

NHOH News

Volume 16 Number 1

Spring 2011

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2011 Tre-Lag Stevne
Wednesday, August 3 – Saturday, August 6

Ramkota Hotel
Sioux Falls, SD

Theme is "Telling Our Story"

More information inside



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Hilsen Fra Presidenten

The NHOH Board and the Tre Lag Stevne Planning Committee both met recently and I can report that plans are advancing quickly for the upcoming Stevne in Sioux Falls SD August 3-6.

The theme for this year's Stevne is **"Telling Our Story"** and I'm going to start things off right by telling you one of my own. It's a story about finding a story.

Once upon a timeé in a sneaky attempt to ferret out some Sioux Falls, South Dakota residents with roots in Hedmark, I set about to determine if any of Østerdalslag members lived in Minnehaha County SD back when our Lag began. My idea was to trace those charter-member families forward, contact their living descendants, and convince them (as long as we'll be on their doorstep!) that they oughta join us for Tre Lag 2011. It's called **personal in-your-face recruitment!**



As it turned out, there were no lag members living in the county in 1913 and only one in 1914: **Hanna Berdahl** of Garretson SD, with roots in **Lille Elvedalen, Norway**. I was on her like white on rice! (Hanna's photo on left)

In a flurry of research I was able to sketch together quite a bit of information about Hanna. She was born in July 1848 as **Hanna Marie Halvorsdatter Brandvold**. Her father died before she was born. Her mother remarried but died when Hannah was 8. Two years later her step-father immigrated to the US with her little half-brother, and Hanna was sent up to live with relatives in Troms. Her older brother, **Knud** (photo on the right) stayed behind and trained as a shoe-maker. He left for America in 1867. Four years later, at age 22, Hannah followed, catching up with her step-father and half-brother in Fillmore Co., MN.



In 1873 she married **Erick Berdahl (a Sogning)** there and a month later she and Erick and many of Erick's relatives and a few other families set off across the prairie in a 10-rig covered-wagon caravan headed for **Slipup Valley, South Dakota**. The arduous journey took 4 weeks and, once they arrived, the Berdahls staked out their land and put down roots for life. (later photo of Erick and Hanna on left)



Pres. Dixie's letter continued...

It's here where the story that found a story comes in. In *googling* the Berdahl name I found a very helpful online database of Berdahl family records (researched by John Roland Simons). One of the sources cited in those records was the *Erick J. Berdahl Diary*. You can bet that got my attention! I also *googled* my way to the discovery that Ole Rolvaag had married Erick Berdahl's niece, Jenny Berdahl, and to an abstract of a published paper at NAHA which theorized that Rolvaag drew some of the material for his immigrant novels directly from the first-hand settlement accounts of the Berdahl family. **Now you've got my attention!**

I haven't unearthed a Berdahl diary yet but, with a little scrounging, I found something equally tantalizing: an **autobiographical manuscript written, at age 78, by Erick Berdahl.** (younger picture of Erick on the right)

There was a copy of it over at the Minnesota Historical Society. And, get this, it was written in English (bless you Erick!). Typed and annotated by a relative 20 years later, the manuscript runs 46 pages and it is chock full of stories, vivid descriptions, fond memories, childhood events in Norway, an account of immigration, settlement in the US, **a loving tribute to Hannah**, (left - Hannah's photo) farming methods, family reminiscences, humor, accidents, hard-times, politics and joyous moments. It is a total delight to read.



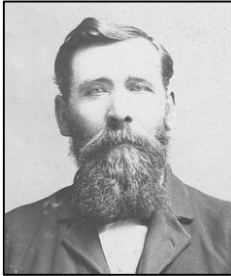
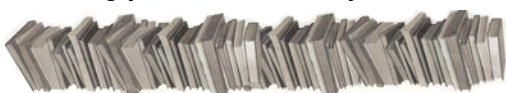
The research I had done on the Berdahl family, while full of names and dates and places, was only bones. Skinny bones, even. **Erick put the flesh, blood, and personality on them in a way that no data-reconstructionist could ever manage. He did it by taking the time to sit down and TELL HIS STORY.**

It makes all the difference in the world.

I'm happy to report that I was able to get in touch with some of the 200+ descendants of Hanna and Erick. It turns out that the annual Berdahl Family reunion falls on the first weekend of August in Garretson (how's that for luck?). I hope we'll see a few of them at Tre Lag. Further, **Charles Berdahl**, a descendent of Erick's younger brother, contacted me and offered to present a session at the Stevne. It doesn't get any better!

And **Knud Brandvold**, Hanna's older brother, the shoemaker? I knew his name sounded familiar. He settled up in **Otter Tail County** and it turns out that he is the same "K.H. Brandvold" who was the charter Vice-Foreman of Østerdalslag from 1910-1913. Check out the 1912 Lag photo on page 10 and you'll see him front and center...the tall bearded fellow holding the umbrella.

Plan now to join us in August and bring your stories with you!



Dx

WHO ARE WE?

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag includes 16 kommuner in the three districts of Nord-Østerdal, Sør-Østerdal, and Hedemarken/Hamar as follows:



(Photos below by Thorbjørg Hjelmén Ugland in Norway's Folk Costumes.)

District 1: Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal
Folldal
Os
Rendalen
Tolga
Tynset

District 2: Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot
Elverum
Engerdal
Stor Elvedal
Trysil

District 3: Hedemarken. and Hamar

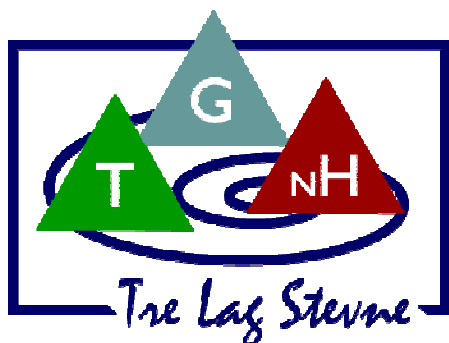
Furnes
Hamar
Løten
Nes
Ringsaker
Romedal
Stange
Vang



Alvdal and Tynset



Nord-Østerdal



2011 Tre Lag Stevne

A joint Stevne of [Gudbrandsdal Lag National](#), [Trønderlag of America](#), and [Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag](#)

- 🌿 Wednesday, August 3 - Saturday, August 6, 2011
- 🌿 Sioux Falls, SD
- 🌿 Ramkota Hotel
- 🌿 Tour, Genealogy, Programs, Entertainment, Banquet, Lag Meetings

Put it on your calendar and join us! The public is welcome. Walk in reservations will be accepted if space is available. Advance reservations are required for the tours, banquet, and luncheon. **Participants need to make hotel reservations separately.**

The Genealogy Lab at the Tre Lag Stevne includes resources from each lag. The 3 lags cover adjoining areas. As we research our ancestry many of us find ancestral trails that lead to these adjoining areas and the Tre Lag Stevne genealogy lab has been a valuable opportunity to pursue these trails. Click to see [NHOH resources](#).



