

**TAKE
ONE!**

*Published in the interest of
North Americans of Scandinavian descent*

Scandinavian Heritage News

Paving the path to heritage



**SCANDINAVIAN
HERITAGE CENTER
HELP US PAVE THE WAY**

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President's MESSAGE

Join us for Midsummer Night

by Gail Peterson, president
Scandinavian Heritage Association

A big thank you to Liz Gjellstad and Doris Slaaten for co-chairing the annual banquet again. Others on the committee were Lois Matson, Adelaide Johnson, Marion Anderson and Eva Goodman. (See pages 6 and 7.)

The entertainment for the evening consisted of cello performances by Dr. Erik Anderson (MSU Professor of Music) and Abbie Naze (student at MSU). Speaker for the evening was Markus Stensholt of Tonsberg, Norway, who attended MSU this past year.

Thank you to all of them. And thank you to the Grand Hotel for doing a very fine job of accommodating us and serving us a fine meal.

The silent auction was a big success again this year and thank you to all who donated as well as to those who bid and purchased the items.

George Officer, Virgil Rude and Curt Medalen were in charge of collecting and bringing in most of the items for the auction—thank you to them also. Without their help, we would not have had such a successful silent auction.

The proceeds are used in the care and maintenance of the park.

Still looking for volunteers

Joan Varty is in charge of lining up volunteers to be present in the buildings from May 16 through Oct. 5.

The response has been good, and there are volunteers for every day with the exception of Fridays for the Heritage House.

We also do not have any volunteers for the evening hours, so the buildings close at 4 p.m. each day. If you wish to volunteer for any of these times, please call the SHA office at 852-9161 or Joan Varty at 839-1308.

All volunteers are much appreciated, and many of them have volunteered faithfully for many years.

Guided tours are also available, and our list of willing tour guides includes Verla Rostad, Virgil Rude, Marilyn Wagner, Joan Varty and Alex West-

man. Thanks to them, also. So far we have had several tours for school students.

Midsummer Night just ahead

Our next big event will be the Midsummer Night celebration the evening of Friday, June 20, 2014. It is open to the public. All of the Nordic country flags will be flying all over the park. The event starts at 4 p.m.; dinner will be served from 5 until 6:30 p.m.

The meal will be picnic style, with hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and baked beans. The cost per meal will be \$3. A nominal fee will be charged for dessert items. We will be able to provide the meal at this low cost as we have obtained sponsorships from five businesses to underwrite the cost of the food. Those businesses are as follows: Verendrye Electric, Xcel Energy, Midcontinent Communications, Montana-Dakota Utilities and SRT Communications. A huge thank you to them and to Bruce Carlson for being the liaison. So come, one and all—a meal for \$3 can't be beat!

Music will be provided throughout the evening by the City Band under the direction of Jerry Spitzer. The band will be an integral part of the flag ceremony at 7 p.m. Other groups that will be performing are Adrian Brown, Denby Forest and Johnny Cole Murdoch. There will be various demonstrations such as rosemaling, knitting, etc. The sauna will be hot—so bring your swimsuit and towel—Bruce always has extra towels in case you forget your own.

The bonfire is another "hit" during the evening. Each year Bruce Carlson is in charge of that—he constructs it, fires it up, and waits until the final embers are out before he goes home for the night.

We love to showcase this park, and you don't have to be Scandinavian or Nordic to attend. It is a fun evening of food, music and fellowship for all generations. •



Gail Peterson

Scandinavian Heritage News

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PICTURE THIS!

Midsummer in SHA Park

Welcome the Summer Solstice, Scandinavian style!

Join us on Friday, June 20, starting at 4 p.m.



WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

- Meal (\$3 per person; dessert extra)
- Music, park tours
- Flag ceremony
- Arts and crafts
- Family fun
- Saunas
- Bonfire

• Meal served 5-6:30 p.m.

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CALENDAR • Summer 2014

- June 20, 4 p.m.—Midsummer Night Celebration, SHA Park, Minot
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 4—Norsk Høstfest, State Fairgrounds, Minot
Stars include Doc Severinsen (with the Minot Symphony Orchestra), Daniel O'Donnell, Josh Turner, Daniel Bradbery, Gaither Vocal Band, Herman's Hermits, Bill Engvall, Merle Haggard, Jennifer Nettles, BJ Thomas
Plus free stages with Diamond Rio, Bjørø Haaland, Mollie B & much more!

