

PERSONAL BACKGROUND Born on April 9, 1903 in Thompson, Iowa.

PARENTS Rasmus was an educated clergyman. Gabriella was a principal at a girls' school. Story behind parents' meeting. They were from Norway.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS (see lineage) Sophie Larson was a missionary in China. Marie Meyer is a teacher at St. Olaf's College. Olaf was a pastor and professor.

GRANDPARENTS Met maternal grandmother when studying in Norway. Paternal grandfather was a government official. They were all from Haugesund, Norway.

REASONS PARENTS CAME TO THE U.S. Over supply of clergymen. Preached to immigrants in 1892, immigrant experience ca. 1892.

YANGTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA Relates his parents' first dinner experience and how they overdressed for the occasion.

THOMPSON, IOWA/DECORAH, IOWA Father was a professor and editor at Luther College. Then on to St. Paul, Minnesota and being an editor and theological professor there. This was a Norwegian community. They spoke Norwegian at home.

EDUCATION High school, Decorah, Iowa. Luther College Preparatory Department and College. Scholarships from the American Scandinavian Foundation and Carnegie Institution, Department of Historical Research, archives Scandinavian history. He started getting involved in music too.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Material published. Charter member (1945). Materials on Norwegian immigration. Materials published in the Decorah Posten.

SWEDEN/DENMARK Examined archive materials for the articles.

ARRIVED PLU Taught 32 years. Was an exchange professor to Norway and Alberta, Canada for one year each.

PLU 1937 Junior college at that time: 300 students. No regular pay checks. Charged groceries at Dahl's grocery store.

PLU CHOIR OF THE WEST Started 1927 by Joseph Edwards. They toured Norway in the summer of 1963.

NORMANNA MALE CHORUS Tacoma director since 1945. Original costumes Norwegian. First Sangerfest was in 1903.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY GROUP Support men. Dinners, rummage sales.

SANGERFEST 1951 Largest in Seattle. (See counter I-158)

NORMANNA MALE CHORUS 90th anniversary. Had a special concert (see counter I-158)

WESTERN VIKING Correspondent for. Little knowledge of English and need for papers in the immigrant's language.

PLU Taught Norwegian, no one around to do it (early 1940s).

CHURCH LIFE Director of church choirs since 1921. Post Chaplain at Fort Lewis. McNeil Island Penitentiary Chapel Choir.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Norwegian Christmas Church Service (16 years). Joined by community churches and Normanna Male Chorus.

PLU Christmas service put on by students.

SCANDINAVIAN ORGANIZATIONS Member all except for Daughters of Norway. Honorary member. Northlight Club (Nordlandslaget), Nordlyse, Sons of Norway and president of local Sons of Norway.

WIFE Dorothy Brann. Children, three sons and one daughter. Sons attended PLU. Daughter attended St. Olaf. One son attended school in Norway near Hamar. He finished gymnas and took his atrium in music. Later he did his Doctors thesis in music in Sweden.

TEN TRIPS BACK TO NORWAY Keeps in touch with relatives. All relatives except for immediate family live in Norway. (see counter I-371)

IMPORTANCE OF NORWEGIAN HERITAGE Tremendous element in his life.

FAMILY REUNIONS Big get-togethers. Scandinavian traditions, maintain foods and Christmas customs.

CHRISTMAS Rice porridge and almond concealed in one dish.

SPEAKS NORWEGIAN Table prayer. Received St. Olaf medal from King of Norway for contributions to Norwegian culture. 1975 entertained the King when he visited the U.S.