BEST WESTERN PLUS RAMKOTA HOTEL

3200 W. Maple Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57107
Phone: 1-800-741-5072 | WorldWide (817) 333-5105

The Theme for the 2011 Stevne is "Telling Our Story"

The Group rate for a standard room for 1-4 persons is **\$95.99 plus tax**. You must call the hotel directly by **July 3rd** to make reservations at **1-605-336-0650**.

On Wednesday afternoon there will be a tour to the EROS Data Center (an agency of the U.S. Geological Survey that provides satellite imagery from around the world), and stops at Norwegian-American churches and cemeteries in the area.

The stevne will also include genealogy labs and research assistance with all the resources of the lags.

There will be seminars on cultural and historical Norwegian-American topics, the traditional banquet, and other enjoyable activities. More information and registration forms will be in our June newsletter.

(From Rochester MN on I-90 W it takes 3 hrs 37 mins / 238.54 miles . From La Crosse about an hour more.)

The amenities at Ramkota are:

ÅSauna	ÅSwimming pool - indoor	ÅBar/lounge
ÅElevator/lift	ÅAirport transportation (complimentary)	ÅRestaurant(s) in hotel
ÅRoom service (limited hours)	ÅATM/banking	ÅPets accepted
ÅNumber of rooms: 226	ÅNumber of floors: 2	ÅConference room(s)
ÅEvent catering	ÅAudio-visual equipment	ÅPhotocopy machines
ÅAir-conditioned public areas	ÅPatio	ÅCoffee in lobby
ÅFax machine	ÅLaundry facilities	ÅSpa tub
ÅExhibit space	ÅParking (free)	ÅSafe-deposit box - front desk
Å24-hour front desk	ÅExpress check-out	ÅBanquet facilities
ÅInternet access - wireless	ÅInternet access in public areas - high speed	ÅInternet access in public areas - complimentary
ÅMeeting rooms (small groups)	ÅSwimming pool - outdoor seasonal	ÅDry cleaning/laundry service
ÅFitness facilities	ÅNumber of buildings/towers 1	ÅArcade/game room
ÅSwimming pool - children's	ÅComplimentary newspapers in lobby	ÅHandicapped parking
Å24-hour business center	ÅMeeting facilities size in feet 60,000	ÅNumber of meeting and conference rooms 16
ÅWaterslide		

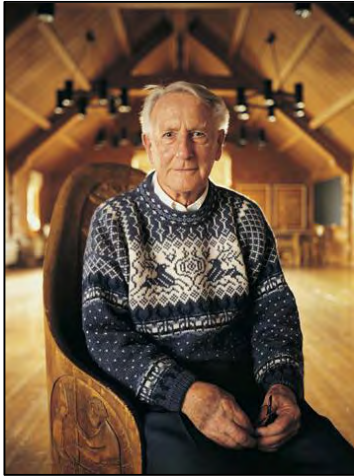
Remembering Reidar

Reidar Dittman

at St. Olaf College in Northfield MN

Beloved St. Olaf College professor dies at age 88

By Mary Jo Thorsheim



Special to the
Norwegian American
Weekly
Photo courtesy of St.
Olaf College
**The sun has set on
the amazing life
of Dr. Reidar
Dittmann (1922-
2010).**

**Edvard Munch's
famous painting
"The Sun"**

("Solen") was a

favorite, and he frequently used the projected image as a dramatic conclusion to his lectures on the art of Scandinavia. His strong personal faith was reflected in his observation that one could interpret the painting as a representation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The painting is part of a mural in the University of Oslo auditorium in Norway where Dittmann began his college education until it was interrupted by the Nazi occupation of Norway in World War II. In contrast to Munch's bright painting of sunshine, part of Dittmann's youth was spent in the shadows of Buchenwald.

Edvard Munch was his favorite Norwegian artist, and he also loved the nationalistic, realistic landscapes of the "father of Norwegian painting" J.C. Dahl. In the latter, he regularly pointed out the inclusion of birch trees as symbols of the strength and resilience of Norway. Dittmann also showed strength and resilience throughout his life. The art of the Italian Renaissance and French Impressionism also held a fascination for him.

Dittmann was a beloved professor of art history, Norwegian, German, and co-founder of the International Studies program at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. He died in hospice care on Dec. 29, 2010 at the age of 88. Born in Tønsberg, Norway, on Jan. 15, 1922, he lived in Norway until he immigrated to the U.S. in 1945.

Prior to emigrating, Dittmann was an active participant in the Norwegian Resistance when the Nazis occupied Norway during World War II. In November 1944, he was punished for this patriotic work for Norway by being incarcerated in a concentration camp in the notorious Buchenwald in Germany. His story has been told in a short film "Prisoner 32,232" that was a project of the Minnesota Historical Society; it is in the Permanent Film Collection of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. JoAnn Magnuson, noted Jewish studies lecturer and scholar, comments that Dittmann was a "great hero of our generation."

His daughter Lisa Dittmann recalls hearing this anecdote from Buchenwald that relates to her father's background in music. During an interrogation by the Nazis, he was confronted thus: "Since you are a musician, name the greatest German composer!" He thought a moment, and then named Mendelssohn (who was Jewish). The Nazi officers responded, "Who was Mendelssohn?" (not even acknowledging him because of his ethnicity). "Wagner was the greatest!" they said. Unfortunately, another incident when he was slapped on the ear ruptured his ear drum, and he remained able to hear from only one ear, all of his life, Lisa recalls.

