



Serving Akershus and Oslo Fylker

Romerikslaget News

March 2017



Greetings from President Joel Botten



Hope this finds you happy and healthy after a rather mild winter, at least, here in Minnesota. We are concerned about the number of members who have not renewed their membership. You received an e-mail reminding you to check the membership list attached to the e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, you may telephone Susan at 715-662-2661 to check on your status. Dues for the calendar year are \$15/

person or \$20/household (max 2 persons) in the USA and also outside the USA if newsletters are e-mailed rather than mailed. \$20/person outside the USA if mailed. If you wish to pay for more than one year multiply by the number of years you want to pay. Please send your renewal to our VP for membership, Susan Waldera, N6062 N. Skutley Rd., Taylor, Wisconsin, 54659. Make check to: Romerikslag. A long-time member of our lag has reached a significant milestone in her active life. Doris Michelson recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Congratulations, and thanks for your service as a board member of our lag.

Hudson, Wisconsin is your destination Sept, 12-15, 2017 where we will have a joint stevne with Solørlag. We will meet at the Hudson Grand Hotel, 1616 Crestview Dr. Hudson, WI. Telephone: 715-386-2394. A registration form will be in the July issue of our newsletter. Room rates are: \$71.99 plus tax. We will also post a registration form on our website, Romerikeusa.org.

We recently met with Solørlag at the Mindekirken in Minneapolis. A highlight being planned for the Hudson stevne is a tour by bus of Hudson area Norwegian sites. The first stop will be Woodville, WI where we will enjoy a Scandinavian-type lunch at the Woodville Lutheran Church. Speakers will explain Woodville history and the history of their Syttende Mai which has been celebrated for 65 years. Later we will visit the Woodville Historical Society museum.

Traveling on to River Falls, we will visit Hope Lutheran Church which incorporates artifacts from the former Eidskog church in Ortonville, Minnesota. After a speaker and tour of the church, we will hold our annual memorial service for those members who have passed away since our last service. We will honor the memory of: Earl Angell, Winfield Arneson, Lillian Bolstad, Edna Carlson, Eileen Gulbranson, Evelyn Krigsvold, Keith Olmanson, Melvin Slettehaugh, Norma Ilene Telford and Betty Volney. If you are aware of other members who have passed, please e-mail or call me: joelbotten@gmail.com or 507-351-6712.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 will be dedicated to genealogy and family research. Research assistants will be on hand to help you. Our opening session is held on Thursday morning. New members and guests will be introduced. You will meet the officers of the lag and enjoy "Show and Tell", a chance for you to share a cherished artifact or a memorable experience. A new member luncheon (free for new members), will be held at noon on Friday. Speakers on various interesting topics will take place all day Friday and Saturday morning. A Friday evening banquet includes special entertainment and our annual bunad show. If you have a Norwegian outfit, plan to wear it. Norwegian sweaters also add to the atmosphere. The stevne will conclude on Saturday at noon with a farewell brunch or luncheon.

Make Hudson your September 2017 destination.

Joel



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 News

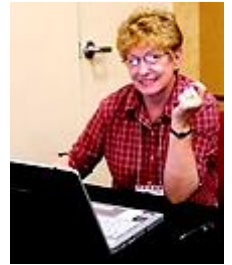
Beginning Genealogy

Every once in a while, it's a good idea to review beginning genealogy. All family history research begins with the present and works backwards, generation by generation. There are many resources available to help you in your genealogy research, some are on the Internet and others are available locally. Here are some basic tips on beginning your Norwegian genealogy research.

1. Get a loose leaf binder with a divider for each surname. This will be your work binder. Do not keep irreplaceable documents or photos in this binder in case it gets lost or destroyed.
2. Does a relative share your interest in genealogy? Perhaps a "cousin" has already done some research and would be willing to share. Don't be afraid to ask.
3. Start with YOURSELF and your immediate ancestors in the United States. Fill out a Family Group Sheet on each individual family. Always note the source and the date you found your information. (Note: Norwegians write dates differently. For example, 4/7/1892 is July 4th 1892, not April 7th, 1892. Genealogists prefer to write dates as, 4 July 1892 to prevent misinterpretation.)

Sources to check:

- *Interviews with living relatives (a recording device is useful)
 - *Census records.
 - *Courthouse and church records (birth, baptism, marriage, death, probate)
 - *Land records, homestead records.
 - *Obituaries and funeral home records.
 - *Tombstones and cemetery plots.
 - *Newspaper articles.
 - *Biographical articles, published family or city/county/church history books.
 - *Military records.
 - *Naturalization records.
 - *Notes on the back of old photos.
 - *Family stories handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth (no matter how unbelievable they may sound.)
 - *And of course, the Internet which has a wealth of information and is constantly changing.
- Have a goal in mind and keep it simple to begin with. Choose a particular individual or a branch of your family as your initial focus. If you need help, send me an email at djarvar@wwt.net, I'm always happy to help with research.



