

NHOH News

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Summer 2008

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**2008 Tre Lag Stevne
August 6-9, 2008
Bigwood Event
Center**

**Stevne Information
inside this issue of
NHOH.
See you there!**

925 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls MN 56537

General Directions
From: All directions. The
hotel is located off I-94 and
Highway 210 West, 2 miles
west of the downtown
center. Take Exit 54 east 1
block to Western Avenue.



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WHO ARE WE?

NHOH Lag includes
the following districts
and kommuner in our
bygdelaag:

District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal
Folldal
Os
Rendalen
Tolga
Tynset

District 2:

Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot
Elverum
Engerdal
Stor Elvedal
Trysil

District 3:

Hedemarken and Hamar:

Furnes
Hamar
Løten
Nes
Ringsaker
Romedal
Stange
Vang

Hilsen Fra Presidenten

In the pages of this newsletter
you'll find a summary agenda and a
registration for Tre Lag Stevne 2008:
Voices of the Prairie (August 6-9 in
Fergus Falls). The program for 2008 seemed to come
together a little more stubbornly than in recent years. It was
one of those round-hole- square-peg scenarios where
nothing seemed to be work out right the first time. I
shouldn't have worried though because, with persistence
and hard work by the committee (and thanks especially to
Tre Lag Chair, Gary Olson), it finally did fall into place –
splendidly even! And, once it all shook out, I'm convinced
(as I always am!) that this will be the best Stevne ever.
Check out the details and I think you'll agree. There's some
sweat equity in that line-up.

As I mentioned in the March column, Trønderlag is
celebrating their Centennial this year – with a big shindig
(what's the Norwegian word for that?) immediately following
the Tre Lag Stevne. Tre Lag is reaping some benefits from
that convergence – as Trønderlag's August 9th celebration is
drawing a large contingent from Norway including an old-
time dance band - *The Hjorten Hus Orkester* and the theatre
troupe who will be performing *The Emigrants* for us on
Thursday evening. After that performance we've scheduled
a casual reception back at the hotel to give our members a
chance to meet and greet these Norwegian countrymen.
Although we haven't included the separate Trønderlag
Centennial Registration form in this newsletter – you might
well be interested in staying on for that Saturday afternoon
and evening event (whether or not you have Trønder roots).
You will find details and a sign-up form for the Centennial at
www.tronderlag.org.

Stevne hotel reservations must be made by July 1st
to get in for the Tre Lag rate. Pre-Registration for the Stevne
itself is due by July 15th. We will welcome walk-ins, as
always, but some events may fill up – so pre-registration is a
better option (and it's a big help to us in making plans for
lecture rooms and food events).

What should you bring? If you're a musician, bring
your instrument and join the Tre Lag Stevne Musicians in a little
music-making. If you're handy in the kitchen, bring some home-
made goodies for the Hospitality Suite (and if you're not –
supply some from your favorite bakery or candy-shop). If you're
a willing volunteer – we can always use your help – at the
registration desk, hanging signs, directing crowds, in the
hospitality suite, hauling books and equipment, etc. (send me
an email at dx@dxhansen.com to volunteer and/or stop by the
registration desk at the Stevne and ask what needs doing).

(continued on page 2)



(President Dixie's letter continued)

For reasons of economy the Stevne Program will be printed in blank and white – but I want to remind you that, a week or so before the Stevne, you can download a full-color version from the Stevner section of our website at www.nhohlag.org. (And a reminder that the same is true for each and every issue of this newsletter - if you've got a color printer – help yourself to a download! The User Name for the Member Area is **NHOHLag** and the password is **Rosemal**.)

The death of Roslyn (Hogenson) Waddell, on March 26th, was a personal loss for me and for our group as a whole. Roslyn was an active charter member of NHOH. At the inaugural meeting, she and I discovered our "cousinship" when she heard me mention my Grandmother's name and it "rang a bell." That connection began a great friendship – including a sojourn together in our ancestral area on the NHOH Tour of Norway in 2000. Roslyn had a sparkling and upbeat personality and a deep interest in her roots. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, Joe and her daughter, Joy Shong... who are both also active in NHOH.

Dx

2008 Tre Lag Stevne

August 6-9th

Bigwood Event Center, 925 Western Ave.,
Fergus Falls MN 56537

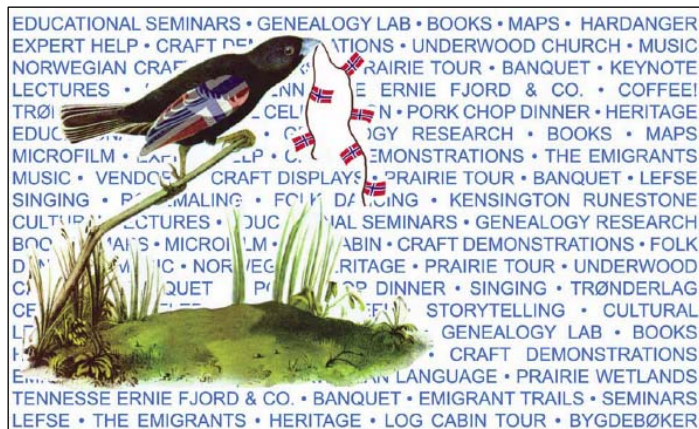
General Direction how to get there...

From all directions – the hotel is located off I-94 and Highway 210 West, 2 miles west of the downtown center. Take Exit 54 east one block to Western Avenue. The Hotel is: Best Western Falls Inn & Suites which is connected to the Bigwood Event Center in **Fergus Falls**. Reservations are needed by July 1st to get the convention room rates. **single or double \$85.00; suite, \$119.00, plus tax. Phone (218) 739-2211**

TRE LAG STEVNE

A gathering of descendants and friends of the Trøndelag, Gudbrandsdal, and northern Hedmark regions of Norway

VOICES OF THE PRAIRIE NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANTS



Nordic Prairie Bunting (*Nordicus Trelagus*)

MINNESOTA NORWEGIAN PIONEERS PROJECT

From John Reindl, Genealogist

For those of you with Norwegian ancestors that settled in Minnesota, you might be interested in the Minnesota Norwegian Pioneers Project, where you can receive recognition for these early ancestors.

The project is divided into two parts. The Pioneers are those who settled in any part of the state before Minnesota became a state in 1858, while the Century Certificate is for those Norwegians who came before 1908.

The material below is from the webpage, which can be found at <http://www.mn-nspp.org/>. Please let me know if you would like any information, including application forms.

About the Norwegian Statehood Pioneer Project

As Minnesota celebrates the 150th anniversary of statehood, the Norwegian Statehood Pioneer Project will recognize those Norwegian pioneers who were here when the state was born and contributed to the development of its institutions and culture. Norwegians began settling in southeastern Minnesota in the early 1850's. In the decades that followed, many of those pioneers and their descendants migrated north and west and helped establish new communities throughout Minnesota. Over 850,000 Minnesotans list Norwegian as their primary ethnic heritage - more Norwegian-Americans than in any other state in the union. The influence of Minnesota's Norwegian pioneers didn't stop at Minnesota's borders – many moved on to the Dakotas, Montana, Washington, and Oregon. The earliest Norwegian Minnesotans built a history and heritage that touches descendants throughout the United States!

Recognizing Individual Pioneers

Our Recognition Program is the centerpiece of the project. **Direct descendants of Norwegian settlers who lived in Minnesota in 1858 can apply** for a wooden Minnesota-shaped plaque bearing the name of their pioneer/pioneer couple. Applicants must supply documentation supporting the ancestor's residence and line of descent. The basic application fee is \$25. The second and any additional applications for the same pioneer submitted together (parents applying for themselves and their children, for example) are just \$15. Members of participating organizations can direct their applications to the organization and pay \$15 for all applications.

Some parts of Minnesota weren't settled until after the turn of the Twentieth Century. In order to acknowledge all of the Norwegian pioneers who helped build our great state, our Century Certificate program offers **recognition for all Norwegians who lived in the state prior to January 1, 1908**. Direct descendants of these settlers must supply documentation supporting the ancestor's residence and line of descent. The application fee for a Century Certificate is \$10.

Genealogy Resources at the Stevne

John Reindl, Lag Genealogist

The 2008 stevne is less than two months away, and we are pulling together a roomful of genealogical resources for the use of our members.

Bygdebøker and Church Records

Our two main resources for genealogical research are the bygdebøker and the microfilms of the church records from Norway and we will have over 100 sets of each. The bygdebøker that we bring are largely from the University of Wisconsin library, which has one of the largest collections in the country, and the list of the books that we brought to the stevne last year is located on the lag web page at <http://www.nhohlag.org>. The lag is also buying recently published bygdebøker for its own collection. Just added have been three new Vang bygdebøker, which we did not previously have available. Members who have bygdebøker are also encouraged to bring their books to share.

We will also bring microfilms of the original church records, which we borrow from the Vesterheim Genealogical Center in Madison. With over 100 films, this is supplemented by copies of the complete census records for 1801, and limited census records for 1865, 1875 and 1900.

Rygh list

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Oluf Rygh put together a comprehensive list of Norwegian farm names by fylke, kommune and parish, along with the history of their names. This is a very valuable resource for finding ancestral farms, and we will have this list for Hedmark fylke in both paper copy and a computerized form.

Topographical maps

We will have a complete section of topographical maps of the NHOH area, many with indexes to the farms, to help members see where their farms are located.

Farm operator books

In the 1940's and 1960's, two series of books (*Norske Gardsbruk*) were put together that provide information on most of the farms in Norway, giving the then-current owner along with the some genealogical information and a description of the farm along with a photo of the farm house. In many cases, the family has been on the same farm for generations, providing a useful genealogical link. We will have both sets of books.

Family history books

This is still a limited part of our collection, as we only have about a dozen family histories to share. We invite all members to bring a copy of their own family history to show and, if they would like, one to donate to the lag.

Cousins found at
The 2007 stevne -
Marilyn Silbaugh
and Gary Olson



Cousin-finding database

Over 125 members have submitted their genealogical charts of their ancestors from the Hedmark area and this database has over 2,870 entries, showing common ancestors for lag members. We will have both the paper copies, sorted by kommune, as well as a computerized version.

Bring your own ancestry records and we will look for a match and enter them in the database and three ring binder for future matches!

Ringsaker resources

More of our members have roots in Ringsaker than in any other kommune in Hedmark fylke, but, unfortunately, there are no traditional bygdebøker for this area. Thus, the lag is collecting and developing other resources for this area.

One such resource is the series of Ringsakboka, of which the lag has five volumes. These give a history of Ringsaker from the earliest of history to the mid-1900's. Closely associated are the Ringsaker historielag yearbooks from 1979 through 2006, and we will bring a translation of the table of contents of these books.

We also have a database of over 11,500 references from history books and magazines to people from Ringsaker, which will be available on computer. This database has proven to be extremely valuable to finding information -- including pictures -- of Ringsaker relatives.

Bring your laptop!

