



NEWS FOR DESCENDANTS OF EMIGRANTS FROM THE TELEMARCK REGION IN NORWAY

Volume XXIV Number 1

May 2021

**2021 VIRTUAL STEVNE  
COMING SOON!**

As most of you know by now, the 7+LAG STEVNE will not be held in Duluth, Minnesota as previously planned. The Norwegian *Stevner*, Inc. (NSI) Board has been working on plans to present a **VIRTUAL** experience for you, like so many other venues have chosen to do during this pandemic. If you are in a situation where you cannot attend virtually, we would encourage you to look at possible options to connect with family or friends, and “share a screen” to watch the presentations.



**All times are scheduled in  
Central Daylight Time**

**MAY 15, 2021:**

- 10:00 am** — The History of Syttende Mai
- 1:00 pm** — How Syttende Mai is celebrated among small communities

**JUNE 19, 2021:**

- 10:00 am** — Hymns of My Great-Grandfather by Sandy Gilbert
- 1:00 pm** — Scandinavian Blacksmithing by Doug Swenson

**JULY 17, 2021:**

- 10:00 am** — In Trunks, Hands, and Hearts by Jennifer Kovarik from Vesterheim
- 1:00 pm** — The Norwegian “Mayflower” by Dale Goodman from Vesterheim

**AUGUST 21, 2021:**

- 10:00 am** — Pilgrims Trail
- 1:00 pm** — Family Search Norway Wiki Page

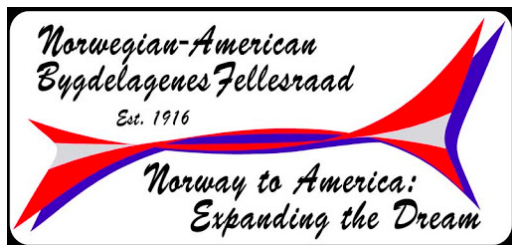
Plans for the **Telelaget Annual Meeting** will be finalized soon. It will most likely be a Zoom meeting again this year. The board also plans to discuss the possibility of an in-person get together in late summer or early autumn. Information will be sent via TeleMail when plans are complete.

If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Board of Directors for a three-year term, or if you have questions about being on the board, please contact President Jeff Huset or one of the board members. Names and contact information are on page 4 in your Telesoga.

**A FEW POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND:**

- Make frequent visits to the 7+Lag website ([www.7lagstevne.com](http://www.7lagstevne.com)) to stay up to date
- You will have the ability to register one month prior to the session
- You will need to **REGISTER FOR EACH SESSION** at [www.7lagstevne.com](http://www.7lagstevne.com)
- Registration will close on the Monday morning prior to the designated session
- There is **NO COST** to attend
- There will be a **DONATE** button if you are able to give a donation to NSI for programming costs
- The webinar presentations will be open to lag members and to the public
- Presentations will last from 30-45 minutes with Q&A following
- **REGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT** for purposes of security and webinar upgrades

Following is a list of the dates, times, and session topics. Further session descriptions will be on the 7+LAG website. We hope you will **REGISTER AND ATTEND!**



The 2021 Fellesraad Annual Meeting will be held virtually beginning on Friday, April 30, 2021 and continuing on May 1st. At the time of this writing, times and details are still being finalized.

We are planning at this time to use the Zoom platform that many of us have become accustomed to using over the past year. Information on how to get connected and sign up details will be posted on the website, [www.fellesraad.com/fell\\_events.htm#Annual](http://www.fellesraad.com/fell_events.htm#Annual).

Our speaker, Dr. Terje Joranger, will be joining us via Zoom from Norway. Due to the time difference in Norway we expect that these presentations will be during the late morning and early afternoon on Friday central time.



Dr. Joranger is an expert in Norwegian emigration and will share historical information on the four main emigration waves from Norway which correspond with the Norwegian immigration waves into the U.S. So, bring your ancestors' emigration information to help you tie into these emigration waves!

