



The Danish Soldiers Club

October 2020

www.danishsoldiersclub.com

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DANISH SOLDIERS CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC. POST OFFICE BOX 41, PETALUMA CA. 94953
MEMBER OF DANSKE SOLDATERFORENINGERS LANDSRÅD. PROTECTOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As you know, we had to cancel the October picnic. We plan to do another meeting in the same picnic format in November so we will meet again on Saturday, November 7. You will be responsible for your own lunch, beverages and utensils. Some tables will be blocked off to ensure social distancing is maintained. The buildings will be closed, but the restrooms will be open. No reservations are needed.

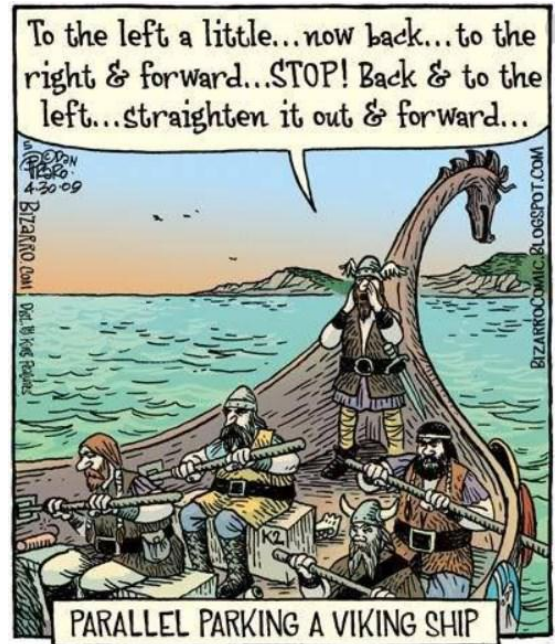
It still remains unlikely that we will be able to hold our traditional party in December given Covid 19 restrictions on indoor gatherings. In the event the situation changes, we would like to hear from you on your interest of attending an indoor party if government guidance permits. Please let me know at kastaniakeith@gmail.com.

We also have three board members whose terms are coming up and need volunteers to fill those positions.

If you're looking for a new series to watch on Netflix, I can recommend *Borgen*, a smart, fast paced drama about Danish politics. It's subtitled in English, but you might enjoy it in Danish.

I hope to see you November 7. Stay well.

Keith Brians
President



The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



"Personally, I worry that, with everyone wearing masks, readers won't be able to tell who in the cartoon is speaking."

Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board for 2020

Keith Brians President to 2020	Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com
Dennis Wimple Vice President to 2021	El Cerrito (510) 525-4120 denniswimple@yahoo.com
Margrethe Bækgaard Treasurer to 2020	Santa Rosa (707) 293-7972 margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com
Jill Brians Secretary to 2022	Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com
Michael Stecher Web Master Director to 2022	Mill Valley (415) 624-6215 mstecher@me.com
Ken Fultz Director to 2020	American Canyon (415) 362-7509 KFCVA41@comcast.net
Adam Byer Director to 2021	Oakland (510) 332 6932 adam@cherrystreetgames.com
Vagn Nielsen Director to 2021	Sonoma (707) 996-9950 nielsen.vk@gmail.com
Henrik Olsgaard Director to 2022	Orinda (510) 847-5186 holsgaard@hotmail.com

Volunteers:

Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net
Rick Santarini Newsletter Editor	Santa Rosa (707) 477-6669 santarinirick@gmail.com

Club News

Unfortunately in late September our Kastania Faelled caretakers tested positive for the COVID 19 virus. They both ended up having mild cases. Therefore out of respect for the health and well-being of our members, we had to **cancel** the October 3 picnic.

We plan to do have our next meeting in the same picnic format so we will meet again on Saturday, November 7. You will be responsible for your own lunch, beverages and utensils. Some tables will be blocked off so social distancing is maintained. The buildings will be closed, but the restrooms will be open. **No reservations are needed.**

With Fall having arrived it is time to think about Board nominations and elections. Due to the COVID

19 situation the Board has decided to delay the election of a new board until the next traditional meeting, hopefully in March of next year. We have three board members with expiring terms; Keith Brians, Margrethe Bækgaard and Ken Fultz. As always, this is a volunteer run organization and your participation in the board and other activities is appreciated and necessary for the club's success. So this is the time for Members to consider (especially new members) joining the board to help continue to keep this club strong and vibrant.

