

XPLORE 2022

HODDEVIK

NORWAY

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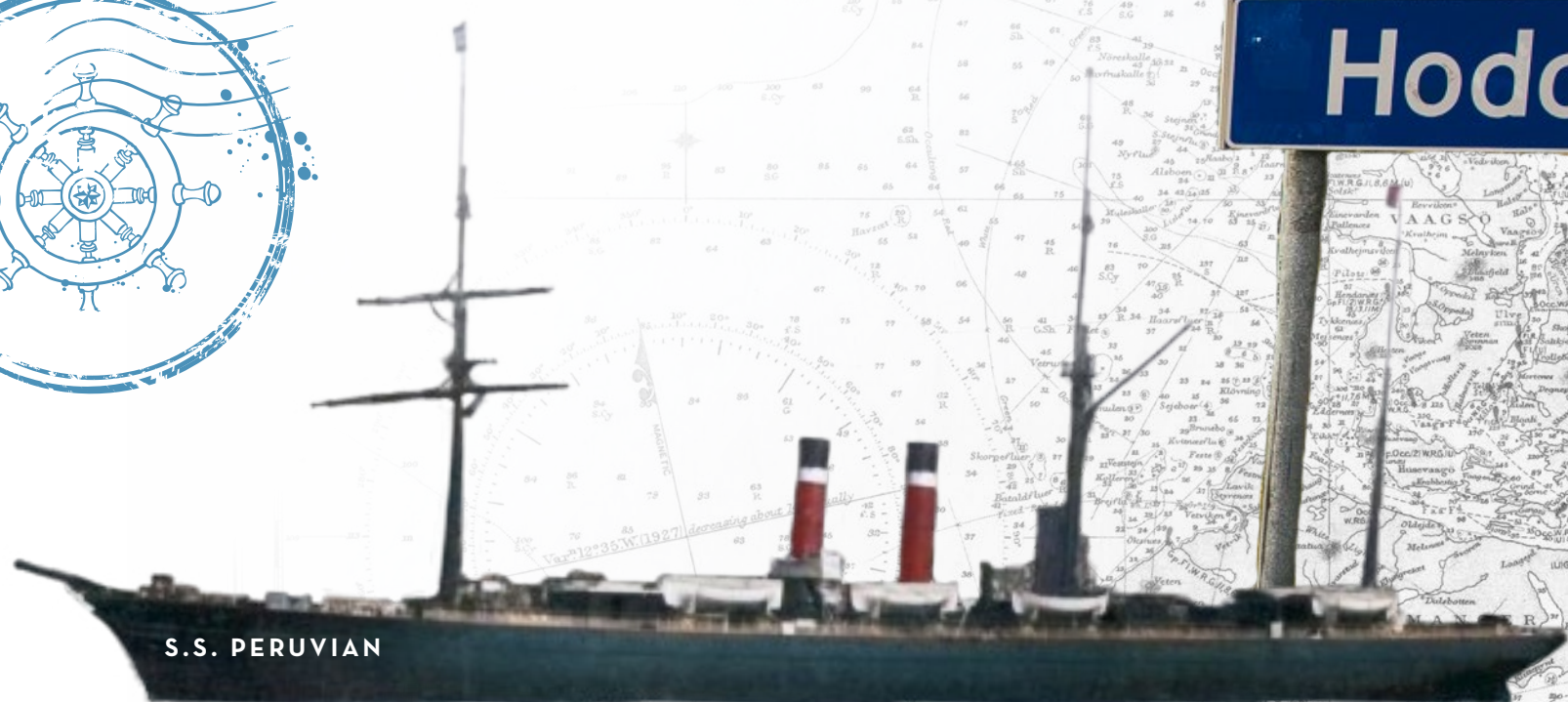
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THE HODDEVIK VOYAGE

My Great Great Grandfather on my mother's side, Christopher Mathias Hoddevik, left his home, Hoddevik, Norway, for North America at 19 years old. He set sail on the S.S. Peruvian on March 30, 1893 and voyaged for 32 days alongside 590 other adults all the way to Nova Scotia, Canada. He eventually made his way to Comstock, Minnesota where he met and married Carrie Engebretson. Carrie was also from Norway. She grew up in Kvam, Norway, a city about 200 miles south of Hoddevik. They had 9 children. The fourth was my Great Grandfather Arnold Marius Hoddevik.

It has been one of my biggest life dreams to travel to Hoddevik, Norway where Christopher grew up, and where my family received their name (mom's side). My grandma has spent countless hours researching our family origins and I have always been fascinated by what she has found and the stories she has told me. While my last name is not technically Hoddevik, I know that it is as much a part of me as my father's side. Traveling to Hoddevik, Norway would be an adventure that takes me back to my familial roots while also exposing me to a new culture, people, geography, and way of life.



