

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



*From the NAHA Office to the Association Members*

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EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

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## THE 2001 HAUGEN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

The 2001 Haugen Scholarship Committee comprised of Dr. Todd W. Nichol, Dr. Jon Gjerde and Dr. Solveig Zempel is pleased to announce that Kristen Risley, doctoral candidate at the Ohio State University, was selected to receive the 2001 Haugen Scholarship. The Haugen Scholarship, awarded each April, was established to honor Dr. Einar and Eva Lund Haugen. This scholarship is significant in that it allows NAHA to offer some assistance and encouragement to scholars in Scandinavian Studies or Scandinavian-American fields. We need to encourage the next generation to pursue research in this field we find so vital and captivating.

Kristen is pursuing her Ph.D. in the Ohio State University English Department where her dissertation is tentatively entitled, "The Western Home: Place, Culture and Ethnicity in Norwegian-American Literature, 1870-1940." Kristen's undergraduate degree, in English, is from the University of Wisconsin, Madison where she also had a minor in Scandinavian Studies. Kristen will be doing research in Norway this summer as well as planning a trip to the NAHA archives. We look forward to receiving a copy of Kristen's dissertation, and welcome another scholar to this field of study.

## WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER - NEXT BOOK!

We are pleased to report that 2001 marks a year where you will receive 2 publications from NAHA. In addition to *Colonel Heg and His Boys* you will be sent the *America-America Letters* book later this fall. The term "America-America letters" calls attention to the multitude of private letters immigrants sent to each other and to communications by readers printed in Norwegian-American newspapers. The letter writers not only address progress, but they also express a great number of

concerns and indicate the many difficulties the immigrants confronted as they adjusted to American society. The vast majority of personal letters did not see print, and were intended exclusively for the eyes of the recipient and thus communicate a greater deal of confidentiality and candor than those intended for a particular newspaper's readership.

The NAHA book contains the family correspondence of the Aaker family - selected mainly from the Association's holdings. The Aaker family emigrated from Upper Telemark in 1845. These letters cover a dramatic period of American history between 1847 and 1894. The book is currently at the printers and should be in your mailbox around Thanksgiving. The *America-America Letters* book will sell for \$24.95. NAHA members may purchase extra copies at the discounted price of \$18.71 plus postage and sales tax for Minnesota residents.

## DR. ODD S. LOVOLL FUND

We are so grateful to each of you who took the time to write a note of appreciation to Dr. Lovoll and to the many of you who contributed to the Lovoll Fund gift to NAHA. Thanks to your combined generosity \$3,975 was contributed to NAHA in the name of Dr. Odd S. Lovoll. Dr. Lovoll will be teaching this fall at the University of Oslo, and then returning to Minnesota to continue his research and writing.

## UPDATES TO NAHA WEBSITE

Those of you with Internet access should check out [www.naha.stolaf.edu](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu). Volumes 1-29 of *Studies* are now available. The additional volumes of NAHA *Studies* have been added for research purposes and for those wanting to round out their knowledge of Norwegian-American immigration and related issues. We also have a few links to other sites we think our members might find of interest.

## HELPING OTHERS WITH THEIR HERITAGE

Have you benefited from the assistance of NAHA archivist, Forrest Brown? Do you live in the Rochester, Northfield, or Minneapolis areas? Are you interested in genealogy? Have you been thinking you'd like to help others searching for their ancestors?

If you have the time and have done your own family history, NAHA would like to establish a "pilot program" for docents training. We believe there are talented people interested in taking a 6-8 hour class from Forrest Brown and learning more about the resources available at NAHA. The training will permit NAHA to establish a list of volunteers available to help people starting their family history search. Most important is finding the person willing to be the "team captain" of the volunteers! If you are interested in taking the training class and volunteering at NAHA contact us! Please email [naha@stolaf.edu](mailto:naha@stolaf.edu), or call 507-646-3221 and leave a message for Donna Glood, including your address and phone number.

The pilot program will be small as we fine-tune the training. If all goes as expected, the program could expand to include an occasional weekend and/or evening hours to assist those exploring their family histories.

## NAHA PUBLICATIONS

Keep in mind NAHA will always "make a home" for its earlier publications. NAHA maintains a waiting list of people who are eager to purchase NAHA's out-of-print publications. If you are at the point of downsizing your personal library keep us in mind for your NAHA books. (For us it is like assisting in a good adoption!) We can be the link to those members who are anxiously waiting to own these books. Space limitations allow this offer to extend only to those books NAHA has published.

## NAHA DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

It is time to be thinking about our upcoming Triennial meeting. We are making arrangements for the Triennial meeting to be held on the campus of St. Olaf College. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20, 2002. The planning is still taking place, and future newsletters will keep contain details. We invite you to visit the archives, the campus and your fellow NAHA members.

## ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Borgny Ager - letters from her grandmother to her uncle. Letters were written in Norwegian and translated into English.

