

NHOH News

Volume 5 Number 1 Spring 2000

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Who Are We?

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

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:

A belated **Happy New Year, New Century and New Millenium!** What a great time to reflect on our heritage. This year marks two very significant anniversaries for Norway and Norwegian-Americans. It was one thousand years ago, that **Leif Erickson** set foot on the shores of North America with a hardy group of Vikings. While this early attempt to establish a permanent colony in North America failed, it was the first confirmed visit to America by Europeans. The second event occurred one hundred and seventy-five years ago, in 1825, when the first group of Norwegians set sail aboard the sloop, **Restauration** for a new homeland in America. The accounts of their successful voyage and the opportunities they found in America soon reached Norway. It triggered an exodus in the next one hundred years that profoundly changed both countries. These events are part of our heritage—feel proud.

This year also marks two significant events for our Lag—our **sixth stevne** and our first **Norway Tour**. Plans for both are progressing smoothly. Our travel agent informs me that eleven people have taken advantage of early registration, which means we are only nine short of forming a viable group. The first critical date for the trip is June 15. If at that time we do not have 20 applicants, either the trip will be canceled(as per the agreement with the travel agent) or, if we have nearly

20 applicants, the group could become viable, but it would require an additional fee. Ed-Ventures has informed me that the additional fee would be approximately \$100. In the mean time, if you know of individuals who are considering the trip, please encourage them to apply. (See Application Form elsewhere).

Plans are evolving for our **2000 stevne**. It will be held on **August 3, 4 & 5**, at the **Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Minnesota**. The first day (Thursday) will be devoted to study/research in our genealogy lab. In the late afternoon/evening a picnic is planned at Kensington Park, the site where the famous **Kensington Rune Stone** was found. The second day (Friday) members will have an opportunity to hear presentations on the history and culture of Norway and Norwegian-Americans by several excellent speakers. In the evening we will have our **banquet** which will feature food and entertainment with a Norwegian flavor, plus our traditional bunad parade. On either Friday or Saturday, a **tour** is planned, which will include the Runestone Museum, Fort Alexandria and the Knut Nelson(Minnesota's first foreign-born governor) home. On the last day (Saturday)our plans include additional speakers, our **annual meeting** and our election of officers and directors. In June, each member will be mailed a program, a registration form and hotel information.

See p.2

(President's letter continued)

Volunteers are needed for a successful stevne! If you are willing to assist with any of the following: registration table, banquet decorations, pianist(Norway's National Anthem) or photographer—please contact me.

Finally, our Lag is now officially part of cyberspace. Thanks to the leadership of **Dixie Hansen, John Reindl and Marilyn Sorensen**, we are now online. Check out our web page (see article elsewhere in the newsletter)

Don't forget to recruit new members!!

Hilsen fra,
Gary M. Olson, President

GETTING ON OUR WEBSITE

~~You may be interested in browsing through our Lag~~ website. It contains general information about our NHOH bygdelag and how to become a member. It has an excellent genealogy section. Current news will be updated periodically, such as our upcoming stevne in August, and our tour to Norway in September. Will keep you posted!!

Website address: <http://www.nhohlag.org>

Ole: I don't stay the Holiday Inn anymore.
Sven: Why not?
Ole: Towels are too thick.
Sven: Waht's wrong with that?
Ole: Can't get my suitcase closed.

ANNUAL STEVNE

Our Lag's sixth annual stevne will be held on August 3-4-5, 2000 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Minnesota. Please refer to President, Gary Olson's letter for more information. Mark your Calendar! See you there!

YOUR ARTICLES

Needless to say, this is your NHOH NEWS. Many have contributed very interesting articles in the past which were greatly appreciated!! Do you have a story to tell about the first emigrants from the area of your roots? Visiting your ancestral farms? The settlement or pioneer life of your early ancestral immigrants? Does any of the information in this issue of NHOH NEWS trigger further thoughts for your article(s)? We'd like to receive it in any way, shape, or form. We'll fix it up for publishing. Takk.

DIGITALARKIVET: CIVIL WEDDINGS IN HEDMARK AND OPPLAND 1856-1920. 702

Total in the data base. From: Dee Grimsrud

Searchable by:

Groom's given name

Groom's father's name

Groom's farm name

Bride's given name

Bride's father's name

Bride's farm name

Wedding day

Wedding year

Distr.Magistr.Jurisdict.(district name)

Protocoll (date of records)

Page

<http://www.hist.uib.no/cgi-win/webcens.exe>

A great source if not in church records.

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Tracing of ancestors and relatives

I can trace your ancestors and relatives in Norway. I take \$ 25 pr. hour.

My adress is: Frode Myrheim

Sorum

N-2335 Stange.

EMIGRATION CELEBRATION

The year 2000 represents the 175th year since the Norwegian emigration began on July 4, 1825 when 52 passengers left Stavanger, Norway on a 54 x 16 foot sloop, the **Restauration**. On October 9, all passengers arrived safely in New York, with the addition of newborn Margaret Allen, born to Lars Larsen Geilane and his wife Martha, enroute. Many Norwegian emigration 2000 festivals are being held in Norway this year to commemorate this phenomenon. With this increased awareness of emigration your editor thought it would be appropriate to expand on this subject.

Your editor sent a request along with the Fall NHOH NEWS to 18 Historielag asking for the names of the first emigrant from their respective areas and whether any festivities were being planned. We mentioned that our Lag was planning to visit the Hamar area during September, 2000. They graciously extended an invitation to visit them. Please see replies elsewhere. In a way, these festivals seem kind of ironic because authorities at the time did not view emigration with favor. They deplored it. They could not grasp the causes. However, there was never a question of restricting emigration to America.

The exodus from Norway gained momentum in the 1840s and fluctuated in three distinct waves following the American Civil War. Over 100,000 emigrated during 1866-1873; about 200,000 from 1880-1893; and about 240,000 from 1900-1915. From 1865-1915, close to ¾ of a million persons left Norway. Although this represented only a small percentage of all immigrants who came to America, it was a massive loss to a small country of 1.8 million in 1865 and 2.5 million in 1915. Only Ireland had a higher percentage of emigration. Today, it is estimated that the number of Americans of Norwegian birth or ancestry living in the United States is about the same as Norway's own population of 4.5 million.

In 1925 the Norwegians in America celebrated the **centennial** of the Restauration's voyage across the ocean. For three sunny days in June tens of thousands of Norwegian-Americans gathered on the huge state fairgrounds in Saint Paul, Minnesota. They had crowded the trains from Wisconsin to the Dakotas; some had come from the east and west coasts. Those who lived nearest loaded the family into their Model-T Ford their "status symbol". Meetings of bygdelag, historical pageants, entertainment, and speeches were held. The old country honored it's countrymen who emigrated, by sending representatives from government, university, and churches. President Calvin Coolidge appeared at the fairgrounds and spoke to the crowd of 80,000 people.

