

NHOH News

Volume 18 Number 3

Fall 2013

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

2014 Tre-Lag Stevne

August 6-9, 2014

Best Western Kelly Inn

St. Cloud, MN

Our room price, phone number and
Theme plus more - in next newsletter



Location. Situated in St Cloud, Best Western Plus Kelly Inn is connected to the convention

Hotel Features. Best Western Plus Kelly Inn has an indoor pool, a spa tub, and a 24-hour fitness facility. Wireless Internet access is complimentary in public areas. Business amenities include a 24-hour business center, small meeting rooms, and audiovisual equipment. Dining options at this business-friendly hotel include a restaurant and a bar/lounge. This is a smoke-free property.

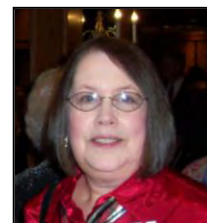
Guestrooms. The 229 guestrooms at Best Western Plus Kelly Inn include coffee/tea makers and makeup/shaving mirrors. Guests can use the in-room complimentary wireless high-speed Internet access. Rooms are equipped with flat-screen TVs with cable channels. All accommodations provide desks along with free local calls (restrictions may apply). Bathrooms offer shower/tub combinations, hair dryers, and complimentary toiletries. All units feature microwaves and refrigerators. Additional amenities include irons/ironing boards and clock radios

What's Inside?

- 1.....2014 Stevne Information and Pres. Letter
- 2..... Who are We? And list of officers
- 3-42014 tour to Norway information
- 5.....NHOH book – first 10 years
- 6.....Genealogy Information by John Reindl
- 7..Necrology– Michael Johnson & LaVerne Engebretsen Lewis Tiedeman
- 8... ..Bob Christensen's NHOH Lag Web Site / Member Letter
- 9... ..Situation with graves in Norway
- 10.....How Norway celebrates Halloween
- 11-18..... 2013 Stevne pictures
- 19.....NHOH Software Survey
- 20.....Membership Application

Hilsen!

*Fra Presidenten Joy
Shong*



It doesn't seem possible that the stevne was three months ago, and the Tre-Lag Stevne Steering Committee has already started planning for next year in St. Cloud MN. It will be hard to beat this year's stevne for quality and content. The topics and tour locations fit the theme "Stepping Stones" to a "T". The variety of presentation on the history of the earliest Norwegian settlements intermixed with background on why and how so many left their homes in Norway was one of the best stevne programs ever. The tour was exceptional, with visits to the Oconomowoc Historical Society Museum and Old World Wisconsin. The weather was perfect and the presentation by the museum staff was totally above and beyond our expectations. They researched all of the earliest Norwegian settlers in the Oconomowoc area and gave the history of the three Norwegian churches in the area.

The NHOH board has also been hard at work planning for the upcoming year. We still do not have a replacement newsletter editor, but we do have a plan to get the next three newsletters out to you. The genealogy software project has identified the software members are using and people who are willing to share their knowledge with others. We discussed the possibility of starting a project to get translations of farm histories in bygdeboker for members' farms and make them available online. It was also suggested that we gather members' stories of their trips to Norway and their experiences with meeting relatives and visiting family farms.

Last, but not least, there is still time to register for the NHOH Lag "Splendors of Norway" tour. We hope everyone will share the tour information with friends and relatives. So, **check your passport to see that is up-to-date, and get your registration in by December 13.**

Joy Shong

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 – Norway's Folk Costumes.)

District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal
Folldal
Os
Rendalen
Tolga
Tynset



**A
l
v
d
a
l

a
n
d

T
y
n
s
e
t**

District 2:

Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot
Elverum
Engerdal
Stor Elvedal
Trysil



**N
o
r
d

Ø
s
t
e
r
d
a
l**

District 3:

Hedemarken and Hamar

Furnes
Hamar
Løten
Nes
Ringsaker
Romedal
Stange
Vang

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. 15	Nov. 25

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.

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 Norw/American community events of interest to our members are welcome.

