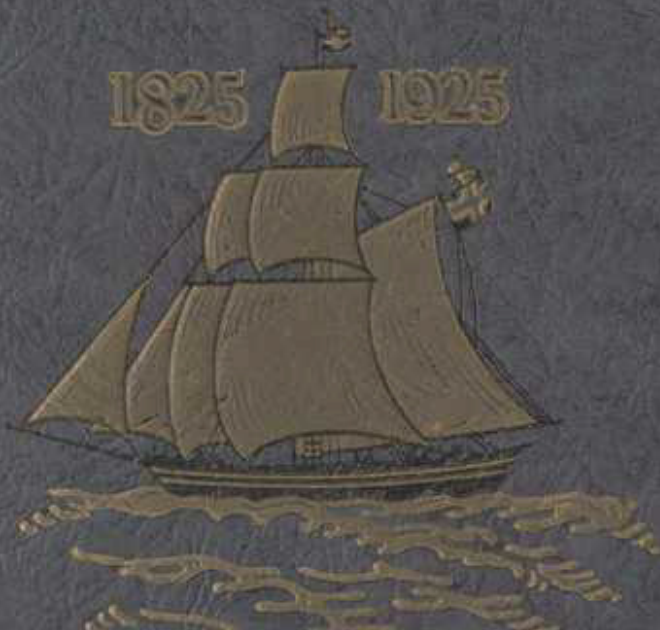


1825 1925



NORSE-AMERICAN  
CENTENNIAL

THE



THE  
HISTORY OF  
THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FROM  
1763 TO 1876

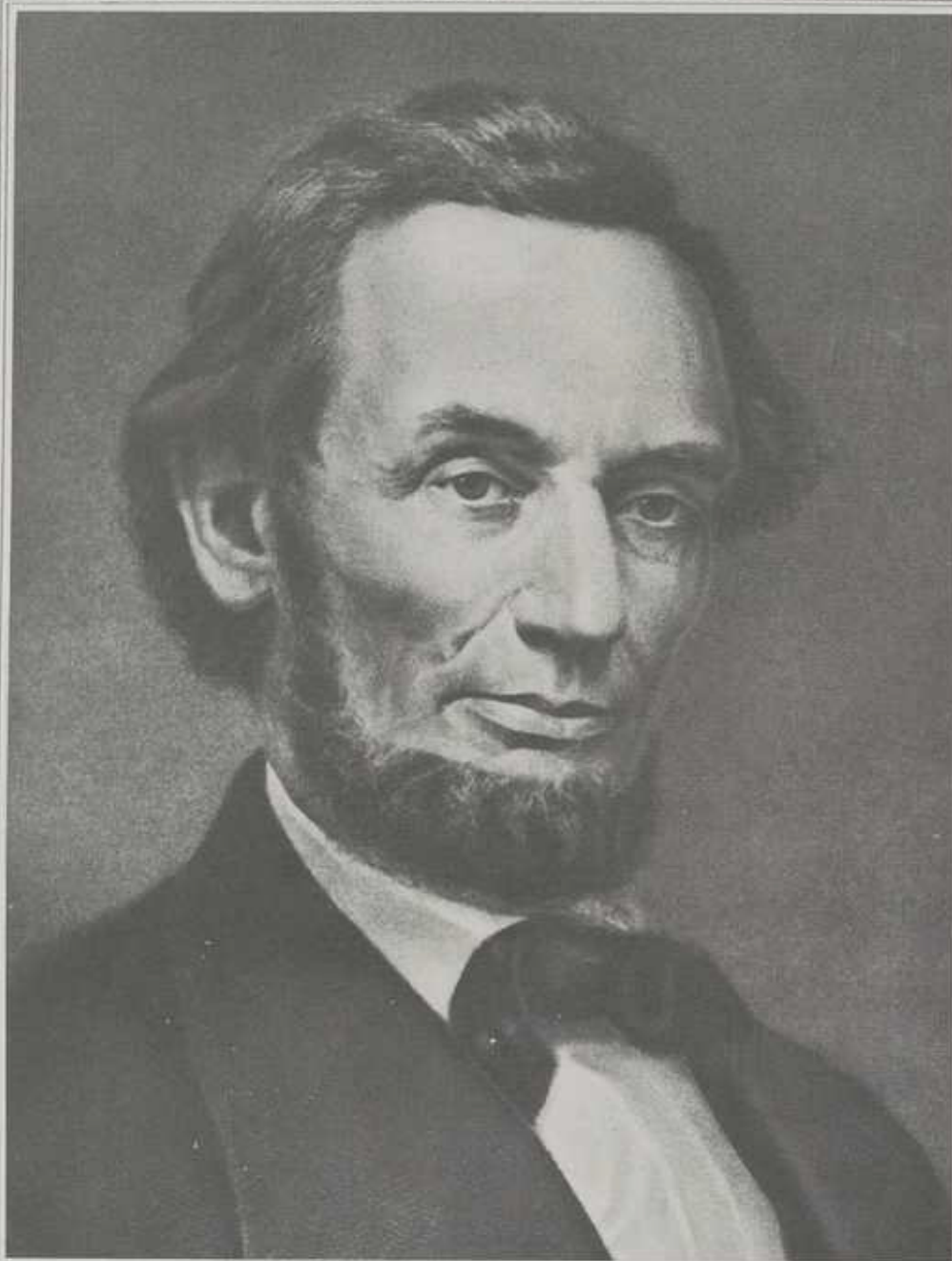
# NORSE-AMERICAN 1825 CENTENNIAL 1925



*In the North lies our beautiful Saga land  
In the arms of the god of the sea;  
There the sun glows red in the noon of night;  
There, thousand-hued, the northern light  
Glams weird o'er fjord and lea!*

*I am longing to roam in that beautiful land—  
Dear land where my fathers have dwelt!  
And feel the inspiring breezes blow  
From cloud-like cliffs of eternal snow,  
My mother in childhood felt.*

*I am longing to hear the tinkling bells  
And the shepherd's clarion call  
Ring o'er the tarns, the falls and the rills,  
Ring o'er the woods, the vales and the hills  
And away to the mountains tall.*



ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
*The Typical American*



## Foreword

IN 1825, there arrived in New York a small sloop, the *Restaurationen*, with 53 Norwegian immigrants on board. This was the first large group of people from Norway who came to make their homes in the new land of the free across the Atlantic. This event marks the beginning of the steady stream of immigration from Norway, a country which has sent to our land a larger proportion of her population than any other country with the exception of Ireland.

It is to commemorate in a fitting manner this event that the Norse-American Centennial celebration will be held on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds in June 1925.

The "Sloopers" are by no means, however, the first Norwegians that are recorded in American history. Pre-Columbian history carries records of their voyages of discovery and colonization. And colonial history also informs us of many individuals from Norway who came over to our country with other ethnic groups.

All of this is embraced in the Norse chapter of American history, which will be passed in review at the Centennial celebration.

The initiative for this celebration was taken by a delegate convention of the Norwegian "Bygdelags" in America, societies of a purely historical, cultural and social character, representing all people of Norse birth or descent in America. The idea has later been endorsed by all organizations that have any contact with the Norse element. The state of Minnesota, where the celebration is to be held and other states, have given the celebration official recognition, and the recognition of our National government has given the celebration national and international significance. The Dominion of Canada also sends representations on behalf of the Norse-Canadians to join in the celebration. The mother country sends to the celebration illustrious men and women to represent the government and their national institutions and organizations, in a spirit of goodwill and in true understanding of the part immigrants from Norway and their descendants have played in helping to build the American nation.

The meeting of so many notables from so many parts of the world at the festivities in June, to give voice to their appreciation of the accomplishments of the Norse builders and pioneers will be an inspiration to us all.



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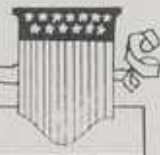
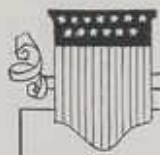
CALVIN COOLIDGE  
*President of the United States*





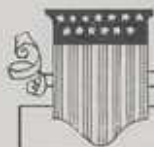


MRS. CALVIN COOLIDGE



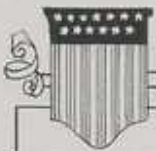


LORD BYNG  
*Governor-General of Canada*





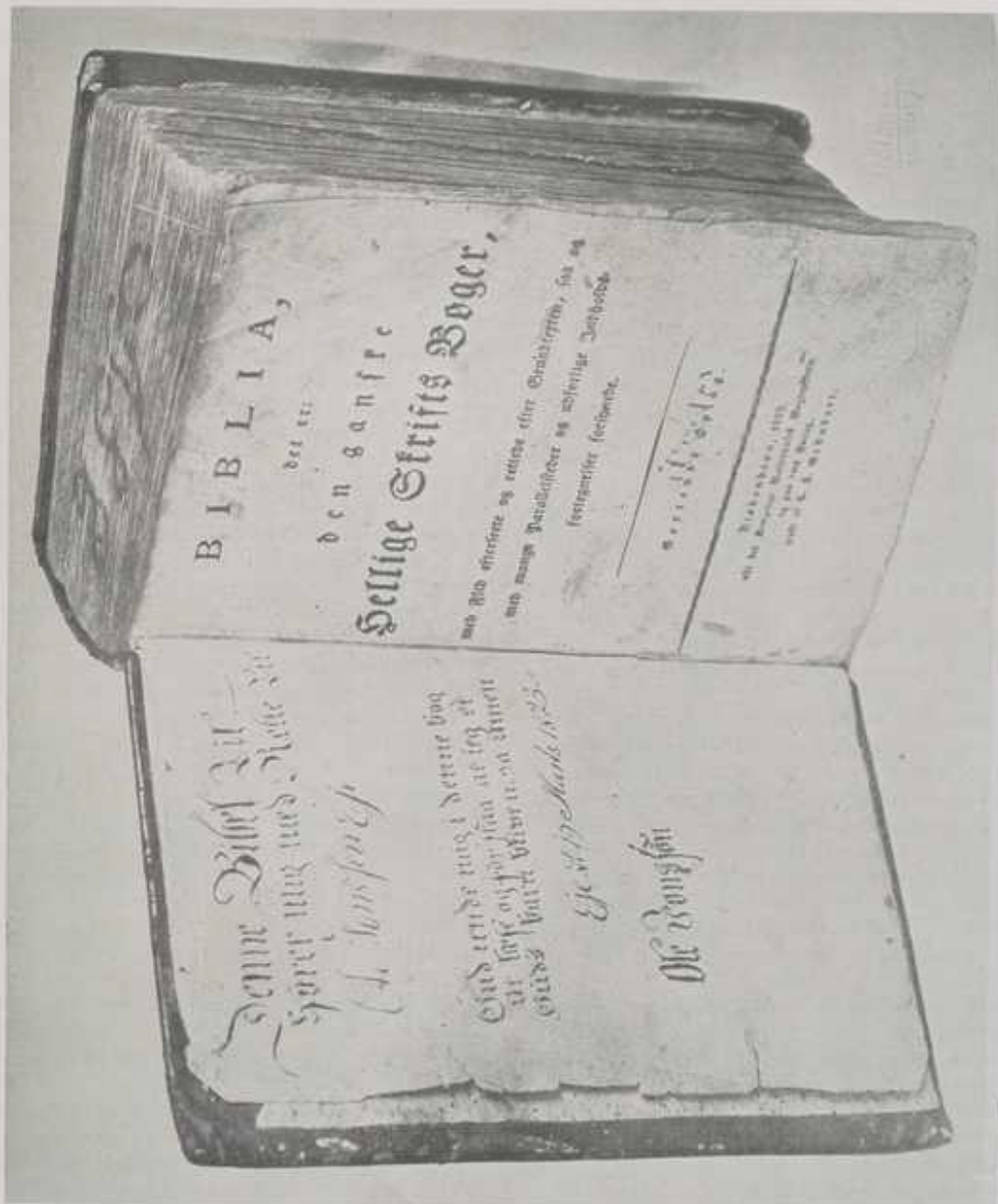
LADY BYNG





HAAKON VII QUEEN MAUD  
PRINCE OLAV  
*The Norwegian Royal Family*





*From History of the Norwegian People in America, by Dr. O. M. Nordin.*

**Ole Johnson's Bible brought over on the Sloop**  
 (Owned by Emily Jane Raymond, Great Granddaughter)

# OMKRING HUNDREARSFESTEN

Av WALDEMAR AGER\*

DET væsentligste resultat av en stor og heldig festligholdelse av hundreaaret for den norske indvandring vil naturlig bli det, at amerikanere av norsk avstamning vil føle sig mere hjemme, mere hjemstavnsberettiget og mere paa like fot med efterkommerne av de angelsaksiske indvandrere, som i almindelighet og i en forskjellig grad fra andre ansees som amerikanere av et ekte slag.

Det er fælles historie som mere end noget andet skaper borgerlige og kulturelle fællesinteresser og derved samfølelse i et land. Saa længe en indvandret folkcerace ikke har nogen egen, den selv tilhørende, del i landets historie, saa vil den vedbli at kjende sig som et fremmed folk, selv om den i det ydre opfylder alle de krav, som med berettigelse kan stilles til landets øvrige indbyggere.

Naar vore barn læser om kolonistenes kampe og frihetskrigen osv., saa vet de, eller burde vite, at deres forfædre ingen del hadde i de store forspil som gik forut for dannelsen av den amerikanske republik. Det er og blir for dem et fremmed folks historie, den de ikke kan tilegne sig som sin egen. De kan baade beundre og elske dem; men det vil bli paa samme vis som de vilde beundre eller elske Grækenlands eller Roms oldtidshistorie. De vil ikke naa lenger end til forgaarden og vil bli staaende utenfor det allerhelligste nationale i historiens tempel.

En anden sak er det naar landets historie ogsaa indbefatter ens egne forfædres bedrifter. Om det i sig selv ikke er saa overvældende stort eller glimrende som mange andres, saa vilde det bli oppfattet saaledes, fordi det gjælder ens egne — dem selv. Om end en ringe del, — naar den er der, saa aapner den for det allerhelligste i bevisstheten om den borgerlige samfølelse.

De fra Norge kommende første indvandrede historie fremstiller i de store træk det samme billede som den angelsaksiske races barn faar i arv av sine forfædre.

Pilgrimsfædrenes og de første kolonisters historie avviker ikke meget fra deres, der kom hundrede eller to hundrede aar senere. Havet var like stort for hundrede som for to eller tre hundrede aar siden, skibene ikke større, besværlighetene og farene ikke mindre. Landet var ute i vesten likesaa vildt og krevde like meget mod og slit for hundrede aar siden som landet ved kysten for to hundrede aar siden. De hadde de samme savn at utstaa, de samme gjenvordigheter og prøvelser. Kravene som var stillet til nybyggeren var de samme, — øksene var ikke lettere, plogene ikke bedre. Der utkrevdes omtrent nøiagtig de samme egenskaper for at rydde et hjem i Wisconsin for hundrede aar siden som i Massachusetts for to hundrede aar siden. De vilde dyr var de samme arter, de lumske indianere hadde ikke forandret sin karakter, de samme sykdommer og de samme skuffelser lurte paa nybyggeren i vesten som generationer før i østen, og borgerkrigen satte mod, manddom

og lojalitet paa like haard prøve som revolutionskrigen.

Intet barn av norsk herkomst kan læse eller høre om dette, uten at føle sit hjerte slaa i takt med de øvrige, hvis forfædre var med og bygget landet i dets histories første gry.

Det er den samme historie om præriebrande, skogbrande, oversvømmelser, stormer, misvækt, græshopper, angst for indianere og kampe med en ublid natur, der skulde betvinges — et taalmodig slit under stadige farer og tusen savn — tildels haardere for de norske nybyggere fordi de var ukjent med landets sprog og skikker og kjendte sig mere fjernt fra sin slekt og mere fremmede end de angelsaksiske indvandrere, som dog allikevel var i sit eget land og under sit eget flag. De hadde nogen at klage sin nød for om det knep — sin egen regjering i det gamle land. Den norske indvandrer hadde avskaaret dette baand og var en fremmed blandt fremmede.

Vore barn maa lære dette kapitel av landets historie og lære det godt. Hundreaarsfesten vil aapne dette til dels uskrevne kapitel for dem.

Et andet resultat vil være at landets øvrige indbyggere vil faa et klarere syn paa hvad de Forenede Stater er og hvorledes de blev hvad de er. Det vil gi dem en større horisont og et bredere syn paa hvad sand og virkelig amerikansk aand er. De vil heller ikke helt kunne føle at statene er deres eget land før de forstaar at dette vort borgerhjem er bygget i fællesskap av mange forskjellige racer, der alle har lagt sin bedste kraft i arbeidet. Vore geografiske navn bærer vidnesbyrd om dette store fællesarbeide og vor historie bør ogsaa vidne om det i høiere grad end den gjør — fremforalt bør vi selv vidne for hele landet, at vi forstaar og værdsætter enhver byggende og ryddende hjerne og arm som har været med at skape en ny verden av et gammelt vildnis. Det rette borgersind vil ikke spørre efter hvem som har gjort mest, men om dem som har ydet efter bedste evne.

Vor hundreaarsfest vil vise at vi, som et folk, har ydet efter bedste evne.

Fremdeles vil festen bidra til at vort folks særegne gode træk og racepræg bedre bevares.

Den nu herskende "smeltepotte-ide" fører kun til forfladning. Selv om det lykkedes ved kunstige midler at skape en ensartet standardisert borgertype, saa kan det kun ske ved at utrydde de indvandrede folks sterkeste og bedste racepræg. Naar irsk-amerikaneren apherer at eksistere, saa opherer ogsaa den typiske irske humor og den irske djærvehet i uttrykksmaate som præger saa mange av vore største talere. Naar tysk-amerikaneren ikke findes lenger, saa er det ogsaa forbi med den typiske tyske flittighet, grundighet samt deres særlige elsk for blomster og musik. Hvis vi opherer at føle os som norsk-amerikanere, saa vil ogsaa vi miste vore for landet mest nyttige karaktertræk — bare for at nævne den typiske aresfølelse som har bidrat saa me-

get til at gjøre os til eiere av egne og dertil vakre hjem og foregangsmænd baade paa land og i by.

Det er i vor tid ikke henger mulighet for at kunne frembringe typisk folkeliv. Dette har utviklet sig i avsondrethet, hvor slegtene kun har været henvist til sine egne aandelige forraadskammere for det de aandelig talt skulde leve av. Jernbaner, dampskibe, automobiler og den overvældende rigdom paa bøker og blade vil forby nogen utfoldelse av et særegent folkeliv heretter. Det som endnu findes er de kilder hvorav de skjønne kunster og især musikken nærer sig, og de findes kun hos racer og nationer som har frembragt et særegent folkeliv. Ingen originale kunstformer eller særskilt kultur vil kunde vokse frem i en med vold eller ved selvopgivelse standardisert befolkning. Utjevninger kan kun foregaa ved at de indvandrede gir slip paa sine raceeiendommeligheter; men derved maa landet ogsaa gi slip paa de kulturelle muligheter, som disse raceeiendommeligheter bærer løfte om. Det er netop dette vort land trenger mest av alt for at kunne hævde sig som en kulturmagt. Hvis vi som norsk-amerikanere skal kunne yde noget paa dette felt, saa maa vore folkelige eiendommeligheter i den størst mulige grad bevares. Noget nyt av den slags vil ikke mer skapes hverken her eller andre steder i verden. Moderne forhold tillater det ikke og det kan heller ikke frembringes gjennom nogen som helst aandelig drivhuskultur heller, naar selve grundlaget er borte.

Hundreaarsfesten vil saaledes ogsaa bidra til at understreke vigtigheten av at bevare vore racepræg for at kunne gjøre nogen indsats av værd i nationens kulturelle liv.

Det er en mulighet for at vort land kan vedbli at ha den frieste forfatning og være det rikeste, det mest selvhjulpne i økonomisk og teknisk henseende og dog være avhengig av andre nationer i kulturell henseende, at vi kan utvikle en aandelig mekanisme, men ingen virkelig folkesjæl. Alt andet kan tilegnes og læres, men ingen race har faat sig tildelt mere end en sjæl. Tapes den, saa har man kun den aandelige organisme tilbake indstillet paa formaalstjenlighet eller fortjeneste og har ingen plads for den inspiration eller de stemninger, som gir livet farve og glød og uten hvilken det rikeste hjem eller det mægtigste land blir fattigslig og forfladet.

Det har vist sig at vore største mænd har været utprægede racemennesker. Fra England indvandret to forskjellige typer — den saakaldte "Cavalier" og den britiske "Commoner". Disse typer finder vi gaaende igjen i landets historie, naar de tunge løft skulde tages. De optrær altid parvis fordi landet under de store kriser trængte dem begge. Under revolutionstiden har vi som de to mest fremtrædende George Washington og Benjamin Franklin, under borgerkrigen Robert E. Lee og Abraham Lincoln, — endog under sidste krig gjenfinder vi dem i en avbleket form som Woodrow Wilson og W. J. Bryan. Under de store forspil som gik forut

for borgerkrigen hadde vi Calhoun og Webster. Man kan følge disse to utpræget forskjellige typer ogsaa i litteraturen. Det synes som de aandelig sterkeste er netop dem som i den høieste grad har bevart sit oprindelig angelsaksiske særpræg. De to mest fremragende statsmænd Carl Schurz og Knute Nelson var ogsaa begge utprægede racemennesker. Tyskerne har aldrig hat en mere typisk representant i nationens styre end Schurz og nordmændene ingen mere typisk end Nelson. Saa anerkjendt for nationen nyttige mænd som de var, bærer de vidnesbyrd om at vort land har bruk for den indsats som vi kan gjøre endog i politikken gjennom raceprægede individer.

Hundreaarsfesten vil ogsaa kunne henlede oppmerksomheten paa dette.

Den vil ogsaa ha betydning for Norge. Norge er vor races mor. Hun har som enhver mor interesse av at faa vite hvorledes hendes barn arter sig ute i det fremmede. Har hun opdrat dem godt og deres færd er til hæder, saa er hun berettiget til sin del av den hæder og den glæde som en slik hæder vil bringe enhver mor, uanset om hun er rik eller fattig. Og er vort stræv og arbeide her gjennom hundrede aar hæder værd, saa er det i like høi grad til vort nye lands hæder; ti hvad som er gjort er gjort her og for det.

Den viktigste følge av en vellykket hundreaarsfest vil dog kanskje være den at vore egne etterkommere her vil lære at hædre far og mor derved, at de stilles ansigt til ansigt med de gjenvordigheter og kampe som forældrene og bedsteforældrene maatte gjennomgaa for at deres etterkommere skulde faa det bedre, ha trygt og ha det lettere. De som hædrer far og mor har forjættelse om at det skal gaa dem vel og de skal leve længe i landet. Det kan ikke gaa dem vel uten at det ogsaa gaar landet vel, og at de skal bo længe i landet er ensbetydende med at deres land ogsaa skal nytte godt av forjættelsen.

Den bedste betryggelse for vort land og alle land er agtelsen for fædrene enten det gaar hundrede eller to hundrede aar tilbake i tiden. Deri ligger ogsaa de bedste garantier for vor forfatning og vore institutioner. De som har lært at agte og hædre sine fædre vil ikke være med og rive ned, hvad fædrene med blod, sved og hjerne har bygget. Fædrenes flag blir deres flag og fædrenes tro deres.

Som de agter sine forældre vil de ogsaa selv bli agtet og fordi de forstaa sine egne slegters kampe, saa vil de ogsaa lære at forstaa andres og derigjennem vinde frem til den store gjensidige og almindelige agtelse som alle indvandrede racer skylder hinanden og som til syvende og sist er nationens eneste trygge grundvold.

\*This article was awarded first prize in the recent Norse-American Centennial Contest for the best essay on the theme, "Why we Celebrate." The second and third prizes were divided equally between Professor O. M. Nurlie of Luther College and Martin W. Odland of Robbinsdale, Minnesota, author of the "Saga of the Norsemen in America," printed in this volume. Professor Nurlie's essay appears on subsequent pages of this book.

## THE NORSEMEN'S HERITAGE

By OSCAR ARNESON, *Chairman Publicity Committee*

THE beginning of Norse history, like the early history of all peoples, is shrouded in mystery. We know, however, that the Norwegians belong to the Teutonic race, the same as the Danes, the Swedes and the Germans, and that for two thousand years or more they have occupied the west half of the Scandinavian peninsula. We also know that before Harold the Fair Haired brought the land under his rule as sole king, Norway was divided into petty kingdoms, which engaged in almost constant warfare. Harold was denounced as a tyrant, and rather than submit to his rule many of the war-lords left the country, but the work he did places him at the head of Norway's great men. He united the country and thereby established a lasting domestic peace.

The old Norwegians had their own religion—the wonderful Norse mythology, which is even more beautiful and inspiring than that of the ancient Greeks. Christianity was introduced toward the close of the tenth century, but the people were not completely Christianized till in the reign of Olaf the Saint, from 1015 to 1030.

The war between Olaf and King Knut the Great of Denmark, which terminated in the death of the former in the memorable battle of Sticklestad, brought Norway under the sway of the Danish ruler, but at Knut's death in 1036, Olaf's son, Magnus I, recovered possession of the throne and it remained in the possession of Norwegian rulers till 1319. The death in that year of Haakon VII without male heirs threw the election into the national assembly, which chose Magnus VIII of Sweden. In 1387, Queen Margaret, the only child of Waldemar III of Denmark, ascended the triple throne of the Scandinavian lands, and thenceforth till 1814 Norway was united with Denmark under one king, retaining, however, its constitutional mode of government.

In 1814 the powers which defeated Napoleon punished Denmark for its support of the great Corsican by transferring Norway to Sweden, despite the protests of the Norwegian people. The national diet, or Storting, met at Eidsvold, where it nominated Prince Christian of Denmark regent and subsequently king of Norway, and solemnly adopted a new constitution. Charles John Bernadotte, crown prince of Sweden, met these acts of defiance by leading an army into Norway, where he took Frederickstad and Frederickshald and threatened Christiania. A compromise was finally reached, whereby the Storting accepted the proposals made to them by the Swedish king for a union with Sweden, with the understanding that the Norwegian people should retain their newly promulgated constitution and enjoy complete freedom and independence within the limits of their own country. This arrangement continued till 1905, when Norway severed her relations with Sweden, asserted her absolute independence and chose as king Prince Karl of Denmark.

"O France," exclaims a historian of the eleventh

century, "thou wast bowed down, crushed to earth. Behold, there comes to thee from the North a new race. That race shall raise thy name and thy empire, even unto the heavens!"

The historian referred to the establishment in France of the duchy of Normandy by Rolf, the Norseman, in 911, one of the great events in history—great because of its far-reaching results. Rolf was the son of Earl Ragnvald of More, Norway, who conquered a part of France in order to provide a new home for himself and followers, who rebelled against Harold the Fair Haired. King Charles the Simple of France granted to Rolf the duchy of Normandy and gave him his daughter in marriage. His rule as duke was a prosperous one and his people rapidly increased in numbers and power. They adopted in time the French language and gave to France much of her finest early literature and art. Their prowess in battle was the marvel of the age. They took the lead in the Crusades, they conquered Southern Italy and England. Their conquest of England marks the beginning of English power and glory, and many able scholars maintain that the real father of the British people is not Alfred the Great, but Rolf. If that be true, then Rolf is likewise the father of the American people. Be that as it may, certain it is that the spirit of Rolf and his people finds expression not only in the Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights of England, but also in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

The wonderful vigor and ability exhibited by the Norsemen in France was also shown by their enterprises in other quarters of the world. Between the years 787 and 1000 they overran and subdued most of England, Ireland and Scotland. They invaded the vast plains of Western Russia and united the Slavs of that region into one great kingdom. The dynasty established by their chief, Rurik, ruled over Russia for more than seven hundred years. In the western Atlantic they established colonies in Iceland and Greenland and discovered America. The Norse Vikings were the first sailors to venture out of sight of land and are the discoverers of pelagic navigation.

In modern times the Norsemen have been a peaceful people, at peace with all nations. But they have not been inactive or lacking in enterprise or ambition. They have made conquests, not in war, but in the world of literature, art, culture, science.

Norway is only a small country, with a tillable area much smaller than that of Minnesota and with a population no greater, yet her contributions to civilization have been wonderful. During the past hundred years she has ranked with the foremost nations in the production of literature. Henrik Ibsen is universally acknowledged as one of the greatest poets of all times—the greatest dramatist since Shakespeare. He is the



creator of the modern social drama and his last works were upon their publication immediately translated into all the principal languages of the world. No other author of modern times has received such serious attention from critics and scholars. Of almost equal genius was Ibsen's contemporary, Bjornstjerne Bjornson, who was not only a great poet, novelist and dramatist, but also one of the world's greatest orators. Other Norwegian authors of the first magnitude are Henrik Wergeland, J. S. Welhaven, Aasmund Olafson Vinje, Alexander Kjelldand, Jonas Lie, Arne Garborg and Knut Hamsun, the last of whom was awarded the Nobel prize in literature a few years ago.

