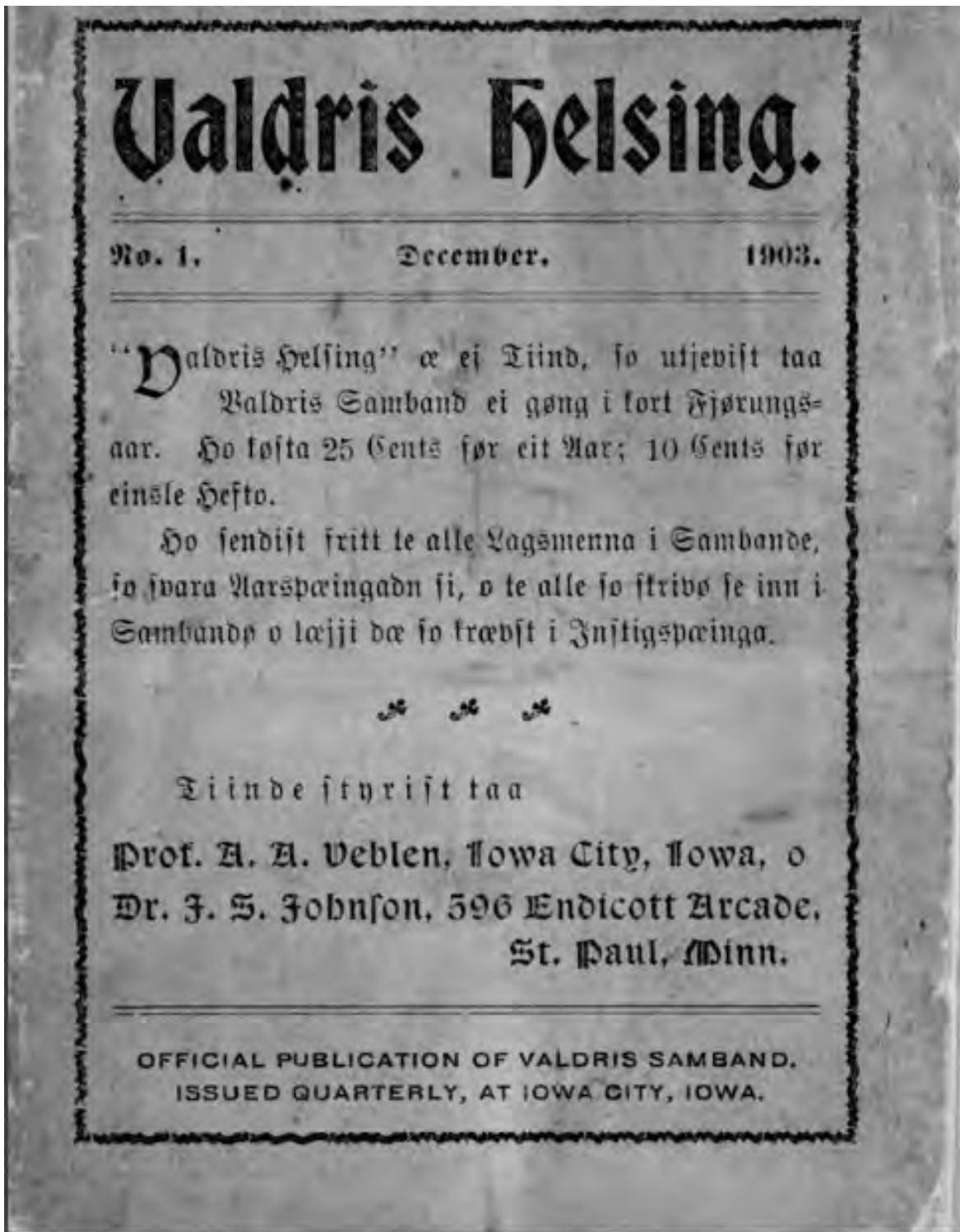


# Budstikken

Published by Valdres Samband, the oldest bygdelag in America - 1899



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# Budstikken

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## Cover Photo

Cover of "Valdris Helsing," the very first Valdres Samband magazine, Dec. 1903 (see page 7).

## Valdres Samband Logo

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## Fra formannen



It is 2024! We are going to party like it's 1899! 125 years ago, our ancestors gathered at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis to connect with other Valdres folk. Thankfully, we are still here to celebrate our heritage and connect with our cousins and friends. We are returning to our roots this year. Stevne will be held Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, at the Danish American Center, 3030 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN, approximately two miles north of Minnehaha Falls. We will visit Minnehaha Falls. We will gather on the bridge to take our traditional group photo with the waterfall in the background - just like the first Samband members did in 1899.

We are planning enlightening presentations, delicious food, and a bottomless coffee pot. As I write this, the speakers' list has not been totally finalized, but by the time you receive your *Budstikken*, it will be.

The speakers' list includes Lorna Landvik, actor, playwright, and author of numerous novels, starting with *Patty Jane's House of Curl*, published in 1996. Lorna's latest novel is *The Last Circle of Love*, published December 2022. Lorna's mother's ancestors are from Valdres and her father's ancestors are from Telemark. I became a fan of Lorna's in 1997 after reading *Patty Jane's House of Curl*. Her books frequently take place in Minnesota.

Maren Ellingboe King will join us. Maren is a cookbook author, food stylist, recipe developer and author of *Fresh Midwest*, an Epicurious Best Cookbook of 2022. Maren has been an editor at *Food and Wine* magazine. As a food stylist and recipe developer, Maren's clients include The New York Times, Williams Sonoma, Target, Macy's, Sunset, and Food Network magazines. In October 2022, the Star Tribune had an article, "13 Cookbooks from Minnesota Authors That Should Be On Your Shelves." I saw *Midwest Fresh*, read Maren's name, and immediately bought a Kindle copy and read it. *Midwest Fresh* is an incredible cookbook. Maren was inspired by her grandmother's and great-grandmother's recipe cards. Since my daughters have become adults, I have a tradition of giving them a cookbook for Christmas every year. (By the way, it is not the only Christmas gift they receive from me.) *Midwest Fresh* was their Christmas 2022 cookbook. Since 2022, *Midwest Fresh* has been my favorite cookbook.

We are honored that Odd Lovoll, PhD has accepted our invitation to speak at Stevne. Dr Lovoll is an author, historian, and professor. He has published numerous books, beginning with *A Folk Epic: The Bygdelag in America*, in 1975. In 2023, he wrote *Colonel Hans Christian Heg and the Norwegian American Experience*. During the Civil War, Colonel Heg led the Fifteenth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. The topic of Dr Lovoll's presentation will be Company F, Fifteenth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. Company F was known as the Valdres Company. The soldiers were primarily from Manitowoc, Two Rivers, and Door County, Wisconsin, and Decorah, Iowa.

Lisa Torvik and Robbie LeFleur are both accomplished weavers who have made significant contributions to the world of textile arts. Lisa is an expert in various weaving techniques. Robbie LeFleur is known for her expertise in Scandinavian weaving traditions. She teaches and mentors weavers. She has a passion for preserving textile traditions. Robbie is the editor of *The Norwegian Textile Letter*, a quarterly newsletter focusing on Scandinavian fiber arts. Both Lisa and Robbie are members of the Minnesota Weavers Guild. Robbie is the group leader of the Scandinavian Weavers Study Group. Lisa is a Norwegian translator. Robbie and Lisa studied in Fagernes at the Valdres Husflid Folk School. Lisa lived in Valdres.

