# HISTORY ... NEVER TASTED SO GOOD!







# FLAVORS OF THE FJORDS

EPUBLICATION EDITION THE NORWEGIAN HOLIDAY COOKBOOK

TRADITIONAL RECIPES OF THE Fladvad-bjørke family BY:

FAITH RAYMOND CONNORS TRACY DANIEL CONNORS TOVE JOHANSEN FLADVAD BJØRN JOHANSEN FLADVAD From Norway to Newport... "History has never tasted so good!"

# FLAVORS of the FJORDS

-2023 Digital Color-restored Edition-

# Norwegian Holiday Cookbook

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"...let it be our pride that we ourselves may put meaning into our lives, and sometimes a significance that transcends death. If a man is fortunate he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he can of his civilized heritage and transmit it to his children." Will and Ariel Durant

### In Loving Memory of

#### **Anna Fladvad Johansen**

### Nina Johansen

# **Marie Theresa Fladvad Cottrell**

### Marie Theresa Cottrell Raymond,

#### our grandmothers and our mothers.

"Flavors of the Fjords" is a combination of cookbook and family history assembled by the Fladvad-Bjorke family. The book may be the most detailed history of a Norwegian-American family yet published, and it serves as a model of what many Norwegian-American families could do to preserve knowledge of their past and the stories of their ancestors' immigration."

#### News of Norway, Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D. C.

We agree with the Embassy's conclusion that Flavors "exemplifies what dedicated compilers and relatives can do to preserve knowledge of their family's complex past. This one family's legacy should inspire others as well."

What you are about to read and experience remains the most comprehensive history of a Norwegian-American family yet written and published.

The Table of Contents was prepared to give you an early and convenient understanding of the book and its contents. The range of topics is interesting, but far broader than you would expect based on its title.

Flavors is not likely to be a book that you will be able to read in one sitting. Further, the various chapters include family history, some genealogy, Norwegian holiday traditions, over 100 authentic recipes for Norwegian cakes and cookies, even a chapter chronicling life in occupied Norway during World War II.

The Table of Contents was below compiled and organized to provide you with a convenient overview of the book's contents and a way to easily find them either through hyperlinks or the search feature on your reading device.

#### The Big Picture...

Flavors of the Fjords the most comprehensive history of any Norwegian-American family yet prepared, including its holiday recipes, travels, photographs, and correspondence. The determination of family members to stay in touch now extend back over 150 years.

The authentic, mouth-watering, easy-to-prepare Norwegian holiday recipes originate from an original, 19th century manuscript cookbook prepared by Marie Theresa Fladvad, a beautiful, intelligent émigré who married into an established Newport, Rhode Island family at the turn of century.

Recipes for over 100 holiday cookies, cakes and breads, toppings, and puddings are interwoven with fascinating bits of Norwegian social history, including explanations of Norwegian Holiday traditions and customs, many of them kept alive to this day by millions of Norwegian-American families.

These dishes reflect authentic cooking of the old country, and those flavors, uniquely Norwegian, brought to America by nearly one million Norwegian immigrants.

Interesting and poignant family recollections shed light on life in Newport, Rhode Island at the turn of the century. All was not "Bellevue Avenue high life."

One chapter traces the history of the Fladvad and Bjørke family farms in Central and Western Norway from 1400-1900, using information obtained from Norwegian archives. Fascinating glimpses of life and times in Norway since written records were first kept are revealed.

In addition, it offers an unusual section of letters and photographs from family members describing the trials of life in German-occupied Norway during World War II.

Recipes are really interesting and fun to read. The Authors have included copious notes on Norway, its people, and its cooking. In addition, many of the recipes pages include period photographs of family members who were connected with the recipe.

Flavors includes a 1,800-word Norwegian-English glossary, with useful terms for foods and cooking, but also family, kinship, home, and utensils. The Glossary is the first designed specifically to help readers wishing to translate their family Norwegian recipes.

33



#### Preface

The "back story" for a nonfiction work such as Flavors of the Fjords helps the reader understand the circumstances and events that prompted the writers to invest so much of themselves in such a demanding project.

The Preface prepared by author Tracy Connors introduces you to the Cottrell-Fladvad-Bjørke Families. It explains how the authors began to unravel the puzzles surrounding Marie Fladvad Cottrell's manuscript cookbook and the boxes kept by her daughter, Marie ("Peter," as you will soon know why).

The family stories that unfolded over several decades of research and writing are often poignant. The Preface introduces you to the "mystery" photograph of the west central Norwegian farm in the Sunndahl Valley that helped them reconnect with the ancestral family home, as well as with the relatives still living there. This chapter introduces you to the research trail followed by the authors that ranges from Oslo, Ibsen and the Grand Café, to Kristiansund and the Dovrefjell.

