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Romerikslaget

News

July 2016



Greetings from President Joel Botten



Hope you are having a great summer. I recently attended the Nisswa Stamman for the first time. Great Scandinavian crafts, music and dancing. A unique celebration in the Nisswa, Minnesota Area Historical Society's Pioneer Village.

The Fellesraad Centennial Celebration "From Norway to America: Memories and Dreams" May 5-8 was a smashing success with over 500 participants at the Earle Brown Heritage Center and Double Tree Hotel in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Long-time Fellesraad president, Marilyn Somdahl stepped down and Elaine Hasleton was elected to replace her.

Romerikslag member, Jean Knaak, was general chair and others from Romerikslaget who met monthly for a year to plan were: Joel Botten, Mary Gross, Eunice Helgeson, and Ann Romo. Deb Jarvar designed our program ad and organized our lag display of pictures and information. The display will be part of our next stevne in Hudson, Wisconsin. Outstanding speakers, a hilarious Ole and Lena Build a "Lag" House skit, the Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis, the incredible Stoughton High School Nordic Dancers and a colorful bunad parade with forty-five participants will linger in our memory of this historic event. The event concluded on Sunday with a visit to Norway House followed by Norwegian and English church services at Mindekirken and a Norwegian-style lunch.

Romerikslaget held a luncheon and annual meeting prior to the Centennial celebration with twenty-two in attendance. The following were elected to the board for three-year terms: Vice President for Membership-Susan Waldera; Secretary-Eunice Helgeson and Director-Melvin Slettehaugh.

The 2017 stevne will be a joint meeting with Solørlag, Sept. 13-16, 2017 at the Hudson House Grand Hotel, Hudson, Wisconsin. Mark your calendar. We will have a board meeting followed by a planning meeting with Solørlag after Jan. 1, 2017. If you have program or tour ideas for the Hudson area, please e-mail any of our officers.

We were deeply saddened by the death of long-time member and leader Evelyn Krigsvold. Her endearing spirit for all things Norwegian won't be forgotten. Velsigne vaere hennes minne.



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, Kråk-
stad, Nesodden,
Oppegård, Ski,
Vestby, ås
Vestre Akershus -
Asker, Bærum
Oslo Fylke

Hilsen,

Joel

Genealogy News

Norwegian Farm Maps

There are several websites out there offering maps of Norway but here is one that is very user friendly and so detailed. Kristian Ekenes created it in 2014 while working on his master's degree in Geographic Information Systems at Arizona State University. If you are looking for your family farm in Norway, go to the Norway Parishes website: <http://norwayparishes.com/> On this website you can enter the COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, PARISH and PROPERTY/FARM SEARCH. I tried, COUNTY: Akershus, MUNICIPALITY: Aurskog-Høland, PARISH: Søndre-Holand (Hemnes), and FARM: Soprum. This resulted in 3 choices, Soprum, Søndre Soprum and Nordre Soprum, all in the same area. My ancestors were cotters on the Nordre Soprum farm and I visited that farm last June. How cool to see an accurate map of the farm with the house and all the out buildings. Zoom way in for more detail.

I also searched for just a farm name, no COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY or PARISH. This gave me a choice of several locations where that farm name was found. However, if you use a common farm name like Strand or Lien, you get 50 choices (50 is the maximum number of matches you will see, even though there may be more)...too many in my opinion. Spellings of farm names often changed over the years so you might want to select only the COUNTY and MUNICIPALITY

then zoom in and browse the farms to see if anything comes close to the spelling you have.

One good trick, if you don't have the "special" Norwegian characters like ø, å, æ, etc., just use an asterisk * in place of that character. I couldn't find a PRINT option but I was able to do a "screen shot" of the map and print it out for my records. There is a lot of information in the HELP section, you can also choose GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, lower right, for details on the parish. This is a fun website to explore.

Happy searching.

Deb Jarvar



Romerikslaget Members: Tell Your Genealogy Story

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.

Please send your story to the newsletter publisher.

Dorothy Mehl,
2111 E North Crescent,
Spokane, WA 99207
or email dorothymehl112@msn.com.



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.

