



Serving Akershus and Oslo Fylker

Romerikslaget News

November 2017



Greetings from President Joel Botten



It was great to see so many of you in Hudson, Wisconsin. It was an interesting weekend, highlighted by a special tour of the area. Woodville is a unique small town, obviously Norwegian, with ethnic motifs in the sidewalks and carved trolls to welcome you. And, they know how to make Norwegian goodies!

The lunch at Woodville Lutheran church was fantastic! The ladies of the church welcomed us dressed in Norwegian bunads and the Syttende Mai queen and attendants were present as well. Speakers shared area history including a review of the many years they have celebrated the Syttende Mai. After a visit to a local museum, we went on to Hope Lutheran Church near River Falls, Wisconsin, where we had refreshments and were treated to music on a violin and a zither-like instrument called a Cittra.

Our annual memorial service followed, after which we admired the items from the historic Eidskog church in Ortonville, MN, which have been incorporated into the very new and modern Hope

Church. Interesting speakers, research in the genealogy center, vendor shopping and a gala banquet rounded out the weekend. We hope you plan to join the fun in Fergus Falls, Minnesota next year, Sept. 12-15, 2018 at the Big Wood Entertainment Center.

I was pleased to be able to make a presentation at the Hudson stevne, a first for me. I spent considerable time learning to make a power point complete with videos and music. My subject was a trip to Norway with the Gudbrandsdalslag in 2012 to commemorate the Battle of Kringen, 1612, the 400th anniversary. You may have seen the Henning woodcarvings of the battle heroin, Prillar Guri for sale at Ingebretson's in Minneapolis and other places.

A company of Scottish mercenary soldiers was making its way down the Gudbrandsdal valley to join the Swedes in battle against the Norwegians. The locals decided to attack them in a narrow gorge. From across the valley, Prillar Guri blew her lur (wooden horn) when the soldiers reached the chosen spot for attack. The Scots were defeated and one of the leaders, Sinclair, was killed and buried near Otta, Gudbrandsdalen. In 2012, officials from Scotland spoke at Sinclair's grave and Scottish bagpipe bands provided music for the ceremony. They also participated in a joint Norwegian-Scottish church service at the Sel Church. Details of the battle and the gruesome end for the captured Scots can be found on line by Googling, Battle of Kringen.

We are grateful so many of you responded to our campaign for renewal of membership. It is easy to forget to renew when you receive the newsletter via internet. We send out one paper copy to all e-mail and non-email members in July each year. There will be a renewal form in that issue. Thank you for your support!

Hilsen,

Joel



Happy Holidays

Akershus Fylke
Ovre Romerike-
Eidsvoll, Feiring,
Gjerdrum, Hurdal,
Nannestad, Nes,
Ullensaker
Nedre Romerike -
Aurskog-Høland,
Blaker, Enebakk, Fet,
Hakadal, Lørenskog,
Nittedal, Rælingen,
Setskog, Skedsmo,
Sørumsund
Follo - Frogn, Kråk-
stad, Nesodden,
Oppegård, Ski,
Vestby, Ås
Vestre Akershus -
Asker, Bærum
Oslo Fylke

Genealogy

Genealogy Tips From Deb Jarver

Stevne Magic: Genealogy research help at the stevne was in full swing on Wednesday. There were two gentlemen who needed extensive help and Julie Clauson and I were there to assist them. And, as sometimes happens, we ended up with distant relatives connecting. As Julie was talking to new member, Paul Meierding of Mankato, MN, she realized they had ancestors from the same farm in Norway. The real excitement came when they discovered they were distant cousins as well. This is what makes all the intensive planning and setting up of a stevne worthwhile.

Norwegian Surnames: Norwegian surnames were often derived from an area or descriptive feature of a farm, sometimes giving a clue as to the location of the homestead. Here are some Norwegian words that you may recognize as surnames or parts of surnames: aker (plowed field), bakke/bakken (hill or rise), bech/bach (stream), berg/berge (mountain or hill), dahl/dal (valley), eck/eik (oak), fet/fit (meadow), fisk/fiske (fish), holt (a wood or grove), falk (falcon, often associated with royalty), haugen/haugan (hill or mound), hus (house or farmstead), jordet (dirty or muddy), lang

(long), lie/lee (side of a valley) lille (little, small), lund (grove), moen (meadow, sandy ground), ness (headland) rud (clearing), sol (sun), skog (forest), stad (city, town or dwelling), store (big, large), strand (beach, seashore), vik/vig (bay, cove, inlet), vol (meadow or field), wang/vang (grassy slope, meadow).

