

The 2005 7-Lag Stevne

Seven Lag Stevne time is at hand! We hope that you and many of your fellow lag members, along with members of the other six participating lags, are already making plans to attend this year's stevne which will be held at UW - Whitewater in southeastern Wisconsin from July 13 to 16. As always, the stevne is not only for members of our Seven Lags, it is also open to all who have an interest in Norwegian immigrants to America.

This year's theme is "**A Century of Norwegian Independence**". It was chosen because 100 years ago Norway became an independent nation. It would no longer be ruled by the king of Denmark as it had been from the late 1300's until 1814, nor ruled by the king of Sweden as it had been from 1814 until 1905. On June 7, 1905 Norway formally ended its forced union with Sweden and restored its own monarchy. The *Storting* offered Denmark's Prince Carl the throne on November 18 and he accepted announcing that he would be known as Haakon the 7th. He took the oath of office on November 27th, 1905.

Whitewater is located in Walworth County, in southeastern Wisconsin. Its location puts it in the middle of the early Norwegian settlements. It is located about equidistant from two of the earliest Norwegian settlements in Wisconsin, which were Muskego in southeastern Waukesha County and northwestern Racine County (1839), and Koshkonong in southeastern Dane County (1840) and southwestern Jefferson County. The first Norwegian settlement on Wisconsin soil was on the Jefferson Prairie in Rock County (fall of 1838-39). Another Norwegian settlement was established west of Jefferson Prairie in an area known as Rock Prairie. As a result, the sector became a cluster of Norwegian settlements, eventually expanding over both sides of the state line. The most successful of the early colonies mentioned here was Koshkonong.

STEVNE RESERVATION FORM

Your registration form is located elsewhere in this newsletter. Stevne registration fee, banquet fee and campus housing costs were provided in the previous *TeleNews*, along with information on local motels and campgrounds. If you are not

planning on staying on campus and haven't already made reservations for your stay, NOW is the time to do so.

Other Places to Stay: The following locations were not listed in the stevne information provided earlier this year. The first two locations are Bed & Breakfasts located in Whitewater.

Hamilton House Bed & Breakfast - 328 W. Main St., Whitewater 262-473-1900. All its guest rooms offer a private bath, queen bed and down pillows and comforters. Guest rooms feature whirlpool and/or fireplace. Morning coffee bar & full breakfast. Cost unknown

Victoria-On-Main Bed & Breakfast - 622 W. Main St., Whitewater (262) 473-8400. It is furnished with fine line-dried cotton bedding and down comforters, with a full home-cooked breakfast. Cost unknown.

Other accommodations not listed before include two located in Ft. Atkinson, which is about 12 miles north of Whitewater on Hwy. 12.

Best Western Courtyard Inn is located at 1225 Janesville Ave. They have 55 rooms costing between \$50 and \$99. (800) 992-6789 or (920) 563-6444

Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites is located at 1680 Madison Ave. Cost is \$78 - 199. (920) 563-3600

The following three motels are located in Janesville about a half hour west and south of Whitewater.

Baymont Inn and Suites - 616 Midland Road. Cost \$62-70. (608) 758-4345 or 877-BAYMONT

Ramada Inn - 3431 Milton Avenue Cost \$48 - 210; (608) 756-2341 or (800)433-7787

Redwood Motel - 3912 N. Hackbarth Road. Cost \$45-85. (608) 756-4501

Starting your 2005 stevne experience: Upon arrival everyone should head first to the campus Visitor Center on Starin Road. (See map.) There you will need to register your vehicle, pay your parking fee (*) and pick up a campus map. [* The University has a \$1 per day parking fee for weekdays.] If you are going on the Wednesday Koshkonong tour, you can park in that parking lot (#7) and get on the tour bus there. Participants staying off campus can also park there. Participants staying on campus will want to park in Lot #4 just south of Knilans Hall where you

will be staying. You will find it on the campus map you will be given at the Visitor Center.

STEVNE SCHEDULE

The schedule for the 2005 Stevne is a little different from previous years. The Friday tour has been moved to **Wednesday afternoon** and is being led by Michael Bovre, a member of Toten Lag. The tour will leave from the Visitor Center at 12:30 pm and return there after dinner. The tour will center on the Koshkonong area. Before the bus returns to the UW-Whitewater campus the tour group will stop at the West Koshkonong Church for dinner. The menu includes pork loin medallions, cheesy potato casserole, apple sauce, green beans with sliced almonds, cole slaw, dinner roll, desert coffee, milk.

Brief Outline of Koshkonong Tour: The bus will leave UW-Whitewater promptly at 12:30 pm and head to Koshkonong Prairie. The first stop will be at the 1840 Anderson Farm where Pastor Dietrichson held the first Norwegian Church service in 1844. The group will then go on to the East Koshkonong Churches, the Koshkonong Parsonage at Utica, and then on to West Koshkonong Churches. The tour will then proceed to St. Paul's Liberty Church (the 3rd church of the Koshonong Prairie), which eventually became five churches. The tour bus will then pass through Cambridge & Rockdale on its way back to Whitewater. The tour will pass many historic farms and specific areas settled by groups from Sogndal, Numedal, Hardanger, Voss, Telemark and Toten Norway.

DORM KEYS - Tour participants staying on campus can pick up their room keys between 11 am and 12 noon or after the tour at Knilans (pronounced Nylons) Hall. **NOTE:** Those arriving on Thursday should pick up their dorm keys at the Registration Area in the University Center when they sign in.

All stevne activity will take place in the University Center on Thursday and on Friday morning. The **Genealogy Room** will open at 8:30 am on Thursday and stay open until 9:00 pm. It will open again at 8 am on Friday and stay open until noon. All genealogy classes, except computer classes,

will take place in the same building. The Vendors' area will be located next door to the Genealogy Room.

STEVNE CLASSES

A partial list of classes that will be given at the stevne can be found below. In addition to those classes, an informal **Hardanger** embroidery workshop is planned for Thursday. Space is limited to 16. If too many people sign up, we will either use a lottery to select the 16 or take the first 16 who sign up for the workshop. Cost will be \$4 at the door for cloth, floss and instructor. Bring embroidery scissors and needles. Please indicate on the registration form if you intend to attend the **Hardanger** embroidery workshop. The instructor for this year's workshop is Betty Knutson.

Beginning Genealogy by Barbara Horn

Vesterheim Genealogical Center by Jerry Paulson

Norwegian Silver by Carol Hasvold

Preserving Historical Items by Linda Herrick

Early Norwegian Communities in Southern

Wisconsin by Jerry Paulson

Norwegian Immigrant Series and 1850- 1860

Immigrant Research by Blaine Hedberg

"Astri, My Astri: Norwegian Heritage Stories" by Deb Nelson Gourley

Finding Those Elusive Norskies at the Wisconsin Historical Society by Dee Grimsrud

Descendants of the Norwegian Constitution Signers in the United States by Mike Bovre

ENTERTAINMENT

After our Friday evening's banquet the *Edvard Grieg Mens Choir of Madison* will provide our evening program. According to the choir's mission statement, their purpose is to carry on their Scandinavian (Norwegian) heritage through song and a male chorus singing music of Edward Grieg and other Scandinavian composers. The choir sings at church services, at nursing homes, the *Sangerfest* every two years, and the Norwegian American Fest every year. It also participates in a joint concert in Arlington Heights. The group was established in 1926 and is a member of the Midwest Norwegian Singers Association.

