The theme of the 2008 seven lag stevne in Stevens Point, Wisconsin is "Land, Logging and Legends". Within that theme is the story of hundreds of thousands of Norwegians making the difficult decision to immigrate to America and making a better life for themselves. Our stevner help us learn about and celebrate their courage and determination. Since this will be the first time our 7 Lag Stevne will be held in central Wisconsin, the following article will acquaint you with the early history of the Norwegians in the area.

The first Norwegian immigrant in Wisconsin was Ole Nattestad, from Numedal. He first came to Illinois, but found it too flat and marshy and he moved to southeast Wisconsin in July of 1838. In 1839 his brother, Ansten, joined him with a small group of immigrants from Numedal. They moved to the settlement of Rock Prairie in southeast Wisconsin. By 1850 that settlement included 180 families and 942 people. Many subsequent settlers began to move toward other parts of Wisconsin, including central Wisconsin.

That central part of Wisconsin was called "the Indian lands" because of the number of Indians already living there. Author and historian Malcom Rosholt wrote a book titled, "From the Indian Land" which describes in detail the Norwegian settlement of the townships of New Hope and Amherst in eastern Portage County and the townships of Scandinavia, Iola and St. Lawrence in western Waupaca County. At that time large tracts of land could still be purchased for $1.25 an acre. By the late 1860’s those five townships, which bordered each other, were composed almost entirely of Norwegians. Wisconsin was the center of Norwegian immigration to the U.S. until after the Civil War. Then the center moved to Minnesota and later to North Dakota.
Fra Presidenten:

Dear Sigdalings,

Time has a way of going faster and faster, the days and months fly by when one is having fun. The past month I have been engrossed in family genealogy, for my Sigdal ancestors and descendants. First, if you have not heard, the project to digitize the Norwegian Church records has been completed and all the records they have can now be found on digitarkivet.uib.no. They are much clearer than the old microfisch records we would strain to read. I have used them to locate birth records for an ancestor I had given up finding and have now gone back 5 generations, to the 1500’s. Then Lee Rokke, our genealogist, has received, on behalf of the Lag, the new updated Bygdeboker for Sigdal and Eggedal, from Sigdal kommune. It is up to date to 2007. They will be at Stevne. With the use of the new information, I was able to find fourth cousins. They live right next to the farm my great great-grandfather sold when he emigrated in 1854. I may have to make another trip back to Sigdal to meet them! All this has been very delightful, but distracting.

I hope that the New Year has found you all doing well. The Sigdal Board meeting on Jan. 12th showed that financially and organizationally Sigdalslag is doing well.

We have since gotten word that our "Saga" editors will be “retiring” with the May issue. Cindy Peterson and Marilyn Moen have done a great job and shown us how the job can be managed from a distance, Marilyn being in Minnesota and Cindy in California. They have also put us on the Internet and in color. They will be greatly missed and we all thank them for the excellent job they have done.

Now, we NEED an Editor or Co-Editors! If you have any ability formatting with a computer, you might enjoy being a part of a great team, the Sigdalslag Board. Cindy and Marilyn can help you get up to speed. Please let me or Cindy or Marilyn know if you would like to be part of helping spread the word about our Norwegian heritage and the Lag activities.

Stevne plans are in the works, this year Stevne will be at Stevens Point, WI. Plan to come and connect with all your “cousins”. More information will be coming in the May issue of the "Saga."

Lee Rokke, our most esteemed genealogist, has also indicated that she would like to begin the process of “retiring”. We therefore NEED a member who having done work on their own family genealogy would be interested in finding all their relations in Sigdal, as well as helping others who would like to find their connections. There are members who are available to offer assistance and Lee would be most willing to show you what information and resources she has collected. If you might be interested, please contact me or Lee.

If you have access to the Internet, I would like to encourage you to sign up to receive the “Saga” by email. It is really a great way to get the news and it is in color, also.

As I write this the weather prediction for tonight in Minnesota is minus 40 to 60 degrees. I have been reading my old travel journals for Norway and thinking of green mountains with waterfalls and fjords with blue water. Hope you have some pleasant thoughts to keep you warm.

Judy Sosted
President, Sigdalslag
Norwegians in Central Wisconsin...