Here is a website, "Behind the Name," for some submitted Norwegian surnames and their origin (it contains a disclaimer that the accuracy of these definitions cannot be guaranteed):

<https://surnames.behindthename.com/submit/names/usage/norwegian>.

Enjoy researching and, as always, if you are in need of genealogy assistance, feel free to email me at: djarvar@wwt.net.

Deb Jarvar



Fellesraad & Norway House Update From the Fellesraad Board

The Fellesraad Board met to discuss the working partnership with Norway House. Several years ago, Fellesraad and Bygdelag helped to finance the construction/remodeling of the current building, the Albert H. Quie Center. Now we want to help finance a second building, the Cultural Center. The Fellesraad will match what the individual Lags donate. That total amount will then be matched by a \$500,000 Challenge Grant by an anonymous donor. That in turn will be matched by \$5 million in bonding matching funds from the State of Minnesota. So, Lag contributions will be matched three times.

Why has the Fellesraad chosen to support this campaign for Norway House?

A portion of this building will be designed as a Norwegian Research Center/Bibliotek (Library) to hold the Lag collection of bygdebøker and other research materials. This is a way to verify that our Lag collections will be preserved. Lag will be able to take its collection for use at its stevne. Individuals visiting the Bibliotek can tap into the Lag collection throughout the year, with research assistance. This facility will have state-of-the-art classrooms with technology capabilities, so that webinars can be shown. There could be access to Norwegian databases.

The facility will be 15,000 square feet with banquet space for 250-300 guests and can hold stevner or meetings.

Timeline:

Norway House tentatively plans that the new building will be completed in 2020. We (Fellesraad) have set our deadline to have our funds turned in by Dec 31, 2017. Our total campaign lasts from now until the end of 2018 Stevner. We will provide a status report at the May 2018 Annual Meeting.

Each Lag should try to donate by Dec 31. Lag individuals are encouraged to donate until the May 2018 Annual Meeting, but they may continue to the end of stevner season. All donors will be acknowledged on a donor wall in the Norwegian Research Center/Bibliotek at Norway House.

Fellesraad is partnering with Norway House to support the Cultural Center in a matching campaign as this is beneficial to all the Lags. We are planning for the future of the Bygdelag in the 21st Century.

Genealogy

Post-It Notes in a Book

By Julie A. Clauson

What a fantastic 2017 stevne we had in Hudson, WI. Everyone did a great job putting the event together and making it run smoothly.

During our annual meeting on Friday afternoon, Deb Jarver and I were giving the genealogy report. Deb stated that we had quite a few people looking and using our reference material. She was able to help out a couple of gentlemen by looking up information on the Norwegian websites. One of these gentlemen told her that the stevne had been a “gold mine of information” for him.

When she finished her report, she turned it over to me to relay my genealogy news. I told the group that I was one of the gold nuggets found by the gentlemen who found the gold mine of information.

Wednesday of the stevne was primarily a genealogy day and people were busy looking for information. I pulled Deb aside to apologize about one of the bygdeboks. I had been using it between stevner and had several post-it notes marking the pages. My intent was to remove them before the stevne but didn't get a chance. (I store the genealogy library for Romerikslag between stevner.) When I was going to show her the book it was missing and I saw that someone was using it.

Later that day the gentlemen that was using the book came back to the library tables looking for more information. I made a comment to him that if he had any family on the farms that I had tagged with post-it notes to let me know. He then started to ask me which farms my family were from and I started listing off a few and they indeed matched ones that he had. He then started asking me about the family names and I promised I would get my computer and we would look them up.

Later that evening, with my computer file open, we discovered that Paul Meierding and I are 4th cousins. We have common ancestors from the Kinnestad, Graverholt, and Kaldaker farms in Setskog, Akershus, Norway. If it hadn't been for those post-it notes we may not have discovered each other. *Stevne Goldmine*.



