

NHOH News

Volume 21 Number 2

Summer 2016

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

“Lasting Legacies – The Future of Our Past”

2016 Tre-Lag Stevne
August 3-6, 2016

Clarion Hotel

**701 Concord St. So.
So. Saint Paul, MN 55075**



**To make reservations call
the Clarion Hotel at 651-455-3600.
Tell them you are with the Tre Lag
Stevne group. **You must call to reserve
your room by July 1 in order to get the
guaranteed rate of \$75** (plus tax). It
includes a free hot breakfast.**

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**Hilsen! Fra Presidenten
Joy Shong**

***Urgent! The Stevne is Coming.
The Stevne is Coming. Hurry!***



The August Tre-lag Stevne is coming up fast and the deadline for making reservations at the hotel at the low stevne price is JULY 1. If you plan to attend the stevne in South Saint Paul, as I'm sure you will after reviewing the program in this issue, you need to call the Clarion Hotel at 651-455-3600 and tell them you are with the Tre-Lag Stevne. Don't miss this \$75 per night bargain.

Now I can stop writing like I'm a used car salesman. We really do have another excellent stevne in the works. The theme is Lasting Legacies, the Future of our Past. Speakers will explore the many Norwegians and their ancestors that made significant contributions to science, literature, architecture, and more. For those of you who were unable to attend the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial in May, there will be a presentation of the condensed version of the tribute to the founders of the three lags and their descendants by Elaine Hasleton. Check out the program to see the other things being planned. For those of you who have never attended a stevne it is well worth your while to attend.

Speaking of the Centennial, NHOH Lag was well represented by our members who volunteered as planners, organizers, hosts, and speakers. Even our lur was played at the opening ceremony. Our three-panel display in the lag included maps and pictures from Hedmark, photos of our recent and long past members at stevner. We also had our 10 year anniversary book, the wooden plate presented to the lag by the Fellesraad for the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Østerdalslag, samples of our medallion, and various other items that tell our story.

On a side note, member Chris Falteisek has been traveling in Norway and Sweden this summer, and while in Elverum was able to see and get a photo of the original Østerdalslag banner. The banner was sent to Norway when the original lag folded in the 1970's. What a treat.

Work is also progressing on the new web page design. We hope to unveil it at the stevne. Stay tuned.

Hilsen fra
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:

District 1: Nord-Østerdal: 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



Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter.

Articles, photos and graphics relating to Norwegian history, culture, emigration and Lag activities, especially those with ties 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 welcome.

**Send to Editor Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld
by e-mail SASLAX@aol.com**

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

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

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.

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 Hansendx@dxhansen.com
Director: Gary Olsonolson.gm33@gmail.com
Director: Gary Flatgard.....flatgardmn@aol.com
Director: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com
Past-President: Dixie Hansen.....dx@dxhansen.com
Editor: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com
Genealogist: John Reindl.....genealogy@nhohlag.org
Web Master: vacant

Happy Father's and Grandfather's Day



lyse, unge Ansigt, med lidt Dun paa Over-
paa dit Hoved eller en gnavende Sorg i d-
dti opadvendte Ansigt, med det fløjlsble-
Himmelens blaa Hvælving ovenover dig,
strømmende i dine Aarer, med et femti elle-
lyse Drømme og yndige Fantasier, der fors-

Norwegians in Minneapolis & St. Paul: a short study.

A Re-run from 2009 history by Blaine Hedberg, with his permission



The state of Minnesota attracted more of the approximately 850,000 Norwegians who immigrated between 1825 and 1925 than any other state. In the 1850's the attention of the Norwegian immigrants shifted from Wisconsin to Minnesota Territory. Norwegian colonies were established in counties along the Mississippi River, including Houston, Fillmore,

Goodhue, Freeborn, Mower, Dodge, Olmstead, Rice, Faribault, Steele and Waseca. The Norwegian-American community in Minnesota flourished.

By the year 1860 over 8,000 foreign born Norwegians lived in Minnesota. Although a high percentage of Norwegian settlers became farmers, many moved to larger cities including Minneapolis and St. Paul. In 1860 we find just eighty Norwegian born immigrants living in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Just twenty years later over 69,000 foreign born Norwegians resided in Minnesota, with fifteen percent living in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

According to the 1880 census statistics, just over 5% of the Norwegian population in Minnesota lived in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, but by 1890 the Norwegians were the third largest ethnic group in the Twin Cities just behind the Swedes and the British. Between 1880 and 1890 the Norwegian population quadrupled from 47,000 to nearly 165,000. By 1890 the population had mushroomed and the Twin Cities replaced Chicago as the principal destination of Scandinavian immigrants. The largest concentration of Norwegians in St. Paul was the area east of Rice Street and south of East 7th Street to the river. In Minneapolis, the area was much larger, with the highest concentration in the area east of Cedar Avenue.

The earliest Norwegian immigrant we find in the Twin Cities was Ingeborg Levorsdatter Langeberg, who emigrated from Nes in Hallingdal in 1850. Langeberg worked for the Minnesota Governor, Alexander Ramsey, in 1850-1851. She was married twice; her second husband was Mikkel Johnsen, an 1858 emigrant from Selbu, Sør-Trøndelag. They farmed in the area of Industriana, now Brooklyn Township. Ingeborg died in 1902, and Mikkel in 1908. Both are buried in the historic Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. Ingeborg's daughter, In the north part of Minneapolis we find several Norwegian settlements occupied heavily by emigrants from Selbu. Many from Selbu arrived in 1866 on the "Neptunus" and went direct to the Twin Cities including Haldor Sivertsen Voldseth [Henry Stevens], Thomas Johnsen Baarsgaard, Kristen Persen Hove, Ole Olsen Sandvig, among others. Haldor Sivertsen Voldseth is considered the first Norwegian settler on the east side of Minneapolis, and operated a boarding house

for many years. In 1867 more Selbu immigrants arrived, including the Ole B. Draxten, whose son, Bersvend O. Draxten became the first president of Sons of Norway. Ole B. Draxten is said to have been the first Norwegian to build his own house in the Selbu settlement in the north part of the city. Others from Selbu included Halvor Gulseth, Ole O. Horstad, Bersvend Teigen, Bard Johnsen Moslet, Haldor Mikkelsen Samstad, Johan Olsen Haarstad, and Arnt P. Kjøsness families. Tax records suggest that Kjøsness had already built his home at 7th Avenue N. and 1st Street as early as 1869.

Many of these early Norwegian immigrants became members of the Trinity Lutheran, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Zion Lutheran Church, and St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The early membership records of the St. Olaf congregation outline five founding families: A. Gundersen, John Gregory, O. P. Jermestad, Jørgen Ingebrigtsen and A.E. Ljøsild; while this church was short lived; we find many of the members joining Trinity.

Our Saviour's Congregation hosted the 1875 annual meeting of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. This meeting brought many Norwegians and Norwegian-American pastors to the Twin Cities.

The Norwegian related church records from Minneapolis and St. Paul are found among the collections of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center in Madison. While some of the records simply indicate the member is from Norway, some give us more clues. Throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul we can easily identify many families including Anders Engelstad from Modum; Anders C. Haugan and family from Malvik; M. Falk Gjertsen, an early pastor at Trinity Lutheran who was born in Sogndal; Emil Dahl, who operated a shoe repair business, emigrated from Hurdal; Martin Dahl from Drammen; Haakon T. Hasberg from Holmestrand; John H. Blegen from Fåberg; Dr. Karl Bendeke, who emigrated from Oslo in 1868, moving to Minneapolis in 1875; Aron H. Edsten and family with roots in Sweden and Rakkestad; Carl J. Ilstrup, an 1881 emigrant from Drammen, who worked as the Minneapolis city sewer engineer; Kristian Ovestad and family from Hedmark; Frederick W. Cappelen, city engineer from Drammen, whose F.W. Cappelen Memorial Bridge spanned the Mississippi River at Franklin Street; Sven Oftedal, an 1873 emigrant from Stavanger was Professor at Augsburg Seminary from 1873 to 1905, and served as President of Augsburg's Board of Trustees from 1873 until his death in 1911; John E. Ofstie, an early clothing merchant from Stjørdal; Johannes Ludvigsen Nydahl, Professor at Luther Seminary, an 1882 emigrant from Førde; Peter M. Mørk (Mark), an early druggist from 1869-1892, whose business at 123 Washington Avenue called, "Løveapoteket", later operated a shoe store called, Lions Shoe Store; Ebenhart M. Titterud, an 1866 emigrant from Solør also operated a shoe repair shop; Hallvard T. Askeland, an 1875 emigrant from Stavanger. Askeland became the district secretary for Sons of Norway in addition to serving as organist at Trinity Lutheran Church and as city librarian. He also served as a commissioner in *Nordmanns-Forbundet*.

