



# Ringerike - Drammen Districts Lag *BREV*

Serving Ringerike, Hole, Modum, Øvre Eiker, Nedre Eiker, Hurum, Lier, Røyken and Drammen, Norway

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Searchable RDD Lag Database  
Finds 'Cousin' Connections

Lag genealogists Derwyn Anderson and Marilyn Sorensen have been using the 4-generation charts that members submit to find how lag members are related. Members were thrilled at the July *stevne* in La Crosse to get a printed copy of cousin matches to date.

The charts were printed in the BREV and if you do not have one, please e-mail to get one for the requested information.

Remember that this lag serves **nine communities** (*kommuner*) in the eastern part of Buskerud *fylke*, the middle level of government, similar to a county/state in the US, where there are four administrative levels. The national government in Norway is the third tier and has representation from 20 *fylker*.

If you have come across a family reference to an ancestral church parish, it is listed here following the *kommune* or community in which it is found.

**Ringerike** : *Norderhov, Haug, Honefoss, Lunder, Vikar, Nes, and Ådal.*

**Hole**: *Bønsnes, Hole, Sollihøgda and Tyrstrand*

**Modum**: *Heggen, Nykirke, and Snarum*

**Eiker**: *Bakke, Eiker, Haug, Fiskum and Nedre Eiker*

**Hurum**: *Holmsbu, Hurum Filvet, and Kongsdelene*

**Røyken**: *Aros, Nærnes. and Røyken*

**Lier**: *Frogner, Lier, Sylling, and Tranby*

**Drammen**: *Bragernes, Stromsø, and Tangen*

### **FOUND AT STEVNE BANQUET**

A black spiral-bound notebook with a green stripe on the edge was found at the La Crosse *stevne* banquet. To claim, e-mail: [shendrickso@gmail.com](mailto:shendrickso@gmail.com)

**SMILE OR SAY CHEESE!** Members posed at Fayze's Restaurant on the stairs before leaving

*A few dinner guests departed before the group assembled for this picture. Back row: Barbara Gulbrandsen, Al Stevens, Malcolm Maxwell & Sharon Risberg. 2nd tier down: Kirsten Bornus, Phyllis Maxwell, Don Teigen & June Novak. 3rd tier: Phyllis Schellin back of Gloria and Ken Lundblad, Jackie and Derwyn Anderson. 4th tier across: Dave Bornus, Marilyn Sorensen, Marilyn Søndahl, Sherrie Framness, Gene and Ardis Danger, who provided all the photos for this issue. In front: President Lynn Nord who was re-elected along with all incumbent officers.*



Charter members of our predecessor lags appear on pages 9 and 10. **Please email the editor if you are a descendant** or you know someone who is! Share the pages with others, too, especially those now living in the same towns as those listed.

The Fellesraad or national council of *bygdslag* would like to identify descendants of charter members and so would our own lag. Both have 100 year celebrations! **Save the dates — May 5-8, 2016— for the party for all of the *bygdslag* to be in Brooklyn Center, MN.**

**RDD Lag will host the next 7 Lag Stevne and celebrate its own centennial July 14-16, 2016, at the Holiday Inn, Austin, MN. Mark your calendars and invite relatives to join us.**

“Gateway to the Prairie” had excellent classes, many food demonstrations, many authors and vendors and a wonderful Norwegian band from Trøndelag which played at the banquet following a *bunad* parade. Genealogists were busy.

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## 2015-2016 Officers

**President : Lynn Nord**  
9640 Vincent Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
612-816-9713  
lynn8487@gmail.com

**V President: Marilyn Sorensen**  
4468 Arden View Court  
St. Paul, MN 55112  
651-633-1329  
rddlagen@usfamily.net

**Secretary: Jackie Anderson**  
9431 Crestview Court  
St Joseph, MN 56374  
(320) 363-8482  
dland85@midco.net

**Treasurer: Peg Nelson Schellin**  
W240 N 7777 Deerfield Court  
Sussex, WI 53089  
(262) 246-6377  
pnschellin3@wi.rr.com

**Genealogists**  
**Derwyn Anderson**  
9431 Crestview Court  
St Joseph, MN 56374  
(320) 363-8482  
dland85@midco.net

**Phyllis Maxwell**  
12683 Wildwood Drive  
Menahga, MN 56464  
(218) 564-4391  
mpmaxwell@wcta.net

**Historian**  
**Sherrie Anderson-Framness**  
1703 E 4th Street  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
(715) 387-6675  
dframness@frontier.com

**Membership Chairpersons**  
**Ardis & Gene Danger**  
782 Echo Shores Court,  
Mahtomedi, MN 55115  
(651) 779-1028  
gadanger@q.com

**BREV Editor**  
**Marilyn D. Sordahl**  
5100 W. 102 St, #209  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
(952) 831-4409  
sordahl2@usfamily.net

**Web Master:**  
**Anne Sladky**  
6938 State Hwy 200 NW  
Laporte, MN 56401  
(218) 547-1158  
rddwebmaster@  
morwebsteps.com

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## FRA PRESIDENTEN :

The month of July is finally over. I say that with equal parts regret and relief! My son Greg married a wonderful girl named Esther, *right*, July 24 in Fort Worth, TX. It was hot and a long drive getting there, but everything else was picture perfect. They wrote their own vows which blew us all away. Every couple in the room was wishing they



could be that articulate about their love for each other, including Steve and me. The reception was like watching a movie. Greg and Esther teach dance at an Arthur Murray studio so there were many proficient dancers tripping the light fantastic. It was great fun to watch.

