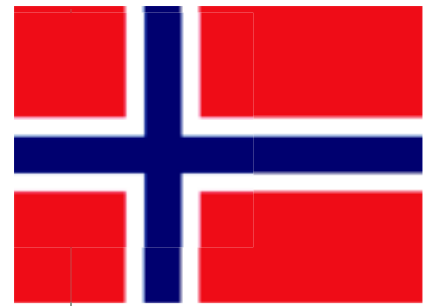


Romerikslaget News



Flere Lag Stevne



“OPEN SKY, FLAT LAND”



An annual gathering of descendants and friends of the Trøndelag, Gudbrandsdal, Northern Hedmark, Solør and Romerike regions of Norway

1-4 August 2023
Courtyard by Marriott
Moorhead, Minnesota

Notes from the President

Happy Spring & God påske!

Hoping all the snow still on the ground will melt soon! The *Flere Lag Stevne Steering Committee* has been looking ahead to summer since last fall! Mary Baumgartner and I, along with representatives from the other four lags, are full-steam ahead with plans for the 2023 *stevne* to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, Minnesota, on August 1 - 4.

Please note changes: Genealogy Day on **Tuesday** (8/1) this year, instead of Wednesday; the Banquet will be held on **Thursday** (8/3) night, in an effort to keep costs down, and a group tour on **Friday** (8/4) morning after check-out.

The theme of this *stevne* is “Open Sky, Flat Land” focusing on the hardy Norwegian pioneers who homesteaded in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota. Professor Lawrence Moe will be keynote speaker **Wednesday**. Other presentations will cover early Scandinavian settlements, the building of railroads to the Fargo/Moorhead area, and more. We are planning group visits to the Viking Ship Replica and Museum at the Hjemkomst Center and a Nordic lunch at the Sons of Norway Kringen Lodge in Fargo on Friday. **More details and the registration form will be mailed in June.**

Reservations for the Marriott Hotel in Moorhead can now be made by calling the hotel directly at 218-284-1000 and asking for the Flere Lag block rate: \$114 + tax per night (1 King or 2 Queen beds).

Romerikslaget is seeking members to accept nomination for two Board positions in August: Director (3-yr term); and Vice President (1yr remaining of Steve Ask’s term).

Ha det bra!

Norma Kjenstad Barnes



Oslo Fylke & the former Akershus Fylke, now part of Viken 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, Kråkstad, Nesodden, Oppegård, Ski, Vestby, Ås

Vestre Akershus - Asker, Bærum

ROMERIKSLAGET HISTORY

Joel Botten has found evidence that Romerikslaget was active in 1913! Joel's translation: **Hurdalslaget**. This lag was founded on 20 October 1913 in Ostrander, Minn., and it was

only a minor part of a large lag, but has been eager to form from all the parishes between Glommen and Øiern which in the event should be called the **Romerikslaget**. The Hurdal team has set itself the goal of strengthening and maintaining the bonds that link the communities in this country together and these back to the Homeland, to preserve old memories of unrepentant fathers from being forgotten, to make these memories known and cherished, also for posterity, to show how these fathers' memories can be honored and what we do owe the village and the country that gave birth to them and gave them their inheritance on the journey. **E. Engh**, Ostrander, Minn., President; **Pastor O. A. Mellby**, New Richland, Minn., Vice President; **Ludvig Gullickson**, Spring Valley, Minn., Secretary; **H. D. Larson**, Ostrander, Minn., Story Writer. Others on the board: **Emil L. Lee**, Red Wing, Minn.; **Laurits L. Colsrud**, Whitehall, Wis., **Anton Anderson Hagen**, Cashton, Wis. Lag has now a membership of about 150.

Hurdalslaget.

Dette Lag stiftedes den 20de Oktober 1913, i Ostrander, Minn., og det kun som et mindre Led i et stort Lag, man har ivret for at danne af alle Prestegjæld mellem Glommen og Øiern, der i Tilfælde skulde kaldes Romerikslaget. Hurdalslaget har sat sig som Formaal at styrke og vedligeholde de Baand, som knytter Sambygninger i dette Land sammen og disse igjen til Hjembygden; at bevare fra Glemfæl gamle Minder om ufortrødne Fædre, gjøre disse Minder kjendte og kjære ogsaa for Efterlægten, vise hvorledes man kan

hædre disse Fædres Minder, og hvad vi skylder den Bygd og det Land, som fødte dem og gav dem Arven med paa Rejsen.

Bestyrelsen for Laget er: S. Engh, Ostrander, Minn., Formand;



Past. S. Engh, Form.



Past. O. A. Mellby, V. Form.

Pastor O. A. Mellby, New Richland, Minn., Viceformand; Ludvig Gullickson, Spring Valley, Minn., Sekretær; S. O. Larson, Ostrander, Minn., Sagskriver. Andre med i Styret kan nævnes: Emil L.



