

# Norwegian Tracks

Norwegian American Genealogical  
Center & Naeseth Library

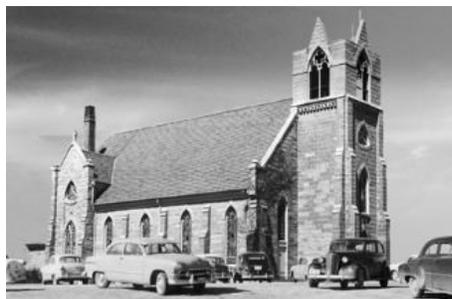


Fall 2022  
Volume 45, Number 2

## Perry Lutheran Church Webinar

NAGC is offering a webinar on the history of the Perry Lutheran Church on November 5 at 10:00 a.m. CST. Arthur Ness, senior translator and historian at NAGC, will present the webinar.

The Perry Church is on Highway 78, ten miles south of Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, in the southwest corner of Dane County. In the 19th and early 20th centuries it was the head church for a large part of Southwestern Dane County and Eastern Iowa County. The congregation was organized in 1854. The first church was built in 1860 and the present one was built on the same site in 1881. The cemetery, just a



few years younger, is the final resting place of Norwegian immigrants, some of whom were born in the 1780s and '90s. Their descendants are dispersed throughout the United States and Canada. Old cemeteries have stories to tell, and Perry's has been storing them up for 165 years. Seven generations of Mr. Ness's family are there, marked and unmarked. He listened to his mother and her cousins tell those stories for the first 50 years of his life.

Natural disasters, epidemics, pandemics, and even re-arrangement are all recorded there on grounds of the Perry Cemetery, on the stones, and in the ghosts of the pre-1914 cemetery that persist if one knows where to look for them.

Join Mr. Ness as he tells a selection of these stories and shows pictures of some of the things that this cemetery both has in common with many other old cemeteries, and some of the things that make this one unique and interesting.

### TICKETS:

Visit <https://www.nagenl.org/event/perry-lutheran-church-webinar/> to receive a Zoom link.

Price: \$10.00

Tickets may be purchased until the morning of the webinar.

*Save the Date for  
our Friends of  
NAGC Dinner:  
October 9—More  
details inside!*

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NORWEGIAN AMERICAN  
Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library

## HILSEN FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear NAGC members,

Memorial Day weekend is often the “unofficial” beginning of summer for most of us. This Memorial Day was especially meaningful to the Norwegian-American community as we rededicated the Col. Hans Heg statue on the capitol square in Madison, Wisconsin.

Col. Heg was the highest ranking soldier from Wisconsin to give his life during the Civil War. He was also a Norwegian immigrant. Heg was inspired by other immigrant groups that had formed regiments representative of their ethnic background to serve the Union effort. He began recruiting Scandinavian immigrants to serve under him. The vast majority of his recruits were Norwegian born themselves or had Norwegian born parents. Col. Heg led the 15th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment until his death from injuries on September 20, 1863 at the Battle of Chickamauga.

Nearly 100 years ago the Norwegian-American community honored Heg’s service by erecting a statue of his likeness on the square around Wisconsin’s capitol building. During the unrest of the summer of 2020 the statue was torn down by people who didn’t know who he was or what he represented.

I like to look for silver linings. The damage done to the statue called attention to who Heg was and renewed interest in the contributions he and other Norwegian Americans have made to



Above, 2022 NAGC Board Officers L to R: Gary Smithback (Vice Chair), John Thompson (Chair), Paul Berge (Treasurer), Ken Larson (Secretary)

our country. It was very satisfying to see his statue standing once again on the capitol square this past Memorial Day, celebrated with the same fanfare as the original dedication a century prior.

If you would like to learn more about the soldiers who served in the 15th Wisconsin, visit <https://www.nagcnl.org/databases/#soldiers> The database of soldiers is searchable and contains a great deal of information about the men who served under one of Norway’s most famous sons.

*John W. Thompson*

Board Chairman

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### *Norwegian Tracks*

Published two times per year by Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC &NL)

415 W. Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703-3116  
Sent to members of NAGC & NL

The purpose of the publication is to assist and encourage genealogists with Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogical questions.

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Letters concerning genealogical inquiries for *Norwegian Tracks* should be sent to Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC & NL) 415 W. Main Street, Madison, WI 53703-3116

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other rights for subsequent publication back to the author or artists.

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit research center with national and international scope. The Center collects, preserves, shares, and interprets resources for the study of Norwegian heritage.

To carry out this mission, the Center provides:

- The Naeseth Library, located in Madison, where resources devoted to Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogy are collected, preserved, shared and interpreted;
- Assistance, interpretation, education, and research by trained staff to members, patrons, and correspondents;
- Continuing education and outreach for genealogists and the public worldwide through cooperative information exchanges, publications, tours, displays, seminars, and merchandise sales.

NAGC & NL is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please call for an appointment to ensure staff availability and record accessibility at 608-255-2224 or email at [genealogy@nagcnl.org](mailto:genealogy@nagcnl.org).

## MEET OLIVIA SOLVACEK

NAGC is excited to welcome Olivia Slovacsek as a marketing and communications student intern this fall. Olivia is studying at Madison College to earn a degree in Marketing and Social Media Marketing. She is very excited for the opportunity to work for the Norwegian American Genealogical Center. She will be primarily responsible for creating content for NAGC's social media accounts and email communications.

Olivia is from the little town of Deerfield, Wisconsin. Her Norwegian ancestors immigrated to the Stoughton area primarily from Årdal and Sogndal in Sogn og Fjordane during the late 1800s. Some hobbies she enjoys are playing soccer with friends, doing her own nails, hiking, thrifting, and in true Norwegian fashion, drinking coffee!



### COVID-19 VISITOR POLICY

Your health and the health of the NAGC staff and volunteers is very important to us. The Naeseth Library is open to visitors, and all local restrictions have expired. However, it is NAGC's policy to comply with any requirements of local, county, and state health departments, which are subject to change with little notice.

- For your comfort, appointments are encouraged. You can schedule an appointment by calling NAGC at (608) 255-2224 or sending an email to [genealogy@nagcnl.org](mailto:genealogy@nagcnl.org)
- Visitors and staff are not required to wear masks. However, we are happy to wear one at our visitor's request.
- Hand sanitizer is available right inside our entrance.
- If you are feeling ill, have a cough, or are running a fever, please reschedule your visit for when you are feeling well.
- If you are uncomfortable visiting the library, you are welcome to submit research and translation requests to us through our website, email, mail, or telephone.
- Curbside pick up is available for members who would like to buy a map, greeting cards, and other merchandise.

