



# SONS of NORWAY

May 2019  
Walworth County, WI

## Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, fellow Norwegian Americans:

Well, I thought spring was truly on the way, but Mother Nature has a mind of her own. She has given us a kick, but hopefully we will soon be in the throgs of warm weather and blooms.

Our next meeting, at the Atrium (Sherwood Lodge) in Williams Bay May 14th @ 6 p.m., will have our long awaited movie. The Stavig Letters is a 56 minute recounting of the stories of Lars Stavig, who immigrated to the U.S. in 1876, and his brother Knut, who stayed behind in Norway. It is very interesting and I hope to see you all there. As usual, we will have a pot luck first, so bring your appetite too. Please make this an opportunity to reach out to your neighbors and bring a friend as well.

Last but not least, we will be celebrating Syttende Mai. Fly your Norwegian flag high, this month. If you wish to attend the celebration in Stoughton this year, I will be organizing a ride share. We will meet at Frank's parking lot in Elkhorn at 9 a.m. Sunday May 19th and return after the Stoughton High School dancers have finished in late afternoon. A call or text to let me know you are coming will be nice, but not necessary. 262-949-9191 Corlene Bartels

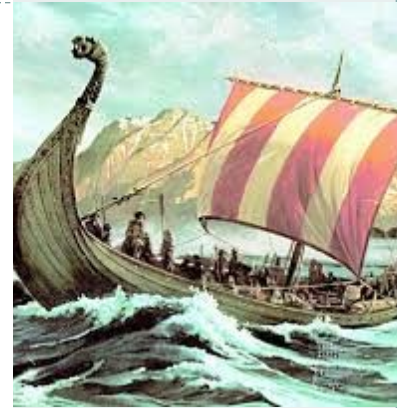
## Membership Committee News

We have received a \$650 grant from the national office for recruitment. This money must only be used for recruitment purposes: advertising, pamphlets, and other supplies to reach our target audience. We would also like to show our stuff in a couple of parades this year. Additionally, we may be able to do some recruitment at the Delavan and Elkhorn band shells during a movie night or music evening. Please keep one of us informed of any Maxwell Street days or other events in your community where we might make an impact.

Additionally, we are moving ahead with the June 15th Heg Park meeting as a fund raiser. Anyone who can volunteer to make food ahead of time or be in attendance to help serve, please let either Joye Kahl or me know.



Keep visiting our Facebook page, if you have one. And keep sharing and liking things you see posted. This will keep spreading our profile around and reach more people.



### Gratulare Med Dagen

Janet Schuren 9th  
Lillian Landru 15th  
Kathleen Henderson 26th

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Book Review ..... 2  
Rocket Powered Aurora..... 2  
Norwegian Beer ..... 3  
Folklore: Elves & Mare ..... 3  
Scandinavian Stereotypes . 4  
Bronze Age Scandinavia .... 5  
Norway's National Day .... 6

### KALENDAR

- May 14th: 6 o'clock meeting at Sherwood Lodge in Wms. Bay, potluck & movie "The Stavig Letters."
- May 19th 9 a.m. rideshare to the Stoughton Syttende Mai, Frank's parking lot, Elkhorn.
- June 15th Heg Memorial Park: Lodge & Zone 4 Meeting & fund raiser.
- Aug.18th outing to Stoughton



### Book Review: Old World Murder

By Kathleen Ernst

Trying to leave painful memories behind her, Chloe Ellefson is making a fresh start. She's the new collections curator at Old World Wisconsin. On her first day, Chloe meets with an elderly woman who begs her to find a priceless eighteenth-century Norwegian ale bowl that had been donated to the museum years ago. But before Chloe can find the heirloom and return it to her, the woman dies in a suspicious car crash.

