



Romerikslaget News



2026 FLERE LAG STEVNE



September 15, 16, 17, 18 (checkout), 2026
1701 4th St. NW, Austin, MN 55912-1803

Flere Lag Stevne Room rate: \$109 per night + tax

Group rate available until August 5, 2026, for the nights of Mon., Sep 14 (for early arrivals), Tues., Sep 15, Wed., Sep 16, and Thur., Sep 17.

Reservations: Booking through online portal only at link below.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?>

https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhocr=AUMTIDT&groupCode=CDTFLG&arrivaldate=2026-09-14&departuredate=2026-09-18&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINK_1

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Notes from the President

God vår! Happy Spring!

Your *Romerikslaget* representatives on the *Flere Lag Stevne* Steering Committee, Mary Baumgartner and myself, have been working since last Fall on plans for the 2026 *Stevne*. It will take place at the Double Tree by Hilton in Austin, Minnesota. See reservation information on front page.

This year's theme: "*Echoes of the Past: Stories of our Immigrant Ancestors.*"

In keeping with that theme, we'll be inviting *lag* members to share some of your Norwegian family history from the old country. A few examples include a written one-page story, a photograph of an ancestor, a sketch



or painting of an ancestral home in Norway, the history of a Norwegian family heirloom, a family genealogy book, etc. There will be special tables for these to be displayed at *stevne*. More details about this will be sent out in a few months.

Thursday night's banquet entertainer will be Janette Dragvold of Peterson, Minnesota, who plays *Hardanger* fiddle and other Scandinavian instruments.



Plans have not yet been finalized for a *stevne* group tour. So more to come about that in June.

God påske & Syttende Mai!

Norma Kjenstad Barnes

**Oslo
&
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, Kråkstad,
Nesodden,
Oppegård, Ski,
Vestby, Ås

Vestre Akershus:
Asker, Bærum



Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Annual Meeting

May 1 & 2, 2026

By Elaine Hasleton, President

The Fellesraad Annual Meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, May 1 & 2nd. Friday's meeting will be on Zoom with all Lag members invited to attend. The Saturday meeting will be held in-person at *Mindekirken* in Minneapolis.

The Theme this year will be "Connecting our Future with our Past."

On Friday morning, May 1st, two FamilySearch specialists, Jeff Svare and Rob Kehrer, will teach classes on *Saving Your Lag's Family Tree*. It is important to save years of lag members' work. These classes will provide a method for doing that. The presenters will address not only the needs of lags, but also lag members who want to document and preserve their family history. Friday is a free virtual meeting, but you need to register to receive the link to it. There is a 100-person limit.

Each Lag should send two delegates to vote at the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday morning, May 2nd, at *Mindekirken*. It will be followed by a Norwegian lunch for \$30/person, if you register before April 18th. After that date, it is \$35/person.

More information and registration are on the Fellesraad.com website. We look forward to seeing you.



Biography of my Romerike ancestors, Anton & Marin Anderson by David Bornus

Anton Anderson was born March 10, 1835, on the *Brauter gard* (farm) near the birch trees beside the river *Glomme*, in the *Ness paa Romerike* area (this was a 50-acre farm that had been in the Brauter family since 1556). His parents were Alfe Gulbrandson and his mother was Martha, married in 1830. Martha's parents were Christian Ingebretsen (born 1758, he lived to be 111 years old) and Anne Christopherson, who were married in 1785. In 1836, a year after Anton's birth, his father Alfe died and his mother Martha married Gullick Horgen. Four more children were born: Anne (1838), Just (1840), Ole (1844), and Bernt (1847).

In 1866, Anton married Maren Andrid Lund. Her parents were Gulbran Amundsen Lund and Bertha Gulbrandsdatter, from the *Lund gard* in *Nes, O'vere, Romerike*.

Anton and Maren continued to live on the Brauter farm, in a house that was built in 1770. Between 1866 and 1869 they had two daughters: Mina, and Gina Annette.



Left: Anton and Maren Anderson, with Mina (?)

In 1869 Anton and Maren emigrated to America, along with two other families (Andersons and Stensons). They brought along daughter Gina Annette but left Mina with the Lund family, to be brought over by Maren's relatives Christian and Petrina Lund, a few years later. Gina Annette learned to walk during the voyage over the Atlantic. They landed in Canada (one source says they landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and one source says they landed in Quebec).

From there they traveled to a Norwegian community in Fillmore County, Minnesota, where they stayed for two years. Here son Casper was born March 19, 1870. They earned some money and came by ox team and covered wagon to Lac Qui Parle County, where they stayed with the Sten Stenson family.

(continued)

Meanwhile, Maren's father filed a claim on 80 acres. Having no money left, they went in a "prairie schooner" to St. Peter for employment in harvesting and threshing. They returned to Camp Release Township in Lac Qui Parle and staked a claim on 160 acres.

On the claim, Anton and Maren shared a sod-walled dugout with the Sten Stenson family. They divided the dugout by hanging a blanket – one family on each side. The men hunted and trapped during the winter (there was a small lake with much wildlife).

Anton and Maren had six more children while at Camp Release: Anders (1872), Marie (1874), Gerhard (1875), Karen (1877), Julia (1880), and Emma (1879).

In the spring of 1871, Sten Stenson filed on the claim they had staked, so Anton moved four miles north to Baxter Township, to a spot closer to the river where there was much wood. They went through the hardships of pioneer life, including prairie fires, grasshoppers, and hard winters. They had to plow fire guards in the fall to prevent danger from prairie fires. Grasshopper swarms also came and ate clothes off of the clothesline.