Next newsletter deadline: Copy and pictures Aug. 15; printing, Sept. 1, 2014

Heritage House now handicapped-accessible



by Lois Matson

SHA Park's Heritage Path is in place, ready for summer visitors. Memorial bricks will line the new sidewalk between the park and the Heritage House Museum.

As you tour the Scandinavian Heritage Park, be sure to stop at the Heritage House museum. A new handicap ramp has been built for easy access. There is a sidewalk leading to the museum with engraved bricks, trees, flowers and benches for a pleasant walk. We are still taking engraved brick orders.

There are many items on display in the museum. You will see traditional costumes, old household artifacts, Casper Oimoen memorabilia, old trunks, dishes and much, much more.

The Heritage House committee consists of Iona Lokken, Marion Anderson, Jim Goodman, Jeanice Offi-

cer, Betty Wheeler, Dorothy Kruze, Marian Bergan and myself.

The committee welcomes old and interesting items to display in the museum. If you have old items to share, you can either gift the items or we have a loan agreement. The committee decides if we have room to display the items.

This committee is looking for more members to help. The goal is to have two members from each of the five Scandinavian countries. The committee meets the second Thursday of each month, May through October (or as needed), so think about joining us.

There is also a need for more volunteers in the house. We are unable to open the house if we do not have a volunteer there. You just greet visitors, have them sign the guest book and answer any questions. A guidebook or orientation is also available.

The Heritage House is a fine place

The Heritage House is now handicapped-accessible, thanks to a brand-new ramp leading to and from the front door.

Heritage Path (opposite page) displays its new memorial bricks. If you would like to purchase a brick in memory of a friend or loved one, contact the SHA Office. Orders are still being taken for more bricks. It is hoped that someday they will completely line the path leading from the park to the Heritage House. (Photos by Alex Westman and Jo Ann Winistorfer)

to volunteer, as you meet many new friends. It is fun to meet people from all around the world.

Enjoy!!!





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SHA banquet offers speaker from Norway, cello music



PHOTOS BY AL LARSON



Markus Stensholt, Tonsberg, Norway, was guest speaker. Stensholt attended Minot State University the past year.



Top photo, from left: Lois Matson, Doris Slaaten, Liz Gjellstad, Adelaide Johnson and Marion Anderson. Doris and Liz chaired the banquet. Below: Diners enjoyed the meal.

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Cello performances by Dr. Erik Anderson (Professor of Music at Minot State University) and Abbie Naze (student at Minot State) supplied the banquet entertainment.

The annual SHA Banquet was held on May 3, 2014, at the Grand Hotel in Minot. Organizers of the event were co-chairs Liz Gjellstad and Doris Slaaten. Others on the committee were Lois Matson, Adelaide Johnson, Marion Anderson and Eva Goodman.

Guest speaker that evening was Markus Stensholt. Stensholt, from Tonsberg, Norway, attended Minot State University (MSU) the past year.

The evening's entertainment con-

sisted of cello performances by Dr. Erik Anderson (MSU Professor of Music) and Abbie Naze (student at MSU).

A highlight of the evening was the silent auction. Co-chairing the silent auction were George Officer, Virgil Rude and Curt Medalen.

Proceeds from both the banquet and the silent auction will be used for projects in SHA Park.

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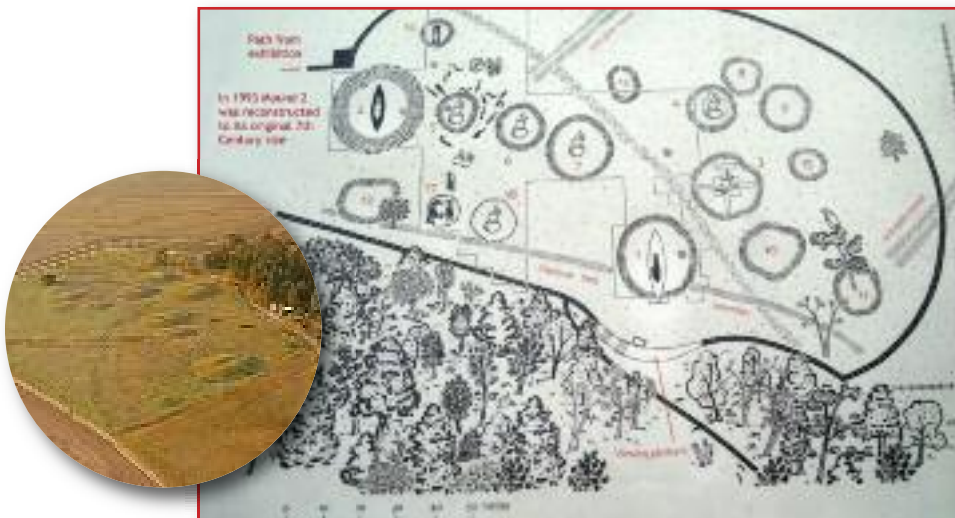
by Pastor Arland Fiske

