

# NHOH News

Volume 22 Number 3

Fall 2017

Published 3 times per year by: **Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag**

## 2018 Tre-Lag Stevne

August 8-11, 2018

**Notice, it's one-week  
later than usual.**

**Austin Convention Center  
At the Holiday Inn Hotel  
1498 4<sup>th</sup> St. N.,  
Austin MN 55912**

### Theme - "Norway Evolving"

**In the next newsletter, we will have  
information to make reservations.**

**There are two hotels involved.**

*More information in the March, 2018 issue.*

**Check out the news and  
information from  
Fellesraad Bygdelag  
on the web site to help  
Norway House to grow.**



### NHOH Scholarship Info. on P.14

#### What's Inside?

1. 2018 Stevne Info / and Pres. Letter
2. Officers/mbr info./Fylke reorganization
3. NHOH Book orders/Fellesraad Info.
4. Genealogy Report – John Reindl
5. Viking Longships/East Koskonong
6. Koskonong continued
7. Primstav
8. Necrology
9. -13. Tre Lag Stevne pictures
14. NHOH Scholarships
15. Not 2nd Fiddle
16. Membership Application

## Fra Presidenten,

Fall is my favorite time of year. It is partly the changing season with cool temperatures and beautiful colors, but my enjoyment is mostly tied to the many traditional activities that begin in the fall. Yard work may be a necessity, but how we each go about dealing with our bulbs, leaves and general preparation for winter is part of our own traditions. How we celebrate Halloween, and Thanksgiving are part of our traditions. Do you always have candied yams, or pumpkin pie, or green bean casserole with your turkey? We always have lefse, which I'm certain they didn't have at the first Thanksgiving. But we are Norwegian, so we will be thankful with a Scandinavian twist.



This weekend the family got together for our annual lefse baking party. This year we only made 112, but that was enough to divide 7 ways and still provide enough for the family Christmas dinner, too. After Thanksgiving there will be krumkake and sandbakkels made, along with many other traditional holiday treats. Unfortunately, we won't have rosettes, since my mother-in-law is no longer with us. She made the most perfect rosettes, and no one has been able to replicate her knack. When I was young, my grandmother always had fattimand during the holidays. No one makes it now, and I have not had it in years. No longer having these two small items is a loss of our family's traditions.

If I want my grandchildren to have the same traditions I grew up with, I need to continue to make the same foods, and do the same activities I hold so dear, so they share the experiences, and build their own association to the traditions.

One of the goals of the lags, including the NHOH Lag, is sharing our cultural experience as Americans of Norwegian descent through stevner, newsletters, Facebook and web sites, so we can keep our traditions alive. Consider encouraging your relatives to join a lag to help them understand their cultural heritage and traditions.

Hilsen fra *Joy Shong*



## WHO ARE WE?

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag includes 16 kommuner in the three districts of Nord-Østerdal, Sør-Østerdal, and Hedemarken/Hamar as follows:

### District 1:

#### Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal  
Folldal  
Os  
Rendalen  
Tolga  
Tynset

### District 2:

#### Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot  
Elverum  
Engerdal  
Stor Elvedal  
Trysil

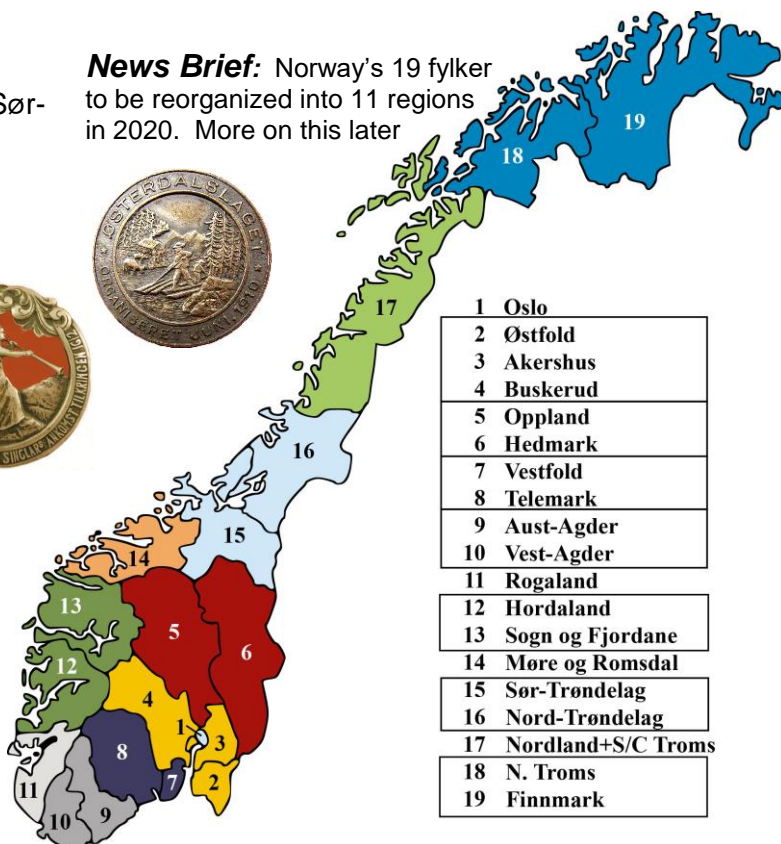
### District 3:

#### Hedemarken and Hamar

Furnes  
Hamar  
Løten  
Nes  
Ringsaker  
Romedal  
Stange  
Vang



**News Brief:** Norway's 19 fylker to be reorganized into 11 regions in 2020. More on this later



1	Oslo
2	Østfold
3	Akershus
4	Buskerud
5	Oppland
6	Hedmark
7	Vestfold
8	Telemark
9	Aust-Agder
10	Vest-Agder
11	Rogaland
12	Hordaland
13	Sogn og Fjordane
14	Møre og Romsdal
15	Sør-Trøndelag
16	Nord-Trøndelag
17	Nordland+S/C Troms
18	N. Troms
19	Finnmark

**NHOH Newsletters are published three times per year – Spring, Summer, and Fall.** Members are welcome to send articles or news at any time of the year, and the editor will put them into the next newsletter, or one that is appropriate.

