

GUDBRANDSDALSLAGET STEVNER (& TRIPS) HISTORY 1909–Present

YEAR	PLACE	HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS
1909	Minneapolis, MN	Group formed at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis, MN and formally organized on Sept. 12th, 1909
1910	Minneapolis, MN	Pastor Lars P. Thorkveen is first chairman—served until he died in 1923.
1911	Minneapolis, MN	Elected consultant from each of the 14 parishes in Gudbrandsdal, Norway, plus regular officers.
1912	Fargo, ND	\$200 appropriated for the erection of a Prillar Guri monument at Kringen, Sel <u>Tour to Norway</u> —Pastor Thorkveen led group of 28 to Norway, received Norsk flags from 14 Gudbrandsdal parishes—King Haakon VII conferred the Order of St. Olaf on Pastor Thorkveen.
1913	Glenwood, MN	
1914	Minneapolis, MN	Over 50,000 Bygdelag members met at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds to celebrate the 100 th anniversary of the signing of the Norwegian constitution on May 17, 1814—American flags sent to Norway.
1915	Fargo, ND	Over 2000 attended Stevne
1916	Eau Claire, WI	Over 2000 attended Stevne—Bygdelagenes Fællesraad formed—Lars P. Thorkveen was first secretary.
1917	Willmar, MN	1000-1200 attended Stevne—American patriotism emphasized—collected money for the Red Cross.
1918		No meeting during World War I
1919	Minneapolis, MN	Stevne moved from Fergus Falls to Minneapolis because a tornado ripped through Fergus Falls shortly before meeting.
1920	Fergus Falls, MN	Presented self portrait to Lars Thorkveen which was sent to Lom. Pipe organ fund started for Sør-Fron Church—gave 9-10,000 Kroner.
1921	Eau Claire, WI	2000 attended Stevne. <u>Tour to Norway</u> —Pastor Thorkveen led a group of 60 to Norway, King Haakon VII present at Hundorp, where they celebrated the 900 th year since King Olaf (Olaf den Helige) marched down Gudbrandsdalen bringing Christianity to the valley—The American flag was given as a gift from the lag to all parishes in Gudbrandsdal.
1922	Detroit (Lakes), MN	(By 1927 Detroit MN had changed their name to Detroit Lakes)
1923	Minneapolis, MN	3000 attended Stevne—Pastor Thorkveen died 26 Feb. 1923. Pastor Casper Johnshoy stepped in as President and served 12 years—membership peaked at 3700 during his presidency.
1924	La Crosse, WI	
1925	Minneapolis, MN	The Norse American Centennial—All Bygdelags met at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds to commemorate the arrival of the sloop Restauration in 1825. President Calvin Coolidge spoke. Thorkveen & Buslet Memorial fund established with students receiving grants. (Painting of the Restauration at right)
1926	Fargo, ND	1500 attended Stevne
1927	Eau Claire, WI	
1928	Mankato, MN	
1929	Minot, ND	Folks in ND separated from the lag due to distance and some social issues. Fellesraad dwindled from 33 to 17 lags.
1930	Minneapolis, MN	

ORGANISERET
12^{TE} SEPT. 1909.



