

NHOH News

Volume 20 Number 1

Spring 2015

Published 3 times per year by: **Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag**

2015 Theme is *"Staying In Touch from Posten to Posting"*

2015 Tre-Lag Stevne
August 5-8, 2015
The Plaza Hotel and
Suites
1202 West Clairemont Ave.,
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Reservations

1-800-482-7829

Make reservations under
Group Block # 8872

Reservation discounted
price Cut off – July 4

Our stevne room price will be
\$80.00 plus tax

Room Choices are:

Standard: 2 Queen beds

Tower: Business Rooms
with 2 Queen beds

Atrium: By pool, 2 double beds
By pool, 2 queen beds

What's Inside?

- 1) 2015 Stevne Information and Pres. Letter
- 2) Who are We? List of officers
- 3) Gausta paintings
- 4) In Decorah (con't.)
- 5) NHOH 10-Year Book orders
- 6) Fellesraad information
- 7) Genealogy Information by John Reindl
- 8) Website Information and Necrology
- 9) Norwegian American Heritage Center-Stoughton and NAHA
- 10) Stevne Plaza Hotel info.
- 11) Norway Emigration and special stamp made
- 12) Membership Application

Hilsen! fra Presidenten Joy Shong

Is anyone else fed up with winter? Raise your hands. Nice to see we all agree. Being from the Wisconsin, I should be used to cold and snow, but enough is enough. Though, by nasty weather standards the Midwest has been relatively tolerable compared to the misery Mother Nature has dumped on the rest of the country. Many of the weather records broken again this year date back to the 1880's. It makes me appreciate our ancestor's hardiness.



Those same ancestors banded together to support each other through bad weather and other hardships. They also banded together to form lags, to keep in touch with other immigrants from their original homelands. Those early lags formed a lag of lags, the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad 99 years ago this year. Preparations are underway for the centennial celebration on May 6-7, 2016 which will be held in Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. The NHOH Lag plans to have a booth at the event to share information about our lag and Hedmark heritage. Your Board of Directors have started planning for the event and encourage all our members to try to attend and participate in the celebration. Please let us know if you would like to be involved.

Given that all of the lags are now more than 100 years old, it is not surprising that as time passes, so do some of our members. This year one of our most dedicated volunteers, Bob Christensen, passed away in January. Bob was our long-time web master and photographer for the Tre-Lag Stevner. I met Bob at a NHOH stevne in Madison, Wisconsin and discovered that we were distant cousins. I believe Bob had more ancestral connections with other lag member than anyone else in the lag. Please read Bob's obituary included in this issue, and remember him fondly.

With Bob's passing we now must find someone to take over the management of our web page. If you have any web develop skills, please consider volunteering your time and talent to keep NHOH Lag information available to our members and the public. Contact any of the board members if you are interested and would like more information, or if you have any suggestions for the web page.

Hilsen fra
Joy Shong

WHO ARE WE?

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag includes 16 kommuner in the three districts of Nord-Østerdal, Sør-Østerdal, and Hedemarken/Hamar as follows:



District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal
Folldal
Os
Rendalen
Tolga
Tynset

District 2:

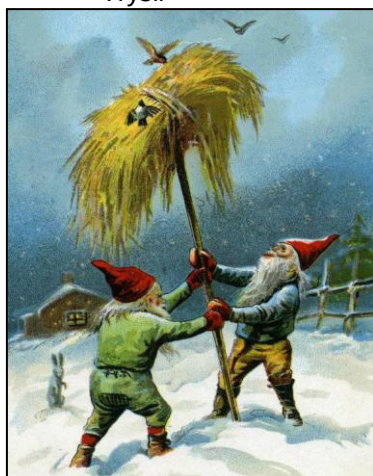
Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot
Elverum
Engerdal
Stor Elvedal
Trysil

District 3:

Hedemarken and Hamar

Furnes
Hamar
Løten
Nes
Ringsaker
Romedal
Stange
Vang



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.

Issue	Submit by	Mailing Target
Spring	March 1	March 15
Summer	June 1	June 15
Fall	Nov. 15	Nov. 25

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.

Prairie Crossing Picture



Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter.

Articles, photos and graphics relating to Norwegian history, culture, emigration and Lag activities, especially those with meaning to the NHOH geographical area are invited. Articles may be historical in nature or may highlight current resources available to help members research their heritage. Articles about Norw/American community events of interest to our members are welcome.

Send to Editor Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld by e-mail SASLAX@aol.com

Our Purpose

The Lag is organized exclusively for educational purposes. To the extent consistent with this general purpose, the specific purposes of the Lag are:

- to help people learn more about the history, culture, and customs of the Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken area of Norway and to aid in the preservation of that heritage
- to teach and assist people in genealogy research
- to gather immigration and settlement history and develop immigration data
- to develop a library of resources, such as bygdebøker (farm histories) and Norwegian church, census, and probate records.
- to encourage the research and writing of family, immigration, and settlement histories

When contacting any officer by e-mail, please put NHOH in the subject line so we know it is not spam. Thank you.

