



VOSSSELAGETS EMBEDSMÆND:

Præsident – Wm. Nelson, Deerfield, Wis.
 Vice-præsident – R. A. Nestos, Minot, N. Dakota.
 Sekretær – K. A. Rene, 1248 Jenifer Str., Madison, Wis.
 Kasserer – John R. Glimme, 3230 Hirsch Str., Chicago, Ill.
 Redaktør – K. A. Rene.

Medlemskontingent \$1.00 for aaret. Enkle numre 25 cent.

AARS-STEUNET.

Lagets aarsstevne skal holdes i Albert Lea, Minn., torsdag den 14de og fredag den 15de september førstkommende. Man møder i The Auditory hvor programmer, mærker og billetter vil være at faa. Banketten holdes torsdags aften og begynder kl. 5:30.

Der vil bli sørget for det bedst mulige program. Guvernør Nestos har allerede givet tilkjende, at han vil være med, og flere andre bekjendte mænd og dygtige talere ventes at ville deltage. Dette maa da bli det største møde, som laget nogensinde har havt.

Det trænges vistnok ikke, at anmode medlemmerne om at komme til stevnet, da det maa antages, at de har saapas interesse for sagen alligevel; men der maa komme flere, og vi maa derfor opfordre ethvert medlem til at gjøre sit bedste for at mødet blir bekjendt, og at hver og en faar sine naboer og bekjendte til at indfinde sig, enten det blir solskin eller ruskeveir.

Af sager, som skal behandles, vil vi kun nævne Vossaturen næste aar, hvorom planer vil blive nærmere udredet. Og saa er det lagets skrifter, som maa faaes paa en mere betryggende fod.

Lad os da alle møde frem, og vel mødt i Albert Lea.

STEUNET PAA SPRING PRAIRIE.

Noget af det heldigste i retning af et vossstevne fandt sted søndag den 25de juni, da vossingerne i Dane og Columbia countier

THE VOSSSELAG'S OFFICERS.

President – Wm. Nelson, Deerfield, Wis.
 Vice-president – R. A. Nestos, Minot, N. Dakota.
 Secretary – K. A. Rene, 1248 Jenifer Str., Madison, Wis.
 Treasurer – John R. Glimme, 3230 Hirsch Str., Chicago, Ill.
 Editor – K. A. Rene.

Members subscription \$1.00 per year.
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ANNUAL MEETING

The club's annual meeting will be held in Albert Lea, MN, Thursday the 14th and Friday the 15th in the coming September (1922 sic). People will meet in The Auditory where one can get insignias and tickets. The banquet will be held Thursday evening and starts at 5:30.

Efforts will be made for the best possible program. Governor Nestos has already acknowledged that he will be there, and several other well known men and gifted speakers are expected to participate. This will be the biggest meeting the lag has ever had.

It isn't necessary to urge the members to come to the meeting since one should realize that they have appropriate interest in the subject anyway, but we would like more to come, and we encourage each member to do his best to advertise the meeting so that all get their neighbors and acquaintances to attend whether it is sunshine or inclement weather.

Of the matters that will be dealt with, we will only mention the Voss trip that is planned for next year, about which more plans will have been prepared. Then there is the club newsletter which must be put on a more solid basis.

Let's all gather and have a good time in Albert Lea.

THE MEETING AT SPRING PRAIRIE.

One of the happiest events involving the stevner of the Vosselag occurred Sunday the 25th of June when the vossings in Dane and Columbia Counties met on the John G.

kom (sammen paa John G. Pedersons farm, en halv mil vest for Keyser, Spring Prairie, Wis. Den ene automobil efter den andre drog op og stillede sig i række, indtil der sluttelig var mindst 200 af dem paa grunden. Folk kom ogsaa tilfods eller med hesteskyds, ligesom, naar noget gik for sig paa Voss i gamle dage. Man anslog forsamlingen til omkring 1500. Nogle besøgende kom fra Chicago og enkelte andre steder fra.

Det lokale lags formand, John G. Pederson, bød forsamlingen velkommen og ledede det efterfølgende program af taler, sang og musik. Talerne var formand Pederson, nationallagets formand Wm. Nelson, Thorsten D. Larson, Stoughton, advokaterne Clarence Knutson (Rekve) og Robert N. Nelson (Pedersons svigersøn) samt nationallagets sekretær K. A. Rene. Der var sang af et lokalt sangkor og af sangkoret "Dovre" af Madison. Der var ogsaa violinspil med piano akkompagnement. Rømmegrød serveredes frit af stedets folk, forøvrigt havde madkurve med.

Her kan ikke tages rum til at gengive alt det gode, som blev sagt paa stevnet. Kun skal her nævnes lidt af, hvad John Pederson fortalte om vossesettlementet paa Spring Prairie. For 67 aar siden blev der paa en anden farm i nærheden, hvor de nu var, holdt et vosseselskab af de første settlere fra Voss, fortalte han. Det var som en "grautaleik". Man aad og drak og var glade. Da man ikke havde nok melk til "grauten", gik en kone bare hen paa marken og melkede en flok kuer, som gik der. Man dansede til langt paa nat. Steffa Rokne og

Pederson farm, a half mile west of Keyser, Spring Prairie, WI. One automobile after the other pulled up and parked in rows until there were at least 200 of them on the grounds. People also arrived walking or by horse carriage, similarly as people traveled in the old days at Voss. The crowd was estimated at about 1500. Some visitors came from Chicago and some from elsewhere.

The president of the local lag, John G. Pederson, welcomed the gathering and led the following program of speeches, songs and music. The speakers were President Pederson, the national president Wm. Nelson, Thorsten D. Larson, Stoughton, lawyer Clarence Knutson (Rekve) and Robert N. Nelson (Pederson's brother-in-law) as well as the secretary of the national lag, K. A. Rene. There were songs by a local chorus and by the chorus "Dovre" of Madison. There was a violin solo and piano accompaniment. Rømmegrød was served gratis by the hosts, otherwise people had picnic baskets.

We won't take room here to repeat all the good that was said at this meeting. We'll just include a little of what John Pederson told of the voss-settlement at Spring Prairie. 67 years ago on a farm not far from where you are now sitting there was a gathering of vossings who were among the first settlers from Voss, he told. It was like a "grautaleik" (literally "pudding-play"). People ate, drank and were happy. When they ran short of milk for the "graut" a woman went over in the pasture and milked a number of cows that were there. People danced far into the night. Among those, Steffa Rockne and

GodskalkHosaas var spillemænd. Blandt dem, som var tilstede, foruden nævnte spillemænd, var Johannes Lien, Aad og Arnund Graue, Anders og Knut Vestrheim, Isak og Bryngel Rokne, Lars J. Møn, Johannes Ludvo, Knut Padnes med fire sønner, alle 6 fod og godt voksne, Arne Amundson Bøe, Jakob Horveid, Nils Lie og en fra Vasenden, hvis søn var det første norske barn født der. Odd J. Himle var vistnok ogsaa med og flere andre. Paa den tid var der skog næsten overalt hvor man nu saa grønne marker, og der man nu var samlet.

Følgende af nationallagets sekretær fra B. K. Rokne, Wallingford, Ia., modtagne brev oplæstes:

Jeg ser i bladene, at vosserne skal have et møde paa Spring Prairie den 25de Juni. Jeg skulde ønske at være med, men min alder holder mig tilbage; thi jeg er nu i mit 90de aar; men, Gud ske tak, ved god helbred.

I mai 1866 forlod vi gamle Møns farmen paa Spring Prairie. Følget bestod af Lars J. Møn med familie og hans tre svogre, Amund Grove, Bryngel K. Rokne og Johannes Lødve med familier. Desuden var der et par ungarle med. Vi havde 5 dækkede vogneendel dragne af hester, andre af okser. Elleve af følget var over 20 aars alderen og ni under.

I disse 56 aar, som nu er hengaaet, er 10 af de ældre afgang ved døden, og 4 af de yngre; men slægten har formeret sig i andet og tredje led. Her er mange vosser heromkring, men blot fire er komne fra Voss. Disse er B. K. Rokne, N. I. Lødve, H. P. Ronve og K. A. Træfald.

Med ønsket om en fornøielig sammenkomst, og med en venlig hilsen til alle.

FRA NOGLE AF DE FØRSTE UDVANDRERE FRA VOSS.

Efterat den norske presse i Amerika begyndte sin virksomhed, afspejles folk og forhold fra pionertiden paa trykte blade; men i fortid ligger der et betydningsfuldt tidsrum. Fra Ole Rynnings bog kom ud i 1838 til "Nordlyset" viste sig i 1847, forefindes ingen samtidige beretninger trykte paa norsk her i landet. Paa Voss var der ingen avis før længe

Godskalk Hosaas were the players who were present. In addition to the above fiddlers were Johannes Lien, Aad and Arnund Graue, Anders and Knut Vestrheim, Isak and Bryngel Rokne, Lars J. Møn, Johannes Ludvo, Knut Padnes and his four big six foot sons, Arne Amundson Bøe, Jakob Horveid, Nils Lie and one from Vasenden, whose son was the first Norwegian child born there. Odd J. Himle evidently was also there with several others. At that time, there was almost forest everywhere, where people now sat in the green fields, where people had gathered.

The following letter from the national secretary, B. K. Rokne, Wallingford, IA was read.

"I see by the paper that the vossings are going to have a meeting at Spring Prairie, June 25th. I would like to attend but my age holds me back because I am now ninety years old; but, thank God, in good health.

In May 1866, we departed from the old Møns farm at Spring Prairie. The procession consisted of Lars J. Møn, his family and his three brothers-in-law, Amund Grove, Bryngel K. Rokne and Johannes Lødve with their families. In addition, there were a couple of bachelors along. We had five covered wagons pulled by horses and others drawn by oxen. Eleven of the group were more than 20 years old and nine under.

In the 56 years which are now gone, 10 of the old have died, and four of the young, but the clan has formed the second and third generation. There are many vossings around here, but only four have actually come from Voss. They are B. K. Rokne, N. I. Lødve, H. P. Ronve and K. A. Træfald

We wish all of you to have a rewarding gathering and send a friendly greeting to everyone."

ABOUT SOME OF THE FIRST EMIGRANTS FROM VOSS.'

After the Norwegian press had begun its activities in America, the people and conditions from the pioneer times were reflected in the printed page; but there is a considerable space in pre-history. From when Ole Rynnings book came out in 1838 until "Nordlyset" appeared in 1847, we don't find any contemporary descriptions printed in Norwegian in this country. In Voss

efter. Vossingerne i Amerika fik jo sin først, og de viste sig ogsaa at være ivrigere til at skrive. Ogsaa i 1840 aarene var de flinke, hvad efterfølgende breve vil vise, og takket være dem, for derigjennem kan ogsaa dette tidsrum afspeile sig for os i sit sande lys, og vigtige historiske oplysninger komme os tilgode. Endel gamle skrivelser fra disse første udvandrere er blit opbevaret, dels orriginale dels i afskrifter, og nogen af disse er det, man nedenfor vil blive bekendte med. Det kostede ikke saa lidet i de dage at faa et brev til Norge, hvorfor flere slog sig sammen og bestred udgifterne i fællesskab. I 1848 dannede vossingerne i Chicago formelig et korresponderingsselskab, med det formaal at sende en skrivelse til Voss hver maaned. Disse, som vi har nogle afskrifter af, var artikler, som behandlede borgerlige og kirkelige spørgsmaal i vid udstrækning, ved siden af andre sager, og de er af saapas interesse at de bør trykkes.

De her indtagne breve er komne fra Ivar Davidson Hustvedt, Cannon Falls, Minn; der velvilligt har sendt os nogle breve direkte, og har lovet os flere. Et par af dem sendte han for endel aar siden til Skandinaven. I et brev med dem udtaler han følgende:

“Jeg er tilfældigvis kommen i besiddelse af nogle gamle breve, som er skrevne af nogle af de første her til landet indvandrede vusser. De er skrevne enten til fædre, søskender eller venner, som de efterlod sig paa Voss i Norge. Brevene er samlet og kopieret af Lars N. Nesheim, en mand, som gjorde det til sin specialitet at faa fat i alle Amerika-breve, han kunde og afskrive dem. Han brugte frakturskrift, og naar han havde afskrevet dem, fik han dem indbundet i bøger. En saadan bog er det, jeg fik fat paa; men den var desværre mishandlet, og meget af dens indhold udrevet. Der er dog nogle breve i behold, og jeg synes, der er meget i dem, som kunde have interesse og tillige historisk værd, hvorfor jeg har afskrevet et par af dem og sender dem vedlagt.”

there was no paper until long after the American vossings got their first, and they showed a greater inclination to write. They were also diligent in the 1840's as shown in subsequent letters and thanks to them the period was reflected in the true light and important explanations properly came to us. A number of these old writings by the first emigrants have been preserved, some as copies, and some of these are those that we'll become acquainted with below. It cost quite a bit to mail a letter to Norway in those days so several were wrapped together and thus defrayed the expenses jointly. The vossings in Chicago formed a correspondence society with the objective of sending a monthly report to Voss. These, of which we have some copies, were articles that dealt with civil matters and religious questions of a wide range and additionally with other matters of sufficient interest worth printing.

We include here some letters that we received from Ivar Davidson Hustvedt, Cannon Falls, MN, who has willingly sent these letters directly and promised us more. He sent a couple of them to the Skandinaven a few years ago. In one of the letters he states the following.

"Fortunately I have come in possession of some old letters that were written by some of the first immigrating vossings. They are written either to their fathers, cousins or friends whom they left behind in Voss in Norway. The letters were collected and copied by Lars N. Nesheim, a man who made it his specialty to get hold of these Amerika letters in order to copy them. He used fraktur print, and when he had reproduced them, he bound them in books. I got a hold of one of those books, but unfortunately it has been maltreated and much of its content torn out. Yet there are some letters in condition to read and they seem to contain a lot that is interesting and in addition is of historical value, so I have copied them and include them here."

BREV FRA CHICAGO.

Til vedlagtede mænd Anders Størksen Flage og Knud Olsen Reque i Voss prestegjæld, Bergens stift, Norge. – Da ingen leilighed var at faa sende breve herfra til Norge sidstleden sommer, saa har alle vi norske mænd, som er her i Chicago, talt os imellem om at sende et lidet brev i posten her fra. Amerika til Norge, og det skulde være os en fornøjelse om Gud vilde styre det saa, at det kom Eder ihænde. Lars Nilsen Næsheim meddeler os i et brev dateret 12te april d. a., at der skal være døde 14 a 15 af de Vosser, som kom over her i 1839, hvilket er en aabenbar løgn. Jeg Anders Larsen Flage vil nævne her alle de Vosser, som er døde siden jeg kom her, og tillige nogle fra Hardanger, nemlig: Min stedsøn Johannes Olson, min lille søn Anders og Line Christine Bjørnson fra Bergen. Disse tre døde i august maaned forrige aar. En liden gut, Lars Kjelsen Gjosten, og Ole Larsen Svælgene og kone døde i september f. a. En liden pige, Bryteva Monsdatter Skutle, døde f. a., men hvad tid ved jeg ikke, thi Mons Skutle reiste 50 a 60 engelske mil længere vest til Fox River. Fra Hardanger er det Lars Spilde og kone, samt et barn, som er døde. En mand fra Eidfjord i Hardanger ved navn Gunder med kone og søn, deres gaardsnavn ved jeg ikke, er døde. Nils Vambheim, Sivert Vasenden og to af hans sønner døde nogenlunde paa samme tid. Alle disse døde her i Chicago, men det var ingen pest, ei heller nogen smitsom sygdom. Det er næsten alle som kommer hertil fra Europa, som maa tage et sygdomsleie. Somme kan bli syge strax de kommer her, og somme kan gaa det forbi 1 a 2 aar. Her er to slags sygdommer, som angriber folket, dog mest om sommeren i juli, august og september maane der. Den første kalder man feveraguern og den begynder med værk i hovedet og næsten i hele kroppen, og saa har de paa visse tider af døgnet en skjælven og bæven, saa hele legemet ryster ligesom en gammel skjælv mand, og efter denne skjælven blir de saa magtesløse, at de neppe kan røre sig. Hos endel kan denne sygdom vare i 5 a 6 maaneder, hos andre i 8 a 9 maaneder og stundom endnu længere. De kunne af og til arbeide lidt, men når denne

LETTERS FROM CHICAGO

To the enclosed men Anders Størksen Flage and Knud Olsen Reque in Voss Parish, Bergen's Diocese, Norway. - Since there was no opportunity to send a letter from here to Norway last summer, all the Norwegian men here in Chicago talked among ourselves about sending a little letter in the mail from America to Norway, and it would be of immense satisfaction for us if God should condescend to place it in thy hands. Lars Nilsen Nesheim declared to us in a letter dated April 12, this year, that 14-15 of the vossings that came here in 1839 are dead. This is an open-faced lie. I, Anders Larsen Flage will list all the vossings who have died since I came here and some from Hardanger too, namely: My stepson Johannes Olson my little son Anders and Line Christine Bjørnson from Bergen. These three died during the month of August last year. One little boy, Lars Kjelsen Gjosten, and Ole Larsen Svælgene and his wife died in September last year. A little girl, Bryteva Monsdatter Skutle died last year but I don't know when, since Mons Skutle moved 50 to 60 English miles farther west to Fox River. From Hardanger, Lars Spilde and his wife, as well as a son, are dead. A man from Eidfjord in Hardanger by the name of Gunder with his wife and a son, I don't know their farm name, are dead. Nils Vambheim, Sivert Vasenden and two of his sons died at about the same time. All these died here in Chicago, but it wasn't smallpox, but another rather contagious illness. Almost everyone from Europe who comes here gets sick for a while. Some get sick as soon as they arrive and some after 1 or 2 years. Here there are two types of illness that attack the people mostly during the summer in the months of July, August and September. We call the first the feverague and it begins with headache, then in almost the whole body, and at various times of the day there is shaking and trembling so that the entire body shakes like an old shaky man and after this trembling they become so weak that they could hardly move. It lasts 5 to 6 months in some, but the sickness lasts 8-9 mo. in others and occasionally even longer. Occasionally they can work some, but when the "shakes" overcomes them they have to quit work

skjælven kommer over dem, maa de forlade arbeidet. Det er dog sjelden folk dør af denne sygdom. Den anden slags sygdom kaldes Biliousfever. Faar man den haardt, saa bliver det ofte til død; thi den tager baade i hovedet og indvortes i kroppen, men den varer ikke saa længe som førstnævnte sygdom. Baade jeg og min kone blev sterkt angrebne af Biliousfever i oktober maaned f. a., og det næsten paa en gang, og der gik fem uger forbi, som vi ikke kunde arbeide, men siden har vi været nogenlunde friske hele tiden. Mine døtre Brithe og Marthe har været borte og arbeidet for mænd her i byen for kost og klæder samt skole lige siden vi kom her. Brithe var syg en 2 a 3 uger af Biliousfever i september, men er nu frisk igjen. Marthe og Nils har ingen sygdom havt endnu.

Jeg skulde vel fortælle Eder noget om landets beskaffenhed, men jeg kan ikke faa indført hvad jeg vilde skrive herom paa dette lille stykke papir; men om Gud vil forunde mig liv og helse til næstkommende vaar, og der reiser nogen mand herfra til Norge, saa skal jeg sende Eder brev og fortælle herom, da jeg har færdigskrevet to ark papir desangaaende. Jeg kan ikke sende et saa stort brev i posten; thi det vilde blive en uhyre porto at betale derfor. Jeg vil derfor kun forsøge at fortælle om mine og andres omstændigheder.

