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# Romerikslaget News

July 2018



Greetings from President Joel Botten



We hope you are planning to join us in Fergus Falls, Sept 12-15 for another interesting and informative joint meeting of Romerikslag and Solørlag. A great program and area tour have been planned. Find a registration form in this newsletter and call the Country Inn and Suites/Bigwood Event Center at 1-218-739-2211 for the special room rate of \$107.50. Ask for Solør -Romerik for the discounted rate.

**IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?** *The number on your mailing label shows the last year you have paid. Please see the membership form in this newsletter for the amount of dues to be paid. Mail to: Susan Waldera, N6062 N. Skutley Rd., Taylor, Wisconsin, 54659. Thanks very much! Membership is important to the health of our lag.*

This will be my final newsletter message as president. Julie Clauson will be nominated at the Sept stevne and I recommend her highly. She has a strong interest in genealogy research and is skilled with technology. I have very much enjoyed the last 12 years and will continue to support the board and lag as immediate past president. *Thanks for your support these many years!*

Did you watch the Tony Awards? My third cousin, once removed, Josh Groban, was co-host, so it was doubly interesting for me and my family. His mother and I are third cousins, our great grandmothers were sisters born on the Smebyhagen farm in Østre Toten, Romerike, Norway. Their father was a cotter and the children and mother heeded the calling of America, leaving just one sister behind to continue the family in Norway. The children were all baptized in the Hoff Church near the western shore of Lake Mjøsa, north of Oslo and Eidsvoll.

Josh's great, great grandmother homesteaded alone in North Dakota. She was a slightly built, determined woman who preferred to work alongside the men in the fields. Josh's grandmother was involved in vaudeville in Minneapolis and visited our family at Hanska, Minnesota. The family moved to California where Josh was raised in Los Angeles. He attended an arts high school and was discovered at the age of 17 when David Foster decided he could substitute for Andrea Bocelli at a rehearsal with Celine Dion.

I am looking forward to a trip to 11 major cities of Europe in August, not Norway this time.

Hilsen,

Joel Botten

## 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,  
Sørums  
Follo - Frogn, Kråk-  
stad, Nesodden,  
Oppegård, Ski,  
Vestby, Ås  
Vestre Akershus -  
Asker, Bærum  
Oslo Fylke

# Genealogy

## Genealogy Tips From Deb Jarver Resist, Resist, Resist

When researching an ancestor, resist the urge to assume you have found the correct person. Norwegians were often dictated by traditional naming practices and therefore used the same common name over and over again. Think “Ole Olsen.” We’ve probably all got one if you go back far enough. Uncommon names are easier to find, but not necessarily. If you find what you are certain is your ancestor in a census or vital record, don’t stop there. Keep going for maybe a year before and a year after. You may be surprised to find another person with the same name who is also a potential match. And don’t get locked into a particular spelling, C and K, V and W as well as other letters were interchangeable.

For whatever reason, people were not always truthful in divulging their correct age on marriage records, censuses, and immigration records. Occasionally, a younger age scored a cheaper ticket on emigrant ships. Death records were not filled out by the deceased so be aware that the information may be wrong. In checking marriage records, you may assume that the marriage took place the year before the first child was born, which is not necessarily true. Consider that any record, even one created at the time of the event, might contain incorrect information.

Friends, relatives, neighbors, and church members formed the local community. Explore the community, look for siblings of your ancestor and their spouse, spouses of their children, neighbors, sponsors on birth records or witnesses on marriage records, who were often relatives. Make a list of the names you find and how they are connected. Search the census records and look at the households several pages before and after your ancestor. Create a timeline, add significant events like wars, epidemics, natural disasters, etc. This will give you some insight into what your ancestor had to deal with. Emigrants often followed the path of other community members, so this may help in determining where your ancestor settled.

Don’t get caught up in preconceived notions, keep an open mind and throw out a wide net for success. And, as always, if you need help, send me an email and I will be more than happy to assist. Happy researching!!

Deb Jarvar, Romerikslag genealogist



Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Annual Meeting May 5, 2018

# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2018 Stevne

**September 12-15, 2018**

Bigwood Country Inn & Suites  
Bigwood Event Center  
925 Western Ave.