(Continued from page 1)

land, past northern New York and Pennsylvania, the northern halves of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota and into Canada. In Wisconsin the southern part of this forest was mostly composed of hardwood trees, but going north it soon became all evergreens, especially white pine. The white pine was ideal for lumber as it was straight, clear (most of its branches were near the top), soft, strong, and light (it could be floated down the rivers to the saw mills). Many of these trees were several hundred years old. The largest ones were seven feet in diameter at the base and over two hundred feet tall.

As settlers were streaming toward the plains into Illinois, Iowa, Dakota, Nebraska and beyond, they were in need of good lumber to build houses and barns and other necessities of life. The stage was set. Wisconsin had the trees and the plains needed the lumber. The lumber "barons", mostly English, came to Wisconsin and prepared to build saw mills and cut the forest. They needed one more thing—LABORERS, with strong backs and the ability to endure difficult conditions. During the 1850's and on, many of the immigrants went to work in the lumber industry. The largest number of this group was Norwegians, but there were also many Germans and Poles who entered the work force. Most of these immigrants who were "working in the woods" saved their money to buy a farm, or improve the farm they already had. Many of us know of grandparents, or other family members who went to "work in the woods" during the winter, while mother and kids kept the farm going until their husband and father came back home. A few Norwegian immigrants made the lumber industry a full time career. Others worked in the industry for a while, saved their money and started a store or other business in the town. The lumber industry contributed to the immigrant's income and was a part of their economy. The north woods of Wisconsin where the lumbering took place was called "the pinery".

Not only was being a lumberjack very difficult work, from daylight to dark, but there were also many grievances. Because the lumber companies didn't get paid until they sold the lumber the lumberjacks usually didn't get paid until several months after their work had been completed. If Ole needed to buy a cow or two he might have to borrow money, and pay interest on it until he got paid by the lumber company and could pay off the loan. Food in the camps was always an issue. If a lumber camp had a bad cook they would have trouble getting employees and possibly lose some that they had. The cooks were among the highest paid employees in camp, along with saw sharpeners, blacksmiths and other specialty positions. Lumberjacks, who did the hardest and most dangerous work were among the lowest paid. The book, "Empire in Pine" by Fries talks about a Norwegian lumberjack who got killed on the job and the company docked his final paycheck 20% because he didn't "fulfill his contract". Life was not easy in that business.

The experiences of the immigrants as they struggled to tame the land and risked life and limb in the pineries live on as legends. Please plan to join your lag at our stevne as we celebrate the stories of our pioneer ancestors.

Some of the information in this article comes from "Norwegians in Wisconsin" by Richard Fapso, and from "Empire In Pine" by Robert F. Fries.
An Immigrant’s Life In Portage County Wisconsin

From the Autobiography of Louis O. Foss

English translation by Tom Foss

Ole Olson Foss (or Fjøse) and Jøran Torsteinsdatter Buserud emigrated from Svene Parish in Numedal in 1853. Their son, Louis, wrote his autobiography in 1918. The following article is a portion of that autobiography and tells of his childhood in Portage County, Wisconsin, near Stevens Point. A few years after homesteading in Grant County, Minnesota Louis married an immigrant from Land, Nikkoline Nilsdatter Bratlien, who was born in Nord Torpa in 1864.

My parents came over the St. Lawrence seaway and lakes to Chicago, I believe, and from there to the Rock River settlement to the town of Ixonia, Jefferson County, Wis., where my uncle, Hellik Foss, who had emigrated in 1842 lived. Both brothers had assumed the name Foss, since they thought they had some right to use it.

After my parents had lived there a while, I was born, the 13th of December 1854, and was baptized by Pastor Niels Brandt.

In 1856, when my uncle had sold his farm (dad had none), they moved along with some other families to Indian-country, as it was called, to the place which later, when the town was organized, got the name New Hope, in Portage County, Wis. On the trip they used oxen and the well-known canvas "covered wagons". All the heads of the family in the group, that had not bought land before (my uncle had bought his before), now bought land, built log cabins and began to clear the woods, which on their places stood tight. The land at that time was a wilderness, and to the north from the settlement there was no white-mans dwelling for a distance of 200 miles, all the way up to Lake Superior, but there were many Indians and a lot of wildlife, so it was also called "hunters paradise". They had a long way to the market and mill. One time when the snow was very deep, dad went on skis to Waupaca, a distance of 25 miles, and carried on his shoulders a 100 pound sack of corn to the mill.

