

TeleNews



News for Descendants of Emigrants from the Telemark region in Norway

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Greetings from the President

Thanks to our friends from Sigdalslag for hosting a very successful, well-attended 2011 7-Lag Stevne held at the Best Western Doublewood Inn and Conference Center in Fargo, North Dakota on July 14-17. Over 500 people, including 125 Norwegians from the Sigdal area, attended. Next to Sigdalslaget, Telelaget had the most members registered with 68. Other lag participating in the *stevne* were from Land, Hadeland, Numedal, Ringerike-Drammen, and Toten. My presentation on Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Laureate of Telemark descent was the opening presentation of the *stevne*. Five Telelaget members participated in the annual *bunad* parade held at the Saturday Night banquet at which Dr. Art Lee, retired history professor, was the featured speaker. In addition to the regular programs and meetings, tours to Hjemkomst Center in nearby Moorhead; the Ottertail County Historical Museum in Fergus Falls, MN; and Bonanzaville in West Fargo, ND were available for attendees. Telelaget's annual meeting was held at 7:30 AM on Sunday, July 17 at the Doublewood Inn and Conference Center. Three members were re-elected to the Board. Elaine Nordlie gave an overview of the recently-released *Telemark to America, Volume III*. As tour director she also discussed current plans and welcomed comments and questions on the 2012 Telemark Tour. Annual meeting minutes are available via the Internet from Shirley Viessleman, Secretary. Following the business meeting, Sasha Aslanian, a reporter and producer for Minnesota Public Radio, made a presentation on her bicycle ride across Norway, from Finnoy to Heddal in Telemark. She and her husband had traced her grandparents' bicycle ride taken during World War II.

After the annual meeting about 25 members drove to the Concordia Lutheran Church north of Glyndon, MN, located in the Buffalo River Settlement—home to many Telemark immigrants. Members participated in a worship service, in which the liturgy

was presented in Norwegian; a service of remembrance conducted by Rev. Bruce Krogstad at the gravesite of Rev. Bendik Bondahl, a founder and the first president of Telelaget; and a dinner prepared by the members of the congregation. We are grateful to our webmaster and former Buffalo River resident, Anne Sladky, for organizing the event. Pictures of the *stevne* and remembrance service are shown on page 4.

Much of current Telelaget's efforts are focused on planning the 2012 tour to Telemark and several other destinations in Norway. There will be a stop in Stavanger to see the recently built replica of the first immigrant ship to leave Norway, the Restauration, and to tour the area of the Prekestol, a flat-topped crag with is 1.900 feet above the sea. For the first time, the tour will feature an option to do mountain hiking. Detailed registration information about the tour is included on pages 6 and 7. Please consider joining us in our visit to the "Holy Land".

Mange hilsner,
John Haugo
President of Telelaget



Prekestolen [The "Pulpit Rock"] near Stavanger, one of the sites to be viewed during the 2012 Telemark /Norway Tour.

Telelaget's Web site:
www.telelaget.com

Kirn, Olson, and Haugo Re-elected to Board

Alice Kirn, Joran Olson, and Dr. John Haugo were re-elected to their second three-year terms to the Board of Directors at the Telelaget of America annual meeting held at the 7-Lag Stevne at Fargo, ND on July 17.

Alice, who now lives in Helena, MT, has served as editor of *Telesoga* for the past seven years. As editor she has made a significant number of improvements in the content and format of the publication. She also has been an editor of our *100th Anniversary Tour to Telemark, Telelaget: The first Hundred Years* and *Telemark to America, Volume III*. A retired English teacher, Alice has a masters degree from Michigan State University.

Joran, a current resident of Sioux Falls, SD, is membership chairperson. She is also responsible for the Board's efforts to create use social media technology, including Facebook, to provide information about Telelaget and its activities. At *stevner* she has frequently assisted members with their genealogy. Joran attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and received her B.S. degree from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. She has had a career as a public school teacher and assisted living director.