In Dr. J.S. Johnson's impressive history, *Minnesota, En Kortfattet Historie av Nordmndene Bebyggelse av Staten*, published 1914, we learn that by 1914 Norwegians controlled nearly 20% of the banks in Minneapolis; 15% of the newspapers and twelve percent of the churches. In 1914, an impressive celebration was held at the St. Paul Fairgrounds in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Norwegian constitution at Eidsvoll. This celebration headed by the Honorable A.E. Rice, Ludwig Arctander, Dr. J.S. Johnson, John J. Moe and J.A. O. Preus brought fifty thousand Norwegian-Americans together to celebrate Norway's independence. Even a larger celebration took place in 1925, when the Minnesota State Fair Grounds was home to the Norse-American Centennial, a four day celebration in June 1925. Hundreds of committee members arranged the event which included a speech by President Calvin Coolidge; addresses by immigration historians Theodore C. Blegen and O.M. Norlie, and many special exhibits. A highlight of the event was the bygdslag conventions with thirty-six separate bygdslags holding their annual meetings. The meeting of the Osterdalslaget, covering part of Hedmark, was organized by Knute Haugseth, the organization's treasurer from Minneapolis. It is believed that the Osterdalslaget helped to create the reproduction of the ship "Restaurationen", which was on display at the fairgrounds throughout the event. A special exhibition committee including Twin Cities members, Herborg Reque and Theodore C. Blegen arranged for a grand exhibition of "arts, crafts, relics and curios". Thousands of immigrant items were placed on display including many from Twin Cities Norwegian families. Some of the Twin City items included wedding gifts of Rev. and Mrs. Nils Brandt on loan from Mrs. Gisle Bothne; Melodeon from Margrethe Didrikke Brandt; hand tooled brass pail from 1625 by Mrs. Ludvig Dahl; a 300 year old brooch from Gudbrandsdalen, made from a silver dollar, on loan from Mrs. H. B. Kildahl; Dr. Lehrke of St. Paul loaned a collection of Norwegian legal documents from the year 1600, and Mrs. Judith Welo of Minneapolis loaned a large collection of tapestries, table runners, and Norwegian perfume containers from 1800.

For those interested in genealogy, St. Paul is home to the **Minnesota Historical Society** whose wonderful genealogical collections contain a storehouse of materials on Norwegian immigration and genealogy. The library located at **345 Kellogg Blvd West in St. Paul** is open to the public on Tuesday from noon to 8:00 pm; Wednesday-Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

South St. Paul is the home of the Norwegian American Genealogical Association, whose research collection is housed at

State <u>Minnesota</u>		Incorporated place <u>Minneapolis</u>		Ward of city	
County <u>Hennepin</u>		Township or other division of county		Block No.	

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION
1	1911	Uncle Otto!		
2	1911	John, Otto	Head	W 31
3	1911	Julia	Wife	N 41
4	1911	John	Son	W 41
5	1911	John	Son	W 2
6	1911	John	Head	W 51
7	1911	John	Wife	W 51

the MGS Genealogical Library, 1185 Concord Street N., Suite 218. Telephone the MGS Library for more information on accessing this collection: (651) 455-9057.

Folk School Camp, June 26-July 2

St. Olaf College announces its second year of Folk School Camp; a week-long comprehensive, residential camp for boys and girls ages 12-15. The camp will teach traditional hand crafts to campers, who in the process, will explore some Nordic traditions and get a feel for the folk school philosophy.

<http://wp.stolaf.edu/conferences/summer-camps/folk-school-camp/>



Midsummer Eve in "Paris of the North":

Located 217 miles north of the Arctic Circle, Tromsø is the largest city in Northern Norway. During the 19th century, Tromsø became known as the "Paris of the North". How this nickname came into being is uncertain, but the reason is generally assumed to be that people in Tromsø appeared far more sophisticated than visitors from the south typically expected.

This holds true today as Tromsø's multi-cultural community continues to attract visitors from all over the world for its natural beauty as well as modern attractions



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.

Membership Renewal Policy

Members need to check the year next to their name on the newsletter address label, especially on the fall newsletter.

Reminders will 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.

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



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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Qty.

Each

Total \$

NHOH Book

_____ \$22.50

\$_____ Includes shipping & handling US*

Total Enclosed

Surface Shipping to Norway – add \$5.50

\$_____ **Make check payable to NHOH**

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

The lure played at the Bygdelag Centennial

The birch bark lure (long lure) is connected to life on the mountain farm and was the instrument of the dairy maid. The lure is an overblown instrument with no finger holes. Within a range of 7-8 notes (within the harmonic scale) one can play simple snatches of songs and signals. The instrument is made from two halves (pine or fir) which are hollowed out and glued together, then smoothened on the outside and wound with birch bark. The lure should be at least 120 cm long, the longer the lure the easier it is to produce notes higher up in the harmonic scale



NHOH WEB SITE

Wanted: A Webmaster

Photos taken by Ed Scherer and Chris Falteisek at the Tre Lag Stevne are posted on the NHOH web site. Click on the "Stevner" tab to access available photos from 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 2015** the user name is **NHOH2015** and the password is **Kommune** These are case sensitive so type them exactly as printed here. **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.



Modern Viking Ship to sail from Norway to Chicago for Tall Ships Festival

In about a month, a modern-day version of a Viking ship will leave Norway for a 3,000-mile trip to arrive in Chicago on July 27 in time for the Tall Ships Festival, reports WBBM's Steve Miller.

A few thousand people applied to be on the crew of the Viking ship. Bert Rogers, the executive director of Tall Ships America, says he's not surprised because it should be an adventure of a lifetime.

"It's just an amazing spectacle a feat of seamanship and navigation for these guys, these people, to make this trip," he said.

Rogers says the crew will be rowing when they have to and sailing when they can.

"I think in the open stretches they'll use the wind as best they can," he said. "Although at high latitudes the winds tend to blow from west to east, which is against them."

The Viking ship is the Harald Fairhair, or at least that's what it's called in English. Historians say Harald Fairhair was the first king of Norway.

The Viking ship will arrive with the other tall ships on July 27 and they'll be here until July 31.

For more information, visit

www.drakenexpeditionamerica.com

From CBS – Chicago news



The Dragon will be a part of **Tall Ships Challenge Great Lakes 2016** - from July 1 to September 11, 2016.

The Vikings were accomplished navigators, artisans, traders and story tellers, but their greatest triumph was the ship they built.

Draken Harald Hårfagre is the largest Viking Ship built in modern times and will sail across the North Atlantic Ocean in the summer of 2016. The expedition is marked by a revival of one of the most mythological sea voyages – the Viking discovery of the New World.



The world's largest Viking Ship departs from Haugesund, Norway and sails towards Iceland, Greenland, Canada and USA.

The trip began on April 24th for the world's largest Viking ship, Draken Harald Hårfagre, will setting sail from her homeport of Haugesund, Norway and take on the challenge of crossing the North Atlantic Ocean, to explore the world as the Vikings did a thousand years ago. The route takes her from Norway to Iceland, Greenland, Canada and finally USA. Even though she is a great sailing ship, no one can predict the weather conditions along the way and the crew will stand trial for a real challenge according to Björn Ahlander, captain of Draken Harald Hårfagre:

It's hard to say which stretch will be the toughest before we've set sail, but the area that should be respected more than anywhere else, is the waters of Cape Farewell by the coast of Greenland - among the most dangerous waters of the world. It's extremely windswept and there will probably be a lot of ice.

Draken Harald Hårfagre is a recreation of what the Vikings would call a "Great Ship", built with archaeological knowledge from findings, using old boatbuilding traditions and the legends of Viking ships from the Norse sagas. Draken Harald Hårfagre is the largest Viking ship sailing in modern times.