The Digital Archives of the Norwegian census and church records continues to expand and I strongly recommend that people with laptops bring their computers. In many cases, the copies of the church records on the Internet are easier to read than those on film and you will have the ability to copy them to your computer and alter the shading, contrast and sharpness.

See our web page

The list of bygdebøker and related materials for the stevne is posted on the lag web page at <http://www.nhohlag.org>. If you see a resource that you would like me to bring to the stevne, be sure to contact me either by email at reindl@chorus.net or by phone at (608)238-0393. The stevne will have a major collection of materials to help you do your Norwegian genealogical, and I look forward to seeing you in Fergus Falls!

Focus on NHOH Member..Gary Olson

Will Rogers once said, "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy." For me, "country" was the small unincorporated village of Mindoro, located in the coulee region of western Wisconsin, in La Crosse County. The area, with its hills and valleys, was populated with small dairy farms. The families who lived on them were a mixture of Norwegians, Germans, Scots, and Irish. It was there that I learned the values and attributes for success in life--the importance of family, having friends and being a friend, hard work, the importance of team work, and enjoying the good things in life.

I was the fourth child in a family of six children. I have an older brother, two older sisters, and two younger sisters. My parents, Maynard and Emma (Mulder) were first generation Norwegian and Dutch Americans. My father was a welding foreman at Allis Chalmers in La Crosse and my mother was a rural school teacher and later, a post mistress. Life in our small village was filled with household chores, roaming the hills with friends, hunting and fishing, and playing baseball and basketball. There were few organized activities for kids-- we made our own. I attended school in the same building, elementary through high school. While the curriculum provided only the basics, everyone had an opportunity to participate in the extra curricular program-- music, drama, and sports.

After high school, I went on to college, only because some of my friends were going. Eventually, I majored in secondary education and became a high school teacher of history and government. After 23 years in the classroom, I became a high school principal. I retired in 2004, after 41 years in public education - 32 years were in Rochester, Minnesota.

In 1960, I married Lynn Rall from Galesville. We have two children, both married, and four beautiful grandchildren. They refer to us, affectionately, as Opa and Oma, which is grandpa and grandma in German. Yes, you guessed it. I married a German.

My interest in genealogy, as is often the case, developed later in life--too late to glean much family information from my parents. And, by the time I arrived in this world, three of my grandparents had passed on. My paternal grandmother, Eline Standsveen, was the first to emigrate to America. She left with her parents, Ole and Johanna, and a brother, from Ringsaker in 1854. I assume they came through the port of Quebec; however, the Canadian authorities did not begin keeping immigration records until 1870. Upon arriving in America, they traveled to western Wisconsin, and homesteaded about four miles west of Mindoro. My paternal grandfather, Ole N. Olson, along with his mother Anna, two brothers and three sisters emigrated from Lillehammer in 1871. My great-grandfather, Neils O. Skrefsrud, had emigrated before the family in 1867. They also homesteaded near Mindoro. My grandfather Olson was a carpenter and built several houses and barns in the area and the Lutheran Church in



Mindoro. My grandmother was busy carrying for their eleven children.

The name Skrefsrud by the late 19th Century was well known in Norway, especially in Lillehammer and among Norwegian-Americans in the Midwest. My great-grandfather's younger brother, Lars O. Skrefsrud, co-founded the Sandal Lutheran Mission in India. Among Lutheran ministers of the time, he was highly respected. He made at least one fund-raising trip to America and preached to several gathering in the Midwest.

One of my genealogy goals is to research the route that he traveled and compile a brief history of his visit to America. The Skrefsrud Lutheran Church, located south of Sioux Falls, is named in his honor.

Lynn and I, my sister and her husband, visited Norway in 1998. One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to the Skrefsrud farm near Lillehammer and the Strandsveen farm near Ringsaker. This fall, Lynn and I will be going on a second tour of Norway; hopefully, we will have an opportunity to once again see the farms of my great-grandparents.

FOCUS ON NHOH MEMBER JOY SHONG -

Joy Shong joined the NHOH Lag in 1995 when **her** parents gave **her** husband and **her** a gift membership shortly after the lag was founded. **Her** mother, Roslyn (Hogenson) Waddell was the lag's first treasurer, a duty **Joy** took over in 2004 when Charlotte Helstad retired from the position.

Joy was born in Minneapolis, but grew up as an Air Force "brat," never living in one place longer than three years until after **she** married. **She**

was fortunate to live in Japan for three years as a teenager, though **the family** moved three times while there. **Joy and her** husband Glenn currently live in Oconomowoc WI where **Glenn** is a realtor for Remax, and **Joy** works at the Watertown Regional Medical Center in the computer department. **They** have one daughter and two granddaughters who live in Florida.

Joy's mother's family is all Norwegian. Though both of **Roslyn's** parents were born in Wisconsin, she grew up only speaking Norwegian until the age of seven when she started school. She was raised on a farm in Spring Lake Township, Pierce County, WI, just north of Elmwood. This is the place **they** always thought of as "home." Many of the people who settled on the Norwegian ridge were related, and they came from the Alvdal - Follidal area of Hedmark. **Joy** still has many relatives in Norway.

Three of the four family farms of **Joy's** four great grandparents are still owned by family members. The Sveen farm is on the mountain south of Follidal overlooking the Rondane Mountains. The Ryhaug farm is farther to the east along the river past Grimsbu. The Maana farm is west of Alvdal. The only farm not currently owned by family members is the Sivilhaug farm near Alvdal. Information on the people from these farms (Elina Eriksdatter Sveen, Ragnild Ryhaug, John L. Jacobson Maana, Jacob Haagenon Sivilhaug) are in the cousin finding material owned by the lag.

Joy's father **Joe Waddell** (an honorary Norwegian of Scottish decent) along with my mother have done most of the genealogical research on the Hogenson and Jacobson families. My plan is to enhance the history with photos and narrative stories to share with the rest of my extended family.



Askeladden – Part III

History of Skiing in Norway

By Johan Rønningen

(From a history of his father, Otto, written for his grandchildren, continued.)

Dear grandchildren, you were born in America, in a modern age, so I don't know whether you appreciate how important it was to be a Norwegian skier, or how our ancestral deep forest country depended on skiing to survive in olden times.

The oldest skis have been found in Swedish and Finnish bogs. They date from 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. The oldest picture of a ski was found in Norway near the Arctic Circle in 2,000 BC [4,000 years ago]. There are many types of skis. At first, they were short and broad, resembling snowshoes. Later, they were longer, some as long as 12 feet. There were reports of skis in 7th century China, during the Viking Age [780-1070], and at the Battle of Oslo, about 1200. When Norwegians used skis to reconnoiter, it was the Swedish positions they wished to scout. Skis were reported in the 1400s and 1600s in Finland, Norway, Poland, Russia, and Sweden. Norway had an army ski manual in 1733. There were money prizes at ski contests as early as 1767. History records skiers who lived about 1,000 years ago: Olav Tryggvasson, Einar Tambærskjelve, and Arnjot Gelline.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, tells us that the god of winter, Uller, walked on skis. The curved toes of the skis protruding through the snow were the ships' prows steaming across hill and dale. Some early skis were elongated, leather covered frames. Lapps, in the 1500s, got about on skis, which were narrow, pointed leather shoes, about three feet long. They thrust their feet into the skis a few inches from the rear ends.

In the Norwegian winter, the ski becomes the natural [and national] conveyance. In the old days, the ski took you into Trysil, and it took you out. Skiing was the road home. It was the road to sustenance for men and for animals. The ski tracks crossed rocks and mountains, swamps and moors, they followed the hunters and trappers, they pursued logs and winter hay. Ski tracks traveled from farm to farm, from neighborhood to neighborhood; they brought the doctor. Ski tracks were a necessity for isolated communities, but they became much more. To travel on skis in forest and field was a right that hardly anyone questioned. [In America, skiing would have been mentioned in the federal Bill of Rights!] To run along atop the glittering crust, racing downward over cliffs and hills, through the forest, and away over the mountain gave a diversion with speed and excitement to life. Both Trysil men and women used skis. A Scotsman, Rev. Axel Smith, first parson in Trysil, in his "Description of Trysil Parish", in 1784, commented on this, and upon the illusory perception when he saw the deliberate Trysilingers aim and shoot from his skis. In 1747, army Captain Lyell wrote about a ski company that the best of the southern skiers included those from Trysil. At that time, he said they already knew about ski wax.

Torgal Olsen Sætre (1780-1832) and wife, Ingeborg, lived at Vestby after 1807, after the birth of their third child. Torgal and his father-in-law were both very clever skiers. One day, Torgal, then about 34, went on his skis with his hunting bag full of ptarmigan, and his son, Little Torgal, on his back. The boy was small and didn't dare to go down the mountain by himself. About the same Torgal Sætre it was also told that one day he skied downhill and ran off a precipice and landed in a big birch tree upside down with his skis on. He hung with his head down, but he couldn't get loose until he got out his knife and cut his ski bindings.

Early skis were crude, because, in the old days, everything was built by hand on a little farm in Norway. But development of skiing equipment took a big step forward when ski competition and ski clubs were organized.

There wouldn't have been so many ski meets unless there were clubs to keep the meets going. The Trysil Club, founded in 1861, is still going strong as the Trysil Young Men's Athletic Club. The club represents all sports in Trysil. The Christiania Club was organized about 1868. In California, there were downhill races as early as 1860, but ski clubs were organized later. Perhaps the first ski club in America was founded in 1867; the first Swedish club, in 1879. But a young Norwegian carved a niche all by himself in skiing's hall of fame in the 1850s. He was Jon Thoresen Rue, who immigrated to California in 1837, when he was 10 years old. Later, he joined the gold rush, and in 1856, he began carrying the U.S. Mail on his back on skis across the high mountains of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was a three-day journey of 90 miles going one way, and two days returning. He is one of the most famous skiers in all history - John A. "Snowshoe" Thomson.

In the early meets, the Trysil and Telemark skiers were the best. They were noted for their carefree poise, and when they competed they were awe-inspiring as they flitted across the landscape, never seeming to touch the ground with their poles.

Sondre Norheim, of Norway's Telemark County, began revolutionizing ski equipment in the mid-1800s. He was the first skier to fashion stiff bindings to fasten the ski to the foot. He tied twisted pieces of wet birch roots around his boots. When they dried, his skis were firmly bound to his feet. With his improved bindings, he developed new turning maneuvers for skis. He also designed incurving sides in cross-country skis to make them lighter. Norheim, like the early Trysil skiers, was legendary. His exploits in Telemark [Morgedall] and elsewhere are well told in an article by John Weinstock, in "Sondre Norheim: Folk Hero to Immigrant", in Volume 29 of Norwegian-American Studies, 1983, of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, MN. Norheim, born in 1825, immigrated to North Dakota, at 59, in 1884, when Otto Rønningen in Trysil was two years old. Norheim won the first prize at the first national cross-country meet in Christiania in 1868; Halvor Halvorsen Dahl, of Trysil, came in third (see below).

