



THE R-DD BREV

August 2016

Serving the Kommune of
Ringerike, Hole, Modum, Øvre
Eiker, Neidre Eiker, Hurum,
Lier, Røyken and Drammen

Welcome to the next generation of THE BREV. This new format is most likely temporary as your new editor (Lynn Nord) figures out the best way to present this newsletter.

Before we go much further, I want to especially thank Marilyn Somdahl for the years of excellent work on THE BREV. At our annual meeting in Austin, MN, Marilyn officially retired as our editor and will now have a chance to enjoy her own lag activities as she doesn't even hail from R-DD. I personally wish her the very best as she has been an amazing example of leadership and friendship to me in my role as President and now BREV editor.



THANK YOU MARILYN!

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Letter from the President:

2016 is the year of Norwegian celebrations! I am pleased to include several pictures that captured some of the fun and enjoyment of first the Fellesraad Centennial in May and then the 7-Lag Stevne that featured the 100th anniversary of R-DD. The speakers and entertainment were excellent. Norwegians really know how to throw a party! My hats off to those that worked tirelessly on the Centennial (including our own Marilyn Sorenson and Marilyn Somdahl) and to my incredible team that made the 7-Lag Stevne a huge success! I had the opportunity to thank them at our annual meeting because they all brought something special to our group. For those that were unable to attend I would like to acknowledge them here as well.



Phyllis Maxwell – a special thank you for your help in genealogy these past years as she moves on to other things!

Kirsten Bornus – for help in researching new fun classes on jewelry and wood working and introducing speakers!

Ellen Johanson – for help with the banquet, entertainment research and introducing speakers!

Marilyn Sorenson – for being our lag historian and creating the new Genealogy Snip It's that was a huge hit at the Stevne!

Jackie and Derwyn Anderson – for planning the banquet, the decorations, the lefse and Derwyn's amazing help in genealogy including the hours of work he has spent on our new database and the creation of our new R-DD brochure!

Peg and Steve Schellin – Peg for being so good with numbers and details like name tags, signage, message board and more and Steve for his willingness to help with whatever is needed and all the pictures he took!

Ardis and Gene Danger – Ardis my energizer bunny who planned the tours, signed up the entertainment, put together our Saturday boat ride, lunch and annual meeting event plus hosting our planning meetings and Gene for his continuous support!

Marilyn Somdahl – again for her council and friendship. You have been an amazing support, a great sounding board and a good roommate! I have enjoyed working with you and look forward to enjoying many more Stevne's with you!

All my best - Lynn

Having Fun at the 7-Lag Stevne



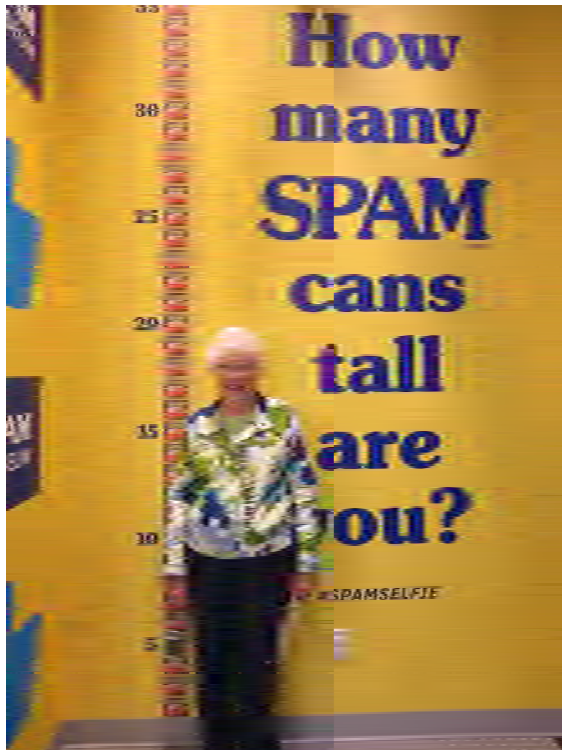
7-Lag Stevn's First Talent Show! Thanks to Marv and Louise Lange for hosting!



