

NHOH News

Volume 3 Number 1 Spring 1998

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

Who Are We?

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

District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal

Follidal

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

Kjaere Venner,

Plans for the 1998 Stevne are under way!

The Planning Committee met in Rochester, Minnesota on January 10, 1998, to begin formulating plans for August 7th and 8th. Tentative plans call for a program which will provide assistance to the novice and advanced genealogist, and take advantage of the medical and historical contributions of the area. It has the potential to be an outstanding stevne.

Committee members currently working on the event are: Mike Bovre, Dixie Hansen, Elvin Heiberg, Roland Krogstad, John Reindl, Paal Romdahl, Eleanor Webert, and Gary Olson.

I trust everyone had a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year and are ready to begin the new year rededicated to strengthening our Lag. Hopefully, each of you are seeking new members and inviting them to our next stevne. Mark your calendars for August 7th and 8th in Rochester, Minnesota, for Stevne '98! More detailed information will be available in our next newsletter.

Hjertelig hilsen fra
Gary M. Olson

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ARE YOU SATISFIED?

Please send any suggestions for improving NHOH NEWS, such as size of print, content, etc., to the editor, Roland Krogstad. Mange takk.

NHOH LAG OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

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1998 STEVNE

The 1998 Stevne Will be in Rochester, Minnesota at the Comfort Inn(formerly Ramada Inn) on Fri-Sat, August 7-8,1998. More information and registration materials will be in the Summer NHOH NEWS.

1999 STEVNE

The 1999 Stevne will be at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, on Thur-Fri-Sat, July 29,30,31, 1999. More information and registration materials will be available in May, 1998.

2000 STEVNE

By the year 2000, our Lag will have had three stevner in Wisconsin; one in southeastern Minnesota; and one in northeastern Iowa. Perhaps we should consider having one near or northwest of the St. Paul-Minneapolis area. It would be helpful if a group of members would get together and volunteer to host such a stevne. Mange takk.

JOINT MEETING

The Board of Directors will meet jointly with the Stevne Planning Committee in Rochester, Minn. at the Comfort Inn on Saturday, May 16 , 1998 (note change)to discuss and approve program, registration fees, and other items. We welcome your input.

1998 DUES ARE DUE !

If your address label indicates "Exp: 12/31/1997", your 1998 dues should be paid now. Dues for Individual/Couple are: 1 year=\$10; 2 years=\$18; three years=\$25. We hope that you will want to continue receiving our NHOH NEWS and other services from our Lag. Please make checks payable to NHOH Lag and send with a note indicating any updates, to: Charlotte Helstad, Treasurer, 8 Sebring Ct., Madison, WI 53719-3521. Request any Membership Application Brochures desired.

YEAR BOOK RECEIVED

Our Lag has received the 1997 Årbok as a gift from Ringsaker, Veldre og Brottum Historielag. See article on milkstands elsewhere in this issue. Mange takk to the Historielag.

NEWS OF NORWAY RECEIVED

We now have a free subscription to the NEWS OF NORWAY published eight times per year by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2720 - 34th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008-2714.

E-mail= newsnor@psinet.com. We have permission to reprint articles if we give credit to NEWS OF NORWAY and the author if given.

TREASURE/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our Treasurer, Charlotte Helstad reports a balance of \$1,574 in the treasury and a membership of 211 as of February 18, 1998.

THANK YOU NOTES

We certainly want to thank those who contributed to this issue of NHOH NEWS. Jens T. Anker for translating and submitting the article about Country Merchants; To Mike Bovre for submitting, to Herman Kraby for translating, and Eivind Kellsmoen of Ringsaker for writing the article about the Milkcramps; to Elvin Heiberg for submitting the material for Hedemarken to Minnesota; to Walter Spidahl for writing and submitting the article about early threshing days. Your editor apologizes for not being able to identify who submitted the article "Memories of the Settler's Life by Hjalmer Haland and translated by Asvend Hovde. Please let me know. Takk.

EACH ONE - REACH ONE

Although we have over 200 households on our membership list, there are perhaps thousands out there with roots in Hedmark who are not even aware of what our Lag is all about. We now have a supply of 2,000 Membership Application Brochures(one enclosed). Please use it to recruit new members by sending it to a friend, displaying it someplace where Norwegians gather, setting up a display booth, or announcing in a newsletter. If you would like more brochures please request more from Roland Krogstad, 2718 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705-3714. Takk.

