In June, following the NAHA-Norge conference, my husband and I arrived via the southbound Hurtigruten 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.
NAHA Norge Conference Recap

I had the opportunity to attend the 2014 NAHA Norge Conference, “Freedom and Migration in a Norwegian American Context”, held in Fagernes, Norway June 18-21st. Over 50 participants from the Americas and Norway participated through sharing papers, informal discussions and a variety of social and cultural activities held in the surrounding area. Each day featured a subtheme related to the overall theme of conference. Subthemes included Narratives of Freedom; Freedom and Cultural Transplantedness; Freedom and Emigration; Freedom, Gender and Migration; Freedom and War; Freedom and Ethnic Heritage and Freedom in Norwegian America. Because many of the papers presented will be available in the 2017 Norwegian-American Essays publication, I will focus on the other events included in the conference.

Here are some of my personal highlights from the week:

The first evening of the conference, attendees were treated to a tour of the Valdres Folkemuseum located just a short walk from the conference center. Recently retired curator Jahn Børe Jahnsen described the history of the buildings which had been relocated there. We were treated to several musical performances including the brothers Knut and Ole Aastad Bråten who played on traditional instruments in this historic setting while we enjoyed a light soup and flatbread supper.

The following afternoon we boarded a bus to visit the Hedalen stavkirke, built in approximately 1160 and perched on a hilltop overlooking the Hedalen valley. Along the way, Jahn Børe Jahnsen pointed out historic locations. We settled ourselves in the historical pews


Left: The Bråten brothers entertain with song accompanied by the traditional Norwegian langeleik.

Right: Interior of the Hedalen stavkirke.

Right: Hedalen stavkirke altar with triptych dating from 1700s and crucifix from the 1260s-1280s.
Norway's small U.S. Civil War re-enactment soldiers. Representing members of the Wisconsin Cavalry, they answered questions about their uniforms and activities as re-enactors. Apparently the re-enactment community is small so they generally join up with others in Great Britain for larger events. Following their talk, we were treated to a delightful meal prepared by the caterers for the Valdres Folkemuseum, featuring local cuisine which was as much a feast for the eyes as the taste buds. Two young singers, students of Terje Hasle Joranger, outgoing president of NAHA Norge, provided entertainment. Professor Odd Lovoll gave the 'takk for maten' following dinner and commended the organizers for a fine conference. Following the Saturday morning sessions we enjoyed open faced sandwiches as we shared our farewells and prepared to leave Fagernes.

Stavanger, Norway is the location of the 2017 seminar. We'll announce the call for papers and seminar details when they become available.

By Jackie Henry

to hear Jahn share the story of the Hedalen stavkirke. According to legend, the area was depopulated during the Black Death in the mid-1300s and the church was abandoned. A hunter discovered the forgotten church in the woods after a mis-shot arrow struck the church bell. As the hunter entered the church he found a bear making his lair in the church altar. The hunter shot the bear. To substantiate the story, there is a bear pelt in a case on the wall of the church. Jahn shared with us that testing had confirmed the age of the pelt to be consistent with the era in which this event might have occurred. Jahn also wrote a book on the legend of the bear and connected it to more than 30 other stories about bears in churches from Norway, Sweden and other northern European countries.

The church is still in use and features the Hedal Madonna dating back to the 1200s, a Gothic triptych circa 1700 with a crucifix dating back another 400 years to the 1260-80s. In addition to the very interesting lecture about the church's history, we were treated to a vocal and organ recital by local musicians Osvald Fossholm and Arne Heimestøl. Following the tour of the church, we stopped at Nordre localet i Hedalen, a local community center where we enjoyed a lecture by Knut Djupedal, and a traditional rømmegrot supper with smoked meats and salads.

