



VIRGINIA VIKING

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

President: Mike Solhaug Vice President: Gerald Blau Secretary: Katie Brink Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler

Dear HR Lodge Members. Happy New Year!.

December 2025 Julebord was a great success! The amazingly talented Beth Alspaugh provided dinner music, led the group in Christmas carol, and the music for the traditional dancing around the beautiful Christmas tree. Great Fellowship with all.

January and February are for reconnecting! We will hold two breakfast/brunches to welcome our new members. And, we will begin our monthly presentations at our monthly meetings. Remember you can access previous presentations at our You Tube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwAAF_NAqg-PFJ2PtDegquA

A Norwegian Christmas on the Farm. My Uncle Bud Hanson had many talents, and loved to write. He wrote stories about his childhood. About the Minnesota farm 8 miles out of town. About daily farm and family life, especially in the winter. Here's his boyhood story about celebrating a Norwegian Christmas Eve on the farm.

Let's start at 4:30 in the morning, even though it's Christmas Eve, it's a typical winter day in Northern Minnesota about 20 degrees below zero. Mother opens my bedroom door and quietly says "Bud it's time". I quickly climb into my long handled wool underwear, wool socks, wool shirt and wool sweater. After a cup of coffee boiled up by Grandma Johnson, Mom, Dad and me head outside for chores. I help with the milking of the 20 cows, feeding and watering the 2 draft horses, feeding the 200 chickens, collecting the eggs and saving the frozen ones for when I feed the pigs. Like most days after chores, we start up the 36 Ford. We remove the thick Buffalo Robe off the hood, shaking off layer of overnight snow. My Dad bought it from a brother in Montana. We bring out the battery we stored behind the cooking stove, and we add the heated oil. Then Dad who's in front gives me the signal, and I try to give her a start. When the engine catches, I feather

EVENTS

January 5 at 7:00 pm

Norge Norsemen Board Meeting

January 8 at 7:00 p.m.

**Hampton Roads Lodge Zoom Board
Membership Meeting**

January 10 at 10:00 a.m.

**Norge Norsemen New
New member breakfast Sandy's**

January 15 at 7:30 PM

**Hampton Roads Lodge Meeting at Bayside
Presbyterian Church**

January 26 at 6:30 pm

**Norge Norsemen Meeting at King of Glory
Lutheran Church**

the gas pedal to keep her running. Because it's Christmas Eve, Mom doesn't have to teach in her one room school house, so we run the engine a while then shut her down. We all head into the house, and I put on my best shirt and pants and expectantly wait for dinner. All day Grandma Johnson and Mom have been cooking our Christmas Eve dinner. And what a dinner it is! We gather at the table, Grandma, Mom, Dad, and my little brother Gene. We give thanks to the Lord to bless this dinner, for a warm house and give a special blessing for Grandma for making the dinner. Mom loads the table with Torsk Cod, Lutefisk, boiled potatoes, all smothered in the butter that I churned a couple of days ago, and lots of lefse. Desert that Mom made is next with krumkake, rosettes, and suet pudding. Christmas is a special time in a Norwegian home. It is a time to pause the harsh winter, give thanks for all our many blessing, and share our love with one another. We gather around the top cut off a juniper tree lit with flickering candles that cast shadows. We sing carols, but the prayers are the best. "We thank you lord for this blessed Christmas as we have so much to be thankful for, but especially that you would come to earth as an infant baby for our salvation. And thank you that we are all here together in this warm house and that all the animals are safe and warm." After adding a couple of oak logs, I bank the fire and slightly damper the pipe. All this done, I hug my Grandma, my mother, my Dad and my little brother Gene and tell them how much I love them. With Grandmother's blessing she gave my brother and me our presents, a great big scarf each and our own woolen mittens, which she has knitted from our sheep's wool that she worked on her spinning wheel.

As I covered up in bed to get warm I look out the window to see the bright moon and beautiful stars. Through the ice on the window, the moon looked all wrinkled. As I always did on Christmas Eve, I look for the brightest Christmas star I could find. I told Gene to move over, then say a prayer to the star and the Lord and at that moment we feel his love, peace, joy and thanksgiving. This was the Best, most blessed Christmas I ever had. The Lord was in our house, and he was in all of us. Mike Solhaug



Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday) To the Following Members in January!

