

# NHOH News

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## *Fra Presidenten*

New year, new stevne planning. The Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee is planning for the stevne which will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, MN. There is a significant change in the timing this year that you need to put on your calendar. The

stevne will begin on Tuesday August 1 and end Friday morning August 4. Part of the cost to the stevne is the charge for meeting rooms and part for food service which is a big source of revenue for the hotels. Banquet space on Friday evenings is increasing in demand for weddings and other groups, so some hotels have raised their rates. The cost to our group in Moorhead for Wednesday to Saturday would be \$5,000 but is \$2,500 for Tuesday to Friday. Being thrifty, we opted for the less expensive option. Mark your calendars for August 1 to 4, 2023.

For those of you working on genealogy, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (AKA LDS) has renamed their Family History Library as the FamilySearch Library. Also, their Family History Centers have been rebranded as FamilySearch Centers. Having the name of their research facilities aligned with the name of their online research tool, FamilySearch.org should make remembering the names of the sources easier. On the other hand, those of us with years of experience with the old names will likely handle the change like we do years, which takes time to adjust. We will write 2022 for the first three months of 2023.

In my last president's article, I had a goal to transfer VHS videos to USB drives to share with my husband's family. I met my deadline, and at Christmas gave his siblings USB's with their family videos and copies of the slides their parents had. I also added scanned copies of all the family documents taken from their parent's home after my mother-in-law passed away, such as birth certificates, baptism records, obituaries, school papers, and articles cut from newspapers that mentioned anyone in the family. Everyone thought it was a great gift to get a condensed history of the

family. Finding ways to make copies of one-of-a-kind items and sharing them can preserve the memories.

Finally, please use the lags social media sites (nhohlag.org and facebook.com/groups/nhohlag) to share your stories, pictures, research tips, and ask for assistance with genealogy research.

Hilsen fra  
*Joy Shong*

## **2023 Flere Lag Stevne Open Sky, Flat Land**



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## 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:

Alvdal  
Folldal  
Os  
Rendalen  
Tolga  
Tynset

### District 2:

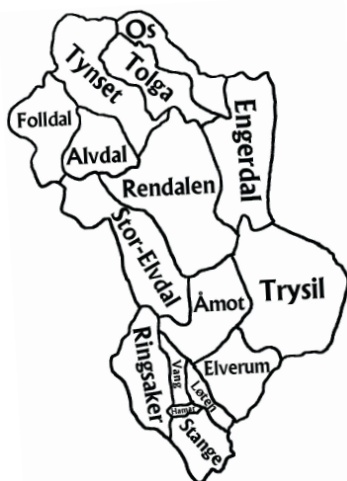
#### Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot  
Elverum  
Engerdal  
Stor Elvedal  
Trysil

### District 3:

#### Hedemarken and Hamar

Furnes  
Hamar  
Løten  
Nes  
Ringsaker  
Romedal  
Stange  
Vang



## Our NHOH 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; and to encourage the research and writing of family, immigration, and settlement histories.

## Membership

NHOH Lag members benefit from expert genealogy research assistance, receive our newsletter three times a year and are invited to participate in our annual 3-day conference.

## Membership Renewal

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.

## NHOH Website

The NHOH website can be found at: [www.nhohlag.org](http://www.nhohlag.org) with information on how you can become a full-fledged member of our organization.

Photos taken at previous stevner 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. Our newsletters, genealogy information, photos, and scholarship information are there too.

## Join Our Facebook Page

Members and non-members alike are encouraged to join our Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Facebook page and participate in the discussion. We welcome those who have an interest in and/or have ancestry in the Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken areas of Norway. You don't have to be a NHOH lag member to join our Facebook page.

New Facebook page joiners must request to join on their own (we don't accept members added by others) and new joiners must briefly answer the “why do you wish to join” security questions.

To find our page, type **Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag** in the Facebook Search box.



