

# **Historic Heg Memorial Park: photographic views and brief historical sketches of the outstanding points of interest in and about Heg Memorial Park, Racine County, Wisconsin.**

Colbo, Ella Stratton

Racine, Wisconsin: Racine County Historical Society, 1975

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**FOR REFERENCE**  
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# HISTORIC MEMORIAL PARK

WISCONSIN



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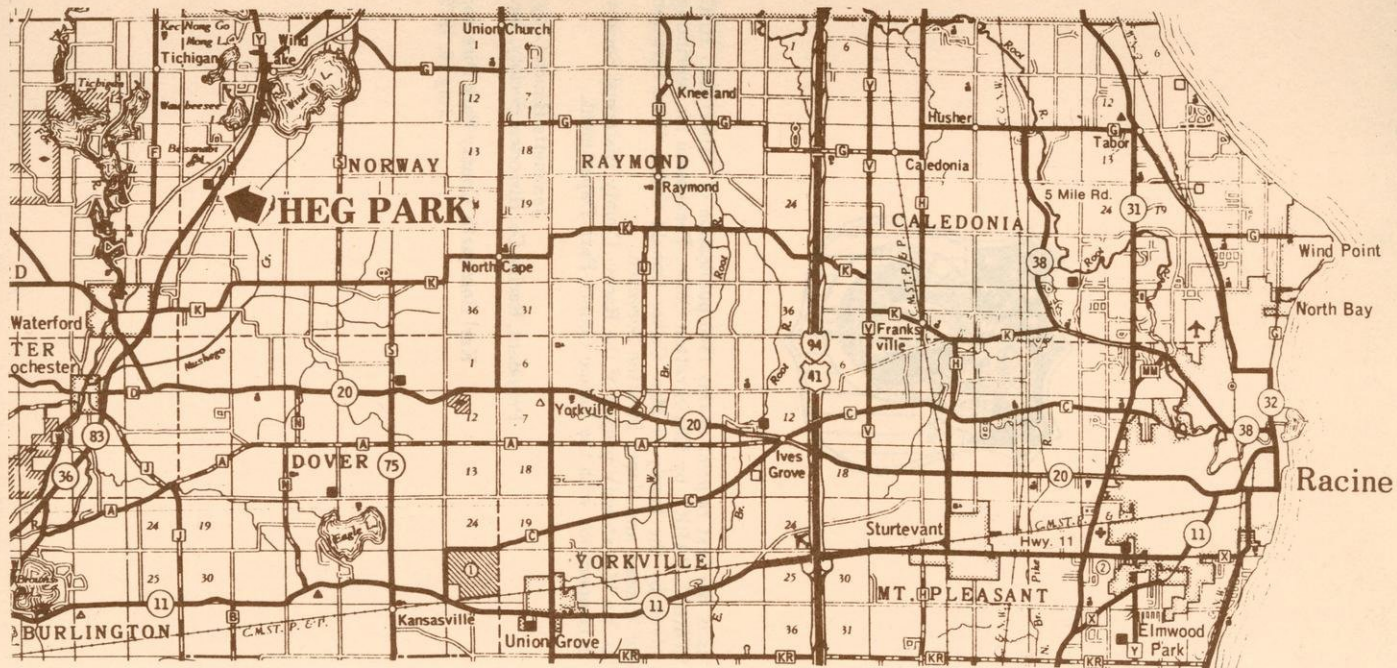
This is the first re-print of this 1940 publication of "HISTORIC HEG MEMORIAL PARK", by Ella Stratton Colbo. Permission for reprinting was given by the family of Mrs. Colbo; Donald Colbo, Gene Stratton (Colbo) Wishau, and Nancy Stratton Sorensen.

This is a bi-centennial project of the Racine County Historical Society Inc. in co-operation with the Racine County Park Department.

Jeannette Hauch Cody,  
President, Racine Co. Historical Society, Inc.

Karl Holzwarth, County Park Director  
July 15, 1975





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Heg Park is located one mile southwest of Wind Lake on Loomis Road. The Park is open May 1st through October 31st, 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Museum is open Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays between 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. from May 15th to October 15th. Other times by appointment.

Reservations for use of shelter facilities can be made through the Racine County Park Department, Rt. #1, Box 226A, Sturtevant, Wi. 53177. The office is located at Ives Grove on Highway 20.

FIRST EDITION

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by

ELLA STRATTON COLBO

Racine, Wisconsin

Please send mail orders directly to the author—

ELLA STRATTON COLBO

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Racine, Wisconsin



# HISTORIC HEG MEMORIAL PARK

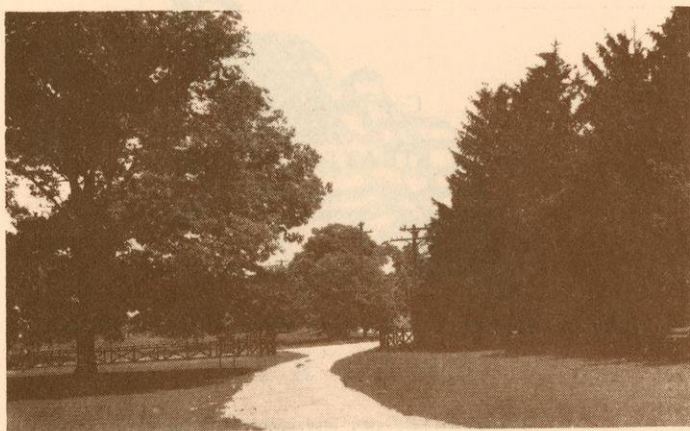


Photo by Warner Studios, Burlington, Wis.  
ONE OF THE EAST ENTRANCES TO HEG MEMORIAL PARK

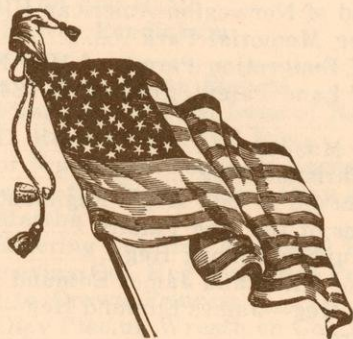
Photographic views and brief historical sketches  
of the outstanding points of interest  
in and about

HEG MEMORIAL PARK  
Racine County, Wisconsin

Compiled by  
ELLA STRATTON COLBO  
and  
Dedicated to the members of the  
Original Racine County Heg Memorial Committee



Printed by  
M. J. Chapman — The Waterford Post



## OUR LAND

The land of the Pilgrims, the land of the free,  
The land that our forefathers gave unto me.  
The land which is guided by God's blessed hand,  
We love thee, Our Country, our beautiful land.

We often have wondered, we often have said,  
Will God bless our efforts, for which we have bled.  
So freedom and justice forever will stand.  
We love thee, Our Country, our beautiful land.

God grant that our country may lead the way  
To glory, and fame; forever we pray  
That rulers and statesmen, and leaders of men  
Will love thee, Our Country, our beautiful land.

Let us forever be faithful and true  
To country and Flag, the red, white and blue;  
As Washington, Lincoln, and Wilson did stand,  
For thee, Our Country, our beautiful land.

*John Bergan*

(For the above poem composed for Independence Day in 1921, Mr. Bergan received a personal letter from Woodrow Wilson.)



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## SOURCES

Historical data contained in HISTORIC HEG MEMORIAL PARK was based on information obtained from the following sources, and full credit is hereby given to these authorities.

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Bendickson Family Bible.

## FOREWORD

This historical brochure was inspired by a three-fold personal interest in the early history of Old Muskego.

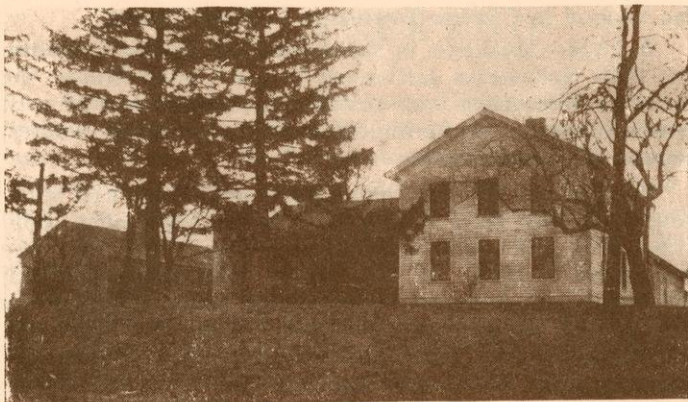
My great-grandparents, Ole and Ingebor Anderson, who came to Muskego with Even Hansen Heg in 1840, rest in the Norway Hill Cemetery just to the north of the church.

My grandparents, Halvor Bendickson and Anna Anderson Bendickson, purchased the farm which was the original site of the old log cabin now preserved on the Heg Memorial Park grounds, in 1866, and this farm remained in the possession of the Bendickson family for a period of sixty-two years.

The old log cabin, which is now one of the main points of interest at Heg Memorial Park, was the birthplace and early home of my own mother, Anna Bendickson Stratton.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is correct in every detail. It is offered in the hope that it will fill a real need by answering satisfactorily the many questions of the thousands of interested visitors who yearly pass through the gates of Racine County's beautiful Heg Memorial Park.

—Ella Stratton Colbo.



### A Fountain Head of Norwegian-American History

The Old Even Hansen Heg Farm as it looks today — Situated on Highway 36, about a mile and a quarter from Heg Memorial Park. Now owned by Henry Schubel. Waterford Post Staff Photo.

## EARLY NORWEGIAN SETTLEMENTS IN AMERICA

Norway has given to America, through immigration, a larger percentage of her population than any other country except Ireland. These Norwegian immigrants brought with them to our country "the heritage of generations of thrifty folk, accustomed to hard work, generally literate, respecters of property, believers in a democratic government, religious, aggressive and independent."

Kleng Peerson is generally credited with being the first Norwegian to emigrate to the United States. He visited America as early as 1821.

Briefly, these early Norwegian settlements were:

1. 1825—The Kendall settlement in Orleans County, New York, founded by the famous "Sloopers" who set sail from Stavanger on July 4th or 5th and landed in New York on October 9th.

2. 1834—The Fox River settlement in La Salle County, Illinois, founded by Kleng Peerson.

3. 1836—Chicago.

4. 1838—The Jefferson Prairie settlement, founded by Ole Nattestad, first Norwegian settler on Wisconsin soil,



who located in Clinton Township, in Rock County.

5. 1839—Muskego, in Waukesha and Racine Counties. This fifth Norwegian settlement in the United States, the second in Wisconsin, was destined to become of the most historic interest. Of its importance in American history, Hjalmar R. Holand says:

“Out of old Muskego came many great men and many great memories. Here in this Telemarken settlement, amid rather poor and unhealthful surroundings, was laid the cornerstone of many of the larger institutions, spiritual movements and material undertakings which are now the pride of the Norwegian-Americans. Here the Northmen first began to take their part in American politics and American life. Here came back the answering cry of the Norwegians when called to help in the Civil war, in which they so loyally and honorably defended their adopted land. Here began the educational movement whose fruit is now seen in many great educational institutions. Here was organized the first Norwegian congregation. From here went out the first call for a Norwegian minister. Here was built the first Norwegian church. Here was issued the first Norwegian newspaper.” (De Norske Settlementers Historie—1908).

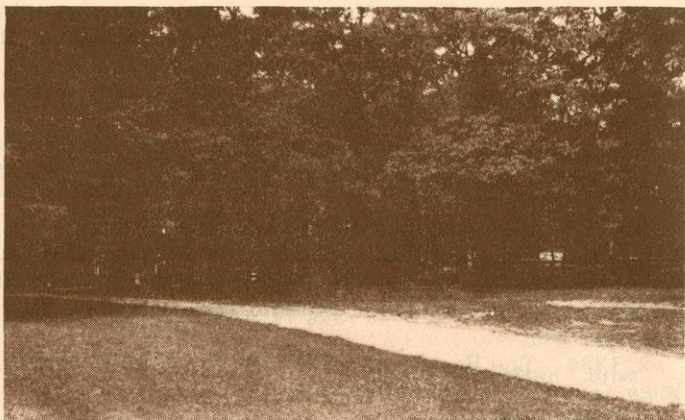


Photo by courtesy of Warner Studios.  
View in Heg Memorial Park showing driveways, picnic benches, the Heg Park museum, and the beautiful shade trees.

## OLD MUSKEGO

An early history of Waukesha County states that the region about Lake Muskego was one of the principal camping places of the Pottawatomie Indians. In fact, the first settlers found a large village of them established on its shores. In the Indian language the word "muskego" is used to mean swamp, marsh, cranberry, and fish. Since these aborigines depended almost entirely upon wild game for food, the abundance of wild rice, fish and waterfowl made this locality especially attractive to them and reminders of their occupation still may be found in the Indian Mounds which they constructed.

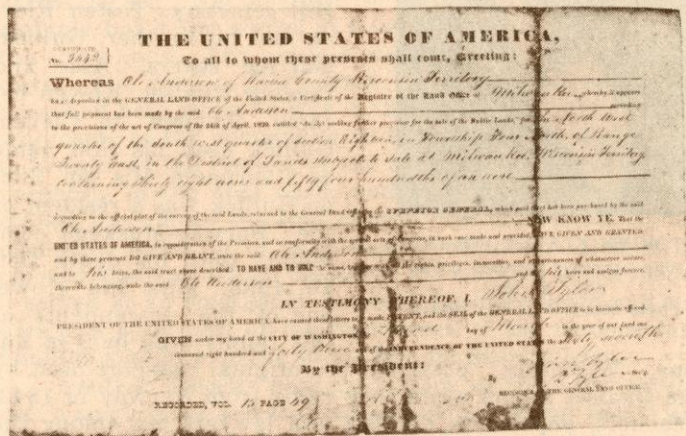
In the year of 1839, a party of about forty immigrants from Tinn, Telemarken, Norway, led by John Nelson Luraas, landed at Milwaukee on their way to the Norwegian settlements in La Salle County, Illinois. Milwaukee merchants persuaded them to make Wisconsin their future home instead. Guides were furnished them for explorations in search of a suitable place to settle. The summer of 1839 had been exceptionally dry and the swampy lands about Lake Muskego, covered with lush green grasses, looked like fertile prairies to the eager homeseekers. Here they stopped and founded the second Norwegian settlement in the state of Wisconsin. From the early records in the Waukesha County courthouse we learn that they made arrangements for about 640 acres of land in Sections 29 and 32 on Sept. 1, 1839. To their bitter disappointment spring rains flooded many of their homes and created unhealthful conditions which made it necessary for them to move to higher land. Most of them eventually moved farther south and the Muskego settlement spread out into Norway, Waterford, Raymond and Yorkville Townships of Racine County.