When he was released, he showed indomitable spirit by following his dream to study in America (specifically St. Olaf), arriving at St. Olaf in 1945 as a malnourished, seriously underweight young man. He could describe difficulties like his physical condition but quickly lighten the mood of his audience by interjecting a bit of humor. One particular incident that he recalled included his aversion to lutefisk. When the cafeteria was serving it as a special offering before Christmas, he thought that he could avoid eating it by going late to supper, after the lutefisk was depleted.

Using this ingenious approach he entered the cafeteria, only to be greeted by the motherly cafeteria servers who tried to help him gain weight by serving him special food: "Reidar! We saved a plate of lutefisk for you!"

His undergraduate work was supported by a St. Olaf scholarship awarded to Norwegian students who had experienced the occupation interfering with their education. He majored in music both at the University of Oslo and at St. Olaf; his interest in music continued all of his life, but art history became his major focus.

At the age of 50, he began work on the Ph.D. in art history. He received bachelors of music and art degrees from St. Olaf and masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Washington.

Art history was a personal and professional interest that brought pleasure and education to many. In 2002, the St. Olaf building that houses the college's art, art history and dance departments and art galleries named in his honor.

In 1977, the King of Norway awarded him the prestigious St. Olav Medal. Dittmann's knowledge of the great artists of the world led him to the great art museums.

Beginning with a tour of 12 countries in 72 days in 1952, Dittmann had led travel groups of students, St. Olaf alumni, and others to Europe and across the globe, on a regular basis since 1954. His popular alumni art history tours to Europe concluded when he was 80 years old.

Dr. Reidar Dittmann, who had experienced some of the worst of humanity and the darkest of days, looked at the beauty of life in general, and the world's art, music and literature in a unique way. He appreciated the arts with a special relish that he was able to inspire in others through his teaching, lecturing, writing, travel leadership and conversation.

**Norwegian American Weekly or to subscribe,
call them toll free (800) 305-0217**

Genealogical Gleanings and Gleamings

By Lag Genealogist John Reindl

There's not a centralized theme for this genealogical column, but instead a gleaning of various topics, while some which seem particularly shining (gleaming!) to me.

Stevne resources

First is an advance notice of some changes for the materials that we bring to the stevne. As highlighted in the newsletter right before our annual get-together, we bring a lot of resources, including bygdebøker, family histories, the 1865 census on microfiche and church records on microfilm. The bygdebøker are from our own collection and books borrowed from the University of Wisconsin-Madison library, the microfiche from our own collection and the microfilmed church records rented from the Norwegian-American Genealogy Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC&NL) in Madison, Wisconsin.

With the computerization of the censuses and church books, there has been little use of the microfiche and microfilms (with no users last year), so, unless someone specifically asks for any of these items, we will no longer be bringing them.

However, we will expand our resources of bygdebøker by renting additional books from NAGC&NL. So far, the following four books have been identified for borrowing and the full list of books can be seen on the NHOH web page by logging on the site (nhohlag.org) and going to the links of "Stevner", "Genealogy", "Research Aids", "Genealogy Resources available at the Annual Stevne", and then to "linked page" in the last paragraph:

- **Brøttumsbøkene, Volume 8.** Published in approximately 2008, it covers farms 404.1 through 422.1.
- **Bygdebok for Os. Bygda og folket. Bind III,** Jon Ola Gjermundsen, 2001, covers Holla, Kvilvangen, Narbuvoll, Narjordet, and Tufsingalen. This farms are numbered 87 to 97.
- **Trysil-Boka, Volumes 5 and 6 , 1989 and 1995.** Volume 5 covers the areas of Ljørdalen, Lutnes, Nesvoldberget, Skjærberget, Støa, Østby, and Åsa/Plassen, while volume 6 covers the Engemoen, Grøndalen, and Nybergsund areas.

If you would like me to bring any films, fiche, other items on our list of available items, or for me to search for other resources, please let me know.



Østerdalslag Update

The NHOH Lag is a successor to the Østerdalslag, which was formed in the early 1900's and which closed in the latter half of the century.

The 1920 Østerdalslag yearbook has photos and brief biographies of all of the lag relations who served in WW I. Dixie Hansen, president of the Lag, has scanned the entire book for our webpage, while a cousin of hers, Torill Steivang, has indexed the list of soldiers and briefly annotated information, including parents' names and place of origin in Norway on her website. Dixie and Torill did these things without knowing of the other's activities, but the Lag's web site will bring their work together by adding a link to Torill's web page.

Torill had previously built and operated the Frederiks Gave site, but she has dissolved that site and moved some information from that site (including the list of immigrants from Alvdal) over to a new site at www.steivang.no.

Memorial Donation for Genealogy



Shirley Schoenfeld, our newsletter editor, has donated \$500 to the Lag for genealogical materials in memory of her husband, Gene, who passed away last fall at the age of 81. While Gene did not have ancestral roots in the NHOH area, he was a life member of Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center by Coon Valley, and a member of Sons of Norway. My condolences to Shirley and her family and my thanks for this living honor in his memory.

Neurology:



Gene Edwin Schoenfeld, age 81, of La Crosse died on October 28th at his home surrounded by his family. Gene was born May 11, 1929 in La Crosse to William and Erma (Luedke) Schoenfeld. He was baptized July 3, 1929, and confirmed April 18, 1943 at Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in La Crosse, WI. He attended parochial school at First Evangelical

Lutheran School and Dutch College until 8th grade, and graduated from Central High School on June 10, 1948.

Gene worked for the La Crosse Tribune all his life – first as a paper boy, then cleaning in the mail room during school years, and then worked 43 years as a pressman. After he retired, he had numerous surgeries - knees, heart, cancer, prostate, and others. He was a real trooper through all that, but this final illness of more cancer meant there was no getting well again for him anymore.

Gene enjoyed life, loved to play cards, loved to go fishing, and had enjoyed hunting both locally, in Canada, and in Wyoming. He was a faithful charter member of Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church from 1978 to present, performing many duties there. He was a life member of Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center by Coon Valley, and a member of Sons of Norway.