## NHOH Board Members

**President: Joy Shong**  
president@nhohlag.org

**Director: Linda Domier Lowry**  
llowry1@cogeco.ca

**Membership: Dixie Hansen**  
dx@dxhansen.com

**Vice-President: Chris Falteisek**  
chrisfalteisek@gmail.com

**Director: Debra Lee Pritchard**  
debralee320@aol.com

**Genealogist: Position Open**

**Secretary: Jeri Johnson**  
jerijon@aol.com

**Director: Gary Romsaas**  
gary.romsaas@pm.me

**Webmaster: Dixie Hansen**  
dx@dxhansen.com

**Treasurer: Julie Glowka**  
julieg0503@gmail.com

**Past-President: Dixie Hansen**  
dx@dxhansen.com

**Newsletter Editor: Julie Glowka**  
julieg0503@gmail.com

## Lag Board News

### Open Position

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? At this time the Genealogist position is open. While looking for someone to fill this position, Lag Board members have been teaming up to respond to questions. If you have some genealogy experience and would like to either join the team or become the lag's genealogist, please contact Joy Shong at President@nhohlag.org to get more information.

## Fellesraad Annual Meeting 2023

Save the date for the Fellesraad Annual Meeting on Friday and Saturday, 5 & 6 May 2023. It will be held in-person and virtually for several sessions. More details will be forthcoming, so check our website [www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com) We hope to see you there!

## NHOH TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1 – December 31, 2022

<b>BALANCE 4/30/2022</b>		<b>\$8,156.50</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest/Dividend	\$2.92	
Donations - Genealogy	\$310.00	
Membership Dues	\$494.31	
Stevne Silent Auction	\$183.00	
		<u>\$990.23</u>
		<b>\$9,146.73</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Fees	-\$69.95	
Newsletter	-\$785.46	
Stevne Seed Money	-58.81	
		<u>-\$914.22</u>
<b>BALANCE 12/31/2022</b>		<b>\$8,232.51</b>

# **My Grandmother's Rug Loom** (*a then and now and then and now and then and now story*)

By Dixie Hansen

## **1958**

In 1958, when I was 5, my family moved into a lovely old 2-story home in a cozy neighborhood in Mason City, Iowa. We lived there until 1962 when my Dad took a new job and we moved to the Twin Cities.

I have many memories from those 5 years, not the least of which are of the house itself with its beautiful oak woodwork, bright sunroom, built-in buffet and side-cabinets, a coal room, an incinerator in the basement where we burned our waste, and (unusual for those times, I think) a top-loading dishwasher built into the kitchen counter.

## **November 24, 2021**

On the evening before Thanksgiving 2021, I was clicking through my digitized pictures from those Mason City years and stopped to zoom in on a photo that my Dad had taken of our family gathered around the dining room table at Thanksgiving back in 1958. My Norwegian-immigrant grandmother (My Dad's Mom) was with us for the holiday, having arrived the day prior on a train from her home in Minneapolis.



Hansen Family, Thanksgiving 1958. L to R: Bruce, Grandma, Dixie, Mom, Gary, Bonnie. Family not pictured: Dad (taking the photo), Becky (likely in her crib), Annie (not even thunk up yet).

Inspired by the photo, and in a fit of nostalgia, I decided to see if I could figure out who currently owned that home. Employing the people-finding skills on which we family historians depend, I was successful in identifying the owners, Johnathan and Ashley Morrison, and also in finding their current email address. I immediately composed an email with the subject line: ***Thanksgiving 63 years ago at 108 Rivers Heights Dr. - A look-back photo.*** In the note I explained my connection to their home, attached the photo, and hit send.

I heard back from Ashley just 14 minutes later – and what followed was an enthusiastic series of emails, with the swap of photos (old and new) and house history (long ago and recent). The Morrisons are in love with the house (updated, but still very much the same), are fascinated with its history, and are happily involved in maintaining and restoring it.

And (BONUS!), they invited my family and me to come and meet them and see the house next time we were visiting in Mason City.

## **1920s-1950s** *(in case you were wondering when I was going to get around to the loom)*

My grandfather died from encephalitis in 1922, when my dad was only 3 years old. Grandpa's death left my grandmother alone, as a young widow, to raise Dad and his sister, Evelyn. To make ends meet, Grandma rented out a room in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of their home to a series of young working bachelors and she also made buttonholes and did other piece work at home for a nearby tailor shop. But her primary income came from an in-home business of weaving rag rugs. It's almost certain that she purchased her rug loom sometime in the 1920s. Typically, her clients would bring old clothing and fabric scraps in colors that suited them, and Grandma would cut or tear the fabric into thin strips and connect the strips together into a workable length of "woof" that she could wrap around a shuttle. Then, after "warping" the blue-gray or dusty-rose warp thread<sup>1</sup> onto the loom she would custom weave beautiful floor rugs in the length requested by the customer, and up to 36" in width. I grew up with such rugs on the floor. Probably you did too.