Soren Bache and his partner, Johannes Johannsen, who had come to Illinois early in 1839, visited the Muskego region, later that same fall. Young Bache, whose father was a well to do lumber dealer in Norway, was so impressed with its beauty and natural resources that he built a cabin in the dense forest near Norway Hill, and they purchased a large tract of land from the government, later re-selling it at a reasonable figure to other immigrants who wished to





clear land for farming. Bache and Johannsen sent wonderful stories of the opportunities to be found here back to their friends in the homeland. Influenced by these reports, Even Hansen Heg, an inn-keeper near Drammen, sold his property and with his wife, Siri Olsdatter Heg, and his four children, Hans Christian, Ole, Andrea, and Sophie, aged eleven, nine, five and three years, respectively, started the long journey to distant Wisconsin. In the same group were about thirty persons from Drammen and the same number from Voss. The sailing vessel on which they embarked from Drammen on May 17, 1840, was called the "Emilia". The captain's name was Thomas Anckersen. He had made one voyage to America the year before. The ship stopped at Gothenborg, Sweden, where two weeks was spent in taking on a cargo of iron. The stormy trip across the Atlantic to New York took another eleven weeks. The entire group came to look to Even Hansen Heg as their leader because of his fine character and great resourcefulness.

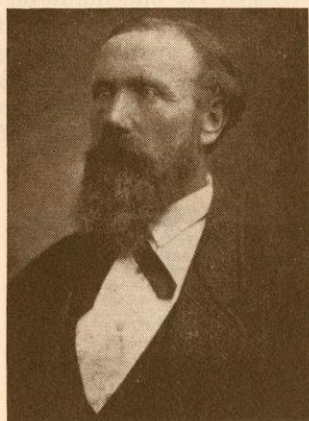


Reproduction of Original Land Patent granted to Ole Anderson March 3, 1843. Document by courtesy of Edward Bendickson, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Photo by Charles Studio.

A most interesting and thrilling episode of this voyage has been related to us by Mrs. Ada Cleven Bjoen Henderson of Stoughton. Among the passengers was Tosten Kleven, her grandfather, then a lad only sixteen years of age. When



the sailing vessel was a few hours out of New York harbor he was stricken with the black plague, given up for dead, and preparations were made for his burial at sea. The Even Heg family intervened and were given permission to bury their young friend on land. They took him to the establishment of a New York undertaker. Here he awakened from the coma which had been mistaken for death, and though it was some time before he fully recovered his health, he lived to become seventy-four years of age, and is now buried at the West Koshkonong cemetery near Stoughton, Wis.



TOSTIEN KLEVEN 1824-1898  
Who narrowly escaped burial  
alive at sea.  
Photo courtesy of Ida Howe.

At the age of nineteen he helped with the building of the first Norwegian church.

In 1843 Tosten Kleven's parents, Astrid and Egil Kleven, and his brothers and sisters followed him to America. Astrid and Egil Kleven rest in the Norway Hill cemetery. Tosten Kleven and his brother, Gullick, married sisters, Asse and Ingebor Qualset. Kleven became changed to Cleven. Gullick used his first name as a surname. His son, Simon Gullick was a resident of the Norway-Muskego community until his death Oct. 16, 1936. Miss Ida Howe, one of the descendants of this family who lives in Ra-

cine, Wisconsin, possesses the original passport used by the Qualset sisters when they came from Norway in 1843. Teachers, physicians, dentists and lawyers are among the descendants of the Kleven family living in Wisconsin.

Among the other members of Heg's party, many of whose descendants still reside in the community about Heg Park, were Ole Hoganson, Ole Anderson, Holge Thompson, Johannes Skofstad, Sivert Ingebretson and Ole K. Trovatten whose famous "America Letters" later influenced many of his countrymen to come to the United States.

From New York they followed the usual route to the West, going by river and canal to Buffalo, and thence by steamer on the Great Lakes to Milwaukee. The Voss group went directly to Chicago. The objective of those from Telemarken was Muskego, now less than an hour's ride from Milwaukee by automobile, but in 1840 a long day's journey over a strange, hard trail. In his diary Soren Bache describes his joy at hearing the voice of his old friend Even Heg outside his cabin. Soon after his arrival Even Heg purchased the farm of John Nelson Luraas, a settler who had come in 1839 and wished to move farther west. This farm is now owned by Henry Schubel, and is situated about a mile and a quarter from Heg Memorial Park on Highway 36. The Heg farm became the mecca of hundreds of Norwegian immigrants in search of homes in Wisconsin and farther west. In 1843 Even Heg erected a large new barn which was often thronged with parties of new-comers who found here their first rest and welcome among their own nationality after their long, weary journey across the sea. Not only was the Heg farm a haven for new arrivals, but it also served as a social and religious center of the community. Lay services were conducted here on Sundays. The famous Norwegian evangelist, Elling Eielsen, preached here when he was in the vicinity. Claus Clausen, who came to the community to teach school and remained to preach, at the request of the settlers, organized his congregation in the Heg barn, and held his Sunday school classes there until the first church was completed. It was once the scene of a large double wedding. During the cholera epidemic which desolated the colonies in the forties, it served as an emergency hospital. Its huge hewn oak timbers now form part of the framework of the modern farm building standing on the site of the old historic barn.

Another favorite gathering place of the early settlers was a small store and trading post which Soren Bache and Johannes Johannsen had constructed by excavating a portion of an Indian mound on the shores of Lake Waubesa. The mound has become completely obliterated by time, and even its exact site is not known today, but in *Billed Magazine* (published in Madison in 1868) Svein Nilssen wrote "here the two men plied their trade undisturbed by the fact that dead men's bones sometimes peeped between the cracks in their walls."



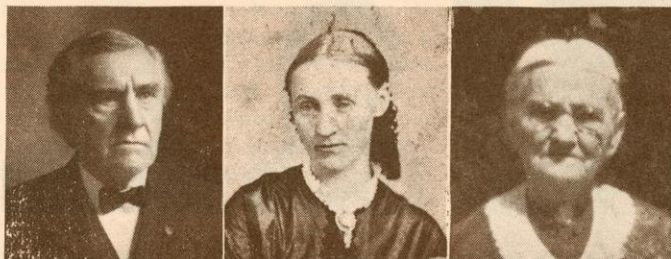
It is not generally known that the first Temperance Society of the Norwegians was organized at Muskego, on January 31, 1848, at the home of Even Heg. Even Heg was elected president, and his son Hans C. Heg, then a youth of 18, secretary. Bjorn Hattestead was vice-president. Members pledged to abstain from liquor and to promote temperance generally.

It was Johannes Johannsen who was the author of the famous "Muskego Manifesto" of 1845, signed by 80 residents of the community and sent to Norway informing their friends and relatives in the homeland that in spite of sickness, hardship and suffering they were still glad they had come to the United States, and "faced the future with confidence." However, during the same year Johannsen himself, was one of the cholera victims. In 1847 a tragic accident caused Soren Bache to leave the community. Returning from a hunting trip, he had stopped to call at the Storlie cabin. As he walked through the door the trigger of his gun caught on the door-latch, and a bullet pierced the heart of the young mother who sat rocking her baby across the room. Stricken with grief, Bache gave all of his property into the charge of James D. Reymert and returned to Norway where he spent the remainder of his lifetime.

However, pleasant and enjoyable happenings were also a part of early days in Old Muskego. One of the most notable of these events was the visit of the world renowned violinist, Ole Bul, in 1851. He arrived with a party of friends from Milwaukee, only to find that fire had just destroyed the home of his friend, James Reymert, where he had expected to be entertained. The settlers gathered beside the smoking ruins and he gave his concert as scheduled, playing for them "The Carnival of Venice". So, in spite of hardships and disasters the Norway-Muskego community continued to grow and prosper, and the passing of the century finds it with swamps drained and forests cleared, one of the garden spots of Wisconsin.

# PIONEERS OF OLD MUSKEGO

## BROTHER AND TWO SISTERS OF COL. HANS C. HEG



Ole Heg

Andrea Heg Himoe

Sophie Heg Halsted

Ole Heg was a pioneer printer and store-keeper. His photo by courtesy of Miss Cora Newell. Andrea Heg Himoe was a pioneer Wisconsin school teacher. her photo by courtesy of Mrs. Anetta Himoe Booth. Sophie Heg Halsted was Col. Heg's youngest sister.



Halvor Nelson Lohner

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jacobson

Jacob Anderson

Halvor Nelson Lohner supervised the building of the old church. His photo by courtesy of Mrs. Gust Olson. Mr. Peter Jacobson was the first deacon in the old church and the first postmaster in the Town of Norway. Their photos by courtesy of Miss Henrietta Jacobson. Jacob Anderson, came to Muskego in 1812 at the age of 4 years. Was a member of first class confirmed in the old church. Photo by courtesy of his daughter, Mrs. Julia Schnetz.



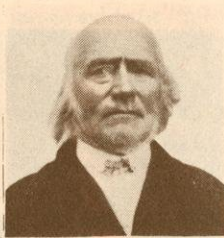
## PIONEERS OF OLD MUSKEGO



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hoganson



Astrid Kleven

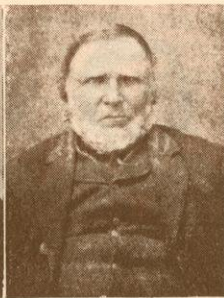


Egil Kleven

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hoganson came to Muskego with the Heg party in 1840. Their photo by courtesy of Martin Hoganson. Astrid Kleven, 1800-1867, and Egil Kleven, 1795-1877, were parents of Tosten Kleven. They came to Muskego in 1843 and are buried in Norway Hill cemetery. Photos by courtesy of Miss Ida Howe, Racine, Wisconsin.



Ole and Ingebor Anderson



Mr. and Mrs. Knud Aslakson Svalestuen

Ole and Ingebor Anderson came to Muskego with the Heg party in 1840. Their photo through courtesy of Oscar Bendickson. Mrs. Knud Aslakson Svalestuen (Margaret Dale) came to LaSalle County, Ill., with her parents in 1837, a few years later moving to Muskego. Her husband was an immigrant leader who came to America in 1839. Their photos furnished by the courtesy of Miss Henrietta Jacobson.

## THE LIFE STORY OF COLONEL HANS CHRISTIAN HEG

Hans Christian Heg was born at Lier, near Drammen, Norway, on December 21, 1829. He was the oldest of the four children of an inn keeper, Even Hansen Heg and his wife, Siri Olsdatter Heg. Drammen is a small city in the southern part of Norway, a few miles from the capitol.

Hans Heg was eleven years old when his family arrived in Muskego, and he soon earned for himself the reputation of being a wide-awake and gifted boy. He took great pains to learn the English language thoroughly, and often accompanied parties of immigrants on their way to the settlements at Koshkonong, Rock and Jefferson prairies. Keenly observant, he developed a deep insight into American conditions. At twenty years of age, lured by the discovery of gold in the Sacramento Valley, he, with three companions, joined the army of "Forty-niners" and spent the next two years prospecting for gold in California. According to NORDLYSET, issue of March 26, 1849, the party consisted of Engebret and Halvor Rosvald, Magnus Hansen and H. C. Heg. T. C. Blegen, noted historian, says: "He was reasonably successful, but news came of his father's death in the fall of 1850—his mother had died in 1842—and it was clearly his duty to assume charge of the farm and the care of his younger brother and sisters. Accordingly, in 1851, he returned to Muskego.

Upon his return he took over the 320-acre farm which had belonged to his father. Shortly after, he married Gunhild Einong, daughter of a Norwegian immigrant of 1843. He was now twenty-two years of age, and had already won the respect and confidence, not only of the Norwegian settlers of the community, but of the native Americans of the vicinity as well. He was rapidly becoming looked upon as a rising young politician. Since "freedom, equality and



Col. Hans Christian Heg  
Photo by Wis. State Historical Society.



brotherhood" were the very life of the simple pioneer society of Muskego, slavery was abhorrent to Hans Heg. He naturally became an ardent member of the Free Soil (later Republican) party."

In 1852 he became a member of the Norway Town Board, and also a Justice of the Peace. In 1855 he was chosen chairman of the Town Board of Norway. As chairman of the Town Board he automatically became a member of the Racine County Board of Supervisors.

In the old record books preserved at the Racine County Courthouse, Hans C. Heg's name occurs frequently and minutes of the meetings held during that time show that he took an active and intelligent part in the proceedings of the County Board, and served on many important committees. He was re-elected in 1856, and named as one of the Racine County Poor Farm Commissioners. "With the faithful and successful execution of the duties of these local offices he gained the confidence of an ever increasing number of citizens."

In 1859 he gave up farming and made his home in the Village of Waterford for about a year. In 1860 he was elected to the office of Commissioner of the state prison at Waupun. He appears to have been the second Norewegian elected to a state office in the United States. At Waupun he made a very creditable record and many improvements in the prison system came about under his direction. He believed that prisons should be not only for the purpose of punishing offenders, but should also "reclaim the wandering and save the lost."

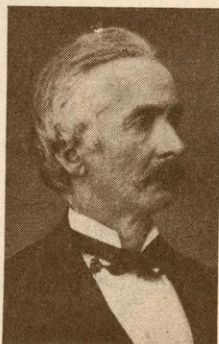
In 1861 when President Lincoln called for volunteers for the great task of preserving the Union, Hans Heg began recruiting a Scandinavian regiment. Governor Randall of Wisconsin appointed him as Colonel of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers. Appealing to all young Norsemen he said "The government of our adopted country is in danger. It is our duty as brave and intelligent citizens to extend our hands in defense of the cause of our Country and of our homes." The success of his appeal may be judged by the fact that 115 of the 890 men enrolled in his regiment answered to the first name of "Ole"! His own brother, Ole Heg, was a quartermaster.

Col. Heg's brother-in-law, Dr. Stephen A. Himoe, of Lawrence, Kansas, was surgeon of the Fifteenth Wisconsin. Two of his assistants were Dr. George F. Newell, of Waterford, and Dr. Daniel Wooster, of Racine.

#### SURGEONS WHO SERVED IN COL. HANS HEG'S REGIMENT



Dr. Stephen O. Himoe  
Lawrence, Kansas



Dr. George F. Newell  
Waterford, Wis.



Dr. Daniel P. Wooster  
Racine, Wis.

Photo of Dr. Himoe by courtesy of Annetta Himoe Booth; photo of Dr. Geo. Newel by courtesy of Miss Cora Newell; photo of Dr. Daniel P. Wooster by courtesy of Park Wooster.