John, who was first elected to the board in 2003, has been president for the last four years. He has also served as TeleNews editor and has researched and written recent *Telesoga* cover stories on Robert Bergland,

Nornan Borlaug, Jon Wefald, and Gunnar Sonstebly. John is a graduate of Minnesota State University-Moorhead with advanced degrees from the University of Minnesota. He began his career as a high school teacher and coach. Prior to his retirement he served for 25 years as CEO of several Minnesota software companies. He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Hudson, WI and Green Valley, AZ.



Telelaget Board of Directors at the 2011 7-Lag Stevne are: **Front row:** Joran Olson, Shirley Viesselman, Alice Kirn, and Shelley Jerviss; **Back Row:** Elaine Nordlie, Darrel Johnson, John Haugo, Bill Hoberg, and Jim Skree.

Tørbjorn Greipsland Authors Book on Emigration



Tørbjorn Greipsland, a member of Telelaget from Askim, Norway, is the author of a number of books about Norwegian immigrants. His book, *Nordmenn i Dødsleirene (Norwegian Soldiers in the Prison Camps during the American Civil War)* is a gripping account of Andersonville prison during the Civil War. This past May, he presented his most recent book, *Norsk pioner i sju verdensdele (Norwegian Pioneers in the Seven Re-*

gions of the World), at a meeting in Oslo on the subject of Norsk emigration organized by the publishing company Emigratforlaget. Also participating in the meeting was James T. Heg, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U. S. Embassy in Oslo, who has ancestral roots from Telemark and Buskerud. Both of the aforementioned books include English translations and are available in the United States from www.emigrantforlaget.no, or from the Gift Shop, Vesterheim Museum, Decorah, Iowa.

New Members

William Allen	Independence, MN	Curt Larson	Forman, ND
John and Mary Anderson	St. Louis Park, MN	Becky Lewis	Amana, IA
Thad Carlson	Eagan, MN	Debra Maley	Clawson, MI
J. Gordon Christianson	Rochester, MN	Phillip and Kathleen Midtvedt	Alexandria, MN
Alviin and Karen Crumbliss	Durham, NC	Cynthia Monroe	Cedar Rapids, IA
Lois Egelhof	Bemidji, MN	Ken and Cheri Nelson	Calgary, Alberta
Connine Erdmann	Hawley, MN	Michael and Bonnie Norell	Mount Pleasant, AR
Joyce Erickson	Hastings, MN	Ole Erik Nykaas	Vinje, Norway
Douglas Framness	Marshfield, WI	D. J. Sachau	Tulsa, OK
Karen Humphrey	St. Paul, MN	Tom Sweno	Mazeppa, MN
Ragnhild Kaasa	Notodden, Norway	Jon and Donna Lee Swenumson	Livingston, MT
Michelle Klose	Bismarck, ND	Myrna Thomas	Lake Crystal, MN

Norwegian Royal Visit to Minnesota

Honorary Consul General Gary Gandrud of the Royal Norwegian Consulate General's Office organized visits of Their Majesties, King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway in Minnesota this October. They visited the Vesterheim Museum at Decorah, IA on October 13 and St. Olaf College at Northfield the following day. A Grand Reception at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel took place the late afternoon of October 16. John Haugo, Telelaget President, and his wife, Sharon, attended the reception.

On October 17 the royal couple took a flight with the Minnesota Air National Guard to Duluth, MN. Two Blackhawk helicopters transported Their Majesties to a 400 acre park and tower given to that city by a Norwegian immigrant Names Enger. Both the park and tower were dedicated by then King Olav V in 1939. Olav had made a number of visits to the Midwest as King.



King Harald V and Queen Sonja

Audrey Jean Overland

Audrey Jean Overland of Lanesboro, MN, died on September 12, 2011. She and her husband, Dale, have been involved with Telelaget since the reorganization in 1980 and hold the record for attending 26 *stevner*. Audrey co-authored the *Overland Family History* and was a contributor to *Telemark to America, Volumes I & 3*. Over the years the Overlands hosted many Norwegian visitors at their farm. She is survived by Dale, two sons, 5 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Tveito Article in *Telesoga*

An article about Aslaug Einung Tveito, the first Telemark girl to be married in America, will be the cover story in the November 2011 issue of *Telesoga*. The article, written by her great-granddaughter, tells how Aslaug left Tinn, Telemark and two years later became the parent for her orphaned siblings. She lived a long life. According to *Telesoga* editor Alice Kirn, this issue will also feature stories of a number of Telemark immigrants and their families.