Friday evening we again walked to the Valdres Folkemuseum where we were greeted by a color guard of

conference attendees explore the Neste homestead, which was moved from Winnesheik county, Iowa to Valdres in 2004. The pioneer log house was originally built in 1854 by Knut Knutsen Neste from Veste Slidre, Valdres. It was in continuous use as a home, garage, corn crib and even a chicken coop. The United States flag flew over the capital in Des Moines on Syttende Mai in 2004.
Archive Highlight: Letters from Rev. Bjug

Rev. Bjug Harstad, founder and first president of Pacific Lutheran Academy (now University) saw in the Yukon gold rush the answer to repaying the school’s significant startup debt. He traveled north from February 1898 to June 1899, during which time he wrote a series of letters to the Pacific Herald, describing his journey. While his gold mining efforts didn’t yield the funds he’d hoped for, an upturn in the nation’s economy ultimately allowed the school to successfully pay off its bondholders.

The NAHA archives holds copies of some of the letters, which were translated by Bjug’s son Adolph Harstad in 1955. The translations were given to NAHA by Olaf Malmin prior to 1970. In 1973, a 75th anniversary edition of the collection was prepared by Adolph for Rev. Harstad’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On that edition’s cover, Adolph Harstad quotes Dr. Neelak Tjernagel, whose father served as a missionary in Alaska, “I am most grateful to you for sending me your father’s Alaska Letters. It is really one of the most remarkable documents I have ever read. H.M.T. [Thernagel’s father] often spoke of the Klondike gold rush and I have had a considerable interest in it ever since.

The reasons for your father’s going are remarkable enough in themselves. What is so astounding is his rather casual description of the rigors of the journey that took such a terrible toll on the lives of others. To him the trip was difficult, but he makes it seem much less than herculean. And then he tops it all off by comparing this rigorous adventure to a college student’s summer vacation, which refreshes him and makes him better prepared for the tasks ahead. What a man the Bjug Harstad must have been.”

These two letters are just a sample from the collection of 23 letters.

First letter, dated 10th Feb. 1898 written from Victoria B.C.

“Dear Herald;

Herewith a friendly greeting to all readers.

Yesterday, a little before 9 a.m. we left Tacoma on the steamer City of Seattle on our way to Dyea, Alaska. It was hard to extend the hand in farewell to wife, children and friends for such a long time as a trip into the vast interior of Alaska requires.

Were one to linger over thoughts of hardship and want, dangers and accidents that may so quickly cut the thread of life, then the heard would yield to sadness and sorrow; but when one remembers that the call and duty that one has agreed upon with friends and relatives requires this sacrifice, then one clings the better to his Heavenly Father and to His unspeakable mercy, glorious and never failing promises and His unlimited power to stand by a poor wanderer in all His ways. Thus we are in good spirits. We have received needed food and sleep so both body and mind are in the best of health.

The crush and confusion here beggars all description. Otis Larsen and I were fortunate enough to get a bunk together. There are three bunks, one above the other.
Harstad, a trip into the Yukon

We have the middle one. In each bunk there is room for two persons. There are 18 inches between our bunk and the one above. The aisle between our bed and the next row of bunks is 34 inches. All bunks are occupied by an indescribable crowd of Irishmen, Norwegians, Germans and Americans. To save a few dollars we have all taken steerage.

If any get seasick, which is very likely here, there will be fun. My companion and I do not expect to get sick.

At the table we stand closely packed together with hats or caps on and eat meat, potatoes, beans and bread and butter from large cups and plates. All tableware is of tin or sheet metal except knives and forks which are of steel. We eat well, but no one who is particular or fastidious should be here. We wish to ask all who are thinking of going to Alaska to note the following: Those who wish to go over the mountains at Dyea and into Canada by way of the lakes should have a good supply of tools and clothes together with provisions for one year. Such equipment will cost $150 to $200. But if four or more go together the party can get along with one tent, one stove and one set of carpenter's tools. Those who buy merchandise in the United States must pay duty when they cross the boundary into Canada. Therefore we advise those who buy equipment to buy either in Victoria or Vancouver, British Columbia, thereby saving duty which is otherwise demanded. Duty amounts to about one third the value of all equipment. Later we will inform you further about this matter.

We arrived here at 9 o'clock and will leave at 12. Letters will reach us at Dyea, Alaska, during the next two weeks. We wish you all well. God be with us. [Signed] H."

A later letter written from Sheep Camp, Alaska 28th of March, 1898.

