

# NHOH News

Volume 23 Number 3

Fall 2018

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



## Fra Presidenten

For my President's Article for this newsletter I chose to share a piece of recent news. Sadly, **Roland J. Krogstad, the founder of the Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, died on Nov. 7, 2018 in Madison, WI.**

Rollie was an avid genealogist and lover of his Norwegian heritage. In searching for documentation of his family history he encountered some frustration locating records. While attending a Seven Lag Stevne meeting in 1994 he, and three others with ancestors in Hedmark, realized there was limited representation for the northern two-thirds of Hedmark. He got permission of the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad to create a new lag.

The first meeting was held in August 1995. Rollie was elected President; John Reindl, Vice President; Kathryn Cobleigh, Secretary; and Roslyn Waddell (my mother) – Treasurer. Dixie Hansen was one of the first directors. Rollie remained an officer in some capacity until 2015. He was a frequent presenter at the annual stevner, teaching genealogy that helped many beginners. His leadership, dedication to the lag, promotional skills, and friendship will be sorely missed.



This is part of his obituary: **Roland J. "Rollie" Krogstad, age 96, died peacefully, November 7, 2018 in Madison.** He was born on November 12, 1921 to Rudolph "Rudy" and Mabel (Eidem) Krogstad in East Hartland Township, Pierce County, WI. He grew up on a farm, attended the one-room Forest Home rural school, and graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1940. He enrolled at (then) River Falls State Teachers College where he obtained a Two-Year Rural Education Certificate in 1942. From 1942 to 1945, he was with the 91st Infantry Division in WWII, he taught country school for two years and 7-8th grade at Maiden Rock public schools for one year. He enrolled at (then) Stout Institute in Menomonie, obtaining a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Industrial Education in 1951 and 1952 respectively. He taught Industrial Arts at Fond du Lac Jr. H.S.; post-secondary drafting and related technology at La Crosse Voc-Tech-Adult School; and was employed by the (then) Wisconsin Board of Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education for 24 years, retiring in 1987 with 37 years in the field of education. His marriage to Irma B. Sorensen of Maiden Rock on June 19, 1947 at Hartland Methodist Church blessed them with 5 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 step grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 2 step grandchildren, and he has a brother, Robert. He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Pamela, wife Irma (2017) and brother, William.

Rollie and Irma enjoyed traveling, visiting all 50 state capitols, taking their young family camping and later to Norway, Denmark and Italy, and rafting on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. He was an active member and/or volunteer in many organizations.

Realizing the importance of genealogy and his heritage, he helped found the Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag in 1995 and compiled two Family History Books, including "My Life Story."

Rollie was proud to have served as an American Soldier with the 91st Infantry division during WWII and in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in the 32nd Infantry Division for 18 years, being honorably discharged in 1967 with the rank of Major.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 17, 2018, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison. Hilsen fra *Joy Shong*

**2019 Tre-Lag Stevne  
August 7-10, 2019  
Alexandria MN**

**Holiday Inn Alexandria  
5673 Hwy 29 S., Alexandria, MN 56308  
Phone: 1-320-763-6577**



## What's Inside?

1. 2019 Stevne Info / and Pres. Letter with news of Rollie Krogstad's recent death.
2. Officers/membership information
3. NHOH Book orders/ Treas. Report
4. Genealogy Report – John Reindl
5. Baltic Counties Nordic /Necrology/
- 6-8 Necrology/book "To the Ends of the Earth"
- 9-10 Rolvaag Library & Stevne pictures
- 11-12 Husmann / New Lag members welcome
13. Fylkes forced to move / Norwegian Lag week
- 14 2018 NHOH Photo at the Austin Stevne
- 15 NHOH Scholarship applications
- 16 Membership application

## 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



Please see previous newsletters for the fylke changes Norway is making. You will see both this old diagram .

**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

## 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:..  
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)**

**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 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.

## 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.**

### 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.





## 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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>Total \$</u>	
NHOH Book	_____	\$22.50	\$_____	Includes shipping & handling US*
Total Enclosed			\$_____	Make check payable to NHOH

**Surface Shipping to Norway – add \$5.50**

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

#### NHOH Treasurer's Report ending 10/3/2018

Checking Balance at stevne \$2,172.04

#### Income:

Members	\$ 135.00	
Donations-Gen.	\$ 285.00	
Book & Pin	\$ 25.00	
Scholarship Fund	\$ 100.00	
Total income		\$ 545.00

#### Disbursements:

Total Expenses \$ 0.00

**Balance in Checking 10/3/2018 \$2,717.04**

**Savings** balance 10/3/2018 \$4,286.89  
Interest Income \$ 1.08

**Balance in Savings \$4,287.97**

**Balance, Checking & Savings \$7,005.01**

Ron Helstad, Treasurer



## Genealogy Information

John Reindl, Lag Genealogist

This column briefly covers a mix of issues, including our web page, our cousin-finding program reaching new benchmarks, new bygdebøker for Ringsaker and a newly discovered resource for Stange which might be a good example for other areas of our lag.



### The lag web page

First is our web page (<http://www.nhohlag.org>) and some new features. The board had hired an independent consultant to redesign the web page, which included the use of a different software platform to construct it and new roles for several board members – including the lag genealogist – in being administrators.

One of the genealogical features that has been added is a page of indexes to bygdebøker. For example, for Romedal, there are 6 books, so finding a particular farm could involve looking through several books. With a single index for all 6 books, the farm can be found quickly.