For those of you who attended the *stevne* in La Crosse, I must apologize for my abrupt departure only one day into it. That weekend was the wedding of Greg's good friend David, who has become a second son to me. Since Greg and Esther were in Minnesota for that, we had over 50 guests to our home Sunday for a pre-wedding party (because many couldn't make it to Texas for the wedding). Needless to say, I won't see another July that crazy and that wonderful again!

From what I got to enjoy of the *stevne*, I thought Landings Lag did an excellent job of bringing the prairie of our ancestors to life. I especially loved the maps of the Midwest they gave each lag for their members to plot where their ancestors first settled and then how they moved around until finally staking a home for generations.

The RDD members met at Fayzes, a popular restaurant downtown. Officers were re-elected by voice vote. We discussed what is coming up for the lag, especially the 2016 7 Lag Stevne we are hosting. **We have settled on Austin, MN, at the Holiday Inn and Austin Conference Center for our location and the dates are July 14-16.**

Ringerike Lag was formed 100 years ago and had its first *stevne* in Albert Lea. While Albert Lea doesn't have a facility large enough to host all seven groups, we do plan to hold the RDD meeting there and commemorate our anniversary in a special way.



The 7 Lag Stevne website <[www.7lagstevne.com](http://www.7lagstevne.com)> is up and running for next year, so please look and sign up for e-mail alerts when the site has been updated. Hotel rooms have been blocked and our tours scheduled.

In addition, we have selected the theme: **1916—The Cultural Dilemma: Norwegian Loyalists or American Patriots?** We hope to explore the confusion and extraordinary changes after Norway's 1914 Centennial celebration (of Constitution Day, May 17, 1814), and the successive sparks that set World War I in motion for most of Europe (and its territories world-wide) and then a widening scope of war of the next years, raising concerns of Americans.

Most of the national *bygdslag* had organized *before* 1914 to take part in the Centennial by raising funds for gifts to homeland communities they had left behind. **But what was life like for U.S. immigrants during the years the war continued?** While the United States sought to remain neutral, it re-elected Woodrow Wilson in 1916 "because he kept us out of the war." Learn how our culture and our country faced change.

**Another web site you should check out is [www.rddlag.org](http://www.rddlag.org). This is a new site I have been promising for some time. It's still a work in progress, but I am happy to have it live.** One of the features is a complete listing of our resource materials sorted by *kommuner* or municipality.

An 'Emigrant Lag' should be able to attract new members to our site when they google their ancestors. I am still looking for photos, as it is mostly a test site right now. And photos of your ancestors! Pictures you have taken while visiting in Norway or pictures of *stevner* would be interesting to share.

Let's hope the rest of the summer is enjoyable!

All my best,

*Lynn*

# Introducing Eystein Poulsen Modum Priest and Humanist

by Jon Mamen

Eystein Poulsen is a name still remembered in Modum. Many recall him with gladness and thanks. He lived just as he taught. He dared to stand for what he determined was right, even if it bore a personal cost.



I believe that Jesus was his model. (The picture is from 1929; source unknown)

## Adolescence and Studies

Poulsen was the son of Vilhelm Poulsen, a priest or *prest*, and his mother was Mina (born Ebbestad). Eystein, born in Vinje, Telemark, December 9, 1879, was the second of their six children while his father was a priest there. After that, his father was a priest in Seljord where Eystein attended school. He was confirmed there in 1894. Then he went to Kristiania's Cathedral School and took his University entrance examination in the natural science curriculum in 1897. His father died the same year while serving as the main priest or *sokneprest* in Gran. Among his siblings, his brother was a known architect. He drew the new Gulsrud Chapel plans after the fire in 1930. His sister Ragnhild married the author Kristian Elster, the younger.

In the census of 1900 Eystein can be found in an apartment in Kristiania. He studied theology. He took the University degree in 1903. In the fall came the practical theological exam. Then at age 24 he awaited a call as a pastor. He worked as a house teacher one year: moreover, he studied German and history at the University. He was overworked and hired out as a seaman. He was at sea three years and had sailed to Australia. Back in Norway during the fall of 1909, he was an assistant at Vaterlands church in Kristiania. In 1921 he was secretary for youth of workers in the Norwegian Kristelige Ungdoms Society.

## In the Shadow of World War I

In February 1914 Eystein married Andrea Aarhus from Vinje. The same summer he had a call to Lunde in Telemark, but he was there less than a year. The call records stated that Eystein Paulsen came to be

Lunde *sokneprest* June 9, 1914, but because of illness he'd already left the beginning of the following year. He had to quit. He had no strength. **In the summer of 1914 World War I began.** I think that Poulsen took the war's horrors into himself to such a degree that he clearly couldn't work as a priest.

The couple moved to a small farm in Svindal, Østfold. It appeared that Andrea's older sister, Aasne Aarhus, bought the place so her sister and brother-in-law had a place to live. They lived there when their daughter Signe was born. Poulsen had become a small farmer.

## To Modum—and away again

In 1920 Aasne Aarhus bought the farm Gåserud in East Modum and moved there. Eystein and Andrea Poulsen along with Signe came the same year. Truly, Aasne had managed to keep on top of things for her sister. Now that the war was over, Eystein, now 40, was ready to try to be a priest again, and he got a position as the young people's pastor at Modum. He got an old schoolroom for living quarters which stood at Berg in East Modum. He became an inspirational leader in the popular scouting program. After a couple years, his position increased to chaplain, a position unfilled since 1919. From 1925-27 he was an institutional chaplain in Bjørgvin diocese and away from Modum.

## Time at Komperud

In 1927 the position of assistant pastor was open in Modum which Eystein sought and got. He got to live at the Komperud priest's farm in the service quarters. Komperud was an old fashioned *prestegaard* in Vestre Spone area. It was the cultural center in the community and they thrived there. With the poverty of the 1930s it was known that one could al-



Poulsen used his bicycle year round. He carried a little case in the back.

ways get a meal or a place to sleep at Poulsens, if needed. He gave away clothes and shoes. Some thought him kind to a fault, but both Eystein and Andrea chose to live this way. (Go to page 4).



