



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

Jan 2023

Notes from Lodge President (2019-2022)

Hei all,

It has been my great pleasure to serve as President of Edvard Grieg Lodge for the last four years. This has not been the easiest of times, but I feel we have weathered the storm of the pandemic and emerged as a strong and vibrant Lodge. Over the last four years, we have kayaked and biked in Norway (albeit by Zoom), gotten together for our major Midsommer and Julefest events (by Zoom when necessary), and learned much about how to approach researching our Norwegian roots. I have also been very happy about how the Lodge has stepped up to help move us into the future. We have surveyed the membership to better understand our needs, and performed a SWOT analysis to better understand where we stand and where we want to go as a Lodge. As a result of your feedback we have implemented new programs to help us better publicize the Lodge (including creation of a Board-level publicity director) and reach out to our members. We have gone beyond ourselves, raising money for local causes as well as raising \$2000 over the last two years to support the Sons of Norway Foundation. We have also collaborated with the Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati on Zoom and in person celebrations of Syttende mai.

None of this would have been possible without a dedicated and engaged Board. I thank you all for the help and support you have given me and the Lodge over the last four years. I also thank all of the members who have stepped up during this period, helping to arrange and help with Lodge events and activities. I need to send a special thanks to my wife Susan, who was Social Director during these times and served both as a source of ideas and a sounding board for mine. I could not have done this without her. Finally, I would like to thank everyone for your

unwavering and enthusiastic support over the last four years.

I wish Larry Bannick and the new Board the best in the coming years. I feel the Lodge is in a good place and I am confident that Larry and the new leadership will propel us toward a successful and sustainable future.

Finally, I would like to remind you about our January 14 Lodge meeting, where we will be installing our newly-elected and continuing Lodge Officers. Newly elected officers include Lodge President (Larry Bannick), Vice-president (Jim Herman), Secretary (Liv Ramstad) and Treasurer (Pam Nelson). Kathy Skinner will be taking on the new position of Publicity Director. Other board members include Membership Director (Esther Charlton), Cultural Director (Elisabeth Sonoff), Foundation Director (Susan Herman), Newsletter Editor (Karl Halvorson) and Webmaster (Lois Evensen). The Social Director position remains to be filled. This will be a hybrid live/Zoom meeting, and I would encourage you to attend this important Lodge event.

Again, Tusen Takk to all, and I look forward to seeing you all at future lodge events.

‘Godt nytt år’ to all, Jim

Membership

We have a new member to introduce to the lodge. Shirley Hodek from Westerville has joined us, and only a month ago. Shirley was able to come to Julefest and enjoyed everyone in the lodge.

We have heard of some members in process so will hopefully have more new members to report in the next newsletter.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

Birthdays

January

Aimee Russell[4], Connie Holman[10], Anna Reeder[[11], Anders Russell[26], Kelly Lawson[28], Linda Welin[29].

February

Nancy Johnson[2], Ava Powell[2], Edwin Barth[6], Shirley Hodek[6], Richard Vinnece[7], Lee Luiso[12], Adam Sokol[14], Sylvia Casas[15], Anna Bellman[19], Mark Kosobud[20], Karl Halvorson[21], James D. Herman[22], Myron Hetzler[23].

March

Elisabeth Sonoff[12], Larry Banick[17], Kathy Johncox[19].

New Members

We welcome our new members, Shirley (Brodal) Hodek and Karen Barth to our lodge.

Esther:

“We like to introduce new members to the lodge with a little info on their Norwegian connection. Could you send me a couple of sentences on your background?”

Shirley (Brodal) Hodek:

“I am 100% Norwegian. Grew up thinking only 3/4 as my Mom was 1/2 Norwegian and half Swedish. It was something about the borderline moving that was causing the confusion. My Dad's parents were both born in Norway. Grandpa came over on his own at the age of 19. Grandma came as a child with her family. They came across Canada then down into North Dakota.”

Karen Barth:

“My Norwegian connection is through my grandmother, Anna Olena Annunson (which was changed to Anderson when she came through Elis Island) in 1905. She grew up in Kristiansand. Her brothers took the last name of Espetveit, which was the name of the farm in Norway where they worked. I still have relatives in Stavanger.

She married my grandfather, Martin Jensen, from Thisted, Denmark. They met in Minnesota, where she worked in the cook car for the thrashing crew

(harvesting), and he worked as a thrasher (harvesting the crops).”

Upcoming calendar events:

January 2023

Lodge Meeting:

Saturday, January 14 at 2:00pm – Regular Lodge Meeting

Location: Symmes Township Library (meeting room)

11850 Enyart Rd, Loveland, OH 45140

Program: Installation of Officers

Chili and 1-2 soups (contact Susan if you can provide a soup)

Light beverages provided by the lodge.

