

NHOH News

Volume 8 Number ³ Fall 2003

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

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:

The first Tre Lag Stevne proved to be a rousing success!

Over 240 registrants attended the stevne—many more than what was hoped for. They not only represented membership of the three lags, but also first-time attendees who were curious to find out what a stevne is all about. Needless to say, everyone walked away with a greater appreciation and a greater understanding of a Norwegian-American stevne and the 'Norwegian Prairie Pioneers'—the theme of our Sioux Falls stevne. The evaluations indicated that, overall, attendees liked the program. And most importantly, they liked the idea of the three lags joining together to form one stevne.

A special thank you to all of the Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken members who attended the stevne. And, a special thank you to those who assisted with various aspects of the program.

With the huge success of the first Tre Lag Stevne, it will be a challenge to achieve the same results next year at the 2004 Stevne, which will be held in Rochester, Minnesota from August 4-7 at the Best Western Apache Hotel.

Enclosed in this mailing is a brochure highlighting the second Norway tour sponsored by our Lag. The tour runs from September 2 through the 16th—a total of 15 days. A unique aspect of the itinerary are

the five days scheduled in Hamar. These five days are set aside to provide time for genealogy research in, and around Hamar, family farm visits, visiting relatives, and to visit other areas of eastern Norway. If you have any questions regarding the tour, you may direct them to our travel agent, CETA, in Rochester, Minnesota, toll free at 1-800-658-7088

Congratulations to Gene Nelson who was elected to the position of Director for our Lag. The other members of the Board who were elected are Gary Olson, President; Ron Helstad, Vice President; Dixie Hansen, Secretary; Charlotte Helstad, Treasurer; Roland Krogstad Past President/Editor; John Reindl, Genealogist; and, Marilyn Sorensen and Orrin Helstad, Directors.

My sincere best wishes for the coming holidays and the approaching new year.

Sincerely, Gary M. Olson, President.

LAG OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President: Gary M. Olson	(507) 282-1090
V.Pres.: Ron Helstad	(507) 895-9772
Secretary: Dixie Hansen	(651) 690-0872
Treasurer: Charlotte A. Helstad	(608) 833-3455
Genealogist: John Reindl	(608) 238-0393
Directors: Orrin Helstad	(608) 833-3455
Eugene Nelson	(608) 241-0251
Marilyn Sorensen	(651) 633-1329
Past Pres. Roland Krogstad	(608) 238-6652

2004 Tre Lag Stevne in Rochester, MN

The 2004 Tre Lag Stevne is scheduled for August 4-7, at the Best Western Apache Hotel in Rochester, MN. The planning committee is already at work. Your suggestions for a theme and agenda items are welcome.

2003 TRE LAG STEVNE A SUCCESS

A total of 244 registrants attended the 2003 Stevne. At their meeting October 25th Board members indicated that the 2003 Tre Lag Stevne went extremely well, the program met the conferees' expectations, that the three Lags seemed to mesh with good working relationships, and that the Tre Lag Stevne should continue.

On a scale of 1-10, evaluation returns revealed high average ratings from 8.43 and above for all but two of the 16 items rated.

Many comments of 'very good, good idea, excellent, well done' and others were expressed for all aspects of the stevne, from genealogy lab materials and assistance; handouts at sessions; speakers; heritage tour; to the Augustana tour, banquet, and memorial service.

However, there were some suggestions for consideration such as: more open time, computer terminals, and copy machines in genealogy lab; Friday afternoon speakers were interesting and informative, but too long after the noon meal; hospitality hour could have more chairs; Friday evening dancers were difficult to see; guides would have been helpful enroute and at Augustana campus; coffee breaks, craft demos, and vendors could be in the same room to increase participation.

LIKE A MEMBERSHIP LIST??

Our membership lists contain your names, addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and your roots in Hedmark. This information could help networking in genealogy research. Because of privacy of information concerns, the Board voted to mail a copy upon request. If you'd like a copy please contact Orrin Helstad, 8 Sebring Court, Madison, WI 53719-3521. E-mail helstadol@charter.net. PH: 608-833-3455.

