

The 17th of October we went to [USA](#) to visit Asbjørn, Anne Berit's brother, who lives in Bel Air, a small locality right outside Baltimore. We parked the car at Dalen Parkering as usual.



USA's position on the globe



The flag



Coat of Arms

The first people who settled down in North America, migrated probably from Asia, over the Bering Strait from Siberia during the ice age, 10 000 til 30 000 ago. These became the forefathers of the people that later was known as the Indians.

The oldest proven European settlements in North America are found in L'Anse aux Meadows on Newfoundland and dates from around 1000, but the Norse settlers did not succeed to create viable societies. The first documented expedition to mainland USA was when the Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de Leóns landed at Florida in 1513.

There was subsequently established Spanish, French, Dutch and British colonies. Britain's victory in the French Indian war 1754–1763 resulted in that the British could take over new land areas in North America far beyond the original thirteen colonies.

The new territories was placed directly under the British crown, but in an attempt to get back some of the big was expenses, they tried to increase the taxes in the already existing colonies. The resistance against the British rule in the thirteen colonies resulted in the American Revolutionary War 1775–1781. In 1776 the thirteen colonies pronounced their independence. The date of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, is now celebrated annually as America's Independence Day.

During the 1850s the differences between the various states and between then north-states and the south-states. After four years of bloody war the north-states won the war in 1865.

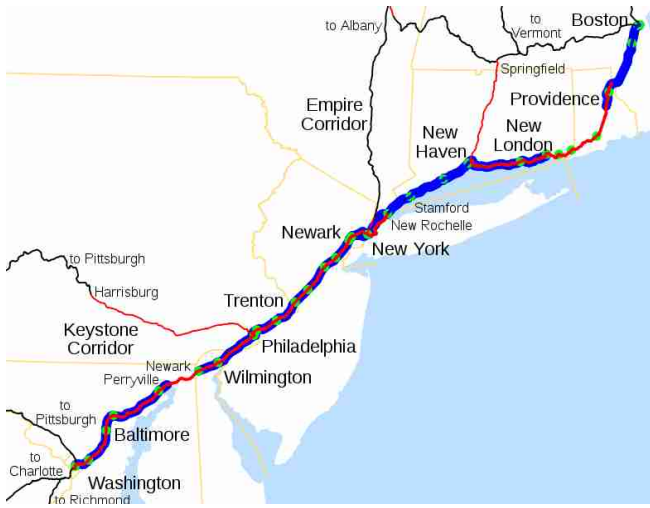
During the 1800s USA expanded energetic westwards an new states were established, while the country received a lot of immigrants from all of Europe. When USA bought Alaska from Russia in 1867, the borders became as they are today.



We went with [SAS](#) from [Oslo Lufthavn Gardermoen](#) til [Newark Liberty International Airport](#). This is a picture from Newark.

