

Nordfjordlag E-News

In Person Stevne for 2021 Moved to 2022

This July your Nordfjordlag Officers met again to decide if and how we would meet as a lag in September of 2021. Two email messages had been sent out earlier in the year hoping to figure out the feelings of the membership. The responses to those messages were sparse and when added to the number of the officers planning to attend only accounted for a total attendance of less than twenty. There was a slight majority that wished to attend in person over a Zoom meeting and a better majority that would be happy to meet without a formal program.

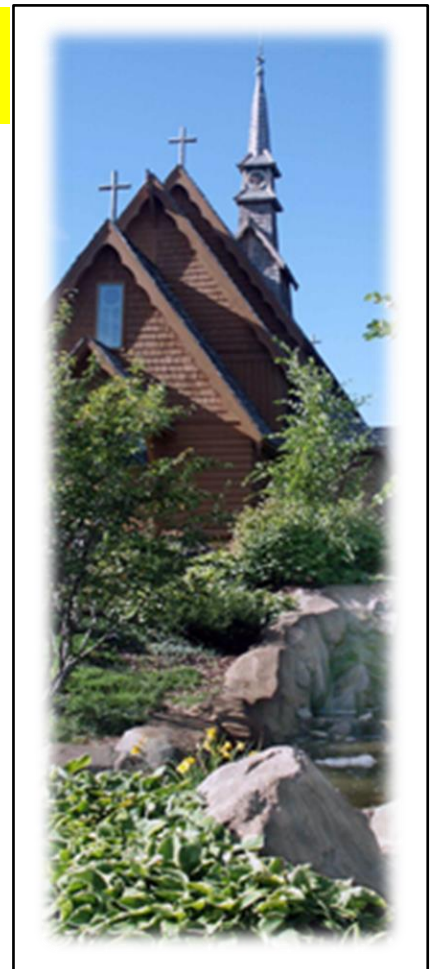
At this meeting, the officers discussed those responses along with recent news articles indicating a growing concern that the new “delta” variant was beginning to spread at an alarming rate. Even though we felt that most of our members would be vaccinated the news reports further showed that “camps” and “outstate counties” were a source of concern for the growing spread.

Based on the low response and the COVID concerns we finally came to the sad decision to ask Green Lake Camp to move our reservation to 2022. The camp recognized our concerns and graciously moved our reservation to September 18th, 2022.

So, now we are working on putting together a short program and a short business meeting via Zoom. We realize that some, if not many, of our members may not be able to join us via Zoom but other lags have tried this medium with some success.

If you have access to Zoom, and know members who do not have access, it would be helpful (and very Nordfjording) if you invited them to join you so more of us can be together. Also note that anyone can also connect to the meeting by telephone (voice only). (Requires a call to a Chicago, Illinois area phone number.) Information on the Zoom connections will be sent out in September.

If we can get a quorum at this Zoom meeting, we would like to present at least one item of business. The election of officers, including a new President. At this time, we have a nomination of Kevin Hoff, our current genealogist, who has consented to be placed in nomination. He further states that he would be willing to also retain the position of Genealogist as he knows that other lags have similar arrangements.



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'Visit the Archive'

See a song dedicated to the 50th Stevne, set to the tune of Pål på Haugen!

The Search for Great-Grandpa, Andrew A. Olson. (DNA and Genealogy)

You would think that finding information on my Great Grandpa, Andrew A. Olson, born 12/04/1865 in Nordfjord, Norway, would be easy! (He is my mom's (that's Sandy's) Grandfather.) I spent four years looking thru American Church Records, Norwegian Church Records, United States Census Records, Norwegian Census Records, Norwegian Farm Books, other records, and holding interviews with local people. I finally ran out of records looking for my mom's Grandpa.

Having exhausted the search using records I finally decided it was time to try DNA Testing. I started by taking the 'Family Tree DNA (FTDNA)' test called Family Finder. When my data was returned, I found that there were matches in Nordfjord, Norway but none of these matches had Andrew A. Olson in their Family Tree. The next Christmas I gave the same DNA test to my mom, Sandy. She stated it was the worst Christmas present she had ever gotten. Again, when the data was returned, we found matches for mom in Nordfjord, Norway and the fjord north of Nordfjord. I plotted these DNA matches on a map for both mom and me. The DNA matches mom had also did not have Andrew A. Olson in their family trees.

