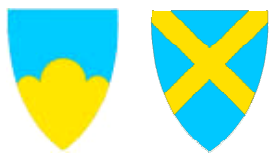


October, 2009

Volume 29, Issue 3



Since 1911



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Serving Norwegian-Americans of Sigdal, Eggedal & Krødsherad ancestry

Bridging the Generations in River Falls

by Dianne Snell

About 360 people congregated in River Falls, Wisconsin, June 25-28th for the 2009 Seven Lag Stevne hosted by Telelaget at the University of Wisconsin. Telelaget president Dr. John Haugo of Hudson, Wisconsin, served as coordinator of this year's event, which also included Sigdalslag, Numedalslågen Lag, Ringerike-Drammen Districts Lag, Landingslaget, Hadeland Lag and Toten Lag.

The chosen theme "*Bridging the Generations*," was reflected in the Thursday to Sunday schedule designed to encourage younger members and working people to attend. Entertainment headliners were two "younger generation" performers from Telemark, Norway - vocalist and folk singer Tone Jorunn Tveito and Hardanger fiddler Torgeir Straand. The duo shared their talents during several stevne events including the opening session, the Saturday banquet, and at Mindekirke and Old Muskego Church on the Sunday tour.

All of the campus events were held in the new University Center at the college, a beautiful facility, but with its four-level design and only one elevator, logistically challenged attendees with mobility issues and for vendors and genealogists who needed to transport their materials to and from the third level.

Many of the participants stayed at the South Fork Suites, a dormitory building with pods of four individual bedrooms, a small living area, kitchenette and one bathroom - at a modest cost of just \$15 per night per person.

The first combined event was a Thursday bus tour to the Heritage Center in New Richmond, Wisconsin. The site was once a classic farm of the New Richmond area, and now occupies 11 acres containing the original farmstead and other historic buildings which have been moved to the site. These include a general store, Norwegian cabin, church, school, barn and machine shed and the "Northside House" from the Scandinavian part of town.

Also on Thursday's agenda, an Open House in the genealogy room, and an



Tone Jorunn Tveito and Torgeir Strand, here at the opening session, were familiar faces who entertained stevne attendees several times

Velkommen, nye lag medlemmer!

- **SANDRA SCHINDELER**
Sherwood Park, Alberta
- **BRUCE SATRA**
Vernal, Utah
- **DON DOCKEN**
Northfield, Minnesota
- **LISA YETZER**
Northfield, Minnesota
- **GORDON HAUGE**
Sunburg, Minnesota
- **TOR IVAR STRØM**
Geithus, Norway
- **ROBERT CARL LILJA**
Farsta, Sweden
- **GUNHILD BERGAN**
Veggli, Norway
- **RANVEIG STRØMSHOLM**
Tranby, Norway
- **KRISTOFFER GULSVIK**
Oslo, Norway

Gifts and Memorials

\$10 from Narv & Marilyn Somdahl in memory of Virgil Goettelman

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Fra Presidenten:

Dear "Cousins":

My mom used to say there were kissin' kin and shirrtail relatives, but we are all related in the gene pool!

Greetings and may all be going well with each of you. For those who were at stevne, it was great to see you, for those who didn't make it, you were missed and hope to see you another year, which brings me to an exciting announcement. You are the first to learn that in 2011 the Sju Lag Stevne, for which Sigdalslag will be responsible, will be held in Fargo, North Dakota, from Thursday July 14 through Sunday July 17, 2011. It will be located at the Best Western Doublewood Inn & Conference Center in Fargo. But even more exciting, this will mark our 100th Year Anniversary. Mark your calendars now and be sure to join us for this very special event.

With all that will be going on, your Board is already planning. At the stevne all those in attendance divided up into groups reflecting their interests and helped us do some brainstorming for this momentous event. Great ideas were generated, and I invite all of you to think about what you might like to see happen at that time, and e-mail/write me or Donna Kulenkamp, V.P. for Culture, who will chair the stevne planning, or Marilyn Moen who will be Chair for the Anniversary Committee. If you would like to offer your help with a committee, we would welcome you.

Last time I told you how I had finally connected with a "cousin" from Sigdal. This year at stevne I was visiting with a couple from Landingslag and mentioned that I had a lot of information for my Cornish grandfather and there was a book which had been published re the Prideaux family from which he descended. The wife became excited as she also had a grandfather from that lineage. To make a long story short, our grandfathers were 4th cousins, but more importantly our Norwegian grandmothers had been best friends and my grandparents had stood up for her grandparents at their wedding and we both have the same picture of the 50th wedding anniversary celebration! Who would have thought that we would ever connect!

I have also recently connected with another Sigdal "cousin" here in Northfield. A few years back she had told me that she was of Norwegian background and I had told her how she could find the area from which her family had emigrated. I had not seen her until this summer when she informed me that some of her family were from Sigdal. In tracing her family, we connect back with the Kopseng farm, as do many of you. We had felt related even before finding that connection.

