



A Newsletter From the NAHA Office
to Association Members

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In June, following the NAHA-Norge conference, my husband and I arrived via the southbound Hurtegruten to Sortland, picked up a rental car and drove to the tiny village of Nyksund (Øksnes commune) in Nordland, Norway. We were there to explore the area where my great-grandfather and his parents had lived. After checking into the guesthouse we stopped in the entryway to look at a history book about the area which had been recently translated into English. I started reading about the founding of the village when the name Mads Schroeder jumped out at me. According to the book, Mads originally built the first residential and commercial buildings in Nyksund, only to see them swept away by high tides during a winter storm in 1802. From the 1801 census records, I knew that Mads was also the foster father of my 3rd great grandfather. It was a major 'aha' moment that instantly connected me to the tiny village and the surrounding region.

The entire visit to Øksnes was filled with those 'aha' moments. I peered through the windows of the Øksnes church, seeing the altar where two generations of my family were baptized and confirmed and standing in the graveyard where they were laid to rest. We took the ferry serving the surrounding islands to see where the family farms were located. We passed the school my great-grandfather attended, built in 1864 and still standing. At every turn, we found people interested in why we were there, and the story of my family.

Returning home, I realized how lucky I am to witness the 'aha' moments our patrons have when they visit the NAHA archives. I am privileged to hear their stories as they work with our archivists and volunteers, sharing in their sense of discovery as they explore the resources that connect them to their past. Because we know not everyone can travel to our physical location, we are working hard to make exploring our resources more accessible to all our members. Our newsletter, website, online finding tools, digital resources and even our Facebook page are all designed to bring our holdings to light.

I am also deeply grateful to all of you who support NAHA through memberships, donations of materials, financial support, including the Club 2014 campaign for archive climate control and by using our resources. You keep us relevant, and make working for you a privilege.

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