



# Midnight Sun

ISSUE

1

VOLUME 27  
January 2014

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

**Do You Have A  
Favourite  
Scandinavian  
Craft Hobby?**



In the next issue of Midnight Sun we want to look into your baskets, drawers and workshops to see what has been conserved of the old crafts from the Old Country.



Be it knitting, Hardanger embroidery, Norweave, wood carving, wheat weaving, rosemaling, knife making or any other creative hobby - tell us about it! Contact Kari at 306-565-2450 or kar-mit@hotmail.com



*1866.*

**Udflyttede (ogsaa Børn).**

Nr.	Dagiden Datum.	Navn.	Alder.	Til hvad Sted.
25.	7 April	Finismand Jørn An- dersen 18 år	15 år	America
26.	—	Anna Maria Andersen 65.	—	Id.
27.	—	Anna Maria Andersen 23.	—	Id.
28.	—	Pige Britha Andersen 21 1/2	—	Id.
29.	7 April	Alfred Andersen 23 1/2	—	Id.
30.	—	Anders Andersen 50	—	Id.

**Theme:**

**Name Changes**



Members' Matters	2, 6
President's Corner	3
Editorial	3
Theme articles	1, 5, 6, 7
Scandinavian News	4
Upcoming Events	8

## Your Family Name - What Was It?



### Scandinavian immigrants arriving in North America often changed their family name - What happened?



Many immigrants' family names have a slightly 'twisted' look when compared to similar names in the Old

Country. We have looked into this phenomenon, and there is lots to find. In websites, for instance:

**L. Banner** writes:

Anderson is the original name of my father's family who came to America from Sweden in the 1800s; they changed the family name to Banner because they thought it sounded more American, otherwise I would be an Anderson today.

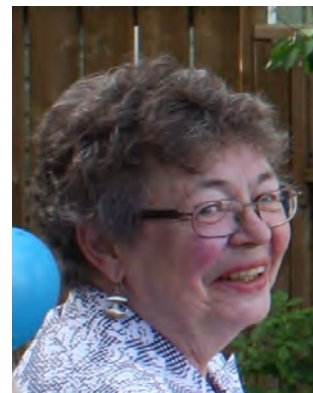
**Brian** comments:

My great-great grandfather migrated from Sweden also and had the last name of Anderson. He changed it to the last name of Grill for apparently the same reason.

And **Emma** has a comment too:

My family came from Sweden in the early 1900's as Andersson, but changed it to one 's' for the same reason.

SCoR member **Guðrún Jónsson** was born in Iceland and has this to tell us:



In Canada some Icelanders changed their last names to reflect where they came from in Iceland, and in those cases the

(Continued on page 7)

**Online:** <http://scandinavianclubregina.com/Newletter.htm>

## From the SCoR Board



### Where is the Cook Book?

Don't despair! As it turns out, some of the many recipes need editing, simply because the contributors have a higher skill set than possibly the average user. The work of adding instructions to the lists of ingredients is in progress, and the cook book should be ready for the many (im)patient Scandinavian cooking enthusiasts no later than at the AGM in April.

### Phoning Committee

The SCoR phoning committee's job can be quite a challenge. The phoners sometimes contact the same number twice, leaving messages each time, but never receive a reply. Would any of you prefer to be notified about events by email? Let us know, but **YOU'LL HAVE TO REPLY!**

(Continued on page 6)

## Members' Matters

### SCoR Events During Fall Season



← **Salmon Supper** entertainer Wayne McGillivray attracting a mosh pit.



**Two cooking Classes:** Lefse and Christmas cookies



↑ **Billiards' Night:** Low club participation



← **Christmas Party:** Santa was there! 60 adults, 13 children



May we treasure the good memories behind us, and forge into 2014 with renewed confidence and hope! ....Our objective this year is to find an alternative venue for dinner events, in order to reduce costs to participants. For example, despite charging \$30 per person for the salmon event, we barely broke even. Assuming we manage to get this favorably sorted out soon, we hope to offer another dinner sometime in the early spring. We will also be continuing our quest for volunteers for entertainment, phoning, setup, and so forth.