“Since you last heard from us we have worked with all our might to get our things up the mountain. We try to be diligent. As a rule we get up between 5 and 6 o'clock and have usually eaten and are ready to go to work at 7 o'clock. The dishes must stand unwashed until we get home in the evening. A day and a half of work will bring our equipment to the foot of the last high ascent, Chilkoot.

We are now working about three miles up the valley from our camp. There are no trees; only snow, cliffs and glaciers up there.

Some people cannot stand to work at such an high altitude. Some bleed at the nose, especially when they reach the summit of the pass. Others become snow blind on account of the bright snow and ice. To the present time we have suffered no harm from all this. We seldom wear our snow glasses.

The weather has been very fine, though at time so cold one must work hard to keep warm. For our lunch which consists of bachelorbread, oatmeal, crackers, butter and bacon, we usually take a little water or coffee along in a flask; but the other day the flask froze and our drip was ice despite the fact we had wrapped the flask in a coat and thrust it into the snow.

Our work is so heavy that in spite of the cold we perspire all day. Up gentler slopes we haul 100 pounds on a sled each trip, but on the steepest slopes we use block and tackle. By splicing our rope to one belonging to Mr. H. Amundsen and his party we have about 600 feet. We tie a sled at each end of the rope. In this way one man can haul 100 pounds up the steep slopes. One follows the sled up while the other pulls the empty sled down. In this way we move our equipment 1400 feet up the slope per day. According to our experience, this is the best way to get up the steep slopes. Some carry everything on their backs.

We had earnestly hoped that we could get our goods up on the pass, pay the duty and move our camp to Lake Lindeman as soon as possible in order celebrate Easter in peace and quiet at Lake Lindeman. But it does not seem that can be. We may well be here in Sheep Camp until after Easter. This is not a comfortable place to keep holy the festival of Easter.

Our friends from San Francisco have now arrived but they had to wait several days for their goods. There are two parties. One is named the “Viking Company” and consists of the following courageous men: A. Thronson, J.K. Stensrud, Ole Sjule, Olaf Anon and Anders Strom. The last two came instead of Mr. Jorgenson and Capt. Lucky.

The second party is called C.W.T and consists of: Messrs.. Geo. Christie, Wendt and Tobias Tellefson. Wendt is German; all the others are Northern.

They bought their equipment in Victoria to save a little duty but they say they hardly saved anything because of delays, a stay in Victoria and expenses for customs brokers which they had not figured on.

One can perhaps buy as cheap and good equipment in Juneau, Alaska as anywhere else and thereby save some freight costs.
Hans Nederlee from the Seattle congregation is also on his way to Yukon. His traveling companions are L. Christiansen, Chris Gulbranssen and Andrew Redberg. They expect to move over to Lake Lindeman the first of April. One day Nederlee shot 6 ptarmigan a little way up the mountain from here. He says they are a little smaller than the ptarmigan in Norway.

*Herald* would naturally like to know and say something about missions in Alaska. Some of our countrymen are in business in Juneau, Skagway, Dyea and even here in Sheep Camp. But as far as I know none of them intend to stay any length of time. Very few of them have their families here. The missionary ought rather follow the many Skandinavians who go into the Yukon. Many of them really wish to have a chaplain along. As such the writer of these lines will act. As far as a mission among the Indians is concerned I cannot say much. Yet I understand there are not so few Indians along the coast and in the interior. The tribe that lives hereabouts and that we have become slightly acquainted with is called ‘Chilkoot.’ This word means ‘The tempest place.’ Whether this tribe claims the topmost place among other Indian tribes or has received the name of the pass over the mountains into the Yukon Valley, I cannot say. This pass or gap in the mountains is called ‘Chilkoot’ and means, as an Indian told me, ‘Summit Top’ but he also told me that the word ‘Chil’ means place, spot, also town.

For the most part the Indians seem to be good-natured and intelligent people. It is believed they lead a moral life. Many of them have undoubtedly visited the Hains Mission, which lies about twenty miles from Dyea. These Indians that we have spoken to speak good English. An incident which put us Christians to shame happened soon after we had arrived in Dyea. One Sunday a Norwegian Lutheran went into a store operated by an Indian and asked the price of their fur caps. A women said to him immediately in good English, ‘The Lord gave us six days in the week for work and the seventh for rest. We don’t sell on Sunday. Come again tomorrow.’ This was a mission sermon that brought him to shame. The man concerned said he had never been so ashamed as when he heard this from an Indian. These Indians are industrious and capable workmen. They continue to have their chief.

