

Nr. 4.

5te aarg.

VOSSINGEN

ORGAN FOR VOSSELAGET.

Fortsættelse af det ældste bygdelagsorgan i Amerika. 1857—1860.



MADISON, WISCONSIN, 1923.

VOSELAGETS EMBEDSMÆND:

Præsident — Wm. Nelson, Deerfield, Wis.
 Vice-præsident — R. A. Nestos, Bismarck, N. Dakota.
 Sekretær — K. A. Rene, 617 S. Brooks St., Madison, Wis.
 Kasserer — John R. Glimme, 3234 Hirsch St-, Chicago, Ill.
 Redaktør — K. A. Rene.

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

"Vossingen" har særdeles længe ladet vente paa sig denne gang. Herfor maa nok redaktøren tage hovedskylden. Han har været formeget optaget paa anden maade, idet han ogsaa har maattet gjøre en dyd af nødvendighed og se mere paa fortjenesten end paa moroen. Det har sin interesse at sysle med lagets sager og følge vore sambygdingers bevægelser og virke her i landet saavel som i gamlelandet; men det lægger ofte beslag paa en kostbar tid, som man stundom ikke godt kan afse. "Vossingen" vil dog vedbli at udkomme, selvom det blir noget uregelmæssigt, dersom tilstrækkelige midler til dækning af omkostningerne med trykningen indkommer, hvad der maa antages i betragtning af lagets nuværende medlemsantal. Rigtignok er der endel, som har glemt at indsende sin aarskontingent, men det haabes at disse vil tage sin del igjen og indsende det manglende. Ligeledes er det at haabe, at en og anden i de forskellige strøg, hvor vore sambygding holder til, vil indsende beretninger og nyheder derfra. Der foregaar saa meget nu bare blandt vossingerne her i landet, at det vilde være mere end nok til at fylde et hefte ved at skrive derom, og de historiske beretninger om Voss og vossingerne er nok til at fylde "Vossingens" sider med svært interessant stof i lang tid, naar man faar anledning til at se efter dem; men alt dette er ikke nogen enmands sag, uden at der er midler for haanden, som i tilfælde kan bruges, hvad der hidtil har været smaat bevendt med.

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Vosselaget kom ikke til at holde noget aarsmøde i forløbne aar. Først var det tanken at vente med mødet til nogen af dem, som tog turen til Voss kom tilbage; men da blev det sent paa høsten. Det er ogsaa et betænkeligt arbeide at give sig ikast med disse store møder. Vossingerne lever for spredt til at kunne mødes i store forsamlinger uden større udgifter end man bryder sig om at ofre; og uden at en god lokal komite kan faaes til at tage sig af sagen, kan det komme til at koste en god del af aarskontingenten, som vistnok helst burde gaa til trykning af lagets skrifter. Der skal dog forsøges at faa et møde istand til vaaren; hvor dette blir er endnu ikke bestemt. Der har været gjort forslag om at holde et stevne i Fargo, Nord

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 Editor — K. A. Rene.

Membership/subscription \$1.00 per year. Single numbers 25¢.

"Vossingen" was especially awaited a long time this time. The editor assumes the main responsibility. He has been very busy with other matters, in that he had to do some deeds of necessity and look more on responsibility than entertainment. It's more interesting for him to putter with the lag's affairs and follow our fellow townspeople's activities and to work in this country as well as the old, but it confiscates valuable time, that I can't afford at this time. "Vossingen" will, nevertheless, be sent out, even if a little irregularly, if the means to cover the costs of printing come in, which must be considered in relation to the current membership count. Of course, there a bunch who have forgotten to send in their annual subscription, but we hope these will participate again and send in the delinquencies. Likewise, we hope that one or another in the various areas where our compatriots live, will send information and news. There is now so much happening just among the vossings in this country, that it would more than fill the available space in the journal to write about it, and the historical narratives about Voss and the vossings are enough to fill the "Vossingen" pages with very interesting material for a long time, if only one could have an opportunity to look after things; but all this is not a one-man job, without having the means at hand that are needed, that thus far have been in poor shape.

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The Vosselag didn't have any annual convention in the past year. It was the idea at first to wait with the meeting until some of them who took the trip to Voss returned, but then it got too late in the fall. It is also necessary to give a thought to the amount of work required for these big meetings. The vossings live spread over such a big area that they can't gather in big groups without bigger expense than people care to spend, and unless a good local committee takes care the matter, it will cost a good deal of the annual membership dues, which preferably would be used to print the club journal. We shall try to arrange a meeting in the spring, but this isn't for certain. There has been a proposal to hold the stevne

Dakota, i en af byerne ved Minnesota-grænsen i Syd Dakota eller i Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Kanske blir vi nødt til at holde det i Madison, Wis.

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Skriv efter alle udkomne numre af "Vossingen" og send den til slegt og venner i Norge. De koster \$2.00 for de 12 numre.

TUREN TIL JUBILÆUMSFESTEN PAA VOSS.

Af John Glimme.

Jeg antager at der er adskillige Vosser som ønsker at høre lidt om Vosseturen forleden sommer, Og da undertegnede var en af de faa som tog turen hjem, saa vil jeg i all korthed fortælle lidt om reisen og opholdet paa Voss.

Som dere alle ved, saa blev det paa et af Vosselagets aarsmøder nedsat en komite til at arbeide for at faa saamange Vosser som muligt til at reise hjem til 900-aars festen, der skulde holdes paa Vossevangen den 29de juli 1923.

Det var svært faa som meldte sig til komiteen, saa jeg forstod¹ ganske snart, at det vilde bli yderst vanskeligt at faa Vosserne sammen til et større reiselag; der var nok formeget skrig og forlidet uld, som manden sa, da han klipte grisen. Det saa ud til at den ene stolte paa den andre, at han skulde reise; men selv vilde de af en eller anden grund, hverken ofre tid eller penge paa reisen. Derfor bestemte nogen faa af os her i Chicago, at vi skulde reise med "Stavangerfjord" den 8de mai ifra New York.

Lørdags morgen den 5te mai var vi alle samlet i Grand Central station her færdige til at ta afsted med Den Norske Amerika Linies excursionstog. Der var en masse med skandinaver som skulde afsted med samme tog og samme baad. Vi traf etpar andre Vosser, som kom ifra Minnesota, saa vi blev en liden flok for os selv. Kl. 9:30 satte toget sig i bevægelse, og vi var altsaa paa begyndelsen af Norgesreisen. Liniens herværende agent Mr. Williams var ogsaa med paa toget til New York og gjorde alt han kunde for at gjøre reisen saa behagelig som muligt. Linien sender næsten alle sine passagerer med Baltimore & Ohio R. R. for at gi dem anledning til at bese Washington, D. C. Vi benyttede derfor anledningen til at se landets hovedstad, stoppede der en 4 timer og fortsatte saa til New York, hvor vi ankom søndags aften.

Mandag den 7de maatte vi faa vore billetter iorden, og paa efterm. tog vi en "Rubberneck" buss og kjørte rundt i byen, saa vi ogsaa fik se lidt af Amerikas største by. Tirsdags morgen den 8de mai tog vi med busser over til Brooklyn, hvor Den Norske Amerika Linie har sin kai. Det var et helt virvar førend vi fik fat paa vore in Fargo, North Dakota, in one of the cities on

on the border between Minnesota and South Dakota or in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Maybe it will be necessary to hold it in Madison, WI.

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Write for all previous issues of "Vossingen" and send them to your relatives or friends in Norway. It only costs \$2.00 for the 12 issues.

THE TRIP TO THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT VOSS.

By John Glimme.

I presume that there are various vossings who desire to hear a little about my trip to Voss last summer. Since the undersigned was one of the few who took the trip home, I will talk briefly about the trip and conditions at Voss.

As you know, there was a committee appointed at an annual meeting, to work at organizing as many vossings as possible to go home for the 900-year celebration to be held at Vossevangen July 29, 1923.

There were very few who notified the committee so I soon realized that it would be extremely difficult to get a number of vossings for a big travel group; I got too much squealing and too little wool, as the man said as he clipped the pig. Each encouraged the next person that he should go, but he himself, on some basis, either time or money, wouldn't. Therefore, some of us, here in Chicago, decided that we would go on the "Stavangerfjord", sailing from New York on May 8.

Saturday morning, May 8. We all met at the Grand Central Station ready to leave with the Norwegian-American Line's excursion train. There were many Scandinavians who were going to leave on the same train for the same boat. We met a couple vossings from Minnesota, so we formed a little pack of our own. At 9:30, the train started to move, and we had begun our Norway trip. The line's local agent, Mr. Williams, was along on the train to New York and did everything he could to make our trip as pleasant as possible. The line sends almost all its passengers with Baltimore & Ohio R. R. in order to give them an opportunity to see Washington, DC. We, then, used the chance to see the country's capital, stopping for four hours before continuing to New York, where we arrived Sunday evening.

Monday the 7th was spent confirming our tickets, then we took a "Rubberneck" bus and rode around the city, so we also saw a little of America's largest city. On Tuesday morning, May 8, we rode buses over to Brooklyn, where The Norwegian-American Line had its quay. It was a complete mess before we got our baggage and had them taken care of; but by 12 noon we

kufferter og fik dem ekspedert; men Kl. 12 middag var vi ombord i "Stavangerfjord" og kl. 1 efterm. medens baadens musikkorps spillede norske og amerikanske nationaltoner gled baaden roligt men sikkert ud i New York Bay og satte baugen østover mod den gamle verden.

Vi havde en udmærket fin reise over Atlanteren og tiden gik fort. Den 17de var vi i Nordsjøen. Det var lidt rusket veir den dag; men den næste morgen den 18de var det fint igjen og vi fik da det første glimt af de yderste skjær af gamle Norge. Næsten alle var paa dæk og det var mange forunderlige følelser og forventninger man havde ved at se gamle mor Norge igjen efter saa mange aars fravær. Da vi kom længere ind imellem holmer og skjær havde vi regnbyger, saa det var ikke til at ta feil af, at vi nærmede os Bergen, og kl. 12 middag la baaden ind til kaien.

Vi fik det nu travelt med at fremvise vore pass og landingskort og faa dem stemplet. Komme iland var det toldvæsenets tur til at undersøge alt tøiet. Det gik noksaa hurtigt forresten at faa alt ordnet, tog saa lige til jernbanestationen med en gang og kl. 4 efterm. var vi paa vei til Vossevangen — den sidste stubben af reisen.

Vi ankom til Vossevangen kl. 8 og tog ind paa Prestegaards Hotel. Efter aftensmaden tog vi en tur indover gaden og traf tilfældigvis flere kjendinger og venner. Næste dag efter at ha hilset paa flere gamle kjendinger paa Vangen, traf jeg en nabo og fik kjøre med ham til mit gamle barnehjem Glimme.

Efter de gjensidige hilsener og lykønskninger med min bror Ragnvald og familie samt min tante Synneva, kom samtalen paa glid, blandt andet om de mange hilsener jeg skulde frembære og saa spørge om de forskjellige naboers befindende. Det følte dog noget tomt og ensomt eftersom begge mine forældre var vandret bort, siden sidst jeg var hjemme, 17 aar siden.

Jeg tog saa ind til min tante, som har sit eget hus, hvor jeg havde mit hjem saalænge jeg var hjemme.

De blev alle overrasket ved at se mig, hadde ikke ventet mig før ud i juni; men jeg tænkte som saa, at naar man tar en saa lang reise, saa er jo vaaren i almindelighed den fineste tid i Norge, og til at reise hjem efter "pibevarme" som man siger, snu sig rundt en par gange og saa dra afsted igjen synest mig er naragtigt.

De hadde der hjemme ligesom her en sen og kold vaar. Det var saavidt at marken var begyndt at bli grøn rundt husene og skogen stod bar. Gaardbrugerne hadde det travelt med vaararbeidet og dem holdt paa at saa og sætte poteter lige til Iste juni. Veiret var dog nogenlunde bra, men koldt.

Efter at jeg hadde været hjemme en 2—3 ugers tid og hilset, paa naboer og grændefolk, tog jeg nogen smaa reiser til forskjellige steder, som jeg skal fortælle

were aboard the "Stavangerfjord" and at 1 P. M., while the band played Norwegian and American national anthems the ship glided slowly but surely out into New York Bay and pointed its bow toward the old world.

We had an outstandingly nice trip across the Atlantic and time passed quickly. On the 17th, we were on the North Sea. There was a little inclement weather that day, but by the next morning, it was nice again and we got our first glimpse of the outermost skerries of old Norway. Almost everyone was on deck and one had many strange feelings and expectations in seeing Norway again after so many years absence. When we got further in among the islands, we got some rain clouds, so there was no mistaking that we were nearing Bergen, and at 12 noon the ship pulled up to the dock.

Now, we were busy showing our passes and landing cards and getting them stamped. When we reached land, it was the toll service's turn to inspect our bags. It was rather expeditious to arrange everything and then we went to the railroad station and by 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we were on our way to Vossevangen — the last leg of our journey.

We arrived at Vossevangen at 8 o'clock and moved into Prestegaard's Hotel. After dinner, we walked in the street and, by chance, met several acquaintances and friends. The next day, after I had greeted several old acquaintances at Vangen, I met a neighbor and he drove me to my old childhood home, Glimme.

After the mutual greetings and well wishes with my brother Ragnvald and his family as well as my aunt, Synneva, the conversation flowed, among else about the many greetings I brought and asking of the health of the neighbors. It felt somewhat empty and lonesome after both of my parents had gone, since last I was home, 17 years ago.

I then went over to my aunt's, who has her own house, where I had as my home, as long as I was home.

They were all surprised to see me as they hadn't expected me before June, but I figured that if one were to take such a long trip, and that spring is usually the nicest time in Norway, to go home, smoke only a couple "pipefuls", as people say, then turn around a couple of times and leave again seems foolish to me.

They had a late and cold spring there at home just as we had. The fields had just begun to get green around the buildings and the woods were bare. The farmers were busy with spring work and they were sowing and setting potatoes all the way until June 1. The weather was nice, but cold.

After I had been home 2-3 weeks and greeted all the friends and neighborhood people, I took some short trips to various places that I shall tell about in a

lidt om i et senere nr. af "Vossingen". Jeg var bort til Vangen næsten anden hver dag, hvor jeg altid kunde træffe gamle kjendinger, som jeg ikke hadde seet, siden jeg besøgte Voss sidst.

Paa Vangen var dem allerede begyndt at gjøre forberedelser til den store høitidsfest den 29de juli. I kirken hadde de tat væk det gamle orgelgalleri i Raundalskirken og nyt galleri eller "lem" blev bygget lige frem i kirkens skib. Dele af det nye orgel ankom næsten daglig fra Kristiania og indsættelsen deraf paagik nu uden ophør. I midten af juli arbeidede man baade dag og nat forat faa allting saavidt færdigt, at den kunde bruges under festen. Foruden orgelet, som optar en god del af galleriet saa er der ogsaa plads for et større eller mindre sangkor.

Hele vangen undergik en almindelig rengjøring. Gaderne blev oppudset, selv de gamle hestestald, som stod der faldefærdige, men som man ikke kan bli kvit, blev sat istand med dører og vinduer, bordklædning, hvor det trængtes, og saa malet, saa de saa ud som en million dollars, og fik saaledes sit liv forlænget mindst en 20 aar. Kirketaarnet fik ogsaa en ny dragt af maling, indgangen og gangen rundt kirken blev grusbelagte med pene blomster paa kanterne alle graver rundt i kirken blev sat i stand med ny jord og pene blomster, saa det saa rigtig storartet ud.

De par sidste dage hadde festkomiteen det travelt med at dekorere kirken indvendig med gran og blomster.

Den store høitidsdag oprandt med straalende solskin og varme, en ideal festdag. Tidlig om morgenen kunde man se skarer af fest klædte folk fra alle kanter af bygden paa vei til Vangen, saa der har vel ikke været en saa almindelig ferdsel til Vangen siden St. Olav var der for 900 aar siden. Kirken var snart fuld til trængsel; men i Prestegaardsmoen hadde man bygget en tribune, og did drog en herskars mangfoldighed med en biskop klædt i sin sorte kjole og ordener i spidsen.

Efter gudstjenesten var der en pause, men kl. 2½ skulde den store kirkekonsert gaa af stabelen. Alle pladser var snart optat, og saa blev det nye orgel prøvet offentligt for første gang. Sangerne og musikerne gjorde sine sager udmærket, og det var storartet, at de kunde prestere saadanne vanskelige sager foruden professionel hjælp til alle de soloer, som blev sunget. Lederne var naturligvis bekjendte musikere. Efter konserten bar det afsted over til den gamle stenkrossen, som staar i syd for kirken. Flere taler holdtes der samt sang og musik. Dermed var den vigtigste del af festlig-hederne forbi.

Jeg har aldrig set saa mange folk paa Vangen som den dag. Det var just som State og Madison st. i Chicago i middagstider. Men saa var det ikke

later issue of "Vossingen". I was over to Vangen almost every day, where I almost always met old acquaintances, whom I hadn't seen since the last time I had visited Voss.

Preparations were underway at Vangen already for the big celebration on July 29. They had removed the old organ gallery in the Raundals Church, and built a new loft all the way forward to the church's nave. Parts of the new organ were arriving daily from Oslo and installation was proceeding without problem. By the middle of July, they were working night and day to get everything ready that was going to be used during the festivities. Besides the organ, that occupied a goodly portion of the gallery, there was also room for a bigger or smaller choir.

The entire Vangen was undergoing the regular cleaning. The streets were refurbished, even the old horse stables, that were ready to fall down, but which one couldn't get rid of, were fixed up with doors, windows, and siding, where needed, and painted, so they looked like a million dollars and thereby had their life extended at least 20 years. The church steeple also got a new coat of paint, the entrance and the walks around the church were graveled with pretty flowers planted along the edges and all the graves around the church were repaired with new soil and nice flowers, so it looked really first rate.

The last couple of days the Celebration Committee were busy decorating the church on the inside with pine boughs and flowers.

The big church holiday dawned with beaming sun and warmth, an ideal celebration day. Early in the morning, one could see bands of holiday-clad people from all corners of the district on their way to Vangen; there hadn't been such universal journeying to Vangen since St. Olav was there 900 years ago. The church was soon crowded, but in Prestegaardsmoen, they had built a grandstand and thither went the prevailing multitude led by a bishop in his black gown and orders.

After the service, there was an interval, but at 2:30 o'clock, there was to be the start of the big church concert. All seats were soon taken; the new organ was to be tested in public for the first time. The singers and musicians did extremely well and it was amazing that they could perform such difficult music without the help of professionals for all the solos that were sung. The leaders were, naturally, recognized musicians. After the concert, it was over to the old stone cross, just south of the church. Several speeches were made, as well as singing and music. With this, the most significant portion of the celebration was over.

