SMÅ SNAKK
SONS OF NORWAY

Volume 39 Issue 3 March 2014

165 days to International Convention

LODGE DINNER AND PROGRAM
FRIDAY, MARCH 14 6:30 p.m.
fredag, mars fjorten

What's Next for Second Harvest Food Bank?

Believing in a strong community spirit and putting it to work, the Gateway to Florida Lodge has been an ardent supporter of Second Harvest Food Bank and the annual Empty Bowls luncheon, which have been in North Florida many years raising money to feed thousands of hungry children and adults. R. Wayne Rieley, the president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services (LSS), the umbrella organization for Second Harvest, will be our speaker Friday, March 14 at Shepherd of the Woods. Significant changes have occurred in the past couple weeks surrounding Second Harvest, so Wayne will update us about the plans moving forward.

Prior to joining LSS in 2004, Wayne served as vice president for Saxelbye Architects in Jacksonville and then as senior manager for Adams Project Management Consulting in Rome, Ga. From 1993 - 2002, Wayne served on the LSS board of directors in leadership roles including board president and development committee chair. He chaired the Governance Committee and the Membership Committee, Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida; is a member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, the Human Care Advisory Board for the Florida-Georgia District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Candidacy Committee of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Wayne has served on its congregational council as president and as a member of two pastoral call committees. He has also served on the advisory board of the Children's Enrichment Workshop, an ecumenical program targeting at-risk children in the Riverside area.

Registration and social hour begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

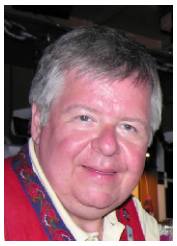
The menu will feature baked chicken, assorted salads, buns and dessert. The usual beverages will be available.

The donation is $12; bring the bucks for the raffle that includes many lovely items.

RSVP by Thursday noon, March 13, to President Kent at 260-4064 or email at kmlmal@bellsouth.net.

MARCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
MARS BESKJED FRA PRESIDENTEN

Greetings fellow members and friends,



Thanks to everyone who attended the February luncheon and helped welcome Linda Peterson, SON Fraternal Director, who spent several days in Jacksonville as part of a pre-convention site visit. She was very impressed with the venues/activities and overall convention planning. She also enjoyed the Florida sunshine and visited another lodge or two on the west coast of Florida.

I hope you had an opportunity to participate in the Shepherd of the Woods School Scholarship Auction March 1, which is always a very nice event. Over the years, our SON members and lodge have contributed significantly to this fund raising effort. Obviously providing money for scholarships is always a worthwhile endeavor.

Wayne Rieley, CEO of Lutheran Social Services, will be our March 14 dinner meeting speaker so please make every effort to attend. Major changes have occurred with Second Harvest Food Bank, an effort our lodge and members support, so Wayne will provide an update. Through Second Harvest thousands of hungry adults and children in 18 Northeast Florida Counties have been fed for many years so he will describe how the distribution network works and offer other information. We also need to get back volunteering time Saturday mornings to help stock shelves and other duties as required. We did it quarterly for several years and had excellent member/friend participation.

It's hard to believe our lodge is 40 years old. As you will read in the newsletter, we have a fun celebration planned over lunch Saturday, April 5 at the Maritime Museum at the Jacksonville Landing. This is a new venue, but if you have not visited the museum, you will enjoy the various displays and artifacts. Parking is available for a modest price at the Landing or on the street. Part of the afternoon will include rowing in our replica Viking boats Hagar and Tapper Viking. We will have more details to share at our March meeting and in the April newsletter, so stay tuned but save the date.

At the February luncheon, four delegates to the District 3 Convention in Albany, NY and four alternates were elected based on our lodge membership Dec. 31. They include the following: Kent Larson, Evelyn Hopkins, Rita Tweed Morrison and Franklin Morrison. Alternates include Pete Hopkins, Bo Fosaaen, Larry Nelson and Stewart Svendsen. The District Convention, being held June 11 - 15, is when the lodges in District 3 send their delegates based on membership to conduct the D-3 business affairs.

Speaking of conventions, we are approximately 165 days away from welcoming our first guests to the Int. Convention. If you have not yet volunteered- and we have many jobs that need doing - please contact either Marci Larson or Evelyn Hopkins re: your availability. All hands are needed to make this successful.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your lodge president. I look forward to seeing you March 14 and of course, April 5.