In art, music, science, invention and exploration also, Norway has produced men of the highest rank. There is Henrik Abel, the mathematician, who, though only 27 years of age when his life ended, gained wide distinction by his discoveries in elliptic functions, and whose solution of problems provoked the greatest ad-

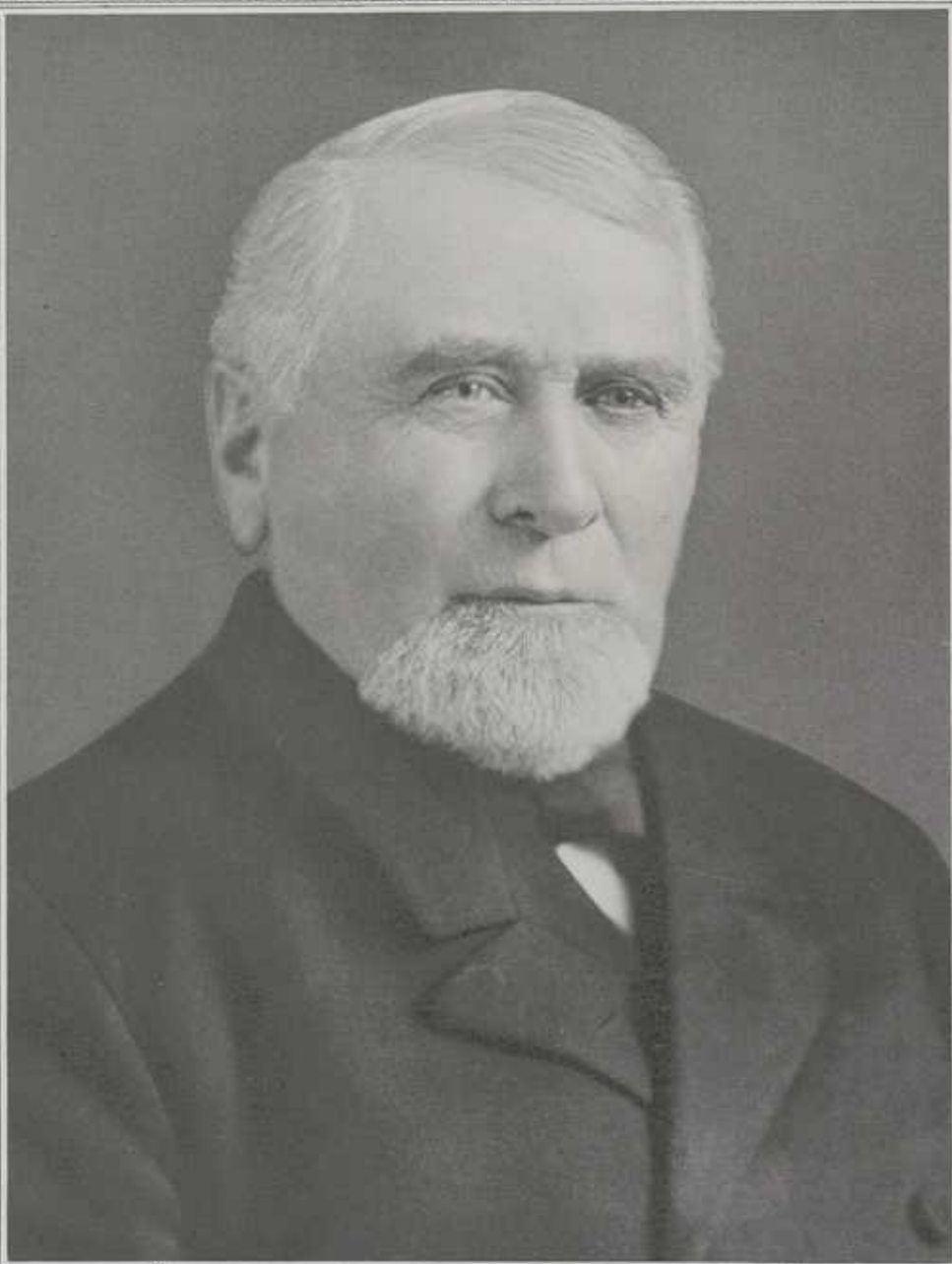
miration. There is Dr. Frütjof Nansen, the explorer and scholar, who has made important contributions to our fund of geographical and scientific knowledge by his explorations and investigations in the Far North. And there is Roald Amundson whose name will live forever as the discoverer of the South Pole.

When one thinks of great composers the names of Otto Sinding, Johan Svendsen, and Edvard Grieg always come to mind. The Grieg "Peer Gynt" suite is universally considered one of the greatest compositions of all times. As a musician the fame of Ole Bull, the great Norwegian violinist, extends over the whole world. Fritz Thaulow, J. C. C. Dahl, Knute Bergslien, Eric Werenskjöld, Nikolai Astrup and Christian Krogh have achieved greatness as artists.

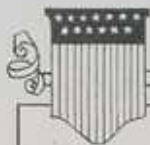
All of these men lived during the last hundred years. Truly a wonderful thing for a small nation like Norway to bring forth so many men of genius in a single century!



"Restaurationen"



KNUTE NELSON



## KNUTE NELSON

### *One of the Most Illustrious of Her Sons That Norway Has Given to the New World*

By J. A. O. PREUS, *Former Governor of Minnesota*

KNUTE NELSON was born February 2, 1843, at Evanger, Voss, in a little hut on a barren mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. His father died when he was three years old. Two years later he and his mother came to America. On the Atlantic, finding his mother weeping and in prayer in her cabin, the boy exclaimed, "Don't cry, mother, we are poor now, but when I grow up, I shall be next to the king."

They came to Chicago, and the five-year-old lad became a newsboy. A year later we find them in Dane County, Wisconsin, on a farm. The boy received all the education afforded in the common schools and in Albion Academy. The strong arms and ready hands inspired his youthful companions with respect, as did his industry his conscientious teacher with due admiration.

In 1861, the war broke out and Nelson enlisted in Company B, Fourth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the capture of Fort Jackson, St. Philip and New Orleans, in the expedition against Vicksburg and in the battles of Baton Rouge, Camp Bislan, Franklin and Opelousas. He was wounded and taken prisoner in the charge against Fort Hudson. He returned to Wisconsin in 1864, broken in health but not in spirit. He had sent his monthly wages to his mother, and she had saved them for him so that he might re-enter Albion Academy. Later he entered the Law School at the University of Wisconsin.

The year he was admitted to the bar he was elected to the Legislature on the Republican ticket. He had not yet recovered his health, and seeking a more healthful climate, he came to Minnesota in 1871, and took a homestead at Alexandria, upon which he lived until his death.

He engaged in the practice of law, served as county attorney three years, state senator four years, as a member of the University board of regents eleven years, and in Congress six years. He retired voluntarily to re-engage in the practice of law, but two years later was drafted as his party's nominee for governor. He was pitted against D. W. Lawler, then Minnesota's most brilliant young man, and Ignatius Donnelly, famed from coast to coast. He was elected by a fair plurality and two years later he was re-elected.

The Legislature of 1895 elected him United States Senator. He was re-elected by the Legislature in 1901, 1907 and 1913, and by popular vote in 1918. In war and in peace, he served his country a total of fifty-nine years, a most unusual record.

His service in Congress was particularly marked by

his fearless stand on the tariff, he being one of three Republicans to vote for the Democratic Mills bill. He ever since maintained his attitude for a low protective tariff.

As governor, he distinguished himself because of his recommendations affecting the grain and warehouse business. He showed his ability to cope with a difficult situation when the Hinckley fire broke out in 1894. His efforts for reclamation in the Red River Valley are still remembered by the people in that section, as are his attainments in connection with the development of our iron ore mines.

In the United States Senate he served with untiring energy for nearly thirty years. He was unostentatious and never boasted of his attainments, although he was one of the most distinguished members of that body. Senator Beveridge said of him that he "was the nearest approach to the ideal senator." In Washington he was known as the senator who had stepped into the shoes of Senator Hoar of Massachusetts. His industry was the greatest of any man in the capital.

Senator Nelson was the father of the department of commerce and labor. The bankruptcy act of 1898 was his work and bears his name as the "Nelson cure." It was due to him that national banks can be established with a capital of \$25,000. He served with distinction as chairman of the senate judiciary committee from 1919 until his death. His speeches and actions supporting the government during the World War were vigorous and emphatic.

In the winter of 1923, Senator Nelson suffered a severe attack of influenza. During his illness he often expressed a longing for the peace and quiet of his farm home at Alexandria. This wish was to be denied to him, he succumbed to heart failure on the train, near Harrisburg, Pa., April 23, 1923. His remains lie buried near his homestead at Alexandria, and a permanent memorial will be erected on the State Capitol grounds.

Senator Nelson fulfilled his boyish prediction that he "would be next to the king." A man of oak, in whose early childhood instinct became intelligence; in whose youth anger begot ambition; in whose life's evening his fellow-citizens viewed him as a mental colossus, he at all times had the love and admiration of all who knew him. Truly, he could have said: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." His life is the greatest inspiration of our day to the lowly American immigrant; may his memory be as lasting as the noble purposes for which he lived.



*The Leif Ericson Monument in Boston*

THE Leif Ericson monument in Boston, Massachusetts, has a notable history. To Professor Rasmus B. Anderson belongs the credit of originating the plan to honor the memory of the Norse discoverer of America by the erection of a fitting memorial. He laid his plan before Ole Bull in 1873 and the great violinist gave it his hearty approval. He was living in America at that time and was the idol of the American people. His endorsement of the proposal to erect the Ericson monument in Boston brought to its support the leading authors and scholars of New England. A brilliant committee was formed to raise the necessary funds and arrange for the erection of the memorial. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thomas

H. Appleton, Professor Eben Norton Horsford, the mayor of Boston, the governor of Massachusetts, and other distinguished men served on the committee.

Miss Anne Whitney, the noted sculptress, was engaged to fashion the statue. It stands on a huge pedestal, a heroic bronze figure, resembling Ole Bull, who was a man of splendid physique. It represents Leif Ericson as the sculptress conceived him to stand when he first saw the coast of Vinland. Professor Horsford was the orator at the unveiling, in 1887. A replica of the monument was later erected in Milwaukee, and a splendid statue of the Norse discoverer, by Sigvald Absjornson, the Norwegian-American sculptor, stands in Humbolt Park, Chicago.

# SAGA OF THE NORSEMEN IN AMERICA

By MARTIN W. ODLAND

## *The Norse Migration to America*

IT was the fourth day of July, 1825. A little one-masted ship of thirty-nine tons capacity was sailing out of Stavanger harbor, its prow pointed toward the North Sea. On its deck stood a group of men, women and children, most of them dressed in the garb of Norwegian peasants—the plain homespun so familiar in song and story. Some of the women were shedding tears as they waved farewells to friends and relatives ashore. The men were looking seaward, hope and determination on their faces. It was the sloop "Restaurationen" (The Restoration) just starting on a memorable voyage that was to end fourteen weeks later at the docks of New York.

Though none at the time realized its significance, the sailing of that little ship is an epoch-making event in history, for its fifty-two passengers formed the vanguard of a friendly army of invaders that took possession of a goodly portion of this broad continent. They were indeed,

*"The pioneers  
Of nations yet to be—  
The first low wash of waves  
Where soon should roll a human sea."*

Today over two million Norsemen dwell in the land of Leif the Lucky and are numbered among the most prosperous people of the earth. Their settlements and institutions are found in almost every state of the Union, in almost every province of the Dominion. Their worth as citizens and the value of their services are recognized by all. They and their fathers before them have been foremost in conquering the wilderness and in developing the Mississippi valley into one of the most productive regions of the world. They have played a memorable part in the building of this great western empire.

In reality the Saga of the Norsemen in America does not begin with the coming of the famous sloop, for Norsemen were the first of Europeans to set foot on American soil, and at various times between the years 1000 and 1825 restless men from the North came to our shores. That Leif Erickson landed in Vinland in the year 1000, eighteen years after Eric the Red discovered Greenland, and shortly after Bjarne Herjulfson sailed along the coast of America, is now a well established fact, and recently discovered evidence indicates that in the year 1472, King Christian I sent an expedition to Vinland with Didrik Pining as commander and Jon Skolp as pilot. It is also known that in 1121 Bishop Erik Upse of Greenland led an expedition to Vinland, never to return.

During the seventeenth century thousands of Norsemen served in the Dutch marine and many of them ac-

companied the Dutch to their colony in New York. Indeed, a few Norsemen participated in the establishment of New Amsterdam in 1613, and it is maintained that the first white child born in New York was a Norwegian named Jon Vinge. According to Torstein Jahr, a well-known Norwegian-American scholar, Anneke Jans, a native of Marstrand, Norway, came with her husband to New Amsterdam in 1632, and became quite prominent, first as a nurse and later as the wife of the Reverend Bogardus. She owned a large tract of land on Manhattan Island and her descendants have referred to her as the "Princess." It is also maintained that in 1704 a Norwegian church was built on Manhattan Island and that services in the Norwegian language were conducted there for many years. Furthermore, it is said that a number of Norwegians located in the Swedish colony of Delaware established in 1638.

It is well known that several Norwegians fought on the side of the colonies in their struggle for independence, the foremost of whom was Thomas Johnson, who served under John Paul Jones and took part in the famous victory of the "Bonhomme Richard" over the "Serapis" off the English coast. He died at the United States Naval asylum in Philadelphia, July 12, 1851.

But there was no real migration from Norway to this continent before the coming of the sloop "Restaurationen," nor were there in America any permanent settlements or colonies of a distinctively Norse character. The migration responsible for the large Norwegian population of America began in 1825; hence the appropriateness and the significance of the Norse-American Centennial.

Three men in particular played a prominent part in the migration that began a hundred years ago—Lars Larson, Kleng Peerson and Ole Rynning. The first was the leader of the sloop party. Born in Stavanger, September 23, 1787, he served in the Danish navy during the Napoleonic war until 1807, when he was captured by the British. For seven years he was confined in a London prison, where he learned the English language and was converted by the Quakers. Upon his return to Stavanger in 1816, he, with others that had embraced the Quaker faith, began proselyting among the common people of Stavanger county and formed a Society of Friends, which still exists—the only one in Norway.

Some of these Quakers and other dissenters from the State Church became dissatisfied. They felt out of sympathy with their neighbors on account of their religion, and their economic condition, like that of the common people of Norway in general, was deplorable, largely as a result of the European wars. They had heard favorable reports about conditions in America and looked to the New World as their future home.

It is also safe to assume that in their desire to emigrate they were influenced by the old roving spirit of the Vikings.

They were too cautious and prudent, however, to emigrate without obtaining more definite information as to actual conditions in America, so they sent two



*A Viking*

men across the Atlantic to make an investigation. One of these was Kleng Peerson. And thus was brought into the saga of the Norsemen in America this remarkable man who, for forty years, was the pathfinder of his people in the New World and dedicated his life to their prosperity and well-being with a zeal that knows no parallel.

Kleng Peerson! It's a genuine Norse name—a melodious name that rings lovingly in the ears of his countrymen in the New World. It's a name that, long ago, should have been carved on an impressive monument reared in his honor in the midst of this western empire which he helped to build.

Kleng Peerson was a genius, a dreamer, a modern knight errant, always helping others, unmindful of himself. He had traveled extensively in Europe, had learned the English, German and French languages, in addition to his own, and had a rare faculty of mingling with all sorts of people and gathering information. And he had a peculiar gift of expression. Wherever he went people listened to him, believed in him. His faith in America was boundless. To him it was the Promised Land of his people. One night, after a long, weary tramp over the trackless prairies west of Chicago, he sank exhausted to the ground and had a vision. "He dreamt," says Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, "that he saw the wild prairie changed into a cultivated region, teeming with all sorts of grain and fruit most beautiful to behold; that splendid houses and barns stood all over the land occupied by a rich and prosperous people."

When Kleng awoke he felt that the Almighty had

revealed to him the future home of his people. He thought of Moses and the Promised Land and believed that he, like Moses, had been commissioned to lead his people from bondage—the bondage of poverty—to a land of plenty.

It was three years before Kleng Peerson returned to Norway. What places he visited is not known, but he obtained a great deal of information. He found in New York quite a strong and wealthy colony of Quakers, who encouraged him to bring his friends to America, promising him their help in getting them settled. He went back to Norway filled with enthusiasm for America. Here his people could enjoy complete freedom of thought and worship, here there were no class distinctions, here the poor man could obtain a homestead almost for the asking and be the master of his own destiny.

His reports created intense interest and enthusiasm among the common people of Stavanger county. They flocked around him wherever he went, listening to his glowing accounts of the new Promised Land. But how to get to the Promised Land was a problem. Lars Larson solved it. He had become a man of some means, and, with the help of five others, bought a little sloop for eighteen hundred Norwegian dollars. He took the lead in all the preparations for the expedition. It was he that engaged the captain, Lars Olson, and the mate Erikson.

The voyage of the tiny ship was both perilous and romantic. Crossing the North Sea, it passed through the British Channel and, for some reason, went as far south as Funchal, Madeira Island, where it came near being fired upon by the authorities, because of the crew's failure to display the ship's colors. It reached New York on the ninth of October, 1825. All of the passengers landed safe and sound and their number had been increased on the way by the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Lars Larson. She was baptized Margaret Allen, in honor of a prominent Quaker lady who had befriended her father during his imprisonment in London. She developed into a woman of rare beauty and refinement. In 1857 she married Mr. John Atwater of Rochester, who later became a prominent Chicago publisher. She died at an advanced age, loved and respected by her neighbors. She will live in history as the "Sloop Baby." One of her children, Miss Jane Atwater, is a prominent teacher in the public schools of Chicago.

The arrival of the sloop party attracted a great deal of attention, not only in New York, but also in other places. The New York papers printed extended notices of the unique company of immigrants, some of which were reprinted by papers in other cities. The York Daily Advertiser for October 12, 1825, announced the coming of the sloopers in a very interesting article headed "A Novel Sight," in which it said that the appearance of such a party of strangers, coming from so distant a country and in a vessel of a size apparently ill-calculated for a voyage across the Atlantic, could not but excite an unusual degree of interest. An enterprise like this argues a good deal of boldness in the master of the vessel, as well as an adventurous spirit in the passengers."

The newcomers reached New York entirely destitute

and found themselves in serious trouble. Their little ship brought a bigger cargo and more passengers than a vessel of that size was allowed to carry under the laws of the United States; so the captain, Lars Olson, was arrested and the sloop, with its cargo, was seized by the custom house officials. But the Quakers, that had befriended Lars Larson and others of the party in London, came to their rescue now. They convinced the authorities that the innocent homeseekers were ignorant of the American laws and should be treated with mercy. So the captain was released and the sloop with its cargo restored to its owners.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the treatment accorded the immigrants by the Quakers. They gave them food, shelter, clothing, and paid their expenses to Orleans county, New York, on the southeastern shore of Lake Ontario, which Kleng Peerson had selected as their home and where land had been purchased for them at five dollars per acre on very easy terms.

There, in the town of Kendall, these brave, simple folk founded the first permanent Norwegian settlement in America. Each family secured forty acres of land, covered with dense hardwood timber. To clear this land meant years of hard work and for some time the pioneers endured actual want and privations. The surrounding country was then but sparsely settled and there was little chance to find employment or shelter. They made their first earnings by threshing grain with a hand flail, threshing machines being at that time unknown. The next year each family cleared and broke up on an average two acres of land, which they seeded to wheat. Their first crop gave them support for the next winter.

In the course of time they became fairly prosperous, for the soil was rich; but they had acquired too little land and many of them longed for more room. The settlement did not grow and flourish, like most of the settlements later founded in the West, but never lost its identity as a Norwegian community. Immigrants located there from time to time and helped to keep alive the language and the traditions of the homeland.

An interesting reference to this first Norwegian settlement is found in the "Pioneer History of Orleans County, New York," written by Arad Thomas and published in 1871.

"About the year 1825," writes Mr. Thomas, "a company of Norwegians, about fifty-two in number, settled on the lake shore in the northeast part of the town (Kendall). They came from Norway together and took up land in a body. They were an industrious, prudent and worthy people, held in good repute by people in that vicinity. After a few years they began to move away to join their countrymen, who had settled in Illinois, and but few of that colony are still in Kendall. They thought it very important that every family should have land and a home of their own."

The closing statement of the above calls attention to a fact that was true, not only of the Kendall colony, but of all the early Norwegian immigrants. To own land was their ambition, and to get land they were willing, if necessary, to brave the dangers and endure the hardships of the frontier. A larger percentage of the Norwegians of America live on farms than do people of any other nationality.

Lars Larson sent his family to Kendall with the rest

of the immigrants, while he himself remained in New York to dispose of the sloop and its cargo. This was no easy matter and he was at last obliged to accept the paltry sum of four hundred dollars for both ship and cargo. What became of the sloop is not known, but we may safely assume that the new owner changed its name and converted it into a coastal trading vessel. Its saga, so far as the Norsemen are concerned, ended with its sale. A reproduction of this "Mayflower" of the North will be shown on a motion picture screen at the Norse-American Centennial. Fortunately a companion ship of exactly the same size and construction as the sloop is still in existence, which makes it possible to reproduce the famous vessel with almost perfect accuracy.

After disposing of the sloop Larson located at Rochester, near the Kendall settlement, where he became a prosperous builder of canal boats. An accident cut short his life in 1843. He was a man of unusual energy and nobility of character. His home at Rochester was always open to immigrants, thousands of whom stopped there on their way to the West. The comfortable residence which he built is still standing in an excellent state of preservation. One of his children, Miss Georgina Larson, still lives at Rochester. Blessed be the memory of Lars Larson, leader of the first group of Norwegian immigrants to America!

Kleng Peerson did not accompany the sloop party to America, but instead went by the way of Gothenborg, Sweden. He was in New York when the party landed and proved very helpful to them in various ways. He located at Kendall, like the rest, but tarried there for only a few years, being too restless to stay very long at any one place. It is believed that he visited the West for the first time in 1833 and from that day till his death looked upon the Mississippi valley as the ideal home of his people. He founded there several settlements, the first at Fox River, La Salle county, Illinois,



*Elling Eielson*

where he had his remarkable dream. This was the second Norwegian settlement in America and soon grew into a large and prosperous colony. The first Norwegians that located there came from the Kendall colony, who were urged to make the change by Kleng Peerson. From 1835 to 1850, most of the immigrants first located

there and it is still the largest Norwegian settlement in Illinois, outside of Chicago. It was in this settlement that Elling Eielson, the famous lay preacher, began his religious work and there built the first house used for divine worship by Norwegians in America.

Kleng made three trips to Norway to urge his coun-



*Kleng Peerson's Monument in Norse, Texas*

trymen to emigrate and hundreds responded to his call. He spent the last years of his life in Texas, where he died in 1865, eighty-three years of age, and is buried at Norse, in Bosque county. A small monument graces his resting place, on which is inscribed the following:

"KLENG PEERSON  
THE FIRST NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANT  
TO AMERICA.  
CAME TO AMERICA IN 1821.  
BORN IN NORWAY, EUROPE, MAY 17, 1782.  
DIED IN TEXAS, DECEMBER 16, 1865.  
GRATEFUL COUNTRYMEN IN TEXAS ERECTED THIS  
MONUMENT TO HIS MEMORY."

He had traveled over a large part of Europe, had crossed the Atlantic seven times, and had tramped thousands of miles over the trackless western wilderness before his restless spirit found peace. He lived to see his wonderful dream come true, for already in 1865 countless numbers of his countrymen had their homes in the new Land of Promise, where they dwelt in prosperity and contentment.

The effect of the sailing of the sloop party upon emigration was not felt for some time, and during the next ten years only a few Norwegians took up their abode on this side of the Atlantic. Letters describing conditions in America, written by immigrants to friends and relatives back home, were an important factor in stimulating emigration. Some of these letters were copied in large numbers and passed along from parish to parish, eagerly read by thousands. Among those whose letters produced a marked effect upon emigration may be mentioned Gjert Gregoriusen Hovland and Ole

Knudson Trovatten. Hovland left his home on the island of Tysnes in 1831, going first to Kendall and later to Fox River, Illinois. He was a firm believer in America and in his numerous letters, written with marked intelligence, strongly urged his countrymen to follow him across the Atlantic. Trovatten left his native Telemarken in 1840 and became the first schoolmaster and sexton in the Koshkonong settlement.

But few letters were written by the sloopers in the beginning and these were not very optimistic, offering little encouragement to prospective immigrants. After Kleng Peerson and others of the Kendall settlement had removed to Illinois, however, they sent home enthusiastic reports which started a genuine "America fever," and in 1835 added impetus to emigration was given by Knud Anderson Slogvig, one of the sloop party, who visited his native parish in Stavanger county and strongly urged his countrymen to seek their fortunes in the New World. News of his visit spread far and wide, and hundreds came to gaze with wonder upon this man from the "unknown world" and to hear his accounts of the land beyond the sea. Visits by other immigrants among the home folks, like the letters from America, were of great importance in speeding up emigration.

The real exodus began in 1836, when the so-called "Koehler brigs"—"Den Norske Klippe" and "Norden"—sailed from Stavanger with some two hundred souls aboard. The next year two more ships, "Enigheden" and "Aegir," brought a like number to New York. Most of these joined the Fox River Colony in Illinois.

One of the passengers on the "Aegir" was Ole Rynning who, next to Kleng Peerson, wielded a greater influence upon emigration than any other person. He was a highly educated young man of unusual intelligence, who kept a private school for advanced scholars prior to his departure for America. The reason for his great influence upon emigration was the publication of his book, entitled "A Truthful Account of America for the Help and Guidance of Peasant and Commoner." The thirty-nine pages of this booklet set forth with marked fairness and acumen the advantages and disadvantages of America from the homeseeker's standpoint. It was printed in large numbers and read by thousands, most of whom accepted the author's conclusion that the common people of Norway would better their condition by going to America.

Ole Rynning died of malarial fever in the ill-fated Beaver Creek settlement, which was started in 1837. He has the distinction of writing the first book produced in America by a Norwegian. Nobody knows the exact location of his grave, for when he died all the people in the settlement were sick with fever except one, and he put the body in a rude coffin made of an oak, hauled it out on the prairie and buried it. The spot was not marked by tablet or monument and was soon forgotten. The Beaver Creek settlement was abandoned by the Norwegians on account of its unhealthy location and the land was taken over by Frenchmen, Germans and Americans, who drained the marshes.

In addition to Ole Rynning's booklet, quite a number of other books and pamphlets dealing with conditions in America made their appearance in Norway.



Some of these, like Rynning's work, described conditions here as favorable and advised Norwegians to emigrate to this country, but others presented a gloomy picture of America and warned their readers to remain in the homeland. Next to Rynning's, the book that had the greatest effect in stimulating emigration is one by Ole Knudson Nattestad, in which he gives an account of his voyage on board the ship "Hilda" and of his travels and observations across the continent to Illinois. The manuscript of this book was brought to America by the author's brother, Ansten Nattestad, and was published at Drammen in 1839. By the way, Ansten Nattestad was also instrumental in bringing about the publication of Ole Rynning's book, for it was he that brought the manuscript to Norway and had it printed.

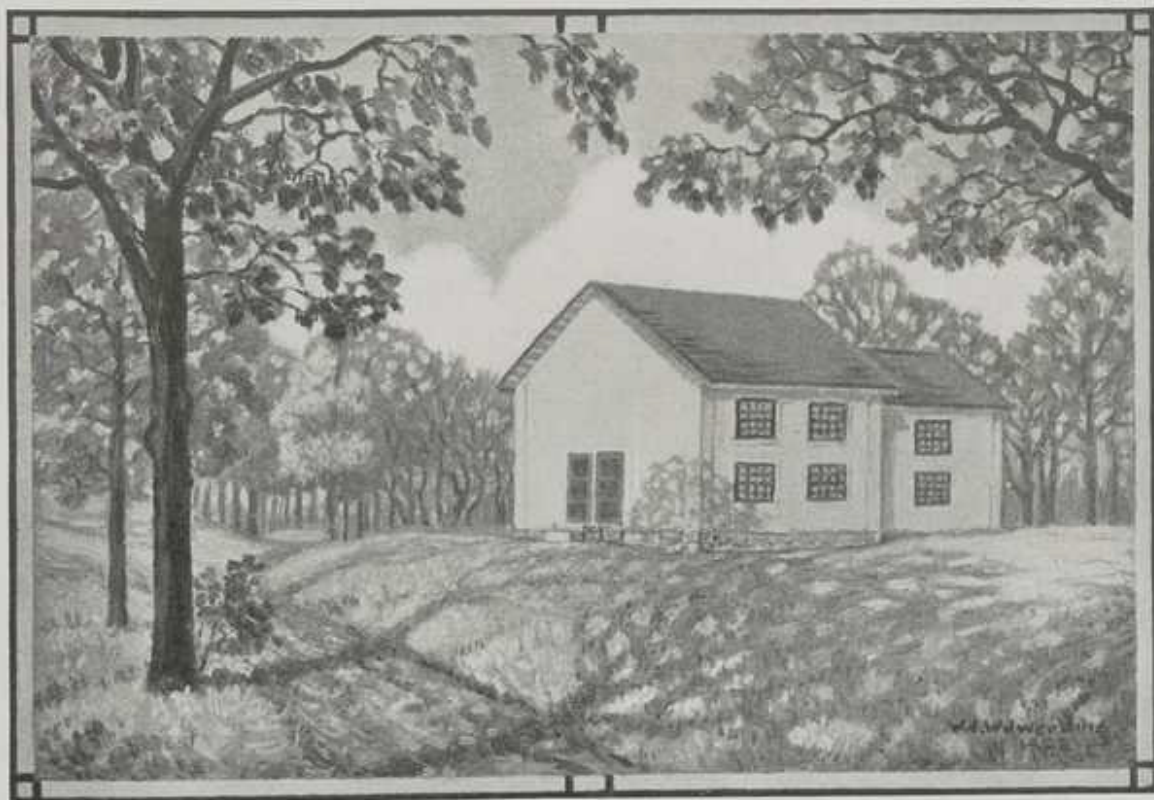
A third book, containing a great deal of information and written in a friendly spirit, was that of Laurits Jacob Eriberg, a well-educated and intelligent Dane, who went to America in 1843 and traveled extensively in the West. This was published in Oslo in 1847, with this title: "A Handbook for Emigrants to America's West, with Directions as to the Voyage, together with Descriptions of Life and Methods of Farming, particularly in Wisconsin." The author had been very favorably impressed with Wisconsin and recommended it as the best state in which to locate.

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From 1825 until 1837 all, or nearly all, of the emigrants to America came from "Vestlandet" (Western Norway), but the "America fever" now spread to "Østlandet" (Eastern Norway). That came about in this manner:

In 1837 two brothers, Ansten and Ole Nattestad of Mandal, visited Western Norway for the purpose of buying sheep. There they heard stories of America and, being dissatisfied with conditions in their native parish, made up their minds to emigrate. Returning to Mandal, they converted their property into cash and, in company with Halstein Brekkeie, went on skis to Stavanger. There they intended to sail for America, but the authorities of that city were making a determined effort to stop emigration, and the three travelers were given a friendly tip to slip quietly away under cover of night, or they would be arrested on the charge of attempting to leave the country without permission being given in the passport obtained from the Mandal bailiff. They acted on this advice and made their way to Gothenborg, where they boarded a ship bound for Fall River, Massachusetts, loaded with iron. From Fall River they proceeded to Kendall, but were not favorably impressed by conditions there and passed on to Illinois. There they remained till the next year, when Ansten Nattestad returned to Mandal, while his brother filed on a homestead at Clinton, Rock county, Wisconsin, and thus became the founder of the Jefferson Prairie settlement and the first Norwegian to locate in Wisconsin.