I have wonderful news. LeAnn Velde is stepping up as the new membership secretary for the Valdres Samband. Her

willingness to volunteer and take on this vital role will contribute to the smooth functioning of the Valdres Samband.

Ken Svor, our treasurer, resigned January 1. We miss him immensely. Ken worked tirelessly on the 501c3 application and the ST-3 application. Both were approved. This organization will forever be indebted to Ken for the work he did. I personally am incredibly grateful.

We need a treasurer!!!! Tom Standal is acting treasurer. Because of our new status, we need a permanent one. Please, if you have the skills to be our treasurer, volunteer! If you know someone with the necessary skills, tell us and encourage them to volunteer.

*Mange Takk!!*

Rebecca Olson Wood

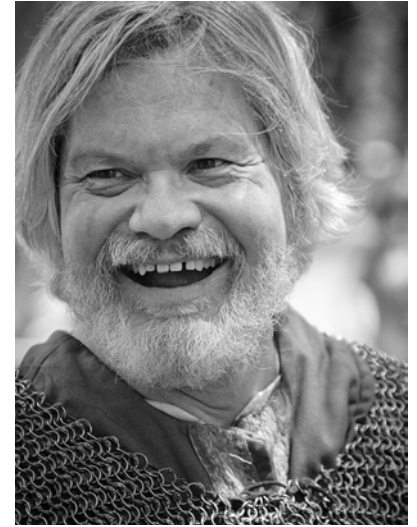
Detail, 1927 Stevne, Wang Township, Renville County, Minn.



## Fra redaktøren

*Hilsen,*

Speaking only for myself, I'm not a winter person. Spring is the season for me. I have nothing but respect for you hardy souls who love to strap skis on your feet and glide across the hills, shouting merrily that there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing. More power to you. But I'm more in sympathy with the old Norwegians who (as I read somewhere) used to scatter wood ash on the snowdrifts, so they'd melt faster in the spring. In fact, I remember doing that very thing myself one year on the farm, when I was a boy in Kenyon, Minn. (I live in Robbinsdale now).



And this looks to be quite a year. We've got the 125th anniversary of the Samband, something we can and will celebrate. This issue of *Budstikken* includes a few historical news clippings, to remind us where we came from. Very few people made the voyage to America easily or lightly. It took a lot of deliberation and soul-searching to make that kind of break. Imagine saying goodbye to your parents, knowing you'd likely never see them again. Certainly there were fears and doubts and second thoughts, glances back over the shoulder.

No doubt that's one of many reasons they started holding *stevner*. To encourage one another. Support one another. There's lots of comfort in doing that – and I trust it's still true in many ways.

This issue also includes an announcement concerning the bicentennial of organized Norwegian immigration to America, coming up next year. There are plans to sail a replica of the original sloop "Restauration" from Norway to America to commemorate that milestone.

As it happens, I had a chance to view the replica Restauration personally in 2022, during my last Norway trip. A relation was driving me around the islands in the Boknafjord (lots of ferries, bridges, and tunnels). While on the island of Finnøy, we glimpsed a sailing vessel moored at a wharf. We drove in to get a closer look, and were delighted to find that it was the Restauration. Sadly, no people were around, but I got a couple pictures. One of those is included on another page of this issue.

I'm very far from being a "Slooper" (a descendent of that original 1825 group of immigrants) myself. All my people came to America with the great wave of immigration in the 1880s. But some of my ancestors were early Haugeans in Stavanger, several of whom joined the Slooper group. So my ancestors certainly knew Sloopers. I'm keenly interested in the story.

I'm pleased and grateful to be invited to be one of the speakers at the June stevne. I'll be lecturing on the book I translated, *Viking Legacy* by Prof. Torgrim Titlestad. The book's topic is the old Viking tradition of democracy, and how it survived challenges in Norway to influence the political heritage of Europe and America. It's available for Kindle on Amazon, but I'm able to offer it in paperback form, at my table.

See you at the stevne!

Lars Walker

*Top portrait credit: Stefan Faerber.*

# The 125th Anniversary of the Valdres Samband in 2024 - Emphasizing the last 25 years

By Liv Marit Haakenstad, Director of Publications, Valdres Samband

Translated by Lars Walker

June 25, 2024 marks 125 years since over 800 emigrants from Valdres gathered in Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. It has been 25 years since the oldest bygdelag in the US, the Valdres Samband, celebrated its centennial. Since 1999, many people have held various offices, members have come and gone and, in particular, we have seen remarkable changes in technology. To begin with this last item, among other things changes in the digital world have made it possible for us to hold our board meetings without gathering physically. The coronavirus pandemic that broke out in 2020 led to digital meeting platforms becoming an important part of our everyday life, something from which we in the Valdres Samband have benefited. The undersigned has also been able to participate as a board member, even from the other side of the Atlantic. The expression “Hands across the ocean” has taken on a whole new meaning in the work to carry on and develop the Valdres Samband. We on the editorial staff of the *Budstikken* have also collaborated from two different countries, and we have endeavored to set goals and create systems that will make it easier for those who follow after us. As we now celebrate another 25 years of the Valdres Samband, we will naturally travel back to the place where the whole thing started – Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis, recreating the photograph taken 125 years ago, but this time with today’s members, who will be gathering for our stevne at the Danish American Center in Minneapolis, June 21 and 22, 2024.

## Background

It is June 26, 1869, and a young woman is married at Vang in Valdres. Maren Trondsdatter Kattvold is only 18 years old when she marries schoolteacher Thomas Tostensen Lajord, eight years her senior. They soon decide to journey to America, and Thomas and Maren leave Valdres in April of 1870, headed for America. Lajord did quite well in America. He was educated as a teacher, and worked as one up until 1903, when he went to work for Senator Knut Nelson.



Front row, left to right: Thomas Lajord, Carrie (married name Brunsdale) and Maren Lajord (née Kattvold). Back row, left to right: Thorstein, Ingeborg, Marie (married name Berg) and Clara Lajord. Photo: unknown/ Valdres Folkemuseum.

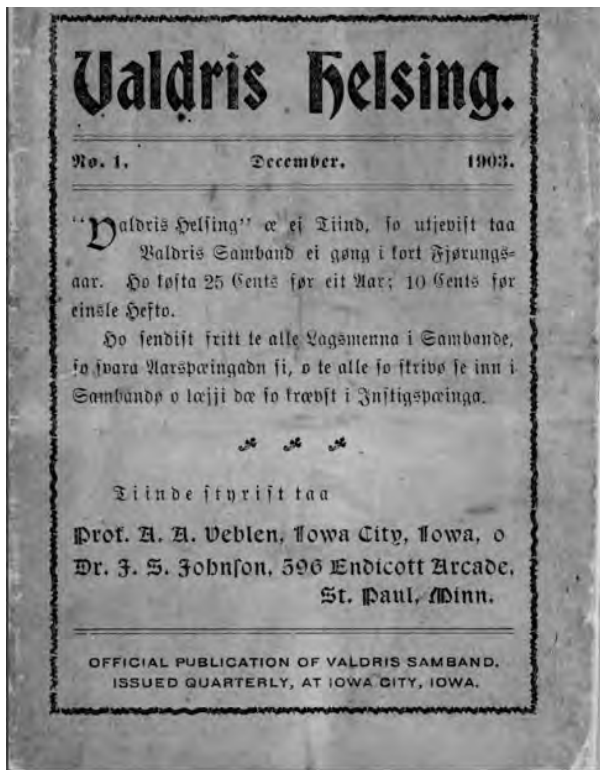
Thomas Lajord (1842-1906) wrote an open letter published in *Nordvesten*, a local newspaper in Minneapolis and St. Paul, on February 2, 1899, proposing that “Valdres” people in the Twin Cities get together for a spring stevne. And on June 25 that same year over 800 immigrants gathered in Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. Betty Rockswold, the samband’s former genealogist, writes in a 1999 article that in 1901, over 2000 people assembled for a stevne in Como Park (today’s Como Regional Park) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

