

1st QUARTER 2022

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THIRD DISTRICT TODAY



TDT



NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE 3rd DISTRICT



FEBRUAR

Here it is February – And yes, although we are still dealing with the pandemic let's focus on some happy thoughts: Hopefully the virus will see a plateau soon and we will begin to readjust to what we have learned and become in these past 2 years.

Technology- many of our members have talked with others via video calls at some point since the pandemic's onset. Many of us have used technology or the internet in ways that were new or different to us. But to be fair we would have liked to have had those interactions in person, but instead had online or over the phone - useful – but not a replacement for in-person contact.

Installation of new officers: If your new or returning officers are being installed or have already been installed, we congratulate them and offer our support. I am deeply grateful and proud of our lodge leadership who continue to face the many and often difficult obstacles this pandemic continues to bring to our lodges with renewed determination and resilience. You get to take an active role in helping your lodge become a better place. I expect our lodge membership to support, in any way they can, those who have taken on this responsibility. Have your Delegates been chosen for the upcoming Convention? Leadership roles filled? Committees organized? Share the experience. This saves single members taking on the majority of a burden.

Celebrate We are happy to celebrate Saami People's Day on Sunday Feb. 6 and Norway's Mother's Day on Feb 13. Valentine's Day is February 14th – let's share some love with our members.

Fastelavn-the Norwegian answer to Carnival. This year it is søndag 27. Februar (Sunday, February 27). This holiday occurs seven weeks before Easter Sunday and is sometimes described as a Nordic Halloween, with children dressing up in costumes and gathering treats for the Fastelavn feast. The holiday is generally considered to be a time for children's

fun and family games. Why not try to bring some festivity to your lodge meeting. Adults are ready to have fun along with the kids. Funny hats, decorating masks, what brings a smile to your lodge members. In Norway a popular baked good associated with the day is Fastelavnsboller ("Fastelavns bun", also known in English as "shrovetide bun" or "lenten bun"), a round sweet roll usually covered with icing and sometimes filled with whipped cream. Yummm.

Scholarship -Those of us with adult children or grandchildren may wish to pose the questions to them as to what might interest their peers. Whether their interests lie in financial products, travel, culture or heritage, Sons of Norway has a lot to offer, including the assistance of Financial Benefits Counselors and the fellowship and philanthropy opportunities of your local lodge. The Sons of Norway Foundation Scholarship season is upon us. Check them out and see if there is help for members, child, or grandchild - www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation for complete information. Fraternally,

Kathy Dollymore,

3 D President

District 3 Secretary's Letter– Jan/Feb 2022

Dear Lodge Secretaries,

Below is information for your 2022 work as secretaries. Make sure that you have completed the D-63 Officer Update Form even if your lodge did not have an election, that you order directories for your lodge, and that you remind your lodge to begin thinking about electing delegates for the June Convention in Jacksonville. Tusen takk for all that you do for Sons of Norway.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Addison, District Three Secretary

JLAnorge@aol.com, (717)793-7428, 1574 Rosewood Lane, York, PA 17403



Location of Forms and Deadlines

Sons of Norway website www.sofn.com

Log In/ Member Resources/ Lodge Leadership Resources/ Administrative Resources/ Lodge Forms or Governance

Third District website www.3dsofn.org

Go to "Download important documents and forms"

Both websites have plenty of other great information, such as the Third District's TDT (Third District Today). Please acquaint yourself with them. You can find a good list of yearly important deadlines for Lodge business on the Sons of Norway website www.sofn.com at Log In/Member Resources/ Lodge Leadership Resources/ Administrative Resources/ Important Deadlines.

IMPORTANT 2021- 2022 DEADLINES:

December 2021– D17 and D18 forms, instructions, and timeline sent to lodge treasurers

Dec. 31, 2021 - Lodge Officer Update/ D63 form due to Sons of Norway Membership Services. All lodges, whether in an election year or not, must complete.

Dec., 2021 (STILL ACCEPTING) – Mail an expense receipt and a brief statement to the District Secretary for the \$100 Fraternal Fund reimbursement that was sent to your lodge.

Jan. 10, 2022 – Third District Directory Order Form (on www.3dsofn.org) due to District Secretary.

Jan.-Feb.-March, 2022 – Lodge Installation Form (on www.3dsofn.org) sent to District Secretary after Lodge has installation ceremony.

Jan.-Feb.-early March – Lodge delegates to the June 2022 District Lodge Meeting/Convention selected

Jan. – Feb. – Mar – District Board Candidate Applications completed.

Feb. 15, 2022 – American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) form, that will be mailed to you, is due if your lodge does not record volunteer hours on www.fraternalgive.org

Feb. 20, 2022 – Fraternal Funds application (on www.3dsofn.org) due to District Secretary.

April 30, 2022 – List of deceased lodge members' names from your lodge due to the District Secretary. Include those who died between March 2018 – April 2022 (Yes, all 4 years, since the 2020 Convention was cancelled.) See "Death Notices" section at bottom of this document.

Lodge Anniversaries

Coming in 2022: Fredriksten - Feb. 12, 110th
Suncoast - March 5, 45th
Troll - April 8, 55th
North Carolina Vikings - April 20, 15th
Dovre - May 27, 100th
Hampton Roads - July 1, 50th
Norden - July 14, 85th
Nor-Bu - Sept. 19, 80th
Bernt Balchen - Sept. 22, 45th
Norge - Oct. 20, 95th

Annual D-63 Forms

Sons of Norway requires every lodge secretary to annually complete the D-63 lodge officer form on www.sofn.com to report any change in officer positions or no change. The deadline for it is December 31, 2021, but it would greatly help me and Sherry Gorse at headquarters each year if you could send all names earlier. It is always wise to double-check the exact spelling and numbers in your lodge members' addresses, emails, and phone numbers prior to completing the form. After you have submitted your form, I will receive a copy from Sons of Norway and that is what I will use to make the annual Third District Directory in January 2022.

2022 Third District Directories for Sale

Would you like your lodge officers to receive a directory? The District is selling them again. Each lodge will receive one free copy and the cost for any more will be \$7.00 each. Fill out the **Third District Directory Order Form** on www.3dsofn.org under Forms and Documents. Mail a check (payable to "Sons of Norway District Three" and with "Directory" in the memo box) and the completed form to Jeanne Addison, 1574 Rosewood Lane, York, PA 17403 or JLAnorge@aol.com before January 10, 2022. She will then mail all copies to the lodge secretary. You can also scan the completed form to me and then mail your check.

Fraternal Funds

Lodges in good standing received a one-time gift of \$100 during 2021 from the Third District. The District is asking every lodge to provide a brief statement and receipt showing some **cultural expense** that the lodge incurred during the 2021 year of Covid. This is for the District's Fraternal Funds records. If your lodge has not done so, please send the information to Jeanne Addison, JLAnorge@aol.com, 1574 Rosewood Lane, York, PA 17403.

Also, think about whether your Lodge would like to apply for **other Fraternal Funds**. These funds are given for lodge cultural activities **that have already occurred** and are voted upon at the Fall and Spring Third District Board Meetings. The next time the Board will vote on requests is March 4, 2022. The Fraternal Funds form is located on www.3dsofn.org under Documents and Forms. **Receipts must accompany the form.** Any lodge cultural expense, **even the cost of a Zoom contract**, can be reimbursed partially or fully by Fraternal Funds. Please have the application and receipts sent to the District Secretary by February 20, 2022.

Applications for New District Three Officers for June 2022-June 2024 Term

The Nominating Committee of District Three will be taking applications and suggestions from you for anyone you know who might be a good candidate for the Board. Anyone who would like to be on the District Board must be 18 years old, be a member in good standing (current on their paid membership), and own a Sons of Norway Insurance or annuity product. Applications can be obtained on the Third District website, www.3dsofn.org or from a member of the Third District Nominating Committee, Barbara Berntsen. Her contact information is 10 Pershing Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580, barbarajb1230@optonline.net. Applications will be sent to her. Now is a good time to think about whether you or others would like to contribute to our District's Board. New Board members are installed at the June District Lodge Meeting/Convention.

Lodge Delegates and Non-Delegates for the June 2022 District Lodge Meeting/Convention

Delegates will be elected by lodges as in the past, and the number allowed per lodge will be determined after the District Secretary receives the Dec. 31, 2021 membership numbers. Each lodge should then select delegates in January, February, or early March. Information on the Delegate packages and Non-

delegate packages will be available very soon on the Third District website. Now is a good time to start thinking about whether you or others in your lodge would like to represent your lodge as a delegate in Jacksonville. Delegates would also be asked to attend one short Zone Caucus meeting ahead of the Convention, be a Sons of Norway member in good standing (membership paid), and be 18 (probably not a problem!).

Writing Resolutions for the 2022 District Lodge Meeting at the Convention

There is a template form and instructions that must be used to submit any resolutions a lodge would like to see brought to the local Zone Caucus Meeting and then possibly to the District Lodge Meeting. This template helps to make all resolutions consistent in format. A deadline date for submitting resolutions will be set in the future and will be approximately March 15, 2022.

Go to the District website's home page at www.3dsofn.org, scroll down to "Download Important Forms and Documents", click, then scroll down to "New- Required Lodge Form for Writing Convention Resolutions" and click.

2022 District Lodge Meeting and Convention

Mark your calendars. The date has been set, and conventions are always fun and a great way to meet other Sons of Norway members! Each lodge may send a certain number of delegates to the meeting, and non-delegates can attend the Convention.

Here is a welcome letter and update from the convention committee:

2022 District 3 Convention June 10 -13, 2022* (Friday – Monday)

The members and leadership of the award-winning Gateway to Florida Lodge in Jacksonville, FL, are pleased to host the 2022 District 3 Convention. We are no strangers to planning and implementing conventions, having successfully hosted the 2014 International Convention, only the second time for a Florida lodge to do so in Sons of Norway history. We have a strong and diverse membership and have been recognized several times as the District 3 Large Lodge of the Year. We are consistent performers in membership growth and retention and have achieved SON recognition in many membership campaigns. We also have a very active Viking boat program participating in the long-running Florida Regattas and in many annual Light Parades held in north Florida, which have given both our lodge and Sons of Norway exceptional visibility and name recognition.

Since the 2020 district and international conventions were suspended until 2022 because of the world-wide pandemic which necessitated extensive lockdowns of businesses, we met with the hotel in the fall of 2020 to revisit plans for 2022. We continued frequent communications with District President Kathy Dollymore and our committees and key volunteers are in place. We have re-selected the Doubletree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront situated on the banks of the St. Johns River in downtown Jacksonville. As stated in previous communications, the hotel has 293 well-appointed rooms with walkout balconies, including 33 suites; 100 percent non-smoking; wireless high-speed internet access available throughout the hotel; 40-inch flat panel television in each room; Crabtree & Evelyn bath products; 24-hour fitness studio; outdoor riverfront pool; several dining options including Ruth Chris Steakhouse; a lobby lounge and many other amenities. Bellmen, valet, and self-parking are available. The hotel does not have a shuttle, so those flying into the Jacksonville Airport will have to use Super Shuttle or another car service.

Room rates remain the same: standard, \$124; riverfront, \$144; Jr. Suite \$164. The current tax rate is 13 percent.

Parking: The daily self-parking rate of \$12 has been waived to zero; daily valet parking is \$20 plus 7 percent tax.

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, June 9:	District Board arrives Committees may arrive
Friday, June 10:	Delegates arrive District Board meets Friday morning Golfing provided either Thursday or Friday morning depending on interest Memorial Service at 5 p.m. (hotel) President's Welcome Reception/Evening 6:30-10 p.m. (hotel/poolside)
Sat., June 11:	Business session from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. AM & PM coffee breaks with Scandinavian goodies Lunch in Ruth Chris steakhouse (included in registration) Lodge event Viking Auction
Sunday, June 12:	Business session continues, 8:30 a.m. – until business is concluded. AM coffee break with Scandinavian goodies Lunch –on your own Installation 5 p.m.