The next step was to convince my cousin Mike Olson to take the same Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) Family Finder test and to add the FTDNA Y-Male Line DNA test. (Mike is a direct male descendant of Andrew A. Olson.) Mike matched one family on both tests. He matched two brothers from Norway on the Y-Male line test. These two brothers were from the fjord North of Nordfjord. The person who managed the records for these two brothers got to work. She submitted an inquiry, including the information I had, to the National Archives of Norway DNA forum. Two people responded from the forum and said the person I was searching for was Endre Andreas Ablesten Myklebust, born 12/04/1865, Nedre Myklebust, Davik Parish near Bryggja, Norway.

I next went to the free 'Family Search' web site, entered "Endre Andreas Ablesten Myklebust", and found that this person had two full blooded sisters. The oldest sister's name was Kristi and the

youngest sister's name was Synneve. Kristi died in Norway but had three children who left Norway. The youngest sister, Synneve, married in Norway. She married a man from the Nore farm in Nordfjord and they later moved to Nebraska, USA. With this information in hand, I called mom and her sister Janet. When they were young my mom, her sisters, and her brothers remembered a Nore Family coming from Nebraska to visit and while here they stayed at Scandinavian Lake Resort. Although they never remembered being related to the Nore Family from Nebraska.

To dig further into this mystery, I also ran the 'Ancestry DNA test' on myself to check for relatives living in the United States. The results of that test showed that I had a match for Kristi, the oldest sister of Endre, who's family was living in Utah. I also had a family match to her younger sister, Synneve, living in Wisconsin. Synneve's family information had a record stating she had a brother named Andrew A. Olson.

Cousin Mike also matched Tor Kvien from Nordfjord, Norway, who is an expert on Nordfjord Family History. He has provided us with an eleven-generation report on Andrew A. Olson, Minnesota, who is also known in Norway as Endre Andreas Ablesten Myklebust. Tor has said that half the families in Nordfjord are related to each other, and we are all descendants of Vikings and Kings.

The Christmas following the one where I gave my mom the DNA test kit was much better, as then I was able to give her the book I started on Andrew A. Olson, MN AKA Endre Andreas Ablesten Myklebust.

If you are considering using DNA to find family matches from Norway two companies, 'Family Tree DNA' and 'My Heritage DNA', have lots of Norwegians in their DNA test records. The 'Ancestry DNA' test will help you find matches in the United States that may work back to Norway.

I recently received a request from someone who lives in Oslo. Her family and her Husband's Family are both from Hornindal in Nordfjord. They would like to see more male members of NordfjordLag take a Y-DNA male test to help others with their search for family history.

Kevin Hoff,
Nordfjordlag Genealogist

DNA Definitions

What is Y-DNA Testing?

Y-DNA testing can be used by people with a Y chromosome to research their 'patrilineal' ancestry—their ancestry through their male line. But not everyone has a Y chromosome. Only around half the population, typically biological males, have one. Because of this, Y-DNA testing is only available to around half the population (although someone lacking a Y chromosome can have a family member with a Y chromosome tested).

The Y chromosome is passed directly from a person's biological father, who inherited it from his biological father, and so on. This makes the Y chromosome useful for tracing back your biological father's male line. It also provides supporting evidence that someone is related to you.

The primary strength of a Y-DNA test though is that it can trace your biological father's male line far back into time—thousands or even tens of thousands of years ago. This is possible because the Y chromosome is passed down with very few changes, generation after generation. The downside is that you can only trace a sliver of your heritage back so far.

What is Mitochondrial DNA Testing?

Mitochondrial DNA testing (mtDNA testing) traces a person's matrilineal (mother's female) ancestry using the DNA in his or her mitochondria.

Mitochondria, the powerhouses of the cell, are passed down from your biological mother's egg—your biological father shared none of his mitochondria with you. That's why you can only trace your biological mother's female line using mtDNA testing. And unlike a Y-DNA test, everyone can take a mtDNA test.

However, like a Y-DNA test, a mtDNA test can only trace a sliver of your family tree back in time and it can really only provide supporting evidence that someone is related to you. It also can be traced back in time thousands or even tens of thousands of years.

What is Autosomal DNA Testing?

Unlike mitochondrial DNA testing and Y-DNA testing, autosomal DNA testing analyzes most of your DNA that comes from your parents—the 22 pairs of chromosomes that make up your autosomes. The information in these chromosomes can help find recent and distant relatives, as well as find where your ancestors lived 500 to 1000 or more years ago. Autosomal DNA testing is much more information-rich than either Y-DNA or mtDNA tests since it can reveal more about your ethnicity and who you are related to.

Source: ***Ancestry DNA Company***

DNA Companies and Test Prices

If you're using an autosomal test such as 'Family Tree(FTDNA)', 'AncestryDNA', '23andMe', or 'MyHeritage', you'll generally go back six to eight generations. Assuming twenty-five years per generation, you can expect 150-200 years of DNA information by taking an autosomal DNA test.