I will be the first to admit that I am in the early learning stages of how to place material on the internet, and these indexes are not visible as documents on the web page, but instead are downloaded onto the user's computer. Once on the computer, they can be sorted and searched by word processing software in most cases, and as PDF documents in a few cases. Additional indexes are under preparation, including for the new series of books for Alvdal and Brøttum

A related part the bygdebøker section of the genealogy area of the web page is a document of the resources for the 2019 stevne in Alexandria, MN. These resources can also be accessed at any time by the lag genealogist if you would like a look up. In addition, many can be borrowed at local libraries through Interlibrary Loan.

Finally, for those who want to better use the internet resources of the three Norwegian Digital Archive sites and the Norwegian Historical Data Centre, handouts on these topics from the 2018 stevne in Austin, MN are available for download under the Stevne tab of our web page. These documents are 'works in progress' and suggestions for improvement are most welcome.

### Cousin-finding project

One of the services that our lag provides to members is to help them find others in the lag with the same ancestors. Started on paper by our lag founder, Rollie Krogstad, it now also involves a computerized database. The lag just passed a major milestone, with over 10,000 entries from 222 members and nearly 150 cousin matches.

Everyone is invited to participate in this project by submitting their ancestors. The best method is by sending me a GEDCOM file of your NHOH ancestors, but any method of data submission works.

### Ringsaker bygdebøker!

The lag has recently purchased the two bygdebøker for Ringsaker. This area is the ancestral home of more of NHOH's members than any other area and up until now, there were no bygdebøker in the US for this area. The lag teamed up with the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC&NL) in Madison, WI to buy these books directly from the Ringsaker historielag. While neither the lag nor NAGC&NL loan out the books, we now have the ability to look up data for our members and these books will be available at the lag stevner. A third bygdebøker is expected for Ringsaker, but the publication date has not yet been finalized.

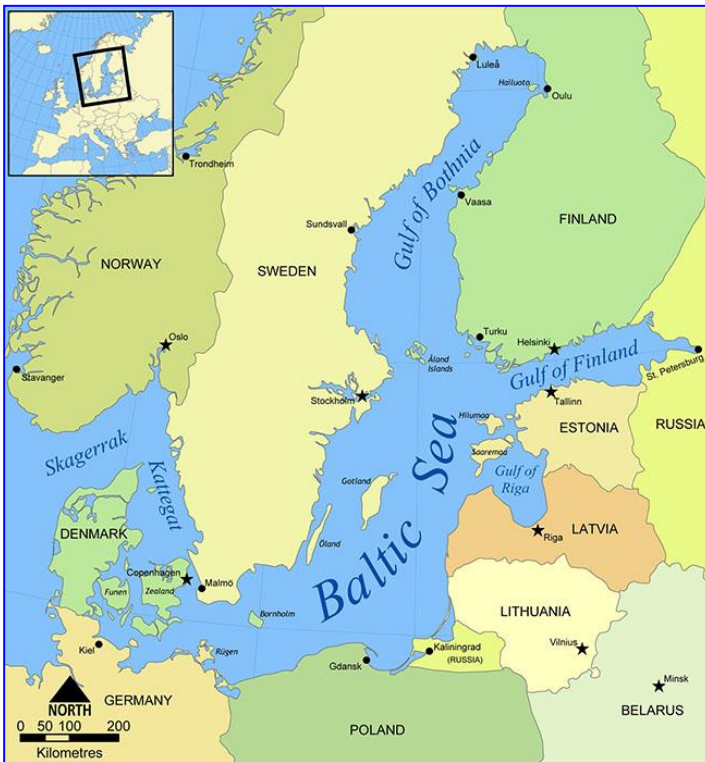
### Web page on Stange emigrants in America

In helping a lag member with Stange ancestors find living relatives to meet on a trip to Norway this past summer, I came across a web page titled "[The Migration From Stange, Hedmark, Norway](#)" on Geni.com. Access is free, and, as of this writing, the page had just under 180 listings from 13 states and one Canadian province. Most listings are of couples; they do not include children. Anyone is welcome to add new listings, and other similar projects are also welcome.

I would be interested in people's reaction to this page. Should the lag participate in this page? Set up similar pages for areas covered by our lag? Establish similar databases on our lag web page? Please let me know your thoughts.







## Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania increasingly think of themselves as Nordic rather than Eastern European

M. Michael Brady of Asker, Norway  
Published September 21, 2018  
*In the Norwegian American Newspaper*

In the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, to the east across the Baltic Sea from Scandinavia, the citizens dislike being classed as Eastern Europeans and increasingly wish to be considered Nordic. That sentiment has become so evident that the July 29 edition of *Aftenposten* devoted its page one feature to it (Further reading).

The three countries share a tumultuous history of long being occupied by others, declaring independence in the aftermath of World War I, being occupied by the Soviet Union in World War II, and regaining independence after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The sense of being Nordic may be strongest in Estonia. At the outbreak of World War II, Estonia had the largest Nordic population of the Baltic countries, with 10,000 Swedes, most of whom fled over the sea to Sweden. Today, the Estonian citizenry has strong bonds to their neighbors across the sea. One upshot has been a proposal for redesigning the tricolor Estonian flag in the form of a Nordic flag cross.

