

INDEX

Old Norse / Medieval.....	2
Norwegian-American Settlement / Frontier / Immigration.....	6
Civil War.....	10
World War II.....	12
Music.....	13
Mythology.....	14
Culinary.....	16
Folklore.....	16
Dance.....	17
Architecture / Wood Carving / Stave Churches.....	17
Rosemaling.....	18
Hardanger Embroidery.....	19
DNA Testing.....	20
Genealogy.....	21
Norwegian American Poetry.....	23
Kensington Rune Stone.....	25
Other/Variou.....	25
Index by Author.....	27

Old Norse / Medieval

Jesse L. Byock

Professor of Old Norse and Medieval Scandinavian Studies, UCLA
<http://www.viking.ucla.edu/index.html>

Jesse Byock teaches Viking history and archaeology, early Icelandic society, medieval feuds, and Old Norse saga literature. The saga literature is a key source of social-historical and legal information about northern European medieval culture and the major source of mythical and heroic lore. His new book 'Viking Language' teaches Old Norse, runes, and Icelandic sagas and is available Winter 2012.

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Kirsten Wolf

Professor and Torger Thompson Chair; Department Chair, UW-Madison
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Professor and Torger Thompson Chair Kirsten Wolf received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Scandinavian languages from University College London and her B.A. Hons. from the University of Iceland. She joined the Department of Scandinavian Studies in the fall of 2001, where she teaches a variety of courses on Old Norse-Icelandic language and literature and Scandinavian linguistics. She is a member of the Medieval Studies Program, the Religious Studies Program, and the Folklore Program, and an affiliate Professor of the Department of German. Her primary areas of research are Old Norse-Icelandic philology and medieval Scandinavian hagiography.

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Scott A. Mellor

Distinguished Lecturer, UW Madison
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I have been a Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1999. I started with an interest in Historical Scandinavian Linguistics, which has grown to a general interest in folklore and medieval Scandinavia. My books include *Beginner's Swedish* and *Analyzing Ten Poems from the Poetic Edda*. My current research interests include Hans Christian Andersen, Folk Life on the Åland Islands, and Scandinavian Mythology and Religion.

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Harry Solo

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English (Ph.D., Princeton) teaches Scandinavian literature in English translation (by independent study); interest in modern Scandinavian and Old Norse languages

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Terje I. Leiren

Professor of Scandinavian Studies
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University of Washington
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I teach the broad scope of Scandinavian history courses at the University of Washington. These include the general survey courses of Scandinavian history (SCAND/HSTEU 380 and 381), the History of the Vikings (SCAND/HSTAM 370), and a graduate seminar with varying topics: "SCAND 525: Topics in Scandinavian History." Recent topics have included "Travel and Tourism in Scandinavia," "Scandinavia During World War II," and "Biography in Scandinavian History." Finally, I teach third-year courses in Norwegian language and culture.

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Claudia Berguson

Associate Professor of Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies
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This is my ninth year of teaching in Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies at Pacific Lutheran University. My research in Norway was done at the University of Bergen and the University of Oslo. My main area of research and publication deals with the interpretation of Sigrid Undset's medieval novels as dialogic texts. The relationship between narrative and national identity, and the use of gossip as a narrative strategy in women's literature are central to this research. My research also includes migrant literature, the role of language and literature in establishing cultural identity and memory, and peace building as image and practice in Norway.

I teach courses in Norwegian language and Scandinavian literature and culture. Regardless of the specific topic, the cultures of the Nordic region are an integral part of discussion in the classroom. Goals for my teaching in Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies are to support students in their exploration of Scandinavian cultures, to challenge students to learn beyond the familiar and the known, to engage students in critical inquiry into the dynamic Scandinavian societies of today, and to prepare students with specific and applicable knowledge, skills and perspectives with which to contribute to a more peaceful global community

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John Lindow

Professor of Scandinavian, University of California Berkeley
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Research interests: Old Norse-Icelandic literature, mainly mythology and poetry; Scandinavian folklore, mainly legends; Finno-Ugric folklore.

Teaching Experience: Medieval Scandinavian language, literature, and culture; Viking and medieval Scandinavia; Scandinavian mythology; Scandinavian, European, Arctic and Subarctic folklore. Teaching generally focuses on the interpretation of texts in social and historical context. Affiliated with Finnish Studies Program, Religious Studies Program, and the graduate degree programs in Folklore and Medieval Studies.

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Jonas Wellendorf

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Teaching and Research interests: Old Norse-Icelandic literature, textual culture and language, Viking and Medieval Scandinavia, medieval understandings of the past, medieval views on language, Old Norse-Icelandic learned literature (including grammatical, theological and mythological literature and literature on poetics), medieval translations, medieval modes of interpretation, the Latin/vernacular interface.

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Kari Ellen Gade

Professor and Chair of Germanic Studies, Indiana University

Fields of interest: Old Norse-Icelandic language, literature, culture and history, together with Germanic philology, metrics, and linguistics. Professor Gade teaches courses on Old Norse-Icelandic language and literature (sagas), eddic, and skaldic Poetry, Old Norse poetic language, history of the Scandinavian languages, Old High German, Old Saxon, Gothic, runes and runic inscriptions, alliterative Meters, Vikings and sagas.

