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Etymology of Norwegian Names

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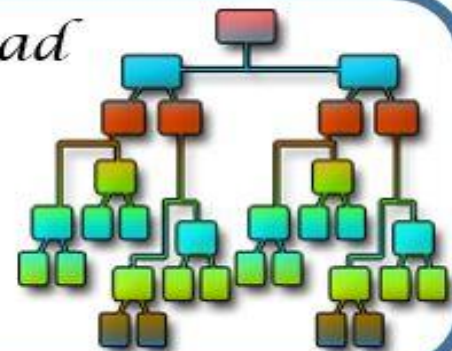
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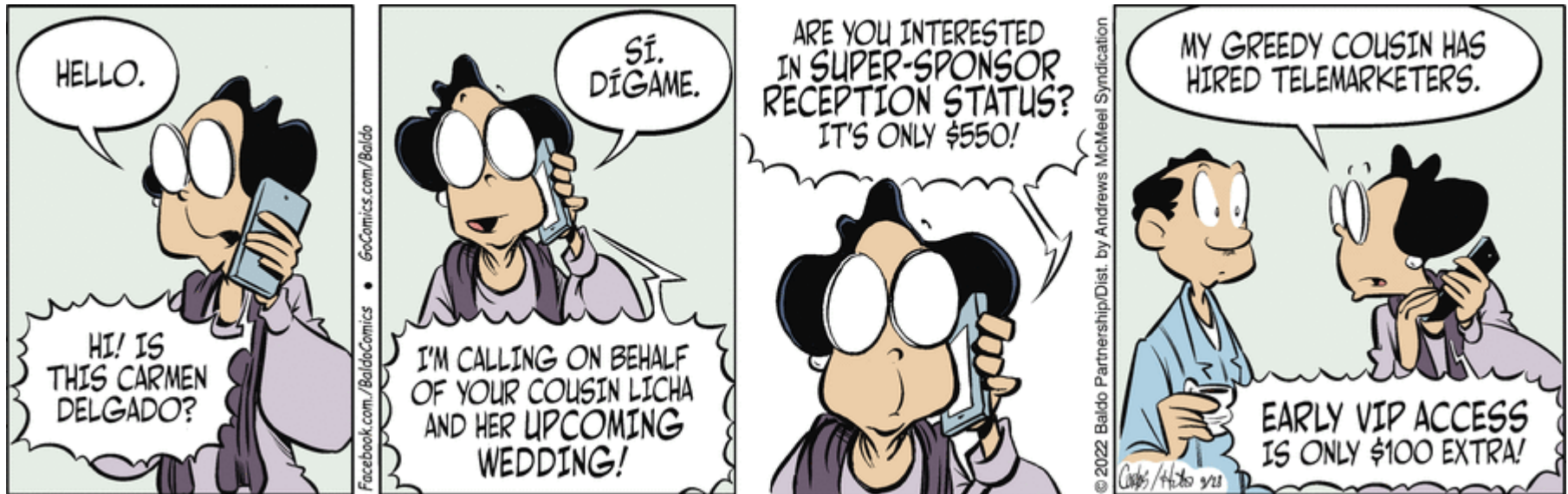
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Fun Stuff

- Kind of genealogy related . . .



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Fun Stuff

- Just funny . . .



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Etymology of Norwegian Names
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Etymology of Norwegian Names

- There's a lot of ground to cover.
- This talk is a lecture with some examples and interactive quiz.
- Please ask questions as we go – I'll either answer or defer if the subject comes up later.
- Have fun . . .



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Etymology of Norwegian Names

- This was advertised as the Entomology of Norwegian Names.
- Norwegian names are not buggy but do have a normally consistent structure and understanding it can really help in your research.
- And of course, recognizing an inconsistency – Entomology versus Etymology is a good example – can become very important.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- In pre-Viking times, people were known only by a single name. Names were assigned by combining prefixes and suffixes from common usage (a few of these prefixes are Bjorn, Dag, Odd; a few suffixes are -alf, -stein, and -vard). You likely won't encounter this system in online records as written records don't go back that far.
- Patronymic naming in Norway goes back to the start of the early Viking age – around 600 AD.
- Family names in Norway are, in fact, a product of only the last few generations, except among the traditional upper classes (the clergy, military, civil servants, and the wealthy bourgeoisie).
- In Norway, the use of fixed family names was not made compulsory by law until 1925.
- And of course, now Norway has reverted again, allowing the re-introduction of Patronymics.



