



Serving Akershus and Oslo Fylker

Romerikslaget News

July 2017



Greetings from President Joel Botten



We hope you will join us for a joint Romerikslag/Solørslag stevne at the Hudson House in Hudson, Wisconsin Sept. 13-16, (Wednesday thru noon Sat.).

A registration form is in this newsletter. Room rates are reasonable and it is a chance for you to renew former acquaintances, make new friends and discover more of your family history.

There are always research helpers in the genealogy center. Vendors will be on hand to help you with early Christmas shopping. The hospitality room is a favorite spot, supplied with coffee and

homemade goodies brought by attendees.

Thursday afternoon a bus tour will take you to interesting ethnic sites with a special Norwegian- style lunch at Woodville Lutheran Church. Our annual memorial service for departed members will be held on the tour at Hope Lutheran Church in River Falls, Wisconsin. The address is: 3337 Kingsbarn Avenue, River Falls, WI. A time will be announced at the stevne for those not on the tour, but interested in attending.

Thursday evening we offer dinner together with entertainment to follow.

Thursday morning, all day Friday and Saturday morning will be filled with interesting presentations, a new member luncheon (free to new members) and a gala banquet on Friday evening. Wear your Norwegian outfit or special sweater.

If you do not plan to go on the Thursday tour, pick up a brochure in the hotel which lists interesting places to visit in and around Hudson. The downtown is a tourist mecca.

See you in Hudson! Directions: Coming on I-94 take the Carmichael Rd. exit and turn west on Crestview, a service road. Hudson House is on the south side of I-94.

Hilsen,

Joel



Stevne Time

Akershus Fylke

Ovre Romerike-

Eidsvoll, Feiring,
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,
Nannestad, Nes,

Ullensaker

Nedre Romerike -

Aurskog-Høland,
Blaker, Enebakk, Fet,
Hakadal, Lørenskog,
Nittedal, Rælingen,
Setskog, Skedsmo,
Sørumsund

Follo - Frogn, Kråkstad,
Nesodden,
Oppegård, Ski,

Vestby, Ås

Vestre Akershus -
Asker, Bærum

Oslo Fylke



Genealogy Tips from Deb Jarver

Summer, Time for Family Gatherings

Hopefully, this summer you will have several opportunities to connect or reconnect with relatives. Whether it be family reunions, family picnics, weddings...hopefully not funerals. Those gatherings offer great opportunities to further your genealogy research.

It's a good idea to bring a family tree chart, this gets people talking about their side of the family and many good stories and names can be gleaned from those conversations. Copies (not originals) of old photos are also a way to get people talking. This is where discussions about family resemblance occurs and is a great opener for stories. Be prepared to be asked for copies of your photos which is one way to get contact information.

Trivia questions get people interacting and learning about their ancestors, for example;

what was great great grandmother's middle name, when did the first ancestor immigrate and from where, who served in WWI or WW2, who had a tattoo and what was it, how many children did great grandfather have and what were their names, how many sets of twins were born in the family...you get the idea. And don't forget to take group photos and videos to share. One great discussion I remember from a family reunion was about our parents jobs and wages, very enlightening. Have fun this summer and enjoy those family get togethers.



Deb Jarvar

DNA Ancestry Kits Have You Tried One?

Home DNA tests now claim to reveal your ancestry. There are several on the market. Are they reliable?

The TV show *Inside Edition* tested the results on identical sisters. A set of identical quadruplets and three sets of identical triplets took part in the investigation by submitting their DNA to a selection of companies.

A DNA testing expert told *Inside Edition* that "because these sets of identical sisters all came from the same fertilized egg, their ancestry should be absolutely identical," but surprisingly, not all of the results came back the same. Among the triplets were the Maynard sisters, who were once on "American Idol." They sent their swabs to a company called "Family Tree DNA." Their results showed British Isles ancestry ranged from 59 percent to 70 percent among the sisters. In addition, one triplet's results said she was 6 percent Scandinavian, while the other sisters were zero. For Western and Central European, one sister was 11 percent and the others were zero.

"Family Tree DNA" told *Inside Edition* that since the test they are improving their method of calculating the ancestry of their customers. They will be rerunning the entire database and post updated results, they said.

If you have tried one of the DNA kits? Let us know how satisfied you are with the results. We will publish the comments in the next newsletter.

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2017 Stevne

September 13-16, 2017

Hudson Grand Hotel

1616 Crestview Dr.

Hudson WI,

telephone: 715-386-2394

www.hudsonhousegrandhotel.com



Reserve by August 12 and ask for the special stevne rate of \$71.99.