2004 NORWAY TOUR

CETA (Customized Educational Tour Arrangements) of Rochester, MN has planned a 'Spectacular Norway,' September 2-16, 2004. See enclosed brochure for further details, highlights, and application form. Departures are from Minneapolis 1:00 pm on NW 134, (25 seats) to Chicago. Ten additional seats are confirmed from

Chicago at 5:10 pm on NW/KLM 8612 to Amsterdam. Cost is \$100 less from Chicago.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GENEALOGIST

John Reindl

I just returned from a trip searching for my ancestral roots in Austria and the Czech Republic. Besides getting a lot of great ancestral information, I also got a new appreciation for the differences in how records are kept and how different cultures treat genealogical information.

The records in Austria and Czech Republic are scattered among many different depositories, and with different rules for usage. For example, records from some Catholic Churches have been turned over to a regional Church archive. I was able to find out via email prior to my trip that the archive had the records and was able to make an appointment for access to the records. However, it was found that other books were needed, they could only be ordered during a one-hour period in the morning and a one-hour period in the afternoon. While this system worked in my situation, I quickly exhausted the information in the books that I had, only to learn that the earlier records had never been turned over to the archives and that I'd have to contact the local church and make a separate appointment to use those books. Also, the church archives only had church records. Civil records, including maps of the village and surrounding farm land, were in a different archive, military records in a separate place, etc.

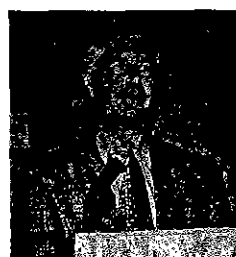
This lack of a central collection added greatly to the time it took to find ancestral information, and how I longed for a bygdebøk and a regional archive that had all the information in one location. But, I also realized that bygdebøker, while making life easier, also can create a false sense of security. Being secondary—or even tertiary—sources of information, they can also have errors in them. The records that I used in the scattered archives were original records—still subject to error, but less likely to do so.

Often, when I'm helping people do their genealogy, they accept information in a bygdebøk as absolute and don't look for the primary records. While easier to use than searching through microfilms of hard to read penmanship, they should be used only as a guide, not the final authority.

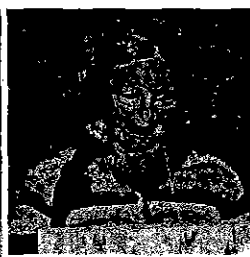
Having said that, the Lag is pleased to announce that it has obtained the third part of the second volume of the Nes Bygdebøk. Published in 2000 and covering 876 pages, it should be a useful tool for those with ancestors in Nes.

The Lag is interested in obtaining other resources that would be of use to its members. Let me or any Board member know of resources that you would like the Lag to try to obtain.

NHOH Stevne Photos - 7-9 August 2003



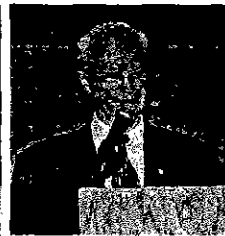
Mayor Munson



Gunhild Oyangen
Norwegian Gov Rep



Consul Paulson



Art Huseboe



Renner Church(Original Nidaros Church)



