

NHOH News

Volume 9 Number Spring 2004

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

Who Are We?

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

District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal
Folldal
Os
Rendalen
Tolga
Tynset

District 2:

Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot
Elverum
Engerdal
Stor Elvedal
Trysil

District 3:

Hedemarken &
Hamar:

Furnes
Hamar
Løten
Nes
Ringsaker
Romedal
Stange
Vang

From the President

Plans for the second Tre Lag Stevne are rapidly developing, and once again, our Lag will be an active participant.

The date for the 2004 Stevne is August 4 - 7. The site is the Best Western Apache Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota. The theme for the event is ***"Celebrating the Norwegian Spirit!"*** Seminars will be held highlighting this 'indomitable spirit' from the time of the Vikings to the present day Norwegian-Americans. Special sessions will be held on ***"Gudrid,"*** the most traveled Viking woman in the pre-Columbus era, ***"Dr. Hansen,"*** the medical doctor who served lepers in southeastern Minnesota in the late 19th century, and ***"Through Women's Eyes: Norwegian-American Artists."***

The program will also include opportunities for research in the combined Tre Lag genealogy lab, local tours of historic sites in Rochester, and entertainment by ***LeRoy Larson's Minnesota Scandinavian Ensemble.*** This is an event you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars and make plans to bring a friend.

Our Lag's-sponsored **Norway 2004 Tour**, which is scheduled for September 2 - 16, is in serious trouble. To date, we have only seven registered for the trip, which is not enough to make a viable group. We are extending the **Early Bird Discount** to April 15. Hopefully, this will encourage more to sign-up. If this does not occur, the trip will need to be canceled. That decision will be made by May 1. If you are considering the trip, sign-up soon and encourage friends to join you. Remember, while priority will be given to Lag members, non-lag members are also welcomed.

For those of you who like to plan ahead, mark your calendars for the **2005 Tre Lag Stevne**, which will be held in Fargo, North Dakota, from **August 3 - 6.**

Sincerely,

Gary M. Olson,
President

OUR LAG WEBSITE IS AT:
www.nhohlag.org

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 at work, and the pre-registration materials will be published in the summer 2004 issue of NHOH NEWS. A block of rooms will be reserved.

NOMINATIONS/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

President Gary Olson has decided to retire as President of our NHOH Lag after seven successful years at the helm. For his expertise and devotion to duty we want to extend our thanks and appreciation to Gary for a job well done!!

Charlotte Helstad has also decided to retire after seven years as our very capable and hard working Treasurer. The books have always passed every audit.

A position of Director is also up for re-election.

Please send suggestions for any of the above positions on the Board of Directors to Roland Krogstad, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Tusen Takk.

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

VELKOMMEN!!

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new/and or re-instated members:

Dennis L. Amb, Lansing, IL; Hazel O. Gulbranson, Minneapolis, MN; Nancy Peregrine, Whitethorn, CA; Dr. Kristen & Opal Solberg, Ellensburg, WA; and Dianna Wilcox, Hemet, CA.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

One way to bring forth our Norwegian Heritage is to give gift memberships to our children and/or grandchildren. They will then receive three issues of HHOH NEWS per year and perhaps attend our annual stevne. You'll note several examples in our membership.



Peder A. Bagstad
100 years old



Mayme & Obert Bagstad
February 1919

PEDER ANDERSON BAGSTAD, NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANT ON THE MOVE

From materials submitted by granddaughter, Carol Mae Bagstad Thompto, member of NHOH Lag

Peter A. Bagstad was born 21 DEC 1843 to Anders Anstensen and Anne Pedersdtr in Valset, Hedmark, Norway. He was baptized in Valset, annex to Romedal Church. He had 11 brothers and sisters. When he was 14 years old he began working for others. At age 26 he came to the United States, settling first at LaCrosse, Wisconsin where his first job was loading ice on boats going south on the Mississippi River. He may have changed his name to the name of the farm he worked on in Norway. The next spring and summer he helped build the first railroad going to Albert Lea, Minnesota.

