

Published in the interest of  
North Americans of Scandinavian descent

# Scandinavian Heritage News

September 2011

## Celebrating July 4th in SHA Park



Photo by Verla Rostad



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## President's MESSAGE

# Flood aftermath: A time for rebuilding and renewal

by Gail Peterson, president  
Scandinavian Heritage Association

It is hard to believe our summer is coming to an end, and for many of us it feels like it never started. This devastating flood has impacted all of our lives.

Many of our members and board members were flooded, myself included. My home is on the river, and the water reached to 9 feet on the main floor. Thanks go to my family, fellow church members and military friends; their support has been invaluable. Our own treasurer, Sue Weston, brought her tractor out, and we moved mountains.

We were disappointed that we had to cancel our Midsummer Night festival, but because of the closed roads and traffic flow, we did not think it was feasible.

On a happier note, we had visitors from Norway on July 13 and 14. Sigrid Kvisle, director of the Sigdal Museum, accompanied the group and made a presentation of gifts to the Scandinavian Heritage Association. Sigrid presented me with two antique lamps to display inside the Sigdal House, which



Gail Peterson

I was honored to accept on behalf of the organization. We hung one of the lanterns immediately. What a perfect time for these gifts, for this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Sigdal House's resurrection in our park. (See the complete story on pages 8 and 9.)

We were unable to have our North Dakota State Fair in Minot this year, but we received great news that Norsk Høstfest will still be held (see calendar and article in this issue).

Although there were cancellations, we still held many events in the park. The Festival of the Parks on July 4 drew a very large crowd, and was a great event for the entire family. We are grateful that our park is high and dry and still open to visitors.

Thank you to all in our community who are helping flood victims. God bless you. Hopefully in the spring, we can rebuild.

Even though our city has experienced great devastation, it is how we react that makes our community so strong and special. •

## Scandinavian Heritage News

Vol. 24, Issue 56 • September 2011

Published quarterly by  
The Scandinavian Heritage Assn.  
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## *From the OFFICE*

# Flood interfered with park plans

by Verla Rostad  
SHA office manager

Shortly after the last newsletter arrived in your mailbox—all things changed in Minot! The front cover of the June newsletter included a festive picture of the Scandinavian Heritage Park promising that food, fun and entertainment would be found at the Mid-summer Night Festival on June 24.

That was the plan. However, Mother Nature had a much different plan. Instead of celebrating the coming of summer on June 24, citizens of the Minot area found themselves awaiting the coming crest of the swelling Mouse River. It was decided early in the week between sandbagging and evacuating our homes that the festival should be cancelled. It was not rescheduled, as when the river finally did reach its crest, it left in its path a devastated city.

Fortunately the Scandinavian Heritage Park sits high atop Minot's South Hill and unlike most of the other parks in town remained untouched by the flood waters.

Even before the river crested on June 26, brides were calling our office to check availability of the park for outdoor weddings that had to be relocated from flooded Oak and Roosevelt parks. Early the next week, plans were made to move the annual 4th of July Festival of the Parks from Roosevelt Park to Scandinavian Heritage Park. With the sponsorship of Baker Hughes, a "bigger and better" version of the annual celebration became a reality.

Timing was very good. As the city waited for the water to recede, people came together for a fun-filled day of food, entertainment, clowns, bouncy houses and carnival games while sharing stories and exchanging cell phone numbers. It certainly gave the Scandinavian Heritage Park a chance to shine!

The rest of the summer has proven to be very busy in the park. The Nordic Pavilion Picnic Shelter became the 2011 home for the Minot Area Council of the Arts "Arts in the Parks" summer concert series, which is normally held at



Verla Rostad

Oak Park. People quickly adapted to the amphitheater setting of the hill near the Gol Stave Church as performing artists enjoyed shelter from the sun under the Pavilion facing the hill. The final concert by The Treble Makers drew a huge crowd, who also enjoyed gyros and baklava served by St. Peter's Church and root beer floats by Thor Lodge Sons of Norway. To add to the "at the hop" atmosphere, many girls of all ages wore poodle skirts, and the Dakota Cruisers classic car club had their cars on display in the parking lot.

In addition to the Arts in the Parks concerts, the picnic shelter has been a popular site for group outings such as family reunions, company and service club picnics, church groups, wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners. Several senior living facilities have brought groups as well. The number of outdoor weddings is up this year, too. Some days I feel like a football coach running "two-a-days"!

At the beginning of the season I was so excited to say that the park buildings would be open, with volunteers present every evening Monday through Friday until 9 p.m., as well as Saturdays until 4 p.m. and Sunday afternoons. When the impact of the flood was realized, it became apparent that would not be possible. Several of our volunteers were directly affected by the flood with homes damaged or destroyed. Others have close friends and family who have damaged homes. People found they had to reprioritize how they use their volunteer time, with the need to help themselves and others.