Rolvag Cabin



Marge Grorud

Craft Demo

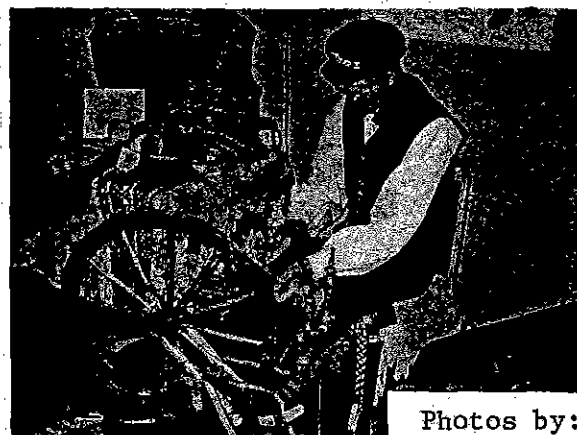


Norwegian
Dancers



Philip Derras

Vendors



Toleiv Kampen

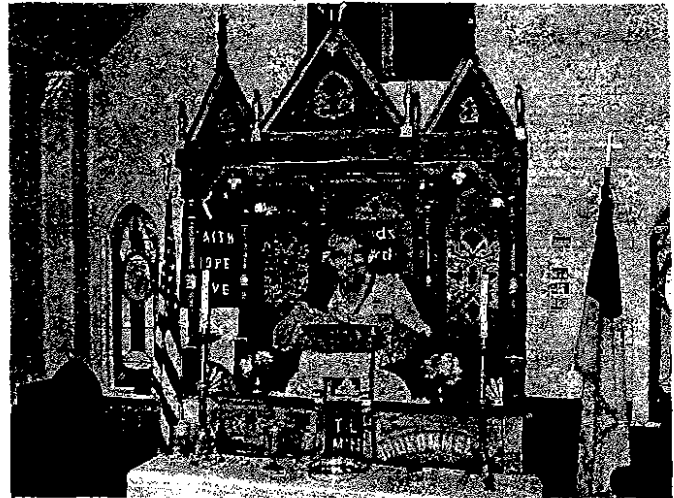
Photos by:
Bob Christiansen &
Gene Nelson

See colored photos on our Lag website: www.nhohlag.org

NHOH Stevne Photos - 7-9 August 2003



Art Moe - Little Nidaros Church



"Reverend" Dixie

Odel Bjerknes
Viking Lecture



New Cousins



Torrit & Bjornar Steivang
Members from Norway



Banquet at
Augustana College



Photos by: Bob Christiansen & Gene Nelson

Dubhlinn's Vikings

**By Lori Alexander,
Dublin, Ireland**

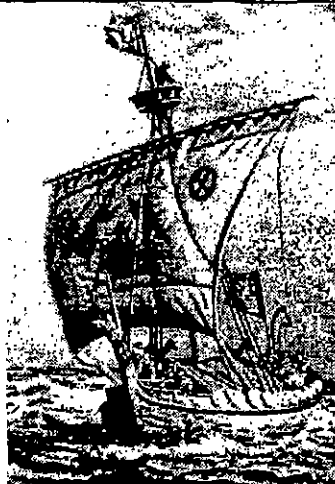
In the late 700's, Norwegian shipbuilders began constructing what would come to be known as "longships": vessels with long, slender noses, designed to cut cleanly through the sea and handle even the roughest summer sailings. Coupled with sail and rudder, and a need to escape the restraints of a family farm crowded with brothers, the light, flexible plank crafts were soon aimed towards the Irish coast.

The first isolated attacks on Ireland were in 795, using methods that would guarantee success: surprise, speed, and a clear escape route. Lone monasteries and coastal villages absorbed the earliest strikes, and the hoarded wealth of the Irish monasteries must have astounded those first Vikings.

Each summer, the number of Vikings venturing into Irish waters increased, and as young men returned home to winter at their family farms, word spread of Ireland's lightly defended coast. Laden with monastic gold and slaves to sell on their rapidly expanding trade route, the raiders were drawn to Ireland summer after summer.

Feuding Irish tribesmen were in no position to defend themselves against the lightening-fast Norse longships. Divided into 150 kingdoms, each clan's resources were consumed by the effort of protecting territory and power. It took the Irish fifteen summers to put forth serious opposition and claim a decisive victory against Norse incursions. Within a year, the Vikings returned, and slaughtered the Irish who resisted.

By the summer of 820, Vikings were using the Shannon to sail virtually unchecked into the heart of Ireland. The rich Irish monasteries dotting their route were left standing for one reason alone: to loot again and again, and main-



tain a steady supply of Irish captives.

65 Viking ships were seen at the mouth of the Liffey River in 837. By then, the sailors had been maneuvering Irish waters for more than a generation. Along with the gold making its way to Scandinavia, Irish customs were arriving with Irish captives. Irish-style jewelry, manufactured in Norway, began to appear. High-sta-

tus female Irish grave goods have been unearthed in Norwegian burials. As the Irish captives settled into Norse society, the Norse themselves were determined to carve a more permanent place in Ireland's history.