Ludvig Gullickson, Sekr.



S. O. Larson, Sagsk.

Lee, Red Wing, Minn.; Laurits L. Colsrud, Whitehall, Wis.; Anton Anderson Hagen, Cashton, Wis. Laget har nu et Medlemsantal af ca. 150.



2023 Fellesraad Update by Elaine Hasleton

Welcome to a new year!! As the years and the generations roll by, we see the growing value of heritage shared with family and friends! This new year presents us with continued opportunities to do that.

2022 was extremely busy with Norway House. The *Fellesraad* President and Vice-President have been involved in weekly meetings revolving around the new building which will have the Haugo Archive and *Bibliotek*. The Archive will open in the first half of 2023. The *Bibliotek* (learning and discovery center) opening is projected to open a later in the year.

So, how does this involve the *Bygdelag*? All *Bygdelag* have been invited to place a portion of their Lag's genealogical collections in the Archive. This will then make the Lag's materials more available to the public. Of particular interest are *bygdebøker*, *historielag* periodicals, emigration records, digitized or printed Norway church records, coordinated databases on finding area farms in publications of lag area, and if you have records about mining, Cleng Peerson, *Finnskog*, and *Sami*. We will discuss these details further at our Annual Meeting.

Fellesraad Board Members were involved with the Queen of Norway visit to Minnesota, attending five events with the Queen. On October 15th, at the Grand Opening of the new Norway House addition, several of us staffed the *Fellesraad* booth, as a Norway House partner, to share information about the *Bygdelag* and handout the *Explore* brochures to the large crowd who came through the newly-opened building. We always want to share info on our *Bygdelag*!

In the Haugo Archive we will have a plaque giving credit to the *Fellesraad* and all *Bygdelag* as a partner who donated funds, and provided research materials for Norway House patrons who visit the Haugo Archive and *Bibliotek*. Our participation and partnership with Norway House are crucial to the sustenance of both *Fellesraad* and *Bygdelag*.

I believe that it is of the utmost importance to keep the *Fellesraad* and *Bygdelag* names in the forefront at all times. Our tie-in with Norway House as a key partner will help to do that!

Finding Stories of my Norwegian Ancestors (Part Two)

by Mary Gross

My siblings Jim, John, Patty and Dorothy planned a “Roots Trip” to North Dakota to investigate our family’s past. Now that Marie (my mother’s paternal grandmother) had become someone we actually knew something about, we were curious to know more. We visited cemeteries, Northwood and its museum, plus our grandmother’s and aunt’s homes of old. We connected with our mother’s sisters and several cousins. It was fun to put pieces together for the first time. We became even more curious.

Dorothy was the first of us siblings to travel to Norway to meet our relatives. In 2008 she took a Brekke Tour and was told about *Romerikslaget*, which none of us knew about. Later that year my sister Barb, her son Daniel, and I traveled to Norway on our own and met Rolf (my mother’s cousin, once removed) and his family and his brother, Thormod Hagen. At those visits Rolf’s grandchildren translated for us. The next year our brother Jim and wife went to Norway to meet them. We began communicating with our family in Norway as much as we could, using Rolf’s grandchildren as intermediaries.

Dorothy found out *Romerikslaget* was holding its 2009 *stevne* in Willmar, and she convinced me and my brother John to attend. Dorothy lived in Spokane, Washington, John in Battle Lake, Minnesota, and I in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. We were welcomed with open arms by both *Romerikslaget* and *Solørlag* members. The 2010 *stevne* was in Fergus Falls, and that year our brother Jim, of Orcas, Washington, attended as well. That was the year Dorothy agreed to be Newsletter Editor, and she volunteered me to be Treasurer! We had so much fun and became committed members.

(Below: Mary Mehl Gross, Jim, John, & Dorothy Mehl)



At that *stevne* we met Helge Nordby, a Norwegian native, who had grown up near our family in Fenstad and knew more about them than our living relatives! It was a wonderful connection and we felt that we’d found another relative. That began a great friendship, especially with my brothers, who loved talking with Helge.

* * * * *

Meet our New Director: *Barbara Nelson*



By Barbara Nelson

My Norwegian ancestors are on my Dad's side, and come from Feiring, Solem, and Fåberg. Sadly, I didn't start researching my family roots until after he had died, so I missed out on what may have been valuable information. After spending many hours at the Minnesota History Center and Minnesota Genealogical Society, I found a lot of information through cemetery and church records, but especially from newspapers. I made a trip to the North American Genealogical Center in Madison, Wisconsin, and spent many hours in the Naeseth Library. There, Blaine Hedberg patiently taught me how to find and look at Norwegian church records and *bygdeboker*. Later I joined three lags; Romerikslaget, Gudbrandsdalslag, and Telelag. I am fortunate to have been able to attend *stevner* for all of the lags.

