

October 5-7, 2007

The Slooper Society was invited to Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa this (our 82nd) year. The officers ^{all} agreed to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. The group of 15 Sloopers and friends met at Vesterheim's lobby at 1:00 pm Saturday, Oct. 6 and went to the Folk Art building to view the Norwegian immigrants trunk presented to the museum by Loucille Hougas Wise thru Iowa Brandt, Curator.

at 1:30 pm our group began a guided tour of Vesterheim's main building. The tour ^{also} included the Slooper collection in the Ship Gallery and several of the immigrant buildings in the Open Air Division.

Our group gathered at the Hotel Winneshiek in downtown Decorah at 6:00 pm and dined at Albert's Restaurant.

The Heartland Inn provided our lodging that included a wonderful breakfast. On Sunday we were on our own to attend church services, return to the museum, or do whatever we chose to do.

Lou Wise, Secretary

Attending were:

Lou & Jack Wise
Pat Hayes
Si Peterson

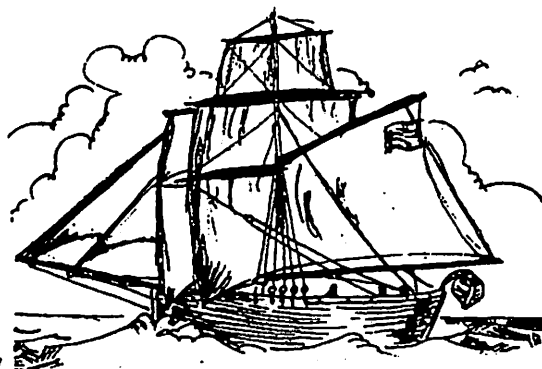
Pat's sister → Barbara Fleming

Wanda Logsdon
Dane & Gretchen Stangeland
Wes & Judy Hougsted
Ladene & Dane Arntzen
Sherwood & Carol Peterson
Greg Peterson

The Norwegian

SLOOPER SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Norwegian Mayflower People
Organized at the Ottawa Centennial, October 9, 1925



September 7, 2007

Dear Sloopers and friends,

This letter is to inform you of the exciting opportunity that has been presented to the Sloop Society for our annual meeting. Through our contact with the Executive Director of the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, we have been invited to gather there.

Vesterheim Museum embodies the living heritage of Norwegian immigrants to America. Several of us have visited there before and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the artifacts and wonderful displays and collection of buildings in the Open Air Division. Visiting there is truly a powerful experience.

We realize that a trip such as this will not be realistic for everyone...but we are hopeful that you will consider it. We plan to be there on October 6th and 7th and have been working with the Events Coordinator to arrange our lodging and create a schedule of events for us. These will include guided tours; viewing the Sloop artifacts collection with curator, Tova Brandt; and sight-seeing.

Heartland Inn is currently holding a block of rooms for us. The cost will be \$89.99 plus tax per night. Interested persons should call (1-800-334-3277) prior to September 14th and talk to "Nedra" to reserve a room.

We sincerely hope some of you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Most sincerely,

Lou Wise

Lou Wise, Secretary
Sloop Society of America

THE SLOOPERS VOYAGE TO AMERICA

The first group of Norwegian Immigrants to America departed Stavanger, Norway - July 4, 1825 on the Sloop - Restoration and these 52 persons entered New York Harbor October 9th - 98 days later. Cleng Peerson led this group first to Upstate New York . . . then to this area of Illinois near Norway where the first Permanent Norwegian Settlement was established. Descendants of these Norwegians who came over on the Sloop have formed the Norwegian Sloop Society of America, that meets annually at the Norway Community Center in Norway, Illinois the Sunday nearest to October 9.

President

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Silas Peterson
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Sheridan, IL 60551
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"God Velsigne den Norske Heritage"

September 7, 2007

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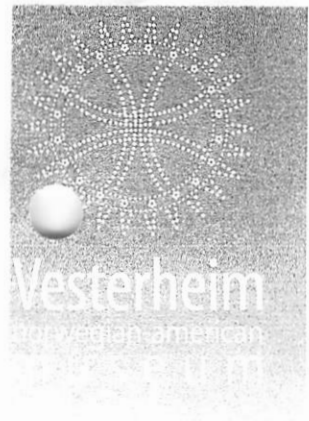
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Most sincerely,

Lou Wise, Secretary
Sloopers Society of America

*Via email sent to Bill Grijerd
Bill@norwegianamerican.com
Fri. Sept 7, 2007
via Microsoft Word
& Appleworks @
7:38 PM
lw.*



1346 Conservatory Court
St. Paul, MN 55117-4586

June 21, 2007

Mrs. Pat Ainsley Hayes
1972 N. 3103 Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

Dear Mrs. Hayes;

Our Executive Director, Janet Blohm Pultz, has asked me to follow-up on the earlier contact I have had with Keith Wheeler, Lou Wise and you of The Sloopers Society. Our objective and hope is that we can be of more help to the Society and it's membership by providing professional care and environmentally safe and secure space for those items that belonged to the original Sloopers that could be transferred to the Museum's permanent collection.

We would be particularly pleased if the Society were to have it's annual meeting on October 7th in Decorah so as many of you as possible could view first-hand what wonderful facilities we have. Recognizing that this may not be a realistic expectation, we would encourage a delegation of officers and members coming at some convenient time, before or after the 7th. Michelle Whitehill of our staff would be pleased to help with the logistics of such a visit. She can be reached at 563-382-9681, mwhitehill@vesterheim.org or our regular mail address.

Most sincerely,

Mar Wrolstad
651-487-0819
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King of Norway
Honorary Chair

Björny
Chair

Janet Blohm Pultz
Executive Director