

NHOH News

Volume 1 Number 4 Fall 1996

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

Who Are We?

NHOH Lag includes the following districts and kommuner in our bygdelag:

District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal

Folldal

Os

Rendalen

Tolga

Tynset

District 2:

Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot

Elverum

Engerdal

Stor Elvedal

Trysil

District 3:

Hedemarken &
Hamar:

Furnes

Hamar

Løten

Nes

Ringsaker

Romedal

Stange

Vang

Hilsen fra Presidenten

Kjære Venner,

As the end of our first full year of existence approaches, I'd like to reminisce a bit about what we have done.

Of course, the major highlight of the year was the successful La Crosse Stevne with the genealogy lab, craft exhibits, presentations, banquets, entertainment, and Norskedalen tour; with cousins meeting for the first time; and with the spirit of friendship, helpfulness, and camaraderie that prevailed.

It was a special joy to me to witness the hum of activity in the genealogy lab, with people anxiously searching for their roots by using the many microfilm records, the computers and the bygdeboker. Capable assistance was given by several willing workers under the leadership of John Reindl, Lag Genealogist.

Three excellent issues of NHOH NEWS were mailed this first year, with the summer issue reaching 400 households, libraries, and other recipients, ranging from Hawaii to Canada to Norway.

Lag membership reached 157 on October 31. We welcome you new members who have recently joined our Lag. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

The balance in the Lag treasury as of October 31 stands at \$2,235.

Among other things, attendees at the La Crosse Annual Business meeting approved a Lag constitution and a set of bylaws. These two documents, developed under the leadership of Orrin

Helstad, outline our purpose, provide guidelines for governance, and yet afford flexibility for programming to meet your interests.

At this point, I think you will agree that our Lag is moving along very well indeed. With your ongoing willingness to share your talents and time, we should continue to move successfully forward from here.

Hjertelig hilsen fra

Roland Krogstad

Address & Phone Updates

An up-to-date NHOH Lag Directory is in the making. As U.S. Postal Service processing becomes more computerized, the nine-digit ZIP code becomes more important. Thanks to Joe Waddell, many of your mailing labels now include the four digits following the five-digit ZIP code.

But if your address on this newsletter's mailing label has 0000 after your zip code, please send your complete ZIP-plus-four code to Roslyn Waddell, Treasurer. (see p. 4 for address)

Also, if your telephone area code has recently changed, please send the new area code to Roslyn.

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1996 Stevne - Genealogy Lab

1996 Stevne a Success

A total of 76 members and guests attended all or part of the 1996 Stevne at La Crosse, WI. All but two of the respondents on the stevne evaluation form indicated that their expectations were "well met" or "very well met."

Mange tusen takk! to all the players involved in the planning and the conducting of the stevne. These include:

- Planning Committee - Einar and Jane Olson (co-chairs), Roland Krogstad, Selma Nelson, Tom Olson, John Reindl, Shirley Schoenfeld, and Laura Sloan
- Presenters - Carol Hasvold, Kari Diesen-Dahl, Roland Krogstad, Frieda Nowland, and Merle Gregerson
- Genealogy Lab - John Reindl, Joe Waddell, Dixie Hansen, Ulrik Larsen, Betty Rockswold, and Marilyn Sorenson
- Entertainers - Norskedalen Trio, Tip and Eleanor Bagstad, Beatrice Olson, The Wergeland Dancers, and Gudrun Ringlien
- Craft Exhibitors - Paul Anderson, Ann Austin, Delilah Berger, Joyce Fulford, Deann and Lawrence Gjenvick, Hjordis Helgestad, Monroe Johnson, Evelyn Larson, Paul Romdahl, Don Dorvi, and Sue Sutherland
- Registration Table - Irma Krogstad
- Scandinavian Snacks - Evelyn Olson
- Bunad Parade - Jane Olson, Kari Diesen-Dahl, Shirley Schoenfeld, and 3 others

Needless to say, these people were willing to share their talents, time, and (in many cases) money in order to put on a successful stevne. Many thanks to you all for a JOB WELL DONE!