This Issue of TeleNews Provided On-Line

At the August 27 Telelaget of America Board of Directors meeting the decision was made to provide *TeleNews* on-line to those members who have current email addresses. In September, members for whom we have an email address were sent a message notifying them of the new approach. Telelaget has email addresses for approximately one-half of the members. The procedure will be used starting with this issue. People can assure delivery by adding telenews@telelaget.com to their address book. Many other organizations have implemented on-line delivery of their newsletters. As others have learned, the advantages of this approach are: [1] mem-

bers receive their newsletter earlier than through regular mail and [2] the costs of printing and mailing are eliminated. Joran Olson, Membership Chair, and Anne Sladky, Webmaster, are responsible for implementation of the on-line delivery. Members may want to print of *stevne* registration forms, book order forms, etc. Telelaget's other publication, *Telesoga*, because it is lengthier and because members often retain copies, will continue to be mailed to members in printed form. If you have not provided Telelaget with your email address or have recently changed your email address, please send it to: **Joran Olson at joralouise@gmail.com.**

A Reminder to Renew Your Membership

If the label on this issue of *TeleNews* has a highlighted 2011 on it, this means that your Telelaget membership is expiring and that this is your last mailing of our newsletter. To ensure that your membership will continue, please renew your membership soon. The one-year membership for a U.S. address is \$12 and a 4-year membership is \$42. Annual membership fees for those outside of the U.S. are \$14 and 4-year membership is \$50; for Norwegian addresses annual membership is NOK 85 and a 4-year membership is NOK 340.

Please mail your membership payment to: **Joran Olson, P.O. Box 88645, Sioux Falls, SD 57109.** Norwegian members should deposit your *knoner* in the Telelag Account at Hjartdal og Gransherad Sparebank – account number 2699.07.11754. Renewal notices will be sent in January to those who have forgotten to renew on their own.

**Over a Century of Celebrating our
Telemark Heritage**

Pictures from 2011 7-Lag Stevne and Service of Remembrance for Rev. Bendik Bondahl.



Telelaget participants in 7-Lag Stevne bunad parade: Joran Olson, Elaine Nordlie, Judy Mathison, Sharon Haugo, and Frieda Nowland



Telelaget members among 7-Lag Stevne Banquet attendees: Dorothy and Tom Johnson, Elroy and Mary Aslakson, and Frieda and Ron Nowland.



Shelley Jerviss, Telelaget Treasurer, registers Darlene Jose for 7-Lag Stevne program and events.



Joran Olson [left] and Jan Frye [right] provide a Telelaget member with genealogical assistance.



Anne Sladky, event coordinator, reviews the history of Concordia Lutheran Church.



Gravesite of Rev. Bendik Bondahl, first Telelaget President.



Rev. Bruce Krogstad, Telelaget President John Haugo, and Adonna Galusha, Rev. Bondahl's granddaughter, participate in the service of remembrance.

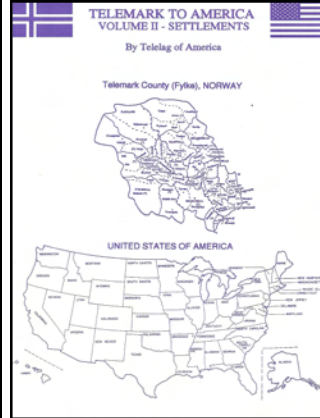
Telelaget Publications

Telemark to America, Volume I – Emigration



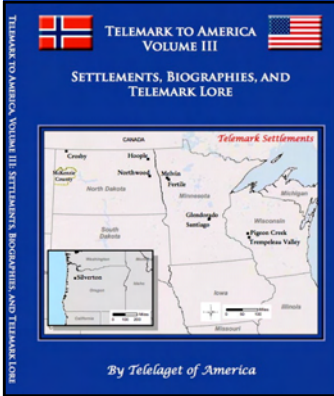
In 1837 the first Telemark emigrants set off for America beginning a stream of thousands starting a new life in a strange land. They retained a love for Telemark that has been passed down through the generations. This volume is a collection of articles written both by authors from Telemark and Americans with roots in Telemark, as well as translation of articles written long ago. It tells as complete but concise a story of Telemark emigration as possible and gives insight into the country that the immigrants left behind.

