



NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to locating, collecting, preserving, and  
interpreting the Norwegian-American experience



Andrew Berdahl on haystack,  
South Dakota, 1908. From the  
O. E. Rølvaag Papers.

20

ANNUAL  
REPORT

21

# 2021

# IN REVIEW



Photos on this page are from the Ivar Hinderaker Papers, 1880-1933.

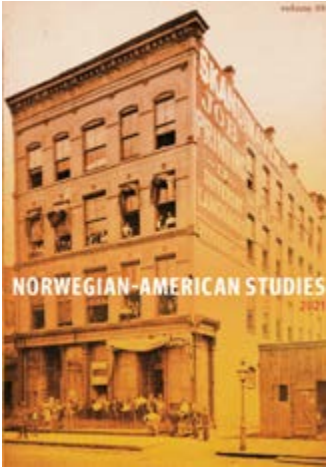
## ARCHIVES

→ Throughout 2021, NAHA continued to actively collect materials, to assist researchers, and to expand our digital repositories. Some significant additions to the archives included organizational records from Kontakt (formerly Norsk ungdomsklubb i Minneapolis); photographs to the Ivar Hinderaker papers; and the Sanford Fosholt papers.

→ The generosity of an anonymous donor created a new research fellowship for the NAHA archives. The fellowship, which we plan to award annually beginning in 2023, will stimulate research in the NAHA collections and new scholarship in the field of Norwegian-American studies. Keep an eye on the NAHA website for more details.



→ In 2021, we digitized significant portions of the O. E. Rølvaag Collection, one of the largest collections housed by NAHA. This project was made possible by the people of Minnesota through a nearly \$87,000 grant funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. We were thrilled to be awarded a second grant at the end of 2021, which allows us to digitize a portion of the Norse-American Centennial Collection.



# JOURNAL

→ In the fall of 2021, NAHA released volume 39 of our scholarly journal *Norwegian-American Studies*, published in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Press. The journal is dedicated to showcasing the best work in the field of Norwegian-American studies, including the related disciplines of history, literature, religion, art, and cultural studies. This year’s journal featured topics such as Norway’s public financing of emigration in the 19th-century; *Varden*,

the only Norwegian-American newspaper published in Utah; and the divorce of the Reverend B. J. and Oline Muus, which shook their Norwegian-American community in 1880. The journal also includes book reviews, works in progress, and updates on teaching, learning, and researching in the field of Norwegian-American studies. In addition to our print edition, free digital access to the journal and all past issues is available to NAHA members.

# EVENTS

→ Throughout the year, NAHA offers events for its members and the public. In March, a virtual event featured Dr. Kyle Ward, who discussed his research on the history of the **99th Infantry Battalion** — a unit of Norwegian Americans and Norwegians in exile during World War 2.

→ At a summer event in Minneapolis, co-hosted with Norway House, Dr. Betty Bergland presented, **“Telemarkings in the Land-taking: From Houston County to the Red River Valley.”** Her talk offered insightful context to the Red River Girl exhibit that was on display in the Norway House Gallery.

→ In November, NAHA partnered with Det norske-amerikanske historielaget i Norge (NAHA-Norge) in marking the 250th birthday of Norwegian social reformer Hans Nielsen Hauge. Professor Vidar L. Haanes presented **“Millennial Hopes and Scandinavian Immigrants to America: Norwegian Haugeans in Context.”** Many of our recent events are recorded and available online — look for them on the Events page of our website.



A summer event co-hosted with Norway House in Minneapolis offered local members the opportunity to gather face to face. **(TOP)** Birgitte Christianson, Odd Lovoll, and John Christianson **(BOTTOM LEFT)** Lowell Olson and Nancy Sand Olson **(BOTTOM RIGHT)** Nonprofit management intern Cece Schurke welcomed event registrants.

## NAHA BY THE NUMBERS

39

Donations added to our archives

170+

Research and material requests

23,000+

scans produced from the O. E. Rølvaag Collection

4

Student internships

32

At-risk analog recordings digitized

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

I always enjoy the opportunity to reflect back on the year as we prepare this annual report. If I were to choose a theme for 2021, one word comes to mind: access. While the pandemic limited physical access to the archives for a second year, we took a giant step toward virtual access. And with researchers from across the country and around the world making great use of our collections, it is clear how important virtual access will continue to be.