Issue	Submit by	Mailing Target
Spring	March 1	March 15
Summer	June 1	June 15
Fall	Nov. 15	Nov. 25

**Policy on advertising in newsletter:** The Board approved that the newsletter editor will accept advertising related to Norwegian culture, heritage and genealogy. Eighth and quarter page ads will be sold for \$15 and \$25, with funds to help offset the cost of producing the newsletter.

## NHOH Lag Officers & Directors

President: Joy Shong.....pres@nhohlag.org  
Vice-Pres.: Chris Falteisek.....chrisfalteisek@gmail.com  
Secretary: Gay Kearin.....Chechon@aol.com  
Treasurer Ron Helstad.....ronh@eacpas.net  
Membership: Dixie Hansen .....dx@dxhansen.com  
Director: Gary Olson .....olson.gm33@gmail.com  
Director: Gary Flatgard.....flatgardmn@aol.com  
Director: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com  
Past-President: Dixie Hansen.....dx@dxhansen.com  
Editor: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com  
Genealogist: John Reindl.....genealogy@nhohlag.org  
Web Master: vacant

**Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter.**

Articles, photos and graphics relating to Norwegian history, culture, emigration and Lag activities, especially those with ties to the NHOH geographical area are invited. Articles may be historical in nature or may highlight current resources available to help members research their heritage. Articles about Norwegian/American community events of interest to our members are welcome.

**Send to Editor Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld by e-mail [SASLAX@aol.com](mailto:SASLAX@aol.com)**

## NHOH WEB SITE

## Wanted: A Webmaster

Photos taken at previous stevner are posted on the NHOH web site. Click on the "Stevner" tab to access available photos from all past stevner. For most, you can click on the image for a larger view. And if you want to copy or save it, right click on it to use browser commands. Our newsletters, genealogy information, photos, and scholarship information are there too.



## Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

### Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005

This publication is still available for purchase.



Generously illustrated with 150+ photographs old and new, this 144-page book recounts the foundation of our lag, including our historic roots, our formative meeting in Madison, the establishment of our governing body, and a decade full of activities and stevner.

Later chapters include selected stories of emigration and settlement and articles reprinted from the NHOH newsletter. The book concludes with a full appendix of documents associated with our lag history as well as an every-name index.

## Membership Renewal Policy

Members need to check the year next to their name on the newsletter address label, especially on the fall newsletter.

Reminders will be sent for expired memberships early in the year following the year of expiration, with a renewal deadline of Mid-March, prior to the spring newsletter.

Members who get their newsletters via e-mail will be sent a reminder.

Purchase a copy of the First Ten Years book for yourself and for the members of your family who share your Norwegian roots.



### Order Form - Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken - Highlights of the First Ten Years

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Qty.

Each

Total \$

NHOH Book

\_\_\_\_\_ \$22.50

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Includes shipping & handling US\*

Total Enclosed

Surface Shipping to Norway – add \$5.50

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to NHOH

Mail Your Order to: Joy Shong  
523 S. Concord Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066



### NAHA Archives & Fellesraad:

The Norwegian-American Historical Association was founded in 1925. Its purpose is to locate, collect, preserve and interpret the Norwegian-American experience with accuracy, integrity, and liveliness. It is an independent organization located in Rolvaag Library at St. Olaf College.

Collection P0465 of the NAHA Archives is Bygdelagene. Most of the affiliates of the Fellesraad are represented in this collection, although the extent of material varies considerably from lag to lag. Gudbrandsdalslaget, Totenlag, and Trønderlag are especially well represented. Hadeland Lag and Sigdalslag also have extensive material.

The NAHA Archives welcomes additions to this important collection. Of particular interest is material that documents the history of each bygdslag and of the Fellesraad.

These include:

Constitution, Organizational records, Membership rosters, Clippings, Event programs, Yearbooks, Newsletters Photographs, including panoramas

Inclusion of this material in the NAHA Archives will ensure that a record of the Bygdslag movement is properly preserved in an accessible collection.

For further information, see "Donations of Archival Material" under the Archives section of the NAHA site. [naha.stolaf.edu/archives](http://naha.stolaf.edu/archives) To discuss a potential donation, contact: [naha-archivists@stolaf.edu](mailto:naha-archivists@stolaf.edu)

The NAHA office is at: 507-786-3221. DAG, 4/2017

### Our NHOH Purpose

The Lag is organized exclusively for educational purposes. To the extent consistent with this general purpose, the specific purposes of the Lag are to help people learn more about the history, culture, and customs of the Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken area of Norway and to aid in the preservation of that heritage; to teach and assist people in genealogy research; to gather immigration and settlement history and develop immigration data; to develop a library of resources, such as bygdebøker (farm histories) and Norwegian church, census, and probate records; and to encourage the research and writing of family, immigration, and settlement histories.

# Genealogy Report



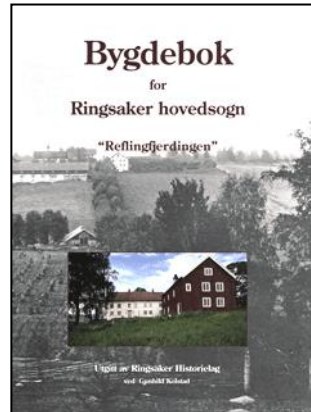
By John Reindl, Lag  
Genealogist

In this article, I am giving a summary of our genealogical activities, not only so that you know what we are doing, but also to both stimulate ideas from you on other things that you would like the lag to do, and to contact me with suggestions and your own data.

