

2015 Stevne Suggestions

Elaine Hasleton – 23 October 2014

Theme: (Relevant to) Norwegian-American Newspapers

Newspapers:

- Ethnic and local newspapers
- Roles that newspapers played of the settlers in the Midwest, including Norwegians
- Class on finding and accessing newspapers: online, microfilm (generally at the state historical societies), microfilmed newspapers borrowed through Interlibrary Loan
- Address local (Eau Claire) audience:
 - Presentation on Waldemar Ager
 - Tour Ager museum
 - Research facilities in the area
 - Databases and websites for that area
 - Eau Claire Public Library – “Ask A Librarian” sent Elaine an Obituary in an hour
- Tie in Rowberg clipping file at NAHA – original, microfiche, online
- Norwegian-American newspapers used and accessed in Norway
- Activity possibility:
 - Attendees bring favorite article about an ancestor from a newspaper. Identify the newspaper and its date and share a paragraph about it.
- Publicity:
 - Posters in libraries, local historical societies, Family History Centers, Sons of Norway halls, etc. (use database already created)
 - Articles in newspapers well in advance of the Stevne
 - Press releases to local and other newspapers
 - Interviews on radio
 - Social media: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest (involve younger generation)

Suggestions from Jim Olson – 23 January 2014

Dick

I have decided that I will not be traveling to Eau Claire for the stevne planning meeting January 24. Sorry about that, but in my old age, I am becoming a bit more careful about traveling.

Some ideas for speakers:

1. I have enjoyed reading the second volume of American Letters to Norway that was published by NAHA last fall. In the translated letters one learns about the immigration process from the experience of the immigrant, attitudes toward Native Americans, reports of challenges the immigrants faced, etc. I don't know who a speaker might be, but perhaps someone from NAHA might be willing to do it. (It would be an opportunity to build a relationship with NAHA, as well.) Some reflection on why some of the immigrants kept in touch, and others simply cut off communication with family and friends back in Norway would also be part of such a presentation. I have a collection of letters that my Gudbrandsdal grandmother received from family and friends in Norway that I value.
2. A presentation on the Decorah Posten. Kristian Prestgard, editor and Simon Johnson, assistant editor, were originally from Gudbrandsdalen. Could John Christianson do something on the Posten? Johnson was also a published novelist. A presentation on Han Ola and Han Per would also be of interest. Joan Buckley, Moorhead, did a book on the comic strip that is out of print, but Eau Claire is probably too far for her to travel.
3. I have not communicated recently with John Peterson, Eau Claire, a member of our lag, who has translated a lot of material related to Agder. John Ovren, a former Gudbrandsdalslag officer, worked for the Reform newspaper Agder published. Perhaps John could do some kind of presentation from his research.

I am hoping that Kathy Pedersen will be present and she can vote for us in my place.

Jim