Today, in the United States there will also be immigration celebrations, including those at Ellis Island and New York where many ancestral immigrants were admitted to America.

MORE ON EMIGRATION TO USA IN 1830-1910 PERIOD

From: TOTEN BULLETIN, June 1998

Around 1830 passage to America by sailing ship took 8-10 weeks, depending on the wind and weather en route. The shipping firm furnished only water and wood and one or more stoves on deck. Passengers had to bring their own bedclothes, and food for up to 80 days at sea. Passage fares were expensive and the voyage itself was vigorous, to say the least. In the 1830s and 1840s emigrants could save some money on passage by going to a foreign port where cargo ships making regular trips to America could squeeze a few passengers on board. This sometimes entailed living for a few days or weeks in a hotel in the foreign port before such passage could be obtained. Gothenberg, Sweden where Swedish and American ships loaded iron, was such a port. Another was LeHarve, France, where, ships from New Orleans carrying cotton arrived quite frequently and, as a rule, were willing to carry passengers on their return voyage. Nearly a third of Norwegian emigrants in the 1840s chose this route. Sailing ships from Bergen went usually to Quebec, for England had such a near monopoly on the New York shipping trade that ships of other countries could not get cargo for their return trips there, but they could get lumber in Quebec to carry home to Norway.

From 1854 to 1865 over 90% of the 44,000 Norwegian emigrants entered America at Quebec, partly due to the 15 speciedaler fare for that trip those years—roughly half the previous fares. When steamships replaced sailing ships the picture changed greatly. The crossing could now be made in as many days as it had taken weeks before. British and German steamship lines were all heavily subsidized and so were able to offer much lower fares, quicker, and safer

MORE ON EMIGRATION(Continued)

crossings, specified times of departure and arrival, and all meals furnished on board. Such a shorter, smoother, cheaper crossing also served to make "reverse migration" at least a tolerable option for those who wanted to return to Norway with their earnings to buy a farm there—or to bring a patiently waiting sweetheart to the new farm now in America. Believe it or not, some just didn't like it in America, and returned for that reason. Didn't Per Hansa's wife almost lose her mind on the North Dakota prairie in Rolvaag's GIANTS IN THE EARTH?

In 1850 a committee set up to look into conditions for arrival of more and more immigrants in New York was shocked by the amount of fraud it found practiced on arriving immigrants, even by "their own people". The result was that in 1855 New York set up an immigrant depot at Castle Garden, previously a fort and then an opera house, located near the tip of Manhattan Island. Here the new arrivals could exchange currency, arrange for rooms, buy railroad tickets, and ask about jobs available, without fear of being taken by some "friendly" con man who spoke Norwegian.

From 1870 to 1910 most Norwegian emigrants to the USA crossed on British steamships. Their usual path from Norway was by sea to Hull, England, then by train to Newcastle, where they embarked for passage to New York, then by river to Buffalo to board a Great Lakes steamer for Chicago, then by train to Decorah, Iowa and by wagons to their final destination, which was usually the farm of a friend from home, where they stayed until they found some land for themselves to purchase or homestead. Some American railroads and American steamship companies stationed agents in various areas of Norway to allow would-be emigrants to purchase a single ticket covering all their needed transportation for the entire trip from their port in Norway to the railway station nearest their final destination in America.

After the federal government took over the immigration service in 1890, it set up at Ellis Island. The discriminatory difference in processing cabin class passengers and steerage class passengers was continued, sad to say. About 5%(about 1,000 to 2,000 persons per month) were rejected on the basis of certain contagious diseases (especially trachoma), and mental or physical handicaps likely to result in their becoming "public charges". Even though the steamship company which had brought them to America had to furnish rejectees free passage back to Norway, it was a very bad situation, particularly if the rest of the family was allowed in and one or two of the children not. A few of those so rejected committed suicide rather than go back to Norway.

Norwegian words

Some Norwegian words and expressions are difficult to translate into English. We have therefore used these Norwegian words in the texts. Here some explanations:

Fylke: the whole of Norway is administratively divided into fylkes. Presently there are 19 fylkes. Sogn og Fjordane is a fylke.

Kommune: each fylke is again divided into kommuner. Presently there are 448 kommuner in Norway, and 26 kommuner in Sogn og Fjordane.

Husmann: a man who lived in a cottage on a farm, at a site called a husmannsplass. Usually he had

some petty farm land of his own. He had specific labor duties on the farm. There were many husmannsplasser in Sogn og Fjordane.

Bygdebok: a book written about the history of a specific kommune or community (bygd). Often containing genealogical information.

Bygdelag: a member society belonging to a specific community, kommune or local district.

Støl: a mountain croft used by the farmers in the summer.

Sokn: a church and its congregation. Several churches and congregations constitute a prestegjeld (parish).

FIRST EMIGRANTS

From: **OSTERDOLENES SAGA**, K.G.Nilsen, Fuhr Publishing & Printing Co., Duluth, MN, 1938, pp 53-196
Following are earliest emigrants from our Lag area in Nord Hedmark to America as reported in parish records. Alvadal & Folldal were together. Alvadal was head parish. Registers began in 1761. F=Folldal as researched by Roslyn Waddell.

Parish/Yr.Emig.	Names	Year Born
Alvadal 1866	F=Jorgen Olsen Strømbu	1845
	F=Hans Johannesen Stadsbuøien	1837
	F=Avle Larsen Stormaelen	1830
	Hustru Marit Pedersdatter	1827
	F=Lars Avlesen	1865
	F=Peter Andreassen	1853
	F=Ole Larsen Stormaelen	1837
	Thorvald Simensen Døplass	1833
	Hustru Kari Haakonsdtr	1838
	Children: Simen	1859
	Kari	1862
	Haaken	1864
	Gjøda Haldogsdtr	1836
	Hans Olsen Sørhusjordet	1842
	F=Ole Simensen Brandsnaesstøen	1840
	Avle Olsen Sørhus	1840
	F=Peder Olsen Strømbuen	1848
	Brynhild Olsdtr Enget	1831
	Anne Hansdtr	1848
Elverum/1850	Jens Pedersen Bronken	1828
	Ole Olsen Talhaugen	1817
	Oluf Simensen Bronken	1819
Engerdal/1882	Berte Maria Audensdtr Gløtvold	1857
	Auden Audsen Gløtvold	1863
Kivkne/1850	Mattias Johnssen Stensmo Løsgjenger	1828
Ovre Rendal/ 1879	Ole Engebretsen Kvernmoen	1854
	Mina Hansdtr Rotbakken	1859
	Helen Hansdtr Rotbakken	1868
	Berit Olsdtr Broen	1858
	Maren Olsdtr Haugseth	1854
	Gurenus Eliassen Hole	1853
Ytre Rendal/ 1880	Andreas Eriksen Lambnaes	1862
	Martin Pedersen Misterosen	1859
	Gøran Saemingsdtr Kvaeranaes	1833
	Otto Olsen Nysveen	1855
	Karenus Martinussen Botillen	1854

