

NHOH News

Volume 28 Number 2

June 2022

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



Fra Presidenten

Lag and stevne activity have returned to normal after two years of pandemic related changes to our normal schedules. The new normal for board meetings is now via Zoom. Your board members have embraced the technology because it eliminates travel

time and expense, it allows for members who live in distant places to participate and has made for more efficient meetings. Yes, we miss getting together in person, but the annual stevne will be the place where we can still meet face-to-face.

The Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee has done a great job combining ideas from all five lags to put together a schedule of activities with something for everyone. Though national inflation is high this year, we have lowered stevne prices from previous years. The estimated number of attendees due to the merger made it possible to create a budget that shares the costs with more registrants, making this year's prices quite affordable. The stevne is a good choice for a mini vacation. Check out the program information in this issue, especially the *New This Year* section. Fill in your registration form and make your hotel reservations now.

Even though we do not have a designated genealogist we will be having our core family research materials in the genealogy room at the stevne, and people will be available to assist with questions. We always bring the most used and potentially most generally useful resources to each Stevne but it is not practical for us to bring everything. The list of titles, which includes books we may borrow from the University of Wisconsin Library, is available on the NHOH Lag web page at

<http://nhohlag.org/home/genealogy/bygdeboker-repositories/> in the NHOH Genealogy Resources link. If you would like us to bring a specific item, we will do our best to accommodate your request. Please contact nhohpres@gmail.com before July 15 to make requests.

Hilsen fra
Joy Shong



Friluftsliv: "Fresh Air Life"
From Nordic Lands to North America

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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:

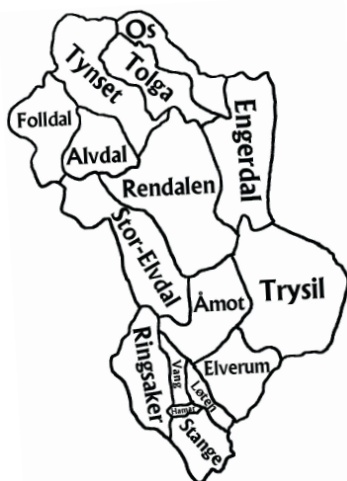
Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot
Elverum
Engerdal
Stor Elvedal
Trysil

District 3:

Hedemarken. And Hamar

Furnes
Hamar
Løten
Nes
Ringsaker
Romedal
Stange
Vang



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.

Membership

NHOH Lag members benefit from expert genealogy research assistance, receive our newsletter three times a year and are invited to participate in our annual 3-day conference.

Membership Renewal

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.

NHOH Website

The NHOH website can be found at: www.nhohlag.org with information on how you can become a full-fledged member of our organization.

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.

Join Our Facebook Page

Members and non-members alike are encouraged to join our Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Facebook page and participate in the discussion. We welcome those who have an interest in and/or have ancestry in the Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken areas of Norway. You don't have to be a NHOH lag member 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.

To find our page, type **Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag** in the Facebook Search box.



NHOH Board Members

President: Joy Shong
president@nhohlag.org

Director: Linda Domier Lowry
llowry1@cogeco.ca

Membership: Dixie Hansen
dx@dxhansen.com

Vice-President: Chris Falteisek
chrisfalteisek@gmail.com

Director: Debra Lee Pritchard
debralee320@aol.com

Genealogist: Position Open

Secretary: Jeri Johnson
jerijon@aol.com

Director: Gary Romsaas
gary.romsaas@pm.me

Webmaster: Dixie Hansen
dx@dxhansen.com

Treasurer: Julie Glowka
julieg0503@gmail.com

Past-President: Dixie Hansen
dx@dxhansen.com

Newsletter Editor: Julie Glowka
julieg0503@gmail.com

Lag Board News

Open Position

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? At this time the Genealogist position is open. While looking for someone to fill this position, Lag Board members have been teaming up to respond to questions. If you have some genealogy experience and would like to either join the team or become the lag's genealogist, please contact Joy Shong at President@nhohlag.org to get more information.