Grandma remarried in 1934, when Dad was a teenager. With the added financial stability which that union provided I am sure that she was no longer as dependent on her loom for income. I don't actually know when she tapered back on running her rag-rug business, but I believe she continued to weave into the 50's for friends and for gifts and for pleasure.

## **1957-1960**

Eventually, Grandma's loom ended up in the basement of my family's first home in Iowa (4 years before we moved to River Heights Drive). I remember, during one of her visits, sitting on a bench next to Grandma at the bottom of the stairs (I was age 4, or so), watching as she ran the shuttle through the many strings, pulling a handle towards her to pack the rag strips into place. Of course, mostly I remember wanting to pull the handle all by myself. No doubt, I was a great "helper!"

In 1958, when we moved across town to River Heights Drive, the loom came with us. I suspect that it may have been taken apart for the move and never put back together. Once again though, the loom (whether intact or in pieces) found its home in our Iowa basement. There it sat, lonely and unused.

That's *when* (probably around 1960) and *where* my pint-sized brain captured and stored a very vague memory. If I squint and look at the sky, I can tease from my mind a very hazy visual image of my dad and me down in the basement. It's a very short clip. Here's what I see:

*My Dad is stuffing the pieces of wood from Grandma's loom into a hole near the ceiling in the wall in the basement.* END OF MEMORY.

Why was he doing that? *Sorry, I apparently didn't record that part.* Where did the hole lead? *I had no idea.* For decades, I wasn't even sure if the memory was real.

## **2010**

If my recollection were based in reality, then Dad and I were the only living keepers of it (I, being a very foggy keeper but, as it turns out, a latently persistent one). Nobody but the two of us engaged in or witnessed "the stuffing of the loom."

However, 50 years after-the-fact (just 3 years before his death), I finally thought to ask my Dad about it. He was in 90s by then. *"Dad, did I make this up?... and I know it sounds weird... but I've got this faint memory that, back when we lived in Mason City, you stuck the pieces of Grandma's loom in a hole in the basement wall. Did that happen?"*

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<sup>1</sup> This thick and sturdy warp thread did double-duty as kite string for my Dad when he was young, and there was still some around for my siblings and me when Dad passed his 3-stick kite-building skills along to us.



The answer, after a brief pause, was “Yes, *it did.*” I somehow failed to ask Dad for clarity on the “why” of it, but he did fill me in on the “where.” He told me there was an access opening near the top of the basement wall to a crawl space under the sunroom above, and that he did stash the loom pieces in that crawl space.

## 2021

In one of the emails I sent to Johnathan and Ashley, I told them the story of Grandma’s loom. And I wondered if, 63 years later, her loom might still be in that dirt floored, unheated crawl space. If, by some miracle, it was, I hinted strongly that I would be very happy to take it off their hands.



Three weeks later Johnathan wrote back: “*I was cleaning up the basement this weekend and took a look in the crawl space below the sunroom. The loom you spoke of was in there. I pulled everything out and there are some magnificent pieces that are embossed with the name of the loom and the company that made it. I have everything set aside for you in case you’d like to swing by the house on your next trip into Iowa.*”<sup>2</sup>

Hurrah!

The hole in the basement wall

## October 2022

Covid and the convolutions of life in general delayed my trip to Mason City. But in October 2022 my youngest sister (too young to remember her brief time there) finally made the visit to meet Ashley and Johnathan and see our old home. The Morrisons could not have been more welcoming and enthusiastic and generous with their time. They gave us a full tour of the house, with everyone asking and answering a multitude of now vs. then questions.

AND (drum roll!) on that day, some 30 pieces of fine wood from Grandma’s rug loom, in many shapes and sizes, came back to my family, after 63 years stowed away and almost (but not quite) forgotten in a crawl space in Iowa.



Johnathan and Ashley Morrison, the current owners of the Hansen’s old home in Mason City, with loom-seekers, Dixie Hansen and Annie (Hansen) Herman along with dogs: Cricket and Nell.

## The Loom

The rug loom (officially 300 pounds total, when fully assembled) is made of beautiful Sugar or Hard Maple. Two boards are embossed “*The Weaver’s Friend.*” The company name is painted in big letters on two other boards: “*Reed Loom Mfg., Springfield, O.*” I’ve since learned that the Reed Loom company was founded in the 1880s. I found and purchased a vintage copy of the company’s 20-page catalog of *Hand Weaving Supplies* on ebay. The year of publication isn’t noted but the purchase price for “*The Weaver’s Friend*” is listed as “Complete. \$50.00.”

