

Aurland Newsletter

Past and Present

Volume VI, Issue 3

Ann Romo, Editor annromo04@yahoo.com

July, August, September 2005

Millie Ohnstad, Asst. Editor mohnstad@frontiernet.net

Published quarterly

From the Editor: Millie and I have been spending a lot of our time since May 1st researching and trying to organize for a **cemetery tour at Umland Lutheran Church** for our Stevne (Reunion) July 31st. We had no idea it was such a huge project, but hope it will benefit many who are searching for ancestors or trying to add to your family trees. The cemetery board has been asking Millie to do this for years so it needed to be done. We now have 34 pages listing the burials and family members, reference number in the Aurland II book, etc. The printout of information will be available at the Stevne along with three generation family sheets of families from Millie's data base of Umland members. We have listed the immigrants from Aurland, Norway who are buried here at Umland cemetery on pages 16 - 20. Because we have been spending our time on the cemetery research, Millie says she'll continue giving the ancestors of subscribers that she had started in May in the next issue.

We are so excited to have **Deb Nelson Gourley**, of Waukon, IA and **author of "Astri, My Astri"**, as our speaker at the **Stevne July 31st** to tell about her experiences researching for her book. The book is bilingual—one chapter in English and then it's translated into Norwegian for the next chapter. I found it so interesting, I read it the week I received it. Find a tentative **schedule** of the **Stevne** on page 15.

From the **Star/Tribune** we have printed an article concerning the last census data about **Norwegian farmers**. Charlie Braaten and Aaron and Arvid Swenson have traveled to Norway with Millie and me. Find them in this article on pages 2-3.

Deb Nelson Gourley and **Millie Ohnstad** have been asked to be discussion panelists for the **Conference on "Norwegian Heritage in the United States"** to be held **October 10-11** in **Grand Forks**. The University of North Dakota along with members of the Nordic Initiative and Char Brekke and Arne Brekke (of Brekke Tours), have organized this conference and have many well know Norwegians and genealogists participating. See pages 4-5 to find out more about it.

Kathleen Stokker, professor at Luther College, has been honored with **Norway's St. Olav's Medal** in recognition for her service and achievements. Ms. Stokker has roots to the Undredal and Fretheim farms. Find the article on page 6.

Wanted!!

100 people to register and attend
The Aurland Stevne (Reunion)
July 31 at the Umland Church

(Bob's catering of Wanamingo has a minimum of 100 people to cater for.)
Please help us out by attending the stevne.

Deb Nelson Gourley,
Author and Genealogist,
Will be our speaker.

Registration starts at 8:45
Coffee and cookies served during am.

Cemetery tours starting at 9 am.

Lunch served 11:30 to 1:15

Program starts 1:15

Please register by e-mail to Ann or Millie at
the above addresses or
Call Millie at 507-263-5542
By Tuesday, July 26th

Jim Norgaard has been researching his ancestry. He has sent us some information about **Peter Otto Onstad** who was born in Dane County and moved to Madison to serve as a "**Chief Registrar**". Find this on page 7.

Brekke Tours has sent in their schedule for a **Combined Sognefjord/Voss Heritage tour for 2006**. See page 8. Arne has also sent us an interesting article about "**UNESCO including Norwegian Fjords on the World Heritage List**". Find it on pages 7-8.

Gordon Eddy has so much interesting information about **Black Hammer**. Find his stories on the **Holum** and **Ike families** on pages 10-14.