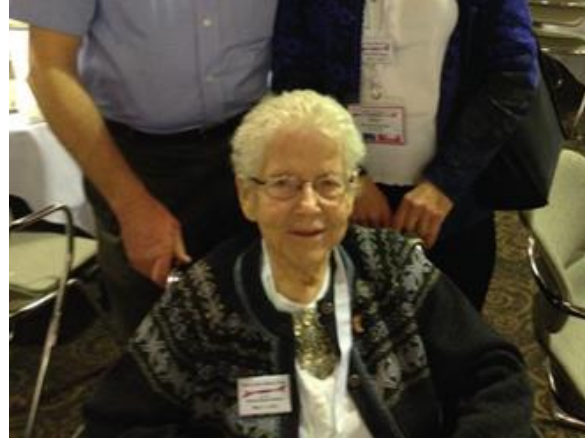
Romerikslaget i Amerika is a Norwegian American association whose members have ancestral roots or present-day ties to the area that nearly surrounds Oslo, Norway, called Romerike. The *lag* was founded in September 1990 to honor the unique culture of Romerike and to strengthen the bonds with the parishes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

Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

Honored Charter Members of Romerikslaget 1990 to Present



Bev and Mel Slettehaugh



Doris Michelson



Earl Wold



Robert Firing



Mike Miller



Eunice Helgeson



Arlene Olson

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad

Letter from the New Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President

Tusen takk to everyone who participated in planning, executing, and attending the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial celebration last week. It was a marvelous event!

I appreciate your vote of confidence as the newly-elected President of the Fellesraad, and look forward to moving this organization into the second one hundred years. I am a member of seven different lag, of which I am immensely proud. A sincere thank-you goes to Marilyn Somdahl and her Board for the many good things which they have accomplished while she was Fellesraad President.

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad is an umbrella organization for all of the individual bygdelag organizations, and we are here to provide support to you. Your bygdelag is very important because you represent a specific area of Norway, both for its special unique culture and also for its genealogical and historical information.

As stated upon the founding of the Fellesraad, its purposes are to stand as a connecting link between bygdelag, to be an advisory organization to support and guide development of the lag movement, and to manage cooperative projects for the good of all bygdelag. This is what we will endeavor to do, using new technologies to facilitate this. We will also assist in using social media in our recruitment of new and younger lag members.

Copies of the Explore booklet and also the colored county maps of Norway were available at the Centennial. If your lag did not bring some home to use at your Stevne, let me know, and we will send some to you.

You are welcome to send me your lag successes and suggestions of how the Fellesraad can assist the bygdelag. We are all in this together, and we want all to succeed! I look forward to seeing you at your Stevne!

Med vennlig hilsen,

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, President hasletonee@familysearch.org



Norway to America: Memories & Dreams *from Jean Knaak*

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Turned 100 Years!

Over 550 people from all across the USA, Canada, and Norway attended the centennial conference for Bygdelagenes Fellesraad titled, *Norway to America: Memories and Dreams* on May 5-8, 2016 in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

The festive tone of the celebration was created by colorful bygdelag banners, national costumes or bunader, flags, Norwegian music and dancing. Twenty-five speakers from Norway, Canada, and America spoke on the themes of Norwegian-ness -- Past, Present, and Future, Twenty-First Century Norwegian Family History, and the celebration of the centennial.

There were displays from most of the 28 bygdelag and several Norwegian-American organizations plus many craft vendors to add ethnic flavor to the event. To complement information about family history, displays included an academic university, a private museum library, a state history center, a genealogy association, a genealogy center, Salt Lake City Family History Library and a private university together with the Norwegian-American Historical Association. All have large collections of Norwegian reference material.

The highlight for many was a luncheon honoring direct descendants of bygdelag charter members. Over 90 descendants attended and ranged in age from six weeks to ninety-nine years of age. The Norwegian Day Camp for young people included folk dance lessons, singing, art projects, Norwegian history, and even a visit from a ventriloquist! There were many outstanding presentations.

Mindekirken welcomed visitors to their Norwegian and English Sunday services. Norway House, a national educational center, welcomed visitors to the educational rooms, gallery, coffee shop and gift shop.

Member News



Velkommen

Welcome to Our New Member

Elizabeth Branstead
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ebranstead@aol.com
864-506-2367
Hemnes, Aurskog-Høland, and Lunder.

