

NHOH News

Volume 31 Number 1

Winter 2025

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



Fra Presidenten

Finding Your Roots, one of my favorite TV programs, always amazes me by how much information that exists that they can find about average people way back in time. They obviously have many people tracing the ancestors of the famous folk who are the guests on the

show, and have researchers in other countries digging deep into archives. Seeing all of the photos used in the segments means they must spend a lot of time tracing and contacting extended family members.

We individuals work on a smaller scale to do the same thing. My family has been doing genealogy since the 1950's, long before digital access to records was possible. We gathered photos, talked to the relatives (and took notes), saved obituaries and birth announcements, and hung onto greeting cards and letters that mentioned family names and events. My parents got serious after my dad retired and they joined national genealogy organizations, attended genealogy lectures and conferences, and traveled the country visiting record archives seeking the 'missing links' in our family. In 1996 they joined the fledgling NHOH Lag with the hope of learning more about my mother's people.

This lag was established with a strong focus on helping people trace their immigrant ancestors from Norway but also offered opportunities to learn more about Norwegian culture and shared history. Having bygdebøker collections at the annual meetings was a great service. Bringing these hard to access resources to the members and having a genealogist to help find and understand Norwegian information was a game changer for many.

With the increased availability of quality online resources, such as Family Search, Ancestry.com, My Heritage, the Digital Archives in Norway, Find A Grave, and so many more, genealogy has become easier to do without traveling to find sources. More resources for learning to do genealogy are also available online. These efficiencies have led to changes in how people pursue their family research and stay connected with their heritage. For some, there is less

participation in organizations like the lags. As fewer people join lags, they lose out on the social interaction at a stevne, the discussions with others doing similar research, the sharing of cultural identity, and the forming of friendships. Those connections and benefits are hard to measure and also hard to promote as having the same or greater value than just adding more ancestors to the tree, or more data to a specific person in the tree.

Please share with your family and friends the benefits you receive from being a part of a lag, and encourage them to join and participate.

Hilsen fra
Joy Shong



Save the Date
August 5 – August 8, 2025

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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:

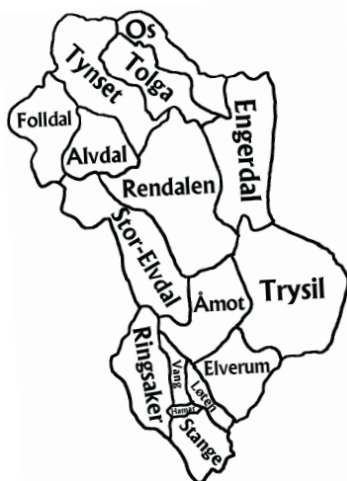
Sør-Østerdal:

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 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
nhohpres@nhohlag.org

Director: Linda Domier Lowry
llowry1@cogeco.ca

Membership: Dixie Hansen
dxhansen@gmail.com

Vice-President: Chris Falteisek
chrisfalteisek@gmail.com

Director: Debra Lee Pritchard
debralee320@aol.com

Genealogist: Larry West
west2419@gmail.com

Secretary: Jeri Johnson
jerijon@aol.com

Director: Gary Romsaas
gary.romsaas@pm.me

Webmaster: Open Position

Treasurer: Julie Glowka
julieg0503@gmail.com

Past-President: Dixie Hansen
dxhansen@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Julie Glowka
julieg0503@gmail.com



Fellesraad Report

By Elaine Hasleton, President

Fellesraad has been actively planning and providing input for the new Haugo Bibliotek at Norway House. The Bygdelag Special Collections Room will hold genealogical and other family history research materials. It will also be a FamilySearch Affiliate Library which will make available even more research sources. The other area of the Haugo Bibliotek will officially be named the Norwegian Discovery Center.

We are looking at the possibility of a soft opening of the Bygdelag Special Collections Room at the time of the Fellesraad Annual Meeting on May 2-3, 2025. More information will be forthcoming.

You, as a Bygdelag, have contributed funds to this Bygdelag Special Collections Room. A donor plaque will honor your contributions. Genealogical and family history items from your Lag may still be added to this collection; however, there are perimeters as to what can be accepted. Please contact me or Marilyn Sorensen for assistance with this.