	Andreas Monsen Nordli	1844
	Andreas Pedersen Sjølisand	1849
	Hustru Ragnild Olsdtr	1854
	Children: Herman	1875
	Helga Olivia	1877
	Maria	1879
	Haakon Pedersen Fiskvig	1861
	Karen Mathiasdtr Akre	1861
	Martin Mathiasen Akre	1870
	Otto Olsen Otnaes	1863
Stor-Alvadal 1862	Arne Engebretsen Helsaas	1801
	Hustru Margriethe Birgette Halvorsdtr	1800
	Children: Karen	1836
	Halvor Edvard	1839
	Siri Olsdtr Koppang	1827
	Seming Halstensen Messelteie	1821
	Hulstru Marthe Toralstad	1825
	Children: Karen	1850
	Hanna	1853
	Torald	1855
	Ingeborg	1859
	Severin	1861
	Karen Olsdtr Mykleby	1823
	Olaf Knudsen	1860
	Pernille Johannesdtr Stai	1825
	Anne Marthea Gundersdtr	1851
	Dordi Pedersdtr Stai	1797
Sola /1867 Now part of Stor-Elvdal	Peder Syversen Moen	1846
	Lars Larsen Vuluvolden	1831
	Mali Gundersdtr Frami	1846
	Ole Olsen Storbaekkmoen	1846
	Auden Johnsen Vuluvolden	1848
Tolga/1851	Engebret Amundsen Smedas	nd
	Jon Rasmussen Storhaug	nd
	Jorgen Persvilgelen	nd
Trysil/1848 Osen Annex 1887	Ola Johansen Lutnes (Bustad)	1808
	Eline Gudmundsdtr	1846
	Ole Olsen Jordet	1869
	Gunder Olsen Jordet	1869
	Hans Johansen Braaten	1878
	Peter August Sjøberg	1863
Tynset/1849	Ole Olsen Torud Tyllidal	1823
	Goro Thoresdtr Lille Hogstad	1821
Amot/1850	Edvard Olsen Westgaard	1826
	Halvor Eriksen Asprusten	1822

The Norwegian Mormons - A Singular Saga in Norwegian Emigration

Although there has been relatively little formal contact over the years between the many widespread Norwegian "Colonies" in America, a common language, religion and culture has given them all a certain uniformity. There may have been differences in origin and occupation as well as social and economic status but on the whole, the Norwegians who settled in Seattle, Washington or San Pedro, California have been pretty much on the same wavelength as their *landsmenn* who settled in Brooklyn, New York or Minneapolis, Minnesota.

There is, however, one Norwegian colony here in America which may be said to have been outside the bounds of Norwegian Orthodoxy, at least in religion and lifestyle. These are the Norwegian Mormons, adherents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who settled in Utah, these first converts found themselves on the American frontier years before the mass Norwegian emigration from Norway to the upper Midwest in the 19th century. By the end of that century thousands of other Norwegian converts had joined the movement along with an even greater number of Danes and Swedes. Prior to 1900 almost half of the converts to Mormonism were from Scandinavia. Today their descendants number in the hundreds of thousands, evidenced by the abundance of Scandinavian surnames found in the state's telephone directories.

Mormonism had its beginnings in 1827 when Joseph Smith, a farm-lad living in upstate New York, claimed to have received a set of golden tablets from an angel called Moroni. Smith claimed further that under divine inspiration he was able to transcribe the Egyptian hieroglyphics inscribed on the plates into English. This text became the *Book of Mormon*, named after the prophet Smith said had authored the book. It was a time of great unrest in America and the book was intended as a latter day testament. Smith was proclaimed a prophet by his followers, but persecution of the Mormons was rampant. Smith had to find a safe gathering place, and thus founded the City of Nauvoo, Illinois in 1840.

The first Norwegian converts to Mormonism were from the Fox River and Sugar Creek settlements, the latter just across the Mississippi River from Nauvoo. Most of these Norwegians were Quakers who had sailed from Stavanger, Norway in 1825 aboard the sloop *Restauration*. After these Quakers arrived on the American frontier, however, religious dissension broke out among the settlers and some were persuaded to join the Mormon faith by a visiting missionary. But pillage, rape and mayhem of the worst kind continued to plague the Mormons, culminating in the murder of Joseph Smith and leading Brigham Young, Smith's successor, to seek a safer haven outside the boundaries of the United States proper.

An advance party numbering 142 men, 3 women and 2 children reached the valley of the Great Salt Lake on July 24, 1847, which at that time was part of Mexico. Included in the party was Aagaat Sondra Ystensdatter, a native of Telemark, Norway and a wife of polygamist Heber C. Kimball, a counselor to Brigham Young. Young is supposed to have said, "This is the place!" So Young proclaimed a new Zion in the western wilderness. Two years later, with the exodus from Nauvoo drawing to a close, Mormon Church history tells us that a "Norwegian company" left Fox River on April 18 with six wagons, arriving in the budding community of Salt Lake City on October 25.

Among those Norwegians was Knud Pederson, a native of Hardanger, Norway, who went on to found the settlement of Lehi, now a city in central Utah. Pederson, who was adept at fostering a good relationship with the local Indians, was later ordained a bishop by Brigham Young and chosen to

EARLY EMIGRANTS FROM HEDEMARKEN DISTRICT

From Ringsaker: Year of Emigration:

1839: Lars Johannesen Midtholoe, known also as Hollo and Holo, wife Marie and children: Fredrik, Martin, Anders. On 26 May 1837, Lars and Marie got permission from the minister to emigrate. On 27 April, 1839, Ringsaker minister wrote in church book, permission for Lars, Marie, and 3 sons to emigrate. They first went to Rochester, N.Y., then 1841 through Milwaukee to Muskego, Wisconsin, finally in 1843 to Koshkonong, Albion Twnshp, Dane County, Wisconsin. Lars was born: 4 March 1788, married Marie on 8 August 1822, and died 15 Oct 1878. He was a farmer. Is said to be the first from Hedemarken to emigrate.

1839: Peder Larsen Hollo; Lars Larsen Hollo; Johannes Larsen Hedemarken.

From Romedal, Spring 1845:

Anders Knudsen? Ovre Rasen and Even Knudsen? Ovre Rasen, bachelors, emigrated 31 March 1845 to America. Source: Gammalt fra Stange og Romedal, p.206, 1975.

From Stange, January 1848:

Poul(Knutsen) Poulsen, Vik, Born:17 April 1818, proprietor, to New York, then 1854 to Bosque County, Texas. Family came in 1857 although wife had divorced him several years earlier. Wife, Oline Marion Halvorsdtr Poulsen. Children: Casper Andreas Poulsen; Halvor George Poulsen; Betsy Randin Poulsen.

Source: Gammalt fra Stange og Romedal, 1975, p.188.