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Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Knowing the ancient unique Norwegian custom naming convention will be of great help.
- In Norway, especially in the rural districts, there have long been very strict rules about naming descendants. Some of these rules persist even today.
- It was customary for the eldest son to be named after his paternal grandfather and the second son after his maternal grandfather.
- In a similar fashion, the eldest and second daughters were named after the respective grandmothers.
- After the grandparents' names had been used, the great-grandparents' names were the next to be given, although without strict rules as to the order.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

Exceptions! Special circumstances might interfere with these rules.

- The name of a deceased spouse was to be used first, and the name of the father or mother was given if the child was baptized after a parent's death.
- Often, after the early death of a son or daughter, that child's name would be re-used on the next child of the same sex.
- Starting about 1865, famous personalities' names would be used – but generally only in less rural areas unless they were Royalty.
- A last exception - according to a Norwegian proverb: "The name and the farm must go together." This meant that a child who was intended to be the owner of the farm upon reaching maturity should be given the name of a previous owner, whether a relative or not. Often, this would be the father's name – but not always.



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Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Norwegians were identified by their Christian name and their father's name plus the appropriate suffix. For example, Olav Håkonsen meant that this man was the son of Håkon. (The surname might also be spelled "Håkonsson" or "Håkonsøn.") And Sigrid Håkonsdatter was the daughter of Håkon. (The surname might also be spelled "Håkonsdotter").
- In addition, a third name was often used. This was usually a farm name. This "surname" did not necessarily identify a family or a relationship; it signified a place of residence. If farmer Ole Olsen Li moved from Li to another farm, such as Dal, he would then be known as Ole Olsen Dal. A farm laborer could be named in the same way, even though he was not related to the farmer.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Sometimes the preposition "på" (meaning "at") was placed between the patronymic and the farm name, indicating that the person in question was employed at that particular farm. For example, Olav Pedersen påValstad or PåValstad or på Valstad.
- Similarly, a tenant farmer (a cotter or husmann) was often listed in the official registers under the name of the farm to which his little home belonged. Sometimes the preposition "under" was put in front of the place-name. In this way, a cotter connected with the farm Lunde might be called Hans Petersen Lunde, or sometimes Lunde-eie (eie = possession) or Lundeie, even if his home locally was called something else.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Understanding farm names and how they were used is very important since people's "farm" name could change often.
- Also, many farms of the same name are scattered throughout Norway, so Hans Hansen Hjem is not a unique name as there are more than 20 Hjelm farms.
- Also, since Hans Hansen is very common, there could even be two or more "Hans Hansen Hjelm"s living on the same Hjelm farm at once!



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Farm Place Names can be confusing as the person's "place" changed regularly and often they may not actually be on a farm or bruk with that name.
- Therefore, we also have to explore both when a "place" changes and what it is changed to.
- And note that after about 1865, "place" sometimes became fixed, depending on how rural or urban the area was.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- When “placed changed:
 - Your first place was when you were born.
 - Your place **may** change when you were confirmed.
 - Your place would change when you bought a farm
 - note that your kids and wife’s place names changed when this occurred.
 - Your place **could** change when you got married
 - Your place **could** change when you became a tenant, craftsman, or a laborer – note that your kids and wife’s place names changed when this occurred.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Garde – farm – versus Bruk – tenant holding on a farm.
- Often, if a bruk were big enough it would incorporate the name of the farm. Thus you would have Hjelm and Hjelm Nordre/
- Many farms were subdivided – I've seen at least one that was divided into 23 bruks.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Farms and Bruks could also have Hagens – gardens. Plots of land tended by a tenant.
 - The Revling Garde in Hedmaken has more than 96 Hagens.
- Farms could also have Skole – school – and Menighetshus – church – plots which might have families living at them, such as the teachers or the ministry staff.
- Cottage areas – the –eie names – were where laborers and craftsmen lived.