Set on the banks of the St. Croix River, Hudson invites you to enjoy the amenities of a quaint river town, built on rich history, and is often thought of as the Western Gateway to Wisconsin. Among the fastest growing areas in the state, Hudson has managed to grow and develop while maintaining its historic charm and panoramic beauty. It is located just 27 miles from downtown Minneapolis.

Thursday Bus Tour

Travels to Woodville and River Falls

On Thursday, September 14, the annual stevne bus tour will leave from the Hudson House on a motorcoach bus arriving in Woodville, Wisconsin, to have a Norwegian meal at 12:00 noon prepared by the Woodville Sons of Norway. In 2017 Woodville celebrated their 66th annual Syttende Mai! The meal, to be served in Zion Lutheran Church, will include open-faced sandwiches, sausage wrapped in lefse, coleslaw, rommegrot, and Norwegian sweets for dessert. And of course, coffee! Cost is included in the tour price.



After the meal a presentation about Woodville's history will be given by Debby Walters, a retired middle school media specialist from Woodville. We will also be given information about the history of Woodville's Syttende Mai.

We will proceed a few blocks by bus to Woodville's Historical Society Museum. This museum houses hundreds of pieces of Woodville's history including the black bag from a doctor who emigrated from Norway, old Syttende Mai posters, costumes, and photos.

Following our Woodville visit we will travel to River Falls, Wisconsin, to Hope Lutheran Church. This church building is only a couple of years old, but many of the inside furnishings are from the Eidskog Church in Ortonville, Minnesota, that closed a few years ago. There we will learn some of the history of both congregations and have a chance to get a close look at the old altar, baptismal font, pews, and wall hangings. We will hold our memorial service honoring members who have died within the past year.

The bus will return to the Hudson House by 4:30.



Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2017 Stevne



In Trunks, Hands and Hearts Friday Sept 15 1:30 pm

Laurann Gilbertson

What did Norwegian Immigrants Bring to the United States? Between 1825 and 1980, nearly one million Norwegians left for new lives in America. Consider the reasons for leaving, what they brought, and where they settled. Explore the immigrant experience through stories associated with artifacts in the Vesterheim collection.

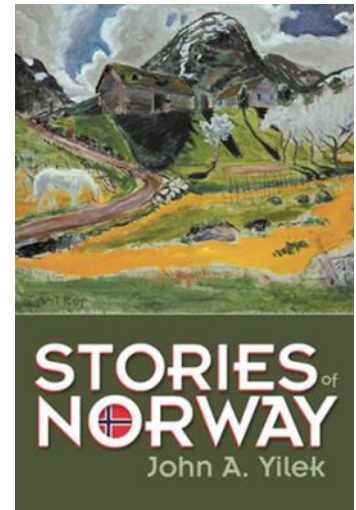
Laurann Gilbertson holds a BA in Anthropology and an MS in Textiles & Clothing. She is the Chief Curator at Vesterheim Museum.

Norway in World War II Friday Sept 15 10:45 am

John Yilek

John Yilek is “half Norwegian” and has traveled extensively in Norway. A retired Minneapolis-based lawyer, he teaches Norwegian History at the Mindekirken Norwegian Language and Culture Program in Minneapolis and at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM. He has also written two books *History of Norway* and *Stories of Norway*. His ancestors are from Røros and Nordland.

The stories about WWII tell of ordinary people and how they reacted to the war and the German occupation. “I tell those true stories and fact-based legends chronologically in the context of Norway’s history,” Yilek notes. “Most of the stories are preceded by an explanation of the related periods of history.”



Gudbrandsdalslag tour: Battle of Kringen-1612

Saturday Sept 16 11:00 am

Joel Botten A power point presentation



Finnskog History Friday Sept 15 9:30 am

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Accredited Genealogist

Elaine Hasleton is a Minnesota native, who currently works for FamilySearch in Salt Lake City. She and her husband, Jim, have three daughters and six grandchildren. Jim is the family member who has Solør ancestral lines.

Forest Finn Colonization and Genealogy. The Finns didn’t just settle in Hedmark county, Norway; they also settled in the interior of Norway, including Akershus county and Oppland county. Learn about this nationally recognized ethnic group in Norway.

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2017 Stevne



Thursday Evening Supper Program 6:30 pm

Norway: Through the Eyes of a Musician, Photographer & Genealogist Chris Falteisek

Chris Falteisek, a musician, composer, recording artist, genealogist and photographer will share his music, insights and photographs from his 2016 visit to Norway. Topics will include Syttende Mai, genealogy and the Norwegian archive system, Norwegian culture, food and music.

Friday Night Bunad Banquet 6:30 pm

Doug Ohman, Photographer

VANISHING MINNESOTA: Doug Ohman was born and raised in Anoka, Minnesota, and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in history and geography. Along with being an award-winning photographer, he is an author, and storyteller. His work has been widely published in books, calendars, and numerous state and national magazines.