The Norsemen built Dubhlinn, or "Black Pool", in 841. They began forming local alliances, formally marrying Irish women, hiring out as mercenaries, and providing strength to upset the balance of native rivalries. Reinforcements continued to arrive, and at first, the growing settlement faced little organized resistance.

In 845, having coped with four years of regular Viking raiding and political interference, the Irish kings rallied. Under the King of Tara, the Irish defeated the Dublin encampment.

The victory was short lived. In 853, the Vikings wrested Dublin from the Irish and the Danes. Olaf became the first Norse king of Dublin, to be followed by his brother, Ivar the Boneless, and the entrenched Vikings began exacting tribute from their neighboring clansmen.

The Vikings were again free to roam year-round from their Dublin base, and busied themselves sending raiding parties into Scotland and the north of Ireland. In a single recorded attack, they took 1000 captives. Mass abductions became common, and were possibly aided by Irish-Norse alliances, and Irish seeking to oblige Dublin's demands for tribute.

Despite their influence, the settlement was small within a sea of opposition. While fending off encroaching Danes and unfriendly Irish, the

Dublin continued page 8

Dublin continued:

Vikings were faced with their own internal rivalries, both in Dublin and among the Viking settlements of Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and along the north coast. After the death of Ivar the Boneless, three Viking families fought to control Dublin. Irish-Norse alliances were inevitable and necessary, and it was Ivar's sons who seized control after allying with the powerful Irish O'Neill.

When Ivar's sons were killed in 896, Viking leaders temporarily lost their hold. In 902, Ireland's Leinstermen re-took Dublin. A sizeable number of Norse and Irish-Norse settlers left to colonize Iceland, some sheltered in the Western Isles, and others may have made temporary camps on Irish islands.

Little is recorded of the average Dublin tradesman or crafter, but by 902, the Irish perception of the newcomers had softened. The Norse had ceased to be, "white foreigners", and become "Ostmen", to distinguish the generations of occupying Irish-Norse Dubliners from Scandinavian Vikings. It's probable that following the exodus of 902, Dublin's mixed-parentage craftsmen, farmers, and the daughters who'd married into Irish clans remained under the protection of their Irish relations. Any Ostwomen who considered cutting ties to her Irish husband risked forfeiting her children to the Irish clan system.

As explained by Thomas G. Fewer MA, Waterford Institute of Technology, "in cases of divorce or widowhood, women took back with them any property that they brought into the

marriage. However, their children were considered to be members of their father's clan and would normally be expected to remain with his family should their mother return to hers."

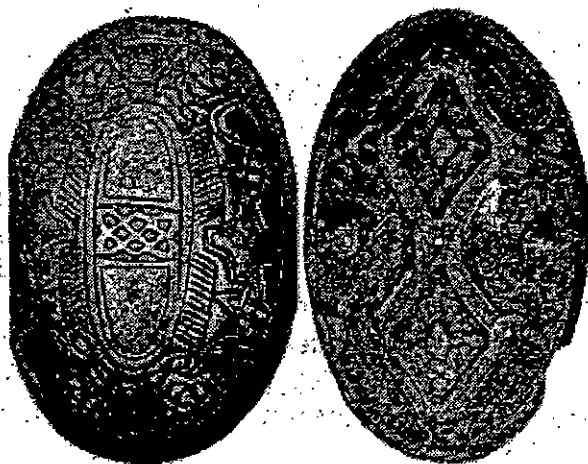
In 917, Ivar's grandson Sihtric Caech returned to Ireland. Dublin was again occupied, and the Norse began reclaiming their old settlements. Reasserting Viking authority, Sihtric battered the north with heavy raiding before moving on to York, leaving Dublin in the ruthless hands of his brother Guthfrith.