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Christie L Ward

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The Viking Answer Lady

It is the Viking Answer Lady's goal to encourage more people to learn about the Viking Age, and some of the very best questions that I've been asked come from schoolchildren. So, what can the Viking Answer Lady do for students? I can direct you to books and other sources where your answers may be found. I can give you hints that will allow you to use your school library's card catalogue more effectively. I can direct you to other websites with related information.

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William Ian (Bill) Miller

Thomas G. Long Professor of Law
<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~wimiller/>

Areas of Interest: Icelandic Sagas; Medieval History; Social and Political Theory; Emotions; Vices and Virtues.

William I. Miller, the Thomas G. Long Professor of Law, has been a member of the Michigan Law faculty since 1984. Originally, his research centered on saga Iceland, from whence the materials studied in his blood feuds class and his book, *Bloodtaking and Peacemaking: Feud, Law, and Society in Saga Iceland* (1990). He has also written about emotions, mostly unpleasant ones involving self-assessment, and select vices and virtues. *Audun and the Polar Bear: Luck, Law, and Largesse in a Medieval Tale of Risky Business* (2008) is an extended treatment of a superbly crafted short Icelandic tale.

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Norwegian-American Settlement / Frontier / Immigration

Odd Lovoll (Retired)

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Professor of History and Norwegian, St. Olaf College

Odd S. Lovoll was born October 6, 1934 in Norway. He immigrated to the United States in 1946 and is a naturalized United States citizen.

He retired from the King Olav V Chair in Scandinavian-American Studies at St. Olaf College on December 31, 2000 after serving thirty years on the St. Olaf faculty.

From 1980 until 2001 he served as publication editor for The Norwegian-American Historical Association. In that capacity he edited and supervised publication of thirty-two volumes. Eighteen books carry his name either as author or editor and he has published some fifty articles mainly on Norwegian American and Scandinavian-American immigration; he has published in both Norway and the United States

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Todd Nichol

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King Olav V Professor of Scandinavian-American Studies, St. Olaf College

I was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois where my maternal grandparents settled after emigrating from Scandinavia during and shortly after World War I. It was their story that first interested me in Scandinavian-American studies. A continuing interest in connections between Scandinavia and America gave an important theme to an undergraduate education at St. Olaf College; study for the ministry at Luther Theological Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota; and finally to doctoral work at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

Currently I am privileged to teach at St. Olaf College, where I serve as King Olav V Professor of Scandinavian American Studies, and to serve as editor of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

My research and writing is shaped by my work as editor of the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA), housed at St. Olaf and supported by the college since the association's founding in 1925. My most recent book is a volume of essays, Crossings: Norwegian-American Lutheranism as a Transatlantic Tradition.

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Solveig Zempel

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Professor of Norwegian Emerita

My primary project was translating and interpreting the diaries of Ellen Kravik Lokensgard and Ole Lokensgard (or Løkensgaard). These diaries were written in the 1870s and 1880s from the time Ellen was a student at Monona Academy in Madison, Wisconsin, through her marriage to Pastor Ole Lokensgard and their life together near Granite Falls, Minnesota, where he served several churches.

In August of 2013 I will be participating in the 140th reunion of descendants of the wagon train, commemorating a group of mostly Norwegian and a few Irish immigrant pioneers who moved from Fillmore County in Minnesota (and some from Iowa) to Dakota Territory (now Minnehaha County, South Dakota) in 1873, where they established homesteads.

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Kathleen Stokker (Retired)

Professor Emeritus of Scandinavian Studies, Luther College
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Kathleen Stokker has been at Luther College since 1978. She retired in Spring 2012. During her time at Luther, she has completed a beginning textbook in Norwegian (with Odd Haddal) and an anthology of readings for intermediate students. Both books grew out of hands-on experience in the language classroom and reflect the interests of the students themselves.

She has also written books about the way Norwegians used humor to survive their occupation by Hitler's forces during World War 2, and on the development and meaning of Norwegian Christmas customs.

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Dean Urdahl

<http://deanurdahl.com/>

Rep. Urdahl recently finished writing *Uprising*, a book of historical fiction set in Minnesota in 1862 which is about the U.S.-Dakota Conflict, also known as the Sioux Uprising or the US Dakota War. *Uprising* is the first in a trilogy, *Retribution* and *Pursuit* followed. Urdahl's family helped settle Litchfield Township in 1856, two years before Minnesota became the 32nd state. The Sioux conflict started across the lake from Rep. Urdahl's home, and his great-grandfather buried the conflict's first five victims.

In his spare time, Rep. Urdahl enjoys reading, playing softball and basketball, and occasionally participating in Civil War reenactments.

