



Romerikslaget News



Flere Lag Stevne

Echoes of the Past:
Stories of Our Immigrant Ancestors



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



15–18 September 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Austin, MN



Notes from the President

Hei hei!

Preparations are well underway all across Norway for the annual *Sankthansaften* (St. John's Eve)/*Midtsommer* (Midsummer) celebrations on June 23rd. Huge stacks of wood are being piled up for bonfires along beaches and *fjords*. While not an official holiday, the festive events are a beloved tradition before the feast day of John the Baptist.

Here at home, plans are complete for our own special annual event: *Flere Lag Stevne*, Sept. 15-18, in Austin, Minnesota!

As usual, we have the Genealogy Lab, vendors, and a variety of seminars relating to Nordic heritage.

A bus tour is set to visit the Mower County Historical Museum, the Spam Museum, and then a Norwegian lunch at St. Olaf's Lutheran Church.

The *stevne* registration form and schedule will be sent out to all members within a few weeks.

Please remember to bring gently-used Nordic items for donation to the Silent Auction and bring a treat to share in the Hospitality room. Looking forward to seeing you at *Stevne* in September!

Skål!

Norma Kjenstad Barnes

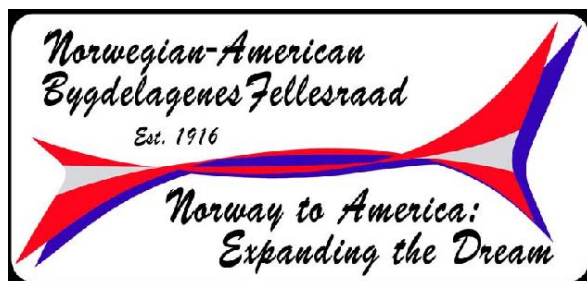


***Oslo
&
Akershus Fylke***

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



2026 Annual Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
Report on Activities: May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026

"Connecting our Future with our Past"

The Friday, May 1, session was held on Zoom only and was open to all lag members. Jeff Svare and Rob Kehrner from FamilySearch gave a presentation on "Lag Databases and their Future." Following a break, Ian James presented on "FamilySearch and AI."

The following report is contributed by Mary Gross.

The *Bygdelagenes Fellesraad* Annual Meeting was held at *Mindekirken* Norwegian Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 9:15 am to 1:00 pm. *Romerikslaget* members Eunice Helgeson and Mary Gross attended as delegates. *Fellesraad* President Elaine Hasleton presided. There were representatives from nearly all twenty-nine *bygdelag* present in addition to *Fellesraad* Board members. The meeting was recorded for future use of *bygdelag*. All those attending were given a booklet that included reports by each lag on their activities during the past year as well as information from the Annual Meeting.

President Elaine gave her report and *Fellesraad* officers were introduced, followed by reports from each officer. A special presentation was given by Denny Kalvig and Jeff Huset, both members of the *Fellesraad* Board and volunteer genealogists at the *Bygdelag* Special Collections Room and *Bibliotek* at Norway House. They gave an explanation of how *bygdebok* stored at the BSCR by the lags are being used to assist people who come there to begin doing genealogy for the first time. They encouraged lag members to volunteer their time at the BSCR if possible. Rob Erickson, another volunteer at Norway House BSCR, also explained his role there. Those present were excited to hear how the BSCR allows use of lag *bygdebok* to interest potential new members to the *bygdelag*.

The meeting was followed with a presentation by Pastor Al Aakre of Bay City, Wisconsin, who talked about his favorite subject, "Norwegian-American Lutheran Church Architecture." He was interesting, and made us laugh. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a Norwegian lunch together to end the day.

Biography of my *Romerike* Ancestors: Anton & Marin Anderson - Part Two

by David Bornus

In our March newsletter we learned that Anton and Marin emigrated to America in 1869 from the Brauter farm in the Ness area. They brought their daughter Gina, but left her sister Mina to be brought over by Maren's relatives a few years later. Settling in Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota, they had six more children. But Maren died at the age of 37 during a "great blizzard."