Gene married Beatrice Schreier on the 26th of August, 1950. They had four children; Kerry Jane (Dick) Stokke, Kathy Jean (John) Hill, Linda Jo (Ralph) Wright, and Douglas John (Peggy) Schoenfeld. Bea died on the 25th of June, 1969. On July 31, 1976, Gene married Shirley Lokstad at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in La Crosse. Shirley has two children; Anthony and Tony Wayne Lofstrom, and Karen Alisa (Lofstrom) (Dave) DeSchepper. During Gene's illness, all six of the children have been caring for him, as well as his brother George and sister-in-law Beth, and Hospice Healthcare.

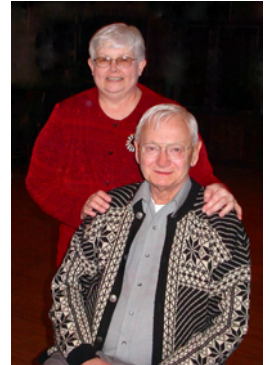
Those left to mourn his death are his wife Shirley and the six children and their spouses. Gene is survived by 16 grandchildren - Kristy Stokke (Adam Reich), Stephanie Stokke (Josh Becker), Shone (Vince) Heiss, Abraham (Jennie) Hill, Elizabeth Hill (Keith Hagemeyer), Ezekiel (Amber) Hill, Adam (Julie) Fox, Carrie Fox, Abby Jean Schoenfeld, Heather Larson and her sister Nicole Larson, Tina and Michael Schoonover, Marissa and

Kelsey Langaard, and Austin De Schepper. Gene is also survived by 14 great-grandchildren; Wyatt and Waylon Gene Becker; Ariana and Milana Heiss; Genavieve and Abram Hill; Brennon and Kyia Hill, Ryan Hagemeyer; Casey, Cameron, and Gavin Fox; Preston Larson; and a son due in January to Kristy and Adam; two sisters, Wilma Viner and Lois Lokken, and one brother George (Beth) Schoenfeld from Rock Springs, WY; sisters-in-law Natalie Schoenfeld, Jean Benish, Rita Wright, Mary Cherry, Judy Schreier, brother-in-law David (Judy) Lokstad, plus numerous nieces and nephews survive him, as well as many good friends.

Those who preceded him in death were his parents, grandparents, his wife Beatrice, his brother Donald, and brothers-in-law Harry Viner, Donald Lokken, Donald Schreier, Harry Wright, and Forest Cherry, as well as one grandson Blaine Wright.

Gene's visitation was held at Schumacher-Kish Funeral Home, 200 West Ave. So., La Crosse on Sunday, October 31 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, and at Mt. Calvary Church on Monday, November 1 at 1:00 PM to the 2:00 PM time of funeral. In lieu of flowers, memorials were appreciated to the Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, or to Norskedalen for the Library Fund, or to the charity of your choice.

Ed. Note: Gene was my husband



This is the same entrance as you see on the big picture on page 10 from 1912 at Park Region Luther College in Fergus Falls. Here is our group eating pork chops in front of the same building (now Hillcrest Lutheran Academy) before we saw the play "The Emigrants" in 2008.

Celebrating Norway's rural traditions

Explore traditional folk art and rural life in Norway with
Phillip Odden and Else Bigton this summer



Phillip Odden and Else Bigton with their fjord horses

This summer, Phillip Odden and Else Bigton of Barronett, Wis., will lead a tour through Norway that is centered on folk art and life traditions.

Odden and Bigton (a native of Ålesund, Norway) are the owners of Norsk Wood Works. The couple met each other at the Hjerleid wood carving school in Norway in 1977. They were married in 1978 and returned to Wisconsin in 1979 to establish Norsk Wood Works, which has allowed them to make their sole living as artists in the Norwegian folk art tradition.

Drawing on their experiences and extensive network of contacts, Odden and Bigton have organized a tour that takes participants off the beaten path to celebrate Norwegian folk art.

"When we travel to Norway, we tend to visit the rural areas where the folk arts are strong and where Fjord horses live. It is these parts of Norway and the culture of rural Norway that we would like to share with our friends. Because of our personal ties to Norway, Else and I decided to offer a tour and asked personal friends in Norway to be daily guest guides," said Odden.

For more information and a full itinerary, visit www.norskwoodworks.com or call (715) 468-2780

By Christy Olsen Field, Norwegian American Weekly



CELEBRATE YOUR BYGDELAG

Hardanger, Rogaland,
Sunnhordland & Sigdal
Reach 100th Year



You are Cordially Invited

JUNE

09-11 - Valdres Samband, Best Western Kelly Inn,
St. Cloud, MN; Bob Skogman, **320-684-2078**

15-18 - Nordlandslag, Clarion Inn, Rochester, MN,
Delos Olson, **507-212-8328**

23-25 - Vestlandslag, Best Western Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND,
Bob Hanson, **763-441-4463** or **H4414463@juno.com**

HARDANGER, ROGALAND, SUNNHORDLAND CENTENNIALS,
Voss, Sunnfjord, Sogndal, Nordhordland, Møre og Romsdal

23-26 - Hallinglag, Vista Inn, Fargo, ND, David Hilde,
dhilde1932@cablone.net or Jackie Marler, **701-293-5027**

JULY

14-17 - 7 Lag Stevne, Best Western Doublewood Inn,
Fargo, ND www.7lagstevne.com

17 - SIGDALSLAG CENTENNIAL, Judy Sosted, **507-645-0499**

- **Toten**, Marie Brown, **763-588-6666**
- **Telelag**, John Haugo, **715-381-1430**,
- **Ringerike-Drammen**, Narv Somdahl, **952-831-4409**;
- **Numedalslågen**, Chet Habberstad, **218-826-6268**
- **Hadeland**, Jan Huesinkveld, **507-285-9483**;
- **Landingslag**, Sandra Hendrickson, **952-892-5402**

AUGUST

03-06 - Tre-Lag Stevne, Best Western Ramkota Hotel,
Sioux Falls, SD

Gudbrandsdal, John F. Peterson, **701-361-7015**

N. Hedmark og Hedemarken, Dixie Hansen,
dx@dxhansen.com

Trønderlag, Robert M. Fossum,
president@tronderlag.org

11-13 - Sognefjord, Dubuque, IA, Kathy Johnson,
608-238-1785

SEPTEMBER

15-17 - Romerikslag & Solør Lag, Holiday Inn, Austin MN;
Joel Botten, **507-388-1995**; Doug Johnson, **608-238-1785**

