



NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

*Inspiring connections to Norwegian-American
experiences through discovery, scholarship,
and stewardship*



Worker at the Gisholt Machine Company
factory, Madison, Wisconsin, 1918. From the
John A. Johnson papers (P0691).

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 IN REVIEW



Clockwise, from top: Norwegian-American editors tour in Norway, 1928, from the Carl G. O. Hansen papers (P0543); "A Wild West Wedding," from the Helge Høverstad papers (P0547); Norwegian Folk Dancers of Chicago present the Norwegian Midwest Princess 1961, from the Norwegian Clubs of Chicago collection (P0278).



DONATED MATERIALS

Throughout 2023, we continued to actively collect the priceless primary sources that are safeguarded in our archives. We accessioned more than 50 donations to our collection. Each is appreciated and tells a unique story. Some notable additions include:

Sons of Norway, Nidaros Lodge, Minneapolis

Olaf Halvorson Papers

The Reverend Thorstein Moen Diaries

Eidsvold Family Papers

Oddvar Hoidal Papers

GRANTS

In 2023, we wrapped up the digitization of the 1925 Norse-American Centennial collection. This large project was made possible by the people of Minnesota through a nearly \$87,000 grant funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. In addition, we received nearly \$10,000 to research Norwegians in Minnesota for upcoming digital exhibits.



The Sons of Norway Foundation awarded NAHA a grant of nearly \$4,000 for the digitization of 16mm film in the Campbell Norsgaard collection, 1938-1946.



NAHA BY THE NUMBERS

3,000+

Collections

225+

Research and material requests in 2023

1925

Year NAHA was founded

7

Student employees and interns in 2023

41

Volumes of our journal available online



NEW FELLOWSHIPS

In 2023, NAHA awarded two new annual fellowships for research that will be conducted in 2024.

Archives Fellowship



**Mona Holm,
PhD Fellow
University of Oslo**

PROJECT:

"Migrant Feminism:
Norwegian-American

Women's Transnational Experiences." Holm will examine Norwegian-American women's perceptions of the United States, and the American Women's Rights Movement in particular. She will explore how women conveyed their views to their networks both in Norway and America, and how they contributed to a new public sphere that changed Norway and the Nordic countries. Thanks to an anonymous donor, this \$2,000 award promotes new understandings of the Norwegian-American experience.

Publications Fellowship



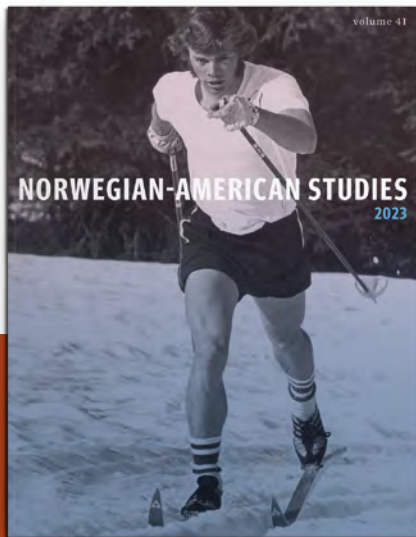
**Marika
Josephson, PhD
Murphysboro, Ill.**

PROJECT:

"A Life in Lefse:
Anna Sekse

Kindem's 'Amerikabrev,' Letters to the Newspaper *Hardanger*, 1938-1976." Josephson's project is based on a collection of newspaper columns housed at the NAHA Archives. Translated by former NAHA archivist Charlotte Jacobson, the columns make for a fascinating collection that shines fresh light on the second century of Norwegian immigration. This \$2,500 award is available for research in the field of Norwegian-American studies, broadly defined.

→ The annual application deadline for fellowships is October 1. See our website for more information, or contact us with questions at naha@stolaf.edu.