OLD FOLKS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE

Old folks are worth a fortune:With silver in their ~~hair~~ ^{have}, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs. I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day.(He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm tired and glad to go to bed-with Ben Gay. What a life.

The Norwegian Mormons(Continued)

supervise the construction of the Mormon temple in Manti, Utah, the site of a Scandinavian festival held annually since pioneer days. Pederson was one of the few Scandinavian Mormons who engaged in polygamy, having acquired three wives and sired 20 children. Polygamy was outlawed in the Mormon Church in 1890 prior to Utah becoming a state in 1896.

In 1847, the massive exodus from Scandinavia was still to come. As early as 1849, sensing an urgent need to populate his new Zion, Brigham Young sent out missionaries far and wide. Among them was Peter Hansen, a Dane, and John Forsgren, a Swede, both ex-sailors who had been converted in the port of Boston. Lurid tales of polygamy and secret rituals had already preceded the missionaries; Forsgren was promptly deported from Sweden, and Hansen was rebuffed by even his own family in Denmark. Erastus Snow, an American-born Mormon stalwart since the religion's earliest days, sailed from England to Denmark to take over the mission. By that time, Denmark had passed a law allowing religions other than Lutheranism to be practiced, and with Snow's arrival the Mormons had free rein to proselytize.

Norway too had enacted a law guaranteeing religious freedom but the dissenters had to belong to a Christian sect as defined by parliament. Mormon missionaries did not qualify, but Norway proved more hospitable than ultra-conservative Sweden and allowed them more or less free to travel the country.

Mormonism came to Norway in 1851 through the efforts of Svend Larsen, a Norwegian sea captain who had been converted by Snow in Denmark. Returning to Norway with a Danish convert, Larsen began proselytizing in his home port of Osterrisor. Larsen purchased a pilot boat just to carry missionaries back and forth between Denmark and Norway.

Rechristened *Zions Love* (The Lion of Zion), the vessel sailed with a Mormon emblem at its masthead and was well known among the coastal villages of southern and eastern Norway.

(Continued in next issue.)

The Kensington Rune Stone: An Authentic Artifact or A Scandinavian Hoax?

By Gary M. Olson

Did the medieval Vikings, who became masters of the European seas, who sailed the uncharted waters of the North Atlantic to reach Iceland and Greenland, also explore the interior of North America? There are many who believe they did. They also believe these early explores left evidence which proves it.

In Minnesota and Oklahoma large flat stone have been found with inscriptions carved on them. The inscription are written with characters (runes) from an ancient Scandinavian alphabet. The most famous of these was found near Kensington, Minnesota, and is known today as the Kensington Rune Stone.

The saga began in 1898, when a Swedish immigrant farmer named Olof Ohman found a tablet-like stone on his property near Kensington, while he was uprooting a tree. The stone was apparently face down and entangled in its roots. People in the area with knowledge of the runic alphabet deciphered the message. It reads:

“Eight Goths and 22 Norwegians on a journey of exploration from Vinland very far west. We had camp by two rocky islands one days’ journey north from this stone. We were out fishing one day. After we came home we found ten men red with blood and dead. AVM save from evil. Have ten men by the sea to look after our ships fourteen days’ journey from this island. Year 1362.”

Upon sharing the discovery with laymen and the press, it was hailed by some as proof that a Viking expedition had reached Minnesota in 1362--over 100 years before the voyage of Columbus. However, there were many skeptics who dismissed it as nothing more than another example of Scandinavian foolery. Thus, a great debate ensued regarding the stone’s authenticity and included scholars through out the world, especially in Scandinavian Europe and the Untied States.

Copies of the inscription were sent to the University of Minnesota, while the stone itself was shipped to Northwestern University. Professors at both institutions questioned the stone’s authenticity. Experts in runology at Scandinavian universities were consulted. They also declared the stone a forgery. It was returned to Ohman’s farm where he allegedly used the 202 pound stone as a door stop in his granary. It remained there for several years until Hjalmar Holand arrived on the scene in 1907.

Holand, a writer researching Norwegian settlements in America, examined the stone and declared it genuine! He claimed it was carved by explorers who left Scandinavia for Greenland in 1355. Supposedly, these men traveled into Hudson Bay and from there into the interior of America. He spend his life defending the authenticity of the stone and

succeeded in having a committee of the Minnesota Historical Society to second his opinion. However, the society's governing body refused to endorse the committee's position, until more agreement regarding the stone's authenticity was reached.

Scholars can be found on both sides of the issue. In addition to Holand, Ole G. Landsverk and Robert Hall, also vehemently defended the stone's authenticity. Hall in his book, *the Kensington Rune-Stone is Genuine*, concluded, "that much of the runic text is only derivable from around the year 1362, and no one could have possibly carved the stone in or around the year 1898..." Among the scholars who have doubted the stone's authenticity are Erik Wahlgren, Theodore Blegen and Birgetta Wallace. All were troubled by circumstances surrounding the discovery of the stone, i.e., that stories on the age and size of the tree varied and that few people witnessed the discovery. Many geologists have been puzzled by the condition of the stone, especially the surface where the message is carved. It shows little deterioration for having been subject to the freezing and thawing of the ground for over 100 years. Finally, many linguists question the text of the message. They cite words which were not commonly used by Scandinavians in the 14th Century. They also point to the use of rune numerals in the text, rather than Roman, which would have been more common for the era. Thus, among most professional scholars, but not all, the stone is considered a hoax.

Today, the stone can be viewed at the Runestone Museum in Alexandria, Minnesota. The museum which was established in 1958, welcomes believers and skeptics alike. Ten to fifteen thousand people visit the museum each year and debate the issue--and not all of them are Scandinavians.

RUNE

From: **World Book Encyclopedia**

Rune, roon, is any one of the characters of the earliest written alphabet used by the Germanic peoples of Europe. The oldest runic writings date back to the A.D. 200's. Most runic inscriptions known today were written before the 1000's. Many runes were carved in wood, but most surviving runes were written in stone.

The word *rune* comes from a Gothic word meaning *secret*. Members of early Germanic tribes associated runes with secrecy or mystery because few people understood the inscriptions. Runic characters were probably first used by pagan priests in making charms and magic spells. The characters were also scratched on coins, jewelry, monuments, and slabs of stone or wood. The earliest runes consisted almost entirely of straight lines, arranged singly or in combinations of two or more. Later runes had more complex forms.

Archaeologists have discovered more than 4,000 runic inscriptions. Over 3,000 of these writings were found in Sweden, and many dated from the 800's to the 1000's, the period of the Vikings. Other runic writings were discovered in Denmark, England, Germany, and Norway. By the 1000's, missionaries had converted the Germanic peoples to Christianity. Their conversion led to the introduction of the Roman alphabet, which eventually replaced runic characters. James E. Cathey

Letters of the runic alphabet were used for writing ancient Anglo-Saxon inscriptions.

f u th o r k (palatal) (guttural) w h n i j ch

p eo s t b e m l ng oe d a ae y ea

Runic Writing

In addition to the runic alphabet that can be translated to English, each rune also possessed a special meaning.

