



# Ringerike - Drammen Districts Lag *BREV*

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

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Centennial news release

## Fellesraad celebrates 100 years in Brooklyn Center, MN, May 5 - 8, 2016

Some remember the 1999 Norwegian American Bygdelaag Centennial for the first *bygdelaag*, Valdres Samband. Well over 1000 lag members and friends came to Decorah, IA, during some of the hottest days July has ever seen! It demonstrated our allegiance to our Norwegian heritage —by proud feelings for our “home districts” and to the various *bygdelaag* that sprang up in North America. **Now it’s time for another big all-lag celebration!**

This celebration recognizes Bygdelaagenes Fellesraad, established in 1916, after several attempts to have an umbrella organization to assist and to coordinate activity of all affiliated groups with regional origins in Norway.

Centennial plans will recognize the threads of culture that remain in our society, partially due to the *bygdelaag movement*. One of them is **supporting our ethnic traditions**. Another is **encouraging family history**. Initially, the lags allowed our immigrant ancestors to visit with friends in their native dialects while enjoying programs, tours, and prized tastes of home district foods. These were big events.

Since many lag organized by 1914, the attendance hit its zenith sometime thereafter. **Author Odd Lovoll, in his 1975 book, *A Folk Epic: the Bygdelaag in America*, wrote that at least 75,000 people attended a summer *stevne*.**

As offspring of original members had both lag interests and civic interests as Americans, the Norwegian meeting minutes and publications gradually changed to English over time. Meetings were infrequent during years of two world wars and the Depression. When family history really started to catch on, the emphasis changed. Each *bygdelaag* offered classes to learn

what earlier members knew —as well as having translators and family history assistants for members. Today the active lag **emphasize** culture, fellowship, ethnic foods, folk art, music, literature and libraries. Many offer trips to Norway and most publish newsletters.

**May 5-6 sessions will be held at the hotel, Doubletree by Hilton, in Brooklyn Center, MN.** A reception Thursday evening, May 5, welcomes those attending the Friday seminars—two of them, (including **lunch**). Both have speakers from Norway and North America. Registrants may attend joint or separate seminars.

One seminar is “Norwegian-ness: Past, Present and Future”. It will deal with an ancestor’s relocation mobility, using their own strengths, talents, and skills to become successful, often with limited education. The second will cover “21st Century Norwegian Family History”—location of materials and updating of research tools.

**Earle Brown Center near the hotel will be the all-day venue for May 7, the annual Fellesraad first Saturday meeting day. The building opens early so that lag displays and banners can be placed appropriately before delegates and others begin the day promptly for the 100th annual meeting and election of officers from 8-9 AM.**

**All *bygdelaag* will participate Saturday. Dozens of volunteers (more needed) will share tasks (with shorter times so that everyone may celebrate the day). Special vendors and exhibits will be available before a special **luncheon**. Demonstration of folk dancing, displays of folk art and Norwegian gift ideas will be present. A festive **banquet**, special recognitions, and special activity for children are included. *Bunad-***

*der* are encouraged for the dress-up banquet. Note if you will wear one when you register. There will be **coffee breaks!**

**Sunday** is an invitation to visit Norway House and Mindekirken, the Norwegian Memorial Church, a member of the ELCA. They share a parking lot behind 913 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis.

**Schedule updates** for potential attendees may be found on the official website, [www.fellesraad.com/centennial](http://www.fellesraad.com/centennial). On Facebook—google Fellesraad.

Remember to make **hotel reservations** early. It is expected the hotel will fill before the closing date. (Price code: NAB) **You’re invited; members will wish to RSVP before the February *BREV* is published.**

**Mail Registration Forms (pp 9-10)** or download or register online —or email your lag president. Addresses are on the form and special requests may be made to **Jean Knaak, the Centennial Chairperson**, whose email and phone also appear on the form. **Please note that reduced fees apply if current members register before January 15, 2016.**

The Fellesraad voted to make a substantial contribution to the celebration to **keep registration fees under their actual cost.**

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## FRA PRESIDENTEN :

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, this is always a great time to reflect on the many blessings I am thankful for. Of course, that list starts with my family, my job and my church; however, recently I have realized I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this great organization of Norwegians.



The people I have met have wonderful stories to share and many have gone out of their way to support me. Over the time since I have been president, I have received several cards and e-mails from members thanking me for everything I am doing to lead this organization. I never expected that. So this is my opportunity to thank you for your kindness and encouragement. They are greatly appreciated.