With no consistency from day-to-day or week-to-week in our team of volunteers, we decided to have the buildings open only during daytime hours of 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## CALENDAR

FALL 2011

- **Nordic Roots Genealogy Workshop**, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., lower level, Scandinavian Heritage Center headquarters building, Minot (Focus: Norwegian genealogy)



- **Norsk Høstfest**, Wednesday thru Saturday, Sept. 28-Oct. 1; opening concert on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. For details and ticket information, visit [hostfest.com](http://hostfest.com)

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
Copy and pictures—Nov. 15, 2011  
Printing date—Dec. 1, 2011

The sign on the door explains to visitors that we look forward to returning to extended hours next year. Few have voiced their disappointment.

It is unfortunate, since with so many local people in the park for activities at the picnic shelter, it would be a great time to "show off" all the park has to offer. But it just isn't to be. So instead, we work on greeting visitors and making them feel welcome when they come, and managing the schedule to accommodate as many groups as we can with our facility. For smaller groups, the single table shelter and a few extra picnic tables work well when the larger picnic shelter is already booked.

My hope is that next year our volunteer team will be back in place for evening hours, and many of the same people will come back to the Scandinavian Heritage Park for their outings! •

## Young folks volunteer at SHA Park

We have the faces of youth among our volunteers this summer! Fifteen-year-old Alex Westman of Sawyer was looking for a way to spend his summer, and asked about volunteering at the Scandinavian Heritage Park. Alex has attended Høstfest every year since he was a little boy, and he loves his Scandinavian heritage. He has become a regular around the park—sometimes helping out in the Gift Shop, sometimes helping with grounds maintenance and often serving as a greeter in the Sigdal House or the Gol Stave Church. Alex's activities and interests include golf, camping and hunting. He also plays basketball.

Elijah Rockhold, a seventh grader at Jim Hill Middle School, volunteered for 15 hours as part of the Character Leadership Foundation Mentorship Program. Elijah also worked in the Gift Shop as a greeter and helped with light maintenance around the park. Elijah loves music—he plays piano, guitar and violin, he likes to ride his bike, and he spends a lot of time with



**Volunteers come in all ages! This summer we were lucky to have Elijah Rockhold (left) and Alex Westman (shown at right with park maintenance guru/SHA director John Sinn) helping out in the gift shop and the grounds.**

electronics watching YouTube videos, creating cartoons and making music. He likes school, with math being his favorite subject. He also likes to hang out with his friends going to the mall, riding bikes around the neighborhood

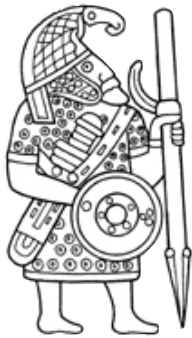
and playing airsoft. Elijah's dad is in the Air Force; the family lived in Japan before coming to Minot. Elijah was born in Iowa; the family have also lived in Texas and Las Vegas. Elijah has one older brother and three dogs. •



### PICTURE THIS! SHA Park hosts

Clowns, carnival games, entertainment by the city band (see cover) and lots of food and fun were on the agenda as SHA Park hosted Minot's Fourth of July Festival this year. (See details on page 3.) The party's usual site, Roosevelt Park, suffered flood damage—giving us a chance to show off our beautiful park! •





# DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY HISTORY: *Nordic Roots Workshop*

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 27 • 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. • SHA, MINOT**

Is there a Viking or two lurking in your family history? Are you descended from Scandinavian royalty? Might your family tree have sprouted a few “nuts” among its fruits?

Here’s your chance to learn how and where to “dig” for these interesting ancestors in your family history.

The Nordic Roots Workshop takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27, in the lower level of the Scandinavian Heritage Center, located at the corner of 11th Avenue and South Broadway, Minot. The focus of this in-depth Scandinavian genealogy workshop will be on Norwegian heritage.

Sessions and instructors are as follows:

- Beginning genealogy—Cathy Langemo, co-author, “Tracing Your Dakota Roots”
- Norwegian genealogy—Iona Loken, genealogist and researcher
- Find-a-Grave—Herb Schwede, researcher

- Internet research—Jeanne Narum, reference librarian, Minot Public Library
- The hunt for Ole Olson: a research case study—Jo Ann Winistorfer, co-author, “Tracing Your Dakota Roots”
- Norway’s digital archives—Deb Nelson Gourley, author and publisher of Norse-English bilingual books
- Creating a coat of arms—Scott Aberle, heraldic researcher

Breaks will feature Scandinavian treats; a box lunch will be served at noon. Also on the agenda: guided tours of beautiful SHA Park.

Whether you’re a beginner or well along in your research, you’re bound to glean new ideas for finding your ancestors.

Cost of the workshop is \$30 per person (\$50 for a married couple sharing the same handouts). Pre-registration is required by Sept. 12 for planning and meal purposes.

The workshop is sponsored by the Scandinavian Heritage Association of Minot. For more information, call (701) 852-9161. •

## DIGITAL HERITAGE WORKSHOP for RVers and others

A separate afternoon workshop is being planned for Mon., Sept. 26, in Minot. The workshop will focus on family storytelling, genealogy and media arts that document and preserve heritage in digital ways. The session covers resources involved in creating photo books, recording family stories for e-books, producing multi-media DVDs, and creating a Family Wiki (shared, dedicated, secure Website). Travelogues using social media are also discussed. The goal is to organize a support group for RVers with Internet access that continues online following the workshop.