NHOH Lag Officers & Directors

President: Joy Shong.....pres@nhohlag.org
Vice-Pres.: Chris Falteisek.....chrisfalteisek@gmail.com
Secretary: Gay Kearin.....Chechon@aol.com
Treasurer: Ron Helstad.....treasurer@nhohlag.org
Membership: Dixie Hansendx@dxhansen.com
Director: Gary Olsonolson.gm33@gmail.com
Director: Gary Flatgard.....flatgardmn@aol.com
Director: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com
Past-President: Dixie Hansen.....dx@dxhansen.com
Editor: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com
Genealogist: John Reindl.....genealogy@nhohlag.org
Web Master:

Thanks to Sandy Aune for the old Norwegian postcards.

Washington Prairie volunteers uncover more than spirit of giving

[The Decorah Newspaper](#) April 16, 2009 by L Greiner



Herbjørn Gausta (1854-1924) "The Haymakers" Oil, ca. 1880's

You never know what you're going to find in an old house. But when volunteers at the Washington Prairie parsonage started an extensive remodel recently — they had a pretty good idea. "We wanted to see if the story about the famous paintings was legend or lore," said Volunteer Karla Bakken of Decorah. The paintings she was referring to were original drawings by Norwegian artist [Herbjørn Gausta](#), reportedly covered over by layers of wallpaper and paint throughout the years.

What they found was more than they could have imagined — 21 pictures — and still counting. "In the past, three of the paintings had been preserved and exposed. I had always heard there were more," said Bakken, who contacted Darrell Henning, curator emeritus of Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, for advice on how to best attack the daunting task of uncovering the work. "He showed me the way to take the four layers of wallpaper off without harming the pictures," said Bakken, who has since spent hour after hour delicately uncovering the wallpaper, strip by strip.

About Gausta's stay:

Norwegian immigrant Herbjørn Gausta (1854 – 1924) is considered by historians as "a painter of exceptional talent who appears to have been the first professional artist of Norwegian immigrant origin." He lived with the U.V. Koren family at the Washington Prairie parsonage while teaching at Luther College from 1886 to 1887, staying with them on other occasions as well. They are credited with the establishment of Luther College.

Vilhelm Koren led Washington Prairie Church from its establishment in 1853 until 1910 when his son, Paul Koren, took over. During the time Gausta stayed with the Korens, he left his signature in the form of extensive drawings on the plaster walls of the small room in which he lived.

In 1941, the Decorah Journal ran a story entitled, "Artist drew on Koren walls 55 years ago," detailing the sketches adorning the walls of the room. At the time, the charcoal renderings had been preserved with a fixative and left intact for all to see. In a written history of Washington Prairie Church, the drawings' fight for survival is chronicled.

"Pastor Sansgaard said that when Pastor Engebretson came to the parsonage before he moved in, he found some ladies scrubbing with SOS pads trying to get rid of those pictures. A couple of the pictures were nudes and apparently that was the factor that sparked their removal," said the church history. "Engebretson said he had worked real hard to stop the ladies from going any further, but they kept scrubbing while he talked. The ladies finally stopped, but to this day, the scrubbing marks that the SOS pads left are still evident."

Sometime after the article ran in the Journal, all but three of the paintings were covered over with wallpaper, failing to see the light of day until recently, when Bakken brought them back to life.

A big project:

But it's a discovery that almost didn't happen. Not all of the members of the Washington Prairie congregation felt the church should put the amount of work required into restoring the ailing structure. "We're in the process of calling a new pastor to our church right now, and we knew the whole house needed to be updated. There are many people in the congregation who didn't want to save this parsonage," said Bakken. Instead, some of the parishioners thought the house and a few acres should be sold, and a brand new home constructed for the incoming pastor. But volunteer Duane Snyder of Decorah said he didn't think that was such a great idea.

"They had it appraised at \$150,000 with so many acres. Personally, with the way the house was before we started working on it, I don't think we would have gotten \$50,000 for it," said Snyder. After putting it to a vote, it appeared the majority was in favor of saving the historic home, and by February, around 50 volunteers, ages four through 88, began logging hundreds of hours restoring the large, country home.

"In a little over a month, we've logged more than 1,300 hours of volunteer labor," said Snyder. "I've got three or four gentlemen here every day donating their time. I'm pushing it now because some of them are farmers. Right now I've got free labor and I'm using it," said Snyder.

Amazing generosity:

Snyder said although the church took out a loan for \$50,000 for the construction, “We haven’t had to touch that. Everything has been paid for with donations. Even our lunches are usually provided by ladies from the church – I think we’ve only had to go to town once for lunch,” added Snyder.

