# NHOH News

Volume 26 Number 1

February, 2020

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



#### Fra Presidenten

One of the primary purposes of this lag is to help members who are researching their ancestors who came from Hedmark. To provide this service we have been fortunate to have people with an interest and knowledge in how

to do research who volunteered to serve as our genealogists. John Reindl was our long-time genealogist from 1997 to 2019, and, after John's death, David Lohman volunteered to take over last summer. Unfortunately, David has had to step back from the genealogist role for now. This leaves us without a designated genealogist.

According to documents from the founding of the lag, help with genealogy was initially offered to members through a committee. John Reindl, as lag genealogist, coordinated the committee made up of members who all offered to assist other members doing research. Each of these volunteers had areas of expertise, such as kommune or parishes where their ancestors came from, and which they felt comfortable assisting with. Requests could be made to the genealogist and then passed on to other team members.

- Genealogist position is open Please consider volunteering Joy Shong 262-490-0180 or nhohpres@gmail.com)
- For now, genealogy requests made from the link on our web site will go to three members of the board.
- Feel free to contact any board member if you do not use the web page. (listed in the newsletter)
- If you have bygdeboks and are willing to look for specific people or farms for others, please let me know.
- Stevne Assistance: We may need help at the stevne to staff the NHOH area of the genealogy lab. If you plan to attend the stevne and could sit in the lab for an hour or two to direct people, please let me know.

 CONTACT: Joy Shong 262-490-0180 or <a href="mailto:nhohpres@gmail.com">nhohpres@gmail.com</a>

For the genealogist to assist members, the lag developed a library of bygdeboks and other materials from most of the areas in Northern Hedmark to use for immediate reference. In addition, John Reindl, in his will, left his personal Norwegian reference collection to the lag to expand the NHOH library collection. His books were received and inventoried in February, bringing our collection to more than 250 resources.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for John Reindl is being planned by his family for some time in the spring in Madison, Wisconsin. An email will be sent to NHOH members when the date, time and place are known.

Hilsen fra Joy Shong

#### What's Inside?

- 1. 2020 Stevne Info / and Pres. Letter
- Who Are We? Lag Officers & Directors, Web Site, Renewal Info
- 3. NHOH Book orders/ Treas. Report
- In Memorium Arlene Olson; Lag Documents; Norway House Events
- New Members; 2020 Stevne Information, Tour Cancellation
- 6. Volunteer Opportunity; Tips for Downsizing
- 7. Mystery of Stave Churches
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- 9. Mystery of Stave Churches cont.
- 10. Norway's New Counties
- 11. NHOH Scholarship Program and Application
- 12. Membership Application/mailer

#### 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 2: District 1: Nord-Østerdal: Sør-Østerdal: Alvdal Åmot Folldal Elverum Os Engerdal Rendalen Stor Elvedal Trysil Tolga Tynset District 3: Follda Hedemarken. Alvdal and Hamar Rendalen **Furnes** KON-ENdal Hamar Løten Trysil Åmot Nes Ringsaker Romedal Elverum Stange Vang

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 Shongpres@nhohlag.org Vice-Pres.:Chris Falteisekchrisfalteisek@gmail.com
Secretary: Jeri Johnsonjerijon@aol.com
Treasurer: Ron Helstadronh@eacpas.net
Membership: Dixie Hansendx@dxhansen.com
Director: Position Open
Director: Gary.Flatgardflatgardmn@aol.com
Director: Shirley Lokstad SchoenfeldSASLAX@aol.com
Past-President: Dixie Hansendx@dxhansen.com
Tact Tree action Divisor Transcention
Editor: Julie Anderson Glowkajulieg0503@gmail.com

#### NHOH WEB SITE

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.

### 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 Julie Glowka by e-mail JulieG0503@gmail.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.

#### **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.

#### FREE "Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken – Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005" FREE

Anyone interested in copies of the book can have them for the cost of postage. Future new members will be sent a copy of the book until the remaining supply runs out.

NHOH Book Order Form: Quantity	\$3.00 shipping per book	
Name		
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Email	Phone	

Make check payable to NHOH

Mail to: Send to Joy Shong, 523 S. Concord Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066



#### Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005

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.



