

Aurland Newsletter

Past and Present

Volume IV, Issue 2

April, May, June 2003

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Published quarterly

From the Editor: Spring is here! Yeh!! It seems like such a long time coming. I want to work in my garden, but first I must get the newsletter out to you.

We have many different things in our newsletter this time. I hope you find them all interesting. JoAnn Wickman's story concludes in this issue starting on page 2. Ingvar Vikesland has worked with Anders Ohnstad interpreting an article about Aurland on pg. 5.

We have a short article giving some details from last year's Aurland Reunion (Stevne) that was held in Cannon Falls. Find it on page 6.

We have reprinted an article about Galdane in the Lærdal area from the newsletter "Sogn Review" on page 7 with a map on page 6. The Seltun Tunnel on E16 will by-pass the restored cotter's farm, but that part of the road will be maintained for tourist travel.

Arne has sent us an article on page 8 about the University of North Dakota and the Norwegian Ambassador to the US.

The Vesterheim Museum in Decorah has a special exhibit about the Civil War. Jerry Rosholt, who worked formerly for NBC news, has written a book "Ole Goes to War". He will be a guest speaker at the **Western Norway Emigration Museum - Sletta**

Sons of Norway on May 17th. You are all welcome to come. The data he and others have collected will be available on the WEB where you can look for information on your relatives that served in the Civil War. See page 9.

Also on page 9 and 10, we want to explain how we met Gordon Eddy. He has sent us a picture of his grandmother, my parents and himself. On page 11, you will find an ancestor chart for Gordon and his grandmother, Olga Maria (Otterness) Staven.

The new Western Norway Emigration Center is located at Sletta on Radøy Island, north of Bergen. It is a place where buildings from America have been reconstructed to honor the memory of emigrants and to teach coming generations about the history of Norway. The Sognefjord Heritage tours went there in 1998 & 2000. Our story is on pages 12 & 13 with pictures taken by Millie Ohnstad.

Gordon has worked hard again and presents us with 4 pages about "Out on the Black Hammer" starting on page 14. There are many Syttende Mai celebrations that you can attend as well as our 8th Annual Aurland Reunion in July. See page 18 for Future events.

8th Annual Aurland Reunion

Our Aurland Reunion will be held July 27th at the Uurland Lutheran Church rural Cannon Falls starting with Fellowship at 9:30 and outdoor church services at 10:30 for those wishing to attend. We will have a catered meal at noon, followed by introductions upstairs. We are asking you to bring family tree material to share with others. Please call Millie Ohnstad at 507-263-5542 or e-mail mohnstad@frontiernet.net for reservations so we can have an accurate count for the meal.