More and more stevne is feeling like a family reunion. I urge you to attend and experience this for yourselves.

Have a beautiful fall and stay well.

Judy

(Continued from page 1)

evening movie, *“Heroes of Telemark”* starring Kirk Douglas, dealing with the Norwegian underground mission to destroy the secret “heavy water” facility during World War II. Earl and Betty Knutson were kept busy at the registration table, and the report is that 50 Sigdøler signed in.

Sigdalslag’s Genealogist Emeritus Lee Rokke, computer guru Rod Pletan, and able assistants presided over the Sigdal library and genealogy materials and assisted researchers in the quests for their roots. The genealogy room was open Thursday and Friday, and also Saturday morning until it all had to be dismantled to make way for the Saturday night banquet in the same space.

The opening session on Friday morning began with the “Call of the Lur” by Tone Jorunn Tveito, and greetings from River Falls Mayor Don Richards; Gregg Heinselman, Vice Chancellor for University Student Affairs; Marilyn Somdahl, President of Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, and each of the Seven Lag Presidents. Musical entertainment was provided by Tveito and Straand.

A wide variety of classes were offered Friday and Saturday and included lefse making, folk dancing, internet genealogy, writing family history, and the “World Heritage of Seeds”. Vendors plied their wares such as wood carvings, books, photography, dolls and jewelry and several authors were on hand for book-signings.

The keynote speaker for the General Session on Friday evening was Roger Magnuson of the LDS church who outlined the “Norway Project” which has enlisted volunteers from Norway and the United States to translate the Norwegian Church records to English and to make them available on the FamilySearch website.

Leroy Larson and the Minnesota Scandinavian Ensemble Show Band entertained for the general session with hokey humor and lively music, prompting some couples to get up and dance in the aisles!

The Saturday Banquet, held in the Riverview Ballroom, was a sumptuous buffet which included cod with white wine dill sauce, and roast duck with lingonberry and brandy sauce, not to mention cloudberry pie and rømmegrøt. A bunad parade, musical entertainment and reunions with relatives and friends rounded out the evening.

The final event of the 2009 Stevne was a bus tour to the Norwegian-Lutheran Mindekirke in Minneapolis for a bilingual service. The church holds a Norwegian and an English service each Sunday and is served by Norwegian pastors who stay three years. The tour continued on to Luther Seminary which now houses the oldest Norwegian church in the United States, moved to its present site log by log from Muskego, Wisconsin, where it was originally constructed in 1844.

The Sigdalslag Annual Business Meeting was held June 26, 2009. Attending were the following 49 members: Judy Sosted, Earl & Betty Knutson, Rod & Audrey Pletan, Ruth & Dan Manning, Amy Michelsen, Scott Brunner, Dianne Snell, Lee & David

Rokke, Janice Johnson, Karen Olson, Donna & Darrel Kulenkamp, Don & Lynn Skadeland, Arvin & Twila Halvorson, Lowell & Barb Torkelson, Howard & Ruth Berg, Harold & Betty Kosbau, Carol Brunner, Irene Navarre, Shirley Augustine, Rebecca Hanna, Don Rorvig, John Glesne, Corrine Johnson, Linda Mohn, Marilyn Somdahl, Lois Nelson, Marjie Gauthier, Pat Rohde, Jean Fritts, Sherri Hogle, Eunice Helgeson, Helge Nordby, Beverly Emert, Paul Larson, Kristine Blomgren, Andrew Brevig, Birgitta Meade, Carol Meade, and Tammy Mohn. Treasury balance was reported at \$14,845.75, as of December 31, 2008. Irene Navarre was awarded a life-time membership for funding Sigdalslag memberships to numerous relatives over the years. People separated into small groups and brainstormed ideas for the 2011 Centennial Celebration with regard to classes, entertainment, tours, themes, and decorations. Discussions were held about a possible Tour to Norway in 2012.



Irene Navarre accepts her life-time membership award



New Member Spotlight!



My name is **Bruce B. Satra**. I was born in Seattle, Washington, February 10, 1930. We moved to Indio, California, when I was four years old and my first memories date from that locale.