Deb Jarvar



**Norwegian American
Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library**
415 West Main Street, Madison, WI 53703-3116
(608) 255-2224 | genealogy@nagcnl.org



Jerry Paulson, Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication, has contributed a useful 42-minute webinar about the history, farms, communities, clerical districts and counties of Norway. His presentation is an informative and logical description of this complex topic, and should assist researchers at all levels.

To view this new addition - as well as the other free webinars and videos, visit www.nagcnl.org. On the home page, click on the webinar and video buttons to view the offerings available. The videos and webinars on NAGC's website are free to the public, made possible by the generous support of The Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation, Inc.

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library is an educational non-profit research center with national and international scope. The Center collects, preserves, shares, and interprets resources for the study of Norwegian heritage.

Romerikslaget



*On Monday, January 23, 2017
Doris Michelson, a charter member of the Romerikslaget,
celebrated her 100th birthday!
Happy Birthday Doris!*

Book Review

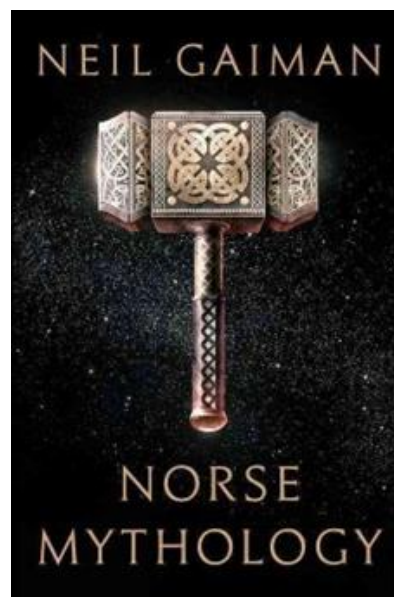
Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman.

Current Publisher: New York : W.W. Norton & Company, [2017]

Neil Gaiman has long been inspired by ancient mythology in creating the fantastical realms of his fiction. Now he presents his fashioning of the primeval Norse myths into a novel, which begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds, delves into the exploits of the deities, dwarves, and giants, and culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and the rebirth of a new time and people.

Gaiman stays true to the myths while vividly recreating the characters--the gods with their fiercely competitive natures, their susceptibility to being duped and to dupe others, and their tendency to let passion ignite their actions--and making these long-ago myths breathe pungent life again.

LibraryReads Favorite for 2017



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.

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad

Invitation to Attend Fellesraad Annual Meeting



Plan now to attend the Annual Meeting of the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad. Breakout sessions will be held to provide pertinent information for Lag positions.

It will be an exciting and productive one and a half day event! Rune Nedrud, Chairman of the Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening in Norway (Fellesraad's newest partner) will be presenting at the Genealogists session and also giving the Keynote address!

Special sessions with training will be held for the following:

- * Genealogists: Wave of the Future – Marilyn Sorensen, Coordinator
- * Treasurers: Pertinent Info – Bob Torkelson & Don Teigen, Coordinators
- * Newsletter editors: Tips and Tricks – Jean Borgerding, Coordinator
- * Stevne planning: Bootcamp – Jean Knaak, Coordinator
- * Webmasters: Updates – Gene Rodi, Coordinator
- * Publicity and social media: Using These Current Tools to Move our Lags Forward – Elaine Hasleton, Coordinator

Place: Mindekirken, The Norwegian Memorial Lutheran Church
924 East 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Date: 5 & 6 May 2017, **Time:** Fri - 1:00 pm to approximately 8:00 pm, Sat - 9 am to 3:30 pm

Cost: Friday only, \$10; Sat only, \$17; both days, \$20, if paid by March 31.

Registration form is below. We hope to see you!!

Elaine Helgeson Hasleton
Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, President

BF ANNUAL MEETING/WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

924 East 21st St, Minneapolis, MN 55402 — MAY 5 & 6, 2017

All are welcome to attend at Mindekirken

Name _____ Delegate? Yes NO (others are Guests)

Phone _____ or Email _____

from _____ Lag

2-day EARLY price received by MARCH 31 is \$20; All other registrations due before APRIL 15 at \$25

FRI (1-7PM) & SAT (9AM—3:30 PM) including meals \$ _____

(Friday especially for Genealogists, Webmasters, Treasurers)

Friday only price is \$10 \$ _____

Saturday only price is \$17 \$ _____

(9 AM Saturday 101st Annual Meeting, speaker Rune Nedrud and 1 PM workshops:

for Newsletter Editors, Publicity & Social Media, Stevne Planning)

Send check to FELLESRaad TREASURER Robert Torkelson, 4725 Bayswater Road, Excelsior, MN 55331

Checks to be received by BF Treasurer by stated deadlines, please!