One year there was tight times for many; because the little crop was totally ruined, by rust, I think it was, so there came a lot of snow, over four feet deep, and then a thin crust froze on it, and then the deer had it bad; because both people and wolves cut loose to lay waste to this magnificent wildlife. People went on skis after them, and those that didn't have guns, used axes and whatever they could. I remember they killed a buck seven or eight rods from our log cabin. We ate the dried venison instead of bread.

When the big Civil War broke out, it was sometimes eerie in the little settlement. A large comet showed itself just before the war broke out, and it brought despondency and doubt and also fear to many a heart; because many people then as now were easily frightened by the appearance of comets, falling stars or other in themselves quite natural happenings. I remember that this comet had an enormous long and wide tail; because we kids contemplated it every night for a long time, when it was clear weather. (editor's note - This

(Continued on page 5)
(Continued from page 4)

was possibly the comet Tebbutt)

When the Indian uprising broke out here in Minnesota, it also awakened apprehensions and fright in the settlement; because cut off as they were, and the many Indians that traveled there at that time, the situation was not suited to instill confidence in people, especially women and children. I remember that when my sisters and I went to bed in the evening, it was with anxiety and fright that the blood-thirsty Indian's tomahawk and scalping knife might deprive us of our lives during the night, and even in our dreams we were plagued by sinister scenes of murder and torture. The settlers organized a "homeguard" for defense, but most of them didn't have guns. In the evening, when people went to bed, they set guns, if they had such, or also axes, scythes, hay-forks or other tools by the bed, to have something to defend themselves with in case of a nightly assault from the redskins side. I remember that dad made a fierce defensive weapon by fastening a cut off scythe to an "ironwood" stake. He sharpened the scythe so it was two-edged a bit in the point, so a redskin would surely have fared the worse if he had gotten a taste of it; but luckily the people in the settlement got away with just the scare.

There is an event which I will not easily forget from these times. Few young people now know what a "shinplaster" is for instance, but I have a reason to remember them. At that time any bank whatsoever could issue notes on almost all types of security or time any bank whatsoever could issue a reason to remember them. At that "shinplaster" is for instance, but I have young people now know what a easily forget from these times. Few

...
poor to pay my way to school, and so I didn’t get to college. Some people have received a little financial support, but I have surely inherited a little pride, so I didn’t like to beg.

I was confirmed by Pastor Niels Berke in the New Hope church, in 1870. We were 13 boys and 13 girls, so it could look like an unlucky number, but one of the boys became a minister, Rev. Carl J. Moen; one became a poet, Mr. Ole A. Buslett, and three of the boys have been members of the legislature: Ole A Buslett in Wisconsin, Jacob Nelson in North Dakota and I in Minnesota. Of the girls one became an English teacher, namely Susan A. Nederlo, since married to Mr. Anders Brekke, but he has been dead for some time. She was a very beautiful and gifted woman and had a delightful singing voice.

At the age of sixteen I got a placement as a clerk in a store in the little town of Nelsonville, with an Englishman named Edward Creed. They were good people. I was there almost a year, but then he closed the business. I thought also a bit about becoming a lawyer, it wasn’t so difficult at that time; when one got a placement with a trial lawyer and was there for a while, then he got "admission to the bar"; but the man that I was to be with, was elected as a congressman, so it didn’t amount to much. I have always had a desire to read and study law, and have kept up with it more or less on my own ever since.

I did then, as most of the boys in the settlement; went off to the logging woods. I spent five or six years as a log worker, log-driver and "riverman", as they say, one that is along to float the lumber rafts and fleets down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, sometimes all the way down to St. Louis in Missouri. I was along so far as St. Louis just one time. From Wausau in Wisconsin to St. Louis in Missouri is a distance of 1,000 miles. It was a strenuous job and also dangerous, both in the woods and on the river; because many lost their lives in the woods when branches and trees fell down on them, and many drowned in the dangerous rapids and falls in the Wisconsin River.

It was rough for many of the brave "pinery" boys and "rivermen"; because they seldom thought about the morning, but lived it up when they were off duty, as long as the money held up; then it was to go to the woods or to the river and start all over again.

There were impressive log forests in Wisconsin at that time. Yes, how many million feet of lumber was not taken and rotted or became fuel for forest fire; because one took only the best part of the tree, and let the top lay, even if one could get one or two logs from it, and still some branches on it. The reason was surely that it didn’t pay to take them with; because lumber was cheap at that time.