Kent Larson
Lodge President

2014-2015 SONS OF NORWAY GATEWAY TO JACKSONVILLE SLATE OF OFFICERS

President	Kent Larson	260-4064
Vice President	Evelyn Hoplins	733-4268
Counselor	Marci Larson	260-4064
Secretary	Rita Tweed-Morrison	305-7245
Assistant Secretary	Sharon White	718-7518
Treasurer	Franklin Morrison III	303-6344
Assistant Treasurer	Open	
Financial Secretary	Peggy McCann	504-8583
Assistant Fincncial Sec.	Dee Simpson	210-0092
Social Director	Larry Nelson, Coordinator	220-6151
Cultural Director	Evelyn Hopkins/Marci Larson	
Sports Director	Eugene Yerkes	268-9924
Assistant Sports Dir..	Eric Nord	699-0460
	Rich Brew	443-6331
Youth Director	Charlotte Fluker	396-8006
Trustee I	Stewart Svendsen	565-9001
Trustee II	David Fluker	396-8006
Trustee III	Pete Hopkins	733-4268
Publicity/Com Director	Marci Larson	260-4064
Foundation Coordinator	Marty Iverson	726-0626
Marshalls	Stewart Svendsen	565-9001
	& Bo Fosaaen	237-7700
Greeters	Gail Yerkes	268-9924
	Bonnie Hardman	537-9163
	Karen Ansell	242-8893
	Evelyn Hopkins	733-4268
Editor	Gail Yerkes	268-9924
Web Master	Franklin Morrison III	303-6344
Historian	Sharon White	718-7518
Sunshine	Open	
Tubfrim	Beverly Teigland	641-7796
Insurance Rep	Karen Ansell	242-8893
Librarian	Carol Scott	447-1672
Raffle Coordinator	Judy Silvey	260-6383
Adopt A School	Charlotte Fluker	396-8006
Musician	Tony Cruz	221-0460

THE MISSION OF SONS OF NORWAY

- is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway
- to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries
- and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members

IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS AND WE
ARE STILL GOING STRONG!
JOIN THE LODGE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
APRIL 5

No need to pull out the suits, ties or long dresses for our 40th anniversary, because we are dressing casual - shorts and sandals must be part of the attire unless we get a strange blast of Arctic air.

We are planning a fun time, so mark your calendar from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 5 at the Maritime Museum in the Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Drive, Suite 162. While some details need finalizing, all lodge members and friends are invited to attend and share stories. No long speeches are planned only brief remarks.

Former lodge presidents are being invited to be recognized for their accomplishments in bringing the lodge to 40 years. And, of course, we are planning a few surprises along the way.

Our two replica Viking boats, Hagar and Tapper Viking, will be featured in the day's events, as we "practice" rowing on the St. Johns River as a preview to our Regatta demonstration during the International Convention. Lunch, plus a sampling of the world-famous Eugene Yerkes brewed Hagar beer will also be available.

So save the date and plan to attend. Forty years of lodge history is worth recognizing and celebrating!!

Excerpts from the District 3 History
Published 1995

"Call it chance that one of our charter members-to-be-struck up a conversation with a member of Orlando Lodge #501, who arranged to have Brother Alvin Hanson, also a member of the lodge and a Sons of Norway insurance representative, meet with a group of interested people of Jacksonville.

On March 8, 1974, the first of a few meetings was held. Mr. Hanson informed those present that a specific number of members would be necessary to form a lodge in Jacksonville. This group, plus others, got busy making telephone calls to interest those of Norwegian or other Scandinavian heritage to make a commitment so that a Sons of Norway lodge could be formed. Perseverance paid off, and at the Beechwood Community Club a slate of officers was chosen and elections were held at the next meeting. The **initiation of the membership, the installation of the officers and the chartering of our Lodge were held April 6, 1974** at the Thunderbird Motel. Bjarne Eikevik, Zone 9 Director, assisted by District 3 representatives Jan Hendricksen and Helge Aursland and Alvin Hanson formally welcomed Gateway into the Sons of Norway fraternity as the newest lodge in Florida.

Brother Eikevik presented Brother Clarence (Ole) Olsen with the gavel as our first president to guide our fledgling lodge as the new member of Zone 9. Brother Fran Olsen served many years as our lodge's chairman for our part in the annual July 4 Ethnic Fair. Our lodge's first woman President was Sister Helen Olsen, who served in 1980 and 1981."

