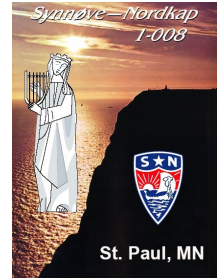




# SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1 - 008

October 2021  
Issue Number 21 - 09



## Front Page News

### **Visiting L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site Virtual October Lodge Meeting Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 PM via Zoom**

What is it like to visit L'Anse aux Meadows? Have you been there? At the October lodge meeting, we will learn what it's like to visit the site of the 11th century Viking settlement in North America. The historic site, located in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978.

Helge Ingstad, Norwegian writer and explorer, came upon the site in 1960 as he was searching for Norse landing areas from the New England coast northward. Over the next eight years, Ingstad and his wife, Anne Stine Ingstad, led an international team

of archaeologists to excavate the site. The Canadian and provincial governments established L'Anse aux Meadows as a National Historic Site in 1975.

This meeting will be virtual using Zoom. You will receive information about how to connect to the meeting in a separate email prior to October 12th.



### President's Letter

Can I have a moment? A Genealogy Moment? Are you enjoying the Genealogy Moment as a regular part of our membership meetings as much as I am?

If you have not been with us at a recent monthly Lodge Membership Meeting, you may be wondering what I am referring to. Several months ago, our Genealogy Group brought a suggestion to the Board of Directors. That suggestion/request was to be given a spot on each lodge meeting agenda to have time for members to share personal experiences with their genealogy. It was explained that the Genealogy Group wanted to spark interest and conversation among our members about genealogy, but not require it to be complex or complicated. Sometimes the nature of genealogy research and study can cause some people to feel intimidated or reluctant to begin. People often say they don't have the time or resources to "do" genealogy. We hope to introduce genealogy to our members in a conversational, storytelling, and supportive kind of way. It only takes a "moment".

Each month members will be encouraged to share a story, a remembrance, a recent discovery, or a key finding about their family that may be of interest to others. You don't have to have a PowerPoint presentation, Family Tree, DNA report, or anything complicated (of course, if you do, that might be fascinating!). Just tell us about where you come from, who you are related to, how you learned that, or what you may have done with that information. Maybe it's just a story about a family tradition and how it connects you to others. It's easy. It's fun. And, it only takes a moment.

I hope you can join us at our next meeting and if you are inclined to do so, "Can we have a moment?"

Lowell



### Torsk & Meatball Dinner Update

Given the current COVID-19 situation, it has been decided that Synnove-Nordkap will postpone the Torsk & Meatball dinner until it is safe to gather together again. Stay healthy and stay safe. The dinner committee is keeping an eye on the current public health information and the requirements set by the leadership at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church.

We are still looking for donations. Since the Torsk and Meatball Dinner is not taking place there will be no Market Place. However, the board is investigating the possibility of having an online auction perhaps getting donations from businesses as well as selling items donated by lodge members. Contact Ron Stow at 651-439-7255 or email [stowronald@gmail.com](mailto:stowronald@gmail.com) to let him know what you have available to donate.

# Secretary's Report

## Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008 Board of Directors, Online via Zoom, 9/7/2021

Members in attendance: Sasha Aslanian, Ingrid Bjorum, Pat Carlson, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeier, Lowell Johnson, Jean Knaak (no audio), Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, LaRee Opdahl, Ron Stow, and Susan Stow.

Guests in attendance: Sharon Amann

President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES-Lowell:** Agenda was approved as emailed, and minutes are approved by email before being printed in the Brevet.

**TREASURER'S REPORT-Jean D:** Report was accepted as presented.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT-LaRee:** There are currently 249 active members. There were 3 new members in August.

**Connie:** Since the Brevet often mentions "contact a Board member", suggested we list Board members on the website and in the Brevet with contact info. Some people don't wish to publicize their email address, so Lowell said we can change the wording to "contact Lowell at [pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com)". Board members and their office held will be posted on the website and in the Brevet. With the upcoming election in mind, a short description of each office will follow the position in the Brevet for a period of time.

**Mary Beth:** Trudi Johnson-Richards fell and broke two ribs. She's currently in a nursing facility recovering. Sam Haroldson's wife, Judy, passed away from cancer. Norm Vinnes fell and broke his hip. With so much sobering news, Mary Beth thought her column should be changed from Sunshine News to Member News. It was decided to keep the name Sunshine News as Mary Beth is the ray of sunshine who brings us the news :)

**DISTRICT 1-Ron:** There is information in the September Brevet for members to be aware of our need for delegates and alternates.

