



Scandinavian Chatter

Scandinavian Club

February, 2012

Sun Lakes, AZ 85248



As we give attention to our heritage this month, our attention has been drawn to three of the Scandinavian countries that still retain much of the past.

SCANDINAVIAN ROYALTY

Scandinavia offers a whole variety of royalties! There are three kingdoms in Scandinavia: Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. Scandinavia is known for its royalty and citizens appreciate the monarch leading their country and hold the royal family dear. Let's take a closer look at the queens and kings, princes and princesses in Scandinavia today! You might gather from the following that we truly are "SCANDINAVIANS".

Ruling all Scandinavia Countries: The Kalmar Union

In 1397, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden formed the Kalmar Union under Margaret I. Born a Danish princess, she had married King Haakon VI of Norway. While her nephew Eric of Pomerania was the official king of all three countries, it was Margaret who ruled them until her death in 1412.

Sweden left the Kalmar Union in 1523 and elected its own king, but Norway remained united with Denmark until 1814, when Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden.

After Norway became independent from Sweden in 1905, the crown was given to Prince Carl, second son of Denmark's future King Frederick VIII. After being approved in a popular vote by the Norwegian people, the prince ascended Norway's throne as King Haakon VII, effectively separating all three Scandinavian kingdoms.

There has been a lot of interaction between the royalty of these three countries. Is it any wonder that our heritage, regardless of the country, brings us together?

Danish Monarchy: Royalty in Denmark

The Kingdom of Denmark is a constitutional monarchy. Executive power lies with Queen Margrethe II as head of state. The first royal house of Denmark was established in the 10th century by a Viking king called Gorm the Old, and today's Danish monarchs are descendants of the old Viking rulers.

Iceland was also under the Danish crown from the 14th century onward. It became a separate state in 1918, but did not end its connection with the Danish monarchy until 1944, when it became a republic. Greenland is still part of the Kingdom of Denmark.

Today, Queen Margrethe II. reigns in Denmark. She married French diplomat Count Henri de Laborde de Monpezat, now known as Prince Henrik, in 1967. They have two sons, Crown Prince Frederik and Prince Joachim. The official royal website is located at Kongehuset.dk.

Swedish Monarchy: Royalty in Sweden

In 1523, Sweden became a hereditary monarchy instead of being chosen by rank (elective monarchy). With the exception of two queens (Kristina in the 17th century, and Ulrika Eleonora in the 18th), the Swedish throne has always passed to the firstborn male.

In January 1980, this changed when the 1979 Act of Succession came into effect. Amendments to the constitution made the firstborn the heir, regardless of whether they are male or female. This meant that the current monarch, King Carl XVI Gustaf's only son, Crown Prince Carl Philip, was automatically deprived of his position as first in line to the throne when he was less than a year old - in favor of his older sister, Crown Princess Victoria. The official royal website can be found at **Royalcourt.se**.

Norwegian Monarchy: Royalty in Norway

The Kingdom of Norway as a unified realm was initiated by King Harald Fairhair in 9th century. Contrary to the other Scandinavian monarchies (elective kingdoms in the Middle Ages), Norway has always been a hereditary kingdom.

After the death of King Haakon V in 1319, the Norwegian crown passed to his grandson Magnus, who was also king of Sweden. In 1397, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden formed the Kalmar Union (see the previous page). The kingdom of Norway obtained complete independence in 1905.

Today, King Harald reigns Norway. He and his wife, Queen Sonja, have two children: Princess Märtha Louise (born 1971) and Crown Prince Haakon (born 1973). Princess Märtha Louise married writer Ari Behn in 2002 and they have two children. Crown Prince Haakon married in 2001 and had a daughter in 2001 and a son in 2005. Crown Prince Haakon's wife also has a son from a previous relationship. The official royal website can be found at www.kongehuset.no

Greetings from your President

This month, we will sit down together to enjoy our Heritage Potluck Dinner. Historically, we have always had this dinner catered by the staff of Sun Lakes Country Club. But the cost seemed to keep rising, and our enjoyment of the Scandinavian foods prepared for us was generally disappointing. This year, your Board of Directors felt the quality of the food prepared by our members had more variety and was more satisfying, so we decided to make this a Heritage Potluck Dinner. We expect to see another great table of food at this dinner that would make any Grandmother proud.

We should all be thankful and proud of the heritage that we share. For most of us, we can trace our ancestors back to some part of Scandinavia. Think for a moment the courage that it took for a person to step on a large ship, with your worldly possessions in a trunk, with the prospects of a long voyage on the high seas and never expecting to see your homeland again. They also brought with them their strong work ethics and their sense of moral character which has served our country and society very well. So thank your Parents and Grandparents and honor and remember them with gratitude.