The crew - The 32 bold men and women in the crew of Draken Harald Hårfagre, originates from Norway, Sweden, USA, Canada, Estonia, Russia, Spain, France and UK, they are all under the command of Captain Björn Ahlander.

- It is a challenge to tame the Dragon which makes reliable seamanship extremely important for the expedition. We had a delicate task to pick a crew of 32 members out of the 4000 volunteers who applied. The

work onboard is heavy, wet, and cold; therefore it demands a great physical and mental condition. There will be no privacy for the crew, they will be exposed to rain and cold weather with only a short breaks to sleep, says Captain Björn Ahlander.



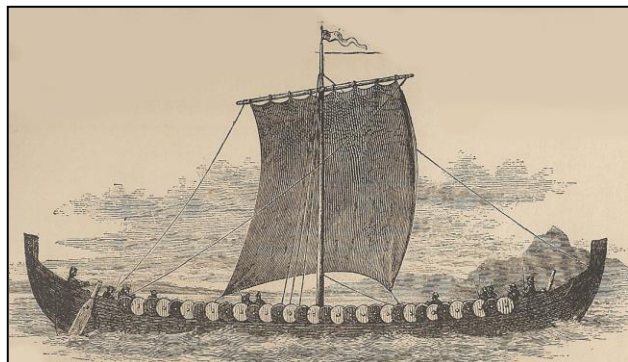
- Sailing a ship like Draken Harald Hårfagre is a great opportunity to gain new knowledge; while learning and rediscovering old techniques, you also create and invent new ones, says Karolina Malmek, Crew member.

- This is a fantastic opportunity to create history by reliving the challenges of the Viking ancestors. An adventure you wouldn't miss, Arild Nilsen, Crew member.

FOLLOW THE WORLD'S LARGEST VIKING SHIP

Route: All dates are due to fair winds and following seas. Approximate dates:

April 24	Haugesund, Norway
May 1	Reykjavik, Iceland
May 16	Qaqortoq, Greenland
June 1	St Antony, Newfoundland, Canada
June 15	Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
July 1-3	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 8	Fairport Harbor, Ohio, USA
July 14	Bay City, Michigan, USA
July 27	Chicago, IL USA
August 5	Green Bay, WI, USA
August 18	Duluth, MN, USA
September	Oswego, NY Canals, New York, USA
September	New York City, New York, USA
October	Mystic Seaport, Connecticut, USA



An old Viking Ship Norway is Becoming a Cashless Society

Norway's largest Bank, DNB, has proposed that the country transition into a cashless society and depart from the gold standard of currency. In most modern forms of currency—the Euro being one exception—each unit of money (krone or dollar, for example) is equivalent to a definite weight of gold or silver.



From the bank's perspective, it means that there will be more accountability and less money laundering and black market sales. At present, **Norges Bank** (the central bank of Norway) can only trace 40 percent of cash in use, leaving 60% unaccounted for. On any given day, just 5% of Norwegians use cash for purchases, with the elderly being the most typical users. Finans Norge, an organization which represents hundreds of banks and financial institutions, says that regardless of whether Norway phases out cash now, the society is gradually heading towards being cashless by 2020.

Both DNB and Nordea have already eliminated the use of cash in their branches and DNB is proposing that the 1,000 kroner bill be discontinued to concentrate on improvements to the banking system. Other countries are also making the move. Sweden uses cash less often than Norway, and Denmark is making moves toward a cashless system by 2030.

Datatilsynet, The Norwegian Data Protection Authority, thinks that people should be able to buy things without leaving electronic tracks. "From a policy perspective, it is primarily a concern that you cannot pay anything anonymously," says Bjørn Erik Thon from Datatilsynet to NRK.

What are the pros and cons of a cash-free society?

Pros:

- Bank robberies fell from 110 in 2008 to 5 in 2012 when Swedish banks started the transition to more cashless branches
- White collar crime and under-the-table activities would be reduced
- Money wouldn't be lost by falling out of a pocket
- Transaction fees are lower for electronic payments than cash handling transactions.

Cons:

- Norway's Ministry of Finance, is concerned about how tourism would be affected.
- The change to a cashless system would also mean that every purchase a person made would be traceable, which is seen by some as a violation of the right to privacy.
- The removal of cash won't eliminate financial crime; there will still be fraud and stealing, just on an electronic platform.
- The poor and elderly may not have access to the necessary technology or credit.

For the moment, the Finance Ministry does not plan to change any laws, but this may change in the near future.

Norway to America: Memories & Dreams

1916 - 2016

Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

Turned 100 Years!

Over 550 people from all across the USA, Canada, and Norway attended the centennial conference for Bygdelagenes Fellesraad titled, ***Norway to America: Memories and Dreams*** on May 5-8, 2016 in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. It was held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel and the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, and had been in the planning process for over for two years.

The festive tone of the celebration was created by colorful bygdelag banners, national costumes or bunader, flags, Norwegian music and dancing. Twenty-five speakers from Norway, Canada, and America spoke on the themes of Norwegian-ness -- Past, Present, and Future, Twenty-First Century Norwegian Family History, and the celebration of the centennial.

Outstanding speakers included: Doug Ohman, on "Norwegian Images in Minnesota"; John Christianson on "Janteloven – Is That What it Means to be Norwegian"; Lynne Beck on "Future of Printed Materials in Academic Libraries"; Betty Bergland on "Enduring Ethnicity – Two Approaches"; Ida Marie Bringedal on "Contemporary Art Scene in Norway"; Gary DeKrey on "The Future of Ethnicity in the Twenty-First Century"; Knut Djupedal on "Ingrid Semmingson Library at the Norwegian Museum of Migration"; Gracia Grindal on "Early Norwegian American Leaders as Exemplified by Linka Preus and Elisabeth Koren"; Bradley Ellingboe on "The Contributions of Norwegian Immigrants to the Musical Life of the United States"; Elaine Helgeson Hasleton on "Twenty First Century Norwegian Family Research, Melding Old and New"; Dennis Gimmetstad on "Enduring Ethnicity – two Approaches"; Øyvind Gulliksen on "Strength, Grace and Skills of Norwegian – Americans"; Barbara Horn on "Preparing for a Research Trip in the 21st Century – Getting the most out of your time and tools"; Terje Michael Hasle-Joranger on "A Sense of Place: Norwegian-Americans in the Upper Midwest"; Karen Humphrey on "Bringing Families Together: Historical Societies, Archives, and the 21st Century"; Christine Midelfort on "Enduring Ethnicity – Two Approaches"; Fredrik Larsen Lund on "Finding Family in Norway: What You Should Know Before You Travel"; Marvin Slind on "The Cultural, Social, and Economic Dimensions of Norwegian Immigration to America"; Johnathan Storlie on "DNA Impact on Norwegian Family History Research"; Garth Ulrich on "Canadian Research for Norwegian Family History"; and Marilyn Sorensen

and Marilyn Somdahl on Fellesraad – An Abbreviated History".

There were displays from most of the 28 bygdelag and several Norwegian-American organizations providing information about their activities. In addition there were many craft vendors to add ethnic flavor to the event. To complement information about family history, displays included an academic university, a private museum library, a state history center, a genealogy association, a genealogy center, Salt Lake City Family History Library and a private university together with the Norwegian-American Historical Association. All have large collections of Norwegian reference material.

The highlight for many was Saturday's festive activities which included a luncheon honoring direct descendants of bygdelag charter members. Over 90 descendants attended and ranged in age from six weeks to ninety-nine years of age. The evening included a banquet with speaker John Tunheim, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, plus a colorful Bunad parade of about 50 Bunader. The Norwegian Day Camp for young people included folk dance lessons, singing, art projects, Norwegian history, and even a visit from a ventriloquist!

In addition to the centennial celebration the Norwegian Memorial Church, which is called Mindekirken, of South Minneapolis welcomed visitors to their Norwegian and English Sunday services. Next door to Mindekirken is Norway House, a national educational center, where many visitors enjoyed seeing the educational rooms, gallery, coffee shop and gift shop.

Since 1899 early Norwegian immigrants who had a strong desire to socialize with people from their home districts or bygd in Norway began the formation of bygdelag. Today there are 28 national bygdelag that remain active with an approximate membership of 5,000 individuals. They host annual conventions called stevner that focus on family history research and Norwegian cultural heritage. They also host tours to their home areas in Norway and have genealogists available to help members with their family roots.