The NAGC staff will be cleaning frequently touched surfaces throughout the day to protect the health of our members.

Thank you for your cooperation. We are excited to welcome visitors again to our library and are looking forward to helping you with your research.



The exterior of the Naeseth Library received some attention over the past year. The entire building got fresh paint, and American and Norwegian flags make a lovely first impression.

This summer the board decided to replace the parking lot. A special "thank-you" to Gary Smithback for overseeing what turned into a larger project than we anticipated!

## NAGC Now Offering Saturday Hours

In order to serve its members better, NAGC will be open the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call 608.255.2224 or email [genealogy@nagcnl.org](mailto:genealogy@nagcnl.org).

# Fall 2022 Genealogy Classes Announced

In spite of everyone's eagerness to get back to more traditional in-person interactions, online classes continue to be more popular with NAGC members than in-person options. For those who enroll in the online classes, a link and all class materials will be emailed in advance. The class will still be interactive so there will be opportunity for questions and discussion. "This won't just be a recording. The classes will be live and offer opportunities for interaction with us," Dana Kelly explained. "We have really enjoyed being able to expand our reach outside of our Madison-area members."

All in-person sessions will take place at the Naeseth Library so there will be opportunities for participants to research using the NAGC collection with the aid of staff.

The in-person and online classes will be led by Dana Kelly and Chris Klauer.

## GENEALOGY BASICS

September 10, 2022– 10:00 a.m. to noon CST, \$40 (online)

This class is designed for those who are just dipping their toes into genealogy research. Class topics will include genealogy best practices, using websites such as FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com, in addition to resources



*Above: Beginning genealogy class, 2018*

*Below: Beginning genealogy class, 2021*



available from historical societies and genealogical societies. This class is not specific to those with Norwegian heritage, and we welcome NAGC members and non-members.

## INTRODUCTION TO NORWEGIAN GENEALOGY

September 13 & 15, 2022—10:00 a.m. to noon CST, \$100 member/\$150 non-member (online)

This class is for those who are familiar with genealogy basics but haven't dug into Norwegian genealogical research yet. The class will focus on Norwegian naming traditions, history and geography and strategies for locating where in Norway your ancestors originated. This class also includes a copy of our "Research Guide for Norwegian Genealogy: For Beginning and Experienced Genealogists."

## USING NORWEGIAN FARM BOOKS (BYGDEBØKER)

September 24, 2022– 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CST, \$55 member/\$65 non-member (in person)

This class expands on the introductory class by exploring how to use Norwegian Farm History books (bygdebøker) for clues for your genealogical research. Fee includes lunch and time after class to explore the collections in the Naeseth Library.

## EXPLORING THE NORWEGIAN DIGITAL ARCHIVES

September 26, 28, & 30, 2022– 10:00 a.m. to noon CST, \$100 member/\$150 non-member (online)

This class explores the wide variety of records and resources available in the Norwegian Digital Archives and how to find them.

### TO REGISTER:

[www.nagcnl.org](http://www.nagcnl.org)

608-255-2224

[genealogy@nagcnl.org](mailto:genealogy@nagcnl.org)

EMOTIONS IN THE EMIGRATION HISTORY: PART 1—THE HARROWING FAREWELLS



By Sigrid Kolstø Hansen

Anders Sandvig, the founder and director of the folk museum Maihaugen in Lillehammer, Norway, donated five truckloads of artifacts to the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa, in 1927. After having witnessed many visiting Norwegian Americans' extraordinary enthusiasm for the exhibitions at Maihaugen over the years, he got an idea: He wanted to make sure that these Norwegian Americans would be able to "walk right into the homes of their forefathers" from where they lived (in America), and this gift to Vesterheim Museum was his contribution to that objective. (*Fåberg og Lillehammer; Utvandringen*. Note: Fåberg is a former municipality in Innlandet County [formerly Oppland County], Norway, while Lillehammer is a current municipality in Innlandet.)

So, what was this all about? Five truckloads of old wooden structures and furniture hauled across the ocean? What good could this possibly do to these people of Norwegian descent living in America at that time?

I believe the answer can be found by studying the Norwegian-American emigration history of the 1800s and 1900s with focus on the emotional aspect of the emigrants' experiences of leaving their homeland and seeking a new life for themselves in "the land of opportunity."

**Part 1: The harrowing farewells**  
In this first part of my column titled "Emotions in the emigration history," I will be focusing on the emotions involved, for both the emigrants and the people they left, as they faced their final farewells with their families and friends in the community.

**Part 1: The harrowing farewells**

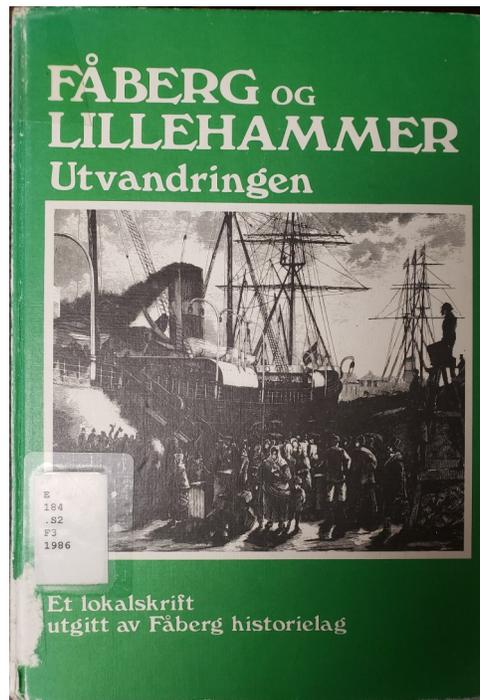
In the second part (that will appear in the 2023 spring issue of TRACKS ) I will be looking at the immigrants' and their descendants' emotional relations toward the land of their forefathers.

**Those who left**  
We know a lot about why these mostly poor farmers left Norway. We know how they traveled, and we have insight into how they lived when they came over. We can read about people who did well and prospered but also about those who did not make it.

**Those who left**

We know a lot about why these mostly poor farmers left Norway. We know how they traveled, and we have insight into how they lived when they came over. We can read about people who did well and prospered but also about those who did not make it.