Ansten Nattestad spent the succeeding winter in Numedal. "The report of my return," said he in a sketch of his experiences, "spread like wild fire through the land, and an incredible number of people came to see me and get news from America. Many came as far as 20 Norwegian (140 English) miles to have a talk with me. It was impossible to answer all the letters I received asking questions about the condition of things



Old Muskego Church

By Courtesy of Jul & Peterheimen.

on the other side of the ocean. In the spring of 1839 about 100 persons from Numedal stood ready to go across the sea with me. Among these were many farmers and heads of families, all, excepting the children, able-bodied persons in their best years. Besides these there were a number from Telemarken and from Numedal, who were unable to join me, as our ship was full. We went from Drammen direct to America. It was the first time the inhabitants of Drammen saw an emigrant ship."

The Nattestad company of homeseekers went in a body to Chicago after their arrival in America. Some of them joined the Fox River colony, others found employment in Chicago, but most of them went on to Rock county, Wisconsin, when they learned that Ole Nattestad had located there.

The emigrants from Telemarken, who planned to accompany Ansten Nattestad, but were unable to find room in the ship on which he sailed—the "Emelia"—took passage from Skien and Gothenborg. They intended to go to Illinois, but when they reached Milwaukee alert real estate agents and other business men of that city persuaded them to locate in the vicinity of the Wisconsin metropolis, and thus was founded the Muskego settlement in Racine and Waukesha counties.

The migration from Valdres and Voss set in on a large scale about the same time as from Mandal and Telemarken, the destination of the immigrants from those districts being Illinois and Wisconsin.

The third permanent Norwegian settlement in America was started in White County, Indiana, in 1835, and the fourth at Chicago in 1836. A considerable portion of this city's population has since that time been composed of Norwegians, who have been very active in the development of the western metropolis commercially and industrially and have also made themselves felt politically and culturally. In Chicago was established the first Norwegian daily in America, "Skandinaven," which was started as a weekly in 1866, with Knud Lange-land as editor and John Anderson as one of the publishers. Four years later the daily edition appeared and has been issued without a break to the present time. It has exercised great influence, having always maintained a vigorous editorial policy. It is estimated that the Norse group in Chicago, today, numbers a hundred thousand. Indeed, there are more Norwegians in Chicago than in any other city in the world, excepting Oslo. The first immigrants to locate in the Illinois metropolis were Halstein Torrison and Johan Larson. The former built his first home where the station of the Northwestern railroad stands today.

The Muskego settlement has received special attention from the Norse-American press and historians. Here was built the famous log church which now stands on the campus of the Norwegian Lutheran Church Seminary and which has been regarded as the first real church built by Norwegians in America. It was erected in 1843 and formally dedicated two years later by the Reverend C. L. Clausen, the first pastor of the congregation. It is conceded that the "meeting house" built on Elling Eielsen's land in La Salle County, Illinois, was built and used for religious purposes two years before the Muskego edifice, but whether it should be considered

a church is a mooted question. It was a little log structure, with two rooms on the ground floor used for a dwelling and a hall on the second floor in which Elling Eielsen conducted religious services.

In this settlement also appeared the first Norwegian newspaper published in this country—a little sheet called "Nordlyset" (The Northern Light), which came into being in 1847 and was suspended two years later. Even Heg furnished the capital for the enterprise and James D. Reymert was editor and manager. The little paper championed the cause of abolition, which had become a burning issue among the pioneers of Wisconsin and Illinois, and it is significant that the first issue of "Nordlyset" published a translation of the Declaration of Independence. And in this connection it may be said that none had greater reverence for that immortal document than the Norwegian pioneers of America.

Mr. Reymert was a remarkable man of unusual ability and versatility. Besides being the first Norwegian editor in America, he was also the first Norseman to occupy a seat in an American legislative body, serving in the Wisconsin assembly in 1849, and, in all probability, was also the first Norwegian-American lawyer, super-



Colonel Hans C. Heg.

intendent of schools, vice-consul, presidential elector and federal judge. He died in Los Angeles, California, in 1911.

There were forty people in the group that founded the Muskego settlement, about one-half of whom were made up of the four Luraas families. The most conspicuous



Colonel Porter C. Olson

of these was John Nelson Luraas, who may be regarded as the leader of the colony. Other pioneers who figured prominently in the early history of Muskego were Even Heg, already mentioned, who was the father of Colonel Hans C. Heg, the beloved commander of the Fifteenth Wisconsin regiment; Mons K. Aadland, and Knud Lange-land, for many years the editor of "Skandinaven."

Muskego was a rather unhealthy region in the early days, because of the low, marshy character of the land, and many of the first settlers died of malarial fever. In the late forties the community was visited by the cholera, which proved fatal to a large portion of the population and caused many of the survivors to remove to other settlements.

Koshkonong, in the heart of the richest part of Wisconsin, became the most prosperous, most famous of all the Norwegian settlements in America. It was the Mecca to which thousands of immigrants in the fifties and sixties directed their steps and whence they went forth in after years to found new settlements. Koshkonong, indeed, may be called the Mother Colony of the numerous settlements of the Northwest and has been widely heralded as the starting point of a large number of Norwegian-Americans that have attained distinction, foremost of whom may be mentioned Senator Knute Nelson, Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, former Governor Andrew E. Lee of South Dakota, former Governor Charles N. Herreid of South Dakota and Victor F. Lawson, the eminent Chicago publisher.

The founders of Koshkonong were Nils Larson Bolstad, Nils Sjurson Gilderhus, Andrew Fenne and Magne Bottolfson Bystol, all from Voss, Norway; Lars Olson Dugstad, Andrew Anderson Hjørnefeld, Thorstein Olson Bjaadland, one of the sloopers, and Bjørn Anderson Kvelve, the father of Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, all of whom came from Stavanger county; and Gunnul Olson Vindeg from Numedal.

It was in the Koshkonong settlement that the Reverend

J. W. C. Dietrichson, the first preacher sent by the State Church of Norway to America, began his religious activities in 1844.

Wisconsin made a very strong appeal to the Norse immigrants of the forties, fifties and sixties and a larger number located there during that period than in any other state. The name "Wisconsin" became a household word in many parts of Norway and that name still has a charm for the old pioneers, no matter where they live.

The first Norwegian to settle in the state of Texas was Johan Nordboe, who emigrated from Ringebu, Gudbrandsdalen, in 1832, locating first in Kendall and later in the Fox River settlement. In 1838 he went to Texas, where he became a land king, the state government granting him no less than twenty-five hundred acres. Nordboe did not found any settlement, and it was not till 1845 that the first Norwegian colony in Texas came into being. In that year Johan Reinert Reiersen, a native of Moland, Norway, started a settlement at Normandy, or Brownsboro. Three years later he removed to Four Mile Prairie, where he founded the second Norwegian settlement in Texas. The largest Norwegian Colony in Texas was established in 1853 at Norse, Bosque county, by Ole Canuteson. It was here that Kleng Peerson spent the last years of his life.

The first Norwegian settlement in Iowa was started at Sugar Creek, Lee County, by Hans Barlien from Trondhjem, who filed on a homestead there in 1840 and was doubtless the first Norwegian to locate in the state of Iowa. The next year Kleng Peerson visited that region and was instrumental in causing a number of Norwegians from Shelby county, Missouri, to take up their abode in that locality. In three years the number of Norwegians in the community had increased to forty, but practically all of them adopted the Mormon religion and in 1846 followed Brigham Young to Utah, so the settlement was abandoned.

It was not till 1849 that the stream of immigrants began flowing with vigor across the Mississippi into Iowa and the great Winnesheik settlement sprang into existence, with Decorah as its center. The historians of the Norwegians of America must devote a large space to Decorah and Winnesheik county. Luther College made that settlement the cultural center of Norwegian-Americans for many years, and "Decorah Posten" has helped to make the name and fame of the settlement familiar all over the land.

According to Hjalmar Rued Holand, the first Norwegian to become a resident of Minnesota was Nils Nilson, who was born in Modum, Norway, January 2, 1830, and came to America in 1849. After working in the lead mines at Galena, Illinois, and on a farm in Winnesheik county, Iowa, he went to St. Paul in the latter part of the summer of 1849 and obtained employment in "Moffett's Castle," a primitive hotel, which stood near the present site of the Union station. The next spring he got a job in a sawmill at Stillwater and remained in that city till 1882, when he bought a farm near New York Mills, Minnesota. He died in that village a few



*"The Normans are Coming"*

years ago. According to the same authority, the first Norwegian woman to locate in Minnesota was Ingeborg L. Langeberg, a native of Hallingdal, who accompanied her brother, Amund, to St. Paul in 1850. For a year she was a domestic in the home of Governor Alexander Ramsey. Then she removed to Fridley, Minnesota, where she was married to an American named Clark. Later she lived in Meeker county and in Minneapolis.

Only a few other Norwegians took up their abode in Minnesota during the next two years, and it was not till 1852 that the flood of Norwegian homeseekers began pouring into the state. It was then that the Goodhue settlement, the richest and most famous in the state, and smaller settlements in Houston and Fillmore Counties were founded, after eleven million acres of government land had been thrown open to entry. Minnesota was destined to become the most Norwegian of all the states in the Union, more than four hundred thousand people of Norse blood residing within its limits today.

The first settlement in old Dakota territory, which became the states of North and South Dakota, was established on the banks of the Missouri river, in Clay county, in 1859, when Ole Olson Jetley and Halvor Svendsen

"squatted" on government land, which became their homesteads the next year. These men were the first Norwegians to locate in Dakota. A son of Ole Jetley, Ole Olson, was reputed to be the first white child born in the Dakotas.

As already stated, a group of Norwegians found their way into Utah in 1846 and their descendants abound in large numbers in that state. Some of them have held high places in the Mormon church and in the politics of Utah.

Not a few Norwegians joined in the rush to the California goldfields in 1849 and later. Some of these remained in the Golden state and their descendants there have later been joined by thousands of other Norwegian-Americans.

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Between 1825 and 1840 about 1200 immigrants landed in America; during the next ten years about 17,000 crossed the Atlantic; from 1850 to 1880 some 8,000 arrived every year on an average, and from 1880 till the passage of the recent anti-immigration act the number has run from 5,000 to 30,000 per year. It is impossible to state with accuracy the total number of immigrants from Norway that have landed on our shores since the coming of the sloop "Restaurationen," but it is not far from one million. As already stated, over two million people of Norse lineage have their homes in America—about the same number as in the mother country. With the possible exception of Ireland, no other European country has sent so many of its sons and daughters to America in proportion to its population.



*"Fram" of the Famous Polar Expeditions*

## *Contributions of the Norse Group to America's Development*

THE contributions made by the Norse group to America's development have been of immense value and importance. In agriculture, in which most of the Norse immigrants have engaged, they have been an important factor in all of the states of the Northwest, especially in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. They were among the first in leveling the forests and breaking the prairies, and today those of the younger generations are recognized as intelligent industrious and progressive, alert to adopt new ideas. If you look over the lists of students in the various agricultural colleges of the Northwest, you will notice that a large percentage of the names are Norse names, and, if you investigate, you will find that Norwegian-American farmers are well represented at farmers' institutes and at the mid-winter short courses in agricultural institutions.

While most of the Norse Group are engaged in farming, there still remains a force of sufficient numbers to make its influence felt in the various branches of industry—in lumbering, in shipping, in fishing, in the skilled trades, in architecture, in engineering, in finance, in business and commerce. The technical schools of Norway are recognized as among the very best in the world, and it is estimated that over five thousand of the graduates of these have come to America where they have performed services of the greatest value. Some of these men have won national recognition, as, for instance, Olaf Hoff, formerly of Minneapolis, who was for many years engineer of bridges for the New York Central lines and invented a new method of building subaqueous tunnels; Gunvald Aus of New York, who designed the steel work for the famous Woolworth building in Gotham; E. A. Cappelen-Smith of New York, who won renown as one of the leading chemists of the world and in 1921 received the gold medal of the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America for his services in the development of the hydrometallurgical science; E. Lee Heidenreich of Chicago, who is considered the foremost expert in the world on reinforced concrete construction; Thomas G. Pihlfeldt, chief engineer of bridges for the city of Chicago, who has invented many improvements in bridge construction, especially in the so-called "jack-knife" type of bridges; A. B. Neumann of Chicago, who designed the largest steel plant in the world and laid out the city of Gary, the steel center of the world; Joachim G. Giaver, inventor of the Giaver bell foundations and known as one of the ablest engineers of America in the construction of skyscrapers; Tinius Olsen of Philadelphia, who is an inventor and manufacturer of machinery for the testing of materials, receiving the grand prize at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco; Carl C. Barth of Philadelphia, who is an inventor of a system of efficiency in industrial management; Henrik V. Loss, also of Philadelphia, who made the first rolled steel cars in America, an achievement which won for him the Franklin Institute gold medal; Knut Dahl, chief engineer of the Union Iron Works of San Francisco and inventor of the celebrated oil burner now used on the gun boats of the United States navy.

The craving for beauty is deeply imbedded in the Norse race, due, no doubt, to the influence of Norway's unrivalled natural scenery—her matchless fjords, her mountains, her glaciers, her forests, her lakes and tarns, her streams and cataracts, her weird northern lights, her glorious midnight sun. This craving or instinct has found expression in some of the most beautiful lyric poetry ever produced, in folk songs and melodies that have a wondrous charm, in paintings and sculpture, in the splendid ornamentation and wood carvings in churches and stone monuments of early times, in needle work of the Hardanger variety, in the quaint stave churches of Norway, and in the bright-hued flower ornamentation on chests and household utensils in the Norwegian farmers' homes.

This instinct has asserted itself among the Norwegian people of America as well as in the mother country, not as perfectly or beautifully as in the works of the great masters of the homeland, but nevertheless suggestive of genius and latent powers. During the past generation a number of Norse painters and sculptors, most of them trained in the art schools of Oslo, have won recognition on this side of the Atlantic. Perhaps the best known is Jonas Lie of New York, a painter whose works have a remarkable variety. He has painted nature in her primitive mood, rocks, hills, forests, streams, the angry clouds and snow-covered hills. He has pictured great industries, gigantic works of man, like the Panama Canal and the city of New York. Other prominent artists of the Norse group in the east are Olaf M. Brauner, head of the art department of Cornell University; Thomas Bull, an eminent decorative painter, whose works appear in the homes of many wealthy Americans of New York; Brynjulf Strandenes of New York; Christian S. Midjo, who is an assistant under Mr. Brauner at Cornell University; Alexander Grinager, a native of Minnesota, but now of New York, a painter of landscapes; Paul Fjelde, Siguró Neandross and Trygve Hammer, sculptors.

Among well-known artists of the Norse group in the West are the late Herbjorn N. Gaustad, the late Carl L. Boeckman, August Klagstad, Sverre Sieverts, Olaf H. Aalbu, all painters of Minneapolis; Lars Haukaness, formerly of Chicago, now of the Royal Art school in Winnipeg, whose specialty is landscapes; Emil Bjorn, Sigurd Schow, Christian Abrahamson, Ben Blessum, John S. Wittrop and John H. Carlsen, all painters of Chicago; Sigvald Asbjornson and Gilbert P. Riswold, talented sculptors of Chicago; and the late Jacob Fjelde, the sculptor who fashioned the Ole Bull statue in Loring Park, Minneapolis, and the famous Gettysburg monument.

The name of Ole Bull, the great Norwegian violinist, is inseparably connected with Norse music in America. The greater part of his mature years were spent in this country. For some time he lived at Madison, where his residence is now the executive mansion of Wisconsin and for a considerable period he also resided at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was an intimate friend of Longfellow and several other noted authors and scholars. Ole Bull was the idol of the American public, as was Jenny Lind, the famous Swedish singer. Both of



DR. H. G. STUB  
*President Norwegian Lutheran Church of America*



these immortal artists rendered invaluable service to Scandinavian musicians in America; they prepared the way for them and helped them to win the popular ear.

There has been a goodly number of Norse musicians and singers in America that have attained national distinction, foremost of whom is the famous opera star, Madame Olive Fremstad. Norse singing societies, choirs and bands have also obtained wide popularity, as, for instance, the famous St. Olaf choir of Northfield, Minnesota, which leading critics of New York, Boston and Chicago have pronounced without a peer in America. This preeminence is due in large measure to the exceptional ability of F. Melius Christiansen, the director of the choir. Among Norse-American bands that of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, doubtless ranks first. What Mr. Christiansen has done for the St. Olaf Choir, Professor Carlo Sperati has achieved for his band at Decorah. Its tour of America and of Norway in 1914 was from beginning to end a series of musical triumphs.

The Norse group in America has so far produced no poet or author of the first magnitude, but a number of books have been published, in both Norwegian and English, which give evidence of real talent.

Some of the Norse-American authors have used the English language as their medium of expression; others have used the Norwegian, and a few have used both languages. The first Norse author on this side of the Atlantic to gain recognition is Rasmus B. Anderson, whose "America Not Discovered by Columbus," which appeared in 1874, is the first book in English written by a Norse-American. It was followed the next year by "Norse Mythology", a brilliant and scholarly work, which has been translated into Danish, French, German and Italian and won the praise of men like Gladstone, Longfellow and Max Mueller.

Another Norse-American author, who became very prominent more than a generation ago, is Hjalmar H. Boyeson. He was born and educated in Norway and most of his works deal with Norwegian subjects or themes, but he wrote exclusively in English in a style remarkable for its brilliancy and idiomatic correctness. In recent years Dr. Knut Gjerset of Luther College has produced in English a history of Norway in two volumes, which commands the respect of scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. Miss Martha Østensø, a native of Norway, whose girlhood was spent in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Canada, and who is now a welfare worker in New York City, has written English verse of fine lyric quality and a novel, dealing with life in Manitoba, which won a prize of \$13,500 offered by a prominent publisher. Another present day writer of fiction, in the English language, is James A. Peterson, the well known lawyer of Minneapolis, whose "Hjalmar" and "Solstad" are faithful portrayals of pioneer life in the West and are held in high esteem by all who have read them.

Perhaps the most brilliant and distinguished of the Norse authors of America that has clung faithfully to the language of his forefathers is Waldemar Ager, whose novel, "Kristus for Pilatus," is undoubtedly a work of genius. Equally well known was the late Peer O. Strømme, novelist, journalist, lecturer and traveler, who possessed a wit and droll humor which made his well

known novel, "Hvorledes Halvor blev Prest" (How Halvor became a Preacher), and other works beloved by all that have had the good fortune to read them. Professor O. E. Rølvaag of St. Olaf College has come rapidly to the front as a novelist of late years and still more noteworthy achievements are expected of him in the future. Other Norse novelists in America are H. A. Foss, whose "Husmandsgutten" won a host of enthusiastic admirers forty years ago; J. B. Wist, for many years editor of "Decorah Posten"; Simon Johnson, editor of "Normanden", Grand Forks, and N. N. Rønning, editor of "Familiens Magasin", Minneapolis.

Of poets the Norse group in America has furnished a goodly number, among whom may be mentioned Jon Norstog, Julius B. Baumann, Wilhelm Pettersen, Ole A. Buslett and D. G. Ristad, all of whom use the Norwegian language as their medium of expression, and Gustav Melby, who writes in English. Norstog is a most unique character, whose works have staggered some critics. They are not popular, but bear the impress of a deep, original, rugged genius, and the future may proclaim him a far greater poet than his contemporaries do now.

As journalists and editors the Norse group in America has shown peculiar activity. Over four hundred Norwegian publications, most of them weeklies, have appeared since "Nordlyset" saw the light of day in old Muskego back in 1847. One after the other they have passed away, less than thirty having survived. It is a remarkable fact that in the great state of Wisconsin, where the Norsemen have played such a memorable role, only one Norwegian paper is published now—Waldemar Ager's "Reform" at Eau Claire—and in North Dakota, with its vast Norwegian population, all but "Normanden" of Grand Forks have ceased to exist.

Two Norwegian dailies, "Skandinaven" of Chicago and "Minneapolis Tidende", are still as prosperous and vigorous as ever. They are published in the two chief Norwegian centers of America and each has the enthusiastic support of a large circle of readers. Each has a memorable history and each has rendered most valuable service by its intelligent dissemination of news and information. The present editor of "Skandinaven" is John Benson, a talented poet and writer, and the "Tidende" is under the editorial management of Carl Hanson, who, for almost a generation, has ranked as one of the leading essayists and historical writers within the Norse group.

The Norsemen in Canada have a vigorous spokesman in "Norrøna", published in Winnipeg; "Washington-Posten" is a prosperous weekly on the Pacific coast; "Nordisk Tidende" has for a generation done good work for the Norse group in New York, and "Decorah Posten", the great semi-weekly founded by B. Anundsen and edited by some of the leading Norse journalists of America, continues to hold the confidence and affection of a circle of readers that extends all over America.

The Norwegian press has been of inestimable value to the Norse immigrants, especially in the early days, when many of the pioneers were unable to read the English newspapers. Almost without exception, the Norse editors have stood for the right principles in American life and politics, and have helped to build up

a citizenship that has been a bulwark of strength to the republic in more than one crisis.

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Norwegians have fought for America in all the wars she has waged. Only a few took part in the War of Independence and the war of 1812, as that was before immigration from Norway had really set in, nor did many participate in the war with Mexico, which was not generally approved by the people of the North, but in the Civil War, in the Spanish-American War, and in the World War, the descendants of the Vikings fought in large numbers with a valor characteristic of their forefathers. Between six and seven thousand Norsemen served in the Northern army during the Civil War, one regiment, the fifteenth Wisconsin, known as the "Norwegian Regiment", being composed almost entirely of Norwegian immigrants and their sons. The commander of the regiment, Colonel Hans C. Heg, was also a Norwegian, who came to America when a boy. He lived in the Muskego settlement, where he became a leading figure, because of his high character and unusual ability. He was one of the leaders of the new Republican party in Wisconsin and has the distinction of being the first Norwegian-American to hold an elective state office, that of State Prison Commissioner. He served in that capacity till 1861, when he resigned to organize the fifteenth Wisconsin regiment, which he commanded with signal ability and valor until he fell in the Battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863. A monument was recently erected in his honor at Madison by the state of Wisconsin.

Another Norwegian that rose to the rank of colonel

in the Civil War was Porter C. Olson, born in New York, in 1831. He was a school teacher at Lisbon, Illinois, when the war broke out and left his position to form a company, largely composed of Norwegian immigrants. He was captain of this company and later lieutenant-colonel of the 36th Illinois regiment. He fell in battle at Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864.

Norwegians were well represented in the battles of Santiago and Manila Bay, where, it is said, the first shot was fired by a modern Viking. It is impossible to estimate the number of soldiers of Norse lineage that fought in the World War. Of the 78 Americans that received the Congressional medal of honor at least four are of Norse descent—Sergeant Reidar Waaler, Corporal Birger Loman, Sergeant Johannes S. Andersen and Private Nels Wold. Sergeant Waaler was signally honored by the officers of his division, the 27th, upon the return of the army to America, when, as the most decorated man of the division, he was commissioned to cut the silk ribbon stretched across Fifth Avenue, New York, and to be the first soldier to march through the Arch of Victory.

Among the officers of Norwegian ancestry that rendered distinguished service in the World War are General Alfred W. Bjornstad, recently commander of Fort Snelling, who acted as chief of staff of the third army corps in France; Colonel Cushman A. Rice, a son of former Lieutenant-Governor A. E. Rice of Willmar, who was selected as commander of the first American air squadron; Colonel Jens Bugge, who was chief of the first army corps; Commander John A. Gade of New York, who had charge of the American relief work in Belgium; Magnus Swenson of Madison, Wisconsin, who was Herbert Hoover's chief aide in the distribution of food sup-



Red Wing Seminary, Red Wing, Minnesota



plies in Northern Europe; and the following, who won the rank of lieutenant-colonel: Emil P. Larson, killed in action; W. A. Hanson of Story City, Iowa; Trygve A. Sigeland and Emil Johnson, both of Chicago; Dr. R. M. Pederson of Minneapolis, and Colonel Johnson of Granite Falls.

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The contributions made by the Norse element of our population to the spiritual and cultural life of America are of the greatest importance and show a rare spirit of sacrifice and devotion. The Norwegian pioneers were a serious-minded people of strong religious convictions and one of the first things they thought about after their arrival here was to provide for themselves and their children a proper church home. Some of them joined so-called American churches, but most of them felt the need of a church of their own, so, almost as soon as a Norwegian settlement was started, a congregation was formed and a church built. No Norwegian congregation was found at Kendall, as that settlement never grew large enough to maintain a church, but in all of the Norse communities of the West churches were built within a few years after the coming of the first settlers.

As already stated, the first Norwegian church in America was built in the Muskego settlement, Racine County, Wisconsin, in 1843. In 1846 the first Norwegian church body or society was organized at Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin, through the efforts of the Reverend Elling Eielson, who was a devoted disciple of Hans Nielsen Hauge, the John Bunyan of Norway. He had labored faithfully as a missionary among the Norwegian immigrants ever since his arrival in America and had formed congregations in various communities. These congregations were now joined together in a society called "The Evangelic-Lutheran Church of America." Elling Eielson became the head of the organization and

continued as such till his death in 1833.

The congregation at Muskego, of which the Reverend C. L. Clausen was pastor, was not affiliated with "The Evangelic-Lutheran Church", nor were the congregations organized by the Reverend J. W. C. Dietrichson, who had been doing active work as a missionary since his arrival in America in 1844. The Reverend Dietrichson, who was a representative of the State Church of Norway and believed in its doctrines and practices, was not in accord with Elling Eielson's methods and teachings, and the same was true of the other pastors, trained by the Mother Church, who began arriving in America to minister unto their brothers here. These ministers were instrumental in forming "The Synod of the Norwegian Evangelic Lutheran Church of America", which was duly organized at Koshkonong in 1853, with the Reverend A. C. Preus as president. It was made up of six pastors and 38 congregations with an aggregate membership of 11,000 souls. This body, which became known as "The Norwegian Synod", or "The Synod", grew rapidly and soon numbered among its members most of the Norse immigrants in America.

Because of dissensions and controversies several other religious societies were formed, but time has healed the wounds and today there is greater unity and good will among the Norwegian church people of America than ever before. Most of the Norwegian Lutheran congregations are now affiliated with one church society, "The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America," which is an amalgamation of "The Synod", "The United Church" and the "Hauge's Synod", perfected in 1917. This great organization is composed of 2,789 congregations, with a total membership of 483,383, served by 1,301 pastors. It maintains one theological seminary, four colleges, three junior colleges, three normal schools and ten academies. The Right Reverend H. G. Stub of St. Paul has



Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

been president of the society since its inception. He is a son of the late H. A. Stub, one of the first Norwegian pastors in America, and from 1912 to 1917 was president of "The Synod". It was largely because of his efforts that the union of the three church bodies was brought about.

"The Lutheran Free Church," organized in 1897, is composed of about four hundred congregations, with a total membership of some fifty thousand, and maintains two educational institutions, Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis and Oak Grove Ladies Seminary, Fargo, North Dakota. The president of the "Free Church" is the Right Reverend E. E. Gynild of Willmar, Minnesota.

The Norse-American educational institutions are the fruit of the Norwegian pioneers' zeal for the advancement of the church and their firm belief in the importance of giving their children religious as well as secular instruction. They realized that in order to have an adequate number of pastors and teachers it was necessary to establish schools in which to prepare them for their work. They knew that the Mother Country could not continue to supply the need, as it did during the first decade or two following the organization of the first Norwegian congregations. Norwegian students were, however, welcomed by the "German Missouri Synod" to avail themselves of its college and theological seminary, and an arrangement was made whereby the

"Synod" maintained a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This professorship was held from 1859 to 1861 by the late Dr. Laur Larsen.

The oldest and most historic educational institution established by the Norwegians in America is Luther College. It was opened in a large vacant parsonage at Half Way Creek, Wisconsin, near La Crosse, September 4, 1861, with Dr. Laur Larsen as principal or president, and one assistant. In the fall of 1862 the school was moved to Decorah, Iowa, where it has since been maintained. The first graduating class, that of 1866, was composed of eight students, including the Right Rev. H. G. Stub and Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, the Norse author and scholar of Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. Larsen was succeeded as president in 1902 by the Reverend C. K. Preus, who served till his death in 1921, since which time Dr. Oscar L. Olson has been the head of the institution. At the present time Luther College has a faculty of 26 professors and instructors and an attendance of about 350. Its equipment consists of a large, beautiful campus overlooking the city of Decorah and eight buildings. It is on a very secure financial basis, having back of it not only the resources of the great Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, but also endowment funds and legacies aggregating in value more than \$300,000. Few colleges have more devoted alumni and few have left a deeper impress on its students.



The biggest educational institution maintained by the Norse group in America is St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. Its origin dates back to November 6, 1874, when, under the leadership of the Reverend B. J. Muus, a society was formed for the purpose of establishing a school at Northfield, which was to be affiliated with the "Synod." Its first president was Professor Thorbjorn N. Mohn, who was followed in 1899 by Dr. J. N. Kildahl. Since 1914 the head of the college has been Dr. L. W. Boe, who had attained high rank as a pastor and educator in Iowa. The faculty of St. Olaf College at the present time includes 67 professors, instructors and assistants. The student attendance is 890. Like Luther College, this institution has a beautiful campus, fine buildings, an endowment fund of over \$300,000, and is maintained by the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. The growth of St. Olaf College, especially in recent years, has been remarkable, due no doubt to the fine spirit that prevails within its walls, to the high rank of its faculty and its convenient and attractive location.

Next to Luther College, the oldest Norwegian educational institution in America is Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis. This is a theological seminary, college and academy combined, maintained by the "Lutheran Free Church." Augsburg Seminary commenced its work

in September, 1869, at Marshall, Wisconsin, but was moved to Minneapolis in 1872. A preparatory curriculum has been maintained from the beginning, consisting at first of a one-year course, which was later developed into complete academic and collegiate departments. The attendance has varied from 19 in 1870-1871 to 226 in 1924-1925. The founder and first president of Augsburg Seminary was Professor August Wenaas. The present head is Professor Georg Sverdrup, a son of the late Dr. Georg Sverdrup, who for over thirty years was an important factor in the development of the institution. The faculty is composed of 33 professors and instructors.

Luther Theological Seminary at St. Anthony Park, St. Paul, is a continuation of Luther Seminary, Hamline, Minnesota, founded in 1876 at Madison, Wisconsin; Red Wing Seminary, Red Wing, Minnesota, founded in 1879, and the Seminary of the United Lutheran Church, St. Anthony Park, founded in 1890.