In 1939 we moved back to Seattle where I continued school. While in Aircraft School, after High School, events deteriorated during the famous Berlin Airlift period following the second World War, and a close friend and I enlisted in the army thinking we would again be at war shortly. We enlisted in a super secret new branch of Army Intelligence, so secret we knew no details of what we were getting into. Turned out to be communications intelligence and we were sent to an army school where we learned International Morse code for 18 months. I hated every moment of it, but had to "soldier on" until graduation, when my first duty assignment was to a small detachment near Washington, D.C., the First Detachment, Second Signal Service Battalion. This was Vint Hill Farms Station, in Warrenton, Virginia. Warrenton then was a small rural town. Luckily for me, it happened that we had a small unauthorized machine shop, the man working there was retiring the week I arrived, I had some high school shop training and I luckily became his replacement. I had dreaded of becoming a radio operator, sitting listening to Morse Code every day, all day, all in code, so just meaningless noise. This little hobby shop was heaven to me, but then came the Korean War and since I was working in an unauthorized assignment I was sent overseas to Okinawa where I was assigned as a machinist to a Combat Engineer Battalion. Again, easy pleasant work and very little of it, things went well for a year until we were sent in very early spring of 1951 to Kunsan, Korea to build an airfield. Served there for a year and then was rotated back to the USA and a few months later discharged from the service.

Having had some experience then in machine shop work, I took a job temporarily in Edmonds, Washington, near Seattle, thinking that job was to do me until I decided what

to do with my life. It was the beginning of my life's work, the elderly German who was my mentor taught me the trade of Tool and Die Maker, some years later I took a job in a Mold Shop and learned the trade of mold making which I followed until my retirement.

I married Laura Abplanalp (Swiss German name) in 1960 in Seattle. We had 48 happy years together; she passed away in 2007. We had no children.

Today my hobby is in designing and making miniature aircraft engines. I don't know how Sigdalslag found me, I didn't find Sigdalslag, but feel very fortunate with the association, I've always been humbly proud of the Norwegian blood in my veins.

My great, great Grandfather on my paternal side was **Thorsten Christensen Satra** of the farm Grensetra in Sigdal, Norway. Born in 1850, he emigrated to America in 1869, first to Rock Dell, Olmsted County, Minnesota, and later moving to Goose River, North Dakota Territory, where he took up a farm. This was in the vicinity of the present day cities of Portland and Mayville, North Dakota. He married **Ingeborg Aslesdatter Flaagan**, from Sigdal, on April 23, 1872, in Rock Dell; together they had nine children. She died in 1894 shortly after her youngest son was born. Then Thorsten, with his oldest daughter Julia now 20 years old and taking charge of the children, headed west where he settled on a farm in Parkland, Pierce County, Washington, near present day Tacoma, Washington. He married his second wife, **Maria Trossdatter Sæthre**, in 1900. There were no children of this marriage, but Maria ably raised the young ones. Thorsten died there in 1927, and Maria in 1950.

Bruce B. Satra, 2277 South 1500 West, Vernal, Utah 84078, vengbsatra@ubtanet.com

Velkommen!

My name is **Kjell J. Varsla**, and I am a relative of Amy Michelsen. Thought you would like to know that on my web-site www.varsla.net you will find a link to my genealogy information by clicking on "Fam-tree" button.

Several of my ancestors were fiddle makers, and perhaps as many as 50 emigrants from Sigdal brought a Varsla

fiddle with them. I wonder if someone still has one of those fiddles?

Kjell J. Varsla, Bårudveien 3, Postboks 129, 3341 Åmot, Norway.

Earl Knutson - President Emeritus (But definitely not retired!)

by Dianne Snell, Historian

Earl Knutson is the current immediate past president of Sigdalslag, having served in the post from 2000-2007. Just a few highlights of his tenure in office include the completion of the English translation of *Sigdalslag 1949* in 2001, the publication of the Lag's seventh book, *Sigdalslag 2005*, and overseeing of the Sigdalslag tour to Norway in 2006.

Earl Owen Knutson was born on a farm near Willmar, Kandiyohi, Minnesota in 1936, the son of Olaf and Ethel Reigstad Knutson, and a descendant of Sigdal immigrants Ole Knudson and Aase Narvesdatter Hektoen who emigrated separately in 1850 and 1853 to Wisconsin and then Minnesota.

Earl's roots on his father's side are from the Hovland, Skatvedt, and Støvern farms in Sigdal. Norwegian was the main language in Earl's boyhood home and he learned to understand and speak it but not to read and write it. He began learning English at age five and began his formal education in a one-room schoolhouse near his home. Earl had two older brothers Sherney and Carroll and a younger sister Colleen. Carroll died in childhood.

During the troubled years of World War II Earl's parents sold their farm and his father moved to Portland, Oregon, to work in the Kaiser shipyards. His older brother went to war and Earl, his mother and sister stayed behind with

great-uncle Knut Knutson on the north side of Knutson's Lake. In 1944 the family joined the father in Portland and the following year they all moved back to Kandiyohi. In 1947 Earl's parents bought a small farm about six miles east on Lake Andrew where he attended another one room schoolhouse.