This year we also honor the 200th year of the first organized migration from Norway to North America. See this website for more information: <https://crossings.norwegianamerican.com/>



Vibrant Traditions: Scandinavian Weaving in the Midwest

Norway House

913 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404
January 31 – April 6, 2025

This exhibit of traditional and contemporary weavings in Scandinavian techniques will take place in the Mondale Galleri at Norway House.



2025 Flere Lag Stevne New Land, New Life



2025 Flere Lag Stevne Planning Underway

The stevne steering committee met recently to continue planning for this year's annual stevne. These five lags are the flere (several) lags that share the work and participate in the stevne: Gudbrandsdalslaget, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, Romerikslaget i America, Solørlag, and Tronderlag. Here are some items to note:

Location: Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Onalaska, Wisconsin (by La Crosse).

When: Tuesday August 5 to Friday August 8, 2025

Theme: New Land, New Life – This is in honor of the 200th anniversary of the first organized group of Norwegian immigrants in 1825 on the sloop Restauration

Special Event: A tour of Norskedalen followed by dinner and an evening concert by Dan Sebranek. The tour will be Wednesday afternoon.

Program: Eight speaker slots including a beginning genealogy session.

Other: Lag annual membership meetings, Genealogy lab, Silent Auction, Hospitality Room, Banquet and two other meals available, and lots of fellowship.



Elaine Hasleton, Lori Conklin, Nancy Pickering and Marilyn Sorensen



LeeAnn Hokom



Photos from 2024 Stevne provided by Dixie Hansen and Norma Barnes

NHOH Web Page Status Update – Good News/Bad News

GOOD NEWS: After several years of struggling with issues accessing the lag's web page, we finally moved the site to a different hosting company and the www.nhohlag.org page is now up and running again. Hurrah!

BAD NEWS: No updates have been made since sometime in 2022. Since we do not have a webmaster, I am trying to learn how to edit the pages without doing more damage. Email addresses were successfully routed to the board members. It's going to take time to add missing newsletters, add current stevne information, and check existing links on the pages to see that they still work.

If anyone reading this has any experience with web sites or has strong computer skills, I would appreciate any help I can get. It would be nice if someone would volunteer to be the webmaster. Please contact Joy Shong to volunteer. (Send to nhohpres@gmail.com)



The Restauration displays the U.S. and Norwegian flags, symbolic of the 1825 voyage and 200 years of Norwegian immigration to the United States.

In shipshape and Bristol fashion for 2025

Today's Restauration is a beautiful and authentic replica of the ship that sailed from Stavanger to New York City with 52 emigrants in 1825.

Lori Ann Reinhall, Editor-in-chief, The Norwegian American

On July 4, 2025, a replica of the *Restauration* will set sail from Stavanger Harbor to New York City, exactly 200 years after the original ship sailed away. The symbolic meaning of the journey will be two-fold: The journey will commemorate the emigrants who bravely left Norway so long ago, while symbolically raising awareness of the hardships that people today face, as they search for freedom and a better life—some still risking their lives.

The question has often been raised as to what the original *Restauration* really looked like. The answer is that we don't know exactly. Already in 1825 after it arrived in New York, it was sold to St. Thomas and then to St. Croix, and with time, its whereabouts were lost to the pages of history. Most likely, the wooden boat went into disrepair and was eventually scrapped.

The science of photography did not exist in 1825, but over time, there have been artistic renderings of the *Restauration*—all a bit different, depending on a given artist's imagination and inspiration. The type of ship, a sloop, was not an unusual vessel in its day, so many of these paintings may depict a certain historical accuracy. The website wheelerfolk.org devotes an entire page to a gallery of sloop images (visit wheelerfolk.org/sloop/s_photos/album.htm). One of the most famous depictions was used on a 2-cent stamp created by the U.S. Postal Service for the centennial of the ship's arrival in New York City. This stamp, now deemed to be historically inaccurate, was a drawing of a replica built for the celebrations that took place in Minneapolis.

All this said, there are many documents remaining that offer much more specific information about the original ship. Before the new *Restauration* was built by Ryfylke Trebåtbyggjeri in Finnøy outside of Stavanger, extensive research was done in archives to find out as much as possible to build an authentic replica.

In the summer of 2006, the Emigrant Ship Restauration Foundation was established with the goal to “build an authentic replica of the well-known emigrant ship and make the early emigration story known to new generations.” An expert research council that included a professor of archaeology, an engineer, a historian, and expert boat builders with knowledge of historic wooden vessels laid the groundwork for the project, which was slated for completion in 2010.