In January 2017, when former Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs Artis Pabriks found that the United Nations had officially reclassified the Baltic countries from Eastern to Northern Europe [unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm) he proudly tweeted that "This is where we belong." On today's world stage there are many Baltic natives, including Toomas Hendrik Ilves, the fourth President of Estonia who was born in Stockholm and raised and educated in the United States, and is a recognized world leader on cyber

security; Arvo Pärt, Estonian composer of classical and religious music who is since 2010 the world's most performed living composer; and Mariss Jansons, the Latvian conductor who was music director of the Oslo Philharmonic and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Further reading: "*De var en del av Sovjet-union, har grense mot Russland, men hater å bli kalt østeuropeere; Er det på tide å ta dem med i Norden?*" (They were a part of the Soviet Union, have borders with Russia, but hate being called Eastern Europeans; Is it time to consider them Nordic countries?), *Aftenposten*, July 29, 2018:

[www.aftenposten.no/verden/i/bK224k/De-var-en-del-av-Sovjet\\_-men-hater-a-bli-kalt-osteuropeere-Er-det-pa-tide-a-ta-dem-med-i-Norden](http://www.aftenposten.no/verden/i/bK224k/De-var-en-del-av-Sovjet_-men-hater-a-bli-kalt-osteuropeere-Er-det-pa-tide-a-ta-dem-med-i-Norden) (in Norwegian).

This article originally appeared in the September 21, 2018, issue of **The Norwegian American**. To subscribe, visit **SUBSCRIBE** or call (206) 784-4617

## In Memoriam -

### Naomi Flugstad Bekkum (1922-2018)

Naomi was an ardent and dedicated genealogical researcher, creating two family histories that are models of their kind. Her maternal grandparents, Halvor and Bendikka Vangum Pederson immigrated to Westby-Coon Valley area of Vernon County, Wisconsin in 1854 and 1856 – Halvor from Ringsaker and Bendikka from Gausdal. Naomi typed out their family history in 2001.

She researched her paternal side of her family, and wrote "The Johannes Flugstad Story," which she completed in 2016. Johannes Flugstad was born at Ringsaker, and his wife Hannah Justdatter was born in Eidsvold. They immigrated to Coon Prairie in 1857 and 1859.

Naomi said "Genealogy is a living and ongoing process. Recording the past, living the present, and looking to the future as well. The legacy of the Flugstad family history did not feel complete until the Story was told in as full a manner as possible... I know others will carry on this process, keeping relationships alive and their history living, as we move ahead into ever-changing times."

Naomi contributed her support for the NAGC NL (Norwegian American Genealogical Center – Næseth Library), as well as to Vesterheim Museum and Norskedalen with her husband Owen Bekkum. Naomi and Owen were major donors at these places and others.

In Naomi's formal education, library science and music education were primary interests. She retired from teaching music in 1984 with 40 years of experience in the classroom. At Madison's Bethel Lutheran Church, Naomi enjoyed giving classes in Norwegian heritage and working in the church library and archives.



## Archie E. Simonson

December 25, 1924 – June 15, 2018



Archie E. Simonson, passed away on Friday, June 15, 2018 at Attic Angel Place. He was born December 25, 1924 in Baraboo, WI. In 1928 his family moved to Richmond, IN. He graduated from Richmond High School in 1943, where he participated in football, track and fencing. He was drafted into the

military in 1943 with service in New Guinea. Upon discharge, he moved back to Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin earning his Bachelor's Degree in Business in 1950 and his Law Degree in 1952. He earned three varsity letters in fencing, and was Captain his senior year.

Archie married while he was still in law school. He was appointed UW Head Fencing Coach, a position he held while still practicing law for twenty-one years. He compiled a 195-121 record (.617 winning percentage) against national competition. His team won Big Ten Championships in 1955, 1957, 1959 and 1967. Twelve of his fencers won conference titles, and thirteen of his fencers earned All-American honors. In 1952 his team was awarded the NCAA third place trophy, a mere five points behind the National Champions. In 1965 Archie was accredited as a fencing Master by the International Academy of Arms. In 1972, Archie retired from coaching because he was elected a Dane County judge.

Archie served national sports organizations in many ways. In 1971, he served on the committee reorganizing the NCAA. For several years, he was Vice-Chairman of the US Olympic Games Committee for Fencing. Archie was chairman of the US Collegiate Sports Council Games Committee. In 1973, Archie served on the Committee for Better Olympics which was organized for the purpose of reorganizing the US Olympic Committee.

In 1994, Archie founded and organized Bucky's Ambassadors, a group of volunteers to assist the UW Athletic Department.

Archie retired from his law practice as of Jan. 1, 2000.

In 1969, Archie became a Master Mason and later became a member of Zor Shriners located in Madison, Wisconsin. Archie joined two parade units, the Pipes and Drums and the Marching Patrol. He also served several years on Zor's Board of Trustees, being its Chairman for five years. Archie also has served on many Wisconsin Masonic Grand Lodge committees, and in 2001 was given the Meritorious Masonic Service Award for his contributions to Masonry.

In 2000, Archie was elected to the Wisconsin Shrine Bowl Board of Directors. The Board selected him to be the General Chairman of the Shrine Bowl All-Star football game. This game is sponsored by the three Shrine organizations of Beja (Green Bay), Tripoli (Milwaukee) and Zor (Madison) as well as the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association.

Archie married Edel-Lore Schultz in April 1949. They have four children, Sonja, Carla (Tom), Lisa (Will) and Eric; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Archie has been a member of Hedmark Lag since August 20, 1997. He has ancestry in Hamar and Nes.**

A visitation was held from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 24, 2018 at CRESS FUNERAL HOME, 3610 Speedway Road, with a Masonic Service beginning at 3:30 p.m. A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 25, 2018 at LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH, 1021 University Avenue, Madison, with Pastor John Worzala-Dumke presiding.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested in Archie's name to Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607; Luther Memorial Church, 1021 University Ave, Madison, WI 53715; Agrace HospiceCare, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, Madison, WI 53711; and Attic Angels Association, 640 Junction Road, Madison, WI 53717.