Earl's high school years were spent in New London, Minnesota, where he graduated in 1954. He earned a BA Degree Summa Cum Laude in 1958 from Concordia College in Moorhead with majors in physics and mathematics, followed by a Master's Degree in physics from the University of Minnesota and employment at the General Mills mechanical division (later Litton Industries) in Minneapolis. He returned to the University of Minnesota in 1967 to earn his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. Also that year he was married to Donna Martin and their two children, Corine and Dannette, were born while he was in graduate school.

In 1971 Earl heeded the call, "go East young man," and took a job with IIT Research Institute in Chicago, then in 1975 moved on to Morristown, New Jersey, where he worked for the Federal Health and Safety Laboratory in New York, later renamed the Environmental Measurements Laboratory.

(Continued on page 6)



Earl Knutson led the Sigdalslag Annual Meeting in 2004 inside the restored Old Log Norway Lutheran Church



Earl & Betty at the 2008 stevne banquet in Stevens Point, Wisconsin

(Continued from page 5)

Earl's PH.D. work had been in the field of aerosol research, and in October of 2003 he was proud to receive a prestigious award *In Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to Aerosol Instrumentation and Techniques* from the American Association of Aerosol Research for the work he had completed 32 years earlier.

Earl took his first trip to Norway with his sister in 1993 where they met five third cousins. Their ponderings about how many third cousins they actually had led to an involved project of collecting information about the descendants of their great-great-grandparents. They co-published a book in 1999, *Our Reigstad Family*, about their mother's side. That year the Reigstad's near Willmar hosted an international reunion which was attended by over 300 people including 15 relatives from Norway. Later the siblings collaborated on another book on *Our Sigdal Families*.

Earl married Betty Barnes of Morris Plains, New Jersey, in April of 2000, and after retirement in 2002 the couple moved back to Willmar. One of the reasons for moving back was so Earl could be involved in the Norway Lake Lutheran Historical Association and its project to restore his great-grandparents' log cabin on the southeast side of Knutson's Lake.

Earl attended his first Seven Lag Stevne in 1997 at the urging of family members and was greatly impressed with the genealogical resources available. Since then he has attended every stevne. He was elected vice president of Sigdalslag in 1999 and became our President in 2000, shortly after the Lag's "homecoming" tour to Norway. At the time Earl and Betty were newlyweds, and Betty—with not an ounce of Norwegian blood herself - jumped right in as

Earl's right-hand assistant during his seven years in office.

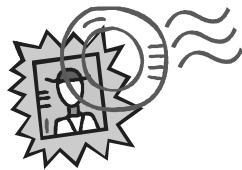
Betty also adopted the Norwegian craft of Hardanger embroidery and has taught classes at several Stevner and won awards for her handiwork. Earl and Betty as a team were instrumental in the planning and hosting of the 2004 *Amber Waves of Grain* Seven Lag Stevne held in Willmar which was a huge success. The Sigdalslag annual meeting that year was held at the restored Norway Lutheran Log Church and Museum which Earl had been working on.

Retirement life has been busy for the Knutsons, as in addition to his work with Sigdalslag, Earl served as president of the Norway Lake Lutheran Historical Association, vice president of the Sons of Norway lodge in Willmar, secretary of the Norwegian Stevner, Inc., deacon in the First Presbyterian Church of Willmar, and a board member in the local chapter of the University of Minnesota Alumni Club. Earl and Betty visit Earl's daughters and grandchildren in the eastern United States at least once a year and enjoy traveling to other places as well.

Earl remains active in Sigdalslag and served a term as membership director following his presidency. He and Betty work the stevne each year, whether manning the registration table, pushing the sale of logo shirts and mugs, or whatever else they are asked to do. Earl may be a President Emeritus for Sigdalslag but with all that is on his plate, it will be quite some time before he will be able to call himself "retired."

Sources: *The Sigdalslag*, 2005, pp. 101-102, 157; *Sigdalslag archives*

From the Saga Mail Bag



Rosella Goettelman wishes to say "Thank you for the lovely plant", given in memorial of her husband's passing.

Irene Navarre has written to express thanks to President Judy and the Lag for her Lifetime Membership Award.



Hans Andersen Foss and Farm Boy from Sigdal

by Mel C. Haugan

Who was Hans Andersen Foss and who was the farm boy from Sigdal?