Lag Book Collection Update

Chris Falteisek, Dixie Hansen, and Joy Shong finally were able to get together to go through the library of materials accumulated by John Reindl while he was our genealogist and additional items donated by John in his will. We identified books useful in conducting genealogy research, serial, and other publications appropriate to donate to the Haugo Bibliotek at Norway House in Minneapolis. We also identified some histories and books that had little to no research value (novels, very old travel guides, etc.), and other miscellaneous items that could be discarded. Norway House will be contacted about titles we can donate for them to select what they will take. The reference materials we are keeping will be brought to the stevne for use in the genealogy room. The list of those books in being revised and will be posted on the www.NHOHLag.org web page.

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad 2022 Annual Meeting

The Bygdelagenes Fellesraad held its annual meeting via Zoom May 6-7. Gary Romsaas and Joy Shong represented the NHOH lag at the meeting of this lag of lags. Gracia Grindal gave a talk on "The History of Mindekirken & Role of the Fellesraad", Liv Birgit Christensen presented "Norwegian Emigration to New Zealand", Caitlin Sackrison's topic was "Norwegian Women Immigrants to Brown County, MN", and Amy Boxrud spoke on the "2025 Bi-Centennial plans and NAHA Update". During the business meeting, President Elaine Hasleton, summarized Fellesraad activities including the emphasis on the goals of keeping the lags going in the future. Note that lag collections can be housed at the Haugo Bibliotek, while lag foundation and history documents should be sent to the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA)

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.



**A people without the
knowledge of their origin,
culture and history is like
a tree without roots**

2022 Flere Lag Stevne

New this year...

Romerikeslag and Solørlag have joined Gudbrandsdalslag, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag and Trønderlag for the newly created Flere Lag Stevne.

Single Day Registration is now available for those who aren't able to attend the full Stevne.

Silent Auction

How it works

- Bring items of Scandinavian cultural interest to the Genealogy Lab to be auctioned off.
- Fill out a tag for each item and give the auction item a name, such as candle holder or rosemaled bowl, and provide a brief description.
- Proceeds from the sale of each item will go to the member's lag, so use the color coded tags for the lag you belong to. If you belong to more than one lag use the color coded tag for the lag that should receive the proceeds.
- Items can be paid for by cash or check only. After the auction, each lag will receive their proceeds from the Stevne Treasurer.

Join the fun, bring an item, buy an item or (better yet) do both.

Wednesday, Aug. 3rd

Genealogy Day

The Registration Desk opens at Noon and the Genealogy Lab opens at 1 pm. Take advantage of the resources that the lags provide and spend the afternoon doing some research on your family tree. 4 quick demo sessions (10 to 20 minutes each) will take place on each half hour beginning at 1:30. Topics include: Tour of Family Search's Research Wiki; SnagIt for screen grabs; WordMine; Norgeskart.

Attendees have the option of signing up for a light dinner to have onsite.



Thursday, Aug. 4th

The day starts with the opening ceremony and keynote speaker. Followed by the tour to Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove and Norsland Lefse in Rushford.

The evening concludes with a Nordic Music concert.

Friday, Aug, 5th

The vendors arrive with their goods for your shopping pleasure.

Don't forget to bring your Norwegian sweaters or bunads for the Banquet.

For more details see the full schedule and the registration form on the following pages.

Bring Scandinavian snacks for the Hospitality Room (Open Wednesday afternoon and evening; Thursday after the tour until 9:00 PM; Friday from 11:00 to 3:00; leftovers will be available after the banquet in the vendor area.)



Joy Shong performing the Dance of the 7 Norwegian Veils. You may get to see a repeat performance during the Nordic Music concert on Thursday evening.



