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Romerikslaget News

July 2019



Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2019 Stevne

Make Your Plans Now
September 11-14, 2019

Best Western Plus
2100 US-12 E,
Willmar, MN 56201

Phone – 320-235-6060

Discounted Room rate \$109.99 – Before 8/11/19



Reminders for our upcoming stevne in Willmar!

Our upcoming stevne on September 11-14 in Willmar is going to be another wonderful experience for all of us! Here are some important reminders as you make plans to attend.

Please consider bringing items for the Silent Auction! Last year it seemed as though people forgot, and we had fewer items than usual. Profits from this Silent Auction are used for genealogy materials that benefit all of us. Please think about bringing things that might sell. People often bring Norwegian items you no longer want or have room for, books, needlepoints, embroidery, or other craft items. Use your imagination!

Remember to bring some of your special baked items or Norwegian foods to share in the Hospitality Room! We don't usually have dessert at our meals because we have so many delicious foods in our Hospitality Room. We would love to have you share your baking talents (or your buying talents) with everyone.

Please consider helping out by volunteering to help with the Hospitality Room, Registration Table, Silent Auction, or Genealogy Area. It takes many hands to make our stevne successful and the more the merrier. You can write a note on the back of the registration form telling us about any particular task you'd like to take part in.

Send in your registration form asap so you can take advantage of the early registration discount!

We look forward to seeing many of you in Willmar.

Genealogy

Sen or Son

If your Norwegian grandfather's surname ends in "son", was he Norwegian or Swedish? Many people think Swedish or that the spelling was changed at Ellis Island...but that isn't necessarily the case for patronymic names.

Patronymic simply means the father's first name with "sen/son" or "datter/dotter" added. Erikson would translate to "son of Erik." In Sweden, the patronymic surname suffix has always been "son" or "sson" for a male and "dotter" for a female. In Norway, it's a little more complicated..surprise surprise.



Before 1814, Norway was under Danish rule and the required suffix was "sen" and "datter" or "dattir." From 1814-1905, when Norway was under Swedish rule, the suffix was "son" and "dotter." After 1905, when Norway gained independence from Sweden, the suffix was "søn" and "dotter." Of course, this "rule" was not applied consistently so it is best to think phonetically, check both "sen" and "son" when doing research for Norwegian ancestors.

When immigrating to America, whole families often used the same surname as the father, to make it easier to keep the family together on ship. Also, you might find your ancestor used "sen" shortly after immigrating but then changed the spelling to "son" in later records and sometimes switched back and forth for a couple of years. These changes may have also been the fault of the census taker recording what was heard phonetically.

In 1905, a law was passed in Norway that encouraged families to pick a surname, this was known as a "frozen patronymic." Individuals could choose their patronymic name, the farm name or an area where they lived. In fact, occasionally, siblings chose different surnames. From 1850-1923 there was a gradual voluntary change starting in cities moving towards hereditary last names. In 1923, a law known as the Names Act was passed that basically said, "OK, now we really mean it, pick a surname and stick to it." Children would take their father's last name and women would use their husband's surname. Then in 1965, women could again keep their patronymic name and children could use either parents' last name or both.

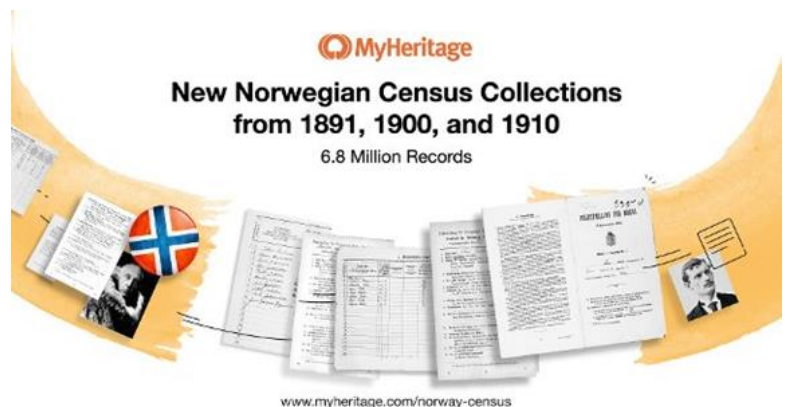
So, if you are wondering why your ancestors kept changing names, there is no easy answer. Hopefully, this helps a little. And...don't believe the myth that Ellis Island agents were responsible for changing an immigrants surname. I'm sure it happened but not as often as one might think.