**JR LODGE-Susan:** The first in-person meeting will be Sat, Sept 11 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stillwater. This year will be a study of Vikings. On Sat, they will learn the Viking cadence that would be used on ships to get the rowers all in sync with their rowing. They will also receive sheets of the Runic alphabet and will experiment with writing their own names in Runic. Improvisation will be needed because not every letter of our alphabet exists in Runic. They will be wood burning their Runic names on a plaque to keep and hang in their homes. Susan will be asking the Board for funding for some of the items she'll need. Susan is also contacting a Viking re-enactor who works with teaching children crafts to present a program. Sasha is retiring from her job doing the blog, and a group member's father will be taking over. Susan will continue to lead the children in group activities, and Jana Stow-Velo will be taking over as dance instructor.

**BREVET-Ingrid:** Will continue to work on adding our documents to the website. She will post on social media that the Brevet newsletter is on the website.

**SUMMER PICNIC RECAP-Mary Beth:** Said Brine's suggestion for the quantity of food we'd need was not adequate. We were short and had to do some improvising especially with the meat and the potato salad. After much discussion, it was decided that Mary Beth will contact Brine's management with our feedback.

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM-Lowell (for Jean K):** This will be a two-part program with information on the current Sami life followed by a documentary on the life of the reindeer herders.

**TORSK AND MEATBALL-Chuck and Jean:** With Covid increasing again, the 'what ifs' were discussed at the last planning meeting. The next meeting will be Tues, Sept 21 once again in the Draheim's community room. They have been in contact with Reinhart Foods. All vegetables needed are available, and Reinhart has North Atlantic cod in 4 oz portions with no delays at this time. Oct 13 is the cut-off for ordering the food.

GA church will be having a meeting which will review hospitality in the church on Sept 12, and we should then find out if we can hold the dinner there.

There was a suggestion that if we can't have the T&M dinner in Oct, we plan to have a silent auction at the Julebord in Dec.

**NOMINATING OFFICERS-Ron:** The Nominating Committee (Sheryl Hove, Lenore Jesness, and Ron Stow) has been activated and will be looking for a Vice President and a Sports Director. The Board was asked to consider continuing in service.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, October 5 at 7p via Zoom. (cchrissis)

## Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge Meeting, #1-008, Sept 14 at 7 pm via Zoom

- President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.

- **Sept birthdays:** Pat Carlson, Ken Bjork

- **Anniversaries:** Jean and Chuck Draheim

- **Members attending:** 33

- **Guests:** 1

- **Officer nominations (Ron):** The Nominating Committee is looking for officer nominations. Sheryl H. will be contacting Board members and officers to see who will be continuing. Two positions are open: Vice President and Foundation Director. Email Lowell Johnson at [pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com) if interested.

- **Torsk and Meatball Dinner (Jean D):** Spoke to Pastor John who told her no food or eating is currently allowed in the GA church building, and everyone must wear a mask. They will re-examine the situation on Sept 28. He is open to looking at dates in Nov and Dec.

(Continued on page 4)



(Secretary's Report, continued from page 3)

- **Program:** Two videos were presented. One was on current Sami life, and the other was a documentary on the life of the reindeer herders by special researcher Erika Larsen. She has done extensive work living with and documenting the reindeer herding life of the Sami. Following the videos, members shared their experiences and knowledge of the Samis.
- **Genealogy (Lenore J):** Shared about one branch of her family in which her 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather claimed a relation to nobility before there were written church records. Most of the information came from legendary stories. It is said that "Genealogy is full of mythology, but mythology is not genealogy. Genealogy without a source is mythology." Everyone is invited to join the meetings to observe and listen. You don't need to have any questions. (cchrisis)

### August Member Picnic



The Synnøve-Nordkap picnic in August gave members the opportunity to see each other face-to-face. Members enjoyed each other's company, food, and games.

Left: Ron Stow presents Jerry Stanke with his 45 year membership pin.



### District 1 Updates

#### Delegates to the 2022 District 1 Convention

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge will be looking for at least four members, possibly five, to represent the lodge at the 2022 District 1 Convention to be held June 3-5 at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd MN. Synnøve-Nordkap will help pay for registration and lodging for each delegate. Three or four alternates will also need to be selected to be on-deck in case appointed delegates cannot attend the convention.