### Modum's Priest and Humanist

He used a bicycle year round to get around the community. Besides their daughter Signe, the couple took in foster children to raise. Poulsen founded a "Help for Young People" group. It was a fund to finance evening school for young boys to learn a trade. In 1929 he was pictured with 45 boys he had confirmed in Nykirke and Vestre Spone (not shown here). He also had sympathy for young unemployed theologians. On his own he helped them find positions so they could prove themselves. Some were ordained and could claim seniority rights for experience. One of these was Herman Kvaase.

**War years** In 1939 the position of *sokneprest* (head priest) was open in Modum after Peder Bjerkeset. Poulsen applied and obtained the post; he was now 60 years of age. The family moved to Heggen *prestegaard* during February 1940. Shortly afterward the war came to Norway.

**Poulsen was a pacifist; I believe this was his attitude throughout World War I.** He did not encourage one to fight. But when the NS (Nasjonal Samling Party or German sympathizers) wanted the metal weight of the church bells, Poulsen refused to give them up. He also called in all the keys to the churches. He opposed smelting church bells for canon. Easter Day 1942 most of the priests laid down their official duty to the state, even though they would serve the people of the church. **Some were dismissed; Poulsen was one of these.**

**Under the five years of German occupation people could not celebrate May 17, but they could go to church on Sunday. In 1942 May 17 fell on a Sunday and Poulsen should have services at Heggen Church.** Spontaneously, people flocked to church, partly because of the national Constitution Day. It was an early indication of the will of the people to assemble for that day.

In the summer Poulsen was driven from his residence and in the fall driven out of Buskerud county. Poulsons then lived at Konnerud until the liberation of Norway. Skoger and Konnerud were in Vestfold county at that time.

### After the Liberation

Poulsen made his way back to Modum May 14, 1945, and when he and Andrea arrived by train at Vikersund station, many were on hand to receive them. They knew Poulsen continued to be a pacifist. He was invited to be on a committee to raise a memorial stone over the war's fallen, but he deferred to Sverre Hov, the chaplain, to be the spiritual member of the committee.

Many NS-folk (Nazi sympathizers) were arrested and gathered in prison camps. Poulsen began to visit them. He

meant that there was a need for spiritual service also among them. He engaged himself in court cases, and he talked and wrote for mild judgments of those who'd been on the unpopular, losing side. **He strived for reconciliation and healing within the community.** He

appealed to the government for mercy on behalf of those

judged. He wrote newspaper articles, especially about capital punishment. **Not everyone appreciated this. Bishop Bergrav had called for marking a distance from those who had belonged to the Nasjonal Samling until they showed repentance or remorse.** But many formerly NS-folk were thankful toward Poulsen.

The priest, Christian Hansteen, was set on the sidelines after the war. He was a brother-in-law to Gudbrand Lunde. When Lunde and his wife died, the Hansteens became foster parents for their children. By then the Hansteen family had moved to Sønsteby. The family's position was difficult after the liberation. Poulsen let Hansteen have a job in the pastor's office and, later on, as a priest. After some years, Hansteen was cleared to serve as a priest. He was named assistant pastor in 1950. He was the last priest to reside at Komperud.

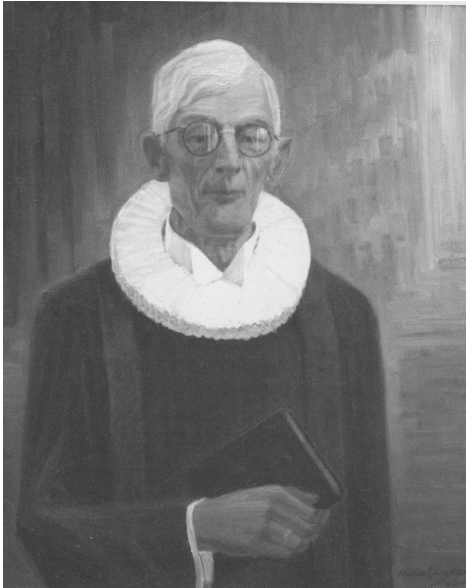
### Retirement years

Poulsen filled 70 years in 1949. Before he retired, he had set up a house at Heggen (church), which he named "Heggenlia." He and Andrea moved there. Poulsen continued to bike around the community, visiting people.

(continued to page 5)



Birger Hammerstad drew this sketch of his own confirmation class at Heggen Church. He was confirmed September 27, 1942. But shortly before Confirmation Day, Poulsen was forced out of Modum and Buskerud, so Herman Kvaase presided for the service.



Painted by Håkon Kongsrud, this portrait of Poulsen hangs in the sacristy in Heggen Church. Jon Mamen photo.

(conclusion)

Poulsen conducted uplifting meetings at school houses or neighborhood houses. He wrote for newspapers and periodicals. He was unhappy Norway became a NATO member. In 1959 when Christopher Hornsrud celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Poulsen wrote an article in praise of him with the same skeptical attitude Hornsrud had held about NATO.

He was an erudite, learned man. He read much. He wrote for the periodical, "Church and Culture." Titles worth reading today include: "How one Becomes a Personality"; "What Literature Says"; and "Bjørnson as A Christian: A Character Study".

Andrea died in 1967. Poulsen continued to live at Heggen with some hired help until his death August 1, 1971, and he is buried at Heggen cemetery.