In the vicinity of an Indian camp here in Sheep Camp there is a large sign which reads: “George II is Chief of the Chilkoots and a friend of all white men. [Signed] H.”

Adolph Harstad wrote a brief addenda to the letters. He writes, “It is unfortunate that the letters written at Tagish and Miles Canyon were lost. That stretch of water between Tagish and Fort Selkirk was the most dangerous part of the Yukon and many lives and much equipment were lost there...Father left Dawson on the river steamer *Robert Kear* on the trip down the Yukon to St. Michael on June 20th, 1899. At St. Michael he boarded the SS *Coronna* and surprised everyone in Parkland when he arrived on July 20th, 1899... Rev. Harstad survived this memorable trip by 35 years and died on June 20, 1933 in Parkland, Washington.”

Rev. Bjug Aanondson Harstad born in 1848 in Valle, Setesdal, immigrated with his family to Seneca, Illinois in 1861. Soon after arriving his father died and the family relocated in 1865 to Fillmore County, Minnesota. His pastor in Harmony, Minn. encouraged him to attend Luther College. Upon graduation, he attended Concordia Seminary in Missouri. Following his ordination as a Lutheran minister in 1874, Harstad went on to found 16 churches in the Red River Valley and three schools in North Dakota before being called to start an academy for Norwegian immigrants in the Puget Sound area of Washington.¹

For the past several years, the boards of the Norwegian-American Historical Association and the chapter known as NAHA-Norge have been working to define the relationship between the two organization. One of our key tasks at the NAHA-Norge conference was to establish a memorandum of agreement that recognizes NAHA-Norge as an independent organization rather than simply a chapter of the U.S. based association.

NAHA-Norge was established in 1981 as a chapter of NAHA, in part to simplify the collection of dues for our members in Norway. Over time it has evolved to have its own board of directors, mission and programs. While our original discussions focused on how to share membership fees to adequately fund activities on both sides of the Atlantic, it soon became apparent that both membership groups would be best served by recognizing NAHA-Norge as an independent organization.

Lifetime members who enrolled through NAHA-Norge will continue to be recognized as lifetime members of the NAHA group. (As was the case here in the U.S., lifetime memberships were discontinued in 2004.)

Members in the U.S., Canada and Norway who wish to be members of both organizations will need to pay their dues separately to each. Because electronic payment systems are now the norm rather than the exception, international payments can be more easily processed, which removes the obstacle to members trying to transmit dues across borders.

This arrangement will allow Den norske avdelingen av Det Norskamerikanske Historielaget to focus their mission on the triennial conference and their publication series *Norwegian-American Essays*. The boards of both organizations are committed to continued cooperation and collaboration, symbolized by designating a board seat on each board to be appointed by the others' president.

The memorandum of understanding establishing the two as independent entities becomes official as soon as the boards of each organization approve changes in the governing by-laws to reflect the independent status. We established a deadline of July 1, 2015 to complete the task.

Budget permitting, NAHA plans to produce and distribute the 2014 *Norwegian-American Essays* to U.S. and Canadian NAHA members in 2015, as we did for the 2011 edition. The 2014 volume, edited by Terje Mikael Hasle Joranger, contains essays based on papers presented in Decorah Iowa during the 2011 NAHA-Norge Seminar held at Luther College.
A Norwegian Settler in Nehama

In the 1970s, NAHA received two submissions from the Rev. H.O. Henrickson of Edmonds, Washington. This excerpt from a larger family history, describes the immigration of Gunder Herlofsen, an early Kansas pioneer. Rev. Henrickson was personally acquainted with Gunder Herlofsen's son, Ole, and part of the story is based on his recollections, as well as Henrickson's extensive research. In addition to Gunder's story, additional sections of the original manuscript go into great detail about his sister Karen, her immigration to Chicago and the formation of early Lutheran congregations in that city, as well as discussion of the Christian congregations in Kansas, the Indian wars and the slavery issue.