If interested, e-mail contact info to:

[Info@NordicHeritageAcademy.net](mailto:Info@NordicHeritageAcademy.net)

This new N.D. nonprofit organization is dedicated to teaching media arts as a means of preserving family heritage.

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: **Nordic Roots Workshop 2011**  
c/o SHA, P.O. Box 862, Minot, ND 58502

**I plan to attend the Nordic Roots Genealogy Workshop, taking place on Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the basement of the Scandinavian Heritage Association headquarters building, 1020 S. Broadway, Minot. Price includes workshop, genealogy handouts and a light lunch. (Seating is limited; participants must pre-register by Sept. 12 to guarantee a spot.)**

I enclose: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Check or money order)  
—\$30 per person  
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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Beginning     Medium     Advanced

Area(s) I am researching:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of Norway I am researching: \_\_\_\_\_

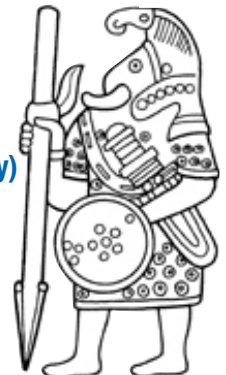
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## TENTATIVE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

- Beginning genealogy
- Norwegian genealogy
- Find-A-Grave searches
- Internet resources
- Finding Ole Olson (research study)
- Norway’s digital archives
- Creating a coat of arms

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## Norsk Høstfest is a 'go'!



### FLOOD CAN'T DAMPEN FESTIVAL'S SPIRIT

The question on the minds of lots of folks has been, how has the Minot area's historic and devastating flood affected Norsk Høstfest? Will there be a Høstfest in 2011?

The answer is a resounding "YES!" Sandbags, heavy equipment and lots of hard work on the part of volunteers, National Guard troops, city workers and crews rescued the All Seasons Arena from the clutches of the Mouse River. Warehouses where Høstfest supplies are stored experienced water damage, but cleanup continues and all will be ready well before Høstfest time. So be assured: the show will go on as planned!

Mark the dates on your calendar—Wednesday through Saturday, Sept. 28 through Oct. 1, for family fun and entertainment with a Nordic touch. The 34th annual Norsk Høstfest—North

America's largest Scandinavian festival—will bring history and heritage alive for four full days this fall.

Things begin rolling Tuesday evening (Sept. 27) with a Great Hall of the Vikings opening night concert by country singing sensation Martina McBride. Other Great Hall stars during the week include Trace Adkins, the Judds, and the Gaither gospel group, returning for a Gaither Høstfest Homecoming. On Saturday afternoon, all-time Høstfest favorite entertainer Charley Pride performs for his many fans. Tickets to each of these performances are \$58 and \$65, which includes the cost of general admission.

For the rest of the week, Minot's All Seasons Arena magically transforms into a Scandinavian extravaganza, with entertainment by top performers, a vast International Marketplace, and

an ocean of booths featuring artisans and crafters from both sides of the ocean, selling handcrafted items and demonstrating their skills.

Look for exciting new acts and exhibits, along with returning favorites. Free stages feature entertainment by the Oak Ridge Boys, Norwegian country artist Bjørn Haaland, Williams & Ree (the Indian and the White Guy comedy team), the new-to-Høstfest Lowe Family entertainers, and the Telegraph Road and Boundary Water Boys bands.

For the cost of daily general admission (\$35), you can catch any or all of Norsk Høstfest's free stage acts and partake in Høstfest activities. General admission is free to active-duty military personnel and their families during Military Days, which run all four full days of Høstfest. In addition, Fam-



# GREAT HALL OF VIKINGS STARS • Tues., Sept. 27 - Sat., Oct. 1



- **Martina McBride** —  
Opening night, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 28, 1 p.m.
- **Trace Adkins** —  
Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 29, 1 p.m.
- **The Judds** —  
Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 30, 1 p.m.
- **Gaither Høstfest Homecoming** —  
Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.
- **Charley Pride** — Oct. 1, 1 p.m. only



ily Fun Days take place at 4 p.m. all four days of Høstfest; families (parents accompanied by kids) can enjoy Høstfest general admission free of charge.

Come to Norsk Høstfest and you'll see why the American Bus Association has once again included the festival among its Top 100 tourist destinations in the U.S.

And while you're there, check out the ethnic food booths sponsored by our SHA member organizations: Sons of Norway, the Finnish Society, the Icelandic Society and more. Treat yourself to some Finnish "mojakka" stew, Norse lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, Danish aebelskivers, Icelandic wedding cake and more. Also check out the Norsk Høstfest Bookstore in

Trondheim Hall, where the Scandinavian Heritage Society will be selling books, calendars and more, all related to things Nordic.