(from Jean Knaak at Fellesraad)





Welcome – New Members

David Opsahl of Bloomington, Minnesota - with ancestry in Nes and Stange

Barb Lewison of Pleasant Hill, Iowa - with ancestry in Os

Norman Brandvold of Beaverton, Oregon - with ancestry in Alvdal and Follidal

Each of you is reasonably likely to find cousins (whether close or distant) within our group, because our members all have heritage in the northern part of Hedmark county in Norway.. a fairly close gene pool. We hope you'll share what you already know about your family history (or come to our August meeting for research assistance) so that we can connect you with your cousins and further your family knowledge. Norman Brandvold (whose membership came as a gift from fellow member, Glen Brandvold) has a head start - since he is Glen's 1st cousin and my 2nd cousin - and has several other already-identified cousins within NHOH.

These new memberships are much appreciated - and so too were the donations to the NHOH genealogy fund which came along with each of these 3 memberships. We will use those earmarked dollars to add to our collection of research materials, so many will benefit.

If you haven't already found us on the internet - our website is at www.nhohlag.org (it's in the process of being overhauled at the moment) and you can also connect with us on Facebook (search for "Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken"). We will have our annual meeting ("stevne") August 3-6 in South Saint Paul, MN this year and we hope you can join us for that. We'll have lots of resources there to help you explore your family history and, of course, an opportunity to meet some cousins. You'll receive our June newsletter which will contain more information about the Stevne.

Judy (Wilson) Casper who lives in Montreal, Quebec – correspondence from Dixie...

Judy, I was delighted to see a new membership in your name to Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag arrive in the mail this week as a gift from our mutual cousin, Glen Brandvold.

Judy's e-mail is Judith.casper@yahoo.com and she is named for her ggrandmother Judith Brandvold.

Judy is actually in the Foreign Service and, in reality, makes her home in Seattle, Washington, with her husband, Chris. She is posted in Montreal until September, 2018. Chris and Judy have two great kids - Alan, who is a high school teacher in Japan, and Heather, who is a 2nd grade teacher in Seattle.

As I remember, your Mom was raised by her Grandmother Judith Brandvold... so - even though you were just an infant when Judith died, you likely "know" her through your mother. And, of course, your grandmother Dixie (I'm not sure if she was an active part of your life or not) and I share a reasonably unusual first name... so I feel connected in that way too.

Your great grandmother, Judith (Steivang) Brandvold was the sister to my grandmother, Marit/May (Steivang) Hansen/Wick, so... as it works out:

You and I are 2nd cousins 1x removed; and you and Glen are 1st cousins 1x removed; and Glen and I are 2nd cousins

President Joy Shong (who is also a distant cousin of yours - 4th cousin 1 x removed), VP Chris Falteisek (is your 5th cousin), and Shirley Schoenfeld, our newsletter editor (who has some Brandvold ancestry may also be related to you - we'll have to see if we can prove a connection - though maybe she and Glen have already made that effort).

We're glad to have you as a member of NHOH... a good bunch of folks who all share ancestry in the Østerdal Valley in Norway.

Martha Swetka

Martha is from Charlotte, NC and has ancestry in the Trysil area of Hedmark. While she is interested in volunteering at some point - she wants to attend her first stevne and learn a little bit more about our organization first - which makes a lot of sense.

Dave Nordhougen

Dave published a story that included a story about my gggrandmother on my mother's side. It was very interesting. Now as my research continues I have found some interest information about my gggrandfather (Tollef Olsen Nordhaugen) on my father's side. Tollef was born (1837) in **Brottum Nordhaugen farm Hedmark** Norway, immigrated to Wisconsin in 1857 and lived in Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota. He died in Mountrail county, North Dakota in 1906.

Dave Nordhougen of Williston, ND 58802
nordhougen@yahoo.com

We're happy to have you!
Dixie Hansen, NHOH Membership Chair



More on: **David Opsahl** of Bloomington, MN – P.16

The Lumber Business

By Glenn Brandvold



North Idaho, when I was growing up, was largely lumbermen and miners. Oh yes, there were a few grain farms on Rathdrum prairie, and truck gardens in Dalton, but Coeur d'Alene depended on the mills to keep the town businesses alive and people employed. A few years before I was born the products of the mining district to the east came through town, brought down the lake by steamer for loading onto trains. With the building of the railroad across the southern part of the lake that traffic went away. In addition to the lumber mills - Blackwell, Rutledge, Winton, Atlas Tie, Ohio Match, and smaller mills - there were box factories using "shorts" and "trims" from the mills to make everything from fruit boxes to bee hives. By this time, logging had moved away from the immediate area as all the desirable timber had been cut. Virtually all the logs came to the mills by way of Coeur d'Alene Lake, most down the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Rivers. Even the logs brought by truck down Blue Creek road were dumped into the lake, formed up into brails - log rafts surrounded by chained-together boom logs - and towed by tugboat down the lake to the mills. The logs destined for different mills were often all "boomed up" together; each had a stamp or nail on one end showing which company they belonged to and they were sorted out when they got to holding areas. Cougar Bay was at that time usually completely filled with stored logs, as was a big area east of Tubbs Hill and along Silver Beach. The mill ponds at each mill usually only held enough logs for a few days sawing. As you might expect, lots of logs escaped the brails and provided "ships of the line" for us kids to play on! To this day, tugboats still bring brails of logs down the lake, now banded into bundles so none escape, to the few mills still operating. And a few years ago, an enterprising company anchored a barge in Cougar Bay and recovered several hundred thousands of dollars-worth of sunken logs from the bottom. If they were marked they were returned to the owner (if still around) for a recovery fee; if not, they were sold. The cold water had preserved them perfectly!

Just about every member of our family worked in the lumber business - most in the sawmills - the principal exceptions being my Dad's brothers Rudolph (Rudy) and Melvin (Foxy) who both went into the newspaper business in St. Maries and Lewiston, and Ole, who became a musician and instrument repairman. This occupation really "petered out" in my generation - only a couple of Uncle Rudy's kids in St. Maries worked in the mills there. My Dad in his memoirs told of his experiences in the mills; my brother John and I worked part-time in the Rutledge mill during school breaks - I'll tell a few stories from those days.

The Extra Board

Temporary workers (and sometimes new employees) were assigned to what was called "the extra board". When someone didn't show up for work, they went to the extra board to get someone to fill in. The good (and bad) thing about the extra board was that you got to do at various times every job in the mill. In those years there was not much automated material handling. There were stackers and unstackers for the lumber going through the drying kilns, but lumber for air-drying was still piled up and unplied by hand. All sorting was still done by hand - one board at a time. And most lumber was still shipped in boxcars, loaded by hand one board at a time. Incredibly labor-intensive!

Edward Rutledge built the Rutledge mill in about 1902, having previously been a timberland agent for Weyerhaeuser. By the 1940's the principal change to the original mill had been the addition of steam-heated drying kilns to increase the output of the mill - prior to that all lumber had been shipped green (such as railroad ties and mine timbers) or stacked up in the yard to air-dry.

The mill consisted of three major operations: (1) the Sawmill, which included the mill pond, primary log and trim saws, green chain (for sorting rough lumber by size and length), and power plant - fueled with wood waste and sawdust; (2) the Yard, consisting of the dry kilns, air-dry stacks, and dry chain - where the still-rough (but much lighter!) boards were sorted by width, thickness and length; and (3) the Shed, where planers smoothed the rough lumber into finished boards: the grading chain (where finished boards, each graded and marked by hand, were sorted by grade and size): the glue room where extra-wide boards were glued together from narrow ones: the moldings and patterns machines for making specialty shapes: and the shipping department.

Most lumber was shipped by rail at that time, both Northern Pacific and Milwaukee Road sharing a spur track to the mill which went right down Mullan Street. The mill typically operated two shifts per day, 5 days a week: When I worked during the 1950's, an average shift produced around 100,000 board-feet of finished lumber, the principal specie being Idaho White Pine, with occasional runs of red cedar, fir and larch mixed, Ponderosa or yellow pine, spruce, and rarely Douglas fir dimension.

