

7-LAG STEVNE
14-17 July 2011
Best Western Doublewood Inn
3333 13th Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58103

**SIGDALSLAG, HOST FOR THE 2011
STEVNE, IS CELEBRATING ITS 100th
ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR!**



THEME: STRENGTH IN UNITY

The knot, symbolizing a unifying connection, binds us together from the farthest reaches of Norway to the far away lands of America and Canada. The knot represents the tie that unifies the seven lags which meet together once yearly to recognize and celebrate that connection!

***STEVNE REGISTRATION:** \$20 (no charge for students)

***THURSDAY EVENING, 14 July, Welcoming Activities:**

-6:30-9:30 PM: Genealogy Open House (free to the public)

-7:00-8:00: Dr. John Haugo, Telelag President, "Norman Borlaug, Nobel Laureate Agricultural Scientist"

-7:30: First time attendee class

-8:00-10:00: movie "Sweet Land"

***GENEALOGY:**

-1:00-7:00 PM: Friday, 15 July

-9:00 AM-2:30 PM: Saturday, 16 July

***TOURS:**

-HJEMKOMST CENTER TOUR: \$15, 8:30-11:30 AM, Friday, 15 July:

Participants will board a motor coach for the trip to the Hjemkomst Center where they will learn about the Hjemkomst, a replica of a Viking ship, and the Hopperstad Church, a replica of an ancient stave church. They will also view a documentary of the Hjemkomst's story.

Built by Robert Asp, a Moorhead school guidance counselor, the Hjemkomst was sailed from Duluth, MN, to Bergen, Norway, in the summer of 1982. Modeled after the Gokstad burial ship (built around 800 AD), the Hjemkomst made the 6,100 mile trip in 72 days. The ship's crew of thirteen included four of Robert Asp's children, three sons and one daughter! The ship took 100 oak trees, 7000 rivets, and 8 years to build. It is 76 feet long, 17 feet wide and weighs 16 tons. After completion in 1980, Mr. Asp was able to sail it on Lake Superior before he passed away later that year. It had been his dream to build a Viking ship such as this and sail it to Norway, the land of his ancestors. Hjemkomst (pronounced Yem-komst) is the Norwegian word for homecoming.

The Hopperstad Stave Church is a replica of an ancient church found in Vik, Norway, which was built in the mid 1100s. It was the dream of local chemist, Guy Paulson, who with the help of family and friends constructed the church over a span of five and a half years. Stave churches derive their name from the vertical log columns that act as corner supports. There are several types of stave church, but the common element to all is the corner post or stave and a framework of timber wall planks standing vertically. By the year 1500, it is believed there were more than 1000 of these churches in Norway. Fewer than 30 survive to this day. The stave church combined art with wood working. Mr. Paulson, a talented wood carver, completed all the ornate carvings himself. The church was dedicated in 1998 as a gift from the Paulson family to the Center and the city of Moorhead.

There will be an opportunity to review Hjemkomst Center's Heritage Hall exhibit, "150 Years of Immigration", which focuses on immigrant life in Clay County and the region from the 1850s to today. Learn who came here, when, what made them leave their homeland and why they chose to stay.

Visitors may also spend time in the Clay County Archives, situated on the lower level, which houses archival material available for research. Motor Coaches must be boarded promptly at 11:00 for the trip back to the Doublewood Inn.

-FERGUS FALLS TOUR: \$29, 12:30-7:00 PM, Friday, 15 July:

Fergus Falls, Minnesota, was the site of Sigdalslag's first annual meeting in 1911. The tour will leave Fargo by motor coach promptly at 12:30 and arrive at the Otter Tail County Historical Museum in Fergus Falls by 1:30. From authentically recreated dioramas and period rooms to creative hands-on activities, the museum is a unique cultural and educational resource in Otter Tail County. You will learn, for example, about education and the early years in Otter Tail Schools. The pioneers, many of whom were our very own ancestors, organized these schools beginning in 1869, in hopes of getting "something better" for their children.

The museum is also home to a genealogy and local history research center where visitors may have access to information helpful in researching family history.

The afternoon will continue with a narrated motor coach tour of Fergus Falls, a city located on the Ottertail River. It has been said that Otter Tail County was named by the local Native Americans who compared a sand bar in Otter Tail Lake to the tail of an otter. It was water that drew people to Fergus Falls which was settled when transportation and industry were dependent on water power. Dozens of historic buildings and sites in the downtown area tell the story of those who settled here. Included in the drive will be the beautiful campus of the Regional Treatment Center. The castle-like Kirkbride Tower, built in the 1890s, is one of the few remaining complete examples of a Thomas Kirkbride designed psychiatric hospital. At one time, the complex housed as many as 2000 patients.

The tour will conclude with a church supper at Bethlehem Lutheran Church which had its beginnings as far back as 1872. Bethlehem Church was destroyed by a tornado in June of 1919, an event which devastated the entire area. The church was quickly rebuilt by Bethlehem's 200 members and ready for use again in 1920. After a delicious and typical church supper of meatballs, mashed potatoes and lefse, attendees will board their motor coach for the trip back to Fargo arriving in time to attend the 7-Lag yearly meeting.