My Feiring ancestors immigrated first to near Ossian, Iowa, in 1868 and then moved up to Norman County near Twin Valley, Minnesota, in about 1880.

They spent the first year living in a dugout by a small stream.

In 2014, I made my first trip to Norway. On this trip I was able to visit the farms and churches of my ancestors. My Feiring people lived near the shore of Lake Mjøsa, and an easy walk to their church. What a beautiful area! I was back again in 2018 and have loved my time visiting Norway.

I inherited the Norwegian love of the outdoors, and am very fortunate to live in beautiful Taylors Falls, Minnesota.

*View of Lake Mjøsa from
Aarnes, Feiring, Norway*





“Narvik”

a film review by Mary Gross

I recently watched the Norwegian movie “Narvik” on Netflix. It’s an historical film depicting the battle of Narvik in Norway from April 9 to June 8, 1940. The movie premiered in Norway in December of 2022 and was released worldwide on Netflix streaming in January of 2023.

Narvik is a small coastal town in northern Norway that by April of 1940 had 85% of the iron ore that was being used by Nazi Germany’s war machine shipped from its port. It provided an ice-free harbor in the North Atlantic for iron ore transported by rail from Kiruna in Sweden. Both sides in the war had an interest in securing this iron supply for themselves and denying it to the enemy, thereby setting the stage for one of the biggest battles since the invasion of Poland.

On April 9, 1940, Hitler sent battlecruisers to Ofotfjord and landed soldiers to capture the supply base. The Norwegians refused to surrender and fought back. The movie is about this struggle, using a fictional family as a focal point. I won’t tell you the ending so you can see it for yourself. It’s very well-done and you see the area around Narvik and see the bravery of the Norwegians. I highly recommend it!

Velkommen to our New Lag Members!

Jan & Sharon Gunderson: River Falls, WI - *Akershus, Asker, Haneval*

Laila Normann Christiansen: Oslo, Norway - *Gjerdrum, Ullensaker, Nannestad*

Kristen Moore: Bremerton, WA - *Akershus, Nes*

Lag Officers & Directors

President: Norma Kjenstad Barnes (2021-24)
4902 S. Oxbow Ave. #205, Sioux Falls, SD 57106
605-496-8632 * email: nkwbarnes@yahoo.com
Vice President: (Vacant position)

Director of Membership: Susan Waldera (2022-25)
N6062 N Skutley Rd., Taylor, WI 54659
715-662-2661 * email: LSWALDERA@centurytel.net

Director of Genealogy: Deb Jarvar (2021-23)
9405 Murphy Ln., Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-874-6678 * email: djarvar@wwt.net

Secretary: Linda McKeen (2022-25)
4894 Iten Ave. SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349
612-770-8517 * email: lindamckeen49@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mary Gross (2021-24)
401 S 1st St. #1822, Minneapolis, MN 55401
507-640-1417 * email: maryfrancesgross@gmail.com

Director: Mary Baumgartner (2020-23)
433 E. Maple St., River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-7117 * email: baumgam@yahoo.com

Director: Joel Botten (2021-24)
1314 Pine Pointe Curve, St. Peter, MN 56028
507-351-6712 * email: joelbotten@gmail.com

Director: Chris Falteisek (2022-25)
643 35th St. W., Hastings, MN 55033
715-529-7340 * email: chrisfalteisek@gmail.com

Director: William Naseth (2020-23)
1009 East Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066
651-388-8230 * email: wnaseth@gmail.com

Director: Alberta Rupert (2021-24)
220 N. Ilwaco Rd., River Falls, WI 54022
714-425-7069 * email: bertlr@hotmail.com

Director: Eunice Helgeson (2022-25)
5541 Woodlawn Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-724-7202 * email: EuniceHelgeson@aol.com

Director: Barbara J. Nelson (2022-23)
475 Cedar Court., Taylors Falls, MN 55084
651-465-0309 * email: bjnelson@midco.net

Past President: Julie Clauson
22 14th Ave. SW, New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-3600 * email: jollyjac@aol.com

In Memoriam - Steven Ask 1959 - 2023



We mourn the recent passing our of Romerikslaget Vice-President, Steven Ask, of Apple Valley, Minnesota.

Steven Mark Ask, age 63, died on February 23, 2023. He was born August 1st, 1959, in Bagley, Minnesota, the son of Stanley and Marion (Sand) Ask. He had a career as a CPA of many years with Boyum Barendscheer.

He enjoyed researching his heritage and attended many Norwegian festivals and events, most recently at our 2021 *stevne* in New Ulm, Minnesota. As a talented alto saxophone player, he was part of the Hopkins West Wind Orchestra for 35-plus years.

Newsletter Editor: Norma Kjenstad Barnes

Website: www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget

Facebook Administrators: Chris Falteisek & Norma Kjenstad Barnes

