

Fred, Mary Ann, Lindsey and Jordan
travel to

Norway

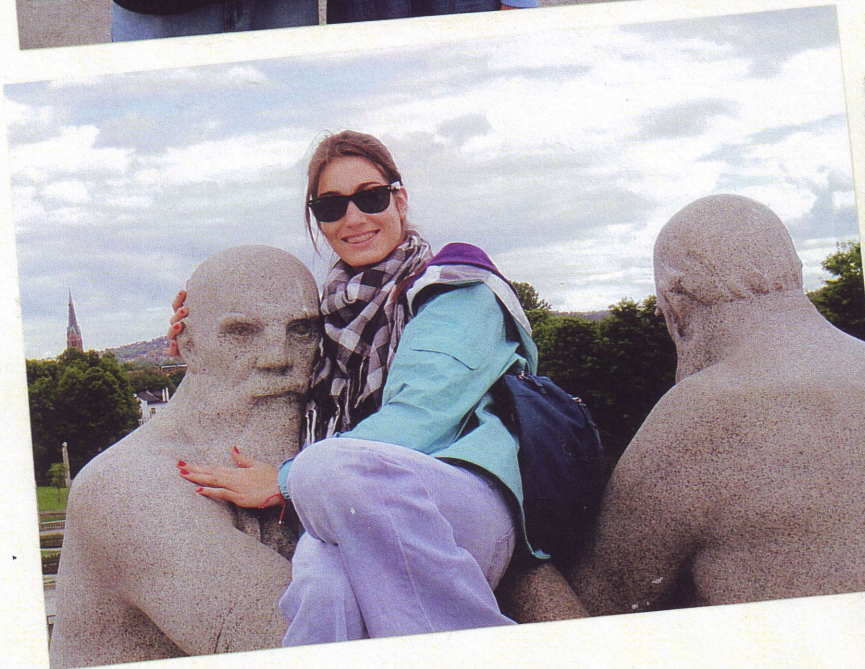
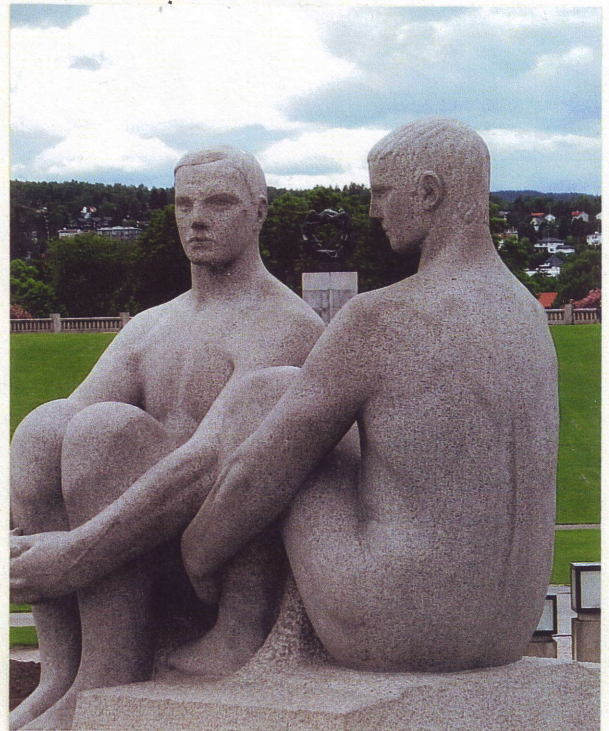
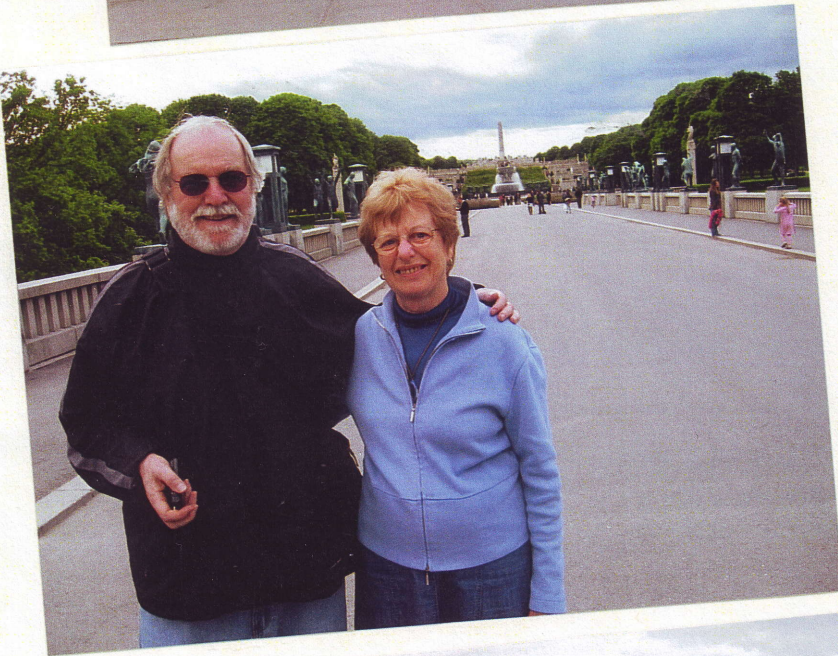
to see the sights and
meet their Drangstveit cousins



June 10 - 24, 2009



Vigeland Park (Frogner Park)



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Fram Museum (polar exploration)