Sad News

I have some sad news to report long time member, Kaj Kristensen passed peacefully in Corte Madera, on Thursday, September 17, 2020 with family at his side. Kaj was born on November 20, 1931, in Svenborg, Denmark, the son of Lauritz and Ellen Kristensen. Surviving in addition to his wife, Eva Kristensen, are his son Wolfgang and his wife, Josiane, and his grandchildren, Ashley, Ryan and Karina.

Kaj left Svenborg in 1945 and became a Merchant Marine serving for the Sailors of the Pacific and spent 37 years at sea then became a Business Agent for the Sailor's Union in San Francisco. He loved the sea. He loved to travel and as such has been to all five continents of the world.

When serving for the US army, Kaj met Eva in 1954 in Frankfurt, Germany, and got married shortly thereafter. They were happily married for 66 years.

Everyone loved Kaj, he had a knack for making people immediately feel comfortable and always had wonderful and often funny stories to tell. Kaj will be missed very thoroughly by his family and friends.

Sadly, due to COVID, there will not be any services held for Kaj. Rather, to honor Kaj's wishes, he will be cremated and his ashes spread at Kirby Cove under the Golden Gate Bridge where many past sailors have rested their ashes.

Rather than send flowers to the family, donations can be made to Danish Society Dania of California and Nevada where Kaj was a past President. Education was important to Kaj, therefore the donations can be made to Dania Memorial Scholarship Fund. These donations may be sent to Tim Heer, Grand Secretary, 487 Paradise Park, Santa Cruz, CA, 95060-7005.

To view write ups of past members who are no longer with us go to the DSC Web Site [Memory Lane](#). If you like to submit a write-up please email Web Site Master Michael Stecher at mstecher@me.com

2020 Danish Soldiers Club Schedule		
November 7th	Bring your own	
December 20th	Julefest—Tentative	Sonoma Vets Hall

Important Notice for the November Luncheon and Meeting and COVID-19

Saturday, November 7th will again be a "Bring your own food and beverages" picnic, no reservations necessary.

To comply with the County guidance's the following requirements would be in place.

- *All buildings except restrooms would be closed.*
- *Members would provide their own lunch and beverages. and the bar would be closed.*
- *Groups of ten or fewer could sit together.*
- *Picnic tables would be spaced such that greater than six feet of space separate them.*
- *Face coverings would be required except when sitting at the table with your group.*

For those that pay Membership dues automatically on PayPal please read below.

Fellow Members,

As you know the dues for 2020 have been raised to \$40. The website is updated so that new accounts are \$40, but we cannot control people's **OLD recurring charges** from our end. The account holder has to do that by logging in to [PayPal.com](https://www.paypal.com).

You need to log into your PayPal account and cancel the \$30 recurring payment, and then go to our website and use the new link to approve a new \$40 recurring payment, which works just fine.

But I'm afraid we're going to have to ask every "recurring payment" member to do the same, for security reasons; it's PayPal, not us.

If your recurring dues has already been processed for \$30 this month, we ask that you please get to us at your convenience a check for \$10.00 to Margrethe to cover the balance. Then next year do the above to reset your account.

Sorry for any inconvenience this causes you.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP W AUTO-RENEWAL

Subscribe



If you already have paid your dues for 2020 you can relax. If not, please send a check for \$40 to:

Margrethe Baekgaard
1740 Brandee Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8676—
Email:

margrethebaekgaard@danishsoldiersclub.com

Also remember that you can pay online thru PayPal at www.danishsoldiersclub.com

Board Member and member of the Vikings of Bjornstad Henrik Olsgaard submitted this article for this month's newsletter.

Viking' was a job description, not a matter of heredity, massive ancient DNA study shows

By **Andrew Curry** Sep. 16, 2020

Andrew Curry is a journalist in Berlin



DNA from Viking-era burials around Europe—like this one of a woman in Varnhem, Sweden—revealed individual histories

It was a Viking saga written in genes. In 2008, construction work on an isolated Estonian beach near the town of Salme uncovered the skeletons of more than 40 power-

fully built men. They were buried around 750 C.E. in two ships with Viking-style weapons and treasure—apparently the aftermath of a raid gone wrong. DNA from the bones has now added a poignant detail: Four of the men, buried shoulder to shoulder holding their swords, were brothers.