Delegates must attend all business sessions of the convention, including zone caucus meetings. This is a great way to serve our lodge. There are non-business sessions, often about cultural topics or idea-exchanges with other lodges. The convention provides a great way to meet members from lodges in states from Minnesota to Texas. District Convention delegates who own Sons of Norway financial products are eligible to be selected as delegates to the International Convention to be held in Eagan, MN August 30 – September 1, 2022.

Selection of our lodge delegates to the District Convention will be finalized in November.

#### Folk Art Competition at 2022 District 1 Convention

Hey, all you talented folk artists, get your hardanger, rosemaling, painting, photography, woodcarving, etc. projects ready for the Nordic Folk Art Competition at the District Convention in June. Any project you have completed since June 2018 is eligible to be entered. Further information, such as entry forms and requirements, will be available in the spring.

### October is Foundation Month

The Sons of Norway Foundation is driven by a sense of purpose to share and preserve Nordic heritage, to positively affect our members' lives, and to make Sons of Norway communities better places to live. Since 1966, staying true to this purpose, the Foundation has been supporting our members through scholarships and cultural exchange opportunities, providing disaster relief to members in need, and funding community programs that celebrate Norwegian heritage and culture. The Sons of Norway Foundation offers four categories of grants that provide funding for Norwegian themed programming. Approximately 25 scholarships to promising students are awarded each year.

One of our graduated Synnøve-Nordkap Junior Lodge members, Liv Larsen, received a John Lund scholarship to assist in her year of study at the Norwegian Folk School in Fana, Norway. See her photo in the October issue of Viking Magazine.

How can you help to strengthen our Nordic legacy and keep our vibrant communities thriving for generations to come? Donate to the Foundation and help make a positive impact through community, youth, educational, and cultural projects. Special donations are often given as a funeral memorial or to honor a family member or a friend for special achievements, such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations etc.

Since we have not been having in-person lodge meetings where we traditionally pass the hat to take up a collection for the Sons of Norway Foundation, you are encouraged to make your personal contribution by sending donations to the address below or online here: <https://sofn.com/foundation/> Mange tusen takk!

Sons of Norway Foundation  
1455 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis MN 55408



## Haunted Norway

by Don Halvorson

In addition to the popular tales of giants, trolls, and hidden folk, a number of ghost stories have also surfaced over the years. The settings for these tales are the usual places: isolated hotels, old church ruins, and stormy turbulent seas.

One of the most popular haunted inns is the Dalen Hotel in Telemark. One evening in the 1800s, a young English woman named Miss Greenfield, checked into the hotel. Although she appeared to be without child, the next morning after check out, a dead newborn was discovered on the bed in her room. Hunted down, found guilty and executed for murder, the English lady still roams the halls of the Dalen Hotel late at night. The cries of a baby are said to occasionally be heard coming from Room 17.

For travelers who want to book a stay at the north Norway's Hotel Union Øye in Møre og Romsdal, there is a long waiting list. It was there, in the late 1890s, that a young maiden named Linda drowned herself in the Hjørundfjord, after her love affair with a young German soldier ended badly. In the Blue Room, her sobs can be heard on some nights, if the guests are lucky.

In January 1924, a woman named Marie Gleditsch was attending an evening mass at the Nidaros Cathedral, when she happened to see a handsome older man in monk's clothing. According to her later testimony, his throat appeared to be cut and dripping blood. As she watched, he seemingly walked through a choir member and attempted to attack a priest nearby. Marie glanced away, and when she looked again, the monk scowled back at her and then disappeared. To date, the monk has never reappeared, but the legend still remains.

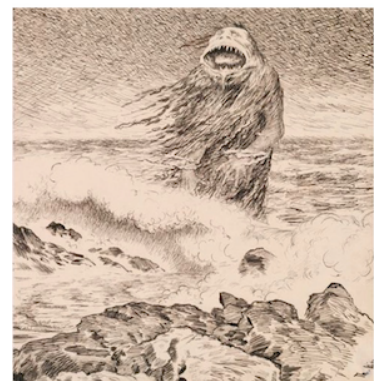
The Nes Church ruins, located near the fork of the Glomma and Vorma Rivers in southeastern Norway, was twice burned to the ground by Swedish troops during the Danish

period. No ghosts have been sighted there, but when approached, strange things have been known to happen. Breathing becomes more difficult for some. Electronics suddenly go haywire. Shadowy forms appear and disappear in the corners of the ruins. Once away from Nes, everything returns to normal. The source of these unexplained experiences is believed to be the pranks of Jacob Christian Finckerhagen, a priest of that church who hung himself there in 1837. Others believe it's the ghosts of the priest's children buried behind the altar who are responsible for the mischief.