It is now many years since the last "raft" sailed down the old Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers; because one now transports lumber on the railroad. It is with melancholy I often take out a little book, that my brother-in-law, Halvor Brua, presented me. It is a book with photographs of the lumber floats, from the "Crib" is built and bound with others into a "Rapids Piece", and these joined again to a "Raft" and then to a "Mississippi Fleet", and photographs of the work the whole way, both on the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. I would not part with the book for a small fortune.

Some years ago I took a trip to my old home in New Hope, Wis., and it happened like this, that there was to be an "Old Settlers' Reunion", and I went with my excellent old friend Lars L. Løberg to the celebration. There were many people gathered, and a cheerful party it was. I met a lot of my schoolmates, relatives, friends and acquaintances. I also had to get up and give a speech for them, and it is one of the happiest days of my life; because in front of me on the benches and standing I saw childhood companions, with whom I had played, now sedate family fathers and mothers; many who were in their strongest years when I left home, now with graying locks, but all listened with close attention to my speech, and when it was over, I received a resounding applause. No matter where I turned, I met friendly faces. Many of the settlers told about their fight and struggle in the early times of pioneer-life, and their accounts were followed with deep-felt interest. In this way the day passed-by with speeches, songs, music and conversation. I was invited to dinner by the aforementioned teacher and her nice husband, Mr. Anders Brekke, and in the evening I went home with my old friend Lars L. Løberg. In all honesty a happy day!

Just for Fun...

During Ole's campaign for Governor of Minnesota he gave speeches all over the State including Indian reservations. During a spirited address to members of the Santee tribe, every time he made a stirring statement, the tribal members would shout "OONGAH".

Ole felt he had made a good impression, but as one of the Indians guided him to his car after the speech, he suddenly cautioned him: "Watch out Ole...don’t step in the Oongah".
Land Logging Legends
2008 7 Lag Stevne
July 16-19
Country Springs Hotel Conference & Convention Center
1501 North Point Drive, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

We have a block of rooms reserved at the Country Springs at $84.00 per night single or double, or $92.00 for a triple or quad. For reservations call 1-800-998-2311 and tell them you are with Norwegian Stevner. The conference center is online at www.country springshotel.com

Stevens Point is a recreational area for central Wisconsin and has many additional options for camping and lodging. You can access a complete list of hotels, campgrounds, etc. from the Stevens Point Visitors Bureau at http://www.spacvb.com/

Do you have something you’d like to “show and tell” at the Sigdalslag meeting at the 7-Lag Stevne on July 18? Each year we highlight something that will enhance our appreciation for our Sigdal culture/heritage. Please share that information with me Ruth Manning, Vice President for Culture, at rmanning@novia.net.

WEB UPDATE
Please log on www.sigdalslag.org and update or add your current e-mail address, especially members in Norway. Choose the Members link, then Edit Info, and update your data. If you do not wish to make this information visible to other members, choose “No” in that box. If you forgot your password, ask Secretary Amy Michelsen at Amichelsen@usfamily.net.

Sigdal church records and the censuses for 1801, 1865, and 1900 are now accessible to members online. Just click on Links and scroll down to the “Genealogy Links” section.

In addition, there are over six dozen links to explore. A great way to spend a ‘snow day’!

Here is a preliminary outline of the schedule of events:

WEDNESDAY JULY 16TH
1:00 board your bus at the Country Springs Hotel for a historical tour of Portage County. Tour will include stops at the Nelsonville mill, Reflections Antiques, a century farm, South New Hope Lutheran Church, and will conclude with a Norwegian meatball supper at the Nelsonville Lutheran Church.
7:00- 9:00 Registration
7:00- 9:00 Genealogy open house
8:00 Movie night featuring the movie “Sweet Land”. If you missed it when it was in the theaters, this is a not-to-be-missed film. It is a love story, and a commentary on immigration and American identity.

