



The Danish Soldiers Club

April 2022

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

Things are finally getting back to normal. Lunch was served and the bar was open. Thank you, Rick Santarini for obtaining the Liquor License. Food was bought and forty-eight meals were prepared by volunteers. Members and guests could not say enough about how wonderful the sandwiches were. Thank you to Martha Smith, Annalisa and Dennis Diaz, Lizette Burtis, and Elizabeth Foss. Thank you also to all the other volunteers that helped.

Don't forget the barbeque in May. With May comes Mother's Day and we want to recognize those mothers. Send me an email and let me know who you are (mgunlund0674@gmail.com).

The board has been having several Zoom meetings in preparation for this year. Updating the by-laws will be the first order of business at the May meeting. Plan to attend so your voice is heard. For those that have an email on file you will receive a copy (please bring your own copy to the meeting) and for those that don't have an email, copies will be made available at the meeting. As always, I look forward to seeing all of you again in May.

Michael Gunlund, President



I'm sorry, I thought your application was an April Fool.

The Danish Soldiers Club

Post Office Box 41
Petaluma, CA 94953



Spring is in the air!

Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board 2022

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Newsletter update

This is my last edition of the newsletter as it's editor. Starting with the May edition our Web Master Michael Stecher will take over the duties of Newsletter Editor.

April 2nd Meeting

April 2nd came with beautiful weather, and 48 members and guests enjoying Kastania Faelled. The best part was the return of the Danish Smørrebrøds lunch, the kringle and the opening of the bar. Thank you to Annalisa, Dennis, Martha and Elizabeth for the excellent job making the sandwiches.

The day had a sense of a return to normalcy, many thanks to our new board in helping to achieve that.

Thanks to the many donations for the raffle that help support this club from Vagn Nielsen, Dennis & Conni Wimple, Poul Poulsen, Michael Stecher, Tudy Kapellas, Barbara Larson, Chris Jorgensen, Joe Santarini, Kirsten Petersen, Sheryl Hoy, Vibeke Jensen, Rick & Lisa Santarini, Per Madsen, and Tove Lindberg.

The rest of the meetings will without any doubt have great Kastania Faelled lunch weather and temperatures. *Again share this with your family and friends as a way to encourage new members to join and help us celebrate our Danish Heritage. Though this the club will continue to remain vibrant.*

Club News

The Board is currently going thru the Bylaws in an effort to update them. They will be reaching out to the membership for their approval at the appropriate time. Also they are looking for ways to ensure the club stays on a good financial footing.

John Chiles has agreed to fill the Board Vacancy.

Thank you

With a new Board in 2022 it is important to remember our last Board who did a great job of ensuring the Club continued thru the difficult time of the COVID pandemic. Keith Brians, Dennis Wimple, Jill Brians, Vagn Nielsen, Ken Fultz, Adam Byer, Michael Stecher, Margrethe Baekgaard, Henrik-Olsgaard. Especially our past President Keith Brians and Board member Ken Fultz who due to the postponement of elections in 2020 graciously stayed on for an extra year past the completion of their terms.

Thank you for all you did to help the Club continue thru this difficult time.

BBQ

The May meeting will feature one of our most popular events, the Spring BBQ with all the fixings. Dennis Wimple has volunteered to again be the BBQ Master, but other volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. If you can help in the kitchen, serving, making salads, etc. please contact Annalisa or someone on the Board to offer your help. It is the volunteers that make these events successful.

Next Meeting/BBQ Luncheon Saturday May 7th: Flag Ceremony at noon followed by the Membership meeting with Lunch around 1:00.

Order form for BBQ lunch at \$30.00 per person

SATURDAY May 7, 2022 Lunch at 1:00

Email or mail this order to arrive no later than Wednesday PM prior to the lunch to:

dscvagn@gmail.com

Or:

Vagn Nielsen

PO Box 53

Vineburg, CA 95487

Or PayPal thru the DSC Web Site

www.danishsoldiersclub.com

NEW YORK STRIP STEAK

We will prepare the finest, most tender and well seasoned beef available with three kinds of salads, beans and dinner rolls. Coffee and pastry are included.

For just \$1 there will be Hot Dogs and Ice Cream for the children.