17-18 - Opdalslag, Scandia Church, Centerville, SD;
Pauline Strait, pstrait5488@peoplepc.com

18 - Nordfjordlag, Green Lake, Spicer, MN;
Betty Rodi, **320-796-6800**

CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH 2011 EVENT

*STEVNE - classes, entertainment, ethnic food,
fun, genealogy, tours*

*More affiliates of **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad**
online www.fellesraad.com*



NHOH Newest Members Who have not been listed in a previous newsletter -

Tom and Janet Mosher phone: 651-565-4518
430 9th St. E, Wabasha MN 55981-1516
e-mail address: tmosher@wabasha.net

Sandra Aune phone: 309-755-7413
3615 9th St., East Moline IL 61244-4502
e-mail address: sanaune@mchsi.com

Mike and Sue Johnson phone: 608-524-2880
E8693 County Hwy. P, Wisconsin Dells WI 53965
e-mail address: mjohnson2@wildblue.net

Hans Gunderud phone: 895-247-3617
1078 Church Rd., Saugerties NY 12477
e-mail address: hetttyhansg@yahoo.com

Dennis Johnson phone: 320-760-4431
21474 430th Ave., Morris MN 56267
e-mail: dairydgj@morris.omn.edu

Rhonda Smerchek phone: 262-878-4904
2605 N. Raynor Ave., Union Grove WI 53182
e-mail: rsmerchek@gmail.com

Janet Tarbet phone: 247-436-2837
1195 Cedar Creek Dr., Lake Zurich IL 60047
e-mail: jeztarbet@yahoo.com

Judy Carter phone: 815-397-5364
2217 Wentworth Ave., Rockford IL 61108
e-mail: judycar9333@yahoo.com

Carol House phone: 815-654-0412
1616 Evans Ave., Loves Park IL 61111
e-mail: cjh_lady@yahoo.com

Gretchen Hunziker phone: 818-887-6467
7310 Hyannis Dr., West Hills CA 91307-1326
e-mail: gretchdo@hotmail.com

Gay and Dave Kearin phone: 763-479-2010
1242 Townline Rd., Maple Plain MN 55359
e-mail: chechon@aol.com

Dennis Moen phone: n/a
236 Lakeview Dr., Avinger TX 75630

Jacqueline Noegel phone: 815-975-0275
207 South 1st Ave., Holcomb IL 61043
e-mail: jnoegel@yahoo.com

Jean Mathison & Bill Stauffer phone: 262-549-5068
S44 W22377 Sund Ridge Dr., Waukesha WI 53189-8223
e-mail: jmathison@sbcglobal.net

George and Karen Olson phone: 218-897-5780
12232 3rd St., Box 225, Northome MN 56661
e-mail: olekaren@paulbunyan.net

Betty McGuire phone: 612-867-3295
2155 Hwy 9 NE, New London MN 56273
e-mail: mbsweden09@gmail.com

Kris Paulson phone: 434-352-5131
183 Pumping Station Rd., Spout Spring VA 24593
e-mail: klpwl@hotmai.com

Cindy Ostberg & Paul Schroedl phone: 612-824-9456
4741 Wentworth Ave., Minneapolis MN 55419-5544
e-mail: caostberg@gmail.com

Velkommen !

When contacting any officer by e-mail, please put NHOH in the subject line so we know it is not spam. Thank you.

NHOH Lag Officers & Directors

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Genealogist: John Reindlégenealogy@nhohlag.org
Web Master: Bob Christensen...NHOHBobC@Comcast.net

Congratulations!

Blaine Hedberg Receives St. Olav Medal



Blaine Hedberg, right, receives the Medal of St. Olav from Consul General Gary Gandrud.

This article is a combination of information taken from the Sons of Norway **VIKING** magazine and **Vennelag News** Jan-Feb 2011

Ed. Note - I'm sure none of us are surprised to hear Blaine was given the St. Olav Medal - just think about all the work he has helped our Hedmark Lag members with! When I began researching my Norwegian Roots in 1987, I turned to Blaine and Gerhard Naeseth for help, and have received so much valuable information and encouragement over 20+ years myself. Many of you saw him at the stevner. Shirley

On August 28th, Blaine Hedberg was awarded with the St. Olav Medal by Gary Gandrud, consul general for the government of Norway. The presentation took place in Minneapolis.

For 28 years, Blaine has been working at the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison, learning the tracking history of Norwegian ancestry in the U.S. He served as the facility's director from 1993-2001 and again from 2007-2009. Today he holds the position of Naeseth Chair.

Blaine recently finished a collection of books which serve as an encyclopedia of sorts, detailing the history of Norwegian men and women who came to America before 1851. It is titled "Norwegian Immigrants to the United States, a Biographical Directory, 1825-1850." He began writing this collection with Gerhard Naeseth, the founder of the genealogical center in Madison. After Naeseth's death in 1994, Blaine went on to finish this massive work.

The Medal of St. Olav was founded March 17, 1939 by King Haakon VII of Norway. It is conferred as a reward for services in advancing knowledge of Norway and abroad, and for strengthening the bonds between expatriate Norwegians and their descendents and their country of residence. (Vennelag News information).

Blaine explains how the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison, WI has helped more than 150,000 people trace their family trees.

The NAGC & NL has a plethora of resources, from church records to family histories. **VIKING** received some history of the center and what it has to offer from Blaine.

- It is a non-profit organization that was started back in 1974 by Gerhard Naeseth at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah IA. Gerhard was getting so many requests he had to separate the genealogy section from the museum. In January 2007, the genealogy part became separated and independent of the museum, to form the NAGC&NL.
- The center helps people trace their family history back into Norway. They also help a lot of Norwegians find their family here in America.
- They have one of the largest collections of Norwegian Bygdeboker in the U.S. They have about 5,000 published family histories, Norwegian-American Lutheran Church records and other minor indexes.
- Most of the staff at NAGC&NL is a member of the Idun 5-074 Sons of Norway Lodge in Madison.

Blaine grew up without having any relatives around, so he started writing to his relatives in South Dakota, asking lots of questions about the family. That's how he got interested in genealogy. Later, he volunteered at a county historical society, working on German genealogy.

