



Serving Akershus and Oslo Fylker

Romerikslaget News

July 2015



Greetings from President Joel Botten



Happy summer!

Just returned from a three week visit to Norway. Each time I visit, I marvel at the beauty of the countryside. They have had a late spring. In Feiring on Lake Mjosa, but one strawberry had started to turn red on a relative's farm June 15. There was plenty of snow in the mountains and at one point our train was in a white-out of blowing snow. Cottages were still half buried.

I traveled with Michael and Bonnie Jorgensen and company making presentations (music and pictures) on the life and music of Theodora Cormontan. I sang tenor in a small choir.

Those of you who attended our last stevne in Mankato will recall the Jorgensen's presentation on Theodora's life. We were graciously received in four places and had a great time presenting. It was special to present in Theodora's home city of Arendal where Michael and Bonnie presented the local historical society with original manuscripts of Theodora's music.

Over 100 original Cormontan compositions were donated to the National Library of Norway in Oslo. (These compositions were discovered in an attic in St. Peter, Minnesota.) Our concert/presentation was well received in Oslo as well with several of my relatives and friends in attendance.

Hope you are planning to attend our stevne Sept. 16-19 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Deadline for reserving rooms is August 15. Call 608-781-7000 and ask for Solør/Romerike. Rate is \$84.99 plus tax for a double room at the Best Western Riverfront Hotel, 1835 Rose Street, LaCrosse.

A great program is being planned including entertainment by the LaCrosse Sons of Norway Folk Dance group. Find your registration form and information on presentations in this newsletter.

Please bring an item for our silent auction and your favorite Norwegian baked goods or any kind of snack for our hospitality room. The genealogy center is always a great place to spend time searching for information on your family history. It will be open from Wed.- 4:00 PM on Saturday.

Hilsen,

Joel



Happy 25th
Anniversary
Romerikslaget

Akershus Fylke
Ovre Romerike
Eidsvoll, Feiring,
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,
Nannestad, Nes,
Ullensaker
Nedre Romerike -
Aurskog-Høland,
Blaker, Enebakk, Fet,
Hakadal, Lørenskog,
Nittedal, Rælingen,
Setskog, Skedsmo,
Sørum

Follo - Frogn, Kråkstad, Nesodden, Oppegård, Ski, Vestby, ås
Vestre Akershus - Asker, Bærum
Oslo Fylke

Join us as we celebrate the
25th Anniversary of Romerikslaget i Amerika
Thursday evening at 7 pm in LaCrosse.

Entertainment by Sons of Norway
Wergeland Lodge #28 Dancers



Genealogy Tips from Deb Jarver

Here are some websites that I found interesting, thanks to the Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire's member Roger Davis who would like to share them.

Vietnam War Memorial website is searchable by name, home town or other criteria. Contains individual information on most soldiers.

www.virtualwall.org

Many old plat books are on this website with high quality digital images that can be enlarged and viewed online for free with an option to buy a paper copy or a digital file.

www.historicmapworks.com

(I was able to take a "snapshot" of one...but that is not allowed so I immediately deleted it).

Migration from the east coast to the mid-west is the subject of this web-site with books and articles written prior to 1924 that are free to view online. Material covers and daily life in the 19th century.

<http://www.envisionthepast.com/>

The National Archives has for the first time launched online videos of its most popular genealogy "how to" workshops.

These videos cover "hot topics" in genealogical research such as census, immigration and military records. These workshops are led by National Archives experts and are available on the National Archives You Tube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives

And don't forget about the **Norway Heritage, Hands across the sea** website, <http://www.norwayheritage.com/> which has a searchable database for pre-1875 passenger lists including pictures of ships among other departure and arrival information.

Happy researching this summer, I hope you are able to attend a family reunion or two. See you in September.

Deb Jarvar



Save the Date!