## President's Corner

Additionally, a monthly card/ game night will be starting this year. A club member has graciously offered to host this event, for which we are very thankful. The start-up date and details will be posted later, on our website and Facebook. A cross-country skiing and tobogganing event may also take place this winter, assuming the weather co-operates. (One must stay optimistic!) And, once again, we hope to celebrate Norway's National Day on May 17th, followed by a steak night in June to collectively commemorate the national days for Denmark, Sweden, and Iceland. This is all in addition, of course, to our two summer picnics.

The Finnish flag was raised at Regina City Hall on December 6th, in honour of Finland's Independence Day (which coincided with Fishy Friday). Our goal is to establish flag-raising on the national day for each Scandinavian country, as an annual Regina tradition!

Our turnout for Fishy Friday at the Freehouse, since its inception this past summer, has varied from 8 to 23 people, with a core group of regulars in attendance. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with members, share a few stories and laughs, enjoy a refreshment (or two), and savour a tasty meal selected from the menu. (The meal is optional, and no – it does not have to be fish!) I hope to see more of you out this year!

We have tried to expand opportunities for club members to interact. Thank you to the many volunteers who ensured the Christmas party was a great success! We had at least 60 adults in attendance, along with 13 children. I am hoping Greg Swanson will offer to convene this activity again!

Our membership drive will continue throughout 2014. Currently we have club brochures posted in all of the libraries throughout the city, and displayed in a few downtown coffee shops. Within the next few months, posters will also be distributed throughout the University of Regina. We welcome any ideas you may have on how we can improve our club profile.



## Editorial



SCoR has advertised in *Midnight Sun* and on the club's Facebook page for volunteers to take on some of the tasks required to keep club activities going. So far with little result. That fact should cause the Club members some concern. The Board of Directors consists of nine people - the majority of whom has full-time jobs. In addition we have the phoning committee, the editor and a few hands stepping in for special events.

Looking at last year's level of activities, it's pretty amazing that this has been accomplished by such a small group of people. Club members show their support by participating in events, and it is always gratifying to see a big turnout. But the demography of SCoR membership is changing, and the Board of Directors is trying to introduce new activities to engage people in different activities.

The SCoR Annual General Meeting is

coming up in April. It would be good on that occasion to be able to assign volunteers to some of the tasks suggested in *Midnight Sun* no. 4 of last year and on the Facebook page November 4th 2013. Participating in Club work is also a great social activity where you get to better know your fellow SCoR members!

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## Icelandic Art Online



The [Reykjavík Art Museum](#) is celebrating a landmark in Icelandic art history by the launching of a new website with nearly 9,000 artworks accessible to the public free of charge:  
<http://safneign.listasafnreykjavikur.is/en/safneign>



J.S. Kjarval: *Afmælisblóm*

The site provides pictures and information on works by Icelandic artists from the early 20th century until 2013.

In addition, a map of Reykjavík provides information on works of art in public spaces in the city.

*Iceland Review*

## Sweden's 'coolest' concert



Wheels are in motion in [Luleå](#), northern [Sweden](#), to build an igloo big enough for 160 spectators and to construct enough instruments made of ice to last for three months of frosty music.

Conditions inside the igloo have to be perfect for the show to work. "The ideal temperature is -5C. If it gets too cold, the instruments can shatter. If it gets too warm, they melt," Karin Åberg, spokeswoman at [Ice Music](#), told *The Local*.

The master-mind behind the design is ice sculpting legend [Tim Linhart](#), a New Mexico



native who's chipped away at his trade across the world for 30 years.

This year's masterpiece is the concert igloo, where every possibility has been accounted for. It even features a hole in the roof that will act as a means of escape for the warm air from spectators' breaths.

Similar precautions have to be taken for the violinists, whose breath can melt the body of their instrument. As a result, a plastic guard has to be inserted between the player's mouth and the violin itself.

And what about the flautists? "We don't have any flutes," Åberg responded with a laugh. "They're too hard to tune. (—) Guests can expect a range of music "from folk to Lady Gaga" and all spectators are warned to dress warmly. The shows, which cost SEK290 (CAD44), is running from December 28th and run until April 6th Or until the sun gets too strong.