F	cattle	H	hail	↑	the god Tyr
∩	wild ox	†	need	Б	birch twig
Ƨ	giant		ice	M	horse
F	god	↗	growing season	⌘	man
R	journey	↘	yew	↑	water
<	torch	⌘	(meaning unknown)	◇	the Danish god Ing
X	gift	Y	protection	⌘	day
P	joy	Σ	sun	◇	inheritance

— adapted from *Viking Lore* by Douglas Rossman



ELVERUM KOMMUNE

Sektor for kultur Administrasjon

Roland Krogstad, Editor
2718 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705
U. S. A.

Dato: 10.01.2000
Saksbeh.: KL-AD-KUL
Direkte tlf.: 62433083
Deres ref.:
Vår ref.: 1996/000793--
Vår ref. bes oppgitt ved svar

Dear Sir

Re The first emigrant from Elverum

I am answering your request on behalf of Ottar Evensen, Chief of Administration in the community of Elverum and chairman of our Society of Lokal History.

The very first emigrants from our community were thrilled by the rumors of the huge amounts of gold in California and started out in 1850. In order to get there they had to endure at long seavoyage across the Atlantic, down along the East coast of the American continent, round the cape and up the West coast.

The party consisted of three young men:

- Jens Pedersen Bronken, born 1828
- Oluf Semingsen Bronken, born 1819
- Ole Olsen Tallhaugen, born 1817

It is not supposed that they had any great good luck in the goldrush. Jens and Oluf returned home however and ended their days as farmers in Elverum. Ole did not reach home, he died somewhere in the States. Even so I think it is likely that their reports home by letter may have triggered of the first wave of settlers from Elverum to the U. S. A

In 1852 a party of 20 persons got passports for the States. There are some indication that their first destination was the settlement "Oliana" in Potters County, Pennsylvania, founded by the famous norwegian violinist and composer Ole Bull. But as this settlement did not turn out a success, they moved on to Wisconsin. The names of this contingent follows below:

- Kristian Halvorsen Smedbakken, born 1817 with wife Marte Olsdatter, born 1816 and their children: Ole, born 1841, Bernhard, born 1843, Emilie, born 1847, Marte, born 1849 and Hanna, born 1851
- Jens Pedersen Moe, born 1820 with wife Serine Semingsdatter, born 1826 and their children: Peder, born 1850 and Syver, born 1850

See p.11

- Peder Gundersen Nygården, born 1816 with wife Inger Gundersdatter and their children Juliane, born 1851 and Pauline, born 1841.
- Peder Eriksen Lømo born 1815 with wife Oliane Larsdatter Sorknes from Grue. Peder fought in the Civil War as did Jens Pedersen Moe also.
- Andreas Semingsen Bronken, born 1831, brother of the golddigger (look above).
- Oleana Olsdatter Rustad, born 1827
- Elen Embretsdatter Siljuberget, born 1830

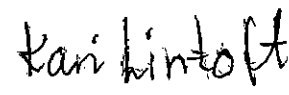
In 1852 the following men got passports for Texas, but did not embark until 1853:

- Berger Trollefsen Rogstad, born 1820, came first to Van Zandt, later to Bosque where he married Anne Bronstad. He died in Borsque in 1880
- Kristian Olsen Strand, born 1831, mason and farmer in Bosque, married Regine Shefstad, died in 1915.
- Kristoffer Pedersen Holtet, born 1827. He first setteled as baker in Lockhart, Valdwel and later moved to Borsque where he got a farm. He married Karen Oline Pierson and died in 1881.

So far we have not planned any special celebration activities in our community. But we would be pleased to welcome those in your group who would want to visit our community and to help them along if they wish to do some local research. Thanks to the work og Society of Local History, The Society of Genealogical History and the work going on in our "bygdebokredaksjon", we are well equiped to lend your members a hand. For the better coordination of our resources we wold prefer to be notified in advance if some of you are coming.

Med hilsen


Steinar Hovland
sektorsjef


Kari Lintoft
bygdebokforfatter

Kopi til: Ottar Evensen Elverum kommune

Museumssentret Ramsmoen

Stiftelsen Musea i Nord-Østerdalen



Jan. 4, 2000
Friid eller smørform

Roland Krogstad
2718 Regent Street
Madison WI 53705
USA

Kongsvn. 6
Boks 150, 2501 Tynset
Tlf. 62 48 08 70
Fax 62 48 06 66

Dear Mr. Krogstad

For some months ago I got your request about the first emigrant, place they went to and possible activities in Nord-Østerdalen during this years.
I shall try to answer as good as possible.

I'm working at the regional museum Musea i Nord-Østerdalen at Tynset, I'm leader for the regional museumscenter Museumssentret Ramsmoen, dealing with 6 kommuner(Os, Tolga, Tynset, (Kvikne) Alvdal, Folldal og Rendalen) and 8 local museums. The office is located to the center of Tynset, at a old farm Ramsmoen.

I know little about emigration from Nord Østerdalen, but there are many people who haver done that, especially:
Arne Dag Østigard, former Tynset, now Oslo, Collettsgt 12B 0169 Oslo, and Vidar Støen former Folldal, now 2500 Tynset. They have worked and written much about emigration.

And the many bygdebooks has also interesting, but very different informations. I have looked trough them and send you some informations:

Os

new bygdebook, family and farmhistory: written by Jon Ola Gjermundsen, 2550 Os i Ø

Tolga

family and farmhistory written by Eystein Eggen
Vingelen

The first went in the early 1850's, but little informations
Eystein Eggen: Vingelen 1968

Kvikne

The first one Mattias Jonson Estensmo left in 1850, (150 years celebrarion) but I don't know where he went.
In Kvikne Ei bygdebok Oslo 1952 there is a list of emigrants, but not any more written

Tynset

the first to leave was in 1850 (150 years celebration)
Nils Nilsson Utistuen Neby and wife Marit Pedersen and children(?) Marit, Nils, Beret, Marit, Nils, they went to
Martel Wisconsin See p.13

Ole T. Grøtli Utby to Cumberland Wisconsin
(see Tynset Bygdebok. bind III 1978 and Tynset Bygdebok IV
1988)

Alvdal

the first to leave was Peder Avlesen Brandvoll (Borsen) and Ole
Olsen Strømsløyken in 1852

see Alvdal Ei bygdebok av Einar Steimoeggen, 1966

Folldal: I have to check

Rendalen: I have to check, but:

Øvre Rendalen: Jacob B. Bull: Family and farm history

Ytre Rendal: Odd Nytrøen: Gard og ætt

The Museum publish a yearbook, in those from 1985 and 1992
there are small articles about emigration. I send you a list
of books.

So too the celebration. We have not decided yet, but since may
be some of you will visit the area in september that will be a
good occasion. We have to stay in touch.