## The first board of directors

The first board of directors of the Valdres Samband in 1899 consisted of Thomas Lajord as president, and Chr. Brandt (Christian Johnson Brandt, 1853-1929), and J. T. Ellingboe (Jøger Tollefsen Ellingboe, 1867-1943) on the committee. The following year it was Christian Brandt and L. O. Wilson (Lars Olsen Bakken, 1866-1922) who sat on the board with Lajord. Professor Andrew A. Veblen (Anders Thomason Veblen, 1848-1932) was president from 1902-1920, when Anders Monson Sundheim (1861-1945) took over, to serve as president until 1924. Sundheim returned as president several years later, 1930-1932.

## Valdres Samband members' publication

The first members' publication was *Valdris Helsing*, published 1903-1910. At that time the membership dues were 25 cents for a full year. In 1911 the magazine changed its name to *Samband*, until in 1970 it was renamed *Budstikken*.



Front page of the very first *Valdris Helsing* published, Number 1 from December, 1903.



The last issue of *Budstikken*, November 2023.

## Valdres Samband 1999-2024

We asked our genealogist, Tom Standal, about important accomplishments of the lag during the past 25 years. He reports that, first of all, they have collected all our items of historical significance and placed them in a secure location. All publications of the Valdres Samband have been digitalized over the past few years, and are accessible from the home page. A genealogical database containing several thousand names has been set up on the internet, accessible by members; this continues to be edited and expanded. Many members have shared their family histories, and our collection now consists of several hundred such. Valdres bygdeboks are another important resource for us in the lag, as they can be helpful in suggesting where families originated. During the past few years we have purchased two sets of every bygdebok published to date from the six communes.

The Valdres Samband has also followed the trend into the digital world through establishing and maintaining several accounts on social media. You can go to our home page <https://valdressamband.org>, and from there follow us on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube. The home page has also been modernized and is updated regularly by webmaster Maria Weisnicht. Those interested can easily obtain or renew a membership via the home page, and payments may be made electronically via PayPal.

Our president, Rebecca Olson Wood, has devoted much time so that our organization can have a "501c3" status. This means that the organization is exempt from federal income tax, saving the lag a great deal of money every year. At the same time, there are a large number of laws and regulations which must be observed, but Rebecca has made sure that our activities conform to the law.

## Stevner

Over the past 25 years, the Valdres Samband has hosted 29 stevner. During the centennial year of 1999 we held three stevner – in Wilmar, Minnesota and in Fagernes, as well as being honored at the Bygdelag Centennial Stevne, held at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

The bygdebøker have been diligently utilized during the annual stevner of the Valdres Samband. There have been lectures of various kinds, among them some by lecturers from Norway. The stevner are ordinarily scheduled in June. Here is a listing of stevner held during the past 25 years:

June 10 - 12, 1999, Willmar, Minnesota  
 June 30 – July 6, 1999, Fagernes, Norway, around 300 people participating  
 July 29 – 31, 1999, Bygdelag Centennial Stevne, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa  
 June 22 – 24, 2000, Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, Minnesota  
 June 14 – 16, 2001, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa  
 June 20 – 22, 2002, Oaks Hotel, Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
 June 19 – 21, 2003, The Plaza Hotel and Suites, Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
 June 17 – 19, 2004, Holiday Inn, Fargo, North Dakota  
 June 16 – 18, 2005, Holiday Inn, Willmar, Minnesota  
 June 22 – 24, 2006, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota  
 June 21 – 23, 2007, Hotel Winneshiek, Decorah, Iowa  
 June 26 – 28, 2008, Holiday Inn, Austin, Minnesota  
 June 19 – 21, 2009, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Plymouth, Minnesota  
 June 24 – 26, 2010, Days Conference Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin  
 June 9 – 11, 2011, Best Western – Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, Minnesota  
 June 14 – 16, 2012, Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
 June 20 – 22, 2013, Holiday Inn and Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, Minnesota  
 June 19 – 21, 2014, America's Best Value Inn, Albert Lea, Minnesota  
 June 18 – 20, 2015, Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, Minnesota (with Vestlandslaget)  
 June 16 – 18, 2016, Best Western Plus & Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, Minnesota  
 June 15 – 17, 2017, Best Western Plus, Shoreview, Minnesota (with Vestlandslaget)  
 June 20 – 23, 2018, Holiday Inn, Alexandria, Minnesota (with Vestlandslaget)  
 June 20 – 22, 2019, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa (with Vestlandslaget)  
 2020 – stevne cancelled  
 2021 – stevne cancelled  
 September 16 – 17, 2022, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Edina, Minnesota  
 June 22 – 24, 2023, Fron Lutheran Church, Starbuck, Minnesota



*Participants in the 2023 stevne, Fron Lutheran Church, Starbuck, Minnesota*

### **Norway tours**

The Valdres Samband has a tradition of arranging tours to Norway every five years.

The tours during the past 25 years were:

- June 30 – July 6, 1999 in connection with the centennial of the Valdres Samband
- June 30 – July 4, 2004 – Valdres Samband stevne at Fagernes
- September 1 – 6, 2009 – The 110th anniversary of the Valdres Samband at Fagernes
- July 19 – 28, 2014 – Valdres Samband stevne at Fagernes
- July 6 – 15, 2019 – Valdres Samband stevne at Fagernes

In connection with these tours, we have taken along participants to visit the places in Valdres from which their ancestors emigrated. Local guides have arranged these portions of the tours. Not all participants accompany our arranged tours; some travel on their own. Many of these have been assisted by the lag's genealogists to find their families, and then been put in contact with a local guide in Valdres. We would like to extend a big thank-you to these volunteers from Valdres.

### **Volunteer officers**

It is the volunteer officers who keep the bygdelags going in the USA. Here we will recognize some of those who've been active during the past 25 years.

**Betty Lou (Thoen) Rockswold** (1922-2008) was a member of the lag for 29 years, and served as genealogist for the



Valdres Samband from around 1980 to 2002. Rockswold wrote no fewer than 26 family history books in her time. She created an index for the book *Vang og Slire*, by Tore Ey. Also, during her tenure as genealogist, a CD containing genealogical information from Valdres was produced for members.

**Earl Evenstad** of Richfield, Minnesota has been an officer for many years. Earl was vice president of the Valdres Samband from 2004-2007, and president from 2007-2011. Evenstad has always been present at the stevner, strolling about and entertaining with his accordion. He was always ready and willing when help was needed. In 2019, he also helped to plan the tour to Valdres, along with Tom Standal and Jahn Bøhre Jahnsen. Borton Overseas arranged the tour. Earl Evenstad is married to Shirley Evenstad, a gold-medal winning rosemaier, who has also been active in the Valdres Samband. Among other activities, she has taught rosemaling at many stevner.

**Jahn Bøhre Jahnsen** worked in Valdres, and for many years was the Valdres Samband's contact in the region. He has also written articles for *Budstikken*. Currently he is retired and living in Oslo.

