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NAHA Norse American Centennial  
MSS Preparations  
1925

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# SCRAP BOOK



# Preparation for Centennial

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# Purpose of Centennial

Wisc. Times  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1925

## NORWEGIANS TO HOLD CENTENNIAL FUNCTION

### Norsemen of U. S. and Canada to Gather at Minnesota State Fair Grounds in June

The big Norse-Centennial of the United States and Canada will be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, Hamline, Minnesota, on June 7-8-9, and many will undoubtedly attend the gathering from this community.

#### Purpose and Importance

There have been two important migrations from Norway. The first began a thousand years ago, when many of the Norse war-lords, earls and petty rulers refused to bend the knee to Harold the Fair Haired, who had made himself ruler of all Norway, and sailed away to Iceland with all their wealth and many of their retainers. The second began a hundred years ago, when the sloop "Restaurationen" crossed the Atlantic to the land discovered by Leif the Lucky, and started an exodus to the broad, fertile plains of America. The first was a migration of Norse chieftains, proud, wealthy and powerful, but because of unfavorable conditions that awaited them, they had a hard struggle to maintain themselves. The second was a migration of Norway's common people, plain and simple, without worldly wealth, but who, because of favorable conditions and faithful work, soon acquired a competence and are now numbered among the most prosperous people of the earth.

The purpose of this Centennial is to commemorate in an impressive manner the events which mark the beginning of Norse emigration to this continent and to pay a fitting tribute to the Norwegian pioneers of America. In the rush of our present day life we fail to honor, as we should, those plain, earnest, God-fearing, modest, but strong and courageous men and women, who did so much for their descendants and the land of their adoption.

We cannot honor too highly the Norwegian pioneers of America. The services they rendered are of inestimable value and importance. They were among the foremost in conquering the wilderness, in developing it into one of the most prosperous, most progressive regions of the world. With ceaseless toil and sacrifice they helped to push the frontiers of civilization from the Great Lakes to the Pacific and by their whole-hearted loyalty to their adopted country, helped to save the Union during the Civil War.

By remembering the noble work done by our fathers we shall be inspired with greater zeal to prove ourselves worthy of being their children by clean living, by useful work for our community and our country.

Some may argue that Norse emigration to America began more than a hundred years ago. Yes, Norsemen landed at various times on our shores before the year 1825, and rendered notable service in the war of Independence, but it was the sailing of the sloop "Restaurationen" and the founding of the first Norwegian settlement in America that marked the beginning of a real migration from Norway to this continent.

This Centennial will be the greatest celebration ever held by Norsemen in America. The program will include speakers and musicians of world-wide fame. The President, or a prominent member of his cabinet, will represent the government of the United States; the Premier of Canada or a member of his cabinet, will speak for the dominion to the north; Crown Prince Olaf, the Primate of Norway, and Dr. Fritjof Nansen will appear for the mother country; a distinguished son of Iceland will represent the famous island where the Norsemen settled a thousand years ago and whence they sailed to America almost five hundred years before Columbus saw the western world.

It is expected that there will be a large attendance of people of the many societies participating in the festivities aside from attendance of the public at large that will tax the capacity of the fair grounds.

The civic organizations of Minneapolis and St. Paul will cooperate with the Committee in perfecting the arrangements and in making the stay of all visitors in the two cities interesting and enjoyable.

Not less than 2,700 Lutheran congregations, the Norwegian colleges, seminaries and academies the numerous Bygdelags, the lodges of the Sons of Norway and various other societies and organizations have been assigned places in the Centennial and are actively taking part in the preparations.

The site selected for the celebration is the geographic center of Norwegian population of America, and the Twin Cities have long been recognized as a center of Norse art, learning and culture. The Minnesota Historical Library contains the largest collection of Norse-American literature in America.

PORTLAND, OREGON

June 27

## NORSE-AMERICAN FESTIVAL TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH

### 50 Pioneers Who Helped Settle Mid-West Plains to be Honored by Four Governments.

BY G. B. WOLLMAN

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ST. PAUL, Minn., May 16.—(Special.)—The memory of the 50 intrepid Norsemen who landed in America with the sloop Restauration, the "Mayflower of the north," 100 years ago, and trekking west, led in the pioneering that converted the western plains into the bread basket of the world, will be honored by four governments at the Norse-American centennial, to be held on the state fair grounds adjoining the twin cities June 6 to 9.

President Coolidge is coming in person to pay America's tribute June 8 to those hardy pioneers and their followers whose lives make up in great measure the history of the great American modern west. Secretary of State Kellogg will speak on the same day.

The government of Norway, proud of the achievements of her pioneering sons, is sending two of its foremost statesmen, J. Oftenadhl, minister of social work, and C. J. Sambro, chairman of the storthing committee on foreign relations, together with scores of leading citizens. Governor-General Byng of Canada, which also profited by the Norse emigration, is sending a special delegation, as is Iceland, which vied with Norway in contributing to the pioneering brigade.

Governors of six states who trace their lineage back to Norsemen are also expected to take part in the celebration. They are Theodore Christanson of Minnesota; J. J. Blaine of Wisconsin; Carl Gunderson of South Dakota; A. G. Sorlie of North Dakota; J. E. Erickson of Montana and Governor Whitfield of Mississippi.

Directors of the celebration expect that fully 250,000 persons, possibly 500,000, will attend the four-day event—among the many followers and descendants of the original Norse-Americans whose ranks in America now are swelled to something like 2,500,000.

Besides the participation of President Coolidge and Secretary Kellogg, the United States has further recognized the importance of this centennial by congressional authorization of special Norse-American centennial postage stamps in two colors and the minting of 40,000 commemorative silver medals at the Philadelphia mint. This is the first time in America's history that such a commemorative medal has been authorized by congress.

Secretary of the Navy Wilbur has promised to send the giant dirigible

Los Angeles to the centennial celebration "if it can be done," and "and I think it can."

There will be 22 departmental exhibits, besides special exhibits the state of Minnesota and the Dominion of Canada of their national resources. These departmental exhibits will cover a wide range, including a department of pioneer habits which will visualize, as perhaps never before, the growth and development of the great mid-west during the past century. There will also be exhibits of fine arts and crafts, including both a loan exhibit and a competitive exhibit of paintings and sculpture by Norwegian American artists.

The celebration also will bring together a wonderful group of musical organizations, featuring two internationally famous choral bodies, the Academic choir from Oslo, Norway, and the St. Olaf Lutheran choir from Northfield, Minn.

Other musical organizations participating in the celebration will be the Luther college concert band consisting of 75 pieces; St. Olaf college band, Waldorf college choir, Augustana college choir, Concordia college choir, Augustusberg seminary glee club and a male chorus of 500 or more voices from the Norwegian Singers' association of America.

Other special features of the celebration will be athletic games and contests by students of Norse-American colleges and academies; a living flag of children, depicting the flag of Norway, which will be instantly transformed into the stars and stripes, and an historical painting depicting the past century history of Norse-American contribution to American civilization and development.



Lake Minn. Graphic  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1925

## CENTENNIAL TO BE GREAT CELEBRATION

TO BE HELD AT MINNESOTA  
STATE FAIR GROUNDS ON  
JUNE 6, 7, 8.

Americans who represent the greatest "melting pot" on the face of the globe, numbering citizens from every land, should be much interested in the Norse Centennial to take place at the State Fair Grounds, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, June 7, 8, and 9.

A thousand years ago Harold Haarfager, one of the kings of Norway, went to war to try to unite the many small principalities of the country into one kingdom under his rule, Haarfager, being translated, means "fair-headed," and he succeeded in his aim. Many rulers deposed from their kingdoms migrated from the country and sailed away to Iceland, with their goods, chattels and retainers.

A hundred years ago a very different migration from Norway to America took place. A small sloop containing fifty-three passengers settled in the state of New York, becoming the first Norwegian settlement of any size and note.

There had been many Norsemen landing at various times on our shores, and the Lief Erickson is given the honor of the first landing known in history.

It is to celebrate the coming of the sloop "Restoration" and the beginning of the first permanent settlement of Norwegians in this country in 1825 that this celebration is staged.

The president of the United States and the Premier of Canada will attend. The University choir from Norway will sing, there will be an historical pageant, and a peasant wedding in costume, as well as a rather remarkable exhibit of pictures, furniture, brass and copper ware and hand woven articles.

Askov, Minn., American  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925

## THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

(The Duluth Herald)

This interesting event will be held at the Minnesota state fair grounds in St. Paul, opening June 6 and continuing for four days. All persons of Norwegian birth or extraction are invited to participate and all others are welcome guests. It is, in a way, an international affair because Canadians and Americans of this good stock have joined hands in the grand reunion, and Norway and Iceland will take part.

It is to be a celebration of activities of the men and women of Norway in the last hundred years in helping build up North America north of the Rio Grande. It will make notable the coming of the good ship Restoration, the Mayflower of the North, a small

sloop of forty-five tons, with the first organized party of Norwegian emigrants to this country in 1825.

A special center of Norwegian life has always been the Upper Mississippi valley states, and of these Minnesota has been signally favored, because an important percentage of her people have their racial origin on the western side of the Scandinavian peninsula.

It is now well settled that a thousand years ago Norwegian settlers had villages and farms in Greenland, an American island-continent, notwithstanding the rigors of its climate, although there is reason to believe that the climate of that island was more moderate at that time than now. In view of the Norse settlements in Iceland and Greenland, the close proximity of the American coast and the skill of these Vikings on sea, it would be far more remarkable if these marines had not seen and visited American coasts than if they had done so. A few hours' sail from their village in Greenland would bring them in sight of American continental shores. Indeed, there is virtually no doubt that they did visit as far south as Massachusetts.

The governors of six states are of Norwegian origin, and all of these, headed by Governor Theodore Christianson, who is of Norse descent, are expected to be present.

An important feature is to be a speech by President Coolidge, who comes to distinguish his fellow citizens of Norse ancestry and origin. In addition high officials from Canada, Norway and Iceland will honor the occasion with their presence.

Norwegians are a pioneering race. This quality has served them well in North America. It led them to frontiers which soon ceased to be frontiers, and thus they grew into prosperity.

Americans of other stocks extend to Norsemen a warm hand on this occasion and wish them prosperity and happiness for many more hundreds of years.

WANTON WYR TIMES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1925

# CONTRIBUTIONS OF NORSEMEN TO AMERICA SHOWN AT CENTENNIAL NOW BEING HELD IN TWIN CITIES

By Dr. CARL G. O. HANSEN  
Editor Minneapolis Daglig Tidende  
(Written for The United Press)

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Norse-American centennial has as its purpose to review the fruits of the labors performed by immigrants from Norway on American soil during the past 100 years.

The Norse contingent of our population has been among the foremost pioneers in many states, especially the middlewest. Pioneering is a racial characteristic. Norway taught its sons and daughters to be hardy.

The first emigrant ship Restorationem, left Stavanger, Norway, July 4, 1825, with 52 people on board, and arrived at New York, October 9, 1825, with 53 persons, one having been born on the voyage.

### 2,000,000 Now in U. S.

Eleven years elapsed before another immigrant ship left Norway for America, but since that time, Norway has sent to this country a steady stream of immigrants. Almost 1,000,000 of them have arrived during the century; one half of them have gone to the Great Beyond, but they still number, together with their descendants, at least 2,000,000.

The centennial is an event, which many other immigrant races might duplicate. It presents one of the potent links in that great chain of events, which has made American history. The immigrants have played an important part in the upbuilding of our country. The Norwegian-Americans, wish by means of the centennial to emphasize their part in America's making.

They do not wish to forget Norway. They cannot forget the stern lessons she taught them.

Official recognition is given the centennial by the government of Norway and its representatives are present, bringing greetings, telling of the great pride, the people of Norway take in the accomplishments of their kinfolk in America.

Many have said that Norwegians are more easily assimilated into the scheme of things in America than other immigrants.

The sons and daughters of Norway and their offsprings celebrate this event and simply wish to say: "Here are our contributions to the making of America."



FINDLAY, OHIO, COUR  
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1925.

### THE NORSE CENTENNIAL

On October 9, 1825, the ship Restautionen arrived in America bringing 53 Norwegians. This was the first organized group to emigrate from Norway to the United States. It marked the first low wash of a great wave of Norwegian immigration which followed.

It is in honor of the one-hundredth anniversary of the event that President Coolidge went to Minneapolis to be present at the Norse-American Centennial. No small portion of the development and upbuilding of the northwestern states is due to the efforts of Norwegians or descendants of Norsemen. And no better class of people ever sought a new home in America. They had within them the spirit of Americanism before they came to the new land and adapting themselves to the new environment involved no radical alteration of views or habits. They may take a justifiable pride in exhibiting what has been achieved by them in the development of a section of the United States where the mass of them is settled.

The pageant portraying a composite picture of the part played by Norsemen in the settlement of the Northwest will be presented. The event also provides the opportunity for a great reunion of those Americans who have an ancestry dating back to Norway. That they take pride in their origin does not necessarily make them any the less American in spirit or the less devoted to our institutions. It has been to the profit of America that so many Norwegians sought homes here as well as profit to the former immigrants themselves.

JUN 9 - 1925 N. Y. CN

## Full Text of President's Address; N Pays Tribute to Norse in U. S.

STATE FAIR GROUNDS, Minn.,  
June 8.—Following is the text in full of President Coolidge's address at the Norwegian Centennial Celebration:

How often in the affairs of this world a small and apparently insignificant occurrence turns out to be an event of great importance, carrying in its train a mighty influence for good or evil! Such importance always flows from the character of those concerned. The generations of the earth treasure the rude hut that sheltered the infancy of Abraham Lincoln, seek out the birthplace of Shakespeare and give to the uninviting soil of Palestine the title of the Holy Land, all because certain obscure happenings in those places produced those who left a broad mark upon the future course of humanity. The character of the participants brought future fame.

It is such an event that we meet to commemorate to-day. One hundred years ago a little bark sailed from Norway to America. It was almost unnoticed at the time, save for the daring and hardihood of its navigators, but it brought with it the representatives of a stalwart race, men and women of fixed determination, enduring courage and high character, who were to draw in their retinue a long line of their fellow countrymen destined to change the face of an area broad as an empire, direct the historic course of sovereign states and contribute to the salvation of a great nation. These mighty works have been wrought because those Norwegian immigrants were well worthy to follow in the wake of the pilgrim and cavalier.

This celebration is most happily identified with the present year, which is an anniversary of notable events in the history of our country. We are rounding out a century and a half from the beginning of the American Revolution. It was half a century from the days of Concord and Lexington to the beginning of that stream of

immigration from Norway, which was to help guaranty that the spirit of freedom which had been so triumphant in the colonies should not be lost to the states.

When we consider the astonishing number of immigrants which the Scandinavian countries have contributed in proportion to their own population to making the body of American citizenship, we will appreciate the significance of this anniversary. It well deserves the consideration it is receiving here in this state, which has more richly profited by a large proportion of this north-of-Europe immigration than any other commonwealth. Minnesota would not be Minnesota, the group of imperial northwestern states would not be what they are, but for the contribution that has been made to them by the Scandinavian countries.

Because of a profound appreciation of that contribution and of its truly national value I have found it an especial pleasure to come here and join in this commemoration. In the midst of loyalties that are all beyond possibility of question it may be difficult to choose among the many national and racial groups that have sought out America for their home and country. We are thankful for all of them, and yet more thankful that the experiment of their common citizenship has been so magnificently justified in its results.

If one were seeking proof of a basic brotherhood among all races of men, if one were to challenge the riddle of Babel in support of aspirations for a unity capable of assuring peace to the nations, in such an inquiry I suppose no better testimony could be taken than the experience of this country. Out of the confusion of tongues, the conflict of traditions, the variations of historical setting, the vast differences in talents and tastes there has been evolved a spiritual union accompanied by a range of capacity and genius which marks this nation for a pre-eminent destiny. The American people have commanded the respect of the world.



*Resolutions from the Minnesota House of Representatives,  
 Mayor Leach of Minneapolis and Mayor Nelson of  
 St. Paul to hold Centennial Celebration in the Twin Cities*

*Mpls. (Eve.) Tribune*

*Jan'y 28-1925.*

**House Resolution Extends Invitation to Centennial**

A resolution extending congratulations to the Norse-American citizens of this state, that the Norse-American Centennial, is to be held in the Twin Cities in June and extending to the people of the Dominion of Canada, the government and the people of Norway a cordial invitation to attend and participate in this celebration, was introduced in the house Tuesday by Representatives R. A. Wilkinson, Lake Elmo; R. W. Hitchcock, Hibbing, and F. A. Green, Stephen.

**NORSE CENTENNIAL GETS STATE BACKING**

**House Resolution Gives Official Recognition of Jubilee—Senate to Act**

Official recognition today is given by the lower house of the Minnesota Legislature to the Norse-American centennial to be conducted in Minnesota in June, 1925.

Resolutions adopted by the house congratulate the Norse-American citizens of the state and extend invitations to attend the celebration on behalf of the state.

Similar resolutions are to be presented to the senate.

The resolution reads: Whereas, the year 1925 marks the 100th anniversary of the real beginning of Norse immigration to this country and of the coming of the Norwegian sloop "Restaurationen" which brought the first large group of Norwegian immigrants to our shores; and

Whereas, in commemoration of this event a celebration of national and international scope is now being arranged by the Norse-Americans of this country, to be held on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, June 6, 7, 8 and 9 this year; and

Whereas, Minnesota has a larger number of people of Norse descent than any other state and it is recognized that these people braved the hardships of frontier settlements from our territorial days and up through the first decades of our statehood and thus played an important part in transforming this and other northwestern states from a wilderness to one of the best developed and most progressive sections of our great country and that they and their descendants have ever distinguished themselves as a sturdy, industrious and frugal people; have taken a deep interest in our social, religious and political activities; to have been prominent in educational lines, in science, in art and literature and in every branch of industry, but above all, have shown themselves to be public spirited and most loyal American citizens; and

Whereas, our state will, by reason of this celebration, be visited by thousands of people who have never seen this part of the northwest; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, by the house of representatives of the state of Minnesota, the senate concurring, that we extend our congratulations to our Norse-American citizens; that

we express to them our gratitude for what they have contributed to the development, growth and prosperity of our state; that we feel Minnesota will be distinguished and honored by reason of the fact that the contemplated celebration will be held within this state and that we heartily approve of the same being held on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, and

Be It Further Resolved, that inasmuch as this celebration will be held in our state as aforesaid, we do hereby extend to the President and the people of the United States; the governor general, the premier and the people of the Dominion of Canada, His Majesty the King, the government, the storting and the people of Norway; the prime and the people of Iceland, a most cordial invitation to attend and participate in the said celebration.

The house resolution was introduced by Representative R. A. Wilkinson, R. W. Hitchcock, F. A. Green, O. W. Kolshorn.

On motion of Representative Wilkinson the rules were suspended and the resolution was passed unanimously.

*Minneapolis, Minn., Eve. Tribune  
 TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1925*

**Leach Extends City's Invitation for Norse Fete**

**Mayor Offers Every Facility to Entertain Centennial Guests.**

Mayor Leach Tuesday issued a statement extending a general invitation to the public to come to Minneapolis June 6 to 9, inclusive, to attend the Norse-American centennial celebration.

"As mayor of Minneapolis I have the honor and pleasure, through the courtesy and co-operation of the press, of voicing the official invitation of the people of this city to come and enjoy with us the programs and pageantry which will constitute the Norse-American centennial celebration to be held here on June 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1925, marking as it does the 100th anniversary of an event dear to the heart of every Norse descendant, and of historical importance to the country at large," Mayor Leach says in his statement.

"We are well equipped to handle a record-breaking attendance in every sense of the statement; we can satisfy every want our guests may express, police protection will be adequate to successfully cope with every possible situation—the splendid personnel of the department will be constantly attentive and on the alert to be of general service to our visitors; our natural resources are especially delightful; in fact, every facility at our command—and we have many—will be freely and studiously utilized for the entertainment and benefit of those who may share our hospitality.

"Come to Minneapolis and let us prove our contention that every Minneapolis visitor is a Minneapolis booster for the rest of the world. The Norse-American centennial is being staged for you and is decidedly worthy of your most hearty consideration and patronage."

*St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press  
 SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1925*

**NELSON GREET'S NORSE**

On behalf of 300,000 citizens of St. Paul, I extend a hearty and sincere welcome to those who are our guests at the Norse-American centennial, June 6 to 9.

We consider it a great privilege to have the honor of entertaining the many thousands of persons who are here from Norway, Canada and all parts of the United States. We honor the descendants of those hardy pioneers who left their homes in Norway, sailed to America on the Restaurationen, came to the Northwest and helped erect cities that bear the marks of Norwegian brain and brawn and brought wealth out of virgin prairie soil. We acknowledge our debt to those men and women who brought to Minnesota with them their strong virtues of industry, thrift and good citizenship that have gone into the making of this state.

We want you to participate in all of the good things that a splendid committee has prepared for you. Please feel free to call on us for anything you may desire; it will be our pleasure to respond. And when you depart we want you to feel that you are welcome in St. Paul any time you may wish to return—which we sincerely hope will be often.

ARTHUR E. NELSON,  
 Mayor.

*St. Paul, Minn., News  
 TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1925*

**World Invited to Norse Meeting by Mayor Nelson**

Mayor Nelson today issued a proclamation inviting the entire world to the Norse-American centennial here in June.

St. Paul, the invitation declares, will strive to prove itself the ideal host. The proclamation follows:

"The city of St. Paul joins wholeheartedly in extending to the world a cordial invitation to the celebration which will commemorate the coming of the Norsemen to this country 100 years ago.

"St. Paul hopes and will ever strive to be the ideal host. With adequate facilities for the best of accommodations, it is in a position to do this. St. Paul's people appreciate the great honor that is paid them by the thousands who will come from all points of the globe to immortalize the hardy spirit of the Norse pioneers.

"It will be the aim of this city to extend every courtesy and to provide all possible comforts for the guests. It will be the agreeable duty of the officials to protect the visitors and in every way to make the occasion one long to be remembered by them."



## RADIO SENDS CALL TO NATION TO VISIT NORSE CENTENNIAL

Norwegians Here Rush Plans to Finish for "Greatest Gathering in America in 1925"

TRAFFIC HEADS ARRANGE TO HANDLE RECORD CROWD

One-way Streets to Be Designated—Police Promise Every Courtesy to Visitors

Norwegians of America, entertaining the entire nation, regardless of nationality, in exhibits, addresses, stunts and fun, is the cosmopolitan program for the Norse-American Centennial at the State Fair grounds in June, Gus V. Wollan, director of publicity for the centennial, told the world by radio in an address from WCCO.

He issued a general invitation to "Americans all."

And, to prove that Norwegians are entitled to celebrate, and to prove that the Centennial will be worth visiting, he said that

On the hundredth anniversary of Norse immigration, the North American continent has a greater Norse population than Norway itself.

Twenty-two per cent of the population of the state is Norwegian.

President Coolidge, the dirigible Los Angeles, a pageant with 1,000 characters, the greatest choirs and bands of Norwegian churches and colleges, and exhibits will help make it a great occasion.

The Centennial, while it is by Norwegians, is for all Americans, as "we are Americans all."

### "Bygdelags" Started Movement

"Upton Sinclair, well known American novelist, inscribed his novel of the Civil war, 'Manassas,' with these words: 'That the men of this land may know the heritage that has come down to them,'" Mr. Woolan said last night.

"It was with such a thought in mind that members of some of the 'Bygdelags,' or Norse clans, several years ago began to discuss the question of how most fittingly to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Norse immigration to America. They began to lay plans, with the result that preparations today are rapidly nearing completion for what will undoubtedly be the greatest gathering in America in 1925, the Norse-American Centennial celebration and exposition at the Minnesota State Fair grounds from Saturday, June 6, to Tuesday, June 9, inclusive.

"You all know about President Coolidge's coming to make an address at the celebration and lend official dignity and importance to this great event. You've heard about the navy's giant airship, the Los Angeles, coming, and a fleet of perhaps 50 army airplanes.

"You've been advised of the fact that Norway is sending several of its foremost citizens as official representatives—that Canada and Iceland will do likewise. You know that many quite pretentious 'music weeks' or festivals will pale into insignificance as compared with the array of splendid musical organizations to be heard at the centennial, including the famous Students' Chorus of 50 trained voices from Norway, the internationally famous St. Olaf

Lutheran choir, which thousands of you heard with such delight from this same radio studio a couple of weeks ago, the nationally famous Luther College Concert Band of 60 pieces, the St. Olaf College Band, the excellent mixed choirs from Concordia College, Moorhead, Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa; Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. D., the Augsburg Seminary Glee Club of Minneapolis, and a male chorus of 500 or more voices from the Norwegian Singing Association of America.



Announcement of Program Features and other Attractions at the Centennial Celebration

# CENTENNIAL FETE RECEPTION TO BE MAPPED FEB. 23

## Women's Auxiliary to Begin Ticket Sale, Make First Plans

One of the first steps in preparation for the Minneapolis reception feature of the Norse-American centennial celebration will be taken at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, when the women's auxiliary of the Norse Centennial committee of Minneapolis meets at the Nicollet hotel to start advance sale of tickets and other arrangements.

The centennial, to be held at the State Fair grounds the week of June 6, is expected to be the biggest gathering of any kind in northwest history, surpassing even the best years of the Minnesota State Fair. It will be a world event drawing up to a half million persons from the United States, Canada and the Scandinavian peninsula.

### Notables to Attend

Constitutional government will be the subject of the speech at the centennial by President Coolidge, who is to come with Mrs. Coolidge, Frank R. Kellogg, H. H. Bryhn, Norwegian minister to the United States, and others of the official family. Lord Byng, governor-general of Canada, his wife; governors of five northwest states, and a group of congressmen, church and college leaders also are to attend.

Details announced today with the progress of definite plans include daily musical programs by St. Olaf college choir, Decorah college band and other nationally known organizations; motion pictures of characters and events connected with Norse history and immigration; a historic pageant depicting Viking activities of 1,000 years ago and Norse history up to the present, and athletic contest and sports.

### Special Rail Rates

Visitors coming, with special reduced railroad rates, include representatives of the 37 "bygdelags" or Norwegian clans; 2,700 Norwegian Lutheran church congregations; other Lutheran organizations and branches; Sons and Daughters of Norway; Norse-American Historical society; the Norsk Sangerforbund of America, including all Norwegian singing societies on the North American continent, and Bishop Lunde with an academic choir from Oslo, capitol of Norway.

Every Norse-American college, seminary and academy in the United States and Canada will close its school year in time for the centennial so that its musical and athletic organizations, teachers and students may attend, it was announced today.

### Bothne Heads Body

The centennial celebration will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the sailing to America of the sloop Restaurationen, the "Norwegian Mayflower," which marked the start of Norse immigration to the United States. Professor Gisle Bothne of University of Minnesota, is president of the central committee arranging the centennial. Organization has progressed into practically every district in the northwest in preparation for the observance.

*Minneapolis State Fair News, Feb. 1925.*

## FAIR GROUNDS TO BE SCENE OF BIG CENTENNIAL

### Four-Day Norse Celebration Booked for June—President Coolidge to Attend

The Norse-American Centennial, commemorating the sailing of the first immigrants from Norway to America in 1825, will be staged on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, June 6, 7, 8 and 9. Arrangements for the use of the grounds by the executive committee of the Norse Centennial were completed at the last meeting of the State Fair Board.

The four-day celebration is expected to bring hundreds of thousands of people to the Twin Cities, including high officials of both United States and Norway. President Calvin Coolidge has informed the executive committee that he will be present at the celebration, barring unforeseen complications.

Many big features are planned for the four-day program. A big pageant will be presented depicting the early life of the pioneers. Singing by the world-famous St. Olaf choir, under the direction of Prof. F. Melius Christianson, band concerts by the Luther College band of Decorah, in addition to a score of other big features, are being planned by the program committee.

S. H. Holstad, of Minneapolis, is managing director for the Centennial. His offices are at the Nicollet Hotel.

SEE CELEBRATION ITEMS MARCH 6, 1925

## Coolidge Plans Long Cruise On Mayflower for Summer

### President Will "Let People See Him" On Trips Early In June; Later Will Go to "Vacation White House" at Swamp Scott

WASHINGTON, March 7.—An extended cruise on the presidential yacht Mayflower, skirting the Atlantic coast as far north as Maine, occupies a place among President Coolidge's vacation plans for the summer.

The President will use the Mayflower to go to the proposed "summer White House" at Swamp Scott, Mass. One of the reasons for selecting Swamp Scott was the anchorage for the Mayflower, off shore from the country house at which the president plans to spend several weeks in late July or August.

Definite arrangements, including the time he will spend away from Washington, the exact time he will go and other details have not been settled, but the president has decided that during this coming summer he can relax somewhat.

In view of the fact he plans to make a more extended vacation than usual in midsummer, Mr. Coolidge has curtailed previously made tentative plans for several trips in the early spring. He has practically decided he will not be able to attend the celebration of the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, April 17, or the convention of Advertising Clubs of the World at Houston, Tex., May 10, to both of which he has been invited.

The president, however, proposes to take a number of trips away from Washington early in the summer. Since taking office he has traveled less than any recent president but he subscribes to the theory "that the people have a right to see their president."

Invitations he has tentatively accepted include attendance at the Norse-American centennial at Minneapolis, June 8; the celebration of the Battle of Bunkerhill at Boston, June 19, and less probably, at the graduation exercises of the University of Michigan later in June.

According to the president's present plans, the coming summer will, therefore, fall naturally into three parts. The first he will remain in Washington to clean up all administrative work left over by the recent session of Congress and the present special

session of the Senate. Beginning early in June, he will take a number of trips and late in July, he will go to Plymouth, Vt., his father's home and to Swamp Scott, Mass. Late in August, he expects to be back in Washington.



Northfield, Minn., News  
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1925

## NORSE FESTIVAL PLANS ARE MADE

St. Olaf to Figure Prominently  
in Events of Centennial  
Program in June.

Beginning with the St. Olaf commencement and fiftieth anniversary celebration at the college, June 4-6, followed by the festivities in the twin cities of the Norse-American immigration centennial exposition and international T. T. L. Convention, June 6-9, and culminating in the biennial meeting of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America, events of vital interest to Americans of Norwegian birth or extraction are planned in Minnesota this year.

The St. Olaf choir will give a concert in the St. Paul auditorium on Tuesday evening, June 9, and the St. Olaf band has been invited to play the prelude and postlude at the singing of hymns during the English services to be held in the grandstand at the state fair grounds on Sunday, June 7, thus bringing St. Olaf and Northfield in the foreground in the great centennial celebration of Norse immigration.

The activities at St. Olaf will include the baccalaureate and dedication service on Thursday, June 4, the fiftieth anniversary program on June 5, and commencement on June 6.

On Sunday, June 7, four religious services will be held under the auspices of the Centennial. At the Norwegian services, Dr. H. G. Stub, president of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America will speak.

President Coolidge will address the Young People's Luther League convention on Monday, June 8. Other addresses will be delivered by Bishop Lunde of Norway, L. S. Swenson, United States minister to Norway, Governor Christianson of Minnesota and Mayor Leach of Minneapolis.

S. H. Holstad, Minneapolis business man and well known former resident of Northfield, is managing director of the Centennial.

### SEEK PRINCE FOR FAIR

Want Olaf to See Norse-American  
Exposition in Minnesota.

Hanline, Minn.—When Norwegians from all parts of the world come here for the Norse-American Centennial they will see the story of the little sloop *Restaurationen* depicted in pageant. She was a vessel

of forty-five tons, manned by fifty-three Norsemen who left their fatherland 100 years ago this year to seek fortune in America.

The centennial is planned to commemorate the events of this first migration and to eulogize the Norwegian pioneers in America. Officials in charge are negotiating to make Norway's participation in the affair of an official nature.

Wis., News  
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1925

## Norse Centennial at St. Paul

Commemoration of Landing in America  
of First Norwegian Emigrants  
Will Be Celebrated.

One of the biggest celebrations the Northwest has ever attempted will be the one at St. Paul June 6, 7, 8, 9, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the landing in America of the first Norwegian emigrants. The sloop *Restauration* left Stavanger July 4, 1825, with 53 men, women and children, and landed in New York October 9th, after a voyage lasting more than three months. The sloop was a little 45 ton sailing vessel which attracted considerable attention after its arrival, the emigrants being hale and hearty after the long experience on the ocean. These pioneers settled in Kendall town on the south shore of Lake Ontario, establishing the first Norwegian colony in America.

The President and Mrs. Coolidge will be guests of the Norsemen, making their first trip west to attend the celebration. Constitutional government will likely be the subject of the President's address.

The progress of Norwegians in America will be illustrated by an exposition, which will contain everything pertaining to achievements attained by the hardy and industrious Norsemen since the little boatload of emigrants arrived a hundred years ago. Among other displays, an Ashland man is directing the National ski exhibit which will include a miniature ski hill to be enlivened by numerous Ashland spruce, effecting a natural landscape in the Northwoods, an attractive display sign giving this information to the thousands of visitors.

Owatonna, Minn., Press  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1925

## NORSE-YANKEE CENTENIAL ON JUNE 6, 7, 8

Will See Story of Coming  
Depicted In  
Pageant

Celebration To Be Carried  
On At State Fair  
Grounds

St. Paul-Minneapolis, March 24.—Minnesota will be host to Norwegians from all parts of the world at the Norse-American Centennial of the United States and Canada at the Minnesota State Fair grounds at Hamline, Minn., June 6, 7, and 8.

The Centennial is designed to commemorate the events, which mark the beginning of Norse emigration to this continent, and to eulogize the Norwegian pioneers of America.

Descendants of that doughty band of 56 Norsemen, who left the fatherland 100 years ago to seek fortune in the new country, "America," will see the story of the little sloop, "*Restaurationen*," depicted in pageant.

The "*Restaurationen*," a vessel of 45 tons, taking the wind in its teeth, responded to the adventurous spirit of the Vikings and battled its way to New York, arriving there October 9, 1825, four months after it started. Today, descendants of these same Vikings, can make the trip in a week.

Officials in charge of the centennial activities in the twin cities are negotiating through Consul Lauritz Swenson at Oslo, (Christiania), to make Norway's participation in the affair of an official nature, which would mean that Crown Prince Olaf would represent Norway at the exposition.

Because of the significance of the Centennial, it is becoming international in its scope, Twin Cities Norwegians say.

Iceland will be represented by the Primate and Norway will send the State Military band, referred to as "The King's Own Band," officials announced.

It remains only for the assembly of the legislative body to give official sanction to Prince Olaf to participate in the celebration.

Importers and exporters are arranging for exhibition space and the several Bygdelags, composed of former residents of towns in Norway, and Norwegian societies will place exhibits in the Administration building at the state fair grounds, where



the centennial will be held. The exhibits will represent goods and tools of early Norwegian history and phases of early life of Norse emigrants in the Northwest.

There are 2700 Lutheran church congregations, lodges, Bygdelags and other societies that have been given active parts in the Centennial celebration.

Lutheran colleges of the northwest will furnish music and take charge of the religious services in the morning and evening and in the afternoon speeches will be made by men prominent in international affairs.

Officials of the exposition here forecast one of the largest crowds ever gathered in the northwest because of the preponderance of Nordic people now living in this state, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota and Montana. The bulk of the population in these states is of Norwegian descent.

Many of the early settlements were made in this vicinity and the first Norwegian Lutheran church in America—a little log building begun in 1843 and completed in 1845—still exists. The church, however, has been removed from Muskego, the original site, to St. Anthony Park, Minn., where it stands on the grounds of the Lutheran Seminary campus.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Press  
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 1925

## Famous Norwegians Coming For Centennial Celebration

Crown Prince Olaf and Dr. Nansen Expected For Norse Anniversary; Committees Plan Interesting Exhibits

Crown Prince Olaf, the primate of Norway, and Dr. Fritjof Nansen, the famous explorer, will be among the guests from Norway at the Norse-American Centennial observance at Hamline, Minn., June 7, 8 and 9 of this year, according to word received by N. O. Monserud, Norwegian vice consul and chairman of the Minnehaha county centennial committee.

Marking the beginning of the huge Norwegian emigration to this country, the sloop Restaurationen, often called the "Mayflower of the North," reached this country in 1825. This year, descendants of the original group and of others who have come since then, will join in the centennial observance.

According to present plans of the committee, the centennial will have a two-fold purpose. It will mark the beginning of Norse emigration to this continent and will pay a tribute to the work of the Norwegian pioneers in developing the great northwest.

Not less than 2,700 Lutheran congregations, the Norwegian colleges, seminaries and academies; the numerous Bygdelags, the Sons of Norway and other societies and organizations are taking an active part in preparations for the centennial.

An exhibit of pictures, furniture, tools, instruments, wearing apparel and other things connected with Norse-American history will be on

Circle Minn. Independent  
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1925

### COOLIDGE IS COMING SO IS KING HAAKON

President Calvin Coolidge will speak at the Norse-American Centennial at the Minnesota State Fair Ground on June 8th and the local committee also informs us that King Haakon of Norway has indicated that he will be present during the occasion.

Railroads announce a fare and one-third for the round trip June 4th to June 20th and the Omaha officials advise the local committee that sleeping car reservations may be made, the cars to remain on the track during the celebration and that berths may be secured for six night for \$5. The advance sale of tickets continues and those desiring to secure them should call promptly on some member of the committee.

Galesville, Wis., Republican  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1925

### Gimmestad Will Speak at Norse Centennial

Dr. L. M. Gimmestad, former president of Gale College, and now residing at Orfordville, will be one of the principal speakers at the great Norse-American centennial to be held in St. Paul in June.

A Brodhead paper has this announcement:

Rev. Dr. L. M. Gimmestad has been paid signal honor the past few days in the announcement of the program committee of the Norse-American Centennial Celebration, that he had been unanimously chosen to present the address, giving a comprehensive survey of the history of the people of Norwegian descent in this country.

Dr. Gimmestad is not unmindful of the responsibility devolving upon him in the preparation of this address, and while there are perhaps few other Norwegian scholars in America who have a more general knowledge on the subject than he, the task will require an immense amount of study, because of the fact that it will form one of the historical documents of Norse immigration to America, and will thus be preserved in libraries and other institutions of learning in this nation as well as in Norway.

Those of us who know Dr. Gimmestad know that his work will be productive of a most interesting historical address. This office expects to be able to put the address into type before its delivery, and provide the copies which the Doctor will be called upon to furnish other publications as well as for historical reference in institutions, and we will therefore be able to give it to our own readers immediately upon its delivery at the great celebration at St. Paul and Minneapolis next June.

\*display at the Fair Grounds. The Restaurationen, together with the pioneer party, will live again in moving pictures which will be shown during the festivities.

The tentative program as outlined by the committees recently follows:  
**Saturday, June 6**

National Conventions of Bygdelags and other organizations. Addresses and Music.

**Sunday, June 7**

Forenoon—Four or more religious services. Sermons by well known preachers. Music by choirs and bands.

Afternoon—Representatives from Norway and others will bring greetings. University choir from Norway will sing.

Evening—Music Festival, Short Addresses.

**Monday, June 8**

Forenoon and Afternoon—Short addresses concerning activities of Norsemen in America.

Evening—Address by the President of the United States.

**Tuesday, June 9**

Forenoon and Afternoon—Addresses concerning Norse-American institutions.

Evening—Historical Pageant. Special features during the four days will include athletics, lectures, exhibits and entertainments of an appropriate character. A Peasant Wedding (Bondebryllup) with costumes, music and games will be one of the many interesting features.

Committees have been appointed by N. O. Monserud to complete plans for a record attendance from Minnehaha county. Hans A. Ustrud of Pierre is state chairman, and is organizing the county committees, having named many chairmen recently.



# LITTLE STORIES

From In and Out of Town

## THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

The opening day of the Norse-American Centennial, to be held at the state fair grounds on June 6th to 9th, inclusive, will be devoted to the Bygdslag meetings, who are planning the biggest and best conventions in their history, most of them will conclude with a dinner or banquet, arrangements being made for a large public reception Saturday evening by Gov. and Mrs. Theodore Christianson, of Minnesota, in the rotunda of Minnesota's wonderful state capitol in St. Paul. One of the most promising indications of the broadening of interest in the Centennial is contained in the announcement just made that Minnesota's executive and his estimable wife will be assisted in arranging for this reception by the St. Paul Allied Women's organizations, comprising 52 different bodies, civic, professional, political, social, religious and fraternal, and having a combined membership of more than 10,000 women.

According to present plans President Calvin Coolidge will give his address on Monday afternoon, June 8. Definite announcement as to the president's pleasure as to the hour of his address is still awaited from the White House. That evening will be "Governor's Night," when short addresses will be given by the visiting governors and other high officials of Norse birth or blood.

Word has been received from Congressman C. J. Kvale at Washington, that the U. S. treasury department has designated James Earle Frazier to design the Centennial medal to be struck off at the Philadelphia mint. Congress has authorized the minting of 40,000 of these medals as souvenirs of the Norse-American Centennial celebration. Mr. Frazier also designed the Buffalo nickel, the Victory medal, the navy Distinguished Service cross, the Roosevelt Award medal and the John Erickson Monitor memorial. The special Centennial postage stamps are expected to be printed and placed on sale throughout the country in the near future.

The musical and athletic programs are rapidly assuming definite form. Arnold Oss, famous University of Minnesota football star, as chairman of the athletic program committee, has been working hard to provide a schedule of athletic games, sports and races that not only will demonstrate the ability of Norse-American athletes but also interest the general sport-loving public.

True to the traditions of the Norse race as a music-loving people, the musical program being arranged by H. Askeland, music chairman, and his capable committee, promises to be one of absolutely unrivalled excellence in Norse-American history. Centennial visitors are promised the opportunity of hearing some of the world's best musical organizations of their kind, as well as noted individual artists.

*Charleston (S.C.)  
Evening Post.  
Apr. 10-1925.*

**MINNEAPOLIS  
CELEBRATION**  
Norse-American Centennial to Be Held Next June

American citizens of Norse descent in America are keenly interested in the Norse-American Cen-

tennial which is to be held at Minneapolis, Minn., June 6, 7, 8 and 9 and which is to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Norse citizenship in this country. Christian J. Larsen, Norwegian consul at Charleston, has received literature from the Centennial headquarters, and that the celebration will be a notable occasion is evident from the elaborate plans that are under way. Its importance may be judged by the fact that President Coolidge is to deliver an address, and that Congress has authorized the striking off of 40,000 commemorative medals, the first time in American history that Congress has taken such a step. The Centennial celebration will take place at the Minnesota State Fair grounds.

The Centennial will be the occasion of an impressive gathering of men and women of Norse descent, the first of its kind in America. The event will take on the aspect of an elaborate review of 100 years of American history as exemplified in American citizenship of Norse ancestry. It will be educational, inspirational, and entertaining in the highest degree. "Friends and relatives," reads an announcement, "parted for years, will find each other in this great reunion, revive old memories, live again in the

past, witness the pageant of 100 years of progress, and come home better Norsemen and better Americans."

A feature of the Centennial will be in varied exhibits in 22 departments, as follows: Pioneer life, church, schools, farming, press, literature, men in public service, art, charity and mutual aid, women's department, societies and organizations, music, engineering and architecture, trade and commerce, Norwegian ski sport in America, Labor, Sons of Norway, Daughters of Norway, men in the medical profession, industries, builders and benefactors, Norse-Canadian exhibits.

President Coolidge is to deliver an address on June 8, on the occasion of "Governors' Night," when

short addresses will be given by visiting governors and other high officials of Norse birth or blood.

Elaborate musical and athletic programs are among the features scheduled, and numerous other features are planned.

Duluth, Minn., News-Tribune  
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1925

# Norsemen Caravans to Bring Thousands to Centenary at Minneapolis in June

## Week of Pageantry Will Depict Building of Northwest; Duluth Will Take Active Part of the Celebration.

Vast preparations, in which several hundred Duluth residents are participating, are in progress for the celebration of the Norse-American centenary in Minneapolis in June, which will commemorate the arrival in New York of the little sloop Restaurationen, with 53 settlers from the Norwegian homeland across the sea. The flow of Norse immigration to the United States is reckoned by Norwegian-Americans as having begun on Oct. 12, 1825, when the Restaurationen reached American shores.

The main theme of the celebration, however, will be the building of the American northwest by Norwegian pioneers. That theme will be the subject of addresses and the motif of a great historical pageant, in which 500 persons will take part. It will inspire more than 3,000 singers and musicians from the United States, Canada and Norway. It will be illustrated in a concrete way by exhibits tracing the earliest beginnings of the Norse pioneer in America to the place now occupied by his descendants in industry, in government, in the arts and crafts.

It is the pride of the Norse-American of today that his ancestors did not choose to add to the congestion of eastern cities but instead followed the uncertain trail of the trapper and the Indian to the farm lands of the west. The centennial celebration, its exhibits, its pageantry and its great choruses will be a tribute to that far-seeing Norwegian who, true to his native instincts, turned his face toward the prairies.



### 'The Norwegians Are Coming.'

"The Norse-American Centennial, Inc.," is housed in a new hotel in the city which so many Norse pioneers found fair in the days when marsh grass waved on the site of its now-famous flour mills. Behind the glass doors marked by a huge yellow poster of a viking ship a score or more of volunteer workers do extra time each day in organizing the first great reunion of Norwegian citizens.

Letters come from remote farm-houses on the Dakota prairies, where "crystal sets" have brought news of the centennial. A Norwegian jeweler in a tiny inland village in Alaska wants permission to enter exhibits of filigree jewelry fashioned from native gold, together with a collection of canes carved from a mastodon's bones. Mayor George E. Leach of Minneapolis offers a prize of \$100 to the school children of Oslo for the best model of a viking ship. From the Red River valley, that agricultural paradise that joins Minnesota with the two Dakotas, comes word from farmers' clubs that automobile caravans are being organized, imposing caravans of imposing cars, whose slogan, "The Norsemen Are Coming!" From the Sons of Leif the Lucky comes word that the invitation of the Minnesota state legislature to attend the Norse-American centenary will be accepted by a delegation. Commercial clubs from hundreds of cities between Chicago and the Pacific coast have offered their co-operation. Each mail brings the name of another chorus to join the music festival, of another Norwegian college team eager to contend for honors in the athletic meets.

#### Federal Stamp Authorized.

In recognition of the nation-wide observance of the centenary, the federal government has authorized the issue of special stamps, to be printed in two colors, a 2-cent stamp bearing the picture of the sloop Restaurationen and a 5-cent stamp decorated with a viking ship. With the single exception of the \$5 stamp, no other issue has ever used a die of two colors, making the centennial stamp distinctive. A Norse-American centennial medal, the first commemorative medal to be issued in the history of the mint, has also been authorized by the government. It will be designed by Earl Frazer.

The sloop Restaurationen, frail little sailing vessel that landed in New York a century ago, will occupy a prominent place in the pageant, the speeches and the songs of the celebration. Tales of the Restaurationen's crossing have been told to five generations of Norse-American children, and have lost nothing in the retelling.

An account of the Norwegian-American historical narrative would be incomplete without mention of picturesque Kleng Pearson, trail blazer for the first Norwegian expedition to the United States and for the first exodus of the early colonists from the middle Atlantic states to the western prairies. Kleng Pearson, also called Kleng Pederson and Person Hesthammer, did scout duty for his countrymen three years before the sailing of the famous little sloop vessel. In 1821 he visited the United States with Knud Olson Eide. He returned to Norway in 1824 with such glowing tales of broad, untenanted acres that the expedition of the next year was inspired.

After seeing the colony safely planted in New York state, Kleng went roving again, and returned to the settlers of Orleans county with tales of the broad, rolling prairies

of Illinois. By 1836, most of the Norwegians of the New York colony had moved to the west and the Norwegian center of population had been definitely fixed in the middle western states.

#### Heroes to Live Again.

Kleng Pearson will again point the way to greener pastures at the

Norse-American centenary. Lars Larson and his sturdy countrymen will live again. Col. Hans Heg, commander of the Fifteenth Wisconsin regiment of volunteers, a Civil war regiment made up almost entirely of Norwegians, will once more carry into battle the flag that bore on one side the Red, White and Blue of America and on the other the Red, White and Blue of Norway. For on "Norse-American day," the closing day of the gathering, the beloved heroes and heroines of Norwegian pioneer days will take part in a great historical pageant in which the Norwegian love of the dramatic and the picturesque will embellish the story of frontier days.

The centenary will open on Saturday, June 6, at the State Fair grounds, Minneapolis, with conventions of the 32 Norwegian clans or "Bygdelags." There will be a reception at the state capitol in St. Paul with six Norwegian governors and their wives in the receiving line. Religious services on June 7 will take on the aspects of a great music festival, when Norwegian choruses from Canada, Norway and the many Norwegian colleges and singing societies of the United States will combine in the singing of hymns. Among the great choirs to be heard in operatic recital are the "Academic Chorus" of 50 male voices from the University of Oslo.

The guest list of the celebration carries at its head the names of President Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge, Prince Olaf of Norway, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and Mrs. Kellogg, Lord Byng, governor general of Canada, and Lady Byng; MacKenzie King, premier of Canada; H. H. Bryson, Norwegian minister to the United States; Lawrence S. Swenson, American minister to Norway; Bishop Johan Lunde of Oslo; Kristine Bonnevie, Norway's greatest woman scientist, and delegations from the Norwegian storting and from both houses of the American congress.

#### Coolidge to Speak.

An address by President Coolidge will be the chief event of "America day," June 8. A living Norwegian flag, formed by 500 children of St. Paul, will at a signal transform itself into the Stars and Stripes of America. It is characteristic of the Norwegian national attitude toward women that the names of two women have been chosen from the list of speakers to appear on the same program with President Coolidge. These women are Kristine Bonnevie, the only woman to hold the rank of professor at the University of Oslo, and Hannah Astrup Larsen, editor of the Scandinavian-American Review, of New York City.

An athletic meet will be held in the new University of Minnesota Memorial stadium under the direction of Arnold Oss. Soccer, the summer sport of Norway, will have a place in the events.

Modern Norse-American art as revealed in the work of Jonas Lie and Karl Curen, Christian Midjo, Gilbert Risvoid and Jorgen Dreyer will share interest among the exhibits with rare pieces of pictorial weaving, a Norse art that is believed to antedate any European tapestry work. Some of the pieces to be loaned for this ex-

hibit by Mrs. Oscar W. Bergh of Brooklyn date back to the fifth century. Such typically Norwegian crafts as lace making, Aaklaer embroidery, wood carving, metal work and pottery will be displayed.

The part played by the Norse-American pioneer in the building of the northwest will be revealed in a rare old stone mill for grinding flour, which was brought to Minnesota in 1850 by Norse pioneers. This precursor of the largest flour mills in the world, the pride of Minnesota, consists of two large flat stones on a frame to be moved by a wheel. A wagon whose solid wooden wheels were fashioned from a cross-section of a log will also be shown. It was in this very wagon, according to Professor Knut Gjerset, chairman of the exhibits committee, that a young pioneer and his prospective bride once made the journey from Deerfield to McFarland, Wis., to be married, the bride seated on a stout bolster of hay. There are other exhibits that tell a story; stout homemade furniture, delicate yellowed lace, ageless wood carving; and the story is one of sturdy endeavor to win the best with small advantages, to create enduring beauty while laboring with primitive tools amid hard discouragements. It is hoped that the centennial celebration will give to the world a truer view of America.

Hannaford, N. D. Enterprise  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1925

## This Summer's Greatest Event

THE NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL, JUNE 6 TO 14

Are you planning on taking a vacation this summer? If so, plan to make it the first part of June and spend it in Minneapolis. You will be able to crowd more events into one week there than ever before in your life, and more inspiration, education and entertainment, too. These are some of the events that will take place between June 6 and 14:

The 2,500,000 Norse-Americans in this country will stage an immense celebration, a hundred years' festival, at the Minnesota State Fair grounds June 6, 7, 8 and 9.

The Lutheran Young Peoples League will have its national convention in Minneapolis from June 6 to 9.

The Women's Missionary Federation of the Lutheran Church meets in St. Paul, June 10 to 12.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America holds its bi-ennial convention at the St. Paul Auditorium June 9 to 14.

Here are some of the special attractions the Norse-American celebration will offer:



Reduced railroad fare to and from the Twin Cities—a fare and a third.

An address by President Coolidge

The attendance of several government officials of national prominence as Secretary of State Kellogg and Secretary of the Navy Wilbur.

Music by the famous Academic Choir of Oslo, Norway.

Rev. Lunde, Bishop of Oslo, Norway, will bring greetings from Norway to Norway's transplanted sons and daughters.

Music by the world famous St. Olaf Choir—and by many other choirs and bands from our Norwegian-American schools.

An immense exhibit of articles of historical value to Norwegian-American history.

The "living flag" which will be composed of 600 St. Paul school children and will be featured in connection with President Coolidge's address.

A historical pageant which will picture the leading events in the history of Norse-American and Canadian development.

According to the most recent information from Washington, the big Navy dirigible airship, the "Los Angeles," will come to the Twin Cities for this celebration. A fleet of about 50 airplanes, of various sizes and models, are also expected.

These are only some of the outstanding features of this great celebration. There are hundreds of other attractions. Plan to take them in. Tickets are \$1.00 per person, and can be bought at Aarstad Bros. & Troseth's store. Even though you do not intend to go, buy a ticket and so help finance a worthy cause. Even though you may not be of Norwegian descent this event will be of interest to you. It is of national importance. It is not so much a Norwegian celebration as an American one.

SWEETWATER, TEX. REPORTER  
APRIL 29, 1925

## NORSE TO MEET

Half Million Visitors Expected to Attend Norse-American Centennial At St. Paul

By United Press.

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 29.—From 250,000 to 500,000 out of the city visitors are expected to attend the Norse-

American centennial, which will be at the Minnesota state fair grounds, June 6-9. It is announced as the largest gathering to be held in the United States this year.

Prof. Gisle Bothne, dean of the Scandinavian department, University of Minnesota, who is general chairman of the Centennial committee returned recently from a trip in Canada with information that between 30,000 and 60,000 Norse-Canadians and other Canadians will attend the celebration.