Jeg kom her til Chicago den 25de juli 1839 og fik komme ind i hus i hos Baar Rogne. Jeg var ikke frisk den første tid jeg var her, og saa var jeg kommet 50 dollars i gjæld, og dette gjorde mig mismodig. Jeg sagde da ofte til min kone: Gud give jeg havde saa mange penge, at jeg kunde koste os tilbage til Norge, saa vilde jeg gaa did og fraraade andre at de ikke skulde begive sig paa denne reise! Men kort derefter forbedredes min helbred, saa jeg blev istand til at arbeide, og da jeg fik mig arbeide og lidt fortjenest, saa svandt den tanke om at reise til Norge bort. Men saa var her en stor vanskelighed med sproget, men Sjur S. Ulven var saa tjenstvillig, at han

[malaria?]. People seldom die of this disease. The other sickness is called bilious fever [cholera?]. If one gets a hard case it may be fatal since it affects both mind and body but doesn't last as long as the first illness. Both my wife and I were severely attacked by bilious fever in October, last year, almost at the same time. Five weeks went by that we couldn't work, but since then we have been healthy the entire time. My daughters Brithe and Martha have been away working for men in the city for clothing and board as well as attending school since we got here. Brithe was sick 2-3 weeks from cholera in September but is well again now. Martha and Nils haven't been sick yet,

I would have liked to tell thee something more about the quality of the country but I can't complete what I want to write about on this small piece of paper; but if God will grant me life and health until next spring, and there are any men going from here to Norway, then I shall send thee a letter and tell all, since I have finished two sheets regarding this already. I can't send such a big letter in the mail because it would amount to an extreme amount of postage. I'll only tell about my situation and that of a few others.

I arrived here in Chicago July 25, 1839 and got housing at Baar Rogne. I didn't feel good when I first was here and thus I got in debt for 50 dollars and this depressed me. I told my wife frequently. "God grant that I had enough money to pay for the passage back to Norway, then I would go there and advise others that they shouldn't take this trip!" But shortly thereafter, my health improved and I was in condition to work; I got a job and earned a little, then the thoughts of going back to Norway disappeared. There was considerable difficulty with the language, but Sjur S. Ulven was helpful for me and he arranged for me to get a job. Since I was very industrious I earned from 50 cents to 1 dollar

akkorderede ofte for mig, saa jeg kunde faa arbeide. Siden har jeg arbeidet ganske flittig. Jeg har fortjent mig fra 50 cent op til en dollar daglig, det sidste er dog hændelsesvis. I december maaned f. a. havde jeg fortjent saa meget, at jeg kund. betale Nils Lødve og Lars Ygre de 50 dollars, jeg laante af dem paa overreisen. Jeg har forud sagt, at jeg fik komme ind til Baar Rogne; men jeg var hos ham kun en og en halv uge, saa flyttede vi til Peder Unde, da han havde kjøbt sig et lidet hus. Der fik vi være frit for husrente paa den maade, at min kone skulde hjælpe til at passe et sygt barn, endskjønt husrenten var fra en til en og en halv dollar maaneden. Men lidt før Jul købte jeg huset af ham for \$62.50. Den var indgjerdet omtrent to norske maal, som hører til kanallandet. Hvad tid det skal sælges, er ingen som ved, der er heller ikke noget at betale for aaret for brugen af dette landstykke. Jeg plantet i dette stykke land i sommer poteter, ærter og noget kaal. Jeg har kjøbt mig for syv dollars i sagbord for at istandsætte mit hus og gjerde. Jeg har kjøbt mig en kogeovn for 17 dollars, samt en ko med kalv for 17 dollars. Nu, Gud være lovet, har jeg fortient mig saa meget, at jeg er ingen mand skyldig; men penge har jeg ikke.

Madpriserne.

Jeg vil nu fortælle lidt om priserne paa madvarer. En tønne hvede er at faa ude i landet for en dollar, og en tønne havre 50 cent. Der er fortalt mig der er store stakker af utrasket hvede fra 1839, og da man har faaet temmelig godt aar i sommer, saa tror jeg ikke hveden blir dyrere dette aar. Poteter sendes ude fra landet her til byen og sælges for 12 cent skjæppen. Her kjøres daglig farmprodukter fra landet ind til byen. Jeg har set vogne, som har været trukket af tre til fem heste, og jeg har set vogne trukket af to til sex kjøreoxer. Jeg har ofte set op til 12 vogne paa engang, somme gaar, andre kommer. De sælger gulerøder, næper, kaal og kaalrabi for meget billige priser. Smør sælges her om sommeren for 12 cent pundet, men høst og vinter fra 18 til 25 cent pr. pund. Her er tre huse, hvor de har ferskt kjød og flesk at sælge for 4 a 6 cent pundet. Røget og saltet flesk kan kjøbes for 8 a 10 cent pundet. Det menes her skaalepund. Umalen hvede kjøber vi aldrig, men her er to huse, hvor vi kan faa kjøbe

a day, though the last was only occasionally. By December last year, I had earned enough that I was able to repay Nils Lødve and Lars Ygre the 50 dollars I had borrowed from them on the journey. I also said that I moved in with Baar Rogne, but I stayed just a week and a half; until we moved in with Peder Unde, who had bought a little house. There we didn't have to pay any rent for this reason. My wife was to tend to a sick child, even though house rent was from 1 to 1 ½ dollars a month. A little before Christmas, I bought the house from him for \$62.50. It was fenced in with about two Norwegian mal which belonged to the canal land. No one knows when this land is going to be sold and there is no charge to use the land. This summer, I planted potatoes, peas, and some cabbage. I bought enough sawn lumber to fence in my house and yard for seven dollars. I bought a cook stove for 17 dollars and a cow and calf for 17 dollars. Now, God be praised, I have earned enough that I am indebted to no man; but I don't have any cash.

Food prices

Now I'll tell you something about food prices. Out in the country one can buy a whole barrel of wheat for a dollar and a barrel of oats for 50 cents. They say there are big stacks of un-threshed wheat from 1839 and it looks like a good year this summer, I don't think wheat will become any more expensive this year. Potatoes are shipped in from the country to town and are sold for 12 cents a half bushel. Farm produce is hauled in to the city every day. I have seen wagons drawn from three to five horses, and wagons pulled by two to six oxen. Often I've seen as many as twelve wagons at one time, some going, others coming. They sell carrots, turnips, cabbage and kohlrabi for very cheap prices. In the summer, butter sells for 12 cents a pound but goes up to 18 to 25 cents a pound in the fall and winter. There are three stores that sell fresh meat and pork for 4 to 6 cents a pound. Smoked and salted pork can be purchased for 8 to 10 cents a pound. Here that means skålpound [slightly larger than our pound]. We never buy un-ground wheat, but

hvedemel. Vi kjøber mest af det ringeste hvedemel, og det koster i cent pundet. Det er næsten ligesaagodt som det bedste bygkorn mel i Norge. De har tre sorter hvedemel, det bedste sælges for tre cent pundet. Indians korn har jeg aldrig kjøbt af, men det sælges for en og en halv cent pundet.

Anders Knudsen Himle har faaet underretning i et brev fra sin broder Stephen Sonve, at en valdres ved navn Sjur Jørgensen Lokreim har sendt et brev herfra til Norge, hvori han skriver meget foragtelig om forholdene her i Amerika. Angaaende dette vil jeg sige, at jeg ikke kan billige hans skrivelse; thi den indeholder meget, som er løgn. Han har kun fremholdt alt som har gaaet imod og alle ubehageligheder, men intet nævnt om de goder og fordelagtigheder, som findes her i landet. Den som læser hans brev, vil faa en feilagtig opfatning af hvad dette land er. Jeg vil nu ogsaa sige min mening til dem som tænker paa at komme til Amerika. En gaardbruger i Norge, som eier en god gaard og er i god forfatning vil jeg fraraade at komme hid. Kommer der paa en saadan sygdom, dødsfald og andre ubehageligheder, saa vil han strax komme ihu hvor godt han havde det i Norge og saaledes komme til at angre, at han reiste derfra. Den derimod, som ingen gaard har at reise fra, og som har stor lyst til at komme hid, og som har mod nok til at være fornøiet med, hvad Gud os tilskikker og er ung, sterk og arbeidsfør, en saadan kan komme. Han behøver ikke at frygte for, at han bliver underkastet nogen tvang eller byrde her i landet, ei heller bliver han tiltalt af nogen Amerikaner, at her kommer for mange folk. Nei, her er baade rum nok og arbeide nok. Vel er det sandt, at her i Illinois er nu alt det bedste land næsten opkjøbt, men de, som ønsker sig land, reiser nu for det meste til en stat kaldet Wisconsin, der ligger nordvestlig fra Illinois. Det siges, at der er bedre land der end i Illinois og billigere pris paa det. Landet der kan kjøbes for 1 dollar og 25 cent pr. acre. Det vil bli det samme som 5 ort paa norsk.

Ingen maa tænke, at det er lettere med arbeidet her end i Norge. Arbeid skikken hos Amerikanerne er den, at naar du arbeider for dagløn, saa maa du begynde kl. 6 a 7 om

there are two stores where we buy wheat flour. Usually we buy the cheapest quality flour and it costs only 1 cent a pound. It is almost as good as the best barleycorn flour in Norway. They have three varieties of wheat flour, the best sells at three cents a pound. I have never bought Indian corn, which sells for one and a half cents a pound.

Anders Knudsen Himle received information in a letter from his brother Stephen Sonve that a man from Valdres named Sjur Jørgensen Lokreim had sent a letter from here to Norway, in which he writes very despicably about the conditions here in America. I must say that I cannot approve of his description since it contains many lies. He only presents everything that has gone contrary to him and all the travail that is found in this country. Anyone who reads his letter will get a false impression of what this country is. Now I'll give my opinion to those who are thinking of coming to America. I would definitely discourage a Norwegian farmer, who owns a good farm and is well-off from coming to America. If he were to encounter sickness, death or other misfortunes, he would soon remember how good he had it in Norway and then regret that he left there. But contrariwise, he who has no farm to abandon, and who has a strong incentive to come here, and who has enough spirit to be satisfied with what God provides, and is young, strong and eager to work, such a person should well come. He wouldn't have to be afraid he would be subjected to any coercion or onus, or told by some Americans that too many people are coming. No, here is plenty room and plenty work. It may be true that most of the best land has already been purchased, but those who want land need only go to the state called Wisconsin which lies northwest of Illinois. They say there is better land there than in Illinois and it is cheaper. Land costs only 1 dollar and 25 cents per acre. That's the same as 5 ort in Norway.

People don't need to think that work is any easier here than in Norway. The work customs are that one works for a daily wage. Work starts at 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning and gets dinner as fast as one can,

morgenen og arbeide uden at hvile til kl. 12, da maa du faa dig middagsmad saa fort du kan og derefter arbeide uafbrudt til kl. 7 om aftenen. Da faar du en dollar dagen paa egen kost. Jeg synes dog det er lettere at opholde sig her, end det var i Norge, da næringsmidlerne er billigere og arbeidslønnen høiere. Unge, arbeidspøer mennesker kunde her lægge sig lidt tilgode for sin alderdom, dersom de vilde leve sparsommelig. En voxen mandsperson kan tjene fra 8 til 12 dollars maaneden de yngre og uvante fra 4 til 6 dollars og frikost. En tjenestepige kan faa, en dollar ugen i løn og fri kost. Liker hun sig ikke paa et sted, kan hun næste uge flytte paa et andet. Tjenestepigerne har ikke andet at bestille end at vaske og koge hele dagen. En kone, som vasker for folk i byen, fortjener inidst en halv dollar for dagen og fri kost. Jeg vil fortælle eder, at det er unødvendig for dem, som kommer hid, at have meget husgeraad, saasom kobberkjedler, hagsteheller o. l. Ligeledes er det unødvendig at komme her med forskjellige slags arbeids-redskaber, saasom smidjestæer, Skruestær, øxer, navrer, høvler m. m. Men allerværst er dog, at man har kommet med kvernestene. Man burde forstaa, at det vil blive for kostbart at transportere saadanne ting med sig, da alt maa betaales efter vægt fra New York til Chicago. Jeg talte med Tosten Olsen Saue om dette, og han syntes, det kostede ham meget, da han maatte lægge ud 39 dollars for at faa sit tøj fra New York til Chicago. Her er ganske rimelige priser paa arbeidsverktøi. En god hugøx kan faaes til en og en halv dollar, en mindre øx for 75 cent, et godt sagblad 45 cents. Forrige vinter traf jeg en mand, som kom bærende med en jernstang, og jeg spurgte ham, hvad et pund jern kostet. Syv cent, sagde han. Vadmelsklæder er det godt at have med sig, især for mandspersoner, ligesaa uldsengeklæder, for her er overmaade koldt om vinteren. Skindklæder er vel gode for kuldeen, men de er ikke meget i brug her. Desuden kommer der undertiden saa hastig regn, at om man gaar ud i godt veir, kan man komme igjen silende vaad, og derfor er heller ikke skindklæder at anbefale. For kvindfolkene er vadmelsklæder mindre nyttige undtagen det skulde være til underklæder. Piger der skal ud og arbeide maa, dersom de vil blive agtede, strax koste sig kjoler ligesom Bergens damer.

goes without pause until 12 noon when one then continues work without interruption until 7 P.M. Then you will receive a dollar a day if you provide your own meals. I think it is easier to care for oneself here than in Norway because rations are cheaper and the daily wage higher. Young, energetic people, if they are prudent, could save some according to their age. A grown man can earn from 8 to 12 dollars a month, the younger and inexperienced from 4 to 6 dollars with meals. A servant girl can get a dollar a week with meals. If she doesn't like her job, the next week she can move. Servant girl's jobs consist of cooking and washing all day long. A woman, who washes clothes for people in town, earns at least a half dollar a day plus meals. I will advise thee, that it is unnecessary for them that come here to bring household goods, like copper kettles, pitchers, and such. Likewise it is unnecessary to bring various tools like anvils, vises, axes, picks or planes among many. But worst of all, some have come with grindstones. One has to realize that it is very expensive to transport such with themselves since everything is paid for according to its weight from New York to Chicago. I talked with Tosten Olson Saue about this, and he thought it cost him a lot: he paid 39 dollars to get his gear from New York to Chicago. Here, tools are quite reasonably priced. One can buy a good timberax for a half dollar, a smaller ax for 75 cents; a good sawblade for 45 cents. Last winter, I met a man carrying an iron bar, and I asked him how much iron cost by the pound. "Seven cents", he said. Homespun clothes are good to have, especially for men, similarly wool bed clothing, because it really gets cold in the winter. Leather goods may be good against the cold, but they aren't used much here. Also, we occasionally have sudden rains, and if a person goes out in fair weather he may suddenly get soaking wet, and therefore leather clothes aren't recommended. Homespun clothes are little used by women, except for underclothing. Girls that are going out to work must, if they want to be noticed, soon buy clothes like the women of Bergen

Lidt om andre Vossinger.

Nu maa jeg ogsaa fortælle lidt om de andre mænd fra Voss. Kjel Vikingsen Gjøsten, Ole Knudsen Gilderhus og Anders Nilzen Væthe har kjøbt sig hvert sit hus her i Chicago, og de har ogsaa betalt dem og det er vel ikke frit for, at de har lidt penge tilovers. Det var ikke noget godt for dem i førstningen de var her. De reiste ganske strax de kom her paa kanalarbeide og var der i to uger. Lars Davidsen Reque og min stefsøn Johannes Olsen var ogsaa med, men naar de kom derfra, blev de liggende syge alle sammen af Feveraguern, og meget strengt syge, fornemmelig Ole Gilderhus. Han var syg næsten hele vinteren og min stefsøn Johannes døde, som før fortalt, men de andre har siden været friske og gaaet paa arbeide i hele sommer. Peder Iversen Unde fra Vigs prestegjæld og Knud Larsen Brække har ogsaa kjøbt sig hus her i Chicago, og staar sig godt. Baar Johnson Rogne og hans familie staar sig meget vel, undtagen hans yngste datter Søgni, der har været meget syg i sommer, men er nu ganske bra igjen. Hans datter Britha var gift sidstleden mai maaned med en tysker ved navn Frank, som ogsaa skal være meget formuende. Jeg var nær ved at glemme at fortælle, at Endre Endresen Veisen har bygget sig hus her i Chicago, og har kjøbt sig to kjøer med kalve. Hvor meget han betalte for dem, husker jeg ikke igjen. Baade han og hans familie var i høst syge af Feveraguern, undtagen hans to sønner Aslak og Erik, men de er nu alle friske igjen. Sjur Sjursen Ulven har bygget sig to huse her i Chicago, og solgt det første til Knud Brække. Han staar sig udmerket godt. Alle de huse, som her er nævnt om, er byggede paa kanalgrund, og det er ingen her, som ved naar det skal sælges. Nils Eriksen Lødve, Lars Monsen Ygre og Erik Larsen Sættre reiste til Iowa forrige høst 1839. Jeg har hørt at de var syge en tid og Lars Eriksen Lødve og hans familie var syge paa samme tid, men saavidt jeg nu ved, er alle friske igjen. Lars Kjelsen Bøe og Stephen Knudsen Gilderhus har jeg hørt skulde være i Mississippi, og Knud og Ole Eriksønner Lødve er i Missouri,

A little about other vossings.

Now I must also tell a little about the other men from Voss. Kjel Vikingsen Gjøsten, Ole Knudsen Gilderhus and Anders Nilzen Væthe have each bought houses here in Chicago and they have them paid for and it's not surprising that they have money besides. They didn't have it very good when they were first here. Right after they got here they started work on the canals. They were there two weeks. Lars Davidsen Reque and my step-son, Johannes Olsen were there too, and when they quit, they were all lying sick of the feverague and very seriously ill, especially Ole Gilderhus. He was sick almost the entire winter and my stepson died, as I said before, but the others have since got well and have worked all summer. Peder Iversen Unde from Vik parish bought a house here in Chicago, and is well-off. Baar Johnson Rogne is also quite successful, except his youngest daughter, Søgni, has been quite sick this summer but has recovered. His daughter, Britha, was married last May to a German named Frank, who is also quite wealthy. I almost forgot to tell you that Endre Endresen Veisen has built a house in Chicago and has bought two cows with calves. I don't recall what he paid for them. Both he and his family were sick with the feverague this fall, except his two sons, Aslak and Erik, but all have recovered. Sjur Sjursen Ulven has built two houses in Chicago and sold one to Knud Brekke. He is quite well situated. All of the houses thus far mentioned are built on canal property and no one knows when they will be sold. Nils Eriksen Lødve, Lars Monsen Ygre and Erik Larsen Sættre left for Iowa last fall in 1839. I've heard that they were sick for a while and Lars Eriksen Lødve and his family were sick at the same time but as far as I know, all are well again. Lars Kjelsen Bøe and Stephen Knudsen Gilderhus are in Mississippi, I've heard, and Knud and Ole Eriksons Lødve are in Missouri and as far as I know are in good health

og saa godt som jeg ved er de med helse og staar sig godt. Mons Larsen Skutle, Anfin Størksen Leidal og Anders Andersen Fenne har opholdt sig i Fox River, og er saavidt jeg ved, friske og staar sig vel. Colben Olsen Saue er gift med Anna Gunnersdatter Grimstad, og hans bror Størk er gift med Eli Knudsdatter Væthe, og er reist til Indiana stat. Magne Bottlofson Bystølen, Nils Larsen Bolstad og Nils Sjursen Gilderhus har kjøbt sig land i nærheden af hverandre i Wisconsin stat. De to førstnævnte har kjøbt sig 80 acres land tilsammen, og sidstnævnte 89 acres alene. De har været der for det meste i Sommer og slaaet hø for nogle køer og to store køreoxer, samt bygget sig hus og pløiet op nogle acres land og saaet det ind med vinterhvede. Ole Sjursen Gilderhus og Lars Davidsen Reque er ogsaa reiste did. De reiste den 5te november d. a. Ogsaa deres mening var at købe sig land der, og Knud Larsen Brække sendte penge med dem i den tanke at de skulde købe land for ham i nærheden af hvor de købte land for sig selv. Nils Sjursen Gilderhus var her i Chicago først i november d. a., og han bad mig om, naar jeg skrev brev til Norge, at hilse hans søstermand Anders Nilsen Lie fra ham og sige, at hvis han havde lyst til at reise hid til Amerika, saa var det bedst han gjorde det jo før jo heller, om det saa var til næste sommer, 1841. Ligeledes hilse fra Knud L. Brække til Nils Andersen Ygte, som har spurgt Knud L. Brække i et brev, om det er raadelig for hans søn Anders at reise til Amerika. Knud Brække siger, at dersom Gud vil forunde ham helse og han vil være ordentlig, saa er det lettere at fortjene noget her, og at komme frem til at eie noget, end det er i det gamle land. John Haldorsen Bjørgo, Halvor Nilsen Dalseide og Ole Andersen Dyvig er i Fox River, er friske og lever vel. Nils Knudsen Røthe var i tanke at flytte til sit land i sommer, og han var did og satte op et hus, men saa blev baade han og hans familie syge, saa han maatte stanse i Chicago. Nu er de alle friske igjen. Peder Skjervheim tjener her i Chicago. Anna Knudsdatter Bakkethun blev gift med en mand fra Trondhjem ved navn Nils og skal være meget rig. Tosten Olsen Lille-Saue, Lars Baarsen Lille-Saue og Claus Isaksen Grimstad og flere personer fra Voss kom her til Chicago sidstleden 30te august d. a.,