**Bruce Weaver II** joined the Valdres Samband in 1985, and in 2007 he was elected to the board. From 2011 to 2012 he was lag vice president, and he was president from 2012 to 2018. He edited *Budstikken* from 2018 to 2021. Weaver has also written several longer articles for *Budstikken* over the years.

**Tom Standal** has fulfilled several roles in the Valdres Samband. He was treasurer from 2014-2017, managed the membership list from 2017-2018, and has been the lag's genealogist since 2016.

**Rebecca Olson Wood** is the current president of the Valdres Samband. She was vice president from 2017 to 2018, and has been president since 2019.

*Our thanks to Budstikken editor Lars Walker, and to Valdres Samband genealogist Tom Standal, for all their assistance in composing this article.*

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# VALDRES SAMBAND 2024 STEVNE REGISTRATION FORM

June 21-22, 2024

Danish American Center

3030 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406 (612) 729-3800

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## STEVNE REGISTRATION

	Count		Total Amount
<b>REGISTRATION COST</b>			
1 DAY REGISTRATION	# of persons _____	@ \$20.00	_____
2 DAY REGISTRATION	# of persons _____	@ \$35.00	_____
		<b>Subtotal:</b>	_____

### ONSITE LODGING (16 ROOMS AVAILABLE: <https://danishamericancenter.org/room-rentals/>)

SINGLE ROOM	\$63.00	1 TWIN (2)	_____
DOUBLE ROOM	\$85.00	2 TWINS (9)	_____
TRIPLE ROOM	\$95.00	3 TWINS (2)	_____
SUITE	\$100.00	2 TWINS (2)	_____
SUITE	\$100-110.00	2 TWINS (1)	_____
		<b>Subtotal:</b>	_____

### MEALS

FRIDAY LUNCH	# of persons _____	\$17.00 Taste of Scandinavia	_____
FRIDAY DINNER	# of persons _____	\$35.00 Taste of Scandinavia	_____
SATURDAY LUNCH (TBD)	# of persons _____		
		<b>Subtotal:</b>	_____

**Grand total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: VALDRES SAMBAND**

Mail to: 8014 Olson Memorial Highway #263, Golden Valley, MN 55427

You may register via this form or online via PayPal through the [valdres.samband.org](https://valdres.samband.org) website:

<https://valdressamband.org/>

## Among our stevne speakers



**Lorna Landvik** is the bestselling author of thirteen novels, including *PATTY JANE'S HOUSE OF CURL*, *ANGRY HOUSEWIVES EATING BON BONS*, and her most recent, *LAST CIRCLE OF LOVE*. Also an actor, comedian and public speaker, Landvik has performed on stages across the country. She strives to incorporate *hygge* in her daily life.



**Odd S. Lovoll** earned his doctorate in U.S. History, specializing in immigration history, at the University of Minnesota in June 1973. From 1971 and for thirty years he served on the faculty of St. Olaf College. He retired from the King Olav V Chair in Scandinavian-American Studies at St. Olaf College in December 2000.

Lovoll served as Adjunct Professor (Professor II) in U.S. History at the University of Oslo, Norway, for nine years,

retiring in 2005. From 1980 until the spring of 2001, Dr. Lovoll served as publication editor for The Norwegian-American Historical Association. In that capacity he edited and supervised publication of thirty-two publications on Norwegian American immigration and Norwegian American history. The number constituted about one-third of all book-length publications up to the present time.

He has published in both Norway and the United States. His published works include *A Folk Epic: The Bygdelag in America* (1975), *The Promise of America: A History of the Norwegian American People* (1983, rev. ed. 1999), *A Century of Urban life: The Norwegians in Chicago before 1930* (1988), *The Promise Fulfilled: A Portrait of Norwegian Americans Today* (1998), *Norwegians on the Prairie: Ethnicity and the Development of the Country Town* (2006), *Norwegian Newspapers in America* (2010), *Across the Deep Blue Sea* (2015), *Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work* (2018), addition to a large number of articles dealing with Scandinavian-American topics,

In 1986 Lovoll was decorated by H.M. King Olav V with the Knight's Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit and in 1989 he was invited to occupy a seat in the history section of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. He was inducted into the Scandinavian Hall of Fame at the 2001 Norsk Høstfest. In September 2011 he was awarded the prestigious Freedom of Expression Tribute (*Fritt Ords Honnør*) for his extensive publications, most specifically for *Norwegian Newspapers in America*.



**Lars Walker** is a native of Kenyon, Minnesota. He took his BA in English from Augsburg University in Minneapolis, and his Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Over his

career he has been a radio announcer, an administrative assistant, and an academic librarian.

He is the author of ten novels to date, several of them historical fantasies starring the real-life figure Erling Skjalgsson of Sola, a powerful Norwegian chieftain in the time of Olaf Trygvesson and Saint Olaf.

Lars is also a professional Norwegian translator. He has participated in production script translation for a number of high-profile television and film projects, including the miniseries *Atlantic Crossing*, *Wisting*, and *War Sailor*, and the film *Narvik*. He is the translator of *Viking Legacy*, a study of Norse democracy by Prof. Torgrim Titlestad of the Saga Heritage Foundation in Stavanger.

Lars is an active Viking reenactor, with the Viking Age Club and Society of the Sons of Norway.

He is the current editor of *Budstikken*. He also edits the journal of the Georg Sverdrup Society.

## Stevne 2024 Daily Schedule (Subject to change)

### Friday, June 21, 2024:

- 8:30: Registration
- 8:30: Genealogy open
- 9:00: Welcome/Memorial
- 9:15: 1st Speaker: Lisa Torvik/Mary Hegge
- 10:30 2nd Speaker: Robbie Lefleur
- 12:00: Lunch: Taste of Scandinavia
- 1:30: 3rd Speaker: Lars Walker
- 3:00: 4th Speaker: Lorna Lanvik
- 5:30: Dinner setup: Taste of Scandinavia

### Saturday, June 22, 2024:

- 8:30: Registration
- 8:30: Genealogy open
- 9:00: 1st Speaker: Maren Ellingboe King
- 10:30: 2nd Speaker: Odd Lovoll
- 12:00: Lunch
- 1:00: Group photo, Minnehaha Falls
- 3:00 Last Speaker: Linda Heen
- 4:00: Samband Annual Meeting



## 100 Years Ago...

### THE VALDRES SAMBAND'S 25-YEAR JUBILEE

(Source: *Samband magazine*, November 1924, pp. 73-74.  
Translated by Lars Walker)

The first Valdres Stevne in America was held in the summer of 1899, later organized by the Valdres Samband. The annual Valdres Stevne held in Norway Hall, Minneapolis, September 6 and 7, 1924, is therefore its 25-year jubilee.

When the business meeting was called to order that afternoon, only 40 people were present. Besides the board members, nearly all of them had come from a distance away, and some of them had never before attended a Valdres Stevne.

The president [A. M. Sundheim] opened the meeting, describing briefly the work of the Valdres Samband over 25 years, thanking them all for the goodwill and loyalty that had been shown him during all the years he had served both as secretary and as president. He apologized for no longer being able to continue as president, but promised that he would continue to play an active role in everything having to do with the Valdres Samband's welfare.

To the nominating committee were appointed Arne Berger, Minneapolis; Bjørn Bjørnson, Ellsworth, Wis.; and Mikkel Opheim, Beaver Creek, Minn.

To the resolutions committee were named Dr. O. E. Brandt and J. E. Haugen.