The Sawmill

All the machines and conveyor chains in the saw mill were run by a big Corliss steam engine, which drove them through a wide leather belt off the 15-foot diameter flywheel. A series of line shafts went all over the place to distribute the power. At the time I worked there, the sawdust pile and waste was a little old and the boiler couldn't make good steam. I usually worked the second shift - 4:30 p.m. to 1:00 am - and in the half hour between the end of the day shift and the start of the night shift the steam pressure would get built up and the saws would really hum for the first hour or so. Then the pressure would begin to drop and everything would slow down a bit - a good thing for me since most sawmill jobs were physically demanding and I had been in school for all term and was usually pretty out-of-shape.

Every new hire got started "picking edgings". The first couple of boards sawed off the side of a log had the rounded outside log surface on the two sides. The very first one was completely round (a "slab") and it went directly to the "hog" to be chipped up for paper feed stock. All the others, until the sawyer got the log completely squared up, went to the "edger saw" which was a row of circular saws spaced 4", 6", 8" etc apart. across an 8-foot wide table. The edgerman lined up each board with an appropriate-width pair of saws and pushed it into the power feeder - a nice square board coming out the other side along with the "edgings" which had been trimmed off. You probably have figured out what picking edgings is all about!

Boards and edgings from the edger come out the back onto a conveyor of powered rollers, also about 8 feet wide and 30 feet long. The edging-picker stands in a slot in the conveyor about 15 feet from the edger saws, which are hidden from him by a canvas curtain. I timed the speed of the boards exiting the edger, and it took 1.2 seconds to reach the "slot" from the time they emerged from the curtain. Because there is a whole row of saws, boards can come out anywhere across the 8-foot table width. So the job is to step one way or the other to miss the board, grab the two edgings and flip them off the sides of the conveyer. Not so hard, right? Oh yes, I should mention that the conveyor is on a bridge over another conveyor which moves the waste - edgings etc. - to a row of very mean-looking 30-inch saws about 20 feet away which cuts all the waste into pieces which fall down into the hog!

If you're not completely confused by now, I omitted one very key element of this particular job. This mill had two primary log saws - 60-inch double-cut band saws (they could handle a 60-inch diameter log and make a cut in both directions). The edger was placed right between the two big saws, and all the slabs and boards went down conveyors to the right and to the left of the edger saw. And the edging-picker - in addition to dodging the edged boards - had two treadles in the floor of the slot which could dump whatever was on the big saw conveyors onto the waste conveyor below. The trick was to keep an eye on what was on those conveyors, and when a slab came along step on the left or right treadle and dump it off. And never dump off a board! All this in just about the noisiest environment you can imagine!

The slot in the edger table was deep enough so that boards coming by were just about mid-thigh. For the first two or three weeks I finished a shift with my pants legs from mid-thigh down completely blood-soaked because I didn't dodge quickly enough and a board would catch me. And of course the edgerman would initiate every new guy by saving up boards and filling the 8-foot wide table completely up, then pushing them through the saws all at once. So all of a sudden the "picker" is confronted with an 8-foot width of boards coming at him, and nowhere to dodge!

Frequently the sawyers on the big saws would find a log with a rotted center, and send that whole log section down the side conveyors to be dumped for waste. But occasionally the mill would have an order for

a large beam, and heaven help the picker who dumped one of those valuable timbers onto the waste chain!! Everything had to stop, get down on the waste chain and lift the beam back onto the delivery conveyor, and restart again. The edgerman would run to the side of the edger where the picker could see him, and make a signal to either dump or not: but in that environment it was easy to miss that signal!

I was a smoker at that time, and every two hours we had a "smoke" break. The big saws were on the third level of the saw mill, and the smoke-house was down on the edge of the millpond. For the first couple of weeks, I was so beat-up that when the smoke break came all I could do was sit down on the chain and think evil thoughts about edgermen, sawmills, etc. I really wanted a smoke, but I knew when the break was over steam pressure would be back up and the boards would really be flying! Good motivation for staying in school! The other "unskilled" job often assigned in the sawmill was on the green chain. Heavy, heavy work. The crew was about a dozen men, each worked one "station" for an hour, and someone would yell "move" and we'd all move to the next station. The station for 2-inch thick 12-inch wide lumber was a killer - heavy planks! Getting to the 1-inch thick stations was a relief! But all over the mill the crews were helpful and considerate of others - if someone got behind on a difficult station or the sawyer was cutting all one size, they came over and helped out. And I quit smoking after a few months!

The Yard

"Tailing" the dry chain was one of my favorite jobs. The lumber was dry after going through the kilns and much lighter in weight. The tailing crew was a little larger because there were a few more stations to sort the boards into, and the pace was therefore a little easier. I was never too tired to head for the smokehouse for breaks, the chain was out-of-doors and in the summertime that made nice working conditions. And it was quiet! You could actually talk to the next guy on the chain. And the moves every hour kept the work from becoming too boring.

A minor part of the yard was the two machines making Press-to-Logs out of sawdust. It only took one operator to run the two machines - they were pretty slow, each one spit out a log about every 15 seconds so it was easy to stack them in the racks. As the machines seldom ran at night, I never had a chance to work there.

The Shed

As you might guess, all the work in the Shed was "indoors" - although all the sides of the shed were open. The hardest job in the shed was feeding or tailing the "Rebutter". This machine took finished boards, already planed and cut to nominal length - an inch or two over the nominal 8 feet, 10 feet, etc. and ran them through a pair of saws which cut them to exact length, hot-stamped the mill name on each end, and sealed the ends with hot wax. Two men took four or five boards at a time off a 500 or 600 board stack, lifted them onto the feed table. You worked fast - the idea was to keep the

table full of boards. After going through the saws, two more guys grabbed four or five at a time and made a new stack. It was hard, fast, boring work! All the time I thought how wasteful it was to have 4 men doing what a simple unstacker/stacker like used on the dry kilns could do. But labor was cheap and money for plant equipment was dear. I have no idea how much extra was charged for this "premium" service - hope it was enough to pay four bored, tired workers!!

The two big planers in the shed had semi-automatic feeders so the planerman could do feeding himself, along with checking for correct gauge (thickness) and watching for nicks in the planer knives - definitely a skilled job. Every board through the planer was then graded - or marked for trimming if that might improve the grade - and sent to a long sorting chain. Tailing this sorting chain was by far the most-often assigned job from the Extra board. I figured this was a cushy job - the boards were freshly smoothed, the pace was not demanding, the same position rotation scheme was used so there was a little variation each hour, and if your station was far enough down the chain it was not too noisy. Near the planers it was loud, and while I noticed a couple of guys put a wad of cotton in their ears there was no concern about ear protection anywhere. Not true anymore!

The grading was marked in chalk on finished lumber so it could easily be removed. (Rough grading was done with blue crayons). We sorted the lumber by grade, width and length, and most often finished stacks were moved directly to the shipping dock - either for truck or train - and seldom stored in the shed. The Shipping Office told everyone from the mill pond sorters to the sawyers to the graders what active orders they had pending so the right grades and sizes could be made. In earlier times the finished lumber was most often stored in the shed and later orders filled from the stored stock. But somebody figured out that lumber sitting in the shed did not bring any money in!!

The glue room and molding machines seldom worked the night shift, so I rarely got to work there. And car loading was a specialty job which "unskilled" help wasn't assigned to. Like all businesses, horseplay was discouraged - and with good reason in the hazardous environment of the Mill. We did play one memorable trick on a fellow worker which I'll never forget!

One fellow was always the first one out of the parking lot when the whistle blew at quitting time. He left his lunch bucket on top of the motor cover box at the end of the grading chain, would run across the chain at full tilt, grab the lunchbox handle, and jump off the chain and down to the parking lot without breaking stride. Somebody had the idea to nail his lunchbox to the wooden top of the motor cover. Well, when the end of the shift came, here he came - across the chain, grab the lunchbox, and his feet went straight out in front of him like a flag from a pole in a strong wind! Whomp! Right down on his back on the floor at the edge of the chain! Of course afterwards we had a moments worry that he might have hurt himself but we were lucky. A memo soon appeared on the bulletin board emphasizing the "no horseplay" ban!

Don May was a fellow student at U of I who worked with me a couple of summers on the Extra board. His Dad Harold May and my Uncle Ed Brandvold both worked in the shipping office, and we learned they kept lots of records about how much lumber was processed each shift at various stages. We suggested they post the planer output for each shift on the bulletin board in the shed. Pretty soon most of the shed crew were checking the bulletin board when they came to work to see how they had done compared to the previous shift! Just goes to show that everyone - even a jaded hourly mill worker - likes to take pride in his efforts and has those competitive instincts.