In fact, the "Emigration History" section of our library here at NAGC & NL covers these topics quite extensively. This is all fascinating reading.



However, information about the emotional experience of leaving their former lives and connections behind may not be as easily available. By flipping through several of our resources in the emigration collection of the Naeseth Library, I was, however, able to find segments in several books that helped shine light on personal emigration stories from an emotional perspective.

Most of the users of our library may be more likely to look for an emigration list rather than a book about the emotional aspect of emigration. However, I believe Einar Hovdhaugen is on to something when he writes "But behind each name is hidden a human drama." This quote is from *Utvandringa til Amerika frå Ringebru* (Translation: Emigration to America from Ringebru), which is one of the books that I found useful in my quest to find out more about the emotional side of the emigration story. (Ringebru is a municipality in Innlandet County [formerly Oppland County], Norway.)

Today, we can hardly imagine the depth of emotions in play when people said their goodbyes to their

(Continued on page 6)

## NAGC SERVICES:

- \* **Library Resources:** The Naeseth Library is open daily for use by members and non-members.
- \* **Research:** The NAGC staff conducts genealogical research upon request using our collection and resources from other sources including libraries, state repositories, and historical societies.
- \* **Research Assistance:** We provide assistance to patrons visiting the library.
- \* **Translation:** We offer translation of documents including letters and book excerpts from Norwegian dialects and Dano-Norwegian to English.
- \* **DNA Results:** We offer consultation and assistance with interpreting and using your DNA results for genealogy.
- \* **Classes:** We offer family history classes at the Naeseth Library Ostby Education Center and online
- \* **Workshops:** We customize workshops for family reunions, Sons of Norway lodges, *bygdeags* and other groups.

## NAGC FEE SCHEDULE:

### Members:

Daily Use	No Charge
Researcher	\$50/hour
Translator	\$50/hour
DNA Consultation	\$50/hour
Classes	see our website

### Non-Members:

Daily Use	\$15/day
Researcher	\$100/hour
Translator	\$100/hour
DNA Consultation	\$100/hour
Classes	see our website

Contact us to discuss charges for your custom workshop.

## LIBRARIAN'S CORNER (CONT.)

loved ones as they were leaving for America. We must assume that most of those involved, particularly during the early emigration period, realized that there was a great chance that they would never see each other again.

A couple of the books in our library's Emigration Collection have statistical information about how many of the emigrants who came back. One such book is *Utvandrarane fraa Sykkylven* (Translation: Emigration from Sykkylven. Note that the translations from Norwegian are my own.) (Sykkylven is a municipality in Møre og Romsdal county, Norway.) Here we can read that among the 200 people who emigrated from Sykkulven in the 1800s, only 50 ever returned. Moreover, among those who returned, many did not come back to visit until 50 years after they left. I found, in other local emigration books, that the same pattern was true for several other parishes.

In the case of emigration from Ringeby, for example, Einar Hovdhaugen writes, "Most who left Ringeby never returned." I believe the author captures the atmosphere in the moments of separations and goodbyes when he writes, "the sore sensation from the farewells weighed heavily both on those who left as well as on those left behind" (translated from Norwegian).

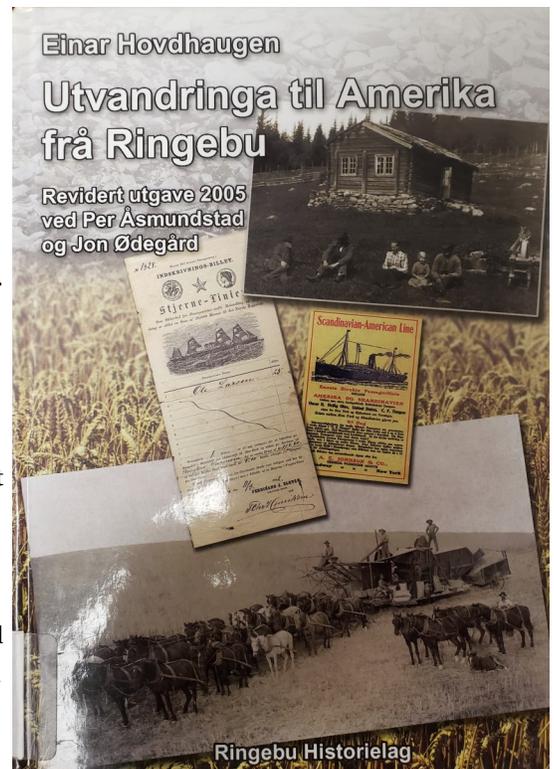
In order to get closer to the people to whom those general statements refer, Hovdhaugen tells the story of a widower who could only bring two of his four children when he emigrated. The two youngest had been taken over by what was called "fattigkassa," which was a government agency that took over the care for people when their families were too poor to support them. Hovdhaugen goes on to write that some left parents behind who were so poor that, for the rest of their lives, they would be dependent on the same "fattigkassa" after their children had emigrated.

One can imagine that many who emigrated felt a certain amount of guilt toward those they left behind. Many probably felt bad about leaving loved ones who had previously depended on their support for their livelihood, as in the examples above. An even larger number of emigrants must have left behind emotionally devastated people; often times these were older parents, but it could also be siblings and other relatives and friends.

### Those left behind

The farewells must obviously have been painful for both the emigrants and for those left behind.

While it seems like they all must have experienced a feeling of loss, the ones who emigrated did not only leave their family and friends behind but also their home, the village, their homeland and "the known."



## LIBRARIAN'S CORNER (CONT.)

On the other hand, while the emigrants were on the cusp of a big adventure and filled with hopes and dreams, I imagine the people left behind must have experienced emptiness.

One of the books I read in order to learn about the emotional aspect of emigration is called *In the Footsteps of the Emigrants*, by Arnold Bakken. This is a translated version of *Farvel da, slekt og venner* and is about emigration from Soknedal in Trøndelag county (formerly Sør-Trøndelag county), Norway. Bakken writes that during a 1-2 years period (1867/1868), more than 100 people left the community, which had no more than 2000 inhabitants at the time. He assumes there were many tears shed during that time in Soknedal, “both from those who said farewell and went their way and not least from those who stayed behind and felt lonesome and bare.” He refers to empty chairs at the dinner table as well as “quiet prayers raised up both from those who said farewell and from those who felt bereft at home.”