Bygdelagenes Fellesraad

When The Ice is Already Broken

Some impressions from a visiting Norwegian after the Fellesraad Centennial Celebration, 5-8 May 2016.

By *Fredrik Larsen Lund*,
National Archives of Norway



I have travelled to 90 different countries and done research into Norwegian migrant communities in Australia,

New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil and other places around the world. However, when I landed in Minneapolis on 5 May to participate in the Fellesraad Centennial Celebration it was my first ever visit to the Norwegian-American heartland in the Upper Midwest.

Thanks to generous support from the organizers, the National Archives of Norway – where I work – I was able to accept an invitation to attend the centennial conference, and to give two presentations about how to use archives in Norway.

A love affair

From the time when Rodney and Audrey Pletan picked me up from Minneapolis St. Paul Airport until I returned home three days later, I felt I was among friends. I was overwhelmed by the hospitality and enthusiasm I met among all the bygdelag members. And everyone appeared to be so curious about me. ‘Where do you come from in Norway?’ – I think I answered that question at least 25 times; and it was always a great way to get the conversation started about shared Norwegian-American topics. Above all, it was amazing to experience the dedication – or I should perhaps say: love – every one of you seem to have for Norway and all things Norwegian.

Being one of a handful of ‘native’ Norwegians (a slightly outdated term but you know what I am referring to) who gave talks during the conference, I almost felt like a celebrity. However, I think that status had less to do with me as a person and a lot more to do with the fact that so many of you were eager to absorb the information I shared during my two sessions. It was really a privilege to have such a receptive audience listening to my presentations on historical research in Norwegian archives and libraries

Norwegian-American identity

There was certainly a lot of ethnicity on parade during the centennial conference. Quite literally speaking; particularly with the bunad show after dinner on Saturday. Traditions like bunad, folkedans, rosemaling, lefse, lutefisk, etc. live on even though they appear to celebrate an interpretation of a Norway that no longer exists. Norwegian America has developed its own culture over the years. Your own traditions have evolved from the immigrants who came to the USA 100-180 years ago and into what they are today.

The modern-day Norway I live in is something quite different from that (perhaps with the exception of 17 May – the Constitution Day). Sometimes we might laugh a little about how our relatives in America express their Norwegianness. But as a historian who has studied Norwegians around the world, I have deep respect and understanding for the way traditions express a symbolic ethnicity that serve to maintain some kind of group identity linked to your ancestors’ homeland. To be honest, I was rather impressed by the level of activity and creativity that was displayed during the bygdelag celebration.

Moreover, when I scratched beneath the surface of the rosemaling I discovered numerous links between contemporary Norway and contemporary America based on our shared history. These links were expressed through cultural exchange, projects, education, business, travel, etc. Norway House in Minneapolis is a good example. While I was familiar with some of the Norwegian-American institutions, like Sons of America and NAHA, I was not fully aware how strong the institutional framework really is (still). Not only in terms of bygdelag and historical societies but also other kinds of voluntary organizations and businesses.

A new relationship

As the actual exodus from Norway becomes a more and more distant memory, I hope these institutions can serve to sustain and develop the connections between America and Norway into the future. When our current Prime Minister, Ms. Erna Solberg, visited Washington, DC, just a few days after the bygdelag centennial, she made a comment on Norwegian television about the potential of the Norwegian-American community as a stepping-stone for Norwegian individuals and businesses who wish to gain a foothold in the USA. I think that could well be true: When we approach our cousins in America, we Norwegians meet an open door. And I hope it works vice versa too. The shared identity and understanding between many of us – the fact that the ice has already been broken – is in my opinion a value, a sort of social capital that can be used to invest in many different projects that might be of benefit for people on both sides of the Atlantic.

From the many rewarding conversations I had with lag members during my visit, I learned that there is indeed a high level of knowledge about modern Norway and a keen interest in what is going on over here today. I travelled to Minneapolis half expecting to meet a lot of people who had hardly ever been to Norway. How wrong could I be?! I soon discovered that many of you have been across the pond half a dozen times or more and have a broad network of contacts among Norwegian friends and relatives. And thanks to new friendships I made during the conference I might meet up with some of you in Oslo this summer.

