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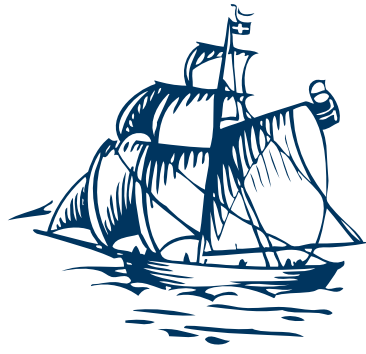
# Currents

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION | FALL 2022 VOLUME 185



## IMMIGRATION IN THE 20TH CENTURY

The Norwegians  
Who Came  
to America



# NAHA-NORGE, MUCH TO ENJOY

In June, NAHA-Norge, our affiliate organization in Norway, hosted a four-day conference at the Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad and the Victoria Hotel in Hamar, an hour's train ride north from Oslo on the shores of Mjøsa, Norway's largest lake. Twenty NAHA members from North America attended and, it's fair to say, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On day one, our NAHA editor, Anna Peterson, gave one of three keynote lectures. She spoke on how a transnational Norwegian identity served to promote equality and humanitarian goals. While I was still in transit, board member Ron Johnson extended formal greetings from NAHA. The day closed with a museum tour and a Norwegian barbecue dinner.

We started the next day with a sumptuous hotel breakfast buffet. Later, we heard presentations, some of which NAHA-Norge will publish. NAHA board member Debbie Miller spoke about her study of Norwegian settlement at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Her inspiration, she said, was an article in a business publication that called the city one of the most "ethnically concentrated" in the United States. Fellow board member Annette Atkins was also there and had assisted with the project by mining 1910 census data on area settlers.

One of my favorite presentations that day came from Gunnar Nerheim, professor emeritus at the University of Stavanger, on the formation of Nordic identity in Alberta around 1900. In Canada, the government allowed block settlements, where people of the same ethnic background could form what might be called a colony. My particular interest in Nerheim's work stems from a map I found at an antique store in Marshall, Minnesota. Published in Norwegian around 1900 by the Canadian Pacific Railway, it was meant to encourage settlement along CP rail lines in the Prairie Provinces.

NAHA board members Daron Olson and Ann Marie Legried also spoke, Olson on the comparative editorial positions of the Norwegian and American editions of the *Nordmanns-Forbundet* magazine during World War II, and Legried on the Trane family. Conference organizers also offered a marvelous cultural event for us: a visit to the Hamar home of Kirsten Flagstad (1895–1962), who many regard as the premier Wagnerian soprano of the last century. It was followed by musical performances that were accompanied by the Royal Norwegian Marine Band.

Before leaving, we invited NAHA-Norge to participate jointly in commemorations of the immigration bicentennial in 2025. After the conference, Peterson and NAHA Executive Director Amy Boxrud set off as leaders of the week-long NAHA Artistry and Industry tour that ended in Bergen. I met up with my daughter, Mari, for five days together in Oslo. All in all, a great trip.

Scott Knudson, President



## on the cover

The SAS airliner *Dan Viking* was checked by the crew on the tarmac at Oslo's Fornebu Airport in 1953. In the post-World War II years, Norway's emigrants increasingly traveled by air.

## in brief

### A MYSTERY IN THE ARCHIVES

Former NAHA Associate Archivist Jeff Sauve retired from that post in 2018, but he hasn't left the NAHA collections behind. In fact, Sauve has spent much of the past 10 years investigating the story behind a single item from the archives. In 2012, a curious headline on an 1894 news clipping from the *Duluth Tribune* caught his eye: "Is All a Mystery."

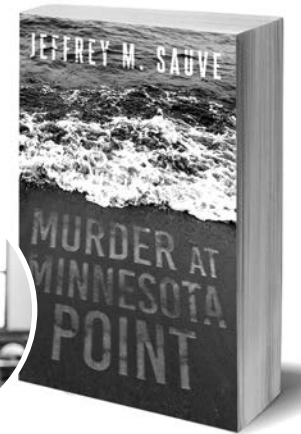
The article described what was billed as "the crime of the century" in 1894. The body of a young woman had been discovered on the sandy shore of Minnesota Point in Duluth. "There is no doubt in the mind of the authorities that the woman, whoever she may be, was murdered," the article stated. Her remains were displayed publicly for two weeks in hopes of learning her identity. After her burial in

an unmarked pauper's grave, she eventually was identified, as Lena Olson, a young woman born in Stoughton, Wisconsin, to Norwegian immigrants.