Have a great time at our Heritage Potluck Dinner.

Jerry

What do you know about **Scandinavian Rock Art**? A free lecture on Monday, March 5 at 1 p.m. at ASU's Deer Valley Rock Art Center, 3711 W. Deer Valley Road. Images from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. If online, [click here](#) for more information, or go to (<http://clas.asu.edu/node/10255>). For carpool information, send an e-mail to "mailto:mail@scandinavianclubaz.org".



HERITAGE/SCANDINAVIAN ARTIFACTS NIGHT

Sunday, February 19

As part of our Heritage night, please consider sharing your Scandinavian artifacts. Plan to be with us and enjoy some great food from the potluck. **Entertainment by Gordy 'Crazy Fingers' Lindquist.**

ANNUAL MEETING—MARCH 18

You will not want to miss the “Scandinavian Dancers”

The Sun Lakes Country Club, Phase I, 25601 N. Sun Lakes Blvd. , Sun Lakes, Arizona
Social Hour 5:00pm- Dinner at 6:00pm-Program at 7:00pm

Hope you didn't miss the “Smorgasboard” in January. What a great selection of food! The organ music just made it taste even so much better. And, our special thanks to Howard and Loree Baumgart for sharing memories of their trip to Norway.



As we celebrate our Scandinavian Heritage this month, we start what we hope is a recurring feature. Had it not been for those who risked so much, we would not be here today. Would you please share the story of your heritage with us? And not just stories, but also photos. It is hoped that many of you will offer your stories. For more information, contact Lyle Replogle at 480-818-1718, or send e-mail to "mail@scandinavianclubaz.org". Our thanks to Ken Egertson for sharing his heritage.

NORWEGIAN HERITAGE

Ken Egertson

As a youth, I often questioned the old adage "variety is the spice of life." I was of 100% Norwegian ancestry, lived in primarily Norwegian communities, had been loved and nurtured by Norwegians and had always liked "bland" Norwegian food. I, therefore, never questioned the make-up of the "recipe" which influenced my life.

My paternal and maternal grandparents were all born in Norway in the Al, Hallingdahl area. This area is located east of Bergen, west of Lillehammer and northwest of Oslo. My ancestors immigrated to the United States in 1870's and settled on either side of the Iowa-Minnesota border between Estherville, Iowa, and Jackson, Minnesota.

I came from an agricultural background and have always been happy and proud that my professional career was in agriculture: My great-grandparents, in Norway, were farmers as were my grandparents and parents in the United States. I was born (1931) and raised on a farm six miles southeast of Jackson, Minnesota, and ten miles northwest of Estherville, Iowa. This farm was purchased, by my parents, from my mom's parents.

As with many Norwegian family names, the family name Egertson has an interesting origin. My great-grandfather's name was Egert Rasmussen Toftedukken (name of a Norway farm) until they left that farm and moved to one known as Konfetmyrane which eventually evolved into the shorter name Myhre. When my great-grandparents' four sons immigrated to the United States, two of them took my great-grandfather's first name (Egert) and added "son" to it, thus Egertson, and two kept the Norway farm and family name Myhre.....hmm...Ken Myhre, an interesting thought.

I recently discovered that V.P. Walter "Fritz" Mondale and I had common great-great grandparents. (I realize that's quite a stretch, but name-droppers do that!).

Though not through a conscientious effort on my part, I am proud to say that I have been able to continue the heritage passed on to me by my Norwegian parents and grandparents.

First, as with them, agriculture has been a mainstay of my life. I own a farm in a solid Norwegian community near Ashby, Minnesota. Also, after completing my academic degrees at the University of Minnesota in Agricultural Economics, I was a faculty member at the University for 32 years in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Second, I somehow managed to select, as life partners, women of Norwegian heritage. My late wife, Barbara (Teisberg), was of 100% Norwegian ancestry so my four daughters and one son carry on the Norwegian heritage. In 1995, I married Gloria (Dahl) Twedt whose ancestors were all Norwegian. Further Gloria's late husband, Anley Twedt, was also a descendant of Norwegian parents, making Gloria's three daughters, and my step-daughters, 100% Norwegian.

I think my Norwegian ancestors would be satisfied with my continuance of their heritage. I'm also sure they would understand that I also hold in equally high esteem my four sons-in-law and 10 grandchildren who are not "purebreds" but are of the "57"variety.

Now that I have reflected on the life of this somewhat biased Viking, I now tend to agree with the old adage (slightly revised) that "variety is the spice of life...as long as the "salt" comes from Norway."