Yes, Norsk Høstfest is a definite "go" this year. Don't miss it! •

For further information, visit [hostfest.com](http://hostfest.com) or call the Norsk Høstfest office at (701) 852-2368.

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# From Norway to SHA Park: Sigdal visitors bring gifts

by Verla Rostad

**2011** marks the 20th anniversary of the arrival of the Sigdal Log House in Minot. It was the second building to be placed in the Scandinavian Heritage Park. This summer, we had some special visitors to the park who were especially interested in the Sigdal House. Two separate groups of travelers who were on their way to the 7-Lag Stevne, which was held in Fargo July 14-17, stopped to see the park and the Sigdal Log House.

The first group came on July 13. Among them was Jens Stør. Jens's great-grandmother, Marta Ølesdatter Vatnås, was born in the Sigdal House in Norway.

The next day brought us more visitors from Sigdal with connections to the Sigdal House—and they came bearing gifts! Torill Lien, mother of Endre Lien, was among the visitors July 14. Endre was a young man 20 years ago when he came to Minot with Arne Svarstad to reassemble the Sigdal House. Scandinavian Heritage Association board member Marion Anderson was here to greet the mother of the young craftsman who had stayed at her house while in Minot.

Also in that group was Olaf Vatnås, who grew up near the farm where the Sigdal House originally stood. He remembered sitting at the table when the house was in Norway. He posed for a photo at the table once again.

Sigrid Kvisle, director of the Sigdal Museum, was also with the July 14 group. Sigrid made a presentation of two antique lamps—one which hangs from a ceiling beam and the other a wall lamp. The lamps were purchased by the previous director of the museum, Håvard Støvern, at an auction some years ago. Mr. Støvern died in July 2006 but wanted the lamps to find their home in the Sigdal House in the Scandinavian Heritage Park.

Scandinavian Heritage Association president Gail Peterson also accepted a framed print of the only known image of the Holmen Gamle Kirke, the oldest known church in Norway, which is located in Sigdal. The stavkirke was built in the 1100s and was demolished in 1854. The drawing was done in 1845 by Kaja Stub, the priest's daughter, as seen from the vicarage.

Birger Moen, journalist with *Bygdeposten*, was also traveling with the July 14 group. He presented us with a copy of the newspaper article that told of the Sigdal House coming to North Dakota and with it, an English translation.

The Sigdal visitors were impressed with the Scandinavian Heritage Park and were glad to see the Sigdal Log House has such a good home. •



Sigdal Museum director Sigrid Kvisle brought two antique lamps (including the hanging lamp above) for SHA Park's Sigdal House.

Photos by Verla Rostad and Jo Ann Winistorfer



Marion Anderson (left) greets Torill Lien, mother of a visitor she hosted 20 years ago when he was in Minot to help reassemble the Sigdal House.







SHA president Gail Peterson (left) accepts a photo of Holmen Gamle Kirke, a stave church located in Sigdal, from Sigrid Kvisle.



Visitor Olav Vatnås (left) remembers sitting at the table when the old log house was still in Sigdal! Right: Jens Stør's great-grandmother was born in the Sigdal House.



Bygdeposten journalist Birger Moen (right) gifted SHA with a newspaper article on the Sigdal House's journey from Norway to Minot, North Dakota.



## Hans Christian Anderson wears a flower crown

A young Swedish girl, Carrie Otto, helped assemble crowns of artificial flowers for visitors to SHA Park for the Midsommar Night festival originally scheduled for June 24. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to the devastating Minot flood. Here, Carrie shares her crown with Danish author Hans Christian Anderson, a featured sculpture in SHA Park. (See page 13) •

*THE HEART of a community is reflected in the quality of its parks.*



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## The Scandinavian Heritage • 23

# Finland: Land of the Kalevala

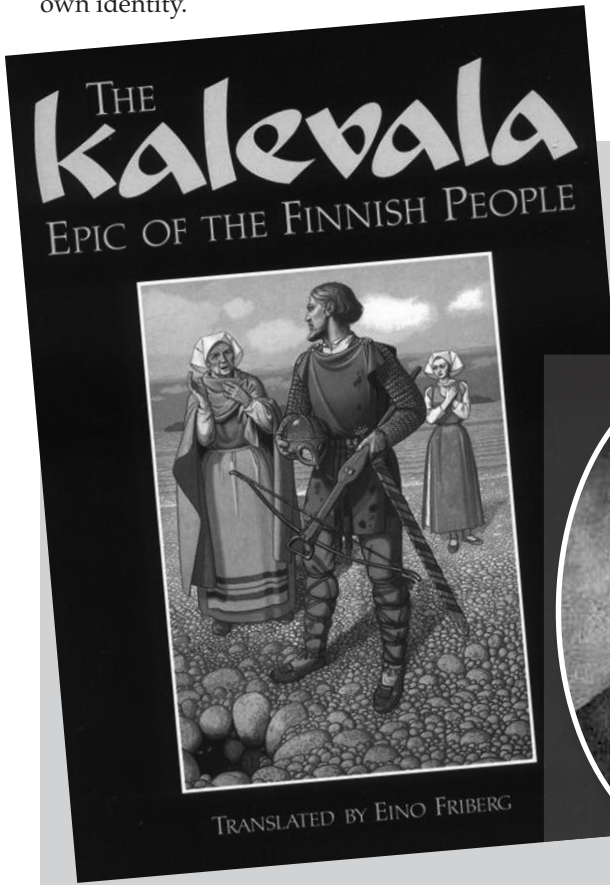
Finland is little understood by the rest of the world, but five million Finns (Suomi) are very happy to live there. For over 700 years, Finland was ruled by outside powers, first by Sweden and then by Russia. But all during this time, they had a sense of their own identity.

