



LÖGBERG HEIMSKRINGLA

The Icelandic Community Newspaper • 1 August 2013 • Number 15 / Númer 15 • 1. ágúst 2013

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40012014

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INL OF NA CALENDAR PHOTO BY MATS WIBE LUND

Calendar, movie, common theme

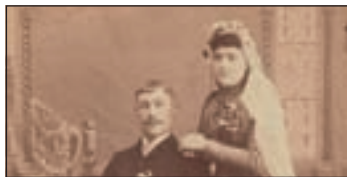
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PHOTO: SHIRLEY J. OLGEIRSON

August the Deuce

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF INIBORG SIGURDSON PHINNEY

Hafstein and Ingibörg

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2013 Festivals



Hecla

Mountain

Iceland



Gimli

Mountain

HECLA The parade is the highlight of the Hecla August 2 celebrations. Or, perhaps, in Hecla, the planning and the preparing of the floats, and keeping the subject of finished entries a secret until parade time might be the most fun. Families make their own floats, and, in Hecla, all entries are considered equal. There are no prizes. PHOTO COURTESY OF MAXINE INGALLS

VIKING FESTIVAL IN ICELAND Master carver Jón Adolf Steinólfsson (pictured at right with Bernharður Filip Bernharð) is living proof that Vikings were fine craftsmen as well as fine fighters. Jón demonstrated his talents during the Reykjavík Viking Festival. While the craftsmanship is authentic, the demonstrations of strength and skill just might not be as serious as they were in the days of the sagas. PHOTO: ROMAN GERASYMENKO PHOTOGRAPHY © (IMAGE COPYRIGHTED AND MAY NOT TO BE DOWNLOADED, SHARED OR REPRODUCED)

FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA IN GIMLI Where there be Vikings, there be fighting. At least that's how the rest of the world understands the Viking world. However, at the Gimli Viking Village where Viking reenactors are celebrating their 10th anniversary of encampment during the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Íslendingadagurinn, Vikings can also be found cooking, weaving, repairing equipment, entertaining their children, talking to visitors, or out sailing in their square-sailed ship. PHOTOS: LINDA GOODMAN © (IMAGES ARE COPYRIGHTED AND ARE NOT TO BE DOWNLOADED, SHARED OR REPRODUCED)

MOUNTAIN Music is a traditional part of any August 2 celebration, and a major part of that tradition is the performances by visiting troupes from Iceland. The Vefarinn Dance Group, *Dansfélagið Vefarinn* from Akureyri entertained in Mountain, ND at The Deuce of August. Mountain and The Deuce is the official site of the North Dakota State Tractor and Pickup Pulling Contest, but this tractor, driven by David Hillman pulls a wagon with members of the INL of NA in the Mountain parade. PHOTOS: SHIRLEY J OLGEIRSON.

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Kate Einarson winner of the People's Choice Award for her three-minute thesis



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATE EINARSON

Kate Einarson, shown above during her award-winning thesis presentation

Katherine Cheater
Winnipeg, MB

The bulletin on McMaster University website read, "The people have spoken! The winner of the first-ever People's Choice Award for 3MT is Kate Einarson, whose three-minute thesis, *Finding the Beat in Music: The Role of Culture, Cognitive Abilities and Motor Skills*, struck a note with online viewers." Kate is a PhD candidate in the Department of Psychology,

Neuroscience and Behaviour at McMaster University. The day after this announcement, my interview with Kate revealed an atmosphere of supreme enthusiasm in her research group, which supports three dynamic labs.

While I reviewed Kate's current work in the separate labs of neuroscience and behaviour, I also stepped carefully over and around work being done on a facility unlike any other on the planet, initiated and brought to fruition

by Kate's thesis advisor, award-winning professor Dr. Laurel Trainor. Called the LIVE Lab, and dedicated to the scientific study of music, this 96-seat interactive concert venue will have 30 seats fitted with scientific instruments capable of measuring every physical response and brain response in stage performers and audience alike. A 21st-century Yamaha version of the player piano, designed to measure timing, weight and sequence of every key-strike, will sit onstage. Imagining possible research outcomes provides a glimpse of the wild excitement both defining and surrounding this department.

While much anecdotal evidence exists for the relationship between music education and higher degrees of functioning, Kate emphasizes that this relationship is not yet well understood. She is therefore interested in measuring how musical knowledge relates to others skills, "not necessarily to produce a math genius or to win a Nobel Prize, but to understand the relationship between music

and cognitive, emotional, motor, and social skills." To begin, she tests infants and children with no musical training and then compares them to other groups, like children with musical training, children with developmental delays, or children of different ages. Her investigation involves basic questions around auditory processing, that is, how good are subjects at "finding the beat".

As for applying her work to deficits in cognitive, emotional, and social skills, Kate acknowledges that until standards for *typical* development are established, it cannot be decided whose skills are *atypical*. To this end, she appreciates the "huge array of people involved in every branch of our research", because the McMaster Institute for Music and the Mind has collaborators at universities all over Canada in departments of Engineering, Kinesiology and Music Therapy. In this vein, Kate cites a study recently completed by her research group that measured the comparative effect of active or passive

music exposure on infants over a period of six months. "Active listening involved a parent clapping, moving, or singing while holding an infant and making music. Passive listening involved a parent playing with the infant while listening to recorded music. Interestingly, participation in active music-making led to increased communicative behaviour in infants: more gesturing, pointing, smiling, laughing, vocalization; and more attentiveness to the tonal centre of the music."

Kate delights in communicating such research findings to many various community groups in the Hamilton area and beyond. She has recently made presentations to music teachers, parent groups, and classes of university undergraduate and graduate students. To watch her award-winning 3MT talk, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=87ES37yTWjo

What's next? Within a year or so, Kate will defend her doctoral thesis, at which point she will begin a post-doctoral research fellowship...unless she finds a job, "working with children, teaching, and communicating about research", that can satisfy her heart's desire.

Born in Brandon, Manitoba, Kate spent most of her childhood in Selkirk. After graduating with Distinction in linguistics and psychology from the University of Manitoba she began pursuing a PhD in developmental psychology and music cognition at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. She has also been a music instructor and continues to teach violin, piano, and early childhood music while working on her doctorate.

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INL of NA Executive meeting highlights

Compiled by Rob Olason
Bellingham, WA

At the Seattle convention, participants agreed that INL executive meeting highlights should be provided to *L-H* and other outlets as a way to keep the membership informed about activities, programs, events and future plans. This information can be shared freely via newsletter, email, discussion, or on Club websites.

2014 INL of NA Convention in Winnipeg

The INL of NA 2014 Winnipeg Convention Update: The planning committee is laying the convention groundwork, establishing work groups and developing fund-raising events. The groups will get very busy in the fall, applying final touches to the convention plans.

Exploring On-Line Convention Registration

On-line convention registration is being explored for future INL of NA conventions. A recommendation will be made at the September INL of NA meeting. The Winnipeg convention may be the first to take advantage of this new registration process.

Snorri West Update

Snorri West 2013 is about to launch. Four participants in this summer's program, briefed in Iceland prior to departure, will explore the settlement communities in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and North Dakota. Their visit will also include a stop at the Calgary Stampede. Plans for future Snorri West visits are being developed with the 2014 visit focusing on an eastern continental corridor and the 2015 tour aiming for a western continental corridor.

Enhancing INL of NA Communications

Work has begun to develop a program for enhancing INL of NA communications with local clubs and media. A committee will offer specific proposals for the September meeting.

International Visits Program

The International Visits Program brings Icelandic speakers to North American clubs and North American speakers to Iceland to share cultural, artistic and historical presentations. Program organizers are currently looking for candidates to share their expertise in a lecture tour to Iceland.

Hecla Parade planned for optimum fun



Hecla parade entries are kept secret until The Day

PHOTO: MAXINE INGALLS

Maxine Ingalls
Hecla, MB

Each August long weekend on Sunday afternoon at one p.m., there is an annual Parade held in the Hecla Village on Hecla Island. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate whether with a float, decorated lawn tractor, or bicycle. It is great fun for families to get together and be creative. We all try to keep the secret of the float until the day of the parade. No prizes are awarded, as we want everyone to feel that their effort is as deserving as the entries from those who may be more inventive or creative. This is to encourage community participation. Other activities are held in and around the Village during that day.

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Fjallkona or Fiskikona



TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF MAXINE INGALLS
PHOTO (R): KENDRA JÓNASSON

Maxine Ingalls
Hecla, MB

The *Fjallkona* has been an honoured position in Canada since 1924. She is the symbolic representative of Mother Iceland and her children being those of Icelandic descent. BUT a mother looks after the needs of her children so her responsibilities include cooking, cleaning and keeping her family well fed. So don't be surprised when you see that the *Fjallkona* is just as ordinary as anyone else once she takes off the regal attire. You never know what you may find at Hecla when you come to visit Maxine – she could be making *kleinur* for the Fishermen's service, *pönnukökur* for the afternoon or doing up pickerel cheeks during the fishing season. It's all in a day's work.

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Reflections Rites, rituals, traditions – why do we celebrate?



Joan Eyolfson Cadham
Editor

“Unlike indigenous cultures, in the western world we have forgotten many of our traditions, ceremonies and celebrations.” That’s Tom Volkar, from his website. Volkar is a Life Coach and his focus is business, but on the cusp of August 2, his words take on new meaning.

Íslendingadagurinn. The Deuce of August. Smaller, less-reported gatherings. Or, for that matter, in communities where other events have assumed greater importance, *þorablót*, *Sumardagurinn fyrsti*, June 17. A group of Icelanders in Yukon gather for the June solstice. The members of the Bertdale Recreational Co-operative Association organize an end-of-school picnic retaining the elements of the

first one, held at the end of the 1908-09 school year at the one-roomed school that served the Icelandic community of Foam Lake.

So what are we doing, and, more to the point, why do we gather? It’s not easy to find a concrete answer, but, on his Internet site, Todd Van Beck says, “It appears these time-honoured behaviours and activities have four significant common ingredients ... meaning, message, group support and total involvement.”

We’re looking for meaning in our every day lives. Ask most adult adoptees, including my sources, the ones in my extended family. They love their adoptive parents, they feel cherished and will talk about what a great life they’ve had, but there’s also a lingering question best described by a 40-year old adopted nephew who said, quietly, “But who am I, really?” His adoptive mother was Icelandic, his father Scottish, but, he said, they didn’t celebrate history or heritage. So, maybe he never experienced the stories.

Our identity is buried in the stories. And stories are best told through music,

dance, displays, oral tellings, not through lectures or history texts. By doing, being, seeing, we find the meaning and the message behind and beyond the activity.