Thank you to the staff of Attic Angels, for their wonderful compassion and care; and to Agrace HospiceCare for their loving support and care of Archie. Cress Funeral & Cremation Service, 3610 Speedway Road, Madison, WI 608-238-3434 Archie Simonson's address is: 8301 Old Sauk Rd., Middleton WI 53562

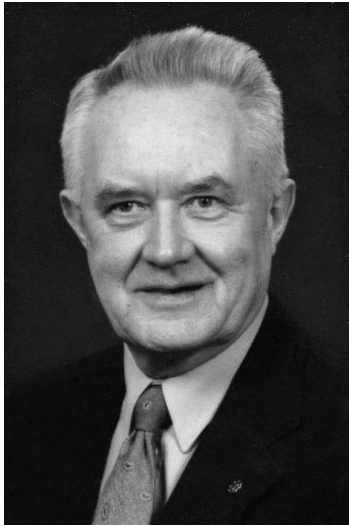
Our sympathy to his daughter, Carla Neumann, and family.



*Merry Christmas Everyone*







## **Harry W.**

**Papcke**, age 88, of Madison, passed away on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. He was born on June 12, 1929, and raised on a 261 acre farm in the Town of Richmond, Wis., the son of Carl and Lillian (Christensen) Papcke.

At the age of 7, Harry joined the LaGrange Live Wires 4-H Club, and was a member for 13 years.

In 1948, he was a delegate to National 4-H Congress in Chicago and there he met his wife, Virginia Gjermo of Stoughton, and they were married on Oct. 23, 1953. Harry attended UW-Madison and received a B.S. degree in Rural Sociology. In 1950, he was a Summer 4-H Agent in Juneau County, and County 4-H Agent in 1951, before proudly serving in the U.S. Army Artillery in Korea from 1951-1953. He then returned to Juneau County as 4-H Agent and served until he moved to Madison and Dane County 4-H in 1954, and continued working until his retirement in 1987.

During his 34 year career with 4-H, Harry brought countless ideas to make Dane County 4-H grow. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, among them the Dane County Junior Fair Hall of Fame award, and in 1963, he received the Wisconsin Extension Workers Distinguished Service Award and the National 4-H Agents Distinguished Award, and was the first Wisconsin recipient of NAE4-HA American Spirit Award in 1985.

Harry enjoyed traveling, gardening, genealogy, stamp collecting, reading and crossword puzzles. He is a member of McFarland Lutheran Church. He was a former member of Westminster Presbyterian Church where he served on several church boards and taught Sunday school, as well as South Central Chapter Wisconsin State Genealogical Society and Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

Harry is survived by his wife, Virginia; son, Mark (Linda) Papcke; and grandchildren, Tara and Andrew Papcke. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Charles Papcke; sister-in-law, Elaine Papcke; and infant brother, Gerald.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library at <http://www.nagcni.org/donate/>. Online condolences may be made at [www.gundersonfh.com](http://www.gundersonfh.com).



## **Virginia Mae (Gjermo) Papcke**

, age 89, passed away on Monday, May 7, 2018, just 27 days after her beloved husband, Harry, entered eternal life. She was born on March 3, 1929, in Madison, the daughter of Sanford and Gladys (Anderson) Gjermo.

Virginia was a member of Hope 4-H Club for eight years and was featured in the 4-H Poultry Bulletin in June of 1945. She graduated from Stoughton

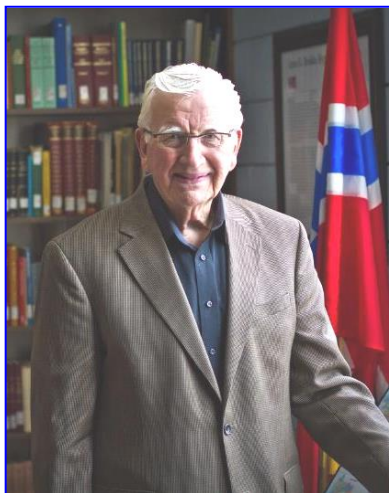
High School in 1947 and attended Whitewater State Teacher's College, which is now the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

In 1948, Virginia met her husband-to-be, Harry Papcke, when she was a delegate to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. They were married on Oct. 24, 1953, in McFarland. Virginia continued to be active in 4-H while Harry served as Dane County Youth Agent. She served in several leadership roles at the local club level, as well as on several state committees. Virginia enjoyed collecting and researching family history and with Harry, were the historians for family reunions. Both, Virginia and Harry were proud members of the South Central Chapter Wisconsin State Genealogical Society and Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. They were also members of McFarland Lutheran Church. Virginia and Harry enjoyed dancing at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom in McFarland, and were on many Dairyland Jubilee TV shows with Big John Schermerhorn.

Virginia was a proud Norwegian and enjoyed celebrating her heritage. In 1994, she went to Norway, along with other family members to visit cousins and family homestead sites. Virginia and Harry also hosted several groups of Norwegian relatives when they came to Wisconsin to visit. Virginia had Hedmark roots, with ancestors from Nes

Virginia is survived by her son, Mark (Linda) Papcke; grandchildren, Tara and Andrew Papcke; sister, Joyce (Roger) Utermark; sister-in-law, Jean Gjermo; and nine nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry, on April 10, 2018; parents; brother, Sanford "Sam" Gjermo Jr.; brother-in-law, Charles (Elaine) Papcke; and niece, Julie Gunderson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be gifted in Virginia's name to either the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library <http://www.nagcni.org/donate/> or online condolences may be made at [www.gundersonfh.com](http://www.gundersonfh.com). Virginia and Harry were a team in 4-H and in family history activities and are now reunited again.