The new data come from a massive effort to [sequence the DNA of Vikings](#) across Europe. The results, published today in *Nature*, trace how the Vikings radiated across Europe from their Scandinavian homeland, and how people with roots elsewhere also took up Viking ways. "The big story is in line with what's told by archaeologists and historians," says Erika Hagelberg, an ancient DNA expert at the University of Oslo who was not part of the research team. "It's the small details of particular sites that are really compelling." The Estonian site, for example, offers powerful evidence that the crew was a tight-knit group from the same village or town. "Four brothers buried together is new and unique ... [and] adds a new dimension," says Cat Jarman, an archaeologist working for the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, who was not part of the research team.

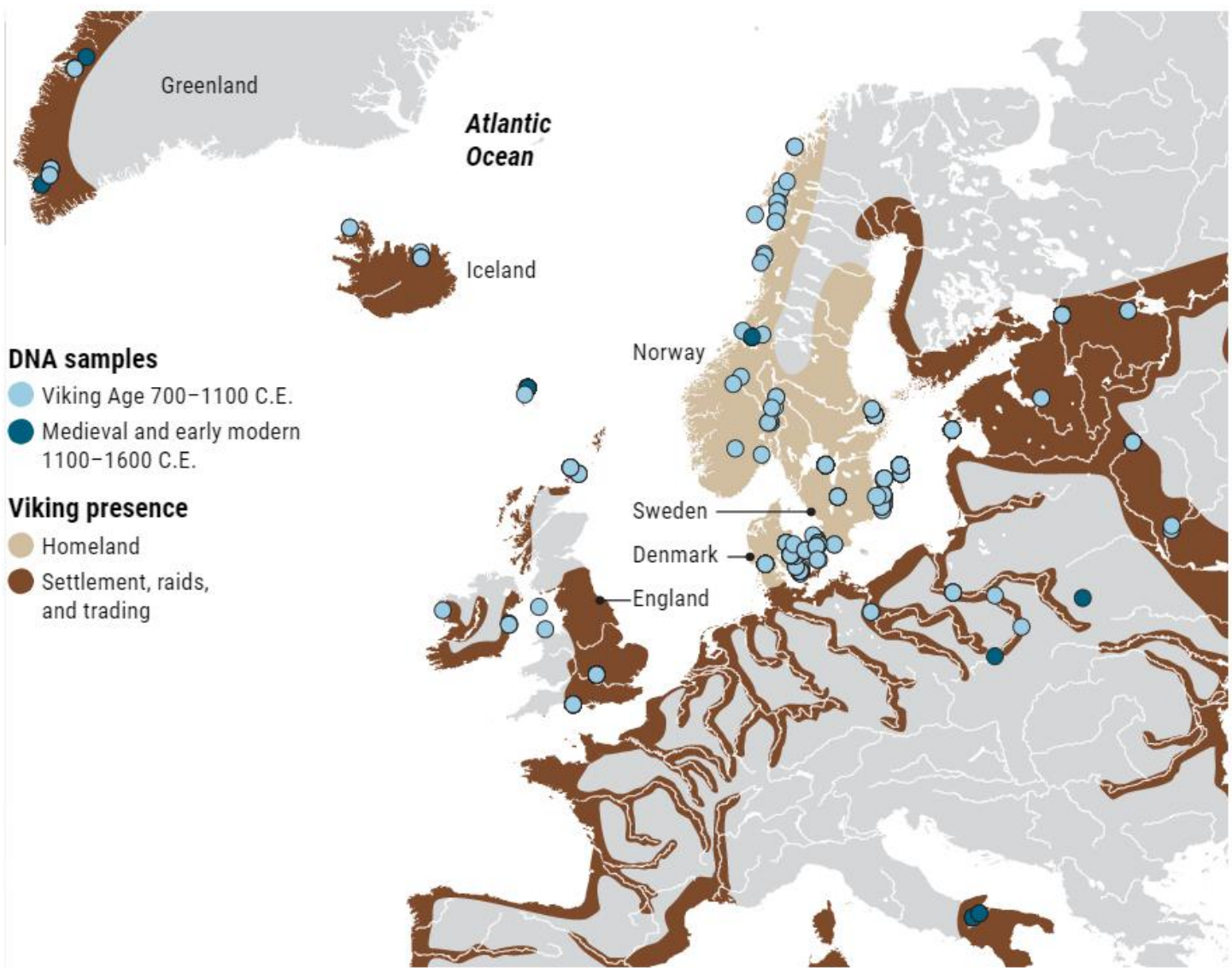
Over the course of almost 10 years, a team led by geneticist Eske Willerslev of the University of Cambridge and the University of Copenhagen assembled samples from across Scandinavia dating to the Viking Age, from about 750 C.E. to 1050 C.E., as well as some earlier and later samples. The team also gathered human remains from burials elsewhere in Europe and beyond that had Viking grave goods or burial styles. "We approached every place where we could see there should exist somehow an association with Vikings," Willerslev says. Ultimately, the team was able to sequence 442 Viking Age genomes from as far afield as Italy, Ukraine, and the doomed Viking settlements of Greenland.