**Well, the push is on for the 2016 *Stevne* in Austin, MN!** I have a great group of people who have stepped up to help with the planning and we have a lot of exciting things to offer. **I hope you are blocking your July calendar to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.** If you are planning to come, **we are in need of a few pieces of technical equipment that you may have:**

- 1) **Video Projectors and the appropriate cables to connect to a computer (HDMI or VGA); possibly a screen, too**
- 2) **Microphones**
- 3) **A laptop computer**
- 4) **Portable printer/copiers**
- 5) **Video camera – and someone willing to shoot video at a few of the events**

Please give me a call or send an e-mail should you have any of these that you'd be willing to loan for lag use for the *Stevne*. In addition, we can al-

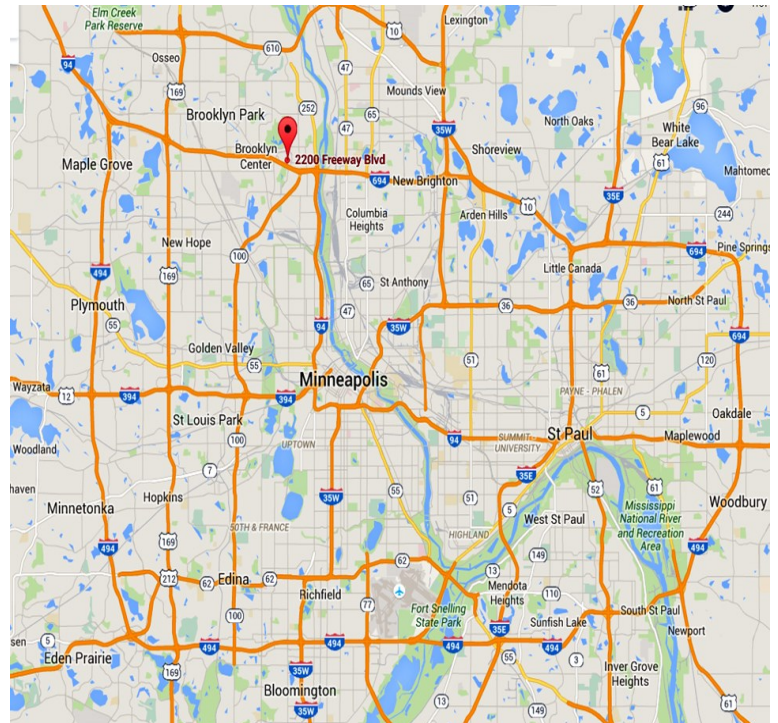
ways use helpers at the event. If you are interested, please let me know.

**On the last day of the coming *Stevne*, the RDD members will be having a special 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on a boat in Albert Lea.** If you recall, our lag first formed in Albert Lea, so we owe our existence to that group who gathered in the summer of 1916. I would love to see as many of our 180 some members join us for the festivities!

**Before we kick off our celebration, I encourage you to come to the Fellesraad's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering in May.** The planning committee has done a fabulous job of creating a weekend of amazing speakers and entertainment with a chance to show non-member Norwegians what the *bygdelag movement* is all about. I plan to attend the entire two and a half days and again, hope to see many of you take advantage of this once-in-a-century experience. (See pp. 9-10 for the registration form with reduced price for 2016 members in early January. The map (below) is of the Minneapolis metro area, showing easy access from major roads).

**As we enter into the season of thankfulness and rejoicing, I want to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very Blessed Christmas. We have a lot to look forward to in 2016!**

Until then . . . *Lynn*



# *My Heritage Journey*

by Ann Desmarais Johnson

Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of traveling to Norway to visit the birthplace of my Grandma. We had a special relationship. She shared with me *her* voyage to the USA at age 8 —along with some of the experiences she remembered. She wanted to return to Kongsberg, but by the time she had the wherewithal, she no longer had her health. I was making this trip for her as well as for myself.

In the fall of 2013 my husband and I heard about Hurtigruten coastal voyages. We decided to travel north-bound from Bergen to Kirkenes. We would spend one extra week in Norway and during that time, we'd travel to Kongsberg and the surrounding area to actually visit the city where my Grandma and her parents were born.

That is where this story begins. I booked the voyage and the airfare myself. As fall went into winter, I realized there were many pieces of the trip missing. After much internet searching, I decided the easiest and most efficient way to book hotels, travel from Kirkenes to Oslo, and travel to Kongsberg and other locations, would be to find a knowledgeable travel agent. And so I enlisted the assistance of a travel agent in Norway who also was willing to help with some genealogy searches.

**It was important to me to find the family farm.** I also wanted to see the church where Grandma was baptized and her parents married. If possible, I was interested to see where her parents and grandparents lived. And, lastly, I really wanted to make contact with any relatives still remaining in Norway.

In May of 2014 the actual journey took place. We flew from Chicago to Bergen. After two nights in Bergen, we boarded the Hurtigruten ship and traveled as far as Trondheim. In Trondheim we spent one night and were able to find my husband's ancestral farm near Melhus (that is another story). We boarded the next Hurtigruten ship and reached Kirkenes. From Kirkenes we flew to Oslo.

The travel agent recommended that we hire a tour guide to help us in Kongsberg to find the places of interest to me. That seemed like a reasonable suggestion since neither my husband or I speak Norwegian.

An added plus to the tour guide who was recommended was that she is a noted Norwegian genealogist. With a list of the places I wanted to visit in Buskerud along with the Gedcom files I sent to her, our guide had a planned itinerary for us when she picked us up in Oslo.



We started in Eidsvoll since it was only days before the 200th anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution Day, May 17. After a brief visit there, we headed to Kongsberg.

Our first stop was a home that my great-uncle had lived in, according to the 1900 census. He was born and raised in Øvre Eiker and also lived his last days on the same property. An added bonus was finding that his father, **Erik Jakobsen Fjerdingsstad**, was born 29 Dec 1821 at **Raaen** farm.