Rev. Claus L. Clausen, first pastor of the first Norwegian Lutheran church in America, came back to Wisconsin to enroll under Col. Heg as chaplain in the famous Fifteenth Wisconsin, which played so valorous a part in the operations of the Union Forces for the next three years in Kentucky, Tennessee and northern Georgia. One third of this entire regiment perished during the war of wounds and disease. The "Fighting Fifteenth" as they were often called, remained at Camp Randall only sixteen days before starting for the southern battlefields. During the next two years Colonel Heg was constantly with his regiment and brigade. "In camp, on the march and in battle he shared their hardships, led them, and won their love and devotion." Letters written to his wife and children during this time and published in 1936 by the Norwegian Historical Association (Civil War Letters of Col. Hans C. Heg, by T. C. Blegen),



reveal the courage, ambition, kindness and depth of character of this truly great man.

In one of these letters to his wife he says, "You may be a widow, but you will never be the widow of a coward."

Twelve unpublished letters to his son Edmund have recently been deposited in the document files of the Wisconsin State Historical Society at Madison. These appealing letters reveal his strong affection and high hopes for his children. Several of them end with the promise, "I will be home for good in the fall." In another of these letters he mentions Dr. Daniel Wooster of Racine, saying, "Dr. Wooster of Racine has been commissioned as an assistant surgeon for this regiment. I am glad he is coming, for I know he is a very good man. I asked the Governor to appoint him." Dr. Wooster's Commission as Assistant Surgeon in the 15th Wisconsin Volunteers hangs in the Heg Memorial Museum, a gift from Dr. Wooster's son, Park Wooster, of Racine.

The Fiftieth Wisconsin Volunteers was one of the five infantry regiments from the Badger state which took part in the bloody battle of Chickamauga. The record of these regiments is one of gallant fighting against great odds, and of tremendous losses.

General Wm. S. Rosecrans had announced his intentions of promoting Col. Heg. to the rank of Brigadier General, and it was acting in this capacity that he led the third brigade, Davis' division, into battle. From noon until sundown of September 19, 1863, Colonel Heg was constantly exposed to the fearful fire of the enemy. At this hour, with his day's work almost done, he fell, pierced by a rifle ball. He passed the night in the hospital in great suffering, and his death occurred the following morning, Sept. 20, 1863. At Col. Heg's own request, Albert Skofstad accompanied his body when it was sent home for burial.

The whole state of Wisconsin mourned the loss of Colonel Hans Heg, but the keenest sorrow was felt in his home town of Waterford, where his body was brought. He was buried by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was a member.

## FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE HEG FAMILY



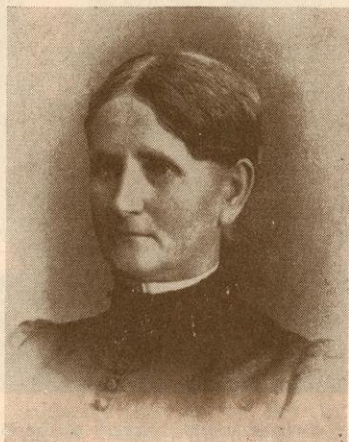
This four-generation picture of the Heg family is included in this book through the courtesy of Matilda Fowler Van Doren, of Stamford, Conn. It was taken about 1910. Reading left to right, back row: Charles Newell Fowler, congressman from New Jersey; Hilda Heg Fowler, his wife, daughter of Col. Hans Christian Heg; Charles Newell Fowler, Jr., their son; Bottom row: (seated) Gunhild Einong Heg, wife of Col. Hans C. Heg; and his great-granddaughter, Matilda Fowler Van Doren.



Masonic ceremonies were conducted at the family residence, after which his body was removed to the old Congregational church on the west side of the village. This church is no longer standing, but the large iron key which opened its doors is now in the Heg Memorial Museum. Rev. Bar-tean delivered the funeral discourse, the text of which was chosen from 2nd Samuel, 1-27. Following the services at the church, the long funeral procession wound slowly to the cemetery on Norway Hill, where the mortal remains of the brave soldier were laid to rest beside his little daughter, Anne'tta, just twenty-three years after he had come to this community with its pioneer settlers.



HILDA HEG



GUNHILD EINONG HEG

Hilda Heg, daughter of Col. Heg died Feb. 20, 1932. The above photo, taken while attending Beloit College, was loaned through courtesy of Mrs. A. Van Doren, Stamford, Conn. Gunhild Einong Heg, wife of Colonel Hans C. Heg, is pictured above in a photo taken in November, 1890, loaned through the courtesy of E. Biddle Heg, University of Pennsylvania.

Colonel Heg's wife and three children survived him. Gunhild Einong Heg carefully carried out her husband's wishes concerning the education of their children, and moved from Waterford to Beloit in order that their children might attend college there. She passed away in 1922, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles Newell Fowler, at Elizabeth, New Jersey.



His oldest son, James Edmund Heg, for a time editor of the Lake Geneva Herald, died in Waukegan, Ill., in 1914.



Pictured here is a copy of a Daguerreotype of Hilda and James Edmund Heg, aged ten and twelve years, respectively.

Hilda and James Edmund Heg were the oldest children of Col. Hans Heg. The daguerreotype was used through the courtesy of E. Biddle Heg, University of Pennsylvania.

His youngest son, Elmer Ellsworth Heg, became a physician in Seattle, Washington. He was listed in *Who's Who in America* (Vol. X, 1918-1919) and his death occurred in 1922, shortly before that of his mother, Gunhild Einong Heg.

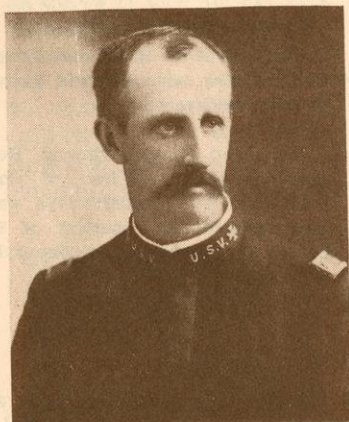
His only daughter, Hilda Heg Fowler, who contributed so liberally to the founding of Heg Memorial Park, and who was present at the unveiling of the Colonel Heg Monument in 1928, died at Elizabeth, New Jersey, Feb. 20, 1932.

Colonel Heg's oldest brother, Ole Heg, died in Burlington, Wisconsin, in 1911.

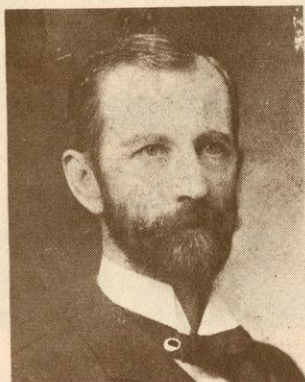
"The story of Colonel Hans C. Heg is the story of one who threw himself wholly into the currents of his adopted country. Without reserve he gave the best that he had to America. He knew the trials as well as the opportunities of pioneer life in the West. He learned to believe in and cherish our American institutions and ideals. He gave himself without qualification, to his country when its flag was in peril, and leading a brigade of the American army, he died fighting for that flag."

Colonel Hans C. Heg was a good citizen and a true patriot. It was to honor his memory that the Racine County

Heg Memorial Association was formed, and the statue which they erected at the entrance to the twelve-acre plot known as Colonel Heg Memorial Park will be forever maintained as a public memorial to that patriotism.



Elmer Ellsworth Heg



James Edmund Heg

Elmer Ellsworth Heg, physician, youngest son of Col. Hans C. Heg, was Maj. Brigade Surgeon, U. S. Volunteers, 1899, Spanish American War; also served for duration of World War as Major in U. S. Army Medical Corps. James Edmund Heg, son of Hans C. Heg and Gunhild E. Heg, father of Ernest Clark Heg and grandfather of Ernest Biddle Heg. Photo loaned through courtesy of E. Biddle Heg, University of Pennsylvania.



Norway Hill church yard, showing rear of Col. Hans Heg's tombstone, and also of graves of his father and mother, Even Hansen Heg and Siri Olsdatter Heg, beneath the shade of the cedar tree. Photo was loaned through the courtesy of Newton Brown.



Photo, courtesy of  
Milwaukee Journal

"He has gone to the last long march,  
To the land where nevermore  
Shall the bugle sound reveille,  
Or the dreadful cannon roar.  
He who dies for country, dies not,  
But liveth, evermore."

Inscription on the tombstone of Col. Hans Christian Heg in the Norway  
Hill Cemetery.



## THE MONUMENT TO COL. HANS C. HEG

Standing upon the exact site of the old brick school-house is a bronze statue of the tall military figure of Colonel Hans Christian Heg.

As in life, Colonel Heg stood firmly for freedom and the American principles of education, the foundation of his statue very appropriately rests upon some of the bricks taken from the old school when it was replaced by a modern structure directly across the road, known as the Colonel Heg School.

The Racine County Heg Memorial Committee entered into a contract with Paul Fjelde, noted Norwegian sculptor, for an exact replica of the statue which stands at Madison, Wisconsin, and which was designed by Mr. Fjelde. There is an arresting youthful alertness about the figure, poised for action,

hat in hand. Mr. Fjelde said about his work, "The figure that I have created shows a much younger Colonel Heg than his photographs. After all he was a young man, only thirty-three when he died. I tried to regain the spirit of youth which must have been his before the cares of war had aged him beyond his years. I think I have succeeded." In order to help the worthy cause the sculptor supplied the statue for a very little above its actual cost. The nine-foot replica was cast in Oslo, Norway, and shipped to Muskego. B. H. Meyers of Racine erected the genuine light Barre Vermont granite base, which is eight feet tall.

To Mr. Lewis Rolfson, ninety-year-old veteran of Company C, fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, recruited by



Lewis Rolfson turning first spadeful of sod for the foundation of the monument to Colonel Heg at Heg Memorial Park. Photo by courtesy of Mathilda Christianson.

Col. Heg himself, fell the honor of turning the first spadeful of soil in preparation for the placing of the monument. Pupils of the Colonel Heg School participated in the ceremony. Thirty students, with their teacher, Miss Bertha Danielson, each helped dig out a spadeful of the dirt to prepare the site for the concrete foundation of the monument.

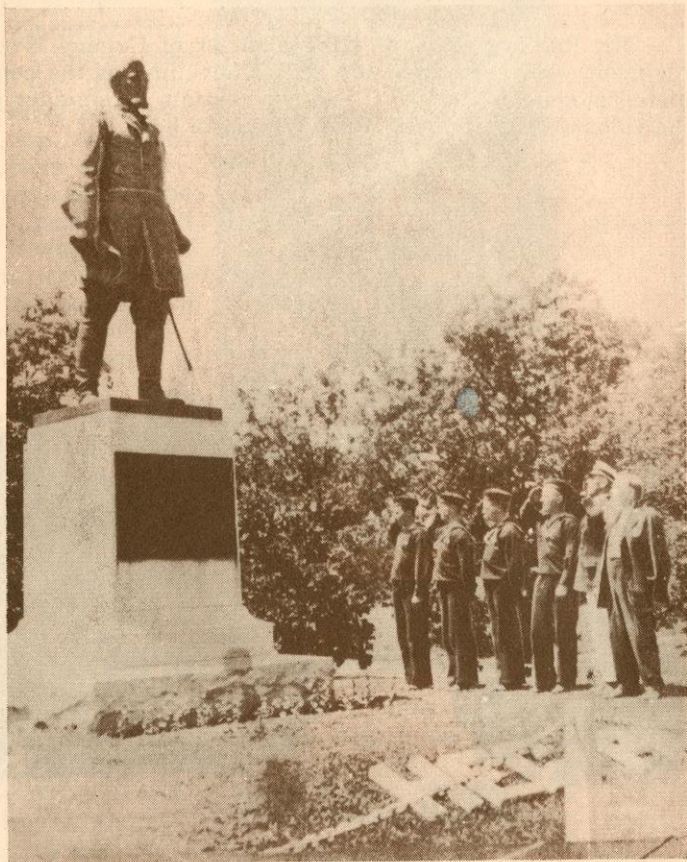
Mr. Rolfson, only surviving member of Colonel Heg's regiment, also performed the actual unveiling of the completed monument which will forever remain a reminder of the valor and patriotism of this Wisconsin hero.



Photo courtesy of Warner Studio, Burlington, Wis.



SCENE AT THE DEDICATION  
CEREMONIES OF THE COLONEL HEG  
MONUMENT — JULY 4, 1928



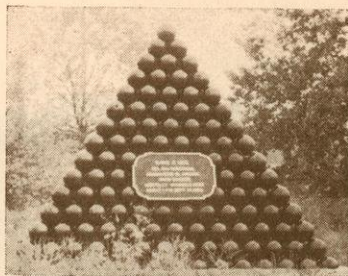
—Milwaukee Journal Staff Photo.

The crew of the Norwegian Training Ship Sorlandet with Lewis Rolfson, only surviving member of Colonel Heg's Regiment.



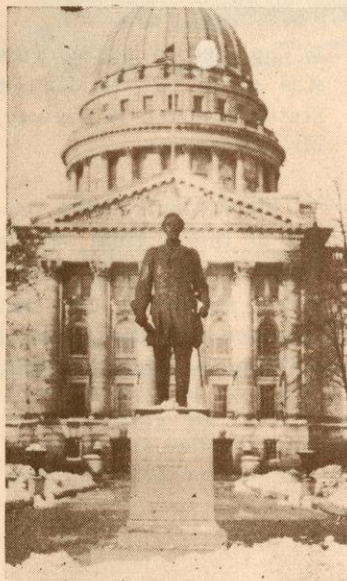
## OTHER PUBLIC MEMORIALS TO COLONEL HANS C. HEG

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was established in 1890 by act of congress. It contains 8,584 acres and over 2000 markers, tablets and monuments commemorating both Union and Confederate troops. It is maintained by the Federal Government under the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The monument pictured here marks the spot where Col.



Memorial to Colonel Hans C. Heg at Chickamauga. Photo courtesy of Herbert Moussa, Burlington, Wis.

Hans C. Heg fell mortally wounded on Sept. 19, 1863. There are only eight such cannon ball type memorials in the Park. This memorial was erected in 1894 by the State of Wisconsin.



Monument to Colonel Hans C. Heg at Madison, Wis., State Capitol. Photo by Mickey Lovell.

The original monument to Colonel Hans C. Heg, (pictured at the left), Wisconsin's most distinguished Civil War hero of Norwegian birth, stands at the east entrance to the Capitol building at Madison, Wis.

It was designed by Paul Fjelde, famous Norwegian-American sculptor, and dedicated on Oct. 17, 1926, a gift by the Norwegian-Americans to the State of Wisconsin.

## MONUMENT TO COL. HANS C. HEG AT LIER, DRAMMEN, NORWAY



Photo by courtesy of  
Dr. Frank Newell

This statue of Colonel Hans Christian Heg stands at his birthplace in Lier, near Drammen, Norway.