Monday, June 13: Reception (cash bar) 6 p.m.
Grand Banquet 7 p.m.
Delegates depart
District board meets
Convention concluded

Other Planning Items:

- Hotel food costs will increase at least 3 percent
- Number of registrants for planning (75-80)
- Final AV costs must be determined (hotel is changing companies)
- Theme may be changed since we are past our 125th anniversary
- Break-out sessions Sunday following close of business to be determined by President/District board
- We will have a convention journal with advertising opportunities
- Convention merchandise will be limited.
- Other details to be discussed/considered as we move forward
- Delegate and non-delegate pricing; individual pricing for Friday evening, Saturday lunch, Sat. lodge event and Sunday banquet

The location of the Friday evening welcome reception has changed because the area is being redeveloped.

*Note: this is the second weekend in June compared to the 2020 date of the first weekend in June.

Lodge Officers Must Be in Good Standing

According to Sons of Norway, all lodge officers must pay their current membership dues in order to continue being officers. Check your membership list, which is found on your profile page at the Sons of Norway website, to see if any of your officers are not up-to-date on their membership fee.

Paper Lodge Membership Applications Need Correction

On printed, paper lodge membership applications, there is a section requesting a credit card number. Cross that section out on your forms if your lodge still has some paper applications. It is no longer to be used. The only way that new members can pay their membership dues by credit card is by going to the Sons of Norway website and registering online. This change is being done for credit card security reasons. If a new member or renewing member wants to use a paper application, they must write a check payable to "Sons of Norway" and cannot pay by credit card.

More on New membership forms

Please remind members to provide their member number to those they invite to join, so that Sons of Norway can recognize this accomplishment with a certificate and limited-edition 2021 Recruiter Pin. Enrollment forms are available from Sons of Norway headquarters and online. For online form access, first login at sofn.com, then go to **Lodge Leadership Resources and continue to Membership Forms**. New members of nonvoting lodges may also sign up directly at sofn.com.

Tubfrim

The program continues, but there will be no prize travel vouchers as in the past. The Third District's Tubfrim Chairperson is Kjell Kittilsen. You can reach him by mail at 871 70th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228 or by phone at 718-680-4684. The Sons of Norway website, www.sofn.com, has information about Tubfrim.

Sons of Norway Foundation

Emily Stark is the new staff member at Sons of Norway in Minneapolis working on the Foundation.

October is Foundation Month. Encourage contributions in your lodge. The Sons of Norway website www.sofn.com has plenty of information. If your lodge received donations, please forward them to Emily Stark.

Dirk Hansen of Southern Star Lodge in Myrtle Beach is the Foundation Director for the Third District. He can be reached at han-senoaks@lowcountry.com.

Change in Governance in Sons of Norway

*Adapted information for all lodges from District President Kathy Dollymore's statement in the most recent Restauration Lodge's Slooper newsletter:

Some Sons of Norway news from Minnesota is that Sons of Norway is changing how it does business from a convention-voting to a direct-voting governance change. The referendum was overwhelmingly voted upon by our International Delegates. This will be announced in the [Viking Magazine](#). Very little will change in normal lodge functioning. We will still vote on officers and conduct business as before. The one change will be in all District Conventions. The goal for District Conventions is to become a "Member Experience", focusing on celebrating Norwegian culture and heritage with time for district updates and lodge leadership development.

Pause on Local Lodge Bylaws Update

Sons of Norway has recently asked lodges to pause in updating Lodge Bylaws because of the changes in governance that are being worked on at Sons of Norway. Good news, you get a reprieve! If you and your lodge were diligent in the last year, updated your Bylaws, sent them to Minneapolis, and haven't heard anything, just be patient.

Death Notices and District and Zone Memorial Services

If one of your lodge members passes away, please send or have one of your officers send an official death notice to the Sons of Norway headquarters. You will need to go to the website www.sofn.com to obtain the necessary form. Then Log In/ Member Resources box/ Lodge Leadership Resources/ Administrative Resources/ Lodge Forms/ Notice of Death – Form 10A.

It is wise to print the 4 notices that are shown on one page, because you can use all of them. Send the copies to the following:

Sons of Norway Headquarters, 1455 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Include a note saying that you would like the name of the deceased member printed in the In Loving Memory section of [Viking Magazine](#).

Your lodge membership records.

Your lodge's list of deceased members' names and information for your next Zone Memorial Service. This list will be given to the Zone Director or Zone Secretary prior to the Memorial Service.

Your lodge's list of deceased members' names and information for the biennial District Lodge Meeting/Convention where there is also a Memorial Service.

You can obtain the member # and address of the deceased on your Membership lists (after logging in, see your profile on the Sons of Norway website). It is very important that you also take note of the birth date AND "Member Effective Since" date. Keep these dates for the Zone Memorial Service and Convention Memorial Service.

2022 International Convention Update from *Marci Larson, International Secretary*

International President Ron Stubbings has shared this information:

The convention will be held August 31 - September 1, 2022. First-time delegates arrive for training on August 30. Delegates will depart September 2.

Here is the information about the venue—be sure and take the virtual tour of the hotel on its website. It looks like a lovely place for a Convention or vacation!

[Omni Viking Lakes Hotel](#)

2611 Nordic Way
Eagan, MN 55121

From Falmouth to Lauderdale - District 3 Happenings

Færder Lodge 3-109

In the 4th quarter issue of the TDT, lodge member Aksel Andresen, was featured in this same section of the TDT along with a brief explanation of the pictures. Here in more detail, is more about Aksel and his experiences.

Aksel Andresen and Sylvia Kristiansen received an invitation from Prime Minister Solberg to attend the August 19th *Liberation Day Ceremony and Luncheon* at the Oslo Opera House. The ceremony was originally scheduled to take place last year on the 75th anniversary of Norway's Liberation, May 8th. However, the ceremony was canceled due to COVID-19. King Harald, Crown Prince Haakon, Princess Astrid, and other dignitaries greeted and honored Aksel and thirteen other WWII Norwegian Krigsseilerne Veterans (Norwegian War Sailors).

At the September 2021, Sons of Norway Faerder Lodge meeting, Aksel shared photos of the ceremony. Aksel and the other veterans were honored for their services during WWI as Merchant Marines. We must remember that Norway went to war in 1940, two years before America got involved, and they were the ones who constantly had to traverse the Atlantic Ocean, trying to avoid the German U-boats and mines. The Norwegian War Sailors (Krigsseilerne) suffered the most casualties per capita of any armed forces in WWII, and more than half of the Norwegian fleet was lost. The horrors of war did not exclude the Merchant Marine. Merchant Mariners suffered some of the most gruesome deaths of the war. Following U-boat attacks, they were scalded to death in boiler explosions; drowned in icy waters; choked to death ingesting oily seawater.

Aksel was born in Kristiansand, Norway on October 10, 1922. In 1938, age 16, he wanted to see America and came to New York to work as a merchant marine on Norwegian ships. When Germany invaded Norway on April 9-1940, Aksel and the Norwegian ships that were in allied waters at the time were requisitioned by the Royal Norwegian Government.



After the end of WWII, Aksel returned to New York and settled in Brooklyn in the area then known as the Norwegian Colony. Aksel married in 1947 at the Norwegian Seamen's Church, Brooklyn. Aksel had two daughters and his surviving daughter lives in Florida. He and his long-time partner, Sylvia Kristiansen, live in Brooklyn where both are active Faerder Lodge members. The lodge recently celebrated Aksel's 50th Sons of Norway Anniversary.

Victoria Hofmo, President of the Scandinavian East Coast Museum, arranges for the annual Norwegian War Sailors ceremony in Battery Park, NYC, at the *Stone Monument*. This monument was given by the Norwegian War Sailors and Navy to honor, *not to them-*

selves or their fallen colleagues, but to the people of the United States of America, in memory of help and hospitality shown during our mutual struggle for freedom and peace in WWII. Aksel is the last surviving Krigsseilerne veteran living in New York.

Loyal Lodge 3-252

In August 2021, the 98-meter-long tall ship S/S *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* set sail from Arendal, Norway for its 20-month long The One Ocean Expedition circumnavigation of the globe.

On The One Ocean Expedition, *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* is serving as a floating university and training ves-

sel combined, bringing students, scientists, trainees and professionals together on different voyage legs to collect high-quality data continuously measuring for instance ? levels of CO₂, micro-plastic, ocean acidification and ocean temperature.



On December 18th, Loyal Lodge President Eric Johansson and his daughter Kiersten were part of a small contingency of invited guests of Norwegian Ambassador Anniken Krutnes to greet the *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* on its arrival to New York. Early on the 18th, the guests departed Chelsea Pier, Manhattan and were ferried by the Motor Yacht *Manhattan* to the *Statsraad Lehmkuhl*, anchored off Liberty Island in New York Harbor. During the Motor Yacht ride the guests were welcomed by the Ambassador, Consul General, and Foundation Director. *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* foundation representative provided history of the ship and its current mission of The One Ocean Expedition and then Mr. Tonny Algrøy from Kongsberg Maritime provided a broad overview of its company's scientific equipment being used aboard the

Statsraad Lehmkuhl. One of the most remarkable aspects of this expedition is the scientific collaboration of scientists uniting in a single effort to improve our earth's environment - and even more so inspiring aboard a century's-old tall ship! *All are invited to track the S.S. Statsraad Lehmkuhl voyage at <https://oneoceanexpedition.com/>* Below are some interesting facts of this tall ship:

- 1914 - this three-masted Barque was built in Bremerhaven, Germany and named *Grossherzog Friedrich August*
- Length - 98 metres
- Beam - 12.6 metres
- Draught - 5.2 metres
- Mast Height - 48 metres
- Top Speed: Engine 11 knots, Sail 18.5 knots
- 1918 - Seized as War reparation by the British Empire
- 1921 - Bought by former Norwegian cabinet minister Kristofer Lehmkuhl and named *S.S. Statsraad Lehmkuhl* ("Cabinet Minister Lehmkuhl")
- 1940 - Captured by Germany and renamed *Westwärts*
- 1945 - Returned to Norway as the *S.S. Statsraad Lehmkuhl*

Norsk Carolina 3-679

Lodge members celebrate Jul at the Waldhorn Restaurant in Pineville, NC



Fredriksten Lodge 3-125



Fredriksten celebrated Christmas this year along with members of their local Danish Community.



Washington Lodge 3-428

normally holds a 2-day Christmas Festival every December, but for the last 2 years we've held a series of smaller offerings over 4 days, with reserved timed entry, to maintain a safe environment both inside and outside the Lodge. Luckily, the weather was good for our outdoor Nordic Café, seen above, where we offered freshly made waffles and lefse, pea soup, Norwegian-style hotdogs and reindeer hotdogs, imported Solo, and a variety of pastries. Funds earned from this event support our "Norway House" and our charitable



giving which includes the SON Foundation, the Alzheimer's Association through the 3D, Ski for Light, and six local charities.



Nansen Lodge 3-410



Nansen member Kurt Strom celebrated his 100th birthday at a lodge meeting on Dec 3rd. with family and friends.

Nansen members enjoying Paul Kornbrekke's Glogg with Lillian Kuell president at lodge Christmas party.



Hampton Roads Lodge 3-522



Hampton Roads Lodge was able to finish off 2021 with two bazaars. Although they were slightly different from our past bazaars due to covid, we were still able to enjoy all of the benefits that they bring. We held our standard Hampton Roads Scandinavian **Christmas** Bazaar in Virginia Beach and our first Norge Norsemen Scandinavian **Christmas** Bazaar in Williamsburg (Norge). These bazaars are fantastic events that we show the public and enjoy

for ourselves, the camaraderie of our members sharing their Norwegian heritage and culture. When the public sees this, they want to be a part of it. In fact, we were able to join 35 new members this past November from the two bazaars.