President Coolidge will address the conclave on the afternoon of Monday, June 8. Six Governors—all of Norse blood—will attend the same day. The evening will be known as "Governor's Night." Those expected to attend are: Governor Theodore Christianson of Minnesota; Governor John J. Blain of Wisconsin; Governor Carl Gunderson of South Dakota; Governor J. E. Erickson of Montana and Governor H. L. Whitfield, Mississippi.

The opening day, Saturday June 6, will be devoted to the national conventions of about 30 "Bagdelags," organizations of Norse immigrants and their descendants from the various "bygds" or counties of Norway. These have memberships ranging from 300 to 5,000.

Antique Norse jewelry, woven tapestry, furniture, musical instruments, household utensils, needle arts and literature will be exhibited during the exposition. There will be 22 departments of exhibits, under the direction of Dr. Knut Gjerset, curator of the museum of Luther College, Decorah, Ia.

Decorah Falls, Wis., Journal  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1925

## THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

The Norse-American Centennial which will be held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds in early June has outdone all expectations and promises to be an unclipped event in world celebrative history.

Official recognition has been given the event by the United States government, several state governments, and by the Dominion of Canada, as well as by the Kingdom of Norway. The United States government has issued special Centennial postal stamps and these will be on sale soon.

President Calvin Coolidge has accepted the invitation to attend the Centennial and to speak. Mrs. Coolidge will also attend. The presence of the President is taken to mean that he will be attended by his official family, including F. B. Kellogg, secretary of state, and His Excellency, H. H. Bryhn, the Norwegian Minister to the United States.

The Royal Family of Norway, it is understood, will be here to celebrate the event.

The Centennial will also be attended by many other notables including the governors of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota—all of whom are of Norwegian descent. Also many prominent in national affairs will be in attendance at the celebration. The Governor General of Canada and his wife, Lord and Lady Byng, have been invited and will attend.

An elaborate program of music, various entertainments, an historical pageant, and a host of other things, have been planned. The celebration as a whole will be attended by hundreds of thousands of people and will be undoubtedly the largest gathering of its kind ever held in America. But the managing committee of the Centennial is preparing accommodations for all the people that will attend in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The event is to be financed solely through the sale of tickets. It is understood that tickets are being sold at a reduction of fifty cents now but this privilege on advanced sales will be taken away and people are in general urged to secure their tickets as soon as possible.

SUPERIOR WIS TELE  
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1925

## NORSE PROGRAM NEAR COMPLETE

President Coolidge and Dirigible Los Angeles to Be at Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—The program for the Centennial celebration at the State Fair grounds June 6 to 9, is practically complete. The program committee expects to publish the program soon.

That President Coolidge will attend the Centennial and deliver an address June 8 is assured. Frank B. Kellogg, secretary of state, and Senator Peter Norbeck, South Dakota, will also make brief addresses June 8.

Senator Henrik Shipstead will preside at this session and there will be music by bands from Luther college, Decorah, Iowa, and St. Olaf college, Northfield.

A "living flag" by 420 St. Paul school children, showing the Norwegian flag, which will unfold into the Stars and Stripes, will be a feature.

An historical pageant participated in by more than 1,000 persons, will be the concluding feature of June 9. This will depict in tableaux the history of the Norse immigrants and their descendants and their contribution to American development during the 100 years since the beginning of Norse immigration to this country.

Los Angeles Coming.

The dirigible Los Angeles will be here for the Centennial and the air derby being planned by the 109th Aero squadron at the Wold-Chamberlain air field.

The musical program of the Centennial will include the famous academic choir of 50 voices from Oslo, Norway, on its first American tour;



the internationally famous St. Olaf Lutheran choir, the St. Olaf band, the Luther college band, the choirs from Concordia college, Moorhead; Augustana college, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Waldorf college, Forest City, Iowa; the Augsburg seminary Glee club, Minneapolis, and a massed male chorus of 500 voices from the Norwegian Singers' Association of America. There also will be several well known Norse-American soloists, vocal and instrumental.

The exposition will have 22 different departments of exhibits, including special exhibits by the state of Minnesota, for which the recent legislature appropriated \$10,000 and a large exhibit from Canada.

The section devoted to pioneer life will be most varied and will visualize the growth and development of the Northwest and Middle West during the past century.

#### Norse Artists Exhibit.

The fine arts and crafts exhibits will also be of educational value. There will be two exhibits of paintings and sculpture, one a loan exhibit the other a competitive exhibit for Norse-American artists.

In the loan exhibit will be shown masterpieces by noted painters of Norse birth or ancestry.

The department of antiques and relics promises to be one of the largest and most interesting of all. Here may be seen articles many centuries old, many of them not to be duplicated and practically priceless.

The exhibits department is under direction of Dr. Knut Gjerset, curator of the Luther College museum, which has the largest collection in the world of articles relating to the early Norse settlers in America. Many of these will be shown at the Centennial. The Minnesota Historical society will also have a large exhibit.

Practically every building on the state fair grounds will be used for exhibits and meetings of various kinds.

From present indications the visitors from outside the Twin Cities will number 250,000. From 25,000 to 40,000 are expected from Canada.

Omaha, Neb., News  
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1925

## PLANS FOR NORSE CENTENNIAL MEET WELL UNDER WAY

Twin Cities to Be Hosts to  
Many Norse-Americans  
at Celebration.

TO BE HELD JUNE 6 TO 9

Plans for the Norse-American centennial celebration to be held in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., June 6 to 9, were announced today by Mrs. R. Ulvilden, who is chairman of Nebraska preparations.

Our Savior's Lutheran church choir of thirty members and over 500 other Nebraskans are expected to attend the gathering, according to the Rev. R. Ulvilden, pastor of Our Savior's church.

Some 300,000 people, a tenth of the Norse-American population of 3,000,000 people in the United States, are expected at the celebration, the Rev. Mr. Ulvilden says.

President Calvin Coolidge and other national officials will be present and some of the leading musical organizations of the land, including the Augustana a cappella choir, which appeared here recently, will be on the program.

The celebration, to be held at the fair grounds of the Twin Cities, is to commemorate the landing of the good ship "Restoration" in New York harbor in 1825 with the first shipload of Norse immigrants to the United States.

Over 40,000 congressional medals, which were made by authority of a special act of congress, will be distributed, and the dirigible "Los Angeles" will perform during the three-day stay. A special issue of 2 and 5-cent postage stamps has also been printed for the event.

In connection with the centennial the annual international meeting of the Luther league will be held.

Minneapolis, Minn., Journal  
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1925

## CENTENNIAL BOARD MAPS 30 FEATURES

Program Committee Winds Up  
Work, Except for Accept-  
ing Some Numbers

The program committee of the Norse-American Centennial last night completed its work, except that of obtaining acceptances on some numbers.

Thirty separate sessions have been arranged to provide interest for crowds expected to throng the State Fair Grounds in June. In a statement, Professor Gisle Bothne, president of the centennial, thanked the committee for its work. On the committee were Rev. B. E. Bergesen, H. Askeland, Dr. Carl D. Kolset, Rev. O. H. Sletten and Rev. H. K. Madsen.

A telegram from Winnipeg last night announced appointment of Thomas H. Johnson, former attorney general of Canada, as official representative of the dominion government to the centennial. Premier Bracken will represent the province of Manitoba.

SUPERIOR WIS TELE  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 1925.

### Sec. Kellogg and Wife to Attend Norse Meet at Minneapolis in June

ST. PAUL.—Secretary of State and Mrs. Frank B. Kellogg have accepted an invitation to attend the Norse American immigration Centennial here June 6 to 9. The Secretary of State will address the Centennial on Monday, June 8 when President Coolidge will speak.

Senator Henrik Shipstead will preside at the presidential program and Gov. Theodore Christianson will introduce the president.

Fairmont, Minn., Sentinel  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1925

## NATIONAL LEADERS PLAN TO ATTEND NORSE CENTENNIAL

Navy Department Promises to  
Send Balloon Los Angeles  
in Connection With  
Program

Knute Helvig of Lake Park Addition, an upstanding Norwegian-American, is greatly interested in the Norse centennial celebration to be held in the twin cities June 6 to 9 and asks publication of the following from the Lutheran Church Herald:

The Norse-American Centennial celebration and exposition at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, June 6-9, has assumed proportions far beyond the expectations of those who commenced to lay the plans for the centenary observance.

It is now definitely settled that President Coolidge will be here the 8th of June, and with him will be Secretary Kellogg, Senators Henrik Shipstead and Peter Norbeck, and United States Congressmen and Governors of Norse descent. Norway will send its minister to the United States, Hon. H. H. Bryhn, Bishop Lunde, and two representatives of the Storting.

Official representatives will also be sent by the Dominion of Canada and Iceland. Among the musical organizations will be the Academic Choir (50 voices) from Norway, the St. Olaf Choir and Band, Luther College Concert Band, Augsburg Seminary Glee Club, Concordia College Choir, the Waldorf College Choir, Norwegian Singers' Association Male Chorus, and prominent vocal and instrumental soloists. There will be a historical pageant with 1,000 people taking part, living flags of Norway and the United States by 420 school children, and twenty-two departments of interesting exhibits.

Chairman Bothne has recently had a letter from Senator Shipstead who has the assurance from Secretary of the Navy Wilbur, that the big navy dirigible airship, the "Los Angeles," will come to the Twin Cities. To advertise the Centennial the St. Olaf Choir consented to broadcast a program over the WCCO last Wednesday, and during the intermission Governor Christianson spoke about the Centennial. Hon. Oley Nelson, of Slater, Iowa, the Civil War veteran, is advertising for the tallest and biggest Norse-American veterans of the Spanish-American and World War to serve as body guard for the president.

Mr. S. H. Holstad, the factotum and general manager with headquarters at the Nicollet Hotel, has been at the wheel for several months steering this colossal machine, now running in high gear, to reach its destination in time. The difficult curves and rough roadways have been passed, and he is now on the home stretch on the broad highway.



# NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL AT MINNESOTA STATE FAIR GROUNDS JUNE 6TH TO 9TH

One Hundredth Anniversary of Norwegian Colonization Occurs in Center of Scandinavian and Culture of America.

## FIVE NORSE GOVERNORS WILL ATTEND

Gov. Christianson of Minnesota Will Give Public Reception—Delegations from Norway and Canada—Representatives from Every State in Union.

## UNITED STATES STRIKES OFF 40,000 MEDALS

The Norse-American Centennial celebration, which is to be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds June 6-9, is to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Norwegians who formed the first settlement in the United States in 1825. It was natural and logical that from this first colonization in New York state there should later be a movement to the west and northwest. To-day the Twin Cities form the acknowledged center of the Scandinavian population of the country.

The project for this celebration has already met with such enthusiastic response, not only in Minnesota and the Northwest, not only in the United States and Canada, but also in old Norway itself, and the success of the affair seems beyond question.

### WORLD AFFAIR ASPECT

The promise of President Coolidge to come and participate on Monday, June 8, and the probability that some high representative of the Dominion Government will be here, as well as the promised coming of the delegates from the Norwegian Storthing and Government give the celebration the aspect of a real world affair. The official delegation from Norway will include a member of the cabinet, a member of the Strothing (Parliament), and Karl Wefring, former secretary of war. Other official delegates will come to represent the Norwegian state church, the University of Oslo, and Nordmandsforbundet.

### RECEPTION BY GOV. CHRISTIANSON

While the opening day will be devoted to the "Bygdslag" meetings, most of them concluding with a dinner or banquet, arrangements are being made for a public reception

Saturday evening by Gov. and Mrs. Theodore Christianson of Minnesota, in the rotunda of Minnesota's state capital in St. Paul. One of the most promising indications of the broadening of interest in the Centennial is contained in the announcement that Minnesota's executive and his estimable wife will be assisted in arranging for this reception by the St. Paul Allied Women's organizations, comprising 52 different bodies, civic, professional, political, social, religious and fraternal, having a combined membership of 10,000 women.

### NORSE GOVERNORS IN LINE

In the receiving line with Gov. and Mrs. Christianson will be the five other Norse governors and their wives, namely: Gov. J. J. Blaine of Wisconsin; Gov. A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota; Gov. Carl Gunderson, South Dakota; Gov. J. E. Erickson, Montana; and Gov. H. L. Whitfield, Mississippi. Others in the receiving line will be official representatives of three governments: the United States, Canada, and Norway, besides some of the Centennial officials.

### INTERESTING NORSE EXHIBITS

An extensive exhibit during the Centennial Celebration is being planned and sponsored by Dr. Knut Gjer-

set. The program includes the following:

- 1, Pioneer Life; 2, Church; 3, Schools; 4, Farming; 5, Press; 6, Literature; 7, Men in Public Service; 8, Art; 9, Charity and Mutual Aid; 10, Domestic Service; 11, Societies and Organizations; 12, Music; 13, Trade and Commerce; 14, Engineering and Architecture; 15, Labor.

The Women's Auxiliary has for its outline of exhibits: 1, Fine Arts; 2, Arts and Crafts; 3, Relics and Curios; 4, National Costumes; 5, Jewelry and Household Silver; 6, China; 7, Music.

### FRIDA HANSEN'S TAPESTRY

One of the exhibits that deserves special mention is a piece of tapestry woven by Madame Frida Hansen of Norway, a piece that took the first premium in Paris in 1900 and has since been exhibited in the art centers of Europe and in many eastern cities of the United States. It is 14x16 feet, and represents seven goddesses riding south through the sea on the backs of swans, taking with them the sun, heat and flowers which they brot north to form the summer days. The garments of the goddesses are woven in sterling silver thread producing a truly wonderful effect.

### EVERY STATE ORGANIZED

The Women's Auxiliary has a state chairman in almost every state in the Union, in an attempt to gather worth while exhibits and to arouse interest for the coming event. And most of the chief cities in the country have their city chairman and exhibits. The men have organized the counties for the sale of coupon books, which give reduced rates of admission to the fair grounds. This advanced ticket sale is the only means of financing the great undertaking, so the committee is urging every true American citizen of Norse extraction to buy a coupon book for the great cause, even though he may not be able to attend the celebration.

### STAMPS AND MEDALS

The United States government has authorized the making of special two and five cent stamps with "Restaurationen," the sloop that brought the first 52 emigrants from Norway, printed in black and red on the two cent stamp and in blue and black on the five cent stamp, the only bi-color postage stamps issued by our govern-



ment with the single exception of the \$5.00 stamp.

Congress has also recently authorized the striking off of 40,000 medals, commemorative of the Norse-American Centennial. This is the first time in American history that Congress has authorized a commemorative medal. They are to be struck off at the United States mint at Philadelphia. The design shows an heroic Viking chieftan setting foot on American soil, with a small Viking ship riding the sea in the background.

#### MAYOR LEACH GIVES PRIZES

Mayor Leach of Minneapolis has sent \$100 to be given in three prizes to the pupils in Oslo, (Christiania) Norway, who make the three best models of a Viking ship. Mayor Leach's only condition is that the three winning models must be sent to this country in time to be exhibited at the Centennial celebration. The winner in a similar contest in the Minneapolis schools was a twelve-year-old boy of Bohemian-Swedish extraction. Mayor Leach also donated the money for the Minneapolis contest.

#### THE LIVING FLAG

A most unique and interesting feature of the celebration promises to be the "living flag." This will be featured on Monday afternoon, June 8, in connection with President Coolidge's address in front of the mammoth grandstand at the Minnesota state fair grounds. This "living flag" will be composed of 600 St. Paul children, who will be dressed in the colors of the Norse and United States flags, red white and blue, most of them with reversible capes (one color on each side). They will first appear as the Norwegian flag, while

"Ja Vi Elsker Dette Landet" is sung—and then at a given signal, the children will reverse their capes in such manner as will transform the Norse flag in the twinkling of an eye to the "Stars and Stripes."

#### MUSIC AT THE CENTENNIAL

True to the traditions of the Norse race as a music-loving people, the musical program being arranged promises to be one of unrivalled excellence in Norse-American history. Norway will be represented by the famous University of Oslo (Christiania) Academic choir of 50 trained voices, which will make its first visit to America on account of the Centennial. Norse-Americans will offer such renowned organizations as the St. Olaf College choir and band, the Luther College concert band, the Augustana College chorus, Sioux Falls, S. D., the Augsburg Seminary chorus and band, Minneapolis; Concordia College band and chorus, Moorhead, Minn.; Luther Seminary chorus, St. Paul; and a large male chorus composed of Norse singers from various cities.

#### HISTORICAL PAGEANT

The historical pageant which will be given June 9, in the evening, at the concluding climax of the biggest gathering in America in 1925, will be another wonderful and inspiring feature. It will depict in both stationary and moving tableaux, in most colorful fashion, one of the most interesting chapters in American history.

#### Argyle, Wis., Atlas THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1925

#### Norwegians Will Celebrate.

The Norse-American Centennial of the United States and Canada will be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, Hamline, Minnesota, three days, June 7 to 9.

This is to commemorate a migration of Norwegians to America that began a hundred years ago.

The purpose of this Centennial is to commemorate the events which mark the beginning of Norse emigration to this continent and pay a tribute to the Norwegian pioneers of America.

#### Rugby, N. D., Globe THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1925

THE Centennial celebration to be held on the Minnesota fair grounds gives promise of being a real treat to those who attend. Besides being a great meeting place for acquaintances there are a great many worth-while numbers on the program. And then there is the chance of getting a look at our president, Calvin Coolidge who speaks there on the opening day.

#### Chippewa Falls, Wis., Herald WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1925

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1925.

#### GRAND CENTENNIAL OF NORSEMEN IN AMERICA

The project for a celebration of the Norse-American Centennial in the Twin Cities next June has met with an enthusiastic response, not only in the Northwestern states of the Minnesota group, but in the entire United States and Canada, so the success of the affair seems to be already assured.

The mother country itself looks upon the project with unalloyed flavor, as showing the achievements of the Norsemen when transplanted to the New World. By the arts of peace rather than those of war the Norseman is making his way awakening a feeling of pride in the hearts of his fellow countrymen in the old land. One of the results of the centennial will be to bring together in unworsted union, the people of this widely scattered strain of blood, in which re-union all religious differences, social distinctions, and varying political opinions, will be obliterated in the realization of a common race.

More than sixty thousand people are expected to be present, from all parts of the United States and Canada, probably one thousand from our own city of Chippewa Falls and outlying districts, and perhaps two thousand or more from Eau Claire county.

The celebration will be held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds, opening Saturday, June 6, with convention of the Bydelags, and closing Tuesday evening, June 9 with a wonderful historical pageant. There will be addresses by prominent people on topics of timely interest and importance, President Coolidge being scheduled for an address on Monday, June 8. There will be a music festival full of melody and inspiration and entertainment of various kinds will be provided for old and young.

The Third Triennial of the Young People's Luther League will be held in the Twin Cities at the same time, with delegations from the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Texas, and California. Delegates from the local league will be Miss Jessie Peterson and Miss Anna Sands. Two hotels, the Curtis and The Leamington, as well as the Y. M. C. A. building, have been engaged for the convention. Addresses by well known speakers, and music by the Concordia College Choir, St. Olaf College Choir, and other noted bands and glee clubs will form a part of the program. The delegates and visitors will be treated to a great convention outing Wednesday, June 10, the outing probably taking place at Spring Park, Lake Minnetonka.

#### Van Hook, N. D., Reporter THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925

## Norse Program is Now Completed

The program for the Norse-American Centennial and Exposition, which takes place at the Minnesota State Fair grounds June 6, 7, 8 and 9, has now been given out, and appears below. From the program it appears that Norway has been very liberal in sending talent, and our own government is taking a great part in the celebration. Besides other national displays the program states that the U. S. Navy giant air ship Los Angeles and a fleet of 50 army air planes will be there.

Those who have a place on the program are as follows:

Hon. Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States.

Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State of the United States.

Hon. Johan Ludwig Mowinkel, Prime Minister of Norway.

Hon. H. H. Bryn, Norway's Minister to the United States.

Rt. Rev. J. P. Lunde, Bishop of Oslo Norway.



And other official representatives of Norway, Iceland and the Dominion of Canada, also U. S. Senators, Congressmen and Governors of Norse ancestry.

Academic Choir (50 voices) from Norway.

St. Olaf College Choir and Band.  
Luther College Concert and Band.  
Augsburg Seminary Glee Club.  
Concordia College Choir.  
Augustana College Choir.  
Waldorf College Choir.

Norwegian Singer's Association Chorus.

Prominent vocal and instrumental soloists.

Among the attractions the following are listed:

The immense, colorful Historic Pageant with 1,000 people taking part.

The beautiful "Living Flags" of Norway and the United States, by 120 school children.

The full size model of the sloop, "Restaurationen," (the Norwegian "Mayflower.")

The prize-winning models of the ancient Viking ships.

The wonderful Norse woven Tapestries, worth thousands of dollars.

The baseball and tennis games, soccer game, and big program of athletic contests and races.

The official exhibits of the natural resources of the State of Minnesota the Dominion of Canada.

The many paintings and sculpture by famous Norwegian and Norse-American artists.

A veritable "world's fair" of interesting exhibits in 22 different departments, including wonderful collections of old Norse relics and those pioneer days in America—actually thousands of articles of historic value and interest.

**ROCKFORD (ILL.) STAR**  
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1925.

## NORSE FETE TO OBSERVE FIRST SHIPLOAD HERE

MANY WILL ATTEND NORWEGIAN CELEBRATION AT MINNEAPOLIS

The Norse American centennial will be held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds at Minneapolis June 4 to 9 of this year. This is to commemorate the sailing from Norway of the first shipload of emigrants to the United States. This ship which landed at New York harbor Oct 9, 1925, after having been at sea for 14 weeks, was the real start of the large flow of Norse to this country which has continued to the present day.

The ship was a small sloop, capable of accommodating 55 passengers and was owned and commanded by Klang Pearson, who had visited the new world and knew something of the life and opportunities of the new country. He led them after landing to a place near Rochester, N. Y., where they set up a community which has remained Norwegian to this day. Almost all those who followed them went first after landing in America to this colony of Klang Pearson's where they were outfitted and went out in parties to the land ahead of them.

### Move Westward

These people moved rapidly westward until one party under the leadership of the same Klang Pearson settled in 1834 where Chicago now stands. In a few years they moved on to Jefferson Prairie, Wis., near Beloit, and there they remained. From there they spread to Koshkonong and to Muskegon where they founded the first Norse church in the new world.

First services of this new church were held in the barn of Avon Haegg the father of a civil war colonel of the same name. From there they spread until they are now in large numbers in New York, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Montana and in smaller numbers in many of the other states of the union.

Norway sent a larger percentage of her population to the United States than any other country except Ireland. In the United States there are almost 2,400,000 Norse people while in Norway there are only 2,600,000. Among the Norse in this country there are many nationally known persons, including more than 15 members of congress. Even George Washington, the father of his country, had Norse ancestors of which he was very proud, as he stated in a speech before a Norse association in Philadelphia on Dec. 11, 1782.

### Centennial Program.

The program for the centennial was announced yesterday.

Saturday, June 6 will be devoted to the meeting of those from each section of Norway by themselves.

Sunday, June 7 will be given over in the morning to religious services in which noted Norse Lutheran ecclesiastics of both countries will take part. The afternoon program will consist of greetings from prominent public officials of Norway including King Haakon VII, Foreign Minister Mowinkel, and greetings in person from Ivar Lykke, president of the Norse congress. W. Morgenstjerne will bring greetings from the historical association of Norway and greetings from the Norse press.

The program Monday morning will consist of addresses by prominent Norwegians of both the old and new countries. In the afternoon President Coolidge, Secretary of State Kellogg, Senator Peter Norbeck and Senator Henry Shipstead will speak. In the evening the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the prime minister of British Columbia, and the governors and former governors of several states will talk.

Tuesday morning will be devoted to talks on business, modern life, literature and kindred subjects by eminent Norse authorities. The program for Tuesday afternoon will be arranged by the women for the women, and a grand pageant and musical concert will be held in the evening.

Band and orchestra numbers will be scattered through the entire program.

More than a thousand visitors are

expected from the old country and at least 100,000 from the United States will come. Plans are being made for overflow crowds at all meetings.

A large party will go to the centennial from Rockford, it is expected.

**Paul Minn. Times**  
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1925

### Centennial Bulletin Out.

After a month of tireless effort, the Norse Centennial committee has completed its tremendous task and the program for the three-day festival, filled to capacity with interesting events, has been printed. As many as thirty different sessions will be held at one time and the days will be packed with good things for the thousands of visitors here from all over this country, Canada and Norway. The programs cover a wide field, and demonstrate that the high ideals with which the committee started out, have been kept at a fine standard. As there are so many demands from out of the city for reserved seats for the principal events, a portion of the seats have been set aside for the grand concerts in the Hippodrome and before the Grand Stand on Sunday, June 7th, the session on Monday afternoon when President Coolidge will speak, and the wonderful historical pageant before the Grand Stand on Tuesday evening. Sunday morning at 10 o'clock there will be a service in the Norwegian language, the music to be led by the Lutheran College concert band of Decorah, Iowa, Carlo A. Sperati, director. At the same time the young people who are also holding a convention here, will have a service at the Horticultural building. Sunday afternoon will be Norwegian guest session, and Consul Hobe will introduce the noted visitors from Norway and some of the wonderful musicians of that land will entertain. Music will have a big part in the Centennial, and all who are privileged to attend the session, will have a treat.

**Minneapolis, Minn. Star**  
MONDAY, MAY 18, 1925

## SWEDES, DANES, ICELANDERS SEND NORSE GREETINGS

Speakers Will Be Heard  
at International Ses-  
sion June 9

Greetings from Swedish-Americans, Danish-Americans and Icelandic-Americans will be brought to the international session of the Norse-American centennial celebration at 10 a. m. Tuesday, June 9, by leaders of the three groups, it was announced today by Prof. Gisle Bothne, chairman of the board of directors of the celebration.

The international session will open at 9:30 a. m., June 9, at the hippodrome, State Fair grounds. Congressman Knud Wefald of Hawley, Minn., will preside.

### Chicagoan to Speak

An expression of the good will the Swedish-Americans hold for Norwegian-Americans will be contained in an address to be delivered by Judge C. R. Magny of Duluth. R. Bauman of Chi-



Chicago, consul-general for Denmark, will speak in behalf of the Danish-American people, and Gunnar B. Bjornson, Minnesota, Minn., will represent the Icelandic-American group.

The Norse influence upon American literature will be explained in an address to be delivered by Dr. H. A. Bellows of Minneapolis. "Norse Influence upon Anglo-Saxon Law" will be the subject of an address by Judge Oscar Torrison of Chicago.

#### Glee Club to Sing

Congressman O. J. Kvale will deliver a 15-minute address on "How We Became Americans," and Congressman Wefald has selected as his subject, "The Land We Found."

Musical selections at the international session will be given by the St. Olaf college glee club, directed by Prof. T. A. Tjomsland, and songs will be sung by Mrs. B. A. Clepp, and Rev. H. B. Torgrimson of Grand Forks, N. D.

Northfield (Minn.) Independent  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1925

#### THE NORSE, CENTENNIAL

The Norse centennial celebration to be held at the state fair grounds June 6 to 9 will be addressed on Monday afternoon the 8th by President Coolidge, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and others. The program for the four days of the celebration is very complete. There will be several meetings going on at the same time, at the grand stand, in hippodrome and in other buildings. The hotels of St. Paul and Minneapolis all make special reduced rates to visitors. The admission price is a dollar for a three day ticket, or three persons one day. It will be a great meeting, and there will be a great attendance.

Eden Valley (Minn.) Journal  
THURSDAY MAY 21, 1925

#### Should Attend Celebration

Every good American citizen of Norwegian parentage should plan to attend the 100th anniversary celebration at the state fair grounds the fore part of June. It will be an epoch in the Scandinavian history of the Northwest and although a Norwegian fete, all of Scandinavian lineage should take part in it. President Coolidge, King Oscar and many of his royal family, besides notables of the United States will be in attendance and speak to the assembled throngs.

Northfield (Minn.) Independent  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925

## Pageantry Features St. Olaf Norse Play

Cast Asked to Repeat Performance  
at Norse-American Centennial  
at State Fair Grounds

"Sigurd Jorsalfar," an historical play by Bjornstjerne Bjornson, was presented in the St. Olaf gymnasium Saturday evening. The play was featured by impressive pageantry and brilliant costuming, and the play as a whole was given excellent execution. The cast was under the direction of Miss Esther Gulbranson of this city, teacher in the Norse department.

With many of the actors wearing the armor of Vikings and others the colorful costumes of that period, the various scenes were full of martial and brilliant display. The play revolved around the rivalries of two brothers, Sigurd and Øystein, jointly kings of Norway, in the 12th century. The former attained fame abroad by crusades in pagan countries, and the latter won the love of his people by his good rule at home.

Outstanding among the actors were Odvin Hagen as Øystein; Gunnar Malm as Sigurd Raneson, a chief of Øystein's bodyguard; Edgar Kittleson as Vidkunn Jonson, a chief of Sigurd's bodyguard, and John Furuseth as Aslak Hane, a member of Sigurd's bodyguard. The last named, although playing a minor role, carried his part particularly well.

A very attractive part of the program were the incidental musical numbers by Grieg, played by the St. Olaf College orchestra under the direction of J. Arndt Bergh, and the songs forming part of the play, sung by the actors with the vim, volume, and spontaneity that characterize St. Olaf student singing.

The cast has been asked by the management of the Norse-American centennial to present the play again at the celebration at the state fair grounds in June.

MADISON WIS JOUR  
MONDAY, MAY 25, 1925

## Norse to Present Spectacular Event for All Continents

Prince Olaf and Coolidge May  
Attend Minneapolis Norwegian  
Celebration

Preparations are being made for the Norse Centennial which will be held at Minneapolis from June 6 to June 9. It has been attracting wide

attention as the most imposing spectacle of the year on this continent.

President Calvin Coolidge will make an address, and it is expected that Prince Olaf will come over as a special favor.

The purpose of the Centennial is to commemorate the arrival in this country of the first shipload of Norwegians a century ago. The promoters are desirous of setting forth before their fellow citizens the results of all the toil, hopes, and ambitions of these early immigrants.

Because they were persecuted in their little community, a group of 52 Norwegians banded under the leadership of Kleng Peerson, pathfinder and dissenter from the state church, and decided to go to America. So July 4, 1825, a 45 ton sloop, "The Restoration," set sail from Stavanger, Norway, and reached New York on Oct. 9.

#### Came in '30's

In the latter part of the '30's, the first settlements in southern Wisconsin were started. It is reported that Kleng Peerson came to our state in 1833, to the present site of Milwaukee, but when Solomon Juneau told him of the great forests of Wisconsin, he returned to the prairies of Illinois where his descendants still live. The largest Wisconsin settlement was at Koshkonong.

The first Norwegian Lutheran church in this country was built here in 1844. The first Norwegian newspaper was started here in 1847.

Norway has contributed many great men to the United States. The largest and best tool machine in the world is made by the Gisholt company of Madison, founded by Senator John A. Johnson.

It was a Norwegian, who was educated at the university here, Magnus Swenson, who built the great dams at Kilbourn and Sank City. The oldest trust company in the state was founded by a Norwegian pioneer.

#### Greetings From Norway

It is interesting to know that since a century ago, over a million Norwegians have come to this country, and that in proportion to population, Norway has given more people than any land except Ireland.

The program that has been arranged is of unusual interest. The University of Norway will send greetings through a mixed chorus of fifty voices, all alumni of the university. The chorus will sing in Madison, Sunday afternoon, May 24, at Olin Park.

A public reception will be given by Gov. Theodore Christianson of Minnesota, at which five other Norse governors will be present: J. J. Blaine, of Wisconsin; A. C. Sorlie, of North Dakota; Carl Gunderson, of South Dakota; J. E. Erickson, of Montana; H. L. Whitfield, of Mississippi.

As a special mark of honor, Congress has passed an act to strike a medal in commemoration of the



## Norwegians, Honoring the Centennial of First Group Immigrants, to Meet for Elaborate Celebration June 6

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 28.—In honor of the centennial of the first group immigration of Norwegians to the United States, the federal government, the state of Minnesota and the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul are uniting in plans for one of the most elaborate celebrations ever held in this section of the country. The celebration, which will have its formal opening here on Saturday of next week, is expected to attract an enormous attendance of visitors from points in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, the Dakotas and other states in which thousands of immigrants from Norway and their descendants have found new homes and are now numbered among the most prosperous and esteemed citizens of their respective commonwealths. The committees in charge of the local arrangements believe that at least 150,000 visitors will be here during the week of the celebration.

President Coolidge will be the guest of honor and central figure at the celebration. His visit to the Twin Cities will be the first extensive trip that he has undertaken since he became president. Other men and women of national prominence have accepted invitations to participate in the centennial program, including the governors of several states.

### Landed in 1825—

The event which gives date to the celebration was the landing of the sloop Restoration in New York, from Norway, on October 9, 1825. Several years earlier Cleng Pearson and Knud Olsen Eide had appeared in New York as advance agents for a group of Quakers in and about the city of Stavanger, Norway. This resulted in the coming of the "sloop-folk," who left Stavanger on July 4, 1825, and arrived in New York Oct. 9, after a circuitous journey.

In 1836 and 1837 a more extensive immigration began which in-

creased with each succeeding decade until, at the present time, there are said to be more people of Norwegian stock in America than the present population of Norway.

While this migration, in its inception, had a partial religious cause, the main driving power through the years has been economic.

The Norwegians are not unmindful of the material blessings which have surrounded them in the new land, and they have allotted one entire day of the centennial program to the honor of the land of their adoption and which will be known as "America Day." The chief feature will be an elaborate outdoor pageant depicting the story of their progress under the Stars and Stripes and the part they have played in the upbuilding of the northwest.

### Tuesday, Norway Day—

Tuesday of the centennial week will be Norway Day, and a pageant will represent the history of the mother country from the most ancient period to the present time. A replica of such a vessel as that in which Leif Ericason discovered America and another of a sloop like the Restoration will be exhibited.

A distinguished delegation representing the government, the church and numerous societies in Norway has already arrived in the country to attend the celebration. On Norway day a special message of greeting from King Haakon VII. will be read. The Norwegian churches throughout the United States and Canada will be represented in the program of exercises and festivities, as well as the numerous "Bygdelag," which are organizations of immigrants and their descendants by districts in Norway whence they originated. Many Norwegian musicians and choral organizations of note will furnish the elaborate musical features of the program.

### CROWDS WILL START FOR CENTENNIAL

The coming week, the roads and trains will be literally a teeming mass of humanity, wending its way to the greatest of all celebrations that have been staged in this great northwest, when the Norse-American Centennial will open at the state fair grounds at Hamline, on Saturday, June 6th. Thousands upon thou-

and will go in automobiles, equipped to camp on the numerous camping grounds that will be provided, others will go by trains, and will find accommodations at the numerous hotels and private homes, whose rooms have been carefully listed by the Minneapolis and St. Paul civic bodies.

Saturday will be the meeting day of the "Bygdelags" of whom there are about sixteen.

The main Centennial program will open on Sunday, June 7th, with religious services and concerts. Dr. H. G. Stub, president of the Norwegian

Lutheran church of America, will give the sermon at 10:30 a. m. in the Hippodrome. There will be music by the St. Olaf college choral society. Bishop John P. Lunde, of Oslo, Norway, will give a short talk. At the same time there will be services at the Grand Stand, when Rev. H. O. Sletten of Minneapolis will give the sermon. Music by the St. Olaf college band. At the Horticultural building, at 10:30 a. m. Rev. J. A. Aasgaard, D. D., of Moorhead, will give the sermon. Music by the Concordia college choir and the joint church choruses of Grand Forks, N. D., under the direction of Mrs. David Stoove. Also music by Division B of the Luther college concert band. Each day, hour, yes, minute, is filled with programs so elaborate, so varied and full of good talks and music that one will be thrilled with just being present.

On Monday afternoon Governor Theodore Christianson will introduce Calvin Coolidge, president of the United States, who will give the address. Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, secretary of state, will bring greetings. Among the other speakers you will hear will be Hon. H. H. Bryhn, Norway's Minister to the U. S., Rt. Rev. J. P. Lunde, Bishop of Oslo, and other official representatives from Norway, Iceland and the Dominion of Canada. Also U. S. Senators, Congressmen and state governors of Norse ancestry.

The following famous musical organizations will be present and will present programs and selections during the three days: the Academic choir of fifty voices from Norway; St. Olaf choir and band; Luther college band; Augsburg Seminary Glee club; Concordia college choir and band; Augustana college and Waldorf college choirs; the Norwegian Singers association male chorus, and prominent vocal and instrumental soloists. The Woman's program committees have arranged special concerts in the Woman's building for Monday and Tuesday morning and evening. Also a special children's program.

The number and variety of exhibits have so far exceeded what was looked for, that it will be a veritable "world's fair," including the wonderful collection of old Norse relics and those from pioneer days in America; official exhibits of the natural resources of the state of Minnesota and Canada; Norse woven tapestries; paintings and sculpture of famous Norwegian and Norse-American artists.

In the athletic line, there will be base ball games, soccer games, bicycle races, track and field meets.

The full size model of the sloop

"Restaurationen," will be on display as well as prize winning models of the ancient Viking ships.

A most interesting and unique feature of the celebration promises to be the "living flag." This will be featured on Monday afternoon, in connection with President Coolidge's address. It will be composed of 600 St. Paul school children, especially trained for their parts.

The concluding feature of the celebration will be the historical pageant, which will be given on Tuesday evening. This pageant will depict in both stationary and moving tableaux the history of the first century of Norse-American and Norse-Canadian development, visualizing in the most colorful fashion one of the most interesting chapters in American history. Over 1,000 people will take part.



## AUTO CARAVANS TO TWIN CITIES

Traveling in special trains and in caravans of automobiles, hundreds of residents of South Dakota of Norwegian birth and extraction will find their way June 6 and 7 to the twin cities, to attend the Norse-American Centennial commemorating the 100th anniversary of the coming of the first immigrants to this country from Norway. It will be held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds, between Minneapolis and St. Paul. The Centennial is expected to draw 200,000 to 500,000 visitors, the world's largest gathering for the year.

While a large number of persons will attend the Centennial to see the exposition which will include rare relics of Norwegian life and of the progress of the people in this country, a large attendance is assured because many organizations, church and lay, have agreed to hold their annual conventions at that time and place. More than 3,000 church congregations will be represented, and some 36 "bydelags" or societies from the various parts of the old country. The various elements to be represented include:

### Organizations to Gather

1. Twenty-six "bydelags."
2. Besides bydelags in the U. S. and Canada, Norway will send representatives who will be the guests of their respective bydelags here.
3. The Norwegian Lutheran church of America (2,700 congregations).
4. The Norwegian Lutheran Free church of America.
5. The Lutheran Brethren.
6. The Young People's League of the Norwegian Lutheran church.
7. Det Norsk Lutherske Landsforbund For Ungdom i Amerika.
8. Sons of Norway.
9. Daughters of Norway.
10. Norse-American Historical Society.
11. Faedrenearven Society.
12. Norsk Sangerforbund of America (consisting of all Norwegian singing societies of U. S. and Canada.)
13. An Academic Choir from Oslo, Norway, consisting of 30 women and 20 men students from Oslo University.
14. All Norse-American colleges, academies and seminaries in U. S. and Canada.
15. Norse-Americans in every state, every province of Canada, the home country, large Norwegian colonies in Great Britain, in France and in Germany, in Sweden, Denmark and Finland, in South Africa, Asia and Australia, in Mexico and South America.

Even the time of the Northwestern Industrial Exposition, to be given in the Overland building between Minneapolis and St. Paul, was fixed to coincide with that of the Centennial. The Tri-State Postmaster's association also will have its convention there on account of the Centennial.

The famous choir of Augustana college also is to attend and appear on the program. Arrangements are being made for special sleepers for the choir, and for concerts enroute. Miss Marie Toohey, conductor of the Augustana orchestra, is to give a violin solo at the Centennial.

The Point, S. D. Herald  
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1925

## NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND EXPOSITION

Just a Few of the Things to Be Seen and Heard at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds June 6, 7, 8, 9.

Four big days—continuous program Educational, entertaining, inspiring.

Hon. Calvin Coolidge, president of the United States.

Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, secretary of state of the United States.

Hon. John Ludwig Mowinkel, prime minister of Norway.

Hon. H. F. Bryan, Norway's minister to the United States.

Rt. Rev. J. A. Lunde, Bishop of Oslo, Norway.

Official representatives of Norway, Iceland and the Dominion of Canada, also U. S. senators, congressmen and governors of Norse ancestry.

Hear the following famous musical organizations:

Academic Choir (50 voices) from Norway.

St. Olaf Choir and Band.

Luther College Concert Band.

Augsberg College Choir.

Concord College Choir.

Waldorf College Choir.

Norwegian Singers association, male chorus.

Prominent instrumental and vocal soloists.

See—  
A large colorful historical page with 1000 people taking part.

Beautiful living flags of the States and Norway by 420 children.

Full size model of the sloop, "Restaurationen," (the Norwegian Mayflower.)

Prize-winning models of the ancient Viking ships.

The wonderful Norse woven tapestries worth thousands of dollars.

Many paintings and sculpture by famous Norwegian and Norse-American artists.

Exhibits in 22 departments, including wonderful collections of old Norse relics and those from pioneer days in America—actually thousands of articles of historic value and interest.

The U. S. navy giant airship "Los Angeles" and a fleet of 50 army airplanes.

The Point, S. D. Herald  
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1925

## Centennial in Minneapolis

Norse-American Event to  
Be Elaborate Affair  
June 7 to 9

Bulletin No. 14 sent out by the committee in charge of the Norse-American Centennial to be held in Minneapolis, at the fair grounds on June 7-8-9 lists one of the most elaborate programs ever prepared for such an event.

The program opens on Sunday, June 7th at ten in the morning. In the afternoon and evening the special addresses and musical programs will be given at the grandstand. Reserved seats for the program at the grandstand are 50 cents. The musical organizations appearing in their program are the Luther Band of Decorah, Iowa, St. Olaf's Band of Northfield and the Academic Mixed Choir of Oslo.

On Tuesday the program which is designated the Presidential Session will include a greeting by Secretary of State Kellogg, the response by Senator Norbeck of South Dakota, addresses by President Calvin Coolidge and at a second session there will be addresses by Mayor Leach, Minneapolis, Mayor Nelson of St. Paul, Hon. Thos. H. Johnson of Winnipeg and Premier Bracken of Winnipeg.

Business meetings and special sectional meetings will feature the program for Wednesday, June 9th.

It is expected that an enormous crowd will attend this centennial celebration and elaborate preparations are being made to provide and accommodation for all.

accounts of the scenes of horror that followed the trembler. The distance reached the full measure of intensity with alarming suddenness which gave residents of Toyo-Oka a



# NORSK FOLK IN THIS COUNTY PLAN GREAT HEGIRA TO CITIES

## Train For Some and Motor Trips For Others Provided.

### GREATEST SUMMER EVENT

#### Occasion Will Bring Coolidge To Northwest To Be Guest of Race Here and Abroad.

All over North America, north, south, east and west, people with the blood of the Vikings coursing in their veins are preparing to attend the greatest gathering of its kind in the history of the Norsemen in America.

From June 6 to 9 there will assemble in Minneapolis at the state fair grounds a huge crowd of people, estimated to number from 100,000 to 125,000 souls, met with the common purpose of commemorating the advent of their ancestors, in great tides of immigration, to the shores of the Land of Opportunity.

This event known as the "Centennial Celebration" because it falls upon the hundredth anniversary of this famous event of landing, will be featured by a 3 day program, arranged to hold the interest of the vast throng which will be assembled at that time. President Coolidge has agreed to be present in person, as has secretary of State Kellogg to add to the formality of the occasion. The governors of almost every western state will also be there, representing the Commonwealths which the Scandinavians have rendered so beautiful and prosperous. The heads of the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Mississippi have all signified their intentions of coming to assist in the commemoration.

Special trains are being chartered all over the continent. The Great Northern Railway, here in Aberdeen is busy securing reservations for at least 125, which is the number needed to schedule a special of this kind. At present writing two Pullman cars have been filled and it is hoped that within a day or two the announcement may be made that the quota is complete.

The local agent has arranged it so that the cars will be drawn into the limits of the fair grounds so that the occupants will not have to bother to make reservations at the hotels. Such conveniences as hot and cold water, lighting and heating arrangements, will be provided.

The Twin cities are busy preparing for the reception of the vast multitude which is pouring in by every kind of conveyance. The greatest number will probably come from Minnesota and the Dakotas, but indications show that Canada and the southern and western states will be well represented.

Besides the regular speeches and reports the visitors to the convention may take part in the extensive program of outdoor games and festivals which are being planned as well as witness the priceless collection of souveniers and antiques which will be on

# Norwegian and English Services to Mark Norse Centennial Opening

## Bishop of Oslo to Speak Both at Hippodrome and Before Grandstand—St. Olaf College Choir and Luther College Band Will Provide Music.

Four services, two in Norwegian and two in English, will be held at the fair grounds Sunday, June 7, the opening day of the Norse-American centennial.

At 10 a. m. services will be held in Norwegian at the Hippodrome and before the grand stand. Rt. Rev. J. P. Lunde, bishop of Oslo, will be present at both to bring the greetings of the Norwegian church.

### DR. STUB TO SPEAK.

Dr. H. G. Stub will speak at the services in the Hippodrome. The services will be conducted by Rev. C. N. Englestad and music will be provided by the St. Olaf College choral society and the Luther college concert band.

The sermon at the services before the grand stand will be by Rev. H. K. Madsen. Music will be by the St. Olaf college band and the Norse male chorus of 500 voices.

The English services will be given in the horticultural building at 10:30 a. m. and before the grand stand at 11 a. m.

At the horticultural building services, the sermon will be by Dr. J. A. Aasgaard; liturgical service by Rev. M. C. Smeby, and music by Concordia college choir, joint choirs

of Grand Forks, N. D. Our Saviour's church, Omaha, and instrumental quartet from the Luther college band.

Rev. O. H. Sletten will preach the sermon at the English services before the grand stand. The service will be conducted by Dr. J. W. Boe and music by the St. Olaf college band and Norse male chorus.

## THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL.

This interesting event will be held at the Minnesota state fair grounds in St. Paul, opening June 6 and continuing for four days. All persons of Norwegian birth or extraction are invited to participate and all others will be welcome guests. It is, in a way, an international affair because Canadians and American of this good stock have joined hands in the grand reunion, and Norway and Iceland will take part.

It is to be a celebration of the activities of the men and women of Norway in the last hundred years in helping build up North America north of the Rio Grande. It will make notable the coming of the good ship Restoration, the Mayflower of the North, a small sloop of forty-five tons, with the first organized party of Norwegian emigrants to this country in 1825.

A special center of Norwegian life has always been the Upper Mississippi valley states, and of these Minnesota has been signally favored, because an important percentage of her people have their racial origin on the western side of the Scandinavian peninsula.

It is now well settled that a thousand years ago Norwegian settlers had villages and farms in Greenland, an Amer-

ican island-continent, notwithstanding the rigors of its climate, although there is reason to believe that the climate of that island was more moderate at that time than now. In view of the Norse settlements in Iceland and Greenland, the close proximity of the American coast and the skill of these Vikings on the sea, it would be far more remarkable if these mariners had not seen and visited American coasts than if they had done so. A few hours' sail from their village in Greenland would bring them in sight of American continental shores. Indeed, there is virtually no doubt that they did visit as far south as Massachusetts.

The governors of six states are of Norwegian origin, and all of these, headed by Governor Theodore Christianson, who is of Norse descent, are expected to be present.

An important feature is to be a speech by President Coolidge, who comes to distinguish his fellow citizens of Norse ancestry and origin. In addition high officials from Canada, Norway and Iceland will honor the occasion with their presence.

Norwegians are a pioneering race. This quality has served them well in North America. It led them to frontiers which soon ceased to be frontiers, and thus they grew into prosperity.

Americans of other stocks extend to Norsemen a warm hand on this occasion and wish them prosperity and happiness for many more hundreds of years.

## COMING CENTENNIAL

The Norse-American Centennial celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Norse immigration to America will be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, St. Paul-Minneapolis, Saturday June 6, to Tuesday June 9th, inclusive. June 6 is "Bygdelaag" day, June 7 is "Church and International" day, June 8 is "America" day, (when President Coolidge will attend and deliver an address) and June 9 is "Norway and Women's" day. Every day will be a big day.

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Holland, Minn., Independent  
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1925

300

### REBUILD NORSE 'MAYFLOWER'

First Scandinavian Immigrant's 50-Foot Sloop to Be Copied Exactly.

Minneapolis—In the state fair grounds, workmen were busy building a tiny sloop which would seem hardly seaworthy for the navigation of one of Minnesota's lakes, so small is it.

But in that sloop they are recreating the "Mayflower of the North," a vessel of only 45 tons, which crossed the Atlantic ocean in 1825, with 53 passengers who proved themselves the vanguard of the great Scandinavian emigration to America.

When thousands of visitors come to the Twin Cities in June to join in the Norse-American Centennial which will celebrate the coming of the Scandinavian settlers to this country, they will see an exact reproduction of the boat in which that first party braved an ocean. Under direction of the Osterdalslaget, a national American-Norwegian organization, the sloop is being rebuilt in every detail.

SUPERIOR WIS TELE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1925.

### WORKMEN BUSY ON NORSE SHIP

Completing Construction on Tiny Sloop for the Twin City Centennial.

(By United Press.)

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Workmen are busy today on the state fair grounds completing the construction of a tiny sloop that does not appear capable of weathering navigation difficulties on any one of Minnesota's "ten thousand lakes" so small is it.

New "Mayflower."

But in that tiny sloop has been recreated the "Mayflower of the North," a 45 ton vessel which crossed the Atlantic in 1825 with 53 passengers, the van guard of the great Scandinavian emigration to the United States.

Next week thousands of Scandinavians, living in all sections of the world, are to view the replica of the boat their forefathers trusted to carry them to the "land of opportunity." The small skiff will be one of the hundreds of features at the Norse-American Centennial exposition which opens at the state fair grounds Saturday.

As the completed model rests before the eyes of the visitors here next week, it will recall vividly the history of the voyage reminiscent of the daring exploits of the early Vikings—a voyage which paved the way for the multitudes who followed the small handful of pioneers.

Sailed in 1825.

The small party sailed from Stavanger harbor, July 4, 1825 and threaded their way through the perils of the English channel, across the Atlantic ocean and bravely into the New York harbor, just three months and five days from the time of their departure.

The vessel was but 50 feet long, 20 feet wide and eight feet deep and

was sold for \$400 upon its arrival at New York.

Unable to place before the Norse-American Centennial visitors, the original boat, members of the Osterdalslaget have approached that accomplishment as nearly as is possible with the completion of the exact reproduction of the northern "Mayflower."

St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press  
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1925

### LAG REPRODUCES NORSE BOAT FOR CENTENNIAL



In the picture above is shown the skeleton of a replica, now under construction at the State Fair Grounds, of the famous sloop, "Restaurationen," which in 1825 brought 53 immigrants from Stavanger, Norway, to the United States.

The model is being constructed by the Osterdalslaget for the Norse-American Centennial and after the Centennial it will be set up on the campus of Luther college at Decorah, Iowa.

The officers of the Osterdalslaget are N. T. Moen, Fergus Falls, Minn.;

president; Rev. K. G. Nilsen, Osage, Iowa, vice president; and Knut Haugeseth, Minneapolis, secretary and treasurer.

Reverend Mr. Nilsen, who is supervising the building of the model, is shown in the foreground, examining the blueprints.

REDDING, CALIF. THE PRESS 66  
JULY 1, 1925

### MINNEAPOLIS READY TO HONOR NORSE MEN OF WESTERN PLAINS

MINNEAPOLIS, June 2.—Paganry and song will vie with speeches and exhibits in depicting the part played by Norwegians in the development of the northwest at the Norse-American centennial celebration here, June 6 to 9.

Much of the romance in the building of the northwestern section of the United States are chapters from the history of the Norse-Americans in this country, for it is in this section a majority of the "hardy Norse" settled.

Interest will be added to the celebration by the presence of President and Mrs. Coolidge, and June 8 has been set aside as President's

Day, when he will speak at 2 p. m. at the state fair grounds, where the celebration will be held.

Promise of the presence of the giant dirigible Los Angeles for part of the celebration has provided another point of attraction for those who have never seen a dirigible.

But to the thousands of Norse-Americans born in Norway, or members of the early Norwegian colonies in the northwest, the celebration has its main attraction in the promise of a gigantic reunion, particularly in the conventions of "Bygdelags" on June 6.

Thirty "Bygdelags" will hold their reunions on that day, each constituting descendants of a Norwegian community or clan, distinguished by a distinct dialect. These conventions are annual affairs in this country, and are expected to attract 25,000 persons this year.

In this group will be many descendants of the original 53 immigrants who arrived in this county October 9, 1825, on the Norwegian



sloop Restaurationen, the first organized group of Norwegians to emigrate to America.

It is in commemoration of the arrival of this now historic sloop that the celebration will be held, sponsored by Norse-American churches, colleges, associations and individuals, to enable a composite picture of what the Norseman has done in the settlement and growth of the northwest.

In the original group that boarded the sloop at Stavanger were 52 men, women and children, but before the voyage had been completed, the roster had been increased, by the birth of a girl, Margaret Allen Larsen Atwater.

Participating in the celebration here will be Mrs. Atwater's son, Rev. John Larsen Atwater of Chicago, a retired Baptist clergyman, now 73 years old, and Mrs. Atwater's sister, Jane S. Atwater, for 50 years a teacher in the public schools of Chicago.

Exhibits of the arts and the professions, contributed by Norse-Americans, will make an important part of the celebration, and on the closing night a pageant including 1,000 persons will picture the Americanization of the Norwegian.

This pageant will center around Colonel Hans Heg of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Infantry, the all-Norse regiment of the Civil war, which participated in 29 engagements before Colonel Heg was killed in the battle of Chickamauga.

St. Paul, Minn., News  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1925

### The Why, Where, What of Norse Centennial

**WHAT** — The Norse-American Centennial celebration and exposition.

**WHERE** — Minnesota state fair grounds. (Athletic programs at University of Minnesota Memorial stadium.)

**WHEN** — Saturday, Sunday Monday and Tuesday, June 6-9.

**WHY** — To celebrate centenary of Norse group immigration to America, to pay deserved tribute to pioneers and builders of the United States and Canada, among whom the Norse played an important role, and to educate, entertain and inspire the present generation.

