



# Romerikslaget News



## An Interesting Story About a Probable Norwegian

*by Carol Olson*

On November 22, 1963 I was in high school when I learned the tragic news from Dallas, Texas. President Kennedy has been assassinated. The next day I got the Minneapolis Star and read about the people who were in and by the Presidential limousine. I came across the name Clint Hill who had jumped into the limousine immediately after President Kennedy was shot.

My grandmother Anna Olson Nygaard, the daughter of Hans and Berte Olson who left Fluberg for the US in 1867, was still alive. She said that Clint, his sister Janice, and their parents lived across Washburn’s Main Avenue from my father. She said that before Clint began school he would follow my grandfather Hans Nygaard, a native of Rælingen, as he did his daily chores.

Clint Hill was born in Larimore, ND on January 4, 1932, the sixth child of his mother Alma Peterson, whose parents have ties to Norway. She took him to the Children’s Home where Christopher and Jennie Hill adopted him, and moved to Washburn, ND. Clint’s surname was originally Haugen, but it was changed to Hill. He went to school in Washburn, attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and spent time in military service before ending up in the Secret Service agency. He served five Presidents, from Eisenhower to Ford, before retiring in 1975.

When The Kennedy Detail was published, Clint Hill was interviewed for the book. Following the tragedy, Mr. Hill went into a deep depression and was not able to talk about that day in Dallas for nearly 50 years.

In 2012 Clint Hill, along with Lisa McCubbin, published the book Mrs. Kennedy and Me, followed by two more books, Five Days in November in 2013 and Five Presidents in 2016.

Early in October 2018, it was announced that Clint Hill was to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Riders Award, the highest award given by the state of North Dakota for the purpose of “recognizing North Dakotans who have been influenced by this state in achieving national recognition in their fields of endeavor”. Forty-three citizens had been given this award.

On November 19, 2018, my husband Ray and I drove to Washburn to the Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center for the award ceremony. We came early, wrote our names on the tags—I put “Carol (Nygaard) Olson”. Governor Doug Burgum gave Mr. Hill the award, a bust of Theodore Roosevelt, and a painting of Clint Hill. The painting is now hanging in the state capitol in Bismarck. Governor Burgum said that Clint Hill and his accomplishments were Larimore’s loss and Washburn’s gain.



Carol Olson and Clint Hill

After accepting the award, Mr. Hill talked about growing up in Washburn and how it prepared him for the events that he was part of. He also advised others to talk it out if they are depressed—just talk it out, and you would feel better like he did.

I walked up to congratulate him. After thanking me, he noticed “Nygaard” on my name tag and asked if I have ties to Hans and Anna Nygaard. I said that I am their granddaughter. He beamed and said he has fond memories of them. I wanted to ask him if he ate Grandma’s lefse, but I decided not to do that because I wanted others to have time with him.

# Genealogy

## DNA Legal Questions and Answers

I purchased some DNA test kits at Christmastime as gifts for my son and two of my adult granddaughters, thinking they would be delighted to spit in the tube and send it in for their DNA results. To my surprise, only one of them was delighted. The other two said they would have to think about it. They asked a lot of questions about how that data would be used. Unfortunately, I couldn't answer most of their questions.

That led me to do some research online about what happens to DNA samples we send in to the various companies like Ancestry, 23 and Me and FTDNA among others. I have to say I spent a lot of time searching and gleaned tons of useful information. Without going into any detail about the specifics, I will refer you to a Family Tree Magazine article that did a great job of spelling out the details in easy to understand language by their legal experts, "Do DNA Tests Put Your Personal Information At Risk?," by Judy G. Russell with Sunny Jane Morton.

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/do-dna-tests-put-your-personal-information-at-risk/>

With that said, I hope you read the article so you can be more informed than I was. My son had an interesting comment. He reasoned that if he was ever falsely accused of a serious crime, DNA results could, hopefully, clear him of those accusations. And all I wanted to know is if there were any elusive cousins out there.

As always, if you need help with your genealogy research contact me at [djarvar@wwt.net](mailto:djarvar@wwt.net).

Deb Jarvar, Genealogist for Romerikslaget i Amerika



## 7 Common Uses of DNA Testing

Advances in DNA technology have resulted in the increased use of DNA tests. From paternity tests to criminal investigations, the accuracy and data provided mean that millions of people are now turning to DNA testing to answer their questions.

