

Sons of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Meetings on the first Sunday of the month – Potluck at 1:30 p.m.
St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Douglas Road, Montgomery, IL

President's Message



President Ken as "King Anderson" at the Indian Creek
Cemetery Walk on August 26th, 2023

Hilsen Polar Star Lodge!

You guys never cease to amaze me!" Scandinavian Days 2023 was the best fund raiser we have had since I have been President! It was a beautiful day and we are one "Super Lodge". Your willingness to work hard as a unit is wonderful! As I looked around the activity, I noticed that we are not just a lodge, but we are all friends as well. The ladies of the lodge need to take a special bow because it is well known that our baked goods are second to none. I feel proud to lead such an outstanding lodge. Rest up and let's see if Høstfest can also be our best yet!

Your President
Ken Johnson



UPCOMING EVENTS

Polar Star Lodge Event

October 1st 2023

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

135th Anniversary Celebration

Montgomery, IL

Calling all Norwegian Singers!!

details on page 2

98th Annual Sloop Society Annual Meeting and

Norsk Museum Luncheon
Sunday, October 8, 2023
12:00 p.m.

See invitation, schedule of events and details
on pages 7 & 8

Polar Star Newsletter Deadline
Will be the 14th of every month. Please
submit all articles to Barb Johnson at
barbjohnsonb@aol.com
Follow us on facebook @
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

OCTOBER 1st LODGE EVENT

St Olaf Lutheran Church

135th Anniversary Celebration

Polar Star Lodge will join the congregation of St. Olaf Lutheran Church to help celebrate 135 years of worship. Please plan to attend!



Our Norwegian Choir will be singing one song (O Store Gud – How Great Thou Art) during the service. We will have one rehearsal the morning of the service at 8:30 a.m. All are invited to sing for this special occasion to thank the congregation for supporting our Lodge.

Choir Rehearsal at 8:30 a.m

Church Service 10:15a.m.

Fellowship following service

Please wear Norwegian sweaters, bunad or fest drakt and feel free to share a Norwegian dessert during the fellowship anniversary celebration.



Vafler making at Vasa Park 2023



Polar Star Loppemarked

**Gross Sales for
Vasa Park 2023**

\$2,663.00

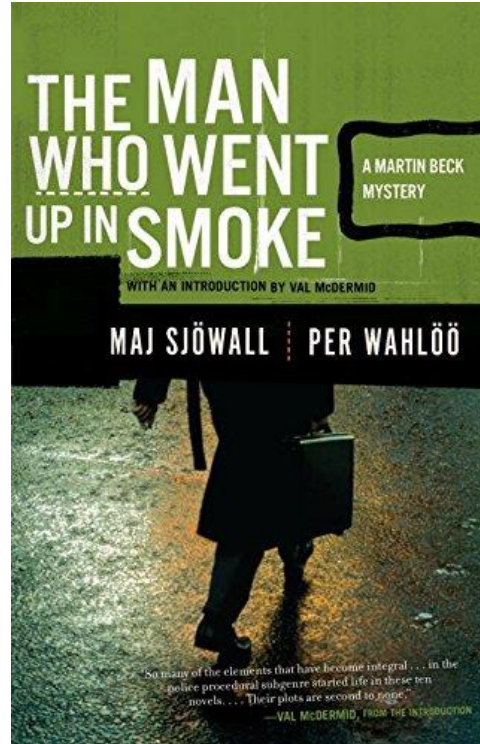
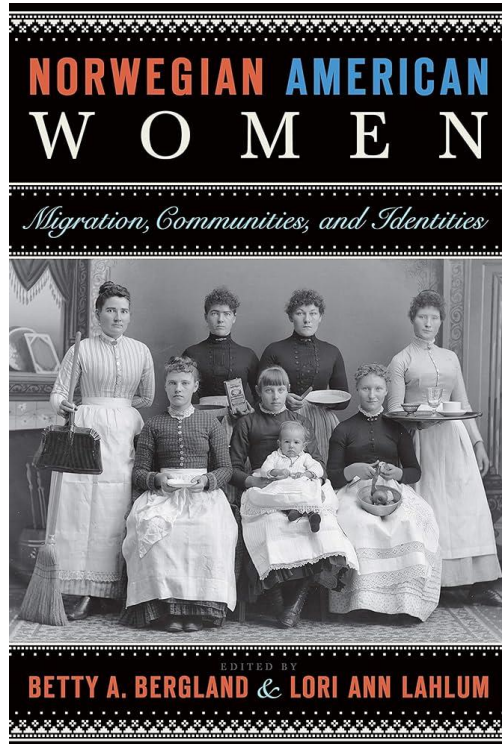
Well done Polar Star!!!