On July 10, 1872 he married Miss Johanna (Anderson) Sillerud; they had the following 11 children:

Martin, born 20 DEC 1872; Alfred, born 20 FEB 1874, died 18 AUG 1874; Alfred, born 26 JUL 1875, died 16 MAY 1883; Julius, born 2 APR 1877; Anna Jorgine, born 3 MAR 1879; Klara Oline, born 29 APR 1881, died 25 MAY 1883; Petra Josephine (Pearl), born 8 MAY 1883; died 1976; Klara Amalia, born 15 MAR 1885, died 13 May 1918; Alfred, born 11 JUL 1887, died 6 SEP 1953; Obert Theodore, born 12 MAR 1890, died 19 FEB 1978; Bella Eldora, born 5 JAN 1894

After marriage, the growing family moved several times. First, they settled on a farm in Mower County in southcentral Minnesota until 1878. They sold it and moved to Manville near Grand Forks, Dakota Territory where in 1886 they bought and homesteaded 160 acres which they sold in 1890. They then bought a farm near McIntosh in northwest Minnesota. After a few years they sold this farm and moved to McIntosh where they operated a restaurant with their son Julius and later with their son Martin.

The Bagstads experienced many sorrows and hardships during their lives. While living in Dakota, the children were stricken with diphtheria and three of them died. One day the doctor said to Mrs. Bagstad, "Don't be surprised if you lose your whole family." When the children were sick, they almost lost the house by fire. In the early nineties, prices were low: 37 cents for a bushel of wheat, 10 cents for oats, 10 cents for a pound of butter, 5 cents per dozen of eggs. Still they managed to keep their family well fed and well dressed. They had seen many changes in the communities where they had lived. The first were log huts with sod roof, and the roads were paths and trails through woods and swamps. There were no automobiles, no roads, no electric lights, nor any of the conveniences which we of today cannot live without.

His wife, Johanna, died 30 JAN 1930, and after that time he made his home with his daughter, Mrs Pearl Weborg near Fosston, Minnesota. Peder A. Bagstad died 31 OCT 1944 as he approached his 101st birthday.

Additional family information includes: Obert, Peter Bagstad's son, married Mayme Julia Nelson on 14 FEB 1920. She was born in Port Wing, Wisconsin along the shore of Lake Superior, to parents who had immigrated from Sweden. Obert and Mayme are the parents of Carol Thompto. For awhile, they lived in International Falls, Minnesota where their two sons, Jewel and Donald were born. Around 1925, Obert and Mayme received a letter from Mayme's mother, Emma, back in Wisconsin saying that a fire had destroyed a store in Port Wing and suggested maybe they would like to come to Port Wing and start up a store. In 1925 they moved to Port Wing and started a general store, a bold challenge as they had neither experience nor finances. Around 1928 they built a new store with living quarters on the second floor. They worked together in the store until 1956 when it burned to the ground, presumably caused by faulty wiring. After this tragedy, they moved to Denver and lived out their retirement years. Obert cared a lot about Port Wing, wearing many hats and initiating many things. He extended credit to many and then provided groceries without charge to those in real need. He sat by a foot-driven sewing machine, sewing leather extension tops to rubber bottom boots for farmers in the area. He was Port Wing Chairman and worked on many committees for many years. As president of the Port Wing Parent Teachers Association, he organized many school activities and programs. He was involved in getting a local baseball team started. He made a personal Christian altar which he painted white and always kept it in his home.

Peder Bagstad's youngest child, Bella Eldora, was a dressmaker and married Frank Skaggs who worked for the railroad. They had three sons and lived in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The oldest son, Frank, (called Buddy), was talented in music and art. They also had twins, Jimmy and Jacky, one of which drove a truck.

If you have any information on any of the above descendants of Peder Bagstad, please contact: Carol (Bagstad) Thompto, 2500 South 118th Street, West Allis, WI 53227-1880. Ph: (414)543-2690. E-mail bobalink@execpc.com

NORWEGIAN SETTLEMENT IN HANSFORD COUNTY, TEXAS

Adapted from article by Peter L. Peterson in *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, 1976, published by Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, materials submitted by NHOH member Agnes Hoel

As farmland in early Norwegian settlements increased in value, settlers sold out and searched for cheaper land on their move westward. Such was the case of a 'new Oslo' in Hansford County, Texas, part of a vast dry treeless region in northern Texas between New Mexico and Oklahoma. People did not settle here until the late 1800s when bored water wells and windmills came into use. Irrigation and dry-farming methods made its fertile soil productive. During the half century following 1880, land promoters established nearly 150 towns on the Pan-handle Plains of Texas, one of the last regions in the U.S. to be settled. Anders L. Mordt emigrated from Norway in 1904 and turned quickly to the land business to fulfill his dream of a new Oslo on the plains. Several earlier efforts to attract Norwegians to Texas had met with only limited success. By 1900, persons born in Norway represented a very small fraction of the Texas population.