In the book *Utvandrerhistorie fra Follidal* (Translation: Emigration History from Follidal), I found a story about “Gunnar’s sister, Maria” who was 6 years old when her first brother went to America, and married when her last brother left. She never saw any of her brothers again. (Follidal is a municipality in Innlandet County [formerly Hedmark County], Norway.)

Some of the stories with the perspective of those who were left behind are based on letters they sent to the emigrants. I found some of these narratives in the previously mentioned *Utvandringa til America frå Ringebru* (Translation: Emigration to America from Ringebru). In a letter from a mother who recently had said goodbye to her daughter, to her son and to her baby grandchild, she writes that she, for several days after their departure, had stepped outside the front door (where muddy and wet footwear was usually placed) to look for her loved ones’ boots.

Another narrative is about Ole Johnsen Wagnild who emigrated in 1881. He left his family, relatives and friends when he was 21 years old. According to the story, the father cried in bed while his mother traveled with Ole for a short distance holding his hands while tears streamed down her face. Through her tears, she wished him farewell and said “may God bless you.” The parents never saw him again. They had passed away when he came back to visit for the first time 50 years later!

Hovdhaugen talks about the significance of photographs when the emigrants at some point could attach portraits of themselves in their letters to family at home. He writes about how these photographs usually were placed in a special spot in the living room. He goes on to suggest that people almost worshipped the photos and that their obsession nearly resembled a family cult. This, he says, was an attempt to compensate for not having their loved ones around.

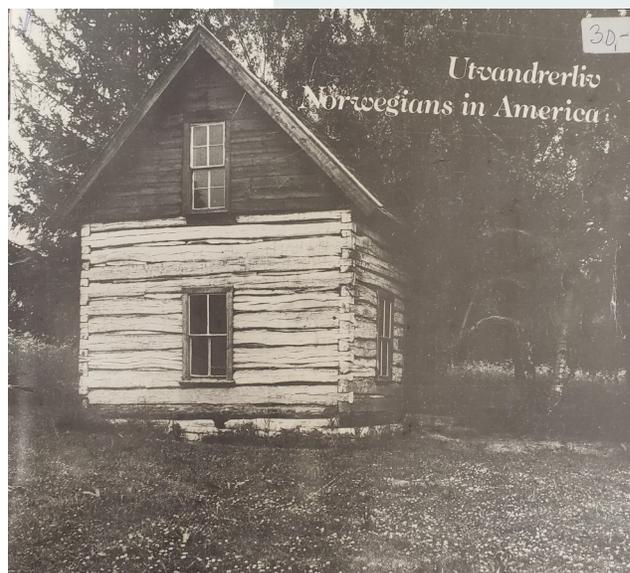
The resource in the Naeseth library that I found to have most focus on the emotional aspects of the Norwegian-American emigration/immigration story is a thin little book called *Utvandrerliv; Norwegians in America*. (Translation: Emigrant Life; Norwegians in America.) This “catalogue” was produced in 1981 in conjunction with an exhibition at the Norwegian Emigrant Museum at Hedmarksmuseet and Domkirkeodden in Hamar, Norway. The book is written in both Norwegian and English and is a quick and easy read despite the fact that it is covering some profound issues.

In the description of what the exhibition is aiming to achieve, it is clear that it has to do with more than the “tangible side of the story.” The author explains: “...we are also trying to show some of the inner emotional experiences of the emigrants. We touch on feelings which all the way through appear as dark.”

### Beyond the goodbyes

The emotional emigrant story obviously does not end with the goodbyes in Norway. In part 2 of my column titled “Emotions in the Emigration History,” I will follow the emigrants to America where many continue to struggle with issues connected to having uprooted themselves from their families, homes and country. Many may have had to deal with what is referred to in this book as “the emigrant’s eternal tragedy – no longer being Norwegian, but at the same time never able to become Americans.”

Later, the situation for the descendants of the first settlers obviously changed. How did they relate to the family’s emigration background and to the land of their ancestors? Despite general patterns and trends, there are obviously different answers to this question for different people. After all, the emigration story, and particularly the emotional emigration story, is a deeply personal story.



# Returning to Your Ancestral Roots

By Erling Hansen, Rennebu, Norway/Rochester, Minnesota

Have you ever wanted to go back to “The Old Country” and seek the roots of your ancestors, and maybe see the farm where your forefathers came from? And visit the Church and cemetery where your relatives lie buried? And maybe visit your living relatives?

Nor-Am Tours specializes in tours for smaller groups, and we have had many different family groups visit Norway. Erling Hansen, co-owner of Nor-Am Tours, divides his time between Norway and Minnesota and works full time in the tour business. He has organized and led tours from Norway to the USA. The typical family group includes grandparents who want to take their children and their families back to Norway. Some extended family groups have a lot of places they are interested in visiting, while others don't have any certain place of interest for their family. They just want to show them the beauty of Norway.

Nor-Am Tours has also planned trips for larger groups. One was Trønderlag of America, that have traveled with us two times. They are planning another trip in a couple of years.

Erling plans all the tours closely with the groups. When he establishes contact, he always asks what they want to see, if there are any certain points of interest they want to visit. When he gets that, he starts to put together an itinerary (preferably in cooperation with the group). He can suggest other places of interest that are within reach, and together the groups will have a very good itinerary. He gives the group a quote, and when we agree on that, we start booking. Nor-Am Tours usually does not coordinate airfare, but if the groups want help with that, Erling can refer the group to travel agencies he has worked with.

Check out Nor-Am Tours' web page for more information: [www.noramtours.com](http://www.noramtours.com). If you, or your family, or your group are interested, please contact Erling for a chat and possibly also a quote. He can be reached at [erling@noramtours.com](mailto:erling@noramtours.com).

Here are a couple of testimonials from groups that have traveled with Nor-Am Tours:

## **Nelson Family, Chicago IL:**

We first travelled with Erling in 2013 to celebrate our parents' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Only our parents had been to Norway before, and Erling had the task of planning a trip that showcased some of Norway's 'must see' destinations for the rest of the family.

We connected with Erling in Oslo to start our 12-day Norway excursion and continued by small bus to Bergen,



through breathtaking fjords and glaciers, over to Lillehammer, and back to Oslo for our return trip to the US. The manner in which we saw this beautiful country is what really sets Erling's tours apart from the rest. Erling brings a level of travel you just can't get with larger company tours and his careful planning made a trip that was entertaining for us all. He took care of all our travel arrangements and details while got to enjoy the local guides he had join our small bus for an city tours of Oslo and Bergen, a private walking tour of Bergen, hiking to a glacier, boarding a train through the fjords, and walking down the ski jump from the Olympics, just to name a few. We were introduced to local culture, history, and unique restaurants, and had free time to explore locations on our own when we wanted to.