The preface concludes with a section focused on Norway including a variety of statistics and facts to help you better understand this beautiful democracy.

#### Norwegian Holiday Traditions: Syttendemai and Juletid

Norwegians especially enjoy two major holidays each year. One commemorates their struggle to regain independence as a nation, the other celebrates the Christmas season. Both are family-oriented, combining national festivities and warm, convivial times with their immediate and extended families.

The story and numerous photographs help you experience a Norwegian Independence Day celebration in Oslo starting the day before the parades and feasting. In spirit you can join the marching school band parade of beautiful, enthusiastic young people marching down Karl Johan to parade past Slottet, the home of the Norwegian Royal Family, to waive and share for their king and queen.

Christmas in Norway is a treasured holiday for all Norwegians. Flavors explains treasured Norwegian traditions, Christmas stories, and Christmas foods, including recipes for the traditional Norwegian Christmas cookies. You will see Marie Fladvad's original manuscript recipe as well as the contemporary recipe developed by the authors from her original ingredients and measures.

Christmas Fun With Children

# Contents

		Gnomes and Saints 33
Norwegian Holiday Traditions 23		Julekake 35
Syttendemai 23		Christmas Bread 35
Juletid 23		Marie's Original Recipe 35
Christmas Time in Norway 23		<b>č</b> 1
Constitution Day 24		Julekage 35
Bunad 25		Christmas Cookies 36
Syttendemaitog 25		Berlinerkranser 37
, 6		Berlin Crowns 37
Arriving At Slottet 26		Marie's Original Recipe 37
Middag 27		Barlinerkrandse 37
Christmas In Norway 27		Fattigmann 37
Yule Log Cake 29		e
Julenissen Brings Gifts 30		Fried Crullers "Poor Man's Cake" 37
Julekost 30		Pepperkaker 38
Gledelig Jul 31		Gingerbread Cookies 38
		Peppernøtter 39
7		Ball-Shaped Spice Cookies 39
Marsipangriser 32		Peppernøtter 40
Marzipan Pigs A Charming Christmas Tradition	32	Ball-Shaped Spice Cookies 40
Marzipan Pig 33		Dui onaped opiec coonies 40

Hvitt Peppernøtter 41				
White Ginger Cookies	41			
Bergen Peppernøtter 42				
Bergen Pepper Gingersnaps	42			
Sandkaker 43				
Norwegian Sand Tarts 43				
Smørpletter 44				
Butter Dots 44				
Norwegian Royal Crowns				

Ì

vii

Serinakaker 45 Serina Cookies 45 Sirupsnipper 46 Molasses Diamond Cookies 46 Mølsgraut 47 Møls Porridge 47 Får i Kål 48 Lamb and Cabbage 48

#### **Fladvad Family**

Marie Theresa Fladvad emigrated from Christiania (Oslo), Norway to the United States in 1895. She left behind in Oslo, her father Tron Fladvad and mother, Oline Bjørke Fladvad, plus several sisters and brothers. Settling in Newport, Rhode Island, she soon married and began a new life. The Fladvad and Bjørke families from which she came have been established in Norway since before written records were kept. The next two chapters tell the story of the Fladvad and Bjørke Families through family records, national archives, and photographs.

To better understand and appreciate the history of these two venerable Norwegian families, we begin with a brief overview of the historical background and the circumstances in which the Fladvad and the Bjørke families lived.

Tron's Fladvad family had lived on three neighboring farms in Western Norway near Sunndalsøra for several hundred years. Oline Bjørke's family was from Furnes, about six miles north of Hamar and about 30 miles south of Lillehammer, the site of the 1994 Winter Olympic games.

In many important respects, these two families and the land which they farmed represented the majority of Norwegians who emigrated to the United States. By following their story in so far as possible, we get a much better understanding of these families and times in which they lived.

The chapter includes a broad outline and summary of Norway's history and events—including some interesting information explaining different systems of taxation, weights, and money. Historical events are noted to provide more context for you between what was happening in Norway, and trends, developments, and changes taking place around the world.