### Join our Facebook Page

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag is a nonprofit educational organization whose members share an interest in and/or have ancestry in the North Hedmark and Hedemarken areas of Norway. **We welcome those who are interested** (even if you do not belong to our organization) to **join our Facebook page**.

New Facebook page joiners must request to join on their own (we don't accept members added by others) and new joiners must briefly answer the "why do you wish to join" security questions.

NHOH Lag has a website at <a href="www.nhohlag.org">www.nhohlag.org</a> with information on how you can become a full-fledged member of our organization. NHOH Lag members benefit from expert genealogy research assistance, are invited to participate in our annual 3-day conference, and receive our newsletter 3 times a year.

### NHOH Treasurer's Report as of February 15, 2020

Balance in Checking 2/15/2020 \$2,364.98

Balance in Savings 2/15/2020 \$4,294.34

Balance, Checking & Savings \$6,659.32

Ron Helstad, Treasurer

#### In Memorium

#### Arlene N. Olson



Age 89 of Coon Rapids. Preceded in death by her husband Leonard; parents Nels and Elsie Bredeson; brother Donald Bredeson; son-in-law, Jeffrey Little. Survived by children Linda (Merlin) Stier. Sandra

(Mark) Harvey, Sheryl (Timothy) Lehn, Richard (Wendy) Olson, Darrell (Debra) Olson and Denise (David) Klingbeil; 17 grandchildren; 35 great grandchildren; sisters Lucille Navarro and Norine (Vern) Kramer; nieces and nephews. Funeral services Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 12:30 PM at Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 4th Ave. S., Anoka. Interment Morningside Memorial Gardens, Coon Rapids. Visitation Friday 5:00-8:00 PM at Thurston-Lindberg Funeral Home, 2005 Branch Ave., Anoka and also one hour prior to services at the church. Memorials preferred. Thurston-Lindberg Funeral Home Anoka 763-421-0220

### NHOH Lag Documents to be Archived at NAHA

The lag's business and historical records, beginning in 2019, will be archived at the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA).

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to see that relevant documents and reference materials are maintained and preserved for future members and to continue recording the history of the lag.

The NHOH Lag has two categories of materials which require preservation:

- Lag business records: Governing documents including bylaws, agendas and minutes from meetings, financial records, and other documents and photos that record the history of the lag such as stevne programs.
- Reference materials: bygdeboker, books, pamphlets, maps, and other materials used for genealogical research, or related to the history and culture of the Hedmark Fylke of Norway.

Physical copies of lag business records and other items of historical importance to the lag will be donated to the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) for long term retention. Everything from the formation of the lag in 1996 through last year's stevne have been delivered to NAHA. Digital copies of documents will be stored in the "cloud", on the lag's website, and any other electronic repositories deemed appropriate by the NHOH Board of Directors.

Reference materials will continue to be maintained by the lag genealogist.



#### **Coming Events**

**Oleana,** leader in the long and rich history of Norwegian wool textile production and patterned knitwear will have a **Pop-Up Store**:

March 17 10:00 am to 4:00 pm April 11 11:00 am to 2:00 pm May 17 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

#### In the Gallery:

John Kaul, Portraits May 15 – June 14

may to built it

**Baldishol,** A Medieval Norwegian Tapestry Inspires Contemporary Textiles June 27 – August 30

New Nordic Cuisine September 12 – November 8

**Gingerbread Wonderland** November 21 – January 3

Visit their website for more details: www.norwayhouse.org

#### **Welcome New Members**

#### **NHOH Ancestors from:**

Don Bailey, Shellsburg, IA	Tolga and Os
Sally Hoffman, Fort Collins, CO	Ringsaker
Kathryn (Backe) Trill, Edina, MN	Åmot
Sheila Thayer, Seattle, WA	Hamar, Stang and possibly Vang
Morten Undseth, Asker, Norway	Ytre Rendal

2020 Tre-Lag Stevne
August 5-8, 2020
Middleton, Wisconsin
At the Madison Mariott West

1313 John Q Hammons Dr. Madison, WI 53562, Phone: 608-831-2000

#### Hardanger Klubb Returning to Stevne

For those of you Hardanger needlework fans who will be attending the stevne in Madison, WI in August, plan to participate in the Hardanger Klubb hosted by Ginny Nelson. For many years Ginny taught beginners and advanced sewers at our stevner when she attended with husband Gene. She lives in Madison and is looking forward to sharing her skills and knowledge with old friends and those who want to get started learning Hardanger embroidery.