**Send to President Joy Shong
by e-mail pres@nhohlag.org
until we have a newsletter editor again.**

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

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

President: Joy Shong.....pres@nhohlag.org
Vice-Pres.: Chris Falteisek.....chrisfalteisek@gmail.com
Secretary: Gay Kearin.....Chechon@aol.com
Treasurer: Ron Helstad.....treasurer@nhohlag.org
Membership: Dixie Hansen dx@dxhansen.com
Director: Gene Nelson.....garthnelson@charter.net
Director: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com
Past-President: Dixie Hansen.....dx@dxhansen.com
Editor: (vacancy)
Genealogist: John Reindl.....genealogy@nhohlag.org
Web Master: Bob Christensen...NHOHBobC@Comcast.net

Nord Hedmark Og Hedemarken Lag's 11-day Tour to Norway May 19-29, 2014

"Splendors of Norway"

Trondheim, Molde, Geiranger, Tynset,
Lillehammer, Hamar and other stops

Monday, May 19 • Overnight Flight We depart on our scheduled flight to Trondheim, Norway. **In-flight D**

Tuesday, May 20 • Trondheim

Upon our arrival in Trondheim, we meet our driver and tour leader. Time permitting, we take an hour-long drive to Selbu, an area famous for its unique knitting techniques, patterns and colors. Here we visit Selbu Husflid, to see a variety of sweaters, mittens, scarves and other items knitted in Original Selbu style. There is time to make purchases if desired, before returning to Trondheim where we check into our hotel and enjoy a welcome dinner together. **In-flight B/D**

Wednesday, May 21 • Trondheim

This morning a local guide joins us for a tour of Trondheim. While Trondheim is a progressive city, we see many remnants of its medieval past with its timbered architecture and historic city center. Highlights of our sightseeing include a visit to the Gothic style Nidaros Cathedral, built to honor Norway's patron St Olaf who is buried at the site, and the Archbishop's Palace. The afternoon and evening are free for individual exploration in Trondheim. **B**

Thursday, May 22 • Trondheim

Our day begins with a mid-morning visit to the Hegra Fortress, site of a World War II battle between Norwegian volunteers and the invading Nazi army. Before returning to Trondheim, we visit Stiklestad, site of the 11th century battle between King Olaf II and the Peasant Army. **B**

Friday, May 23 • Molde

Today we drive along the scenic Atlantic Ocean Road towards Molde. Our first stop is in Bud, where we tour the Ergan Kystfort, a coastal fort built by the Germans as part of the Atlantic Wall. Time permitting, we make additional stops at Møre and Romsdal before continuing on to Molde where we check in to our hotel and have dinner. **B/D**

Saturday, May 24 • Geiranger

Another scenic drive awaits us today as we travel via Åndalsnes and the Trolls' Highway (if road conditions allow) to Geiranger, in the heart of the fjord region. Our bus ride is broken up with a short ferry trip across the Norddalsfjorden. Once in the village of Geiranger, we have time at leisure to enjoy some of Norway's most beautiful vistas. **B/D**

Sunday, May 25 • Tynset

In the morning, we depart Geiranger and drive to Tynset, enjoying the scenery and small towns along the way. Late this afternoon, upon our arrival in Tynset, we tour the Tynset Bygdemuseum, an open-air museum about life in this region of Norway. After checking into our hotel, the rest of the evening is free to explore the town and to have dinner on our own at a local restaurant. **B**

Monday, May 26 • Lillehammer

Departing in the early morning, our day starts with a very short stop in Alvdal. We travel on to Folldal to visit the local church and take a tour of the Folldal mine. In the early afternoon, we continue our journey towards Lillehammer, stopping first in Ringebru for a tour of the Stave church. After checking into our hotel in the center of town, we have dinner on our own and spend the rest of the evening enjoying the sights and sounds of Lillehammer. **B**

Tuesday, May 27 • Hamar

Today begins with a visit to Maihaugen, an extensive open-air museum in Lillehammer. While in the area, we also visit Aulestad, home of Nobel Laureate Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson and composer of Norway's National Anthem. Included is delicious snack of blueberry pancakes served at the museum's café. We continue on to Hamar, stopping just outside of the city at the ruins of a medieval cathedral, now encased in a glass dome to protect it from the elements. Before we check into our hotel, we take a drive through Hamar to see sights such as the skating venue from the Olympics, the lakefront, the archives and the rail station. **B**

Wednesday, May 28 • Hamar

Our final day in Norway begins with a tour of the Norwegian Emigrant Museum near Hamar. The museum is unique as it contains reconstructed buildings of Norwegian emigrants, shipped back to Norway from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and other Midwestern states to tell the experience of Norwegian settlers. The remainder of the day is free for an optional visit to the Norwegian Railroad Museum and other sightseeing and shopping in Hamar. Or, the bus is available for others to do some sightseeing in the surrounding area. We end our tour with a group dinner to celebrate and remember our journey through Norway. **B/D**

Thursday, May 29 • Return Flight

We transfer to the Oslo International Airport in Gardemoen this morning for our return flights to United States. **B/ In-flight L**

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

\$4,649.00 based on 18-19 paying participants

\$4,459.00 based on 20-24 paying participants

See next page for more information and details.