In *Murder at Minnesota Point: Unraveling the Captivating Mystery of a Long-Forgotten True Crime*, Sauve chronicles the murder investigation over the next two years, as city detectives pursued numerous suspects and the manhunt captivated the nation.

The Gilded Age economy of the 1890s relied upon the labor of immigrants and their families. Women were often employed in domestic service, and they were marginalized in society due to their perceived lower status, according to Sauve.

"I set out to honor Lena, who was a domestic servant, as well as



*Murder at Minnesota Point* is available from the publisher at [northstareditions.com](http://northstareditions.com), from many major retailers, or from your favorite local bookseller. The book is also available in digital formats. Author Jeff Sauve served in a dual role as an archivist for NAHA and for St. Olaf College from 1999 to 2018. He contributes regularly to *St. Olaf* magazine and the *Sons of Norway Viking*. His other books include a history of the St. Olaf College theater department (2021) and a co-authored history of the St. Olaf Band (2019).

other forgotten immigrant women," he says. Some of the proceeds from book sales will be used to purchase a memorial for Lena Olson's unmarked grave.

Sauve credits NAHA volunteer Dale Hovland for years of "first rate" research assistance. "His services were invaluable" Sauve says in the book's acknowledgments.

### JUNE NORWAY TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

NAHA offered its week-long Artistry and Industry of Norway tour in June. (The tour was preceded by a NAHA-Norge seminar at the Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, Norway; read more about that on the facing page.)

Travelers went from Oslo to Bergen by bus, staying in historic hotels and exploring the cultural, industrial, and agricultural history of southern Norway. Stops included Oslo's new Munch Museum and Deichmann Bjørvika Library; Heddal Stave Church; the Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site; the Telemark Canal; fish and fruit farms in the Hardanger region; the Oleana knitwear factory; and Trollhaugen, the home of composer Edvard Grieg. NAHA Editor Anna Peterson guided the tour, Executive Director Amy Boxrud served as host.

See photos on next page. More are available at [facebook.com/NorwegianAmericanHistoricalAssociation](https://facebook.com/NorwegianAmericanHistoricalAssociation).

*"This well-planned trip was delightful," said one participant. "I learned a lot and saw many places that were new to me. I also made many new friends."*

COVER IMAGE: MITTET & CO. PHOTOGRAPHERS/NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NORWAY, PUBLIC DOMAIN



## JUNE TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



1) The group enjoyed dinner and an overnight at the historic Hotel Dalen. 2) At Telemarksyv, visitors could try making elements of traditional silver jewelry. 3) Norwegian cuisine and good conversation capped each day. 4) NAHA Executive Director Amy Boxrud (left) and Editor Anna Peterson planned and led the tour.

## REMEMBERING LOIS RAND

Lois Rand, past president of NAHA, died May 24, 2022, at 96. She was born in 1925 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She earned a bachelor's and master of arts degree in music at Colorado College. Rand worked as a teacher, writer, musician, and conductor, and was minister of music at First Lutheran Church in St. Paul. She was also vice president of Minda Public Relations in Minneapolis, and a legislative representative for the Illinois Education Association.

She married Walter Ekeren in 1947. They had two children, Sarah and Mark. Ekeren passed away in 1972, and in 1974 she married his lifelong friend, Sidney Rand, who was St. Olaf College president (1963–1980) and U.S. ambassador to Norway (1980–1981).

Lois Rand served as NAHA president from 2002 to 2005, bringing a change in governance.