Mons Larsen Skutle, Anfin Størkson Leidal and Anders Anderson Fenne have stayed in Fox River and are healthy and thriving as far as I know. Colben Olsen Saue is married to Anna Gunnersdatter Grimstad, and his brother Størk is married to Eli Knudsdatter Væthe, and went to the state of Indiana. Magne Bottlofson Bystølen, Nils Larsen Bolstad and Nils Sjursen Gilderhus have bought land near each other in the state of Wisconsin. The two first named have bought 80 acres of land jointly, and the last named 89 acres alone. They have spent most of the summer cutting hay for some cows and two large draft oxen as well as building themselves a house and plowing up some acres of land and sowing it in with winter wheat. Ole Sjursen Gilderhus and Lars Davidsen Reque have also gone there. They left November 5th this year. Also they meant to buy land there, and Knud Larsen Brekke sent money with them with the idea that they should buy him land near theirs. Nils Sjursen Gilderhus was here in Chicago the first of November this year and he asked me, when I wrote a letter to Norway, to greet his sister's husband from him and say that if he had intentions to go to America then it would be better to wait until next summer. 1841. Similarly to give greetings from Knud L. Brekke to Nils Andersen Ygte who has asked Knud L. Brekke in a letter, if it would be advisable for his son Anders to go to America. Knud Brekke says that if God grants him the privilege of good health and he is well-organized, then it would be easier to earn something here and proceed to own something than in the old land. John Haldorsen Bjørgo, Halvor Nilsen Dalseide and Ole Andersen Dyvig are in Fox River, are spry and live well. Nils Knudsen Røthe had planned to move to his land this summer and he went there and built a house but then his family got sick so he had to stay in Chicago. Now they have all recovered. Peder Skjervheim works here in Chicago. Anna Knudsdatter Bakkethun married a man from Trondheim named Nils who is said to be quite rich. Tosten Olsen Lille-Saue, Lars Baarsen Lille-Saue and Claus Isaksen Grimstad and several people from Voss came here to Chicago last August 30th this year and they stayed for a week, then went to Wisconsin with the intention

og de var her en uge, da reiste de til Wisconsin i den tanke, at de vilde kjøbe sig land, men siden har jeg intet hørt om dem. Arne Andersen Urland har kjøbt sig et lidet hus her i Chicago, men blev syg og er ikke rigtig frisk endnu. Lars Davidsen Reque, Lars Torgersen Røthe og Elling Hallesen Væthe har været i hus hos mig. Ole Sjursen Gilderhus og Knud Johnsen Hylle har været i hus hos Knud Brække. Mads Nilsen Sondve og Knud Eriksen Rokne er i hus hos Baar Rogne. Baar Larsen Nyre og Bryngel Guleiksen Rondve er i hus hos Ole Knudsen Gilderhus. Bjarne Nilsen Himle er hos Kjøl V. Gjosten. Anders Knudsen Himle er hos Endre Veisen. Alle disse ungvæder er friske og gaar stadig paa arbeide. Somme af dem paa veiarbeide, andre paa kanalarbeide, og nogen paa steambaad eller dampbaad. Der gaar saadanne ud herfra den ene dagen og kommer igjen den andre dagen, men nu bliver nok deres meste arbeidstid i vinter at sage ved. De synes de har mere frihed da, end naar de tjener paa maaneden, og fortjenesten bliver omtrent den samme.

Tjeneste pigers Løn.

Martha Torstensdatter Lille-Saue reiste nogle mil op i landet og fik sig arbeide. Hun skulde have to dollars ugen i løn. Martha Larsdatter Lille-Saue, Eli Nilsdatter Bergslien og Martha Tormodsdatter Ringheim tjener her i staten for en dollar ugen. De fem yngste barn efter Halle Væthe er i en liden by kaldet Rock- quers i staten Indiana og faar der en god opdragelse. Ole Knudsen Grove og Lars Godskalksen Hægle er i Fox River. Elling Eielsen Sundve har kjøbt et stykke land i Fox River, hvorpaa han har bygget sig hus. Han har været her i Chicago flere gange i sommer og holdt opbyggelsestaler. Han fortæller, at ingen Vossere er døde i Fox River settlementet. Af de Norske, som er her i Chicago, er det kun 4 barn, som har dødt her i sommer, nemlig: et barn for Ole K. Gilderhus, et barn for Sjur S. Ulven og saa et par tvillinger for en mand, som hørte hjemme syd for Bergen, og hvis navn er Halsten Torissen Medhuus. Lars Olsen Dugstad opholder sig i Fox River. Han var her i Chicago i sommer og da fortalte han, at han

that they would purchase land, but I haven't heard about them since. Arne Anderson Urland has bought a little house here in Chicago, but he got sick and isn't really well yet. Lars Davidson Reque, Lars Torgerson Røthe and Elling Hallesen Væthe have been staying with me. Ole Sjursen Gilderhus and Knud Johnson Hylle have stayed with Knud Brække. Mads Nilsen Sondve and Knud Eriksen Rokne are living with Baar Rogne. Baar Larsen Nure and Bryngel Guleiksen Rondve are in the house with Ole Knudsen Gilderhus. Bjarne Nilsen Himle is with Kjøl V. Gjosten. Anders Knudsen Himle is with Endre Veisen. All these bachelors are healthy and have steady work. Some work on the roads and some on the canals, and some on steamboats or dampbaad. So it goes day in and day out but now their commonest work in the winter is sawing wood. They seem to have more time off now than when they work by the month. And the salary is about the same.

Working girl's salary.

Martha Torstensdatter Lille-Saue went some miles up country and found a job. She earns two dollars a week. Martha Larsdatter Lille-Saue, Eli Nilsdatter Bergslien and Martha Tormodsdatter Ringheim work here in the state for one dollar a week. The five youngest children of Halle Væthe are in a little town called Rock-right across in the state of Indiana and make a good living. Ole Knudsen Grove and Lars Guskalksen Hægle are in Fox River. Elling Eielsen Sundve has bought a piece of land in Fox River, on which he has built a house. He has been to Chicago several times this summer and made revival sermons. He says that no vossings have died in Fox River settlement. Of the Norwegians that live here in Chicago, only four have died this summer, namely one child of Ole K. Gilderhus, one child of Sjur S. Ulven and a pair of twins of a man named Halsten Torissen Medhuus, who comes from south of Bergen. Lars Olsen Dugstad lives in Fox River. He was here in Chicago this summer and told us that he had been recently to Wisconsin

nylig havde været til Wisconsin og købt 80 acres land. Han fortalte ogsaa, at han ventet sin broder Ole hid, og at Ole havde lovet at hjælpe ham med penge.

Da rummet paa papiret nu begynder at formindskes, saa maa jeg snart afbryde. Jeg vil da sende en flittig hilsen ikke alene fra mig, men fra alle Vosser, som her i dette brev er opregnet, til vore slægtninge, bekendte og venner paa Voss, at ingen af Os Vosser, som er her i Chicago, nu ønsker os tilbage til Norge, men vi alle befinde Os velfornøiede. Ingen maa tænke, eller indbilde sig, at her er indsat løgn i dette brev. Det, som her er skrevet er sandhed. Jeg vil ikke rose Amerika saa overmaade, som Svend Knudsen Aga gjorde, da han skrev disse ord: "Jeg lever her som i et gjæstebud og vilde ikke reise til Norge igjen og æde den hunderet, de æder der!" Nei, vi vil ikke vanære vort fædreland for nogen ting, vi havde ogsaa der til nødtørft baade føde og klæder. Vi vil heller ikke laste øvrigheden i Norge; thi vi fik af den god undervisning og lærdom saavel i religion som i borgerlig og militær henseende. Jeg vil heller ikke laste Amerika saaledes, som John Aga og Sjur J. Lokrem har gjort i de breve, de har skrevet til Norge. Vi har seet deres breve, som har været trykte i blade, udgivne i Norge, og som af velvillige venner er os tilsendte. Dette brev er helst skrevet af den grund, at vi ønsker at imødegaa disse skrivelser. Vi Vosser her i Chicago skulde like, at det vi siger om disse deres skrivelser, ogsaa blev trykt i Norge. Dette brev, som er skrevet af mig Anders Larsen Flage, er dog ment at være ligesom et brev fra alle os Vosser i Chicago, og derfor vil jeg bede de mænd, til hvem brevet er adresseret, at de maa lade alle de folk paa Voss, som har slægtninge blandt dem, som er nævnte i brevet, faa høre hvad der er skrevet om dem. Aad Johannesen Himle var bestemt til at reise til Norge forleden vaar, men saa blev han syg, saa han maatte opsætte det. Han er dog nu frisk igjen og opholder sig i Fox River. Det er fortalt, at han har fortjent to dollars dagen, og her skal ikke være nogen Voss, som har lagt sig saa meget tilgode, som han. Kjøl Vikingsen Gjosten har bedt mig at hilse sine brødre Lars og Ole og sige dem, at han ønsker at se dem her i Amerika. Peder

and bought 80 acres of land. He said too, that he expected his brother, Ole, and that Ole would help him with money.

Since the space on this paper is starting to run short, I must soon finish. I wish to send many greetings, not only from me, but from all the vossings who have been mentioned in this letter, to our relatives, acquaintances and friends at Voss, that none of us vossings that are here in Chicago wish ourselves back in Norway but that we all are very satisfied. No one should think, or convince themselves that this letter contains lies. That which is written here is the truth. I don't want to praise America overly much, as Svend Knudsen did when he wrote these words: "I live here as a guest and never want to go to Norway again and eat the dog food they eat there!" No, we don't want to disparage our fatherland in any manner; we received the necessaries both in food and clothing. We also don't want to blame the government in Norway since we got good education and instruction in religion as well as in civil matters and military matters. I would rather not ascribe them to America as John Aga and Sjur J. Lokrem do in the letters that they have written to Norway. We have seen their letters, which have been printed in the paper, published in Norway and which well-meaning friends also have sent us. This letter is mostly written on the stand that we wish to decry. We vossings here in Chicago would like that what we say about their writings also gets printed in Norway. This letter, which is written for me by Anders Larsen Flage, is meant to be like a letter from all of us vossings in Chicago, and therefore I ask those men to whom the letter is addressed that they have all the people at Voss who have relatives among them, that are mentioned in this letter, hear what is written about them. Aad Johannesen Himle had decided to go to Norway last spring but he became sick and had to cancel it. He is healthy again and is living in Fox River. They say that he earns two dollars a day; there are no vossings here that have earned as much as he. Kjøl Vikingsen Gjosten has asked me to greet his brothers Lars and Ole and tell them that he wants to see them here in America. Peder Iversen Unde, from Vik I Sogn, sends his heartfelt wish to greet his brother Ole and tell

Iversen Unde, heder mig hilse til hans broder Ole, at der er hans hjertelige ønske at se ham her, hvis Ole har lyst at komme. Han ønsker gjerne at faa brev fra sine forældre og søskende, dersom der er leilighed til at faa sende det. Naar leilighed gives, vil han sende et brev til dem. Jeg vil atter bede de mænd, dette brev er adresseret til, godhedsfuldt at gjøre det bekjendt for vedkommende, baade paa Vossestranden og i Vadsværen, samt sende ord til Peder Undes familie i Vik. Lad mig ogsaa faa vide hvad tid brevet kom Eder ihænde, og hvor meget I maatte betale i porto for samme.

Det er ikke godt at tage med hid norske sølvpenge, som er mindre end ortestykker. At kjøbe tobakspiber i Bergen og tage med sig hid duer ikke; thi her bruger man ikke andet end lerpi ber, eller ogsaa røger man cigarer.

Saa hilses I da hjerteligst allesammen, med ønsket om at vi engang maa mødes i himmerigets glæder og herlighed.

Chicago den 23de november 1840.

Anders Larsen Flage,
Sjur Sjursen Ulven,
Elling Hallesen Væthe,
Peder Davidsen
Skjærv-heim.

Dette brev er afkopieret paa Lemme i 1841, af mig Lars Nielsen Nesheim.

BREV FRA FOX RIVER
SETTLEMENTET.

Lasalle County den 22de Juni 1841.

Til velagtede mand, Anve Knudsen Skutle i Qvitler Otting paa Voss i Bergens stift.

him he wishes to see him here. He really would like to get a letter from his parents and siblings, whenever they have opportunity to send it. When he gets a chance, he will send them a letter. Again I request those men to whom this letter is addressed, kindly make it known to the concerned people both at Vossestrand and Vadsæren as well as Peder Unde's family in Vik. Let me know when thee receives this letter and how much postage you had to pay for it.

It's no good taking along Norwegian silver coins which are smaller than ort pieces. To buy tobacco pipes in Bergen to take along makes no sense since they don't smoke anything but clay pipes or occasional cigars.

Then greet thee everyone, with the wish that someday we will meet in heaven's happiness and beauty.

Chicago November 23, 1840.

Anders Larsen Flage
Sjur Sjursen Ulven
Elling Hallesen Væthe,
Peder Davidsen
Skjærv-heim

This letter is copied at Lemme in 1841 by me Lars Nielsen Nesheim.

LETTER FROM THE FOX RIVER
SETTLEMENT

LaSalle County, June 22, 1841.

To the esteemed man, Anve Knudsen Skutle in Qvitler Otting at Voss in the diocese of Bergen.

venner! I er alle paa det kjærligste hilsede fra mig, og vil jeg lade Eder vide, for saavidt jeg til denne tid har havt anledning til at kjende hvad udkomme her paa en ordentlig maade er til at forskaffe det nødvendige til livets ophold og nødtørft. Jeg tror, at jeg i den henseende ikke vil angre paa at jeg forlod Norge. Jeg vil nu først lade Eder vide, at jeg kom vel og ubeskadiget her til Illinois i slutningen af juli maaned. (1839). Her er et stort norsk settlement, da her er 50 norske mænd, som har bosat sig her og kun en Engelskmand. 12 mile i nord herfra er der 10 norske mænd bosatte. Dette settlement er beliggende omtrent 60 engelske mile op i landet fra Chicago. Vi har opholdt os hos en mand i det største settlement, eller nabolag et aar. Da jeg hørte, at her var et stykke land, som en spekulant havde kjøbt af regjeringen for 5 aar siden. Man kalder saadanne mænd for spekulanter, som kjøber en mængde land med skog og prairie for senere at sælge det ud igjen. Den spekulant, som havde kjøbt nævnte stykke land, var langt borte, og ikke saa til sin eiendom, hverken paa det ene sted eller det andet, og her er frihed til at bygge og rydde paa saadant land, hvis man betaler skat til regjeringen, naar eiermanden selv forsømmer det. Jeg byggede en stue og et fjøs paa dette landstykke. Hvorledes det gaar, enten eiermanden kommer eller ei, ved vi ikke, da herer ingen, som ved, hvor han er, men om han skulde komme igjen, da er han forpligtet til at betale mig for mit arbeide, og skatten maa han tilbagebetale mig en halv dollar for hver dollar jeg har udlagt i skat. Regjeringen maa have det, som er paalagt. Det er ifra 4 til 6 dollars for hver 80 acres. Der er en del med bare skov og tømmer.

Prisen paa varer er meget billig her. En tønne hvedemel koster fra 1½ til 2 dollars. 1 tønne indianerkorn 1 til 1½ dollars. En tønne poteter en dollar, en skaalpund maismel en cent, hvilket er en norsk skilling. En skaalpund færskt flæsk 3 a 4 cent, smør sex cent og sommetider 10 a 12 cent skaalpundet. Arbejdslønnen er nu billigere. En halv dollar til en dollar om dagen. En ko koster fra 15 til 20 dollars, en sau koster to dollars. Vi har nu sex smaler, to sauer og fire lam og fire stykker fæ og et par kjøreoxer, som er to aar gamle. Man maa brække dem paa den alder og naar de er 3

friends! Thee are all greeted from me in the dearest manner and I wish to let thee know, as far as I have the opportunity in the usual manner to learn, what is necessary for the maintenance and preservation of life here. I believe that in that regard I don't regret that I left Norway. First, I want to let you know that I got here to Illinois well and unharmed in the end of July. (1839). There is a big Norwegian settlement here since there are 50 nordmen who have settled here but only one Englishman. 12 miles north of here 10 Norwegian men have settled. This settlement is located about 60 English miles up country from Chicago. We have been staying with a man for a year in the biggest settlement or neighborhood. I heard that there was a portion of land here that a speculator had bought from the government 5 years ago. We call such men speculators, who buy some land with forest and prairie, in order to sell it again later. This speculator, who had bought this land, was long gone and didn't look after his property, either on one place or another and here one is permitted to build on or clear such land if only one pays the tax to the government when the owner himself doesn't do it properly. I built a house and a barn on this piece of land. How it will go, whether the owner comes or not, I don't know, since no one hears anything about his whereabouts. But if he comes back, then he is required by law to pay me for my work and reimburse me for the tax at the rate of one-half dollar for each dollar that I have paid. The government has to have what is imposed. That is from 4 to 6 dollars for each 80 acres. It is mostly woods and timber.

The prices on goods are rather cheap here. A barrel of wheat flour costs from 1½ to 2 dollars. A barrel of Indian corn 1 to 1½ dollars. A barrel of potatoes a dollar, a bowl of cornmeal one cent, which is a Norwegian shilling. A pound of fresh pork 3 to 4 cents, butter 6 cents, occasionally 10 to 12 cents a pound. Daily wages are cheap. A half dollar or one dollar per day. A cow costs from 15 to 20 dollars, a sheep two dollars. We now have six lambs, two sheep and four lambs and four cattle and a pair of driving oxen, two years old. On has to break them at that age and when they are 3 or 4 years and well broken, so that they can be driven then they cost 50 to 60

a 4 aar og og vel brækte, saa man kan kjøre med dem, da koster de fra 50 til 60 dollars. Vi har to svin, gjæser og over 100 stykker høns. Det er det letteste og snarest at fortjene med af alle kreaturer. Vi er nu i tanke om at kjøbe et føl som koster henimod 20 dollars. En middelmaadig hest koster ifra 60 til 70 dollars.

Saa vil jeg melde om, hvorledes vi finder os fornøiet her i Amerika. Jeg vil sige for min del, at jeg finder mig vel fornøiet, og at jeg aldrig har havt slige dage, og min kone siger det samme. Dette gjælder for den tid, vi alle fik være ilive, men siden vor datter døde, har min kone længtet til Norge, og ifald her ikke kommer nogen af vore slægtninger og længselen ikke skulde skride af hende, saa vil jeg holde mit løfte, som jeg gav hende i Norge, nemlig: Dersom hun ikke fandt sig fornøiet i Amerika, da skulde vi gaa tilbage til Norge igjen. Der er farligere reise fra Bergen til Voss, end det er fra Amerika til Bergen. Saavidt jeg har hørt, har alle kommet vel over havet til Amerika, og paa meget kortere tid kan man gaa ifra Amerika til Norge, for vinden er altid vestlig.