The original *Restauration* was built in Hardanger in 1801 and was rebuilt in Egersund around 1820. At first, the boat was named *Emanuel*, but after it was rebuilt or restored, it was called the *Restauration*.

Originally, the *Emanuel* was built as a *jakt*, a small, single-masted, fast sailing boat, with a wide and flat hull, probably of Dutch origin. But when the ruin of a ship was restored as the *Restauration*, it was converted into a sloop, a one-masted sailboat with a fore-and-aft mainsail and a jib.

Norwegian historian Gunleif Seldal and member of the expert council commissioned for the construction of the replica writes of the history of the *Restauration*:

“In February 1820, *Restauration* was measured by the customs authorities there and found to have a tonnage of 18½ commercial tons. The sloop resumed its work as a freighter that it had previously done as a *jakt*, and it often called at Stavanger. Five years later, in the winter of 1825, the *Restauration* was purchased by a group of people in the “stable city” of Stavanger who intended to emigrate to the ‘North American Free States.’”



Today's *Restauration* is a beautiful and authentic replica of the ship that sailed from Stavanger to New York City with 52 emigrants in 1825.

In Norway, there is sufficient contemporary documentation of what yachts and sloops looked like in the early 1800s, in the form of line drawings of hulls and drawings of rigging. There are also a number of depictions of yachts and sloops from this time, and old boat-building traditions have been well-preserved. There was a thorough examination of contemporary protocols, documents, illustrations, archaeological finds, and the building methods of the time. In other words, all the prerequisites were in place to build an authentic replica of the sloop *Restauration*.

In the end, the research resulted in a new ship with the following main measurements: maximum length 16.02 meters (52 feet, 7 inches), maximum width 5.25 meters (17 feet, 3 inches). The depth is about 1.8 meters (5 feet, 11 inches), and the weight of the ship is about 44 tons.

With the replica complete and launched at sea on April 15, 2010, at Ryfylke Trebåtbyggjeri in Finnøy, a dream was fulfilled.

The replica ship was certified to carry passengers, and an electric propulsion system was installed as a backup. At the time, the *Restauration* was among the few “green” sea vessels in Norway.

The *Restauration* was officially christened in Stavanger on June 16, 2010. Jill Elaine Russell, an honored guest from Virginia in the United States was invited to christen the ship. Jill was a direct descendant of the original ship's captain, Lars Larsen Geilane.

But it was not always smooth sailing ahead for the new *Restauration*. In 2019, the Emigrant Ship Restauration Foundation faced bankruptcy, and the future of the ship was uncertain. In 2020, Cato Østerhus purchased the boat, and in the spring of 2021, the idealistic group Restauration Venneforening (Restauration Friends Association) was established to raise funds and volunteer work hours for its preservation.

The ship was moored at Utstein Kloster Hotell on the island of Mosterøy. The boat became an attraction at the hotel, where there is also an exhibit on the emigration to North America on display.



In 1925, the U.S. Postal Service issued a 2-cent stamp depicting the *Restauration* for the centennial.

In June 2024, Østerhus sold the *Restauration* to the Restauration Venneforening for the symbolic amount of NOK 5—less than 50 cents at today's exchange rate.

“We are incredibly happy that the *Restauration* is now in our hands,” said Ann Irene Sem-Henriksen, chair of Restauration Venneforening. “This gives us a unique opportunity to strengthen our cultural heritage and share this amazing story with a wider audience.”

The seller, Østerhus, also expressed his happiness about the agreement.

The *Restauration* displays the U.S. and Norwegian flags, symbolic of the 1825 voyage and 200 years of Norwegian immigration to the United States.

“It is reassuring to know that the boat will be well cared for and that its rich history will be conveyed in a respectful and engaging way,” he said

Østerhus continues to be a member of the Restauration Venneforening and actively participates in the continued operation of the ship. And yes, Østerhus will sail to New York on the *Restauration* this summer.

With less than six months left before the *Restauration* sets sail from Stavanger, work is in full force. To follow along this incredible journey, visit restauration.no (in Norwegian and English), and stay tuned here at *The Norwegian American* throughout the year.

All photos courtesy of Restauration Venneforening

Reprinted with permission from the *Norwegian American*.