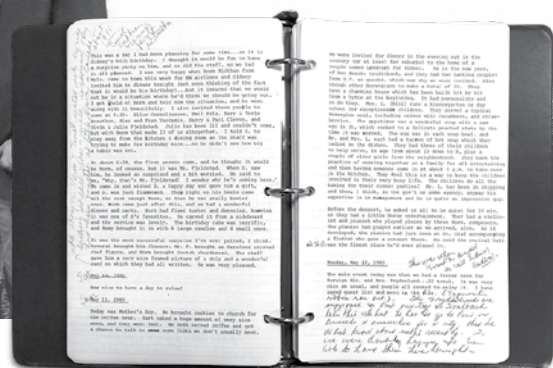
"She brought to the presidency her professional and remarkable skills of communication and diplomacy, and led with energy, conviction, and grace," says Karen Humphrey, a board member then. "She took an active role in building a fully professional staff, stabilizing the association's financial foundation, and, with her host of friends and contacts in Norway and in the diplomatic corps, affirmed NAHA's international stature."

Rand served many organizations as a director, among them the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Ebenezer Society, and Metropolitan Symphony. She received the St. Olaf Medal and Commander's Cross

of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit from King Harald V of Norway, and the Ambassador's Award from Norwegian Ambassador Knut Vollebaeck. In 2004, she was named Norwegian American of the Year by the America-Norway Heritage Fund.



Lois Rand (seated) met with fellow past presidents of NAHA in 2019. From left are Brian Rude (kneeling), Dennis Gimmestad, Karen Humphrey, and John Tunheim. Rand kept a detailed journal (below) while her husband, Sidney Rand, was U.S. ambassador to Norway. She gave it to the NAHA archives in 2018.



## SMALLPOX AND NORWAY'S INOCULATION CERTIFICATES

BY DALE HOVLAND

Smallpox has been eradicated, but for centuries, the infection began with a fever, then a rash that turned into ugly lesions and scabs. The death rate was high, "perhaps 40 percent" of those who were infected, wrote Øivind Larsen, professor emeritus of medical history at the University of Oslo, in a 2015 article on smallpox in Norway.

Those who survived had permanent scars on their faces and bodies. But for the rest of their lives, they were immune to the highly contagious disease, which spread primarily through exhaled droplets.

Norway required people to be inoculated against smallpox beginning in 1810. Frederik VI, king of Denmark and Norway, issued an ordinance on April 3 that year. A way to protect against the disease had been proven by British physician Edward Jenner in 1796: namely, inoculation with a milder relative of smallpox called cowpox. Frederik's ordinance required people to have proof of such inoculation or proof of natural immunity gained through falling ill with smallpox. Without one or the other, they could not be confirmed or married, and they could not gain work as apprentices.

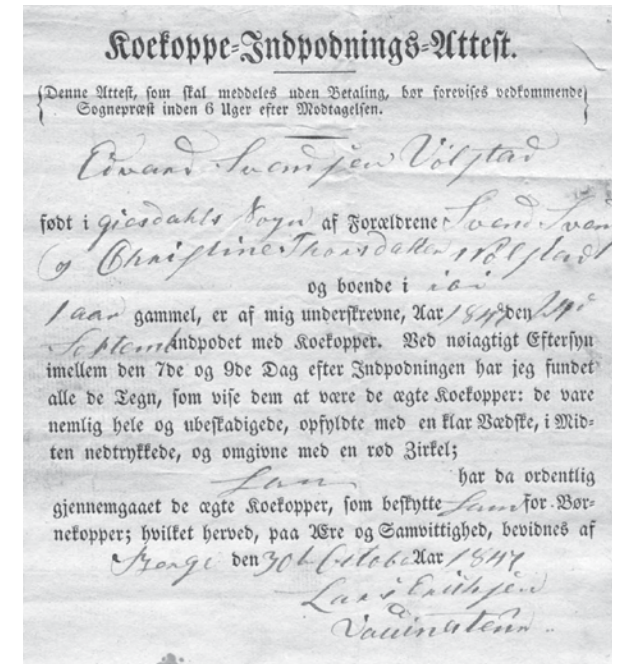
NAHA member Dale Haaland has a *Koekoppe Indpodnings Attest*, Cowpox Inoculation Certificate (shown and translated on this page), that was his great-grandfather Edvard Svendsen's. It demonstrates how the certificates are useful to family historians.

Inoculation certificates were preprinted, with blanks for the vaccinator to fill in by hand. To be complete, certificates also had to be signed by the parish pastor. In the translation below, underlined text represents handwritten information.

Edvard's parents are named, which makes it fairly easy to find the 1865 Norwegian census record for the family. It shows Edvard, a 19-year-old carpenter at the time, living with his parents and five siblings on a farm in Høyland Parish, Rogaland.