Anton had quite a task to bring up eight children alone. Mina went out to Seattle, Washington, when she was about 15 years of age. At the age of 13, Gina Annette ("Nettie") became the "mother" to her remaining siblings. Karen and Gerhard went to live with the Stenson family (fellow Norwegian immigrants). Daughter Julia died March 20, 1882, at two years of age.

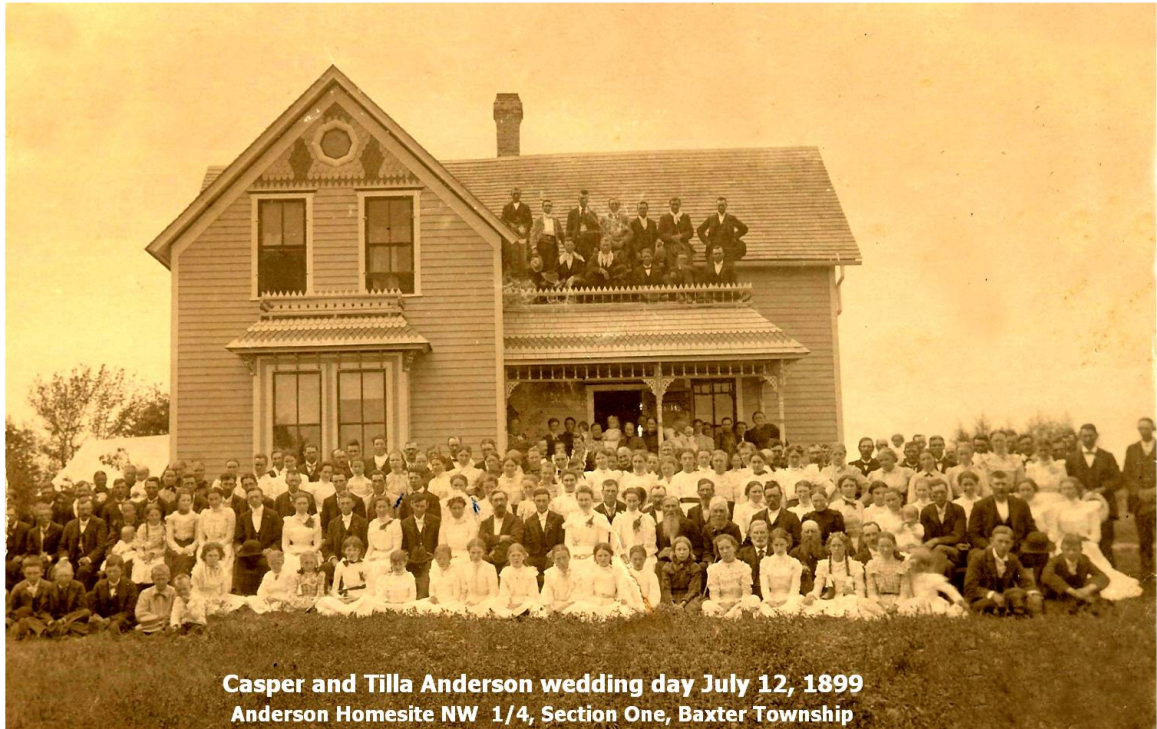


Anton Anderson Family. Back Row, Left to Right: Anders, Casper, Nettie, Mina. Front Row, Left to Right: Gerhard, Kari, Anton, Marie, and Emma.

Mina contracted consumption in late 1889 or early 1890. Casper went out to Seattle, Washington to bring her home. She died July 18, 1891.

Anton was well-spoken of, large in stature, a typical sturdy Norwegian pioneer. He was described as a quiet man, very religious, and respected by everybody. He had to help deal with the frontier problems of the Indians, and evidently had some role intervening in the “Camp Release War.”

On July 12, 1899, Casper married Tillie Anderson.