Since these two Christmas Bazaars were held in back to back weekends in two different locations, a great deal of planning and coordination was necessary to make



Notice the craftsmanship of the wood flooring in the Norge Norsemen's Meeting Hall



Vivian Zingarelli

them both such a resounding success. Both Hampton Roads members and the Norge Norsemen members were totally committed to these bazaars success. 3-522 members Vivian Zingarelli and Elizabeth Kamosa are great examples of this commitment.—ED.



Elizabeth Kamosa



Hampton Roads Satellite Lodge Bazaar in Norge, Virginia

Southern Star Lodge 3-630

Svein Nilsen from Southern Star Lodge receives his 50 year Service Achievement Certificate from Lodge President, Karen McIlrath,



Nordkap Lodge 3-215



Nordkap Lodge President, Gary Romsaas receives 100 Year Anniversary Plaque from District President Dollymore

Nordkap celebrated their 100 Year Anniversary in grand style.



Blå Fjell Lodge- 3-646

Icelandic Viking Day

Blå Fjell Lodge has been celebrating the Icelandic Viking Day for 10 years at Faith Christian School in Roanoke, Va. This is the lodge's "Adopt a School" highlight of the year for 4th graders. Prior to the actual "Viking Day," the students learned a lot about these explorers. These activities were presented first by the teacher, Angie Wolpert and Cheri Johnson, who wrote and coordinated the program:

1. Read the book Leif the

Lucky

2. Learn about Leif Eriksson with emphasis on him being a Christian
3. Color a picture of Leif
4. Make a paper ship with colorful designs
5. Learn to write in Runic on a piece of wood, wooden spoon, and paper
6. Design and color a 14' cardboard shield for a shield wall
7. Read the book First Born - Snorri Thorfinnsson about Gudrid, mother of Snorri, first baby born in North America
8. Create a costume to wear on Viking Day

On the morning of Viking Day, the head of school, Peter Baur, and Cheri Johnson greet the students in full costume. Then Viking Day begins. It is a culminating activity to a month's study of Icelandic Vikings. The emphasis has been on Leif Eriksson becoming a Christian and the culture of these Vikings. This is done by understanding their ships, travels, way of living, and story telling adventures from Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland.

These activities happen on Viking Day:

1. Sons of Norway members arrive
2. Pictures are taken of Children in costume, shield wall, and Sons of Norway members
3. Everyone proceeds to a large room with exhibits on Norway, Longhouse Living, Ships and Voyages, and Story telling
4. SON members go to each table and present information already prepared and share items at the table
5. Children rotate to tables in groups of 4 for 20 min. each
6. After the sessions, children gather on the floor for a story of Puffins and information about these Icelandic seabirds



Then comes the party! The parents have prepared an authentic meal of Viking food served on wood-ware. The children and SON members enjoy this treat. The meal consists of: Chicken Stew, Kissel, a berry drink, Berries, apples, and Cheese, and Viking Bread. Water is their drink. Then the SON members depart, the parents clean up, and the children go to recess to fight with their swords and shields.

This year was extra special because one of our members, Helen De Vries wanted to come help so the students made her cards for her 90th birthday! It was sweet! Dirk Hansen, our Zone Director, made the trip from Mrytle Beach to teach the children about Ships, Voy-ages, and Puffins That was special!

Many thanks to the Blå Fjell members who participated: Sharon Rohrback, Joanne Barfield, Kathy Clark, Helene De Vries, and Marilyn Barrier. This Viking Day was created and organized by Cheri Johnson, our Children's Program Coordinator. Cheri made 3 trips to the school, prior to Viking Day, to teach about Leif Eriksson, Gudrid, and Runic Writing. Team work and Parents, along with administrative support made this all possible. It was an amazing experience for all.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Cheri Johnson at lovcollies@aol.com



And if that wasn't enough-
Blå Fjell Lodge celebrated their 25th Anniver-sary



Norden Lodge 3-407 "A very Norden Christmas to all"



In the last issue of the TDT I requested information and pictures that would demonstrate how some of our members give the "Scandinavian Touch" to their homes, yards and gardens. Thank you Marie Hansen and Kathy Dollymore for your submissions.

A Julenek Saga

By Newsletter Editor Marie Hansen 3-428



I have always loved the Norwegian Christmas tradition of hanging a sheaf of unthreshed wheat (*Julenek*) as a gift of food for the birds. This tradition dates back centuries, when farmers would save some of their best grain as a winter offering for birds — an offering that might also bring the farmers good luck.

Last August I set out to find local, organic wheat to make several juleneks — for myself and for friends. But coming from generations of city dwellers and suburbanites, I was woefully ignorant of what this would entail.

First, I learned that local wheat is not harvested in the fall. In this area it is almost all harvested by July 4 and then sent to the mills to make flour. I was much too late to find a good supply.

But after several calls and emails, I finally found a farmer near Aldie, VA, who would sell me enough stalks "to fill a feedbag." Of course, I had no idea how big a feed bag was. Folks, it is not large. After removing all the broken stalks there's just about enough grain to feed a canary.

My next opportunity came when visiting relatives in a beautiful, rural area of upstate New York, where I enlisted my husband's Danish-born cousin in my quest.

We found a promising field of unthreshed grain. After obtaining permission to harvest, we ventured forth with scythes and scissors. But in the midst of our labor we learned that we were cutting rye, not wheat! Well, don't birds like rye? I was able to bring home enough rye to fill **many** feedbags, and felt quite proud.



Order a julenek like this from the Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation. Making your own is not easy!

The next step was cleaning the stalks, making bundles, and hanging them upside down in a sheltered area of our backyard. But so many stalks were broken! After all this work, I only had one bundle of wheat and three of rye.

I ended up giving the wheat bundle to a neighbor who had cheered me on all the way, but she used it as an indoor decoration. That's OK— the birds flock to the gourmet seed in her many feeders.

So I put the remaining rye into one thick, beautiful bundle, tied it with a ribbon, hung it on our lamp post, and waited for the birds.



Borlaug Wheat

Norman Borlaug worked his entire adult life to help improve food production and alleviate hunger around the world. His work with wheat and other grains forever changed agriculture. He is credited with saving a billion lives through his innovative work. All wheat grown today can be traced back to Borlaug.

"Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world."

Norman Borlaug



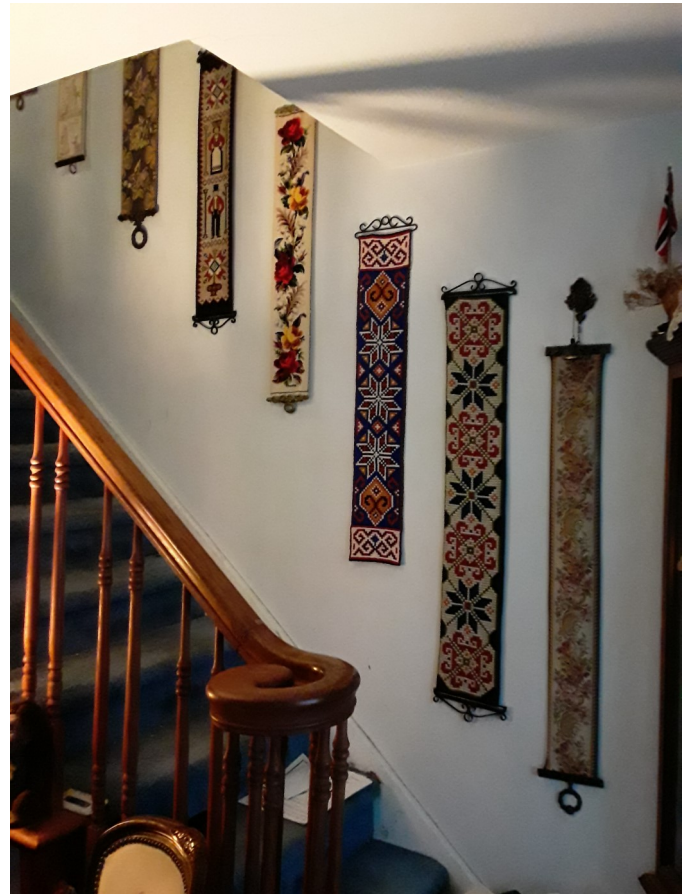
The Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation
www.normanborlaug.org

All proceeds will fund the 5th grade food packaging at Inspire Day in the Borlaug Barn.

But the rains came first. Torrential rain. Overnight the stalks, so full and frothy and upright, bowed their heads and never lifted them again. Even the ribbon looked despondent. Did a bird ever nibble the rye? I never saw one!

Epilog: After a week or so of not much bird action with the julenek, I awoke to find its head chewed off! By the next day the whole thing was scattered on the ground. I blame the squirrels!!!

“Hygge”—The Dollymore version



My thanks to all the lodges and contributors for your submissions for this issue of the TDT. Please continue to send me pictures and information about all things 3rd District including your Home and Garden ideas—ED

ALZHEIMERS DEMENTIA AWARENESS

CT CHARITABLE
TRUST
The 3rd District
Taking Care of Our Own



Nor– Bu Lodge 3-427 participated in a “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” in October. It’s lodges like Nor-Bu, Norrona, Gateway to Florida and others that are making a difference for the future.



Under the leadership on District 3 President Kathy Dollymore and with the dedicated perseverance of Lodge leaders like Audun Gythfeldt and Kaare Hansen; The 3rd District, **“Supports a Dementia Friendly Society”**



As Sons of Norway Lodge members, none of us has to look very far to find inspiration for joining the fight to put an end to this dreaded disease. What is your lodge planning for 2022?



However your lodge choses to work toward creating a dementia friendly society, you have the backing of the 3rd District for your efforts



New Newsletter Contest

THE NOR-BU NEWS



January 2022
Volume 18 issue 1
Lodge web address www.norbulodge.org
Lake Telemark, NJ

NOR-BU LODGE SUPPORTS A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY



B.U.L Cabin
Lake Telemark, New Jersey
Pen and Ink Sketch by Don Tripp '94

President.....	Audun Gylthfeldt.....	570-646-3817
Vice President.....	Joe Zarnitz.....	908-269-5015
Counselor.....	Evelyn Hammaren.....	973-584-8249
Secretary.....	Irma Bergland Lafko.....	973-983-9479
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Cultural Director.....	Deb Landvik-Larsen.....	973-442-4642
Treasurer.....	Anne-Lise Meisner.....	973-663-1070
Editor.....	Anne-Lise Meisner.....	973-663-1070

92 West Shawnee Trail, Wharton, NJ 07885-2923
anne@smallworld-travel.com

Rental of the cabin can be made by contacting
Barbara Samuelson at 973-586-8454
Checks for rentals made out to **BUL**, Inc

Beginning now there will be a newsletter contest and all lodges will be eligible to win!

Simply, insert the exact statement; "Lodge name– Supports a Dementia Friendly Society" as a permanent part of your lodge newsletter's masthead.

Submit your newsletters to me, Dirk Hansen hansenoaks@lowcountry.com
Submissions will be judged on promi-

nence and overall appearance. A \$100 donation will be made to the 3rd District Charitable Trust in the winning Lodge Editors name. Sorry, Southern Star is not eligible even though they have already begun to do this.

Know the early signs of Alzheimer's Disease

- Recognize memory loss that disrupts your daily life. We may all have “senior moments”, like missing an appointment or having difficulty locating our keys. If these lapses in memory become more frequent, if you ask repeatedly for the same information or forget the name of a close friend, it doesn't hurt to get your cognitive abilities checked out.
- Are you experiencing challenges in planning or solving problems? When certain tasks such as following a recipe or paying bills become increasingly difficult, they may be red flags and that you are experiencing a mild case of Alzheimer's.
- Is it difficult to complete familiar tasks? You went to local store and had trouble remembering how to get home. You were knitting Norwegian mittens and forgot what to do. Tasks you once completed with ease are now taxing to complete.
- Are you experiencing confusion with time or places? Those with Alzheimer's often feel confused even when they are in the most familiar places. They tend to get lost easily or forget where they are. If you struggle to remember what day of the week it is too frequently, it is not normal and may be a sign of cognitive decline.
- Do you have trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships? Our normal aging will usually affect our vision. For those developing Alzheimer's, the changes may be more significant and potentially dangerous. It may be very frustrating to be unable to read a book, but misjudging distance and colors especially when driving can be disastrous.
- Do you have new problems with words in speaking or writing? Language difficulties and declining conversational skills can be very frustrating and discourage us from maintaining our social relationships. Perhaps others have noticed you struggling for the right word or often repeating yourself.
- Are you misplacing things and losing your ability to retrace your steps? We all misplace things but those with early Alzheimer's may hide things in unusual locations. When they cannot find them they may in frustration accuse others of taking them or losing them.
- Are you using diminished or poor judgement? We all make poor judgements occasionally but those with Alzheimer's will do so more frequently. They may dress inappropriately or forget routine personal grooming or hygiene.