LEARN NORWEGIAN FROM
TRANSPARANT LANGUAGE

Norwegian word: språk
English translation: language
Part of speech: noun
Norwegian example: I Norge snakker folk minst tre språk.
English example: In Norway, most people speak at least three languages.

Norwegian word: overskudd
English translation: profit
Part of speech: noun
Norwegian example: Oljefirmaer har forholdsvis høye skatter på overskudd fra oljevirksomheten i Nordsjøen.
English example: The oil firms have relatively high taxes on the profits from the oil activities in the North Sea.

Norwegian word: mat:
English translation: food
Part of speech: noun
Example sentence: Ta deg litt mat før du går.
Sentence meaning: Have some food before you go.

Lodge members lunched at the Omni Hotel February 15 and visited with Linda Pederson, (sitting front row right), Fraternal Director from Sons of Norway in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Photograph by Evelyn Hopkins

What do you call an Irishman who keeps bouncing off of walls?

Rick O' Shea!

LEARN NORWEGIAN FROM TRANSPARANT LANGUAGE

Norwegian word: jente

English translation: girl
Part of speech: noun

Norwegian example: Den skjønne jenta med den flotte bunaden heter Tuva.

English example: That beautiful girl with a lovely bunad (folk outfit) is named Tuva.

LODGE KALENDER

Subject to Change

March 21	Newsletter Deadline for April
March 1	Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church Scholarship Auction, 6:30 p.m.
March 8-9	SON District 3 Executive Committee & Board Meetings, New York
March 10	Board & Convention Meetings 7 p.m.
March 14	Lodge Dinner Meeting & Program
April 5	Lodge's 40th Anniversary Luncheon @ Maritime Museum, Jacksonville
April 8	Convention Planning Meeting, 7 p.m. at SOTW
April 27	Beach's Parade
May 3	Shrimp Fest & Lodge Picnic, 1-5 p.m., Hopkins Intracoastal Camp
May 5	Board & Convention Planning Meetings, 7 p.m., SOTW
May 9-10	Syttende Mai Regatta, Luncheon, Zone Meeting, in Clearwater
June 3	Convention Planning Meeting, 7 p.m., SOTW
June 11-15	District 3 Convention in Albany, NY
June 21	New Member Brunch & Welcome, SOTW from 10 a.m. - Noon
June 21	Convention Planning Meeting @ 12:15 p.m., SOTW

NO BOARD OR LODGE MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST

CONVENTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

July 8	Convention Planning Meeting @ 7 p.m.
July 22	Convention Planning Meeting @ 7 p.m.
August 1-16	Convention Planning Activities/Meetings
August 17-24	International S.O.N. Convention @ Omni
Sept 9	Board & Convention Recap Meetings 7 p.m., SOTW
Sept 12	We Survived the International Convention Celebration & Thank You!
September	District 3 Golf Tournament, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
October 10-12	Leif Erikson Regatta, Banquet & Zone Meeting @ Jensen Beach
October 17	Lodge Dinner & Program @ 6:30 p.m.
October 18	Trick or Trunk Halloween @ SOTW 6-9:00 p.m.
October 24-26	District 3 Executive Committee & Board Meetings
Nov 4	Business Meeting @ 7 p.m., SOTW
Nov 11	Veteran's Day Parade
Nov 14	Lodge Thanksgiving Dinner & Program @ SOTW, 6:30 p.m.
Nov 29	Jacksonville Boat Light Parade
Dec 7, 14, 21	Area Light Parades
Dec 7	Scandinavian JuleFest, 1-4 p.m. Location to be Determined

The Daffodil is the floral emblem of March

Sunday, March 9 Daylight Saving Time Begins

Thursday, March 20 is the first day of Spring!

Like an army defeated
The snow hath retreated,
And now doth fare ill
On the top of the bare hill;
The Ploughboy is whooping anon anon!
There's joy in the mountains:
There's life in the fountains;
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing;
The rain is over and gone.

William Wordsworth, Written in March.

