The Fox River Settlement Revisited: The Illinois Milieu of the First Norwegian Converts to Mormonism in the Early 1840s

Gerald M. Haslam

Biography

Gerald M. Haslam, PhD, has taught Scandinavian and British family history at Brigham Young University since 1981. His research area of specialization is Danish Lutheran Theology of the 1700s and 1800s—his NFS GRUNDTVIG’s FAEDRENEARV [NFS Grundtvig’s Patriarchal Inheritance] (Aarhus, Denmark: Faculty of Theology, 1998) is the seminal work on the world-famous Danish philosopher’s break with the pietistic theology of his forefathers in the 1820s. Dr. Haslam has researched family history and historical collections in over a hundred archives in fourteen different countries, including the erstwhile German Democratic Republic (DDR-East Germany) before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. He and his Norwegian-born wife, Ann-Cathrin (“Anka”) are the parents of six children and have six grandchildren. They have lived in Pleasant Grove, Utah, since 1990. Dr. Haslam directed Brigham Young University’s Study Abroad Program in London, England, in 2000, including on-site presentations in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and the Inner Hebrides. He and his wife served as cultural advisors to the BYU Wind Symphony during its historic month-long tour of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway in May 2005. His treatise on Norwegians at Fox River, Illinois, was originally presented as a lecture at the Conference on Illinois History at Springfield under auspices of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) in 2007. He is an Accredited Genealogist, a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association, and an Associate Professor of history at BYU.

Section

Articles

Journal Title

The BYU Family Historian

Issue and Volume

6-1

Recommended Citation


Available at: http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byufamilyhistorian/vol6/iss1/15

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