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<sup>2</sup> I now know that “took a look in” and “pulled out” meant that Johnathan actually climbed up above a set of shelves that is stationed below the access point and squeezed through the hole in the wall, fully crawling into that creepy area to root around for our treasure and to off-load 30-some pieces of the loom! He deserves an award for bravery.



The recovered pieces of  
Grandma's loom: "The Weaver's  
Friend"

To see a 360° video tour of a similar "*Weaver's Friend*" loom which was purchased at an auction in Ohio in 2020: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5P\\_P2Kr07g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5P_P2Kr07g). And for a video of yet another of this model of loom in action, see here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HETp4l3sRc>  
Unfortunately, without several crucial missing pieces, my grandmother's loom can't be brought back to life to serve its original purpose. Although I think we have most of the loom wood, we have none of the 60 lbs. of "steel and iron used in its construction" (heddles, gears, levers, etc.) of which the catalog boasts and which the videos show. Dad?? What did you do with the hardware?? Is there another hole?? Dad??

I do know that the loom will have a future life with a new purpose of remembrance of my grandmother. I've solicited ideas from my family (including some talented woodworkers) on what keepsakes might be crafted from the various pieces of loom wood that hold so much family history. So far, my niece has suggested a "cool bench" and my brother thinks the wood would make a nice bowsprit for the wooden rowboat/sailing boat he built for me a few years ago. My sister, noting that we are all "of a certain age," wondered if there is perhaps enough of the loom left to make a cane for each of the siblings.

### ***The future of the loom?***

? TBA



1958 vs. 2022 – Dixie in front of her childhood home at 108 River Heights

## In Memoriam

### Ronald Helstad



Ronald O. Helstad, 91 of La Crescent, MN passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side on Saturday, December 31, 2022. He was born June 14, 1931, in Ettrick, WI to Emil and Esther (Ofsdahl) Helstad and grew up on the family farm in French Creek.

Ron proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. He was recently honored to participate in the Freedom Honors Flight recognizing his service to the country. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

On January 28, 1957, Ron married Audrey Luhmann. His new family moved to La Crosse in 1958 where he worked as an accountant at the La Crosse Trane Company. He soon after began his career as a C.P.A. with Engelson and Associates which continued for over 50 years. Ron was a member of the VFW, Rotary Club, the Sons of Norway, and was treasurer for the Norwegian Club Nord Hedmark og Hedmarken Lag. He was a longtime member of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church in La Crosse where he served as an usher and treasurer.

In addition to his wife Audrey, he is survived by three sons; Scott (Lynn) Helstad of Winona, Peter

(Sheryl) Helstad of West Salem and Brad Helstad of La Crescent; four grandchildren, Ben (Heidi Maddern) Helstad, Sonja Helstad, Stephen (Megan) Helstad and Laura (Josiah) Early; three great-grandchildren, Saren Maddern, Lily Early and Noah Early; a brother, David (Sharon) Helstad of Milwaukee; a sister-in-law, Sharon Helstad of Ettrick, along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Dorance (Betty) Helstad and Dean Helstad, along with a sister, Leatrice (Kenneth) McLeod.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church or a memorial of choice.



### **Flere Lag Stevne Tuesday August 1 thru Friday August 4, 2022**

#### **Open Sky, Flat Land**

Courtyard by Marriott  
1080 28<sup>th</sup> Ave S.  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
218-284-1000

Stevne rate: \$114+tax per night (single, double, triple or quad) for Tuesday thru Thursday nights  
Check out Friday morning