MORE COUSINS

The following three cousins have common roots in Tynset. When Arne Trelvik of Lebanon, Ohio submitted his membership application he enclosed his family lineage charts of ancestors from Tynset. Your editor immediately made comparisons with other family trees and cousin - finding worksheets of descendants from Tynset and found remarkable similarities with Betty Rockswold's and Shirley Schoenfeld's Jonstuen, Østby and other farms. All three descended from Morton Ollesen Østby(1660-1727) and Mille Jonsdatter Østby(1660- 1738).

Results: Betty found a connection with the father of Embret Mortensen (Morton Ollesen)Jonstuen Ostby born 1700 and died there in 1780. Shirley found a connection with Embret Haugrosen born 1774 and died 5 MAR 1858. Shirley and Arne are sixth cousins. Hopefully, these new-found cousins will meet for the first time at our Stevne.

THE COUNTRY MERCHANTS AT STEIN

By Arne Dehli: LANDKREMMERNE PA STEIN.
Translation by Jens T. Anker. Adapted from above

Commerce has advanced from primitive ways to supermarkets with computerized inventories and checkouts. Peddlers of distant times made their way from settlement to settlement carrying a modest inventory. There were also established marketplaces throughout the country. Here at Ringsaker, no doubt, "Grundsetmarten" at Eleverum was best known and surely used more than any other. Here many kinds of barter could take place, of clocks, horses, meat, and much more, while the scales were being emptied amid lively dealings. In the towns it was only permitted to conduct business, when the merchant had obtained his "borgerbrev" (letter or certificate to do business). At one point in time the King started to give permission to a few privileged merchants around in the country. These people then had complete monopoly to conduct business in their district for a period of 100 years. But a new law of 1857 caused some to risk starting a business, also here at Ringsaker. It became much easier after the passage of a more liberal law in 1866. Then the tax collectors could issue licenses for a fee of 2 SK. Country stores came into being throughout most of the country. They served their purpose to a great extent for the earlier generations, but especially after W.W.II, received their death blow. This was a necessary step in the development of business. Farmers throughout the years could go to the country merchant to get rid of their products, such as cheese, butter, eggs, etc., and in return got many things they needed for their own households and operation of their farms.

For us Ringsaker folks, I suppose, the last country merchant at Stein, Henrik Anker Steen, has always stood in a class all of his own. He is the one we think about when hearing the title "landkremmeren", whenever this period of history is mentioned. His grandfather, Lars Nielsen Steen, had a little business dealing in "Bundekram" (farm goods that farmers brought to town to buy or barter in exchange for products of the soil, this was done in Christiania for instance). However, as early as 1741 he was "by the highest authority forbidden to do business". So, he temporarily moved to Moss, where there were fewer merchants and got his license. However, in 1744 he was forbidden to do business there as well. He returned to Ringsaker residing at Stein for many years using the title of proprietor (a higher standing than farmer). At that time the Steen family was very prosperous (supposedly coming from Danish nobility).

For years the city or town merchants in the capital had the exclusive rights to do business in "Agershuus

Stift" (Agershuus diocese), which included among other places the rural settlements around Mjøsa. They fought for their monopoly, and no country merchant could buy from anyone else, including bartering from farmers. If they did, they'd be fined. If they were unable to pay, they'd have to work for three years in the diocese's prison. Doing business with farmers had always been the town merchants' biggest and most profitable activity. Now, if the country merchants were to become the middlemen between the merchant and the farmer, they would pull in most of the profit, keeping it themselves. The town merchants thought this would ruin them. They made a complaint stating: "At the country merchants the farmer not only is ruined, he becomes picky and lives like a king, instead of living in a hard and simple way, etc." The rural people should stay with their proper livelihoods.

In 1753 Lars Nielsen Steen was finally licensed by the Danish King Fredrik V to run a country general store on a privileged basis at Stein. Hostility soon was something of the past. One autumn morning Lars entered his country store to discover that he had uninvited guests during the night. Fingers were pointed at two of the sons on the farm Mo. They admitted the theft as most of the stolen goods were found in the loft there. A third person, a soldier Syver Olsen was court martialed to be hanged. He was pardoned by the King but had to pass slowly between two rows of soldiers each one giving him a powerful blow across his bare back. After two years of imprisonment he was set free. The two Moe boys were sentenced to "kagstrykes" (whipping at the whipping post), mark of thief on the forehead, and life in prison. Lars wrote a letter to the King pleading for mercy stating they had suffered enough. The Moe sons sent a similar letter to the district governor. The King tempered justice with mercy.