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Dr. Verlyn Anderson

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“They Came to America: The long journeys of the 19th Century immigrants from Norway to the Upper Midwest in America --- Routes, Ships and Conditions” and “The Struggles of Being American”

In June 2008, His Royal Highness King Harald V of Norway awarded the prestigious St. Olav Medal to Dr. Anderson "in recognition of his great service to Norway, in particular for his active work to promote knowledge and appreciation of Norwegian culture, language and history in the United States." He served for 36 years as the Director of the Library and Professor of History and Scandinavian Studies at Concordia College, Moorhead. He continues to lead tour groups to Norway and to research and write extensively about Norwegian genealogy and Norwegian emigration to the U.S.

Dr. Betty Bergland

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Resides in Twin Cities area

“Women, Gender and Norwegian-American Communities: Historical Perspectives”

Betty A. Bergland received her bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College, a master's from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Since 1990 she has served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she teaches twentieth century U.S. history, including immigration, ethnic, women's and intellectual history. Her published works include numerous

articles and book chapters on immigration and the co-edited volume (with Lori Ann Lahlum) *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities and Identities* (MHS Press, 2011). Her current book project studies Indians and immigrants in the Upper Midwest.

Civil War

Gene Estensen

<http://www.telelaget.com/lag/officers/estensen.htm>

Like many Norwegian-Americans, I am a product of life on the Great Plains. I was born at Morris, Minnesota and raised at nearby Hancock. My Norwegian ancestors came to America early, before the Civil War. There were two sets of g-g-grandparents from Vestfjorddalen, Tinn, Telemark. They came to Minnesota before it was a state. They got caught up in the Civil War and the Indian War of 1862 in Minnesota. I have a rich pioneer family history, and much of the story was preserved on paper by a pioneer grandfather.

In 2001 I visited the ancestral farms near Rjukan, Tinn, Telemark. The farm names were Bøen, Tveito, Miland, Bøkasse, Bømogen, Såheim, Blomhaugan, Vemork and others. I find it interesting that the ancestors grew up on and near the old farms which became famous as the site where the Nazi produced "heavy water" during WWII. It is a beautiful area. Mount Gausta (Gaustatoppen) towers over the ancestral farms.

I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota - Duluth (BA) and Georgia State University (MS). My pre-retirement occupation was computer related, Director of Information Systems, but my passion is Norwegian-American history. The two interests came together in the development of the Telelaget of America website.

My Norwegian-American hero is Torkel Oftelie of Telelaget fame. He traveled by horse-and-buggy throughout the Midwest selling the virtues of membership in Telelaget in those critical first years of the organization. He also authored the first 50+ issues of our journal Telesoga. Some day, I would like to retrace the steps he took one hundred years ago and take a look at how the descendants of the early pioneers are doing today.

Candace Simar

<http://candacesimar.com/>

Candace Simar is a writer and poet from Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, in the heart of Lake Country. As a life-long Minnesotan, the grandchild of immigrants, Candace nurtures a passion for Minnesota History.

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Robert Hickcox

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Resides in Northfield, MN area

“Action Beyond Duty Norwegian-American Congressional Medal of Honor Winners in the Civil War”

Bob Hickcox is a long time student of genealogy, family stories and Civil War history. He has over 1100 ancestors in his genealogy, and is a direct descendant of a Union soldier and two Revolutionary war soldiers. He is also a distant cousin of Wild Bill Hickok. Bob's specialty in genealogy is sorting out fact from fiction in oral history through rigorous research.

Wayne Jorgenson

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Resides in Wisconsin

“Every Man Did His Duty: Stories about the Men of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry”

Wayne Jorgenson is a founding member of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry reenactment group, which is dedicated to educating the public about the life of the Civil War soldier and preserving the memory of the men who served in the original unit. He is the co-creator of the website 1stminnesota.net, which documents lives and service of the men of the First Minnesota.

Dr. Linda Lee Larson

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Resides in Washington state

“Researching Your Civil War Ancestors”

Dr. Linda Lee Larson, a CPA and former career auditor, has been a full-time university accounting and auditing professor since 1997. About 12 years ago, she began researching her own family's Norwegian roots. Since then Linda has researched hundreds of other Hadeland families and is a senior researcher for the Hadeland Emigrant Identification Project.

Stephen Osman

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Resides in Twin Cities area

“Minnesota’s Two Civil Wars”

Stephen Osman is a graduate of St. Olaf College who recently retired as senior historian with the Minnesota Historical Society. He managed Historic Fort Snelling for over three decades, and actively researches, speaks and writes about Minnesota’s role in the Civil War and the Dakota War. Osman served with the US Army Reserve in Psychological Operations at Fort Snelling, is an elected fellow of the Company of Military Historians, and currently serves on the boards of the Minnesota Military Museum, the Friends of Fort Snelling and the new scholarly journal, Minnesota’s Heritage.

Anne Sladky

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Resides in northern MN

“Norwegian-Americans in the Confederacy”

Anne is currently president of the Hadeland Lag and serves as a board member and/or webmaster for a number of historical and genealogical organizations. She has edited half a dozen history and genealogy books and is a regular columnist on using the internet for genealogical research in a number of newsletters. Her special area of interest is the history of the Buffalo River Settlement in Clay County MN. Studying Norwegian immigrant history has helped her put the lives of her ancestors into an informed context.