Derwyn Anderson holding down the R-DD genealogy desk!



Barb and Candy waiting for the next Genealogy Snip Its



Ardis Danger at the Spam Museum



Bunad Parade at 7-Lag Banquet



Visit to Alpaca Farms. I've got my eye on you!

R-DD TURNS 100!



At the Stevne banquet, Lynn was presented with this beautiful gift from Fellesraad President Elaine Hazelton for R-DD's 100th Anniversary. In this picture left to right Peg Schellin (Treasurer), Lynn Nord (President), Jackie Anderson (Secretary) and Marilyn Sorensen (Vice President). To the right is a letter from Fellesraad.

Gratulerer med 100 års jubileum til Ringerike - Drammen Districts Lag i 2016!

As President of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, I am pleased to present your lag with a commemorative gift in honor of the *Ringerike - Drammen Districts Lag* Centennial.

The national council, *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad*, has been commissioning gifts to its centennial lags since 2007, making this the 23rd lag to be so honored. We hope that you and your lag members will enjoy this award, as it recognizes the work of many individuals throughout the last 100 years, working together to keep your lag a viable ethnic organization. Perhaps you might wish to display it at your Stevner in years to come, so that all of your lag members will enjoy this also.

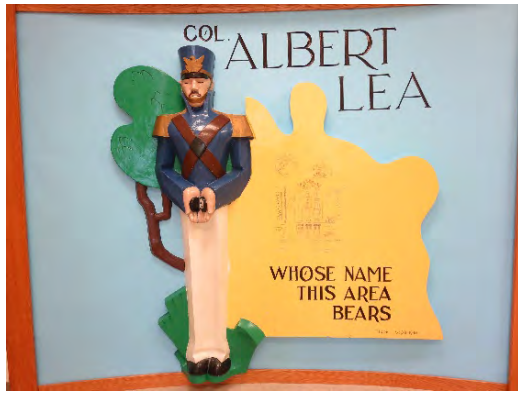
Your lag's commissioned gift is a weaving by Sandra Somdahl who has won blue ribbons for her entries in the Vesterheim competitions. She was recommended by Laurann Gilbertson, curator of Vesterheim Museum, Decorah, IA, who has given suggestions and recommendations of artists and mediums of expression over the years.

Ringerike - Drammen Districts Lag started out as a re-organization, the combining of Ringerikslaget and Modum og Eiker Laget with Fellesraad President, Morgan Olson, calling a committee of interested people together in the fall of 1985. The proposed name at the first 1986 meeting (advertised via Hadeland Lag's *BRUA*) was Ringerike-Modum-Eiker Lag which was adopted. In 1995 a decision was made to include all nine *kommuner* in eastern Buskerud fylke which added Drammen, Lier, Røyken and Hurum so the present name came into being. Ringerike, Hole, Modum, Øvre Eiker and Nedre Eiker were in the earlier arrangement. A new banner for 2016 bears the handwork of Jackie (Mrs. Derwyn) Anderson, the lag secretary, with the coats-of-arm of each *kommune*.

The Bygdelag is an ethnic and genealogical organization, which you appropriately demonstrate on your excellent website. You have posted much valuable information about your specific areas of Norway, along with an extensive listing of your lag's collection of books and maps. You have an emigrant log list online which covers the time period from 1839 through 1878. This on-line presence brings great credibility to your organization and to all bygdelag. We encourage you to keep up the good work with this and many other facets of your lag.

Congratulations to your bygdelag! We wish you and your entire lag continued success as we transition through the upcoming years. Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, as an umbrella organization, is pleased to be associated with the Ringerike-Drammen Districts Bygdelag.

Hjertelig hilsen til alle sammen! Elaine Helgeson Hazleton



R-DD Celebrates in Historic Albert Lea

100 years ago, the original Ringerike Bygdelaag met at the Danish Brotherhood building in Albert Lea, MN. So it was only right that a century later, we meet in front of the same building!

