

Vonheim Saga
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Vonheim Lodge #1-108

Summer Arrives!

Fra Presidenten

We had our first 80 degree day, heralding our summer is coming. It is a refreshing change in weather. June has some interesting events coming up for the Scandinavian community.

Our meeting place, Norway House, is sponsoring Midtsummer Gala 2019 on Tuesday, June 11 at 5:00pm in the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel. This is a fundraising event for the library expansion which they hope to break ground this year. Our lodge has been asked to consider another donation.

Scandinavians love to celebrate the longest day of the year, Midsummer. Norwegians celebrate on June 23 in what is now known as *Sankthansaften* for St. John the Baptist. It is marked by bonfires, music, dance and sometimes mock weddings. Other Nordic traditions include music and dancing around the midsummer pole.

Noskedalen in Coon Valley, WI celebrates Midsummer on Saturday, June 22. Scandinavian Summer Fest is in Minnehaha Park on Sunday, June 23. Scandia, MN also has a summer festival on the same day.

Tusen Takk,
Merle Tingelstad

Join us June 8th, 1PM, at Norway House to hear **Chris Pesklo** of Sami and Polish heritage whose family came to the United States in 1930. In 1995, he was one of the founders of the Sami Slida of North America and has been educating others about the Sami for many years. Chris is also a member of the Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad and is the Lappmark Lag Genealogist.

Also in 1995 he opened a business called Northern Lavvu which makes Sami tents.



COMING EVENTS

Meetings are held on **Saturday** at Norway House, 913 E. Franklin Avenue, adjacent to Mindekirken in Mpls. (Lillehaugen Room on the lower level)

June 8th Lodge Meeting
1:00 PM at Norway House

June 23rd Scandinavian Summerfest at
Minnehaha Falls

July 30th Picnic at Wabun Park

Vonheim Meeting Notes Norway House May 11, 2019

13 members and guests attended our program on the Eidem Historical Farm located off of Noble Parkway in Brooklyn Park. A staff volunteer presented information about the history of the farm and had a trunk filled with household items that gave an idea what life on the early farm may have been like.

The Eidems immigrated to Minnesota in the 1860's. They bought land in the sandy soil of Brooklyn Township. They farmed potatoes, as did most of the farmsteads in that area, because the soil was well suited for it. After harvest they would bring in sheep for the winter and sell the wool in the spring.

The Eidem house would have been considered fairly large for the time. It did not have electricity or plumbing originally. Baths would have been in a tub in the kitchen with everyone in the family using the same water that was warmed up by addition of hot water between bathers. Restroom facilities would have been an out-house.

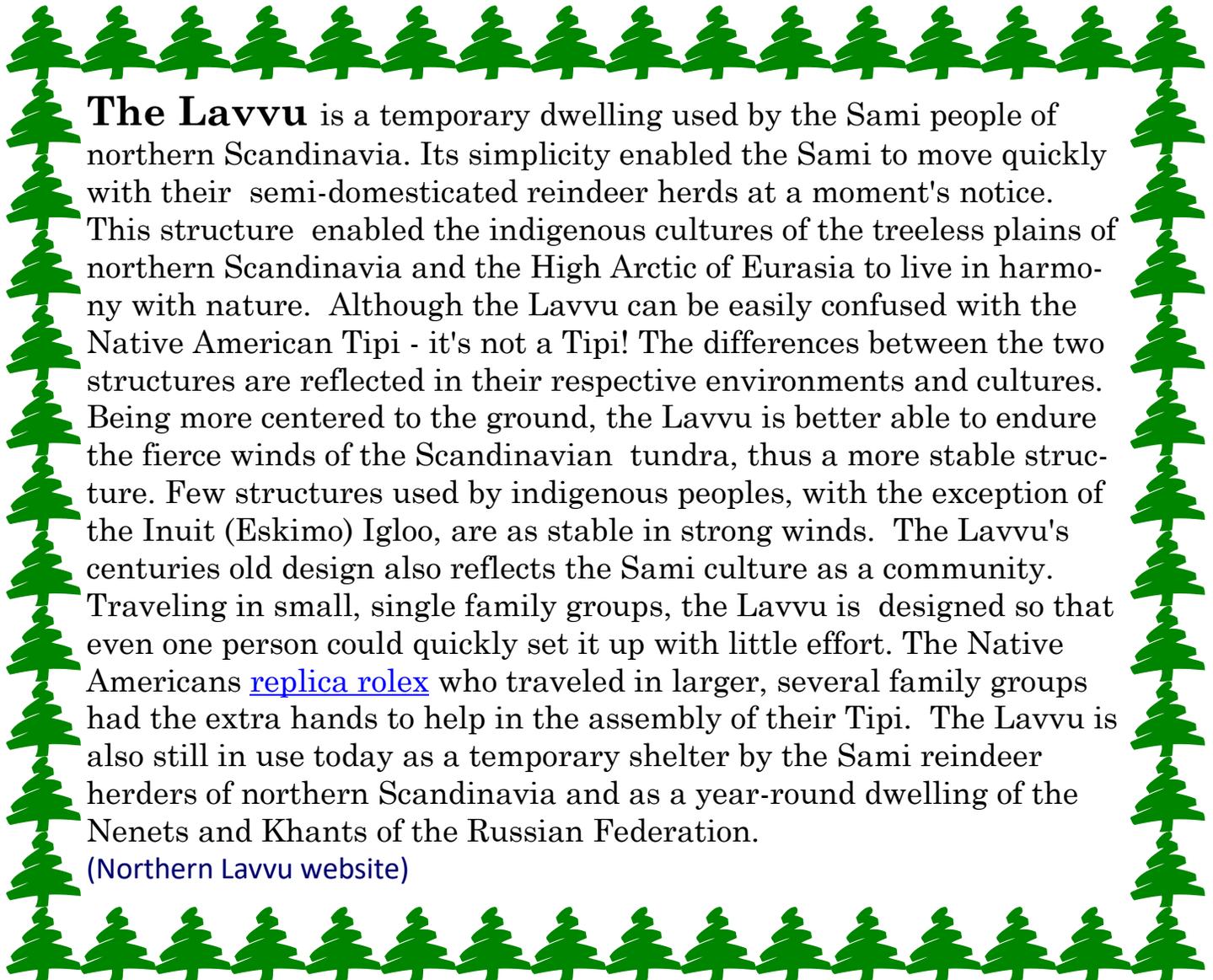
Monday was laundry day and we were shown the bar soap and washboard used to clean the clothes. Tuesday was the day to iron and fold the laundry after it had been air dried the day before.