Other presentations will include the partnership established in 1955 between the Fellesraad (and Bygdelag) and the Norwegian Emigrant Museum and how that ties into our history. Dr. Joranger will talk about the major role he is playing in both the commemoration of the bicentennial of Norwegian Emigration in 2025 in Norway and coordinating with Norwegian-Americans in the U.S. Again details will be added to the website as we learn more.



Welcome  
New Members

Welcome to the following people who have joined Telegaet since November 2020

Kristin Burge  
Pine Springs MN

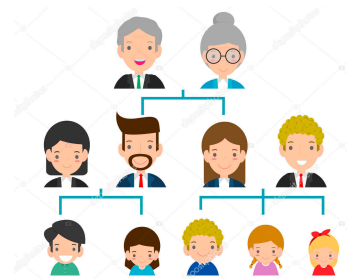
Kari Dahl  
Sammamish WA

Tim Davis — Gilbert AZ

Rob Erickson — Edina MN

Caleb Musser — Bettendorf IA

Gary Oistad — Rapid City SD



## Missing Telemarkings

Now and then we receive requests from members in Norway looking for descendants in the United States. Following is one such query:

### Emigrants from the Bredvik farm in Fyresdal

Families in Telemark who are related to descendants of emigrants from the Bredvik (Breivik Northern) farm in Fyresdal, are looking for family contacts in the Upper Midwest.

In the years between 1881 and 1901, five brothers emigrated from the Bredvik farm in Fyresdal to the United States. They were sons of Torbjørg and Aani Breivik. The family stayed on their small farm in Fyresdal. Torbjørg and Aani had nine children, five of them emigrated.

A description of the farm (including a photo) is found in Steinar Marvik, *Fyresdal gårds-og ættesoge*, Volume 1 (1992), pages 217–218. The five brothers who emigrated were:

1. Kjetil (Aanison) Bredvik, born 1863, emigrated in 1881.
2. Tore (Aanison) Bredvik, born 1867, emigrated in 1888. Tore first settled in Hillsboro, ND. Later he moved to New Effington, SD. Tore's wife was Christy Brevik (1870–1961). Their children were Alice, Garfield, Harold, and Arnold. Tore died in 1948 and is buried in the New Effington Cemetery. Alice (Bredvik) Baethke (1902–1977), visited Telemark in the summer of 1976.
3. Jon (Aanison) Bredvik, born 1871, emigrated (year unknown).
4. Olav (Aanison) Bredvik born 1876, left in 1896, probably settled in Browns Valley, MN.
5. Sveinung (Aanison) Brevik, born 1881, emigrated in 1901.

More information on the Bredvik immigrants from Fyresdal and their descendants may be sent to Ole Martin Gulliksen, Lindebergåsen 64A, 1068 Oslo, Norway, or by e-mail to: [omgulliksen@gmail.com](mailto:omgulliksen@gmail.com).

If you would like to submit a query for a descendant of your Telemark family, please send all of the information you have to [lilajsb@gmail.com](mailto:lilajsb@gmail.com) and it will be printed in the TeleNews or TeleMail as space permits.



## Joel Lund

Joel Lund of Milan, Minnesota died Thursday, March 18, 2021 at Appleton Area Health Services in Appleton, Minnesota at the age of 85.

Joel Arlan Lund was born September 8, 1935 to Arne and Leonora (Dalen) Lund in Belle Fourche, SD. He attended school in Harding County, SD until 1947, when his family moved to Milan,

MN. After graduation from Milan High School, Joel attended and graduated from St. Olaf College in 1958. After graduation Joel enlisted in the United States Army and served from 1959 – 1960.

Joel worked for Northwestern Bank in Appleton for 39 years and retired in 2000. He was a member of Kviteseid Lutheran Church in Milan where he served as trustee, was on the endowment board and served as an usher. Joel was a member of the Milan American Legion, Sons of Norway, and Milan Lions Club. He enjoyed his trips to Norway, golfing, and supporting the local youth activities.

He is survived by many extended relatives and friends and was preceded in death by his parents.

## Jim Olson



Pastor James Olson, 81, of Grand Island, Nebraska and formerly of Sioux Falls, South Dakota passed away Saturday March 13, 2021 at a care center in Grand Island.

