



Vonheim Saga
Published Monthly by
Vonheim Lodge #1-108

Fra Presidenten

Spring Is Coming!

While the first few weeks of February may have cast doubt, I will trust that the meteorological calendar is correct. Spring will arrive in March and with it the increasing warmth of the sun. Milder temperatures begin the process of melting the snow and bringing with it renewal in the outdoors. Trees bud and new life emerges in the animal kingdom.

We are familiar with Spring in Minnesota. Have you ever enjoyed or wondered about this magical season in Norway? The long coastline of Norway moderated by the ocean currents is mostly ice free and traveled by the Hurtiguten passenger ships year round. March is a great time to view Northern Lights, which can be spectacular in Norway. There are substantial differences between the southern and northern coastal waters where springtime changes may arrive in the south late February.

Spring views along the fjords can be majestic. Hardanger Fjord is known for the blossoming of fruit trees and the increased flow of waterfalls from snow melt in the mountains. A guided ski trip across the Jostedalbreen Glacier in spring is inspirational. While there is a lot of fog along the way, the sky clears to incredible views.

Tusen Takk,
Merle Tingelstad

Join us March 9th at 1PM to explore the Eidem Historical Farm in Brooklyn Park

We can't travel to the farm so the farm is coming to us in a trunk with a storyteller.

In May of 1894, John J. Eidem, Jr. and his wife, Electa, bought 39 acres, including the house, barn and granary, for about \$80 an acre. They worked the farm until 1956, raising potatoes and other crops.

Two sons, Arthur and Leland, grew up on the homestead. In 1918 the property known as the East Farm was sold to Archie and Leland Eidem. Electa died in 1950, and John Jr. in 1956. The Eidem grandchildren rented out the house until it was sold

The Eidem family celebrated many Norwegian traditions which the speaker will share.



COMING EVENTS

Meetings are held on **Saturday** at Norway House, 913 E. Franklin Avenue, adjacent to Mindekirken in Mpls. (Lillehaugen Room on the lower level)

March 9th Lodge Meeting
1:00 PM at Norway House

April 13th Lodge Meeting
1:00 PM at Norway House

May 11th Lodge Meeting
1:00 PM at Norway House

Eidem Farm continued:

For 82 years, the farm was owned by the Eidem family; however, its history can be traced to 1856, when the United States deeded 40 acres of land to John D. and Mary Berry. The next year, Berry sold the land to Silas Merrill, who also owned an adjacent 40 acres.

According to plat maps, there was a house on the property by 1879. This was probably the rear two-thirds of the house which stands today. In 1888, the Hennepin County Assessor valued Merrill's farm at \$1,000 for the land and \$500 for the structures on it.

In 1890, Merrill Silas sold 39 acres to William Bragdon and established a new farmstead on the east half. From 1890 to 1894, the farm was owned by members of the Bragdon family. Then, in May of 1894, John J. Eidem, Jr. and his wife, Electa, bought 39 acres, including the house, barn and granary, for about \$80 an acre. They worked the farm until 1956, raising potatoes and other crops. During the period from 1910 to 1940, a Queen Anne style addition to the house and several outbuildings were added to the property.

In July, 1976, the house and its 10 acres of land were purchased for \$40,000 by the City of Brooklyn Park, using a federal grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Eidem Homestead Brooklyn Park Historical Farm opened to the public in September 1979.

Eidem Farm restoration projects
In March 1998, the 106 Group Ltd., and Thorbeck Architects Ltd. prepared a Historic Structures Report and made the following determinations.

The site

A row of tall poplar trees lined the west edge of the driveway, and trees of various species flanked the front yard on the north and west. They provided an enclosed feeling in the yard. Today, new poplar trees are maturing where the original ones were in 1900.

The front lawn remains as it did although the area bordering the poplar trees was left as tall prairie grass a hundred years ago. Flowerbeds still line the north side of the house and tiger lilies Electa Eidem planted in the circular bed at the center of the front yard are carefully maintained today. The lilac shrubs near the northwest corner of the house may be original or, at least, are in keeping with the appearance at the turn of the century.