Norwegian Words

Here are some explanations of words you may come across while working on your family tree:

Fylke: the whole of Norway is administratively divided into fylkes or counties. Presently there are 15 fylkes.

Kommune: each fylke is again divided into kommuner. Presently there are 357 kommuner in Norway and NHOH Lag includes 16 kommuner.

Husmann: a man who lived in a cottage on a farm, at a site called a husmannsplass. Usually he had some petty farm land of his own. He had specific labor duties on the farm.

Bygdebok: a book written about a specific kommune or community (bygd). Often containing genealogical information.

Bygdelag: a member society belonging to a specific community, commune or local district.

Støl: a mountain croft used by the farmers in the summer.

Sokn: a church and it's congregation. Several churches and congregations constitute a prestegjeld (parish).

The 4-Hop Rescue of the Gone-Astray Skramstad Photos

By Dixie Hansen

Since the beginning of the Skramstad photo saga remains an unsolved enigma, we must start in the mysterious middle:



*Only names on reverse: Anton Skramstad, Mrs. Hans (Lena) Skramstad
Melvin Skramstad, Henry Skramstad - about 1913*

Sometime around 2016, Dave LeRud was rummaging around in a garage sale in Detroit Lakes, MN where a collection of old family photographs jumbled together in a zip-lock bag caught his eye. The photos were for sale. A majority of the 100 or so images were name-identified on the reverse and dated (mostly very early 1900s). "Skramstad" figured prominently among the surnames ... but Onsager, Simensen, Johnstone, Berg, and other names were represented too. Though more than a century old, the photographs were in near-perfect condition without the rips, tattered corners, and glue-smeared backs that are typical of a family photo collection. They had been well cared for. Many of the images

were studio portraits but some of the most interesting ones were casual black and white snapshots depicting everyday life on (as it turns out) a North Dakota farm.¹

The faces in the photos were unfamiliar to Dave and he doesn't know what moved him to purchase them, but he did. After he got home he stashed the photos away and didn't pull them out again until the fall of 2023 when his aunt, Mavis LeRud, visited him from her home in Michigan. Dave knew that Mavis was a detective of sorts and wisely decided to turn the photos over to her.

Back home in Michigan, true to her reputation as a sleuth, Mavis began a google search to learn more about the people in the photographs and figure out how they were connected to each other. It didn't take long for her to find a beautiful 38-page "Skramstad Family History" book on the internet written by Sharon (Skramstad) Belgarde. This book was originally published in 1980, but later digitized and re-published in conjunction with a Skramstad family reunion in 2010.

https://issuu.com/skramstadreunion/docs/safe_history_book.²

Unfortunately, there was no current contact information on that website, but Mavis recognized a picture in the book and knew she was on the right track. Moving on, her search led her to an online collection of family trees researched and compiled by members of the Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, also in 2010. Our lag had built the trees in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Østerdalslag (the forerunner to NHOH). The genealogy followed the descendants of thirty families of the 1910/1911 charter members of Østerdalslag. At that time, as part of the centennial project, I published a condensed genealogy of those descendant trees on my website ... and though that website is longer updatable due to long-obsolete software, the stagnant pages, along with my (still correct) contact information, remain online at:

<http://www.dxhansen.com/project2010/index.htm>.

One of the families NHOH researched was that of **Marthinus Hansen Skramstad** and his wife, **Anna Haakansdatter**. In June 1884, Martin and Anna and their children immigrated to the US from Aamot, Hedmark and settled in Romness Twp., Griggs Co., North Dakota. Martin and Anna and two of their 10 children were among the charter member of Østerdalslag. Our research (though by no



Dave LeRud and his Aunt, Mavis LeRud



Supper at the Skramstad Farm about 1911
Marthinus, Anton, Gustav, Grandma (Anna Skramstad), Martin, Helen

means complete) identified 155 descendants of Martin and Anna, both living and deceased, down to the 6th generation.

When Mavis discovered the NHOH project webpages, she contacted me in hopes that I would be able to help her reunite the photos with living members of the Skramstad family who might appreciate them. And, of course, I said yes. She mailed them to me, carefully sorted into family sub-groups (a baggie for each surname).

Once I had the photos, I dug back through my records from our 2010 project and located several old emails between me and 3 Skramstad family members I had contacted during that research. I remembered that they were enthusiastic family historians and that the Skramstads were holding regular family reunions.