As always, if you need help with your genealogy research contact me at djarvar@wwt.net.

Deb Jarvar, Genealogist for Romerikslaget i Amerika

New Census Records Available

Three new census record collections from Norway are available at www.myheritage.com/norway-census. The censuses, from 1891, 1900, and 1910 contain 6.8 million records and provide a treasure trove of information for anyone with Norwegian heritage.



Fellesraad Bygdelag

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, Bygdelag, and Norsk Slektshistorisk Forming Partnership

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, AG

The partnership between the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad (representing the 29 Bygdelag) and Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening represents a major bonding between the two organizations on both sides of the ocean. The Bygdelagenes Fellesraad was founded on November 12, 1916 in Minnesota. It is the umbrella organization for the twenty-nine Bygdelag, each based on a different geographical area in Norway. Some of the Bygdelags were established earlier than the Fellesraad, such as the Valdres Samband founded in 1899 in Minneapolis, and Trønderlag founded in 1908 in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

The founders of these Bygdelag organizations were initially the immigrants themselves who organized to “retain their original identity and a strong emotional attachment to their local home area in Norway.” When these immigrants passed away, their children and other descendants took over the Bygdelag movement.

Today, Bygdelag members are often the descendants, several generations down from the original immigrant, who primarily live throughout the U.S. They are interested in learning about their ancestral areas, talking with others who know about those areas, and researching their ancestral lines often using the Lag Genealogists.

Bygdelags always sponsor a yearly Stevne in various towns in the upper Midwest, where friends and family meet to participate in Norwegian cultural and research classes and other activities. The Genealogy Lab is always open during Stevne time. See the Fellesraad website for specific information on the Bygdelags and their Stevner: www.fellesraad.com and then click on Lag Information Sheets.

Genealogy is a very large part of Bygdelag activities. Lags have genealogical collections of sources relevant to their localities in Norway. They are often very knowledgeable in their localities in the U.S. Because the Bygdelag and Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening have the same interest and drive to find family members and ancestors, I see a great potential in this partnering. With the Norwegian-American Forum established, research questions can be cooperatively resolved. Lookups can be done by members on both sides of the ocean. Online sources, documents, and links can be shared. We can exchange not only Lag newsletters, but we can also share or donate Norwegian-American family histories and publications for the NSF Library. With the exchange of Lag Genealogists and NSF memberships, the potential for success can be experienced in both organizations.

The influence of both organizations will be felt throughout the Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogical and historical communities. Partnering builds visibility of both of our organizations in Norway and Norwegian-America. Together we can help each other find needed information. And, of course, we (Bygdelag) invite you to attend our Bygdelag Stevner, where you will be received like royalty!



Fellesraad Annual Meeting May 2019

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2019 Stevne

Genealogy Presentations

Wednesday 1:30 pm **Elaine Hasleton - Finnskog Research**

Elaine will use Swedish records.

Wednesday 3:00 pm **Rod Kurth – Digital Archives of Norway**

Saturday 10:30 am **Elaine Mackin - Beginning DNA**

Using DNA for Genealogical Research s—DNA is an exciting new tool for connecting with cousins and researching family history, but, unless you have training in biology or genetics, it comes with a learning curve. This talk will help you discover what you might learn from testing, explore the options available for tests and testing companies, and figure out how you might be able to use DNA testing in your genealogy research.

