

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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FROM THE PRESIDENT

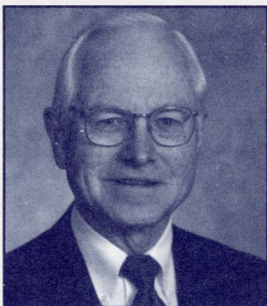
Dear friends,

Exciting things are happening at NAHA. Thank you for the help many of you have given as we modernize our operations and seek to make our treasures known to a broader audience on the internet (see: www.naha.stolaf.edu). Our latest efforts have gleaned new members (please invite others!) and an improved annual fund response, which is critically needed.

We have been given a wonderful challenge for 2003 by Board member O.J. Tomson. He has pledged \$100,000 to be given in four quarterly installments this year -- IF the rest of us match each quarterly segment. A matching grant is a great way to double the power of your gift. Can you help us, either from your own funds or by asking others who can? A contribution can be by cash, securities, pledge, bequest or gift annuity, and you can direct it to Archives, Publications, or Operations. (Hint: Operations, which is the support system for the other two, is most needed urgently.)

We plan to devote increased attention to immigration in the 20th century, especially post-World War II, and will welcome tips regarding materials from this era that should be considered for the archives or for scholarly study. Thank you all for your continuing interest and support. You are vital to the future of NAHA.

Lois Rand, president



TOMSON CHALLENGE ANNOUNCED

As President Rand mentioned in her address, the Board received some wonderful news at its February meeting. O.J. Tomson, a board member from Mason City Iowa, has extended a challenge to the Board and to you our members. **A dollar for dollar match!** Isn't this a grand opportunity to make your gift to the Association double in size and horsepower?

Tomson, a successful businessman, has been a long-time supporter of NAHA. His interest in history was sparked by good professors and when asked why he values NAHA so much he stated, "I believe the history of the great migration of

people from Europe to the North American continent should be preserved. As Americans of Norwegian descent, we are particularly interested in the events that caused this mass movement of our ancestors to America. We are interested in tracing the progress of the immigrants and their progeny and observing their progress and contribution to society in this country. The archives of NAHA are very valuable in preserving this history. The scholarship that is encouraged through the books and articles published by NAHA represents an outstanding and lasting contribution that speaks to all of this."

NAHA needs the support of its members to continue doing its work of collecting material about Norwegian Americans and creating the publications you have come to enjoy. You know us for our substantive, quality information about Norwegian-American history. We preserve the past but NOT the status quo! We need to move NAHA into the future. One of our great hopes is to take advantage of the improving technology so you can access more of the treasures in the archives without needing to drive to Northfield, Minnesota. However, the downturn of the economy has negatively impacted NAHA's investments. These funds are supposed to produce revenue for the Association and make this transition possible, but now we need your help.

Here is your opportunity to make an important difference to an organization that quietly does the work of locating, collecting, preserving and interpreting the large and the ordinary contributions made to American history by people of Norwegian descent. You CAN make a difference.

JUNE NAHA-NORWAY CONFERENCE

The Norwegian chapter of NAHA is hosting a conference at the University of Bergen, June 25-28, 2003. Many interesting papers on diverse subjects will be offered, with presentations in English. You are invited to attend. Please contact Dina Toflsby at dina.toflsby@nb.no for information about registration and accommodations.

NAHA OFFICE HOURS

Limited resources have forced us to reduce the number of hours we are open to the public. As we've mentioned before, the NAHA staff is only 3 part-time people. The NAHA archives are **open by appointment and generally afternoons from 1:30-4:00 p.m.** Please call us before you plan to arrive. Those hours can be interrupted if one of us has an appointment or is ill. We look forward to meeting our members and we can better serve you when we know you are coming!

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Included in this newsletter is an important brochure we ask you to consider. Take this brochure with you when you meet with your attorney/financial planner about estate planning, or return the response card to the NAHA office. We would appreciate knowing if you have already included NAHA in your will or want more information about ways to benefit both yourself and the Association through a gift annuity.

The NAHA Executive Committee authorized the creation of the *Norwegian-American Legacy Circle* to recognize those of you who remember NAHA in your estate plans. Knowledge of bequest intentions gives NAHA the opportunity to thank individuals for their foresight and generosity. Requests for confidentiality are carefully honored.

We know you care about the work of NAHA. We can no longer take for granted that "someone" will make sure the mission of preserving the written words of Norwegian Americans and publishing those accomplishments or stories will automatically get done. NAHA needs your help us make this possible into the future.

With the matching grant available for the year 2003 and the ways to help NAHA in the future through estate planning we know you will get a true satisfaction in helping a worthy organization.

Check it Out! - NORWEGIAN FAMILY LETTERS in ENGLISH

"Kjære Bror" is how each letter was addressed from Arne Garborg to his brother Jon. Siri Garborg Talle has written this book which is a collection of letters by the well known author and his nine siblings. The book is available, in English, on a free website. You may get inspired by the art of letter writing! www.geocities.com/rosanne_thompson.

