

Light ON THE Prairie

*New Writings of
Elise Waerenskjold*

Charles H. Russell, PhD, Editor

Available June 2010

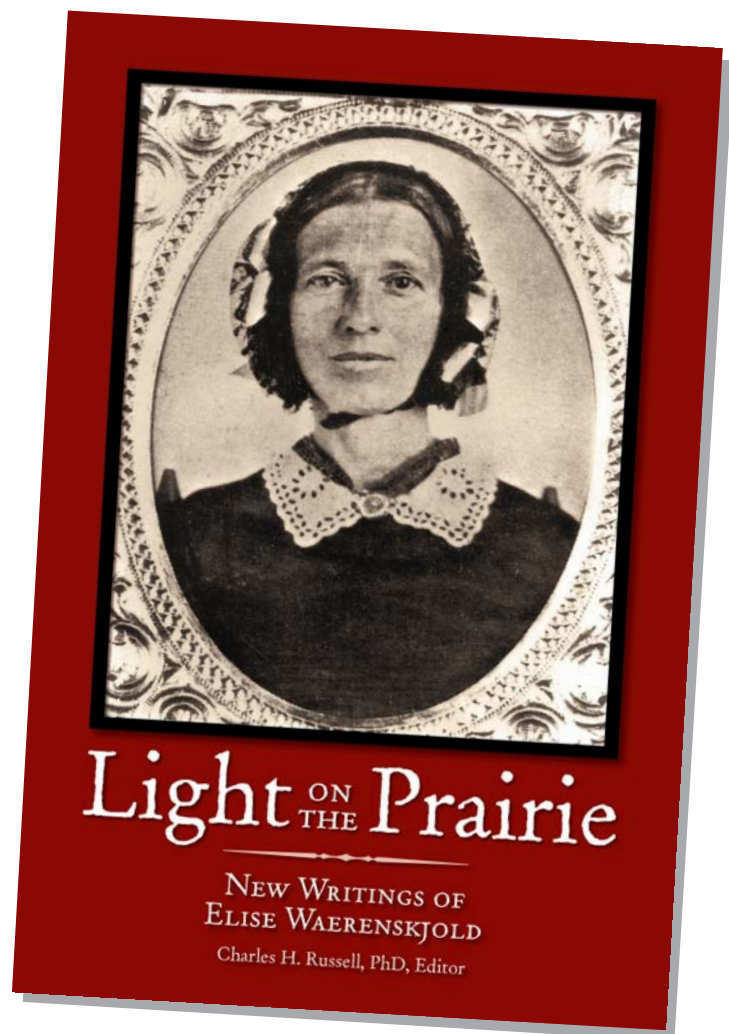
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Truly a light on the Texas Prairie, Elise Waerenskjold was an extraordinary woman who influenced Norwegian immigration to the entire United States as well as to Texas. This book contains the never before published letters and dispatches that she composed on her journey to Texas, the religious and moral instruction she wrote for her sons on the eve of the Civil War, her account of her husband's murder that appeared in Norway's leading progressive newspaper, and her fascinating Genealogy, the only extensive document she is known to have written in English.

The introductory essays are by Charles Russell, the translations from Norwegian by Inger Megaard Russell and the members of the Ladies Group at the



Norwegian Seamens' Church in Houston, and the biographies by Judge Derwood Johnson who also prepared the maps of the first Norwegian-Texan's home places in Norway. The book contains a previously unpublished photo of Johan Reiersen, the first page of Elise's Genealogy in her own handwriting, a photo of the Norwegian scholar and diplomat Rasmus Anderson who used Elise's accounts of Norwegian Texans for his book *The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration*, maps of Elise's journey from New Orleans into Texas, photos of her sailing ships, her home, her family, and her churches. All original works, these are published as primary sources for historians as well as for the benefit of American history buffs and Americans of Norwegian descent.