Fiskekaker (Norweigan Fish Cakes)

Adapted from gooseberrymooseberry.com
Makes 6 cakes

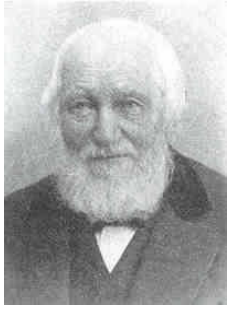
- 1 lb white fish fillets (such as cod or haddock)
- ½ tsp salt
- . tsp pepper
- . tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 egg white
- 1½ tbsp corn starch
- ½ to 1 cup ice-cold milk, more if needed
- 1 tbsp finely chopped chives
- 1-2 tbsp canola oil for frying

Dry fillets with paper towels and cut into large pieces. Process fillet pieces in a food processor. Add egg white, corn starch, salt, pepper and nutmeg to processor and grind until blended. Set the processor to a low speed and slowly add milk through the chute until the mixture has a paste-like consistency, using as much milk as the mixture can absorb without becoming too watery to form the cakes. Add chives to mixture and process. Move mixture to a bowl.
Heat oil in a large pan on medium heat. Divide mixture into 6 portions and form into cakes (roughly 2-3 inches wide). Fry cakes for four minutes each side or until golden brown. Serve and enjoy.

Remoulade Sauce *(makes 1½ cups)*

- 1¼ cups mayonnaise
- ¼ cup mustard
- 1 tbsp sweet paprika
- 1-2 tsp cajun or creole seasoning
- 2 tsp prepared horseradish
- 1 tsp pickle juice (can substitute lemon juice or vinegar)
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- 1 large clove garlic, minced and smashed

SVEND FOYN
July 9, 1809-Nov. 30, 1894



Svend Foyn was born on July 9th, 1809 at Foynsgården, Tønsberg, Norway. His parents were Laurentius Foyn and Benthe Marie Ager, his father was a shipmaster. In 1839, Svend married Elise Amalie Tvede, they separated in 1842. She immigrated to Texas in 1847, but, they kept in touch throughout their lives. Svend married Magdalene Margrethe "Lena" Bull in 1849 and they stayed together for the rest of their lives.

Svend invented the exploding harpoon, which removed a lot of the danger from whaling. The harpoon he invented made it so much more efficient to capture whales and hunt the larger and faster whales. Steam powered whaling boats equipped with bow-chaser harpoons on deck and the exploding harpoons were introduced by Svend. He built the first steam powered whale catcher, an 86 ton, 7 knot Spes et Fides. It had 7 whale guns separately mounted on dock, they fired a harpoon and grenade. It was a 94 foot boat with a 20 horse power engine and went up to a speed of 7 knots.

His harpoon gun was patented in 1870. This helped to bring a new profitable industry to Norway. He kept on improving the cannon until in 1868, when he was able to catch 30 whales! The whaling industry had been in decline until the introduction of his bow-mounted harpoon cannon. His cannon along with the fast, sleek steam-powered catcher vessels brought in the modern whaling industry. It was dominated by Norwegians, then the British, Russians and Japanese, after which many European countries joined in the industry. Today only 3 countries are still in the whaling industry, they are Norway, Iceland and Japan.

Svend supplied homes for his workers, a library, a prayer room and the first kindergarten in Norway. His chapel was consecrated on November 5th, 1876, at the time it was Norway's largest and most beautiful chapel! Lena founded a home for elderly women in 1896. Svend & Lena's home on Storgarten, Tømsberg was built in 1700 and is a landmark. In 1924, his childhood home was protected and it is the only home left in town from the 18th century.

In 1850, Svend was entered in the Royal Norwegian Order of Saint Olav as a Knight, promoted to Commander in 1870 and was presented with the Grand Cross in 1893.

Svend passed away in Nøtterøy on November 30th, 1894. In 1915, his statue (sculpted by Anders Svor) was placed outside the cathedral in Tønsberg.

From Sun Viking Lodge, Spring Hill, FL
FLYGEBLADET Newsletter-Jan 2014

HYGENHUND

One of Norway's dog breeds is the hygenhund. The hygenhunds were created by Hans Fredrik Hygen in Ringerike, Norway in the early 1830's. He started by breeding several hunting dog breeds together. They are endurance hunters who can travel for a long period of time over rough artic terrain without any fatigue. They are a medium sized scenthound at about 19 to 24 inches in height and approximately 44 to 55 pounds. They have a straight, dense and shiny coat that is rough to the touch. Their coloring runs from yellow/red, reddish/brown, black with bright chestnut and sometimes with white markings. They have dark brown eyes, thin, soft ears and a medium length strong neck. Their body is muscular with long legs and small feet. This helps them to run in a well-balanced manner. The hygenhund has a head triangular in shape with a broad skull. The hygenhund has a free spirited and energetic personality. The hygenhund breed was saved from extinction in the 1970's. But, so far only 23 to 44 hyugenhund pups are registered each year.