To attract settlers, Mordt built a school near the center of the proposed settlement, designated 40 acres as church property, and announced he would pay \$800 annually for two years to attract a Lutheran minister to the area. He brought groups of potential buyers to Hansford County to see the land for themselves. Some would return north to sell their holdings in preparation for a move to Texas. Typical of these new Texans were members of the Lewis Johnson family, a farmer near Black Earth, Wisconsin. After reading several of Mordt's advertisements, he made trips to examine the Oslo settlement, and purchased a tract of land. He returned to Wisconsin, rented a railroad freight car, filled it with his cattle, horses, chickens, and household goods, and made the trip to Guymon, Oklahoma (near Oslo settlement). His family lived in a nearby ranch headquarters while Lewis built a home on his land. The Gustav Olsen family moved to Oslo from Mason City, Nebraska in 1910. Other Norwegian-American farmers came from Iowa, Minnesota, and the Dakotas to settle in Hansford County. Agnes Hoel's father, Christian Bredeson came from Norway at age 18 in 1879 to Edgerton, Wisconsin, then to Lake Mills, and to Leland, Iowa where he married Julia Johnson in 1917. About five years later, they moved to a Stedje farm in the Oslo settlement. Mrs. Stedje was Agnes's aunt. Agnes lives in Hansford County.

As the number of settlers in the community grew, the pastor called for the organization of a Lutheran congregation, meeting in the school house. The school became too small so a new church was built in 1911. Mordt developed a Norwegian newspaper, the *Oslo Posten* which was printed on the presses of the *Guymon Herald*. Another means by which Mordt sought to stress the Norwegian Heritage of his community was to organize celebrations on the 17th of May (Syttende Mai) which featured speeches, games, prizes, and much food. This gave an opportunity for people of surrounding communities to mingle with the Norwegians. The continued growth of the settlement led Mordt to plat a town site south of the church. During 1911-1912, the County was experiencing a severe drought, and a controversy over truth in advertising arose. Mordt offered free transportation to people to come to Oslo to look into the situation. Several people came and spent about four days probing and questioning to determine the truth about Mordt and Oslo. About 20 of the 32 families were questioned. Results of the study showed that most agreed that Mordt had been 'kind and considerate,' and few expressed dissatisfaction with the way the colony had been developed or was being advertised. A meeting of the Oslo settlers was held at the church in December 1912, drafted a statement in support of Mordt, and 34 of the men present, signed it. The last large excursion to Oslo came in June 1913.

Subsequent to the controversy over advertising, the drought, and continuing financial difficulties, Mordt wished he could get out of the business. He moved to Chicago and began hunting for a job. New arrivals continued to drift into the settlement for the next several years, but more were leaving than entering Oslo. Many returned to their old homes in the Midwest. About 30 families remained in the community centered around the school and the church. Norwegian continued to be spoken in the homes and at the church services. Lutefisk and lefse were featured at festive social occasions. The Town of Gruver and its accompanying school 18 miles to the southeast enabled assimilation of other cultures and many of the children and grandchildren married outside the Norwegian community. Agriculture, discovery of natural gas, development of irrigation, and the farming skills of early descendants contributed to the prosperity of the community and helped make Hansford County one of the top 10 counties in Texas in value of agricultural production in the 1950s. A fire destroyed the church in February 1950, but was reconstructed that same year. In 1975 there were about 200 members in the church.

The history of the Oslo settlement is one of hardship and triumph over adversity.

From the Desk of the Genealogist

The Hedmark Genealogical Society is Active !

The Hedmark Slektshistorielag (in English, Genealogical Society) was founded in 1939, and after many years without activity, was re-founded in 1996. Geographically, the society covers the area to the old Hedmarken Fogderi, which today includes the municipalities: Hamar, Stange, Ringsaker and Løten. The society has about 200 members and an office in the Norwegian Emigrant Museum near Hamar, with regular office hours on Tuesday afternoons, as well as by appointment. Besides publishing a periodical twice a year, the group is working hard to computerize local genealogical information.