1996 Annual Business Meeting

Major actions taken at the NHOH Lag Second Annual Business Meeting were:

- Approval of the Constitution and Bylaws as presented by Orrin Helstad - these can be amended at any time as deemed necessary
- Re-election of the same Officers and Directors
- Approval of the minutes of the 1995 Annual Business Meeting
- Approval of the fiscal year 1995 Treasurer's Report (audited)
- Approval of the location for the 1997 Stevne as Eau Claire, WI
- Approval to purchase a Norwegian flag - a flag fund was started and about \$40 in contributions was received



1996 Stevne - Wergeland Dancers

1997 Stevne to be in Eau Claire

Our next stevne will be held August 1-2, 1997 in Eau Claire, WI at the Holiday Inn Downtown Convention Center.

A stevne planning committee has been formed and is already at work developing a program and seeking craft exhibitors, presenters, and entertainers, as well as identifying nearby places to go and things to do.

History will be one of the program topics, and, as a point of relevant interest, the Østerdals Lag met in Eau Claire in 1917. If you have information about the old Østerdals Lag, please let Roland Krogstad know.

As plans develop, we will give you more details in upcoming issues of NHOH News.

124-02

Genealogy Help Between Stevner

Under the capable leadership of John Reindl, Lag Genealogist, we now have genealogists for most of the 16 kommuner covered by our NHOH Lag. These volunteers stand ready with bygdeboker and other resources with which to help you. (See the list that follows.)

In addition, John Reindl has access to many resources, including computer data banks. Dee Grimsrud works in reference at the State Historical Society of WI and will check a limited number of requests in indexes for WI pre-1907 vital records, WI federal and state censuses, and other Wisconsin-related resources (especially for Dane, Columbia and Sauk Counties).

Roland Krogstad has about 40 maps of Norway (1:50,000 scale) to assist with locating specific farms. He also has files of the completed Cousin-Finding Worksheets that members have turned in. If you have not yet submitted your worksheet(s), or if you have corrections or additions to make to ones already in the file, please send these (or just a list of your ancestral farms and names of ancestors on each) to Roland. He will then compare your information to the worksheets currently held to see if you are related to anyone in the file.

Genealogists are encouraged to keep track of the assistance they perform during the year, for future reference and decision-making.

Genealogy Committee

Rune Alandar (Folldal, Dovre) ph:61-25-54-91
Øvre Dahl, N-2638, Fåberg, Norway

Audrey Amundson (Folldal) (715) 963-3078
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Rev. Don Wold (Stor-Elvdal) (218) 835-6275
Box 187, Blackduck, MN 56630

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Remember: if you send a request to any of these volunteers, it would be appreciated if you would include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE). It would also be considerate to offer to pay for copies, etc.

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Diskette Received from Furnes

Thor Bøhmer of Furnes Historielag sent a computer diskette to Roland Krogstad this summer, containing a document he had translated into English entitled "Some Local History from Hamar and Hedemarken" (18 pages). This was in response to our request for historical information about Hedmark. John Reindl printed out the diskette and the resulting document is very interesting. Hopefully it can be presented at a future stevne.

A big and most welcome surprise to Roland was a genealogical list of over 80 ancestors and relatives on his father's side, dating back to Ole på Møystad f. bruker 1612. Roland has since scanned phone books, sent four letters and received letters from two third-cousins-once-removed who live in Brummunddal and Gjøvik. From them he has learned that he has about 50 cousins living there. "A twenty-year dream has come true," he says. "This will lead to further communication and meeting with them."

Mange tusen takk to Thor Bøhmer for the many hours of work he undertook to produce and send a loaded diskette to America! The history will be of much interest to the members of NHOH Lag and the genealogical information forever cherished by the Krogstad family.