Kon-Tiki Museum



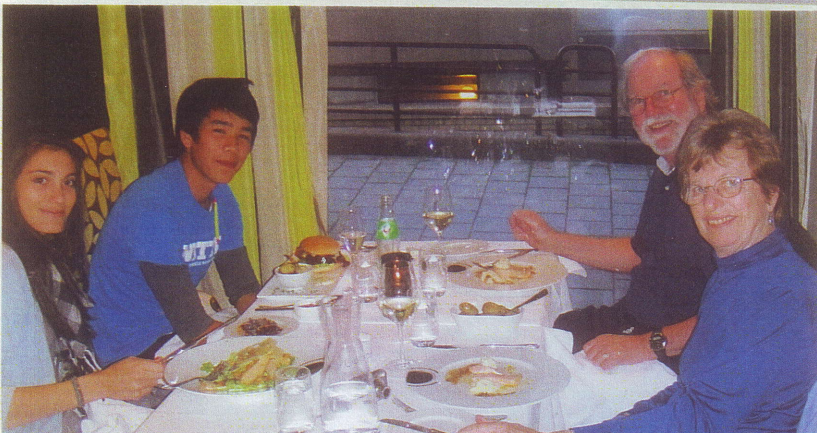
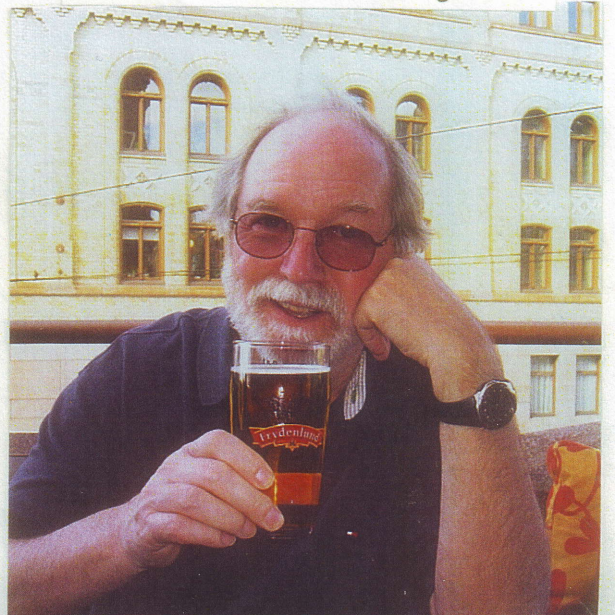
Viking Ship Museum



-around Oslo-



The flag was not flying at the palace.
Cousin Sonja was not home to greet us.



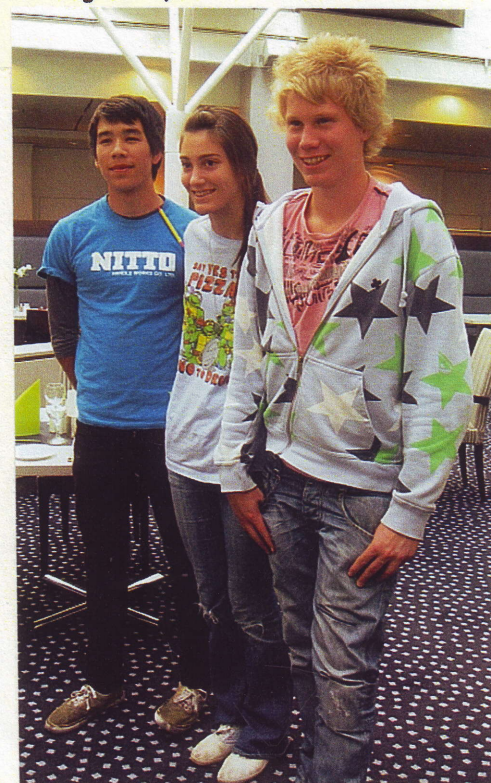
Descendants of sisters, Gunnhild and Sigrid Drangstveit



Lindsey, Jordan, Mary Ann
Brede, Heine Aardalen (descendants of Gunnhild Drangstveit)
Fred



Audun, Mary Ann, Sølvi, Fred



Jordan (20), Lindsey (17), JoSindre (15)

Oslo to Myrdal





Myrdal to Flåm and
Balestrand on the Sognefjord



Kjosfossen waterfall





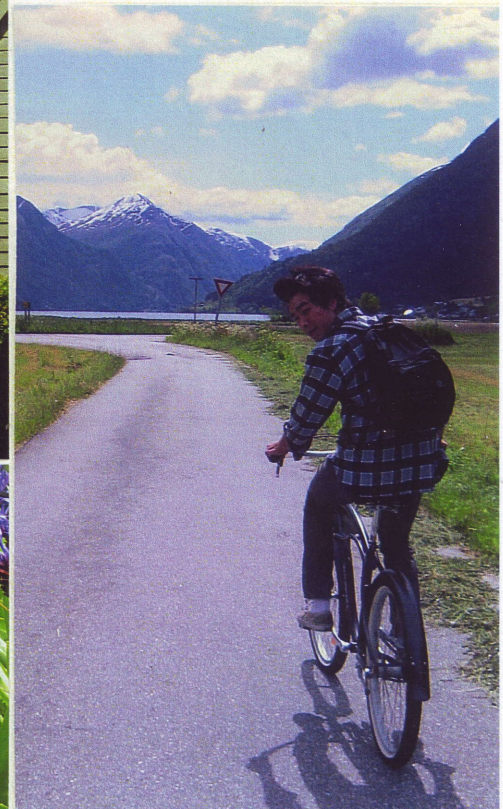
day trip to Glacier Museum via Fjærlandsfjord



Bøya and Suppehelle glaciers are fingers of Jostedalsglaci (the Jostedal's Glacier), continental Europe's largest glacier.