Jim was born April 29, 1939 in Webster, South Dakota to Norman and Bernice (Peterson) Olson. Jim attended elementary country school and graduated from Roslyn High School.

Following high school, he continued his education at Northern State University and later graduated from Augustana College. Jim attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and received the Master of Divinity Degree in 1968 and was ordained as a pastor of the American Lutheran Church. In 1988, he received a Master of Theology Degree from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and in 1989 completed all course work for a PHD degree at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

Jim served as Lutheran Campus Minister at Stout State University in Menomonie, Wisconsin, Lutheran Campus Minister at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minnesota and at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He was Children's Editor, Division for Parish Education of the American Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and Director of Children's Ministries for the American Lutheran Church. Later, Jim served congregations in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Englevale and Elliott, North Dakota; New Effington, Claire City, and Sturis, South Dakota. He served as secretary of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA and completed his career serving as the Rostered Ministry Coordinator of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA in 2005. Jim was a member of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

Jim had many interests. He traveled to Norway twenty-five times, but, also, visited several other parts of Europe, Israel, Brazil, Argentina and Cameroon, Africa. His love for books, antiques and genealogy is well known, and he turned his hobby of collecting antiques and books into a small business of selling them upon his retirement. Jim was present in the vendor area at nearly every *Stevner*. He was active in Norwegian Genealogy research for more than 30 years, and was named Genealogist of the year 2013 by the South Dakota State Genealogical Society.



Telelaget of America is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

- A bequest is a simple way to support Telelaget of America and ensure that the *lag* can continue to celebrate our Telemark Norwegian heritage.
- Consider gifting a membership in Telelaget of America as a way to introduce a friend or family member to our *Lag*.
- Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed to Telelaget of America! If you're an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars available to direct, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) and click on "Making a Difference" for more information or to direct Choice Dollars,
- When you shop on Amazon, start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). and select Telelaget. Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Telelaget. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.



## The Union Victory Loom

At the last Zoom meeting of the Telelaget Board of Directors, member Naomi Nowland had a beautiful weaving loom behind her on the screen. She was asked to share the story with you of how that loom became hers.

I can't believe the loom that sits in our living room has been there since 2002. Yet, I remember like it was yesterday. That's when a long-time-ago friend of mine called me up out of the blue. After identifying herself and asking how I was doing, she blurted, "You need to know that you have the right of first refusal."



Above: My then 10-year-old son, Zachary, with his loom in the back of our van for the trip home  
Right: Zachary hard at work  
Below: Name plate of Union Victory Loom



Whoa. Who says things like that? And what exactly did she mean by 'the right of first refusal'?

"Can you clarify that?" I asked, feeling a little lost.

"Well, you see, no one else in the family really has the room for it and my aunt, who just turned 88, is due to go into an assisted living place and she can't take it with her. So, of course I thought of you and how clever you are with hand crafts. Also, you just might want it. Of course, you'd still have to buy it. I mean, we can't just give it away."

"Bonnie," I said. "What exactly are you talking about?"

"Why, my aunt's loom, of course." I tried to picture what she meant by loom, but my mind was drawing a blank.

"What kind of loom?" I searched desperately for some sort of mental image.

"It's a two harness, double treadle, floor loom."

Nope, I thought. Not really helping. I tried a different track. "It is very big?" I was hoping for some sort of size indication.

"No, it's about the normal size for that sort of thing."



Now I remembered our friendship. I never really knew what she'd say next. She kept me guessing. Kept my mind sharp. However, if she thought I *might* be interested..., well then, I probably *should* be interested. I did know that she now lived about 90 minutes south of us. "Would it be possible for me to see this loom before I buy it?"

"I don't see why not. But you're going to have to hurry."

"How fast do I need to hurry?" I mentally checked my schedule for a free afternoon.

"My aunt is due to go into the nursing home by next month at the earliest."

I breathed a silent sigh of relief. Sounded like I had about four weeks to get a visit in. "How about this coming Saturday right after lunch? Would that work for you? I'm assuming your aunt lives in the same town you do."

"Yeah, Saturday should work."