Yes, it was fortunate to have our Norwegian guide with us. She knocked on the door of the home and the present day owner conversed with her. The current owner actually remembered my family because she had grown up in the neighborhood. From there we drove to another address where my maternal great-grandmother grew up. It had been a busy day and quite successful. I could not wait to see what tomorrow would offer.

We started early the next morning. Our first stop was the home the family lived in after moving from Øvre Eiker to Kongsberg. The address was a few kilometers out of Kongsberg. As we drove up, we were excited because not only was this a house, but it was a farm!! We had found the Fjerdingsstad farm.

Again, it was a good thing we had our Norwegian guide with us. The current owner of the farm was a wonderful older woman who spoke no English. Her husband's family had bought the farm from my family. She invited us into the home, showed us around and pointed out the improvements and changes that had been made. **We then went outside with her and I was able to walk the land.**

(continued on the next page)

*My Heritage Journey (conclusion)*

It was a very moving experience for me. The original barn still stood and we were able to go in and look around. Standing also was the original *stabbur* (food storage). We spent a delightful hour on the old property.

In Kongsberg we visited another family house, the local cemetery, and found the site downtown where another great - uncle had his watch and clock store at the turn of the century. We had lunch and were headed to Øvre Eiker.

My great-great grandfather was born in Råen. (It is on the map at lower right somewhat above the G of Kongsberg! Above that is Fiskum on the map). We found the general area of the farm. From the hillside we looked out on the lake and the old and “new” church steeples. **We were most interested in the Gamle Fiskum church since my great-great grandparents were married there in 1851.** It was a beautiful setting complete with a babbling brook.



This was a very special visit for me. My great-great-grandparents were married in the Old Fiskum Church and their 11 children were baptized there.

I had with me a journal my great-aunt had written about her childhood in Kongsberg in the late 1890s.

In the journal she had a couple of pages describing the inside of the beautiful baroque style **Kongsberg Church** and her attendance there. (Note the balconies in the picture in the next column.)

We sat in a pew and I read aloud her descriptive words. We went back in time and sat and soaked in the spectacular sur-

roundings. The organ pipes, chandelier, the ceiling paintings, the pulpit and altar, the wood interior were all as she described. That, too, was truly an amazing experience. Our journey was not over, but it was complete for me.

We had visited all of the family sites that I had hoped we would find. I had walked the



streets my grandmother walked, sat in the church where she worshipped, and seen the places she and her ancestors had lived. I could not have asked for more.

We spent two additional days in Oslo before our return flight to Chicago. I am so thankful I had this opportunity to return to the home of my family.

*Ann Desmarais Johnson is a Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag member who lives in Kingsford, Michigan*

## Come inside . . .

### HAUG CHURCH, ØVRE EIKER

*Not only is this the main church for the parish of Eiker, it is also the prosti (rural deanery) of Eiker which includes the parishes of Nedre and Øvre Eiker, Modum, Sigdal and Krødsherad. It's located on the same road northeast of Gamle Fiskum which you can find on the map (page 4) at a (yellow) junction of roads and river, just west of Hokksund.*

Today one finds a massive steatite baptismal font from about 1300 in the anteroom (*våpenhuset*) where men left their weapons before entering the sanctuary. **Also to be seen are two solid brass candlesticks, each weighing 55 pounds (25 kg).**



Originally used on the altar, these were gifts of gratitude to God from Miss Dorthe Urne, later the housewife at the King's farm at Sem, for the safe return home from a military mission of Ove Gjedde to India in 1632.

Still in use are a chalice from 1676 and a wafer box from 1706. The present brass baptismal font is from 1717. A brass water mug was a gift in 1840 and in 1859 the church re-

ceived a genuine silver chalice and wafer box. All speak of thankfulness to God and this church. Parts of the altar survived the fire of 1818, containing the names of clergy who served here since the Reformation.

A special relationship the Cappelen family, owners of the Fossesholm Mansion, (see Nov 2014 *BREV*) had at Haug included permission to build a burial chamber near the church in 1771. **It was quite exceptional that people not belonging were a mighty merchant family in Eiker.** It also allowed the entrance to face the same direction as the church entrance, which was unheard of at the time, and shows the influence of the Cappelen family.

Beginning in the 1960s, the interior was totally rebuilt, a task undertaken by the architect Arneberg. All the interior was removed and the floor was broken up. Five crypts were uncovered in the excavation—probably of nobility—as well as small objects and coins as far back in the line of kings to Magnus Lagabater (1238-1280). Some chest fastenings as early as 1728 were later fixed to a board (1837).

The altar reredos was painted



by P. Petersen in 1838, a copy of one in Sandar Church, and given by Jacob Fegt of Tangen (Drammen) and Anne Christine Olsen of Sandefjord in honor of their wedding day here November 11, 1807.

Paneled ceilings above the chancel and the galleries (balconies) are decorated by Headmaster Anders Ragnaold Andersen. The central ceiling motif of the chancel shows the lamb with the banner of victory. The chancel walls have symbols of the four evangelists and in every corner are the four gods of the wind.

Above the balcony to the south are the motifs of aristocratic coats-of-arms that decorated the old church. Above the balcony to the north are Christian symbols from Revelation 21:6: the Christogram with Alpha and Omega Greek letters.