Glacier trivia

- Glacier ice is the largest reservoir of fresh water on the Earth.
- Glaciers are found in mountain ranges of every continent except Australia.

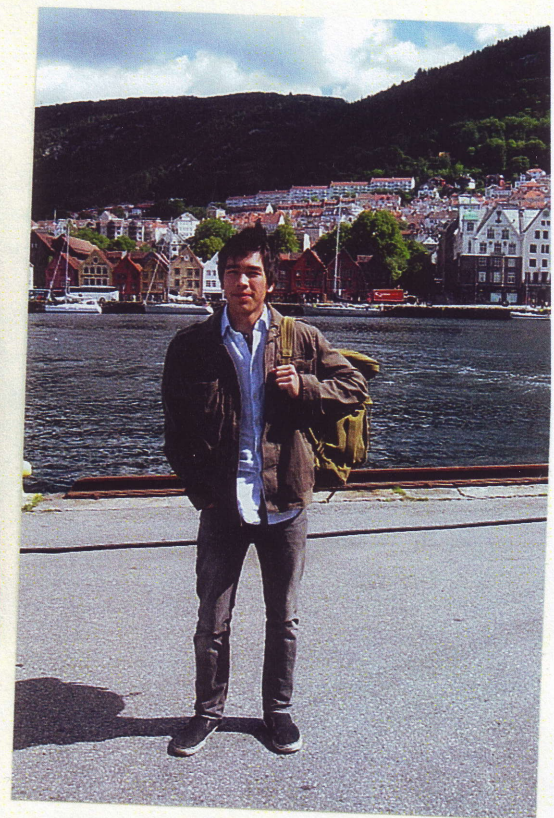


HORDALAND

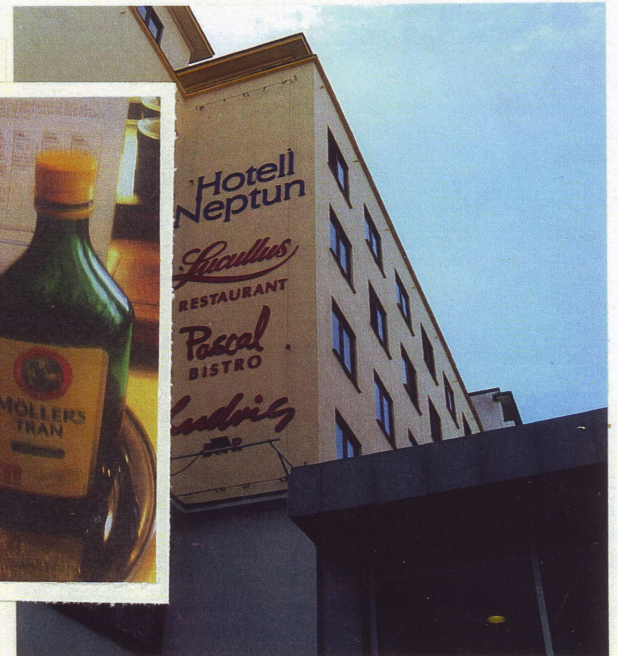
(Bergen, Hardangerfjord, Sør fjord)



Is Lindsey showing her new shoes to Ole Bull?



BERGEN







Bergen to Kvanndal along the Hardanger fjord



Kvanndal to Kinsarvik on the Sør fjord

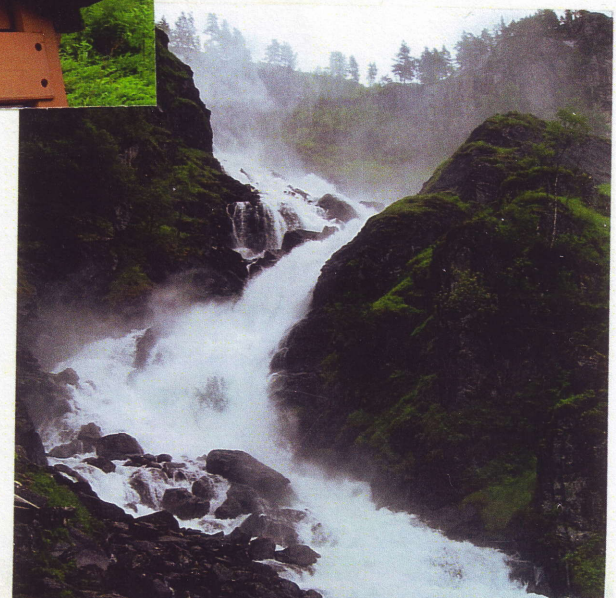
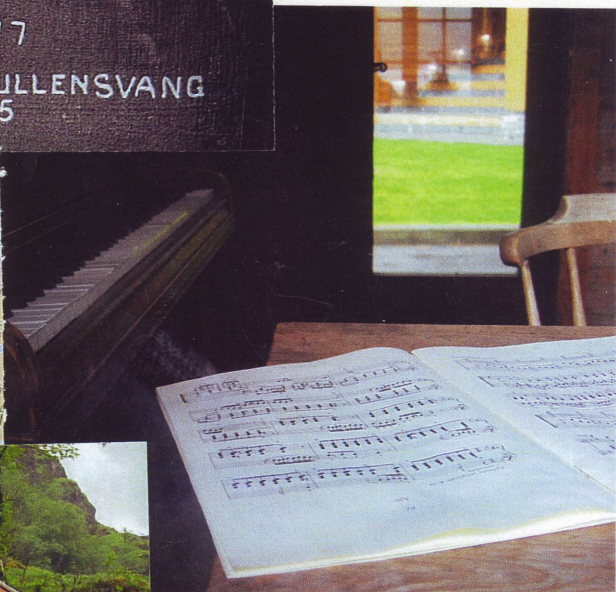




