



NEWS FOR DESCENDANTS OF EMIGRANTS FROM THE TELEMAR REGION IN NORWAY

Volume XXII Number 1

May 2015

The Seven Lag Stevne is a yearly gathering of descendants of Norwegian immigrants to the US and Canada who came from seven areas of Norway (from parts of Buskerud, Oppland, and Telemark counties.) Each of these areas is represented by an organization, or lag that works to maintain cultural ties to its ancestral homeland and provides support for genealogical research.



internet resources. To gain the most from your time with a genealogist, bring with you all

information available on your ancestors. This includes names of people, birth and death dates, farm names, churches and any information that could possibly help identify them. The genealogy room will be open on Thursday from 11 AM -- 6 PM and on Friday and Saturday from 8 AM -- 5 PM.

This year, activities will take place at the La Crosse Center, 300 2nd Street South, La Crosse WI Thursday, July 9 through Sunday, July 12. **Telelaget's Annual Meeting will be on Thursday evening along with a social time for members.**

There will be presentations on topics of interest for anyone who enjoys immigration history and Norwegian culture. This is a great way to learn about your immigrant ancestors. Invite your friends to attend the class presentations. They promise to be of interest to anyone whose ancestors settled the prairie.

Each lag will have a genealogist available to assist you with your research. Resources include books, maps, family histories, Norwegian church records, Norwegian farm records, and

More information and a registration form are included with this newsletter or visit www.7lagstevne.com.

Coming Back Home

The "Coming Back Home" Project began as a way for members to connect with lost cousins in Norway prior to Telelaget's Centennial Tour to Norway in 2007.

Because of the great interest in this project, it was decided to continue to develop the database of information about the emigrants from Telemark. Through the project, members have been able to connect and share information about ancestors with long lost cousins on both sides of the ocean filling in entire new branches of their family trees!

To see if your ancestors are in the database, or to submit your genealogy information to the project, go to our website www.telelaget.com and click on "Emigrant Database" in the left column. You do not need to be a member of Telelaget to submit data.



Telelaget of America communicates with its members via email. We send an electronic version of our TeleNews newsletter to all members who have provided us with a current email address. If you have not provided us with an email address or have recently

changed your email address, please notify our membership chairperson, Judy Mathison. Her email is jmathison@sbcglob



- Telelaget of America -- news and pictures related to Telemark and Telelaget
- International Telemark -- news about contemporary Telemark
- Telemark Heritage & Genealogy -- information on our heritage and genealogy.

You can access these sites by entering the name in the search field at the top of your Facebook page.



The first annual FEST! is on June 13th, 2015 from 12pm until 10:30pm at Norway House. Take part in Nordic activities, enjoy Minneapolis' food trucks, sample local craft beers and aquavit. End the day with a bonfire, s'mores and a toast to the Midsommer sun.

Midsommer Celebration Gala & Going Viking Honors is on June 18 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Aria in Mnpls. Tickets available

from Norway House with special pricing before May 17.

Norwegian Threads - The Grand Opening Exhibit begins June 19 in the Norway House Gallery. View the work of textile artist Lise Skjåk Bræk and painter Anne Langsholt Apaydinli. Both Norwegian women honor their cultural heritage through artistic efforts inspired by traditional folk patterns and costumes.

For more information visit www.Norwayhouse.org or look for Norway House on Facebook.

Telelaget of America has a number of quality of publications available for purchase from our website www.telelaget.com.

Telelaget to America: Volume I – Emigration; Volume II – Settlements; Volume III – Settlements, Biographies, and Telemark Lore. \$20 each or \$50 for the series.

A Year on Haugo Farm tells of the life of a girl who lives on a Telemark farm during WWII. It is available for \$20.

Telelaget, The First One Hundred Years is \$20 and is free for a limited time to new members!