**The organ of 13 voices was built by Eriksen and Svendsen in Kristiania (Oslo) in 1860. The altar candlesticks are duplicates from Nøstetangen Glassworks, formerly in Hokksund. Glass chandeliers in the Nøstetangen tradition were made by Hadeland Glassworks for the re-opening of the church, May 12, 1963. The very old crystal chandelier belonging to the Cappelen burial chamber is at Drammen Museum.**

Carvings of three different symbols decorate the pews: the Keys, which symbolize that the church was once consecrated to saints Peter and Paul; the Fishes, among the most ancient Christian symbols and they were guiding signs in the Catacombs of Rome; and the Cockerel is there to remind Christians how easily we may fall asleep spiritually.

**In 1963 many gifts were given for the re-opening of the church.** Eiker Sparebank gave a silver font, a chasuble designed by the artist Thorvald Moseid, and a very old Bible from 1589. (Go to p.6)

## Haug Church's History

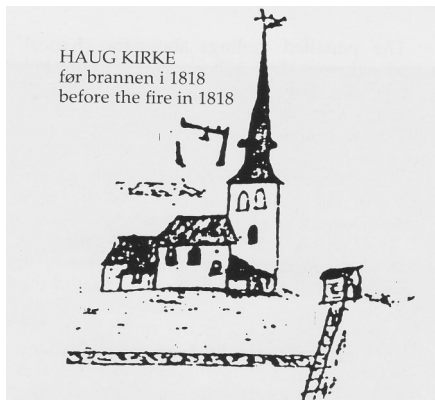
Built on a site of a former church, and probably a pagan temple before the time of the Christian church, Haug was on the old royal highway. In addition, the spelling earlier in time was **Houg**, which is derived from the word *hov*, a pagan temple, but it has nothing to do with *haug* (hill).

**At one time the bank of the river went all the way up to where the church now stands.** Legend has it that it stood right under the church floor and people feared the church would slide into the river. However, the congregation said their prayers and the water receded and the church was saved.

Excavations have revealed three pillars under the floor. It is thought they were from an ancient pagan temple or from a very early stave church, or maybe scaffolding from when it was built.

**Historical sources tell us** that a church owned by a brother of the Holy Cross, Halfard Thordsen, is mentioned prior to the year 1300. **Other sources report that the English cardinal, Nicolaus Breakspeace, later Pope Hadrian III, who in 1152 was papal delegate to Nidaros (at Trondheim), travelled through the district enroute home, consecrating a church "to St. Peter and St. Paul at Eikjum"**. It is unclear if remains of this church are in the present massive church tower.

**Little has been written about the exterior of Haug Church. The only drawings before the fire of 1818 are found in military archives.** They



show sketches which seem fairly accurate, and the reason for a military connection is that the cemetery on the north side was originally a military drill ground. A storehouse on pillars on the other side of the road also belonged to this ground and the storage room had nothing to

do with the vicarage.

The church has undergone exterior changes over the years. The chancel was originally shaped as an arched apse, but **it had its present shape before the 1818 fire which was caused by lightning. All the wood surfaces burned, but the parishioners had built again by 1824.** Their place of worship was obviously important. The tower is 20 meters lower than the original 52 meters, but major work came shortly thereafter when the chancel began to crack. Hansteen was the architect chosen to lead the work. It became complicated and the nave was torn down before it could be soundly rebuilt. It then opened Dec 17, 1862.

Inside, the pulpit sat prominently by the chancel steps. It was very difficult to heat in the coldest winter. A caretaker once remarked how expensive were the words spoken! Between 30-40 square feet of firewood were needed for a worship service.



The present altar and communion rail of Haug Church in Eiker.

In addition were several other items used in worship. One was a valuable priest's robe called a chasuble.

It was dazzlingly beautiful with jewels, gold and silver and widely renowned. Its fame reached Copenhagen, and rumor has it King Frederic II visited Haug Church and was struck with its beauty. A few light-fingered noblemen may have helped themselves to some of the church's treasures.

Parts of a chasuble from the late 1700s remain, probably from the family at Fossesholm Mansion. The ornament of the chasuble was found at old Haug vicarage when it was about to be demolished. Today it adorns a violet material.

*Source:* A bilingual Eiker church brochure, translated to English by an unnamed teacher in Hokksund.

## A Report on the Direct Descendants of Charter Members of 1916 & 1925

*In the August 2015 issue of the BREV, a list of all charter lag members brought several email responses to the editor. When the letters were originally translated to English from the old Gothic type many years ago, they were difficult to distinguish; hence, some corrections are in order. ([www.rddlag.org](http://www.rddlag.org))*

Direct descendants (children, grandkids and gr-grandkids) are of interest for two reasons. 1) for our historical records as a lag. 2) if we have the names and addresses of people attending the Fellesraad celebration May 7, **we will recognize those present as direct descendants of charter members in each lag. (Alert the offspring, too.)** To date our direct descendants are:

**Elva Steffenson's** grandfather was Martin Jacobson. **Gordon Jacobson's** grandpa was John Jacobson, Waterville, IA. **Al-lard Stevens** is a Ringerud grandson. **Julian Lunde** descends from father, **Carl** (not Earl) K. Lunde, and grandfather, Lars Lunde, Hayward, MN. Will we find **others??**

## Ringerike: Cradle of Norway's History

A summary of translated articles by Kathryn Parke

About 35 miles northwest of Oslo, separated from eastern Norway by the high forested ridge of Krokskogen, lies Ringerike (Ring's realm), surrounding Lake Tyrifjord and running northward toward Randsfjord.