**Norwegian-American
Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
Centennial Celebration**

1916-2016

Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, the national council for the 29 (currently active) affiliated bygdelag, of which Romerikslaget i Amerika is one, will mark its centennial in 2016. A celebration will be held **Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, 2016**, in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Friday events will focus on genealogy and will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (to be renamed by 2016). Saturday events will be held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center and will include the Fellesraad annual meeting, speakers, children's activities, and a banquet. The www.fellesraad.com website will be updated as planning for the celebration continues. If you would like to help plan the centennial celebration, please let Mary Gross or Eunice Helgeson know of your interest. Contact information for Mary and Eunice is included in the Lag Officer listing in this newsletter.

Membership Information

The National Norwegian Center in America

Romerikslaget members may not be aware that Minneapolis, MN is now home to Norway House, a center for those interested in all things Norwegian. A former bank building at 913 East Franklin Avenue has been renovated to offer space for an education center and a place for meetings, events, weddings, & gatherings of all kinds.

The building is adjacent to the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, or Mindekirken, and is located near downtown Minneapolis, easy to find and convenient. Extensive fundraising has successfully allowed Phase One of the campus development to be completed. There is now a Gallery, Gift Shop, and Coffee Shop (operated by the Norwegian store Ingebretsen's). Spaces available include the Hansen Activity Room, the Coltvet Board Room, and the Lillehaugen Meeting Room as well as offices on the top floor.

Romerikslaget members have voted at their annual meetings to donate a total of \$500 over the last two years to fund Norway House. Lag members are encouraged to utilize the space in the building for meetings or other gatherings.

Members are invited to attend an Open House on Sunday, July 19, 2015 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Norway House. Tours and refreshments will be available with a brief program at 2:00 PM. Parking is available at Norway House or neighborhood streets. Mindekirken has Sunday worship services at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

If you have questions about Norway House or wish to request rental information, please call Jeff Mueller at 612-871-2211. The website address is norwayhouse.org.

Mary Gross



Norway House
913 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN



Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington

2720 34th Street NW
Washington, DC 20008
Tel: (202) 333-6000
Fax: (202) 469-3990
Norway.org

E-mail: emb.washington@mfa.no

The Embassy in Washington is Norway's largest, with a staff of approximately 50, including representatives from a number of Norwegian ministries. They offer many services to Norwegians visiting the US and also to American travelers to Norway. They publish a free informative newsletter which is sent by email. You can sign up to receive the newsletter by e-mailing emb.washington@mfa.no or at the website Norway.org.

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2015 Stevne

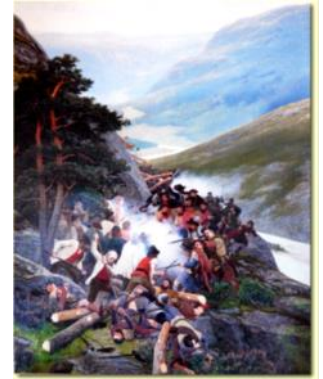


The Good Ship “Hannah Parr” -Its Voyage and Its Legacy by Marv & Louise Lang

The sloop Hannah Parr left the sanctuary of Christiania (Oslo) Harbor on April 12, 1867 bound for North America and Quebec City. Most of the passengers and crew would not arrive at their ultimate destinations until 22 weeks later. North Atlantic storms, ship disasters, an unplanned sojourn in Limerick, changes in immigration laws, all came to harass and delay this immigrant ship of Norway. The survivor’s stories are only now being written and the history of this epic voyage only now has begun to be told.

George Sinclair, The Scottish Invasion of Norway and The Battle of Kringen by Marv & Louise Lang

In 1612 a force of 300 to 400 Scottish Highlanders landed in Romsdalfjord on the central coast of Norway. It was their intent to march south and east to join Swedish forces fighting the “Calmar War.” The Scots were organized into three units with one headed by the flamboyant Lord George Sinclair. After a grueling six-day march through the parishes of Lesja, Dovre and Vågå – during which unspeakable atrocities were perpetrated, a hastily organized group of aged men and women along with children ambushed the main Scottish force.