**Arne Brekke, 90,** of Grand Forks, ND, passed away on Monday, June 25, 2018, at Altru Hospital after a brief illness.

Arne lived a long and full life. Born on a goat farm in rural Norway, the seventh of nine children, he came to America on scholarship to study at Luther College in Iowa. He married Beverly Boardman and

continued his education, eventually earning a PhD from the University of Chicago.

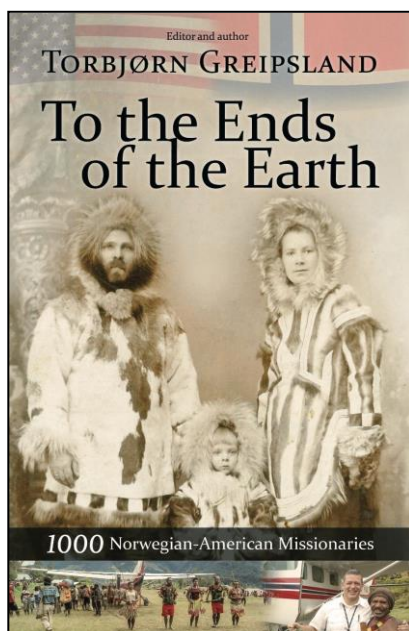
In the mid-1950's he started leading tours to Norway to fund his trips to visit family back in Norway. In 1962, Arne moved his young family to Grand Forks, ND, to teach Germanic languages at the University of North Dakota. Over the years, Arne was able to pursue both his academic career and start a successful niche travel agency helping Norwegian Americans find their roots in Norway. In recent years, he started a collection of books at the **University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library** related to Norwegian genealogy and cultural history. **It is the largest collection of "bygdeboks" in the world and is named after him.** He was actively working in support of the book collection up to the time of his death. Arne was honored by the King of Norway in 1977 with the St. Olaf Medal in recognition of his work promoting good will and cultural ties between Norway and America. In 2011 he was named Major Benefactor of the Year by the North Dakota Library Association for his work in establishing the bygdebok collection.

One of his favorite passions was the study of word etymologies. He was an expert at Norwegian place names and his knowledge of several languages made him one of a few able to locate a family farm in Norway based on a surname.

Arne was an optimist who loved to talk and laugh. He loved his family, spending time at his lake home in northern Minnesota, and anything Norwegian. We will miss his zest for life and love for learning.

Arne is preceded in death by his son, Kristian Brekke. He is survived by his former wife of 32 years, Beverly Brekke-Bailey of Springfield, IL, and their three daughters, sons-in-laws, and daughter-in-law: Dr. Karen (Brekke) Hoelzer of Springfield, IL, Kirk and Karla (Brekke) Marchell of Houston, TX, Kari Brekke and Gudjon Gudjonsson of Stoughton, WI, and Veena Brekke of Madison, WI. Arne was a proud grandfather of eleven, and great-grandfather of six. He is also survived by two sisters and many nieces and nephews in Norway. He will be fondly remembered by his business partner, Char Brekke, and the employees of Brekke Tours. He considered them as his second family.

## "To the Ends of the Earth"



A new book by  
Torbjørn Greipsland  
and published by  
venturaforlag.no

This book is recommended for every one interested in Mission and Church life in America. It shows clearly how seriously the missionaries took their service. They knew that it could cost them their own life and health, persecution,

kidnapping and murder. But they went. They saw some of the results, we see great results.

The book has the names of more than a thousand missionaries, and articles about, or interviews with, 30 of them. It is exciting reading.

One reason for writing the book is that the extensive missionary commitment that existed in many churches, and still continues, has not been given any important place in the central and general history books about the Norwegian America. These missionaries deserve a book!

Order the book today from:

**James B. Olson**  
3016 S. 10th Avenue,  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105.



E-mail: [jimolson@midco.net](mailto:jimolson@midco.net)  
Phone 605-332-1321, or cell 605-359-4150.  
Price \$19.95 + \$2.63 in shipping  
(US \$22.58 in total)  
2-4 copies free shipping.  
5+ 10% discount + free shipping.

**Information about Missionaries, Pastors, and their Norwegian Roots**

**Names of Missionaries and Mission Workers Sent by TEAM, The Evangelical Alliance Mission**

**Names of 862 Norwegian-American Missionaries Sent out by Churches and Organizations that Later Joined ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**



## Bygdeboker in the Rolvaag Library at St. Olaf College, Northfield Minnesota

One of the most important resources for Norwegian genealogical research are the bygdebøker (Farm Books). They tell the history of the farms and families that owned or lived on them and can be an absolute goldmine for genealogists. By-and-large, they are reliable. There are several good collections here in the U.S. One very good collection is located in Northfield Minnesota at the St. Olaf College (the Rolvaag Library holdings of Bygdebøker)

Here's what I suggest: If you live with-in 50-90 miles of the Rolvaag library come and use the collection. But as any collection make sure St. Olaf has the Bygdebøker you need before you visit. Search the Hovland Index on your home computer to identify which Bygdebøker (Norwegian Community History Books) are located in the Rolvaag Library at St. Olaf. Bring someone along that really understands how to research the books if you don't. The library is always short of help. Another plus - the library internet can access lots of research sites you'd have to pay for. Check-out the library rules and internet resources before you come.

