

SynNor Brevet

Published monthly by
Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1-008



May 2017
Number 17:05

**District 1 Lodge of the Year 2013 and
Family Lodge of the Year 2006, 2008,
2014 and 2015**

May Program: Carl Ben Eielson: The Norwegian-American Lindbergh



Join us at 7pm on Tuesday, May 9th for our monthly lodge meeting and an interesting presentation by Dr. Lawrence Moe about Carl Ben Eielson, The Norwegian-American Lindbergh.

The fascinating Carl Ben Eielson was a Norwegian-American pilot and explorer in the golden age of aerial adventurers. "The Father of the Bush Pilots" achieved the first non-stop transpolar intercontinental flight from Alaska to Norway, and became famous in the process. He was also the first pilot to fly in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Eielson died attempting a daring rescue mission over Siberia in 1929, which caused profound mourning in his home state of North Dakota.

Dr. Moe is the Director of Master of Liberal Studies Program at Metro State University. He is a well-seasoned public speaker who has given hundreds of presentations about poetry and Norwegian-American Studies. We look forward to learning more about Carl Ben Eielson from him!



Don't Forget Syttende Mai!

May 17 is Norwegian Constitution Day

Fly the Norwegian flag and wear your Norwegian Heritage Proudly!

A number of events are planned around the Twin Cities area and Statewide!

Scandinavian Culture and News

By Don Halvorson

Norse Mythology 3: Conclusions

The pagan world of Germanic Europe ended in the eleventh century with the beginning of the Christian era. Before that the old beliefs had lasted 1000 years. Now the two greatest threats to the Europe, the Germanic tribes in the West, and the Viking hoards in the British Isles, had been neutralized, reluctantly converted to the new faith.

People have believed in gods and mythic creatures since the beginning of time. Like many early mythologies, Norse myths include a creation myth, a father god and numerous other lesser gods who control either the forces of nature or the destiny of man. Most Norse myths began to appear in Germanic Europe between 1000 BC and the birth of Christ. Religious symbols found on Bronze Age paintings in Scandinavia however suggest that some myths may have existed there at least a millennium before that.

Early Scandinavia was a demanding and hostile world. Many people lived in isolation, a day's travel from their nearest neighbor. Traveling there might involve trekking through a vast wilderness, over rough terrain, where the only other living thing that you might encounter would be an angry giant bear or a hungry pack of wolves. Those who lived in that environment had to be strong enough to survive, and the gods they believed in had to have the same strength and fortitude they possessed. Furthermore, they believed that their fate was always in the hands of the gods. Changing that fate was thought by most to be impossible.

Some assumptions on the origin of the myths have been proposed by scholars who believe that in the long lost past, these gods may have in fact been extraordinary mortals who, after excelling in war or hunting, had become immortalized through their superhuman deeds. In the third decade of the 6th century, a series of catastrophic events occurred in Scandinavia.

Volcanic eruptions and falling meteorites caused the sky to darken and the creation of long lasting changes in the weather. For the next 16 years crops and livestock died. Widespread famine and death followed. Centuries later, the mythmakers would create these events as the story of Ragnarok, the end of the Norsemen's world.

The written word did not reach Scandinavia until the arrival of the Christian priests. A gifted few left their runic messages in wood, stone or metal. The first written records about the early Scandinavians came from the outside writings of visiting Greeks and Roman historians, and later from monks, writing manuscripts in a Christian monastery. It wasn't until the 13th century, when Christianity was deeply entrenched in northern Europe, that a gifted Icelandic scholar named Snorri Sturluson began to revive the disappearing myths. Though his collection of myths would be quickly banned by the new religion, the Prose Edda soon became a welcomed link with the past. Two centuries after their conversion, many people still stubbornly clung to the old ways, and secretly continued to mix the old myths with their new religion.



Sagas of the Norsemen, Viking & German Myth. Myth and Mankind. Time Life Books, 1997.
Kevin Crossley Holland *The Norse Myths* Pantheon Books, New York 1980.
H.R. Ellis Davidson *Gods and Myths of Northern Europe* Penguin Books 1964

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, usually at 7:00 PM at Gustavus Adolphus Church
1669 Arcade Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 (use the South entrance)

Web Page: <http://synnove1.com>

On Facebook, look for "Synnove-Nordkap"

Junior Lodge: see <https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com>

Online photo album: [https://wNorse Mythology 2: The Nine Worlds](https://wNorseMythology2:TheNineWorlds)

Fra Presidenten

Dear Members,

It's May, and many of our Lodge volunteers charged into the kitchen at Gustavus Adolphus on May 1st for cooking day for Festival of Nations. This newsletter will be published after this event, so I am thanking all those who faithfully brought their krumkake irons and turned out 1,300+ krumkake and also a large batch of fruit soup.