One of the first ski meets held was one at Tromsø in 1843. The first meet held at Trysil was in 1855, on Nordby Hill, near the Trysil parish church, just outside the main village of Trysil, Innbygda. The first ski prize at Norby Hill was won by Per Persen.

The second Innbygda meet, 1862, has been set for the "Second Winter Assembly Day", whatever that meant. Never has there been a more confusing ski meet. There was only a jumping match, and all of the skis were of the "unequal skis" variety. (See below). People came from everywhere and crowded forward to see everything, and succeeded in getting in the way of even the competition! The Skjærbergets were there, with Halvor Dahl at their head. Many prizes were in silver dollars, a lot of money then. Because of the confusion, rigorous rules could not be enforced. Jumpers could not jump more than 8 to 10 meters because they lost the lift of air so rapidly when they left the jump. Many onlookers were old women, who peppered the crowd with such awesome pronouncements as, "Gee, now I believe he fell!"

In 1863, there was another competition at Nordby Hill, and a skier jumped the unheard of distance of 11.5 meters. Another surprise at that meet, a girl participated. She was Inger Olsdatter Vestby, of one of the Vestby "ski families". She had written to the committee for permission to participate because she thought that in her community, where skiing was essential, women, to be "mature", must be put to the test as well as young men. Score one for "Women's Lib", in 1863! The annual Nordby Hill meets were run five times, the Tromsø meets three times, and in Christiania there was a national meet in 1862, with 51 male competitors, and another meet at Grorud.

The first well-known Trysil prizewinner was Halvor Halvorsen Dahl, of Skjærberget, who also participated in a ski meet at Drammen, west of Oslo [then, Christiania]. He went on his skis both to and from Drammen [one way, ca 250 km], and he won a prize, a trophy which is still referred to as the "Dahl of Skjærberget" trophy. See pp. 194-195 of volume one, Trysil-Boka, for an account plus a picture of the trophy. The trophy won by Dahl at the Innbygda meet in 1862 is in the ski museum at Holmenkollen. He was the first, and the greatest, of "The Three Halvors".

The second Halvor was Halvor Rustad, from Øverbygda, just east of the Trysil capital of Innbygda, along the Trysil River. He moved to Sweden as a fairly young man and was one of the ski pioneers in Sweden.

In the years from 1889, a third Halvor arose - Halvor Sandkveen [1857-1936], who won all the meets in Innbygda for 10 years. He was an outstanding skier, and was one of the nation's ski pioneers living in Trysil. In 1896, he went to Holmenkollen, but the race was cancelled because of mild weather. This same year, he went to a Telemark ski meet. Like Norheim, he was another pioneer in ski equipment development. In the "Trysilkalenderen 1984" of historical photos, Halvor Sandkveen is shown resting motionless on his skis about 1889-1899 in a Trysil forest.

Do you notice something different about Sandkveen's skis? Well, you cannot see the picture, right, so I will tell you. On his right foot he has a very long and flat ski. This is called a "langski" [literally, a "long ski"]. Now, notice the other ski - he is standing, with his legs crossed! The other ski is attached to the left leg, but because his legs are crossed, the right ski is just to the RIGHT of his right ski, and flat down on the snow. The reason he could cross his legs is because the left ski is

much shorter than the "langski". It is both shorter in the front and in the rear, When he is skiing, he balances on the "long ski", and he pushes with the small ski, usually on the left, much as if he were ice-skating. The small ski is known as "andor" ski [literally, "another" ski]. The small ski acts as a turning device or brake. He can place the small ski on either side of the "long ski", as he desires. This equipment was seen in the Trysil forests in the 19th century. Sandkveen was a devotee of the "unequal skis".

Notice the photo again. Sandkveen carries a long rifle, upright, on his back. He carries only one ski pole. Another pole could be in his way, particularly when he uses his rifle. A Norwegian hunts from his skis in winter. In a second, he will stop, unlimber his rifle, and shoot, without losing momentum. Also, a Norwegian is "married" to his skis. He wouldn't remove his skis unless he was stopping for the night. Trysilingers who used "unequal skis" they needed one pole. Only when they tackled ski competition for the first time did they realize they needed two poles for the sport of skiing! Among the many Trysilingers who used unequal skis were two brothers, Halvor and Johan. They got on their unequal skis every time the church services were held. They skied from their house to the schoolhouse. After the service at the schoolhouse, they skied back home. The distance was not very far, only two kilometers, but they continued to use "unequal skis" until they reached the age of 94!

When Henning Mobæk went to Holmenkollen in 1901, he took one pole. He thought he could ski in the national meet just like he did at home in the eastern forests, with one pole. The cross-country race was for 30 km. The judges awarded 10 prizes; Mobæk was 11th. This trip made a big impression on Mobæk and all Trysilingers: next time they went to Holmenkollen, 1903, they carried two poles. The 1903 cross-country race was for 50 km, but Mobæk made it as no. 6 - with two poles.

By the time that Otto Rønningen entered competition, the basic design of Norwegian skis had been achieved. In jumping, Otto used broad, sturdy jumping skis made out of oak, with three grooves along the ski bottom to help ensure a stable landing in the packed hillside snow. When he skied cross-country, his skis were as light and narrow as possible, made of pine, with highly curved tips to clear the deep loose snow on the level ground. The cross-country skis bowed near the center, where the bindings were fastened. When Otto was off his skis, the skis touched the ground at only two small areas on the bottom, one near the rear end of the ski, and another small spot near the fore part of the ski. Thus, when Otto stood on the skis, the weight of his body was just enough to bow the skis back to the ground so that they were almost level, when he skied, these skis created a spring, moving up and down with his body as he lurched along the ski track.

The ski story of Otto Rønningen ceased when he emigrated to America in 1905. But, grandchildren, you should not lose sight of your Norwegian ancestors, a "mixed Scandinavian breed", including Norwegians, Danes, and Finns - and many other nationalities once we were transplanted to melting pot America! Our Tryslinger cousins still ski much of the year, and some of them are winning ski prizes. There follows an abbreviated story, which I shall label, "The Trysil Ski", 1906-1986. Most of this story Grandfather Otto never saw.

The ski references I have used are listed about eleven pages above. Perhaps you would be interested where I

found them. The Teppen manuscript was made available by the author, Olaf Teppen, and my cousin, Ottar Nyhus Rønningen [1926-], aided me in translating it to English. Ottar is a great grandson of Ole Rønningen [1825-1901], Grandfather Otto's uncle. Ottar lives in Sweden and works for SAS. The Holmenkollen report was presented to me as eldest son, in lieu of Grandfather Otto, when he died in 1972. It was presented by my first cousin, son of Grandfather Otto's eldest brother, Olaf [1868-1962]. Olaf's son is Otto Olafsen Rønningen, a namesake of Grandfather Otto. The 125th report of the Trysil Young Men's Athletic Club, was presented by Johanne Alfrida [FRIDA] Johansdatter Sorby-Næs, my first cousin [1902-], a lively cousin if there ever was one! She was a daughter of Grandfather Otto's eldest sister, Johanne Johansdatter Kilden [1867-1904], who produced a child every two years until she reached seven children, and then died. Frida presented this report together with her son, Halvor Næs (1928-) and his wife Ingrid. Halvor was an Olympic skier and one of the finest ski jumpers in Norway. You will meet Halvor again below, where you will find that no Trysil activity as much as skiing exemplifies what Trysilingers are made of - perhaps no skiing tradition in Norway is more glorious than Trysil's.

The Osthagen pamphlet was given by Roald Haugen [1931-], a grandson of Uncle Olaf. I have spent two visits in Roald and Lillegun Haugen's house in Østby. Through them we have learned that winter takes a long time in Trysil. We know that skis are necessary in winter, and we also know that much of Norway is only accessible by water in mid-summer. But sometimes we don't realize that in some summers, the summer is hardly two months long. In June 1988, the Haugens visited America and Hawaii. They showed us a photo taken on May 1 that year, of the snowdrift in their yard in Østby. It filled the yard, and then it was still more than three feet of solid, packed snow.

When Otto Rønningen returned to Trysil in 1901 at 19, until he emigrated at the end of 1905 at 23, he entered skiing. Already skiing had made Trysil famous. After three years of competition, Otto and his teammates forced the whole nation to recognize the Trysil team as the nation's finest. The first ski resorts were developed at the famous Gudbrandsdal Valley, which had been peopled with Peer Gynt creatures by Ibsen, and elsewhere. But finally, the even more hidden valley, next to Sweden, Østerdalen, has now come into its own. Fittingly, the "new" valley, is peopled not by Peer Gynt creatures but by Trysil-Knut, the new "folklore" of alpine skiing. Even the thoroughly modern bus that takes you to Trysil from Oslo these days flies the flag of Trysil-Knut! Today, eighty years after the 1904 Trysil Team, Trysil is the alpine skiing center of Norway. It's twin in Sweden, the alpine center of Sweden, has developed just across the border in Dalarna. If the two countries hadn't split in 1905, perhaps there would have been only one alpine center in the 1980s.

The Trysil Young Men's Athletic Club calls the first decade of the 20th century, the "First Golden Age" of Trysil skiing. Otto Rønningen was one of the half-dozen young men who made it that way. The age of the "unequal skis" was just over. Otto and his teammates were the first ski amateurs that demonstrated the skill of professionals: Bakken, Andreassen, Rønningen, Mobæk, and Berg. Berg immigrated to America after the 1904 ski season; Rønningen, after the 1905 season. Three more "golden skiers" took the places of the émigrés next season, 1906,

at Kollen: Lars Neby, Helenus Bakken [brother of Per Bakken], and Elling Rones. Since Neby and the new Bakken were both from Vestby, the team now had four members from Vestby, and one from Innbygda. The Holmenkollen book has a full page photo of three of these Trysilingers in 1906 standing in the forest of Holmenkollen in a bitterly cold and blustery snowstorm on their cross-country skis: Neby, Per, and Helenus. The "Golden Team of Trysil" was still in the limelight.

Above, we described Henning Mobæk's first and second tries at Kollen in 1901 and 1903, and his 1904 winnings. In the Trysil club centennial year (1961), when Mobæk was 84 years old, he set himself on his skis once more. He was pictured on TV skiing with the old "unequal skis", a tribute to the Trysil skiers of the past.

Per Andreassen was a Golden Age Trysilinger who won more honors than Mobæk. The first time he went to Kollen, in 1902, he won first prize in Class B [those below 16] on the 18 km. In 1903, in the 50 km, he got a fine first run, but he spoiled it with ski-binding trouble and became no. 2. In 1903, he also got no. 7 on the 18 km. He became a Trysil club board member in 1905, and in 1906, he was awarded the highest medal of the regional area.

We have touched on Per Bakken's Kollen performance. He won the 18 km combination run in 1905 and 1906 and became recognized as Norway's best combination skier. In 1906, on the 50 km cross-country, he was 3rd [behind Rones and his brother, Helenus]. In 1908, after four Kollen seasons, he had won these Holmenkollen cup [50 km] runs: no. 1 in 1904, and no. 2 in 1905, 1906, and 1907! In 1907, he won the Holmenkollen medal.