Sygdom er her noget af paa sine steder. Vi var syge strax vi kom til Illinois. Jeg var hos en mand i fem dage for en dollar dagen, men saa blev jeg syg i syv uger, dog ikke værre, end at jeg kunde hjælpe mig selv. Den tid var min kone hos en norsk mand for en dollar ugen i syv uger, men saa blev hun ogsaa *syg* af samme sygdom, og det varede i fem uger. Siden har vi været friske, men her er sygeligt her omkring, og i Beaver Creek døde der nogle. Det er et sygeligt sted, vaadt og sumpagtigt. Her har ikke været saa megen sygdom, som det aar, vi kom her, som nogen kan sige. Det er ikke sandt, at det er saa ondt i Amerika, som den Sjur ifra Valdres har skrevet til Norge. Han kom fra Valdres til Ulvik og tog der en kvinde til ægte, men han havde ligget med hende i Valdres og reist fra to børn der, og saa kom han til Amerika og til Illinois. Han havde ingen rolighed, og nu reiste han tilbage til Norge. Den, som har en længsel tilbage, ham hjælper det ikke, om han har, gode dage. Her er mad og klæder nok. Naar man arbejder i to dage, da fortjener man saa meget, at man kan leve deraf en maaned. Her er hvedestakker, som ikke er trasket henimod to aar gamle

dollars. We have two sows, geese and over 100 chickens. They are the quickest and easiest to earn with of all the animals. We are thinking of buying a foal which costs about 20 dollars. A middling horse costs from 60 to 70 dollars.

Then I wish to state how we find ourselves so satisfied here in America. I want to say for my part I am well satisfied, and I have never had such days, and my wife says the same. This counts for the time we were all alive, but since our daughter died, my wife yearns for Norway, and in any case, if none of our relatives come, and the homesickness won't leave her, then I will keep my promise that I gave her in Norway, namely: if she isn't satisfied in America, then we'll go back to Norway. It is more hazardous to travel from Bergen to Voss than from America to Bergen. As far as I have heard everyone has crossed the ocean to America and one can go from America to Norway in even less time because the winds are always westerly.

There is sickness here and there. We became sick as soon as we got to Illinois. I was working for a man for a dollar a day, but then I got sick for seven weeks and even worse, I couldn't help myself. That period my wife worked for a man for a dollar a week for seven weeks, but the then she got *sick* of the same sickness, and that lasted five weeks. She has been healthy since but there is sickness around us, and in Beaver Creek there were some deaths. It is a sickly place, wet and swampy. There hasn't been as much sickness as the year we came, as some say. It isn't true, that it is so bad in America, as Sjur from Valdres has written to Norway. He came from Valdres to Ulvik and married a girl there, but he had slept with her before in Valdres and left two children there, then he came to America and to Illinois. He couldn't settle down so he went back to Norway. He, who longs to return to Norway, doesn't it help to have good days. Here we have sufficient food and clothes. If one works for two days, one earns enough to live for a month. We have wheat stacks here that aren't threshed, even though they are two years old.

Det var en ting, jeg glemte i førstningen af mit brev, nemlig, at her var ingen kirker eller gudshuse at holde sig til, førend Elling Fenne eller Synve kom hertil og kostede op et bedehus, hvor der er opbyggelse hver søndag. Der er nogle mænd, som prædiker, en hver søndag. Det er meget bedre opmuntring, end jeg fik ved at høre paa den gamle provsten hjemme, som de ikke kan høre eller forstaa, hvad han taler. Forgjæves de til kirke gaar. Paa Herrens ord at høre, og hjem, igjen de samme er og ny lydighed paaføre. Der har dem alle det ordsprog: Jeg maa til kirke om søndag, jeg har noget at udrette. Dette maatte ikke være saa. Vi maa tro, at der er en Gud til, som er over alle ting og allestedsnærværende, og naar døden kommer over os vilde vi gjerne komme til ham. Da var det godt, at vi havde opført os ret her i denne verden.

Her sluttes med den kjærligste hilsen til alle beslægtede og gode venner. Vi har erfaret, at det ikke er løgn eller usandhed det, som staar i Rynnings bogen andet end om sygdommen, som her ikke var den tid. Her er forskjelligt med sygdom paa sine steder. I Wisconsin er ikke saa sygeligt. Det ligner mere Norge, der er smaa berghamre, sten, og høier og bakker. Der voxer birker- og furutrær. Der er ikke saa fladt og sumpagtig land, som mange andre steds. Nu er her bedre oplysning at faa om Amerika, thi nu er her norske folk allesteds omkring.

Mons Larssen Skutle.

BREV FRA RACINE, WIS.

Racine County, Wisconsin, den 22de December 1843.

Kjære Moder! Du maa ikke fortryde paa, kjære uforglemmelige moder, at jeg saalænge har udsat med at give dig og mine beslægtede efterretning om hvorledes det har gaaet mig og familie, siden jeg kom over her til Amerika. Den 29de juli sidstleden tilsendte jeg, fra New York, vor svoger David Lemme et brev, der viser hvorledes det har gaaet os over havet, samt under vort ophold i New York, som jeg haaber han har modtaget, men jeg vil dog her gjentage følgende. Da vi havde været en tre ugers tid paa sjøen og var komne

There was one thing I forgot in the

opening of my letter, namely, that there are no churches or houses of God here to belong to, before Elling Fenne or Synve came here and paid for a prayer house where there are revivals every Sunday. There are some men who preach, one each Sunday. They are much more encouraging than what we heard from the old Dean at home, whom they neither could hear nor understand, what he preached. They go to church in vain. To listen to the Lord's word, and home, the same creates new dutifulness. Here everyone has the old saying: I must go to church Sunday, I have something to do. It shouldn't be like that. We have to believe, that there is a God who rules over everything and is omniscient, and when death comes we will happily go to Him. Then it would be best if we had conducted ourselves right in this world.

Here I finish these dearest greetings to all the relatives and good friends. We have learned that they are neither lies nor untruths that are in Rynnings book except for the illnesses, that weren't here at that time. Here it varies with illnesses depending on the place. In Wisconsin, there isn't as much sickness. It looks more like Norway. There are small cliffs, stone, and heights and hills. Birches and fir trees grow there. It isn't such flat and swampy land, like many other places. Now you will get more information about America, because now there are Norwegian people around everywhere.

Mons Larsen Skutle.

A LETTER FROM RACINE, WI.

Racine County, Wisconsin, December 22, 1843.

Dear Mother! You must not get upset because it has been such a long time since I have given you or my relatives enlightenment about how it has gone with me and my family since coming to America. On the last 29th of July, I sent from New York, our in-law, David Lemme, a letter that showed how we had fared over the ocean and our circumstances in New York, which I hope you have received, but I will repeat the following. When we had been at sea for three weeks and had passed the Shetland Islands, a certain

langt forbi Shetlandsøerne opkom der paa vort skib en slags sygdom, jeg antog for nervefeber. Denne greb om sig og to af mine barn døde af den nemlig: Ingebrigt og Kari. Den 13de juli ankom vi til New York, hvor 20 af vort følge blev bragt paa sygehuset, deriblandt fem af mine barn. I New York opholdt vi os indtil den 29de juli, og i den tid døde vor datter Ingeborg og Nils Drøgs vold. Fra New York reiste vi kl. 7 om aftenen paa dampbaad og ankom til Albany den 30te. Den 31te reiste vi derfra paa en kanalbaad trukket af to heste, og ankom til Buffalo den 7th of august. Den 10de gik vi ombord paa en dampbaad over Erie-sjøen og kom til Milwaukee den 14de og den 15de kom vi op her til Moskego i Racine county. Her har jeg nu kjøbt mig et stykke land. Her har i sommer og høst hersket en svær Fiveraguer (Koldefeber), som ikke alene har angrebet de Norske, men ogsaa de indfødte Amerikanere, og mange er døde. Den 5te September døde vor lille datter Brita. Heraf kan du erfare hvor megen modgang der har modt os, siden vi reiste fra Voss. Hvor tungt det end har været for os, faar vi dog skikke os deri med taalmodighed og minde os om Jobs rn d: "Herren gav, Herren tog, Herrens navn være lovet!" Men ikke dette alene har været tungt at tage imod, men samme dag som min datter døde, blev min kone syg af Fiveraguern, og paa samme tid vor datter Christence og omtrent fem uger derefter vor søn Anders, og de har været syge næsten til denne tid, undtagen min kone, hun har nu været frisk i en 4-5 uger. De var saa syge, at jeg tenkte mere paa død end paa liv med dem. Den tid saa det ganske mørkt ud for mig; men da de nu er friske igjen, saa begynder det at lysne. Naar jeg fraregner det store tab, som jeg har lidt paa mine me barn, saa finder saavel jeg som familien os vel fornøiet med at være kommet over til Amerika. Saafremt Herren vil forunde os helsen, saa tror jeg vist vi vil faa lettere og blidere kaar her end vi havde i Norge.

illness attacked our ship. I thought it was typhoid. It struck two of my children and they died, namely Ingebrigt and Kari. July 13 we arrived in New York and twenty of the passengers were immediately hospitalized. Among them five of my children. We stayed in New York until July 29 and during that time my daughter Ingeborg and Nils Drøgs vold died. We left New York at 7 in the evening on a steamboat and arrived in Albany the 30th. On the 31st we left there on a canal boat drawn by two horses and arrived in Buffalo August 7. We embarked the 10th on a steamboat for a journey over Lake Erie (and Lake Huron. SJN) and arrived in Milwaukee the 14th and were in Moskego (sp.) in Racine County the 15th. Here I have bought a piece of land now. In the summer and fall we have been afflicted by a severe "feverague" (Coldfever), which not only attacks the Norwegians but also native-born Americans, and many have died. Our little daughter Brita died September 5th. From this you can learn the adversities we have experienced since leaving Voss. How difficult it has been for us we can only accept with tolerance and remind ourselves of Job's quote "the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, let His name be praised!" But this isn't the only thing that has been necessary to tolerate but the same day my daughter died, my wife became sick with the feverague and at the same time our daughter Christence and about five weeks later our son Anders and they have been sick almost to the present, except my wife who has been well these last 4-5 weeks. They were so sick, I thought more of death than life for them. That time looked very dark to me, but when they recovered things started to brighten. When I discount the great loss we have suffered with our children I find the family rather pleased to have come over to America. Provided that the Lord will surprise us with good health I believe we will have it easier and have better conditions than we had in Norway.

En billig handel.

Nu maa jeg fortælle om min handel, som jeg har gjort her i Racine county. Den dag jeg reiste fra Milwaukee, kom jeg om aftenen til at logere hos en mand, ved navn Even Hæg, fra Drammen i Norge. Denne mand kjendte mig allerede af navn og ønskede at jeg skulde nedsætte mig her i settlementet. Han viste mig derfor til en mand fra Hedemarken, der ønskede at sælge sin land-eiendom. Denne eiendom var beliggende en og en halv engelsk mil fra Even Hæg og 20 mil fra Milwaukee, og omtrent ligesaa langt fra Racine og 1450 engelske mil fra New York. Jeg reiste da hen for at bese denne eiendom, og fandt den nogenlunde efter min smag, og inden faa dage var handelen sluttet. Eiendommen var af størrelse, 100 acres, hvoraf 60 var indfencet eller indgjærdet. Paa samme er opbrækket en 8 a 9 acres. Jeg tilsaaede i høst 6 acres vinterhvede. Huse kan jeg ikke regne her er mere end en stue. Her er nok ogsaa et fjøs, men det er ikke efter min smag. Da der paa denne eiendom var lagt meget arbeide, blev den ogsaa meget kostbar. Jeg betalte nemlig 425 dollars for den. Siden har jeg kjøbt 40 acres, til for hvilke jeg betalte 152 dollars. Paa dette landstykke er ogsaa et lidet hus og lidt indfencet og opbrækket. Jeg har tilstrækkelig skog til husbehov, og lidt til salg. Jeg har tidligere kjøbt mig etpar kjørestude for 48 dollars, to melkekuer, 24 dollars, fem faar, 6 dollars, 12 svin for 19 dollars. Jeg har slagtet fire svin, hvoraf jeg veiede et, som veiede 204 pund. Jeg kjøbte samme for fire dollars. Tillige kjøbte jeg halvedelen i en ox for 8 dollars. Denne var sex stolper over to alen høi, og tre alen og tre stolper om bulen, som vi maalte kreaturer i Norge. Den veiede 650 pund og huden 96 pund. Det menes skaalepund. Prisen paa fødemidler er nu lidt høiere end de var i høst. En tønd hvede koster nu 2 dollars, en tønne poteter 1 dollar, et pund smør fra 12 til 18 cent, et pund flesk 3 a 5 cent. Uld koster 36 cent pundet.

Jeg kan og fortælle at vi har faaet os en norsk prest, nemlig Claus Clausen, som er en særdeles duelig og snil mand. Han opholder sig hos Johannes og Even Hæg, i hvis stue han ogsaa forretter gudstjenester. Gudstjenes-terne foregaar akkurat paa samme

A reasonable bargain

Now I have to tell about my deal which I have done here in Racine County. I happened to sleep the evening the day I left Milwaukee at the home of a man by the name of Even Heg, from Drammen in Norway. This man already knew me by name and he wished I would settle in his settlement. He introduced me to a man from Hedmark who wanted to sell his land-property. This property lay one and one-half miles from Even Heg and 20 miles from Milwaukee, and about the same from Racine and 1450 English miles from New York. I went and looked at this property and found it to my liking, and within a few days the bargain was completed. The property is about 100 acres, of which 60 acres are inside fence. 8-9 of it are broken or plowed. I sowed 6 acres of winter wheat. I can't reckon the house as more than a cabin. There is a barn, but not to my liking. Since a lot of work had been done on this property, it also became somewhat expensive. I paid 425 dollars for it. Since, I have bought 40 acres, for which I paid 152 dollars. There is a little house on this piece of land and it is fenced and broken. I have plenty woods for supplying the household and a little to sell. Earlier, I bought a pair of oxen for 48 dollars, two milk cows, 24 dollars, five sheep, 6 dollars, 12 pigs for 19 dollars. I have butchered four pigs, of which one weighed 204 pounds. I bought it for four dollars. In addition, I bought half interest in a steer for 8 dollars. This was six stolps (poles) over two alen high and measured three alens and three stolps in circumference, as we measured animals in Norway. It weighed 650 pounds and the hide 96 pounds. That would be Skål pounds. The cost of foodstuff is a little higher than last fall. A barrel of wheat now costs two dollars, a barrel of potatoes 1 dollar, a pound of butter from 12 to 18 cents, a pound of side pork. Wool costs 36 cents a pound.

I can tell you that we have got a Norwegian minister, namely, Claus Clausen, who is an especially capable and good man. He is lodging with Johannes and Even Hæg, in whose house he also conducts services. The order of service is exactly in the same manner

maade som i Norge. Han er nu ogsaa begyndt at læse med konfirmanterne, men mine barn er endnu ikke begyndt at gaa til ham, da han sagde at de ikke maatte tage sig for tidlig ud efter sygdommen. Præsten har flere gange været i mit hus. Hans land beliggende indtil mit, saa han kommer til at blive min nærmeste nabo. Jeg faar da omtrent samme længde til nærmeste nabo, som jeg havde paa Kløve.

Idag 8 dage siden blev der af de norske her i dette settlement afholdt et møde hos Even Hæg for at forsøge paa at faa istand en menighed. Der tegnede sig ogsaa 100 mand, som havde land-eiendom. Der blev udvalgt fire mand af Racine county og fire af Milwaukee county, der snart skal træde sammen for at sætte en bestemmelse angaaende prestens løn, samt om opbyggelse af en kirke. Jeg nød ogsaa den Ære at blive medlem til denne forretning. Kirken skal bygges ved den gravplads, vi allerede har, og jeg kommer til at bo tæt ved kirken.

Vær herved Gud befalet, kjære moder, og søskende tillige beslægtede og venner og kjærlig hilset, samt held og velgaaende i anstundende nye aar.

Din hengivne søn.
Anders Kløve.

VOSSING I DEN MEXIKANSKE KRIG 1847

Jørgen Pederson (Nesthus) hvervede sig i 1846 i Chicago som soldat i den Mexikanske krig og gik under navnet Georg Pilson. Han faldt i slaget ved Buena Vista i februar 1847. Nedenstaaende artikel om ham er taget fra "Nordlysets" første nummer, der udkom den 29de juli 1847. Som bekjendt var "Nordlyset" det første blad udgivet paa Norsk i Amerika.

as in Norway. He has also started to read with confirmands, but my children haven't started yet because he said they shouldn't go out too early after their sickness. The minister has been to my house several times. His land is adjacent to mine, so he will be my nearest neighbor. I'm about the same distance from my nearest neighbor here as I was on Kløve.

Eight days ago, the Norwegians in this settlement held a meeting at Even Hæg's to try to form a congregation. 100 men, who were landowners, signed up. Four men were elected from Racine County and four from Milwaukee County and they soon meet together in order to make a decision regarding the minister's salary as well as the building of a church. I was honored to be elected a member of this committee. The church will be built near the cemetery that we already have and I will live right next to the church.

Herewith be as God commands, dear mother, and siblings as well as relatives and friends also the dearest greetings, as well as good luck and good health in the forthcoming year.

Your devoted son
Anders Kløve

VOSSINGS IN THE MEXICAN WAR

Jørgen Pederson (Nesthus) in Chicago in 1846 enlisted as a soldier in the Mexican War and went under the name of George Pilson. He fell in the Battle of Buena Vista in February 1847. The following article about him is taken from "Nordlysets" (Northern light's) first issue, which came out July 29, 1847. As is common knowledge, "Nordlyset" was the first paper published in Norwegian in America.

“Chicago Daily Democrat” indeholder følgende hæderlige beretning om en af vore landsmænd, som af iver for vort nyvalgte hjemlands sag, ofrede livet. Det er smukt at se en saadan erkjendtlighed fra vore medborgere. Vi have her et eksempel paa, at nordens hjerter slaar ligesaa varmt for frihed her i Amerika som paa fædrenejord. Medens vi beklagende maa savne Jørgen Pederson (Georg Pilson) blandt de seirige hjemkommende, ville vi dog fryde os ved hans minde, som har aflagt et saa kraftigt bevis paa nordisk tapperhed og kjærlighed til Amerika.

Hæder til den tapre Nordmand!

– Blandt volontørerne fra denne by et aar siden for krigen i Mexico var nordmanden Georg Pilson (Jørgen Pederson). Indtagen med iver for en nations institutioner, som giver lige rettigheder og ære. Og omendskjønt han havde arbeide nok i aldermand Grangers jernstøberi, saa kunde dog intet afholde ham fra kampen. Han var med general Wools divisjon af armeen paa den lange marsj gennem San Antonio de Boxar til Manclova i Aouhuila og derfra til Saltillo, hvor general Wools division blev forenet med general Taylors. I slaget ved Buena Vista, som snart fulgte derpaa, udmærkede han sig ved mod og tapperhed og faldt midt i kampens hede, kjæpende for sit adopterede land.

Det var under det frygtelige angreb af de mexikanske lanse førere paa det første Illinois regiment at Pederson faldt. Han skjød først en lansefører med sin rifle og havde dræbt en rytter og hest med riflekolben, da han blev omringet og gjennemboret af tre lanseførere.

Ingen viste sig taprere paa hin blodige valplads end nordmanden Pederson, og medens aviserne er fulde af ros for officererne, som krigede og faldt i den frygtelige kamp den 22de og 23de februar, saa føle vi en sørgende tilfredshed ved at skjænke den høie privater sin fortjente løn; thi mere patriotisk blod beriger ikke mere valpladsen ved Buena Vista end det af Chicagos norske volunteer. Hans landsmænd kunde henvise til ham med stolthed som et bevis paa den kjærlighed, de havde for deres land; og den usle trangsjaelede aand, som leder det amerikanske (native) parti, maa for

The "Chicago Daily Democrat" contains the following laudatory description about one of our countrymen who because of zeal for our newly chosen country, offered his life. It is nice to see such a noteworthy from among our fellow citizens. Here we have an example of that, the northman's heart beats just as warmly for freedom here in America as in his fatherland. Hereby we sorrowfully miss Jørgen Pederson (George Pilson) from among the victorious returning veterans, but we delight in his memory which has created such a powerful demonstration of Norwegian heroism and love of America.

