

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota



*From the NAHA Office to the Association Members*

NUMBER 110

EDITOR, KIM HOLLAND

AUGUST 2000

## NAHA TURNS 75!!

Please join the NAHA Board and other members on October 6<sup>th</sup> for a salute to the past and a look toward the future. The celebration will be held at Buntrock Commons on the campus of NAHA's home - St. Olaf College. The schedule calls for a social hour at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m., the program (including the 1925 Norse Centennial film) will begin at 8:00 p.m. Cost for the celebratory dinner will be \$50/per person.

You may make your reservation by completing the form on the inside of the newsletter. We do have limited seating and cannot accept reservations after Monday, October 2, 2000. Your check will be your reservation. We look forward to your sharing in this special occasion. See you in October! (Should you be thinking of making a fall field trip out of this event, please let us know and we can share local motel/hotel information with you.)

## Retirement Announced

NAHA editor Odd S. Lovoll has announced his retirement at the end of December 2000. Lovoll retires as the King Olav V Professor of Scandinavian-American Studies – a unique joint appointment between the St. Olaf History Department and the Norwegian American Historical Association where he has been editor for the past 20 years.

We will plan a distinctive event this winter to honor Professor Lovoll and his many contributions to NAHA and the field of Scandinavian-American Studies. Lovoll will finish editing the next two NAHA publications that are under way, and perhaps we will see more of his own work in the future. He plans to devote more of his time to his family and researching areas of interest in the Norwegian-American realm. NAHA will use the newsletter to keep you informed and include you in the upcoming tribute to this productive author, scholar and editor.

## NEW VOICE on the NAHA PHONE

We'd like to introduce our new Administrative Assistant, Donna Glood to the NAHA membership. Donna has helped make a smooth transition following Ruth Hanold Crane's retirement on May 31. When you visit our office you will discover how fortunate we are to have Donna on our NAHA team. The Editor, Odd S. Lovoll, and his assistant work closely with Donna to get each manuscript to the point where the Editor can deliver a final copy of the manuscript to the printer. Donna also works with Forrest Brown, the Archivist, to assist scholars and visitors with their research and use of the archives. All this in between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon! Donna lives in Northfield, is of Danish background, and has a gracious manner you will soon appreciate.

## MINNEAPOLIS SHOWING OF 1925 NORSE CENTENNIAL FILM

The silent film from the 1925 Norse-American Centennial has been professionally restored and will make its debut at the NAHA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October. The Norwegian Consulate General's office has asked NAHA to share this historic film with those participating in the *Leiv Eriksson* week activities in Minneapolis, October 7-15, 2000. The NAHA film will be shown on October 9, 2000 at 7 p.m. at the Oak Street Cinema, located at 309 SE Oak St. in Minneapolis. Solveig Zempel, Chair of the St. Olaf Norwegian Department, will provide an introduction for the film and give us the important background setting to this extraordinary event. Your relatives and President Calvin Coolidge joined 200,000 Norwegian-Americans to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first emigration from Norway to the United States.

Many other activities are taking place during the "Leif Eriksson Week" in Minneapolis. Sunday afternoon October 8, a "Pops Concert" featuring Trond Sæverud, a Norwegian violinist, will pay tribute to Ole Bull with the Kenwood Chamber Orchestra. Saturday October 14, a bus is chartered to take you to Nordskedalen, near LaCrosse and on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of October a Festival Service will be held at Mindekirken. For more information on any of these events please contact Mindekirken at (612) 874-0716.



### Last surviving NAHA Charter member passes away

We received notification of the death of Gunnar J. Malmin, a NAHA member and supporter since 1925. Malmin had been a professor and choir director at Pacific Lutheran University in the state of Washington. To gain a sense of his place in the earlier part of the last century, Gunnar Malmin was published in the NAHA Studies and Records volume 1 and 3. Our records indicate he worked under the first editor and knew the individuals who set NAHA in motion. Gunnar received the St. Olav Medal in 1970. We are grateful for his longtime interest in and support of NAHA. Gunnar Malmin's special link to the past will be missed.

### WEST COAST ACTIVITIES

Those interested in the Viking era will want to take advantage of the activities sponsored by the Leif Erickson International Foundation in Seattle. The conference objective is to inform the public about the real lives and times of the Norsemen and women. Professors from regional colleges and universities will give lectures, seminars and workshops covering a range of topics on four successive Saturdays starting on September 16, and ending on October 7. More information is available from the Foundation at (206) 783-8462.