Paul Meierding & Julie Clauson

DNA Ancestry Tests Comparison Guide

Chris Falteisek responded to the article on Ancestry Tests in the July newsletter. He suggests exploring these web sites:

<http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/ancestry-dna-tests-comparison-guide/> Which Ancestry DNA Test is the Best? A Detailed Comparison.

[familyhistorydaily.com](http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/ancestry-dna-tests-comparison-guide/) Which Genealogy DNA Test is the Best? A Detailed Comparison Guide to Help You Decide

Thank you Chris.

“Norwegian American” Film on youtube.com

“Norwegian American” 54 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AyaB3ua124>

All you lag members (in fact all Norwegian Americans) “must” view this seven lag video in HD, “ITS REALLY OUTSTANDING” It really gives you a deep understanding of lags, Norwegian-American history, Torskeklubben, family history, games, Norwegians talking about what they think of America (with sub titles), church members speak, Norwegian-American farmers and more. Follow one person from Norway, trace his roots from (Fox River Wisconsin-Norwegian Motherland), to Madison, to West WI, St. Croix River, Decorah Iowa, Eau Claire, Twin Cities, Bemidji and to farm on Norway lake. Edward Mikeal Wick, Nordlandslaget

Editor's Note: This engaging film is about two young Norwegian men traveling in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, visiting popular Norwegian American sites and events including a 7 lag stevne. Be prepared to laugh at yourself and our way of celebrating our Norwegian roots. Dorothy Mehl

Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2017 Stevne

Another Wonderful Stevne by Mary Gross

Romerikslaget's 27th stevne, held at the Hudson House Hotel in Hudson, WI from September 13-16, 2017, was a big success. Evaluations filled out by participants of both Romerikslaget and Solørlag showed satisfaction with the programming, meals, entertainment, tour, and fellowship. Here are some of the highlights.

Registration began on Wednesday, September 13 with genealogy and hospitality. Elaine Hasleton presented "A Comprehensive Overview of Norwegian Genealogical Research in the 21st Century" in the afternoon. Both boards met that evening for dinner meetings.

Thursday, September 14 began with Opening Session and Welcome with anthems, introduction of officers and new members, and Show and Tell. Mary Baumgartner showed us the wedding dress worn by her grandmother, Mary and her sister.

The Thursday tour took us to Woodville, WI, where the Sons of Norway Lodge served us a delicious Norwegian luncheon with lots of desserts. Local people told us about Woodville's Norwegian heritage and annual Syttende Mai celebration. We toured the museum in town, then continued on to River Falls, where we stopped at Hope Lutheran Church. This church has been given an altar, pews, and other items from the Eidskog Lutheran Church of Ortonville, MN when it closed. We were entertained by Milo and Betty Lou Oppgaard, who played the fiddle and hammered dulcimer beautifully. We then held our annual Memorial Service for lag members who have died since our last stevne, with music by Chris Falteisek.

Thursday evening we enjoyed a program by Chris Falteisek while we had a light supper. Chris showed us photos he'd taken during his last trip to Norway accompanied by music he recorded for us, titled "Nordic Notes: A Pictorial Musical Journey".

Friday began with a presentation on "Forest Finn Colonization and Genealogy" by Elaine Hasleton. Elaine's husband's ancestry has been traced to the Forest Finns, so this is of great interest to Elaine and several members of both lags. These Finns migrated into Norway and Sweden during the 16th and 17th centuries and were assimilated into those cultures.

This was followed by John Yilek's program "Stories of Norway and World War II". John has written two books about Norway's history, and told us about the difficulties Norwegians had during the Nazi occupation of their country.

Both boards had luncheons with first time attendees and other guests on Friday.

After lunch Lauren Gilbertson from Vesterheim presented "Trunks, Hands, and Hearts: What Norwegian Immigrants Brought to the U.S.". This was followed by annual meetings of both lags with election of officers.

The afternoon presentation was by John Haugo, titled "Heavy Water War", about the heavy water sabotage by Norwegians on the German nuclear weapon project during WWII.

The Silent Auction closed at 5:00 pm and there was the usual scramble to get last minute bids in.

That evening we enjoyed the Bunad Banquet, where we ate a delicious meal and were entertained by Doug Ohman with his program of photos from Minnesota, "Vanishing Minnesota Sites".