World War II

Bill Hoffland

President, 99th Infantry Battalion Separate, WWII, Educational Foundation.

<http://www.99battalion.org/>

In May 1942, one thousand Norwegian-American men were called upon by President Roosevelt and the U.S. War Department to begin training for a possible secret mission to liberate their ancestral homeland from occupation by Nazi Germany. Soldiers selected for this elite unit had to be of Norwegian descent, have a working knowledge of the Norwegian language and preferably already know how to ski. The unit saw combat action in France, Belgium and Germany before being sent to Norway in June 1945 to disarm the German occupational forces. The 99th is truly a unique and important part of the joint history of Norway and the United States; yet today most Americans and Norwegians are unaware of its significance.

Bill Hoffland, son of a 99th veteran, will bring this fascinating story to life. He's been recording the stories of men who served in the battalion, and in 2010 was one of the founders of the non-profit 99th Infantry Battalion WW2 Educational Foundation. The foundation's goal is to preserve history of the battalion and the personal stories of its members so their legacy won't be forgotten.

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Music

Andrea Een

<http://www.andreaeen.com/>

Andrea Een, Norwegian-American Hardanger fiddler, received the St. Olav Medal in 2002, given by King Harald V of Norway for her promotion of greater knowledge of Norwegian culture abroad. Een has studied the Hardanger fiddle, a nine-string folk violin unique to Norway, with some of the leading fiddlers in that country. In 2004 she released her solo CD, "From the Valley" which combines her original fiddle solos with traditional dances and tone poems from West Norway. Andrea Een has taught Hardanger fiddle, violin and viola at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota since 1977.

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Karen Torkelson Solgård

Hardanger fiddler

<http://www.norsefiddle.com/>

Karen Solgård brings entertaining programs of Hardanger fiddle music and associated dances for community concert series, cultural groups and festivals around the country. Traditional Hardanger fiddle tunes are mixed with Karen's own compositions and arrangements--classical favorites such as Grieg's Morning and Bach's Minuet, the 1950 hit song The Thing, and American folk songs such as Simple Gifts, Yankee Doodle and Kentucky Babe.

Audiences Say . . .

Here's what some people have said about her performances: "I thoroughly enjoyed the performance. A big part of what made it fun and accessible to me was the commentary; both descriptions and stories involving Norway and also the stories about Karen's family and the origins of her interest in the music and the instrument. As intriguing and interesting as the music itself is, I think the frame created by the stories and history are every bit as valuable to the performance."

“Karen puts on a very good show. Her conversation was interesting and very easy to understand, and the flow of music was great. Very nice humor. We just like the Hardanger fiddle sound so much, and like Karen Solgard’s presence.”

Performances and teaching:

Karen’s recent performances have taken her to New York City, Washington D.C., Phoenix, Chicago, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Dallas area and many large and small communities around the United States. She taught Hardanger fiddle at St. Olaf College during 2004-5 school year. Karen has been on the Young Audiences of Minnesota roster for ten years, presenting concerts, workshops and residencies in schools and children’s groups. Performances have included festivals such as Decorah’s Nordic Fest, Moorhead’s Hjemkomst Festival, Story City (Iowa) Scandinavian Days, and Nisswa Stämman; community and college concert series and radio programs in the USA and Norway.

More information: [norsefiddle at solgard dot com](http://norsefiddle.com)

Mythology

Dr. Karl E. H. Seigfried

<http://www.norsemyth.org/>

A Norse mythologist and musician in Chicago, Karl is Norse Religion Faculty at Carthage College and teaches Norse mythology classes at Loyola University Chicago and Newberry Library. He's also Founder & Faculty Advisor of the Carthage College Tolkien Society.

Karl has been a featured writer and lecturer at the Joseph Campbell Foundation and Wagner Society of America. He's a member of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Viking Society for Northern Research (UK) and Religion News-writers Association. He's also Official Norse Mythologist of the Stephanie Miller Show.

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<http://www.norsemyth.org/p/ask-norse-mythologist.html>

Chicago, Illinois

Nancy Marie Brown

<http://nancymariebrown.blogspot.com/>

Nancy is a member of the Medieval Academy of America, the National Association of Science Writers, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the American-Scandinavian Society, the Mythopoeic Society, the Icelandic National League, and the U.S. Icelandic Horse Congress.

Nancy Marie Brown has written five general interest books about history, science, and sagas including:

Song of the Vikings: Snorri and the Making of Norse Myths (Palgrave Macmillan 2012)--winner of the 2013 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies; an Indie Next pick of the American Booksellers Association, December 2012; and a Times Literary Supplement 2012 Book of the Year.

Writing in the November 30, 2012 Times Literary Supplement, Tolkien scholar Tom Shippey named Song of the Vikings his Book of the Year: "Everyone knows now about the Norse gods, Thor and Loki and one-eyed Odin, and the mythology associated with them, Valhalla and Ragnarok and the Midgard Serpent. Most of what we know, however, derives from only one work, the Icelander Snorri Sturluson's thirteenth-century Prose Edda." Praising Nancy's "literary biography," Shippey writes, Snorri was "No hero . . . , but one of the greatest writers of the Middle Ages, whose personal saga is now rivetingly told."