Please bring your own utensils



Drink Tickets are 3 for \$12.00, or 6 for \$20.00. Please specify quantity _____
1 ticket for any mixed drink, wine or beer. Soft drinks 1/2 ticket.

Name: _____ # of Adults _____ # of children _____

Bottled water free. Check amount \$ _____

I received this article from DSC Board Member Hendrik Olsgaard and a member of the Vikings of Bjornstad. Enjoy!

New study changes our understanding of how and where the Viking age began

By: Charlotte Price Persson



We can see for the first time why they started to invest in ships and develop the technology. It is interesting that when we have two such significant developments and changes – urbanization and raids across open water - that we can now say that they were, in fact connected. (Professor Søren M. Sindbæk, Aarhus University)

The story of the Vikings begins in the year 793 AD, after Norwegian Vikings landed in England on the first official Viking raid. To this day, these fierce raids are the most famous of Viking stories.

Now, a new study suggests a more peaceful start to Viking seafaring -- and it all began in Denmark.

Three archaeologists from the University of Aarhus (Denmark) and the University of York (UK) have shown that maritime voyages from Norway to Ribe, the oldest commercial center in Denmark, occurred long before the Viking age officially began. The study shows that early Vikings travelled to Ribe in South Denmark as early as 725 AD.

The researchers discovered deer antlers in the oldest archaeological deposits of Ribe's old marketplace and they turned out to be the remains of Norwegian reindeer.

"This is the first time we have proof that seafaring culture, which was the basis for the Viking era, has a history in Ribe. It's fascinating," says Professor Søren Sindbæk, one of the authors of the new study, which has just been published in the *European Journal of Archaeology*.

Norwegian professor Dagfinn Skre from the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo speaks positively about the research.

"I was happy when I read it for it's something that archaeologists have believed for many years -- but now it has been demonstrated," says Skre. "It's absolutely wonderful and it's a tremendously persuasive study."

Archaeologists divided into two camps

The question of whether Ribe was central to the early Viking culture, had divided archaeologists into two camps. A connec-

tion between the biggest Nordic commercial center of the day and the beginning of the Viking voyages seemed obvious, but there was no evidence to confirm it.

The reindeer antlers are the first archaeological evidence that Ribe really did play a central role. Commercial trips between Norway and Denmark allowed them to develop the maritime skills and geographical knowledge needed for future raids.

"It is a nice example of archaeology providing solid data that goes directly to the heart of major debates. It's one thing to have a qualified idea of how something should be, it's another to show it," says archaeologist Morten Søvsø, curator for Museums of Southwest Jutland in Denmark. He was not involved in the new study, but thinks that it fits with current research.

Vikings developed their maritime expertise sailing between Denmark and Norway

Researchers investigated reindeer antlers used to produce combs, Ribe's earliest in-

dustry.

Using a new bio-archaeological method they were able to take tiny samples from the antlers and bone. Protein (collagen) in the bone was used to identify the reindeer species.

Seafaring was central to the Vikings and their long sea voyages were unique for their day. The unsuspecting English had no idea of what was about to hit them, when the first Vikings set off from Western Norway in 793 AD to strike the Lindisfarne monastery in northern England.

"The Viking Age becomes a phenomenon in Western Europe because the Vikings learned to use maritime mobility to their advantage. They learned to master sailing to such an extent that they get to the coast of England where the locals don't expect anything. They come quickly, plunder the unprepared victims, and leave again -- a sort of hit and run," says Sindbæk.

The Vikings did not become adept mariners overnight. According to Sindbæk it took a lot of time, effort, and resources before the first Norwegian sailors had enough knowledge and technology to make these long and dangerous voyages.

"We can see for the first time why they started to invest in ships and develop the technology. It's interesting that when we have two such significant developments and changes -- urbanization and raids across open water -- we can then say that they were in fact connected."

What came first, the raiders or the merchants?

The new results show that long voyages were underway early in the 8th century AD, with the establishment of a marketplace in Ribe. What was to become history's famous Viking expeditions can be directly linked to the development of Ribe as a town and commercial center.