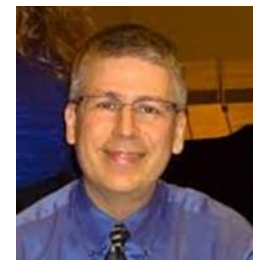
The History of Norwegian Sweaters

By Laurann Gilbertson, Chief Curator at Vesterheim

Laurann cares for the museum’s artifacts, prepares exhibitions, leads textile study tours to Norway, and other tasks. Her presentation will include different types and styles of sweaters, and the symbolism of patterns and colors on Norwegian sweaters made today.

Lapland, Yesterday and Today by Chris Falteisek

Chris’s program will give you insight to the land of the Sámi people, where World War II, mining and the railway system changed their lives, leaving their cultural traditions and lifestyles untouched. Today, Lapland is a multicultural society where the Sámi people are part of the Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian and Russian lands.



Bob Mullen from the La Crosse Historical Society will speak on the logging industry, which many of the Norwegian immigrants (including Bob’s ancestors) worked in, and which was crucial to the establishment and growth of the La Crosse area. He will show slides of period photos, and have examples of period tools.

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2015 Stevne

September 16-19, 2015

**Best Western
Riverfront Hotel,
1835 Rose Street
La Crosse, WI
608-781-7000**

Room rate: \$84.99 & tax
Reserve by August 15, 2015

*Mention Solørlag/Romerikslag
for discount rate.*

*There is no elevator but ground floor rooms
are available.*



At the BEST WESTERN Riverfront Hotel guests enjoy waterfront, resort style accommodations with well-appointed guest rooms designed with ultimate comfort in mind featuring cable satellite television with HBO® and free high-speed Internet access.

This La Crosse hotel, nestled along the shores of Black River, also features complimentary breakfast Monday thru Friday and free daily newspaper. The hotel has a private beach and boat dock. and onsite water park with water slides, geysers, and a full arcade. •Fitness Center, •Pool, •Meeting Room,• Pets Allowed,• Restaurant Onsite,• Hot Tub,• Room Service,• High Speed Internet For more information, go to BestWestern.com.



Friday Night Banquet

Rachel Storlie

An operatically trained classical singer, Rachel sings the songs of Edvard Grieg in Norwegian. You can hear her sing Solveig's Song on youtube.

Saturday Night Banquet

Ole and Sven

Phil Dybdahl and his partner/son-in-law Gary Smithback sing interesting songs, many with a Norwegian twist, tell Ole and Lena jokes and provide light-hearted and amusing



Membership News

Welcome to Our New Members

Nels Jacobson *Ullensacker, Ake, Nan*
108 Red Fox Run
Montgomery, IL 60538
630-897-9324 News.Letter@comcast.net

Rev. Gerald Peterson
8108 NW 81st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
405-722-2907 PJerryOKC@msn.com

Norma Kjenstad Barnes *Nannestad*
4902 S Oxbow Ave #205
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
605-362-5898 nkwbarnes@yahoo.com

Mellanie Walser *Akershus/Enebakk*
306 2nd Street West
Hastings, MN 55033
612-281-6174 mell.walser@gmail.com

Members, whether you are new or have been with us for awhile, are welcome and encouraged to tell your genealogy story. It is how we get to know each other and who knows, our ancestors might have been neighbors. We won't make that discovery until you have shared your story.

Send your story to the newsletter publisher, Dorothy Mehl, 906 E Sanson, Spokane, WA 99207 or email dorothymehl112@msn.com.



You are invited to a party.
Thursday 7:00 pm at the stevne.
Come Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of
Romerikslaget i Amerika.
Sons of Norway Wergeland Lodge #28
dancers will perform.



Membership Dues

Please check the address label of this newsletter for your current membership date. If it has a 14 in the upper right hand corner, you may renew your membership for 2015 by sending a check to **Susan Waldera, N6062 N. Skutley Rd., Taylor, WI 54659. Please make the check payable to Romerikslaget.** See page 7 for renewal form. Hope to see you at the stevne in September.