She is available for lectures or readings, classroom visits, or visits to book clubs and bookstores. For samples of her lectures, see her Events page. To schedule an event, contact her directly at: nmb@nasw.org or nancymariebrown@gmail.com

<http://www.nasw.org/users/nmb/events.html>
Lyndon, Vermont

Douglas "Dag" Rossman

<http://www.valdressamband.org/stories/viking/index.htm>

Through his passion for Norse Mythology and his storytelling skills, Douglas (Dag) Rossman has ignited excitement and enthusiasm in Norse tales in a whole new generation. As the skalds of old retold the Icelandic sagas, Dag has been a featured storyteller at folk festivals and summer camps, introducing boys and girls to stories about dragons, elves, dwarves, giants, and Valkyries.

Dag Rossman has written stories for Mythic Circle and Viking magazines. He authored a comprehensive dictionary of Norse Mythology entitled *The Nine Worlds*, and has published three other collections of stories. After retiring as a Professor of Biology at Louisiana State University, Dag created a major exhibit at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum entitled *Echoes of Odin: Norse Mythology in Scandinavian and America*, and served as a consultant for the Smithsonian traveling exhibition *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga* at the Minnesota Science Museum.

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Culinary

Gary Legwold

<http://www.lutefisk.com/index.html>

Keeping Heritage Alive With Food: A speech to several Sons of Norway groups, churches, and other Scandinavian organizations. I teach lefse-making classes every November. For more information, contact me. I give lefse-making demonstrations at such places as Ingebretsen's, a Scandinavian food and gift store in Minneapolis. I wrote a humor skit on "Keeping Lutefisk Legal" for the Friends of Norway in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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Gerald (Jerry) Paulson

Naeseth Chair for Genealogical Research and Publication

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Folklore

Lise Lunge-Larsen

<http://www.liselungelarsen.com/index.php>

Born and raised in Norway, Lise Lunge-Larsen came to the US on a scholarship to attend college. She planned to return to Norway but fell in love, married and remained in the US where, in addition to teaching at the college level, she has become a well-known storyteller and award-winning author. She and her husband have three children and live in Duluth, MN where she is known as "The Troll Lady."

I am available for school visits as well as to speak to teachers about the importance of preserving our oldest literary heritage, the folktales and the myths. I am particularly interested in sharing just how folktales spark children's curiosity and critical thinking skills, why it is the very best literature to use in the multicultural classroom, and the profound way these traditional tales help children develop a love of nature and a desire to be good stewards of our world.

For Adults:

Why Folktales?

In this presentation, chock full of ideas and information, Lise will explain why it is crucial to including folktales in children's lives. She will present an overview of the types of folktales and discuss which types are best suited to the different age groups. She will touch on reading development and show you how folktales and nursery rhymes create the optimal conditions for reading comprehension. Additionally,

Lise explores how a child's development and emotional life mirror the experiences of the hero or heroine of the folktales and the beneficial effects this has on the child, from building character and compassion to firing up the imagination and spurring creative problem solving. This presentation will also include ways of using folktales with ESL students and practical ideas for pairing folktales with non-fiction to meet the goals of the Common Core Standards.

For Adults:

Becoming a Storyteller:

This is an interactive workshop for adults interested in learning how to become an oral storyteller. It includes research on the value of including storytelling in the classroom, how and why it engages the brain and fuels the child's imagination more than reading and certainly more than watching media. You will also learn practical tips on how to select and learn stories; speak fluently in front of an audience, tricks to remember details and sequence of events. The presentation could be expanded to include information about how to teach children to become storytellers.

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Dance

Kari Tauring

<http://www.karitauring.com/wp/>

Kari Tauring is a völvá (Old Norse for staff carrier), sharing her ethnic heritage through performances and workshops for all ages.

Kari Tauring takes listeners on a journey through Nordic heritage. Inter-generational and interactive she weaves stories, songs and dances that reflect how daily work and mystical worlds intertwine in the Nordic mind. Kari offers several kinds of programs from theatrical productions to intimate gatherings to key note addresses.

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Architecture / Wood Carving / Stave Churches

Phillip Odden and Else Bigton

www.norskwoodworks.com

Else Bigton, a native of Ålesund Norway, and Phillip Odden from Barronett Wisconsin met each other at the Hjerleid wood carving school in Norway in 1977. They were married in 1978 and returned to Wisconsin in 1979 to establish Norsk Wood Works, a wood carving and furniture business. For 33 years they have made their sole living as artist-craftsmen in the Norwegian folk art tradition. In recent years they have established a herd of Norwegian Fjord horses. The couple raises, trains and shows Fjord horses in the upper Midwest in Pleasure Driving competitions and Combined Driving Events. Else and Phil enjoy working as artist craftsmen and keeping horses on their farm in rural Wisconsin.