Digging up the history and whereabouts of the rare artifact quickly turns dangerous. Chloe discovers that someone is desperately trying to cover up all traces of the bowl's existence—by any means necessary. Assisting Chloe is police officer Roelke McKenna, whose own haunting past compels him to protect her. To catch the covetous killer, Chloe must solve a decades-old puzzle...before she becomes a part of history herself.

With a location right here in our local area, this will be a fun book to read. With mentions of Eagle, LeGrange, Palmyra and other local spots, this book strikes right to the heart of our area. It adds more fun to the pot, there is a whole series of books to follow Chloe with locations like Washington Island, Green Bay, & Decorah, IA.

You can also get this book from your local library in book or audio form if vision is a problem.

## SCANDINAVIA'S SPECTACULAR ROCKET-POWERED AURORA

Locals and visitors to northern Scandinavia are no strangers to dazzling light shows. But last weekend, something truly spectacular appeared in the night sky.

### "OUT OF THIS WORLD"

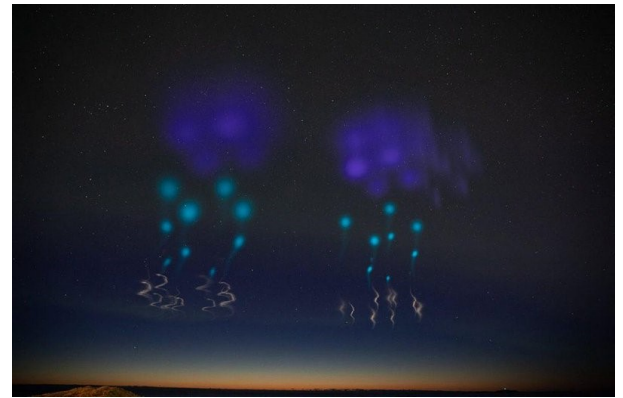
This was no ordinary aurora. Instead of ribbons of milky green light flickering across the sky, a handful of vivid blue lights appeared in two groups. One photographer described the experience as "out of this world".

The reason? The Andøya Space Center in the far north of Norway's remote Vesterålen islands. More than 1,200 sounding and sub-orbital rockets have been launched from the Norwegian rocket range since 1962.



### TWO ROCKET LAUNCHES

On Saturday night, two rocket launches took place that released metallic powder into the atmosphere. The resulting reaction caused the incredible light show you can see in these photographs. A passenger on the nearby Hurtigruten vessel MS Trollfjord writes, "While we were watching the after-effects of a beautiful northern lights display, the rockets were launched from the Andøya Space Center only about 180 km away to the north. We saw two orange dots rise into the sky and disappear. A short while later strange lights and col-



orful, expanding clouds appeared I first did not have an explanation for. It looked like an alien attack! A quick internet search showed that we had witnessed aurora research conducted by NASA".

### WAITING FOR CLEAR SKIES

The Andøya Space Centre tweeted about the launch. "NASA Sounding Rockets Program Office and ASC launched two sounding rockets in the AZURE project tonight at 2214 UTC. The two vehicles were launched two minutes apart, reaching 320 km altitude while releasing a visible gas to investigate conditions inside the aurora borealis."

The team was on standby during the launch window that stretched from 23 March to 10 April. They had to wait for clear skies and a strong aurora display. The two rockets launched simultaneously from Andøya took measurements of the atmospheric density and temperature.

They also deployed visible tracers – trimethylaluminum (TMA) and a barium/strontium mixture – into the atmosphere between 75 and 150 miles above the earth. When exposed to sunlight the tracers ionize and produce colorful clouds that the researchers can track.

# All About Norwegian Beer

From the major pilsner producers to the recent craft ale craze, here's a guide to the best Norwegian beers.

Norway is a nation of beer drinkers. Pilsner, the style enjoyed in Germany and the Czech Republic, is especially popular, but as with the rest of the world craft beers are gaining market share.

Due to government restrictions, beers above 4.7% ABV are only available from licensed premises (bars, restaurants and clubs) or from the Vinmonopolet, a state-run alcohol retail store. As a result, many breweries reduce the alcohol content in their beer in order for them to be sold in supermarkets.