People who are interested in Scandinavian heritage sooner or later have to



Suffolk County had been attractive to Scandinavians long before the Viking Age (793-1066). During the migrations of the 5th and 6th centuries from southern Denmark and north-west Germany, the Angles, Jutes and Saxons came in such large numbers

Another suggestion is that the "Sutton Hoo man" was not buried there at



Map and inset photo of the Sutton Hoo site, showing the scope of the burial grounds. Some mounds have yet to be excavated.



Items from the burial mound at Sutton Hoo include (from top left) a buckle, a shoulder clasp, a purse lid and a helmet. Center picture shows miscellaneous items recovered from the site.

all. He may have been entombed at some other place, and the ship could have been simply a memorial to him.

Michael Wood, in his book "In Search of the Dark Ages," believes that a body had been buried there but somehow disappeared. If the body belonged to Rædwald, what happened to it? Rædwald had been converted to the Christian faith and was baptized, but he recanted when his wife urged him to abandon the new faith. They then compromised and had both a Christian and a pagan altar in their private chapel. The relevance of all of this to the mystery at hand is that some people think his body may have been moved from the pagan mound and given a secret Christian burial.

One of the interesting artifacts found in the ship was a highly ornamented whetstone which could have been used to sharpen the owner's sword. It measures almost three feet long. Since the whetstone had never been used, it may have been a part of the ceremonial equipment to accompany him on the journey to Valhalla. These scepters are frequently found in Swedish burials. The circumstantial evidence indicates that it was probably a king who had been buried, and Rædwald seems to fit the picture.

In addition to jewelry, many coins were also found at the site. They were not dated like ours are today, but it has been determined that they were minted between 620 and 640.

It is said that King Henry VIII had his agents dig for treasure in the Sutton Hoo area. Queen Elizabeth's magician, John Dee, had opened one of the many mounds in the area. Later archaeological digs discovered one of their tools as well as snacks left behind. It is further said that a gold



crown weighing 60 ounces was discovered in the area, but it was sold and melted down.

The archaeologists finished their work on Aug. 23, just nine days before Hitler plunged the world into war. They had found a treasure that had previously only been hinted at in myths, sagas and in the epic "Beowulf." It was not known that this kind of splendor had existed at such an early time in England. The extent of the find was enormous: a helmet, a sword inlaid with gold and jewels, the whetstone, spears, a battle-ax, a decorated shield, silver drinking horns, silver bowls, silver spoons, a large bowl bearing the stamp of the Empress Anastasius in Constantinople, a gold buckle, coins and more things of value.

There was also an iron stand, 66 inches tall, which some scholars think could have been a royal standard to carry the king's banners. Such banners were carried in procession to announce the arrival of the king to a community.

Perhaps we'll learn more. Seventeen mounds have been identified in the area, and some have still not been excavated.

The mystery of Sutton Hoo may be with us for quite a while, but it does add to our knowledge of the English connection for early Scandinavians.



Author Arland Fiske

Editor's note: This column is the 34th in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske (now living in Texas), retired from Evangelical Lutheran Church ministry. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The chapter reprinted here is from "The Swedish Heritage."

Your gift to SHA keeps Nordic heritage alive, well

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 Scandinavian 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.). Or, consider a memorial brick in the path leading to the Heritage House. 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 headquarters 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.

Legacy Tax Credit benefits giver, charity

Anticipating next year's taxes, it's not too early to consider giving a gift donation to the Scandinavian Heritage Association than right now.

Making it more advantageous is a law passed by the North Dakota Legislature to improve the quality of life in our state. Senate Bill 2160 (SB2160) establishes a Legacy Tax Credit that allows individuals, businesses, trusts and estates to take advantage of a 40 percent state tax credit for contributions of over \$5,000 to qualified charitable endowment funds.