NAHA's archives are located in the special collections area of St. Olaf's Rolvaag Memorial Library. Our doors are open to the public and they encourage use of our resources. Please call us at (507) 786-3221 or email naha-[archivist@stolaf.edu](mailto:archivist@stolaf.edu) to schedule an appointment to visit the archives. Our part-time archivists can best serve you if we know when you are coming. NAHA charges a modest hourly fee for research assistance.

### Some history

The Bygdeboker library and Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) was Founded in 1925 with the assistance of novelist and professor Ole Rolvaag. He was secretary for the Norwegian-American Historical Association from 1925 to 1931. The Ole Rolvaag Memorial Library at St. Olaf was named for him in 1944.



## Genealogy Arts and Crafts:



**Below- Dixie & her siblings in cross-stitch embroidery !**



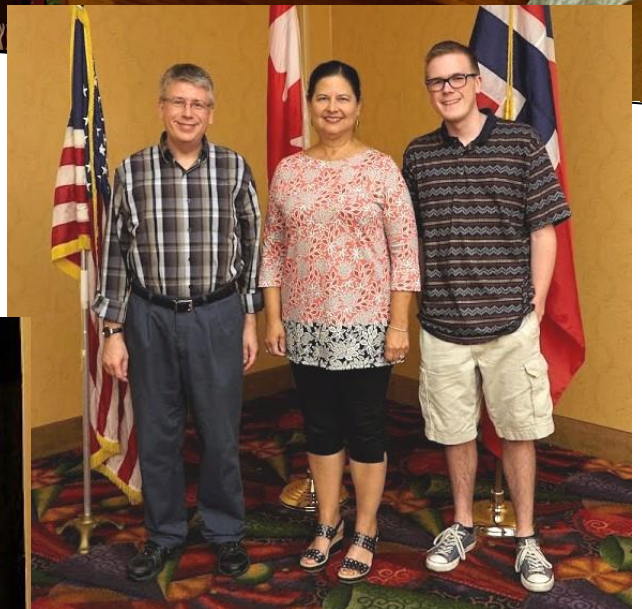
**Below: Anne Marie Farning's genealogy in pictures.**



**Genealogy Art – Gary Romsaas pedigree below - wow**









# Who was the “husmann”?

By Martin Roe Eidhammer

Article sent in by Chris Falteisek



The title “husmann” appear in all the sources we use in Norwegian genealogy.

The title “husmann” is normally translated into English as cotter or crofter. Looking at definitions of this term found online, I see that the Norwegian cotter’s conditions were a little different from those in other countries.

*The featured photo shows a cotter’s place probably situated in Sunndal, Møre og Romsdal. The persons are not known. Photo by Ole J Gravem d.e. Stiftelsen Nordmøre Museum License: [CC ShareAlike](#)*

As I have used the term “cotter” and the term “cotter’s place – Husmannsplass” in many of my writings, I should perhaps have written this article first.

We may find this term in several sources as *husmann*, *huusmand*, *pladsemand*. This is the man in the family. The wife is normally described as *huusmandskone* or *pladsemandskone*. When it is talk about the couple we may find the term *pladsefolk/plassefolk*. The term *strandsitter* may be used about cotters living by water.

There has been written several books about the conditions of the husmann so within the scope of this article I have to cover this topic in **very general terms**.

**The “social class” cotter (“Husmann”) was a person who lived on a piece of land that did not appear as a separate entity in the land register.** The owner had to pay the taxes on this land. The cotters rented this land and paid either in money or by working at the farm. Some cotters had land where they could do a little farming and keep a few animals (often a cow for milk). Other cotters had no land and had to rely on some kind of handcrafts to support their family. Cotters are often looked upon as very poor people. Some definitely were, but it is not possible to generalize, because the conditions from one cotter family to the next did vary a lot. There were also big differences from district to district. Cotters who performed some kind of handcrafts; ie, cobblers, tailors etc. were able to earn a decent living. (continued next page)

The term Husmann was used as far back as in the late 1200’s. At this time and through the next centuries it referred to a lodger or a person who had no permanent employment and took odd jobs. Husmann could also be used about a man who had retired and was now supported by younger people, often his son or daughter’s family. Finally, husmann could be used about a person who cleared a piece of land and settled there (Prestesæter: 12-13).

These explanations though, are **not** relevant for the husmann we meet in the Norwegian sources from about 1700 and onward.

To understand the term cotter we need to look at the population growth that started in the early 1700’s, going back to the middle of the 1300’s and the Black plague, we learn that in this epidemic 50 to 60% of the population in Norway died ([Wikipedia: Svartedauden](#)). It took about 400 years for the population to grow to the number it was before the Black plague struck Norway ([Wikipedia: Norges demografi](#)).

There were different ways to meet the needs of the increasing number of households. The farms that were left abandoned during the black plague were inhabited. There was an extensive cultivating of land that had not earlier been farmed. Some of the new households was provided for by splitting the old farms into smaller farm parts. There is a limit to how small a farm can be and still provide for a household. The most extensive splitting of farms took place in areas where one could get additional income. This was the situation on the coast where the fisheries provided income. Also, in areas adjacent to mines or rich forests there was an extensive farm splitting (Jones: 38).

## Cotters were divided into two categories -

**Husmann med jord;** ie, the cotter had land where he could raise a crop and keep animals.

**Husmann uten jord;** ie, the cotter had no land and was dependent of an income from paid work or a handcraft.

## The farms reasons for letting someone live as cotters on their land –

**Help out a son/brother to get an income.** The oldest son inherited the farm, but another son could get a livelihood by living as a cotter at the farm.