THURSDAY JULY 17
8:30-10:30 Opening session
10:30-5:00 Registration open
10:45 Bus tour to Waupaca County. Tour will include stops at the Hutchinson House Museum in Waupaca, a scenic boat tour on the area lakes, an early log cabin in Scandinavia, and the Iola Railroad Museum. Tour will return to Stevens Point for dinner on your own and in time for the 7:30 movie.
11:00 AM -10:00 PM Genealogy Room Open

Thursday Classes and presenters:
- Beginning genealogy – Barb Horn
- Writing Family History – Lloyd Svendsbye
- Hardanger embroidery – Betty Knutson
- Working with Norway’s Digital archives – Dale Hovland
- Online genealogy sites – Art Paulson

Classes will run from 11:00AM to 5:00 PM.
7:30 PM We will be showing the 1945 film classic “Our Vines Have Tender Grapes”, starring Edward G. Robinson. This film is based on the story of a Norwegian American family from Benson Corners, which is located just east of Stevens Point.

FRIDAY JULY 18TH
8:00 AM-3:00 PM Genealogy open
Friday Classes and presenters:
- Lumbering in Wisconsin – Greg Devine
- America Letters – Arvid Sandaker
- The rift of the 1880’s in the Norwegian Lutheran Churches – Verlyn Anderson
- The Scottish Invasion of Norway – Marv Lang

Additional classes to be announced in the spring newsletter.

Classes will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00PM.
5:00 PM Banquet with entertainment by Landingsleiken, a youth dance group from Sondre Land.

SATURDAY JULY 19TH individual lag meetings
I have a family tree but it lacks info about farm names, parish, & immigration dates. I am Jan Gerry Theriault, and I was born on April 26, 1939 in Lemmon, South Dakota to Bernadine M. & Luella J. (Texley) Theriault. We moved to Havre Montana and on to Renton-Maple Valley just south of Seattle, Washington. Both of my parents were Norwegian. I first joined Numedalslag Lag while looking into the Texleys (my mother’s side) Norway connection. I googled Eggedal to find out about my GG Grandmother, Gunhild Skstad (1816) & G grandmother Anna Hanson Verke (1841) were both from there.

A family story tells that Anna & Stener Larsen (Lars) Texley skied 28 miles into town to get married March 19, 1864. My grandfather, Anton (about 1868 was one of 11 children. Many of the Texleys homesteaded in South Fork, Spring Butte, & Orange townships of North Dakota.

My father’s mother was Julia Amelia Westby whose parents, Henry Abramson Westby & Karen Johnson Westby were from Oslo. Dad’s father, Denis Theriault, was French Canadian & born in Maine.

I am happy to find your Lag and hope to learn more about my Norwegian roots.

Sincerely,
Jan G. Theriault
314 Sunnyslope Hgts. Rd.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
jtheri007@verizon.net

(Continued on page 11)
The Sigdal Kommune has donated a five-volume set of their new bygdebøker to the Sigdalslag.

You will want to use them to search for people in Sigdal today, because they include everyone up through 2006. Sigdalslag president Judy Sosted, has already found fourth cousins!

To tell you about the books, we have decided to quote from the forward in the Sigdal og Eggedal books VI-X, 2007:

"In the years since Andreas Mørch published Sigdal og Eggedal books II and III in 1953, the need for an update has grown steadily. With today's good tools, computer programs and internet access to the Digitalarkivet, we can do that work much easier than when Andreas Mørch with simple tools managed to gather in material. The books have been reprinted several times, but after over 50 years it was time for an update. In 1999 former museum director, Håvard Støvern, challenged the Sigdal Museum to lead the project. In 2004 we gathered interested volunteers at a meeting at the Folkemusikk center. The result was entirely satisfactory and collection areas were assigned. A similar meeting was held in Eggedal. Every volunteer was well acquainted locally, which made the work much easier. Information letters and question blanks were handed out, filled in and gathered in again. An editorial committee was put together of those with special interests and with geographical and technical advantages: Hallgeir Olav Aalien, Anne Flågan; Knut Tore Eidal, Magne Løiten, Solveig Bechmann, Alf Johannessen, Hilde Roland and Sigrid Kvisle.

Halvor Kvisle, who had scanned and put into data format books II and III, had already done foundation work. That made the addition of new material much easier. Hilde Roland was appointed to add the gathered material. Olaug Eidal was hired for completion and proofreading together with Magne Løiten.