Bygdebøker are some of the most useful sources of information on Norwegian genealogy, but a challenge is finding a specific farm in books where they are either not indexed alphabetically or there is no combined index for a bygdebøk which is comprised of multiple volumes. To help with this, indexes are being put together, and we have compiled indices for most of our kommuner, having them for 19 areas. We own 40 books, with our newest addition being Furnes. Finally, we are compiling a list of public sources of bygdebøker to help members either find nearby collections or borrow them through Inter-Library Loan. Through this process, we have found a number of unknown sources, and that there are many books and sources that are not being captured by World Cat, a master index of books.

The digitizing of bygdebøker makes searching them so much easier than looking through paper copies. Besides six digitized books for the NHOH area, we also have a collection of over 80 books from other areas of Norway. These are especially useful if your ancestors moved between areas. And, of course, the Norwegian National Libraries has many hundreds – if not thousands more, available only through Norwegian internet providers.

Ringsaker continues to be the area of our lag with the most ancestral roots, with 54 members reporting roots from this area – second most are Alvdal, Folldal and Nes with 27 members having roots in these areas and 26 with roots from Stange. Ringsaker also has the distinction of having the least number of bygdebøker, with just one known to exist. **We don't own this book, but will be attempting to get a copy in the spring of 2018.**



**Bygdebok for Ringsaker  
hovedsogn.**

Refllingfjerdingsgen  
Gunhild Kolstad editor

714 pages

Price 500,- ca. \$65

This book covers 43 farm numbers with underlying places, sub-farms and places. The oldest information is from the 1600s and goes up until the printing year. In addition, the book is illustrated with approximately 640 old black and white pictures.

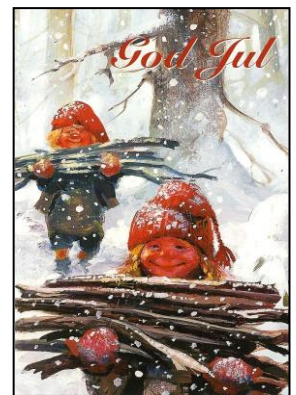
Also for Ringsaker, we are compiling a database of names from a variety of sources, whether censuses (including from areas outside of Ringsaker) and bygdebøker from other areas. The database has over 30,000 names from over 100 sources.

Associated with this, we are digitizing the 1891 Ringsaker census, which has over 12,600 pages. This is being done to contribute to the Norwegian Digital Archives in addition for use by the lag.

Our cousins-finding database is also growing, having just over 9,100 ancestors from 215 members, and we are looking forward to getting more data from the half dozen people helped at and after the stevne this year, along with all members who have not yet submitted their data.

Finally, along with other lags and Norwegian genealogists, we are trying to figure out new configurations for some of the key Norwegian genealogical web pages such as the Digital Archives, Norway's National Library, and DIS Norge – **now known as Slekt og Data.** Let me

know if you have questions on using any of these sites. If you have any questions or suggestions on any of these or other genealogical topics, be sure to contact me by email or phone.



## The Greatest of the Viking Age Longships

Picture painted 1009 years after the battle by M.N. Franson (see picture on the mailer cover)



In the year 1000, **King Olaf Trygvasson of Norway** sailed his Dragon Ship **"The Long Serpent"** from Nidaros, Norway to the land of the Vendels on the Southeastern Shore of the Baltic. His sworn Norse enemy and rival for the throne, Jarl Erik

Haakonsson had assembled his allies; King Erik of Sweden and King Sveyn "Forkbeard" of Denmark and sailed out to do battle with Olaf.

Near the Isle of Svoldr off the Danish Coast, King Olaf's 70 warships were met by the 180 warships of Jarl Erik, Sveyn Forkbeard and the Swedish King. As the battle raged, with men boarding and clearing opposing ships, eventually Olaf's Norsemen were all killed or surrendered, until only the King and a few defenders were left standing at the high stern of "The Long Serpent".

Rather than be taken and humiliated by his enemies, King Olaf dove into the sea, in full armor. Although spears and arrows followed him, he disappeared in the water and was seen no more.

"The Long Serpent" was taken by Olaf's enemy, Jarl Erik, and sailed back to Nidaros. The ship was said to be over 120 ft. in length, with Gilden stem and stern Post Dragon Head and Tail. The strakes were painted in the colors of the rainbow, the bridge that took fallen warriors to Odin's Hall in Valhalla.

About the Artist – Milton Norman Franson was born in Jamestown NY from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Swedish-American parents. After a career in Advertising, he retired to his "Second Career" – painting wildlife, landscapes and portraits, and recently began adding Nordic subjects, as well as dabbling in Telemark style rosemailing. This Viking ship portrait was inspired from reading Snorri Sturlusson's **Heimskringla** and imagining what the real dragon ship of King Olaf Trygvasson may have looked like. To be accurate, no captain would have set full sail in a stiff breeze with all shields set on the rail! But as an artist, I took the liberty to show what the ship would look like with the shields set and full sail, as might have happened coming to port just as the sail would be ready to be hauled in. However, I chose NOT to add the 32 pair of oars also, as no captain would be so foolish as to set oars and sail at the same time. (Especially as the shields would have obstructed the oar holes).

You can see a sampling of the artist's works at his website: [mfransonart.com](http://mfransonart.com) where many works are available as originals or as reproduction prints. Or contact at M.N. Franson, 127 Sagamore Dr. S., Liverpool NY 13090 Tel: 315-622-7211

*This signed and numbered print will part of the raffle items at the District 5 Sons of Norway Convention in June, 2018. There are other numerous prizes. If you are interested in purchasing a raffle ticket, this editor has them available, and can give you more information.*

## Divided No More: East Koshkonong Lutheran marks 125th anniversary of church built after bitter 1880s congregational split



On Aug. 20, East Koshkonong Lutheran Church marked the 125th anniversary of this building constructed in 1892.

It's not a pentagon, exactly. East Koshkonong Lutheran Church's upper church, completed in 1892 based on a design by Norwegian immigrant farmer Ole Gunnuldsen is more of a square – but not exactly.