Praise for the heroic Norwegian!

—Among the volunteers from this city for the war in Mexico a year ago was the Norwegian Georg Pilson (Jørgen Pederson). He was captivated by the country's institutions that gave justice and honor. And although he had work enough in Granger's foundry, nothing could hold him back from battle. He joined General Wood's division of the Army on its long march through San Antonio de Boxar to Manclova in Aouhuila and from there to Saltillo, where General Wool's division joined General Taylor's. In the battle at Buena Vista, which happened next, he distinguished himself with valor and bravery and fell in the midst of battle, fighting for his adopted land.

It was during the terrible attack carried out by the Mexican lancers against the First Illinois Regiment that he fell. First he shot a lancer with his rifle, and then killed a horse and rider with his rifle butt before he was surrounded and stabbed through by three lancers.

No one showed himself braver at that bloody battlefield than that Norwegian Pederson, and while the newspapers are full of praise for the officers who fought and died in that dreadful battle of February 22 and 23, we feel a sorrowful satisfaction to present to this supreme private his deserved praise for no more patriotic blood enriched the battlefield than that of Chicago's Norwegian volunteer. His countrymen can point to him with pride as an example of the adulation they had for their native land and the miserable narrow-minded spirit that leads the American

stedse blive stum efter et sadant ædelt eksempel paa patriotisme af en af vore adopterede medborgere, som denne, og mange andre omstændigheder i krigen, har fremvist.

Pederson har en søster og en bror i Chicago. [Broderen Ole P. Nesthus gm. Anna R. Glimme boede i Chicago. Deres søn Peder bor i Kansas City, Kansas.]

BLANDT VORE EGNE.

Brødrene Ole og Knut Opheim, Fertile, Minn. var paa Synodemødet i Madison, Wis., i slutningen af juli. Sammen med John G. Pederson, Morrisonville, Wis., som ogsaa var paa mødet, saa de indom til sekretæren, og det var en fornøjelse at faa høre fra det store Vossesetlement ved Fertile. Brødrene Opheim har nu været i Amerika i 50 aar. De kom nemlig hid med forældre og søskende i 1872. I omkring 40 aar har de været ved Fertile. Før hjemreisen skulde de følge med John Pederson for at besøge sambygninger paa Spring Prairie.

— Odd K. Glimme, Madison, var i juli maaned paa besøg til sin svoger Elmer W. Anderson, Willow Lake, Syd Dakota. Han kjørte i sin automobil frem og tilbage—en anselig vejlængde.

— Wm. Nelson, Vosselagets præsident, er iaar kandidat igjen til legislaturen. Som Vossing er der nok fare for, at han blir valgt.

— Guvernør Nestos blev ved prøvevalget den 28de juni gennemmeret med omkring 11,000 stemmers flertal.

— Miss Dikka Reque har erholdt den bedste karakter i en examen for viderekomne i Fransk ved Victoria Royal College i Montreal, Canada, hvor hun nu har været en af 80 deltagere i McGill Sommerkursus

(native) party, must eternally be quieted after such a noble example of patriotism by one of our citizens of an adopted country as this and many other situations in the war have demonstrated.

Pederson has a sister and a brother in Chicago. [His brother, Ole P. Nesthus is married to Anna R. Glimme and lives in Chicago. Their son, Peder lives in Kansas City, Kansas.]

AMONG OUR OWN.

The brothers Ole and Knut Opheim, Fertile, MN attended the Synod Meeting in Madison, WI. at the end of July. Together with John G. Pederson, Morrisonville, WI, who also was at the meeting, they stopped in to the secretary and it was a satisfaction to hear from the big Voss settlement at Fertile. The Opheim brothers have now been in America for 50 years. They came here with their parents and siblings in 1872. They have been at Fertile for about 40 years. Before their return home they were to accompany John Pederson in order to visit friends from Voss at Spring Prairie.

—Odd K. Glimme, Madison, visited in July his brother-in-law Elmer W. Anderson, Willow Lake, South Dakota. He drove back and forth—a considerable distance.

—Wm. Nelson, Vosselaget's president, is a candidate for the legislature again this year. As a vossing there is some question whether he will be elected.

—Governor Nestos was nominated again in the primary June 28th with a 11,000 vote majority.

—Miss Dikka Reque has received top grades in French at the Victoria Royal College in Montreal, Canada where she now has been one of eighty participants in the summer

i Fransk. Af de 80 gik kun 50 op til examen, og af disse bestod 29 den med hæderlig omtale. Miss Reque, der er datter af afdøde professor ved Luther College i Decorah L. S. Reque, er lærerinde i Fransk ved Central-Høiskolen i Minneapolis. Hun tog sin afgangsexamen fra Minnesota Universitet i 1910, underviste i Norsk og Fransk ved Nord-Høiskolen der, erholdt permission for at overtage en post som translatør ved det militære oplysningskontor i Washington, som hun beklædte i to aar, og studerede dernæst franske sprog og literatur et halvt aar ved Sorbonne Universitet, Paris. – "Sk."

– Senator Knute Nelson gav 100 dollars til udgivelsen af Peer Strømmes skrifter.

–Victor Lawson, udgiveren af "Chicago Daily News" har givet 100 dollars til oberst Hans Hogs monumentet.

– O. K. Takle, jr., Albert Lea, Minn., vandt iaar prisen for veltalenhed i kappestriden mellem universiteterne og fik i den anledning en lykønskningsskrivelse fra forhv. president Woodrow Wilson. Themaet var "Before They Knew". Skal følgelig tale ved Vossestevnet.

– Mrs. Kristi Tillerson, enken efter Ole Thorbjørnson Rong, Clinton, Wis., har ved sønnen Andrew Tillerson, som er kasserer i en bank i Clinton, sendt \$1000.00 til Voss barnehjem. Det skal være et legat, hvoraf kun renterne skal bruges. Tidligere har hun ogsaa givet \$100.00 til barnehjemmet.

– Dr. P. A. Reque, New York, købte ivaar den bekjendte Langley eiendom paa Montauk highway i landsbyen Bellport, N. Y. Det bestaar af 45 acres bølgeformigt land, der har en 1000 fods strandlinje mod Great South Bay. Paa eiendommen er et stort hus med 25 værelser, hus for tjenere og flere udhuse. Den forrige eier kostede i sin tid \$125,000 paa eiendommen. Dr. Reque er søn af pastor Styrk Sjurson Rekve, hvis far var nybygger ved Deerfield, Wisconsin.

DØDE I AMERIKA.

Mrs John G. Sime, Albert Lea, Minn., døde den 21de marts 1922. Hendes pigenavn var Martha Thorstensdatter Seim født paa

course in French at McGill University. Of the eighty, only fifty took the final examination, and of these fifty, twenty nine received honorable mention. Miss Reque, who is the daughter of deceased professor at Luther College L. S. Reque, is a teacher of French at Central High School in Minneapolis. She was graduated from Minnesota University in 1910, instructed Norwegian and French at North High School but was released from there to assume a position as translator with the military information office in Washington, which occupied her for two years and then she studied French language and literature a half year at the Sorbonne University, Paris. – "Sk."

—Senator Knute Nelson gave 100 dollars toward the publication of Peer Strømmes writings.

—Victor Lawson, the publisher of "Chicago Daily News" has given 100 dollars toward Hans Heg's monument.

—O. K. Takle, jr. Albert Lea, MN, won this year's prize for oratory in the competition between the universities and had an opportunity to receive congratulations from former Pres. Woodrow Wilson. The theme was "Before They Knew". He shall, of course, speak at the Voss meeting.

—Mrs. Kristi Tillerson, the widow of Ole Thorbjørnson Rong, Clinton, WI has with her son Andrew Tillerson, who is the treasurer in a bank in Clinton, sent \$1000.00 to Voss Children's Home. It is to be a trust from which only the interest may be used. Earlier she had also given \$100.00 to the orphanage.

—Dr, P.A. Reque, New York, this spring purchased the well-known Langley property on Montauk highway in the community of Bellport, NY. It consists of 45 acres of rolling land which has a 1000 foot waterfront on Great South Bay. On the property is a big house with 25 rooms, buildings for servants and several outbuildings. The previous owner spent \$125,000 on the property in his time. Dr. Reque is a son of Pastor Styrk Sjurson Rekve, whose father was a pioneer at Deerfield, Wisconsin

DEATHS IN AMERICA.

Mrs. John G. Sime, Albert Lea, MN died March 21, 1922. Her maiden name was Martha Thorstensdatter Seim (Guldgjerdingen). She was

Seim, Voss, den 6te mai 1856; blev i 1881 gift med Johannes Godskalksen Duckstad (antaget faderens navn Seim,—her Sime) og kom til Amerika i 1882. Efter et kort ophold i Iowa flyttede de til Freeborn county, Minn. Foruden af sin mann overleves hun af 3 sønner og 3 døtre. Af hendes mange søskende bor søsteren Ranvei (Mrs. Ole Eimstad) i Albert Lea, Minn.

— En velkjendt mand i den norsk-amerikanske kirke, pastor Thorbjørn A. Sattre, Evansville, Minn., døde af slag den 11te juli 1922. Han var født i townet Salem, Ohmstead Co., Minn., 1856. Søn af Ole Sjurson Sætre, der med forældrene Sjur Magneson Sætre og hustru kom fra Voss til Amerika 1844. Pastor Sattre antog kaldet i Evansville i 1885 og betjente det til sin død. Hans to sønner, Orlando, i Turner, Mont., og Ingeman i Evansville, Minn., er begge i bankforretning. Datteren Margretha bor i Evansville. Han overleves ogsaa af fire brødre og to søstre, Ole, Andrew og Mattie, som bor i Minneapolis, Louis er i Rochester og Adolph i Kasson, Minn., Inger (Mrs. D. Rivenes) Glendive, Mont.

— Mrs Kari Sivertson, Poynette, Wis., døde den 6te juni 1922, hos datteren Betsy (Mrs. G. N. Knutson, Fadness) Hun var født paa Kvale, (Tykkebygden) Voss, den 4de desember 1840, datter af Lars Olson Kvale, som med sin familie kom til Amerika 1848 og bosatte sig paa Koshkonong, Wis. Hun blev i 1860 gift med Knut Sjurson Ygre og var derpaa bosat paa en farm ved Krogville, Wis., til 1883, da de flyttede til Poynette. Knut Ygre døde 1913. De fik 11 børn hvoraf 9 lever.

— Mrs. Anna Erdahl, Madison, Wis., døde den 11te aug. 1922. Hun var født paa Voss den 18de nov. 1839; ældste datter af Ivar Torgerson Gjelle og hustru Kari Larsdatter Liland, der en tid boede i Kappelansgaarden, Voss, men udvandrede med

born st Seim, Voss, May 6, 1856, and was married to Johannes Godskalkson Duckstad (they took her father's name,—here Sime) and came to America in 1882. After a short stay in Iowa, they moved to Freeborn County, MN. Besides her husband, still living are 3 sons and 3 daughters. Her sister Ranvei (Mrs. Ole Eimstad), one of her many siblings, lives in Albert Lea, MN.

—A well-known man in the Norwegian-American church, Pastor Thorbjørn A. Sattre, Evansville, MN, died of a stroke July 11, 1922. He was born in the town of Salem, Ohmstead Co., MN, 1856. Son of Ole Sjurson Sætre, who with his parents Sjur Magneson Sætre and his wife came from Voss to America in 1844. Pastor Sattre was called to Evansville in 1885 and served there until his death. His two sons, Orlando in Turner, MT, and Ingeman in Evansville, MN, are both in the banking business. He is survived by four brothers and two sisters, Ole, Andrew and Mattie, who live in Minneapolis, Louis is in Rochester and Adolph in Kasson MN, Inger (Mrs D. Rivenes), Glendive, MT.

—Mrs. Kari Sivertson, Poynette, WI, died June 6, 1922, at her daughter Betsy's (Mrs. G. N. Knutson, Fadness). She was born at Kvale (Tykkebygden), Voss, December 4, 1840, daughter of Lars Olson Kvale, who came to America with his family in 1848 and settled on Koshkonong, WI. She was married to Knut Sjurson Ygre and afterward lived on a farm at Krogville, WI. until 1883, when they moved to Poynette. Knut Ygre died 1913. They had 11 children of which 9 survive

—Mrs. Anna Erdahl, Madison WI, died August 11, 1922. She was born at Voss November 18, 1839, the oldest daughter of Ivar Torgerson Gjell and his wife Kari Larsdatter Liland, who at that time lived at Kappelansgaarden, Voss, but emigrated to America

familie til Amerika i 1855 og bosatte sig i Dane county, Wis. Hun var en af de første fra Voss i Madison, idet hun tog tjeneste der i 1856. I 1861 blev hun gift med Lars J. Erdahl fra Hardanger, som døde for nogle aar siden. Af deres tre børn døde to i ung alder. Sønnen John Erdahl var en tid assisterende statsadvokat i Wisconsin. Er nu i jernbanetjeneste og bosat i Minneapolis.

I SYD DAKOTA.

Vossingerne i Clay og Yankton countier, South Dakota, dannede en kirkemenighed, som blev kaldt Vangen Menighed. Paa forespørgsel om denne fortæller Mr. Hans I. Hanson, Vermilion, at der i Vangen Menighed nu er bare et par vossinger igjen, nemlig Lars Fanestøl og en af de Sampsons, som er apotheker i Yankton: Men ved Gayville er der et stort Vossesettlement, som før hørte til Vangen, men er nu egen menighed. Vossingerne i disse countier hørte til den Norske Synode indtil foreningen i 1917, og siden til Den Norske Lutherske Kirke i Amerika. Ingen af dem har ladet sig forlede til at forkaste Pontoppidans Forklaring eller sandhed til gudsfrygt, som falsk eller vildledende. Alle har været og er strævsomme og dygtige folk baade i stat og kirke. Ikke mindre end otte af dem har været i statens legislatur, syv af dem var med i indianerkrigene i 1860 aarene, medens 4-5 var i syden under borgerkrigen.

Mr. Hanson, som har givet os en hel del oplysninger om vore sambygninger i Syd Dakota, er ikke engang vossing af fødsel; men hans bedre halvdel er fra Voss—af Lunde-Jordalsstlegt—og hans søster var Mrs. Lars H. Takle (nu enke), derfor er han mere Vossing end Haring; og saa siger han: "Jau eg lika 'Vossingjin' knakande godt". — Aa eg seie tak!

PAA VOSS.

Hordalands Idrætsslag, som er en fællesorganisation for de forskjellige idrætsslag i fylket, havde fylketing paa Voss den 2den juli. Blandt andet blev det meddelt, at Norges landsforbund for idræt havde besluttet at faa

in 1855 and settled in Dane County, WI. She is one of the first from Voss in Madison, in that she took service there in 1856. In 1861, she married Lars J. Erdahl from Hardanger, who died some years ago. Two of their children died at a young age. The son John Erdahl was for a time the assistant state attorney in Wisconsin. Now he works for the railroad and lives in Minneapolis.

IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The vossings in Clay and Yankton Counties, South Dakota, established a congregation that was named Vangen Congregation. At inquiry about this Mr. Hans I. Hanson relates that there are only a couple vossings left in the Vangen Congregation, namely Lars Fanestøl and one of the Sampsons, who is a druggist in Yankton. But there is a large vossing settlement at Gayville, which belonged to Vangen previously, but is now its own congregation. The vossings in these counties belonged to The Norwegian Synod until the union in 1917, and since have belonged to The Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. None have let themselves discard Pontoppidans Explanations or truth in the fear of God, along false pathways. All have been tireless and hard-working people both for the church and state. No less than eight of them have been in the state legislature. Seven were in the Indian wars, while 4-5 were in the south during the Civil War.

Mr. Hanson who provided a lot of news of our fellow vossings in South Dakota is not vossing by birth, but his better half is from Voss—of Lunde-Jordals lineage—and his sister was Mrs. Lars H. Takle (widowed), therefore he's more vossing than haring, he says. "Jau, I like the vossing cracking good". — And I say thanks!

AT VOSS

Hordalands Sports Club, which is a joint association for the various sports clubs in the district, had a meet at Voss July 2. Among other things it was announced that Norway's National Sport Association had decided to establish a course club for

istand et idrætskursus paa Tvildemoen eller Bømoen, Voss, i slutningen af juli.

Paa forespørgsel om, hvilken bygd, i Hordaland stod fremst i dræt, blev det svaret, at Voss havde de tapreste idrætsfolk paa hele Vestland.— Martin Mølster, som deltog i Norgesmesterskabet i 5-kamp, blev en fin nummer 2. — Folkehøiskolelæren Mads Haga, Voss, blev gjenvalgt som fylkesformand.

— Evanger Bondelag havde fest i skolehuset paa Brakhus 2den pinsedag. Der var stor bordsætning og nationale retter. Taler holdtes af Sjur Brækhus og lagets formand Sjur Brunborg. Den sidste talte blandt andet om bygdens trang for veie og lignende, hvilket frembragte en livlig diskussion efterpaa. Saa tog mange sig en tur hen for at se paa arbeidet med at bygge elektrisitetsværket, som man paa gaardene Aarhus og Brækhus opfører i fællesskab.

— Holbergsfuruen paa Vangen er omtrent tør, og der har paagaet en diskussion i bladene om, hvad der skal gøres med den, og derom raader der den skjønneste menighed.

— Dette aar har Voss Sogelag udgivet et skrift, som kaldes Skotterne i Hordaland og Rogaland. Vi ved endnu ikke, om der har kunnet komme nogen Skotter til Voss.

— Hardanger Skyttersamlag holdt skytterstevne paa Voss den 16de og 17de juni. Fire af de fem skyttere, som vandt guldmedalje tilhørte Voss Skytterlag. Dette lag vandt ogsaa vandrepokalen dette aar.

— Voss Sparebank besluttede paa et møde den 21de juni at give kr. 5,500 til almennyttige formaal i bygden. Mest fik Voss

sport at Tvildemoen or Bømoen, Voss, towards the end of July.

In answer to the question, of which district was leading in sports. It was answered that Voss had the most enthusiastic sports of the entire west country. Martin Mølster, who participated in the Norwegian championship in pentathlon, came in nice second. The folk high school teacher Mads Haga, Voss, was re-elected president.

—The Evanger Farmers Club had their party in the schoolhouse at Brakhus the second day of Pentecost. There was a large banquet with many national dishes. Speeches were made by Sjur Brækhus and the organizations president Sjur Brunborg. The latter spoke, among other things, about the district's need for roads and such which led to a lively discussion afterwards. Then several went over to look at the ongoing work building the power plant, which the Aarhus and Brækhus farms are building jointly.

—The Holberg fir at Vangen is almost completely dry, and there has been discussion in the paper about what should be done with it, and about it would be welcomed the best advice.

—This year Voss Heritage Society has published a pamphlet called "The Scots in Hordaland and Rogaland". We don't yet know if any Scots have come to Voss.

—Hardanger Shooting Club had their meet at Voss the 16th and 17th of June. Four of the five shooters that won gold medals belonged to the Voss Shooting Club. This club also won the traveling trophy this year.

—The Voss Sparebank at a meeting June 15th decided to give NKR 5,500 to various projects in

herredsgaard og kirkelaanet kr. 1,400; arbejds-skolerne kr. 1,000; jordstyret kr. 700; Olavs Mindesmærket (kirkeorgel) kr. 500; Voss Folkemusæum kr. 200. Forøvrigt blev der givet til 15 andre foretagender mindre beløb.