We are our history. Not just our family history but our collective ethnic history. However, just knowing the history doesn’t satisfy. We can get the facts from Google. We need to absorb the symbolism of our celebratory ritual acts. Maybe that’s why, when speaking to the Vatnabyggð *þorablót* crowd, Jón Órn Jónsson, Saskatchewan’s Honourary Consul of Iceland, always makes reference to *þorablót* food as a reminder of our ancestral history, that the *þorablót* crowd eats the traditional foods not so much for taste as for a connection to their starving relatives who were willing to take a chance in a strange new world, and to their innate strength and resilience. In short, this is who we are.

But Abraham Joshua Heschel (January 11, 1907 – December 23, 1972) a Polish-born American rabbi author of *The Wisdom of Heschel*) has a warning for us all:

“People of our time are

losing the power of celebration. Instead of celebrating we seek to be amused or entertained. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation. To be entertained is a passive state – it is to receive pleasure afforded by an amusing act or a spectacle... Celebration is a confrontation, giving attention to the transcendent meaning of one’s actions.”

On national holidays, do we join the local party, eat the hotdogs, sing the patriotic songs, close enough to the stories to feel and absorb them? Or do we elect to watch the gala performances televised from the nation’s capital? Are we stirred more by watching a minor fireworks display at the neighbourhood park, or the national one on television? For celebration to work for us, we need to take an active part. How to do that is the challenge that each one of us faces if, wanting more than the transitory delights offered by being a spectator, we burn with the real human need to transcend the moment and to reach for the pure sense of connectivity, of oneness, with the generations who came before us.

Letters to the Editor

Please send your letters to: editorialcommittee@lh-inc.ca

Need readers' help

Local First Nations named a unique location near Berens River “White Men’s Writing on the Rock”. There is reference in an October 10, 1956 letter from Evald Hansen of Berens River to Professor Hjalmar Holand in Wisconsin. Hjalmar had been studying Norse Exploration into the interior of North America several centuries before Columbus arrived. Evald described hole stones that he thought he had discovered near his home and wanted Hjalmar’s opinion. Evald also mentioned the “writing” that had been discovered at “Leif’s” River Point, subsequently also known as “Leaf’s” River Point. We determined:

A) There are hole stones

in the area of Berens River, some now under water, which may be similar to others found further south in the Dakotas. B) Rock “writing” near Berens River is not considered by local First Nations to be of the type traditionally left by their ancestors. C) As recently as 2012, an unidentified group of individuals from Europe attempted to find and document the “writing” but water levels prevented them from being successful. D) The “writing” is carved into the rock, not “painted” as is most other ancient rock art in the area. Carved writing normally requires iron tools, depending on the rock involved. The east side of Lake Winnipeg is Precambrian Shield, hard, dense rock.

Our Fara Heim: Lake

Winnipeg Expedition 2013 answered many questions, but asked many more.

WHO carved “White Men’s Writing on the Rock”? WHEN? WHY? WHAT historically does it mean?

Can you help? If you have any information, please contact us. We will respect any requests for privacy. Our website is www.faraheim.com. We are also on Facebook.

Johann Sigurdson
Fara Heim

Column evokes memories

Dear editor,

I’ve had a couple of nice comments on the L’Anse aux Meadows story (July 1 issue). Thank you.

Love the Jellied Salad editorial. Gzowski was so amazing to listen to. I miss his interviews. I’m sure he would have appreciated your comments.

Best of summer to everyone,
Arden Jackson
Caledon, ON

Tickets for charity raffle

Dear Editor:

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE wants to remind Festival goers that they are selling Charity Raffle tickets to support the purchase of a child’s adaptive bicycle. Tickets will be available for sale at the IODE booth in the Gimli Park Pavilion at Íslendingadagurinn on Sunday August 4 and Monday August 5. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Beautiful handcrafted Icelandic doll 17”. Licence #MGCC 5577 RF.

Karen Botting
Winnipeg, MB

Letter to the Editor

The Editorial committee regrets that an article in the July 15th issue of the *L-H* on page one listed an incorrect number of 3000 instead of 6000 for the number of permanent residents residing in Gimli. We incorrectly referred to Íslendingadagurinn as the Gimli Festival rather than using the appropriate phrase the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba.

And on page 8: Four-legged walkers at Kvennahlaup should read: Margaret Kernested and Marlene Forbes (Not Christine Dann) have organized the event since they started it in Gimli.

Elva Jónasson
Winnipeg, MB

L-H DEADLINES	
EDITORIAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR SEPTEMBER 1, ISSUE 17 Monday, August 12	EDITORIAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR SEPTEMBER 15, ISSUE 18 Monday, August 26
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LÖGBERG-HEIMSKRINGLA

Published 24 times a year by
Lögberg-Heimskringla, Incorporated
Heimskringla stofnað 9. september 1886
Lögberg stofnað 14. janúar 1888
Sameinuð 1959

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PRINTING: The Winnipeg Sun
Commercial Print Division
PM No. 40012014

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The L-H gratefully acknowledges
the financial support of the Government of
Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of
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L-H gratefully acknowledges the generous
support of the Government of Iceland.
Archived issues spanning 1886-2005
may be viewed at www.timarit.is



OP-ED

Origins

Judy Halldorson
Winnipeg, MB

"Komdu hérna elskan mín."

My grandmother used to say this to me when I was a child. It means, "Come here my darling." She speaks to me softly and I strain to hear her gentle Icelandic voice. "Louder," I cry, but I can only hear her murmur. Then my memories shift and I hear my father's voice. He tells one of his dirty jokes, in Icelandic, to my aunt. Each would have a cigarette while loudly guffawing and slapping their thighs with the humour of the joke. They would laugh mischievously like this and she would say, "Fred! The child is here!" But I never understood the Icelandic language so I could only look on with innocence and wonder what was so amusing.

As a young woman, I visited Iceland and it spoke to me in ways that speak to me now. I feel my Icelandic ancestors with me even if I cannot see or hear them. All I have to do is close my eyes.

I see morning dew on the beautiful green moss lying off the path. It glistens with droplets of water that shimmer

and shine with softness as the sun beats down upon it. The pathway's edge is only inches away and I fiercely hug the side of the mountain, lest I trip and fall. Can you hear the waterfall? Can you feel the mist on your arms and face? Dettifóss is close and it roars so loudly you cannot hear yourself think. It is just beyond the tiny trail and I wonder if my ancestors thought this was beautiful, too.

Did they look at the rock-shaped animals in the ocean with awe? Did they walk on the beach near Vík and wonder why the sand was black? Long crooked lines emerge from the base of a mountain for as far as the eye can see. It's as if Thór himself had scratched the road indentations with his fingernails. Did they know their trek was on a road shaped by lava a millennia before? Perhaps worrying about gods causing famine was enough wonder for them.

But where did my origins begin?

Halldóra Arnórsdóttir was born in 980 A.D. and is

the first recorded line of my ancestors. Icelanders kept very good journals. Her father's first name was Arnórs and they added 'dóttir' because she was his daughter. Halldóra lived in a house built with dirt and hay and was partially underground. The family of Halldóra were either farmers or fishermen. My ancestral line continued in Iceland until my grandfather, Jón Halldórsson was born in 1884, 900 years after Halldóra. Jón and his new wife, Lilja, moved from Iceland to Canada in 1914. They settled in Winnipeg where they had many children of their own.

My father's name was Frederick and had my grandfather kept the Icelandic

tradition, Fred's last name would have been Jónsson. If the tradition had continued, my last name and my sister's last name would have been Fredericksdóttir. My brother's last name would have been Fredericksen. But upon arrival in Canada, my grandfather adopted the newer version of Halldorson. The second 's' was dropped and the Icelandic tradition all but forgotten.

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba is celebrated every first weekend in August in Gimli. It is called Íslendingadagurinn. It means "The Day of The Icelanders". When I was younger I used to go to this festival but stopped when I began a life of my own.

I find that the pull for Nordic culture is not as strong as it once was but I would still like to make my Icelandic connections dance in my memories once more.

I may visit Iceland only in my dreams but that is where the glossy morning dew on a bright green colored leaf exists. That is where the animal-shaped statues live in the oceans of my imaginings. That is where my heart lies, in Iceland. When I return to Iceland like this, I am not a tourist. Iceland captivated me then and its images stay with me still. My origins, at least half of them, began there. All I have to do is close my eyes and dream.

"Komdu hérna elskan mín."

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The completed applications are forwarded to:

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The Heiðmar Björnson Memorial Scholarship

In the amount of \$500, will be given annually to the student obtaining the highest academic standing in Icelandic Studies in his/her final year at the University of Manitoba. The award will be made by the Department Head.

The Margaret Breckman Mack Scholarship Award

In the amount of \$500, will be given annually to a needy student of good scholastic ability who is enrolled in the University of Manitoba bachelor of Science Nursing Degree Program.

The Canada Iceland Foundation Scholarship

One scholarship of \$500, to be awarded annually. Award to be determined by academic standing and leadership qualities. To be offered to a university student studying towards a degree in any Canadian university.

Einar Páll & Ingibjörg Jónsson Memorial Scholarship

One scholarship of \$500, to be awarded annually. Award to be determined by academic standing and leadership qualities. To be offered to a high school graduate proceeding to a Canadian university or the University of Iceland.

Emilia Pálmason Student Aid Award

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One scholarship of \$500, to be awarded annually. This annual scholarship will be awarded to a student in university or proceeding into a university in Canada or the United States. The recipient must demonstrate financial need and high scholastic ability.

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One scholarship of \$500, to be awarded annually. This

scholarship is to be awarded to a student demonstrating financial need and who qualifies to proceed to university education and a degree.

The Kristin Stefanson Memorial Scholarship

One scholarship of \$500 to be awarded to a student who is registered or will be registering to take a course offered by The Department of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba. Preference may be given to students who have not previously taken a course offered by that Department.

The Lorna and Terry Tergesen Scholarship

One scholarship of \$500 to be awarded to a student entering the second or a later year of study of architecture, fine arts, design or graphic design, music, dance or voice.

The Walter and Beulah Arason Scholarship

One scholarship of \$500 to be awarded annually to a student of good academic standing entering the University of Alberta or continuing their education there.

The Margrét Bjarnason Scholarships

Scholarships of \$500 each for students pursuing a post secondary education, who graduated from a high school in Evergreen School Division in Manitoba and who demonstrate scholastic ability.

The Judge Walter J. Lindal Memorial Scholarship

For 2013 only, two scholarships of \$1000 to be awarded in memory of Judge Walter J. Lindal, to a student demonstrating scholastic ability and proceeding to or attending university with a view to studying law or international relations.

