



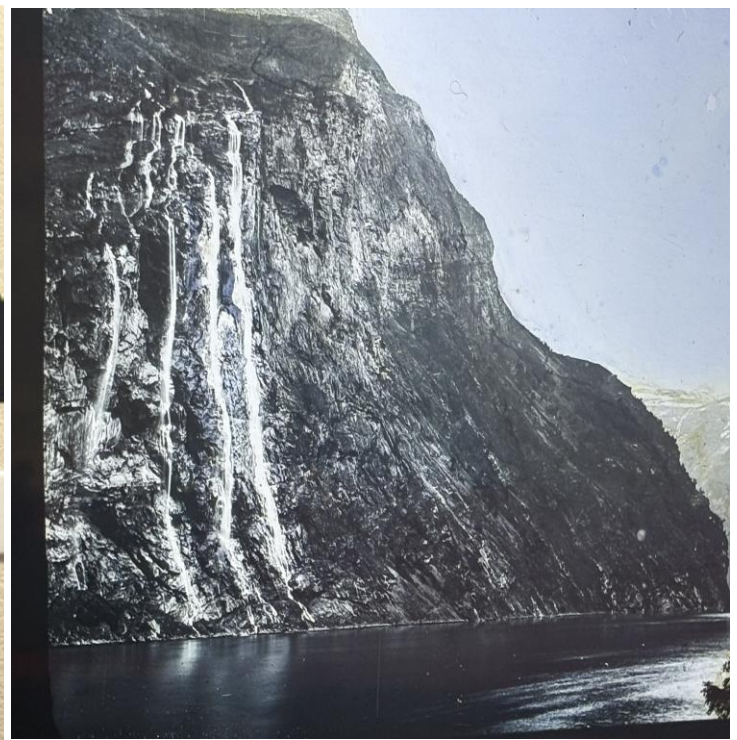
**Norse Valley Lodge 5-491  
Nytt Notes February 2025**

**Tom Sutter's Lantern Slides of Norway Highlights January Lodge Meeting ...**

We had an excellent turnout in January as guest speaker Tom Sutter shared his acquired glass plated Lantern Slides of Norway life from the time period of 1850 to 1900. I have shared some copies of them below and it is striking to me how clear and detailed the photos are even though most are over 150 years old.



**Tom Sutter exhibiting one of his Lantern Slides**



**7 Sisters Falls north of Bergen near the west coast**



**Karl Johan's Gate w/ Oslo Royal Palace at Summit**



**Seaport of Bergen (exporter of Herring)**

Our other Lodge business included the swearing in of newly positioned board members. We would like to recognize Penny Malcolm as Social Director and Lois Greutzmacher as Vice-President and welcome Erich Knapp as Cultural Director and LeAnn Knoeck as Assistant Marshall.



President Judy Ghastin swearing in newly positioned Board members from left to right: Erich Knapp, LeAnn Knoeck, Lois Greutzmacher, and Penny Malcolm

### **Upcoming Lodge Events!**

**Saturday February 15th: 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located at 3009 North Meade Street in Appleton.**

February's program involves "How to Speak Norwegian" and a chili and cookie contest.

Linda Hash has volunteered to lead a fun Norwegian language lesson so that you can converse with your relatives back east with various greetings and naming some objects.

It's also time for our annual chili cook-off and cookie contest. Interested contestants need only to bring a crock pot of your favorite chili recipe and/or two dozen cookies for the highly coveted chili ladle or baking spatula prizes.

If you are not feeling competitive, just bring your appetite and help us taste test and place your vote for this year's best!

Also, we need to help fuel our young skiers in this year's Barnebirkie Ski Race.

Our goal for the Sons of Norway District 5 is 900 dozen cookies! **Let's aim for 50 dozen cookies from Norse Valley this year to help fuel the young racers.**

We can do it if only ten members each make 5 dozen cookies to donate OR if you can't bake, donate \$ for coffee and store-bought cookies. Make checks to the Nordic Legacy Foundation and note "Barnebirkie" on the memo line.

Bring cookies to this February 15th Lodge meeting packed in secure non-returnable containers.

Label with the number of dozens, what kind, and "Norse Valley 5-491".

PLEASE—no cookies made with nuts or nut butter due to youngster's peanut allergies.

### **Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>: Noon: March in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New London.**

Because Dublin was founded by Norwegian Vikings in 841, we need to represent Scandinavians everywhere and march alongside the Johnny and Janie's come lately in the three-quarter mile parade. Write it on your calendar now and more information will be forthcoming in early March.

### **Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>: 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Appleton.**

The program is still being developed but get this day your calendar. It will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month as to not conflict with Easter on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.: Syttende Mai Lodge Picnic at Derks Park in Appleton.**

Ice cream, Hot dogs in Lefse, and Lawn games! Just like in the home country.

### **An Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity:**

Beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday February 5th, we are looking for Norse Valley members to volunteer at Feeding America on the north side of Appleton to pack food for the less fortunate.