Our day continued with a beautiful morning boat ride on Albert Lea Lake where we saw countless Pelicans. Then we proceeded to the Freeborn County Historical Museum for lunch and our meeting plus the head librarian, xxx gave us a brief look at what Albert Lea was like 100 years ago!



THE RE-ORGANIZATION OF R-DD LAG

Ringerike – Modum – Eiker Lag was welcomed to join six other *bygdelag* for the first 7 Lag Stevne at Luther College, Decorah, IA, July 10-12, 1986. Notices to people known to have ancestry (in these three areas) were included in the mailing of the Hadeland Lag newsletter, *BRUA*.

The re-activation of the lag took place at a business meeting July 12 with Fellesraad president Morgan Olson of Hadeland Lag speaking to the group of what this process would entail. A year earlier Olson had called a meeting in which Marilyn Sorensen, Al Stevens and a few others attended to gauge interest in reforming one lag for three areas: Ringerike, Modum and Eiker. A vote to re-activate was passed in 1986. It was decided that membership dues of \$5 would be paid for every mailing address for the 1986-87 year.

Volunteers for office were Al Stevens as acting president and Marilyn Sorensen as acting genealogist. Stanley Uggen would receive dues and Sylvia Duenow would edit three issues of the *BREV*. By-laws and other details would be presented, discussed, and voted upon the next year when elections would be held. The “volunteers” were duly elected to office in 1987 along with Rick Amundsrud, vice president, and Geneva Tweeten, secretary, who also made the first banner.

In 1995 the *kommuner* of Drammen, Lier, Røyken and Hurum were added, bringing the total to nine municipalities. The new name became Ringerike Drammen Districts Lag. A second banner of red satin with St Olav or Olav Haraldson as the central motive was made by Anna Mae Bork with lag approval.



Charter Members of the R-DD Lag reactivated in 1986: Marilyn Sorensen, Al Stevens and Elva Steffenson. For their hard work, R-DD presented them with lifetime membership certificates at our special event on Saturday.

R-DD Charter Members:

As we celebrate our centennial, we owe a great debt to the original members of the Ringerike, Modum and Eiker lags that became R-DD! Thanks to Elaine Hazleton's wonderful presentation from the Fellesraad anniversary celebration, here is a list of those charter members and the descendants who are members today!



John Tron Jacobson

1843-1917, Waterville, IA

Descendant: Gordon Jacobson

Lars Lunde, Freeborn Co, MN

Carl K Lunde, Hayward, MN

Descendant: Julian F. Lunde



R-DD Charter Members Continued

Mrs. Oline Olsen

(1857-1928) – Litchfield, MN

Descendant: Lavonne Janice Olson Norby

Anders Fingarsen Uggen

Dundas, MN

Descendant: Jan Uggen Johnson

Erick Jonsrud

(1851-1925) – Albert Lea, MN

Descendant: Donald Paul Jonsrud

Martin Jacobson

1864-1929, Waterville, IA

Descendant: Elva Clarice Sorenson Steffenson

Edward Enger

(1873-1935) – Portland, ND

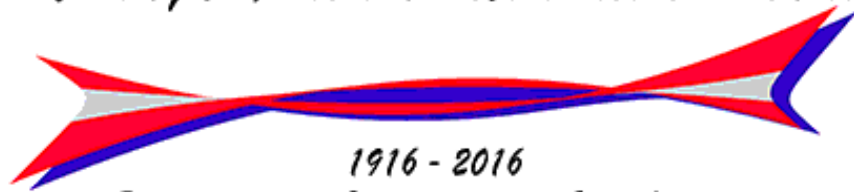
Descendant: Dianne Sonia Enger Snell

Thorwald Rosby

(1864-1959) – Faribault, MN

Descendant: Herbert Rosby

Norway to America: Memories & Dreams



1916 - 2016

Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

FELLESRAAD CELEBRATED 100 YEARS OF PARTNERING WITH BYGDELAG IN AMERICA!



This celebration was well attended with excellent speakers, wonderful programs, good food and great entertainment. The Stoughton Dancers – a high school group from Stoughton, WI put on quite a show with their Norwegian tradition that was a mix of skill and strength!