Curved pews and a vintage, round alter

give the interior a circular feel.

What matters more than the shape, 125 years after its construction, is how a choir sounds in the space, says Bonnie Ehrke, the congregation's defacto historian.

That, Ehrke says, is something you just have to hear for yourself. Even a small choir "fills the room".

"The acoustics in here are so great," she said during a recent tour, accompanied by Marilyn Gunderson, also a member of the East Koshkonong congregation. "It's just amazing to me, to think of the insight these early pioneers had in designing this space."

Beyond acoustics, there are the beautiful, artistic flourishes that make the building unique – the handcrafted woodwork inside and out, and the 25 stained glass windows that, according to an original invoice, cost \$329 in 1892.

Both Ehrke and Gunderson are on a committee that's put together a very special event – a worship service on Aug. 20 that celebrated the building's 125th anniversary.

Of course, it included a choir. At 9 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 20, the service had special music and reflections on the site's history, and was followed by an outdoor ice cream social reception. The building is handicapped accessible through its rear entrance and there is handicapped parking.

In a glass cabinet in the church's basement are relics that point to its unique history. On display is a wooden model of the church, made by Gunnuldsen of small wooden pieces not much larger than matchsticks, that ultimately was followed to set the building's support beams. Also, carefully preserved is a pocket watch the congregation gave to Gunnuldsen as a thank-you gift; his family later gave it back as a historical piece.

The building's history is deeply intertwined with that of East Koshkonong Lutheran's lower church, about a minutes' walk way.

That the two historic churches stand within a few hundred feet of each other, separated by a wide, wooded lawn and a shared cemetery with gravesites dating back to the 1840s, speaks to a divide that long polarized them.

Today, the two buildings belong to one congregation. The lower church is used for weekly services, the upper church only in the summer and for special events like the upcoming anniversary service. It's also frequently booked for weddings.

But for many years, the two buildings housed two separate -- deeply divided -- congregations.

**They began as one congregation in 1844, organized by Norwegian missionary Johannes Dietrichson, who was sent from Norway to minister to settlers in what during his tenure would become the state of Wisconsin, specifically the Koshkonong Prairie. Over six years, he founded many congregations in the area, including West Koshkonong Lutheran Church in the town of Pleasant Springs. West Koskkonong's first log building was constructed in 1844.**

Although he returned to Norway in 1850, the year before talk began in earnest about building St. Paul's Liberty Lutheran in the town of Deerfield, his regional preaching is credited, too, with influencing that congregation's start. Construction of St. Paul's Liberty Lutheran began in 1851 and was completed in 1859. Its original stone structure is still in use today.

"He travelled this whole area," Ehrke said. **East Koshkonong is exceedingly proud of its historical designation as the first Norwegian Lutheran congregation organized in the United States.**

**At the East Koshkonong site, a log church was built in 1845, the exact location of which is not documented, but is believed to be somewhere in the cemetery. In 1858, it was replaced by a stone church on the same footprint.**

Then, in the 1880s, discord began to arise over Lutheran doctrine that had to do with whether God's grace alone earned you a place heaven or whether you had to also do good works to get there.

The controversy grew so heated that some members of the congregation walked away -- but not very far. In 1892, a few hundred feet from the old stone church, they built a second church for themselves -- the one that's being celebrated on Aug. 20.

Those who remained behind continued to worship in the old stone church until 1897, when the lower church, still used today, was constructed.

For 69 years, until 1961, two separate services were conducted every Sunday, and two congregations existed next door to each other.

The same controversy also divided the two congregations in the town of Pleasant Springs, where there continues to exist today, virtually side by side, two church buildings. West Koshkonong Lutheran Church and Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church split into two

congregations in the 1880s, both finishing buildings in 1892. Those buildings remain in use today, by congregations that are still separate.

Eventually, in 1961, the East Koshkonong congregations reconciled. "The beauty of our situation is that we were able to heal," Gunderson said.

But then, they were left with two church buildings, both of which needed to be maintained. Ultimately, the expense of keeping up both led the congregation to designate the lower church as its primary, weekly place of worship.

The upper church was relegated to special, occasional use. It's carefully maintained today, inside and out, to preserve its historical and structural integrity. In the past year, significant work has included tuckpointing and repairs to aging steeple louvers.

Upgrades like air conditioning have never been pursued, however.

The building's only regular use is by quilters who meet in the renovated basement, making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, an international aid group.

East Koshkonong has a series of big anniversaries coming up over the next few years. In 2019, it will mark its 175th anniversary as a congregation. And in 2022, it will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the lower church building's completion.

"We look for ways to celebrate the blessings we've been given here," Gunderson said.

*Posted in [Cambridge News / Deerfield Independent](#), [News](#), [Local](#) on Thursday, August 10, 2017 10:53 am.*



#### **NHOH Treasurer's Annual Report ending 7/30/2017**

Checking Balance 8/2/2016 \$2,149.83

#### **Income:**

Members	\$1,425.00
Donations	\$ 322.00
2016 TreLag	\$ 895.30
Book sale	\$ 22.50
Scholarship Fund	\$ 489.00
Total income	\$3,153.80

#### **Disbursements:**

Genealogy items	\$ 687.00
Newsletters	\$1,655.52
Website creation	\$ 821.53
Meeting Expense	\$ 276.09
Total Expenses	\$3,340.14

**Balance in Checking 7/30/2017 \$1,963.49**

Savings balance 8/2/2016 \$4,243.38

Interest Income \$ 4.25

**Balance in Savings 7/30/2017 \$4,247.63**

**Balance, Checking & Savings \$6,211.12**

**Ron Helstad, Treasurer**

## Necrology



### Edna Lillian Hanson

#### **Edna resided in Morris MN and died on July 29, 2016**

at the age of 95 years at the Stevens Community Medical Center in Morris.