The committee:

The parsonage committee includes Bakken, Snyder, Joel Teslow, Wayne Wangsness, Paul Estrem, Kenny Otteson, Ron Moen, Carl Svenson and Gerry Johnson, all of Decorah. Snyder said Bakken, the only woman on the committee, “has to put up with all of us guys.” But Bakken doesn’t mind, and the men seem to have the utmost respect for her tireless dedication to Gausta’s little room in the corner of the upstairs. “There’s a sign on the door that says, ‘Please do not work in this room unless you talk to Karla first,’” said Snyder. “I don’t let many people in here to work on this. I guess I’ve taken ownership of this space,” said Bakken. “They pretty much keep out of here - Paul Estrem has even started calling it Karla’s cave,” she joked.

What’s next?:

Once the parsonage is completed, Bakken said the room with Gausta’s drawings will be adorned with Pastor Koren’s bed and one of his chairs. “This room will be preserved. And whoever we get as a pastor will know that we would like to show it off to people who are interested ... This room will be visited by many people,” she said. As for the rest of the house, Snyder said he hopes the volunteers are adding enough value to the home so, if the church ever does find itself in a position where it needs to sell the house and a few acres, it could be sold for significantly more money. “It’s been at least 30 years since anyone touched this place. That’s a long time,” said Snyder.

Historical significance:

As for Bakken, she just hopes her efforts will be preserved. “There are people in the congregation who didn’t want to save the parsonage. But now nobody questions what I’ve been doing. All the members are quite amazed at what we’ve uncovered here,” she said.

Preserving history:

Henning said he appreciates the effort the volunteers at Washington Prairie are putting in to save such a rare piece of history. “As a historian and former curator and director of Vesterheim, the Vilhelm Koren family were probably the most prominent individuals connected with the Lutheran church in America, of all the million immigrants,” said Henning.

Henning added, while he looks upon all of the Norwegian immigrants as “nation builders,” “Among the Norwegians,

the Korens and a few others stand tall. Preserving the home is a very tangible monument of their presence and contribution to America as it is today.”

Regarding the rediscovery of Gausta’s work, Henning said, “Among the Norwegians in America, he is considered prominent among the art community. He was taken under the wing of Koren who financed his studies in Europe, because he recognized talent in this young man.”

Although he never received great fame in his lifetime, his portraits and landscapes are now recognized as important contributions to the Norwegian American art scene as well as in America.”

After leaving Decorah, Gausta established his studio in Minneapolis, where he lived until his death at age 70. He was never married. He is most famous for his numerous portraits of prominent Norwegian-American individuals and about 400 altar pieces for Norwegian-American churches. He is buried in Harmony MN, alongside a 16-foot granite monument which was erected in his honor in 1927.

Note from the Editor -

The Viking ship article in this newsletter was found to be a fake. It had been posted on Facebook that sounded very interesting. A website that reports fake (not true) articles is



www.worldnewsdailyreport.com on its site. It is called a satirical site, similar to www.onion.com that also have fake, satirical articles. That website does many fake articles, but they make they look very plausible. The Onion apparently has funnier articles so it is easier to tell that they aren't true, but the worldnewsdailyreport.com had it sound serious, so it is easier to not know that it is fake. Thanks to NHOH Member Sharon Bowen for bringing it to my attention. My sincere apologies for believing that fantastic story. Shirley Schoenfeld, Editor

State Minnesota Incorporated place Minneapolis Ward of city
County Henning Township or other division of county Block Nos
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-11876

LOCATION		HOUSEHOLD DATA		NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	
Male	Female	Married	Single			Color of hair	Age at last birthday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	1			OTTO	Head	F	W 31
2	1			Juditta	Wife-H	F	N 4
3	1			Alf	Son	M	W 4
4	1				Son	M	W 2
5	1			Petersen	Head	M	W 51
6	1				Wife-H	F	W 50

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005



This publication is still 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.

Membership Renewal Policy

Members need to check the year next to their name on the newsletter address label, especially on the fall newsletter.

Reminders will be sent for expired memberships early in the year following the year of expiration, with a renewal deadline of Mid-March, prior to the spring newsletter.

Members who get their newsletters via e-mail will be sent a reminder.

Purchase a copy of the First Ten Years book 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 _____

Qty.

Each

Total \$

NHOH Book

\$22.50

\$_____ Includes shipping & handling US*

Total Enclosed

Surface Shipping to Norway – add \$5.50

\$_____ Make check payable to NHOH

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



1916-2016 100 years

SAVE THE DAY! Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

Make plans to attend the celebration of our 100th year of partnership with the Bygdelag movement in America.

This will be a celebration of accomplishments, culture, common history and communities of those with Norwegian ancestry.

The celebration will be held **May 5-8, 2016** in Mpls.

May 5 at the DoubleTree by Hilton In Bloomington

May 6-7 at the Earle Brown Heritage Ctr., Mpls.

