

# Sons of Norway District 5 - Friendly Fifth Friday News January 31, 2025

*A District Weekly Newsletter to Keep Us Up to Date!*

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## **A message sent to the District**

My name is Rolf Melheim, and I have just got the book 'The history of Nordfjord' published by the Selja Publishing House here in Norway. I wonder if you may have an interest in the book?

I have already contacted the President of the Nordfjord Lag in America, Mr. Kevin Hoff in Minnesota, and mailed him a copy. And if you like, I can also mail you a copy of the book? Hope you find my inquiry interesting. If you know others with an interest in Nordfjord, please forward my email to them. With best regards Rolf Melheim Torvbakkagata 2 C 0550 OSLO, Norway E-mail: [rolf.melheim@online.no](mailto:rolf.melheim@online.no) Tel. +47 2238 2243 / 9110 1544

Accompanying letter: THE HISTORY OF NORDFJORD 288 pages; richly illustrated with 185 photos Selja Publishing House ISBN 978-82-8240-206-4 'The history of Nordfjord' has recently been published by Selja Publishing House in Western Norway. It is the first time the content has been published in English. The book has been proofread by Allegro.no.

The book is primarily aimed at foreign tourists visiting Nordfjord, perhaps especially those who come to the cruise terminals in Olden, Måløy and Nordfjordeid. In addition, 2025 is the 200th anniversary for the Norwegian emigration to the United States (1825–2025), an event that will be celebrated in both countries. Several Americans will probably also visit Nordfjord, a region that – as you know very well – in the late 1800s and early 1900s had significant emigration to America. From the last cover page: Nordfjord is a scenic and interesting region of Western Norway, and a popular destination for visitors.

In this book the eight communities of Eid, Gloppen, Hornindal, Loen, Olden, Stryn, Selje, and Vågsøy are highlighted. It is about the people and agriculture, the holidays and traditions, the development of communications and the schools, and much more. The goal has been to present the past in as vibrant and credible a way as possible. Therefore, in many places, we have chosen to reproduce the local people's stories – as direct quotations – just as they were once told and written down. The book contains an incredible amount of factual information. In everything he writes, he highlights the stories, experiences, and accounts of the locals. In this way, the history of the villages becomes vibrant, insightful, and relatable.» Historical Yearbook for Hornindal «The book should be compulsory reading for those who are going to teach children and young people in history and social studies. Therefore, the book should be an encyclopedia in all schools here in the districts. You will know more about your village when you have read this book.» Fjordabladet (Nordfjordeid)

## **Winter Blues or wanting a good inside project? Get genealogy help at:**

**Genealogy- [https://www.sofn.com/member\\_resources/genealogy/](https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/genealogy/)**

Sons of Norway has created guides to help you get in touch with your Norwegian heritage. We believe the history of a nation and the nature of its culture are best described through the stories of its people.

As you dive into your research, you'll get to know your ancestors – who they were, where they came from and what they did with their lives.

The Sons of Norway Genealogy resources will help you through this process with insights to Norwegian society, names, language and more; while also providing lists of additional resources, organizations and websites. Enjoy the journey – we'd love to hear what you learn. Download your copy of the Genealogy Cultural Skills Program.

[https://www.sofn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/gg\\_0519\\_genealogy\\_guide.pdf](https://www.sofn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/gg_0519_genealogy_guide.pdf)



## Genealogy Tips and Hints

Connecting with your family history



More helpful resources for your genealogy study include: Cultural Skills Program Overview-  
[https://www.sofn.com/member\\_resources/cultural\\_programming/cultural\\_skills\\_program/](https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/cultural_programming/cultural_skills_program/)

## Unit 5: Genealogy – Family History



[Get the unit PDF](#)

**Part 1:** Part 1 Getting Started

[Download Level 1 report form](#)

**Part 2:** Expanding Your Ancestor Chart

[Download Level 2 report form](#)

**Part 3:** Finishing Your Ancestor Chart and Family Group Sheets

[Download Level 3 report form](#)

[Ancestor Chart](#)

[Family Groups Chart](#)

[Sources Citation Sheet](#)

[Additional Resources](#)

**Genealogy Guide** – Use this updated guide, as you begin to research your family roots. This handy 10-page guide will provide background on Norwegian-North American immigration along with information about Norwegian names and places.

# **Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library**

## Mission Statement:

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library is an educational non-profit research center with national and international scope. The Center collects, preserves, shares, and interprets resources for the study of Norwegian heritage.

To carry out this mission, the Center provides:

- The Naeseth Library, located in Madison, Wisconsin, where resources devoted to Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogy and immigration history are collected, preserved, shared, and interpreted;
- Expert assistance, interpretation, education, and research by qualified staff for members, patrons, and correspondents;
- Cooperative work experience for students pursuing education in library science, genealogical research, and Norwegian language studies;
- Website with links to searchable databases of Norwegian immigrants to the US to be used for genealogical research;
- Continuing education and outreach for genealogists and the public worldwide through cooperative information exchanges, publications, tours, displays, seminars, webinars, and merchandise sales.