The union was effected in June, 1917, after the three church bodies which had maintained these institutions were amalgamated. Dr. Marcus O. Bockman, who was president of the United Church Seminary, is the head of the institution, and associated with him are eight other professors. The attendance of students in 1923-1924 was 112. Practically all of the new pastors that are



*Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.*

called to serve congregations affiliated with the "Norwegian Lutheran Church of America" are graduates of this seminary.

Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, is a college and academy, owned by a private corporation, but affiliated with the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. It is a growing institution, with a large faculty, headed by Professor J. A. Aasgaard, and an attendance of more than 300. It was started as an academy in 1891. The other institutions affiliated with or owned by the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America are as follows:

- AUGUSTANA COLLEGE AND NORMAL SCHOOL, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Rev. C. O. Solberg, president; 26 teachers; 321 students.  
 PARK REGION LUTHER COLLEGE, Petrus Falls, Minnesota; Rev. E. Wulfsberg, president; 14 teachers; 214 students.  
 MADISON NORMAL SCHOOL, Madison, Minnesota; Rev. E. R. Roessli, president; 8 teachers; 94 students.  
 CANTON NORMAL SCHOOL, Canton, South Dakota; Rev. J. N. Brown, president; 16 teachers; 217 students.  
 SPOKANE COLLEGE, Spokane, Washington; Prof. H. P. Olson, president; 13 teachers; 123 students.  
 CENTRAL WISCONSIN COLLEGE, Scandinavia, Wisconsin; Prof. A. O. B. Møllgaard, president; 11 teachers; 147 students.  
 CLIFTON COLLEGE, Clifton, Texas; Prof. C. Tysen, president; 3 teachers; 78 students.  
 GALE COLLEGE, Galeville, Wisconsin; Prof. H. F. Swanson, president; 8 teachers; 93 students.  
 LUTHER ACADEMY Albert Lea, Minnesota; Prof. J. O. Tweten, president; 11 teachers; 156 students.  
 PACIFIC LUTHERAN COLLEGE, Parkland, Washington; Prof. O. J. Ordal, president; 9 teachers; 117 students.  
 PLEASANT VIEW LUTHER COLLEGE, Ottawa, Illinois; Rev. M. E. Fretheim, president; 10 teachers; 74 students.  
 WALDORF LUTHER COLLEGE, Forest City, Iowa; Prof. Carl B. Helgen, president; 12 teachers; 146 students.  
 OUTLOOK COLLEGE, Outlook, Sask., Canada; Prof. K. Bergsagel, president; 7 teachers; 73 students.  
 RED WING SEMINARY, Red Wing, Minnesota; Rev. H. E. Jorgensen, president; 11 teachers; 150 students.

CAMROSE COLLEGE, Camrose, Alta., Canada; Prof. A. H. Solheim, president; 5 teachers; 50 students.

In these educational institutions many able Norse scholars have fostered a deep interest in the Norse language, literature and history, and in some of the leading American universities eminent Norse educators have done the same. Thus, at the University of Wisconsin Professor Rasmus B. Anderson and Professor Julius E. Olson, have inspired hundreds of young men and women with love and reverence for the cultural achievements of the fatherland, and at the University of Minnesota Professor O. J. Breda and Professor Gisle Bothne have rendered a like service. Professor George T. Flom, of the Scandinavian department, Illinois University, has come into prominence for his work as teacher of the Norse language and literature and also as a historian and philologist. Professor Laurence M. Larson, head of the department of history at the University of Illinois, though not a teacher of Norse, has done excellent work for the advancement of Norse culture in America. Other Norse-American scholars, that have distinguished themselves along various lines, are the late Dr. Edward Olsen, who was professor of the classical languages at Cornell and later president of the University of South Dakota; Dr. J. S. Shelton, professor of romance in the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. John O. Evjen, formerly president of the State Normal School, Mayville, North Dakota; the late Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, head of the department of pathology, University of Chicago; Dr. Thorstein Veblen, professor in the University of Missouri; Oswald Veblen, professor in Princeton University; Professor A. A. Veblen, for many years connected with leading universities, and Professor F. W. Woll, professor in the University of California.



Luther Seminary, St. Paul

For over half a century social and fraternal societies have flourished within the Norse group of all Norse centers in America, and have enriched the lives of thousands. It is impossible in this article to discuss all of these worthy organizations, but mention must be made of the "Sons of Norway," a fraternal benefit society which had its origin in North Minneapolis January 16, 1895, and now comprises 200 subordinate lodges, with a total membership of more than 16,000. "The members of the order," says Laurits L. Stavnheim, "take pride in their heritage and, being at the same time loyal citizens of the United States, they are anxious to build up this country by transplanting to and giving it the very best that Norwegian culture has to offer. The people who honor their fathers and mothers make the best and most desirable citizens of any country, and this is recognized by leading and thinking Americans."

Mention must also be made of the 37 "Bygdelags," which are also of recent origin. These are societies made up of natives of the various districts or counties of Norway, or their children, which hold annual reunions and strive in various ways to keep alive the traditions of the homeland. All of these "Lags" will hold the greatest gathering in their history at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds in connection with the Norse-American Centennial.

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The Norsemen in America have not lost their identity, still retaining the racial characteristics of their ancestors, but have become thoroughly imbued with American ideals and the American spirit, being a virile force for progress and a vital factor in the future development of their adopted country.

It is interesting to note in conclusion, that there have been two important migrations from Norway. The first began in the Ninth century, when hundreds of war lords and petty rulers refused to bend the knee to Harold the Fair Haired and sailed away to Iceland with all their wealth and many of their retainers. The



Rev. E. E. Gynild, President Lutheran Free Church

second began in 1825, when the sloop "Restaurationen" crossed the Atlantic to the land of Leif Ericson and started an exodus to the fertile plains of the West. The first was a migration of Norway's aristocracy, which began in pride and wealth, but ended in a stern struggle for existence in a hostile clime. The second was a migration of Norway's common people, which began in lowliness and poverty, but ended in prosperity and happiness, in a land of plenty, under friendly skies.



Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn.



THEODORE CHRISTIANSON  
*Governor of Minnesota*



## Norwegian-Americans in the Public Service

The states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana form an irregular rectangle fourteen hundred miles long and several hundred miles wide—an empire stretching more than half-way across the continent and comprising one-seventh of the total area of the United States. Each of the states in this empire now has at the head of its government a citizen of Norwegian birth or descent, each has a large number of the same race in its law-making body and in minor state offices and, with the exception of Montana, each is represented in the national congress by one or more citizens of Norse blood.

This remarkable fact proves that the Norwegian-Americans of the Northwest are taking a very active, influential part in politics, and the record they have made indicates that the ability shown by the Norsemen in organizing governments and colonies back in the Middle Ages is not wanting in their American descendants.

It was not to be expected that the early Norwegian immigrants would play a prominent part in politics. They were too busy leveling the forests, breaking up the prairies and building homes, and their unfamiliarity with the American language and customs, together with their natural modesty, restrained them from seeking office. They were content to cast their ballots on election day and let their American neighbors fill the offices and direct the affairs of the government. To their credit be it said, they generally voted for men that stood for the best interests of the country and thus made themselves a force for good politically, as they doubtless were in the development of the country materially.

It was not till the children of the Norwegian immigrants had developed into full-grown men and women, schooled in American customs and imbued with American ideals, that Norwegian-Americans began aspiring to places in the public service.

Up to the present time twelve men of Norse blood have served as governors, seven as United States senators, twenty-two as representatives in congress, three as ministers to foreign countries, a dozen or more as consuls or consuls-general, a large number as elective state officers, other than governor, and thousands as members of state legislatures, county officers and minor appointive officers, both state and federal.

The Norwegian-Americans that have served as governors are: Knute Nelson, J. A. O. Preus, and Theodore Christianson, of Minnesota; Andrew E. Lee, Charles N. Herreid, Peter Norbeck and Carl Gunderson, of South Dakota; James O. Davidson and J. J. Blaine, of Wisconsin; R. A. Nestos and A. G. Sorlie, of North Dakota; J. E. Erickson, of Montana.

The Norwegian-American senators and former senators are: Knute Nelson and Henrik Shipstead, of Minnesota; A. J. Gronna and M. N. Johnson, of North Dakota; Peter Norbeck, of South Dakota; Holm O. Bursum, of New Mexico; Reed Smoot, of Utah.

The Norwegian-American congressmen, past and present, are: Knute Nelson, Kittil Halvorson, Haldor E. Boen, Andrew J. Volstead, Halvor Steenerson, Sydney

Anderson, Carl C. Van Dyke, Harold Knutson, O. J. Kvale, Knud Wefald and August H. Andresen, Minnesota; William Williamson and C. A. Christopherson, of South Dakota; Martin N. Johnson, A. J. Gronna, H. T. Helgeson and O. B. Burtness, of North Dakota; N. P. Haugen, Herman B. Dahle and John M. Nelson, of Wisconsin; G. N. Haugen, of Iowa; M. A. Michaelson, of Illinois.

The three Norwegian-Americans that have served as ministers to foreign countries are: R. B. Anderson, Lauritz S. Swenson and Nicolai A. Grevstad. Among those who have served in consular positions are: G. Bie Ravndal of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, who was for many years consul-general at Beirut and is now serving in a like capacity at Constantinople; Professor L. S. Reque, of Decorah, Iowa, who was consul at Rotterdam; Otto H. Boyeson, of North Dakota, consul at Gothenburg; Robert S. Irgens of the same state, consul at Gothenburg and later in England; William C. Magelsen, of Minnesota, consul at Melbourne, Australia.

The most distinguished of all Norwegians in the public service of America and the first that rose to prominence is Knute Nelson. His political career spanned more than half a century, beginning with his election to the Wisconsin assembly in 1868 and ending in the twenty-eighth year of his service as United States senator. It was a steady climb, guided by a rare intelligence. When he died at the ripe age of four-score years, the entire nation paid him a tribute of respect and love.

Knute Nelson was born in Voss, Norway, February 2, 1843; came to America with his mother as a boy of six; was educated in a common school at Deerfield, Wisconsin, and at Albion academy; served three years as a private and corporal in the Civil War; was admitted to the bar in 1867; served two terms in the Wisconsin assembly; removed to Alexandria, Minnesota, in 1871; was county attorney, state senator and regent of the State University; served in congress from 1883 to 1889; as governor from 1893 to 1895, and as United States senator from that year till his death, April 28, 1923.

The second Norwegian to serve as governor is Andrew E. Lee of Vermilion, South Dakota. Born near Bergen, Norway, in 1847, the youngest of ten children, he emigrated with his parents to the town of Christiana, Dane County, Wisconsin, in 1851; attended school at Cambridge, Fort Atkinson and Waterloo; was a clerk in stores at McGregor, Iowa, and Madison, Wisconsin, till 1869, when he opened a general store at Vermilion, which has since been his home. A man of exceptional energy and business ability, Mr. Lee has amassed one of the largest fortunes of any citizen of South Dakota. His first venture in politics was as mayor of Vermilion, being elected in 1894. About this time he broke with the Republican party, with which he had been affiliated, and became an aggressive leader in the People's or Populist party. In 1896 he was nominated by that party for governor and, though the state was normally Republican by a large majority, Mr. Lee was elected



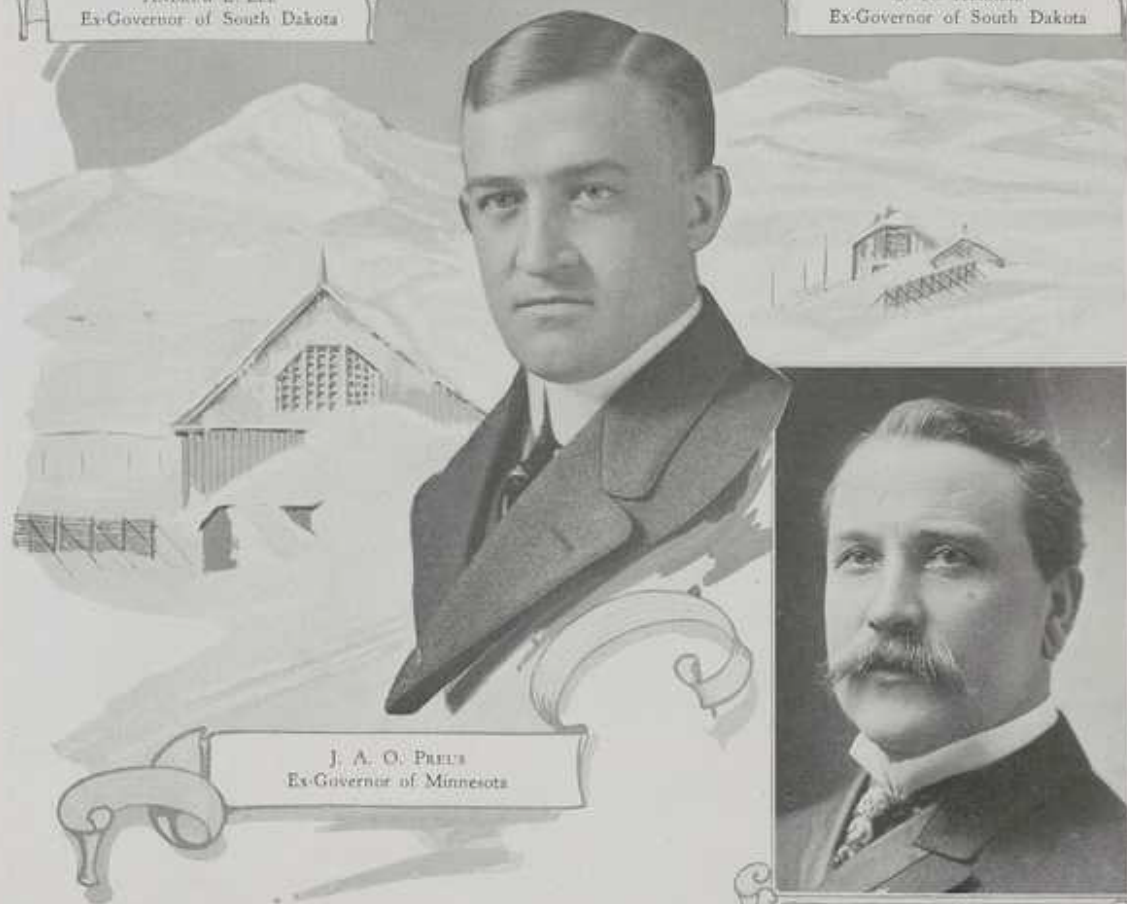
ANDREW E. LEE  
Ex-Governor of South Dakota



R. A. NESTOS  
Ex-Governor of North Dakota



C. N. HERREID  
Ex-Governor of South Dakota



J. A. O. PELLS  
Ex-Governor of Minnesota



JAMES O. DAVIDSON  
Ex-Governor of Wisconsin



and re-elected in 1893. His administration as governor was a stormy one but was marked by considerable executive ability. Few Norwegian-Americans have inherited more of the fighting instincts of the old Vikings than Andrew E. Lee.

The third Norwegian to occupy the position of governor, Charles N. Herreid of Aberdeen, South Dakota, was also a Wisconsin man in his youth, and, like Nelson and Lee, hailed from old Koshkonong. Governor Herreid was born near Deerfield, October 20, 1857. He grew to manhood in Trempealeau county, his parents having taken a homestead near Hegg. He attended the common school and Galesville Academy and in 1882 graduated from the college of law, University of Wisconsin. He located in South Dakota in 1883, engaging in the practice of law. He held various county offices, was a member of the board of regents, served as lieutenant governor from 1893 to 1897 and as governor from 1901 to 1905. Mr. Herreid is a born leader, with a great deal of tact.

Fourth in the list of Norwegian governors is James O. Davidson, Wisconsin. Born in Aurdal, Sogn, in 1854, he emigrated to Wisconsin in 1872. After working as a "hired man" on farms in Dane county and elsewhere, he engaged in the mercantile business at Soldier's Grove, and was very successful. He entered public life as a member of the Wisconsin assembly, serving two terms. In 1898 he was elected state treasurer and re-elected two years later. In 1902 he was promoted to the office of lieutenant governor and on January 1, 1905, when Robert M. La Follette resigned as governor to begin his memorable career in the United States senate, Davidson succeeded to the governorship. Until this time he had worked in close harmony with La Follette, but in 1906, when Davidson filed for the Republican nomination for governor, the "Little Lion" opposed him, bringing out Irvin L. Lenroot as his choice. But Davidson won an easy victory, which he duplicated in 1908, holding the governorship for five years. He died December 16, 1922.

Peter Norbeck of South Dakota, the fifth in line among the Norwegian governors, broke the "Wisconsin succession," as we may call it. He was born in Clay county, Dakota territory, August 27, 1870, and has never left the land of Dakota Indians and coyotes. After attending a common school and the preparatory department of the University of South Dakota, he entered the well-drilling business and was so successful that in time he became the greatest driller of artesian wells in the world. At the same time he amassed a fortune. His political career began with his election to the state senate in 1908. He served in that capacity till 1914, when he was elected lieutenant governor. Two years later he advanced to the governorship, which he held for two terms. In 1920 he won an easy victory as a candidate for United States senator. He is undoubtedly the most successful politician in the history of his state and, being still a comparatively young man, bids fair to serve in the "world's greatest law-making body" as long as Knute Nelson.

The "Wisconsin succession" was restored in 1920, when J. A. O. Preus and J. J. Blaine, both Wisconsin men, were elevated to the governorship. Mr. Preus, who



*Peter Norbeck, United States Senator for South Dakota*

was born on a farm at Keyser, Wisconsin, August 23, 1883, is a son of the late C. K. Preus, former president of Luther College, and a grandson of H. A. Preus, for thirty years president of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. He began his brilliant political career as secretary to Senator Knute Nelson in 1906, after he had graduated from Luther College and the University of Minnesota law school. From September, 1909, to January, 1911, he was executive clerk under Governor A. O. Eberhart of Minnesota; then for four years he was state insurance commissioner, making a brilliant record, and in 1914 was elected state auditor. He held this important office till January, 1921, when he began his service as governor. Upon his recent retirement from this high office, he accepted the position of general manager for the Committee of One Hundred, an organization formed to promote the industrial development of Minneapolis and the Northwest.

J. J. Blaine, who is now serving his third term as governor of Wisconsin, was born on a farm in Grant county, Wisconsin, May 4, 1875. He graduated from the Montfort high school and the Valparaiso College of Law. After his admission to the bar, he practised law at Montfort and Boscobel. His first political office was that of mayor of Boscobel. From 1909 to 1911 he was state senator, proving a very able legislator. In 1918 he was elected attorney general and two years later won a sweeping victory as a candidate for governor. On his father's side Governor Blaine is of Welsh descent, but his mother was born in Norway and saw to it that he learned the Norwegian language and became imbued with the idealism and progressive, independent spirit of her Norse ancestors.

The eighth Norwegian to attain the office of governor is Ragnvald A. Nestos of North Dakota. Like Knute Nelson, he was born in Voss, which has been the cradle of so many men that have distinguished themselves both



*J. J. Blaine, Governor of Wisconsin*

in Norway and America. He came to America as a boy of eighteen and located in North Dakota. He attended the public school at Buxton, the state normal school at Mayville and graduated in law from the University of North Dakota. Before his election as governor he had served as a member of the state legislature and as state attorney. He was elected governor in the memorable recall election of 1921, defeating Lynn J. Frazier, the Nonpartisan League governor, who is now a member of the United States senate. Mr. Nestos was re-elected governor in 1922, but was defeated in the primaries of 1924 by A. G. Sorlie.

Governor Sorlie is a native of Minnesota, born in Freeborn county in 1874. He attended the local common school and took a commercial course in the Albert Lea academy, after which he entered business at Buxton, North Dakota. In 1899 he removed to Grand Forks, where he built up a large business as a dealer in hardware and farm implements. Prior to his election as governor Mr. Sorlie had not been an office holder, but became very prominent as an ardent champion of the Nonpartisan League, which led to his endorsement for the governorship by the League convention.

Theodore Christianson, the present governor of Minnesota, was born on a farm in Lac Qui Parle county, in 1883. He is a graduate of the Dawson high school, the University of Minnesota college of arts and also of the college of law. After his admission to the bar in 1909, he began the practise of his profession at Dawson and at the same time acquired the Dawson Sentinel, which he continued to edit and publish till his election as governor. In 1914 he was elected to the Minnesota house of representatives, where he soon rose to leadership. He was re-elected in 1916, 1918, 1920 and 1922. During the last four sessions he was chairman of the appropriation committee, the most important commit-

tee assignment in the house. Governor Christianson has won distinction in Minnesota as a deep and thorough student of political problems and as an able debater.

Governor Carl Gunderson is the son of early pioneers of South Dakota and is a native of the state which has made him its first citizen. Born in Clay county, June 20, 1864, he attended the Vermilion high school, the University of South Dakota and Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He served as a state senator in the sessions of 1893, 1897, 1899, 1901 and 1917. For a number of years he was a United States allotting agent and also supervisor of allotting agents. In 1920 he was elected lieutenant governor and re-elected two years later. A few years ago he removed from Vermilion to Mitchell, where he owns a large farm.

Governor J. C. Erickson of Montana is a native of Stoughton, Wisconsin, being the seventh Norwegian "Badger" to occupy the gubernatorial office. He is a lawyer by profession and after his removal to Montana became very prominent in his profession, occupying several judicial positions. He has been a very active worker in the Democratic party and was state chairman prior to his election as governor.

Of the twelve Norwegian-American governors, all but two have been identified with the Republican party and were elected as the nominees of that organization, although Governor Sorlie of North Dakota and Governor Blaine of Wisconsin are not considered "regular" Republicans by the Republican party as a whole, the former being identified with the Nonpartisan League and the latter with the La Follette faction. As already stated, Governor Lee was a Populist during his administration and has since been a "free lance;" Governor Erickson is a Democrat. In this connection it may be stated that with few exceptions the Norwegians that have attained political prominence have been affiliated with the Republican party. That is due, no doubt, to



*Carl Gunderson, Governor of South Dakota*

the fact that in the states where these men have risen to prominence the Republican party has nearly always been the dominant party. Moreover, on account of their hatred of slavery practically all the Norwegian pioneers of the fifties and sixties joined the new Republican party, which opposed the slave power.

The second Norwegian to occupy a seat in the United States senate is Martin N. Johnson of North Dakota. He was born in Wisconsin, in 1850, the son of Norwegian pioneers. Graduating from the college of law, University of Iowa, in 1876, he practised law in the Hawkeye state for some years and served in the Iowa legislature. In 1882 he removed to Dakota territory, where he soon became prominent. In 1890, after the territory had been divided into two states, Johnson was elected to congress from North Dakota and served four terms with marked ability. His election to the senate occurred in 1910, but he died not long afterward and had no opportunity to prove his mettle in that distinguished body.

Asle J. Gronna, also of North Dakota, was the third Norwegian to occupy a seat in the United States senate. Born in Iowa in 1858, he was educated in that state and at Caledonia Academy, Minnesota. In 1879 he became a farmer in North Dakota and also taught school. With a natural aptitude for business, he quit farming and teaching and became a banker and merchant at Lakota. After occupying a seat in the state legislature, he was elected to the national house of representatives, serving three terms. He was twice elected to the United States senate, his second and last term expiring March 4, 1921. He died May 4, 1922. Senator Gronna was a Republican who affiliated with the "progressive" wing in the senate.

Senator Holm O. Bursum of New Mexico, is another native of Iowa, where he was born February 10, 1867. His residence in New Mexico dates from 1881, when that section of the country was still on the frontier.



*J. C. Erickson, Governor of Montana*



*A. G. Sorlie, Governor of North Dakota*

His political activity began with a term in the territorial senate in 1899. He is an ardent Republican, and has sat as a delegate in three Republican national conventions. He was also Republican floor leader in the constitutional convention of 1910. When A. B. Fall resigned as United States senator to enter President Harding's cabinet, Mr. Bursum was first appointed and later elected to serve out his unexpired term. Senator Bursum is engaged in the stock raising business.

Henrik Shipstead, who defeated Senator F. B. Kellogg in 1922 and is the first Farmer-Labor senator, was born in Kandiyohi county, Minnesota, January 8, 1881. After graduating from the St. Cloud normal school and the dental college of Northwestern University, Chicago, he opened a dental office at Glenwood, where he soon became active politically, serving first as mayor of the village and later as a member of the state legislature. In 1918 Mr. Shipstead was pitted against A. J. Volstead for congress by the Nonpartisan League, but was defeated. Two years later the same organization put him forward for the Republican nomination for governor, but he was defeated in a close race by J. A. O. Preus. The acquaintance and prestige he gained in that campaign led to Dr. Shipstead's endorsement by the new Farmer-Labor party for senator two years later. Since 1920 Senator Shipstead has made his home in Minneapolis.

It will surprise most readers of this book to learn that the well known Republican leader in the United States senate, Reed Smoot of Utah, was born of a Norwegian mother. Senator Smoot belongs to the inner circle of the powers that control the national congress and is also one of the leaders that dictate the actions of Republican national conventions. Besides being the most prominent politician of his state, Senator Smoot is an important dignitary in the Mormon church.

The second Norwegian to enter the national house of



*Henrik Shipstead, United States Senator from Minnesota*

representatives is Nels P. Haugen, who was elected from the northwest district of Wisconsin in 1886, after he had attained considerable state prominence as a member of the Wisconsin assembly and as railroad commissioner. Mr. Haugen served four terms in congress and could have retained his seat there, but was induced by La Follette to stand as the "reform" or "anti-machine" candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. Since his retirement from congress Mr. Haugen was for many years state tax commissioner of Wisconsin and is now occupying a somewhat similar position in Montana. He has the reputation of being one of the ablest tax experts in the United States.

After Haugen comes M. N. Johnson, discussed above, and then follows Kittil Halvorson of Brooten, Minnesota, who was elected congressman from the old seventh district of Minnesota, standing as the candidate of the Farmers' Alliance, the precursor of the Populist party. He is the first Norwegian farmer to serve in congress.

The next in point of time—another "single term"—is Haldor E. Boen, who was elected from the old seventh Minnesota district in 1892. He was a Populist, who later became a very radical Socialist. He died in 1912 on his farm near Fergus Falls.

A big man in congress is Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa, who was first elected in 1898 and has served continuously since. He has always taken great interest in legislation affecting the interests of the farmers and is now chairman of the important committee on agriculture. As such he is joint author of the famous McNary-Haugen bill for the relief of the farmers, which has been discussed from coast to coast. Mr. Haugen was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1859, and removed to Winnebush county, Iowa, as a young man.

Another Norwegian who was first elected to congress in 1898 is Herman B. Dahle, who was a prominent mer-

chant at Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, and for two terms represented the second Wisconsin district. He was a son of Onon B. Dahle, a very prominent early Wisconsin pioneer. Congressman Dahle died a few years ago.

Two Norwegians who attained considerable prominence in congress during twenty years of continuous service are Andrew J. Volstead of Granite Falls, Minnesota, and Halvor Steenerson of Crookston, Minnesota. Both were first elected in 1902 and both are Republicans. Mr. Volstead was born in 1860. After attending St. Olaf College, he studied law and entered upon the practice of the legal profession at Granite Falls. As chairman of the powerful judiciary committee of the national house, he drafted the law carrying the federal prohibition amendment into effect—the so-called "Volstead act" which has made the name Volstead known the world over. Perhaps no other act of congress ever became such a household word.

Halvor Steenerson was born in 1852. He was a student at the Rushford, Minnesota, high school, then took a law course in Chicago, and in 1880 opened a law office at Crookston, where he became one of the most prominent attorneys of the Red River valley. Before his election to congress he had served one term in the Minnesota senate. In congress Mr. Steenerson gave special attention to postal affairs, being chairman of the committee on post offices for a number of years. Like Congressman Volstead, Mr. Steenerson went down to defeat in the Farmer-Labor tidal wave that swept over Western Minnesota in 1922.

Very prominent in Wisconsin politics is John M. Nelson who, with the exception of two years—from 1919 to 1921—has served continuously in congress from March 4, 1905, till the present time, as representative from the second Wisconsin district. For several years he has been the leader of the "progressive bloc" in the house and during the campaign of 1924 was chairman of the national committee that managed Senator La Follette's presidential campaign.



*G. N. Haugen, Congressman from Iowa*

Two new Norwegian-American congressmen were chosen in the election of 1910—H. T. Helgeson of the Fargo-Grand Forks district, North Dakota, and Sydney Anderson of the first Minnesota. Mr. Helgeson, who was born in Iowa in 1857, was the first commissioner of labor and agriculture of North Dakota. He served in congress till his death in 1917. He enjoyed a great deal of popularity in his state, as well as among his associates at Washington.

Sydney Anderson, whose father was of Swedish and his mother of Norwegian birth, rose to a high rank in congress during fourteen years of service. He was a struggling young lawyer at Lanesboro twenty-eight years old when he was drafted by the progressive Republicans of the first district to compete with James A. Tawney for the Republican nomination, and won after making a brilliant campaign. Mr. Anderson is an eloquent speaker, who began his career at Washington as a fiery "insurgent" or progressive, but ended high in the councils of the conservative group. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1924.

Carl C. Van Dyke of St. Paul, who represented the fourth Minnesota district from March 4, 1915, till his death in 1919, was born at Alexandria, Minnesota, February 18, 1881. He served with a St. Paul company in the Spanish American war, then held a government position and studied law. From 1911 to 1914 he represented government employees at the national capital, a position he resigned when elected to congress. Mr. Van Dyke was a Democrat in politics, being one of the few men of that party to represent a Minnesota district in the national house. His mother was a native of Norway.

Congressman Harold Knutson of the sixth Minnesota district was elected for his first term in 1916 and has won an easy victory at each subsequent election. He is Norway born and forty-five years of age.



*O. B. Burtness, Congressman from North Dakota*



*O. J. Kvale, Congressman from Minnesota*

He came to Minnesota in 1883, and after working as a farm hand, became a printer and then a country editor. He issued the Royalton Banner, the Foley Independent and was city editor of the St. Cloud Journal-Press. For a number of years Mr. Knutson was Republican "whip" in the national house.

C. A. Christopherson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was the next Norwegian-American to put in his appearance in the house at Washington, being elected in 1918. He is a Minnesotan by birth, hailing from Amherst. He is a graduate of the college of law, University of South Dakota, and has practised as a lawyer in South Dakota's metropolis since his admission to the bar. Before his election to congress he had served two terms in the South Dakota legislature.