Hans Andersen Foss was a Norwegian-American author, newspaper editor and temperance leader. He was born the son of a small tenant farmer on November 25, 1851, in Modum, Buskerud, Norway, just east of Sigdal. Foss immigrated to the United States in 1887. A lifelong proponent of the Temperance movement and the Populist Party, Foss edited several Norwegian language temperance publications including the "Dakota Bladet," in Portland, North Dakota, and the "Kvindens Magasin" in Moorhead, Minnesota. From 1888 to 1893 served as editor for the Norwegian language newspaper "Nye Normannden" in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Foss wrote a number of novels, many first serialized in Norwegian language newspapers. Foss's writing style made him a quite popular author among Norwegian-American immigrants. His popularity produced a new wave of interest in the development of the Norwegian-American novel. Not only did this work enjoy popularity among interested readers, but it was a stimulant to potential novelists. Foss' lasting literary contribution is principally his influence on later, more widely known writers such as Peer Strømme and Ole Rølvaag. Foss was most associated with his 1899 novel, "Husmands-gutten. En Fortælling fra Sigdal" considered a most accurate depiction of the lifestyle of farm workers in Norway. "Husmands-gutten" was the first of six novels Foss wrote in his lifetime. For his first novel, Foss uses the setting of the valley located in Sigdal. The book tells the story of Ole Haugen, the son of a poor farmer. And of the love that develops between him and Marie Hovland, the daughter of the owner of a large farm. Class differences are evident in her father's discouragement of their relationship. Good hearted Ole decides that the only way to earn money to purchase a place of his own is if he goes to America for work. Ole immigrates to America to make some money and become financially stable to look better in the eyes of Marie's father. Many adventures await the Ole Haugen during his three years living in America. After some successful business ventures, Ole returns to Sigdal to once again seek the hand of his beloved Marie. Ole returns to find the once powerful farmer wealthy no more. Ole buys his farm at auction and in spite of the difference which once existed in their social status, marries Marie.

The story first ran serially in the Norwegian language newspaper Decorah Posten published in Decorah, Iowa. It was so popular that it was reportedly responsible for six thousand new subscribers in one winter. The popularity of the "Husmands-gutten" serial has long been credited with saving the Decorah Posten from bankruptcy.

"Husmands-gutten" became a literary success and has long enjoyed popularity in Norway. Numerous editions have been published in Norway over the years. During the 1960s, the book was translated into English in the United States and published as "The Cotter's Son. A Story from Sigdal".

In his later years, Foss gave up the newspaper business and became a grain dealer, eventually settling in Minot, North Dakota. Foss would die in Minot at age 77 on July 9, 1929. He had continued to write for the remainder of his life enjoying popularity; however he never again matched the success of his first novel about the farm boy from Sigdal.

==Additional Reading==

*Løvoll, Odd Sverre, "The Norwegian Press in North Dakota". (Norwegian American Historic Association. Volume 24: Page 78)

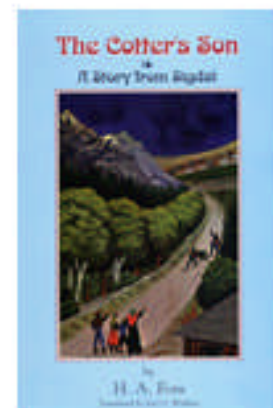
*Øverland, Orm, "The Western Home: A Literary History of Norwegian America". (Norwegian American Historical Association November 1, 1996)

*Thorson, Gerald, "America Is Not Norway: The Story of the Norwegian-American Novel". (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1958)

==Computer Links==

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Andersen_Foss

<http://www.readnd.org/hafoos.aspx>



The Cotter's Son is available for purchase through Astri My Astri Publishing for \$12.95 plus shipping. You can call 1-563-568-6229 for ordering.

Julekage - Lia family recipe

submitted by Sam & Robin Clark

Description: Yule cake just like great grandma Live Gulsdatter Lia made. No, you can't cut corners! (Live Gulsdatter was born 1835 in Sigdal, and died 1896 in Minnesota)

Ingredients:

3/4 cup milk
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 cup butter
 1 tsp. Salt
 1/2 cup warm water (105° to 115° F)
 2 pks. Yeast
 4 cups flour
 1/2 cup raisins
 1/4 cup chopped candied cherries
 1/4 cup chopped almonds
 1/4 cup "fruit cake mix" (diced candied fruit)



1 tsp. Fresh Ground Cardamom (Remove seeds from pods. White pods seem best - green pods will do. Pulverize in mortar and pestle). Don't even bother - if you don't have this!

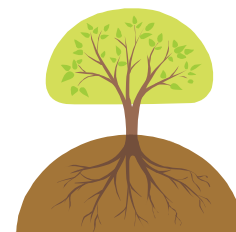
Directions:

Scald milk and add sugar butter and salt - Let stand. Mix yeast and warm water - Let stand 5 minutes. When milk mixture is luke-warm add yeast mixture. To this add 2 cups flour and 1 tsp. Ground cardamom, beat until smooth. Add just enough flour (about 2 more cups) to make a stiff dough (Robin says, "Use the least amount of flour you can get by with here - it will yield a more tender loaf"). Turn out on floured board and knead 10 minutes. Turn dough once in oil coated bowl, cover with dish towel and let rise (in warm place) until double in size (about 1 hour). Knead in fruit and nuts. After kneading in fruit and nuts - cut and shape dough into balls (My mom did this - for round loaves - either 6" or 10" diameter) or roll into ropes to braid a loaf (Robin likes to do this). Let rise (covered with dish towel) on a greased baking sheet until double in size (about 1 hour). Bake at 325° F about 30-40 minutes until golden. Glaze with powdered sugar/milk/vanilla glaze while loaves are still warm (Robin says, "Add a little melted butter to glaze to keep it from being too brittle and to give it a little body"). Garnish with candied cherries.