The deadline for making your \$500 deposit is Dec. 13th.

President: Joy Shong.....pres@nhohlag.org



Trondheim



Geiranger Fjord

Den 06.11.2013 04:37, skrev Joy Shong:

The NHOH Lag **"Splendors of Norway" 2014 Tour (May 19 to 29, 2014) deadline for registration is December 13, 2013.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit many sites in Hedmark, the land of our ancestors, as well as to see a cross-section of Norway's natural beauty, history, and culture. We have tailored the tour to get our members into as many parts of Hedmark as possible to give a real sense of our roots.

If you have not registered yet, now is a good time to check that your **passport is up-to-date**, or to order one from the Department of State if you do not have one.

If you have questions or would like additional copies of the brochure/registration materials please contact me or go to the Ceta Tours web site at www.cetatours.com and look for the "Splendors of Norway" tour.

PLEASE SHARE THE TOUR INFORMATION WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Joy Shong, President - NHOH Lag
523 S. Concord Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Phone: 262-567-9263



The Atlantic Highway



Stave Kirke at Ringebu

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

The membership year used to be the calendar year, and 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.



Cousins and friends – Dixie, Gay, and Shirley

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	

Genealogy News –

John Reindl, Lag Genealogist

On-line maps for finding farms; the
NHOH Cousin-finding Project
John Reindl, Lag Genealogist



On-line maps

Besides knowing the name of our ancestral farms, it is also both helpful and very interesting to find our farms on a map. In the past, this was most often accomplished by either finding the farm on a topographical map or, in some cases, by using maps found in bygdebøker. In other cases, older maps have proven useful, especially if the farm no longer exists, such as is the case with my own ancestral farm in Ringsaker – we only found it on an 1888 map, as it is now part of the city of Moelv.

However, the Internet has several web pages that provide maps on which farms can be found. This has several advantages, including electronic searching for the farm and the ability to easily incorporate the map into a family history.

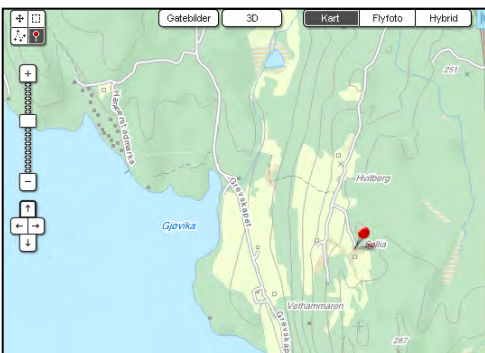
There are at least a half dozen web pages which provide maps with the ability to find Norwegian farms. Each of these sites were tested by searching for two farms and, if the sites found these farms, they were checked for other features. Only three of the sites found the farms in my tests:

Finn Kart	http://kart.finn.no/
Kvasir	http://kart.kvasir.no/
Digital Medier 1881	http://www.1881.no/kart

Finn Kart is very quick in finding the farms and the maps also provide a lot of topographical and physical features on the maps. The web page also provides aerial photographs, including recent historical aerial photos and hybrids of roads and aerial photos.

As an example of this site, here is how a search can be done for the Sollia/Sollien farm in Stange.

On the top left of the web page is a data entry box,



'Sølia' is entered, there are many, many choices, but as the location is expanded to 'Sølia, Stange', the correct farm is found and it is listed in the drop-down box as 'Bruk (gardsbruk)', which translates to 'farm'. The web page shows a very detailed map, and the level of detail can be changed to show either more or less detail by clicking on the scale bar in the upper left.

Also shown are five buttons on the top which show pictures of the roads (Gatebilder), 3D pictures (both of these require Google Earth for full capabilities), a map only (kart), an aerial photo only (flyfoto), or a hybrid of a map and an aerial photo.

Maps can then be saved either as one of the web page functions or by either taking a screen shot or using software such as the Windows Snipping Tool.

All three of these sites found the Sollia farm without difficulty. The maps formats differ between the three sites and I find Finn Kart the best of the three. For aerial photos, Finn Kart and Digital Medier 1881 show the identical pictures, while the Kvasir site has a different photo, which, for this farm, shows more details.