The first and only Norwegian sent to the national congress from Illinois is M. Alfred Michaelson of Chicago, who was elected as a Republican in 1920. He was born in Norway in 1878, and came with his parents to Chicago at the age of seven. Graduating from the Chicago Normal School, he was a teacher in the big city from 1898 to 1914, when he was elected an alderman. He was a delegate to the Illinois constitutional convention in 1920 prior to his election to congress. Mr. Michaelson was re-elected in 1922 and 1924.

Olger B. Burtness of Grand Forks, North Dakota, is another Norwegian who entered congress for the first time in 1921. He is a native of his state and a graduate of its university, both from its academic department and its law school. He has been an active lawyer since his graduation. He served two terms in the North Dakota legislature before his election to congress. He was re-elected to congress in 1922 and 1924.

A third Norwegian to appear for the first time in the national house of representatives in 1921 is William Williamson of Oacoma, South Dakota. He is Iowa



KNUD WEFALD  
Member of Congress 9th Dist. Minn.



C. A. CHRISTOPHERSON  
Member of Congress 1st Dist. S. D.



JOHN M. NELSON  
Member of Congress 3rd Dist. Wis.



HAROLD KNUTSON  
Member of Congress 6th Dist. Minn.



A. H. ANDERSON  
Member of Congress 3rd Dist. Minn.

born, but early in life took up his abode in the coyote state. He graduated from the state university at Vermilion in 1903, read law and began active practice. Before going to congress he was an editor, state's attorney of his home county, and a circuit judge. Mr. Williamson was re-elected to congress in 1922 and 1924.

In 1923 two more Norwegian-Americans took their seats in congress for the first time. One was O. J. Kvale, a well known Lutheran preacher of Benson, who defeated A. J. Volstead by an overwhelming majority. The other was Knud Wefald, a Hawley lumber dealer, legislator, poet and philosopher.

Congressman Kvale, who won an easy victory for a second term at the last election, was born on a farm near Decorah, Iowa, in 1869. He is a graduate of Luther College and Luther Theological Seminary and was for twenty-five years a Lutheran pastor at Orfordville, Wisconsin, and at Benson, Minnesota. Mr. Kvale has won a reputation as an able speaker.

Congressman Knud Wefald is a native of Telemarken, Norway, and came to America as a boy of eighteen. Mr. Wefald served six terms as mayor of Hawley and two terms as representative to the Minnesota legislature before going to congress. He had no trouble in going over the top for a second term at the last election. Mr. Wefald has made a name for himself as a writer of unusual originality.

The latest recruit to the Norwegian group in the national house of representatives is A. H. Andresen, a brilliant young lawyer of Red Wing, who was elected from the third Minnesota district. It was assumed that the Farmer-Labor party would win out in that district, but Mr. Andresen put up a remarkably effective campaign, winning an easy victory. Mr. Andresen gives promise of becoming a popular member of congress.

Rasmus B. Anderson of Madison, Wisconsin, the first Norwegian-American to serve as United States minister to a foreign country, was born at Albion, Wisconsin, in 1846, and became prominent early in life as a scholar and author. He was appointed minister to Denmark by President Cleveland in 1885 and remained at the Danish capital until 1889.

A veteran in the diplomatic service is Laurits S. Swenson who has represented the United States as minister to three different countries. He was appointed minister to Denmark by President McKinley in 1897, serving eight years. In 1909 President Taft commissioned him to serve in a like capacity at Berne, Switzerland, where he remained a couple of years, when he was transferred, at his own request, to Oslo. He was recalled in 1913, when a Democratic administration came into power, but was returned to the Norwegian capital by President Harding in 1921. Before his appointment as minister to Denmark, Mr. Swenson was principal of Albert Lea Academy.

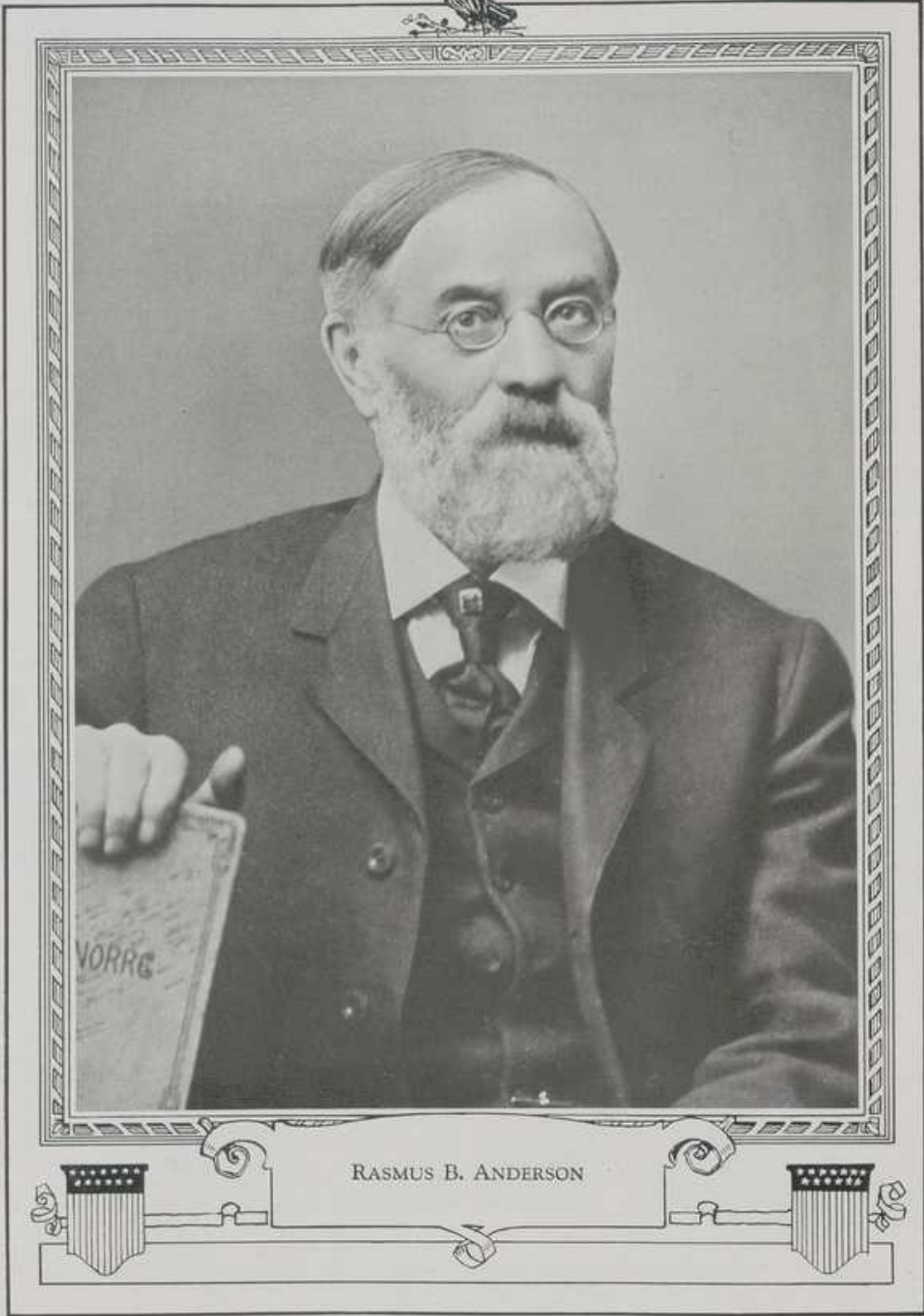
Nicolay A. Grevstad, who served for a number of years as minister to Paraguay and Uruguay, South America, is best known for his work as editor of "Skandinaven." He was born in Norway and began his career as a journalist in the homeland.

Lack of space makes it impossible to give an account of, or even to mention, all the Americans of Norse

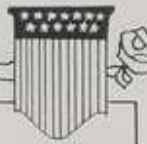
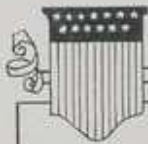
descent that have occupied places in the public service other than those of governor, United States senator, congressman and United States minister. Many of these have given a splendid account of themselves, rendering valuable service to the American people and reflecting credit upon the land of their fathers. There is, for instance, Hans C. Heg of Wisconsin, who was elected prison commissioner in 1853, being the first Norwegian-American to hold an elective state office. There, too, is Herman L. Ekern, attorney general of Wisconsin, former speaker of the state assembly and former insurance commissioner. And there is A. J. Vinje, who was for many years a circuit court judge at Superior and is now associate justice of the supreme court of Wisconsin. The supreme court of that state has an enviable record, which Judge Vinje helps to sustain. A large number of Norwegian-Americans have served as district or circuit court judges in the states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and elsewhere. Other citizens of Norse lineage that have been elevated to high judicial positions are James D. Reymert, appointed a federal judge in Arizona by President Cleveland; Gudmund J. Lomen, federal judge in Alaska; Edward Egerud, former associate justice of the supreme court of North Dakota, and A. M. Christianson, chief justice of the supreme court of North Dakota.

Other sons of Old Norway, or sons of Norwegian immigrants, that have become prominent in the politics of the Northwest, are O. P. B. Jacobson, for ten years a member of the Minnesota railroad and warehouse commission and at present its chairman; Jacob F. Jacobson, a former Minnesota state official and nominee of the Republican party for governor in 1908, who distinguished himself for his valuable service in the state house of representatives; Samuel G. Iverson, for twelve years state auditor of Minnesota; A. J. Rockne, for over twenty years a leader in the Minnesota legislature, serving as speaker of the house in 1909; Obert A. Olson and John Steen, for many years state treasurer of North Dakota; S. A. Olsness, insurance commissioner, and J. J. Aandahl, chairman of the board of railroad and warehouse commission of North Dakota; A. O. Ringsrud, former secretary of state of South Dakota and nominee of the Republican party for governor in 1896; Thomas Thorson, for several terms secretary of state of South Dakota; Carl G. Lawrence and H. A. Ustrud, both formerly state superintendents of South Dakota.

With very few exceptions, the Norwegian-Americans that have occupied prominent positions in the public service have been men of high character and of more than average ability—men that have been true to their trust and have rendered valuable service to their constituents. It may also be said that from the beginning the Norwegian immigrants have been serious-minded citizens and have taken their citizenship seriously. They have stood for cleanliness, justice and honesty in our political life and have been intensely loyal to their country. Before the Civil War they stood as a unit against the encroachments of the slave power and their whole-hearted support of Abraham Lincoln was a factor in the elections of 1860 and 1864.



RASMUS B. ANDERSON





# RASMUS B. ANDERSON

## *An Eminent Norwegian-American Scholar, Author and Pathfinder*

A leader among those who have labored for the advancement of the Norwegian people of America is Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, of Madison, Wisconsin. To this work he has dedicated his life. Like that other distinguished Norwegian-American, Knute Nelson, he has been a pathfinder among his people in America.

Professor Anderson is the first Norwegian to teach in an American institution of higher learning—at Albion Academy, Wisconsin, in 1836. He is the first Norwegian to head a Scandinavian department in a university—at the University of Wisconsin in 1875. He is the first Norwegian to serve as a United States minister or ambassador to a foreign country—as United States minister to Denmark from 1885 to 1889. He wrote the first book in the English language produced by a Norwegian on this side of the Atlantic—"America Not Discovered by Columbus," which appeared in 1874—and the *Encyclopedia Britannica* rightly calls him the "Father of Norse Literature in America."

Rasmus B. Anderson was born at Albion, Wisconsin,

January 12, 1846, the son of Bjorn Anderson, who came from Stavanger county, Norway, in 1836 and was one of the founders of the Koshkonong settlement in 1840. After his graduation from Luther College, Decorah, he was a professor at Albion academy for three years, when he accepted a place on the faculty of Wisconsin University. He began his career as an author while a professor in this institution. His book on the Norse discovery of America created a sensation in educational circles and made him exceedingly popular among the Norwegian people of America. In 1875 appeared his "Norse Mythology," which was highly praised by scholars on both sides of the Atlantic and has been translated into Danish, French and German.

As a lecturer Professor Anderson has been exceedingly active. He has appeared in churches, halls and school houses in every Norwegian settlement in America and has also addressed many learned societies in various parts of the country. His favorite lecture is "Our Norwegian Heritage."

## *The Centennial of Norwegian Immigration*

By RASMUS B. ANDERSON

ON the day of the Declaration of Independence of our beloved United States of America, that is, on the 4th of July, 1825, 52 men, women and children embarked in the little sloop "Restaurationen," sailed out of the quaint harbor of Stavanger, Norway, for America and arrived in New York on the 9th of October of the same year. They were then 53 in number, a little girl having been born on the 9th of September.

While celebrating this interesting and important event in our Norwegian-American history it is proper to review the many blessings of which the Norwegian immigrants have been the recipients in this land of liberty and opportunity on the one hand, and on the other, the services which this group of our population have rendered their adopted country.

This cannot be done in the few lines here allotted me, but the matter is receiving and will get adequate attention in the press, in pamphlets and books, and in orations and addresses when the event is to be celebrated, and it will appear that the Norwegian-Americans are distinguished for the earnestness of their religious worship, for their ardent advocacy of civil and religious liberty, and for their industry and enterprise. We find them associated with the most loyal and law abiding citizens, giving their best energy to culture, law, and order. These are traits that the Norwegians have inherited from their remote ancestors, and in connection with this centennial celebration we may take occasion to emphasize some of the services rendered by Norway to the world, and particularly to this country. The civilized history of America begins with the Norsemen. They were the first to venture out of sight of land in

ships. They were the discoverers of pelagic navigation. The first white man to plant his feet on the American continent was Leif Erikson in the year 1000. The first white man who founded a settlement in America was Thorfin Karlsefne in the year 1007. The first white woman who came to this country was Thorfin's talented and enterprising wife, Gudrid. In the year 1008 she gave birth to a son in Vinland. The boy was called Snorre and he was the first person of European descent to first see the light of day in the New World. Columbus had full knowledge of these Norse voyages and discoveries and by this knowledge he was led to undertake his memorable voyage of re-discovery in 1492.

In connection with the centennial celebration it should not be forgotten that in old Norway protected by sea and mountains grew the tree of liberty of which Rolf Ganger (Rollo) scattered seed in the fertile soil of France and founded Normandy. The Normans under the leadership of Rolf's descendant William conquered England, and planted the seed of this same tree of liberty in the rich soil of England. Here the tree flourished and budded in the Magna Charta and in the Bill of Rights. The Puritans took with them scions of this tree of liberty in the Mayflower to Leif Erikson's former Vinland. Here in the best of soil and in the most favorable environment this old Norwegian tree of liberty developed the most beautiful full-blown flower in the Declaration of Independence and produced the ripest and sweetest fruit in our Constitution.

Surely, every descendant of the grand old Vikings has reason to be proud of the services rendered by them to the world and particularly to America.



Laurits S. Swenson



# MOTHER COUNTRY INTERESTED

## *People of Norway Awake to Importance of Centennial*

By LAURITS S. SWENSON, *United States Minister to Norway*

THE Norse-American Centennial Celebration to be held next June has aroused general interest in Norway. It has been given wide publicity in the Press, and the importance attached to the event is evidenced by the fact that the Ministry, the Storting, the Church, the University, and various private organizations are planning to be represented on the occasion by delegates.

The mother country takes a pride in the wonderful achievements which her sons and daughters in America are about to commemorate. She has at times complained of the drain sustained by the emigration of three-quarters of a million of her citizens since the sloop "Restaurationen" set sail for the land of promise a hundred years ago; but the many compensations and blessings that have flowed back to gladden thousands of homes in the mountain valleys, fjords, and highlands are cheerfully acknowledged. It is, therefore, considered eminently fitting that Norwegians on both sides of the Atlantic should unite in paying tribute to the remarkable deeds of the pioneers and of their descendants. And it must, indeed, be admitted that their record forms one of the proudest chapters in our history.

Their story is in some respects unique in the annals of great migratory movements. The Norwegian sagas sound the praises of heroic deeds in the distant past, and it gives a romantic thrill to read about the discovery of America by Leif Erikson and to follow the hardy and

adventurous Norsemen on their expeditions of conquest and colonization; but, after all, the greatest feat performed by Norwegian emigrants is the building of an empire in the wilderness of America, an empire on which they have left an unmistakable and a most valuable impress. What they have wrought with hand and brain, by dint of industry, thrift, frugality, honesty, and Godliness will remain the most enduring monument ever built by the Norwegian race in its search for new fields to conquer beyond the boundaries of the fatherland. In the winning of a new home these sturdy builders toiled in a spirit worthy of the best traditions and the highest ideals of their people. They became thoroughly loyal and patriotic American citizens; but they showed sense enough to cherish and preserve the precious cultural heritage they had brought with them. They have thus made most valuable contributions to American culture in an important section of the country; and by remaining true to themselves they have enriched their own lives, as well as those of their fellow citizens.

Their example is a glory and an incentive. They were a strong race and exerted a potent influence. May it be said of them that "their seed shall remain forever and their glory shall not be blotted out."

They prepared the way; "Follow after—follow after—for the harvest is sown: By the bones about the wayside ye shall come to your own."





Ole Bull Statue in Loring Park,  
Minneapolis

# WHY WE CELEBRATE\*

By O. M. NORLIE

IN 1925 there will be held a Norwegian-American Centennial. No doubt the Norwegians of America will have commemorative celebrations here and there throughout the length and breadth of the United States and Canada, but the Centennial proper will be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, at Hamline, Minnesota, on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 7th, 8th, and 9th. The purpose of the Centennial is, in the first place, to commemorate the coming of the sloop "Restaurationen", which set sail from Stavanger, Norway, July 4, 1825, and arrived at New York, Oct. 9, with a cargo of Norwegian immigrants, the beginning of an uninterrupted stream of migration from Norway to America. The purpose of the Centennial is, in the second place, to pay fitting tribute to the Norwegian pioneers in America, the 750,000 who came across from Norway, besides their children born here, who have for a whole century toiled faithfully and done their share in the making of America.

The Sloopers were the 53 people, men, women and children, that came over in the sloop, "Restaurationen", an old, crazy bark of only 39 tons, so poor that the captain was arrested when he landed in New York, for having attempted to sail across the sea with so many souls on board. The story of these Sloopers is full of realism and romanticism, sure to instruct and inspire all who hear it and read it. The 53 who landed in New York a century ago are all dead and resting from their labors, but eighteen of their children of the first generation are still alive, besides children of the second, third, fourth, and even fifth generations, a handsome host, 1,000 strong, scattered afar, from coast to coast.

At the present time about 2,500,000 Norwegians are in America. Most of these are well-to-do, speak the English language, and are apparently in every way as much a part of the American people as their neighbors of other nationalities. In the rush of our present day life, we forget that America was not always as thickly settled and built up as it now is, and we fail to honor as we should those plain, earnest, God-fearing, modest, but strong and courageous, men and women, who during the past century have settled out in the wilderness and made it habitable, such as it is today. For a whole century the Norwegians have been coming into this land and doing pioneer work on the frontiers. The services they have rendered are of inestimable value and worthy of being carefully reviewed.

The proposed celebration aims to take stock of what the Norwegians in America have done during the past century in order that we, as Norwegian-Americans, may better understand our heritage, that we may better appreciate our pioneer fathers, that we may get a more

just recognition from our American neighbors, and that we may better face the future.

The Norwegians in America did not come empty-handed to this fair land. They had along with them a great heritage. It is the aim of the Centennial to extol and honor and picture this heritage in such a way that it shall be better understood and valued by the Norwegian-Americans of this and coming generations.

Norway has been the home land of the Norwegians for 2000 years and more. It is a wonderful little land, beautiful and beloved, illustrious in story and song. The land is little, approximately only 1-450th of the earth's land area. It is smaller than Minnesota and Iowa combined, only one-half the size of Texas. Owing to its vast mountains and forests, only 10% of Norway is habitable; only 1% is tilled. Siberia and Sahara are much larger, but count for much less; Palestine and Greece are much smaller, but have counted for more. Though small, Norway has great resources and marvellous scenery. It occupies a larger place in history than it does on the map. It has bred a healthy, strong, moral, religious, industrious, thrifty, independent and democratic people. "Hardy Norsemen", Edna Lyell calls them. "As fine a race, both physically and intellectually, as is found in any country," says Samuel J. Becket. We join with Bjørnson in singing of this land of our pioneer fathers:

*"There lies a fair land 'neath the old glacial snow,  
There spring-life we find but in the narrow cleft low;  
The ocean rolls on with its saga roar,—  
Than this land no mother can loved be more."*

The population of Norway is small—only 1-650th of the population of the earth. Just a handful.

The Norwegians are not multitudinous, as are their cousins, the English and Germans. The immigration to Norway has always been small; the emigration from Norway has always been great. The emigrated Norwegians have become merged with races occupying the lands they have sought out as their homes. In Russia they have become Russians; in France, Frenchmen; in England, Englishmen; in Ireland, Irishmen; in Scotland, Scotch; in America, Americans. Carlyle, the Scotch philosopher, was called the "Old Norseman," because of his descent from Viking stock. Welles traces George Washington back to his Norse ancestors, who settled in Yorkshire in 1030. Washington himself was well aware of his Scandinavian origin and, in a speech before the Scandinavian Society of Philadelphia in 1782, of which he became a member in 1783, he said that he was proud of his Northern ancestry. William Jennings Bryan declared in an address at a Norwegian

"Bygdelaag" in Minneapolis that he also came from Norwegian stock that had settled in Ireland.

Ethnographically, the Norwegians are of the same family as the Danes and Swedes, the English and the Germans. They are Teutons, and the Teutons have been the most dominant race during the last 1500 years or more.

Physically, they are a hardy, vigorous and handsome race, with the bluest eyes and the lightest complexion of any people on earth, with the possible exception of the Swedes.

Intellectually, they are like the other Teutons, highly endowed, with a boundless capacity for civilization.

Morally, they are a clean, chaste race, with the highest moral standards, the most tender conscience. They do not laugh at vice. They obey the laws of God and man. Crime is almost unknown in Norway. Only 38 murders and 10 robberies in five years in a land of 2,500,000 people. Less liquor is consumed in Norway than in any other country, except Finland.

Religiously, they are God-fearing—in older days, according to Norse mythology, the highest type of natural religion recorded; and in our day, according to the Lutheran faith, the purest and most evangelical type of Christianity ever formulated.

Socially, they are a friendly, hospitable, thrifty, home-loving race, reverencing womanhood and respecting conjugal ties. Divorce is practically unheard of. They are faithful unto death, as in "Njaal's Saga." Njaal was besieged by his enemies, who threatened to burn him up in his house. They informed him that his wife would be spared and ordered her to come out. But she said No. She had stayed by him throughout a long life and therefore she would stay by him to the end. So the old couple, with their grandchildren between them, lay down on their bed and were consumed by the flames.

Industrially, they love to work at any honest calling and, as Robert Louis Stevenson says, "They know what pleasure is, for they have done good work."

Politically, they are extremely independent and democratic, anxious to make their own laws and willing to abide by them, loyal to their chosen rulers, patriotically living for their country in times of peace and dying for it in times of war. As Bjerregaard sings of the Norwegians in his "Sons of Norway:"

*"Freely he thinks and as freely speaks;  
Birds in their motion,  
Waves of the ocean  
Poorly can rival his Liberty's voice;  
Yet he obeys, with willing devotion,  
Laws of his making and kings of his choice."*

Linguistically, they are Teutons of the purest type, and their written language, as well as its dialects, is clear, strong, beautiful, very simple, yet fully adequate to express the widest range of thought and feeling, ideas and ideals.

Culturally, they have from the dawn of their history been far advanced in civilization, and have contributed lavishly to art, science and literature, affecting the spiritual uplift and the material progress of the world.

The history of the Norwegians begins with the Viking

Age, and during the Viking Age, which lasted 300 years, from 800 to 1100 A. D., the Norwegians were the most important and influential people in Europe. They established colonies to the east, the south and the west—in Finland, Russia, Turkey, Greece, Palestine, Italy, Spain, France, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the Shetlands, Orkneys, Hebrides, Faroes, Iceland, Greenland and Vinland the Good. Norway did not keep these far-flung colonies as a colonial empire, but gave them to the nations of Europe; and wherever Norwegian colonists have gotten a footing, there they have practised what they learned of old Mother Norway, and there have sprung up new and vigorous civilizations, in which individual freedom, democratic government, protection of fundamental institutions, industry, obedience to constitutional law, religion and education have been fostered.

Boyesen says of the warlike Vikings of old: "It is these conquering Vikings who have demonstrated the historical mission of Norway. The ability to endure discipline without loss of self-respect, voluntary subordination for mutual benefit, and the power of orderly organization based upon these qualities, these are the contributions of the Norse Vikings to the political life of Europe. The breath of life which the Vikings infused into history lives today in Norway, England and in America." Du Chaillu, in speaking of the peace-loving Norwegians of today, says: "They are brave, simple, honest and good. They are descendants of the Norsemen, who, in days of old, when Europe was degraded by chains of slavery, were the only people that were free and were governed by laws they themselves made. They have left to this day an indelible impression of their character in the countries they overran, and in which they settled; and England is indebted for the freedom she possesses and the manly qualities of her people—their roving disposition, their love of the sea and of conquest in distant lands—to the admixture of Scandinavian blood, which, through hereditary transmission, makes her prominent as descended chiefly from Anglo-Scandinavians and not Anglo-Saxons."

In concluding this section we will quote the following statement by the eminent American scholar, B. F. De Costa: "Let us remember that in vindicating the Norsemen we honor those who not only give us the first knowledge of the American continent, but to whom we are indebted for much besides that we esteem valuable. For we fable in a great measure when we speak of our Saxon inheritance. It is rather from the Norsemen that we have derived our vital energy, our freedom of thought, and in a measure that we do not yet suspect our strength of speech."

We live in the day of the steam boat and railroad train, the auto and airplane, the telegraph, telephone, radio, electric power and electric light, and a thousand and one other conveniences at our door. Our pioneer fathers did not have any of these advantages, nor even the common comforts of life. They had first to make the country, level the forest and plough the plains, turn the desert places into gardens, dot the land with happy homes and thriving villages, and then to create the conveniences and comforts which we now enjoy. Norwegian

brain as well as brawn has taken an active part in inventing labor-saving machinery. Ole J. Glasse, for example, invented the first sulky plow; J. P. Johnson invented the first self-binder; John Juel invented the first self-feeder. And so on. But the greatest work of our pioneer fathers was, in conquering the wilderness, in preserving their heritage for their children, and in contributing themselves to their adopted land. They made good, and their story reads like a fairy tale, wonderful in heroic sacrifices and practical achievements.

Our fathers crossed the sea in small sail boats, requiring from one to four months to reach the American port. When they finally landed, they were strangers in a strange land, without friends, with little of money, with no knowledge of the English language. There was no railroad to take them to the wild prairies of the far West—to Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, the Dakotas and other distant regions, where they had planned to make their home. Often they had to foot it these hundreds of miles, carrying their little children and other belongings. The ox cart was fit for a king. They came. They saw. They conquered. They built themselves sod cellars and log cabins. They felled the forests and tilled the soil. They defended themselves against the wild beasts and the Red Man. They suffered terribly from pestilence and prairie fire. They established churches and schools. They founded cities and markets. They learned the language of the land and took on its customs. They furnished more than their quota of soldiers in the nation's wars and a thrifty, law-abiding citizenry in times of peace. In the early days some of the best land could hardly be sold for five cents an acre; now it commands more than \$500.00. In those days farm products could not be marketed unless they were hauled vast distances, 100 miles or more, over trackless prairies. Prices for farm products were next to nothing; prices on store articles were sky-high. Money had no fixed value. Those were days which tried men's souls. Thanks to the industry and perseverance of the pioneers, each man can now afford his Ford and drive where he pleases on the finest paved highways or sit down in his modern home, and listen in to the world broadcasting its joys and sorrows on the wings of the air.

The Norwegian heritage, as already stated, was considerable. More precious than gold. The pioneers considered their religion as the most precious part of their otherwise precious heritage. "God's Word is our great heritage—Our children shall inherit," was their motto and daily song. In those days every Norwegian who set sail for America placed in his strong box or traveling bag a Bible, a hymn book, a catechism and a church postil. He did not want to go into the wilderness without taking along with him the Lord and His Word. The typical Norwegian is a priest in his own house, observes daily devotions with his family, and the saying of grace before and after meat. He wants to read his Bible and to have it preached unto him, by lay, if not by learned, lips. There was no preacher on board the first ship in 1825. Ole Olson Hetletvedt, a layman, however, expounded the Word on the boat and for many years there-

after. He was the first Norwegian lay preacher in America, but not the last. Hetletvedt, by the way, was the father of Colonel Porter Olson, an officers in the Union Army during the Civil War, who fell at the Battle of Stone River. Early in the '40s the Norwegian settlements began to secure ordained pastors—Eielsen, Clausen, Dietrichson, Stub, and others, and to organize congregations. In order to establish their church more firmly and to preserve the heritage, synods were also established, and schools, printing presses, missions, charitable institutions, associations, etc. The pioneer fathers carried on this great work with remarkable vision and fidelity, a great sacrifice, but not in vain. About 7,500 Norwegian Lutheran congregations have been in existence, served by over 2,500 pastors and many thousand parochial and Sunday school teachers. About 100 higher schools have been founded, such as, Augustana, Luther, Augsburg, St. Olaf, Concordia, Red Wing, etc. 75 of these have been Lutherans, 9 Reformed, 16 secular. The Lutheran schools have had 3,000 teachers and an enrollment of 150,000 students, 7,000 at the theological seminaries, 20,000 at the colleges, 120,000 at the academies, and 3,000 at the deaconess homes and Bible schools. Over 500 Norwegian newspapers have been issued, thousands of books have been written. This illustrates only in a small measure the great work that has been done for the preservation of the Norwegian heritage. The Norwegian language is also a heritage, and the work of the homes in teaching Norwegian to the young, especially through actual use, is of far-reaching cultural importance.