Below are the seven most common uses for DNA testing:

1. Archeologists are now using DNA tests to keep a record of genetic codes and progression of life on earth dating back centuries, resulting in a DNA database.
2. A paternity test using DNA is the most definitive way of confirming a child's paternity.
3. With an interest in family trees growing, a DNA test can also be used as part of a search for your genetic ancestors.
4. Through the use of prenatal genetic tests, doctors can now assess whether or not the unborn fetus will have health problems.
5. DNA tests are now being widely used in criminal investigations.
6. Many people tracking down long lost relatives are using DNA tests.
7. In the spectrum of space research, scientists are conducting DNA tests on new species and unidentified articles from outer space.

As DNA technology evolves, so will advances in its use of testing. The accessibility and widespread use mean that testing is also becoming cheaper. Its many uses in criminal, civil and personal cases mean that many of today's questions can be answered with a simple test.

Content abridged

From [easydna.com](http://easydna.com)

# Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2019 Stevne

**September 11-14, 2019**

Best Western Plus  
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## Stevne Highlights

- ◆ Genealogy research and assistance
- ◆ Classes on the use of digital archives and DNA
- ◆ Classes on the history of the Willmar area.
- ◆ Bus tour –
  - 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, Park Naturalist 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.



Guri Endresen  
1813-1881



Sibley State Park



Vikor Church

# Romerikslaget News



## 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](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 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, [nkwarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:nkwarnes@yahoo.com). Please join us!



## Happy 102 Birthday Doris

Doris Michelson, a charter member of Romerikslaget, celebrated her 102nd birthday on January 23, 2019. Family members celebrated with her on the farm near West Salem.

Doris still regularly attends church, high school basketball games, and concerts with the help of her son, Jim.

Doris, who continues to be a member of the lag, is the mother of members Elizabeth Rusch and Mary Baumgartner.

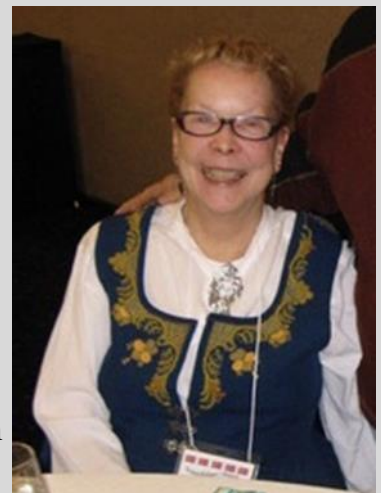


## In Memoriam



Marcia A. Hamilton died November 21, 2018. Marci was President of Romerikslaget i Amerika 2001-2006. We remember her friendliness to all and her enthusiasm at the stevner. She took pride in wearing her Romeriks bunad. A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, January 19, 2019. Messages of sympathy can be sent to Laney Skeel, 4312 Zenith Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55422.

Hamilton, Marcia A. Age 77 of Robbinsdale. Preceded in death by parents Chester and Dorothy Olson; and brother Ronald Olson. Survived by life-long partner Laney; nephew Ron Olson, Jr.; niece Julie (John) Fleming; other relatives and friends. Worked at Minneapolis Clinic of Psychiatry and Neurology then received her Master's Degree from the U of M and worked in private practice until retirement.



# Fellesraad Bygdelag

## Fellesraad Annual Meeting – May 3-4, 2019

### Mindekirken, 924 E 21st St. Mpls.

The Fellesraad Annual Meeting in May will have DNA as its theme. An understanding of this “new” facet of genealogy is necessary, as it should be used as a companion to your research.

Jan Myhrvold of Gjerdrum, Norway, both a DNA and Finnskog expert, will be our guest presenter. He is both an administrator and a researcher in the largest DNA project in Norway, the Forest Finn DNA Project. He is also the Norwegian President of the Solør-Värmland Finnkulturforening, which is a shared Norwegian and Swedish Finnish Culture Association.



Jan Myhrvold

Jan will teach multiple classes, including presenting the Keynote address. He will talk about the basics of DNA and interpreting DNA results. He'll share his perspective of DNA in Norway and how it is being used. Jan will show the differences between Scandinavian DNA and Finnskog DNA. As an extra benefit of his visit, Jan will teach a Finnskog class, sharing information on these settlements from Finland through Sweden and into Norway.

Fellesraad will provide handouts on the differences between the major DNA companies and other helpful information. So, you are invited as well as the younger generation to attend these presentations!

Visit the website: [fellesraad.com](http://fellesraad.com) for more information.

## More Fellesraad News

\* The Stevne database has been updated by Nancy Pickering, which is called: FellesraadStevneHistoryDatabase.xlsx file out on Google Docs. The file has been set so that anyone with the link can edit the file – no extra logins or passwords are necessary. Please go in and add your recent Stevne information. Just click on this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QCbokZsWLiUq9PGDGh4q3tB1yC4LmHzH/view?usp=sharing> \* If you prefer to have Nancy put in your Stevne information, email her [nancyp@minn.net](mailto:nancyp@minn.net).

