

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN DIALECT SAMPLE. Recorded by Jacob T. Seljestad, born in Odda, Hardanger, in 1866. Immigrated to America in 1887, living in Blair, Wisconsin when recorded on September 6, 1942.

An Emigrant's Tale

(Mitt namn er) Jakåp T. Seljesta, føtt den niande februar, 1866, i Odda, Hardanger. (My name is) Jacob T. Seljestad, born February 9, 1866, in Odda, Hardanger.

Kå va dæ du ville ha ñekst? (Litt om livet der heime?) Ja, dæ me kadla heima var
 What did you want next? (A little about your life at home?) Well, what we called
 den oppi/ øfsta bygde som fanst i Hardanger. ^{Dæ} Seljesta, dæ låg oppi ei bygd-- siste
 home was in the highest valley of Hardanger. Seljestad lay up in a valley--the last
 garen oppi Hardanger so djekk øve te Røldal, fårstår du, å der var vinteren omtrent
 farm in Hardanger where one crossed over to Røldal, you see, and there the winter
 syv månar eller sæks å en hall måne i åre, så kalt var dæ. Å der va eg oppfødde me
 lasted for seven months, or six and a half, ever year, that's how cold it was. Where
 snøskavlen så var opp te en tyve fot høg om vinteren, skavlar so bles i sammen, får-
 I was raised, the snow drifts lay up to twenty feet high in the winter, drifts that
 står du. Å når me skulle ut i skogen, så måtte me gå på ski, me kunne ikkje gå får
 blew together, you see. And when we were going out in the woods, we had to use skis.
 de var så mye snø atte me måtte gå på ski, å når me sku te skulen, så måtte me ha
 Couldn't walk, for there was so much snow that we had to use skis, and when we went
 skie standande oppme døræ å viss dæ då snødde om natta, så kunne me ikkje kamma te
 to school, we had to have the skis standing by the door, and if it snowed at night,
 skulen på dan neste dagen fy snøen va så dyp at me kunne ikkje gå. Ja ja, så ble
 we couldn't get to school next day, for the snow was so deep we couldn't go. Well,
 dæ så langt då, ser du, atte når æ kån i konfirmasjonsalderen, at æg sku gå te
 I got along to the time when I was to be confirmed, and I was to go to the pastor
 præsten, så måtte æg travla to nårske mil, da bli fjorten ængelske mil dæ, --
 (for instruction), and then I had to walk two Norwegian miles, that's fourteen Eng-
 så æ måtte gå på ski å så på sjeiser øver vadne. Å så blei æ konfirmert då ser du,
 lish miles, you see, and I had to use skis and skates over the lake. So I was con-
 æg hadde gått får præsten i eit års ti, å så blei æ konfirmert i attehundra å cin
 firmed then, you see, I had gone to the minister for about a year, and so I was con-
 å åtteti, dæ va i ^{*}julai, men æ kann ikkje seia akkurat datoen, å så va æg ut å ar-
 firmed in 1881, in July, but I can't say exactly the date, and so I went out to
 beidde iblant falk då, før far var ein fattig mann, Han hadde ein store går, men
 work among people then, for father was poor. He had a big farm, but up in the moun-
 oppe i fjedle, veit du, så va dær ikkje mye å ^{*}mæka dær -- eller få dær, uta dæ han
 tains; you know, there was much to be made there--or get there, except that he
 halde krøttur, kuer, so me mjolka oppi fjedle, oppå stølen so di kadla. Dæ går ^{*}ål-
 had cattle, cows, which we milked up in the mountains, at the seter which they called
 rajt? Ja ja, når æg va då konfirmerte då, så hadde æg ein så va gossvar min, so di
 stål. Is this going all right? Well, when I was confirmed then, I had one who was
 kadla på -- i Hardanger, han va gossvar min å kjerinja hans, ho var godmor mi,
 my godfather, as we said in Hardanger, he was my godfather and his wife, she was my
 å der va æg fyste sommaren æg va ute å arbeide. Då var æg fjorten år gammal, å dæ
 godmother, and there I was the first swaner I was out working. When I was four-
 fekk æg åtta kronor får dæ, dæ blei omtrent to dalar hæile sommaren. E detta gått
 teen years old, I got 8 crowns for it, or about two dollars the whole summer. Is