Then he moved to Madison and realized they had a fabulous collection, so he studied the Norwegian language. He was given the opportunity to work with Gerhard Naeseth, who gave him a chance for one year without pay.

The author of this article (Stephani Bloomquist) says she got a call from a man who said, "I visited with you back in the early 1980s. Because of that, I've written a family history, I've been to Norway three times, and I found relatives over in Norway." What success stories!

Article in the **VIKING** was written by Stephani Bloomquist
Mange takk to **VIKING** and to **Vennelag News**

Blaine - UP CLOSE

Blaine Hedberg

Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication

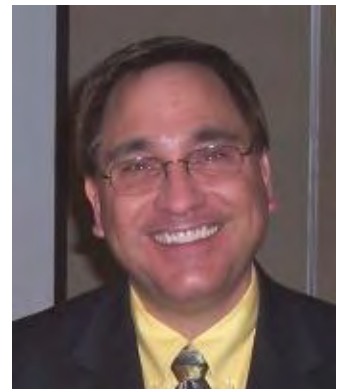
Age 50

Origin: Lake Preston, SD

Current City: Reedsburg, WI

Recent Accomplishment:

Awarded the Medal of St. Olav in August, 2010 in recognition of his ongoing service to Norway



Again, Congratulations, Blaine!



Peder and Gertrude Langsjoen

K.H.Brandvold

1912 photo of Østerdalslag that Patricia Boe brought to the stevne last year. At that time, it was Park Region Luther College in Fergus Falls MN.

Focus on... Langsjoen Family



Back L-R: Nicole Hennen, Rhonda (Boe) Hennen, and Patricia (Langsjoen) Boe (the daughter of Sven)
Front: Zack, and Connor Hennen (2010 Centennial)

Peder M. Nilsen Langsjøen and his wife, Gjertrude (Nilsdatter Jordet rSwensen) Langsjøen, were both charter members of Østerdalslag. They came from nearby farms (Langsjøen and Øversjødalen) in Tolga, Norway. But Gertrude immigrated at the age of 5 while Peder remained in Norway until he was 19 so it's fair to say that their romance began on this side of the ocean.

Gertrude's parents were Nils Svendsen (Swensen) and Sigrid Marie Iversdatter Prestelien. They brought their three young children to the US in 1869 and took land in St. Olaf, Otter Tail Co. In his 2nd Minnesota winter, Gertrude's father was killed when a tree fell on him and, a year later, her older brother Swen also died leaving Sigrid alone to raise Gertrude and Kari and a 3rd daughter, Nilsine, born after Nils's death.

Back in Norway, Peder also lost a parent at early age. His mother, Karoline Jorgensdatter (sometimes given as Johannesdatter) Sømaahaugen, died when he was only 1½. He was one of seven children in six boys and a girl. One of his brothers died young when he fell from a horse, but the other five all came to America. Peder immigrated in 1880.

Peder and Gertrude were married in 1883 and remained in Otter Tail Co., for the rest of their lives. They had 9 children: Nels P. (married Alma Matson), Serena (married Gilbert Løken), Karoline (married Edwin Wagnild and later Martin Nylen), Sven (married Gina Dahlvang), Jacob (married Ella Wahlin), Pernille (died at age 10), Liv (remained single), George Julius, and Carrie Lenora (married Leonard Gjermundson).

These 9 children left more than 100 descendants (and counting).

Gertrude died in 1940 at the age of 76. Peder lived until 1946 and died at the age of 85. They are both buried at Sarpsborg Lutheran Church in Dalton, Minnesota.

It's obvious that the Langsjoens, with humble farming roots, were strong believers in education as there are a disproportionate number of well-educated professionals among their children and grandchildren including doctors, dentists, bankers, ministers, and college professors.

Patricia (Langsjoen) Boe (the daughter of Sven) and her daughter Rhonda (Boe) Hennen, and grandchildren Nicole, Zack, and Connor Hennen, represented the Langsjoen family at the 2010 Østerdalslag Centennial Celebration. Pat pointed out her grandparents, father, aunts and uncles in every one of the old photos we have of early Østerdalslag Meetings. In fact, her maternal Grandparents (Paul and Gina Dahlvang) were also early members of the Lag and are in the photos as well. Pat also brought, and let us copy, a very nice photo of the 1912 Østerdalslag meeting in Fergus Falls. It's the earliest photo we have of our group and a great find.



Peder and Gertrude Langsjoen, Charter Members

Focus on... Pryts Family



The Pryts Family
Back: Peter (P), Louise, Alvin
Middle: Henry and Inez
Front: Henrietta, Peter, Vernon, Indiana Bendikka, Olivia

It is an-unsolved mystery that Peder J. Pryts chose to become a charter member of Østerdalslaget. Why? Because Peder's roots are not actually in the geographic area we know as Østerdal in Hedmark; he came from a bit north of there - Røros in Sør Trøndelag. His wife, Minnesota born Bendikka Indiana Rodhammer, likewise had family origins to the north in the Trøndelag valley. The answer to the mystery of his membership may be hidden further back in Peder's ancestry (not yet explored) or perhaps he had a connection with another member of the Lag and joined Østerdalslag rather than Trønderlag because he got his arm twisted!

Whatever the explanation, Peder was on our earliest (1913) membership list.

Peder was the 3rd of 4 children of Andreas Jenssen Pryts and Anna Kjerstine Hansmortsdatter Odegaard and was born in 1860 at Dybdalen in Røros. At the age of 6, he immigrated with his family, arriving in America on board the *Vidfarne* at Quebec, Canada in 1866. His father died within the year and Anna settled with the children in Rushford, Fillmore Co., Minnesota, where she farmed.

Of his siblings: oldest brother, Jens died at age 20. His next older brother, Hans Morton Pryts married (Mary) and they adopted a son, Rudolph Carsten Pryts. Hans and Mary had no biological children and Rudolph died, unmarried, at the age of 27. Hans was a grocer in Minneapolis from 1880 until 1914, when he retired. Peter's younger sister, Sophia Kristi Pryts, also eventually came to Minneapolis (first enumerated there in 1905) and was never married. She lived with her mother until her mother's death in 1906.