S.S. PERUVIAN

MY VOYAGE

Hoddevik is a very small surf town located 30 minutes away from the nearest grocery store and 8 hours from Oslo on the west coast of Norway. Around 15-25 people live there year round, but there is a steady presence of surfers drifting in and out of town. There are a couple hostels in the town that offer surf lessons for all levels. In the summer months, the sun doesn't set until 11PM, and even then, it doesn't get completely dark.

I will center the bulk of my trip in Hoddevik itself because it is essentially the whole purpose of my trip. It is where Christopher Matthias Hoddevik was born and raised for the first 19 years of his life. His whole life up until that point was shaped by the place he grew up in and I strongly believe that played a huge part in who he was as a person and as a father, grandfather, etc. I would stay in the town, meet the locals, and take part in the surfing culture.

In order to experience more of Norwegian culture as a whole, I would love to spend a day or two in Oslo. The city combines fjord and forest landscapes with high-end architecture and landmarks that bear witness to Norway's Scandinavian traditions and modern life. If time allows, I would also make a pit stop in Kvam, Norway, where my Great Great Grandmother Carrie grew up. Visiting these three locations would provide a diverse and well rounded experience of the country.



HODDEVIK, NORWAY



KVAM, NORWAY



MY HOPES & GOALS

I am proud of my family name and have been raised to understand that to be a Hoddevik means something. We are strong and resilient, close-knit and caring, we work hard and have a knack for getting things done. Going to Hoddevik, Norway would be an incredible way to celebrate my family and all the amazing things they represent. I can only imagine the kind of fulfillment and joy it would bring me and them. No one in my family has made it there yet, though we have often dreamt of it.



Through my Xplore trip, I hope to learn more about Norwegian culture, my family's heritage, and the Norwegian landscape and geography.

I want to be familiar with the place that my family came from, similar to the way I am familiar with the place that I grew up and called home for the first 18 years of my life. That is why I am not only excited to take this trip but to research it.

I want to prepare so that by the time I get there, I can recognize a mountain or waterfall like I can at home.

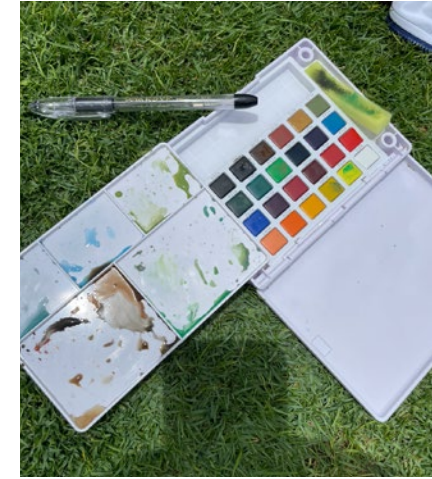


For so long Hoddevik has been a family name, but unfortunately, the name will not be passed on after my mother and aunt. I feel compelled to keep the name strong and alive in our family. If I am able to make this journey, I will not only be educating myself about the history of my family but also about a beautiful place that bears my family name. In turn, I will ensure that what I learn and experience will continue the Hoddevik legacy through my documentation and memories.

I can't pass along the name to the next generation, but I will pass along the Hoddevik spirit through this experiences and memories made on this trip.

MY DOCUMENTATION

I would naturally take many pictures and videos to share, but I would also like to take along my watercolors and paint the scenery that I come across. I have always enjoyed watercolor painting and would love to capture my trip in that way to share with the firm and my family. I think it would be a great way for me to slow down and take in the scenery and the culture. I have taken my travel size watercolor kit with me to many places already, and I would use it to do quick sketches (as shown on this page) as well as my full size kit to do detailed scenes when I have the time. I would journal and compile everything in a blog-style website as well as a photo journal, similar to the pages you are reading now (but much more robust). This will ensure that my experience is safely documented and easy to share for generations to come.



In order to share my trip with the firm, I would bring in the original copies of my paintings and show them in a gallery setting (in the gallery space). I would also utilize a display screen to show my pictures and videos. I would love to tell my stories and experiences with whoever is interested and would be happy to share the link to my blog postings as well.

I know I will be enriched beyond measure by this trip, as will my family members. Travel, adventure, and fulfilling a dream often spark excitement, enthusiasm, and inspiration. I believe that all of those things are contagious and will positively impact my team and our working environment as a result of my Xplore trip.

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there are rocky, light-colored cliffs with some sparse vegetation. Below the cliffs, a valley opens up, showing a mix of green fields and brown, possibly harvested, land. A small cluster of buildings is visible in the middle ground. To the right, a wide, light-colored sandy beach curves along the edge of a body of water with a vibrant turquoise hue. The background is dominated by steep, dark green mountains with some rocky outcrops. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

TUSEN TAKK
(THANK YOU)