Beer has been brewed and enjoyed in Norway for at least 1,000 years. But brewing rapidly industrialized and home brewing was made illegal. There are now just two major names: Carlsberg-Ringnes and Hansa-Borg.

## Drinking culture in Norway

Alcohol is a social lubricant for Norwegians of both genders. So when I say 'Norwegian,' that means women AND men." However, drinking 'sessions' are usually confined to special occasions including birthdays and cabin trips. The Christmas party (julebord) is the prime example.

In Norway, the cost of alcohol takes things to new heights. You can expect to pay from \$7.50-9.80 for a regular 13-17 oz. glass of pilsner in most Norwegian bars, more in restaurants. Ales and craft beers will be more, and prices are even high in supermarkets. The reason is simple: Taxes.

## Norwegian pilsner

If you ask for a beer in an American bar, you'll get an unimpressed stare back from the bartender, accompanied by some variation of "which one"? If you ask for a beer (*en øl*) in a Norwegian pub, they'll pour you the house lager, which is almost always one of the pilsners from the main Norwegian breweries. More often than not, the choice will be dependent on geographic location of the

brewery (at least traditionally). In Tromsø, it's going to be Mack. In Trondheim, it's going to be Dahl's, and so on. Of course, all these brands also brew a range of other beers and ales, but they are all best known for their pilsner. Some of the biggest brands include:

**Ringnes**, owned by Carlsberg, which also distributes PepsiCo drinks including Pepsi, Pepsi Max, 7Up, Gatorade, and Lipton Ice Tea; **Hansa**, of Bergen's Hansiatic history; **Dahls**, the pride of Trondheim; and **Mack**, of Tromsø and Nordkjosbotn.

## Norwegian craft beers

As with the rest of the world, Norway has seen an explosion of interest in craft beers in the last 5-10 years. Microbreweries and brewpubs are now a common sight throughout the land.

## The best Norwegian beers

If ever there was a topic to start a flame war in the comments, it would be picking out the best microbrews! Everyone has their personal favorites and, of course, much depends on what kind of beers you like.

The current best rated beers are:

- Sippin' Into Darkness (Barrel Aged) from Lervig
- Eternal Rest 2017 from Nøgne Ø
- Dark Horizon 4.5 from Nøgne Ø



Made famous by J. R. R. Tolkien, the dwarves and the elves originate from Norse Mythology. The **dwarves** lived in their own part of Midgard; a place no human could find. They were small people, often pictured as little men with long beards, who were master smiths, and made the swords, shields and armor for the gods themselves. The **elves** lived in a deep forest nearby the castle of Frøy, the god of fertility, called Alvheim. They were fair and beautiful, and commonly seen as peaceful creatures.



**Mare** is a female Vette, who gives people bad dreams at night by sitting on them in their sleep. She is a common belief in Germanic folklore, and appears in many different shapes. The Scandinavian words for Nightmare, are: Norwegian – Mareritt, Danish – Mareridt, Swedish – Mardröm, which directly translated means Mare-ride, and Mare-dream.

## SCANDINAVIAN STEREOTYPES: TRUTHS & MYTHS

What comes to your mind when you hear the word Scandinavia? Is your view of the Nordic people defined from experience? Or is it defined by things your parents told you, or what you've seen in the media or read online? Let's take a look in detail at some of the most common perceptions of people from this fascinating region.

### **A question of perspective**

Most foreign generalizations of the region's people paint them as wealthy, rational, and perhaps even boring, with very little differences seen between the three nationalities. Yet step inside the region, and you'll be surprised.