Fortunately, I was able to re-connect with all 3 of my 2010 contacts: Holly (Skramstad) Walen and Cindy (Skramstad) Flath, who are great grandchildren of Martin and Anna and 2nd cousins to each other. They both live in North Dakota. And Jane (Skramstad) Cupps, who is a Great-Great Grandchild and lives in Virginia.

They were beyond enthusiastic about the discovery/recovery of the wayward photos and eagerly agreed to take custody of the collection to preserve them for future generations. Cindy volunteered to digitize them to make them easily shareable, and so I sent the photos off to her. Although some of the images were familiar to them (and some were published in Sharon Belgarde's book) the majority were not. And, though there are clues, no one has yet solved the puzzle of who originally collected and stored the photos so carefully or how they ended up "on the loose" at a garage sale in Detroit Lakes.

Whatever their history was prior to the garage sale, the photos took 4 hops through non-family members to arrive back to where they will be cherished by family again:

1. The (un-identified) garage sale vendor to Dave LeRud
2. Dave LeRud to his Aunt, Mavis LeRud
3. Mavis LeRud to NHOH Lag / Dixie Hansen
4. NHOH to Cindy (Skramstad) Flath (*and from Cindy to other Skramstads*).

A few months after the wandering photos were safely back where they belong, Mavis LeRud (the photo detective) made the trip from Michigan to her home state of North Dakota to visit her nephew (the garage sale rescuer) and her childhood stomping grounds. While there, she met at a restaurant for lunch with Cindy (the Skramstad photo digitizer). They had a lot to talk about!



Cindy (Skramstad) Flath and Mavis LeRud

¹ My favorite photo, among those taken on the farm, is the photo of Martin Skramstad with 4 of his grown children gathered around the dining table. "Grandma" (Anna) is standing in what I suppose is the kitchen doorway, knitting needles in hand (it looks like she's working on a sock). I can practically hear her saying "Can I get another sausage for anyone?"

² Follow the internet URL to Sharon Belgarde's [Skramstad Family History](#) book to see the gorgeous studio photo of the immigrant family printed on the cover. And don't miss page 5 for a fascinating picture of the family posed in front of their original dug-out home with a framed addition built on to the front.



Helen Skramstad about 1913



Martin Skramstad - about 1903



Marie Skramstad, Josephine Knutson,
& Helen Skramstad - 1920



Harvesting at the M.H. Skramstad Farm
approx 1913

Who was the “husmann”?

By Martin Roe Eidhammer

Reprinted from the Fall 2018 issue of NHOH News



A cotter's place probably situated in Sunndal, Møre og Romsdal.
The persons are not known. Photo by Ole J Gravem d.e. Stiftelsen
Nordmøre Museum License: [CC ShareAlike](#)

The term “husmann” appears in all the sources we use in Norwegian genealogy.

The term “husmann” is generally translated into English as cotter or crofter. Norwegian cotter's conditions were a little different from those in other countries.

We may find this term in several sources as *husmann*, *huusmand*, *pladsemand*. This is the man in the family. The wife is normally described as *huusmandskone* or *pladsemandskone*. The couple may be referred to by the term *pladsefolk* or *plassefolk*. *Strandsitter* may be used to refer to cotters living by water.

Within the scope of this article the conditions of the husmann will be covered in very

general terms.

The “social class” cotter (“Husmann”) was a person who lived on a piece of land that did not appear as a separate entity in the land register. The owner had to pay the taxes on this land. The cotters rented this land and paid either in money or by working at the farm. Some cotters had land where they could do a little farming and keep a few animals (often a cow for milk). Other cotters had no land and had to rely on some kind of handcrafts to support their family. Cotters are often looked upon as very poor people. Some definitely were, but it is not possible to generalize, because the conditions from one cotter family to the next did vary a lot. There were also big differences from district to district. Cotters who performed some kind of handcrafts; ie, cobblers, tailors, etc., were able to earn a decent living.

The term Husmann was used as far back as in the late 1200's. At this time and through the next centuries it referred to a lodger or a person who had no permanent employment and took odd jobs. Husmann could also be used about a man who had retired and was now supported by younger people, often his son or daughter's family. Finally, husmann could be used to describe a person who cleared a piece of land and settled there.

These explanations though, are **not** relevant for the husmann we meet in the Norwegian sources from about 1700 and onward.