A special challenge for each of these maps is the need to have the farm name spelled the way that it is on the map, which is not necessarily the same as may be found in the bygdebøker or in other sources. For example, the Sollia farm is listed as the Sollien farm in the bygdebok, in the 1801 and 1865 censuses, and in the farm name lists prepared by Oluf Rygh. Thus, flexibility is required when using these web pages. Luckily, the Finn Kart site was able to find the farm on the partial search of 'Soll, Stange'; unfortunately the Kvasir and Digital Medier 1881 sites were not able to find the farm on a partial name search.

Special maps for Nord-Østerdal and part of Hedemarken There are more detailed maps available for the Nord Østerdal kommuner of Alvdal, Folldal, Os, Rendalen, Tolga and Tynset at <http://www.nord-osterdal.no/> and for the Hedemarken kommuner of Hamar, Løten, Ringsaker and Stange/Romedal at <http://www.hedemarkenkart.no/>.

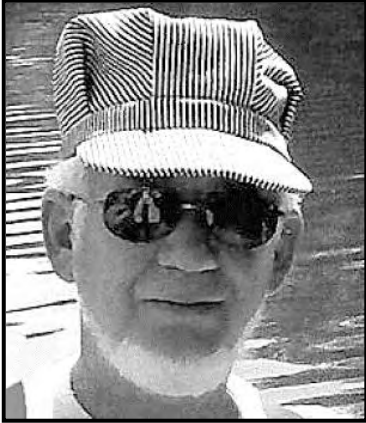
Besides the usual surface map and aerial photographs, these sites can provide information on the location of cultural importance, vegetation maps, flood zones, recreational sites, biodiversity data, administrative boundaries, planning maps, etc.

These two sites can be a bit overwhelming with the amount of data that they have. For example, for the Sollia/Sollien farm in Stange, the Hedemarken site provided nine choices that needed to be checked out.

Unfortunately, these maps are only sometimes useful for finding farms which no longer exist. For example, recently, I was trying to help a gentleman find the farm of Glomstad. He knew the approximate area and the on-line maps found a road with the Glomstad name, but no farm. Fortunately, we were able to get a copy of a map from 1888 which showed the farm from a member of DIS-Norge through the forum for this area. While I have not been able to locate a web page with a collection of these maps, as mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, my mother and I were able to find our own ancestral farm on such a map back in 1990 – in that case, it was from a personal visit to the National Archives.

The lesson here is not to give up just because a web page doesn't exist for the farm that you are looking for, but instead to see if other sources may have the information being sought. (Continued on Page 19)

Necrology



Michael A. Johnson

WISCONSIN DELLS - Michael A. Johnson, age 68, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, following a six-year battle with esophageal cancer and other complications.

He was born on Aug. 16, 1944, in Baraboo, the son of Vernon Otis and Elizabeth Ann (Putz) Johnson. Mike

graduated from Baraboo Senior High in 1962, and enlisted in the United States Air Force serving as Ammunitions Specialist. He married Patricia Upham and had a son, Todd. Later, on Nov. 27, 1976, Mike was united in marriage to Susan Ann Warn. In 1977, Mike joined the Civil Engineers Unit with the Air National Guard Unit, 115 Fighter Wing in Madison.

Mike helped his dad, who was employed as a contractor with the Bechtal Corporation, build the nuclear power plant in Russellville, Ark., after being honorably discharged from the Air Force. He later worked with several local roofing contractors and eventually started up his own business, Johnson and Son Weatherization. He was a longtime member of St. John Lutheran Church, Reedsburg, where he served on the Church Council and the Administrative Board. He had a strong faith and enjoyed his volunteer work with the church, Wisconsin Kiwanis, and Reedsburg Hospital, where he was known as the "Candyman." He and Sue created Companions for Kids (a Big Brother-Big Sister type program) matching several kids with companions for 10 years. There were several mission trips hauling either school supplies or building materials for various relief projects; as well as supporting Habitat for Humanity for Sauk-Columbia County Areas. Many will remember him for the many meals he grilled for family and friends, especially those Johnsonville Brats. He loved to entertain and was happy to make room for "one more" at the dinner table. Mike and Sue started the Open Table Community Meal in Reedsburg in 2009, which still continues today – a free meal for anyone to enjoy. He had an outgoing, spirited personality that drew people to him. He made all those around him laugh without even trying. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, watching baseball and football.

