



A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society

Reality TV show looking for a few good Norwegians

If you have some Norwegian ancestry but have never been to Norway, here's your chance.

"The Great Norway Adventure," a Scandinavian-accented reality TV series planned for next year, promises to blend elements of "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race" – and probably all the pickled herring and goat cheese you'd ever want.

Producers of Norway's

version of "American Idol" and other shows say they're looking for "fun, outgoing Americans with Norwegian ancestry" – honestly, those are their words – to go to Norway and "compete in extreme cultural challenges" for a prize of \$50,000.

In addition to having some Norwegian roots – "even a little bit counts" – participants must be between 18 and 60 years old and can't have traveled to Norway before.

They probably want to capture first reactions to mountains, gammelost (literally, old cheese) or the bill for dinner with drinks.

"It's sort of like 'The Amazing Race' with a 'fish out of water' hook," said Ingvild Daae, of the sponsoring Norwegian production company, Monster Entertainment.

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Archaic and Unfamiliar Terminology

You have received your great-grandfather John's death certificate. The certificate tells you he died of "phlegmonous erysipelas." In reading your Grand-aunt Martha's diary you learn that her sister was afflicted with "ablepsy" and that your Uncle Alfred suffered from "dropsy."

In the diary you also read that John worked as a "dyker" in his native Scotland. Martha's husband was a "cordwainer" and Uncle Alfred was working as a "huckster."

Genealogists frequently encounter archaic, foreign, regional, or merely unfamiliar terminology for causes of death and illnesses, as well as for our ancestors' occupations.

Illnesses, Diseases, And Other Archaic Medical Terminology

The following websites are among many I've used over the years to learn the meanings of terms no longer in common use or with which I wasn't familiar:

<http://rmhh.co.uk/illness.html>
(Illnesses.)

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~billinh/disease.htm>
(Diseases.)

<http://www.neonatology.org/classics/old.terms.html>
(Terms concerning neonatology.)

<http://www.antiquusmorbus.com/Index.htm> (Archaic medical terms.)

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Using a Census

The United States began taking a census every ten years starting in 1790. Pre-1850 censuses included only the head of household by name; others were indicated by a tally mark.

From 1790 through 1820 the censuses were kept locally and are not available for some states. In 1830 an official census schedule was used for the first time and the records were maintained on the federal level.

Their original purpose was for demographics and "apportioning representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, as set forth in the U.S. Constitution."

Questions changed from decade to decade. Some items were dropped and others manipulated to unearth new details

Early on, newlyweds were the only ones whose length of marriage was recorded, and the only year the month of marriage was asked was

1870. By 1880, divorces, widowhood, and single status were included.

From 1900–1910, the number of years a couple had been married was enumerated, but in 1920 this was eliminated.

Strangely, in 1930, the enumerator determined the age when a person had first married.

That's quite a different issue, and it didn't matter if one was on a second or third marriage—the enumerator just recorded the age at first marriage.

So what was the point? From a demographic standpoint, as more women worked or attended college, they were less likely to marry high school sweethearts!

The enumerator instructions for the 1910 census told the enumerators to write "M2" for a "second or subsequent marriage," so that even a third or fourth marriage might be labeled "M2."

Fortunately for genealogists, the

enumerators often ignored this instruction. There are numerous instances of individuals designated as "M3" in that column and even one person with an "M5."

Over the decades, questions were expanded from place of birth to information about parents and native languages.

In addition, census records often report addresses, literacy, occupations, and property values. Each decade was different, so do your research carefully.

RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees - Lesson Number 9, details the index system, official dates of enumeration, and pitfalls in interpreting and locating data.

It can be found at: <http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson9.htm>

This site contains links to sites you might find helpful.

This article contains excerpts from articles previously published in *RootsWeb Review*:

10 September 2008, Vol. 11, No. 19

8 October 2008, Vol. 11, No. 20

12 November 2008, Vol. 11, No. 21

10 December 2008, Vol. 11, No. 22

It's Time to Renew Your Members

It's that time of the year again. A time to make resolutions, finish old business and start new projects.

It's also time to renew your membership in the Norman County Genealogy Society.

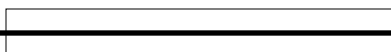
Our membership dues have not changed in many years, so belonging is still a bargain in this time of economic inflation.

Annual Dues are \$10.00 for a family membership (local) and \$5.00 for an associate

membership (out of area.)

Dues should be sent to our Treasurer:

Ardis Horn
100 1st Street East
Ada, MN 56510



Reality TV Show . . . continued from Front Page

"It won't be mean-spirited," Joan O'Connor, of the Chicago company promoting the series, said in a telephone interview.

"Most Americans don't know that much about Norway, so you'll be in a strange environment doing foreign things."

She said she "couldn't guess" what sorts of "extreme cultural challenges" might be involved, though she didn't specifically rule out midnight ski-jumping or trying to bring extra bottles of duty-free wine through Danish or Swedish customs.

"The food is different,"

O'Connor offered, though she acknowledged not attending any Sons of Norway smorgasbords.

"I'm Irish," she said.

The company is casting for the show nationwide, but with a special push – surprise – in North Dakota, Minnesota and other states with large numbers of Norwegian-Americans.

The deadline to submit an application to audition for the series is January 25, 2009.

Applications may be downloaded at www.oconnorcasting.tv/Norway.

Lykke til. (Good luck.)

*By Chuck Haga,
Grand Forks Herald
Published Monday,
December 22, 2008*

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Archaic and Unfamiliar Terminology continued from Front Page

Disasters—Natural And Manmade

Sometimes the factors involved in ancestral deaths could indicate that family members died as the result of a disaster. Disasters should be considered when multiple family members died at exactly the same time. A disaster could be an earthquake, flood, fire, shipwreck, mining accident, train wreck, etc. <http://www.cyndislist.com/disasters.htm> (Disasters.)

Epidemics

Deaths of more than one

person over a short time period (but not necessarily on the same day), especially when children are involved, might indicate an epidemic caused by the flu, typhoid, yellow fever, or any other contagious disease. <http://www.cyndislist.com/disasters.htm#Epidemics> (Epidemics.)

Obsolete And Unfamiliar Occupational Terms

Unfamiliar occupational terms and obsolete occupational terminology often varies from country to country or even from

region to region within a country.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiaslan/occupations.html> (American.)

<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/occupations.shtml> (Medieval English and early New World.)

<http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html> (United Kingdom.)

<http://www.worldroots.com/~brigitte/occupat.htm> (German occupations and illnesses.)

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Attach Address Label Here

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rootsweb.com/~mnnorman

About Our Organization...

The Norman County Genealogy Society was formed on February 27, 1997 in Ada, MN for the purpose of assisting persons interested in researching family histories and sharing information.

Charter members of the society were Roland Carpenter, Iris Duklet, Colleen Goltz, Ardis Horn, Sharon Larson, Roger Niebeling, Gladys Prussia, Ronald Rasmusson, Christine Roesch, Ronald Roesch, DeFloren Rude, Edna Rude and Kathleen Skaurud.

A few resources available include:

- Obituaries taken from area newspapers.
- Cemetery records
- Marriage records
- Death records from 1871 to 1981
- Census records
- Civil War Veterans
- 1883 Pensioners on the Roll
- Churches and Towns

Much of this information is posted on our website.

The Society meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Summerfield Apartments Meeting Room or Norman County Museum (summer months only), Ada, MN.

Annual Dues are \$10.00 for a family membership (local) and \$5.00 for an associate membership (out of area.) Dues should be sent to the Treasurer:

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