In times past much has been said of what America has done for the immigrant. America has done much for the immigrant. But there is also another side to this question. The immigrant has also done much for America. All the countries of the world have, for example, contributed to the citizenship of America. But no country, except Ireland, has contributed so great a proportion of its people to America as Norway. The Norwegians who came here brought their culture along with them, and as already stated, they have endeavored with might and main to give this culture to their own children and have striven hard to share it with their neighbors of other nationalities. The reports of the Immigrant Commissioner repeatedly state that the Norwegians are the most literate people that come to America. The prison reports show that they are the most law-abiding. The census reports show that they are busy establishing homes, sending their children to school, and engaged in gainful occupations. At first nearly all the Norwegians settled on the farms; even now over one-half of them are occupied with farming. They were the pioneer farmers in the Northwest—they cleared and cultivated this section. In percentage of farm owners and operators they still outrank every other ethnic group in America. Also as seafarers they have entered America's economic life, and are represented in large numbers in shipping and marine occupations. In lumbering, ship building and fishing, here as in Norway, they have contributed manual labor and scientific skill. There is no honorable calling in which they are not engaged—agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, trade, personal and clerical toil, professional and public



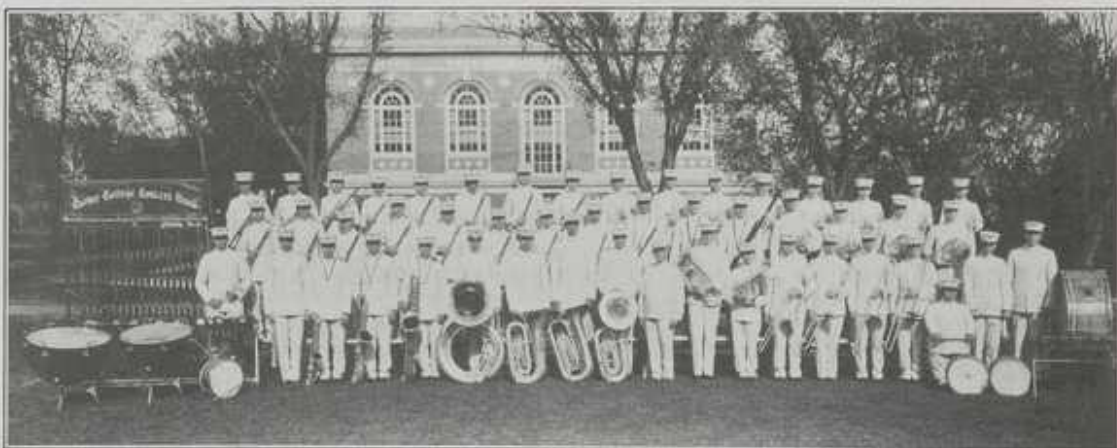
*St. Olaf Choir, Northfield, Minn.*

service. They rank all the way from man-servant to governor. As J. N. Kildahl once said: "The Norwegians came here to work, and not to put up peanut stands." Therefore they have toiled hard and created much wealth for America. The Norwegian farmers of South Dakota alone are said to be worth a billion dollars. They have given themselves freely to this land, their spirit of independence and democracy, interest in public affairs and sympathy with republican institutions, industry and thrift, honesty and chastity, obedience to law and piety, have had only beneficial effects upon the country at large. The Norwegian press has sympathetically and consistently expounded American ideals to Norwegian-born readers; the Norwegian poets, novelists and historians have tried to explain Norwegian ideals to American-born readers. Norwegian musicians and singers, artists, architects, engineers, doctors, lawyers, preachers, educated men in every profession, have endeavored to

add their bit to American culture. Some state schools have Norwegian professorships; Norwegian is taught even in a number of public schools. The St. Olaf choir, the Luther College Concert Band, the Norwegian singing societies, the Norwegian "bygdelags" and a hundred or more other agencies have entertained and edified the great American public and wherever they have appeared they have been welcomed to come again. "We want to know more about you," they graciously say. The Centennial should arouse wide-spread and genuine enthusiasm for Norwegian culture.

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The fact is, that, in the past, and even at the present time, many of the so-called Americans, especially those of British ancestry, do not seem to know, or want to know, that the Norwegians are of their race, or that they have as good a right to be called Americans as anybody



*Luther College Band, Decorah, Iowa*



else, or that they are entitled to the same opportunities as their Anglo-Saxon brothers. The Centennial ought to secure from these good neighbors a more just recognition of what a Norwegian really is.

Myers says of the Northmen: "They were very near kin to the Angles and Saxons; they were Teutons in language, religion, habits and spirit." F. Metcalfe says that the Norwegians are "blood-related to the English." B. F. De Costa says that "we fable in a great measure when we (Americans) speak of our Saxon inheritance; it is rather from the Northmen that we have derived our vital energy, our freedom of thought, and, in a measure that we do not yet suspect, our freedom of speech." As to kinship, then, Norwegians and Englishmen are of the same family and originally spoke the same language. Even as late as 1066, at Stamford Bridge, for example, Harald of Norway and Harold of England conversed together about as easily as a Norwegian and a Dane talk together today. The Norwegians for four centuries overran England. William the Conqueror met with most opposition from his kinsmen in the Norwegian counties of England. The Mayflower Pilgrims of New England came from these Norwegian counties.

As to culture, Norway was already far advanced in civilization at the dawn of its history, and the literary excellence of old Norse poetry and saga, says William Hewitt, "has no parallel in all the treasures of ancient literature." In a Minnesota town lived two bankers, one a descendant of English people; the other, of Norse extraction. One day the Englishman dined with the Norwegian. "Say," said the Englishman, in the course of their conversation, "do they have windowpanes in Norway?" No doubt the Englishman thought that the Norwegians, except for the enlightening influences of America, were a sort of low-browed cavemen. Well, dinner came to an end, and the Englishman proceeded to stretch himself in front of a beautiful picture of the Trondhjem Cathedral. "What a wonderful edifice!" he exclaimed. "And what beautiful windows!" he added. "Pray, tell me what manner of building this is." "Oh," replied the Norwegian host, "that is only an Old Norwegian shack built 900 years ago."

Fully 80% of the Norwegian-Americans have been born in this country. Nearly all of those born across the seas have taken out their citizenship papers. For a century the Norwegians have been coming to America to make their home, and no people in the world in their former home have been so well prepared for American citizenship as have the Norwegians. The Norwegians were the first Europeans to set foot on American soil, having come to Greenland in 876, 900 years before the Declaration of Independence. They came to Vinland in 1000 and kept up intercourse with America until 1476, the year before Columbus went to Iceland. England itself is more Scandinavian than Saxon. Mallet shows that it was two-thirds Scandinavian at the start, the Angles and Jutes having come from Denmark. During the greater part of 400 years England was in the hands of Danish and Norwegian Vikings who settled England, made its laws and mingled their blood with the Anglo-Saxons. The Normans who conquered

England in 1066 were Norsemen. Most of the English immigration to the United States has come from the Norwegian counties of England, just as most of the Irish immigration has come from the Norwegian element in Ireland, and most of the French stock in America has come from the Norwegian sections of France. The Norwegians came over with the Dutch in 1614 and later, and the first white child born in New York was a Norwegian lad. Wall Street was once owned by a Norwegian girl. The Norwegians took active part in the Revolutionary War and every subsequent war. 9% of the total Norwegian population enlisted in the Civil War against slavery; 6% of the Norwegians were enrolled as soldiers during the World War, while only 4% of the country at large was drafted. The Pilgrim Fathers themselves were mainly of Norwegian descent, and the Norwegian-Americans have full right to sing:

*"Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the Pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountain side  
Let freedom ring."*

As a rule the future is brightest for those people who have an inspiring history, who know their history and are proud of it. To him that hath shall be given. The Jews are more successful than the Negroes, largely because of their history. American history is mainly New England and accordingly New England has influenced America more than any other section or people. Norwegians could be more influential if their history were better known and if they themselves stood up more stoutly for their ideals. The Norwegian Centennial should make it plain to the Norwegian-Americans that they have a proud history, and it should inspire them to still nobler deeds. As Norwegian-Americans we should be able to face the future with a new pride, faith and prayer.

Anyone who knows anything reliable about the character and work of the Norwegian pioneers in America must respect them and be proud of their record. "Lives of great men all remind us that we can make our lives sublime." Very inspiring are the biographies of our great men, and the story of thousands of our fathers yet unwritten and unsung. But anyone who will listen to these stories will no doubt feel with Vinje:

*"That father could accomplish  
Deeds, which all ages grace,  
And such a record furnish  
Which time can not efface,  
Has oft sustained my spirit  
From dawn till day was done—  
A fortune 'tis of merit  
Of noble blood to come."*

In 1 Pet. 2:9 Peter, in addressing the Christian congregations, calls them a "peculiar people." It might be said that every nation is a peculiar people, called of God to perform a peculiar service for mankind. The Norwegian people in times past have been called to perform a great mission in the world—they have been "sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness, sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;" they have been the bearers of personal independence and liberty under

law, they have been champions of the home and the school, the church and the state. Mallet says that all the states of Europe "owe originally to the northern nations whatever liberty they now enjoy, either in their constitution or in the spirit of their governments; for the North was the forge of those instruments which broke the fetters manufactured in the South." The Centennial will renew and enforce the faith in our precious heritage.

\* \* \*

It is good to give thanks, and it is pleasant. We owe thanks to Norway, as well as to America, to America as well as to Norway. We owe thanks to our Norwegian pioneers and their neighbors of the many nationalities. We owe thanks to God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift. The Centennial will make people want to give thanks. The people will praise the Lord with hearts and hands and voices. Songs of thanksgiving will swell the breeze from thousands and millions of happy lips:

*"Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee."*

\* \* \*

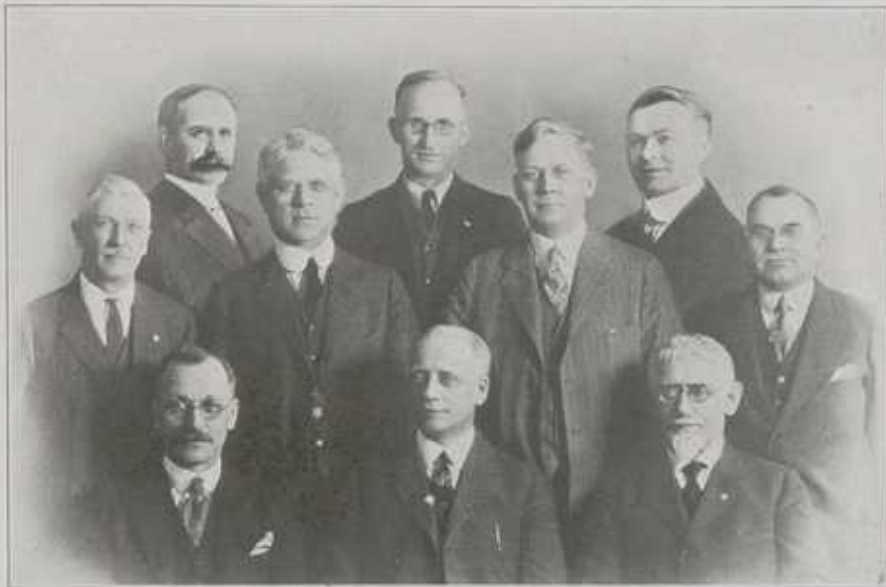
Like all centennials, this Norwegian-American Centennial will have immense value as a day of reckoning and of inspiration. Great people everywhere commemorate their great events by means of Centennials. America has had several such centennials within the memory of this generation — at Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Portland, Buffalo and New York, for example. In 1920 there was a Tricentennial celebration at Plymouth Rock. This Norwegian Centennial will in some measure do for the people of the Norwegian Mayflower that came over in 1625 what the celebration at Plymouth Rock did for the people of the English May-

flower that came over in 1620. It will be an event never to be forgotten. Prince and president will be there, bishops and governors, the high and the low in every calling, old and young. The past will be clarified, the present will be intensified, the future will be magnified. We shall again see Cleng Peerson, Lars Larson, Ole Johnson, Ole Heltvedt, Elling Eielsen, C. L. Clausen, J. W. C. Dietrichson, H. A. Stub, H. A. Preus, B. J. Muus, Paul Anderson, P. A. Rasmussen, Laur. Larsen, A. Wright, Porter Olson, Hans C. Heg, Klove, Reymert, John Anderson, Even Homme, Ole J. Glasøe, and thousands of other well-known pioneers as they lived and labored that we might gain wisdom and happiness, and that we might lead such a life that Norway should not be ashamed of us and America should not regret that she had invited us to her shores. The celebration will be like a river of living water, like the Mimer's Fountain of Norse mythology. Those who drank of this fountain got knowledge and wisdom. Odin himself, king of the gods of Norse mythology, came and begged a draught of this water, which he received, but he had to leave one of his eyes in pawn for it. Here at the Norwegian Centennial everyone is invited to come and drink, without money and without price. Tens of thousands will accept the gracious, the joyous invitation and come. They will go away refreshed, inspired, convinced that in the household of God the Norwegians are a peculiar people, and vowing to be true to their highest ideals. The Centennial will in no wise weaken their allegiance to America. Quite the contrary. And the Norwegian-Americans will sing as never before:

*"Our fathers' God, to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing:  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King."*

\* Prize Essay.





SUPREME BOARD, SONS OF NORWAY

*First row (sitting) from left: M. ROSEN, PAST PRESIDENT; T. O. GILBERT, PRESIDENT; L. STAVNEIM, SECRETARY.  
 Second row: L. O. ENGBLATH, TREASURER; J. N. BERG, ATTORNEY; L. A. ANDERSON, ACTUARY; O. EICHSEN, TRUSTEE.  
 Standing: OLAF I. ROVE, TRUSTEE; H. J. ANDERSON, TRUSTEE; ARNE RICHSEN, VICE PRESIDENT.*

The fraternal benefit society Sønner af Norge (Sons of Norway) had its foundation laid by a mutual benefit society which was organized in North Minneapolis on January 16, 1895, with 18 charter members. Three years later it was decided to establish a fraternal order as soon as three lodges had been organized. The third lodge was organized April 24, 1900, and on June 29, 1900, the first supreme lodge meeting was opened. The total membership of the three lodges was then 312. Since then the Order has had a steady growth. It has now some 220 lodges and a membership of 19,000. It has been admitted into 15 states and has besides some lodges in British Columbia and Alberta, Can. It has paid death benefits in the amount of 360,000 and some \$400,000 has been paid for sick benefit by the subordinate lodges. Sons of Norway writes life insurance in amounts from \$250 to \$10,000 on a single life. The insurance business is based on the American Mortality Table, and the valuation of its certificates as per Dec. 31, 1924, showed a reserve of 129.37%. Since 1918 both men and women of Norwegian birth and descent are admitted to membership. The assets of the society are at present some \$750,000.

## THE "BYGDELAYS" AND THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

DURING the planning for the Norse-American Centennial celebration, and more particularly within the last year or two, the question has frequently been raised: "Who originated the idea of celebrating the centenary of the beginning of Norse immigration to America?"

The identity of the individual who first made the suggestion is not definitely known, and possibly never will be, but the honor of making the initial proposal in anything like definite form undoubtedly belongs to "Stavangerlaget." The first authentic record in writing relative to a general celebration by Norse-Americans of the arrival on American soil of the first organized group of Norse men, women and children, which came from Norway in 1825 on the little sloop, "Restaurationen," (the "Mayflower of the North"), is found in the minutes of "Bygdelagenes Fællesraad," for 1915, as kept by the late Rev. L. P. Thorkveen, St. James, Minn., for many years secretary of this general council of the "Bygdelags."



Rev. L. P. Thorkveen

This "Fællesraad" or general council was formally organized at the West hotel, Minneapolis, Minn., on Nov. 17, 1916, and has met annually since, except in the year 1918, when most of the "Lags" as well as the joint council did not foregather because of the World War and the abnormal conditions then existing.

However, in the minutes of the proceedings of the general council, which met on Dec. 9, 1919, at the Manufacturers' Club, Minneapolis, is found the following significant statement (translated from the Norse):

"As regards the decision of Stavangerlaget to take the initiative in commemorating the historic fact that in 1925 it will be 100 years since Kleng Peerson\* came to America, and the request of this Lag that the other Lags appoint committees to make the necessary prepara-

tions for such celebration, the joint council of the Bygdelags recommends: That the various Bygdelags at their next annual meetings take this matter under consideration and that such committee be appointed by each."

This was part of a report by the program committee. It was amended to provide that a committee of five be named to confer with representatives of Stavangerlaget relative to the proposed Centennial celebration and to refer the general proposition to all the Bygdelags for consideration at their next annual meetings. As so amended the motion was carried unanimously and the following committee designated: Rev. L. P. Thorkveen, St. James, Minn. (Gudbrandsdalslaget), chairman; Prof. J. Tanner, Moorhead, Minn. (Romsdalslaget); Marius Hagen, Minneapolis (Solørlaget); N. N. Rønning, Minneapolis (Teledalaget), and A. M. Sundheim, Minneapolis (Valdres Samband).

These five men, together with Rt. Rev. C. J. Eastvold, Northfield, Minn., president of Stavangerlaget, who met with the others at the Odin Club, Minneapolis, on Jan. 14, 1920, may rightfully, therefore, be regarded as the originators of the Norse-American Centennial. Little was accomplished at this meeting, but at a subsequent meeting at the Odin club on April 6, 1920, the first definite steps toward planning the celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Norse immigration to America were taken. Present at this meeting were also the following Bygdelaag representatives: Bellesen, Rev. S. H. Njaa and Rev. P. Tangjerd, Stavangerlaget; Prof. O. E. Rølvaag, Nordlandslaget, and Prof. H. S. Hilleboe.

From that time until his death in 1923 Pastor Thorkveen, as secretary of the Centennial committee, was the dominating and guiding spirit in the progress of the plans for the Norse-American Centennial and his name and memory must ever be inseparably connected with this greatest undertaking of the descendants of the Norse Vikings in the New World. This wreath of sincere gratitude and appreciation is most willingly placed on his grave by his fellow-workers and by all Norse-Americans who know of his great and self-sacrificing labors in their common cause.

It is most fitting and proper, therefore, in view of the initiatory and continuing part played by the Bygdelags, that the day preceeding the Centennial celebration be given over to them for their annual meetings, namely, Saturday, June 6, 1925.

\*Note: The statement that Kleng Peerson came to America in 1825, presumably with the so-called "sloopers," is, of course, historically incorrect. He came to America in 1921, traveled quite extensively and returned to Norway in 1824.

# BYGDELAG-CONVENTIONS

Following is a list (as complete as information at hand makes possible) of the Bygdelags and their officers, and the buildings on the Minnesota State Fair Ground where they will hold their 1925 annual meetings:

Aakerslegten ..... Farm Boys' Camp	Pres.—Nils Aaker, Kenyon, Minn. Vice-Pres.—Knut Huseth, 2034 13th Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. Secy.—Albert Holmquist, Northfield, Minn. Treas.—Olaf Aaker, Kenyon, Minn.
Agderlaget ..... Grand Stand	Pres.—T. Tjornham, Hutton, N. Dak. Vice-Pres.—L. Kleppe, Joyce, Iowa.
Bergenslaget ..... Concessions Dept. Office	John O. Stenslal, 282 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
Godbrandsdalslaget ..... State Dept. Exhibit Bldg.	Pres.—M. Casper Johnson, Starbuck, Minn. Vice-Pres.—B. Johnson, 3817 Elliot Ave., Minneapolis. Treas.—M. A. Overlie, Benson, Minn. Secy.—Sam Jackson, St. James, Minn. Cor. Secy.—Elev O. Bakke, 2201 Oliver Ave. North, Minneapolis, Minn.
Hadelandslaget ..... State Dept. Exhibit Bldg.	Pres.—T. A. Whyby, Hudson, Wis. Vice-Pres.—Edward Bjerke, Sharon, N. Dak. Secy.—Louis Biegen, Hudson, Wis. Treas.—Hans C. Ryan, Moorhead, Minn.
Hallinglaget ..... Poultry Bldg.	Pres.—K. Lokensgaard, Edberg, Alta. Vice-Pres.—Thom Myking, Brinsmade, N. Dak. Secy.—Treas.—Ellen Ellenson, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
Hardangerlaget ..... S. W. Cor. Machinery Hall	Pres.—S. S. Tveit, Albert Lea, Minn. Vice-Pres.—Haldor Bly, St. Paul, Minn. Secy.—Nils Frevvik, Treas.—J. N. Jacobson, Hills, Minn.
Haugesundslaget ..... Concessions Dept. Office	Pres.—S. Helgesen, 1815 16th Ave. So., City. Vice-Pres.—L. B. Toft, 2203 Bloomington, City. Secy.—Dan Nagell, 625 Marquette, City. Treas.—S. S. Hogland, 2508 29th Ave. So., City. Fin. Secy.—Selmer Birkeland, 1809 16th Ave. S.
Hurdalslaget ..... N. E. Cor. Agricultural Bldg.	Pres.—L. Gullbekson, 611 Hamm Bldg., St. Paul. Vice-Pres.—J. A. Iverson, Eagle Grove, Iowa. Secy.—H. P. Larson, Viroqua, Wis. Treas.—C. L. Christenson, Ostrander, Minn.
Kongsberglaget ..... Hall No. 6, Bldg. 94	Pres.—H. P. Omholt, Sacred Heart, Minn. Vice-Pres.—John Halvorson, 2316 29th Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. Secy.—And. Stenseth, Albert Lea, Minn. Treas.—A. O. Lea, New Richland, Minn.
Landingslaget ..... Industrial Bldg. No. 2	Pres.—Ole O. Goplen, Audubon, Minn. Vice-Pres.—E. C. Landaas, New London, Minn. Secy.—Treas.—C. M. Pederson, Starbuck, Minn.
Mjosenlaget ..... School Exhibits Wing, Agricultural Bldg.	Pres.—Mathias J. Roine, London, Minn. Vice-Pres.—Richard Wick, Minneapolis, Minn. Secy.—Otto P. K. Hjerstad, Red Wing, Minn. Treas.—C. F. Hjerstad, Red Wing, Minn.
Nordfjordlaget ..... West Wing Agricultural Bldg.	Pres.—L. M. Gimmedstad, Orfordville, Wis. Vice-Pres.—J. A. Holvik, Moorhead, Minn. Secy.—Carl D. Kolset, Benson, Minn. Treas.—A. O. Gimmedstad, Belview, Minn.
Nordhordlandslaget ..... Industrial Bldg. No. 3	Pres.—E. O. Wamess, Aneta, N. Dak. Vice-Pres.—O. R. Sletten, Lake Mills, Ia. Secy.—Elias Laknes, Henry, S. Dak. Treas.—M. J. Viken, Dawson, Minn.
Numedalslaget ..... Hall 6, Bldg. 94	Pres.—R. G. Referson, Belview, Minn. Vice-Pres.—Louis O. Foss, Elbow Lake, Minn. Secy.—O. O. Enestvedt, Sacred Heart, Minn. Treas.—And. Knudson, Galesburg, N. Dak.
Oppdalslaget ..... Did not meet	Pres.—O. H. Vogtild, Everett, Wash. Vice-Pres.—K. K. Aalbu, Everett, Wash. Secy.—Treas.—Historian, E. H. Loe, Everett, Wash.
Oslolaget ..... T. C. Granite Co. Bldg.	Pres.—A. Sather, 2032 37th Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minn.
Osterdalslaget ..... N. W. Cor. Horticultural Bldg.	Pres.—N. T. Moen, Fergus Falls, Minn. Vice-Pres.—K. G. Nilsen, Osage, Ia. Amund Moen, Prairie Farm, Wis. Martin Strand, New Richmond, Wis. Secy.—Treas.—Knut Haugseth, 3249 20th Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn.
Ringerikslaget ..... S. E. Cor. Machinery Hall	Pres.—H. M. Heen, Adams, S. Dak. Vice-Pres.—J. T. Johnson, Fergus Falls, Minn. Secy.—Edward Lian, Fairdale, N. Dak. Treas.—Ole Christianson, Moorhead, Minn. Historian—O. S. Johnson, Spring Grove, Minn.
Romsdalslaget ..... S. W. Cor. Horticultural Bldg.	Pres.—J. Tanner. Vice-Pres.—John Wold, Minneapolis, Minn. Secy.—P. O. Hall, Carpio, N. Dak. Treas.—Wm. Blackseth, 721 Fisher Ave., Superior, Wis.
Nordlandslaget ..... Boys' and Girls' Club Bldg.	Pres.—H. H. Borgen, Duluth, Minn. Vice-Pres.—P. Bernhart, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. J. Jorgenson, Maynard, Minn. John Dahl, Hutton, N. Dak. Secy.—S. W. Davidson, 3621 Bryant Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. Treas.—L. Strauman, 3412 Columbus Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. Fin. Secy.—Annie Smedby, Northfield, Minn. Assist. Fin. Secy.—C. Grytting, Duluth, Minn.
Sæterdalslaget ..... S. E. Cor. Horticultural Bldg.	Pres.—Bjorgulv Bjornaran, Wanke, Minn. Vice-Pres.—M. A. Brattland, Aida, Minn. Secy.—Olaf Neset, Thief River Falls, Minn. Treas.—Arne Grundysson, Fisher, Minn.

Selbulaget .....	Pres.—P. P. Hovey, Atwater, Minn. Vice-Pres.—J. W. Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn. Secy.—O. H. Ugem, Foreston, Minn. Treas.—T. H. Eysen, Hayfield, Minn.
Smaalenslaget .....	Pres.—Olaf I. Rove, 218 Wis. St., Milwaukee. Vice-Pres.—J. A. Bergh, St. Paul, Minn. Secy.—Mrs. M. Rosness, St. Paul, Minn. Treas.—And. J. Snesrud, Kasson, Minn.
Sognslaget .....	Pres.—E. B. Hopperstad, Albert Lea, Minn. Vice-Pres.—L. C. Grundeland, 311 N. Peoria St., Chicago, Ill. Secy.—T. O. Osthus, 611 Hamm Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.
Solørlaget .....	Pres.—C. M. Berg, McIntosh, Minn. Vice-Pres.—Halvor Dahler, Kindred, N. Dak. Secy.—O. H. Haugen, Fergus Falls, Minn. Treas.—Hans Erickson, Buxton, N. Dak.
Søndfjærdslaget .....	Pres.—H. C. Eikenes, Overly, N. Dak. Vice-Pres.—L. S. Langedal, Tattle, N. Dak. Secy.—Olav Redal, Grand Forks, N. Dak. Treas.—O. Svådal, Starkweather, N. Dak.
Søndhordlandslaget .....	Pres.—T. J. Severson, Eagle Grove, Ia. Vice-Pres.—H. E. Okland, Miller, Iowa. Secy.—O. Ostrem, Jewell, Iowa. Treas.—H. N. Donbow, Story City, Ia.
Søndmørelaget .....	Pres.—Thos. Berstad, Milan, Minn. Vice-Pres.—Gustav Sautlanger, Ft. Ransom, S. D. Secy.—Treas.—Martin Scholl, Madison, Minn.
Stavangerlaget .....	Pres.—C. J. Eastvold, Northfield, Minn. Vice-Pres.—J. E. H. Akre, Shelly, Minn. Secy.—B. L. Bellesen, 314 Syndicate Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn. Treas.—S. O. Stenstad, Beresford, S. Dak.
Telelaget .....	Pres.—J. O. Sater, Fosston, Minn. Vice-Pres.—S. S. Urberg, Taylor, Wis. Secy.—Mrs. A. Leifson, Fargo, N. Dak. Treas.—E. Steadlen, Moorhead, Minn.
Totenlaget .....	Pres.—J. C. Gran, Spring Grove, Minn. Vice-Pres.—Haaken P. Hanson, Albert Lea, Minn. Secy.—Treas.—A. K. Hensvold, Hickson, N. Dak.
Valdris Samband .....	Pres.—J. E. Haugen, 87 Orin St. S. E., City. Vice-Pres.—And. Dale, 1294 E. Lake St., City. Secy.—Treas.—Olaf Rudt, City.
Trønderlaget .....	Pres.—M. S. Merager, Grand Forks, N. Dak. Vice-Pres.—Thos. Thompson. Secy.—Sigurd Alphonson. Treas.—Cato Johnson.
Viktualaget .....	H. H. Ockwig, 2111 Wash. Ave. No. Minneapolis, Minn.
Vosselaget .....	Pres.—R. A. Nestos, Bismarck, N. Dak. Vice-Pres.—L. W. Boe, Northfield, Minn. Secy.—K. A. Rene, 617 So. Brook St., Madison, Wis. Treas.—John Gilmue, 2224 Harseb St., Chicago, Ill.
Det Norsk Lutherske Landsforbund for Ungdom i Amerika .....	M. O. Wee, Como & Pierce St., St. Paul, Minn.
Nordmørlaget .....	Grand Stand
Modumslaget .....	Grand Stand
Norse-Canadians .....	Grand Stand
Daughters of Norway .....	Grand Stand
Sons of Norway .....	Yeomen Bldg.
I. O. G. T. .....	W. C. T. U. Bldg.
Order of Leif Ericson .....	Meeting place not decided
Nordmandsforbundet and Augsburg Publishing House .....	Minnesota Editorial Ass'n Bldg.

PROGRAM

*Norse-American Centennial*

JUNE SIXTH to NINTH

1925

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*Commemorating first  
Norse Immigration to  
the United States in  
1825 with the Sloop  
"Restaurationen"*

---

STATE FAIR GROUNDS

*Twin Cities, Minnesota*

## THE PIONEER

D. G. RISTAD

*I love this mighty land of God,—  
My father's home and mine,—  
Where honest labor proudly trod  
In peaceful battle-line,  
From Maine and to the Golden Gate  
Is flung our free and fair estate  
Upon the shining sod.*

*No better boon in manhood sheer  
Ennobled Tyre and Rome,  
Than owned the sovereign pioneer  
Who made this land our home.  
A hero of the living soil  
He crowned with honor human toil  
Beneath the mundane dome.*

*By faith the Pilgrim Fathers fought  
To win our nation's right.  
The pioneer in silence wrought  
The marrow of our might;  
He was our fortune's earnest pledge,  
The guardian of our heritage,  
The foremost in the fight.*

*Unmoved by fear, unspoiled by hoard,  
Unbeaten at the goal,  
He humbly yielded to the Lord  
The homage of his soul.  
A comrade of the woods and plain  
He turned his voice to their refrain  
The Maker to extol.*

*His work is done; his day is spent;  
He rests among his peers.  
A nation is his monument,  
His requiem,—our cheers.  
But still in cottage, town and mar.,  
In all we are in mind and heart,  
He lives through countless years.*





# PROGRAM

## DIVINE FESTAL SERVICES

*Sunday Forenoon*

JUNE SEVENTH, 1925

HIPPODROME

*Ten O'Clock*

In the Norse Language

PAST. B. E. BERGESEN, LEDER

### PRELUDIUM

O store Gud, vi lover dig,  
vi sier tak evindelig!  
Al verden sander det og vet,  
at du er Gud av evighet.