Stevner Dates for 2015

Because of having ancestors from different regions of Norway, many Telelaget members also belong to other lag. Stevner to be held this summer include:

- June 18 - 20 – Valdres Samband & Vestlandslag - Kelly Inn in St. Cloud, MN
- June 23 - 25 - Nordlandslaget av Amerika og Kanada - Holiday Inn in Alexandria, MN
- July 9-12 - Seven Lag - Includes Hadeland, Landingslag, Numedalslågenlag, Ringerike Drammen Districts, Sigdalslag, Telelag, Totenlag - Convention Center in LaCrosse, WI
- August 5-8 - Tre-Lag Stevne - Includes Gudbrandsdal Lag National, Trønderlag of America, and Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag - Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Eau Claire, WI
- August 13-15 - Sognefjord - St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.
- August 13-16 - Hallinglag - Best Western Plus in Willmar, MN
- September 12-13 - Opdalslag - Scandia Lutheran Church, Centerville, SD.
- September 16-19 - Romerikslag, & Solør Lag - Best Western Riverfront, La Crosse, WI
- September 20 - Nordfjordlag - Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN.

For more information on each of these, click on the link above in the electronic format, or go to www.fellesraad.com and click on Calendar in the top menu bar.



We've Lost a Friend

Dale Overland, born August 5, 1926, passed away in Woodville, WI on January 31, 2015. Dale was living at Parkview in Woodville, near his son John.

Dale and his wife Audrey, who passed away three years ago, were active Telelaget members in the 1980s and 1990s. Dale served on the Telelaget board off and on from 1982 to 1994. They both loved their heritage and were great ambassadors – opening their home to hundreds of Norwegians, even bus loads of Norwegian visitors who were invited for lunch and tours of the area churches.



Audrey and Dale enjoyed sharing their love for their farming community and the Elstad Lutheran Church and Highland Prairie Lutheran Church, two of the early Norwegian churches in SE MN. The Overland family were territorial pioneers and helped organize the first two Norwegian Lutheran churches in Minnesota.

Dale is survived by two sons, John and David, and their families. We mourn Dale's death and remember all he meant to Telelaget.

Funeral services were held at Elstad Lutheran Church on Feb. 5, 2015. A flower memorial was sent from Telelaget.

This note was received from the family: Thank you for the beautiful plant! Dale and Audrey loved their involvement with Telelaget and the wonderful people they met. John & Virginia, David & Kathy