Even better, the unused portion of the state tax credit can be carried forward for three years.

Depending on your tax bracket, your contribution to the Scandinavian Heritage Association can make an even greater impact on the community and cost you less.

The table on page 11 was prepared by the Minot Area Community Foundation. It shows the tax benefits for givers in different tax brackets.

Check with your accountant or tax preparer for details, or contact the SHA office. • • •

Thank you, Carroll and Noreen Erickson!

A special note of thanks to longtime SHA Newsletter ad solicitor/volunteers **Carroll and Noreen Erickson**. Their efforts, along with that of our advertisers, have enabled us to continue producing a high-quality magazine on your behalf! Beginning with our next issue, our new ad collector will be **Duane Brekke**. His contact numbers are 701-852-2453 and (cell) 701-833-9278.

2014 MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

MEMORIALS:

Undesignated memorials

- **Gary Lee**
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson
- **Alice Anderson**
-Given by Myron & Marion Anderson
- **Claus Sevland**
-Given by Allen Larson
- **Arlene Glasoe**
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Heritage House memorials

- **Richard Goodman**
-Given by Mary Linstrom and Jim Goodman

Arne Braaten memorial

- **Tanya Ginther**
-Given by Carroll & Noreen Erickson

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Gift Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Estimated Tax Savings*	(\$1,650)	(\$3,300)	(\$6,600)	(\$8,250)	(\$16,500)
ND Income Tax Credit**	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$20,000)
Net Cost of Contribution	\$1,350	\$2,700	\$5,400	\$6,750	\$13,500

35%

marginal tax rate
on individual
return

Gift Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Estimated Tax Savings*	(\$1,750)	(\$3,500)	(\$7,000)	(\$8,750)	(\$17,500)
ND Income Tax Credit**	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$20,000)
Net Cost of Contribution	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$6,250	\$12,500

*Assuming the marginal tax rate on an individual return is as listed and the donor can benefit from itemizing deductions on Federal Schedule A.

**Assuming ND income taxes would be high enough over a 4-year period to use up the credit. (Current year, plus three years carry forward.)

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 "Midsummer 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!

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- 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

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- Two (2) Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Banquet

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print) _____ Phone _____

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

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Please mail to: Scandinavian Heritage Assoc., P.O. Box 662, Minnetonka, ND 58702. Thank You!

How much do you know about **SCANDINAVIA?**

Let's see how much you know about the Scandinavian countries. The statements below can be completed by supplying the initial of the Nordic country to which the answer applies—(N) Norway, (F) Finland, (S) Sweden, (D) Denmark, (I) Iceland.



1. The world's largest population of arctic reindeer herders can be found in what Nordic country? ____.

2. What country claims to have invented the sauna? ____.

3. The most popular souvenir is the commonly seen "moose-crossing" warning sign along the roads in ____.



4. Which country is called "The Land of the 1,000 lakes," even though it has more than 188,000 lakes with 98,000 islands? ____.

5. Now known world-wide, the inventors of LEGO® toys got started in which country in 1932—not manufacturing blocks, but stepladders? ____.

6. The Faroe Islands, located halfway between Norway and Iceland, are an autonomous region of which Nordic country? ____.

7. In which country were the following invented or perfected: the zipper, the marine propeller, the fridge, the heart pacemaker and the computer mouse? ____.

8. What country's capital city has sidewalks that are heated by geothermal heat in the winter?

9. In which country is the flag flown outside when it's someone's birthday?

10. Hornindalsvatnet, the deepest lake in Europe, is located in which Nordic country? ____.

11. In terms of area (not including associated territories), which of the Nordic countries is the largest? ____.

12. Which Nordic country uses language related to Hungarian, Estonian and several minority languages spoken in western Russia? ____.

13. The highest hill in this Nordic country is 170 meters (557 feet) high; it's called Møllehøj. ____.

14. Which Scandinavian country consumes more Coca-Cola per capita than any other country in the world? ____.

15. What Nordic country holds the World Championship for wife-carrying? ____.



Answers!

1. N, 2. F, 3. S, 4. F, 5. D,
6. D, 7. S, 8. F, 9. D, 10. N, 11. S, 12. F,
13. D, 14. I, 15. F.



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SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS...

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

Norway celebrates the 200th anniversary of its constitution

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

This year Norway is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its constitution. Norway's *Grunnlovsjubileet* (Constitution Jubilee) has been much planned for. Typical are a lot of red, white and blue Norwegian flags, student parades, fun food, and gathering with community, family and friends.