Sun Viking Lodge # 3-607, March 2014
Spring Hill, Florida

IRISH HUMOR

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?
Because they're always a little short.

Why don't you iron 4-Leaf clovers?
Because you don't want to press your luck.

What's Irish and stays out all night?
Paddy O'furniture!

How is a best friend like a 4-leaf clover?
Because they are hard to find and lucky to have.

What do ghosts drink on St Patricks Day?
BOOs!

From Suncoast News, March 2014

NORWEGIAN EXPERIENCE 2014

Once again Sons of Norway is partnering with Borton Overseas to offer one lucky recruiter and their guest an amazing travel experience in Norway! All year, every Sons of Norway member who recruits a new, dues-paying member will be entered into the 2014 Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest.

The trip, which will be awarded in January of 2015, will include airfare, meals, exclusive travel opportunities and upscale accommodations! Just imagine taking a multi-day land-tour of Norway enjoying some of the most beautiful scenery that Scandinavia has to offer! The best part is that the winner gets to choose their own adventure! Whether you prefer an active trip full of sight-seeing and touring, or a more laid-back vacation, it's up to you!

To enter this year's Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest all you have to do is recruit one new, dues-paying member and make sure your name is listed in the "Referred By" field. It's as easy as that! Entries are taken from members recruited between January 1st and December 31st, 2014. Also, remember that you can enter as many times as you recruit throughout the year, which increases your chances of winning!

SMÅ SNAKK BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS

Your donation is a voluntary act. At the Board Meeting on 3/5/2012, the Board made the following resolution: Små Snakk booster fee be increased from $15 to $20 effective 6/1/2012.
This donation helps pay for publication and distribution of the Små Snakk newsletter. Make your check payable to Sons of Norway and mail to Gail Yerkes, Editor. Tusen takk for your support.

BOOSTER NAME	DATE EXPIRES Month	Year
Roy Hauge	06	2015
Marty & Ida Iverson	01	2015
George W. Prom	09	2015
Carol Scott	10	2014
Jenny Spilling	06	2014
Rita Tweed	10	2014
Jay Vogeley	02	2014 *
Roger & Margaret Winslow	10	2016

May we add your name here?
A * next to your name means it's time to renew.

INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: A Conference for All

The conference, which is open to ALL members, is sure to be a premiere event that will help you strengthen your leadership skills! Whether you are interested in helping your lodge succeed or improving your professional leadership skills, the Innovative Leadership Conference will help you attain your goals.

Over the course of the day-long conference, attendees will be taken through a series of educational topics by professional speaker/trainer, Kit Welchlin. Attendees will learn about effective communications styles, conflict resolution, effective team work and leadership concepts for recruiting members and customers.

More importantly, everyone who attends will be given implementable tools and techniques, which will deliver tangible results. "The goal of this event is to help members strengthen their leadership skills and provide them with the tools they need to succeed, both within Sons of Norway as well as within their professional lives," says Erik Evans, Sons of Norway's Communications Manager. "One of the most important elements to Sons of Norway's future success is strong leadership skills at all levels of the organization. Like the overwhelmingly successful 2012 event, this year's ILC will help build strong leaders and, we feel, will make Sons of Norway stronger overall."

If you're not sure whether this conference is right for you, consider these questions for a moment:

Do you want to learn new tools and techniques for that will improve your lodge, increase recruitment and retention or inspire a higher level of member engagement?
Have you ever considered running for a lodge or district officer position?
Do you want to strengthen your leadership skills, develop new abilities to set you apart from your colleagues and grow as a professional?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should register today for Sons of Norways Innovative Leadership Conference, being held on August 20, 2014 in Jacksonville, Florida.

If you'd like to learn more about the event or register today you can visit the 2014 International Convention website at www.sonsofnorway2014.com or you can call (800) 945-8851 ext. 623.

GATEWAY TO FLORIDA LODGE HONORS:

District 3 Lodge of the Year 2003, 2007, 2009, 2010. Membership Lodge of the Year 2007-2008, Founders Award for Membership Achievement 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11. President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11, President's Special Recognition Gold 2010 and 2011; World of Nations First Place/Best Country 2006, Grand Overall Winner Jacksonville Boat Light Parade 2008, First Place Palm Valley Boat Light Parade 2008, 2010, Organized Club Winner Jacksonville Light Parade 2009, 2010, First Place Whitey's Fish Camp Boat Light Parade 2010, Grand Prize Best Overall St Augustine Holiday Regatta of Lights 2009. Winner of Fall Blitz Recruitment Contest in Large Lodge Category 2009. Third District Golden Newsletter Award for Medium Size Lodge Division in 2009. Newsletter Honorable Mention 2011.

