



Romerikslaget News



2025 FLERE LAG STEVNE



August 5-7, 2025

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
3060 S Kinney Coulee Road
Onalaska, WI 54650, USA

Flere Lag Stevne Room rate: \$120 per night + tax
Deluxe king and deluxe queen options available.
A complimentary hot breakfast is included for hotel guests.

Reservations

Group rate available for Aug. 4, 5, 6, 7 until July 5, 2025.
Call the hotel's direct line: **608-781-3060** and request block code: **2025FLS**

Notes from the President

God vår! Happy Spring!

Your *Romerikslaget* representatives on the *Flere Lag Stevne* Steering Committee, Mary Baumgartner, Joy Shong, and myself, have been working since last Fall on plans for the 2025 *Stevne*. It will take place at the Stoney Creek Hotel in Onalaska, Wisconsin. It's off I-90, just North of LaCrosse. See reservation information on front page.

Flere Lag Stevne
New Land, New Life 1825-2025



Our theme this year is "New Land, New Life: 1825 - 2025" in celebration of 200 years since the first organized emigration from Norway to America.



What's different this year is the tour will be **Wednesday**, 3-8:30 pm - a bus to *Norskedalen*, including an outdoor meal and a concert! Look for more information coming in June.



God påske & Syttende Mai!

Norma Kjenstad Barnes

**Oslo
&
Akershus Fylke**

Ovre Romerike:
Eidsvoll, Feiring,
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,
Nannestad, Nes,
Ullensaker

Nedre Romerike:
Aurskog-Høland,
Blaker, Enebakk,
Fet, Hakadal,
Lørenskog,
Nittedal,
Rælingen,
Setskog, Skedsmo,
Sørumsdal,
Follo
Frogn, Kråkstad,
Nesodden,
Oppegård, Ski,
Vestby, Ås

Vestre Akershus:
Asker, Bærum



Fellesraad Update January 2025

By Elaine Hasleton, President

Fellesraad has been actively planning and providing input for the new *Haugo Bibliotek* at Norway House. The *Bygdelag* Special Collections Room will hold genealogical and other family history research materials. It will also be a FamilySearch Affiliate Library which will make available even more research sources. The other area of the *Haugo Bibliotek* will officially be named the Norwegian Discovery Center.

We are looking at the possibility of a soft opening of the *Bygdelag* Special Collections Room at the time of the *Fellesraad* Annual Meeting on May 2-3, 2005. More information will be forthcoming.

You, as a *Bygdelag*, have contributed funds to this *Bygdelag* Special Collections Room. A donor plaque will honor your contributions. Genealogical and family history items from your *Lag* may still be added to this collection; however, there are perimeters as to what can be accepted. Please contact me or Marilyn Sorensen for assistance with this.

This year we also honor the 200th year of the first organized migration from Norway to North America. See this website for more information: <https://crossings.norwegianamerican.com/>



Clint Hill – Romerike Native Hans Nygaard's Famous North Dakota Neighbor

By Carol Olson

When the death of Clinton J. Hill was announced late in February 2025, this news brought back the memories of connecting him to my paternal grandparents Hans and Anna (Olson) Nygaard and Cousin Viola Olson. As you may recall, Clint became famous when he jumped onto the Presidential limousine immediately after President John F. Kennedy was shot on 22 November 1963. He was serving as a Secret Service agent for Jacqueline Kennedy at that time.

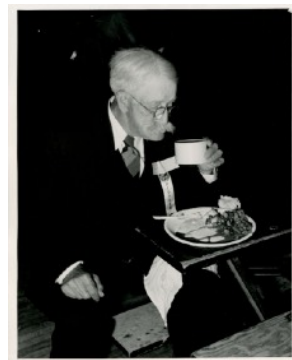


We were alerted in November 2018 that Clint was receiving the Rough Riders Award from Gov. Doug Bergum, so we drove to Washburn to take in the event. We had name labels, so I added "Nygaard" to my name label. He saw that and asked me "Do you have anything to do with my neighbors?" After my affirmative reply, he beamed and said my grandparents were very nice people.