The 'Ancestry DNA' test is - \$99.

The 'Ancestry DNA' test is good for finding relatives in the United States and working genealogy back to Norway.

The 'MyHeritage DNA' test is - \$79, currently available with a summer sale for - \$59.

An autosomal DNA test. The positive for the 'MyHeritage DNA' test is that this is the most popular test that people from Norway have taken.

The '23andMe' cost is - \$99.

Autosomal DNA test.

Continued next page

'FamilyTreeDNA(FTDNA)' Tests:

Family Finder autosomal DNA test - \$79.

This autosomal DNA test is also popular in Norway.

Y-DNA test costs:

Y-37 - \$119

Y-111 - \$249

Big Y-700 - \$449

mtDNA test cost is - \$159

If you are looking at saving money most of these DNA tests go on sale during the year. A person can also take a autosomal DNA test with one DNA company and transfer the test results to another DNA company at a reduced fee.

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Vision for the Future – Navigating the Bygdelag in the 21st Century

President's Message at Fellesraad Annual Meeting
2021

Elaine Hasleton, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President

Fellesraad and Bygdelag both have a marvelous past in the creation of our Lag organizations. We are doing well at maintaining and adjusting to the present situations. But for the future we need to be planning and adapting now so we will be viable down the road!

In the present we are partnering with several Norwegian and Norwegian-American organizations in accomplishing some of our (and their) goals and objectives. They include the Norwegian Emigrant Museum, the Norwegian Genealogical Society, the

2025 Commemoration Committee, FamilySearch, and Norway House.

The 2025 Commemoration will consist of events in Norway as well as in North America honoring the first emigration to North America in 1825. It is huge that approximately thirty individuals and organizations are planning now for celebrations five years away.

Working with FamilySearch as a partner will bring great dividends to us. They will share pertinent databases and provide the foundation for some of the stations in the Bibliotek. The Archive will also become a FamilySearch Affiliate Library that will give us access to 350+ million restricted images. The Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, Norway wishes to have a discovery center the same as our Bibliotek so they will likewise be providing content.

The new building at Norway House will have the Haugo Archive & Bibliotek. Both of these are relevant to the Bygdelags as the Archive presents the opportunity for the Lags to preserve their materials in a climate-controlled setting. We realize that we need to adapt to the way we share information So, the Bibliotek will have state of the art electronic equipment, touchscreen monitors, stations, and kiosks.

What can we each be doing now? We greatly need additional people to work on the Famous Norwegian-Americans project. Please contact me if you would like to work on this fascinating project (hasletonee@familysearch.org). Now is a good time to take an inventory of your Lag genealogical collections. Identify items which you would like to place in the Archive at Norway House. Do you have suggestions of particular bygdebøker or materials that you think would be helpful for visitors who visit Norway House? Do you know of databases which could be used in the Archive and Bibliotek? Please work with your Lag Genealogist if you can assist.

You are the ones who know the immigrants/emigrants from the Nordfjordlag area. Preserving this information is important. Partnering with the other organizations mentioned above is also crucial. All of these activities are our passports to continuing success and essential to preserving our future! Isn't it exciting?

In Memoriam

Ellen Marie Knutson, the daughter of Carl and Cecelia (Stokke) Knutson, was born on July 10, 1932 in Swedes Forest Township, Minnesota. Her family moved to Clarkfield where she grew up and attended school. She graduated from Clarkfield High School in 1950. Ellen moved to Minneapolis and worked for the Superintendent of



Schools in Hennepin County. On February 10, 1951 she was united in marriage to Harvey L. Smith at the Clarkfield Lutheran Church. While he served in the military in Korea, Ellen lived in Dawson near her family. Following his service, they moved to Minneapolis and various other places including Paynesville. They lived there for ten years, and she was the first female school bus driver for the Paynesville School Dist. They moved to Litchfield in 1968 and she drove school bus, worked at J.C. Penny and Gilbert Dick Insurance. In 2004 Harvey passed away and three years later she married Donald L. Beckstrand at the First Lutheran Church in Litchfield where they were members. She enjoyed reading, sewing, embroidering, and baking. She also enjoyed camping, travelling, whether around Lake Ripley or south for the winters. Ellen was very social and made many friends easily. Ellen was very proud of her Norwegian heritage and her family and friends were the center of her life.

