



Norse Valley Lodge 5-491 Nytt Notes March 2025

February Lodge meeting was canceled due to snow but will be made up one week from today!

Upcoming Lodge Events!

Saturday March 8th 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located at 3009 North Meade Street in Appleton.

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

It will be like an adult Masse Moro...Norwegian language lessons and food (thanks Cheryl Wille-Schlesser for the comment)!

Norse Valley member Linda Hash has volunteered to lead a fun Norwegian language lesson. All I learned from my Grandma Myrtle Nysven was "Uff da!"

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!

Saturday March 22nd: Noon: March in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New London.

Because Dublin was founded by Norwegian Vikings in 841AD, we need to represent Scandinavians everywhere and march alongside the Johnny and Janie's come lately in the three-quarter mile parade.

Parade line-up is scheduled for Noon with the actual parade kicking-off at 1:00 p.m.

While it's pretty cold today, we'll hope that temperatures moderate in the next 3 weeks so the paraders will feel like it's 'a walk in the park'. Last year's marchers braved a brisk 25 mph wind on March 16th but being tough Scandinavians, we endured.

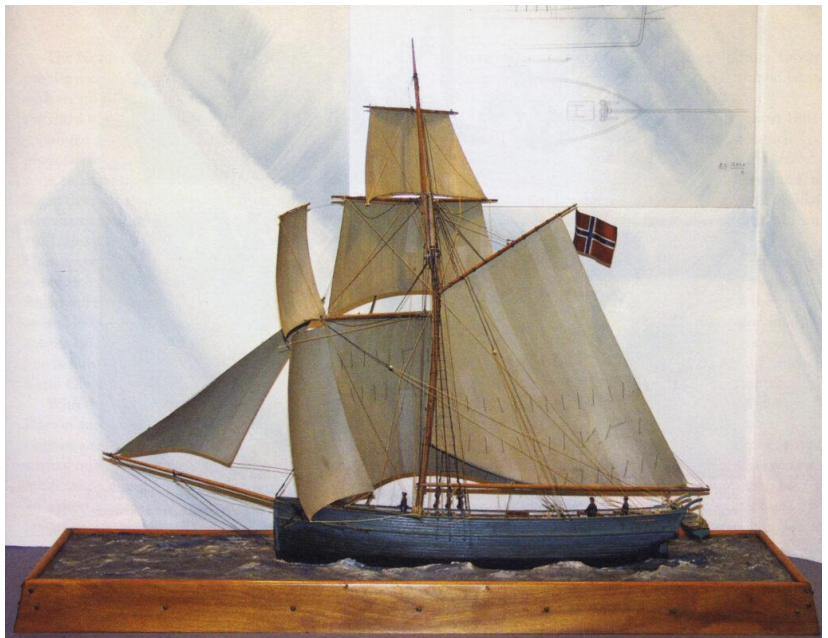
We'll toss candy to the children along the curb and perhaps have a bubble making machine to endear the Irish parade goes even more with the Sons and Daughters of Norway.

Please consider joining us by marching with us on March 22nd. Nothing attracts a crowd like a crowd! It'll be fun!

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

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the first Immigrants from Norway to set sail for the new Country of the United States of America.

On July 4, 1825, the single mast sloop", "Restauration," sailed from Stavanger, Norway with 52 passengers on board. This group often referred to as the "Sloopers," left Norway for religious freedom and new opportunities. They arrived in New York City harbor on October 9, 1825.



The New York Quakers set aside land in upstate New York, near Rochester. After nine hard years of clearing heavily forested land to farm, they sent Cleng Peerson out west in search for better farmland.

He and his group of Norwegian settlers traveled to Illinois and followed the Fox River down to LaSalle County Illinois.

This autumn in Norway, Illinois from October 3rd to 5th there will be a three-day weekend of Norwegian culture fun. Events include Sloopers and Fox Valley, Illinois settlement pioneer history, traditional Norwegian culture and craft programs and classes, Norwegian games and movie night, a "Sluppen" fun walk, a Norwegian barn dance with Norwegian folk music and food, traditional Norwegian worship service, and a chance to meet descendants of the first Norwegian-American immigrants at their Sloopers Society annual meeting.

To help us understand the journey perils of traveling across the North Atlantic in a wooden ship, our Lodge Vice-President Lois Greutzmacher will present with the help of a DVD what life was like on-board.

As a reminder, April's Lodge meeting is being held on the 4th Saturday of the month as to not conflict with Easter on the 20th.

**Sunday May 18th 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.

Attendees are encouraged to provide a side dish that they can share along with their own preferred drinks.



An Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity: Beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 2nd, 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 April 2nd.

Marriage Customs in Old Norway

Do you dream of an old fashioned Scandinavian wedding for your sons or daughters or grandchildren? Be careful what you wish for...

Marriage customs in Norway have changed over time. While the original Norse wedding customs do not always apply to modern weddings, some of this history still transitioned over to become the traditions we have today.