**Extra income from rent - Monetary.** This husmann’s conditions were similar to the renter (leilending). He is sometimes called a Bygslingshusmann. If the cotter worked on the landlord’s farm, he would be paid for this work. This kind of agreements were often found in areas where the cotter had the possibility to earn some money on the side; ie, from or fishing, mining or forestry. Also, a cotter who performed a handcraft; ie, tailoring, shoemaking etc. could pay rent for his cotter’s place.

**Rent paid in natural goods.** This is similar to the conditions of the sharecropper.

**Have the needed seasonal help at hand** not having to pay for year-round employed farm hands. Many cotter's agreements stated that the cotter work a defined number of days at certain times of the year. Sometimes the cotter's children were required to shepherd the landlord's animals while they grazed in the forests/mountains.

**Have more of the land cleared and farmed (rydningshusmann).** Some husmenn rented a piece of land that had not previously been cleared. Their first task would be to clear the land and build houses. Most of the agreements stated that the land would go back to the farm when the cotter died. This would slowly increase the cultivated land of the farm. There were also landlords who accepted that the lease of the cotter's place where handed down to the oldest son of the cotter.

### The Cotter's contract

Prior to 1750 the cotters had very little protection in the laws. In 1750 regulations were put in place. These stated that the agreement had to be written. The regulations stated that as long as the cotter fulfilled the terms, the contract was valid in the cotter's lifetime. Regulations were amended several times ([Lokalhistoriewiki](#)). The cotters agreements differed a lot.

### Here are some of the most common terms that was defined in these contracts.

- A description of the land (Cotter's place) with boundaries.
- A statement about the cotter's duty to maintain the houses on the cotter's place.
- Which and how much of the farms resources the cotter were allowed to use, e.g. wood for building materials and firewood.
- Grazing of the cotter's animals on the farm's outfield.
- How the rent is paid. In work on the farm, in natural goods or in money (or a combination).

Hopefully this little presentation has helped you get an understanding of the "Husmann's" condition. Like I have pointed out, their lives varied and it is hard to tell exactly how the life of your ancestor was.

### And... who are these Vikings?



## Velkommen! New Members to our Hedmark Lag

New Member / date	Residence & Hedmark area
Lil Andersson	Gusselby Sweden
10/20/2018	
Audi Barstad & Halvor Mykelby	Jømme, Norway
10/20/2018	
Kjell and Solveig Barstad	Elverum, Norway
10/20/2018	Folldal
Karen Greenfield Everett	Cheyenne, WY
7/21/2018	Trysil
Sandy and Darrell Johnson	Long Lake, MN
6/8/2018	Elverum, Nes
Michael & Elaine Johnson	Sacred Heart, MN
9/10/2018	Trysil
Irene Kalrasten	Biri, Norway
10/20/2018	Folldal
Madelyn Krinke	Elk River, MN
6/17/2018	Ringsaker, Stange
Ken & Gloria Lundblad	Alexandria, MN
7/25/2018	Trysil
Paul McHugh	Minneapolis, MN
10/29/2018	Furnes, Romedal, Vang
Debra Lee Pritchard	Minneapolis, MN
2/17/2018	Nes
Arlis Schmidt	Horseshoe Bay, TX
6/25/2018	Elverum
Patricia (Sherwin) Skaiem	Mahtomedi, MN
2/26/2018	Ringsaker
Janet & Len Upchurch	Dewey, AZ
2/13/2018	Furnes



## Counties will be forced to merge

The conservative Norwegian government's highly controversial regional reform program has been salvaged by the small Christian Democrats party. The Christian Democrats' decision on Friday to support county mergers, including one between Finnmark and Troms, now gives the minority government enough votes in Parliament to continue to force the counties to team up. The road to reforms has been long and troublesome in Finnmark. Local residents suffered a major defeat on Monday when political compromise in Oslo means they'll now be forced to **merge with neighboring Troms County**.

"This is the most important reform and the biggest boost for outlying districts in modern times," Kjell Ingolf Ropstad, deputy leader of the Christian Democrats, claimed at a press conference Monday afternoon. He and the three government party officials present all claimed that the reform would "move power out of Oslo to the areas where people live."

Power will be transferred, he stressed, from the state to Norway's 11 new counties, down from today's 19. The new, bigger counties will also assume responsibility by January 1, 2020 for a wide range of new functions currently handled by the state. The state government will unveil exactly which functions will be transferred next month.

The three parties making up Norway's minority conservative coalition were jubilant. The Liberals called it a reform that will boost local democracy, while the Progress Party hailed the mergers as a means of "decentralizing" and making delivery of services more efficient. The Conservatives, who've been leading the reform effort, were mostly relieved that it now has the authority, thanks to the Christian, to carry out an important part of its reform program.

Plans to have "fewer and stronger" counties can now proceed, after [Finnmark's massive resistance to a forced merger with Troms](#) threatened to derail the reform program nationwide. The merger of Norway's two most northern counties, with the smallest population spread over the biggest geographical area, was hotly contested in Finnmark, where [more than 80 percent of the local population voted against it in a referendum last spring](#). They fear a loss of identity and that decisions in their case will now not be made in Finnmark's own towns like Vadsø and Alta, but far to the west in Tromsø.

The Finnmark and Troms merger process thus [stalled](#), leading three counties in Norway's far more populous southern region to question why they should be forced to merge. There's also been strong resistance to the merger of Akershus, Buskerud and Østfold into one large new county called *Viken*, which will cover a large area from the mountains to coastal areas along the fjord with around 1.2 million people. The state officials claim it's all part of decentralization, while those forced to merge view it quite differently. In the case of Viken, for example, the new merged county's administration is likely to be placed in Sandvika, just outside Oslo itself. Norway in general also has a [long history of resisting threats to local identity](#).