It was a gift by Norwegian-Americans to the people of Norway. The unveiling of this statue took place on St. Hans Day, June 25, 1925.

The dedication address was given by the United States Minister to Norway, Mr. L. Swenson.

This statue is also a replica of the original statue designed by Paul Fjelde, which stands at the east entrance of the Capitol building at Madison, Wis.



## MEMORIAL HALL, RACINE, WISCONSIN

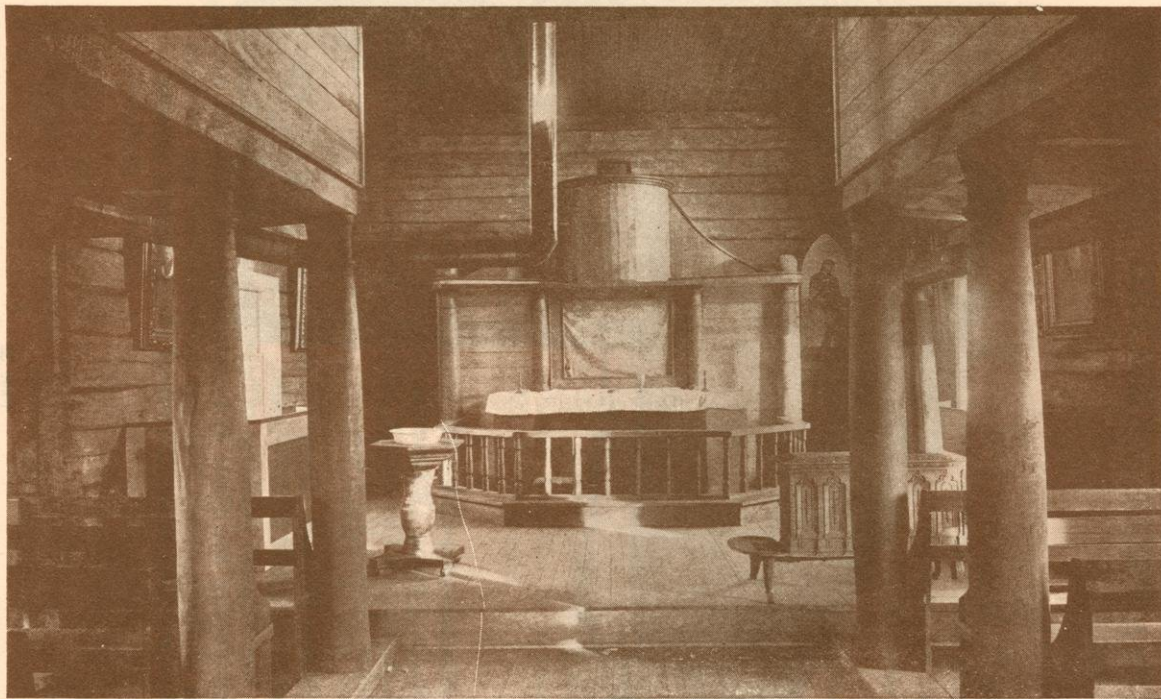


Photo by Malme.

Overlooking Lake Michigan, at the foot of Seventh street, in Racine, Wisconsin, stands beautiful Memorial Hall, dedicated October 7, 1925, as Racine's tribute to the heroes of America's wars.

Since Colonel Hans C. Heg was Acting Brigadier General of the Third Brigade, Davis' Division, and therefore the highest ranking officer from Wisconsin killed in action during the Civil War, his name is included among those of the nation's honored heroes which are lettered in gold on a frieze about the top of the auditorium walls.





Restored interior of the first Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, built on Norway Hill in 1843, now preserved on the campus of Luther Seminary, St. Anthony Park, Minneapolis, Minn. Photo courtesy of Augsburg Pub. House, Minneapolis.

# THE CHURCH

on

## NORWAY HILL

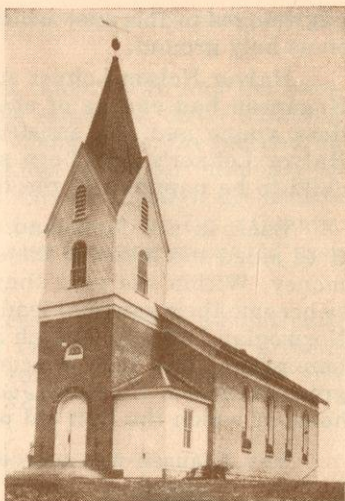
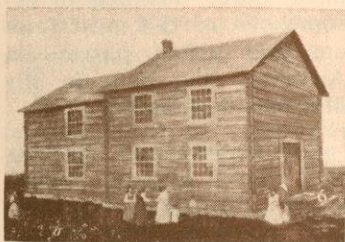


Photo by Malme.

Woven through the early history of the community which lies all about Heg Memorial Park, like a shining golden thread through the dark fabric of hardship, disease and privation, is the steadfast devotion of this little band of Norwegian pioneers to the faith of their fathers.



THE FIRST NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Reproduced from an oil painting now preserved in the present church. The painting is signed "Gausta". It was presented to the congregation by Jeremiah Fries. Photo by Malme.

men's place of worship had been reared there, they made



pilgrimages to this spot which they had so long looked upon as holy ground.

Halvor Nelson Lohner supervised the construction. Ole Hoganson had charge of shingling the roof. All other settlers, young and old, assisted to the best of their ability. Halvor Lohner's first born son, Ole Lohner, was the first child to be baptized at the massive walnut baptismal font.

Back in the homeland, interested friends and relatives aided the labor of the settlers with prayers, and with money. Within the year they had called Claus L. Clausen to become their spiritual leader. This first pastor of the first Norwegian Lutheran church in America was a young Danish immigrant. The first deacon was Peter Jacobson, whose great-grandson, Clarence Jacobson, now occupies the farm home of which the first old parsonage is still a part.

Rev. Clausen was succeeded in the pastorate of the old



REV. CLAUS L. CLAUSEN

First pastor of the first Norwegian Lutheran church in America.

Reproduced by Charles Studios from a picture in American Lutheran Biographies, published in 1890, by courtesy of Hans Bendickson.

church by Rev. H. A. Stub, who preached his first sermon in this church and who saw the dreadful sieges of cholera bring sorrow and death to every family in his entire congregation. In 1849, Rev. Stub's son, Hans Gerhard Stub, destined to become one of the most famous and gifted pastors in America, was born in the Muskego settlement.

The founders of Norway Hill church became known as the "Singing Congregation" because their hymns could be heard ringing out as they came up the hill to worship, and again as they returned home.

For twenty-five years the families comprising this first congregation came to this simple rugged structure to partake of "the bread of Life and the living waters" which gave



them the strength and courage necessary for the continuance of their settlement.

In 1869 the old church was taken down and the present structure was erected on the same site. After standing neglected on a farm nearby for many years, the old church was finally removed to the campus of Luther Seminary at St. Anthony Park, Minneapolis, largely through the efforts of Hjalmer Rued Holand, historian, now of Door County. Here it was carefully restored and is being preserved as a hallowed memorial.

In June of 1939, on the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the settlement, the present church was honored by a visit from Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha of Norway.

In 1943, all Norse Lutherans in America will celebrate the centennial of the founding of the first Norwegian Lutheran Church in America by the pioneers of Old Muskego on Norway Hill.

Fourteen pastors have served the Norway-Muskego congregation since 1843.

Rev. H. C. M. Jahren, the present pastor, who was called to the community in 1928, works unceasingly to preserve and promote the great memories surrounding his church and his pastorate.



REV. H. C. M. JAHREN  
Present Pastor of the church on  
Norway Hill.

# THE THREE SCHOOLS



Reproduction of an original painting by Jacob Jacobson, of Milwaukee. Donated to the Heg Memorial Museum by the artist.

Above is an artist's conception of the old pioneer log school built near the shore of Lake Waubeesee. The first teacher which School District Number One has a record of hiring was L. O. Himoe. He taught in this little 19 x 19 foot log building in the year 1851.

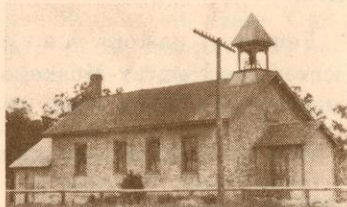
Colonel Hans Heg's sister, Andrea Heg, a pioneer Norwegian woman school teacher in America, taught here in 1855 and 1856. The old school is now a part of one of the farm buildings on the Julius Christianson farm.

## THE FIRST BRICK SCHOOL

which stood on the exact spot where you now see the monument to Col. Hans C. Heg.

In this building the Heg Memorial Committee was organized.

Photo by courtesy of Matilda Christianson.



In 1874 a frame building, bricked up on the outside, replaced the log school. This new school was erected in a new location, the spot where the monument to Col. Hans C. Heg is now standing.

Peter Jacobson, last teacher to serve in the old log school, was the first to teach in the new brick building. Eliza Quin also taught here in the year 1874.

In 1925 School District No. 1 voted to erect a modern two-story red brick building on a site directly across the road. The land on which the old brick building had stood

for a little over fifty years was donated to Racine County to become a part of the Heg Memorial Park, and the school building itself was torn down to make way for the monument to Colonel Hans C. Heg.



Pictured above is the Col. Heg School as it appeared a week before its dedication program. The line where the addition joins the older section may be seen on the roof in this photo by the Waterford Post.

Due to yearly increases in enrollment, the Colonel Heg school again became overcrowded, and in March of 1939, an addition was started. Pictured here is the new and improved building which was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on Oct. 13, 1939. Every modern convenience necessary to the efficient management of an up-to-date school has been added to make it one of the most attractive institutions of learning in Racine county.

Besides its exceptionally beautiful location, Colonel Heg School is endowed with an unusual historic heritage of heroic accomplishment, in which its students take pride.



## THE MAN WHO FIRST VISIONED HEG MEMORIAL PARK



NELS BERGAN

Linked inseparably with the annals of Col. Heg Memorial Park is the name of Nels Bergan, whose patriotism and admiration for the heroes of his adopted country caused him to visualize this fitting memorial.

Mr. Bergan himself insists that full credit belongs to the entire Heg Memorial Committee, and to the public spirited citizens and business men who gave generous financial support that the Committee might carry out its plans. We feel, however, that since this book commemorates so many "firsts", our readers will wish to

know the man who first visioned Racine County's beautiful Col. Heg Memorial Park.

Born in Telemarken, Norway, Nov. 1, 1881, son of Gunnar Bergan, a successful Norwegian farmer, Nels Bergan came to America in May, 1906. In 1907 he married Julia Olson of Racine. They have two sons, Kenneth C., and John R. Bergan.

Mr. Bergan, who still gives his untiring efforts to promoting the Park and the interests centered about it, takes great pride in the fact that Telemarken, his birthplace, was also the home of the majority of the Norwegian immigrants who originally founded the Muskego Settlement.

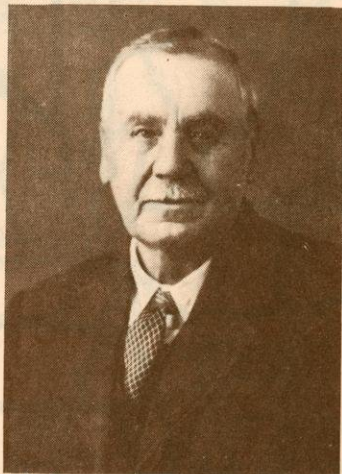
He has lived to see his patriotic dream become a reality, and Col. Heg Memorial Park the mecca of history lovers of all nationalities, from every state in the union, and even from across the seas.

## THE PARK CUSTODIAN

The late Eugene V. Leach, well known Racine County historian, once said, "To a chosen few historically minded persons in each generation is given the privilege of collecting and preserving the sacred facts of history, that they may not be lost to future generations."

We consider Julius Christianson, present custodian, of Heg Memorial Park, one of these "chosen few".

Mr. Christianson was born in Eidsvoll, Norway, February 25, 1866, and his early life was spent in the City of Oslo. In June, of 1885, he came to America and settled in Muskego. He married Mary E. Thronson, and they now make their home on their farm near the park.



Julius Christianson, Custodian

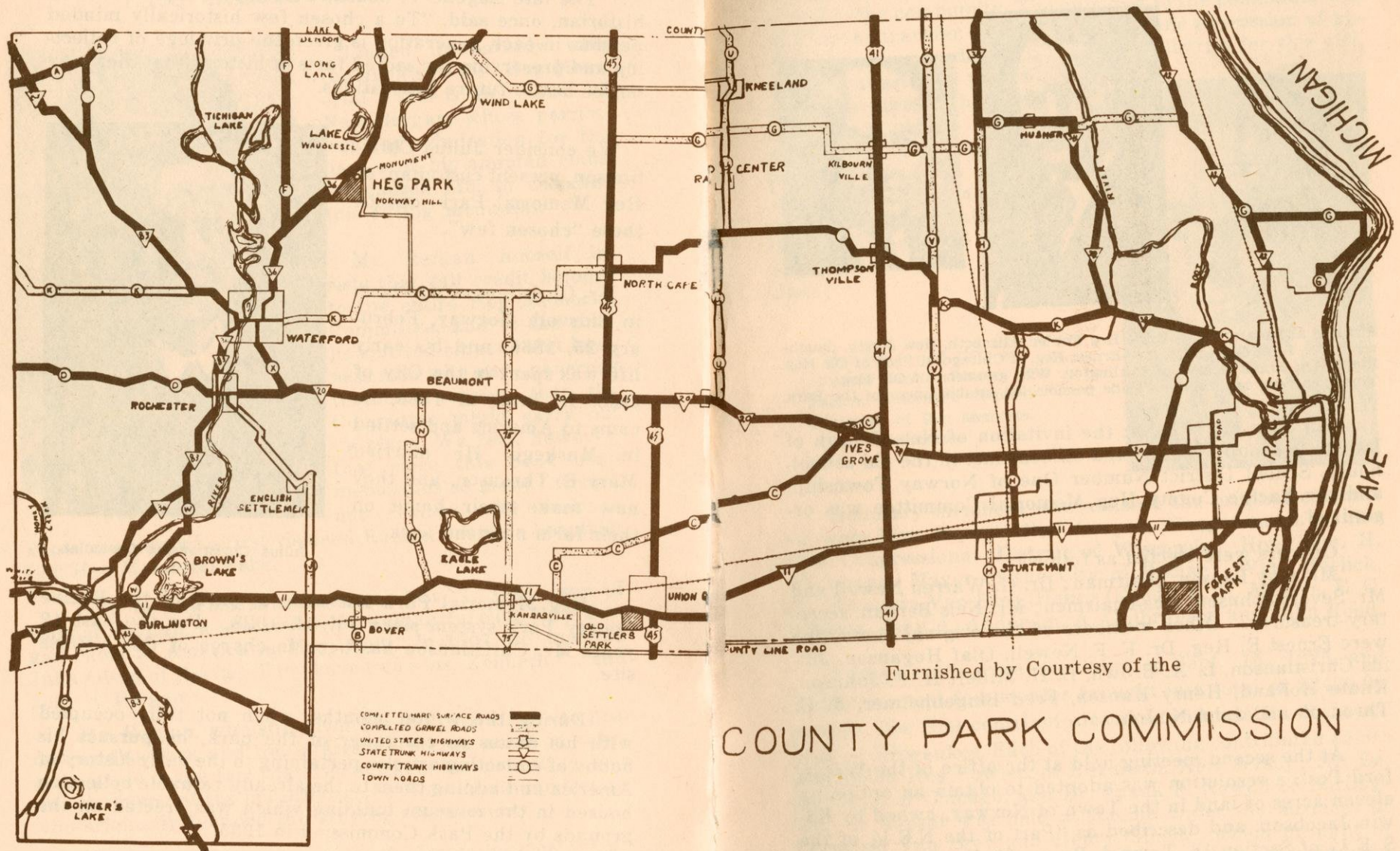
Heg Memorial Park has been a part of the Racine County Park system since July 4, 1928. For the past 12 years Mr. Christianson has been in charge of this historic site.