Mike is survived by his wife of 37 years, Susan of Wisconsin Dells; son, Todd (Dionne) of Poynette; half-sister, Zerelda (Roman) Nemechny of Kentucky; three stepbrothers, Russell (Dita) Marshall of Hawaii, Harlan (Dorothy) Marshall of Louisiana, and Jack (Ginny) Powell of Arkansas; stepsister, Brenda Hodges of Florida; grandsons, Jared and Trevor Johnson; great-aunt, Gert

Struck of Reedsburg; as well as many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

We honor Michael's life with a memorial service at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, at ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, Reedsburg, with Pastor David Glesne officiating. Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the FARBER FUNERAL HOME, Reedsburg and on Thursday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. Burial with Military Honors will follow in St. John Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, or the Reedsburg Area Medical Center.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Reedsburg Area Medical Center and UW Hospital and Clinic for the wonderful care given to Michael.

LaVerne Engebretsen Lewis TIEDEMAN

LaVerne went to be with the Lord, February 3, 2012 at her home on Whidbey Island.

Born July 6, 1920 at the Arlington Hospital, she lived her life in Washington State but traveled extensively.

LaVerne graduated from Marysville High School and Seattle Pacific College. She taught for the Shoreline School District for 23 years.

She has been very active in the Lutheran Church, including churches in Everett, First Lutheran of Richmond Beach and St. Peter's Church in Clinton. She was a charter member of the Ester Moe Lodge #39 of the Daughters of Norway. Surviving LaVerne is her brother, Clayton Engebretsen, her children: Duane Lewis, Jerry Lewis, Colleen Nollette, Connie King and their families.

A Celebration of Life was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday February 11, 2012 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Clinton.



Sod Roof on Hytte in Høsten



NHOH WEB SITE UPDATE Bob Christensen, Webmaster

Bob's email address:
NHOHBobC@Comcast.net

NEW ON THE WEB SITE

Photos from the 2013 Tre Lag Stevne are now posted on the NHOH web site. Click on the "Stevner" tab to access available photos from this and all past stevner. For most, you can click on the image for a larger view. And if you want to copy or save it, right click on it to use browser commands.

MEMBER AREA ACCESS

The member's-only area of the NHOH website requires a user ID and password. For 2014 the user name is "NHOH2014" and the password is "Bruker" You may begin using this now. The old user name and password will be phased out after the end of the year. 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



From NHOH Member in Elverum, Norway

Hei.

I am a Norwegian member receiving newsletters with great interest!

I work as a product developer in a foundry and machining company here in Elverum. This year we have launched a "vaffeljern" in cast aluminum. The Design is taken from the old iron that was used on wood burning stoves.

Attached is a picture of the first iron that is officially "elverum product" and the iron made for the Norwegian-made MC type "TEMPO" We can make a similar iron for nhohlag.

My grandfather lived in Minneapolis in 1914 and was a member of østerdalsslaget.

Best regards

Svein Ole Lien,
Østlandske Lettmetall AS www.lettmetall.no



Grave Problem: Nothing Is Rotting in the State of Norway

In a Macabre Twist, Plastic Buries Chance to Reuse Plots

OSLO—Oslo's funeral director has long wrestled with the particularly morbid job of dealing with Norway's longtime insistence on "plastic graves." Now, she is using technology to fight back.



Shortly after World War II, Norwegians began a three-decade-long practice of wrapping their dead in plastic before laying them to rest in wooden caskets, believing the practice was more sanitary. Hundreds of thousands of burials later, gravediggers realized the airtight conditions kept the corpses from decomposing.

Like many European cities, Oslo reuses graves every 20 years. Or would, if a ruling from the 1950's to wrap bodies in plastic hadn't disrupted the practice, preventing decomposition. Now, Oslo has found a solution. WSJ's Ellen Jervell reports.

"The priest says 'ashes to ashes,' but we ain't got no ashes on the other end," Margaret Eckbo, Oslo's director of funerals, said while walking around Grefsen cemetery on a hill overlooking the city.

The presence of plastic-wrap graves doesn't bode well for a municipality where real estate is scarce and expensive. For centuries, Norwegians—and others in Europe—have reused graves after 20 years, so as to conserve land.

Norway Confronts a Grave Issue

Norwegians get free cemetery plots when they die, but only for 20 years. After that, somebody's got to pay rent to keep the plot and the headstone. Otherwise, the plot becomes available to bury somebody else. Old bones and casket parts are left there under new coffins with new inhabitants. But there's a problem.