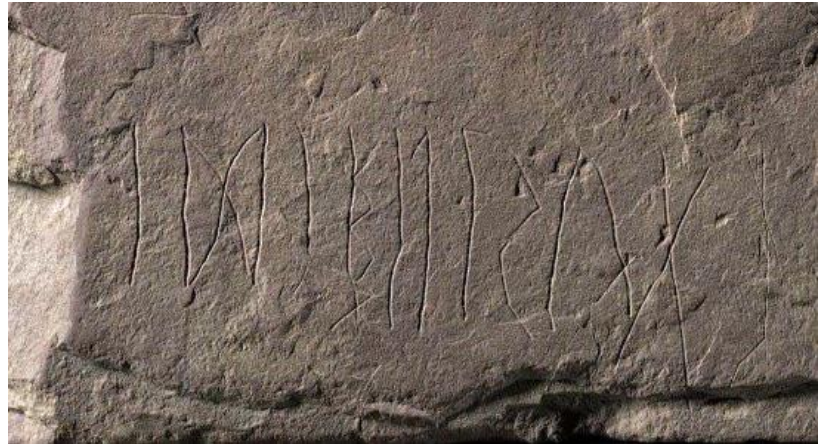
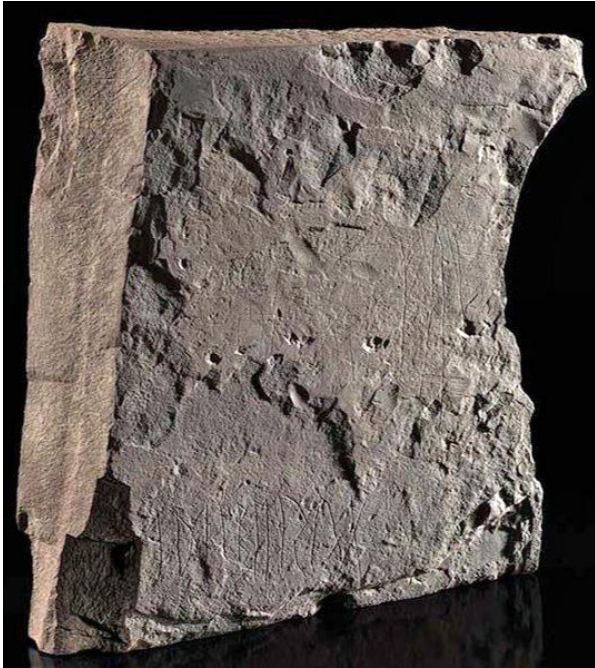
**Note the change of days from Wednesday thru Saturday to Tuesday thru Friday**



## Svingerudsteinen -- The Svingerud Stone

By Robert Price

Har du hørt? Archeologists from the University of Oslo's Museum of Cultural History in Norway have found the world's oldest dated runestone. A stone (12.2 inches by 12.6 inches) inscribed with runic letters, Scandinavia's oldest alphabet. Uncovered in late 2021, its finding was kept secret for over a year. Give me time to understand what I found before you start asking questions. It's runic inscriptions are thought to be 1,800 to 2,000 years old. Carved in the stone sometime between 0 and 250 AD.

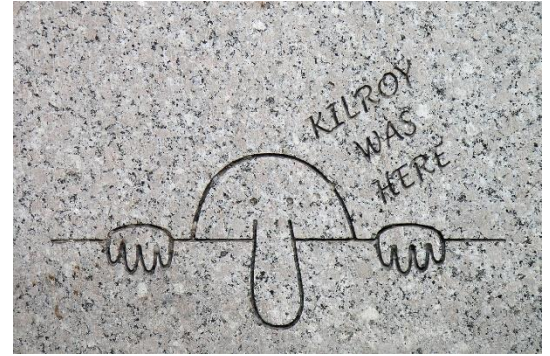


The stone was found during the excavation of a burial site west of Oslo in the municipality of Hole near Tyrifjorden (Lake Tyri). It has been named "Svingerudsteinen," (The Svingerud Stone), after the site where it was found. Unimposing as a flat square block of red tinged sandstone, but important due to being etched with very early examples of words recorded in writing in Scandinavia.

Runestones marked territory, brought glory to dead relatives, and told of important events. Several thousand stones with runic inscriptions from the Viking Age (800 to 1050 AD) can be found in Scandinavia. In Norway only 30 or so runestones are believed to date back to the Roman Iron Age/ Migration Period (1 – to around 550 AD). Svingerudsteinen, due to being a part of an archaeological dig, is the only one that can be shown to date before 300 AD.

The Stone Age caveman painted crude animal figures on the walls of caves. The inscription CORINATTO 1541 can be found cut into the stone wall of a cave in the American southwest. This petroglyph is thought to be an official indication of Spanish conquistador Coronado's expedition reaching a certain point. Throughout history there has been a Kilroy like urge to call attention to one's existence.