### Gift Ideas

Have you considered the gift of a NAHA Life-membership as a way to honor an anniversary, or birthday or even as an early Christmas present? The current price (\$250) for a Life membership is quite the bargain! After September 1, 2000 a Life membership will cost \$500. The Life membership is an excellent way to introduce someone to the scholarship NAHA does so well. This is also a way to provide a solid foundation of information for those children and grandchildren whose Norwegian heritage you know is important. Sharing your heritage is the best gift of all!

If you choose to take advantage of the current Life membership rate and give a Life membership as a Christmas present, NAHA can send a gift card and the book to your selected recipient(s) in December to notify them of your gift.

Not long ago, a NAHA member came to the office and purchased 6 extra copies of the recent book, *Paintings by Minnesotans of Norwegian Background 1870-1970*. He thought the books would make a nice "hostess" gift for the friends and relatives he would be visiting over the summer. The added bonus is that the books pack well! As NAHA members you are entitled to a 25% discount on all our publications! (This book sells for \$11.25 to members) Call, write or email us to place an order.

### ADDITIONS TO THE WEBSITE

Our volunteer in California, Neil Hofland, and the webmaster have been busy! Volumes 1-16 of the *Norwegian American Studies and Records* are now available on the NAHA website. These are the volumes that are most difficult to find and the earliest publications NAHA produced. Please check [www.naha.stolaf.edu](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu) periodically to see what has been added.

### ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

A new resource is available for people searching for Central Iowa Norwegian-Americans. The web site is called "*Norwegian Heritage in Story County and Central Iowa*" and can be accessed at <http://genloc.com/NorStory/index.htm>.

Received from Robert E.A. Lee, his *Mathilda's Journey*, 286 pages, soft cover. This is the biography of his mother, Clara Mathilda Glasrud Lee, who started life in southern Minnesota, only to be sent at the age of 16 to become a schoolteacher on the North Dakota prairie. A few years later, as a married woman with two small children, she lived in a sod hut for a year before returning to Spring Grove, Minnesota. Family photos and the oral history which the author started in 1959, make this a very interesting book.

Received from Ralph and Marilyn Olson, *A Genealogy of the Family of Salomon and Christina Økland*. Soft cover, approximately 96 pages with photos. This family originated in Austevoll and emigrated in the late 1800's, settling mainly in Winnebago County, Iowa. Contained is a history of the area around Austevoll, pictures of the area in Norway, family photos, some personal recollections, maps and a genealogical record for the 11 descendants of Salomon and Christina.

Received from Ralph and Marilyn Olson, *The Genealogy and History of the Family of Tom and Ellen Olson*. Soft cover, maps and photos, approximately 100 pages. This family had origins in Hallingdal and Valdres, and originally settled in the Brodhead, Wisconsin area. Included in the book is an 1863 letter from Ole Knudsen Myli to his daughter and son-in-law in Norway, and a copy of the deed to the Olson farm on Albert Lea Lake. The first family reunion took place in 1931. Excerpts from the reunion record book are included.

Received from Ralph and Marilyn Olson, *Sevre-Slekt og Andre Greiner fra Nedre Hallingdal*, (Oslo, 1991) 360 pages with photos, index and genealogical information provided in both Norwegian and English. Brief stories of farm transfers, deaths and surviving the challenges make the people more interesting as the book traces an extended family both in Norway and the U.S.

Received from Charlotte Roach Vedeler, *Musings and Memoirs of Franklin Evans Roach*, 1999, soft-cover, 245 pages. Roach's mother, Ingeborg Torgerson, was born in Larvik, Norway. A portion of the book deals with family stories of the grandfather who was a sea captain and emigrated to Chicago. Roach obtained his doctorate from the University of Chicago, and worked with NASA and various astronauts in the early space program.

Received from William O. Foss, June 2000 issue of *Good Old Days* magazine, which contains an article by Foss entitled, "English Spoken Here" (page 38). The author shares

his experience of learning English after arriving at the age of 14 in Massachusetts from Hyggen, Norway. Foss's parents gave a one-month grace period where they would translate for him, after that it was sink or swim before starting school in the fall.