POLAR STAR CULTURAL CORNER

by
Barb Johnson

Sons of Norway Book Club

September Book Selections



Norwegian American Women was the book that my sister and I used to create our slide show, “Norwegian American Women in Illinois”. Even though it may read like a text book, the information that is presented is well organized and an excellent look into the lives of the women who created successful communities in America with their bravery, determination and skills. I am so glad that this book was chosen by the Sons of Norway Book Club. I can’t wait to hear what others think of the book that I loved so much!

Book Club Zoom Meeting

September 28, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83423172186?pwd=amU3MWp1OTdZZU1QS3gvT2FDWGU2dz09>

Leland Historical Society Cemetery Walk

Anders Anderson Askeland

“King” Anderson

by Barb Johnson



Right: President Ken with life long friend Bevin Wold representing early Norwegian settlers - Anders “King” Anderson and Knute Halverson. Right: Members of the King Anderson family L – R: Connie Benson Kross, Lizzie Anderson Benson (Barb Johnson), Susan Anderson Hohenberger and Jack Zabuker (Connie’s grandson holding the sign).

On August 26, 2023, President Ken represented one of the original founders of Leland, Illinois - our hometown - at the Indian Creek Cemetery Walk Sponsored by the Leland Historical Society. Anders Andersen Askeland known as “King” Anderson was born on May 14, 1801 in Tysvær, Norway. He was a friend of Cleng Peerson and the brother-in-law of Knud and Jacob Slogvik - passengers on the “The Restauration”. “King” and his wife, Malene, and their young son immigrated to the United States in 1836 and settled in Adams Township along Indian Creek in 1837. His granddaughter, Lizzie Anderson Benson, was my great grandmother.



The "King's Court" family tree began with Anders Andersen Askeland and Malene Andersdatter Slogvik

Clockwise from top left: The family of Christopher A. Anderson – son of Anders and Malene Slogvik Anderson. He married Martha Sawyer.

Top Right: The Anderson homestead on Section 21 in Adams Township – LaSalle County,

Middle right: The double wedding of my great grandmother, Lizzie to Michael Benson and her brother Lewis to Winnie Larson on December 28, 1893

Lower right: The Benson Girls, Connie, Phyllis, Barb and Joni wearing Illinois bunader

Bottom Center: Benson family on Phyllis' 100th Birthday 5-16-22

Bottom left: The marriage of Russel Benson to Phyllis N. Knutson pm 5/17/1941 (my parents)

Middle Center: The marriage of Stanley Benson and Mabel Kirkhus on January 20, 1916 Stanley Benson was the great grandson of Anders (King) Anderson.

GRATULERER MED DAGEN POLAR STAR



16 - 31 AUGUST

19 August - Pat Baughman
20 August - Floyd Anderson
23 August - Penny Ray
30 August - Cynthia Ann Olson

SEPTEMBER

September 4 – Frances Berg
September 21 – Richard Vigsnes
September 28- Leif Johnson

POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Montgomery, IL at 1:30 unless otherwise listed

OCTOBER 1 - St. Olaf Anniversary Celebration

Norsk Choir rehearses at 8:30 a.m. – Service begins at 10:15 a.m.

