

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS LETTER

From the NAHA Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 116

EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

SUMMER 2002

26th TRIENNIAL REPORT – NEW PRESIDENT OF NAHA

A new Board of Directors was elected to serve for the upcoming three years. We are pleased to welcome new members Karen Annexstad Humphrey, Bob Tollund, Lois Rand and Christopher M. Thomforde. These new members join John R. Tunheim, Layne Haugen, Joan Buckley, John R. Christianson, Ruth Hanold Crane, Karen Davidson, Nancy Gossell, Nils Lang-Ree, Mary Ann Olsen, Janet Blohm Pultz, Brian Rude, Zay Rugland Lenaburg, Clarence Sheffield, Jr., O.J. Tomson and Solveig Zempel.

Following its election, the new Board gathered to select officers. With pride we announce the new President of NAHA is Lois M. Rand, Vice-President is John R. Tunheim, Secretary is Brian D. Rude, Treasurer is Layne Haugen and the member at large to the Executive Committee is Nancy Gossell.

The evening banquet included a farewell to long-time President Lawrence O. Hauge. Board member O.J. Tomson presented the Association with a bronze sculpture of "Snowshoe Thompson" in honor of Larry Hauge's 21 years as president of NAHA. The sculpture commemorates the "tough sledding" and important work Larry fostered in his years at the helm. The Legend of Snowshoe Thompson also states that he never got paid for all his work. Such is the life a dedicated volunteer! Those attending the banquet also saw the presentation of the *Festskrift* and oil portrait to honor outgoing Editor Odd Sverre Lovoll. It was an evening full of tributes!

MEET THE NAHA AUTHOR GATHERING IN THE NORTHWEST

NAHA members in Washington and Oregon were invited to meet their fellow members as well as meet and speak with author Orm Øverland in late April. Seattle area members gathered at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard, and in Portland we met at Portland State University. Author and Professor Orm Øverland spoke at both meetings about events that led to the creation of NAHA in 1925. In Seattle, author and Professor Terje Leiren shared his connections to NAHA and his insights about the important work of the Association. Special greetings from NAHA to our friends in the Pacific Northwest! We look forward to seeing you again.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN COUNTRY CHURCH TOUR

Place Saturday, September 21st on your calendar. NAHA and the Northfield Nordmanns Forbundet are co-sponsoring a tour to two historic churches in the nearby Goodhue county settlements of Gol and Holden. At 10:30 a.m., in the St. Olaf College Viking Theater, Editor Todd W. Nichol will present background on these special churches. Following the presentation we will board a bus and visit the Gol and Holden congregations. Lunch will be served at Gol church, and we will proceed on to Holden before returning to the College. (We estimate a return to St. Olaf between 3:00 and 3:30.) Tickets for the tour will go rapidly. Cost per person is \$25, including coffee at the College, comfortable bus transportation and a catered lunch at Gol. Send in your reservation and check now! Gather your friends and join us for this tour! Reservations must be received by September 9th.

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP

The Norwegian immigrants often used home remedies to cure their ills. Stories about these remedies, and about childbirth, death and funerals from a time when these usually took place at home could add much to our understanding of the Norwegian-American experience. If you have family stories involving these important life events, Kathleen Stokker, professor of Norwegian at Luther College, would appreciate receiving them. She is also interested in more recent stories of how you have incorporated items relating to your Norwegian heritage into baptism, marriage and funeral ceremonies or other rituals. Contact via email at: stokker@luther.edu or mail your family's story to her at Luther College, Decorah, IA 52101.

WWW.NAHA.STOLAF.EDU – Check it out!

If you attended the members meeting on April 20th you got a sneak peek at the upgraded website for NAHA. Our thanks to volunteer Gary Hillman who has been diligently working to make our website more functional and visually appealing. Keep checking back. This also reminds us to thank volunteer Neil Hofland for his scanning of the NAHA publications that you see online. Where would we be without dedicated volunteers?

NORWAY DAY

Did Syttende Mai slip past you? Do you wish you had another chance to gather together with other Norwegian Americans? Another opportunity awaits you on July 14th at the 70th observation of Norway Day at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Norway Day is a celebration of Norwegian heritage and includes something for everyone. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a worship service, followed by food, arts and crafts. Norwegian singers and dancers will perform and there will be a childrens parade (barnetog) at 12:45. The park is located at Highway 55 and Minnehaha Parkway.