A Look to Our 1998 Stevne

At the 1996 Annual Business Meeting in La Crosse, the second most votes for future stevne locations included Rochester, MN. In keeping with the idea of changing the location of the annual stevne from year to year, and with possible difficulties in obtaining adequate facilities for our stevne, our President has exercised the prerogative of looking into Rochester as a potential site for the NHOH Lag Stevne in 1998. As information is received, it will be discussed by the Board, and a decision will be made as soon as possible. You will be apprised of these developments as they occur. Roland welcomes any suggestions or comments that you might have regarding Rochester, MN as the location of our 1998 Stevne.

Thank You Notes

Thanks from all of us to Joe Waddell for computerization of the mailing labels and to Dee Grimsrud for the final typing and layout of this issue of NHOH News. *Mange takk!!*

The 1999 Commemorative Stevne

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, with representatives from each bygdelag, is planning an all-lag stevne commemorating the 100th anniversary of the bygdelag movement. Immigrants and descendants from Valdres convened the first lag stevne in Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis on June 25, 1899.

Attending the Commemorative Stevne should be interesting, with information about the genesis of bygdelags as well as opportunities to meet Norwegian-Americans from other lags.

The planning committee is seeking suggestions for lag involvement in the festivities. We could hold our own 1999 Stevne somewhere in close proximity (50-100 miles) to the Commemorative Stevne at about the same time. We could do "our thing" for one or more days before or after the "big event" and those who wished would then be free to attend part or all of the anniversary celebration. (This might mean altering our traditional August meeting dates.) If this were the case, we would then be able to staff an information table promoting our own NHOH Lag. There are a number of possibilities and their consequences to explore. As we receive information, we'll pass it on to you for feedback to help us in making final decisions.

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Please send your ideas to our NHOH Lag representatives on the planning committee:

Dixie Hansen (below) or LaDonn Peterson
(4841 Orchid Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55446)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

NHOH Lag Officers/Directors

President	Roland Krogstad	(608) 238-6652
	2718 Regent St., Madison, WI 53705-3714	
Vice Pres.	John Reindl	(608) 238-0393
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	1411 Osceola Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105	
	Orrin Helstad	(608) 238-2400
	4134 Mandan Cres., Madison, WI 53711	



Betty Rockswold and Shirley Schoenfeld

Cousins First Meet at 1996 Stevne

Before the La Crosse Stevne, Cousin-Finding Worksheets from Betty Rockswold and Shirley Schoenfeld were compared and matched - with not one or two but *five* common ancestors!

Shirley explained in a 30 September letter: "I am Betty's 5th $\frac{1}{2}$ -cousin, once removed, (through) our common progenitor, Iver Ber-svendsen Kottet, born in 1703. From his first wife, Goro Mortensdtr. Rostad, born 1708, Betty descends. From his second wife, Goro Tollefsdtr. Often, born 1726, I descend."

"We are also related at least two other ways: (through) common progenitors Jon Jonson Gammelstumo (b. 1675) and Marit Eriksdtr. (d. 1775) - their daughter Anne is Betty's ancestor and their son Jon is mine - and through Morten Olleson Østby (1660) and Millie Jonsdtr. Jonstuen (1660) - their son Embret is Betty's ancestor and their son Ole is mine." The first relationship is 6th cousins, once removed, and the second is straight 6th cousins.

!! And More Cousins Found !!

Carolyn Howland wrote on 15 October 1996: "Thanks to the Cousin-Finding service of the Hedemarken Lag, my third cousin, Esther Ugstad, and I were able to become acquainted. Esther came from Mesa, AZ and I from Minneapolis, MN. We met at her daughter's home in Fergus Falls, MN on Labor Day weekend."

"We spent a wonderful day getting acquainted while pouring over family pictures and histories. Together we visited the farms where our ancestors homesteaded in 1869, when they were the first settlers in the Pelican Valley of Ottertail County, Minnesota."