### Watch for more Stevne information in our June newsletter!!

#### **NHOH Tour Cancellation Update**

Unfortunately, the tour to Norway we hoped to sponsor in 2020 had to be cancelled because too few people registered to make it economical. Thank you to Gary Flatgard and Barb Lewison for all their efforts to put together the itinerary and work with the tour agency.

For those who are still interested in visiting Norway there are many options for making travel plans on your own or traveling with a tour group. Here are a few suggestions:

- Trollhaugen Tours, the company we worked with for our group also does totally independent travel planning. Magne Hatlevik is from Norway so has a native's knowledge of the how and where to travel. They can be contacted at tours@trollhaugentours.com.
- Other lags offer tours which are open to nonmembers. Check the Gudbrandsdal and Tronderlag web pages periodically to see what they have to offer.
- Norwegian/American Organizations, such as Vesterheim Museum & Heritage Center (Vesterheim.org) also periodically sponsor tours.
- Many travel agencies with Norwegian tours can be located online by doing a Google search of "tours of Norway". To see where a company operates from, look for the "About" tab on their web page. Brekke Tours, owned by NHOH member Char Brekke, is one that has specialized in Norwegian tours since 1959. Besides regular group tours they can also help the independent traveler.
- Additionally, some organizations in Norway are willing to help people when they come to Norway. For example, when our tour was being promoted the lag received an invitation from the Nes and Helgøya historielag to meet us and take us to see sights in the area. (If anyone is interested in visiting this area, please contact Joy Shong at nhohpres@gmail.com and I will send you the contact information.)

## Please consider volunteering to fill the vacant director position until the next stevne

Mail Joy Shong at 523 S. Concord Rd. Oconomowoc, WI 53066, or email <a href="mailto:nhohpres@gmail.com">nhohpres@gmail.com</a> or call 262-567-9263.

### Decisions and Tips in Downsizing by Joy Shong

Since retiring last May I have been trying to create order out of the chaos in my basement and other storage areas. It is easy to let things pile up when there isn't much free time to think about what is worth keeping and how it should be organized. Poking in nooks, crannies and various boxes I have unearthed a treasure trove of family artifacts, letters and documents. My mother and I both had the bad habit of becoming emotionally attached to objects that either belonged to beloved family members or that reminded us of pleasant experiences. Some items have special significance. I would like to see those items kept in the family or donated to a museum rather than be put in the landfill. I know it isn't possible to keep everything, and that some people won't feel the same nostalgia for the objects that I do. To make it easier for my daughter and her children to deal with my 'treasures' they need to know why I hold them dear, or I need to donate the items myself.

At the last stevne I gave a presentation on telling your family's stories. When putting together the presentation I thought about how objects are part of our stories and included a section in my presentation. Photos tell a visual story which is greatly enhanced if they are labeled. The same goes for objects tucked away in closets or sitting on shelves that came from an ancestor. For example, the bent wood tine (box) my great grandmother brought with her from Norway in the 1800's sits on an end table in my living room. No one but me knows what it is called and who it belonged to, so it's up to me to share that information with my family if I want them to care about it.



First, I need to talk to them about the box. Then I need to treat it like a museum piece and put a written explanation with the box. Putting a 3x5 card inside saying Ragnhild Jørgensdtr Ryhaug Hogenson brought it to Wisconsin in 1877 to carry food for the voyage, and that it was used for many years as a sewing box, is a simple way to remind them that this is a family heirloom. Doing this both tells a family story and lets my family know my wishes. It just takes a little time.

Another tip for dealing with downsizing and reducing clutter is to take photos of objects. Many times, we keep items because they trigger a memory of a person, place or event. I stumbled on the concept of photographing items when I cleaned out my parent's condo. I took pictures of the items to use as an inventory of what we sold or donated. I started doing the same thing when donating my own stuff to Goodwill to keep a record when figuring the tax donation value. I realized that seeing the photos brought back memories without needing to have the actual item. I can now get rid of more items that I have emotional attachments to by taking a photo and letting it go.