COMPLETE YOUR NAHA BOOK COLLECTION

Over the past few months we have received NAHA books from members who are downsizing their personal book collections. If you are looking to fill in your NAHA *Studies* or are hoping for a book printed before you became a member, please check the following list and contact NAHA. Currently our out of print titles sell for \$15.00/each and the used copies of in-print titles sell for \$8.00/each. The shipping charge is \$3.00 for the first book and \$1.00 each for the next book(s). Minnesota residents must add 6.5% sales tax. Email us at naha@stolaf.edu or call 507.646.3221.

Out-of-Print titles include: *The Immigrant Takes His Stand*, by Andersen (5), *Immigrant Idealist*, by Haugen (4), *Rasmus Bjørn Anderson* by Hustvedt (1), *Makers of an American Immigrant Legacy: Essays in Honor of Kenneth O. Bjork* (6), *Norwegian American Studies* Volume 24 (2), Volume 29 (1), Volume 30 (7), *A Voice of Protest*, by Wefald (1), *The Promise of America*, by Lovoll (3), *Omkring Fædrearven* by O.E. Rølvaag (in Norwegian) (1)

In-print titles include: *Norwegian-American Studies* Vol. 21, Vol. 22, Vol. 23, Vol. 25, Vol. 26 (3) Vol. 27 (5), Vol. 28 (3), Vol. 29 (4), Vol. 31 (5), Vol. 32 (7), Vol. 33 (4), Vol. 34 (5), Vol. 35 (2)

Cultural Pluralism versus Assimilation, by Ager (2), *Ethnicity Challenged-The Upper Midwest Norwegian-American Experience in W.W. I*, by Chrislock (2), *The Testing of M. Falk Gjertsen*, (11), *Saga in Steel and Concrete* by Bjork (4), *A Pioneer Churchman* by Nelson (1), *Theodore C. Blegen* by Flanagan (3), *Norwegian Yankee: Knute Nelson and the Failure of American Politics 1860-1923* by Gieske and Keillor (4), *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen* by Glasrud (9), *On Both Sides of the Ocean* by Stafford and Naess (1) *George Sverdrup: Educator, Theologian, Churchman* by Hamre (1), *John A. Johnson* by Larson (8), *Marcus Thrane: A Norwegian Radical in America* by Leiren (3), *A Century of Urban Life* by Lovoll (4), *The Promise Fulfilled* by Lovoll (2), *Nordics in America: the Future*

of Their Past ed. Lovoll (3), *The Colony that Rose From the Sea* by Mauk (3), *Material Culture and People's Art Among the Norwegians in America* ed. Nelson (1), *A Chronicler of Immigrant Life* by Clausen (2), *The Western Home: A Literary History of Norwegian America* by Øverland (2), *Concerning Our Heritage* translated by Zempel (2)

NAHA CLASSIC TAKES ON A NEW LIFE – AS A PLAY!

June 23- 30, 2002 the Hallingdal Folkemuseum in Nes is performing a play based on the story of Gro Nilsdatter Gudmundsrud. Gro, as a newly married woman, emigrated to Iowa in 1862 with her husband Ole Svendsen Skrattegard. Gro wrote many letters over her short life and these became the basis of the NAHA publication *Frontier Mother* in 1950. Gro died at the age of 37 following the birth of her tenth child. The play will take place in and around the house built by her husband in Northwood, North Dakota. In 1999 the house was transported from North Dakota and re-erected at the Hallingdal Folkemuseum. Congratulations on a terrific project!

CALL FOR PAPERS – NAHA-NORWAY

The eighth seminar of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Norway Chapter, "Norwegian-Americans in a Nation of Nations," will be held on June 25-28, 2003, at the University of Bergen. The seminar organizers welcome a wide range of topics and are particularly interested in papers that emphasize the social diversity of the American environment in which Norwegian immigrants and their descendants have been a part.

NAHA-Norway encourages seminar contributions based on many academic traditions. Literary, historical, social science, fine arts, and cultural studies—as well as multi- and interdisciplinary approaches—are appropriate. NAHA-Norway also emphasizes the need to see Norwegian-American Studies in the context of international migration and ethnic studies in general. Presentations may be delivered in English or Norwegian and, except for invited lectures, should not exceed twenty minutes.