Bertha Voss, a longtime member passed away April



18, 2021. Bertha Mathilda Voss was born October 2, 1935 to Carl and Cecelia (Stokke) Knutson in rural Belview, Minnesota. She was baptized at Belview, MN. She was confirmed at the Lutheran Church in Clarkfield, Minnesota

where her parents moved when she was 13 years old. She graduated from Clarkfield High School in 1953. In 1954, she married Dennis Ewald Voss at Clarkfield, Minnesota. They lived in Clarkfield until 1968, at which time they moved to Litchfield, Minnesota. While living in Clarkfield, she worked at the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, and The Yellow Medicine County Soil Conservation District. In 1973, she started working for the Meeker County District Court and continued her employment there until she retired in December of 1995.

She and Dennis enjoyed camping, fishing, traveling, and spending their winters in Arizona. Bertha also was active in Lutheran Women's Missionary League and taught Vacation Bible School. Previous years she was active in Homemakers, Den Mother for the Scouts and Newcomer's Club. She enjoyed sewing and crocheting. They were members of the GoodSam's Happy Ramblers Camping Group.

Lag Web Page

If you haven't visited our web page go to <http://www.nordfjordlag.com> where you can find photos, documents and more information on the history of the lag.

Current Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>1st Elected in</u>
President	Open	
Vice President / Webmaster / Librarian	Gene Rodi	1995
Secretary	Sonia Rache	1997
Treasurer	Bob Swanson	2015
Genealogist	Kevin Hoff	2019
Director	Beverly Anderson	
Director	Martha McCartney	
Director	Gail Holm	

E-Mail: officers@nordfjordlag.com

Nordfjordlaget I Amerika

Membership Form:

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms. _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

_____ Yearly @ \$10 per person _____

_____ Life @ \$100 per person _____

Please make check payable to "Nordfjordlag" for the total amount.

Mail this form and your check to:

Bob Swanson

16226 Grinnell Avenue

Lakeville, MN 55044

From the Archives

Gene Rodi, Lag Librarian

“**From the Archives**” is a feature from times past gleaned from the Nordfjordlag archives. I hope to bring you texts, articles, and copies of news items of interest from these collections.

A bit of fun from our 50th year celebration. This song lyric was composed by Louise Lokeri Barnes to the melody of ‘Pål på Haugen’ (Paul on the Hillside) and dedicated to Nordfjordlaget’s 50th year stevne.

A rough, but somewhat singable, translation of the opening lines of Nordfjord Navnesang (Nordfjord Names Song) are:

“When we are gathered for Nordfjordlag stevne, we blissfully remember the land left behind. Our fathers' names still echo in our memories, such lovely names from ancestral times.”

Nordfjord Navnesang

Nar vi er samlet til Nordfjordlag stevne
minnes vi saerlig det land de forlot;
faedrenes klangfulle navne og minner,
ingen sa vakre som forfaedres navne.

Chorus:

Apelset og Alsaker og Auflem og Bodal,
Brynstad og Bakke og Brekke og Bruland,
Blaalid og Birkelo og Bergseth og Davik
Erdal og Espeseth og Eide og Egge.

La oss da bruke de klangfulle navne,
navne som minner om arbeid og tro.
Her i Amerika er vi na hjemme;
her vil vi hedre forfaedrenes navn.

Chorus:

Flore og Faleide Fosnes og Fenn,
Gudal og Granfur og Gimmestad og Flo;
Hegda og Hauge og Hetle og Haugen,
Holvig og Hjelmeseth og Hoffrenning og Hjelle

Stemming de vekker ved kiangen og minner,
navne med norskdommens and over sag.
Havne med sjosprut og graneduft over seg,
Mening er i dem og saga og sprak.

Chorus:

Korstad og Kolset og Kirkeide og Loken,
Loen og Lyslo og Moldestad og Meland.
Maettenes og Mork og Mykiebust og Muri,
Nesdal og Ornes og Opheim og Rosetter.

Mens stjernebannert hoyt vi vil baere,
vil vi var norskdom bevare og aere.
Tro mot Amerika skal vi nok vaere,
selv om vi gjerne Mor Norge vil aere.

Chorus:

Rakke og Rugsund og Rysdal og Rye,
Raad og Skarsten og Snede og Solberg,
Swingseth og Sandager og Seime og Svor,
Sigdestad og Steen og Visnes og Verio.

You may contact me at:

webmaster@nordfjordlag.com.

If there are members who have died since our last meeting, please forward that information so that it can be included in the next issue.

Currently, we do not have a schedule set for publishing a newsletter. Some lags publish several each year.

Depending on the feedback from our readers we could publish two or three times a year.

We will send the newsletter to you as a copy that is stored on our web page along with an Email notice that includes a link to the web address.

Take care. Gene Rodi, V.P.

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