To obtain complete family histories, we wanted to include Andreas Mørch’s text and continue where he quit. At the same time we corrected mistakes and added missing pieces, such as birth dates for those who were living when books II and III were written and people who were not included. The biggest job was to gather data on people who live, or have lived here, up until December 31, 2006. That was the cut off date, but you will find some information from 2007. We have tried our best to include information about people who have moved in and out again but there will surely be some that are missing. We have limited information about people’s work and public duties in the updated text, but Mørch’s information is unchanged. Information about property is included with the farms. Many hussmans places and small farms have been abandoned since 1951. Some now are vacation homes. We have tried to gather data about those who have lived there or who are the owners today. Newer cabins and vacation homes are not included.

We have continued the old naming patterns by writing the father’s name as a middle name (for example Andrine Olsdatter, Anders Olsen etc) on purpose to make the work of family history easier. It can be a little difficult to write them that way today, and some people have chosen not to.

In Mørch’s books some of the farm names are not equivalent to the family names. We have corrected that according to the family’s wishes. You will find references to children and grandchildren listed on the farms that are kept in the family; those who live outside of the area are listed with the parents or grandparents.

Updating has resulted in four books of farm and family histories and a fifth book with a name index of people back to about 1850, a farm index and the subject references from books II and III.

We wanted to include a variety of pictures. We chose a few from Sigdal Museum’s archives, but most are from Magne Løiten’s rich collection. We have chosen from paintings, landscapes, postcards, situations from daily life, old houses, etc. The pictures span a long time so the quality can be a little varied.

The editorial committee especially wants to thank all who have helped with the work of gathering material, both the volunteers and the paid staff. They have done a stupendous job. The material has been archived in the Sigdal Museum. It is not easy to undertake such a large work with out making mistakes. Corrections will be archived at the museum. Prestfoss Oktober 28, 2007 Editorial Committee

The books are for sale at the Sigdal og Eggedal Museum, 3350 Prestfoss, Norway. Or e-mail <sigridkvisle@folkmusikksenteret.no> The price is 2,000 Norsk Korner per set, or 400 NOK per book. Shipping will cost 450-500Nok.

There are several libraries in this country that should have these new books in their collection. We hope that some of our members will consider buying a set to donate to a library.
Member News ...

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

🌟🌟 Long-time member Irene Navarre has once again provided 2008 gift memberships for 13 of her relatives, both in USA and Norway. You too can further our mission to help others find their family history. Gift memberships are a great idea for family members both near and distant! 🌟🌟

In Memory…

DALE WAYNE SNELL
September 29, 1945-October 16, 2007

Dale Wayne Snell of Auburn, WA, a member of Sigdalslag and Ringerike-Drammen District Lag for ten years, passed from this life on October 16, 2007 in Seattle at age 62 after a long and hard-fought illness. He was an engineer for the Boeing Company and retired October 1, 2007.

Dale was born September 29, 1945 in Valley City, ND to Leonard and Janice (Gifford) Brekke and shortly thereafter his parents moved to Lakeview, OR. Dale was adopted by his stepfather, Manfred Snell, in 1952 at Bonner’s Ferry, ID and in 1955 the family moved to the Seattle area where his father was an engineer for the Boeing Company. Dale attended Highline Community College in Seattle and graduated from Washington State University at Pullman in 1968 with a Bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering.

Dale worked for Sperry Flight Systems in Phoenix, AZ and Kaiser Aerospace & Electronics in Palo Alto, CA before returning to the Seattle area in 1977 as a Boeing engineer, a career which spanned 30 years in engineering and management.

Dale was an avid gardener and was never happier than when gardening in the backyard at Auburn or building retaining walls at his cabin on Hood Canal. In earlier years he enjoyed making jewelry, fishing, bird hunting, boating and water skiing. He was a member of the Boeing Management Association, Arizona State Board of Professional Engineers, Auburn First United Methodist Church, Auburn Eagles and Vesterdal Lodge, Sons of Norway, of Auburn, WA.

Preceding him in death were his father Manfred Snell in 1989, his birth father Leonard Brekke in 1998 and his grandparents. Dale was reunited with his birth father in 1997 after a 50 year separation and at that time learned of his Norwegian heritage going back to the Modum area of Buskerud. Dale and his wife Dianne accompanied the Sigdalslag tour to Norway in 2000 and found that their ancestral farms, Enger at Eggeland and Brekke at Modum, were just a short distance apart.

Survivors include his widow, Dianne Enger Snell (Sigdalslag Historian), and his mother, Janice Snell, both of Auburn; three children, three step-children and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends who loved him dearly. A memorial service was conducted Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007, at First United Methodist Church in Auburn.