E-mail: frelun@arkivverket.no

Member News



Melvin Leonard Slettehaugh by Mary Gross

Mel Slettehaugh, a charter member of Romerikslaget who has been a board director since its inception in 1990, died on December 15, 2016 at the age of 86. Mel and his wife, Bev, visited Slettehaugh Farm north of Bergen, Norway in the late 80's and joined Romerikslaget as it was being formed. Soon after, Mel and Bev would store and load the library of genealogy materials to the stevner. This continued until recently. At the stevner Mel and Bev managed the hospitality room.

Mel was always interested in telling stories about his Norwegian ancestry so he could tell more stories! They also belonged to Sunnfjord lag, where Mel served as vice president & then president, attending Sunnfjord stevner in June and Romerikslaget stevner in September. Bev says that Mel never bragged about the work he did for the lags, because he was a Norwegian and they don't brag about themselves.

Mel retired from Honeywell in 1990, where he was the group leader in the grinding room. He was a lifelong volunteer, working at the nearby food shelf, delivering meals on wheels, and as a member of boards at the food shelf and at his beloved Church of the Epiphany, where he used his expertise on the building and grounds committee. Mel and Bev drove to Texas for the winter, stopping at favorite places. He loved to travel and tell stories about his trips. He and Bev built their home in 1969 with help from relatives and friends. He loved his family and would do anything for them. He was a generous soul with a heart of gold.

Last May Mel and Bev were honored as charter members of Romerikslaget at the Fellesraad Centennial luncheon for charter members and descendants of bygdelags. Despite health problems, they were able to attend the recognition for their work with our lag. We will miss Mel and will not forget him and his part in making Romerikslaget what it is today.

Eileen Jean Gulbranson

Eileen Jean Gulbranson, 84, of Ellsworth, WI passed away Feb 8 at her home. Eileen was born in Ellsworth, WI to Waldemar and Agnes Larson, baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. She graduated from Ellsworth High School and River Falls State Teachers College. She taught in rural Ellsworth and at Spring Valley Schools until retiring in 1991. She married Walter Gulbranson and later divorced. Eileen was a devoted mother to her children: Lynn Gulbranson, Ken Gulbranson, Dawn (Tim) Falkofske and Dana Gulbranson and a proud grandmother of Adam Falkofske and Andrea Falkofske. After retiring Eileen enjoyed volunteering at the VA Hospital, the Pierce County Historical Society and delivering meals on wheels. She was a lifetime member of American Legion Auxiliary and a member of English Lutheran Church where she was a member of the choir for many years. She was also a member of Wisconsin Retired Educators and Romerikslaget, a Norwegian heritage organization where she was a past president and publicity coordinator. She was an avid reader, enjoyed traveling, visiting her grandchildren and children in Texas and researching her ancestry.

Memorial service was held English Lutheran Church, Ellsworth, WI., with burial at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Beldenville, WI.



Keith Olmanson

Keith Nolan Olmanson of Mankato, MN, passed away on May 26, 2016. A service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato with interment at Green Lawn Cemetery in Nicollet. Keith was born in St. Peter, MN on July 28, 1929 to Bennett and Helen (Jacobson) Olmanson. Keith graduated from St. Peter High School and Bethany Lutheran Seminary in 1955. He served 40 years as a Lutheran pastor and founding member of CLC. He belonged to a local Norwegian club and the Hedmark Lag. He translated Civil War letters written in Norwegian by his great-grandfather, Bernt Olmanson, a soldier of the Civil War. He is survived by his wife Sonja, and eight children, twenty-two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



Romerikslaget Membership

Lag Officers and Directors

President • Joel Botten (2015-2018)

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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 (2014-2017)

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
612-724-7202; e-mail EuniceHelgeson@aol.com

Treasurer • Mary Gross (2015-2018)

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

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

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 • Mary Baumgartner (2014-2017)

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

Director • Alberta Rupert (2015-2018)

220 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-7064; e-mail Bertlr@hotmail.com

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

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

Past Presidents: Priscilla Sorknes†, Andreas Jordahl Rhude, Cathryn Bertson 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 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 2017 or 2018.
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.

Postmaster: if undeliverable
Return to:
2111 E North Crescent
Spokane, WA 99207

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2017 Stevne

September 12-15, 2017

Hudson Grand Hotel

1616 Crestview Dr.

Hudson WI,

telephone: 715-386-2394

www.hudsonhousegrandhotel.com



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 Mpls.

More information and registration in the July Newsletter.