The certificate also shows where Edvard was inoculated (Lye Parish, Rogaland) and at what age (one). That helps in finding records of him in the parish church books: his birth on November 6, 1846, his confirmation on October 13, 1861. His confirmation entry notes that he has been vaccinated, by whom, and on what date. Some Norwegian church books, including those for Lye Parish, have a separate section specifically for recording inoculations. Edvard's entry there matches the details shown on his certificate.

The church book for Høyland Parish, where Edvard lived later, includes a section listing "Departures from the parish." Edvard Svendsen Haaland, his wife, and six children departed on April 17, 1886, the book says. Their inoculation certificates were most likely with them when they left Norway on their voyage to America.



### Cowpox Inoculation Certificate

This certificate, which shall be given without payment, should be presented to the appropriate parish minister within six weeks after receipt.

Edvard Svendsen Vølstad born in Giesdahls Parish of parents Svend Svends. and Christine Thorsdatter Wølstad and living in the same place 1 year old, was by me, the undersigned, year 1847 the 24th of September inoculated with cowpox. By precise inspection between the 7th and 9th days after the inoculation, I have found all of the indications that show them to be the genuine cowpox: that is, they were whole and undamaged, filled with a clear fluid, in the middle depressed, and surrounded with a red circle. He has then properly experienced the genuine cowpox that protects him from smallpox, which hereby, on my honor and conscience, is attested by [unknown word] the 30th of October year 1847.

Lars Ericksen  
Vaccinator

This certificate was presented to me on the 14th of December 1847.  
Parish Minister of Lye

IMAGE: BOXRUD AND PETERSON PHOTO, AND GROUP DINNER PHOTO FROM ANNE JOHNSON; ALL OTHERS NAHA

IMAGE: DALE HAALAND



# A DIFFERENT JOURNEY



## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO 20TH CENTURY NORWEGIAN IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.

BY DENISE LOGELAND

**O**merciful God, today Norway’s coasts vanished before our eyes,” wrote a woman from the Hallingdal region of Norway in an 1862 journal entry amid her voyage to America. “Now I shall never again see my beloved native land.”

Historian Ingrid Semmingsen used Gro Svendsen’s journal entry to make a point: “Like the other emigrants of that period, she knew that her decision was final. The emigrants of 1900 did not have to think so.”

Just four decades had passed since Svendsen left Norway, but already the journey was easier to make in 1900. Fares on passenger ships were more affordable relative to wages. There were more rail connections in both countries. Those who left Norway for America at the start of the 20th century did not necessarily see themselves leaving forever.

“They wished to try something different when conditions were bad at home; they wanted to see a larger society, to try their luck on this new international labor market,” Semmingsen wrote in *Norway to America: A History of the Migration*. “They assumed that if they were unlucky, there would always be a boat going home.”

And later, an airplane.

Compare the experience of Gro Svendsen with that of Jenny Solaas, who emigrated in 1947 from Lista in southern Norway’s Agder County. By the early 2000s, Solaas was living in Agder County again, having moved back after 50-plus years in New York. Historian Siv Ringdal wrote in *Norwegian-American Studies* in 2020 that Solaas lived initially in Brooklyn, worked as a housekeeper, married, and then opened her own business. She visited Norway during her years away, and after she and her husband moved

Magnus Knutsson Røe Fløtten and his wife, Sigrid Stefferud, left their community on Helgøya in Norway’s Lake Mjøsa and went to the U.S. in 1926. Photographed in the 1930s, they were living in Chicago, part of an increasingly urban Norwegian immigrant population.

back there, she made annual trips to New York to see relatives and friends, and to shop.

Waves of mass migration from Norway to the United States were mostly a 19th century phenomenon that flowed into the early 20th century. But the U.S. began to put tight limits on immigration in the 1920s. For that reason and others—the Great Depression, wars, the push and pull of stronger economic opportunity in one country and then the other—the number of Norwegians immigrating annually to the U.S. subsided to a trickle.

In the 20th century, the scale and experience of Norwegian migration changed tremendously from what it had been in the 19th century, and the nature of the migrating population changed, too. On these pages, the words of historians and data experts provide a window into those changes.

