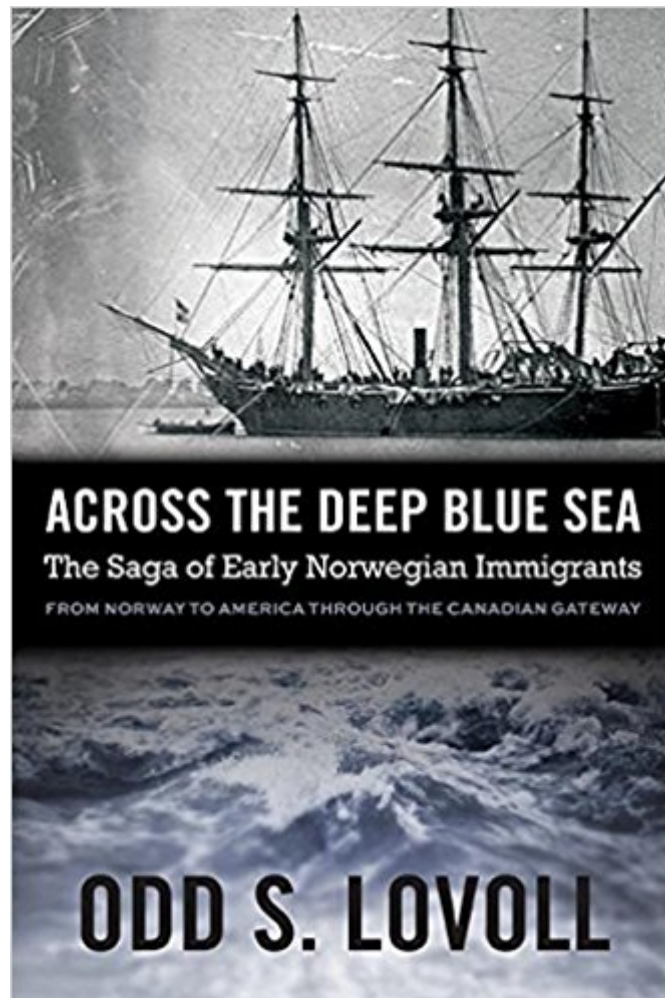




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Across The Deep Blue Sea: The Saga Of Early Norwegian Immigrants



Synopsis

Across the Deep Blue Sea investigates a chapter in Norwegian immigration history that has never been fully told before. Odd S. Lovoll relates how Quebec, Montreal, and other port cities in Canada became the gateway for Norwegian emigrants to North America, replacing New York as the main destination from 1850 until the late 1860s. During those years, 94 percent of Norwegian emigrants landed in Canada. After the introduction of free trade, Norwegian sailing ships engaged in the lucrative timber trade between Canada and the British Isles. Ships carried timber one way across the Atlantic and emigrants on the way west. For the vast majority landing in Canadian port cities, Canada became a corridor to their final destinations in the Upper Midwest, primarily Wisconsin and Minnesota. Lovoll explains the establishment and failure of Norwegian colonies in Quebec Province and pays due attention to the tragic fate of the Gaspé settlement. A personal story of the emigrant experience passed down as family lore is retold here, supported by extensive research. The journey south and settlement in the Upper Midwest completes a highly human narrative of the travails, endurance, failures, and successes of people who sought a better life in a new land.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this for my husband's grandfather, a 2nd generation Norwegian from Grand Forks, North Dakota. He absolutely LOVED this book. He found a few people with his last name, and enjoyed the stories. He is an avid reader and very knowledgeable, so it was great that he found joy while reading this book.

Good background for anyone doing research on family emmigrating from Norway in the 1800's. Helped me understand how, why and the things my ancestors had to overcome to come to get to the USA. Helped me understand why they came to the Midwest to settle. If you have family from Norway and are doing a family tree you need this resource.

My Great-Great Grandfather arrived in Wisconsin from Norway in 1864. I knew he came in through Quebec, but didn't know the reasons why. This book explains it all. Fascinating. Incredibly well researched. Very grateful to Odd Lovoll for having written it. Highly recommended.

Excellent overview of Norwegian history, migration forces, routes, influences upon arriving, and reasons for destinations.

It was an good, informative read.

helps understand the long journey -

Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants by Odd S. Lovoll is a very highly recommended scholarly work."The idea to seek a better future in America might have been planted by an individual, an innovator, based on news from America. The innovators in general belonged to the Norwegian farming class."Anyone who enjoys well presented research on Norwegian immigrants or is of Norwegian ancestry, should welcome this academic look at immigration in the mid 1800's, specifically the passage through Canada in the 1850s-1860. Lovoll gives an overview of Norwegian settlements in Illinois and Wisconsin before 1850 because these communities "became important magnets for Norwegian immigrants in the following decades." Many early immigrants came based on religious considerations and a desire to seek refuge from religious intolerance. "They sought a place where they could freely and without restrictions worship God." They were either "The Sloopers" who were Quakers (named after the type of boat they used) or Haugeans, followers of the great lay Lutheran preacher and revivalist Hans Nielsen Hauge. Clearly Canada encouraged the immigrants to use the route through Canada, offering rebates and an easier time getting on with their journey in comparison to NYC. I hadn't realized that Canada had a quarantine station too, Grosse Île, located in the St. Lawrence River some twenty-nine miles from Quebec City, where a doctor would come onboard the ship and examine the passengers. A "walk down to the customs house on the new docks in Christiania [Oslo], one would

most likely catch sight of well-dressed bonde families, men, women, and children, waiting to be put onboard a ship. They have arrived with their luggage, a diverse collection of boxes and chests. One reads: Paul Larsen, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, North America; Ole Andersen, Chicago, Illinois, North America; Peder Gulbrandsen, Madison, Wisconsin, North America; Olivia Eriksdatter Nordreie, Iowa, Minnesota, and a great number of other names and addresses."Although I clearly realize that Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants is not going to have wide spread appeal, I have to admit I found it very interesting and enjoyed it a great deal.Disclosure: My Kindle edition was courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society Press for review purposes.

Prof. Lovell has produced a wonderful entry into the studies of 19th Century Norwegian emigration to the Americas. It's focus is on the importance of Canada, especially Quebec, as an entryway for the emigrants. He concentrates on the period 1850 to the late 1860s when Quebec was the main destination point of emigration. He explains the advantages Quebec had over New York in the age of sailing ships.Prof. Lovell delves into the workings of government appointed agents urging Norwegian settlement into provinces of Canada, the territories of Minnesota and Dakota, and the states of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. The Northern Pacific Railway's efforts to settle immigrants along their right of way is also discussed.Prof. Lovell provides helpful and understandable explanations exploring the personal and diverse motivations of the emigrants from the disparate fyker (roughly translated as provinces) of the homeland.This is a wonderful addition to the understanding of the decision making process undertaken by the bold immigrants in making the final decision to leave family and allegiance to the homeland and embark on a sometimes difficult journey to find a new home in the Americas.

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