Computerizing the church books in Norway is an enormous voluntary task.. Hedmark Genealogical Society has assumed the responsibility of organizing the work in Ringsaker, Nes, Brøttum, Veldre, Hamar, Furnes, Vang, Romedal, Stange, Ottestad, Tangen, Romedal and Løten. They also have computerized the extra-tax list of 1762 for Nes, Løten, Stange and Romedal, and have started to work on Vang/Furnes and Ringsaker. This list is essentially a census of the area for those people over 12 years of age.

As soon as it has been proof read, the material for each set of records will be published as booklets which can be purchased from the Genealogical Society. NHOH will be purchasing these for use by the lag. Already, 21 volumes are completed. The Hedmark Slektshistorielag has established a very useful set of web pages in both Norwegian and English at <http://www.hedmarkslekt.no>.

I have written to the Hedmark Genealogical Society to find out how we can purchase the complete set of the books that are available and to offer our help on projects that might contribute to improving our genealogical resources.

From our side, two projects pop into mind. One is our database of Ringsaker records. Because there are not any traditional bygdebøker for Ringsaker, we are putting together several resources of records for this area. One is a translation of the Ringsaker Historielag *Annual Genealogical and Historical Yearbook*. Begun in 1979, we now have 25 years of titles and their English translations. These have proven to be very helpful; we have found articles on a number of ancestors for our members; in some cases with pictures of ancestors for whom no other photos had

been located. A second Ringsaker resource is our database of names of Ringsaker people from sources other than church records, censuses and court records. This database has just under 7,500 names and more are being added.

The other resource that we have is our cousin-finding database. With over 90 submitters and 2,200 records, it is a useful tool for members to find others who have common Norwegian ancestors. One thing that you can do – if you haven't already done it – is to submit your Norwegian ancestry to me for inclusion in our cousin-finding database.

Both the Ringsaker records and the cousin-finding database can be shared with members via email or via computer disk.

Med beste hilsen,

John Reindl, Lag Genealogist
4514 Gregg Road
Madison, WI 53705
reindl@chorus.net

Seek and You Shall Find !

Hi, I wonder if you have come into contact with anyone searching for the name Ole Olsen Rubert? I don't know when he was born, but he had a child; Iver Olsen Hemma, born 1795, with Ingeborg Olsdatter Seter, Ringsaker. Someone wrote and told me that maybe he was a tater, that would be very interesting to know more about.

My grandfather; Børre Larsen, was born May 21, 1878 Ringsaker; his siblings are: Ivar; Kristian; Bernt; Julie; Lina; Andreas; Eline who I met at Lillehammer when she was over one hundred years old, the last one I have is Jørgine; all of these with the last name of Larsen. My great grandfather was Lars Iversen, born June 6, 1847, at Brøttum, in the Ringsaker area. He was christened on January 1, 1852 at the Ringsaker Church. His wife was Johanne Børresen, born September 16, 1851, christened January 1, 1852 in Ringsaker Church. Her mother was Kari Hansdatter. Back to Lars Iversen; his father, my GG grandfather was Iver Olsen Hemma, born in 1795 and died in 1863, his wife was Berte Monsdatter, born 1806-08. Parents of Iver Olsen Hemma are Ingeborg Olsdatter, and Ole Iversen Rubert; my GGR grandparents,

Gerd H Aasen
Gerdhelene@aol.com

HEDMARK REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EIDSVOLL ASSEMBLY 17 MAY, 1814

In 1814, 112 men signed what would be the Norwegian Constitution. Almost 200 years later, we can find descendants of these famous men all over the U. S.

Gerhard Naeseth encouraged me to search for descendants of the men in the U. S. after I discovered that I am descended from Eidsvoll's representative Nils J. Loftesnes, a musketeer with the Sogndal Company, Bergen Regiment. So, in 1987, the search began for descendants of the remaining 111 men.

The first years, I was able to locate descendants for about ten signers, then leads became fewer. When the internet became available, I was able to locate more and in 2003 a newspaper article about my project appeared in Oslo's *Aftenposten*; as a result, I now have 63 signers with descendants that spread all over the country, but most of them are located in the Midwest.