I have never seen so many people at Vangen as today. It was just like State and Madison Streets in bare bygdefolk heller, men folk fra alle til-

stødende bygder og byer.

Slutningen paa alle festligheder var festmiddagen paa Seim kl. 8 aften. Der var 300 reserverte pladser, og alle billetter var udsolgt. Kl. 8½ gik vi tilbords. Der var tilstede en broget forsamling af prester, biskoper, professorer, store og smaa politikere, udlændinger, bønder og almindelige arbejdere, — kort sagt, folk af alle samfundsklasser. Alt gik fint for sig, og da vi var komne ud middagen og den største hunger tilfredsstillet, begyndte talerne slag i slag, — taler og svartaler i lange baner, skaaler udbragt ved hver tale med en sang indimellem.

Der var ogsaa holdt tale for hjemkomne Vosser fra udlandet eller andre steder.

Netop før middagen begyndte, traf jeg en af Vosselagets gode medlemmer, en mand, som paa staaende fod kan holde en ypperlig tale, og bad ham at svare paa talen til hjemkomne Vosser, naar vi kom saa langt i programmet, og han lovede det, men en anden kandidat kom ham i forkjøbet.

Den svartalen, som blev holdt efter talen til hjemvendte Vosser, var ikke paa sin rette plads og skulde aldrig ha været holdt ved en saadan anledning.

Han fortalte om, hvor godt Vosserne havde gjort det i Amerika, hvor rige de var blit, hvor store politikere og forretningsmænd de var og hvor vel de var agtet og set op til af Amerikanerne, og at det gamle Norge kunde være stolt af sine udvandrede sønner o. s. v. Jeg sad saa flau og vidste ikke, hvorhen jeg skulde snu mig, og jeg saa folk dra paa smilebaandet og hviske: amerikansk skryt. Vel ærede læsere: Hvad synest du om det? — Det er dog ikke saa galt, at det er godt for noget. Vi ved nu, at dere alle staar dere godt, saa jeg vil derfor give spesielt alle de ifra "Voss Herred" anledning til at vise, at dere har hjerte paa rette sted og yde bidrag til det nye kirkeorgel og gamlehjem paa Voss.

For vel et aars tid siden foretog Vossestrendingerne herover en indsamling til kirkeorgelet i Vinje kirke, og de fik ind flere hundrede dollars. Er det ikke muligt, at Vosserne kunde gjøre det samme? Om de gav en 5—10 dollars til mands, saa fik de jo deres 3 maaltider for dagen alligevel, og jeg tror at de vilde faa en mere rolig søvn og føle dere mere tilfreds med verden i almindelighed. Alle gaver, store eller smaa, vil bli modtagne med taknemmelighed af dem derhjemme.

For et aars tid siden fik vi en skrivelse ifra Hr. A. Ullestad med anmodning til at forsøge, om vi kunde faa indsamlet bidrag herover til Voss Gamlehjem. Skrivelsen blev indtatt i "Vossingen" og Minneapolis "Tidende", og den første som ofrede sin \$5.00 var en ikke Vossing.

Chicago at noon. But, it wasn't just people from the area, but people from all adjacent cities and districts.

The finale to all the festivities was a banquet at Seim at 8 in the evening. There were reserved places for 300 and all the tickets had been sold. We went to dinner at 8:30. In attendance were a mixed collection of ministers, bishops, professors, big and small politicians, foreigners, farmers and ordinary workers, — in short, people of all levels of society. Everything went smoothly and when we came out of the dinner with our hunger satisfied, the speeches began in earnest — speech and response in long series, toasts made and a song in between each speech.

There were also speeches for the returned vossings from foreign countries and other places.

Just before the banquet started, I met one of Vosselaget's good members, a man, who can extemporaneously make a superb talk, and I asked him if he would respond for the returned vossings when we reached that point in the program. He promised he would, but he was pre-empted by another candidate.

The response that was made after the speech directed to the home-visiting vossings was improper and should never have been made on this occasion.

He talked about how well the vossings had done in America, how rich they had become, what great politicians and big businessmen they were and how well they were respected and looked up to by the Americans, and old Norway should be proud of its emigrated sons, etc. I sat so shamefacedly, I didn't know which way to turn, and I could see people starting to smile and whisper: "American bombast". Well, esteemed readers, what do you think of that? — But nothing is so bad that it isn't of some good. We know, now, that you are all well off, so I will give you all, from "Voss Herred", an opportunity to show that your hearts are in the right place and you will contribute for the new organ and the old people's home at Voss.

A year ago, the Vossestrendings undertook the collection for the church organ in Vinje church, and amassed several hundred dollars. Isn't it possible, that we vossings could do likewise? If you gave 5—10 dollars, a man, you would get your three meals a day anyway, and I think you would have sleep that is more peaceful and feel more satisfied with the world in general. All gifts, big or small, will be accepted with gratitude by them there at home.

A year ago, we received a letter from Mr. A. Ullestad with a request to see if we could collect a contribution over here for the Voss Old Folk's Home. The letter was printed in "Vossingen" and the Minneapolis "Tidende", and the first contributor wasn't a vossing.

Naar "ikke" Vosser har saa stor interesse for en saa stor og vigtig sag, saa skulde jeg tro, at alle ærværdige Vosser vil betragte det som en æressag at faa anledning til at yde bidrag til et saa godt foretagende. Naar alt kommer til alt, saa skylder de alle noget til deres gamle fødebygd, for de fleste af dere var bare Consumers derhjemme og reiste derfra da de begyndte at bli Producers.

Alle bidrag kan sendes enten til undertegnede eller K. A. Rene, Madison, Wis., eller direkte til Voss Sparebank eller Lensmand Jens Lillegraven.

Det er meningen at Gamlehjemmet skal bestyres paa en lignende maade, som de Gamlehjem man har her.

Jeg besøgte ogsaa Voss Fattiggaard og den var overfyldt med patienter, gamle folk i 80—90 aars alderen, sengeliggende, andre blinde eller fra forstanden, og de alle trængte stadigt tilsyn. De holdt netop paa med en større tilbygning til hovedbygningen for at faa mere rum. Bestyreren er en driftig ung Vossing; men efter hvad jeg saa, saa er der ikke nogen som misunder hverken ham eller det øvrige tjenerskab deres bestilling.

Jeg besøgte ogsaa barnehjemmet. De havde fortiden 11 børn der, som saa noksaa velstelte og fornøiede ud; men saa har de ogsaa et fint hjem, store stuer og stor gaardsplads til at tumle og lege i, og det kan dem gjøre saa frit uden nogen fare.

Jeg antager, at de begynder at bli trætte nu, saa jeg vil slutte for denne gang med en venlig hilsen til alle Vosser og ønsker dere en glædelig jul og et godt nytår.

John Glimme.

DEN STORE MINDEFEST PAA VOSS.

Værdig og storslagen, som det sømmede sig for Vossebyggerne med sine rige historiske minder, blev fejringen af 900-aarsmindet om kristendommens indførelse paa Voss holdt den 29de juli forleden sommer. I forvisningen om almen tilslutning var der gjort store forberedelser. Festdagen blev begunstiget af det herligste veir og en folkemasse paa alt ialt omkring 10,000 personer indfandt sig paa Vangen.

Festen begyndte allerede lørdagsaften den 28de, da man ringte med kirkeklokkerne til høitid. Et ensligt baal lyste op udover kvelden fra Vangsvandets bredder, og maanen kastede sit blege skin over bygden i den klare sommerkveld. Mange folk fra de omliggende bygder havde allerede da indfundet sig paa Vangen.

Søndagsmorgen kl. 8 fik man høre hornmusik fra kirketaarnet, hvilket efterfulgtes af klokkeringning, medens folket i tusinvis samlede sig om den gamle kirke. En egen andagtsfuld stemning

When a "non" vossing has such a great interest in such a big, important subject, I would believe that all respectable vossings would regard it as a matter of honor to have an opportunity to donate to such a good undertaking. All things considered, you all owe something to your birth home because most of you were only Consumers there and only after you left have you become Producers.

All donations can be sent to the undersigned, to K. A. Rene, Madison, WI or directly to Voss Sparebank or Sheriff Jens Lillegraven.

It is intended to manage the Old Folk's Home in the same manner as the homes for the elderly we have here.

I also visited Voss Poor Farm and it was overfilled with patients, old people in 80-90 years range, bedridden, others blind or without minds, and all needed constant attention. They were in the course of building a bigger main building to get more room. The manager was an enterprising young vossing, but according to him, nobody envies his or any of his staff their job.

I visited the orphanage, too. They currently had 11 children there, who appeared well-cared for and satisfied; but they also had a fine home, big rooms and a big yard in which to tumble and play and they can be at liberty without fear.

I presume that you are getting tired now, so I will quit this time with a friendly greeting from all the vossings and wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

John Glimme.

THE BIG COMMEMORATIVE FESTIVAL AT VOSS.

Worthy and splendid, as it behooved Voss with its rich historical past, was the celebration of the 900-year anniversary of the introduction of Christianity held July 29, last summer. With the assurance of general attendance, considerable preparation was done. The festive day was favored with the grandest weather and a crowd of 10,000 people in all showed up at Vangen.

The festival began already on Saturday evening, the 28th, when the church bells were rung for the church holiday. A solitary bonfire lit up the night out over the night from the shore of Lake Vang, and pale moonlight shone on the district in the clear summer night. many people from the surrounding areas had already arrived at Vangen.

Sunday morning at 8 o'clock, horn music could be heard from the steeple, followed by pealing of bells, while people by the thousands

prægede fra først af den store folkemængde, skrev en udenbygds korrespondent.

Af bekendte udenbygds personer, som deltog i festen, kan nævnes kirkeminister Sælen, fylkesmand Friis Peterson, Skoleinspektør Vevle, stortingsmand Skaar, biskoperne Hognestad og Støylen, provst Anker, professor Taranger samt musikbrødrene Erik og Arne Eggen.

Festgudstjenesten begyndte kl. 10 formiddag. I kirken talte først provst Barstad, der tog sit udgangspunkt i Sakarias lovsang: "Miskundelig af hjerte er han den gode Gud" o. s. v. og fortsatte dels i versificeret form om den Guds sol, som var rundet over vossebyggerne, da kong Olav sendtes af Herren til Voss. Han ønskede derpaa alle velkomne og sluttede med bøn. Saa holdt biskop Hognestad en prædikeri over Davids salme no. 100. Gjennem denne salme strømmede der glæde og tak, sagde han, og glæde og tak fylder os idag. Der var glæde i Israel da de forstod, at Gud havde skabte dem til sit folk. Ved kristendommens indførelse kunde nordmæn-mændene ogsaa sige, at de var skabte til Guds folk. Kristendommen bragte en vending indenfra, en nyskabning i sjælen. Kong Olav fandt denne Guds sag stor nok til at ofre sit blod for den, og med sit blod malte han korsmærket paa land og folk, et mærke, som aldrig vil slettes ud. Han omtalte den Guds kraft, som han ved sit skaberværk lader strømme til alle gennem naaden i frelser-værket. Dene kristne kirke var en kraftstation for naade-kraften. Det havde kostet meget at faa den kristne kirke bygget i Norge, men lyset og varmen, som havde strømmet fra den i 900 aar var mere end man kunde maale, og dette skal vedbli ogsaa herefter at strømme fra æt til æt. Provst Anker talte tilslut om det syn, som hellig Olav havde, da han fra fjeldet paa sin sidste reise saa udover landet og videre over hele verden. Saalangt, som Olavs syn rak skulde kristendommen og dens goder række. Nu er den norske kirke en missionsmor, som spreder kristendommen til andre folkeslag.

I prestegaardsmoen holdtes ogsaa Gudstjeneste paa samme tid, som i kirken. Der prædikede biskop Støylen, og professor Taranger holdt derpaa en tale.

Kl. 2:30 holdtes kirkekonserten af et stort blandet kor med Erik Eggen som dirigent og Arne Eggen ved orgelet. Olav Tryggvason, Landkjending og andre sange blev først sungne. saa kom en lang kantata, skreven af folkehøiskolebestyrer Lars Eskeland med musik af Erik Eggen. Det hele var særdeles vakkert og stemningsfuldt, blev det sagt.

Kl. 5 var der folkefest ved det gamle sten Kors bortenfor kirken. Der samlede sig mellem 2 og 3000 mennesker. En sang blev af sunget og saa holdt ordfører N. J. Finne følgende tale: Sambygninger, grander og frendefolk! Vi er idag samlet til den største

characterized the big crowd from the first, wrote one of the correspondents from outside Voss.

Recognizable personages from outside of Voss, who participated in the festival that we can list include the Minister of Church and Education Friis Peterson School Inspector Vevle, Stortings Representative Skaar, Bishops Hognestad and Støylen, Dean Anker, Professor Taranger as well as the musical brothers Erik and Arne Eggen.

The celebratory church service began at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. Dean Barstad was the first to preach and took as his lesson, Zacharias' song of praise: "Merciful of heart is He the good God" etc. and continued partly in versified form about God's sunlight that shone on the Voss districts, when King Olav was sent by Our Lord to Voss. He welcomed everyone and then closed with prayer. Next Bishop Hognestad preached a sermon based on David's Psalm no. 100. joy and thanks streamed through this psalm, he said, and joy and thanks fill us today. They were joyful in Israel when they learned that God had made them his Chosen People. With the introduction of Christianity, the Norwegians could also say that they were made God's people. Christianity brought a turning inwards, a rebirth of the soul. King Olav found this God's cause of sufficient importance to shed his blood for it, and with his own blood, he portrayed the mark of the cross on this land and people, a mark that will never wear out. He talked about God's power and Who via His creation lets mercy reach everyone by his grace. This church is a power station of this mercy. It cost a lot to build the Christian churches in Norway but the light and warmth that have streamed forth from them in the 900 years was immeasurable, and it shall exist hereafter and stream from generation to generation. Dean Anker spoke at the end about the vision that Saint Olav had from the mountains on his last trip and he looked over the country and further over the whole world. As far as Saint Olav's vision reached, would Christianity and its God reach. Now the Norwegian church is a mission mother that spreads Christianity to other peoples.

There was a service at the same time as in the church, out at Prestegaardsmoen. Bishop Støylen preached there, and Professor Taranger followed with a speech.

A church concert was presented at 2:30 o'clock with a big combined choir with Erik Eggen, directing and Arne Eggen at the organ. "Landsighting" and other songs were sung first, then came a long cantata, written by the People's High School Principal Lars Eskeland, with music by Erik Eggen. It all was especially beautiful and moving, they said.

At 5 o'clock, there was a people's festival by the old stone cross across from the church. Between 2 and 3000 people assembled. A song was sung and then Mayor N. J. Finne gave the following speech: Fellow citizens, neighbors and foreigners! We have gathered for the big-

mindehøitid i Vossebygdens historie, og mange er mødt her fra bygden, fra grandebygderne og fra bygder og byer, som ligger længere borte. Vossinger, som er reist ud for at finde sig levevei og bostad andre steder, har fundet veien hjem igjen til sin fødebygd; — ja, helt fra Amerika er mange komne; og her er representanter for rigsstyret, stiftsdirektionen, fylket o. fl. Maa jeg faa lov til at ønske alle hjertelig velkomne til denne mindestund.

Vi er samlede paa samme sted og samme jordstykke, som de gamle for 900 aar siden mødte den nye lære og den nye tid. Men de vilde ikke godvillig tage imod den nye lære. De mødte hær-klædte til strid, til kamp mod det nye og til værn om sin gamle tro og sin gamle retsopfatning. Vi kan tænke os, at naar de hærklædte og stridslystne mænd fra bygderne her omkring saa kong Olav Haraldson med sin hær komme frem deroppe i Bordalsskaret, og de kom nedover, saa kan det nok hændte, at modet ikke netop var ivoksende.

Hvorhenne kongsmændene gik over Vosseelven er uvist. Mulig kom de over Vossabakken og hidover prestegaardsmoen, men det er ogsaa mulig, at de gik over elven ved Gardsvadet, de kalder. Det var der, den gamle veien gik over "Vosso" før Brynebroen var bygget. Der er endnu spor efter den gamle vei der borte i moen i mærkeskillet mellem Lekves og Prestegaardsmoen.

Saa vidt som sagaen melder var hellig Olav den første konge, som holdt ting med folket her i bygden. Smaakonger havde nok holdt ting med folket her, saaledes Gunhildsønnerne, Harald og Sigurd, men den dagen, som vi i denne stund skal mindes, da mødtes de med kongen over Norges rige.

Harald Haarfagre havde samlet landet til et rige. Hellig Olav vilde samle folket, saa det blev et folk, og han vilde samle det ind under den største kongstanke, som er baaren frem i verden — ind under Jesus Kristi evangelium i tro og lære. Underligt er det derfor ikke, at naar de stod ansigt til ansigt med Norges konge og hans mænd, som bar korsmærket baade paa sin hjelm og paa sit skjold; at de da syntes, at de gamle guder og den gamle gudstro ikke længer var at lide paa. Her stod da "fylka te strid den gamle og so dan nyare tid, det som hadde vore mot det som skulde verta, det som skulde stiga mot det som skulde detta."

Vi ved at der blev ingen kamp med spyd mod spyd, da ingen af Vosserne vilde staa fremst i fylkingen; men der blev en aandens kamp. De sterke armene faldt, og folket bøiede sig ind under den nye lære. De lod sig døbe og kristne og de lovede kongen troskab. Stenkorset, som staar her, skal efter sagnet være reist til minde om denne hændelse for 900 aar siden. Vi staar saaledes paa historisk grund.

I 900 aar har læren om Hvidekrist lydt i bygden. I 900 aar har æt efter æt blit døbt og ført ind under

gest commemorative service in the history of the Voss area, and many have come here from regions and cities far away. Vossings that emigrated to find themselves a living and home somewhere else, have found the way home to their home town; — yes, many came all the way from America and there are representatives from the government, the diocese, the county, and more. May I have a chance to wish you a hearty welcome to the commemorative hour?

We had met at the same place and on the same piece of ground as the old inhabitants, 900 years ago encountered the new teachings and the new era. They didn't willingly accept the new teachings. They met geared for battle, to fight against the new and guard their old belief and its old concept of right. We can just imagine that when the armed and belligerent men from the district around here saw King Olav Haraldson's army appear up there in Bordal's Gap and come downward, that it could well happen that their courage wasn't exactly growing.