Frequently updated information on the events and opportunities to be involved in the planning, can be found at:

<http://fellesraad.com/centennial>





Genealogy News – John Reindl, Lag Genealogist

Finding Information on Norwegians in the Civil War

Living in Madison, WI, I am reminded about the role of Norwegians in the Civil War every time I walk around our State Capitol, which has a statue of Colonel Hans Christian Heg, who created and led the Wisconsin 15th Infantry Regiment. This regiment was also known as the Scandinavian Regiment, since almost all of its members were Scandinavian, with an estimated 90% being Norwegian. Even its motto was in Norwegian: "For Gud og Vort Land!" ("For God and Our Country!") The statue of Colonel Heg is the only statue on the outside of our State Capitol.

Researching the soldiers has just become a bit easier through a new web page on the site of the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC&NL), as well as the web page of the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

The basis of the NAGC&NL web page is a donation from Scott Meeker, a historian of the 15th Regiment. Mr. Meeker donated his extensively researched and documented web page on the Regiment to the Center, which has added new information and just made the site available to the public.

The web page for the Center is <http://www.nagcnl.org/>, and a large red bar appears half way down the page, announcing the database and inviting users to click on the bar. Six categories are listed on the next page:

- 15th Intro
- Soldier Search
- Company Rosters
- Regiment history
- How you can help
- Contributors

For those searching for soldiers by last name, the 'Soldier Search' category is the most helpful. It can be searched by either by the first letter of the last name or by one or more of four fields:

- Last name
- Birth place
- Rank
- Residence at muster in

Because many Norwegians spelled their names in different ways, some soldiers are listed multiple times in the listing, under each of the names that the Center was able to find. Currently, there are about 1,000 listings for the 15th Regiment.

For each soldier, the site provides – if available – a photo, birth and death dates and locations, the names of the parents and spouse or spouses, and a description of the soldier's service in the Civil War, followed by the references. Some listings are several pages long, while others have few details.

The Center's database is a work-in-progress and, not only are staff updating the data on a weekly basis, but the public is invited to share additional information as well as corrections.

Also invited are recommendations to improve the database, including other search categories.

Beside the genealogical and biographical information on the soldiers, the Center's site also includes a substantial amount of information on the Civil War battles in which the Wisconsin 15th was involved. This information will also be updated in the future.

For a listing of Norwegians who served in all units of the Civil War, a great web page is that of the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, located at <http://vesterheim.org/CivilWar/db/>. This database has four categories:

- [Soldiers' Names](#)
- [Abbreviations](#)
- [Sources](#)
- [Acknowledgments](#)

It also has general search capabilities, so, for example, the Iowa 12th Regiment can be searched for, using the abbreviation of 'IA 12th', with 113 soldiers found. The source of the data for this web page is the work of Jerry Rosholt, and there is a companion book [Ole Goes to War: Men from Norway who Fought in America's Civil War](#). It is my understanding that this database is static; that is, changes are not being made as new information is obtained. Also, there are no photos or background history sections for this web page.

Members are invited to contact me with other web pages that they have also found to be useful for researching Norwegians who were Civil War soldiers, and this information will be shared with the lag. My email address is john.reindl@att.net.

Based on the geography of your family origins in Norway, **Bygdelagenes Fellesraad invites you** to look at a brochure map and find your lag at www.fellesraad.com

COME, CELEBRATE YOUR ROOTS at a 2015 STEVNE!

June 18-20 **Valdres Samband & Vestlandslag: Voss, Sunnfjord, Sogndal, Rogaland, Nord-/Sunnhordland, Møre og Romsdal and Hardanger** — Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN
Bob Hanson, H4414463@juno.com or 763.441.4463
Tom Standahl, tjstandahl@gmail.com

June 23-25 **Nordlandslag**, Holiday Inn, **Alexandria, MN**
Shirley Sampson, booklady@runestone.net or 320.986.2861

July 09-12 **Sju (7) Lag Stevne**, Convention Center, **La Crosse, WI** See www.7lagstevne.com & register with one lag:
Toten (president@totenlag.org);
Telelag (jbhoberg@charter.net);
Sigdalslag, (knaak002@bevcomm.net);
Ringerike- Drammen, (lynn8487@gmail.com);
Numdedalslågen, (sah4664@msn.com);
Hadeland, (president@hadelandlag.org) and **hosts**,
Landingslag coordinator Sandra Hendrickson, shendrickso@gmail.com or 952.892.5402

August 05-08 **Tre-Lag Stevne: Trønderlag, Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, Gudbrandsdalslag** -- Plaza Hotel, Eau Claire, WI Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com or 952.922.9587 (con't. on next page)

NHOH WEB SITE

Webmaster was Bob Christensen

ON THE WEB SITE

Photos taken by Ed Scherer and Chris Falteisek at the 2014 Tre Lag Stevne are posted on the NHOH web site.

Click on the "Stevner" tab to access available photos from all past stevner. For most, you can click on the image for a larger view. And if you want to copy or save it, right click on it to use browser commands.