### **Scandinavian jokes**

Scandinavian jokes featuring "the Swede, the Dane and the Norwegian" are commonplace in schools. As depicted in this excellent long-running web comic, [Scandinavia & the World](#), the typical Swede is rich, arrogant, and tech-savvy. The typical Dane is usually seen as a slightly decadent hedonist, with a can of beer never far from reach. The typical Norwegian is depicted as an uneducated jumper-wearing country bumpkin, always with a fish close at hand.

It should come as no surprise really. It's impossible to discuss the history of one without mentioning the others within a couple of sentences. There have been political unions, wars, and contested boundaries in the region since the Medieval era.

### **Blonde hair, blue eyes**

Perhaps the most popular stereotype about the region's population is that everyone – men and women – is blonde-haired and blue-eyed. This is perhaps the biggest myth of them all! It is true that the percentage of blonde-haired people is a little higher in Scandinavia than in the rest of the world, but it is a long way from being a majority.

Like elsewhere in Europe, Norwegians, Danes and Swedes have a range of hair and eye colors. There are two theories as to why many Scandinavians have blonde hair. One popular theory is it was caused by genetic mutations as a result of the lack of sunlight once humans began to spread north. Another more controversial theory has it that blonde hair began to develop in Scandinavia as a result of sexual selection, as it was deemed more attractive.

Whatever the truth, it's thought likely that the Viking travels from the late eighth century onwards is what helped to spread the distinctive hair color throughout Europe. So if you're blonde on top, you may have the Vikings to thank for it!

### **They're all socialists**

The Nordic model is perhaps one of the most misunderstood economic systems in the world. Far from being socialist states, the three Scandinavian countries are, in fact, principally free market capitalist economies. What defines the Nordic model is the comprehensive welfare

state and collective bargaining layered on top.

As for politics, from 2013-2017 Norway had a ruling centre-right coalition, which was re-elected through 2021. Assuming the government stays functional, that will be eight full years without left wing representation at the highest level of Government.

In Sweden, a coalition led by the Social Democrats has been in power since 2014, but it is one of the weakest minority governments in the country's history. Since 2015, the Prime Minister of Denmark has been Lars Løkke Rasmussen, the leader of the centre-right Venstre party.

### **The people are rude**

This one divides opinion, and with good reason! Many academic studies have been done into Nordic behavioral patterns, and the results are fascinating. While we're not going to dive into detail here, the results can be easily summarized as a cultural mis-

understanding. Behavior that Scandinavians perceive as polite – such as not bothering a stranger with small talk – is perceived by some foreigners as standoffish and rude.

A researcher from NHH's Department of Professional and Intercultural Communication finds no support whatsoever for a universal standard of politeness in her studies. "No, Norwegians are polite. We don't bother other people unnecessarily. We don't ask for help unless we feel we really need to. To us, that's being polite," she told Science Nordic.

### **All Scandinavians are wealthy**

Norway is a wealthy nation because of oil and gas, whereas the Swedish economy was built on copper and steel. One thing all three countries have in common is that the government, unions, businesses and people work together for the greater good.

It also depends, of course, on your definition of the word 'wealthy'. While salaries are relatively high in Scandinavia, so is the cost of living. Every citizen knows there is a safety net there should they lose their job, become unable to work through injury, or fall seriously ill. Because of the high cost of living, it's normal for both people in a relationship to work. The excellent support for new parents and priority of children in Nordic society means taking time off to have children is not a problem. So while every individual Scandinavian isn't rich, there are a lot fewer people struggling to make ends meet than in certain other developed countries.

### **Everyone's house looks like an IKEA showroom**

Come on now, IKEA is Swedish after all! In case you were wondering, there are 24 IKEA stores in Sweden, nine in Norway, and five in Denmark. Scandinavian homes tend to be smaller than you'd get in the United States. This means no space is wasted and clever storage solutions are used wherever possible. So while not everyone shops at IKEA, the functional style of furniture made famous by the furniture store is certainly a feature of many Scandinavian homes.