Flere Lag Stevne Schedule

Rochester, Minnesota
(Schedule is tentative and subject to change)



Wednesday, 3 August 2022

Time	Event
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
1:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
1:30 PM - 4:45 PM	Genealogy Research Demos <i>(every hour on the half hour)</i>
2:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open
5:30 PM - 6:15 PM	Light Dinner Onsite <i>(elective, see registration form to reserve)</i>
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Seminar: Norse-American 2025 Bicentennial Plans and an update on the Norwegian American Historical Association – Amy Boxrud

Thursday, 4 August 2022

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM	Trønderlag Annual Business Meeting
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Registration Desk Open <i>(Registration will be closed during the tour)</i>
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Opening Ceremony
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Keynote: Friluftsliv: From Nordic Lands to North America – Jenna Coughlin
10:45 AM - 4:30 PM	Tour by Bus: With stops at Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove and Norsland Lefse in Rushford, lunch included
4:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open
4:45 PM - 6:00 PM	Registration Desk Open <i>(after the tour group returns)</i>
4:45 PM - 5:45 PM	Solørlag Annual Business Meeting <i>(after the tour group returns)</i>
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Romerikslag Annual Business Meeting
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	An Evening Concert of Nordic Music presented by the Flere Lag Stevne Musicians <i>(We invite you to join in: contact: chrisfalteisek@gmail.com)</i>

Friday AM, 5 August 2022

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM	Gudbrandsdalslaget Annual Business Meeting
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Vendor Displays Open
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Seminar A: Kubb – Dee Dee and Jason Halvorson
	Seminar B: Nordic Skiing and the American Birkebeiner – David Herbert
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Break – Visit Vendor Area
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Seminar A: Kubb – Dee Dee and Jason Halvorson
	Seminar B: Nordic Skiing and the American Birkebeiner – David Herbert
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Hospitality Area Open
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch <i>(on your own)</i>

Flere Lag Stevne Schedule

Friday PM, 5 August 2022

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Seminar A: Settlers of the Driftless Area – Bill Fried
	Seminar B: Genetic Genealogy – DNA and Norwegian Family History – Johnathan Storlie
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Break – Visit Hospitality Suite and Vendor Area
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Seminar A: Settlers of the Driftless Area – Bill Fried
	Seminar B: Genetic Genealogy – DNA and Norwegian Family History – Johnathan Storlie
5:15 PM - 6:05 PM	Social Hour with Cash Bar
5:15 PM - 5:25 PM	Group Photo: Gudbrandsdalslaget
5:25 PM - 5:35 PM	Group Photo: Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag
5:35 PM - 5:45 PM	Group Photo: Romerikslag
5:45 PM - 5:55 PM	Group Photo: Solørlag
5:55 PM - 6:05 PM	Group Photo: Trønderlag
6:15 PM - 8:45 PM	Stevne Banquet - Entertainment: The Luren Singers ; Bunad Parade

Saturday, 6 August 2022

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM	Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Annual Business Meeting
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Seminar A: Scandia Kicksled – A Norwegian Tradition for All Ages – Kristie Fingerson
10:25 AM - 11:25 AM	Seminar B: Sam Haugdahl: World Champion Butter Maker – Karen Humphrey

Empire Event Center / Best Western Hotel

The deadline for booking at the Flere Lag rate is 13 July 2022

The Stevne will be held at the Empire Event Center / Best Western Hotel at 1517 16th St SW in Rochester, Minnesota

To book a room, call the hotel direct at 1-507-289-8866 and ask for the Flere Lag Rate

The Flere Lag Stevne rate (for a single, double, or triple) is \$94/night plus tax (15.25%).

Parking is complimentary and Breakfast is included

Flere Lag Stevne has blocked rooms for the nights of

Tuesday, 2 August 2022 *(for those arriving a day early)*

Wednesday, 3 August 2022

Thursday, 4 August 2022

Friday, 5 August 2022 *(checking out on Saturday the 6th)*

See you there!



Flere Lag Stevne Registration

Empire Event Center & Best Western Hotel
Rochester, Minnesota
August 3 - 6, 2022



Stevne pre-registration requested by 21 July 2022

A joint Stevne for

Gudbrandsdalslaget, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, Romerikslag, Solørlag and Trønderlag

*Walk-in registrations are permitted if space is available. Reservations are required for tour and meals.
Participants must make hotel reservations independently (Book hotel by 13 July 2022 for the Flere Lag Rate).*

_____ First and Last Name (Registrant A)	_____ Nickname? (for nametag)
_____ First and Last Name (Registrant B)	_____ Nickname? (for nametag)
_____ Street Address	_____ E-Mail Address
_____ City, State, Zip	_____ Phone #

