

Ole Rynning

Ole Rynning (April 4, 1809 – September 1838) was a Norwegian emigrant pioneer and author. Ole Rynning wrote "True Account of America" Norwegian: "Sandfærdig Beretning om Amerika" Ole Rynning entered the University of Christiania in 1829 graduating in 1833. In 1837 he journeyed to America with a group of Norwegians, They settled near Beaver Creek 70 miles south of Chicago Illinois in 1837. The area was swampy and many of the settlers came down with malaria, Ole Rynning came down with the disease and while sick in bed wrote out the chapters to his book before his death in the winter of 1838. After he died the pages were taken back to Norway and published as a booklet. It was very popular and was eventually published in English. Many of the eventual emigrants to America read the book. "Ole Rynning, born in Ringsaker Norway. Grew up as a priest's son in Snåsa and worked as a teacher at a Snåsa private school in 1833-37. He led a group of Norwegian emigrants to Beaver Creek in Illinois in 1837, but died the following year. Rynning wrote a book about the conditions in "America, True Report on America for Enlightenment and Utility for Farmer and Menigmand" (1838). This became known in Norway as the "America Book", and helped stimulate emigration." "I have now been in America eight months, and in this time have had an opportunity to learn much in regard to which I vainly sought to procure information before I left Norway. I felt on that occasion how unpleasant it is for those who wish to emigrate to America to be without a trustworthy and fairly detailed account of the country. I learned also how great the ignorance of the people is, and what false and preposterous reports were believed as full truth. It has therefore been my endeavor in this little publication to answer every question that I myself raised, to make clear every point in regard to which I observed that people were in ignorance, and to refute the false reports which have come to my ears, partly before my departure from Norway and partly after my arrival here. I trust, dear reader, that you will not find any point concerning which you desired information overlooked or imperfectly treated."