Because of the *Aftenposten* article, Erik Tondevold, a genealogist from the Oslo area volunteered to assist me from Norway. He has been a great help and has provided information for many of the latest signers.

Hedmark County had four representatives at Eidsvoll, **Claus Lars Bendeke**, **Ole Olsen Evenstad**, **Andreas Aagard Kionig** and **Eilert Waldemar Preben Ramm**.



children: Amalie, Abraham, Lovise, Antonette, Christian and Johanne. Two grandchildren of Abraham emigrated to Chicago and New York.

Leif Bendeke of Crossville, TN, Gail Bendeke Johnson of Mountain Rest, South Carolina, and Fredrik Paulsen, Lewisburg, PA are living descendants in the U.S.

Claus Lars Bendeke was born in 1763 in Vang died in 1828 in Krisitansand. He studied law and became Governor for the County of Hedmark in 1804-1816. Claus married Magdalena Catharina Pihl. They had six



Ole Olsen Evenstad was born in 1776 in Sør Elvdal and died in 1833. He was a farmer and worked in the forests. Ole married Gjertrud Helgesdatter Søstu Stai; together they had one son, Ole Olsen Evenstad, who married Ragnild Eriksdatter Søstu Stai, his cousin. They had two sons, but no information has been found indicating descendants in the U.S.



Andreas Aagard Kionig was born in 1771 in Opaker in Grue and died in 1856 in Elverum. His father, Jens Kionig, was bailiff in Solør and Odalen. Andreas was a Judge and worked in Government offices in Østerdalen. Andreas was unmarried and has no descendants.



Eilert Waldemar Preben Ramm was born in 1769 at Lille Hovi in Furnes and died in 1839. Eilert had a daughter with Berte Simensdatter, Løten. They were not married. He married Petronella Elisabet Hveberg, Stange, and had 13 children. Their oldest daughter, Petronella Prebensdatter Ramm, married Peter Torkilsen; they had nine children. Two daughters emigrated to the U. S. Anne Pedersdatter married Lars Larsen and immigrated from Løten, Hedmark to Texas. Petronelle Pedersdatter married Elias Olsen; they had eight children. Six children survived and emigrated with Petronelle and Elias to Provo, Utah, where many descendants live today and belong to the Mormon Church. Elmar LaMar Buckner is a descendant living in Ogden, Utah.

My research is dependent on getting in touch with people who have information about their famous ancestor. If anyone in the Hedmark Lag has something to contribute, I would be happy to hear from them.

You can write to Michael J. Bovre at 6806 Raymond Road # 102, Madison, WI 53719 or email at mjbovre@itis.com



Fridtjof Nansen went where no man had gone before - both as an explorer and a humanitarian. For these achievements, the readers of Norway's second largest newspaper *Aftenposten* voted him the most prominent Norwegian of the century.

Son of Norway

Prior to the millennium, several Norwegian newspapers have asked their readers whom they consider to be the century's most important Norwegian. *Aftenposten*'s readers have spoken: the polar explorer, humanitarian, scientist, and diplomat Fridtjof Nansen won the nomination, closely followed by royal runners-up King Haakon VII and King Olav V, proving the Norwegian's royal loyalty.

Nansen's many nicknames reflect his spectacular achievements: The Humanist. The Freedom Fighter. The Universal Talent. Norway's Greatest Son. Nobel Peace Prize winner Fridtjof Nansen is, for most Norwegians, the very symbol of Norwegian virtues-bravery, skill, stamina, humanity. All of these are qualities Nansen strived to exemplify in his many adventures and travels.

To the North Pole

Fridtjof Nansen was the ultimate athlete. Before he was seventeen he won the national distance skating championship, and a year later he broke a world speed skating record. The following year he won the national cross-country skiing race in his first attempt, and he continued to win it for the next eleven

years until he retired.

Nansen entered the university at the age of 20 to study zoology. In the following year he joined a sealing ship on a voyage of several months to the East Coast of Greenland. Later, he admitted that he already then knew he would return to the arctic areas.

In 1882 he went on his first voyage to the Arctic Ocean with the ship "Viking". Six years later he crossed Greenland, and in 1883, together with Hjalmar Johansen, he explored the North Pole with his specially designed ship "Fram" ("Forward"). The adventures told of this trip still thrill new generations of Norwegians. It is said that the artist Erik Werenskiold borrowed Nansen's features when portraying Olav Tryggvason for Snorri's Sagas.