I shall also work more to get more informations about
emigratin, I will also think about an article in the Yearbook
2000. As museum we work with documentation and exhebitions. We
have some informations about emigration in the archives, some
informations about the former Østerdalslag, but will be happy
to have more.

I'm not fram Østerdalen, I am born at Gran Hadeland, but has
lived here for 25 years married to a girl fram Alvdal. For the
last four years I have been mayor in Alvdal, but sorry to say
I was not reelected, so I'm back in my old possition.
I have always been interested in emigrataion historie and has
written abor emigration from Hadeland. I have been in the
States three times, have a lot of relatives and friends there.
In Chehalis, Seattle, Decorah, St. Paul Minneapolis,
Northfield, Northwood mm.

May be this can be a start, hope to heear from you again, feel
free to ask for more informations.

Best regards

MUSEA I NORD-ØSTERDALEN

Museumssentret Ramsmoen

Per Hvamstad
Per Hvamstad
director



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Vol.55 No.8

Ellis Island exhibit to mark 175th anniversary

In 1825, fifty-three tired Norwegians finally set foot on American soil after a fourteen-week voyage across the Atlantic in a frail thirty-nine ton sloop called *Restauration*.

The Norwegian immigrants, which included a baby girl born somewhere on the Atlantic, were mainly Quaker sympathizers and thus had been subject to persecution by the clergy of the Norwegian Lutheran State Church.

Their journey began on July 4, 1825, in Stavanger and ended in the port of New York on Oct. 9, the same year. Their arrival marked the beginning of the continuous Norwegian immigration. In several waves over the next 100 years, over 800,000

Norwegians would follow them.

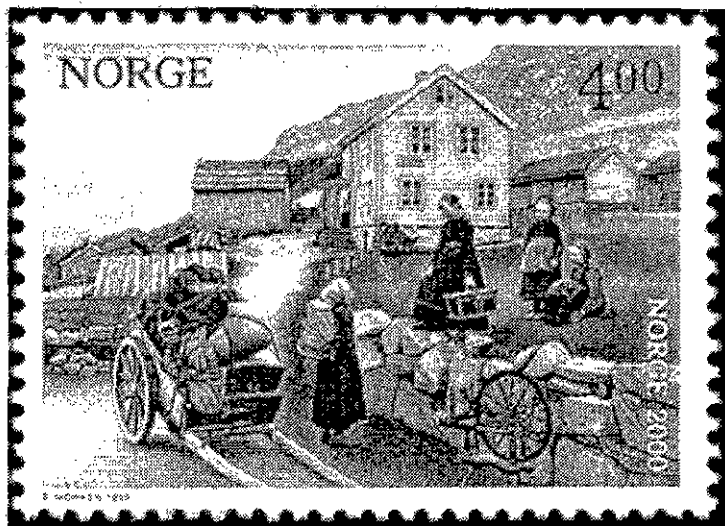
The 175th anniversary of this hazardous and remarkable endeavor will be celebrated with an immigration exhibit at Ellis Island. Only this time, the immigration story told will have a different twist. "The exhibit will focus on the Norwegian-Americans on the East Coast," said Sigurd Jansen, chairman of the executive council of the Norwegian Immigration Association, Inc. "Nothing has really been done on this theme before. The goal is to focus and preserve this before it is too late." The Norwegian Immigration Association, Inc. was founded in 1996 with this specific purpose in mind.

See EXHIBIT, p. 15

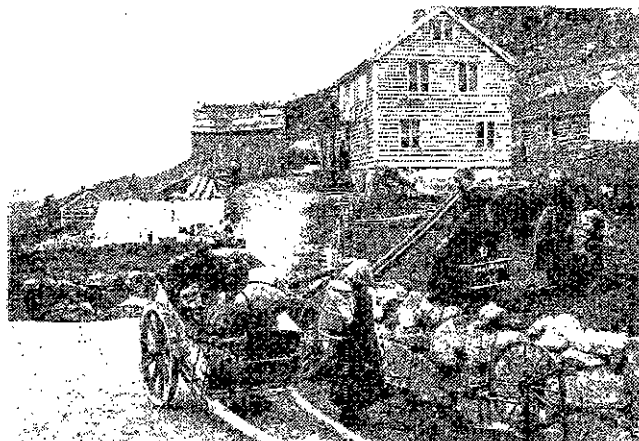


PHOTO: COURTESY OF STATUE OF LIBERTY/ELLIS ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT LIBRARY
After being closed for renovation, the Great Hall at Ellis Island reopened in 1990 as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island and went through inspections in the Great Hall.

From: Langingslaget's LAND-I-AMERICA, Oct, 1999 **NORWEGIAN 175TH ANNIVERSARY STAMP**



The stamp shown at the left is the Norwegian 175th anniversary stamp, copied from the photograph shown below. The photograph was taken in about 1880 and shows a family leaving Seljestad near Odda in Hardanger. The sign on the house says "STATION," which indicates that the place was a stage coach station, or an inn where travelers changed horses.



EXHIBIT, from pg. 1

Most people view the Midwest as typical Norwegian-American territory, as it is the area where most Norwegian immigrants ultimately settled. A 1990 census, published in the new book by Odd Lovoll, "The Promise Fulfilled," reveals that 51.7 percent of those who gave Norwegian as their first or second ethnicity still resided in the Midwest, the majority in Minnesota.

Most Norwegian immigrants left New York City as soon as they set foot on American soil, but a significant number chose to stay in New York. In the late 1800s, Brooklyn, New York, emerged as the Norwegian center on the East Coast. Between 1890 and 1910, the number of Norwegians in Brooklyn doubled, reaching a total of 15,000. By 1930, the "Norwegians" numbered 63,000 out of the 2.5 million citizens that lived in Brooklyn. Of those, 60 percent were born in Norway. Brooklyn contained the largest urban concentration of Norwegian-born people outside Norway, a population whose history was largely left untold because of the attention paid to the Midwest migration.

When urbanization crept into American cities in the mid-1950s, many of Brooklyn's Norwegians joined the migration wave to the suburbs. With their move, the Norwegian Brooklyn died out and with it much of the Norwegian community and identity. As the Brooklyn Norwegians scattered, so did the history and the heritage of the community that had once thrived.

In the Midwest, tales of the Norwegian immigrants and their

descendants from the early years and more recent times have been documented through institutions like Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum and the Norwegian-American Historical Association. In Seattle, Wash., the Nordic Heritage Museum has a collection that tells the tale of the immigrants' journey and their lives in the Northwest. A similar institution on the East Coast was never established.

The exhibit, planned to open on May 17th in the year 2000 in the gallery above the Great Hall on Ellis Island, seeks to remedy some of that.

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum is part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument and is the third most visited museum in the City of New York. According to Diana Pardue, Chief of Museum Services, about 4 million people visit the two landmarks annually. She added that most of these go completely through the exhibit.