Ullensvang Hotel on the Sør fjord



Edvard Grieg's
KOMPONISTHYTTE
OPPFØRT 1877
STAMGJEST PÅ HOTEL ULLENSVANG
1877-1905



TELEMARK

(Dalen, Morgedal, Kviteseid, Seljord, Notodden)



MO KYRKJE.

Mo kyrkje er vigsla i 1839. Tidlegare stod det ei stavkyrkje frå 1200- talet. Ei større restaurering vart gjort i 1961.

Áltartavla er frå stavkyrkja. Ho vart restaurert av Magnus Lunde og Olav Johre og måla av Finn Kraft, Henrik Sørensen og Harald Kihle. Krusifikset er frå om lag 1400, døypefonten er frå stavkyrkja, og ljosekruna er frå 1766.

På kyrkjegarden er det ein minnestein over Torbjørg Ripilen, ho som kvad frå Draumkvædet for Moltke Moe.

Mo church was consecrated in 1839. Earlier there was a stave church from the 1200s. A large restoration was done in 1961.

The altar table is from the stave church. It was restored by Magnus Lunde and Olav Johre and painted by Finn Kraft, Henrik Sørensen and Harald Kihle. The crucifix is from approximately 1400, the baptismal font is from the stave church, and the candle chandelier is from 1766.

In the church yard, there is a memorial stone over Torbjørg Ripilen who sang from the Draumkvædet for Moltke Moe.

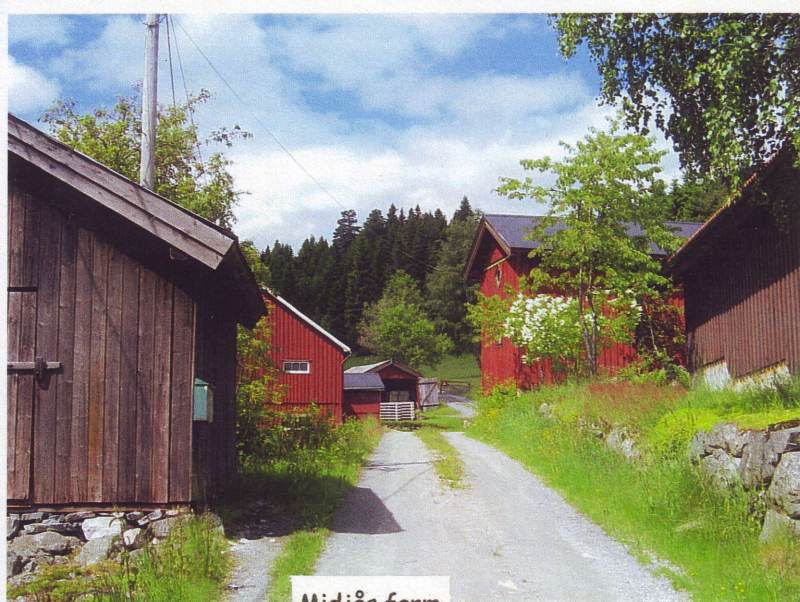


Mo was Bjorn's church and the place that Bjorn and Siarid were married.



Dalen Hotel





Midjås farm



Slettetveit farm



Haukehåttveit farm



SKAFSA KYRKJE

Skafså kyrkje er vigsla i 1839.

Kyrkja er restaurert i 1959 med dekor av Kildal. Stavkyrkja som stod på same staden, vart riven i 1837.

I våpenhuset står det ein runestein, og utanfor kyrkja, ved kyrkjemuren, er det gapestokk og steinmerr.