When I first visited Norway, there seemed to be no official Ringerike, though the school which was my headquarters was called Ringerike *folkehøgskole*. However, by 1960 or so, **four townships—Hole (say Hoo-luh), Norderhov, Tyristrand, and Aadal (Aw-dal) were combined to make the greater kommune called Ringerike. It revived a name that is probably older than Oslo.** Hole later withdrew, becoming independent, but everyone knows that Hole still belongs in spirit to ancient Ringerike, and the **four crowns** in its 1985 coat-of-arms refer to important parts of Ringerike's and Norway's older history.

None of these crowns belong to a king named "Ring"! They commemorate four truly **historic kings who were born or grew up in Hole** and are landmarks of Norway's older history. **Halvdan Svarte (the Black)**, circa 820-860, is usually considered the first king of Norway whose career can be documented. His son, Harald the Fairhaired, united most of the far stretched parts of Norway. **Sigurd Syr** married Queen Åsta Gudbrandsdatter, the mother of **Olav II Haraldson**, after his father, Harald Grenske, died shortly before his birth. Olav II later became **St. Olav**, 995-1030, who Christianized Norway. Lastly is **Harald III Hårdråde—the Ruthless**, Olav's half-brother, son of Sigurd Syr, who fell at the battle of Stamford Bridge in England in **1066**, just missing by a whisker the conquest of England which his distant cousin William of Normandy accomplished two weeks later.

**So who was Ring?** If he lived, and was not merely a legend, his lifetime preceded Halvdan's by more than two centuries. Ivar Wiel, a sheriff of Ringerike and Hallingdal, in 1743 provided a full description of his shire to the king of the then combined kingdom of Denmark - Norway. Wiel said that King Ring was "King Nor's grandson", who was "buried with great treasure at Strejutland." Wiel's contemporary, the historian and Norderhov pastor **Jonas Rasmus**, thought that Helgeland was formerly *Strejutland*, or possibly that ancient farm was on Storøya (big island) near the eastern shore of Tyrifjord, says Rasmus.

But new clues keep cropping up, changing what was formerly "known" about pre-history. A rush of renewed archaeological exploration in Ringerike has caused considerable excitement in recent years. For example, a previously unknown rune-stone turned up on Ring ridge in 1990. **Experts have interpreted the runes as saying that a King Ring, possibly born in 577, was buried there April 24, 649.** Those dates correspond with what is known from the ancient Icelandic *Ynglingatal*, about a scion of the Swedish

Yngling dynasty named Olav Tretelgja Ingjaldsson. This Olav fled Sweden because his father Ingjald had been so scandalously cruel that rebels against him threatened the whole family. Olav is supposed to have settled in the wilderness of **Værmland**, a vaguely defined area which may well have extended into Norway as far west as Ringerike. His cognomen "Tretelgja" (meaning whittled) may scornfully refer to his loss of royal status—or perhaps it's a nickname referring to a later career in forestry. Trygve Berge published an article about all this in the 1998-99 issue of *Ringerike*. Berg says that the name *Olav* is *Anulo* in Latin and translates to *Ring*. Since Olav Tretelgja Ingjaldsson is held to be a direct ancestor of Halvdan Svarte, if all this is accepted, **the datable history of Norway should be moved back to 577, or at least 649**, preceding all that we've formerly known through the Icelander Snorre Sturlason's *Heimskingla*.

Meanwhile, Halvdan Svarte is still considered a primary landmark of Norwegian history. His head is supposed to be buried in a grave-mound seen beside Highway 60, on the formerly **royal farm property, Stein**. Unlike the royal burials west of Oslofjord, where the Oseberg, Gokstad and Tune ships were found and researched, this grave mound has remained mainly untouched by researchers. Many archaeological finds can be seen in Oslo's Antiquities Museum.

But there is more to be learned! Halvdan's Mound has apparently been left undisturbed, as a national monument. In 1990, however, Hans Hungerholdt, a neighboring land owner, reported that the mound was sinking! By 1996 annual measurements seemed to show that there had indeed been a subsidence, even since Hungerholdt's report of from 5 to 0.5 centimeters. What can be the reason? If there is a ship-burial, perhaps some of the timbers of the burial-house --a usual feature of such a ship, may have broken. Or has a fox or badger been digging there? Are valuable grave-goods in Halvdan's Mound at risk of being destroyed?

**Test borings were made October 14, 1997**, into the center of the Mound. They went 3 meters down below fresh birch roots, finding a thick layer of blue clay and finally a 25-centimeter-thick layer of wood thought to be oak, showing signs of human hand-work. Some charcoal remains were also found. In **March 1998** it was reported that down and feathers had been taken up during the test boring. A bit of leather and a horse's tooth, too. Of course, horses were often interred in a great leader's burial.