- Have you withdrawn from work or social activities? It is important to recognize changes in your behaviour. Have you stopped activities you once enjoyed and find yourself sleeping more? Have you discontinued seeing friends and family or going out to a lodge meeting?
- Are you experiencing changes in mood and personality. Those suffering from Alzheimer's experience changes that are not consistent with their past experiences. They may feel depressed, anxious, paranoid, suspicious or an endless variety of feelings that are not familiar.
- If you feel any of these early signs or a sense of reduced cognitive ability is affecting your daily life seek professional assistance. The warning signs of Alzheimer's can be frightening but the sooner you get a diagnosis, the sooner you can be relieved you don't have it or the sooner you can treat it.

Norrna Lodge 3-467 participated in the October 10th Walk to End Alzheimer's in Pomona, NY. The event was attended by hundreds of walkers, volunteers and sponsors at the NY Boulder's Stadium. Norrna president, Kaare Hansen and his wife, Pat posed by a sign that listed the 10 early signs of Alzheimer's Disease.

October Foundation Month Update

To: Sons of Norway District Foundation Directors

From: Jon Tehven

RE: Together We Are The Future - Report

Date: January 11, 2022

The 'Together . . . ' campaign goal was to raise \$150,00 between September 2021 and January 15, 2022.

As of January 6, 2022, \$164,607 has been donated by our lodges and members.

Here is an unofficial comparison, which will be updated once the 2021 campaign has concluded and donations/ records verified:

	2020 Together	2021 Together
Amount donated	\$137,000*	\$164,607*
Number of Lodges	113	137
\$Total Lodge Donations	\$56,510	\$68,657
\$ Average per Lodge	\$416	\$501
Number of Members	-details later	
\$Average per Member	-details later	

* Does not include any donations of \$20,000 or more.

A final report should be ready in February.

Thanks to all who made the 'Together . . . ' another successful SON Foundation initiative!

PS - This edited report was also sent to the SON Foundation Board of Governors.

New officers are getting the feet wet. Convention planning and delegate elections are beginning to happen and many lodges are making budgetary decisions for 2022. How does the 3rd District Charitable Trust, The Sons of Norway Foundation and Alzheimers/Dementia awareness fit into your lodge's financial plans for the coming year?

Please email me (Editor) with any future plans your Lodge has in support of Alzheimers/Dementia Awareness, The 3rd District Charitable Trust and The Sons of Norway Foundation hansenoaks@lowcountry.com

Our Heritage and Culture- New Home for Viking Ships



The new Museum of the Viking Age opens in 2026.

Norway's new global attraction: In 2026 a new Museum of the Viking Age will open on the Bygdøy peninsula in Oslo. It will be built as an extension of the present Viking Ship Museum.



The Viking Ship Museum on the Bygdøy peninsula has been one of Oslo's most visited attractions right from the very beginning in 1926. The present location of the ships doesn't provide good enough conditions, but the new building will be able to secure the museum's unique artefacts for future generations and to display the Viking ships and other Viking Age collections in a more visitor-friendly manner.

The new Museum of the Viking Age will be three times the size of the current museum and will provide a more complete picture of the Viking

Age in its entirety, with the three magnificent ships still as the main attraction.

In addition to tripling the size of the exhibition areas, the new museum complex will include a restaurant, a lecture hall, a museum shop, a museum park, a dedicated area for visiting students, laboratories that are open to the public and a research centre. The museum is part of the University of Oslo (UiO).



**Vikingtids-
museet**

New name and logo

The Museum of the Viking Age has been chosen as a new name because the

museum will provide a complementary picture of many aspects of society that characterized the Viking Age. Based on the world's foremost Viking Age collection, the public will gain insight into everything from daily life to major societal changes that characterized this pe-

riod, says museum director Håkon Glørstad.



Bird's-eye view - exterior

The new Viking Age Museum will be a living museum with exhibitions, a Research Centre, a museum park, shops, a restaurant and event facilities.

Photo: AART architects



Auditorium, film shows

A flexible auditorium will provide opportunities for lectures, film shows and events.

Photo: AART architects

The main attraction at the new Museum of the Viking Age will still be the world's three best-preserved Viking ships. They symbolize many important aspects and characteristics of the Viking Age, and the museum's new logo therefore shows three stylized Viking ships.

The Norwegian name is *Vikingtidsmuseet*.

The museum will be closed to the public for a certain period of time in the construction period. It has not yet been clarified when and for how long the museum will be closed.



Muted lighting in the Oseberg Hall
The Oseberg and Gokstad ships can be experienced in different atmospheres by controlling the lighting Photo: AART architects



Restaurant, exterior
The new museum complex will have its own restaurant with both indoor and outdoor service.
Photo: AART architects

My thanks to *Visit Oslo* for their permission to reprint the above article from 3-2-2021

Our Heritage and Culture– Nordic Winter Excellence; Not Just on Skis



As we all know, no country in the world is as dominant as Norway when it comes to Nordic Skiing. The reasons are numerous and some are even controversial. The history of Nordic Skiing goes back to almost prehistoric times and the climate and terrain of Norway fosters excellence in the sport.

Dedication is paramount. According to Olympiatoppen, an organization which is responsible for training Norwegian elite sport, ten thousand hours of training is on average what is needed to reach the Olympic level in the sport. Norwegian skiers usually start skiing at a young age. Most skiers on the national team probably got their first pair of skis as soon as they could walk. Many of them started competing before they reached the age of nine. In countries outside of Scandinavia, kids are rarely introduced to the sport this early, simply because Nordic skiing doesn't have the same status as it has in Norway.

The sports' status is another reason why Norwegians are in the lead. Status leads to sponsors, funding and access to resources. Skiers such as Petter Northug and Marit Bjørgen are huge celebrities in Norway and they are being treated like stars. When walking through the grocery store you can even spot their faces on packaging of bread or on juice cartons. In addition to that, they make a ton of money through the sport. Being a cross country skier in Norway, when you reach a certain level, is a full-time job. One that is extremely well paid.

So Norway is full of ski talent fostered by its culture and climate. But why aren't they great hockey players? Perhaps when skiing is so popular, there is just not enough talent left over for hockey. Also, the Swedes are too good at hockey. It would take a decades-long push to generate a talent pool that could measure itself against "söta bror" on Swedish ice. Norwegians probably unconsciously focus on winning at what they're already best at. There are some really good hockey players from Norway, but they tend to make their careers in the NHL (Espen "Shampoo" Knutsen, now back in Oslo as General Manager of his old team Vålerenga, played for the Anaheim Mighty Ducks and the Columbus Blue Jackets).



Marit Bjørgen

Frankie Fouganthin, CC BY-SA 3.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

But here is another story of a great Norwegian winter sports athlete

Espen Knutsen (born January 12, 1972) is a Norwegian former professional ice hockey player and currently the general manager of Vålerenga in the Norwegian GET-ligaen. He played five seasons in the North American-based National Hockey League (NHL), and is to date the only Norwegian to have played in the NHL All-Star Game. In his native Norway, Knutsen is also known by the nickname "Shampoo" because his father is a hairdresser, and also a former hockey player whose nickname was "The Soap" (Såpa in Norwegian).

In a March 2002 game against the Calgary Flames in Nationwide Arena, Knutsen took a shot that deflected off Flames defenseman Derek Morris' stick and accidentally struck 13-year-old Brittanie Cecil in the head, resulting in her death. Knutsen later helped set up a charity in Columbus to honor Cecil's memory. Also as a result of the tragedy, the NHL made it mandatory to install protective nylon mesh nets above the glass behind both goals. In December 2010, Knutsen met with Cecil's family, bringing some closure to both parties.

Nine years after 13-year-old's death, her family and ex-NHL player find closure

Mike Wagner, The Columbus Dispatch

An endless stream of faces passed by Jody Naudascher at her daughter's funeral, but the one she was privately hoping to see, the hockey player with the long, sandy-blond hair, didn't walk through the door.

Almost nine years after 13-year-old Brittanie Cecil died after being struck by a hockey puck, Naudascher finally met the man who had been carrying around his own anguish for the loss of her little girl.

Espen Knutsen, the former Columbus Blue Jackets player who shot the puck that struck Brittanie, embraced the trembling mother the moment he saw her, and the two began the closure that had escaped them both.

"I don't hold you responsible; I never did," Naudascher told Knutsen at Nationwide Arena during a private, one-hour meeting. "It was an accident, and you should never have blamed yourself for anything. I wanted to tell you all this back then."

On March 16, 2002, Knutsen struck a routine slap shot in a game against the Calgary Flames. It ricocheted off an opponent's stick, flew into the lower bowl and hit Brittanie in the head just above the nose.

Brittanie died two days later. The news left Knutsen sobbing in the Blue Jackets' locker room and stunned the hockey world. Within a few months of Brittanie's death, Nationwide Arena and every other NHL arena installed tall nets around the ends of the ice to protect fans from flying pucks.

Naudascher and Knutsen, separated by an ocean since the tragedy, have wondered about each other's grief, until they were able to share their compassion for one another yesterday.



"I can't imagine what it was like for you, for your family," Knutsen said.

"It was a terrible accident that I couldn't believe," he said. "I saw her walk out of the arena and couldn't believe it when I heard what happened. I'm the one that is thankful for meeting you."

It was Knutsen's first trip back to the U.S. since he last played for the Blue Jackets in 2004. He lives with his 11-year-old son, Emil, in Norway, where Knutsen coaches the country's top professional hockey team. He is one of several former players from the inaugural season who have returned this year to Columbus to help the Blue Jackets celebrate their 10th anniversary.

The meeting was arranged at Naudascher's and Knutsen's request by *The Dispatch* when it was announced that the former player would be making the trip. The newspaper had interviewed Naudascher and Knutsen for an in-depth story published on March 21.

They were joined in the arena's Founders Club room by Knutsen's son; Brittanie's grandparents, Fran and Rhonda Naudascher; Brittanie's sister, Kristina Sergent; and Sergent's stepsister, Chelsea Wombold.

Knutsen's calm, inviting demeanor seemed to soothe members of Naudascher's family, who didn't know what to expect from the 38-year-old former player.

They spent the first part of the meeting sharing details of their ordeals after Brittanie's death.

Jody Naudascher told Knutsen that Brittanie didn't see the puck or feel it until she realized she was bleeding. She was even laughing, joking and holding up the puck that struck her when she arrived at the hospital. And Naudascher told him how the national media stalked her family during Brittanie's funeral services and continued to hound them for years.

Knutsen reflected on being made a villain by some after the tragedy, how hard it was to continue playing hockey and how Brittanie's death could have been prevented if nets had been hung in North American rinks sooner.

The emotion in the room eventually overwhelmed Brittanie's grandfather, who began weeping as his family described Brittanie's spirited personality for Knutsen.

Brittanie would have turned 23 this coming March.

"She would have liked meeting you," said Fran, her grandfather. "We don't blame you for anything, either. You're a very nice man."

The family eventually received a financial settlement from the NHL, the Blue Jackets and others, including The Dispatch Printing Company, a minority owner of the team. The family has declined to talk about any legal issues, including the lawsuit it filed against Children's Hospital, which treated Brittanie.