**BY WHOM ORIGINATED** — Stavangerlaget, an association of immigrants and their descendants from Stavanger Norway, whence the sloop Restaurationen sailed on July 4, 1825, with first organized group of Norse immigrants to the United States.

**BY WHOM SPONSORED** — By the thirty-odd bygdelags, through a joint council of representatives, which resulted about two years ago in selec-

tion of an executive committee or board of directors, which has had charge of all preparations.

**RECOGNITION** — Officially recognized by four nations, namely, United States, Dominion of Canada, Norway and Iceland, all of which will be officially represented, including the president of the United States, members of Norway's cabinet and parliament, other high dignitaries.

**PROGRAM** — Religious services (Sunday, June 7), concerts by famous musical organizations and soloists, addresses, historical essays, athletic games and contests, "living flags," 23 departments of educational exhibits and pageant, "The Coming of the Northmen."

CALENDAR CAL. CHRONICLE  
JUNE 4, 1925 3

## BIG CENTENNIAL TO BE ATTENDED BY NORWEGIANS

(By Associated Press)

MINNEAPOLIS, June 4.—One hundred years ago the Norwegian sloop Restaurationen landed 53 emigrants from Norway at the harbor of New York, the first organized colony to reach this country from the land of the midnight sun.

Commemorating that event Norse-Americans will stage a four-day celebration at the Minnesota state fair grounds here June 6 to 9, with President Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge heading the list of distinguished visitors.

Before the main grandstand President Coolidge will speak Monday, June 8, at 2 p. m., with amplifiers carrying his voice to thousands in other buildings on the grounds.

The presidential party will include Frank B. Kellogg, secretary of state, at whose St. Paul home the President and Mrs. Coolidge will be guests while here.

From Norway will come two officials of the Norwegian government, Prime Minister J. L. Mowinkel to represent the cabinet and Ivan Lykke, president of the Storting, to represent that parliament. H. H. Bryn, Norwegian minister at Washington, will be the personal representative of King Haakon.

Bands and choirs from Norse-American colleges and from the University of Oslo in Norway, together with musical organizations of churches and associations, will furnish the music for the celebration.

Exhibits will include the work of Norse-Americans in arts and the professions, while perhaps one of

the principal points of interest will be a model of the sloop Restaurationen.

Officers in charge of the celebration are preparing for a total attendance of about 250,000.

Lutheran Church  
Herald, Mpls.

Mar. 24 - 1925

### Centennial Headquarters

ALL the official guests during the Norse-American Centennial celebration at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, June 6-9, will be entertained at the New Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, where rooms for fifty people have been reserved.

Mr. George L. Crocker, manager, was authorized by the directors of the hotel corporation to offer free accommodations for Centennial offices and headquarters on the ground floor, Washington Ave. front of the hotel. The address is 11 Washington Ave. South. The business of the headquarters force has already outgrown the quarters originally tendered, so the hotel management has generously offered, also free of charge, considerable additional office space adjoining, comprising a large room at corner of Washington and Nicollet Aves.

The New Nicollet Hotel is the Northwest's finest hotel, absolutely up to date in every way, having 600 rooms with bath or connecting bath. Every room is an outside room. The hotel has every facility for luncheons, banquets, and other meetings, from small committee meetings to the largest gatherings, the elegant banquet room accommodating 1,500 people, the largest and finest room of its kind in the Northwest.

For the information of our readers who contemplate attending the Centennial celebration we give herewith the schedule of room rates, the quoted rate being for two persons to the room: 50 rooms at \$3.50; 68 rooms at \$4.00; 84 rooms at \$4.50; 257 rooms at \$5.00; 41 rooms at \$5.50 and \$6.00; and 38 rooms at \$7.00.

In explanation let it be said that it is common practice in large cities entertaining crowds such as are expected at the Centennial to put two persons in each room (in order to accommodate the largest possible number), or charge the same price for one person. In other words, two persons may occupy a \$3.50 room at \$1.75 each, but if one person insists on having the room alone he must pay the regular room price of \$3.50.

Persons intending to visit the Centennial are urged not to delay in making hotel reservations, as indications are that the gathering will be the largest in America in

1925, and that the number of visitors will probably reach 200,000.

Prof. Gisle Bothne, dean of the Scandinavian department, University of Minnesota, is general chairman of the Centennial Committee, and Mr. S. H. Holstad, Minneapolis, is managing director. Rev. B. E. Bergesen, Minneapolis, is chairman of the program committee. —W.



St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press  
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1925

## SERVICE IS ASSURED FOR 350,000 GUESTS

### Rooms in Private Houses Not Yet Listed, S. P. A. Lead- er Reports.

Less than 10 per cent of the possible hotel accommodation of the Twin Cities has been reserved so far for prospective guests during the coming Norse-American centennial and St. Paul and Minneapolis will be amply able to take care of from anywhere between 50,000 and 350,000 visitors at that time, according to an official statement issued by Frank M. Moore, convention secretary of the St. Paul Association, Saturday.

Mr. Moore also pointed out that as yet no steps have been taken to list available rooms in private houses and asserted that his statement regards hotels only.

For several weeks past, the Association secretary said, there have been vague reports circulated that St. Paul and Minneapolis would not be able comfortably to house the large number of visitors expected here in June. These rumors, Mr. Moore declared, have gained some credence throughout the state but are absolutely without vestige of foundation in fact.

During the last week of May mobilization of rooms in the residence districts will be effected by the Association in order that persons who prefer rooms in private houses may be placed to their satisfaction.

The listing of rooms does not signify a lack of hotel space, it was asserted, but is contemplated more in the nature of an additional entertainment courtesy.

St. Paul (Towa) Republic  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925 46

### NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

The St. Paul Association, the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association and the hotel and restaurant associations of St. Paul and Minneapolis are co-operating with the directors of the Norse-American Centennial to provide ample hotel accommodations at reasonable prices for visitors during the celebration.

Please note during the Centennial celebration, rooms must be occupied to capacity, that is to say, if a room can accommodate two or more persons, unless such person is willing to pay the price which two or more person would be charged. This is fair to the hotels and to the many who need rooms.

Suggestion: If you wish to stay at a hotel in St. Paul or Minneapolis, and have not already done so, please send your reservation at once directed to the hotel and enclose check for one day's room rent. The hotels are all reliable and will issue a receipt for advance payment, which constitutes a contract between you and the hotel, so you will

be sure to have the room when you call for it. If for any reason you do not call for the room on the day it has been reserved, it cannot be rented to any one else that day. It is your room. At the end of the day if you have not occupied the room, the deposit will be forfeited and the room will be rented to some one else. This agreement is fair to both the hotel and person who has reserved the room.

Any further information about hotels may be obtained either by writing to the hotel direct, to the St. Paul Association, St. Paul, the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association, Minneapolis, or the Norse-American Centennial, Minneapolis.

Buffalo, Minn., Journal  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925

## NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL TO BE SPECTACULAR AFFAIR

### LARGEST GATHERING OF MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE FEATURE

### PRESIDENT COOLIDGE WILL SPEAK MONDAY—ROOM FOR ALL VISITORS

The general committee of the Norse-American Centennial celebration in the Twin Cities has requested that there be the widest publicity given to the fact that there will be plenty of accommodations in the Twin Cities for every visitor. Stories have been circulated that the hotels will not be able to provide sleeping quarters. These are pronounced malicious misstatements, intended to injure the celebration. As a matter of fact there will be accommodation for every person who visits the Twin Cities during any or all of the three days, June 6, 7 and 8. But few of the hotels have their quota of reservations filled, and there are hundreds of homes listed in addition to the scores of hotels and rooming houses available.

The Norse-American Centennial will be held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds, opening on Saturday with the sessions of the numerous national "lags" or societies. These are business sessions and no entrance charge will be made to the fair grounds that day.

The formal programs of the Centennial open on Sunday when the buildings housing the thousands of splendid and interesting exhibits will be open to the public. There will be huge gatherings of a religious

nature, with speakers in Norse and English, and some of the most famous singing and musical societies of the world, including the famous Students' Chorus from Oslo, Norway, which has been making a triumphal tour of the country for two weeks; the internationally famous St. Olaf choir; Waldorf College choir, Concordia College choir, Augustana College choir, Augsburg Seminary Glee club, a male chorus of 500 voices and the church choir from Omaha, while the preludes, postludes and hymn accompaniments will be played by the St. Olaf and Luther College bands. It is doubtful if ever there has been such an imposing array of great musical organizations participating in such services. On Sunday evening there will be two great musical programs, one before the grandstand and the other in the Hippodrome, at both of which the prize Centennial cantata will be presented.

Monday will be President's Day, featuring the visit and address of President Calvin Coolidge, who will arrive in the Twin Cities on a special train on Sunday night.

President Coolidge, Secretary of State Kellogg and U. S. Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota will speak at the presidential session on Monday afternoon. There will be numerous great musical numbers by the various organizations in addition to the U. S. Marine Band. This session will also be featured by the presentation of the Living Flag by 450 school children, the flag first appearing as that of Norway and then at a signal being transformed instantly into the Stars and Strips—signifying in this unusual manner the transformation of the people of Norseland into American citizens.

"The Pageant of the Northmen," on Tuesday is another unique and elaborate spectacle, which will prove the climax of the entire celebration, in which 1000 persons will appear in a series of 24 scenes emblematic of the traditions of the Norse race, its transplanting to American soil and its contribution to American history and progress.

These spectacular features are but a part of the Centennial celebration, there being a presentation in 21 departments, filling large fair buildings, prepared by the committee, in addition to the official exhibits of the State of Minnesota for which the legislature appropriated \$10,000.00.

The visit of the U. S. army and navy air fleets with the huge dirigible Los Angeles, will be an even seldom seen in this section of our country.



Gary, Minn. Gra. 3  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925

SPECIAL BILL BOARD

Very Important

My attention has repeatedly been called to some very active and vicious propoganda, evidently intended to keep people away from the celebration.

**THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THE STATEMENTS** that all the hotels in St. Paul and Minneapolis are filled. A few are unable to accept more reservations—but hotels are still able to accomodate many thousands at reasonable rates.

**THERE IS ROOM ENOUGH** for at least two hundred thousand more people in the hotels and private homes of the Twin Cities. Housing committees are listing every available clean and comfortable bed in both cities. Past experience with big meetings has demonstrated that thousands of available beds have not been occupied. Possibly this will be the case during the Centennial, but better to have thousands of beds un-occupied than to have one person without a place to sleep.

**COME!** You will be taken care of. Please pass this on and if possible have your local papers run a story—inviting everybody to come.

**PLEASE ASK YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS TO "TELL THE WORLD" THAT CENTENNIAL VISITORS WILL BE PROPERLY AND SATISFACTORILY HOUSED.**

Of course, we don't expect that the Hotels are going to be able to care for ALL Centennial visitors. For this reason, well equipped and manned "housing bureaus" have been established in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, under the experienced supervision of the Convention Secretaries of the Minneapolis Civic & Commerce Association and the St. Paul Association. These housing bureaus are now busy listing rooms available in private homes, thousands of which already have been listed and hundreds being added daily. The usual rate for rooms in private homes is: \$1.50 for one person, \$2.50 for the room if occupied by two persons. It is with the understanding that this rate is to be uniform in both cities and it is with this understanding that home owners are placing their spare rooms at disposal of the Centennial committee. Besides, there will be ample accommodations at the fair grounds for all those who desire to "camp out". There is plenty of room available for those who bring their own camping equipment and arrangements are also under way for rental of tents on the fair grounds. And please don't forget that many thousands of Centennial visitors have relatives or close friends in the Twin Cities with whom they will stay during their visit here. This fact relieves the hotels and the housing bureaus of the responsibility

of providing lodgings for a large proportion of the visitors.

There was no time during the big American Legion convention in St. Paul last September when the two cities could not have cared for 50,000 more people than they were called upon to lodge. In fact, very few of the thousands of rooms available in private homes were occupied. We have devoted a lot of space to discussing the housing situation, but we believe it is justified because of the persistent propoganda being spread about relative to the situation. It would almost seem as if a concerted attempt were being made to injure the celebration by keeping people away. **PLEASE DON'T BE FOOLED BY THIS MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA.**

Sisseton (S. D.) Standard 50  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925

## Norse-American Centennial

After many months of tireless effort and labor, the program committee of the Centennial has finally completed its tremendous task and we feel sure that all who attend will join in congratulating the members of the committee in the splendid results they have been able to bring about.

As will readily be seen by a perusal of this program, the three days devoted to the celebration proper are literally filled to capacity with interesting events and that the various session programs cover a wide field. The members of the committee began their work with high ideals, and the results indicate that they have not fallen short of these ideals.

The general admission to the Centennial celebration entitles the bearer to attend any and all programs given in the State Fair Grounds with four exceptions. Because of a great demand from people outside of the city for opportunity to provide themselves with reserved seats for certain programs, the Centennial committee has decided to sell reserved seats at 50c for the grand concerts at the Hippodrome and before the Grand Stand on Sunday evening, June 7th, and for the presidential session Monday afternoon, June 8th, and for the wonderful historic pageant on Tuesday evening, June 9th, the latter two both being given before the Grand Stand. In addition to the reserved sections of the Grand Stand, however, there will be many thousands of seats available without any extra charge. Another reason for reserving a part of the seating capacity for the programs mentioned is that many people greatly prefer to pay the small extra charge to scrambling for seats and taking their places two or three hours or more before the

time set for the program, in order to get a good seat.

The program for Sunday, June 7th is filled with many splendid events, but owing to limited space, we give herewith only the outstanding features:

Musik ved Luther College Concert Band, Avdeling "A", Decorah, Iowa. Prof. Carlo A. Sperati, Dirigent.

Festpraediken—Dr. H. G. Stub, Formand for Den Norsk Lutherske Kirke.

Lover den Herre—St. Olaf College Choral Society.

Norsk Gudstjeneste—Past H. K. Madsen, Leder, Minneapolis, Minn.

Services in English conducted by Rev. H. O. Slettén, Minneapolis.

Music by the St. Olaf College Band, Northfield, Minn., Prof. J. Arndt Berg, Director.

At 10:30 in the morning the program at the Horticultural Building has as special numbers:

Festal Sermon—The Rev. J. A. Aasgaard, D. D., Moorehead, Minn.

Anthem—Joint Church Choruses, Grand Forks, N. D., Mrs. David Stove Director.

K 1. 2

Hilson fra H. M. Kong Haakon VII. Ved Norges Minister, H. Bryn, Washington, D. C.

Kirkens repraesentant, Biskop Johan P. Lunde, Oslo, Norway.

Sang av Det akademiske blandetekor.

Musik av Luther College Concert Band.

Most of the afternoon and evening program for Sunday is devoted to music, both vocal and instrumental, among which there are some splendid numbers. At eight o'clock in the evening a concert in the Grand Stand will be a marvel for the exhaustiveness of the program and in the grand congregation of musical talent that will participate.

Monday, June 8th

This day is devoted mostly to 15 minute addresses, reminiscences and historical sketches. At 10 a. m. begins the presidential session, Gov. Christianson, introducing the President of the United States.

Address by Calvin Coolidge.

Greeting by Frank B. Kellogg.

Response by Peter Norbeck. There will also be many other addresses by prominent men and women.

Tuesday, June 9th  
International Day

This day will be devoted mostly to greeting in the form of short addresses and short resumes of Norse influence on our social, literary and governmental spheres.

Tuesday evening a grand pageant, illustrating different phases of Norse-American life, followed by a diversified program that has a conclusion consisting of Exhibits and Athletic programs.



## Nordic Centennial Celebration This Week

St. Paul, Minn., May 28.—In honor of the centennial of the first group immigration of Norwegians to

the United States, the Federal Government, the State of Minnesota and the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul are uniting in plans for one of the most elaborate celebrations ever held in this section of the country. The celebration, which will have its formal opening here on Saturday of this week, is expected to attract an enormous attendance of visitors from points in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, the Dakotas, and other states in which thousands of immigrants from Norway have found new homes and are now numbered among the most prosperous and esteemed citizens of their respective commonwealths.

President Coolidge will be the guest of honor and central figure at the celebration. His visit to the Twin cities will be the first extended trip he has undertaken since he became President. Other men and women of national prominence have accepted invitations to participate in the centennial program, including the governors of the several states.

The Norwegians are not unmindful of the material blessings which have surrounded them in their new land, and have allotted one entire day of the program to "America Day."

The Norwegian churches throughout the United States and Canada will be represented in the exercises and festivities.

## Norse-American Centennial June 8

Monday, the 8th day of June, is going to be a wild affair in St. Paul. First of all it will be the big day of the Norse-American centennial program because President Coolidge, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, H. Bryn, Minister from Norway, and a hundred other celebrities will be there.

The United States Naval Marine Band, known as "The President's own", will be on the job to discourse sweet music, while the Los Angeles and a flock of airplanes will keep things well stirred up above.

St. Paul is getting all dressed up for one of the gala events of its life. Newspaper men and moving picture photographers are coming from all parts of the country to behold the fun, and those who hadn't planned on it had better get old Dobbin out and dust him off for a day's holiday.

## Twin Cities Ready For Gala Occasion

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There will be five Martin bombers, a fleet of the latest type of United States fighting planes and a unit of navy aces to entertain the crowds for two days before the Los Angeles turns its nose northward. Great rivalry between the army and navy fliers has sprouted since the deal was made, with the result that all are looking forward to many a thrill.

For instance - there will be what the army men call the "apron string formation", in which three planes, each capable of traveling 200 miles an hour, will be tied together with ordinary string that a child could break. Thus connected they will ascend and perform a variety of flip-flops while going at top speed and then return to earth with the string as good as new. Try that in your hay-mow

## TO HONOR NORWEGIAN.

(By The Associated Press.)  
Hamline, Minn., June 5.—When Norwegians from all parts of the world come here for the Norse-American Centennial, they will see the story of the little sloop "Restaurationen" depicted in pageant. She was a vessel of 45 tons, manned by 53 Norsemen who left their fatherland 100 years ago this year to seek fortune in America.

The centennial is planned to commemorate the events of this first migration and to eulogize the Norwegian pioneers in America. Officials in charge are negotiating to make Norway's participation in the affair of an official nature, which would mean that Crown Prince Olaf would represent his country at the exhibition.

## A Good Week to Budgetize Time.

Minneapolis has celebrated all kinds of "weeks" in the last few years, but none with so many facets of interest as that which begins today.

If there were to be any specializing of participation in the activities of the next seven days, the world-minded citizen would prefer to be in on the celebration of the Norse-American centennial, the manufacturer and merchant on the industrial exposition in the Overland building, the sports-lover on the games at the University of Minnesota Memorial stadium, the student of politics and government on the program for the president's visit, the forward-looking transportationist on the flying at the Wold-Chamberlain field, the music-lover on the concerts of the United States Marine band, milady and her modiste on the style show, and—but what shall we say about those who will wish to look on "the most beautiful girl"?

Naturally there will be specializing of this kind, but it can easily go too far. There will be time and opportunity for nearly every visitor and towns-person to show a personal interest in the whole comprehensive program for the week. In a very real sense the layout will be educational and profitable, and that goes as well for the long-time resident of the Twin Cities and the country generally as for those who are to be transients among us.

Comparatively few of us have seen or heard President Coolidge. Comparatively few of us have any adequate idea of the scope and kinds of manufacturing in the Ninth Federal reserve district. Comparatively few of us know much of the social tie that relates our country to Norway, and there are not many of us who haven't a great deal to learn about airplanes and dirigibles.

The foregoing is a brief catalog of things of transitory being. Besides them there are many permanent objects worthy of the critical attention of the visitors. Without any feeling of vainglory we commend to our guests the city of Minneapolis—its lakes, parks, boulevards, mills, public institutions, residences, works of art and stores. To inspect them adequately would require more than a week. If, after having seen Minneapolis, the visitor will examine the directory, he will find there very substantial evidence of the part Scandinavians have played in building up the city to its present stature.

It is not necessary in the coming week to "see Minneapolis first," but not to see it at all would be to miss a great and informing opportunity. Though in a sense typical of all American municipal life, it has a character and personality of its own.



St. Paul Pioneer Press  
June 7, 1925

# MANY HAVE PART IN BIG FESTIVAL

### Noted Names Appear on Board of Directors; Dr. Gjerset Praised.

The board of directors of the Norse-American Centennial is composed of Professor Gisle Rothne, University of Minnesota, chairman; Nels T. Meen, Fergus Falls, Minn., first vice chairman; A. C. Floan, St. Paul, second vice chairman; Professor J. A. Holvik, Moorhead, secretary, and Trygve Gas, Minneapolis, treasurer. These men and S. H. Holstad, Minneapolis, managing director, constitute the "Big Six" who are mainly responsible for laying the plans for the big celebration and on whose shoulders have rested the arduous duties and responsibilities connected with carrying them out to a successful conclusion. These men have performed a most notable service to their race and have earned their countrymen's deepest gratitude and appreciation.

Great credit is also due to Dr. Knut Gjerset, curator of the Luther college museum, Decorah, Iowa, and Miss Herborg Reque, Minneapolis, chairman and vice chairman, respectively of the exhibits committee, for their excellent work in gathering an array of exhibits worthy of the occasion and which has never before been even approached in Norse-American history.

### Thousands of Exhibits.

Literally thousands of exhibits have been gathered from all points of the compass, from near and far, to visualize the contributions of Americans of Norse ancestry to the progress and history of their adopted country. Many of these exhibits have never before been offered to public view, many are priceless heirlooms, many cannot be duplicated anywhere else on earth, many are intensely interesting either because of intrinsic value or for their historical associations. There will be 21 different departments of exhibits, besides which there will be special official exhibits by the State of Minnesota and the Dominion of Canada.

The women's committees have also done splendid work worthy of highest commendation. Deserving of special mention are the members of the women's executive committee: Miss Elisa P. Farseth, chairman; Mrs. J. E. Haugen, vice chairman; Mrs. W. O. Storlie, secretary; Mrs. Manley Fosseen and Mrs. Gilbert Guttersen, also the following sub-committee chairmen: Mrs. A. C. Floan, program; Mrs. Sophia Wetteland, hospitality; Mrs. Gisle Rothne, reception, and Mrs. J. O. Lee.

### Women Have Program.

The women's committee has had entire charge of the Centennial program for Tuesday afternoon, June 9, and a most varied and interesting program is the result. Principally through Mrs. Floan's efforts arrangements have been concluded for "parking" children at the Children's building while their mothers take in the Centennial "doing."

The children will play under supervision of six play supervisors furnished by St. Paul and Minneapolis playgrounds departments while every half hour during each day a mu-

sical or other entertainment feature will be given. Complete playroom equipment will be furnished by the Golden Rule and Donaldson's department stores and a rest room by the New England Furniture & Carpet Co.

MINNEAPOLIS, June 6, 1925  
JUN -7 1925

## Norwegians of U. S. To Hear Coolidge at Minneapolis in June

By The Associated Press—  
MINNEAPOLIS, June 6.—One hundred years ago the Norwegian sloop Restaurationen landed fifty-three emigrant from Norway at the harbor of New York, the first organized colony to reach this country from the land of the midnight sun.

Commemorating that event Norse-Americans will stage a four-day celebration at the Minnesota State fair grounds here June 6 to 9, with President Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge heading the list of distinguished visitors.

Before the main grandstand President Coolidge will speak Monday, June 8, at 2 p. m., with amplifiers carrying his voice to thousands in other buildings on the grounds.

The presidential party will include Frank B. Kellogg, secretary of state, at whose St. Paul home the President and Mrs. Coolidge will be guests while here.

From Norway will come two officials of the Norwegian government, Prime Minister J. L. Mowinckel to represent the cabinet and Ivan Lykke, president of the Storting, to represent that parliament. H. H. Bryan, Norwegian minister at Washington, will be the personal representative of King Haakon.

Bands and choirs from Norse-American colleges and from the University of Oslo in Norway, together with musical organizations of churches and associations, will furnish the music for the celebration.

Exhibits will include the work of Norse-Americans in arts and the professions, while perhaps one of the principal points of interest will be a model of the sloop Restaurationen.

Officers in charge of the celebration are preparing for a total attendance of about 250,000.



Sargent Co. News,  
Forman, No. Dak.

March 26-1925.

## Norse-American Centennial

Gustave B. Wollan, Publicity Director.

"This is about the busiest spot in town," remarked a visitor to Centennial headquarters in Nicollet Hotel the other day. He was right. There isn't a day but has its full quota of committee meetings, special conferences, interviews, an almost constant stream of visitors seeking information in person or by phone—in fact, everything points to a rapidly growing interest in and enthusiasm for the forthcoming celebration.

"The biggest gathering in America in 1925" is not an idle boast, coined for publicity purposes; it is, from present indications, but a conservative promise. Are you doing your part to make the promise come true?

This bulletin will endeavor to give a "bird's eye view" of the Centennial as the plans begin to assume more and more definite shape. There are still many details to receive attention and be sanctioned or disapproved by the different committees or the board of directors. New and interesting announcements may be expected from time to time.

Reports are beginning to sift in to headquarters from some of the "Bygdelags" about their program plans, indicating that the Lags are planning the biggest and best convention in their history. There is now little doubt but that the attendance at these meetings on Saturday, June 6, will exceed anything ever before experienced. The Bygdelags are also going to be very helpful in providing interesting and unique exhibits of "the good old days" that will challenge the admiration of non-Norwegians as well as bring happy recollections to the Norse pioneers.

While the opening day will be devoted to the Bygdelag meetings, most of them concluding with a dinner or banquet, arrangements are being made for a large public reception Saturday

evening by Gov. and Mrs. Theodore Christianson of Minnesota, in the rotunda of Minnesota's wonderful state capitol in St. Paul. One of the most promising indications of the broadening of interest in the Centennial is contained in the announcement just made that Minnesota's executive and his estimable wife will be assisted in arranging for this reception by the St. Paul Allied Women's organizations, comprising 52 different bodies, civic, professional, political, social, religious and fraternal, and having a combined membership of more than 10,000 women. Mrs. A. P. Keam, president of the allied organizations, is already enthusiastically at work on the plans. The reception will be in the nature of an official welcome to the tens of thousands of Centennial visitors. In the receiving line with Gov. and Mrs. Christianson will be five other Norse governors and their wives, namely: Gov. J. J. Blaine, Wisconsin; Gov. A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota; Gov. Carl Gunderson, South Dakota; Gov. J. E. Erickson, Montana, and Gov. H. L. Whitfield, Mississippi. Others in the receiving line will be official representatives of three governments; the United States, Canada and Norway, besides some of the Centennial officials.

According to present plans President Calvin Coolidge will give his address on Monday afternoon, June 8. Definite announcement as to the President's pleasure as to the hour of his address is still awaited from the White House. That evening will be "Governor's Night," when short addresses will be given by the visiting governors and other high officials of Norse birth or blood.

A presidential body guard of Norse veterans of the Civil war, Spanish-American war and World war will be appointed. This is in the hands of Oley Nelson, Slater, Iowa, well known Civil war veteran and president of the Scandinavian Veterans' association.

Word has been received from Congressman O. J. Kvale at Washington that the U. S. Treasury department has designated James Earle Frazer to design the Centennial medal to be struck off at the Philadelphia mint. Congress has authorized the minting of 40,000 of these medals as souvenirs of the Norse-American Centennial celebration. Mr. Frazer also designed the Buffalo nickle, the Victory medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Cross, the Roosevelt Award medal and the John Ericson Monitor Memorial. The

special Centennial postage stamps are expected to be printed and placed on sale throughout the country in the near future.

The musical and athletic programs are rapidly assuming definite form. Arnold Oss, famous University of Minnesota football star, as chairman of the athletic program committee, has been working hard to provide a schedule of athletic games, sports and races that not only will demonstrate the ability of Norse-American athletes but also interest the general sport-loving public.

True to the traditions of the Norse race as a music-loving people, the musical program being arranged by H. Askeland, music chairman, and his capable committee, promises to be one of absolutely unrivalled excellence in Norse-American history. Centennial visitors are promised the opportunity of hearing some of the world's best musical organizations of their kind, as

well as noted individual artists. Norway will be represented by the famous University of Oslo (Christiania) Academic choir of 50 trained voices, which will make its first visit to America on account of the Centennial. Norse-Americans will offer such renowned organizations as the St. Olaf College choir and band, the Luther College Concert band, the Augustana College Chorus, Sioux Falls, S. D., the Augsburg Seminary chorus and band, Minneapolis, Concordia college band and chorus, Moorhead, Minn., Luther Seminary chorus, St. Paul, and a large male chorus composed of Norse Singers from various cities.

Word has reached headquarters in the last few days of arrangements already under way in several communities for special trains or automobile "caravans" to the Centennial. A. O. Christiansen, chairman for Clay county, Minn., has been in conference with railroad officials regarding a special train from Moorhead to the Twin Cities. Similar word comes from Sioux Falls, S. D., also that T. T. Sexe, Chairman for Lincoln county, S. D., is arranging for a special car from Canton to "hook up" with the special at Sioux Falls. From Norman county, Minn., comes word of plans for a big automobile caravan to the Centennial, every car bearing a slogan to effect that "The Normans Are Coming."

General Information in Regard to Exhibits for Norse-American Centennial



# Norse-American Centennial News

We are collecting relics and curios of all kinds either from Norway or early pioneer days here, which are of historical value as illustrating our race, heritage, and the development of our people during the last 100 years in this country.

We will exhibit handicrafts such as weaving, tapestries (Aaklaer) embroideries and laces of all kinds, jewelry and metal work of all kinds, wood carving and china either made in Norway or having Norwegian designs or handicrafts of all kinds made by Americans of Norwegian descent.

The last type will be in the nature of a competitive exhibit and will illustrate the combined influence of the home life of both countries on the arts and crafts. Norwegians have always excelled in wood carving; it would be interesting to demonstrate this fact by a fine exhibit of wood carving.

For the music exhibit we would like add instruments such as salmodicum, angeleik, violins, pianos, in fact, musical instruments of all kinds either from Norway or made by people here of Norwegian birth or extraction whose work is recognized; also original scores and pictures of composers and musicians.

If possible, have a historical sketch with each article stating when it was made or brought to this country or any interesting or instructive information about the design, etc.

There will be an exhibit of painting and sculpture. A competitive exhibit of recent work by artists of Norwegian birth or extraction and a loan exhibit of work of Norwegian masters or recognized artists of Norwegian descent.

We would be very grateful for names and addresses of private owners of Norwegian art or of artists of Norwegian descent whose work has been accepted at some art exhibit.

The committee will pay express charges to and from exposition grounds and insurance in transit and while at exposition grounds.

Blanks for listing your exhibits will be supplied on request either by your state chairman or local city chairman of exhibits or by Herborg Reque at Norse-American Centennial Headquarters, New Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.

All exhibits must be sent not later than April 25th. All packages or boxes must be addressed to Norse-American Centennial Exhibit, Woman's Bldg., Minnesota State Fair Grounds.

Through the kindness of Postmaster M. A. Aagaard, of Lake Mills, who is also editor of the Lake Mills Graphic and prominent in Norwegian-American movements, The Anchor is enabled to print the following information about the Norse-American Centennial:

Information has just been received from Congressman O. J. Kvale, one of Minnesota's five Norse-Americans in congress, and who introduced the bill to have congress authorize the striking off of 40,000 commemorative medals for the Norse-American Centennial, to the effect that the design submitted by James Earle Frazer has been approved by the federal fine arts commissions and that the dies will be finished in about three weeks.

Let it be especially noted that this is the first time in American history that congress has authorized a commemorative medal. By this action the Norse-American Centennial has been most signally honored. Let us all try to be duly appreciative of this distinction officially accorded our celebration and exposition. In this connection a brief description of the medal will not be out of place. It is to be octagonal in shape, of silver identical with that in our silver coins, and approximating the silver half-dollar in size. The design shows a heroic Viking chieftain setting foot on American soil, with a small Viking ship riding the sea in the background. The board of directors of the centennial expects to make proper announcement in the near future as to how the sale of these medals will be handled. There will be only 40,000 of them struck off—this is the maximum number authorized by congress.

In view of the fact that certain newspapers (without the knowledge or consent of the Centennial publicity department) have recently printed items making it appear doubtful that President Coolidge will attend the Centennial, we are glad to advise all concerned that almost positive assurance of his coming was received the other day by Oscar Arneson, publicity chairman. This assurance came in a letter from Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State, stating that he and Mrs. Kellogg will accompany the Presidential party to the centennial. Further assurance was also received in a letter from Sen. Peter Norbeck, of South Dakota, expressing the President's desire to speak in the afternoon of Monday, June 8th, rather than in the evening. "There has never been any doubt in my mind but that President Coolidge will come," declared Con. Kvale at centennial headquarters a couple of days ago.

Some idea of the importance and scope of the exhibit features of the coming Centennial may be obtained from an announcement just made by Dr. Knut Gjertset, chairman exhibits committee. We shall at this time not attempt to go into detail, but shall only enumerate the 22 different departments of exhibit planned, viz:

1. Pioneer Life.
2. Church.
3. Schools.
4. Farming.
5. Press.
6. Literature.
7. Men in Public Service.
8. Art.
9. Charity and Mutual Aid.
10. Women's Department.
11. Societies and Organizations.
12. Music.
13. Engineering and Architecture.
14. Trade and Commerce.
15. Norwegian Ski Sport in America.
16. Labor.
17. Sons of Norway.
18. Daughters of Norway.
19. Men in the Medical Profession.
20. Industries.
21. Builders and Benefactors.
22. Norse-Canadian Exhibits.

Anyone possessing or knowing of articles worthy of exhibit in any of the above departments, or having statistical data of value, is urgently requested to communicate with Dr. Knut Gjertset, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Information relative to exhibits of art, music, or household articles (including antique furniture or jewelry, chinaware, tapestries, needle art, etc.) should be given to Miss Herborg Reque, Centennial Headquarters, 11 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn.

Attention is also called to the fact that the Women's Auxiliaries of Minneapolis and St. Paul are preparing for publication a Cook Book of Norse receipts, which will be sold at a nominal price during the celebration. It is the intention to make this Cook Book as complete as possible, containing all manner of receipts for Norwegian dishes, many of which threaten to become unknown in this country unless steps be taken to preserve them and make them available to all who appreciate distinctive Norse cooking. Persons having "tried and true receipts for distinctly Norse dishes are requested to send them, with name and address of sender, to Mrs. I. L. Tuve, 1203 7th St. S. E., Minneapolis, Minn., without delay.

A most interesting and unique feature of the celebration promises to be the "living flag". This will be featured Monday afternoon, June 8, in connection with Pres. Coolidge's address in front of the mammoth

grandstand at the Minnesota State fair grounds. This "living flag" will be composed of 300 St. Paul children, who will be trained for the parts under direction of Mrs. J. O. Lee. A special stand will be b

for the children so all the tens of thousands of people may see it. The children will be dressed in the colors of the Norse and United States flag—red, white and blue—most in them with reversible capes (one color on each side.) They will appear as the Norwegian flag, with "Ja Vi Elsker Dette Landet" is said—and then at a given signal, the children will reverse their capes in such a manner as will transform the Norse flag in the twinkling of an eye to the "Stars and Stripes." Besides the magnificent spectacle afforded the change from one flag to the other will also visualize the ease and wisdom with which Norse immigrants are transformed into loyal American citizens. This one feature of the dozens planned for the Centennial will in itself be well worth the price of admission and is sure to leave a vivid and lasting impression upon all fortunate enough to view it.

The historical pageant which will be given on Tuesday evening, July 9th, as the concluding climax of the "biggest gathering in America in 1925," will be another wonderful and inspiring feature. Work on this is going forward, but detailed announcement cannot be made as yet. Suffice to say at that time the pageant will depict in both stationary and moving tableaux the history of the first century of Norse-American and Norse-Canadian development, visualizing in most colorful fashion one of the most interesting chapters of American history.

We are advised by Mr. Otto Clausen, Chicago, head commissioner "Normands forbundet" for United States and Canada, that we will have some interesting information within a few days relative to the famous Academic Choir of Oslo, Norway, which is to sing at the Centennial and later make a concert tour of the leading American cities.

We hope to give you this in the next bulletin, also some more about the big music features planned for the celebration. We are awaiting information from the various Bygdel officials relative to the plans for their conventions on Saturday, June 6th, so we may give an outline of the features of these programs in our early bulletin.



# GREAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

**Local Sale of Tickets Now On In Earnest, According  
to County Chairman Casper Smedsrud.  
Extensive Program.**

## Norse-American Centennial

The program for Sunday, June 7th, the opening day of the celebration proper, is not yet fully completed but we are able, at this time, to give a fairly complete outline of this day's program.

Sunday will be devoted, exclusively to religious services and concerts. There will be two big services at 10 o'clock in the morning, both in the Norwegian language. The services to be held in the Hippodrome, a building which will seat about 7,000 people, will be in charge of Reverend B. E. Bergesen, Minneapolis, Chairman of the Centennial Program committee. The sermon will be delivered by Dr. H. G. Stub of St. Paul, president of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America. The musical program at this service will be given by the Luther College Concert Band of 75 pieces, of Decorah, Iowa, the Luther Seminary Chorus of St. Paul and the Norwegian Singers association.

The other services in Norwegian at 10 a. m. will be given at the Grand Stand, with Reverend H. K. Madsen of the Norwegian Methodist church, preaching the sermon. The musical program will be given by the Augsburg Seminary Chorus and Band of Minneapolis and the Norwegian Singers association. The last named organization will sing, at both services, "Den store hvite Flok" (The Great White Host), by Grieg, Norway's most famous composer.

At eleven o'clock, before the Grand Stand, there will be English services, with sermon by Reverend O. H. Sletten, Minneapolis, of the Lutheran Free church. The music will be provided by the famous St. Olaf Lutheran Choir and St. Olaf Band from Northfield.

At eleven o'clock, before the Grand Stand, there will be English services, with sermon by Reverend O. H. Sletten, Minneapolis, of the Lutheran Free church. The music will be provided by the famous St. Olaf Lutheran Choir and St. Olaf Band from Northfield.

At the Horticultural Building at 11:00 a. m. there will be special young peoples' services under direction of Rev. N. M. Ylvisaker, Minneapolis, with sermon by Professor J. A. Aasgaard, president of Concordia college,

Moorhead. The musical program will be given by the Concordia College Chorus and Band or the musical forces from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

At 2:30 p. m. there will be a mass meeting at the Hippodrome, presided over by Rev. Bergesen. At this gathering the official address of welcome to the Centennial celebration, will be delivered by Professor Gisle Bothue, general chairman of the Centennial Committee. (Professor Bothue is Dean of the Scandinavian Department at the University of Minnesota). At this meeting also, there will be short addresses by Bishop Johan Lunde and Professor Kristine Bonnevie, the only woman who holds a full professorship at the University of Oslo, Norway, and one of the few women in the world similarly honored. There will also be responses from the official representatives of the Norwegian Government; the "Storting" (Parliament) University of Oslo, "Normands-Forbundet" and others. The internationally famous Academic Choir of fifty trained, mixed voices from Norway, will sing. It is also expected that the Norwegian Singers association chorus will sing at this meeting. The official responses to the address of welcome will be given by T. O. Gilbert, president of the Sons of Norway.

From 1:30 to 5:00 Sunday afternoon, it is planned to have a series of open air concerts in front of the Grand Stand, participated in by most of the musical organizations engaged for the celebration. There will be a concert at the pavilion from 6:00 to 7:30 p. m. by the Luther college band.

A grand concert, in which several of the leading musical organizations, also vocal and instrumental soloists will take part, will be given at 8:00 p. m. before the Grand Stand.

So-called "amplifiers," or loud speakers will be installed in front of the Grand Stand which will enable as many as 150,000 people to hear both the addresses and music.

From copies of newspapers, recently received from Norway, as well as direct information from certain organizations in the Old Country, it appears that plans are already well along

for several celebrations also in Norway to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the departure of the little sloop, "Restaurationen" for America, on July 4th, 1825. A whole week's celebration is planned to be held at Akerhus. The dates for this monster celebration are June 23rd to June 30th, and the committee in charge comprises the leading men and women of Norway, including the Foreign Minister, President of the Storting, the Commanding General of the Army, Commanding Admiral of the Navy, President of the University of Oslo and the presidents of all leading organizations of various kinds.

Plans have also been made for a big celebration on July 4th at Stavanger, the port from which the "Restaurationen" sailed for America, with its vanguard of 52 Norse emigrants, on July 4, 1825. Many hundreds of Norse-Americans have already planned to attend the Norse-American Centennial celebration in the Twin cities, June 6th to 9th, and then leave immediately afterwards for Norway to participate in the big doings over there.

Word has just been received from Honorable Laurits S. Swenson, United States Minister to Norway, that he will be unable to come to America for the celebration here, much as he personally would like to do so. He has been urgently requested by officials of the Norwegian government, and others, to postpone his planned vacation trip to his home in Minneapolis and remain in Norway that he may officially represent the United States, as well as the Norse-Americans, at the various commemorative celebrations to be held in the Mother country. Minister Swenson advises that he has acceded to these requests and has accepted an invitation to deliver the principal address at the Stavanger celebration on July 4th.

All of the thirty-two male choruses, comprising the Norwegian Singers' Association of America, have been invited to participate in the Centennial celebration through Mr. T. F. Hamann, Minneapolis, corresponding secretary of the association. Although it is presumed that many of these organizations will not be able to attend in full strength, it is hoped that enough of the individual members will come so as to form a large male chorus to sing on Sunday, June 7th, and possibly at other doings during the celebrations. Paul and Minneapolis organizations will furnish about 200 singers, so it is hoped that a chorus of at least 500 voices will be available. An invitation is also extended to Norse male choruses that do not belong to the Norwegian Singers' association, as well as the individual singers to join this special Centennial Choir. All singers who are



willing to participate are requested to write at once to Mr. T. F. Hamann, 4009 Harriett Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota, preferably not later than May 1st. Mr. Hamann announces that the following songs are expected to comprise the repertoire: Landkjending, Naar Fjordane Blaaner, Gud Signe Norges Land, Vikingssoner, Beautiful Savior, The Flag without a Stain; and the National anthems, The Star Spangled Banner and Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet.

Mr. E. G. Quamme, President of the Federal Land Bank at St. Paul, who is also chairman of the Centennial Finance Committee, is anxiously awaiting word as to which county will be the first to "go over the top" on ticket sales. The quotas for the various committees have been made as fairly as possible, based on statistics as to the number of Norse-Americans in each county. There is no contest on, but the Publicity Director will venture to say that the Chairman of the first county that disposes of its quota of tickets, will have some free smokes at Mr. Quamme's expense.

Mr. W. L. Gorder, who has immediate charge of the ticket sales campaign, announces that 142 counties are now organized for the campaign with from 15 to 75 ticket salesmen each and that other counties are being organized as rapidly as county chairmen are appointed.

Mr. C. O. Teisberg, Chairman of the Manufacturers and Industries Committee of the Centennial, desires to have the name and address of all Norse-Americans engaged in manufacturing of anything from pins to threshing machines. Also of inventors who have invented anything that is of general interest to the public, even though the invented article is not being manufactured or on sale. There are many inventions patented that are really worth while, but are not on the market, frequently because of lack of capital. In such cases this committee would like very much to have the inventor's model on exhibit. Manufacturing concerns desiring to exhibit their products must be owned or controlled by men of Norse or Icelandic ancestry.

It is to be hoped that all who read this article will exert themselves to help the committee, as outlined above, that the industrial exhibits be as large and interesting as possible.

Professor Gisle Bothne, General Chairman of the Centennial, has just returned from a ten days' trip in the interest of the Centennial celebration. He visited Duluth, Virginia and Crookston, Minnesota; Fargo and Grand Forks, North Dakota and Winnipeg, Canada. Professor Bothne spoke to large and enthusiastic audiences in most of these cities. He reports the work on behalf of the Centennial is

very well organized in all the places he visited. He was especially impressed with the wonderful activities displayed by the Canadian committee,

which has headquarters at Winnipeg. While at Winnipeg, Chairman Bothne also had a conference with Premier Bracken of the Province of Manitoba, who promised his personal co-operation in helping make the Centennial celebration a success. On his return from this trip, Chairman Bothne was more optimistic than ever as to the success of the coming celebration. "I found a great deal of enthusiasm everywhere, and hundreds of Norse-American men and women working hard in their respective communities to make the Norse-American Centennial celebration an event of which every one of Norse blood may have reason to be proud," said Chairman Bothne.

Jackson (Minn.) Republic  
FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1925

## NORSE CENTENNIAL GAINING INTEREST

Exhibits of Art, Literature and Music  
from Many States Being Collected  
and Displayed

Under the date of April 3 the Boston Herald published an editorial entitled "Norway and the New World," in which attention is called to the forthcoming Norse-American Centennial celebration and exposition. After telling something about the commemorative postage stamps soon to be offered for sale and about the sloop, "Restaurationen," with its pioneer cargo of Norwegian immigrants, the Herald goes on to say:

"A tract of land had been purchased for them in Orleans county, New York, and there the Norwegians settled. The home country soon heard of their successes with result in more cross-Atlantic trips. As the number of the colonists grew, many of them migrated to the western states, notably Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, with final result in a growth which has given us, according to recent census returns, a Norwegian population of more than a million, if account be taken not only of people born in Norway, but of individuals one of both of whose parents are natives of that country. All the while these incomers have been helping us to utilize Norwegian contributions to the literature, art and music of the world; they have all the while been active as educators and patriotic as American citizens. And the new stamps will appropriately recognize these debts of ours to the 'land of the midnight sun.'"

(Note—In the above extract from the Boston Herald editorial we took the liberty of changing the word Missouri to "Wisconsin," as one of the states to which the Norwegians migrated principally, as this is more historically correct. Permit us also to make another correction. Based on statistics furnished us by Dr. O. M. Norlie, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, the most eminent Norse-American statistician, the number of Norse Americans in this country is now approximately 2,500,000, instead of merely "more than a million," as stated in the editorial just quoted.)

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that there is a road leading into Kendall, Orleans county, New York, (site of the first Norse settlement in America), known as "Norwegian Road." There are also living in that community today several descendants of some of the original "sloopers," and in Rochester, N. Y., still stands the first house built there by a Norwegian, and reported to be in good repair and occupied today as a residence. This was built by a member of the sloop party more than 75 years ago.

**INFORMATION WANTED**—The Centennial Committee wishes to learn if possible, the name and address of the oldest living Norse-American veteran of the Civil War. The Committee has a special purpose in seeking this information, hence we ask those who receive this Bulletin to send in the name and address of the oldest living such veteran within their knowledge. Out of the replies thus received it should be possible to find the OLDEST veteran. Possibly there may still be living a Norse-American veteran of the Mexican War. If you know of any such, please advise S. H. Holstad, managing director, 11 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. At any rate, let's hear from the oldest Civil War veteran.

Incidentally, names and addresses of living direct descendants of the original "sloopers" are also desired. The Committee has quite a list of such already, but is desirous to make it as complete as possible. Your assistance in this direction is earnestly requested.

Mr. N. A. Thorson, Crookston, Minn., secretary-treasurer of the Tri-State Postmasters' Association (comprising the Postmasters of Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota), writes to Director Holstad that this organization has decided to hold its 1925 convention in Minneapolis on June 8 and 9 in order that the members "can avail themselves of the excellent programs arranged for the Centennial celebration." The big Northwestern Industrial Exposition will be held in the Overland Building, St. Paul, the week of June 8 for the same reason. This exposition will also afford an added attraction for Cen-



ennial visitors and one well worth seeing, according to present plans. Besides, there are scores of institutions, buildings, parks and other places of real interest in both Minneapolis and St. Paul that are well worth visiting by those who have not previously had opportunity to see them. In this connection, let us just mention that the Minnesota Historical Society has in its splendid building near the State Capitol in St. Paul, the largest collection of Norse literature in the world. In its museum are also hundreds of interesting relics and exhibits of various kinds that have a direct bearing on the century of progress in America that our Centennial celebration is to commemorate.

Mrs. A. C. Floan, Chairman of the Program Committee for the Women's Auxiliary reports that in addition to the regular Programs plans for the entertainment and care of children have been completed.

The Park Board of the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have each agreed to furnish three trained play ground instructors each day so parents can feel assured that the children are safe. In addition to that programs of music and story telling have been planned.

Rev. D. G. Ristad, Manitowoc, Wis., President of "Tronderlaget," has just written a poem, entitled "The Pioneer," which he has sent to the Publicity Director. Rev. Ristad is known as an author of ability, having written several poems in both Norwegian and English besides other poems of much merit. It is our belief that his latest effort in this direction, the poem just mentioned, is one of his best and will live as a real appreciation of the labors and sacrifices of the pioneers who found wilderness and transformed into a veritable paradise on earth. It is to be hoped that some Norse-American composer will write music for this poem that will be worthy of the sentiments so well worded by Rev. Ristad. We quote the poem herewith:

#### The Pioneer

I love this mighty land of God—  
My fathers' 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.

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.

No better boon in manhood sheer  
Ennobled Tyre or Rome,  
Than owned the sovereign pioneer  
Who made his land our home.  
A hero of the living soil

He crowned with honor human toil  
Beneath the mundane dome.

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 tuned 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 mart,  
In all we are in mind and heart,  
He lives through countless years.

Glendive, Mont., Monitor  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1925

## NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE 6 TO 9

The Norse-American Centennial celebration, which is to held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds June 6-9, is to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Norwegians who formed the first settlement in the United States in 1825. It was natural and logical that from this first colonization in New York state there should later be a movement to the west and northwest. Today the Twin Cities form the acknowledged center of the Scandinavian population of the country.

The project for the celebration has already met with such enthusiastic response, not only in Minnesota and the Northwest, not only in the United States and Canada, but also in old Norway itself, that the success of the affair seems beyond question.

The promise of President Coolidge to come and participate on Monday, June 8, and the probability that some high representative of the Dominion Government will be here, as well as the promised coming of the delegates from the Norwegian Storthing and Government give the celebration the aspect of a real world affair. The official delegation from Norway will include a member of the cabinet, a member of the Storthing (Parliament) and Karl Welring, former secretary of war. Other official delegates will come to represent the Norwegian state church, the University of Oslo, and Nordmandsforbundet.

While the opening day will be devoted to the "Bygdslag" meetings, most of them concluding with a dinner or banquet, arrangements are being made for a public reception Saturday evening by Gov. and Mrs. Theodore Christanson of Minnesota, in the rotunda

of Minnesota's state capitol in St. Paul. One of the most promising indications of the broadening of interest in the Centennial is contained in the announcement that Minnesota's executive and his estimable wife will be assisted in arranging for this reception by the St. Paul Allied Women's organizations, comprising fifty-two different bodies, civic, professional, political, social, religious and fraternal, having a combined membership of 10,000 women.

In the receiving line with Gov. and Mrs. Christanson will be the five other Norse governors and their wives, namely: Gov. J. J. Blaine of Wisconsin; Gov. A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota; Gov. Cal Gunderson, South Dakota; Gov. J. E. Erickson, Montana; and Gov. H. L. Whitfield, Mississippi. Others in the receiving line will be official representatives of three governments, the United States, Canada, and Norway, besides some of the Centennial officials.

An extensive exhibit during the Centennial celebration is being planned and sponsored by Dr. Knut Gjerset. The program includes the following:

1—Pioneer Life. 2—Church. 3—Schools. 4—Farming. 5—Press. 6—Literature. 7—Men in Public Service. 8—Art. 9—Charity and Mutual Aid. 10—Domestic Service. 11—Societies and Organizations. 12—Music. 13—Trade and Commerce. 14—Engineering and Architecture. 15—Labor.

The Women's Auxiliary has for its outline of exhibits: 1—Fine Arts. 2—Arts and Crafts. 3—Relics and Curios. 4—National Costumes. 5—Jewelry and Household silver. 6—China. 7—Music.

One of the exhibits that deserves



special mention is a piece of tapestry woven by Madame Frida Hansen of Norway, a piece that took the first premium in Paris in 1900 and has since been exhibited in the art centers of Europe and in many eastern cities of the United States. It is 14 by 16 feet, and represents seven goddesses riding south through the sea on the back of swans, taking with them the sun, heat and flowers, which they brought north to form the summer days. The garments of the goddesses are woven in sterling silver thread, producing a truly wonderful effect.

The women's Auxiliary has a state chairman in almost every state in the Union, in an attempt to gather worthwhile exhibits, and to arouse interest for the coming event. And most of the chief cities in the country have their city chairmen of exhibits. The men have organized the counties for the sale of coupon books, which give reduced rates of admission to the Fair Grounds. This advanced ticket sale is the only means of financing the great undertaking, so the committee is urging every true American citizen of Norse extraction to buy a coupon book for the great cause, even though he may not be able to attend the celebration.

#### Stamps and Medals

The United States government has authorized the making of special two and five cent stamps, with "Restoration," the slogan that brought the first 52 emigrants from Norway, printed in black and red on the two cent stamp; and in blue and black on the five cent stamp, the only bi-color postage stamps issued by our government with the single exception of the \$5.00 stamp.

Congress has also recently authorized the striking off of 40,000 medals commemorative of the Norse-American Centennial. This is the first time in American history that Congress has authorized a commemorative medal. They are to be struck off at the United States mint at Philadelphia. The design shows an heroic Viking chieftan, setting foot on American soil, with a small Viking ship riding the sea in the background.

Mayor Leach of Minneapolis has sent \$100 to be given in three prizes to the pupils in Oslo (Christiania), Norway, who make the three best models of a Viking ship. Mayor Leach's only condition is that the three winning models must be sent to this country in time to be exhibited at the Centennial celebration. The winner in a similar contest in the Minneapolis schools was a twelve-year-old boy of Bohemian-Swedish extraction. Mayor Leach also donated the money for the Minneapolis contest.

#### The Living Flag

A most unique and interesting feature of the celebration promises to be the "living flag." This will be featured on Monday afternoon, June 8, in

connection with President Coolidge's address in front of the mammoth Grandstand at the Minnesota State Fair grounds. This "living flag" will be composed of 600 St. Paul children, who will be dressed in the colors of the Norse and United States flags, red, white and blue, most of them with reversible capes (one color on each side.) They will first appear in the Norwegian flag, while "Ja Vi Elsker Dette Landet" is sung—and then at given signal, the children will reverse their capes in such manner as will transform the Norse flag in the twinkling of an eye to the "Stars and Stripes."