The David Franklin, Ad. E. Scholarship

A scholarship of \$500 to be awarded to a student who has demonstrated financial need, academic achievement, strong leadership and community involvement, who will be attending a university in Canada or Iceland to study law or international relations. This scholarship is donated by David Franklin, Ad. E. to mark his ten years as Honorary Icelandic Consul in Montreal.

The Benson Sisters Memorial Scholarship


A \$500 scholarship in memory of Olga Rowlin, Laufey Smith and Kristin Arnason, to be awarded to a student pursuing post-secondary education. Preference may be given to a student with financial need and/or who has a mental or physical disability.

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HCSCC receives national award for Hjemkomst Sagas exhibit

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County received a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for the exhibit *Hjemkomst Sagas: One Dream, A Viking Ship, Many Stories*. This award is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history by the association. This year, AASLH presented 88 national awards honouring people, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations.

“The Leadership in History

Awards is AASLH’s highest distinction and the winners represent the best in the field,” said Terry Davis, AASLH President and CEO. “This year, we are pleased to distinguish each recipient’s commitment and innovation to the interpretation of history, as well as their leadership for the future of state and local history.”

The exhibit, *Hjemkomst Sagas: One Dream, A Viking Ship, Many Stories* was produced by the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County and curated by Claudia Pratt with assistant Amanda Nordick. The exhibit brought

a fresh perspective about the *Hjemkomst* expedition and told the unknown stories behind the legend. Created in honor of the 30th Anniversary of the expedition, the exhibit was on display at the Hjemkomst Center from July 2012 to January 2013. “We were so pleased to receive word of the award as the whole team was proud of the tremendous effort it took to put the exhibit together,” said Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason, executive director of HCSCC.

The Leadership in History Awards Program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of

excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout America. Each nomination is peer-reviewed by AASLH’s state captains. Final awards are decided by the Awards Committee, comprised of AASLH’s 14 regional representatives and the National Awards Chair.

Presentation of the awards will be made at a special banquet during the 2013 AASLH Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, on Friday, September 20. The banquet is supported by a generous contribution from the History Channel.

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County collects,

preserves, interprets, and shares the history and culture of Clay County, Minnesota. HCSCC also provides interpretation of the Hjemkomst Viking Ship, Hopperstad Stave Church Replica, and hosts travelling exhibits in 7,000 square feet of temporary exhibition space. The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, located in the Hjemkomst Center, 202 First Avenue North in Moorhead, is a community resource for 210,000 people in the Fargo-Moorhead metro area and serves an average of 30,000 visitors a year from all over the world.

From the NCSCC news release, used with permission

NEW ICELAND HERITAGE Museum

Saturday - Aug. 3 & Monday - Aug. 5

~Thunder Road~

Readings & signings by Manitoba author: Chadwick Ginther at 12 & 2 pm.
A novel about a modern oil patch worker who gets drawn into the world of Viking Mythology by Surtur the Fire Giant.

Aug. 4, Sunday at 12pm & 2 pm

~Viking Arms & Armour~

Viking reenactor: Þorfinn Veturlíði will share the secrets of Viking arms & armour! Workshop fee of \$10.00 per person includes: Chain Maille instructions & supplies to make your own piece, admission to the museum and a light viking snack. For ages 12 and up. Limit of 12 participants.

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Friendly Viking invasion slated for Seattle



Vikings are set to invade Seattle at the 30th annual Viking Days on Saturday, August 17, and Sunday, August 18. The free admission event at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard will feature Nordic entertainment, food, activities, and lots of Vikings.

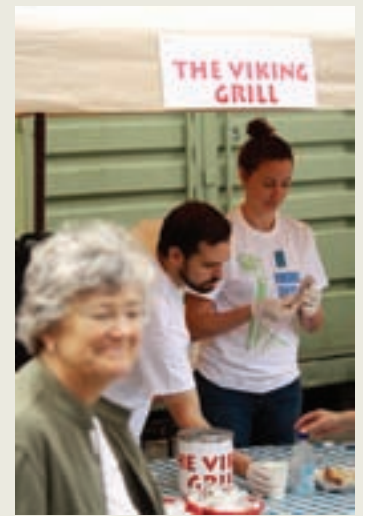
One of the most exciting elements of the weekend is the Viking Encampment, where event-goers will see what a day in the life of a Viking was really like from demonstrations in cooking, weaving, and wood carving to interactive games – and even battle.

Throughout the festival, delicacies from each of the five Nordic countries will be available for purchase, including Swedish meatballs, Norwegian *lefse*, Danish *aebleskiver*, Finnish *voileipä* (open-faced sandwiches), and Icelandic sweets like *vínarterta*, a delicious layer cake. In addition, the outdoor Valhalla Beer Garden will offer grilled sausages as well as beer from Carlsberg and Odin Brewing Company.

Music will be a highlight of the entire festival, with dozens of groups, ranging from traditional folk to rock, playing on multiple stages. In addition, local merchants will sell Nordic, local, and hand-crafted items. The family-friendly event will also include low-cost craft projects for kids and the Nordic Spirit ship will be set up for close inspection and photos.

Admission to both Viking Days and the Museum is free for all ages, and is a great chance to view the exhibition *Ørnulf Opdahl – Mood Paintings of the North* visiting from Norway through September 1.

Courtesy the Nordic Heritage Museum, used with permission



Florida Fritters



Fritters are deepfried delicacies or tidbits. The spelling is uncannily similar to the Icelandic word Fréttir. Thus you are getting news regarding Iceland from the Sunshine State and some tidbits too.

The Little Animal Planet

Thórir S. Gröndal
Florida

Icelanders consider themselves animal lovers. You may say that is all good and well, but why are they then still killing the whales? Their answer would likely be that the whales are a part of the natural resource of the ocean surrounding their island, from which they have lived through the ages. They claim that they carefully protect this resource and catch and hunt in a sustainable manner. They will also claim that they love and respect the whales just like they love the little lambs, born in the spring, grazing up in the mountains during summer, but have to be slaughtered in the autumn. Your reporter checks the *mbl.is*, the web production of *Morgunblaðið*, Iceland's largest and oldest newspaper, every morning. Very often you will see there pieces about different animals, but in one recent issue, the number of those stories was unusually large. He wants to share some of them with you:

A goose causes an accident

Early this morning there was a chain reaction accident on the main highway between Reykjavík and the International Airport in Keflavík. A driver braked for a goose that was crossing the road with her goslings. The next car rammed the first and so on and so on. Five cars were badly damaged and one person was taken to the hospital. The road was closed for three hours. The goose and her entourage crossed safely.

Eggert the pheasant

Yesterday a bird watcher reported spotting a rare bird in Eyjafjörður, in the North of Iceland. It turned out to be a pheasant, which is not native in Iceland, and bird lovers were delighted. But today it was found out that a man in Akureyri, Sigurvin Jónsson, was actually the owner of the bird. It had escaped from his enclosed yard, where he also keeps some hens and carrier pigeons. He claimed that the pheasant, which he had given a human's name, Eggert, had escaped once before. Unfortunately the elusive pheasant does not answer to his fancy name, and had to be captured with a net. Sigurvin and his sons are now on the hunt again for Eggert.

A bird's nest on a fuel tank

The Akureyri airline, Norðurflug, stores fuel inland for the company's helicopters, for when they need to take extended trips around the island. On Sunday, when one of their machines landed near Hótel Rangá to refuel, the pilot found a bird's nest on top of the fuel tank. One of Iceland's most beloved birds, Maríuerlan (White wagtail), had built a beautiful nest which already had five eggs in it. After conferring with headquarters and people at the hotel, a little birdhouse was hastily constructed, and the nest very carefully moved from the the fuel tank. The mother bird nervously observed this operation from a nearby tree, and when finished, the pilot and his helpers waited equally

nervously to see if she would accept their doings and return to her nest. After a short while she did, the pilot got to his fuel and shortly thereafter he took off in his helicopter and flew away.

The shooting exam

The fox is the only native wild animal in Iceland, but in the last century reindeer were transported from Norway and released in the eastern part of the island. They have fared pretty well, and each autumn hunters are allowed to shoot several hundred animals. This is highly regulated and the hunters issued licences to bag a set number of animals. Last year a new regulation took effect, whereby the applicants have to pass a shooting exam. They have to pass a test in shooting accuracy just like the detectives in Los Angeles. In the first year of the regulation 30% of the 1,229 hunters who had applied for hunting licences failed the exam. We guess this is good news for the prospective victims among the reindeer.

The eagles soar again

The Icelandic majestic eagle had almost completely disappeared a few decades ago. The main reasons for this were hunting and poison. But now the eagle is on its way back from near extinction. There are now around 70 pairs on the island, triple the number of 50 years ago. Scientists now follow the activities of the eagles carefully. This spring they recorded 47 nests with eggs, so they are hopeful that most of the eggs will hatch and thus increase the number of this largest bird in Iceland.



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Signý McInnis was born in Reykjavik, Iceland to Canadian parents and raised in the New Iceland community of Arborg, Manitoba. Moving to Canada at the age of one with her mother and sister, Signý first spoke Icelandic, then learned English when she went to school. She still speaks some Icelandic.

She grew up very involved in the Icelandic community. As a child, she attended Icelandic Camp near Gimli, checked the rocks to see if the *húldufólk* were making tea, got treats from the *Jólasveinar* at Christmas time, attended *þorablóts* and the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, and was a founding

member of the New Iceland Youth Choir.

With the choir, she sang for a number of Icelandic events. The choir also had the pleasure of singing for Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip in October, 2002, when when they walked at the Forks in Winnipeg. The choir eventually realized their dream of travelling to Iceland and took their repertoire of Icelandic songs to their ancestral land.

Signý has returned to Iceland a few times, most recently with the New Iceland Youth Choir in 2003. The choir toured the country, singing 14 concerts, both big and small, in 12 days. As the only

Icelandic-speaking member, Signý joined the director for several radio and television interviews.

Signý returned to Icelandic Camp in the summer of 2012 as the language instructor. She has become more involved in the local chapter of the Icelandic National League of North America and formed a small chat group for people who want to learn some Icelandic or practice what they already know.

Signý is a single mother living in her hometown in Manitoba's Interlake. She currently works as a tenant companion for the elderly and will attend the Health Care Aide program through Red River College this fall.

Two passions meet in writing for L-H

Julie Summers is a Northwest native whose Icelandic ancestors travelled from the Westfjords and the Eastfjords to North Dakota before settling in Washington State. She grew up in Battle Ground, Washington, just north of Portland, Oregon.