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Rosemaling

Patti Goke

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I am available for teaching, commissions, and demonstrations. Also, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about rosemaling.

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Teresa Ann McCue

<http://www.rosemalingteresa.com/>

Professional Rosemaling Artist / Rosemaler

I am an artist and teacher specializing in the Telemark style of Rosemaling, using oils as my medium. Inspired by the old Norwegian master painters and the love of my Scandinavian heritage, my work over the years has been a blend of instruction at Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, private study in Norway, and professional practice. My dedication as a rosemaling artist has enabled me to help preserve the integrity of this highly stylized Nordic art form.

I am available to develop unique decoration on any surface, from borders, doors, cabinets, and furniture to woodenware or canvas - in your home or business. My folk art can give your everyday objects new life. I welcome commissioned rosemaling opportunities in private homes and places of business, custom orders, large or small, and can also paint on your special item for a Nordic look - your wood or mine. I welcome travel opportunities for custom painting.

I am also available for instructing rosemaling workshops from beginners to intermediate levels and welcome students of all ages. My goal as an instructor is to give individual instruction to each student at their level of painting.

<http://www.rosemalingteresa.com/contact.html>

Email: teresa@rosemalingteresa.com

Phone: 218-780-6005

Joanne MacVey

<http://www.joannemacvey.com/>

Rosemaling became a part of my life in 1983 with a Rogaland class taught by Gary Albrecht. It has been my privilege to study in Norway with Nils Ellingsgard, Ragnvald Frøysedal, Knut Andersen, Tore Christiansen, Borghild Nybråten, Turid Fatland, and Unni Marie Lien. and at Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA, with numerous instructors, amongst them Norwegian instructors Nils Ellingsgard, Kari Pettersen, Oskar Kjetså, Bergljot Lunde, Alfhild Tangen, Tanya Westhagen, Torunn Rød Farsund, and Turid Fatland; and American instructors Marlys Hammer, Judy Ritger, Addie Piddlekow, Trudy Peach, Gary Albrecht, and Eldrid Arntzen

In 2001, I was awarded the Vesterheim Gold Medal for Rosemaling at the National Rosemaling Exhibition in Decorah as well as the Sons of Norway Rosemaling Cultural Specialist award. Although now retired, it has also been my privilege to teach at Vesterheim as well as at Decorative Painter's, rosemaling, and Sons of Norway conventions and groups around the U.S.

joanne@joannemacvey.com

Retired from teaching and speaking, but could answer questions by email.

Hardanger Embroidery

Betty Knutson

http://www.nordicneedle.com/newsletters/_300/331.shtml

Betty Knutson lives in Willmar, Minnesota, with her husband Earl. Betty retired in 2000 from finance but retirement has not slowed her down as she is involved in many groups in Willmar. Here is Betty's stitching story.

My Irish Grandmother taught me how to embroider on pillow cases and pot holders when I was a little girl. As a little girl, I was always stitching doll clothes, which all had to have an embroidered flower on it. My first counted cross stitch was a wedding sampler that had 75 colors in it.

I have tried all types of needlework – needlepoint, stamped cross stitch, Crewl work, Counted Cross stitch, Hardanger. My favorite is a toss up between Counted Cross Stitch and Hardanger. I like pieces that have both. I typically stitch 20-30 hours per week.

320-222-1613

DNA Testing

Richard Hill

<http://www.dna-testing-adviser.com/>

Helping Adoptees and Genealogists Use DNA Testing to Discover and Confirm Birth Parents, Siblings, and Other Ancestors

I teach adoptees and genealogists how to trace their biological roots through various forms of DNA testing. I do this primarily through writing, presentations, and my web site -- DNA-Testing-Adviser.com.

My book, Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA, was named a Finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards for 2013. Kirkus Reviews calls the book "An engaging, page-turning memoir that thoughtfully puts together the pieces of a family puzzle."

My groundbreaking use of DNA tests to identify my birth father was featured on the front page of The Wall Street Journal. By cracking my own personal mystery, I opened the door for other adoptees to discover their biological families.

Michigan

Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan Area

Contact: <http://www.dna-testing-adviser.com/Feedback.html>

Donald N. Yates, Ph.D.

Cultural historian and principal investigator of DNA Consultants, a DNA testing company in Phoenix

http://www.genealogicalspeakersguild.org/member_details.php?member=YatesD

DNA testing for ancestry and ethnicity, especially autosomal DNA tests. Interested in being keynote or special speaker at regional and national historical society and genealogical society meetings. Have my own projector for PowerPoint presentations. Fee usually waived. Audience can order DNA tests and be sampled with cheek swab kit on the spot.

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URL: <http://dnaconsultants.com>
Contact between 10:00 am to 06:00 pm Arizona (MT)

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

<http://www.honoringourancestors.com/index.html>

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (yes, that's her real name) is a genealogical adventurer who loves solving mysteries, making unexpected discoveries and pushing the boundaries of conventional genealogy. A popular writer, speaker and TV guest, she does all she can to get the g-word out there and inspire others in their quest for roots.

