



Serving Akershus and Oslo Fylker

Romerikslaget

News

July 2020



No Stevne This Year

Sadly, our wonderful Romerikslaget/Solørlag Stevne, originally scheduled for September 16-19, 2020, has been cancelled due to Covid-19. Because the safety of our members comes before anything, our boards made the decision to cancel and reschedule for 2021. Hopefully, by then we'll have a vaccine to protect us and we will be able to gather without the worry of contagion.

We'll miss being together with friends and enjoying the programs and entertainment that was already completely planned for this 2020 stevne. However, you will be happy to know that we were able to reschedule the stevne for 2021 with the same location and programs that we had organized for you.

Here's what you can look forward to in September of 2021:

We'll hold the 2021 Romerikslaget/Solørlag Stevne at the New Ulm Conference Center in New Ulm, MN from September 15-18. We'll have rooms held for you at the Best Western Plus that is part of the conference center.

The stevne will be held from Wednesday to Saturday noon. Wednesday will be planned for genealogy research with two programs in the afternoon. Elaine Hasleton will talk about "Sharing Your Family Stories", and Terje Hauger (from Norway) will speak about "Life in Norway". In the evening both boards will hold their board meetings.

Thursday will begin with the Opening Session, our time for anthems, introduction of board members and new members or first time participants and Show & Tell, where anyone can share with the group (jokes are popular!).

We will learn the history of New Ulm with a bus tour to Hanska, a Norwegian community, the Linden Lutheran Church and Cemetery founded in 1859, Thormodson Barn, John Armstrong monument, Nora Unitarian Universalist Church on Mount Pisgah, the Norwegian Stabbur, and Lake Hanska County Park with an 1857 log cabin & an 1863 fort site & Indian Hill burial site.

Friday will offer genealogy, Silent Auction, and vendors offering Scandinavian products. Programs are scheduled all day. Lags hold their annual meetings followed by the excitement of the Auction closing, group photos and finally the bunad parade and banquet.

Saturday morning we remember those who have died. The stevne closes following lunch.

So you see, you have something to look forward to in September of 2021

Mary Gross, Romerikslaget Treasurer



Akershus Fylke,
Ovre Romerike-
Eidsvoll, Feiring,
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,
Nannestad, Nes,
Ullensaker, *Nedre*
Romerike -Aurskog-
Høland, Blaker,
Enebakk, Fet,
Hakadal,
Lørenskog, Nitte-
dal, Rælingen,
Setskog, Skedsmo,
Sørum, *Follo* -
Frogn, Kråkstad,
Nesodden,
Oppegård, Ski,
Vestby, ås *Vestre*
Akershus - Asker,
Bærum
Oslo Fylke

Genealogy

100 Facts About My Life

Last week was the 100th birthday of a good friend of mine from my local genealogy organization. Because of social distancing, a big party was not in the cards. Instead, Dottie, sat in a comfy lawn chair under the portico at a local church and all her friends and relatives drove through and wished her a Happy 100th birthday.

Her nieces recorded everyone's name and handed out a Thank You note with "100 Facts about my Life," so Dottie didn't have to send out "Thank You Cards" to the hundreds of people who showed up.

The list begins with her birth, 17 June 1920, her parents names and the hospital where she was born. All items are one sentence long and include information on where she lived, education, marriage, birth of children and their children, foreign travel, etc.

Interspersed with this timeline are fun facts like, "Hunted in woods, circus performers in Hayloft, had playhouse in barn and a Shetland pony,"; "One regret is never learned to type,"; "Painted cards, pictures and clothes. I love to paint,"; "Had over 100 hats, gave over 56 talks about the hats all over the state."

When I read the 100 Fact sheet, I thought it was a fantastic idea. Everyone should do this and add it to their genealogy material. Very easy, one short sentence items, fun facts and important dates, how easy can that be!

Start your list now for your 100th birthday celebration.

Thanks to Dottie for the idea! I'm sure your family would find it very interesting. Dottie told me she kept some things secret and then she laughed.

As always, if you need help with your Norwegian research contact me.

Just a reminder that the bygdeboker are in storage until the next stevne which, hopefully, will be in 2021. Unfortunately, I don't have access to them but there are many other resources available.