The results tell dramatic stories of individual mobility, such as a pair of cousins buried in Oxford, U.K., and Denmark, separated in death by hundreds of kilometers of open ocean. The genetic details may also rewrite popular perceptions of Vikings, including their looks: Viking Age Scandinavians were more likely to have black hair than people living there today. And comparing DNA and archaeology at individual sites suggests that for some in the Viking bands, "Viking" was a job description, not a matter of heredity.

Age of exploration

Viking ships sailed forth from Scandinavia, traversing the waterways of Europe and reaching across the Atlantic Ocean. Vikings from different homelands preferred certain destinations; for example, men from Norway settled Greenland, DNA data now show.

Viking-style graves excavated on the United Kingdom's Orkney islands contained individuals with no Scandinavian DNA, whereas some people buried in Scandinavia had Irish and Scottish parents. And several individuals in Norway were buried as Vikings, but their genes identified them as Saami, an Indigenous group genetically closer to East Asians and Siberians than to Europeans. "These identities aren't genetic or ethnic, they're social," Jarman says. "To have backup for that from DNA is powerful."



The results also settle a centuries-old argument about the geography of raiding. Sagas written down centuries after the first expeditions suggest Vikings from certain regions favored specific destinations, but other scholars suggested the Viking command of the waves made them equal-opportunity raiders and traders.

DNA in hand, researchers for the first time could conclusively trace the origins of people from the far edges of the Viking diaspora back to their roots in Scandinavia. "We can follow the patterns of contact suggested by written sources, but disputed by historians for decades," says co-author Søren Sindbæk, an archaeologist at Aarhus University.

They found that Vikings from what is now Sweden moved east to the Baltics, Poland, and the rivers of Russia and Ukraine, whereas Danes were more likely to head west to what is today England. Norwegians were most likely to set sail for the North Atlantic Ocean, colonizing Ireland, Iceland, and eventually Greenland (see map, on page 4). "This is detail one couldn't do based just on archaeology," Willerslev says.

To the team's surprise, there was little evidence of genetic mixture within Scandinavia itself. Although a few coastal settlements and island trading hubs were hot spots of genetic diversity, Scandinavian populations far-

ther inland stayed genetically stable—and separate—for centuries. "We can separate a Norwegian person from a Swedish person from a Danish person," Sindbæk says.

The DNA has raised new questions, too. Study co-author and National Museum of Denmark archaeologist Jette Arneborg says DNA recovered from burials in Greenland shows a mix of Scandinavian men from what is now Norway and women from the British Isles. Yet the artifacts and burials look completely Scandinavian. The women "have British genes but we can't see them in the archaeology," she says. "The DNA is going to make us think more about what's happening here."

Other mysteries remain. Viking settlements in the Americas have not yielded bones for sequencing, leaving the identity of the first European settlers in the Americas a mystery. And to the east, more samples may help illuminate the role of Vikings in the origins of the early Russian state, a topic that remains "extremely politically charged," Sindbæk says. "This data has the potential to resolve some of these debates."