fast, and the wealth of knowl-

edge they possess will be lost for all time. Already much of it has been irretrievably lost as so many of our early pioneers have passed away. Therefore let us get started, so we shall not lose more of the valuable information which seems to pass out with the demise of the old settlers.

Some of us with the heart and interest in this work have contributed considerable money for this purpose. Others have helped in various ways to get this work under way.

Much interest in the undertaking has been created at the University of Washington, Seattle. Now the question is, how can we, lay-people, help in making this a success? We can help by becoming paying members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association. We have three kinds of membership. First, we may become Life members by paying \$100.00, which entitles the holder of such membership to a copy of all the books published by the association. Second, by paying \$10.00 a year, a person can obtain all the books published during the year he holds such membership. The third kind of membership costs \$2.00 a year and entitles the member to one copy of the Norwegian-American *Studies and Records*.

Volume thirteen of *Studies and Records*, recently published, contains many interesting accounts of the pioneers of the West. For instance, "Pioneering on the Pacific Coast" by John Storseth is an excellent account of the early settlements of Paulsbo, Washington. Besides this, Volume thirteen contains many interesting stories of various settlements of the West. There are also two well written articles by Dr. Halvdan Koht, "The Norwegians in America" and "Notes and Documents, Norway, Maine."

Now we on the Pacific Coast who are interested in this work should try to stimulate interest in our Association by trying to get more members who are willing to contribute time and energy or both for the purpose of getting this work started at an early date. Each one of us should do our utmost to get more paying members so we can obtain more funds to carry on the work and get an early start on this very important task. The more members we obtain the better the work that can be done for posterity.

It has been estimated it will cost upwards of \$10,000.00 to gather material for this and have it published in book form. We have a promise of about \$5,000, so let each of us put the shoulder to the wheel and do our best to raise the remaining \$5,000.00. If we could get 2500 new members we would have \$5,000.00. Think what that would mean to our organization. Money, membership, and new blood will carry the program.

OLAF HALVORSON

### From the Treasurer

Yesterday, our president, Olaf Halvorson, from Huntington Park, California, was a guest at my home. We are both directors of Norwegian Relief, Inc., which had a directors' meeting in Chicago the same day. Mr. Halvorson is enthusiastic about the latest undertaking of our Association, to write the history of the Norwegian settlements on the Pacific Coast and in Alaska. He wants culturally interested Norwegians on the Pacific Coast and in Alaska to have the distinction of financing this project which Dr. Blegen says will take about three years of research and study.

Halvorson is a practical leader and not a dreamer. When we met he handed me a check of \$1,000.00 to start the work, adding in his quiet manner, "When I have harvested my walnut grove, I think I will be able to send you another check."

This transaction, like others of similar nature, was to be a deep secret between him and me. I told him, however, that my duties as treasurer transcended any personal wishes on his part, and that I considered it my duty to publish these facts as a good example to others.

Halvorson used to be a high school teacher in Arizona and later a teacher of Spanish in the high schools of Los Angeles. Several years ago he retired from active school work and turned his talents to growing Sunkist oranges and walnuts. But he keeps alive and strong his cultural interests which are manifold and extensive. One of his sons, Dr. Homer Halvorson, is librarian at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

BIRGER OSLUND

### Our Managing Editor

At the request of the War Department our Managing Editor, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, has been granted leave of absence by the University of Minnesota, where he is Dean of the Graduate School, to take over the position of Director of the Historical Service Board. This new appointment is a full time job which will keep him very busy. It has necessitated his moving to Washington, D. C. He hopes to secure the necessary assistance to carry on the editorial work of the Association under his guidance in an advisory capacity. It is his intention to have the work go on with as little interruption as possible.

We are happy to know that Dr. Blegen has been given an opportunity to render his capable services in this very important task. The Executive Board and the members of the Association promise him the fullest cooperation.