Happy researching!

Deb Jarvar



Romerikslaget Facebook Group Update



***Membership has increased to 68 in our lag Facebook group:
"Romerike i America (Romerikslag)."***

It's been a good way to keep in touch from stevne to stevne, and we could really make use of it this year with having to cancel the 2020

Romerikslag/Solerlag Stevne.

Members have shared some interesting genealogy, cultural and history information about Romerike. We invite you to please share more, especially photos of your immigrant ancestors and of your own visits to ancestral areas in Norway. It's always fun to see the pictures, no matter how long ago the trip was!

If you haven't joined yet, give it a try, it's easy! First, you need to have a Facebook account, which is free at www.facebook.com. Then just sign in to your own page and enter "Romerike i America" in the finder box at the top, after the group page appears then click on "Join" and submit your request to join. As group administrators, Chris Falteisek and I are happy to answer any questions.

Contact me, Norma Kjenstad Barnes, nkwbarnes@yahoo.com or Chris chrisfalteisek@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

Norma



Fellesraad Bygdelag

Fellesraad News

We all feel sadness over the cancellations of our Fellesraad Annual Meeting and many Stevner. These gatherings are truly the highlights of the year, as they are valuable for renewing our friendships, as well as our Norwegian-ness. But we all are adjusting to our current situations.

Haugo Bibliotek and Archive at Norway House Update: The current plans for the new Haugo Bibliotek and Archive at Norway House will include two components in a 21st century plan.

The first component is the **Living Bibliotek/Discovery Center** which will have a new interactive appeal and will have numerous activities or stations such as DNA; Emigration/Immigration; My Famous Norwegian Relatives; My Famous Norwegian-American Relatives; Are We Related; My Heritage: Vintage photos, Ancestry photos, Then and Now photos; and other topics.

The second component is the **Archive** that will include the Bygdelag collections and tech workstations. We want to integrate what guests initially learn in the Living Bibliotek/Discovery Center to stimulate interest in the Archive and to continue their learning and research. Of course, individuals will also come strictly to do research.

Famous Norwegians Project: For the Living Bibliotek/Discovery Center to have content, we need additional information. A new project was started several months ago at FamilySearch which is called the Famous Norwegians Project. A list of approximately 440 Famous Norwegians (deceased) has been compiled. Volunteer researchers are locating the birth, marriage, and death record on each person on <https://media.digitalarkivet.no> and then attaching these records to each famous Norwegian on www.familysearch.org in the Family Tree. The goal is to extend their ancestral lines back as many generations as possible so others, like you and me, can tie into their ancestral lines. If you would like to participate in this research, please contact me as more researchers are needed.

We should first identify and compile the list of Famous Norwegians-Americans who are deceased. The Bygdelag Charter Members should definitely be included. We will then need to document each person in the digitalarkivet.no records and extend the ancestral lines farther back. Researchers are also needed for this project.

Which Famous Norwegian-Americans do you think should be included? If you are interested in participating in this fun project, please contact me at hasletonee@familysearch.org I will send you the details.

This is an opportunity to share your vast knowledge of Norwegian-Americans, particularly those from "your" Bygdelag. We can use many people working on this project, and you will be contributing to the future discovery experience at Norway House.

You may have additional suggestions for the Haugo Bibliotek and Archive, so please share them with me, as the Bygdelag and Fellesraad are key players in developing this facility.

Mange takk. Vennlig hilsen, *Elaine*

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, President

801.718.0379 © hasletonee@familysearch.org, eehasleton@gmail.com, www.fellesraad.com



Elaine Hasleton

Romerikslaget Stories



Carol Olson

A Picture Is Worth One Thousand Words

By Carol Olson, Romerikslaget Member

Do you remember the phrase: A picture is worth one thousand words? The modern use of the phrase is generally attributed to Fred R. Barnard. Barnard wrote this phrase in an advertising trade journal *Printers' Ink*, promoting the use of images in advertisements that appeared on the sides of “streetcars”— (Wikipedia).

In my case, one of several old Norwegian portraits that were in my paternal grandfather Hans Christian Halvorsen Nygaard’s album really lived up to that phrase. Hans came from Rælingen, Norway to Eau Claire, Wisconsin via Baltimore, Maryland in 1880, and he ended up in Washburn, North Dakota.