## More About Eystein Poulsen

by Oscar Magnusson

from his book, *Jeg vil leve (I Will Live)*

My father gave great emphasis that we should learn to find our way being out in nature. He was happy when I started in the scouting movement and

took the first prize in boys' ski jumping competition. The troop leader (later *sokneprest*) Eystein Poulsen was as congenial as my parents in setting a Christian example—and he had a practical grasp on things. From him I learned to dig myself down in a snowdrift during the winter, make a fire in the snow, make food outdoors. But none of them guessed to what degree I would use these skills in my adult years!

Both articles from *Gamle Modum*, 29<sup>th</sup> year, 2014, published by Modum Historielag; Marilyn D. Somdahl, translator.

## Visit Your Heritage at Norway House

**An exhibit called "Norwegian Threads" continues into August at Norway House's Education Building, 913 East Franklin Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404. It features the work of Norwegian textile artist Lise Skjåk Bræk and painter Anne Langsholt Apaydintli.**

Joyful, sometimes humorous, paintings give a resonance to one-of-a-kind exquisite dresses with a modern selection of materials and colors. There are 18 or 19 gowns, all with substantial price tags, if you wished to have one. Worth the trip! Call 612-871-2211 for the hours.

**The exhibit honors the late Hulda Garborg who is credited with giving the different customs of folk dress the attention she thought might be lost. Each district had its own traditional patterns that she believed needed to be preserved in each traditional *bunad*.**

Norway House will be fundraising to complete future building projects. If you haven't visited yet, you should look for an ocean blue building whose parking lot is shared with the Norwegian Memorial Church, fondly called "Mindekirken."

Several members of various *bygdslag* attended the official ribbon-cutting and dedication of the building June 14 when

## Velkommen, Nye Medlemmer!

**Carl Rasmussen,**  
Stevens Point, WI

**Corrine "Corky" Olson,**  
Viroqua, WI

**Carol Hanson,**  
Minneapolis, MN

**Karen & Jeff Meinert,**  
Andover, MN

former Consul General Thor Johansen of the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Minneapolis, now retired in Norway, was invited to have the honors with a great-sized scissor. It was his initiative in 2004 that first brought the idea of a Norwegian center forward.

In mid-July name plaques of varied sizes had been engraved and were prominently displayed on a wall across from a social area where beverages and refreshments may be ordered from **Also Ingebretson's**, whose main store is a popular Norwegian gift and food market on Lake Street. They also carry many gifts in an intimate shop setting at Norway House.

**Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, the national council of bygdslag, met the requirements for a plaque of \$10,000 and 100 words of engraving, submitted in March.** Since it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016 that averages \$100 for 100 years.

To date smaller plaques for \$2,500 gifts had been engraved from couples or individuals—some whose names you may recognize—along with **Sigdalslag, Solørlag, Telelag of America, Totenlag, and Vestlandslag.**

Norway House offers various categories of annual Basic or Contributing Memberships. (Pictures on page 11)



*SCENES from the 29th year of the 7 LAG STEVNE*



Peg Schellin's map says: **HERE!** Genealogy draws Gloria Lundblad, Irene Navarre and Dick Jones with Derwyn Anderson sharing data as Al Stevens looks on, *center*. Carl Rasmussen wears an appropriate shirt, *top right*.



*Below*, Ardis Danger's almond cakes were sampled after she gave recipes and hints for good baking results. Other Norwegian foods that were made and demonstrated included lefse, krumkake, heart waffles, fattigmand, and even kransekake. Convention Center Coffee was sold. The hospitality room also showed videos of old, pre-1920 prairie churches in the Midwest.



Sandy Hendrickson mixes it up



*Above*, Phyllis Maxwell awaits an inquiry. However, Marv Lang, *at right*, visits and compares notes with Dave and Kirsten Bornus in the genealogy room. Not shown here were the vendors and authors next door who sold books after speaking.



Marlene Dingle serves krumkake



Tracing RDD ancestors on the US map—Malcolm and Phyllis Maxwell. *At right*, Ken and Gloria Lundblad find something of interest to read.



Cheryl Goplin and her husband make lefse



# *HELD at La Crosse, Wisconsin—July 9–12, 2015*



Gene Danger, Jackie Anderson & Corky Olson say, “HI”.



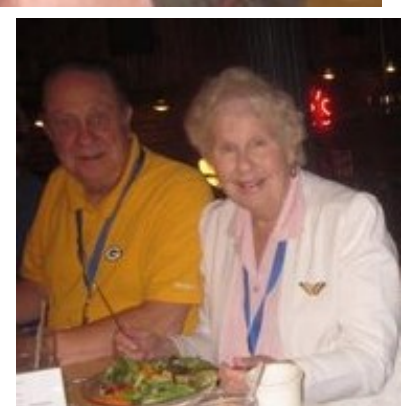
“Trønder Boys” from Norway entertain at the 7 Lag Banquet and Bunad Parade



*Clockwise, beginning at right:*  
 1) Lynn Nord, Marilyn Sorensen & Kirsten Bornus share online genealogy  
 2) Marv & Louise Lang Thursday evening at dinner  
 3) Don Teigen, Gene Danger & Derwyn Anderson at the banquet  
 4) Marilyn Somdahl, Al Stevens, Sherrie Framness & Kirsten Bornus at Fayze’s Restaurant  
 5) Barb Gulbrandson orders another Pepsi  
 6) Marilyn Sorensen and Sonia Thule tackle an unknown genealogical problem online.



*Below* are Carl Rasmussen, Malcolm and Phyllis Maxwell who seem to have shared a happy story at dinner. Thank Ardis Danger for all the stevne photos.



# *In Memory*

**Carmen Jane Holter**, age 80, Cohasset, MN, passed away after a lengthy illness on All Saints Day, November 2, 2014, in Duluth, MN. The service celebrating her life was November 6 at Zion Lutheran Church and her ashes will rest in Zion Lutheran Columbarium.