"The law tells us that if you open a grave from the period when they used plastic, you're not allowed to reuse it," Ms. Eckbo said. The former city councilwoman used to take walks past neglected graves trying to solve the problem.

Even if nobody was paying the rent, graves couldn't be recycled if they contained plastic-wrapped corpses. At first she favored expanding cemeteries, but that was an expensive and unpopular prospect. "Politicians aren't keen on giving up space where they could have built elderly homes or kindergartens, especially not to dead people."

"You may say wrapping people in plastic was the result of some pretty poor planning," Kjell Larsen Ostbye, a former graveyard worker, said. Mr. Ostbye, relying on what he learned in chemistry class, gave Ms. Eckbo a workable idea.

He calculated that by poking holes in the ground and through the plastic and then injecting a lime-based solution into the corpse, decomposition would be accelerated. It worked, opening the door for Mr. Ostbye to create a business called Norsk Miljøstabilisering, or Nomias.

Nomias has now performed the process on 17,000 Norwegian graves located in several cities. Because an estimated 350,000 plastic graves were created, he has his work cut out for him.

Jump-starting decay is neither difficult nor prohibitively expensive. It takes about 10 minutes per grave and leaves no trace. In two weeks, grass grows over holes in the ground, and in a year a body will decompose.

Rikard Karlsson, a Swedish engineer who left the cement-mixing business to help Mr. Ostbye perfect his methods, said the work is good. "Somebody's got to do it," Mr. Karlsson said. The city of Oslo pays the company 4,000 Norwegian kroner, or about \$670, per grave.

Oslo pays for the process, but writes letters to family members beforehand to get the green light. Only a handful have said no, Ms. Eckbo said.

Equipped with a utility belt, long pipes and a computer that measures pressure and identifies where the holes should go, Mr. Karlsson worked on a grave on a warm September day as Mr. Ostbye and Ms. Eckbo stood by wearing goggles to protect their eyes from a cloud of escaping lime. The steady hum of the worker's tractor was all that could be heard.

"We had to figure out a way to do the job that did not disturb people who spent some quiet time around here," Mr. Karlsson said. It is common for people to ask him what's going on. At first, his answer makes some of them uncomfortable, but they usually come around.

"I must say that I think this is a good thing, especially for future generations," Berit Skrauvset, 77 years old, said while sitting close to her late husband's family grave to plant flowers. She spends time visiting family members and friends laid to rest at Grefsen, and wondered why big machines were poking holes in the ground. "The plastic thing was obviously a mistake and we all want things to end the natural way, don't we?" she said. "They don't feel any of it when lying down there."

While there is plenty more work to do in Norway, Messrs Ostbye and Karlsson are hoping to be welcomed to other countries, including Germany.

Ms. Eckbo, Oslo's cemetery boss, said the solution has been a godsend. As she walked through Grefsen Sept. 23, she was smiling widely and pointing to the newfound capacity. "Here, there, there," she said. "We have too many available spots at the moment."

Berit Carlsson, found reason to make light of the situation. "It has to be a relief for those who are wrapped in plastic," Ms. Carlsson, 61, said. "Perhaps the soul now wanders where it should."

Taken from the Wall Street Journal – Oct/2013

Knask eller knep?

Halloween is gaining popularity in Norway

Judith Gabriel Vinje, Los Angeles, Calif.

After an uncertain start in the 1990s, the American tradition of celebrating Halloween has started catching on in Norway.

Until recently, there were no pumpkins (of any size) in Norway. Pumpkins – gresskar in Norwegian – weren't introduced until 2000. And now, production exceeds 1,000 tons a year. It's becoming more common for households to have a carved jack-o-lantern outside their doors and for children to dress in costumes and go trick-or-treating.

Some observers say it all started when Norwegian school children would catch a Halloween episode of their favorite cartoon.

Parents and teachers would explain that Americans celebrate Halloween by going door to door collecting free candy and wearing monster costumes. It wasn't long before the combination of costumes and candy lured Norwegian children to add a "new" holiday tradition. Instead of "trick or treat," Norwegian kids say "knask eller knep" or "digg eller deng" when the door is opened. But according to recent media reports, some Norwegian kids take the "trick" part too literally, with egging and other forms of vandalism becoming more common, especially the houses that ignore the holiday.

Although no country celebrates Halloween like the U.S., the holiday had Irish beginnings. Celts celebrated it as Samhain – All Hallows' Eve – when the dead were said to revisit the mortal world. The celebration marked the end of Summer and the start of the Winter months.

