

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. JØRGEN THOMPSON, SECRETARY P. M. GLASOE, CO-EDITOR

ARCHIVES

The Norwegian-American Historical Association earnestly invites the fullest cooperation on the part of its members in the work of gathering and preserving records that relate to the Norwegians in America.

It is impossible to make out a complete list of material that is wanted but we suggest the following list which may serve as a guide to our members in this work. The suggestions are:

1. DIARIES: of Norwegian pioneers;
2. CORRESPONDENCE: letters to and from relatives and friends in Norway or in other communities in America;
3. REMINISCENCES: of pioneers, written by themselves or secured by interview;
4. NEWSPAPERS: published anywhere in any Scandinavian language—particularly Norwegian-American newspapers;
5. PERIODICALS: Norwegian or English, relating to the Norwegians in America or elsewhere;
6. CHURCH PUBLICATIONS: annual proceedings, periodicals, pamphlets, etc.;
7. CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS: proceedings, birth, baptismal, communion, marriage, and death registers, ministerial reports, congregational publications such as newspapers and pamphlets;
8. BUSINESS RECORDS: of farmers, merchants, manufacturers, publishers, tradesmen, professional men, etc.;
9. AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, BIOGRAPHIES, FAMILY HISTORIES: either published or unpublished;
10. BYGDELAG PUBLICATIONS: and the publications of other Norwegian-American societies and organizations;
11. PICTURES: of pioneers or of pioneer scenes;
12. BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, ARTICLES: or any material, printed or manuscript, dealing with or bearing any relationship to Norwegians or to events and conditions affecting Norwegians in America.

Kindly send all archival material to the Secretary, J. Jørgen Thompson, Northfield, Minnesota.

LAURENCE M. LARSON

On March 9 Death struck from the Association's roll of members and editors one of the truly great Norwegian-American scholars. Word was received on the

following day that Professor Laurence M. Larson, fast nearing his seventieth birthday, had died of a lingering illness at his home in Urbana, Illinois.

To review the life and work of the late Professor Larson would be to write a significant chapter in the story of Norwegian migration and contribution to America. Some day this task must be undertaken by a competent student. Suffice it here to remark that Larson was born in Bergen, Norway, in the year 1868. When only two years old he was brought by his parents to the still youthful Northwest, where he was reared and where he received his education. With a keen eye and a brilliant mind, he observed at close range the gradual assimilation of the immigrant and the change in western life. Trained in the art of historical writing, he made lasting contributions to our knowledge of the changing west.

In the year 1907 Larson accepted a position as instructor in history at the University of Illinois, where he remained until his death. During his last years he was chairman of his department. Recognition of his scholarly accomplishments were many, but chief of these was the vice presidency of the American Historical Association. Illness and death alone prevented him from serving as president of the same organization. His writings cover a wide field, but the student of history will recall at once his *Canute the Great*, *The King's Household in England before the Norman Conquest*, and *A History of England*. His translated and edited works include *The King's Mirror* and *The Earliest Norwegian Laws*. By members of the Association, however, Larson will be remembered for the eight superb essays comprising the volume *The Changing West*. Some will also recall that he edited volume IV of *Studies and Records* in 1929 during the absence of Dr. Theodore C. Blegen.

To editors and officers Larson's death signifies the loss of one whose position may never be filled. During the years 1927-1938, while serving on the editorial Board, Larson gave generously and enthusiastically of a literary skill and a maturity of judgment that contributed greatly to the excellence of the publications and the general vigor of the Association. —K. B.

MARCUS L. HANSEN

Two months—almost to the day—after the passing of Dr. Laurence M. Larson the Association suffered the loss of a second member of the editorial Board in the death of Dr. Marcus L. Hansen.

Dr. Hansen was taken sick during the winter and had gone to California, where he was recuperating when death came. The remains were sent to Urbana, Illinois, where funeral services were held. Burial was at Newell, Iowa.

As a member of the History Staff in the University of Illinois, Professor Hansen was doing special work in the field of history of immigration. He was rapidly gaining national recognition among his colleagues in history for his outstanding work in this field.

The loss to the Association will not only be felt because of his valuable work as a member of the editorial Board, but also because of his wise counsel in solving the general problems of the association. Dr. Hansen was an invaluable member of the centennial committee in charge of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first permanent Norwegian settlement in the United States at Norway and Ottawa, Illinois, in June, 1934.

NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Professor E. Hetle, who has been Financial Secretary of our Association since 1933, found it necessary to resign from that position on January 1. The Executive Board has appointed Professor David T. Nelson, Decorah, Iowa, to fill the vacancy, and Professor Nelson has accepted.

Professor Nelson will have charge of the membership dues; while applications for new memberships should, as previously, be sent to the Secretary at Northfield, Minnesota.

MANAGING EDITOR HONORED

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, the managing editor of our Association, was honored by the Royal Frederick's University, Oslo, Norway, on March 10 when the doctor's degree, *Honoris Causa*, was conferred upon him.

GIFTS ASSURE RESEARCH PROJECT

Announcement was made in the last *News Letter* of a gift consisting of \$1,000 by Mr. Fredric Schaefer. Since then Mr. O. M. Olgson has donated \$1,000 and Mr. Arthur Andersen, \$3,000. These gifts have been set aside by the Executive Board to be used in the field of research as soon as a recognized historian is available to employ his whole time on the project.

ENDOWMENT GROWS

The Treasurer's Report shows that during the year 1937 the sum of \$1,325.69 was added to the Rølvaag Memorial Endowment Fund.

According to our Constitution the life membership fees are made a part of a permanent fund. Could we not secure enough life members this year to increase our Endowment Fund by \$2,000?

NEW VOLUME COMING

Contract for the printing of *STUDIES AND RECORD*, Volume X, has just been let. This means that our next volume should be ready for distribution about the middle of September.

If we are to meet the expenses of this publication it will be necessary for the members to send in their dues as early as possible.

TRIENNIAL MEETING

The next triennial meeting will be held in Minneapolis January 3, 1939. Details regarding the meeting will be announced later, but the members are asked to note this date in order that we may have a large representative meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Since January 1, 1938

B. J. Blikstad, Dalton, Minnesota
Miss Amanda C. Burtness, Chicago, Illinois
L. Carsten-Hatlen, San Francisco, California
Martin Cornelius, Gary, Indiana
Omer B. Dahm, Webster Groves, Missouri
Ingolf Erdal, Chicago, Illinois
Alfred O. Erickson, Chicago, Illinois
Christ L. Erickson, Fairmont, Minnesota
C. N. Evanson, Decorah, Iowa
Cornelius Faltinson, Marengo, Iowa
Thomas E. Feten, Chicago, Illinois
Chas. S. Finkelson, Northfield, Minnesota
Oliver G. Fjeldstad, Chicago, Illinois
Edward Funnemark, Northfield, Minnesota
Geo. A. R. Gullixson, Chicago, Illinois
Jno. W. Hanshus, Chicago, Illinois
E. E. Hanson, Chicago, Illinois

J. H. Hille, Chicago, Illinois
Christ F. Holden, Fairmont, Minnesota
Martin L. Holter, Canton, South Dakota
Willard Hummeland, Chicago, Illinois
Miss Theodora Idtse, Chicago, Illinois
Leif Irgens, Winnetka, Illinois
Charles J. Iverson, Chicago, Illinois
J. Grefstad Jorgenson, Chicago, Illinois
J. W. Knudson, Chicago, Illinois
John A. Lindrup, Chicago, Illinois
P. Ljostveit, Chicago, Illinois
Mrs. Jeannette M. Lord, Hanover, N. H.
Paul Lunder, Canton, South Dakota
Henry H. Melhoos, Chicago, Illinois
Sverre Mohr, Los Angeles, California
Lewis Moe, Chicago, Illinois
John A. Moldstad, Chicago, Illinois
Martin Nelson, Northfield, Minnesota
Tom Nerland, Fairbanks, Alaska
Martin Norstad, Chicago, Illinois

Norway Club, Los Angeles, California, (Five associate memberships)
Norwegian Legation, Washington, D. C.
Charles E. Odegaard, Urbana, Illinois
Oliver B. Opsahl, Chicago, Illinois
Peer Gynt Lodge No. 22, Sons of Norway, Huntington Park, California
Roald Amundson Lodge No. 48, Sons of Norway, Sacramento, California
Mrs. Ella Siljan, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
Joseph Simonson, Chicago, Illinois
S. L. Thompson, Chicago, Illinois
Lionel G. Thorsness, Chicago, Illinois
E. E. Ulvestad, Chicago, Illinois
Oliver M. Ulvestad, Chicago, Illinois

NEW SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Einar Beyer, Seattle, Washington
Concordia College Library, Moorhead, Minnesota
Gunnar Hagen, Erskine, Minnesota