Through its collections, research, outreach and publication, the Center strives to maintain and enhance its role as the most comprehensive source for information about the history of Norwegian immigration.

## Our History:

Norwegian Americans have produced an exceptional achievement in venerating and preserving the records of their past. They began the work of recording and sharing their heritage even before immigration ceased, and their continuing efforts to perpetuate this history are as impressive as any group in our country.

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library is one of America's leading genealogical research centers. The Center began as the dream of Gerhard B. Naeseth (1913-1994), internationally renowned scholar in the field of Norwegian-American genealogy and immigration history. As early as the 1940's, Naeseth began collecting the primary resource information and documents relating to Norwegians in the United States. In 1974, when he was associate director of the University of Wisconsin Libraries, Naeseth also established a genealogical research center, located in Madison and associated with Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum. In the 20 years before his death, Naeseth built up this new resource by increasing the library collections, publishing ground-breaking works on Norwegian immigration history, and engaging and mentoring volunteers. By 1984, the genealogical center membership included over 800 households.



Today, with over 2,000 member households in the U.S., Canada, Japan, and Norway, NAGC & NL has built upon the impressive legacy of Gerhard Naeseth.

This legacy includes not only Naeseth's entire collection of research and library materials collected over his lifetime, but also the devoted following of hundreds of Norwegian Americans whom he had assisted. Naeseth's scholarly contribution included the work he began on a projected five-volume biographical directory of the Norwegian immigrants who came to the U.S. between 1825 and 1850. The first volume of this important series was published in 1993. The work to complete this groundbreaking publication was continued by his successor and friend Blaine Hedberg who began his career here as volunteer and became the first Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication. Before his resignation in late 2012, Hedberg served here for thirty years, some of them as Executive Director, always working on the completion of Naeseth's magnum opus. In 2009, Hedberg, together with his Staff colleagues and volunteers, celebrated the appearance of the fifth volume of this series, fulfilling Naeseth's ambitious goal and creating an important scholarly addition to the body of knowledge in the field of immigration history.

With the aid of modern communications and computers, genealogical research has become one of the most popular activities ever. Researchers from this country, and a growing number of Norwegians seeking information on family members who emigrated, find their way to NAGC either in person or in cyberspace. The Staff and Board of NAGC continue to serve this growing audience, build and share the research collections and databases in our care, publish useful and popular genealogical materials, and reach out to all those who seek to know and venerate their Norwegian roots.

Website: <https://www.nagcni.org/>

Upcoming events: <https://www.nagcni.org/events/>

Upcoming classes: [https://www.nagcni.org/events/list/?tribe\\_eventcategory%5B0%5D=49](https://www.nagcni.org/events/list/?tribe_eventcategory%5B0%5D=49)



# Upcoming Classes

## **Writings of Waldemar Ager In-Person at NAGC**

Join NAGC and Martha Frey for a reading group on Sons of the Old Country by Waldemar Ager! Explore immigrant life in 1850s Wisconsin, with an optional visit to his historic home.

**Feb 4th, 11th, 18th**

## **Introduction to Norwegian Genealogy – Online**

This class covers naming traditions, history, geography, and tips for reading old handwriting to trace your ancestors. Includes our Research Guide for Norwegian Genealogy.

**Feb 12th & 14th**

## **Exploring the Norwegian Digital Archives – Online**


This is a two-day class that explores the wide variety of records and resources available in the Norwegian Digital Archives and how to find them.

**Feb 19th & 21st**

## **Using Norwegian Farm Books (Bygdebøker) and Other Published Sources – Online**

Build on your genealogy skills with this two-day class! Learn to use bygdebøker, newspapers, and family histories to add depth to your research.

**Feb 25th & 27th**



**Address:**

415 West Main Street,  
Madison, WI  
53703-3116

[Get Directions](#)

**Hours:**

Monday – Friday | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Second Saturday of each month | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Closed Good Friday, Memorial Day (observed), July 4th Independence Day, Labor Day (observed), Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

**Parking:**

If you are driving, please park in the lot behind the building or in the designated area on the side of building.

**Cost:**

**Members** can visit Naeseth Library free of charge.

**Non-members** will be asked to pay the \$15.00 Daily Use Fee.

***Please call ahead to make an appointment.***

**NAHA-** With one of the oldest and largest ethnic manuscript collections in the United States, the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) is a leader in the field of ethnic migration studies. The NAHA archival collection brings life to thousands of individuals, organizations, and businesses of the Norwegian diaspora in North America.

Website: <https://norwegianamericanhistory.org/>

***Welcome to North America's largest archive of Norwegian-American life.*** Established in 1925, the Norwegian American Historical Association is home to an extensive manuscript collection that includes letters, diaries, journals and ledgers, newspaper clippings, obituaries, congregational records, family and local histories, and other resources related to Norwegians in America. The collection also includes photographs illustrating many aspects of Norwegian-American history.