WELCOME new members

Steve Trangsrud,
Los Angeles CA

Fern Letnes, New York City NY

Ingrid Lund, Bloomington MN

Janet Robertson, Madison WI

Helen Peterson Hustad,
Mukilteo WA

Joyce Jacobson, Harmony MN

James Kleen, Townsend GA

Myrna Aldrich,
Robbinsdale MN

Sharon Lemley,
Apple Valley MN

Annette Hagopian,
Santa Cruz CA

Lois Tammel, Harmony MN

Karl Halvorson, Cincinnati OH

Herman A Peterson, Tsailie AZ

Kim Ogilvie, Renton WA

Brandon & Abby Krawczyk,
St. Paul MN

Margaret Listug, Stoughton WI

Virginia Lunsford,
Rapid City SD

Jean Marthaler, St. Joseph MN

Don Ostenson, Minneapolis MN

Linda Speckmann Spina,
McKinney TX

Charles Vasaly, Arlington VA



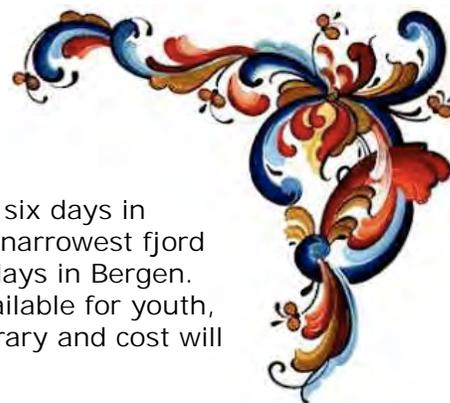
THIS YEAR'S GOALS

1. Participate in 2015 7-Lag Stevne in La Crosse, WI on July 9-12. *Registration material is in this newsletter.*
2. Increase Telelaget membership by 5% from 365 to 385. *Our membership on March 1 was 386.*
3. Plan and conduct annual meeting on **July 9, 2015** at La Crosse. *Meeting will be held on Thursday evening along with a social hour for members. Check the Telelaget table at the stevne for meeting location.*
4. Conduct audit/review 2014 Financial records. *Checking, savings and cd accounts were reviewed and found to be in good order.*
5. Upgrade website to facilitate payments for membership, registrations and sale items. *This has been completed by our webmaster.*
6. Increase efficiency publishing and distribution of TeleNews and Telesoga. *This is the second combined mailing of Telesoga and TeleNews.*
7. Plan Norway Tour for 2016. *Will be held late July and early August, 2016. Early details are in this newsletter.*
8. Participate in Fellesraad Centennial May 5 & 6, 2016 *Attending Fellesraad planning meetings.*
9. Plan for Telelag organization of 2017 Stevne. *Organizational committee for stevne has been established.*

Save These 2016 Dates!



Telelaget's Tour to Norway Late July - August, 2016



Experience your heritage!

Our tour will begin with two days in Oslo, followed by six days in wonderful Telemark, a day cruise on the Nærøyfjord (narrowest fjord in Norway) and the Aurlandsfjord, and end with two days in Bergen. There will be many exciting activities planned and available for youth, young adults, and the young at heart. The total itinerary and cost will be available in the fall issue of TeleNews.

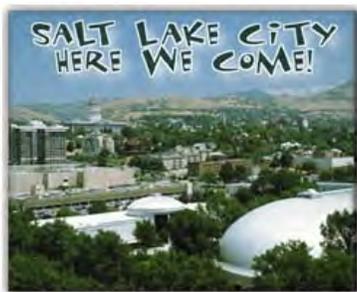


SAVE THE DATE!
**NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
BYGDELAGENES FELLESRÅD
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

1916-2016

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION OF OUR 100TH YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BYGDELAG MOVEMENT IN AMERICA. THIS WILL BE A CELEBRATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CULTURE, COMMON HISTORY AND COMMUNITIES OF THOSE WITH NORWEGIAN ANCESTRY. THE CELEBRATION WILL BE HELD MAY 5-8, 2016 IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. FREQUENTLY UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING CAN BE FOUND AT:
[HTTP://WWW.FELLESRÅD.COM/CENTENNIAL](http://www.fellesraad.com/centennial)

Fellesraad is considered the "umbrella organization" for all bygdelag, which totals 28 bygdelag. The 100th Year Centennial will be a celebration of the accomplishments, culture, common history, and communities of those with Norwegian ancestry. Plans are for an event that begins with an evening reception on Thursday, May 5th, 2016 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis. Sessions that have an emphasis on Norwegian Heritage will be held all day Friday, with a reception that evening. Saturday May 7th, begins a full day at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Minneapolis, looking at the past and future of NABF.



Bygdelag Week will be February 7-13, 2016, at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, UT with special rates at a hotel next door. Details will be posted on Fellesraad's web site, www.fellesraad.com. In 2015, there were 20 participants for the 10th consecutive year of Bygdelag Week, a week of coordinated activities and classes for lag genealogy buffs.

Bygdelag Week immediately follows RootsTech, held February 3-6 in Salt Lake City. It is a global family history event, where people of all ages learn to discover, share and celebrate their family connections across generations through technology. At RootsTech, there is something for everyone, no matter your experience in family history or your skill level in technology. Find more information at www.rootstech.org





Landings Lag is excited about hosting the 2015 7-Lag Stevne “Gateway to the Prairie” in La Crosse, Wisconsin, July 9-12. We have been hard at work organizing this event, which we hope will give all of our *stevne* attendees new insights into the lives of our immigrant ancestors who settled the vast expanses of prairie in the upper Midwest. Visit us on the web at www.7lagstevne.com or like us on Facebook.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY!