Saturday morning September 16, completed the stevne schedule. Rod and Shanna Kurth presented "Latest Design Using Norwegian Digital Archives" followed by Joel Botten, who showed us his power point "Gudbrandsdalslag Tour: Battle of Kringen—1612" complete with videos of his tour with music. We then had a closing luncheon and everyone departed. Once again, it was a wonderful stevne, full of fun, music, new things learned, new places visited, and new friends made. And last but not least, one of the best parts of our stevne is spending time with our lag families.

Next year our stevne will be in Fergus Falls, MN from September 12-15, 2018. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it.

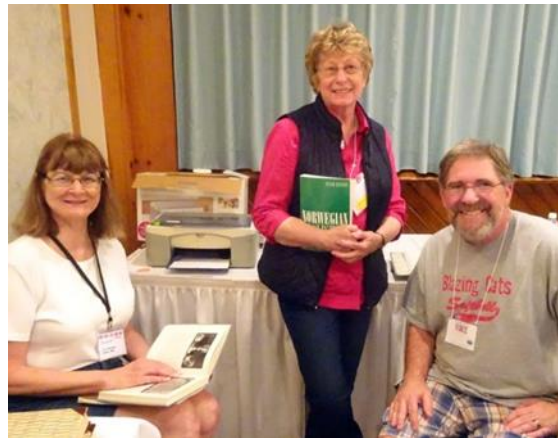
Romerikslaget and Solørlag America Joint 2017 Stevne



Mary Baumgartner with a wedding dress worn by her grandmother, Mary, and her sister. She brought it to Show and Tell.



Norwegian meal served by the Sons of Norway Lodge in Woodville, WI.



Genealogist Deb Jarvar with Lee Pederson and Jerry Solberg, two first timers.



Bev Slettehaug with her daughter Susan Slettehaug and Jill Morley. Jill is a new member.



Romerikslaget Board Members



On the Tour Bus

Membership News



Welcome New Members

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Members are welcome and encouraged to tell your genealogy story. It is how we get to know each other and who knows, our ancestors might have been neighbors. We won't make that discovery until you have shared your story.

Send your story to the newsletter publisher, Dorothy Mehl, 2111 E North Crescent Spokane, WA 99207 or email dorothymehl112@msn.com.

Norway Making Changes to Fylker Regions

The reason for this change: The Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) is looking to lay the foundation for stronger kommuner and fylker who can safeguard the welfare of their inhabitants and create good local communities now and in the future.

Local self-government as we know it now through kommuner, was introduced in 1837. From 1838 – 1929, there were 392 kommuner, then it jumped to 747, before a large reduction in the 1960s.

The old kommune names will not go away as a place name, but the new kommuner will need to choose a new name, probably looking back in history to find something that is relevant to all the kommuner that are joining together. Currently there are 428 kommuner municipalities. The plan is to reduce this number through merging, either voluntarily or forced, to 354. Most are doing this on a voluntary basis. The entire reform will be completed as of 1/1/2020. Norway will then have 11 fylker, counting Oslo, compared to 19 before the reform.

Buskerud, Akershus and Østfold →the new name will be Viken or Vika (2020)

Oppland and Hedmark →Innlandet (2020)

Vestfold and Telemark →Skagerrak (2020)

Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder →Agder (2020)

Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane →Vestlandet (2020)

Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag →Trøndelag (2018)

Nordland and S/Central Troms →Hålogaland (2020)

N. Troms and Finnmark →Finnmark (2020)

(The regions of Oslo, Rogaland, and Møre og Romsdal each stand alone and continue as before.)

Information shared from Fellesraad editors.

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

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Please note new website location:

Website:

<http://www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget/>

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 \$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 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, stove 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

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The Top Ten States With the Most Norwegian Americans as of 2014

1. Minnesota 850,742 (17.3% of MN population)
2. Wisconsin 454,831
3. California 436,128
4. Washington 367,508
5. North Dakota 193,158 (30.1% of ND population)
6. Illinois 178,923
7. Iowa 166,667
8. Oregon 147,262
9. Texas 118,968 (.6% of TX population)
10. South Dakota 115,292 (15.3% of SD population)

Adapted from www.norway.org and www.census.gov