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

[www.bigwoodeventcenter.com/](http://www.bigwoodeventcenter.com/)

Reservations call – (218) 739-2211

Room rate of \$107.49 for 2 persons, if you reserve by August 11. Group rate code word –“Solør-Romeriks”. Includes a hot breakfast. Rate good on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



## Thursday Bus Tour



*Ottertail County Historical Museum, Lunch at Trefoldighed Norwegian Lutheran church. Prospect House and Civil War Museum at Battle Lake*

Prospect House, a Georgian-style mansion, is a treasure in its own right. Cap James Colehour built the first house in 1882. In 1886 he added an addition and began to offer his home as a seasonal resort. He operated the resort until 1924 when he retired at age 82. The Prospect Inn continued operating for 38 years. Cap's daughter, Kathrina, and her husband, Ernest Wilkins, remodeled the interior in 1929. The house's furnishings and décor have not been changed since that time.

Continually inhabited by descendants of Cap Colehour, the Prospect House also features the Civil War Museum in the lower level. James A. Colehour enlisted for Civil War service in 1862, along with his brother, with Company I, 92nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry and served until the end of the war. You will be able to follow the map of his unit during the war including the Battle of Chickamauga, where he was wounded, and Sherman's March to the Sea. Everything the family owned or collected, including a display of rare civil war souvenirs and mementos can be viewed. It's current owner Jay Johnson, is the great grandson of the builder "Cap" Colehour." For more information see <http://prospecthousemuseum.org/>.

The Ottertail County Historical Museum is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Otter Tail County 1868-2018 with exhibits. Chris Schuelke, the Executive Director of the Otter Tail County Historical Society will be presenting a stevne talk Friday morning.



*Traditional Norwegian lunch at the Trefoldighed Norwegian Lutheran Church, located in the country outside Battle Lake.*



# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2018 Stevne



## *Lakes Country Water Resources*

Friday 1:30 pm

Terry Lejcher

Terry Lejcher will talk about the hydrology and geomorphology of West Central Minnesota, how the landscape was formed and the hydrologic processes of today. He has a bachelors degree in Forest Hydrology from the University of Minnesota '67, and a Masters degree in Hydrology and Watershed Management from the University of Arizona '69. He has worked here as a field hydrologist since 1975 with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

## *The Laurie Strom String Trio*

Friday Banquet 6:30 pm

Rebecca Petersen, violin, Laurie Strom, violin and Mark Solie, cello and violin, are all current members of the Fergus Falls Civic Orchestra. The Laurie Strom String Trio plays a variety of music from classical to contemporary, as well as folk tunes from Scandinavia.



## *150 Years of Otter Tail County*

Friday 9:30 am

Chris Schuelke

Chris is the director of the Ottertail County Museum, a stop on the Thursday Tour. 2018 is an auspicious milestone for Otter Tail County as it commemorates its 150th anniversary. People have called this area home for literally thousands of years. Why? Chris will discuss why people were drawn to this region and why people chose Otter Tail County.

Chris Schuelke is the Executive Director of the Otter Tail County Historical Society. He is passionate about preserving and interpreting local history. In 2017, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums.



# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2018 Stevne



## ***Was My Childhood Home in Alexandria the Hospital Where My Grandma's Little Brother Died?***

Saturday 9:30 am

Elaine Hasleton

Researching your house history adds substance to your family's history. What sources are available and where do you tap into them?

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton is an Alexandria, Minnesota native, who currently works as a Deputy in the Chief Genealogical Office for FamilySearch in Salt Lake City. She is currently the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad President, and enjoys working with all the bygdelags. Elaine and her husband, Jim, also from Alexandria, have three daughters and six grandchildren.

## ***Nordic Christmas Customs and Traditions with Music***

Thursday 7:30 pm

Chris Falteisek on piano

Chris is Minister of Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Woodbury, MN. He has a BS from the University of Wisconsin. He performs locally and in Norway and Sweden. Chris travels to Norway as often as possible to research genealogy and music history.



## ***Sharing Life in Norway/ Impressions of America***

Friday 10:45 am

Norwegian Exchange Students from Hillcrest Academy

Hillcrest Lutheran Academy is a private Christian junior high and boarding high school in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Established in 1916, Hillcrest has a strong affiliation with the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America. The Danielsen School in Bergen, Norway is a sister school with Hillcrest Academy and each year sends a number of students for a one-year college preparatory experience at Hillcrest.

