

Livsreise

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of Norway, the new Stoughton residents carried over their love for outdoors sports, including cross-country skiing and jumping.

The city once boasted having the tallest ski jump in the country at 138 feet.

Norwegian farmers in the Stoughton area were also well known for rais-

ing tobacco. Between 1849 and 1879, shipments of tobacco to the east went from 1,268 pounds to more than five tons.

Recipes on how to make such Norwegian foods as krumkake, a waffle-like cookie-cake, and lefse, a flatbread, can be learned from one of

several other kiosk displays.

Musical instruments, woodworking tools and household items also are on display at the museum.

A typical trunk used by Norwegians to pack their household goods on ships bound for the U.S. were decorated in colorful

rosemaling. One is on display at the entrance to the center.

The annual Syttende Mai celebration in Stoughton, recognizing Norway's historical constitution day of May 17, 1814, is also noted at one display.

"Our goal is to help the people of Stoughton and others to learn about the culture and heritage of Norwegian immigrants who settled here," said Marg Listug, manager of the Life's Journey center.

A brochure introducing visitors to the center offers an explanation for the journey to America by the Norwegians.

"Our Norwegian pioneers were poor, but they were not paupers. It was not their ambition to be organ-grinders, peanut-vendors or rag-pickers. They had come to make, by the sweat of their brows, an honest living. They possessed stout hearts, willing hands, and robust health," said a Norwegian Lutheran clergyman in 1894.

Since its opening, the center has attracted scores of visitors from Norway and around the Midwest and elsewhere.

The visitors often can get started in looking up the genealogy of their ancestors by using a series of computers at the center linked to the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center.

The center was the gift of philanthropist Janet



A typical trunk used by Norwegian immigrants to pack their belongings in on their sea voyage to the U.S. in the mid-1800s greets visitors at the Livsreise Center in Stoughton. (Photo courtesy of Livsreise)



There is plenty to see, learn and enjoy at Livsreise. (Photo courtesy of Livsreise)

Bryant, wife of Edwin Bryant, founder of the Nelson Muffler Corp. in Stoughton.

The Janet Bryant Foundation operates the center as a historical museum. Admission is free to the public. The center, located at 277 U.S. Hwy. 51, is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



Hardanger fiddlemaker Karen Rebholz hosted an event at Livsreise. In addition to performing on the instruments she makes, Rebholz also makes custom Hardanger fiddle parts, is able to repair fiddles and provide appraisal services and instruction. The Hardanger fiddle is the national instrument of Norway. Harkening back to its inception in the Baroque period, the fiddle itself is richly ornamented with shell, bone and ink and is played with asymmetric rhythms, multiple tunings, and non-standard tones preserved by means of an unbroken aural chain. The Hardanger fiddle has four or five sympathetic strings which resonate with the four played strings, producing an ethereal sound. (Photos courtesy of Livsreise)



The Norwegian Heritage Center

- ◆ Main Gallery with artifacts & interactive kiosks
- ◆ Genealogy Lab with resources and staff to assist you
- ◆ Auditorium with videos highlighting Norwegian stories & dancers
- ◆ Presentations by many local, regional, and international speakers

HOURS:
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Free Admission

Visit our website for
Upcoming events

www.livsreise.org

608.873.7567

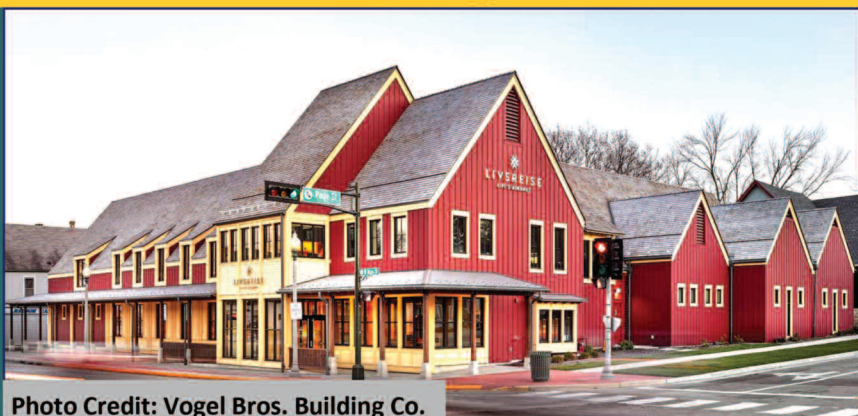


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