In 2010, Julie earned a bachelor's degree in English from Corban University in Salem, Oregon. Shortly after graduating, she moved to Lopez Island, Washington to serve as an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Lopez Island Family Resource Center. She built relationships with people of all ages in the community through her work, which included managing a fresh food bank; teaching after-school programs and summer

recreation classes; and tutoring elementary, middle, and high school students.

After her AmeriCorps term, Julie worked as an office assistant and staff writer for the Lopez Island Prevention Coalition, a non-profit seeking to prevent substance abuse. She also volunteered at the library and contributed articles to the local paper, the *Islands' Weekly*.

On New Year's Day 2012, Julie stumbled upon the Snorri Program website, just 10 days before the deadline to apply. A few months later, she visited Iceland for the first time, lived with relatives in Patreksfjörður, worked at a fish factory, and fell in love with the land, language,

and culture of her ancestors.

Since she returned from her Snorri trip, she has gotten involved in a number of Iceland-related volunteer positions,

acting as an admin for the *Lögberg-Heimskringla* and Hofsós Icelandic Emigration Center Facebook pages and also managing the *Lögberg-Heimskringla's* Twitter account.

She currently works as an office assistant in Disability Support Services at Clark

College in Vancouver, Washington. At home, she enjoys reading, playing the piano, and learning guitar.

Julie looks forward to combining two of her passions – Iceland and writing – and representing the greater Portland area as an Associate Editor.



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A calendar, a movie, and a common theme - volcanoes

Joan Eyolfson Cadham
Foam Lake, SK

In February, 2013, British filmmaker Theo Maximilian Goble was in Winnipeg for the Real to Reel Film Festival showing of his documentary, *Living with Lava*. By then, the INL of NA calendar team, headed by Dianne O'Konski of Minnesota, was well on the way to producing the 2014 calendar. Theme? Volcanoes. *Living with Lava* has been chosen as the next offering in the INL of NA Donald K. Johnson Icelandic Film Series.

How to explain it? Rob Olason of Bellingham, WA, who heads the film series committee, has a suggestion. "It's a fortuitous tie-in with the DKJ film series and the INLNA calendar," he said. "Perhaps this is a connection to our genetic sense that magma is never far from an Icelander's life."

The coincidences continue. Theo's idea for the film came during a first visit to Iceland with his wife. Their tour guide, standing on the edge of a cliff and looking out into the Atlantic, told them how he had stood there in 1973, watching an eruption on a small island. "I was seeing first hand how relaxed the Icelanders are about living so close to all of this. I turned to my wife and said, 'I have found my film'" said Theo.

Theo chose to focus on the eruptions of Eldfjall, Eyjafjallajökull and Katla, "giving me the past, the present and the future." The 1973 eruption of Eldfjall, is featured in the first segment of Theo's 86-minute film. It is also, by coincidence, January in the INL of NA calendar.

In designing the 2014 calendar, the committee called for individuals to "adopt" a volcano and to research it.

All the photos were supplied by Mats Wibe Lund. The comments from Christie Dalman, president of the Vatnabyggð club, who had adopted Eldfjall, backs up Theo's reaction to the Icelanders' relaxed attitude to living with lava. His cousins had just built a new house on Heimaey a few months before the eruption started. "They lost their house to the lava, but they returned and built their home on



the other side of the island."

Each calendar month introduces a volcano. The photography, as is typical with Mats, is breathtaking, and is visual proof that individual volcanoes leave vastly different footprints on the land. Each photo page features a brief essay - informative, tightly written, fact-filled and carefully placed so that it does not distract from the visual effects. And, yes, the descriptions include the Icelandic nod to the reality of elves and trolls, and the power of prayer to stop a lava flow.

Calendars can be obtained from INL of NA club

members or contact the INL of NA headquarters at inl@mymts.net

The schedule for the Donald K. Johnson Film Series tour has not yet been established but several locations have signed up. These include Winnipeg, Gimli, Fargo Moorehead, Mountain, Blaine, Toronto, Edmonton, Ottawa and Vatnabyggð.

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The Passing Parade THE ANCHOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN KRISTJANSON

The last remaining anchor

water from the South basin to the North basin and vice versa.

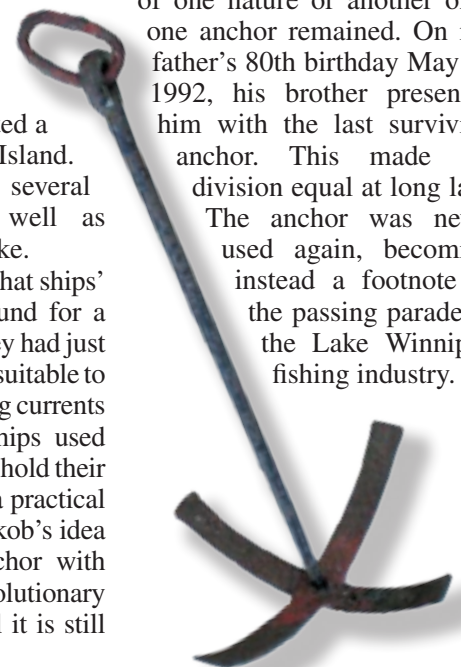
This movement, with its resulting currents, caused the early fishermen many problems in anchoring their nets. Sometimes the nets were lost, resulting in unnecessary expense in replacement costs. At this time, the basic method of anchoring the nets was to find a large boulder or stone. This could usually be found easily along the shore or in the fields. A rope was wrapped around the stone and it was loaded in the flat-bottomed skiff and moved to the position on the lake where the nets were to be set. A long rope was now tied to the rope on the stone and the other end was tied to the net, a very time-consuming and physical process. At the end of the fishing season the nets had to be taken ashore. Rather than trying to lift the anchor of the lake bottom, the rope was simply cut. Of course this meant leaving a long and expensive manila rope in the water. In order to eliminate this loss of expensive rope, a young fisherman by the name of Tryggvi Jonasson invented an anchor line cutter. This cutter could be submerged to the stone anchor at the bottom of the lake. One snip and the anchor rope was cut free.

The major problem of anchoring the nets with boulders was still there. A solution had to be found to cut the time involved in procuring then transporting the stone anchors. To this end, in 1929, two young brothers named Hannes and Ted Kristjanson, then 16 and 14 years old, assisted in a solution. They solicited the services of a local blacksmith named Jakob Sigurgeirson to make an anchor out of steel. This meant the anchor could be used, retrieved and used again. Jakob was up to the task. He was one of four sons of a Lutheran Minister from Iceland. The whole Sigurgeirson clan was inventive and industrious. In later years they operated a Lathe Mill on Hecla Island. They also operated several fishing stations as well as freight boats on the lake.

It should be noted that ships' anchors had been around for a long time. However they had just two hooks and were unsuitable to anchor nets as the strong currents would move them. Ships used heavy anchor chains to hold their anchors in place. Not a practical solution for fishing. Jakob's idea was to design an anchor with four hooks. This revolutionary idea was so successful it is still used to this day.

The Kristjanson Brothers entered into an agreement with Jakob to buy 22 anchors. The cost was to be \$2.00 an anchor, a large sum of money in those days. Jakob's work was very distinctive as he put an extra ring on each anchor shaft. The anchors were divided, 12 for Hannes as he was older and 10 for Ted. Why not divide them equally? Well, a fisherman will tell you that every net needs two anchors.

The anchors were used successfully by the brothers in their fish business for many years, then, through mishaps of one nature or another only one anchor remained. On my father's 80th birthday May 30 1992, his brother presented him with the last surviving anchor. This made the division equal at long last. The anchor was never used again, becoming instead a footnote to the passing parade of the Lake Winnipeg fishing industry.



Ken Kristjanson Winnipeg, MB

Since its birth 8000 years ago, Lake Winnipeg has been a great provider of freshwater fish. The early

Icelandic settlers took advantage of this fact and continue to fish the lake to this day. The lake's 9000 square feet of water is also known because of its hourglass design for a type of tide. This occurs when high winds move




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Davey Einarsson, industry innovator and Viking spirit

Judy Sólveig Richardson
Nanaimo, BC

Davey Einarsson, living in Houston, Texas, can think back on a career of innovation and excitement in the field of Geophysics which has spanned fifty-seven years. During that career, Davey was a leader in technological and digital change which made and broke large corporations, and was always one step ahead of the rest. He still drives in to the office five days a week, and works for five hours.

David was the youngest of 10 children born to Guðmundur (Mundi) and Ragnheiður Elín Einarsson, in Arborg, Manitoba. Guðmundur was born at Fljóttunga near Riverton on September 4, 1887, child of Einar Einarsson of Kross in Mjóifjörður and Guðlaug Guðmundsóttir of Neðri-Þverá in Húnavatnsýsla. The couple later settled at Öxará in the Geysir district. Ragnheiður was the child of Jósef and Kristin Schram from Geysir.

Guðmundur married Ragnheiður Elín (Ella) in 1914, and they farmed at Öxará until they moved to Arborg in 1922. Guðmundur was employed by the Arborg Co-op, and was one of the founding members.

He remained there for 25 years. Mundi was extremely community-minded, being on the Board of Directors for the North Star Creamery, the Arborg School Board, and a founding member and the first president of the Arborg Agricultural Society. He was also one of the founders of the Arborg Unitarian Church, and a lifetime member of the church council. Ella, alongside raising a large family, was a founding member of the church's Ladies Auxiliary and an honorary member of the Unitarian Alliance.

But, it is for his poetic ability that Mundi is perhaps best remembered. Not only could he quote any poetry he read or heard, but he wrote his own poems in both Icelandic and English languages. His family published his poems in a volume called *Braga Blys frá Öxará* in 1986. During a phone call, Davey recited a poem that his father had written about his eldest boys and the hockey team from Arborg. The pride in his father was very evident. Davey told me that following his dad's death, his mother collected multiple scraps of paper on which his father had written his poetry, usually in the middle of the night. It was reminiscent of Stephan G. and his sleepless nights.

David was born into this family on January 4, 1932. He attended Ardal high school, and was very talented in sports, playing baseball, hockey, and curling. In a telephone interview, he said that all six of the Einarsson boys were very athletic. He played third on the Arborg curling team that won both the Manitoba and the National High School Championships two years in a row. At the University of Manitoba, where he received his BSc, he played hockey.

Following graduation in 1956, Davey was hired immediately by Geophysical Service Incorporated (GSI), based in Dallas. In an interview with CSEG Recorder, Davey says that the first thing he did on the new job was to sweep the floor. He worked on almost every basic job in a contract with Imperial Oil. The geophysics field was still in its infancy, with employees using paper records for mapping and developing them on ammonia racks. Davey worked at map interpretation for the company for the first years, mapping horizon markers from field records.