-BONANZAVILLE: 1351 West Main Avenue, West Fargo, ND 58078, \$7 adults, \$4 children 6-16, free for children 5 and younger, **open at 10:00 AM, Saturday, 16 July.** Bonanzaville is located not far from the Doublewood Inn so attendees may **drive** to the site of this historical village of more than 40 buildings. Guests will take a step back in time to the Red River Valley at the end of the 1800s and early 1900s. Tours are self guided to allow time for visiting the many attractions. The buildings are restored to the style of the period and are filled with authentic artifacts from Fargo's earliest house dating from 1869 to the Page Hotel which didn't close its doors until 1967. Look for the one-room schoolhouse which served students well into the twentieth century, the Cass County Courthouse which is arranged as it was in 1904, the Land Office Bank where hopeful land seekers filed the papers necessary for land ownership, the Furnberg Store which provided settlers with supplies and was also the local post office, and SO much more. Experience what it was like for people who lived and worked in the Red River Valley's settlement days.

***CLASSES: Friday, 15 July and Saturday, 16 July:**

- *Chris Schuelke, Executive Director of Otter Tail Historical Society, Fergus Falls, MN, "Church Split in Norwegian Grove, Otter Tail County, MN"
- *Rod Pletan, Sigdalslag Member, "Genealogy 101"
- *Kim Baird, Fabric Expert, "Quilts, Norwegian and Otherwise"
- *Mark Peihl, Archivist, Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, "Clay County, MN, Archives"
- *Grant Aaseng, Pastor, Shalom Lutheran Church, Alexandria, MN, "ALT FOR NORGE, a Norwegian Reality Show Experience"
- *Rebecca Hanna, Teacher, Decorah, Iowa, "Ale Bowl Carving"
- *Garth Ulrich, Sigdalslag Genealogist, "Canadian Genealogy on the Internet"
- *Jeff Sauve, Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) Archivist, "Keeping Family History 101"
- *Jeff Sauve, NAHA Archivist, "NAHA, an Archivist's Bird's Eye View"
- *Zvi Geffen, Concordia Language Villages, "Children's and Adult programs at Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village"
- *Dr. Verlyn Anderson, Retired Director, Concordia College Libraries, "Homestead and Land Entry Records"
- *Sigrid Kvisle, Director, Sigdal Museum, "Sigdal- Eggedal- Krodsherad, the Bunads of Today"
- *Mel Conrad, Kensington Area Heritage Society, "Kensington Runestone, a Local Story"
- *Erik Meade, Sigdalslag Member, "Knife Making"
- *Jackie Marler, Hallinglag Genealogist, "Red River Valley Genealogical Society"

Archives”

Additional classes, demos, workshops:

- Betty Knutson, Sigdalslag Member, Hardanger Embroidery Workshop
- Darlene Ellefson, Lefse Demo
- Linda Mohn, Sigdalslag Member, Norwegian Folk Dance, adults and children
- Birgitta Meade, Sigdalslag Member, CONCURRENT CHILDREN’S PROGRAMING, Friday and Saturday afternoons

***GENERAL MEETING: 7:30 PM, Friday, 15 July:**

- Welcome
- Anthems
- Greetings
- Speaker: Steve Hoffbeck, History Professor, Minnesota State University, Moorhead, will present a program titled “Hayloft Memories, Barns of MN and ND “. He is the author of several books including *The Haymakers, a Chronicle of Five Farm Families*. He will have books for sale and be available for autographs.

***7-LAG BANQUET: \$23, 6:00 PM, Saturday, 16 July:**

- Two menu choices: Both menus include a Mandarin Salad with Crispy Wontons, Poppy Seed Dressing and Popovers. Choose between Slow Roasted Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Candied Carrots **OR** Hand Rolled Chicken Cordon Bleu, Rosemary Roasted Red Skin Potatoes, Glazed Candied Carrots. Lefse with Butter and Sugar will be served as well as a traditional Rice Pudding with Lingonberry Sauce for dessert. Beverages will include Coffee, Tea and Ice Water.
- Bunad Parade, led by Andy and Dan Emert, Champion Fiddlers from Oregon
- Music: Andy and Dan Emert, Champion fiddlers
- Banquet Speaker: Art Lee, Retired Professor of History, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN, Story teller and Humorist, author of books including *Norwegians Don’t Gossip So Listen Carefully*, *Leftover Lutefisk* and *The Lutefisk Ghetto!*

***SIGDALSLAG 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Beginning 8:30 AM, Sunday, 17 July, Everyone Welcome:**

- General meeting
- Speaker: Birger Moen from Sigdal who will update us on Sigdal happenings
- Smorgasbord Banquet: \$23**
- Music: Andy and Dan Emert, champion fiddlers from Oregon
- Speaker: Will Weaver, author of books including *Red Earth, White Earth, A Gravestone Made of Wheat* and his latest work, *The Last Hunter, an American Family Album*. Will’s grandfather was from the Kristiansand area of southern Norway. He will be available to sell and autograph his books.

***FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- There is a restaurant on site for meals as well as a lounge/casino for lighter fare.
- Our Hospitality Suite will be open during most of the stevne for beverages, cookies and visiting.

-Vendor room will be open also during most of the stevne for shopping.