# Contents

The Fladvad and Bjørke Familie	s	49
Church and Crown 50		
The Black Death 51		
Sweden-Denmark-Norway	53	
The Reformation 54		
Farmers and Cotters 54		
Norway Under Sweden 55		
The Landowners 56		
The Land Rent Landskyld	56	
The Land Register "Matrikkel"	57	

The Named Farms and the Land Registered

Farms 57 Taxes 57 Measures and Currencies 57 Flatvad & Bjørke58 Flatvad 59 Traditional Names 60 Hoås 61 Bjørnhjell62 Avalanche 63 Flatvad 64

#### **Bjørke Family**

The Bjørke Family has its roots in the Hamar area near Lake Mjøsa about 40 miles northwest of Oslo. The area was founded over a thousand years ago primarily to support and sustain pilgrims coming from throughout Europe on their way to St. Olav's tomb in Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim. The first mention of the family appears in the oldest written records of the area from about 1300.

This chapter traces the family's challenging history as farmers and founders in the area, and includes photographs of the beautiful parish church and nearby farm that help bring the family's story to life. The journey follows Oline and Tron from the time they met in Kolveride until their final residence in Oslo, and includes historic

#### **Contents Bjørke Family**

Hamar 77 The Bjørke Family 78 Norwegians Retain Their Identity 78 Coaching Inn 78 Nils and Kari 78 Fire At Bjørke 79 Anders and Marie 82 Norway's National Day 82 Oline Andersdatter Bjørke 83 Niels and Lars Bjørke 83 Oline Travels To Namsos 85 Norwegian Horses Would Not Kick 87 Skibladner 87 Lillehamer 88 89 The Royal Road Tron Olesen Fladvad 89 Oline Andersdatter Bjørke 89 Tron and Oline Move to Kristiandsund 91 Norway's First Kaffestue 92 Life in Christiania 95 Sources & Suggested Reading 97

#### **Cottrell's of Newport**

Charles Cottrell represented the third-generation of the Cottrell family who had made Newport, Rhode Island their home. James Cottrell, an Irish engineer, had arrived in Newport in the early 1820s to help construct Fort Adams. Soon he was heavily involved in building a new Catholic Church (later made famous as the site of the Kennedy-Bouvier marriage), and teaching classical languages. His son, Michael, would join a contingent of Newport would be gold diggers whose journey to California in search of gold brought only death to many and hardship to all. Michael would establish the family's mercantile store on Thames Street. His son, Charles, would marry a Norwegian immigrant, Marie Therese Fladvad, whose belongings included her manuscript cookbook full of recipes for delicious Norwegian cakes and cookies.

Their marriage seems happy at first, but soon faces many tests. Their story provides rare insights into the lives of an affluent, but not truly wealthy, Newport family buffeted by the deaths of their children, cultural differences, and fading fortunes as the famous city's Gilded Age came to an end.

<b>Cottrell's of Newport Contents</b> Marie's Dilemma 99	Marie Returns To Norway 123 Between Polar Expeditions Roald Amundsen Explored
Marie Rejects "The Doll's House" 102	Shuffleboard 126
Charlie Meets Marie 104	Move To Mill Street 129
Newport Merchant 107	Life At 23 Catherine Street 131
The Cottrells Arrive in Newport 109	Beginning Of The End For Charlie And Marie
Shipping Out on the Audley Clarke 109	133
Return To Newport: Business On Thames Street	Charlie And The Electric Spark 135
110	Charlie Pays His Bills-With His Household 136
Michael and Catherine 111	"Mr. Cottrell Is Survived By Four Daughters"
Marie Fladvad Arrives In Newport 114	137
From Norway To Newport 115	Marie Is On Her Own 139
A New Century, A New Baby 121	Teens In The Teens 140

#### viii

It's The 'Big Apple' For Theresa143Marie Becomes A Newport Business Woman 143Establishing Theresa In New York144Marie's Apartment Building145Alone On Bellevue Avenue146

The Storm Started to Get Bad in the Afternoon 147 Epilogue 154 Sources & Suggested Reading 155

#### **Norwegian Cookies and Cakes**

Over 100 authentic, mouth-watering, easy-to-prepare Norwegian cookie and cake recipes are included derived from the original, 19th century manuscript cookbook prepared by Marie Theresa Fladvad.

Recipes for holiday cookies, cakes and breads, toppings, and puddings are interwoven with photographs and fascinating bits of Norwegian social history, including explanations of Norwegian Holiday traditions and customs, many of them kept alive to this day by millions of Norwegian-American families.

