

SLOOPER SOCIETY OF AMERICA
(Minutes-1944 Meeting)

The Sloopier Society of America held its annual meeting on Sunday Oct. 9, 1944 at the Pleasant View Lutherans Home, Ottawa, Ill.

Capt. Joseph M. Johnson, President, conducted the following program:

Group Singing

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Invocation by Rev. Wang of Chicago

Poem of Welcome by Mrs. Joseph Johnson

Sole from Bjørne Bjørnesteren by Vice-President, B.O. Berge of Ottawa.

Remarks by Judge Roberts of Ottawa

Solo by Mrs. Rosendal

Report by J. Hart Rosdail, Sec., on progress in collecting names of Sloopers: 1000 names collected out of an estimated 4200.

Museum Project report by Rev. Knudson. Facilities available on the 4th ~~th~~ Floor of the Pleasant View Home. Rev. Knudson offered to do all that he could to promote the project.

Stimulating talk by Rev. Wang. Fox River area is hallowed ground.

Sloopers should get busy, dig out their old trunks, cooperate, and be a part of their history. In 200 years the attendance will be 300 people, when time teaches appreciation.

Principal talk by J. Jorgen Thompson, Assistant to the President, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. Covered the following points:

The latest book on Norwegian Migration -- by Dr. Blegen, as academic as any that has been written.

Professor Bjerk to write a short sketch of the Sloopers.

Fascinating story of Dr. Blegen's hunt for documentary evidence substantiating arrest of the Sloopers upon their arrival in New York; its discovery in the Library of Congress; the result, a pamphlet "John Quincy Adams and the Sloop 'Restoration'"

Historians have come to realize that the history of the U.S. is to be found in the history of its different racial groups.

They know that all the needed data is not yet collected. Herein lies the responsibilities of the Sloopers

Norwegians are proud; and the proudest are the Stavangerites-- the last ones for Harald to lick, and the 1st to Iceland.

(Get 4 Norwegians together and they don't want a leader)

Following the program a short business meeting was held, Capt. Johnson presiding.

Minutes of 1943 meeting read and approved.

Capt. Johnson spoke of the Cleng Peerson Park project and this resulted in the following motion, which was carried: "I move that the Sloopier Society request the legislature to purchase the land which was owned by Cleng Peerson to be set aside as the Cleng Peerson Memorial!"

Nelson Fruland made the following two motions, both of which were carried:

"I move that the same officers be held over for another year!"

"I move that the officers be delegated to see to the matter of the park!"

By common agreement the meeting place ^{for 1945} was left to the officers. ~~for~~ Adjournment.

J. Hart Rosdail, Sec.-Treas.