#### Music at the Centennial

True to the traditions of the Norse race as a music-loving people, the musical program being arranged promises to be one of the unrivalled excellence in Norse-American history. Norway will be represented by the famous University of Oslo (Christiania) Academic choir of 50 trained voices, which will make its first visit to America on account of the Centennial. Norse-Americans will offer such renowned organizations as the St. Olaf College choir and band, the Luther College concert band, the Augustana College chorus, Sioux Falls, S. D., the Augsburg Seminary chorus and band, Minneapolis, Concordia College band and chorus, Moorehead, Minn.; Luther Seminary chorus, St. Paul; and a large male chorus composed of Norse singers from various cities.

#### Historical Pageant

The historical pageant which will be given June 9, in the evening, as the concluding climax of the biggest gathering in America in 1925, will be another wonderful and inspiring feature. It will depict in both stationary and moving tableaux, in most colorful fashion, one of the most interesting chapters in American history.

Crookston, Minn., Leader  
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1925

## GENERAL STORY ON NORWEGIAN CELEBRATION

Norse-American Centennial  
Dates Set For June 6th  
To The 9th.

The Norse-American Centennial celebration will be held at the Minnesota state fair grounds, between St. Paul and Minneapolis on June 6 to 9, will be the largest gathering in America in 1925.

Those in position to know are now variously estimating the attendance for the four day's celebration at from 250,000 to 500,000.

Professor Gisle Bothne, dean of the Scandinavian department University of Minnesota, who is general chairman of the Centennial committee, returned recently from a trip into Canada with the information that estimates made by the Canadian Centennial committee indicate that between 30,000 and 60,000 Norse-Canadians and other Canadians will attend the celebration.

Special trains are being arranged to carry the crowds from all points of the compass—from Winnipeg and Vancouver, Can., from Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo, N. D., Chicago, Ill., Madison, Wis., Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Decorah, Iowa, and other cities. Automobile caravans are also being planned from many sections within reasonable driving distance of the Twin Cities. The railroads west of Chicago have made a rate of one and one-third for the round trip. Eastern roads are expected to make a similar rate.

A world fair will virtually be crowded into the four day's celebration. The celebration has been officially recognized by four nations—the United States, Dominion of Canada, Norway and Iceland and these countries will be officially represented.

President Calvin Coolidge will speak before the grandstand on Monday afternoon, June 8. On the evening of that day, designated as "Governor's Night," it is expected that all six governors of Norse blood will be present and make short address. They are: Gov. Theodore Christianson, Minnesota; Gov. J. J. Blaine, Wisconsin; Gov. Carl Gunderson, South Dakota; Gov. A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota; Gov. J. E. Erickson, Montana, and Gov. H. L. Whitfield, Mississippi.

The opening day, Saturday, June 6, will be devoted to the national conventions of the about 30 "Bygdelags," organizations of Norse immigrants and their descendants form the various "bygds" or counties of Norway. These have memberships ranging from 300 to 5,000.

Sunday, June 7, will be devoted to religious services and concerts. Pastors of various denominations will preach and the music at these services will be rendered by some of the leading musical organizations in the country, including the internationally famous Academic choir of 50 voices from Oslo, Norway, the equally famous St. Olaf Lutheran choir of Northfield, Minnesota, the Luther College Concert Band of 75 pieces from Decorah, Iowa the St. Olaf College band, Concordia College choir and band, Moorhead, Minnesota, Augsburg Seminary chorus, Minneapolis, and a male chorus of 500 or more voices from the Norwegian Singers' association. There will also be special concerts and free open air concerts by these musical forces.

The exhibits will be large, varied and highly interesting, including antique Norse jewelry, woven tapestry, furniture, musical instruments, household utensils, needle art, besides exhibits showing the contribution of Norse-American to the development and history of America in many fields, educational, religious, industrial and historical. There will be 22 departments of exhibits being arranged under the general direction of Dr. Knut Gjerset, curator of the museum of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

An interesting program of athletic sports and contests is also being arranged under direction of Arnold Oss, famous University of Minnesota athlete. This will include baseball and tennis tournaments for Norse-American schools, a soccer game and two



track meets, one limited to Norse-Americans, the other an open meet.

A "living flag" of 420 St. Paul school children will be a feature on Monday, June 8, "America Day," and a wonderful historical pageant depicting the life of the Norse pioneers will be the concluding feature on Tuesday night. Several hundreds of persons will take part in this pageant.

The United States Government has recognized the importance of this celebration of the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first shipload of Norse immigrants in America by authorizing the issuance of special Norse-American Centennial postal stamps, a two-cent and a five-cent stamp, and the minting of 40,000 commemorative silver medals, the first time in the history of the country that such medals have been authorized by Congress.

It is also hoped that the Navy department will send the giant dirigible airship, the Los Angeles, to the celebration and that it will be accompanied by a fleet of 50 airplanes.

The executive committee in charge of arrangement for the big celebration consists of the following: Prof. Gisle Bothne, Minneapolis, chairman; Hon. N. T. Moen, Fergus Falls, 1st vice chairman; A. C. Floan, St. Paul, 2nd vice chairman; Prof. J. A. Holvik, Moorhead, secretary; Trygve Oas, Minneapolis, treasurer; A. Ueland, Minneapolis, counsel, and S. H. Holstad, Minneapolis, managing director.

Rev. B. E. Bergesen, Minneapolis, is chairman of the program committee. Other committee chairman are: finance, E. G. Quamme, president; Federal Farm Land Bank, St. Paul; transportation, Hon. O. P. B. Jacobson, Fergus Falls, chairman, Minnesota Railway and Warehouse Commission; budget, J. G. Norby, Minneapolis; publicity, Oscar Anderson, chief clerk, Minnesota House of Representatives, women's auxiliary, Miss Eliza P. Farseth, Minneapolis.

*Odin Weekly  
Record, St. James, Minn  
May 1st 1925*

## ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR BIG CENTENNIAL AT ST. FAIR GROUNDS

Campaign Waged for Advance Ticket Sales; Reduced Rates Secured on All Railroads.

HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVED  
USING SLEEPING CARS.

Local Committee in Charge of Sales of Coupon Books Also Sell Reservations.

The publicity department of the Norse-American Centennial sends forth the following lengthy but interesting announcement relative to arrangements which have been completed for the big event and which will be read with interest by many of our readers:

Plans have been made and instructions sent out to county chairmen for an intensive drive for sale of advance tickets of admission to the Centennial celebration, during the first week of May and until May 10th. These weeks are to be known as "Centennial Weeks" and every man and woman having to do with the advance sale of tickets is most urgently requested to work harder than ever during this particular period to assure the financial success of our celebration. Comparatively few of our people realize the tremendous expense involved in putting on this celebration. (Thousands and tens of thousands of dollars are required to defray such expenses as rental of the Minnesota State Fair Grounds; printing and stationery; postage and advertising; clerical help; installation of loud speaking equipment (which alone will cost about \$3500.00) staging, costuming and floats for the big pageant; raising platform and costumes for the living flag; insurance of various kinds, including insurance of all exhibits both in transit and while at the fair grounds and a thousand and one items of expense which run into many thousands of dollars. With true characteristic Norwegian independence, the Board of Directors of the Centennial decided at the outset that they would not ask for cash contributions from the business interests of Minneapolis and St. Paul, or from individual Norse-Americans and others, to finance the celebration. This means that the celebration must be financed principally through the sale of admission tickets. We believe everybody concerned should be advised of this situation, that they may fully realize the tremendous importance of the advance ticket sales campaign and exert themselves to the limit to insure the financial success of the undertaking.

In a statement just made especially for publication in the church papers and Norse-American press, Dr. H. G. Stub, president of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America, among other things says:

"It is the Norse-American people in its entirety which will celebrate the Centennial, and all of our people should participate. It should be a matter of pride for everyone of Norse ancestry to exert himself to make this celebration a really great affair, in every way worthy of the Norse-Americans and their influence on American development, and likewise worthy of the land and people

from which they came. It is conceded that a great deal of money is necessary to defray the expenses connected with such a celebration. It is hoped that this large expenditure will be cared for through the sale of admission tickets. All the men's clubs, ladies aid societies, young people's associations and organizations within the church should do everything in their power to assist in the sale of tickets within their respective organizations and congregations. It is also of importance to the committee in charge that the tickets be disposed of as soon as possible and the money remitted to the Centennial offices. While the words of the old song, "Me ska komma, um inkje sa bratt," might be applicable to us Norwegians, let us now try to demonstrate that even we can do things in a hurry when necessary.

"Neither should we forget that the coming celebration is of such nature that not only men and women of Norse blood may attend and receive pleasure and inspiration from the celebration, but also those of other nationalities. Therefore, one should not hesitate to ask people of other nationalities to support the undertaking by buying tickets and also urge them to attend. It is because I feel a keen desire to be of greatest possible assistance in making the Centennial celebration a big success that I appeal to the members of our church body to participate to the fullest extent possible in this wonderful festival. In conclusion, permit me to say that whether one can attend or not, he should show his interest in the vitally important undertaking by buying tickets."

That the Norse-American Centennial celebration is regarded in Norway as an event of great significance to the entire Norse race has again been emphasized. The Norwegian Ship Owners Association through its president, H. Westfal Larsen, has issued a formal request to owners and captains of Norwegian ships that may happen to be in American ports during the Centennial celebration, to hoist their colors and decorate their ships in honor of the occasion. This order also applies to all Norwegian shipping that may happen to be in the harbor of New York on October 9th, the hundredth anniversary of the arrival there of the sloop, "Restaurationen," with its first cargo of Norse immigrants on which day a big celebration will be held in New York.

Announcement has previously been made that the railroads will sell tickets for the Centennial at the rate of one and one-third fare for the round trip. The Centennial Committee has just been advised that the time of the final return limit, on all such tickets, will be June 20th. The dates of sale will no doubt vary somewhat according to distance from



the Twin Cities, also according to decision of the various railroads. The local ticket agents at all stations will be advised in due time by the respective roads, not only as to dates of sale and return limits, but also as to stopover privileges either going or returning.

It should be of interest to those planning to attend the Norse-American Centennial to know of other events in and near the Twin Cities during the fore part of June. For this reason the following information is given: St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary and dedicate its new Science Hall during commencement exercises June 4, 5 and 6; The Lutheran Young People's League will have its national convention in Minneapolis from June 6th to 9th, arranging its events so that the thousands of delegates and visitors may participate in the Centennial events; the Woman's Missionary Federation of Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, meets in St. Paul June 10-12; the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America holds its biennial convention at the St. Paul Auditorium, June 9-14; the Norwegian Lutheran Free Church meets in Minneapolis June 10-13; the Tri-State Postmasters Association meets in Minneapolis, June 8th and 9th and the Northwestern Industrial Exposition will be held in the Overland building, St. Paul, June 6-13.

Professor Gisle Bothne, President of the Norse-American Centennial, has just received a lengthy letter from Honorable G. J. Lomen, Judge of United States District Court at Nome, Alaska, in which he accepts the Centennial chairmanship for the territory of Alaska. Judge Lomen says in part: "Alas, we are too far away to accomplish much towards the success of the great celebration. It is an event that will accomplish much good and from advance information, I am sure it will be a grand success. I am sure the attendance is going to be very large. It will furnish an opportunity for old and scattered friends to meet again and for societies of various kinds to have their reunions. I wish to go on record as having great interest in this celebration, to my mind the greatest in the country."

The bygdelags which have so far definitely decided upon their meeting place on June 6th at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds are as follows:

State Department of Exhibits Building—Gudbrandsdalslaget;

Industrial Building, No. 1—Sogndalslaget;

Poultry Building—Valdris Samband, Hallinglaget;

Machinery Hall—Tronderlaget, Viktnaleget, Selbulaget, Ringerikslaget, Hardangerlaget;

Industrial Building, No. 3—Nordhordlandslaget, Sondhordlandslaget;

Boy and Girl Club Work Building—Nordlandslaget;

Industrial Building, No. 2—Landingslaget;

Agricultural Bldg.—Mjosenlaget. Hurdalslaget, Sondfjordlaget, Vosselaget.

Horticultural Bldg.—Osterdalslaget, Solorlaget, Romsdalslaget, Bergenslaget, Haugesundslaget;

Public Health Exhibits Bldg.—Totenlaget;

Dining Hall, No. 6—Kongsberglaget, Numedalslaget;

Hippodrome—Stavangerlaget;

International Harvester Co's. Bldg.—Hadelandlaget;

Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis—Telgeget.

The remaining Lags are expected to select their meeting places in the very near future. The Augsburg Publishing House and "Nordmandsforbundet" will have headquarters in the Minnesota Editorial Association Building. Headquarters will also be selected soon for the Sons of Norway, Daughters of Norway, Lutheran Brotherhood, Lief Erikson Society, Norwegian Singers Association and alumni associations of the Norse-American Colleges.

According to the most recent information from Washington, the big navy dirigible airship, the "Los Angeles," will come to the Twin Cities for the Centennial celebration. Chairman Bothne has received a letter from United States Senator Henrik Shipstead, from Minnesota, to the effect that Secretary of the Navy Wilbur informed him that the big airship will be sent to the Centennial if it can be done, and then Secretary Wilbur added the words: "and I am quite sure it can be done." Since then, dispatches from Washington to Twin City papers carried the information that Congressman Newton, of Minneapolis, had conferred with Admiral Moffett, head of the Naval Air Service, who had given even more definite assurance that the big "blimp" will be sent to the Centennial celebration. It is also expected that a fleet of about fifty airplanes, of various sized models, from the Army Air Service, will be sent to the Twin Cities for this occasion.

In the effort to obtain these wonderful attractions, the Centennial Committee has had the active cooperation of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Ass'n., the St. Paul Ass'n., and the 109th Aero Squadron of the Minnesota unit of the army air service. Inasmuch as there is no steel landing tower in the Twin Cities, the 109th Aero Squadron has volunteered to supply the 600 men necessary to man the ropes to hold the big dirigible at anchorage at the Wold-Chamberlain Airfield, near Fort Snelling, in order that the crew may land and that needed supplies may be taken aboard. The Secretaries of the Navy, and the Army have been

formally invited to attend the Centennial celebration and in event that the "Los Angeles" and the fleet of airplanes are sent, it is believed that these two members of President Coolidge's Cabinet will accept the invitation.

Let us again appeal to all readers of this bulletin to assist in locating the oldest living Norse-American veteran of the Civil War. So far only about a dozen claimants for this distinction have been brought forward, one of whom happens to be a veteran of Colonel Heg's famous Fifteenth Wisconsin regiment, which was composed entirely of Norwegians. Hon. Oley Nelson, Slater, Iowa, chairman of the committee on selecting members of the Guard of Honor to President Coolidge, is anxious to hear from the tallest and biggest Norse-American veterans of the Spanish-American War and the World War, as he is desirous of having the presidential body guard of a typically Viking character.

Arrangements have been made with the Northwestern Railroad for sleeping car accommodations at the rate of \$6 for five nights. Leaving St. James at 3:30 P. M. on June 5th, the train will arrive at the State Fair Grounds where extra trackage has been installed to accommodate sleeping cars from every part of America which will take care of the housing proposition as the hotels of the Twin Cities will be crowded to the brim, caring for the greatest gathering ever assembled in Minnesota.

Place your reservation with Ben Olseth, St. James; Jacob Brogger, Butterfield; P. T. Laingen, Odin; Olaus Syverson, Ormsby; Helmer Blackstad, Echols; O. E. Sundt, LaSalle; Ole Kolstad, Godahl; Ole Holley, Madelia; John Ask, Triumph; Gus. Johnson, Triumph; Andrew Levig, Truman or Martin Helvig, and purchase your coupon books during the coming week from any of the gentlemen named.



## Intensive Work Inaugurated For Success of Centennial June 6 to 9

Orders for Norse-American Centennial commemorative medals are now being received at headquarters by the hundreds daily. The price of the medal is \$1.25, postpaid, and no person will be permitted to buy more than one. This does not mean, however, that one cannot purchase medals for other members of one's family, if desired, but in such cases an individual order must be sent in for each medal, together with name and address. The orders are being filed in the order received and each order numbered. Each medal will be sent by mail in a specially made container, and registered in order that the committee may get a receipt for every medal sent out. **NONE WILL BE SOLD OVER THE COUNTER**, or delivered in person at the time of purchase. As Congress has authorized the making of only 40,000 of these medals, it behooves all who desire to obtain one of these valuable mementos of the Celebration not to delay in sending in their order. Send orders to Norse-American Centennial Committee, Medal Dept., 11 Washington ave., S., Minneapolis, Minn., accompanied by bank check or draft, express or postal money order. Do not send stamps. Bear in mind that these medals will be more valuable as time passes, particularly since the Norse-American Centennial medal is the first commemorative medal ever authorized by the Congress of the United States.

Congressman O. J. Kvale, of Minnesota, author of the bill in Congress providing for printing of the special Norse-American Centennial two-cent and five-cent postage stamps, has been notified by the Postoffice department at Washington that these stamps will be placed on sale on May 17, Norway's Independence Day, in the following seven cities: Washington, the nation's capital; Chicago, which has the largest population of Norse-Americans; St. Paul and Minneapolis, where the Centennial celebration is to be held; Decorah, Iowa, and Northfield, Minn., where are located, respectively, Luther College and St. Olaf College, the largest Norse-American higher institutions of learning; and Benson, Minn., the home of Congressman Kvale. "And I want it to be known that I had nothing whatever to do with selecting the cities where the Centennial stamps are to be sold," said Congressman Kvale when at headquarters the other day. "This action was taken by the Postoffice Department without consultation

with me or with anyone else connected with the Centennial celebration so far as I know. I am not even advised as to whether or not these stamps will be placed on sale at other postoffices later on, but I hope such may be the case." The special Centennial stamps will be in two colors—the first time in American history that such special stamps have been issued in more than one color.

The Woman's Auxiliary committees in Minnesota counties have been doing some really remarkable work in furthering an understanding of and creating interest in the forthcoming Centennial, under the direction and supervision of Mrs. Mabel Johnson Leland, state chairman. In many cities and towns the woman's auxiliary committees have interested the public school teachers and pupils in various ways, have had Literary and Musical clubs put on special programs with reference to Norse literature and music, featuring also the work of Norse-American

writers and composers, have provided speakers for meetings of various organizations and have provided material for a great deal of publicity in their local newspapers. All this activity is having tremendous influence for good, an influence that will extend far beyond the Centennial, namely, to give the non-Norse part of our population a clearer understanding of the Contribution of our people to American civilization and development and, as a consequence, producing a clearer and deeper appreciation of such contribution. Similar activity is being displayed by the women's auxiliaries of other states. For example, let us quote briefly from a letter received from Mrs. Katie N. Kjørli, North Dakota state chairman: "A talk on the Norse-American Centennial as a Current Event of Interest was given at the Fargo Delphian Club; an entire program, talks and music, was given at the First Lutheran Ladies' Aid and at the Lutheran Brotherhood; under the auspices of the Scandinavian W. C. T. U. a whole evening's entertainment, open to the public, has been arranged, with an illustrated talk on Norway by Rev. C. W. Finwall, a talk on the Centennial celebration by Dr. J. A. Aasgaard, president of Concordia college, and musical numbers by Norse-American composers; other organizations have included or have promised to include numbers concerning the Centennial at coming meetings. Our daily papers

have been most gracious in giving us space and we are using your Bulletins to good advantage."

The publishers of "Skandinaven," the well known Norwegian newspaper published in Chicago, advise us that the judges have selected the winners in its prize contest instituted last fall for the best three articles or essays answering the question: "What is the biggest and most important work done by the Norsemen in America in the 100 years since the beginning of Norse immigration?" The prize money totalled \$500, divided into three prizes: 1st, \$250; 2nd, \$150; 3rd, \$100. The letter from "Skandinaven" says: "The articles, of which hundreds came in, have now been read by the judges and the three considered the best have been selected. The prize article together with the names, pictures and biographies of the winners, also of the judges, will appear in one of Skandinaven's issue during the celebration."

"Landsforbundet" advises that its headquarters during the Centennial will be Luther Seminary, St. Paul, and Bethlehem church, 14th Ave. S. and 18th St., Minneapolis.

The number and variety of exhibits so far promised for the Centennial are so far in excess of what had been looked for that Dr. Knut Gjerset, exhibit chairman, found it necessary to make another trip to the Twin Cities to arrange for additional exhibit space at the fair ground. He was here last Saturday and Sunday for this purpose. Accompanying him was Prof. Karl Jacobson, Luther College librarian, who will have charge of the books exhibits, which will include as complete a collection as possible of the works of Norse-American writers, also old and rare copies of Norwegian books. This exhibit alone promises to be a veritable "eyeopener" even to our own people, many of whom are unaware of either the quantity or quality of Norse-American contributions to American literature.

We hope to have some more detailed information as to exhibits very soon, probably in our next Bulletin.

In the April 21st issue of "The Minneapolisian," official bulletin of the Minneapolis Civic & Commerce Association, was published a lengthy article on the Centennial. Among other things it says: "First among the great national events of historical interest which is bound indelibly to the Northwest is the Norse-American Centennial in commemoration of the coming of the 'Vikings of the North' to America in 1825. The Civic & Commerce Association officers are giving every service possible to insure the success of this event. The co-operation of the members will mean much in the task of playing host to the people who visit



the city for this event." And then the article also goes on to urge the members of the Association to assist in the advance sale of tickets to insure the financial success of the undertaking.

Similar hearty co-operation is being met with at the hands of officers and members of the St. Paul Association of Public and Business Affairs.

The Minnesota Conference of the Swedish Augustana Synod, which met last week in Minneapolis, did a very courteous and brotherly act in adopting resolutions commending the Norse-American Centennial, as follows:

"The Minnesota Conference of the Lutheran Augustana Synod in session assembled, is familiar with the fact that your people in the United States and Canada are preparing to celebrate the historic event of a hundred years ago, when Norwegian immigrants came to this country with the plan and purpose to establish a settlement in this land of ours.

"We, Swedish-Americans, being closely related to you as a people from the North in ancestry, language, customs and traditions, as well as religious faith, rejoice with you in the anticipation of a great and worthy celebration, recognizing God's wonderful blessing upon you in the past and wishing you great success in noble achievements in the future."

This was addressed to the board of directors of the Centennial and signed by Rev. P. A. Mattson, president, and Rev. N. J. W. Nelson, secretary. Needless to say, this splendid tribute and these good wishes from our Swedish brethren are deeply appreciated.

The Centennial Committee wants to hear from more old Civil War veterans of Norse birth or ancestry. About 20 have so far come forward with claims for the distinction of being "the oldest living Norse-American Civil War Veteran." The oldest so far to be named is John Johnson, of Sauk Center, Minn., who is past 92 years of age. Most of the other claimants are from 82 to 88 years old. Is there one older than Mr. Johnson? If so, let us hear from him or from somebody else on his behalf. County chairmen and others receiving this Bulletin are urged to give publicity in their local papers to this search for the "oldest veteran." Let us be certain as it is humanly possible to be that the distinction goes to the veteran entitled to it beyond question. Your assistance in this will be deeply appreciated.

Word was received the other day that the Norwegian Government named as its representatives to attend the Norse-American Centennial, Premier J. L. Mowinkel to represent the Cabinet and Ivan Lykke, President of the Storting, to represent that body. Announcement has also been made in

Norway that Wm. Morgenstjerne, Vice President of Normandsforbundet, will represent that well known organization at the Centennial. It is also expected that other Civic and Industrial organizations in the Mother Country will send official representatives.

Just before its adjournment last week the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated \$10,000.00 for an exhibit of Minnesota's natural resources and attractions to be put on at the State Fair Grounds in connection with the Norse-American Centennial. The exhibit is to be arranged and the money expended under the direction of Hon. J. P. Holmbreg, State Commissioner of Agriculture. Acting with him as a committee on the Minnesota Exhibit will be Prof. C. G. Selvig, Supt. of the State Agricultural School at Crookston, Minnesota, Senator Freeman J. Thoe, Hayfield, Minn., Representative N. T. Moen, Fergus Falls, Minn., and G. B. Wollan, Publicity Director. Definite work is also expected in a few days relative to the exhibit of the Dominion of Canada.

SOUTH BEND IND. TRIP  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1925.

## COOLIDGE WILL SPEAK AT HUGE NORSE CENTENNIAL

FOUR GOVERNMENT WILL PARTICIPATE IN JUNE.

## GOVERNORS WILL ATTEND

Four Days' Celebration is to Bring  
Two Famous Choral Societies  
Together and Other Musical Organizations.

BY G. B. WOLLAN.

[Copyright, 1925, by South Bend Tribune.]  
ST. PAUL, Minn., May 20.—The memory of 53 intrepid Norsemen who landed in America from the ~~slough~~ Restoration, the "Mayflower of the North" 100 years ago and, trekking west led in the pioneering that converted the middle western plains into the bread basket of the world, will be honored by four governments at the Norse-American centennial, to be held on the state fair ground adjoining the twin cities June 6 to 9.

President Coolidge is coming in person to pay America's tribute on the eighth to those hardy pioneers and their followers, whose lives make up in great measure the history of the great American middle west. Secretary of State Kellogg will be present and speak on the same day.

The government of Norway, proud of the achievements of her pioneering sons, is sending two of its foremost statesmen, L. Oftendahl, minister of social work, and C. J. Hambro, chairman of the Storting committee on foreign relations, together with scores of leading citizens. Governor General Byng of Canada, which also profited by the Norse emigration, is sending a special delegation, as is Iceland, which vied with Norway in contributing to the pioneering brigade.

### Governors Will Attend.

Governors of six states, which trace their lineage back to Norsemen, also are expected to take part in the celebration. They are Gov. Theodore Christianson, of Minnesota; Gov. J. J. Blaine, of Wisconsin; Gov. Carl Gunderson, of South Dakota; Gov. A. G. Sorlie, of North Dakota; Gov. J. E. Erickson, of Montana, and Gov. H. L. Whitfield, of Mississippi.

Directors of the celebration expect that fully 250,000 persons, possibly 500,000, will attend the four-day event, among them many followers and descendants of the original Norse-Americans, whose ranks in America now have swelled to something like 2,500,000.

Besides the participation of President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg, the United States has further recognized the importance of this centennial by congressional authorization of special Norse-American centennial postage stamps in two colors and the minting of 40,000 commemorative silver medals at the Philadelphia, Pa., mint. This is the first time in America's history that such a commemorative medal has been authorized by congress.

### Dirigible May Come.

Secretary of the Navy Wilbur has promised to send the giant dirigible, the Los Angeles, to the centennial celebration, "if it can be done," adding, "and I think it can."

There will be 22 departments of exhibits besides special exhibits by the state of Minnesota and the dominion of Canada, of their natural resources. These departmental exhibits will cover a wide range including a department of pioneer exhibits which will visualize, as perhaps never before, the growth and development of the great middle west during the past century. There will also be exhibits of fine arts and crafts, including both a loan exhibit and a competitive exhibit of paintings and sculptures by Norse-American artists.

The celebration also will bring together a wonderful group of musical organizations featuring two internationally famous choral bodies, the Academic choir from Oslo, Norway, and the St. Olaf Lutheran choir from Northfield, Minn. Other musical organizations participating in the celebration will be the Luther college concert band consisting of 75 pieces; St. Olaf college band; Waldorf college choir; Augustana college choir; Concordia college choir; Augsburg Seminary Glee club, and a male chorus of 500 or more voices from the Norwegian Singers' Association of America.

### Games to Feature.

Other special features of the celebration will be athletic games and contests by students of Norse-American colleges and academies; a living flag by children, depicting first the flag of Norway which will be instantly transformed into the "stars and stripes," and an historical pageant depicting the past century's his-

tory of Norse-American contribution to American civilization and development.

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## THE CENTENNIAL NEAR AT HAND

Some Side Lights on Great Celebration to Be Held at Minnesota Fair Grounds

The Norse-American Centennial celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Norse immigration to America will be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, St. Paul-Minneapolis, Saturday, June 6, to Tuesday, June 9th, inclusive. June 6 is "Bygdelaag" day, June 7 in "Church and International" day, June 8 is "America" day, (when President Coolidge will attend and deliver an address), and June 9 is "Norway and Women" day. Every day will be a BIG day.

Four nations will be officially represented—the United States, Dominion of Canada, Norway and Iceland. Besides President Coolidge, the United States will be represented by Hon. Frank Kellogg, Secretary of State, and by the Los Angeles, giant Navy dirigible; Norway will be represented in official capacity by Hon. H. H. Bruv, Norwegian minister to the United States and personal representative of King Haakon, and by Mr. Lars Oftedal, member of the Cabinet, and C. J. Hambro, member of the Storting; the Dominion of Canada will send Hon. Thomas H. Johnson, former minister of labor and attorney general of the province of Manitoba, and Premier J. Bracken of Manitoba, while Iceland will be represented by Unofru Holmfrid Arnadottir and Ungfru Inga Larnsdottir. Besides a number of Norwegian international and national organizations will have representatives.

Brie. Gen. A. W. Bjornstad, first Norse-American to attain a general's rank in the United States Army, now stationed at Ft. Omaha, Neb., has accepted the invitation to attend and will be present. He was born and raised in St. Paul, Minn., while both his father and mother were born in Norway.

Six states will be represented by Governors of Norse ancestry, namely: Theodore Christianson, Minnesota; J. J. Blaine, Wisconsin; A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota;

Carl Gunderson, South Dakota; John E. Erickson, Montana, and H. S. Whitfield, Mississippi. Governors from two or three other states may also attend. Gov. Al Smith, New York, has appointed three delegates from the Empire State, namely, Maj. Gen. Charles Berry, commanding the National Guard, Capt. S. J. Arneson and Rev. C. O. Pedersen, while Gov. Len Small, Illinois, has appointed Hon. N. A. Grevstad, Chicago, former United States minister to Paraguay and Uruguay, as his personal representative.

The United States government established two precedents in connection with the Norse-American Centennial. For the first time in its history Congress authorized a commemorative medal and for the first time in history the Post-office department has issued two-color stamps for a commemorative celebration. No special stamp issue has ever created such a stir among stamp collectors as did the Norse-American Centennial issue. Orders for the Centennial medals are now being received. They sell for 1.25 each and each medal will be sent to the buyer direct by registered mail—none will be sold "over the counter." Mail orders, accompanied by draft or check, to Norse-American Centennial, 11 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. Only one medal will be sold to any one person, although one person may buy for other members of the family by giving name and address of each of such others in the family. The medals will be mailed separately to each.

To "Stavanger laget," one of the 30-odd Norse "lags" or clans, goes the credit for initiating the movement to celebrate the centenary of Norse immigration to America, marked by the sailing of the little 45-ton sloop, "Restaurationen," from Stavanger on July 4, 1825, with its cargo of 52 passengers, men, women and children. Stavanger laget made the formal proposal to the other lags in 1918 to join with it in arranging for such a celebration.

Of the first generation born to "sloopers" on American soil, only twelve are still living, namely: Mrs. Anna Danielson Parker of Kendall, N. Y., where the sloopers settled, Miss Georgiana Larson, Rochester, N. Y.; Miss Inger M. Johnson, Detroit, Mich.; Rev. John L. Atwater, Miss Jane S. Atwater and Mrs. Mabel Truesdell, Chicago, all three children of Mrs. Margaret Allen Larson Atwater, known as the "sloop baby," because she was born at sea on the way from Norway in 1825; Daniel Rosdail, Marseilles, Ill.; Jacob Rosdail, Norway, Iowa; B.

F. Stangland, Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. Emily Fruland and Mrs. Caroline Bower, Sheridan, Ill., and Miss Sadie Selle, Chicago. All but two or three of these are expected to attend the Centennial celebration.

The Board of Directors of the Centennial is composed of: Prof. Gisle Bothne, University of Minnesota, chairman; Hon. Nels T. Moen, Fergus Falls, Minn., 1st vice chairman; A. C. Foan, St. Paul, 2nd vice chairman; Prof. J. A. Holvik, Moorhead, secretary; and Trygve Oas, Minneapolis, treasurer. These and S. H. Holstad, Minneapolis, Managing Director, constitute the "Big Six" who are mainly responsible for laying the plans for the big celebration and on whose shoulders have rested the arduous duties and responsibilities connected with carrying them out to a successful conclusion. These men have performed a most notable service to their race and have earned their countrymen's deepest gratitude and appreciation.

Great credit is also due to Dr. Knut Gjerset, curator of the Luther College museum, Decorah, and Miss Herborg Reque, Minneapolis, chairman and vice chairman respectively of the Exhibits committee, for their excellent work in gathering an array of exhibits worthy of the occasion and which has never before been even approached in Norse-American history. Literally thousands of exhibits have been gathered from all points of the compass, from near and far, to visualize the contributions of Americans of Norse ancestry to the progress and history of their adopted country. Many of these exhibits have never before been offered to public view, many are priceless heirlooms, many can not be duplicated anywhere else on earth, many are intensely interesting either because of intrinsic value or for their historical associations. There will be 21 different departments of exhibits, besides which there will be special official exhibits by the State of Minnesota and the Dominion of Canada.

The women's committees have also done splendid work worthy of high commendation. Deserving of special mention are the members of the women's executive committee: Miss Elisa Fayseth, chairman; Mrs. J. E. Haugen, vice chairman; Mrs. W. O. Storlie, secretary; Mrs. Manley Fosseen and Mrs. Gilbert Gutteresen, also the following sub-committee chairmen: Mrs. A. C. Foan, program; Mrs. Sophia Wetteland, hospitality; Mrs. Gisle Bothne, reception; and Mrs. J.



O. Lee, concessions. The women's committee has had entire charge of the Centennial program for Tuesday afternoon, June 9, and a most varied and interesting program is the result. Principally through Mrs. Floan's efforts arrangements have been concluded for "parking" children at the Children's building while their mothers take in the Centennial "doings." The children will play under the supervision of six play supervisors furnished by St. Paul and Minneapolis playgrounds departments while every half hour during each day a musical or entertainment feature will be given. Complete playroom equipment will be furnished by the Golden Rule and Donaldson's department stores and a rest room by the New England Furniture & Carpet Co.

Montevideo, Minn., News  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925

## KEEN INTEREST IN CENTENNIAL

LARGE NUMBER IN MONTEVIDEO  
AND VICINITY PLAN TO AT-  
TEND CELEBRATION

## IS NATIONAL IN SCOPE

President and Congress Recognize Im-  
portance of Anniversary of  
Norwegian Immigration.

On many farms in this part of the state corn cultivators will stand idle next Monday and Tuesday. Business places and workshops in Montevideo and near-by towns expect to operate short-handed. The reason is the Norse-American centennial which has aroused unusual interest among citizens of Norwegian descent. The centennial opens Sunday with church services and reaches its climax Monday afternoon when President Coolidge speaks in front of the grandstand at the fair grounds.

Four nations will be officially represented—the United States, Dominion of Canada, Norway and Iceland. Besides President Coolidge, the United States will be represented by Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State, and by the Los Angeles, giant Navy dirigible; Norway will be represented in official capacity by Hon. H. H. Bryn, Norwegian minister to the United States and personal representative of King Haakon, and by Hon. Lars Oftedal, member of the Cabinet, and C. J. Hambro, member of the Storting; the Dominion of Canada will send Hon. Thomas H. Johnson, former minister of labor and attorney general of the province of Manitoba, and Premier J. Bracken, of Manitoba, while Iceland will be represented by Ungfru Holmfrid Arnadottir and Ungfru Inga Larasdottir.

Six states will be represented by Governors of Norse ancestry, namely; Theodore Christianson, Minnesota; J.

J. Blaine, Wisconsin; A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota; Carl Gunderson, South Dakota; John E. Erikson, Montana, and H. S. Whitfield, Mississippi. Governors of two or three other states may also attend. Gov. Al Smith, New York, has appointed three delegates from the Empire State, namely, Maj. Gen. Charles W. Berry, commanding the National Guard. S. J. Arneson and Rev. C. O. Pedersen, while Gov. Len. Small, Illinois, has appointed Hon. N. A. Grevstad, Chicago, former United States minister to Paraguay and Uruguay, as his personal representative.

The United States government established two precedents in connection with the Norse-American Centennial. For the first time in its history Congress authorized a commemorative medal and for the first time in history the Postoffice department has issued two-color stamps for a commemorative celebration. No special stamp issue has ever created such a stir among stamp collectors as did the Norse-American Centennial issue.

To "Stavangerlaget," one of the 30-odd Norse "lags" or clans, goes the credit for initiating the movement to celebrate the centenary of Norse immigration to America, marked by the sailing of the little 45-ton sloop, "Restaurationen," from Stavanger harbor, Norway, on July 4, 1825, with its cargo of 52 passengers, men, women and children. "Stavangerlaget" made formal proposal to the other "lags" in 1918 to join with it in arranging for such a celebration.

Of the first generation born to "sloopers" on American soil, only twelve are still living. All but two or three of these are expected to attend the Centennial celebration.

Literally thousands of exhibits have been gathered from all points of the compass, from near and far, to visualize the contributions of Americans of Norse ancestry to the progress and history of their adopted country. Many of these exhibits have never before been offered to public view, many are priceless heirlooms many can not

be duplicated anywhere else on earth, many are intensely interesting either because of intrinsic value or for their historical associations. There will be 21 different departments of exhibits, besides which there will be special official exhibits by the State of Minnesota and the Dominion of Canada.

In connection with the coming Norse-American Centennial it is interesting to note that the first authentic record of a Norse immigrant in Minnesota is that of Nils Nilson, born in Modum, Norway, Jan. 2, 1830, who came to St. Paul in 1849 after having worked for a time in the lead mines near Galena, Ill. Nilson obtained work at a sort of hotel or inn known as "Moffett's Castle," near the banks of the Mississippi river, approximately where the new St. Paul Union station now stands. The following spring he went to Stillwater where he worked in a sawmill, remaining a resident of that city until 1882 when he bought a farm near New York Mills, Minn. He died there a few years ago.

The first Norse woman known to have located in Minnesota was Miss Ingeborg L. Langeberg, who came to St. Paul with her brother, Amund, in 1850. They were natives of Hallingdal, Norway. Miss Langeberg was employed for about a year as a domestic servant in the home of Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor and second state governor of Minnesota. It was during Ramsey's regime as territorial governor that she

was employed in the executive household. Miss Langeberg then moved to Fridley, Minn., where she married a man named Clark, later removing to Meeker county and still later to Minneapolis.

\* \* \*  
It was in 1852 that Norse immigrants began to come into Minnesota in any considerable numbers, but from

then on for several decades there was a constant stream of them, settling in southeastern Minnesota and rapidly settling farther north and west in this state.

From this modest beginning of Norse settlement in Minnesota, 75 years ago it is now estimated by Dr. O. M. Norlie, statistician of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, that the population of Norse-Americans in this state is approximately 525,000, or 32% of the state's population, more than one out of every five of the state's inhabitants. Dr. Norlie is also authority for other interesting figures relative to Minnesotans of Norse birth or blood. He estimates that 214,000 of them are bread-winners; 100,000 working on farms; 40,000 in mechanical and manufacturing pursuits; 20,000 in trades; 14,000 in transportation and an equal number in domestic service; 13,000 in clerical service and 11,000 in professional service. Based on careful investigation by Samuel G. Iverson, former state auditor, and others, it is estimated that 45,000 Norse-Americans in Minnesota own farms, with an acreage of more than 7,500,000 acres and worth, with improvements, more than \$1,000,000,000.

Dr. Norlie also gives these further figures relative to occupations of Norse-Americans in Minnesota: retail merchants, 5,400; teachers, 4,800; carpenters, 4,400; lumbering, 2,800; miners, 2,000; public service, 2,000; stationary engineers, 1,600; bankers, 1,000; clergymen, 600; physicians, 600; nurses, 600; technical engineers, 550; lawyers, 500; insurance agents, 450; dentists, 300; professors, 300; printers, 300; editors, 175.



# Centennial Medals and Stamps

Medal

St. Paul-  
Daily News.  
Mch. 1-1925

Minneapolis, Minn., Mor. Tribune  
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 1925

## U. S. Mint to Strike Off Medals for Norse-American Centennial

### Souvenir Medals Are to Be Minted by U. S. for Sale During Norse Centennial in St. Paul

The United States government has placed its stamp of approval on the Norse-American centennial celebration at the state fair grounds in June.

Word was received Saturday at centennial headquarters, Nicollet hotel, Minneapolis, that both branches of congress had passed the bill authorizing the government mint at Philadelphia to strike off 40,000 medals for the centennial.

The medals will be struck off under direction of Andrew Mellon, secretary of the treasury, at cost of manufacture. The design is to be selected by the centennial committee, of which Prof. Giste Bothne, University of Minnesota, is chairman. Whether or not a contest for submission of de-

signs will be arranged has not yet been decided by the committee.

It is planned to sell the medals before and during the big celebration, the price to be at a small advance over cost to help defray the celebration expenses.

The advance sale of season tickets is just beginning to gain momentum, according to S. H. Holstad, managing director. Chairman for ticket sales are being appointed in all counties, in other states as well as in Minnesota, where there is any considerable number of people of Norse blood. The banner request so far came from Clay county, Minnesota, which asked for 5,000 books of tickets.

For the first time in history, congress has authorized the making of a commemorative medal in a United States mint. The medal in question is the Norse-American centennial medal, which will be struck off at the



Philadelphia mint and used as a souvenir of the centennial June 6-9 in the fair grounds. It will commemorate the arrival in this country of the first shipload of Norse immigrants.

The medal, designed by James Earle Fraser, will be octagonal in shape, of silver, in quality the same as the nation's silver coin and about the size of a half dollar. It is probable that 1,000 of these medals of gold will be struck off also, for congress has authorized the minting of 40,000 of the medals.

The design for the medal shown here, has not yet been approved by the federal fine arts commission whose approval is necessary before

they can be made. The figure in the foreground is that of an heroic Viking in the act of setting foot on American soil. The design is problematic of both the discovery of America by Leif Ericson, 1000 A.D. and the arrival of the Norse people in 1825.

Minneapolis, Minn., Tribune  
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1925

### KVALE SELECTS MEDAL DESIGNER

James Earle Fraser, Noted Artist, to  
Design Norse-American  
Centennial Coin.

Washington—James Earle Fraser, noted sculptor and artist, will prepare the design and models of the Norse-American Centennial medal which will be coined at the United States mint, Representative O. J. Kvale, of Minnesota, announced here.

Mr. Kvale was authorized by the centennial committee to secure an artist to prepare the design.

Until March 4, Mr. Fraser was a member of the federal fine arts commission, and one of the original appointees. Among his artistic achievements are the buffalo nickel, Victory medal, Distinguished Service Cross of the navy and the Roosevelt award medal. He is at present engaged on a large statue of Ericson to be erected in Washington in memory of the hero of the Monitor.

The medals will be struck at the mint as soon as the models are prepared. Treasury and mine officials have promised to lend every assistance in expediting delivery of the medals to the centennial association for sale before the event takes place on the Minnesota fair grounds in June.

President Coolidge has practically decided to attend the centennial. The president is anxious to learn whether he has increased in the estimation of Minnesota since his ill-fated address at the state fair in 1922, according to his friends.



## Norse-American Centennial To Be Commemorated by Medal

(Contributed by Publicity Committee.)

Information has been received from Congressman O. J. Kvale, one of Minnesota's 5 Norse-Americans in congress, and who introduced the bill to have congress authorize the striking off of 40,000 commemorative medals for the Norse-American centennial, to effect that the design submitted by Jas. Earle Frazer has been approved by the federal fine arts commission and that the dies will be finished in about two weeks.

Let it be especially noted that this is the first time in American history that congress has authorized a commemorative medal. By this action the Norse-American centennial has been most signally honored. Let us all try to be duly appreciative of this distinction officially accorded our celebration and exposition. In this connection a brief description of the medal will not be out of place. It is to be octagonal in shape, of silver, identical with that in our silver coins, and approximating the silver half dollar in size. The design shows an heroic Viking chieftain setting foot on American soil, with a small Viking ship riding the sea in the background. The board of directors of the centennial expects to make proper announcement in the near future as to how the sale of these medals will be handled. There will be only 40,000 of them.

A most interesting and unique feature of the celebration promises to be the living flag. This will be featured Monday afternoon June 8, in connection with Pres. Coolidge's address in front of the grandstand at the Minnesota state fair grounds. This living flag will be composed of 600 St. Paul children, who will be trained for their parts under direction of Mrs. John O. Lee. A special stand will be built for the children so all the tens of thousands of people may see it. The children will be dressed in colors of the Norse and U. S. flags—most of them with reversible caps (one color on each side). They will first appear as the Norwegian flag, while "Ja Vi Elsker Dette Landet" is sung—and then at a given signal, the children will reverse their capes in such manner as will transform the Norse flag to the Stars and Stripes. Besides the magnificent spectacle afforded, the change from one flag to the other will also visualize the ease and willingness with which Norse immigrants are transformed into loyal citizens. This one feature of the dozens planned for the centennial will itself be well worth the price of admission and is sure to leave a vivid and lasting impression upon all fortunate enough to view it.

The historical pageant which will be given on Tuesday evening, June

9, as the concluding climax of the "biggest gathering in America in 1925" will be another wonderful and inspiring feature. Work on this is going forward, but detailed announcement cannot be made as yet. Suffice it to say at this time that the pageant will depict in both stationary and moving tableaux the history of the first century of Norse-American and Norse-Canadian development, visualizing in most colorful fashion one of the most interesting chapters in American history.

The advance sale of tickets is now on and don't fail to get your tickets now while they are selling at reduced prices. Season tickets are selling for \$1 until May 1. Procure your tickets from local committee members or at the following business places in this city: The Bootery, Lofte Electric Co., A. L. Larson, Wisconsin St., Ideal Upholstering, Grand Ave., W., "Reform," S. Barstow.

Blomming Prairie (Minn.) Times  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1925

### U. S. MINT TO STRIKE OFF VIKING MEDALS

#### Congress Authorizes Norse-American Centennial Memorials.

(Minneapolis, Minn.)

For the first time in history, Congress has authorized the making of a commemorative medal in a United States mint. The medal in question is the Norse-American centennial medal, which will be struck off at the Philadelphia mint and used as a souvenir of the centennial June 6 to 9 in the Minneapolis fair grounds. It will commemorate the arrival in this country of the first shipload of Norse immigrants.

The medal, designed by James Earle Frazer, will be octagonal in shape, of silver, in quality the same as the nation's silver coin, and about the size of a half dollar. It is probable that 1,000 of these medals in gold will be struck off also, for congress has authorized the minting of 40,000 of the medals.

The design for the medal has not yet been approved by the Federal Fine Arts commission, whose approval is necessary before they can be made. The figure in the foreground is that of an heroic Viking in the act of setting foot on American soil. The design is emblematic of both the discovery of America by Lief Eriksen, 1000 A. D., and the arrival of the Norse people in 1825.

## NEWS OF NORSE-CENTENNIAL

Orders for the Norse-Centennial commemorative medals are now being received at headquarters by the hundreds daily. The price of the medal is \$1.25, post-paid, and no person will be permitted to buy more than one. This does not mean, however, that one cannot purchase medals for other members of one's family, if desired, but in such cases an individual order must be sent in for each medal, together with name and address. The orders are being filed in the order received and each order numbered. Each medal will be sent by mail in a specially made container, and registered, in order that the committee may get a receipt for every medal sent out. "None Will Be Sold Over The Counter", or delivered in person at the time of purchase. As Congress has authorized the making of only 40,000 of these medals, it behooves all who desire to obtain one of these valuable mementos of the celebration not to delay in sending their orders. Send orders to Norse-American Centennial Committee, Medal Dept., 11 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., accompanied by bank check or draft, express or postal money order. Do Not Send Stamps. Bear in mind that these medals will be more valuable as time passes; particularly since the Norse-American Centennial medal is the first commemorative medal authorized by the Congress of the United States.

Cong. O. J. Kvale, of Minnesota, author of the bill in Congress providing for printing of the special Norse-American Centennial two-cent and five-cent postage stamps, has been notified by the Postoffice department at Washington that these stamps will be placed on sale on May 17 Norway's Independence Day, in the following seven cities: Wash-



ington, the nation's capitol; Chicago, which has the largest population of Norse-Americans; St. Paul and Minneapolis, where the Centennial celebration is to be held; Decorah, Iowa, and Northfield, Minn., where are located, respectively, Luther College and St. Olaf College, the largest Norse-American higher institutions of learning, and Benson, Minn., the home of Cong. Kvale. "And I want it to be known that I had nothing whatever to do with selecting the cities where the Centennial stamps are to be sold," said Cong. Kvale when at headquarters the other day. "This action was taken by the Post-office Department without consultation with me, or with anyone else connected with the Centennial celebration, so far as I know. I am not even advised as to whether or not these stamps will be placed on sale at other postoffices later on, but I hope such may be the case." The special Centennial stamps will be in two colors—the First Time in American history that such special stamps have issued in more than one color.

Benson, Minn., Monitor  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925  
**Norse-American Coins  
Put On Sale in Benson**

Silver medals, valued at \$1.25, and gold medals, at \$12.50, commemorating the Norse-American centennial, have been placed on sale in this city in a limited quantity. These coins are being handled locally by Paul Alsaker and M. A. Overlie, and will be disposed by these gentlemen to the first callers.

Bainbridge, Mont., Enterprise  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925

**NORSE SILVER PIECE IS  
RECEIVED BY LOCAL MAN**

Juvenile Officer Frank Larson Wednesday afternoon received one of the metallic souvenirs announcing the Norse Centennial celebration which begins a four day observance in Minneapolis next Saturday. The souvenir, authorized by the Congress of the United States is made of coin silver by the government and stamped in the government mint. It is about the size of a half dollar and is octagonal. On the reverse side is the representation of one of the Norse Vikings with the Viking ship in the background. The Centennial is in observance of the one-hundredth anniversary of the immigration of the Vikings into New York state in 1825. A notation is also made on the coin "A. D. 1,000" representative of the discovery of America by Lief Erickson and the Norsemen. There were 40,000 of the coins authorized by Congress.

Stamps

**NEW MEMORIAL  
STAMPS READY**

**Celebrate Coming of First  
Norse Immigrants.**

**ARRIVED HERE 100 YEARS AGO**

**Issue to Be Placed on Sale in Few  
Cities on May 18.**

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.  
The Sun Bureau,  
Washington, May 7.

Postmaster General New has ordered that the first issue of the new Norse-American stamps be placed on sale May 18 to commemorate the arrival in New York, October 9, 1825, of the sloop Restaurationen with the first group of immigrants from Norway to the United States. The stamps will be sold first at St. Paul, Minneapolis, Benson and Northfield, Minn., and Decorah, Ia., where there are large numbers of Norse-Americans, and at Washington. Later they will go on sale in New York and a few other cities.

The stamps will be issued in two cent and five cent denominations. The two cent stamp has for its central design a ship representing the Restaurationen with a smaller vessel in the background. At the top of the stamp in a straight panel appear the words "Norse American" in white Roman letters, and below on a curved ribbon is the word "Centennial" in dark letters. Ribbon scrolls appear in the upper portion on each side of the stamp with the year "1825" at the left and "1925" at the right. At the bottom in three straight lines are the words "United States Postage Two Cents," and in both lower corners within circles with dark backgrounds is the white numeral "2." The central design is printed in black with the border design printed in red.

The five cent stamp has for its central design a Viking ship. At the top of the stamp in white gothic letters appear the words "Norse-American," and below this on a curved ribbon is the word "Centennial" in dark letters. At the left of the stamp is a shield of Norway with the year "1825" above, and at the right of the stamp is a shield of the United States with the year "1925" above. Below the central design in three straight lines are the words "United States postage, five cents," and in both lower corners within circles with dark backgrounds is the white numeral "5." The central design is printed in black, with the border design printed in blue.

By reason of the fact that the issue of the Norse-American Centennial stamps will be small, postmasters will not submit requisitions for a supply of them. The apportionment will be made by the department and sent to postmasters without requisition. For the benefit of stamp collectors these stamps will be placed on sale May 18 at the Philatelic Agency, Division of Post Office Department.



**Norse-American Stamps in Demand.**

It was announced from Washington last week that the Norse-American commemorative postage stamps would be placed on sale on Monday, May 18, at seven points in the United States. These are Washington, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Decorah, Algona, Northfield and Benson, Minn. These stamps are in two denominations, the two cent bearing a representation of the ship "Restaurationen" and the five cent showing a Viking ship. Both stamps will be in two colors. This announcement has created widespread interest among stamp collectors and as a result the demand for first day covers bearing these stamps is very large. The editor of the "Republican" has received orders from several parties covering stamps to the amount of about \$25, and Postmaster Linnevold has also received a number of orders, both from dealers and individuals.

**ALGONA ONE OF 7  
CITIES RECOGNIZED**

New Postage Stamps Will Commemorate Coming of Norwegians.

**TWO AND FIVE CENT STAMPS  
ISSUED; TWO COLOR DESIGN**

Recognition of Norwegian Population of Kossuth County Obtained by Congressman Dickinson.

Algona is one of the seven cities in which Norse-American two and five-cent postage stamps will be placed on sale next Monday in connection with the celebration next month in the Twin Cities of the Norse centennial.

The beginnings of immigration of Norwegians to America took place in 1825 with the sailing of the sloop "Restaurationen" from Norway, and the stamps are issued as a memorial of this event.

Kossuth county has a great number of citizens of Nordic descent, and the postoffice department recognized this fact by placing Algona on the first list to receive the stamps. The other cities are St. Paul, Minneapolis, Benson, and Northfield, Minnesota, Decorah, Iowa, and Washington, D. C.

The two-cent stamp is engraved in red and black, and the five-cent stamp in blue and black. These are the only two-color stamps in circulation, with the exception of a \$5 stamp. Plans for the two-cent stamp provide for a picture of the sloop "Restaurationen" flanked on each side with figures that adorned the prows of ancient Viking ships and battleships used by Norse chieftains.