Attacking Irish supporters of the Limerick Norse, Guthfrith slaughtered first the men, and then 44 women, children and aged hiding in the sacred Cave of the Alders. In an ambitious attack on Viking-held Limerick, Guthfrith lost much of his army. At the death of his brother Sihtric, Guthfrith lost finally Dublin itself to Limerick Vikings while distracted by a failed attempt to claim York.

Despite Guthfrith's tactics, the bulk of Dublin's Norse settlers had come to raise families, build a lasting home and found a trading center. Many spoke a language mixed with Irish words, and had Irish mothers, wives, and obligations. Over the generations, these seasoned travelers and traders built the richest port on the Irish Sea.

Irish-Norse allegiances are well documented in the Irish annals and genealogies, and necessary for the Norse to survive within the climate of warring Irish clans. Thomas G. Fewer MA, points out, "It's likely that as the kingdom of Dublin was fully incorporated into Irish dynastic politics by the early eleventh century that intermarriage between the two ethnic groups became increasingly more common. The gaelicised Viking surnames, such as MacAuliffe, MacSithric or MacGothmund, which are found in records spanning the twelfth to fifteenth centuries indicates that the Vikings became increasingly acculturated within Ireland, a process that must have involved intermarriage with the Irish."

When archaeologists excavated the modern Dublin Christchurch area, more than 200 surviving Viking Age buildings were unearthed, and Dublin's Kilmainham presented the largest known Norse burial ground discovered outside



Brooches from Viking graves in Dublin

Dublin continued page 9

Dublin continued:

of Scandinavia. Ireland's Ostmen left ample evidence of their prosperous market town, and belied the image of aloof warriors concerned solely with raiding and slaving. Excavations established traces of the bakers, brewers, metalworkers, shipbuilders, cobblers, coopers, farmers and merchants who had once occupied the thriving settlement and traded with their Irish neighbors.

Dublin couldn't have flourished without a degree of cooperation and trading with surrounding countryside. According to Sarah Dent, curator for Dublinia Heritage Centre, "Much of the evidence for diet points to food sourced locally. Cattle, pigs and sheep were all slaughtered for food. Hare was also eaten, as was poultry, including wild geese. Fish and shellfish were staple foods, indicated by iron fishing hooks found near the river. Excavation of cesspits revealed evidence of local nuts and berries such as strawberries, blackberries and hazel nuts. As Dublin's production was mostly agricultural, there would have been little need for importation of crops, livestock or hides and fleeces."

The Ostmen's defeat at Clontarf in 1014 had less to do with their position as Vikings, and more to do with the leadership choices of Olaf Kvaran. King Olaf of Dublin, the son-in-law of the King of Leinster, was allied and fought with the losing Irish faction, and shared the Irish faction's defeat.

While the Ostmen stayed on in Dublin, their leaders never again ruled. The military aristocrats remained, rich enough to continue paying tribute to their new overlords and as willing mercenaries.

Like their more powerful counterparts, the children of Dublin's brewers, cobblers, bakers and merchants prospered over the generations. Ostmen who wished to marry and raise a family, farm, trade, or craft slipped easily into Irish society. In Dublin, Irish and Viking alike thrived.

Sarah Dent describes the remnant of Dublin's Ostmen at the coming of the Normans, 155 years after the Battle of Clontarf, "They were conquered along with the Irish, but Henry II realized that it would be to his disadvantage to outlaw them, as they were valuable tradesmen, carriers and mariners, and, as Edmund Curtis describes them, "the capitalists of Ireland at the time".

When visiting Dublin, the spectacular Viking exhibit of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, is a must see. Dublinia, located at the base

of Christchurch Cathedral, in the heart of the one time Viking settlement, also boasts a re-creation of the Dublin excavation and a selection of Viking artifacts. Wood Quay can be explored on foot, and the path of the original excavation retraced by following commemorative plaques.



