

MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (MPNHA)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT: Scandinavian Heritage Festival
WHEN: Friday-Saturday, May 23, 24, 2014
WHERE: Ephraim, Utah
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Tours, music and costumed guides to enliven Ephraim during Scandinavian Heritage Festival this weekend

EPHRAIM—The Scandinavian Heritage Festival—a potpourri of educational events, tours, entertainment, food, storytelling and athletic contests—will be held Friday and Saturday, May 23-24, at and around Snow College in Ephraim.

The theme for the festival, which has been staged annually for more than 30 years, is “Ephraim, Utah’s Heart of Scandinavia.” In some years, the festival has attracted up to 10,000 visitors.

The event celebrates the Danes, Swedes, Norwegians and Icelanders who converted to Mormonism in the 19th century, crossed the Atlantic, came to Utah and then colonized and concentrated in Sanpete and Sevier counties. As late as the early 1900s, church services in Ephraim were still being held in Danish. Hundreds of thousands of Utahns trace their ancestry to the Scandinavian pioneers.

The festival kicks off Friday at 9 a.m. with the Scandinavian Heritage Conference at the Karen Huntsman Library at Snow College.

Lynn Henrichsen, professor of linguistics at BYU, will talk about his Danish ancestor who operated a pottery company in Provo and Sanpete County. The title of his presentation is “Lucky was the town that had a Danish potter.”

Dr. William Parry, professor emeritus of geology at the University of Utah, who grew up in Sanpete County, will talk about his grandfather, Edward Parry, who operated the largest oolite limestone quarry in the county. Hundreds of buildings in the county, including the Manti LDS Temple, are made from oolite.

The third speaker will be Greg Seppi, a rare book specialist for the LDS Church History Library. He will talk about the role printed materials played in keeping Scandinavian culture alive in the pioneer and post-pioneer eras. His talk is titled, “Mormons, newspapers, pamphlets and an expose or two: Scandinavian printing in Utah.”

At noon on Friday, craft and food booths open on the western edge of the Snow College campus (100 East from College Avenue



Ned “Lars” Larsen of Riverton in self-made Viking costume. He has appeared dressed as a Viking, complete with sword and axe, at almost every Scandinavian Heritage Festival since 1988. Larsen has roots in Sanpete County.

to Center Street), storytellers perform on Heritage Plaza in the southwest part of the campus and entertainers take over the main festival stage near the corner of College Avenue and 100 East.

That evening at 6, a Scandinavian smorgasbord dinner, with accompanying Scandinavian music, will be served at the Greenwood Student Center at Snow College. This year's entre choices are Swedish meatballs and Danish roast pork with apple and cranberry dressing. There will be a host of side dishes and desserts. The cost is \$12 per plate for adults and \$7 for children 12 and younger.

Activities resume Saturday morning with the Ephraim Lions Club ebilskiver breakfast from 8-10 a.m. at the Snow College LDS Stake center pavilion across the street from the college. (Ebilskivers are round Danish pancakes.)

A parade, with many Scandinavian-themed entries, will travel down Ephraim's Main Street at 10 a.m.

Near the head of the parade will be perennial festival personality Ned "Lars" Larsen wearing his self-made Viking costume, which includes a vest, wide belt, and curly white wig worn under a black plastic helmet with white horns. He carries an ax and a sword.

Although Larsen has lived in Salt Lake County most of his life and in Riverton for the past 30 years, he has four great-grandparents who lived and died in Ephraim and says he's incredibly proud of his Scandinavian heritage. He has appeared in costume at every Scandinavian festival since 1988, except one.

Following the parade, the second Vike-on-a-Bike mountain bike race will take off from the Noyes Building (main administration building) at Snow College. The race has four levels, ranging from "family" to "sport." The course starts along College Avenue, ascends to the foothills of the Wasatch Plateau east of Ephraim, and, depending on level selected, winds along trails and over obstacles, ultimately returning to the college.



Mountain biker in costume with decorated bike in the Vike-on-a-Bike race. Racers follow a course heading east from the Snow College campus into mountain foothills, wind along trails and over challenging hills, and then return to the campus.



The humble Ephraim Pioneer Cemetery located about a mile northeast of the current city cemetery is one of the stops on an historic bus tour narrated by a Snow College history professor.

At 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., visitors can take bus tours of local historic sites narrated by a Snow College history professor. Or they can visit Pioneer Park west of Main Street in Ephraim, where young women in the Miss Ephraim royalty, wearing Scandinavian costumes, will give tours of some of the first log cabins in Ephraim and of the Hansen House, a restored pioneer house that now serves as a museum.

Throughout the afternoon, music will be performed on the Main Stage. The highlight is expected to be the BYU Folk Dance Ensemble, accompanied by their instrumental group, the Mountain Strings, performing Scandinavian dances. The dancers will even teach the dances to members of the audience.

Those are just some highlights. Other events include a quilt show, bread-baking contest, fun run and pioneer "encampment" by the Pioneer Heritage Company, a nonprofit group dedicated to preservation of Mormon pioneer history and lifeways.

For complete information, visit www.scandinavianheritagefestival.org. Additionally, a free magazine with the festival schedule and stories on all of the events will be distributed at the information booth on 100 East and at the Ephraim Co-op on Main Street.