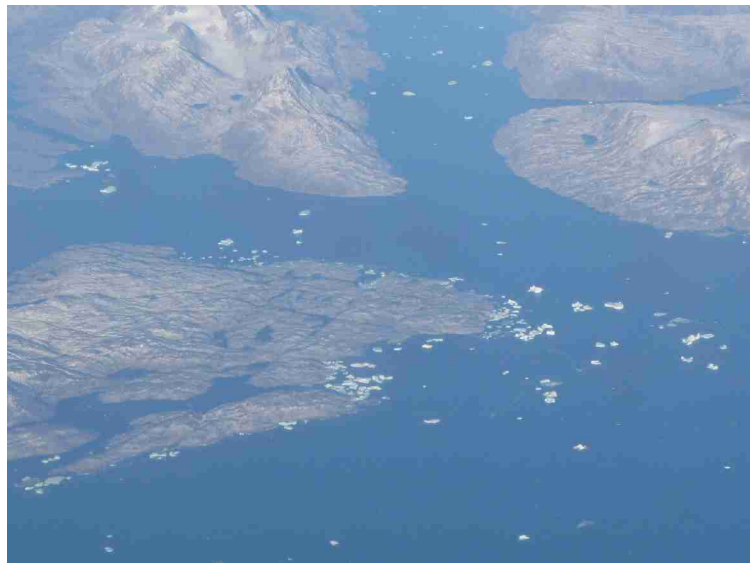


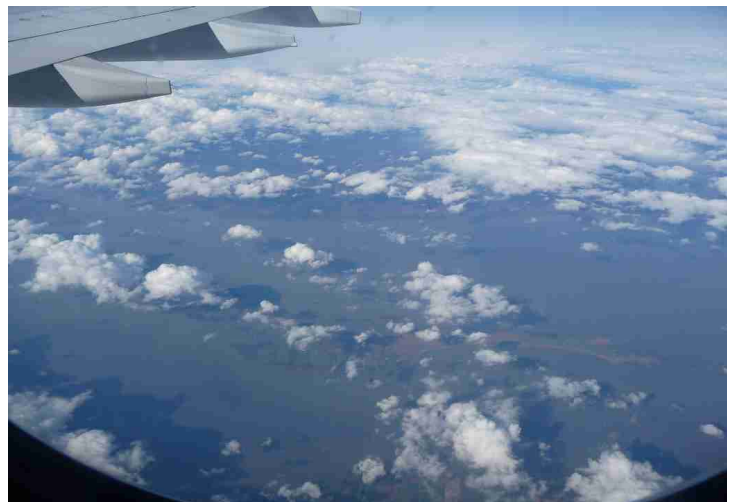
From the terminal we took this track that is called [AirTrain](#) to the railwaystation [Newark Liberty International Airport Station](#).



We took an Amtrak Intercity train from there to [Baltimore Penn Station](#). The railway is run by [Amtrak](#), which is USA's biggest railway company. The rail line from Boston to Washington is called [The Northeast Corridor](#), and it is the busiest line in USA.

First a few pictures when we flew over the southern point of Greenland from east to west.





Asbjørn picked us up at the railway station.

Here we have arrived at our hotel, Days Inn.



Her we are at the balcony at Asbjørn.



Leela and Madelaine can't sit steady very long.



Evelyn, Madelaine and Debbie.



Kjell is attacked by Madelaine.



Would you be a horse, «horsie», please?



OK. Kjell is «horsie»



Evelyn, the dog and Kjell.



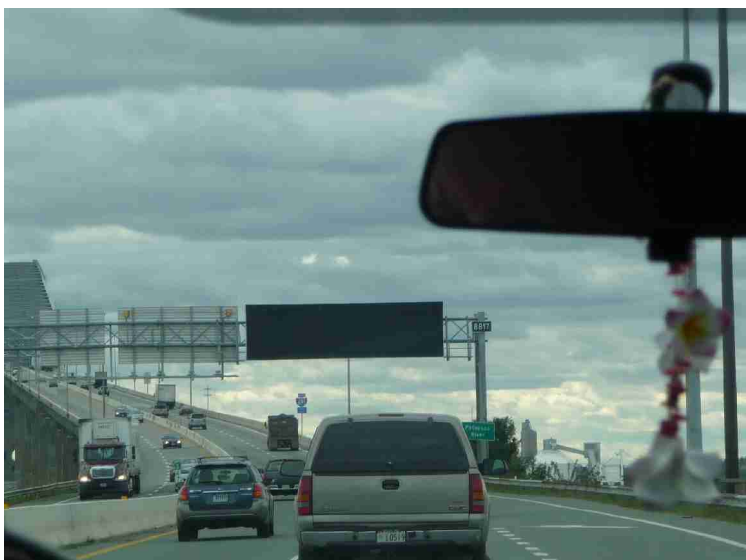
At Ikea outside Baltimore.



Hot dog is on the program now, at Ikea.



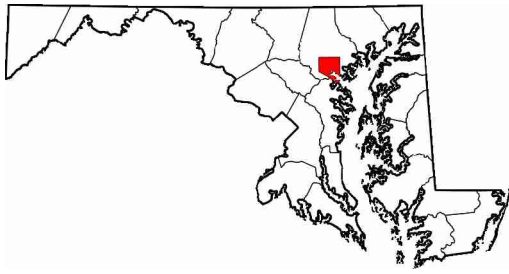
At the supermarket the kids are driving a car.