Lars Nielsen Steen died in 1771, and his only son from his second marriage, Bernt Anker Steen at age 24 in 1781, got responsibility for it ^{store} as well as for the farm. The Steen business gradually got well established, not only in Ringsaker but also in a large area. The family became one of the richest in Norway at that time, with a solid foothold in farm and forest lands, including forests in Ringsaker. As late as 1783 there were still only three privileged country merchants in all of Hedemarken county, and the operation at Stein was the only one between Hamar and Lillehammer. At Stein there was always an impressive selection of all kinds of goods that rural people might need, such as: yarn in many colors of wool, cotton and linen; material for suits, dresses of homespun cloth, cotton, and wool twill, calico, fine English cloth and silk, gloves for women, kerchieves and skarves in many colors and designs, glass and stoneware, dyes and implements of many kinds, tobacco in a drawer with many marks on the edge where they measured the lengths of

chewing tobacco, French cognac as well as brandy from the farms. They sold wine and brandy at Stein for over 110 years. Coffee was introduced for the first time to the rural settlement with a cool reception at first. It was the upper class who could afford such a luxury. It gradually became a popular habit, with people buying sacks weighing 50-60 kilos of raw coffee at a time. Storage was a problem and inventory cumbersome. The "iron shop, packing shop, herring shop, lime shop, and oil cellar" were used near by. Shot glasses were used in the office to have a couple nips after a good sale.

It was undoubtedly difficult to get merchandise to Stein before steamships started on Mjøsa. Transportation by horses had to be arranged in order to pick up goods in Christiania. This was easiest to do when Mjøsa was frozen. Farmers with loads of produce from Lillehammer and Gubrandsdalen would meet local farmers forming caravans of about 100 in all.

As a rule the country merchant was also the postmaster for the entire rural settlement. The mail was sent by one of the King's mailman farmers, each one having his own route twice a week from Christiania. This became easier after the railroad was opened to Eidsvoll in 1854. The mail could be sent by school kids from Sharpsno or by draymen who happened to go that way. The Steen Store was the only one for miles around who had a newspaper, such as "Norske Intelligenssedler" from the very start in 1753. Fifty years later "Budstikken" from Hamar was issued. Not everyone could read and write as yet; so groups would subscribe and go to discuss the news.

Bernt Anker Steen died in 1819, and his son, Henrik Anker Steen in 1820 got the necessary license for the country store. The store at Stein for many years was the sole supplier for altar wine and bread for the churches in Ringsaker. Written contracts specifying the weights, contents, and prices were signed ahead of time. In the summer of 1858 Steen received complaints from the mayor, and attorney Kildal for having changed the type of bottle with a lesser quantity. Steen would not admit to this. Other dissatisfactions arose over higher prices, credit offered and payments demanded. Then Ringsaker's Executive Committee got involved. However the law of 1866 deregulated business and allowed more competition and the scrambling for customers throughout the area began.

With the passing of Henrik Anker Steen a cultural period lasting about 150 years came to an end. After a terrible thunderstorm in the summer 1897, when lightning hit Stein, everything was destroyed in a sea of flame something the rural settlement never had seen the like of. It had lasted through three generation, those many years, when all the roads in the rural settlement led to the cultural, social, and business center at Stein.

THE 'MJOLKERAMPA' IN RINGSAKER NORWAY (from the 1997 Yearbook of Ringsaker, Veldre og Brottum Historielag, by Eivind Kjellsmoen, Ringsaker, Norway. Translated by Herman Kraby, Stoughton, Wisconsin.

This is a composition about the disappearance of the road side milk ramp used by farmers in Ringsaker, Norway. These ramps, "wood platforms" were used to place the daily production of milk in their containers "milk cans" for pick up by the milk haulers.

It was early one Monday morning, a farmer's wife was on her way with a two- wheel cart to place the milk for that day on the roadside milk ramp. Her husband had left for the day to help with the building of a bridge in another area. Her children were sent to help a neighbor lady who was ill and unable to do her own work.