Romerikslaget annual dues are only \$15 per individual. It's the best deal around. If you aren't sure if you are paid up contact Susan Walderra, 715-662-2661; e-mail LSWALDERA@centurytel.net.



Evelyn A. Krigsvold

EAU CLAIRE — Evelyn Alice (Rhude) Krigsvold, 88, of Eau Claire died May 16, 2016 in Eau Claire, WI.

Evelyn was born July 18, 1927, in Eau Claire, the daughter of John O. and Alice (Sorenson) Rhude. She graduated in 1945, from Elk Mound High School with honors. On June 21, 1947, she married Einar A. Krigsvold at Barum Lutheran Church. They made their home in Eau Claire, were charter members of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd where Evelyn served on the church council, Circle chairperson, WELCA President and sang in church choirs for over 60 years.

The greatest joy of her life was adopting two children. When the children were young, Ev was a den mother and camp fire leader. She was employed in secretarial work at Uniroyal, Fleet Mortgage, Superior and retired from Bank Mutual. Ev was an active member, officer, and volunteer in many organizations, including Romerikslaget, Waldemar Ager Association, Eau Claire Woman's Club and Chorus, Oakwood Villa Nursing Home, L.E. Phillips Senior Center and the "Forever Young" chorus.

Being very proud of her Norwegian heritage, Ev spent hundreds of hours in preserving the culture and heritage as president of Sons of Norway, Løven Lodge 29, Norwegian language lessons, tracing her Norwegian roots in genealogy and in directing trips to Norway. Evelyn sewed hundreds of items for World Relief and friends. Her home was always open for family, friends and meetings.

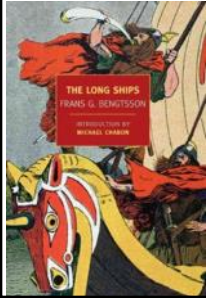
She is survived by her daughter, Debra (Chuck) Krigsvold of Bloomer; her son, Douglas Krigsvold of Eau Claire; granddaughter, Cheryl (Cain) Kellerman; six great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Margaret and Yvonne Rhude; brother-in-law, Pat Harrington; many nieces, nephews; and friends.

Evelyn is preceded in death by her husband; her parents; sister, Nona Harrington; brothers, Maurice and Donald Rhude; sister-in-law, Sylvia (Gerald) Lee; niece, JoAnn Vinmans; nephews, David Terry, Roger and Gene Krigsvold, Peter and Paul Vinmans, and Scott Lee. A memorial service was held at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Inurnment in Barum Lutheran Cemetery in the Town of Elk Mound, Wis.

Memorials are requested to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Debt Retirement Fund, 1120 Cedar St., Eau Claire, Wis., 54703; Sons of Norway Løven Lodge 29, 1455 W. Lake St., Minneapolis, Minn., 55408; or the Waldemar Ager Association, 14 W. Madison, St., Eau Claire, Wis., 54703.

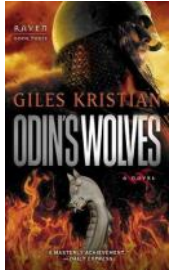


Summer Reading Suggestions



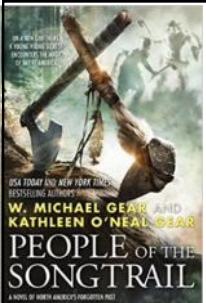
The Long Ships by Frans Gunnar Bengtsson

Red Orm - canny, courageous, and above all lucky - is only a boy when he is abducted from his Danish home by the Vikings and made to take his place at the oars of their dragon-prowed ships. Orm is captured by the Moors in Spain, escapes to Ireland, and then moves on to play an ever more important part in the intrigues of the various Scandinavian kings and clans. Eventually, Orm contributes to the Viking defeat of the king of England and returns home an off-the-cuff Christian and a very rich man, though back on his native turf new trials and tribulations will test his cunning and determination. Packed with pitched battles and blood feuds and told throughout with wit and high spirits, Bengtsson's book features one of the most winning heroes in modern fiction.