Comments:

Robin wraps loaves (when cool) with plastic wrap and immediately freezes them - then we pull out a loaf as we need it. Robin makes three braided loaves per batch - and will make 3 to 4 batches once a year. We slice it about a 1/4" thick at the table and butter it - couldn't live without it once a year - but use some caution, unlike lutefisk, even non-Norwegians seem to quickly develop a tooth for this.

Bygdebøker Errata



Note from our Lag genealogist Garth Ulrich:

If you have found errors in either the Sigdal-Eggedal or the Krødsherad bygdebøker I am asking that you submit these errors to me so that a comprehensive list can be printed in a future Saga for the benefit of all members that own these books.

When submitting the errors, please include: name of the book, publication year, page where error is found, description of the error, proof of error (if proof has been found, ex. church records).



News from Norway

submitted by Kjell Varsla

On September 13th and 14th we had an election for the Norwegian Parliament, which is held every 4 years. The results so far, is that the labor party together with SV (Left side Socialists) and SP (Farmer Party), will rule for the next 4 years as they did the past 4 years. This block is called the Red/Green Block, the opposite block is called the Blue Block. More locally, the result in Sigdal is as follows: 58.8% Red, 41.2% Blue (Eggedal is part of Sigdal); Krødsherad 57.3% Red, 42.7% Blue; my own local council Modum 56% Red, 44% Blue. That is the election result so far (as of September 15th), the final counts are not ready for some days.

The road through Sigdal is ready for upgrading by pre-finance by the Sigdal Kommune and the industry in Sigdal. Part of the road has been upgraded through the last 2 years, but the worst part is still to be worked on. That is the road from Hole Bridge to Nedre Eggedal.

The old Eggedal Mølle (Mill) has been through a rehabilitation phase, and looks very nice like in old days when people got their flour made there. The buildings are from 1912.

Last, I will tell that the fall is here, the leaves are getting yellow, and the temperature is down to 5 degrees Celsius (about 40 degrees Fahrenheit) during night, but can be up to the low 70s during the day, if the sun is shining.



The Old Muskego Church

On Sunday, June 28th, stevne attendees were able to join the tour of the Old Muskego Church. Muskego was an important, early Norwegian Settlement just southwest of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The settlement was founded in 1839, and was the first Norwegian community in Wisconsin. During the summer and fall of 1844, work on building a church took place, with final dedication of the facility on March 13, 1845. This modest little building was the very first Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. It served the community for 25 years, and then was sold. Several years later a restoration project began and the old church was preserved. In 1904 it was moved to its new site in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1974 the Old Muskego Church was added to the National Register of Historic Sites.

In 1845 eighty members of the Muskego Community wrote the “Muskego Manifesto”. This open letter to the people of Norway, described their life in America and testified to the opportunities they had found in the New World. The letter was published in the newspaper of Norway’s capital, and the words of these early immigrant pioneers played an important role in encouraging numerous other Norwegians to emigrate. While most of the Muskego settlers were from Telemark, there were five men from Sigdal/Eggedal who signed this historic document: Ole Olsen Grønhovd, b. 1811 Eggedal; Ole Haagenen Grønhovd, b. 1815 Eggedal; Herbrand Anstensen Hovland, b. 1818 Eggedal; Ole Aslesen Myren, b. 1813 Sigdal; Gulbrand Gundersen Skare, b. 1785 Eggedal. The following website holds more information related to Muskego & the Muskego Manifesto:

www.telelaget.com/pioneers/muskego/manifesto.htm



Member News ...

Please share with us your families news of marriages, graduations, long term anniversaries, significant milestones, and the passing of loved ones.



In Memory...

Virgil Goettelman

Virgil Goettelman, age 92, of Decorah, Iowa, died on Monday, September 7, 2009, at the Wineshiek Medical Center in Decorah, Iowa.

Virgil Samuel Goettelman was born on January 25, 1917, the son of Charles and Mabel (Bolger) Goettelman on the family farm near Decorah, Iowa. Virgil attended rural Pleasant Township country school and helped on the family farm. He served in the US Army from January 8, 1942, to June 20, 1945, during World War II. Virgil married Rosella Ansten on June 6, 1948, at the Madison Lutheran Church, rural Decorah. Virgil worked for Bruening Rock Products for thirty-two years. Virgil enjoyed camping and fishing. He was a lifetime member of the Helof - Holm VFW Chapter #1977 and the First United Methodist Church in Decorah.