Prospective speakers are invited to submit a half-page proposal and a one-page CV to NAHA-Norway Chairperson Dina Tølfesby, Norwegian-American Collection, National Library of Norway, Oslo Division; P.O. Box 2674 Solli, N-0203 Oslo; Norway, fax: +47 2327 6010 (dina.tolfesby@nb.no) by October 15, 2002. For further information please contact Dina Tølfesby or Orm Øverland, Engelsk institutt, Universitetet i Bergen, Sydneplassen 7, 5007 Bergen, Norway (orm.overland@eng.uib.no).

Those who wish to attend the seminar without giving a paper should also notify NAHA-Norway at the above address to receive information (program, accommodations, registration).

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Received from Ron and Jean Hendrix, *Civil War Diary of Gunvold Johnsrud 1841-1923*. Approximately 30 pages, spiral bound. Includes copies of several hand-written letters, a translation of soldier's diary, and a translation of an article from the 1988 "Ringerike" about Gunvold Johnsrud.

Received from Ron and Jean Hendrix, the leather bound "day-book" kept by Gunvold Johnsrud. Johnsrud started the book while serving in the Civil War. The book appears to have started as a ledger for accounts, but turned into a diary of the soldier's experiences. While in the Union Army Johnsrud wrote in English. After returning home the records, church minutes and accounts were written in Norwegian. The record keeping ended in 1896.

Received from author Siri Garborg Talle, *Kjære Bror!: Arne Garborg og slekten*. 340 pages, hard cover. Includes background and letters from family members in Norway and after arriving in different mid-western states and on to California and Washington. Also includes a section of photos from Norway and in the United States.

Received from Hanska officials, *Hanska - A Century of Tradition 1901-2001*, 428 pages, hard cover. Starting with the earliest settlers who were Norwegian immigrants, the centennial committee compiled a thorough review of newspaper articles, stories, photos, maps and letters to show the rich history of the community. Hanska has many ties to Norway and Norwegian names are still present in today's residents.

Received from Norman Vinnes, *Trondhjem Norwegian Lutheran Church, Congregation and Annual Meeting Minutes 1896-1929*, Lonsdale, Minnesota. Approximately 100 pages, spiral bound. The Trondhjem Community Preservation Society commissioned the translation of the minutes. The church and cemetery are listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Vinnes earlier translated the 1876-1896 minutes.

Received from Terry Sveine, additions to the ongoing biography of Sveine's ancestors. Approximately 20 pages, stapled. Contains stories relayed from one generation to the next.

Sveine's grandfather, Jorgen, was an only child, lonely for friends and playmates. Jorgen married in 1907 and vowed to have a large family so his children would not be as lonely as he had been. 15 children kept the family busy and far from lonely.

Received from Barbara Quinn, *Knud and Anne Dovre Family History*. Approximately 80 pages, in a binder. Includes generational and pedigree charts, photos, maps, family narratives, and obituaries.

Received from Lowell and Nancy Tjentland, *The Jana Lineage from Bondhus*, written by Jan Sandvik, and translated by Åse Bondhus Peckham. 153 pages, loose-leaf note book. Describes the Mauranger area of the Hardanger Fjord, the family overview of those who emigrated to America and the relatives in Norway. Includes copies of photos, handwritten letters and lists of descendants for the relatives and a Bondhus family history written for a St. Olaf class in 1928.

Received from Lois Rand, *Minnehaha County South Dakota - Historical and Biographical Sketches*, 668 pages, hard-bound book. A detailed review of the people, churches, schools, clubs, businesses, families, stories and photos from one of South Dakota's easternmost counties. Rich with many Norwegian-American pioneer families and institutions.

Received from Lois Rand, *A History of South Dakota Century Farms*, 159 pages, hard bound. Includes an overview of the settlement history of South Dakota's farms and ranches including chapters on immigrants, grasshoppers, homesteading, finding a house, rattlesnakes, loneliness and homesickness, the Grange, blizzards as well as brief histories of each century farm.

Received from Darrell L. Trygstad, *Johannes og hans hustru Guruanna*, 376, pages hard-bound book. Reviews the history of Norway, the Norwegian heritage of the Trygstad and Jermstad families from the Verdalen kommune, as well as churches and farms. Also includes information on the new home in America and the descendants. Many photos, copies of handwritten documents, letters and maps illustrate life in Norway and in the United States.



Norwegian-American Country Church Tour

September 21, 2002 • 10:30 a.m.

\$25/each Person

Name(s): _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

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