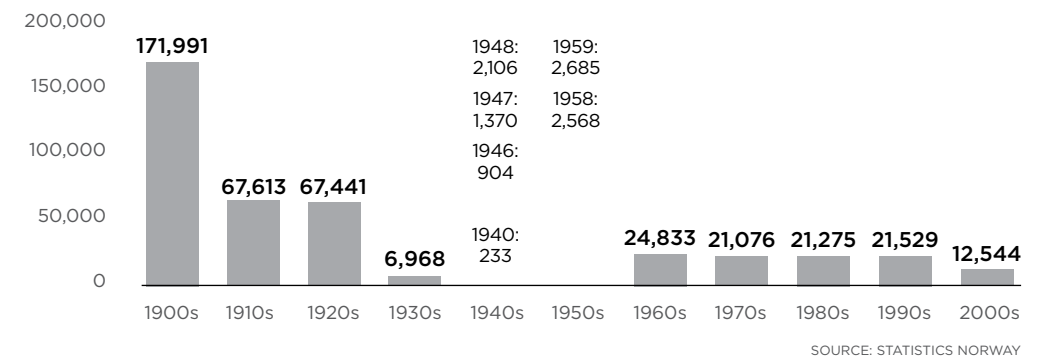
At NAHA, a new endowed research fellowship invites further exploration of 20th century Norwegian immigration to the U.S. using the association’s collections. Read more about it at [naha.stolaf.edu/archives/research](http://naha.stolaf.edu/archives/research).

## Q: HOW MANY NORWEGIANS LEFT FOR THE UNITED STATES IN THE 1900S?

**A:** Statistics Norway, the bureau that produces the country’s official statistics, has data to answer this question, but with gaps and caveats.

- Because of the disruption of World War II and a post-war transition in how migration data were collected, Norway lacks data on emigrants by country of destination for much of the 1940s and 1950s.
- Emigration numbers from the early 1800s through 1948 come from information collected by Norwegian police at the country’s ports. Those figures could include some Swedish emigrants who left for the United States via Norway.
- Norway’s immigration and emigration records of the past five decades are governed by a 1970 law that defines a resident of Norway as anyone who comes to the country to stay for six months or more. It defines an emigrant as a resident of Norway who leaves the country with the intention of staying abroad for six months or more.

## Norwegians Immigrating to the U.S. 1900s–2000s



## Q: WHERE DID THE IMMIGRANTS GO?

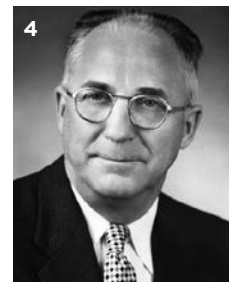
**A:** “The 1920 census established the United States as a nation of city dwellers, as for the first time more than 50 percent of its people were counted among the urban population. Despite their enduring reputation as the most rural of immigrant groups, Norwegians joined the migration to American cities. By the end of the 1920s, some 47 percent of Norwegian immigrants and their children were to be found in the urban populations ... About one-half of the ‘urban’ Norwegians were found in four indisputably metropolitan locales: New York City, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Seattle.”

—John Jensvold, “Becoming American, Becoming Suburban: Norwegians in the 1920s,” *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 33

**A:** “People emigrated not only to the U.S.A. At the start of the 1900s, Canada received 5 percent of the emigration, and at the end of the 1920s, one-third went there.”

—Lars Østby, “Truende utvandring tidlig i århundre” (“Threatening Emigration Early in the Century”), *Statistics Norway/ssb.no*





1) Ships carried Norwegians to North America well into the 20th century, but in the years after World War II, flying was also a common way for immigrants to arrive. In this December 1956 ad from the *Scandinavian American* newspaper, the Scandinavian airline SAS promoted its immigrant fares.

2) In April 1961, SAS officials were in New York to celebrate the launch of a new direct flight to the city from Oslo.

3) Campbell Norsgaard left Norway when German troops invaded in 1940. He joined the Norwegian Air Force in Canada, where it was based during World War II. He became an air force photographer. Later, living on the U.S. East Coast, he had a career as a photographer and cinematographer, producing nature programs for National Geographic, ABC, and others.