"One more thing, how much is your aunt asking?"

"She wants three hundred dollars, but that's a great price. She bought the loom used in 1960. And, she went ahead and dressed it."



*Above: Current status of the loom is undressed  
Right: A finished rug*

Great, I thought, how I would hate to buy a naked loom. I was glad Bonnie couldn't see me. I was sure my expression said that I had no idea what she was talking about.

Bonnie continued. "The heddles aren't too bad, just a little rusty. After all, it's been in her basement this whole time. And like I said, she sleyed the reed and tied on. That way, you can get a head start on weaving. Oh, and she has extra shuttles."

Wow, I thought. I was going to need to learn a whole new vocabulary.

True fact. At that time my 10-year-old son had more money in his savings account than I did in mine. So, I asked him if he'd be interested in buying a loom. He surprised me by saying, yes.

Two weeks later, we brought the dressed loom back home and began making rugs.



There are a number of pages and groups on Facebook that can give you great information and photos about Telemark, Telegaet and Norway. Access by entering the name in the search field at the top of your Facebook page. You are welcome to post and comment on all of these sites. Click on "See Translation" in any post to instantly translate to English.

Telegaet of America  
International Telemark  
Slekt og Data Telemark

Telemark Heritage & Genealogy  
I Love My Norwegian Heritage  
Norwegian-American Genealogy Help Here

Norwegian Genealogy  
Visit Telemark  
Norway Genealogy-Just Ask

## A View from the "Old Country."

Contributed by Jim Skree

In January 2020, I was informed of the decision made by the staff at Vest-Telemark Museum in Eidsborg to publish a companion book to their exhibit devoted to Clay County, Minnesota artist and author, Orabel Thortvedt (1896-1983) and the story of the Buffalo River Settlement from 1870 through 1899. Ever since then a lively correspondence has ensued concerning its production and subsequent distribution with Tilman Hartenstein, Educational Programmes Coordinator and administrator of the book project and its layout.

In January of this year, I received a message containing the following excerpted paragraphs. Since the eyes of the world are always upon us, I believe it would be important and beneficial to share the following frank and thoughtful view from the "Old Country" concerning the ongoing Corona virus pandemic as it affects West Telemark, as well as the national tragedy of the organized insurrection that led to the attack on our cherished Capitol building and the elected officials, staff, and police who were present on that dark and fateful day.

Hi Jim Skree,

11 Jan. 2021

Thank you for the kind greetings you sent earlier.

We have so little Corona infections in upper Telemark that Fyresdal municipality was assigned 5 (five!) vaccine doses this week (one small bottle?). With this speed it will take several years to vaccinate the whole population of Fyresdal... even though we're not more than 1300 inhabitants. Well, I think they will increase the amount next month...



Tilman Hartenstein

What [has gone] on in the US is really difficult to grasp for us on the outside. We understand that the political polarization has been going on for many years. But seen from Europe, the American democracy always has been a symbol of the free world, even if there are many things in your system that Norwegians don't understand. After all, the American constitution was a direct inspiration for the Norwegian grunnlov of 1814! So, if what happened in the Capitol last week is a sign of how democracy will develop in Europe in the years to come, we've got a serious problem... but now at least we're warned. But it is awful to see, I really feel sorry for all the decent Americans (still the big majority I guess) who have to witness this.

With best hopes for the days ahead,  
Tilman



*The Stavig Letters* is wonderful 57 minute video with great photos and outstanding voice over.

Based on the reader's theater play by Dr. Wayne S. Knutson, this original South Dakota Public Broadcasting documentary tells the stories of Lars Stavig, who immigrated to the U.S. in 1876, and his brother Knut, who stayed behind in Norway. The two kept in touch through letters sent back and forth over the course of 30 years. Those letters help describe the Norwegian immigrant experience from the perspectives of both countries.