Al engles hop og himles hær,  
lov, tak og pris for tronen bær,  
og sangen av serafim gaar  
saa langt som himlens hvælving naar.

Du hellig, hellig, hellig er,  
Gud Sebaot, vor Herre kjær,  
og fuld er himlen al og jord  
utav din guddoms lære stor.

Profeter og apostler glad  
og dine vidner, rad paa rad,  
de staar for dig i livsens sal  
med takkesang i tusental.

Din kristenhet paa denne jord  
bekjender dig og paa dig tror,  
som Faderen av evighet,  
hvis magt ei maal og ende vet.

Og Sønnen, den enbaarne, som  
fra dig til verdens frelse kom,  
samt Helligaand, vor trøster sand,  
høilover over alle land.

INDGANGSBØN - - - - - Past. M. Norstad

ALTERTJENESTE - - - - - Past. C. N. Engelstad

SYNDSBEKJENDELSE

ABSOLUTION

KOLLEKT

EPISTEL: Kol. 3, 16—17

La Kristi ord bo rikelig hos eder, saa I lærer og formaner hverandre i al visdom med salmer og lovsanger og aandelige viser, og synger yndig i eders hjerter for Gud, og alt hvad I gjør i ord eller gjerning, gjør det alt i den Herre Jesu navn, takkende Gud Fader ved ham!

KORSANG: "Kirken den er et gammelt hus"

DAGENS TEKST: Salme 90, 1—2, 16—17

Herre! Du har været os en bolig fra slegt til slegt. Før bjergene blev til, og du skapte jorden og jorderike, ja fra evighet til evighet er du, o Gud. La din gjerning aubenhæres for dine tjenere og din herlighet over deres barn! Og Herrens, vor Guds, liflighet være over os, og vore hænder gjerning fremme du for os, ja, vore hænder gjerning, den fremme du!

TROESBEKJENDELSEN (av alle)

Vor Gud han er saa fast en borg,  
han er vort skjold og verge,  
han hjælper os av nød og sorg,  
og vet os vel at berge.  
Vor gamle fiende haard  
til strid imot os staar,  
stor magt og arge list  
han brøker mot os vist,  
paa jord er ei hans like.

Vor egen magt er intet værd,  
vi vare snart nedhugne,  
men en gaar frem i denne færd,  
for ham maa alting bugne.  
Vil du hans navn faa visst?  
Han heter Jesus Krist,  
den høvding for Guds hær,  
i ham kun frelse er,  
han marken skal beholde.

Om verden fuld av djævla var,  
som vilde os opsluke,  
vi frygter ei, vi med os har  
den mand som dem kan truce;  
er verdens fyrste vred  
og vil os støte ned,  
han ingenting formaar,  
fordi alt dømt han gaar,  
et Guds ord kan ham binde.

Det ord de skal vel late staa  
og utak dertil have,  
ti Gud han vil selv med os gaa  
alt med sin Aand og gave;  
og tager de vort liv,  
gods, ære, barn og viv,  
la fare hen, la gaa!  
De kan ei mere faa,  
Guds rike vi beholder.

FESTPRÆKEN - - - - - *Dr. H. G. Stub*  
FORMAND FOR "DEN NORSK LUTHERSKE KIRKE"

KIRKEBØNNEN

FADERVOR (av alle)

KORSANG: "Lover den Herre"

HILSEN FRA NORGES KIRKE - - - - - *Biskop Johan Lunde*

ALBERTJENESTE

Naar Jesus kommer ind i landet  
og fanger folket med sin magt,  
og alle hjerter haver sandet  
hans ord og gjort med ham sin pagt,  
da blir der lystelig at bo  
i Herrens fred og stille ro.

Naar Jesus kommer — kjært at sige,  
der blir et ganske andet liv,  
et sandt og elskelig Guds rige  
hos smaa og store, mand og viv,  
og kjærlighet og himlens haab  
alt ved Guds aand og ord og daab.

UTGANGSBØN

SANG AV "ST. OLAF COLLEGE CHORAL SOCIETY"

PROF. F. MELIUS CHRISTIANSEN, LEDER

MUSIK VED "LUTHER COLLEGE CONCERT BAND"

PROF. CARLO A. SPERATI, LEDER

GRAND STAND

*Ten O'Clock*

In the Norse Language

PAST. H. K. MADSEN, LEDER

PRELUDIUM

Lover den Herre, den mægtige konge med  
 ære,  
 lov ham, min sjæl, og la det din forlystelse  
 være!  
 Stem op en sang,  
 salter og harpe gi klang,  
 Syng for Gud Herren den kjære!

Lover den Herre, som al ting saa herlig  
 regjerer,  
 han som dig løfter som ønen paa vinger  
 og bærer,  
 lader dig faa  
 mer end du kunde forstaa,  
 bedre end hjertet begjærer!

Lov da den Herre, min sjæl, og hvad i mig mon være,  
 alt som har aande ophøje hans store navns ære!  
 Han er dig god,  
 ak gjør ham aldrig imot!  
 Amen, Han selv dig det lære!

BØN - - - - - *Prof. L. Pedersen*

ANDAGT - - - - - *Past. O. Larsen*

KORSANG: "Den store, hvite flok"

FESTPRÆKEN - - - - - *Past. H. K. Madsen*

O tænk naar engang samles skal  
 de frelstes menighed  
 av alle folkeslegters tal  
 :: i himlens herlighed. ::

O tænk naar Herrens vidneher,  
 hans tjenere paa jord,  
 de millioner møter der  
 :: som hørte deres ord! ::

O tænk dog hvilken jubellyd —  
 en strøm av kjærlighet!  
 Tænk hvilken tak og pris og fryd  
 :: og salighet og fred! ::

O Gud, hvad er din naade stor!  
 Os alle til dig drag,  
 at vi kan staa blandt frelstes kor.  
 :: paa denne høitidsdag! ::

*Eleven O'Clock*

In the English Language

REV. O. H. SLETTEN, LEADER

PRELUDE

A mighty fortress is our God,  
 A trusty shield and weapon;  
 Our help is He in all our need,  
 Our stay, whate'er doth happen;  
 For still our ancient foe  
 Doth seek to work us woe:  
 Strong mail of craft and power  
 He weareth in this hour:  
 On earth is not his equal.

Stood we alone in our own might,  
 Our striving would be losing;  
 For us the one true Man doth fight,  
 The Man of God's own choosing,  
 Who is this chosen One?  
 'Tis Jesus Christ, the Son,  
 The Lord of hosts, 'tis He  
 Who wins the victory  
 In every field of battle.

And were the world with devils filled,  
 All watching to devour us,  
 Our souls to fear we need not yield,  
 They cannot overpower us;  
 Their dreaded prince no more  
 Can harm us as of yore;  
 His rage we can endure:  
 For lo! his doom is sure,  
 A word shall overthrow him.

Still must they leave God's word its might  
 For which no thanks they merit;  
 Still is He with us in the fight,  
 With His good gifts and Spirit,  
 And should they, in the strife,  
 Take kindred, goods, and life,  
 We freely let them go,  
 They profit not the foe;  
 With us remains the kingdom.

LITURGICAL SERVICE - - - - - *Dr. L. W. Boe*



*Right Rev. Johan Peter Lunde, Bishop of Oslo*

CHOIR: "Beautiful Savior"

FESTAL SERMON - - - - - *Rev. O. H. Stetten*

God bless our native land!  
Firm may she ever stand,  
Through storm and night;  
When the wild tempests rave,  
Ruler of wind and wave,  
Do Thou our country save  
By Thy great might.

For her our prayer shall rise  
To God above the skies;  
On Him we wait:  
Thou who art ever nigh,  
Guarding with watchful eye,  
To Thee aloud we cry,  
God save the state!

HILSEN FRA KIRKEN I NORGE - - - - - *Biskop Johan Lunde*

INTRODUCERT VED FORMAND E. E. GYNILD

POSTLUDE

SONGS BY THE NORWEGIAN SINGERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

PROF. FRED. WICK, DIRECTOR

MUSIC BY ST. OLAF COLLEGE BAND

PROF. J. ARNDT BERGHE, CONDUCTOR

### HORTICULTURAL BUILDING

*Ten-Thirty O'Clock*

Arranged by the Young People's Luther League

THIRD TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

PROF. MARTIN HEGLAND, PH. D., LEADER

PRAYER - - - - - *Rev. E. Rasmussen*

HYMN

ANTHEM - - - - - *Our Savior's Church Choir, Omaha, Neb.*

E. A. CARLSON, DIRECTOR

LITURGICAL SERVICE - - - - - *Rev. H. C. Smeby*

ANTHEM - - - - - *Concordia College Choir*

HERMAN W. MONSON, DIRECTOR

FESTAL SERMON - - - - - *Rev. J. A. Aasgaard, D. D.*

ANTHEM - - - - - *Joint Church Choruses, Grand Forks, N. D.*

MRS. DAVID STØVE, DIRECTOR

LITURGICAL SERVICE

HYMN

CLOSING PRAYER

MUSIC BY A BRASS QUARTETTE FROM LUTHER COLLEGE

FRANKLIN HORSTMEIER AT THE PIANO



*Lars Oftedal*  
*Member of Cabinet*



*W. Morgenstjerne*  
*Representing Normandsforbundet*



*C. J. Hambro*  
*Member of Storting*



*Thoralf Pryser*  
*President Press Association of Norway*

*Sunday Afternoon*  
**NORSE GUESTS' SESSION**  
 GRAND STAND  
*Two O'Clock*  
 In the Norse Language

PAST. R. E. BERGSEN, LEDER

MUSIK

"JA VI ELSKER DETTE LANDET" - - - - - *Forsamlingen*

VELKOMSTHILSEN - - - - - *Prof. Gisle Bothue*

HUNDREDAARSFESTENS STYRES FORMAND

STATENS VELKOMSTHILSEN - - - *Guvørnør Theodore Christianson*

PROLOG - - - - - *M. B. Landstad*

LÆST AV ERLING DRANGSHOLT

TALE - - - - - *Biskop Johan Lunde*

KORSANG

HILSENER FRA NORGES REPRESENTANTER

INTRODUCERT VED KONSUL E. H. HØRE

H. M. Kong Haakon VII - - - - - *Minister H. Bryn*

Regjeringen - - - - - *L. Oftedal*

Stortinget - - - - - *C. J. Hambro*

Universitetet - - - - - *Rektor Fredrik Stang*

EN BØN FOR NORGE I SANG - - - - - *Forsamlingen*

Gud signe vaart dyre fedraland  
 og lat det som hagen bløma!  
 Lat lysa din fred fraa fjell til strand  
 og vetter fyr vaarsol røma!  
 Lat folket som brøder saman bu,  
 som kristne det kan seg søma!

Vaart heimland i myrker lenge laug,  
 og vankunna ljøset gjøymde.  
 Men Gud du i naade til oss saag,  
 din kjærleik oss ikkje gløymde:  
 Du sende ditt ord til Noregs fjell,  
 og ljøs yver landet strøymde.

Og Noreg det ligg vel langt i nord,  
 og vetteren varer lenge:  
 men ljøset og livet i ditt ord  
 det ingen kann setja stenge.  
 Um fjellet er høgt og dalen trong,  
 dit ord heve daa sitt gienge.

No er det i Noreg atter dag  
 med vaarsol og song i skogen.  
 Um sædet enn gror paa ymist lag,  
 det brydder daa etter plogen.  
 So signe daa Gud det gode saad,  
 til groten ein gong er mogen!

HILSENER FRA NORGE

Norges kvinder - - - - - *Betsy Kjellsberg*

Normandsforbundet - - - - - *W. Morgenstjerne*

Forfatterforeningen - - - - - *Nils Collett Vogt*

Presseforeningen - - - - - *T. Pryser*

KORSANG

HILSENER VED REPRESENTANTER

HVIS NAVN IKKE VAR ANGIT FOR PROGRAMMETS TRYKNING

SVARTALE - - - - - *Dommer Trygve O. Gilbert*

"SØNNER AV NORGE'S" NATIONALFORMAND

KORSANG

KORSANG AV DET BLANDEDE AKADEMISKE KOR FRA NORGE

ALFRED RUSS, DIRIGENT

MUSIK VED LUTHER COLLEGE CONCERT BAND

PROF. CARLO A. SPERATI, LEDER



*The Academic Mixed Chorus from Norway*



*Sunday Evening*  
**CONCERT**  
 HIPPODROME  
*Eight O'Clock*

HALLVARD ASKELAND IN CHARGE

MUSIC - - - - - *St. Olaf College Band*  
 PROF. J. ARNDT BERGH, CONDUCTOR

SONGS - - - - - *Augsburg Seminary Glee Club*  
 PROF. OPSETH, DIRECTOR

SONGS - - - - - *Gertrude Boe Overby*

SONGS - - - - - *The Academic Mixed Choir of Norway*  
 ALFRED RUSS, DIRECTOR

POEM: "Norway to America" - - - - - *Henrik Wergeland*  
 READ BY PROF. JULIUS E. OLSON, IN ORIGINAL TRANSLATION

THE CHALET GIRL'S SUNDAY - - - - - *Ole Bull*  
 NILS REIN, VIOLINIST

ADDRESS - - - - - *Nils Collett Vogt*  
 PRESIDENT OF THE AUTHORS' SOCIETY OF NORWAY

"OPEN THE GATES" - - - - - *Carsten Thorwald Woll*  
 ESTHER WOLL, ACCOMPANIST

THE NORSE CENTENNIAL CANTATA  
 TEXT BY S. O. MØST, MUSIC BY J. RODE JACOBSEN  
 SUNG BY MEMBERS OF ST. OLAF GLEE CLUB AND OTHER MALE CHORUSES  
 PROF. D. A. TJØMSLAND, DIRECTOR

STAR SPANGLED BANNER  
 THE FLAG WITHOUT A STAIN - - - - - *C. A. White*  
 NAAR FJORDENE BLAANER - - - - - *Alfred Paulson*  
 NORWEGIAN SINGERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
 PROF. FREDERICK WICK, DIRECTOR

LANDKJENDING - - - - - *Grieg*  
 NORWEGIAN SINGERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
 OTTO CLAUSEN IN THE SOLO  
 ACCOMPANIMENT BY ST. OLAF COLLEGE BAND  
 PROF. FREDERICK WICK, DIRECTOR

MUSIC - - - - - *St. Olaf College Band*

# JUBILÆUMS KANTATE

S. O. MOST

Musik av J. RODE JACOBSEN

*Solo:*

Mindet om landet som Leif hadde fundet,  
var i aarhundreders løp næsten svundet,  
vaktes av forsynet atter tillive—  
landet for nordmænd et hjem skulde blive.

*Kor:*

Med utfærdslust i ungdoms aar  
vi søkte for os bedre kaar,  
vi kom fra Norges fjeld og fjord  
som odelsmænd til Vinlands jord.  
Og landet fandt vi godt og stort,  
vi bygget hjem, det land er vort,  
og under stjernelagets folder  
vi vakt om landets frihet holder.

*Recitativ:*

Mindes de mænd som gik foran  
og ryddet den første bygd.

*Solo:*

Solgangsveir gaar over Norden,  
kysten laa i hvalig dis,  
og ret ut Stavangerfjorden  
stuar en slup for kveldens bris.  
Havet laa i sommerhvile  
da den stak i vest sin stavn,  
fjorten aker saa man ile  
før den naadde New Yorks havn.

*Kvartet:*

Sluppens færd var dristig daad,  
nhøst for saa liten haad—  
frem til Vestens folkemøde  
var den Norges førstegrøde.

*Kor:*

Dette hundredaarig' minde  
lyser over tak og tinde  
som et gyldent solglad,  
Tiden var i fredens lune,  
da vi ristet første rune  
paa vort nye sagablad.

*Recitativ:*

Nybygget ved Køndall stod prøven,  
der ryddet vi første grund.

*Solo:*

Da vaagnede brat vor utfærdslust,  
den slumret i søkler lange;  
en nyfødt frihet gav mod i bryst  
og haab gjennom tider trange.  
At odle sig gaard i Tjerne Vest  
blev maalet for mange, mange.

*Kvartet:*

Der ligger de store vidder  
med deiligste akerland,  
de laa der fra atildstider  
og ventet sin rydningsmand.

*Kor:*

Der gaar mot vest et folketog,  
som ut fra fædrehjemmet drog,  
en fredens hær med haab og tro

paa fremmed sted vil sette bo.  
De støvnet over viddens frem  
og fandt paa veien sig et hjem.  
Ved sjøens bredd, ved elveleie,  
der tok vi Vinlands jord i cie.

*Recitativ:*

Gud som førte sit folk til forjættelsens lande,  
han førte os frem til de frodige steder.

*Solo:*

Her blev mandemodet prøvet  
i den første rydningstid,  
her blev fredens stordaad øvet  
i et daglig slæp og slid;  
vidden laa i urtids øde,  
bød kun savn og strenge kaar,  
lovet dog en gylden grøde  
efter slitet tunge aar.

*Kor:*

Det lysnet i skogen hvor hyttene stod  
og prærrien lagdes i furer,  
da livsmodet grodde og atter slog rod  
løsevet fra hjemlandets urer,  
da hindredes savnet, da stilnedes tvil  
og tørredes taarefyldt øie,  
da lagde sig atter om munden et smil  
med tak til vor Gud i det høie.

*Solo:*

Saa randt da aandens tider  
med daab og nødversbord, —  
hvor dødens engel skrider,  
kom trøst ved Herrens ord.

*Kvartet:*

Vi mindes vel og hædre  
de djerve rydningsmænd,  
vor kirkes første fødte,  
der kom til nybygt grønd.

*Kor:*

Rikelig Herren velsignet vort virke,  
slegt efter slegt skal ophøje hans navn,  
som blandt vort folk vilde bygge sin kirke  
midt under rydningens trængsler og savn.  
Fri i sin fylde som brusende elv,  
lovsang skal stige mot huede hvælv.

*Solo:*

Rydningstidens mørke minder  
glider ut i tidens strøm,  
dukker op, men atter svinder  
fra vort syn som halvglemte drøm.  
Nu er solklar dag oprunden,  
viddens vildhet overvunden,  
kronet er haabet fra rydningens gry.

*Kvartet:*

Lover Gud Herren og giver ham ære,  
som har os ledet med naaderik haand,  
han gav os kraften til byrden at bære,  
han stod os nær med sit ord og sin aand.  
Hosianna! Du Davids søn, Halleluja!  
Han stod os nær med sit ord og sin aand.  
Æren er Guds i det høie.

NOTE—The words and music for this Cantata were written by Mr. Most and composed by Mr. Jacobsen, who won first prizes in competition with many others. The Cantata will be sung at the centennial celebration.

CONCERT  
GRAND STAND  
*Eight O'Clock*

A. C. VILDAN IN CHARGE

MUSIC - - - - - *Luther College Concert Band*

PROF. CARLO A. SPERATI, DIRECTOR

THE NORSE CENTENNIAL CANTATA

TEXT BY S. O. MØST, MUSIC BY J. RØDE JACOBSEN

SUNG BY MEMBERS OF ST. OLAV GLEE CLUB AND OTHER MALE CHORUSES

PROF. D. A. TJØMSLAND, DIRECTOR

SONGS - - - - - *Dikka Bothne*

SONGS - - - - - *Augustana College Choir*

PROF. CARL A. YOUNGDAHL, DIRECTOR

MUSIC - - - - - *Luther College Concert Band*

SONGS - - - - - *The Academic Mixed Choir of Norway*

ADDRESS: "The Norse-American Woman" - *Hanna Astrup Larsen*

LITERARY SECRETARY, AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

SONGS - - - - - *Waldorf College Choir*

PROF. OSCAR LYDERS, DIRECTOR

SONGS - - - - - *C. N. Engelstad*

SONGS - - - - - *Concordia College Choir*

PROF. HERMAN W. MONSON, DIRECTOR

MUSIC - - - - - *Luther College Concert Band*

*Monday Forenoon*

JUNE EIGHTH, 1925

NORSE SESSION

HIPPODROME

*Nine-Thirty O'Clock*

WALDEMAR ÅGER, ØRØSTYRER

INTRODURET AV LAURA BRATAGER

SANG - - - - - *Concordia College Choir*

PROF. HERMAN W. MONSON, LEDER

FEMTEN-MINUT-TALER

DET NORSKE FOLK - - - - - *L. Østedal*

FÆDRENEARVEN - - - - - *Prof. O. E. Rølvaag*

SANG - - - - - *A. J. Bøe*

## THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL MEDAL AND STAMPS

**N**EVER before in the history of the United States has the celebration of an historic event been so uniquely and signally honored by the American Government as has the Norse-American Centennial.

Other celebrations commemorating historic events have been honored and dignified by the presence of the nation's chief executive, just as the Norse-American Centennial will be; but never before has the Congress of the United States authorized the striking of a medal commemorating an event in history, as it did for the Norse-American Centennial, and never before did the Post Office Department issue commemorative stamps in two colors.

The Norse-American Centennial, therefore, sets an epoch-making precedent in United States governmental history in no less than two noteworthy respects.

The commemorative Centennial medal, the minting of 40,000 of which was authorized by Congress, is of silver of the same quality as our silver coins, octagonal in shape and approximately the same size as the 50-cent piece. The medal was designed by James Earl Frazier, former member of the Federal Fine Arts Commission, and designer of several other historic medals, including the Roosevelt Award medal, the Navy Distinguished Service medal and the so-called "Buffalo" nickel.

The Centennial medal bears on one side a design showing a Viking chieftain setting foot on American soil, with a Viking ship in the background, and bears the inscription: "Norse-American Centennial, 1825-1925." On the reverse is shown a Viking ship under full sail and underneath it appears "A. D. 1000," the year of Leif Eiriksson's discovery of America, also the inscription: "Authorized by Congress of the United States." The true significance of this is so apparent as to need no comment.

The Post Office Department has issued two Norse-American Centennial postage stamps, each in two colors, as already noted, the two-cent denomination in red and black, bearing a design of the sloop, "Restaurationen," while the five-cent denomination is in blue and black, bearing a design of the Viking ship.

It is interesting to note and worthy of being inscribed in the Centennial records that the Post Office Department designated the following cities for the initial sale of the Centennial stamps on May 18, 1925 (May 17, Norway's Independence Day, falling on Sunday):

Washington, D. C., the nation's capital; Chicago, Ill., the city with the largest Norse-American population; Minneapolis and St. Paul, where the Centennial is celebrated; Decorah, Iowa, home of Luther College, oldest Norse-American college; Northfield, Minn., home of St. Olaf College, the largest Norse-American college, and Benson, Minn., the home of Congressman O. J. Kvale, who introduced the bill in Congress authorizing issuance of the special stamps.



These medals will be on sale during the Celebration at official booths on the State Fair Grounds

GLIMT FRA NYBYGGERLIVET	- - - - -	<i>Past. Asle Knutsen</i>
ET BLIK PAA NORDMÆNDENES HISTORIE I AMERIKA		<i>Past. L. M. Gimmestad</i>
SANG	- - - - -	<i>Concordia College Choir</i>
NORDMANDSFORBUNDET	- - - - -	<i>W. Morgenstjerne</i>
BRODESKAPSFØRENINGER	- - - - -	<i>L. Stavnheim</i>
SANG	- - - - -	<i>Alvin Snesrud</i>
NORSKE HJEM	- - - - -	<i>Past. T. O. Tolo</i>
PRESTEHJEMMETS PLADS I VORT FOLKELIV	-	<i>Ola Johann Saervold</i>
SANG	- - - - -	<i>Concordia College Choir</i>

INTRODUKTION AV ÆTTLINGER AV SLUPPEFOLKET

GRAND STAND

*Nine-Thirty O'Clock*

HON. N. T. MOEN, CHAIRMAN  
INTRODUCED BY REV. H. K. MADSEN

FIFTEEN-MINUTE-ADDRESSES

SONGS	- - - - -	<i>Waldorf College Choir</i>
		<small>PROF. OSCAR LYDERS, DIRECTOR</small>
CLENG PEERSON	- - - - -	<i>Prof. Theodore C. Blegen</i>
THE SLOOPERS	- - - - -	<i>Prof. O. M. Norlie</i>
SONGS	- - - - -	<i>Henry Houghlum</i>
MY MOTHER, THE SLOOP BABY	- - - - -	<i>Jane S. Atwater</i>
SLOOP DAYS	- - - - -	<i>Rev. John L. Atwater</i>
SONGS	- - - - -	<i>Ragna, Anna Marie, and O. Ottersen</i>
THE PIONEER PHYSICIAN	- - - - -	<i>Dr. Carl D. Kolset</i>
THE PIONEER PASTOR	- - - - -	<i>Rt. Rev. I. D. Ylvisaker</i>
SONGS	- - - - -	<i>Waldorf College Choir</i>
HOW WE BECAME AMERICANS	- - - - -	<i>Rev. J. O. Hall</i>
GREETINGS FROM PENNSYLVANIA	- - - - -	<i>Rev. J. C. Roseland</i>

REPRESENTING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION OF 1926

NORSE-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*St. Louis County Building, Ten O'Clock*



Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul

*Monday Afternoon*

*Two O'Clock*

GRAND STAND

- MUSIC - - - - - *Luther College Concert Band*  
PROF. CARLO A. SPERATI, CONDUCTOR
- FLAG DISPLAY - - - - - *St. Paul Public School Children*  
MRS. JOHN LEE, DIRECTOR
- SONG ACCOMPANIMENT - - - *Minneapolis High School Glee Clubs*  
PROF. T. P. GIDDINGS, DIRECTOR

PRESIDENTIAL SESSION

*Two-Thirty O'Clock*

HON. HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, CHAIRMAN

- "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" - - - - *The United States Marine Band*  
CAPT. WILLIAM H. SANTELMANN, DIRECTOR
- INVOCATION - - - - - *Rev. B. E. Bergesen*  
CHAIRMAN PROGRAM COMMITTEE
- INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT - - *Governor Theo. Christianson*
- STAR SPANGLED BANNER - - *Led by Luther College Concert Band*

THE ADDRESS BY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CALVIN COOLIDGE

- AMERICA - - - - - *Led by St. Olaf College Band*
- RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL  
*Prof. Gisle Bothne*  
PRESIDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- MUSIC - - - - - *The United States Marine Band*  
CAPT. WILLIAM H. SANTELMANN, DIRECTOR
- GREETINGS FROM H. M. KING HAARON VII  
TO PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE - - - - *H. Bryn*  
MINISTER FROM NORWAY TO THE UNITED STATES
- GREETINGS FROM THE DOMINION OF CANADA - *Hon. Thomas H. Johnson*  
REPRESENTING THE GOVERNER GENERAL, LORD BYNG
- ADDRESS - - - - - *Hon. Frank B. Kellogg*  
SECRETARY OF STATE
- RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OF NORSE DESCENT  
*Hon. Peter Norbeck*  
UNITED STATES SENATOR
- CLOSING REMARKS - - - - - *Hon. J. A. O. Preus*  
FORMER GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA
- MUSIC - - - - - *St. Olaf College Band*  
J. ARNDT BERGH, CONDUCTOR

THE SERVICES OF THE MARINE BAND HAVE BEEN PROCURED THROUGH THE COURTESY OF  
THE NORTHWEST INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION

# NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

## General Organization

GISLE BOTHNE, *President*, Minneapolis  
N. T. MOEN, *1st Vice-President*, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
A. C. FLOAN, *2nd Vice-President*, St. Paul  
S. H. HOLSTAD, *Managing Director*, Minneapolis

J. A. HOLVIK, *Secretary*, Moorhead, Minn.  
TRYVE OAS, *Treasurer*, Minneapolis  
A. URLAND, *Counsel*, Minneapolis

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

B. E. BERGSEN, *Chairman*, Minneapolis  
H. ASKELAND, *Secretary*, Minneapolis  
CARL D. KOLSET, *Saunder*, Minn.  
O. H. SLETTE, *Minneapolis*  
H. K. MAISEN, *Minneapolis*

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

JOS. G. NOBY, *Chairman*, Minneapolis  
OSCAR J. TITORPE, *Minneapolis*  
O. I. HERTSGAARD, *Minneapolis*

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

E. G. QUAMME, *Chairman*, St. Paul  
L. W. GORDIE, *Vice-Chairman*, Minneapolis

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

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#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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#### COMMITTEE ON EXHIBITS

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### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

#### STATE CHAIRMEN

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MRS. EMELINE HOVERSTA, *Los Angeles, Calif.*  
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MRS. GEO. GRANSETH, *Bode, Ia.*  
DR. JUDITH JACOBS, *Emporia, Kans.*  
MRS. IGNATIUS BJORLIE, *Frederick, Md.*  
MRS. B. GULMYDEN, *Maltapan, Mass.*  
MRS. N. B. URSIN, *Suttons Bay, Mich.*  
MRS. MABEL JOHNSON LELAND, *Kenyon, Minn.*  
MRS. A. L. MORRIS, *Jackson, Miss.*  
MRS. P. L. STAYSETH, *St. Louis, Mo.*  
MRS. O. M. GRIMSRY, *Missoula, Mont.*  
MRS. R. E. ULVILDEN, *Omaha, Neb.*  
MRS. J. R. TETLIE, *Virginia City, Nev.*  
MRS. ANNA B. LARSON, *Bergen, N. J.*  
MRS. A. M. KNUYSON, *Albuquerque, N. Mex.*  
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MRS. LOUIS LARSON, *St. Augustine, Florida*  
MRS. G. HOWARD MOSEY, *Evanston, Wyo.*



*Monday Evening*  
**CENTENNIAL OFFICIAL SESSION**  
 GRAND STAND  
*Seven-Thirty O'Clock*

