



UTAHNS' SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATED IN EPHRAIM

By Lyle Fletcher

For the National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area

EPHRAIM, Sanpete County—Thousands of descendents of Scandinavian pioneers to Utah and other interested folk are expected to explore elements of their heritage during the Scandinavian Heritage Festival May 21-23 in Ephraim.

An estimated 650,000 Utahns trace their ancestry to 19th Century converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Iceland. Ephraim became a gathering place for the Scandinavians. Even today, it is known as “Little Denmark.”

Held annually prior to Memorial Day, the festival attracts over 5,000 visitors. Most events are held at Snow College, 150 E. College Ave. (100 North) or Pioneer Park in Ephraim (about 50 N. 100 West).

Highlights of this year’s festival include:

Scandinavian Heritage Conference: This free educational event begins Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Noyes Building, Snow College, and continues Friday morning. Speakers include faculty from Brigham Young University and Snow College.

Topics will include memorializing our ancestors through the arts, Scandinavian influences on place names in Utah, the Scandinavian immigrant experience in Utah compared to in the American Midwest, and the art of pioneer Danish artist C.C.A. Christensen.

Food: The Little Scandinavia Supper, a no-reservation community smorgasbord, will be held Friday evening in the Greenwood Student Center at Snow College at 6 p.m. and includes live entertainment by Caboose, an acoustic bluegrass group.

The menu includes emäsalo (spicy chicken salad) and lingonberry crumb pie with caramel sauce. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children eight years and under.

On Saturday morning at 8 a.m., a breakfast of æbleskiver (spherical apple pancakes) with eggs, bacon and orange juice will be served north and west of the Noyes Building. The cost is \$5.50 per plate. For lunch, enjoy a barbecued turkey lunch at noon for \$8 at the Ephraim Senior Citizens Center (85 W. 100 North).

Storytelling: Five costumed performers will tell Hans Christian Andersen fairytales and other stories Saturday afternoon. Great for kids. Free.

Live Music: Groups include Firefly, Caboose, Lincoln Highway, The Phat Old Professors and mECHANICAL sKIES. Free performances are on Friday afternoon and intermittently throughout the day Saturday.

Other Events: In addition to food booths and other craft booths, heritage events include Saturday morning’s parade, bus tours of historic sites, log cabin tours, “old world” craft

demonstrations, a bread baking contest, an art show and a quilt show. Sporting events include a fun run, golf tournament, duck race and three-on-three basketball.

For information about all events, plus information about Ephraim's Scandinavian history and culture, go to www.scandinavianheritagefestival.com.

CONTACT:

Gary Anderson

(435) 283-7595

(435) 851-1455 (cell)