Telemark to America, Volume II—Settlements



Volume II is rich with settlement history from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. All the chapters are translations from the early *Telesoga* written by Torkel Oftelie. Torkel visited most of the Telemark settlements in the above mentioned states between the years of 1907 to 1926. The first issue of *Telesoga*, published in 1909, contained the first settlement history. Torkel documented not only names of those living in these settlements, but also the stories of their ancestors - the first settlers in these areas.

NEW! Telemark to America, Volume III— Settlements, Biographies, and Telemark Lore



Volume III of the *Telemark to America* series was published and released in July, 2011. The book is divided into three parts: articles on settlement history, emigrant biographies, and Telemark folklore. Much of the content was provided by Torkel Oftelie where he spent over twenty years visiting the settlements and documenting the lives of the Telemark emigrants. Torkel was concerned about the rich Telemark cultural heritage not be left behind. As with the other volumes, it is a valuable resource in searching for your Telemark ancestors, farms, and customs.

"A Year on Haugo Farm" by Ingebjorg Draugedal



This is the English version of the book in which the author - who now lives in Kviteseid, Telemark, Norway - tells of her life as a young girl in 1945, growing up under Nazi occupation on a farm in Telemark that was still as self-sufficient as those our emigrant ancestors left in the 1800's. The book recounts how they shared the work, the hardships and the pleasures of living on a close-knit family farm. It describes in detail the practical work that was done on the farm.

ORDER FORM

___ Copies of Telemark to America, Volume I-Emigration

@ \$20.00 + \$3.00 S&H = \$23.00 or NOK 125 + NOK 102 S&H = NOK 227

___ Copies of Telemark to America, Volume II-Settlements

@ \$20.00 + \$3.00 S&H = \$23.00 or NOK 125 + NOK 102 S&H = NOK 227

___ Copies of Telemark to America, Volume III—Settlements, Biographies, and Lore

@ \$20.00 + \$3.00 S&H = \$23.00 or NOK 125 + NOK 102 S&H = NOK 227

___ Sets of Telemark to America, Volume I, II, and III

@ \$50.00 + \$8.00 S&H = \$53.00 or NOK 250 + NOK 102 S&H = NOK 352

___ Copies of A year at Haugo farm:

@ \$40.00 + \$2.50 S&H = \$42.50

Total = _____

Name: _____

Mail Order to : **Shelley Jerviss**
P.O. Box 292
Houston, MN 55944

Address: _____

Note: These publications, Telesoga CDs, and various Telelaget 100th Anniversary Commemorative items may also be ordered through our Web site, www.telelaget.com.

2012 Telemark Tour

Monday, July 30, 2012 - Departure

Our pilgrimage begins today as we board our flight in Minneapolis and fly to Stavanger via Iceland. **Inflight Meals**

Tuesday, July 31, 2012 - Stavanger

We arrive in Norway today, in the old Viking port city of Stavanger. Stavanger is now the oil capital of Norway. Upon our arrival, we will check into our city center hotel and have some time to relax and freshen up after our flight. For those who want, Elaine Nordlie will guide you around the city center in the late afternoon. Tonight we will enjoy our first Norwegian dinner together at our hotel's restaurant. **Inflight Meals/D**

Wednesday, August 1, 2012 - Stavanger



This morning after breakfast we will drive to Finnøy to have a special guided cruise aboard the **Restauration** (the "Norwegian Mayflower"), a replica of the first emigrant ship to leave Norway in 1825. After the cruise, we will be guided around the beautiful island of Finnøy, where the sloop was designed and built. Among the sites will be the **Cleng Peerson cabin** with the original table where plans were laid

out for the 1825 emigration. Other sites will include the stone church dating from before 1300, a silver shop, a storage tunnel built by the Nazis during World War II, as well as some of ruins left behind. The island tour will conclude with a meal at the home of the local tour guide, Margaret Landa. We will return to Stavanger for some free time and a guided tour through the **Maritime Museum**. **B/D**