Nearby she noticed another of her neighbors struggling with a wheelbarrow that was in poor condition to get her milk container out to the milk stand. Being it had rained a lot the week before, it became a difficult task for her to transport her one container of milk out to the roadside ramp. As she neared her destination, the wheelbarrow tipped over and the cover flew off the milk can and all except a small amount of milk spilled. Being a good neighbor she went over to see what she could do to comfort her, not much could be done, the milk was gone, spilled out. Being the rain had damaged the roof over the milk ramp they decided repairing it would have to be a Sunday job. Later it was decided that all milk cans would have the names removed and replaced by numbers, which was accepted as a satisfying change.

The ramps became places for playing games by the young. There were contests to see who could become king of the stand. The milk ramps also became places of courtship for neighbor boys and girls. One day a young man came riding his bicycle and parked it by the stand. He was waiting for a neighbor girl to share the ramp with him. When she arrived he carefully put his arm around her shoulders. For the first time she gave him a kiss on his cheek and jumped off the stand and ran home. After that the ramps became places of a beginning romance.

As time went on, more modern methods were used for placing the daily milk production for pick up by the haulers. It became a wonderful change for the "Bucheias" (milk maids). Gradually the roadside ramps began disappearing but the young missed their places for the beginning courtships. So much for roadside milk ramps, or "mjolkerampa" as they were called in Norway.

Footnote: By Herman Kraby. I can remember when these milk ramps (stands) were used here in Wisconsin. The milk haulers would drive up close to the ramp and slide the cans on to the truck. This saved heavy lifting.

THRESHING DAYS

Andreas Osten - TRESKER PAA HOSTEN OG KLOKKER PAA SONDAG (THRESHER IN THE FALL AND SEXTON ON SUNDAY). Dedicated to : Andrew's son Victor Osten, RR 1, Pelican Rapids, MN. Venner som liker aa prate Norsk sammen er beste venner.

By Walter Spidahl, 20 May 1997.

Every fall that the Spidahl family lived on the "Vangen Place" in sections 8 and 17, Norwegian Grove Township, Ottertail County, MN, the excitement of the arrival of the threshing crew was the most exciting day of the field work season. Andreas Osten was a giant in my memory, he was the man who stood up there in the driver's place and steered that big fire eating steam engine, the 1913 Huber.

Hooked behind this huge engine was the 1913 Avery Yellow Fellow Separator that would soon transform our hundreds of grain shocks into many wagon loads of sacked oats, wheat, barley, rye, and flax and huge piles of straw. The steam engine had the neatest steam whistle that could be heard for miles around. The **toot toot** could be heard at least fifteen minutes to half an hour before the rig would pull into the area that had been looked over in advance.

There were three Osten sons: Ole was the fire man that kept the steam up by feeding the engine straw to make the boiler really cook; James drove a team that pulled the water wagon. The water wagon was a very clever device with a ten foot half-barrel with a flat top. There was a nice spring seat on top for the driver in front and at the rear an ingenious hand pump with a long rubber hose. The water wagon could be filled by backing up to a slough, lake, river, or stock watering tank by the farm well. Victor was too young to work on the steam rig but had a bundle team after they changed to a gas driven 1925 Allis Chalmers Tractor and a new Red River Special Separator.

Dad would be waiting north of the grove just to the east of the pasture fence, by a nice flat area where Andreas would at once take charge of making the "Set". Out came his long bladed spade and a small trench was dug in front of the big steel wheel that needed lowering to level the threshing machine. Sometimes you would dig one wheel and sometimes three, trenches lowered the rig a bit and made it more steady. Nothing was left to chance, a level made sure of that. The drive belt was put around the pulley on the side of the feed end of the separator and stretched out about fifty feet, given a half-twist and attached to the drive pulley. The steam engine had been lined up perfectly straight, in line with the threshing machine. The belt with the twist was always checked and tightened before the separator was fed any grain bundles.