Where the king's men crossed the Voss River, is unknown. Possibly, they came down the Voss slopes and across to Prestegaardsmoen, but also they may have crossed the river at Gard's Ford, as it is called. It was there that the road crossed "Vosso" before the Bryne bridge was built. There are still tracks of the old road over there in the grazing land where the road divides between Lekve's and Prestegaard's fields.

As far as we can learn from the sagas, St. Olav was the first king to hold court here in the district. Smaller chieftains had evidently held court with the residents here, such as the sons of Gunhild, Harald and Sigurd, but the day that we commemorate now, there they met with the king of the Kingdom of Norway.

Harald Hårfagre had collected Norway as one kingdom. Saint Olav wanted to unite the people, so they became one people, and he wanted to lead them under the highest royal ideals, under the gospel of Jesus Christ in belief and teaching. Therefore, it's not surprising that when they stood face to face with the king of Norway and his men, who wore the cross on their shields and helmets, then thought they couldn't rely on their old gods and beliefs. Here then, stood "the people who would fight the old and thus create a new time, those who had the courage against that which was, and would rise against that which would fall".

We know there was no battle of spear against spear, since no one of the vossings wanted to stand in front, it became a battle of wits. The strong weapons collapsed and the people bowed to the new teachings. They were baptized, Christianized and declared allegiance to the king. The stone cross, that stands here, according to the sagas, was erected as a monument to this event 900 years ago. Thus, we stand on historic ground.

For 900 years, the teachings about the White Christ have predominated in the area. For 900 years, generation

korsmærket og ind paa Jesu kongesvei. De gamle mødte her til strid. Men det blev til fred og velsignelse. Vi mødes her til tak til ham, som styrer folk og skjæbner, i tak for det han gav folket og bygden paa mærkesdagen for 900 aar siden.

Professor Taranger talte derpaa. Han tog sit udgangspunkt fra et sted i den gamle Gulatingslov, der igjen var taget fra St. Olavs lov, som var vedtagen paa Mostratinget aaret efter Olavs færd til Voss. Han paapegte der, hvorledes lagrettesmændene betragtede sig som folkets repræsentanter, og hvorledes lagmanden talte i folkets navn, nævnte saa om det vigtigste paabud i loven, som siger, at vi skal bøie os i øst og bede til den hellige kristus om godt aar og fred, hvad der skulde gjøres ikke bare i kirken, men ogsaa paa tingel; og de skulde bede om, at han maatte holde landet bygt og kongen frisk. De trængte Guds hjælp til styrelsen af folk og land, og det vigtigste spørgsmaal i middelalderen var at faa lande-fred og indre ro.

Biskop Hognestad besteg saa talerstolen efter Taranger og oplæste en hilsmingskrivelse fra den Norsk Lutherske Kirke i Amerika, hvori der stod, at man paa kirkemødet i St. Paul, hvor 1,212 stemmeberettigede prester og delegater fra kirkemenighederne var tilstede, blev det vedtaget at lade formanden i samfundet dr. H. G. Stub besøge fædrelandet og hilse frændefolket paa Voss og Valdres ved 900-aars festlighederne for kristendommens indførelse*). Da dr. Stub var paa festen i Valdres havde han bedt biskop Hognestad om at frembære hilsmingen. Desuden læste han op et brev fra dr. Stub, hvilket er interessant nok til at gjengives her, og ifølge "Hordaland" lød det saaledes: "

"Kjære frænder paa Voss: Da festlighederne paa Voss og i Valdres er samtidige, og det saaledes er umuligt for mig at være paa begge steder, være det mig tilladt at føie nogle ord til vort samfunds hilsen. Stiftets høiagtede biskop, biskop Hognestad vil være saa venlig at fremlægge begge dele. Ihvor vel født i Amerika, hvor min far fra 1848 virket som den 2den norske prest fra Norge, kom jeg under min fars fireaarige ophold i Norge fra 1861—65 som elev til Bergens katedralskole i berøring med Voss gennem min onkel Kristian Meischer, gift med min fars søster, paa gaarden Lekve. Der tilbragte jeg hyggelige ferier, og den dag idag har jeg slegt paa Voss. De tidlige indtryk fra det deilige Voss holdt jeg, og det styrkedes gennem flere besøg fra Amerika.

Dernæst har i Amerika staaet i venskabsforhold til mange vossinger og det tildels bekjendte personligheder. Jeg skal nævne nogle. Det tør nok

*) Var dette refereret i aviserne her?

after generation have been baptized and led into the road to Jesus Christ. There came peace and blessedness. We meet here in gratitude to Him, who guides people and controls our destiny, in appreciation for what He gave the inhabitants and district on that notable day 900 years ago.

Professor Taranger spoke next. He took his subject from a place in the old Gulating's law, which again was derived from St. Olav's law excerpted from the Mostrating, the year after Olav's expedition to Voss. He pointed out that even though the judges regarded themselves as representatives of the people, and even if the jurors represented the people, he indicated the most important thing in the law which states, we are to genuflect toward the east and pray to the holy Christ for good years and peace, and it should not only be done in the churches, but also in court; and they should pray that He would keep the country developed and the king strong. They needed God's help to rule the people and the country, and the most important question in the middle ages was to maintain law and order.

Bishop Hognestad then mounted the podium after Taranger and read aloud from a greeting letter from the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America that said that in a church meeting in St. Paul, with 1,212 voting eligible ministers and delegates from congregations present, it was to have the society's president Dr. H. G. Stub visit the fatherland and greet kindred at Voss and Valdres at the 900-year anniversary of the introduction of Christianity*). Since Dr. Stub was at the celebration in Valdres, he had requested Bishop Hognestad to bring forth the greetings. In addition, he read a letter from Dr. Stub, which is of enough interest to be repeated here and quoting from "Hordaland", it goes thusly:

"My dear kin at Voss: Since the celebration at Voss and in Valdres occur simultaneously and thus it is impossible for me to be at both places, permit me to relay some words of greeting from our organization. The diocese' highly respected bishop, Bishop Hognestad, will be kind enough to present both parts. Although I was born in America, where my father served as the second minister from Norway, during my father's four-year stint in Norway from 1861-65, I was a pupil at Bergen's Cathedral School and in contact with Voss via my uncle Kristian Meischer, married to my father's sister, on the Lekve farm. There, I spent my happy vacations, and yet today, I have relatives at Voss. I still hold the impression of beautiful Voss, only increased by several visits from America.

Subsequently America was in a friendly relationship with many vossings and occasional notable personages. I shall list some. Probably there are still some of you here,

*) Were these minutes in the papers here?

være dem her, som endnu mindes Prof. Knut Bergh. Han var en sjelden begavet ung mand, studerede lov, blev medlem af Iowas legislatur og tilsidst professor ved den første norske latinskole eller gymnasium Luther College, Decorah. Som taler var han uovertræffelig især paa engelsk. Men størst af alt var, at han var en from kristen. En tærende sygdom nødte ham til at opgi sin stilling. Han søgte helsebod i Norge. Men saa var ikke Guds vilje. Han døde i ung alder og hans grav er i Norge. Den talrige Rekveslegt er veikjendt. Af den skal jeg nævne Lars, som blev professor ved Luther College, Iowa, i flere aar var De Forenede Staters generalkonsul i Rotterdam, Holland, og som indtil sin død var professor ved Luther College. Hans bror Styrk var en ivrig prest i et af de største kald. Hvilken ry, der gik af Styrk, vil blandt andet fremgaa deraf, at en vossekone sa til Lars under et besøg paa Voss: "Han bror din, Styrk skal være den største mand i Amerika han."

Den nordmand, som i det politiske liv har bragt det længst, er selvfølgelig Knute Nelson, født paa gaarden Kvilekval, Evanger. I en lang aarrække har vi været venner. Hans livsførelse høres næsten som et eventyr. Den 7-aarige gut kommer med sin fattige mor til Amerika og bor en tid i Chicago, saa i Wisconsin. Der blir han konfirmeret, og der arbejder han haardt for at tjene lidt penge, saa han kunde komme paa skole. Gutten vilde frem. Han studerede lov og flytted vestover følgende det raad, som den bekjendte Horace Greeley gav "Go West young man". I Alexandria slaar han sig ned, vinder straks anseelse for sin dygtighed og hæderlighed, vælges til medlem af legislaturen; saa blir han guvernør for staten Minnesota, gjen vælges, saa Forenede Staters senator i Washington, gjenvælges gang paa gang og døde iaar som senator og noget over 80 aar gammel. Det er dem, som mener, at hvis han ikke havde været født i Norge, vilde han muligens have havnet paa president-stolen.

Til hans 80de fødselsdag sendte jeg ham et brev, hvilket jeg mindede om den Guds naade, som havde fulgt ham fra barndommen til alderdommens graa haar. Alt ellers forandres, forgaar; men Guds naade i Jesus Kristus bestaar, og den er det eneste, som bærer os i livet og døden. Jeg fik svar fra ham, i hvilket han takker saa hjerteligt for brevet og siger, at intet kunde være ham til mere trøst og opmuntring end breve af denne art. Jeg nævner dette, fordi det, er et vidnesbyrd om, at det norske folks største mand i Staterne holdt fast ved de evige uforanderlige sandheder, han havde lært og tilegnet sig. Senator Knute Nelson var en gammel-lutheraner, som i al enfoldighed holdt fast ved sin banelærdom og ikke vilde vide noget af senere tiders forsøg paa at tage marven ud af lutherdom og kristendom. Jeg satte derfor stor pris paa at bli anmodet

who still remember Prof. Knut Bergh. He was an unusually talented young man, who studied law, became a member of the Iowa Legislature and eventually a professor at the first Latin School or junior college, Luther College, Decorah. He was an unsurpassed speaker in English. Nevertheless, most important of all, he was a pious Christian. A wasting illness required that he give up his position. He sought a cure in Norway. However, that wasn't the will of God. He died at a young age and his grave is in Norway. The plentiful Rekve family is well known. Of them, I want to mention Lars, who became a professor at Luther College, Iowa; for several years, he was the United States General Consul in Rotterdam, Holland, and until his death was a professor at Luther College. His brother, Styrk, was zealous minister with one of the biggest calls. Whatever renown Styrk had, among else it would be evident from, a Voss woman saying to Lars, while on a visit to Voss: "Your brother, Styrk, is supposed to be one of the biggest men in America, he is".

The Norwegian, who in his political life reached the farthest, was, of course, Knute Nelson, born on the Kvilekval farm in Evanger. We have been friends for many years. The conduct of his life sounds almost like a fairytale. The 7 year-old boy came to America with his penniless mother and lived in Chicago for a while, then in Wisconsin. There, he was confirmed, and there he labored to earn money to go to school. The boy wanted to get ahead. He studied law and moved westward following the advice of the famous Horace Greeley gave: "Go west, young man". He settled in Alexandria, and soon had a reputation for his ability and integrity, and was elected a member of the legislature, then he became governor of the state of Minnesota, was re-elected, the United States Senator in Washington and re-elected time after time until he died this year as a senator and some over 80 years old. There are those who insist, that had he not been born in Norway, he would possibly have been president.

For his eightieth birthday, I sent him a letter, in which I reminded him of God's mercy that had followed him from childhood to old age's gray hair. Everything else changes, disappears, but God's mercy through Jesus Christ is constant and is the only thing that carries us through life and death. I got an answer in which he thanked heartily for the letter and said that nothing could be of more comfort and encouragement to him than letters of this type. I mention this, because it is a testimonial to the fact that Norway's biggest man in the States held to the eternal truths he had learned and adopted for himself. Senator Knute Nelson was a life-long Lutheran, who in all simplicity clung to his childhood learning and didn't want anything of recent time's attempts to take the marrow out of Lutheranism and Christianity. I greatly value being requested to hold the funeral address

om at holde ligtaalen over senator Knute Nelson. Som ganske ung mand havde han deltaget i den amerikanske borgerkrig og været villig til ofre sit liv for unionens bevarelse og negerslaveriets afskaffelse. Derfor blev han begravet med fuld militær honor; men det var kun kirken, som talte ved hans baare, der fulgtes af tusinder.

Jeg faar tilføie, at senator Knute Nelson i gjerning beviste, at han høiagtede det fjerde bud: "Hædre din fader og moder". Han glemte aldrig sin gamle mor, men viste hende til det sidste al sønlig kjærlighed.

Den norsk lutherske kirke i Amerika takker idag ogsaa Voss for alle de gjæve mænd og kvinder, som har været med at bygge kirken i Amerika, som nu tæller omkring 500,000 sjæle med de mange skoler, med en udstrakt indremission, med en noksaa stor hedningemission i Kina og Madagaskar, i Zululand, blaadt indianer og eskimoer, med et stort barmhjertighedsarbeide.

Vi takker for arven, som begyndte for 900 aar siden, for reformationens velsignelser, for den kjærlighed for Guds ord og kirke, det udflyttede Norge og ogsaa udflytterfolket fra Voss, har vist ved sin kraftige deltagelse i kirkens arbeide.

Vort ønske og vor bønner, at det norske folk paa begge sider af havet maatte være forenet i den tro, som engang er overantvordet de hellige. Gud give, at vi alle maatte vedbli at være borgere af det rige, hvor intet hav, intet sprog, intet kaar gjør noget skille, men hvor alle er et i Jesus Kristus! Som kristne siger vi aldrig farvel for bestandig, men "paa gjensyn" der, hvor intet farvel skal høres mere, men evigt samvær glæde vore sjæle og lovsang lyde for frelsen alene af naade ved troen paa vor dyrebare frelser.

Herren velsigne menighederne paa Voss med deres prester samt stiftets høitærede biskop! Han signe den norske kirke, det norske folk med konge og dronning og kronprins, — i Jesu navn!

Det vedtoges, at festkomiteen skulde sende skriftligt svar paa hilsningen. Ordfører Finne læste op hilsningstelegram fra kongen. Folkehøi-skolebestyrer Lars Eskeland talte saa om Hellig Olavs værk i Norge. Han begyndte med at omtale det hurtige omskifte, som fandt sted i Norge efter kong Olavs fald paa Stiklestad—hvorledes kongen blev den store nordiske helgen, som folket angrende samlede sig om fra landsende til landsende og bandt dem sammen til et folk. Saa omtalte han kong Olavs drømme. To gange havde) han i drømme havt valget mellem at gaa paa pilgrimsfærd til Jerusalem eller reise hjem til Norge, sit fædreland, hvor han skulde bli konge evindeligt. Olav reiste til sit fædreland, fik den første gang landet paany samlet og fredet for fremmedvædet. Anden gang blev han konge evindeligt, da han fadt og blev erklæret hellig. Norges rige var først samlet, da alle,, som talte norrønasproget var samlet om kristendommen

for Senator Knute Nelson. As a young man, he had fought in the American Civil War and been willing to offer his life to preserve the Union and abolish slavery. Therefore, he was buried with full military honors, but it was only the church, that spoke at his casket, that was accompanied by thousands.

I want to add, that Senator Knute Nelson in his career demonstrated that he highly regarded the fourth commandment: "Honor your father and mother". He never forgot his old mother, but always showed her a son's love until the end.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church in America today also thanks Voss for all the distinguished men and women, who helped build the church in America, which now counts about 500,000 souls with many schools, with an extensive home mission and also a rather large heathen mission in China, Madagascar and Zululand, among the Indians and Eskimos, with a big work of mercy.

We thank you for the heritage, that began 900 years ago, for the blessing of the Reformation, for the love of God's Word and the church, that emigrated Norway and also those emigrated from Voss, have shown by their strong participation in the work of the church.

Our wishes and our prayers, that the Norwegians on both sides of the ocean will be united in that faith that once was entrusted the blessed. God give, that we all will be citizens of that kingdom, where no ocean, no language, no life situation can divide us, but where everyone is one with Jesus Christ! As Christians we never say farewell constantly, but "til we meet again" there where farewell will never be heard again, but eternal togetherness gives our souls joy and praise for the salvation, alone by the mercy of faith in our precious Savior.

May the Lord bless the congregations at Voss with their ministers as well as their highly esteemed bishop! May he bless the Norwegian Church, the Norwegian people with their king, queen and crown prince, — in Jesus' name!

It was moved that the Celebration Committee should sent a response to the greeting. Mayor Finne read a greeting telegram from the king. People's High School Principal Lars Eskeland talked about St. Olav's work in Norway. He began by discussing the rapid changes occurring in Norway after King Olav fell at Stiklestad—how the king became the big Norwegian hero so that people with regret joined together from land's end to land's end and bound themselves as one people. Then he discussed King Olav's dreams. Twice he had dreams of choosing between making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem or going home to Norway, his fatherland, where he would be king "eternally". Olav went home to his fatherland and for the first time united the country free from foreigners. The second time he became king "eternally", he fell and was declared a saint. The kingdom of Norway was united at last when all the people who spoke Old Norse were

og en ny folkelig grundtanke, den at landet skulde bygges med lov indenfra, og alle skulde have samme ret, baade fattig og rig. Landet taalte ikke dette fra først af; derfor maatte Olav lade sit liv, men hans gjerning seirede, og denne er i virke ogsaa idag. Kong Olav peger over landet og viser at fædrelandet fordrer villige tjenere, som ikke bare ser paa egeninteressen (madhugen) men er store nok til at se udover hele landet, og endda, videre, og fordi han altid maa staa saaledes for folket vil han være konge i Norge evindeligt og Olavsdagen vil blive høitideligt holdt.

Efter nogle sange af jubilæumskoret, holdt formanden i festkomiteen, hr. disponent L. Kindem, en takketale, hvori han rettede en speciel tak til de forskjellige personer og grupper af deltagere. Glædeligt var det, sagde han herunder, at flere af de udflyttede sambygdinge i disse dage besøge sin fødebygd og er med i festen. Tak skal de have for det.

Om kvelden holdtes festmiddag paa Seim i folkehøiskolelokalet. Festkomiteens formand hr. L. Kindem bad forsamlingen sætte sig tilbords. Beværtningen bestod blandt andet i rømmegrød og steg m. m. Efter spisningen kom talernes række. Hr. L. Kindem talte for kongen, ordfører Finne for storting og regering, Lars Eskeland for fædrelandet, provst Barstad for kirken, stortingsmand Olav Bjørgum for fylket, og vise-ordfører Lars Gjerde for de hjemkomne vossinger. Statsraad Sælen svarede paa talen for storting og regering og talte saa for Voss. Fylkesmand Friis Peterson svarede paa talen til fylket, biskopperne Hognestad og Støylen for kirken og missionsprest Svend Tverberg takkede for talen til de hjemkomne vossinger, professor Taranger talte om Herderne. Saa oplæstes endel telegrammer fra mange steder omkring i landet.