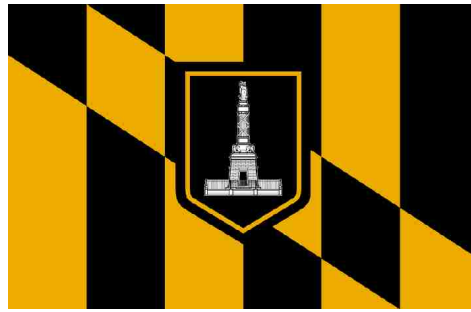
On tour to [Baltimore](#).



The [Inner Harbor](#) in Baltimore. The building to the left is [Baltimore World Trade Center](#). It is the world's highest regular pentagonal building.



The position of Baltimore in Maryland



Flag



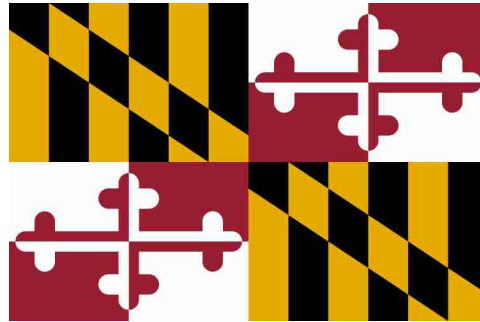
Coat of Arms

[Baltimore](#) was founded in 1729, and named after baron Baltimore, one of the British founders of the Maryland colony. It is the biggest city in the state of Maryland, and one of the country's most important harbors.

In 1827, USA's first railroad line, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, was opened in Baltimore. The harbor developed during the 1800s to the second largest immigration harbor in USA, after New York.



[Maryland's](#) position in USA



Flag



Coat of Arms

Some land areas around Chesapeake Bay was in 1632 given to Lord Baltimore Cecil Calvert, by Charles I of England, and the new colony was named in honor of Henrietta Maria of France, wife of the king. The colony's first capital, St. Mary's City, was founded in 1634 by Calvert's brother, Leonard Calvert (1606–1647).

Maryland is the center for USA's pharmaceutic industry, with basis in the research around the renown John Hopkins University in Baltimore. As a spin-off of the medical industry, Baltimore is also an important center for health related insurance companies. There is also a lot of medicinal research.



The building with the tiangular roof and the building to the left of this is the [Aquarium](#). It was opened in 1981.



This picture of the [Aquarium](#) is taken from Wikipedia.

To the left we can also see a historical light ship, [Chesapeake](#), which is stationed here since 1982.



In the harbor is also [USS Constellation](#). It is the last frigate that USA built that was only driven by sail. It was launched in 1854.



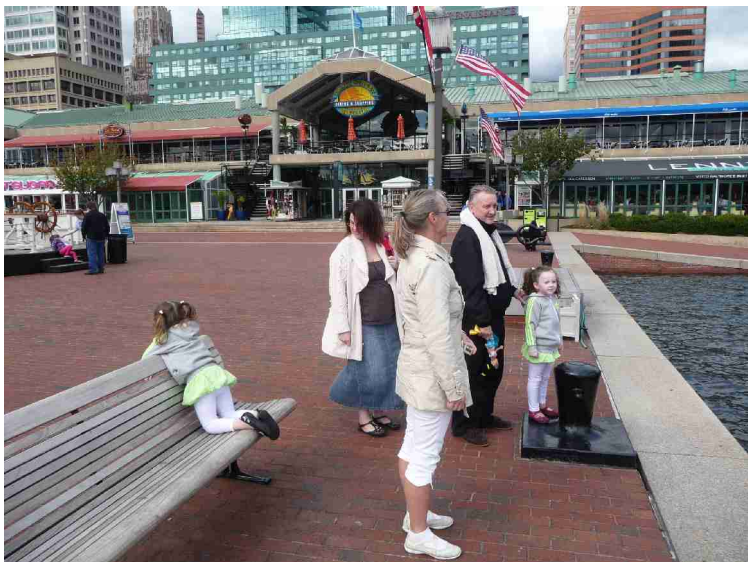
To the right we can see [Federal Hill Park](#).