KIRKEKJELDEREN PAA VANGEN

Undersøgelse af gravkamrene under koret i Vangens gamle kirke blev foretaget i mai sidstleden. Man vidste, at mange bekjendte personer var bisat der, men paalidelige oplysninger manglede. Det er Voss Sogelag og Voss Folkemusæum, som nu tog sagen op, og undersøgelsen blev ledet af L. Kindem.

Man fandt rede paa 3 rum—et foran alterringen, fuldt med ligkister stablet 3-4 i høiden, et under ringen med et par kister og et paa nordsiden, som stod tomt. Ved bagerste væg af det sidste var der en aare, og en stentrappe førte op til gulvet, hvor der før har været en luge. I dette rum var det, siger sagnet, at biskop Olav Thorkjelsen holdt sig skjult en tid under reformationens indførelse. I de andre rum har man fundet kisterne til kanseliraad og sorenskriver Johan Fleischer, som døde 1789, og hans hustru, Catrina, død 1774. De var de første af den slægt paa Voss. Desuden fandtes kisterne til presten Morten Ruus, død 1770, og af oberstløjtnant Jens Nordahl og hans hustru, som var datter til presten Gjert Miltzow. Paa de sidstes kister var der fine navneplader af messing. Endvidere fandtes i rummet under alterringen kisterne til Maria Harboe, presten Harboes hustru, som døde 1741, og til sogneprest Johan Haar, som døde 1751. Hans lig var svært godt bevaret. Sagnet siger, at han døde af gift, og man har gjettet paa, at dette kunde være aarsag til at liget bar holdt sig saa godt.

Ogsaa presten Henrik Miltzow og hans hustru Kristense blev bisat under koret, samt presten A. A. Buck, men deres kister har man ikke kunnet paavise. En mængde ligkister er nedsat under skibet i kirken, men disse er nedgravet i jorden, saa nogen greie paa hvem eller hvor mange, kan der ikke faaes. Resultatet af undersøgelsen var af stor interesse, er det sagt.

the district. Most received Voss Master Farm and the church poor box with NKR 1400, working school NKR 1000, Earth committee NKR 700, Olavs Memorial Cross (church organ) NKR 500, Voss Folkemuseum NKR 200. In addition, 15 other organizations were given smaller amounts.

CHURCH BASEMENT AT VANGEN

Investigation of the burial chambers under the choir in Vangen's old church was undertaken last May. It was known that many well-known people were placed there but exact details were missing. It was the Voss Heritage Society and Voss Folk Museum that took up the matter under the leadership of L. Kindem.

Three rooms were found—one before the ring of the altar, full of coffins 3-4 in height, one under the altar-ring with a pair of coffins and one on the north side which was empty. On the rear wall of the latter was a conduit and a stone stairway led up to the floor, where previously there had been a trap-door. According to the sagas, it was in this room that Bishop Olav Thorkjelsen kept himself hidden during the advance of the reformation. In the other rooms they found coffins of Cabinet-member and magistrate Johan Fleischer, who died 1789, and his wife, Catrina, dead 1774. They were the first of that lineage at Voss. In addition they found the coffins of Pastor Morten Ruus, dead 1770, and of Major Jens Nordahl and his wife, who was the daughter of Pastor Gjert Miltzow. On the last named coffins there were fine brass nameplates. Still farther in the room under the altar-ring they found the coffins of Maria Harboe, Pastor Harboe's wife, who died 1741, and to parish minister Johan Haar, who died 1751. His corpse was very well preserved. The sagas say that he died of poison, and people have conjectured that this could be the reason the corpse has survived so well.

Also Pastor Henrik Miltzow and his wife were placed under the choir, together with Pastor A. A. Buck, but their coffins could not be identified. A number of coffins are buried under the nave of the church, but these are deep in the earth, so it was unable to establish how many there were or who they were. The findings of the investigation were of great interest, it is said.

GIFTE PAA VOSS DETTE AAR

Vangens Sogn: Knut Graue med Othelia Seim, Lars. L. Himle med Helina K. Tveito, Erik Løne med Britha Skutle, Olaus M. Utkvitne med Gudve K. Eimstad, Anders K. Løne med Jørgina A. Humlebrække, Bankbogh. Nils Berge med Sigrid Solheim, Jernbanearb. Henrik T. Tøn med Britha P. Rykke, Gaardbr. Olav Hondve med Martha O. Dolve, Politikonst. Lars K. Seim med Guri S. Brækhus, Ev. Bryngel A. B. Lemme med Inga L. Kvarekval, Anders Å. Lemme med Hildeborg L. Kvarekval, Agbr. Knut L. Lidsheim med Svanhild L. Erdahl, Bergen, gbr. Anders K. Tøn med Gudrid L. Bjørke, Ivar K. Opkvitne med Sigrid Halvorson, Margretha Seim med Theodor Hanson, Styrk K. Haug med Olina T. Tesdal, David V. Mølster med Eli H. Horvei, Gbr. Nils G. Flage med Martha J. Opheim, Gbr. Ole A. Skjelde med Britha O. Boge, Bruvik; David Gjerme med Bergot Hanson, Florø; Telegrafarb Nils O. Gjosten med Amalie Evenson, telegrafarb. Ole P. Ringheim m. Thora Lundblad; Smed Iver P. Røthe m. Anna Skjervheim; Vossestr. Kolbein L. Opkvitne med Sigrid Opkvitne; Anfin Veka med Amanda K. Hetland; Olav K. Kyte med Sella K. Vikeør, Kvam, Knut Hefte med Elsa Vinje; lærer Thormod Vinsand med Kristi Ringheim holdt bryllup 27de juni.

Evanger: Grb. Lars H. Hjørnevik med Kristi Rosseland, Evje; Britha Bjørndal med Fyrb. Thorkel L. Braaten, Aal; Politiin, Samuel Bragestad med Erma Strand; Grb. Knut O. Horvei med Nella A. Skjold; Gjert D. Øvstedal med Anna J. Mæland; Ragnhild J Nesheim med farmer G. Simonson,

MARRIED AT VOSS THIS YEAR

Vangens Parish. Knut Graue with Othelia Seim, Lars L. Himle with Helina K. Tveito, Erik Løne with Britha Skutle, Olaus M Utkvitne with Gudve K. Eimstad, Anders K. Løne with Jørgina A. Humlebrække, bookkeeper Nils Berge with Sigrid Solheim, railroad worker Henrik T. Tøn with Britha P. Rykke, farmer Olav Hondve with Martha O. Dolve, constable Lars K. Seim with Guri T. Brækhus, Ev(angelist?) Bryngel A. B. Lemme with Inga L. Kvarekval, Anders Å Lemme with Hildeborg L. Kvarekval, farmer Knut L Lidsheim with Svanhild L. Erdahl, Bergen, farmer Anders K. Tøn with Gudrid L. Bjørke, Ivar K. Opkvitne with Sigrid Halvorson, Margaretha Seim with Theodor Hanson, Styrk K. Haug with Olina T. Tesdal, David V. Mølster with Eli H. Horvei, farmer Nils G. Flage with Martha J. Opheim, farmer Ole A. Skjelde with Britha O. Boge, Bruvik; David Gjerme with Bergot Hanson, Florø; telegraphworker Nils O. Gjosten with Amalie Evenson, telgraphworker Ole Ringheim with Thora Lundblad, smith Ivar P. Røthe with Anna Skjervheim, Vossestrand, Kolbein L. Opkitne with Sigrid Opkvitne, Anfin Veka with Amanda K. Hetland, Olav K. Kyte with Sella K Vikeør, Kvam, Knut Hefte with Elsa Vinje; teacher Thormod Vinsand with Kristi Ringeim had wedding June 27.

Evanger: Farmer Lars H. Hjørnevik with Kristi Rosseland, Evje; Britha Bjørndal with fireman Thorkel L. Braaten, Aal, police inspector Samuel Bragestad with Erma Strand, farmer Knut O. Horvei with Nella A. Skjold, Gjert Øvstedal with Anna J. Mæland, Ragnild J. Nesheim with farmer G. Simonson,

Sargeant, Minn. Henrik Mykkeltvedt med Sofia Monson, Bergen; Lilli G. Aarhus med R. A. Thomason; Henrik Rasdal med Maria Haugen.

Vossestranden: Britha K. Hauge med Thorsten J. Høidal, Aurland; Lars Haga med Anna Anfinsdr. Løn; Knut Egdetveit m, Trina Nesheim; Bryngel A. Kvarme med Jørgina K. Kvarme; Sjur Bystøl med Dordei Revsdal.

DØDE PAA VOSS.

Vangens Sogn: Ingeborg Olsdr. Rykke, f. Helleve, 64; Ingeborg D. Prestegaard, 45; Ingeborg E. Himle, f. Olde, 29; Britha K. Graude, f. Lirhus, 68; Hans Hanson, 82; Odd K. Gjerstad, 77; Asle B. Eggjareid, 36; Svend P. Berge 64; Anders T. Rødde, 65; Britha Græe 75; Ola H. Bø, 61; Godskalk Eide, 66; Arnbjørn N. Hauge, 78; Gudve P. Vethe, 66; Ole L. Dolve, 72.

Evanger: Lars Hjørnevik, 68; Ragnhild O. Rasdal, (død i Selbu.)

Vossestranden: Lærer Bryngel Seim, 64; Britha K. Løkje, f. Exe, 46.

OR MINNET.

Og ei Vossasoga.
(Anders Lavik i "Bondebladet".)

Stykket um Hans Nilsen Hauge som stod nyss i "Bondebladet" kalla atter fram i minnet mangt som mor mi visste um fraa Haugianarar etter Hauge si tid, frametter fraa 30 til 50–60 aari. Aaja, sumt vart nemnt, ogso fraa sjølv Hagues tid.

Ho tala helst um truande folk i baade gamle og nye tider, som ho antan hadde lese um elder høyrte um, men um slike som ho sjølv hadde kjent, baade fraa ungdomen og seinare. I slike høve gjekk ho mest alltid ut ifraa det gamle haugianske verset:

"Gud kaldte os som borte vare
en fremmed og vanarted skare,
vildfarende paa denne jord.
Lad os da skatte dette gode,
og at han mangel sjæl betrode
lyst til at tale om hans ord."

Sargeant, MN, Henrik Mykkeltvedt with Sofia Monson, Bergen, Lilli G. Aarhus with R. A. Thomason, Henrik Rasdal with Maria Haugen.

Vossestranden: Britha K. Hauge with Thorsten J. Hoidal, Aurland, Lars Haga with Anna Anfinsdatter Løn, Knut Egdetveit with Trina Nesheim, Bryngel A. Kvarme with Jørgina K. Kvarme, Sjur Bystøl with Dordei Revsdal.

DEATHS AT VOSS

Vangens Sogn.: Ingeborg Olsdatter Rykke, b. Helleve, 64; Ingeborg D. Prestegaard, 45; Ingeborg E. Himle, b. Olde, 29; Britha K. Graude, b. Lirhus, 68; Hans Hanson 82; Odd K. Gjerstad 77; Asle B. Eggjareid, 36; Svend P. Berge 64; Anders T. Rødde, 65; Britha Græe 75; Ola H. Bø 61; Godskalk Eide 66; Arnbjørn N. Hauge, 78; Gudve P. Vethe, 66; Ole L. Dolve, 72.

Evanger: Lars Hjørnevik, 68; Ragnild O. Rasdal, (died in Selbu).

Vossestranden: Teacher Bryngel Seim 64; Britha K. Løkje, b Exe, 46.

IN MEMORIAM.

And a "Voss tale".
(Anders Lavik in "The Farmers News").

The article about Hans Nilsen Hauge that was in "Bondebladet" recently brings to mind much that my mother knew from the Haugians or Hauge's time, from the 30 to 50—60 years. Well...some were mentioned from Hauge's own time.

She liked to talk of devout people of both the old and new times, some about whom she had read or heard elsewhere, but some of those she herself had known both from her youth and later. Then she almost always referred to the old haugian verse.

"God called to us who were lost
an alien and delinquent host,
gone astray on this earth.
Let us value this treasure,
that he entrusted to many souls
the desire to talk about His word.

Ho elska slike som tala Guds ord, einfaldugt og av hjartans trong, meir enn nokon annan. Naar det h vde til oppbyggjing kom ho fram med eitt og anna som den eider hin hadde sagt, ut or sine aandelege r ynslor, baade om synd og naade. Elder ho kunde fortelja um den fortred dei hadde lide, fyr Guds ord og Jesu vitnemaal si skuld. Ho kjende alle vossar som i hennar ungdom hadde tala, elder halde b n i samlingarne ovan til Vangen. Dei som oftaste vart nemde var Eirik og ein heitte Sjur paa Saue. Eirik er allment umtala men Sjur hugsar eg ikkje um af andre enn henne. Tru eg misminnest, at han ikkje var fraa Saue. Han var vist eldre enn Eirik. Ola var ein yngre mann, yngre enn mor. [Ola Saueshaugen, d d 1885.]. So var det Andres Ure og Ola Skiple, Raund ler, trur eg. Eider liggja ikkje desse gardarne i Raundalen? [Ure, Opheim, Sogn, Vossestranden.] Lars Kvarakvaal budde ikkje paa Voss i hennar tid. Men han var dertil og heldt samlingar, han og raund len Ola. [Maa ha v ret Ola Voss, som biskop Bang skrev om.] Heimstaden deira var daa i Nordland.

She loved those who spoke God's word, simply of the heart's need, more than anyone else. When it was appropriate for inspiration she came forth with one or the other the speaker had said, out of her own spiritual experiences, both about sin and mercy. Or she could tell of the troubles they had suffered for the sake of God's word and Jesus' testimony. She knew all the vossings who had spoken when she was young, or who had prayed in gatherings at Vangen. Those most often mentioned were Eirik and one called "Sjur paa Saue". Eirik is generally known but Sjur I never heard of except from her. If I remember right, he was from Saue. He evidently was older than Eirik. Ola was a younger man, younger than mother. [Ola Saueshaugen, died 1885]. Then there were Andres Ure and Ola Skiple, from Raundal, I believe. But these farms aren't in Raundal? [Ure, Opheim, Sogn, Vossestranden.] Lars Kvarakvaal didn't live at Voss in her times. But he came there and had meetings, he and Raundalen Ola. [Must have been Ola Voss, as Bishop Bang wrote about. There home base was then in Nordland.]

Mor var og velkjend i heimen paa Sundve, Vossastrondi. Der var daa vakse upp ein heil lyd av bønafolk. Alle stader laut dei lida fortred. Drykk, dans og raaskap var verdsens vis kvar dei kom i vaare bygder paa dan tid. Gamle mor paa Sundve hadde ein bønastad ute i skogen, der ho kunde sjaa ut yver grendi. Der gjekk ho ut baade vetter og sumar og bad "al naades Gud" skapa ljøs i bygdemyrkret. Sønerne hennar vart og snilde folk. Der ifraa kom den vesle songen eg her nedanfyrr hev skrivt af, soleis som mor kom med honom til os. Det er meir handling enn læra, og med den gamle tonen vart han ofta songen med stor verknad:

Jesus tilraabte en sjæl fra det høye:
 "Har du ei lyst til at fare herfra?"
 Sjælen blev bange og monne tilføye,
 Jo, men jeg er ei saa ren og saa klar!
 Jesus tilraabte da atter den bange:
 "Vil du da pryde og smykke dig selv?"
 Nei, men jeg kan dog slet ikke forlange
 at du skal elske saa utro en sjæl."

"Jeg har ei andet at bringe end pjalter!"
 "Intet, nei intet af dig, jeg begjer";
 Jeg er din eier og du er forvalter,
 intet du har som ei givet dig er.
 Verden vel bryster sig av sine dyder,
 som ei sin blindhed og fattigdom ser –
 tag kun i tro mod den klædning jeg byder,
 uforskyldt naade for intet jeg gir."

Mother was also well-acquainted in the home at Sundve, Vossastrondi. At that time there grew up a whole flock of prayerful people. Everywhere they suffered distress. Drinking, dancing and vulgarity were the ways of the world in our district at that time. The old mother at Sundve had a prayer nook out in the woods, where she could look out over the territory. There she went out both in winter and summer and prayed "all God's mercy" to enlighten the dark district. Her sons were fine people too. From there came the little song I have reproduced below which mother passed on to us. There is more practice than learning, and the old melody has been sung with great effect.

Jesus called to a soul from on high:
 "Do you want to get thee hence?"
 The soul was afraid and answered
 Yes, but I am so clean and so pure!
 Jesus called again to the frightened one:
 "Do you wish to adorn yourself so?"
 No, but I certainly can't demand
 that you should love such a disbeliever.

"I bring otherwise than rags!"
 "Nothing, no nothing from you I desire;
 I am your owner and you are guardian,
 Nothing you have is else than I give you.
 The world bursts of your deeds,
 This in its blindness and poverty sees—
 which only in faith in that clothing I offer,
 Unconditional mercy I give for nothing.

Lovet og prises, nu er jeg forvisset,
 at jeg til himlen har arvedels
 frikjendt af ham som er dommeren hisset;
 ordet og aanden vidner paa det!
 Verden og Satan kan spotte og hviske
 at jeg i vegtskaalen findes for let,
 større er han som kan sjælen tilhviske:
 "Blodet og vandet har rensset hver plet!

Eia tillykke du arme fortrykte,
 "frikjendt fra synden", o salige dag.
 Du har ei mere for dommen at frygte,
 talsmanden taler i himlen din sag.
 Hold dig kun tapper og munter i striden,
 lad ingen vellyst beherske din sjæl,
 kort er din trængsel hernede og siden
 faar du den evige arvelod hel.

Troende sjæle, Guds venner tilsammen,
 alle jeg hjertelig siger farvel.
 Gud være lovet, halleluja amen,
 takket for alt han har gjort ved vor sjæl.
 Nu skal jeg eder og alting forlade,
 vandre til en uforkrænkelig del:
 Troende venner, der mødes vi glade.
 Til dette herlige møde, lev vel.

Laud and praise, now I am certain,
 That I to heaven have inherited
 Acquitted by He the judge up yonder;
 The word and spirit give witness of this!
 The world and Satan ridicule and whisper
 That I too am found too light for the scales
 Bigger than he who whispers to the soul
 "The blood and the water have washed every blot!"

Good luck you poor suppressed
 "Released from sin", O blessed day.
 You don't have much to fear at judgment,
 The advocate pleads your case in heaven.
 Keep up your courage and spirits in the strife,
 Let no sensuality rule your soul.
 Short is your distress down here and later
 You will receive your whole eternal inheritance.

Believing souls, all God's friends,
 To all I say a hearty farewell.
 God be praised, hallelujah amen,
 Thanks for everything he has done for our souls.
 Now I shall leave you and all,
 And roam to an immortal place.
 Believing friends, there we will meet happily.
 Until that grand meeting, live well.

Kormange dei var borni der paa Sundve hev eg gløymt no. Eg hugsar berre Sjur, Edlend og Styrk. (En søster gift med pionerpresten Lars O. Myrland kom til Amerika 1846. Deres søn Ole L. Myrland, Verona, Wis., er medlem af Vosselaget. En anden søster, Syrineva gift med Peder O. Myrland kom til Amerika 1851. Af flere børn leve: endnu Lars Myrland, Mt. Horeb, Wis. Edling var den norskamerikanske kirkes fader, Elling Eielsen. Hans datter Ellen Mrs. Ronden, lever ved North Cape, Racine County, Wis.) Sjur døydde heima trur eg, og det var han som skulde vera forfattar av songen. Alle var dei forkynnarar av Guds ord og tolde forfylgjing paa mange maatar. Styrk skulde vera livlegaste og den som letteste kunde røra folkje til taaror. Han var oftare heima enn Edlend i mor si tid, men han vart austlending trur eg. Av andre truande deruppe trur eg ho nemde oftaste nokre fraa Løn elder Løno. Millom desse ei Anna, som eg sjølv saag i 1869.

SEKRETÆREN PAA REISER.