Thursday 10:00 am **Dean Urdahl -- “Dakota Uprising Events in the Willmar area”**



Dean will keep you spellbound as he tells about that fateful time and how it affected the lives of the early pioneers in the Willmar community. He will set the stage for our bus tour to see some of the areas where the uprising events took place. A former history teacher, he has authored a series of novels – Uprising, Retribution, Pursuit, Conspiracy!, Three Paths to Glory and Remains of Glory – detailing events of the 1860s. Dean taught American history for 35 years at New London-Spicer schools and is serving his ninth term in the Minnesota House. A descendant of Norwegian pioneers, Dean resides with his wife and editor, Karen, on a hobby farm near Litchfield.

Thursday 11:45 am **Tour of Willmar Area Historical Sights and Lunch**



Kandiyohi County Historical Museum with a box lunch social and to view exhibits. Guri Endresen Memorial at Vikor Church. Pioneer Log Church/Interpretive Center/Cabin. Sibley State Park which is celebrating 100 years. Kelsey Olson, Parks Naturalist, who will be getting on the bus with us at Sibley Park, will tell about area Norwegians in Sibley State Park beginning with stories about her grandfather. WWI Veterans Conservation Corps built the park buildings in 1935-38.

Thursday 7:30 pm--**Greg Harp – “The Sacred Places of Kandiyohi County”**



Greg Harp is an award winning photographer from West-Central Minnesota. His most recent major project, in collaboration with the Kandiyohi County Historical Society and the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, was to photograph every church in Kandiyohi County. This is featured in the “Sacred Places of Kandiyohi County” calendar series and notecards. A book of Greg’s sacred places photographs, published by the Kandiyohi County Historical Society, is planned to celebrate Kandiyohi County’s Sesquicentennial in 2020.

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Friday 9:15 am - **Barb Levin “Old Norway Lake Reminiscences,” stories by Gabriel Stene -- The Pioneer Kid**



"While researching some local history by reading old newspapers published in the 1920's I happened onto an article entitled "Old Norway Lake Reminiscences" by Gabriel Stene. I started collecting his stories and would tell them to anyone who seemed interested. From the very beginning I knew these stories had to be published."

Friday 9:30 am- – **Lowell Torkelson – “Scandinavian Folk Art”**



After retiring Lowell started woodcarving by attending a wood carving acanthus class in Wisconsin. He carved several acanthus projects like shelves, clocks, a mangle board and some smaller items. Lowell has carved many Scandinavian flat plane figurines like trolls, nisse, etc., plus a few chip carving projects, relief carving, kolrosing, kroting, knife making, bowl carving, kuksa carving, and wood burning. Lowell will briefly demonstrate a few carving techniques.

Friday 10:45 am - - **Larry Odin Opseth –“Homesteaders Hopes”**



"I grew up in the story telling and imaginative recollections traditions of my Norwegian grandparents and rural society. With my middle name of Odin, I have always had an interest in those old Viking Gods, their fables and adventures. I delight in little known historic and legendary details that often contradict the “facts” of school-taught history and literature.“

Friday 1:30 pm — **Earl Knutson “Scandinavian Culture in Modern Minnesota”**



Earl was born in 1936 on a farm near Sunburg, Minnesota, where Norwegian was the everyday language in the house and in town. Earl’s interest in family history bloomed only in his late 50s, but then it bloomed strongly. He has roots in Buskerud, Hedmark, and Nord Hordaland, He joined Sigdalslag and served 15 years on its board, 7 as president. He’s visited relatives in Norway 8 times.

Friday 6:30 pm -- **Bunad /Sweater Banquet Wear Your Bunad or Sweater!**



Sound Image an award winning barbershop quartet, has been entertaining audiences with their mix of great singing and belly busting humor in the upper Midwest and Canada for 16 years.