But Nansen wasn't only a domestic character. He represented Norway internationally, especially as an envoy to London from 1906-08. Before that, he was a crucial factor in the peaceful dissolution of Norway's union with Sweden in 1905.

Humanitarian achievements

Fridtjof Nansen's humanitarian achievements were fueled by his simple creed: Charity means

practical politics. Nansen got involved in the relocation of 450,000 refugees of war from 26 countries in 1920. The famous Nansen Passport saved an innumerable amount of people in 1921, when 30 million Russians were saved from starvation.

During the Greek-Turkish war, Nansen helped many minority groups return to their native countries. In 1924, he helped bring peace to the region. The Armenian tragedy, in which approximately 900,000 people were killed by the Turks, was an emotional and poignant event for Nansen. For his efforts, he was named the first ever UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and in 1922 he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nansen is remembered not only in Norway. In 1995, he was celebrated in Russia on a 50 ruble gold coin, and in 1996, Armenia put Nansen's picture on a stamp. Fridtjof Nansen died on May 13, 1930 at 68 years of age.

"Deserved award"

Nansen biographer Øystein Sørensen applauds the decision.

"Nansen was Norway's first national hero and, even though he was born in the previous century, he maintained that status throughout this century," the author of *Fridtjof Nansen-Man and Myth* told *Aftenposten*.

"He was a serious scientist, no wimsy hotheaded adventurer. He made a great impact, not only for Norwegians, put for people all over the world."

"Kindness achieves more than cruelty"

In his Nobel address, Nansen did not spare those he held responsible for the famine in Russia in 1921.

"In all probability their motives were political. They epitomize sterile self-importance and the lack of will to understand people who think differently...They call us romantics, weak, stupid, sentimental idealists, perhaps because we have some faith in the good which exists even in our opponents and because we believe that kindness achieves more than cruelty."

FACTS/Results of *Aftenposten*'s reader survey

1. Fridtjof Nansen
2. King Olav V
3. King Haakon VII
4. Thor Heyerdahl
5. Einar Gerhardsen
6. Knut Hamsun
7. Gro Harlem Brundtland
8. Edvard Munch
9. Roald Amundsen
10. Sam Eyde

Sami Media:

Fighting life in the margins



For centuries, the Samis of Norway were seen as reindeer herders nomadically wandering the frozen northern lands of Finnmark, surviving in their tepees during winter's polar nights and summer's midnight suns. But Norway's largest ethnic group is no longer a people stuck in time. What has made Norway wake up to these new realities is the Sami media that many in the community and country credit for the recent resurgence in Sami culture and language.

By Samantha Santa Maria, Medill News Service

Unlike most indigenous media — such as Native American radio and newspapers — the Samis have gone even further, transforming their alternative voice into a powerful political lobby group.

About 90 percent of the 40,000-strong population lives in the cities. Many of those still in the north have given up the nomadic life and are locked in a decades-old struggle to decide how they can put their land to use. Despite being heavily subsidized by the government, they remain critical advocates for Sami rights.

However, the initial use of this media was to coerce a persecuted ethnic group to shun its heritage and history and to become more Norwegian.

Sociologist Dr. Mariann Lien of the University of Oslo theorizes that the rise of the pro-eugenics Labor Party in the 1950s capitalized on Norwegians' tendency to avoid racial and culture dissimilarities.

As a result, Sami children were taken away from their parents and sent to Norwegian-language schools; a law directed toward the Samis was passed prohibiting the sale of land to anyone who couldn't speak Norwegian. In 1946, Sami radio was inaugurated but used mainly as a propaganda device.

"Radio programs often told Samis to forget who they were, including their language, to become more Norwegian," said Nils Johan Heatta, the current head of Sami Broadcasting. "But that backfired; the

people rebelled and listened to the radio to remind themselves of their language and culture."

Today, Sami media have been credited in helping the community set up its own parliament. Its dogged support of Sami land rights for over 20 years will soon see the motion get the nod of the Norwegian government later this year, officials said.

But despite these successes, Sami media, particularly the three biweekly newspapers, face the same problem seen by the Native American media here: funding. And the complaints about how mainstream media cover their issues are many.