Received from Tom Fjelde, Orpha Erdahl and Ruth Hembre, *Doorways - from Nordic Fjords...to Iowa Prairies*, soft cover, 270 pages. A family history of the Mannsaker (also Mandsager) and Laate families. A family member in Norway contributed the background information on the Odda community where the family originated before settling in the United States. Although the farm was full of rocks and boulders, cutting timber and providing transportation to tourists added income to the meager farm earnings. Information from bygde-books, family trees, photos of past and present family members and reminiscences are included.

Received from Jerome Reinan, a family tree for the descendents of Lorents Andreas Hagensen Stokmo. 13 pages, loose leaf.

Received from Jerome Reinan, a family tree for the descendents of Lars Iversen Ronningen. 4 pages, loose leaf.

Received from Earl Richard Ensrud, *The Amjo Saga*. Vol. 1, 255 pages, hard cover. Vol. 2, 99 pages, hard cover. Colonel Joseph Ensrud published this family history in 1958. The Ensrud family home was Wells, Minnesota. The family history encompasses the life of Joseph Ensrud and Amy Foss Ensrud. The couple jointly compiled their life stories shortly before Amy's death. Decorah, Iowa and Mabel, Minnesota were the two places Amy called home until marrying Joseph. Their life as Norwegian Americans in the early part of the century is complete with photos and a detailed family tree.

Received from E.T. and Marj Fjelde, *The Church at Four Corners* by Everett and Marlene Haibeck Vorthmann, 199 pages, soft cover. This is the story of Bethel Lutheran Church in Braddock, Kidder County North Dakota. The church was also just a few miles from Burleigh, Emmons, and Logan counties. Norwegian immigrants homesteading on the North Dakota prairie founded Bethel Church. Unusual for the time, women voted in the congregational meetings from the very beginning in 1905. The history of the church is the history of the founders and the surrounding communities. Photos, maps, teachers' reports and family stories show the joys and hardships of life on the prairie and through the Depression years. Over time the congregation grew to include immigrants from Germany, Sweden and Russia, but Bethel Lutheran was the common denominator for the community. The church was moved to Moffit in 1962, and family members of those buried in the cemetery restored the cemetery in 1996.



Received from Charles H. Russell, photos of three paintings Elise Wærenskjold brought with her from Norway to Texas. A Wærenskjold relative living in Texas currently owns the three paintings. A still life was painted by Elise before she left Norway. Another painting, "The Holts Prestegaard," portrays Elise's father's last pastorate near Arendal. The third painting is of Lillesand Harbor. Elise owned a home on the other side of the fjord. Also included was a photo of a painting portraying Otto, Elise Wærenskjold's eldest son.

Received from Charles H. Russell, photos of the "Old Norwegian Cemetery" in east Texas. Johan Reiersen's father, Ole, used his own funds to have the remains of these eighty-one victims of disease moved to a proper cemetery before Ole himself died in 1852.

Received from Bob and Lucy Wahl, *Bygdebok for Modalen Herad: Gards og Ættesoga, Band I*, by Sigmund Lillejord and Eilef Steinsland. 590 pages, hard cover.

Received from Bob and Lucy Wahl, *Nærøy Bygdebok I*, by Kære Leirvik and Sveinung Leirvik. 703 pages, hardbound.

Received from Bob and Lucy Wahl, *Nærøy Bygdebok II*, by Gunnar Lund. 514 pages, hardbound.

Received from Bob and Lucy Wahl, *Wendelboslekta* by Sveinung Leirvik. 661 pages, hardbound.

Received from Solveig Zempel, *Christiania-Slekten Hansson* by Gunnar Christie Wasberg. 149 pages, soft-cover.

Received from Solveig Zempel, *Namn og Stader i Rogaland*, by Inge Særheim. 75 pages, soft-cover.

Received from Christine Rotto Hefte, *Blessed to be a Blessing, First Lutheran Church Fergus Falls, Minnesota, 1872-1997*. Soft cover, 98 pages. The church history is organized much like a newspaper with headlines and well researched "stories." Local historical societies, newspapers, archives of the Seminary were used to provide rich material and photos for this book. Important events in the life of the church and Ladies Aid are documented. The follow-up for each minister that served at First Lutheran adds a fresh dimension to this church history.

Received from Eunice L. Holz, *Some Ancestors and Descendants of Olaf Thorbjorn Bang and Oline Emelie Lohre*. Spiral bound, 324 pages.

Received from Helen Ramsey Steers, *The Neighborhood that Was, Memories and Reflections on a Community in Rural Iowa From 1848-1944*, by Chaplain Elling E. Ramsey. Soft-cover, 173 pages. The center of this family story is the Washington Prairie Lutheran Congregation outside of Decorah, Iowa. The author is now 98 years old and shares his

memories and the stories his mother told him about her parents who were among the first to settle the area in 1848. The author uses some of Elizabeth Koren's words to describe the people and conditions in the little farming settlement.

Received from Lars Erik Larson, *Norwegian Emigration to Canada 1850-1874*. The author is an emerit faculty member at University of Wisconsin-emeritus Whitewater. Soft cover, 72 pages.