"We each gained a lot of information from our visit and found more genealogical mysteries to be solved. Thank you and the Hedemarken Lag for bringing us together!"



Carolyn Howland and Esther Ugstad have common ancestors on the Hagastuen farm south of the Ringsaker Church

Seek and You May Find !

Seeking information on the ancestors and descendants of (1) Martha Christoffersdotter, who was living on the **Bakken** farm in 1859 per church records from **Elverum**, had daughter Andrine Pedersdotter born 21 Jun 1859, and (2) Ole Pederson, born 1802, and wife Anne Olsdotter, born 1804, had children Peder Olson (father to aforementioned Andrine) born 1833, Gunder born 1838, Oluf born 1841, and Martinius born 1835 and married Olea Torgalsdotter. In 1863 they all lived on the Skjefstadmoen farm. The brothers took the name Moe when they emigrated to the U.S. in the latter part of the 1800s.

Contact: Arlis Flaten Schmidt, 2022 Broken Oak, San Antonio, TX 78232

If you are looking for ancestors or descendants of Hedmark residents, please write up your query as above and send to Roland Krogstad.

Selected Excerpts from SNORRI -

Part 2

Compiled by Roland Krogstad. Permission from
J.M. Stenersens Forlag AS, Oslo, Norway

The purpose of Part 2 of this series (begun in our Spring 1996 issue) is to present selected excerpts from two sagas of SNORRI relating to the history of Heithmork (Hedmark) during the Viking Age.

The Saga of Halfdan the Black

This second saga of SNORRI enumerates the activities of ten kings, including two of Denmark. Halfdan the Black was eighteen years old when he succeeded to the kingship in Agthir in 839. He and King Olaf, his brother, were descendants of Halfdan Whiteleg.

King Halfdan defeated King Sigtrygg and King Eystein of Heithmork. King Eystein fled north to the Dales (Gudbrandsdal), where he reinforced his troops and in the winter made an incursion into Heithmork. He encountered Halfdan the Black on the large island in Lake Mjors (Mjøsa) formed by the river Glomma.

King Halfdan was victorious and King Eystein again fled to the Dales. He sent his kinsman to King Halfdan to seek a truce. Because of the kinship between them, Halfdan yielded half of Heithmork to King Eystein, such as had been the case before. But Halfdan conquered Thotn land (Toten) as well as Hathaland (Hadaland), much of western Norway.

King Halfdan the Black married Ragnhild, daughter of King Sigurth of Hringariki (Ringerike). They had a son, sprinkled him with water, and named him Harald. He was to become Harald Fairhair, king of all Norway.

King Halfdan the Black was entertained at a yuletide banquet in Hathaland, when suddenly all the food and ale mysteriously disappeared. The King remained sitting, but all others went to their homes. The King then rode away, and as it happened, his way lay over Lake Rond (Lake Ransfjorden). It was spring and the ice broke under him - he perished with many of his followers (in 860 at age 40).

There had been excellent seasons during his rule. His body was to be taken to Hringariki to be interred there. But men of influence from Raumariki (Rømerike), Westfold (Vestfold), and Heithmork came and prayed to take his body with them to be buried in their lands, for it was thought that he who got possession of it could expect good seasons, too.

They reached an agreement that parts of the body were assigned to four places in their homelands called the Mounds of Halfdan. The head was laid in a mound at Stein in Hringariki.

The Saga of King Harald Fairhair

Harald, son of Yngling Kinglet Halfdan the Black, was born circa 850-860. At the age of ten, Harald succeeded to the kingdom after his father died. The frontispiece of SNORRI depicts a pedigree chart of over thirty descendants of King Harald Fairhair.

King Harald, with Guthorm as commander of his army and with many chieftains, made incursions into the realm his father left behind. These included Heithmork, Hringariki, and Westfold. A meeting was arranged at Hringisakr (Ringsaker) in Heithmork. King Harald took possession of Hringariki, Heithmork, Guthbrands Dale, Hathaland, Thotn, Raumariki, and the entire northern part of Vingulmork (northwest of Oslo).