One word best describes the Finnish character: "sisu." It really cannot be translated but means, "I may not win, but I will give my life gladly for what I believe."

This is the spirit that enabled Finns to such patriotism in resisting Stalin's 1939-40 invasion. It was also the spirit that gave them the determination to pay their war debts to the United

States when other nations defaulted. Until 1548 Finnish was only a spoken language, not a written one. Michael Agricola, the bishop of Turku\*, who had studied under Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon (early Lutheran Church founders), published their first alphabet book and translated the Bible.

The old stories of Finland's past have been preserved in a special book called "Kalevala." Elias Lönnrot, a physician, went back to the ancient runes to put these together. They were taken from songs which were sung by people facing each other on opposite benches.



## Finland's national epic

The Kalevala, a compilation of ancient folklore and mythology gathered from across Finland, was compiled in the 1800s by Elias Lönnrot (left), a physician as well as a literary scholar and linguist. Lönnrot's research trips took him to outlying villages in Karelia, where he recorded Finnish folk poems called *runos*, performed by local singers. The completed project represents the literary heritage of the Finnish people. Regarded as the national epic of Finland, it is one of the most significant works of Finnish literature. The Kalevala, translated into 60 languages worldwide, has had a profound impact on Finnish national pride.



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The "Kalevala," published in 1835, came at the same time that the national spirit of Finland began to rise. In 1808, the Russians had taken over the country from Sweden. The Finns had gotten used to Swedish rule, but the oppressive spirit of the czars was too much for them.

Even though the Kalevala was pre-Christian, the Finnish spirit was aroused to pride and patriotism. They were ready for their freedom in 1917 when the Russian government fell.

The Finnish people have deep social concerns. Not only do they have social security and medical insurance for everyone, but the Finns were the first to give women the right to vote.

Most women in Finland have careers outside the home, many of them in medicine, teaching and government. To help with the care of children, they employ "park aunties," who are professional baby-sitters.

Equal rights for women is not an issue in any of the Scandinavian countries; it is taken for granted.

Finland is 99 percent literate and has a high priority for science and education. It is far advanced in the field of mental health. Social legislation, however, costs a lot of money, and taxes are high. But the cost of having slums and an uneducated populace is even higher. A low crime rate is one of the benefits of this system. The Finns have learned that survival and pros-



PHOTO BY MARY PAT FINN-HOAG

**Author Arland Fiske**

*Editor's note: This column is the 23rd in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske (now living in Texas), retired from ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The chapter reprinted here is from his book, "The Scandinavian Heritage."*

perity are not private pursuits, but rather goals for all the people. A socially responsible capitalism seems to be working for them. •

*\*Turku: Located at the mouth of the Aura River in southwestern Finland. Although archaeological findings in the area date back to the Stone Age, the town of Turku was founded in late 13th century. To this day, the city's identity stems from its status as the oldest city in Finland and the country's first capital.*

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# SHA memorials: Gifts that keep on giving

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

When a friend or loved one has just passed away, it's often a struggle to come up with a fitting tribute to that person's memory. Making a gift donation in that person's honor to the Scandinavian Heritage Association is one way to acknowledge how much the deceased meant to you. It's also a way to keep the heritage of our immigrant ancestors alive and well through our beautiful park in Minot's heart.

There are many ways to give a memorial to Scandinavia Heritage Park in

a loved one's memory. For example, you can choose to support a specific project, such as our Heritage House museum. Or, you can choose an ethnic group's project within the park (such as the Danish windmill, Swedish Dala horse, Gol Stave Church, etc.). You can also give a donation directly to the association to be used where needed.

Contributions of \$1,000 or more are acknowledged with a plaque on the Scandinavian Heritage Association Wall of Honor. Lesser amounts of \$25 or more are recognized in the Golden Book of Memory in the SHA headquar-

ters building.

It's a good idea, too, for each of us to sit down with our families to discuss where we would like our own memorials to go someday. We should write down our wishes so that other family members have the information and can follow through with our wishes. Remember, too, that placing a notice in an obituary indicating where memorials are to be sent helps others who wish to honor the deceased.

And finally, the ultimate gift is to become a benefactor of SHA through your estate. It's a way for you to leave a lasting legacy to your Scandinavian heritage as well as a memorial to you or a family member.

