

# Aurland Newsletter

## Past and Present

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From the editor: My life is changing and soon I will become Mrs. Lars Romo. Yes, I am getting married March 13<sup>th</sup>! I never imagined when I started doing genealogy that I would meet someone with such a Norwegian name and then marry him. What's ironic is that he grew up one mile from my home place, and I haven't known of him till the last few years. He had gone to Wanamingo schools and to the Aspeland Church and I had gone to Cannon Falls schools and Umland church so our paths had not crossed till I met him at my brother and sister-in-laws' place. We just believe that God works in mysterious ways and brought us together. Lars was adopted as a child and has just recently found his family. In a later issue, we will print his story of finding his family.

We are planning our **Aurlandslaget (Aurland Reunion) Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> in Spring Grove, MN.** Gordon and Brit Eddy have found many speakers and entertainers. **You will not want to miss this event!** A tour of the area is also planned. Rasmus Sunde will have a busload of people from Sognefjord, Norway. See the plans on page 2.

As we stated in an earlier issue, we have the conclusion of **Kari Brekke's** story of the settling of the Koshkonong, WI area. You will find it starting on page 3. Find out about some new books on page 5.

**Wade Nygaard** and a friend spent a couple weeks in Norway this past summer. We have the Cannon Falls Beacon's story of the trip and some pictures starting on page 6.

The CF Beacon also printed a story of **Millie and Rays' trip** this summer and it is on pages 8 and 9 along with an articles about "**Connecting Cousins**" from **Carol Smith** and **Gordon Eddy**.

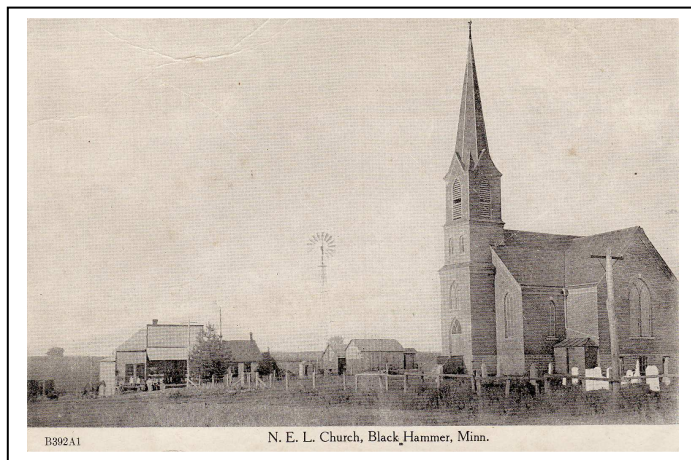
Our ancestral chart is on page 10 and is **Doris Floms'** ancestors. Many of you may find you are related to her.

On page 11, **Pat Goldman** has contributed "**memories**" of a past Christmas at Holden Village. Also find out about **NAHA's** new book "**Crossings**".

Look on page 12 for our 2004 trip itinery for **Brekke's Sognefjord Heritage tour**.

We are sorry to hear that several of our subscribers have passed away. You can find their **obituaries** on page 13.

**Gordon Eddy** has been working hard again. He has written about a week he spent at an **Otterness** farm in the Black Hammer area while a youngster. His article starts on page 14.



### BLACK HAMMER AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY 50 YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING - ca1903

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, on the right, was founded in 1858 by the early pioneers of this township. The brick structure completed in 1897 replaced an earlier frame building built in 1866 located on the same site. Today the church is called "Faith Lutheran Church of Black Hammer." The Black Hammer Store on the left was the center of the business activity in the community. The buildings between the store and church were sheds for horses to be sheltered in during church services in case of inclement weather. Note the "hitching posts."

(Continued on page 2)