The Ulstein Klosteri in Stavanger is the only Norwegian medieval monastery still in use today. In the eighteenth century, it was purchased by a German couple, Christoffer and Cecilia Garman. When Cecilia died at the age of 25, Christoffer vowed never to marry again. Twenty years later however, he broke that vow. On his wedding day when he stood with his bride before the altar, the ghost of Cecilia appeared before him. Christoffer died eight days later, but Cecilia stayed behind, where she can be heard still wandering the halls of the old monastery in her wedding dress.

On the water, sailors and fishermen always fear the *Draug*. Enormous in size, this seaweed-covered sea creature preys on boats that are lost in a storm at sea. He is always seen rowing the remnant of his broken boat through the waves of the raging storm. The only way to escape his grasp was to outrace him to the nearest shore. Those who failed were dragged down to the depths of the sea, to become *Drauger* themselves.

[The Most Haunted Places in Norway - Life in Norway](https://www.lifeinnorway.net/haunted-places)  
<https://www.lifeinnorway.net/haunted-places>  
[Norwegian Ghost Folklore - Seeks Ghosts](https://seeksghosts.blogspot.com/2014/01/norwegia...)  
<https://seeksghosts.blogspot.com/2014/01/norwegia...>



## Bulletin Board

### Sunshine News

Our deepest sympathy to Sharon Kalmes on the death of her sister, a former member of Synnøve-Nordkap, Phyllis Langseth. She was a blessing in life. May her memory be a blessing now.

### Norwegian Language Classes

October classes are cancelled.

Please contact Class Facilitator Sheryl Hove at [sherylhove@netzero.net](mailto:sherylhove@netzero.net) or 651-738-4908 for information

### Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group will meet on October 2 from 10 am to noon via Zoom. An email notice will be sent to lodge members prior to the meeting.

The Genealogy Group will meet on November 6 from 10 am to noon.

### Lost and Found

FOUND: Did anyone lose a gold charm/pendant at our picnic at Island Lake Park in Shoreview? Contact Connie with a description at [cjchrissis@comcast.net](mailto:cjchrissis@comcast.net)

### What Do You Think?

Minnesota winters can be brutal. Assuming in-person lodge meetings resume in September 2021, would you like to meet virtually via Zoom in January or February 2022 to avoid going out on a winter weeknight? Or, if it's safe from a public health perspective, would you prefer gathering in person, regardless of the season? Tell us what you think. Send an email with your comments to [ingrid@steinmetz.org](mailto:ingrid@steinmetz.org).

### Stepping Back

The Synnøve-Nordkap Board of Directors continues to monitor the current state of the COVID-19 health emergency along with local, state, and federal guidelines regarding social gatherings. In-person lodge meetings are, once again, being put on hold until the current surge of COVID-19 subsides and we have a safer environment for members.

Synnøve-Nordkap Board of Directors will continue to meet over Zoom for its monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in joining the next Zoom board meeting, please contact Lowell Johnson via email: [pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com)

### For Information:

**Lowell Johnson**, President:  
[pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com)  
**Ron Stow**, Vice President Pro Tem:  
[stowronald@gmail.com](mailto:stowronald@gmail.com)  
**Ingrid Bjorum**, Brevet Editor:  
[ingrid@steinmetz.org](mailto:ingrid@steinmetz.org)

## Early Start for Nominations and Election of Lodge Officers

Dear members of Synnove-Nordkap Lodge,

The calendar has been moved up for the election of lodge officers. In September, the nominating committee will be activated. Please make their job easier by volunteering to take a position as an elected officer or as an appointed officer.

At this time, we know there will be two board positions open: Foundation Director and Vice President. The Foundation Director is responsible for advertising the Sons of Norway Foundation, especially during Foundation Month in October. The key is to encourage our members to donate money to the Foundation, which provides scholarships and assistance to members.