Following is the YouTube link to view the video.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhbKw7OtbK4&index=4&list=PLCa5NgSjUAdZm5p6NURsCLGAEB\\_tVT6ze](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhbKw7OtbK4&index=4&list=PLCa5NgSjUAdZm5p6NURsCLGAEB_tVT6ze)



How would you like to receive your Telesoga? Members now have three options to choose from:

1. Continue to receive the Telesoga via regular mail.
2. Receive a PDF of the Telesoga via email.
3. Receive both a paper and electronic version of the Telesoga

Email delivery not only will help Telelaget save printing and mailing costs, it will provide you with a searchable PDF document.

If you have not done so, please send an email to [lilajsb@gmail.com](mailto:lilajsb@gmail.com) indicating your preference.

### **A NOTE ON EMAIL:**

You should currently be receiving a copy of this newsletter via email, as well as our TeleMail newsletter. If you don't receive these, we may not have your current email address. Also check to be sure the email is not going to your spam folder!

# Norwegian Naming Practices

By Olaf Kringhaug (1928 - 2008)

Olaf Kringhaug wrote the following article for the 125th Anniversary book of Flom, Minnesota & Area. Shared by Olaf's friend and Telelaget member, Margit Bakke, the article well explains the naming practices formerly used in Norway.

Norwegian naming practices are unique and can be a bit confusing. Traditionally, there were three parts, the first name, the patronymic and the farm name such as Erik Jonsen Bakke, and we'll deal with them in turn.

First names are simple, there are the ancient Norse names such as Olaf, Håkon, Bjørn and Erik. When Christianity came in the 11th century there was a profusion of Christian names such as Peder, Jon, Paul and Johan.

There was a tradition that was fairly rigidly followed until the 19th century. Children were usually named after a grandparent or other family members. A first son would be named after his father's father, a second son after the mother's father. A similar situation occurred with daughters. This could get a little complicated if both grandparents had the same name. Using our example, if there were two Erik Jonsens in the family, they might be distinguished as Big-Erik and Little-Erik.

Children could also be named after deceased uncles and aunts and even deceased siblings and occasionally after a great-grandparent. Quite commonly a widowed spouse in a second marriage would name the first child after the deceased spouse.

Patronyms are probably the most confusing aspect of Norwegian naming practices. The name patronym or patronymic derives from late Latin patronymicum from patr- (father) + onyma (name)]: a name derived from that of the father or a paternal ancestor usually by the addition of a suffix.

In the case of Norway this was practiced by adding the suffix '-sen' (son) or '-datter' (daughter) to the father's name. For example if Jon had a son Erik, he would be known as Erik Jonsen, or a daughter might be known as Marit Jonsdatter. The patronym was not a surname but just an expression of who their father was. Women would retain their patronym when they married.

Then there are the farm names. All farms in Norway have a name, in addition to the Land Registry numeric descriptions. Most of these farm names are a geographic description of the farm. Bakke or Bakken, for example means a hill and the name would be applied to a farm up the hill. Since there might be more than one Erik Jonsen in a community, they would be distinguished by adding the farm name to the rest of their name. Our man might be known as Erik Jonsen Bakke, or commonly just Erik Bakke. Again, these were not surnames. Erik Jonsen

Bakke only means Erik, Jon's son, who lives on the Bakke farm. The Bakke can be considered an address. As society modernized and the state became more involved in people's affairs, this system became a problem. So, in the late 1800s the government asked people to voluntarily take a fixed surname and for women to drop the -datter in favour of -sen and, when married, to take their husband's surname. It was made compulsory in 1923. Most people used patronymic surnames when they settled the issue of a surname.

An interesting observation. Iceland, which was settled by Norwegians, still retains the old patronymic system. It may seem strange to us, but people refer to each other by first name and even the telephone books are listed by first names.



The Telesoga focuses on preserving the stories of generations *Telemarkings* on both sides of the Atlantic. Torkel Oftelie, co-founder of Telelaget and first editor of *Telesoga*, traveled throughout the Midwest documenting the lives of emigrants from Telemark.

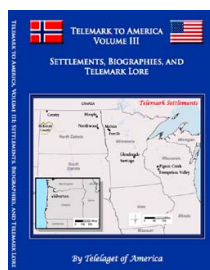
In the spirit of Torkel and those who followed him, we are intent on keeping the memory of our Telemark ancestry and heritage alive with submissions to the *Telesoga* from our members.