The five-cent stamps bear a true picture of the famous Viking ship that sailed to the United States from Nor-

way at the time of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. On the left is pictured a shield, with the colors of the Norse flag, and on the right the Stars and Stripes.

Mr. Dickinson obtained the recognition for the Norwegian population of Kossuth county in this advance sale of stamps, and expects to be first to buy one when they go on sale Monday morning. There are to be 10,000,000 two-cent and 2,000,000 five-cent stamps of this kind issued. How long the advance sale will last before the stamps are put into general circulation is not yet known.

**NORSE' STAMPS  
TO BE OUT SOON**

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Postmaster General New announced today that the first issue of the new Norse-American stamps, to commemorate the arrival in New York on October 9, 1825, of the sloop "Restaurationen" with the first group of immigrants from Norway to the United States will be placed on sale May 18, 1925. The stamps will be on sale at St. Paul, Minneapolis, Benson, and Northfield, Minn., Algona, and Decorah, Iowa, and Washington, D. C.

These stamps will be issued in two denominations, 2 cent and 5 cent. The 2 cent stamp has for its central design a ship representing the sloop "Restaurationen" with a smaller vessel in the background. At the top of the stamp, in a straight panel, appear the words "Norse-American" in white Roman letters, and below this, on a curved ribbon, is the word "Centennial" in dark letters. Ribbon scrolls appear in the upper portion on each side of the stamp with the years "1825" at the left and "1925" at the right. At the bottom of the stamp, in three straight lines, are the words "United States Postage Two Cents," and in both lower corners, within circles with backgrounds, is the white numeral "2". The central design is printed in black with the border design printed in red.

The 5-cent stamp has for its central design a Viking ship. At the top of the stamp, in white Gothic letters, appear the words "Norse-American" and below this, on a curved ribbon, is the word "Centennial" in dark letters.

**Special Stamp Sold Here to  
Commemorate Norse Jubilee**

BY A. O. BARTON

With the appearance in Madison in a day or two of two special postage stamps commemorating the Norse-American Centennial, which will be celebrated in Minneapolis in June, public attention will be called to an event which appeared insignificant a century ago, but which was fraught with consequences of great importance to this section of America. These stamps, one of a denomination of two cents and the other of five cents, were put on sale Monday at seven cities in advance of general distribution, these cities being Washington, D. C.; Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Decorah, Iowa, Northfield, Minn., and Benson, Minn. The last named place is the home of Congressman O. J. Kvale, who introduced the resolution in congress providing for these special stamp issues. Mr. Kvale is well known in Madison, having been a Lutheran minister for some years at Orfordville, Rock county, before removing to Minnesota where he defeated Congressman Volstad, of dry fame, in 1922.

The stamps are of unusual beauty of design and workmanship. Both are bicolor; they are the first commemorative stamps to be issued by the department in two colors, and are only two-color stamps now in circulation with the single exception of the \$5 stamp.

The 2-cent stamp, in red and black, bears the inscription—as does also the 5-cent stamp—"Norse-American Centennial, 1825—1925," and also a faithful reproduction of the sloop Restaurationen. Flanking it on the borders on each side are depicted the figures that adorn the prows of the ancient viking ships and the battle shields used by the old chieftains. They are admittedly as fine specimens of engraving as the department has ever issued.

The 5-cent stamp is engraved in black and blue. If possible, it is more beautiful than the other. A true picture of the now famous Viking ship which was sailed to the United States from Norway at the time of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 holds the center of the stamp. The romantic ship is flanked on the left by a shield with the colors of the Norse flag, and on the right by the Stars and Stripes.

In giving the history of these stamps Mr. Kvale said in a speech recently:

"Although this resolution provided for the issue of but one postage stamp of the denomination of 2 cents, which was as much as we had dared to feel originally that we could ask for, I went at once to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Mr. Warren Irving Glover, in charge of this division within the department, and explained to him that while the centennial would in the main observe the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Restaurationen, still it would in a broader sense commemorate also the arrival in the Western Hemisphere of the first Vikings many hundred years ago,

and as such two stamps would be more proper than one.

"In pleading with the department to issue two stamps instead of the one called for in my resolution, I also called attention to the fact that while one stamp would naturally

bear the picture of the sloop Restaurationen another special stamp bearing the picture of a viking ship would be most appropriate and would be deeply appreciated.

"The story of how the Viking expositions in itself indicative of the spirit that has lived in the hearts of the Norse people throughout the ages. With a fund gathered

from every village in the kingdom of Norway—testing in that way the truth of their traditions—they constructed an exact and a seaworthy replica of an ancient Viking vessel dug from the earth in Gokstad, Norway, in 1880. Complete in its detail, with the dragon's-head prow, with highly burnished shields along the sides, with its 32 long oars, its sails and rudder, this little 67-foot boat was rowed across the entire Atlantic by Capt. Magnus Anderson, with the Norwegian commissioners taking sail as crew. Once in these waters, they brought their vessel to Chicago by way of New York and the Great Lakes."

In addition to the stamps the government will issue a commemorative medal. It will be the first commemorative medal to be issued in the history of the United States Mint. Other medals have been coined, but they have been for awards in the case of expositions and similar events.

Tentative arrangements have been made for the medal. As planned, it will be octagonal in shape, of silver identical with that used in the nation's silver coins, and approximating a half dollar in size. It will bear appropriate inscriptions and devices, with a Viking ship and the heroic figure of a Viking chieftain in full fighting regalia. Under the terms of the bill, medals will be coined to the number of 40,000, with a thousand of this number made of gold, exact replicas of the silver medals, but slightly smaller in size.



Albion (Pa.)  
THURSDAY

## ASK CANCELLATION ON FIRST DAY OF SALE

Collectors Want Local Postoffice Dates  
on Norse-American Stamps.

ONE MAN WANTS LETTERS  
RETURNED VIA AIR MAIL

Requests Received from Persons in  
Nearly Every Walk of Life—  
Many Registered.

Stamp collectors from all over the United States wrote the local postoffice last week to ask that envelopes be mailed to them Monday bearing one or more new Norse-American stamps. It seems that stamp collectors have to have stamps such as those issued in celebration of the Norse centennial used and cancelled on the first day of issue at a postoffice authorized to sell them, or they are of no special value. Stamps mailed from the local postoffice and bearing cancellation date of Monday, May 18, can be sold to other collectors for more than stamps cancelled later.

Many different instructions were received from the collectors concerning the way the stamps were to be attached to self-addressed envelopes furnished by the collectors. Many wanted blocks consisting of four stamps. Others wanted one two-cent stamp and one five-cent stamp. Others wanted just one of either kind. But most sent enough envelopes to have all the different kinds used on their requests.

One man wanted "books" of four five-cent stamps on 50 envelopes which he sent returned to him by registered mail, each envelope bearing cancellation date and registration number. Another wanted his stamped envelopes returned by registered air-plane mail. One man sent 50 envelopes to be thus returned. This registered airplane mail envelope required three Norse-American two cent stamps and five 5-cent stamps. It will be worth many times the value of the stamps to collectors.

Collector Sends 50 Envelopes.

One man addressed his envelope to "the Postmaster - General, Albion, Iowa." Another signed his letter, "Almost a Stranger, yet a Friend." One registered letter for Lexington, Ky., bore two Norse-American two-cent stamps, two Norse-American five-cent stamps, two regular one-half cent stamps, and one Waldoon Ter-Centenary two-cent stamp. Two persons sent 300 self-addressed envelopes and it cost one of them \$21 to have his envelopes returned to him.

The stamp collectors included men in every walk of life, according to the return addresses. Ministers and editors were not excepted. One package of envelopes came in an envelope that bore the return of the Federal Reserve bank at Kansas City. One man was evidently afraid that his letter would not reach here in time from Bath, Me., so he sent it by airplane mail, the letter coming through in 48 hours.

Orders From Many Cities.

A few towns from which requests were received will give an idea of the extent of stamp collecting:

Cincinnati, Allentown, Pa., Mankato, Muscatine, Sellersville, Pa., Lexington, Ky., Cambridge, Mass., Chicago, Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, Heatstown, N. J., Detroit, Harrisburg, Pa., East Liverpool, O., Lynchburg, Va., Nichols, Ia., Ridgewood, N. J., Pittsburgh, Worcester, Mass.

Baltimore, Buffalo, N. Y., St. Louis, Batavia, N. Y., Ambridge, Pa., Cleveland, Binghamton, N. Y., Southington, Conn., Warsaw, Ind., Oberlin, O., Springfield, Ill., Lawrence, Kas., Lone Pine, Neb., Bath, Me., Fargo, N. D., Milwaukee, Concord, Mass., St. Paul, Norristown, Pa., Denver, Winchester, Pa., McCaustland, Ia., Elizabeth, N. J., Hartford, Conn., Willimantic, Conn., Saginaw, Mich., Dayton, O., Vicksburg, Miss., Audubon, Ia.

Brookline, Mass., Brooklyn, N. Y., Summit, N. J., Watertown, N. Y., Ravenna, O., Saco, Me., Cookeville, Tenn., Fitchburg, Mass., Novinger, Mo., Wyncote, Pa., East Downton, Pa., Hanover, N. J.

Department Aids Collectors.

A letter from the postoffice department requested that all orders be filled, and Assistant-Postmaster D. P. Smith was kept busy most of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday licking stamps. A circular letter from the department was also sent to each stamp collector advising him of the date of issue. Many local buyers mailed envelopes to collectors. The department in this way makes some money, since many dollars' worth of stamps are used on such envelopes.

W. J. Payne, farm editor of the Advance, is a veteran stamp collector with a large collection. Mr. Payne received and filled orders from a large number of other collectors, and besides purchased a supply for himself, purchasing 236 stamps altogether at an expense of \$6.13.

Minneapolis, Minn. Mor. Tribune  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1925

## Collectors Rush to Buy Stamps of Norse Centennial

Army of 300 Purchases  
200,000 of Special Issue  
Opening Day of Sale.

Stamp collectors—a small army of them—waited at the stamp windows of the Minneapolis postoffice Monday for the opening of the sale of Norse-American centennial celebration stamps.

Some of the 300 collectors purchased their stamps and hurriedly placed them in their albums. Others made purchases for collector friends in other cities.

It was estimated by C. W. Kerr, assistant postmaster, that 200,000 of the special stamps were sold during the day. Several orders for 10,000 stamps were received.

The stamps are issued in 2 and 5-cent denominations. The Minneapolis postoffice received 1,000,000 stamps in the first lot.

OAKLAND, CAL. ADVANCE  
MAY 21, 1925

## NORSE-AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMP SUPPLY RUNS OUT

WASHINGTON, May 21.—(AP)

—Heavy demand for the Norse-American postage stamps, issued to commemorate the centennial of the arrival of the first Norwegian immigrants in this country and for use in connection with the celebration in Minnesota has forced the postoffice department to restrict their sales to dealers as far as possible. As only 12,000,000 of the stamps of two and five-cent denominations were printed, postmasters in Minnesota, Iowa and North and South Dakota have received the largest quantities. Most of the Norwegian descendants in this country live in those states.

DAVENPORT, IOWA DEM  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1925

## New U. S. Stamps Are on Display in Davenport

The Norse-American Centennial will be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, St. Paul-Minneapolis, June 6, 7, 8, 9. The purpose of the Centennial is to commemorate the beginning of the Norse emigration to this continent. The United States government has issued a series of postage stamps to commemorate the arrival in New York, Oct. 9, 1825, of the sloop Restaurationer with the first group of immigrants to the U. S. These stamps are of two denominations, 2 cents and 5 cents. The 2 cent stamp has for its central design a ship representing the sloop Restaurationer. At the top of the stamp appear the words Norse-American and below this is the word Centennial.

The central design is printed in black with the border design printed in red. The 5 cent stamp has for its central design a Viking ship printed in black with the border designs printed in blue. As the issue of these is limited they will probably not be placed on sale at the Davenport office.

W. C. McAlister, 1711 Grand avenue, leading stamp collector, is in receipt of the first of the new stamps to reach Davenport and has placed them on display at the Martin Cigar store, Third and Brady streets and at White's book store.

MONTROSE, COLO., ENTERPRISE  
JUNE 5, 1925.

NEW POSTAGE STAMPS  
ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED

COLORADO SPRINGS, June 1—The postal department has just issued a special series of postage stamps to commemorate the arrival in New York, in October, 1825, of the sloop Restaurationer with the first group of immigrants to the United States from Norway, according to word received



yesterday by Edmund Allen, assistant postmaster. A stock of the new stamps probably will be received here today or early next week.

The stamps have been issued in two denominations—2 cents and 5 cents. The 2-cent stamp has for its central design a ship representing the sloop Restaurationen, with a smaller vessel in the background. At the top of the stamp in a straight panel appear the words, "Norse-American," in white Roman letters, and below this, on a curved ribbon, is the word "Centennial" in dark letters. Ribbon scrolls appear in the upper portion on each side of the stamp with the years 1825 at the left and 1925 at the right. The central design is printed in black with the border design in red.

The 5-cent stamp for its central design a Viking ship. At the top of the stamp, in white gothic letters, appears the words "Norse-American," and below this on a curved ribbon is the word "Centennial" in dark letters. At the left of the stamp is a shield of Norway, with the year 1825 above, and at the right of the stamp is a shield of the United States with the year 1925 above. The central design is printed in black with the border design printed in blue.

The stamps were issued to eight postoffices in the east on Monday.

Another recent commemorate stamp is the "Concord-Lexington" 2-cent stamp, which was received at the local postoffice some time ago.

**DUBUQUE, IOWA, HERALD**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925.

### Local Woman Has Centennial Stamps

Mrs. Ole Lee is in receipt of some of the special postage stamps issued by the United States in honor of the Norse-American Centennial. On the two cent stamps, there is pictured the ship that bore the first fifty Norwegians to the shores of the new continent. The picture of Lief Erickson, who reached the new world 900 years ago, appears on the five cent stamps.

The Norse American Centennial celebration has attracted wide spread notice, as one of the most unique ever held. In Minneapolis where the convention took place on May 27th, an unusual program was arranged. Fifty Norwegian singers who made the trip to America especially for the celebration were the chief attraction. In addition a huge pageant in which 1500 Minneapolis men and women took part portrayed the life of Norwegians from the time of Lief the Lucky down to the day of the Centennial 900 years later.

**DUBUQUE IOWA TIMES-JOURNAL**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925.

### NEW CENTENNIAL STAMP IS SEEN

Norse-American Centennial stamps are making their appearance here in conjunction with a celebration that is to be staged at the St. Paul-Minneapolis state fair grounds, June 6, 7, 8 and 9. The purpose of the centennial is to commemorate the beginning of the Norse emigration to the continent.

The United States government has issued a series of postage stamps to commemorate the arrival in New York, Oct. 9, 1825, of the sloop Restaurationen with the first group of immigrants to the U. S. These stamps are of two denominations, 2 cents and 5 cents. The 2 cent stamp has for its central design a ship representing the sloop Restaurationen. At the top of the stamp appear the words Norse-American and below this is the word Centennial.

The central design is printed in black with the border design printed in red. The 5 cent stamp has for its central design a Viking ship printed in black with the border designs printed blue. As the issue of these is limited they will probably not be placed on sale at the Dubuque office.

**GARY IND TRIBUNE**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925.

### Moe Gets Large Supply of Norse-American Stamps

Norse-American centennial stamps issued by the government of the United States in commemoration of the Norwegian centennial celebration to be held in Minneapolis, Minn., four days beginning tomorrow and ending next Tuesday, were seen for the first time yesterday in Gary when Ingwald Moe, a lineal descendant of the Vikings, received 2,500 two-cent stamps which he had ordered from the postoffice department at Washington through Postmaster A. S. Hess of this city.

The stamps cost Mr. Moe \$50 and he was giving them away to his friends yesterday and today. The stamps bear on their face the picture of the sailing ship which bore the first Norwegian colonists to this country in 1825.

When Mr. Moe heard several weeks ago that the government had issued a series of Norse-American postage stamps, he applied at the Gary postoffice only to learn that none of the new stamps had been received there. Mr. Moe then called at the Chicago postoffice, only to be told that no stamps of that nature had been shipped to Chicago. Mr. Moe then asked Postmaster Hess to write to Washington for \$50 worth of the memorial issue and received the stamps yesterday.

Ingwald Moe was born in the extreme northern part of Norway within the Arctic circle and in the Land of the Midnight Sun." He came to America when a boy and while he is an intense American, he never forgets the land of his nativity.

"It's simply a matter of sentiment," he said, when asked why he purchased \$50 worth of the centennial postage stamps.

**Michigan, N. D., Arena**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1925

Postmaster Hentges now has on sale Centennial stamps in 2-cent denomination. These stamps have been issued in commemoration of the landing of the first Norse immigrants in the New World in 1825. The centennial of which landing was celebrated in Minneapolis the fore part of the past week. The center piece of the new stamp is an engraving of the "Restaurationen." (The Norwegian Mayflower.) The border is done in red and white.

**OMAHA FREE PRESS**  
JUNE 15, 1925.

### Norse Centennial Stamps Are Placed on Sale Here

Postmaster Charles E. Black announced a new style stamp in 2 and 5-cent denominations, was placed on sale Monday.

The new stamp is in honor of the Norse-American Centennial, and is smaller than the regulation ones. It has a red border with a design of Norse vessel in the center.

"There is only a limited amount of the stamps and no more can be secured when these are sold," said Black.

**MILWAUKEE WIS JOURNAL**  
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1925.

### Norse Stamps in Demand

The Norse-American commemorative stamps found a ready sale in Milwaukee. Only 60,000 were received here. After post offices elsewhere in the state had been supplied from this batch, the few remaining were snatched up by stamp collectors. More of the stamps may be obtained, but if Postmaster P. F. Piasecki is unsuccessful in obtaining another allotment, philatelists will have to apply to the philatelic agency at Washington for specimens.

**PUEBLO, COL., CHIETAIN**  
JUNE 20, 1925.

### Norse-American Stamps at The P. O.

Pueblo post office has received a consignment of the new Norse-American Centennial postage stamps, which while in but few denominations, are quite unique in their picturesqueness.

These stamps are smaller than the usual run of stamps for letter use, particularly those received in April called the Lexington-Concord stamps which are red in three denominations—two, one and five cents—the two of which are red, the ones green, and the fives blue.

Norse-American Centennial stamps are two and five cents, the twos are red and black, and the fives are blue and black.



# NURSE HONOR STAMPS ISSUED

### First Commemorative Prints Of New Design Are Received in City

C. M. Glover yesterday received from his cousin, W. Irving Glover, first assistant postmaster general, copies of the new two-cent and five-cent Norse commemorative postage stamps.

The stamps are issued in commemoration of the landing of the first Norwegian colonists in the United States and are to be placed on sale in only a few cities of the country. Santa Barbara is not one of these cities, according to Postmaster James B. Rickard.

The two-cent stamp is red with a black center, and the five is blue with a black center. The stamps are not so large as the usual commemoratives, being smaller than the Lexington-Concord stamps recently issued and placed on sale in Santa Barbara among other cities of the country.

Mr. Glover's cousin, who has just been promoted from second assistant postmaster general to first assistant, is the man who originated the idea of establishing a government philatelic bureau for the sale of postage stamps to collectors.

LEWIS MO. GLOBE DEMOCRAT  
JUNE 21, 1925.

## Collectors Can Learn History of America

### New Issues Furnish Many Easy and Delightful Study Hours.

By J. H. CONLEY,  
Deputy Commissioner of the South  
District, St. Louis Council, Boy  
Scouts of America and an Ardent  
Collector of All Kinds of Stamps.

We hope to present each week a bit of stamp information written by Commissioner Conley, which should be of interest, as many scouts are collectors. Most of the stamps which will be described will be on display at scout headquarters—and seeing is believing.

Some of our St. Louis teachers say their pupils absorb United States history from stamps without feeling it is work. Therefore, they can learn from stamps both history and geography in a real scouting manner.

Headquarters will be using some of these special stamps on mail to troops, so see that they are saved for you.

While this is the outdoor time of the year, the fellows have more free time when school is over, and can take opportunity to look after their

collections. Come to headquarters when in need of advice or assistance and we will be helpful.

### Norse-American Centennial Stamp.

A 2-cent carmine and blue stamp on which is the sloop Restaurationen, which landed at New York September 8, 1825. Rarely are bicolor stamps issued, hence the especial attractiveness of this and its companion—a 5-cent blue and black, which is a delight. It shows the Viking ship in which Lief Erlason and his Sea Scouts make the very first voyage of all to America, landing near 200 Fifth avenue, New York, on February 8, 1001, as nearly as our records can be developed. Anyhow, we know the Norsemen were here 500 years ahead of Columbus.

A scout's grandmother, upon seeing this stamp, explained, "Why, I saw a ship just like that at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, after it had been sailed from Norway to prove that the original Sea Scouts were capable." And, rare honor, this stamp shows the Norwegian shield along with Uncle Sam's.

ELGIN ILL. NEWS  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925.

### NEW STAMP ISSUE.

Elgin stamp collectors will be interested in the announcement that an issue of stamps commemorating the Norse-American centennial will be printed soon by the postoffice department. The stamps will be in two and five cents denominations, and will commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the arrival in America of the sloop Restaurationen, October 9, 1825, in which the first Norwegian immigrants were brought to this country.

Souvenirs

St. Paul, Minn. News  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925

### Official Souvenirs for the Norse Centennial

The Norse-American centennial committee has authorized various Norwegian societies to sell souvenirs on the street during the convention.

Official badges have been issued and the committee has made a request that purchases on the street be made only from those having badges.

Oscar Arneson, chairman of the publicity committee, will have general charge of sales of souvenirs, and the various societies will benefit from the profits.



Review of the Background of Events

49

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. Star  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

## Norwegian History

Dates in Connection With America's Discovery by  
Leif, Fighting Minnesota Indians in 1362,  
Colonization in Gopher State

Important historical dates to be remembered in connection with the Norwegian discovery of North America and Norwegian immigration are as follows:

1000 A. D.—Lief, son of Eric the Red, lands in America, giving the continent a name, Wineland.

1362—A band of Norsemen, as recounted in a rune-stone inscription, push into the interior of North America, coming to what is now Minnesota, where they are attacked by Indians.

1825—The Norwegian "Mayflower" ship, "Restaurationen," sails for America, arriving safely at New York city.

1825—The first Norwegian settlement in the United States is established in Kendall, Orleans county, N. Y., by members of "Mayflower" expedition.

1835—The second Norwegian settlement in America is established near Ottawa, La Salle county, Ill., by a group of Kendall settlers led west by Cleng Peerson.

1836—The third settlement is founded at Adrian, Mich., by Ingbret Ingbretson Narvig and others.

1837—A band of Norwegian immigrants proceed south from Chicago to Iroquois county, Illinois, establishing the so-called Beaver Creek settlement, which is the fourth to be founded in America.

1838—Ole Nattestad leads the advance guard of immigrants to the northwest, settling in Rock county, near Beloit, Wis., in 1838.

1839—The Muskego settlement, the sixth in America, is established by 30 immigrants in Racine county, Wis.

1840—Koshkonong, the seventh settlement, is founded in Dane county, Wis.

1851—First Norwegian settlers in Minnesota come to Fillmore county.

1869—Paul Hjelm-Hansen explores northwestern Minnesota, and urges Norwegians to settle new territory.

1882—Norwegian immigration reaches highest stage when 29,101 Norwegians come to America in a single year.

1925—Thousands of Norwegian-Americans throng Twin Cities in celebration of Centennial of start of immigration on large scale.

General News Items

Mpls Tribune

Feb. 15-1925

### SAILORS' FEAT SPURS CENTENNIAL STAFF

Norse Centennial Will Pay Tribute to Sloop Crew That  
Braved Atlantic

Because 53 fearless Norwegians dated travel over the Atlantic 100 years ago in a tiny sloop, America now has more than 2,000,000 Norwegians, supporting 3,500 churches, 50 Norwegian newspapers, and giving \$4,000,000 a year to church and charity.

These are some of the reasons Norwegians are preparing for a great centennial celebration at the State Fair grounds June 6 to 9, Rev. H. B. Kildahl, chairman of the publicity bureau of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, said last night. The church is one of 50 organizations co-operating in the centennial.

Mr. Kildahl quoted from the New York Daily Advertiser for October 12, 1825, which told of the arrival of the "restaurationen."

"An enterprise like this argues a great deal of boldness in the master of the vessel, as well as an adventurous spirit in the passengers," the newspaper said.

Those first Norwegians settled in Orleans county, New York, but soon spread westward to Wisconsin, then to Minnesota. The 1920 census showed 2,233,503 Norwegians in America.

West Union, Ia., Union  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1925

### WILL CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL YEAR

Present Year Marks Beginning Of Norwegian Immigration

1825 was a significant year for America as it marked the beginning of Norwegian immigration to this country. This is therefore the Centennial year and will be observed by a National Celebration in Minneapolis, June 7th, 8th, and 9th—when Norwegian-Americans will gather by the



hundreds of thousands from all parts of the country to celebrate the event. Local celebrations will also be conducted throughout the country. In connection with this event the following clipping from the New York Daily Advertiser for October 12, 1825 may be of interest. It was headed

#### A Novel Sight

"A vessel has arrived at this port with emigrants from Norway. The vessel is very small, measuring, as we understand only about 300 Norwegian lasts, or forty-five American tons, and brought fifty-three passengers, male and female, all bound for Orleans county, where an agent who came over some time since, purchased a tract of land. "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, most of whom belong to families from the vicinity of a little town at the southwestern extremity of Norway, near the city of Stavanger. Those who came from the farms are dressed in coarse cloth of domestic manufacture of a fashion different from the Americans, but those who inhabited the town wear calicos, gingham, and gay shawls, imported, we presume, from England.

"The vessel is built on the model common to fishing boats on that coast, with a single top-sail, sloop-rigged. She arrived with the addition of one passenger born on the way." The name of the vessel was "Restaurationen." It left Stavanger, Norway, July 4, 1825, and arrived at New York, October 9th, the same year. Every one of the passengers landed in good health and spirits. A child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lars Larson on the voyage. She was given the name Margaret Allen in honor of Mrs. Allen in London who had befriended Mr. Larson.

These Norse "pilgrim fathers and mothers" who came over in this "Mayflower of the North" settled in Orleans County, New York, and the hundreds and thousands of their countrymen who followed them during this century have settled and developed large parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas, and beyond to the Pacific Ocean and way up in Canada. They were hard working, frugal, and industrious, and blazed the way in developing the American wilderness into the most prosperous and progressing regions of the World. They came well prepared to do their part for America. They came from a free country to a free country, from an

educated country to an educated country. They represented a civilization and culture of a thousand years development. They were better Americans before they left Norway than some who have been trying to Americanize them after they came here.

As a rule the Norse immigrants came here empty handed, but they were not empty headed or empty hearted. Pre-eminently, they were a religious people and wherever they settled they built churches, educational

and Charity institutions. They have over 3,500 churches, 1500 clergymen, and contribute annually about \$4,000,000.00 to Church, Charity, Mission and religious education. They have 30 Colleges, Academies, Normal Schools, and Theological Seminaries, 38 Children's Homes, Old People's Homes, Rescue Homes for Girls, Kindergartens, and Day Nurseries. They have over 300 Home Missionaries stationed in the pioneer fields, logging, mining, and fishing camps, and the large cities. Being that Norway ranks very high among nations in Foreign Mission interests, it is only reasonable that those who migrated to America carried this interest with them. As there is practically no illiteracy in Norway, the immigrants and their descendants have been specially interested in establishing and maintaining schools and publishing houses and publishing papers and periodicals in both languages for the general enlightenment of themselves and the rest of the Americans. Their first pastor, Elling Eielsen, was ordained in 1843. They built their first church in 1844 in Racine county, Wisconsin. Organized their first Synod in 1851. The first American newspaper in the Norwegian language appeared July 29, 1847. It was called "Nordlyset" (The Northern Light), and was published in the town of Norway, Racine county, Wisconsin. Since that time over 400 papers have been published in the Norwegian language in 89 cities in America. At present there are 50 papers of which 2 are daily and two semi-weekly. The rest are weekly or monthly.

The first Norwegian Academy of higher learning was founded in 1853. In 1920 there were 2,233,503 Norwegians in America, and when we bear in mind that the good ship "Restaurationen" brought the original 53 Norwegians to this country in 1825, we realize that there has been some development both here and in Norway. And when their descendants gather to celebrate the event, they can do so with the satisfaction of having contributed some of the finest and most desirable elements into America.

WAUKEGAN ILL NEWS  
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1926

## NORWEGIANS IN BIG OBSERVANCE

Coming of First Immigrant  
Vessel to This Country is to  
be Marked.

This year will go down in history as one of great importance to the Norwegian Americans and also to American history, for this year we celebrate the coming of the first immigrant vessel from Norway to America. That does not mean that these were the first Norwegians, but the first immigrant boat, and since

its arrival the Norwegians have taken an honored position in the making of American history. Great festivals will be celebrated all over the United States, the first one, also called the official one, will be held in Minneapolis, June 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, in which the state of Illinois is asked to take a leading part.

It would be interesting to know what were the circumstances that led to the sailing of the famous sloop party. In 1807, Lars Larson, who was born at Stavanger, September 23rd, 1787, and served as a Ship carpenter in the Danish navy during the Napoleonic wars, was captured by the British and confined in a London Prison until 1814. After his release he entered the employ of Margaret Allen, a prominent Quaker lady who had taken an interest in him during his imprisonment, and had converted him to the Quaker faith. In 1816 he returned to Norway where he, with others who had been captives in London and had embraced the Quaker faith, began proselyting among their neighbors with the result that a Society of Friends was organized in Stavanger. This Society never grew large but still exists, with a membership of some two hundred. Some of these Quakers and other common people along the fjords became dissatisfied. They had heard favorable reports about conditions in the New World and they believed that in the young republic of the west, they might enjoy greater opportunities, and no doubt the old roving spirit of the Norsemen also asserted itself.

And so a number of Quakers and other residents of Stavanger county laid plans to immigrate and sent two men to America to investigate conditions. One of these was Kleng Persen. And thus was brought into the Saga of the Norsemen in America a man who for forty years was the pathfinder of his people in the New World Kleng Persen. It is a genuine Norse name. It's a name that, long ago, should have been carved on an impressive monument reared in his honor at some appropriate place in the West. He helped to build an empire.

Kleng Persen was a remarkable man, seemingly endowed by nature for the work he was destined to do. With but little schooling in his youth, he learned the English, French and German languages, besides his own, so that wherever he went he could talk with everybody and secure information as to conditions. And he possessed a peculiar gift of expression. Wherever he went, people listened to him, believed in him and many followed him. His faith in America was boundless. To him it was the promised land for his people. One night, in 1823, after a long weary tramp over the trackless prairies west of Chicago, he slept out in the open and had a dream or vision. He dreamt, says Professor Rasmus B. Andersen in his work on "Norwegian Immigration" that he saw the wild prairie changed into a cultivated region, teeming with all kinds 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. Alongside the fields of waving grain, large herds of cattle were feeding. Kleng interpreted this as a vision and as a token from Almighty God that his countrymen should come there and settle.

Kleng Persen spent three years in America, investigating conditions, returning to Stavanger in 1824. He gave glowing accounts of conditions in the New World and advised his countrymen to immigrate. Great interest and enthusiasm was aroused, but how to get to the land of promise, with the limited means at their command was a big problem for most of the people. Lars Larsen solved the problem. He had acquired some property, which he now sold and with some assistance from five others, bought a little sloop for eighteen hundred dollars in Norwegian money.

The Captain, Lars Olsen, and the mate Ericksen were engaged by him.

After the arrival of the sloop at New York, Lars Larsen did not accompany the party to Kendall, but located at Rochester, New York, where he became a prosperous builder of canal boats. He died as the result of an accident in 1845. He was a most worthy man, whose memory should be reversed by all his people in America. His home at Rochester was always open to Norwegian immigrants, hundreds of whom stopped there and received help and advice.

Kleng Persen may be called the founder of Kendall Settlement, and he later founded four other settlements in the West. He died in Bosque County, Texas, in 1865, eighty three years of age, and is buried at Norse, in the very heart of one of the settlements he last founded. A monument graces his resting place, upon which is engraved an expression of gratitude and inscribed "To the memory of the father of Norwegian Immigration to America." He had traveled over a large part of Europe, had crossed the Atlantic seven times and had tramped thousands of miles over the western

wilderness before his restless spirit found peace. He lived to see his wonderful dream or vision come true, for already in 1865 his people had established many large settlements in the fertile West, where they lived in prosperity and contentment. From 1825 to 1836 only a small number of immigrants arrived, some of whom went to Kendall, some obtained employment in various places in the East and others went to the Fox River settlement in Illinois, which Kleng Persen started in 1834. Quite a number came in 1836 and during that year the third permanent settlement was founded at Chicago.

In 1837 two Norse ships, "Enigheden" and "Aegir" came direct from Norway loaded with homeseekers, most of whom went to Illinois. The fourth permanent settlement and the first in Wisconsin was started

on Jefferson Prairie, near Beloit, in 1838; the fifth at Muskego, west of Racine in 1839, and the sixth at Kashkonong, east of Madison, in 1840.

The Muskego settlement is of special interest because here was built the first Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, a little log church begun in 1843 and dedicated in 1845 by Rev. C. L. Clausen, who had been preaching in the community since 1843. The little house of worship is still in existence and has been removed from Muskego to St. Anthony Park, Minnesota, where it stands on the grounds of the Luther Seminary campus. In this settlement also appeared the first Norwegian newspaper published in America. It was a four page sheet called "Nordlyset" (The Northern Light) and made its appearance in 1847. In 1849 it was removed to Racine where its name was changed to "Demokraten" and where it suspended publication a few months later.

Kashkonong became the richest and most famous Norwegian settlement in America. It was the Mecca to which most of the immigrants of the forties, the fifties and sixties directed their ships and whence they went forth in after years to found new settlements. Kashkonong indeed may be called the Mother Colony of the numerous Norwegian settlements of the Northwest and was the starting point of a goodly number of Norwegian Americans who have attained distinction in public life or as writers and scholars.

crossed the Atlantic to the land discovered by Leif Erickson, which started an exodus to the broad, fertile plains of America. The first was a migration of Norse chieftains, proud, wealthy and powerful, but because of the unfavorable conditions that awaited them, they had a hard struggle to maintain themselves. The second was a migration of Norway's common people, plain and simple, without worldly wealth, but who because of favorable conditions and faithful work, soon acquired a competence and are now numbered among the most prosperous people of the earth.

Now comes into history a man, "Kleng Pearson," who with but little schooling in his youth had learned the French, German and English languages. He was in 1822 sent by quakers in Stavanger county to America to investigate conditions. After a sojourn of two years around New York he returned to Norway in 1824. His report was so favorable that quakers and some other people laid plans to migrate hence. The sloop "Restaurationen," the Mayflower of the north, sailed out of Stavanger harbor on Americas Independence Day, July 4th, 1825. Whether the party selected that day for their departure by chance or with a full realization of its significance we have not been told. After a perilous and romantic voyage through the British channel and by the way of the Maderia Islands they reached New York on October 9th, 1825. Every one of the passengers that went on board at Stavanger landed in good health, spirits, and their number had been increased on the way by the arrival of the "sloop baby"—a daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Lars Larsen. She was named Margaret Allen in honor of a quaker lady of London, who had befriended her father while a prisoner of war in England for years. Mr. Larsen served in the Danish navy during the Napoleonic wars of 1812. Margaret Allen developed into a woman of rare beauty, culture and refinement. In 1857 she married John Atwater, of Rochester, N. Y., who became a prominent publisher at Chicago. She died at an advanced age, loved and respected by all who knew her.

The residents of New York extended a cordial welcome to these Norse pilgrim fathers, quakers in particular befriending them in more ways than one. Enough money was raised among the quakers to pay the expenses of the immigrants to Orleans county, New York, on the southeastern shore of lake Ontario. There in the town of Kendall these brave, single folk founded the first Norwegian settlement in America. Each family secured 40 acres of land, covered with dense, hardwood timber. To clear this land meant years of hard work and suffering which was endured by these pioneers for some time, were pitiful indeed. Twenty-four of them including

Paullina (La.) Times  
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1923

## TO HOLD A CENTENNIAL

NORSE-AMERICANS TO GATHER  
AT MINNEAPOLIS

A FOUR DAY GATHERING, JUNE 6 - 9

Many Big Features Are Listed In The  
Program For The Four Day  
Celebration

At The Minnesota State Fair Grounds  
Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and  
Tuesday, June 6-7-8-9th.

Historical sketch.

There has been two important migrations from Norway. The first began a thousand years ago, when many of the Norse warlords, earls and petty rulers refused to bend the knee to Harold the fair haired, who had made himself ruler of all Norway, and sailed away to Iceland with all their wealth and many retainers.

The second began a hundred years ago, when the sloop "Restaurationen"



their children, combined and put up a log cabin in which they spent the first winter. After a few years, however the settlers became fairly prosperous, learned to speak the English language and were respected by their American neighbors. The little community did not flourish like most of the Norwegian settlements later founded in the west, because conditions were not so favorable for agriculture as in those settlements and because the Norwegians of Kendall, like thousands of other New Yorkers, felt the irresistible call of the west. Nevertheless this first of all Norwegian settlements did not die out. From time to time emigrants from Norway located there and helped to keep alive the language and the traditions of the homeland. From this little start a hundred years ago the Norwegians have spread over the whole of the U. S. There are now in the United States 2,500,000 Norwegians and their descendants. They have become United senators, congressmen and governors.

The following program will be carried out at this national gathering, Saturday June 6th, National Convention of Bygdelags and other organizations. Addresses and music Sunday, June the 7th, forenoon—four or more religious services. Sermons by well known ministers. Music by choirs and bands.

Afternoon—Representatives from Norway and others will bring greetings, University choir from Norway will sing.

Evening—Music festival, short addresses.

Monday, June the 8th, forenoon and evening—Short addresses concerning activities of Norsemen in America. Afternoon address by the president of the United States.

Tuesday, June 9th, forenoon and afternoon, addresses concerning Norse American institutions: evening, historical pagents.

Special features during the four days will include athletics, lectures, exhibits and entertainments of an appropriate character.

Everybody welcome.

In behalf of the Norse-American Centennial.

Bart Strand,  
Peter Idso.

p. 50  
Minn. (Minn.) Com. Bulletin  
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1925

## CRAFT WHICH HOUSED 53 PASSENGERS 13 WEEKS WOULD NOT FILL BULLETIN OFFICE

An interesting feature of the Norse-American Centennial which is to be celebrated in the Twin Cities June 6 to 9, is the reproduction of the sloop "Restaurationen" (Restauration) in which the first considerable group of Norwegian emigrants came to America. The illustration on this page shows how far the construction of the model had progressed early last week. Like the original 45-ton sloop, this model is 50 feet long, 20 feet wide and 8 feet deep.

### Pocket Edition of Real Ship

Some idea of the limited character of these dimensions may be gathered from the fact that if the sloop were placed in the main office of the Northwest Commercial Bulletin, one-third of the length and height and considerably more than one-third of the breadth of the office would remain unoccupied, while the entire building would house quite a fleet of such sloops.

Though small according to the ideas of today it was a staunch little craft which set sail from the port of Stavanger July 4, 1825, and arrived in New York October 9, after a hazardous voyage of 13 weeks. It bettered the record of carrying every soul on board safely to its destination since it left Norway with 52 passengers and arrived with 53.

### "Sloop Baby" Completely "Americanized"

The 53rd passenger was a girl born to Mr. and Mrs. John Larson and known as "the sloop baby." This sloop baby, Margaret Allen Larson, grown to womanhood, married John Atwater, who a short while after became superintendent of schools at Roches-

ter, N. Y. The colony bought land and settled at Kendall, N. Y. The Atwaters later moved to Chicago where their two children, John Larson Atwater and his sister, Jane Sarah Atwater, live at the present

time. The latter was born in Chicago in 1858 and has taught in the public schools of that city since she was 20 years old. She is now principal of the Parkside school of Chicago.

### Her Children to Speak at Centennial

Both the children of the "sloop baby" are to be present at the coming centennial celebration and will give talks at the "sloop session" Monday morning, June 8. The 10 other children of "sloop children" now living were invited to attend the centennial and several are expected to be present.



Stalle  
JUN 7 '25

# SONS OF LIEF CELEBRATE SECOND COMING OF NORSEMEN TO AMERICA

## The President Has Gone to the Northwest to Add His Tribute of Honor To the Little Band That Braved the Ocean a Century Ago in Search of Freedom

The eyes of the Nation have followed the President these past few days as he traveled Northwest to pay his tribute to a people which has thrown its staunch character into the building of the American race. Tomorrow he speaks at the Minnesota State fair grounds at the big centennial exhibition of the Norwegians.

The descendants of Lief the Lucky, who touched the shores of "Vinland" centuries before Christopher Columbus was born, are making joyous celebration in their corner of the country.

The celebration, known as the Norse-American Centennial, is being held in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St Paul June 6 to 9. It is attended by Secretary of State Kellogg, diplomatic delegates of a dozen Nations, members of the Shorthing, of central law-making body of Norway, and perhaps 50,000 Norwegians in the United States. The Administration at Washington has agreed to send the giant dirigible Los Angeles to Minnesota for the festival. It will be the first appearance of the airship in the Northwest.

### Second Great Migration

The little band of Norwegians who formed the first permanent settlement of their countrymen in the United States, sailed from their homeland, singularly enough, on July 4, 1825. They arrived in New York 14 weeks later and in November established themselves at Kendall, Orleans County, N Y.

These, of course, were not the first Norwegians to adopt America as their homeland, but they were the first of their country to retain their national complexion in a sizeable group.

The first Norsemen to settle permanently in the United States are presumed to have been sailors who shipped aboard Dutch vessels and dropped off in what then was New Amsterdam. Some Norwegian historians contend that the first white child born in New Amsterdam bore a Scandinavian name.

The emigration to the United States 100 years ago marked the second time in history that Norway released a stream of its culture to a foreign country. The first major movement came in the

Ninth century, when dissenting noblemen put off for Iceland. The second exodus was one of peasants and commoners and it was brought about by religious and economic pressure.

The chronicle of the second period of emigration had its beginnings in the Napoleonic wars, and most of those who organized the first colony came from the little town of Stavanger, on the southwest coast of Norway. Here, in September 1787, was born Lars Larson, "dark and eager-eyed," who became a ship's carpenter and served aboard a Norwegian vessel in the Napoleonic wars.

### Persecuted for Their Religion

In 1807 his ship was captured by the British and he was taken to London and imprisoned until the treaty at Kiel had been signed. When he was released in 1814 he remained in London a year as a servant to a Quaker woman, Margaret Allen. Her influence upon him was so great that he embraced the Quaker tenets and when, in 1816, he returned to his native Stavanger he preached the doctrines he had learned in England.

Within a year he had founded a society of Friends. It never became large and it never extended beyond Stavanger but it still exists.

The established church looked with little favor upon these dissenters. There were fines for failure to attend communion services, forcible baptisms in the Lutheran Church of Quaker children and, in a few instances, bodies were exhumed that they might be reburied according to the orthodox ritual. In addition, there was a great deal of poverty and a widespread distrust of public officials.

The Friends endured these conditions until 1821, when they called Kleng Peer-son from his farm at Hesthammer and commissioned him to go to America to investigate the conditions under which colonization might take place.

He spent three years in the United States and his reports were so enthusiastic that little other persuasion was needed to form a colonizing party. The threatened difficulties of financing the venture were overcome by Lars Larson who, with five other Quakers, sold his scanty possessions and purchased The Restaurationen (The Resto-



REV OMMUND NIELSEN  
East Boston Pastor Going to the  
Norse Centennial

ration). It was a 45-ton vessel, sloop-rigged.

### Wine Given by the Waves

When the sloop weighed anchor there were 52 passengers aboard and a cargo of iron for delivery in New York. The passage to America was not without its hardships—or humor. The Restaurationen was so small that less hardy navigators would have considered it wholly unsuited for the voyage; that it crossed the Atlantic with its heavy cargo without mishap may be interpreted as extraordinarily good fortune or extraordinarily good seamanship.

Cruising along the coast of Great Britain, the sloop drew into the harbor of Lisett, which even then had felt the restrictions of liquor prohibition. The Norsemen, failing to understand the restrictions, peddled some of their own supply. When their offense became apparent they withdrew to the ship and put out to sea.

For several weeks the sloop drifted along the coast and then, near the Madeira Islands, the passengers had their second encounter with John Barleycorn. Here a wine cask, heavily covered with barnacles, floated out to them and almost begged to be taken aboard.



Lars Larson put out in a dory, fought away a shark while he slipped a line around the cask, and pulled the liquor back to the vessel. It may have been because of this piece of good luck that the Restaurationen, a few days later, drifted into the harbor of Funchal without colors and without command.

The townspeople feared there was some sort of pestilential disease aboard the sloop and the military threatened to fire a broadside unless colors were hoisted immediately.

The sloopers recovered in time to unfurl a Norwegian flag, and not only were they permitted to land, but they were entertained lavishly for three days.

#### First Winter a Hard One

The sloop left Funchal on July 31 and was brought into the harbor of New York about the middle of October. The troubles of the passage were not at an end, however, for the port authorities considered the Restaurationen too small to carry both passengers and cargo. The skipper was arrested and the sloop was detained for a day or two until the Quakers of New York brought their influence to bear in the case.

The Norwegians, with their blue eyes and sandy hair, caused no little surprise in New York. The New York Daily Advertiser professed amazement that a party could arrive in "good health and spirits" from so distant a land "in a vessel of a size ill-calculated for a voyage across the Atlantic."

Kleng Peerson was in New York awaiting the party. He had declined to sail with the main body of emigrants and had reached New York in time to make arrangements for the settlement at Kendall, Orleans County. The land was distributed equally, 40 acres to every head of a family or adult man. The price was \$5 an acre, but since the settlers were almost penniless the owner of the tract agreed to take his payments in 10 annual installments.

The first winter was one of extreme privation. The colonists arrived so late in the year that it was impossible to plant a crop or build substantial homes. Food was scarce and the first shelters were of the rudest sort. Twenty-four members of the colony hastily constructed a cabin 12x12 and somehow managed to live in it during the winter. In the following spring, land was cleared, wheat was planted and the next winter was passed in something akin to comfort.

#### Expect 30,000 Visitors

For the decade following 1825 there was a temporary lull in Norwegian emigration to the United States. The next boatload sailed from Stavanger in 1836 and was followed by another in 1837. From that time, except for negligible lapses, the number of Norsemen coming to the United States increased annually until the peak was reached in the '80s.

Only a few of those who came to America in 1836 stopped at Kendall. The remainder traveled to Mission, La Salle county, Ill., where the so-called Fox River Settlement was established. The third permanent settlement was made in Chicago and the fourth in Rock County, Wis. Somewhat later came the Muskego colony in Waukesha and Racine Counties, Wis. During the '40s an early '50s the Norwegians crossed the Mississippi for the first time and settled extensively in Iowa, the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Preparations for the celebration of the Norse-American Centennial have been going on for almost a year. A tremendous attendance is assured by the fact that 36 "bydelags," or Norwegian "clans," will meet during the celebration. These conventions alone are expected to attract more than 30,000 visitors to the Twin Cities during the three

Minneapolis, Minn. Star  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

## SLOOP LANDED 53 NORWEGIANS ON U.S. SHORES Marked Beginning of General Immigration to America

Observance of the Norse-American Centennial in the Twin Cities this week marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the arrival on American soil of a party of 53 Norwegians whose voyage on a little sloop called Restaurationen (the Restoration), marked the beginning of a general exodus of Norwegians to America that has continued on an extensive scale for the past 100 years.

The brave little company of emigrants comprising the Norwegian "Mayflower" expedition sailed out of the harbor of Stavanger, Norway, on July 4, 1825, embarking on a perilous journey of 14 weeks' duration across the ocean.

As in the case of the sailing of the Puritans in the Mayflower in 1620, the sloop Restaurationen left Norway in 1825 because Quakers living in Stavanger county were not permitted, unmolested, to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Economic reasons also were involved, for the emigrants believed that prosperity awaited them in America.

#### Lars Larson Organizer

The expedition was organized by Lars Larson, in whose house the first Quaker meeting in Stavanger county had been held 10 years before. The heads of six families joined with Larson, selling all their worldly possessions, and purchasing the "Restaurationen" from a Norwegian ship-owner for \$1,800. Lars Olson was appointed captain, and when the sloop set sail it carried 62 emigrants and a cargo of iron. The party numbered 53 when it landed in New York the second Sunday in October, Mrs. Lars Larson having given birth to a daughter on Sept. 2 while the vessel was in mid-ocean.

Following the departure from the harbor of Stavanger, the Norwegian "Mayflower" passed through the British channel, and anchored, after a few days, in a small harbor on the coast of England.

Either unfavorable winds or a lack of the knowledge of navigation by the captain forced the sloop off its course after the journey was resumed, and the "Restaurationen" drifted far south to the island of Madeira.

#### Enters Madeira Harbor

The sloop entered the harbor of Madeira without colors. Cannon were aimed at the vessel from the fortress, the military officials of the island believing that some contagious disease on board must have occasioned the lowering of the ship's colors. A man on wharf cried out a warning, however, and one of the party, Thorstein Olson Bjodland, who settled several years later in Wisconsin, hunted up the Norwegian flag, hoisted it to the masthead, and thus averted the danger that impended.

Some customs officials then boarded the sloop, and after making an inspection,

found everything in good order. The party was invited to land and was feted by the inhabitants of the island. The American consul extended a hearty welcome to the band of emigrants, and was host at a large dinner. On the departure of the party from Madeira three days later, the consul ordered a bountiful supply of stores placed on board the Restaurationen.

#### Restaurationen Reaches New York

A salute was fired from the fortress as the vessel sailed out of the harbor—four weeks after the departure from Stavanger. There followed 10 more weeks of voyaging through perilous waters, and then, early in October, the sloop anchored in the harbor of New York.

Arrival of the party aroused much interest in New York. Residents of the city marvelled that a safe passage over the Atlantic had been effected in

New York Quakers extended a warm greeting to members of the expedition, supplying them with shelter and funds.

The party later proceeded to the town of Kendall, Orleans county, New York, and founded the first Norwegian settlement in America.

#### Sloop Sold For \$400

Larson, leader of the expedition, remained several weeks in New York, disposing of the Restaurationen and its cargo for \$400. He then removed to Rochester, N. Y., with his wife and daughter, and became a builder of canal boats. He left a large fortune upon his death in 1845.

Members of the heroic expedition included the following people:

Lars Larson, Mr. Erikson, the mate, Captain Lars Olson, Johannes Stene, wife, and two children; Thomas Ma land, wife, and three children; Cornelius Nelson Hersdal, wife, and four children; Oyen Thorson, wife and three children; Daniel Stenson Rossadal, wife and five children; Simon Lima, wife, and three children; Jacob Anderson, Knud Anderson, Nels Nelson Hersdal, and wife, Bertha; Sara Larson, sister of Lars Larson; Henrik Christopherson Hervig and wife; George Johnson, Andrew Dahl, Andrew Stangeland, Nels Thorson, Ole Johnson, Thorstein Olson Bjodland, Ole Olsson Hetletvedt, and Halvor Iverson.

Minneapolis, Minn. Star  
Monday, June 8, 1925

## PEERSON CALLED PATHFINDER OF NORSE SETTLERS

### Started Norwegian Mayflower Expedition in 1825 —Led Opening of West

The man who has gone down in history as the pathfinder and father of Norwegian immigration is Cleng Peerson, from Tysver parish, Skjold district, Stavanger, Norway, who in the year 1821 made an investigation of conditions and opportunities in America.

After spending three years in America in company with a comrade named Olson Eide, Peerson returned to Nor-

way with reports that prompted a band of emigrants to embark in 1815 the sloop "Restaurationen" in what

is known as the Norwegian Mayflower expedition.

#### Moved Into West

Peerson mingled with the Quakers in New York for several years, but in 1834, being seized with the wanderlust, and believing that greater oppor-

tunity for Norwegians lay in the vast regions to the west, he set out on a long journey that brought him to La Salle county, Illinois, where two years later the second Norwegian settlement in America was established, the first having been founded in Kendall, N. Y.

It was while on a journey west of Chicago that Peerson experienced what he claimed was a miraculous vision. Weary and hungry he lay down on a hill to rest, and saw in his fancy fields of waving grain and large herds of cattle feeding. Interpreting this as a token from God that his countrymen



should come here and settle, he forgot his pain and hunger, and on bended knees thanked God that he had been permitted a glimpse of what the future held.

#### Led New Settlement

Peerson returned to the Kendall settlement, and in 1835 led a band of settlers back to Illinois, where the so-called Fox River settlement, near Ottawa, was founded.

Although Peerson bought land with the others in La Salle county, he did not settle on it. The urge to explore new regions was strong upon him, and he continued on over the western plains.

He finally went to Texas, where he died, an old and feeble man, in 1868—nearly 50 years after his initial explorations in America. His countrymen have placed a monument upon his grave.

Paul, Minn., F.-L. Advocate  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1925

## NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL HONORS SCANDINAVIAN TREK LED WEST BY KLENG PEERSON

Kleng Peerson's name will remain in American history along with the names of such men as Zebulon Pike, Lewis and Clarke, Daniel Boone, Sibley and Ramsey. He was the first Norwegian who made a detailed investigation of the opportunities of the United States and sought to induce a large immigration from his native land to the new found home of religious liberty and economic opportunity.

After the controversies which have raged about Kleng Peerson and his character have subsided into a universal chorus of acknowledged fact—and that time has now arrived—it will remain for the following generations to honor him and record the historic truth of his great service to his own people and to his adopted land.

It is the immigration which Kleng Peerson stimulated in 1825 that is being celebrated this week in St. Paul. The first century of conscious, deliberate Scandinavian immigration is ended and a new century begun. In honor of the occasion, the president of the United States is visiting the state which boasts more Scandinavian blood than any other in the Union, and the greatest airship of the skies, which sailed through the clouds above the Atlantic in five days will swing above the celebration grounds to mark the centenary of the tiny sloop "Restoration" that drifted for 14 weeks hither and yon over the Atlantic waves with its freight of 52 Norwegian immigrants.