Prillar Guri Monument
Kringen, Sel, Norway



Eidvoll, where the
constitution was signed



**American
Red Cross**



Sør-Fron Church



Stone from Hundrop-
Dale Gudbrand Farm



YEAR	PLACE	HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS
1931	Fargo, ND	
1932	Bemidji, MN	During the Depression years of the 1930s there was little activity in the Lag movement; numbers never came back.
1933		No record of a meeting
1934	Alexandria, MN	25 th Anniversary of the Lag—Gov. Theodore Christianson spoke—grandfather was from Gausdal, Norway
1935	Webster, SD	
1936	Decorah, IA	
1937	Fergus Falls, MN	John Brondal impressed the group with his story telling
1938	Duluth, MN	
1939	Fargo, ND	Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha visited
1940	Alexandria, MN	
1941	Waupaca, WI	
1942		No meeting—Lag suspended activity during World War II
1943		No meeting—Gudbrandsdal suffered the horrors of the war
1944		No meeting—Most of the Lag leaders died during this period, only Erland Kummen survived.
1945		No meeting. President Casper M. Johnshoy died.
1946		Meeting cancelled because of polio epidemic.
1947	Minneapolis, MN	Very few attended this meeting—Pres. Walter Johnshoy, brother of Casper, became President, but died in September.
1948	Alexandria, MN	Olaf Viken elected President. Combined Stevne with Nord Vestre Lag.
1949	Fargo, ND	Combined Stevne with Nord Vestre Lag. Play “ <i>Queen Aase from the Castle</i> ”—well attended meeting.
1950	Montevideo, MN	Motion to re-unite lags, but North Dakota declined.
1951	Eau Claire, WI	Pastor Jacob Tanner, evangelist for the ALC was the speaker.
1952	St. James, MN	Memorial Service for Pastor Thorkveen who died in 1923.
1953	Bemidji, MN	Årbok, Volume 24 published.
1954	Moorhead, MN	
1955	Duluth, MN	
1956	Fargo, ND	
1957	Glenwood, MN	
1958	Albert Lea, MN	
1959	Fargo, MN	50 th Anniversary of the Lag—Pastor Ingvald & Mrs. Skaare, Norwegian guests at Stevne.
1960	Stoughton, WI	Lag visited the Norwegian community of Stoughton—group toured Little Norway near another Norwegian community of Mt. Horeb, WI.
1961	Alexandria, MN	
1962	Rochester, MN	
1963	Roseau, MN	Combined meeting with Nord Vestre Lag
1964	Fargo, ND	
1965	Elbow Lake, MN	
1966	Benson, MN	Lag celebration held at Olaf Viken farm near Dawson, MN
1967	Fargo, ND	
1968	Fergus Falls, MN	Ludvig Berg, Sigurd Brenden & Arthur Mork elected to a committee to look into purchasing a banner—Ludvig was going to Norway and it was decided that he would look into buying a banner there.

Historical “Gotch-ya”:
 In 1948 Olaf Viken skipped the stevne business meeting in Alexandria MN to go fishing. When he returned to the stevne he learned that he had been elected President. He served as President twice, a total of 16 years.



War Memorial at Kvam



Thorkveen Tombstone, St. James, MN



Pastor and Mrs. Ingvald Skaare—1959



Gudbrandsdalslaget Banner

YEAR	PLACE	HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS
1969	Appleton, WI	Ludvig Berg reported that he didn't buy a banner because the cost was about \$600—President John Hegge and Haakon Lunde went to Minneapolis, selected a banner that was made for the lag in Philadelphia which cost the lag \$203.56.
1970	Westby, WI	Judge Lincoln Neprud had everyone out to his place one evening—attendees enjoyed themselves and continued to talk about the evening. Voted that English could be used for Secretary minutes.
1971	Starbuck, MN	Since the organization of the lag there had been a moment of silence in memory of the deceased—in 1971 the first memorial service held at a stevne, following the death of Judge Neprud, who was killed in a car accident.
1972	Fargo, ND	<p>Historical Mystery: At the 1973 meeting John Ellefson reported that the lag banner was lost.</p> <p>Following the death of Judge Neprud in 1971, the banner couldn't be found. John and Gladys Prestegard had problems locating it. John went to all the dry cleaners in the area and talked with Mrs. Neprud but still no banner. It was a real mystery. Just before the 1973 stevne it was found in the Neprud basement.</p>
1973	St. James, MN	
1974	Fargo, ND	
1975	Moorhead, MN	
1976	Minneapolis, MN	
1977	Moorhead, MN	
1978	Montevideo, MN	
1979	Willmar, MN	Art Mork elected President in 1979.
1980	Westby, MN	Hjordis Helgestad elected President, served 7 years.
1981	Windom, MN	The constitution was translated into English by Hilma Fossum.
1982	Marshall, MN	Lag repaired Rev. Thorlveen's grave marker as his picture had been damaged.
1983	La Crosse, WI	The first lag newsletter, named <i>Gudbrandsdalslag's Brev</i> was sent out before the 1983 stevne—Halvor Christensen & his wife of Vinstra, Norway were guests at the stevne (he carved our unique gavel)—the Constitution was updated. Contributed money to the rebuilding of a stabbur originally built in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway at Skogfjorden, near Bemidji, MN.
1984	Fergus Falls, MN	75 th Anniversary of the Lag—President Hjordis Helgestad compiled anniversary book—Anniversary buttons sold—Membership was approximately 300. Lloyd George Melgard, dedicated lag leader, died.
1985	Luverne, MN	Tribute to Olaf Viken, an active member, who died—Leif Melgaard honored with a National Heritage Fellowship Award in Washington DC—dues raised to \$5.00.
1986	Albert Lea, MN	
1987	Benson, MN	Helen Lien elected President, served 6 years. Marilyn Sorensen appointed Lag Genealogist. Beginning in 1987 membership increased with the insurgence of genealogy.
1988	Winona, MN	Beginning of a new event for the lag—a Genealogy workshop led by Marilyn Sorensen, Betty Strand, Barbara Hauger, Gordon Strand, and Blaine Hedberg.
1989	Alexandria, MN	80 th anniversary of the lag—Genealogy workshop drew large crowds—six microfilm/microfiche readers were available for research—Gordon Strand was responsible for acquisition, safely setting up readers in the lab, fixing, troubleshooting, transporting and storing readers—time devoted to genealogy research increased from a few hours to two days; Wednesday evening, all day Thursday and Friday morning.
1990	Decorah, IA	Genealogy collection expanded by the addition of printed church books for Ringebu transported by Per Åsmundstad from Ringebu, Norway—Arnfinn Kjelland assisted with Lesja genealogy.
1991	Montevideo, MN	Memorial read to King Olaf V who died on Jan 17, 1991. Trip to Norway cancelled—Artist Leif Melgard died.
1992	Alexandria, MN	Evelyn Finnes elected President, served 7 years. Forty people registered for the genealogy room.
1993	Brookings, SD	"Ellis Island" presentation given by the Fjordland Lodge, Sons of Norway, Brookings, SD