During the winter months, when not fully occupied with his duties as caretaker of the park, he pursues his hobby of collecting articles pertaining to the early history of America and adding them to the already valuable collection housed in the museum building which was erected on the grounds by the Park Commission in 1935.

At present the chief object of his search is a copy of NORDLYSET, the first Norwegian-American newspaper.



MAP OF RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

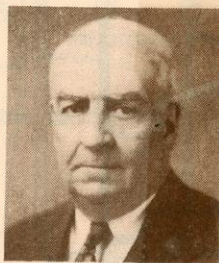


Furnished by Courtesy of the

COUNTY PARK COMMISSION



## HISTORICAL REVIEW OF HEG MEMORIAL PARK



Pictured above are: Left—Hilda Heg Fowler, Elizabeth, New Jersey, daughter of Col. Hans C. Heg. Center—Ernest Heg, of Chicago, Ill., son of Ole Heg. Right—Dr. Frank Newell, of Burlington, Wis., grandson of Ole Heg. Their generous contributions made possible the establishment of the Park.

On July 17, 1925, at the invitation of Nels Bergan of Racine, a group of interested citizens met in the old school-house, School District Number One of Norway Township, and the Racine County Heg Memorial Committee was organized.

Officers were elected as follows:

Mr. Guy Benson, chairman; Dr. G. Warren Newell and Mr. Severt Johnson, vice-chairmen; Mr. Nels Bergan, secretary-treasurer. Other members of the original committee were Ernest E. Heg, Dr. F. F. Newell, Olaf Hoganson, Julius Christianson, L. A. Brown, E. H. Miller, H. F. Johnson, Knute Holland, Henry Hanson, Fred Bingenheimer, B. C. Thronson and John N. Johnson.

At the second meeting held at the office of the Watford Post, a resolution was adopted to obtain an option on eleven acres of land in the Town of Norway, owned by Edwin Jacobson, and described as "Part of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 18, Town 4, Range 20, East" for the purpose of establishing a memorial to Colonel Hans Christian

Heg. A committee consisting of Julius Christianson, Guy Benson and Severt Johnson carried out this resolution. School District Number One presented the Committee with the acre of land which had been the site of the first brick school in the community. The only cost to the committee was \$25 for the transfer of the land. A public expression of appreciation was tendered to the school district for this gift, which increased the park site to twelve acres. The school building in which the Heg Memorial Committee was organized was torn down to make way for the monument to Col. Heg, and subsequent meetings were held in Wat-  
erford, Burlington, and Ra-  
cine.

Pictured to the right is  
Attorney Guy A. Benson, of  
Racine, Wisconsin, General  
Chairman of Heg Memorial  
Committee



Honorary members who assisted the original committee were Hon. Henry Allen Cooper, Congressman for the First Congressional District of Wisconsin; Hon. Wm. H. Armstrong, Mayor of the City of Racine; Wm. Horlick, Jr., Theodore Van Bree, Henry Gloede, B. H. Meyers, E. C. Johnson, John A. Anderson, A. Gulbranson and John Rood.

Pledge cards were circulated on Sept. 15, 1925, and during the next few months brought in a total of \$2420.00 in cash. The first contributor to the fund was Dr. P. Langland, of Milwaukee. Each of the following contributed \$500: Mrs. Hilda Heg Fowler, of Elizabeth, New Jersey; Mr. Ernest Heg, of Chicago, and Dr. Frank F. Newell of Burlington. A bazaar was held at Racine under the auspices of Theodore Van Bree and Henry Gloede, which brought in \$1339.61. Picnics held at Heg Memorial Park during the summers of 1926 and 1927 netted \$172.



At the first of these picnics, the Heg Memorial Committee, following an old Norse custom when there is something difficult ahead to be accomplished, joined hands and took a Norwegian pledge which translated means, "Let us take each others hands and resolve that we be united and true until the founding of Heg Memorial Park has been completed." This pledge was carried out to the letter, as the original committee functioned intact until after the dedication ceremonies. During the ensuing months, while the commttee persisted in its efforts despite indifference, discouragement and even active opposition, one of its members said to Mr. Bergan, "I actually lie awake nights worrying about where in the world we can get all the money we need." Needless to say, a committee with members of this caliber does not fail in what it has undertaken.

The flagpole was donated by Mr. Wm. Horlick, Jr., of Racine, and Mr. Severt Johnson of Norway Hill. It was erected by John Steinke, of Waterford.

Through the sale of advertising and of souvenir programs the sum of \$2905 was realized, bringing the total to approximately \$9,000, which was expended on the statue and the park up to the time of unveiling of the statue on July 4, 1928. On this eventful day the Hon. Henry Allen Cooper, Congressman for the First Congressional District of Wisconsin, gave a stirring unveiling address, and the unveiling proper was performed by Mr. Lewis Rolfson, G. A. R. Veteran of Company C, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, recruited by Col. Hans Heg.

Present at the ceremonies were Colonel Heg's daughter, Hilda Heg Fowler, and her husband, Charles Newell Fowler, who was for ten years a member of the house of Representatives and served as chairman of the Committee on banking and currency. Mr. Fowler spoke briefly concerning Col. Heg's career.

Chairman Guy Benson also introduced to the audience a group of Civil War veterans headed by Commander Joseph Cooper, of the Racine G. A. R. post. There are today, no living members of this post.

At this time Heg Memorial Park was formally presented to the Racine County Park Commission by Wm. H.





View of children enjoying the playground equipment under the shade trees in Beautiful Heg Memorial Park. Photo by Warner, Burlington.

Armstrong, then mayor of Racine. It was accepted on behalf of Racine County by Mr. W. Randolph Pugh, chairman of the Racine County Park Commission. Other members of the Park Commission at that time were, Sam Lahr, secretary; J. S. Witmer, J. Allan Simpson and E. H. Wadewitz, all of Racine; Wesley Shepard of Union Grove; John Kovar, of Caledonia, and Miss Nettie Karcher, of Burlington.

An additional sum of approximately \$7000 has been expended by the Park Commission since Racine County has assumed charge of the park. This sum was spent for a well, water system, log cabin, museum building, refreshment stand, rest rooms, tables, benches, fireplaces, walk, shrubbery, fence, playground equipment, etc.

A full-time custodian is employed. For the first few months these duties were performed by Charles Hanson. Ill Health forced Mr. Hanson to retire, and for the past 12 years. Mr. Julius Christianson, the present cutodian, has been in charge. Through his efforts many improvements have been made, and many articles of value added to the historical collection in the park museum.

During the summer of 1939 it was estimated that there were 60,000 visitors in the park.

# DEDICATION CEREMONIES

## —PROGRAM—

AT HEG MEMORIAL PARK

July 4, 1928 — 1:30 P. M.

GUY A. BENSON, CHAIRMAN

1. Band concert, 1:30 to 2:30 .... Great Lakes Naval Band
2. Song: Battle Hymn of the Republic ..... Audience  
(Accompanied by Great Lakes Naval Band)
3. Invocation ..... Rev. H. C. M. Jahren
4. Solo ..... Mrs. Ellen Schlender
5. Introduction of Civil War Veterans.
6. Introduction of Colonel Heg's daughter, Hilda Heg  
Fowler, and her husband, Charles Newell Fowler,  
of Elizabeth, New Jersey.
7. Unveiling Address ..... Hon. Henry Allen Cooper,  
Member of Congress.
8. Unveiling Ceremony ..... Lewis Rolfson, Company C,  
15th Wisconsin Volunteers, assisted by the Great  
Lakes Naval Band playing "Star Spangled Banner".
9. Solo ..... Mrs. Martha Kittleson
10. Presentation Address ..... Hon. Wm. H. Armstrong,  
Mayor of Racine.
11. Acceptance on Behalf of Racine County .... W. H. Pugh,  
Chairman of Racine County Park Commission.
12. Duet ..... Mrs. Ellen Schlender, Mrs. Martha Kittleson
13. Address: "Col. Hans C. Heg, Citizen and Soldier" ....  
..... Rev. Gustav Stearns, Milwaukee
14. Solo ..... Mrs. J. A. Jacobson
15. Song: "America" ..... Audience
16. Benediction.

## DEDICATION POEM

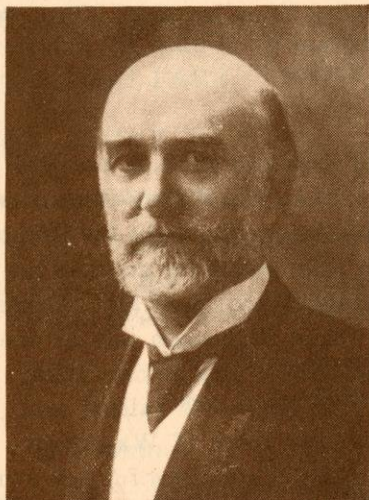
The following lines by H. C. Case were read at the Dedication Program by Willim H. Armstrong, then mayor of the City of Racine:

Mid shot and shell, a hero fell  
    In eighteen sixty-three,  
Who fought the fight for God and right,  
    And peace for you and me.  
Though Uncle Sam and Norway  
    And Wisconsin join as one,  
And tribute pay as one, today,  
    To Norway's valiant son,  
The little town of Waterford  
    Still claims him for her own.  
Year after year we'll find him here,  
    On his pedestal of stone.  
Though we may raise our voice in praise,  
    Our words are soon forgot.  
His noble form, defying storm,  
    Will grace this sacred spot,  
And to the end enchantment lend  
    To guide the coming youth,  
Throughout their days, to follow ways  
    Of rectitude and truth.  
That the tortured slave from cruel knave  
    No longer has to beg,  
We know is due in part to you,  
    Our hero, Colonel Heg.  
So we gather here to drop a tear  
    And offer up a prayer  
That privileged we may sometime be  
    To meet him Over There.

——H. C. Case.



# HON. HENRY ALLEN COOPER



Henry Allen Cooper, Photograph by  
courtesy of Mrs. Henry Allen Cooper

Born in Spring Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin,  
September 8, 1850.

Died in Washington, D. C., March 1, 1931.

Buried in Mound Cemetery, Racine, Wisconsin.

Congressman from the First Congressional District  
of Wisconsin for 36 years.

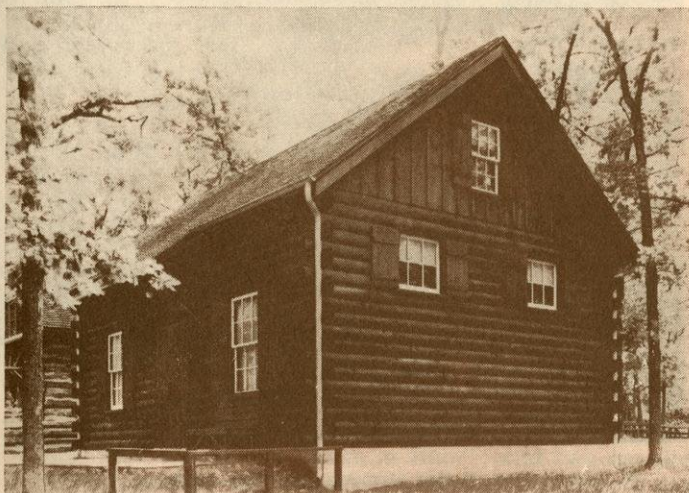
## QUOTATION FROM THE UNVEILING ADDRESS BY HON. HENRY ALLEN COOPER

"We do not dedicate this statue to encourage war. Our purpose is far nobler. We perform a debt of gratitude and of patriotism to our county, our state and our nation. His was a lofty character, his a noble life, his a heroic death. The ways he fought were not alone against him, but against his generation and against us. He fought against human wrongs, everywhere. I wish that the youth of our country might learn the lesson which this statue teaches, for upon them depends the perpetuity of our nation."

## THE MUSEUM AT HEG MEMORIAL PARK

Though the small museum building on the Heg Memorial Park grounds is only five years old, it is already filled to overflowing with items of historical interest, many of them very rare and valuable.

The park custodian, Mr. Julius Christianson, is an authority on the early history of the surrounding community and his explanations and anecdotes of old times add much



Heg Memorial Museum — Photo by Warner

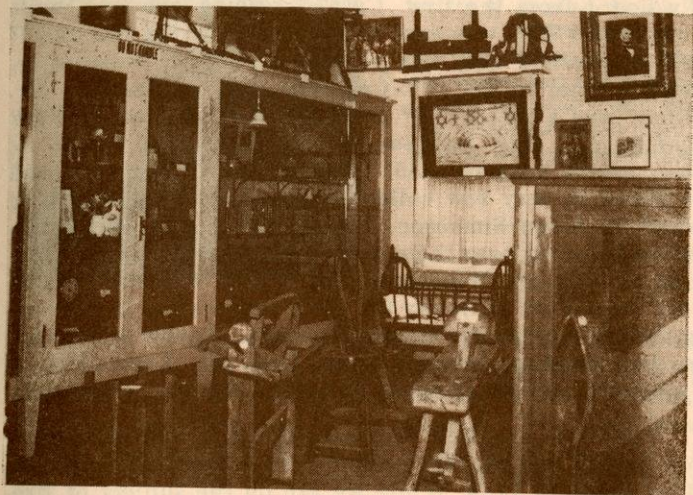
to the pleasure of a visit to the museum. While he admits that he is glad to be able to turn on the electric lights to display his treasures, he is especially proud of the displays of the oil-wick lamp, candle molds, candle sticks and various other old-fashioned means of furnishing light.