Lodge Web site: http://www.sonjax.com. Third District Web site:http://www.3DSofN.org.
Sons of Norway Web site: www.sonsofnorway.com
http://twitter.com/SonsofNorwayJax, http://goo.gl/cKc21

MARCH BIRTHDAYS
GRATULERER MED DAGEN

3 Eugene Yerkes
3 George Teigland
5 Evelyn Hopkins
8 Jennifer Purnell
10 Johnny Wunderlich
13 Julia Fluker
14 Kaare Bakke
14 Franklin R. Morrison
20 Mason Whiteley
21 Cameron Nord
26 Phillip Sharp
28 George Prom
29 Lynn Polley
29 George Seder
30 Jessica Rasmussen

Read news from District 3 at http://www.3dsofn.org/

SUNSHINE NEWS

Lorraine Drummond is receiving physical therapy at home and is not feeling as strong as she would like. Lorraine appreciates cards with get well wishes.

Philip Pierce had successful cataract surgery on both eyes.

If you have news call me at 904-268-9924 or egyerkes@bellsouth.net.

Gail Yerkes

KEEP THE VIKING SPIRIT STRONG

Its been a long cold winter. With spring coming, we can hope for a gentle thawing and new life from mother earth. Just as the dawn of spring, Sons of Norway continues to be viable to our next generations. Our younger family members, being the 4th or 5th generations of the Norwegian immigrants, are shaping their new life travels. How do we connect these children with their heritage? Where do they fit into Son of Norway?

With your help, vision and gift of the future your SON financial benefit counselor can help you pass that torch to our next generation. Call today and let us help you keep the Viking spirit strong.

Karen B. Ansell, President
Secure Choices, Inc
Licensed Agent/Broker for over 25 years.
Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor
904-242-8893 Fax 904-242-0163
www.securechoicesinsurance.com

10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE VIKINGS
By Jennie Cohen

Think you've got the Vikings pegged? With all the caricatures and stereotypes out there, theres probably a lot you've never heard about the seafaring Scandinavians who raided and settled coastal sites in the British Isles and beyond between the ninth and 11th centuries. Explore 10 surprising facts about the Vikings below.

1. Vikings didn't wear horned helmets.
Forget almost every Viking warrior costume youve ever seen. Sure, the pugnacious Norsemen probably sported headgear, but that whole horn-festooned helmet look? Depictions dating from the Viking age dont show it, and the only authentic Viking helmet ever discovered is decidedly horn-free. Painters seem to have fabricated the trend during the 19th century, perhaps inspired by descriptions of northern Europeans by ancient Greek and Roman chroniclers. Long before the Vikings time, Norse and Germanic priests did indeed wear horned helmets for ceremonial purposes.

2. Vikings were known for their excellent hygiene.
Between rowing boats and decapitating enemies, Viking men must have stunk to high Valhalla, right? Quite the opposite. Excavations of Viking sites have turned up tweezers, razors, combs and ear cleaners made from animal bones and antlers. Vikings also bathed at least once a week, much more frequently than other Europeans of their day and enjoyed dips in natural hot springs.

3. Vikings used a unique liquid to start fires.
Clean freaks though they were, the Vikings had no qualms about harnessing the power of one human waste product. They would collect a fungus called touchwood from tree bark and boil it for several days in urine before pounding it into something akin to felt. The sodium nitrate found in urine would allow the material to smolder rather than burn, so Vikings could take fire with them on the go.

4. Vikings buried their dead in boats.
There's no denying Vikings loved their boats so much that it was a great honor to be interred in one. In the Norse religion, valiant warriors entered festive and glorious realms after death, and it was thought that the vessels that served them well in life would help them reach their final destinations. Distinguished raiders and prominent women were often laid to rest in ships, surrounded by weapons, valuable goods and sometimes even sacrificed slaves.

5. Vikings were active in the slave trade.
Many Vikings got rich off human trafficking. They would capture and enslave women and young men while pillaging Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Slavic settlements. These thralls, as they were known, were then sold in giant slave markets across Europe and the Middle East.