Kilroy. Not as historically important as runic letters, but a modern-day contribution to this story is "Kilroy was here." A rudimentary doodle depicting a man with a long nose peeking over the top of a wall accompanied by the words "Kilroy was here," or just the words alone was a popular meme during World War II. A symbol of pride for American soldiers to notify opposing forces that no place and no country was beyond their reach. Sounds like the Vikings. It was scrawled, etched, written, painted on everything.



Stone is a material to write on. It dates to the beginning of time. When a stone is found inscribed along with burned bones and charcoal which can be radiocarbon dated, its inscriptions can be dated. So it is with Svingerudsteinen. Several thousand stones with runic inscriptions from the Viking Age (800 to 1050 AD) have been found in Scandinavia. Now, the jury is out as to the possibility of some runestones being older than previously thought.

Svingerudsteinen, certainly, is the oldest datable runestone in the world and it might be the oldest example of writing found in Scandinavia. Yeah, but you say cuneiform is an ancient writing system first used around 3400 BC. Cuneiform script is the oldest writing in the world. However, it is not an alphabet, and it doesn't have letters. It uses characters to write words or syllables whereas runes are the letters in a runic alphabet. In ancient Norway, history was told orally like the western Minnesota Dakota Sioux stories of "Ehanna Woyakapi" (Speaking of Long Ago). Not every day would someone pound on a stone.

Over time, the ways of writing older inscriptions and the spoken language changed a lot from when the runes were carved into Svingerudsteinen. Interpreting the message on the stone is quite a challenge. We should be happy that we don't have to figure it out as we can leave that to the University of Oslo scholars. Not schooled enough in Norwegian to give an example of the translation problem of language changing over time so English will have to do.

The following shows a few lines of the Lord's Prayer written in English over time:

#### Old English

Ūre Fæder, þú þe eart on heofonum  
sí þín nama gehálgod.  
Tócome þín ríce.

#### Middle English

Oure fadir that art in heuenes,  
halewid be thi name.  
thi kyngdoom come to.

#### Early Modern English

Our father which art in heauen,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdome come.

The big question: What is written on the stone? The clearest eight runes converted into our alphabet spells: idiberug. The inscription may refer to a woman called Idibera, but there are other possible interpretations. A common situation with early runic inscriptions. Research is ongoing.



# Reflections and some of the most memorable adventures during my 2022 Norwegian journey.

By Chris Falteisek

I was able to enjoy another Norwegian vacation and adventure with my cousins, Torill and Bjørnar Steivang. During these three weeks, I was able to experience Norwegian life, visit many churches and cemeteries, see the grandeur and beauty while geocaching, taste the wonderful Norwegian food, coffee and cuisine, visit my ancestral churches and villages, travel from the fjords to the mountains of Norway, experience some awesome Airbnb's, work on genealogy and spend time with many cousins - making this an adventure-packed "trip of a lifetime." It is hard to highlight a few of my most memorable experiences in Norway - as every day and every experience was memorable, but I hope you enjoy a few of the highlights from my time in Norway in 2022.

## July 11, 2022 - Sogndal.

While beginning our journey for the day, I noticed the beauty of the waterfront while driving into Sogndal from the car and asked to walk to the waterfront to take the beautiful and scenic picture of the Sogndal waterfront while cousins, Bjørnar and Torill filled the car with gas. This was one of those magical and unexpected moments in which the beauty of Norway appears before you when you least expect it.



## July 12, 2022 - Aksla, the lookout view over Ålesund.

We drove into the town of Ålesund, eating supper at the American inspired restaurant, Elefante. After supper we walked around town to see some of the historic buildings and waterfront.

From the website [snl.no](http://snl.no):

*"The most important town formation on Sunnmøre in the Middle Ages was Borgundkaupangen on a peninsula furthest west on Uksenøya. Several other trading posts grew up by the Borgundfjord, but it was not until the 18th century that trading activities gathered in the beach town of Ålesund, by the strait between Aspøya and Nørve. Ålesund was given limited city rights in 1793 and full rights in 1824, and as a city, Ålesund gained status as an urban municipality with the introduction of local self-government in 1837. Ålesund was given full town rights in 1848. The development of the city accelerated especially with the growth in fishing, and also in fish processing and fish exports in the latter part of the 19th century.*

*In 1904, large parts of Ålesund burned to the ground during the Ålesund fire. About 10,000 of the 12,000 inhabitants became homeless. It only took a few years before the city was built according to the most modern architecture of the time, the Art Nouveau style. The characteristic of the Art Nouveau style is, among other things, the use of various decorative elements, such as waves, arches and geometric shapes, as well as asymmetry, vaulted or mansard roofs and cross-post windows. According to the international museum organization ICOMOS The Art Nouveau town in Ålesund is one of the most important cultural monuments in Norway from the 20th century. The Art Nouveau*

Center is located in Apotekergaarden in Ålesund and is a national competence center for the Art Nouveau style. Here you can learn more about the style through various exhibitions.”