We hope you will consider the Scandinavian Heritage Association when you discuss memorial donations or estate gifting. For information, contact the SHA office at (701) 852-9161. •

## Join Us In Preserving the Traditions of Our Proud Heritage

THE SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE PARK, the only park in the world representing all five Nordic countries, hosts thousands of visitors each year from around the world; as well as providing a picturesque setting for weddings and family gatherings.

*As a member of the Scandinavian Heritage Association, You help support:*

- Interpretative Tours of the Park
- The Heritage House Museum
- Local School Field Trips
- The Annual "Midsommar Natt"
- "Arts in the Park"
- Seminars on Heritage and Culture
- The on-going preservation and promotion of Scandinavian traditions, positive values and ethics
- And much, much more!

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#### SUSTAINING MEMBER

\$35.00 per year

Will receive the SHA Membership Package, which includes:

- Membership Card good for 10% off Scandinavian Gift Shop items

- Membership Pin (initial membership)
- The Scandinavian Heritage News, official newsletter of the Association
- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events
- Annual SHA Gift Packet
- Logo window Sticker

#### SPONSOR MEMBER

\$100.00 - \$499.00 per year

Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in Newsletter (one issue)
- One (1) Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Banquet

#### BENEFACTOR MEMBER

\$500.00 and above per year

Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in Newsletter (one issue)
- Two (2) Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Banquet

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to support the Scandinavian Heritage Association at the level checked below:

Sustaining Member     Sponsor Member     Benefactor Member

Yes, I/We give permission to print our name in the SHA publications

Please contact us.     I/We would like to become Volunteer(s) at SHA.

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Credit Card:  MasterCard     Visa     Discover     Am. Exp.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail to Scandinavian Heritage Assn., P.O. Box 862, Minot, ND 58702. Thank You!*

# SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS...

## Swedish Heritage Society-NWND NEWS

### Swedish flags waved on June 6

by Bev Jensen, secretary  
Swedish Heritage Society-  
NWND

On June 6, 20-plus yellow-and-blue-colored flags waved above SHA Park. On that day our society celebrated Svenska Flaggans Dag—Swedish National Flag Day.

We began the day by displaying the Swedish flags throughout the park, followed by coffee and fellowship. That evening, a potluck meal was well attended by members and guests. Our member from Sweden, Vicky Jones, introduced us to a delicious dessert (see recipe at right). Her background has contributed a great deal in leading us to preserve our traditions:



ing this celebration. A young Swedish girl, Carrie Otto, helped with this project (see photo on page 9 of this publication).

Sadly, because of flood concerns in the Minot area, this annual event had to be cancelled. Thankfully, SHA Park was not in the flood zone and thus escaped water-related damage. Other Minot parks were not so lucky!

The July 4th celebration, held in SHA Park this year due to flooding at other parks, helped to rekindle a patriotic spirit for our community and brought many to this park for the first time. Our thanks for everyone's participation.

### Summer SHA Park events

In preparation for the June Mid-sommar event in the park, our members assembled crowns of artificial flowers to be given to those attend-

### Upcoming events

- Sept. 17 – Swedish Society fall meeting in the SHA lower level
- Sept. 27-Oct. 1 – Nørsk Høstfest. This will be an opportunity to share

### SWEDISH CHEESE CAKE (Ostkaka)

- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoons + 2 teaspoons flour
- ½ cup milk
- ¼ cup half & half or heavy cream
- 1 cup Ricotta cheese
- ¼ cup blanched almonds, chopped

Whisk eggs and sugar, stir in flour. Add remaining ingredients and pour into a 9-by-12-inch glass or ceramic dish (\*see note below). Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, or until done. Serve with whipped cream and lingonberry or other preserves. (\*Double the recipe if using a 9-by-13-inch pan.)

—Vicky Jones

our Scandinavian hospitality in welcoming family and friends. Members will be participating in the Parade of Flags each full day of Høstfest.

We hope you join us for these events!

Check out the SWEDEN TODAY website ([info@swedentoday.com](mailto:info@swedentoday.com)) which offers a variety of informative articles. •

## Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

### From 'mojakka' to Minot's flood

by Marion Anderson, president  
Dakota Finnish Society

Once again the Finnish Society will have a booth at Norsk Høstfest serving mojakka (Finnish beef stew), breads with Finn Lappi cheese and bread pudding. If you can help out at the booth, please call me at (701) 721-8677.

On Sept. 20, 2011, there will be a showing of a Finland video at the Sibyl Center in Stanley. The Sibyl Center has been featuring different coun-

tries this summer, and Finland is the last one to be highlighted. Some of us from the Minot area will be attending.

Update on Brad Tengesdal: He is at Dakota Alpha Rehab in Mandan and is doing very well considering the severity of his injury. Hopefully he will return to Minot soon, as he is making good progress. Remember, the benefit account at First Western Bank in Minot is still open.

The flooding in Minot this summer affected at least three of the Finn Society members—Mary and Wayne Hill,



Marion and Myron Anderson, and our board president Gail Peterson. It takes "sisu" to get through it all, but progress is being made, slowly but surely.