— Carol with Clint Hill at the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Riders Award celebration in Washburn, N. Dak. November 2018

The day after President Kennedy was assassinated, I learned from The Minneapolis Star that Mr. Hill came from Washburn, North Dakota. I dropped everything and asked my 92-year-old grandmother Anna Nygaard and Cousin Viola Olson if they knew Clint. They replied that the Hill family lived across the street. They also said that before Clint was old enough to go to school, he would look out his own front door, waiting for Grandpa to come outside to do chores like feeding the chickens. Once Grandpa came out, Clint called to him to come across the street and bring him to the Nygaard property, spending the day with Grandpa. He was Grandpa's "shadow." Carol and Bob's father Kenneth Nygaard remembered Clint as a little boy. When Grandpa died in 1950, Clint's father Chris was one of the honorary pallbearers for Grandpa.

1947—Hans Nygaard, along with other pioneers of North Dakota, was honored by the state. This photo was in the Bismarck Tribune. This was the Hans Nygaard that Clint Hill remembered.



Regarding Hans Christian Halvorson Nygaard, he was born on 18 May 1860 to Halvor Hanson Nygaard and Maren Kirstine Halvorsdatter at Nygård, a *husmann* residence on the Østegaard farm in Rælingen. He was baptized at the Fet/Rælingen church on 17 June 1860. He was the oldest of four children, with Johan, Anne Marie and Karl (Carl) following. Their mother Maren was chronically ill, and she died at the farm on 26 September 1871. Their father's unmarried sister Kristine Hansdatter came to live with the family, and the children thought of her as a mother.

The husmann farm was on the Østegaard farm in Rælingen on the Glomma River, southeast of Oslo, southwest of Fet, and south of Lillestrøm. The Nygaards were the last tenant farmers on the Nygård husmannsplass, according to pages 308-309 the 1989 book Bygdehistorie for Rælingen: bostedshistorie fra de eldste tider by Lene Skovholt.

When Hans was in his late teens, he thought of emigrating to America and became the first of his family to do so. He left Kristiania in May 1880 and spent his 20th birthday while sailing across the Atlantic Ocean. He kept a diary of that trip which Carol Olson now owns. After reaching Baltimore, Maryland, he took a train to Chicago and finally arrived in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He stayed there until the mid-1880s when he settled in McLean County, North Dakota, where he spent the rest of his life.

He was a stagecoach driver between Bismarck and Fort Berthold. He farmed near Turtle Lake before moving to Washburn. He served in several elected offices of McLean County. He had tailor skills from his upbringing, but he did not pursue that vocation. He married Anna Marie Olson in 1891 and they had three children including Kenneth, the father of Carol and Bob.

1949—Hans Nygaard poses with grandchildren Carol Nygaard Olson on his lap and Bob Nygaard standing. That was the last time we saw Grandpa—he died on 4 April 1950. Clint Hill met both Carol and Bob many years later.



The End of an Era for Dregne's Scandinavian Gifts Draws Near!

By Mary Baumgartner

In 1975, Dave and Jana Dregne purchased the corner building and hardware business on W. State and Main streets in Westby, Wisconsin. Over the years, they changed their focus from hardware to Scandinavian items. A previous owner, Violetta Flugstad, had one room in the store with items related to the ancestry of people in Westby, so they decided to add to that.

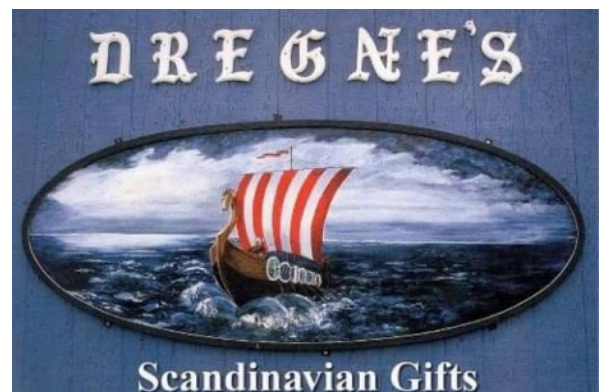


For the last three years, Dave and Jana have tried to sell their business with no result. But the building itself sold within 10 days. So now they are having what they call a "Retirement Reduction Sale" to dispense of their inventory. All items are discounted and some are up to 30% off. Merchandise includes Norwegian sweaters, bakeware, lefse grills, clogs, candles, Christmas, decorations, and more!