Bring an appetizer, bread, or snacks to share.

Lodge Social Event:

Saturday, January 14 at 7:30pm

An evening at Music Hall as the CSO presents

Edvard Grieg's 'Peer Gynt'

(concert-staged production) plus **Daniel Bjarnason's** Violin Concerto.

Our lodge will have a display table in the foyer starting at 6pm when the doors open, and a room to gather in prior to the concert. More details will be emailed the week prior to those with tickets.

Cooking/Baking Social Zoom:

Friday, January 20 at 1:30pm

Topic: Winter recipes using root vegetables, cabbage, gourds/squash, kale

For questions, Zoom link or more information on the above events please contact:

susan.herman3501@gmail.com

or call 513-227-8790.

February 2023

Board Meeting:

Saturday, February 4 at 2:00pm – Board Meeting

All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Location/Zoom TBD

Lodge Meeting:

Saturday, February 18 at 2:00pm – Regular Lodge Meeting

Location: Symmes Township Library (meeting room)

11850 Enyart Rd, Loveland, OH 45140

More info to come.

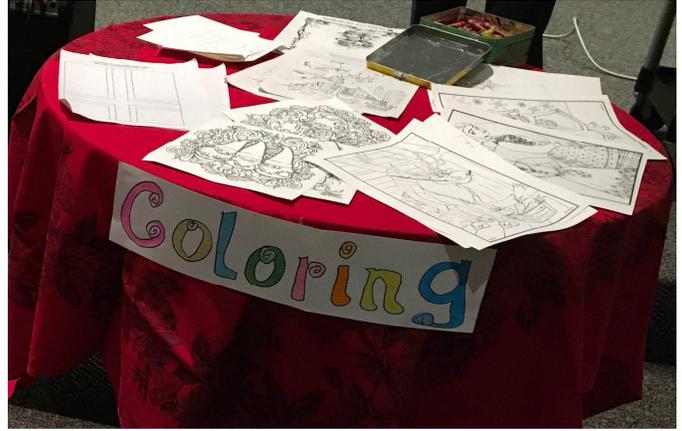
Recent events

November’s meeting was held at the Johnson’s home in Oregonia. Tusen takk to Laurie and Paul for hosting on a day full of surprises! Members north of Dayton were getting accumulating snow and some with ice, so several had to cancel plans to attend. Two members had surgeries the day prior (one planned, one unexpected). We were grateful that Bill Bultinck, our Zone 6 Director, was able to drive from Carbondale, IL to meet and greet our lodge and he shared the traveling trunk items with those present. Jim was unable to attend due to Susan being discharged from the hospital, and we thank Adam for presiding at the meeting in his absence.

Julfest 2022 was a special event, as was it great to once again gather and celebrate some of our Norwegian culture and traditions with friends and families over everything that makes the evening unique and wonderful! Thanks to all who helped in any way, to all who were able to attend, to bakers, cooks, those who shared gift items or bought some, renewed acquaintances, greeted new friends, thanked someone, and to members who couldn’t attend due to illness, conflict, or who live out of state but were with us all in spirit.







Treskurd or Treskjæring

Wood Carving



treskurd on entrance of a farm building in Kviteseid

Treskurd is the art of cutting figures and ornamentations into wood. There is a long tradition of wood carving in Norway. Wood has always been plentiful in the country. It is covered by vast expanses of forests. Wood was used for many purposes such as building materials for Viking ships, farms and stave churches. Because carving wood only required simple tools such as knives, irons and even axes, the buildings were often richly ornamented with wood carvings. Norwegian wood carving traditions have survived for a long time. This is likely because most of the population lived in isolated areas with little influence from outside.

Early samples of wood carvings date back to the Viking Age. Many of the items found at the site of the Oseberg ship, such as the ship itself, the wagon, the bed, and the sleigh, were decorated with wood carvings. The carvings were made by experienced carvers and are often referred to as the Oseberg style. During the Viking Age treskurd was mostly found on churches, ships and wagons. Later on from 1600 and 1700 carvings were also found on furniture and other inventory and on interior art in churches such as altar pieces and pulpits. The works were produced by craftsmen who specialized in wood carving. Although most of the craftsmen were locals, there were also itinerant carvers who traveled from place to place. Wood carvings could also be found on utilitarian objects such as hutches, horse collars and harnesses, drinking mugs, platters, candle sticks, even on boards used to beat the laundry, and on mangle boards which are used to straighten fabric after washing.