The only one who was positively identified in the photos was Antonie Taraldsen, taken at about the 1870s in Kristiania. My grandmother Anna Olson Nygaard said that the persons in this and the other portraits were relatives of her husband, but she had no idea who they were. Also, she never met his relatives in Norway except for a cousin Hans Reeshagen who came to and ended up in Washburn, North Dakota. The two cousins farmed together west of Turtle Lake, North Dakota for several years.

I decided to give it a try, beginning with the search for Antonie, by using first the Norwegian Genealogy group in Facebook, giving the group the probable date of the portrait and her name. Someone located her in the 1875 Norway census.

Antonie was listed as a foster child of Carl Julius Hansen and Karen Halvorsdatter. I figured that Karen was Antonie’s aunt (she was one of the sponsors of Antonie’s baptism), and the following research backed me up.

Next came the discovery of her September 11, 1867 baptism record at Vestre Aker church (my find). Her parents were the deceased Anton Taraldsen and the living mother Dorthe Halvorsdatter. The sponsors were Halvor Jacobsen, Karen Halvorsdatter, and Hans Halvorsen. These names are very familiar to me because they were the father and siblings of my great grandmother Maren Halvorsdatter. The Rælingen bygdebok (page 366), which I have, lists Maren, (the first) Dorthe, Hans, Karen, and Johan with their parents Halvor Jacobsen and Johanne Holmsdatter. The book says they moved to Aker in 1852. I then found the membership transfer record of the family from Fet Kirke to Aker Kirke in the Fet parish records.

I had already located the baptism records of all of Halvor and Johanne’s children plus marriage records of those who grew up. Johanne died in 1853, and this funeral record is in the Aker parish records. Being that Antonie was listed in that 1875 census as a foster child meant that her parents had died. With help from someone in the Norwegian Genealogy group, I found Anton’s death on January 1867, just a few months after his marriage to Dorthe (this Dorthe was named after the first Dorthe who died) and 6 months before Antonie’s birth. In fact, Halvor and Johanne had two daughters Dorthe with Antonie’s mother named after the other one who died, and two sons named Johan. I am still searching for the death record of Antonie’s mother Dorthe.



Romerikslaget Stories

Another portrait I have is of Antonie with two smaller children. I figured that they would have to be Karen and Carl's children and Antonie's cousins.

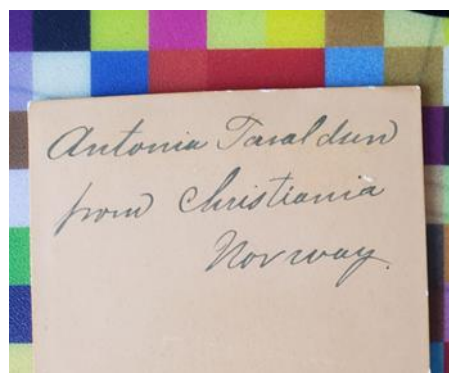
I found them in the 1885 census and learned that they were Johanne Bolette (she went by Bolette) and Hans Hjalmar (he went by Hjalmar). The 1891 census lists these children with their widowed father, but Antonie was not with them because she was already married. I then looked for Antonie, Bolette, and Hjalmar and found them in several subsequent censuses.

Antonie married Otto Olsen and had several children, about half of whom died young. Bolette married Andreas Kristiansen, and they had five children. I went further into their descendants, finding the latest record as a death of someone of the next generation in 1968. I then went to Geni.com and MyHeritage.com to check if any others have them keyed into these family trees or share some DNA with me.

Not much of that information was keyed in by others, but I found a few who submitted to DNA testing, share some DNA characters with me. I contacted one of them. I also sent her the two pictures, and she said that the little boy in the portrait of the three children was her grandfather Hjalmar! She may possess or have seen the same portrait as well. Amazing!! We have been comparing notes and sharing traits that show up in our branches, such as olive (dark) skin among our relatives. Hjalmar was married twice, and his son was Yngvat, who was her father. I also looked at various records such as Oslo hospitals. Also, with the families living in Kristiania/Oslo, it meant looking for records in not one but several churches plus hospital chaplain's records.