At the suggestion of the nominating committee, the following were elected as officers and board members: J. E. Haugen, pres., Andrew Dale, vice pres., Olaf Rudi, secretary and treasurer; A. A. Hall, Ole Rood, M. A. Veblen, Herman Karlsgodt, O. H. Opheim, H. Lunda, O. A. Hain and Jøger Quale.

A. M. Sundheim, the retiring president, was elected honorary president, and given a standing ovation for the work he has done for the Valdres Samband.

If not as many were present at the business meeting as might have been desired, many did arrive later on. The banquet was to begin at 6:00, and around that time there was a crowd of people throughout Norway Hall. Over 300 sat at the tables at once in the large dining room.

The bill of fare was the customary foods at all Valdres banquets, and there was more than enough for all. But there was also a surprise. When all the serving women came in at once with plates full of *spekekjøtt* [smoked meat], the retiring president called out an explanation that this meat, of which all the guests would now receive a portion, had arrived the day before from Valdres in Norway, and that he had just received a telegram from Bendix Skrutvold in Chicago, explaining that it had been sent by way of himself from his relatives in Valdres, as a contribution to the Valdres banquet. This delicacy was much appreciated, and many wrapped their portions up in paper and put them away in their pockets, so that their loved ones at home might have a taste. A young woman sent her treasure all the way to her father in Canada, for him to enjoy. Heartly thanks to Bendix Skrutvold and his fine relations in Valdres for being so thoughtful as to bring joy to so many relations in "Vesterheim" on this occasion.

At a quarter after eight, the festive program began in the great hall. With Miss Dikka Bothne as song-leader, and Miss Marie Reque at the piano, the assembly sang two verses of "*Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet*."

The retiring president welcomed the assembly, expressing thanks to Prof. John Dahle, who had led most of the festive programs throughout the Samband's 25-year history, and had once again taken up that responsibility; to Dr. O. E. Brandt, who for a second time was serving as the Samband's special speaker; and to the "Sons of Norway"'s Board of Directors, who honored the Valdres Samband through the attendance of all its members together at the guest banquet and the festive program. He brought greetings from A. A. Veblen, the Samband's president of many years, explaining Prof. Veblen's inability to be present. Finally he expressed his delight that J. E. Haugen, administrator of St. Paul Hospital, had agreed to succeed him as president. Thereupon he passed the reins on to Prof. Dahle.

Miss Dikka Bothne sang Laura Bratager's greeting to the Valdres Samband, which was printed in the previous issue of *Samband*.

Prof. John Dahle gave a brilliant speech on the Valdres Samband's activities over 25 years. He mentioned all those who had taken the most active parts in this work, peppering his talk with authentic Valdres witticisms, emphasizing these men's self-sacrificial leadership. And if anyone did not understand what kind of men these fel-

lows were, they heard it now, for in his lyrical fantasies he soared high, burying them utterly at last beneath a heap of flowers and laurels.

Then he spoke of Dr. O. E. Brandt's stronger and weaker sides. His greatest failing, however, was no worse than his being "unique, magnetic, incomprehensible." Thereupon he presented Dr. Brandt to the assembly as the evening's speaker.

Dr. Brandt gave a description of the most important things he had heard and seen on his visit to Norway. His description of Valdres was captivating, especially for the listeners who had emigrated from there and had seen these mountains and valleys with their own eyes. But he assured us that his impressive descriptions were plain and poor compared to the reality. And the people and their old, authentic culture were described with sincere understanding and sympathy.

After Dr. Brandt's speech, the Resolutions Committee presented the following resolutions for acceptance:

The Valdres Samband, gathered for its 25-year's jubilee, expresses its profound thanks to Professor A. A. Veblen, the organization's first president, and secretary and editor for many years, for his sacrificial and prudent labors;

to Director A. M. Sundheim for the tact and energy with which, through very difficult times, he kept the organization on the right course;

to Professor John Dahle, who from the beginning up till now has led the organization's festive gatherings, for the kindly way in which he has understood how to arouse and strengthen true, patriotic fervor;

to Pastor O. L. Kirkeberg, who has labored verbally and in writing with such outstanding skill in directing the association's progress toward honorable, popular objectives;

to the Samband's board for its faithful, unselfish efforts to organize, year after year, the pleasant stevner which have made it possible for Valdresers in America to gather around their great memories from their home region, and to spur everyone on to beautiful, cooperative labor;

to the North American press for the vivid interest with which it has always covered the Samband and its goals, with invaluable support and encouragement to every-

one who has devoted heart and strength to the fulfillment of the association's great purpose.

### In Honor

J. E. Haugen. O. E. Brandt.

These resolutions were adopted by the assembly in a standing vote.

Concerning *Mahpiyatowin* (Blue Cloud) – Ida Marie Axness Bech – the master of ceremonies had not much to say, for the good reason that she was a somewhat mysterious person to him.

He had gotten a glimpse of her and was informed in all confidence that she was either a genuine Native American or a genuine Valdreser, and that was about all he knew. Certainly she had once previously participated in a program at a Valdres stevne, but Prof. Dahle was not present on that occasion.

Ida Marie Axness Bech stepped up in a brilliant, genuine Native American costume of deerskin, decorated with many fringes and shiny glass beads. With her loose, coal-black hair she might well – in spite of her clear, light blue eyes, from which she acquired the name Blue Cloud, be taken for a Native American beauty. But when she began to sing and recite in melodic Norwegian, she had to give that up. Native Americans belong precisely to that element of American aristocracy which does not concern itself with foreign languages. But Blue Cloud reaped a storm of approval. Many were quite overwhelmed with astonishment, so that she had to return several times to the platform.

S. H. Holstad gave an accounting of the main features of the centennial celebration [of Norwegian-American immigration] in 1925.

Prof. Dahle read greetings to the Valdres Samband's 25-year stevne; these are printed separately.

Jøger Quale played Valdres *slatter* on his Hardanger fiddle.

Prof. Dahle thanked those who had participated in the program and those who had come to the celebration.

In conclusion, the assembly rose and sang "America."

Sunday, September 7 was one of those bitter, dark Sep-

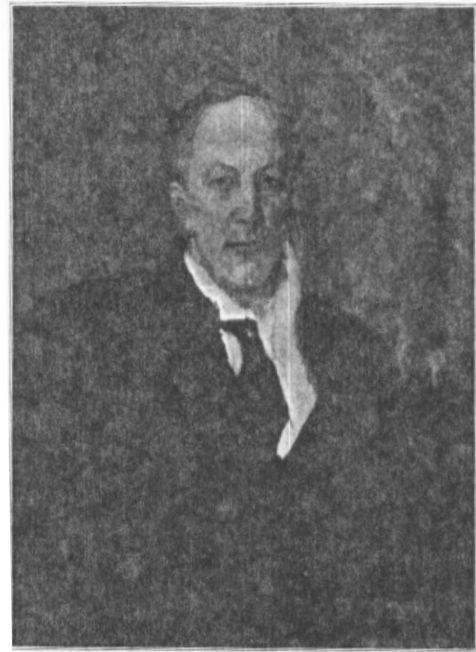
tember days which now and then sneak in, even in Minnesota's blessed sunny climes. The steering committee was therefore heartily glad that they had decided against an open-air celebration that day.

In the afternoon, the program resumed. The first performance was a considerable surprise – a series of violin numbers by John Rosenlid from Nordfjord, who had been in America four months. One is not often privileged to listen to such violin playing. Again and again he had to come back up and play more, and following the last number, the assembly rose and gave him hearty ovation, and Prof. Dahle delivered a flowery little speech for him.