Lars Neby entered the 50 km cross-country in 1906 with the brothers Bakken and took 6th place. He won 4th in 1908, and again in 1910. In the Holmenkollen Race (50 km), he was 16th in Class B in 1908, and 2nd in Class A in 1909. He got first prize in the combined race. In 1908, at Brumunddal, he jumped 42 meters. In 1906, at Kollen, Helenus got 2nd on the 50 km cross-country ahead of his brother Per, who had first in 1904. On the 18 km combined, Helenus was best in Class B, only outclassed by Per, who won first in Class A. In those days, it was well-known that the Trysil Ski Club was the world's best. As the old-timers say, if you leaf through the reports from those years - the prize lists and the club minutes - the reading "will make your eyes open wide and wet".

We first catch sight of Elling Rones, another "Golden Age Skier", in 1905. He came in with a no. 3 in Class B, but no prizes were awarded. The next year, 1906, he won the first prize in the 50 km cross-country, and again in 1907, 1908, and again in 1916! In 1914 and 1917, he won the 2nd prize, won the 3rd prize in 1911, and won the 5th prize in 1910. He became the national champion on the 30 km cross-country at Hønefoss in 1911, too. In the first Birkebeineren in 1932, when he was 50 years old [born three weeks before Otto Rønningen in 1882], he was the first skier over the mountain, which was part of the run. In 1947, when he was 65, he finally got the Holmenkollen medal! In Trysil, they used to call Rones, "The Ski King". The skiers we have named since 1900 belonged to the world's elite skiers: The two Bakkens, Andreassen, Rønningen, Berg, Rones, Neby, and Mobæk - the Immortal Eight.

Askeladden – Part IV

Otto Rønningen and the Temperance Movement

By Johan Rønningen

(A history of his father, Otto Rønningen, continued.)

The year 1905 was the last year that Otto Rønningen was to be a resident of Norway. Later, he was to return to Norway twice. On his last visit to Norway, in 1953, he was 71, and he was interviewed by a newspaperman who was famous for his byline, "Bjorn from the Land" [Bjorn Fra Landet]. Bjorn had not seen Otto since 1901 - 52 years! As a youth, Bjorn had met Otto only once when he attended a special dinner meeting of the local temperance society. At that time, if you were a young man, you dared not join! It would have been an unheard of thing not to be a member! All men in Østby were members - 100 percent. A clipping throws light on how this newspaperman remembered Otto, and presumably how Otto Rønningen was regarded by his home community.

"I don't know how it is with you, but it is with me that there can be persons who I have met only one time in my life who I can never forget. There was this Trysil young man whom I met at a temperance meeting in my youthful years. He was called Otto Rønningen. That was a meeting I can never forget. He was healthy and strong and smart, with a way so agreeable and harmonious that I had to admire him at our first meeting. He also was a warm-hearted idealist. This was an evening banquet in the country community. After the feast, Rønningen stood up at the lectern as calmly as an old popular orator, although he was only about 17 [actually, Otto was 19]. He told us about a walking tour he had just completed in Central Europe on foot. He told a whale of a good story."

In Europe in the latter half of the nineteenth century, as well as in America, there was a rising temperance movement. It was both moral as well as political. In *THE PROMISE OF AMERICA*, Odd C. Lovoll noted in Norway, in 1833, there were 17 quarts [16 liters] of alcohol consumed annually per person. As the century drew to a close the figures, for awhile, got much higher. In the years that Otto Rønningen was an active temperance worker in Norway, from 1898 to 1905 [when he was 16 to 23 years of age], annual consumption in liters, in both spirits and beer in Norway in 1898 was 24.2. In Sweden, it was 58! In spirits only, the figures were 2.6 in Norway, 8, in Sweden. In 1905, total consumption was only 16.4 in Norway; but in Sweden, it was 59.7! Apparently the temperance societies in Norway were more adroit than the societies in Sweden in cutting consumption! [The figures are from *THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA*, 11th edition, vol. 26, page 587.]

The temperance society was a hometown activity that Otto went 100 percent into when he began living at

home after his European trip. He had already joined the society earlier. He was familiar with their literature and their aims, and he was already corresponding with their out-of-town officials. In fact, his father, Johan, was a famous teetotaler in Trysil. Back at home, Otto became an official of the society, and finally became president. We know, because Olaf Teppen, our ski historian, had later been president of the local society, and he found some 1905 minutes. The papers noted that Otto had missed a steering committee meeting in late January 1905, because he was absent for a cross-country ski meet at Rena. He had sent his deputy to the meeting. At a meeting in November 1905, the chairman read a letter from Otto Rønningen, a thank-you letter, in which Otto said that he had left Østby to travel to "distant countries" [Western Europe].

In America many temperance immigrant leaders were in the Norwegian clergy. In the 1850s, the Norwegian clergy had all come from Norway. But in the 1860s and 1870s, there were a growing number of ministers schooled in American seminaries. In the 1869s, Father Ireland, a catholic priest, had been petitioned by some St. Paul drunks to found a temperance society for them because of his gallant service as a chaplain in the Civil War! Author William Watts Folwell, in his *HISTORY OF MINNESOTA*, tells the story. Folwell said the liquor traffic had "reached the zenith of its power", in 1884, when Ireland founded his society. There was in Boston one saloon for every 150 persons; in Chicago, one for every 100. Folwell says that in Chicago there were 2,761 groceries, bakeries, and butcher shops, against 5,000 saloons. In Odd Lovoll's later book [1988], *A CENTURY OF URBAN LIFE; THE NORWEGIANS IN CHICAGO BEFORE 1930*, pp. 120-126, he throws additional light on the temperance movement among Norwegians in nineteenth century Chicago.

One more word about temperance. When Otto Rønningen came to America, he continued to lead a temperate life. But in America he didn't exercise the zeal he did in his youth in Norway as an officer of a temperance society. In my own adult life, I observed that although my father was a good host as well as a good guest, and although he occasionally imbibed a moderate glass of wine or spirits or offered a glass to his guests [especially when the children were fully grown], no one ever saw him drunk, or even "high" at a party, and he always made sure that no one saw any of the family high either! We grew up in a temperance-minded prairie town, while the Volstead Act was in force. Otto's future father-in-law [1912] was also very temperance-minded. As a matter-of-fact, his father-in-law grew up on a Wisconsin farm, where his first cousin, a Norwegian preacher schooled in America, was an early temperance zealot, Rev. O.P. Syftestad, who gave the first temperance lecture ever presented in the Perry Lutheran Church in Dane County, Wisconsin. Perhaps, Otto never heard of O.P. O.P. died in 1890, when Otto was only eight years old, and many years before Otto married into the Syftestad [Isaacson] family.



Askeladden – Part V

Otto Ronningen and The Almost War

By Johan Rønningen

(A story of his father, Otto's military service, continued.)

NOTE: *An American contemporary of Otto's, also 23 in 1905, was Franklin D. Roosevelt 1882-1945. Like Otto, Roosevelt was also thinking about his future career, although his family situation was far safer than Otto's. Roosevelt was in the midst of a law course at Columbia University in New York, a career he did not intend to pursue, but in March 1905, he took time out to marry his cousin, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt 1884-1962, niece of the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt 1858-1919.*

From this point in our story, we will refer to FDR occasionally for several purposes, but mainly because he was born in the same year, 1882. The purpose of these references may vary widely. We will use him chiefly as a foil, to enhance Otto by comparing his beliefs and politics with Roosevelt's, the wage-earning immigrant with a man born to property and pedigree. At other times it will be to contrast the famous Roosevelt family of politics with the more obscure 'non-political' Rønningen family. We should note that Roosevelt, from 1933-1945, as commander-in-chief of all U.S. military forces, was at the apex of the military structure of which Otto had been a part from 1908-1947. During Roosevelt's tenure as commander-in-chief, Otto was a national guard colonel, not in federal service, in 1933-1935, and in 1941-1945 [during the war] he was a colonel commanding a very reduced regiment in the Iowa State Guard, a state entity, more under the Governor than the president. Certainly Otto as a man differed from Franklin Roosevelt on many subjects. Among the most different were their party politics and life styles.

In 1905, both Otto and Oscar were having problems [that is, King Oscar II, who jointly ruled Sweden and Norway, from Sweden]. Oscar was having far more trouble than usual with the troublesome Norwegians, who had been ruled by a Swedish king since 1814. Before that, Danish kings had ruled them, since late in the fourteenth century. Otto, full of youthful idealism, was now dreaming of a life of adventure. Specifically, he had decided to become a French Foreign Legionnaire! Otto's father Johan had had volunteer fever 40 years before, at the age of 19, during the Danish-German War in 1864. He had been about the same age that Otto was when he dreamed up his idea of enlisting in the French Legion.

Otto had duly received his "draft notice" in 1904, when he was about 22, to report for service next May [1905]. Otto was anxious to be "on the way", somewhere, anywhere, but he didn't want the "Oscar Trouble" with Sweden, in 1905, to interfere with his own plans - whatever they would be. The Trysil Commune adjoined Sweden, and at Østby, Otto was close to the border. Along the boundary, the locals, Otto among them, frequently crossed the border pursuing game, picking wild berries, or skiing. In the 1905 "trouble", Otto had roamed about on the Swedish side of the border as an observer of the Norwegian Army. He would check activities on the Swedish side, and then he

would return to Norway and report to the military what he had found. There was an hardening of nerves and a sharpening of alertness along the border as long as the trouble continued.

After the snow began to melt in 1905 and the skiing season was finished, Otto entered his military conscription term - six months, May-October. Otto was Conscript No. 5076, at Camp Terningmoen, at Elverum, [the permanent military camp just outside Elverum] which had existed for many years to train conscripts. His closest friend at camp was Victor Lie Larsen, of Bergen. The two men spent some leaves together, and we know that on one of these leaves they visited Innbygda and Østby, because they posed for photographs together. In September 1931, when I was 16, father's friend Victor wrote a letter to me and my sister, Odveig, from Bergen to Madison, Minnesota, which Victor signed, "Uncle Victor", in which he reminisced on his military service more than "25 years ago", at Terningmoen. When he was there, Victor did his military duties during the day, but in the evening, when he was free of military duties, he had to run from the camp to the town of Elverum, where he was employed in a part-time civilian job. Whether Otto had such a civilian job, too, we don't know.

Perhaps we should summarize the Norway-Sweden trouble. The root of the problem was, besides the troublesomeness of the Norwegians when they were subject to a foreign king, originated in 1814 when they managed to finagle a national constitution. This was a result when they struggled against the Treaty of Kiel, where other countries had made decisions about Norway without Norway's knowledge. For several months of 1814, Norway was free and independent, but finally, Norway was joined to Sweden by the other powers, under a Swedish king. See above. The 1814 constitution was one of the most liberal in Europe, but King Carl Johan of Sweden [Bernadotte, who became famous during the Napoleonic Wars] was constantly trying to modify it to a constitution more to his liking. During this period, the Norwegians decided to establish their 17th of May annual independence celebration in grateful memory of the achievements of the Eidsvoll Assembly, which wrote the constitution. Carl Johan detested these annual 17th of May demonstrations. But eventually he understood it was a mistake to oppose them, because all of the Norwegians wanted them. Therefore, he gave up his opposition.