Flere Lag Stevne (August 3-6, 2022)

	\$ Each	# of Reg	Total \$
4-Day Stevne Registration (Wednesday through Saturday)	\$30.00	x	\$
<u>or</u> 1-Day only Stevne Registration (specify day): _____	\$15.00	x	\$
Wednesday Light Meal, 5:30 PM – (Sandwich or Salad – make selection below)	\$15.00	x	\$
Thursday Tour, 10:45 AM – 4:30 PM (includes bus, sandwich lunch, lefse wrap, entrance fees, and driver tip)	\$29.00	x	\$
Friday Evening Banquet (Walleye or Glazed Pork Chop – make selection below)	\$32.00	x	\$
	Total Enclosed		\$

Meal Choices (if meals were elected above)

Registrant A

Registrant B

Wednesday 5:30 PM Light Meal
(Sandwich or Salad)

Friday Banquet (Walleye or Pork Chop)

The Flere Lag Musical group jams and entertains at the Stevne. Would you like to participate? _____
for more information, contact Chris Falteisek at chrisfalteisek@gmail.com)

Make check payable to Flere Lag
and mail payment and registration to:
Attn: Dixie Hansen
Flere Lag Stevne Registration
1411 Osceola Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105-2312

To reserve a hotel room at the
Best Western Hotel
1517 16th St SW • Rochester, Minnesota
For Flere Lag Rate call: 1-507-289-8866
Flere Lag Rate for Single, Double or Triple: \$94/night + 15.25% tax
Cut-off date for booking at the Flere Lag Rate is 13 July 2022

Stevne Tour

This year the tour is scheduled for Thursday, August 4th with stops at Giants of the Earth Heritage Center and Norsland Lefse.

Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove

THE GIANTS OF THE EARTH HERITAGE CENTER, was originally incorporated in 2009 as a non-profit educational institution, dedicated to honoring, preserving, and interpreting the history and heritage of the people from Spring Grove's Norwegian Ridge in southeastern Minnesota. It is located in Spring Grove, which happens to have been Minnesota's first Norwegian settlement. Drawing on a rich cultural history, the Center records and reflects the achievements of indigenous peoples and immigrants to the Spring Grove area. The Center draws upon varied resources, while also providing a gathering place and a sense of community and identity to its public.



Their ancestry and heritage programs bring young and old together in lots of fun ways. Activities such as creating family trees and recording family stories build multigenerational bonds and understanding. These are two things that are often lacking in today's world. There are so many different ways to get started on your family's narrative, including DNA ancestry testing.

Norsland Lefse in Rushford

Norsland Lefse includes a coffee shop, bakery, gift shop and has been producing traditional lefse for nearly a quarter of a century. Their lefse is made with four ingredients – real potatoes, flour, salt and vegetable oil. No preservatives are used to ensure it tastes just like Grandma's!



What a treat to have lunch here.



Norwegian Recipes

Potato Lefse

Recipe provided by Anne Hillgren Haugan

Basic Recipe for 6 pieces of lefse:

2 C. mashed potatoes
2 T. butter
1 tsp. salt
1 T. whipping cream
1 ½ tsp. powdered sugar
¼ tsp. cardamom, if desired
¾ C. flour



Instructions: To make about two dozen lefse, peel, cook and mash 5# of Idaho white potatoes. Immediately, while warm, measure by cupfuls the amount of potatoes. For every eight cups of potatoes, and while mashed potatoes are still hot, add 8 T. (one stick) butter, 4 tsp. salt and ¼ C. whipping cream, 2 T. powdered sugar, and 1 tsp. cardamom, if desired. Mash until creamy and fluffy. (Reserve the flour for later). Refrigerate until cold!!

Work in small batches of two cups of cold potatoes at a time. Keep remaining potato mixture cool until needed. Sieve two cups of potatoes in a ricer; add ¾ cups. flour and mix thoroughly with your hands. Make into six balls. Roll each round out onto a pastry cloth. Bake on a hot grill (about 450 degrees Fahrenheit). Don't grill side one too long – just until bubbles begin to form (35-40 seconds); use lefse stick to flip it over while it still has most of the moisture in the dough. Bake second side until golden flecked, brown – spotted. Place lefse between a double layer of a dish towel and a small bath towel to cool and keep edges from getting crisp.