Special Jobs

We were always anxious to get as many hours in during the summers, so were often asked if we wanted to work extra hours - usually on some plant maintenance job. One three-day weekend Don May and I were asked if we wanted to help some bricklayers repair the linings in the mill furnaces. We said sure and showed up for work the next day to 4 pm - regular night shift start. The furnaces had been shut down at the end of the previous night shift, fans put in the open furnace doors blowing cool air in, but it was still hot as heck! The furnace doors were not really very big as all the sawdust etc. came in by conveyor higher up. The first job was to climb into the furnace with picks and knock the old loose brick lining off the firebox walls, shovel the loose bricks out the door and wheelbarrow them out of the powerhouse and dump down by the mill pond. With no hard hat, no dust mask, just the pick and shovel. Talk about a hot, dirty job! The next day the bricklayers showed up, and we hauled new firebrick and mixed mortar for them to replace the firebox lining. Another time to make you appreciate a good education!! But we were making "double-time" wages so that eased the aches.

A "special job" I never had - but my brother John did a few years later - revolved around the "company house" which the mill kept to entertain good customers. This house was at the east end of Sanders Beach - still on mill property - and had earlier been the home of the Jewett's - one-time mill owners. There was a housekeeping staff and groundkeeper, and the "Mary", a 38-foot Matthews twin-screw cruiser to house, feed, and entertain guests of the company - typically major buyers of the lumber products. The company needed a "Skipper" for the boat - a job perfectly suited to brother John.

The guest rules consisted of "give 'em whatever they want". This led to a few truly memorable stories John has told - a couple of which I'll repeat here. Driving the boat included provisioning it for whatever the guests wanted to do. And no expense was spared in that provisioning; lunches were packed by the house cook or catered by Templin's, china and crystal was used - no disposables! And the crystal was Fostoria - replacement pieces bought on the company account at Overjorde's Jewelers.

A buyer from Chicago, with wife and teen-age daughter, were staying at the house and wanted to go

"take a ride" on the boat. OK, John had a lunch put up, got the boat from its boathouse at the Yacht Club on Blackwell Island, and motored to the house to pick up the guests. As soon as they were aboard, the guest called for a martini - duly served, closely followed by another. About this time the wife began to rag on him about his drinking, which just precipitated a call for another martini! Downed with a flourish, the guest then heaved the glass over the stern! And called for another! John tried to divert the guest with an offer of hors d'oeuvres, but no avail. Returning to the galley to mix another martini, he heard a splash and ran back to the stern to see the guest had jumped off the boat! While the wife suggested "letting the drunk drown" John pulled the throttles to idle, put the drives in neutral, stripped off his shoes and shirt and dove overboard. The guest had been fully-clothed, was rather portly, and John had no idea of his aquatic skills. He quickly found out however, as the fully-clothed guest made two rapid circuits around the boat - swimming like a fish! Now, that model Matthews had a very high freeboard, and getting back on board is no easy task as it had no swimming platform or other boarding aid rigged. John told the wife where the boarding ladder was and asked her to get it. Again, the response was something along the line of "Let the b#!@! drown"! Reason prevailed, and the swimming parties reboarded.

On another occasion a guest and wife wanted to stay overnight on the boat. No problem - the boats berths were always ready for use - so provisions were put aboard and a leisurely cruise up the Lake and St. Joe River to St. Maries ensued. Tying up in St. Maries, a gourmet dinner on board, and the party retired for the night. John said all he thought about was 20-dollar bills flying into his wallet as the boat job was paid at regular mill wages - including double and triple time over standard hours! Sometime in the middle of the night, the wife said she was cold (nights in North Idaho can get chilly!) and wanted to go back to the house. The St. Joe river is nicknamed "the Shadowy St. Joe" fittingly as the narrow meandering channel is bordered by high trees on either bank. And in the night it is black as a pot! The Matthews had a large spotlight on the cabin top over the helmsman's position, turned by a handle on the inside. So once away from the town lights, John constantly swung the spotlight back and forth from shoreline to shoreline to stay in the channel. And Oh yes! the challed is filled with pilings used to tie up log brails! A bit of this motoring at minimum steerageway, and the guest offered to go up on the cabin roof and swing the spotlight back and forth - which he did, cradling the brass light housing in his lap to help stay warm. In such fashion they did get back down the river and lake, the guest was safe and the wife was happy, and John's wallet was indeed a lot fuller!

The company house has since been donated to the City which uses it as a Senior center. Fritz Jewett took the Mary to San Francisco Bay for a few years, when dry rot made it no longer seaworthy. It ended it's career as a children's playhouse in Fritz's backyard in the SF Eastbay.

Postscript

The Rutledge mill was a quality employer in Coeur d'Alene, with good wages, steady employment, and as mills were in those days - considerate working conditions. My Dad joined the mill in 1933, spent a lot of years as a car loader, became foreman of the shed, and reached then mandatory retirement at age 65 in 1966. My Uncle Ed Brandvold worked a bit longer, and similarly retired from the shipping department. My Uncle Howard Elder worked as a millwright and retired from that job. Several cousins worked there at various times. And the good wages and generous hours - even though earned only part-time - enabled me to finish school with the help of my hard-working wife.

Post- Postscript

Rutledge mill maintained a down-town office at 6th and Sheman for clerical services. In the 80's they decided to close that office, and my Dad was asked to go through the basement to make sure records they should keep were not thrown away. In that search, he discovered the early key-wound pendulum time clocks which had been used in the mill. He called and asked me if I wanted to save them, which I did. It turns out they were made by International Time Recording Company - which later became better-known as IBM. Neither was complete, but by combining parts I restored one operating clock, and have a box of the blank time cards originally used. So a tiny part of the Rutledge mill continues to tick away in my den!



Some members of our NHOH Lag, including Glenn, are related through the Brandvold area of Alvdal.

Norwegian-American Women of Distinction - Nina Hagerup Grieg



Photo: Courtesy of Bergen Public Library
Article by Jill Beatty,
Daughters of Norway

We are familiar with the great composer Edvard Grieg, but what of his wife Nina? Nina Hagerup Grieg (1845-1935) was a Danish-Norwegian born in Haukeland, near Bergen, Norway. At the age of eight she moved with her family to Denmark. Her father was Edvard Grieg's

uncle Herman Hagerup, and her mother was the celebrated Danish actress Adelina Werligh.

As a young man, Edvard Grieg's goal was to compose Norwegian music, but he knew that he had to go abroad to work in an environment that would offer him a better chance to be a composer. So he went to Copenhagen in 1863, the only Scandinavian city with a rich cultural life on an international level. In Copenhagen other composers became his friends and influenced him in his work. The time in Denmark was a happy one for Edvard Grieg and he became lifelong friends with several people. The most important was his first cousin Nina Hagerup.

Nina and Edvard had grown up together in Bergen, until she moved with her family to Copenhagen. Nina was an excellent pianist herself, but first of all it was her beautiful voice that fascinated Grieg. Nina was a concert singer; she studied singing under Carl Helsted. Although her voice had lost much of its power because of an illness, she retained and enhanced her gift of vocal interpretation. Grieg was so charmed by his cousin that they were secretly engaged in 1864.

Their engagement was not well received by the two families. Grieg's father warned his son against the commitments of marriage and starting a family. He said he would not be able to support a wife and a family when his income came from conducting, piano-playing and composing. Nina's mother's criticism was much harsher. She said: "He has nothing, he cannot do anything, and he makes music nobody cares to listen to." Despite their parents' objections, in the spring of 1865 they announced their engagement. Grieg gave Nina an engagement present in the form of four songs with texts by their good friend, Hans Christian Andersen (Melodies of the Heart, Op. 5), including his most famous song, "Jeg elsker Dig" (I love you), a declaration of his passion for Nina. In spite of the true love between Edvard and Nina, neither of their parents was present at the couple's wedding on June 11th, 1867.

After being married they settled in Christiania (later called Oslo), Norway. They had both hoped for and expected a family full of children. In 1869, their only

child, a daughter, Alexandra, died at the age of one from meningitis. Around this same time Nina suffered a miscarriage. After the funeral of Alexandra, Grieg wrote; "It is hard to watch the hope of one's life lowered into the earth, and it took time and quiet to recover from the pain, but thank God, if one has something to live for one does not easily fall apart; and art surely has—more than many other things—this soothing power that allays all sorrow!"