She remains the only fan to be fatally injured during an NHL game, and her passing was devastating to a Blue Jackets organization that was in its infancy.

"It really shook me, my teammates and everyone around the team more than people could ever know," Knutsen said.

At the end of their encounter, Jody Naudascher embraced Knutsen one more time and asked him to sign autographs for Brittanie's scrapbook.

But she and her family wanted one more piece of closure.

They had never set foot inside Nationwide Arena and wanted to see the rink and Section 121, Row S, where Brittanie was seated the day she and her stepmother attended the game.

Naudascher entered the darkened, empty arena and exhaled when she saw the seats where the tragedy unfolded.

Then she walked to the other end and pointed to the nets that wrap around each end of the rink.

"I'm so glad those are up there," Jody said. "We will never stop missing Brittanie, but I'm at peace now, and I think Espen is, too."



mwagner@dispatch.com

My sincerest thanks to the Columbus Dispatch and M.Wagner for permission to reprint the above story– ED

"ON THE ROAD" In The 3rd District

Farmers and framers: How a stave church took Long Island

PUBLISHED OCTOBER 16, 2014 · UPDATED MARCH 2, 2021

Victoria Hofmo
Brooklyn, N.Y.



On Saturday, October 27, the Scandinavian East Coast Museum sponsored a trip to St.

Mark's church in Islip, Long Island. Why? Believe it or not, this Episcopal church is built in Scandinavian stave architectural style. Karen Olsen and Steve Helmold had been encouraging us to visit this unique gem for years.

We finally did it. A dozen of us car-poolers from Brooklyn were joined by several Sons of Norway members from local Long Island lodges. What a delight to approach this wonderful complex of Northern European style buildings—charming and pristine, surrounded by bucolic greenery. Best of all, we were wel-

comed by two Norwegian flags that festooned the entrance of the church.

The trip began with Victoria Hofmo, President of the SECM giving a brief talk: "What is Stave Architecture?" (Full disclosure: VH is me). "It was derived from palisades style. Palisades construction entails plunging wooden poles (buttress posts) into a trench in the earth. Another piece of wood is attached horizontally to the upper part of the posts. This allows for other poles to be attached to the supporting frame created, like a picket fence. Eventually, due to rot, stone replaced earth as a support for the posts. The buttress posts evolved into framing, which was and is surprisingly strong, allowing for more open and higher spaces without any outside supports, like flying buttresses. This style was used for long houses and farm buildings

"So for the purpose of this talk, instead of calling the Vikings 'Farmers and Fishermen,' we should call them 'Farmers and Framers.' A similar type of construction is utilized in the building of Viking ships, which depends on a large keel (buttress post), attached to horizontal support. To these supports, planks are overlapped into the space, like clapboard." At that point, Karen Olsen pointed out the apse of the church, which contains the altar, because its graceful wooden curves mimic the hull of an upended Viking ship.

The stave form reached its zenith with the fabrication of churches. These wooden-tiered constructions began to be erected when the Vikings accepted Christianity. This was mostly due to political and economic reasons, as others refused to trade with pagans. You can see the very recently converted pagans' ambivalence in the elements of stave churches. They hedge their bets, developing a Christian place of worship including dragon heads and other pagan symbols.

Other Scandinavian elements in St. Mark's Church include: upside down triangles on the pews (dragon teeth), the wooden shingles on the outside of the church (the texture of dragon skin), and a stained glass window on the left side of the apse that includes a purple-hued Viking ship.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a more recent Scandinavian addition: a Viking ship model hanging from the ceiling. Karen Olsen explained that it was donated by Zone 1 SON members and made in Vietnam. It is in this church that the local SON lodges hold their annual memorial service to honor members who have passed away. Donors wrote the names of a loved one on a scroll, which was placed inside this ship. Ken Johnson explained that a ship represents "The journey of life through the church." This church is so beloved by SON members that Karen and Steve were married there in traditional Norwegian bunads, in August 2010.

Hofmo ended her presentation with images of contemporary stave architecture. One example was a Colorado boathouse, built in traditional stave style with wooden shingles and protruding dragon heads. The other is a church in Arkansas located in a wood. It consists of a stave steel frame and no wooden planks. Instead there is only clear glass. The frame becomes the architecture. You have created a soaring space, a geometric fantasy. The result: you are one with the forest, yet protected from wind and water.

Steve Helmold spoke about how this church got its stave beginnings. In the 1880s, William K. Vanderbilt traveled to Norway and was enamored by the stave churches. Shortly after he returned to Long Island his daughter became engaged. He offered to build an entirely new church (where his daughter's wedding would take place) and a rectory, if he were allowed to build it in the stave style. He hired the renowned architect Richard Morris Hunt.

According to the church's website, "What Mr. Vanderbilt offered—and provided—was to replace a simple, rectangular, 30-year old, white frame building with a magnificent stave Church. And he did it at his expense, including the cost of bringing craftsmen and materials from Norway.

It was completed and consecrated in 1880. It was also fortunate for the church that Vanderbilt was a good friend of Louis Comfort Tiffany, who designed many of the windows. One particularly beautiful one pairs irises with lilies, and another was wrought in Gothic geometric style—a triune with deliciously colorful gumdrop-shaped pieces. In fact, the church is a wonderful place to explore different styles of stained glass—Gothic, Tiffany, and pre-Raphaelite-inspired rendering of romantic females, and painted glass more in the Germanic style.



*Photo courtesy of Steve Helmold and Karen Olsen
Steve Helmold and Karen Olsen's wedding at St. Mark's church.*

Pat, one of St. Mark's parishioners, lived through its most devastating tragedy. In December 1989, teenage vandals deliberately broke into the church and set it on fire. Pat said the glass was in pieces on the floor because the soldered lead that had held the fragments together just melted. You can still see evidence of this incident when you examine the painted glass closely. Some have small black spots from the high temperatures, which began to melt the glass. Pat told us how the parishioners began to rebuild the church in all sorts of ways. They elaborately and lovingly embroidered new pillows to kneel on. She showed us a beautiful one she had sewn. She also spoke about how the church's floor had been littered with nails. She asked the congregation if it would be okay for her to design them into a cross. They

said yes, and she still wears it to this day.

The cost to restore the church was estimated at 2.3 million, and insurance would only cover half. There was an outpouring from the community and the church was re-opened in February 1992. What is remarkable is that the stave frame did not burn; it was charred but usable.

There were more treasures to be discovered in the church's substantial vintage/second hand shop. We shopped diligently. Satiated, and laden with our new purchases, we moseyed on back to Brooklyn, taking a last glance at this beauty, sad to leave it behind.

This article originally appeared in the Oct. 17, 2014 issue of the Norwegian American

Reprinted for the TDT with the permission of The Norwegian American



A Condensed History of St Mark' Episcopal Church

754 Montauk Highway, Islip, NY 11751-3696

St. Mark's was organized in 1847 as a mission of St. John's Church, which still stands on Montauk Highway in Oakdale. The first cornerstone is dated July 4, 1847. It was a popular and successful parish from the beginning and over the years founded five other churches in the area: Christ Church, Babylon; St. Peter's Church, Bay Shore; Emmanuel Church, Great River; The Church of the Messiah, Central Islip; and Christ Church, Brentwood.

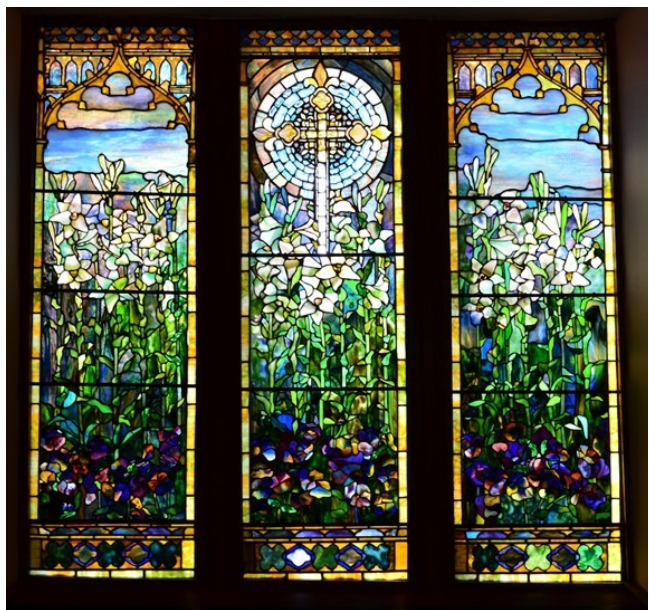
The original church building was white clapboard with a square steeple at the front and

was sold to St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in East Islip in 1879 for use as a meeting hall. We have only a partial picture of that building, showing the steeple between other buildings, on a circa 1912 post card of East Islip village. The Vestry minutes of the early years were very short and to the point. In 1879 they state that William K. Vanderbilt was appointed as a committee of one to erect a new church building. The next mention of the church is in a newspaper clipping in our archives telling of the 1880 consecration of the present building by Bishop Littlejohn at a gala ceremony. Richard Morris Hunt was the architect for the church and rectory. Ten years later there is a handwritten letter from William K. Vanderbilt, in its original envelope with a one cent stamp, offering to enlarge the building if the Vestry would agree that the new pews would be "forever free". In 1890 the church was enlarged, doubling the seating. Also, in 1890, the parish house was designed by Isaac H. Green of Sayville, a noted Long Island Beaux-Arts architect. In addition to the generosity of W. K. Vanderbilt, gifts were received from many people, including Harry B. Hollins, H. Duncan Wood, R. F. Cutting, William Bayard Cutting, and the employees of W. K. Vanderbilt.

The Crusaders Cross used in processions dates from the 14th century. The beautiful stained glass windows in the church have been given as memorials over the years. They represent the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany, NY; Hardman Studio, England; Connick Studio, Boston; Willet Studios, Philadelphia; Heaton, Butter and Bayne, London; and Mayer and Company, Munich. When the church was built only the windows toward the front of the building had been contributed as memorials so simple stained glass windows of rondels were installed, to be replaced, according to Richard Morris Hunt's plan, as new memorials where contributed. The final memorial window, designed by Cushen Studio, East Marion, Long Island, was dedicated on May 16, 1993, in memory of Marion Wharton Hallock, who had lived her entire life on St. Mark's Lane and was an active member of St. Mark's parish.

In June, 1980, the 100th anniversary of the Church building and rectory was celebrated. On December 5, 1989, the church building was extensively damaged by an arson fire. Father Nedelka and the Vestry immediately organized committees and began working toward rebuilding. Not only did we learn a lot about construction, we also learned about ourselves as a parish, so that out of a devastating experience came renewed closeness, new friendships, and unity. The congregation and surrounding community were quick to come to the aid of the parish. For example, the Sunday following the fire the offering plate was passed at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in East Islip and more than \$9,000.00 was donated to help us rebuild. This was only one of many contributions by area churches, temples, businesses, and members of the community, from next door to California and England. The first service was held in the rebuilt church on Thursday, February 27, 1992. The Bishop of Long Island, The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr., presided

at a Celebration of Dedication on May 10, 1992. Church construction in 1880 cost William K. Vanderbilt \$15,900.00. It cost more than \$2,000,000.00 to restore the building following the arson fire in 1989.



The world famous stained glass windows were heavily damaged by the fire but, due to the care taken by the members of the Islip Fire Department, the pieces of each window were kept together. Members of the congregation, using kitchen strainers, sifted through the wet ashes to find all the pieces. Under the leadership of Jack Cushen Studios, of East Marion, Long Island, the windows were restored and are ninety-five percent original. During the 1960's Hathaway Scully organized a group to create a needlepoint frontal for the altar and kneelers for the sanctuary. The needlepoint, except for the frontal, was damaged by varnish melting from the ceiling during the fire. Willoughby Royce organized a group to replace the needlepoint and donated all the materials. She secured designs, organized classes, and kept track of the work. When her project was completed the sanctuary and nave needlepoint had been replaced and kneelers had been created for every pew, 264 kneelers. The electronic organ, which had been in-

stalled in 1967, and the chimes given by Veterans of the parish in memory of those who gave their lives in World War II, was also destroyed by the fire. The organ was replaced with a Wicks Pipe Organ. The six ton church bell which was used by the Islip Fire Department in the 1880's to notify townspeople of a fire was not damaged by the church fire. It can be seen over the church entrance on St. Mark's Lane.