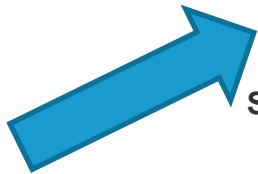
October 8, Norsk Museum Sloop Meeting and Luncheon

Location: Cleng Peerson Lodge – Norway Illinois Community Building
Norway, Illinois

Contact: Richard Gunderson at gunder8506@sbcglobal.net

For additional Information:

See invitation, schedule and details on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter



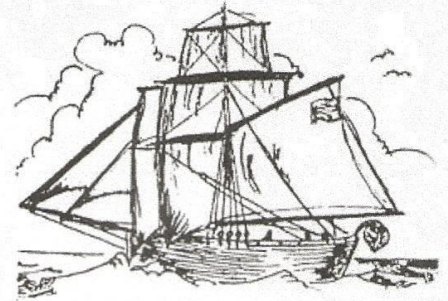
NOVEMBER 5, 2023 - Høstfest begins at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 4 - JULEREFEST

The Norwegian

SLOOPER SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Norwegian Mayflower People
Organized at the Ottawa Centennial, October 9, 1925



Announcing the 98th Annual Meeting of the Slooper Society of America!

**The 98th annual meeting of the Slooper Society of America is scheduled
for 12:00pm Sunday, October 8th, 2023.**

You are cordially invited to the 98th annual meeting of the Slooper Society of America.

Our feature presentation this year will be, "The Sloopers of 1825" by Dale Goodman. Dale is a descendant of Tormond Madland and Siri Iversdatter Seldal who sailed aboard Restauration in 1825. Dale and his wife Susan live in beautiful Decorah, Iowa. With the 200-year anniversary of the voyage of the sloop Restauration fast approaching, Dale will revisit the story of the voyage and help us to remember the historical significance of those first Norwegian Immigrants.

Schedule of events for October 8th:

- 12:00 pm: Doors open for sign-in
- 12:30 pm: Slooper business meeting
- 1:00 pm: A Taste of Norway will be served
- 2:00 pm: "The Sloopers of 1825" by Dale Goodman
- Afterwards visit of Norsk Museum

The meeting is at the Norway Community Building in Norway IL [GPS coordinates: 3667 E. 2603rd Road, Sheridan IL 60551]. This year we are breaking with tradition a bit by having a "Taste of Norway" luncheon at NOON, where the Slooper Society is partnering with the Norsk Museum, Cleng Peerson Lodge, Polar Star Lodge and the Norway Store. All other traditions remain such as education and preservation of our heritage. **And, we want you to know that this meeting is not limited to just Slooper descendants but anyone with an interest in Norwegian-American history and culture.**

The suggested donation for the meal is \$15 per person and \$8 for children under 9. **Seating is limited and it is imperative that you RSVP to ensure a spot (see contact info below), plus we need to know how many to plan for.** Some of Norwegian treats we have in store for you are cod, ham, kumla, pickled and creamed herring, meatballs, cabbage, Jarlsburg cheese, specialty breads, breads with lingonberry sauce, kringla, lefse, Norwegian desserts and guma, to name just a few.

The Sloopers descendants have grown substantially since the original 53 that came to America in 1825 — today we number 20,000!! Sloopers are found in all 50 states plus various countries. Many of you may have never attended the annual meeting. I would encourage you to take pride in your unique Sloopers heritage and be a part of its preservation. If the line stops with you, your children and grandchildren may never know the rich history that is theirs.

In 2025 we will be celebrating the bicentennial! Norway, Illinois (formerly called the Fox River Settlement) is the oldest permanent Norwegian settlement in America. Here is where the seed was originally planted following the great migration from Norway to America, where 25% of Norway left. All this history can be viewed at the Norsk Museum through artifacts and exhibits and on our websites.

After a short business meeting and fabulous meal, a program called “The Sloopers Story” will be presented. At the conclusion, everyone is invited to cross the Cleng Peerson Memorial Highway to visit the Norway Store and Norsk Museum (the only Norwegian museum in Illinois, serving the area for 49 years).