### A Favorable Acknowledgement

In a letter to a member of the Executive Board Dr. Blegen writes: "You will be interested to know that I have been invited to speak to the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences on the work of the Norwegian-American Historical Association. The meeting will be held in New York on December 30 or 31 at the headquarters of the Institute, 37 E. 36th St. I am not doing any speaking these days, but here I shall make an exception. I shall speak at that New York meeting. I thought you would be interested in knowing that the Poles are eager to hear about our work. The letter that came to me from Meicislaus Haiman said, 'I greatly admire the work of the Norwegian-American

Historical Association and consider it the best and most efficient of all such historical societies.'"

### Future Publications

At the last meeting of the Executive Board Dr. Blegen, the Managing Editor, touched upon the following very interesting items in his report.

Dr. Björk's study of the Norwegian engineers in America is progressing satisfactorily.

*Reminiscences* by Birger Osland is practically ready for publication.

Material for *Studies and Records*, Vol. XIV, is accumulating.

Professor Alf Houkom, Librarian at St. Olaf College, is making an index of *Studies and Records*, Vol I to X. This work is nearing completion.

The Managing Editor then dwelt upon the next research problem of the Association and suggested that this be a study of the Norwegian element on the Pacific Coast. The Board passed a resolution authorizing the Managing Editor to make plans for such a study and its eventual publication. In a preliminary way it was estimated that the cost of such a research project and the publication of the study would aggregate about \$10,000.00.

### Olaf E. Ray

On October 28 death claimed one of our very active members, Attorney Olaf E. Ray of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Ray, who was a native of Norway, came to Chicago in 1881 where he continued his education and was admitted to the bar in 1890. Prior to taking up his law practice he taught in the Chicago public schools. Mr. Ray was active in social and political organizations. He was the senior member of the Nordic Law Club.

Attorney Ray's interest in our Association was very real. Last May he sent us a memorial membership commemorating the achievements of Mr. Andrew Furuseth and in 1926 he honored Mr. Marcus Thrane in the same manner. He was himself a Life member. He also gave some valuable books and archival material to our Archives and Historical Collection.

### May We Have Your Pamphlets?

Pamphlets are paper-covered books. They are usually small, and are the most ephemeral of writings, existing only for a day, and then going into the waste basket. They are as much of a nuisance and eyesore to the average librarian as to the housewife, for they are so hard to handle. They do not stand up on the shelves. They seldom seem important enough to save. Sometimes they are put into pamphlet boxes, and possibly a bunch of them are bound together. But as a rule they are not accessioned, not classified, not cataloged, not even kept. In the drive for waste paper conducted by the U. S. about a year ago, millions and billions of pamphlets which somehow had been saved on some top shelf, or some box in the attic, were sent to the scrap pile and constituted a national calamity.

The reason for publishing pamphlets is that they are cheap, and for that reason, too, they will always be with

us. Their future from the viewpoint of publication is bright but from the viewpoint of preservation is dark indeed. At St. Olaf College, both in the Historical Society library and elsewhere, we have great respect for the pamphlet material, and we shall try to handle it as carefully as we do the bound books that come our way. So we ask you to let us have your pamphlets if you can spare them. Do not throw them away. Send them to us. If we have duplicates, or get duplicates, we can always find some one who would like to trade with us. We shall not destroy them.

Most of the earlier books, for example, were pamphlets. This is true of early Norwegian-Americana in which this Norwegian-American Historical Association is particularly interested. The earliest books about Norwegians in America and by them were published abroad, in pamphlet form. Some of these selections include Ole Rynning's *Sandfærdig Beretning*, 1838, Christiania; Ole Nattestad's *Dagbog*, 1839, Drammen; Peter Testman's *Kort Beskrivelse*, 1939, Stavanger; Sjur Haalim's *Oplysninger om Forholdene i Nord-Amerika*, 1842, Christiania; J. R. Reier-son's *Veiviser*, 1844, Christiania; J. W. C. Dietrichson's *Reise blandt de Norske Emigranter*, 1846, Stavanger; L. I. Fribert's *Haandbog for Emigranter*, 1847, Christiania; A. Lövenskjold's *Beretning om de Norske Settlerne i Nord-amerika*, 1848, C. Wulfsberg's *Beretning om California og dets Guldgrubdom*, 1849, Christiania; A. Budde's *Af et Brev om Amerika*, 1850, Stavanger; T. A. Schytte's *Vægledning for Emigranter*, 1849, Stockholm; L. Risum's *Guldtørsten eller California-feberen*, 1852, Arendal; H. T. Steene's *Beretning om en Tre-Aars Reise i Amerika*, 1854, Stavanger; and no doubt many others. If you have a copy of any of these pamphlets, please send it to us without delay. We shall save them.