Membership News

Welcome Our New Members

*Sharon and Thomas Green
23895 Mallard Rd
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-6873, 608-792-5678
chickenhouse602@hotmail.com
ancestral area: Hurdal, Eidsvoll, østre Toten*

*David Hovick Lohman
1012 Westbrooke Way #8
Hopkins, MN 55343
651-428-8230
DBLohman@gmail.com
ancestral area: Nittedal,
Vestby*

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

Election of Board of Directors

The following Board of Directors 3-year positions are up for election at the Annual Meeting in September: Vice President for Membership, Secretary, and Director. There is also a remaining 2-year Director position to be filled. The Nominating Committee has obtained the consent of members to be nominated; however, some of them are willing to step aside if someone else wants to serve as an officer. If you would like to be considered to be nominated, please let the Secretary know: Eunice Helgeson, 612-724-7202, Eunice-Helgeson@aol.com.

In Memoriam

Marvin Lang was a member of Solørlag, along with his wife, Louise, and attended many joint stevner. Conrad "Marvin" Lang, age 79, died March 23, 2019.

A Celebration of Life Service was held March 29 at Woodlands Church, 190 Hoover Avenue, Plover, WI, with burial later in the Vang Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Westby, Wisconsin. Marv is survived by his wife, Louise; his sons, Kevin (Pam) Lang of Plover; Kurt (Myong-Sûn) Lang of Tokyo, Japan, and Kenn (Kim) Lang of Yorktown, VA; six grandsons; and five granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.



Here at Romerikslaget, we are about stories. Please share yours.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me. I would be happy to help you put YOUR story together. Dorothy Mehl, 509-489-3868

Dorothymehl112@msn.com

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 • Julie A. Clauson (2018-2021)

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary • Eunice Helgeson (2016-2019)

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

Treasurer • Mary Gross (2018-2021)

401 S. 1st St. #1822, Minneapolis, MN 55401
507-640-1417; email maryfrancesgross@gmail.com

Director • Bev Slettehaug (2017-2020)

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

Director • Mary Baumgartner (2017-2020)

433 E. Maple St., River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-7117; email baumgam@yahoo.com

Director • Chris Falteisek (2018-2019)

643 35th St. W., Hastings, MN 55033
715-529-7340; email chrisfalteisek@gmail.com

Director • Norma Kjenstad Barnes (2018-2021)

4902 S. Oxbow Ave. #205, Sioux Falls, SD 57106
605-496-8632; email nkwbarnes@yahoo.com

Director • Linda Curtis (2017-2020)

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

Director • Alberta Rupert (2018-2021)

220 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-7069; email Bertlr@hotmail.com

Past President • Joel Botten

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

Newsletter Editor • Dorothy Mehl

2111 E. North Crescent Ave., Spokane, WA 99207
509-489-3868; email DorothyMehl112@msn.com

Historian • Julie A. Clauson

Publicity Coordinator • Linda Curtis

Facebook Administrators • Norma Kjenstad Barnes and Chris Falteisek

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

Website:

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

www.fellesraad.com

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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 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
and outside the USA if newsletters are emailed rather than mailed.

Norway/Canada (if newsletters are mailed) \$20 ___ New ___ Renewal

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___ Please mail ___ email ___ me a sample newsletter

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

___ I am renewing my membership for 2019. 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.

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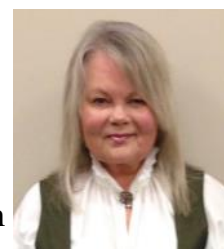
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Spokane, WA 99207



**Velkommen to Romerikslaget Facebook Group!
Visit our Romerikslaget Facebook Group!**



Please check out our lag Facebook group called “Romerike i America (Romerikslag).” We now have 38 people in the group, including several who live in Norway! It’s a great way for members to keep in touch with each other and share information throughout the year!

First, you need to have a Facebook account, which is free and easy to complete at 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 share genealogy, cultural and history information about Romerike as well as photos of their own visits to the area and of our stevner! As group administrator, I’m happy to answer any questions. Contact me, Norma Kjenstad Barnes, nkwbarnes@yahoo.com. Please join us!