After a couple of years of working in Canada, Davey was assigned to foreign operations, and left Canada for Dallas,

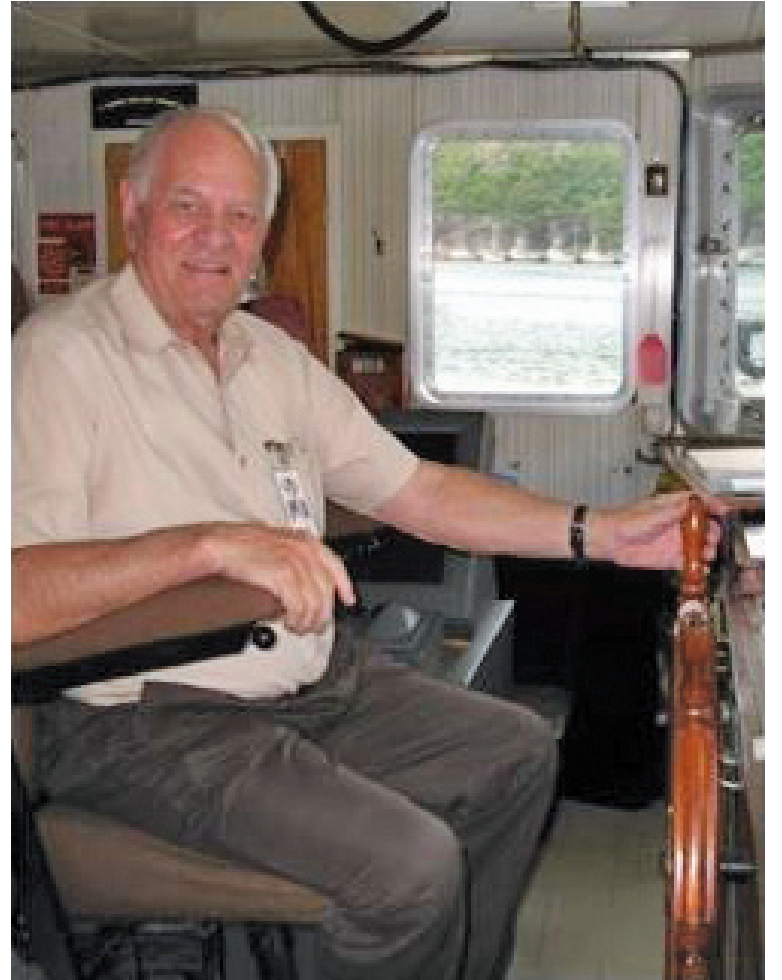


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL EINARSSON

Texas where he received orientation before going to Sumatra in Indonesia. It was the first time he had ever been outside Canada, but would be the first of many locations in which he would work. While in

Sumatra, there was a revolution against then-President Sukarno, and Davey's crew was stuck in the jungle for ten and a half months straight.

To be concluded next issue

Poetry Mundi

Andans Utþrá

By Guðmundur Óskar Einarsson

Hæstu tindum andans á,
Útþrá myndar ljóðin.
Þaðan blindir sólu sjá,
Sælu og yndi, þjóðin.

Tærstu lindum lífsins frá
Lærdóms myndir glampa,
Hæstu tindum andans á
Aeðstan kyndir lampa.

*Used with permission of David Einarsson
of behalf of the Einarsson family*

Written on the Bulletin Board at Arborg Creamery

Translated by David Gislason,
Arborg, MB (1998)

Life's in bloom on every hand,
with goodwill never ceasing.
Prosperity is on the land
with the price of cream increasing.

Virtue turns to reprimand
good will goes to pieces,
and scarcity falls on the land
when butter's worth decreases.

*Used with permission from
David Gislason, Arborg, MB*

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Curtis Olafson
Edinburg, ND

Unwavering passion for the preservation and enjoyment of our unique Icelandic history, heritage, and culture continues during the 114th Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration. The event is staged by the Icelandic Communities Association of North Dakota, and will be held August 2nd to August 4th in Mountain, North Dakota. Mountain is the epicenter of the numerous Icelandic settlements in Northeast North Dakota. The annual event attracts thousands of visitors from

a wide area of the United States, Canada and Iceland. The Deuce of August has been confirmed by the North Dakota Department of Tourism as the longest running ethnic festival in North Dakota and it is believed to be the largest Icelandic ethnic event in the United States.

The government of Iceland is once again demonstrating its dedication to preserving the bonds between the people of Iceland and the people of Icelandic descent in North America. Attending this year's Celebration will be the Prime Minister of Iceland, Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, and his wife, Anna Sigurlaug Pálsdóttir. Mr. Gunnlaugsson



PHOTOS: SHIRLEY J. OLGEIRSON

People watching the parade on Main Street, Mountain, ND

will be the fourth Prime Minister of Iceland to visit the Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration. Also attending will be Guðmundur Árni Stefánsson, Iceland's Ambassador to the United States, and Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson, Consul General in Winnipeg. Hjálmar was the Ambassador to the United States and he was a former Ambassador to Canada. Also attending will be Halldór Árnason, President of the Icelandic National League of Iceland and Chairman of the Snorri Foundation, and Ron Goodman, President of the Icelandic National League of North America. North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple has also been invited.

The community of Mountain is proud

to have accomplished the construction of a new 14,600 square foot \$1.6 million Community Center. This wonderful facility first opened in 2011 and was dedicated during the 112th Celebration. This multi-purpose building is an important component for staging a successful Celebration weekend, and has become a popular regional facility for many events that are held throughout the year.

One of the most unique and popular events during the Deuce of August is the Genealogy Center. This event has been in place for several years and continues to grow in popularity every year. This was an idea and a concept originated by George Freeman and Sunna Pam Olafson

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Furstenau. The project includes a feature called "Cousins Across the Ocean" which connects people from Iceland with their cousins here in North America. Several experienced genealogists will be on hand during the 114th Celebration to help visitors "discover their roots."

Saturday's events start at 10:30 a.m. with a big parade, and many people comment that the most interesting experience of the Celebration weekend is to see the streets of the small town of Mountain lined with thousands of people mingling and enjoying the day. The Saturday afternoon Heritage Program is the event that highlights Icelandic history, heritage, and culture. The Keynote Speaker this year will be Prime Minister Gunnlaugsson. Also featured will be Sunna Pam Olafson Furstenau, who will share a video presentation called "The Love of Iceland in America." She travelled around Iceland last year as the 2012 "International Visits Program" (IVP) guest speaker – an initiative of the Icelandic National League of North America. Saturday's events also include the International Fellowship Supper, which is held in the Mountain Community Center.

The Deuce of August also features many events for those who may not necessarily be interested in Icelandic Heritage. The event is the official site of the North Dakota State Tractor and Pickup Pulling Contest and also features street dances, a car Show and Shine, a Pedal Tractor Pull for adults and children and many other events. For more information, visit the website at www.august2nd.com or on the August the Deuce Facebook page.

Séra Egill H. Fafnis named Honorary Grand Marshal

Jolene Halldorson
Mountain, ND

Reverend Egill H. Fafnis was born in Iceland, July 24th 1898. He received his early education in Iceland and relocated to Canada in 1926. He graduated from a Lutheran Seminary in Chicago, Illinois and in 1945 he came to serve the seven Icelandic congregations in the Mountain Parish, namely the Fjalla, Hallson, Vidalin, Peters, Eyford, Mountain and Gardar congregations. During his service as the Pembina County Icelandic Pastor Reverend Fafnis was a prominent leader in the Icelandic American Church. He was decorated as a Knight in the Icelandic Order of the Falcon by the President of Iceland in 1951 in recognition of his work.

He served five years as President of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod. In addition he also served as a member of the executive committee of the Icelandic National League of America and as President of the Mountain and Gardar Chapter.

Reverend Fafnis had a keen interest in choir work and community musical activities and participated in both within the church and outside the church. He was an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of Borg Pioneer Memorial Home and acted as an advisor and friend to many in the home. He also assisted in the organization of the United Lutheran Church in Cavalier and served as its Pastor several months before a regular minister was appointed.

He served five years as President of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod. In addition he also served as a member of the executive committee of the Icelandic National League of America and as President of the Mountain and Gardar Chapter.

Reverend Fafnis married Ellen Freeman of Upham, ND in 1930 and they had three sons Ronald, Reynis and Lowell. Reverend Fafnis died in 1953 at the young age of 55 of a heart attack. Reverend Fafnis is remembered as an outstanding pastor and Icelandic leader in the community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REYNIS AND RONALD FAFNIS, SONS OF SÉRA EGILL

Reverend Egill H. Fafnis

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John and Darlene Johnson named Grand Marshalls for The Deuce parade



PHOTO COURTESY OF DARLENE JOHNSON

Thordarson on June 25th, 1967. Darlene, a young widow, brought three little girls into the marriage, Danette, Suzanne, and Tammy. Sometime later, Janelle was born, making their family complete. They also have six grandchildren who bring them much joy.

John has served on many community and county boards for a number of years, but one of his top interests is his Icelandic heritage. His ability to speak the Icelandic language has been helpful to the ICA when he fills in as a tour guide for visitors who come from Iceland. He has a vast collection of photos, books, and other information of the early days in the Gardar area. Stephan G. Stephanson, a relative of John's, has been a great incentive for John to gain knowledge about the Icelandic people and his own heritage.

Darlene attended school in Starkweather, ND and at Minot State Teachers College. She taught at the Tiber Rural School northwest of Edinburg and later did substitute teaching in some area schools. When her children were older, she became a Borg Home employee and served

there for 33 years. After working in the cleaning and activity departments, she retired in 2006 but continued to substitute until recently. She loved working with the residents of Borg and they became like part of her family. Some of Darlene's interests are music, church activities, quilting, china painting, journal writing, baking and reading. Parkinson's Disease has challenged her ability to do some of the things she used to enjoy, but with the help of God, her family, and friends she is encouraged to keep on the journey to see what happens next.



PHOTO SHIRLEY J. OLGEIRSON

Akra Snack Shack offers Icelandic cuisine and apparel, the back of a t-shirt shown

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CONTACT CLIFF OR DAVE

Jolene Halldorson
Mountain, ND

John was born and raised in the Icelandic Community of Gardar and received his early education there before leaving home to attend NDSU. He returned home later to assist his parents with the farm. He retired from farming and raising cattle in 1998. John married Darlene

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Genealogy Center Celebrates 11th Year

Sunna Pam Furstenau
Fargo, North Dakota

The Genealogy Center in Mountain, North Dakota is a popular attraction at the Deuce of August celebration. This year, we celebrate 11 years of success and joy assisting people with their genealogy searches.