And, please note, we want especially all pamphlet literature published by and about Norwegians in this country, beginning with the Catechism that Elling Eielsen had published in New York in 1841. Look over your store and see what you have. Never despise a pamphlet because of its few pages or shabby appearance. Judge not by the appearance. Send them to us, and we will take good care of them for students and researchers to appraise. What do we want? Anything and everything that is unbound. Tracts? Yes. Catalogs? Yes. Reports? Yes. Discussions of religious, political, economic, social topics? Yes. Stories and poems? Yes. Biographies, anniversary histories and programs? Yes. Advertising pamphlets? Yes. Telephone books? Yes. Speeches by congressmen and senators, by preachers and others, in pamphlet form? Yes. And so on. Let us have your pamphlets.

O. M. NORLIE

### Wanted

Below is a list of the books written by Hjalmar Hjort Boyesen (1848-1895) which we do not have in the collections. Boyesen was, perhaps, the first Norwegian-American author and he did all of his work in the English language.

#### Novels—

*Gunnar*, 1874  
*Falconberg*, 1879  
*Queen Titania*, 1881

*A Daughter of the Philistines*, 1883  
*The Light of Her Countenance*, 1889  
*Against Heavy Odds*, 1890  
*A Fearless Trio*, 1890  
*A Golden Calf*, 1892

#### Stories—

*Tales from Two Hemispheres*, 1876  
*Vagabond Tales*, 1889  
*Norseland Tales*, 1894

#### Juvenile—

*The Modern Vikings*, 1887  
*Boyhood in Norway*, 1892

#### Miscellaneous—

*Goethe and Schiller*, 1879  
*Idyls of Norway*, 1882  
*The Story of Norway*, 1886  
*Commentary on the Writing of Henrik Ibsen*, 1894  
*Literary and Social Silhouettes*, 1894  
*Essays on Scandinavian Literature*, 1895

#### Articles about Boyesen in

*Dial*, December 1, 1895  
*Open Court*, February 13, 1896  
*Sewanee Review*, May, 1896  
*Sunday News-Tribune* (Detroit), April 8, 1894

Copies of these magazines would be greatly appreciated.

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Thorstein Bunde Veblen (1857-1929) was recognized as an outstanding scholar and thinker in the field of economics. Copies of his books are wanted to fill in the gaps in our collection. His principal works are listed below:

*The Theory of the Leisure Class*, 1899  
*The Theory of Business Enterprise*, 1904  
*The Blond Race and the Aryan Culture*, 1913  
*The Instinct of Workmanship*, 1914  
*Imperial Germany and the Industrial Revolution*, 1915  
*An Inquiry Into the Nature of Peace and the Terms of Its Perpetuation*, 1917  
*The Higher Learning in America*, 1918  
*...The Vested Interests and the State of the Industrial Arts*, 1919  
*The Place of Science in Modern Civilization and Other Essays*, 1919  
*The Engineers and the Price System*, 1921  
*Absentee Ownership and Business Enterprise in Recent Times*, 1923  
*Essays in Our Changing Order*, 1934  
*What Veblen Taught* (selected writings), 1936

#### Books about Veblen—

Dorfman, J., *Thorstein Veblen and His America*  
Hobson, J. A., *Veblen*  
Homan, P. T., *Contemporary Economic Thought*  
Teggert, R. V., *Thorstein Veblen*

Books donated to the Association should be sent to the Secretary, J. Jørgen Thompson, Northfield, Minnesota.

ALF HOUKOM

## New Members Not Previously Reported

## LIFE

Andrew Furusest Memorial Life Membership.  
Peter M. Sivertsen, Greenwich, Conn.

