

## Convention Speakers and Outings

Many of our delegates are unable to take part in classes and cultural activities so we have scheduled talks and outings for the afternoons after many of the convention meetings are over. The following is a list of talks and demonstrations that you will not want to miss. All are free with admission to the convention.

### Thursday June 28

**1:00 p.m. Bus Trip to Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center and Westby WI area \$48.00**

**1:00 p.m. Minnesota A, 2nd Floor of Radisson (no charge)**

***THENORWEGIAN CROP: Tobacco Raising in Wisconsin(an illustrated program) By Glenn Borreson***

Long before the days of anti-smoking campaigns, tobacco raising was not only a matter of Norwegian pride in some Wisconsin communities, but also a crop that enabled immigrants to make hard-to-come-by cash and their descendants to thrive or at least survive on the farm. (Tobacco raising was in Glenn's own family for four generations.) Norwegians adopted the crop early in their arrival in Wisconsin and made two areas in the state's south and southwest mainstays of tobacco raising for decades before the business went up in smoke.

Glenn Borreson is a retired Lutheran pastor, ordained in 1971 in North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, rural Ettrick, Wisconsin. A graduate of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, he has served congregations in Decorah, Iowa, and South Wayne, Elroy, Mauston, and Holmen, Wisconsin. After he retired, he began researching his family history, a move that led to preparing and presenting programs on his Norwegian-American heritage. Four generations of his father's family raised tobacco in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. The *Wisconsin Magazine of History* published his article on the history of ski jumping in western Wisconsin, and his book on Trempealeau County ski jumping, *Look Out Below*, came off the press the summer of 2016. Besides doing historic research, he also enjoys woodworking and reads too many mysteries. He and his wife Mary live in Holmen, Wisconsin and are members of Wergeland Lodge.

## **Thursday, cont'd**

### **2:00 p.m. Dahl Auto Museum:**

Exhibits on automobiles & the Dahl's family-owned dealership, with lots of classic cars on display. **Address:** 711 3rd St S, La Crosse, WI 54601 . (plus a little bit of Norwegian History of this family owned dealership). Read about it ahead of time:

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g60015-d4360091-Reviews-Dahl\\_Auto\\_Museum-La\\_Crosse\\_Wisconsin.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60015-d4360091-Reviews-Dahl_Auto_Museum-La_Crosse_Wisconsin.html) or check out their Dahl Museum Facebook page. (There is a \$3.00 charge for seniors and \$4.00 otherwise.)

Car Pool? Or on your own. Address above.) Also, they are open Friday and Saturday 10 to 4.

### **3:00 p.m. Minnesota A**

#### **Dave Glomstad: Wisconsin 15th Volunteer Regiment**

The 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment was originally formed by Col. Hans Christian Heg at Camp Randall, near Madison, Wisconsin. The majority of its members were Norwegian immigrants, some records state as many as 90%, with the rest mainly Danish, Swedish and Dutch immigrants. The regiment was mustered into federal service January 31, 1862. It was mustered out by company between December 1, 1864 and February 13, 1865.

(taken from Wikipedia)

Dave Glomstad is serving his 5th term as president of the Wergeland Lodge. He has been active in Civil War reenactments at Norskedalen and SON events..

## **Friday June 29th**

### **1:00 p.m. Minnesota A**

#### **Ron Nowland : “The Viking Presence in Ireland”**

Ron grew up in Milwaukee, graduated from Luther College and Luther Seminary. In 2008 he retired in the 50th anniversary of his ordination after serving several churches and a care facility, all in Wisconsin. He and his wife Frieda, a former librarian and bookstore owner, raised four children, have three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Ron and Frieda have traveled widely. They continue to give illustrated talks that involve inspirational material, their Norse ancestry, and humor.

“On an archeological tour of Ireland, I kept noticing how our Irish guide talked about the Viking influence. Having a Norwegian mother and an Irish father, it was marvelous to hear the uniqueness as well as similarities of both histories. When the Celts invaded Ireland they brought fast horses, a love of alcohol, and a fierce independence. Viking invasions came and changed Ireland with the gift of coins over bartering, a building of towns and villages, long pants, and a great trading network.

I also learned that the modern day Irish do not resent the Vikings. Perhaps it is because the Vikings came as raiders in 850 A.D., and then by ten years later they had married some of those lovely Irish lasses and settled down as smiths and craftsmen. By 980 the Vikings in Ireland were building St. Olaf’s Christian Church.”

### **2:00 p.m. Illinois Room**

#### **“ No Wadmal at Wal-Mart: the Role of Wool in Norway from Viking Times to the Present” with Linda Johnson-Morke**

Have you ever wondered where the Vikings bought their clothing, footwear or sails for their ships? They were not able to go to Wal-Mart, so the Vikings made their own fiber items or traded for them. Would you like to know what wadmal is, how it is made and why it was so important? Would you like to know how and why wool felts and what can you do with it? Would you like to know how to make yarn from wool fibers? Would you like to know how to harvest the fibers off of sheep? Would you like to know where blue and red yarn comes from? Did the Vikings actually wear Norwegian sweaters? Learn wool working skills from pictures, discussion, demonstrations and actual samples. The answers to these questions and more will lead to an understanding of why wool and sheep are so highly prized around the world and especially in Norwegian culture.

### **Cont'd from P-3**

Linda Johnson-Morke was born in Stoughton WI to parents who were proud of their Norwegian heritage. This coupled with an enthusiastic interest in fiber has woven the following tapestry of life. Taught by her mother to knit at 5 years old, knitting led to spinning which led to sheep and rabbits. Felting led to different sheep, trips to Norway and Mongolia and a passion for understanding why wools felt different. Being an engineer by training and curious by nature resulted in many years of fiber experimentation as an outlet for her creativity. A 10 year hiatus from the corporate world led to a line of wool products sold both wholesale and retail. A shepherd for more than 30 years, Linda has shepherded Navajo Churro, Border Leicester, Cheviot, Hampshire, Karakul, Finnish Landrace, Icelandic, Texel, Blue Faced Leicester (BFL) and Tunis sheep. Her current flock consists of Icelandic & BFL crosses, Karakul and Tunis sheep. Linda currently lives on a farm in Isanti MN and enjoys sharing what she has learned through classes and lectures.

### **3:00 p.m. Minnesota B**

#### **“Viking Pottery and Weaponry”**

Jon Lee is the fourth generation Norwegian to live on The Lee Family Farm in Vernon County. Started by his great grandfather and grandmother in the 1890's, Jon and his family continue to farm the land with grass-fed beef. Jon and his wife are both teachers and have had the opportunity to travel the world teaching and touring most continents. Jon has spent numerous hours in museums looking at collections - especially of Viking era wares.

Jon will be presenting a historic overview of Viking Pottery and Viking Weaponry based upon a study of museum collections. Jon has had the rare opportunity to spend time with famous Norwegian knife makers learning the craft of making traditional Norwegian knives. Jon has also learned alongside internationally renowned potters and has created hundreds of Viking pottery replicas.

### **Friday, 4 p.m. Minnesota A**

#### **“Share Your Immigrant Ancestor's Stories”**

We have all heard stories passed down about experiences and escapades that our immigrant ancestors had. Wergeland Lodge compiled a book of those stories from our members which proved to be very well received. Come and share some of your tales about their life events in the old country, during the voyage, or in the new land. These may include stories of happenings that were humorous or tragic, but always interesting.