Syttende mai stod for døren, og ifølge aviserne skulde der paa denne dag være store tilstelninger i Chicago som i tidligere aar. Vosselagets Vice-president, guv. R. A. Nestos, skulde endog være en af talerne ved den store fest, og for et paatænkt besøg i Chicago var da alt dette noget særligt fremifra heldigt, og saa bar det afsted om morgenen den 16de med godt haab om at træffe mange sambygdinge.

Kommen til Chicago gjaldt det om at finde kasserer John Glimme—ikke netop for penges skyld men for at bli anvist byens fire hjørner og endel gader, hvor der var Vossinger at finde. Efter nogen søgen fandtes han blandt skyskraberne "down town" i et af de øvre etager af The Garland Bldg. færdende mellem guldsager, ure, briller og andet rart, hørende til faget. Efter at have erholdt de fornødne oplysninger og sat ham stevne om kvelden gik turen til Lincoln Avenue 2465, hvor Nils Anderson Kvale (Raundalen) i en liden menneskealder har boet. Hans 4 etages hus,

I don't remember how many children there were on Sundve. I only remember Sjur, Edlend and Styrk. (A sister was married to pioneer minister Lars O. Myrland and came to America in 1846. Their son Ole L. Myrland, Verona, WI, is a member of the Vosselag. Another sister, Syrineva married Peder O. Myrland and came to America in 1851. Of several children there still live Lars Myrland, Mt. Horeb, WI Edling was the father of the church in North America, Elling Eielsen. His daughter, Ellen, Mrs. Ronden, lives at North Cape, Racine County, WI. Sjur died at home, I believe, and he is supposed to be the writer of the song. All of them were preachers of God's word and spread the word in many ways. Styrk was said to be the liveliest and most easily could bring people to tears. He was home more often than Edlend in mother's time, but he lived in east Norway, I believe. Among other believers up there I believe she mentioned most often someone from Løn or Løno. Among these was an Anna, whom I saw myself in 1869.

SECRETARY OUT TRAVELING (K. A. Rene sic.)

The Seventeenth of May had arrived, and according to the papers on this day there were to be big entertainments in Chicago as in earlier years. Vosselagets vice-president, Gov. R. A. Nestos was to be one of the speakers at the big celebration and for an intended visit to Chicago there were to be some outstanding events, and so I left on the morning of the 16th with good hope of encountering many fellow vossings.

After I'd arrived in Chicago it was important to find treasurer John Glimme—not exactly for the sake of money but to be directed to the four corners and several streets where one could find vossings. After some searching he was found among the skyscrapers "downtown" in one of the upper stories of the Garland dealing in gold items, watches, spectacles and other unusual items that belonged to his trade. After I got the necessary information and attended the convention I went to 2465 Lincoln Avenue, where Nils Anderson Kvale (Raundalen) has lived for nearly a generation. His four-story building, which he built which is still standing,

som han satte op i 1883—samme aar han var gift—staar der endnu, og det viste sig at han og konen, hvis pigenavn var Eli Andersdr. Kvale (Guldfjerdingen) , fremdeles har sit tilhold der, og var i bedste velgaaende. Han har drevet som bygmester, men har nu trukket sig tilbage fra forretninger.

Nils Kvale er en af dem, som kan fortælle lidt af hvert om de gamle Vossinger i Chicago og deres færd. Men hans beretning om de gamle numre af Wossingen var kanske det mest interessante. Disse numre synes nu at være et legat til os fra den gamle Wossings udgiver, Nils T. Bakketun.

Ifølge Kvales beretning efterlod Nils Bakketun sig ved sin død endel norske blade og skrifter, som de, der tog sig af hans efterladenskaber, bragte over til hans gamle ven Lars Pederson Rogne (Lars med Broen) et søskendebarn af min mor. Blandt dette var de to aargange af den gamle Wossingen. Lars var gift med Kvales søster, Britta, og da han for mange aar siden døde, og børnene ikke havde nogen interesse af at beholde Wossingen, fik Kvale den hjem til sig. Der fik Knut Henderson fat paa den og bragte den til Cambridge, Wis. Om dens senere skjæbne er der fængslende fortalt i et nummer af Wisconsin Magazine of History af Mr. Albert O. Barton, der fik Knut Henderson overtalt til at lade ham tage bladet over til Det Historiske Selskabs samlinger i Madison, og der er det altsaa nu at finde, og selv har jeg havt den i hænderne.

Fra Kvales hjem gik det til Harding Street 1409, hvor en af mine mange trimenninger har sit hjem, nemlig Ivar Arneson Kolv. Der maatte da hovedkvarteret for det meste bli under Chicago besøget. Kolve kom til Amerika i 1900; er nu formand paa et

in 1883—the same year he was married—and it developed that he and his wife, whose maiden name was Eli Andersdatter Kvale (Guldfjerdingen, continue to live there and are in the best of health. He has been a builder but now has retired from business.

Nils Kvale is one of those who can tell a little about the old vossings in Chicago and what they did. But his information about the old issues of the Wossingen was the most interesting. These issues now seem to be a legacy to us from the old Wossingen's publisher, Nils T. Bakketun.

According to Kvale's account, at his death, Nils Bakketun left a number of papers and writings, which they, who saw to his estate, delivered to his old friend Lars Pederson Rogne (Lars by the bridge), a cousin of my mother. Among these were two years of the old Wossingen. Lars was married to Kvale's sister, Britta, and since he had died many years before, and the descendants had no interest in keeping Wossingen, Kvale (Mrs. Rogne) got them home with her. There Knut Henderson obtained them and brought them to Cambridge, WI. A description of their subsequent fate is described in an issue of Wisconsin Magazine of History by Albert O. Barton, who got Knut Henderson's permission to take the paper over to The Historical Society's archives in Madison, and there they can be found yet, and even I have had them in my hands.

From Kvale's home, I went to 1409 Harding Street where one of my many second cousins had his home, namely Ivar Arneson Kolve. This became the headquarters for most of my Chicago visit. Kolve came to America in 1900, and is now the foreman of a tailor

skrædderværksted hos et af Chicagos største forretningshuse, er gift og har flere børn. Hans hustru er fra Kragerø kanten.

17de mai tilbragtes for det meste i parkerne, hvor festlighederne holdtes. Om kvelden talte Guvernør Nestos i Brands Park, efterpaa talte han i Chicagos norske klub paa klingende vossemaal, blev det sagt. Med Glimme og Kolve som ledere gik det i Kolves automobil til parken. Der var mange Vossinger at hilse paa. Blandt dem var Vosseforeningens formand Anders Høiland og hustru, John Knutson Saude, Odd Fletre, Kolbein H. Skutle, Britha og Lina Herheim, Ingeborg Lekve, Anders K. Leidal og hustru med flere.

Næste dag saaes ind til Skandinaven, hvor vi fik hilse paa dens grundlæggeres søn, Louis Anderson, og tillige paa redaktør Benson og bestyrer Arneson med andre. De to sidste er dog uheldigvis ikke Vossinger af andet end sympathier, selv om de er i Skandinaven.

For at faa underretning om flere gamle Vossinger, hvoriblandt Bjørne Amundson Hefte, —pioner paa Skoponong og veteran fra Borgerkrigen, opsøgte Mrs. G. B. Nordheim, Logan Blvd., datter efter Bjørnes broder John Amundson (Hefte), den ene af de to første norske typografer i Amerika. Opvoxt i Chicago, kan hun give besked om mange af de første Vossinger der. Onkelen er død for mange aar siden, men hans børn som gaar under navnet Emerson, lever i nærheden af Vermilion, S. D. Hendes mand Gjetle B. Norheim døde for noget over et aar siden.

Fra hendes hjem toges veien til Viking B. Nordheim, som bo paa Kimball Ave. 2243. Næst til ham bor ogsaa Anders Høiland. De to driver isammen et lidet værksted, hvor der fabrikeres et slags postkasser og gjør taalelig god forretning, som det synes Mr. Nordheims hustru er fra Fletre. De mistede forrige høst en søn, Alfred, som var gift og efterlod sig hustru og en søn, Alvin.

Før dagens vandring var endt, kom jeg ogsaa til Whipple St. hvor Peder Pederson Vinje har sin bopæl i no. 1751. Som jeg skulde til at se efter stedet, traf det sig saa heldigt, at kassere Glimme ogsaa kom gaaende og vi vendte da begge vort skridt mo huset. Mr. Vinje og hans hustru, som er datter efter Odd D. Kløve, var hjemme, og en livlig passiar om Voss og dets slægter varede langt paa kveld.

department in one of Chicago's largest department stores is married and has several children. His wife is from near Kragerø.

We spent most of the 17th of May in the parks where the celebrations were held. Gov. Nestos spoke in Brands Park in the evening; later he spoke at Chicago's Norske Club in resounding Voss dialect, it was said. With Glimme and Kolve as leaders we rode Kolve's car to the park. There were many vossings to greet. Among them was the (Chicago) Voss association's president Anders Høiland and his wife, John Knutson Saude, Odd Fletre, Kolbein H. Skutle, Britha and Lina Herheim, Ingeborg Lekve, Anders K. Leidal and wife with several more.

The next day we stopped in at Skandinaven, where we met the son of the founder, Louis Anderson, and also editor Benson and manager Arneson and others. The two latter are not vossings in anything other than sympathy, even if they do work for Skandinaven.

In order to be informed about several old vossings, among them Bjørne Amundson Hefte,—pioneer at Skoponong and veteran of the Civil War, we paid a visit to Mrs. G. B. Nordheim, Logan Blvd., daughter of Bjørne's brother John Amundson (Hefte), one of the two first Norwegian typographers in America. Having grown up in Chicago, she was able to tell us about many of the first vossings there. Her uncle died many years ago, but his children who go by the name of Emerson, live in vicinity of Vermillion, SD. Her husband Gjetle B. Norheim died a few years ago.

From her home, we found our way to Viking B. Nordheim, who lives at 2243 Kimball Ave. Next door lives Anders Høiland. The two of them operate a little factory where they make a type of mailbox and do a reasonably good business, as it appears Mr. Nordheim's wife is from Fletre. Last fall they lost a son, Alfred, who was married and left a son, Alvin.

Before the day's wanderings were over, I arrived at Whipple St. where Peder Pederson Vinje has his residence at 1751. As I would see there, I was lucky enough to meet treasurer Glimme who came walking and we both turned our steps to the house. Mr. Vinje and his wife, who is Odd D. Kløve's daughter, were home, and a lively chat about Voss and its families lasted far

Mr. Vinje er snedker og bygmester. En af hans sønner var hjemme, en anden er uddannet som prest og havde vistnok faaet kald. Mr. Vinje er en sønnesøn af stortingsmand og lensmand Anders Vinje, som var paa tinget i 1827. Han var ogsaa med i Svenskekrigene i 1814, hvor han blev bekjendt som en rask og sterk kar. Den bekjendte nybygger i Wiota, Wis., Arne A. Vinje eller Urland, var Peter Vinjes farbroder.

En af mine erinder i Chicago var at se gennem endel bøger og skrifter, som havde været i Sjur Knutsen Hylles eie og nu var hos børne-børnene. En af disse var Edward Williams, en søn af Knut Erikson Rjodo, (Williams) —den bekjendte løjtnant i borgerkrigen og hustru—Sjur Hylles datter Britha—hos hvem bøgerne var. Det var interessant at se, at det var et exemplar af Peter Clausens Norges Krønike og et exemplar af Ludvig Holbergs Kirkehistorie—begge omkring 150 aar gamle. De vil vistnok bli sendt til en historisk samling eller museum. Desuden fandtes den haandskrevne beretning om det korrespondance selskab, som Vossingerne dannede i Chicago i 1848 og som omtales andetsteds her i skriftet.

En anden vossefamilie, som besøgte, var Anders A. Kvale (Guldfjordingen) der i mangfoldige aar har boet i 1211 Halstead St., men nu holdt paa at pakke for at flytte, da jernbanen trængte hans eiendom, som den havde kjøbt. Hans 82 aarige hustru, hvis pigenavn var Martha Berge, var noget sygelig; men hun kunde dog huske et og andet om fortiden. Hun nævnte saaledes om tre jenter, som kom til Madison omkring 1856 for at faa sig tjeneste. Disse var foruden hun selv Guri H. Prestegaarden, (Mrs. E. P. Sime) og Anna Ivarsdr. Liland (Mrs. L. J. Erdahl), som begge har boet i Madison Der var da ikke andre Vossinger der end Nils Thompson (Flæskhaugen), som i mange aar var i klædevarerhandel og døde i Madison. Mrs. Kvale har en søn efter et tidligere ægteskab; ellers har de ingen børn.

into the night. Mr. Vinje is a carpenter and builder. One of his sons was home; another is educated as a minister and has received a call. Mr. Vinje is a grandson of stortingsman and magistrate Anders Vinje, who was in the parliament in 1827. He was also in the Swedish War in 1814, where he was recognized as an agile and strong fellow. The well-known pioneer in Wiota, WI, Arne A. Vinje or Urland, was Peter Vinje's paternal uncle.

One of my errands in Chicago was to look through several books and writings which had been in the ownership of Sjur Knutson Hylle's, and now were with his grandsons. One of these was Edward Williams, son of Knut Erikson Rjodo, (Williams)—the renowned lieutenant of the Civil War and his wife—Sjur Hylle's daughter Britha—where the books were. It was interesting to see, that they were a copy of Peter Clausen's Chronicle of Norway and an example of Ludvig Holberg's Church History—both about 150 years old. They will evidently be sent to an historical collection or museum. In addition, I found a hand-written account of the correspondence society, which the vossings had started in Chicago in 1848 and that is discussed elsewhere in this writing.

Another Voss family, who we looked for, was Anders A. Kvale (Gulfjordingen) who for countless years has lived at 1211 Halstead St., but now is busy packing to move, since the railroad needs his property, and have bought it. His 82 year-old wife, whose maiden name was Martha Berge, was somewhat sickly, but was able to recall one or the other from the past. She mentioned then three girls who came to Madison about 1856 in order to find work in service. These were beside herself Guri H. Prestegaarden (Mrs. E. P. Sime) and Anna Ivarsdatter Liland (Mrs. L. J. Erdahl), who both lived in Madison. There weren't any other vossings there than Nils Thompson (Flæskhaugen), who was in the clothing business for many years and died in Madison. Mrs. Kvale has a son from an earlier marriage otherwise they are childless.

Før vi forlod Chicago maatte vi selvfølgelig tage The Johnson Chair Company i øiesyn, og et kvarters gang fra Kolves hjem bragte os derhen. Det er anlagt paa North Avenue, omtrent hvor Grand Ave. støder til denne. Af North Avenue optager hovedbygningen et helt kvartal, og det halve kvartal af sidegaden. Materiallagrene haves andetsteds. Hertil flyttede kompagniet for endel aar siden fra Green St., hvor det i 1868 først var grundlagt af A. P. Johnson (Gjerager) og hans kompagnoner. Mr. A. P. Johnson er død, men vi havde fornøielsen af en samtale med hans søn, der ønskede at faa "Vossingen" tilsendt sin mor, som endnu lever. Vi havde ventet at træffe onkelen Nils Johnson, som havde lovet os fabrikkens historie; men han havde netop reist paa landet for nogle dage, saa den fornøielse haves tilgode til senere.

VOSSINGERNE I IOWA.

I.

Førdebrødrene i Winneshiek Co.

At skrive om Førdebrødrene eller disse mangfoldige "Fords", som de senere er blit kaldt, er et vanskeligt stykke arbejde. Det blir omtrent som en slags selvbiografi, og det hader jeg. De blev startet paa Voss disse Forderne, som her i Amerika er blit saa talrige, at folk i almindelighed helst maa gaa af veien for dem. Da de konstitutionelt er lig andre Vossinger liker de ogsaa smør, lefse, lutefisk og mere saadant.

Hvis jeg skal regne op fædrene, som først vinglede sig til Winneshiek Co., Ia., mens her endnu var baade indianere, hjort og bjørn, saa har vi Per, Erik Anders, Amund, Lars, John og Halvor, og endda var der en tilbage i Norge, som maatte være med at anlægge veien gennem Stalheimsberget (Kleiven), og det gjorde han saa godt, at den staar der den dag idag. Dette var den for sin fenomenale hukommelse berømte, selvlærde ingeniør og veibygger Ole Førde, som brugte en haslekvist at tygge paa istedetfor tobak.

De er typiske disse smørblide, suppeglade Forderne. Deres individualitet bestaar for det meste i det, som en britisk officer sa til en

Before we left Chicago, we, of course had to take a look at The Johnson Chair Company, and one block walk from Kolve's brought us there. It is located on North Avenue, about where it meets Grand Ave. The main building occupies a whole block of North Avenue and a half block of the side street. The material warehouse is located elsewhere. The company moved here from Green St. a number of years ago, from where it had been founded by A. P. Johnson (Gjerager) and his associates. Mr. A. P. Johnson is dead, but we had the satisfaction of a conversation with his son, who wished to have "Vossingen" sent to his mother, who is still alive. We had expected to meet uncle Nils Johnson, who had promised us the history of the company; but he had just gone to the country for some days, so that pleasure will have to wait until later.

VOSSINGS IN IOWA

I.

The Førde brothers in Winneshiek Co.

To write about the Førde brothers or about the numerous "Fords", as they were called later, is a difficult piece of work. It is almost a kind of self-biography, and that I abhor. They started in Voss, these Førds, that have become countless in America that people commonly have to step aside for them. They are constitutionally like other vossings, they like butter, lefse, lutefisk and such-like.

If I were to name the first forefathers who first inveigled themselves to Winneshiek Co., IA, while there were only Indians, deer and bear, then we had Per, Erik, Anders, Amund, Lars, John, and Halvor, and still there was one back in Norway, who had to help build the road through Stalheimsberget (Kleven), and that he did so well that it is still there today. This was the self-educated engineer and road-builder with the phenomenal memory, Ole Førde, who chewed on a twig of hazelnut rather than tobacco.

They are typical butter and soup-loving Førdes. Their individuality consists mostly in this, which a British officer said to an American officer over in France: "You chaps are charmingly modest. We quarrel with everybody!"

amerikansk officer derborte i Frankrig: "You chaps are charmingly modest. We quarrel with everybody". Deres efterkommere—gutter som jenter—har faaet en rivende afsætning. Hvis en gut tænker paa at starte familie, saa kan han udenvidere ta med sig noget husgeraad—stoler og sengeklæder—og sit "licence" straks, saa sikker er han paa at faa "ja".

Jeg ser i P. Strømmes bog: "Hvorledes Halvor blev Prest", et sitat som han ulovlig fra min side har "hermet" efter en af mine farbrødre, men som alligevel er sandt, da jeg selv var tilstede ved det mindeværdige optrin hin jul hos min farbror, for over sexti aar siden. Der var i selskabet hos farbror et par college studenter. Saa gaar min farbror bort til en af dem, ser ham hvast ind i øinene og siger: "Er du methodist? eller er du katolik? eller hører du med til det rene lutherske alfabet!" — (meget eftertrykkeligt). Studenten følte sig ned stemt, kan hende mest over det, at der blev en nok. saa munter stemning i laget. Ja, vi maa noget finde paa som Askepotten sa, da han skulde til at brygge øl, saa at karret skal bli fuldt. Disse bygdebøgerne vore, er blit vel stive af sig i formen og altfor ensformige i indholdet. Skal de læses af vore efterkommere, helst af ungdommen, maa der komme mere af varieret læsning i dem og mere "pep". De er blit for tørre og plastiske, og stive, prosaiske, hvad formen angaar.

Min ene farbror, Per F. nedsatte sig nær Upper Iowa River og paa den vildeste trakt land, jeg har set i Winneshiek Co. Han "beata" endog irlænderen i det stykke. Det var ligesom at gaa op paa toppen af Pikes' Peak eller Førdes nipen hjemme paa Voss hver gang han skulde op og "kreedle" kveite. Han havde det med hjemlængsel og melankoli i aarevis, og høit oppe var frisk sommervind at puste i og yrende fuldt af "rattlesnakes", og mellem øikterne kunde han rette ryg, ta sig en ny skraa og se bortover landet, hvor hans seks brødre sad paa hver sin kvart section land. Aa hvor hveden var fin, som guld var den. Og se!

