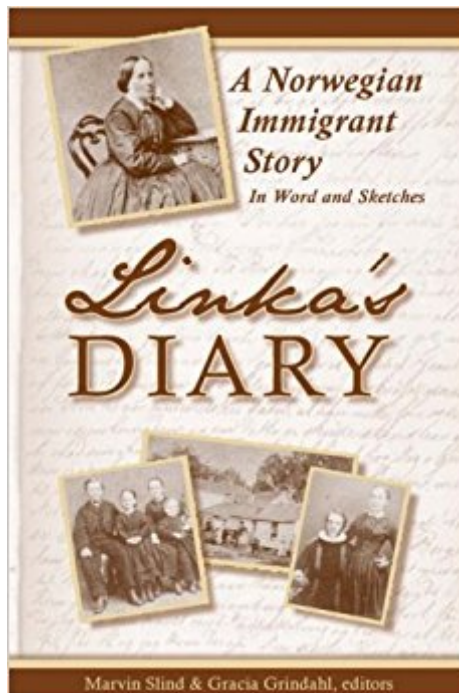




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Linka's Diary: A Norwegian Immigrant Story



Synopsis

Caroline Dorothea Margrethe Keyser, known throughout most of her life as Linka, was born in Kristiansand, Norway, July 2, 1829. This book, combining a translation of her diary and letters with her sketches, provides an important glimpse into the life of a prominent Norwegian immigrant in the mid-nineteenth century. It is an important set of historical documentation. Most of the people in Norway whom Linka mentions in her diary are included in the Norges Biografisk Leksikon, which is essentially a Who's Who of Norwegian society, including high-ranking leaders within the church. After her marriage to Hermann Preus in 1851, she emigrated to America where she had the general prestige of a pastor's wife, which her husband's rising position in the newly emerging Norwegian Synod quickly enhanced. Linka's Diary is divided into four sections. The first reflects the observations of an adolescent, commenting on the events taking place around her. Some entries focus on significant developments affecting her family and friends, while others are little more than references to mundane daily occurrences. In the second section, she is a mature young woman, describing events related to her engagement, marriage, and emigration to America. The entries in the third section are sporadic. While she did not write in her diary often after she arrived in America, Linka increasingly documented her experiences and observations of events through her sketches (the fourth section). Linka saved most of the letters she received from her friends among the pastors' wives. Since these letters give an almost monthly record of what was happening in the lives of the women from 1854 to 1874, it is possible for the editor to read the sketches and develop a fuller description of what was going on in each.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Marvin G. Slind is associate professor of history at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, where he teaches courses in Scandinavian history, Scandinavian immigration history, and the Vikings. Gracia Grindal is professor of rhetoric at Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota. She has published many articles on the history of Scandinavian-American Lutheran hymnody, and the women of the Norwegian-American Lutheran churches.

I am a relative of the family she stayed with before she emigrated. Johann Carl Christie, the minister at Askvold, Norway, was the son of the secretary when the Norwegian Constitution was created in 1814. His father was the first President of the Norwegian Parliament. I have read the former 1952 edition of Linkas Diary, this one is better, also giving precise sources of the family information. I don't like your addition of 25 % Norwegian Value tax on my bill, books have no value tax in Norway!

If you are of Scandinavian descent this is an excellent historical documentation of important Norwegian immigrants leaving their homeland and families to establish new lives in the United States. It also gives insight to the foundations of the Lutheran Churches in America.

An excellent new translation, and the section of sketches enriches the diary itself. Very interesting to compare with the 1952 translation.

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