Thursday, August 2, 2012 - Hovden

We depart Stavanger today, and begin our journey across southern Norway. We begin by traveling to Lauvik, where we will board a ship and cruise on the Lysefjord to Lysebotn. On this cruise we pass the well-known **Pulpit Rock**. Our driver will be waiting here to take us to Valle, where we will visit **Rygnestadtunet**, a historical farm built in the 1500s by Vonde-Åsmund (Åsmund the Evil) and is today a farm museum giving us insight to our ancestors' way of life. We will be staying at a mountain resort in Hovden, where our hikers will leave us. **B/D**

Friday, August 3, 2012 - Rjukan Area

Our first stop this morning is a mountain drive to visit the home of the poet **Aasmund Vinje**. We then continue on to Rjukan for some free time for lunch followed by a guided tour of the **Vemork Industrial Museum** or free time in Rjukan. Tonight we will have dinner and spend



the night in a mountain hotel at Gaustablikk, with a grand view of the **Gausta Mountain**. **B/D**

Saturday, August 4, 2012 - Morgedal

We continue today toward Heddal, where we will tour the **Heddal Stave Church**, perhaps the most grand of the stave churches still in existence today. The balance of our time the day will be set aside for group members to visit ancestral farms. Time is allotted for those who would like to visit the **Morgedal Ski Museum**. Morgedal is considered the "cradle of skiing." A statue of Sondre Norheim, known as the "father of modern skiing" is located near the museum. **B/D**

Sunday, August 5, 2012 - Morgedal

Today is also set aside for group members to visit ancestral sites. Other sight-seeing options such as visiting area churches can be arranged dependent on the members of the group and who will or will not be visiting ancestral sites.

Please note: *If you are interested in visiting an ancestral farm in Telemark, contact Elaine Nordlie at (320) 275-2286 several months in advance of the tour. With help from Harald Omnes, she will be happy to make arrangements for your ancestral home visit.* **B/D**



Monday, August 6, 2012 - Skien



Some final time will be set aside this morning for exploring heritage sites, before we depart for Skien. Our first stop will be at the **Ulefos Hovedgaard** near the Norsjø. This was the home of lumber baron Niels Aall. In Skien we will tour

Brekke Park, Telemark's Regional Museum. Opened in 2002, this outdoor museum has a large collection of peasant huts, barns and other structures from the Telemark region. The afternoon will then be free in Skien. **B/D**

Tuesday, August 7, 2012 - Oslo

After breakfast this morning we continue on the last leg of our journey. Our first highlight of the day will be a stop at the **Whaling Museum** in Sandefjord. We then continue on to Oslo, Norway's bustling capitol. Upon arriving in Oslo a local guide will meet us and take us on a panoramic tour of the city. Our hikers will join us for dinner tonight. **B/D**

Wednesday, August 8, 2012 - Oslo

Oslo offers so many opportunities for tourists that it's simply impossible to take them all in on one trip. There are the **Munch Museum** and **National Gallery**, the **Resistance Museum**, the **Peace Museum**, the **Viking Ship Museum**, and so much more. Today Elaine will help us explore on our own. If there is a museum, site or activity you would like to experience, she will help you get there to experience it. Tonight we will have a farewell dinner at our hotel. **B/D**



Thursday, August 9, 2012 - Return

Sadly we bid Norway farewell today, as our driver takes us to Gardermoen Airport for our return flight to the USA. **B/ Inflight Meals**

Meal Abbreviations :

B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

Elaine Nordlie, Tour Director

July 31 – August 9, 2012

Hiking Option:

Telelaget is offering an experience-rich option during our 2012 summer tour. A five/six-day hike in the mountains of Setesdal and western Telemark has been planned by two experienced hiking guides. Tone Jorunn Tveit and Harald Omnes rate the hiking difficulty at easy to medium, suited for young hikers and physically fit adults. They have reserved cabins and lodges and promise that you will have an unforgettable experience hiking in this beautiful mountain region.

August 2 & 3: The hikers' starting point is Hovden in northern Setesdal, where they will hike in the surrounding area and stay two nights. Hovden is a popular skiing area.