Even before the pandemic began, NAHA prioritized making our collections broadly accessible by emphasizing it in our 2020–2022 strategic plan. A major step toward our goal of improving access was the digitization of the O. E. Rølvaag Collection. The project, led by NAHA Archivist Kristina Warner, resulted in the scanning, describing, cataloging, and preservation of more than 23,000 digital files. You can see the results of those efforts by visiting the digital collections site: [rolvaag.omeka.net](http://rolvaag.omeka.net). We are thrilled that we can continue expanding access in 2022, with another Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant to digitize the 1925 Norse-American Centennial Collection.

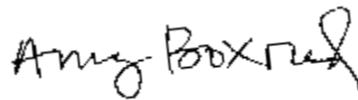
On the topic of access, I want to remind members that they have resources beyond archival materials. Members also enjoy complimentary digital access to every volume of our journal, *Norwegian-American Studies*, stretching back to our first volume, published in 1926. This

includes dozens of articles, spanning nearly a century of scholarship. Under the skilled editorship of Anna Peterson, *Studies* is currently available in print and online via Project Muse. You can find more information and a link to access the journal on our website.

Rounding out the theme of access, NAHA held two online events in 2021. What began as a way to cope with pandemic shutdowns has become an invaluable way of staying connected with all of you. While we look forward to resuming in-person programming, rest assured that we will also continue to plan virtual events that engage our members and the public from across the continent and across the Atlantic.

None of this work would be possible without you, our stalwart supporters. On behalf of the staff and board of NAHA, I want to thank you for your generosity, your engagement, and your goodwill in 2021. Thanks for telling others about NAHA, for inviting your family and friends to our events, and for sharing gift memberships with the history enthusiasts in your life. Together, we can continue to make great strides in our mission: to locate, collect, preserve, and interpret the Norwegian-American experience with accuracy, integrity, and liveliness.

In appreciation,



## INTERNSHIPS AND AWARDS

→ In 2021, NAHA launched its **Odd S. Lovoll Award in Norwegian-American Studies**. The award recognizes originality, excellence, and creativity in undergraduate research and writing. It is named for former NAHA editor Odd S. Lovoll, who served the association from 1980 to 2000 and mentored scores of young scholars in immigration studies. Each year, the winner will receive a \$500 prize and a year's membership in NAHA. In addition, the winning essay will be considered for publication in *Norwegian-American Studies*.

NAHA named Conrad Pederson of the University of North Dakota as the first recipient of the new Odd S. Lovoll Award in Norwegian-American Studies. Pederson's winning essay, "Public Art in North Dakota," will appear in volume 40 of *Norwegian-American Studies*.



→ Each year, NAHA offers a number of **internships for students** to pursue their interests and gain practical experience in archives, public history, and nonprofit management. Many of these internships are made possible with funding from the Sigvald Quale Norwegian Society Fund.

Nordic Studies in the Digital Humanities Interns Caroline Flaten and Helen White helped to create a primary source guide for the O. E. Rølvaag Collection. The internship was made possible with funding from the St. Olaf College Norwegian department.



*"I've really enjoyed learning the ropes of archival work in such a hands-on way... it gives me a new sense of appreciation for the work that people do to make things more accessible and safeguard knowledge for the future."*

— CLAIRE STROTHER, DIGITAL REPOSITORY ASSISTANT

# FINANCIALS

## FUNDING FOR OPERATIONS

Distributions from investments	\$117,987	33%
Donations	\$113,381	32%
Membership fees	\$35,694	10%
Grants income	\$86,570	24%
Other sources	\$4,620	<1%
Books sales and royalties	\$1,363	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$359,615</b>	<b>100%</b>

## SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

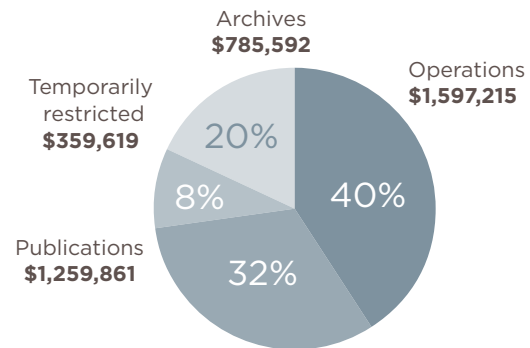
Salaries and benefits	\$186,001	64%
Administrative and supplies	\$42,451	15%
Contract labor	\$16,075	5%
Publications	\$11,170	4%
Development initiatives	\$31,528	10%
Equipment	\$5,137	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$292,362</b>	<b>100%</b>