#### First Norse-American

Kleng Peerson was the first "Norse-American." He pioneered this first boat load of the Scandinavian race who came over to become a permanent part of our composite nationality; he arranged for the purchase of their land in northern New York; met them on arrival; guided them to their homes, and then later set out on foot and trudged 2,000 miles to locate the site for the second settlement, the Fox River settlement just west of Chicago. Then he walked to Milwaukee (as is believed), and later searched out the glories of Missouri, Iowa and Texas and made several return trips to Norway preaching of the opportunities to be had in various parts of America.

#### Blazed the Trails

In all the early Scandinavian settlements, Kleng Peerson was either the pioneer who sought out the new place or arrived among the early settlers, but he himself never settled down, though he bought and owned land at some of the settlements. In his declining years he lived with friends of earlier days in Texas and was honored by having 300 acres of fine Texas land given to him by the Texas legislature, and the people of that far-off state honor him with a statue and inscription as the legislature of Minnesota last winter authorized the honoring of Col. Sibley.

He used to be called by some a vagabond, but a truer estimate has classed him as a "Viking" several centuries too late." He had a spirit for adventure, a dislike of the settled, staid way of doing things, and when one frontier began to yield to the softening influences of modern life, Kleng Peerson hunted for a new frontier.

His life work was to launch the movement of close to a million Scandinavians from their home to the United States, and through the movement thus begun Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Montana and Washington have been deeply tinged with the Scandinavian race, which undoubtedly will leave its imprint on all the populations that will follow.



South ...  
JUNE 5, 1925

# NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL IN JUNE

(By Rev. J. Theo. Bursett, Pastor  
First Lutheran Church, South  
Bend.)

The Norse-American Centennial. What is that?

Every true American ought to know.

Congress has been invited and in a rising vote thanked for the invitation. President Coolidge and Secretary of State Mr. Kellogg have promised to attend.

For the first time in our history special 2 and 5 cent stamps have been printed to commemorate an event of this nature. Not only that, but the U. S. mint has struck off a special medal for the occasion.

But what is it?  
All right.

July 4, 1825, a little sloop, "Restaurationen", carrying 52 emigrants, sailed from Stavanger, Norway, for the U. S.

This started an immigration from Norway to the United States that has continued ever since, so that there are now in our country as many Norse-Americans as there are people in the little kingdom of Norway. They have always proved themselves to be among the most loyal, industrious and dependable citizens.

Much of the growth and prosperity of the North Middle states are due to the strength and integrity of these people.

There was a Lief Erikson, as you know. He took out the original citizenship papers. You remember Knute Nelson. Now we can mention six governors of six different states who boast of being Norse-Americans, besides ever so many men of congress and other prominent places.

At Minneapolis, Minn., in June 7 to 9 there will be a celebration commemorating the coming of the "Restaurationen" and the 100 years of history, growth and influence of these people.

Minneapolis and St. Paul are prepared to entertain up to 300,000 people at this celebration.

## BACKGROUND OF EVENTS

BY PAUL V. COLLINS.

President Coolidge has gone to Minnesota to speak words of felicitation to the Americans who are celebrating the centennial anniversary of Norwegian settlement in the Northwest. He will not—cannot—address his remarks to any assemblage of "Norwegian-Americans" for there are no such people and never have been.

A Norwegian has never been hyphenated. When he left Norway to make his home thereafter in the Great Republic he became in spirit and in deed an American—not partially but absolutely. For a century he, with other Scandinavians, has dominated the Northwest and pioneered its vast enterprises, developed its resources, and marked the character of its institutions. More than a third of the population of the Northwest is Scandinavian.

\* \* \* \*

The Scandinavians include the Norwegians, the Swedes and the Danes. The Swedes in the old country depend largely upon agriculture, the Norwegians are the Vikings, the hardy adventurers upon the sea, the fishers and traders. When the descendants of Vikings came to the vast horizon-bound sea of grass in the Northwest, they, too, became farmers and stock raisers. Some became governors of their States.

One little boy accompanied his mother from Norway—an orphan—and sold newspapers in Chicago to help bear the mother's burden; later he became Governor of Minnesota, and from that position became United States Senator—the late Knute Nelson. Another Norwegian—or rather a native American born of Norwegian parentage—Henrik Shipstead—became a country dentist in Glencoe, Minn.; but, while practicing his profession, he took up finance as an avocation, thereby preparing for a United States senatorship, and even in his first year in the Senate he demonstrated his preparedness. Former Representative Volstead is a Norwegian, as is his successor, O. J. Kvale, and as are many other members from the Northwest.

\* \* \* \*

It is not through the accident of individual character that the Norwegians have developed the traits of daring and achievement, such as created a Nansen and an Amundsen, conquerors of the ice-bound polar seas. Away back in the eighth century Scandinavian explorers conquered the mysteries of many islands between the Arctic Circle and Ireland, and it is believed that in 1000 they landed on the mainland of North America. It is one of the objectives of the polar explorer, MacMillan, within the next few weeks, to seek out the stone houses built in Labrador by the reputed settlers from Norway a thousand years ago.

In those early centuries Norway was in constant struggle between rivals to her throne. From 1299 to 1313 Norway was subject to Sweden, whose population was much larger. Late in the fourteenth century Norway and Sweden united under a joint government, to which Denmark was added later, and this Scandinavian union lasted until the beginning of

the nineteenth century. As a reward for services to the great alliance of powers fighting Napoleon, the crown prince of Sweden, Charles John, in 1814, was given the throne of Norway. The Norwegians refused to recognize the convention thus given "without the consent of the governed," and, in the consequent fighting, the connection with Denmark was severed and the Norwegian Parliament elected the reigning King of Sweden as also King of Norway, and drew an act of union between Norway and Sweden,

which continued until 1905, when it was dissolved without bloodshed, and Norway became independent.

\* \* \* \*

Undoubtedly the forced union of Norway with Sweden in 1814 had much to do with the stimulation of emigration of Norwegians to America, which assumed important proportions within the decade following. The celebration now in progress commemorates the arrival in New York Harbor, October 12, 1825, of the sloop Restaurationen, with 53 Norwegian immigrants.

The present celebration, held midway between Minneapolis and St. Paul, is not merely local. One feature is a great pageant depicting scenes of the Norwegian pioneering. There is a choir of 3,000 singers who have assembled from all parts of the United States, Canada, and even Norway. All Scandinavians are music lovers—especially lovers of vocal music. Scandinavian choruses are familiar institutions in the Northwest, but never has there been a greater chorus than that which will sing the spirit of Viking achievement during the present celebration.

The United States Government has recognized the importance of the event, for it has issued a special 2-cent postage stamp bearing a picture of the sloop Restaurationen, and a 5-cent stamp decorated with a Viking ship, printed in two colors—an unprecedented printing in colors, except for the \$5 stamp. Also, from the United States Mint comes a commemorative gold medal to celebrate this centennial—the first of the kind ever issued from the Mint.

\* \* \* \*

It was due to the exploring enterprise of Kleng Peerson, also known as Kleng Pederson and Person Hesthammer, that the Norwegian colonization was started. It is not unusual for a Scandinavian thus to have several names, for, in the old days and in the old country the eldest son did not carry the surname of the father. For example, "Martin Peterson" indicates that the man known as "Peterson" was the son of Peter, whose surname might have been Jacobson, if he, in turn, was the son of a man named Jacob. So Kleng Pederson, or Pedersen, was probably the son of Mr. Peder, who was the son of Mr. Hesthammer.

Kleng came to America in 1821 and saw that the land was good. In 1824 he returned to Norway and spread the good news, and in the following year brought forth the first band of emigrants, locating them in New York State—not in the city. After he had thus established his colonists Kleng scouted around the Mississippi Valley and returned with tales of the Middle

West rivaling those of Marco Polo of the vast "Cathay." By 1836 he had transplanted nearly all of the New York settlers in the rich but untamed region now known as Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the two Dakotas. Minneapolis now has more Scandinavians than has any city in Scandinavia.

\* \* \* \*

While the pageant will show the original crude millstones with which the early pioneers started the greatest milling center in the world, and will show the original oxcart in which many a pioneer bride rode in state to her nuptials, it will also show modern achievements in art, as well as in industry. There are displays of pictorial weaving which equal any such weaving in the world. There will be displayed a marvelous "living Norwegian flag," composed of 500 children, trained and colorful, and at a signal the marching living flag will dissolve into a living reproduction of "Old Glory," truly symbolical of the

Norwegian heart of patriotism and loyalty.

President and Mrs. Coolidge, together with Secretary of State Kellogg—from Minnesota—and Prince Olaf of Norway, are guests of honor. Among the speakers, besides the President, will be two Norwegian women—Kristine Bonnevie, the only woman to hold the rank of professor in the University of Oslo, and Astrup Larsen, a Norwegian woman editor.

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## THE CENTENNIAL AND ITS MEANING

Norsemen, a Race of Pioneers,  
and What They Have Accomplished in America

(By Dr. Carl G. O. Hansen)

Editor Minneapolis Tidende

(Written for the United Press)

St. Paul, Minn., June 8.—The Norse-American Centennial has as its purpose to review the fruits of the labors performed by immigrants from Norway on American soil during the past 100 years.

The Norse contingent of our population has been among the foremost pioneers in many states, especially the middle west. Pioneering is a racial characteristic. Norway taught its sons and daughters to be hardy.

The first emigrant ship, "Restaurationen," left Stavanger, Norway, July 4, 1825, with 52 people on board, and arrived at New York, October 9, 1825, with 53 persons, one having been born on the voyage.

Eleven years elapsed before another emigrant ship left Norway for America, but since that time, Norway has sent to this country a steady stream of immigrants. Almost one million of them have arrived during the century; one-half of them have gone to the great beyond but they still number, together with their descendants, at least two millions.

The centennial is an event which many other immigrant races might duplicate. It presents one of the potent links in that great chain of events which has made American history. The immigrants have played an important part in the building of our country. The Norwegian-Americans wish by means of the centennial to emphasize their part in America's making.

They do not wish to forget Norway. They cannot forget the stern lessons she taught them.

Official recognition is given the centennial by the government of Norway and its representatives are present, bringing greetings, telling of the great pride the people of Norway take in the accomplishments of their kinfolk in America.

Many have said that Norwegians are more easily assimilated into the scheme of things in America than any other immigrants.

The sons and daughters of Norway and their offspring celebrate this event, and simply wish to say:

"These are our contributions to the making of America."

## NORSEMEN OF AMERICA SET FOR MONSTER CELEBRATION

Scope of Event Is Great;  
History of Race in America Reviewed

CENTENNIAL IDEA  
IS SEVEN YEARS OLD

Aasgaard, Holvik and Ylvisaker, Local Men,  
Among Speakers

BY VERA KELSEY.

Proud alike of their descent from the Vikings of old and their citizenship in the United States of the present, the Norse-Americans of the country have set aside June 6, 7, 8, and 9 to celebrate the Norse-American Centennial.

For 1925 marks the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the first Norse settlers to form a permanent colony in the United States. It also completes the first century of the Norwegian immigrants' contribution to the making of America.

The event is to be observed in every community in the United States where the incoming Norwegians have established themselves and where their descendants are to be found in numbers. New York and Chicago are preparing for special observation of the days, but as is fitting, the celebration to be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds is the largest and most significant of all. For Minnesota lies in the heart of the Middle West whose fertile prairies and sparkling climate were most like home to the Norse immigrants and the twin Cities, in proportion to their population, have the greatest number of Norse-American citizens.

Idea 7 Years Old.

The idea of a special observance of 1825 originated in 1918 and modestly. The "Stavangerlaget," one of the 30-odd Norse clans proposed to the other clans to join with it in a celebration. They agreed and the council of the clans chose six men to form a board of directors to prepare for the event. Professor Gisle Bothne, of the University of Minnesota, was made chairman, and Professor J. A. Holvik, of Concordia college, secretary. To the "Big Six" most of the credit for the development of a clan celebration into an international event is due.

President Coolidge speaking June 8 on "America" day is the high light of the program. Dr. N. G. Stub, head of the Lutheran church in the United States, Bishop Johan P. Lunde of Oslo, Governor J. A. O. Preus, Senator Henrik Shipstead, Consul-general R. Baumann of Denmark are a few of the large group of distinguished men to appear.

Local Men Speak.

Fargo and Moorhead are honored in having had three of their citizens in-

vited to speak, Rev. J. A. Aasgaard, president of Concordia college, Professor J. A. Holvik, head of the Norse department of Concordia, and Rt. Rev. I. O. Ylvisaker, president of the North Dakota District of the Lutheran church. The Concordia college choir will sing two anthems in the Sunday programs. Others from North Dakota on the program are Rev. H. B. Thorgrimson of Grand Forks who is to sing, and Alma Mehus of Fessenden who will play the piano.

Programs have been arranged for men, women, and children. There will be religious, musical, sports, and a presidential session. Programs of general and special interest will be given simultaneously so that every day will be crowded with interest for everyone.

Four Nations Represented.

Four nations will be officially represented—the United States, Canada, Norway and Iceland. Besides President Coolidge, the United States will be represented by Frank B. Kellogg, secretary of state and by the Los Angeles, giant navy dirigible. Norway will be represented by H. H. Bryn, Norwegian minister to the United States and personal representative of King Haakon. Canada will send Thomas H. Johnson, former minister of labor and attorney general of the province of Manitoba. Iceland will be represented by Ungfru Holmfrid Arnadottir and Ungfru Inga Larnsdottir. Besides a number of Norwegian international and national organizations will have representatives.

Six Governors.

Six states will be represented by governors of Norse ancestry—Theodore Christianson, Minnesota; J. J. Blaine, Wisconsin; A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota; Carl Gunderson, South Dakota; John Erikson, Montana; and H. S. Whitfield, Mississippi.

In all it is estimated that between 300,000 and 500,000 people will be in attendance at the centennial.

Another indication of the significance of the occasion lies in the fact that the United States government established two precedents in connection with the event. For the first time in history congress authorized a commemorative medal and the postoffice department issued a special two-color stamp.

The story of the history leading up to the centennial and the accomplishment it represents are sufficient evidence that such a celebration is appropriate.

Leif The Lucky.

Leif Erickson, many historians now grant, was the first white man to fit out an expedition for the purpose of settling in this country. He and his men lived three years among the "Skinlings" as they called the Indians. But the increasing hostility of the red men finally drove them back to their own shores. Norwegians were active in every phase of America's early colonial life. But it was not until Kleng Peerson arrived in the United States in 1821 that the idea of a permanent Norse settlement in this country developed.

Kleng, it is said, should be ranked with Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett as one of the forerunners in the making of the great west. A rover, improvident and adventurous, he traveled the middle west far and wide, generally on foot. Impressed with its agricultural possibilities, he returned three times to Norway between 1824 and 1842 to write and talk America. Now he is known in history as the founder of two remarkable settlements—Fox River, Illinois, and Dallas county, Texas.

The Restaurationen.

On October 9, 1825, the forty-five ton sloop, Restaurationen, slipped into New York harbor with the first group of settlers—53 in all—and all but one from Stavanger District, Norway.



They inaugurated the period of the formation of settlements by settling down on the shores of Lake Ontario, in New York, and calling their new home Kendall. Incoming immigrants sought them there but by that time most of the original arrivals were established in Fox River, Illinois.

Fox River and Dallas county, Texas, became the gateways through which the incoming tide of Norsemen entered the United States. Lesser pathfinders than he led them on into Wisconsin. And a greater pathfinder than he—the free homestead act of 1863—urged them on to Minnesota, Iowa, and the Dakotas.

#### Many Followed.

The arrival of the Restaurationen marked the beginning of a steady and swelling stream of immigration from Norway. In 1910, according to the federal census, the Norse owned 60,000 farms in the United States with a total value of over a billion. Today the estimated population of Norse-Americans lies between four and five millions.

The share these Norse-Americans have taken in the making of the country is not so simple a story. They have woven their contributions inextricably into the development of almost every phase of our life. Farmers in Norway, they continued as farmers in their new home, and today over 4,000,000 people of Norwegian blood are engaged in agriculture in the United States. As they helped lay the ground work for the settlement of a large part of the upper Mississippi valley, they have continued through their progressiveness in the use of new machinery and farming methods to sustain its development and prosperity. In the same way their contribution to American industry has been largely in the manufacture of agricultural instruments and farm vehicles.

In addition to agriculture, the native industries of Norway are lumbering and fishing. So in the United States, the Norse became an important factor in the development of our lumber industry, shipbuilding, and all the wood working trades, and more than any other group perhaps have contributed to bring American fisheries to their present magnitude. They have taken part in every phase of shipping from the old fashioned sailing vessel to the modern steamship and are to be found on our freshwater ferries and our ocean liners and warships.

#### Strong on Education.

The Norwegians themselves consider their greatest contribution to America to be in education. They have established about seventy-five schools of higher education, of which St. Olaf's and Concordia college are representative. At least 3,000 teachers have been employed in these schools and more than 150,000 students have attended them. In addition the Lutheran church alone maintains more than 20 orphanages, 9 hospitals and seamen's homes, 2 rescue homes for girls, and 8 home finding societies. Their fraternal organizations such as the Sons of Norway support similar institutions.

Norse-American papers and magazines published in this country run close to 400 in number. Of the work in the novel and history field little is known, because the Norse writers are too unfamiliar with English to write in anything but Norse, and Americans are too unfamiliar with Norse to read anything but English. In art they have taken a small but growing part; in music, particularly in church music, a well recognized place. In all branches of science they are active.

#### Athletic Prestige.

Norwegians have fought for the United States in every war from the Revolution to the World War. And in a more congenial field, they have won victories for her in skiing, sailing and skating. Their love of outdoor life has given them exceptional physique, and their contribution to

the national health is evidenced in the fact that North Dakota, where forty percent of the people are of Norse extraction, had the smallest percentage of rejection at camps of any state in the union. At colleges and universities, Norwegian students rank high among football and track stars.

Their work in politics is evidenced in this section of the country where many governors, national and state senators and legislators, and other officers are chosen from among men of Norse extraction.

*Anderson*  
*Pres Herald*  
*Portland Ore*

## Norsemen Braved Sea Perils On Trip

### Friend of Early Immigrants Tells of Hazardous Voyage Here on 45-Ton Sloop

The Norse-American Centennial at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds and President Calvin Coolidge's references to the small sloop Restaurationen as the Norse Mayflower, have turned public attention to this hazardous voyage which began the Norwegian emigration to this country. The Postoffice Department has issued a memorial stamp and Congress has authorized a silver medal in commemoration.

Rasmus B. Anderson, who has had a personal acquaintance with several of the passengers of the sloop on her voyage to America, tells the story of the trip in *The American-Scandinavian Review*. Cleng Peerson, who died in Texas in 1865, was the father of the Norwegian emigration to this country. He came here in 1827 as the emissary of a Quaker society in Stavanger, Norway, and returned three years later with a favorable report, which induced the expedition to make the trip the succeeding year. Mr. Anderson's story of the voyage follows:

"History repeats itself in Norway in the early years of the nineteenth century, and the sloop Restaurationen left Norway in 1825 because Quakers were not permitted to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. The story of William Penn is repeated in Norway.

"Of course there were economic reasons also, and the emigrants hoped to better their material as well as their religious conditions. It should also be remembered that there was a widespread feeling of suspicion and distrust among the common folk of Norway against the officeholding class. There were many unprincipled officials who exacted exorbitant and even unlawful fees for their services, and with such officials ordinary politeness to the common man was out of the question. Thus, poverty, oppression on the part of the officials and religious persecution cooperated in turning the minds of the people in Stavanger City and county toward the land of freedom and abundance in the Far West.

**Investigated American Conditions**  
"Cleng Peerson, from the Farm Hesthammer, in Tysver Parish, Skjold District, Stavanger County, was the man who gave the first impetus to the emigration of Nor-

wegians to America. In the year 1821 he and a comrade, Knud Olson Eide, from the small island of Fogn, near Stavanger, left Norway to make an investigation of conditions and opportunities in America.

"After a sojourn of three years in America, all that time spent in and around New York City, where they did such work as they could find, Cleng Peerson being a carpenter by trade, they returned to Norway in 1824. Here their reports of social, political and religious conditions in America and their discussion of opportunities in the New World awakened the greatest interest and culminated in a resolution to emigrate.

"Lars Larson, the same man at whose house the first Quaker meeting had been held in 1861, at once undertook to organize a party of emigrants, being successful in finding a number of persons who were ready and willing to join him. Six heads of families converted their scanty worldly possessions into money and purchased a sloop which had been built in the Hardanger Fjord, and which they loaded with a cargo of iron. For this sloop of forty-five tons burden and cargo they paid the sum of 1,800 Norwegian dollars. While six of the party owned some stock in the vessel, the largest share was held by Lars Larson, who was in all respects the leader of the enterprise. He had acquired a pretty thorough knowledge of the English language during his eight years' sojourn in England, and the general supervision of the preparations and of the voyage naturally fell into his intelligent hands. The captain, Lars Olson Helland, and the mate, Erikson, were engaged by him.

"This little Norwegian Mayflower of the 19th century received the name Restaurationen (The Restauration) and on the American Day of Independence, July 4, 1825, the brave little company of emigrants sailed out of the harbor of the ancient city of Stavanger. They were 52 when they left Stavanger, but when they reached New York in October they numbered 53, Mrs. Martha Larson, wife of the leader, having given birth to a baby girl in September.

"Their 14 weeks' journey across the Atlantic Ocean was a romantic and perilous one. The stories of that voyage told me by one of the party were the delight of my childhood. They passed through the British Channel and a few days later they anchored in a small harbor named 'The Lizard,' on the coast of England, where they remained until the next day. Here they began to sell liquor to the residents, which was

against the law, and when they perceived the danger in which they had thus placed themselves they made haste to steer the little craft out on the boundless ocean. They either must have lost their reckoning by looking for the trade winds or the captain must have been somewhat deficient in his knowledge of navigation, or, to take a more charitable view of the case, the wind must have been against them, for when we next hear of them we find them drifting into the harbor of Funchal, on the Island of Madeira.

#### Wine Nearly Causes Disaster

"Near the Madeira Islands they found a pipe of wine floating on the water. It must have been very old wine, for the cask in which it was contained was entirely covered with barnacles. Lars Larson got out in a yawl boat to fish it up and while he was putting a rope around the pipe a shark came near biting his hand off. To celebrate this piece of good fortune both the officers and the passengers had to taste of the delicious contents of the pipe of wine, and the result was that most of them got more or less under its influence. In consequence they neglected their duties. They came drifting into the Harbor of Funchal without colors and without command. Here it was feared they had some kind of contagious disease on board, and one of the officers of the Bremen, a

vessel anchored in the harbor, shouted to them that if they did not wish to be greeted by the cannon already aimed at them by the fortress they had better hoist their colors at once. Thorstein Olson Bjaadland hunted up the Norwegian flag, which was stored away with other baggage, and ran it up the mast, thus averting the danger. Much attention was shown to the party at Funchal. The American Consul increased their store of provisions and before their departure invited the whole sloop to a dinner.

"Four weeks had passed since they left Stavanger and for ten more weary weeks the sloop had to contend with the angry waves of the rough Atlantic. In New York quite a sensation was awakened by the fact that these Norwegians had ventured across the ocean in so small a craft. Such a thing had not been heard of before. Here they also got in trouble with the authorities on account of having a larger cargo and a larger number of passengers than the American laws permitted a ship the size of the sloop to carry, and in consequence of this violation Captain Helland was arrested and the ship seized by the Custom House authorities. He was released and the sloop restored to its owners later.

"Cleng Peerson was in New York when the sloop arrived there. He had found Quakers in New York who were prepared to give our Norwegian pilgrims a welcome and such help as they most needed. Enough money was raised by the Quakers to pay the expenses of the immigrants, \$6 for each, from New York City to the town of Kendall in Orleans County, N. Y., where farms were obtained for them. Here, then, was formed the first Norwegian settlement in America in modern times."



R. B. Anderson

# Norwegian Mayflower Sailed For America 100 Years Ago

A Little Band of Fifty-two Persons Seeking Religious Freedom Started First Settlement—Centennial is Being Celebrated in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

**T**HE centennial of the coming to America of the Norwegian Mayflower, carrying a little band of Quakers seeking religious freedom, is being celebrated in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Representatives of the 2 million Norwegians and children of Norwegians in the United States today are paying tribute to the dauntless spirit of those fifty-two pioneers who braved a fourteen weeks' ocean journey to carry out their ideals unmolested by an intolerant government.

The meeting began June 6 and will continue until June 10.

On July 4, 1825, began the Norwegian emigration to this country, writes Rasmus B. Anderson in the American Scandinavian Review. The first emigrants left Stavanger, a quaint old town on the west coast of Norway in a small sloop named Restaurationen. The officers and passengers numbered, counting men, women and children, fifty-two souls, and when they reached New York October 9, they were fifty-three, a little girl having been born September 2, mid-Atlantic. The postoffice department is issuing a memorial stamp, and congress has authorized a silver medal in commemoration of the event.

In connection with this centennial it is eminently proper to review the history of the movement that began a hundred years ago.

The father and promoter of Norwegian emigration in 1825 was Cleng Peerson, who was born in Norway May 17,

1803, on Fogn, a small island near Stavanger. He was born in Stavanger, Norway, September 24, 1787. He became a ship carpenter and served on board a Norwegian merchant ship. During his travels he was converted to the Quaker religion. In 1816 he returned to Norway, and at once began to make propaganda for Quakerism and to organize a little Society of Friends. In Stavanger he and Elis Tastad and Tomas and Matta Hille became the founders of the Society of Friends in Norway. This society never became large and never spread beyond the limits of Stavanger Amt or country, but it still exists, and today numbers about two hundred adult members. The first Quaker meeting in Norway was held in the home of Lars Larson in the year 1816. He was not married at the time, but his deaf and dumb sister, Sara, kept house for him. At Christmas, in 1824, he married Martha Geortina Peerson, who was born October 1803, on Fogn, a small island near Stavanger. Miss Peerson was in no way related to Cleng Peerson.

During the time we are now discussing, Norway, and particularly the southwest coast districts, contained a large number of semi-dissenters from the established church—the followers of Hans Nielsen Hauge, a reformer, born in 1771. Though he had only a common peasant education, he began to preach in 1795. He protested against the liberalism and secularization then prevalent among the clergy of Norway.



"RESTAURATIONEN," WITH THE FIRST NOISE EMIGRANTS ON BOARD SAILING OUT OF STAVANGER HARBOR, 1825, FROM A PAINTING BY BEN BLESSUM.

1782, and died in Texas, December 16, 1865. He, as the emissary of a Quaker society in Stavanger and vicinity, came to America in 1821, remained for three years investigating conditions and prospects for Norwegian immigrants, and returned to Norway in 1824 with a most optimistic report.

### LARS LARSON THE LEADER.

The leader of the Restaurationen party of emigrants was Lars Larson 1

Hauge's zeal secured him many followers, particularly among the peasants, who did not, however, as did the Quakers, withdraw from the established church. Still, they were looked upon with disfavor by the governing class, and their leader, Hauge, was sent to prison for seven years. The Haugeans looked upon their leader as a martyr, and this fact intensified the strained relations existing between them and the civil and religious rulers of Norway. It

may be stated, without exaggeration, that many of the government officials of that time, not only those who had charge of secular affairs, but also the servants of the church, were inclined to be arbitrary and overbearing.

There is not a shadow of doubt that this intolerance on the part of the officials in Norway, as in the case of the Huguenots in France and the Puritans and Independents in England, was one of the main causes of the first large exodus from Norway to the United States of America. The very fact that Norwegian emigration began in Stavanger County, and that the emigrants were dissenters from the established church, is conclusive proof of the correctness of this view. Here it was that Lars Larson, Elias Tastad, and Thomas and Metta Hille had founded the Quaker society. In the city of Stavanger and in its vicinity many had been converted to

the Quaker doctrine, and there were no Quakers in Norway outside of Stavanger County.

### HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

In all lands and climes, the beginning of emigration often can be traced to religious intolerance and persecution. History repeats itself in Norway in the early years of the nineteenth century, and the sloop Restaurationen left Norway in 1825 because Quakers were not permitted to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

Lars Larson undertook to organize a party of immigrants and was successful in finding a number of people who were ready and willing to join him. Six heads of families converted their scanty worldly possessions into money and purchased a sloop which had been built in Hardanger Fjord, and which they loaded with a cargo of iron. For this sloop of forty-five tons burden and cargo they paid the sum of 1,800 Norwegian dollars. While six of the party owned some stock in this vessel, the largest share was held by Lars Larson, who was in all respects the leader of the enterprise. He had acquired a pretty thorough knowledge of the English language during his travels, and the general supervision of the preparations and of the voyage naturally fell into his intelligent hands. The captain, Lars Olson Helland, and the mate, Erikson, were engaged by him.

This little Norwegian Mayflower of the nineteenth century received the name Restaurationen (The Restoration) and on the American day of Independence, July 4, 1825, the brave little company of emigrants sailed out of the harbor of the ancient city of Stavanger.

In New York fourteen weeks later quite a sensation was created by the fact that these Norwegians had ventured across the ocean in so small a

craft. Cleng Peerson was in New York when the sloop arrived there. He again had gone by way of Gothenburg, Sweden, and was in New York to receive his friends and to give them such assistance as he was able. He had found Quakers in New York, who were prepared to give the Norwegian pilgrims a welcome and such help as they most needed. These friends gave many of them shelter under their own roofs and supplied them with money to relieve their most pressing needs. Enough money was raised by the Quakers to pay the expenses of the immigrants, \$6 for each, from New York City to the town of Kendall in Orleans County, New York, where farms were obtained by them.



Here, then, was formed the first Norwegian settlement in America in modern times.

#### THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

In the pioneer history of Orleans County, New York, written by Arad Tomas, we find the following interesting notice of this first Norwegian settlement in America:

"About the year 1824 a company of Norwegians, about fifty-two in number, settled on the lake shore in the north-east part of town. 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 a few of that colony are still in Kendall. They thought it very important that each family should have land and a home of their own. A neighbor once asked a Norwegian boy, whose father had happened to be too poor to own land, where his father lived, and was answered: 'Oh, we don't live nowhere. We hain't got no home.'"

This is touchingly prophetic of the fact that so large a percentage of the Norwegian immigrants settled on farms and became owners of land. In this manner then began the great Scandinavian exodus of the nineteenth century which has brought 1 1/4 million immigrants, and thus was founded the first settlement which has been followed so many large and thrifty ones throughout the United States.

Fargo, N. Dak., Tribune  
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1925

## NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL AIM TOLD BY BOTHNE

### Celebration's Success Assured, President of Organization Says

The Norse-American centennial to be held in Minneapolis early in June is attracting nationwide interest as well as of the mother country. Prof. Gisle Bothne of the University of Minnesota told a gathering of former Norwegians in Sons of Norway hall last evening. Professor Bothne gave a short review of the history of the Norsemen in the United States and their accomplishments here since they began to settle in this country in 1825, not forgetting those who came here in early colonial times.

Professor Bothne who is president of the centennial, said that the purpose of the celebration is to visualize this history in song, story and the exhibition of relics connected with the early settlements in this country. The programs will include Norse-American talent along various lines. Persons of prominence will bring greetings from Norway and a mixed chorus from the University of Oslo will sing. President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg will be honor guests.

The speaker urged that a movement be started for the organization of a Norse-American historical society for the preservation for future generations of the wealth of interesting data connected with the early pioneers of Norwegian descent as well

as a record of the accomplishment of their descendants. He declared that there is a wealth of data available for such an undertaking and that much interest is being shown in the proposal.

The success of the centennial is assured, declared Professor Bothne, the prospects being for one of the largest gatherings of Norse-Americans in the history of the country. Former natives of Norway and their descendants in every part of America are boosting for this celebration, he said.

Mr. Bothne arrived in Fargo from Grand Forks yesterday. He will be in Duluth today.

Langdon, N. D., Republican  
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1925

### FIRST NORSE IMMIGRANTS PRESENTED NOVEL SITE

Prof. Gisle Brothne who is in charge of the big Norse celebration to be held in Minneapolis in June, was in Grand Forks last week in the interests of this celebration. While there he gave the Grand Forks Herald the story of the first boat load of Norwegian immigrants that came to this country. The story that he told is as follows.

"The first contingent of Norwegian immigrants to America consisted of Norwegian Quakers. Among Norwegian prisoners of war taken by Finland in her attack on Denmark in 1807, there was one sailor by the name of Lars Larson. He remained a prisoner of war for a period of seven years, during which time he had learned to speak the English language quite well. He had also been brought under the influence of the English Quakers, and upon his release he entered the employ of a prominent Quaker lady by the name of Margaret Allen, with whom he remained about a year. Upon his return to Norway in 1816 he founded the first Society of Friends in Norway in his home city, Stavanger. The Quakers were naturally enough not regarded very favorably by the Lutheran State church clergy, and were more or less subject to persecution. In 1821 the little society sent out two emissaries to America to investigate whether it would be advisable to emigrate to that land of religious freedom. These emissaries were Kleng Peerson Hestehammer and Knud Olson Eide. They spent about three years in New York and vicinity, and, having made arrangements for the founding of a colony in Kendall and Orleans counties, New York, returned to Norway in 1824 to give their report. The result was that a little sloop was bought and reconditioned and made ready to sail the following summer. With fifty-two on board the sloop, renamed "Restaurationen," left Stavanger on the fourth day of July, 1825, and arrived at New York harbor on the ninth of October the same year, after an eventful voyage via England and the Madeira islands.

"The arrival of this little vessel and the little band of Norsemen which it carried was chronicled as in "The New York Daily Advertiser," one of the contemporary newspapers, as follows:

"A vessel has arrived at this port with emigrants from Norway. The vessel is very small, measuring, as we understand, only about 360 Norwegian lasts, or forty-five American tons, and brought fifty-three passengers, male and females, all bound for Orleans

county, where an agent who had come over some time since, purchased a tract of land.

"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, most of whom belong to families from the vicinity of a little town at the southwestern extremity of Norway, near the city of Stavanger. Those who came from the farms are dressed in coarse cloth of domestic manufacture of a fashion different from the Americans, but those who inhabited the town wear calicoes, gingham, and gay shawls, imported, we presume, from England.

The vessel is built on the model common to fishing boats on that coast, with a single top-sail, sloop- rigged. She arrived with the addition of one passenger born on the way."

Thus began the mighty tide of Norwegian immigration to which the state of North Dakota especially owes so much, and it is this event which the Centennial observance to be held in the Twin Cities will commemorate.

Beresford, S. D., Republic  
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1924

## NORSEMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

A. N. Grevstad in National Republican: This month of June marks the hundredth anniversary of Norwegian immigration to the United States, and elaborate preparations have been made for the appropriate celebration of this important anniversary, especially in Minnesota. The original American record of the beginning of this Norse current of people is found in the New York Advertiser for October 12th, 1825. Under the heading, "A Novel Sight," the Advertiser of that date published the following report:

"A vessel has arrived at this port with immigrants from Norway. The vessel is very small, measuring, as we understand it, only forty-five American tons, and brought fifty-three passengers, male and female, all bound for Orleans County, New York, where an agent, who came over some time since, purchased a tract of land.

"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, most of whom belong to families from the vicinity of a



little town at the southwestern extremity of Norway, near the city of Stavanger. Those who came from the farms are dressed in coarse cloth of domestic manufacture of a fashion different from the American, but those who lived in the town wear calicos, gingham, gay shawls, imported, we presume, from England.

"The vessel is built on the model common to fishing boats on that coast, with a single top-sail, sloop-rigged. She arrived with the addition of one passenger born on the way."

The vessel carried also a shipment of iron bars. The first experience of the immigrants in the new country was a bit disconcerting. At the request of the customs authorities the master was arrested for carrying more passengers and cargo than permitted by law for a craft of that size. But he and others among his followers were Quakers and found friends in New York who helped them out of the scrape and more-over, furnished the newcomers with traveling money to their destination in Orleans county.

Norwegians had been coming to this country long before that time in ships "ill calculated for voyages across the Atlantic." The first to land in America were Leif Eriksson and his men, who were driven out of their course to "Vinland" in the year 1,000. Tidings of this accidental discovery of a new world spread all over northern Europe and aroused much interest. Three years after the return of Leif to Iceland Thorofinn Karlsevne headed a new expedition with three ships and a hundred and sixty men. They also had with them "all kinds of livestock, for they meant to settle in the new country, if possible." They did settle in New Foundland, but must have met with serious disappointments; for after a lapse of three years they were back in Iceland. In the course of the following centuries there were intermittent voyages back and forth between Norway, Iceland, Greenland and America. The last sailing of which reliable records have been preserved occurred in 1347, when a ship bound for America left Bergen, Norway—just before the "black death" struck the country, cut down two-thirds of the population, killed its enterprise and broke its power for a hundred years or more.

The Dutch colonists who established New Netherland contained a liberal sprinkling of Norwegians. Holland was the leading sea power at that time, and thousands of Norwegians had emigrated to the Netherlands to take service on Dutch ships. The records of New Netherland show that many of the early colonists were Norwegians with Dutchified names. Not a few rose to prominence in the official or business life of New Amsterdam and other localities in the

present states of New York and New Jersey, and have left their marks in names of people and places. In their dealings with

the Indians the Dutch relied mainly upon Norwegians as interpreters. The name of the Norwegian, James Bronck, is still preserved in that the Borough of Bronx. The first American Vanderbilt married a Norwegian woman, and other Norwegian women married into the families of Stuyvesant, Putnam, Van Cortlandt, Van Reneselaer, and others.

Another current of Norwegians joined the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania. A Norwegian was the first president of Societas Scandinaviensis, organized in Philadelphia in 1769 and which still exists under the name of the Scandinavian Society of Philadelphia.

A Norwegian sea captain by the name of Iverson settled in Georgia in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and a grandson of his came to represent the state in the United States Senate.

But the "sloop party" of 1825 is the beginning of the direct current of Norwegian immigration. Its small vessel, the Restaurationen, is the Norwegian Mayflower. Like the Pilgrim Fathers, the sloop people sought these shores to be free to worship God according to their faith and build new homes on land of their own. Indeed, they had acquired the land before they sailed. It had been bought for them by an agent they had sent to America three years before to investigate conditions here and report. Their intention to become loyal citizens of the land of liberty is symbolized by the fact that they set sail on American Independence Day July 4th, landing in New York after an eventful voyage some three months later, on October 9th, 1825.

At first Norwegian emigration to the United States was comparatively light. About the middle of the last century it began to swell and since then has been heavy. The total Norwegian immigration to this country since 1825 exceeds 700,000, the great majority of them young people. The census of 1920 records 363,862 of our population as natives of Norway, while the number of natives born of Norwegian parents is given as 658,598. Three million, more or less, is an approximate estimate of the numerical strength of the people of Norwegian stock in the United States, unmixed and mixed.

For some fifty year or more Norwegian emigration to the United States was made up almost exclusively of people from the rural districts, small farm owners, renters, crofters, and farm hands. In recent years there has been a growing emigration from the cities, of engineers, mechanics, sailors, shipping people, and others, but tillers of the

soil are still in a large majority among those who leave for America. They have come ready for any sacrifice to still their hunger for fertile soil. The Middle West and Northwest have appealed to them with irresistible force. Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa gradually became dotted with settlements of Norwegians, and they kept on marching in the front line of the great army of land seekers in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana, and farther West clear to the coast of Alaska. They were peculiarly fitted for pioneering in the harder climate of these parts of the country and have braved with matchless fortitude and dogged persistency the dangers and trials of hostile Indians, blizzards, grasshoppers, drouths, and other adverse circumstances.

The Norwegian has stuck to his land when many others would become discouraged and leave, and has been the gainer in the end. No other group of people in this country, native or foreign born, shows as great a percentage of farm owners as the Norwegians. According to a careful special investigation made in North Dakota approximately 8,000,000 acres in that state alone are owned by people of Norwegian birth or blood. Their total holdings of farming land in the country probably exceeds 30,000,000 acres. And virtually all of this vast and valuable domain has been cleared or broken transformed from a wilderness into productive farms by their own toil, and nearly all of them began with empty hands. They have made good use of the generous gifts of land most of them received.

MARINETTE WIS EAGLE  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1925.

## TELLS STORY OF NORSE COMING TO NORTHWEST

PROF. JULIUS OLSON RELATES  
INTERESTING DETAILS OF  
NORWEGIAN PIONEERS IN U.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Madison, Wis.—Large forests in Wisconsin, now practically extinct, were the direct cause of the first Norwegian immigrants settling in northern Illinois rather than Wisconsin, according to Julius Olson, professor of Norse at the University of Wisconsin, who has studied the details of the first Norse immigration in connection with the coming Norse-American centennial celebration to be held in Minneapolis, June 6 to 9.



### The Pathfinder.

Kleng Peerson, the advance agent and pathfinder of the Norse immigrants, came to Milwaukee in 1833, the early historical reports found by Prof. Olson indicate. There he met Solomon Juneau, who said that to the north and west lay great forests. Kleng had seen enough of heavy forests in New York state, and therefore returned to Illinois where he found land more to his liking, on which he established the first Norwegian settlement in the Middle West.

"The first Norse emigration to this country came partly as the result of religious persecution, and was linked with Quakerism," Prof. Olson said. "During the Napoleonic wars, England blockaded the Norwegian harbors. Many Norwegian ships sailed the seas nevertheless, and some crews were captured and imprisoned. Among the captives was Lars Larson, who later became the leader of the first expedition to the new republic in the West.

"During his prison life in England and English Quakeress, Margaret Allen, converted Larson to Quakerism through her kindness to him. Returning to his home in southwestern Norway, he proclaimed the virtues of the new religion and found some followers, whereupon a society of Quakers was started.

### Church Offended.

"The state church took offense and some rather drastic persecution of the Quakers ensued. Quakers thereupon discussed the matter of seeking homes in America and finally sent a trusty man to look the ground over, and report on the prospects. The man chosen for this task was Kleng Peerson, now generally known among Norwegians as the Pathfinder of Norwegian emigration to this country. He started out on his mission in 1821, with a companion named Knut Olson Eide.

### Returns to Norway.

"As Kleng Peerson was in the service of the Norwegian Quakers, he naturally sought the assistance of American Quakers in New York city, who proved both willing and generous. Thru their advice and assistance, a tract of land for the prospective emigrants was selected in Orleans county, New York, near Rochester.

"Peerson returned to Norway in 1824 with a favorable report on conditions and opportunities in America, and as a result active preparations for emigration were begun. Lars Larson, the leading Quaker, took the initiative and purchased, in cooperation with others, a small sloop of forty-five tons, which was baptized The Restoration, and on July 4, 1825, with 52 passengers, including two officers, set out upon their voyage from the city of Stavanger.

"After some unusual experiences they finally reached New York harbor, October 9, with fifty-three passengers, a baby girl having been born during the voyage to the leader of the expedition, Lars Larson, who promptly named her Margaret Allen, in honor of his benefactors.

This girl later married a Mr. John Dexter of Rochester, N. Y., and settled with him in Chicago, where he became a publisher.

### Struggled Bravely.

"The Norwegian pioneers in Orleans county struggled bravely to clear the heavily wooded land on which they settled. It meant years of toil and privation. Some became discouraged and sought new homes in the West under the guidance of Kleng Peerson, who, a restless roamer, had selected a new place for a settlement in northern Illinois. Norwegian settlements in Wisconsin soon followed, some of which was the Koshkonong settlement in Dane county.

"In the Muskego settlement in Racine county, the first Norwegian Lutheran church in this country was built in 1844. Here the first Norwegian newspaper was started in 1846, and here lived Hans C. Heg, who was the first Norwegian to be elected to a state office in this country, which, after a reelection, he resigned to form a Scandinavian regiment, the 15th Wisconsin, during the Civil war.

Since those days a century ago, approximately 1,000,000 Norwegians have come to this country and in proportion to population Norway has given more of her people to this country than any other except Ireland."

St. Paul. Minn. Dispatch  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

# HISTORY CONFIRMS CLENG PEERSON AS DIRECTED FIRST COLONISTS FROM STAVANGER IN 1825

## "FATHER OF NORWEGIAN EMIGRATION"

Tradition Plays Tricks With Trailblazer's Story, but He Stands  
Test of Investigation, Professor T. C. Blegen of Hamline  
Declares; Baffling Traveler Often Called Vagabond.

An outline of the history of Cleng Peerson, "father of Norwegian emigration" and pathfinder of the first group of Norse immigrants that landed in America in 1825, was given by Theodore C. Blegen, assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Historical society and professor of history at Hamline University, in an address to visitors at the Norse-American Centennial celebration at the State Fair grounds this morning.

Peerson has played many tricks with the travels and history of Peerson, Professor Blegen said, the famous pioneer has stood well the searching light of detailed investigation.

"The most picturesque and important figure," Professor Blegen said, "connected with the beginnings of Norwegian immigration in the Nineteenth century was Cleng Peerson. Pathfinder and trail blazer, restless frontiersman in search of fertile lands, he stands out among his contemporaries as a unique personality. Tradition has played many tricks with the facts about him and he has been entwined by meshes of legend. Original documents are gradually revealing the truth, however, and the story transmitted by the pioneers is being revised.

"On the whole, Cleng Peerson is standing well the searching test of the documents. The evidence proves he was the pathfinder of the first group emigration from Norway to the United States and that he was the leader of the vanguard of the great Norwegian migration to the American

West. His constant travels, his reports of conditions, and his personal influence affected the course and gave impetus to the progress of the whole movement in the first 25 years of its history. He may with truth be called the trailblazer of the earlier Norwegian immigration. At this Norse-American Centennial the name of Cleng Peerson is on everybody's lips, for he personifies the beginnings of that movement which has brought to American shores some three-quarters of a million Norwegians.

### Stimulation to Historical Study.

"It is the fashion of many to study American immigration in terms of statistics and surface facts merely, without probing into its backgrounds and bringing out the absorbing human story involved and its vital historical bearings. Today in America the historical approach is winning ground and is calling a halt to much of the superficial thinking which is current on the subject of immigration. It is to be hoped the Norse-American Centennial will be a stimulus to a more searching ap-



praisement of the backgrounds of the American people. The story of such a man as Cleng Peerson is worth telling, for it translates statistics into realities, and throws a revealing ray of light on the movement to which the attention of America is directed by this celebration.

#### 4 Years on First Study.

"From 1821 to 1824, Peerson, a native of Southwestern Norway, was in the United States investigating American conditions as an agent of a group of Quakers in the city of Stavanger who, actuated in part by religious and in part by economic motives, were considering the prospect of emigration. How far Peerson's travels carried him is not known, but a New York newspaper in 1825 wrote that he 'proceeded on foot to examine the country, the character of the different soils, our mode of agriculture, engaging without any hesitation at any kind of employment to meet the current expenses of the day, by which means he obtained a knowledge of our customs, laws, language and agriculture.' At all events, in 1824 he made a 'flying visit to Norway and reported on the New World. It is believed he waited in Norway until 1825 and then came again to America, reaching New York shortly before the famous sloop "Restaurationen" in October. Contemporary evidence proves, however, that Cleng Peerson returned to America in 1824 and went to Western New York, where he made preliminary arrangements for the purchase of land. Next summer a group of emigrants sailed from Stavanger in a little sloop, and after a remarkable journey of 14 weeks reached New York, where they were met by Cleng Peerson. The Erie canal had just been built, and it was natural for the party to proceed to Western New York. Here they bought land.

"By virtue of his connection with the 1825 migration Peerson is clearly entitled to the honor of being considered the 'Father of Norwegian emigration,' as he has often been called. In a day when Norway was remarkably isolated and the Norwegians in almost total ignorance about the New World, Peerson fared forth to see what the United States offered. He carried back a report of his observations and experiences, and then hastened to America again to prepare the way for the immigrants of 1825. His own motives have been questioned. It is true, but his historical connection with the immigration of 1825 is completely substantiated by the records.

"The second chapter in the saga of Cleng Peerson is concerned with the establishment of the first Norwegian settlement in the Mississippi valley. The experiences of the settlers of 1825 convinced him the West offered better possibilities than the East for Norwegian immigrants. In 1833 he started from the New York settlement on a walking journey to the West in search of suitable lands. His travels took him into Ohio, across Michigan, and through Northern Indiana to Illinois. He selected a site for the first Norwegian settlement west of New York which gave great impetus to the westward migration of the Norwegians. This was the Fox river region in La Salle county, Illinois.

"Peerson trudged back to New York; he had walked more than 2,000 miles since he started on his pilgrimage to the West.

#### Peerson Failed as Farmer.

"In 1834 the first contingent of Norwegian settlers came out to Illinois. The settlement grew rapidly and became a center from which radiated many of the later settlements of Norwegians in the Middle Western states.

"Peerson settled in Illinois, but he appears never to have become a successful farmer. In 1836 he probably journeyed to New York to guide to

the West the immigrants who came from Norway in that year. Peerson has been described as a 'Viking who was born a few centuries after the Viking period.' New lands and new adventures lured him from established settlements.

"In 1837 Peerson was engaged by a group of dissatisfied immigrants in Illinois to search out a new place for settlement. Curiously, instead of going north he went southwest and selected as the new El Dorado a spot in Northeastern Missouri. The Missouri settlement was established in 1837, and though it was disadvantageously located and outside the main highways of the westward movement, Peerson endeavored valiantly to recruit settlers for it. In 1838 he went to New York and by chance met an emigration party just arrived. 'He encouraged us to accompany him,' wrote Peter Testman, 'and he described the state of Missouri, where he lives, as remarkably beautiful and glorious. We agreed to accompany him to that place.'

#### Missouri Colony Unsuccessful.

"The Missouri settlement was unsuccessful, and about 1840 a new settlement was established in Southeastern Iowa. Peerson may have been its principal founder, at any rate he himself moved to Iowa. But he did not settle down to the career of a farmer. In 1842 he set off on another journey to Norway. In a letter published in a Norwegian newspaper in 1843 Peerson declared his trip was merely to visit friends and relatives. Nevertheless, a contemporary description pictures him holding spell-bound a group of Norwegian peasants to whom he was recounting his experiences, and he himself publicly declared that the published pastoral letter of the Norwegian Bishop Neumann—a violent philippic against emigration—was not based on fact, and that Ole Rynning's "True Account of America," a favorable work published by an immigrant in 1838, was really true. In May, 1843, Peerson sailed from Bergen for New York with a party of 80 emigrants whom he guided to the West.

"An interlude in Cleng Peerson's adventures occurred in the late Forties, when he joined the famous communistic settlement in Henry county, Illinois, the Swedish Bishop Hill colony. He is reported to have contributed to this society the money from the sale of his farm lands. His wife in Norway, from whom he had been separated since 1821, had recently died, and Peerson married a young Swedish woman, a member of the colony. Shortly thereafter he left both the colony and his new wife and declared he had been 'robbed of all he possessed,' and was 'sick in body and mind.' He returned to the settlement of his first choice in the West, the then thriving, Fox River colony in Illinois.

#### Started for Texas.

"In 1849, a man of 67 years, Peerson set off for Texas, and when he returned in 1850 to Illinois he expressed his regret that the stream of immigration was flowing into the Upper Mississippi valley. He returned to Texas with a group of settlers, remained in Dallas county until 1854, and from that date until his death in 1865 lived in Bosque county.

"Tradition represents Peerson as a marvelous story teller, to whom the hospitality of the pioneer homes was always gladly extended. Peerson has sometimes been described as a vagabond, but he had a definite and philanthropic purpose. He presents many baffling problems as a study in personality, and his eccentricities have produced not a few amusing legends. In his early years he seems to have been a pious man, attracted by the

tenets of Quakerism, but a Texan describes him as the most 'pronounced freethinker' he had ever known.

"That the Norwegians would have come to the United States and to the West had there been no Cleng Peerson to lead the way is, of course, true, but such an hypothesis cannot diminish the importance of the actual leader. The historic position of Cleng Peerson is safe. He was the trail-blazer of a great movement. He was a leader and guide who exerted much influence on the beginnings of Norwegian immigration and settlement. It is altogether fitting that at this great Norse-American Centennial the name and the achievements of Cleng Peerson be honored."

*President Coolidge's address*

Carlton (Minn.) Vidette  
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1925

## PRES. COOLIDGE IS HISTORICAL

SPEECH TO NORWEGIANS FULL  
OF REFERENCES

HONORS THE EXPLORERS

IMMENSE THROG OF PEOPLE  
LISTENED TO THE PRESIDENT MONDAY

At the state fair grounds, St. Paul, on Monday President Coolidge had come clear from Washington in his special train to address the centennial anniversary of the landing of the Norwegian emigrants in the sailing craft, Restaurationen, on American shores. An immense throng was on hand to hear him and the crowd was large enough so that the outer territory of the amplifying speech equipment was none too large for the crowd to hear him properly.

#### ADDRESS IS REMINISCENT

The president's address was replete with highly interesting historical reminiscences, and brought home to his hearers the evidence that the world must be much older than accepted history gives it credit for. One or two extracts of his talk follow:

How often in the affairs of this world a small and apparently insignificant occurrence turns out to be an event of great importance, carrying in its train a mighty influence for good or evil. Such importance always flows from the character of those concerned. The generations of the earth treasure the rude hut that sheltered the infancy of Abraham Lincoln, seek out the birthplace of Shakespeare, and give to the uninviting soil of Palestine the title of the Holy Land, all because certain obscure happenings in those places produced those who left a broad mark upon the future course of humanity. The character of the participants brought future fame. It is such an event that we meet to commemorate today.



## JUST NORSE IMMIGRANTS

One hundred years ago a little bark sailed from Norway to America. It was almost unnoticed at the time, save for the daring and hardihood of its navigators, but it brought with it the representatives of a stalwart race, men and women of fixed determination, enduring courage and high character, who were to draw in their retinue a long line of their fellow countrymen destined to change the face of an area broad as an empire, direct the historic course of sovereign states, and contribute to the salvation of a great nation. These mighty works have been wrought because those Norwegian immigrants were well worthy to follow in the wake of the Pilgrim and Cavalier.

## BEGINNINGS OF HISTORY

No country has a history which starts with its discovery or at its boundaries. For the real beginnings of any people we must go back to the beginnings of all peoples. From the tombs of Egypt and the sands of Mesopotamia men are now unearthing the records of civilizations so ancient that by comparison we think of the recovered wonders of Carthage as almost modern. But all that we shall learn from the glyphs of Ur, the tombs of the Pharaohs, and the monuments of Crete and Carthage is part of our own history, illumination for our todays, guideposts on the way to our tomorrows. All the past lives in the present. All the works and thoughts of those who have gone before have left their mark on what we think and do.