Some suggest that the Mound might be considerably older than Halvdan Svarte's time—maybe from around 400-570 A.D., —the "Folk-Wandering Time." **But pollen samples taken proved to be of spruce, which supposedly did not exist in Ringerike before 500 A.D. at the earliest.**

The wood found was sent to Oslo for radiological dating.  
*(continued on the next page)*



**PLANS FOR STEVNE ASK MEMBERS TO ASSIST**

The location of the 7 Lag Stevne will be the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Austin, MN, which is easily reached via I-90 in SE Minnesota.

Since 100th birthdays are special events, RDD as the host lag would like to challenge its members willing **to come and enjoy being both Norwegian and 100 years old!**

Plans are underway to get both the schedule and programs in place. Updates for the July *stevne* will begin to show up on the [www.7lagstevne.com](http://www.7lagstevne.com) website early next year.

Fra Presidenten (p.2) defines what equipment the lag could use for the occasion, so our AV rental bill may not be so expensive.

Does anyone **play a portable instrument?** Or have another skill to enhance the special celebration coming up? Possibly some grandkids would be both available and uninhibited.

Having more **photographers** would also be an asset. It is impossible to be at all functions for one or two people. Contact the president, if you might be a candidate this year or in the future.

Does the lag have **any graphic artists?** There will soon be an ad placed in a Fellesraad publication with other *bygdelag* advertisements.

**Welcome, New Member**

Velkommen til  
Larry Shogren, Las Vegas, NV

**Ringerike, Cradle of Norway’s History (conclusion)**

Analyses reported in December 1998 that the samples were indeed 300-400 years earlier than Halvdan Svarte’s death. This doesn’t necessarily mean that Halvdan isn’t buried there. His burial ship could well have been built of trees that old. Or Halvdan’s friends might have used a pre-existing mound—thereby honoring their own man by associating him with the burial of a much older hero.

In any case, the possibility of a ship-burial as ancient as the 5<sup>th</sup> century seems to justify further exploration of the Mound. It might be an even more important archeological project than was first supposed. **But the investigation would be extremely costly, so the current (2000) opinion was that for the time being, the Mound should be left alone.** Future archeologists with larger resources may decide otherwise.

Meanwhile, a historical pageant, *Haugferd* (Mound Journey), with 150 actors and many volunteers came to be staged out-of-doors in the summers of 1999 and 2000. by the people of Ringerike. Written by Gudbrand Hvattum, who wrote scripts for other pageants, some featuring the medieval presence of monks and nuns on **Storøya** (island in) Tyriffjord, King Olav Haraldson’s return home to **Bønsnes** after a Viking expedition, and the folk tales of Asbjørnson and Moe, set at the **Mo** farm in Hole. These pageants began in the summer of 1985.

Clearly, today’s Ringerike residents value their history and support its dramatization!

*Editor’s Note:* K. Parke, [kathrynparke@hotmail.com](mailto:kathrynparke@hotmail.com), spent a sabbatical year, 1958-59, in Norway away from her position as librarian of a unit of the State University of New York. She fell in love with Norway, especially Ringerike, when she studied the folk high schools and learned the language. She returned to Norway many times. She has translated several articles from the annual magazine *Ringerike*, emailing this summary to Norm (sic) Somdahl, **Nov 27, 2005.** **It appears now because a discussion about the many kings came up at the RDD meal at the La Crosse stevne.**

**November is the final issue of 2015. Need to renew? Check labels! Gift memberships are dandy Christmas presents.**

**Members may send articles (preferably in Word) and pictures of interest as a pdf. We also wish to get member obituaries with pictures. The deadline for the next issue is January 1, 2016.**

**A special lag fund is receiving “Thrivent Choice” dollars for those willing to designate Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag as a recipient. For contract holders of Thrivent Financial, the phone number is 800-847-4836. Say only Thrivent Choice in response. A rep will process your request. (You may need to spell the lag name to help the person find it.) Though not tax deductible, these funds will be put to good use in the coming year, when work resumes in earnest on a lag book.**

**Gift checks written from you to the lag and sent to the treasurer are tax deductible, since we are a 501(c)3 non-profit. See May *BREV*, 2015.**



# A Century of Norwegian Heritage

## Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial Celebration - May 5 - 8, 2016

--- Mail-in Events Registration Form (or see [fellesraad.com/centennial](http://fellesraad.com/centennial) for online registration) ---

**Registrations must be postmarked before 04/15/2016**

**Refunds are subject to handling fee, No Refund after 04/30/2016**

**Print Names of Adults for Centennial badges:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: (affix a return address label here or enter information below:)

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail please! \_\_\_\_\_

→→→ Please Complete! →→→ I / We are current members of the checked bygdelag for 2016. ↓  None

### Instructions and Notes:

**Seating for meals will be assigned according to the date the registration form is received.**  
To be seated as a group you must send in the registration forms as a group.

The conference hotel is The Doubletree by Hilton (see below). We have reserved a block of rooms at the special rate of \$95.00 per room per day which includes two buffet breakfasts per day. Room sizes are king and double-double. Please ask for the Fellesraad Conference Rate when calling 763-566-8000. If there is a problem contact the Conference Coordinator at 651-357-6139 or [knaak@gmail.com](mailto:knaak@gmail.com). When the initial block is filled we will try to enlarge it or look to other area hotels for a special conference rate

A special program for youth (18 years and under) will be available on Saturday. Please fill in the names and ages of any youth attending in the space provided on page 2.