Norwegian Resistance to Nazi Occupation

Dr John Haugo

Friday Sept 15 4 pm

The Nazis invaded and occupied Norway from April of 1940 to May of 1945 during World War II. The most significant example of resistance was the so called “Heavy Water War”. Telemark saboteurs raided the Vemork Hydro-Electric plant in Rjukan, Telemark where heavy water (deuterium) was produced. The Germans planned to use the heavy water to aid in their development of an atomic bomb.

Dr. John E. Haugo served on the Telalaget of America Board of Directors for twelve years, president for seven years. A native of Waubun, MN, he has a B.S. from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Early in his career, he was a high school math teacher and football coach. He has served as CEO of the MN Educational Computing Corporation, Serving Software, Inc., and SearchAmerica Inc. John is currently serving on the Board of Directors of Norway House and on the Board of Trustees for Luther Seminary. He has received Distinguished Alumni Awards from the UM, from MSUM, and from the MN Athletic Administrators Association and this summer received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the UM.

Technical Things : Tips for using the Digital Archives

Shanna Kurth

Saturday Sept 16 9:30 am



Membership News

Welcome to Our New Members

Linda McKeen *Asker, Baerum*
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Linda K Gjertson Ellifson Akershus/Ullensaker
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Arbor Vitae, WI 54568
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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, 2111 E North Crescent Spokane, WA 99207 or email dorothymehl112@msn.com.



Fellesraad Annual Meeting May 2017
Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad is the national council for the twenty-nine (currently active) affiliated Norwegian-American Bygdelag.

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 i Amerika Membership

Lag Officers and Directors

President • Joel Botten (2015-2018)

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

Website: www.romerikeusa.org

Romerikslaget i Amerika

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

Name (1): _____

Lag ancestral area: _____
(from listing on front 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 2018. Enclosed is my check.

Payable to: Romerikslaget

Mail form & check to:

Susan Waldera
N6062 N Skutley Rd
Taylor, WI 54659

Romerikslaget News is the official publication of Romerikslaget i Amerika and is published each March/Jul/Nov. Members receive the newsletter, step-by-step 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.

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2111 E North Crescent
Spokane, WA 99207

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

Little Ole was sitting at the kitchen table doing his school homework. He had a puzzled look on his face as he considered the assignment that was due--writing an essay about his origin.

He turned to question his mother. "Mama, vere did Grandma come from?" he asked. "Da stork brought her," answered Mama Lena. "

And vere did yew come from?" asked Little Ole. "Da stork brought me," his mother answered.

"And vere did I come from?" Little Ole inquired. "Vell, son, da stork brought yew, tew," Mama Lena replied.



With a scowl on his face, Little Ole picked up his pencil, turned to his school tablet, and began writing his essay: "Dere have been no natural births in our family for three yenerations."

From Seattle humorists Stan Boreson and Doug Setterberg "I yust go nuts at Christmas"

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2017 Stevne

2017 Joint Stevne Schedule – Hudson Hotel Grand, Hudson, Wisconsin

Tuesday, September 12 - Set up research materials in the evening to be ready for our members to research on Wednesday morning.

Wednesday, September 13 -**Research Day** - Elaine Hasleton will speak in the afternoon. “A Comprehensive Overview of Norwegian Genealogical Research in the 21st Century!”

5:00 pm -Both lag will have their board meetings with a buffet dinner served.

Thursday September 14

9:00 Registration - Genealogy - Hospitality – Silent Auction

9:30 Opening Session - Welcome, Anthems, Introduction of Officers, Show & Tell

10:45 - Bus leaves for tour

Evening 6:30 – Eat a light supper together – Norway: Through the Eyes of a Musician, Photographer & Genealogist - by Chris Falteisek

Friday September 15

9:00 Registration- Genealogy- Hospitality- Silent Auction

Vendors

9:30 Presentation – Hearth -Elaine Hasleton – “Forest Finn Colonization and Genealogy”

10:45 Presentation -- John Yilek – “Stories of Norway & World War II”

Noon – Joint Lunch - introduce first time attendees.

1:30 – Laurann Gilbertson “Trunks, Hands, and Hearts: What Norwegian Immigrants Brought to the United States”

3:00 – Annual Meetings – Both lag

4:00 – John Haugo – “Heavy Water War”

6:30 Bunad Banquet-- Entertainment – Doug Ohman “Vanishing Minnesota”

Saturday September 16

9:00 - Silent Auction and Hospitality (Research materials will be packed up)

10:00 – Rod and Shanna Kurth – “Latest Design Using Norwegian Digital Archives”

11:00 – Joel Botten – Power Point “Gudbrandsdalslag Tour: Battle of Kringen – 1612”

Noon - Closing Lunch