Virgil's survivors include his wife: Rosella Goettelman, Decorah, IA. Two daughters: Sharon (Curt) Buhr, Boca Raton, FL and Eileen (Byron) Meyer, Postville, IA. Four grandchildren: Stacey Meyer, Bradley (fiancée, Rachel Elgin) Meyer, Kristi (J.R.) Mundy and Scott Buhr. One great granddaughter: Nora Mundy. One sister:

Emma Jane Severide, Cedar Rapids, IA, along with several nieces and nephews.

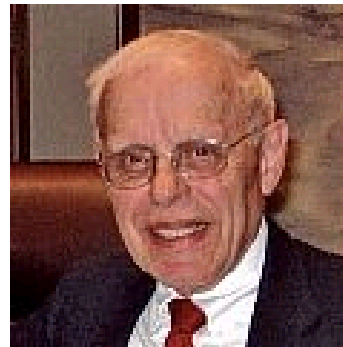
Virgil was preceded in death by his parents: Charles and Mabel (Bolger) Goettelman. Two brothers: Floyd and Robert Goettelman.

Services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 10, 2009, at First United Methodist Church in Decorah. Internment in Phelps Cemetery in Decorah, Iowa.

Doris Campbell

Doris (Hagen) Campbell of Rochester, Minnesota, longtime Sigdalslag member, died on August 30, 2008. Doris served in many board positions with Sigdalslag: Secretary in the late 1970s, Treasurer 1980-1982, and Vice-President 1981-1985. She was a friend of Vesterheim and museum volunteer for nearly three decades. She was the face of Vesterheim to thousands of Nordic Fest visitors who attended the National Exhibition of Rosemaling during the 1980s and 1990s, regularly volunteering for the rosemaling sales table. Doris was proud to model her Østfold bunad in the annual Nordic Fest style show. Representing a style that was lacking in Vesterheim's textile

collection, her bunad was recently donated to the museum by her family as a legacy attesting to Doris' love and devotion to her Norwegian roots.



Jack Lundquist

John "Jack" H. Lundquist, age 75, of Edina, Minnesota, died Sept. 16, 2009, from complications of a heart attack. Preceded in death by parents, Catherine (nee Wilkinson) and Harlow Glesne Lundquist; brother, Martin Alex. Survived by wife of 49½ years, Carol (Garber); daughters, Kirsten (Ed) Carrizales and Karen Lundquist. "Papa" is also survived by his beloved granddaughters, Amelia Elena and Milena Inez Carrizales; nephews, Todd (Sarah), Evan (Nancy) and Jeffrey (Ali) and their mother, Joan Lundquist; brother-in-law, Michael Garber. Jack also leaves behind many cousins and dear

friends. Jack was born March 14, 1934, grew up in St. Louis Park, graduated from SLP High School and St. Olaf College, Class of 1956. He served in the Army from 1958-1960 where he met Carol at Fort Benning, GA. He worked for Honeywell Defense Systems for 35 years, retired in 1990 and then found his true passion in life in family history and Civil War research. Both passions were shared by Carol. His legacy will be his extensive research on Civil War prisons, especially Andersonville which was completed two days before his heart attack. Jack had a passion for Macintosh computers and macaroni & cheese. He was a member of Lake Harriet Masonic Lodge #277, Scottish Rite, and member of Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable. Memorials to Norway Lake Lutheran Historical Association or Friends of Andersonville. A special note of gratitude to the nurses, doctors and chaplains at Fairview Southdale Hospital ICU for their loving care especially Rhonda and Kate. Interment Tuesday 9:30 AM at Lakewood Cemetery, 36th & Hennepin Ave. Memorial service Tuesday 11:00 AM, with visitation one hour prior and also Monday 4-7 PM at: Washburn-McReavv Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 W. 50th St. & Hwy. 100.

Surveys & library Contributions

These have been added to the Sigdalslag library:

- [Sigdalslaget 1914](#), Norwegian text, gift from Rebecca Hanna.
- [Sigdalslaget 1929](#), Norwegian text, gift from Rebecca Hanna.
- [Sigdalslaget 1932](#), Norwegian text, gift from Rebecca Hanna.
- [Sigdalslaget 1941](#), Norwegian text, gift from Rebecca Hanna.
- [Sigdalslaget 1949](#), Norwegian text, gift from Rebecca Hanna.
- [Norsk-Amerikaneren, Vikingesaga samt Pioneerhistorie](#), by Martin Ulvestad, gift from Lee & David Rokke.
- [Norge I Amerika Med Kart](#), by Martin Ulvestad, gift from Lee & David Rokke.
- [De Norske Settlemeters Historie](#), by Hjalmar Rued Holand, gift from Lee & David Rokke.