Born in Blooming Prairie, MN, to Guy and Margaret Cooper in 1934, she also lived in Iowa and California before moving to Bemidji, MN.

There she graduated from high school and married Richard Holter in June 1952. The couple moved to International Falls, MN, to start their family. Then a final move was to their longtime home in Cohasset.



She is survived by her husband, Richard; children, Patty (Thomas) Baltz, Pequot Lakes, son Randy Carlson, Grand Rapids; Julie (Ron) Moser, Maryville, WA; sister, Darlene-Myhre, brothers, Carroll and Doyle Cooper, their spouses, nieces, nephews, several in-laws: Joyce, Peggy, and Terry (Cindy) Holter, as well as step-grandsons and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by son Douglas, her parents, and brother Raymond.

She enjoyed her flower gardens, bird watching, family trips and gatherings. She was well read and not only collected recipes, she also cooked, baked and shared them with dear relatives and friends. Among her special relationships were the years spent as Zion's church secretary and her participation and *bygdelag* membership, along with her husband Dick who has roots in Numedalslågslag and RDD. Together they built lag membership as they co-edited the Numedal newsletter many years while Dick also served as lag genealogist.

Memorials were suggested to a sign fund at Zion Church.

## Welcome to the NEW Web Site

**[www.rddlag.org](http://www.rddlag.org)**

**Congratulations! Lynn Nord and lag webmaster Anne Sladky have collaborated to create a new lag web site. Try it out and see what you can find that was not there previously. Share this with your relatives.**

**As you use it, please email the president what else you would like to read or find there. See page 2.**

### **Q. Which Members Went to Stevne?**

**Answer: Mostly those who have gone previously!**

**Answer: Those who planned ahead—**

**Answer: The lucky, willing to learn —**

**It truly is great to hear good speakers for classes and programs and be with congenial people. Tours and genealogy and good food and a bunad parade— there is something for everyone. You will be welcomed! Plan to save dates for next July now.**

**Registering with Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag for the excellent annual 7 Lag Get Together were** Derwyn and Jackie Anderson, David and Kirsten Bornus, Gene and Ardis Danger, Sherrie Anderson Framness, Barbara Gulbrandsen, Marvin and Louise Lang, Ken and Gloria Lundblad, Malcolm and Phyllis Maxwell, Lynn Nord, **June Novak** and her guest, **Sharon Risberg**, Valerie Pearson, **Carl Rasmussen**, Peg Nelson Schellin, Marilyn D. Somdahl, Marilyn Sorensen, Al-lard "Al" Stevens and Don Teigen. (first timers in bold)

**Members registered with one of the other six lag included :** Helen Buche, Deb Nelson Gourley, Eunice Helgeson, Dick Holter, Janice Johnson, Richard Jones, Tom Lanman, Marlys Larsen, Paul D. Larson, Carol Meade, Irene O'Connor Navarre, David and Lee Rokke, Don Rorvig, and Diane Snell. Al Stevens' daughters, his son-in law and several other guests attended the banquet. (Sorry, if the editor missed someone; she is doing this from memory!)

**It's time . . . To check the ADDRESS LABEL to renew membership or to GIVE A GIFT**

**See page 12. Renewing members should see 2016 or a later year after your name —especially if you wish to take advantage of reduced Fellesraad Centennial Registration fees before January 15 for that celebration May 5-8, 2016.**

**\*\*RDD publishes FOUR issues of the BREV and invites you to submit family articles, obituaries, corrections, and other timely news....a month before publication. Please note that the next deadline is OCTOBER 1, 2015.**

**Next year Ringerike Drammens Districts celebrates its own 100th year July 14-16 at Austin, MN. You will not want to miss this event. Please check out the updated web site at a NEW address, [www.rddlag.org](http://www.rddlag.org)**

**Current members may send autobiographies for a lag book to the editor. Pictures, too. Tusen takk! - MDS**



**Ringerike Lag Charter Members  
Printed August 1917 in "Samband"**

Inger Aker, Lafayette, IN  
Anton Amundson, Hayward, MN  
A.H. Anderson, St Paul, MN  
Ambrosious Anderson, Carlton, MN  
Andrew N. Anderson, Chetek, WI  
Mrs. Annette Anderson, Mpls, MN  
Emma Anderson, Chicago, IL  
Ingval Anderson, Barron, WI  
Oscar Anderson, Cobban, WI  
Rasmus Anderson, Barron, WI  
Robert Anderson, Albert Lea, MN  
Anton Arneson, Chicago, IL  
Anton Ask, St Ansgar, IA  
Ole Ask, Mitchell, IA  
Arthur Bagaasen, Albert Lea, MN  
N.C. Bagaasen, Albert Lea, MN  
Martin Baker, Clear Lake, WI  
Lovise Bakken, Chicago, IL  
Hans Bendikson, Lake Mills, IA  
S.K. Berg, Joice, IA  
Bernt Bergeson, Hartland, MN  
Mrs Kari Berkvam, Spring Grove, MN  
Martin Bjerke, Bristol, SD  
Ole Bjerke, Mpls, MN  
Paul Bjerken, Mpls, MN  
Ole Blirrud, Spring Grove, MN  
Hanna Braatelen, Rothsay, MN  
Andrew Braaten, Colfax, WI  
Christian Braaten, Elk Mound, WI  
Jacob Braaten, Colfax, WI  
H. A. Braastad, Mpls, MN  
C. N. Brawthen, Mpls, MN  
Andreas Brekke, Chicago, IL  
John Bye, Ashby, MN  
Timan Børtnes, Hartland, MN  
Andreas Christianson, Osage, IA  
P.A. Christianson, Osage, IA  
Ole Christopherson, Albert Lea, MN  
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Marit Christofferson, Albert Lea, MN  
Carl Claments, Albertville, WI  
Alfred Dahl, Hayward, MN  
Dolly Dahl, Chicago, IL  
Anton Dammen, Whalan, MN  
Edvard Dammen, Whalan, MN  
Gilbert Dammen, Walnut Grove, MN  
Gilbert J. Dammen, Mitchell, IA  
Iver Dammen, Walnut Grove, MN  
John Dammen, Hayward, MN  
Ole Dammen, Albert Lea, MN  
Martin Edvartsen, Stanley, WI  
Gulbrand Eggerustad, Fairdale, ND  
Hans Eid, Albert Lea, MN  
Edvard Ellingsen, Henning, MN