MEMBER AREA ACCESS

The member's-only area of the NHOH website requires a user ID and password. **For 2015** the user name is "**NHOH2015**" and the password is "**Kommune**" These words are case sensitive so you will need to type them exactly as printed here (without quotation marks). They are the same for all members. To reach information in the member's-only area, **first click on the "Member Area"** button in the left border of most website pages. Then, click on the link for the content that you wish to view. You will then be prompted to enter a user name and password.

The NHOH annual member's meeting is held during the Stevne each year. Minutes of these meetings for the last 3 years are posted in the Member area of the web site.

Necrology

Bob Christensen, Our wonderful photographer and friend died of cancer January 16, 2015. (See his picture above)

Robert Charles Christensen, age 74, passed away on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015, at his home in San Francisco, after a battle with cancer.

Robert was born in Madison on Sept. 15, 1939. His parents, Harold and Cora Christensen, raised Bob in the Westmorland neighborhood. After graduating from West High School in 1958, Bob attended the University of Wisconsin, receiving a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering in 1963. He entered the U.S. Air Force in January of 1963 and was selected by the Air Force Institute of Technology to attend Graduate Materials Engineering Course at a civilian institution and received a Master of Metallurgical Engineering Degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in June of 1964. Bob was promoted to Captain in February of 1967 and received an honorable discharge in January of 1969.

Upon returning home, Robert moved to California and was employed by Stauffer Chemical Company and worked throughout the United States, Canada and Europe during his employment with the company. He retired from Zeneca Inc. on Jan. 1, 1998, and relocated to San Francisco.

Bob enjoyed hiking, photography and researching his family's genealogical history. He was a wonderful

benefactor to the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library. Bob had a love for orchids where he grew hundreds of orchids at his home in San Francisco, even building his own greenhouse. Upon his death, his orchids were willed to the San Francisco Orchid Society.

Robert is survived by his brother, Donald (Sharon); two nephews, Ross (Teresa) and Chad (Ashley); great-nieces and nephews, Cailyn, Colton, Addison and Easton; and the McGraw family. A special thank you to the many beloved cousins and friends for all you have done for and with Bob over the years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold in 1974 and Cora in 2014. Bob will be missed dearly by all.

The family would like to thank Arcadia Home Care and Staffing and Hospice By the Bay staff for their great care and compassion. The Duggan's Serra Mortuary assisted the family. At Robert's request, no service will be held.



DAN HUEBNER, 83, of Decorah, died Tuesday evening, Feb. 3, 2015, at Aase Haugen Senior Services in Decorah.

We join together in mourning this great loss, **remembering with gratitude everything Dan did for NAGC & NL, and his leadership role in the Norwegian-American community.**

Dan is survived by his daughter, Cynthia Jean (Huebner) Alan, and her husband, Larry, of Storrs, CT; a grandson, Eric Huebner Alan, and his wife Sarah, of Potsdam, NY; a granddaughter, Dana Westby Alan, and her fiancé Greg Owens, of Watertown, MA; and his two brothers, Gerald Huebner, and his wife Joan of Sun City Center, FL; and Ronald Huebner, and his wife, Goldie, of Dinerdin FL



Fellesraad bygdelag meetings continued from page 6 –

- August 13-15 **Sognefjord**: St. Olaf College, **Northfield, MN**
Kathy Johnson, kjohnson44@ameritech.net or **608.238.1785**
August 13-15 **Hallinglag**, Best Western, **Willmar, MN**
Tom Lanman, telanman@comcast.net or **651.731.5402**
Sept. 12-13 **Opdalslag**, Scandia Luth. Church, **Centerville, SD**
Pauline Strait, phstrait@gmail.com
Sept. 16-19 **Romerikslag & Solør Lag**: Best Western Riverfront, **La Crosse, WI** Joel Botten, **507.351.6712**, or Marie Thompson, **641.423.0487**
Sept. 20 **Nordfjordlag** (National), Green Lake Bible Camp, **Spicer, MN** Connie Olson, **763.972.7266**; Gene Rodi, **612.722.3324**

Contact one month prior to each event. Learn, be entertained, take a tour, research your family, enjoy ethnic food & friendship.

Save the date, May 5 – 8, 2016
for the Fellesraad's CENTENNIAL Celebration

The Norwegian Heritage Center in Stoughton, WI “Livsreise – Life’s Journey”



The Norwegian Heritage Center, which is being constructed by the Bryant Foundation, is situated next to the Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge in Stoughton WI, at the corner of Main and Page Sts. The purpose is to establish a Norwegian Heritage Center, building on the Norwegian culture that the city and the community has embraced. The Center will tell the Norwegian immigrant stories in a variety of ways. The exterior of the building has been finished. The interior and exhibits will be completed by early 2015. No definite opening date has been set at this time.