During the 8th century the Catholic Church designated the first day of November as All Saints Day. However, it wasn't until the 1920s that Norwegians observed All Hallows' Eve by lighting candles in the family graveyard, according to Kathleen Stokker of Luther College in Decorah, Ia. The tradition of wearing costumes also dates back to Celtic times. Celtic Druids would disguise themselves as spirits and devils in case they encountered other devils and spirits during the night. By disguising themselves, they hoped that they could avoid being carried away at the end of the night. This explains why witches, goblins and ghosts remain the most popular choices for the costumes.

But for centuries before that, there was the Yule or Christmas version of "trick or treating" in Norway, with Julebukkers – people wearing often grotesque masks and costumes – traipsing door to door, collecting goodies. The Julebuk (Yule goat) tradition originated in Norway back when the pagan population worshiped Thor, the god who traveled in his chariot drawn by two goats.

Yule is the pagan celebration of the Winter Solstice. This Yule – not Halloween – is the night Norwegians would ward off the ghosts that came back to life on the longest night of the year, a night when the darkness is filled with fear instead of joy.

Whatever its origin, the belief in the yearly reappearance of the dead lived on until the 19th century in Norway. According to this belief, the ghosts of one's ancestors returned to the homestead. And so at Yuletide, food and drink was brought out for the nisse, who were believed to come out of their graves, hungry and thirsty.

Feared even more throughout Northern Europe was the Asgårdsreia, the Wild Ride, a horde of the living dead coursing through the night skies. Mortals getting in their path could be kidnapped and brought to the land of the dead. Odin was usually considered the leader of the rampaging pack, but in Norway the leader was a woman.

With the people haunted by fears of the supernatural powers swirling about them, Yule in old Norway was far more terrifying than any Halloween monster movie. Nonetheless, Halloween seems to be catching on in Norway, with or without a goat's head mask. The spooky spirits of the 21st century want their knask eller knep.

This article originally appeared in the October 25, 2013 issue of the Norwegian American Weekly

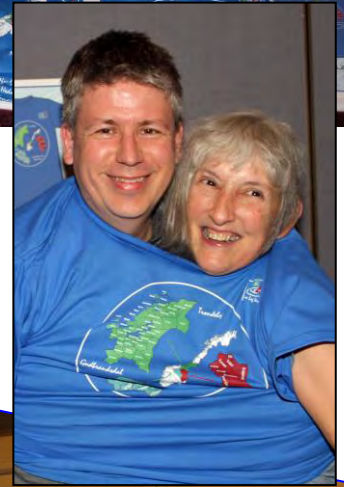


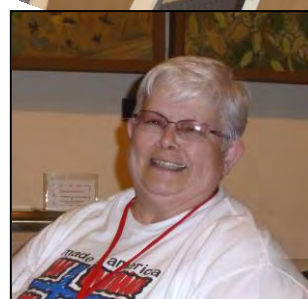
Stevne Pictures - 2013 at Oconomowoc



Tre Lag T-Shirts
Designed by
Dixie Hansen

Gay, Dave, Ron –
How many would
you like?







Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld receives a President's Award

Rollie Krogstad receives first Syttende Mai Award 2012

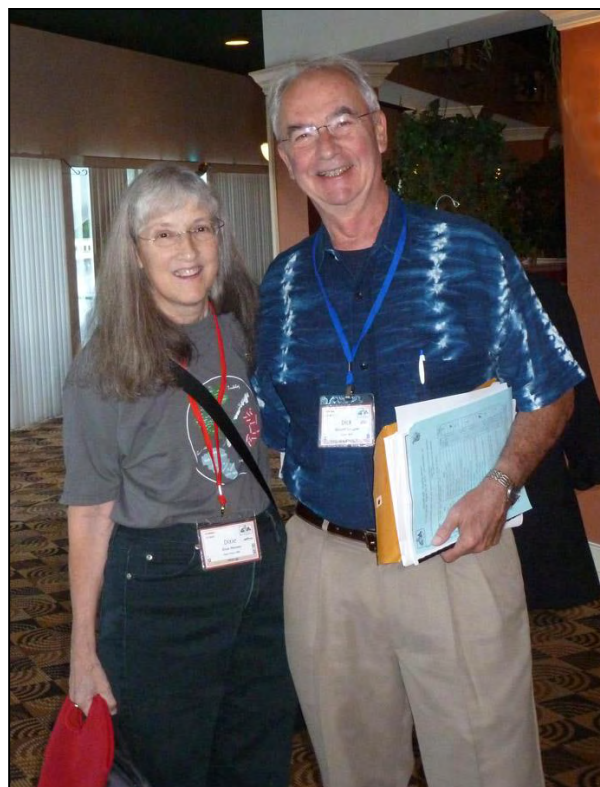


Gary Olson 2013 Syttende Mai Award





Ed. Note – forgive me that all the names are not listed with the stevne pictures – as some may be our friends at Tronder or Gudbrandsdal.