I anledning mindefesten paa Voss skrev folkehøiskolebestyrer Lars Eskeland et festskrift om Hellig Olav. Særlig interessant er det at se deri om kong Olavs reise til Voss—om den vei han tog fra Hardanger og merkerne efter denne m. m. Han har hentet frem igjen forskjellige sagn i bygden om dette og fastslaaet uden tvil, at kong Olav tog fra Folkedal i Hardanger opover til Krossa-sæt, hvor skillet mellem Voss og Granvin var. Der har de taget hvil, og til minde derom er der senere, da Olav blev erklæret hellig, reist et kors paa stedet. Om kvelden har saa kongen kommet til Himle i Bordalen og har sandsynligvis overnattet der. Et kors blev senere reist ogsaa der, og navnet Himleskrossen er jo kjendt den dag idag af alle lokalkjendte personer der. Etsteds mellem Væte og Berge i Vestbygden ligger Olavstoen, som er beskrevet i et gammelt dokument. Dette navn skal ogsaa være efter Hellig Olavs færd til Voss. Paa Kvilekval er et sted, som kaldes Krossen. Krossneset er

united with a new democratic fundamental idea and the country would create their law domestically, and everyone should have the same rights, both rich and poor. The country wouldn't accept this at first; therefore, Olav had to forfeit his life, but his idea survived and is still alive today. King Olav points over the land and shows that the fatherland demands willing servants, who don't look only after their own interests (look for a house where you always get a good dinner) but are big enough to look over the entire country, and farther; and because he will remain that for the people of Norway, he will remain king of Norway "eternally" and St. Olav's Day be commemoratively observed.

After a pair of songs by the Jubilee Choir, the president of the celebration committee, Mr. managing director L. Kindem gave speech of thanks, which directed special thank yous to various individuals and groups of participants. It was gratifying, he added, that several emigrated vossings were visiting, and participated in the celebration. Thanks to you all.

There was a banquet at Seim in the high school. Pres. L. Kindem invited everyone to the tables. The menu consisted of rømmegrød and steak, and more. After dining, there came a series of speakers. Mr. Kindem spoke for the king, Mayor Finne for the parliament and government, Lars Eskeland for the fatherland, Bjørgum for the county board, and Vice Mayor Lars Gjerde for the returned vossings. Cabinetman Sælen answered on behalf of the parliament and government and spoke about Voss. County Superintendent Friis Peterson answered on behalf of the county, Bishops Hognestad and Støylen for the church and Missionary Svend Tverberg thanked for the recognition of the returned vossings, Prof. Taranger talked about the Hordalandings. Telegrams from around the country were read.

People's High School Principal Lars Eskeland at Voss took the occasion of the Commemorative to write a celebratory paper about Saint Olav. It is especially interesting to read of King Olav's trip to Voss — about the route he took from Hardanger and the signs of this. He is recalled about it, in the district sagas and it establishes beyond doubt that King Olav went by way of Folkedal in Hardanger up over to Krossasæt, where there is the division between Voss and Granvin. They rested there, and he was declared a saint later, a cross was erected on the site. That night, he probably arrived at Himle in Bordalen and most likely spent the night. A cross was erected there also, later, and the name Himleskrossen is still used yet today by all the local people. On a place between Væte and Berge in Vestbygdi lies Olavstoen (Olav's patch of grass), which is described in an old document. This name was used following Saint Olav's trip to Voss. At Kvilekval there is a place, known as Krossen. Krossneset is near Bolstad fjord. At Fadnes,

ved Bolstadfjorden. Paa Fadnes skal kongen ogsaa have stanset. Meget andet interessant er at finde i skriftet.

Eskeland udgav ogsaa et Oratorium — en digteriek behandling af hellig Olavs værk og færd til Voss. Heri er den paa festen sungne kantata m. m. Det er et betydeligt arbejde Eskeland her har gjort. Et exemplar af disse skrifter er foræret Vosselaget af L. Kindem, Voss.

Før festen udkom skriftet For By og Bygd, trykt i Kristiania, med et nummer som næsten bare angik Voss—med disponent L. Kindems billed paa titelbladet og billeder af mange andre vossinger ellers. Mange af landets største aviser havde sine specielle korrespondenter ved mindefesten, og disse blade havde store billeder og lange referater af festligheden og om bygden. Vi har seet Bondebladet, Den 17de Mai, Nationen og Tidens Tegn foruden Hordaland, og alle har været begejstret over den store fest.

Det nye orgel i Vossevangens kirke blev fagmæssigt bedømt og, antaget den 29de september. Det er bygget af firmaet Olson & Jørgensen, har 28 stemmer og alt tidsmæssigt tilbehør, saa det betegnes som førsteklasses i enhver henseende. Orgelet er som andet-steds nævnt, sat i den gamle saakaldte Raundalskirke, hvor et nyt galleri, som rækker over hele rummet lige frem til fremste kant af portalen i skibet er bygget. Orgelet er i tre dele og dækker hele nordre væg og ligeledes de to hjørner, sydøstre og sydvestre. Det er gjort saa for at vinduerne skal være fri. Bælgen og viften er plaseret i taarnet, og fra disse fører tre luftkanaler ned til orgelet. Orgel-prospektet er særdeles vakkert. Det er i gammel norsk stil, udført efter tegning af arkitekt Greve. Orgelet med prospekt koster omkring 50,000 kroner.

I kirken er indsat 3 glasmalede vinduer. Det ene er i vinduet over hovedindgangen, de andre i vinduerne paa hver side af altertavlen; Et fjerde vindu vil ogsaa bli indsat. De har været rosende omtale i aviserne.

Forsaavidt navne er opgivet var disse paa Voss forleden sommer: John Glimme, Odd Fletre, Mrs. Isak Vinsand og Martha Hoie fra Chicago; Pastor J. J. Ekse, Henricks, Minn. Thorkel Setre og søn, og Christi Aure fra Minneapolis; Johannes Ringheim, Forsyth, Mont., samt Martha A. Dagestad og Ola Tesdal; Desuden missionsprest Svend Tverberg, som kom fra Madagaskar.

Dr. Peter Nestos og Sivert Vinje med hustruer var ogsaa paa et kort besøg til hjembygden, men overvar ikke mindefestlighederne.

the king also was supposed to have halted. A great deal else is to be found in writings.

Eskeland also published an oratorio — a poetry rich handling of Saint Olav's work and journey to Voss. It was sung as a cantata during the celebration. Eskeland has created a significant work. A copy of this was presented to the Vosselag by L. Kindem, Voss.

The magazine *By og Bygd*, printed in Oslo, with an issue almost completely about Voss with director L. Kindem's picture on the title page and many other vossings too. Many of the country's biggest newspapers had their special correspondents at the commemorative celebration, and these papers had big pictures and long reports about the festivities and about the district. We have seen *Bondebladet* (The Farm Journal), *The 17th of Mai* (The 17th of May), *Nationen* (The Nation) and *Tidens Tegn* (Sign of the Times) in addition to Hordaland, and all were satisfied with the big celebration.

The new organ in Vossevangen's church was technically inspected and approved September 29. It was built by the firm of Olson & Jørgensen, has 28 voices and all modern attachments, so it is first class in all aspects. The organ, which is mentioned elsewhere, was located in the old so-called Raundal's church, where a new loft, reaching over the entire space completely forward to the entrance of the nave, was built. The organ is in three parts and covers the entire northern wall and also the two corners, southwest and southeast. This was done so that the windows would be clear. The bellows and fan are located in the steeple and from here air ducts lead down to the organ. The appearance of the organ is especially handsome. It is in old Norwegian style, carried out according to design by architect Greve. The organ, with façade, cost about 50,000 NKR.

In the church, are placed three stained glass windows. On over the main entrance, the others in windows on each side of the altar; a fourth window was also installed. They have been roundly praised in the papers.

As far as we were given the names, these were at Voss last summer: John Glimme, Odd Fletre, Mrs. Isak Vinsand and Martha Hoie from Chicago; Pastor J. J. Ekse, Henricks, Minn. Thorkel Setre and son, and Christi Aure from Minneapolis; Johannes Ringheim, Forsyth, Mont., as well as Martha A. Dagestad and Ola Tesdal; in addition, missionary Svend Tverberg, who came from Madagascar.

Dr. Peter Nestos and Sivert Vinje, with their wives, were also on a short visit to their home district, but didn't attend the celebration.

I SPANSKEKRIGEN.

Der var utvilsomt mange vossinger, som meldte sig til krigstjeneste under spanskekrigen i 1898, men saavidt det vides, var der kun en, som virkelig deltog i slagene paa Cuba og kunde gjøre Col. Roosevelt rangen stridig som den første paa toppen af St. Juan Hill ved Santiago. Denne var Ivar Arneson Rene, som i denne krig ofrede livet for Amerikas ære. Han var født paa gaarden Rene, Voss, den 7de april 1868 og var søn af Arne Sjurson og Anna Sylfestdr. Rene. Som 15 aars gut kom han til Amerika i 1883 og tog ophold en tid i Leland, IL, og en tid i og omkring Madison, Wis., hvor hans ældre broder Sjur ogsaa opholdt sig. Da der i slutningen af 80-aarene var snak oin indianeruroligheder i nordvesten, lod han sig hverve i armeen og var en tid stationeret ved Fort Syllly, S. D. Inden hans tjenestetid i armeen helt var udløben, fik han i 1893 permission til Chicago for at bli gardist paa verdensudstillingen der. *) En tid efter udstillingens slut traadte han i 1894 atter ind i armeen og blev ansat ved komp. F, 13de Infanteri regiment, da stationeret ved Fort Niagara, N. Y. Den 12te dec. 1894 blev han udnævnt til korporal. Tidligere havde han taget "sharp-shooter"-graden og var markmand. Den 1ste sept. 1895 blev han udnævnt til sergeant. Da krigen udbrød i 1898 sendtes regimentet til New Yorks havn og var en tid stationeret i Fort Columbia, Governors Island. Derfra drog de i april maaned til Florida, hvor de forblev en tid indtil alle afdelinger af de amerikanske stridskræfter var samlet, hvorpaa landsættelse paa Cuba foregik.

Det vil kanske være af interesse at se noget af et par breve, som han paa denne tid skrev til sin søster i Chicago, og et lidet oversat uddrag skal derfor gives:

*) Paa billedet er han i gardeuniform paa Chicago udstillingen.

IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

Undoubtedly, there were many vossings who volunteered for military service during the Spanish-American War in 1898, there was only one who actually fought in the battles in Cuba and could stubbornly rank with Col. Roosevelt as the first on top of San Juan Hill at Santiago. This was Ivar Arneson Rene, who in this war gave his life for the honor of America. He was born on the Rene farm, Voss, April 7, 1868, the son of Arne Sjurson and Anna Sylfestdatter Rene. As a 15 year-old boy he came to America in 1883 and settled in Leland, IL, and for a while in and about Madison, WI, where his older brother, Sjur, also supported himself. Since there was talk of Indian rebellions in the Northwest during the 80's, he enlisted in the army and was stationed at Fort Scylly, SD. As long as his enlistment wasn't over, he got orders to Chicago to be on guard duty at the World's Fair there. *) A while after the exhibition closed in 1894, he again was activated with Company F, the 13th Infantry Regiment then stationed at Fort Niagara, NY. He was promoted to corporal on December 12, 1894. He had taken the "sharp-shooter" test earlier and was a marksman. On September 1, 1895, he was promoted to sergeant. When the war started, the regiment was



Ivar A. Rene.

sent to New York's harbor and he was stationed at Fort Columbia, Governors Island. From there they went to Florida in April, where they stayed while all the units of the American forces were assembled, whereupon the landing on Cuba took place.

It would maybe be interesting to see parts of two letters that he wrote to his sister in Chicago at this time, so I shall present a little translated excerpt now:

*) On the picture, he is in his guard uniform at the Chicago Exposition.

Kjære Søster:

Jeg modtog netop dit brev og var svært glad ved at faa det. Da jeg forlod Governors Island glemte jeg at tage med din adresse og har af den grund ikke skrevet før.

Du spørger, om jeg skal reise i krigen eller ikke, og jeg har den fornøielse at fortælle, at jeg skal. Jeg er nu en sergeant i komp. F. 13de U. S. Infanteri, stationeret ved Tampa, Florida, og er under ordre til at reise over til Cuba hvad tid som helst. Men, kjære søster, vær ikke ængstelig for mig, da jeg er godt istand til at tage vare paa mig selv til hvilkensomhelst tid. Vi er nu stationeret i en sandbanke, hvor der er saadan søle, at det er unævneligt, og det er svært varmt om dagen men koldt om natten. Vi sover i telte paa marken med et teppe under os og fire over os, saa vi har det behageligt nok om natten. Men den stegen de varme om dagen er mere ubehagelig. Her er mere soldater samlet, end jeg nogensinde før har seet, og flere skal komme. Saasnt soldaterne er mobiliseret, skal de overføres til Cuba og det vil bli omkring 9 maaneder fra nu. Tiden er endnu ikke nøiagtigt kjendt. Jeg skal skrive og give besked saasnt vi gaar herfra til Cuba. Jeg ved ikke om her vil bli oprettet regulære postruter eller ikke; men jeg formoder, at der vil bli en.

Jeg vil slutte for denne gang, da det er svært sent og jeg sidder paa bare marken og skriver paa mit knæ. Din broder,

Ivar Arneson.

Sergt., Co. F. 13th U. S. Inf., Tampa, Fla.

Den 22de juni sendte han søsteren følgende brev fra Juragua, Cuba.

Kjære Søster:

Jeg modtog dit brev netop som vi drog til Cuba, og jeg havde kun liden tid til at skrive. Vi forlod Tampa, Fla., den 8de juni, og var, 15 dage paa veien. Jeg var søsyg som vanlig og er glad at være paa land igjen.

Idet vi naaede Cuba var jeg vidne til bombardementet af festningsværkerne ved havnen i Santiago De Cuba; men vi var saa langt borte, at vi ikke kunde se hvilken skade der var gjort paa festningsværkerne. Paa samme tid blev der landsat soldater paa dette sted, som havde været bombarderet nogle dage før. "The First Volunteer Cavalry" eller "The Rough Riders", som de kalder sig selv, var de første til at lande. De var under komando af.....*) som før var doktorkaptein i armeen og ved hans uagtsomhed mistede 8 mand ved at udsætte poster, og de vilde alle ha været dræbte, hvis ikke det 10de kavaleri havde kommet dem til hjælp.

*) Leonard Wood.

Dear sister:

I just got your letter and was extremely glad to get it. When I left Governors Island, I forgot to take your address and that's why I haven't written before.

You ask if I shall go to war or not, and I have the satisfaction of telling you that I shall. I am now a sergeant in Company F, 13th U. S. Infantry, stationed at Tampa, Florida, and I'm under orders to Cuba whenever necessary. But, my dear sister, don't be worried for me because I am in good condition to take care of myself whatever happens. Now we are camped on a sand dune where it is so terribly dirty that it is indescribable, and it is very hot during the day but cold at night. We sleep on the ground in tents with a blanket under ourselves and four over, so we are comfortable at night. However, the increase in heat during the day is more uncomfortable. There are more soldiers gathered here than I have ever seen before. And there are more coming. As soon as the soldiers are mobilized, they will be transported to Cuba, about nine months from now. We don't know exactly when. I'll write and give you notice as soon as we leave for Cuba. I don't know if the regular mail routes will be established or not, but I presume there will be one.

I want to quit this time, since it is late and I'm sitting on the bare ground writing on my knee. Your brother,

Ivar Arneson.

Sergeant, Co. F, 13th U. S. Inf., Tampa, FL.

He sent the following letter to his sister from Juragua, Cuba on June 22.

Dear sister:

I received your letter just before we left for Cuba, and I have had only a little time to write. We left Tampa, Fla., June 8, and were 15 days on the trip. I was seasick as usual and am very happy to be on land again.

As we were approaching Cuba, I could see the bombardment of the fortress at the harbor in Santiago De Cuba; however, we were so far away, we couldn't see what damage was being done to the fortifications. At the same time, soldiers were put ashore at a place that had been bombarded some days before. "The First Volunteer Cavalry" or "The Rough Riders", as they called themselves, were the first to land. They were under the command of.....*) who before had been a doctor captain in the army and through his inattention at outposts, all would have been killed had it not been for the intervention of the 10th Cavalry who came to help.

*) Leonard Wood.

Der gaar rygte, at vi skal rykke mod Santiago De Cuba imorgen med alle stridkræfter 20,000 amerikanere og 10,000 cubanesiske soldater for at drive ud spanierne, som har en styrke paa omkring 20,000.

Jeg er frisk som vanlig og haaber at du er det samme. Jeg skal skrive mere næste gang. Posten skal netop afgaa inden nogle minutter, og jeg har ingen tid til at skrive mere, hvis jeg skal faa brevet afsted med denne post. Det kan gaa maaneder, før vi kan sende et andet brev. Eller hvis vi er saa heldige at tage Santiago De Cuba, kan vi kanske være istand til at sende vor post regulært. Hils alle som kjender mig
Din
Broder,

Ivar Arneson,

Q. M. Sergt., Co. F. 13th Inf., U. S. Army,
Juragua, Cuba.

Dette var hans sidste brev til sine slegtninger. Den 1ste juli 1898 rykkede regimentet mod San Juan Hill, hvor spanierne havde befæstet sig sterkest. Først var det vistnok bestemt, at et regiment af frivillige skulde gaa i spidsen; men af frygt for at disse ikke vilde bestaa ildprøven blev det 13de U. S. Regiment af regulære sendt op foran. Dette regiments soldater var de første paa toppen af høiden. Men det havde kostet dem frygteligt. Dette skyldtes tildels en jammerlig ledelse af hele fremrykningen, idet regimentet fik ordre til at stanse netop der, det var mest udsat for fiendens ild. Dets chef, oberst Wykoff, faldt med de første og flere andre af de høieste befalingsmænd faldt eller saaredes. Man rykkede sluttelig frem uden komando. Høiden blev taget og straks efter, som bekjendt, ogsaa byen Santiago De Cuba. Sergeant Arneson var med i alt dette.

Men saa fik de en anden fiende, som viste sig næsten ligesaa farlig som spanierne. Det var den gule feber. Den skulde bli hans bane.

Den 18de. juli, dagen efter at byen Santiago havde overgivet sig, blev han angreben af sygdommen og den 10de september afgik han ved døden enten paa et transportskib til et hospital ved Camp Wykoff eller kort efter ankomsten dertil.