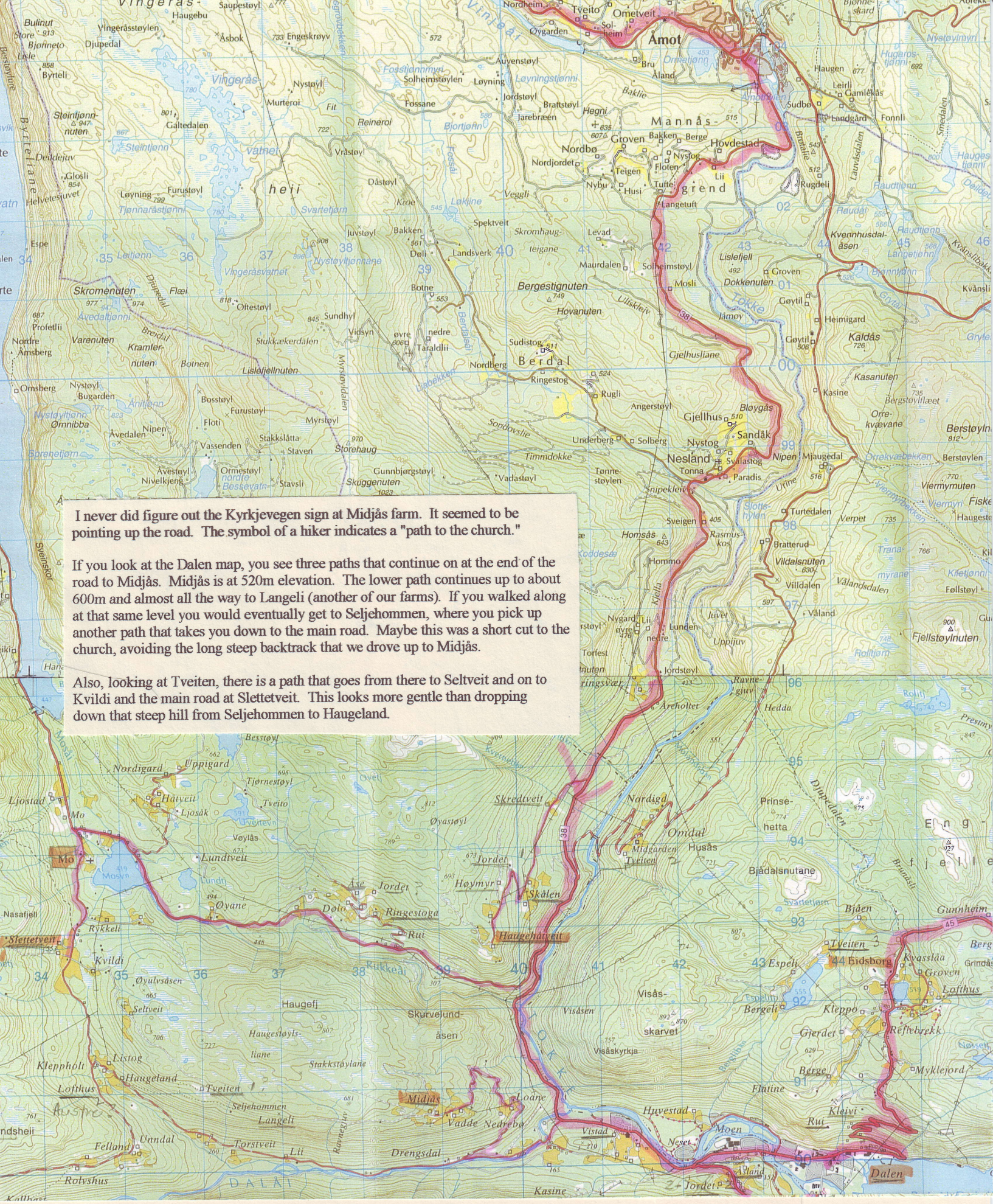
Klenodiar frå den gamle stavkyrkja: Krusifiks år 1200
Kristus ber kongekrone, altarbord frå renesansen
døypefont. Nokre måla plankar har vore stavar i



The old stave church was torn down in 1837. The new church was consecrated in 1839 and restored in 1959. Treasures from the old church: crucifix from the 1200s, altar table from the Renaissance, baptismal font, and some staves.



elk or moose?



I never did figure out the Kyrkjevegen sign at Midjås farm. It seemed to be pointing up the road. The symbol of a hiker indicates a "path to the church."

If you look at the Dalen map, you see three paths that continue on at the end of the road to Midjås. Midjås is at 520m elevation. The lower path continues up to about 600m and almost all the way to Langeli (another of our farms). If you walked along at that same level you would eventually get to Seljehommen, where you pick up another path that takes you down to the main road. Maybe this was a short cut to the church, avoiding the long steep backtrack that we drove up to Midjås.

Also, looking at Tveiten, there is a path that goes from there to Seltveit and on to Kvildi and the main road at Slettveit. This looks more gentle than dropping down that steep hill from Seljehommen to Haugeland.

↓
to Skafså

CAST OF CHARACTERS
8 generations
Sveinung Taraldsson BYGGLAND

|
Aanund Sveinungsson DRANGSTVEIT

|
Sigrid Aanundsdotter DRANGSTVEIT (sisters)
+ Bjorn Thorstenson SLETTETVEIT

immigrated to America

|
Thea Thorstenson Peterson

|
Archie Sherman Peterson

|
Mary Ann & Jon Frederic Peterson

|
Suzanne & Scott Lindsey

|
Jordan, Alex, Katya

|
Gunnhild Aanundsdotter DRANGSTVEIT
+ Johannes Johannesson AARDALEN

remained in Norway

|
Aanund Johannesson Aardalen

|
Hjalmar Aanundsson Aardalen;
Åshild Aanundsdotter Aardalen Lundeberg;
Tarald Aanundsson Aardalen.

|
Arnold, Kari Ester (Kleppe), Gerda, Solveig,
Georg, Willy, Harry & Kjell Aardalen;
Karin Lundeberg Tveit;
Kari Aardalen Midtsund.

|
Sølvi Kleppe Simones; Heine & Brede
Aardalen;