August 4: From Hovden they will hike five hours to Sloaros, a mountain tourist cabin; with opportunities to do some mountain fishing, make your own dinner, study the mountain vegetation and geology. Great nature for photography.

August 5: Today they hike five hours northwest to the Holmavass cabin, which is on the Telemark-Setesdal border near the beautiful Holma Lake (3,000 ft. above sea level). Same wonderful opportunities as the day before.

August 6: Here hikers tread north again to Haukelisæter in Telemark, which is a popular tourist attraction with many buildings typical of a large *seter* (mountain farm). This evening there is an opportunity for a three-course meal.

August 7: If you get up early, you can take another hike in the area of Haukeliesæter before you leave on the 12:30 bus for Oslo. Arrival in Oslo, to meet the rest of the group, will be around 6:30 p.m.

Hiking Guides:



Many will remember **Tone Jorunn Tveit**, our vivacious entertainer at the 2009 *stevne* in River Falls, Wisconsin. She is a nationally known folksinger with a degree in folk music from the Ole Bull Academy. She has sung for the Norwegian Cabinet, the Prime Minister, and the King of Norway and has won many musical awards. Tone also has degrees in sports/outdoor life and biology. Her

unique background in science and music has resulted in travel throughout Norway. She has hiked the length of Norway barefoot, a feat you will not be expected to match. Her present job is a music journalist and program leader for the Norwegian Radio Station P2.

Harald Omnes, one of Telelaget's Telemark directors, is remembered by many who appreciated the work he had done finding ancestral farms during our 2007 Telelag tour. Harald has a M.S. degree in Forestry from the Agricultural University of Norway and has spent seven years as Research Fellow at the Norwegian Forest Research Institute. He spent three years as a lecturer and manager of training in forestry in Morogoro, Tanzania. He worked for 25 years as the District Forest Officer in Seljord, Nome, and Midt-Telemark. He is an active hiker, mountaineer, and folk dancer. He enjoys traveling, having visited all continents except Antarctica.

Follow-up Information:

Please contact Elaine Nordlie, at (320) 275-2286 for specific information about the hike.

Information about type of clothing and equipment will be sent to those who decide to sign up for the hiking tour. More specifics about the hike will also be sent later.

Full Tour Price = \$3699*

Includes airfare from Minneapolis
Price based upon double occupancy

Single supplement = \$600

Hikers Main-Tour Prices = \$2889* plus **five-day Hiking Max Cost Estimates: Adults=\$660#, Col-lege Age= \$590#, 15 & Under \$560#**

Land-only prices can be obtained from Ed-Ventures
Tour gratuity for coach driver (optional) = \$30.

*Based upon 30 tour participants. There will be price reductions of up to \$250 if tour reaches 45 people.

#Based upon 10 hikers. There will be a price reduction of \$50 if 15 hikers or more hikers participate.

Note: All prices are based upon an exchange rate of 0.18 US Dollars to 1.00 Norwegian Krone. If these rates change significantly, Ed-Ventures will contact you.

Your Tour Includes:

- **Round trip airfare** plus related taxes and fees
- **Land transportation** via private a/c motor coach
- **Accommodations** in superior tourist and first class hotels
- **Meals** as indicated in the itinerary
- **Tour Guide** and **Local Step-On** guides
- **Admission** to all attractions listed in the itinerary
- **Luggage Handling**
- **Taxes and tips** for services except for coach driver

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals not on the itinerary
- **Beverages** except at breakfast
- Items of a personal nature [e.g., passport, visas, etc.]
- **Optional insurance** for health, bags and cancellation.

Registration:

For additional information and tour registration forms contact:

Ed-Ventures, Inc.

320 Elton Hills Drive NW

Rochester, MN 55901

(800)658-7128

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due by April 1, 2012. Invoice will be sent out by Ed-Ventures prior to final payment.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. Individuals that cancel by April 1, 2012 will receive a total refund, less a \$50 administrative fee. Cancellations between April 2 and July 1, 2012 will be assessed \$100 per person plus any unrecoverable deposits. Cancellations after July 1, 2012 will not receive a refund. Purchase of health, baggage and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly encouraged.

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