HON. O. J. KVALE, CHAIRMAN  
 INTRODUCED BY PAULINE FARSETH, PRESIDENT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| MUSIC   | - - - - -   | <i>St. Olaf College Band</i>               |
|   | <small>PROF. J. ARNDT BERGHE, CONDUCTOR</small>                           |  |
| EXERCISES   | - - - - -   | <i>"Daughters of Norway" Drill Team</i>    |
|   | <small>MRS. A. C. FLOAN, DIRECTOR</small>                                 |  |
| STAR SPANGLED BANNER  | - - - - -   | <i>Norwegian Singers' Ass'n of America</i> |
|   | <small>PROF. FRED. WICK, DIRECTOR</small>                                 |  |
| OFFICIAL GREETINGS FROM THE TWIN CITIES   | - - - - -   |  |
|   | <i>Mayor Arthur Nelson of St. Paul</i>                                    |  |
|   | <i>Mayor George E. Leach of Minneapolis</i>                               |  |
| ADDRESS   | - - - - -   | <i>Hon. Henrik Shipstead</i>               |
|   | <small>UNITED STATES SENATOR</small>                                      |  |
| OFFICIAL GREETINGS FROM CANADA  | - - - - -   |  |
| Manitoba  | - - - - -   | <i>Premier J. Bracken</i>                  |
| British Columbia  | - - - - -   | <i>Consul C. J. Bjorke</i>                 |
| CANADIAN NATIONAL AIR   | - - - - -   | <i>St. Olaf College Band</i>               |
| PRESENTATION OF GREETINGS FROM THE STARTING OF NORWAY TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA | - - - - -   | <i>C. J. Hambro</i>                        |
| GREETINGS FROM GOVERNORS  | - - - - -   |  |
| Gov. Al Smith of New York   | - - - - -   | <i>Maj. Gen. C. W. Berry</i>               |
| Gov. Len Small of Illinois  | - - - - -   | <i>N. A. Grevstad</i>                      |
| AMERICAN GOVERNORS OF NORSE DESCENT   | - - - - -   |  |
| Theodore Christiansen, Minnesota  | A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota  |  |
| Henry L. Whitfield, Mississippi   | Carl Gunderson, South Dakota  |  |
| J. E. Erickson, Montana   | John J. Blaine, Wisconsin   |  |
| LANDKJENDING (Landsighting)   | - - - - -   | <i>Grieg</i>                               |
|   | <small>NORWEGIAN SINGERS' ASSOCIATION, PROF. FRED. WICK, DIRECTOR</small> |  |
|   | <small>JOHN NYBORG, SOLOIST</small>                                       |  |
| GREETINGS FROM MEMBERS OF UNITED STATES CONGRESS OF NORSE DESCENT               | - - - - -   |  |
|   | <i>Senators</i>   |  |
| Peter Norbeck, South Dakota   | Henrik Shipstead, Minnesota   |  |
|   | Reed Smoot, Utah  |  |
|   | <i>Representatives</i>  |  |
| August H. Andresen, Minnesota   | O. J. Kvale, Minnesota  |  |
| Olger B. Burtness, North Dakota   | M. Alfred Michaelson, Illinois  |  |
| Charles A. Christopherson, S. Dak.  | John M. Nelson, Wisconsin   |  |
| Gilbert N. Haugen, Iowa   | Knud Wefald, Minnesota  |  |
| Harold Knutson, Minnesota   | William Williamson, South Dakota  |  |
| MUSIC   | - - - - -   | <i>St. Olaf College Band</i>               |

*Committee Members, Norse-American Centennial*



OSCAR J. THORPE



JOS. G. NORBY



O. L. HERTSGAARD



A. UELAND



E. G. QUAMME



OSCAR ARNESEN



L. W. GORDER



GUSTAV B. WOLLAN



ARNOLD C. OSS



ALFRED E. DAHL

*Tuesday Forenoon*

JUNE NINTH, 1925

GRAND STAND

*Nine-Thirty O'Clock*

E. G. QUAMME, CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCED BY DR. CARL O. KOLSET

SONGS - - - - - *Augsburg Seminary Glee Club*  
PROF. H. OPSETH, DIRECTOR

FIFTEEN—MINUTE—ADDRESSES

NORSE CONTRIBUTION TO AGRICULTURE - *Hon. O. P. B. Jacobson*  
GLIMPSES OF PIONEER LIFE - - - - *Hon. Ole Sageng*  
SONGS - - - - - *Otto Clausen*  
NORSE AMERICAN LITERATURE - - - *Prof. J. A. Holvik*  
NORWEGIANS IN ALASKA - - - - - *Judge G. J. Lomen*  
SONGS - - - - - *Mrs. B. A. Clepp*  
THE NORSE-AMERICAN SCHOOL - - - *Prof. Oscar L. Olson*  
THE NORSE-AMERICAN CHURCH - - - *Dr. J. A. Morehead*  
SONG - - - - - *Augsburg Glee Club*  
THE NORSE-AMERICAN BENCH AND BAR - - *Judge T. R. Nelson*

INTERNATIONAL SESSION

HIPPODROME

*Nine-Thirty O'Clock*

MRS. MANLEY FOSSEEN, CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCED BY MRS. SOPHIA WETTELAND

SONGS - - - - - *Augustana College Choir*  
PROF. CARL O. YOUNGDAHL, DIRECTOR

FIFTEEN—MINUTE—ADDRESSES

GREETINGS FROM DANISH-AMERICANS - - *Consul T. Skellet*  
DANISH SONGS - - - - - *Anette Yde Lake*  
GREETINGS FROM SWEDISH-AMERICANS - - *Prof. Frank Nelson*  
SWEDISH SONGS - - - - - *G. G. Hultgren*  
GREETINGS FROM ICELANDIC-AMERICANS - *Hon. Gunnar B. Bjørnson*  
ICELANDIC SONG - - - - - *H. B. Thorgrimsen*  
GREETINGS FROM NORWAY - - - - - *C. J. Hambro*  
NORSE SONGS - - - - - *Bergljot Aalrud Tillisch*  
AMERICANIZING INFLUENCES - - - - - *Hon. O. J. Kvale*  
NORSE INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN LITERATURE - *Dr. H. A. Bellows*  
SONGS - - - - - *C. J. Bjorke*  
NORSEMEN AND THE LAW - - - - - *Judge Oscar M. Torrison*  
SONG - - - - - *Augustana College Choir*

*Committee Members, Norse-American Centennial*



KNUT GJERDET



OLAF M. NOBLIE



THEODORE C. BLEGEN



O. P. B. JACOBSON



MISS HENNONG REQUE



DR. INGEBORG RASMUSSEN



REV. M. E. WALDELAND



MRS. GISLE BOTNE



MRS. SOPHIA WETTELAND



MRS. J. O. LEE

*Tuesday Afternoon*

*Two-Thirty O'Clock*

HIPPODROME

*Arranged by Women's Auxiliary Committee*

MRS. WM. O. STORLIE, CHAIRMAN  
INTRODUCED BY MRS. A. C. FLDAN

ADDRESS: The Norwegian Woman's Place in American History	<i>Bertha C. Peterson, Chicago</i>
ADDRESS: Women's Work for Social Betterment in Norway	<i>Betsy Kjelsberg, Oslo</i>
PIANO SOLO	<i>Alma Mehus</i>
ADDRESS	<i>Holmfridur Arnadottir, Iceland</i>
ADDRESS	<i>Mrs. Otto Clausen, Chicago, Ill.</i>
VOCAL SOLO	<i>Beatrice Bessesen</i>
THE NORWEGIAN PIONEER WOMAN	<i>Susie Stageberg, Red Wing, Minn.</i>
AGNES WERGELAND	<i>Maren Michelet</i>
VIOLIN SOLO	<i>Valborg Leland, Columbia, Mo.</i>
THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NORWEGIAN ELEMENT IN THE FIELD OF AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP	<i>Prof. L. Larson, Urbana, Ill.</i>
GREETINGS	<i>Marie Michelet, Oslo</i>
GREETINGS	<i>Dean Gertrude Hilleboe</i>
SONG	<i>St. Olaf Male Quartette</i>

*Tuesday Evening*

*Eight O'Clock*

GRAND STAND

THE CENTENNIAL PAGEANT

MUSIC BY LUTHER COLLEGE CONCERT BAND  
CARLO A. SPERATI, CONDUCTOR

PAGEANT COMMITTEE

JOHANES OSBRETT	Chairman
CARL HANSON	Mrs. T. V. THOMSEN
L. SYAVHEIM	Mrs. NINA JUELL
ARNIC OSBRETT	Mrs. WM. O. STORLIE

(Synopsis of "Pageant of the Northmen," by Willard Dillman)

The theme of the pageant is to suggest for the present generation some hint of the story of the fathers, those hardy descendants of the Vikings, who laid the foundation of the splendid achievements of their race in the new world. The story does not follow history with too much exactness. The dramatic form cannot do this. Events must be telescoped. The story must form a dramatic entity. There must be a central current, from which an overflow may spread too far afield. To this end the story concerns itself particularly with the life of one man, Hans Christian Heg, a type of all that is best and noblest in a citizen. The story commences with his childhood, and while it does not close with his death, his spirit and the effects of his sacrifice extend through to the end.

THE STORY IN OUTLINE:

- Scene 1. The characters in the pageant accompanied by bands, pass in review before the audience.  
Scene 2. Hans Heg is shown as a boy of ten at his father's inn, located beside a road in Norway. His mother tells him folkloric stories.  
Scene 3. The boy's grandfather recounts to him some of the traditions of his land.  
Scene 4. His father tells him something of how the earliest adventurers went to America to live.  
Scene 5. Ole and Austen Nattestad, returning from America, visit the inn. They encourage the Heg family to immigrate to the new world.

Scene 8. Indians are shown in possession of an American forest, which is destined to become the home of the Norse settlement.

Scene 9. A party of Norse, the advance guard of the immigrants, arrives, weary after their day's tramp. As they sleep they deem that they are visited by spirits of the wood.

Scene 10. The Indians are preparing to depart. They smoke the peace pipe with the newcomers.

Scene 11. American pioneers in covered wagons, bound westward, camp for the night. The three races gather around a camp fire.

Scene 12. The Indians take their departure. The Americans resume their journey westward. The Norse are left in possession of the forest.

Scene 13. The first settlers are joined by a larger party of immigrants, among them the Heg family.

Scene 14. At a frontier church service, the first babe born in the settlement is baptized by the young minister.

Scene 15. During a scourge of cholera an immigrant mother and her two children are stricken.

Scene 16. Hans Heg, now a boy in his teens, and Gunhild Einang, an immigrant girl, are confirmed.

Scene 17. The five daughters of a dancing master are hastily wooed and won by five young men of the settlement.

Scene 18. Hans Heg, now a candidate for the state legislature on the Free Soil ticket, makes use of a group of fugitive slaves to emphasize his arguments at a political meeting.

Scene 19. Hans Heg and Gunhild Einang are married by the Rev. Hans Andreas Stub. Ole Bull plays at the wedding.

Scene 20. While some of the settlers are gathered at the postoffice, a courier announces the bombardment of Fort Sumpter. Later a stage driver brings the tidings that President Lincoln has called for volunteers.

Scene 21. Hans Heg receives from General Grant his commission as colonel of the 12th Wisconsin, a regiment made up of Norwegian immigrants.

Scene 22. While encouraging his men at the battle of Chickamauga, Colonel Heg gives his life for his adopted country. General Grant and President Lincoln pay homage at his bier.

Scene 23. The flag-draped casket containing the body of the dead officer is brought home to the settlement.

Scene 24. Young women and young men, at the close of the war, join in a solemn festival of peace and harvest.

Scene 25. Characteristic groups indicate the advancement accomplished in America by Norse pioneers and their descendants.

Scene 26. The people unveil a statue of Colonel Heg, immigrant soldier and martyr to the cause of human liberty.

#### OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS

HANNA ROLLEFSON

MARGARET HØIGAARD

#### NB: PROGRAM LEADERS

Mr. J. A. Holvik has been appointed by the Board of Directors and the Program Committee to assist you in carrying out the programs and you can secure his services by applying to HEADQUARTERS IN ST. LOUIS CO. BLDG. Phone: Midway 9400.

*At One-Fifteen O'Clock*

### OPEN AIR CONCERTS

SUNDAY: ST. OLAF COLLEGE BAND

TUESDAY: LUTHER COLLEGE BAND

Brooks Evans Pianos furnished by courtesy of The Brooks Evans Piano Company,  
Thomas P. Breen, Sales Manager, 111 So. 11th St., Minneapolis

Hardman Pianos furnished by courtesy of Holstad Music Co., 109 So. 9th St., Minneapolis

*Programs Arranged by the Women's Auxiliary Committee*

*Monday Forenoon and Afternoon, June 8th*

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

*Ten O'Clock*

Laura Bratager, Presiding  
 PIANO - - - - - *Belle Mohr*  
 VIOLIN - - - - - *Marie Torhey*  
 VOCAL—Noise: Folksongs - *Mrs. E. L. Nordbye*  
 (In Costume)  
 TENOR - - - - - *John Nyberg*  
 XYLOPHONE NUMBERS  
*Annabella and Oliver Erickson*  
 SOPRANO - - - - - *Ella Hjertaas*  
 BARITONE - - - - - *Clarence Kwam*  
 PIANO - - - - - *Comfort Hinderlie*  
 DUET - *Ella Hjertaas and Grace E. Halstad*  
 CHILDREN'S FOLK GAMES  
*Lucille Olson and Margaret Murr*

*Five-Thirty O'Clock*

Gunnhild Optedal, Presiding  
 ST. OLAF COLLEGE QUARTET  
 BARITONE - - - - - *Carl Larsen*  
 VOCAL - - - - - *Agnes Bothne*  
 BASS - - - - - *Niels Swendsen*  
 VIOLIN - - - - - *Camilla Aasen*  
 TENOR - - - - - *Luverne Sigmund*  
 WHISTLING SOLO - - - - - *Cornia Wallan*  
 VOCAL - - - - - *Glen Sorby*  
 BARITONE - - - - - *Julius Stetten*

*Tuesday Forenoon and Afternoon, June 9th*

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

*Ten O'Clock*

Amanda Anderson, Directing  
 COMMUNITY SINGING - led by *O. I. Hertzgaard*  
 VIOLIN - - - - - *Evelyn Antonson*  
 CONTRALTO - - - - - *Jenny Skurdalsvold*  
 READING - - - - - *Eleanora Olson*  
 PIANO - - - - - *Hildur Leland*  
 VOCAL - - - - - *Ida Hagen Pittman*

*Five-Thirty O'Clock*

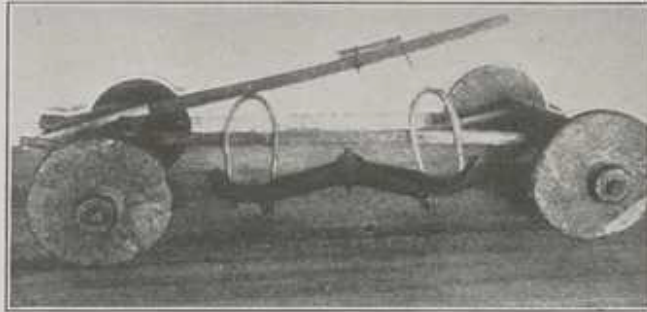
Mrs. A. C. Floan, Directing  
 PIANO - - - - - *Thelma Thorgrimsten*  
 VIOLIN - - - - - *Adolph Olson*  
 SOPRANO - - - - - *Claudia Hansen*  
 BARITONE - - - - - *Mervald Thillefson*  
 THE ACADEMIC MIXED CHOIR OF NORWAY  
*Alfred Russ, Director*  
 PIANO - - - - - *Margaret Hoigaard*  
 FOLK GAMES - - *Ellen Hammer, Director*  
 ADOLPH OLSON'S ORCHESTRA

*Monday and Tuesday, June 8th and 9th*

CHILDREN'S BUILDING

ONE NUMBER EVERY HALF HOUR

PIANO - - - - - <i>Ragnhild Petersen</i> (In Costume)	FOLKSONG GAMES - <i>Ellen Hammer, Director</i>
READING - - <i>Falborg and Thordis Tanner</i> (In Costume)	XYLOPHONE - <i>Annabella and Oliver Erickson</i>
VOCAL - - - - - <i>Margaret Rounvode</i>	VOCAL - - - - - <i>Alma Edwards</i>
STORYTELLING - - - - - <i>Olga Amundsen</i>	PIANO DUET <i>Evelyn Joan and Randolph B. Thingdole</i>
PIANO - - - - - <i>Margaret Hoigaard</i>	VOCAL DUET <i>Ragnar and Anne Marie Otterson</i>
GLASS MUSIC - - - - - <i>Chris Jensen</i>	DIALOGUE - - <i>Gladys and Muriel Wyman</i>



A "Kubberulle" —By *Courtesy Noelle's History*.  
(Hand-made wagon used by Norwegian pioneers. Made by L. D. Reque, Koshkonong, Wisconsin.  
Now in Luther College Museum)

## CENTENNIAL EXHIBITS

ONE of the outstanding purposes of the Norse-American Centennial is to visualize to the present generation the contributions of the Norse pioneers and their descendants to American civilization and progress, materially, politically, intellectually and spiritually. Such visualization would manifestly be impossible without material exhibits depicting in concrete form the part played by the Norse race in American history and development.

Accordingly, one of the first thoughts of the Centennial Committee was to provide such exhibits as will clearly picture the contributions of the race during the century since the beginning of Norse immigration, together with its background of Norse history and tradition. Dr. Knut Gjerset, curator of the Luther College Museum, Decorah, Iowa, was made chairman of the Committee on Exhibits, and he has devoted himself assiduously for many months in preparation. With the able assistance of Miss Herborg Reque, Minneapolis, as vice-chairman, who was put in charge of the exhibits of fine arts and crafts, Dr. Gjerset has succeeded in arousing such interest in this phase of the celebration that the exhibits will form a most important part.

There will be 22 different departments of exhibits, besides the special exhibits by the State of Minnesota (for which the 1925 Legislature appropriated \$10,000) and of the Dominion of Canada. There will be two groups of exhibits of paintings and sculpture, a loan exhibit of works by artists of Norse birth or ancestry and a competitive exhibit of the recent works of Norse-American painters and sculptors. The general exhibits will include articles depicting the life of the early Norse pioneers, the church, schools, charitable institutions, the press, literature, music and musicians, organizations, men and women prominent in the professions, needle art, household utensils, silverware, jewelry, wood carving, furniture, a complete department of industrial exhibits by Norse-American manufacturers and inventors, and relics of all kinds.



# Centennial Exhibition Program

KNUT GJERSET, *Chairman*

## COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS

Kr. Prestgard, Decorah, Ia.  
T. Stabo, Decorah, Ia.  
O. E. Rølvaag, Northfield, Minn.

Olaf Thorsbov, Minneapolis, Minn.  
D. G. Ristad, Manitowoc, Wis.  
C. O. Solberg, Sioux Falls, S. D.

### I. PIONEER LIFE:

1. Knut Gjerset: Pioneer Exhibit.
2. O. M. Norlie: Maps of Settlements.
3. R. B. Anderson: The Anderson Home.
4. Olaf Thorsbov: The Interior of the Norwegian Homes.
5. Hjalmar Rued Holand: Tank and His School.
6. Eugene Gilboe, Torkel Oftelie, R. J. Meland, Jens Johnson.

### II. CHURCH:

1. C. A. Mellby: Historical Essay.
2. Centennial Committee of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America—G. T. Rygh, Rev. R. Malmén, O. S. Reigstad, Dr. G. M. Bruce, C. S. B. Hoel: Church Exhibit.  
(This Committee has also published a Cantata, a History of the Norwegian People in America, and an Order of Service for the Sunday program).
3. Centennial Committee of the Lutheran Free Church—Prof. Andreas Helland: Church Exhibit.
4. Centennial Committee of the Lutheran Brethren—Rev. R. S. Gjerde: Church Exhibit.
5. Centennial Committee of the Norwegian Methodist Church—Rev. H. K. Madsen: Church Exhibit.

### III. SCHOOLS:

1. O. A. Tingelstad: Historical Essay.
2. L. A. Vigness, E. T. Tufte, I. Dorrnum, O. M. Norlie: School Exhibit.

### IV. AGRICULTURE:

1. T. Hoverstad: Historical Essay.
2. O. M. Norlie: Maps.

### V. THE PRESS:

1. O. M. Norlie: Historical Essay, Charts.
2. R. B. Bergeson: Press Exhibit.

### VI. LITERATURE:

1. Wm. Ager: Historical Essay.
2. Karl T. Jacobsen, J. C. M. Hanson, Einar Josephsen, Jacob Hodnefield: Book Exhibit and Bibliography.

### VII. MEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE:

1. M. W. Odland: Historical Essay.
2. Knut Gjerset: Picture Gallery.

### VIII. ART:

Herborg Reque, John C. Langfeldt, chairmen; Emil Björn, Nils Remmen, Charles N. C. Bagge, Chicago; Christen Braun, Thomas Bull, Thorbjørn Bascoe, New York; A. C. Floan, Edward Mohn, Mrs. H. G. Stub, Dr. Egil Bockmann, Mrs. Charles Freeman, St. Paul;

Gunnar Nordbye, August Klagstad, Sverre Siverts, Miss Olive Boe, Miss Sigrid Stenberg, Gudrun Lochen Drewsen, Mary B. Andersen, R. A. Plimpton, Minneapolis: Art Exhibit.

### Jury of Awards:

S. CHATWOOD-BURTON  
CAMERON BOOTH  
H. LINDLEY HOSFORD

### IX. CHARITY AND MUTUAL AID:

H. B. Kildahl: Historical Essay, Exhibit and Maps.

### X. WOMEN'S ARTS AND CRAFTS:

Herborg Reque, Ingeborg Rasmussen: Arts and Crafts Exhibit.

### XI. SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Carl G. O. Hansen: Historical Essay and Exhibit.

### XII. MUSIC:

1. Gunnar Malmén: Historical Essay.
2. M. Casper Johnshøy: Music Exhibit.

### XIII. TRADE AND COMMERCE:

Arne Kildal: Historical Essay

### XIV. NORWEGIAN SKI SPORT:

Aksel H. Holter, Julius Blegen, Oscar Gundersen: Historical Essay and Exhibit.

### XV. SONS OF NORWAY:

L. Stavnheim: Historical Essay.

### XVI. DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY:

Mrs. Augusta Swan: Historical Essay.

### XVII. THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

Knut Gjerset: Historical Essay and Portrait Gallery.

### XVIII. INDUSTRIES:

C. O. Teisberg: Industrial Exhibit.

### XIX. NORSE-AMERICAN SERVICE MEN IN THE WORLD WAR

Alvin Ronning.

### XX. ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE:

### XXI. MINNESOTA STATE EXHIBIT FEATURING PIONEER LIFE

N. J. Holmberg, Knut Gjerset, C. G. Selvig, N. T. Moen, Fremont J. Thoe, G. B. Wollan: Agriculture and Husbandry, Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining, Scenery.

### XXII. NORSE-CANADIAN EXHIBIT:

Knute Hadeland: Canadian Exhibit.

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Two and one-half million healthy, contented, industrious, prosperous people—and room for more.

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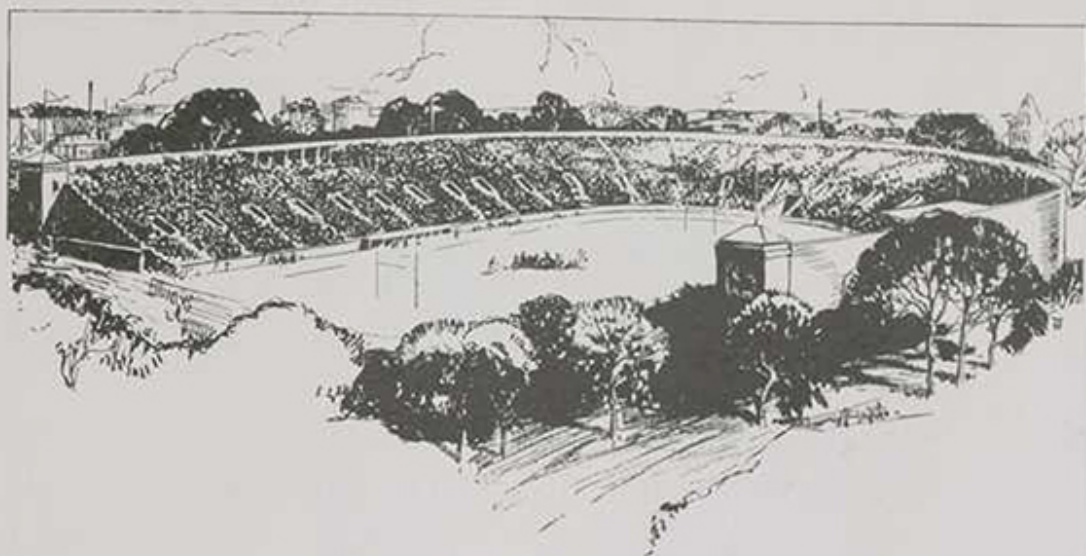
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### *Athletic Program*

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

ARNOLD C. OSS, IN CHARGE

- 8:30 A. M. BASEBALL—Preliminaries—7 innings. St. Olaf vs. Concordia. Luther vs. Concordia. At Northrop Field, University of Minnesota.
- 11:00 A. M. SOCCER GAME—Norwegian-American Athletic Association of Chicago vs. Norge Athletic Club of Minneapolis. University Memorial Stadium.
- 12:00 M. BICYCLE RACE—Minneapolis, St. Paul. Finish at Stadium.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

- 9:00 A. M. SOCCER GAME—Norwegian-American Athletic Association of Chicago vs. Norse Sports Club of Minneapolis. University Memorial Stadium.
- 10:00 A. M. PRELIMINARIES in Track and Field Meet, if necessary.
- 11:00 A. M. BASEBALL GAME between winners of Preliminary Games, played on Monday.
- 2:00 P. M. TRACK AND FIELD MEET—Finals. Exhibition Drills and Turning by Norwegian-American Athletic Association of Chicago.

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## Thanks and Greetings

HOUSANDS of men and women have acted on committees or otherwise assisted in the preparatory work for the *Norse-American Centennial*. To each and all we express our gratitude and appreciation. + + + + +

To guests and visitors we extend greetings on behalf of the Norse-American people.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
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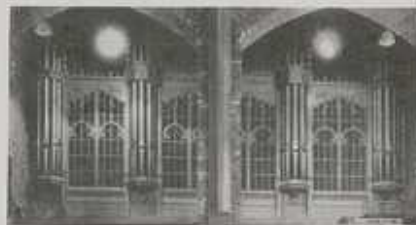
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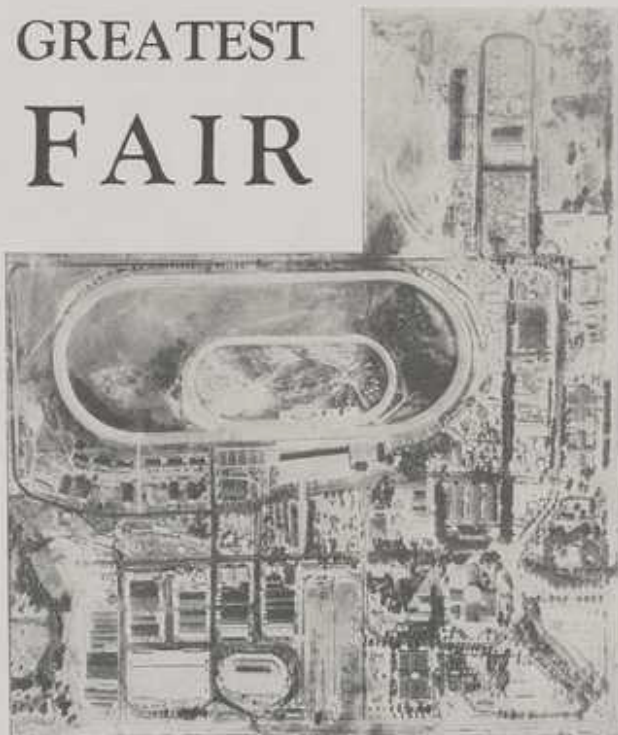
**YOU'LL HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE** at the Norse-American Centennial, but you'll be thrilled as you were never thrilled before when you attend the Great Minnesota State Fair, September 5 to 12. Here are some of its high spots:

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#### READY!

## History of the Norwegian People in America

By O. M. NORLIE

PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY, LUTHER COLLEGE

Under the Auspices of Centennial the Committee:

Dr. G. T. Rygh; Rev. R. Malmin; Rev. O. S. Reigstad; Dr. G. M. Bruce and Rev. C. S. B. Hoel

512 PAGES. PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED. \$2.00

DR. H. G. STUB, President of the NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, writes as follows:

The History of the Norwegian People in America, by Dr. O. M. Norlie, is the ripe fruit of research and investigations during 25 years. I doubt whether any man of Norwegian descent has such a collection of books, clippings and documents pertaining to the Norwegian people in America, as Dr. Norlie has in his possession. In this History he has been able to give in a compact form an enormous array of persons known and unknown, of events and facts, in the history of the people, which otherwise would be difficult to get hold of. The presentation will appeal to all who read the book and will create interest and love for the Norwegian people in America as well as in Norway.

Concerning this History DR. G. T. RYGH, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE THAT PUBLISHED THIS HISTORY, says:

As to the character of the History and its intrinsic value as an authoritative source of information regarding the history of the Norwegian people in America, Dr. Norlie's book is far and away the best that has yet appeared in any language. Aside from the historic perspective which characterizes the work it contains a mass of detailed information of exceptional historical interest. The reader marvels at the industry and painstaking research of the author as these are evidenced upon every page of the volume. In fact, the history is the product of a lifetime of study and investigation, involving much travel and search in libraries, both public and private, as also voluminous correspondence for many years, comprising thousands and thousands of letters, notes and questionnaires. One might aptly quote a couplet by Oliver Goldsmith in this connection wherein he immortalizes the village parson.

As a history, the volume will prove to be authentic and reliable as well as comprehensive, graphic and interesting. The author has immediate knowledge of much that appears in his History. He has verified his statements by unanswerable historic evidence. The book reads like a romance. It will fascinate the reader with its vivid presentation of facts. Every American who is proud of his Norwegian ancestry will want a copy of Norlie's History in his bookcase. Other Americans, of whatever stock, will be immensely profited and delighted in the perusal of this truly remarkable history of a national element of large importance in the development of our American nation. We hail Dr. Norlie's masterpiece with delight. We are proud to know that our fellow national, born and bred under the starry flag, has succeeded in giving the world an adequate portraiture of the immigrants from the Land of the Midnight Sun.

The eight chapters with their subdivisions discuss immigration, population, settlements, churches, schools, publications, missions, charities, associations, sports, music, art, inventions, industries, public service, pioneer life, home life, and many other topics, with constant reference to the historical background, with maps, tables, graphs, pictures of people, institutions, inventions, and other illustrations, told in clear language and simple outline. You will be proud of this book.

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