*The Local*

## Johansen to Johnsen (or Johnson)

Interview with Fay B. Johnsen  
Author of 'Reflections On Times Past'.



My Dad's father, Karl "Charles" Bernhard Johansen, photographed in Boston where he worked for a time after arriving in North America.



Photo of my paternal grandmother, Petra Oline Olsen Melby, taken in Minnesota when she was 21 years old

Midnight Sun featured an issue on "Scandinavian Cooking" some time back, and in your contribution you wrote that your family members have different spellings of their last names. What is the story behind that?

-My Grandfather was Karl "Charles" Bernhard Johansen, born April 2, 1864 in Trondheim, Norway, the son of Bereth Anna (Tomsen) and Frederik Kristian Johansen, a Norwegian sea captain. He anglicized his original last name JOHANSEN when he came to the U.S. & Canada. There is no record of the



Fay B. Johnsen

name ever being officially changed, but according to genealogy experts, spellings changed just through common usage. My Grandfather was notorious for using a different spelling every time he signed his name. As a result, his four oldest children were registered at birth with the JOHNSEN spelling. His two youngest children were registered as JOHNSON, which explains the discrepancy in the family name currently in use.

**Are there any other name changing stories in your family?**

(Continued on page 7)

**Calling Pehrsons, Petersons or Andersons**

A young Norwegian genealogy researcher, Cathrine Baglo, is looking for people in Saskatchewan of Southern Sami descendency with surnames Pehrson, Peterson or Anderson. Her research points in that direction but she has so far not been able to follow up.

Can you help? Please contact *Midnight Sun*.

### Picture credits

- P.1: (Passenger list 1866) [norwayheritage.com](http://norwayheritage.com) G.Jónsson) K.Mitchell
- P.2: (Entertainer, Billiards) P.Baumgartner; (Other) K.Mitchell
- P.3: (P.Baumgartner) T.Baumgartner
- P.5: (Old portraits) Courtesy of F.B. Johnsen; (F.B.Johnsen) J.Edwardson
- P.6: Courtesy of Lester Thomas Nilson
- P.7: (Couple) Courtesy of Lester Thomas Nilson
- Other: Public domain

(Continued from page 2)

## **Norrone Lutheran Church Scandinavian Supper and Social Night**

This function is scheduled for Feb 22nd 2014 in **Bulyea Hall**. Supper generally includes Lutefisk, Lefse, Swedish Meat Balls, Fish Cakes, salads, buns, etc. Dessert is normally a plate of Scandinavian baking. If any of the Scandinavian Club folks are interested let us know by calling George Beckett at 306-725-4901.



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# **How Anderssen became Grasdal**

By Connie Grasdal



Grasdal farm on the island of Selbjørn in Austevoll, Hordaland

I never knew my paternal grandfather. Over the years I had heard one or two stories of his origins - that he was born in Norway as Anders Anderssen and that when he immigrated to Canada to homestead in Saskatchewan he changed his name to Andrew Grasdal. Having studied at university a bit of the sociology and history of immigration to Canada, I had the notion that, as many Scandinavians had been compelled to do, Anders Anderssen had somehow been forced to change his name when he immigrated to Canada to reduce the confusion of there being so many Andersons, Pedersons, Richardsons, etc.

My older sisters relayed much the same story as was already in my memory but they also suggested I look at the history they had contributed to

that was compiled by Lester Thomas Nilson, Austevoll Saga: Jacobson – Baardsen Reflections. Their Homeland, Their Ancestors and Their Descendants, published in 2007. I had never before taken any time to really look at that publication but now saw that there was a whole section about Anders Anderssen and his origins. It says there that Anders Anderssen Drønen Grasdal, born October 8, 1888 in Drønen, Huftarøy, Norway, chose to change his name to Andrew A. Grasdal in the process of immigrating to North Dakota and then to Saskatchewan in the early part of the 20th century. He had been born in Drønen but his family moved to Grasdal when he was a child and it is there that he grew up. A bit of research further enlightened me about the practice in Norway of incorporating

(Continued on page 7)