These Norsemen whose beginnings in the United States we here celebrate have exercised a great influence upon our modern history and western civilization which it is difficult to match among any other like number of people. In many ways their influence upon northern and western Europe may be compared to that of the Greek states upon the civilization of the Mediterranean. They were the first deep sea navigators. They pioneered the migrations which boldly struck across the western waters. They were at once empire and the guardians of the eastern. The medieval Mediterranean the terrors of the western Roman was a happy hunting ground for them. They branded their name upon French Normandy, and from it descended upon Britain in the Norman conquest from which there was the beginning of modern English history.

## DISCOVERED NEW WORLD

But even before William of Normandy had conquered at Hastings, Lief, the son of Erik, near 500 years before Columbus appears to have found the new world. Indeed, there seems little doubt that several centuries before Columbus saw the light of day there was born upon American soil, of Norse parents, a boy who afterward became so great a mathematician and astronomer that his studies may have contributed much to the fund of knowledge which helped Columbus formulate his vision of the world as we know it. Among the fascinating chapters in the history of the dark ages is the story of Iceland. As a little Norse republic it maintained itself for several centuries as one of the real repositories of ancient culture in a world whose lamp of learning seemed near to

flickering out. We have long known of the noble Icelandic literature which was produced during these generations of the intellectual twilight; but we know too little of the part which Iceland performed as an outpost of the sturdy northern culture in bridging over the gulf of darkness between the ancient and modern eras of history.

These sons of Thor and Odin and the great free north shape themselves in the mind's eye as very princes of high and hardy adventure. From Norway to Iceland, from Iceland to Greenland, from Greenland to the mainland, step by step they worked their way across the north Atlantic. They found the western ocean, and it was a Norseman who first traversed Bering strait and demonstrated that there was no land connection between Asia and North America. One wonders whither these Northmen would turn for adventure if the earth should ever be so completely charted that exploration offered no more challenges. Within a very few years one of them first traversed the northwest passage from Atlantic to Pacific; and the same one, Amundsen, carried the flag of Norway to the South Pole; and now, within a few days past, he has been the first to make large explorations in the region of the North Pole in an airplane, tempting a fate which, as I write, is unknown.

## STORY OF THE RESTAURATIONEN

One likes to linger over these tales of adventure and exploration. One of them has a special significance in connection with this celebration which entitles it to more particular reference. This, of course, is the voyage of the little sloop Restaurationen, which in 1825 brought the first organized party of Norwegian immigrants to this country. One reared on the New England tradition of the Mayflower will find all the materials for a new legend of pioneering in the voyage of the Restaurationen. She was a sloop of forty-five tons, whereas the Mayflower was rated as 180 tons. The Restaurationen sailed from Stavanger, Norway, on July 4, 1825, with a desperately heavy cargo of iron and a party of fifty-two people. She came into the port of New York after a voyage of fourteen weeks, which compares with nine weeks required for the historic passage of the Mayflower.

The arrival of the Restaurationen created a sensation among those inured to the sea. It was claimed that she was the smallest vessel that had ever made the trans-Atlantic crossing. The New York authorities threatened to deny her the privilege of the port on the ground that she carried too many passengers and too much cargo. She was ultimately released, apparently through the influence of the Society of Friends. Most of her passengers seemed to have been members of a Norwegian religious community intimately related to the Quakers, and it appears that one of their reasons for coming to this country was that they had not enjoyed entire liberty of religious opinion at home. Thus the parallel between the voyages of the Mayflower and of the Restaurationen, despite that they were separated by more than 200 years, is impressive in several ways.

## SETTLEMENT IN NEW YORK

Almost without money or supplies, the little company of immigrants were taken in charge by the New York Quakers who raised funds to send them to Kendall, Orleans county, N. Y. There they secured lands and established the first Norwegian settlement in this country. It is a curious circumstance that although the Norwegians are among the greatest seafaring peoples, this party was composed almost entirely of farmers, so that their first interest was to get land. And ever since, the greater share of Norwegians have come in search of homes on the land. These first immigrants having practically no money, bought a tract on the shore of Lake Ontario for \$5 per acre to be paid for in ten small installments. It is hard to realize that western New York so late as 1825 was so far on the frontier. Their land was heavily timbered, and they were compelled not only to clear it, but to build their own shelter. The first house is said to have been a log cabin twelve feet square, with a garret. In this twenty-four of them lived for a time the men seeking such scanty employment as was to be found in the neighborhood to support them through the winter. The only one in the party who could speak English was Capt. Lars Olson and he had remained in New York.

## COLONY THRIVES

Despite poverty and hardships, the colony thrived, and its members were shortly writing letters back to Norway describing the opportunities of America and urging friends to come. From this beginning the stream of Norwegian immigration set in, but most of the later comers went much farther west. A few years after the settlement at Kendall another party went to LaSalle county, Ill. Already the west was fascinating them and many of the original Kendall colony sold out and went on to Illinois. Thence the migration spread to other states of the middle west and northwest. Even before it was formed into a territory, Iowa had received its first Norwegians, and from about 1835 they spread rapidly into Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and other states.



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Signed Articles

Dr. G. M. Bruce

## WASHINGTON DESCENDANT OF NORSE KINGS GENEOLOGIST TRACES ANCESTRY EVEN TO ANCIENT ODIN

### First U. S. President Quoted as Mentioning His Norwegian Forefathers in Address

Dr. Gustav Marius Bruce, who has written this article for the Sunday Pioneer Press, is a professor at the Luther Theological seminary, Como avenue and Pierce street, where he teaches ethics, Greek, sociology and other subjects.

Way back in 1769 there existed in Philadelphia a society by the name of Societas Scandinaviensis (Scandinavian Society) composed of Swedes, Norwegians and Danes. The present of the society was a man by the name of Abraham Markoe (Marko), a Norwegian. On December 11, 1778, this society gave a farewell reception to Baron Axel Persson, a hero of the Battle of Yorktown. General Washington was present on this occasion, paid tribute to his former officer and, according to the chronicler of this interesting event, expressed his "pleasure at being present among the people of his forefathers' blood, as he claimed descent from the family Wass, who emigrated from Denmark in the year A. D. 970 and settled in the county Durham, England, where they built a small town, calling it Wassingatun ('town of Wass).'" At the following January meeting, General Washington was elected honorary member of this society because of his Scandinavian descent.

According to the reported words of Washington at this reception he traced his descent from the Wass family from Denmark who settled in Durham, England, in the year 970. An American genealogist, Albert Welles, who styles himself president of the America College for Genealogical Registry, goes way beyond the year 970, however, and shows that Washington descended from no less a personage than Odin himself, the first king of Scandinavia, B. C. 70. The data upon which this remarkable and comprehensive genealogical table is built are derived from Mr. Welles' London correspondent, himself a member of the Washington family, who claims to have spent 30 years in gathering the data and procuring evidence in their support. He declares "the pedigree I now send I can establish by legal evidence," which

statement should carry considerable weight.

#### Odin Was Conqueror.

Odin is one of the chief characters of Norse mythology, but is by some regarded as being an historic person. He was king of the Scythians in Asaland or Asahelm between the Caspian and the Black seas. Leaving Asahelm he went on an expedition through Europe northward conquering many peoples and placing his sons as kings over the conquered territories. Arriving in Scandinavia in the year 70 B. C. he first conquered Denmark. Over this country he placed his son, Skjold, and his descendants, the Skjoldunger, ruled Denmark for many generations. Then he conquered Sweden and placed his son, Yngve, as king over the Swedes. The Ynglinger, his descendants, ruled in Sweden for a long time. Finally he also conquered Norway, placing his son, Saeming, as king over the Norwegians. Saeming became the founder of a family of kings that ruled in Norway for a considerable period. Odin died in 50 B. C. He is regarded as the ancestor of many of the titled families of the North, among them Heugest and Horsa, who conquered England in the year 449 A. D.

Passing down the genealogical line, omitting many generations, we come to Thrond Haraldson, king of Throndheim, Norway, (Welles gives it Throndheim, Denmark), the first Norwegian ancestor of the Washington family. He was born about 661 A. D. From him descended four generations of kings who ruled in Throndheim. Oistein Throndson, Halvdan Oisteinason, and Oistein Halvdanson Glumra, and Oistein Ivarson Glumra, who was the father of Sigurd, the first Norwegian earl (Jarl) of the Orkney islands, which had been colonized by the Norwegians.

When Harald the Fair-haired conquered the petty kings of Norway and brought about the unification of the country under the rule of himself as king of the Ninth century, there were many men who had formerly been powerful and influential leaders and rulers in Norway who had fled with their followers from

Norway rather than submit to the reign of Harald. They settled on the Faroe, Orkney, Shetland and Hebride islands and even the Isle of Man. From these retreats they would frequently sally forth and harry the coast of Norway much to the annoyance of King Harald and his subjects. He, therefore, determined to put a stop to these piratic expeditions and organized an expedition against them. He drove many of the most powerful men off the island groups named and annexed the islands to his own domain. In this manner these island groups came into the possession of Norway. They remained Norwegian possessions until they were pawned away by the Danish King to raise a dowry for his daughter, who married James III, of Scotland in 1468. The islands were never redeemed and thus passed out of the possession of Norway, though in language, custom and culture they have remained essentially Norwegian to this day.

#### Torfinn Ruled Yorkshire.

Harald placed Sigurd, a brother of his chief counselor and friend, Rangvald Jarl, better known as Morejarl, over the Orkney islands. Rangvald Jarl was a half brother of the famous Gange-Rolf, founder of Normandy. Sigurd was succeeded by his nephew, Einar Rangvaldson, son of the Morejarl. He was nicknamed Torv-Einar because he taught the people to use peat (Norwegian torv) for fuel. He was succeeded by his son, Torfinn, and his descendants, as earl of the Orkneys. His great-grandson, Sigurd Lodverson, married the daughter of King Malcolm II, of Scotland. She was his second wife. Sigurd had three sons by a former marriage. They divided the domain among themselves but did not long survive their father.

Sigurd's fourth son Torfinn, whose mother was Thora, daughter of King Malcolm, succeeded them as Jarl of all the Orkneys. According to Welles he left the Orkney islands about 1035 and became ruler in Yorkshire, England. He calls him "Torfinn the Dane" and shows him to have been thirty-two generations removed from Odin. Torfinn is the founder of the Washington family in England. His son Bardolf was born near York, or Yorvik as the Norwegians call it. He took the name of Wassingatun, the name of a nearby country town. From him descended Robert de Washington, born in 1195. From that time on the family name is Washington.

Colonel John Washington is the American ancestor of the Washington

family. He was born in 1627 and died in 1677. He migrated to Virginia in 1659 and his son Laurence, the grandfather of George Washington, was born at Bridges Creek, Va., 1661. Augustine Washington, George Washington's father, was the son of Laurence, and was born in 1694. He died in 1743.

George Washington, first president of the United States, according to Welles the lineal descendant of Odin, the kings of Trondheim, Norway, and the earls of the Orkneys, was born February 22 (February 11 old style), 1732, and died December 14, 1799.

#### Evidence Plausible.

Alfred T. Story, in his book entitled "American Shines in England," refers to Welles as "an imaginative American genealogist who has gone beyond his Durham origin and derived the family from no less a hero than Odin, King of Scandinavia, but into this large pedigree we need not enter here." A comparison of the genealogies, as given by Story and Welles, from the ancestors of the family in England will, however, reveal many correspondences, though Story does not go beyond the Durham ancestry.

Whatever may be said of Welles deriving the Washington family from Odin, it must be admitted that his derivation of the family from the kings of Throndheim, Norway, and the earls of the Orkneys is, to say the least, very plausible, for they are historic personages and it is a well known fact that a large number of the leading families of England, Scotland and Ireland have Norwegian blood coursing in their veins from the time of the Norwegian settlements and the rule of the Norman kings. Green, in his "History of the English People," says of the rapid assimilation of the English and the Northmen in the eleventh century. "The two peoples soon became confounded. In a few years a Northman in blood was archbishop of Canterbury and another Northman of blood was archbishop of York."

This year is the 100th anniversary of Norwegian immigration to the United States, a movement which began with the arrival of the sloop "Restaurationen" in New York harbor in 1825. The Norwegian immigrants and their descendants can look back upon their 100 years of struggle and achievement with no small degree of just pride and the fact that George Washington, the greatest American patriot and the first President of the United States of America, was in all probability of Norwegian royal descent adds materially to the distinction of being Norwegian American.



St. Paul Pioneer Press

June 7, 1925

G. M. Bruce

## St. Paul Man's Ancestor Was First Head of Scandinavian Body in U. S.

Dr. James Cox Markoe is Descendant of Abram Markoe in Whose Society George Washington Was Made an Honorary Member.

The following article was written for the Pioneer Press by G. M. Bruce, professor at Luther Theological Seminary.

In my article on Washington as a Norwegian in the Sunday Pioneer Press, February 22, mention was made of Abram Markoe as president of the Societas Scandinaviensis of Philadelphia, of which General Washington was made an honorary member. On the authority of Dr. George T. Flom, professor of Scandinavian language and literature at the University of Illinois, and others, I stated that Abram Markoe was a Norwegian.

Some time ago I received a telephone call from a person who stated that he had read my article on Washington with a great deal of interest, especially since mention had been made of one of his ancestors. Owing to injuries received in an auto accident on February 23, he had not been able to call up sooner. He invited me to come to his home to learn more about Abram Markoe, the president of the first Scandinavian society in America.

Naturally, I was very much interested, and called the other evening at the home of Abram's St. Paul descendant, Dr. James Cox Markoe, who resides at 1937 Selby avenue. I was very cordially received both by the doctor and his good wife and had an especially delightful and instructive visit with them.

### Native of St. Paul.

Dr. Markoe is a native of St. Paul, having been born here in the year 1856, shortly after his parents settled here, coming from Wisconsin, where his father was for six years an Episcopal rector. Dr. Markoe has practiced medicine in this city since 1882. Mrs. Markoe is the daughter of the late Colonel J. S. Prince, for many terms a mayor of St. Paul. The doctor has two brothers, John A. and Ralston J., living in St. Paul. Another brother, William J., lives at White Bear, and a fourth brother is a member of the Benedictine Order and lives at Collegeville, Mo.

The doctor is very much interested in his family tree and has compiled quite a family history in co-operation with other members of the family. The family were originally French Huguenots, who left France during the persecutions of the Huguenots in France during the seventeenth century. The Markoe family settled on the island of St. Croix, Danish West Indies, and in time became Danish subjects.

As a Danish subject Abram Markoe, the great grandfather of the doctor and the president of the Societas Scandinaviensis, came to America about the year 1770, settling in Philadelphia. Here he purchased a parcel of land, embracing a whole block, lying between the present Chestnut and Market streets and Ninth and Tenth streets. Being a personal friend and great admirer of General Washington,

he sold this tract of land to the government as building ground for a residence for the newly elected president of the young American Republic and seat of government.

### First Stars and Stripes.

In 1774, Abram Markoe organized the Philadelphia City Troop or Light Horse Troop, as it was also called, and became its captain. This organization had previously been a fox hunting troop. The following year, Captain Markoe presented his troop with a fine silken flag, forty inches long and thirty-four inches wide, designed by himself. It was a very pretty design, and said to be the first flag bearing the thirteen red and white stripes, symbolizing the thirteen colonies and their yearnings for independence. The doctor has a very beautiful framed picture of this flag, which, with a portrait of Abram Markoe will be on exhibit at the fair grounds during the Norse-American Centennial celebration.

Abram Markoe was very much in sympathy with the American cause, as was evidenced in his organization of the City Troop, which participated in many of the most important engagements of the Revolutionary war, and the designing of the first American flag, but he was a Danish citizen, and was obliged to resign as captain of the City Troop in 1776, when he learned of the neutrality declaration of Denmark, which was issued in October 4, 1775. Though he had then been residing in America for about five years, he still had large holdings in St. Croix, which he visited every year. The penalty for disregarding

Denmark's neutrality proclamation was confiscation of property owned within Danish jurisdiction.

### Born in West Indies.

Abram Markoe was born on the island of St. Croix, Danish West Indies on July 2, 1727, and died in Philadelphia on August 23, 1806. His son John was the father of William Markoe, the father of Dr. J. C. Markoe of St. Paul. While Abram Markoe undoubtedly was a Lutheran, the family history showing that the baptisms and marriages were performed by clergymen having distinctly Danish names and the Lutheran church being the State church of Denmark, it appears that he became affiliated with the Episcopal church after he came to Philadelphia, for his son John, the grandfather of Dr. Markoe, was an Episcopalian, and his son, William, the doctor's father, was an Episcopal rector at Delafield, Wis.

Upon his retirement from the rectorship, William joined the Catholic church, of which church the doctor and his family are members.



G. M. Bruce

# NORSE IN U. S. I

## Descendants of Vikings

### Quakers Predominated In Initial Contingent

OVER

Norwegian Pioneers Were Persecuted for Religious Beliefs—Tablet Marks Grave of First Settler in Texas.

The following article was written exclusively for the Pioneer Press by Gustav Marius Bruce, professor at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul.

"FROM the fury of the Northmen Lord God deliver us" was a regular part of the church prayer offered up by many a priest in the countries exposed to the raids and terrors of the Norsemen during the Age of the Vikings. And well might they thus pray, for wherever the Vikings landed with their fleets and their arms were somewhat successful, they cruelly killed, plundered and destroyed.

A hundred years ago, however, began a new type of Norse invasion. It caused neither trembling nor fear, but rather a mingled feeling of surprise, amusement and admiration. The advance guard of this new type of Norse invasion, an invasion which has continued for the space of an entire century, consisted of a small band of only fifty-three, the youngest a little baby girl born in mid-ocean. There was nothing formidable about either ship or crew. Nor was there anything about the make-up of the party, their manner of landing, looks or numbers that in any way foreshadowed the stream of Norse invasion which has been directed to the American shores and was to increase immensely in volume and momentum until the expiration of a hundred years a population of Norse blood had been transplanted to a new and far away continent more than equal to the population of the native land from which they and their descendents came.

#### Story Told in Newspapers.

This significant event in the history of the United States, the landing of the little sloop "Restaurationen," was very tersely and rather inaccurately chronicled by the New York Evening Post under date of October 10, 1825, thus: "Arrived last Evening—Danish sloop Restauration, Holland, 98 days from Norway, via Long Island Sound, with iron to Boorman & Johnson, 52 passengers."

The New York Daily Advertiser of October 12, the same year, gives a more complete and accurate, as well as a very interesting account, which reads as follows:

"A vessel has arrived at this port with emigrants from Norway. The vessel is very small, measuring, as we understand, only about 360 Norwegian lasts, or 45 American tons, and brought 53 passengers, male and female, all bound for Orleans county, where an agent who came over some time since, purchased a tract of land.

#### Arrival Causes Comment.

"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, most of whom belong to families from the vicinity of a little town at the southwestern extremity of Norway, near the city of Stavanger. Those who came from the farms are dressed in coarse cloth of domestic manufacture of a fashion different from

"Egri" and "Enighedden," carrying 170 passengers. From now on the stream of immigration grows rapidly from year to year, as the people of Norway learn more and more of the opportunities in America. One of the most potent factors in stimulating the emigration from Norway was the publication of Ole Rynning's little guide-book for emigrants, entitled: "A True Account of America for the Instruction and Use of Peasants and Common People, Written by a Norwegian Who Arrived Here, in the Month of June, 1837."

This book was written by Rynning, who was one of the ill-fated settlers of the Beaver Creek Settlement in Illinois, while he was laid up during the winter following his arrival, nursing his feet, which had become severely frozen on one of his exploration tours. It was taken to Norway by Ansten Nattestad in 1838 and published during that year at Christiania (Oslo). As far as I have been able to learn the only volume of this book in the original in America is now in the library of the University of Illinois. It has recently been translated for the Minnesota Historical Society by Professor Theodore Elegen.

#### Life in America Explained.

In his introduction, Rynning says: "I have now been in America eight months and in that time I have had opportunity of finding out much in regard to which I in vain sought information before I left Norway. I then felt how disagreeable it is for those who wish to emigrate to America, to be in want of reliable and tolerably complete account of the

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Minneapolis, Minn., June 1, 1925  
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1925

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# Tiny Norse M Brings 52 Pioneers in a 55 Fo

Quakers Seeking Religious Freedom Just as the Pilgrims Did Led the Way From Stavanger, Norway—And the Norse Centennial Here in June Will Bring More Visitors Than Twice the Entire Population of the City of 46,000 That Gave America Its First Norse Settlers

By LEIF GILSTAD

**Q**UAKERS who fled from Norway, seeking religious freedom, just as the Puritans had fled from England 200 years before, crowded 52 into their little Mayflower—a tiny 55-foot sloop—to sail 14 weeks across the Atlantic ocean and become American citizens. That was 100 years ago.

Because those 52 dared to sail in that crowded, tiny boat, following the trail of Kleng Peerson, carpenter, there are 2,000,000 Norwegians and children of Norwegians in the United States today.

And because Norsemen are proud of their 100 years' history as Americans, the Twin Cities in June will have the greatest convention the Northwest has ever seen, counting noses. It will have the greatest gathering of 1925 any place in the world. It will have the largest assemblage of Norwegians that ever came together for one celebration or meeting.

Picture that town of Stavanger, from which the sloop "Restaurationen" sailed, in 1825—a seaport town of no great dimensions, of no great fame, that would brook no Quaker beliefs and practises.

Stavanger today is a city of 46,000.

If every man, woman and child in Stavanger came to Minneapolis June 6, and each brought with him one other person, you might get some idea of the crowd here.

Not counting some 150,000 or more folk of Norse descent in the Twin Cities, there will be 100,000 visiting Norsemen here for the four-day celebration.

So they will make up a great party, those four days in the Twin Cities, when the two cities become more Norwegian than ever, and become truly the American capital of Norway.

## *It All Started With a Seafight*

It is worth celebrating, that coming to the United States in 1825 of a little shipload of Norse pioneers.

Their own historians have told the story.



## NORSEMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

BY N. A. GREVSTAD,

Former United States Minister to  
Uruguay and Paraguay and  
Editor of Skandinaven

This month of June marks the hundredth anniversary of Norwegian immigration to the United States, and elaborate preparations have been made for the appropriate celebration of this important anniversary, especially in Minnesota. The original American record of the beginning of this Norse current of people is found in the New York Advertiser for October 12th, 1825. Under the heading, "A Novel Sight," the Advertiser of that date published the following report:

"A vessel has arrived at this port with immigrants from Norway. The vessel is very small, measuring, as we understand it, only forty-five American tons, and brought fifty-three passengers, male and female, all bound for Orleans County, New York, where an agent, who came over some time since, purchased a tract of land.

"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, most of whom belong in families from the vicinity of a little town at the southwestern extremity of Norway, near the city of Stavanger. Those who came from the farms are dressed in coarse cloth of domestic manufacture of a fashion different from the American, but those who lived in the town wear calicos, gingham, gay shawls, imported, we presume, from England.

"The vessel is built on the model of sailing boats on that coast, with a single top-sail, sloop-rigged. She arrived with the addition of one passenger born on the way."

The vessel carried also a shipment of iron bars. The first experience of the immigrants in the new country was a bit disconcerting. At the request of the customs authorities the master was arrested for carrying more passengers and cargo than permitted by law for a craft of that size. But he and others among his followers were Quakers and found friends in New York who helped them out of the

scrape and, moreover, furnished the newcomers with traveling money to their destination in Orleans county.

Norwegians had been coming to this country long before that time in ships "ill calculated for voyages across the Atlantic." The first to land in America were Leif Eriksson and his men, who were driven out of their course to "Vinland" in the year 1,000. Tidings of this accidental discovery of a new world spread all over northern Europe and aroused much interest. Three years after the return of Leif to Iceland Thorofinn Karlsevne headed a new expedition with three ships and a hundred and sixty men. They also had with them "all kinds of livestock for they meant to settle in the new country, if possible." They did settle in New Foundland, but must have met with serious disappointments; for after a lapse of three years they were back in Iceland. In the course of the following centuries there were intermittent voyages back and forth between Norway, Iceland, Greenland and America. The last sailing of which reliable records have been preserved occurred in 1347, when a ship bound for America left Bergen, Norway—just before the "black death" struck the country, cut down two-thirds of the population, killed its enterprise and broke its power for a hundred years or more.

The Dutch colonists who established New Netherland contained a liberal sprinkling of Norwegians. Holland was the leading sea power at that time, and thousands of Norwegians had emigrated to the Netherlands to take service on Dutch ships. The records of New Netherland show that many of the early colonists were Norwegians with Dutchified names. Not a few rose to prominence in the official or business life of New Amsterdam and other localities in the present states of New York and New Jersey, and have left their marks in names of people and places. In their dealings with the Indians the Dutch relied mainly upon Norwegians as interpreters. The name of the Norwegian, James Bronck, is still preserved in that of the Borough of Bronx. The first American Vanderbilt married a Norwegian woman, and other Norwegian women married into the families of Stuyvesant, Putnam, Van Cortlandt, Van Reneselaer, and others.

Another current of Norwegians joined the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania. A Norwegian was the

first president of Societas Scandinavica, organized in Philadelphia in 1769 and which still exists under the name of the Scandinavian Society of Philadelphia.

A Norwegian sea captain by the name of Iverson settled in Georgia in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and a grandson of his came to represent the state in the United States Senate.

But the "sloop party" of 1825 is the beginning of the direct current of Norwegian immigration. Its small vessel, the Restaurationen, is the Norwegian Mayflower. Like the Pilgrim Fathers, the sloop people sought these shores to be free to worship God according to their faith and build new homes on land of their own. Indeed, they had acquired the land before they sailed. It had been bought for them by an agent they had sent to America three years before to investigate conditions here and report. Their intention to become loyal citizens of the land of liberty is symbolized by the fact that they set sail on American Independence Day, July 4th, landing in New York after an eventful voyage of some three months later, on October 9th, 1825.

At first Norwegian emigration to the United States was comparatively light. About the middle of the last century it began to swell and since then has been heavy. The total Norwegian immigration to this country since 1825 exceeds 700,000, the majority of them young people. The census of 1920 records 363,862 of our population as natives of Norway while the number of natives born of Norwegian parents is given as 658,589. Three million, more or less, is an approximate estimate of the numerical strength of the people of Norwegian stock in the United States, unmixed and mixed.

For some fifty years or more Norwegian emigration to the United States was made up almost exclusively of people from the rural districts, small farm owners, renters, crofters, and farm hands. In recent years there has been a growing emigration from the cities, of engineers, mechanics, sailors, shipping people, and others, but tillers of the soil are still in a large majority among those who leave for America. The Middle West and Northwest have appealed to them with irresistible force. Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa gradually became dotted with settlements of Norwegians, and they kept on marching in the front line of the great army of land seekers in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana, and farther west clear to the coast of Alaska. They were peculiarly fitted for pioneering in the harder climate of these parts of the country and have braved with matchless fortitude and dogged per-



sistency the dangers and trials of hostile Indians, droughts, and other adverse circumstances.

According to a careful special investigation made in North Dakota approximately 8,000,000 acres in that state alone are owned by people of Norwegian birth or blood. Their total holdings of farming land in the country probably exceeds 30,000,000 acres. And virtually all of this vast and valuable domain has been cleared or broken, transformed from a wilderness into productive farms by their own toil, and nearly all of them began with empty hands.

A very different kind of farming has been conducted by Norwegians along our western coasts. A large percentage of Norwegian settlers in those parts have been fishermen from the west coast of Norway, people who knew all about fish and fishing and were quick to see the possibilities of the fishing industry in the waters of the Pacific. Its rapid development in recent years is due in no small measure to their enterprise, and some branches of it are still largely in their hands. The halibut fisheries far off the coasts of Washington and Alaska may almost be said to be a Norwegian invention. Today some 300,000 vessels of a special Norwegian construction are engaged in deep sea halibut fishing, virtually all owned and manned by Norwegians. They have likewise been foremost in the development of the herring fisheries of Alaska, and many important improvements in preparing fish products for the market and in catching salmon in the open sea are due to their initiative.

The minority of Norwegians who have settled in our cities have been active in manufacturing and other forms of production rather than in commerce. Many are employed as mechanic in railway shops, harvester works and other plants of similar kind. The largest plant in the country for making tool-making tools was established by a Norwegian immigrant and is now in charge of his sons. In the Middle West Norwegians are extensive makers of furniture. In recent years there has been a large influx of Norwegian engineers and architects, many of whom have distinguished themselves in this country. Among their achievements are the Woolworth building in New York City, the railway tunnel under the Detroit river, the Harlem river subway tunnels, the new railway bridge across the Niagara river, a number of bridges, partly on new lines of construction, in Chicago, Minneapolis and other places, skyscrapers in many cities, and other outstanding works in engineering and architecture. The foremost metallurgist in the country, an officer of the Guggenheim concern, is an adopted citizen of Norwegian birth.

Ski-running is a Norwegian contribution to the list of our winter sports.

Illiteracy is virtually unknown among immigrants from Norway. In the rural districts, as in the cities, their children attend the public schools. They do not maintain any parochial schools, but have provided liberally for schools for advanced education, colleges, academies, seminaries, etc., some fifty in all and all conforming to the American type of institutions of this kind. The total amount of money raised among them for educational and religious purposes, including hospitals, homes for old people and for orphans, and other forms of social welfare work, approximates something like \$40,000,000.

In 1757 a Dutch ship was captured in the channel by an English privateer after a fierce battle. The victor took his prize at Dover. The captain of the Dutchman, an old salt, had been severely wounded during the struggle; the English captain a mere youth, was barely scratched. A judge from Norway who happened to be in Dover at the time learned that both of these men were Norwegians, and brought them together. They were glad to meet, but did not seem to regret that they had tried their best to kill each other. "Each of them," says the judge, "appeared to think that the fact that both were sons of Norway in no way interfered with or weakened the allegiance they had taken to another country."

The incident is typical of an historic trait of Norse character. Wherever, in times past, the Norsemen established themselves, by force or peaceful immigration, in Normandy, England, Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, or elsewhere, they assimilated quickly with the native population. It was probably not that they loved their native land less, but that they loved their new home, where they were living and working, and fighting for it whenever necessary.

It would be strange if the same were not true of the Norwegians, who have come to the United States, particularly in view of the fact that, with respect to principles of government and social conditions, they have in this country found but another, a larger and freer, Norway. The Constitution of Norway is second to that of the United States as the oldest written organic law now in force in the world, and like its prototype, establishes a government of, by and for the people. The main difference is that Norway some forty years ago adopted the system of parliamentary government and that, consequently, the executive is dominated by the legislative power. The systems of local governments obtaining in the two countries are alike in principle if somewhat different in matters of organization. Suffrage is general for men and women there as here. As a result of keen popular interest in gripping issues which have divided parties for

many years the use of the ballot has been pretty near 100 percent in Norway; to vote has come to be looked upon as a duty fully as much as a right.

Thus equipped for the duties of active citizenship Norwegian immigrants have adapted themselves readily to conditions here and, as somebody has said, "have taken to politics as a duck to water." The principles of government obtaining here were familiar to them; they were experienced in the use of the ballot, and, moreover, the great majority of them have been land holders from the beginning of their immigration to this

day they have had a substantial stake in their country, a precious personal interest to be protected by their ballots. In many localities the advancing line of Norwegian pioneers passed the limits of organized local political units, but in setting up or helping in setting up governments for township or county they had the benefit of their experiences in local government in their native land. It thus happened that in quite a number of instances the first American government the Norwegian pioneer came into close contact with was one largely of his own making. Their participation in the management of local public affairs kept pace with their rapidly spreading and growing settlements. Both as voters and local officials they have been a progressive element, providing means for public schools, roads, bridges and other betterments. As managers of public funds in their charge, officials chosen from their ranks have established an enviable record for trustworthiness and honesty. As members of state legislatures they have supported sane, progressive policies and measures. Many have held positions as state officials, especially as state treasurers, and not a few have served on the bench of district or supreme courts of their respective states.

It is generally recognized that this element of our population is, on the whole, a set of law-abiding, hard working and thrifty people. Near of kin to the original American stock in blood and political ideals Norsemen Americanize readily and quickly. The first (immigrated) generation shows a high percentage of naturalization, and their children are full-fledged Americans. They are a people of home owners whether they dwell in cities or in rural districts. Their percentage of the the populations of jails, penitentiaries and poor houses are low.

In war as in peace they have done their part as good citizens. When the shadow of the Civil War fell upon the country they were quick to respond to the call of Lincoln. They helped materially to keep such states as Wisconsin in line and furnished more volunteers to the Union army than any



other group of people, native or foreign born, in proportion to their meagre numbers at that time. The Fifteenth Wisconsin regiment, made up exclusively of Norwegians, left more than one-half of its rank and file on the bloody field of Chickamauga. The "Rainbow Division," made up largely of Norwegians and other Scandinavians, has written their record in the World war. On the sea they have been fighting for America ever since the war of independence. One of Paul Jones' strongest fighters was a boy he had picked up in a Norwegian harbor, and from that day to this a goodly number of Uncle Sam's salts have been chosen from among "the best soldiers in the world."

With but few and unimportant exceptions the newspapers published in the Norwegian language in this country have been, as they are, truly American in spirit. In earlier days they fought an aggressive and victorious battle for the common school. Since then they have stood with the great majority of their readers in supporting progressive Republican policies on the lines of Lincoln and Roosevelt. A few of them have given their support to the various independent movements that have sprung up in the Northwest during the unrest that has prevailed in that part of the country in recent years. Norwegian farmers, who were among the first to leave the reservation in such states as North Dakota, have also been among the first to return to saner views. In the Northwest the Norse element and its press, in common with the Swedish, has been leading in the war on intoxicants, at every successive stage—high license, local option and general prohibition.

If any one man were to be named as the ideal type of Norse character as developed under Old Glory it would be the late Knute Nelson. Landing here at the age of six he at once went to work to help support his widowed mother and acquire an education; enlisted during the Civil war, a boy of eighteen; settled on a homestead in Minnesota, which always remained his home; was drafted into public service by his fellow citizens, successively a county attorney, state senator, congressman, governor and United States senator, filling all positions with eminent ability. As a member of the senate he won nation-wide fame by his keen and sound judgement, his frank courage, his thorough-going method of work, and his sturdy or even stern patriotism. He had the good fortune to die with his boots on, the second oldest member of the senate in service.

There may not be another Knute Nelson. But his kinfolk in this country look upon him as the embodiment of their best racial traits, as an example to follow in spirit if his notable achievements are within the reach of but a few. And on the whole it is

probably fair to say that the people of Norse blood in the United States have shown themselves to be worthy

sons and daughters of a state-building race.

SIOUX CITY IOWA TRIB  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925.

## Honor Bestowed By Uncle Sam Upon Norwegians In Centennial Is Challenge To Norsemen To Keep Reputation Of Forefathers, Pastor Declares

Tribute Calls Them To Rally  
Around The Flag, Rev.  
Hoverstad Says

[The following article was prepared by Rev. Helge Hoverstad, pastor of St. Peter's Norwegian Lutheran church of Sioux City, in connection with the Norse American centennial celebration to be held at Minneapolis, Minn., June 7, 8 and 9. Editor's Note.]

BY REV. HELGE HOVERSTAD,  
Pastor of St. Peter's Norwegian  
Lutheran Church of Sioux City.

One-hundred years ago next Fourth of July a small sailing boat, or so-called "sloop," a one masted boat of only 45 register tons, set out from Stavanger, a seaport on the southwestern coast of Norway, heading for the west. Aboard were 53 men and women bound for the new world—America.

This was not the first Norwegian boat pointing west. For over 1,000 years the old Norsemen had plowed the waves over to England and Ireland, Scotland and the islands north of it, to Iceland and Greenland and about 800 years before, they had been here in this country several times. But with this boat begins a new chapter in the history of Norway and in the history of this country, more especially of the prairies and forests of these middlewestern states. With this boat begins the Norwegian immigration to this country and it has continued ever since, so today there are about 2,500,000 people here with more or less Norwegian blood in their veins.

Those people left the old country to get more freedom for their religious convictions, and more room for their activities, a better future for themselves and for their children.

On silver and gold they were poor, on health and strength, courage and thrift, honesty and hope, faith and piety, they were strong and rich. Soon they had homes, then came churches, then schools, elementary and schools for higher learning. What sacrifices the pioneers went to in order to bring up their children to Christian citi-



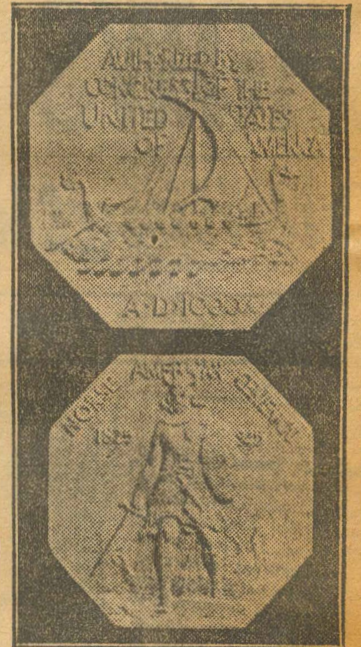
REV. HELGE HOVERSTAD

zens is a most thrilling chapter in the history of Norwegian Americans. It will do their grandchildren and descendants good to read it. The pioneers laid a good foundation. They were a good stock, and generally speaking, so they have been who came after them. Because of this fact a centennial is coming that will mark a new chapter in more than one country.

### The Centennial

I do not know who conceived the thought and first spoke of a Norse-American centennial, but I know that at our last year's church conferences it has been up, and preliminary steps taken for a celebration worthy of the occasion. The idea and movement has been growing all the time and has gained the official recognition of this country, Canada, Norway and Iceland. The committee in Minneapolis must have had a tremendous work to get everything in readiness.

The centennial will be held in the spacious Minnesota State fair grounds between Minneapolis and St. Paul, June 7-9, inclusive. June 6 is set aside for the various "Bydelags," that is, organizations made up of people from the same districts in the old country. There are 39 "Bydelags." Sunday is for worship and concerts. The best preachers from Norway and



This is the Commemorate Medal Described by Rev. Mr. Hoverstad

from our own church will preach the sermons. The best choirs from our churches and schools will be there and also the best bands among our people. Sunday afternoon the official representatives from Norway will bring their greetings. For the king, Minister Bryhn from Washington, D. C.; for his cabinet, Hon. Lars

Wettedahl; for the starthing, Hon. Editor Hambro, president of the foreign relations committee; for the church, Bishop Lunde of Oslo, Norway, and many others representing the university, the press, the arts, etc. The Norwegian, so-called "Academic Choir," a mixed organization of 50 voices, and each member a "B. A.," will be there, and after the centennial they will tour the country. On Monday, President Calvin Coolidge will speak. Secretary of State



F. B. Kellogg and six governors of Norse blood also will take part. They are Governors Gunderson of South Dakota, Christianson of Minnesota, Blaine of Wisconsin, Sorlie of North Dakota, Erickson of Montana and Whitfield of Mississippi. Governor General Byng of Canada will send a representative, as he can not come himself, and there will be one official representative from Iceland. There will be a number of ex-governors of Norse extraction and also university presidents of the same trace.

Tuesday will be given to sports, several meetings and an elaborate pageant illustrating the different phases of the life of the Norse-American. It is built around the life of Gen. Chr. Hegg of Civil war fame.

Not the least interesting will be the museum, where old relics brought from the old country, samples of what the Norse-American has produced by his hands and brains, will be on exhibit.

**A Big Event**

There is no doubt but that it will be the biggest event and the greatest gathering of people in the history of the Twin Cities. They expect from 300,000 to 500,000 visitors. It is not a little church event. It is not an event that has its inspiration and limit within the foreign born and their descendants. Four nations are officially taking part.

It has been recognized by our government by the fact that congress ordered the Philadelphia mint to coin and issue a commemorative medal, of silver identical with the silver used in our coins. It is about the size of the half dollar coin, but is octagonal. One side above a Viking ship is the inscription: "Authorized by Congress of the United States of America," and under it is the inscription: "A. D. 1000." This date refers to the discovery of America by Leif Erikson. On the other side is the heroic figure of a Viking chieftain in full regalia with the inscription, "Norse-American Centennial, 1825-1925."

Forty thousand were made, and if not already sold, they will be sent by registered mail from the centennial headquarters New Nicollet hotel, Minneapolis, Minn., upon receipt of \$1.25.

Congress also ordered the postmaster general to issue a commemoration stamp for the centennial. In fact, two stamps were issued, a 2 and a 5-cent design. The 2-cent stamp is red and black. In the black space in the middle is a remarkably clear engraving of the boat "Restaurationen." Flanking it on the borders on each side are depicted the figures that adorn the prows of the ancient Viking ships and the battle shields used by the old chieftains.

The 5-cent stamp is particularly attractive. It is engraved in black and blue. A true picture of the now famous Viking ship which was sailed to the United States from Norway at the time of the Columbian exposition in Chicago, 1893, holds the center of the stamp. The romantic ship is flanked on the left by a shield with the colors of the Norse flag, and on the right by the Stars and the Stripes. Both stamps are as fine pieces of engraving as the department ever issued. The inscription on both stamps is: "Norse-American Centennial, 1825-1925," besides the regular inscription.

Summing up the things done by the United States government in recognition of the centennial, we find the following facts:

It is the first time in the history of United States that a commemorative medal has been ordered by our government. Other medals have been coined, but they have been for awards in case of expositions and similar events.

**Unusual Distinction**

It is the first time in the history of the United States that a two-colored stamp has been issued, and as far as I know the first event honored by the issuance of two special postage stamps.

It is the first time in the history of the United States that the president will have left the White House and traveled halfway across this wide country of ours to deliver an address in honor of foreign born citizens and their descendants, without other engagements of any kind.

It is well known that President Coolidge does not go out on speaking tours as some of the former presidents did. It is rather hard to secure him for an address, but he said he was glad to go and speak at this centennial. When it became known that the president was to speak at that centennial there came to the White House a flood of invitations to speak in the cities he was to pass through, but the president refused, saying: "I am glad to speak at Minneapolis, for I regard that centennial, marking the organized immigration from Norway to this country, of so great national importance that I will not lessen it by making another speech, either going or coming."

To my knowledge, a secretary of state never before has gone so far away from Washington to address such a gathering. Incidentally both President Coolidge and Secretary Kellogg will be accompanied by their wives.

It would be stupidity beyond defense if Norwegians here did not realize the honor their adopted land is showing our people and race. They have a right to take a just and sensible pride both in the centennial and in the recognition it has received.

But they must not forget that it is a challenge. It calls them to thank God in heaven that the Norse pioneers, those that came after them and their descendants, have been and are men and women of such character and worth, that this country could thus honor them.

But above all it calls them to be "true chips off of the old block." They must not only preserve the good reputation earned by their forefathers, but add to it. It calls them to rally around their flag and liberty, around their institutions and principles, and show that they are worthy sons of worthy sires.



N. J. Lohre

# NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CONVEN-

## Delegates to Represent Membership of 649,374

# TION WILL FOL- LOW CEN TENNIAL

History of Church in America Shows First Synod Organized in 1846; Three Branches Merged at Meeting Held in St. Paul Auditorium.

The following article was written exclusively for the Pioneer Press by Rev. N. J. Lohre, secretary of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America.

WHEN the Norwegian Centennial celebration closes the Norwegian Lutheran Church will assemble in St. Paul Auditorium for its international convention. This body, which was formed by a merger completed in St. Paul Auditorium on June 9, 1917, counts as its membership at least one-third of all Americans of Norse extraction.

The last report of the statistician gives the membership as 3,140 congregations with an actual membership of 496,095 and an associate membership of 153,279, or a total of 649,374.

The church is divided into nine districts, each with its individual organization. Only one of these districts is incorporated, namely, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Canada.

The immigration from the northern Scandinavian peninsula from the year 1820-1868 was 78,528. Prorating this between Norway and Sweden there is a possible immigration from Norway during that period of 33,290. The immigration from Norway with its natural increase due to the excess of births over deaths will then stand as follows:

Immigrants	Natural Increase	Total
1820-186	33,990	39,838
1869-1880	124,667	157,716
1881-1890	176,536	429,616
1891-1900	95,015	641,751
1901-1910	190,505	1,024,735
1911-1918	59,954	1,264,015
1919-1925	50,000 (Est.)	1,535,215

### First Synod in 1846.

The first synod among the Norwegians was organized in 1846; the second in 1853 and the third in 1860. When the Norwegian Lutheran church was formed by the merger in 1917 it numbered over 400,000 and held a common property estimated at \$5,000,000 and the congregations reported a net property valuation of \$9,007,758. The statistics for the year 1924 gives the following net values:

Common property of Norwegian Lutheran church	\$7,849,678
Property of Congregations	22,094,795

Total .....\$29,944,474

For about one-half million descendants of the penniless immigrants who began coming some 75 years ago a common property of \$29,944,474 gives a church valuation of about \$60 per soul. Turning to the financial statements covering receipts and disbursements during the year 1924 we have for the same constituency the following figures:

For the work in the local congregation	\$3,252,215
For synodical purposes	1,225,941

Total contributions from church members .....\$4,478,156

The above figures based upon official statistics carefully collected and compiled reveals the fact that the Norwegians are making sacrifices for the church. It is a proof that the Norwegians have brought with them from their native land as a noble heritage deep devotion to

the church. Alfred DeWitt Mason, lecturer on the history of Missions in the Union Missionary Training Institute, Brooklyn, New York records the following pertinent incident:

### Lief the Lucky Was Christian.

"Lief the Lucky was the son of the Norseman, Erick the Red, the reputed discoverer and colonizer of Greenland. Visiting the king of Norway, who was a Christian, Lief was easily led to embrace the faith, and then determined to return to Greenland and Christianize the colonist from Iceland, who had settled there. On his way he was driven to the south by storms and is presumed to have landed on the coast of New England. Thus, though for 400 years no use was made of this discovery, the continent of North America was first visited by a Christian Viking bound on an errand for the king of Norway to win the people of Greenland to Christ. On reaching Greenland he established a Christian church in his father's colony which continued for 400 years or until the colony was finally abandoned." (Outlines of Missionary History—page 33).

In his search to establish the genuineness of the Kensington rune stone, Hjalmer Rud Holland discovered an edict issued by King Magnus Eriksson at Bergen on the 28th day of October, 1354, from which we shall quote:

"Be it known to all that it is our purpose to send an expedition to Greenland—may all know that we are doing this not for the sake of gain but for the honor of God and of our ancestors who caused Christianity to be established in Greenland and have maintained it up to the present time and we shall not now permit it to fall into decay." Magnus Eriksson was at that time king of Norway and Sweden.

### Missionary Trip Is Futile.

In 1117 King Frederick the IV of Norway-Denmark sent H. P. Egede to preach the gospel for the descendants of the Norwegians who immigrated to Greenland. When Egede arrived in Greenland he found no Norwegians. They had either emigrated or had been massacred. These three incidents are characteristic of the Norse people.

This peculiarity with the Norse emigrant is a national characteristic with the Norse people also in the home land. When in 1905 the church department appointed a rationalist and modernist as professor in theology at the State University, the Lutherans of Norway established their own theological seminary as a competitor with the Divinity school in the State University. In less than 20 years the seminary of the congregations has outrun the Divinity school of the state.

When approximately 1,000 Norwegian immigrants had reached America a man appeared upon the scene as a preacher of the Gospel. He came in obedience to the inner calling which led him into the service of the Gospel for the benefit of his countrymen, who were scattered from the western part of the state of New York to north central Texas. He was a typical Norwegian lay preacher of the Hans Nielson Hauge type. He was ordained to the ministry on October 3, 1843, and became the first Norwegian Lutheran pastor in America. The second pastor was also a layman, coming from Denmark and being sent by the Hagues at Drammen principally for the purpose of giving the children religious instruction. He was ordained to the ministry a little later in the year 1843.

### First Minister Arrives.

Through the kindness of a man in Christiania the first regularly educated and ordained minister reached America in 1841. The first, Elling Eielson, started a congregation in La Salle county, Illinois, where was built the first common church property in 1841. The second, Pastor C. L. Clausen, organized the first congregation at Mlskego, Racine county, Wis., where the first church was built in 1843. The third pastor, J. W. C. Dietrichson, organized a congregation at Koskonong, Dane county, Wis., in 1844, where the second church was built the same year.

These three geographical locations served as the starting point for the organization of synods.

The first synod to be organized was the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America by Elling Eielson in 1846. The second to be organized was the synod for the Norwegian Lutheran church in 1853. In 1860 an organization of Norwegians, Swedes and Danes was formed, from which 10 years later developed two independent synods.

Elling Eielson representing the unique laymen's movement started in Norway by the great reformer, Hans Nielson Hauge, represented this movement in his method of work and organization. J. W. C. Dietrichson

represented the state church of Norway. Between these two extremes we find C. L. Clausen and his followers.

### Rival Synods Organized.

This situation created a rivalry which very often amounted to intense competition. The writer is convinced that the fact that so many of the descendants of the Norwegian immigrants have remained within the Lutheran church is due to the fact that the immigrant found in America the opportunity of making a choice of church home. Furthermore, he was eagerly sought by those who represented the various synods organized.

Comparing the statistics of the Danes and the Swedes, who did not have the opportunity of this rivalry, we find that the Norwegian Lutheran church has been much more successful in keeping its own than has the Lutheran church among the Swedes and the Danes.

The first book to be published by the Norwegians was a book of religious instruction for the children written by Pontoppidan and called "Truth Unto Godliness." It was Elling Eielson who undertook publishing this book in 1842. In order to do so he journeyed from Chicago to New York, traveling the greater distance on foot.

The first religious publication was issued in 1851 and was published by C. L. Clausen, A. C. Preus and H. A. Stuh, father of President Stuh of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America. These are the early beginnings of the work which is now carried on in several large establishments and by a large number of papers and periodicals.

### College Is Founded.

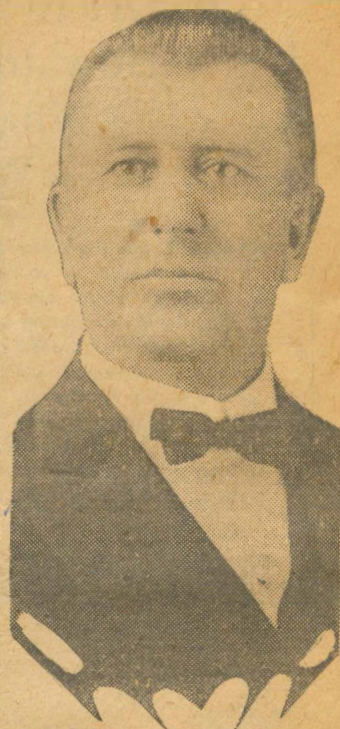
In 1851 the Norwegians joined with Lutherans of other nationalities and founded Northern Illinois university. This "university" is continued now under the name of Carthage college, Carthage, Ill. In 1854 Elling Eielson

caused a "seminary" to be opened on a property which he had purchased near Lisbon, Ill. The first instructor was P. A. Rasmussen, father of three pastors now serving in the Norwegian Lutheran church of America. This seminary did not continue very long but Eielson's thought of establishing a seminary remained constantly with him. The second effort was made in 1855 when a school was opened at Koskonong, Wis. In 1917 the Lutheran church had the following seminaries:

Luther Seminary in St. Anthony Park, Luther Seminary in Hamline district, Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis, and Red Wing Seminary in Red Wing.



**NATIONAL SECRETARY  
OF NORWEGIAN CHURCH**



**Rev. N. J. Lohre.**

The author of the accompanying article on the Norwegian Church of America is its national secretary, Rev. N. J. Lohre of Mayville, N. D., who is shown above.

1924 it contributed over \$10,000 to this mission.

(b). In Madagascar where 55 missionaries operate at 16 different stations with which is connected a membership of 2,724 souls. The church contributed in 1924 to this mission the sum of \$97,801.79.

(c). China Mission. The mission is carried on at 17 stations by 106 missionaries. The native congregations number 6,677 souls. For this mission the church paid out \$191,723.95 in 1924. The total contributions from the congregations for foreign mission in 1924 is \$310,824.