Edna Lillian Hanson, daughter of Rev. Olaf and Helga (Arnestad) Hanson was born on August 28, 1920 at the parsonage near Frost MN. She

was baptized on October 3, 1920, in Bethania Lutheran Church near Frost; and confirmed on August 12, 1934 in Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Kelliher MN. Edna was united in marriage to Truman Carlson on June 7, 1948 in Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Solon Springs WI.

She is survived by her husband, Truman, of Morris MN; five children, Jeanne Anderson, Maple Grove MN, David Carlson, Watertown SD, Cathryn (William Parks) Carlson, Asheville NC, Elizabeth Carlson, St. Paul MN, and Richard (Karen) Carlson, Rochester MN; one brother, Allen Hanson, Northfield MN; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Edna was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Orvis; two sisters-in-law, Constance Hanson and Lorraine Hanson; and one son-in-law, Bruce Anderson.

Although both Truman and Edna were members of four lags according; of the Tre Lag groups, Truman and Edna were only members of NHOH. Edna attended Tre Lags from 2003-2007 (except 2005). Truman attended from 2003-2007 and also, alone in 2012.

Edna's formal education began in a rural school in the Frost area and continued in the public school in Kelliher MN. She graduated from Kelliher High School as the class valedictorian in 1937. Edna continued her education at Concordia College, Moorhead MN, graduating in 1941 with a BA in English. While in college, Edna studied music, and together with her brother Orvis, performed in a Shakespearian Drama.

Edna's teaching career included stops at Villard, Rushford, Crosby-Ironton and Graceville, Minnesota. Her 22-year career was interrupted to raise a family of five children. She was a wonderful mother and homemaker. Edna was a talented seamstress and enjoyed knitting and hardanger embroidery. She was also a great conversationalist with a subtle sense of humor. She and Truman shared an avid interest in genealogy, which led to a re-acquaintance with distant relatives in Norway.

In her retirement years, Edna enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren. She had a "green thumb" and found much enjoyment in her African violets, and her outdoor rose and wildflower gardens. She and Truman enjoyed many years of quiet solitude at their family lake home near Vergas MN. They also enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and two treasured trips to Norway – meeting relatives there for the first time. Participation for nine years in the Scandinavian folk dance group, the Norskföd

Danseringen, added zest to their retirement years. They valued the friendship and camaraderie of the "coffees" with the retired teachers.

The memorial service for Edna H. Carlson, of Morris MN was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at St.

John's Lutheran Church, near Starbuck MN, with Reverend Angel Scott officiating. Visitation will be on Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Pedersen Funeral Home in Morris and

Wednesday, one hour prior to services at the church. Burial will be held at a later date at Valley Grove Lutheran Cemetery, near Nerstrand MN.



### Rosalie E. Olson

Dec. 7, 1932 - June 6, 2017 Vancouver, Washington



A longtime resident of San Diego, Rosalie Olson died peacefully surrounded by family in Vancouver, WA. Born in Sunburg MN, as the first of three daughters to Edwin and Clara Negaard, Rosalie's first language was Norwegian. She attended business schools in Minnesota and Colorado. Notable employment was at the Rohr Aircraft Corporation, Chula Vista CA, and Christ Lutheran Church, La Mesa CA.

Rosalie married Donald Olson in 1955, and the couple had three children, Erik, Leif, and Marit. The family moved extensively during Don's US Navy career. In San Diego, Rosalie was active in several churches and Bible study groups, as well as the Sons of Norway "Valhall Lodge."

She mastered the Scandinavian painting method of rosemaling, and enjoyed playing piano. Rosalie's kindness, gentleness and love for the Lord and others was evident to virtually all who knew her.

Rosalie's husband died in San Diego in 2012 after 57 years of marriage. She is survived by her sisters Beverly Lundeen and Jean Shogren, her three children, five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Rosalie's memorial service will be held 2 PM, Saturday, July 1 at Christ Lutheran Church, La Mesa. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to International Justice Mission.





Photo: Ingvar Bohm / Nordic Museum, Stockholm  
**Primstav from Setesdal, Norway, 1781.**

# The calendar that once ruled Norway

**Yardsticks - like primstaver were the primary calendars of Scandinavia for centuries**



Photo: Roede photo / Wikimedia  
**Primstav from Hallingdal, Norway, 18th century, with the Norwegian coat-of-arms at the upper end.**  
 M. Michael Brady, Asker, Norway

Before printing made almanacs and calendars everyday articles, Scandinavians used calendric devices made of wood, with lines or notches for the days of the year and carved characters for solstices, equinoxes, festivals, and holidays. Most were slender wooden staffs, called **primstav** in Norway and Denmark (hyphenated in Danish) and **runstav** in Sweden.

The names are descriptive. The word *primstav* is a compound that comes from the Latin *primatio lunae*, which means "first appearance of a new moon," which designates it as the basis of the calendric details presented in symbols. Moreover, *prim* is the Old Norse word for "new moon." The word *runstav* means "rune staff," which denotes the presentation of calendric details in runes, the first example of which is the 13th century Nyköpingsstaven.

**The primstav and runstav are perpetual calendars** based on the Metonic cycle, named for the Greek astronomer Meton of Athens who in 432 BC observed that a period of 19 years is within a few hours equal to 235 lunar months, so over the period of a single cycle the solar and lunar calendars agree. Each year in a Metonic cycle has a gyllentall (golden number), though not all primstav show it.

**A primstav usually has two sides**, a summer side starting on April 14 and a winter side starting on October 14. The dates reflect the yearly rhythm of the agrarian societies at northern latitudes in medieval Europe: one period for production and one for consumption. In Norway there are about 650 known primstaver, fashioned from late 15th to the early 19th centuries.

The primstav is believed to have traveled abroad with Danish Vikings, most likely in their settlement of England mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the year 876. English naturalist and University of Oxford professor Robert Plot speculated on that in his *Natural*

*History of Staffordshire*, published in 1686. In it he described what he called a "clog almanac," from his description, clearly like the Danish primstav. That speculation most likely is the root of the commonplace modern English translation of primstav to "clog almanac."