We give thanks to all the stewards throughout our history, from the original organizers, down through the years to those who helped us rebuild, for their care and love of St. Mark's.

Nancy A. Heine,

Parish Historian



viking history

One Burial Mound in Particular

In 1903, Oskar Rom purchased his neighbour's farm located outside of Tønsberg, above the Oslofjord, in the Vestfold of Norway

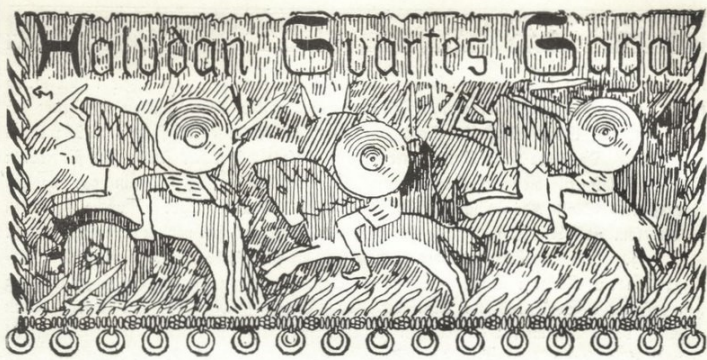
That August he began to excavate a mound on his new property and it wasn't long before he realized he might be onto something significant. That hill is now known locally as Oseberghaugen or "Asa's Burial Mound". It seemed he'd come across the remains of a ship but before he preceded any further, he travelled 64 miles to the capital city of Oslo to recruit the help of archaeologist Professor Gustafson of the University Museum of National Antiquities.

Inside the ship were the skeletal remains of two women, one about 60, the other younger. The grave had been looted and no gold or silver remained. The old woman's arm was broken, possibly by a thief removing a bracelet.

Asa Haraldsdottir of Agder (died c. 834?) was a semi-legendary Norwegian Viking Age queen regnant of the petty kingdom of Agder. According to sagas referencing the clan Yngling (*Ynglingaätten*), she was the mother of Halfdan the Black (*Halvdan Svarte*) and grandmother of King Harald Fairhair (*Harald Hårfagre*)

There was no Norway in the 8th Century, only a bunch of ill-defined kingdoms. A "king" at this time and place was probably no more than a great patriarch, a clan chieftain. Many of these were Danes, who were the dominant group in the area. One of these was Guthroth the Hunting-King, whose father was named Halfdan, which is to say "half Dane". Guthroth's wife died and he decided that he wished to marry Asa, daughter of the king of Agder.

Guthroth had built a large kingdom in the Westfold, around Oslofjord. A large chunk of his territory had been brought to him as dowry by his deceased wife. Now Guthroth looked south to Agder. King Harald of Agder refused to marry his daughter to Guthroth. So the king of the Westfold decided to take by force what he could not have through marriage ties. He invaded Agder, killed Harald, and took Asa to wife.



Gerhard Munthe: Illustration for Halvdan Svartes saga, *Heimskringla* 1899-edition. Tittelfrise. Gerhard Munthe, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Asa soon became pregnant. She bore a son, Halfdan, later called Halfdan the Black. When Halfdan was a year old, Guthroth was attending a royal event. He was very drunk when a man leapt from the crowd and thrust a spear through him. In the morning light, the killer was recognized as one of Asa's slaves. Asa admitted that she had persuaded one of her slaves to murder Guthroth. Then she returned to Agder and took up rule of her father's kingdom. This was, perhaps, around 790.

When Halfdan was eighteen he travelled north to the Westfold and persuaded the king, his elder half-brother, to give up half his realm. Then Halfdan began a cam-

paign to enlarge his family's holdings. He would ask a king for half his territory, and if refused, invade the place. His kingdom grew.

Halfdan married the daughter of the king of Sogn, on Norway's west coast, and took that territory. Here the story is confused and has Halfdan marrying a woman named Ragnhild who bears a son named Harald. Then these both die and Halfdan marries another woman named Ragnhild who bears a son, Harald. Whatever the actual events, this second son was to become famous as Harald Finehair and he is associated with western Norway. In 860, Halfdan fell through thawing lake ice and perished. His ten-year-old son Harald succeeded him.

Young Harald immediately came under attack from neighboring kings, but Harald's regent, his mother's brother Guthorm, was an able soldier and defended the kingdom. Here I want to note the tenacity and unity of this family as they sought to better their place in the world. The warfare of families is the basis of European monarchy and here we can see a rather successful example.

Harald went on to become known as the first real king of Norway and is remembered today as such. His grandmother, Queen Asa, did not live to see that event. She died in 834.

DNA was extracted from the skeletons at Oseberg. That of the younger woman shows genetic heritage from the Black Sea area. This fits with the legendary Norse origin story or "The Volsunga Saga"—that they were a Germanic tribe serving as a Roman force in the Black Sea area, who returned to their homeland after the collapse of Rome. Studies of teeth show that both women lived for a long time in Agder. Finally, dendrochronolgy shows that the timbers used to frame the grave was felled in 834, which agrees with the traditional date of Asa's death. Also, recent tests of the bones of two Viking women found in a buried longboat have dispelled 100-year-old suspicions that one was a maid sacrificed to accompany her queen into the afterlife

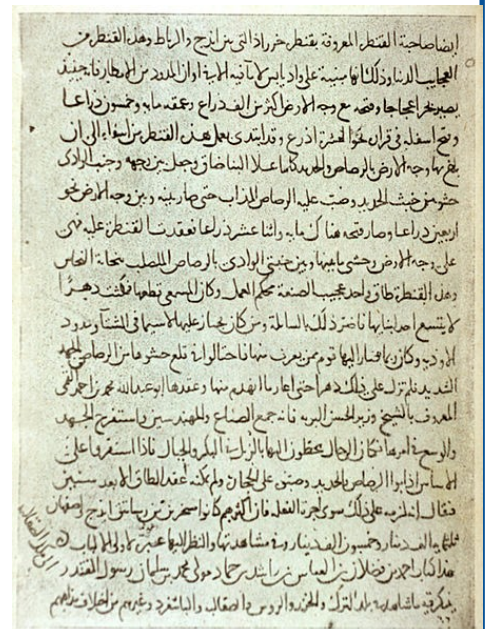
These bones have shown that a broken collarbone on the younger woman had been healing for several weeks -- therefore the break may not have been part of a ritual execution as suspected since the Oseberg ship was found in 1904.

Per Holck, professor of anatomy at the Oslo University has said "We have no reason to think violence was the cause of death," after studying the two women who died in 834 aged about 80 and 50.

"The fracture could have been caused by stumbling or whatever. She could have been seriously hurt, got brain damage. But this fracture alone is no sign of killing,"

Historians believe the Vikings sometimes practiced ritual killings. Arab 10th century traveler Ahmad Ibn Fadlan wrote a detailed description of a Viking burial in Russia where a servant girl was stabbed to death and buried.

The bones of the older Oseberg woman showed she had cancer, Holck said of studies since the skeletons were exhumed last year to see if modern technology could discover more about them than when they were re-buried in 1948.



Unidentified manuscript page, supposedly containing part of Ahmad ibn Fadlan's *Account*; possibly Ridawiya Library, MS 5229 (13th century) ploaded by Gilwellian, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

“It is a terminal cancer so I’m pretty sure that was the reason for her death,” Holck said. It was the earliest documented cancer in Norway.

The studies also indicated both women were of high rank -- their diets were largely of meat when most Vikings lived off fish. The teeth of the younger woman showed she used a metal toothpick, a rare 9th century luxury.

Historians have long suspected that one of the two was Queen Aasa, mother of Halfdan the Black, father of the first king of all Norway, Harald Fairhair.

The old woman suffered from Morgagni’s syndrome, a hormonal disturbance that gave her a man-like appearance with a beard and a thick-set body.

For the two women, there was not enough DNA to tell if they were related, for instance a queen and her daughter. “There are still more questions than answers,” said Egil Mikkelsen, director of Oslo’s Museum of Cultural History.

There is substantial that the old woman in the grave was Asa. She may have been a *volva*, other Norse queens were said to be seers, but according to the sagas, she was also the magnificent progenitor of a great lineage.

Much of the above comes from Snorri Sturluson’s account in *Heimskringla*, the story of Norway’s kings. Confusion may come from Snorri’s sources, some of which were Swedish (when in doubt, blame the Swedes). Snorri himself seems to have tried to rationalize the contradictions he discovered, but that only leads to more confusion.

Excerpted from:

an article in Reuters by Alister Doyle

Wikipedia (Queen Asa)

An article by Universitetet i Oslo [Kulturhistorisk museum](#)



Völuspá - The Prophet
Stamp from the Faroe Islands
Public Domain

Scandinavian American Spotlight– Captain Birger Lunde



A member of my lodge, Tom Hyland, has provided me with a very interesting letter written from Staten Island. I originally published it in 3 parts for the Southern Star newsletter but ultimately I also wanted to share it with all of you. So here it is in its entirety -ED

May 5, 1993

Capt. Birger Lunde 84 Hillcrest Street S.I. N.Y. 10308

Ms. Elizabeth Levy

British Broadcasting Corp.

London Great Britain

Dear Ms Levy

I enjoyed speaking to you on the phone about my wartime sailing experiences. I am very glad to hear that the BBC intends to prepare a documentary on Convoys. I feel it is an important story that has never been told well. The efforts extended by myself and my fellow sailors to bring food to England and supply the Allied War efforts required incredible energies and sacrifices. The enemy we faced was determined, highly skilled and ruthless.



My personal experiences between 1939 and 1945 would forever deeply affect and change my life. I am still, 50 years later unfortunately haunted by nightmares that make me wake the whole house. I would survive three sinkings by U-boats and see many good friends perish. I also signed off of two good ships that were soon after sunk with great loss of life. In ports and in Convoys, I experienced many air attacks. Once, when traveling outside of a Convoy, our ship was chased for a full day by a surfaced U-Boat. We were able to evade it during the night. I also participated in several rescue operations and on one occasion had to perform surgery on a wounded English crew member. This was done at night in life boat using a large sheath knife. The crewmember survived and later praised my skill in an interview on the BBC.

Norway, as you know is a small but important country. I come from a small town called Fana which is located just outside Bergen. Fortunately for me I received preparation and training as a young person that was to serve me well for some really hard sailing. I spent a lot of time in small boats, which later came in handy when I was to spend a fair amount of time in lifeboats. I also had good training in the boy scouts and was lucky enough as a teenager to win a scholarship for six months cadet seamanship training on a the Tall Ship Statsraad Lemkhul. This training in basic sailing and seamanship on an old square rigger in the North Sea seemed hard and harsh at the time. The training was designed to prepare future sailors for anything they might encounter. Little did

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I know then what that might be.