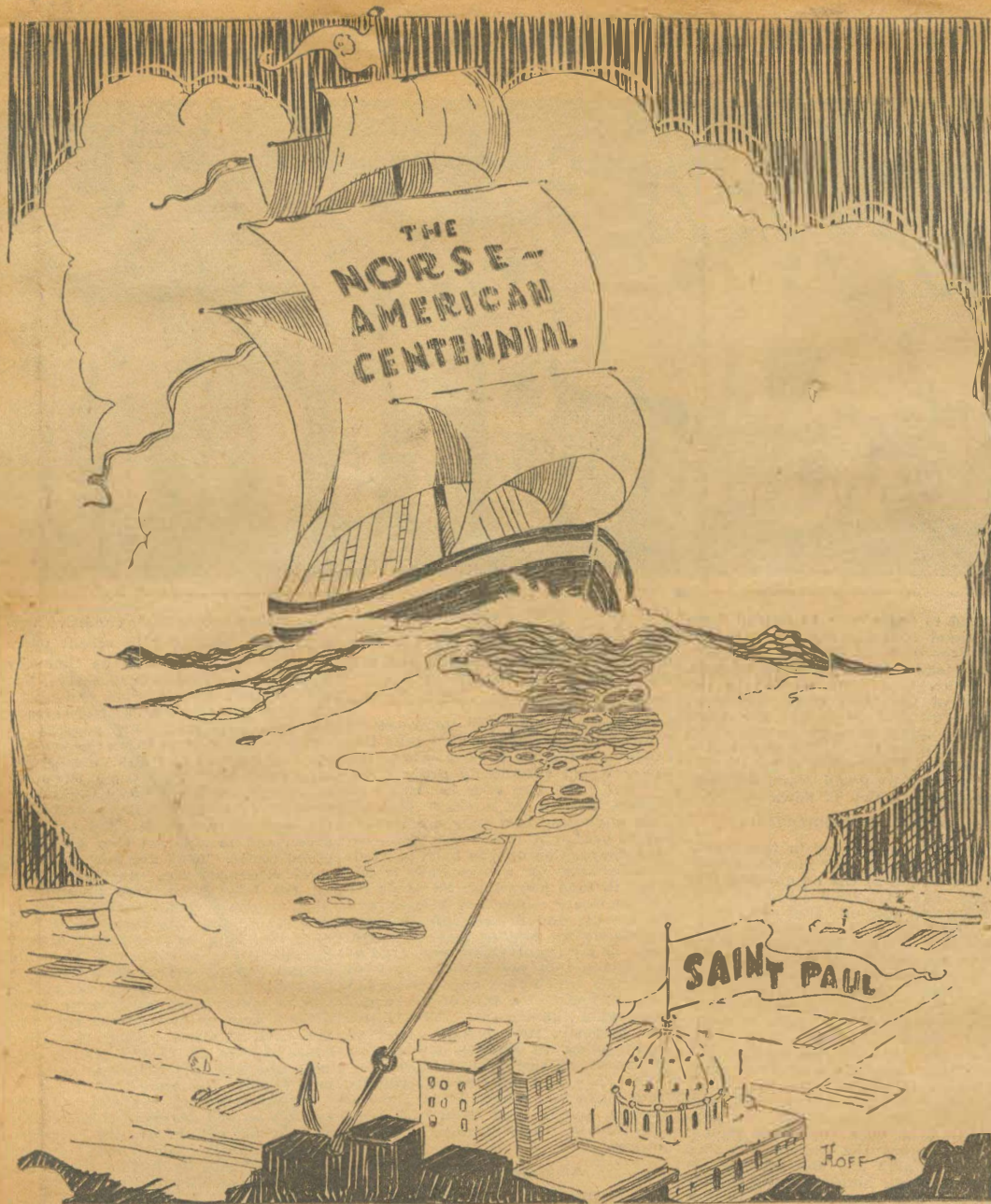
In addition to these foreign missions owned and operated by the church the Norwegian Lutherans give strong support to the following voluntary missions: (1) Among the Jews; (2) among the Santals of India; (3) among the Mohammedan Kurds of Persia.

By the merger in 1917 the publishing houses of the three synods were consolidated. The institution at Red Wing was closed whereas the Augsburg Publishing House at Minneapolis and the Lutheran Publishing House at Decorah, Iowa continue under one management. The total business done by the Publishing Houses during 1924 is \$517,126.09 with a net gain of \$29,366.50.

The Norwegian Lutheran church also has a pension fund from which 180 pensioners were supported during the last year.

The annual meeting will open in the St. Paul Auditorium at 9 A. M. Tuesday with divine services. No regular program has been worked out for the convention as all the time will be devoted to the regular routine of business.

The president will read his report on Tuesday afternoon. The committee to work during the convention will be elected and on Wednesday



**Seminaries Consolidated.**

With the merger in 1917 the following seminaries were consolidated:

Luther Seminary in Hamline, Luther Seminary in St. Anthony Park and Red Wing Seminary in Red Wing. This seminary operates in the buildings of the Lutheran Seminary, St. Anthony Park, with a staff of nine teachers and had during the last year 100 students.

The Augsburg Seminary is the seminary of the Lutheran Free church.

The first Lutheran body to establish a school for higher education was the Norwegian Synod and the results of its efforts is the present Luther college. Luther college started at Halfway Creek Parsonage, near La Crosse, Wis., in 1862. The school was located at Decorah, Iowa, in 1865. St. Olaf college in Northfield was opened on January 8, 1875, and Concordia college was opened in 1891. Sioux Falls Lutheran Normal school was merged with Augustana college in 1918 and operates under the name of Augustana Lutheran college located at Sioux Falls, S. D. These are then the

four colleges of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

The Norwegian Lutheran church has one pro-seminary, two normal schools, twelve academies at which 151 teachers gave instruction to 1,817 students during the last school year. In 1924 the congregations contributed for education, \$273,952.

**In the Field of Charity.**

The pioneer in this activity was Pastor E. J. Homme who founded Wittenberg, Wisconsin, and started the Wittenberg institutions in 1882. When the Norwegian Lutheran church was formed by the merger of the three constituent synods, it took over the institutions of charity operated by them. The Norwegian Lutheran church has nine old peoples homes, having a total number of inmates of 373, and a property valuation of \$586,896. It has seven orphanages, having a total number of inmates of 872 and a property valuation of \$750,385. In addition to this it owns and operates two deaconess homes and hospitals; one in Brooklyn and one in Chicago; three rescue homes,

one in Minneapolis, one in Fargo, N. D., and one in Sioux Falls, S. D. It is doing very extensive work in home finding through subsidiary corporations chartered under the respective states. In 1924 the congregations contributed to charity the sum of \$229,085.

During the Year 1924, 334 pastors received for diaspora work a total of \$203,969.77. In addition to the diaspora work the home mission board administers the church extension funds and superintends the following lines of missions: Among the Eskimos of Alaska, the American Indians of Wisconsin, the Negroes of Minneapolis, the Russians of North Dakota. Seamen's missions, Immigrant missions and Evangelistic activities. In 1924 the congregations contributed to the expense of this department \$268,838.

**Foreign Mission.**

The Norwegian Lutheran church carries on Foreign Mission activity as follows:

(a). In Zulu, Natal, South Africa, (in connection with the Schreuder Missionary Society of Norway). In



morning the report from Committee No. 6, dealing with the finances will be taken up for consideration. This committee report will have precedence. The other reports will be considered in the order received.

If we are to judge by the expressions of public opinion voiced in the church papers and the secular Norwegian press, the question of re-organization will, no doubt, occupy considerable time of the convention.

The officers of the Norwegian Lutheran church are: President, H. G. Stub, D. D., Litt. D.; vice president, J. A. Aasgaard, D. D.; secretary, N. J. Lohre, M. A.; treasurer, Erick Waldeland.

St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press  
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1923

## Norwegians Play Heavy Parts Developing State

### Immigrants Who Settled in Minnesota Soon Became Big Factor in Growth of Gopher State—Many Prominent Names Listed

The following article was written for the Pioneer Press by A. Malmin, a Norwegian editor, who is attending the Centennial. Mr. Malmin has spent considerable time in the United States.

In no state have the Norwegian immigrants and their descendants made themselves more conspicuous than in Minnesota. From the earliest days of the Norwegian immigration these hardy sons of the Vikings, going West to conquer the innumerable difficulties and dangers threatening the newcomers, have shown themselves, industrious, clever and resourceful.

Here today they are a great part of the prosperous population of the state. Among them are farmers, business men, politicians and statesmen.

Minnesota has profited by their work in the legislatures, churches and schools, in solving social evils by offering their best men as judges, preachers and doctors, in the professions such as law and engineering and other vocations. In short it may be said, that the Norwegians, who went into Minnesota, and their descendants have been workers.

#### Most Are Farmers.

Most of the Norwegians in Minnesota, as in the Northwest at large, are farmers. And they have the best land, which is in a condition to be proud of. It may be said that the Norwegian farmers have been making Minnesota, as well as the rest of the northwestern states.

In his recent book Dr. O. M. Norlie of Luther college tells the following story:

"Rev. H. C. Holm, president of a district of the Norwegian church, happened to be in Washington once while Theodore Roosevelt was in office. He called on Roosevelt to pay his respects. Now, Holm (still living) is a very imposing looking man, six feet tall, large-boned, weighing easily 250 pounds, with open, kindly face, deep expressive voice, that can carry a half mile or more. In short, a manly man, sure to delight the Rough Rider Roosevelt. These two men looked at each other in mutual admiration and clasped hands long and vigorously.

"So you are a Norwegian," says Teddie.

"Yes, sir," answered Holme, "and it looks as if we Norwegians are going to rule the land at last."

"What do you mean, sir?" asked the President in surprise.

"Mean? I mean that we Norwegians are buying up the land and raising the children, and the future of America is ours."

"Shake again," said Roosevelt.

#### Follow Many Lines.

The Minnesota Norwegians are in almost all kinds of cultural and professional pursuits, as inventors, architects, engineers, musicians, and, of course—as shortly mentioned above—as preachers, teachers, writers, publishers, charity workers, public service men, etc. But the most of them, to quote an esteemed authority on the question, "stayed upon the ancestral homestead or made a new one for himself and his children out of the public domain in the West, remaining through his life, a plain and hard-working farmer."

And to improve the possibilities of farming the Norwegians and their descendants, also those of Minnesota, became inventors. As one of these I name John P. Johnson, Lichtfield, Minn., who invented the first twine binder or selfbinder, in 1877.

Another one is Ole Y. Glasoe, a blacksmith of Lanesboro, Minn., who invented the first sulky plow of the world.

Among other Minnesota Norwegians that have made themselves illustrious and done honor to their state is N. P. E. Mohn, St. Paul, an architect of great ability.

Olaf Thorshow of the Long and Thorshow company, Minneapolis, has erected many of the tallest buildings of that city.

Frederick W. Cappelen, Minneapolis, civil engineer, city engineer from 1886 to 1921, is the constructor of the city filtration plant, the Northern Pacific bridge and the Cappelen bridge crossing the Mississippi, known for having the longest concrete span of the world. He furthermore built the bridge of Third avenue, and Cedar avenue bridge, of which it is said, that it is going to be one of the finest in America, is to be erected in accordance to Cappelen's specifications.

Olaf Hafl, consulting engineer, inventor of a new method of laying timber, lived several years in Minnesota and built a bridge across the Mississippi.

Proceeding to the skilled men of music it may be said, that the traditions of Norway (Edward Grieg, Ole Bull, etc.) have been carried to the new Norwegian homes, also the homes of Minnesota.

#### St. Olaf Choir Well Known.

A number of excellent choral and choir books have been issued and new composers of fine music and songs have arisen. Instruction in music is given at every Norwegian school. The performance of the choir of one of these schools, the St. Olaf choir of Northfield, is world known. It has sung before presidents and kings and the best musical critics.

A prominent Minnesota musician was Theodore S. Reimistad. J. Arndt Bergh, Erick Oldee, Henrich M. Gunderson, Oscar P. Hertzgaard, Oscar R. Overby, Harry Anderson are others.

Among the Norwegian-American painters, the most prominent is a Minnesota man, Herbjorn Gansta, that studied his art in Italy, Germany and Norway. But several more could be mentioned.

As a sculptor, Jacob Fjelde, his studio in the Twin Cities, takes the front rank.

Of leading men in the medical science it is sufficient to put forth names such as Edward Boeckman, the celebrated St. Paul doctor. Another old timer among Minnesota doctors is Knut O. Koegh. Other splendid names are Dr. Henrik H. Nissen, Dr. Giere, Dr. Scheldering and Carl M. Roan.

In dental science Minnesota may be regarded as leading, owing to such men as George S. Monson, St. Paul, Alfred Owre, dean of the dental college of the University of Minnesota.

#### Many Judges Listed.

Among Norwegian-American judges in this state we have Albert W. Johnson, P. M. Olson, G. E. Orvale, Lewis S. Nelson, Andrew Gruideland, Norman T. Pederson and Gunnar N. Norby. Of county and city judges the number exceeds what can be cited by names in this column.

Of Norwegian bankers there is certainly a great and esteemed number throughout the state. Theodore Wold is prominent among them.

It is not necessary to use many words on Knute Nelson. He died a senior Senator of the United States. Another Senator is Henrik Shipstead.

Governors of Norwegian descent are Knute Nelson, J. A. O. Prens and Theodore Christianson and Lieutenant Governors A. E. Rice and

Thomas Frankson, Secretaries of the state: John S. Irgens, Frederic P. Brown, State auditors, Adolf Bierman, Samuel G. Iverson, J. A. O. Prens; railroad commissioners, P. M. Ringdal and O. P. B. Jacobson, and Congressmen, Knute Nelson, Kittel Halvorsen, Haldor E. Boen, Haldor Steenerson, Andrew J. Volstead, Seorrey Anderson, Carl Chester Van Dyke, Harold Knutson, Alger B. Bierstnes, Ole J. Kvale, Knut Welfald, August H. Andersen.

Their record in the history of Minnesota, to be written down by a great historian to come, will show what men Minnesota endeavored to raise and what honorable work they gave in exchange for the honor given unto them in representing this great state.

For obtaining their offices and strengthening them in their official tasks our politicians have had the greatest assistance from the Norwegian-American press. But of still greater importance, these newspapers and magazines have been in the laudable cause of enlightening the people at large and forwarding the cultural standard. The Minnesota Norwegian press may well boast of their influence in these directions—good and solid pioneer work is theirs.

We mention only one representative

of this press, Minneapolis Tidme, proprietor and founder, a veteran publisher, Thorvald Gulterandson, and present editor, Carl Hansen. The Daytig Tidme is the only Norwegian daily west of Chicago.

There are and have been many other Norwegian papers in Minnesota that have done good and faithful service in promoting the welfare of the Norwegian immigrants and their descendants, for instance, Luth Jaegers, the North; Ronnings, Our Friend and Familiens Magasin; the Norwegian Lutheran church's Lutheranerne and Luther church Haded, Editor Lee, etc., etc. We might mention many more, but the place does not allow it.

#### Church Is Praised.

And finally should the Norwegian Lutheran church perhaps have been offered the widest space for what it has laid down of ceaseless work and unbending energy, of love and care for the Norwegian-American people of Minnesota. Names as: Prens, Stub, Laur Larson, Koren, Holme, etc., come to the front. Men that have lived and labored for the holy cause of erecting temples for Christendom and education among their landsmen.

Minnesota and its large population of Norwegian descent for all times will be in debt to these educators and men of the church for the manner in which they have partaken in every event concerning their fellow men. Joy and luck, sorrow and sickness from the first pioneer times until now. Look around all Minnesota today. What astonishing fruits of their work, of their prayers and above all of the grace of God we behold! Churches and schools and hospitals and charity homes by the hundred call out to the whole world; Happy is the land and happy is the state of Minnesota, that has such laborers in its vineyards!

The Norwegian Centennial is on and the President of the United States will address the hundreds of thousands. For a few moments at least all the civilized world will turn its eyes towards Minnesota, the hearth of the Norwegian-Americans and the fertile soil of the West. Let us then unite in doing the only right, the only worthy thing: Let us feel proud of these, our good American citizens, the Norwegians, that are engaged in every kind of honorable work in our glorious country and our own great state and are making good all along the line!

**MINNESOTA NORWEGIANS  
TOTAL ABOUT 400,000**

The Norwegian-American population of Minnesota today is estimated to be about 400,000. The number of Norwegian-Americans in the United States is placed by different authorities from as high as 4,000,000 and by others as about 2,500,000. The present population of Norway is considerably less than 3,000,000.



M. W. Odland

# Saga of the Norsemen in America

Norse-American Centennial, to Be Celebrated in Twin Cities June 6 to 9, Recalls Summer Day in 1825 When Tiny One-masted "Restaurationen" Set Sail for America with 52 Norwegians Seeking Home in New World.—Report of Kleng Peerson, After Three Years of Investigation in America, Persuaded Countrymen to Voyage to "Promised Land."

The Norse-American Centennial, which will be observed in the Twin Cities June 6 to 9, marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the arrival in America of the sloop "Restaurationen" with its 52 Norwegian emigrants. In a series of articles which he has titled "The Saga of the Norsemen in America," Martin W. Odland, of Robbinsdale, has written the story of the Norwegian's migration to this continent, of his settlement here and of his contributions to the political, business and artistic life of the country. Mr. Odland is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin where he held the Henrik Wergeland scholarship in Norse literature in 1899-90. He has written extensively on Norse and Norse-American historical and literary subjects during the past 20 years. "The Saga of the Norsemen in America" will appear in several installments in The Sunday Tribune.—Editor's Note.

By Martin W. Odland.

It was the fourth day of July, 1825. A little one-masted ship of 45 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 14 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 52 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 2,000,000 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.

## Early Explorations and Immigration.

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, 18 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 accompanied 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 Vingé. 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 rather 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 there 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" on the English coast. He died at the United States naval asylum in Philadelphia, July 12, 1851.

## Kleng Peerson, the Pathfinder.

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

significance of the Norse-American centennial.

Three men in particular played a prominent part in the migration that began 100 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 men across the Atlantic to make an investigation. One of these was Kleng Peerson. And thus there was brought into the saga of the Norsemen in America this remarkable man who, for 40 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.

## A Genius and Dreamer.

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 in 1833, 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 prairies 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."

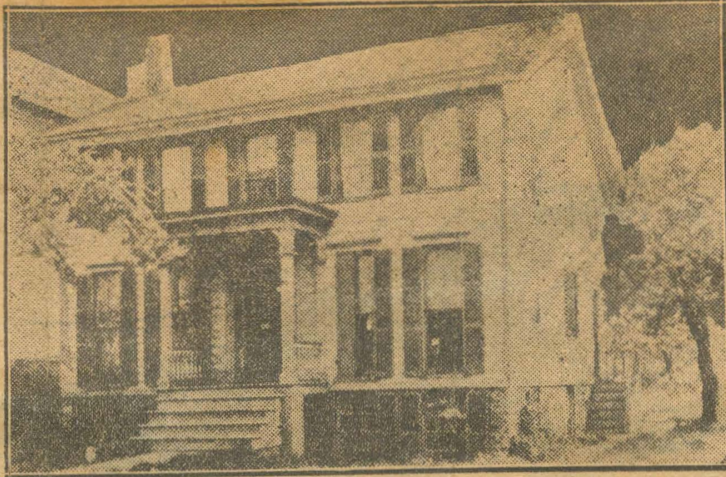
When Kleng awoke he felt that the Almighty had revealed to him the future home of his people. He thought of Moses and the Promised Land and believed that he, like Moses, had been commissioned to lead his people from bondage—the bondage of poverty—to a land of plenty.

It was three years before Kleng Pearson returned to Norway. What places he visited is not known, but he saw and heard a great deal. 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 flooded 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 1,800 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.

**Baby Born on Board.**

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 crews' failure to display the ship's colors. It reached New York on the ninth of October. 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



Lars Larson's home in Rochester, N. Y., is the oldest house now standing, built by a Norwegian in America. Larson was a passenger on the sloop "Restaurationen" when it made its memorable voyage in 1825.



Margaret Allen Larson, who later became Mrs. John Atwater, of Rochester, N. Y., was known as the "sloop baby" for she was born on the "Restaurationen" on its voyage to America.

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. The captain was therefore released and the sloop with its cargo restored to its owners.

**Treated Well by Quakers.**

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 Pearson had selected as their home and where land had been purchased for them at \$5 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 40 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.

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 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 New 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

p. 76



# Saga of the Norsemen in America

Norwegian-Americans Have Played Important Part in the Upbuilding of Painting, Music and Literature in America—War Record of Norse Group in United States Shows Members Took Part in Every Conflict Nation Was Entered.

*This is the concluding article of a series dealing with the Norwegian in America, written by Martin W. Odland, an authority on Norse-American history. He brings his article to a close with a resume of Norway's contribution to the artistic life of America and the part played by the Norwegians in the wars of America. — Editor's Note.*

By Martin W. Odland.

THE craving for beauty is deeply imbedded in the Norse race, due, no doubt, to the influence of Norway's unrivaled 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 needlework 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 palated 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, Sigurd Neandros and Trygve Hammer, sculptors.

## Norse Artist in West.

Among well-known artists of the Norse group in the west are the late Herbjoern 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, John S. Wittrup 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 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, Mass., 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 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 have been a goodly number of Norse singers in America who have attained national distinction, foremost of whom is the famous operatic star, Madama Olive Fremstad. Norse singing societies, choirs and bands have also obtained wide popularity, as, for instance, the famous St. Olaf choir of Northfield, Minn., which leading critics of New York, Boston and Chicago have pronounced without a peer in America. This pre-eminence 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. A few of these books, like Waldemar Ager's novel, "Kristus for Pilatus" (Christ before Pilate) and O. E. Rolvaag's "I de Dage" (In Those Days) have been republished in Oslo after their appearance here.

## War Record of Norse.

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 6,000 and 7,000 Norsemen

served in the northern army during the Civil war, one regiment, the 15th Wisconsin, known as the "Norwegian regiment," being composed almost entirely of Norwegian immigrants and their sons. The commander of this 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 form the 15th Wisconsin, 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, Ill., 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, Tenn., 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.

## Roll Call of Norse in World War.

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, Wis., who was Herbert Hoover's chief aide in the distribution of food supplies 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. Siqueland and Emil Johnson, both of Chicago; Dr. R. M. Pederson of Min-



neapolis, and Colonel Johnson of Granite Falls.

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.

#### Two Important Migrations.

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 second began in 1825, when the sloop Restaurationen crossed the Atlantic to the land of Leif Erickson 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.

The End.



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Grant Park Ill  
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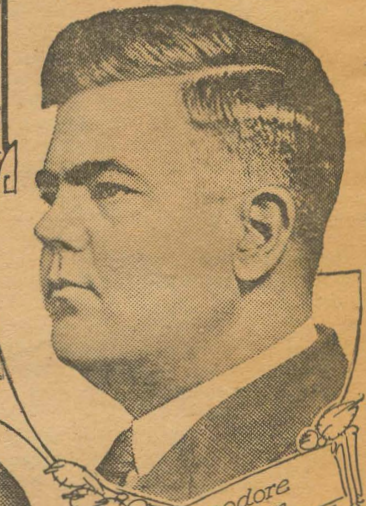
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# NORSE - AMERICAN CENTENNIAL



O.J. Kvale

Wide World Photo



Gov. Theodore Christenson

Keystone

## One Hundred Years of Immigration to America Celebrated in Twin Cities

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN



Did Leif Ericsson land on American soil in A. D. 1000?

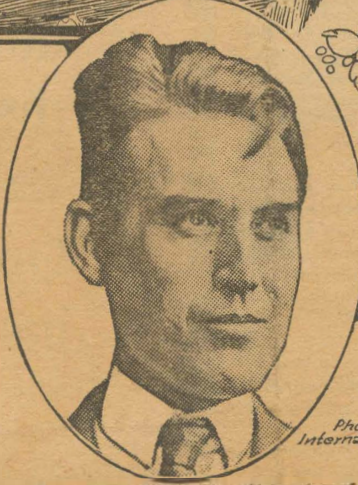
Did Adam of Bremen write a book in 1075, telling about Vinland, "the new land to the west"?

Was Eric Upsi in 1112 appointed by the Vatican bishop of Iceland, Greenland and Vinland?

Did King Christian of Norway and Denmark send an expedition to the mouth of the St. Lawrence in 1472 under Admiral Didrik Pining?

Did Christopher Columbus visit Iceland in 1477, there learn of the existence of the land to the west and rediscover that land in 1492?

Did Norsemen cross the American continent from Hudson bay to Puget sound almost 500 years before Columbus landed on San Salvador?



Senator Henrik Shipstead



Former Senator Magnus Johnson

Photos International

Very likely. Certainly a great many Norse-Americans believe that the answer to the foregoing historical questions is "Yes."

These Norse-Americans, however, for the purposes of the Norse-American centennial to be held June 6 to 9 in the Twin Cities, reckon the Norse

immigration to the United States to have begun with the arrival of the Norwegian sloop Restaurationen in New York harbor October 11, 1825.

Minnesota thinks well of her citizens of Norse blood, as may be seen by a concurrent resolution adopted by its legislature, which is in part:



Whereas the year 1925 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the real beginning of Norse immigration to this country and of the coming of the Norwegian sloop Restaurationen, which brought the first large group of Norwegian immigrants to our shores; and

Whereas in commemoration of this event a celebration of national and international scope is now being arranged by the Norse-Americans of this country, to be held on the Minnesota State Fair grounds, June 6, 7, 8 and 9, this year; and

Whereas Minnesota has a larger number of people of Norse descent than any other state, and it is recognized that these people braved the hardships of frontier settlements from our territorial days and up through the first decades of our statehood and thus played an important part in transforming this and other northwestern states from a wilderness to one of the best developed and most progressive sections of our great country, and that they and their descendants have ever distinguished themselves as a frugal, industrious and thrifty people; have taken a deep interest in our social, religious and political activities; have been prominent in educational lines, in science, in art and literature, and in every branch of industry, but above all have shown themselves to be public-spirited and most loyal American citizens: Now, therefore, be it resolved, That we hereby extend to the President and the people of the United States; the governor general, the premier and the people of the Dominion of Canada; his majesty the king, the government, the storting and the people of Norway; the primate and the people of Iceland a most cordial invitation to attend and participate in the said celebration.

It appears that Secretary of State Hughes sent out invitations in conformity with this action of the Minnesota legislature. Anyway, the guest list of the celebration carries at its head the names of President Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge, Prince Olaf of Norway, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and Mrs. Kellogg, Lord Byng, governor general of Canada, and Lady Byng; MacKenzie King, premier of Canada; H. H. Bryson, Norwegian minister to the United States; Lauritz S. Swenson, American minister to Norway; Bishop Johan Lunde of Oslo, Kristine Bonnevie, Norway's greatest woman scientist, and delegations from the Norwegian storting and from both houses of the American congress.

President Coolidge has tentatively accepted the invitation and his address has been scheduled as the feature of "America Day," June 8. That day a living Norwegian flag, formed by 500 children of St. Paul, will at a signal transform itself into the Stars and Stripes of America.

The centenary will open on Saturday, June 6, with conventions of the thirty-two Norwegian clans or "Bygdelags." There will be a reception at the state capitol in St. Paul, with six Norse-American governors and their wives in the receiving line. Religious services on June 7 will take on the aspects of a great musical festival, when Norwegian choruses from Canada, Norway and the many Norwegian colleges and singing societies of the United States will combine in the singing of hymns.

Representative O. J. Kvale of the Seventh Minnesota district delivered the invitation to congress in an address in the last session. He's the man who defeated A. J. Volstead for the Sixty-eighth congress. He's an "Independent," a minister and an A. M. of the University of Chicago. He was born in Iowa, as were his father and grandfather. He is a member of the board of education of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Here are some of the things he said about the celebration:

The hundredth anniversary of the real beginning of Norse immigration to the United States will this year be observed in many places; it will be celebrated in every community in the United States where the incoming Norwegians have settled and established themselves and where their descendants are now to be found in numbers, notably in Chicago and New York city. The largest and the principal one, however, is the celebration which will be held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds, officially known as the Norse-American centennial. Informed and impartial observers declare it will be the greatest celebration in the history of the Northwest.

Representatives chosen from each Norwegian organization—ethnic, religious, fraternal, social, civic—organized the corporation which has arranged for the event. It has gained in popularity and appeal away and beyond the original plans of

its promoters and sponsors. Five neighboring states have also, through their executive departments, urged support and co-operation on the part of their citizens. Civic bodies stand solidly behind the event; church denominations are indorsing it; Norwegian organizations in foreign countries will participate and will send delegates and representatives to the centennial.

Notables in large numbers will address the assembled gatherings; prominent men will stress the important achievements of the Norse-Americans in all activities; exhibits and pageants will graphically describe them; musical organizations will at the same time exhibit and entertain.

I am well aware that to some of you gentlemen the prefix "Norse," or any prefix, may seem to indicate something not purely and truly American. If the prefix in this case implied anything even faintly suggesting such a possibility, I would be the first to repudiate it in the most emphatic and unqualified terms. And I know that in making this statement I do so with the unanimous approval of all the people here concerned. Americans who trace their ancestry to the Vikings of old are proud of their lineage, but doubly proud of their American citizenship; and they claim as pure and as unadulterated an American patriotism as that possessed by any other group of citizens of this country, it matters not what European land is designated by them as the mother country. Without apologizing, we are this year celebrating the Norse-American centennial, and we do so in grateful remembrance of our forefathers and in recognition of what these immigrants have done for us and for our country.

The Restaurationen brought 53 Norwegian immigrants. This was the first shipload of Norse people to emigrate to the new land of the free across the Atlantic. The project was arranged by Kleng Peerson—sometimes known as Cleng Pearson—that romantic frontier figure, the Daniel Boone of the Norwegians. He had been in the United States and had covered the primeval West in his wanderings; he returned to Norway with his wonderful tales of the possibilities and the opportunities that awaited his fellow countrymen in America, organized the expedition, and assisted in the purchase of the little sailing vessel. The sloop sailed from Stavanger harbor, Norway, July 4, 1825, and reached New York after a long and stormy passage.

This single event marks the beginning of the steady and swelling stream of immigration from Norway. Norway has sent to America a larger proportion of her population than any other country with the exception of Ireland; her sons and daughters here total in excess of 2,500,000. That is equal to the actual population of Norway, which, according to the last census, was 2,649,775.

It was Kleng Peerson who arranged for the reception of the Restaurationen's passengers by providing for them the settlement at Kendall, N. Y., the colony which he founded. His work in establishing colonies in the Northwest and the Southwest was interrupted by three return voyages to Norway. He died at the ripe age of eighty-three years, in Bosque county, Texas, in 1865; and he lies today in Norse, the heart of the last settlement founded by him. The story of his life and his work is a true epic.

Others were ready to carry on the work he had

begun. In the first years nearly all incoming groups came first to the Kendall settlement and then pushed onward. Of these one group established themselves in the Fox River settlement in Illinois, founded in 1834 by Peerson. This was the first permanent Norse settlement in the Middle West. Another group settled in 1838 on Jefferson

prairie, near Beloit. From this time on, in ever-increasing numbers, these early Norwegian settlers crossed the sea, tramped out through the strange country and founded their settlements, on Rock prairie and Koshkong in Wisconsin, in Winneshiek county in Iowa, and later in southern Minnesota and the two Dakotas.

Kleng Peerson and his sturdy countrymen will live again at the centennial celebration. Col. Hans C. Heg, commander of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment of Volunteers, a Civil war regiment made up almost entirely of Norwegians, will once more carry into battle the flag that bore on one side the Red, White and Blue of America and on the other the Red, White and Blue of Norway. For on "Norse American Day," the closing day of the gathering, the beloved heroes and heroines of Norwegian pioneer days will take part in a great historical pageant in which the Norwegian love of the dramatic and the picturesque will embellish the story of frontier days.

Dr. Knut Gjerset of Luther college heads the

exhibits committee and has planned to divide the exhibit into twenty-two departments as follows:

Pioneer life, church, schools, farming, press literature, men in public service, art, charity and mutual aid, women's department, societies and organizations, music, engineering and architecture trade and commerce. Norwegian ski sport in America, men in the medical profession, labor, sons of Norway, daughters of Norway, industries, builders and benefactors and Norse-Canadian exhibits.

In recognition of the nation-wide observance of the centenary, the federal government has authorized the issue of special stamps, to be printed in two colors, a 2-cent stamp bearing the picture of the sloop Restaurationen and a 5-cent stamp decorated with a Viking ship. A Norse-American centennial medal, the first commemorative medal to be issued in the history of the mint, has also been authorized by the government.

The Norse-Americans, because their large property holdings and common interests gave them the incentive for group action, have elected public officials of their choice in national as well as in state and local offices. Of the large number of public servants—state legislators, judges, governors, representatives, and senators—without question the best known is the late Knute Nelson of Minnesota, that rugged, sincere, determined, faithful figure whom everyone grew to love and admire in his many years of honest service in the house and in the senate. He was born in Norway. Henrik Shipstead, the Farmer-Labor senator from Minnesota is a "native son," having been born in 1881 in Kandiyohi county. He was elected in 1922, receiving 325,372 votes against 241,833 for Frank B. Kellogg, Republican, now secretary of state. Magnus Johnson, the Farmer-Labor senator from Minnesota, who was so often in the limelight during his short term of office, was born in Varmland, Sweden. He was elected in 1923 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Knute Nelson, defeating Gov. J. A. O. Preus. Theodore Christianson succeeds Preus as governor.

"I am not willing to concede even the suggestion of a superior brand of Americanism to him who may trace his ancestry to the Europeans who first drove the Indians back from the Atlantic seaboard," said Representative Kvale. "At best, it is merely a question of a few generations. And true Americanism is no more a matter of years and centuries, nor of language and customs, than is true Christianity a matter of latitude and longitude.

Both are a state of the heart and of the inmost soul. I claim, without the slightest fear of successful contradiction, that of all the peoples that have contributed their quota to the making of this nation, no more law-abiding men and women have set foot on American soil than those who during the past century embarked for these shores from the coast of the northwest peninsula of Europe."



# Why Not Will The Immigrants Immigrate the States

Two and One-Half Millions of This  
Sturdy Race of Nordics, With  
Leiv Eiriksson Leading the  
Way to America in the Year  
1000, Have Helped to  
Make This Nation the  
Greatest on Earth.

By FREDERICK BOYD STEVENSON

*The Norwegians in the United States are about to celebrate the One Hundredth Anniversary of their first collective immigration to this country.*

*The Norwegians are among the Foremost in the ranks of the Nordic Race.*

*It was the Nordics that made the United States possible. They were the first to break the ground here and declare their Independence.*

*It was the continued immigration of Nordics that strengthened the Hearts and the Hands of the Nordics already here.*

*Other races came when the land was plowed in the country and the streets were paved in the cities.*

*America is America Today Because of the Nordics.  
Let us Join in the Norwegian Celebration.  
Honors are Even!*

TYPICALLY Nordic is the Rt. Rev. Johann Lunde, Lutheran Bishop of Oslo and primate of the Established Church of Norway, who is in this country to represent his Government at the one hundredth anniversary of the coming of the first Norwegians to the United States, to be celebrated in St. Paul and Minneapolis, June 6 to 9 next.

I met Bishop Lunde at the Deaconesses' Home of the Norwegian Hospital in Brooklyn, where he was a guest, and from him obtained his views on the Church in Norway and this country and the problems connected with the outside influences which are seeking to undermine Christianity. The Bishop was confident that while these underground influences were at work in various



nations. Christianity was gaining and would prevail.

"In Norway," said he, "98 percent of the people belong to the Lutheran Church, and hence you can understand that it is very difficult to break through such a barrier—but the effort is being made and that effort is persistent and determined."

Bishop Lunde belongs to a religious organization that rests upon a firm foundation. It has a history dating back 400 years and is represented by 80,000,000 Lutherans. But while the predominating percentage of Norwegians in Norway are members of the Church, the Bishop is in a center of Bolshevik intruders from Russia, who are doing their utmost to undermine his congregation.

### **Bringing Norway and America Into Closer Sympathy With Each Other.**

During our talk the Rev. Carl O. Pedersen, Rector of the Norwegian Home and Hospital, told me that Bishop Lunde was a sturdy fighter for the Church and that it was due entirely to his righteousness and vigorous methods of preaching that the Red element was kept down. In Norway, as in other parts of the world, the efforts of the Soviets to spread Atheism and the Materialistic doctrine are persistent.

Bishop Lunde is greatly interested in the controversy between the Fundamentalists and the Modernists in this country and also in the fight in Tennessee between the State and the Scientists to keep the teaching of Evolution out of the public schools. He has followed the recent speeches of William Jennings Bryan denouncing the Evolutionists and adhering strictly to the Biblical account of Creation without any qualification or amendments.

"I believe," said the Bishop, "there is a broad, intelligent road on which Christianity and Science can travel. Radicalism may go too far both ways. There is, to my mind, no conflict between Religion and Science. I believe absolutely in the Bible and I believe in Nature. The Laws of Nature are the Laws of God. The Bible is written in a comprehensive and far-reaching sense. When man loses faith in the Bible he loses faith in all that he has on this Earth. Science, on the other hand, is Nature—and Nature is God. The words of the Bible are expressed like the beautiful lines of a poem—blending all thought toward the wonders of the Godhead.

"God has put us in this World and he expects us to make the most of it. Every wonder that we work out through study and Science illustrates and proves the wonder of God. There is no reason for conflict between Religion and Science."

Bishop Lunde says the celebration in Minnesota will do much to

### **Statue of LEIV EIRIKSSON in Humboldt Park, Chicago**



bring Norway and the other Scandinavian countries and America in closer relations and sympathy than they ever have been in before.

There are two and a half millions of Norwegians in the United States today, including the descendants of the earlier immigrants and the more recent ones. The first scattering Scandinavian immigrants of which any note was taken came here in 1820 and they came with immigrants of other countries in different ships and numbered only twenty-three all together.

But the coming celebration will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the first stated immigration from Norway to the United States. That took place in 1825 when Kleng Peerson and fifty-two Norwegians landed in the port of New York on the sloop Restoration. The ship sailed from Stavanger, Norway, on July 4, 1825, and arrived here in October of that year.

### **The Norsemen Were Explorers and Leaders In the Holy Crusade.**

These immigrants from Norway were of that purest strain of Nordic blood that has made the United States what it is today.

There are two races only that have

left permanent impressions of their laws, their civil polity, their social arrangement, their high spirit and their positive character on the civilized communities of this World today. Those two races were the Romans and those Northern people from the countries beyond the Elbe which had never submitted to the Roman yoke, but who, issuing forth from their countries from the Fifth to the Tenth Century, under the names of Danes, Saxons, Norsemen, Goths, Visigoths and Franks, conquered and settled on every European coast from the White Sea to Sicily. And they carried their laws, their institutions and their religions with them—and those laws and institutions and religions are felt and followed in those countries today.

Talk about the Nordics!

They dominate the Laws and the Religion and the Civilization of the Modern World!

Who were the Norsemen?

They were the descendants of a branch of the Teutonic race that at a very early period emigrated from Asia and then traveled westward and northward, and finally settled in the western part of what is now Norway.

They spoke Old Norse, which language has come down for more than a thousand years with practically no changes or corruptions, which can be said of no other language. This language is still preserved and spoken in Iceland, and is the basis of the modern Norwegian, Danish and Swedish languages.

The ancient Norsemen were absolutely free and independent. They elected their rulers in an open assembly of the people and all of their laws and public matters were decided in these public assemblies. They were daring adventurers and explorers, competent sailors and fighters, and, as the Vikings, they became known to every part of the then Civilized World. They visited the shores of Europe, conquering the people and planting colonies. They subdued a large part of England and held one-third of it for many generations; they took Normandy, the finest province of France, from the French, conquered a large portion of Belgium, invaded Spain, became the masters of Sicily and lower Italy as early as the Eleventh Century.

These bold fighters and explorers laid the foundations of the Russian Empire, serving as leaders of the Greek Emperor's bodyguard, fighting with their two-edged battle axes in the streets of Constantinople and saving his tottering throne.

Their mystic runes were carved by them upon the marble lion in the harbor of Athens, commemorating their conquest of that city. They sailed up the Rhine, the Schelde, the Seine and the Loire, conquering Cologne and Aachen, where the Emperor's palace was used by them as a stable for their war horses. Even

the Great Charlemagne looked upon their advance with dismay.

The English rulers are descendants of the Norsemen, and, despite the fact that English writers and teachers insist that it was the Anglo-Saxon branch of this great Teutonic race of people that formed the backbone of England, it was the influence of those Norse conquerors that gave to England her place in world history.

And remember this—

During the Crusades the Norsemen led the van of the Chivalry of Europe in rescuing the Holy Sepulchre!

They ruled over Antioch under Guiscard's son, Bohemund!

They marched onward to war between the Pillars of Hercules!

They desolated the Fields of Greece!

They broke through the Walls of Constantinople!

Had it not been for the Nordics we would have had no Christian Religion today.

Paganism would have predominated.

And what have those Northern countries done for America?

In 1860 they sent a trifle over 1 percent of the total immigration to this country, but in 1870 they sent 5 percent and in 1880 more than 6 percent. These immigrants settled almost exclusively in the Northwest and largely in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas, where they have made up that sturdy and industrious population of farmers and producers which is keeping America on her legs and making it possible for the overcrowded cities of the East to exist.

In 1880 when we were getting that splendid percentage of immigration from the Scandinavian countries, the invasions from Austria-Hungary, Bohemia, Italy and Poland, all told, made up only 4 percent of the total immigration, and gave no evidence that twenty years later they would constitute nearly 25 percent of the immigrants to this country.

But in the decade ending in 1880 Scandinavians and Germans predominated among the immigrant agricul-

turists. Dakota led all States in the increase of foreign-born over native-born citizens and was followed by Oregon and Colorado. But these foreign-born people did not remain foreigners long. They became American citizens in quick order. They learned the ways and the manners and the language of the country and they became citizens. There was no "East Side" where one could travel for blocks without hearing one word of English.



a fellow of fine intellect. Instead, he is simple-minded. If, indeed, his mind has not deserted him altogether. He lives in conference with a girl he himself has created. She was the heroine of one of his first plays, never produced. And he loves her, converses with her, allows his days to be made bright by her ghostly presence. And when her companionship is taken away from him as a result of the fact that his play has been found in a theatrical manager's morgue, produced and bereft of its original significances, this old savant

"Cherry Pie" and were impressed by Miss Starbuck's ability. Philip Loeb of the Theater Guild was among the directors present, and immediately engaged her for a part in the new Guild revue.

Miss Starbuck's future on the musical comedy stage bids fair to be as meteor-like as Helen Gahagan's on the legitimate stage. Miss Gahagan, who is also a Brooklyn girl, a graduate of Berkeley, studied with Miss Grimbald and was given a leading role in the Inter-Theatre Arts production of Harry Gribble's "Shoot." William A. Brady saw Miss Gahagan in this part and placed her under contract.



The Rt. Rev. JOHANN LUNDE  
Lutheran Bishop of Oslo and Primate of the Established Church of Norway, Who Will Represent That  
Country at the Celebration in St. Paul and Minneapolis



And all the time these Northern races were adding to the prosperity of the country. In this early period breadstuffs to the value of \$200,000,000 were exported from the United States from a harvest three times the amount needed for home consumption. Illinois and Iowa raised 346,000,000 bushels of Indian corn and Kansas produced 103,990,000 bushels of corn and 15,000,000 bushels of wheat. Between 1870 and 1880 the number of farms in Kansas and Dakota had increased ten times, and five times in Nebraska, while they doubled and trebled in trans-Missouri States and Territories.

Then the character of immigration began to shift.

Between 1880 and 1890 9,000,000 aliens landed in the United States, but one-third of them came from Austria-Hungary, Russia and Italy. Norway and Sweden increased their quota while Germany sent about the usual numbers. But from that time the Northern races diminished in immigration and the other races rapidly increased.

The Italians, the Slavs and the Poles did not go to the farming sections. They remained in New York City or went to other large cities like Chicago, Buffalo, St. Louis and Milwaukee.

Our cities are growing larger. Our farms are being deserted.

Hence the call of President Coolidge to man the farms.

Hence the restrictive immigration laws.

So, you see, the Nordics helped us to make a very good America.

And that is why all good Americans will help to make the one hundredth anniversary of the coming of the Norwegians to this country a success.

And one of the features of this celebration was held in New York. In memory of the Centennial to be celebrated in Minnesota and in honor of Bishop Lunde's visit to this city the Board of Aldermen has named the district between Sixty-sixth and Sixty-seventh streets from Fourth avenue to Fort Hamilton Parkway in Brooklyn "Leiv Eiriksson Square." Mayor Hylan dedicated this Square to the First Discoverer of America in the presence of Bishop Lunde as the representative of Norway.

In time there will be erected in that Square a statue of Leiv Eiriksson similar to the statue erected to him in Chicago.

### Leiv Eiriksson Discoverer Of America Nearly 500 Years Before Columbus.

These statues of Leiv Eiriksson will bring visibly to our attention the long neglected fact that this sturdy Norseman, son of Eirik the Red, discovered America in the year 1000 A.D.—492 years before Columbus landed on this side of the Atlantic.

The account of this voyage of Leiv is recorded in a skin document known as the "Codex Flateyensis," which gives a record of the reign of King Olaf Trygvesson, and it was incorporated in the "Heimskringla" (Home Circle) of Snorre Sturlason, who was born in 1178. It was written in the Icelandic, translated by Samuel Lang and revised by Rasmus B. Anderson, former United States Minister to Denmark.

The "Flateyar Annal" or "Codex Flateyensis" is by far the most important of Icelandic manuscripts. It takes its name from the Island of Flatey, in Breidafjord, Iceland, where it had been long preserved and where Bishop Bryjolf Sveinsson of Skalholt purchased it in 1650 from the owner, Jonas Torfason, for King Frederic III. The annals end with the year 1395, and the time at which the writings were concluded is definitely ascertained.

In this manuscript is given an account of the discovery of America by Leiv Eiriksson. It is stated that he and his thirty-five men sailed to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and then sailed to New England, which they called Vinland on account of the wild grapes which they found there.

That Vinland was known at the Vatican is proved by the fact that Pope Paschal II appointed Eirik Upsi Bishop of Iceland, Greenland and Vinland in the year 1112, and Upsi went to Vinland in 1121.

Adam of Bremen, a canon and historian of high authority, who died in 1076, published a book in which he mentioned the discovery of Vinland and states—"This we know, not by fabulous conjecture, but from positive statements of the Danes."

His book was published in 1492 and was read by intelligent men throughout Europe. There is every reason to believe that Columbus, who was an educated man and interested in geographical studies, read that book. In the biography of Columbus, it is said, he stated that he based his belief on the existence of land to the West upon the authority of learned writers.

From the best of authority we learn that Columbus visited Iceland in 1477 and while there it is most probable that he heard of or saw the written accounts of Leiv's discovery of Vinland.

All this, however, does not belittle the achievement of Columbus. It adds, moreover, to his intelligence, his acumen and his bravery.

But do not overlook the proved fact that the Norsemen discovered America first and that the Norsemen made America possible for Americans after Columbus discovered it second-hand.

And also remember that the Norsemen have been in the front ranks as the Defenders of Christianity and that they are there today.

So, let us do honor to that Christian and Brave Norseman—

BISHOP JOHANN LUNDE—  
AND LET US JOIN—  
IN NORWAY'S CELEBRATION.

P. 84

Lake Mills, Va., Graphic  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1902

## NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

In a statement just made especially for publication in the church papers and Norse-American press, Dr. H. G. Stub, president of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, among other things says:

"It is the Norse-American people in its entirety which will celebrate the Centennial, and all of our people should participate. It should be a matter of pride for everyone of Norse ancestry to exert himself to make this celebration a really great affair, in every way worthy of the Norse-Americans and their influence on American development, and likewise worthy of the land and people from which they came. It is conceded that a great deal of money is necessary to defray the expenses connected with such a celebration. It is hoped that this large expenditure will be cared for through the sale of admission tickets. All the men's clubs, ladies' aid societies, young peoples' associations and organizations within the church should do everything in their power to assist in the sale of tickets within their respective organizations and congregations. It is also of importance to the committee in charge that the tickets be disposed of as soon as possible and the money remitted to the Centennial offices.

"Neither should we forget that the coming celebration is of such nature that not only men and women of Norse blood may attend and receive pleasure and inspiration from the

celebration, but also those of other nationalities. Therefore, one should not hesitate to ask people of other nationalities to support the undertaking by buying tickets and also urge them to attend. It is because I feel a keen desire to be of greatest possible assistance in making the Centennial celebration a big success that I appeal to the members of our church body to participate to the fullest extent possible in his wonderful festival. In conclusion permit me to say that whether one can attend or not, he should show his interest in the vitally important undertaking by buying tickets."



### KITCHEN PHILOSOPHY

A world outlook from the kitchen window. Comments on life and living from the viewpoint of a housewife.

—By Susie W. Stageberg—

But there are lofty spirits in disguise,  
Heroes in common garb, whose meek brows bear  
The thorny crown of perfect sacrifice,  
Those simple souls are kingly unaware;  
They tread with us the dusty path of time,  
Or lie in uncommemorative soil,  
Unrecognized, unhonored, yet sublime,  
Their greatness witnessed only by their God."

—Charles Lotin Hildredth.

In these beautiful words, dear Charles Hildredth pay tribute to the quiet heroism of the rank and file of all ages. Exquisite as the words are I think we will agree that they do not exaggerate the simple devoted nobility of scores of friends and folks of life even in our own day.

It is tremendously inspiring to worship at the shrine of lofty heroism. We are much the better and greater for it. But as we pay tribute to the sublime greatness of royal makers of history we must not forget to emulate the poet who said: "All heroes are not counted yet—there's more to come."

\* \* \*

There is no doubt that there are heroes and heroines in all ages. All that is needed is an opportunity for outstanding service and the hero of every age appears as if by magic.

At this moment we are about to commemorate the heroism of an excellent Norwegian pioneer named Cleng Peerson and his doughty band of fifty-two followers, all from the vicinity of Stavanger, Norway. This little band, inspired by the tales of a new world of wealth and opportunity beyond the great sea, set sail in a little boat called "Restaurationen" on July 4, 1925 and landed in New York on October 9, after 14 weeks of perilous sailing on the great sea.

\* \* \*

The advent of this little craft bearing its cargo of hardy Norsemen created universal enthusiasm and admiration in New York City and a movement was soon started whereby

funds were subscribed for the future comfort of the sturdy immigrants.

The story of their early struggles as pioneers in western New York and later in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and other States is long and fascinating but what interests us most as Americans is the contribution of physical health, moral and physical courage, thrift, frugality, resourcefulness, idealism and spirituality that the sons and daughters of the north have brought to our beautiful land.

\* \* \*

Because of this great contribution there is more than ordinary interest thruout the length and breadth of this country in the coming Centennial celebration in 1926. Even the nation's chief recognizes that the people from the mountains and valleys of the Northland are a race worthy of honor and will cheerfully grace the occasion with his presence.

\* \* \*

The program as published is a remarkable study in the achievement of the sons and daughters of the north. In it is embodied the exquisite art and culture of a God-fearing and patriotic people. The treat of a life time await those fortunate enough to be able to attend.



# Norse Mayflower Reached America 100 Years Ago

By RASHUS B. ANDERSON.

(From American Scandinavian Review.)

On the fourth of July, 1825, began the Norwegian emigration to this country. The first emigrants left Stavanger, a quaint old town on the west coast of Norway, on our National day of independence, in a small sloop named Restaurationen. The officers and passengers numbered, counting men, women and children, 52 souls, and when they reached New York on the ninth day of October they were 53, a little girl having been born on the second of September in mid-Atlantic. The centennial of the departure from Norway of this Norwegian Mayflower is soon to be celebrated, and the event has been fittingly recognized by our Government. The Post-office department is issuing a memorial stamp, and Congress has authorized a silver medal in commemoration of the event.

In connection with this centennial, it is eminently proper to review the history of the movement that began 100 years ago.

The father and promoter of Norwegian emigration in 1825 was Cleng Peerson, who was born in Norway on May 17, 1782, and died in Texas on December 16, 1865. The leader of the Restaurationen party of emigrants as Lars Larson i Jeilane. He was born in Stavanger, Norway, September 24, 1787. He became a ship carpenter and served on board a Norwegian merchant ship. Captured during the Napoleonic wars, held a prisoner in England, he became a Quaker.

## Story of William Penn Repeated in Norway

In all lands and climes, the beginning of emigration can often be traced to religious intolerance and persecution. Did not France lose half a million of her most desirable citizens on account of the persecution of the Huguenots? Did not the Huguenots flee to Switzerland, Holland, England, and to America? Wherever they settled they brought with them art and manufacture and the refinement of civilization, and so they enriched their adopted countries. And what of the Pilgrim Fathers who landed in Plymouth in 1620 and founded the first settlement in New England? Were they not men of strong minds, good judgment, and sterling character, and did they not rigidly conform their lives to their principles? Persecution led them to emigrate, and in New England they embodied their principles in a framework of government, on which a most stable foundation of our Great American Republic has been built up. History repeats itself in Nor-

way in the early years of the nineteenth century and the sloop Restaurationen left Norway in 1825 because Quakers were not permitted to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. The story of William Penn is repeated in Norway.

Of course, there were economic reasons, also, and the emigrants hoped to better their material, as well as their religious, conditions.

It should also be remembered that there was a widespread feeling of suspicion and distrust among the common folk of Norway against the office-holding class. There were many unprincipled officials who exacted exorbitant, and even unlawful, fees for their services, and with such officials ordinary politeness to the common man was out of the question. Thus, poverty, oppression on the part of the officials, and religious persecution co-operated in turning the minds of the people in Stavanger city and county toward the land of freedom and abundance in the Far West.

While I am compelled to present these gloomy pictures of conditions in Norway in the early part of the last century, I am happy to be able to state that things have changed radically since then. A broad religious tolerance now exists there and has accelerated the tendency which, since 1840, has been steadily toward more freedom and toward more opportunities for all classes of citizens.

## Only Two Seamen Aboard the Vessel

Four weeks had passed since they left Stavanger, and for ten more weary weeks the sloop had to contend with the angry waves of the rough Atlantic. It may be added here that only the captain and mate were seamen in the strict sense of the word, but Lars Larson was by trade a ship carpenter, and most of the adult men on board, having been reared on the coast of Norway as fishermen, were naturally familiar with the sea.

In New York quite a sensation was awakened by the fact that these Norwegians had ventured across the ocean in so small a craft. Such a thing had not been heard of before. Here they also got into trouble with the authorities, on account of having a larger cargo and a larger number of passengers than the American laws permitted a ship the size of the sloop to carry, and in consequence of this violation of Uncle Sam's laws Capt. Lars Olson Helland was arrested and the ship with its cargo was seized by the custom-house authorities of New York.

Cleng Peerson was in New York when the sloop arrived there. He had again gone by the way of Gothenburg, Sweden, and was in New York ready to receive his friends and to give them such assistance as he was able. He had found Quakers in New York, who were prepared to give our Norwegian Pilgrims a welcome and such help as they most needed. I suppose the authorities in New York, partly in consideration of the ignorant and childish conduct of the sloop immigrants and partly influenced by the powerful intercession of Quaker Friends, decided to be merciful. The fact is, at all events, that the captain was released from captivity, and the sloop and its cargo were restored to their owners.

I have it from the lips of passengers who came in the sloop that the Quakers in New York took a deep interest in these Norwegian newcomers, who were well-nigh destitute of food, clothing and money. These

Friends gave many of them shelter under their own roofs and supplied them with money to relieve their most pressing needs. The Quakers showed themselves in this case, as everywhere in history, to be friends indeed. Mrs. Atwater, the lady who was born on the sloop, has told me, on the authority of her parents, how kind the Quakers in New York were to all the sloop people. Enough money was raised by the Quakers to pay the expenses of the immigrants, \$6.00 for each, from New York city to the town of Kendall in Orleans county, New York, where farms were obtained by them. Here then was formed the first Norwegian settlement in America.