(Left) Detail of above photo showing Casper, Tillie, and Anton Anderson.

In the winter of 1892-1893, Anton made a visit back to the Brauter farm in Norway, where he visited with relatives and gave some gifts to his half-siblings' children.

Anton died March 6, 1902 (of “nerve rheumatism” in one source, or “senility” in another), just days shy of his 67th birthday.



(Right) Gravesite of Anton and Maren Anderson (with daughters Julie and Mina), Baxter Cemetery, Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota

Share Your Ancestral Story at *Flere Lag Stevne* 2026

by Dixie Hansen, *N. Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag*

There are a multitude of ways to share a story from your family's Nordic past and, in keeping with this year's theme, we're asking 2026 *Flere Lag Stevne* attendees to come prepared to do just that.

You can participate (one entry per attendee) by submitting:

- A simple paragraph or two about your Great Uncle Gunnar or ?
- A favorite old family photograph
- Your sketch of Oldemor's home *gård*.
- A hearty loaf of *grovbrød* (if sliced, be aware that some items may not be returned!)
- A lively fiddle tune
- The harrowing account of an ocean crossing
- A heritage tale you've shared with your grandchildren
- Your soulful rendition of *Hils fra Meg der Hjemme*
- The history of your heirloom *sølja*
- Your family genealogy book
- A treasured stash of letters from "back home" in Norway
- Some spontaneous steps of a *springar* dance
- An account of the ah-ha! discovery of a long-sought record of a "missing" ancestor
- or ____... (you fill in the blank)

If a written story submission fits on a single page, it will be hung on the walls at *stevne* so that all attendees can read it as they wander the hallways. Include your name at the top. If possible, email a copy in advance to **Dixie Hansen: dxhansen@gmail.com** and she'll print it and have it posted before you arrive. Otherwise, drop it off at the registration desk when you pick up your *stevne* registration materials, and she'll post it up later in the day.

Multi-page stories, photographs, drawings, scrapbooks, genealogies, or other physical objects which tell your family story will be displayed on specified tables. Bring them with you to *stevne*. Post-it notes will be on hand at the display tables for you to attach your name to your submission. Dixie will come by later and replace the temporary name identifiers with uniform printed placards.

If your story is told in the form of a freeform song, a dance, a toot on the *lur*, or an improv oration, stop by and schedule a time with Dixie to come to the registration lobby area (between sessions), and let loose!

Special Honors

On Thursday morning all attendees are asked to stop by the registration desk and vote for their favorite submitted ancestral *stevne* story. First, second, and third place winners will be chosen by popular vote count. Voting will close at Noon. In addition, a distinguished judges' panel comprised of an officer from each of the participating lags will honor an additional winner or two in special ad hoc categories. All honorees will be announced and recognized at the Thursday night banquet.

Spring Romerikslaget i Amerika Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2026 via Zoom

Call to Order: President Norma Kjenstad Barnes called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Attendance: President Norma Barnes, Vice President Chuck McKeen, Treasurer Mary Gross, Directors Eunice Helgesen, Barb Nelson, Ray Olson, Joel Botten, Mary Baumgartner, Jean Knaak and Secretary Linda McKeen

President's Report: Norma deferred to speaking during Unfinished Business.

Secretary's Report: November minutes amended to correct a spelling error and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Gross

- Income:
\$500 donation received from Everett Ellingson; \$643.03 our share of 2025 *stevne* profits;
\$1500 - Member dues
- Expenses:
\$60 Fellesraad Annual Meeting; \$1000 memorial donation for Carol Olson to NAHA;
\$53.78 Newsletter; \$174.33 Zoom annual renewal;
\$100 Memorial donation for Ruth Grau to *Vesterheim*
- Balance: \$13,448.47

Membership Report: Mary Gross

- Two new members have joined since December
- Updated Membership Directory emailed to Board

Co-Genealogist Report:

Barbara and Linda are looking for stories to present at *stevne* from local graveyards near Austin. Jeff Svare has provided cemeteries and locations.