4) John Dieseth emigrated from the Hedemark region of Norway as a young man in 1914. Educated at the Oslo Technical School, Dieseth worked several years for the Minnesota highway department and as a county engineer for Ottertail County before starting his own business, John Dieseth Construction Company, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, in 1923.

## Q: WHO WERE THE 20TH CENTURY MIGRANTS WHO LEFT NORWAY?

**A:** “[From 1865 to 1915], family emigration was largely replaced by individual emigration of the young and unmarried.”

—Ingrid Semmingsen, *Norway to America, A History of Migration*

**A:** “Nearly twice as many men as women went over. Steadily more of the emigrants were young adults. Annually, 3 percent of men and 1.5 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 30 left the country in the period from 1900 through 1910.”

—Lars Østby, “Truende utvandring tidlig i århundre” (“Threatening Emigration Early in the Century”), *Statistics Norway/ssb.no*

**A:** “From the 1930s on, the percentage of married men increased ... the earlier labor movement of young people was over ....”

—Odd Lovoll, *The Promise of America*

**A:** “Post World War II saw a changed pattern of immigration, as Norwegians among other nationalities moved ... to take white-collar jobs, not always intending to stay for extended lengths of time ... Engineers represented a consistent percentage, following a tradition that had brought many of them to the United States temporarily or permanently since 1879. A second larger group represented in the 1950s and 1960s was made up of nurses.”

—Jon Gjerde and Carlton C. Qualey, *Norwegians in Minnesota*

## Q: WHY DID THEY MIGRATE?

**A:** “From 1905 to 1925, the Norwegian government kept statistics ... on the reasons for the emigrants’ leaving the homeland:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Lack of access to profitable occupations | 170,000        |
| Hired or seeking hire abroad             | 6,200          |
| To join families                         | 36,800         |
| Other motives                            | 2,100          |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>215,100</b> |

—Arne Hassing, “Norway’s Organized Response to Emigration,” *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 25

**A:** “For the young women migrating from Agder to New York [after] the Second World War, America meant a journey from material scarcity to abundance, from few job opportunities and ways to make a living to economic independence, from religious control to greater possibilities to make one’s own choices.”

—Siv Ringdal, “Dressing Up in Postwar America: Dreams, Experiences, and Embodiment Among Female Norwegian Migrants in New York, 1945–1955,” *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 38

## THE IMPACT ON NORWAY

“After the turn of the century, there was more concern about the impact [of emigration] on the population. Half of a diminishing surplus of births had disappeared, the age structure shifted (fewer young adults), there were fewer marriages and lower birth rates.”

—Lars Østby, “Truende utvandring tidlig i århundre” (“Threatening Emigration Early in the Century”), *Statistics Norway/ssb.no*

“The number of young workers leaving ... prompted the formation, in 1908, of the Norwegian ... Society for the Limitation of Emigration.”

—Arne Hassing, “Norway’s Organized Response to Emigration,” *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 25

“Agder migrants had returned home after months, years, or decades living in the United States. They influenced ... family and friends back home with American fashion and goods, new ideas and ideals, and a more American mindset .... Men who had been working in the building industry brought blueprints of suburban house types and built an American house as their new home [in Norway] .... A common migration pattern would be that these men left home around Easter and returned to Norway before Christmas.”

—Siv Ringdal, “Dressing Up in Postwar America,” *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 38

## Q: WITH MORE MOBILITY IN THE 1900S, HOW MANY NORWEGIANS RETURNED TO NORWAY?

**A:** “Counting returning Norwegian Americans was new in [Norway’s] 1910 census. They were asked about their place of residence before emigrating to the U.S.A., their place of residence and job in the U.S.A., when they left Norway, and when they returned. In all, there were 19,323 returned emigrants registered, most in the Lister and Mandal districts (Vest Agder) and the Stavanger district (Rogaland). The largest groups of those who had turned homeward again had worked in mining and industry (39 percent), or had been domestic or agricultural workers (17 percent) in the U.S.A.”

—Ragnhild Rein Bore, “Ikke of ‘Fremmed Race’” (“Not of ‘Foreign Race’”), *Statistics Norway/ssb.no*

**A:** “The Great Depression prompted 32,000 Norwegians in America to return to their homeland; return migration was closely related to business cycles, to good or bad times, on both sides of the Atlantic. Official Norwegian statistics indicate that between 1891 and 1940, as many as a quarter of all emigrants to America after 1881 resettled in Norway.”