Af et brev fra kompaniets komandør og et fra armestyrelsen vil der sees lidt mere derom og om regimentets deltagelse i det berømte slag og indtagelsen af Santiago, Kaptein F. W. Fuger, som da komanderede kompaniet skrev følgende:

"Ingen af sergeant Arnesons venner kan være mere bedrøvede ved at høre om hans død end jeg. Jeg har kjendt ham siden enlistment i '95 og har seet hvilken udmærket og fortjenstfuld soldat og mand han var. Han var stadigt ved sit kompani, tog del i stormen paa San Juan Hill med sit kompani og var en af 17 mand tilbage i kompaniet, da vi naaede toppen af høiden og jagede spanierne

It is rumored that we are going to move against Santiago De Cuba tomorrow with all our forces, 20,000 Americans and 10,000 Cuban soldiers in order to drive our the Spanish, who are about 20,000 strong.

I am healthy, as usual, and hope you are the same. I shall write more next time. The mail is going to leave in a few minutes, so I don't have time to write more, if I am to get this mailed with this mail. It might be months before we can send another letter. If we are lucky enough to take Santiago de Cuba, maybe we will be in position to send regular mail. Greet all my acquaintances.
Your brother,

Ivar Arneson

Q. M. Sgt., Co. F, 13th Inf., U. S. Army,
Juragua, Cuba.

This was his last letter to his family. On July 1, 1898 his regiment moved against San Juan Hill, where the Spanish were most firmly entrenched. It had originally been decided, that a regiment of volunteers would go in front, but for fear that these wouldn't tolerate the firing, the 13th U. S. Regiment of regulars was sent up ahead. This regiment's soldiers were the first to attain the heights. However, it cost them frightfully. This was because of pitiful leadership on the entire front, in that the regiment got orders to pause exactly there, where the enemy fire was the worst. Its commander, Major Wykoff, was among the first to fall, and several other of the higher commanders were killed or wounded. Eventually, they advanced without orders. The heights were taken soon after, and as known, also the city of Santiago de Cuba. Sergeant Arneson was involved in all this.

Then came another enemy that was almost as dangerous as the Spanish. That was Yellow Fever. It was to be his course.

On July 18, the day after the city of Santiago had surrendered, he was attacked by sickness and September 10, he died, either on a transport ship or in a hospital at Camp Wyckoff or shortly after his arrival there.

From one of the letters from the company commander and one from the Army authorities we see more about it and about the regiment's role in the famous battle and the capture of Santiago, Captain F. W. Fuger, who then commanded the company, wrote the following:

"None of Sergeant Arneson's friends can be more grieved than I. I had known him since he enlisted in '95 and had seen what an outstanding and meritorious soldier and man he had become. He was constantly with his company, took part in the storming of San Juan Hill with his unit and was one of the 17 men to return with the company when it reached the top of the height and chased the Spanish into the city. He was acting

ind i byen. Han fungerede som 1ste sergeant af kompaniet og blev syg af feber omkring den 17de juli. Den 19de flyttede vi vor leir og han med andre mænd blev tagne til hospitalet. Han ankom til Monlenk Point paa transportskibet Catania omtrent den 28de aug. Pvt. Woyn af mit kompani kom paa samme skib. Han fortalte at din broder var svært daarlig, og at lægen ikke ventede at han vilde staa det over. Han maa ha afgaaet ved døden under flytningen fra hospitalet eller straks efter ankomsten dertil.

*F. W. Fuger, 1st Lt.
13th Inf. Co. F.*

Fra Armestyret blev følgende rapport modtagen: Iver Arneson, Quartermaster serg. in 13th U. S. Inf.

Iver Arneson gennemgik den 3 dages kamp 1-3die juli foran Santiago og forblev ved kompaniet under beleiringen og overgivelsen af byen den 17de juli. Den 18de juli blev han syg af feber. Han var for syg til at følge regimentet, da det kom nord til Camp Wykoff omkring den 25de aug. — var forflyttet til Camp Wykoff aug. 26, '98 lidende af den gule feber. — Quartermaster Sergt., Kompani F., 13th U. S. Inf. døde den 10de sept. 1898.

Ligene af dem, som blev begravne ved Camp Wykoff er blit flyttet og jordfæstet i The National Cemetery, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dette er da i korthed beretningen om denne vossing, som ogsaa ofrede sit liv paa adoptivlandets alter. Det talte ikke godt for lægetilsynet i armeen, at han skulde ligge syg af feber i over en maaned. Den slags sygdom varede sjelden over en uge. Flytning af de syge især tilsjøs var neppe til det bedre under denne sygdom. Det har nok ikke værct uden grund at den hele ledelse af dette felttog har været saa skarpt kritiseret.

BREV FRA FOX RIVER 1842.

Til velagtede Bjørne Olsen Vaale,
Vosse Prestegjæld, Bergens Stift.

Kjære svigermoder med Eders børn!

I anledning af at Eders skrivelse, som var af den 1ste mai 1841 er mig tilhændekommet den 25de december s. a. saa maa jeg tilbagesende Eder en skrivelse, som er mit hjertes tilskyndelse, for at underrette Eder om vores forsyns anvisning. Gud være lov og tak, vi ere nu alle af os ved en god helse, og jeg vender mig med taknemmelighed til Gud som har styret min vei, saa jeg har kjøbt mig et stykke land af 26 acres af skovland, som er beliggende i LaSalle County ved Fox River, 7 mile fra staden Ottawa, nærliggende til de andre bosatte norske; og jeg har at betale 10 dollar for hver acre, og hvilket samme land var kjøbt af regjeringen før. Derfor er det altid kostbarere

First Sergeant and became ill with Yellow Fever on July 17. We moved our camp on the 19th and he and several other men were moved to the hospital. He arrived at Monlenk Point on the transport ship, Catania, about August 28. Pvt. Woyn, of my company, was on the same ship. He said that your brother was very bad and the doctors didn't expect him to live. He must have died while being transferred to the hospital, or shortly thereafter.

*F. W. Fuger, 1st Lt.
13th Inf. Company F*

From the army authorities we received the following report:

Iver Arneson went through the 3-day battle from July 1-3 in front of Santiago and was with his company during encampment and the surrender of the city on July 17. He became ill with fever on July 18. He was too sick to go north with his regiment when they moved to Camp Wyckoff about August 25 — was moved to Camp Wyckoff August 26, 1898 suffering of Yellow Fever. — Quartermaster Sergeant, Company F., 13th U. S. Infantry died September 10, 1898.

The bodies of those, who were buried at Camp Wyckoff were moved and reburied in The National Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY.

This, then, is a brief narration about this vossing, who also gave his life on the altar of his adopted country. It didn't speak very well for the Army Medical Corps that he should lie ill of fever for more than a month. This type of illness usually only lasts a week. Movement of the patient to sea hardly was good for this illness. It isn't without basis that the entire leadership of this field expedition has been sharply criticized.

LETTER FROM FOX RIVER 1842.

To the esteemed Bjørne Olsen Våle,
Voss Parish, Bergens Diocese.

Dear mother-in-law and Thy children!

At the occasion of Thy letter, of May 1, 1841, which I received December 25 of the same year, must I return to Thee a letter, which is my heart's prompting to inform Thee about our allotment of divine providence. God be praised and thanked, we are all in good health, and I turn to God with gratitude, who has guided me so that I have purchased a piece of land consisting of 26 acres of woodland, lying in LaSalle County by the Fox River, 7 miles from the town of Ottawa, lying near the other settled Norwegians; and I paid 10 dollars for each acre, for the same land that had been bought from the government before. Therefore it is always more expensive to buy it the second

at købe af andre igjen; og især saadant skovland; thi samme er jo heromkring ubetydeligt af i henseende til de store prærier. Og her er mere af det samme land, at købe, om jeg vil med tiden købe mere. Vi fandt os ikke behag i at flytte til et andet sted. *) Her er gode udsigter for vore børn. Min ældste søn, Erik, tjener hos en kjærlig og omhyggelig mand i staden Ottawa og skal erholde 100 dollar og klæder for dette aar, og ikke betydeligt arbeide; just til at staa paa krambod eller et "staar", som det her kaldes, og udsælge alslags, af hvad de begjærer. Min anden søn, Torkel, er hjemme hos os; ogsaa min tredie søn, som blev født til verden den 14de april 1841 i staden Ottawa og blev givet navnet Chjale B. Larson. **) Og min ældste datter, Randvei, tjener i staden Ottawa hos den samme mand som før og erholder 3 ort efter norsk regning for ugen; dog ikke klæder. Ligeledes Ragnhild er hos den samme mand, som hun har været hos nu i 2 aar for mad, klæder og skole. Mine børn har forglemt at læse norsk; dog har de lært noget i det engelske sprog at læse og skrive, som jeg haaber inden en tid vil blive til fremgang og oplysning. Her er god anlæg for skoler baade til at lære læse, skrive og regne. Ethvert skoledistrikt kan opsøge sig skoleholder, hvor han vil for den betaling, som de blive akkorderet om.

Jeg erfarede det i Eders forrige skrivelse, som var af datum den 30te marts 1839, at der blev en forandring hos Eder, siden vi reiste, — at vor kjære fader Torkel Johannesen er ved døden borti gangen, hvorover det gjør os en dyb betenkning, at vi ere alle dødelige mennesker og skal alle gaa den samme vei igjennem og samles med ham og alle for den alvidende Guds domstol; og vi ønsker at vide nøie, hvorledes de gjenlevende lever og finder sig fornøiet, dog helst min svigermoder.

Vi har ingen skrivelse faaet fra Bjørne Olsen; men vi haaber med tiden og leilighed at se en skrivelse fra ham. Jeg ønsker, at I maatte finde Eder saa vel fornøiet som vi. Vi flyttede i vort eget hus den 17de juni 1841, hvilket er et middelmaadigt godt hus. Jeg vil ogsaa underrette Eder om, at min kone var i besøg hos Ole Knutsen Grove og hans kone den 6te, 7de og 8de juni d. a. hvilket er paa en længde 12 engelske mil fra mit til deres hus og opholdssted. Og hun fandt dem i god forfatning i alle maader og de levede alle vel med helse og sundhed. Jeg har ogsaa bestemt mig til inden kort tid at reise for at se ham og hans familie. Vi kan ikke begge reise fra vores hjem og vore kreaturer paa en gang. Jeg har ogsaa nylig været hos Lars Godskalkson Møn, og erfarede, at han levede vel i alle maader med helse, sundhed, han og hans kone.

*) Hans to brødre havde fulgt Kleng Peerson til Missouri.

**) Charles B. Erikson.

time; especially woodland, because it is not common compared to the extensive prairies. There is more similar land for sale if ever I want to buy more. We didn't feel like moving to another place. *) Here there are good possibilities for our children. My oldest son, Erik, works for an agreeable and careful man in the town of Ottawa and shall receive 100 dollars and clothing for this year, and it isn't difficult work, only standing in a shop or "staar", as they call it here and selling all kinds of things, whatever is desired. My second son, Torkel, is at home with us; also my third son, who was born to this world April 14, 1841 in the town of Ottawa and was named Chjale B. Larson. **) My oldest daughter, Randvei, serves in the town of Ottawa at the same man as before and obtains, by Norwegian calculation, 3 orts a week, but not clothes. And my Ragnild is working for the same man where she has been now for food, clothing and school. My children have forgotten how to read Norwegian, but have learned some of the English language, both reading and writing, which I hope in time will help them progress and in edification. Here there is a good situation for schools for learning to read, write and cipher. Each school district can employ their own teacher, whatever he will for that salary they agree upon.

I learned from Thy previous letter, that was dated March 30, 1839, that there had been a change with Thee, since we left, — in that dear father, Torkel Johannesen has left via death, which makes us consider deeply, we are all mortal beings and will go the through the same path as he and meet everyone before the all-knowing God's judgment chair; and we want the details of how you still living are, and especially about my mother-in-law.

We haven't had any letter from Bjørne Olsen, but we hope to see a letter from him in time and opportunity. I wish that Thee find Thyself as we. We moved into our own house on June 17, 1841, which is a reasonably good house. I also want to relay to Thee that my wife was on a visit to Ole Knutsen Grove and his wife the 6th, 7th and 8th of June, this year, which is 12 English miles from my to their house and living place. She found them in good condition in all aspects and they were all well and healthy. I have decided to go to see him and his family in a little while. We can't both of us go from our home and animals at the same time. I recently was at Lars Godskalkson Møn's, and learned that he lived well in all regards with health and vigor, he and his wife.

*) His two brothers have followed Kleng Peerson to Missouri.

**) Charles B. Erikson.

Jeg vil for denne gang afbryde min skrivelse med en kjærlig og venlig hilsen fra mig, min kone og vore børn til en og hver af Eder alle vore velbekjendte venner og paarørende, at vi lever vel.

Og vær da kjære svigermoder med Eders børn først og sidst hilset fra os alle. Lev vel! Jeg ønsker Dem alle livets timelige og aandelige velgaaende.

LaSalle County, Stat af Illinois, den 24de juni 1842.

Lars Eriksen Rekve.

Til Ragnild Olsdatter Vaale.

ET OG ANDET FRA VOSS.

Vossebanen var 40 aar forleden sommer. Den blev aabnet for drift den 11te juli 1883, og har hele tiden vist sig som et lønsomt foretagende med øgende betydning for bygderne. Trafikken, som det første aar er opgivet til 5600 tons af gods og 214,800 reisende, var i 1920—21 225,310 ton af gods, og de reisendes antal var 3,498,787.

Med Vossebanen var første del af forbindelseslinjen mellem øst og Vestlandet færdig. Men det tog 14 aar før den næste strækning blev aabnet for drift, nemlig strækningen over fjeldet til Hallingdal, som blev aabnet i 1907. Og først i 1909 blev linjen færdig til Hønefos, Ringerike, hvorfra der allerede var bane til Kristiania.

— Den 1ste august havde de norske afholdsvenner storlogemøde paa Voss. En masse deltagere fra alle dele af landet indfandt sig til dette. Om kvelden var der fest i Nam med taler af forskellige personer om afholdsarbeidet. Det fremgik af disse, at man følte sig sveget af styremagterne under de bekjendte traktatforhandlinger med Spanien, at man nu maatte arbeide sterkere i hver sin kreds og saa optræde med større klem ved næste afstemning, naar afholds-spørgsmaalene kommer op.

— Erik Hirth, som i 25 aar har været lærer i Bergen var 50 aar den sidste juli og var i den anledning meget omtalt i aviserne i Bergen og Voss. Han har taget fremragende del i ungdomsarbeidet og er formand for bondeungdomslaget i Bergen. Han er ogsaa maalmænd og ivrer for alt norsk.

— Sagfører Schanks, en anden velkjendt mand paa Voss, fyldte 75 aar den 17de august. Han var født i Trondhjem. I 1874 tog han juridisk embedseksamen og kom, i 1877 til Voss, hvor han saaledes har været i 46 aar og fremdeles praktiserer som jurist.

— Knut K. Gjelle, som i en aarrække har været lærer og indehavt alle komunale stillinger i Alstahaug, Helgoland, Nordlandspresten Peder Dass's bekjendte sæde, skrev om, — der han sad hjemme og tænkte paa

I want to stop for this time with a dear and friendly greeting from me, my wife and our children to each and every one of Thee and all our familiar friends and relatives, that we live well.

And be, dear mother-in-law with Thy children first and last, greeted from us all. Live well! I wish Thee all life's worldly and spiritual fortune.

LaSalle County, State of Illinois, June 24, 1842.

Lars Eriksen Rekve.

To Ragnild Olsdatter Våle.

ONE THING AND ANOTHER FROM VOSS.

The Voss Railway was 40 years old last summer. It was opened for operation, July 11, 1883, and has shown itself to be a profitable undertaking the entire time with increasing importance to the districts. The traffic, which in the first year was reported as 5600 tons of freight and 214,800 passengers in 1920-21 was 225,310 tons of freight and 3,498,787 passengers.

The first portion of the connection between the east and west country was completed with the Voss Railway. But it was 14 years before the next section was open for business, namely the stretch over the mountains to Hallingdal that was opened in 1907. Only in 1909 was the line open to Hønefoss, Ringerike, from which there already was a connection to Kristiania.

—The 1st of August the Norwegian Temperance Friends had their big group meeting at Voss. A large crowd of participants attended. In the evening, there was a party at Nam with speeches about the temperance work by various people. It was interpreted from these that they felt hindered by the authorities during the familiar treaty negotiations with Spain, so people will have to work more strongly in their areas in order to increase the pressure at the next election, when the temperance question will come up.

—Erik Hirth, who has been a teacher for 25 years in Bergen was 50 years last July, and was considerably written about in the papers in Bergen and Voss. He is quite prominent in youth work and is the president of the Farm Youth Association in Bergen. He is a language man and enthusiastic about everything Norwegian.

—Attorney Schanks, another familiar man at Voss, was 75 the 17th of August. He was born in Trondheim. In 1874, he was graduated in law and came to Voss in 1877, where he has been for 46 years and continually practiced as a lawyer.

—Knut K. Gjelle, who for years has taught and occupied public positions in Alstahaug, Helgoland, and Nordland minister Peder Dass' familiar seat wrote about how, — he sat at home and thought about the

festlighederne paa Voss i sommer, — hvor gjildt det hadde vore um han hadde kunna vore tilstade i heimbygdi si i dei dagane. Han va vel ikkje aaleina um da.

— Evanger Ungdomslag har udsendt indbydelse til folket i Vossebygderne om at være med paa at reise en mindesten paa Evanger om senator Knute Nelson, bygdernes største søn. Der har allerede været adskilligt tegnet til dette. Knut Mæstad, Evanger, er formand i styret.

— Som det vil sees paa et andet sted anmoder Jenny Arneson vossingerne i Amerika om at kjøbe huset, hvori senator Knute Nelson er født og levede de første 6 aar af sit liv. Det vilde vist være svært bra, om dette blev gjort. Stuen burde ialfald bevares, derom kan der ikke være tvil.

— Guri Styrksdatter Aga, som var født paa Voss den 11te august 1824, opdragen paa Kongstun, Granvin, og for 81 aar siden gift med Johannes J. Aga, senere stortingsmand, lever endnu og er i bedste velgaaende trods sin høie alder af over 99 aar.

— Pastor J. J. Ekse fra Amerika prædikede søndag den 19de aug. i Evangerkirken, i hvilken han var døbt. Søndag den 2den september prædikede han i Nesheims kapel, Eksingedalen.

— Vossingen Martin Mølster vandt i Stavanger ihøst Norgesmesterskabet i kulestøitning og satte 2 nye rekorder. Han vandt guldmedalje og 2 ekstrapremier — den ene som bedstemand paa Vestlandet og den anden for landsdistrikterne.