Received the *HolmanBerg Herald* family history newsletter, 55 pages, Volume 3, Issue 1. Published by Gordon Holman in Salem, Oregon.

Received from Scott C. Meeker, the official program from the Reenactment and 15<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Memorial Service, Chickamauga National Military Park, September 17, 1999.

Received from Lester R. Dray, *Norska: A Viking Woman's Journey*, by Doris Meek. 1999, Soft cover, 258 pages. A story of a young woman's adventures in seeking a better life away from the family fish stall and family tensions. The adventure took her to Chicago, back to Denmark with a husband and then to Port Angeles, Washington and San Francisco where the new family encounters an earthquake and many other surprises.

Received from The Norwegian Immigration Association, Inc., *Norwegians in New York, 1825 to 2000: Builders of City, Community and Culture*. This is the official 112 page, catalog for the current Ellis Island exhibit, which opened April 26, 2000. The catalog features several photos from the NAHA archives and chapters written by NAHA members and familiar names such as Odd S. Lovoll, David Mauk, Knut Djupedal, Marion Nelson and Darrell Henning.

Received from Ric Kilmer, Pete Sanstol's eldest grandson, news that Pete Sanstol will be inducted to the World Boxing Hall of Fame in October 2000. This honor will make Sanstol the first Norwegian-born boxer to be so honored. Kilmer earlier donated his *The Pete Sanstol Story* (1999) and many materials about the "unforgettable gentleman boxer."

Received from Lita Deinboll Jossen, *Bombing or Sabotage: A Young Girl's War Experiences and a Resistance Family's Story*. This book has been published in Norway and the author has sent an unpublished English translation to NAHA. The story describes the resistance against the Nazi regime as well as daily life for most of the Norwegian citizens. The author's family was active in the resistance movement and had the experience of seeing her father work to prevent war production through sabotage at the Orkla Mine. A brother was awarded the Norwegian War Cross and the British Distinguished Service Order for his contributions to the Allied

cause. Although responsible for saving many lives, the Deinboll family was not always well received by the Orkla Company management and those personal hardships are documented.

Received from Roger A. Tollefson, *Descendants of Anund Tollefson and Thore Gullicksdatter*. Soft cover, 147 pages with photos and genealogical information as well as information about occupations and family relocations over the years.

Received from Robert W. Wilman, *The Genealogy of the Jens Wilman Family*. Loose leaf, approximately 50 pages with copies of photos, records and genealogical information. Jens Wilman left the Trondheim area at age 17. He married Christine Saxhaug who had come from the same area in 1884, and they lived in Ashland, Wisconsin. An earlier family history of the Saxhaug family was incorporated into this updated version.

Received from Rennard Svano, *The Work of Laypersons in Lutheran Perspective*, by Atle Svano, Soft cover, 100 pages. The author was born in Askevold, Søndfjord and was a pastor both in Norway and in the Norwegian Synod in the United States. The text dates from 1910 and was published in Drammen Norway, but was revised by the author and reissued in 1923. This book, translated by Gordon W. Gunderson, (a student of O.E. Rolvaag) is the first English translation.

Received from Carl Solberg, the 1914 "vacation" album of Reverend C.K. Solberg and Sina Varland Solberg. This album recorded the honeymoon trip, by rail, from Illinois to the West Coast and back to Minneapolis. Each day of the two-month journey has a lively, description of adventures, sights seen, and people visited. The photos are crisp and show places such as Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle at early stages in their development. This document contains many delightful pages of human-interest material as well as historic material.

Received from David J. Hardy, a diary from his grandfather, Ole Lokensgaard, written in 1887. Also included in this recent gift were an essay and a notebook from his grandmother, Ellen Kravik Lokensgaard while she was a student at the Monona Academy in Madison Wisconsin during the late 1870's. These are welcome additions to the other Lokensgaard papers and diaries in the NAHA archives.



## NAHA 75th ANNIVERSARY RESERVATION FORM

**NAMES ATTENDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed in amount of \$50/person \_\_\_\_\_



Norwegian-American Historical Association  
St. Olaf College  
Northfield, Minnesota 55057  
www.naha.stolaf.edu

*Change Service Requested*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FARIBAULT,  
MINN.  
PERMIT NO. 21