Most Icelanders are enthusiastic about their genealogy. Keeping the traditions and stories alive for future generations is an important treasure. We, as Icelanders, are remarkably fortunate to have access to the abundant information about our ancestors.

In 2003, at the Deuce of August, George Freeman and Shirley Olgeirson along with others in the Icelandic Communities Association organized the first Genealogy Center and I was just a volunteer for that weekend. Each year since, we have manned the Genealogy Center with various

people assisting in planning and implementation each year.

In 2006, the project called "Cousins Across the Ocean" was born. A team of researchers work throughout the year on this unique and rewarding volunteer project that enriches the lives of many people in Iceland, Canada, and America.

Hálfdan Helgason from Iceland deserves many thanks. Without his wonderful database and information, our successes in the Cousins Project and the Genealogy Center would be much less.

During the Deuce of August celebration weekend, the Genealogy Center is open Friday from 4-8, Saturday 11:30-6, and Sunday 1-3 at the Mountain Community Center.



George Freeman busy at the Genealogy Center in Mountain

PHOTO SHIRLEY J. OLGEIRSON

If you want to know more about the Cousins project or would like to volunteer your time as a genealogist, please contact sunnapam@me.com

June Grass

Brian Tomasson
Winnipeg, MB

It was the summer of 1955. I was 13 years old and in Lundar for the summer. I spent my time at my Uncle's garage on Railway Avenue helping clean floors, pump gas and fill parts shelves. Uncle Harold paid me 50 cents a week and he took me fishing at least once a week. I loved my job as I could be with my cousins Len and Raymond.

In July the June Grass Company came to collect seed from the farmers. The seed was dried and bagged by several men at a processing plant south east of Lundar. One day the boss of the company was in the garage and told Uncle Harold he was looking for more help. My uncle volunteered his nephew.

I went to the plant the next day and was offered a job at 85 cents an hour. WOW! I would be rich. I did as I was told and after working three or four eight-hour days, the boss asked me to come to his trailer to talk to him.

I was worried I had not done the job properly or worked hard enough. He said he had been watching me work and that since I worked like a man, starting the next day he would pay me like a man. I would be getting \$1.25 an hour.

I was very proud of this. This fair man impressed upon me the attitude I had for the rest of my life – to work hard and always do the best job I could.

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In Their Own Words SUMMER TIME

Kristine Goodman
Wynyard, SK

Then, even more so than now, summer living was easier, although there was no relief when it was extremely hot, no air conditioning. I do remember, in grandfather Sigmar's last years, he suffered from diabetes, before insulin,

and the heat bothered him. On very hot days he sat in the cellar. It was cool but not pleasant as the cellar was just a hole dug in the ground.

As soon as warm weather arrived, the heaters as we called them, the round wood and coal burning stoves, were taken out. This made more room. On long summer evenings the coal oil

lamps might not be used at all, or only briefly and mostly in the kitchen.

Instead of the cows being milked in the barn, there was a small fenced area we called the "cow fence" where the milk cows were herded in and milked. Hopefully they would stand still, which surprisingly they did for the most part, unless the flies and mosquitos were bothersome. When the bugs were at their worst, smudges (small fires that would smoulder and smoke) were lit to keep the mosquitos away. During summer holidays once I was old enough, I would milk a cow or two. I much preferred this chore to making supper or doing dishes, which my sisters Lauga and Joey seemed to prefer. I also enjoyed weeding the garden.

I really do not remember very much of what we did to amuse ourselves, but there was not a lot of organized play. I recall a natural play house we made ourselves in a sort of circular chokecherry bush where the soil had been well packed by the cows.

In our early years we did not travel far from home as the only means of transportation was by horse and buggy or wagon.

A highlight of our summer holidays was spending a week at our grandparents' place. There everything was in perfect order as compared to home with a houseful of kids.

Also, *amma* Guðrún was a good cook. She was an early riser and sometimes she would have bread baked when we got up. The smell of freshly baked

bread would waft up through the grate in the upstairs room where we slept. Then there was her pink coloured rhubarb pudding, the juice thickened with cornstarch, served in pretty pink flowered fruit nappies.

Afi Sveinn would tell us interesting stories, some of Iceland which I now wish we could have recorded. By this time his sight was failing and he was not able to work in the fields. *Amma*, on the other hand, was always busy and occupied at some task.

In the years when Saskatoon berries were plentiful, I would go berry picking with Mother. There was still much unbroken land and berry bushes were close by. What a treat the fresh berries were when there was not money for fruit from the store, nor was bought fruit readily available.

I have clear memories of some cool evenings when we would sit out on the back stoop, counting lightning flashes in the distance.

As school age children, our summers were short. We had only the month of July for summer holidays. School started back in August to make use of the good weather, as many families had some distance to go to school. Winter holidays were longer instead.

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Manitoba Mosquitos

Brian Tomasson
Winnipeg, MB

My *amma* Halldora arrived in Canada in June, 1913. She and her family travelled by train from Quebec City to Winnipeg and then took a train from Winnipeg to Arborg. There she was met by her brother Tim Bodvarson. They all piled into a wagon driven by oxen. It took several hours to reach Tim's home in Geysir.

At dusk Tim went outside and prepared a smudge with wood and green grass. The smudge barrel was placed beside an open window where the breeze could blow the smoke into the house.

Amma found this strange but was soon introduced to Manitoba mosquitos. The farm house had no screens. Forty years later *amma* told me she wanted to return to Iceland right that very night. She thought she had come to "Hell".

As the years went by she adjusted to her life in Canada and came to love her adopted country.

Remember when? Remember who?

Brian Tomasson shared three postcards. The top float is Winnipeg, Main Street one block south of old City Hall, 1927. The second float is Main Street in front of the old City Hall and is the Winnipeg Jubilee Parade 1924. Third photo, women in Icelandic dress, 1927, fourth from right Salin Guttormson Fjallkona 1927, third from right Ida Dorothy Swainson Fjallkona 1926. Who can identify more people?

Brian's third postcard is the Pavilion at Gimli in 1915.

Another early Pavilion, on the shores of Big Quill Lake near Wynyard SK was

associated with August 2 celebrations. The white tent-like structure to the left of the Pavilion was known as the change room. Given that this was a beach party, the adults are remarkably dressed up. Does anyone have stories about these 1920s celebrations in Saskatchewan?



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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obituaries



Magnus Magnusson

Magnus Magnusson of Golden B.C. passed away on June 30, 2013 at the age of 70 years.

Mag was the grandson of Johannes Magnusson who arrived at Gimli in 1875. He called his farm Dagverdarnes.

Mag was born in Gimli, MB on November 1, 1942. The family moved to Parson, BC in 1948.

He was predeceased by his parents Magnus (Mike) and Valla Magnusson of Golden, BC, his sister Lovisa Fjeldsted of Gimli, and brothers

Eric and Baldur Gudjonson of Parson, BC. He is survived by his loving wife Anne, sons Rob and Chris of Golden and daughter Margret (Lorne) of Calgary, AB, as well as his sister Ingrid Pedley of Lone Butte, BC and his brother Clayton Magnusson of Golden.

After Mag retired as Assistant Chief Engineer in a power plant in the local mill, he began to give back to the community he loved so much. He volunteered with many organizations. He was a well-liked and respected member of Golden Town Council for many years.

Mag was presented with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition for his many contributions to his community.

Mag was very proud of his Icelandic heritage. He always baked the Icelandic bread to go with the *rúllupýlsa* and was an expert at putting *vínarterta* together. A highlight of his life was a trip to Iceland.

He will be sadly missed by the whole community.

PHOTO MYSTERY

Do you know these people?



L-H features this series of photographic mysteries in conjunction with Nelson Gerrard's *Silent Flashes* project, which explores early photography among Icelandic immigrants and their descendants in North America.

Any successful solutions will be published.

To obtain further information on the *Silent Flashes* project or to provide input, contact Nelson Gerrard at (204) 378-2758 or eyrarakki@hotmail.com, or by mail at Box 925, Arborg, Manitoba R0C 0A0.

Check out the *Silent Flashes* website and photo archive at www.sagapublications.com.

This Saskatchewan pioneer family posed for this portrait in the Rowe Studio in Yorkton circa 1905-10



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONJA LUNDSTROM

Agnes Bardal Comack celebrated with her Winnipeg General Nursing Classmates after 65 years since graduation and Sonja Lundstrom 50 years at the Alumnae banquet on May 31, 2013.

News in brief from Iceland

Constitutional amendments necessary

visir.is – The future of the European Economic Area (EEA) has been discussed considerably in recent weeks, including with regard to Iceland's involvement in the preparation of rules falling under the agreement. When the news website asked Foreign Minister Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson (Progressive Party) for his perspective on this, he replied that Iceland's record on legalising regulations and directives automatically falling under the EEA Agreement would have to be reviewed. "The pressure from the EU has steadily increased in ways pressing the constitutions of both Iceland and Norway," he said. His view is that constitutional amendments will be unavoidable if Iceland plans to continue this collaboration, and the EU does not change its approach. However, action in this regard calls for great care so that "we do not cede our rights to say Stop!" He noted that Iceland should be able to monitor normal development of this agreement without giving up any of its sovereignty or right to self-determination or diluting the Constitution. Likewise it is normal for Iceland and the other EEA countries to question the trend of constantly increasing pressure from the EU in these matters. One of the main ways to protect Iceland's interests in the EEA Agreement is the joint EEA Committee and the EU Commission, from where laws and regulations originate. When asked which routes he deemed the most promising, he replied: "I have previously expressed my interest in strengthening our presence in Brussels in order to

be involved sooner in matters relating to the EEA." He noted that this was in harmony with the parliamentary resolution from the last session of Alþingi. He deems it important to prevent friction between parties because "no one is talking about quitting the EEA collaboration".

82% want referendum on EU next year

visir.is – An opinion poll conducted by TV 2 and *Fréttablaðið* shows that a great majority of Icelanders want a referendum on continuing Iceland's membership discussions with the EU to be held next year in parallel with municipal elections. Of those taking a position in the poll nearly 82% said that they wanted such a referendum, while about 18% said that they were opposed to holding one. About three out of every four supporters of the Government parties want

to vote on continuation of the membership discussions in parallel with the municipal elections. About 73% of those supporting the Progressive Party want there to be a continuation of the matter, and over 78% of the Independence Party's supporters. The position taken by members of the Opposition differs little by party. About 89% of them favour holding a national referendum in parallel with municipal elections next year. The Pirates' supporters are a bit different, with about 76% of them wanting to conclude the matter in this way. The poll was conducted 26 and 27 June. 1,077 people were called until 800 were reached. They were asked: "Do you want a national referendum on continuation of the membership discussions with the EU to be held in parallel with the municipal elections next spring?" Nearly 88% of participants took a position on the question.