Music did provide the vehicle to deal with his despair. His parents both died in 1875, and this, coupled with the realization that he and Nina would never be able to have children, set in motion a period of intense grief. He poured this sadness into his most ambitious piano piece, Ballade in the form of Variations on a Norwegian Folk Song in G minor, Op. 24. He said that it was written "with my life's blood in days of sorrow and despair."

Finding such relief was not as easy for Nina. Although she gave occasional concerts, her life revolved around the life of her husband. She tried to live the life of a traditional housewife, but that was not fulfilling, nor was she suited to it. Grieg later admitted that he did not realize how much he had restricted his wife's opportunities to have an international singing career. "I did not understand at the time how important her interpretations really were. For me it was only natural that she should sing so beautifully, so tellingly—from a



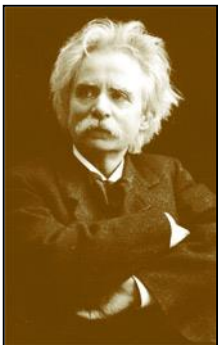
full heart and from the innermost depths of the soul."

During the years 1875-1883 the Griegs' marriage underwent a series of crises. Depression, illness, and even adultery made it difficult to live together. Both Edvard and Nina were strong-willed individuals and often quarreled. Living in the mountainous Hardanger country of Western Norway, 1877-79, Nina often felt cut off from the life she had enjoyed in Copenhagen and Oslo.

In 1883 Edvard abandoned Nina for several months, leaving her in Norway with their friends while he toured in Germany. He felt constrained by all the circumstances of his life, including his marriage.

After a time, they did reconcile and Nina joined Edvard in Germany in early 1884. They performed together in a concert in Rome. Grieg began to accept that the difference between what he hoped to achieve as a composer and what he actually produced. Nina had to resign herself to her childless state. She wrote a friend at end of the crisis: "I have been through so immensely much recently, both loneliness and a lot of other evil things; but thank God I believe all the same that there is still much that is beautiful to live for, even if there is no one to carry on after one is gone." During these years of personal crisis Grieg composed some of his most beautiful music. In 1878 he completed his String Quartet, Op. 27. He composed one of his greatest songs, Våren (Spring) in 1880 and soon after arranged it for string orchestra as The Last Spring. Nina's rendition of Våren later reduced Tchaikovsky to tears. The Griegs moved in 1885 to their newly-built house, called Trolldhaugen, near Bergen.

The Griegs regularly went to Germany and elsewhere to the south of Norway for the winter. Nina preferred life on the road—giving concerts, away from housework, and living in hotels. Edvard was her accompanist, even after he gave up soloing in public. Nina also appeared in concert playing the piano with her husband, and she would give lessons to other singers.



Edvard said, "It is unbelievable what power she has to mesmerize her pupils." When she sang in concert Nina dressed simply and was not a prima donna. "She penetrates right into one's heart and soul," wrote a reviewer. A contemporary singer wrote, "She created her own style, an animated dramatic recitative. She struck not only at the center of a poem's feeling, but somehow plumbed the depths of individual

words so they received a deeper, more distinctive color than one could get from mere reading."

Grieg died in 1907. His ashes were placed in a cliff-side grotto overlooking the fjord at Trolldhaugen. Nina lived in Denmark for nearly thirty years after Edvard died. Her health was not good and she suffered from several illnesses. She died at the age of 90 in 1935. Thorvald Kierkegaard, the Danish Unitarian minister, conducted her funeral ceremonies in Copenhagen. She had made Trolldhaugen into a museum, where her ashes are now united with her husband's. A concert hall, which welcomes many visitors each year, was built nearby to house the annual festivals of Grieg's music.

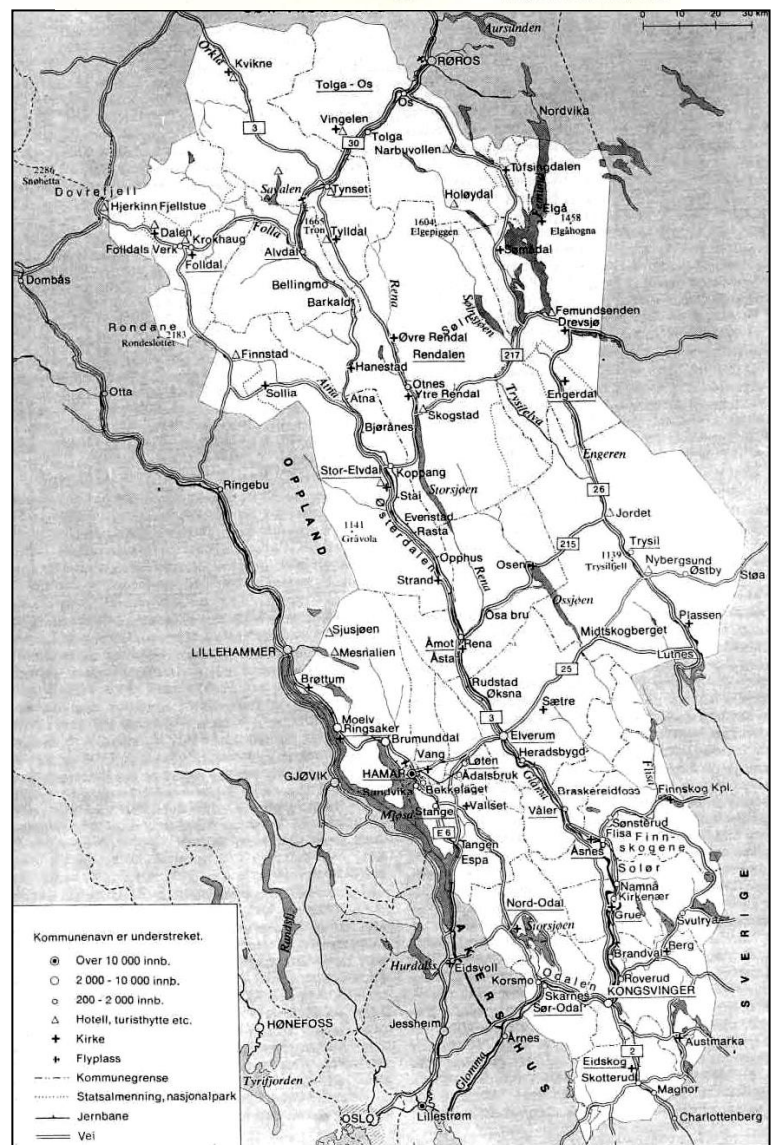
The Daughters of Norway Nina Grieg Lodge #40 was founded on September 14, 1997, Poulsbo, WA. The Lodge meets the second Saturday at 10:00 am (meeting months may vary) in the Viking Room, Sons of Norway Building, 18891 Front Street, Poulsbo, WA

www.daughtersofnorway.com

Sources: Dan Fog, Kirsti Grinde, and Øyvind Norheim: Thematic-Bibliographic Chronology (2008)
Finn Benestad and William H. Halverson: Edvard Grieg: Diaries, Articles, Speeches (Jan 2001)
Sybil Deucher: Edvard Grieg: Boy Of The Northland (1946) Norwegian-American Women of Distinction is a new monthly column brought to you by Daughters of Norway. This article originally appeared in the Jan.17, 2014 issue of the Norwegian American Weekly.
To subscribe, call us at (800) 305-0271.



A ceremonial wagon found buried on board the Oseberg ship and dating from the 8th Century A.D.



You can click on this YouTube and see a lot of the excitement at the 100th Anniversary

https://youtu.be/o_KuAvWyOsE

of the 100 year Celebration of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad in America. Twenty-eight lag from specific geographic areas of Norway affiliated with the Fellesraad Celebration (umbrella organization for lag) vendors, presenters, musicians, youth and Norwegian Organizations across the United States, Canada and Norway. **Note: there is an underline between the o_K in the computer address...**



If you would like to view the Stoughton High School dancers go to

<https://goo.gl/photos/EaYVU4w7tH7asqjK8>



Come and Visit
Norskedalen by
Coon Valley WI
**Midsummer
Celebrations**
June 18-19th
10-4 and 10-3

New Members Continued from p. 9

David Opsahl of Bloomington, Minnesota - with ancestry in Nes and Stange

Hello Dixie and fellow Hedemarken Lag members,

Thank you for the kind welcome. I plan to attend at least a portion of the meeting in early August and hope to meet many of you there.