Genealogist Marilyn Sorensen in lab



Microfiche machine used by many in lab Historical Display

YEAR	PLACE	HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS
1994	La Crosse, WI	Membership almost 300, with 51 new members added.
1995	Montevideo, MN	Genealogy research lab open Wednesday PM, all day Thursday, and Friday until noon—40 people researched in lab.
1996	Dexter, MN	Genealogy collection increased with lag purchase of the Norwegian church microfilms for the entire area of Gudbrandsdal.
1997	Granite Falls, MN	John Andrisen appointed Historian, until 2007 gathered, organized, and preserved historic materials of the lag. Sixty people researched in the genealogy lab at the Stevne.
1998	Westby, WI	Over 70 people researched in the stevne genealogy lab.
1999	Decorah, IA	Bygdelag Centennial—1899–1999, sponsored by Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, an umbrella organization of the 32 bygdelags—as Fellesraad VP Marilyn Sorensen co-chaired program with Chris Skjervold. 90 th Anniversary of the lag—John Andrisen compiled 90 th Anniversary Booklet—developed historical display for lag.
2000	Willmar, MN	Y2K Heritage Fest, six hours of cultural immersion, chaired by John Andrisen. Took a field trip to Milan, MN.
2001	Starbuck, MN	Combined Stevne with Trønderlag. Gudbrandsdalslaget granted tax exempt status by IRS. Lyle Elverud provided the leadership for the project.
2002	St. Paul, MN	Lyle Elverud became President. Combined Stevne with Trønderlag. Mildred Torgeson died, served lag for 28 years. New Gudbrandsdalslaget Website created by Ken Strand.
2003	Sioux Falls, SD	First year of the Tre Lag Stevne, combining Gudbrandsdalslag, Trønderlag, and Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lags for annual stevne gatherings. Theme: <i>“Norwegian Immigrants on the Prairie.”</i> Keynote: Dr. Art Huseboe. Saturday events at Augustana College.
2004	Rochester, MN	Tre Lag Stevne, <i>“Celebrating the Norwegian Spirit.”</i> Toured SE Minnesota, keynoter, Paul Hasvold. Jim Olson began lag presidency. Norway House in Minneapolis formed as a non-profit organization.
2005	Norway	Gudbrandsdal Genealogical Seminar—Jun 12–20/Cultural Heritage Tour—Jun 19–Jul 2. Coordinated by Jim Olson and Marilyn Sorensen—39 people went to Norway.
2005	Fargo, ND	Tre Lag Stevne, <i>“Fulfilling the Dream.”</i> Visited Hjemkomst Center, in Moorhead, MN. Keynoter Verlyn Anderson & banquet speaker, Hiram M. Drache.
2006	Salt Lake City, UT	Bygdelag research trip to Family History Library—Feb 26–Mar 4, coordinated by Elaine Hasleton & Marilyn Sorensen. First of many.
2006	Eau Claire, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, <i>“Following the Timber Trail,”</i> toured Trempealeau Co. sites, toured Chippewa Valley and Paul Bunyan Museum. \$1000 grant received from Hanson Foundation for Årbok.
2007	Norway	Genealogical Seminar in Oslo, Hamar and Gudbrandsdal, Jun 10–26, Coordinated by Marilyn Sorensen and Jim Olson. Thirteen, a baker’s dozen, participated.
2007	La Crosse, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, <i>“Norwegians on the Move: Rivers, Roads and Rails”</i> —riverboat cruise on Mississippi River—special day at Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center, Coon Valley, WI. Art Mork, our oldest member, died at age 107 on Sept. 12. 2007—Webmaster becomes Board position; Updated Constitution and By-Laws changes adopted on Aug 2, 2007. Betty Strand reported membership of 300 in 29 states, plus Canada, Australia, and Norway.