This will give the anniversary exhibit a tremendous exposure, which, according to Sigurd Jansen, is an enormous challenge. "It is a great way to profile Norway," he explained. "The exhibit has to be great, otherwise it serves no purpose."

Ellis Island is the only venue for the exhibit. Museum Services will not develop the exhibit, though it is closely involved in the process. "We're basically trying to help them along and we're basically coordinating everything because we have to make sure that what they are doing is acceptable," Purdue explained.

The Norwegian Immigration Association, Inc. has hired Thompson Museum Consulting located in St. Paul, Minn., to develop the exhibit. "Our work

is as the fabricator," Tom Thompson of Thompson Museum Consulting said. "We build the exhibit. We're kind of its architects."

At the moment, Thompson and his co-workers are addressing the conceptual plan. According to Thompson, much of the emphasis will be placed on the time period between 1900-1950, looking at many of the contributions Norwegians made in the building of New York.

Names like Ole Singstad and Carl Michael Eger might not ring a bell right away, but most of New Yorkers have heard about the Holland, Queens Midtown and Brooklyn Battery tunnels in New York (designed by Singstad) and quite a few Norwegians and Americans have set foot on the stairway for the statue of liberty (built by HECLA Iron founded by Eger). In the exhibit at Ellis Island in the year 2000, they and other Norwegians like them will be a major part of the story.

The first step for Thompson and his associates was to learn what the story entailed. In doing so, they have worked with a group of content experts comprised of historians in the field, including representatives of the Emigration Museum in Stavanger. David Mauk, who documented much of the Norwegian Brooklyn history in his book "The Colony that Rose from the Sea" has been another valuable resource.

The greatest challenge might come in the final stage: collecting artifacts. Since the Norwegian Immigration Association, Inc. has no storage space the artifacts have to be collected at the last minute. The biggest obstacle, however, might be to locate the artifacts. Due to the lack of previous collections like the ones existing in Decorah, Iowa, and Seattle, Wash., in some ways, they are starting from scratch. A committee has been established by the Norwegian Immigration

Association, Inc. to help Thompson Museum Consulting locate artifacts and photos in private homes on the East Coast.

The budget has been set at around \$500,000. The Norwegian Immigration Association started the fundraising this fall. Jansen said that they already have \$100,000, in part thanks to two major sponsors: The Bay Foundation and the Inger Ginsberg Foundation. But donors also include individuals who see this as a worthwhile and important project. Ellis Island-Project 2000 has also gotten support from the likes of Arlene Dahl, Celeste Holm, Thor Heyerdahl and Ambassador Tom Vraalsen, something that is much appreciated, according to Jansen. Support can be given by becoming a member of the Norwegian Immigrant Association.

Jansen added that the museum project is on track and on schedule. In addition to the exhibit, events in cooperation with The Norwegian Emigration Center in Stavanger, Norway, are being planned, as well. Among them is an emigration database, containing information on Norwegians emigrating between 1864 and 1927. It will be opened for the first time at Ellis Island and a disk will be on sale, according to Jansen. As a finale on Oct. 9, 2000, at the South State Seaport, the Norwegian Emigration Center will commemorate the beginning of Norwegian immigration with a performance of the *Restauration's* Atlantic adventure and its arrival in the port of New York.

Information

To support the exhibit and become a member of the Norwegian Immigration Association, Inc., contact:
Norwegian Immigration Association, Inc.

c/o Robert Solberg
111 Fulton Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10038
Ph.: (212) 571-2162
www.norimm.org

Do you have a "Great Hall" story?

The Ellis Island Oral History Program is always interested in interviewing more people who came through Ellis Island.

If you have a story or know someone who does, contact:

The Oral History Office,

Statue of Liberty, Liberty Island, New York, NY 10004.

Ph.: (202) 363-5806 / www.nps.gov/stli

Viking exhibit marks millennium

The Vikings first explored in North America in A.D. 1000. This year, the Smithsonian Institution is celebrating the sense of adventure and challenge that initiated the Viking explorations. The exhibit, titled "Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga", will be a part of the Smithsonian's, as well as the White House's, millennium program.

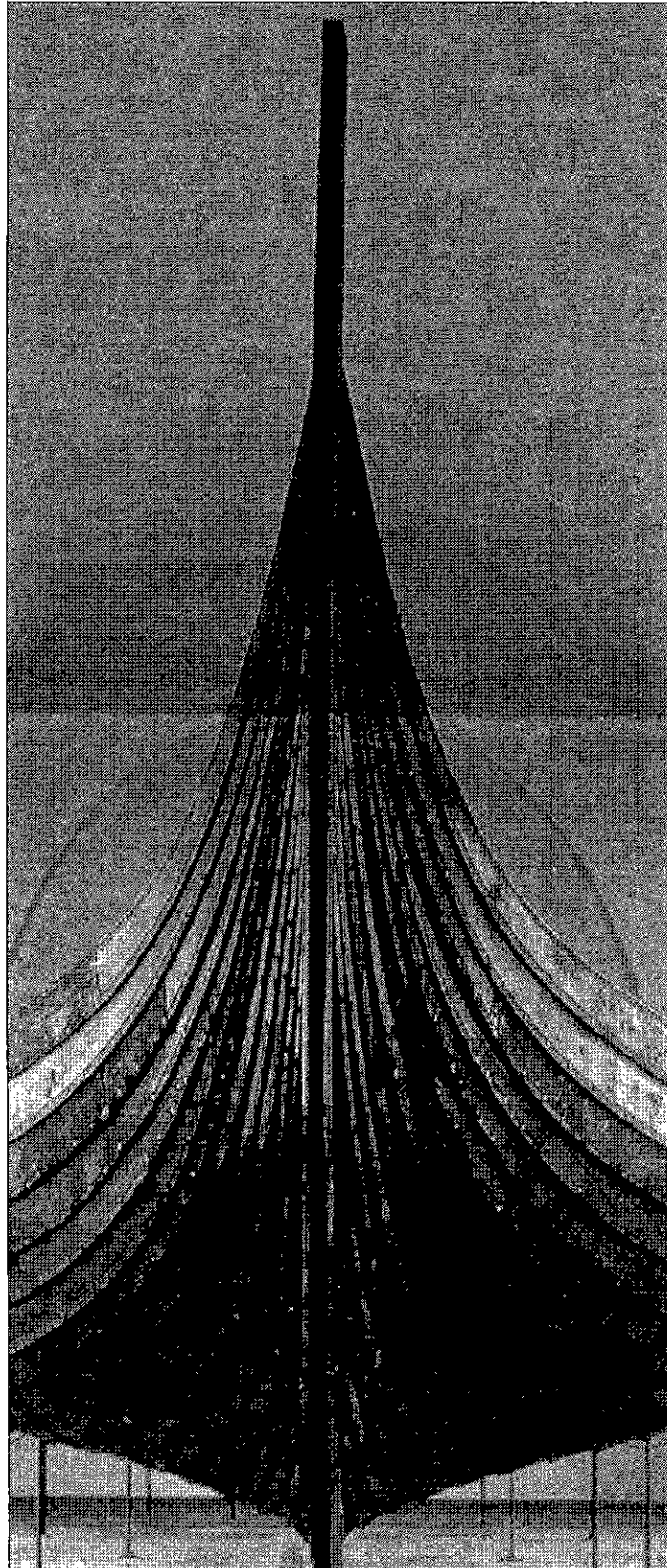
Vikings" will be on display from April 29 through September at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. It will be the Norwegian government's largest contribution to North America's millennium celebration.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who heads the White House Millennium effort, announced earlier this spring that this is another opportunity "to take stock of who we are, where we come from, what we hope and want from the future."