Testimonials: http://www.honoringourancestors.com/testimonials_speaking.html
Contact: http://www.honoringourancestors.com/schedule_form.html

Genealogy

Sharon Babcock

hadelandresearch@gmail.com
Resides in Twin Cities area

“Traditional Norwegian Naming Conventions” and “Life of a Husmann”

Sharon is the genealogist and research coordinator for the Hadeland Lag and is an active member of the Norwegian-American Genealogical Association. She has presented on genealogy topics at both NAGA and Mindekirken in Minneapolis.

Jean Marthaler

marwendt@charter.net
Resides in St Cloud area

“Beautiful Norway: Slides and Discussion Time”

Norwegian genealogy research has been Jean's passion for many years. She helps both Americans and Norwegians connect to each other. She works with Brekke Tours - Sogn/Voss/Valdres Heritage Tour with genealogy research and tour guiding to Norway, she loves it! Jean manages Kay's Kitchen in St. Joseph, MN which she enjoys and in her free time she is usually working on someone's ancestry.

Lori Bessler

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Marilyn Sorensen

rddlagen@usfamily.net

Resides in the Twin Cities Area

“Family Search Page: Hidden Treasures”

Marilyn is an educator by training. Genealogy has been one of her interests, specializing in Norwegian genealogy. She has taught many classes and coordinates a series of seminars about Norwegian genealogy. She helped organize several trips to Gudbrandsdal, Norway. Currently Marilyn is genealogist emeritus for RDD lag and genealogist for Gudbrandsdal lag.

Marilyn C. Stinson, Ph. D.

mstinson@midco.net

Resides in St Cloud area

“Ideas for Writing Your Life Stories”

Dr. Stinson is a retired Professor of Business from St. Cloud State University. Marilyn has been involved with genealogical and historical research since 1980. She is an officer in the St. Cloud Area Genealogists organization and has just published her fourth family history book. Marilyn teaches classes and often gives presentations - especially with a focus on "Write Your Own Life Stories!"

Norwegian American Poetry

Lawrence Moe

Professor of English

Director, Master of Liberal Studies Program

Dr. Lawrence Moe is Professor of English and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He holds the PhD in English from the University of Minnesota, where he also earned the BA with summa cum laude honors in each of his two majors, English and philosophy. His academic interests include medieval and Renaissance studies, the history of English literature and language, and poetry.

The Old English poem Beowulf was the topic of Dr. Moe's PhD dissertation. In recent years he has undertaken a study of the early poetry of the Red River Valley of the North, and has located and analyzed thousands of poems from that region. He has shared his research in poetry through numerous scholarly and community presentations, on television, and in various publications.

Dr. Moe's Norwegian-American Talk Topics

Dr. Moe's Ph.D. was in English, but his Ph.D. Supporting Program was in Scandinavian Studies, and throughout his career he has done research and public speaking on topics that may be of special interest to Norwegian-Americans. In addition to possible customized talks, he offers:

Carl Ben Eielson: The Norwegian-American Lindbergh

The fascinating Carl Ben Eielson was a Norwegian-American pilot and explorer in the golden age of aerial adventurers. “The Father of the Bush Pilots” achieved the first non-stop transpolar intercontinental flight (Alaska to Norway), making himself famous. He was also the first pilot to fly in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Eielson died attempting a daring rescue mission over Siberia in 1929, which caused profound mourning in his home state of North Dakota.

Early Folk Poetry of the Red River Valley

Norwegian immigrants formed the largest element of the Europeans who settled the Red River Valley of the North. Today, their experiences are inherently interesting to those who study our Nordic roots, and many Norwegian-Americans have personal connections to the Valley. In Dr. Moe’s collection of folk poetry there are a few poems in Norwegian, and others in English that also offer perspectives familiar to students of Nordic culture. In this presentation Dr. Moe gives a brief history of the Valley, and shares poems addressing a range of thought and experience.

Norwegian-American Folk Poetry

Folk poetry is written by ordinary people seeking to preserve ideas and feelings in memorable ways. Norwegian-American folk poetry may reflect aspects of our culture or immigration experiences. Professor Lawrence Moe collects the early folk poetry of North Dakota, which he will offer as a case study within this topic, along with some additional examples.

Knud Wefald: From Norway to Politics and Poetry

Born in Telemark in 1869, Knud came to MN in 1886 as a farm hand, worked his way into business, and then got into politics. He was a mayor, MN legislator, US congressman, and state commissioner. Wefald edited the Norwegian-language weekly Normanden; he also published about fifty poems in both Norwegian and English. In 1903, Wefald, his wife, and their 3 young children visited Norway; Wefald details that journey in a serial feature of 29 newspaper articles—a *hjemkomst* of keen interest to Norse immigrants here in the Midwest. Wefald died in 1936. He is a significant figure in Norwegian-American history, yet little known today.