This way of travel was unmatched and we knew by the end that we would return someday.

A few years had passed and we were longing to return, but only if Erling would be willing to coordinate and lead our trip. He happily agreed to take our family on once again as we had our eyes set on heading north this time. We expressed locations that were of interest, and he built an itinerary that suited us perfectly. On this trip, we landed in Aalesund, journeyed through the fjords once again, up to Trondheim, and then made the two-day journey to settle into Lofoten Islands for a few nights. We visited an active summer farm, had a private tour of one of the few remaining Y-churches, enjoyed a family meal at a private home in the Lofoten Islands, and experienced unique accommodations with incredible views when Erling recommended staying in fishing cottages in Henningsvaar, Lofoten Islands. We loved being able to settle in to one place for a while and take day trips all

*(Continued on page 14)*



NORWEGIAN AMERICAN  
Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF NAGC FOR A  
**Scandinavian Buffet**

FEATURING A LIVE AUCTION OF

**Rosemåled Chair by Ethel Kvalheim**

Sunday, October 9, 2022

5:00 p.m. doors open

Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

Blackhawk Country Club

3606 Blackhawk Drive

Madison, WI 53705

Tickets: \$80.00 (\$20.00 tax deductible)

Table of 10: \$800.00 (\$200.00 tax deductible)

Select one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to attend! Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for my party.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve a table of 10 for my party.

Name(s) as they should appear on name tags:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See reverse for payment information.



This festive gathering allows NAGC & NL to bring together its members throughout the region for a fun-filled evening. The social gathering and silent auction preview will provide time to visit with friends, the NAGC Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers.

Among other Scandinavian treats, smoked salmon, Swedish meatballs, baked cod, and pickled herring will be included in the buffet. **Tickets will not be sent; a response list will be held at the door.**

### LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

#### 1) Original Artwork by Katie Maurer

The artwork used to create NAGC's 2021 Christmas card will be available for auction.



#### 2) Rosemåled Chair by Ethel Kvalheim

This 30" chair will be available for auction.

**Donated by Lois Buelow**

### ONLINE AUCTION

There are additional items available to our members through our online auction. The items will be available to preview at the dinner, but must be purchased through the online auction. The auction will end October 14 at 3:00 p.m.

<https://www.biddingowl.com/NAGC>

### BUNADS AND FESTIVE DRESS INVITED!

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my/our check payable to NAGC & NL in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am / We are unable to attend, but enclose a tax-deductible contribution to NAGC \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I / We wish to make payment with the following card:

\_\_\_\_ American Express

\_\_\_\_ Discover

\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

\_\_\_\_ Visa

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (*required for credit card payment*) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with payment to:

Norwegian American Genealogical Society

415 West Main Street, Madison, WI 53703-3116

**by September 20th.**

# Finding a Norwegian-American Farm in Wisconsin

By Dana Kelly, Executive Director

Chris Klauer and I had the opportunity recently to work together with a visitor who was trying to locate the farm her ancestor lived on near Bloomer, Wisconsin. Her ancestor's name was Anders Anderson Horne. She had a published family history that described the location of the farm he bought in Wisconsin: seven miles east of Bloomer.

Our first instinct was to find a plat map for Chippewa County, Wisconsin, and try to find his name on the map. The Wisconsin Historical Society has an extensive digital map collection which includes plat maps. Family lore indicated that he was living near Bloomer at the time of his marriage in 1894. This historical society has a digitized plat map of Chippewa County from 1902. My instinct said we should find Anders Anderson Horne somewhere on that map. After scouring the area east of Bloomer, I couldn't find him. Plat maps show the name of the owner of the property—not necessarily the person living there. It was possible that the reason we couldn't find who we were looking for is that he didn't actually own the land.

Chris was able to find a land purchase record for a man named Andrew A. Horne by searching the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records website. It was quite common for immigrants to "Americanize" their names, so we suspected Andrew A. Horne was Anders Anderson Horne. The land patent described the location of the purchase: "The North West quarter of the North West quarter of Section twenty three in Township thirty one." He made the purchase in 1891.

I scoured the Chippewa County plat map once more. I looked for someone with a name similar to Andrew Horne or Anders Anderson in every section 23 in the entire county. He wasn't there. It was entirely possible that Anders Horne had sold the land by 1902 and was living somewhere else. He may not even have been in Wisconsin any longer.

Chris found an obituary for Andrew Horne using the online newspaper website, newspapers.com. The obituary was printed in an Eau Claire, Wisconsin, newspaper on July 11, 1939. Andrew's obituary indicated that he had lived with his family in Chippewa County for over 50 years and that he had died "at his farm home in the town of Auburn." The obituary led us to believe that they had always lived on the same farm—although the wording was slightly ambiguous. This was an important clue and certainly worth investigating. Now we knew which township likely contained the property purchased by Andrew A. Horne back in 1891.

There was only one problem: The 1902 Chippewa County plat map had the letters "AUBURN" stretched across two

## The United States of America.

CERTIFICATE } To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:  
No. 6978 }

Whereas, Andrew A. Horne of Chippewa County Wisconsin

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Andrew A. Horne.

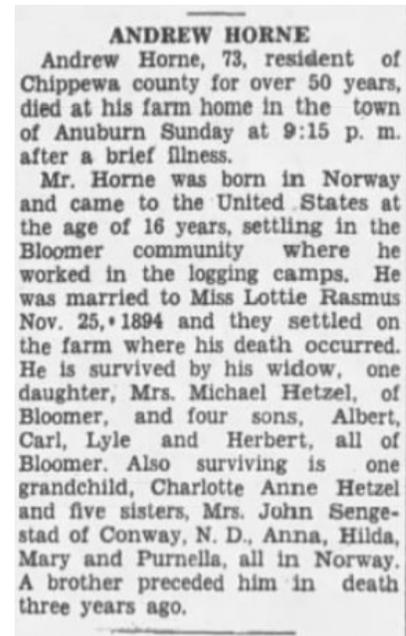
according to the provisions of

the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the North West quarter of the North West quarter of Section twenty three in Township thirty one North of Range eight West of the Fourth Principal Meridian in Wisconsin, containing forty acres.