Icelandair one of best run airlines

túristi.is – The management of Icelandair comes out well in a comparison with other airlines' performance last year. The aviation sector's fortunes are rising, and the financial strength of the companies operating in the sector is improving. This is the conclusion of *Aviation Week's* specialists, who have scrutinised the annual financial reports of more than 70 registered airline companies and evaluated their solvency, cost management, income management, business models, etc. The companies are ranked according to their standing in each of these areas and sorted by their performance. The magazine published the findings, ranking the companies according to size and land area. In Europe the low-fare companies Ryanair and easyJet are deemed to be the best operated companies. Following them comes Icelandair. The Icelandic company therefore receives the highest rating of traditional European airline companies. In the category of those with a turnover of up to \$2 billion, Icelandair is in seventh place in the world.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Send information to appear in the Calendar of Events to: catherine@lh-inc.ca. Please include date, place, time and other particulars. For more listings, visit our website at www.lh-inc.ca.

Events

2, 3 and 4 August

Mountain, ND: 114th Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration. Our Celebration will always be held on the weekend preceding the first Monday in August. This enables visitors to also attend the Íslendingadagurinn in Gimli on the first Monday in August. 2012 is the 135th anniversary of the settlement of the Icelandic Communities in Northeastern North Dakota. The Deuce of August is a fun-filled weekend with events for young and old with a variety of interests. We celebrate our Icelandic heritage and share our cultural roots with family, friends and visitors.



PHOTO: SHIRLEY J. OLGEIRSON

The Akra Enterprises wearing apparel

2, 3, 4 and 5 August

Gimli, MB: Annual Íslendingadagurinn. We hope you will have the opportunity to visit Gimli during the weekend, take in some of the events, and have a wonderful time renewing old friendships and visiting with family. Some event highlights:

Friday 2 August: 124th Annual Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Lakeview Harbour Stage 7:30 p.m. Greg Arcade & His Rockin' Band Old Folks Home and The Bokononists

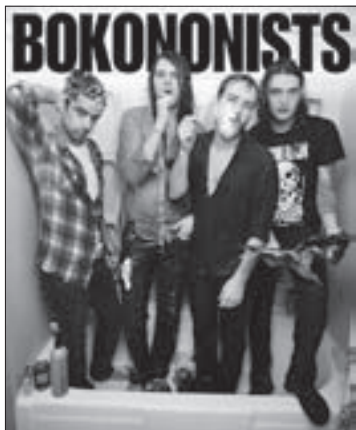


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MB ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Saturday 3 August: Lakeview Harbour Stage Children's Entertainment: Noon SK8 Meet and Greet BIG GAMES Aaron Burnett Evening Fireworks Show The Snorri Helgason Band, 8 p.m. SC Mira Mise en Scene

and The Revival



PHOTO: BECCA BLACKWOOD

Mise en Scene

Sunday 4 August: Gimli Park Main Stage 6:30 p.m.

Nathan JP HOE Band (with strings) The Snorri Helgason Band The Duhks Les Jupes

The Snorri Helgason Band is presented in partnership with nuna (now) – www.nunanow.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF NUNANOW.COM

The Snorri Helgason Band from Iceland

For more information or a detailed list of events other than visit: icelandicfestival.com.

3, 4 and 5 August

Edmonton, AB: Heritage Days is held at Hawryluk Park. Get ready to visit Hawryluk Park on either of these days and enjoy the many cultures in Edmonton. Make sure you visit the Scandinavian Pavilion to enjoy the various foods. The Icelanders will again be selling vinarartera and rúllupylsa on brown bread.

11 to 17 August

Winnipeg, MB: Folklorama Scandinavian Pavilion, Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St. Join us to experience the cultural dances, songs and humour of Scandinavia.

Tuesday 17 September

Winnipeg, MB: The Icelandic Canadian Frón AGM and Icelandic Class registration at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St. Registration for Icelandic classes will start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Annual Meeting at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 28 September

Edmonton, AB: Leif Eiriksson Dinner Dutch Canadian Centre. More information on the dinner will be announced later this summer.

Sunday 29 September

Winnipeg, MB: Come join us for a delicious Sunday Brunch at the Scandinavian Centre, 764 Erin St. Hosted by the Icelandic Canadian Frón. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$13.50

for adults, \$6 for children 8-12 and ages 7 and under free. Everyone welcome.

Icelandic Classes

Tuesdays

Winnipeg, MB: The Icelandic Canadian Frón is offering Icelandic language classes at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St. Registration at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday September 17. Fee for 10 week session will be \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members. Classes start September 24. For more information, email Gunnvör at gunnvor@mymts.net or phone Linda at 204-257-0870.

Wednesdays

Arborg, MB: Meet to speak Icelandic, 3 p.m. *Molasopi* at Eldhús restaurant at the Arborg Hotel. No pressure.

Third Thursday

Arborg, MB: Arborg Hotel lounge, 8 p.m., *Kaffitími* for those who want to learn words or phrases. No pressure.

Gimli, MB: *Kaffitími* (coffee time) in Gimli takes place at 3 p.m. each Wednesday, meeting at Amma's Tea Room, Waterfront Centre. No signup and no teacher. Drop ins welcome; the only fee is the price of your cup of coffee. There is only one rule: you need to speak Icelandic in order to participate in the chat around the table. If you just want to listen at first that's fine, too.

Music

Icelandic artists US tours

Sigur Rós September 14 – Rochester Hills, MI, St Jerome's Laneway Festival Detroit 2013

Icelandic artists Canadian tours

Stereo Hypnosis September 13 – Burk's Falls, ON, Harvest Festival
Other international tour dates: <http://www.icelandmusic.is/live/gigs-abroad/?sort=country>

Sports

Friday 2 August

Gimli, MB: The Icelandic Open, in support of *Lögberg-Heimskringla* will be at the Links at the Lake Golf Course. Registration 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Tee off at 11 a.m., Shot Gun Start. Texas Scramble, with two teams playing at the same time. Registration \$150. www.lh-inc.ca or 204-284-5686.



News from Iceland

Computer hackers flock to Iceland computer security today.

visir.is – The conference Hacker-Halted has up to now only been held in Asia and the United States, and Iceland is the first European country to be approved for holding this well-known event in the computer world. The conference will be held in October in the Harpa Conference Centre, and will be attended by many highly placed network security specialists at world-renowned companies like Google and Facebook. The US computer security specialist Kevin Cardwell, who was involved in providing the US Navy with Internet access, will speak at the conference. In an accompanying press release, he outlines, for example, the main imminent threats in

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Hafstein and Ingibjörg – remembering cherished relatives

Ingibjörg Sigurdson Phinney
Keewatin, ON

Hafstein Sigurdson (Johnson), born in 1864, came to America in 1874. His father was a fisherman from the east coast of Iceland. They first journeyed to North Dakota but then his father, mother, his grandmother and, I believe, an aunt, Hafstein, his brother and his sister all moved by wagon train to Lake Winnipeg that summer.

This is the story Hafstein told me. He said when they arrived at their destination, they were greeted by natives. They all were glad to see them. He said they built cabins with the natives and settled in for the winter. In the fall a sailor with smallpox arrived. He infected the colony. Hafstein said that during Christmas week that year, his father, sister and brother all died of smallpox. Hafstein was 10 years old.

His mother and the other women were helped and a Métis family took my uncle to their farm. He stayed with them till he was about 17 – then eventually went on his own. He came to the Keewatin area where there was work.

He also told me that he knew Louis Riel and he liked him.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF INIBORG SIGURDSON PHINNEY

He said when the North West Mounted Police were fighting Louis Riel, they told the settlers they'd have to fight with them. Uncle said he was glad it never came to that. Louis Riel was his friend.

My aunt, Ingibjörg Magnúsdóttir, born in 1872, came from Iceland in 1889 on the *Romny*. Along with her mother were her children, Guðrún Magnúsdóttir, Þorkel Magnússon – born 1866, Þorgrímur Magnússon – born 1863, (auntie) Ingibjörg Magnúsdóttir – born 1872, and Björn Magnússon – born 1875. Also her grandson Sigurður Guðmundsson – born 1879, the son of her oldest child who had died in Iceland.

Ingibjörg told me when they left Iceland they went first to Scotland to pick up some more immigrants and she spent a week at that port in Scotland. When they left Scotland their journey took them to Ellis Island in New York. She said they got off the ship and wondered what they would do because they couldn't speak English. A gentleman came up to them, spoke their language, and guided them to a train that took them to Niagara Falls in Canada. When they got there they changed trains and travelled to Winnipeg. Auntie told me when they got to Niagara Falls, another passenger got off the train, brought back a large bag of apples, and in sign language told my great-grandma to feed the kids.

When they got to Winnipeg they came to an immigration house and were fed. They were amazed at all the food that was there. My aunt was 16 and she was sent to work in a boarding house at a railway stop in Ontario. She told me it was the worst winter in her life. It was a boarding house for railroad workers. A room had been made for her in their attic. In the spring she wrote her mother, asking if she could come to Gimli where they had a homestead. Her mother told her there was nothing there for her, but to come and they would try to find better conditions for her.



She did find a job at Portage la Prairie as a domestic and there she learned English. These people were from Scotland and were very good to her.

Then she got her next job in Keewatin, Ontario, working for Mathers. She met Hafstein when she came here. When she was 18 ½ she married him in Winnipeg and they lived in Keewatin for 65 years.

I lived for two years with them when I was five years old. My mother died May 8, 1930 and I was a twin. My dad had a housekeeper who wouldn't mind twins so for two years I lived with my *frænka*. I was always close to these two wonderful people. When I grew up, I later came back and lived in their little house next to them. I was pregnant with my sixth

child and had walked away from an impossible marriage. My daughter Georgina and her five brothers were lucky to have such good people around them.

My *frænka* lived with me for a few years after Uncle died. She was 89 when she died.

Now, I am almost 89 years old. After I retired at 65, I was lucky enough to travel to Iceland in 1988 with my daughter, Georgina, and her husband, Wally, and met all my cousins on my dad's side

My dad Magnus and his brother Sigurður Sigurðsson lived in Gullbringa county. Their father was Sigurður and their younger brother was Þorgrímur – their mother Margaret.

I still have relatives in Winnipeg and Gimli.

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Tales of Iceland, or, Running with the Huldufólk in the Permanent Daylight

REVIEW

Stephen Markley

Tales of Iceland, or, Running with the Huldufólk in the Permanent Daylight

CGiveLiveExplore LLC: 2013
ISBN: 978-0-9892165-1-7

Review by
Julie Summers
Battle Ground, WA

Some people go to Iceland in search of family roots, wild landscapes, the midnight sun or the Northern Lights. Others go to confirm the rumor spread by director Quentin Tarantino that it is a magical land filled with “supermodels working at McDonald’s.” Stephen Markley falls under the latter category.