## Membership News

### Welcome Our New Members

*Joyce A Carson*  
PO Box 531/307 Owego Street  
Montour Falls, NY 14865.  
607-535-6538 jcarson4@stny.com  
Buraas Farm and Rognstad Farm

*Brent Martin*  
8380 City Centre Drive  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
651-714-1642 bmartin977@aol.com  
Oslo



*Larry M Sagen*  
2701 Ellis Stree  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-552-0372 lmsagen@gmail.com.  
Nittedal, Oslo and Asker.

### Book Reviews

#### **The Half-Drowned King**

*A novel by Linnea Hartsuyker*  
Surviving his stepfather's plot to have him killed during a raiding voyage, Ragnvald Eysteinnsson vows to seek revenge and reclaim his stolen birthright. The young warrior pledges his loyalty to Harald of Vestfold, a king determined to unite Norway under his rule. This 1st book in a forthcoming trilogy presents an exciting Viking saga.



#### **American by Day**

*A mystery by Derek Miller*  
Chief Inspector Sigrid Ødegård decides to take some time off to go to America to look for her older brother, Marcus. Through the eyes of the inimitable Inspector Ødegård, Derek Miller offers a refreshingly funny, disturbing, and slyly perceptive vision of American life.



#### **Lee Grippen, a Member of Solorlag, Receives the St Olaf's Medal.**

Lee attended our last stevne and is the father of Rachel Storlie, who sang for us at the La Crosse stevne. The St. Olav's Medal and the St. Olav's Medal with Oak Branch were instituted by King Haakon VII of Norway on 17 March 1939. They are awarded in recognition of "outstanding services rendered in connection with the spreading of information about Norway abroad and for strengthening the bonds between expatriate Norwegians and their home country." The medals are in silver, surmounted by the Royal Crown. On the obverse is the portrait of the reigning King with his name and motto. On the reverse, St. Olav's cross. Above the medal is the monogram of the reigning King. It is worn on the left side of the breast with the ribbon of the Order of St. Olav. The medal ranks 9th in order of precedence of Norwegian medals. The presentation by the Counsel General occurred on March 16, 2018 at the Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove.

*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)

1314 Pine Pointe Crv., St. Peter, MN 56028  
507-351-6712; e-mail joelbotten@gmail.com

### V. P. for Membership • Susan Waldera (2016-2019)

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

### V. P. for Genealogy • Deb Jarvar (2017-2020)

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

### Secretary • Eunice Helgeson (2016-2019)

5541 Woodlawn Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417  
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### Treasurer • Mary Gross (2015-2018)

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### Director • Open (2016-2019)

### Director and Historian • Julie A. Clauson (2015-2018)

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### Director • Bev Slettehaugh (2017-2020)

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763-535-3616

### Director • Linda Curtis (2017-2020)

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### Director • Mary Baumgartner (2017-2020)

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715-425-7117; e-mail baumgam@yahoo.com

### Director • Alberta Rupert (2015-2018)

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715-425-7064; e-mail Bertlr@hotmail.com

### Past President • Marcia Hamilton

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### Newsletter Editor • Dorothy Mehl

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509-489-3868; email DorothyMehl112@msn.com

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

## Website:

<http://www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget/>  
Romerikslaget i Amerika - fellesraad.com

[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)

**Photos Membership Contact Us Fellesraad Info:  
Celebrate your heritage...**

**Join Romerikslaget i Amerika.**

**Romerikslaget i Amerika is a Norwegian American association.**

## 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 (2 person maximum) \$20 \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal

Norway/Canada (if newsletters are mailed) \$20 \_\_\_ 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, 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:  
2111 E North Crescent  
Spokane, WA 99207



## Velkommen to Romerikslaget Facebook Group!

Please check out our new lag Facebook group called “Romerike i America (Romerikslag).” We encourage our members to participate as a great means of keeping in touch with each other and sharing information throughout the year! First, you do need to have a Facebook account, which is free and easy to complete at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Then just sign in to your page and enter "Romerike i America" in the finder box at the top, when the group page appears then click on "Join" and submit your request to join. Members can post photos of their own visits to Romerike, as well as sharing genealogy, cultural and history information about Romerike. Norma Kjenstad Barnes is the administrator for the group. Please join us!