"We can now show that the famous Scandinavian sea voyages, which eventually led to the discovery of Iceland and Greenland, have a history of some commercial travel, not just raids. Previously we were inclined to say that yes, once you can sail across open water, you can also sail to the commercial towns -- now we can turn the equation around and say that trading towns may have been an important part of the drive behind developing new technologies," says Sindbæk.

"The peaceful exchanges -- trading -- will take up more of the story, and the military voyages, which are also important, must now share the space," he says.

The 'missing link' between Viking raids and urbanization

These new findings do not just tell us when the Viking age began. Discovery of this early trade also tells us something about the development of Ribe, the earliest Viking town in Scandinavia.

Deer antlers were popular in comb manufacturing, one of the earliest known industries, and were often used to produce needles and other tools. It was not difficult to obtain enough antler material for a typical household, but it could be difficult for a professional comb maker to find sufficient quantities locally.

The new study shows that the early Vikings from Norway exploited the readily available commodity, and could easily have sold reindeer in large quantities to Denmark.

"Someone up in Norway knew that they must make an expedition and assemble a large number of these antlers, which for them was a waste product, and go to Ribe where they could sell them. They know that there is a purpose to the journey, and that it can be done safely without being robbed or the market suddenly closing," says Sindbæk. "In this way, one can say that the activities in the high mountains are a part of urban development."

Researchers investigated **almost 300 samples**. The majority of samples are from an excavation published by archaeologist Claus Feveile (site number: ASR 9, the post office).

The excavation uncovered soil layers which are divided into so-called 'activity phases', dating from different time periods.

The reindeer antlers date back to the earliest phase of activity in the marketplace. You cannot get a specific year, but according to Søren Sindbæk it suggests that the antlers were in Ribe before 725 AD. Ribe emerged as a town in the early 8th century AD.

Previously, the oldest evidence of Norwegian society in Ribe was from broken pots dated to between 800 and 820 AD.

According to Søren Sindbæk, Ribe is generally perceived as the center of the southern Jutland region and at the forefront of development within Scandinavia - simply trading within the region. Although Sindbæk does not believe this himself.

"There are some, including me, who have suggested that contrary to this view, distant contacts travelled from far away to meet in Ribe. However, we have not previously seen evidence of these links to the rest of Scandinavia, which is strong evidence against this interpretation. If you cannot see the evidence for such links then it is hard to explain what Viking

raids from Norway have to do with the rise of towns in Denmark. This study gives us the missing link," says Sindbæk.

Vikings did not know they were Vikings

Not everyone agrees that the study clearly shows how Viking towns improve our understanding of when the Viking era began.

In a study from 2008, the archaeologist James Barrett concluded that urbanization and trade were not a decisive marker, and he is still not convinced that the development of towns such as Ribe actually helped to kick start the Viking age.

"It's solid research, and the results are really exciting. Søren and his colleagues argue that a town is in fact a network, and there are many things, such as merchants from Norway, that make the town possible. Where we do not necessarily agree entirely, is in the perception of whether towns and trade also helped to start the Viking age," says Barrett, who specializes in medieval archaeology at Cambridge University, UK.

Barrett admits that the role of towns would be central to the initiation of the Viking age if you look at it from the perspective of a trading society, rather than focusing on military matters such as raids.

Sindbæk agrees. "Now we can prove that shipping between Norway and the market town of Ribe was established prior to the Viking era, and trade networks helped to create the incentives and the knowledge of the sea, which made the Viking raids possible. It is the first time that we can clearly link two very important phenomena, the lock and key if you like, of the Viking Age," he says.

Ultimately, the researchers agree that the discussion of when the Viking era began is also one of semantics. It all depends on what you mean by Vikings. Morten Søvsø from Southwest Jutland Museums suggests that we should be careful with the labels we give to people who lived in the past.

"They didn't go around knowing they were Vikings. If you want to argue that the Viking age in fact started when they had contact with the wider world, then this study supports this view - but it will always be a rationalization," says Søvsø.

Read the original article in Danish on Videnskab.dk, (with the right application on your computer can be translated into English)

Link: [The Viking Age began in Ribe \(videnskab.dk\)](http://www.videnskab.dk)



The oldest fragment of a comb made of reindeer antler from Ribe. 725 AD