The Life and Work of “Colorado Pete”

A Norwegian-American named Arthur Peterson (1896-1932) served honorably in World War I, but came home terribly sick, to spend the rest of his too-short life shifting from one veterans hospital to another. It’s a sad story, except that during his years of painful struggle against a terminal condition, he refused to give up on life, and so recreated himself as “Colorado Pete,” a robust and romantic poet, who published over 100 poems and acquired a following of admirers who never learned his real life story until after his death. Professor Moe is the editor of the first and only collection of Pete’s poetry, which can be available for purchase at this talk.

Beowulf

Dr. Moe wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the Old English poem Beowulf. That remarkable epic takes place in medieval Nordic settings, and appeals to those interested in Nordic myth and legend—or

anyone interested in The Lord of the Rings (which Professor Tolkien drew in part from the world of Beowulf). Dr. Moe will overview the plot of Beowulf, and discuss its themes.

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Master of Liberal Studies Program

Metropolitan State University

700 East Seventh Street

Saint Paul, MN 55106-5000

Kensington Rune Stone

Scott Wolter and Dick Nielsen

<http://www.kensingtonrunestone.com/default.aspx>

The Kensington Rune Stone has been the subject of passionate debate over its authenticity since it was discovered in the roots of a tree near Kensington, Minnesota, by Olof Ohman in 1898. Through the presentation of compelling new evidence this book answers the many nagging questions that have eluded investigators for over 100 years. Much of this new evidence is truly startling and has led to the understanding of not only who carved the stone, but where they came from and why they came to North America. Co-authors geologist Scott Wolter and engineer Richard Nielsen present the evidence of their collective 25 years of research on the artifact. The results of their research present a compelling and convincing case.

You may contact the authors at: Scott Wolter 651-659-1345 and Dick Nielsen 832-426-4021.

Other / Various

C. Marvin Lang

<http://www4.uwsp.edu/chemistry/cmlang/>

"The Hannah Parr" - A discussion of the epic voyage of a Norwegian emigrant frigate.

"Peter Wessel Tordenskiold: Naval Hero Extraordinaire"

"Knut Rockne: Norwegian All American"

"Norwegian in Science"

"George Sinclair, The Scottish Invasion of Norway, and the Battle of Kringen"

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Deb Nelson Gourley

<http://www.astrimyastri.com/index.php>

Astri My Astri Publishing is solely owned by Deb Nelson Gourley. Deb was raised on a 150-year-old Norwegian ancestral farm in Fillmore County, Minnesota. She received both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Minnesota. The name Astri comes from the name Astri Herbrandsdatter 1812 that was written on an old immigrant trunk. Deb rescued the trunk from the burn pile at age 8. It was later discovered that the trunk belonged to Astri Herbrandsdatter Børtnes Syversrud, Deb's great-great-great-grandmother, who had emigrated from Norway in 1857. The name Astri, My Astri comes from Astri, Mi Astri, the name of an old Norwegian folksong. The song was based on the 2,000-year-old Horace's Ode to Lydia.

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Resides in Twin Cities area

“Digitalarkivet: The (Norwegian) Digital Archives”

Dale is a board member of the Hadeland Lag and a volunteer at the Norwegian-American Historical Association at St. Olaf College in Northfield MN.

Sons of Norway Expert Database by State:
<http://www.sofn.com/experts/byLocation.jsp>

INDEX BY AUTHOR

Anderson, Verlyn, 9
Babcock, Sharon, 21
Bergland, Betty, 9
Berguson, Claudia, 4
Bessler, Lori, 21
Bigton, Else, 17
Brown, Nancy Marie, 14
Byock, Jesse L., 2
Een, Andrea, 13
Estensen, Gene, 10
Gade, Kari Ellen, 5
Goke, Patti, 18
Gourley, Deb Nelson, 26
Hansen, Jim, 22
Hickcox, Robert, 11
Hill, Richard, 20
Hoffland, Bill, 12
Hovland, Dale, 26
Jorgenson, Wayne, 11
Knutson, Betty, 19
Lang, C. Marvin, 25
Larson, Linda Lee, 11
Legwold, Gary, 16
Leiren, Terje I., 3
Lindow, John, 4
Lovoll, Odd, 6
Lunge-Larsen, Lise, 16
MacVey, Joanne, 19
Marthaler, Jean, 21
McCue, Teresa Ann, 18
Mellor, Scott A., 2
Miller, William Ian, 6
Moe, Lawrence, 23
Nichol, Todd, 7
Nielsen, Dick, 25
Odden, Phillip, 17
Olson, Kathleen, 22
Osman, Stephen, 12
Paulson, Jerry, 16, 22
Quinney, Solveig, 22

Rossman, Douglas "Dag," 15
Seigfried, Karl, 14
Simar, Candace, 10
Sladky, Anne, 12
Smolenyak, Megan, 21
Solgård, Karen Torkelson, 13
Solo, Harry, 3
Sorensen, Marilyn, 22
Stinson, Marilyn C, 23
Stokker, Kathleen, 8
Tauring, Kari, 17
Urdahl, Dean, 9
Ward, Christie L., 5
Wellendorf, Jonas, 5
Wolf, Kirsten, 2
Wolter, Scott, 25
Yates, Donald N., 20
Zempel, Solveig, 7