One of the first items to catch the eye is a framed copy of the second issue of the Waterford Post, dated March 21, 1874, and donated to the museum by Dr. Frank Newell of Burlington, Wisconsin.



in which he took part, also a white muslin cap once worn by his mother, Sigrid Olsdatter Heg. There is also a bit of cloth from one of Colonel Heg's coats, and a beautiful little vase which was one of his gifts to his sweetheart.

Civil war souvenirs include an old army canteen donated by Hans Narum, of Norway, Wisconsin; a uniform



An interior view of Heg Memorial Museum—Photo by Warner

once worn by one of our "Boys in Blue"; and two cavalry sabers presented by Mr. Andrew Bennett of Waterford, and Mrs. Ila Parker Mahaffey of Grays Lake, Illinois.

Seven spinning wheels were noted, the oldest of which was brought across the Atlantic Ocean in 1839 by Mrs. Ole Storlie who was accidentally shot by one of the early settlers. As necessary as the spinning wheels, though not so well remembered today, were the skein winders, called in Norwegian "hespatre". There are six of these skein winders to be seen in the Heg Memorial Museum.

A leather bound hexagon chest, hand-made, with two locks and metal bands, bears the name of Mrs. Ellen S.



As many as possible of the collections are safely locked within glass cases. In the right hand case as one enters the building is a collection of fourteen articles presented by Amanda Johnson, of Racine. Among them an unusual brass brace, an old candle mold, a valuable copper mortar and pestle, and a bible dated 1748. An old-fashioned tray and wheel, forerunner of the coffee grinder, reminds one that a cup of coffee was not always as easily prepared as it is today. Seven weight clocks, one of them over 100 years old, need only a winding to begin telling the time as



An interior view of Heg Memorial Museum—Photo by Warner

faithfully as ever. Among the old Bibles we noted one from Jefferson, Wisconsin, dated 1837. A wooden violin case, donated by Mr. Alfred Nelson of North Cape, bears the date of 1826. Another valuable collection is that of 31 articles from Norway donated in 1934 by the Sondif-Jorde Laget (Southern River Society) of Milwaukee. Some of the articles included are over 200 years old. One of them is a hand-made wooden wine jar. This collection also includes several old weights, the early form of the present day scale.

Nearby is a frame containing the testament and catechism which Colonel Heg carried with him in every battle

Runden of North Cape as donor, and is known to be over 150 years old. Two other chests brought to this country by the Storlie and Ingebretson families may be seen in one of the glass cases. A brass bed-warmer, donated by the Oaks family of Waterford, makes us appreciate our modern heating systems.

Visiting farmers usually take much interest in the tally board from the first Case threshing machine, built about 1860. This was used to keep track of the number of bushels threshed and was presented to the museum by James Witmer of the J. I. Case Company of Racine. Mr. Witmer was a member of the first Racine County Park Commission. Heg museum also possesses two single ox yokes, dating back to 1845. These are extremely rare, and are found in very few collections. One of them was once owned by Soren Simonson. The massive, solid oak grain-crusher standing near them was donated by Mr. Albert Malchine of Norway, Wisconsin. Old, wide, wooden "marsh shoes" recall the difficulty the early settlers had in harvesting their hay crops in swampy Muskego. In this section are also two crockery butter churns, from Mr. Kortendick of Waterford, and Mr. August Zukov, of Norway, Wisconsin.

Fire-arms are well represented, rifles and shot guns, both breech and muzzle-loading, and a small flint-lock revolver made in 1714. While we are on the subject of fire-arms, we also wish to call your attention to the gun and powder horn hanging on the staircase in the old log cabin. This was once the property of Mr. Samuel E. Chapman, the first white settler in the village of Waterford. It was placed in the cabin, instead of in the museum, as a reminder that the early settlers found it necessary to have a gun handy constantly, for protection against the Indians as well as for the purpose of securing food for their families.

Of particular interest because they are so closely connected with the early history of the surrounding community, are the plane and broad-axe used in the construction of the first Norwegian church in America, and donated by Hoganson Brothers of Waterford; and the press on which Editor James Denoon Reymert printed the first Norwegian newspaper in America. The first editor's picture is also on display in one of the cases, having been donated by the





An interior view of Heg Museum, showing as a centerpiece one of the uniforms worn by the "Boys in Blue", flanked by two rifles of the period, canteens, and a picture of Abraham Lincoln and a bust of Abraham Lincoln. In the right section of the picture may be seen part of a large-wheel bicycle. Two small United States flags adorn the mantel above the uniform and equipment display.

late Dr. P. Langland of Milwaukee. The white oak cradle made in 1846, and donated by Hans Bendickson of Tichigan, was, in the early days, an actual part of the furnishings of the old log cabin next to the museum. The small hand-turned, black walnut child's bed beside it was made in 1787 and was presented by descendants of Waterford's first white settler, Mr. Samuel E. Chapman.

Among the many interesting articles which bear the name of Gullick as donor are an old trunk used by the Klevin family to hold their supply of "flatbrod" and herring for their voyage to America; the oldest clock in the museum, an old candle mold, and a carder for carding wool.

Especially interesting to Racine people is the chair used in Congress by Hon. Henry Allen Cooper, Congressman for the First Congressional District of Wisconsin for 36 years, and presented by his widow after his death. Mrs. Cooper also was the donor of a bronze cannon presented to Congressman Cooper by the Philippine government in recognition of his services for the Islands, he having been chairman of the Insular Committee.

One of the first made bicycles, with its shoulder-high front wheel, bears the name of Harry Apple, donor.

The old school desk near the entrance was a gift to the museum by Mr. Joseph Bankenbush of Racine. It came originally from the parochial school attached to the first Roman Catholic cathedral in the northwest. This cathedral was located at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was built in 1839 on land donated by Solomon Juneau. The desk was later used at St. Rita's school just north of Racine.

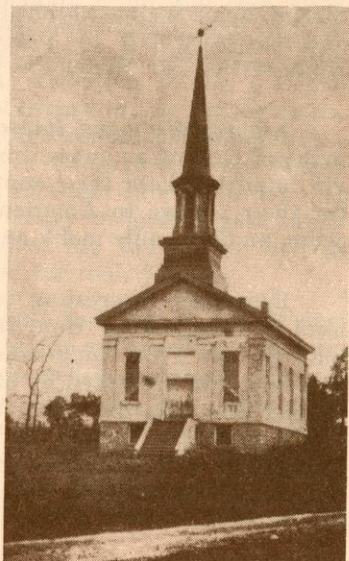
The cases in the center of the room contain many attractions for housewives and for collectors of old dishes. Heavy copper tea kettles, their fat sides burnished and gleaming until even their original owners would certainly approve of the care which they have received, hobnob with tall steins and colonial platters and pitchers.

Naturally this brief sketch has been able to mention only a few of the hundreds of articles on display which attract collectors and history lovers from all over the United States, and cause them to feel that their visit to the Heg Memorial Museum has been an interesting and worthwhile experience.

In the 1860's school was held in the basement of the old Congregational church, pictured here, while the first Waterford Graded School was being built. George Blake was the teacher at that time.

This old church, which was situated at the west end of Main street near where the present Waterford Highschool stands, was the scene of Col. Han's C. Heg's funeral. The large iron key which opened the doors of this early place of worship is on display in the Heg Memorial Park Museum.

This photo was loaned through the courtesy of Mrs. Clara Johncox, of Waterford.





## THE OLD LOG CABIN

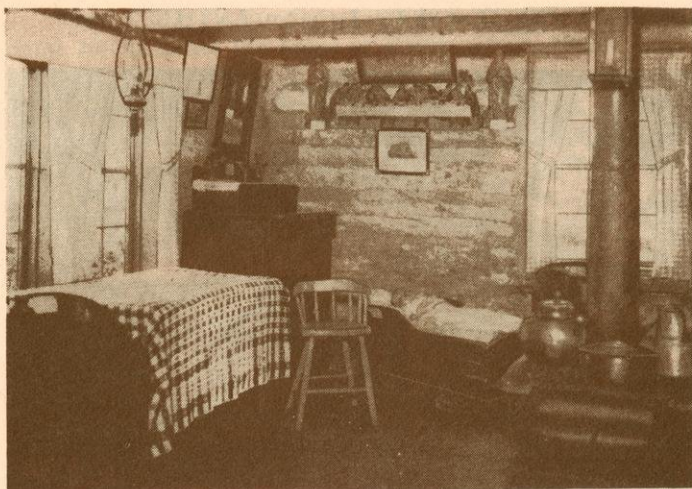


This building was erected by Eliphalet Cram about 1837 on Lot No. 5, Section 18, Town 4, Range 20, Racine county. In 1928 it was taken down, removed to Colonel Heg Memorial Park, and reconstructed by the Racine County Park Commission.

## THE OLD RAIL FENCE

In 1940 the oak rails in the old fence which surrounds the little enclosure about the log cabin have seen a century of service. They were split in 1840 by one of Waukesha County's pioneers. At that time a good rail splitter could split about fifty rails a day, earning for his work a penny apiece, or a daily wage of fifty cents.

The rails were discovered by Julius Christianson, custodian of Heg Memorial Park, on a farm in Waukesha county. The seventy-eight year old farmer who owned them stated that his own father had known the man who split the rails. Mr. Christianson, realizing that their age and history made them deserving of a place in the park, purchased them and reconstructed the fence to stand as another symbol of early life in the community.



## CABIN AT HEG PARK

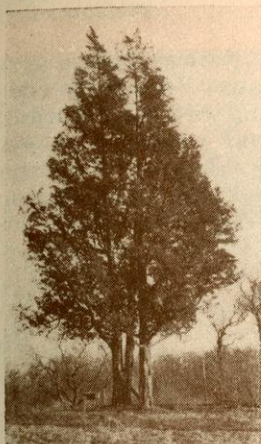
Within this small log cabin,  
 Rich with old Norwegian lore,  
 Stands a little hand-hewn cradle,  
 As it stood in days of yore.  
 Upon the sunny window ledge  
 The gay geraniums bloom,  
 Filling with their cheery message  
 All that tiny single room.  
 Back home to see a childhood dream  
 Come true, today, at last,  
 Wait children grown, who called it home  
 In happy times gone past.  
 Though they'll be waiting wistfully,  
 Forever - ever more,  
 Who hoped to see a charming princess  
 Walk through Grandmother's cabin door,  
 Had they crossed its time-worn threshold,  
 Felt its spell of home-like grace,  
 I am sure the Prince and Princess  
 Would have loved this simple place.

—Ella Stratton Colbo.

(The above was written for the many who were disappointed when lack of time prevented the Royal Couple from inspecting the old log cabin.)



## THE OLD LOG CABIN



These two Towering Cedars still stand in the dooryard of the original site of the Old Log Cabin. Photo taken in fall of 1939 by the Waterford Post staff.

To most visitors at Heg Memorial Park the center of interest is the small log cabin, which was moved to the park from its original site on a nearby farm. Early records show it to have been erected in 1837 by Eliphalet Cram.

Little is known of any of the early owners of the cabin excepting their names, which occur on land transfers recorded at the Racine County Courthouse. Unfortunately the Norway-Muskego church records which would probably have furnished clues by which the descendants of these families might have been traced, were completely destroyed by the burning of the parsonage in April, 1916. The two towering cedars pictured have stood guard in the dooryard of this pioneer home for the better part of a century, but the story of the romance, adventure, heartaches and happiness of the first families who lived there is a closed book to us.

There is a tradition that arrangements were once completed to use the old log cabin as a parsonage for the first pastor of Norway Hill church, but that his young wife found the dark forbidding forests which surrounded it not at all to her liking, and insisted upon a less lonely location for her home.

In one of the old books of deeds at the Racine County courthouse is a record of the transfer of the farm on which the old log cabin stood, from Tollef Jensen and Martha, his wife, to Halvor Bendickson. This document was witnessed by Ole Heg, Notary Public, and by Martin Skofstad, and was dated December 6, 1866. The farm remained in posses-

sion of the Bendickson family until 1928, a period of sixty-two years.

Born April 2, 1826, in Stavenger, Norway, where as a lad he worked on the fishing fleets, Halvor Bendickson emigrated to America in 1858 with his young wife, Kari Bjordal, and settled in North Cape. Before many years had passed Kari Bjordal Bendickson was laid to rest in the North Cape cemetery. With two small sons, Bendick and Hans, Halvor Bendickson moved to the Norway settlement, where he married Anna Anderson, daughter of Ole and Ingebor Anderson. Anna Anderson was born in Norway, June 15, 1836. With her parents in 1840, she made the 13-week trip across the Atlantic as a member of the party of immigrants led by Even Hansen Heg. As a small child she helped, with the other children of the community, to carry shingles to the top of Indian Hill (now called Norway Hill) during the building of their first church. She attended Sunday school classes in the Even Heg barn, and later in the first church. She was a member of the first class confirmed by Rev. Stub in the old church. During her early teens, she was one of the survivors of the terrible visitations of cholera which caused Muskego to be known for a time as "The Region of Death."

In 1866, before Halvor Bendickson moved his family into the log cabin, he found it necessary to replace the two bottom logs which were even then badly rotted with age. He also added the top story, or "loft" and re-shingled the roof. This loft, reached by a crude stairway through a trap-door, was used as sleeping quarters for the children. As the years passed seven children were born in the Bendickson family. Two of these children died in the old log cabin. In 1884 the Bendicksons erected a larger home on the same farm, and the old cabin was occupied by Charles Colbo and family, and, following his death in 1888, by Hans Bendickson, whose son, Edward, was also born there.

After Halvor Bendickson's death in 1902, his widow returned to the little home to spend the remaining eighteen years of her life. After her death it was occupied for several years by a son, Oscar, and a daughter, Emma. Hanging on the wall of the old cabin, where his widow placed it soon after his death, is a large picture of Halvor Bendickson.



Both Mr. and Mrs. Bendickson are buried in the Norway Hill cemetery.



Halvor Bendickson and Wife, Anna Anderson Bendickson. Photo furnished by Anna Bendickson Stratton, Burlington, Wisconsin.

Surviving these Norwegian pioneers are seven children, Bendick Bendickson, of Wind Lake; Hans Bendickson, of Tichigan Lake; Julia Bendickson Colbo, of Honey Creek; Oscar Bendickson, of Waubeesee; Emma and Edward Bendickson, both of Milwaukee, and Anna Bendickson Stratton, of Burlington.

Thirteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren are also residents of Wisconsin.

The last owner of the old log cabin was Sivert Thompson, now an inmate of the Old People's home at Wittenberg, Wis.