Andrew Horne land patent from [glorecords.blm.gov](http://glorecords.blm.gov)

townships, and they were both west of Bloomer. We were expecting to find Anders Horne east of Bloomer, and now we weren't sure which township was the one referred to in the obituary.

Luckily, the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS) has a very useful and comprehensive publication called *Wisconsin—Its Counties, Townships and Villages*. This book gives brief histories of the communities in Wisconsin, including when they formed, previous names they may have been known by, whether they were a part of another township or county, and when all of those changes occurred. (The book can be purchased from the WSGS website: [wsgs.org/store](http://wsgs.org/store).) A quick perusal of the communities in Chippewa county clarified to us that Auburn was divided



Andrew Horne obituary from Eau Claire Leader-Telegram found on [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com)

(Continued on page 12)

into two townships in 1927: Cooks Valley to the south and Auburn to the north. Both townships had once been part of Bloomer township.

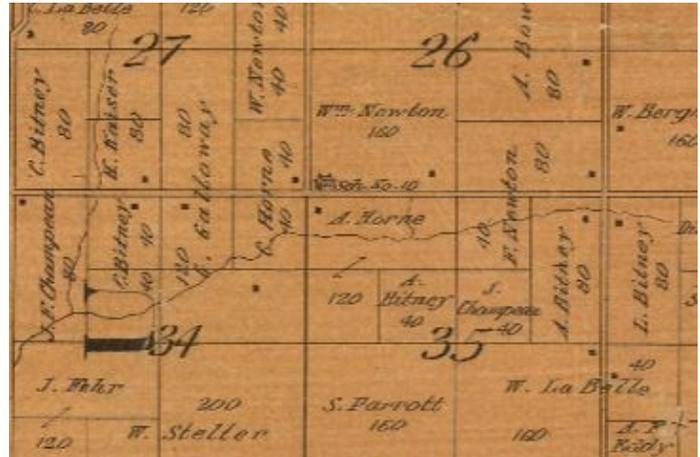
We scoured the northern township again, and discovered "A. Horne" with 120 acres in section 35. Could this be Anders/Andrew Horne? His original purchase was for only 40 acres, and that was in section 23.

Finally, Chris searched the US Federal census for Andrew Horne. We wondered whether he had actually lived somewhere else between purchasing his land in 1891 and his death in 1939 despite his obituary indicating he had always lived in Auburn. Chris found him living in Auburn township in 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930. He was even listed in Auburn on the 1905 Wisconsin state census. His obituary was correct.

In years past, census enumerators generally visited households in a logical geographical fashion. They would travel from house to house, and the people listed before and after a family on the census ledger were generally close neighbors. I asked Chris to tell me who was living near Andrew Horne and thought I would try to find their names.

Two of Andrew Horne's neighbors were named Galloway and Newton. "A. Horne" in section 35 lived right next to G. Galloway and W. Newton. Anders Anderson Horne's farm had been found.

We aren't certain why Anders Anderson Horne wasn't found in section 23 as described on his land patent. It's



Plat map of Chippewa County, Wisconsin found on wisconsinhistory.org

possible he sold that land and bought the land in section 35 after the fact. Maybe the township redrew the section lines at some point between Andrew buying his land and 1902 when this map was created.

What Chris and I hope to convey to our readers is that no source should be used in a vacuum. We referred to maps, censuses, obituaries, and land records in order to determine that the description of where Anders Horne lived in the published family history was likely incorrect. Genealogists often have to search a variety of unrelated sources in order to find the necessary information they seek.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. 29 A

**SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.**

State Wisconsin County Chippewa Township or other division of county Auburn Town Name of Institution X

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division X Ward of city X

Enumerated by me on the 11th day of June, 1900, And Eickson Enumerator.

SEX	AGE	COLOR	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP			EDUCATION				OWNERSHIP OF HOME	
						Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.	Year of immigration into the United States.	Year of naturalization.	Year of arrival in the United States.	Years of school in this country.	Years of school in foreign country.	Years of school in foreign country.	Years of school in foreign country.	Owned or rented.	Owned or rented.
			Anders Horne	Head	Married	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	1881	1881	1881	0	0	0	0	0	0
			George Galloway	Neighbor	Married	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	1881	1881	1881	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Frank Newton	Neighbor	Married	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	1881	1881	1881	0	0	0	0	0	0

Andrew Horne and his household in the 1900 census in Auburn, Wisconsin. Note his neighbors, George Galloway and Frank Newton.

# NAGC Welcomes New Staff



*Jean Bower*

the Oslo fjord, she developed a love for nature and water, and lives in a house with a garden in the city of Chicago that is walking distance to Lake Michigan.

Two part-time translators have joined the staff of NAGC.

Jean Bower jumped at the chance to study Norwegian in college and never looked back! Always curious about her Norwegian grandparents' stories and roots in Valdres, Norway, Jean has worked, studied and lived in southern Norway and is a life-long enthusiast when it comes to genealogy and immigration stories.

A member of the Sons of Norway, Vennelag 513 and alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Scandinavian Studies program, Jean makes her home in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. She works a day job for an engineering firm in Madison, Wisconsin, and is a fan of folk music, theater and fiber arts.

Wencke Braathen was born and raised in Norway and speaks, reads and writes the language fluently. She also knows some German and is familiar with Danish and Swedish.

Her novel *Rituals in Sacred Stone* about Mary Magdalene is available from Amazon and her musical "Hell is Canceled!" had a staged reading at Raven Theater in May 2022. Growing up on an island in

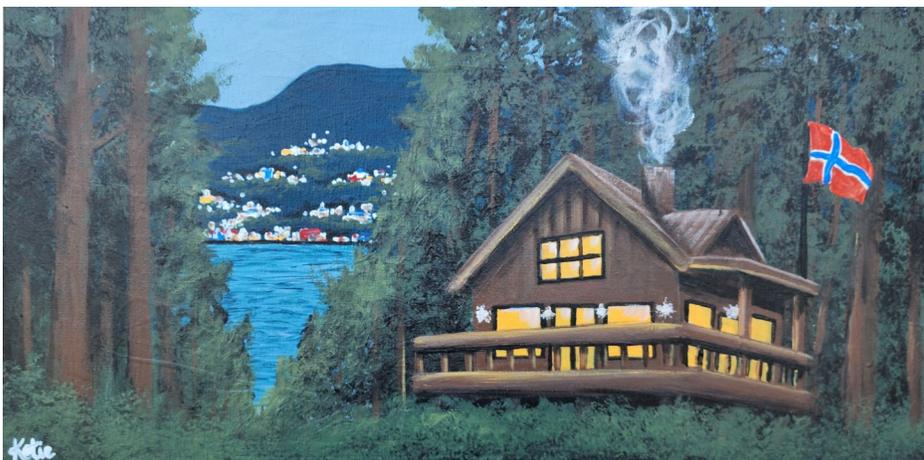


*Wencke Braathen*

## NAGC Introduces 2022 Christmas Card Artwork

Katie Lynn Maurer of Colored Soul Studios created the image for this year's Christmas card. Her design, "Room with a View," will also be auctioned off at the Friends of NAGC annual dinner on October 9. "We are really excited about Katie's most recent creation because I can see this piece hanging on the wall of any Norwegian American's home," states Executive Director, Dana Kelly. "She just really captured the spirit of *hygge* with this artwork."