All types of wood can be used for wood carving. Hard woods are more difficult to form but have more sheen and lasts longer. Softer woods are easier to carve, but are not as durable. All carvings have to be carved against the grain. The carvings can be made by either "karveskurd" (chip carving), or by "flatskurd" (relief carving).



mangletre dypetset

Karveskurd likely originated in Norway as soon as people started carving wood. Geometric patterns are carved into the surface of the wood. A small knife is used to cut the pattern into the wood. Compass and ruler are used to create the pattern. Common patterns were roses with six or eight petals. This form of carving was found mostly at Vestlandet, but also in the coastal region south and north in Norway.



Karveskurd on a chest

In relief carving the wood around the pattern is cut away. The most common form of relief pattern is the acanthus motif. Acanthus is a plant in the thistle family and has been used in stylized form in ornamentation for a long time. The Greeks used it from 600-500 BC forward. The pattern shows up in Norwegian carvings, rosemaling and architecture around 1600. The pulpit in Vår Frelser Church in Oslo is an early example of acanthus carving in Norway. Gudbrandsdalen is well-known for acanthus carvings starting around 1700. The valley was home to many well-to-do farmers who wished

to beautify churches and their homes with elaborate carvings. Many of the carvers were self-taught woodworkers. Sylvester Skrinde carved mostly hutches, and he is most likely responsible for the development of a type of hutches (skap) later to be known as Gudbrandsdalskap. Skjåk-Ola from Skjåk was known for his carvings of hutches and sleighs. The whole interior furniture at Bjørnstadstune at Maihaugen was carved by him.

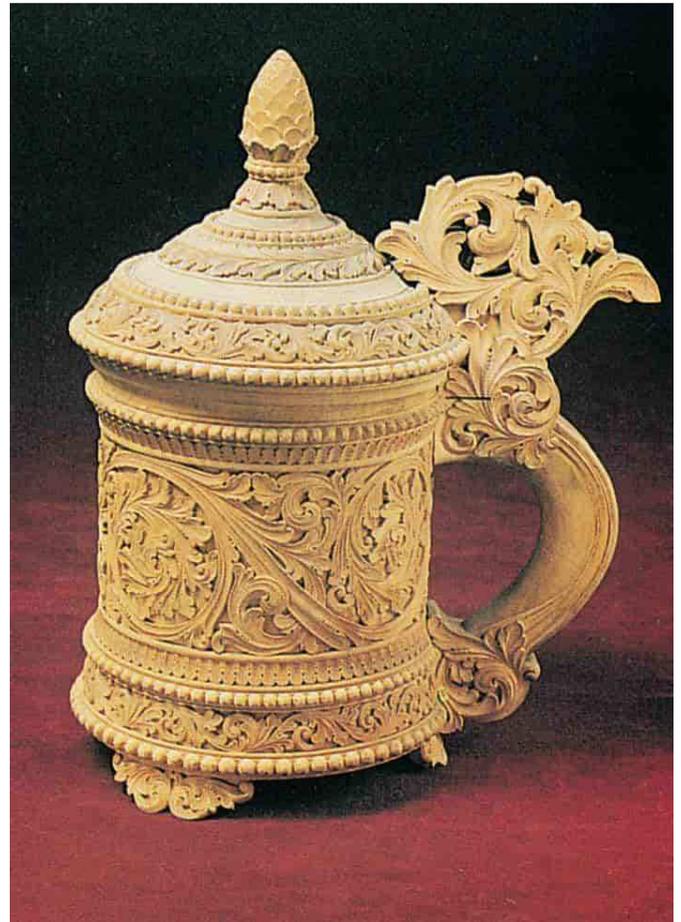


Hutch carved by Skjåk Ola

Around 1800 tourism started to increase in Norway. Many craftspeople started making wood carving to sell to the tourists to earn additional income. Isac Christian Moses was the first person to establish a commercial wood carving workshop in Trondheim in 1849. His specialty was small items carved in acanthus. Items for sale included sheath knives, beer mugs, and bowls. Interest in wood carvings also increased at this time with the establishment of the Norwegian Handicraft Movement.

There have been many skilled wood carvers in our times. Henning Engelsen from Toten specialized in carving Vikings, animals, and motives from

Norwegian folklore like trolls. He passed away in 2005 but his firm is still in operation. Others have used old techniques as inspiration for more modern works. Several younger artists are using the old folk art and nature as inspiration for their carvings.



treskurd beer mug by Ola Moene

Wood carving has had a long tradition in Norway. Handverksskolen (the Handicraft School) at Dovre is the only school in Norway still teaching wood carving.

Beautiful wood-carved items can be found for sale at Husfliden all over Norway.

Elisabeth P. Sonoff, Cultural Chairperson

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SofN financial info:

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