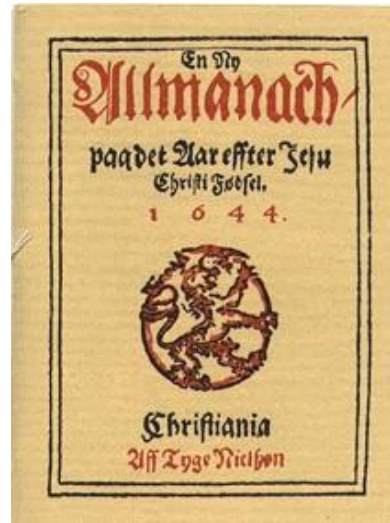


Photo: Public Domain  
**Cover of Tyge Nielsson's Almanac of 1644, the first book printed in Norway.**

In Norway, the primstav was the everyday calendar through the 17th century. Two events then eclipsed its use.

First, in 1644 Tyge Nielsson, a Danish printer then living and working in Christiania, published Norway's first printed

book, an almanac. Second, in 1700, the Gregorian Calendar replaced the Julian Calendar in Norway and in Denmark. Thereafter, the primstav disappeared from mainstream life, though use of it persisted until the mid 19th century in remote districts.

Nonetheless, **the primstav is an artifact of Norwegian cultural history that fascinates to this day.**

There are books on it, including:

- *Primstaven*, by Anne B. Bull-Gundersen, Oslo 2003, Aschehoug, ISBN 82-03-22923-9, a chronology of definitions of its symbols (Norwegian).
- *Hverdagskost og festmat langs primstaven* (Daily fare and feasts), by writer Birger Sivertsen and chef Arne Brimi, Horten 2011, Publicom Forlag, ISBN 978-82-92526-53-8, a culinary guide to everyday and party dishes suiting events symbolized along the primstav (Norwegian).

M. Michael Brady was educated as a scientist and with time turned to writing and translating.

This article originally appeared in the June 30, 2017, issue of *The Norwegian American*. To subscribe, visit **SUBSCRIBE** or call us at (206) 784-4617.

**These are the November symbols on the primstav.**



**Nov. 1**



**Nov. 5**



**Nov. 11**



**Nov. 23**



**Nov. 25**



**Nov. 30**

**Pictures from the 2017  
Stevne in La Crosse WI**



Photographers –  
Ed & Helen Scherer  
and Chris Falteisek



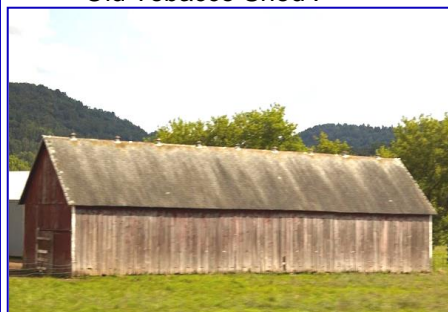
Blaine Hedberg, Genealogist and Guide at church, as well  
as Keynote Speaker at the Stevne. Plus, Westby Historical  
Society guides



Westby Snowflake Ski Jump



Old Tobacco Shed .



Frieda and  
Ron  
Nowland  
were our  
Bus guides.



Country Coon Prairie Church and Cemetery, Placed  
on the National Register of Historic Places 1946



Solar collectors along the road to Coon Valley & Westby.



Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center – Bekkum Homestead



Anne Farning



Dinner,  
Bunad Show,  
Great Music,  
Lots of fun.

Dixie and Joy  
always make sure  
everything is  
running as it  
is supposed to.



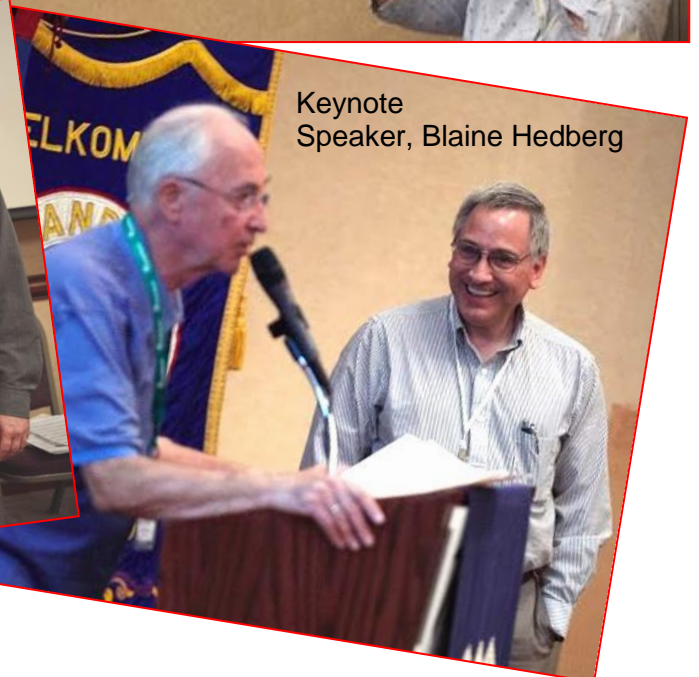
Mange Tusen Takk !