Can I have
some too?







Those who wore bunads to the banquet



Waiting for our dinner.....



Joy and Glenn Shong



Banquet Speaker Blaine Hedberg with Marv Lang



Nancy and Lowell Sands Olson



Hardanger specialist - Ginny Hanson



Louise Lang and Birgitta Åyrd (Sweden)



Nord-Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

L to r.; Front row; John Reindl, Joy Williams, Bob Christensen, Dixie Hansen, Chris Falteisek.

2nd row: Shirley Schoenfeld, Virginia Sem, Irma Krogstad, Joy Shong, Ginny Nelson, Linda Lowry, Elaine Domier.

3rd row: Sylvia Falteisek, Marlene Lien, Gay Kearin, Birgitta Åyrd, Shirley Ball, Eunice Ellifson, Doris Modahl, Marilyn Sorensen, Vicky Finstad.

4th row: Judy Mathison, Sonja Olmanson, Chuck Laehn, Lois Laehn, Gilmore Sem, Roy Modahl, Sandy Aune.

5th row: Keith Olmanson, Gene Nelson, Louise Lang, Hanard Lien, Ken Domier.

6th row: Ron Helstad, Rollie Krogstad, Dave Kearin, . .

7th row: Bud Helstad, Marv Lang, Ray Olson, David Oyen, Glen Brandvold, Gary Romsas.



NHOH Software Survey										On Line														
Last Name	First	Ancestor Quest		Family Tree Maker	Yrs	PAF: Personal Ancestry File	Yrs	Roots Magic	Yrs	The Master Genealogist	Yrs	Other	Yrs	Ancestry	Yrs	Second Site	Yrs	a Wiki	Yrs	Other	Yrs	Email	Help Other	Remarks
Waddell	Joseph K., Jr					X	22			X	10											jkwadd@aol.com	Y	
Shong	Joy C					X				X				X	1							shongjc@sbcglobal.net	Y	
Hansen	Dixie									X				X								dx@dxhansen.com	Y	
Finstad	Travis			X	15									X	4							finstad_travis@msn.com	Y	
Botten	Kathy			X	5																	bcgardens@frontier.com	Y	
Schoenfeld	Shirley							X	15			Roots III										SASLAX@aol.com	Y	
Johnson	Becky Olson					X						Legacy	15									beckyj14@me.com	Y	
Mathison	Judy			X	2									X	2							jmathison@sbcglobal.net	Y	
Johnson	Thelma											Reunion	7									thelma@comcast.net		Notify of other user



John Reindl, NHOH Genealogist helping find ancestors (con't. Genealogy report from page 6:

Cousin-finding project

Switching topics, our stevne was a fertile ground for finding cousins, as several people met cousins that had been identified before the stevne and more cousins were found during our time in Oconomowoc. The number of total cousins found skyrocketed from 80 as of last fall to 104 following the stevne! As the database of ancestors increases – our total went up to nearly 8,300 – finding cousins becomes more and more likely. I urge all members to send me their family tree from Norway to add to our collection. They can be emailed to me in a GEDCOM file or other format at john.reindl@att.net or mailed to me in paper copy.

Treasurer's hard at work.... Auditing



Below: Banquet Speaker; Blaine Hedberg
Voyage to America – A First Hand Account



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

Shirley Schoenfeld
215 Juniper Ln.
Holmen, WI 54636

Nov 2013



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



NHOH Lag Membership Renewal or New Memberships Form

Memberships include your spouse, so please include both names if applicable. Gift memberships welcome. Make check payable to **NHOH Lag** and send with completed form to:

Dixie Hansen, NHOH Membership, 1411 Osceola Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105-2312

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

☐ Renewal ☐ Gift Membership ☐ New

Ancestors in Hedmark from kommune: (check all that apply)

☐ Åmot ☐ Alvdal ☐ Elverum ☐ Engerdal ☐ Folldal ☐ Furness ☐ Hamar ☐ Løten ☐ 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** _____

Genealogy Donation _____

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

Total Enclosed _____