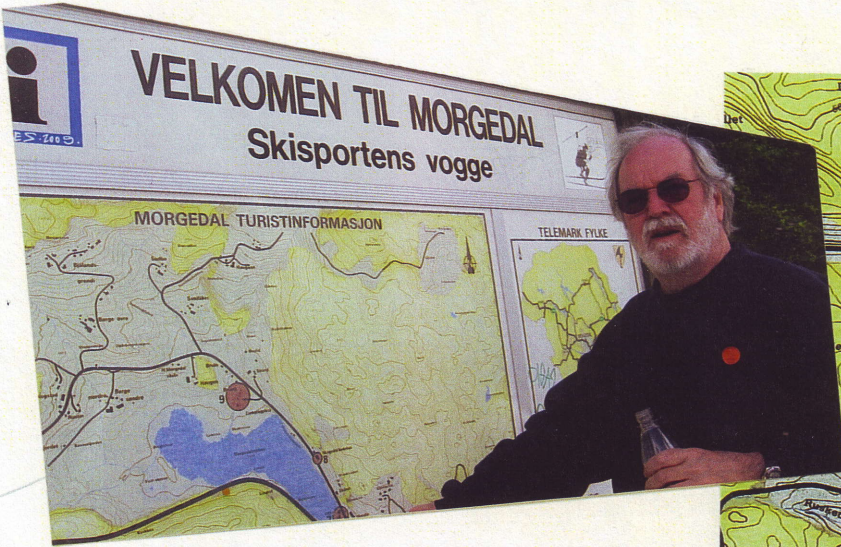
Kristi Marie Tveit Diskerud;
Anne Marie Midtsund Stykket.

|
Jo Sindre Simones;
Kristian & Tore Tveit Diskerud;
Karianne Midtsund Stykket.

People whose names are in *italics* were alive in June 2009 when Fred, Mary Ann, Jordan and Lindsey visited Norway and met our relatives there for the first time.

People whose names are underlined are in our Norway 2009 photos.

Additional descendents of Aanund Johannesson Aardalen will be added as we learn of them.



Fred, Gerda Aardalen, Kari Aardalen Kleppe
at the Morgedal Hotel



The flame burns in Morgedal day and night
in memory of Sondre Norheim and the
Olympic ceremonies held in Morgedal.



The torch was lit in Morgedal for the Winter Olympics in Oslo (1952), Squaw Valley (1960) and Lillehammer (1994). This was in honor of Sondre Norheim, who is known as the "father of modern skiing". Sondre redesigned the ski, making it narrower in the middle. He developed toe bindings from birch tree roots that increased the maneuverability of skis and permitted them to be used for downhill, jumping and cross-country. He developed the Telemark and stem-christie turns. (named after Christiania, now Oslo). Sondre and the Morgedal skiers won many prizes in Telemark and Christiania. In the late 1800's, our cousins, Olav and Sveinuna Drangstveit were among those skiers



Byggland farm has been in the family for generations. Sigrid grew up here. She and her siblings, except Gunnhild, emigrated as young adults, along with their parents.



Painting of Byggland farm, Morgedal, before 1800. The stabbur (far right) was sold when bldgs were relocated.



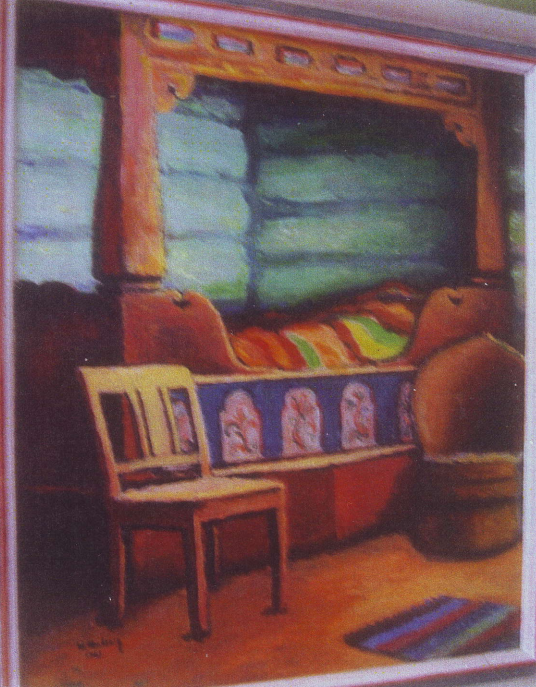
Painting of Byggland øvre farm ca. 1960, after the barn and house were relocated on the property.



Bodil Hauge (widow of our relative, Jon Hauge) daughter, Nina (our cousin)



Great-grandmother Sigrid was born in this corner of the living room. At the time of her birth, the house had only this room. Everyone slept in it.