In Volume 41:

→ "Norwegian-American Women Homesteaders in Brown County, Minnesota," by Caitlin Sackrison

→ "Norwegian Baking on the Prairie, 1851-1859: The Transition to Wheat Flour and Leavened Bread Seen Through the Letters, Diary Entries, and Recipes of Linka Preus, Elisabeth Koren, and Caja Munch," by Marika Josephson

→ "The Norwegian-American Biography of Uncle Tom's Cabin: The Memorial Edition of 1897," by Aasta Marie Bjorvand Bjørkøy

→ "Change in Norwegian-American Identity Expression, as Seen through the Headstones at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church, 1864-1969," by Mathea Diedrich, our 2022 Odd S. Lovoll Award winner

INTERNSHIPS AND AWARDS

NAHA offers internships and employment for students to explore their interests and gain practical skills in archives, public history, and nonprofit management. Many of these experiences are made possible with funding from the Sigvald Quale Norwegian Society Fund.

In 2023, NAHA awarded **Helen White** of St. Olaf College our Odd S. Lovoll Award in Norwegian-American Studies. The award recognizes originality, excellence, and creativity in undergraduate research and writing. Helen's winning essay, "Dialectal Development and Comparison: Norwegian Dialects in the U.S. and Norway," will appear in volume 42 of *Norwegian-American Studies*.

Katie Bergquist was our intern over the summer of 2023. She helped to process, catalog, and create promotional materials for the Bygdelag papers housed in our archives. Katie is a St. Olaf College student majoring in history and English, and she has taken several semesters of Norwegian—a helpful skill for working with this collection.



PUBLICATIONS

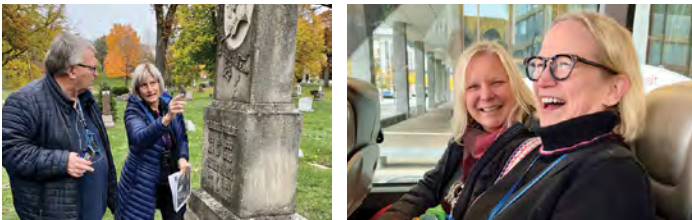
In the fall of 2023, NAHA members received volume 41 of our scholarly journal, *Norwegian-American Studies*, published in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Press. The journal is dedicated to showcasing the best work in the field of Norwegian-American studies, including the related disciplines of history, literature, religion, art, and cultural studies.

The journal also includes book reviews, photographic features, 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 are available to NAHA members on the Project MUSE digital library.

2023 IN REVIEW

EVENTS

NAHA holds regular events for its members and the public. In 2023, we held four events, two of which were available virtually. If you missed them, visit naha.stolaf.edu/events/.



JACOB FJELDE ART TOUR OF MINNEAPOLIS

Dr. Kristin Anderson, professor of art at Augsburg University, guided a tour exploring the life and work of immigrant sculptor Jacob Fjelde. Stops included Augsburg University's Lindell Library, Minneapolis Central Library, Loring Park, Hennepin History Museum, Lakewood Cemetery, and Minnehaha Park.



PUTTING THE "STORY" IN FAMILY HISTORY

Our May member meetup explored turning genealogical research into meaningful family stories. The featured speaker was author, historian, and writing instructor Dr. Rachel Hanel, associate professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato.



SÁMI COLLECTIONS AND SAMI MUSEUMS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Author Barbara Sjöholm gave a talk on national museums in the Nordic countries with significant collections of Sámi material culture. Her talk included the Sámi museums in Norway, Sweden, and Finland that have been established over the past 50 years and their role in the renaissance of Indigenous Sámi music, handicraft, and language restoration. The event was co-hosted by the St. Olaf College Norwegian Department.

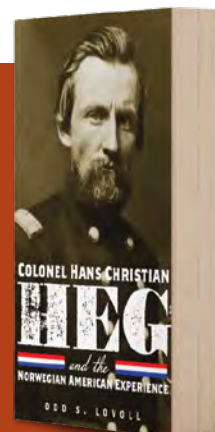


HEG BOOK RELEASE WITH AUTHOR ODD S. LOVOLL

In July, NAHA partnered with Norway House and Ramsey County Historical Society to host a book launch for *Hans Christian Heg and the Norwegian-American Experience*. Odd Lovoll's most recent book, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, is the first full-length biography of the Civil War hero, and illuminates the experiences of Norwegian-American immigrants during that period.