Odin's Wolves: A Novel by Giles Kristian

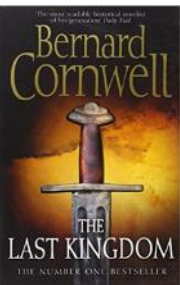
Having carved a bloody swathe through central Europe, Sigurd the Lucky's band of Norsemen set their sights on Miklagard, the "Great City" of the East better known as Constantinople, the wealthy seat of the Byzantine Empire. As his comrades prepare for conquest, seer Raven -- heartbroken over losing the woman he loves -- hopes that fortune and glory will be enough to restore his wounded spirit. Although *Odin's Wolves* stands on its own, readers who want to start at the very beginning should check out *Blood Eye* and *Sons of Thunder*. Those seeking even more Viking action should try Robert Low's Oathsworn novels, beginning with *The Whale Road*.



People of the Songtrail: A Novel of North America's Forgotten Past

by W. Michael Gear and Kathleen O'Neal Gear

This latest novel by the Gears, the popular husband-and-wife team of archaeologist-authors, focuses on the Norse colonization of the Americas. In the year 1000 CE, Vikings arrive in what is now Northeastern Canada and establish a settlement, setting the stage for violent clashes with the "skrælings," the newcomers' term for the indigenous people of the region. Although *People of the Songtrail* is the 10th book in the First North Americans series, this novel easily stands on its own with its strong sense of place, well-researched historical details, and vivid rendering of cross-cultural conflict.



The Last Kingdom: A Novel by Bernard Cornwell

When Danish raiders kill his family, ten-year-old Uhtred becomes the captive, and later the adopted son, of Viking warlord Ragnar, who has conquered three out of the four existing Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (including Uhtred's home of Northumbria). Yet despite his admiration and affection for Ragnar, Uhtred longs to reclaim his rightful lands and title as the Earl of Bebbanburg. His conflicting loyalties come to the fore when he encounters Alfred of Wessex, the future King Alfred the Great. Set in ninth-century England, *The Last Kingdom* is the 1st book in Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Stories series, which continues with *The Pale Horseman*. (Reviews from Best Reads)

The Dala Horse by Lissa Johnston

The Dala Horse, is inspired by Norwegian immigrants who, unlike most Scandinavians, chose Texas to settle. The author descended from two of these early settlers who arrived in Texas in the mid-1800s. Both of the first Norwegian relatives to set foot in Texas were Ole Olsons (Ole the blacksmith, not to be confused with Ole the farmer), so a challenge determining where in Norway they originated. Some readers have asked the author why a dala horse (often associated with Sweden) figures so prominently in a book about Norwegian immigrants. For nearly 100 years, Norway and Sweden were a single country (1814-1905). Woodcarving was commonplace during the long, cold winters. Many customs such as holidays, favorite recipes, and hobbies were intermingled both before and after immigrating. The little carved horse is now a beloved symbol of all Scandinavian countries. For more information see www.lissajohnston.com.

The Dala Horse is a middle grade reader (ages 8 and up). It is available on Amazon. Ten-year-old Kaya Olson lives in a small Norwegian immigrant settlement in post-Civil War Texas. She must uncover the secrets her family is keeping to solve the mystery surrounding her mother's death.



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Romerikslaget i Amerika

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From Vesterheim's Collection: Herbjørn Gausta, "Grace Before the Meal"

Herbjørn Gausta, "Grace Before the Meal (Bordbønnen)," ca. 1880-89. Oil on canvas, 20.5 x 28.5 inches. This poignant scene of a Norwegian home interior shows a mother and four children seated before a meal of grøt, kjøttkaker, and flatbrød. The father's chair is empty, and there has been speculation that it refers to a father who has gone to America while the family waits for him to send funds so they can join him. It is also possible that the empty chair is for a father who died. A favorite even today, this painting was especially popular in the early twentieth century.

Herbjørn Gausta (1854-1924) was a Norwegian-American painter who emigrated from Telemark, Norway, at age twelve. He lived with his family on a farm near Harmony, Minnesota, and studied at Luther College, where he was given a stipend to continue his studies in Norway. Throughout the late 1800s, Gausta traveled between Norway and the Upper Midwest, painting portraits of prominent Norwegian-Americans, about 400 altar paintings for Norwegian-American churches, landscapes, and scenes depicting rural life in Norway and the United States. Vesterheim purchased this painting with funds from Charles Gulbrandsen. www.Norway.org