— Landsmaalet paa Voss seirer overalt. I Evanger har herredsstyret vedtaget at alle faste opslag paa jernbanestationerne og i lokaltogene skal være paa landsmaal. Kirkefolket har ogsaa krævet at Liturgien i Kirkerne skal være paa landsmaal.

— Et par stygge ulykker har hændt paa Voss. En 13-aars gut Trygve J. Ygre druknede i dammen ovenfor Rognsfossen, hvor han og en anden gut holdt paa at fiske. I Evanger faldt snedker Ole Hemre ned fra taget af et nyt hus og forslog sig svært.

— Sogneprest O. Olavson, den bekjendte historiegransker om Hardanger og Voss, fyldte den 3die sept. 80 aar, og fik i den anledning kongens fortjenstmedalje i guld. Den blev overrakt af Fylkesman Friis Peterson i overvær af presterne paa Voss, formandskabet, formanden i Sogelaget og andre paa Voss. Olavson var født paa Soleglad i Dovre, blev i 1889 sogneprest i Ullensvang, Hardanger, tog afsked i 1913 og har siden været bosat paa Voss.

— De 7 nye gaardbrugere paa Istadmyrene er Odd Himle, Nils O. Fenne, Lars Fykse Lid, John Brækhus Opelund, Anders L. Bryn, Ole Stolen og Nils Rjodo. Hver gaard er paa 100 maal.

— Thorbjørn Anderson Kvale — den velkjendte sløidlærer paa Voss, døde den 9de september. 81 aar gammel. Mange ogsaa i Amerika vil erindre den vennesele mand, som i 28 aar virkede som arbeids-

celebration at Voss this summer, — how nice it would have been if he could attended in his home district those days. He, most likely wasn't alone in those thoughts

—The Evanger Youth Association has sent out invitations to join them in erecting a monument about Senator Knute Nelson, the area's most famous son. Already, there have been various drawings for it. Knut Mæstad, Evanger, is chairman.

—As will be seen elsewhere another place, Jenny Arneson is requesting the vossings in America to buy the house where Senator Knute Nelson was born and lived the first six years of his life. It certainly would be nice if it were done. There can be no doubt the house should be preserved,

—Guri Styrksdatter Aga, who was born at Voss on August 11, 1824, reared at Kongstun, Granvin, and 81 years ago married Johannes J. Aga, later a Stortingsrepresentant, is still alive and in good shape in spite of the advanced age of over 99 years.

—Pastor J. J. Ekse from America preached Sunday, August 19, in the Evanger Church, in which he was baptized. On Sunday, September 2, he preached in Nesheim's Chapel, Eksingedalen.

—The vossing, Martin Mølster, in Stavanger, won Norway's championship in shot put and set two new records. He won a gold medal and two extra prizes — the one as the champion of West Norway and the other for the district.

—Nynorsk is winning everywhere in Voss. In Evanger, the town council moved that all the placards in the railway stations and on the local trains shall be in Nynorsk. The church people have also asked that the liturgy in the church be in Nynorsk.

—There have been a couple of accidents at Voss. A 13-year-old boy, Trygve J. Ygre, drowned above the dam above Rognsfossen, where he and another boy were fishing. In Evanger, carpenter Ole Hemre fell from the roof of a new house and was severely injured.

—Parish minister O. Olavson, the well-known historian of Hardanger and Voss was 80 years old, September 3, and received the King's Gold Medal. This was presented by the County Chairman Friis Peterson in the presence of the ministers at Voss, the officers and the president of the Voss Historical Society and others. Olavson was born at Soleglad in Dovre, became the parish minister in Ullensvang, Hardanger in 1889, retired in 1913 and has since lived in Voss.

—The seven new farmers at Istadmyrene are Odd Himle, Nils O. Fenne, Lars Fykse Lid, John Brækhus Opelund, Anders L. Bryn, Ole Stolen and Nils Rjodo. Each farm measures 100 mål.

—Thorbjørn Anderson Kvale — the well-known woodworking teacher at Voss died September 8, 81 years old. Many in America will remember the friendly man, who for 28 years worked as a teacher in

skolelærer og flyttede fra kreds til kreds i bygden. Han har 3 søskende som lever i Amerika.

— Holbergsfuruen er nedhugget. Efter aaringerne som taltes af skjønsmænd kunde den ikke være mere end 194 aar. Den var efter dette ikke plantet af Ludvig Holberg, som antaget. Den maatte i saa tilfælde ha været omkring 220 aar.

— Voss-Eidebanen skal ifølge sidste overslag komme til at koste 9,8 mill. kroner. Af dette skal de interesserede distrikter betale 642,800. Stigningen i Skjervet frembyder store vanskeligheder, sa aat den ikke kan bli paa mindre end 45 pro mille uden at koste betydeligt mere.

— Lærer Einar Seim fra Voss er udkaaret til Kirkesanger i Hol, Hallingdal. En tid forud var han lærer ved Lærdals middels-skole.

— En ung kunstner Johannes Lisheim har tildraget sig adskillig opmærksomhed paa Voss. I september havde han en udstilling paa Vangen af en hel del tegninger, malerstykker, akvareller og saadant. Der var blandt andet tegning af Mølstertunet, Tunet paa Kolle, Kvernhuset paa Gjernes, Knute Nelsons fødehjem paa Kvilekval m. m. Alt visende en rig kunstneratur, som man haaber vil fremhjelpes.

— Det vakte betydelig opmærksomhed, at to fremragende personer fra Norges gamle skatlande, Island og Færøerne, aflagde Voss et besøg ihøst og holdt taler der. Biskop Jon Helgasen fra Island talte paa Voss den 28de september, og kongsbonde Johannes Paturson fra Færøerne talte der den 1ste Oktober. Helgasen fortalte om Island, som det er nu, og kom sluttelig ind paa, samfølelsen! mellem frendarfolket, som i de sidste tider er blit betydelig sterkere igjen. Dette drag kom endda sterkere frem fra Paturssens tale. Han lagde ikke skjul paa sin mening om at Færøerne heller burde forenes med Norge end staa under Danmark, af hvilket de faar en mindre hensynsfuld behandling.

— Man ventede paa Voss at Dr. Stub fra Amerika skulde finde anledning til at komme der og holde en tale; men anledningen tilbød sig nok ikke. Provst Barstad bekjendtgjorde, at han skulde tale der den 17de oktober; men der sees intet om at saa skede.

— Missionsprest A. Raugstad, som i 30 aar har været paa Madagaskar har udgivet en bog: "Minder fra Bara", der er godt omtalt og kanske vil læses med interesse ogsaa af vossinger i Amerika.

— Den 2den november blev der holdt en mindefest paa Vangen om 4 af døde kirkesangere, nemlig om Th. Sæve, Olav L. Kindem, Knut Opheim og J. Skjerven. Det var Vangens Skolekreds med A. Ullestad som formand, der fik dette istand. Kirkesanger T. Raugstad talte om Thorbjørn Sæve, som var kirkesanger fra 1857 til 1876 og som fremholdtes

the industrial arts schools and moved from circuit to circuit in the district. He has three siblings living in the U. S.

—The Holberg Fir has been cut down. According to the annual rings, assessors said it couldn't have been more than 194 years old. It wasn't planted by Holberg, as presumed. In that case, it would have been about 220 years old.

—The Voss-Eide Line according to the last estimate will cost about 9.8 million NKR. The involved districts will pay 642,800 of this. The grade required at Skjervet creates big difficulties, so it won't be less than 45/1000 without costing considerably more.

—Teacher Einar Seim of Voss has been chosen precentor in Hol, Hallingdal. Previously, he was a teacher at Lærdal's Middle School.

—A young artist, Johannes Lisheim, has attracted attention for various events at Voss. In September, he had an exhibition at Vangen of a great number of drawings, paintings, aquarelles and such. Among others, there was a drawing of Mølstertunet, the yard at Kolle, the mill at Gjernes, Knute Nelson's birthplace at Kvilekval and others. They all showed a rich artistic nature, which we hope, would be developed.

—It aroused significant attention, when two prominent people from Norway's old colonies, Iceland and The Faroes, paid Voss a visit last fall and spoke there. Bishop Jon Helgasen from Iceland orated at Voss on September 28, and royal farmer Johannes Paturson from The Faroes spoke there on October 1. Helgasen talked about Iceland as it is now, and finished about the solidarity! between the kinsmen which has significantly strengthened again. This feature became even more evident from Paturssen's talk. He didn't conceal his opinion that The Faroes should rather be united with Norway than stay under Denmark, from which they get a less considerate treatment.

—People at Voss expected that Dr. Stub from America would find an opportunity to come and speak; but the occasion didn't occur. Dean Barstad announced that he would speak there October 17, but it doesn't seem to have happened.

—Missionary A. Raugstad, who has spent 30years in Madagascar has published a book: "Memories from Bara", that was reviewed positively and maybe will also be read with interest by vossings in America.

—On November 2, there will be held a memorial program on Vangen about four deceased precentors, namely about Th. Sæve, Olav L. Kindem, Knut Opheim and J. Skjerven. It was Vangen's Circuit with A. Ullestad as chairman, who arranged it. Precentor T. Raugstad talked about Thorbjørn Sæve, who was a precentor from 1857 until 1876, and who carried on as

som en sjelden lærer især i religion og historie. Han døde 1876 bare 51 aar gammel.

Ordfører N. J. Finne talte om kirkesanger Olav Kindem, som efter Sæves død var kirkesanger til 1883. Han var ikke bare en dygtig lærer, men tog en fremragende del i bygdestyret, var for-mand i Voss sogeselskab, postaabner m. m. Han var ogsaa bare 50 aar ved sin død. Knut Opheim omtaltes af skoleinspektør Sudmann, der fremholdt hvorledes Opheim som formand i den komite, der skulde sætte skoleloven af 1889 igang, paa en dygtig maade skilte sig fra dette og ligeledes som formand i skolestyret. Skjærven omtaltes af pastor Strømme, der fremholdt det greie retskaarne væsen, han lagde for dagen.

Det havde vel ogsaa været bra om nogen havde talt om ældre kirkesangere, især om en mand som David Lemme, der var kirkesanger fra 1842 til '57 og orgelbygger m. m.

— Til de brandlidte paa Evanger kom der ind frivillige gaver til et beløb af kr. 26,082.05 og blev fordelt paa 53 personer, ifølge den skade som de led.

— To gamle kvinder døde i Voss Enkehjem med et par dages mellemrum og lagdes i fælles grav. Det var Martha P. Ulvund eller senere Haga, som var 99 aar, og Anna O. Tesdal, 96. De var begge raske og røringe til for et par aar siden.

TIL VOSSINGER I AMERIKA.

Stova paa Kvilekvaal i Evanger der Knut Nelson levde sine fyste barneaar.

Her kjem eg og bed,
aa riv meg kje ned,
for her leika kulten han Knute,
den tid han var ørliten gute.

Aaa lat meg faa staa,
ver inkje so braa,
og tyn ikkje minnet um Knuten,
den gjævaste Ævongaguten.

Aa berga meg no,
sjaa timbra er god,
og enno ho toler ei bot eller tvo,
naar timbra og toka fær standa i ro.

Aa berga meg snart,
gjer bygdemuseum av meg i ein fart!
So stettar eg Ævongabygdi sin tarv
og gøymer so truge all Ævongaarv.

an exceptional teacher especially in religion and history. He died in 1876, only 51 years old.

Attorney N. J. Finne talked about precentor Olav Kindem, who after Sæve's death was the precentor until 1883. Not only was he an excellent teacher, but also took a leading role in the government of the district, he was president of the Voss Historical Society, postmaster and other. He was just 50 years at his death. Knut Opheim discussed school inspector Sudmann, who continued as chairman, after Opheim, of the committee, that started the School Law of 1889, and in a competent manner distinguished himself in this as well as chairing the schoolboard. Skjærven discussed Pastor Strømme, who continued the straightforward pension service he'd brought to light.

It would have been nice if someone had said something about the precentors of longer ago, especially about a man like David Lemme, who was precentor from 1842 to '57 and organ builder and more.

—The fire victims at Evanger got donations of 26,082.05 NKR and it was divided among 53 people in proportion to the damage they suffered.

—A couple days separated the deaths of two old women at Voss Widow's Home and they were buried in a common grave. They were Martha P. Ulvund, later Haga, who was 99 years and Anna O. Tesdal, 96. Both were agile and active until a couple years ago.

TO THE VOSSINGS IN AMERICA.

The house at Kvilekvål in Evanger where Knut Nelson spent his early childhood.

Here I come and plead,
Don't tear me down,
Because here plays the stocky Knute,
that time when he was a little boy.

Oh, let me stand,
Don't be so impatient
And don't forget Knute,
The noblest "Evanger" boy.

And save me now,
See the timber is good,
And yet, she can survive a penalty or two,
When the forest and fool can stand in peace.

And save me soon,
Build the town museum about me quick!
Then I'll support "Evanger" district's good,
And faithfully preserve the "Evanger" legacy.

Gilde utflutte vener!

Eg kjem med helsing og bod fraa heile det gamle Voss i dag. Det gjeld aa berga denne gamle stova fraa ødeleggjing med tider. Og det bør vera ei kjær plikt for vosse-amerikanarar framum alle aa faa legg ja ein skjerv til dette fyremaalet og soleis æra Knute Nelson sitt minne. For i denne stova paa Kvilekvaal livde han sine fyrste barneaar, upp og ned steintroppi, ut for døri sprang han dagleg. Her er det rettborne Knute Nelson-minnet. Voss og Evanger meinast reisa han ein bauta! Lat skura, endaa um eg og fleire med meg heller hadde set det hadde vorte eit Knute Nelson-fond til hjelp for gaaverik Evangerungdom t. d. Men reisa bauta til minne um han Knute og samstundes lata stova som han budde i verta nedrivi, det maa aldri henda. Ikkje berre som eit minne um Nelson bør denne stova vernast, for etter bileti aa døma maa ho og ha kulturverd som eit minne fraa gamall tid, byggjemaaten, inn-reidnaden, alt. Og daa er ho sjølvkrivi til aa verta Evanger bygdemuseum som Voss hev Finnelloftet og Mølstergarden. Difor bed eg styret for Vosselaget føra tanken ut i livet, faa sett i gang ei innsamling til aa faa kjøpa denne stovebyggnaden med eldhuset og grunnen og sett ho i horveleg stand og so gjeva Evanger bygnaden til dette fyremaalet, sjølv sagt med plikt til aa halda ho ved like seinare. Det vilde vera ei fin takk til Evanger fraa det rike og mektige Amerika for den gjæve gaava Amerika fekk i Knute Nelson og hans arbeidskraft. Difor burde det og vera høve for andre Amerika-folk enn nett utflutte vossar til aa vera med i gaava. Ingen som skyna og sette verd paa Knute Nelson burde vera utestengd. Men Vosselaget i brodden for upptaket! Ingen er nærare til! Og so de vosse-amerikanarar som er komne lengst i forgrunnen i pressa og politikken, slaa til ljos for tanken og hjelp han fram! Tanken kom til meg gjenom maalarstykket hans unge Johs. Lidsheim av dene stova, og det er ogso han som etter mi oppmoding gratis hev skore klisjeen til biletet ovanfor. Og denne tanken hev ikkje gjeve meg fred sidan, eg laut leggja han fram for dykk gjenom pressa fyrr det vert for seint. For .eigaren hev tenkt aa riva ned det gamle huset. Eg sender difor bod yver havet med denne jolehelsingi. Nøyt dykk og faa freda um dette Knute Nelson.-minnet! Ver med alle som sette verd paa han Knute og livsverket hans!

Med varm helsing fraa

Jenny Arnesen, Voss.

* * *

En statue af Knute Nelson tænkes opført udenfor statskapitoliet i St. Paul, Minn. Endel bidrag til et mindesmærke indkom straks efter senatorens død, og guvernør Preus udnævnte en komite i sagens anledning. Hidtil er dog saavidt det vides, intet videre foretaget i sagen.

Splendid emigrated friends!

I come with greetings and tidings from all of old Voss today. It involves saving this old house from destruction with time. It would be a cherished duty for Voss-Americans to above all give a "yes" to this proposal and thus honor the memory of Knute Nelson. He lived his early childhood years in this house at Kvilekvål, and every day he ran up and down the stone steps and out the door. Here is the proper Knute Nelson remembrance. Voss and Evanger intend to erect a monument to him! Let it rain, even if I and several along with me would rather have seen a Knute Nelson fund for the gifted Evanger youth, e. g. But to erect a monument to Knute and simultaneously allow the house he had lived in to be razed, that must never happen. It should be saved, not only as a remembrance of Nelson should it be saved, but judging by the pictures, it also has cultural value as a reminder from old times, a building method, inner furnishings, everything. When it is destined to become Evanger's district museum just like Voss has the Finnelloft and the Mølster Farm. Therefore I request the officers of the Vosselag to carry out the idea in reality, to start a collection in order to buy this living house and cooking house and lot and put them in suitable condition and give the buildings with this objective to Evanger, of course with the responsibility of their maintaining it. It would be a thank you to Evanger from the rich and powerful America for the gifts they got from Knute Nelson and his ability to work. Therefore, it ought to be the need for other American people not only emigrated vossings to be part of thus gift. Nobody who liked and valued Knute Nelson would be excluded. But the Vosselag is in the vanguard for the collection! No one is more closely involved! Therefore, the Voss-Americans who have progressed the most in the foreground of the press and of politics, wake up and help this onward. The thought came to me by virtue of the paintings of the house by young Johs. Lidsheim and it is also he that according to my encouragement, has carved clichés in the upper part of the pictures. This thought hasn't given me any peace since, and I must present it to you via the press before it is too late. The owner of the house is thinking of tearing down this old house. I send tidings over the sea with this Christmas greeting. Use this opportunity to preserve the memory of Knute Nelson! Join everyone else in setting value on Knute and his life's work.

With warm greetings from

Jenny Arneson, Voss.

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A statue of Knute Nelson is to be erected outside of the state capitol in St. Paul, MN. A number of donations came in shortly after the senator's death, and governor Preus appointed a committee for this purpose. Thus far we don't know whether any action has been taken in the matter.

BLANDEDE MEDDELELSER.

Anders A. Kindem, Minneapolis, var i juli maaned paa besøg i Madison, Wis., og tilbragte mestedelen af maaneden i byens nærhed. Han har drevet som snedker, kontraktør, eiendomshandler og saa begyndt i forretning med kul og ved. Tog en maanedes ferie, som han med familie benyttede til at besøge Madison og det berømte Koshkonong. Ved Lake Riply ved Cambridge, Wis., tilbragte de længere tid. Hans søster Ingeborg Kindem, som er sygepleierske i Chicago, tilbragte en tid paa diakonissehjemmet her i august. Deres broder Bjarne Kindem kom paa den tid til Amerika og reiste til Minneapolis.