Lovoll (left) is pictured here with NAHA President Scott Knudson.



NAHA distributed Colonel Hans Christian Heg and the Norwegian American Experience to members in 2023.

FINANCIALS

FUNDING FOR OPERATIONS

Distribution from investments	\$139,442	50%
Donations (for operations)	\$51,030	20%
Membership fees	\$39,276	14%
Operations reserves	\$43,004	14%
Other sources	\$6,745	2%
TOTAL	\$279,497	100%

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

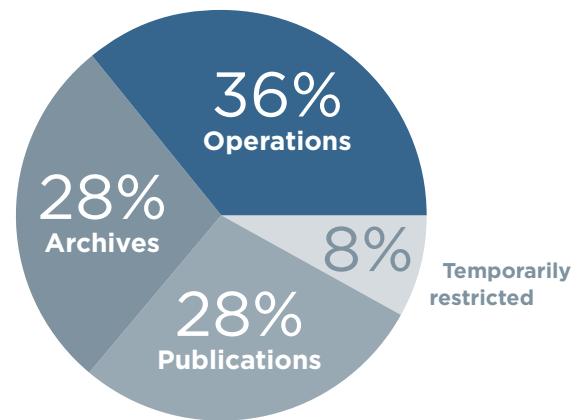
Salaries and benefits	\$160,092	58%
Administrative, programs, supplies	\$68,679	24%
Contract labor	\$28,341	10%
Publications	\$22,385	8%
TOTAL	\$279,497	100%

INVESTED FUND BALANCES

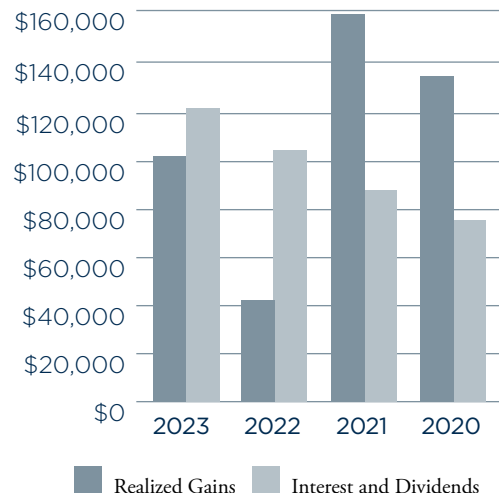
Market value as of December 31, 2023

Ole Edvart Rølvaag Memorial Fund	\$1,242,616
Other Operations	\$216,081
Blegen Bjork Publications Fund	\$1,086,240
Other Publications	\$44,851
Fosholt Hydle Archives Fund	\$337,390
David A. and Barbara A. Holt Endowed Fund for the NAHA Archives	\$111,983
Nathan and Denise Lindgren Endowed Fund for the NAHA Archives	\$59,277
Archives Fellowship Fund	\$46,788
Other Archives	\$577,074
Sigvald Quale Norwegian Society Fund	\$295,278
TOTAL	\$4,017,578

DESIGNATION OF ENDOWED FUNDS



INVESTMENT INCOME



OUR SUPPORTERS

The Norwegian-American Historical Association gratefully acknowledges the following supporters. All contributions were received between January 1 and December 31, 2023.

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Luther College, office space and supplies
St. Olaf College, space and support

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If you have included the association in your estate plans, or if you believe you should be included in our Leadership Circle, please let us know. For more information on our Legacy and Leadership Circles, please contact Amy Boxrud at naha@stolaf.edu.

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**Gifts and pledges have been received by December 31, 2023, and do not include membership, event, or tour fees.



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THE NAHA BOARD

held its fall board meeting at Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa. After the meeting, board and staff members enjoyed a reception and concert with members of NORTANA — Norwegian Researchers and Teachers of North America.