\* We are happy to announce that the new Agder Lag is making progress in creating the Articles of Incorporation for their organization. We welcome them to the wonderful world of Bygdelag and all that it represents. If you or someone you know may be interested in this Lag, please contact Priscilla Pope at [p-pope@umn.edu](mailto:p-pope@umn.edu).

\* Both Fellesraad and Norwegians World Wide are co-sponsoring a trip “The Viking Age to Contemporary Norway” from May 12 to May 24, 2019. It includes the southern coastal area of Norway, including Agder. See more information on the [Fellesraad.com](http://Fellesraad.com) website.

\* The Norway House Bibliotek Fundraising continues. Whatever we donate individually or as a Lag will be matched up to \$200,000 by Dr. John Haugo's matching campaign. To donate online, go to the Norway House website <https://www.norwayhouse.org/> and then click on JOIN + GIVE. Next click on DONATE, then click on DONATE TODAY. Scroll down to Dr. John E. Haugo Library Matching Fund and fill in your amount. Or you can send a check. Be sure to note that it is for the Bibliotek. Please consider the Norway House Bibliotek in your estate planning as well. This Bibliotek is a pathway to our future, especially when considering the Lag genealogical materials! So, this an investment in the future for the Bygdelag!

## Membership News

### Welcome Our New Members

*Kathy E. Sanderson & William L. Berg  
2726 Sylvan Way  
Mc Kinney, TX 75070-4049  
678-646-1400  
email: [billberg\\_mail@yahoo.com](mailto:billberg_mail@yahoo.com)  
ancestral area: Raelingen*



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](mailto:Dorothymehl112@msn.com)

Akershus Fylke  
Ovre Romerike-  
Eidsvoll, Feiring,  
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,  
Nannestad, Nes,  
Ullensaker  
Nedre Romerike -  
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Fet, Hakadal,  
Lørenskog, Nittedal,  
Raelingen, Setskog,  
Skedsmo, Sørum

Follo - Frogn, Kråk-  
stad, Nesodden,  
Oppegård, Ski,  
Vestby, ås

Vestre Akershus -  
Asker, Bærum

### IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP-TO-DATE?

Dues are due at the beginning of the year so please send your renewal to: Susan Waldera, N6062 N. Skutley Rd., Taylor, WI 54659. It seems to be more difficult to keep track of when to renew as most people receive their newsletter by email. If you aren't sure if you are up-to-date, you can call me at 715-662-2661, email me at [lswaldera@centurytel.net](mailto:lswaldera@centurytel.net) or send me a letter. Romerikslaget's only income is its dues, so your membership is of great importance to keep this organization active. The annual dues are \$15/person or \$20/household (max 2 persons) in in the USA. \$20/person outside USA if newsletters are mailed. Please make check payable to: Romerikslaget.

MANGE TAKK *Susan Waldera*, V. P. Membership

*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)

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715-662-2661; email LSWALDERA@centurytel.net

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715-874-6678; email djarvar@wwt.net

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

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612-724-7202; email EuniceHelgeson@aol.com

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763-535-3616

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715-425-7117; email baumgam@yahoo.com

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

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715-839-7876; email LCURT651@sbcglobal.net

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

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

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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

(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 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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Spokane, WA 99207

### Old Wood

Norway holds the European record for the number of wooden houses still in existence dating from the Middle Ages. There are reputedly 200 wooden houses in Norway of pre-Reformation age, i.e., before 1537. Thanks to Norway's cold and relatively dry climate, these have not been destroyed by vermin or rot. They bear living testimony to the daily lives of the people of this age.

Exact dating of the structures is possible by drilling to the core of the log with a special drill—a process which enables scientist to date the wood to a specific year.

The first log houses in Norway consisted of a single room with hard-packed earthen floors and an open hearth in the center of the room. Along three walls were wooden benches, filled with earth for insulation. The only source of light was the smoke outlet in the ceiling. Chimneys and fireplaces were not added until the 16th and 17th centuries; in some regions, such as isolated Setesdal, the open hearth was in use until the early part of this century.

Houses are not the only buildings preserved from the Middle Ages in Norway. World famous are its stave churches, and the medieval fishing warehouses in Bergen are a city landmark. The town of Voss has its own unique structure: the "Finnes-loft."

The building dates from around the year 1250 and served as a meeting hall for the St. Michael's Guild at Voss. Food and beer were stored downstairs, the small room upstairs was an armory, while the main hall seated 50 people. It is the only building of its kind in Norway so well preserved.



Finnes-loft