The highlight of the day was going to Aksla, the lookout view over Ålesund. You can see the grandeur and beauty of this area.



**July 13, 2022 - Åndalsnes, Norway. We rode the Romsdalsgondolen (cable car) to overlook the Romsdalsfjellene.**

We visited the city of Åndalsnes. It was here we rode the Romsdalsgondolen (cable car) up to the Romsdalsfjellene. According to [visitnorway.no](https://www.visitnorway.no):

*“Experience the fantastic fjord and mountain views in Romsdalen in a new way! Just above Åndalsnes center and surrounded by the famous Romsdalsfjellene you will find the mountain Nesaksla at 708 meters above sea level. Romsdalsgondolen is a state-of-the-art electric commuter train that takes you 1679 meters from the fjord and up the mountainside and Norway's first gondola built on sustainability principles. A 360-degree view of the impressive Romsdalshorn, Vengetindene, Åndalsnes center, lush valleys and the emerald, green river Rauma awaits you at the top.”*

As you can see the view overlooking the Romsdalsfjellene was breathtaking. Being gifted with the fear of heights from Dad, this was a major experience for me as I stood on the highest peak and “did as Norwegians do” with the picture of myself with arms extended high and knees shaking.



**July 14, 2022 - Maihaugen, open-air museum in Lillehammer, which houses over 200 buildings from Gudbrandsdal.**



According to wiki: “The founder, Anders Sandvig, collected from old houses and farmyards within Gudbrandsdalen to provide a sample of Norwegian culture and history in a museum. He first started in his backyard, but when his collection grew, in 1901, the town council offered him a permanent site for the museum. In 1904, the city of Lillehammer set aside an area already known as Maihaugen and bought Sandvig's collection and established the Sandvig Collections (Sandvigske Samlinger), the formal name for Maihaugen. Sandvig was at first hired as an unpaid curator but was later appointed the museum's first director. The new site of the museum had been used as a picnic and meeting place for the townspeople. People had met here to celebrate the Norwegian Constitution Day and to light bonfires for

Midsummer eve.



*Maihaugen tells the history of how people have been living in the Gudbrandsdalen from the Middle Ages until today. Social Institutions such as a church, school, post office, railway station, shops, prisons and military facilities are all represented at the museum. The museum has a rich collection of artifacts, furniture, tools and ornaments, ranging in age from the Middle Ages.*

*One feels as if they are walking through time and able to see what life in Gudbrandsdal was like in the past. Queen Sonja's childhood home and an area of houses from each decade of the 20th century are some of the newer buildings at Maihaugen."*



If you're going to be in the Lillehammer area – Maihaugen is a must see!

#### **July 19, 2022 - Boat cruise to the Viksfjorden in Larvik with Torill's brother and sister-in-law.**

One of the highlights of the day was taking a boat cruise in the Viksfjorden with Torill's brother, Arild and sister-in-law, Elisabeth in their boat. We launched from the Larvik Seilforening. We even met Elisabeth's parents and tied our boats together and had homemade bolle (chocolate rolls) and coffee together. The relaxing boat-ride showed the beauty of the small fjord which is five kilometers outside Larvik city center.



#### **July 21, 2022 - Domkirkeodden and open-air museum in Hamar.**

We went for a walk at the Domkirkeodden in Hamar. According to wiki: "Domkirkeodden, formerly Hedmarksmuseet, is part of the Anno museum which is located on Domkirkeodden in Hamar and consists of Storhamarläven, the cathedral ruins with a glass protective building, a folk museum and a herb garden. Storhamarläven was in use until it was decided in 1963 to convert the 18th-century building into a modern museum according to drawings by architect Sverre Fehn".

We walked around the glass-encased Cathedral ruins and open-air museum of buildings from Hedmark. At this site, the new Statsarkivet i Hamar (state archives for Innlandet county) building will be housed, cojoined with the Anno Museum. This archive and museum building should be built and ready in 2025.