Serve buttered with sprinkled sugar or mixture of sugar and cinnamon, or plain.

Tools needed for lefse-making

Lefse baking grill (or regular fry pan or stove top grill)
Rolling Board and Pastry Cloth
Lefse Rolling Pin and a regular rolling pin
 Sleeve for rolling pin
Lefse Stick
Measuring cups – one cup and one-quarter cup
Measuring spoons
Potato masher
Ricer
Towels – dish towel and small bath towel

Hint – you can pick up all the tools you need for lefse making at Norsland Lefse when we are there on the tour.

Lefse (Instant Potato)

Recipe provided by Jean Knaack

1 lb. (9 cups) Instant Potatoes Flakes measured loosely (do not pound on table to level cup)
3 C. powdered milk
3 T. sugar
5 tsp. salt

Put the ingredients in a large bowl and mix with a spoon.

Heat 9 C. of water to boiling with 3 sticks of hard margarine until melted. Do not let boil, as this will decrease your moisture content. Pour liquid over dry ingredients. Mix with a spoon, then a mixer. Do not over mix, as it will cause the dough to become sticky.

Pour mixture into a 9 x 13 pan, spread out evenly, cover with a paper towel and put on the cover. If you do not have a cover for your 9 x 13 pan, you then must put a dampened paper towel over the mixture to prevent the top from forming a crust. Put in the refrigerator overnight. Divide pan into thirds. Mix one-third at a time with approximately 1½ cups flour using pastry blender. Finish with your hands and then form into a log about 2½ in. in diameter. This should yield you about 18 pieces. Cut the pieces and start rolling approximately four balls and refrigerate the rest. If they get too warm the dough becomes sticky and it will require more flour to roll and tends to stick to the pastry board. Be sure to use a pastry cloth and a stocking on the rolling pin.

Bake on a hot lefse grill at least 450 degrees Fahrenheit (500 degrees on some) for about two minutes or until bubbles and very light brown spots appear. Turn lefse with a lefse stick and bake on the other side. Cool between cloths to steam in excess flour. Use a damp towel on top of the stack. Once very cool, fold in half or quarters and store in plastic bags. Double bag while freezing for best results. This recipe freezes well.

To serve, spread with butter and sprinkle with brown or white sugar. Roll up and eat. Makes 54 small lefse.

Only in Minnesota....

For those who don't cook and just want to treat yourselves to lefse, there are plenty of places to pick some up, including the Drive Thru



Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share or are you looking for a recipe? We would love to include those in a future newsletter. Contact Julie Glowka at julieg0503@gmail.com.

Stevne Fun

Photos from past Stevnes...



Welcome New Members

NHOH Ancestors from:

Pat Tvinnereim - Lake Preston SD	Trysil and Nes
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NHOH Newsletter

The newsletter is published three times each year – Winter, Summer and Fall

Members are encouraged to submit 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 your contributions to the Newsletter Editor: Julie Glowka: julieg0503@gmail.com

Policy on advertising in the 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 TREASURER'S REPORT

April 30, 2022

CHECKING

BALANCE 12/31/2021	\$1,512.03
Income	\$2,547.03
TOTAL	<u>\$4,059.06</u>
Disbursements	
Total	<u>\$ 385.83</u>

BALANCE 4/30/22 **\$3,673.23**

SAVINGS

BALANCE 12/31/21	\$4,482.17
Income	<u>\$ 1.10</u>
BALANCE 4/30/22	<u>\$4,483.27</u>

BALANCE – CHECKING plus SAVINGS **\$8,156.50**

US Army's Viking Battalion in WWII

On 9 May 1942, the war department ordered that the army "take the necessary steps to organize at the earliest practicable date a battalion of Norwegian Nationals to serve as part of the US Army..."

Stranded Norwegian seamen who wanted to fight for Norway joined this battalion as did first or second-generation Norwegian immigrants, many of whom were from Minnesota and the Dakotas. This unit was formed to blend in with the Norwegian population and was required to speak Norwegian and preferably already know how to ski. On 15 August 1942, the 99th infantry Battalion (Separate) was activated at Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

"When I was drafted, they asked me if I knew any foreign languages. But I said no – because I never considered Norwegian a foreign language."