There will be a permanent exhibit area, a temporary exhibit display that will feature some of Vesterheim’s traveling displays, a genealogy center that will be tied to the Norwegian American Genealogical Center in Madison, an interactive map of Norway tracing immigration routes, various vignettes telling the immigration story, and a small auditorium that will hold 60-70 people. The public area will all be on the main level; the basement has storage and the offices are on the second floor. Admission to the public will be free! More information on the center can be addressed to:

Darlene Arneson, Manager

Darlene@norwegianheritagecenter.org



New Passport Design for Norway



A year ago, the Norwegian National Police Directorate held an open contest to create a new look for Norwegian ID cards and passports. The challenge was to design something both functional and unique that represented Norway's identity while increasing the security of these documents. The document should also be timeless and inspire a sense of cultural pride in its owners.

The winner of the contest was an Oslo design studio called Neue. Their "Norwegian Landscapes" concept is highly modern while giving a nod to Norwegians' love of nature. The passport cover is tomato red (with pale gray cover for immigrants and turquoise cover for diplomats) with a spare layout featuring a small offset coat of arms. The font is sleek and restrained and the matte background is attractive without being flashy.

As the passport is opened, a minimalist depiction of a typical Norwegian landscape unfolds. Snow-covered peaks border a body of water, in subtle blue and gray hues, overlooked by a sun or moon. The drama is revealed when the pages are held under a UV light: rocky cliffs along the Geiranger Fjord radiate with a nighttime glow from the illuminated moon, stars and a swath of Northern Lights. The previously sedate colors transform into striking contrast of shadowy navy and black with brilliant teal and lilac. The BBC called the aurora borealis pages "too beautiful to be contaminated by visa stamps."



The Neue Design Studio has also recently rebranded Norway's Meteorological Institute and the Norwegian Academy of Music. Gørill Kvamme from Neue remarks that "Nature has always been an essential part of the Norwegian identity and tradition, as well as being a key fundament for our welfare. The landscape with its vast variation from the south to the north is the starting point for the design concept. "Kvamme is flattered by the international recognition on behalf of the agency, and adds that it is also a spotlight for Norwegian design." It shows that we have something to offer internationally, and it is an honor."

About The Plaza Hotel & Suites

The Plaza Hotel & Suites is Eau Claire, Wisconsin's largest hotel and convention facility in the area, featuring newly remodeled guest rooms and suites, ample banquet/convention facilities, two restaurants – Burgundy's and Brewski's – and all of the amenities you expect, including a pool, lounge areas, fitness facilities, and more. The Plaza is host to numerous local, regional, and national conferences, and is one of the area's favorite locations for weddings, receptions, family reunions, and other large group events.

History of The Plaza

The Plaza Hotel & Suites opened in 1963 as the six-story Holiday Inn, built by the McGuire family. It became a landmark with its unique round tower. The family operated the hotel until Mr. McGuire's passing. In the early 90's, the hotel was purchased by Mike Rivers, of Winona, MN, who remains the owner to this day. With a background in real estate sales and construction, Rivers restored and renovated the property. It became the Ramada Inn Conference Center and was awarded "The Gold Key" rating.

In 1999, the hotel added two additional ballrooms, expanding the total banquet space to 28,000 square feet. With 15 banquet meeting spaces, the hotel could accommodate larger conventions. The decision was also made to become an independently owned and operated hotel and was named The Plaza Hotel & Suites.

Burgundy's Restaurant and Brewski's Pub & Grill

This beautifully appointed restaurant is perfect for a romantic dinner for two or the entire family. Burgundy's restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving hearty traditional American cuisine. Burgundy's energetic staff is ready to serve you in style. Also relax in Brewski's Pub & Grill and enjoy a light meal in a relaxing atmosphere.

Banquet & Conference Center

The Plaza Hotel & Suites has 15 flexible banquet rooms totaling over 28,000 square feet of functional event space accommodating private parties, conferences, weddings and events up to 850 people. Included with the exceptional accommodations, The Plaza Hotel & Suites can also supply complete audio/visual needs for any event. Our professional staff has one thing in mind-providing you with everything you need for an exquisite event.