—Odd Lovoll, *The Promise of America*

**A:** “From the 1890s and up to the mid-1960s, the two counties [East and West Agder, now a single county called Agder] had the highest level of overseas migrants per capita in Norway. In ... Lista, for instance, one-fourth of the population worked or had been working in America in 1910, and in 1920 this had increased to one-third of the population. A characteristic part of the migration from Agder is that the migrants brought a seaman’s mentality along with them. They regarded their trip to the United States as temporary ... and their plan was eventually to return with money in the bank and a brighter future back home in Norway. Although many ended up in America on a permanent basis, their original plan was often to go back.”

—Siv Ringdal, “Dressing Up in Postwar America,” *Norwegian-American Studies*, volume 38

IMAGES: (TOP RIGHT) ÅSGEIR VALLDAL/DAGBLADET, NORSK FOLKEMUSEUM; (MIDDLE) NAHA; (LOWER RIGHT) MINNESOTA HIST. SOC.



# A MAN OF THE CHURCH IN AN ERA OF FACTIONS

BY KRISTINA WARNER, NAHA ARCHIVIST, AND DENISE LOGELAND

Olaf Mosen Wangensteen was born in Lærdal, Norway, on September 14, 1873, to Mons Olsen Wangensteen and Martha Mosen. His papers in the NAHA archives offer a window into Norwegian-American church life in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

After immigrating to the United States in 1889, Wangensteen worked briefly as a farmer. Then he embarked on studies at the United Church Seminary in Minneapolis.

The United Church (whose full name was the United Norwegian Lutheran Church in America) was new at the time. It was formed in 1890 through a merger of three prior Lutheran church synods: the Norwegian Danish Augustana Synod, the Conference of the Norwegian Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the Anti-Missourian Brotherhood.

But the merger didn't go entirely smoothly. Some leaders, faculty, and students at the Conference's Augsburg Seminary resisted coming under the control of the United Church. These "Friends of Augsburg" eventually formed the Lutheran Free Church in 1897. Because of the conflict, for most of the 1890s, the United



Olaf Wangensteen with his first wife, Eleonora, and son Mons, circa 1912.



Iowa River Lutheran Church, where Wangensteen was a pastor.

Church faculty and students had to make do with temporary quarters for their own seminary, not far from Augsburg, at Franklin Avenue and 25th Avenue South in Minneapolis.

In the late 1890s, the conflict between the United Church and Augsburg was resolved by the Minnesota Supreme Court. By early 1902, the United Church had moved its seminary into newly constructed buildings in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of St. Paul. Today, that campus is called Luther Seminary.

Wangensteen, who was a student during this turmoil, left the seminary in 1900. He taught at a religious school in Goodhue

County, Minnesota, until he re-entered the seminary in 1904. After ordination in 1907, he served in his first call as pastor at St. Hilaire, Pennington County, Minnesota. During his career, he served congregations in several states, including Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church, Allamakee County, Iowa; Falnes Church, Day County, South Dakota; and Little Sauk Church, Todd County, Minnesota.