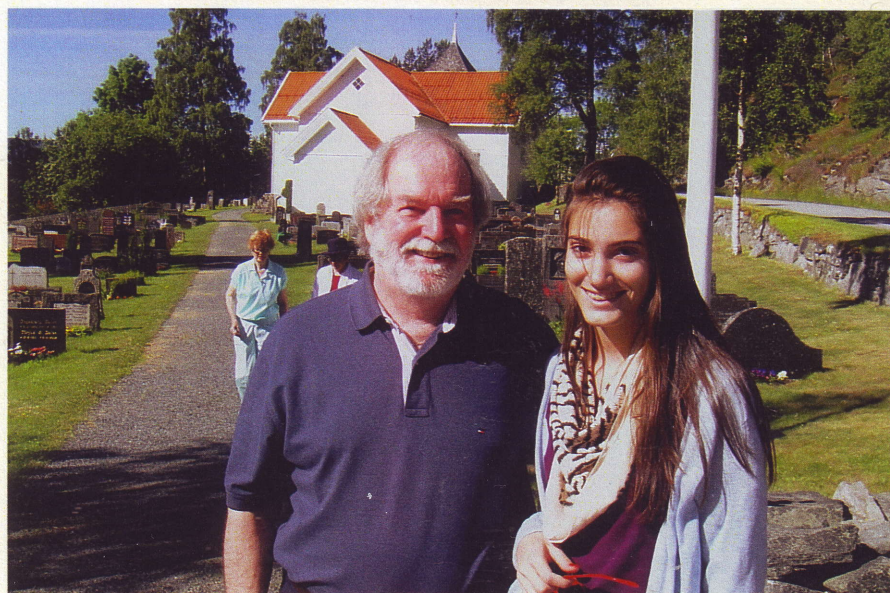
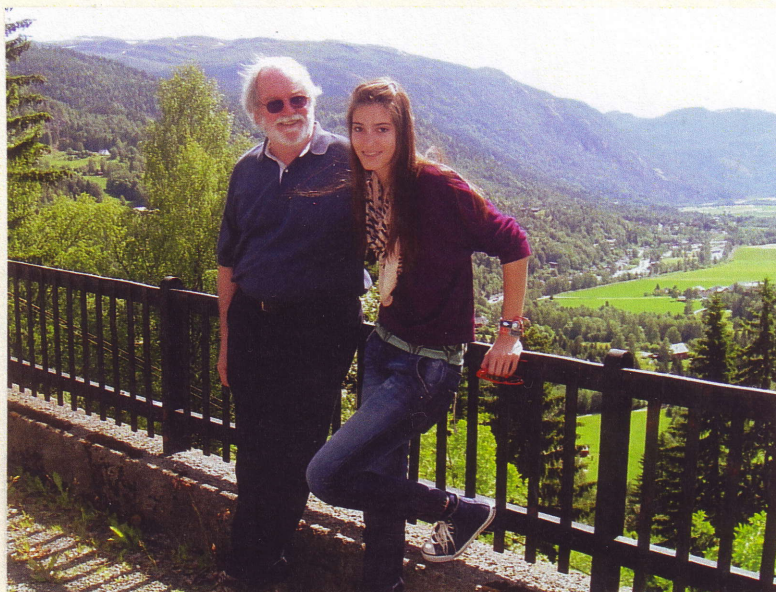
painting of Sigrid's baby bed



views from the King's stones



a Seljord giant



Brunkeburg Church near Morgedal
This was Sigrid's church.





old Kviteseid church



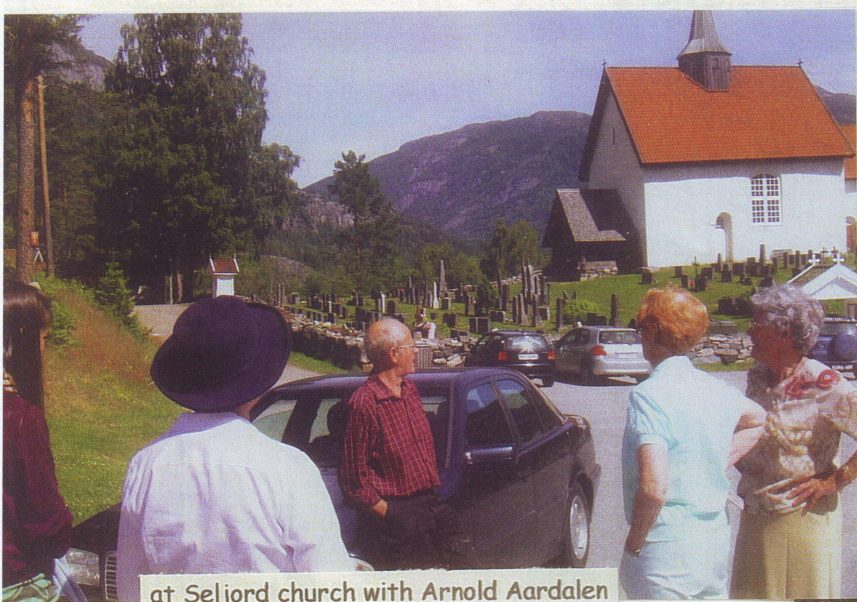
More Aardalen cousins

(standing) Annemarie, her daughter Karianne, Mary Ann, Kristen, Torunn (Kristen's son), Gerda Aardalen, Karin, Fred, Kristian, (Kristen's son), Jordan, Lindsey

(sitting) Kari Aardalen Midtsund. Kari Ester Aardalen Klenne



Heddal stave church



at Seljord church with Arnold Aardalen
Lindsey, Mary Ann, Arnold, Gerda, Kari



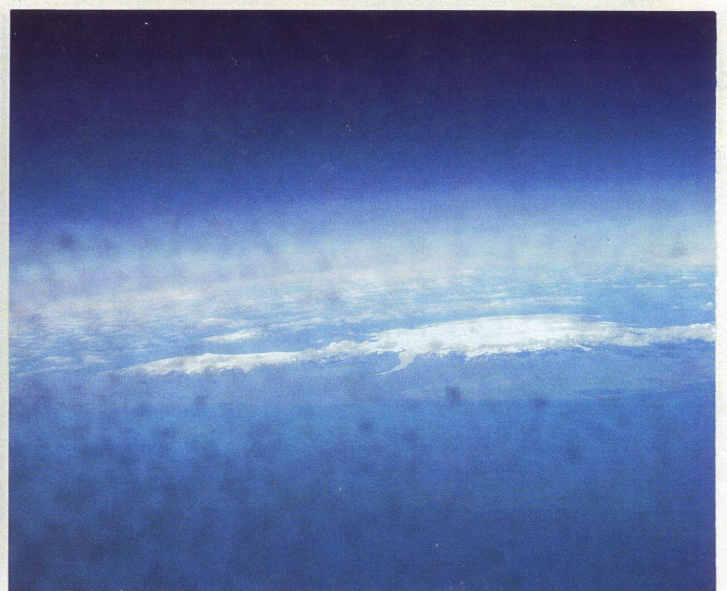
Midsummer afternoon was at the farm home of Sølvi, Audun and son, To Sindre, on Heddal Lake, Notodden, East Telemark. 'Middaggen' as delicious elk, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salad. First dessert as cloudberryes with whipped cream. Second dessert was bløtkake (traditional moist, filled Norwegian layer cake), served outdoors. Sølvi is descended from Gunnhild, and is 1st cousin to Heine & Brede.