**NAHA provides annual research fellowships and awards to stimulate research and writing in the field of Norwegian-American studies. [Learn more about the fellowships and awards.](#)**

The NAHA Archives offers free access to researchers, historians, scholars, and the general public. The archive is open by appointment only.

# Contact

The Norwegian American Historical Association is located in Rølvaag Memorial Library on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

The NAHA archives are currently open by appointment only. For questions regarding research or donation of archival material, contact [archivist@norwegianamericanhistory.org](mailto:archivist@norwegianamericanhistory.org) or call 507-786-3450.

For all other inquiries, contact [info@norwegianamericanhistory.org](mailto:info@norwegianamericanhistory.org) or call 507-786-3221.

## Mailing address

Norwegian American Historical Association  
1510 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, Minnesota, 55057

## Phone

Archives: 507-786-3450  
Administration: 507-786-3221

Name \*

Email \*

Phone (optional)

Message \*

## 2025 Calendar

### February 15- *District 5 Information Event* – 9 AM CST

#### February 15

Deadline — Domestic scholarship applications due to Sons of Norway Foundation:

- Astrid G. Cates Scholarship
- Bernt Anker Scholarship
- Dan and Betty Rude Scholarship
- King Olav V Norwegian-American Heritage Scholarship
- Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship
- Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship
- Orel and Marie Winjum Memorial Scholarship
- Elaine Nelson Scholarship
- District 4 Scholarship
- Nordkap Lodge 3-215 Scholarship
- Sissel and Roger Espeland Memorial Scholarship Fund

**February 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**February 20-** Barnebirkie Race in Hayward, WI



**March 15**

- D17 electronic financial form is due from the lodges and districts to Sons of Norway headquarters.
- Lodge Achievement and Family Lodge of the Year forms are due using Survey Monkey.
- American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) reporting due using Survey Monkey.
- D64 Lodge Property Officer updates are due.

**March 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**April 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**May 15**

- D18 property association financial form is due from the lodges to Sons of Norway Headquarters.
- IRS filing deadline for tax form 990. Lodge treasurer needs to notify Sons of Norway Headquarters when 990 has been submitted.

**May 17-** Masse Moro Lodge Supporting Grants Due

**May 17-** Masse Moro Registrations Due

**May 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**June 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**July 13-26-** Masse Moro- Youth Heritage Camp in Fall Creek, WI

**July 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**August 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**September 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**October 3-5-** Adult Camp Heritage Weekend in Norway, IL

**October 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**November 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

**December 20-** Viking Photos due to LaVonne Wier

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**Who to contact at the home office when you need help**

- You can email [cbs@sofn.com](mailto:cbs@sofn.com) for any member updates that need to be made.
- **Foundation, Scholarships & Grants-** Amy Tuchenhagen  
[foundation@sofn.com](mailto:foundation@sofn.com), [atuchenhagen@sofn.com](mailto:atuchenhagen@sofn.com), (612) 821-4655
- **Fraternal & Membership-** Connie O'Brien and Kirsten Lehman  
[fraternal@sofn.com](mailto:fraternal@sofn.com), (612) 821-4643
- **Culture, Viking & Language:** Jana Velo  
[jvelo@sofn.com](mailto:jvelo@sofn.com)
- **Insurance Sales:** Lori Gubash  
[sonsofnorwaysales@sofn.com](mailto:sonsofnorwaysales@sofn.com), (833) 707-0012 – option 2

- For matter like submitting a death, a change to a members address or other info please email [cbs@sofn.com](mailto:cbs@sofn.com)
- For issues with passwords or website use [ithelp@sofn.com](mailto:ithelp@sofn.com).
- The 800 number to call in for member support is 800-945-8851

**Note:**

- Check correspondence from the International and District and the International ([www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)) and District ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)) websites for any updates and changes.
- Additional deadlines for the District 5 Conventions/Lodge Meetings will be added as those dates are established. Watch for future mailings and the District 5 website.

Compiled by Darlene Arneson, SN District 5 Secretary ([arnesonfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com) or 608-873-7209)

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**FFFN Basics**

In an attempt to help our lodge leaders become more familiar with resources, changes, deadlines and other information, I will compile a weekly "Friendly Fifth Friday News" email to our leadership. Some of the information you might already have, but hopefully it will be a good reminder for all of us (me included) of all the great resources that Sons of Norway has to offer. **Please feel free to cut and paste any of this information for your lodge's use!**

**Send all web posting info and calendar dates/events directly to our webmaster at [inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com)**

With our new arrangement, I actually send the FFFN pdf to our webmaster on Thursday morning before I go to work. So if you have anything you'd like me to consider putting in, please send it by 4 am on Thursday morning. Please do not send pdf's as I have a hard time cutting and pasting them. The Word Document works best for me. Don't forget that lodge events should be submitted to [inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com](mailto:inputd5@sonsofnorway5.com) as I have a hard time keeping track of all lodge activities. I'll put some in but that is more the role of the website event calendar.

If you would like to get the MS Word document, just shoot me an email and I'll add you to the list. I send it out right after I send the email to the large group.