The newly elected president, J. E. Haugen, delivered a longer inaugural address, assuring the Samband that he took his responsibilities both seriously and with youthful enthusiasm.

Several greetings to the Valdres Samband were read by Prof. Dahle, and Ida Marie Axness Bech sang and recited several of her own pieces, receiving an enthusiastic standing ovation.

And then the jubilee celebration's conclusion followed, with a reception in the dining hall. There was *rømmegrot* and other good food and coffee.



Dr. O. E. Brandt Efter malet av Bernhard Falkstedt



John E. Haugen



MAHPIYATOWIN—"Blaasky"

## Meeting Minutes, February 24, 2024

### Valdres Samband Board of Directors

PRESENT: Chere Bergeron, Lori Conklin, Darin Flansburg, Liv Marit Haakenstad, Duane Haugen, Mary Hendrickson, Joy Shong, Tom Standal, LeAnn Velde, Lars Walker, Judy Weiss, Rebecca Wood.

The Zoom meeting was called to order by President Rebecca Wood at 9:32.

**1. Minutes from October 2023 Board:** Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Spelling corrections for LeAnn Velde and Darin Flansburg were made. Mary moved to approve the minutes; Darin seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

#### 2. Treasurer Report – Tom Standal

- Ken Svor resigned as Treasurer and from all related responsibilities prior to the meeting due to health issues. Tom Standal took over some essential financial tasks until a new treasurer can be appointed.
- Ken sent the 2023 end-of-year financial reports to the board in January. February data was provided by Tom. About \$1900 was received in 2024 from new memberships and renewals. The mailbox rental was paid through June 2024. The storage facility rental will be paid at the end of February. Current funds are over \$30,000.
- Membership renewals: 7 in January and 15 in February. One was a gift membership.
- With Ken's resignation, Tom had cosigners no longer active removed by the bank. There is now only one signer on the bank accounts. Tom asked for volunteers to be on the account and to help with financial tasks. LeAnn Velde offered to be a signatory and to assist with retrieving and sorting mail, and making deposits.
- A new treasurer will be sought from the lag members via social media and the *Budstikken*.

#### 3. Genealogy Report – Tom Standal

Tom has been very busy helping members who will be traveling to Norway in the summer of 2024, either on their own or with the lag-sponsored trip, with locating family information and by connecting them with contacts

in Norway. All new members were sent the Membership Questionnaire.

**4. Membership Report** – (Membership Secretary position is still vacant) Rebecca Woods has been handling membership updates and assigning new member numbers. Since the 2023 stevne, 18 new members have joined. Nine of those have joined since January 2024. There are 241 expired memberships; 80 from 2022 and 161 from 2023. Renewal reminders will be sent by email and postcards before the next *Budstikken* is mailed. Memberships expired in 2022 and not renewed will not receive the *Budstikken* and access to the database will be turned. Memberships that expire on December 31, 2023 will be dropped as of the 2024 stevne if they do not renew.

*Budstikken* labels have been modified to have a consistent format and include expiration dates. Also, it is important to get current email addresses from members so important messages, such as the need for a new treasurer, can be communicated effectively.

**5. Nominating Committee** – Darin Flansburg volunteered to be on the committee. Mona Gregerson will be asked to be on the committee. NOTE: The Membership Secretary should have basic Excel Spreadsheet skills. The treasurer should have some basic accounting or book-keeping skills.

#### 6. Stevne Planning

Becky Wood summarized the plans for the stevne to be held at the Danish American Center (3030 W. River Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55406) in June 20-22. Meeting rooms are rented individually. Plans are to have the Danebo Lounge for speakers, the dining room for catered meals, the bar in dining room for hospitality, and one more room for genealogy. (see rooms here: <https://danishamericancenter.org/room-rentals/> )

Taste of Scandinavia is being considered for catering the meals. The number of light lunches and dinners and their locations are to be determined. Having a meal at Minnehaha Park after taking the group photo is being considered. Cheré offered to coordinate Hospitality.

Four potential speakers have been contacted and have expressed interest. Odd Lovoll will be contacted to see if he is available to talk on the bygdslag movement. Lars Walker also offered to be a speaker if needed.



## 7. Budstikken Update

Lars Walker and Liv Marit Haakenstad are working on the next issue which will focus on the founding and history of the Valdres Samband. They are looking for old pictures of previous stevner. Tom Standal has scanned photos he will share with them. NAHA has provided some background information. They are interested in finding a book called *The Centennial Period* for reference.

Interviews of older, longtime members sharing their memories of previous stevner was suggested for articles. Judy Weiss offered to do interviews. A standard list of questions for the interviews should be developed. Becky has names of several people to ask if they are willing to be interviewed.

## 8. Valdres Tour planned for Summer 2024

Valdres Samband traditionally has given a gift to the local historielag during previous trips. A variety of suggestions were discussed. It was decided to make an enlarged copy of an early document or photo related to the origin of the Valdres Samband in honor of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the lag.

The tour will be from July 16 to 22 with post-tour activities ending on the 26 th . Becky and Liv Marit reviewed the tour itinerary. A count of people who paid a deposit on the trip was not available. At least three people have signed up, and others have expressed an intention to participate. Tour information needs to be added to the website.

*Submitted by Joy Shong, Recording Secretary 2/24/2024*

*Takk til Arco Coffee for providing your  
excellent coffee to the 2024  
Valdres Samband Stevne in  
Minneapolis, MN.*



# Crossings 200: Bicentennial Commemoration of Norwegian Migration to America



A large effort is underway, both in Norway and North America, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first organized direct emigration from Norway to America in 1825. Many groups are developing activities to raise awareness and understanding of Norwegian emigration and history to strengthen the bonds and networks of Norwegians abroad and in Norway.

On July 4, 1825, a group of 52 Norwegians set sail on the ship *Restauration* to make the first organized migration from Norway to North America. Since that first voyage, nearly a million people have followed, leaving their

homes in search of opportunities and a better life. While many returned to Norway, most remained and built new homes and lives for their families in the United States and Canada. Today, nearly 5 million people in North America claim Norwegian ancestry- almost as many as the population of Norway today.

A website dedicated to the bicentennial was launched on March 5, 2024 [*Velkommen — Welcome - Crossings (norwegianamerican.com)*] in coordination with the Norwegian Emigrant Museum [*2025 - Norsk utvandrer museum (utvandrer museumet.no)*] located near Hamar, Norway. The website provides information, resources and calendar of events for the bicentennial commemoration. Groups may register their events on the website, which serves as a hub for the bicentennial commemoration.

Examples of activities include plans for a replica ship to sail from Stavanger on 4 July 2025 to New York City, arriving 9 October (Leif Ericson day) and a conference June 18-22 at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. The Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA), *Det norsk-amerikanske historielaget i Norge* (NAHA-Norge), the Norwegian Teachers and Researchers Association of North America (NORTANA), and the Norwegian Department at St. Olaf College will co-host a conference commemorating 200 years of Norwegian migration to/from North America. The multi-day event will offer a variety of experiences that will appeal to scholars and researchers of Norwegian migration as well as the general public, including Norwegian-American music, dance, historic sites, and more. More information is forthcoming, including a call for papers, registration, lodging, pre- and post-conference excursions, and more.