The Plaza Hotel and Suites

1202 West Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI

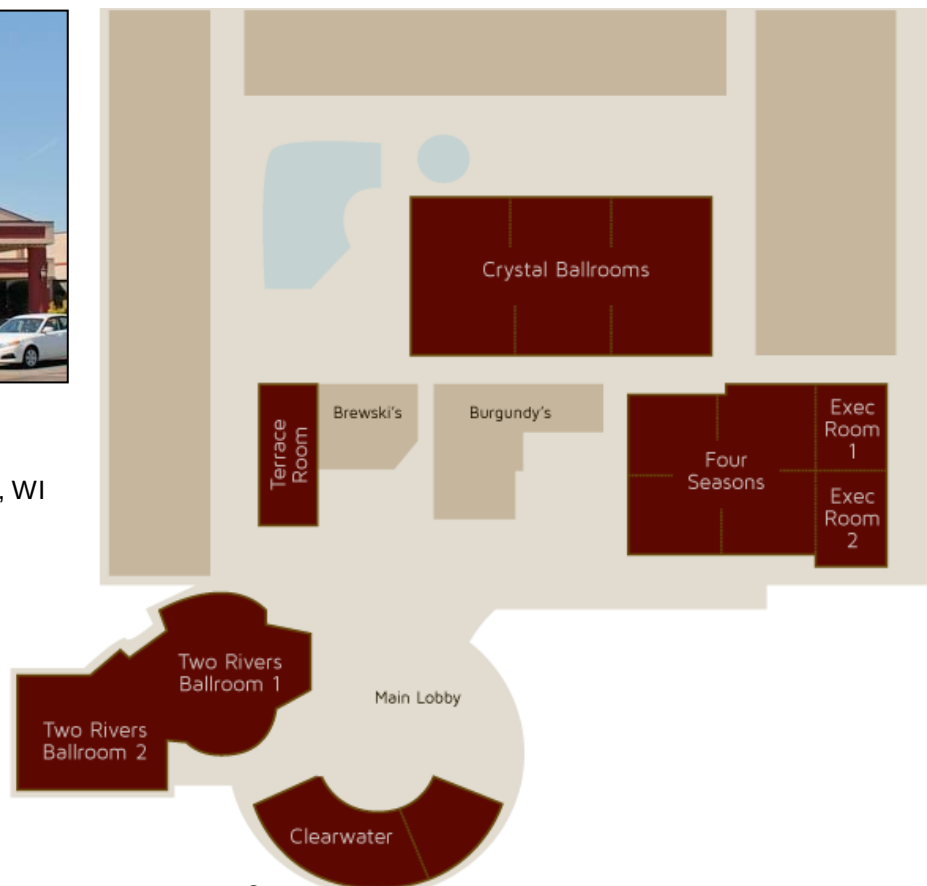
Reservations 1-800-482-7829

Tre-Lag Stevne 2015

Gudbrandsdalaget

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lab

Tronderlaget



THE AMERICA CONNECTION: A STORY OF NORWAY EMIGRATION by Jon Lind

This article is part of the column "Long Ago & Far Away" which originally appeared in the Dec 19, 2014 issue of the Norwegian American Weekly.

The great wave of emigration from Norway to America that started in the mid-1800s meant that almost every family in our community had relatives in the United States.



The settlers in this photo are pictured in front of their sod house in North Dakota in 1898.

About the photo: Hultstrand 61 from 1898 A Milton, North Dakota, photographer took this picture of **John and Marget Bakken and their two children, Tilda and Eddie, in front of their sod house in Milton in 1898.** John Bakken was the son of Norwegian immigrants, who homesteaded and built a sod house in Milton in 1896. This sod house was used as the basis for the design of the Homestead Act Commemorative Stamp in 1962.

Since living persons cannot be represented on US stamps, the children were blocked out by a haystack. Ironically however, John Bakken was still alive at age 92 when the stamp was issued. This photograph was also used by Norway on its postage stamp in 1975, to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Norwegian emigration to America. The children were left in the picture for this stamp, rendering a more accurate image of the original photograph

Some kept in contact, some did not. The advantage of staying in contact with your American relatives (at least for us kids) was that it got you presents, especially at Christmas. My mother had three brothers who left the island of Fedje and settled in Oregon. Uncle Carl (the middle brother) came back to Norway for a visit in

1948, accompanied by his wife Bergliot and his five-year-old daughter Audrey. I remember that they brought great presents, especially hard candy in many colors.



On the day they arrived, our family made the trip to the island of Fedje (located on the outer coast, northwest of Bergen) to join the group assembled there to greet them. Having relatives visit from America was a big deal. I remember that there was a long table full of food prepared in my grandparents' living room, and seated directly across from me was my new American aunt. Bergliot was raised by Norwegian parents in Portland, Oregon, and spoke Norwegian well. Sometime during the meal, to the great consternation of this six-year-old boy, she said something to me in English. I was totally embarrassed because I didn't know what to do. How could I answer her when I didn't know what she'd asked? Red-faced and silent I stared at my plate, like I was inspecting the lefse for defects, until she took pity on me and said something in Norwegian I could respond to. In due course, she became my favorite aunt.

I suspect that it was during that visit that my father discussed with uncle Carl the possibility of our family moving to the United States. When we finally did make the move five years later, uncle Carl was our sponsor.