After the tension increased along the border after June 7th, Otto went to the border from Terningmoen - to BOTH sides - he became an observer, or scout, for the Norwegian Army. He would check activities on the Swedish side, and then he would return to Norway and report to the military what he had seen. In other words, he was a spy.

The problem with Sweden came to an impasse over foreign affairs and polemics, specifically an independent consular service. This problem arose at least 15 years before. It had simmered until 1904, when in the Russian and Japanese war, Russian losses caused Sweden to fear Russia less. Therefore, it reduced Sweden's interest in coming to an agreement with Norway.

On January 11, 1905, Norway refused to accept Sweden's demands on Norwegian consuls. On February 8, Norway terminated negotiations. The Swedish Crown Prince went to Christiania. The Norwegian ministers resigned. In April, the Swedish Premier resigned. The Norwegian Storting passed its own consular bill. Swedish King Oscar 11 vetoed it on May 27. In June, the entire Norwegian government resigned. The Storting declared the Union had ceased to exist. The union flag was lowered. The Norwegian flag was hoisted. The tension dramatically increased.

The late Sven Moren (1871-1938), well-known Trysil poet, and a cousin of Otto Rønningen, has written an article that gives a glimpse of the summer of 1905 in the Eastern Valleys, "Boundary Township in 1905". It is printed on pp52-58 of the "1980 Yearbook of Trysil":

"...Here in the boarder area, these were uneasy times. We stood closest to the "enemy". We would be the first to meet him. I came by train through Gudbrandsdalen on the morning of June 7th. I believed there were a million eyes on the rail coach where I sat... "Yes, it is done," the conductor proclaimed. "The King is removed from office (the Swedish King). The union is crumbling. It's final." ...We got hold of ourselves and got down off the seats and knelt on the floor. I stared through the window. Then came a young boy with a flag on a pole. Other flags appeared. Soon everything began to shine in the brilliant Norwegian colors. The stations were full of people. They had come from the fields and the pastures. They dropped what they carried and had gone to meetings where day's announcements were delivered. ...At Hamar [capital of Hedmark County], Moren was inside the hotel. Where an old white-haired conservative talked on the telephone..."It was good! Bravo, bravo! The Swedish king? Let him leave! We must go to the boarder. We are prepared for it." ...At the Elverum railroad station, 28 km east of Hamar, on the Østerdalen line, the easternmost railroad paralleling the border, he got off. There was a crowd of people along a wall outside the station. He met an old friend, Helge, who walked towards him with out-stretched arms. He found that the recruits were reporting as volunteers and that they received their rifles and orders at Tervingmoen and got their rifle marksmanship practice..."

In the summer of 1905, there was a military depot at Skredders, sloped land on the east side of the river at Innbygda ["capital" of the Trysil herred, or rural municipality]. In a photo of the area in the Moren article, there is a sizeable body of troops or militia lined up on the farm known as Arneborg, and possibly we have recognized Otto as one of the soldiers [in 1905!]. Moren said that the troops he was with one day had come from the rifle range at Slettmoen. They marched to the parish church at Innbygda [where Otto's parents, Johan and Oline, were buried later]. The preacher gave them a rousing sermon. He told them that he had asked both the bishop and the Lord for permission to accompany the troops into battle. The preacher assured them that BOTH the bishop and the Lord had granted his wish. So, when the troops marched out of the church, the preacher tagged along - into battle, he thought! If you look at a map you will see that the Arneborg depot (or camp), the rifle range, and the church are all within easy walking distance of each other.

The Moren article has a second photo, of a 2-year-old boy, Trygve Bolt, decked out with a miniature rifle, a soldier cap, a gun belt, two leather cartridge cases, a sheathed bayonet, and a tunic. Trygve was Otto's cousin, living at the

farm called Sanden, at Øverbygda, east of Innbygda. [Trygve was still alive in 1985.] I remember how my mother Grace, Otto's wife in America, dolled me up in an American uniform, at the age of four at the end of World War I, barely 13 years later. Hannah Roe, Grace's friend, one block away, dolled up her two sons, Harold and Frithjof, five and six years, in similar uniforms, we all posed for somebody's Kodak brownie camera.

But back to the "Almost War" of 1905: The Swedish Rikstag dissolved the Union, by law. In August, Norway held a plebiscite; it was virtually unanimous. But with every succeeding step, the tension mounted. In August, in the Norwegian border area, the rumor had it that the general staff had ordered the troops and ALL THE POPULACE to the border! At the border the militia mixed with old women, lame old men, young children, and for a short time utter madness reigned. But across the border, Swedish life went along as always. Where were the Swedish troops? They were nowhere to be seen. Finally, a Norwegian captain calmed the whole turmoil, and most of the troops went home again.

Norwegians were already very familiar with President Teddy Roosevelt's strenuous life, that he was the man who had got the Panama Canal underway, and that the Canal would greatly benefit Norway, as one of the principal maritime nations. Stories of Teddy Roosevelt's prowess in the Spanish War a few years before still circulated in Europe, and in March 1905 they had seen pictures of his second inaugural as U.S. president. Otto had a lot of respect for Theodore Roosevelt as a man of vision, as an outdoors man, as a military man, and as a world leader.

During the summer, while Otto Rønningen and pal Victor Larsen were in the border forest, hiding out in haystacks on mountain farms spying on Swedes who wouldn't believe they were an enemy, Theodore Roosevelt's niece Eleanor was touring England, France, Germany, and Italy with her new husband and cousin Franklin, another Roosevelt, on their honeymoon. Otto and Victor were unaware that these Roosevelt's even existed, but in future years their names would appear daily in Otto's newspapers. The Roosevelt's, in their last week in Europe in September, were suddenly engulfed with honors and pleasantries by Europeans going out of their way to honor them by praising Eleanor's Uncle Teddy. As relatives, they got the praise because 'Teddy' wasn't there.

Otto's father, Johan Olsen Rønningen, was a politician like both Roosevelts, but his politics were not ruthless enough to make him 'president' [or equivalent] of his country. He became a country politician at an even younger age than Franklin Roosevelt. He was a representative on the district (rural municipality) board continuously from 1871 to 1907, 37 years, one year more than Franklin Roosevelt 1910-1945. At that time Norway had essentially two main political parties: the Right [Høyre], and the Left [Venstre]. He was a member of the Left, the party of farmers and labor. He favored a royal government, and tirelessly sought independence from Sweden. Yet son Otto's friends and relatives knew that Otto had vowed that he would NEVER become a politician. Otto's stance had been very carefully considered. It was not a childhood tantrum. He campaigned in favor of personal temperance, just as his father did, but he wanted no part of 'politics'.

Norway offered the Norwegian crown to Prince Carl of Denmark. On October 26, the Storting ratified the Karlstad Agreement, after Oscar II declared that he recognized Norway as a separate state. On November 12-13 there was another national vote in Norway. The vast majority voted "yes" for the monarchy. That included a powerful man in Trysil politics, Johan Rønningen, Otto's father, who was a monarchist although he was also a member of the Venstre [left] Party, the party of farmers and labor. In fact, in an obituary published by a newspaper on Johan's death in 1910, it was mentioned that Johan strongly favored separation from Sweden and had voted accordingly.

In Christiania, on November 23, Otto Rønningen, 23, bought his steamer ticket to America. In Copenhagen, invitations had been issued and accepted, arrangements had been made, and on the same November 23rd, the "new" Norway Royal Family sailed, and King Christian, the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, and the Dowager Empress of Russia and other assorted royalty joined the bon voyage party. When Otto departed from Christiania about a week later, he left without such an entourage. The new Norwegian king, 33, was luckier. He got a salute from Kronborg Castle, at Elsinore, (reputed home of Hamlet), as he entered the Kattegat. His party was accompanied by assorted warships, including a German battleship commanded by the German Emperor's brother. By the time the royal party, aboard the royal yacht DANNEBORG, reached Norwegian waters, they were joined by the British battleship, CAESAR, which also accompanied the yacht up the fjord. Dinner on the DANNEBORG that night included Prince Henry (the German Emperor's brother) and the British admiral.

On November 25, Prince Carl, Princess Maud, and little son Prince Olaf [crowned king in 1957] transferred to the Norwegian vessel, HEIMDAL, where they were welcomed formally on the open deck, in fog, with Prince Carl vainly trying to shield baby Olaf from the driving snow. Just past midday, they stepped ashore in the harbor near Akershus Castle. They were acclaimed enthusiastically by thousands in the jammed capital. There were handkerchiefs and flags waving as the new Royal Family sailed across the sea of humanity flooding the Sentrum [downtown] and charted their short run to the palace, past Edvard Grieg and Bjornstjerne Bjornson peering down on them from a balcony.

On November 27, the Storting unanimously elected Prince Carl King of Norway. He took the name, King Haakon VII. Long Live the King! Otto Rønningen was in the midst of it, from November 23 to November 30. What had he thought? We don't know. His ship was waiting in the harbor. If he had had second thoughts, he didn't share them with another soul.

22 The new kingdom was born without bloodshed. For 525 years, Norway had been without its own king in residence in the capital - for 435 years, in union with Denmark. There had been a "ruler" in the capital, spasmodically, but not a king, only a STADTHOLDER [governor general]. The palace, built 1825-1848, had never housed a bonafide king, until 1905. Long Live the King!

23 From that fateful November, Oscar II withdrew from Norway to the east, into Sweden - Otto withdrew to the west, belatedly obeying Horace Greeley's advice to "Go West!". But in the west there was no French Foreign Legion. Like Haakon in his new land, Norway, Otto Rønningen in his new land, America, would have some time to find his bearings and raise his income [Norway had yet to budget for the

monarch they had just accepted!] Both monarch and settler would have slim pickings for some time.

As Otto steamed across the Atlantic in the Christmas month of December, perhaps his thoughts were all on the future. Perhaps in future years he would reflect on what he had left behind in Norway that would not appear in America. His last Christmas in Norway was in 1904. Despite the fact that he had had hero status since his Holmenkollen 3rd prize in February, the country was upset with growing concerns that they might go to war with Sweden. Otto was feeling the stress of a very vigorous young man who needed breathing room! Even as he traveled west in December, his father was still busy with politics.

What Grandfather Johan was doing became clear after the sixteenth of December 1905. The Trysil township board [Trysil Herredsstyre] decided to write a letter to the new King Haakon. The details, including a facsimile of the letter was included in the "1980 yearbook for Trysil." [Årbok for Trysil 1980, pp. 59-61].

Freely Translated:

"LETTER TO KING HAAKON DECEMBER 16, 1905

To King Haakon.

The Trysil Township Board, in its first meeting after you arrived in Kristiania on the twenty-fifth of last month, with your queen and your crown prince, give you their most cordial congratulations in succeeding to Norway's throne. God save the fatherland and the King's family.

On that point we have resolved unanimously to send the following sentiment:

Herr former Prime Minister Steen.