## INVESTED FUND BALANCES

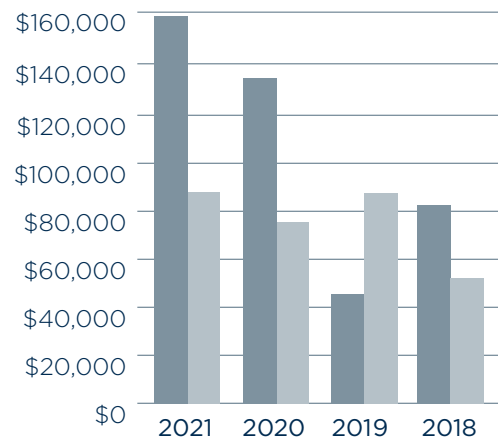
Market value as of December 31, 2021

Ole Edvart Rølvaag Memorial Fund	\$1,384,083
Other operations	\$213,132
Blegen Bjork Publications Fund	\$1,154,392
Other publications	\$105,469
Fosholt Hyde Archives Fund	\$375,800
Nathan and Denise Lindgren Endowed Fund for the NAHA Archives	\$66,200
Archives Fellowship Fund	\$21,588
Other archives	\$322,004
Sigvald Quale Norwegian Society Fund	\$328,894
Other temporarily restricted	\$30,725
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,002,287</b>

## ENDOWED FUNDS BY USE



## INVESTMENT INCOME



Full financials are available upon request.  
Contact [naha@stolaf.edu](mailto:naha@stolaf.edu) or call 507-786-3221.

■ Realized Gains ■ Interest and Dividends

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The Norwegian-American Historical Association gratefully acknowledges the following donors. All contributions were received between January 1 and December 31, 2021.

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Symra Society  
Robert Tauscher **S**



Unidentified men. From the Reverend Parelus H. Rognlie Papers.

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 Robert Tollund **L**  
 Richard Tvedten **L**  
 Ellen and Chris  
 Velline **L**  
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 Sons of Norway  
 1-559  
 Norman and Karen  
 Vinnes **S**  
 Vonheim Lodge  
 Sons of Norway  
 1-108  
 Claire Voris  
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 Joan Harstad **S**  
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 Leif Hatlen **S**  
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 Ronald Hendrix **S**  
 Carla Hofland  
 Ernest Hoidal **S**  
 Torild Homstad **L**  
 James Honsvall **S, B**  
 Leslee Lane  
 Hoyum **S**  
 Ella Inglebret  
 Phyllis Jacobs  
 Donald Jennermann  
 Carla Waal Johns **S**  
 Bernt Johnson **L**  
 Cynthia Johnson **S**  
 James Johnson **L**  
 Kirt Johnson **S**  
 Lowell Johnson **S**  
 Mark Johnson  
 Owen Johnson  
 Kath Jordahl  
 Ginny Karbowski **S**  
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 Ann Kathan  
 Kim Kittilsby **S, B**  
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 Kittilsby **S**  
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 Mary Ferraro  
 Mark Fjelstad **S**



Reverend Nils P. Xavier, left, with family members near Franklin, Minn., circa 1900.  
 From the Reverend Parelus H. Rognlie Papers.

Mike Lynch <b>S</b>	Charles Richardson <b>S</b>	Linda Schwartz <b>S</b>	John R. Tunheim <b>S</b>
Kathy Manderscheid <b>S</b>	David Ringstad <b>S</b>	Inez Schwarzkopf <b>L</b>	Arlen Twedt <b>S</b>
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Peggy Norris <b>S</b>	Caroline Schwartz <b>S</b>	Edith Thorstensson <b>L</b>	
Michael Ofjord <b>L</b>			
Daron Olson <b>B</b>			
N. Thomas Olson <b>S</b>			
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## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Doug Bratland, graphics and communications  
 Dale Haaland and Dale Hovland, archives volunteers  
 Luther College, office space and supplies  
 St. Olaf College, space and support

## IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

David Rolloff, in honor of Ruth Hanold Crane  
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 Michael Ofjord, in memory of Otto Ofjord  
 Marilyn D. Somdahl, in memory of Leonard Somdahl  
 Amy Boxrud, Solveig Zempel, and Deborah Miller,  
 in memory of Orm Øverland

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The association honors those who have included NAHA in their estate planning.

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Harry Williams\*

\*Deceased

\*\*Gifts have been received by Dec. 31, 2021,  
and do not include membership, event, or tour fees.



Vivian Williams Rydholm and daughter Helen. From the Rydholm/Williams Photographs, circa 1860-1971.



NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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