The Christmas cards will be available to order from NAGC's website after October 1.



## NAGC MOVING TO ELECTRONIC RENEWAL REMINDERS

In order to save on printing and postage costs and to reduce the environmental impact of NAGC operations, we will not be mailing paper membership renewal reminders to our members who have email addresses.

Please be watching your email for renewal reminders and help us conserve resources.

If you prefer to receive your *Tracks* newsletter electronically, please notify Diane Maurer at [dmaurer@nagcnl.org](mailto:dmaurer@nagcnl.org) or 608.255.2224.

## ANCESTRAL ROOTS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 10)

over the islands.

Personalized travel curated just for our group gave us lots of flexibility in deciding where we wanted to go and what we wanted to see. While on our journey, Erling kept us engaged with his personal stories and knowledge of Scandinavian history and arranged for local experts to provide tours and special experiences that usually aren't possible for independent travelers or larger group tours to experience. And, having a private tour afforded us the ability to linger a bit longer where we wanted to and work in impromptu stops or detours.

**It wouldn't take much convincing to get the family back on another tour. And one thing is for certain, we'd only do it with Erling.**

**Kristy Bennett, Chicago, IL**

### **Trønderlag of America:**

About every five years Trønderlag of America sponsors a tour to Norway. In 2014 the tour took place in May so the participants could partake in the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the signing of the Norwegian Constitution held in 1814. The tour group marched in the 17 May parade and visited several destinations on the south side of the Trondheim Fjord. In 2019 we toured the old and new Oslo before taking the train to Trondheim in order to visit parts of Trøndelag from where many of our forefathers emigrated.

For these tours our organization turned to Erling Hansen from Nor-

Am Tours to plan, organize, and carry out the tours. Members were extremely pleased with the attractions visited, the meals arranged, and the overnight accommodations that Erling arranged.

Erling has also planned and carried out several tours of Norwegians to the United States and, in particular, to destinations of Norwegian immigrants where their descendants now live and prosper. We are always pleased to welcome Erling and his tour group to the various sites here in the US.

**We are extremely happy and satisfied with Erling Hansen and the services and friendship he has provided to us.**

**Robert Fossum, Chetek, WI, President, Trønderlag of America**



## *Supporting NAGC is Easier than Ever*

NAGC is now a Thrivent Choice and an AmazonSmile organization, which means supporting NAGC has never been easier for its members.

Thrivent has long offered its members the opportunity to designate a portion of the company's earnings to the non-profit organization of the members' choice. Eligible Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Visit <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/> for more information.

AmazonSmile offers a similar opportunity. A portion of your purchase from Amazon.com can be directed to NAGC. For more information about enrolling in AmazonSmile visit [https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi\\_se\\_rspo\\_laas\\_aas](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_rspo_laas_aas).

NAGC is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.



# A Very Interesting Man: Thormod Mosen

By Timothy Thormod Eisele, based on the handwritten narrative by Myron T. Mosen about his father Thormod Mosen

Growing up in Madison in the 1950s, I always was a little “concerned” about my middle name: Thormod.

It wasn’t like the middle names of my brothers or my fellow classmates, but I knew I was named after my mother’s grandfather, whom I was told was a very interesting person, and had been looked-up-to in the family. Learning more about my great grandfather, I can concur, he was a “very interesting person.”

The following information was written by my grandfather, Myron T. Mosen, when his father, Thormod Mosen, was 88 years old. Much of this we have been able to confirm from family and genealogy research.

## From wooden shoes to hot metal type

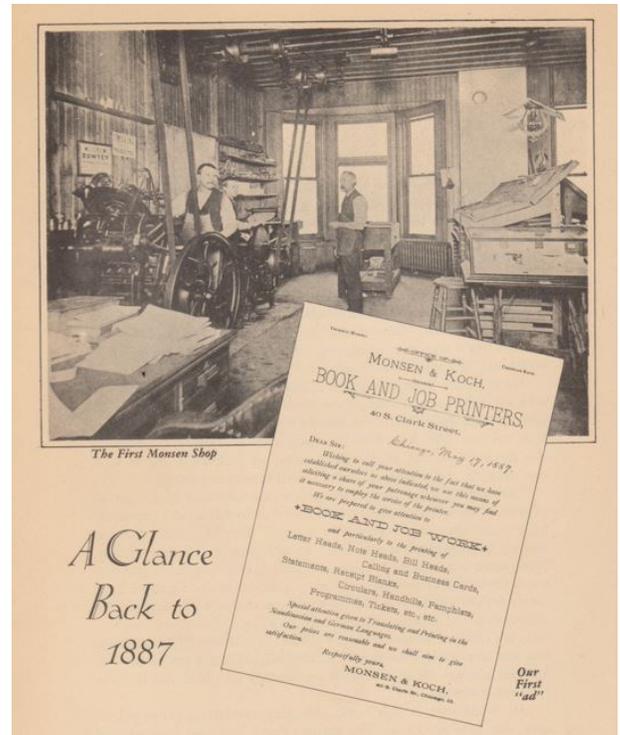
Thormod Mosen was born in 1848 at Tysvær, between Stavanger and Flaugesund, in Norway. His father, carpenter Mons Olson, hinted to his wife, Bertha Fatnes, that Thormod should be a carpenter of renown to the neighborhood. When little Thormod was the age to put on the wooden shoes and tramp to school, he may have had his dreams about what might be ahead. Yet, not so far reaching as to bring him to Chicago in the U.S.A. and there become the founder of Mosen and Son Typographers for lithographics.