Bygdelag Program

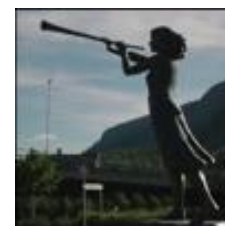
Tre Lag Logo



Bunads on Parade at 2005 Ringebu Festival



Bunads on Parade at 2006 Eau Claire Stevne



Prillar Guri Statue in Otta



Garmo Stave Church at Maihaugen

YEAR	PLACE	HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS
2008	Fergus Falls, MN	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Voices on the Prairie</i> ,” toured area sites. “ <i>The Immigrants</i> ” play presented by Norsk traveling group. Keynoter Scott Wolter on the Alexandria Rune Stone. \$1000 grant received from Hanson Foundation for Centennial Tour.
2009	Norway	Jubilee Tour of Gudbrandsdal—Jun 20–Jul 6—Coordinated by Jim Olson and Marilyn Sorensen: 13 went on the tour.
2009	So. St. Paul, MN	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker. They were not all farmers</i> ”. Making kransekake, folk dancing, photo taken in Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis and tour of Mill City Museum. Gudbrandsdalslaget Centennial Celebration. Årbok, Volume 25, “Centennial Yearbook” edited by Jim Olson, published; first yearbook since 1953. New Prillar Guri pin & logo designed for 100 th Anniversary by Jeff Anderson, son-in-law of lag archivist, Bob Olson.
2010	Stevens Point, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Looking Forward, Looking Back, Norwegian Spirit and Perseverance</i> .” First “Hardangersøm Klubb” Embroidery Workshop, led by Ginny Nelson, held at stevne. “Movie Night” (with Norwegian connections) also began.
2011	Sioux Falls, SD	Tre Lag Stevne: “ <i>Telling Our Story</i> .” Included topics “Norwegians in Science” and how to search the Statsarkivet. Årbok, Volume 26, edited by Jim Olson, published.
2012	Norway	Gudbrandsdalslaget tour of Norway—“Celebrating the 400 th Anniversary of Kringen”—Aug 15–30, with 46 members. Participated in the Kringen Festival in Otta commemorating the 400 th anniversary of Norwegian farmers defeating the Sinclair Clan (Scottish mercenaries of Sweden) at the Battle of Kringen in 1612. Lag members marched in the celebration parade, with Anne Farning and Dick Lundgren carrying our new parade banner featuring a photo of the valley taken by Gary Romsaas in 2010; Jim Olson worked with a promotional firm for its creation.
2013	Oconomowoc, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Stepping Stones</i> .” Keynote: Julie Allen, Stepping Stones from Scandinavia to America. Tour to Old World Wisconsin. Lag’s Facebook Group page launched. Lag By-Laws updated.
2014	St. Cloud, MN	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Country Quilt</i> .” Keynote: Taryn Flolid: “Homesteaders: Post Civil War Settlements in Western Minnesota.”
2015	Eau Claire, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Staying in Touch: From Posten to Posting</i> .” Speaker topics included Norwegian Newspapers in America, Norwegians in Logging Camps: Wisconsin Pinery, The 15 th Wisconsin in the American Civil War, and Steamboats in the Timber.
2016	Norway	Gudbrandsdalslaget tour of Norway—“Exploring 21 st Century Norway”—Jun 19–Jul 2. Led by Kris Grodahl of Norway House; Coordinated by Jim Olson and Marilyn Sorensen; 37 members in total participated. (Tour map at right)
2016	So. St. Paul, MN	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Lasting Legacies: The Future of Our Past</i> .” Toured Old Muskego Church in St. Paul. Speaker topics included Genealogy Research in Norway, Norwegian-Americans and the Minnesota Historical Society, Norwegian Architecture Past to Present, Ole Rolvaag and His Legacy.
2017	La Crosse, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, “ <i>Where the Three Rivers Meet</i> .” Toured Westby, historic sites re: tobacco & skiing, and Norskedalen Heritage Center. Speaker topics included Norwegians in West Central Wisconsin 1844-1880, Yesterday You Were Catholic and Now You’re