Ole Ellingsen, Faribault, MN  
Theodor Ellingsen, Faribault, MN  
Gilbert Ellingson, Fairdale, ND  
Narve Ellingson, Henning, MN  
John Engebretsen, Chicago, IL  
Edward Enger, Portland, ND  
Andrew Erickson, Chicago, IL  
E.C. Erickson, Mabel, MN  
Elias Erickson, Dalton, MN  
Ole Erickson, Rose Lawn, WI  
Helge Finbraaten, Madison, MN  
K.O. Fjeldbraaten, Hayward, MN  
A.O. Flaskerud, Calmar, IA  
E.K. Flaskerud, Albert Lea, MN  
Ole Flattum, Thief River Falls, MN  
Mrs. Thea Foss, Chicago, IL  
Ole Fossom, Manchester, MN  
Hans Gilbertson, Northwood, IA  
Nils Gilbertson, Fairdale, ND  
Anna Gisleson, Albert Lea, MN  
Johannes Gordhammer, Kerkoven, MN  
Ole Grima, Colfax, WI  
C.D. Gulbrandson, Albert Lea, MN  
Ellie Gulbrandson, Albert Lea, MN  
Einar Gulbrandson, Albert Lea, MN  
Gilbert Gulbrandson, Hayward, MN  
Mrs Kari Gulbrandson, Albert Lea, MN  
Rolf Gulbrandson, Hayward, MN  
\*Vegger Gulbrandson, Albert Lea, MN  
V.M. Gulbrandson, Mpls, MN  
E. K. Gryte, Ruthton, MN  
Herman Hagelsten, Dawson, MN  
Mrs Anna Hagen, Eau Claire, WI  
Ole Hallingbye, Osage, IA  
Mrs Nils Halvorson, Lonsdale, MN  
Peter Halvorson, Vining, MN  
Mrs. Peter Halvorson, Vining, MN  
Anton Hamborg, Albert Lea, MN  
L.G. Hanson, Grand Meadow, MN  
Dr. M. A. Hansen, Osage, IA  
O. P. Hanson, Albert Lea, MN  
Christian Haugen, Henning, MN  
Ole Haugen, Henning, MN  
Emil Hendrickson, Walnut Grove, MN  
Karl Hendrickson, Hartland, WI  
H.E. Herbrandsen, Vining, MN  
Mrs. Rosa Hofman, Hayward, MN  
J. J. Hove, Hayward, MN  
Elling Isaksen, Albert Lea, MN  
Mrs. Edward Iverson, Dows, IA  
Thomas Iverson, Albert Lea, MN  
Jacob Jacobson, Henning, MN  
John Jacobson, Waterville, IA  
Martin Jacobson, Waterville, IA  
M.O. Jemterud, Portland, ND  
Andrew Johnson, Clarkfield, MN

John Johnson, Albert Lea, MN  
J. H. Johnson, Osage, IA  
Ole Johnson, Barron, WI  
O.S. Johnson, Spring Grove, MN  
Carl Johnsrud, Kensington, MN  
G.E. Johnsrud, Clarks Grove, MN  
Gunvold Johnsrud, Albert Lea, MN  
John Johnsrud, Kensington, MN  
Erick Jonsrud, Albert Lea, MN  
Ole Juverud, Henning, MN  
John Kalsbraaten, Henning, MN  
C.A. Kastet, Cooperstown, ND  
Johan A. Kastet, Rothsay, MN  
Johan O. Kastet, Rothsay, MN  
P.A. Kittilsby, Chicago, IL  
Randi Kittilsby, Calmar, IA  
John J. Kjos, Decorah, IA  
Helge Klemetson, Thief River Falls, MN  
K.E. Knutsen, Faribault, MN  
Fredrik Krohn, Mpls, MN  
H. Larson, Syracuse, NE  
H.A. Larson, Madison, MN  
Marie Larsen, Chicago, IL  
Olaus Larson, Evansville, MN  
Peter Larson, Albert Lea, MN  
Andrew A. Lia, Colfax, WI  
Carl Lian, Fairdale, ND  
Henry Lindelien, Osage, IA  
Christian Ludvigsen, Chicago, IL  
Alfred Lunde, Hayward, MN  
Earl K. Lunde, Hayward, MN  
C.O. Lunde, Nora Springs, IA  
Gustav Lunde, Nora Springs, IA  
Lars Lunde, Hayward, MN (died)  
M.R. Lunde, Nora Springs, IA  
Ole Lunde, Austin, MN  
Johanne Løbben, Chicago, IL  
Theodor Martinson, Whalan, MN  
Martin Mikkelsen, Chicago, IL  
Gulbrand Moen, Albert Lea, MN(died)  
Peter S. Moen, Albert Lea, MN  
Syver W. Moen, Chester, IA  
Ole C. Morben, Thief River Falls, MN  
Andrew Nackerud, Walnut Grove, MN  
Caroline Narveson, Albert Lea, MN  
Ole Narveson, Albert Lea, MN  
S.O. Narveson, Albert Lea, MN  
Theodore Narveson, Albert Lea, MN  
Belle Nelson, Chicago, IL  
O.B. Nelson, Mpls, MN  
Edwin Nilson, Glenville, MN  
Abraham Rygaard, Scarsville, IA  
Ole K. Ryhus, Vining, MN  
Ole T. Ryhus, Vining, MN