Although no vegetable garden is visible in photographs, there would have been one, and the most reasonable place is southwest of the house, where the garden is now planted.

The house

We do not have specifics on who built the house, and when. Here is what the 106 Group Ltd., and Thorbeck Architects, Ltd. propose as a possible scenario:

The earliest section of the house, the rear two-thirds, dates to the late 1870's when Silas and Margaretha Merrill owned the property. It conforms to a common Midwestern farmhouse type, from the mid to late nineteenth century - the "upright and wing." This L-plan design generally consists of a two-story, gable-roofed core building with a single story kitchen wing perpendicular to the main gable. In this house, the brackets over the east side bay window show a hint of influence from the Italianate style.

The Eidem Farm is located at
3543 101st Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN
763-493-4604

Fish Waste to Power Cruise Ships

A new initiative will use green energy to power ships in Norway. Norwegian company Hurtigruten plans to convert at least six of its cruise liners to use biogas made from fish waste by 2021. Converting the ships to use this fossil-free fuel will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help efforts to eliminate pollutants.

The reason for using fish waste is due to Norway's high number of fishery sectors and access to high volumes of organic waste, placing Norway in a great position for the biogas market. The ships will also use large battery packs capable of storing energy produced from renewable sources.

In addition to using biogas, Hurtigruten will be banning single-use plastics to create environmental sustainability. Hurtigruten's numerous efforts will help decrease the ships' negative impact on the environment and will be a solid step toward environmental preservation. To learn more about Hurtigruten's efforts in going green, visit <https://www.hurtigruten.com/us/press-releases>

Liv Ullmann Celebrated on Her 80th birthday

Actor and director Liv Ullmann is known throughout the world. Sunday she turns 80 years old. She'll be given a proper celebration. Prime Minister Erna Solberg is among those who will pay tribute.

Liv Ullmann is one of Norway's international stars. As an actor she has been nominated for an Oscar twice. She has not won the highly regarded statuette, but she has received many other awards, both as an actor and director.

Liv Ullmann has lived abroad for years. But there has never been any doubt about her home turf. The newspaper Dagbladet recently visited her in Florida in the U.S. The journalist asked her if she still feels Norwegian.

"Oh, yes! I have traveled a lot, at times. But Norway will always be my home. Always," she said.

Ullmann played her first role in the Rogaland Theater in 1957. Then she played the girl Anne Frank. She became known through the role of Nora in the play "A Doll's House," but then she became a film actor. Ullmann played in 10 films directed by Ingmar Bergman.

Oslo Ranked 2nd Healthiest City in the World

Oslo was recently named the world's second healthiest city. Using key metrics like life expectancy at birth and work-life balance, the online home rental company, Spotahome, created a healthy index to rank 89 global cities. Of the global cities analyzed, Oslo and Helsinki were the only two Scandinavian countries to make the top 10.

While it's no secret that Norway continues to top lists for work-life balance and happiness, Oslo also scored particularly high in green space, life expectancy and air/water quality. Since the city has already unveiled plans to go green by 2025, it's easy to see why it ranked so high. The initiative includes making the city center car-free, and adding more pedestrian and bike friendly areas.

Additionally, the life expectancy in Norway is 84 years for women and 81 years for men, which is among the highest in the world. In total, Oslo scored an average of 6.61 points out of 10. Amsterdam took the number one spot on the list with an average of 6.97 points. To view the full list, visit [spotahome.com/healthiest-cities-world](https://www.spotahome.com/healthiest-cities-world).

Vonheim Saga

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www.facebook.com/vonheim108

April 13th hosts the GRACE NOTES Trio Music and humor that will tickle your funny bone and touch your heart! These three women are filled with energy and enthusiasm—they make your heart want to sing even if you're not blessed with a singing voice.



Don't miss this fun event.