* * *

Advokat Arthur Markve, Minneapolis, var en af deltagerne til Luther Broderskabs aarsmøde, som holdtes i Madison sidste uge af september. Sekretæren havde fornøielsen af en lang samtale med ham over telefonen. Markve er født i Amerika men er svært interesseret i Vosselaget, hvis sekretær han var i 1916. Vossemaalet taler han saa godt som nogen. "Vossingen" syntes han svært bra om. Man længtede formelig efter hvert nummer, sagde han. Redaktøren takker, fordi han ringte op.

* * *

Bryngel Olson Berge, som fra 1893 har været bosat i Chicago, var i Madison, Wis., i september og aflagde redaktøren et besøg. Han har i mange aar været typograf og haandteret en større sættemaskine, men har nu sluttet. Han har forresten været heldig nok til at erhverve sig en betydelig eiendom i Chicago. Hans hustru Anna L. Opheim (Vestbygden) døde den 3die Nov. 1922. Hr. Berge ønskede alle udkomne numre af "Vossingen" — hvert eneste nummer, sagde han, — for det er den mest interessante læsning, han kunde faa. Han lovede at sende os skrivelser fra Chicago, og for en tid siden modtoges nedenstaaende bemærkekesyærdige stykke fra laget:

Til Betragtning for Vosselaget.

Vosselaget er endnu en begyndelse, men en meget god begyndelse. Til videre fremme af laget synes jeg, at det nationale Vosselag egentlig skulde være en storloge med alle lokale Vosselag som underordnede loger. Storlogen skulde have møde mindst en gang om aaret, og dens medlemskab skulde bestaa af deltagere fra de lokale loger med lovlig stemme af en vis procent af medlemsantallet i logerne for at afgjøre alle love og forslag.

MIXED ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Anders A. Kindem, Minneapolis, visited Madison, WI, in July and spent most of the month near the city. He has worked as a carpenter, contractor, real estate dealer and begun a business selling coal and wood. He took a month vacation which he and his family utilized to visit Madison and the famous Koshkonong. He spent quite a bit of time at Lake Ripley, Cambridge, WI. His sister, Ingeborg Kindem, who is a nurse in Chicago, spent some time at the deaconess home here in August. Their brother, Bjarne Kindem came to America at that time and went to Minneapolis.

* * *

Attorney Arthur Markve, Minneapolis, was one of the participants in the Lutheran Brotherhood annual meeting, held in Madison, the last week of September. The secretary had the satisfaction of holding a long conversation with him on the telephone. Markve was born in America but is very interested in the Vosselag, whose secretary he was in 1916. He speaks the Voss dialect as well as anyone. He is quite pleased with the "Vossingen". He actually yearns for each issue, he said. The editor thanks him for the call.

* * *

Bryngel Olson Berge, who has lived in Chicago since 1893, was in Madison, WI, in September and paid the editor a visit. He has been a typographer and operated a big typesetting machine but has stopped working now. Anyway, he was lucky enough to obtain a significant property in Chicago. His wife, Anna L. Opheim (Vestbygden), died November 22, 1922. Mr. Berge wished for each issue of "Vossingen" — each single issue, he said — because they the most interesting reading he could get. He promised to send us letters from Chicago and recently we received the remarkable item below for the lag.

For consideration by the Vosselag.

The Vosselag is still in beginning, but a mighty good beginning. For further promotion of the lag, I think, that national Vosselag really should be the master lodge with all the local Vosselag as subsidiary lags. The master lag would have a convention at least once a year and its membership would be constituted of the participants in the local lags with valid votes according to the membership of their lag to decide all the rules and motions. Certain activities could be meaningfully extended

dertil skulde virke grenene udvides betydelig i retning af sygehjælp og assurance o.s.v. hvilket alt vilde have til følge, at man tager mere interesse i samfundet til deres egen finansielle og sociale nytte. Man vil da have noget at knytte sig til; det vil være umagen værdt at være medlem, tilslutningen vil bli meget større og stadigere, og ikke dvindle bort, som det nu gjør paa mange steder. Skriftet "Vossingen" vilde da komme ud en gang om maaneden, maaske om ugen og Vosselaget vilde blive den mest elskede organisation som kunde tænkes for vossinger. Enhver som er født paa Voss eller stammer derfra, skulde slutte sig til laget akkurat som man slutter sig til et kirkesamfund. Dette program skulde overveies og diskuteres i vore vosselag saasnart leilighed gives. De vossinger, som ikke da slutter sig til laget, vil snart glemme det kjære gamle Voss. Skriv til "Vossingen" alle som ønsker et udvidet, fuldbart og komplet Vosselag, saa at vi kan vide, hvorvidt det bærer frugt.

Bryngel O. Berge,
Chicago.

* * *

Nils Johnson, af det kjendte firma Johnson Chair Company, Chicago, og hustru Martha, f. Findall, feirede sit guldbryllup den 23de oktober s. l. Et stort antal af slegt og venner indfandt sig i den anledning i deres hjem. Disse kom fra Wisconsin, Minnesota, Syd og Nord Dakota foruden fra forskjellige steder i Illinois og udgjorde flere hundrede personer. Et festmaal tid havdes om kvelden efterfulgt af taler og musik. Dommer Oscar Torrison fungjerede som kjøgemester. Taler holdtes af pastor J. A. Leas, til hvis menighed brudeparret hører, Dr. G. Torrison mindedes i sin tale brudeparrets forældre. Joseph A. Johnson, guldbrudgommens nevø, talte paa barns og barnebarns vegne. Advokat Mosser læste en resolution fra Treenighedskirken. Mrs. Oscar Haugen frembragte en gratulation fra The Valla Club. Major Birger Osland overrakte, ledsaget af en stemningsfuld tale, en vakker present i guld fra Chicago Pioneer Club, hvis president Nils Johnson er. En resolution oplæstes fra The Old Time Printers Association. Guldbrudgommen var nemlig en tid beskjæftiget som typograf og journalist. Andre talere var fhv. Minister N. A. Grevstad, Henry I. Hertz, Pastor S. P. Long og John Hovland. Sluttelig holdt Guldbrudgommen selv en interessant tale, hvori han blandt andet fortalte flere smaahistorier fra gamle dage. Mrs. Joseph Johnson og Mrs. Jacobson gav musikalsk underholdning mellem talerne.

Nils Johnson, som nu er 80 aar, er søn af John Larson Gjerdager, som med familie kom til Amerika i 1850 og bosatte sig paa Jefferson Prairie.

in the direction of nursing care and insurance, e. g. which all will have to be later, when people take more interest in society than in their own financial and social needs. People will have something to relate to; it will be unmatchable to be a member, eventually it will get bigger and more constant, and not dwindle away as it is now doing many places. The newsletter, "Vossingen", will the come out once a month, maybe weekly, and the Vosselag will become the most beloved organization one could think of, for vossings. Everyone who has been born at Voss or who stems from there would join the lag the same as one joins a church society. This plan should be considered and discussed in our Vosselag at the next opportunity. Those vossings who don't join the lag will soon forget the dear old Voss. Everyone who wishes an expanded, mature and complete Vosselag should write to "Vosselag" so that we can learn how far this bears fruit.

Bryngel O. Berge,
Chicago.

* * *

Nils Johnson, of the famous firm of Johnson Chair Company, Chicago and his wife Martha, neé Findall celebrated their golden wedding October 23. a large number of relatives and friends attended the occasion at their home. They came from Wisconsin, Minnesota, South and North Dakota in addition to several places in Illinois and consisted of several hundred people. A banquet was served in the evening followed by speeches and music. Judge Oscar Torrison functioned as master-of-ceremonies. Speeches were made by Pastor J. A. Leas, to whose congregation the married couple belong, Dr. G. Torrison remembered the couple's parent in his talk. Joseph A. Johnson, the gold-grooms nephew talked on behalf of the children and grandchildren. Attorney Mosser read a resolution from Trinity Church. Mrs. Oscar Haugen produced congratulations from The Valla Club. Major Birger Osland presented, accompanied by a moving speech, a handsome present in gold from the Chicago Pioneer Club, whose president is Nils Johnson. A resolution was read from The Old Time Printers Association. The gold-groom was employed as a typographer and journalist at one time. Other speakers were the former Minister N. A. Grevstad, Henry I. Hertz, Pastor S. P. Long and John Hovland. In conclusion, the goldbridegroom himself gave an interesting talk in which he included several anecdotes from the early days. Mrs. Joseph Johnson and Mrs. Jacobson gave musical entertainment between the speeches.

Nils Johnson, who now is 80 years, is a son of John Larson Gjerdager, who came to America with his family in 1850 and settled on Jefferson Prairie.

Guvernør Nestos var i New York og talte ved handelskammerets aarsmøde der den 15de nov. s. 1. I sin tale omtalte han de modstridende opfatninger, som gjorde sig gjældende mellem Østen og Nordvesten og nævnte, hvor vanskeligt det især syntes at være for New York handelstand at sætte sig ind i forholdene og den aand, som var den herskende i Nordvesten. Han udviklede derpaa hvorledes tilstanden var iblandt farmerne og hvad der havde foraarsaget de politiske rivninger der i de sidste aar. Nævnte om, at en stor del af farmerne maatte arbejde 14—16 timer i døgnet for at reise en avling, som man fandt ikke gav vederlag for omkostningerne, og hvor store priser der var paa alle fornødenheder, de maatte købe. Der har været tale om beskyttelsestold eller fastsættelse af hvedepriser, men man havde fundet, at regjeringen ikke havde taget fornødent hensyn til deres klagemaal, hvad der havde bragt mistro og gjort, at mange har været rede til at følge selvbestaltede ledere, som med stor veltalenhed har lovet forbedringer ved midler, som vides at være usunde. Men man maatte ikke tro at farmerne i Minnesota og Dakotaterne var socialister, bolshevister, kommunister, røde, radikale og uvidende barbarer, som mange af Østens industrielle ledere synes at mene. En saadan mening var ligesaa uberettiget som man i Nordvesten mente, at New Yorks handelstand var en flok snedige bedrager, der gennem Wall street søgte at frarøve farmere og arbejdere deres ærligt fortjente løn, fordi at der kunde findes slige iblandt den. Han forklarede saa nærmere om sin egen stat, hvad der var gjort og dens store muligheder; — sagde om folket, at det' var en klasse af hjem-eiere og hjem-elskere, flittige og samvittighedsfulde, gudfrygtige og ærlige i sin vandel med tro paa kirken og skolen og respekt for lov og ret. Han sluttede med at udtale en forvisning om, at man ved at kjende den herskende aand i det store Nordvesten, vilde skatte folkets idealer og karakter mere tilfulde og faa fornyet tro og tillid til Nord Dakota.

DØDSFALD I AMERIKA.

Torger G. Thompson, den bekjendte storfarmers og forhenværende legislaturmedlem paa Koshkonong, Wis., døde den 12te november s. 1. Han havde været sygelig de sidste par aar, men døden kom dog noget pludselig. Torsdag den 15de nov. stedtes han til hvile paa Liberty Prairie kirkegaard under usædvanlig stor deltagelse. Liberty Prairie Kirken rummede paa langt nær ikke alle, som bivaanede sørgedienstjeneren der. Pastorerne Krostu af Liberty Prairie, Siljan fra Madison, Hegge og Stubkjær fra Stoughton, talte i kirken. Krostu forrettede ved graven.

Torger Thompson var søn af Gulleik Thorstenson

Governor Nestos was in New York and spoke November 15, at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. In his speech, he discussed the opposing concepts that were presently extant between the East and the Northwest and told how difficult it seemed to be for the New York businessmen to understand the conditions and attitudes that were prevailing in the Northwest. He then developed about how circumstances were among the farmers, and what was the cause for the political discord in the last year. He told how most of the farmers had to work 14—16 hours a day in order to raise a harvest, which one found didn't give remuneration for the expenses, and how high all the prices were for all the provisions they had to buy. There has been some talk of protective tariffs or of price setting of wheat, but they have discovered that the government doesn't pay the essential consideration to their complaints and that this brings mistrust and makes many afraid to follow the self-appointed leaders, who with great confidence promise improvement of the conditions which they feel are unsound. Nevertheless, people didn't want to believe that the farmers in Minnesota and the Dakotas are Socialists, Bolsheviks, Communists, reds, radicals or uninformed barbarians as many of the industrial leaders in the East seemed to think. A similar attitude is equally unjust when the people in the Northwest think New York's commercial world consists of a group of crafty swindlers who via Wall Street try to cheat the farmers and workers of their deserved earned income, because there could be found such among them. He explained about his own state, what had been achieved there and its great possibilities; he said about the populace, that they were a class of home-owners and home-lovers, energetic and conscientious, God-fearing and honorable in their conduct with belief in church, school and with respect for law and justice. He concluded by expressing a conviction that, if people got to know the predominant spirit in the big Northwest, they would value people's ideals and character and get a renewed trust and confidence in North Dakota.

DEATHS IN AMERICA.

Torger G. Thompson, the well-known big farmer and former legislator on Koshkonong, WI, died November 12, (1923). He had been ill the past two years, but death occurred suddenly. He was laid to rest in Liberty Prairie Cemetery on Thursday, November 15, with an unusually large attendance. Liberty Prairie Church didn't near hold the large crowd that was at the funeral there. Pastors Krostu of Liberty Prairie, Siljan from Madison, Hegge and Stubkjær from Stoughton, spoke in the church. Krostu officiated at the gravesite.

Torger Thompson was a son of Gulleik Thorstenson

Saude, som med forældre kom til Amerika i 1840. Hans mor var Dønøt Torgersdatter Røthe. Thompson var født paa det gamle hjemsted i townet Christiana, Dane Co., Wis., i 1853 og blev boende der hele sit liv. I 1883 blev han gift med Asher Andersdatter Grimestad, som overlever ham. De fik to børn, som begge døde i barnealderen.

Om Thompsons deltagelse i det offentlige liv m. m. vil sees af "Vossingen" no. 3, 3die aarg. tilligemed hans portræt. Her skal vi nævne lidt om hvorledes hans formue, der er anslaaet til en halv million, skal anvendes.

Alt indbo og personlige eiendele i hjemstedet skal tilhøre hans hustru. Alt det øvrige er overladt i forvaring til The Central Wisconsin Trust Company af Madison og af det uddelte som nedunder anført til følgende formaal:

En sum, af hvilken indtægten skal gaa til vedligehold af gravstedet paa Liberty kirkegaard ved Deerfield, er sat tilside. Hustruen skal have et saadant beløb af indtægten fra boet, som hun trænger; dets størrelse at bestemmes af hende. Efter hendes død skal boet deles. Af dette skal \$40,000 gaa til St. Olaf College i Northfield, Minn., og udgjøre et fond, som skal hede The Torger G. Thompson Fond, hvis indtægter skal gaa til hjælp for studenter med smaa midler. Indtægten af \$10,000 skal gaa til den Norsk Lutherske kirke af Amerikas Missionskasse. Indtægten af \$10,000 skal betales aarlig til Wisconsin Universitet og anvendes til lægevidenskabelige undersøgelser. Indtægten af \$2,500 skal aarlig betales til Martin Luther Børnehjem i Stoughton og af andre \$2500 til Skaalen Gamlehjem, Stoughton. Indtægten af \$5000 skal gaa til Homme Barnehjem i Wittenberg og af andre \$5000 til Homme Gamlehjem samme sted. Efter dannelsen af disse fond, skal det øvrige gaa til Wisconsin Universitet som et fond til hjælp for ubemidlede studenter af skandinavisk herkomst og til bestridelse af udgifterne ved et professorat i skandinaviske sprog og literatur, som skal kaldes "The Thompson Chair of Scandinavian Languages of the University of Wisconsin," samt til dannelse af et bibliotek af bøger, som angaar skandinavisk sprog og literatur. Dette fond, som kanske vil beløbe sig til mindst \$300,000 skal forvaltes af universitetsstyret. De skal afsætte en del deraf til bestridelse af lønninger til professoren ved The Thompson Chair of Scandinavian Languages of the University of Wisconsin. Resten eller saa meget deraf, som bestyrelsen finder passende, skal bruges til at hjælpe ubemidlede studenter af skandinavisk herkomst baade paa faders og moders side, naar disse andrager derom og ansøgningen er anbefalet af professoren ved The Thompson chair. Af mulige overskud skal der kjøbes bogværker som behandler skandinaviske sprog eller tillægges hovedfondet, om slige værker ikke trænges.

Saude who came to America with his parents in 1840. His mother was Dønøt Torgersdatter Røthe. Thompson was born on the old homestead in the town of Christiana, Dane County, WI in 1853 and lived there his entire life. He married Asher Andersdatter Grimestad, who survives him, in 1883. They had two children, both who died in childhood.

To read of Thompson's activity in public life as well as see his portrait, we refer you to "Vossingen" no. 3, 3rd year. Here we shall mention a little about his fortune, which is estimated to be about a half million, and how it shall be utilized.

All furniture and personal property at the homestead shall belong to his wife. The remainder is placed in trust at The Central Wisconsin Trust Company of Madison and will be divided for the following purposes as recorded below.

A sum is reserved, whose income shall be used for upkeep of the burial place at Liberty Cemetery in Deerfield. The widow shall have such an amount, as she needs, the size as she determines, from the estate. The estate shall be divided after her death. From this, \$40,000 shall go to St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., to create a fund, known as Torger G. Thompson Fund, whose income shall go to helping students with little means. The income from \$10,000 shall go to The Norwegian Lutheran Church Mission treasury. The revenue from \$10,000 shall be paid annually to the University of Wisconsin and used for medical research. The income from \$2,500 shall be paid annually to the Martin Luther Children's Home in Stoughton and another \$2500 to the Skaalen Old People's Home in Stoughton. The income from \$5,000 shall go to the Homme Children's Home in Wittenberg and from another \$5,000 to the Homme Old People's Home of the same place. After the establishment of these funds, the remainder shall go to the University of Wisconsin, as a fund for needy students of Scandinavian heritage and to defray the costs of a professorship in Scandinavian Languages, and shall be named "The Thompson Chair of Scandinavian Languages of the University of Wisconsin," as well as a library of books relating to Scandinavian languages and literature. This fund, which will maybe consist of at least \$300,000, shall be controlled by the university management. A portion of it shall be earmarked for defraying the salary of a professor at The Thompson Chair of Scandinavian Languages of the University of Wisconsin". The remainder, or as much as the university management thinks appropriate, shall be used for needy students of Scandinavian descent on both their mother's and father's sides, when these applications are recommended by the professor in The Thompson Chair. Any excess shall be used to purchase books dealing with Scandinavian languages or added to the main legacy, if such works aren't needed.