## SUSTAINING

Agnes Alness, St. Paul, Minn.  
C. J. Gunderson, East Stanwood, Wash.  
Harriet Marie Hustvedt, Highwood, Ill.  
Peter Myrvold, San Francisco, Calif.  
Aksel Waerenskjold, Piedmont, Calif.  
E. M. Soreng, Chicago, Ill.

## ASSOCIATE

Arlow Andersen, San Antonio, Tex.  
James B. Anderson, Forest City, Ia.  
Lt. (jg) Sigurd Anderson, Bremerton, Wash.  
Sverre Arestad, Seattle, Wash.  
Mrs. E. Bergsagel, Poulsbo, Wash.  
Benita Bersagel, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Valborg E. Bestul, Ann Arbor, Mich.  
Bethany Lutheran Collège, Mankato, Minn.  
Katharina Blilie, Brookings, S. D.  
J. L. Bolstad, Norwich, N. D.  
A. P. Brende, Shelby, Mont.  
P. O. Bugge, Bisbee, N. D.

Anna B. Cameron, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Bjarne Dundas, San Jose, Calif.  
Selma Edlund, Beverly Hills, Calif.  
Jens A. Erickson, Breckenridge, Minn.  
Wilhelm Erickson, Minot, N. D.  
Helge Five, Great Neck, R. I.  
H. L. Foss, Seattle, Wash.  
Christofer Fotland, San Pedro, Calif.  
Alfred Gabrielson, Redlands, Calif.  
H. A. Hagestad, River Falls, Wis.  
Fred A. Hanse, Spencer, Ia.  
Burton S. Hanson, Grand Haven, Mich.  
Fredrik Haslund, New York, N. Y.  
Rolf B. Haugen, Portland, Me.  
Brynhild Haugland, Minot, N. D.  
Oscar Hellestad, Eureka, Kans.  
Theo. Holm, New York, N. Y.  
Frances M. Hov, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Julius Hovelsrud, St. Paul, Minn.  
Carl L. Johnson, Pittsfield, Mass.  
Emma C. Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Sivert Klefstad, Chicago, Ill.  
Bernhardt J. Kleven, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Erland Kummen, Preston, Minn.  
Haldo P. Kvernmo, Hendricks, Minn.  
D. M. Langve, Westby, Wis.  
Christ T. Larsen, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Claus Magnusen, New York, N. Y.  
Katherine M. Michaelsen, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Lillie Moen, Duluth, Minn.  
Lawrence Molsather, St. Paul, Minn.  
E. N. Nordgaard, Glenwood, Minn.  
R. A. Ofstedal, Seattle, Wash.  
S. A. Olsness, Sheyenne, N. D.  
C. O. Pedersen, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
S. G. Reinertsen, Moorhead, Minn.  
H. M. Ringman, Everett, Wash.  
Alvin N. Rogness, Mason City, Ia.  
Soren Reinestad, Oakland, Calif.  
Oscar C. Ronken, Rochester, Minn.  
H. R. Rovelstad, Elgin, Ill.  
A. J. Sandness, LaMoure, N. D.  
Leif O. Selbak, Duluth, Minn.  
H. A. B. Sneve, Sausalito, Calif.  
Emory C. Skarshaug, Waukesha, Wis.  
Morgan Solvsberg, Sioux City, Ia.  
Olaf S. Soreson, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Edward S. Swenson, Chicago, Ill.  
J. Arndt Tande, Glendale, Calif.  
Edward J. Thye, St. Paul, Minn.  
Albert John Towe, San Diego, Calif.  
Waldorf College, Forest City, Ia.  
Frances P. Williams, Minneapolis, Minn.

*Authors of Norwegian ancestry who have had their books printed in the United States are invited to send copies of their publications to the historical collections of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota. It makes no difference in what field, or fields, the work has been done. We want as complete a picture of the Norwegian-American mind and of Norwegian-American contributions to American life as it is possible to get.*



For Christmas gift suggestions see *Studies and Records* Vol. 13, pages 193-202