## Cooperation in the Valdres region

There was a presentation in February this year from the 2025 bicentennial committee to the board of the regional organization, Valdres Historical Society, and members of the local historical societies in each of the Valdres municipalities. The organizations are now in the process of planning a new organizational structure with Valdres Historical Society as an umbrella organization, and hopes that activities tied to the bicentennial of emigration in Valdres could unite the new organization in a common activity.

*Crossings* commemorates 200 years of organized Norwegian migration to North America. 2025 will be a year to celebrate the strong ties between Norway, the United States, and Canada. It's an opportunity to remember what it means to take great risks and trade one home for another. And it's a chance to better understand the movement of peoples that continues worldwide today.

*Right: The replica sloop Restauration, on Finnøy Island in 2022.  
Photo: Lars Walker.*



## IN THE PRESS, 1901

*The first mention we have been able to find of the Valdres Lag in a Minnesota newspaper is this announcement in English, from the Minneapolis Journal, Sat., Aug. 3, 1901 (Source: Minnesota Historical Society Online Archive):*

A "Valdris-stevne," a reunion of natives of Valdres, Norway, will be held at Como park Sept. 8. Professor A. A. Veblen of the Iowa State University will speak in the Valdres dialect. John Dahle and the Fram Singing Society will supply the music.

*Minneapolis Journal, Sept. 7, 1901:*

### **PURE VOLDRIS**

A Chance to Hear It at Como Park To-morrow.... Any one who has not heard "Voldris", spoken in its unadulterated form should go to Como park to-morrow to hear the sons of Valdres make addresses in this interesting Norwegian dialect. It is said that the dialect is preserved in a purer form in America than in Norway, the explanation being that those who left Norway thirty, forty and fifty years ago, retain the old words and the quaint pronunciation, while in Norway it has been more or less modified by the influence of the modern written tongue of Norway. At any rate the "Valdris-Stevne" or meeting at Como park to-morrow will be entertaining, and doubtless will be well attended. A committee consisting of J. S. Johnson, L. O. Wilson, O. Jorgens and Thomas Lajord has been at work on the arrangements for some time, and will have everything provided for. In the morning there will be no special program but those who attend may picnic as they please. The set program begins at 2 o'clock with a number by the Fram Singing Society of St. Paul, led by John Dahle. Addresses will be made by Professor A. A. Veblen, of Iowa State University, and others in genuine Valdres. Kari Rudi, a performer on the "langeleik," will present several "laatar" on this ancient musical instrument.

*Minneapolis Journal, Sept. 10, 1901:*

### **"VALDRIS-STEVE"**

Over 2,000 Turned Out Despite the Weather. With unfavorable weather to contend with, the "Valdris-stevne" or reunion of people born in Valdres, Norway, at Como park Sunday, was attended by about 2,000 persons. A suggestion that the Valder folk join in an excursion to the place of their birth was enthusiastically adopted and work on the plans will probably begin at once. Addresses were made by Professor Veblen of the Iowa State University; Dr. J. S. Johnson of St. Paul, former Congressman Haldor Boen, and John Dahle of St. Paul. Music was furnished by the Fram Singing Society of St. Paul and Oulie's orchestra.

*(Articles accessed 3/24/24)*

# FIRST STEVNE MEMBERSHIP APPEAL, 1902

(*Minneapolis Tidende*, July 4, 1902, p. 10. Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub, Minnesota Historical Society, accessed March 1, 2024.)

## Regarding the Valdris Samband and the Valdris Stevne.

The committee which was, at the last Valdris Stevne, appointed to establish a permanent organization, is now ready with its constitution and the other preparatory work, and extends an invitation to membership. All Valdrisers are encouraged to send inquiries either to the president, Prof. A. A. Veblen, Iowa City, IA, or to the secretary, Dr. J. S. Johnson, St. Paul. It will also be very helpful to the secretary if at the same time everyone sends as many names and addresses of Valdrisers as they are able to accurately provide, so that he can put himself in touch with them. A copy of the constitution, along with application forms, will be sent as quickly as possible to all Valdrisers whose names and addresses are known; but this is thus far only a relatively small number. It is therefore of the greatest importance to get as much information of this sort as possible. The cost of membership is only twenty-five cents per family, and as a partial return for this cost the committee promises to supply members with all speeches, poems, reports and other such materials as the Samband may have printed. The committee now hopes that the interest which has thus far been evident will be manifested in a general and prompt decision, and that when the next Stevne date comes around, a substantial membership will already be apparent.

The next stevne will be held Sunday, August 31, either in Minneapolis or in St. Paul. Full information will be provided at a later date.

The secretary has been assured by The Western Passenger Association that half-fares will be available on the previous Saturday from all points in Minnesota and bordering districts.

Speeches will be made by Prof. A. A. Veblen, John Dahle, and others, in the purest Valdris dialect, and the program will as always be the best which can be organized.

*Translated by Lars Walker*





1921 Stevne, Minneapolis, Minn.



1927 Stevne, Fergus Falls, MN



These two images: panoramic photo of 50th Anniversary Stevne, Minneapolis, MN, 1949  
 Top photo left, bottom photo right

# Obituaries

*Note: We have fallen far behind in publishing member obituaries in Budstikken, mostly due to the disruptions of the past few years. We apologize to families and friends affected. We will attempt to catch up with all these notices in this and the upcoming issues of Budstikken. Thank you for your patient understanding. If you know of a member death that you think may have been overlooked, please contact the editor.*

## **Marilyn Skatrud**

*July 9, 1936 — January 8, 2022*

Marilyn Janice Skatrud, 85, of Eau Claire, formerly of Chippewa Falls, died Saturday, January 8, 2022, at Marshfield Clinic Hospital in Eau Claire.

Marilyn was born at home in Bode, Iowa on July 9, 1936 during the hottest fourteen days on record. Marilyn was raised in Humboldt Iowa, the youngest of five. Marilyn was nine years old when her father passed away. At that time, Marilyn's sister Joyce (age 14) took on more responsibilities as her mother had to go back to work to support the family. It was during this time that she connected with pets, including cats, dogs and chickens.

Marilyn attended Luther College, graduating in 1958 with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education/Directing. She was the 1st flute chair in the Luther College Band for all her four years at Luther College under her mentor/teacher and hero Weston Noble. Her years at Luther had a significant impact on her passion for music. After college, Marilyn taught in Waconia, MN, Circle Pines, MN and Cleveland, ND. Marilyn taught many subjects including music, Latin, and band.

From college until her passing, Marilyn played in numerous musical organizations and groups. This includes: The Green Bay Symphony, Chippewa Valley Symphony (1977 – 1997), The University of MN Symphony and the Rochester Symphony. She was a founding member in 2002 of the MJ Consort, which is still active today.

Marilyn married Roger on July 11, 1959. After the seminary they moved to Medina, ND, Roger's first church as Pastor. Together, Roger and Marilyn also served congregations at Zion Lutheran in Shawano, WI and Our Saviour's Lutheran in Chippewa Falls. She was very involved in the churches in music and youth ministry. She directed junior choirs and youth choirs. At OSLC she started the

bell choir and puppet ministry, and led a variety of musical groups.

Her passion was to lift up others through helping them find their gifts and talents. She was one of the first mentors in the Chippewa Falls School District, serving from 1988 until 2020. She led a book club in the Chippewa County jail.

Marilyn's passion for the arts and music was also lived out through owning her own piano tuning business for 17 years and being active with the Wayward Players, performing at the Hyde Center for the Arts in many plays over the years. To keep her mind sharp, she continued to learn new instruments. She played the flute, piccolo, piano, various recorders, Scottish Whistle, bagpipes and cello (String Connection).