Seafaring pioneers

The organizers wish to tell a story of seafaring pioneers, rather than portraying Vikings as pillaging warriors. The exhibit will explore the historical impact of recent archeological findings that have redefined our knowledge of early North American and Scandinavian life.

"They [the Vikings] were among the earliest conveyors of information, experience and culture from one part of the known world to another," the First Lady explained, and characterized the Viking ship as, "the Internet of the year 1000."



The viking ship Gokstad at the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo.

More than 200 artifacts

The \$3 million, 5,500 sq. ft. exhibition showcases more than 200 artifacts including Viking jewelry, wooden carvings, and burial artifacts created between A.D. 800 and 1050, medieval church carvings from 1050 to 1400; Romantic period (1800-1900s) paintings; and contemporary pop-culture items.

"(...) the Internet of the year 1000."

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON - ON VIKING SHIPS

Regarding the exhibit's significance the Smithsonian curator Dr. William Fitzhugh said, "The Vikings' trek from their Scandinavian homelands to North America was a truly historic moment in history - a time when two streams of humanity, one European and the other Asian/Native American, met for the first time on the northeastern shores of this continent."

The exhibition is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, which represents the five Nordic countries (Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and Finland). After premiering at the Museum of Natural History, the exhibition will embark on a two-year tour that will reach cities including New York, Ottawa, Los Angeles, Houston, and Chicago.

FACTS/Viking exhibit

- "Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga" is available on the Web at www.nmnh.si.edu/arctic
- Or on the Norwegian Embassy's homepage www.norway.org, under events.
- For further information call (202) 357-2700.

OSTERDALSLAGET PHOTO

A group photo of the 1913 Osterdalslaget Stevne in Fargo, ND has been scanned and enlarged to full size by Dixie Hansen. However there is no identification of individuals on the photo. If anyone has reason to believe that their relatives may be on the photo may contact Dixie for a copy.

EARLY EMIGRATION DATA

From: **OSTERDOLENES SAGA**, by K.G. Nilsen, Fuhr Publishing & Printing Co., Duluth, MN, 1938.

Following are the number of emigrants as reported from parish records for the years shown. Folldal was a part of Alvda.

Parish	Number	Years
Alvdal	484	1866-1902
Elverum	1,368	1850-1926
Engerdal	67	1882-1913
Kvikne	146	1850-1929
Osen Annex	42	1887-1911
Ovre Rendal	316	1879-1914
Ytre Rendal	336	1880-1914
Sollia	133	1867-1912
Stor-Elvdal	674	1862-1907
Tolga	229	1851-1929
Trysil	912	1848-1923
Tynset	976	1849-1919
Amot	874	1850-1916
TOTAL=	6,557	

This does not include any from Hedemarken District

SKIBLADNER

Norway's first railroad between Christiania(now Oslo) and Eidsvold opened in 1854. Two years later the Siblader had its maiden voyage on Lake Mjosa between Eidsvold and Lillehammer. The Skibladner, the world's oldest paddle steamer, looks much the same as it did in 1856. However, its speed of an easy 14 knots today is faster than the 11.5 knots of 1856. Built in Sweden, it is 165 feet long, 16 ft. 7 inches wide, and 5 ft. 6 inches deep. It has a crew of 6, and can carry a maximum of 230 passengers. Its sailing period is May 20 to Sept. 15.

STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR TOUR

It is still time to sign up for the **NHOH TOUR 2000**,

September 15-26, 2000. Cost is \$2,298 from Minneapolis or \$2,198 from Chicago. Mail Application Form and Deposit to: **Ed-Ventures, Inc.**, 604 11th Avenue NW, Suite 200, P.O. Box 7081, Rochester, MN 55903-7081
Phone: (507)289-3332 or 800-658-7128
See Application Form below

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken APPLICATION FORM

Name (s): _____

as it will appear on your passport
PLEASE INCLUDE MIDDLE INITIAL

Nickname: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Birthdate: _____

Phone at Home: _____

Phone at Work: _____

Departure City: _____

Are you celebrating an anniversary or special event during your vacation? If so please indicate date and event: _____

Passport #: _____

Expiration: _____

☐ Smoking ☐ Non-Smoking

☐ Please charge my deposit on my credit card

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Card #: _____

Expiration: _____

Name on credit card: _____

Signature: _____

Deposit enclosed: \$ _____ (\$300 per person)

Price of single supplement: \$300

I (we) have read and agree to the terms and conditions. Please include me (us) on the trip. Attached is my check for \$300 deposit per person made payable to Ed-Ventures, Inc.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

ONG00

Price of this tour: \$2,298 Mpls \$2,198 Chicago

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News
Roland Krogstad, Editor
2718 Regent St.
Madison, WI 53705-3714



2000 DUES DUE!

If your mailing label has **1999** on the top line, it means your Lag **dues expired** on December 31, 1999 and are **now payable** for the year January 1 to December 31, 2000. When paying dues is a good time to update addresses, etc. as indicated on the **Dues Renewal Form**. Make checks payable to NHOH Lag and mail to Charlotte Helstad, Treasurer, 8 Sebring Ct., Madison, WI 53719-3521.

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DUES RENEWAL FORM

Name(s) _____
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Norway(see p.1): _____
Genealogy Fund: _____ \$ _____
Dues: 1yr=\$10; 2yrs=\$18; 3yrs=\$25 Enc: \$ _____

Ola Klefsås
Skolev 32
2480 KOPPANG

18

26. januar 2000

Mr. Roland Krogstad
2718 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705
USA

Dear Mr. Krogstad,

Sorry I have forgotten to answer your questions, but I hope it is still not too late.

According to the churchbook the first emigrant from Stor-Elvdal was Edvard Olsen Westgaard. He left in April 1850, 24 years old. Edvard was born in Løiten (Løten), but "confirmed here". When he left, he had already stayed in Christiania (Oslo) for some time.

His destination is just "America".

No celebration activities are planned in Stor-Elvdal. When I asked the township authorities, they did not even know there is an anniversary!

All the best!

Tlf 624 60 316
906 45 674

E-post: olakaa@online.no
C:\Mine dokumenter\Private brev\Krogstad.doc

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