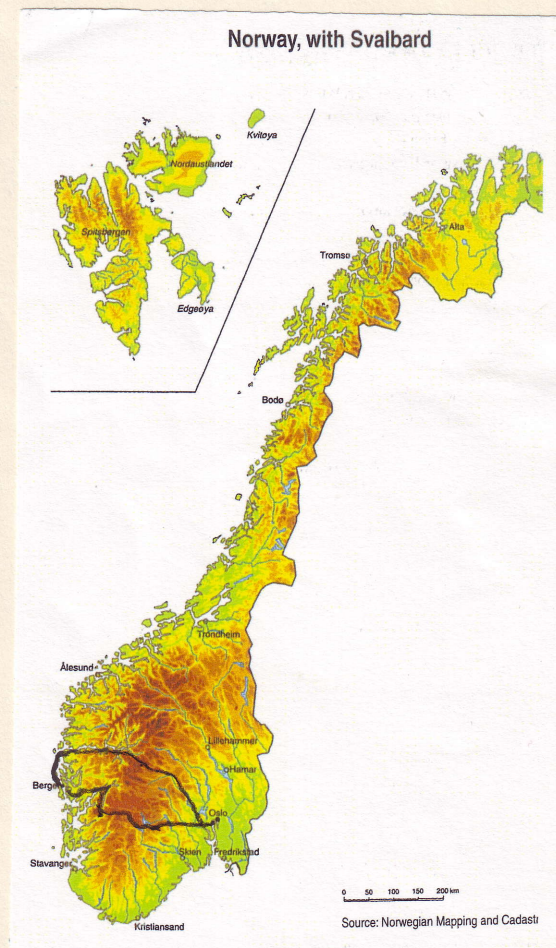




the new opera house in Oslo
at 9pm on Midsommer night

heading home





NORWAY FACTS

Population of the country: 5 million
 Population of Oslo: 580,000. 25% are immigrants
 Population of Bergen: 250,000

Most popular names given to babies:
 Girls: Linnea, Emma, Sara, Thea
 Boys: Lukas, Mathias, Markus, Emil

Population of Telemark county: 170,000
 Longest & deepest fjord: Sognefjord
 Largest glacier: Jostedalbreen

Royal House: King Harald V, Queen Sonja
 Crown Prince Håkon, Crown Princess Mette-Marit,
 Princess Ingrid Alexandra, Prince Sverre Magnus

STAVE CHURCHES IN NORWAY

Traveling Norwegians must from early times have seen both wooden and stone churches abroad, which were of various sizes and constructions. Craftsmen, who accompanied long expeditions to maintain the boats and to erect storage buildings and houses at their destinations, may have worked on local construction teams and learned foreign practices. Features of foreign building practice may therefore have been current around Norway long before the attempt to convert the country to Christianity.

During the Christianization period in Norway, wooden churches and chapels were built. Traces have been found of over 30 of what are presumed to have been churches or chapels with a corner post structure. From the end of the 11th century, stone churches were also built, and more than 150 stone churches out of perhaps 300 in total have been preserved. But in Norway more churches were built of wood than of stone. Out of perhaps over a thousand originally, 28 stave churches have been preserved.

It is not known from how many alternative designs the builders were able to choose, when building the early Norwegian wooden churches. The type that has so far been uncovered by archaeological excavation consists of buildings with posts dug into the earth. Posts are the vertical, roof-bearing timbers that were placed in excavated post holes. Staves are the vertical, load-bearing timbers in the building. The frame of a stave church wall consists of a sill, staves and a top sill, and these have grooves to receive the wall planks. Many had no windows, relying instead on a small circular opening, placed high on the wall, for light and ventilation. As far as we know, the wooden churches of Norway from medieval times are a complicated mixture of different European and Middle Eastern traditions, together with the older local building practices of Norway.

In general there was a churchyard around the parish church, of a suitable size for the requirements of the congregation. New churches may often have been located at the same place as the older church buildings, as this minimized the disturbance to earlier graves. If the churchyard was also new, it was ideally blessed at the same time as the consecration of the church. The bishop's consecration of the building and blessing of the surrounding area must have been seen as creating a sanctuary, in principle confirmed and guaranteed by the king.

Tusen Takk for turen.
Det var greitt.

og

Gratulere med dagen!

Love.

Mary Ann



Byggland 21.05.09

Dear Mary Asm.

Thank you for your letter.
It was very interesting. I
know about your great grand-
mother Sigrid Ra. Drangstveit
from the "Atle saga".

I am glad you will come to
Morgedal and see the place
where she was born. Of course
you are very welcome to
my farm Byggland for a cup
of Coffee or Tea.

Thank you for your invitation
for dinner. I don't think that
Norunn is able to come because
of her job and 4 children. They
live a long way from here.

May be my daughter Nina can
be here. I hope so.

If I can help you with
anything, please tell me.

Yours truly
Bridie.