BERGSDALEN I EVANGER

Av Vilhelm Rogdo i "Bondebladet".

Her strøymer veldet innpaa deg,
her ser du fjelli reisa seg
med res og skard og haugar graa
og tjørnar smaa,
som speglar kvelven djup og blaa.

I botnen brusar stride elv,
so lufti baarar, grunnen skjelv.
Og bekker i dei bratte hall,
og fossefall
som kvite band fraa pall til pall.

Og geisledans kring haug og hø,
og glim og glans paa drivkvit snø,
som løyner stokk og stuv og stein.

Og luft so rein
til helsebot for kvar og ein.

Ein daam av dette veldet ber
det gilde, trauste folkeferd,
som voks seg vent i harde kaar,
i strid so saar
mot snø og storm og seine aar.

Bergsdalen ligg i Evanger. Han skjer seg upp fraa Dale i Bruvik. Den fyrste halvmili er dalen bratt, og der er høge stupbratte fjell og store fossar. Der er trengt og villt. Elles er dølen-nokolunde flat, og mange stader er han heller open. Der er det vent.

I Bergsdalen er 10 gardar, som er skifte i 20 bruk. Alle ligg i solhalli paa nordre sida aat elvi. Fleire ligg ikring 500 m. yver havet. Bergsdalselvi kjem fraa Hamlagrøvatnet, som ligg 23 fcm. fraa Dale. Ved Hamlagrøvatnet hev fleire vossingar og hardingar stolar. Bergsdølerne hev sine stolar i smaa tverrdalar lenger nede.

Framkoma.

Fyrr var det ikkje godt aa koma til og fraa Bergsdalen. Der var ikkje vegar. Ned til Dale var det mest uraad aa koma fram med noko. Daa var det meir framkomande yver fjellet til Bolstadøyri og Evanger. Og her for bergsdølerne baade med varor, lik og smaaborn som skulde til daapen. Um sumaren kunde dei reida; men um vinteren kom dei ikkje fram med hest. Daa maatte bergsdølerne gaa paa

BERGSDALEN IN EVANGER

By Vilhelm Rogdo in "Bondebladet".

Here awesome majesty overwhelms you,
here you see the mountains rear.
With ridges and gaps and grey knolls
and little lakes,
like overturned mirrors deep and blue.

In the bottom, rushes the struggling river,
so the air billows, the earth shakes,
and streams in the steep stone,
and water falls
like white ribbons from step to step.

The glittering beams round hills and heights,
glisten and reflect on white-driven snow,
that conceals tree-trunks, stumps and rocks,

The air so pure,
a therapy for everyone.

A feature of this majesty asks of
the fine, reliable type of people,
that grow up in this environment,
in a struggle so demanding,
against the snow and storms and slow years.

Bergsdalen valley lies in Evanger. It cuts upward from Dale in Bruvik. For the first half mile, it is very steep; there are high steep mountains with big waterfalls. It is narrow and wild. The rest of the valley is rather flat with several widened places. It is pretty.

There are ten farms in Bergsdal, divided into 20 workings. All are in on the sunny or north side of the river. Several are 500 meters over sea level. Bergsdals River starts from Hamlagrøvatnet, which lies 23 km. From Dale. Several vossings and hardings have their summer pastures at Hamlagrøvatnet. The bergsdalites have theirs in cross-valleys farther down.

Access.

Earlier, it wasn't easy to get to and from Bergsdalen. There weren't roads. It was almost impossible to get down to Dale. It was more plausible to go over the mountain to Bolstadøyri or Evanger. The bergsdalites traveled here with their wares, corpses and little babies that were to be baptized. In the summer, they could ride, but in winter, they couldn't get through by horse. Then the bergsdalites

ski og bera eller draga det dei hadde med seg. Dei brukte lang tid fram og attende, ofte tvo-tri dagar. Stundom kom det snøstorm paa dei, og daa var dei ofte ille ute.

Hausten 1891 tok dei til aa byggja veg fraa Dale. I 1894 var han ferdig til Fosse, nedste garden i Bergsdalen. Fraa Fosse til Hamlagrøvatnet vart det bygt veg i aari 1901—1908.

No er det daa lettare for bergsdølerne aa koma fram. Dei kann køyra til Dale heile aaret, so nær som ei kort tid midt paa vinteren naar det er mykje snø. Um sumaren gjeng der bilar kvar dag, og det fer ikkje so faa framande gjennom dalen.

Gravplass og Kapell.

Bergsdølerne fekk sin eigen gravplass for vel 20 aar sidan. Han ligg umlag midt i Bergsdalen. Dei vilde og gjerne faa seg kapell, og stortingsmann h. v. Guttorm Lid gav 400 kr. til det ein gong dei kom saman og dryfte tanken. Meir hev dei ikkje fenge, so det er uvisst endaa naar dei kann taka til aa byggja.

Skulen.

Fyrst var der umgangsskule som i andre bygder. Ei tid var det skule paa tri stader i kvar krins, seinare paa tvo stader. Det er berre tvo krinsar. I 1902 vart det byggt skulehus i Øyo krins og i 1917 i Hatlestad krins. Fyrr stogga gjerne kvar lærar lenge i dalen, sume upptil 20 aar. Dei siste aari hev der vore lærarbyte ofte. No er Rangvald Nødtvedt fraa Modalen lærar i Bergsdalen.

Ikkje so faa bergsdøler hev gjenge paa ein ungdomsskule eller ein folkehøgskole. Summe hev og vore paa andre skular.

Lag.

Ungdomslag og maallag hev det aldri vore i Bergsdalen. Men der hev vore eit leselag og eit fraahaldslag. Fraahaldslaget vart nedlagt daa det hadde arbeidt i seks aar. Men interessa for fraa-haldsarbeidet var ikkje heilt burte, det synte seg i 1915, daa vart der skipa ein losje som fekk namnet "Fjelliast". Millom dei som hev gjort mest i losjen, maa ein nemna Andreas Smaabrekke, Anna Th. Lie og Helena P. Øye. Det syner att paa folkelivet at det hev vore arbeidt for edruskapen. I det store og heile er det vent, det er lite utskjemt av fyll.

I 1908 vart det skipa skyttarlag. Det er tanken aa faa upp skyttarhus, og det hev vore samla litt pengar til det.. Formenn i laget hev Johannes L. Berge og Olav Kaldestad vore.

Det er ikkje alltid so greidt for bergsdølerne aa koma saman; for gardarne ligg langt fraa einannan, og um vinteren er der mykje snø og harde stormar. Men bergsdølerne er flinke til aa gaa paa ski, so dei kjem no fram naar dei vil.

go by ski and carry or drag what they had along. They spent a lot of time en route, often two-three days. Occasionally they were caught in a blizzard, and then it was horrific.

They started building a road from Dale in 1891. It was finished as far as Fosse, the lowest farm in Bergsdalen, by 1894. The road from Fosse to Lake Hamlagrø was built in the years from 1901—1908.

Now it is easier for the bergsdalites to get out. They can drive to Dale the entire year, except for a short time in the winter, when there is too much snow. Cars go there every day during the summer, but few strangers drive through the valley.

Cemetery and chapel.

The bergsdalites got their own cemetery about 20 years ago. It lies in the middle of Bergsdalen. They also wanted to build a chapel for themselves and former Stortingsrepresentative Guttorm Lid gave 400 NKR for it once when they were making plans. They haven't collected more so it is yet unknown when it they can start building.

The school.

Originally, there was a circuit school like the other districts. At one time, school was held in three places, later two. There are only two school districts. In 1902, they built a schoolhouse in Øye district and in Hatlestad in 1917. Before, each teacher had to plod far into the valley, some as many as 20 years. They changed teachers quite often, especially the last years. Ragnvald Nødtvedt from Modalen is the current teacher in Bergsdalen.

Many of the bergsdalites have gone on to school at youth school or a folk high school. Some have attended other schools.

Clubs.

There have never been youth clubs or language clubs in Bergsdalen. However, there have been reading clubs and Temperance Societies. The Temperance Society was discontinued after it had functioned for six years. It wasn't because the interest in anti-alcohol use was completely gone, that was evident in 1915, when a lodge called "Fjelliast" was created. Andreas Smaabrekke, Anna Th. Lie and Helena P. Øye worked the most for the lodge. It shows on the life of the people that there has been work for sobriety. All in all, as expected, there were is little drunkenness.

A shooting club was started in 1908. there is consideration of building a shooting gallery, and money has been collected for it. Johannes L. Berge and Olav Kaldestad have been presidents.

It isn't always so easy for bergsdalites to get together; because the farms are far apart and during the winter, there is a lot of snow and there are blizzards. However, the bergsdalites are good skiers and so they go where they want to.

Bergsdølerne

er strevsame og smaanøgde og greider seg med smaa innkomar. Og det trengst; for gardarne kastar ikkje mykje av seg, og umframarbeid hev det ofte vore smaatt um. No er det elles betre i so maate, det er arbeid aa faa nede paa Dale, der Bjørgvin og Bjørgvins-landet byggjer det store kraftverket sitt.

Mange bergsdøler hev flytt ut or dalen. Dei fleste hev greidt seg godt, kva dei so hev slege inn paa.

—————
TAKKESKRIVELSE FRA VOSSESTRANDEN.
—————

Det var om høsten 1921 der blev slaet til lyd for at vossestrandingerne her i landet skulde hjelpe til med at skaffe penge til et orgel i Vinje eller Drøgsvaldskirken. Britha Herheim i Chicago gjorde begyndelsen, fik ind et opraab i bladene og samlede noget over hundrede dollars der i byen, saa fik maa istand en komite i Madison, Wis., med Ole S. Vinje i spidsen. Han fik tegnet noget over \$50.00, John Herheim og Amund Selje samlede ind \$72.00 paa Spring Prairie. Mrs. Monson, Britha Herheims søster, samlede \$170.00 i Iowa og Minnesota og flere sendte vist ind penge direkte. Ole Vinje fik ivaar et takkebrev fra formanden i orgelkomiteen, og dette vil vist være af interesse for giverne og andre at se. Det lyder saa:

"Tusin tak for pengene de sendte til orgellet. Da jeg ikke kjender adressen til de sidste givere, maa jeg bede Dem være saa venlig at hilse dem alle vore hjerteligste tak for den store gave. Det var rigtigt pent af Eder, at I vilde vise hjembygden den ære at være med aa hjelpe til at skaffe orgel til den kirke, som de fleste af Eder er døbt og konfirmeret i. Naar orgeltonerne nu bruser gennem kirken, bærer de en hilsen til Vinje menighed fra deres bygdebørn hinsides havet.

Ja, orgelet er nu kommet og tat ibrug. Det blev indviet 2den paaskedag, og De kan tro kirken var fuld af folk den dagen. Som formand i orgelkomiteen overleverte jeg da efter gudstjenesten orgelet til Vinje menighed og holdt i den anledning en liden tale, hvori jeg fremholdt hvor hyggeligt og vakkert det var, at vi havde faaet saa god hjælp fra Eder i Amerika. Det vidner, sa jeg, — paa en smuk maade om, at I fra hjemlandet har tat med baade fædre-landskjærlighed. og kjærlighed til kirken og kristendommen. Naar orgeltoneme nu lyder under kirkens hvælv, saa faar vi ogsaa gennem dem hilsen fra venner kjendinger og slegtninger hinsides havet. For mig personlig var disse Amerika-sendinger en stor glæde, da jeg blandt givernes navne kjendte igjen mange af mine gamle

Bergsdalites.

are hard-working, of few necessities and get along on low incomes. That is necessary because the farms don't produce very much, and there is little outside work. Now, however, in one regard, it is better; there is work to be found down at Dale, where Bjørgvin and Bjørgvins-landet are building their big power plant.

Many bergsdalites have left the valley. Most of them have done well, whatever they have tried to do.

—————
THANK YOU LETTER FROM VOSSESTRANDEN.
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In the fall of 1921, there was an appeal to the vossestrandings in this country to help collect money for an organ in Vinje or Drøgsvald churches. Britha Herheim in Chicago started it, got an announcement in the papers and collected some over a hundred dollars there in the city, then organized a committee in Madison, WI, with Ole S. Vinje as chairman. He raised a little over \$50, John Herheim and Amund Selje collected in \$72.00 at Spring Prairie. Mrs. Monson, Britha Herheim's sister, gathered \$170.00 in Iowa and Minnesota and several evidently sent in money directly. This spring, Ole Vinje got a thank you letter from the chairman of the organ committee, and this will probably be of interest for the donors and others to see. It goes like this:

"A thousand thank yous for the money you sent for the organ. Since I don't know the addresses of the last donors, I ask you to be so kind as to greet them and give them our heartiest thanks for the big present. It was extremely nice of you, that you should honor your home district to join in the effort to obtain an organ for that church in which most of you were baptized and confirmed. When the organ notes resound through the church, they carry a greeting to the Vinje congregation from their fellows on the other side of the ocean.

Yes, the organ has arrived and is in use. It was dedicated on the Second Day of Easter, and you can believe the church was full of people that day. As chairman of the organ committee, I, after the service, delivered the organ to the Vinje congregation and used the occasion to give a little speech in which I presented how pleasant and nice it was to get such good help from you in America. It testifies, I said, — about the kind manner that you from the homeland have used your love of your fatherland and love of your church and Christianity. When the chords from the organ are heard under the vault of the church, we will get from them also a greeting from friends, acquaintances and relatives on the other side of the sea. For me, personally, these American were of immense joy since via the names of the givers I recognized again many of my old pupils. The second

skoleelever. 2den paaskedag blev en mindedag for os om Eder, som reiste som unge mennesker forat arbeide Dere op et hjem i det fremmede land, og gaverne De sendte var os et pant paa, at det hadde gaaet godt, men at De alligevel endnu er norske i hug og haat. Det er et meget godt orgel vi har faat. Det er fra vor bedste og mest moderne orgelfabrik (Olsen & Jørgensen i Kristiania) og koster opsat i kirken lidt over 8000 kroner. Vi har enduu en gjæld af mellem 8 a 900 kroner paa det. Tiderne her er nu sterkt nedgaaende med pengemangel, saa det er just ikke den beleiligste tid til indsamling hverken for det ene eller det andet.

Saa tilslut da en hjertelig tak til Eder allesammen. Jeg skulde have lyst til at kunne trykke hver eneste af Eder i haanden og sige tak.

Med de hjerteligste hilsener fra Eders gamle ven

N. Bjørgaas.

DØDSFALD PAA VOSS.

Marta O. Ringheim, 63 aar gammel; Ivar Olsen Olde, 57; Brita G. Vethe, f. Berge, 87; Olav I. Rio, 66; Sigrid Skutle, 80; Kristi Eimstad, 20; Lars N. Herre, 29; Bryngel Anderson Skjelde, 55; Lars G. Hovda, f. paa Vestrheim, 80; Elisabeth K. Skutle, 20; Cecelia I. Eide f. Bø, 84; Anna A. Graue, f. Gjerdager, 63; Ranvei Gjerstad f. Litsheim, 63; Bryngel P. Lemme, 76; Ole J. Bryn, 85; Brita I. Lie, 21; Askel H. Øvsthus 62; Gulleik H. Grimestad, 30; Lars L. Hauge, 30; Johannes G. Rokne, 77; Thorbjørn A. Kvale, 81; Britha K. Midtun f. Hefte, .74; Maria Graue, 37; Maria Vinje, 42; Brita G. Nedkvitne, 65; Bryngel A. Hjembære 76; Godskalk K Plage, 85.

Vossestranden: Sjur K. Nesheim, 78; Gjertrud Ingebriktsdr. Sundve, 82; Ola Brekke, Mikkel I. Hole, 76; Erik H. Tufte 32; Anders O. Skjervheim d. e. 71; John Anderson Overland, 99; Gunhild E. Stalheim 87; Ole O. Høen, Ole O. Lilleteig 76.

Evanger: Brita Rongen, 44; Lars A. Hyljaraas, 90; Nils H. Horvei 65; Brytva Hernæs f. Fadnes.

Det har stundom undret os, hvorfor man paa Voss hvor nynorsken og alt nationalt regjerer, ikke faar navnet paa bygden forandret til sin oprindelige form Vors, for idetmindste at skille bygdens navn Voss fra skolelærer Voss paa Voss og alle andre tyske vossnavne, hvoraf her er en masse i Amerika.

Easter Day became a commemorative day for us about you who left as young people in order to create a home for yourselves in a strange land, and the gifts you sent to us were signs that you were thriving, yet still were Norwegians in mind and quality. We have a very fine organ. It is from the best and most modern organ manufacturer (Olsen and Jørgensen in Kristiania) and it cost the church upwards of 8000 NKR. We still owe a balance of between 8 and 900 NKR for it. The times are strongly depressed now with shortage of money, so it isn't the most convenient time for the collection for one thing or the other.

In conclusion, a hearty thank you to each of you. I wish I could have shaken each of you in the hand and said thank you.

With the most heartfelt greetings to you from your old friend

N. Bjørgås".

DEATHS AT VOSS.

Marta O. Ringheim, 63 years old; Ivar Olsen Olde, 57; Brita G. Vethe, neé Berge, 87; Olav I. Rio, 66; Sigrid Skutle, 80; Kristi Eimstad, 20; Lars N. Herre, 29; Bryngel Anderson Skjelde, 55; Lars G. Hovda, neé Vestrheim, 80; Elisabeth K. Skutle, 20; Cecelia I. Eide neé Bø, 84; Anna A. Graue, neé Gjerdager, 63; Ranvei Gjerstad neé Litsheim, 63; Bryngel P. Lemme, 76; Ole J. Bryn, 85; Brita I. Lie, 21; Askel H. Øvsthus 62; Gulleik H. Grimestad, 30; Lars L. Hauge, 30; Johannes G. Rokne, 77; Thorbjørn A. Kvale, 81; Britha K. Midtun neé Hefte, .74; Maria Graue, 37; Maria Vinje, 42; Brita G. Nedkvitne, 65; Bryngel A. Hjembære 76; Godskalk K Plage, 85.

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Evanger: Brita Rongen, 44; Lars A. Hyljaraas, 90; Nils H. Horvei 65; Brytva Hernæs neé Fadnes.

It has often puzzled us, why people at Voss, where Nynorsk and everything patriotic reigns, haven't had the name of their district changed to its original form, Vors, at least to differentiate the area's name from Voss, the schoolteacher at Voss and from all the other German names, of which there are a great number in America.