It was late by the time the set had been made and the men had been furnished with wash basins, warm water, soap and towells. Mother had been waiting with a nice hot supper of meat and potatoes, garden fresh veggies, both

cooked and raw for salads, fresh home baked bread and country butter. Cold fresh milk and butter milk stood in big pitchers on the long festive-looking table. "I Jesu navn gaar vi til bords", the Norwegian table prayer, was said by all and the feast was enjoyed. Home made preserves, relishes, jams and jelleys, were on the table and bottles of ketchup (served only at threshing time at the Spidahl home). There were home made pies, a choice of lemon meringue, blueberry or apple, with coffee. The kids had never been happier; they helped with the serving and the cleaning up but they never left the room for fear of missing out on the wonderful stories that the men took turns telling. Mr. Osten had made a final **toot** on the steam whistle before shutting down for the night. Lots of conversation, in Norwegian, filled the supper time and for a short time after. Beds were turned over to the crew and the kids moved to the summer kitchen or the hay mow. Victor remembers how the bundle haulers, mostly young fellows, would be laughing and talking a bit late when they would hear a firm voice from the head of the home, "pipe down and go to sleep!" Bright and early in the morning, about the time we were finishing chores, another **toot toot** told us and the neighbors that the steam was up and we better get moving.

Usually four or five farmers would join forces to get all the threshing done in short order. Some of the smaller farmers elected to stack the bundles into nice round stacks that were made tall and to a point; all the heads went toward the inside so the butts would ward off the rain. At the very top of the stack a long sharp ironwood stick was shoved through a bundle into the center of the stack to keep it all together. Stack threshing was always late but worked out well, there were some lean years when we stacked our bundles. Back in the rainy country of Norway the threshing had to be done inside the loft area of the barns.

Later in the fall, after all the threshing had been done and some of the grain had been converted to cash, there would be a threshing meeting. The farmers that had joined in the cooperative effort to get the work done, met and settled their differences. Some had contributed more and were paid in dollars. This system was also used during silo-filling time.

My very first job as part of the crew, was to stand in the wagon box and hold the sack tightly to the spout that looked like a heavy stove pipe with a clever lid that would shut off the lower section end of the pipe until the half-bushel measure would dump. The measure, by weight, and the dump was a few feet above the top of the threshing machine. When the sack was full I would quickly give it a twist and pull it to the front of the wagon and hurry back before it dumped a second time. When the wagon box started to reach the full stage, one of the men would jump into the wagon and pile sacks to the front in layers to make

a full load which was taken to the granary and dumped. A second wagon had been backed in alongside and I jumped into it and at the same time swung the spout to the empty wagon and started to fill it. Bags were not filled full so that they could be tossed into the granary easily, not just to make it easy for Walter in the wagon box.

The bundles of dry grain were loaded from the shocks on to a flat hayrack pulled by a team of well-trained horses that knew that they must stop and start on voice command. The bundle man used a three-tined pitchfork with skill to make a nice big load that would stay on the rack until it reached the thresher. There would be eight or ten bundle wagons and they unloaded into the wings of the separator from both sides, always being careful to send the heads of the bundles into the machine first. Oh how I dreamed of becoming a bundle hauler with my very own team to care for. I never aspired to be the first one loaded and in to the rig, I was happy if I could keep up to my turn. Sometimes spike pitchers helped in the field, especially on heavy grain or on long hauls. A spike pitcher might help at the rig to spell the bundle hauler so he could have a coffee and sandwich break. The ladies made morning & afternoon coffee & lunch, brought it right down close to the rig. It was some of the best tasting food I had ever eaten and the aroma of the coffee still lingers in my nose. I think most of the ladies wanted the "Best Cook" reputation, we loved their efforts.

No grain could be hauled directly to the elevator and sold in the days of horse farming. After the Threshing Run was over, Dad would load two wagons full of grain and take them to the grain elevator at Lawndale on the Great Northern RR line. I well remember the first time I got to drive King and Prince on the second wagon -- most exciting. I especially liked the easy way we just dumped the grain into a grilled-over pit and cups on a belt carried the grain way up to the top of the elevator and sent it to the storage bins. The stops at Elkins store for groceries and at the Ness cafe for an ice cream cone were pretty special. A sad thing happened about two miles east of Lawndale; it was an open windy stretch and a gust of wind took my beautiful red cap right off my little round Norwegian head and sent it into a ditch full of water. Dad was way ahead of me and there was no way I could stop. This was a red felt hat that sister Irene had given me and I had made it into a sailor's hat with little sharp points where I cut it with mother's pinking shears around the edge of the turned-up brim. I still miss it almost as much as I miss my steel toy Fordson Tractor and Oliver Plow that Iver Klovstad gave me for Christmas in 1925, the same year we switched to gas. I'm happy that I lived the generation of threshing machines, steam engines, iron wheel gas tractors, bundle teams, and Norwegian conversation.

