NEW LAND, NEW LIFE!

Norwegian Immigration in Minnesota: 1825-1925



Why Norwegians Immigrated

- Rapid population growth in Norway.
- Lack of sufficient income in Norway to marry and start a family.
- 1851 U.S. treaties with the Dakota tribes opened the Minnesota Territory for settlers.
- Free or cheap fertile land. The Homestead Act of 1862 provided 160-acre farms. Immigrants could own a farm by either purchasing the land for \$1.25 per acre, or agreeing to build a house and farm the land for five years.
- Good wages for laborers on MN farms and in towns.
- Escape from rigid Norwegian social classes, where only the eldest male inherited family property.
- Religious freedom and no state church in America.
- Conservative movement of Norwegian landowners to preserve rural way of life and traditions.
- Letters, invitations, and prepaid passage tickets from Norwegian-Minnesotans to friends and relatives in the homeland.



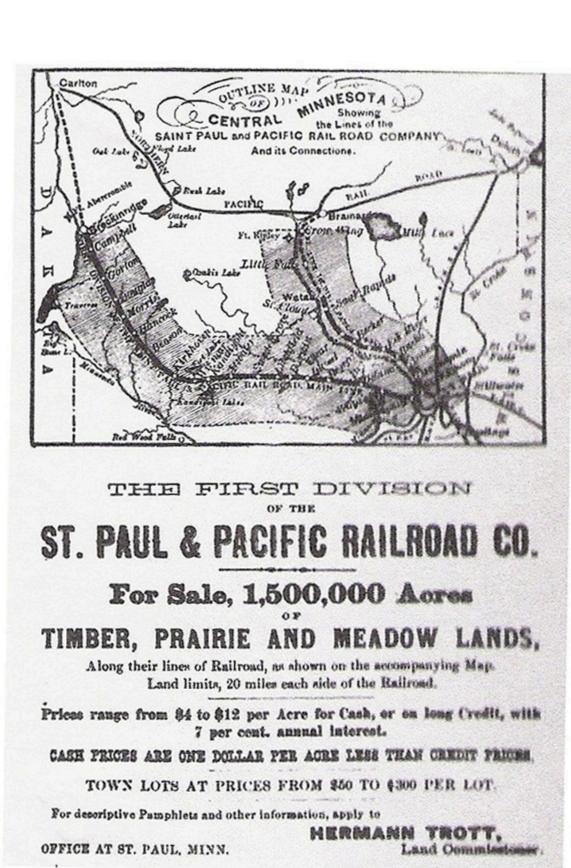
Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College

Religious Freedom



Immanuel Norwegian Church, Plummer, Red Lake Co., MN Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College

Railroads bought extensive tracts of land to resell to immigrants at a low rate. In return, new farms and communities meant more train travel of people and commodities.

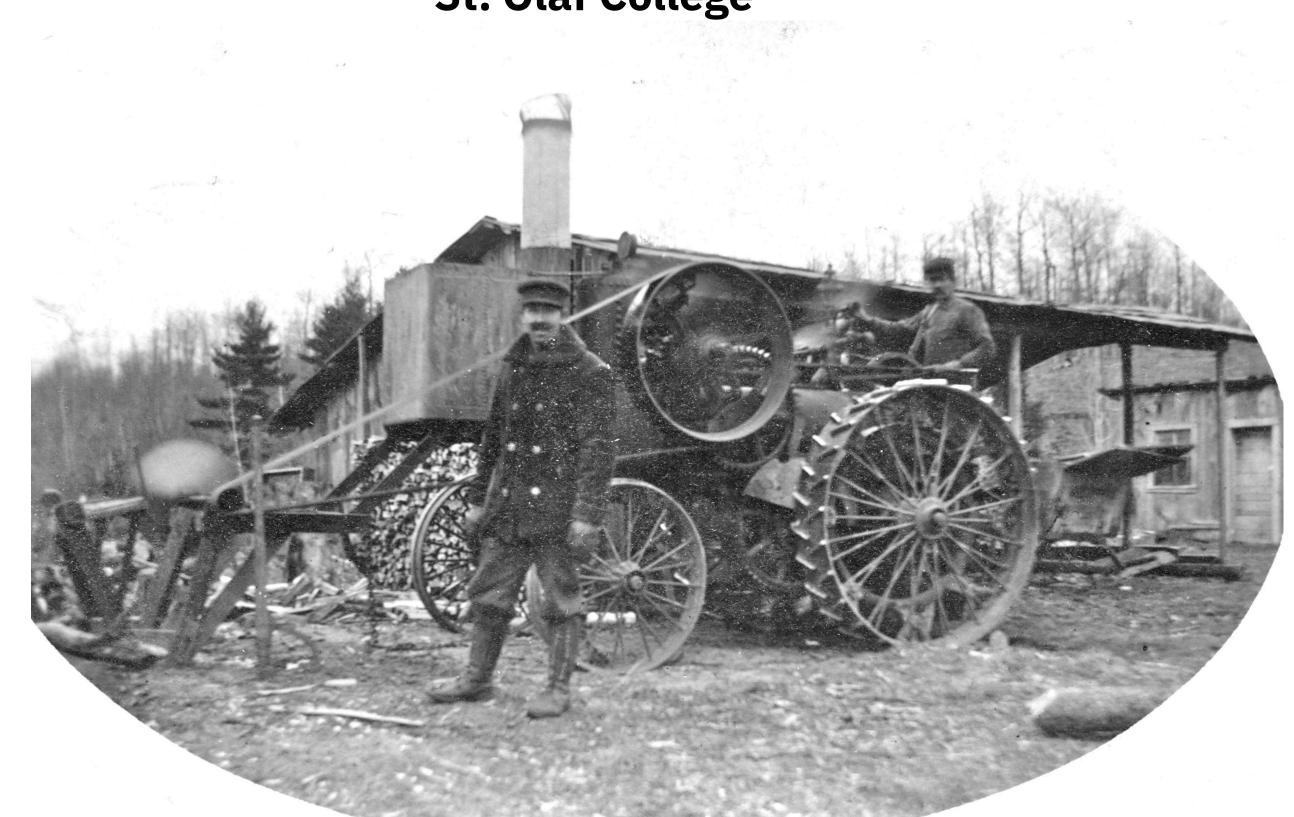


Minnesota Historical Society

Escape rigid social class system



Nasseret Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Trail, Pennington Co., MN Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College



Wood-cutting machine Norwegian-American Historical