The Trysil Township Board, assembled in a meeting, send you herewith respectfully their best regards plus our heartiest thanks for your vigorous contribution to the Trysil municipality in 1891, and we are now ready to agree to the transaction to buy a large forest area here [for the king's forest].

In meeting assembled:..." [then all the 23 councilmen wrote their signatures, including Otto's brother, Olaf, and his father, Johan Rønningen. Many of the other 21 councilmen were Otto's cousins.]

With alacrity the king replied:

"The Queen and I send the Trysil Township Board our sincerest thanks. Haakon." [The reply is on page 74 of the Årbok of Trysil 1981.]

[On April 9, 1940 the Germans invaded Norway. King Haakon and the government skipped out of Oslo and went to Hamar. Then they escaped to Elverum, but the King had escaped again to Trysil. The German bombers sought the King there, but he was safe temporarily at Nybergsund, Trysil, in the King's Forest. From there he escaped, spending the war years in England.]

Tusen takk til Joy Shong for sending Johan's writings to NHOH News.

Johan's "*Midnight Sun*" article will be available at the stevne to all participants and then be available to other members in the fall along with the entire Askeladden article on disk.

North Hedmark og Hedemarken Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Schedule:

NHOH Newsletters are published three times per year – Spring, Summer, and Fall. Members are welcome to send articles or news at any time of the year, and the editor will put them into the next newsletter, or one that is appropriate.

Please review the guidelines in the November issue of this newsletter.

For the next issue, the deadline to submit articles is Nov.1st, and the mailing target date is Nov. 25.

Send to the Newsletter Editor: (prefer e-mails)
Shirley (Lokstad) Schoenfeld at SASLAX@aol.com
Or mail to: 2208 Sunrise Dr., La Crosse, WI 54601-6831
Phone: 608-788-6596

Policy on advertising in newsletter:

The Board approved that the newsletter editor will accept advertising related to Norwegian culture, heritage and genealogy. Eighth and quarter page ads will be sold for \$15 and \$25, with funds to help offset the cost of producing the newsletter.

NHOH Lag Officers & Directors

President: Dixie Hansen pres@nhohlag.org
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When you contact any officer by e-mail, please use the subject line and indicate NHOH so they know it is not spam. Thank you.

NHOH Newest Members Velkommen !



May, 2008

Jerry and Kay Olson – Pine City, MN
Ancestors from Ringsaker and Stange

Ed. Note: Jerry is this editor's second cousin.

CELEBRATE YOUR BYGDELAG

Numedalslågen, Sogndalag & Trønderlag Reach 100th Year
CONTACT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO EACH 2008 EVENT

JUNE

19-21 – Vestlandslag, Forest City, IA; Bob Hanson, 763-441-4463
Hardanger, Møre og Romsdal, Nord- /Sunnhordland,
Rogaland, Sogndalag CENTENNIAL, Vosselag
19-22 – Hallinglag, Minot, ND; Bob Helling, 218-363-3478
26-28 – Valdres Samband, Austin, MN; Earl Evenstad, 612-861-4793
27-28 – Sunnfjordlag, Grand Forks, ND, Dick Rem, 608-873-9332
27-29 – Nordlandslag & Lappmark Lag, Bemidji, MN,
Christian Skjervold, 763-786-2427

JULY

16-19 – 7 Lag Stevne, Stevens Point, WI; Sandra Hendrickson,
952-892-5402, Landingslag, Chuck Hauke, 320-846-0088;
Hadeland, Jan Huesinkveld, 507-285-9483;
Numedalslågen CENTENNIAL, Chet Habberstad, 218-826-6268;
Sigdalslag, Judy Sosted, 507-645-0499;
Telelag, John Haugo, 715-381-1430;
Ringerike-Drammen, Narv Somdahl, 952-831-4409;
Toten, Marie Brown, 763-588-6666

AUGUST

06-09 - Tre Lag Stevne, Fergus Falls, MN; Trønderlag CENTENNIAL
Linda Schwartz, 847-516-0085;
Gudbrandsdal, Betty Strand, 763-571-1831;
N Hedmark og Hedemarken, Dixie Hansen, 651-690-0872;
07-09 – Sognefjord, Albert Lea, MN; Kathy Johnson, 608-238-1785

SEPTEMBER

06 - Opdalslag, Centerville, SD; Pauline Strait, 605-983-5488
10-13 – Solør Lag, Grand Rapids, MN; Homer Saetre, 218-864-5287
21 - Nordfjordlag, Spicer, MN; Betty Rodi, 320-796-6800
25-27 – Romerikslag, Decorah, IA; Joel Botten, 507-388-1995

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

STEVNE classes, entertainment, ethnic food, fun, genealogy, tours
More affiliates of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad online
www.fellesraad.com

Necrology:

Til Minner Om....

(In memory of)

.....Waddell, Roslyn L., age 85, of Madison, passed away on Wednesday, March 26, 2008. She was born on March 30, 1922, in Spring Valley, WI the daughter of Henry and Jennie (Jacobson) Hogenson. Roslyn married Joseph K. Waddell, Jr. on Aug. 10, 1944, in Atlanta, GA. She served in the United States Navy as a WAVE during World War II, from November 1942 until November 1945. Roslyn and Joseph resided in Madison since 1965. Roslyn worked as a secretary for I.D.S. in Minneapolis, MN. She was a member of Hope Lutheran Church and Daughters of the Nile. She was a charter member of NHOH Lag and former Treasurer.



Roslyn is survived by her husband, Joseph; daughter, Joy Carol (Glen) Shong; and three grandchildren, Joseph K. Waddell IV, James K. Waddell, and Leah (Fahad) Raja. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, J. K. Waddell III; brothers, John and Kenneth Hogenson; and sister, Eleanor Webert.

.....Rockswold, Betty, age 85, passed away on February 6, 2008. She was the genealogist for the Valdres Samband Lag for 29 years, and also a member of NHOH. See article enclosed from the Valdres Budstikken. P.13

In Remembrance of Betty Rockswold

By Aaron Hanson

(Article from Budstikken the newsletter of Valdres Samband, with permission from Editor, Gayle Struska.)

Betty Rockswold was also a member of NHOH. I'm including the whole article from the Valdres Budstikken, as written. Betty was my distant cousin, as Roland Krogstad found out in an earlier stevne "cousin finding."

Shirley Schoenfeld, Ed.

Betty Lou (Thoen) Rockswold, genealogist of the Valdres Samband from about 1980 to 2002 and genealogist emeritus since 2002, passed away on February 6, 2008 at the age of 85. Betty was a member of the Valdres Samband for 29 years. She also belonged to Toten Lag and Nord Hedmarken Lag.



Betty helped countless people with their family history and was instrumental in building a large collection of genealogical resources for the Valdres Samband. Among her accomplishments as genealogist was indexing Tore Ey's book *Vang og Slidre*. She also wrote articles about Norway and

Norwegian customs for *Budstikken*, made contributions to the *Genealogical Helper*, and wrote 26 genealogical family books.

Although Betty's accomplishments as a researcher and collector are impressive, even astounding, I think she will be remembered even more for the manner in which she interacted with people. When people approached her in the genealogy room at a stevne, her face would light up and she would eagerly help them find the information they sought. When people wrote to her at home requesting ancestral information, she would spend hours looking up names and dates and then mail the information to them. She loved to surprise people with the amount of information she collected. And she didn't ask for any financial payment for herself – only for charts, photocopying and postage. In her letters, she included a note stating that if people wanted to make a contribution they could make a donation to the Valdres Samband Genealogy Fund.

Her husband of nearly 24 years, E. Palmer Rockswold, noted that Betty was "The nicest person I ever

met." He added, "Everyone that really knew Betty loved her."

One thing that many people didn't know about Betty was that she was in a group called "The Girls." It was made up of friends that Betty had known since junior and senior high school. Somehow "The Girls" kept in touch with each other for over 67 years. They were more like sisters than friends.

Betty also had many hobbies. She knitted beautiful Norwegian sweaters for everyone in her family. She also enjoyed doing petit-point on 40-holes-per-inch silk gauze. She entered many sweaters and petit point items in the Dakota County Fair and Minnesota State Fair, where she won many sweepstakes and ribbons.

Betty also enjoyed woodworking. I had the privilege of visiting Betty and Palmer in Eagan and seeing the beautiful deck that Betty built before she met Palmer. Palmer noted that Betty's father was an excellent woodworker and had even built a cabin cruiser. Inside Betty and Palmer's townhouse was a large grandfather clock that Betty had made. Other woodworking projects Betty had done included putting together sand boxes for her own children and neighborhood children.

Another interest was travel. Betty visited 22 countries. She and Palmer took many trips, including trips to Europe, Hawaii, Nova Scotia, Key West, California, and the Pacific Northwest. Betty was an avid reader of historical books. She was also a member of the Eastern Star for over 50 years.

Betty was born on August 12, 1922 in Minneapolis to parents Virgil Newton Thoen and Olivia Ida (Swanson) Thoen. Her father was of Norwegian background and her mother Swedish. For many years, Betty didn't take pride in her Norwegian heritage because her father was teased about being Norwegian by his Swedish in-laws. Later Betty discovered her roots in Norway and began to take more pride in her Norwegian heritage. Betty's great-great-grandmother Gjertrud Gulliksdatter was born in Vang in Valdres in 1817. Gjertrud's parents were Gullik Knudsen Helle and Sigri Tomasdatter Torstad.

Betty graduated from North High School in Minneapolis in June of 1940. She married Joel Green Sr. who was a flight instructor in the Air Force. During World War II Betty and Joel lived in Georgia. They had two children: Jann Lee Green in 1943 and Joel George Green Jr. in 1949.

Joel Jr., who is a chiropractor in Massachusetts, remembered that his mom was good with her hands. When he was growing up, she would make drapes and mend his clothes. Palmer noted that Betty used to take orders for drapes.

Joel Jr. also remembered that she never missed one of his baseball games from Little League all of the way through college at the University of Miami. This positive support contributed to Joel's playing professional baseball with the Chicago Cubs.

Betty and Joel Sr. later got divorced. After that time Betty worked as a secretary for an executive at Sperry Univac in Eagan, MN.

In 1975 Betty married Richard L. Thistlethwaite, a chemist and head of quality control for Munsingwear. Richard Thistlethwaite died suddenly of a heart attack in 1979.

In 1982, Betty met Palmer Rockswold at the Seven Lag stevne in Decorah, IA. Betty was selling banquet tickets and Palmer was autographing his book *Per*. Palmer recalled that he helped Betty earlier in the day with her luggage. Then, while waiting in line for the banquet, Palmer asked, "Are you alone?" She said "Yes." That was the start of a long relationship.

The following December, Betty sent Palmer a Christmas card. She claimed it was her last one and didn't know what to do with it!

Six month's later, Betty and Palmer attended their first Valdres Samband stevne together. Although they were living 180 miles apart (Palmer on a lake near Fergus Falls and Betty in Eagan), they drove together to Mount Horeb.