Every two weeks at 11 AM, Reverend H. Bjornson conducted services in the West North Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Norwegian Language. On the other Sundays he would have 11 AM services in the South Immanuel Lutheran Church. The two point parish had been in operation since 1920 and Rev Bjornson did not start English confirmation until 1933 the year I was confirmed. Five of us read our lessons in Norwegian and three in English. Andreas Osten was our unselfish, reliable, and most capable sexton. He came early and built a fire in the big space heater during the winter weather. The women sat on one side of the church and the men on the other so Mrs. Osten and family didn't feel their father's absence from the pew. Mr. Osten would place the numbers of the hymns we would sing on the board at the front of the church. He had a distinctive slow walk which seemed to be most memorable in the minds of all parishioners as he walked to the front of the church performing many acts in behalf of the pastor. Mr. Osten always rang the huge bell for services and funerals or special events, and on special days. He alone would go to the church and toll out the message. The sexton also took his place behind the large organ and pumped the bellows of the organ during the Hymn singing. Yes, Andreas Osten was really a very special man; in my mind he was a giant without being large in size. He commanded the respect and admiration due such a role model! He also played the organ and was choir leader at North Immanuel in the early days, just like a real native Hadelander Norwegian Klokke! God bless the memory of Andreas and Thea Hovland Osten. May the proud Norwegian Heritage live on among their progeny.

MEMORIES OF THE SETTLER'S LIFE

(An historical report of Norwegian Lutheran Congregation at Coon Prairie, written on occasion of 75th Anniversary, 1927 by Hjalmer R. Haland. Translated by Asvend M. Hovde, Decorah, Iowa, 1977).

The settlers on Coon Prairie(Wis?)and the surrounding country were nearly all very poor and had no money either to purchase implements or to pay for the land which at that time could be bought from the government for \$1.25 per acre. For many years, until they could acquire ownership, they were only "squatters." In the first year, before they got their land worked up, they naturally had no harvest to sell. Their only income was to work in the timber forests during the winter. Toward the end of October it was customary to leave with a sack on their backs in which they had the most necessary things, to travel on foot a hundred miles through the uncultivated expanse to Black River Falls(Wis?). Syver Galstad had not only his sack on his back but also his six-year old little girl, Mathea(now Mrs. Jefson). His wife was dead and he had to therefore take the child with him into the timber forests.

Meanwhile the women and children had to get along as best they could in the small dwellings and barns in the settlement. The present generation has no idea of what this half-year separation meant in privation and loneliness. A half-hundred miles from the nearest Norwegian settlement, unacquainted with the country's language and customs, the women sat and shuddered at what the future had in store. There was neither pastor or doctor to get help from -- what could be done if sickness came? Soon comes the winter with its biting cold and drifting snow which blocks every access to her neighbors, and then she feels as if she is on a deserted isle far out at sea. Unknown conditions always seem dangerous and here everything was new and unknown.

But these pioneer women who sat there with their children, had a trust which lightened all burdens and gave courage for each day's living. This trust was their faith in God, built on the religious instruction which they had received in their childhood. The Bible was more than a parlor ornament for these women. It was regularly read, and there was with them a heartfelt conviction that God was near when the young wife read:

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my savior; My God is my rock, in whom I trust, My shield and my refuge."

The humble confidence in God's protecting care gave her the courage to overcome all fear of wild animals and evil people, need, sickness, and the unknown conditions of the wilderness. She was more concerned about her husband, far away in the timber forests, than about herself, and every day ended with a humble prayer to God that he would protect him -- protect him both from spiritual and bodily harm and bring him back to her again healthy and unblemished.

And finally when spring came, he also returned, ragged and bearded, so a horror to behold but joyful and ready to work as spring itself. He also had a little money, which after careful consideration was used for improvements both in the house and in the fields. And the future seemed mild and promising as the spring sun itself.

It was this bright, trusting spirit which made it possible for the settler to overcome the numerous hardships which met him in the wilderness. However, they could have had bad luck in both the inner spirit and hardships in the wilderness.

BANNER COMMITTEE AT WORK

Borger Hanson requested more information about our Lag roots so as to proceed with the design and development of our Lag Banner in time for the 1999 All-Lag Centennial Celebration. He or John Hogenson would appreciate your ideas. Takk.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Our NHOH Lag would like to welcome our new members:

Eunice & Archie Ellifson, Edgerton, WI
Arlan & Jan Helstad, Osseo, WI
Merlin & Ann Helstad, Falls Church, VA
Carol J. Lehl, Clackamas, OR
Doris & Roy Modahl, LaCrosse, WI
Thomas G. Rheault, Poway, CA
Torill & Bjørnar Streivang, Alvådal, Norway
Arne H. & Marilyn A. Trelvik, Lebanon, OH

We look forward to meeting you at our stevne.