Henrickson writes: “Among the various nationalities in early Kansas some were Norwegians. The Federal Census of 1860 lists 223 Norwegians in Kansas. Three of them lived in Greenwood County. Their address was Eureka, and the market place was Kansas City, Missouri, 150 miles distant. In 1858, Harold O. Tvedt came from La Crosse, Wisconsin to Lancaster, Atchison County, Kansas. In 1860, there were Norwegian settlements in Brown and Doniphan Counties, Kansas. But the History of Nehama County mentions no Norwegians, nor a Lutheran Congregation in that county.”

“The Norwegian community paper Vossingen at Leland, Illinois, announced on January 28, 1858 that two Norwegians from Chicago, Ill., went to Kansas. That issue also contained information about the new Norwegian movement into Kansas. In July 29, 1858 Mr. Lars Nelson Gjernes wrote a letter from Sumner, Kansas to a friend in Chicago, Illinois. On April 25, 1859 Knud Anderson Gjernes wrote that he resided ten miles from Lawrence, Kansas. Also his letter was printed in Vossingen. It announced that Sjur Steffenson Ambjorg died at Lawrence, Kansas.

With this introduction our story shall center largely on a Norwegian pioneer, Gunder Herlofsen, in Nehama County, Kansas. His nearest genealogy is known. The father, carpenter Herlof Olson Grothe (d.1829) was born in Grytten, Romsdalen, Norway. Herlof's wife, Aase Gunnufsen (1789-1838) was from the Odderness parish north of Kristiansand. Probably she worked in that city and became acquainted with Herlof Olson. They were married and resided in Kristiansand. There their five children were born. Eldest were twins: Edel Sevrine and Olaus born October 15, 1816; little is known about Olaus, a tailor in France. Gunder, the second son, was born on February 10, 1819. Karen Sevrine, born February 17, 1824 was the youngest daughter. Christian (1826-1895) was the youngest son. Possibly before and certainly after their mother’s death in 1838, the three youngest children were reared in their uncle Aamon G. Ugland’s home in the Odderness parish north of Kristiansand, Norway.

The children’s mother, Aase, was poor and suffered with dropsy. She was in a home of charity and had assistance from the poor fund. Her death occurred at about the time when her daughter was confirmed in 1838. The burial was in the “hospital cemetery”. That area was later dedicated for a park. Herlof and Aase used the name Olson, but the children wrote their surname Herlofsen. The early death of the parents was a hardship for the children. Gunder worked on the Ugland farm, perhaps on other farms also. In adolescent age he returned to Kristiansand and clerked in the Kirsebom store.

After some years of experience in that work, he joined partnership with Lauritz Lorentsen (1825-1873) to operate a grocery store on the corner of Market and Tordenskjold streets. My father’s parents were among customers in the store. Several circumstances were unfavorable to their business. Mr. L. Lorentsen was addicted to liquor and was an immoral character. Gunder had assisted him financially, nevertheless, Lorentsen went bankrupt. This affected his partner in the store. Moreover, Gunder had loaned money to his brother-in-law Edward Stromme who later was adjudged bankrupt and could not reimburse Gunder the money that he owned him. The financial situation was shaky. In 1857, a business panic happened in the U.S. of America. These circumstances discouraged G. Herlofsen to the extent that he disposed of his store, and in 1857 immigrated to the United States; to which port is not known now. He had read in Kristiansands Posten the editor Johan R. Reieerson’s report about various settlements in America, and his recommendations for emigrants to choose Texas. No information indicates that Gunder went to Texas.

He had in Kristiansand married Miss Else Theodora Taraldsen (1830-1869) a daughter of master-smith Taraldsen and wife... After Gunder Herlofsen emigrated, his wife and two children rented rooms
in the house of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Waldeland. The son, Ole Herlofsen, said his mother had a good soprano voice and could play an organ. She earned money as a seamstress. By the guidance of emissary Ole Waldeland she was converted to faith in her Savior Jesus Christ. She was an intimate friend of Mrs. Ole Waldeland to whom she wrote letters, even after the Waldeland family, in 1866, came to Wisconsin. She wrote letters to her husband Gunder in Kansas.”