Cooking Day was followed by Set-Up Day on Wednesday, May 3, and the actual Festival on Thursday, May 4, through Sunday, May 7. Thank you one and all for all your hard work on this important event.

This momentous event is chaired by Pat Carlson. She enlists many members of her family as well as co-workers and friends to join the large cadre of fellow Lodge members that make our largest annual fund-raiser a success! She also takes a week's vacation in order to devote her time exclusively to Festival of Nations for our Lodge. Pat, *Mange Tusen Takk* is just a bit shallow for all the work you and your family do for our Lodge!

I also need to mention our April Membership Dinner. Two people joined our Lodge that night, and we have a couple more who are giving serious thought to going on line to join after "sleeping on it." Magnolia's does such a beautiful job when they cater this event annually. Thanks to the members who brought these guests, and many thanks to Trudi Johnson-Richards, our membership secretary, for making it all "Official."

Kudos go to Susan Stow and the Junior Lodge Per Gynt dancers for their great performance at the Membership Dinner. They have several new dances they premiered for us. We wish them all the best as they perform on stage at the Festival of Nations.

Happy Syttende Mai on May 17th.

Blessings,
Sharon



Sunshine News

Best wishes for a complete recovery to **Lynn Hoffmeyer**, who is recovering from rather extensive surgery on his right shoulder.

Yust for the fun of it...

It's wedding season again, and it reminded the Editors of this one... Lena was preparing for her big day! As she was in the bride's room straightening her veil and making final adjustments, the little flower girl looked up to her and said, "You don't look as tired as I thought you would!" Lena exclaimed, "Why what in the world do you mean by that?" The little girl replied, "My pa said 'It's about time those two got married. You know that Lena has been chasing after Ole for years!'"

HELP US KEEP TRACK OF OUR MEMBERS!

Mary Beth Mutchler is our sunshine person. If you know of someone who is sick, had surgery, etc., please call her at 651-484-8872 or email her at mbe43@q.com and she will send a card from the lodge. Also, if your phone, e-mail, or address change, please let us know at 651-484-8872 or dmutchler@q.com.

- Thanks!

Lodge News

Board Meeting Minutes, 4 April, 2017

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Ron and Susan Stow, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Pat Carlson, Dianne Anderson, Chuck and Jean Draheim, Trudi Johnson-Richards, Dave and Mary Beth Mutchler.

After a warm-up question, we reviewed the March meeting. Holly seemed very comfortable speaking and her stories were personal and interesting. Overall it was a very good program.

We previewed the April Membership Dinner. We'll eat promptly at 6:30, as Magnolias will be ready to go. Mary Beth has only 47 reservations to date, so Dave was asked to do an e-blast to try to stir things up. We should need only 3 long tables for Paul Dormody and the cultural skills displays. We discussed having only 6 chairs at a table versus the usual 8, and decided to see how many additional reservations come in. We also discussed how often to have Paul speak. Ron/Jean made a motion to have him speak on alternate months. After considerable discussion, this motion passed with the understanding that he will be limited 5 minutes, and can have a display at the other meetings.

At our May meeting, Dr. Moe will speak on Carl Ben Eileson: the Norwegian-American Lindberg. Also, Dave Saterbak, the President of the Cambridge lodge, would like to have a few minutes to invite us on a trip with their lodge and others to see Livsreise, the new Norwegian History Center Stoughton, WI. This would be a bus trip extending perhaps Friday-Sunday.

We again discussed a summer outing. Gammelgarden in Scandia is the most likely, as they have weekend activities that may include music, vendors, etc. It's close and would make a good day-trip.

There was a good discussion regarding feedback from the lodge improvement survey led by Lowell in February. Chuck will write an article for the May Brevet regarding the constantly changing sound system at GA, and we'll make much better use of the headset microphones, keeping the hand-held unit for audience questions and feedback. This addresses one of the most persistent complaints in the survey. There will be a facilitated session with the Board in the future and a summary in the July/August Brevet.

Ron discussed the upcoming wood carving program on April 29 at the C.S.P.S. (Sokol) Hall. There are 15 people signed up, some from outside our lodge. We received a \$300 matching grant from SON to help with costs.

Pat gave a report on Festival of Nations (FON). There are still 29 slots open; the sign-up sheets will be at the April meeting. Pat and Susan will do the rest of the shopping. Jean wrote a \$200 check for cash drawer change.