In 1928, when the old cabin was about to be razed to make way for a modern dwelling, Julius Christianson, custodian of Heg Memorial Park, knowing it to be one of the oldest homes, if not the



Severt Johnson



Sam Lahr



W. Harold Pugh

Severt Johnson had charge of moving the old log cabin to the park. Sam Lahr, secretary, and Mr. Pugh, chairman of Racine County Park Commission were instrumental in securing this old home for preservation.

oldest, remaining in the vicinity, interested Mr. Harold Pugh, chairman, and Mr. Sam Lahr, secretary of the Racine County Park Commission, in preserving it for its historical value. Through their efforts the old house was purchased for the Park Commission, and Mr. Severt Johnson employed to remove it from its original site to Heg Memorial Park. The cabin was taken down carefully and the logs accurately numbered and set up again in its present location in the park. Mr. Christianson then refurnished it with articles typical of those used in the early Norwegian households in the community.

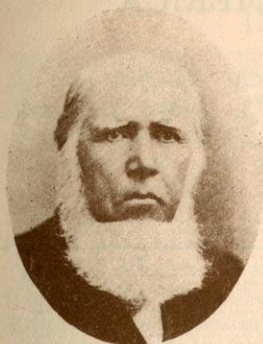
Stepping across the worn threshold, into the single small room of the cabin, one steps across a century of time into the heart of pioneer life in Racine county. Its simple, sturdy furnishings, many of them hand made by pioneers now at rest in Norway Hill cemetery, speak eloquently of the patience, thrift and versatility which enabled those early Norwegian settlers to withstand hardships and privation, and carve from the wilderness of Old Muskego the beginnings of the present prosperous community of fertile farms and convenient modern homes.



Interior view of the old log cabin. Photo by Warner.



## The Restored Home of Rev. Elling Eielsen



REV. ELLING EIELSEN

First ordained Norwegian Lutheran minister in America. Sept. 19, 1804- January 10, 1883.

On the parsonage grounds, adjacent to Heg Memorial Park, stands another pioneer memorial of interest to all who are familiar with the great names of Norwegian-American history. The old home of Rev. Elling Eielsen was moved to this location from its original site at Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin, in 1933, by a committee from the Norway-Muskego congregation. Through the courtesy of Rev. Eielsen's daughter, Mrs. Ellen S. Runden of North Cape, Wisconsin, the restored home is furnished with the identical furniture once used by the famous evangelist and his wife, Sigrid Tufte Eielsen.

Also on display at the old Elling Eielsen home may be seen a copy of the first book published in America by a Norwegian. It is an English translation of Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catchism for Children. It was printed in 1841, and Rev. Eielsen walked the entire distance to New York and return in order to make the arrangements which supplied this religious help for the pioneer settlements.

From 1839 until October 3, 1843, Rev. Eielsen ministered to the scattered Norwegian settlements throughout Wisconsin and Illinois as a lay preacher. On that date he was ordained in Chicago by Rev. Hoffman, just nine days before Rev. Claus L. Clausen, first pastor of the Muskego Lutheran church was ordained by Rev. L. F. Krause of the Buffalo synod. Thus history accords Rev. Eielsen the honor of being the first ordained minister of



Restored home of Rev. Eielsen

the gospel among the Norwegians in the United States.

Ward List

No. 1. Norman, Racine County, Wisconsin. — Forödagen den 29de Juli 1847. 1ste Morgon.

[illegible]

Net, (das hat eine schlechte) in New York  
das Netzwerk. Das hat eine schlechte

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Large size of sample and age group 15-24 years

1874-1875

Page 66



# THE FIRST NORWEGIAN NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA

On July 29, 1847, in Even Heg's old log cabin, was struck off the first copy of the first Norwegian newspaper published in America. It was called the NORDLYSET (The Northern Light). Its publishers were Heg, Bache and Reymert. Even Hansen Heg and Soren Bache furnished the financial backing. James Denoon Reymert was the first Editor. Eric Anderson Rude, a compositor from the Chicago Tribune, was the first typesetter. Later Ole Torgeson, Ole Heg and Even Skofstad were the typesetters. Mr. Reymert obtained the type and the small press on which he printed his paper, in Philadelphia.

The first editor's portrait donated by the late Dr. P. Langland, of Milwaukee, may be seen in the museum building at Heg Memorial Park. The crude press on which the first issues of Nordlyset are believed to have been printed, may also be seen there. It was presented to the museum by Mr. Edward Erickson of Waubeesee.

At this writing no copy of the NORDLYSET is possessed by the Heg Memorial Museum. It is hoped that some way will be found to supply this omission, as many interested visitors often ask about it. The most complete file of NORDLYSET now in existence is preserved in the library at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and forms important source material for the history of the Norwegian element in this country. A very fragmentary file is preserved in the Minnesota Historical Society at St. Paul, and a more extensive file at the Luther Theological Seminary in the same city. One copy may be seen at the museum of the State Historical Society at Madison, Wisconsin.

The original paper was a four-page, 4-column folio, 8 x 11 inches. Its price was \$2.00 per year, 6c per copy. After the first few issues Mr. Reymert built his own printing office across the line in Waukesha county.

In Knud Langeland's NORSEMEN IN AMERICA, published in the Norwegian language in 1888, may be found a

list of NORDLYSET's 276 subscribers. In 1847 slavery was already an issue, and since liberty of person and religion were very precious to these immigrants, NORDLYSET became the Norwegian organ of the Free Soil (later the Republican) party, and on its subscription list were to found many of the most enlightened and progressive citizens of the middle west. A cut of the American flag headed the editorial column, and a translation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence was in the first issue. The motto of the paper was "Freedom and Equality" later changed to "Free Land, Free Speech, Free Labor and Free Men".

Reymert continued to publish NORDLYSET until May 18, 1850. At this time Knud Langeland purchased the equipment, changed the name of the paper to DEMOCRATEN, and published it in Racine. When publication of the DEMOCRATEN was suspended, Knud Langeland was invited by John Andersen of Chicago to become editor of the SKANDINAVEN, a daily Norwegian-American publication which has since become the largest newspaper in the Norwegian language published outside of Norway.

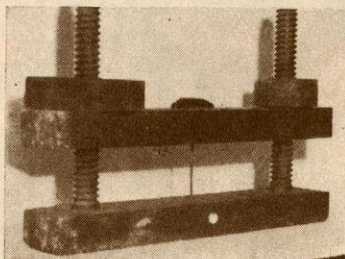
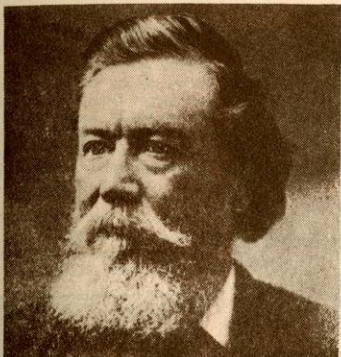
It is an interesting fact that six of the first eight Norwegian newspapers published in this country had their beginning in Wisconsin.

James D. Reymert's career was among the most interesting in this early settlement. He was well educated, having practiced law in Norway before coming to America. His mother was a scotch woman, Jessie Sinclair Denoon, and his ability to speak English made him influential in the Muskego colony. He married Caspara Hansen, daughter of an immigrant dancing teacher. Early records of Racine County show that he owned a great deal of land. His name is signed to the Constitution of Wisconsin. He was elected a member of the first legislative assembly in 1849 and also in 1857, and as a state senator in 1854 and 1855. One of his early ventures in this country was the construction of a saw mill at the head of Lake Denoon, where he utilized the surrounding timberlands to provide logs used in the construction of the old plank road from Janesville to Milwaukee, as well as in many of the homes and farm buildings of the nearby communities. He established a post office at



Lake Denoon and served in the capacity of postmaster for several years. This post office has since been discontinued.

In 1861 Mr. Reymert moved to New York, where he became a prominent lawyer. He died in Alhambra, California in 1896.



Pictured above are Editor Reymert, and the small press on which the NORDLYSET's first issues are said to have been printed. The Press is now in Heg Park Museum.

# Et settlement som venter på kronprinsparet.

Brev til «Varden» fra en gammel norsk-amerikaner.



Tømmerhuset og litt av museumsbygningen.

Vi er begeistret over å lese i våre aviser at kronprins Olav og kronprinsesse Märtha har planer om en tur til United States neste år.

Vårt håp er at Muskigo settlementet med dets mange historiske minder må bli nedskrevet på parets reiserute som et stoppested. Noget bedre sted å stanse og studere norskdommen i Amerika tror jeg ikke kan finnes noget sted i vårt land. Her er norsk natur og herlige minder bevart fra de tidligste år i utvandringen. Tømmerhuset som er opsett var bygget for 100 år siden, og er utstyrt som presteboligen var i de dage. Utstillingsbygningen med sine 700 gjenstande er et museum som gir vidnesbyrd om hvordan folk bodde og levde i de dage, og hvilke redskaper de hadde til sin rådighet til å vinde det daglige brød for sig og sine.

Underlige tanker gjennomstrømmer oss når vi sammenligner nutidens mange oppfinnelser til å tilfredsstille våre daglige gjøremål med de simple redska-

per de dengang hadde til sin rådighet.

\*Det var høvdingblod i disse menn og kvinner som nedsatte sig derute og vant sig frem gjennom alle strabatter.

Bygden er vistnok en av Wisconsin's fineste, og i finansiell henseende en av de verdifulle i Staten. Den ligger ca. 20 mil fra Milwaukee, den store by med Michiganssjøen hvor de første emigranter stoppet før de nedsatte sig i Muskigo, og ca. 26 mil fra Racine som her er kaldt den danske hovedstad i Amerika. I 1943 skal folket derute feire 100 årsdagen for sin kirke, som var den første Norsk-lutherske kirke i Amerika. Forberedelser er allerede startet for denne høitid. Derute blev den første norske avis trykt, Nordlyset, og der var herberge og stoppested for trette emigranter som var på vei lenger mot vest. Her hviler også støvet av Lierguttan fra Drammen, oberst Hans Christian Høg. Støpen av ham har en pen plass i parken, som bærer hans navn.

Vi tror at dette sted er verdig til å ha en kongesønn fra Norge på besøk. Vi er viss på at kronprinsparet vil føle at de der vil

sit på heilig grunn.

I ærbødighet ber vi Dem, hr. redaktør, at Deres blad Varden vil opmerke deres høihet kronprins Olav og kronprinsesse Märtha til ikke å forglemme Muskigo Settlementet på deres reise. En stand der for dem vil bli verdifull og en høitidelig og skjønn belønning for folket derute.

Jeg kan likesom se at Olav og Märtha står derute på høiden ved kirken og de beskuer markene som ligger fremfor dem, kun da kan de forstå hvad det norske folk som utvandret i sin ungdom, har utført. Der var bare skog og sumpland, full av sykdom og pest da de nedsatte sig der, men de maktet alt og bygget så å si en Edens have som er verdig å sees av alle. Kan så skje at en kongesønn kan komme til dette sted, da blir vi istand til å nedskrive i



Lierguttan fra Drammen.

Muskigo historie: «En kongesønn kom for å krone deres virke».

Takk herr redaktør for den imotekommenhet som er blitt mig bevisst. «Varden» var fars og mors dagblad, 32 år er lang tid å gå i hus og husmannet. Og minde blir skjønnere for hvert år. Vennlig hilsen til Varden og dens lesere.

Nils Bergan.

730 Munroe ave Racine Wis.



The preceding page contains a reproduction of an article from Varden, large newspaper in Telemarken, Norway, which gave the Royal Couple their first invitation to visit Heg Park in Racine County. English translation follows:

Saturday, November 19, 1938.

VARDEN

## A SETTLEMENT WHICH AWAITS THE CROWN PRINCE AND CROWN PRINCESS

Letter to Varden from an old Norse-American

We are delighted to read in our newspapers that Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha plan a tour of the United States next year.

It is our hope that Muskego Settlement, with its many historic memories, will be included in their itinerary. We believe that they can find no better place to stop and study Norse history in America. Here Norwegian lore, and glorious memories are preserved from their earliest years. The log cabin which stands in the park was erected over a hundred years ago. The interior is furnished as it was in the early days. Then the Museum with its seven hundred articles bears witness to how these people lived and what they used to earn the daily bread for themselves and for their families. Wonderful thoughts come over us as we compare the many inventions of our present day with the simple utensils with which they got along. There was patriotic blood in these pioneer men and women who came here to build their homes through so many hardships and tribulations.

Norway township is probably one of Wisconsin's finest, and financially, one of the most valuable in the state. It is located about twenty miles from Milwaukee, that city on Lake Michigan where the first immigrants stopped before they finally settled in Muskego, and about twenty-six miles from Racine, which is called "The Danish Capitol of America."

In 1943 the people of that community will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of their church, which was the first Norwegian Lutheran church founded in America. Preparations are already started for this memorable occasion.

In this community was printed NORDLYSET, the first Norwegian Newspaper in America. Many of the weary immigrants stopped here to rest on their way farther west. Here lies the body of the boy of Lier, from Drammen—Col. Hans Christian Heg. His statue occupies a prominent place in the park which bears his name.

We believe this place is worthy of a visit from the Royal Couple, and that here they will feel that they are standing upon holy ground.

In all sincerity I beg of you, Editor, that you will in the pages of VARDEN, encourage their Highnesses not to forget the Muskego Settlement on their trip to America. Its beauty and impressiveness will be their reward for a little visit here.

In my own mind, I can see Prince Olav and Princess Martha standing on the hill by the church, looking toward the skyline to behold the land, looking like a Garden of Eden, which these people developed from the forests and swamps so full of sickness when they first settled there. Even a Crown Prince will be delighted with the view! And if it is possible for their Highnesses to come, then we can write down in the history of Muskego—"The Son of a King came to crown their efforts."

I thank you, Mr. Editor, for the many kindnesses your paper has tendered me in the past. VARDEN was my father's and mother's daily paper. Thirty-two years is a long time to be away from home and fatherland, and my memories become dearer with every year.

Sincere greetings to VARDEN, and to its readers.

Nels Bergan, 720 Munroe Ave., Racine, Wis.





Photo by Warner Studios.

Above is shown part of the huge parade of welcome which escorted the Crown Prince Olav and his Princess Martha to the Park entrance. The Royal car is the second car in the line to the rear of the marchers, and is preceded by the Boy Scout drum and bugle corps of Racine.

## THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

On June 20, 1939, a never to be forgotten celebration took place at Heg Memorial Park. The Norway-Muskego community was accorded the privilege of entertaining Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha of Norway on their first visit to America. Since their visit occurred during the year of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the settlement in 1839, the event gave to the centennial celebration a distinction of which everyone connected with it was very proud.



Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha entering Heg Memorial Park, June 20, 1939. Photo by courtesy of Lester Hoganson, Burlington, Wis.