These have been added to the Sigdalslag website:

Ancestral Homes farm photos added:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Bjørkerud | Eggedal | submitted by Rod Pletan |
| 2. Grensbråtan | Krødsherad | submitted by Ed Espe |
| 3. Haugan | Sigdal | submitted by Mel & Sharon Haugan |
| 4. Pletan | Eggedal | submitted by Rod Pletan |
| 5. Støa | Sigdal | submitted by Judy Sosted |

A complete archive of every Saga newsletter (1981 to the present) is available in the members only area.

An archive has been started posting recent minutes for the Sigdalslag Executive Board Meetings and the Sigdalslag Annual Meetings.

For viewing are dozens of photographs from the 2009 stevne in River Falls, Wisconsin.



New Sigdalslag Book for Centennial

In Commemoration for Sigdalslag's 100th Anniversary, we will be publishing a new book. Already underway, this text will include a comprehensive history of our Lag. Much of the book will include details of the Lag's formation, important people, past events and stevner, vital Lag documents and meeting minutes, historic photographs, and family histories.

This will be the eighth publication produced by Sigdalslag, the previous books being published in 1914, 1920, 1929, 1932, 1941, 1949, & 2005. We want to also include family histories in this book. So if your Norwegian ancestors have not been chronicled in the previous works, please take time and write up their biographies and submit their story with pictures. Likewise, if not done before, any Sigdalslag members today are encouraged to send us information about their current family for inclusion in this book. Collecting and preserving the heritage of our ancestors and members is what our mission is all about. Please send your submissions to Diane Snell (Lag Historian) or Scott Brunner (Saga Editor).

The Centennial book will include the festivities of our 2011 anniversary celebration. We anticipate the book will be published afterwards that winter.

Schedule of Events

November 7 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NORWEGIAN BAZAAR & BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON
Bothell Sons of Norway
23905 Bothell-Everett Highway
Bothell, WA 84041
www.bothellsonsofnorway.org

November 7 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NORWEGIAN BAKING WORKSHOP

- a hands on workshop with the opportunity to prepare lefse, rømmegrøt, rosettes, sandbakelse, krumkake, and able-skiver.

Mount Horeb Community Center
105 North Grove Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
www.sonsofnorway5.com

November 20th -22nd

- will feature a variety of feature length and short films representing each Nordic country.

NORDIC LIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL
Parkway Theater
4818 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55417
www.scandinavianfilmfest.com/twincities/

THE SIGDALSLAG
Centennial Book
1911-2011

Sigdal'slag Saga

Serving Norwegian-Americans of Sigdal,
Eggedal & Krødsherad ancestry



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SIGDALSLAG EDITOR
555 HILLTOP DRIVE
GREEN BAY, WI 54301

SIGDALSLAG SAGA IS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY,
MAY AND OCTOBER

We're on the Web!
www.sigdal'slag.org

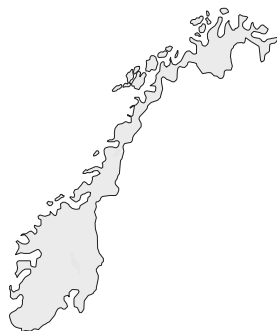
Comments? Suggestions? SAGA solicits feature articles, news, pictures & obituaries from members. E-mail sigdal'slagsaga@yahoo.com, or contact the editor (see Pg. 2).

Next deadline: January 15, 2010

Changed your mailing or e-mail address?

Don't miss an issue! Please contact Amy Michelsen at amichelsen@usfamily.net

NOTE: the YEAR shown on the mailing label next to your name indicates that your membership is paid thru DECEMBER of that year.



In commemoration of the Centennial of Sigdal'slag, free membership (new or renewal) for anyone with a Norway residence and e-address is available through 2011. This free membership will provide the newsletter Saga via the Sigdal'slag website (not in print) to all those people accepting this limited offer. To sign up your relatives in Norway, simply contact Amy Michelsen, Sigdal'slag Secretary, and provide her with their e-address and postal address. Write to amichelsen@usfamily.net.

JOIN SIGDALSLAG NOW! Date _____ Check if Renewal: or Gift:

Full name/s _____

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BUSKERUD Family Origin in (circle one) - SIGDAL EGGEDAL KRØDSHERAD

Ancestor's name _____

Farm name _____ Year Emigrated _____

2009 Dues: **USA and CANADA** \$10/YR or \$25/3 YR, in US dollars
ELSEWHERE \$12/YR or \$30/3 YR, in US dollars

Make check payable to **Sigdal'slag** and mail to:

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Anoka, MN 55303-8971

Residents of CANADA should make check payable to **Garth Ulrich** and mail application to:

GARTH ULRICH
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Write "Sigdal'slag dues (3 yr or 1 yr)" on the memo line of the check. Dues in Canadian dollars should be made in the amount equivalent to \$10 US (1 year) or \$25 US (3 years) on the date written.