



Vonheim Saga  
Published Monthly by  
Vonheim Lodge #1-108  
Sons of Norway

## Fra Presidenten

### Renewed Sense of Purpose

A trip to Hadeland to explore my roots reminded me on the importance of Sons of Norway's mission to promote and preserve the culture of Norway. Thanks to the help of local researchers, we were able to visit the still standing Holm cabin of my Great Grandfather and the facilities that now stand where the Røysum farm of my Great Grandmother was located.

Understanding your roots gives a sense of completeness to a person. We were able to gain appreciation for the circumstances that would cause someone to leave such a beautiful area for the unknown land of opportunity in America.

It was a win-win relationship. Norwegians were in poverty and facing starvation in many areas after a particularly harsh winter in 1860 that kicked off many departures. The government actually offered payments to many who applied for emigration. Reducing the population helped those who remained have a better life and a fresh start to those who emigrated. These emigrants were highly motivated to succeed and the Homestead Act in the USA offered them something they could never get in Norway: 160 acres of land they could call their own.

Tusen Takk,  
Merle Tingelstad

**Join us**  
**September 14th at 1PM**  
**At Norway House**  
**to hear author Janey**  
**Westin speak on her book**  
***The Last Kings of Norse***  
***America: Runestone Keys***  
***to a Lost Empire,***  
**(featuring two historically**  
**important runic**  
**transcriptions)**

“Epic in scope, insightful, imaginative, venturesome, and provocative – if this groundbreaking book about the Norse in America before Columbus does not cause a paradigm shift in your thinking, you need to check your pulse.”

– Herbert R. Cederberg, PH.D.,  
Emeritus Professor of History,  
University of Wisconsin.



## 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)

September 14th Lodge Mtg at 1:00 PM

October 12th Lodge Mtg at 1:00 PM

### Fiery End for World's Largest Troll

The Senja Troll, a Guinness World Record breaker known for being the largest troll in the world, was reduced to ashes when a blaze destroyed it on March 28. The gnarly behemoth was a key attraction at the Hulder and Troll family park in northern Norway on the island of Senja.

Reports of the troll's demise were delivered around the world via the Associated Press newswire. Just short of 59 feet tall, the troll's absence will certainly alter the surrounding landscape. The troll structure housed an adventure park, miniature railroad and other attractions.

The troll was built in 1993 and his kone (wife) was added to his side in 2007, when a priest blessed their "union." The attraction expanded even more when the troll couple had sextuplets in 2012.

There are no immediate reports of plans to rebuild the beloved Senja Troll.

### Today's Tech Reveals Viking Burial Ship

One can only imagine what Vikings of old would think if they knew the burial ship of their long-entombed brethren was discovered millennia later by technology known as ground penetrating radar (GPR).

That is exactly what happened in March 2019 in the well-known Borre National Park in Vestfold County, south of Oslo, where a team of experts discovered the outline of the Viking vessel by using GPR. The exciting find complements an array of other Viking graves and burial mounds in the park, the most anywhere in Northern Europe. Some of the graves are estimated to date back to the seventh century. The "boat graves" are believed to be the final resting place of Vikings belonging to the upper-echelon, including kings.

GPR uses radar pulses to image the subsurface and detect objects via reflected signals. The method is used in industries such as building construction and archeological projects and does not disturb objects revealed by the technology.

For now, those resting in peace will remain so; there are no immediate plans to unearth the ancient Viking tomb.



## Electric Norway

It was interesting to hear about the Norwegian government desire to eliminate fossil fuels usage. It is particularly ironic given that the health of the Norwegian economy derives from its vast fossil fuel reserves. There is a program goal to have all electric vehicles dominate the highways by 2030 and electric aircraft for private flights by 2040.

Electric vehicles are exempt from non-recurring taxes, including the 25% VAT on purchase and currently have free parking places with charging stations.

It was interesting to note in the countryside that most vehicles were still fossil fuel. When asked about that, the locals said that the government plan is not realistic. The infrastructure for electric vehicles is not sufficient for rural areas.

Oslo is trying to get rid of all personal vehicle traffic over time opting to invest in alternative transportation modes like rail, bus, bike and electric scooters prevalent in the core. The area by the Opera House is being developed to eliminate personal vehicles.

The all-electric plan is not without obstacles. An all-electric private plane being tested, crash landed in its maiden voyage in August. The tax incentives for electric vehicles expire in 2020 without new action. Oslo plans to charge over \$1 per hour for parking electric vehicles at charging stations and implementing a substantial toll for all vehicles entering and leaving the city.

## Exporting "Luxury Ice Cubes" from Norway to Dubai

"The world's most sought-after ice cube," is the slogan of the Norwegian company Svaice, for marketing ice cubes out of melting ten-thousand-year old ice from Norway's second-largest glacier Svartisen, writes glacierhub.org.

The plan is to sell 16 million ice cubes a year to the owners of exclusive bars in Dubai, London and New York.

For a \$50 (around 400 kroner) and 7-star drink served in a glass made from Swarovski crystals, the claim is a luxurious ice cube that, through its slow melting, does not destroy the drink.

In any case, this is the dream of Geir Ludvik Olsen, who started Svaice in November 2014, writes glacierhub.org.

Olsen has told NRK Nordland that the company will create 60 new jobs. Svaice's plans, however, face strong opposition from the environmental movement that is critical of the idea of extracting ice from a melting glacier and supporting an energy-intensive and emissions-heavy shipping industry.

## Actual Church Bulletins

Don't let worry kill you off--let the church help.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

The reverend Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be the soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?." Come early and listen to our choir practice.

# Vonheim Saga

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**[www.Vonheim108.org](http://www.Vonheim108.org)**  
**[www.facebook.com/vonheim108](https://www.facebook.com/vonheim108)**

**Mark your calendars for October 12 at 1:00 PM.**

The program planned is under construction.

**SORRY!**

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