The author, H.O. Hendrickson, goes at length to describe his efforts at finding Gunder Herlofsen in the 1860 census records, however land records recorded with the Bureau of Land Management indicate that Herlofsen acquired his parcel in October 1860, missing the census counts at that time.

“Notwithstanding these reports we know that G. Herlofsen was on a farm near Wild Cat Creek, and it was four miles from Seneca. Not only at the starting, but during several years he endured privations, wants, and hardships on his farm and in war. He was accustomed to work, and his mind was set. He needed a dwelling. It was at first a cellar, or a dugout in a hillside. To a cousin in Norway he had written that his dwelling was a cellar. This news astonished the cousin and his neighborhood, where every family had a loghouse or a framehouse. After due time, Mr. G. Herlofsen built a loghouse, probably of cottonwood logs hewed down by the near creek, or from farther away. His son, Ole, who arrived from Norway in 1864, told the writer of this story that the loghouse lacked shingles on the roof; clapboards imitated windows; no boards for a floor, only the bare ground; a fireplace was in the center of the room. While constructing the dugout and digging a well, he may have stayed at nights with a neighbor.

He was alone. Was he skillful in preparing meals? Was his bread baked by a neighbor’s wife? We are not informed thereabout. Flour in the sack was bought in the nearest store. A flourmill was 65 miles to the east before one was built in a nearer village. Acres of prairie were broken for a field and for protection against prairie fires. A breaking-plow was borrowed from a neighbor who assisted him in breaking the sod. A drag and a seeder were necessary implements. Perhaps these were borrowed during the first and second years. It is not known if he and neighbors drove oxteams at the start of farming. Later he had horses. Years passed before roads were in line with the sections. On those prairies the workers sweated in hot, and felt chilled in winters with frequent snowstorms. There was danger of rushing prairie fires!

Adding to his loneliness was the general nationality of neighbors in the neighborhood. They were German. It is not known that a Norwegian family or bachelor was in it. The township had neither Lutheran church nor cemetery; the nearest was in eastward Brown County, where the first Norwegian Lutheran congregation was organized in 1860. That place was many miles east from Seneca. Gunder Herlofsen was born, reared, and had business in the seaport Kristiansand in south Norway; he lived there until his 38th year. Great was the contrast between city life and a farm with surroundings in Nehama County, Kansas around the year 1860. Besides the American and German families there were Indians “all around”. The latter was the Kickapoo tribe on a reservation some miles east of Seneca.

According to the report in Volume I by the Adjutant General of the States of Kansas, 1861-1865, p. 462, was stated that Gunder Herlofsen was a private in Co. G of the 13th Kansas Vol. Infantry. He, together with five men had enlisted at Seneca on September 2, 1862. Based on a letter from Gunder was the information that he was a military captain. This might have been his wish, because in Kristiansand, Norway he had been a member in the city militia. Be that as it may, in Co. G of 13th Kansas Vol. he was a private. 57 soldiers from Nehama county were in that company of the 13th Kansas.”

Gunder survived the war, honorably discharged in 1863 due to “camp diarrhea”. He returned to his parcel in Nehama, so weak he had to crawl the last distance from town to his farm. His wife and children joined him in the summer of 1864, via Chicago. Because Nehama had no trains, they took a stage coach from Chicago to Kansas. Gunder died in April 1869 of injuries suffered from a runaway team. His wife died in childbirth in October of the same year. Their two surviving children were cared for by Gunder’s sister Karen, who had immigrated to New York in 1858, married her suitor Geo. T. Bessesen and established a home in Chicago.

New Additions to the NAHA Archives

NAHA received the following donations of archive materials between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014

Recent additions to the manuscripts collection include:


Recently added photographs and posters:


- Harling, Magnus N., Photography Collection (150 lantern slides, ca. 1906). Added to P0655 Photographic Collection. Hand-colored images of Norway by Swedish-American Harling. Donated by the American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, Minn.