A Friday evening buffet at the dining room in the hotel will be available for purchase by those who wish to eat there. Other restaurants and fast food places are available nearby.

**(Planning Info Only)** I am interested in purchasing \_\_\_\_\_ buffet evening meal/s at the Hotel on Friday.

**Sunday Options!**  Check this box to indicate your interest in attending a Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> service at Mindekirken (9 am English, 11 am Norsk). (Driving directions to be provided.)

A Church Coffee (light lunch) will be available downstairs following the second service.

Please indicate how many are interested in attending the Church Coffee \_\_\_\_\_  
(Suggested Church Coffee donation \$5)

A tour of Norway House, located across the parking lot from the church, will be available. (Open from 9 am to 1 pm).

- Gudbrandsdalslaget
- Hadeland
- Hallinglag
- Hardanger
- Landingslag
- Lappmark
- Møre og Romsdalslag
- Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken
- Nordfjord Wisconsin
- Nordfjordlag
- Nordhordland
- Nordlandslag
- Numedalslågen Lag
- Opdalslag
- Ringerike-Drammen Districts
- Rogalandslag
- Romerikslag
- Sigdalslag
- Sognalag
- Sognefjord
- Solør
- Sunnfjord
- Sunnhordland
- Telemag
- Totenlag
- Trønderlag
- Valdres Samband
- Vestlandslag
- Vosselag

See [fellesraad.com](http://fellesraad.com) for more information about these lags!

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel  
2200 Freeway Blvd  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430  
Phone: (763) 566 - 8000

Earle Brown Heritage Center  
6115 Earle Brown Dr  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430  
Phone: (763) 569 - 6300

Event Coordinator  
Jean Knaak  
Phone: (651) 357-6139  
EM: [knaak002@gmail.com](mailto:knaak002@gmail.com)

# Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial Celebration - May 5 - 8, 2016

## **A Complete Package** Thursday evening through Saturday evening at hotel and Earle Brown Center.

Includes: Thursday: May 5<sup>th</sup> Evening kick-off & reception at hotel, and  
 Friday: May 6<sup>th</sup> Seminars, coffee breaks, lunch, and evening reception at hotel, and  
 Saturday: May 7<sup>th</sup> 100<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, conferences, coffee breaks, lunch, and banquet.

**Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$150 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lag members who pay before Jan. 15, 2016** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$135 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **B Conference Package** Friday evening at hotel through Saturday evening at Earle Brown Center.

Includes: Friday: May 6<sup>th</sup> Evening reception at hotel, and  
 Saturday: May 7<sup>th</sup> 100<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, conferences, coffee breaks, lunch, and banquet.

**Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$90 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lag members who pay before Jan. 15, 2016** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$80 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Registration (18 & under)** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$60 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Includes: Friday evening reception and Saturday, activity materials, snack breaks, lunch and banquet.  
 Please list names and ages of youth. Include contact info if different than that listed on page 1!

## **C Conference Non-package Pricing**

Includes: Saturday: May 7<sup>th</sup> 100<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, coffee breaks and the item listed.

**Reception** Fri. evening at hotel \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$10 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Registration** Sat. seminars \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$35 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Luncheon** Sat. at noon \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Banquet** Sat. evening \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$35 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Banquet (Guests of registered members)** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$45 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **D Cultural & Heritage Day Only** Thursday evening through Friday evening all at hotel.

Includes: Thursday: May 5<sup>th</sup> Evening kick-off & reception, and  
 Friday: May 6<sup>th</sup> Seminars, coffee breaks, noon lunch, and Friday evening reception.

**Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$70 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lag members who pay before Jan. 15, 2016** \_\_\_\_\_ persons x \$65 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Z Check:** Payable to **Fellesraad**, mail to Dixie Hansen at address below: **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

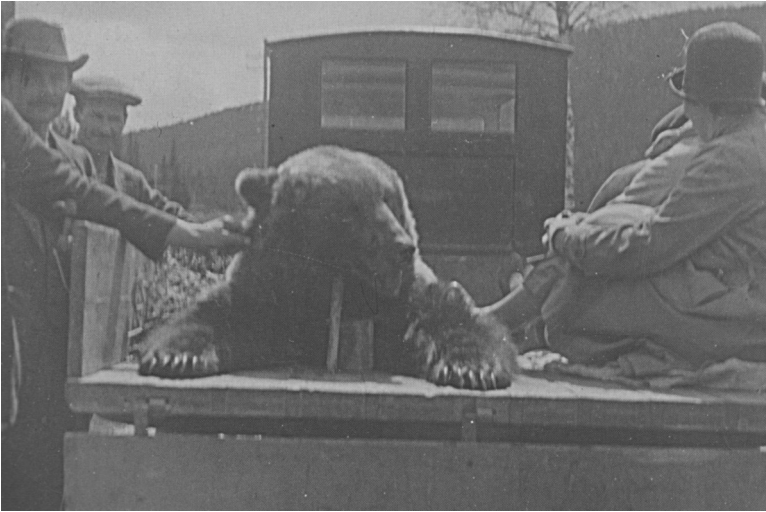
➔ **Have questions or Special Food Needs?** Please contact Jean Knaak (see contact info below)

➔➔➔➔

Did you fill in your contact information, indicate your 3 options under notes, and check your lag affiliation/s on first side?