I can't remember what kind of Christmas presents we got from America prior to that visit, but for the Christmases following, my sister and I got great presents from uncle Carl and aunt Bergliot. I can remember getting Lincoln Logs one year and an erector set the next that made me the envy of my peers. There was always hard candy included in the package. My favorite things of all, however, were the coloring books and the crayons. The huge box of Crayolas contained more colors than I had ever seen before. I would color the pictures sequentially through the book and never, ever, did I go outside the lines. I remember when my four-year-old sister got a wooden nutcracker shaped like Santa Claus. You placed a nut in his mouth and pressed his legs together to crack it. My sister was always a brave little kid but this nutcracker scared her so that even seeing it made her cry. The America package also contained coffee for my parents. Coffee was available in Norway at that time but was heavily rationed.

Another person who got presents from America was my friend Emil Semmingsen, who was two years older than me and was our neighbor to the north. His father's adopted sister lived in America and Emil and his siblings got regular presents. Only two of the presents Emil received stick in my memory. One was a wool jacket that was white with green checkers. The jacket was too big for Emil but he wore it anyway. We referred to it as Emil and his ullteppe (wool blanket).

Another present Emil got caused a great deal of excitement. Word got around that Emil had gotten a soccer ball from America. This was at a time when our group did not own a soccer ball but we wanted one badly. We got suspicious however, when we first saw the ball because it was not round. It had a point on each end. But we knew it had to be the real thing because it even said "FOOTBALL" right on the box, which is how we figured they spelled football in America. It had a bladder and we started to pump. Initially, the more air we pumped into it, the more round it appeared to become. We figured it was only a matter of time and these stupid points would go away. We took turns pumping until we were exhausted. Needless to say, it never got round. We kicked it around for a while but it just wouldn't bounce right. I think Emil took it home and put it away, never to be used again.

Our family's migration to the United States started with my maternal grandfather, Edvard Koppen, and his siblings. Of the six children in that family, four left Fedje for the greener pastures of America. My grandfather came to the United States in the year 1900 and went to work in the woods for a timber baron named Benson who built the Benson Hotel and financed the building of Benson Polytechnic High School, both in Portland. I spend four years at Benson High School and thought often of how my grandfather's labor helped build the school. Mr. Benson was also famous for installing the drinking fountains around downtown Portland so his loggers would have something to drink when they came to the city, besides beer. Logs were usually moved by rail and it was on these rail cars that loggers went to town on weekends. In those days logging was much more dangerous than it is today and, according to my grandfather, it was not unusual for dead bodies to be lashed to the logs for delivery to the mortuary in Portland.

In 1905, grandfather took a trip back to Norway for a short visit. He had, however, not counted on the charms of Marta Toft, who had arrived on Fedje after his departure and was working as a clerk in one of the stores. Grandfather fell hopelessly in love and abandoned all plans of returning to America. It is said that my grandmother is the most beautiful bride to ever take her vows in the church on Fedje.

In 1957, on their 50th wedding anniversary, their children in America gave my grandparents a trip to the United States as an anniversary present. I can still see them stepping off the plane at Portland International Airport. Grandma in her long black dress and grandpa with his high-laced boots and wool socks were a wonderful sight on that scorching July day. I had only been in this country for four years and was terribly homesick for the people we left behind.

They took turns staying with my uncles and us. One day, grandpa and I took a walk around downtown Portland. I was amazed how he could remember places and names from over 50 years ago. There was even a tavern on West Burnside that had been there when he was a logger. They did not have TV on Fedje in those days and grandma just loved to watch The Real McCoys with Walter Brennan. Her English was not good enough to understand what was going on, so one of us kids would translate for her.

They could have stayed a whole year, but after six months they got homesick for Fedje and headed back to Norway. We will never know what kind of life grandpa would have had, had he stayed in the U.S. I expect he would have done well; he was a capable man. Returning to Fedje, he probably sacrificed some physical comforts. Uncle Carl tells of him and Grandpa fishing from an open boat in the dead of winter in the North Sea. As uncle Carl puts it: Livet på tåfto er livet til en hund (The life on a boat seat is the life of a dog). Grandma would have hot water waiting for them to soak their feet in when they got home. Uncle Carl said he used to scream in pain, whereas grandpa never uttered a sound. Uncle Carl left Norway on his 18th birthday.

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News
Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, Editor
215 Juniper Ln.
Holmen, WI 54636

March 2015



Think Spring



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



NHOH Lag Membership Renewal or New Memberships Form

Memberships include your spouse, so please include both names if applicable. Gift memberships welcome. Make check payable to **NHOH Lag** and send with completed form to:

Dixie Hansen, NHOH Membership, 1411 Osceola Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105-2312

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

☐ Renewal ☐ Gift Membership ☐ New

Ancestors in Hedmark from kommune: (check all that apply)

☐ Åmot ☐ Alvdal ☐ Elverum ☐ Engerdal ☐ Folldal ☐ Furness ☐ Hamar ☐ Løten ☐ Nes ☐ Os
☐ Rendalen ☐ Ringsaker ☐ Romedal ☐ 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: _____

Newsletter delivery preference: ☐ US Mail ☐ Online

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

Genealogy Donation _____

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

Total Enclosed _____