Scanning documents serves the same purpose. All the research notes and copies made from books can be scanned and saved to a computer. The paper can be put in recycling and the scanned images organized in folders in the computer and linked or attached to people in your genealogy software. There will always be original documents, like naturalization papers, you will want to keep. These should also be scanned. The ultimate goal is to reduce paper and organize what is really valuable to you.

### The mystery of stave churches

#### Seeing inside makes all the difference

Eric Stavney - Mukilteo, Wash.

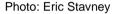
The Norwegian American Published October 29, 2019

As my daughter and I put the spire on the top roof of our second cardboard stave church, a 1/87 scale model (for model train layouts) you can buy on eBay, we had the same let-down as when we finished the first one: all the cool stuff gets buried inside. The V-shaped trusses, the carved Saint Andrew's crosses, the stave columns rising up from the flagstones to define the midtrom or nave—you get to see all that as you build it, only to cover it up in darkness by piling on a succession of roofs.

We got so frustrated after one model, we even cut away one side so we could peek at the construction inside—like a doll's house.



Indeed, the real charm and mystery of a real stave church is the dark interior.



### Gol Stave Church seen from the outside as it appears today.

I recently visited the Gol Stave Church in the Norsk Folkemuseum of Oslo. Gol Stave Church is a curiosity, because it was moved there from Hallingdal, and so lacks that sense of place where it was originally built. But I am thankful to King Oscar II for moving it to what became the Norsk Folkemuseum in Oslo, because now it is easily accessible to visitors like me.

However, I've had the Borgund Stave Church stuck in my head since I last was in Norway, because it's one of the most spectacular and best preserved. Once you've experienced that one, it almost spoils your visits to other churches.

Nonetheless, the Gol church does offer the senses some of the most important elements of a stave church: a dark, unheated interior, a unique smell, ornate carvings, and at least one painting. It's impossibly old, built sometime in the 1200s (Borgund dates back to about the same time).

Photo: Eric Stavney

Photo: Eric Stavney

The nave carving inside the Gol church.



When I stepped over the front portal of the Gol church, I was plunged into darkness: a single lit candle on the altar was the only real source of light. The floorboards are slightly springy underfoot. The museum has put a shallow bench on either side of the nave aisle for weary tourists, but I prefer to stand, as congregations did in stave churches for at least 400 years, before pews became fashionable.

And then I looked up or tried to. As my eyes get used to the dark, it seems the ceiling is far, far above, framed in ever-smaller rectangles of cross beams and arches of dark wood. Is there something up there? It's hard to tell. The smell of the pine tar used to preserve the wood conjures up a smoky fire surrounded by mysterious hooded figures. On the outer posts, the tar has formed bubbles or blisters like charred wood. I've read that they extracted pine tar from wood smoldering in pit-kilns covered with turf to limit the availability of oxygen. The tar is a key element in preserving the church exterior from the weather.

At the door, my eyes get lost trying to follow the interwoven rings and serpents and figures—some I can't really see too well. It's bizarre to imagine this as a Christian "house of God" with the many Viking animal and serpent motifs, including the dragons on the roofs outside.

I've wondered why the carvings seem somehow Celtic, so reminiscent of the illuminated Book of Kells. The Book of Kells originated in Ireland or Scotland sometime in the early 800s. It isn't hard to imagine that the Vikings who raided in the 900s took home pieces of art like that found in the Book of Kells and that the artistic style influenced these amazing carvings.

In the Gol church, there's a faded painting of the Last Supper over the altar, as if to remind parishioners why they were there. They stood in this church, on these planks, in all seasons for Sunday services, and for innumerable weddings,

baptisms, funerals, and confirmations through 700 - 800 years of history. They witnessed the conversion of their services from Catholicism to Lutheranism. Yet many of the rituals, like the changing of the seasons, remained the same: the reading from scriptures, the priest's or pastor's homily or sermon, the gathering of family, the cadence of weekly worship.

As I counted the staves surrounding the nave, I remembered that they're usually made of carefully selected Scotch pine, which is still very common in Norway today. Looking at the cross beams and timbers, it's hard to believe wooden pins with notched beams hold it all together, and that it's still standing after 820 years.