Thus, of the immigrant family, it was only Peder (Americanized to Peter) who carried the Pryts genes forward to the next generation.

Peter Pryts and Bendikka Indiana Rodhammer were married in Becker Co., Minnesota in 1893 (see wedding photo) and then settled in south Minneapolis

where their 8 children were born over the next 25 years: Alvin R., Louisa C., Henrietta C., Peter B., Olivia S., Henry M., Inez O., and Vernon E. Henry died at age 16, but the other children lived to adulthood and married. Many of them lived to old age.

Peter Pryts was a carpenter and a building contractor. He served as an Alderman in the 11th ward of Minneapolis from 1919-1927. Even after retirement he stayed active and, in 1930, age 69, was working as a watchman at the City Bridge. He died in 1937 at age 77. Bendikka, who was 15 years his junior, outlived him by a quarter century and died in 1961 in Minneapolis.

Surnames among the small collection of Pryts descendants include Benson, Evers, Gunter, Hedin, Monson, Norlie, Pryts, Stenersen, Tolby, Westby, and Wilson.

Representing the family at the 2010 Østerdalslaget Centennial was Peter's granddaughter, Eloise (Monson) Westby and her husband, Jerry, who live in Cold Spring, Minnesota.

Pictured:

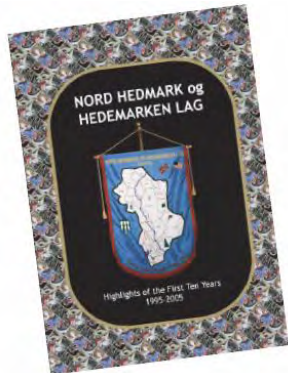
Jerry and Eloise (Monson) Westby. Eloise is the granddaughter of Peter and Indiana Bendikka Pryts.



Wedding photo of Peter Pryts and Indiana Bendikka Rodhammer, married 29 August, 1893

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005

This publication is still available for purchase.



Generously illustrated with 150+ photographs old and new, this 144-page book recounts the foundation of our lag, including our historic roots, our formative meeting in Madison, the establishment of our governing body, and a decade full of activities and stevner.

Later chapters include selected stories of emigration and settlement and articles reprinted from the NHOH newsletter. The book concludes with a full appendix of documents associated with our lag history as well as an every name index.

Purchase a copy for yourself and for the members of your family who share your Norwegian roots.



Membership Renewal Policy Change

At the November board meeting it was decided to change the timing of the lag membership renewals.

In the past, the membership year was the calendar year, but we allowed a very long grace period for renewals, allowing members to renew for the current year up until the stevne before sending out reminders. Then members had until October to renew before being dropped. This meant unpaid members received two free newsletters even if they didn't renew by October.

Members need to check the year next to their name on the newsletter address label, especially on the fall newsletter. **Reminders will now be sent for expired memberships early in the year following the year of expiration, with a renewal deadline of Mid-March, prior to the spring newsletter.**

Members who get their newsletters via e-mail will be sent a reminder.

In 2009, NHOH lag began an incentive for new members. Their first year will be paid and the second year will be free. Example:

a new 1-year membership will run for 2 years

a new 2-year membership will run for 3 years

a new 3-year membership will run for 4 years

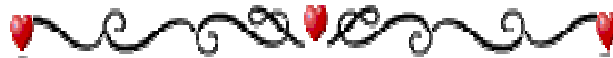
Order Form - Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken - Highlights of the First Ten Years

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>Total \$</u>	
NHOH Book	_____	\$22.50	\$_____	Includes shipping & handling US*
Total Enclosed			\$_____	Make check payable to NHOH

❖ Surface Shipping to Norway – add \$5.50

Mail Your Order to: Joy Shong
 523 S. Concord Rd.,
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066





NHOH WEB SITE UPDATE

Bob Christensen, Webmaster

Bob's email address:
NHOHBobC@Comcast.net

NEW ON THE WEB SITE

Norway maps ¶ Look for the ¶Norges Kartlink on the ¶Research Aids page under the ¶Genealogy tab. This is a Norwegian map site that is still being developed. You can already zoom down to the farm level and see various displays including aerial images and maps. The link brings you to a page with some English navigation window labels. For example, in the ¶Zoom to Area window you could click on the down arrow to the right and select ¶Hedmark from the drop down list. Then you could drag the map and/or use the +/- zoom bar to explore. Or, in the ¶Find window, you could type a place name such as a village or farm name, click the search icon and then select from the list which appears to the far right of the window. The keyboard icon in the right of the ¶Find window brings up a keyboard image with Norwegian characters. If, in the ¶Base Maps window, you click on the box by ¶imagery you can get an aerial image. Be patient while waiting for searches and images to load.

Language Translation- On the same ¶Research Aids page, the links to translators have been updated. The translators have been improved. I found it helpful to break up the joined Norwegian words (e.g. Gråtonekart to Gråtone kart) to get a translation.

Alvdal/ Folldal data ¶ On the ¶Nord-Østerdal page under the ¶Genealogy tab, a link to Torill Steivang's pages replaces the old Frederik's Gave site link.

MEMBER AREA ACCESS

. The member's-only area of the NHOH website requires a user ID and password. **The user name is "NHOH2011" and the password is "husmann"**. These words are case sensitive so you will need to type them exactly as printed here (without quotation marks). They are the same for all members. To reach information in the member's-only area, first click on the ¶Member Area button in the left border of most website pages. Then, click on the link for the content that you wish to view. You will then be prompted to enter a user name and password

NHOH Website URL is www.nhohlag.org

NHOH Newsletters are published three times per year – Spring, Summer, and Fall.		
Members are welcome to send articles or news at any time of the year, and the editor will put them into the next newsletter, or one that is appropriate.		
Issue	Submit by	Mailing Target
Spring	March 1	March 15
Summer	June 1	June 15
Fall	Nov. 1	Nov. 25

Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter. Articles, photos and graphics relating to Norwegian history, culture, emigration and Lag activities, especially those with meaning to the NHOH geographical area are invited. Articles may be historical in nature or may highlight current resources available to help members research their heritage. Articles about Norwegian-American community events of interest to our members are also welcome.