Make payment to: **Fellesraad** at:  
 Fellesraad c/o Dixie Hansen  
 1411 Osceola Ave  
 St. Paul, MN 55106

Event Coordinator  
 Jean Knaak  
 Phone: (651) 357-6139  
 EM: [knaak002@gmail.com](mailto:knaak002@gmail.com)



### An Impromptu Bear Hunt in Aadalen

It was not so often that a bear was shot in the (Aadal, Ringerike) district through the (last) century. So it was something of a sensation when **Ola Maribo shot the bear** (pictured here) **May 27, 1927 within the Vikeråsen (ridge)**. Maribo shot the killer bear at close range, and it measured 2.2 meters (7 ft 2 inches) high when it suddenly raised itself up on its hind legs right in front of him.

The bear had already done great damage in the area, and it was therefore a big relief in the extended valley when the 'giant' was no longer a menace. It is pictured on the flatbed of a truck, to be driven up to Bergsund. The women (at right) with hat and coat had, by chance, accepted a ride to their apartments in Hønefoss, but perhaps they felt uneasy with the big one lying so close to their legs?

Source: Jan Helge Ostlund's book, *Ringerike I Gamle Dager*, Kolltop Forlag, Hønefoss, 1999, p. 82

### Spring Grove (MN) Soldiers of Ringerike Ancestry Who Accepted the Draft in World War I

**Alfred Aasen** – Parent was H. A. Aasen, Hønefoss, Ringerike

**Otto Blixrud** - Parents were Ole K. Blixrud & Margit Kolsrud. Paternal grandparents, Knud Blixrud and Marie Mokastet. Maternal grandparent from Hallingdal.

**Milliard J. Guberud** – Parents Johan Guberud and wife Bohlete. Maternal grandfather from Ringerike. Milliard went to Decorah, IA, the only S.A.T.C. at Luther.

**Knud Gulbrandson** – Parents Julius Gulbrandson and wife Pauline Blixerud of Ringerike relations.

**Nelius Halvorsen** – Parents, Kristian Halvorsen of Kristiania and wife Barbru Kinneberg of relations in Ringerike. Paternal grandfather from Ringerike; maternal grandfather from Hallingdal.

**Benjamin Haugen** – Parents Helge Haugen and Malla Elingsbraaten. Paternal grandfather of Sigdal and maternal grandfather from Ringerike.

**Martin Krogen** – Parents Rasmus Krogen, Trondheim; mother had relatives in Ringerike.

**Alfred Omoth** – Parents Trond Omoth, emigrant from Ringerike, and wife Rønaug from Gudbrandsdal.

**Edwin and Selmer Flaskerud** – Parents Elling A. Flaskeruds from Ringerike; one of the brothers died during the war.

Some of the above just went to Decorah, IA; others went to other places to train, **but most went to France.**

### Soldiers from Blackhammer Twp:

**Iver and Gerhard Omoth** – Parents Trond & Rønaug Omoth, Ringerike. They also had a soldier son from Spring Grove, MN.

**Edvard Pladsen** – Parents Erik and Inger Pladsen from Ringerike.

**Albert Karlsbraaten** – Parents Truls and Gunhild Karlsbraaten, both Ringerike

**Karl Oset** – Parents Gilbert and Lise Oset. Paternal grandfather from Ringerike.

**Ole Bjørgo** – Parents Jens and Marthe Bjørgo. Father from Sogn and mother from Ringerike

**Gilbert A. Omoth** – Parents Anders and Maren Omoth. Maren came here from Ringerike.

**Henry Børtnes** – Parents, Helge and Kari Børtnes. Paternal grandfather from Hallingdal; Maternal grandfather from Ringerike.

**Some of these soldiers were never sent to France.**

**Wilmington congregation :** None listed from Ringerike

**From Caledonia congregation: Willie and Herman Jacobsen** – Parents Hans and Sigrid Jacobsen. Paternal grandfather from Soknedalen, Ringerike

**Source:** RDD lag file. Excerpt taken from Aagot Svanoe's translation of O.S. Johnson's *Pioneer Story of Spring Grove and the Surrounding Area, Minnesota - 1920*; scanned by Lee Rokke, April 1998.

\* \* \*

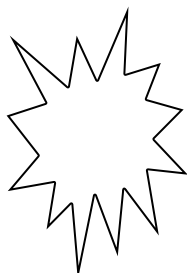
RINGERIKE DRAMMEN DISTRICTS LAG, Inc.  
 5100 West 102nd St, #209  
 Bloomington, MN 55437-2567

R-DD BREV Editor Marilyn D. Somdahl  
 Published February, May, August, November

FIRST CLASS



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



◆ **CELEBRATE! COME TO THE FAIR**  
 BYGDELAGENES FELLESRAAD - REGISTER *BEFORE*  
 JAN 15  
 RDD CELEBRATES JULY 14-16 AT AUSTIN, MN  
 AT THE 7 LAG STEVNE

**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:**

**Peg Nelson Schellin, W240 N7777 Deerfield Court, Sussex, WI 53089**