Other factors that helped me are FamilySearch.com, Ancestry.com, to name a few. Of course, Ditigalarkivet was a huge help. That particular research in itself was a learning experience for me—if you can't find one way, always try another way. A couple in one family was married in one church, their oldest child was baptized in the Oslo Domkirke, and their second child was baptized at yet another church.

On to my great grandmother Maren—she was the oldest of Halvor and Johanne's children. She was married in 1858 and was listed in the 1865 census with her husband Halvor Hansen Nygaard and two sons. Two more children were born after that. She died in 26 September 1871 in Rælingen, leaving husband Halvor with children ages 11, 8, 5, and 2. Halvor Hansen Nygaard was from Høland. His sister Kristine Halvorsdatter, who never married, came to live with the family and raised the four children. So, the 1875 census lists just Halvor and his four children plus his sister.



Members are welcome and encouraged to tell your genealogy story. It is how we get to know each other and who knows, our ancestors might have been neighbors. We won't make that discovery until you have shared your story.

Send your story to the newsletter publisher, Dorothy Mehl, 2111 E North Crescent Spokane, WA 99207 or email dorothymehl112@msn.com.

Membership News

In Memoriam

Doris Rognlien Michelson A Charter Member

Doris E. Rognlien Michelson, a charter member of Romerikslaget, died at age 103 on April 2, 2020. Doris was born January 23, 1917, in Madison, Wisconsin, to Otto Anton Rognlien and Ethel Elizabeth (Kitch) Rognlien.

Her mother died when Doris was nine, so she and her five siblings were sent to live separately with relatives. She attended elementary and middle school in several different towns, graduated in 1935 from Barron High School, and received a three-year degree from Eau Claire Teacher's College in May of 1940. Years later she returned to summer school sessions at UW- Eau Claire, earning her four-year degree in 1972.

Doris's first teaching assignment was a second-grade position in West Salem, Wisconsin. On December 28, 1942, she married Clifford Ulrich Michelson in West Salem and lived on the Michelson farm there until she was 99. Doris taught for many years in West Salem and Bangor, was active in Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and in several other organizations.

Doris and Clifford raised five children: James, Elizabeth, Robert, Mary, and Steven. Doris is survived by her children, two sons-in-law, two daughters-in-law, ten grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Clifford died in June of 2000. Doris and her son Jim continued to live on the farm which has been in the family since 1879. In January 2016 she moved into Mulder Health Care Facility in West Salem.

Doris's grandfather, Anton Martinson Rognlien, was born in Hurdal, Norway, in 1857. Her grandmother, Marie Kristine Opsahl, was born in Eidsvol, Norway, in 1858. Clifford's mother, Anna (Kristiansdatter) Opsahl, was born in Ostre Gausdal, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1882, and emigrated from Norway in 1900. As a result, Romerikslaget was an important part of Doris and Clifford's lives. They became charter members in 1990 and attended many stevner. Doris served as Historian and on the Board of Directors for several years. Her daughters, Elizabeth and Mary, became members and enjoyed attending many stevner with Doris.

Doris and Clifford travelled to Norway three times visiting relatives on both sides of their families. In 1993 they, along with seven family members, attended a Rognlien Family Reunion in Hurdal. The Rognlien farm had been in the family for 300 years and still is today!

In October 2019, Lisbeth and Eiliv Kummen, from Tretten, Norway, visited Doris, Jim, and other family members on the Michelson farm. Lisbeth's mother, living in Norway, is a first cousin to Clifford and just celebrated her 90th birthday. Coincidentally, Lisbeth's husband, Eiliv, had been an exchange student during high school, spending a year living with Lee Grippen and family in Caledonia, Minnesota. Lee is a member of Solorlag, a lag that has a joint stevne with Romerikslaget.

Doris completed and published her autobiography in 2011, donating a copy to Romerikslaget. A quote from the book displays the importance of her Norwegian heritage as well as her Romerikslaget membership: "I am writing this shortly after attending the 14th annual stevne in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I have attended eleven of the fourteen gatherings. It was a most enjoyable time renewing friendships and making some new ones, learning more about the lives of the members and of the early settlers of that area of our country and making me rather proud of my Norwegian heritage on my paternal side of my family tree."