Members of the Norwegian royal

family will be facilitating gatherings at the Storting (Parliament), plus a children's parade and several parties. Many locals will be wearing *bunader* (district costumes).

Royals from neighboring Scandinavian countries will be present, as well as foreign dignitaries in festive garb.

Olemic Thommessen, current parliament president, said that this is "a golden opportunity to remind ourselves about the common value that we must take care of to secure a good democracy also in the future."

So, this *Grunnlovsjubileet* is significant. Norway's 200th anniversary is celebrated there and in other countries, such as Canada and the U.S. One of Sons of Norway's aims is to preserve and maintain everything good and noble in



the Norwegian national character. One-time berserker Vikings are today a peaceable and charitable people. Children are dear to the Norwegian heart.

What would you do...

In preparing for this article, I found an interesting video on telegraph.co.uk.

Sponsored by SOS Children's Village, SOS MayDay has been a network of persons who act when crises happen.

A camera was set up and a child stationed at a bus stop in Oslo in winter. He was without a jacket. Cars drove by, citizens passed by.

"Hva gjør du om du ser et barn som fryser?" ("What would you do if you saw a child freezing?")

A woman gives him her bright blue mittens. An old man gives him his jacket. A woman asks if she could call his teacher. Another wraps her shawl around him. A skier gives the boy his gray gloves.

What would you do if you saw a child freezing?



Norway celebrates Constitution Bicentenary

The year 1814 marks two centuries since the Norwegian Constitution was signed at Eidsvoll, on May 17, 1814. Numerous events related to the Bicentenary will be taking place around the country, all of them designed to enhance knowledge about the Constitution and highlight its significance. The Norwegian Folk Museum in Oslo, in collaboration with the Museum of National History at Frederiksborg in Denmark, has opened an exhibit

called "1814: The Game for Denmark and Norway." Nearly 300 items, 65 of which have been borrowed from the Museum of National History at Frederiksborg, Denmark, relate the story of what happened before, during and after 1814. This story is told both from a national and an international perspective. The exhibit officially opened on Jan. 14, the date King Frederik VI of Denmark was forced to surrender Norway to the King of Sweden. It will run through the end of July 2014.

Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

Sweyn II: Founder of a dynasty

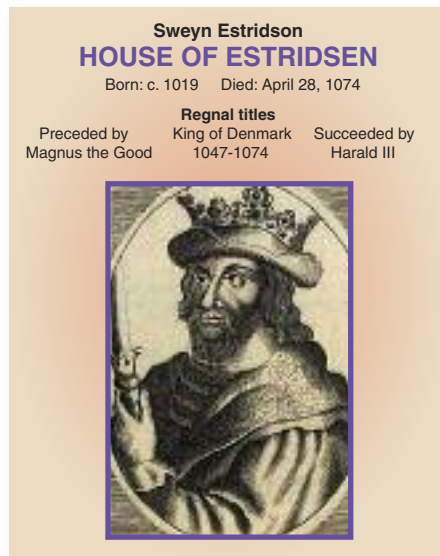
Submitted by Pamela Orth

I am borrowing and highlighting from Wikipedia as well as the Alternative History and the Encyclopedia Britannica regarding Sweyn II of Denmark, who was the first Danish monarch of the Estridsen/Estrids-son/Estridsen dynasty. His massive family helped extend Estridsen control and influence over much of Denmark's neighbors and direct control of Viken, Denmark and Gothenburg.

Sweyn was King of Denmark from 1047 until his death in 1074, which ended a short period of Norwegian domination. He made sure to use the matronymic Estridsen rather than Ulfsson to emphasize the link back to the older Danish kings.

Sweyn was an earl and given an earldom in return for military service by his cousin Harthacnut.

Sweyn II of Denmark, who upon hearing of the death of Magnus, the King preceding him, was reported to have said, "Now, so help me God, I



shall never yield Denmark."

Sweyn Estridsen of Denmark was king for a limited time but quite busy and interesting.

He was born in England, the son of Norwegian Ulf Jarl and Estrid Svendsdatter, the daughter of king

Sweyn I of Denmark and sister of king Canute the Great.

Sweyn seems to have been able to read and write and was described as an especially educated monarch by his personal friend, Pope Gregory VII. He is the source of much of our current knowledge about Denmark and the Nordic countries in the 9th and 10th centuries, having told the story of his ancestry to historian Adam of Bremen around 1070.