His armies continued advancing north over the Dofra (Dovre) Mountains to the Trondheim area. With ships they proceeded south, fighting many battles along the coast, subduing the Fjord District and sailing as far as Vik (Oslo Fjord).

About this time, they heard that King Eirik of Sweden also claimed parts of southern Norway to be his. Many of the inhabitants sided with him, and King Harald accused them of treason. King Harald's armies marched eastward through the Eith Forest to the Vermaland. He harried far and wide in Gautland and was usually victorious in the many battles.

Harald assigned Guthorm to defend the land while he went north to the Upplands for a while and then to Trondheim, where he stayed for a long time. Here he had children by Asa: Guthorm the oldest, twins Halfdan the Black and Halfdan the White, and Sigfroth (the fourth). They were brought up in Trondheim.

Rebellions developed in the south - King Harald was victorious (872) and King Eirik and others fell. As says Homklofi, no further resistance was made to King Harald in Norway, as all of his greatest antagonists had fallen.

Many of the nobility pledged allegiance to King Harald Fairhair, entered his service, and helped to build up the country for him. He had now become the sole ruler of Norway.

King Harald Fairhair had many wives and many children. With maiden Gytha, he had Alof, Hroerek, Sigtrygg, Frothi, and Thorgils. With Ragnhild the Powerful, daughter of King Eirik of Denmark, he had Eirik Bloodyaxe. With Swanhild, daughter of Earl Eystein, he had Olaf Geirstatha-elf, Bjorn, Ragner, and Rykkil. With Ashild, daughter of Hring Dagson of Hringariki, he had Dag, Hring, Guthorth, Skirja and Ingigerth. At age 70, he had a son Hakon with Thora Morstrsong (920). (continued on p. 8)

The Stave Church (Stavkirke)

adapted by David L. Hofstad from Norwegian Wood by Jerri Holan, Rizzoli Press, 1990

Christianity came to Norway in 995. Between 1030 and 1350, an estimated 750 to 1,200 wooden churches were built, of which about 30 remain. These stave churches were built using four corner staves, or pillars - hence the name stave church. These were mortised into foundation beams and bound together at the top with four more beams.

The earliest stave churches were almost square. However, over time they incorporated more pillars (staves), became higher with a series of roof offsets, and evolved a basilica-like floorplan. The walls were constructed of vertical planks standing on sills.

Staves were prepared by topping large fir trees, removing the outer sapwood on the remaining trunks and leaving them standing for five to eight years. This hardened the heartwood naturally and accounts for their remarkable endurance. Built with the ax, chisel, plane, auger, and knife, these wooden buildings have stood for 700 to 1,000 years.

Ornamentation of porches, columns, portals, etc. in the earliest examples (circa 1030) were of intertwined Viking gripping beasts. Later the dragon motif with vine-like tendrils was common. Romanesque influences in the columns and other structural elements are found from the 12th century on.

The stave church is an enduring reminder of the Norwegian's strong sense of building with wood and represents an important contribution to European architecture.

Norway-related E-mail Services

by John Reindl

For those of you with e-mail, there are several services that may be of interest to you.

NorWeaves is a party line of some 1,400 people from all over the world with interests in Norway (mostly in English), while *NorWaves* is a weekly news service (in English) of current events in Norway. To subscribe, leave the subject field blank and in the message field put "subscribe NorWeaves FirstName LastName" or "subscribe NorWaves FirstName LastName" (leaving off the quotes and substituting your own name) to: listserv@nki.no

Both systems have past messages in an archive. To learn how to retrieve them, send a message of "help" to the same address.