Marvin Skogrand

At Camp Ripley the unit had enhanced training and physical conditioning until a unseasonably early snowfall when the unit was moved to Fort Snelling. From there the Battalion moved to Camp Hale Colorado for specialized mountain training with the 10th Mountain Division. This training made them suitable for specialized mission which the average army unit wasn't capable of performing.



For nine months they went through this rigorous mountain training at 9,000 ft+ with 6 ft of snow on the ground. They trained three or four days a week. Aside from hiking, they trained with skis and three types of snowshoes for different conditions while carrying a pack that weighed 70 to 90 lbs. In the spring when the snow melted, they received rock climbing training.

In the spring of 1943, the feasibility of ground operations in Norway was reconsidered, and it was determined that large unit operations would not be productive. Ground troops, once deployed, could not be recovered. The Royal Air Force felt that it

could not carry out the missions with its bombers, and the Norwegian government worried that the damage caused would hurt the Norwegian people and economy far more than the German occupation.

The 1st Special Service Force therefore lost its Norwegian mission. As it had for other occupied countries, the OSS organized Operational Teams to infiltrate into Norway and conduct unconventional warfare operations. In June 1943 about one hundred volunteers were recruited from the 99th to form these OSS Teams.

Two months later the remainder of the 99th were ordered overseas. With its specialized training and separate status, the 99th could be deployed to assist and strengthen other units as well as solve problems.



The battalion participated in five battle campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. It had 101 days in combat, suffered the loss of 52 men killed, 207 men wounded, and 6 men missing. Fifteen unit members received the Silver Star, and 20 men were awarded the Bronze Star.

Eventually the Battalion was attached to the 474th Infantry Regiment and sent to Norway to disarm the German occupational force. The Battalion also contributed personnel to Operation RYPE (often referred to as NORSO), which was an airborne top secret commando mission into Northern Trøndelag towards the end of the war.

The 99th managed to maintain its Norwegian identity throughout the war. Their "working language" was Norwegian, and non-Norwegian replacements would learn this after their deployment. To date the 99th

Infantry Battalion (Separate) is the only unit of the United States Army with a pure Norwegian history. It's unique and an important part of the joint history of both Norway and the United States. Today it is not very well known, and most Americans as well as Norwegians are unaware of its significance.

On 3 June 1945 the 99th arrived in Norway. Some of the soldiers were home for the first time since the war started in 1940 and others were in the country their parents left many years before.

On the 7th June 1945, King Haakon VII returned to Norway after 5 years in exile. The 99th Battalion was given the duty to be Honor Guards upon the King's arrival. Soldiers of the 99th were lined up immediately in front of the King for his first speech to the Norwegian people, with the rest guarding the King's route on his way back to the Royal Castle.



The 99th Battalion was the last of the 474th Infantry Regiments to leave Norway on 17 October 1945. They arrived in Boston on 1 November 1945 where their World War II service came to an end.

To see more photos or find out more about the 99th Battalion visit: www.99thbattalion.org. If you're visiting Vesterheim in Decorah, Iowa you can view their 99th Battalion exhibit.



The return of the Norwegian royal family from exile in England. The 99th Battalion served as honor guard. June 7, 1945, Oslo. Vesterheim Archives, Gift of Thomas A. Skattum.

Besides a banner, this insigna was on the soldier's uniforms. It was said that the 99th had a "ship" on their shoulders.

The description on the bottom of the photo reads "The return of the Norwegian royal family from exile in England. The 99th Battalion served as honor guard. June 7, 1945, Oslo. Vesterheim Archives, Gift of Thomas Skattum

Photos of the Vesterheim exhibit taken in 2017 and provided by Julie Anderson Glowka

Compiled by Julie Anderson Glowka

Resources:

www.99battalion.org

Norwegian-Americans and the 99th Battalion (Separate), Military Historical Society of Minnesota by Maj Doug Bekke (RET)

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

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!

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 _____