(source: Dianne Snell)

ARTHUR THEODORE SOLLID
1924 - November 12, 2007

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Arthur Theodore Sollid on November 12, 2007 at the age of 83 years. Art was born and raised in Visscount, SK and farmed for many years in the area. Art loved the Lord and prayed daily for his family.

Art was predeceased by his parents, Anton and Thea; brothers and sisters-in-law, Conrad (Gunda/Ruby), Lawrence (Adeline), Orvid, Ken (Ella); and brothers-in-law, Ben and Maynard Olson. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 57 years, Ruth; sons, Arlin, Lowell (Terry), Gordon, Gary (Margie), Wayne (Karen) and Mark (Kari); daughters, Priscilla (John) Johnson, Karen (Doug) Anderson and Janice (Leonard) Mann; 22 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; sisters, Ruth Olson and Esther (Allan) Danielson; brother, Phil (Glady); sister-in-law, Arna; and numerous nieces and nephews. They will miss him greatly.

Art was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He greatly enjoyed family gatherings especially yearly trips to northern Saskatchewan with the entire family. His strength of character and faith in God were a shining example to his family and to all who knew him.

The family would like to thank the staff of 6300 at RUH for their wonderful care and kindness. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Lutheran Brethren World Missions, c/o Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren Church, 130 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 3V7. Memorial service was held at Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren Church, November 15th. Arrangements were in care of MARTENS WARMAN FUNERAL HOME.

(source: Saskatoon Star Phoenix)

Note from Lee Rokke...
...I had thought that Thea was the daughter of Anders Fingarsen. She was his granddaughter. I will move all of the Sollid material that I have into a file titled: Kristen Andersen Olberg / Finger...
Survey & Library Contributions

Sigdalslag Surveys have been received from:

- Rebecca Sletten, Lake Mills, IA on the descendants of ELLEF LARSEN HAGEN
- Galen Willis Jr, Burien, WA on the descendants of HELGE OLSEN HELLERUD
- Donald Rorvig, Stoughton, WI, on descendants of ASLE GUNBJØRNSEN FLATIN and TURI ELLINGSĐTTR Gunnerud.

New to the Sigdalslag library:

- Fox Lake Norwegian Community, Its People, Its Church. Janice Uggen Johnson has donated a copy of her new book to the Sigdalslag. It contains about 250 pages of solid research on the people who settled in Forest Township in Rice County Minnesota.

She has gathered material from many different sources to trace the history of the area. She has located obituaries of all of the people who were buried in Fox Lake Cemetery and included them in the book. It is full of pictures of individuals and families who lived at Fox Lake. There are translations of letters that were written in Norwegian to and from people in Fox Lake, including some that were written by "Snowshoe Thompson" to his niece Christiana who lived in Forest Township.

Also included is much family information. Jan's family is descended from Fingar Anderson who was born at Uggren in Ringerike, but lived for 18 years at Rolstad in Sigdal. He married Anne Knudsdtr Nyhus in Sigdal and they emigrated in 1871. The Uggens have been members of the Sigdalslag for several generations.

The book will be available for you to use at the Stevne in Stevens Point next July. Thank You Jan for your gift.


Certificate was signed on March 3, 1996 by. King Harald V and in October of that year Marilyn was granted a private audience with the King at the palace in Oslo to personally thank him for the award. Marilyn and Narv spent a month in Norway in 1998 when Marilyn’s bunad was fitted and made for her.

Marilyn holds life memberships in Sigdalslag, Vesterheim Museum and the Norwegian American Historical Association. She has been a member of Sons of Norway since 1978 and she published its international centennial convention program book in 1994. She has worked for Syttende Mai Minnesota, Norway Day, and since January 2004 on the Norway House advisory committee. Although Marilyn officially retired from her Sigdalslag duties in 1995 she remains an active member, and will never retire from promoting the cause of “Norwegianism” in America. Thanks, Marilyn, from all of us!

(Compiled by Historian Dianne Snell, biographical information from the 2005 Sigdalslag book pp. 162-163.)
Serving Norwegian-Americans of Sigdal, Eggedal & Krødsherad ancestry

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Elvera Bisbee shares her rosemaling talents!

Keep up the good work, you inspire us all!

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