Despite government subsidies, the three Sami newspapers are struggling. Their small readerships — averaging circulations of about 2,000 — make it a tough sell for advertisers.

Low salaries have forced many journalists out of Sami newsrooms. One of them is Torkel Rasmussen, who was with "Min Aigi" ("Our Time").

"I was fed up working for a poor company where we hardly ever had resources to do good enough journalistic work," Rasmussen said.

But if the Native American experience is anything to go by, mainstream media hasn't proved to be the better alternative.

"You get thrown into this great blender of journalism and often you, and your interests, get marginalized," said Mary Annette Pember, executive director of the Native American Journalists' Association.

YOUR GENEALOGY ADVENTURE

The first chapter of your genealogical adventure begins in America where your first immigrant ancestors settled and/or localities to which they moved. Begin with yourself as #1 on the Pedigree Chart (Family Tree). You are the only person you know firsthand. Fill in what you know about your ancestors on the pedigree chart and on the Family Group chart. From this you will identify empty spaces where further research is needed, and that you must work from the known to the unknown. To ignore this you may find out you are working with the wrong person, wondering what records to try next.

Clues may lead to evidence. Mistakes may be made in copying names and dates or by misunderstanding documents. A church record would be more reliable than an entry in the family Bible made several years later. The Bible entry could be used as a guide to more reliable information. An obituary is usually written by a relative during a period of grief who may not recall all the facts. Events may be remembered differently by witnesses. Use information from others as a guide for more reliable evidence.

2. **The second chapter** of your genealogical adventure begins when you eventually find where your ancestral immigrant(s) came from in Norway. You should identify the Fylke, Kommune, Parish/Prestegjeld (head parish and annexes), and Farm Name(s). Continue researching from the known to the unknown. Several sources may contain your ancestor's place of origin. Matching of birth dates in USA and in Norway is one good sign you are on the right track.
 - a. **Primary** (original) Records are made at/near time of the event, such as: birth, baptismal, confirmation, school, marriage, death, land, tax, military, government census, probate records, and naturalization records. Norwegian passports (at port of departure), passenger lists(at port of arrival), Kirkebøker (Ministerialbøk, Klokkebøk), census records in original script.
 - b. **Secondary** (compiled) Records are created from research of primary and other records, such as: translated records, typed data bases, family histories, biographies, Norwegian bygdebøker, historielag yearbooks.

It may be easier to research secondary records first and then verify by searching original records. Eventually, you'll reach a point when you need to rely on records from Norway. Many Norwegian records are at the Vesterheim Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison, Wisconsin, universities, and genealogy centers in the United States, and recently on the internet.

- 3 **The third chapter** of your genealogical adventure begins when you identify cousins and other relatives in the United States or in Norway.
4. **The fourth chapter** of your adventure begins when you visit your new-found relatives.

Knowing where your immigrant ancestors settled in America, can reveal clues as to where they lived in Norway. In many cases emigrants from a specific area in Norway settled near their former neighbors of Norway now living in America. You may wish to check with early neighbors in America.

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



2004 DUES DUE !!

If your mailing label has 2003 on the top line, it means your **Lag Dues** expired on December 31, 2003 and are **now due** 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: _____
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 Address: _____ Ph: _____
 Roots in _____
 Norway: _____
 Genealogy Fund: _____ \$ _____
 Dues: 1yr=\$10; 2yr=\$18; 3yrs=\$23 1+3 \$33 1A
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Study in Norway?

There are several opportunities for American children and youth to study in Norway. Here are some points of contact if you need more information:

- **www.norway.org**: The official pages of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in the United States. The "Education" section offers vast amounts of information for anyone contemplating an educational visit to Norway. For more information, contact Silje Roaldsvik at the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York, tel.: (212) 421-7333, extension 505.
- **www.study-norway.net**: A comprehensive list of links to higher education institutions in Norway participating in the SOCRATES/ERASMUS exchange programs. For more information, please contact the Center of International University Cooperation (SIU) at tel.: +47 55 30 88 00 or fax: +47 55 30 88 01.
- **The American-Scandinavian Foundation**: promotes international understanding through educational and cultural exchange between the United States and the Nordic countries. For more information, please contact the organization at Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Tel.: (212) 879-9779. E-mail: info@amscan.org