2014 Scandinavian Heritage Festival Schedule of Events

	Friday, May 23	3 p.m.	Storytelling – Barrett Haughton Heritage Plaza Stage
9-10 a.m.	Scandinavian Heritage Conference Lynn Henrichsen, Scandinavian pottery Snow College Huntsman Library Auditorium	3-4 p.m.	Baked Goods Contest – Drop off items Snow College Greenwood Student Center
9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Pioneer Heritage Company Encampment Pioneer Demonstrations Snow College West Lawn	3:30 p.m.	Storytelling – Shirley Bahlmann Heritage Plaza Stage
10-11 a.m.	Scandinavian Heritage Conference William T. Parry, Sanpete oolite limestone Snow College Huntsman Library Auditorium	4 p.m.	Entertainment – Local entertainment Snow Main Stage
10 a.m.-6 p.m.	Quilt Show Ephraim Co-op	4 p.m.	Baked Goods Contest - Judging Snow College Greenwood Student Center
11 a.m.-Noon	Scandinavian Heritage Conference Greg Seppi, Scandinavian printing Snow College Huntsman Library Auditorium	4-6 p.m.	Tours: Pioneer House and Cabins, Fort Ephraim, Jensen Granary Pioneer Park, 85 W. 100 North
Noon-6 p.m.	Information Booth Open SE corner of 100 East and 100 North	6 p.m.	Baked Goods Contest – Winners announced Goods available for purchase Snow College Greenwood Student Center
Noon-7 p.m.	Food and Craft Booths Open 100 East, from 100 North to Center St.	6-8 p.m.	Little Scandinavian Dinner Snow College Greenwood Student Center
12:45 p.m.	Storytelling – Karen Russell Heritage Plaza Stage		Saturday, May 24
1 p.m.	Storytelling – Michael Bahlmann Heritage Plaza Stage	6 a.m.	Race Registration Booth near Ephraim Co-op
1 p.m.	Entertainment – Local entertainment Snow Main Stage	6:30 a.m.	Half Marathon 100 North and Main
1:30 p.m.	Storytelling – Dakota Davis Heritage Plaza Stage	6:30 a.m.	10K 50 E. 100 North
1:30 p.m.	Entertainment – Children’s Heritage Dancing East of Snow Main Stage	7 a.m.	5K / Walk 50 E. 100 North
2 p.m.	Storytelling – Birkley Ross Heritage Plaza Stage	8-10 a.m.	Lions Club Breakfast Ephraim YSA Stake pavilion, stake center parking lot
2 p.m.	Entertainment – The Badger String Orchestra Snow Main Stage	8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	Information Booth Open SE corner of 100 East and 100 North
2:30 p.m.	Storytelling – Amberle Hammer Heritage Plaza Stage	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Food and Craft Booths Open 100 East, from 100 North to Center St.
3 p.m.	Entertainment – Snow College Commercial Music Ensemble Snow Main Stage	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Pioneer Heritage Company Encampment Pioneer Demonstrations Snow College West Lawn
		10 a.m.-11 a.m.	Parade From 300 South to 100 North on Main Street

10 a.m.-6 p.m.	Quilt Show Ephraim Co-op	1 p.m.	Storytelling – Allison Fiscus Heritage Plaza Stage
11 a.m.	Bike Race Registration Opens Snow College Noyes Building	1:30 p.m.	Entertainment - Children’s Heritage Dancing East of Snow Main Stage
11 a.m.	Historical Bus Tour NE corner of 100 East and 100 North	1:30 p.m.	Storytelling – Dakota Davis Heritage Plaza Stage
11 a.m.	Entertainment - Sanpete Stompers Snow Main Stage	1:30 p.m.	Entertainment – Strings of Fire Snow Main Stage
11 a.m.-4 p.m.	Tours: Pioneer House and Cabins, Fort Ephraim, Jensen Granary Pioneer Park, 85 W. 100 North	2 p.m.	Storytelling – Birkley Ross Heritage Plaza Stage
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Free Balloons and Face Painting Senior Center	2:30 p.m.	Storytelling – Amberle Hammer Heritage Plaza Stage
11:30 a.m. and on	Scones and Ice Cream Senior Center	2:30 p.m.	Entertainment – Traditional Scandinavian Group Snow Main Stage
11:30 a.m. and on	Bingo Senior Center	3 p.m.	Historical Bus Tour NE corner of 100 East and 100 North
11:30 a.m.	Entertainment - Lincoln Highway Snow Main Stage	3 p.m.	Storytelling – Barrett Haughton Heritage Plaza Stage
Noon	Bike Race Snow College Noyes Building	3:30 p.m.	Storytelling – Jacob Johnson Heritage Plaza Stage
Noon	Storytelling – Competition – NEW! Heritage Plaza Stage	2:40 p.m.	Entertainment - The Phat Old Professors Snow Main Stage
12:30 p.m.	Entertainment – Mountain Strings with the BYU Folk Dance Ensemble Snow Main Stage	3:30 p.m.	Entertainment – Snow College Commercial Music Ensemble Snow Main Stage
12:45 p.m.	Storytelling – Karen Russell Heritage Plaza Stage	4 p.m.	Storytelling – Michael Bahlmann Heritage Plaza Stage
1 p.m.	Historical Bus Tour NE corner of 100 East and 100 North		

*The Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area (MPNHA) is a federally designated area of central and southern Utah running along the beautiful and historic U.S. Highway 89 — including the All-American Road Utah State Route 12, and Capitol Reef Scenic Byway Utah State Route 24, which both intersect with U.S. 89 and together form the MPNHA’s Boulder Loop. The area includes the counties of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield and Kane.

The Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance is the local coordinating entity of the MPNHA and receives annual funding from the National Park Service. Its purpose is to preserve, tell and interpret the stories, history and heritage of the area, and to promote its culture and value.