Thanks to many of you for your prayers and concerns on our behalf. •

## Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS



# History lessons on Norwegian royalty

by Rob Odden,  
president  
Thor Lodge 4-067  
Sons of Norway

Hello, Friends—  
On Aug. 1, Thor Lodge held its annual memorial service, remembering and honoring Thor Lodge members who have passed away the last year, from May to May. Our memorial service and prayer service were observed this year jointly with the Scandinavian Heritage Association in the Gol Stavkirke, coordinated by Jeanice Officer, Rev. Joel Hernes and Verla Rostad. The Gol Stave Church is beautiful and peaceful, an integral part of this enjoyable park.

This Monday in August 2011 we remembered some of our number who were significant to us. These deceased Sons of Norway members were each

honored by a testimonial and a flower in their memory.

We had a moment of silence to remember another significant number: On Friday, July 22, 2011, 77 voices were silenced by an attack of violence in our sister country Norway. Others were injured, are recovering or are grieving. Some have demonstrated for peace, flocking in vigils and lining the streets. We may know these victims personally or know someone who did know them. This summer evening, in our moment of silence, in our stavkirke, we prayed for the good of the citizens of Norway, and we honored the value of these 77 silenced voices. They were of consequence. They were not insignificant.

Pastor Hernes reminded us at this time of the human need for mercy. He reminded us we need to keep going forward after this tragedy, not back-

ward. What has been done cannot be undone. So we need to go forward. Iona Loken, accompanied by Marilyn Anderson, shared with us, "Den Store Hvite Flokk/The Great White Host."

Minot's prayer service for Norway ended solemnly with the tolling of the bell. Verla Rostad rang a choir bell from a local Minot church bell choir once for each tragic victim—77 ringing voices. They were of consequence. They were not insignificant.

This summer Thor Lodge hosted a Saturday morning Norwegian breakfast, thanks to Mary Zurcher and Kari Mahle. If you are interested in cultural classes, please let Mary know by calling (701) 362-7468.

Martha Elliott has been heading up the SON Foundation Helping Hands in the Minot area during the flood-recovery. All lodge members who were eligible will receive \$1,000 from the SON Foundation Helping Hands.

Thor Lodge will again have a food booth at Norsk Høstfest. Look for us and stop by for an authentic Norwegian meal.

We would like to have a membership dinner sometime this fall. Prospective members, please contact Anne Krause at (701) 852-5508. •

## Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

# Iceland history turbulent

by Jim Goodman  
Icelandic Heritage Association

Icelanders, especially those living on the main island, have had a tumultuous history. Indeed, the island itself has a turbulent past.

Iceland is a geologically young land mass, having formed an estimated 20 million years ago due to volcanic eruptions on the Mid-Atlantic ridge. The first human settlement date is generally accepted to be 874, although there is some evidence to suggest human activity prior to the Norse arrival.

The first Viking to sight Iceland was Gardar Svavarsson, who went off course due to harsh conditions

when sailing from Norway to the Faroe Islands. His reports led to the first efforts to settle the island.

The first permanent settler in Iceland is considered to be a Norwegian chieftain named Ingólfr Arnarson. He settled with his family at a place he named Bay of Smokes, or *Reykjavík*.

The same year, another group of Norwegians sailed to Iceland with their families, livestock, slaves and possessions, escaping the domination of the first King of Norway, *Haraldur Harfagri* (Harald Fairhair). These peo-



ple were primarily of Norwegian, Irish and Scottish origin, the Irish and Scots being mainly slaves and servants of the Norse chiefs, according to the Icelandic sagas. Recent evidence suggests that approximately 60 percent of the Icelandic maternal gene pool is derived from Ireland and Scotland, much higher than other Scandinavian countries.

The Icelandic Age of Settlement (*Landnámsöld*) lasted from 874 to 930. On that year, chieftains and their families met near Reykjavik to establish the *Alþing* (Althing), Iceland's first national assembly.

In 1262, struggles between rival chieftains left Iceland so divided that King Haakon IV of Norway was asked to step in as a final arbitrator for all disputes. Iceland was under Norwegian leadership until 1380; at this point, both Iceland and Norway came under the control of the Danish



## Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

# Neil Zimmerman's roots lead to Denmark

Again in this issue, we are highlighting family histories of our members. The following is the ancestry of Souris Valley Danish Society member Neil Zimmerman, who sent us the writeup and photo:

Lars Jensen Vestergaard lived on a farm located on the island of Egholm off the coast of Aalborg, Denmark. There were only 12 families living on the island. My grandfather (Fredrik Nicoli Larsen) lived on this farm until he joined the Navy for two years. He then went to Copenhagen to train as a storekeeper.

When he first started, he made deliveries, including to the house where Grandma worked as a housekeeper. They met only casually at that time.

My grandmother, Mary Winterberg, came from a very well-to-do family. They had a tin shop where they made and sold tin products.



**GRANDPA'S FARM, EGHOLM, DENMARK**  
Grandpa's mother, brother, Jens Peder and his wife

Grandma said she never had a ready-made dress. A dressmaker came to the house and fitted the girls. They did not go to school; instead, a tutor came to the house.