Membership News

In Memoriam

Rolland Virgil Loken

Rolland Virgil Loken was born April 7, 1929 to Andrew M. and Elmyra (Aiken) Loken in Velva, ND. He died on March 23, 2020.

He was baptized in the Lutheran faith and educated in the Velva Public Schools. He married Iona Hystad in 1953. In 1955 he began employment with Burgess Chev. and Imp. Co. and became a partner in 1961. In 1977, the name was changed to LW Chevrolet under the ownership of Rod Loken, Rolly Loken, and Vernon Wunderlich. Rolly later



sold his interest and was owner-operator of Rolly's Parts Store until 1991 when he retired. He was a member of Oak Valley Lutheran church where he served on the church council and also served on the Velva City Commission, the Velva Park Board, and the Velva Clinic, Inc. Board. He was a charter member of the Velva Lion's Club. He shot a Hole-in-One at age 79 at the Velva Golf Course. Because he lived his entire life in Velva, he used to say he "never got out of town" but he traveled to Norway four times, where he visited ancestral areas in Nittedal and Hemsedal.

Rolly and Iona were blessed with four children, seven grandchildren, six great grandchildren and an exchange student daughter from Norway and her family. He is survived by his wife, Iona, sons: Rodney (Marlys) of Velva, Richard (Mary) of Rochester, MN; daughters: Jackie Schmaltz of Velva and Lisa (Marty) Heim, North Salt Lake, UT. Grandchildren: Jennifer (Jon) Striha, Maggie (Ryan) Albrecht, Miranda (Erik) Lindstrom, Zachary, Bryce, and Seth (Sarah) Loken, Kaiden Heim. Great grandchildren: Emma and Carsten Striha, Lila and Isak Albrecht, Eloise and Olivia Lindstrom. Also surviving is a sister-in-law, Elizabeth Loken, Velva and exchange student daughter, Eirin Ruud (Snorre) Nordstrand and their children of Norway.

Rolly enjoyed attending annual lag stevner and the many friends he met there. At the top of the list would be his trips to Norway. In 1985, he, Iona and daughter Lisa, visited daughter Eirin and her family as well as Iona's family at Hafslø and Stord. He and Iona attended Eirin's wedding at Søgne in 1991 and in 2001 they visited the church at Nittedal where his grandfather, Andreas J. Loken was baptized and confirmed.

On an earlier trip they had visited the spot where the husmansplass was located at Søndre Løken where Andreas was born in 1865. They had an opportunity to visit Hallingdal and the Brandvold farm in Hemsedal in 2001. Rolly's paternal grandmother was born a Brandvold and her father immigrated from here. A two story log building remained at the farm from when his great grandfather immigrated in 1862.

In 2009, Rolly and Iona, 3 of their children, a spouse, and 3 granddaughters visited Norway. They were hosted by family at Stord and Søgne and visited many historical and tourist sites in beautiful southern Norway.

Due to the corona virus pandemic restrictions, a memorial service is planned for later.