HOTEL BLOCKS have been reserved at the following hotels with special rates **beginning July 8th:**

- **Settle Inn** - 608-781-5100 -- \$89 per night – Two floors, NO ELEVATOR -- Specify need for ground floor room. 10 minute drive from the center
- **Holiday Inn** - 608-784-4444 -- \$109 per night – Across parking lot from La Crosse Center
- **Best Western Riverfront** - 608-781-7000 -- \$99 – Ten minute drive from La Crosse Center
- **Radisson** – 608-784-6680 – \$119 (city view) \$129 (river view) – Adjacent to La Crosse Center
- **Courtyard by Marriott** -608-782-1000 - has a block of rooms reserved beginning **July 9.**

All blocks are held up to 30 days prior to the event with the exception of the Settle Inn, which holds the block open until two weeks prior.

UW LA CROSSE DORMITORY ROOMS (a 5-10 minute drive from the center)

- **Rooms are all en suite** -- four single bedrooms share kitchen, living room and bath.
- \$32 per person per night
- **Make reservations on the registration sheet below!**
- To utilize this space efficiently, you will be assigned suite mates. **If you wish to share a suite with friends**, please specify when making your reservation.
- Your lag president will make the reservation at the dormitory, collect your room keys, and make arrangements for you to pick them up

STEVNE SCHEDULE

For convenient parking use the city parking ramp directly across the street from the La Crosse Center. On Thursday and Friday you will have three hours of complementary parking, followed by a \$.75 per hour parking fee. There will be free parking on Saturday and Sunday.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

- **Stevne Registration** opens at 8:00 a.m. -- La Crosse Center, 300 2nd Street South, La Crosse.
- **Opening Session** begins at 9:00 a.m. -- Key Note Address by Karen V. Hansen, Ph.D.,
 - Dr. Hansen, sociology professor at Brandeis University in Boston is the author of “Encounter on the Great Plains: Scandinavian Settlers and the Dispossession of Dakota Indians 1890-1930”. She will speak on issues of co-existence between settlers and Native Americans. Dr. Hansen is a member of Hadeland Lag and has been a featured speaker at NAHA and Mindekirken in Minneapolis.
- **Tour to Norskedalen and Country Coon Prairie Church** follows the opening session.
 - *Norskedalen*, located 20 miles southeast of La Crosse, is a nature and heritage center dedicated to preserving, interpreting and sharing the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area. The center has a wonderful library of genealogy materials and family histories from the area. We will be carpooling to the center where there will be a box lunch and guided tours of the center.
 - *Country Coon Prairie Church* is the next stop on the tour. Meet with members of the church heritage committee who will present a brief history of the church. Those with historical ties to the church will have the opportunity to view the cemetery map and seek out the graves of family members buried there.
 - For people interested in rosemaking, there will be an opportunity to visit the farm home of artist Karen Hankee to see many rosemaled objects she has on display. This visit will be of special interest to those taking the rosemaking class that Karen will be offering on Friday.

- **For people not going on the Norskedalen tour there will be plenty to do at the center.**
 - Classes and food demonstrations,
 - Vendors
 - Genealogy room open until 6:00 PM
- **Thursday evening reserved for individual lag activities, annual meetings and events**

FRIDAY, JULY 10

- **An incredible group of speakers will present a full line-up of classes**, covering settlement of the prairie, general immigration history, plus food and craft demonstrations. Among class presenters are:
 - *Betty Bergland*, professor of history at University of Wisconsin River Falls and co-author of *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities*
 - *Howard Sherpe*, local newspaper columnist who for the past several years has written *Across the Fence*, a weekly newspaper column that runs in several papers in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota
 - *Candace Simar*, author of the *Abercrombie Trail* series of historical fiction, which depicts life on the prairie in the 1860s and 70s
 - *Blaine Hedberg*, Westby native and former director of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library
 - Representatives from *Vesterheim*, *NAHA*, and the *Giants in the Earth Center* in Spring Grove
 - Our experts in online genealogy will help you become better acquainted with online genealogy sites.
- **Genealogy, Hospitality and Vendor** rooms open until 5:00
- **Banquet and Bunad Parade held on Friday evening.** The chefs at the Radisson have created a delightful Norwegian themed meal for us. From salads, through the main course and desserts you are sure to appreciate their attention to detail. You may select from either a meatball dinner with mashed potatoes and vegetables, or codfish with creamed peas and *rutmus*. The vegetarians among us will enjoy Italian food, as the vegetarian entrée is angel hair pasta with Mushroom sauce, Parmigiana-Reggiano and Garlic Bread.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