He was courageous in battle, but did not have much success as a military commander. His skeleton shows him to have been a tall, powerfully built man who walked with a limp. In spite of his religious faith, Sweyn Estridsen gave offence by having many mistresses. He was married three times. He had one child in wedlock of the 20 children he had with mistresses and concubines.

Sweyn built a strong foundation for royal power through cooperation with the church. He completed the final partition of Denmark into dioceses by corresponding directly with the pope, bypassing the Archbishop of Hamburg-Bremen.

Sweyn feared that Archbishop Adalbert of Hamburg would fill the upper ranks of Denmark's churches with Germans, so he brought Anglo-Danes over from England to keep the Danish church independent. He was determined to bring men to Denmark to teach him and his people Latin so they could converse with the rest of Europe on equal terms.

Sweyn sought to create a Nordic Archbishopric under Danish rule, a feat which his son, Eric I Evergood, accomplished.

King Sweyn died at his farm, Soderup, near Urnehoved, Tingsted, near the town of Abenra, in 1074. His body was placed next to the remains of Bishop Vilhelm. Later he was called the "father of kings" because five of his 15 sons became kings of Denmark. Theirs would be the Valdemars dynasty, and they reigned for 300 years. •



Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

Strange facts about Iceland

Source: Wikipedia, History of Iceland

DID YOU KNOW...

• Icelanders watch more films at the cinema than any other nation, with an average being 5.1 cinema admissions per person per year. That is twice the Western European average, three more than the Germans and five times more than the Japanese!

• According to the Economist Intelligence Index of 2011, Iceland has the second highest quality of life in the world.

• 65 percent of Icelandic children were born outside marriage—the highest rate in the world.

• Iceland is said to have the

world's highest number of writers, authors and artists per capita. There is hardly anyone who doesn't write or make art.

• Knitting has long been a national obsession of the Icelandic, men included. Traditionally, this was a good way to make sure that one could have warm wool clothes to wear in winter.

• Icelandic cuisine features such gruesome dishes as *súrsaðir hrútspun-gar* (boiled and cured ram's testicles), *hákarl* (putrescent shark meat), *lund-abaggi* (sheep's loins cured in lactic acid), and *svið* (singd sheep's head). Whale and seal meat is also traditionally consumed.

• Same-sex marriage has been legal since 2010 in Iceland. Gays and lesbians also have the right to adopt children. •



Ila and her husband, Bob Soderstrom, visited the IKEA store in Oslo last month.

by Ila Lovdahl,
Swedish Heritage Society, NWND

Who is the 88-year-old man who invented flatbox furniture? Why is he ranked on Forbes' list of one of the richest men in the world? Where would we find his famous stores?

The man's name is Ingvar Kamprad. His store is IKEA. The name comes from the initials Ingvar (I) Kamprad (K), who was raised on a Swedish farm called Elmtaryd (E) near the small village of Agunnaryd (A), in the province of Smaland, Sweden.

As a young boy, he pedaled all over Smaland with his goods of matches,

fish, Christmas tree decorations, ballpoint pens and pencils. By age 17, in 1943, he founded his first retail store.

The company is known for its modern designs of appliances, furniture and home accessories. In 2008 IKEA became the world's largest furniture retailer.

IKEA is eco-friendly and low cost. Kamprad's belief is that everyone should have access to good-quality furniture at an affordable price. For example, why pay \$1,000 for a desk if it can be purchased for \$50? Why live in a house of thousands of square feet when a family of four can be comfortable in a 400-square-foot area?

If that sounds unbelievable, just visit an IKEA store. You will find a display of the latter, which includes two bedrooms, a living room/dining room/kitchen, and a bathroom with a washer/dryer installed. Every square inch is utilized. Even in these small living quarters, there are always the separate containers for recycling paper, glass, tin and food wastes.

By creating this home, IKEA has made it possible to live in a home with everything four people need.

Here are a few of their mottoes: "Making a house a home," "Afford-

able solutions for better living," and "Home is the most important place in the world."

Older IKEA stores are usually very large blue buildings with yellow accents (Sweden's national colors) and few windows. Near the entrance is a play area named Smaland (Swedish for "small land.") Children may be dropped off, and parents are given pagers with which to contact their children. Then the fun begins!