To understand the term cotter we need to look at the population growth that started in the early 1700's, going back to the middle of the 1300's and the Black plague, we learn that in this epidemic 50 to 60% of the population in Norway died ([Wikipedia: Svartedauden](#)). It took about 400 years for the population to grow to the number it was before the Black plague struck Norway ([Wikipedia: Norges demografi](#)).

There were different ways to meet the needs of the increasing number of households. The farms that were left abandoned during the black plague were re-inhabited. There was an extensive cultivating of land that had not earlier been farmed. Some of the new households were provided for by splitting the old farms into smaller farm parts. There is a limit to how small a farm can be and still provide for a household. The most extensive splitting of farms took place in areas where one could get additional income. This was the situation on the coast where the fisheries provided income. Also, in areas adjacent to mines or rich forests there was extensive farm splitting.

Cotters were divided into two categories -

Husmann med jord; i.e., the cotter had land where he could raise a crop and keep animals.

Husmann uten jord; i.e., the cotter had no land and was dependent of an income from paid work or a handcraft.

The farmers reasons for letting someone live as cotters on their land –

- **Help out a son/brother to get an income.** The oldest son inherited the farm, but another son could get a livelihood by living as a cotter at the farm.
- **Extra income from rent - Monetary.** This husmann's conditions were similar to the renter (leilending). He is sometimes called a Bygslingshusmann. If the cotter worked on the landlord's farm, he would be paid for this work. This kind of agreements were often found in areas where the cotter had the possibility to earn some money on the side; i.e., from or fishing, mining or forestry. Also, a cotter who performed a handcraft; i.e., tailoring, shoemaking etc. could pay rent for his cotter's place.
- **Rent paid in natural goods.** This is similar to the conditions of the sharecropper.
- **Have the seasonal help needed at hand** not having to pay for year-round employed farm hands. Many cotter's agreements stated that the cotter work a defined number of days at certain times of the year. Sometimes the cotter's children were required to shepherd the landlord's animals while they grazed in the forests/mountains.
- **Have more of the land cleared and farmed (rydningshusmann).** Some husmenn rented a piece of land that had not previously been cleared. Their first task would be to clear the land and build houses. Most of the agreements stated that the land would go back to the farm when the cotter died. This would slowly increase the cultivated land of the farm. There were also landlords who accepted that the lease of the cotter's place was handed down to the oldest son of the cotter.

The Cotter's contract

Prior to 1750 the cotters had very little protection in the laws. In 1750 regulations were put in place. These stated that the agreement had to be written. The regulations stated that as long as the cotter fulfilled the terms, the contract was valid for the cotter's lifetime. Regulations were amended several times ([Lokalhistoriewiki](#)). The cotters agreements varied greatly.

Here are some of the most common terms that were defined in these contracts.

- A description of the land (Cotter's place) with boundaries.
- A statement about the cotter's duty to maintain the houses on the cotter's place.
- Which and how much of the farms resources the cotter was allowed to use, e.g. wood for building materials and firewood.
- Grazing of the cotter's animals on the farm's outfield.
- How the rent is paid. In work on the farm, in natural goods or in money (or a combination).

Hopefully this little presentation has helped you get an understanding of the "Husmann's" condition. As pointed out, their lives varied, and it is hard to tell exactly how each of our ancestors lived.

The search for Norwegians in Utah

Why did many Norwegian emigrants in the United States become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? At the beginning of Crossings 200, the anniversary that will mark 200 years since the emigration from Norway to the United States began, Liv Marit Haakenstad travels to Utah to research the topic.

Liv Marit Haakenstad, who lives in Hamar, is a genealogist and author. The research project will be published as a book. "Norwegians in Utah 1825-1920" is an as-yet uncharted territory and is the story of those who moved west to Utah, many of them for religious reasons. In the period 1825-1920, 771,583 Norwegians emigrated, most of them to the United States and many to the upper Midwest.

In 1825, the sloop Restauration left Stavanger with the first group of emigrants from Norway. There were probably 51 emigrants on board when they traveled, and 52 when they arrived in New York with a newborn baby on board. In 2025, the 200th anniversary of the "Sloopers" will be commemorated both in Norway and in the United States. Some of this original group moved in 1834 to Fox River, Illinois, and founded a Norwegian settlement there. This was not far from the then headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Nauvoo. Several of "The Sloopers" converted to the denomination that was then called the Mormons (today known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). Other converts went directly from Norway or came from Norwegian settlements in Wisconsin. In 1847, many of them traveled from Fox River to Utah after experiencing persecution and hardship because of their faith.