More of the built-up area inside the harbor.



Boats that can be rented.



Here the whole gang is on the quay side, except Kjell who is taking the picture.



Anne Berit, Asbjørn, Madelaine and Leela.



Kjell, Debbie, Asbjørn, Madelaine and Leela.



Straight forward is a small shopping center with various souvenirs.



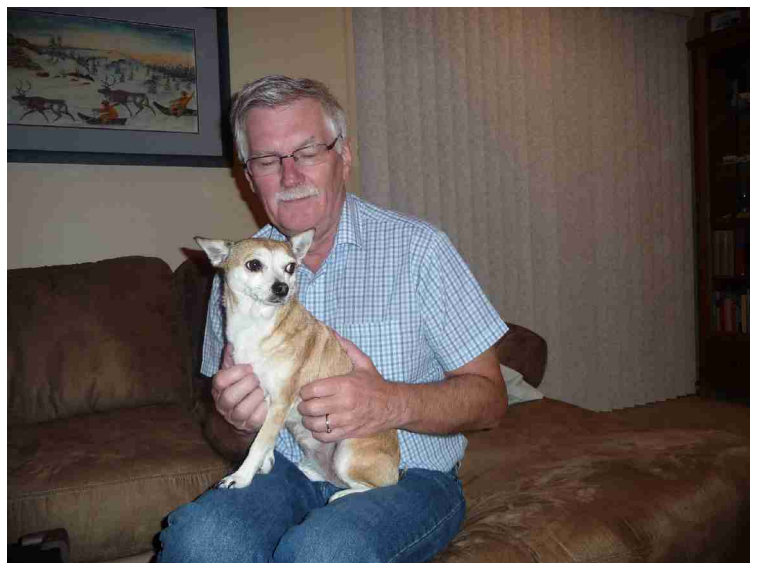
Here we are inside a restaurant with an unusual decoration, organ pipes from a church.



Ready for lunch!



Waiting for the food.



Kjell is looking at the dog. He's not sleeping.



Look at my toys! Kjell is looking at the dog.



OK then.



Full speed!



Asbjørn has put an old broken scythe blade from Smea, together with a picture of his great-grand parents who lived at Smea.



He has done the same with an old horse shoe from Smea.

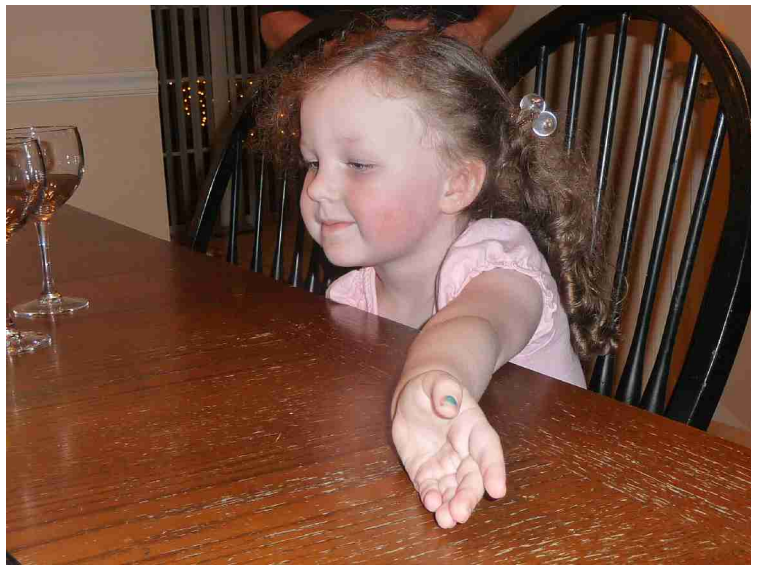


Leela is playing.



Asbjørn is unpacking meat, which he has bought.

Kjell is scratching the cat.



The meat is checked.
It is deep-frozen. Some of it is to be barbequed the next day.

Leela is waiting for food.