Membership News

Welcome New Members



Janice and Donald Aldrich, Waseca, MN
Ake, A-H

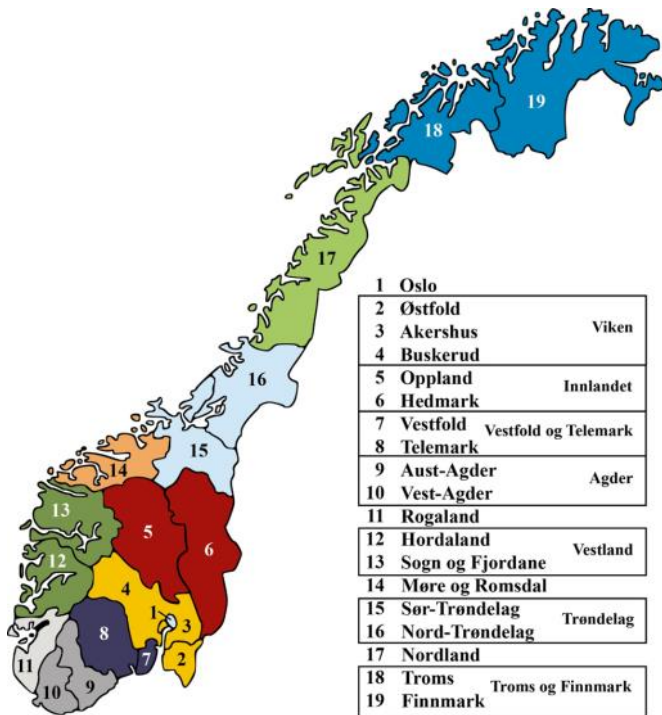
Rob Erickson, Edina, MN,
Feiring/Hurdal

Jorun and Paul Meierding, Mankato, MN,

Karin Linnerud, Norway

Janet and Donald Melby, LaCrosse, WI,

Susan Sandersen, Las Cruces, NM,
Kristiania



1	Oslo	
2	Østfold	
3	Akershus	Viken
4	Buskerud	
5	Oppland	Innlandet
6	Hedmark	
7	Vestfold	Vestfold og Telemark
8	Telemark	
9	Aust-Agder	Agder
10	Vest-Agder	
11	Rogaland	
12	Hordaland	Vestland
13	Sogn og Fjordane	
14	Møre og Romsdal	
15	Sør-Trøndelag	Trøndelag
16	Nord-Trøndelag	
17	Nordland	
18	Troms	Troms og Finnmark
19	Finnmark	

Norway's New Counties

County changes occurred as of 1/1/2020, and while it is good to know the new ones, keep records of the old ones for use in your genealogy research. In 2017 the government decided to abolish some of the counties and to merge them with other counties to form larger ones, reducing the number of counties from 19 to 11 administrative regions, called counties (singular Norwegian: fylke, plural Norwegian: fylker (Bokmål) / fylke (Nynorsk) from Old Norse: fylki from the word "folk", Northern Sami: ylka, Southern Sami: fylhke, Lule Sami: fylkka, Kven: ylkki) until 1918, they were known as amter. The counties form the first-level subdivisions of Norway and are further divided into 356 municipalities (kommune, pl. kommuner / kommunar).

The island territories of Svalbard and Jan Mayen are outside the county division and ruled directly at the national level. The capital Oslo is considered both a county and a municipality.

Wikipedia

An ad policy has been adopted by the Board of Romerikslaget. It reads as follows: Individuals or companies can submit articles that include contact information but do not include any prices. The *lag* Board reserves the right to edit or reject any submissions and will suggest to non-members that they join or make a donation to the *lag*.

Romerikslaget i Amerika Membership

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Historian • Julie A. Clauson

Facebook Administrators • Norma Kjenstad Barnes and
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www.fellesraad.com

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Romerikslaget i Amerika is a Norwegian American association.

Romerikslaget i Amerika

To continue membership, or become a new member, complete and mail this form.

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(from listing on front page of newsletter)

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Payable to: Romerikslaget

Mail form & check to:

Susan Waldera
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Taylor, WI 54659

Romerikslaget News is the official publication of Romerikslaget i Amerika and is published each March/Jul/Nov. Members receive the newsletter, step-by-step registration packet, access to records of Norwegian government and church records, Membership Directory and the help of our genealogist.

Romerikslaget i Amerika is a Norwegian American association whose members have ancestral roots or present-day ties to the area that nearly surrounds Oslo, Norway, called Romerike. The *lag* was founded in September 1990 to honor the unique culture of Romerike and to strengthen the bonds with the parishes of our ancestors.

Postmaster: if undeliverable
Return to:
2111 E North Crescent
Spokane, WA 99207

Favorite Stevne Hospitality Recipes

FLATBRØD

2 C flour

2 C quick oatmeal

2 C Total cereal (crush after measuring)

2 sticks margarine

1/2 C sugar

1/2 tsp salt

Mix ingredients like pie crust. Add 3/4 C warm water with 1 tsp soda

Mix well. Refrigerate overnight.

Divide into 6 balls. Roll each ball out as thin as possible (with flour).

Cut into pieces approx. 2" x 4". Bake on cookie sheet at 350 for 10 minutes while watching closely to avoid over browning.

Thank you to Sylvia Gunderson Sept 13, 2013 Eau Claire, WI Romerikslaget Stevne