The sale began on March 3, 2025, and Jana and Dave are hoping to continue into October when they will have reached 50 years as owners of the business!

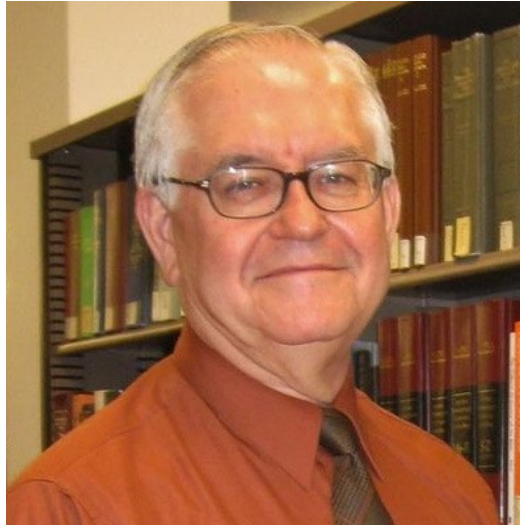
Any of us who have a chance should certainly try to visit Dregne's before their closing. Business hours are Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm.

More information, <https://dregnesscandinavian.gift>



Meet the Newest Member of the Romerikslaget Board of Directors

Ray Olson



Ray Olson was elected as a Director at Large at our Annual Meeting in August 2024. He is a retired seminary librarian, having served at Lutheran seminary libraries in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Columbus, Ohio. Ray and wife Carol, a charter member of Romerikslaget, now live in Rock Hill, South Carolina, a suburb of Charlotte, North Carolina.

In retirement, he has become an assistant to wife Carol in genealogy research. He likes to focus on maps of emigrant communities in Norway and their settlement in North America. Ray has ancient ancestors in Romerike, some of which he shares with Carol. Most of his father's relatives hailed from the lower *kommuner* of Innlandet—several great-great-great-greats were from Vang in Hedmark.



Velkommen to new Romerikslaget members in the past year!

Cheryl Kempton - Saint Paul, Minnesota - Ancestral areas: Aurskog-Holand & Setskog

Cynthia Ostlie - Moorhead, Minnesota - Ancestral areas: Hurdal & Nannestad

David Williamson - Lake Forest, Illinois - Ancestral areas: Oslo & Akershus



To find a schedule of events commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the first emigrant crossing from Norway to America, go to the Crossings calendar online at:

<https://crossings.norwegianamerican.com/events/>

MARCH 2025

ROMERIKSLAGET I AMERIKA

Lag Officers & Directors

President: Norma Kjenstad Barnes (2025-28)

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Co-Genealogists: Barbara J. Nelson & Linda McKeen

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Past President: Julie Clauson

22 14th Ave. SW, New Brighton, MN 55112

651-633-3600 * email: jollyjac@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 5 - **2025 Nordic Gala** - \$45/\$50

Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave.N.

Fargo, North Dakota

Call or text: 701-306-0992

Saturday, April 19 - **Norway Day Festival** - \$3.00

Thurston Co. Fairgrounds

Olympia, Washington

www.OlympiaNorwayDay.com

Thur-Sat., Apr 24-26 - **Telemark Stevne** - \$22.50-\$40

Little Crow Resort & Conf. Center

Spicer, Minnesota

lilajsb@gmail.com

Sun - Apr. 27 - **Giants in the Earth Opera Tour** - \$235

NAHA Bus from Twin Cities & Northfield MN

Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

info@norwegianamericanhistory.org

Friday- May 16 - **Syttende Mai at Vesterheim** - Free

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum

520 W. Water St., Decorah, Iowa

vesterheim.org

Wed-Fri - June 11-13 - **Vestlandslag Stevne**

Hope Presbyterian Church, Spicer, Minnesota

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Vestlandslag/>

Fri. & Sat., June 20 & 21 - **Scandinavian Festival**

Hjemkomst Center & Viking Ship Park,

Moorhead, MN

www.hcscconline.org

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