Once during a blizzard, a woman started to walk along a fence line to a neighbor's. She was overcome and they found her standing erect by the fence dead – frozen stiff. One family story involves Maren's father being carried into the house "frozen as a bark" during a sudden storm, when they had gone out to the railroad woods one morning and at noon the wind swept in. They thawed him out and he recovered. Many were lost and died.

On November 27, 1881, Maren died at the age of 37, during a "great blizzard." She had been ill for a week with some unknown sickness but since there were few doctors in the area, she did not receive medical attention. Maren's funeral service was one of the first in the new Our Saviour's of Baxter church building, which had been completed late that fall with wooden benches for pews, wood stove, and plain studded walls.

(Left with eight children to bring up on his own, how did Anton cope? Story to be continued in our next issue.)

Genealogy Research Success Story!

By Kathy Roat

This past Christmas season I was particularly grateful for Linda McKeen, *Romerikslaget* genealogist, and also Ole Gamma and Barb Schmitt of *Hadeland Lag*. Together they provided information allowing me to find and visit live relatives in Norway on November 19, 2025! What a gift! Here's the story.

Last summer I learned about "lags" and reached out to the *Hadeland Lag*, the homeland of my great-grandma Inga. Barb and Ole did research allowing me to visit several *Hadeland* homes of Inga's parents, Hans Gundersen and Else Andersdatter, and discover they grew up in *Nord-Odal (Hedmark)* and *Hurdal (Romerike)*, respectively.

Linda jumped on the information I could provide and discovered that Han's siblings stayed in Norway, announcing "you have cousins in Norway." I was planning a trip there in November, so Linda provided me with coordinates of the farms, copies of pages related to Hans' family in the *Nord-Odal Bygdebok*, birth and marriage records verifying we had the right family, and a link to the family tree in Family Search. Arriving in Norway, with Linda's help, I could drive to the farm locations, but was puzzled on how I would find a live relative, as those in the *Nord-Odal Bygdebok* were dead. It wasn't until the Monday before my Wednesday rent-a-car-and-explore-day, that I got an idea.



Kathy & Cousin Rune - Ancestral birthplace-Nord-Odal

It was a delightful visit of cookies, coffee, photos, and exchanging information (with help of their younger English-speaking neighbor), complete with gifts of hand-knit socks for my husband and me.

Tusen Takk, Linda! This Sherlock Holmes type of sleuthing and joyful discovery of family would not be possible without your eager and capable help!

By God's grace I tried a Facebook search and learned that *Nord-Odal* has a 55+ Technology Facebook Page. I made a post that included a jpeg of the relevant excerpt about *Lykkja* farm that included the family names and history, and used Google Translate to ask for help connecting to a live relative. Three people responded via Messenger, and one made a connection with the descendant Jon and his wife, who had interest in meeting me. With the help of *Hadeland* friend Ole, who translated on a call, we arranged to meet them at their home the next morning!



Kathy & Andy with socks knit by Anna Lise.

A Fond Farewell to Ruth Grau.



Long-time *Romerikslaget* member Ruth Button Grau, 93, passed away Monday, December 29, 2025 at MercyOne Hospital in Elkader, Iowa. Ruth was born on September 3, 1932, in Waterloo, Iowa, to Henry and Elena (Anderson) Button. She graduated as valedictorian from East Waterloo High School with the class of 1950. She went on to graduate from Iowa Teachers College in 1952 and Upper Iowa University in 1970 with a teaching certificate and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, respectively. Ruth spent her entire teaching career in the Central Community School District, first as a second-grade teacher and later as an elementary reading specialist. She also spent many years as a volunteer in the community, serving on the Elkader Library Board, Carter House Museum Board, Peace United Church of Christ Church Council, and other activities.

Ruth was passionate about studying the genealogy of her family and that of her husband, tracing several branches back to the 1600s and documenting stories of family history and traditions. She had Norwegian ancestors from *Nes*, *Asker*, *Akershus*, and *Oslo*.

Romerikslaget made a \$100 memorial donation to *Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, Iowa, in honor of Ruth.*



Velkommen to New Members!

Reid Christopherson, Garretson, South Dakota. *Romerike* ancestral area: *Setskog*.

Judy Weiss, Bloomington, Minnesota. *Romerike* ancestral areas: *Nittedal*, *Hakedal*, & *Nannestad*.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday - May 15 - **Syttende Mai** - Free
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum,
Decorah, Iowa
Vesterheim.org
Saturday- May 16 - 11 am - **A Taste of Syttende Mai**
Milan, Minnesota
Monday - May 17 - 12-3 pm - **Syttende Mai**
Scandinavian Heritage Park
Minot, North Dakota
scandinavianheritage.org
Wed-Fri - June 10-12 - **Vestlandslag Stevne**
Red Wing, Minnesota
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Vestlandslag/>
Fri-Sat - June 12 & 13 - **Valdres Samband**
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Mon-Thurs - June 15-18 - **Nordlandslag Stevne**
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
Fri. & Sat., June 19 & 20 - **Scandinavian Festival**
Hjemkomst Center & Viking Ship Park,
Moorhead, Minnesota
www.hscconline.org
Wed-Sat - July 15-18 - **7+ Lag Stevne**
Stoughton, Wisconsin

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