#### **Contents Norwegian Cookies and Cakes**

Cakes, Cookies and Breads 157 American Cake 158 Arendalskaker 159 Berlinerkranser I 160 Berlinerkranser II 161 Bløtkake I 162 Bløtkake II 163 Bordstabel-bakkels 164 Clabbered Cream 165 Diagonaler 166 Eggedosis 167 Eplekake I 168 Eplekake II 169 Marie Theresa Cottrell Raymond's 170 Dutch Apple Cake 170 The Silhouette's Secret 171 Flatbrød 173 Fruktkake 174 Fyrstekake 175 Gjærbakst 177 Gjærbakst med Eple 178 Gudbrandsdaler 179 Guldkake 181 Hjortetakk 182 Honningkake 183 Hveteboller 184 Jødekaker 185 Julekake 187 Kaffebrød 189 Karamellpudding 190 Kardemommemuffins 191 Kassandrakaker 193 King Haakon's Coffee Cake 194 Kongevifter 195

Korintkake 196 Kransekake I 198 Kransekake II 199 Kringle I 200 Kringle II 201 Kringle III 202 Krumkake Background 203 Krumkake 204 Krydderkake I 206 Krydderkake II 207 Kvæfjordkake 208 Linser 210 Mandelflarn 212 Mandelkake 213 Mandelkake med Krem 214 Mandelstenger 215 Marabukaker 216 Mor Monsen's Kake I 217 Mor Monsen's Kaker II 218 Munker I 219 Munker II 220 Norsk kake 222 Norwegian Spice Loaf 224 Norwegian Pancakes 226 Pepperkake 227 Pepperkake 228 Peppernøtter 229 Peppernøtter 230 Pleskener 231 Potetlefse 232 Pritsar 233 Rømmegrøt 234 Rømmegrøt 235 Rømmebrød 236 Rosett-Bakkels 237

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Rullekake 239 Sandkaker I 240 Sandkaker II 241 Sandkaker III 242 Sandkaker IV 243 Sandkake 244 Sandnøtter I 245 Sand Nuts 245 Sandnøtter II 246 Sitronkake 247 Sjokoladekuler 248 Skillingsboller 249 Smørkranser 250 Smør-Krem 250 Smørpletter 251 Smultringer 252

Sølvkake 254 Sølvkake 255 Sukkerbrødkake 256 Sukkerbrød 257 Lemon Cognac Pudding 257 Sugar Bread Cake 258 Tebrød 259 Tosca kake I 261 Tosca kake I 262 Tyske skiver 263 Vanilla Custard Filling 264 Vaniljeboller 266 Waffles 268 Fløtelapper I 268 Fløtelapper I 269

Born in Kristiansund in 1874, Olise, was the seventh child of Tron and Oline Fladvad. [Her Newport nieces pronounced her name "Ah-liss," but it was "O-lise" in Norwegian with a long "o."] She was about ten years old when her family sailed to Oslo in 1884. We know little more about her until the summer of 1897, when she was 23. Her older sister, Marie, had left for the United States in 1895 and had been married there that same year. Olise felt she also had to try her wings. The occasion was Queen Victoria's Jubilee--proclaimed to celebrate her then sixty year reign.

Contents of The Diary of Datter Olise 269 Queen Victoria's Jubilee 270 An English Wedding 271 To Oxford, England 271 Bicycle Touring in England 271 Windsor Castle 272 The Abbey...then Greenwich 272 To Bayeux, France 273 Paris: "I went only out of curiosity" 274 Olise Meets Her Brother 274 Life in Bayeux 275 <u>Orient Express</u> to Munich 278 Meet <u>Fridtjof Nansen 278</u> Culture in Munich 279 Ending the Century and an Era





Christian "Chris" (pron. "Kiss") Willumsen married Jeanne Fladvad, Marie Fladvad Cottrell's younger sister in 1913. She was 31, beautiful and intelligent. He had wanted to marry long before, but she said they must wait until he had made his business successful. He was handsome and entrepreneurial. His businesses were successful--until the German occupation government forced him out of business. They were a devoted couple until his death in 1949.

#### Contents

Christian and Jeanne Willumsen 280 Letters from German Occupied Norway 280 "...but these are disturbing times." 285 "View from Rognlihögda" 298



Jeanne and Chris Willumsen at "Rognlihögda," their "hytte" in the mountains above Drammen, Norway.

Norwegian Americans share a very special legacy in their family ties to a beautiful country, and in the delicious recipes developed over the years. This is especially true of Norwegian Holiday cooking and recipes.

From årfugl to ytterdor, the more than 1,800 words, terms, and phrases contained in the Glossary were selected based on their use in cooking, food preparation, household living, and family relationships. We hope they may be of some help to those of you who wish to translate family recipes or letters.

To assist readers translating family recipes, we have included various phrases and terms excerpted from Marie Fladvad Cottrell's manuscript cookbook. These are italicized (in quotes) and retain their original spelling.

Tove Johansen Fladvad

#### Contents

GLOSSARY of NORWEGIAN-ENGLISH FOODS, COOKING, FAMILY LIFE 302

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