*(Continued to next page)*

**MORE CHARTER MEMBERS**

Syver T. Ryhus, Henning, MN  
 Hans Odden, Osage, IA  
 Mrs Olava Odden, New Effington, SD  
 Christian Olsen, Chicago, IL  
 Ole M. Olsen, Albert Lea, MN  
 Mrs Oline Olsen, Litchfield, MN  
 Rasmus Olsen, Spencer, IA  
 Edward Olson, Mpls, MN  
 Isaac Olson, Sherman, SD  
 George Olson, Ross, ND  
 Levi Oscar Olson, Osage, IA  
 E.J. Onstad, Cambridge, WI  
 Wilhelm Onstad, Jackson, MN  
 Ole A. Oppegaard, Henning, MN  
 Paul E. Oppegaard, Albert Lea, MN  
 Torkel Oppegaard, Henning, MN  
 Mrs Julius Ostby, Albert Lea, MN  
 Hans N. Owen, Hatton, ND  
 Rasmus Owen, Thief River Falls, MN  
 E. Pedersen, Browerville, MN  
 Gabriel Pederson, Waterville, IA  
 H. F. Pederson, Northwood, IA  
 Ole Pederson, Barron, WI  
 Erick Rasmussen, Chetek, WI  
 Fredrik Ring, Libertyville, IL  
 A.O. Ringerud, Portland, ND (died)  
 Olaus Ringerud, Sedan, MN  
 Thorwald Rosby, Faribault, MN  
 Mrs Gunhild Rosendal, Spring Grove  
 E.K. Roverud, Caledonia, MN  
 Gerhard A. Roverud, Spring Grove  
 John W. Rud, Spring Grove, MN  
 Marie Sandager, Calmar, IA  
 E. Schoyen, Mankato, MN  
 Anton Setrang, Chicago, IL  
 F. F. Sætrang, Waterville, IA  
 P.E.. Simon, Dalton, MN  
 Olava Simonson, Chicago, IL  
 Lewis Sivertsen, Casper, WY  
 L.B. Skattum, Hills, MN  
 Gilbert Skaug, Hayward, MN  
 A.O. Smedal, Albert Lea  
 Even Solberg, Spring Grove  
 Nils H. Solie, Spring Grove  
 Aksel Solhjem, Petrel, ND  
 Gust Sorenson, Rice Lake, WI  
 Jorgen Sorum, Barnesville, MN  
 Thorwald T. Strøm, Spring Grove  
 B. J. Støa, Austin, MN  
 Elling Støa, Buxton, ND  
 John J. Støa, Albert Lea  
 Knut J. Støa, Albert Lea  
 Martin T. Støa, Austin, MN  
 M.A. Tesland, Hayward, MN  
 Alfred Thoreson, Spring Grove, MN  
 Thorwald Thoreson, Evansville, MN

Erik Torgrimson, Grand Meadow, MN  
 G.T. Torgrimson, Grand Meadow, MN  
 Carl A. Toverud, Lake Mills, IA  
 Kristian E. Uggen, Colfax, WI  
 Mrs. A. F. Uggen, Dundas, MN  
 Christine Ulfsby, Chicago, IL  
 L.A. Vangness, Calmar, IA  
 Bernt L. Wahl, Racine, MN  
 E. L. Wahl, Osage, IA  
 Ole Wahl, Osage, IA  
 M.B. Wamstad, Nora Springs, IA  
 Trygve Wefring, Mpls, MN  
 H.A. Wik, Stettler, Alberta, Canada

(From *RME BREV*, April 1990. *In the type used the initials I and L are difficult to distinguish*). *If the name and address appear to be an ancestor, the editor would like to hear from current descendants of charter members via email.* [Somdahl2@usfamily.net](mailto:Somdahl2@usfamily.net)

**Modum-Eiker Lag (6/8/1925)  
 Charter Members Follow**

Hans Aasmunderud  
 A. N. Ambla  
 Augusta Ambla  
 C. N. Ambla  
 Pete Amundrud  
 Carl Anderson  
 Carl J. Austrud  
 Mr/Mrs Hans A. Bergh  
 Ragna Christianson  
 Louis C. Dahl  
 John O. Doxrud  
 Albert Flattum  
 Jens H. Flattum  
 Andrea L. Fogdrud  
 H. A. Foss  
 Halfdan Anderson Foss  
 Helga Grefstad  
 Mrs. H. A. Gordon  
 Christian P. Gundhus  
 Olaf A. Gronlund  
 Gilbert Hanson  
 Harold Hanson  
 Mrs. J. C. Hanson  
 Carl August Hauge  
 Ingvald Hauge  
 Nels P. Haugen  
 Karsten Haugerud  
 Tom Heggen  
 Gottfred Hilsen  
 Sigurd Holtan  
 John Honerud  
 Mr/ Mrs Anders Horne