Evelyn and Anne Berit.



Kjell and Evelyn.



The next day we were at Martin's grave.



It is right besides a small pond and a statue.



Here is common with plastic flowers on the graves.



There are a lot of geese by the pond.



Canada geese.



Madelaine and Leela are throwing grass to the geese.



Leela and Madeleine thought the flowers were so nice that they wanted to take them home.



The flowers had to be put back again.



A spectacular weeping willow.



Back at the balcony in Bel Air. It has been raining during the night and the cat is drinking rain water.



Very thirsty.



Here he is finished.



Madelaine has got the bike back from the cat.



The barbeque operation is discussed in the kitchen.



Asbjørn is cutting the meat in suitable pieces.



Here the meat is on the grill.
There was both buffalo, wild pig and elk (a kind of deer).



Asbjørn is in full control of the barbequing.



In the mean time there is full activity at the balcony.



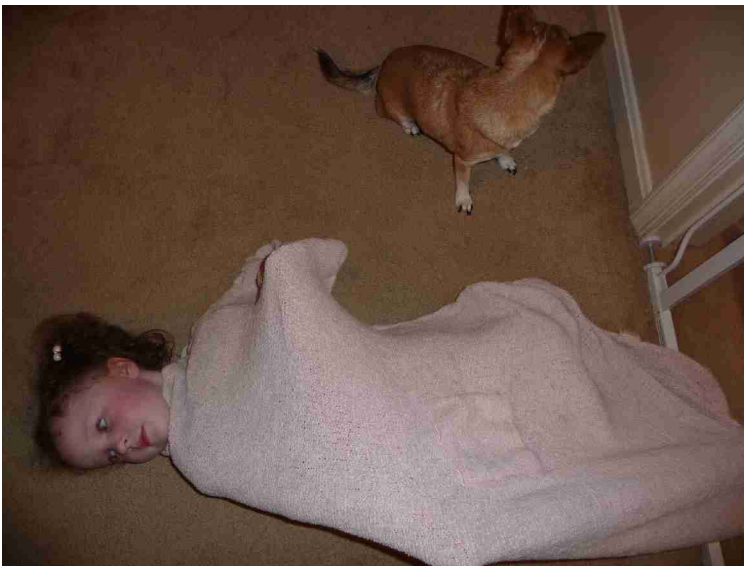
Finished



Cheese!



After the dinner Madelaine wanted to be an airplane.



Leela was sleepy.



Madelaine wanted to ride the «horsie». Then Leela came around too.

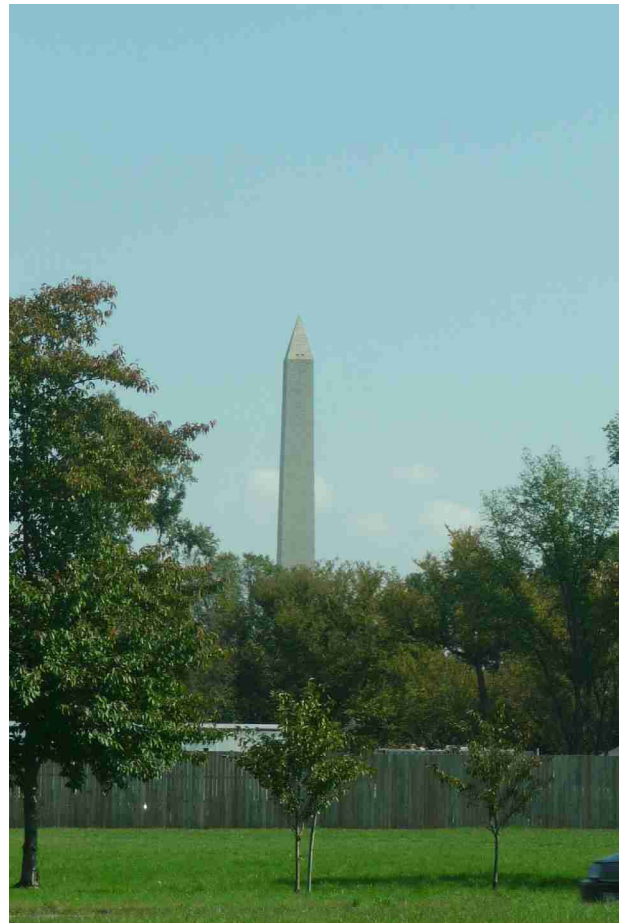


This was a hard job for «horsie»



One day we went to Washington. This is the [The Lincoln Memorial](#). It was built 1915 - 1922 as a Doric marble temple with a gigantic statue of the American president Abraham Lincoln.