One can wander through the store and see the displays. You cannot get lost, as you follow the arrows! You generally end up back in Smaland and will find it hard to resist the IKEA Restaurant which serves—you guessed it—inexpensive breakfasts, lunches, dinners and desserts. Coffee refills are free. The best bargain is 15 Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, a vegetable and lingonberries (similar to cranberries), for a total cost of about \$5 to \$6.

IKEA's 345 stores are found in 42 countries on four continents. Canada has 12 stores; by this fall the United States will have 40 IKEA stores. Our closest IKEA experience is only 500 miles away in Bloomington, Minn., across from the Mall of America.

It would be great fun to meet Ingvar Kamprad in person. If he came to Minot, he would fly economy class, carry an old briefcase and blend into a crowd of people without being ostentatious, flashy or arrogant. What a pleasure it would be to meet him!

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The Swedish Heritage Society of NW North Dakota celebrated Swedish National Day on Friday, June 6. We met at the picnic area of the SHA Park at 8:30 a.m., where we placed Swedish flags around the park for the day. At 5:30 p.m. we all enjoyed a potluck picnic.

Please join us for our next celebration—Midsummer Night, June 20.



Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

Land of Midnight Sun

by Marion Anderson, president
Dakota Finnish Society

Finland is called the Land of the Midnight Sun. Over two-thirds of the world's people who experience this phenomenon live in Finland.

Midsummer is the main national holiday in Finland. It is spent either relaxing or celebrating. With the midnight sun, anything you do during the day you'll be able to do at night.

Join all of us on June 20, 2014, for the Midsummer Night festivities here in Minot at the SHA Park. It won't last all night like they do in the Nordic

countries, but we will have a good time.

The Nordic Culture Clubs will have a festival in Moorhead, Minn., at the Hjemkomst Center, plus other activities in Fargo as well. This will be June 27-28, 2014. For more information on this event, go to: info@nordiccultureclubs.org.

This year the annual event of FinnFest USA will be in Minneapolis on Aug. 7-10, 2014. It will take place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, which is on the Nicollet Mall. For more information, go to: Finnfestusa2014.org. •



Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 45

Don't fall for heraldry scam!

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

Ever wonder whether an ancestor of yours may have sported a coat of arms? Heraldry was big business in the days of our forefathers and mothers. And it still is!

Today, heraldry is a worldwide phenomenon—with heraldic emblems used on everything from family crests and company logos to flags of nations.

Heraldry is the science of armory, or the systematic arrangement of devices on a shield. Heraldic shields are commonly referred to as “family crests,” “family shields” or “coats of arms.” These crests were hereditary, handed down from father to son. Heraldry thus has ties to genealogy.

Heraldry took root during the period of enlightenment known as the 12th-century renaissance. And once the heraldic flame was lit, it quickly spread over Europe and the British

Isles, as well as Scandinavia.

If you are interested in researching for a possible coat of arms for your family, go to your local library and page through the “*Armorial General*” (by J.B. Reitstap, published in 1887 in Netherlands), a multi-volume publication that contains depictions of coats of arms, complete with heraldic descriptions. You may be able to order these books on interlibrary loan, if your library doesn't already have them. Note that the arms contained therein are mainly for Europe. Note, too, that the book is in old French!

In one of the volumes I found the coat of arms for my Dutch ancestors, bearing my maiden name, “Luyben.” Yes, the set of books contains actual illustrations of shields for each family surname listed there.

Knowing what my coat of arms looked like enabled me to spot a sham later on. I got a postcard solicitation in

the mail urging me to send for my “authentic coat of arms.” I think it cost me \$25 to order it, but I was curious. When it came, it was a generic coat of arms (not that of my Dutch family at all). And it listed the name “Luyben” as “originating in Europe.” How specific is that, when I already knew it originated in the Netherlands!

The moral is, do NOT respond to letters offering to send you your coat of arms for a price. Such heraldry scams are commonplace, so don't bite! Sadly, some folks bit even further than I did, paying even more to have “their” coat of arms duplicated, where it now hangs on their wall for all to see.

For information on Scandinavian coats of arms, do a Google/search on the World Wide Web. It's interesting to learn the history behind the crests, even if one's family didn't have one. •

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Note: The 2014 Swedish Genealogy Workshop will be held in Lindsborg, Kan. (“Little Sweden USA”), on Sept 27 and 28, 2014. For more information call 785-227-3595 or send an email to: oldmillmuseum@hotmail.org.