Betty's and Palmer's children supported the relationship. On February 11, 1984 Betty and Palmer were married.

They lived in Eagan until January of 2007, when they moved to a care unit in Edina, MN. Palmer noted that she had been doing better since they moved to the new housing.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter Jann (Green) Matuseski, her brother Don R. Thoen, and by husbands Joel G. Green Sr. and Richard L. Thistlethwaite. She is survived by her husband, E. Palmer Rockswold; son, Dr. Joel Green (Kay); brother, Dick Thoen; seven grandchildren, Brian, Christopher, Brittany and Andrew Green, Paige (Matuseski) Curry, Cara (Matuseski) Wahlberg (Scott), and Joel P. Matuseski. Her great-grandchildren are Noah and Toby Wahlberg and Eli and Liam Curry. She is also survived by step-sons Dr. Gaylan Rockswold (Mary), Dr. Gordon Rockswold (Anne), Grant Rockswold and Dr. Gary Rockswold (Wendy), plus eight step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Betty's life was held on February 9, 2008 at Mt. Calvary Church in Eagan, MN. Several members of the Valdres Samband attended the memorial service, including President Earl Evenstad and Secretary Diane Lerohl. Diane commented, "The memorial service was beautiful with two large, tasteful bouquets. A large photo of Betty looked beautiful – she could have been a movie star."

Memorials may be sent to a charity of one's choosing. Betty's favorite charity for many years was The Boys **Choir** of Harlem, 2005 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035.



SETTLEMENT OF BARDU in Troms

This paper is written by Walter Strømslid, from Bardu, Norway,
2nd cousin of Shirley Schoenfeld,
Translated to English by his son Svein-Roald Strømslid.

Jens Holmboe was born at Lesja in Gudbrandsdalen in the year of 1751. He was studying law in Copenhagen and got his position as governor in Trondenes in 1780. Holmboe was very interested in farming and bought the governor farm Ervik in Trondenes. He established here a farm which after these days was a very good farm. He met little understanding for his farming among the population who mostly were living off fishing on the sea.

Holmboe had a dream of colonizing Bardu and Målselv. He spent a lot of time and his own money on several trips to these valleys. Here he found an untouched and virgin landscape without a settlement, only people who occasionally moved their reindeers through the valley.

Holmboe got Lieutenant Nicolai Hersleb Ramn to conduct the first surveying and chart drawing of the valley of Bardu in 1789. Ramn described the valley of Bardu as a little paradise. He found here everything, a rich variety of plants and a rich variety of animals. He described, for instance, that one could catch a fish with the bare hands in the river Barduelva. Holmboe and Ramn were good ambassadors for a settlement of Bardu.

Holmboe who lived by the coast in Trondenes was now convinced that the people living by the coast never would settle down in the countryside. He then started a big enlightening campaign in his home district in Gudbrandsdalen. **Ramn who lived in Tynset started an enlightening work in Østerdalen. Nobody had any information of Nordlandene which was the name of the country north of Trondheim.**

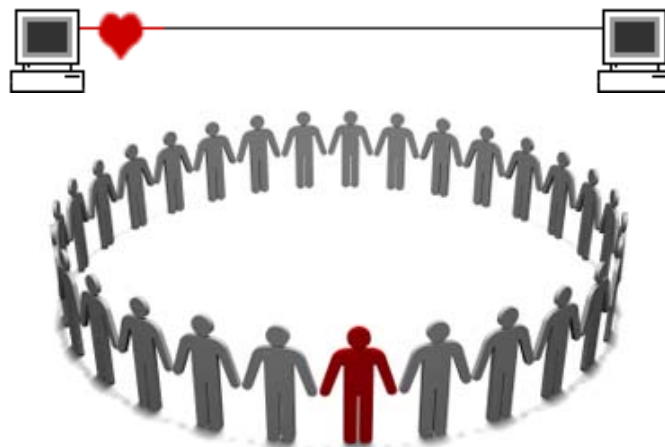
Holmboe's idea of the colonizing of Bardu began with the movement of **John Simonsen Kaldbækken from Tønseth (Tynset) and Ole Olsen Brandvold from Lillelvdal with families from their homes to Bardufjord in the summer of 1791.** After that an increasing amount of families moved to Bardu. It was mostly families without their own farm and single men which could not get a farm, who moved to Bardu. In Bardu they got the opportunity to get their own farm.

In the beginning it was a very hard time for the settlers, and Ramn had expected this when he chose John Simonsen and Ole Olsen who were known as solid and strong persons. It was these two men Ramn persuaded to go to Bardu. Ramn and Holmboe kept a close eye on the colonists. Holmboe helped them with both money and food. Both John and Ole expressed their great gratitude to an openhanded and warm-hearted governor.

The first people who came to Bardu went by foot. The people who came later to Bardu from Gudbrandsdalen went by foot to Trondheim and by the coastal steamer (hurtigruten) from Trondheim to Sørreisa, and the last bit from Sørreisa to Bardu again by foot. **It was this way of traveling the whole family Korgen from Gudbrandsdalen used when they came to Bardu. It was told that they went to Trondheim by foot, and all their belongings they pulled after them in a vehicle that was both a hand-sledge and a carriage.** If there were summer in Gudbrandsdalen, it could be snow on Dovrefjell.

The growth of the population was stable and 34 years later, in 1825, the population in Bardu was 225 people. After another 95 year, in 1920, the population was reached 1758 people. The earliest settlers were from North Hedmark.

This editor wrote to Otter Tail County to try get some bits of information that may whet your appetite for some research there, and this is all I could get from them... I'm sure there will be more information at the stevne.



Otter Tail County Historical Society
1110 Lincoln Avenue West, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Application for Search of History Collections

Because of the ballooning cost of maintaining and servicing our library collection and the increase of requests received through the mail and over the internet, we must require a minimum fee for searching our files. The fee is \$12.00 per hour with a minimum one hour charge. Material is copied for \$0.20 per sheet.

If it is possible for you to visit our facility the standard admission fee of \$5.00 is charged for the use of our library (students with a valid ID and members can use the library free of charge). During your visit you will receive staff assistance, but will conduct the research on your own and photocopies are available at \$0.20 per sheet.

In order to do the best possible job, please state specifically what information you request. Please give us as much background information, including dates, as possible and allow a minimum of two weeks for a response.

Vicky Anderson, Research Assistant
Otter Tail County Historical Society
1110 Lincoln Ave West, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
www.otchs.org

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005

This long-awaited publication is now in print and available for purchase. Generously illustrated with 150+ photographs old and new, this 144-page book recounts the foundation of our lag, including our historic roots, our formative meeting in Madison, the establishment of our governing body, and a decade full of activities and stevner.



Later chapters include selected stories of emigration and settlement and articles reprinted from the NHOH newsletter. The book concludes with a full appendix of documents associated with our lag history as well as an every name index.

Purchase a copy for yourself and for the members of your family who share your Norwegian roots.

Order Form - Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken - Highlights of the First Ten Years

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>\$ Each</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
NHOH Book	_____	\$18.96	_____
5.5% WI tax <i>if applicable</i>	_____	\$1.04	_____ <i>tax applies for WI residents</i>
Shipping/Handling US*	_____	\$2.54	_____
Total Enclosed			_____ <i>Make check payable to NHOH</i>

*Surface Shipping to Norway substitute \$5.15

Mail Your Order to: Joy Shong - 523 S. Concord Rd - Oconomowoc, WI 53066



2008 Tre Lag Stevne

VOICES OF THE PRAIRIE

Stemmer av Prærien

Wednesday, 6 August



Time	Event
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Registration for Wednesday Tour Participants
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Fergus Falls Area Guided Bus Tour Stops include The historic <i>Phelps Mill</i> , the <i>Underwood Log Cabin</i> , <i>Underwood Church</i> and the <i>Prairie Wetlands Learning Center</i> – Tour Guide: <i>Chris Schuelke</i>
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
7:00 PM - 7:20 PM	Opening Ceremony – Emcee - Gary Olson; Call of the Lur – Gene Nelson; National Anthems of US, Canada, and Norway; Welcome from Fergus Falls Mayor Russell Anderson; Greetings from the Lag Presidents; Pianist – Johanna Hocker
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: Norwegian Genealogy and the Internet – Marilyn Sorensen
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Genealogy Lab Open

Thursday, 7 August

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Trønderlag Business Meeting
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Genealogy Lab Open
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Vendor Displays Open
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Craft Demonstration – Rosemaling – Lois Mueller
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: On The Road: A Sampling of Folksy Television Stories about Norwegian-Americans
	Seminar: What I have Learned in Compiling a Bygdebok – Even Bergsengstuen
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open
10:30 AM - 11:20 AM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: Beginning Genealogy – Polly Johnson
	Seminar: Researching and Writing a Story About Where You Grew Up – Roland Krogstad
11:30 AM - 1:15 PM	Lunch (on your own)
1:15 PM - 2:05 PM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: Vocabulary for Reading a Bygdebok – John Reindl
	Seminar: Lefse Making - Darlene Ellefson (<i>space limited to 16</i>)
2:15 PM - 2:45 PM	Coffee and Refreshment Break
2:45 PM - 3:35 PM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: Funerals, Deaths, and Cemeteries in Norway – Jim Olson
	Seminar: Organizing and Managing Your Photos - Joy Shong
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Dinner and Theatre (<i>provide your own transportation</i>)
	Underwood Lions Pork Chop Dinner - (<i>Location: Hillcrest Lutheran Academy</i>)
	A Special Presentation of “The Emigrants” performed by a theatre group from Rissa and Lensvik, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway (<i>Location: Hillcrest Lutheran Academy</i>)
9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Theatre “After Glow” (meet and greet the Norwegian performers – back at the Best Western Restaurant and Lounge) along with the Tre Lag Musicians Jam Session