Please contact Norse Valley member Linda Hash (lhash@new.rr.com), our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to help out at Feeding America on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Valentine's Traditions in the Nordics**

When one thinks about Valentine's Day, chocolate, roses, and candy hearts come to mind. But are those universal themes? Let's explore how Valentine's Day is celebrated in the Nordic countries to peek into other traditions.



*Alla hjärtans dag* is what Valentine's Day is called in Sweden and it translates to "the day of all hearts." Sweets are a common theme on this day as candies and pastries are exchanged. The most common candy received is jelly hearts. Sweden has also taken influence from America in that rose sales skyrocket on Valentine's Day.

In Denmark, it is common for loved ones to exchange white flowers called Snowdrops. Poetry is also used on Valentine's Day but in the form of funny love notes, called *gækkebrev*. The catch is that the sender does not sign with their name, but instead uses a series of dots to represent each letter in their name. It is said if the recipient guesses who sent it, they will receive an egg from the sender on Easter. If they are incorrect, they owe an egg.

Norway celebrates Valentine's Day in a similar manner, but to a lesser degree. It is referred to as *Valentinsdagen* or *Alle Hjerters Dag*. Norwegians place more importance on experiences than gifts for Valentine's Day. It is common for loved ones to share a unique outing, enjoying nature and the beautiful Norwegian landscape.

There might not be a more romantic place to spend Valentine's Day than in a Finnish sauna. However, Valentine's Day isn't just about the couples in Finland. It is known as *Ystävänpäivä* and is all about friendship. The main objective of this special day in Finland is to show appreciation to your friends and loved ones.

Iceland on the other hand celebrates quite differently. In fact, Valentine's Day isn't really celebrated on February 14<sup>th</sup>. They have two other special days to celebrate love, called *Konudagur* and *Bóndadagur* (Wife's Day and Husband's Day). One is celebrated in January, while the other is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. They do, however, share the theme of flowers. The Northern Lights in Iceland during February make it a very magical place to celebrate love.

## Crossings – 200th Anniversary of Norwegian Migration

2025 marks the 200th Anniversary of the first organized emigration of Norwegians to the United States.

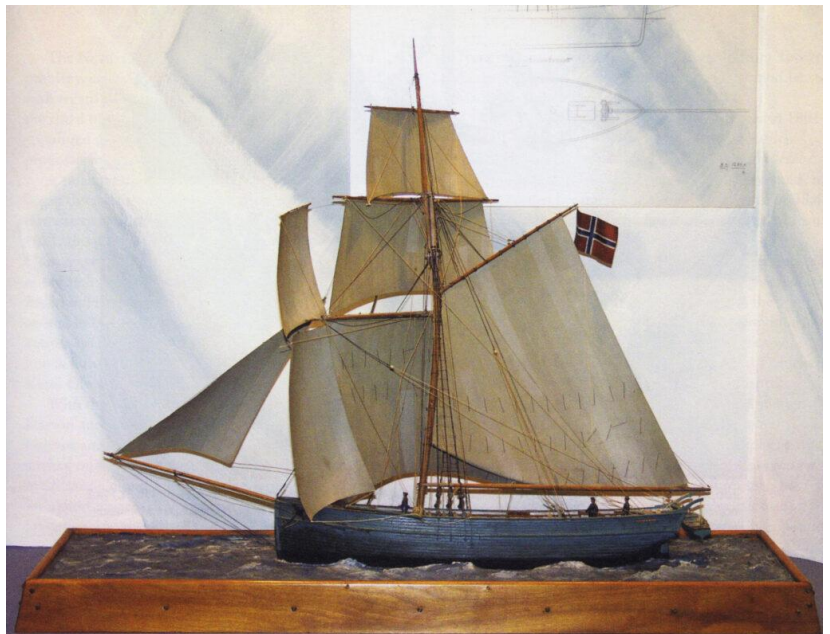
The single mast sloop, *Restauration*, left Stavanger on July 4, 1825, with 52 people on board. Often referred to as the "Sloopers," they arrived in New York City harbor on October 9, 1825.

The coordinated undertaking for the 200th anniversary has been identified as Crossings, Norway & North America, 1825 – 2025.

The Crossings Bicentennial in North America is managed by a group of dedicated professionals representing numerous organizations that include the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA), Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Norway House, The Norwegian American newspaper, with representation from Sons of Norway and the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Sons of Norway lodges and other cultural organizations and educational institutions have an opportunity to partner to create exceptional, entertaining and memorable programming in recognition of this anniversary.

As a part of this celebration, from October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, a Sloopers 200th Anniversary adult cultural weekend will be held in Norway, Illinois.



## Edvard Grieg - More than just a Final Jeopardy Answer

On January 24<sup>th</sup> (Friday), I had switched over from the local sports cast at 6:25 pm to challenge myself on the Final Jeopardy question. With the category being "Composers" I placed a 50% wager of my mythical winnings.