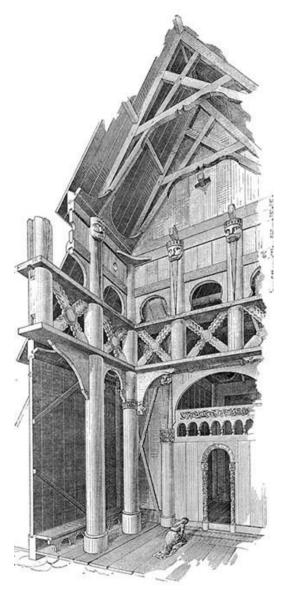


Image: Public domain / Wikipedia Commons

Line drawing of Gol Stave Church that appeared in the 14th edition in 1908 of the publication Grundriß der Kunstgeschichte (Floor Plan of Art History) by Wilhelm Lübke and Max Semrau. When someone finally led me out of the building, in a daze, I realized why I love stave churches so much. Despite having read books and articles on stave church construction, built models, painted pictures, and taken zillions of photos, I just can't leave one without feeling humbled and in awe.

I hope sometime you get a chance to visit one: there are several excellent replicas in the United States, in Norway, of course, and in Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and Poland.

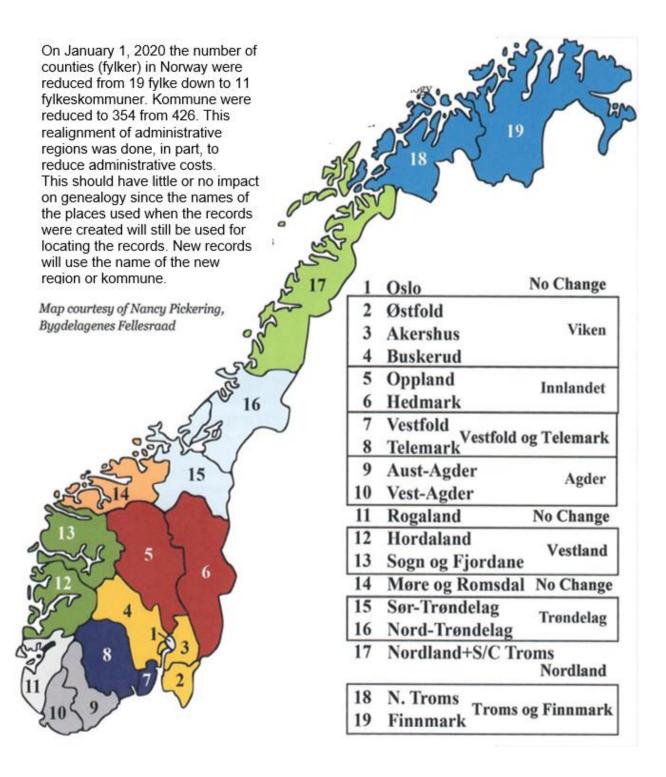
I don't think you'll be the same coming out as when you went in.





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### **Norway's New Counties**



#### 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

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 following 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 the current calendar year
- Have been accepted by a technical school, a four-year college, or a university for the academic year following graduation
- Submit an application form (see below) with all the required information and mail it to NHOH Scholarship Committee by June 19.
- All applications will be reviewed by the NHOH Board and the successful candidate will be notified by July 1st.

#### Norwegian Language, Culture, and History Scholarships

Scholarships, in the form of reimbursements, are available to members and to a member's extended family.

#### Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Scholarship Program Application Form

Name:			
Address:			
Phone:			
Are you a member of NHOH?	Yes	No	(Please check appropriate line)
If you are related to a lag member, p person:			name and explain your relationship to that
What is the name (title) of the class	you completed?	?	
Address of the school where the class	ss/course was t	aught?	
How many days or weeks did you at	tended this cou	rse/class?	
Expenses for the class/course (fees	and educationa	al material	s)?
Please state the amount of reimburs	ement you wou	ıld like to r	eceive.
Include a certificate-of-completion or class.	letter from you	ır instructo	r stating that you successfully completed the
Name of high school you will be grad	duating from in	the curren	t calendar year:
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: Julie Glowka, 2330 Hillside Ave. St. Paul, MN 55108

#### **FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

#### **Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News** Julie Anderson Glowka, Editor

Julie Anderson Glowka, Editor 2330 Hillside Ave. St, Paul, MN 55108







#### 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)
Amot 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!
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