nåkk? Ja ja, så balte æg å va ute å va hæima jå far å mæka-- me va sju sjysjen, this good enough? Well, so I struggled along, was away and at home with father veit du, dæ sku mye te oppi fjelle dæ, fyr kle å allting. Ja, når æ blæi så gam-making--we were 7 children, you see, it took a lot up there in the mountains for mal då at æg hadde fått såpassa vet. at æg tonkte æ måtte ut å mæka lēven min in-clothes and all. Well when I got old enough to have the sense to get out and make kvannstass--ja æ sku kje sakt mæka, men dæ får nå ve så, så tænkt æg då at æg får my living somewhere--well, I shouldn't have said "make", but we'll have to let it ræisa te Amerika. Å så hadde æg jænto mi då, veit du, kjærinjæ mi hær, å då va me go, so I thought I had better go to America. Well, so I had my girl then, you see, færlåva å va kje anna ein gutunje på tyve år å ho va to å tyve år, å så hadde me my wife here, and we were engaged and I was just a kid of twenty years and she was injen værdens ting, å så sa ho, me reise te Amerika, me, sa o. Å så ræiste me twenty-two, and we had nothing at all, but she said, "We'll go to America," said she bægge to. Me fekk tikketen ifrå Li, Illinåis, ifrå æin så æitte Johans Tysselann. And so we left, both of us. We got tickets from Lee, Ill., from one Johans Tysseland.

Så fekk æg tikketen min ifrå--ifrå Amerika, å når me kām--å så når me ræiste ifrå So I got my ticket from-- from America, and when we came--and so when we left hæime mitt i Hardanger, dæ var den einåtyvende april, atten hundra å sju å åtteti. my home in Hardanger, that was on the twenty-first of April, 1887.

Å så kām me te Stavanger, dæ var den fem å tyvende, syv å tyvende april å så kām me So we got to Stavanger, that was on the twenty-fifth, twenty-seventh of April, and te Hambårg i Tyskland -- la me no sjå -- ja eg kan ikkje seia dæ-- men dærifrå reiste then we got to Hamburg in Germany--now let me see--well, I can't say it--but from me te Bremen, Bremen i Tyskland, å dær va me i fira dar. Båten sku kje gå nettop there we went to Bremen, in Germany, and there we were for four days. The boat akkurat sām me var. Så kām me te Bremerhamn, å så sku me oppi-- ombor i den store wasn't leaving just at once. So we got to Bremerhaven, and there we were going to båten så jekk yver Atlanterhave, væit du, å så va n så langt utpå fjorden så han kun-board the big boat that crossed the Atlantic, you know, and it was so far out in ne ikkje gå op te lande før da var får grunt. Dæ va kx ikkje vatten nåk, so me måt-the harbor that it couldn't come near land, since it was too shallow. There wasn't te ta noko små båtar ut te den store båten sku ta åss øver Atlanterhave, å den va så enough water, so we had to take little boats out to the big boat that was going to høg atte me måtte ha noko stija te gå opp oppå den store båten å kamma inn. Å når take us across the Atlantic, and it was so high that we had to have ladders to get me hadde læsst opp, så va me atten hundra mainnisje ombord. Å så va me nitten døger into the big boat. When we had loaded, we were 1800 people on board. Then we spent i Atlanterhave. Å så kām me te Baltimor dan nittene mai--dan nittene mai, atten hun-19 days on the Atlantic. So we got to Baltimore on May 19th, 1887.

dra å syv å åtteti. Å så lāg me ombord i dampen nattæ, å så jekk me te Chicago nek-We stayed on board the steamer that night, and then we went to Chicago the next ste dajen, å så kām me te Li, Illinåis, den enåtyvende Mai, dæ va ein søndag på itte-day, and so we got to Lee, Illinois on May 21st, it was a Sunday afternoon, and middajen, å då sto me på plåtfærmæ dær å då va me så fattige me kunne ikkje snakka, there we stood on the platform. We were so poor we couldn't talk, and we were eighty å so va^{me} sju yldige syv å åtteti dalar! / seven dollars in debt!