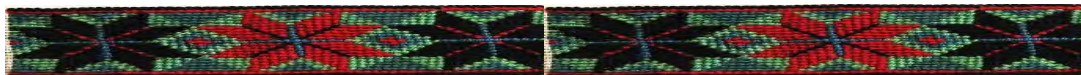
## .. How Anderssen .. (Continued from page 6)

place names into the family identity (see in *Norway Heritage* at <http://www.norwayheritage.com/norwegian-names.htm> by Børge Solem - 2002) so it would not have been unusual for Anders to choose Grasdøl as the last name he would use for the rest of his life and the name he would pass on to his descendants.

"Grasdøl", I understand, means "grassy dale" which for me has always evoked images of broad sunny meadows and wide expanses of farmland. This was in keeping with my notion that my ancestors on both sides of my family were farming stock and came to Canada and to Saskatchewan to continue that lifestyle. The Austevoll Saga debunks that whole notion. Andrew Grasdøl grew up on an island in the North Sea. It is no wonder he ended up moving to the west coast to live out his life near the sea.



Christi Jacobsen and Andrew Grasdøl, February 16, 1914



## Johansen to...

(Continued from page 5)

My Grandmother was also from Norway, born on May 18, 1877 in Maritvold near Verdal, Norway. Her name was Petra Oline Olsen Melby, the youngest daughter of Johan and Julianna Johanna (Pettersdatter) Olsen. Petra's oldest brother, Gustav, the first of the family to emigrate to North America, was naturalized in Harris County, Texas, on February 29, 1892. He changed his last name from Olsen to Melby, taken from the name of the family farm in Norway. A Baptist Minister, he moved to Minnesota, where Petra, upon reaching the age of 20, joined him in 1897 and adopted the same last name. I've heard of many others who used the name of their family farm when they emigrated, which becomes complicated when doing family research.

## Your Family Name... (Continued from page 1)

change was not imposed by immigration authorities.

As a sample, Borgfjord came from Borgarfjörður in Iceland, Laxdal came from the valley Laxárdalur. There were many people who immigrated that had the same last names so I think that was a reason for some to change it.



Editor's comment: Did you know that in Icelandic phone books people are listed by their first name?

## Scandinavian Culture in the Movie Theatre



SCoR members will probably be aware of the great opportunity offered by the Regina Public Library through the presentation of "the best of world cinema" at the Film Theatre in the Central Library. From time to time the program brings movies of special interest to us Scandinavians. Last year the club advertised an SCoR night for the movie about Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki expedition. On the club's Facebook page we have notified our followers when there have been other films of Scandinavian interest.

Ticket prices are very



reasonable: Adults \$6, Seniors \$5 and children \$3. Every Wednesday there is free admission to special movies.

All shows are guaranteed popcorn free!

## Higher Postage Rates



Do we have your email address?

Higher Canada Post rates for mailing are being introduced. *Midnight Sun* sent by email will reach you faster and can save considerable expenses for the club. Please consider the option of receiving the magazine online. Test it out via the SCoR website under 'Newsletter'. Make sure we have your updated information or, if we don't already have your email address, consider sharing it with SCoR.

## Upcoming Events

### Fishy Fridays at the Freehouse



At 5:00 p.m. on first Friday of every month join SCoR friends for a Fishy Friday at the Cathedral Village Freehouse, 2062 Albert Street. No need to sign up - just turn up! With improved attendance, the Freehouse will discount our bill by 10%! Upcoming dates: **Feb.7th, Mar.7th, Apr.4th**

### Winter Event



A day with outdoor activities is being planned for a **Sunday in February**. The venue will be the same as last year: Wascana Park just North of the Broad Street Bridge. Ticket price to be determined.

Information later on SCoR website and Facebook page, and via phoners.

### Game Night



Details still have to be decided for establishing a members' night of playing cards and/or other games.

Information later on SCoR website and Facebook page, and via phoners.

Bring family and friends to SCoR events!



### 2014 AGM

Date: Monday 14th April

Information later on SCoR website and Facebook page, and via phoners.

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Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

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#### Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30

Single membership \$ 20

**Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.**

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