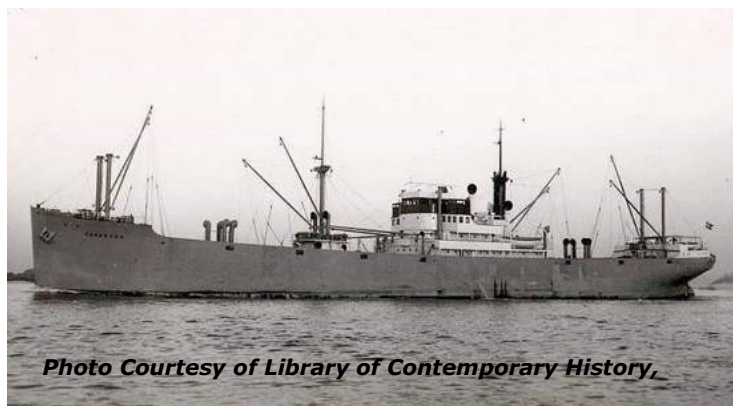
I worked my way up through the ranks as did all our officers, then did a two year course at the mates and wireless operators school in Bergen. When the war broke out I was a 2nd Mate/Radio Operator on the M/S Hosanger. I was forced to leave the ship, when it appeared that I was going to be drafted in the Norwegian Navy. The ship was torpedoed shortly after I signed off and most of my friends and colleagues were lost. This had been my first real assignment as an officer and the captain and crew had done their best to train a young new officer. Their loss was very hard for me to bear and unfortunately it was just the beginning of such experiences.

In those days it was a requirement that all ships carry a wireless operator. I had also been able to study and pass the radio operator's exam. As the world was coming out of the depression, berths for mates were somewhat hard to get. However, because I had a radio operator's license I was always able to get an assignment and serve as a combination officer/ radio operator.

When Norway was invaded I was at Sea on the M/S Taranger again as a second Mate/Radio Operator. Suddenly, Norwegian Sailors had no way to get home. Norway at that time had the 4th largest Merchant fleet in the world. Because Norway has minimal amounts of farm land generations of families turned to the sea. At the time of the invasion, there were over 1000 ships, manned by well trained professional seamen. Despite their training, about 20 percent of these sailors would perish and never see home again. I don't believe any branch of the other services suffered anywhere near that casualty rate. Interestingly, it was not until the early 1970's when Norwegian war sailor veteran groups formed that any recognition or benefits would be extended to the survivors. Today I am the President of the one of the largest veteran chapters.

As we discussed in our telephone conversation the Norwegian Merchant Marine contribution to the Allied victory was far more than significant. During the war the Norwegian Merchant Marine was organized under a company called Nortraship and the 1000 or so Norwegian ships were chartered by the English. This was arranged after our King went into exile. Winston Churchill would later write, "that getting the Norwegian ships during the darkest days of the war was equivalent to getting in England a trained and equipped army of one million men."

Despite incredible financial offers from the Germans, not one Norwegian ship returned home. The Norwegian ships kept England afloat. We carried over 40 percent of the oil, tremendous amounts of food and munitions and other vital supplies. This we did throughout the war, but our contribution and place in history came during the dark of the war when England stood alone. I myself would be sunk twice by 1942. With out the Norwegian ships, England would most certainly have sued for peace. Just imagine if the RAF was missing 4 out of 10 gallons of gas during the battle of Britain! Again we paid a dear price but for a small country and ally we made the difference. I once heard that because of the contributions of the Norwegian seamen and ships, Russia was told to keep out of Norway. I can imagine that our ship owners would have insisted on that one. But, it was the sailors who wanted to see our homeland free that would make the sacrifice and who really insisted that we fight with England.



The M/S Taranger was overhauled in Liverpool during the early spring of 1941. During this time Liverpool was subject to 14 consecutive nights of heavy bombing. The bombing was focused on the dock areas. We often went ashore during the evenings and I can remember coming back through the subway system at night. We had to step carefully to avoid stepping on families that were sleeping on the subway platform. During these days we began to form a great respect and liking for the English people. We were all very homesick by this time.

The M/S Taranger led a charmed life until May 2 1941. She not only escaped damage during the severe Liverpool blitz but had also seen us through the fall of France when we were subject to couple of dive bombing and strafing attacks in Leharve and several rough Atlantic crossings. We were

traveling to America to get a 5 inch gun installed when A U-Boat surfaced at night and shelled us until the ship literally fell apart. My job was to get the distress call out. Despite continued shelling and strafing we were able to get the boats launched. I was in charge of the port side life boat, which was the side that the submarine was firing from. The starboard life boat had been able to launch quickly and get away. We were so busy ducking and picking up wounded that our boat cleared last. The captain was still on the bridge with the chief engineer when we lowered the lifeboat. We hung close to the ship waiting for the captain and chief engineer to come down.

During this time the submarine crew closer and the firing became more intense. The wait ended when the chief engineer, a very close friend of mine, dove into the sea near our boat. We picked him up, he was badly wounded. He said that just as he and the captain were clearing the bridge a shell struck. The captain was killed instantly. The chief engineer was so badly wounded that he could not hold onto the ladder leading down from the bridge, so he dove off the bridge.

The chief engineer would spend a year in an Icelandic hospital only to perish on another ship bound for America. He died, after being repeatedly frozen in a life boat. Interestingly, I would learn this from a doctor who treated me for wounds I received later in the war when the Oregon Express was sunk. The doctor had been in the lifeboat with my friend.

We pushed away from the ship and the submarine came closer. It was suddenly obvious that the submarine was going to ram us. We quickly put every able man to rowing. With strong pulling and the incentive of survival we pulled clear from the bow of the submarine. It passed so close we could hear the crew talking. The submarine then positioned itself and fired two torpedoes into the Taranger. The ship sank quickly.

Many of the crew and passengers were wounded. One of the crew an Englishman had a large piece of shrapnel about the size of a man's fist lodged in his foot. Officers were expected to be medically knowledgeable and that night, in the crowded, rolling lifeboat, with three men holding him down, I operated on the seamen's foot. Using a large Norwegian sheath knife which we sterilized over a flame I successfully cut the shrapnel out. The British seaman was incredibly stoic and thanked me when the job was done! Later I am proud to say the crewman was interviewed on the BBC and told his experiences. He said that the Norwegian mate had done "a proper professional job of it."

HMS Wolverine. Uboat.net



When we were sunk the ship was about 250 miles off of Iceland. After sailing for two days, we were picked up by a British Corvette. Because we had so many wounded people it was decided that we should be transferred to the British Destroyer Wolverine. That ship had become a famous U-Boat hunter. It was on patrol and after several days took us to Reykjavik. During the patrol we went after several U-boats with depth charges, this in itself was an incredible experience. While on the ship we would gather every evening in the officers club for a drink and to hear the BBC world

service. Throughout the war in fact, the BBC would prove to be good friend and somehow always transmit the news and a positive feeling to the ships.

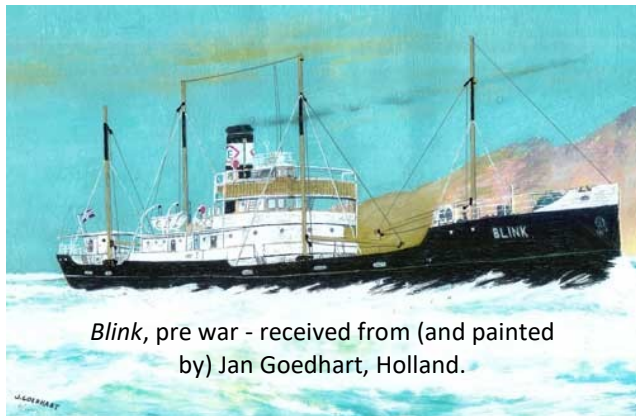
For a while I took a job on an English Coastal vessel called the Lysaker 4. I did this to be close to a girl I had become fond of named Elizabeth who lived in Glasgow. England, in 1940 was thought to be in imminent danger of invasion. Although protected by the Royal Navy and Airforce, the coastal shipping was under almost constant attack. Between air attacks, surface attack by torpedo boats and submarines the seamen's life on an English Coastal vessel was far too stressful for me. Almost every coastal trip saw several ships picked off. I took a position as chief mate on the ocean traveling S/S Blink.

As Chief Mate on the S/S Blink I found myself during the winter of February 1942 off Cape Hatteras in a bad storm. Things got worse and in the middle of the night the ship was torpedoed. We were able to launch one life boat and spent the remainder of the night hove to. In the morning, we searched for some of the crew who had been seen

during the night on a life raft. We never found them again. While trying to make sail in the bad weather we were unable to handle the boat and it turned over on us. We lost all our provisions. For the next 3 days we struggled to keep the boat upright. It turned over three times and each time we were able to swim around it and set it right. Under the conditions this was an incredible accomplishment and really is a tribute to the skills of men I sailed with. In the end we decided to leave the boat flooded and sat in the cold and windy water. A very cold and strong northwind kept the boat almost constantly awash.

Despite our best efforts to help one another, slowly one by one the men lost hope and died. Heavy seas ran almost constantly through the flooded lifeboat. Each wave seemed to take away more of our strength. At one point on the second day a man died every hour. All of us had trouble focusing our minds and we all experienced periods of black out and total despair. It was so sad to see them go, one by one. Something I was never able to get over or put behind me. All my life they would follow me especially when I slept. Our Captain spoke at length to me of his family just before he died. When he died, I became the last officer and the remaining men turned to me. Such feelings are difficult to describe and will always be with me.

When they died we did what we could and then cast them into the sea. At some point in our ordeal the sharks discovered us. They followed the bodies and now hungry for more began to try to pull us out of the flooded lifeboat. Tired and beyond exhaustion we now found ourselves hitting at the sharks with our last boat hook. Yelling, screaming through swollen lips and tongues and pounding at the sides of the lifeboat, doing anything to make them go away. In an ordeal like this, hope is the great life force and when a man lost it he quickly perished. Hope was the only thing that sustained any of us and only someone who comes through an ordeal like this knows its real value. At some point I realized this and knew I must focus my mind on surviving or be lost.



Blink, pre war - received from (and painted by) Jan Goedhart, Holland.

Late on the end of the third day the SS Monroe spotted myself and one other crewman waving. The lookout reported to his captain that "I see two man standing in the water, waving".

There were five British Seamen in the lifeboat, four perished during our ordeal. Of the 23 sailors that got into the lifeboat only six in total survived the punishment. I was the only officer to survive and my report to the U.S. Navy was later included in the book Track of the Gray Wolf. I have enclosed a copy of 2 pages out of that book.

Because of the hopelessness and hardship the Blink sinking became known as one of Norway's worst wartime disasters. At first the Norwegian press in America wrote articles wondering what we had done wrong. Later I would meet some of the journalists and when they found out the true story they did their best to tell of our suffering.

For my part I was presented during the war by King Haakon, in London with Norway's highest decoration the St Olav medal with oak leaves. I also received a kind letter of condolence from the British Minister Lord Beaverbrook.

I spent some time in hospital and later an Norwegian family in Brooklyn took me in. This was arranged through the Norwegian Seaman's Church. In those days the Seaman's Church was our main source of support in foreign lands. The church's had parishes/sanctuaries in every major port of the world. They provided us with a place to go when we were in trouble and could

help us through family and personal problems. They even took care of our banking. Although they did their best the war simply overwhelmed the resources of the Seaman's Church and they wisely turned to the Norwegian American community. Brooklyn was then the largest Norwegian city in the world. The family that took me in had a little girl. I spent many days just sitting in their back yard watching their little girl play. The sunshine and her simple natural questions sustained and restored me.

After physically recovering from the ordeal of the Blink, I signed on the S/S Oregon Express as 2nd Mate and wireless operator. I had lost most of my clothes, and money on the Blink and living in N.Y. was very expensive so I had to get back to the sea as quickly as possible.

This ship was a refrigerated vessel and designed to carry perishable cargoes. She was fast and could do 15 knots. For over a year we made fast trips from N.Y. to England carrying meat. Because of our speed we did not travel in convoys. The ship also carried passengers and on one enjoyable voyage carried 12 Canadian Nurses to England. One of my fondest memories is a life boat drill we conducted with the nurses. For the sake of "realistic training" one sunny warm day while in harbor we actually launched the life boats with the nurses on board. We hadn't actually cleared this with the captain, however once the nurses began to sing "row, row, your boat" it seemed the natural thing to do. What followed was even more interesting when the captain began to blow the whistle for us to return, something I told the crew to ignore and we went on to have a really nice sail. Back on board I was chewed out, but things calmed down when the head nurse thanked the captain for the wonderful outing. He was mainly mad that he had not been included.