Remember NAHA when you find letters from Norwegian Americans. Tell your family or friends that NAHA would like to at least be sent a copy of letters or diaries for the archives. Letters give us insights into the individual's experience, region of the country and what was going on at the time they were writing. *Ask yourself, in this email and telephone age, - what letters or stories will your grandchildren or great grandchildren have to read about you?*

NIDAROS CATHEDRAL BOY'S CHOIR

The world famous boys choir from Trondheim, Norway will be performing at the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church (924 E. 21st St., Minneapolis, MN) on Saturday April 12th at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday April 13th at 2:00 p.m. The boys choir of the Nidaros Cathedral represents an almost 900 year old tradition of boy and men singers in the cathedral. The choir has won international fame through tours throughout Europe and the U.S. They sing *a capella* pieces from Gregorian to modern times in addition to works for choir and orchestra. Ticket information is available at www.mindekirken.org or by calling (612) 874-0716.

HENRICK IBSEN'S MASTER BUILDER

The Commonweal Theater will be performing "Master Builder" April through May 17th in historic Lanesboro, Minnesota. Performances are evenings at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00. Call 1-800-657-7025 to order tickets.

NORWEGIAN FILMS part of MPLS/ST.PAUL FILM FESTIVAL

Three Norwegian films will make their American premieres at the 21st Annual Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival April 4-19. Highlighting the Norwegian film selection this year is *Music for Weddings and Funerals*. Actress Lena Endre, a longtime Ingmar Bergman collaborator has been invited to the festival. *Utopia-Nobody is Perfect in a Perfect Country* was a team effort composed of eight intertwined stories which are allegories for the philosophies of Norway's eight competing political parties. Also showing is *Dragonflies*. For details and times check www.ufilm.org.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Mary Mottet, a video tape of the Emil Espeland Norwegian cottage in Chicago, IL. This video supplements the NAHA file on this charming and talented artist who created special finishes and decorative paintings in some of Chicago's finest hotels. The video was taken shortly before the cottage, with its hand-carved interior, was torn down two years ago. Born in Fana Norway in 1869, Espeland emigrated to Wisconsin in 1894 and moved to Chicago in 1924.

Received from James T. Hillestad, a copy of, "A Consideration of Iowa's Norwegian-Americans Politically Through the Editorial Policy of the Republikaneran: 1899-1901." A 27 page paper examining the Norwegian language newspaper in Iowa at a time of transition.

Received from Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, *Free and Living Congregations, The Dream That Would Not Die*. Hard cover, 286 pages. Includes photos of the various congregations and church leaders. The book explores the vision of Georg Sverdrup through the Lutheran Free Church and more recently under the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations since 1962.

Received from Twila Halvorson, "St. Olaf Lutheran Church Centennial 1888-1988, Esmond Parish, Minnewaukan, North Dakota." 93 pages, stapled. A review of the church's history including the Sunday school, Ladies Aid, Luther League, organists, wedding anniversary celebrations, family histories, photos of the church's interior, and statistical information about baptisms, confirmations, weddings and burials.

Received from John W. Johnson, *John O. Johnson, From Norway to White Bear Lake*, soft bound, 198 pages. Johnson's early years in Norway included foster homes. In 1893 he set off for America, and settled in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Sailing and boat building became his livelihood at the time when White Bear Lake was a popular resort destination. Johnson Boat Works was a landmark in the area for the yachting and racing crowds. Includes some photos and genealogy charts.

Received from Lotte Larsen Meyer, "Mourning in a Distant Land: Gold Star Pilgrimages to American Military Cemeteries in Europe, 1930-33." From *Markers: Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies*. 40 pages stapled. (The author used a diary and scrapbook from the pilgrimage to France of Caroline Short, a Norwegian-American Gold Star mother.) The author hopes this helps scholars see the importance of using women's scrapbooks, memoirs, and letters in understanding topics in women's history.

Received from William O. Foss, revised edition of *The Norwegian Lady and the Wreck of the Dictator*, paperback, 116 pages. First published in 1977, the revised edition contains a new forward, a tenth chapter, and an index. The book is the story of the sinking of the Norwegian ship Dictator in 1891 on the shore of Virginia, the rescue of the captain and a few crew members, to the erection in 1962 of a nine foot bronze statue of "the Norwegian Lady" who faces the sea, wishing all seamen a safe return home.

Received from Siri Garborg Talle of Oslo, Norway, four folders containing significant data about the Garborg family. Arne Garborg was a Norwegian author, born near Stavanger in 1851. Among other books he wrote *Den Burtromne Eaderen*. His younger brother Abel immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1881 and worked on farm in Iowa. Later he moved to Warren, Minnesota, and Stanwood, Washington, where he was in banking. He married Aletta Hjeld. They had two children, Arne and Ruth. This collection includes original letters from Abel to Julia and to his two children. Also includes the letters (copies and originals) from Abel to his brother Arne, the author, as well as to Ivan, his nephew. Among the more than 200 documents are diary notes, newspaper clipping and genealogical tables beginning in 1623.

