

# Norwegian Immigration in Minnesota: 1825-1925



# Timeline

## 900-1100 A.D. Viking Age of exploration

**1000** Leif Eriksson explores west of Greenland to Newfoundland and Labrador.

**1803** President Thomas Jefferson paid France \$15 million for the Louisiana Purchase that included land that became Minnesota and territories west of the Mississippi River. Jefferson envisions civic-minded farmers settling the land.

**1814** Norway declared independence (from Denmark) and adopted its own constitution on May 17, 1814. Norway maintained domestic independence with its parliament (*Storting*) and its own national government, yet Sweden and Norway shared a king until 1905.

**1825** Fifty-two passengers from Norway, including Hauge Lutherans, Quaker sympathizers, and a Quaker leader, set sail on board the *Restauration* (Restoration), a small sailing craft. Their destination was up-state New York. Fifty-three arrived, including a newborn.

**1830s** Norwegians settle in Wisconsin at Muskego, Jefferson, Rock Prairie, Koshkonong, Wiota, Spring Prairie, Bonnet Prairie, and other sites.

**1841** Preemption Act offered public land for sale to *individuals* as opposed to *speculators*.

**1850's** First permanent Norwegian settlements were established in southeast Minnesota along rivers.

**1862** President Lincoln signs Homestead Act.

**1865** Post Civil War, many Norwegian emigrants settle the “Park Region” of west central Minnesota.

**1870's** Migration west to the Dakota Territory prairies.

**1882** Peak year of Norwegian emigration.

**1905** Union with Sweden dissolves.



Viking routes to North America  
Vikings - Isle of Man—Leif Eriksson  
from [www.lostcivilizations.net](http://www.lostcivilizations.net)



**Painting, *Leif Eriksson Discovers America*, by Christian Krogh**  
Wikipedia, a free encyclopedia.

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**For fifty-four dollars, an immigrant could travel from Christiana, Norway to St. Paul, MN with one hundred pounds of luggage.**

**Minnesota Historical Society**