SEEK - YOU MAY FIND !!

- Seeking information and descendants of Anders Andersen Reflings-eie & Ingeborg Tronsdtr Simenstad-eie from Veldre, Ringsaker, Norway. Their son, Mathias Andersen Ruds-eie (my great grandfather) emigrated to America in 1870 with his wife Agnette Hansdtr Delenstue and their two children, Arnt and Austin. Please contact: Mildred Larson, 3160 South 26th Street, LaCrosse, WI 54601.

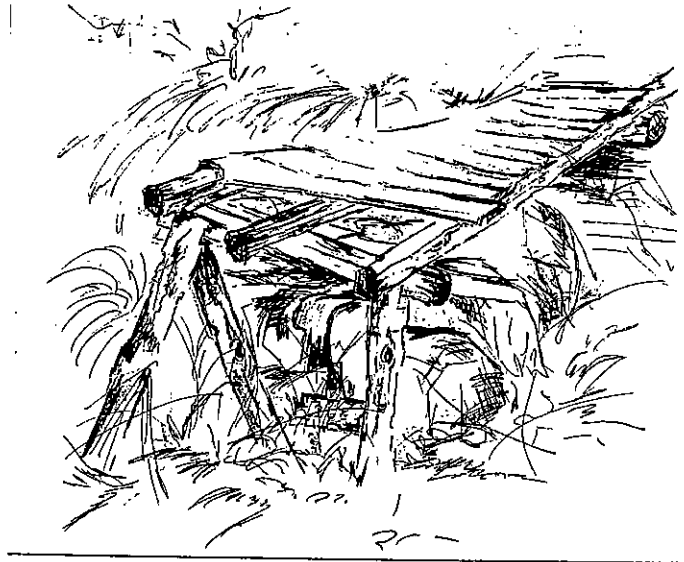
- Seeking relatives of four of 14 siblings who came to USA or Canada from Skabberud or Slattsveen, Tangen: Borghild Andersen/Andersen b. 1881, m. R. Gimnes, Asbjorn Andersen/Andersen b. 1882, m. Johanne Dromsrud, Trygve Andersen/Andersen b. 1886, Atle Andersen/Andersen b. 1890; Mother Alette Mathilde Jakobsdtr, b. 1856 on Holtereie, Nes, Romerike; Father Edvard Gudbrand Andersen, b. 1849 on Frilseteie, Eidsvoll, m. 26 FEB 1876, d. 7 DEC 1929. Please contact: Beverly Roelke, PO Box 274, Waunakee, WI 53597-0274, PH: (608)849-4497.

NORWAY IN AMERICA ONLINE

This bibliography contains nearly 55,000 references to books, brochures, newspaper, and periodical articles published between 1825 and 1930 by or about Norwegian Americans. It is available on the internet for everyone to use. The address (URL) is:

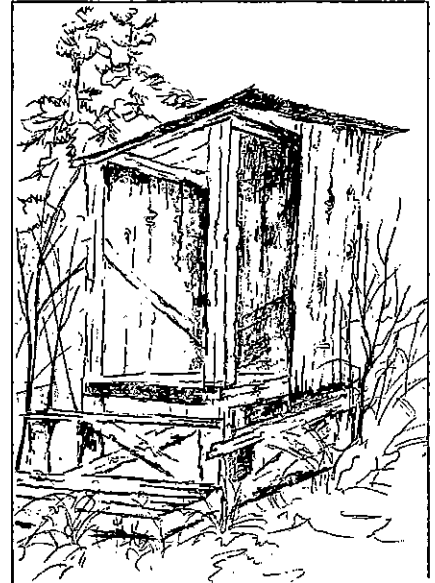
<http://www.nbo.uio.no/baser/tma.html>

SKETCH OF MILK RAMP



Men slik endte det hele. Tegnet av Anne Marie Olsen.

SKETCH OF MILK STAND



*Mjølkerampa i sine velmaktsdager.
Tegn. av Anne Marie Olsen.*

8

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