Marilyn was preceded in death by her father, Arne R. Sorlien and mother, Frances Sorlien; siblings Robert Sorlien (Florence Sorlien), Helen Blanchard (William Blanchard), Arne R. Sorlien, Jr. (Audrey Sorlien), and Joyce Larsen (Jerry Larsen).

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Roger R. Skatrud, sons Arne R. Skatrud (Lisa L. Skatrud), Eric Skatrud, and daughter, Kara F. Baylor (Trenton Baylor); grandchildren Tara L. Larson (John Larson), Samuel R. Skatrud, Max P. Skatrud (Maggie Skatrud), Thea Baylor and Tova Baylor; great grandchildren, Jackson A. Hartigan, Harlow A. Larson, and Nash H. Larson; as well as numerous nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces.

A funeral service was held Friday, January 14 at Hope Lutheran Church, Eau Claire with Rev. Mary Erickson officiating. Interment was at West Valders Cemetery, Valders, WI.

*(Obituary from funeral home website)*

## **Shirley Manning**

*April 29, 1937 — November 3, 2021*

Shirley Manning, age 84, formerly of Frazee, passed away Wednesday November 3rd at Essentia Health in Fargo.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, November 12, 2021 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Frazee. Visitation was Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Frazee.

She was baptized and confirmed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and grew up and attended school in Frazee. Shirley proudly served her country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from September 1955 to September of 1957 following her basic training at Fort McClellan in Alabama.

Shirley was assigned to Company D Secretarial School in Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, and was later assigned to the Pentagon in Fort Meyer, Virginia, serving as a secretary in Research and Development in the Department of the Army. Shirley was proud of her time at the Pentagon, marching in President Eisenhower's inaugural parade, and serving as Honor Guard for WAC military funerals.

On September 26, 1959 Shirley was united in marriage to Joseph Manning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Shirley and Joseph were able to share in 60 years of marriage before Joseph's passing in 2019.

Shirley worked for WDAY, Bill Snyder Films, Military Entrance Air Force Recruiting, as a clerk at the Fargo Post Office, and later owned the Creative Costumes Shop in Moorhead. Shirley returned to college and graduated from NDSU with an Associate Degree in Horticulture in 1977.

She enjoyed gardening, genealogy, and traveling. Her favorite trips were to Norway, Egypt, and Hawaii. She shared her passion for horticulture with fellow members of 3 horticulture clubs. She was also a member of the AMVETS and DAV in Fargo, and the Sons of Norway.

She is survived by her children: Sheryl Little, Suzanne (Darrell) Kersting, Joseph J. Manning; grandchildren: Sharla Little, Michael Little, Jeffery Little, Mathew (Erin) Little, Joseph W. (Amanda) Manning, Jessica (Noah) Sperling; 11 great grandchildren; siblings: Meg Balvitsch, Gloria (Dick) Dorow, Carol Brekke, Karen (Ross) Oie; brother-in-law: Mike Hofer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, William and Caroline Brekke; husband Joseph G. Manning; son Jeffery in infancy; sister, Lois Hofer and brother-in-law, Ron Balvitsch.

*(Obituary from funeral home website)*

## **Eunice Lorraine (Hawn) Holz**

Eunice Lorraine (Hawn) Holz, of St. Peter, died on 8 August 2022 at Ecumen Prairie Hill Memory Care, St. Peter, Minnesota, having reached the age of 100 years, 7 months, and 30 days.

She was born December 9, 1921 in Sedan, Pope County, Minnesota, first of the seven children of Ella (Bang) and Hiram Wallace Hawn. She was baptized and confirmed by the Reverend James Watt of the Sedan Presbyterian church.

Eunice attended the Sedan Public School, grades one through eight and graduated, with honors, from the Glenwood, Minnesota High School, Class of 1939. The following fall she enrolled in a Minneapolis business college and in January 1940 accepted the position of secretary/bookkeeper at the new Glenwood Community Hospital, a position she enjoyed for almost six years.

On November 3, 1945, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of her parents, Eunice and Walter Koenig Holz, son of Mary (Rinkel) and William H. Holz, of St. Peter, were married at Sedan Presbyterian Church. They made their home in St. Peter, and were parents of a son, Richard, and a daughter, Eileen. Walt and Eunice divorced in 1980.

In October, 1957 she began a twenty-eight year career with the St. Peter Public Schools, serving in a number of positions from secretary to the elementary principal through administrative assistant to the superintendent. She never ceased to be grateful for the opportunity to be of service in the Glenwood and St. Peter communities, which she enjoyed and appreciated so very much.

Following her retirement, Eunice became an active member of the Nicollet County Historical Society, serving on the Board of Directors for twelve years, as secretary of the Board, member of the building committee for the construction of the Treaty Site History Center, volunteer archivist, and a member of several committees, including serving as School Day chairperson during the years of the Traverse des Sioux Commemorative Encampment.

A life-long interest in family history, membership in the Minnesota Genealogical Society and the Valdres Samband, two trips to Norway accompanied by her daughter Eileen, and countless hours of research and communications with family members resulted in the publication of



a compilation of her mother's Norwegian family history in 1997. Promptly thereafter, Eunice resumed work on her Father's Canadian/German heritage, an interest begun many years earlier. Visits to his birthplace in Ontario, and continuing the previously-described process resulted in the publication of that effort in 2006.

She achieved her long-time goal of becoming a five-gallon blood donor at eighty-eight years of age.

She dearly loved her immediate and extended families; was an avid reader, primarily of nonfiction; shared bouquets of roses and irises during her gardening years, and loved traveling. Eunice travelled extensively through Europe, Canada, and America, including trips with all four of her grandkids, capped by a dreamed-of trip to Egypt as her retirement gift to herself! She loved almost every dog she ever met, especially her Father's Irish Setters and her devoted Westie, "Soncie Lass Tay".

Eunice is survived by her son Richard and wife Lorna of rural St. Peter; daughter Eileen, also of St. Peter; grandchildren Lorien (Brian) Jonas of Roseville; Berry Holz (partner Stewart Woodman) of Roseville; Nicholas (Beth) Pyper-Holz of Minneapolis; Jeremy Holz of Roseville; great-grandchildren Willow/Walter Pyper-Holz, child of Nicholas and Beth, Rosemarie Junnila, and Sophia Junnila-Holz, child of Jeremy Holz and Amber Junnila; step-grandsons Isaac and Aaron Woodman; sister-in-law

Sonja (Robert) Hawn of Sedan; brother-in-law Arthur Nordbeck of Perham, Minnesota; daughter-in-law Bonnie Holz of Roseville; cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Lloyd, Raymond, Stanley, Robert, and brother James in infancy; sister Gladys; sisters-in-law Dora (Raymond) and Audrey (Stanley), and brothers-in-law Joseph Majerus (Gladys) and Francie "Tiny" Majerus (Gladys).

A gathering in remembrance of her life was held at the Gustavus Arboretum in St. Peter on 10 September. Interment was in the Grove Lake Cemetery, Pope County.

When you hear the soft cooing

of mourning doves

in early mornings,

or the calling of wild geese

on their spring and fall migrations,

think of Eunice.

Her spirit will be among them.

*(Obituary from funeral home website)*

Detail, Renville County, 1927



# Membership Application, Valdres Samband

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, Valdres Samband

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