After spending the morning in Madison, Wisconsin's capital city, the Prince and Princess came to Heg Memorial Park by automobile. At the Racine County line Sheriff Miles Hulett and his force of deputies met the Royal party and escorted them the remainder of the distance to the park, the entourage driving through the streets of Watertown. The roads were lined with people waiting to greet them, and other thousands waited within the park. Hundreds of families from nearby communities brought picnic lunches and made a full day's outing of the occasion.



On their arrival at Heg Park, about one o'clock, they were taken directly to the parsonage of Rev. H. C. M. Jahren, the procession being led by the Racine Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps, national junior champions; the Alfred Essmann Post No. 20, of the American Legion, Waterford; the Waterford High School band and the Kiltie Drum and Bugle Corps of Racine.



Crown Prince Olav waves his hand and Crown Princess Martha smiles at the thousands in the park, as their royal party leaves Heg Memorial Park for the journey to Milwaukee. Photo by Racine Journal-Times.

At the parsonage gate they were greeted by a reception committee composed of Mayor Gleason Morris, of Racine; Allen Gifford, president of the Racine Chamber of Commerce, Wm. Horlick, Jr., and Judge Allan Simpson.

After resting a few moments at the parsonage, the royal guests, accompanied by Rev. and Mrs. Jahren, walked to the park. Waiting to greet them, just inside the gate, was a reception committee from the Norway-Muskego congregation consisting of Mrs. Albert Malchine, Mrs. Roland

Drought, Mrs. T. H. Cook, Mrs. Severt Johnson, Alfred Johnson, Howard Hanson, George Buchholtz, Severt Johnson, Julius Johnson and Martin Buchholtz.

Proceeding to the platform which had been erected in the natural amphitheatre, they were greeted by the singing of the "Himmelske Lovsang" (Heavenly Praise Song) in their native language. The singing was directed by Mrs. J. A. Jacobson, of Racine. After a brief introduction the prince and princess and their attendants left the platform and the Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps, playing "On Wisconsin," cleared the way for them through the crowd to the large dining tent where over four hundred persons attending the dinner were already seated. The royal table, beautified with crystal, silver, candles and garden flowers had been placed on an elevated platform in full view of the other diners. An illuminated replica of the Old Muskego church, modeled in ice, formed an attractive and unusual centerpiece.

The ladies of the Norway-Muskego Guild served a delicious dinner of typically American dishes which had been prepared in a nearby cook tent, equipped, through the courtesy of a local appliance dealer, with every modern electrical convenience. Wisconsin being far famed as a dairy state, milk was given a prominent place on the menu. Twenty young women of the Norway-Muskego congregation in attractive white dotted swiss uniforms, and twenty young men in white mess jackets, white trousers and black bow ties performed a very professional job of table-waiting. Attired in the colorful costume of Norway, Rachel Krogstad acted as head waitress. Miss Grace Gunderson drew the coveted position of waitress to the princess and Oscar Dukleth of waiter to the prince. American and Norwegian flags formed the motif for the tent decorations.

Invocation in the dining tent was pronounced by Rev. L. M. Gimmetstad of Clinton, Wisconsin, a prominent retired Norwegian pastor. During the meal music was furnished by Mrs. Claude Larson, vocalist, Donald Meredith, violinist, and Miss Allette Jahren, accompanist. At the end of the luncheon toasts were drunk in water to the President of the United States and to King Haakon VII of Norway.

Because of a delay in their arrival, the party proceeded from the luncheon tent directly to the church on Norway



Hill instead of inspecting the museum and the old log cabin as had been originally planned. The Prince and Princess spent a few moments inside the Norwegian-Lutheran church which had been beautifully redecorated for the occasion, and also visited the grave of Col. Hans C. Heg in the churchyard. They were then escorted back to the platform in the park, where the main program took place, beginning with an invocation by Rev. E. G. Stolen, of Racine. N. H. Johnson, of North Cape, chairman of the program committee, introduced the speakers, Rev. H. C. M. Jahren, Mayor Gleason Morris, of Racine, and Crown Prince Olav.

Rev. Jahren's address stressed the part which religion had played in the growth of the settlement, and reviewed a century of progress in Old Muskego. He presented the Prince with a small replica of the old log church which was built in 1843. In behalf of the citizens of Racine County, Mayor Morris greeted the Royal guests and paid tribute to the important part the early Norwegian settlers had played



Red Letter Testament presented to Crown Princess Martha by the Ladies Guild of the Norway-Muskego Congregation. Photo by Racine Journal-Times.

in the upbuilding of Racine county. Mrs. Albert Malchine, president of the Ladies Guild of the church, and general chairman of the Women's Committee, presented Princess Martha with the gift of a "red letter" testament, the covers of which had been cut from the wood of olive trees grown in the Holy Land, and carved and polished by oriental craftsmen in Jerusalem.

Prince Olav's response, delivered in perfect English, greatly pleased his listeners. In closing, to the joy of the older Norwegians in the audience, he gave them a special message in his native language from the King of Norway. When the welcomes and responses had been finished the program concluded with the singing of America by the audience,

and a benediction pronounced by Rev. Gustav Stearns, the Chaplain of the Old Soldiers Home in Milwaukee.

Before leaving for Milwaukee the Royal guests stopped before the statue of Col. Hans C. Heg and Prince Olav placed a wreath at the foot in honor of the great Norwegian-American hero. The wreath was handed to the Prince by Shirley Westerdahl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Westerdahl and great-great grand-daughter of Nels Nelson Lohner, who was one of the settlers who came to the community in 1839.

Thus, after two and one half hours spent at Heg Memorial Park, the Royal party took their departure, with the Boy Scouts playing "Onward Christian Soldiers," leaving many pleasant memories of their graciousness for those who had taken part in their entertainment. Everyone agreed that the response and appreciation of the Prince and Princess had made the weeks of planning and the actual work of the day a pleasure and a privilege.

A beautiful special edition of the parish paper, The Old Muskego Saga, was on sale at the park, and will be a treasured souvenir of the double celebration to hundreds who had the good fortune to attend.

## Centennial Celebration Committees of the Norway-Muskego and North Cape Congregations

### Program Committee:

N. H. Johnson, Chairman  
Nels Bergan  
Rev. E. G. Stolen  
Clarence Jacobson  
Elmer Halverson  
John Alaxson  
Lewis Johnson  
Martin Buchholtz

### General Committee:

George Buchholtz, chairman  
Howard Hanson  
Alfred Johnson  
Severt Johnson  
Julius Johnson

### Women's Committee:

Mrs. Albert Malchine, Chairman  
Mrs. Severt Johnson, Secretary  
Mrs. Roland Droucht, treasurer  
Mrs. H. C. M. Jahren  
Mrs. T. H. Cook  
Mrs. Anna Scheller.  
Mrs. Herbert Weltzien  
Mrs. Amandus Olson  
Miss Rachel Krogstad

### Publicity Committee:

Mrs. John Stalbaum  
Mrs. Julius Johnson  
Mrs. Ed Anderson

The reception Committees consisted of the members of the Church Council and the members of the women's Council. The latter includes the officers of the Ladies Guild and the presidents of the women's organizations.

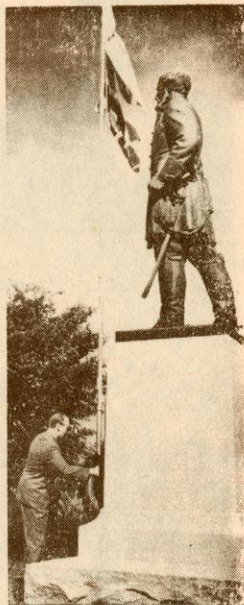


# AT HEG MEMORIAL PARK

(June 20, 1939)

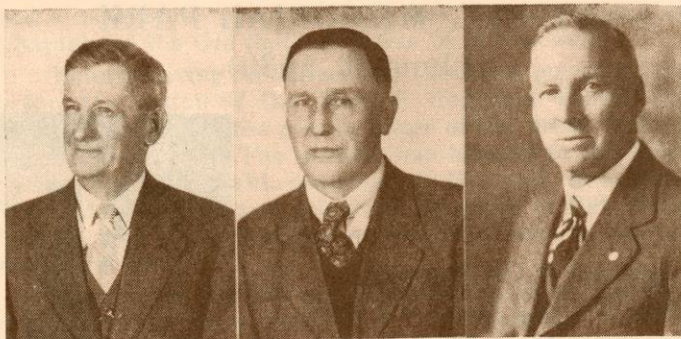
Beauty spot of Old Muskego,  
Where listening hearts still thrill  
To a century's echoed anthems,  
From the Church on Norway Hill;  
Long remembered be this June-Time,  
When a hushed expectant throng  
Watched your gates, to give in greeting  
Their beloved Norwegian song.  
Who shall say what precious memories  
Stirred the wood, with tales untold,  
As the Prince's words went ringing  
In the tongue we loved of old.  
Mayhap the shades of Viking chiefs  
Strode down the halls of time,  
To stand beside Prince Olav,  
At Old Muskego's shrine,  
As he placed the wreath of honor,  
Read the saga, line by line;  
Bowed with him in the silent tribute  
Which the brave accord the brave,  
As he paused that reverent moment,  
Before our hero's grave.

—Ella Stratton Colbo.



Milw. Journal Photo

Showing Crown Prince  
Olav placing wreath at  
the foot of of the mon-  
ument of Col. Hans C.  
Heg.



Pictured above are the officials of the Racine County Park Commission. Left to right: John Stransky, president; John Kovar, vice-president, and Sam Lahr, secretary.

## ANNUAL COLONEL HEG DAY

Since the presentation of Colonel Heg Memorial Park to Racine County by the original Col. Heg Memorial Committee in 1928, members of the Racine County Park Commission have always shown a deep interest in the park. Realizing that Heg Memorial Park is not merely a beautiful recreation spot, but also a shrine of a great faith and a great people, they granted, on October 11, 1939, the use of this park for one day each year to the Col. Heg Memorial Committee for the purpose of perpetuating the memory and ideals of Colonel Hans C. Heg. This day is to be known as Annual Colonel Heg Day.



Members of the Racine County Park Commission. Left to right they are: Chris Bach, Nettie Karcher, Mrs. Albert Malchine, and E. H. Wadewitz.



The Park Commission has further granted to the Col. Heg Memorial Committee special permission to offer this history — HISTORIC HEG MEMORIAL PARK — for sale within the park during the season which it is open to the public. Proceeds from the sale of this historical brochure, over and above expenses incurred, will be expended by the Committee for the sole purpose of improving and promoting Col. Heg Memorial Park. The Col. Heg Memorial Committee hopes thereby to help the Park Commission, and Racine County as a whole, to preserve the historic ideals which Col. Heg Memorial Park represents.



Photo by Courtesy of Charles Studios.

Group picture of the Racine County Heg Memorial Committee. They are: Top row, left to right — Olaf Hoganson, E. C. Johnson, L. A. Brown, Julius Christianson, Severt Johnson; Middle row, standing — M. J. Chapman, John A. Anderson, Wesley Shephard, Dr. Frank Newell, John Rood, Fred Bingenheimer; Lower row, sitting — John N. Johnson, Mrs. Julia Schnetz, Attorney Guy Benson, Nels Bergan, Mrs. Fred Bingenheimer, Dr. Warren Newell. Other members of the Committee, not included in the picture are Chris Bach, E. H. Miller, Henry Gloede, and H. F. Johnson.

## IN MEMORIAM

Below are pictured five members of the original Heg Park Memorial Committee who have passed away since its organization and the dedication program July 4, 1928.

"Though they are with us no more, their work lives on"



B. C. Thronson



T. J. Van Bree



K. Holland



A. Gulbranson



B. H. Meyers





## WILLIAM HORLICK

Born Feb. 23, 1846

Died Sept. 25, 1936

(Photograph by courtesy of  
Wm. Horlick, Jr.)

The author and the Heg Memorial Committee feel that the name of William Horlick is so closely interwoven with the history of Racine and of Racine county that no historical work concerning any part of them would be complete without reference to him.

Mr. Horlick was a personal friend of Roald Amundsen, discoverer of the South Pole, and Mr. Amundsen visited him in Racine on several occasions. For his support and furtherance of the work of this great Norwegian explorer, King Haakon VII of Norway conferred upon Mr. Horlick knighthood in the order of St. Olaf.

From the date of the organization of the original Racine County Heg Memorial Committee until the dedication ceremonies on July 4th, 1928, no activity of the committee, in connection with the establishment of the park, was without both his friendly and financial assistance.

This page in HISTORIC HEG MEMORIAL PARK acknowledges this debt of gratitude to the memory of William Horlick.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ella Stratton Colbo

The Wisconsin State Historical Society.  
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Librarian of St. Catherine's Convent, Racine, Wis.  
Librarian of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.  
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.  
The Racine County Heg Memorial Committee.  
The Racine County Park Commission.  
The Charles Studios, Racine, Wis.  
The Waterford Post.  
The Racine Journal-Times.  
The Milwaukee Journal.  
Mrs. Ellen S. Runden, North Cape, Wis.  
Mrs. F. C. Henderson, Stoughton, Wis.  
Mr. Guy Benson, General Chairman, Heg Memorial Com.  
Mr. Nels Bergan, Sec.-Treas. Heg Memorial Committee.  
Mr. Sam Lahr, Secretary Racine County Park Commission.  
Mr. Julius Christianson, Custodian of Heg Memorial Park.



Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, Madison, Wisconsin.  
 Mr. A. O. Barton, Madison, Wis.  
 Professor Einar Haugen, University of Wisconsin.  
 Professor T. C. Blegen, St. Paul, Minnesota.  
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 Mr. Tollef Sanderson, Harmony, Minn.  
 Mr. Joseph Bankenbush, Racine, Wisconsin.  
 Mrs. Albert Malchine, Waterford, Wisconsin.  
 Mrs. Hattie Pittsley, St. Paul, Minnesota.  
 Miss Cora Newell, Burlington, Wisconsin.  
 Mr. Ernest Heg, Chicago, Illinois.  
 Mrs. Julia Schnetz, Racine, Wisconsin.  
 Miss Ida Howe, Racine, Wisconsin.  
 Miss Henrietta Jacobson, Waterford, Wisconsin.  
 Members of the Bendickson family.  
 Waldemar Ager, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.  
 W. H. Armstrong, Racine, Wisconsin.  
 Park Wooster, Racine, Wisconsin.  
 Mrs. A. R. Van Doren, Stamford, Conn.

With the hope of securing additional pictures and historical data concerning the pioneers of Old Muskego, for inclusion in future editions of HISTORIC HEG MEMORIAL PARK, we invite correspondence from all descendants of the Even Heg family, and from families descended from other members of the party which sailed with them to America and pioneered in Muskego in the 1840's.

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C67hi Colbo, Ella Stratton

Historic Memorial Park

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