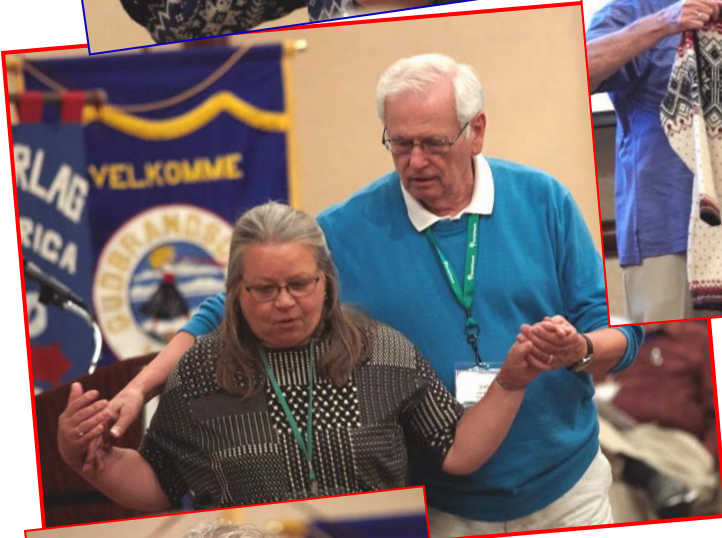
Rachel Storlie, Entertainment



Gretchen Jacobson explains  
Norways involvement in the movie "Frozen"  
Our musicians below are  
so talented



Keynote  
Speaker, Blaine Hedberg



UffDa Chip  
Anyone?

# NHOH 2017



**L-R Front:** Dave Nordhaugen, Nancy Maxwell, Gary Romsaas, Joy Shong, Joy Haugan Williams, Dixie Hansen, Chris Falteisek, Peter Helstad

**L-R Row 2:** Gay Kearin, Norma Kjenstad Barnes, Louise Lang, Barb Lewison, Virginia "Ginnie" Sem, Eunice Ellifson, Sylvia Falteisek, Shirley Schoenfeld, Linda Lowry, Elaine Domier

**L-R Row 3:** Dave Kearin, Ann McLaren Helstad, Jeri Johnson, Gilmore Sem, Gerry Lachman, Sandra Harvey, Joann Parker, Marilyn Sorensen, Rhonda Smerchek, Sandra Aune, Audrey Helstad

**L-R Row 4:** Raymond Olson, John Reindl, Vicky Finstad, Doris Modahl, Christy Berger, Donald Teigen, Martha Swetka, Lois Laehn, Chuck Laehn, Ron Helstad

**L-R Back:** Merlin "Bud" Helstad, Gary Flatgard, Bob Olson, Marv Lang, Roy Modahl, Ken Domier, Karen Mullen, Arlan Helstad, Gary Olson, John A. "Jack" Pederson, Birgitta Åryd, Kim Brunkow, and Brad Helstad



## NORD HEDMARK OG HEDEMARKEN LAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**NHOH has a college scholarship and also** Lag members, and members of their extended family, are eligible to receive scholarships **to support learning in the Norwegian language, its culture and its history..** They will be in the form of reimbursements for fees (tuition) and educational materials and are limited to one hundred dollars (\$100), per class. For more detailed information and to download the application form, visit our web site at: [www.nhohlag.org](http://www.nhohlag.org)

The two categories are outlined below.

### College Scholarship:

One, Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) scholarship will be granted to a graduating high school senior who will be attending a technical school, a four year college, or a university in the 2018 - 2019 academic year. To be considered for this scholarship, perspective candidates must:

- Be related to a current NHOH Lag member
- Be graduating from high school in 2018
- Have been accepted by a technical school, a four year college, or a university for the 2018–2019 academic year
- Submit an application form (see below) with all the required information and mails it to NHOH Scholarship Committee by May 1, 2018
- All applications will be reviewed by the NHOH Board and the successful candidate will be notified by June 1, 2018.

### Norwegian Language, Culture, and History Scholarships

Scholarships, in the form of reimbursements, are available to members and to a member's extended family. They are designed to support learning in all aspects of the Norwegian culture and are not limited by age. Young students (elementary, middle school and high school) who attend a Norwegian language camp in the summer are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Members, who take classes in any aspect of the Norwegian culture, may apply for his scholarship.

Reimbursements are limited to fees (tuition) and expenses for educational materials, up to \$100. Expenses for mileage are not covered. While funds are limited, candidates may reapply for this scholarship a second time during the calendar year. To be considered for this program, a candidate must:

- Submit an application form (see below)
- Included a copy of all payments for fees (tuition) and related education materials
- Provides evidence in the form of a certificate-of-completion that the class/course was completed.

**Note:** In lieu of a certificate, a letter or note from the instructor is acceptable.

- Mail application form to: NHOH Scholarship Committee before the end of 2018.

**NOTE: If you have questions regarding the process for applying, please send your inquiries to Gary M. Olson at the following: [www.olson.gm33@gmail.com](mailto:www.olson.gm33@gmail.com)**

## Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Scholarship Program Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of NHOH? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please check appropriate line)

If you are related to a lag member, please state the person's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
and, explain your relationship to that person: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name (title) of the class you completed? \_\_\_\_\_

Address of the school where the class/course was taught? \_\_\_\_\_

How many days or weeks did you attended this course/class? \_\_\_\_\_

Expenses for the class/course (fees and educational materials)? \_\_\_\_\_

Please state the amount of reimbursement you would like to receive? \_\_\_\_\_

Include a certificate-of-completion or letter from your instructor stating that you successfully completed the class.

Name of high school you will be graduating from in 2017: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of school: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Include in your mailing the following:

- A copy of your letter of acceptance from the institution you will be attending in the fall of 2017
- A letter of recommendation from a high school faculty member — counselor, teacher, or administrator
- A short essay (two or three paragraphs) describing your career goals and how you would benefit from a NHOH scholarship. Sign and date your essay.

### Mail application form and all requested information to:

**NHOH Scholarship Committee, Attention: Gary M. Olson, 2510 28th St., SE, Rochester, MN 55904**

## Never second fiddle: On Norway's most famous instrument



By M. Michael Brady. Asker, Norway

A fiddler plays for a solo male dancer. A Scot might regard the music as akin to that produced by a bagpipe. The tune and rhythm might remind an American of traditional square dances. But there's nothing Scottish or American about the dance.

The dancer turns in an intricate pattern, pacing steps to the major key 2/4 melody, usually in an allegro moderato (cheerful) tempo. Nearby a girl stands on a chair, holding out a stick with a hat hooked on its end. The dancer seems to be building up to something, as if under a spell cast by the hat well above his head. Finally, he leaps, nimbly into the air to kick the hat. Applause follows if he kicks the hat off the stick on the first try. If he misses, he

repeats the acrobatic performance. Among the spectators, there's small talk; everyone seems to have an uncle or father who could still ta hatten (take the hat) at the age of 80.