#### **July 22, 2022 - Spending time with cousins, Audi Barstad and Halvor Mykleby at the Melgård farm in Deset.**

Today I took a bus from Hamar to Elverum to meet cousins, Audi Barstad and Halvor Mykleby. It's interesting to note that in July all bus rides in Innlandet County (the former Hedmark and Oppland Counties) are 10 kroner.

I met Halvor and Audi in Elverum and they took me to the Glomdalsmuseet. At the Glomdalsmuseet, the director Ola Mørkhagen took Audi, Halvor and I to see the inside of Melgårdsetra (Østsetra), the main seter to Havor's family farm, Melgården.

I said goodbye to Audi, as she had to leave to go to work. Halvor then took me to his family farm, Melgården in Deset, Åmot Kommune. I was able to see both the 1830 Gamlebygning (old building) where his mother lives and the 1877 Hovedbygning (main building) where his brother Tollef and family live. The homes and outbuildings have been preserved and it was like walking through time. Tollef is restoring the buildings to their original state. You can see the scaffolding as they were finishing painting the exterior of the houses. Halvor is pictured in front of one of the completed sides of the house.



I was amazed at my venture back in time today as Halvor showed me what the homes and lives of his ancestors were like. Words or pictures can't show the grandeur, historical significance, or the beauty of Melgården. I can't imagine the honor and pressure one must have to live in such a historic house and preserve it for future generations.



#### July 23, 2022 - Visiting the memorial in Sollia where my cousin, Petter Barstad died during WWII.

We visited the memorial for my cousin (second cousin, twice removed), Petter Barstad who was killed by the German Army during an attack in 1940. The site of his death has a stone and wreath. Petter is my cousin Audi Barstad's great uncle. He was a musician who was a gifted organist and fiddle player. It was so sad to have lost Petter at the young age of 23.



#### July 24, 2022 - Trying to get a picture of a moose (elg) at dusk with Torill's brother, cousin and husband in rural Tyllidalen.



I wasn't told what tonight's adventure was going to be. We arrived at the Ustu Hokstad farm in Tyllidalen. This is the farm where Torill's father, Ola Hokstad was raised.

We met Torill's cousin Roar Hokstad and Torill, Bjørnar and I went out for a ride, along with Torill's brother, Gjermund. We saw many elg (moose) and hjort deer on our drive around rural Tyllidalen. When we arrived back to Roar's farm, we went to his neighbor's farm where they raise deer (hjort), I was able to feed these deer where they came up to me and ate the food out of my hand.





**July 25, 2022 - Alvdal, Norway – Where my ancestor Erick Steien lived and worked before coming to America in 1871.**

Origination of our Steien name which was originally Steig:

<https://www.nb.no/items/65fde4ae25be296e8fd63405ecdff1ba?page=397&searchText=steig>

*“Steig is a farm name that is found in several parts of the country. The most known is from the Kings Royal Sagas', the farm Steig in Fron, Gudbrandsdalen, and Steigen (kommune) in Nordland, that also originates from a farm name. The origin of the word "stiga", "stige", probably looks towards being located in the heights. This is at least true for several of the farms with this name”.*

Per the custom of Norwegian naming practices, people have two last names – their patronymic name - Syver's Son and the farm they lived at. Thus, Erick Syversson Tøfthaugen (the farm he was born) took the name Erick Steien as it was the place Erick lived at while working in Alvdal before he came to America. I know his sister lived on the Kveberg farm, and he possibly worked in Alvdal because of her.



**July 28, 2022 - Saying Goodbye at the Starbucks in Gardemoen with cousins, Torill and Bjørnar Steivang.**



It was sad to say goodbye to my cousins, Torill and Bjørnar at the Gardemoen Airport. We were able to spend some quality time together at Starbucks before saying goodbye. And thus ends my memorable adventures in Norway.



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## NHOH Newsletter

The newsletter is published three times each year – Winter, Summer and Fall

Members are encouraged to submit 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 your contributions to the Newsletter Editor: Julie Glowka: [julieg0503@gmail.com](mailto:julieg0503@gmail.com)**

**Policy on advertising in the 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.

## Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

Julie Anderson Glowka, Editor

2330 Hillside Ave. St, Paul, MN 55108



### 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** \_\_\_\_\_

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