Received from Solveig Zempel, *Laache's Book of Family Prayer*. 736 pages, hardcover. Translated into contemporary English. The Norwegian version of this book was compiled by Bishop Nils Jakob Laache, Bishop at Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim from 1884-1892. Peer Strømme published an English translation in 1902.

Received from Dina Tolsby, *Til Væpen for Det Nye Land - Norske Innvandrere I Den Amerikanske Borgerkrig*, by Karl Jakob Skarstein. 368 pages, hardcover.

Received from Sidney A. Rand, the English translation of a novel, *Mor Hansen* written by A.B. Pedersen in Norwegian in the early part of the twentieth century. Translation by Clara Serkland. This will join the original version in the NAHA archives. A.B. Pedersen emigrated from Sigdal to Minnesota where he was one of the first businessmen in Rothsay, Minnesota and one of the founders of the Sigdalslag. Family members believe the events in this novel incorporate activities which either happened to Pedersen or his neighbors while a young man in Norway.

Received from Mildred Drentlaw, *Our Enduring Heritage- the Life of a Norwegian-American Family*. by Roald Lund. 223 pages, soft cover. Roald writes about his parents and their early life in Norway as well as their busy lives in their new home in Seattle, Washington. Gunnar Lund, the father, was the editor and publisher of the *Washington Posten* for many years. In addition to family events, the author reviewed the decades by examining the *Washington Posten* articles of the time. The 1920's provided much about which Norwegians could be proud. This decade also provided transition and change as the language, the Lutheran church and heritage in general was debated all over America. Of special interest was the invitation the government of Norway extended to twelve Norwegian-American journalists in 1927. In addition to Gunnar Lund, A.N. Rygg from Brooklyn's *Nordisk Tidene*, Christian Prestgaard, of the *Decorah Posten*, and John A. Anderson from Chicago's *Skandinaven* all traveled to Norway.

**Gifts given in honor of Odd Lovoll by:**

Derwood Johnson, Joe Shaw, Lila Nelson, Luther Forde, Mary Ann Olsen, Solveig Zempel, Marie & Nils Lang-Ree, O. J. Tomson, A. William Høglund, Birgitte & John Christianson, N. E. Midthun, Harold & Synnove Bakke, Philip Quanbeck, Magne Smedvig, Mel George, Carl & Amy Narvestad, Olaf Millert, Bob Kittelson, Lindsay Lowell, Forrest & Virley Brown, Liv Dahl, Herb Stellner, Dennis Sorheim, Chip Sheffield, Georgia Rosendahl, Michael Ofjord, Bob Nichols, Deborah Miller, Duane Lindberg, Michael Karni, Carl Chrislock, Norwegian Emigrant Museum, Joan Buckley, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, Larry Hauge, Jean Marck, Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Michael Brook, H.A. & Aina Barton, Janet Rasmussen, Stan Hultgren, Marjory Olson, Paul Melbostad, Sidney A. & Lois Rand, Barbara Bulman, Walt Rugland

**Gifts given in honor of Mary Hove:**

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Howard Hong, Katherine Rottsolk, Chip Sheffield, Sidney & Lois Rand, Larry Hauge, Lloyd and Ester Hustvedt, Albert & Marion Finholt, Virginia Gangsei Knecht, Ruth Hanold Crane, Dorothy Bolton, Solveig Zempel, Joe Shaw, L. E. Johnson, Janet Rasmussen, Todd Nichol.

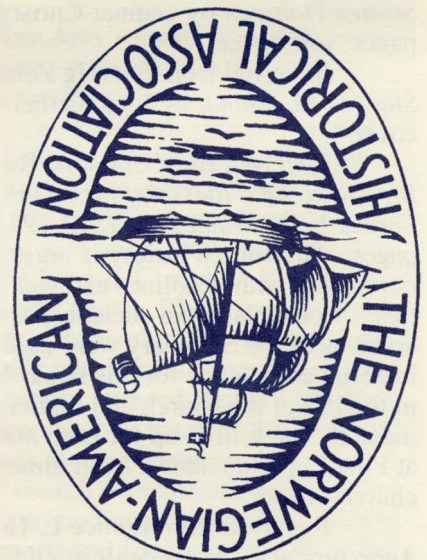
**Gifts to the Rolvaag Fund include:**

Frank A. Tysver, Ole V. Groos, James E. Heg, Melvin Sjerven, Johan Ronningen, Luther Valley Church, Nancy Gossell, Betty Lou Strand, Layne Hauge, Eunice Beck, Genevieve Doherty, Bennie Bungum, Doris Anderson, the Estate of Carlin Dahler, the Elsie Melby Trust, Kathryn Knops, Gordon C. Boardman, in memory of Elizabeth Boardman.

**Fosholt/Hydlle Archives Fund:**

Lloyd and Ester Hustvedt in honor of Loring Knecht.

We thank everyone who has sent a gift or memorial to NAHA.



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Norwegian-American Historical Association

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