Årboks, Vol 25 & 26



Prillar Guri Pin

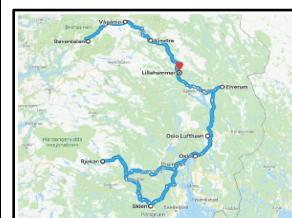


Kringen Parade & lag members carrying our new lag banner



2016 Tour Route

YEAR	PLACE	HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS
		Lutheran, The History of Norwegian Sweaters, What Norwegian Immigrants Brought to the United States, Greenland: The Coolest Place on Earth, Steel and Stone: Viking Knives and Pottery. The Driftless Area, The Viking Presence in Ireland. Norwegian Crop: Tobacco Raising in Wisconsin, Henrik Ibsen's Impact on Modern Drama, Ancestral Immigration: A Story of Chain Migration.
2018	Austin, MN	Tre Lag Stevne, " <i>Norway Evolving.</i> " Toured a local wind farm and the Hormel SPAM Museum. Speaker topics included Contemporary Art in Norway Today, Offshore Technology: Evolution of Norway's Oil & Gas Platforms, Nordic Christmas Customs, Weaving in Norway, Computer Tricks to Create Family Search Digital Source Documents, Emigration Through the Lens of Knud Knudsen, Exploring Forest Finn Ancestry in Norway, Sweden & Finland, The Extraordinary Accomplishments of Borghild Dahl.
2019	Alexandria, MN	Tre Lag Stevne, " <i>Close Encounters of the Norwegian Kind.</i> " Tour of Runestone Museum and home of Knute Nelson; photo stop at tall "Big Ole" statue. Speaker topics included Standardizing Genealogical Data Entry, Viking Age: Lindisfarne Raid, King Harald Hardrada, Race to Conquer England 1066, Family Information in Norwegian Bygdebøker, Telling Family Stories
2019	Norway	Gudbrandsdalslaget tour of Norway—"A Journey Through the Heart of Norway, Telemark, Hedmark, Gudbrandsdal & Oslo."—Aug 18-31. (Tour map at right)
2020	Middleton, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, Postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19 Virus Pandemic.
2021	Middleton, WI	Tre Lag Stevne, " <i>Plague, Privation, and Turmoil—Past Meets Present.</i> " Toured Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society, Livsreise Norwegian Heritage Center, and lunch at Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge. Keynote by Lawrence Moe. Speaker Topics included Resources at Norwegian-American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library, Organizing and Analyzing Genealogical Research, Twice in a Lifetime: The Pandemic of 1918 and How it Resonates in 2020, FamilySearch.org: What to Expect and What Not to Expect, Rasmus Bjorn Anderson, The Old Stone Church, O Canada: Norwegian Immigrants Who Left the USA for Saskatchewan, Plank, Wheel and Rail: Transportation in Early Wisconsin, Using Maps for Genealogy, The Hauge Movement, Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest.
2022	Rochester, MN	First Flere Lag Stevne (new logo at right), expanding the Tre Lag groups of Gudbrandsdalslag, Trønderlag, and Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken with the addition of Romerikslaget i Amerika and Solørlag of America for annual stevne gatherings. Stevne theme: " <i>Friluftsliv: Fresh Air Life, From Nordic Lands to North America.</i> " Tour of Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, MN and Norsland Lefse in Rushford. Keynote by Jenna Coughlin. Speaker topics included Kubb (game) Or Is It Viking Chess?, The Birkebeiner Cross-Country Ski Race, Scandia Kicksled, Minnesota's First Permanent Norwegian Settlement (Spring Grove), DNA and Norwegian Family History, Sam Haugdahl: the New Sweden Creamery, and World Champion Butter Maker.
2023	Norway	Gudbrandsdalslaget tour of Norway—"A Journey Through the Heart of Norway, Oslo, Lillehammer, Gausdal, Espedal, Ringebu, Hundorp, Bøverdalen, Skjåk, Lom and Trondheim."—June 19–July 1. (Tour map at right)
2023	Fargo/ Moorhead, MN	Flere Lag Stevne, " <i>Open Sky, Flat Land.</i> " Tour of Hjemkomst Center (Viking Ship & Hopperstad Replica). Keynote by Lawrence Moe. Speaker topics included: The Arts and Crafts of Ancient Scandinavia, Jubilee of the Battle of Hafsrfjord, Free Land,



2019 Tour Route



New Stevne Logo



2023 Tour Route

YEAR	PLACE	HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS
		Founding Clay County, Under Prairie Skies, Red River Girl, Scandinavian Settlement & Dispossession of Dakota Indians, How Regional Geology Impacted Euro-American Settlement. Genealogy topics: Tips for Conducting Searches on ancestry.com, Identifying Mystery DNA Matches, Photo Organization Considerations. Oh No! Where did it go? (photo and doc preservation). Also began presentations of 15-20 min."Quick Demos."