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Many farms were sub-divided into more farms which would contain bruks. For example, Mesna – which then became Mesna Nordre after the first division:

– Mesna Nordre – farm	520.1
• Ringbakken – bruk	520.1a
– Sørnessenvegen - bruk	
• Mesnahagen – bruk	520.2
– Paerstykket, Messenhagen, Sørnessenvg 541 – bruks	521.1
• Mesna Nordre/mellom – bruk	520.3
– Sørnessenvegen 601 - bruk	
• Mesna Nordreie – cottage area	520.3
• Mesna Skole – school plot	520.4
• Bekkeli – bruk	520.5
– Sørnessenvg 605	
– Mesna Søndre – bruk	289.1
– Sørnessenvg 723	
• Mesna Søndreie – cottage area	289.1
– Mesnabakken – bruk	522.1
– Sørnessenvg 700/702/704	
• Mesnabakkeneie – cottage area	522.1



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Farms which were subdivided could have the following name added:
 - Indre – inner
 - Ytre – outer
 - Nord or Nordre – north
 - Sør - south
 - Øst - east
 - Vest or Vestdre – west
 - Øverste – over
 - Nedre – under
 - Bakken – the ground
 - Stuen – living area
 - Eie – living area
 - Lille – little
 - Sveen – the swain (country)
 - Haga – garden
 - Mellom - between
 - Blak – black
 - Nar – after
 - Engen – meadow
 - Menighetshus – Church Hall
 - Haug - Bunch
 - Tajet - ????
 - Utsikten - View
 - Skole - School



Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Garde names can be used multiple times in the same Parish but with a different location – see example two.
- Bruk names and designated farm #s can be repeated and even in the same parish, as well as the same fylke and other fylkes.
- Often the main Garde name is used instead of the Bruk name – especially if the person is not a tenant.
- For example, someone living at the Hjelmstadeie cottage area might only be known as Hjelmstad.
- You must be careful that you are looking at the correct Garde or Bruk when trying to find which farm your ancestor actually was on.



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Etymology of Norwegian Names

	Farm no.	Farm	Parish	Municipality	County
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Høsbjør østre	Furnes	Furnes	Hedemarkens amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Svartsveen	Furnes	Furnes	Hedemarkens amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Baldrup	Løiten	Løiten	Hedemarkens amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Herdal	Løiten	Løiten	Hedemarkens amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Hjelmstad	Ringsaker	Ringsaker	Hedemarkens amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Gagnum	Gran	Gran	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Ulevolden	Sel	Vaage	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Forlandet	Kolbu	Vestre Toten	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Guse	Kvaas	Kvaas	Lister og Mandals amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Karlgaard	Vuku	Værdalen	Nordre Trondhjems amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Graarud	Os	Rakkestad	Smaalenenes amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Nes	Os	Rakkestad	Smaalenenes amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Finnesteigen	Vangen	Voss	Søndre Bergenhuss amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Kvalsjord	Opdal	Opdal	Søndre Trondhjems amt
<input type="checkbox"/>	232	Dørdal	Orkedalen	Orkedalen	Søndre Trondhjems amt



Etymology of Norwegian Names

Farm no.	Farm	Parish	Municipality	County
<input type="checkbox"/> 80	Hjelle	Norderhov	Norderhov	Buskeruds amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 92	Hjelle	Aurdal	Nordre Aurdal	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 151	Hjelle	Faavang	Ringebu	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 93	Hjelle	Ringebu	Ringebu	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 262	Hjelle	Sel	Vaage	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 41	Hjelle	Slidre	Vestre Slidre	Kristians amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Hjelle	Aardal	Aardal	Nordre Bergenhus amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Hjelle	Breim	Breim	Nordre Bergenhus amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 52	Hjelle	Eid	Eid	Nordre Bergenhus amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Hjelle	Førde	Førde	Nordre Bergenhus amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Hjelle	Stranden	Stranden	Romsdals amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 51	Hjelle	Stranden	Stranden	Romsdals amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Hjelle	Romfo	Sundalen	Romsdals amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Hjelle	Søkkelven	Søkkelven	Romsdals amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Hjelle	Ørskog	Ørskog	Romsdals amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 61	Hjelle	Os	Os	Søndre Bergenhus amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Hjelle	Odda	Ullensvang	Søndre Bergenhus amt
<input type="checkbox"/> 73	Hjelle	Øistesø	Vikør	Søndre Bergenhus amt



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Etymology of Norwegian Names

- Quiz Time
- Now that you know how names are built and a little about farms, you can start looking at a name and producing who and where they came from:
 - Hans Jorgensen Hjelmstadeie – born 1855, eldest
 - Kristie Hansdatter Dahlie, born 1829, eldest
 - Thore Andersen Hvalstad, born 1824, eldest



Etymology of Norwegian Names

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**SONS of
 NORWAY**

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Bentsen and Reed
 Ancestral Lines



Genealogy Jottings
The Happiness of Pursuit



Walzs from Mahanomen
 Hjelmstads from Milton



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