Meals were prepared on a large wood stove, still used today in preparing sample foods for tour groups. They make lefse directly on the stove and a very delicious rhubarb crisp dessert. We were shown an old egg beater, rolling pin and a toaster that could be placed on the stove/

Clothing was quite simple with women wearing plain work dresses and an apron. Boys would wear white shirts with trousers held up by shoulder straps. Boys would wear vests to school and church. We were shown some of the educational tools used including individual chalkboards for writing, an English primer, a grammar book, math book and reading material from Robert Louis Stevenson. A bag of sheep wool was taken out and some was carded to prepare it for spinning. We were shown some of the Hardanger costume and apron design. The Norwegian table prayer was a common decoration.

It was an informative program about some local history involving a Norwegian immigrant family. Thank you to the Eidem Farm for the presentation.

We ended the meeting with ham salad and egg salad sandwiches and mini cupcakes. Thanks to the social committee for a wonderful treat. beginning as a simple program for their church.



The Lavvu is a temporary dwelling used by the Sami people of northern Scandinavia. Its simplicity enabled the Sami to move quickly with their semi-domesticated reindeer herds at a moment's notice. This structure enabled the indigenous cultures of the treeless plains of northern Scandinavia and the High Arctic of Eurasia to live in harmony with nature. Although the Lavvu can be easily confused with the Native American Tipi - it's not a Tipi! The differences between the two structures are reflected in their respective environments and cultures. Being more centered to the ground, the Lavvu is better able to endure the fierce winds of the Scandinavian tundra, thus a more stable structure. Few structures used by indigenous peoples, with the exception of the Inuit (Eskimo) Igloo, are as stable in strong winds. The Lavvu's centuries old design also reflects the Sami culture as a community. Traveling in small, single family groups, the Lavvu is designed so that even one person could quickly set it up with little effort. The Native Americans [replica rolex](#) who traveled in larger, several family groups had the extra hands to help in the assembly of their Tipi. The Lavvu is also still in use today as a temporary shelter by the Sami reindeer herders of northern Scandinavia and as a year-round dwelling of the Nenets and Khants of the Russian Federation.

(Northern Lavvu website)

Picnic! Picnic! Picnic!
Tuesday, July 30th, 6 PM

Come enjoy BBQ chicken and ribs
Cost: \$15

The traditional beans and cole slaw will round out the meal The same location as previous years, area D, at Waubun Park just east of Minnehaha Falls. Following dinner there will be Bingo with prizes.

Reservations Required by July 23rd to Louise
763-545-4827

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September 14th at 1PM hear author Janey Westin speak on her book *The Last Kings of Norse America*

“Epic in scope, insightful, imaginative, venturesome, and provocative – if this groundbreaking book about the Norse in America before Columbus does not cause a paradigm shift in your thinking, you need to check your pulse.” – Herbert R. Cederberg, PH.D., Emeritus Professor of History, University of Wisconsin.