It's a mini-drama seen nowhere else, an indigenous facet of Norwegian music. The dance is the Halling, the most characteristic folk dance of Norway, taking its name from the Hallingdal valley between Oslo and Bergen. The origins of the music for it are unknown, but it's apparently related to the Scottish reel, whose musical descendants include some bagpipe melodies and American square dance music.

**Four active strings** The instrument played by the fiddler is the Hardangfelle (Hardanger Fiddle), named for the first such instrument, devised around 1650 in the Hardanger area of western Norway. Unlike other members of the violin family, the Hardangfelle has **four active strings and a second set of four sympathetic strings**, lying closer to the belly of the instrument. It's the only remaining member of a scattered, small, and now mostly obsolete family of instruments. In late Elizabethan times, English lyra viols were briefly made with sympathetic strings. In the 18th century similar instruments, known as viola d'amour in French and Liebesgeige in German, had a short and unimportant musical life in Central Europe. But in Norway the Hardangfelle survived. Music on a Hardangfelle is like that of no other violin; it's a second sort of fiddle. Nobody knows why it did not slide into oblivion along with its English and continental cousins, but Norway's relative isolation until the mid 19th century probably contributed to its survival. University of Oslo social anthropologist Henrik Sinding-Larsen pinpoints 1850 as the decisive date. At that time, Norway had begun to build railways, which were to foster the greater mobility of the population that eventually standardized music and eroded the music traditions of the more fixed peasant societies. But it was also the apex of

the romantic era, as Norwegians sought their national identity in their peasant roots. World-renowned Norwegian concert violinist Ole Bornemann Bull had discovered Hardangfelle virtuoso Tarjei Augundson. Known as Myllarguten (Miller Boy), as his father had been a professional miller, Augundson accompanied Bull on concert stages in Bergen, Christiania (now Oslo), Copenhagen, and Gothenburg. Bull performed on the common European violin and Augundson on the Hardangfelle. The effect was electric and far reaching. With Bull, Augundson firmly anchored awareness of peasant music tradition in the cities. Myllarguten and the railways represented the opposing forces shaping Norwegian music in the latter half of the 19th century. The influence of the railways finally dominated, but to this day Myllarguten's music is still alive.

**Similarities to a bagpipe** The modern Hardangfelle differs little from the first instrument made in the early 18th century by Isak Botnen in Flatabø, a village innermost in the Fykkesundet (sound) in the Hardanger district of western Norway. The bridge of the instrument is nearly flat, which allows playing a variety of polyphony, the simultaneous sound of several notes of different pitch. When played, the active strings, usually tuned to A, D, A, and E, cause the underlying sympathetic strings, usually tuned to D, E, F sharp, and A, to vibrate. The effect can be compared to that of the drone pipes of a traditional bagpipe. The slåtter (peasant dances) that Myllarguten popularized were the model for Norwegian national melody that first was given classical clothing by composer Edvard Grieg. Grieg had learned music from his mother, Gesine Hagerup, who, being of solid peasant stock, also knew the slåtter well. In 1902 he paid tribute to that connection in his *Opus 72, Slåtter—Norwegian Peasant Dances Arranged for Pianoforte Solo*.

**Original peasant melodies** Naturally, Grieg's music is popular in Norway. But so are the original peasant melodies. Spelemenn (fiddlers) are still to be found, though their national association, Landslaget for Spelemenn, formed in 1923 and disbanded in 2009, is no longer part of the cultural scene. But its purpose has been preserved. NRK, the national radio and TV broadcasting network, occasionally features programs of folk music by spelemenn. This was so important that in pre-TV 1947, the main NRK studios in Oslo were fitted with a small studio specially designed with acoustics replicating those of a rural log hall, where the Hardangfelle sound is at its best. In 1956, mobile NRK units equipped with tape recorders enabled program crews to go on location for Hardangfelle recordings, so the small studio was dismantled. Out in the countryside, there are still many spelemenn. And there's a statue of one of them, Myllarguten, in the village of Nordagutu in Telemark County.

*M. Michael Brady was educated as a scientist and with time turned to writing and translating.*

*Photo: Frode Inge Helland / Wikimedia*

*"A Hardanger fiddle made by Knut Gunnarson Helland"*

*This article appeared in the Sept. 8, 2017, issue of The Norwegian American. To subscribe, call (206) 784-4617*



**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**



### **NHOH Lag Membership Renewal or New Memberships Form**

Memberships include your spouse, so please include both names if applicable. Gift memberships welcome. Make check payable to **NHOH Lag** and send with completed form to:

**Dixie Hansen, NHOH Membership, 1411 Osceola Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105-2312**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Renewal ☐ Gift Membership ☐ New

#### **Ancestors in Hedmark from kommune: (check all that apply)**

☐ Åmot ☐ Alvdal ☐ Elverum ☐ Engerdal ☐ Folldal ☐ Furness ☐ Hamar ☐ Løten ☐ Nes ☐ Os  
☐ Rendalen ☐ Ringsaker ☐ Romedal ☐ Stange ☐ Stor-Elvdal ☐ Tolga ☐ Trysil ☐ Tynset ☐ Vang

If kommune unknown, list parish, town, or other geographic place \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Volunteers Needed**

The lag is only possible because of the work of many volunteers. Please consider volunteering for any of the following:

- Newsletter (contribute articles, assist with mailing, suggest topics for articles, etc.)
- Leadership (Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership, Board members)
- Genealogy / Web page
- Stevne (planning, registration desk, staff hospitality room, help lag genealogist in lab)
- Anything you think the Lag should provide as a service!

I would like to volunteer for: \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter delivery preference:** ☐ US Mail ☐ Online

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