Basics for submitting an article are:

- Articles can be of any length but with a Telemark connection. This can be a past or current connection.
- Submission deadlines are mid-March for the May issue and mid-September for the November issue
- Email the editor with your story or send it through the postal service. Don't forget pictures! Email and regular mail address is on page 4 of your Telesoga.
- If you have a story to tell, but aren't sure you have the skills to tell it very well, just write it up as best you can. We have several members in our lag who will help you "polish it."

# Telelaget of America Publications

## Telemark to America Series



In 1987, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of "Telers" in America, Telelaget published a set of Norwegian-American history books.

The first volume gives an overview of Telemark and its immigrant settlements in America. The second book in the series (which has been updated and re-published) is a collection of articles from the *Telesoga* and 1926 *Årbok* about Teler settlements in America. Volume three adds more about settlements, plus biographies and Telemark lore.

- Volume I - Emigration
- Volume II - Settlements
- Volume III - Settlements, Biographies, and Telemark Lore

You can find a table of contents for each volume on the Telelaget website at <http://telelaget.com/publications/toamerica.htm>.

Each volume is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. You can order all three volumes for the special price of \$50.00 plus \$8.00 shipping and handling.

## A Year at Haugo Farm



"A Year at Haugo Farm" was published by the Vest-Telemark Museum. Telelaget sells and mails copies of the book in the United States and Canada.

Author Ingebjørg Draugedal, who now lives in Kviteseid, Telemark, Norway, tells of her life as a girl in 1945, growing up under Nazi occupation on a farm in Telemark

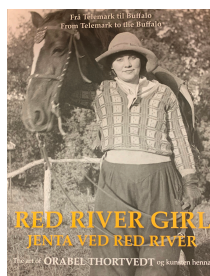
that was still as self-sufficient as those our emigrant ancestors left in the 1800's. How did people back then provide for nearly everything they needed themselves?

In the book Ingebjørg recounts how they shared the work, the hardships and the pleasures of living on a close-knit family farm. The book describes in detail the practical work that was done on the farm, but it also tells about the relationships between the family members and within the local community, and about the intimate interaction with the surrounding landscape. Ingebjørg's vivid reminiscences breathe life into what is now a bygone era for most of us.

The cost for the book is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

## Red River Girl

### The Art of Orabel Thortvedt



In 1861, nearly 100 people left Fyresdal in western Telemark for a promising but unknown future in the USA. Many of them settled in Southern Minnesota, but some were not content. They wanted to travel on, to the "Wild West." So, they did in 1870.

Orabel Thortvedt, granddaughter of pioneer Olav G. Geitestad/Thortvedt, devoted much of her life exploring and depicting this story. She was a trained artist, loved animals and was inordinately interested in local history. This book portrays the work of this fascinating artist, while at the same time telling a touching family saga.

The book is the result of a cooperative effort between the West-Telemark Museum in Eidsborg and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead, Minnesota. Published in 2020, the text is both in Norwegian and English.

The coffee table-style, 9 ½ x 13 inch, hardcover book weighs in at over three pounds, and its 193 pages are printed on luxurious, semi-gloss, art silk paper, profusely illustrated with black & white and color photographs, including numerous scans of Orabel's artwork. The book should be of interest to all who appreciate and enjoy the history of Norwegian immigration to the Upper Midwest in the 19th century.

Cost for the book is \$45.00 plus \$5.00 shipping.

## Telesoga Publication

Telelaget makes historical issues of the *Telesoga* available on DVD in pdf format. The quality of scanned photos and sketches varies depending on the condition and quality of the originals.

The DVD contains issues from 1909-1926 all in Norwegian, 1938-1953 and the 1938 anniversary issue in a mix of Norwegian and English, and 1980 to 2015 all in English. A second DVD contains Telesogas from 2016 through 2020.

The cost for the complete set is \$30.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

**Individual back issues of the Telesoga** are available for \$5.00 each plus \$1.00 shipping and handling.

All items except the individual Telesogas are available online on the website. A printed order form is also available on the website.