It was on the Oregon Express that I experienced a "sea chase". For one whole day a surfaced submarine followed close on our heels. The sea was rough and we could see the submarine several miles behind us, cresting and crashing through waves. The Oregon

Express maintained her speed and when darkness came we changed course. As radio operator I wired a message that we were being chased by a submarine. That night while on watch I heard a

large plane passing overhead. It was searching for the submarine. We never heard if it found it. All we knew was that in the morning the submarine was no longer chasing us.

On one voyage to New York our look out spotted a lifeboat. We stopped and were able to rescue 48 crew and passengers from the British ship Waiwera. They told us that they had been torpedoed the day before and that there was another life boat but during the night they had lost sight of each other. We searched for 2 hours and finally our excellent look out spotted the other lifeboat. We picked up another 48 passengers and headed on to New York. We were able to make them fairly comfortable and they were incredibly grateful to us. Among the passengers were several Australian Air Force pilots who gave us their sheep skin coats. This is one incident that Norwegian historians or journalist did not document.

Interestingly, years later I forgot the name of the ship. I wrote the British Ministry of Defense. I got a wonderful letter back from the Naval Staff Duties Historical Section. Because all I could remember was that the ship carried butter they searched the files for a cross reference. They were able to find a small note from the Admiralty that the Oregon Express had picked up survivors from the Waiwera. Actually the note was a letter complaining that we should have informed the Admiralty immediately of the rescue. All I can say is that the last thing we would have done with all those people on board and a submarine in the area was to break radio silence.



On another occasion we were invited to a party ashore in Liverpool. The first mate suggested we raid the Oregon Express's refrigerated hold and bring a side of beef to the party. The mate who was a good friend of mine and very strong threw the whole side of beef on his shoulder and started up the pier. As we approached the roadway a couple of policeman quickly grabbed us and pulled us back inside the pier. They told us that so starved was the city that simply seeing the meat could spark a riot. It put things in perspective, someone was trying to starve England and I realized then what each voyage meant.

The Oregon Express met her fate ironically in a convoy trip. In 1943 the U-Boats had a new weapon to try out. This new weapon was an "acoustic torpedo". It was designed to be guided to a ship by the sound of the ships pro-

pellers. While in Convoy we were always given instructions to never stop, no matter what happened. On one voyage as we entered the area of the Atlantic outside the range of shore aircraft the convoy was attacked. On the first night one of the escort vessels was torpedoed, a second escort went to its aid and was also sunk. The remaining escorts somehow drove the submarines off, putting an end to an ugly night.

On the second night a U-Boat got close enough to fire four of these acoustic torpedoes. We were stationed on the outside of the Convoy. Suddenly the third ship in front of us exploded, this was followed by the second and then the ship directly in front of us. I was on the bridge with the Captain and we had to steer to avoid the wreckage of the ship in front of us. As we turned the Oregon Express got it. The bridge which was heavily weighted with protective sand bags collapsed. I came too and helped the captain off the bridge. Things were happening so fast that we actually stepped off the bridge directly into the sea.

I found myself hurt and in the sea surrounded by wreckage. All around us vessels were shooting star shells, and there was a general chaos. All of us had life belts equipped with red lights. In the water around me almost a hundred small lights were bobbing. The chances of rescue were not good as the Convoy had lost two escort vessels. Suddenly, a Danish ship stopped dead in the water and turned on search lights! The Captain put down nets and proceeded to rescue all of us who were in the water. He picked up more survivors than there were places in the ship's life boats. As a precaution wounded like myself were placed on the ship's hatch covers so that if the ship sank we would float off. Later, I would learn that the Danish ship was an ammunition ship. When I tell people about the Danish ship stopping against orders to save us they are always amazed. But they don't understand the strong feelings of community and friendship among sailors. The night before the attack two of our escort ships were torpedoed and sunk. There were no rescue ships available.

I was transferred to a British Frigate that had a doctor. Then I returned with almost 1000 other survivors to Nova Scotia. All 1000 boarded a special train for New York. This was quite a trip

as the train had only a small dining area. Once you got fed you lined up for your next meal. I was a walking mess of bandages and strapping material. In New York I would learn that in addition to several broken ribs, my collarbone was broken, my knee severely dislocated and my back severely injured.

Despite the wounds the need for experienced officers was so great at this point that I was put on the SS Polarland as first mate. This was done to give the mate leave to get married.



I sailed on the Polarland for three months and then signed off to have my scheduled back surgery. The Polarland was sunk on the very next voyage and only three men survived after a long ordeal in a lifeboat. The mate that I replaced was killed. I met his young widow and gave her my sympathy. I remember the great hurt in her eyes and I could see she was thinking that it might have been me that was lost and not her husband.

My ribs, knees and collarbone healed during the three months on the Polarland, my back was another matter. It would require extensive surgery. Today, when I go through an airport security system, I always get beeped. The reason is that they placed special stainless steel pins in my back, which are obviously still there.

After recovering successfully from the surgery the Union insisted that I stay ashore and allow my wounds to heal. The job I was given was working in the NORTRASHIP office. This was perhaps the most frustrating and depressing job I ever had. When a ship was sunk, I had to arrange for the notifications of next of kin and close out its expense books. I also finalized each lost seaman's file and made payment to his family. There would also be a memorial service to arrange and sometimes when a seaman perished on land or in hospital a funeral.

It was in this job that I realized the true scope and carnage of our losses. The human toll was beyond staggering and our fleet which was the pride of our nation, was being destroyed. More than a few seamen after a horrible voyage

would suffer complete breakdowns. The odds at times were so stacked against them that they simply could not stand it anymore. Some really racked with pain would end it rather than return to the sea. All of this passed across my desk and I knew I had to get to the sea for my own sake. Finally after some heated arguments I was allowed to go back to sea. For the rest of the war I sailed in successfully protected convoys. I would experience war again as an American ship Captain during the Korean conflict. However, in that conflict although we often brought ships in very close to the fighting there was no submarine menace.



House flag of the Norwegian merchant fleet during World War II. This flag was flown ashore from Nortraship offices, ships flew the regular Norwegian merchant flag.

My wounds by the way were not in vain, for it was during my recovery I fell in love with my future wife Mildred. She was the secretary to the President of NORTRASHIP. We met first when I came in to request a copy of the report on the sinking of the S/S Blink. She denied my request because she said those reports were confidential. I told her that I had written it and she said I still couldn't have a copy. I came back later to apologize and ask her out. We were seeing each other when I was sunk on the Oregon Express. Her family kindly took me in when I was recuperating from the back surgery and working at NORTRASHIP. We got married in 1946 and had a good life until her passing two years ago.

I apologize for such a long letter but, I wanted to share some of these experiences with you. It was simply an incredible time in history and I was fortunate enough to have survived it. My story and the stories of the other sail-

ors deserves to be told. The Merchant Marine contribution, especially the Norwegian contribution to the war effort has largely been forgotten by history. We were unlikely heroes and somehow our own nation was never able to accept us as the heroes we were. The time after the war was especially hard for the returning sailors. No one at home seemed to understand what we went through. Benefits were available for the Norwegian Navy gunners, but not the sailors. Interesting, most of the real fighting including the shooting had been done by the sailors.

I have left out a lot things from this letter. I could tell you many stories of the kind people we met ashore in England and America and also of the misadventures that can befall sailors on land. Also the many individual actions that we were involved in during the convoys and unloading of the ships. The ports we worked in were almost always under air attack. In Liverpool, for example, I stayed aboard the Taranger as she was overhauled. During this period Liverpool was pounded for 14 nights straight. The ship fortunately was never hit, but it was in dry dock and would vibrate in an unnerving manner with each bomb burst.

What I really left out were the feelings. The constant stress, fear and tension were an ongoing problem for us all. You get very close to one another on a ship. It becomes an extended, close family. You develop a fondness for the ship. To see so many close friends die in such a short

period while we were all away from home is more than I can describe. I can still see the faces and the ships in my sleep. Somethings you can never really get over.

Several times in Convoys, I got to see a U-boat sunk. On one occasion a submarine was forced to the surface within the convoy. Everyone opened up and we could see the men leaping off.

Although at that point the men on the U-boat were the hated enemy, they were still men. The submarine was boarded by men from the U.S. Coast Guard cutter East Wind. During the boarding a young officer from the East Wind was shot by the Captain of the U-boat.

The period after the war was also very difficult for the surviving seamen. No one really knew anything about what I believe is now called "post trauma stress". I was asked, along with all other officers to continue sailing to help liberated Norway build up some international currency credits. I did not actually get home until late 1946.

Many of the returning seamen were understandably physically and mentally exhausted. They did not have access to the military veteran hospital system and were really expected to deal with their problems on their own. Families

had been apart for years and the returning seamen was often viewed not as a hero but as a problem. There were real problems and more than a few ended up in jail. Divorces and the related family break up were very common.

As I indicated earlier it was not until the early 1970's that the veterans organized and began to campaign for recognition of our service and access to benefits. We were moderately successful and today I spend a good deal of my retirement time as a volunteer helping veterans and their families apply for benefits from Norway. I have files at home of over 700 cases. My advice is still often sought, on family matters, as I am one of the last surviving officers.

One thing that may be worth noting is that the British seamen who served on Norwegian Ships during the war or their surviving families may be entitled to benefits from Norway. I still have the names of the British Seamen who perished in the Blink's Life Boat and have wondered if it would be worth contacting their families. Perhaps you can give me a suggestion on how I might do that. As I was the only officer to survive I did manage to visit almost all the families during the war but I have since of course lost contact.

I look forward to meeting your colleague in N.Y. on May 10th and discussing these things further. Your colleague may be interested in knowing that the Norwegian Seamen's War Veterans will be holding a small memorial service on May 8 with the Norwegian Consulate and other veterans organizations in Battery Park Manhattan. We have a memorial stone there that comes from the sea battered coast (like us) of Northern Norway. It has a plaque telling about the Norwegian Sailors, our losses and our thanks to the people of New York for sheltering us during the War

Sincerely

Captain Birger Lunde



Inscription: Large boulder, south side:DEDICATED IN THE YEAR 1982 / TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / BY WAR VETERANS OF / THE NORWEGIAN MERCHANT MARINE / AND THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN NAVY / IN MEMORY OF HELP AND HOSPITALITY / SHOWN DURING OUR MUTUAL STRUGGLE / FOR FREEDOM AND PEACE / IN WORLD WAR II

Large boulder, north side:THESE BOULDERS WERE BROUGHT HERE / FROM THE COAST OF NORWAY / -- WHERE FORCES OF NATURE HAVE WORN / AND SHAPED THEM FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS

Granite marker:IN WORLD WAR II 1100 / NORWEGIAN SHIPS SERVED THE / ALLIED CAUSE BY HAULING SUPPLIES / BETWEEN U.S. PORTS AND THE WAR / THEATERS ABROAD. / A SIZEABLE PART OF THE ALLIED / FORCES WERE SUPPLIED BY SHIPS / FLYING THE NORWEGIAN FLAG. / MORE THAN 30,000 SAILORS / AND NAVAL GUNNERS MANNED THE SHIPS. / MANY OF THEM LOOKED TO / NEW YORK, THE PRINCIPAL PORT OF / CALL, AS THEIR HOME PORT DURING / THE WAR. / THE LOSSES WERE HEAVY / 570 SHIPS AND 4000 SAILORS.

The monument was conceived by officers of the Royal Norwegian Navy and Merchant Marine. It was dedicated in a ceremony held on October 21, 1982, and attended by King Olav V of Norway and Mayor Edward I. Koch. It consists of a large natural granite slab on which rests a boulder with an image of an anchor inscribed on it. Additional inscriptions are etched on the base as well as on a pink granite marker installed in 1995. In the spring of 2001, as part of the overall improvements to the park's Upper Promenade designed by Saratoga Associates and implemented by the City and the Conservancy for Historic Battery Park, the monument was relocated to a newly landscaped setting northwest of Castle Clinton.