The Family Original marriage customs in Norway were centered on the “ætt”, or family (this includes all blood relatives and also ancestors). As a civil contract between families, the ætt gave away the bride.

Both families involved in the contract would then participate in a gift exchange as dictated by custom. The groom would offer an appropriate wedding gift to the family in exchange for the loss of their daughter, while the bride’s family would provide her with a dowry that often included items needed in a new household.

Each family would return the exchange with an additional gift until everyone was satisfied. The gifts varied in type and value from livestock to land. Even though the bride didn’t get to choose the man she married, any property and goods included in the dowry were rightfully hers if she ended up leaving her husband or became widowed. A widow, or a woman with her own property, had the right to marry without asking for the consent of her father – although her relatives might influence her.

Kjøkemeister – Toast Maker

After the bride and groom, the kjøkemeister, or toast maker, is one of the more important individuals of a traditional Norwegian wedding. Instructed with maintaining revelry, they are often in charge of welcoming guests, organizing the wedding procession, and leading songs and toasts during the meal after the ceremony. One of the most important speeches, Takk for maten – thanks for the food, is the final speech of the evening given by an honored guest, as directed by the kjøkemeister.

Bedamann – Inviter

Historically, the invitations to a Norwegian wedding were delivered by hand. This person was designated as the bedamann, or bidding man, and was also typically in charge of informing the community of christenings and funerals as well as weddings. A bedamann usually recited his invitations in an old-fashioned style of eloquent cordiality that today can appear stuffy to modern listeners. If a Norwegian today is accused of speaking in a bedamann manner, they should think about trying to appear less pompous and assumedly pious.

Traditional Dress

The bunad is the traditional dress of the Norwegian bride and groom. Each wore the appropriate style for their respective regions; though it is common for modern couples to forgo their traditional bunads and to see brides wearing a white gown instead. The bride would also wear wedding sjøle, silver jewelry that often remained in families as heritage pieces. Finally, the bride would also traditionally dawn a brudekrone, or bridal crown.



The brudekrone is commonly decorated with small metal bangles that make a soft tinkling as the bride moves; the noise is thought to ward off evil spirits who might attempt to harm the bride. Wedding rings are done a little bit differently in the Norwegian tradition. Only one ring is used for both the engagement as well as the wedding, typically a simple gold band. When the couple is engaged the ring is worn on the left hand and is moved to the right during the wedding ceremony. It is also common for the man to wear an engagement ring as well as the woman. During the ceremony, the circular

wedding bands are meant to be symbolic of the couple's endless love. After the wedding bands are exchanged, the couple is expected to kiss in representation of the two exchanging their souls.

The Procession

The wedding procession to the church is a distinct aspect of a traditional Norwegian wedding. Accompanied by the bridal party and guests, the bride and groom are lead to the church by a fiddler. Since the procession traditionally started at one of the houses of the couple, the bridal couple, or sometimes only the bride, would travel on horseback. If the procession had a long way to go, sometimes the guests would also ride horses or in some cases the procession would have to travel by boat. The popular painting "Bridal Procession in Hardanger (1848)" by Tidemand and Gude depicts this Norwegian tradition as completed by boat.

Once the procession reached the church, the bridal couple is expected to sit for the ceremony and answer a simple ja, or yes, in response to their ceremonial vows. Historically, Hardanger fiddlers are not allowed in churches and are therefore expected to wait until the



completion of the ceremony before joining the party to provide entertainment during the dinner and reception.

Wedding Food

A koldtbord, or cold table buffet, is often served after the wedding ceremony. Dishes include cut meats, salmon, shrimp and pickled herring, lovely salads, various pickles and cheeses. and always good bread.



The dinner is expected to last several hours and is accompanied with toasts and songs lead by the kjøkemeister. Historically, this part of the celebration was expected to last up to a week depending upon the income of the two families, but this is rarely practiced today. A variety of wedding cakes are also served after dinner. Two common cakes seen at a traditional Norwegian wedding include bløtkake, a sponge cake with alternating layers of fruit and whipping cream, and kransekake, a multi-layered almond ring cake decorated with icing and tiny flags or edible flowers. Sometimes the bride and groom will ask their friends and family to bring supplemental cakes so that a variety can be served.

After the traditional meal, it is common to also serve food as long as the guests continue to dance and celebrate into the night. Called nattmatt, or night food, this usually consists of sausages, soup with bread, or sandwiches.

After the Wedding

There are two simple traditions that are commonly practiced after a traditional Norwegian wedding.

First, it is common for the bride and groom to exchange a morgengave, or morning gift, on the morning after their wedding. The size and type of gifts exchanged depends upon the couple.

Second, it is common to plant two small fir trees on either side of the couple's door after they are married. The fir trees are symbols of the future and represent the children the couple will conceive.

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 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.

If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Judy Ghastin at judy62ghastin@gmail.com or 920-450-3584.