Susan Waldera, Vice President for Membership

Romerikslaget i Amerika Membership

Lag Officers and Directors

President • Joel Botten (2012-2015)

410 W. 9th St., Mankato, MN 56001
507-388-1995; e-mail joelbotten@gmail.com

V. P. for Membership • Susan Waldera (2014-2016)

N6062 N Skutley Rd, Taylor, WI 54659
715-662-2661; e-mail LSWALDERA@centurytel.net

V. P. for Genealogy • Deb Jarver (2014-2017)

9405 Murphy Ln, Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-874-6678; e-mail djarver@wwt.net

Secretary • Eunice Helgeson (2013-2016)

5541 Woodlawn Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-724-7202; e-mail EuniceHelgeson@aol.com

Treasurer • Mary Gross (2012-2015)

301 Laser Trl., Redwood Falls, MN 56283
507-641-5891; email tmgross@redred.com

Director • Melvin Slettehaugh (2013-2016)

5701 Orchard Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55429
763-535-3616; email mslatts30@comcast.net

Director • Julie A. Clauson (2012-2015)

22 14th Ave. S.W., New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-3600; email jollyjac@aol.com

Director • Bev Slettehaugh (2014-2017)

5701 Orchard Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55429
763-535-3616;

Director • Linda Curtis (2014-2017)

2422 Marquette St., Eau Claire WI 54703
715-839-7876; e-mail LCURT651@sbcglobal.net

Director • Open (2014-2017)

Past President • Marcia Hamilton

4312 Zenith Ave. N., Robbinsdale, MN 55422
763-535-2642; e-mail mhamilton917@comcast.net

Publicity Coordinator • Linda Curtis

2422 Marquette St., Eau Claire WI 54703
715-839-7876; e-mail LCURT651@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor • Dorothy Mehl

906 E. Sanson, Spokane, WA 99207
509-489-3868; email DorothyMehl112@msn.com

Historian • Julie Clauson

22 14th Ave. S.W., New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-3600; email jollyjac@aol.com

Past Presidents: Priscilla Sorknes, Andreas Jordahl Rhude, Cathryn Berntson Huntsman†, Earl Grefsrud†, Eileen Gulbranson, Marcia Hamilton

Website: www.romerikeusa.org

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Romerikslaget i Amerika

To continue membership, or become a new member, complete and mail this form.

Name (1): _____

Lag ancestral area: _____

(from listing on back page of Newsletter)

Name (2): _____

Lag ancestral area: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone () _____ Fax _____

E-mail: _____

Dues:

Individual \$15.00 ___ New ___ Renewal

Household \$20.00 ___ New ___ Renewal

Norway/Canada \$20.00 ___ New ___ Renewal

(Payable in US Dollars)

___ Please mail ___ email ___ me a sample newsletter

___ I would like to join. Enclosed is my check.

___ I am renewing my membership for 2015. Enclosed is my check.

Payable to: Romerikslaget

Mail form & check to:

Susan Waldera
N6062 N Skutley Rd
Taylor, WI 54659

An ad policy has been adopted by the Board of Romerikslaget. It reads as follows: Individuals or companies can submit articles that include contact information but do not include any prices. The lag Board reserves the right to edit or reject any submissions and will suggest to non-members that they join or make a donation to the lag.

Romerikslaget News is the official publication of Romerikslaget i Amerika and is published each March/Jul/Nov. Members receive the newsletter, stevne registration packet, access to records of Norwegian government and church records, Membership Directory and the help of our genealogist.

Romerikslaget i Amerika is a Norwegian American association whose members have ancestral roots or present-day ties to the area that nearly surrounds Oslo, Norway, called Romerike. The lag was founded in September 1990 to honor the unique culture of Romerike and to strengthen the bonds with the parishes of our ancestors.

Postmaster: if undeliverable

Return to:

906 E Sanson

Spokane, WA 99207

Uff Da Uff Da Uff Da Uff Da Uff Da Uff Da

Ole lived across the Minnesota River from Clarence Bunsen, whom he didn't like at all.

They were yelling across the river at each other all the time.

Ole would yell to Clarence, "If I had a way to cross dis river, I'd come ofver dere an beat you up good, yeah sure ya betcha by golly!"

This went on for years.

Finally, the state built a bridge across the river by their houses.