Rebecca Elton	Gerald Blau	Louis Nordstrom	Janice Petty
Richard Kever	Robert Larsen	Aaron Lindenberg	Katherine Benedict
Kitrian Meagher	Philip Petty	Susan Nilsen	Carol McCarthy
Paula Hougen	Jerry Gillett	Aase Iversen	Charolette Bunnicot
Brian Kross	Mylie McCoy	Gregory Sabo	Richie Sanoba
Andrew Truitt	James Zingler	Walker Rindy	Mark Flavin

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Sons of Norway Whole Life Insurance

Products provide coverage for your entire life,
with single or level premiums and guaranteed level death benefit.
These permanent life insurance plans can provide you and your family with financial security no matter how long you live



PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY (see Facebook for many more photos)





Viking ship mounds proposed as new World Heritage sites

December 15, 2025

Norway's Directorate of Cultural Heritage (*Riksantikvaren*) announced on Monday that it is recommending seven burial mounds around the country for inclusion as Unesco World Heritage sites. All are confirmed as containing the remains of Viking ships.

Recent discoveries of ship nails here at Herlaugshaugen in Trøndelag confirmed that this burial mound is another Viking ship grave. PHOTO: Arve Kjersheim/Riksantikvaren
The directorate delivered its recommendation to the government ministry in charge of climate and the environment on Monday. It's hoping that Norway's Viking heritage can become the country's latest inclusion on the World Heritage list.

"The ship burial mounds in Norway are unparalleled in the world," said Hanna Geiran, who leads the directorate charged with taking care of Norway's cultural heritage. "The seven we

have chosen are the most important from the Viking Age in Norway. They include [*Gjellestad in Østfold County*](#), *Borrehaugene* on the coast between Horten and Tønsberg in Vestfold, *Oseberghaugen* and *Gokstadhaugen* (also in Vestfold and from which the famed [*Oseberg and Gokstad ships*](#) were excavated), *Storhaug* in Rogaland, *Myklebust* in Vestland and *Herlaugshaugen* in Trøndelag.



The excavation of what may be Norway's largest Viking ship ever was reopened last year at Myklebust in Nordfjordeid. Archaeologists involved are from the universities in both Bergen and Stavanger. PHOTO: Jan Magnus Weiberg-Aurdal/Riksantikvaren

The Myklebust site has already yielded remnants of what officials call the "formidable" Viking ship that was both burned and buried near the Nordfjord in Western Norway. Archaeologists could confirm last year that the burial mound, known locally as *Rundehogjen*, contained an unusually large Viking ship when they found more than 500 ship nails, a bronze ring and several possible bulges from shields. That came in addition to the roughly 600 ship nails and remnants from shields extracted from the site when it was first excavated in 1874.

"There are great variations in the nails, and that confirms that the Myklebustship was a formidable Viking ship," said Morten Ramstad of the University of Bergen in October 2024 after the site was reopened. It was also re-examined with georadar, like other ship burial sites around the country.

The *Herlaugshaugen* site at Leka in Trøndelag was also reexamined, in 2023. It had yielded nails, bronze items and even a sitting skeleton with sword when examined as early as the 1700. It wasn't until the early 1900s, though, that archaeologists came to believe the site also contained a ship or a boat. The most recent examination also yielded nails and woodwork.

Viking ships that already are in museums, like those in Oslo, can't be nominated for World Heritage recognition, Geiran said. "Only cultural regions and items that are still at the discovery sites can be nominated," she said.

Her directorate has cooperated with the Museum of Cultural History at the University of Oslo, the archaeological museum at the University of Stavanger and the counties of Østfold and Vestfold when forming the basis for the World Heritage recommendation. Now it's up to

the Norwegian government to decide whether to include the ship burial mounds on its tentative list of sites.

Norway already has eight World Heritage sites, including Bergen's old wharf complex *Bryggen*, the historic mining town of Røros, the Urnes Stave Church at Luster in Sogn and the vast area of rock paintings in Alta. For the complete list, click [here](#) (*external link to Riksantikvaren's website*).

NewsinEnglish.no/[**Nina Berglund**](#)



Virginia Viking

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