# WELCOME TO BRONZE AGE SCANDINAVIA

Chieftains were the political movers and shakers of Bronze Age Scandinavia. Though the Nordic Bronze Age officially lasted from 1700 BCE to 500 BCE, this article focuses on what was going on between 1500 BCE and 1100 BCE; this period represents the very height of the Bronze Age in Scandinavia. This time span corresponds to the emergence of the New Kingdom in Egypt, the advent of the powerful Hittite Empire in Turkey, and the rise of Minoan and Mycenaean Greece (the period made famous by Homer's Iliad).



*Bronze Age mound near Borum Eshøj north-west of Aarhus*

Contrary to what you might expect, Scandinavia at this time boasted one of the most wealthy and vibrant societies in northwest Europe. In the middle Bronze Age it was one of the centers, not one of the frontier outliers of the European world. During this span of years, political and economic power was wielded by powerful chieftains who were the dominant political leaders of the many small chiefdoms that dotted Bronze Age Scandinavia's long and indented coastlines.

Imagine for a moment that you were a chieftain between roughly 1500 BCE and 1100 BCE. What would your life be like? Pretty good for the most part. You occupy the top rung of society. Your house is the largest in the chiefdom, perhaps 30 to 50 meters (98 to 164 feet) in length and 10 meters (33 feet) in width. It is a large wooden hall held up with aisled rows of sturdy posts and walled with huge planks. Your farm would be the biggest in your community and contain the most fertile land and support large herds of cattle and sheep and numerous fat pigs.

Your little realm would be approximately 20 to 30 square kilometers (7.72 to 11.6 square miles). Let us imagine, for example, that your chiefdom consists of the little island of Møsterøy in Rogaland, in southwest Norway. You would have 23 square kilometers (8.8 square miles) and about 300 people under your immediate control. But as a chieftain you would not enjoy absolute power. You would rule by being generous to your people, especially the free farmers who work their own farms on your island

chiefdom. In order to hold your position as leader, as "first among equals," you would need to share your wealth with others. You would do this by providing feasts with lots of meat from your herds and giving gifts, especially weapons of bronze and ornaments of gold and silver to your most loyal supporters. And then there is alcohol. Beer and mead would have been essential to any of your feasts, liters of it. But if you were a particularly rich chieftain you might have served your most high-born guests imported wine from a bronze cauldron in beautifully decorated gold cups.

Your successful rule would also have depended on your fierceness and capability as a leader of warriors. These fighting men would have been largely drawn from the younger sons of the free farmers in your small chiefdom and number about 30 to 50 men. And you would have needed to feed them and house them during their service to you and recognize their loyalty with frequent gifts, either bronze weapons or other items of wealth such as metal razors, tweezers, and arm rings. Most of your young warriors would have enjoyed nightly accommodation on the broad, low benches that flanked the sides of your large hall.

This cadre of dedicated young warriors would have provided your coercive power when generosity did not get you what you wanted or needed. They were also your defense against other aggressive chieftains along Scandinavia's coast who might want something of yours. In addition, they would also be your protection and offensive force when you ventured out on trading or raiding missions to obtain more wealth to solidify your position of power.

For raiding and trading, you would have sponsored the building of a number of long sea-going, canoe-like boats. Your boats did not have sails, but with paddling crews from six to 60, they were sleek and fast; perfect for raiding your distant or near neighbors. When you needed more warriors than in your own professional "band of brothers" you could call upon all your free men to bear arms in defense or offense. Each would at least possess a bronze war axe and most would also own a sword or two. If the island of Møsterøy constituted your chiefdom, you would have been most happy with the harbor that bordered your farm and grand hall. It had two narrow, protected entrances and exits, not just one; perfect for a quick escape in your boats should an enemy approach through one of the two openings (Because of its unique harbor and strategic position in the vast waters of Ryfylke Fjord, Møsterøy became a favorite royal seat in the Viking Age).