- **Classes continue**
- **Genealogy, Hospitality and Vendor** rooms open until 5:00
- **Vesterheim Museum Tour**
 - Travel by motor coach to Decorah for a guided tour of the museum. Lunch will be on your own at one of Decorah's many Main Street restaurant options.
- **La Crosse Queen Riverboat Dinner Cruise with Live Music**
 - Early reservations for the cruise are a **MUST** as it is a very popular event in the summer. **Register by May 17 to secure your seat! Reservations can continue to be made up to the date of departure if space is available.**
 - Choose from **5:00 or 7:30 cruises***
 - * **NOTE: Vesterheim bus returns late afternoon, so choose the 7:30 cruise if you plan on both.**
 - * **If we do not fill both the 5:00 & 7:30 cruises, we will combine our registrations and place everyone on the 7:30 cruise.**

SUNDAY, JULY 12

- **NEW! Sunday morning closing session.**
 - Immigrant Churches of the Prairie picture presentation
 - Key-note speaker, theologian Gracia Grindal. Grindal has recently retired from Luther Seminary in St. Paul where she was a professor of rhetoric. She has been a prolific writer and has a special interest in hymnody.
 - "Stouthearted Men" men's chorus from the Osseo and Whitehall area of Wisconsin share the stage with Gracia on Sunday morning, and sing a few of her hymns.
- **Lag Activities**
 - Closing session concludes around 10:30 at which time each individual lag will be free to plan their own activities, annual meetings or lag events

Make plans now to joins us in La Crosse! You will be glad you did!

Seven-Lag Stevne Registration Form for Telelaget of America

July 9-12, 2015 La Crosse Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Phone _____ Email _____

PRINT FULL NAME/s for badges

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Stevne Registration Fee: \$38 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
Sat. and Sun. only \$35 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Stevne registration is complimentary for school-age children who are accompanied by their parents or grandparents.

Optional opportunities:

Norskedalen & Country Coon Prairie Tour: 10:30 Thurs. \$19 per person X _____ person (s) = \$ _____
Transportation will be by car pool. Ticket price includes lunch, admission and guided tours.

Friday Evening Banquet and Program: X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
Meal choice (indicate number of each): Meatballs \$30 _____ Cod \$30 _____ Vegetarian \$21 _____

Vesterheim Museum Tour: 9:00 Saturday \$28 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
Tour price includes transportation by air-conditioned bus and museum admission. Note: lunch is on your own.

Dinner Cruise on the La Crosse Queen Saturday 5:00 or 7:30: Roast beef and ham dinner with live band
Reservations for this option must be made by May 17th to ensure seating!

Preferred time _____ 5:00 _____ 7:30 \$38.95 per person X _____ person (s) = \$ _____

Dorm Room at University -- Number of nights _____ x \$32 = _____ x number or people _____
Dormitory room total = \$ _____

Desired Suitemate(s) _____

Register early to guarantee your room. There are a limited number of dorm rooms available.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail this form with check payable to Telelaget to:

Rachel Gorka
Telelaget of America
98 N. 5th St.
New Richmond, WI 54017

Additional Class: Hardanger Embroidery: Cost is \$8.00 payable to Betty Knutson
To register, call or e-mail Betty Knutson at [320-222-1613](tel:320-222-1613) or blknutsn@en-tel.net