The Vice President position is the first in the presidential cycle in which this member serves two years as VP, two as President and two as Counselor. Currently the Vice President position is considered pro tem. Ron Stow has previously fulfilled the presidential cycle twice and will not continue as VP. The board would like to see a new Vice President who will learn the ropes, so to speak, and be ready to take over the position of President in 2023.

Please give every consideration to serving the lodge as an officer. The slate of officers will be announced in October, and the election will be held in November. Contact Lowell Johnson [pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com) or Ron Stow 651-439-7255 or [stowronald@gmail.com](mailto:stowronald@gmail.com) for more information.

We need you, and we're here to help. The current board members will be available to help new members and to answer questions along the way. We also have a Counselor on our board who is available to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it. So, please reach out and step up to help lead our lodge into the future.

### **Synnove-Nordkap 1-008 St. Paul, MN, Nominations for Election**

Voting for 2022 lodge offices will occur at the lodge meeting on Tuesday, November 9th at 7 PM.

#### **Board of Directors**

President - Lowell Johnson

Vice President - **OPEN**

Secretary - Connie Chrissis

Treasurer - Jean Draheim

Counselor - Chuck Draheim

Membership Secretary - LaRee Opdahl

Junior Lodge Director - Susan Stow

Social Directors - Pat Carlson and Dianne Anderson

Cultural Director - Jean Knaak

Scholarship Director - Sasha Aslanian

Foundation Director - **OPEN**

Sport/Recreation Director - Audrey Vaage

Director-at-large - Lynn Hoffmeyer

Newsletter Editor - Ingrid Bjorum

Webmaster - Ingrid Bjorum

Advisors - Mary Beth and Dave Mutchler

District 1 Lodge Contact - Ron Stow



## Junior Lodge Update

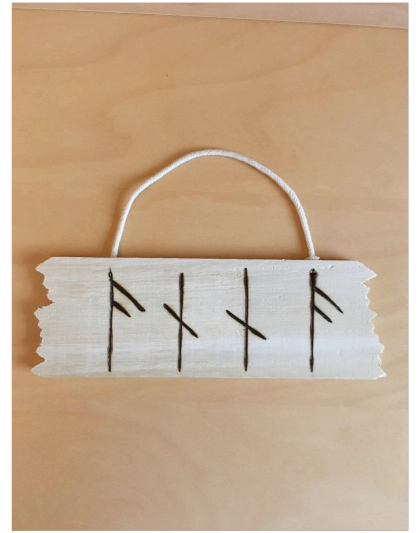
### JUNIOR LODGE UPDATE

At our most recent junior lodge meeting, we used the 16 character runic alphabet for each junior lodge dancer to practice writing their name on paper a couple times before using the woodburning stylus. The Futhark alphabet doesn't have characters for G, D, P, E and O. Consequently, some names had to be adapted. Vikings carved their names on personal possessions such as swords, axes, skates, skis and tools. Carving on wood, bone, metal or stone, the runic writing in straight lines was efficient.

If you are a fan of *Hagar the Horrible* cartoon strip in the Sunday paper, you know about Leif the Lucky. Our second activity was to create a Viking nickname for ourselves. We started with our own name, add "the", then chose an adjective like bold, clever, fair or swift. Next we added a noun such as bard, beard, poet, riddler or troll and see what our nickname might have been in Viking times. The results were fun!

We were happy to welcome Henrik Peterson, younger brother of Anders. Henrik jumped right in to our activities and dance rehearsal! Great to have more boys in the group now.

Jana Stow Velo is our very capable Dance Director now. She led the group through the performance dances for our Norwegian Elkhound Conference show at the Washington Country Fairground on Monday, September 20th.



Synnove-Nordkap Junior Lodge Peer Gynt Norwegian Dancers performed at the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America's National Specialty Dog Show held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo MN on September 19-24. After the performance the dancers got to meet some the show dogs.

*The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.*



Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008:  
District 1 Lodge of the Year in 2013  
Family Lodge of the Year in 2006, 2008, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Visit Synnøve-Nordkap online: <https://synn-nord.org>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums>  
<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/about/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SynnoveNordkap/>

Date	Event	Location
Saturday, October 2, 10 AM	Genealogy Group	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, October 5, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, October 12, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, November 2, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, November 6, 10 AM	Genealogy Group	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, November 9, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	TBD