Thormod Mosen's boyhood home in Tysvær

When Thormod was 15 years old he started as an apprentice in the printing office of Arnt Moc in Stavanger, to learn typesetting and feeding a cylinder press. He worked late two evenings a week printing *Stavangeren*, the local newspaper. Nonetheless, the desire to emigrate arose and on May 3, 1869, he left on a sailing vessel for America and arrived in Chicago on June 9.

He went to Leland, Illinois, where he spent a few weeks on his uncle's (thought to be Peter B. Olson) farm, and then went to



Rushville, Illinois, where he obtained work on the new Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He attended school to learn English.

That fall Thormod was offered work in a grocery store in Chicago and remained there until the Chicago fire in 1871, when he again was lured into the printing trade. He was employed by the John Anderson Publishing Company, where he did proofreading and making up a 16-page daily form of a Norwegian Bible, translated from the Martin Luther version.

After working for John Anderson, Thormod and Christian Koch started their own printing business in 1887 under the name of Mosen and Koch. After a few months he became the sole owner with his wife, Martha (Larsdatter Hoiland), whom he married in 1879. She assisted him until the shop burned in 1903.

## Mosen Typographers

The boy from Tysvær started over again, this time joined by his son, Myron T. Mosen, who was through with school. The son had inherited his father's reliability and dependence.

Lithography involves printing from a smooth surface or metal plate. In 1929, the company published the "Mosen Type Manual for Offset Lithography," a 545-page manual showing all types of work that the company could do.

The book highlighted the importance of type in lithography, saying that the selection of type and typeface is important to lithographers. "Not only must the correct faces be chosen to be in harmony with the illustrations and general character of the job, but the right size

(Continued on page 16)

## THORMOD MONSEN (CONT.)

(Continued from page 15)

must be used, set to the proper measure, with air enough around it to make the message quickly legible.”

“Most lithographers use the Mosen Type Manual to show customers how typefaces will look in the finished job, since every type specimen shown in this book is a lithographed ‘sample.’ There are over 2,000 type faces and sizes in this new edition – giving the most complete range available from with to choose.”

Instead of being satisfied with a mere local patronage, they made endeavors for a country-wide recognition by specializing in type-setting and transfer impressions for the lithographic trade and attained valuable recognition by leading lithographers and offset printers in the United States and Canada.

The company soon grew to employ 100 men, divided into three shifts of 8-hours each working day and night. They expanded to include specialized machinery for special printing processes.

Originally both transfer work and job printing were done, the transfer end of the business phased out all of the printing so that they provided services to lithographers.



Thormod, Martha and Myron T. Mosen



Inside the Mosen Typography Shop in Chicago

Eventually Thormod could step back, after many long days of work, and his son Myron T. Mosen began to run the business. The business and family were very closely intertwined, and in 1923, when Myron's daughter, Janet (who later became Janet Eisele), was born they sent out a flyer honoring their new type-setting machine and their new arrival.

Myron was known for developing such products as reverse type transfers, transparent and trans-adhesion impressions, and other innovations in the industry.

Mosen typographers expanded and opened an office in California. They celebrated the grand opening and open house of their new plant in Los Angeles on Dec. 12, 1957.

With the introduction of “cold type,” or use of the photographic process to set type, and the declining health of Myron T. Mosen, the business ended about 1975.



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We offer our sincere thanks to the donors listed below who gave research materials for the Naeseth Library during the second half of 2021.

### NEW FAMILY HISTORIES

Robert Embertson, Breezy Point, MN  
Arlene Hansen, Storsteinnes, Norway  
Kirt C. Johnson, Kewaunee, WI  
Margaret & Robert Miller, Apple Valley, MN  
Nancy Morebeck, Vacaville, CA  
Larry Swalheim, Venice, FL  
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### NEW NORWEGIAN LOCAL HISTORIES & REFERENCE

Michael Bovre, Jefferson, WI  
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### NEW U.S. LOCAL HISTORIES & REFERENCE

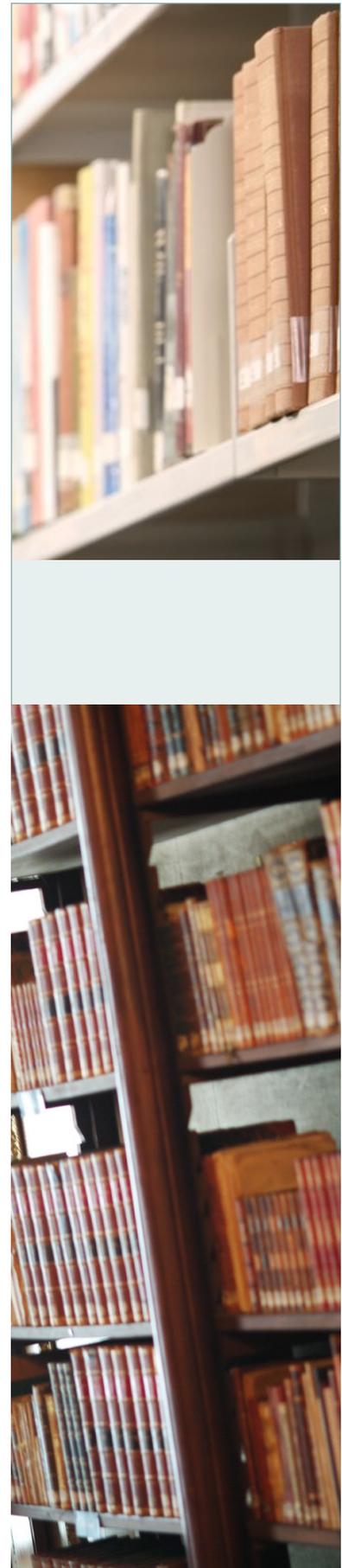
Michael Bovre, Jefferson, WI

### OTHER NEW RESEARCH MATERIALS

Roger L. Anderson, Okatie, SC  
Bruce Gjovig, Grand Forks, ND  
Ron R. Halverson, Fitchburg, WI  
Margaret & Robert Miller, Apple Valley, MN  
Michael Bovre, Jefferson, WI

We are also grateful for the two acquisitions funds that continue to support additions to the library collections at NAGC: the William Helgeson Fund and the Loper Fund for North Norway Acquisitions.

For a complete listing of authors, titles, and subjects of the items in the Naeseth Library, please consult the library catalog on our website: <https://nagenl.pastperfectonline.com/>



# Norwegian Tracks

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