Farther away is the [Washington Monument](#) that was finished in 1884. The obelisk is made of marble, granite and sandstone. Between this and the Lincoln Monument lies a long reflecting pool.



The [Jefferson Memorial](#) is positioned south of the tidal basin. It was finished in 1943.

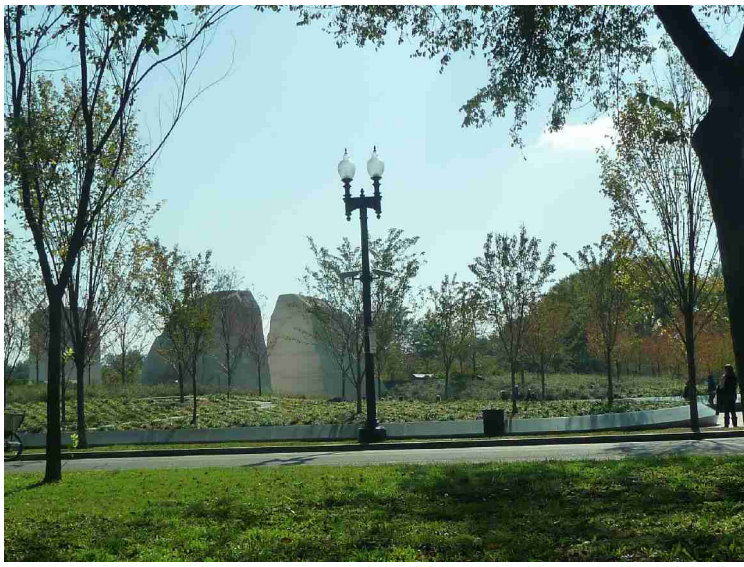


This is the [lock keepers house](#) from when it was a canal here. The house was built in 1835.



The monuments lies in a park area called [West Potomac Park](#). The numbers are indicating the following monuments:

1. [Lincoln Memorial](#)
2. [Reflecting pool](#)
3. [National World War II Memorial](#)
4. [Washington Monument](#)
5. [Korean War Veterans Memorial](#)
6. [District of Columbia War Memorial \(honoring World War I soldiers\)](#)
7. [Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial](#)
8. [Jefferson Memorial](#)



From West Potomac Park.



This is the visitors entrance to [Arlington National Cemetery](#), which is the most important military cemetery in USA.



This is the entrance when driving in by car. A special permission is needed then.

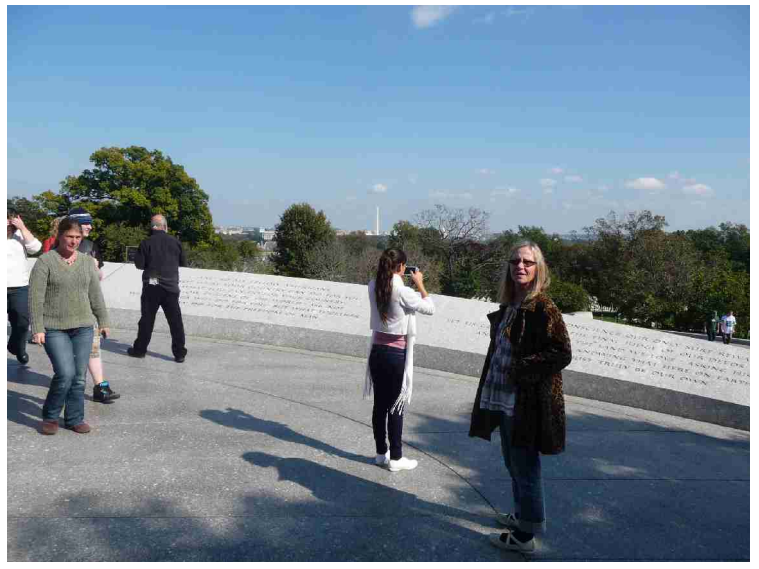


The cemetery was founded during the American Civil War on the grounds of general Robert E. Lee.