Ole's wife, Lena, says, "Now iss yer chance, Ole. Vhy doncha go over dere and beat up dat Clarence like you said you vud?"

Ole replied, "OK, by yimmy, I tink I vill do just dat!"

Ole started for the bridge, but he saw a sign on the bridge and stopped to read it, then turned around and came back home.

Lena asked, "Vhy did you come back?" Ole said, " Lena , I tink I changed my mind 'bout beatin' up dat Clarence.

You know, when I yell at him from across da river he don't look so big. But dey put a sign on da bridge dat says "Clarence is 13 ft. 6 in."

2015 SOLØRLAG & ROMERIKSLAGET JOINT STEVNE REGISTRATION FORM

BEST WESTERN RIVERFRONT HOTEL, LACROSSE, WI

September 16-19, 2015

Print your name(s) as you want them on your name badge.

Name #1: _____ Solørlag__ Romerikslaget__

Name:#2: _____ Solørlag__ Romerikslaget__

Address: _____

City/State or Province/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Stevne Fees:

EARLY Registration benefit: Sept. 1, 2015

Registration (after Sept. 1) 2, 3, or 4 days: \$30.00 per person

Registration fee for only 1 day: \$15.00 per person

Thursday Bus Tour: \$35.00 per person

(Includes transportation, tour fees & lunch)

Friday Luncheon for member's 1st time at stevne

Board Members and Spouses \$15 per person

Friday Banquet: (Sweater night—wear if you have one)

Choose: Cod dinner \$25.00__

Pork dinner \$25.00__

Guests Attending Only Banquet \$28.00 per person C__

P__

Saturday Banquet: Bunad night—wear if you have one)

Choose: Chicken Cordon Blu dinner \$25.00__

Guests Attending Only Banquet \$28.00 per person

Number attending 2+ days ____ x \$25 = \$_____

Number attending 2+ days ____ x \$30 = \$_____

Number **attending only 1day** ____ x \$15 = \$_____

Number attending ____ x \$35 = \$_____

1st Time – Number attending ____ Free

Number attending ____ x \$15 = \$_____

Number attending ____ x \$25 = \$_____

Number attending ____ x \$25 = \$_____

Guests – Number attending ____ x \$28 = \$_____

Guests - Number attending ____ x \$28 = \$_____

Number attending ____ x \$25 = \$_____

Guests – Number attending ____ x \$28 = \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Mail registration & check to: **SOLØRLAG** or

JOANNE SORBEL
9225 Medicine Lake Rd. #101
Golden Valley, MN 55427

ROMERIKSLAGET

MARY GROSS
401 So. 1st St., #1822
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Make reservations with hotel by August 15, 2015, for special rate! (Important: ask for Solor/ Romerike)

Best Western Riverfront Hotel, 1835 Rose St., La Crosse, WI, \$84.99/night/double, Phone: 608-781-7000

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Help is needed with registration, in the research room, and in the hospitality room. Please indicate on back of this sheet where and when you can help:

The registration fee defrays the expenses of entertainment, supplies, rentals, etc. **It will not be possible to sell “last minute” luncheon or banquet tickets.** Meal count must be submitted 72 hours before serving. Registration name tags and event tickets will be in your packet when you arrive at the Stevne Registration Desk.

Remember to bring homemade Norwegian baked goods for the hospitality room AND items for the Silent Auction!

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2015 Stevne

Preliminary Schedule

Wednesday September 16: Research Day

All meals today are on your own. Patronize our host hotel.

- 9:00 AM Registration open
Genealogy room opens.....Wisconsin Room
- 10:00 AM Hospitality opens.....
- 3:00 PM Family Search.....FS a free search engine.....St. Croix Room

Evening on your own.