6. Viking women enjoyed some basic rights.
Viking girls got hitched as young as 12 and had to mind the household while their husbands sailed off on adventures. Still, they had more freedom than other women of their era. As long as they weren't thralls, Viking women could inherit property, request a divorce and reclaim their dowries if their marriages ended.

7. Viking men spent most of their time farming.
This may come as a disappointment, but most Viking men brandished scythes, not swords. True, some were callous pirates who only stepped off their boats to burn villages, but the vast majority peacefully sowed barley, rye and oats at least for part of the year. They also raised cattle, goats, pigs and sheep on their small farms, which typically yielded just enough food to support a family.

8. Vikings skied for fun.
Scandinavians developed primitive skis at least 6,000 years ago, though ancient Russians may have invented them even earlier. By the Viking Age, Norsemen regarded skiing as an efficient way to get around and a popular form of recreation. They even worshipped a god of skiing, Ullr.

9. Viking gentlemen preferred being blond.
To conform to their cultures' beauty ideals, brunette Vikings, usually men, would use a strong soap with a high lye content to bleach their hair. In some regions, beards were lightened as well. Its likely these treatments also helped Vikings with a problem far more prickly and rampant than mousy manes: head lice.

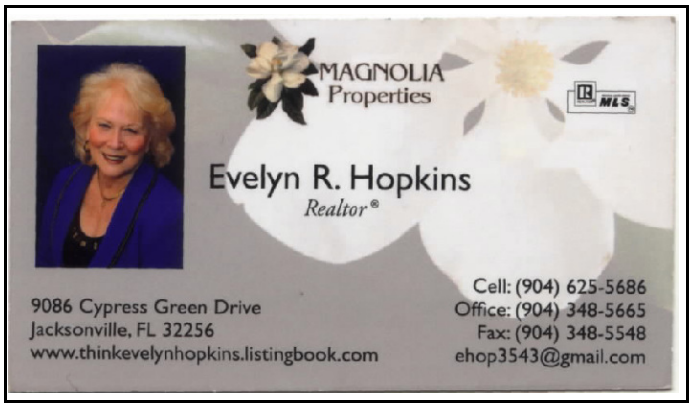
10. Vikings were never part of a unified group.
Vikings didnt recognize fellow Vikings. In fact, they probably didn't even call themselves Vikings: The term simply referred to all Scandinavians who took part in overseas expeditions. During the Viking Age, the land that now makes up Denmark, Norway and Sweden was a patchwork of chieftain-led tribes that often fought against each other when they weren't busy wreaking havoc on foreign shores, that is.

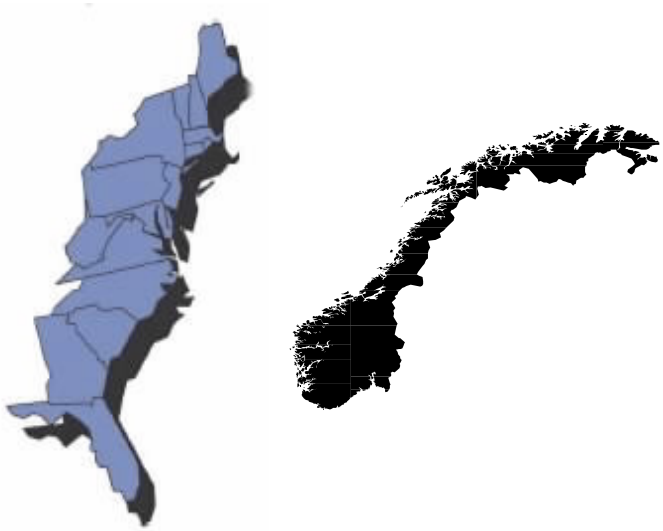
Did You Know?

William the Conqueror, the Norman king who invaded England in 1066 and fundamentally changed the course of British history, was descended from Viking raiders. His ancestors received the French duchy of Normandy in the early 10th century in exchange for promising to stop pillaging France.

The Award Winning
Gateway to Florida Lodge:

District 3 Large Lodge of the Year 2010
President's Gold Merit Award for 2010 and 2011
President's Special Recognition
Gold 2010 and 2011
Founders' Membership Certificate 2010 and 2011





District 3

Små Snakk Return Address:
Gail Yerkes, Editor
1742 Lord Byron Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32223-0800
904-268-9924
www.sonjax.com