Here is the burial grounds for personnel who lost their lives during the civil war, WWI and WWII, the Korean War and also in Afghanistan and Iraq. Here is also The Tomb of the Unknowns.



This is Arlington House, which once was the home of general Robert E. Lee.



Anne Berit was also here.



View towards the Washington Monument in the background.



The grave of John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Onassis. The eternal flame is on, but is not visible on the picture.



The grave marker.



Further away is the grave of Robert Kennedy.



The grave marker.



The cemetery is enormous and we saw only a small part of it.



Here we are at a restaurant to have lunch.

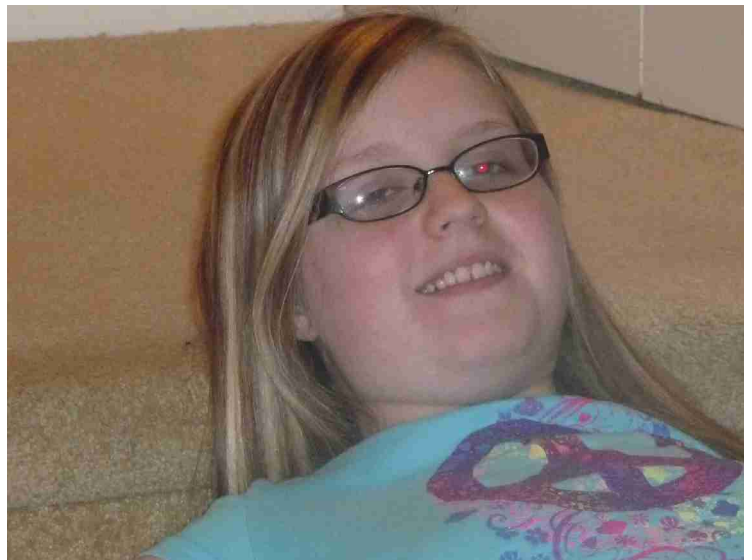
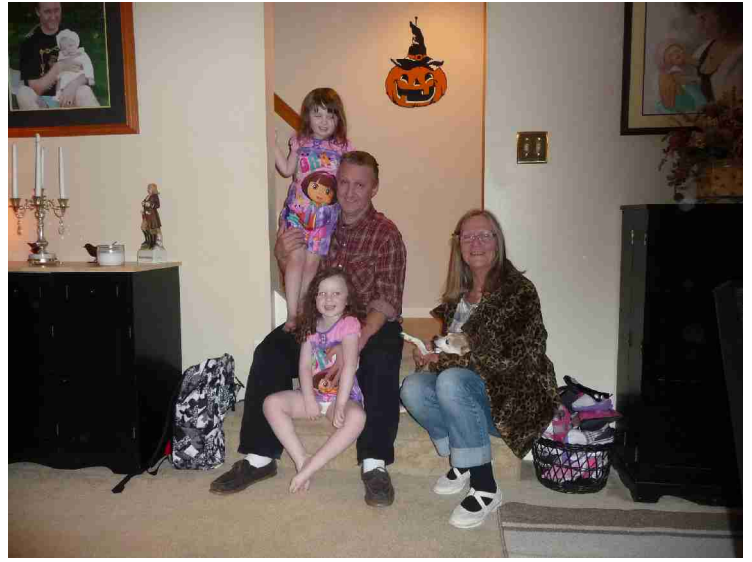


Here is the whole gang this day. Everybody seems to be happy with the food that was very good.



Back in Bel Air. Asbjørn outside the house.

The day prior to returning to Norway, everybody is going to be photographed. Here are the pictures.





The railway station in Baltimore.



Anne Berit outside the station.