When she came to America (in the early 1890s), she could not speak or read English, so they had a teacher come to their house to teach her. Grandma had two sisters, Stena and

Anna. They all came to America and settled in Racine, Wisconsin, where they worked as cooks at the Racine Hotel.

When Grandpa Fredrik came to America in 1893, he also settled in Racine and worked as a streetcar operator. He and Mary met and married in 1894. In 1904, they moved to Delmont, South Dakota, and bought a farm. In 1917, they moved back to Wisconsin, buying a farm in Medford.

While working the woods, a large tree fell on Grandpa, and after that he was not able to do hard work. So in about 1920, the couple bought a dance hall, pool hall and bar in Orrin, North Dakota. They loaded up the seven youngest kids and left Wisconsin. When they got to St. Paul, Grandpa hired a young man to drive through Minneapolis. After they arrived in Orrin, Grandpa never drove again.

My mother was about five years old when they arrived, and she was the only one of their children who could speak English. By the time she started school, she had learned to talk German. They were the only family in the area that was not Catholic or German-Russian.

My mother, Mildred Larsen, was born in Armour, South Dakota, in 1916, and grew up in Orrin. She married my dad, Francis Zimmerman, in 1934. I was born in 1936, the oldest of three children. •

Crown. With the introduction of absolute monarchy in Denmark, the Icelanders relinquished their autonomy to the crown. This meant a loss of independence for Iceland, which led to nearly 300 years of decline.

The reasons are largely attributed to the fact that Denmark and its crown did not consider Iceland to be a colony to be supported and assisted. In particular, the lack of help in defense led to constant raids by marauding pirates along the Icelandic coasts.

Unlike Norway, Denmark did not need Iceland's fish and homespun wool. This created a dramatic deficit in Iceland's trade, and no new ships were built as a result. In 1602, Iceland was forbidden to trade with other countries by order of the Danish government, and in the 18th century climatic conditions had reached an all-time low since being settled.

In 1783-84, Laki, a volcanic fissure

situated in the south of the island, erupted. The aerosols built up caused a cooling effect in the Northern Hemisphere. The consequences for Iceland were catastrophic, with approximately 25 to 33 percent of the population dying in the famine of 1783 and 1784. Around 80 percent of sheep and 50 percent of cattle and horses died because of fluorosis from the 8 million tons of fluorine that were released. This disaster is known as the Mist Hardship (*Móðuharðindin*).

In 1798-99, the *Alþing* was discontinued for several decades, eventually being restored in 1844. It was moved to Reykjavík, the capital, after residing at *Pingvellir* for over nine centuries.

The island became independent in union with Denmark in 1918. Since 1944, Iceland has been a republic, and Icelandic society has undergone a rapid modernization process in the post-independence era. •

## *Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 34*

# 10 tips for scaling brick walls

*by Jo Ann Winistorfer*

**S**O, YOU'RE STUCK! You've run into a brick wall on your genealogy research. You've checked every resource you can think of. Or, you've heard that the records burned in a courthouse fire. You're burned out yourself, from trying to find one of your ancestors. What can you do? Here are 10 tips that might help you find that elusive relative or family branch you're seeking.

1. Arm yourself with information about names, dates and places. Record all spelling variations on your genealogy charts. Record the locale of the person (parish, farm, county). Estimate the dates for each person's life (birth, marriage, death, emigration, etc.) if dates are unknown; enclose in parentheses to distinguish them from known dates.

2. Determine the religion of the person (to help in locating church records).

3. Find out what records are available

in the locality of your ancestor—when records started, where they're held, etc. Determine which ones might cover your ancestor's lifespan.

5. Check with an LDS family history center near you for a research guide on the country or state you're researching. (You can also check the LDS Website—[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)— and download these guides.) Check the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) on the family history center computer.

6. Check the Internet; search for a specific area to see what resources are available. Also search for ancestor surnames.

7. Visit the area of your ancestors, instead of just writing for records. Go to the local library and ask, "Are there any local histories or church histories?" Go to the courthouse in person to look through the records. That way, you may be able to spot associated names. Or, if the name has a spelling variation, you may catch it while some other researcher might pass it

up. Visit the cemetery that contains your ancestors' graves.

8. Network with other genealogists. Join a genealogical society in the area you're researching. Ask a fellow genealogist to help—especially one who is researching the same general area you are. That person may be able to suggest something that may help.

9. Attend genealogy workshops focusing on your ethnic group or the locale of your ancestors. Turn to page 5 in this newsletter for information on **Nordic Roots Workshop 2011**, taking place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27. The event, sponsored by the Scandinavian Heritage Association, takes place in the lower level of the SHA headquarters building. The focus is on Norwegian genealogy, but researchers of any ethnic origin should be able to glean information and research ideas.

10. Never give up hope. New information is being extracted every hour, and being made available to the public. And who knows, if you remove the right brick, the wall between you and your elusive ancestor will come tumbling down! •