In early 2012, two of Markley’s friends, referred to by the not-so-pseudo pseudonyms Bojo and Trin (Mike Bojanowski and Matthew Trinetti), quit their jobs and bought tickets to Iceland. Markley, a columnist, blogger, and author coasting along after the surprising success of his first book, was eager to investigate Tarantino’s claim and decided to tag along.

Less than a year later, Markley turned their brief summer journey into *Tales of Iceland, or, Running with the Huldufólk in the Permanent Daylight*, an entertaining work

that blurs the lines between travel memoir, humor essays, and guidebook.

In early June, Markley, Bojo, and Trin meet up at KEX Hostel and spend a few days (and long, sun-soaked nights) in Reykjavík, then rent a car and set out to explore the country. The book mostly follows their journey chronologically, with plenty of bracketed commentary and interjected explorations of Iceland’s wildlife, geology, and economic crash. The tales told are pretty much what you’d expect from three twenty-something males: mountain hiking, glacier walking, and other tourist musts, plus a preoccupation with chatting up Icelandic women. (To be fair, they also spend time with some French-Canadian women). What sets this journey apart is the distinct, hilariously candid voice in which it is told. Indeed, the book is often laugh-out-loud funny. Quite a few of those laughs depend on four-letter words and crude humor, though, which some readers may find tiresome.

Despite some frat-boy hijinks, the trio’s sincere awe for

their surroundings is clear. “The problem with driving around Iceland,” writes Markley, “is that you’re basically confronted by a new soul-enriching, breathtaking, life-affirming sight every five goddamn minutes.” Those sights include volcanic craters south of Mývatn, the roaring power of Dettifoss, the dramatic beauty of Seyðisfjörður, and the imposing majesty of Snæfellsjökull, or “Snuffelufagus” as the guys call it. “It’s difficult to describe the grandeur of all these sights, but there’s something enormous about Iceland,” muses Markley. Toward the end of the book, the humor feels a bit worn, but an interview with Reykjavík Mayor Jón Gnarr is a highlight.

Tales of Iceland touts itself as “the fastest, funniest memoir of an American experience in Iceland,” and that isn’t too far off the mark. Readers who are easily offended might want to choose another route, but those who appreciate Markley’s brand of irreverent humor will enjoy tagging along on this whirlwind road trip.

Tales is available as an

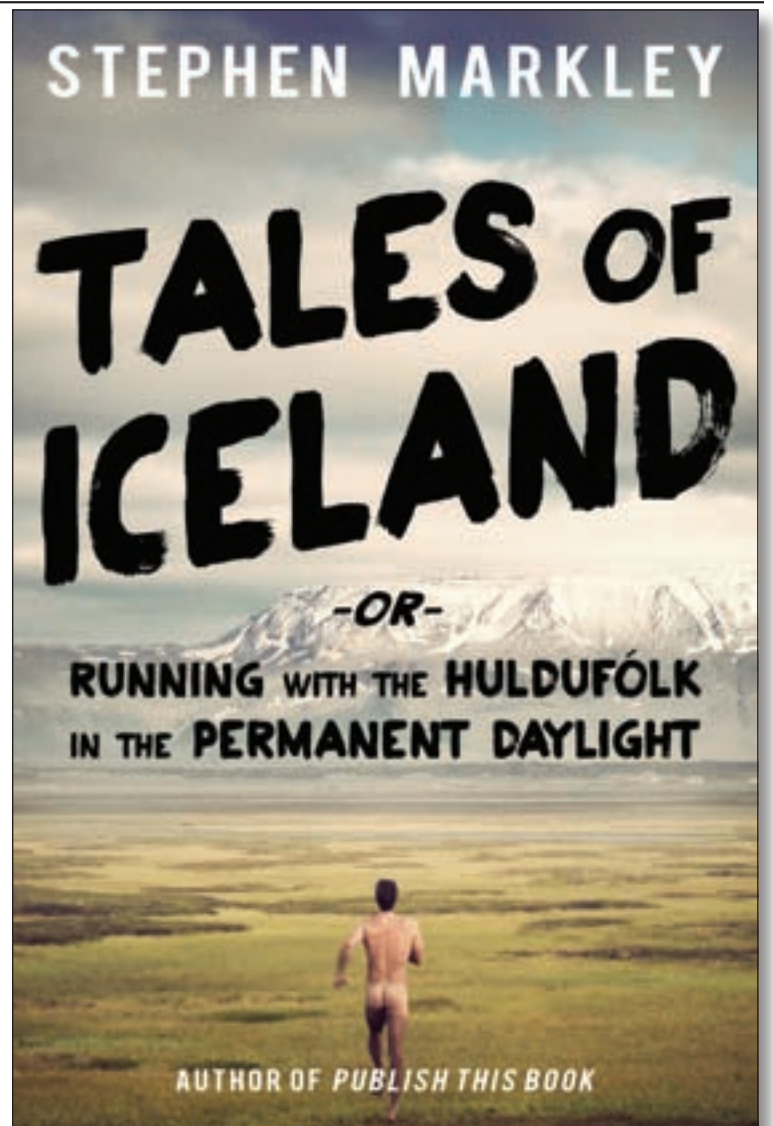


PHOTO: MATTHEW TRINETTI

ebook from online retailers and Icelandic ebook startup emma.is. The paperback edition is available

from Amazon and will also soon be found in Eymundsson bookstores across Iceland.



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Large Turf Houses, Turf Churches, Writers' Homes, 18th Century Stone Buildings

REVIEW

Björn G. Björnsson

*Large Turf Houses,
Turf Churches,
Writers' Homes,
18th Century Stone
Buildings*

2013
Printed in English

Review by
W.D. Valgardson
Victoria, BC



Homes, 18th Century Stone Buildings. The books have minimal text but it is helpful in explaining the significance of the pictures. *In 18th Century Stone Buildings*, there is a quarter page description of Viðey House. It says, in part, "In 1752-5 the Danish authorities built a fine residence on Viðey Island off Reykjavík for Treasurer Skúli Magnússon, known as the Father of Reykjavík. Designed by Danish court architect Nielai Eigtved, Viðey House was the first stone building in Iceland."

Nes House is described as "Iceland's first Surgeon General

was appointed in 1760, and in 1761-7 a residence was built for him at Nes on the Seltjarnarnes headland, and it remains little changed."

In the book, *Writers' Homes*, there are pictures of Halldór Laxness's home, Gljúfrasteinn. "Halldór Laxness was born in Reykjavík in 1902, and published his first book in 1919...from 1945 his home was at Gljúfrasteinn in Mosfellssveit (now Mosfellsbær)." There are pictures from the Culture House/Old National Library from *Snorrastofa*, from Jónas Hallgrímsson's *Hraun*, Oxnadalur.

The book, *Turf Churches*, is a delight. It brings together images of churches in a way that allows this viewer to bring together many disparate images seen over the years. Among others is the church Saurbær, Eyjafjörður and the Núpsstaður Chapel. As with all the books, the presenting of these buildings from various views of the exterior and the interior gives the mood of the buildings. It is easy to imagine those hardy Icelandic families riding up to the Núpsstaður Chapel in the 1700s to worship, visit, gossip, court, chew some snuff and

even have a drink or two. Nice details are included in these short descriptions. For examples 'Hannes Jónsson of Núpsstaður was a renowned mail-carrier in the days before the nearby glacial rivers were bridged; he guided travellers across the perilous rivers on horseback."

is a bit misleading as to actual living conditions. Most of our ancestors didn't live in places like Glaumbær or Laufás. Þvera, for example, "was built in the latter half of the 19th century. On either side of the entrance are two reception rooms." However, I write mostly about foreign visitors to Iceland in the 19th century and these visitors, being wealthy aristocrats or clergy of high social status, did not stay with poor farmers and fishermen. They stayed with the upper class, the kind of people who lived in these large turf houses. These pictures give a real sense of what life could be like in Iceland if you had good land, some money and good political connections.

As a North American Icelander, if there is such a thing, I'm grateful to Björn for these books. The exterior and, perhaps, more importantly, the interior shots of the various buildings provide a clear view of what life was like for some Icelanders during the 19th century. According to his biography, Björn has worked as a designer with RÚV national TV. He also has designed sets and costumes for theatre, TV and film. He designs exhibitions for museums and visitor centres. He has made 70 TV programmes on historic buildings and sites and Icelandic cultural heritage.

They are expecting 900,000 visitors in Iceland in 2015. I expect that the visitors to the turf churches, the large turf houses, the writer's homes, the 18th Century stone buildings, will carry away a large number of these books. If you want to have copies, I'd suggest that when you are next in Iceland, you buy them before the visiting hordes appear.

From *wdvalgardsonkaffihus.com*, used with permission

The doorbell rang and when I went to see who was there, I found a package that said, "Iceland Post". When I opened it, there were four books that I am happily adding to my library. The photographs, text and design for all four books are by Björn G. Björnsson.

The books are *Large Turf Houses, Turf Churches, Writers'*

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MINI TOUR: The magic rainbow



Gullfoss – the golden waterfall

PHOTO: MATS WIBE LUND © / WWW.MATS.IS

G Sverrir Þór

Märsta, Sweden

It may be a cliché but you simply cannot write a travelling series about Iceland without mentioning Gullfoss or Geysir, which along with Þingvellir form the so-called Golden Circle. Together, I suspect these three places are the most frequently visited of places in Iceland, at least by all tourists. The subject of this mini-tour will be the first mentioned, the golden waterfall – Gullfoss.

I don't know how old I was when my parents first took me to see this beautiful waterfall, but I can tell you that like most Icelandic children my first thought when I heard the name was that it was made of gold. Who could blame me? It actually was quite a disappointment to find out that Gullfoss was not made of gold.

Located in the Hvítá river in Árnessýsla, not to be confused with Hvítá in Borgarfjörður as the English version of *Wikipedia* seems to do, this magnificent creation of nature is a powerful waterfall with a height of 32 metres and an average flow rate of 140 cubicmetres per second. Different from Dettifoss,

however, it has neither the power nor the height of the waterfall that attracts people to Gullfoss. Instead, it is the sheer beauty of the waterfall and its surroundings that pulls people towards it. Especially when the rays of the sun hit the watermist created by the waterfall the magic of Gullfoss appears. Together the sun and mist create a magnificent rainbow that reminds us of the magic of Mother Nature.

Visiting Gullfoss may be regarded as herd behaviour but it is one that I certainly recommend. It is a must-see thing.



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