Send to the Newsletter Editor: (prefer e-mails)
Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld at SASLAX@aol.com
Or mail to: 2208 Sunrise Dr., La Crosse, WI 54601-6831
Phone: 608-788-6596

Policy on advertising in newsletter:

The Board approved that the newsletter editor will accept advertising related to Norwegian culture, heritage and genealogy. Eighth and quarter page ads will be sold for \$15 and \$25, with funds to help offset the cost of producing the newsletter.

NHOH: Our Purpose

The Lag is organized exclusively for educational purposes. To the extent consistent with this general purpose, the specific purposes of the Lag are:

- to help people learn more about the history, culture, and customs of the Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken area of Norway and to aid in the preservation of that heritage
- to teach and assist people in genealogy research
- to gather immigration and settlement history and develop immigration data
- to develop a library of resources, such as bygdebøker (farm histories) and Norwegian church, census, and probate records.
- to encourage the research and writing of family, immigration, and settlement histories



Membership reporté by Joy Shong, Treasurer

At each board meeting the treasurer makes a report that includes the current membership statistics. Anyone attending the Annual Meeting during the Stevne gets a copy of the annual and year-to-date reports. For the rest of you who do not get those reports, I thought it would be nice to provide that information.

As of the end of 2010 the NHOH Lag had 191 members. Membership fluctuates during the year. The numbers used to be higher immediately after the Stevne when we traditionally picked up some new members, and then drop ones who did not renew after the Stevne. Over the last 5 years membership ranged as low as 188 to a high of 217 when we offered a special free membership for people joining at the Stevne.

So far in 2011 we have picked up 5 new memberships increasing the total to 196. Due to our 1, 2, and 3 year memberships the number of renewals due each year also fluctuates. 66 renewals will be due by the end of 2011; 61 are paid through 2012; 40 are paid through 1013, and 7 have longer term memberships.

Unfortunately, approximately 20 memberships that expired in December have not yet been renewed. We hope many of those will decide to renew this month.

Treasurer's Report – Joy Shong

At the February Board meeting the treasurer reported a balance of \$7146.52. The only purchases this year have been for postage and the annual dues payment to the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad (the lag of lags). So far \$851 has been taken in for dues and \$172 for donations.

2010 Summary: The beginning balance on 1/1/2010 was \$5489.99 and the ending balance on 12/31/10 was \$6215.52. The Centennial Celebration added a lot of financial activity during the year. Total receipts for dues, contributions, book and pin sales, newsletter ads and centennial activities totaled \$5171.10. Expenditures for the newsletter, purchase of genealogical materials, and centennial costs totaled \$4445.57.

NEW! Pay your dues using PayPal

NHOH Lag has a new method for our members to pay their dues and make donations.

A new PayPal account has been established to make it easy for members to transfer payments directly into the Lag's bank account. It is a simple, safe way to transfer money from one bank to another or make a credit card payment. This is especially convenient for non-US residents who need to pay in foreign currencies as PayPal takes care of the conversion to dollars at the current day's exchange rate.

The process is simple.

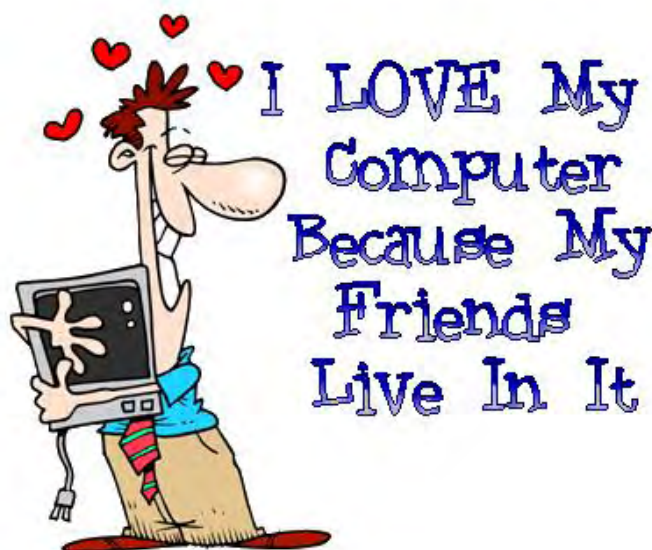
* Open the PayPal site (www.paypal.com) in an internet browser.

* Click the Send Money tab, (then select Internationally if appropriate)

* Complete the 3 step process:

- Fill in Where to pay, Amount, and type of currency
- Pick your payment method
- Send to nhohlagtreasurer@hotmail.com

The funds will be deposited in the NHOH Lag account and deducted from your account or charged to your credit card



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

Shirley (Lokstad) Schoenfeld, Editor

2208 Sunrise Dr.

La Crosse, WI 54601-6831

Spring 2011



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

NHOH Membership Renewal or New Memberships Form

If mailing label has 2011 on the top line, it means Lag dues expire December 31, 2011 and are now due for 2012. Memberships include spouses, so please include both names if applicable. Consider giving gift memberships.

Make check payable to **NHOH Lag** and send with completed form to:

Joy Shong, Treasurer, 523 S. Concord Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Renewal _____ Gift Membership _____ New _____

Ancestors in Hedmark from kommune:

Åmot _____ Alvdal _____ Elverum _____ Engerdal _____ Folldal _____ Furness _____ Løten _____ Hamar _____ Nes _____ Os _____
Rendalen _____ Ringsaker _____ Romedal _____ Stange _____ Stor-Elvdal _____ Tolga _____ Trysil _____ Tynset _____ Vang _____

If kommune unknown, list *parish*, town, or other geographic place _____

Volunteers Needed

The lag is only possible because of the work of many volunteers. Please consider volunteering for any of the following:

- Newsletter (contribute articles, assist with mailing, suggest topics for articles, etc.)
- Leadership (Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership, Board members)
- Genealogy - Web page
- Stevne (planning, registration desk, staff hospitality room, help lag genealogist in lab)
- Anything you think the Lag should provide as a service!

I would like to volunteer for: _____

Newsletter delivery preference: US Mail _____ Online _____

Dues for Individuals/Couples: _____ 1 year (\$10) _____ 2 years (\$18) _____ 3 years (\$25) **Total Dues:** _____

(2011 Special Price for new members: you will get 2 years for the price of the 1st year)

NHOH is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization

Genealogy donation: _____

Total enclosed _____