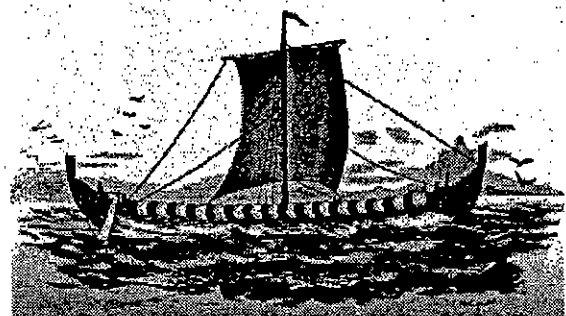
To Research Your Irish-Norse Ancestry contact: National Library of Ireland Genealogical Office, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland, 353 1 603 0200

Local Ireland: Dublin <http://dublin.local.ie/genealogy/>

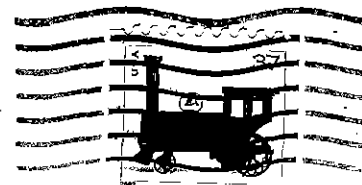
Postal address for Local Ireland is: Local Ireland, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4, Ireland. Phone: +353 1 218 7650 Fax: +353 1 283 9988

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2004 DUES DUE !!

If your mailing label has 2003 on the top line, it means your **Lag Dues** expire on December 31, 2003 and are now payable for the calendar year January 1 to December 31, 2004. When paying dues it is a good time to update addresses, apprise us of moves, etc., as indicated on the **DUES RENEWAL FORM**. Make checks payable to NHOH and mail to Charlotte Helstad, Treasurer, 8 Sebring Court, Madison, WI 53719-3521.

DUES RENEWAL FORM

Name(s) _____
Mailing _____
Address: _____
E-Mail _____
Address: _____ Ph: _____
Roots in _____
Norway: _____
Genealogy Fund: _____ \$
Dues: 1 yr=\$10; 2yr=\$18; 3rs=\$25 _____ \$
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$

VELKOMMEN!!

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members: Margit Bakke, Flom, MN; David C. Burke, Danbury, WI; Chris Falteisek, Prescott, WI; Margaret Hernandez, Portland, OR; Keith Johnson, Wyoming, MN; Polly Johnson, Benson, MN; Robert & Carol Thompto, West Allis, WI.

SEEK: YOU MAY FIND!!

Looking for the parents of Engebret Christoffersen, born in Stange 1805, died 2/11/1885, married Maria Olsdatter from Vang, born 29/12/1817, died 13/5/1870. Bought Jonsberg farm in Løten on 13 March 1840. Also was half-owner of Hammeren Bruk.

RuneFergestad, Drammen, Norway, rune@fergestad.com

I'm looking for descendants of Lars Nielson Sveen; the father of Niels Larson, Regine Larsdatter, Maria Larsdatter, Ingeborg Larsdatter, and Ludvig Larson; and the husband of Agnethe Jensdatter. The 1865 census indicates they lived in Nyborg, Vang, Hedmark. Lars Nielson Sveen was my great-great-grandfather.

Richard Jacobsen

RNJjacobson@aol.com

First Class Postage

Looking for information on the ancestry of Rickert Jonson from Tolga. He was married to Brynhild Nilsdtr. and his immediate descendants were:

Marit Richardsdtr. Henriksgård b: About. 1704 in Tolga
Nils Richardson Henriksgård b: Abt. 1706 in Tolga, m. Ingrid Evensdtr. Tolgenshaug
Henrik Richardson Henriksgård b: Abt. 1708 in Tolga
Marie Richardsdtr. Henriksgård b: Abt. 1712 in Tolga d: 1797 in Røros, Sør-Trøndelag m. Bendix Simensen Hertel b: 1709 in Røros, Sør-Trøndelag d: 1783 in Røros, Sør-Trøndelag m: 27.03.1735 in Røros, Sør-Trøndelag
Jon Richardson Henriksgård b: Abt. 1714 in Tolga, Occupation: Klokker i Tolga, m. Ragnhild Pedersdtr.
Peder Richardson Henriksgård b: Abt. 1716 in Tolga
Anders Richardson Henriksgård b: Abt. 1722 in Tolga, m. Marit Olsdtr. Erlien
Guro Richardsdtr. Henriksgård b: Abt. 1726 in Tolga,
Ole Richardson Henriksgård b: Abt. 1726 in Tolga. Anders J. Moen, andmoe@online.no