Newsletter Report:

Norma mailed the newsletter in March. It was posted on Facebook and the *Fellesraad* website.

Publicity:

Eunice suggested a review of the *Romerikslaget* brochure. The PDF would be made available to members to print and distribute. Norma will email Eunice the version she updated several years ago to use as a starting point.

Unfinished Business:

Mary Baumgartner and Norma reported that registration for the September *stevne* will be sent by the end of June. The theme of this years *stevne* is *Echos of the Past - Stories of Our Immigrant Ancestors*. All the speakers have been scheduled. Tour is still in the planning stage.

New Business:

- The *Fellesraad* Annual meeting will be on May 1 and 2. Mary Gross and Eunice Helgeson will be attending the Business meeting at Mindekirken as *Romerikslag* representatives on May 2. May 1 presentations will be on Zoom only.
- Joel Botten noted that the grave of pioneer Lutheran pastor C.L. Clauson is in the cemetery across the street from the *stevne* hotel.

Announcement: Romerikslag Annual Meeting: September 16, 5 p.m. at *stevne*.

Submitted by

Linda McKeen, Secretary

Lag Officers & Directors

President: Norma Kjenstad Barnes (2025-28)

4902 S. Oxbow Ave. #205, Sioux Falls, SD 57106
605-496-8632 * email: nkwbarnes@yahoo.com

Vice President: Chuck McKeen (2024-27)

4894 Iten Ave. SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349
612-803-7844 * email: chuck.mckeen@gmail.com

Director of Membership: Mary Gross (2026-29)

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

Director of Genealogy: (Vacant Position)

Co-Genealogists: Barbara J. Nelson & Linda McKeen

Secretary: Linda McKeen (2026-29)

4894 Iten Ave. SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349
612-770-8517 * email: lindamckeen49@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mary Gross (2025-28)

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

Director: Mary Baumgartner (2024-27)

433 E. Maple St., River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-7117 * email: baumgam@yahoo.com

Director: Joel Botten (2025-28)

1314 Pine Pointe Curve, St. Peter, MN 56028
507-351-6712 * email: joelbotten@gmail.com

Director: Chris Falteisek (2026-29)

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

Director: Jean Knaak (2024-27)

2456 Arkwright St, St. Paul, MN 55117
651-357-6139 * email:knaak002@gmail.com

Director: Ray A. Olson (2025-28)

706 Beckham Ln. #206, Rock Hill, SC 29732
218-443-4458 * email: ray.olson1946@gmail.com

Director: Eunice Helgeson (2026-29)

5541 Woodlawn Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-724-7202 * email: EuniceHelgeson@aol.com

Director: Barbara J. Nelson (2024-27)

475 Cedar Court., Taylors Falls, MN 55084
651-465-0309 * email: bjnelso@midco.net

Past President: Julie Clauson

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat & Sun, 1-5 pm, June-Oct - **Norsk Museum**
Norway, Illinois

Fri-Sun, June 19-21 - **Midsummer Festival**
Scandinavian Heritage Park
Minot, North Dakota

Wed-Sat, July 15-18 - **7+ Lag Stevne**
Stoughton, Wisconsin

Wed-Sat, July 30-Aug 1 - **Hallinglag Stevne**
St. John's Lutheran & Fairfield Inn
Northfield, Minnesota

Wed-Fri, Aug 12-14 - **Sognefjordlag Stevne**
Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

Fri & Sat, Aug 21 & 22 - **Fjord Folk Fest**
Minot Municipal Auditorium
Minot, North Dakota

Sunday, Sept 13 - **Nordfjordlag Stevne**
Green Lake Bible Camp
Spicer, Minnesota

Newsletter Editor: Norma Kjenstad Barnes

Website: www.fellesraad.com/romerikslaget

Facebook Administrators: Chris Falteisek & Norma Kjenstad Barnes