- Solheim, Audrey, Stavanger Amt Laget Panoramic Photo

Collection (11 images, 1916-1939). Added to P0655 Photographic Collection. Collection includes Lag meetings (1914, 1928, 1935, and 1939); Scenery (Vikedal & Trondheim); Nordlandslaget (1916); and Norwegian American Line Special Party at the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. (1930). Donated by Audrey Solheim, Manfred, N.D., via Lawrence Thompson, Bismarck, N.D.

Recent additions to the Norwegian-American family histories, memoirs, and organizational histories


Above three collections were all donated by NAHA Patron member John E. Bye.

- Gordon and Olson Family Records. Added to Family Histories and Genealogies, P0539. An extensive collection comprising 13 banker boxes, including: Teman Gordon’s experiences homesteading in North Dakota and his years as a business leader in Joice, Iowa; 100+ stereoviews from the 1870s and 1880s, and materials

The Archives continue to benefit from the generosity of members and friends who have made important donations. Although we aren’t able to acknowledge all donations here, we do appreciate every donation, large and small. We welcome additional donations of Norwegian-American letters, diaries, photographs, family histories, and community and congregational materials. Families can be sure that their donations will remain open for family consultation in the NAHA archives. They can also be certain that family treasures will not be discarded in a hasty move or by future generations who may have lost touch with their Norwegian-American heritage.

Gary DeKrey, Archivist
Jeff Sauve, Associate Archivist
from Doris Clark’s life. Donated by Susan Clark, Bellingham, WA.

- **Additions to the Olaf Morgan Norlie (1876-1962) Papers**, P0561. Family newsletters “Olaf-Louise Saga” (1938 to 1946); a bound set of correspondence by Josephine Norlie Haugen, (Dell Rapids, South Dakota, 1904-1907); and genealogical materials prepared by O.M. Norlie. Donated by Karen Norlie Haugen Sack, NAHA lifetime member, via the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library.


- **Overland, Ole Andreas. Illustreret Norges Historie**, vols: 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1892 (x2), 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896 1897, 1898 (Kristiania, Norway). Added to the St. Olaf College Library Special Collections/Nordic Imprints. Donated by James Aakhus, NAHA Associate Member.

**A small sample of the hand tinted images from the Magnus N. Harling collection of lantern slides recently donated to NAHA by the American Swedish Institute.**

**Bergen fish market**

**Hardanger: Snow tunnel at Haukeli, Dyrskar Gap**

**Hardanger: Eidfjorden**
Updates and Events

**Club 2014 Campaign update** - We are just a few dollars short of halfway to our goal of raising $160,000 to fund the installation of climate control in the NAHA archives. Thank you to all who have made a commitment to support this critical effort. Our goal is to receive pledges for the remaining amount by December 31st, with commitments payable through May 2017. To make a gift or pledge, please contact Jackie Henry at 507-786-3221 or naha@stolaf.edu for more information.

**Bridging Continents, Bridging the River Tour.** Registration is open for this Saturday, September 6th event, but seats are limited. See our home page at www.naha.stolaf.edu for a link to the registration page if you’d like to join us. A full description of the tour, which starts at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, is in our last newsletter.

**NAHA Biennial Members Meeting.** Save Saturday, October 18, 2014 for this important event. Orm Øverland, editor and translator of the three volumes of *From America to Norway, Norwegian-American Immigrant Letters, 1838-1914*, will be our keynote speaker. Dennis Gimmestad will provide an abbreviated version of the Bridging Continents, Bridging the River tour. Karen V. Hansen of Brandeis University will discuss the research behind her recent book *Encounter on the Great Plains, Scandinavian Settlers and the Dispossession of Dakota Indians, 1890-1930*. Plus we’ll be holding our biennial business meeting to review the organization’s finances and future plans, recognize our Club 2014 donors and elect the board of directors. Invitations will be sent in September. Open to the public, with the exception of votes on official NAHA business. We are planning to stream the keynote and members meeting live so members can view us from any location with a computer and internet connection. You’ll find the link on our homepage the day of the event. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for the NAHA board of directors, please contact Jackie Henry by October 1st, and she’ll bring nominations to the Governance Committee for consideration.