But you could not survive long in the Bronze Age on your own. All men and women traced their kinship equally through both their fathers and mothers. All people, including you the chieftain, cultivated the support and loyalty of as many relatives as they could. In particular, you would look for allies among other chieftains to whom you were related. These you would win over with particularly great

feasts and fancy gifts from far away. You, like most chieftains, needed to be part of a confederacy of chiefs with common interests in case you were attacked by other regional alliances of chieftains and their warriors.

What did you seek on raids, in trading? In raiding, you sought slaves and the metal wealth of other chiefs and their people. Slaves were a small part of the overall population, but they were valuable on big farms in freeing up free men to serve as full-time warriors. Slaves were also good trade items and sold well both locally and in distant lands in Europe. Other popular trade items from Scandinavia in the Nordic Bronze Age included amber, furs, hides, timber, and most likely dried fish. In the time of the Bronze Age, Scandinavia enjoyed an important place in the pan-European global market. It had stuff that people in other lands wanted in exchange for items of bronze, cloth, weapons, gold, and silver. Also, there were active regional trade networks among the chieftains of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Raiding and trading were two sides of the same coin.

Were women ever chieftains during the Bronze Age? If the Bronze Age society was anything like the Viking Age, then women as chieftains were probably an occasional reality as they were in the Viking Age. High-born women of the time, whether they were chieftains or not, certainly enjoyed great wealth and status. Many were buried in great grave mounds with all kinds of jewelry and ornaments of silver, bronze, and gold.

And these prominent grave mounds underscored your right to rule. In the largest mounds, the most visible on the ridge tops in your chiefdom, were your illustrious ancestors, the chieftains of old who advertised in death your right to your chieftaincy.

## Norway's National Day

Brazilians have their carnival, the Irish Saint Patrick's Day. Norway's answer? On 17 May we are commemorating the signing of the constitution on that date in 1814. In Norway, the Constitution Day is *huge*.

Whilst many countries celebrate their national day with a military parade, Norway's 17 May is more of a party for everyone, especially the children. Before they take to the streets, many will gather for a 17 May breakfast – often a potluck with friends and neighbors – with freshly baked bread, scrambled eggs, smoked salmon, and for the grown-ups, champagne.

Children's parades then take place across the country, and led by marching bands, they walk through their communities. The largest of the traditional parades attract tens of thousands of peo-

ple waving flags and shouting "hurra!" In Oslo, the parade is greeted by the royal family who are waving tirelessly to the crowds from the Royal Palace balcony.

Nationalistic? Perhaps, but the non-militaristic and generally joyous atmosphere, in addition to the children's special place in the celebrations, makes the day a largely uncontroversial affair. The focus is mostly on eating huge amounts of ice cream and hot dogs, listening to speeches, and playing games at local schools.



The day is also an opportunity for men and women to show off their "bunad", Norway's traditional costumes. There are hundreds of different ones, with colors and styles indicating where in Norway the owner's ancestry lies.

### CONSTITUTION DAY EXPLAINED

The Constitution of Norway was passed unanimously by the Eidsvoll Assembly on 16 May 1814 and signed the next day.

The celebrations began spontaneously amongst students and others from early on, but as Norway was in a union with Sweden, King Karl Johan of Sweden and Norway banned the festivities between 1820 and 1829.

The first public address was held in 1833 by Norwegian poet Henrik Wergeland, and from then on 17 May has been celebrated as Norway's national day.

From 1870, the day became more established with the first children's parade in Christiania (now Oslo), an initiative taken by the author Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, who also wrote the national anthem "Ja, vi elsker dette landet".

All over Norway, children's parades form the central element of the celebrations, with school marching bands and an abundance of flags.

The longest parade is in Oslo where about 100,000 people participate in the main festivities in the city center. The parade includes some 100 schools and passes the Royal Palace where the royal family greet everybody from the balcony. The parade is broadcast on national television.

Celebrate 17 May in your community and join your distant relatives by flying your Norwegian flag with pride.