Haakenstad's project includes not only members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but all Norwegians who traveled to Utah. The research project raises several questions about the Norwegian emigration westwards, as this largely revolved around religious emigration. They still wanted a better life, but many of them wanted to do so because they had experienced religious persecution. So, who went to Utah? What background did they have in terms of education, occupation, and religion? What was their origin in Norway? What was their life like in Utah? What about those who built Lutheran churches around the Salt Lake Valley? Who were they, and why did they come to Utah?

After a trial in the Supreme Court of Norway in 1853, converts to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were not considered Christians under the Dissenter Act of 1845, which caused much unrest for those who had converted. What is said about these converts in Norwegian- American literature, newspapers, and other sources? What was written about them in Norway, and how did it affect the converts in Utah? What was the attitude toward these converts? How were they treated by the government, the state, and the society around them?

Haakenstad will conduct research at the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University (BYU) for four months starting January 2025. This gives her a unique opportunity to do research in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' own archives. She will also be a visiting professor at BYU.

The project will end in a book project, and it has so far received financial support from the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at BYU, and Independent Researcher grants from the Church History Library and Museum of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. More funding is still needed to complete the project.

Liv Marit Haakenstad is interested in getting in touch with those who know about Norwegian emigrants who traveled to Utah in the period 1825-1920 and has prepared a form to fill out for those who want to contribute to the research project.

Further information:

Liv Marit Haakenstad is an accredited genealogist at Norwegian Genealogy (AG®), accredited speaker (AGL™), works as an author and professional genealogist. She has a master's degree in non-fiction writing.

Contact information for Liv Marit Haakenstad:

Phone: +47 990 18 255

Email: utahnor@studygenealogy.com

Project website: <https://www.studygenealogy.com/norwegians-in-utah/>

Haakenstad's website: <https://www.studygenealogy.com/about-us/>

Book about Norwegian Genealogy (*A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration*) – see https://www.amazon.com/Guide-Norwegian-Genealogy-Emigration-Transmigration/dp/B0BBYB8TF5/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=liv+marit+haakenstad&qid=1693583310&sprelix=Liv+Marit%2Caps%2C204&sr=8-1

The Emigration Museum's review of Haakenstad's research project in Utah:
<https://utvandermuseet.no/2025/nordmenn-i-utah-1825-1920>

Is my Wright the right Wright?

By Barb Lewison

I have a coworker named Ben Wright. We have been talking about genealogy for a couple years. At the time, he was using MyHeritage for storing his family tree and I was using Ancestry. Both of us have the apps on our phones for handy reference.

One day I mentioned that I thought I had a Wright in my family tree. So of course I had to look and sure enough I had a 6th great grandmother named Mary Francis Wright (1665-1735). Her great granddaughter Sarah Belden was married to Jacob Bidwell (John, John, David). My tree only had 2 more male Wrights before Mary Francis but I had a leaf which meant hints.

Up to that point Ben's and my trees did not match. I spend some of the weekend extending this branch of my tree. I added 6 more Wrights to the tree. I then printed off my Wright family tree that consisted of 9 generations. On our first break on Monday we compared our updated trees. The last Wright added was the right Wright. So Ben and I are something like 15th cousins but that's good enough for us. We are now greeting each other as cousin.



Syttende Mai - May 17, 2018

Photo Courtesy of Chris Falteisek

Welcome New Members

NHOH Ancestors from:

Scott Helstad, Winona, MN	Ringsaker
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NHOH TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1 – December 31, 2024

BALANCE 1/1/2024		\$8,055.53
Income		
Interest	\$28.44	
Donations - Genealogy	\$140.00	
Donations - Unrestricted	\$90.00	
Membership Dues	\$552.00	
Stevne Silent Auction	\$225.50	
	Total Income	\$1,035.94
		\$9,091.47
Disbursements		
Newsletter	-\$1,199.84	
Fees	-\$242.90	
Bygdebøker-Genealogy	-\$161.14	
	Total Disbursements	-\$1,603.88
BALANCE 12/31/2024		\$7,487.59

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

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** _____

Genealogy Donation _____

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

Total Enclosed _____