- First time visitors will be interested to know that if you stay the weekend, LaSalle/Kendall/Grundy Counties have much to offer. Area attractions include:
 - 6 state parks, including the second most popular park in the country, Starved Rock State Park. Just ask the 2 million who visit annually!
 - Local historic cities and towns in the area: Ottawa, Morris, Utica, plus another little town just 75 miles to the northeast—Chicago!
- Lodging aplenty:
 - Fox River Resort in Norway Il - 1 mile
 - Ottawa - 6 miles
 - Morris - 20 miles
 - Yorkville - 18 miles

My hope is that this letter has piqued your interest to the point that you will contact me **to reserve your place at our table no later than September 30th**, for a day filled with Norwegian culture. I can be reached at (815) 343-5070 text for reservations and any questions you might have. Also, for information about the Norsk Museum check out Facebook/Norsk Museum or www.norskmuseum.org and [Sloopers Society of America](#). For those who cannot make the trip, follow us on Facebook for live streaming updates of the event.

Mange Takk,

Dave Johnson
Historian, Sloopers Society of America
Board President, Norsk Museum

Sons of Norway - Polar Star Lodge



“Taste of Norway” Høstfest – Fall Festival Sunday, November 5, 2023

St. Olaf Lutheran Church – 1233 Douglas Ave.

Noon - 3:30 p.m.

Montgomery, IL

Taste Traditional Norwegian Food

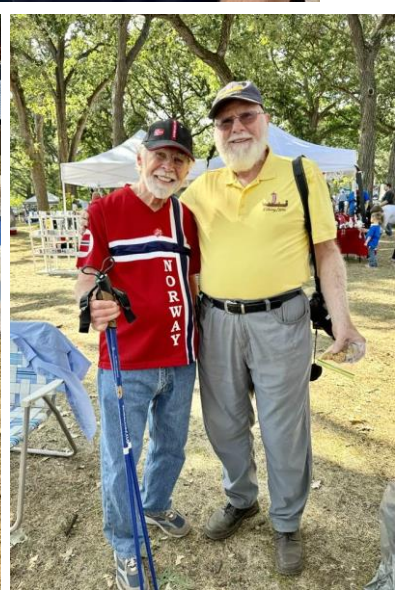
Shop for Scandinavian gifts

Lefse and Krumkake demonstrations

Norwegian Craft demonstrations

Contact: Polar Star Cultural Director - Barb Johnson
email barbjjohnsonb@aol.com or by phone: 630-553-7389

Scenes from Scandinavian Days 2023



Activity Volunteer Hours Tracking Sheet - Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Member Name _____ Phone _____ Service Year _____

This data is used for mandatory reporting that maintains Sons of Norway tax-exempt status, and for National Sons of Norway to lobby on behalf of Fraternal benefit societies. Annually, by end of January, submit your completed form to the Polar Star Secretary. Tusen takk.

- **Membership Activities** – Volunteer time spent on preparing, running or supporting projects/programs organized by Sons of Norway at a lodge, district or international level that were devoted to lodge business affairs, recreational/social events, training seminars, cultural classes, officer duties, etc. **Include only volunteer time** spent organizing, planning or working at/for the events. Do **not** include lodge meeting attendance time.

Member Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Lodge Meeting/Food (prepare food for pot luck; set/clean up; kitchen duty)													
Lodge Meeting Programs/Activities (plan/prepare/lead)													
Training/Seminars (plan/prepare/lead)													
Officer Duties													
Manage Newsletter/ Facebook/Website													
Board/Committee Meetings													
District or National Meetings/Training													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HOURS:													

- **Community Activities** – Record time that **you volunteered in the name of / on behalf of** Polar Star lodge, another Sons of Norway lodge, or SON district or international level at events focusing on community involvement/interest. **Include only your volunteer time** working at, planning for, or traveling to/from the event. Do **not** include time just attending.

Community Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Høstfest (prep/food/work)													
Fox Valley Norwegian Choir													
Vasa Park (prep/food/work)													
Norsk Museum (docent/manage/maintain)													
Norsk Museum Fundraisers breakfast/smorgasbord/etc (prep/food/work)													
Syttende Mai Parade/Banquet (prep/food/work)													
How to be a Viking (prep/food/work)													
Norwegian National League (plan/prepare/lead)													
Viking Ship (docent/manage/maintain)													
Red Hat Knitting													
Tubfrim													
Barnebirke/Norge Ski (prep/food/work)													
MSI Christmas Tree													
Other (describe)													
TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS:													

Revised 2019