You asked about my Hedmark connections and here is what I know and am working to learn more about:

I am related to both the **Solvsberg and Hjermsstad families from Hedmark**. Starting from most current I understand the following:

-Herman Brun Woll (my grandfather and mother's father)
b: 5/25/1895 in Esterville, IA
d: 1975 in Hillsboro, OR

-His father: Carsten Lutken Woll born 1825 in Bergen, Norway (I have lots of history on this leg of my family)

-His mother Mina Karine Hjermsstad (*this is Carsten's second wife*)

b: 09/02/1858 in Norway

m: 04/24/1894 in Nicollet County, MN

d: 1951 in Minnesota

-Her parents are from Hedmark:

-Father: **Hans Hanssen Hjermsstad**

-His Father: Hans Hansen Enger Hjermsstad
(1798-5/25/1875) b:1825 in Norway

-His Mother: Marie Larsdatter Gronsted Nottestad
(1798-1865) m: 1856 in Norway

-His Brother: Martinus Hansen Hjermsstad b: 04/12/1828 in Norway d: 1915 d: 08/09/1912 in Jackson, MN

-His Brother: Lars Hansen Hjermsstad b: 01/16/1932 in Norway d: 1917

-His Brother: Maren Hjermsstad b:and d:1833 in Norway

-His Brother: Maren Hjermsstad b: 02/12/1836 in Maurud, Hedmark, Norway d: 1850

-His Sister: Mari Hjermsstad b:and d: in 1840 in Norway

-His Brother: Ulrik Carl Severin Hjermsstad b: 06/14/1840 in Strange, Hedmark, Norway d: 1908 in Minnesota

-Mother: **Mari Mortensdatter Solvsberg**

b: abt 1830 in Norway m: 1856 in Norway

d: 1920 in Minnesota

-Hans and Mari immigrated to the US in 1867.

I believe Mari was Martinus Solvsberg's brother.

-Hans and Mari had other children as well (Mina's siblings)

-Mathilde b: 1864 in Norway

-Arnt Hjermsstad b: 1869 in Minnesota

-Morton Hjermsstad b: 02/17/1874 in Minnesota d: 1951 in Minnesota

If anyone can give me any additional information or point me in directions that may be helpful I will be thankful.

Best regards, David



2016 TRE LAG STEVNE AGENDA

Lasting Legacies: The Future of Our Past

(Schedule is tentative and subject to change)

Wednesday, 3 August



Time	Event
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Registration Desk Open for Tour Participants
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Tour: Muskego Church at Luther Seminary, Mindekirken, and The Norway House (includes bus and mid-to-late afternoon box meal)
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Seminar: Beginning Norwegian Genealogy – Linda Schwartz
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Movie (<i>title TBA</i>)

Thursday, 4 August

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	NHOH Business Meeting
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Vendor Displays Open
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Opening Ceremony
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Keynote Lecture: Hand Me a Chisel! The Norwegian Mount Rushmore Imagined – Byron Nordstrom
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Break
10:45 AM - 9:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
10:45 AM - 3:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Seminar: The Political Legacy of Knud Wefald and the Birth of the Farmer Labor Party – Lawrence Moe
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Hardangersom Klubb (hosts: Ginny Wegenast and Anne Farning)
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch (<i>on your own</i>)
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Seminar: Early Norwegian-American Leaders, Exemplified by Linka Preus and Elisabeth Koren – Gracia Grindal
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Coffee and Refreshment Break – Visit Vendors
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Seminar: I've Got a Story to Tell! – Peter Agre (<i>Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry, Physician, Political Activist, Environmentalist, and Educator</i>)
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Dinner (<i>on your own</i>)
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	An Evening Concert of Nordic Music presented by the Tre Lag Musicians

Friday, 5 August

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Tronderlag Business Meeting
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
8:00 AM - 2:45 PM	Vendor Displays Open
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
9:00 AM - 2:15 PM	Hospitality Room Open
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Seminar A: A Traveler's Guide to Genealogy Research in Norway – Tips Gleaned on a Recent Trip- – Chris Falteisek
	Seminar B: Charter Members of the 3 Lags of Tre Lag and their Living Descendants – Elaine Hasleton
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	Seminar A: Early Pioneers in Heart Surgery: C. Walton Lillehei and Owen Wangensteen – James Moller
	Seminar B: Preserving Genealogy, Family Photos, Stories, and Audio on FamilySearch Family Tree – Gary Romsaas
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Lunch (<i>on your own</i>)
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	Seminar A: Hedmark Family History through Norwegian Eyes – Thor Bøhmer (<i>Managing Director of the Hedmark Slektshistorielag</i>)
	Seminar B: Norwegian Architecture – Byron Stadsvold
2:15 PM - 2:45 PM	Coffee and Refreshment Break - Visit Vendors
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Seminar A: Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Biologist, Norman Borlaug, “The Man Who Saved a Billion Lives” – Brian Steffenson
	Seminar B: Ole Rolvaag and His Legacy – Paul Rolvaag
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM	Hospitality Hour – with music by the Tre Lag Musicians – Chris Falteisek, Robin Fossum, Louise Lang, Kathy Pederson, Plus! (want to join in? contact: christfalteisek@gmail.com)
5:15 PM - 5:30 PM	Group Photo: Gudbrandsdalslag
5:30 PM - 5:45 PM	Group Photo: Trønderlag
5:45 PM - 6:00 PM	Group Photo: Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag
6:15 PM - 8:30 PM	Stevne Banquet – Bunad Parade; Preview of the 2017 Stevne; Speaker: <i>My 2015 Alt For Norge Experience</i> – David Engen

Saturday, 6 August

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Gudbrandsdalslag Business Meeting
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Seminar: The Mystery Behind the Disappearing Headstones– Nancy Pickering
10:10 AM - 11:10 AM	Norwegian Immigrant Artists: Jacob and Pauline Fjelde and the Minnesota Historical Society Collection – Sondra Reiersen



Tre Lag Stevne Registration

Lasting Legacies: The Future of Our Past

Clarion Hotel
South Saint Paul, Minnesota
August 3-6, 2016



Stevne pre-registration requested by 15 July 2016

A joint stevne for Gudbrandsdalslaget, Trønderlag of America, and Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

Walk-in registrations are permitted if space is available. Reservations are required for tour, banquet, and breakfast. Participants must make hotel reservations independently (book hotel by July 1st for Stevne Rate).

_____	_____
<i>First and Last Name (Registrant A)</i>	<i>Nickname? (for nametag)</i>
_____	_____
<i>First and Last Name (Registrant B)</i>	<i>Nickname? (for nametag)</i>
_____	_____
<i>Street Address</i>	<i>E-Mail Address</i>
_____	_____
<i>City, State, Zip</i>	<i>Phone #</i>

Tre-Lag Stevne (August 3-6, 2016)	\$ Each	# of Reg.	Total \$
Stevne Registration (Wednesday through Saturday)	\$51.00	X _____	\$ _____
Wednesday Tour (includes bus and mid-afternoon light box meal)	\$34.00	X _____	\$ _____
Friday Tre-Lag Banquet (choose Salmon or Pork Loin, below)	\$34.00	X _____	\$ _____
Make check payable to Tre Lag Stevne	Total Enclosed		\$ _____

Banquet Entrée Choice:

Friday Tre Lag Banquet

(Salmon or Pork Loin) Registrant A's Choice: _____ Registrant B's Choice: _____

The Tre Lag Musical group jams and entertains at the Stevne. Would you like to participate? _____
For more information, contact Chris Falteisek at chrisfalteisek@gmail.com

Will you participate in the Hardangersom Klubb? _____ If yes, beginner, intermediate, or advanced? _____

Mail registration and payment to:

Attn: Dixie Hansen
Tre Lag Stevne Registration
1411 Osceola Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105-2312

To reserve hotel room, call
Clarion Hotel
701 Concord St S
South Saint Paul, MN 55075 1-651-455-3600
Tre Lag Rate is \$75.00 plus tax (single or double) if booked by July 1st

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, Editor

215 Juniper Ln., Holmen, WI 54636

June 2016



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 _____

Total Enclosed _____

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