Their descendants—boys as well as girls—have gotten a terrific sequestration. If a boy thinks about starting a family, then he can, without doubt, take along some household goods—chairs and bedclothes—and his "license" already, that positive is he of getting "yes".

I see in P. Strømmes book: "How Halvor became a minister", a quote which in my opinion he illegally has quoted from one of my uncles, but nevertheless is true, yes inasmuch as I myself was present at that minor incident at Christmas at my uncle's, over sixty years ago. There were a couple of college students staying with my uncle. Then my uncle went over to one of them, looked hin right in the eye and said "Are you Methodist? or are you Catholic? Or do you adhere to the pure Lutheran alphabet!" — (much emphasized). The student felt himself put down, mostly from this that there came a cheerful feeling in the group. Yes, we had to find something that Ashpot said, when he was starting to brew beer; that the container had to be full. These bygdebooks of ours have become somewhat stiff in style, and very simple in content. If they are to be read by our descendants, preferably the youth, there must be greater variety in the reading and more "pep".

My one uncle, Per F., settled near the Upper Iowa River and on the wildest tract of land, I have ever seen in Winneshiek Co. He even "beat" an Irishman for one parcel. It was like going up to the top of Pike's Peak or Førde's mountaintop home in Voss each time he was going up to "cradle" wheat. He was bothered by homesickness and melancholy for years, and high up there was fresh summer breeze to breath and it was full of "rattlesnakes", and between the horses he could stretch his back, take a new viewpoint and look out over the land where six brothers occupied each a quarter section of land. And the wheat was great, like gold it was.

mellem aspeskogen der borte kommer hun smettende, hans endnu unge kone, bærende med kaffen! Sandelig ser hun ikke ud som en ung jente endnu, trods de fire, fem børn—jo, Amerika, Amerika! det er herligt at leve i, alligevel! og den melankolske mund forsvinder i et lunt smil, — “Gud velsigne hende, Gud velsigne hende!”—det er ligesom ungdoms kærligheden har vaagnet paany.

En søndag om vaaren havde vi moro, helst vi børn, de ældre med. Veiret var vakkert og mildt, og vi skulde gaa ned til riveren, og se paa landet, bottomen og alt. Med os fulgte en svær Vossing, Iver Sivle hed han. Ved mundingen af Big Canoe Creek opdagede vi en Indianer canoe, som laa der, enten efterladt der af en Indianer, eller ræket hid af sig selv. Jo! det skulde være mere at prøve ro med en canoe, sa Iver Sivle; det havde han da aldrig prøvd, sa han. Den lidt mere erfarne Per Førde drog paa smilet, men sa ingenting. Nu var Iver en svær kar, høi og bred som et fjeld. Det tog en hel manøvre for at faa klemt sig ned i den smale canoe, og saa naar han var kommet ned i bunden paa den og gav signalet til de andre til at støde fra land, saa vi ingen Iver Sivle mere, men bunden paa hans canoe som flød paa vandet. At den ihærdige diletant af en canoe* “paddler”, og nykommer endnu sad fastklemt i den, saa man deraf, at canoen begyndte at gaa rundt i vandet, og som i svære dønninger under sig. Til al lykke var han kar for at krabbe sig til land igjen, men rigtignok med den skarve Canoen over sig. Vi hjalp og trak ham up. “Tvi!” Per tørrede sine øine. Han lo saa han graat.

Det var en stor park, min farbror havde sat sig ned paa, et stort, romantisk parkkompleks, med skog og bottom, en række af bluffs og bjerge, hvor der endnu vistes spor af en Indianer trail, eller en buck deer trail*, som gik ned til springen*. Naar du en sommerdag stod paa et af disse fremspringende bjerg og saa riveren* langt nede slynge sig fra bluf* til bluf, hadde du et sceneri, du aldrig kunde glemme eller vilde glemme. Og det er besynderlig, hvor det kan gaa i verden. Mange gange har jeg tænkt, hvordan det vilde ha gaat, hvis far havde sat sig ned paa denne 1/4 sektion land. Thi i virkeligheden havde landet været udset til ham.

And see! Between the aspen woods she squeezed, his still youthful-appearing wife, bringing coffee! Truthfully she still looks like a young girl, in spite of the four, five children—yes, America, America, it's grand to live here, nonetheless! And the melancholy mouth changes to a slow smile. "God bless her, God bless her!"—it was as if the romance of youth has ventured anew.

One Sunday in the spring we had great fun, mostly we children, but the grown-ups too. The weather was beautiful and mild, so we went down by the river, to look around, at the marsh and everything. A big vossing went with us. His name was Iver Sivle. At the mouth of Big Canoe Creek, we discovered an Indian canoe, which lay there either left behind by some Indians or it had drifted there of its own. Boy! It would be fun to try rowing a canoe, said Iver Sivle; he'd never tried that, he said. The somewhat more knowledgeable Per Førde started to smile, but said nothing. Now Iver was a big fellow, tall and broad as a mountain. It took quite a maneuver for him to squeeze down into that narrow canoe, and when he had got down in the bottom he gave the signal to the others to help it from land, we didn't see any more of Iver Sivle, only the bottom of his canoe was floating on the water. The persistent diletante of a canoe "paddler", and the newcomer was still clamped in it, and then one started to see that the canoe began to turn in the water, as if he had a big groundswell under himself. Luckily he was able to crawl to the shore again, but still with the wretched canoe over himself. We helped to pull him up. "Tvi!" Per dried his eyes. He had laughed until he cried.

It was a big park, that my uncle had settled; a big, romantic park complex, with forest and bottom land, a row of bluffs and mounds, where there was still evidence of Indian trails, or buck deer trails, that went down to the spring. If you stood on one of these prominent cliffs on a summer's day and looked down far below at the river swinging from bluff to bluff, you would have a scene you never would or could forget. It is curious, what can happen in this world. Many times I have thought, how would it have gone if father had settled this quarter section of land. Then in reality, the land had been exposed to him.

* *Rene occasionally lapses to Amerikanorsk with uses like "canoe", "riveren", "bluff" and "springen" instead of kano, elve, klitt and kjelde.*

Min far, Amund, fungerede som klokker i nybyggertiden og holdt lidt religionsskole. Hertil kan tilføies en noksaa pudsig anekdote. O. F. Clausen, senere prest i Spring Grove, Minn., betjente af og til Big Canoe og anexer i det nordlige Iowa. Min far var ofte sammen med ham og fik skyds. Der var ikke stort prat med Clausen. Bet som det var, kjørte han over en gris, som laa og veltede sig i sølen paa veien. "Der kjørte vi over en gris", sa far. Pastoren lod som ingenting og kjørte kun videre. En halv mils vei længere frem stansede pastor Clausen pludselig og begyndte at snu hesten om. Min far undrede sig paa hvad slikt skulde betyde og spurgte om grunden. Jo, det var den stakkels gris, han tænkte paa. Maaske laa han der endnu i sølen og var skamkjørt. Det maatte undersøges, og det gjorde de, men fandt grisen den samme gris som før og i bedste velgaende.

John A. Førde.

II

Erik Ellefson (Slæhn.)

Min erindring om Erik Ellefson (Slæhn) begynder med de første Vosser, som nedsatte sig i Winneshiek og Allamakee countier, Ia. Min far kom her i 1857, og Erik Slæhn havde allerede da været paa guldgraving i California, saa han var en bereist mand. Jeg husker ham som en prominent udseende—noget før og velbygget mand. I strengeste forstand bereist, som han var, var han ingen grønskolling heller. Engelsk talte han flydende allerede da—efter den tids maalestok. Tilbageturen fra California gjorde han via Panama-eidet.

Med den erfaring han havde i sprog, og den lærdom han havde fra Norge, var det naturligt, at Erik Ellefson blev en meget populær og meget raadspurgt mand i settlementet, og en som nød stor agtelse blandt nybyggerne. I det skriftlige eller klerikale. f. ex., var han til stor hjælp. De gik til "Slæhn" med slikt. Han blev settlementets raadgiver baade med hensyn til borgerbreve, homestead og alt andet, som bar U. S. stemplet paa papiret. Han var i

My father, Amund, functioned as a sexton in the pioneer times and ran a small religious school. Here I shall present an amusing anecdote. O. F. Clausen, later a minister in Spring Grove, MN, served occasionally for Big Canoe and its neighbors in northern Iowa. My father was often in his company and got rides. Clausen talked very little. Unfortunately, he drove over a pig, which turned over in the sun on the road. "There we drove over a pig", said father. The pastor acted like nothing had happened and on continued driving. A half mile further forward suddenly Pastor Clausen stopped and turned the horses around. My father wondered what this meant and asked the reason. Yes, he was concerned about that poor pig. It probably was still lying there in the sun and was injured. It had to be investigated, and that they did but they found the pig the same as before and in the best of health.

John A. Førde.

II.

Erik Ellefson (Slæhn.)

My recollection about Erik Ellefson (Slæhn) starts with the first vossings who settled in Winneshiek and Allamakee counties in Iowa. My father came here in 1857, and Erik Slæhn had already been gold-mining in California, so he was a well-traveled man. I recall as being imposing—somewhat of a prominent and well-built man. In the relative traveled experience, as he was, he was no greenhorn either. He spoke English fluently already—according to the standards of the time. He had made his return via the Isthmus of Panama.

With the experience he had in language, and the education he had had in Norway it was only natural that Erik Ellefson became a popular and consulted man in the settlement, and when needed drew great attention among the newcomers. They, for example, went to often to him for help for writing and with clerical matters. He became the settlement's advisor in citizen papers,

førstningen farmer, tillidsmand, klokker og skolelærer; var ogsaa en streng republikaner og beundrer af Abraham Lincoln. Han blev indsat som censusmand i sit county, netop da krigen rasede paa det værste og stod i fare for at bli skudt af en eller anden "Copperhead" ;—det var farlige tider.

Saa blev det elendige slaveri-spørgsmaal kastet ind blandt kirkefolket. Erik Slæhn blev da en navngjeten mand ved at bryde lanse med mænd som pastor Clausen, Koren, Preus og andre. Han var da ogsaa en slagfærdig og veltalende mand.

Jeg tænker nu paa det gamle nybyggerhus, som endnu staar der, hvor han levede—nedsunken i møningen, faldefærdigt, gissent og ensomt. Hvormange gange disse vægge har gjenlydt af kraftige, patriotiske røster under disputer om slaveri, om Lincoln og Douglas, om syden og norden og Jefferson Davis!

Ellefson var en gjestfri mand og likte omgang med folk af lærdom og rang; men hvor vidt han drev det som farmer, ved jeg ikke. Den tids farming bestod hovedsagelig i at faa brække op eller pløjet. op et stykke, og saa efter saaningen at tage "hunden i rumpa" og dra den her og der over ageren, saa fik man en ypperlig avling.

Det var Lansings blomstrings periode. Hveden i vesten lige fra Worth county, Ja., solgtes der af farmeren. Store floddampere pustede under byrden med at transportere den videre.

Dit drog vor bekjendte Vossing Erik Slæhn. Han prøvede det med hotelforretning. Reaktionen kom for byens vedkommende i almindelighed og for forretningen i særdeleshed. Som en slagen ørn, men ikke med knækket mod, ser han atter en dag mod det fjerne vesten, og nybyggerlivet stod atter tillokkende for ham—nu en aldrende mand. Han nedsatte sig med hustru, datter og sønner ved Garretson, Syd Dakota, hvor han blandt andet syslede med religionsskole til sit endeigt.

Dette er i korthed Erik Ellefson Slæns (eller Slæhns) livsløb, saa godt jeg husker det.

John A. Førde.

homestead matters and anything else that had U. S. stamped on the papers. He was mainly a farmer, but also a community representative, sexton and teacher; he was also a strong Republican and admirer of Abraham Lincoln. H was appointed census-taker in his county, exactly when the war raged at its worst and was in danger of being shot by one or the other of the "copperheads"—they were dangerous times.

Then the miserable slavery question inserted itself among the church people. Erik Slæhn then became a famous man by crossing swords with men like Pastor Clausen, Koren, Preus and others. He was controversial and eloquent man.

I still think about the old pioneer cabin that still stands there, where they lived—depressed in condition, ram-shackle, leaky, and alone. How many times have these walls echoed with strong, patriotic voices during debates about slavery, about Lincoln and Douglas, about the south and north and Jefferson Davis.

Ellefson was an hospitable man and lied to associate with people learning and rank, but how much farming he did, I don't know. The farming at that time consisted mainly of "breaking-up" or plowing a plot, then after sowing, taking the "dog by the tail" and dragging it back and forth over the field, then one would get an excellent crop.

It was Lansing's blooming period. The wheat in the west lay from Worth County, yes, sold there by the farmers. Big steamboats puffed under the load of transporting it further.

Our well-known vossing Erik Slæhn went there. He tried the hotel business. There was a reaction from the community especially from the businesses. Like a beaten eagle, but without broken spirit, he looked again to the far west, and the pioneer life attracted him—now an elderly man. He settled with his wife, daughter and sons at Garretson, SD, where he among else puttered with religion school and his own property.

This is a brief description of Erik Ellefson Slæns's (or Slæhn's) biography, as well as I remember it.

John A. Førde

III

Erik Eriksen Salland.

En stor kar er han, og en ægte Bourboner-næse har han, lig den som marshalk Duc de Corve, som senere blev Norges konge havde paa sig. Han syntes at bære paa et lunt smil allesteds hvor han gik, denne høie, spenstige Vossing. Naar han stod i en forsamling ragede hans hode op over alle. Du tror det knapt naar jeg fortæller dig, at han staaende med sine fødder paa gulvet, kunde bøie sig bagover som en bue lige til gulvet foruden støtte af hænderne—bøie nakken ind til hans mund berørte bægeret, som var sat for ham paa gulvet, saa at rette sig op igjen med glasset i munden, tømme det, og saa at bøie sig bagover igjen og sætte glasset ned igjen, pent paa samme flækken, hvor det før stod. Han var altsaa ingen stiv Vossing, Erik Erikson Salland. Men han gjorde et endnu større mesterstykke, næsten endnu utroligere end det netop omtalte karsstykke. Og det var ikke netop hans seighed vi skal feste os ved, naar der skrives historie om denne originale person. Han gjorde sig berømt ved at bygge det mest enestaaende pionerhus paa denne side af Mississippifloden, tror jeg—iallefald blandt Vossinger, sikkert. Og det gjorde han paa den maaden, at han gik og hug ned den største furu (pine) som har vokset i Iowa, maaske i Amerika! Og loggerne af denne furu var saa store og tykke, at de maatte splittes i fire dele for at kunne transporteres frem. Og endnu var de saa tykke ifra marven (kalven) til barken, at kun tre eller fire "omfar" af disse stokker trængtes opunder loftet i den første etage. Har man hørt slig furu? Jeg har selv sovet i denne furustue, opført af Erik Salland, og tømmeret er endnu saa godt og vedligeholdt idag, som da det var bygget til hus for næsten sytti aar siden. Træet forslog sig dog i sit enorme fald, saa at det knækkedes ved den lavest gren—en firti—femti fod fra roden. Men til hus blev det alt sammen, et godt og koseligt hjem.

Dette originale tømmerhus er nedrevet nu, men hver log og flis af det, er systematisk

III.

Erik Eriksen Salland.

He was a big man, and he had a genuine "Bourbon" nose, like the Marshall Duc de Corve, who later became king of Norway, had (King Karl Johann). He seemed to wear a good-natured smile where-ever he went, this tall, supple vossing. When he stood in crowd, his head protruded up over all others. You would hardly believe it if I told you that when he was standing with his feet on the floor, he could bend backwards, like a bow, all the way to the floor without supporting with his hands—bend his neck until his mouth reached a container, which was placed in front of him on the floor, then straighten up again with the glass in his mouth, empty it, then bend backwards again and set the glass down exactly on the same spot as it stood before. He was no stiff vossing, this Erik Erikson Salland. But he performed an even greater masterpiece, even more unbelievable than the just described feat. And this is exactly the victory we shall celebrate when it comes time to write the history of this peculiar person. He made himself famous by building the most singular log cabin this side of the Mississippi river, I believe—in any case, among vossings. He did it in the following manner that he went and chopped down the largest fir tree that had grown in Iowa, perhaps in America! The logs from this mighty fir were so big and thick that they had to be split in four sections before they could be moved. But still they were so thick from the "marrow" to the bark that only three or four of these beams had to be raised for the loft in the first story. Has anyone heard of such a fir? I, myself, have slept in this fir building, built by Erik Salland, and the beams are still as good and maintained today as when it was built nearly seventy years ago. The tree demonstrated in its enormous fall that it crashed only by its lowest branch—some forty—fifty feet from the root. But nevertheless it all became a house, a good and cozy home.

This original house has been taken down now

oplagret under tag—saadant er værdt at se for børn og børnebørn, og jeg er sikker paa at dersom Erik Erikson Sallands hus, som blev opført paa Iowas prairie, blev reist igjen ved musæet paa Voss, vilde det bli den største raritet i sit slags i hele Norge, baade i materiel, historisk og kulturel henseende.

John A. Førde.

IV

En Erindring fra Pioneertiden.

Penge har fulgt med Vossingerne ogsaa. En som vi vil kalde for "O" laante penger ud til trængende indflyttere. Han drev saaledes en privat bankforretning. Jeg kan huske ham godt fra pionerdagene. Af profession havde han tidligere drevet med skomagerarbeide, syd støvler og sko. En liden formue havde han sammenskrabet, altsaa, og at ha en som gav laan paa penger i settlementet var en hændig ting. Men hutti-tu! hvor det sved for den stakkar som maatte gaa til en pengelaaner i de dage! Min farbror blev nødsagen at gaa til "O" og anholde om et laan paa kort hen-stand. Jo, han trodde kanske at han kunde hjælpe ham. Men — renter, de lovlige renter var op til tyve procent og det som var over voveligt at indkassere, sa han. Men — lad mig se! sa han, jeg skal hjælpe dig med et laan, hvis du vil kjøbe et rigtig godt støvlepar, sa han. Ja, jeg faar vel det, da, sa farbror, der var vel ingen anden udvei. Hvor meget koster de? Seks dollars, i guld, var svaret. Jeg husker ikke nøie, enten de seks dollars for støvlerne betaltes kontant, eller at summen vedføiedes eller adderedes sammen til laanet. Rimeligvis det sidste. Men det viser Aagersystemet praktiseret paa et par støvler som et "bonus" paa et laan, endog i pionertiden, og Voss mod Voss.

John A. Førde.

but every log and sliver has been warehoused under roof—so that it can be viewed by children and grandchildren, and I am certain that if Erik Salland's cabin, which was built on Iowa's prairie, were raised again in a museum at Voss, it would be of the greatest rarity of its kind in all Norway, both in material and in cultural and historical perspective.

John A. Førde.

IV.

A recollection from the pioneer times.

Money has followed the vossings also. One who we will call "O" lent money to the needy immigrants. Thus, he operated a private bank business. I remember him well from the pioneer days. By profession earlier he had been a shoemaker, sewed boots and shoes. He had accumulated a little fortune; therefore to have someone in the settlement who lent money was a convenient thing. But hutti tu! How a poor borrower had to sweat to go to a moneylender in those days! My uncle became needy enough to go to "O" and obtain a loan for a short time. Yes, he thought maybe he could help him. But—interest, the legal interest was up to twenty per cent and that one dared to collect, he said. But—let me see! he said, I shall help you with a loan, if you will buy a really good pair of boots, he said. Ja, it will have to be that, it can't be avoided. How much do they cost? Six dollars in gold, was the answer. I don't recall exactly whether the six dollars for the boots were paid cash or the sum was added to the loan. Possibly the latter. It shows the system of usury; a pair of boots as "bonus" for a loan, even in pioneer times, and Voss against Voss.

John A. Førde.