Received *The Family of Hans Olson Alm and Anne Iversdatter Kantén*, spiral bound, approximately 120 pages. This is the story of Hans Oleson Alm, born in Hadeland, Norway, in 1864, and Anne Iversdatter Kantén, born in Watson, MN, in 1872, with a look at their ancestors in Norway back to the 18th century. The book contains genealogical tables, family vignettes, individual and family pictures, as well as copies of letters from Hans and Anne to two of their children, obituaries, health certificates and other data. The book also contains a 25-page appendix with genealogical tables.

Received from Melvin J. Larson, *The Quest-The Destiny*, soft cover, 92 pages. An autobiography of growing up in a large Norwegian-American family in the Red River Valley during the 1920's. This is a time when the eight miles to school was an obstacle to a high school education. Larson was determined to get an education and at the age of 21 started high school. Larson obtained advanced degrees in chemistry and spent his life as an educator.

2002 ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

We are grateful to the 243 of you who contributed generously to NAHA's Annual Fund request. As you know these are challenging times for all non-profit groups. We appreciate your support and will build upon increased participation. Inserted is the list of your fellow members who have supported NAHA in the past year. Our members and Board raised \$62, 765 in the year 2002. Many thanks to all of you!

NAHA Annual Fund Support

\$5-50 Ruth Aasen, Molly Aasten, Charles H. Akre, Egil & Janice Almaas, Bill Anderson, Gertrude Roe Anderson, Harry & Evelyn Anderson, Synnove & Harold Bakke, Rev. & Mrs. Leonard Benson, Sherry Berry, Anne Bidne, Dr. Harold Bjork, Reidar Bjornard, Storm Bull, Bennie Bungum, Marian J. Christopherson, Anne D. Christopherson, Roland & Mary Jane Day, Linda & Mark Edwards, Robert Fossum, Cheryl Freitag, John Fretheim, Claris Ginkel, Darrell Gonyea, R.M. Granum, Norman Hagen, Eric A. Hallen, James S. Hamre, Mrs. Henry Hansen, Jean Hansen, Sue & Borg Hanson, Gretchen Hardgrove, Philip Hoff, Ingeborg Hofrenning, John & Nancy Hoskins, Mary R. Hove, David Jacobs, Thelma Johnson, Harry C. Johnson, James L. Johnson, James & Doris Jorgenson, C.R. Karlsson, Richard & JoAnn Kleber, David Knutson, William Korsvik, Phillip Larson, Victor Larson, Arthur Lee, Mr & Mrs F.T. Lokensgard, Eric & Cindy Lund, Jean Marck, Amy Michelsen, Esther R. Miller, Evelyn Naevestad, Otto A. Ofjord, Lowell & Helen Olberg, Fred & Mary Olson, Donna, Olson, Duane & Joan Olson, Howard & Bettye Olson, Mrs. Lee Olson, Dr. Magne Olson, Gregg & Laverne Orwoll, Omar & Margery Otterness, Osmund Overby, Lynwood E. Oyos, Louise Parish, Robert & Ruth Paulson, Clarence & Winnifred Pedersen, Ruth N. Pieper, Romelda R. Quam, Rudolph A. Ramseth, Paul Reigstad, Betty & Palmer Rockswold, Eric & Karla Rokke, Dorothy A. Root, Raymond Rovang, Cynthia Elyce Rubin, Selma E. Rud, John Sagness, Mary Hildegarde Sanderson, John T. Schevenius, Janet Schickell, James E. Schlosser, Elaine Schulstad, Karl Schultz, Erlaine Seeger, Magne & Esther Smedvig, Jack & Phyllis Smith, Carl Solberg, Orin & Irene Solberg, Sarasota Lodge of the Sons of Norway, Thomas A. Sorenson, Dennis Sorheim, Lawrence Sorli, Carleton Sperati, Herbert & Geraldine Stellner, Richard Stenerson, Myles C. Stenshoel, Lila & Olaf Storaasli, Mitch Taylor, Jorgen & Rita Thompson, Mr. Clifford Thompson, John & Marilyn Thompson, Allan Thoreson, Thomas Thorsen, Joel & Frances Torstenson, Marcia & John Turcotte, Richard & Joan Tvedten, Robert Tweeten, Richard & Elaine Vangerud, Doris Werner, Patricia Williams, Vincent & Verla Williams.

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\$501-1,000 John R. Christianson, Luther & Ilene Forde, Nancy Gossell, John R. and Kathy Tunheim,

Over \$1,000 Karen Davidson, Nils Lang-Ree, Elizabeth Paulson Miller, Mary Ann Olsen, Todd and Kristin Nichol, Sons of Norway Foundation.

Over \$5,000 Ruth E. Hanold, Klara Johnson, Sidney & Lois Rand, O.J. Tomson.