Carl J. Johnson  
 Hans J. Johnson  
 Mrs. O. Johnson  
 Mrs. William Johnson  
 August Klagstad \*  
 George N. Klagstad  
 Magnus Klagstad Ole Klagstad  
 Peter Knutson Elmer Larson  
 Mrs. Mary Larson  
 Mrs. H.O. Lobben  
 Miss Marie Lobben  
 Mrs. Lena Nelson  
 Christ Nordsiden  
 Ole Odegaard Nels Olander  
 Edward Olson Fred Olson  
 Sam Olson Ole Anderson Overby  
 Mr /Mrs Adolph Peterson  
 Hans Presterud O.O. Refsell  
 Edward Ruud  
 Jens Skjelbred  
 Andrew J. Sonju Ole Sonju  
 Thea Sonju Hans A. Strand  
 J.S. Sulland Kristian Svendsby  
 Dorthea Syverson  
 Mr/Mrs Thomas Thompson  
 \*(2nd random listing below)  
 Trygve Amundrud  
 Ole Austerud  
 Mr/ Mrs. C.G. Doshland  
 Mrs. Nettie Drolsum  
 Jeanette L. Dyer  
 Albert C. Engebretson  
 K.A. Fernberg/Jernberg?  
 John A. Finrud Anna Forsber  
 Mrs. M. Galchuett  
 Jens P. Jensen  
 Bernhard Johnson  
 Marie Knutson Marie Monson  
 O.P. Monson  
 Gottfred Nelson Carl A. Ness,  
 Even Nilson Sam Olson  
 Harold Opsahl  
 Mrs Andrine Opsahl  
 Olaf Overby,  
 Mrs H.P. Rude  
 Olaf Syverson  
 Einar Tandberg,  
 C. Teien  
 O.H. Tempte  
 (*BREV* Feb 1995)

Copy these two pages for others in your family to view!



**At the Norway House Exhibit: Hulda Garborg in poster, left, and paintings behind model.**



My wife helped me get the boots and stockings off. Oh, my goodness, how it hurt! My leg was so swollen and the ankle was about double in size and completely dark blue. I was lying on the sofa and feeling intense pain while I waited for the woman.

It seemed to be an eternity before she arrived. Finally she came. She was short and skinny and very reserved in her demeanor. “Do you have a knife with good steel in it?” That was her question after the customary greeting. My wife gave her a shaving knife. The woman found a piece of wood in the

## **SICKNESS, HEALING AND OLD SUPERSTITION**

by Andreas Gjerstad

*We believe the story could possibly be about a merchant named Gjerstad. The lady who healed him was Stina Tangen, known to be a healer. She lived from 1860-1942 and she was married to Carl Geithus who lived from 1859-1954. One of her grandparents was Solveig Skallstad.*

Some 300 years ago people came to Norway from Finland and settled in an area of Modum called Finnemarka. They built houses and farmed the fields. The group was known as the Glomsrudkollen. In addition to being farmers, they seemed to know how to heal illnesses and diseases, stop bleeding and to order snakes to go into a fire—like magic. They also cured diseases in animals. Because they bore such good traits, everyone was nice to them and treated them well. Ancestors of the Glomsrudkollen continue to live in this area today.

**In 1912 I was building a house in Geithus.** I’d made good progress and was about to install the large beam between first and second floor. The floor was open down to the basement. Unfortunately, I slid on one of those beams and fell down to the basement. While I landed on my feet, the uneven floor caused one of my legs to become twisted. It was some time before I could free myself and crawl to my nearby home and into bed.

I asked my wife to have our helper boy run for Dr. Edvin Svensen. Dr. Svensen told him I could come, but there was a lady here at Geithus who can do miracles and you could get better right away. I can’t say that I had any faith in this woman, but since the doctor recommended her, my wife called her.

wood box and then the treatment began. She came very slowly over to me. She touched the shaving knife down the sore foot while she mumbled something—probably swearing! I didn’t understand the words. Then she touched the knife to the piece of wood and this maneuver was repeated three times, the entire time with very slow mumbling.

When she had finished stroking my foot the third time, she said, **“Now it will be just as long until you are well as from the time you fell down until now.” I looked at the clock and figured I was going to be well by 12 midnight.**

The time was passing very slowly and I willingly admit that I had little faith in this little woman. I thought the entire time about the doctor and lead water but decided to wait until midnight before we went to bring Dr. Svensen. At 10 o’clock the woman had eaten and left. She didn’t want any payment.

I asked the others to go to bed and I was lying there alone with my thoughts. At

11 PM my leg was just as swollen and painful. The time went s-l-o-w-l-y and my faith in the procedure was lacking. As the hands of the clock neared midnight, I hadn’t noticed any change. Then I heard the clock strike 12: all of a sudden I no longer felt pain. Even when I stood up and stood on the leg, there was no pain whatsoever. I did a little dance on the floor! The leg was and remains good. Since that time I never had any pain in that leg. A better doctor I have never had!

**Source: Gamle Modum, the 13<sup>th</sup> year, 1998. Translated by Else Sevig and transcribed by Ardis Danger.**

RINGERIKE DRAMMEN DISTRICTS LAG, Inc.  
 5100 West 102nd St, #209  
 Bloomington, MN 55437-2567

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FIRST CLASS



Serving Norwegian-Americans with ancestry in nine communities: Ringerike, Hole, Modum, Øvre Eiker, Nedre Eiker, Hurum, Lier, Røyken and Drammen, Norway

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for RINGERIKE DRAMMEN DISTRICTS LAG**

**2016 Dues per household:**  \$12 one year  \$33 three years  \$50 five years

Membership year starts January 1 and expires December 31  New  Renewal  Gift

**Please use this form for (\*) changes in any contact information by marking with an X — so the *BREV* can keep current**

*Name	*Email
Street	*Phone
City & State	Zip
Family Origin in RDD if known—circle only one. If you have other emigrants from RDD, use a separate form for each. <b>Ringerike Hole Modum Øvre Eiker Nedre Eiker Hurum Lier Røyken Drammen</b>	
Ancestor Given Name & Patronymic	Birth parish if known
Farm Name if known	Year emigrated if known

**COMPLETE & MAIL with check payable to “RDD Lag” to Lag Treasurer:**