Susan gave a brief Junior Lodge report. The church in Stillwater where they have met for 12 years has changed their policy and we are no longer welcome. She is looking for a place for future meetings.

Jean gave a brief financial report.

The Zone 9 Leadership workshop was attended by Sharon, Lynn, Dianne, and Susan in addition to Ron. Gina did an excellent job, making it a very worthwhile experience.

The District 1 Bowling Tournament will not happen.

Ron stated that we are still waiting for headquarters to set the theme for the International Convention in August 2018. He is hoping for one large room for the Folk Art competition, silent auction, and the New Land, New Life display.

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 2 in the Board Room at the Maplewood library.

Submitted by: Dave Mutchler, Secretary

Lodge Meeting - April 11, 2017

73 members and guests attended the Membership Dinner. Sharon Amann welcomed everyone, we said Grace, and enjoyed the nice meal catered by Magnolias.

After the dinner, the Junior lodge Peer Gynt Dancers performed 12 dances and asked the audience to participate in one. A brief meeting followed, at which the existing members of 5, 10, ... years were honored. Paul Dormody, our new Financial Advisor, spoke regarding the financial planning and insurance benefits available to our members.

Pat Carlson reminded members that she still needs plenty of help for the Festival of Nations and Cooking Day, and Ron Stow welcomed members and guests to view the cultural display tables and to speak to lodge members who are leaders of cultural skills, particularly genealogy.

We ended with treats from Meredith (Maf) Berg and Sheryl Hove. Mange takk!

Submitted by Dave Mutchler, Secretary

Calendar of Coming Events

Sat. May 6	No Genealogy Group meeting! See note in box to right	
Mon. May 1	Cooking Day for Festival of Nations Gustavus Adolphus Church kitchen See full schedule at right	9:00 AM To Noon
Tue. May 2	Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting Maplewood library Board room	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
Thur.- Sun. May 4-7	Norway Booth at Festival of Nations St. Paul River Centre See schedule at right	
Tues. May 9	Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge meeting Gustavus Adolphus Luthern Church Dr. Lawrence Moe will speak on Carl Ben Eileson: the Norwegian-American Lindberg	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
Wed. May 17	Syttende Mai (Norwegian Independence Day) Check for local celebrations!	
Tue. June 6	Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting Maplewood library Board room	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
Tue. June 20	Synnøve-Nordkap Annual Midsommer Picnic Island Lake Park in Shoreview Reservations a must (catered by Magnolias) Sign-up at May lodge meeting or by phone Mary Beth Mutchler, 651-484-8872 or mbe43@q.com \$10 Adults, \$5 kids 6-12, 5 & under free	6:00 PM

Genealogy Group

There is no Genealogy Group Meeting in May so that members can participate at the lodge's Norway Café at the Festival of Nations.

The June Genealogy Group Meeting will be at the Maplewood Library on Saturday, June 3.

Festival Of Nations dates:

Cooking day Monday May 1 at the church 9am to noon. (we hope to be done by then)

Wednesday, May 3 - Set Up. 3:30 till done (whoever is available to help put the booth together. We are usually done by 6!)

Thursday, May 4 - Kids day, 9 to 3pm

Friday, May 5 - 9:30 to 10 pm. (Kids 9:30 to 3). Opens to the public at 4pm.

Saturday, May 6 - 10am to 10 pm

Sunday, May 7 - 10am to 6pm; Take down and pack up booth.

Pat Carlson and her sister Chris usually are there in the booth by 7am to start getting things ready on the first day.

More info at:
<http://www.festivalofnations.com/>

Thanks! , Pat

Refreshments and Treats - Servers Schedule: May 9th 2017 Chuck & Jean Draheim

Norwegian Language Classes - Norsk Nordmenn og Norge

Tuesday Class, May 9, 6:30-7:00 p.m.

at Gustavus Adolphus Church before SON Meeting in the back corner

"Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" book & "Ny i Norge" book

Thursday Class May 25, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

SunRay Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55119

No classes in the summer

WELCOME to new members!

Please contact Class Facilitator Sheryl Hove at sherylhove@netzero.net or 651-738-4908



Junior Lodge Update

Such fun to perform for the April Membership Dinner! Thanks for inviting us and providing the children with your support throughout the year. We hope you like our new dances. Everyone has done their best to learn all the new formations and steps. You might have noticed a variation of "interpretation" from time to time, however we never fault personal enthusiasm. Your applause was very welcoming and appreciated.

Our April meeting was filled with rehearsal for Festival Children's and Teen's Programs and our performance for senior lodge. There are no special flag flying days in Norway in April except if a family has a birthday, anniversary, wedding or other special occasion.