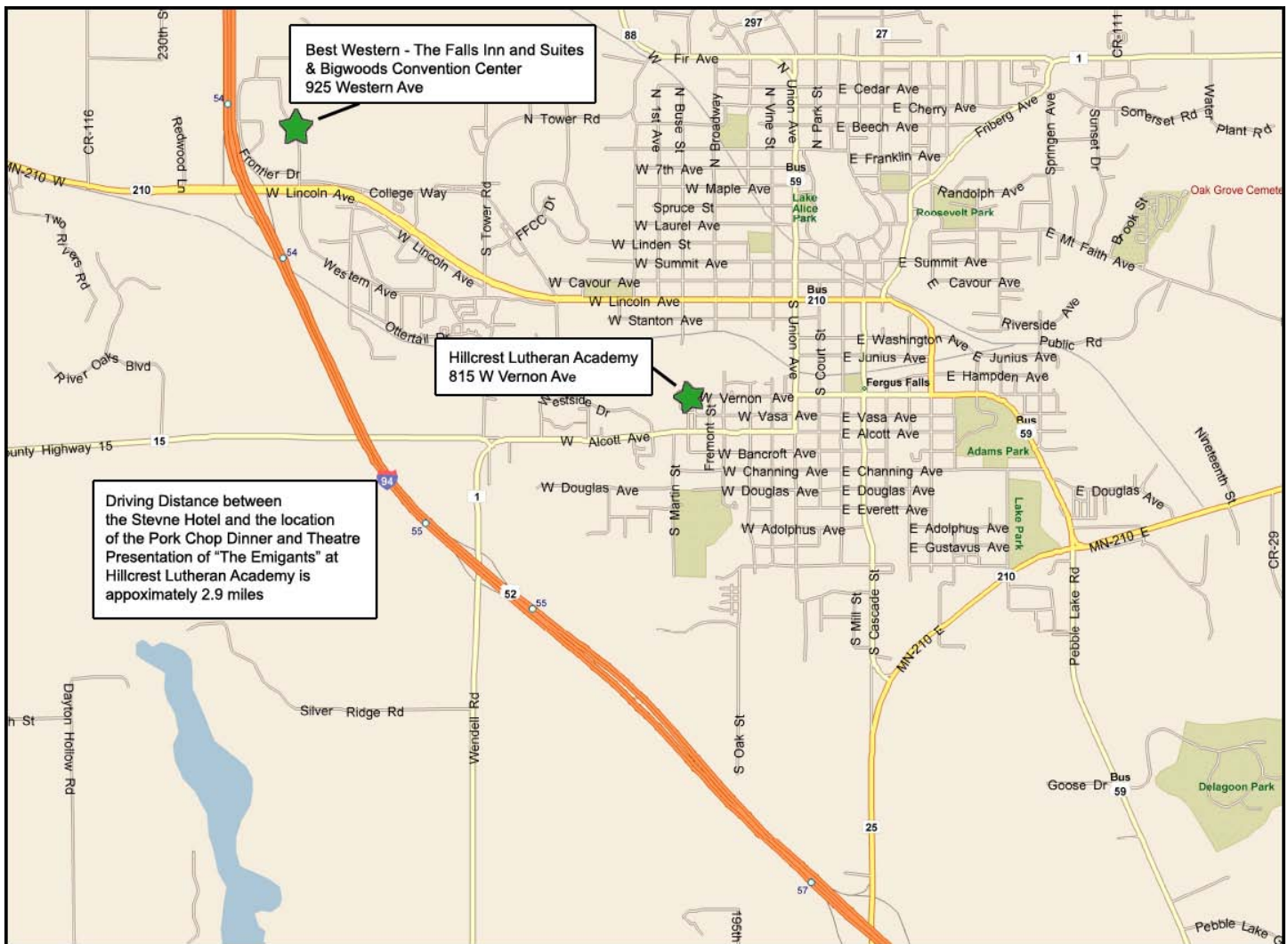
2008 Tre Lag Stevne Agenda

Friday, 8 August

Time	Event
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Business Meeting
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Vendor Displays Open
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Genealogy Lab Open
9:00 AM - 12:00 N	Hardanger Class #1– Clarice Dieter (<i>Limited to 6 participants who will be selected through a random drawing on Thursday of those who sign up at the registration table. A \$25 class fee will be collected at the time of the class. Supplies available for purchase</i>)
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: News from Dalton – Noble Hatling, Fergus Falls
	Seminar: The Emigration Trail from Trøndelag to Minnesota – Oddgeir Fossli
	Seminar: Peter Wessel Tordenskiold – Naval Hero Extraordinaire – C. Marvin Lang
10:20 AM - 10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: Norwegian Churches in Otter Tail County – Chris Schuelke
	Seminar: Well, We've Come This Far, May as Well Keep Going – Dale Lammi
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Trønderlag Centennial Genealogy Lab
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Hardanger Class #2 – Clarice Dieter (<i>Limited to 6 participants who will be selected through a random drawing on Thursday of those who sign up at the registration table. A \$25 class fee will be collected at the time of the class. Supplies available for purchase</i>)
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Keynote Address: The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence – Scott F. Wolter
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Coffee Break
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Memorial Service – Pastor, Gary Flatgard; Pianist, Johanna Hocker; Soloist, Dave Kuehnel
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: Settlement Patterns for Emigrants from Trøndelag – Jostein Molde
	Seminar: Peter Wessel Tordenskiold – Naval Hero Extraordinaire – C. Marvin Lang
	Seminar: Well, We've Come This Far, May as Well Keep Going – Dale Lammi
5:30 PM	Trønderlag Lag Group Photo
5:45 PM	Gudbrandsdal Lag Group Photo
6:00 PM	Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Group Photo
6:15 PM - 7:00 PM	Hospitality Hour
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Stevne Banquet – Emcee Linda Schwartz; Pianist, Johanna Hocker; Bunad Parade; Entertainment by Tennessee Ernie Fjord & Company
	And...following the banquet... Tre Lag Musicians Jam Session...

Saturday, 9 August

Time	Event
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Trønderlag Centennial Genealogy Lab
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Gudbrandsdal Lag Business Meeting
10:30 AM - 11:20 AM	Concurrent Seminars
	Seminar: Norwegian Folk Dancing – Polly Johnson
	Seminar: On The Road: A Sampling of Folksy Television Stories about Norwegian-Americans
11:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Stevne Luncheon – Emcee Dixie Hansen; Entertainment by The Accordion Harmonies – Preview of 2009 South Saint Paul Stevne – Closing Ceremony



The staged version of **"The Emigrants"** is a modern theatrical version of the story. Through the use of subtle effects and a fine balance between music, song and speech, the audience is drawn into the unfolding drama of the adventurous Norwegians in their new homeland. The adaptation is faithful to the novel and paints a close and poignant picture of the story's main characters. We are introduced to a group of people from Rissa in Trøndelag, who emigrate to North Dakota in the 1880s. They leave their homes in hope of a better life "over there," only to find themselves struggling even harder to make a living on the vast prairie. They barely survive a big prairie fire, and their first winter they have to cope with a wild blizzard. But they realize that they have become joined with one another, and agree to press on with their new life in Nidaros Settlement.

They have a hard time adjusting to the flat landscape, the heat and the loneliness. But more people move to the same area, a church is built and slowly a town emerges as American industrialization starts to take hold in this part of the States. Their destinies unfold throughout the play: Erik Foss doesn't make it through the first winter. Morten Kvidal is torn between the two countries; he becomes a wealthy, powerful man in America, but fails to fulfill his dream of restoring his home farm in Rissa. Per Føll struggles with bouts of jealousy and homesickness. A political and religious rebel, he is thrown into doubt and madness. Anne from Ramsøy, Per's wife, finds comfort and support in her fond memories of Norway, which keeps her strong and happy in spite of the loss of her husband. The young teacher Jo Berg is not prepared for the heavy workload his new life demands; he searches for a mission, and ultimately finds one – writing the stories of the new settlers. Anton Noreng is a lazy youngster seeking an easy way to make money who is transformed into a grown-up man the moment he meets the love of his life when a group of Irish immigrants arrive. Kal and Karen Skaret are the poorest of the Norwegians, and America offers them more than they had ever dreamed of. The vast acreage and the fertile soil is almost too good to be true for a family that had tried to make something out of their tiny, dry plot of land back home.





*Voices of the Prairie
Stemmer av Prärien*

Tre Lag Stevne Registration

Best Western – The Falls Inn and Suites

Bigwood Event Center – Fergus Falls, Minnesota



August 6-9, 2008
Pre-Registration Requested by 15 July 2008

A joint stevne for Gudbrandsdalslaget, Trønderlag of America, and Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

Walk-in registrations are permitted if space is available. Reservations are required for the Fergus Falls Tour, Dinner and Theatre Event, Friday Banquet, and Saturday Lunch. Participants need to make hotel reservations separately. A separate Trønderlag Registration Form should be completed for those attending the Saturday 9 August Centennial Events.

First and Last Name (1st registrant)

Nickname? (for nametag)

First and Last Name (2nd registrant)

Nickname? (for nametag)

Street Address

E-Mail Address

City, State, Zip

Phone #

Registrant #1 (check each current lag membership that applies)

☐ Gudbrandsdalslaget ☐ Trønderlag ☐ Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag ☐ Not a member

Registrant #2 (check each current lag membership that applies)

☐ Gudbrandsdalslaget ☐ Trønderlag ☐ Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag ☐ Not a member

Event	\$ Each	# of Reg	Total \$
Stevne Registration –fee covers all 4 days	\$28.00	x	\$
Wednesday Fergus Falls Area Tour (includes coach bus and local guides). Space may be limited.	\$17.00	x	\$
Thursday Pork Chop Dinner & Theatre (includes Pork Chop Picnic Dinner and ticket to "The Emigrants"). Provide your own transportation.	\$30.00	x	\$
Friday Banquet and Entertainment on site	\$27.00	x	\$
Saturday Lunch and Entertainment on site	\$14.00	x	\$
Total Enclosed*			\$
(make check payable to Tre Lag Stevne)			\$

Note: Membership renewals should be handled directly with your lag – not here please.

Mail registration and payment to:

Dixie Hansen
Tre Lag Stevne Registrar
1411 Osceola Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105-2312

To reserve a room, call
Best Western – The Falls Inn and Suites
925 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN
800-293-2216
Tre Lag Room Rate is valid until 7/1/08 – Ask for it.

*A note only to those registering from Norway: To avoid money-transfer issues, we'll hold off on collecting payment from you until you check-in at the Stevne. However, we do request that you send in your Registration Form by deadline to ensure that we have reserved space for you at those Stevne events you plan to attend. If you plan to stay in the conference hotel, you must book that reservation directly with the hotel. They will secure the reservation with your credit card.

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News
 Shirley (Lokstad) Schoenfeld, Editor
 2208 Sunrise Dr.
 La Crosse, WI 54601-6831



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Membership Renewal or New Memberships Form

If mailing label has 2007 on the top line, it means Lag dues expire December 31, 2007 and are now due for 2008. Memberships include spouses, so please include both names if applicable. Consider giving gift memberships. Make check payable to **NHOH Lag** and send with completed form to **Joy Shong, Treasurer, 523 S. Concord Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066**

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____
 _____ Renewal _____ Gift Membership _____

Ancestors in Hedmark from kommune:

Åmot _____ Alvdal _____ Elverum _____ Engerdal _____ Folldal _____ Løten _____ Hamar _____ Os _____
 Rendalen _____ Ringsaker _____ Stange _____ Stor-Elvdal _____ Tolga _____ Trysil _____ Tynset _____ Vang _____

If kommune unknown list parish, town, or other geographic place _____

Volunteers Needed

The lag is only possible because of the work of many volunteers. Please consider volunteering for any of the following:

- Newsletter (contribute articles, assist with mailing, suggest topics for articles, etc.)
- Leadership (Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership, Board members)
- Genealogy - Web page
- Stevne (planning, registration desk, staff hospitality room, help lag genealogist in lab)
- Anything you think the Lag should provide as a service!

I would like to volunteer for: _____

Dues for Individuals/Couples: ____ 1 year (\$10) ____ 2 years (\$18) ____ 3 years (\$25) Total Dues: _____

Genealogy donation: _____

NHOH is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization

Total enclosed: _____