Letter from new President of Fellesraad – Elaine Hazelton (May 2016)

Tusen takk to everyone who participated in planning, executing, and attending the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial celebration last week. It was a marvelous event!

I appreciate your vote of confidence as the newly –elected President of the Fellesraad and look forward to moving this organization into the second one hundred years. I am a member of seven different lag, of which I am immensely proud. A sincere thank you goes to Marilyn Somdahl and her Board for the many good things which they have accomplished while she was Fellesraad President.

Bygdelagenes Fellsraad is an umbrella organization for all of the individual bygdelag organizations, and we are here to provide support to you. Your bygdelag is very important because you represent a specific area of Norway, both for its special unique culture and also for its genealogical and historical information.

As stated upon the founding of the Fellesraad, its purposes are to stand as a connecting link between bygdelag, to be an advisory organization to support and guide development of the lag movement, and to manage cooperative projects for the good of all bygdelag. This is what we will endeavor to do, using new technologies to facilitate this. We will also assist in using social media in our recruitment of new and younger lag members.

You are welcome to send me your lag successes and suggestions of how the Fellesraad can assist the Bygdelag. We are all in this together and I want all to succeed!

Med vennlig hilsen,
Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President

e-mail: hasletonee@familysearch.com / cell: 801-718-0379



Genealogy Snip Its!

At the 7-Lag Stevne we introduced Genealogy Snip Its where each lag's genealogist gave a short talk on special tricks they use. This will be an ongoing column. The first one is from Derwyn Anderson – R-DD's genealogist.

FINDING AN ANCESTOR IN THE PARISH RECORDS

Official farm names will be in the parish records for birth, marriage and death. The farm names in the public trees are not always the official ones.

*Searching the parish records without knowing which year is almost futile. (they are not indexed)

*Get started searching in the parish records here when you know which year to search in:

<https://media.digitalarkivet.no>

Other helpful sources

Google.com, familysearch.org, ancestry.com, wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com, geni.com

http://digitalarkivet.arkivverket.no/sok/person_avansert

Many helpful public trees show up with Google Web searches — search terms will be whatever info you have available.

*Kommune bygdeboks are also useful to find year of birth, marriage and death.

Oluf Rygh farm names website: (use to find which parish, kommune and fylke the farm is in:

http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_form.html



Topics for The R-DD BREV

Calling any R-DD Member with articles, family stories, special Norwegian recipes, genealogy tips or anything of interest to our readership.

As I take on editorship of this newsletter, I need help with content. If you read Norwegian and would be willing to translate articles we receive from Norwegian periodicals, that would be a big help as well.

**I can't do this alone so please volunteer to send me information often!
Thank you!!**

R-DD Lag Officers

At the last board meeting, the following officers were voted in for a one year term.

President: Lynn Nord

Vice President: Marilyn Sorenson

Secretary: Jackie Anderson

Treasurer: Peg Schellin

We voted to create a nominating committee this year to determine candidates for three offices – President, Vice President and Treasurer. If you would like to be on the committee or have your name submitted as a candidate, please contact Lynn at lynn8487@gmail.com

RINGERIKE-DRAMMEN DISTRICTS LAG, Inc
9640 Vincent Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55431

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Want your BREV e-mailed instead of
 Snail mailed? Let me know by sending
 Your e-mail to lynn8487@gmail.com

R-DD Lag Membership Application

New Renewal Gift

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 Zipcode: _____ E-Mail: _____

Which R-DD Kommune are your ancestors from? Circle all that apply.
Ringerike Hole Modum Øvre Eiker Nedre Eiker Hurum Lier Røyken Drammen

List your ancestors that first came to America.

Name	Parish	Farm	Year Emigrated

See who you're related to at R-DD - send your family tree gedcom file to Derwyn Anderson at dland@midco.net or mail hard copy to Lynn (see return address).

2016 Membership Dues Per Household: \$12 for 1 yr / \$33 for 3 yrs / \$50 for 5 yrs

SEND COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO R-DD LAG TO:
 Peg Nelson Schellin, W240 N7777 Deerfield Court, Sussex, WI 53089