Check out photos of the dancers at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums> and the story of Mae Hovland's Lund Fund scholarship at peergyntndancers.wordpress.com

WHAT IS A STEVNE?

By Sheryl Hove

Where were your ancestors from in Norway?

Would you like to get together with other people who also have ancestors from your area of Norway?

If so, attend a Stevne - a conference for people whose ancestors emigrated from a specific area of Norway.

Stevner have genealogists with their libraries, speakers, and usually banquets with bunad parades. Some have early bird registration discounts.

The Vestlandslag Stevne, for descendants of people from the southwestern area of Norway, will be in Shoreview this year!

This site has a map and contacts for the various areas:

http://fellesraad.com/fell_about.htm

June 2017

June 15-17, 2017 - [Vestlandslag](#) and [Valdres Samband](#) at the North Metro Event Center in Shoreview, MN.

June 20-22, 2017 - [Nordlandslaget av Amerika og Kanada](#) - (Tuesday-Thursday) in TBD

July 2017

July 20-23 2017 - [Seven lag](#) will hold their stevne at Luther College, Decorah, IA (See [Hadeland](#), [Landingslag](#), [Numedalslågenlag](#), [Ringerike Drammen Districts](#), [Sigdalslag](#), [Telelag](#), and [Totenlag](#))

August 2017

August 2-5, 2017 - Tre-lag, a joint Stevne of the [Gudbrandsdal Lag National](#), [Trønderlag of America](#), and [Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag](#), will meet at the Radisson in La Crosse, WI.

August 10-12, 2017 - [Hallingslag](#) will meet at Hilton Garden Inn, Grand Forks ND

August 10-12, 2017 - [Sognefjordlag](#) will meet in Stoughton, Wisconsin

September 2017

Sept 13-16, 2017 [Romerikslaget i Amerika](#) and [Solørlag of America](#) have a joint stevne at the Hudson House Grand Hotel, 1616 Crest View Dr., Hudson, Wisconsin, 54016. Telephone: 715-386-2394.

Sept. 19, 2017 [Nordfjordlag](#) meets Sunday at Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN.

Call Connie Olson, (763) 972-7266 Or contact Gene Rodi

Questions? Contact Sheryl Hove at sherylhove@netzero.net or 651-738-4908

Why Should I Care? – by Paul Dormody, Financial Benefits Counselor



Some of the things that I often hear when I speak with Sons of Norway members are:

- 1) I have a financial counselor and already have a program in place
- 2) I can't change anything at this point in my life, or
- 3) I'm happy with my financial plan the way that it is

News Flash! Surprisingly, there are many things that you can do, even if your financial program is in place and doesn't need major changes. Sometimes, small changes can be made that will have a big impact, for you, your relatives, and your friends. Think about these questions:

- 1) Do you have a will?

I am often surprised that many people I speak with don't have a will, but I do know the reason. It's a difficult topic to talk about. No one finds it easy to consider the problems that will exist for their relatives or themselves in the event they die or a loved one dies and no instructions are in place. If you don't have a will, I can help you answer some of the questions about why this is important and how it can be easily (and relatively inexpensively) put in place.

- 2) Do you have sons or daughters that have a family?

- a) Do they have a will?
- b) Do they have life insurance to provide for their family?

- 3) Do your sons and/or daughters have children? Many families do not have life insurance on their children.

- a) An inexpensive life insurance policy purchased for a grandchild (or great grandchild) is one of the greatest and most caring presents a grandparent or great grandparent can give.
- b) This type of gift from a grandparent or great grandparent is a legacy. It will never be dismissed or forgotten.

- 4) Do you (or does a friend of yours) have a CD? Would they be interested if they found a way to increase the return on their CD(s), in many cases with little or no risk? Would they be happy if you told them that Sons of Norway has financial products that could help?

In many cases, if you have a financial plan and a will, and if you have reviewed that plan within the last 3 years to make sure it's still on track, you may be fine. But one of the great things about Sons of Norway and Sons of Norway members is the concern they have for others. And, by taking a few minutes to ask the questions posed above, you can help others in ways that are important but you may not have considered.

For the latest news about Minnesota Insurance Service Agency/MISA and Sons of Norway, be sure to follow this link -- <http://bit.ly/2jtrzRz> -- (then "LIKE" our Facebook page!

Paul Dormody, CPCU

Minnesota Insurance Service Agency; MISA

[\(651\) 731-5358](tel:6517315358) : Work

[\(651\) 305-4479](tel:6513054479) : Fax

pdormody@mwise.com : Email

1818 Wooddale Drive, Ste 203

Woodbury, MN 55125

www.mwise.com

The deadline to submit items to the Brevet for the coming month is normally the 20th of the previous month. Please keep this time frame in mind, and keep those news items coming! Thanks, Lowell, Lynn, and Ken.

**Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge
#1-008
Sons of Norway
1611 Hydram Av Ct N
Oakdale, Minnesota 55128**



To:

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

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge welcomes visitors and new members!

For More Information Contact:

Sharon Amann, President

651-631-0399 slamann@comcast.net

Chuck Draheim, Vice President

651-433-2008 cmdraheim@aol.com



**SYNNØVE-NORDKAP
SONS OF NORWAY
LODGE #1-008**

Gustavus-Adolphus
Lutheran Church
1669 Arcade Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

St. Paul, MN

Norwegian Language Classes

Norsk Nordmenn og Norge

SunRay Library

2105 Wilson Ave, St. Paul
WELCOME to New Members!

651-738-4908

May 4-7	Norway Booth at Festival of Nations St. Paul River Centre	Details Inside Page 5
May 9	Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge meeting - Dr. Lawrence Moe on Carl Ben Eileson	7:00 p.m.
May 17	Syttende Mai! Norwegian Constitution Day!	
June 6	Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
June 20	Synnøve-Nordkap Midsommer Picnic Island Lake Park Shoreview	6:00 p.m.

Norway Records Research Without Norwegian Language Skills

Fred Matson

My father could read, write and speak Norwegian and so also my uncles and aunts. I cannot. I am not among the best Norwegian researchers. But, I have learned how to enjoy Norway record research and to get results.

This is possible because Norway records are on the Internet and free and Norway research support groups are found on the Internet as well.

Norway first posted census records on the Internet in the 1990's. Prior to that, all Norway archived records were available to the public by a visit to Norway archives, or, through microfilm research. Norway turned to the Internet, in part, because it was overwhelmed with mail requests for research assistance. Since its Internet beginnings, Norway has added church and other records. More recently, Norway did a major update to their Internet-based records search system.

Norway's genealogy records are found on their Digitalarkivet WEB site:

<http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet>

If Norwegian records are found on the Internet and free, how does someone without Norwegian Language skills navigate and translate these records? The solution is found in Internet Norwegian genealogy support groups. Support group members are in Norway, United States, Canada and other countries. Many are excellent Norway researchers with Norwegian Language skills. Because these groups are on the Internet, their service is worldwide and available free to anyone who becomes a member. Members include both research helpers and those who need help with research. I am a member in need of help with research.

Here are two Norwegian genealogy support groups found on the Internet:

Norway List Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Norwaylist/>

Norwegian Genealogy Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorwegianGenealogy/>

Here also is an excellent Internet based dictionary for word translation:

<https://otjoerge.wordpress.com/norwegian-american-dictionary/>

Even without Norwegian Language skills, as you research documents and records, you will begin to recognize words and phrases by record type and by their location within records. Norway birth/baptism, confirmation, marriage and death/burial records, for instance, each have a different look and structure to them. Census and ship travel to America records are no different. Frequent research activity will improve your ability to recognize words and phrases.

It will take time and practice to learn how to navigate Norway's Digitalarkivet WEB Site. Digitalarkivet is the Internet location of Norwegian archived records. The Digitalarkivet WEB site includes instructions for how to navigate the site and the site has an English language option for some searches.

Each Internet support group listed above requires membership. There is no fee to apply or to use these services. Apply on the Facebook page, and once accepted, watch the conversation for a while. Follow some posts and comments and you will begin to understand how you can post and comment and how these services can assist you. Both support groups are on Facebook and Facebook membership is required. If you are not a member of Facebook, consider joining if for no other reason than for access to the wonderful service of these support groups.

These groups assist with translations, research and more. You can request translation help and request assistance to find your ancestor in Norway. You may attach documents to your post/inquiry. Provide family history information to further define your inquiry. Perhaps you know where and when your ancestor was in the USA. Share that information and more with the group. It will help them help you. They may ask you questions. Be certain to respond.

Good Luck with your Norwegian research. Norway genealogy records can be researched without Norwegian language skills. Norway's decision for records to be on the Internet and free combined with Internet support groups makes this possible.

Here also to assist your search is our Sons of Norway, Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge Genealogy Group WEB Site: <http://synnove1.com/genealogy.html> At this site you will find even more resources to assist you with Norwegian research.

Have a great day!

Editor's note: from time to time, we include one of our "Genealogy Tales" in the online version of our newsletter. These may also be found at the link from our Genealogy page at

<http://synnove1.com/genealogy.html> .