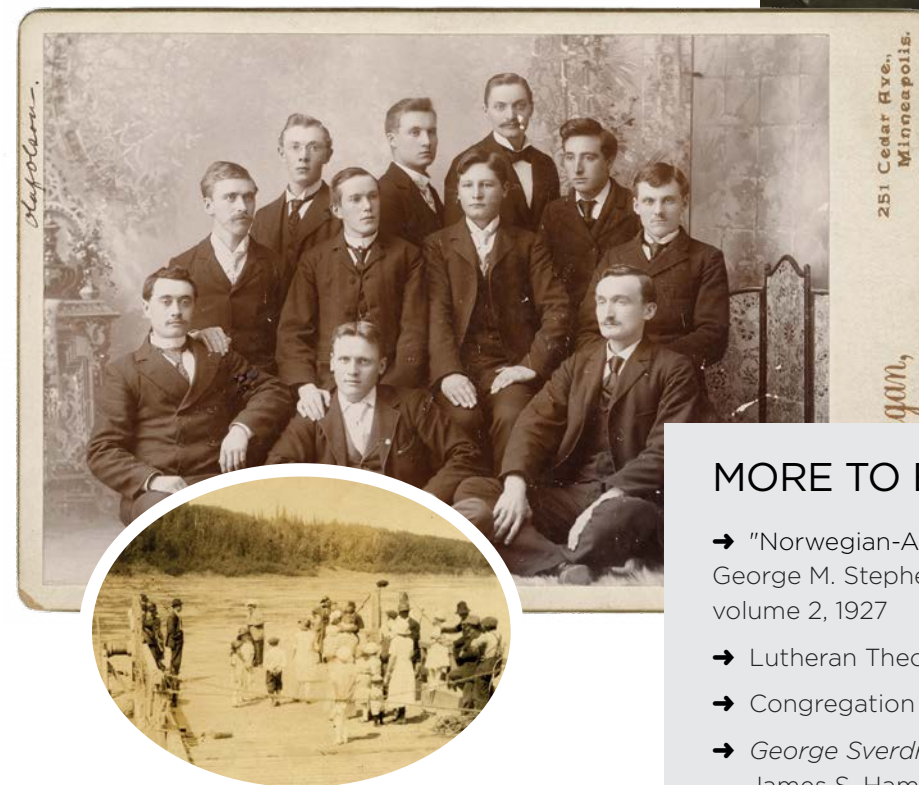
As a young pastor, Wangensteen moved to southern Minnesota, for a call at Spring Grove in Fillmore County. There, he met and married Eleonora Avelsgaard in 1908. Together, they had two children: Mons (Monty) Olaf Bernhard (1910–1977) and Ragna (1912–2001). Their marriage was brief, as Eleonora died in 1913. Wangensteen eventually remarried, with Julia Solberg. He died in 1933 in Melfort, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Wangensteen also worked for a popular cause of his era: abstinence from alcohol. Throughout his life, he was involved in the Minnesota Total Abstinence Society. He wrote advocacy pieces that were published under the pen name "Servus," Latin for "servant."

The recently donated Olaf M. Wangensteen papers in the NAHA archives (NAHA 2022/009) contain many photographs of the family throughout the Upper Midwest and Canada, correspondence, pamphlets, and more items that highlight the life of the Wangensteen family and the congregations Olaf Wangensteen served.



(Below) United Church Seminary students in 1896. Wangensteen is in the middle of the front row.



On the Saskatchewan River, circa 1921.

IMAGES: NAHA

IMAGES: NAHA

(Below) Fishing and hunting grouse on the Saskatchewan River, 1921.



(Left) "A corner of my room at United Church Seminary," circa 1901.



## MORE TO EXPLORE

- "Norwegian-American Lutheran Church History," George M. Stephenson, NAHA *Studies and Records*, volume 2, 1927
- Lutheran Theological Seminaries papers (P0506)
- Congregation records (P0537)
- *George Sverdrup: Educator, Theologian, Churchman*, James S. Hamre, NAHA, 1987





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Us!



**October  
22, 2022**

St. Olaf College,  
Northfield,  
Minnesota

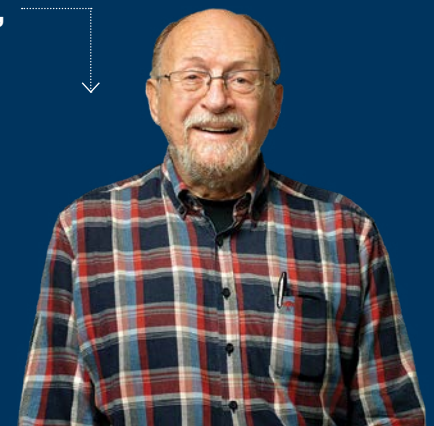
# NAHA BIENNIAL MEMBER MEETING

A day to explore history, enjoy the  
company of fellow members, and  
advance the work of the association

**Keynote speaker David C. Mauk,**  
author of *Heart of the Heartland:  
Norwegian-American  
Community in the Twin Cities*

**Plus:**

- Election of board members
- News of the association
- Nordic-themed luncheon



**For more information and to register, go to [naha.stolaf.edu](http://naha.stolaf.edu).**