Here was the question: "Troll Hill is the name of his country home, the grounds of which include a concert hall and lakeside cabin where he worked."

Only because of some of our members' tour of Norway last May and their report out of their trip this past Autumn at our local Lodge meeting, I yelled out to my lovely wife, "I know this one!"

After searching for the name within my memory and hoping the synapses were firing, I proudly came up with "Grieg!" Never mind that I don't know any other Norwegian composers, I still beamed!

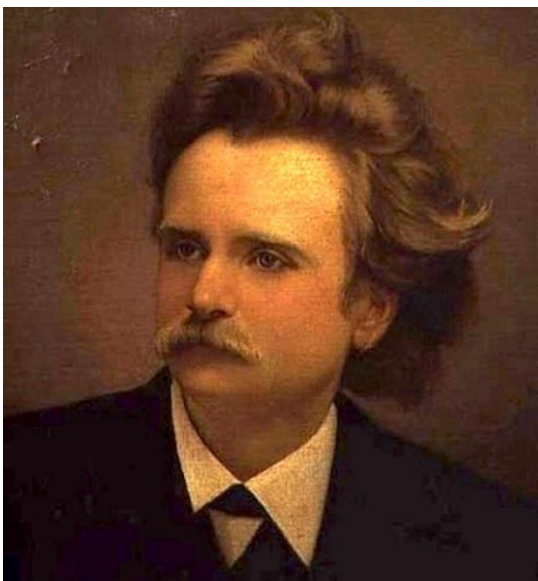
None of the three contestants on the real-life Jeopardy show got the answer right which illustrates that we need to make sure every American gets educated about Edvard Grieg. Buckle up because here we go...

Every year on June 15th, music lovers all over the world celebrate the birthday of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. Born in Bergen in 1843, Edvard Hagerup Grieg is one of Norway's most influential musicians and is considered the founder of the Norwegian nationalist school of music.

Grieg's greatest talent was his ability to create music that depicted Norway's stories, people and landscapes.

Edvard Grieg was raised in a musical environment, receiving his first piano lessons at the age of six from his mother. When he was 15, his musical ability was recognized by the famous Norwegian violin virtuoso Ole Bull, a family friend. Bull persuaded Grieg's parents to enroll him in the Leipzig Germany Conservatory.

During his musical studies in Germany, where he concentrated on the piano, Grieg learned the basics of German Romanticism and made his first attempts at composing. Also, during this time he fell severely ill and ended up permanently losing the use of one of his lungs.



In 1863, Grieg moved to Copenhagen where he met and married his cousin Nina. This was also where his music began to take on its Norwegian flair. Inspired and influenced by Norwegian nationalist composer Rikard Nordraak (composer of the Norwegian national anthem), Edvard Grieg began to use traits and melodies from Norwegian folk music in his pieces. Soon audiences were fascinated by the combination of folk music and his own bold, personal touch.

Grieg had a great talent at transposing his own perceptions of Norway into music that audiences across Europe could enjoy. Except for his extremely popular orchestral piece

“Piano Concerto in A Minor,” Grieg seldom used the larger musical forms and instead wrote numerous smaller lyrical pieces for piano. His “Symphony in C Minor,” written in his youth, remained in manuscript form with the written instruction, “Must never be performed,” until the late 1970s when a series of events led to the world premiere of this work.

It is difficult to define exactly what gives Grieg’s music a Norwegian national character. Grieg was often inspired by folk tunes as well as folk stories and Norwegian poetry. One of his more well-known works, the “Peer Gynt Suite,” is perhaps an ideal representation about how his music both influenced and was influenced by Norwegian nationalism. Written as incidental music to accompany the play “Peer Gynt” by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, the play and accompaniment told the story of folk tale character Peer Gynt while satirizing and examining Norwegian culture.

Grieg eventually found his way back to Norway, living first in Christiania (now Oslo) before building his home Troidhaugen, of “Troll Hill,” near Bergen. He died in the late summer of 1907, at age 64, after a long illness. He was cremated, and his ashes were entombed in a mountain crypt near his house. Today, Troidhaugen is open to visitors who wish to learn more about Edvard Grieg’s life or who want to listen to his music in a place where the composer once lived.

He once said, “Artists like Bach and Beethoven erected churches and temples on the heights. I only wanted...to build dwellings for men in which they might feel happy and at home.”

## **Attention Facebook Users**

Be sure to Follow our lodge’s Facebook page (@norsevalley) and check in regularly to Like and Share our posts if you happen to miss them in your feed.

The more our posts are Shared and Liked, the more exposure our lodge gets which is great advertising for us. Don’t forget that our website [norsevalley.org](http://norsevalley.org) is a great place to find out about upcoming events and check out photos from past events.

***Got a question? Send an email to [norsevalley@gmail.com](mailto:norsevalley@gmail.com).***

***If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Judy Ghastin at [judy62ghastin@gmail.com](mailto:judy62ghastin@gmail.com) or 920-450-3584.***