The Center Party, which usually promotes decentralization and the transfer of more power and resources to outlying areas, claims the regional reform is "the biggest centralization measure we've ever seen in Norway." Center Party leader Trygve Slagsvold Vedum has backed Finnmark's efforts to resist its forced merger with Troms. He also supported the uproar in other counties. Only the two Trøndelag counties, North- and South, have so far merged relatively peacefully.

"The government and the Christian Democrats have decided to not care about the people's opposition to this," Vedum said on Monday. "They're ignoring the the referendum (in Finnmark). The people have been overlooked and mowed over." He further claimed that the government and the Christian Democrats were showing "an enormous arrogance."

Now the rebellions in both Finnmark and the Viken counties seems to have been halted, however, with the Christian Democrats' decision to back the three government parties. Its youth group also voted over the weekend to encourage the Christian Democrats to simply join Prime Minister Erna Solberg's government, and give it an internally negotiated majority on most all issues.

Monica Mæland, the embattled Conservatives minister in charge of carrying out the mergers, claimed they must now all move forward, with the new counties in place by January 1, 2020. If Finnmark continues to refuse to participate, Mæland will appoint people who will.

---

## Norwegian Lag Week March 3 - 9, 2019 Salt Lake City, Utah

Norwegian Lag Week is a time when persons interested in Norwegian genealogy meet together in Salt Lake City at the Family History Library to research and learn together. We work diligently to plan some special classes about Norwegian research and new developments to help with our research. There is time available for research and also time to learn together. Sunday evening our group gathers at the hotel to get acquainted so we can help each other at the library to make the experience more meaningful.

This will be our 14th annual Norwegian Lag Week. There were two lag weeks prior to this that were both exploratory and a pilot for this annual event. We have been fortunate to work with two organizations in planning our week. One is the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad (umbrella organization for the bygdela) and Family Search (related to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City). Our event could not be planned without them. Information about our event is posted on the Fellesraad website [www.fellesraad.org](http://www.fellesraad.org). Various bygdela publish information in their newsletters. Family Search is our key help for organizing the activities in Salt Lake City.

Official days of the Norwegian Lag Week are Sunday, March 3 to March 9, 2019. Lag week follows a major genealogy/technology conference called Roots Tech. Hotel we selected is the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel which is next door to the library. A block of rooms is available by contacting Rich Williams at 801-606-2410. You must work directly with him. Room rates for the Norwegian Lag week are (\$92.00-\$102.00) plus tax for a single or double room. This block of rooms and special rate are available until February 4, 2019. If rooms are available after that they will honor our rate for the days relating to the Norwegian Lag Week March 3-9, 2019. Cost for the week will be your transportation, hotel room and food. The Family History Library and Family Search Center are open to the public at no charge.

For information about the Roots Tech Conference which is from February 27 to March 2, 2018, please go to their web page for further information. It has a separate registration fee. There are many hotels in the area and they have special Roots Tech conference rates. It is a huge conference so hotels fill up fast.

If you are planning to attend the Norwegian Lag Week, please let us know as it helps with planning our events. Direct questions and whether you will be attending the Salt Lake City, Norwegian Lag Week to Marilyn Sorensen, e-mail to [rddlagen@usfamily.net](mailto:rddlagen@usfamily.net) or Ginny Wegenast at [vjwegenast@comcast.net](mailto:vjwegenast@comcast.net). We need to know for space planning purposes.

Our facebook group is managed by Steve Hall (shall3307@gmail.com). The title is Norwegian SLC Annual Lag Week Group and the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245268492220695>. You may post photos, files, events, successes and goals.

## NHOH members at the Tre-Lag in Austin this year

One  
Photo  
divided  
so you  
can see  
it better.

This is  
the Left  
side



Back: Bud Helstad, Ron Helstad, Marj Provo, Vicky Finstad, Gary Romsaas, Dave Nordhogen, Pat Skaiem, Debra Lee Pritchard  
Middle: Ann Helstad, Chuck Laehn, Lois Laehn, Barb Lewison, Julie Glowka, Lila Burmeister, Gilmore Sem, John Haugen Williams  
Front: John Reindl, John A. Pederson, Elaine Domier, Ken Domier, Linda Lowry, Norma Kjenstad Barnes



Back: Ken Lundblad, Gloria Lundblad, Gary Olson, Dave Kearin, Gary Flatgard, Dennis Johnson, Jeri Johnson  
Middle: Don Teigen, Martha Swetka, Chris Falteisek, Karen Mullen, Gay Kearin, Raymond Olson  
Front: Dixie Hansen, Joy Shong, Sheryl Lane, Sandra Harvey, Marilyn Sorensen, Sylvia Falteisek



## 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 2019-2020 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 2019
- Have been accepted by a technical school, a four-year college, or a university for the 2019–2020 academic year
- Submit an application form (see below) with all the required information and mail it to

#### **NHOH Scholarship Committee by June 21, 2019**

- All applications will be reviewed by the NHOH Board and the successful candidate will be notified by July 1, 2019.

### 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 2019: \_\_\_\_\_

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 2019
- 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**

# Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, Editor  
215 Juniper Ln., Holmen, WI 54636



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

Dues for Individuals/Couples: ☐ 1 year (\$10) ☐ 2 years (\$18) ☐ 3 years (\$25) **Total Dues** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genealogy Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

NHOH is an IRS 501(c)(3) educational tax-exempt non-profit organization

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_