At Our Sæter

by Kirsti Valheim of Tynset
(now living in Raufoss)

I would like to tell you about a very old tradition from Tynset and most of the south part of Norway. In early summer the farmers used to bring their cattle up onto the mountain to keep them there until autumn, to take advantage of the grass growing on the mountain. The farmer built a simple cowhouse and a cottage for the dairy maid, where she could work and sleep. Such a cottage (usually built of timber) we call a *sæter*. Farmers who were neighbors in the lower levels often built their *sætters* side-by-side. Such groups of *sætters* we call *sætergrend*.

Our *sæter* is on the mountain north of Tynset about 15 kilometers. Every summer after we were born, we stayed on the *sæter*. We grew up there - we bathed and fished in a lake close by, we walked in the mountains, we played with the neighbor children. How we loved that life!

When I was about sixteen years old, my fourteen-year-old sister Gyda and I were proud dairy maids with full responsibility for everything on *sætra*. We had 18-20 cows, which we milked by hand. Two days a week came my father or someone else from the farm below and drove the milk pails to the dairy down in the district. (He used a horse and cart.) The other days we had to separate the milk by hand, of course - no electricity. We made butter from the cream and three different cheeses from the foamed milk.

The cows stayed in the cowhouse during the night after milking. In the morning we milked again and set them free. They went about on the mountain, eating and resting. They came back to the cowhouse in the afternoon to be milked. We worked hard, but we still had time for our neighbor friends.

Home on the farm they worked hard, too. They cut the grass, dried it, and put the hay into the barn, ready for next winter. Tractors came to Tynset first in 1950-60, so we had to use horses and carts before then.

Holy days were not invented at that time. I think the farm work in Tynset was by all means as it was when your ancestors lived here before they left for America in 1852. Now there is a motorcarway to all *sætters*. The farmer's wife uses her car up and down to *sætra* when she needs it. She has a gasoline motor for her milk machines and the milkcar fetches the milk daily.

But these old traditions are soon history, I am sorry to say. About three-fourths of the farmers have given up "sættring" and the cows are in their stalls always. I am sure the old cows often dream about the good old times on *sætra*.

King Harald Fairhair (continued from p. 6)

By the time he had taken over many surrounding lands, he had his hair cut and combed and was given the name King Harald Fairhair. When he was fifty years old (circa 900), many of his sons were full grown, some were dead, and some disagreed among themselves and committed violence.

King Harald called a great assembly in the eastern part of the country. There he bestowed the title of "King" on all of his sons and put in the laws that each of his descendants was to inherit a kingdom after his father. He partitioned the land between them, giving Heithmork and Guthbrands Dale to Dag, Hring, and Ragner. Other lands were given to the other sons. Still, many of the kings fought among themselves and wanted to be superior to the others. Eirik finally took over all.

When Harald was eighty years old (930), he became infirm, and he died in 933 in Rogaland. He was buried at Hauger by Karm Sound west of the church.

Later, the kingdom of King Harald Fairhair fell on evil days, since no one of his race was supreme king of Norway. The people of the

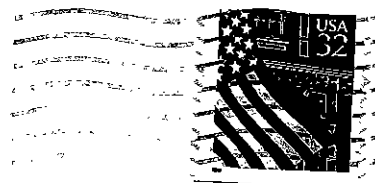
land tried to help themselves in this way and that. They hated the tyranny and injustice of the sons of Gunnhild, but they liked King Hakon.

Are Your Dues Paid Up?

Please refer to your mailing label below - the top line indicates the last year for which your dues has been paid. Our Lag's fiscal year and the membership year are the same as the calendar year. If the year on your label is 1996, your 1997 dues are payable now. To save funds, expiration notices will *not* be mailed. **Renew now**, or you will risk missing the Spring 1997 issue of **NHOH News**!

Membership dues for individuals or couples is: 1 year = \$10, 2 years = \$18, 3 years = \$25. Membership is open to anyone having roots (or interest) in Hedmark. Please make your check payable to NHOH Lag and mail to Roslyn Waddell, Treasurer. If you are a new member, please tell us the kommune or parish of your ancestors. If you have any questions, please contact Roslyn.

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News
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