Thursday September 17

- 9:00 AM Registration opens
Genealogy room opens.....Wisconsin Room
Silent Auction opens.....
- 10:00 AM Opening Session & Welcome.....St. Croix Room
(Anthems, Introduction of Officers & New Members, Show and Tell)
- 10:00 AM Hospitality opens.....
- 10:30 AM “Good Ship Hannah Paar—It’s Voyage and It’s Legacy”
by Marvin & Louise Lang.....St. Croix Room
- 11:45 AM BUS TOUR LEAVES from front foyer returning at 4:15 PM. Have ticket when boarding bus.
- 5:00 PM BOARD MEETINGS with Buffet in Paddlewheel Room
Romerikslaget.....Dining Room
Solørlag.....Patio Room
- 7:00 PM Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Romerikslaget i Amerika Dining Room

Thursday Bus Tour: Norskedalen, the Norwegian Valley

The cost is \$35 per person. This includes transportation, tour fees and lunch.

Tour includes a short video orientation, nature and heritage exhibits,

Bekkum Pioneer Homestead Tour and lunch. **Shuttles will be available for persons needing them.**

Norskedalen is a nature and heritage center exploring the natural beauty, regional history and traditional Norwegian heritage of the region. Norskedalen has a carefully preserved collection of the original log and stone buildings crafted by the immigrants (mainly Norwegian) in the second half of the 1800's. The Bekkum Homestead, is a Norwegian 'tun' or farmstead, where you can see first hand how the settlers lived on and with the land.

Norskedalen encompassing about 400 acres of scenic coulee (valley) along Poplar Creek. The 6 miles of trails take you through pine plantations, over the cold, clear, creek, past many springs bubbling up into crystal pools and spilling into the creek, along wooded hillsides and rocky outcrops of goat prairies, and along the valley floor.

Norskedalen's collection includes artifacts brought from Norway, Native American artifacts and an inviting hands-on nature room. The Skumsrud Heritage Farm, located approximately 4 miles from the main Norskedalen grounds is a 44 acre open air summer museum site with buildings such as the first school house in the area and the oldest surviving log building in Vernon County, the Skumsrud cabin.

More information available at Norskedalen.org



Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2015 Stevne

Friday September 18

- 9:00 AM Registration opens
 Genealogy room opens.....Wisconsin Room
 Silent Auction continues.....
- 10:20 AM Introduction of Vendors.....
- 10:30 AM “George Sinclair, the Scottish Invasion of Norway and the Battle of Kringen”
 By Marvin and Louise Lang St. Croix Room
- Noon Luncheon for first-time attendees with Boards of Directors and spouses.
 Romerikslaget.....Dining Room
 Solørlag.....Patio Room
 Others: Lunch on your own. Patronize host hotel.
- 1:30 PM “Lapland Yesterday and Today” by Chris Falteisek St. Croix Room
- 3:00 PM “The History of Norwegian Sweaters” by Laurann Gilbertson St. Croix Room
- 6:30 PM Sweater Banquet.....St. Croix Room
 Entertainment by Rachel Storlie.

Saturday September 19

- 9:00 A.M. Registration opens
 Genealogy room opens (closes 4:00PM)Wisconsin Room
 Silent Auction continues until 4:00 PM.....
- 9:30 A.M. Annual Meetings and Election of Officers
 Romerikslaget.....Dining Room
 Solørlag.....Patio Room
- 10:00 AM Hospitality room opens.....
- 10:15 AM Memorial Service.....Dining Room and Patio Room
- 11:00 AM “Iron Brigade and Norwegians in the CivilWar” by David Glomstad ..St Croix Room
 Lunch on your own. Please patronize our host hotel.
- 1:15 PM “Eidsvoll Signers of the 1814 Constitution”St. Croix Room
 by Wayne and Elsie Olson
- 2:45 PM La Crosse Lumber HistorySt.Croix Room
 by Bob Mullen from the LaCrosse Historical Society
- 4:00 PM RESEARCH ROOM CLOSSES & SILENT AUCTION ENDS
- (Bidding sheets will be collected. Do not remove item until it is confirmed you are top bidder and have paid for item at check-out table.)
- 6:30 PM Norwegian Bunad Banquet.....St. Croix Room
 Entertainment by “Ole and Sven Duet ” by Phil Dybdahl and Gary Smithback
 Hospitality Room open after the banquet.