

May 2005

President's Message

I was recently reading a book and came across this quote: "Apparently, my dad had been young once, but I couldn't picture it. Even at the age of fifteen I knew but little about who he was and where he'd come from. And so I knew but little about myself" (*The River Between Us*, by Richard Peck, p. 6).

My mind has returned often to this quote and what it means in my life. What do I know of those who came before me, and therefore, what do I know of myself?" I feel that it is so important not only to have a name and a date of someone who came from Iceland and settled in Spanish Fork, but the importance is also in their stories. I respect and honor these immigrants, and I learn of myself when I learn of them. I learn where some of my strengths originated, and also some of my faults. I learn of insurmountable odds that they overcame and that knowledge gives me the will to forge my own mountains. I am grateful to know of myself, because I know of them.



Our Sesquicentennial Celebration is finally here! Much time and effort has gone into making this celebration one that will not soon be forgotten. I hope that we can each take some time during this wonderful celebration to quietly remember those who came before. Perhaps we can gather our families around us and share their stories and their experiences.

The Icelandic Monument is in the middle of a major renovation project. We look forward to placing an additional monument that will honor each of these pioneers who came from Iceland. I hope that this will become a place that, with our families, we can go and share the stories and allow our children a glimpse of who they are, so that they can know more of themselves and they can say along with us, "I am proud to be an Icelander!"

Kristy

Mark Your Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Maí 26-28 | Scandinavian Days in Ephraim, Utah |
| Júni 17 | National Day (Independence Day) in Iceland |
| Júni 23-26 | The Icelandic Association of Utah's Sesquicentennial Celebration in Spanish Fork, Utah |

Sesquicentennial: Icelanders Settle in Utah

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1855, Samuel Bjarnason, Margrét Gísladóttir, and Helga Jónsdóttir arrived in Utah. They settled in Spanish Fork, the oldest, continuous Iceland settlement in the United States. Over the years, 410 immigrants settled in Utah. On June 23-26 this year, Western Icelanders, guests, and friends celebrate their Icelandic heritage, honor the memory of Icelandic immigrants, and build bridges between countries.

Some events require advanced registration and payment. Other events do not.

Saturday, June 18, 7:30 am Golf Tournament

- At the Gladstan Golf Course.
- Entry fee: \$45.00, due no later than June 10.
- Shotgun start. Teams must be there by 7:30 am.
- Send entry fees and names of registrants to The Icelandic Association of Utah, P.O. Box 874, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660, or call Tyler at 420-1147. You might want to send a separate Registration 2005 form. (See p. 4.)

Thursday, June 23, 7:00 pm: A Western-Style Barbecue

- At the Senior Citizen Center, 167 West Center Street in Spanish Fork.
- Western-Icelander entertainment.
- Cost: \$17.50 per person (or part of the \$45.00 discount package). Seating is limited to 250 people. Register early, by June 15 at the latest. No tickets are available at the door.

Friday, June 24, 10:00 am-3:00 pm: Icelandic Culture and History Presentations.

- At 1006 East 200 South in Spanish Fork.
- Cost: \$10.00 per person (or part of the \$45.00 discount package). The cost includes a box lunch, provided you register and pay by June 15.

| Presentation | Presenter |
|--|---|
| Mormon Migration from Iceland | Fred E. Woods, Professor of Church History and Doctrine |
| Pórrður Diðriksson | Fred L. Dedrikson, great grandson of Pórrður |
| Book Reading – <i>Anna</i> , authored by Susan Evans McCloud | Susan Stone Barber |
| Journals, Photos, and Histories: A CD by The Icelandic Association of Utah | Paul Anderson |
| Box lunch, packaged by Hickory Kist | |
| Icelandic North American History | Jónas Thor |
| Lögberg Heimskringla | Steinþór Guðbjartsson |
| Family History | Bliss Anderson |

You can still attend the sessions, even if you don't register. However, a lunch won't be available for you.

Friday, June 24, 7:00 pm: Prime-Rib Gala Dinner

- At the Senior Center, 167 West Center Street in Spanish Fork.
- Entertainment: The Iceland Festival Choir from Iceland, and Annalece Boothe, western Icelander and former Miss Spanish Fork.
- Cost: \$22.00 per person (or part of the \$45.00 discount package). Seating is limited to 250 people. Register early, by June 15 at the latest. No tickets are available at the door.
- MC: Todd Hanson

Saturday, June 25, 7:00 am: Fun Run

- Starts and ends at City Park (Center Street and Main Street), in Spanish Fork.
- Entry fee: \$15:00 per person.
- Send entry fees and names of registrants to The Icelandic Association of Utah, P.O . Box 874, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660. You might want to send a separate Registration 2005 form.

Saturday, June 25, 10:00-2:30 pm: Picnic in the Park

- At Center Street and Main Street in Spanish Fork.
- 10:00 Flag ceremony, with US and Iceland national anthems.
- Icelandic pancakes from 10:00 until 11:00.
- 11:00 Children’s presentation—The 13 Christmas Elves
- 11:15 Ali’s Story from Iceland, for kids of all ages
- Icelandic box lunch (smoked lamb) or hot dogs and hamburgers.
- 12:00 Recognizing honorees and civic leaders
- 12:15 Iceland Festival Choir
- 1:00 pm Awards (golf, fun run, beards, art...)
- Entertainment for all ages on the main stage on the hour (11:00, 12:00...)
- Entertainment and events (story telling, face painting, Icelandic songs, games) for children in the children’s pavilion on the half hour (11:30, 12:30...).
- Demonstration: Icelandic horses

Meet guests from Iceland, visit exhibits and booths, enjoy western and Icelandic entertainment. make and renew friendships, and see Icelandic sheep and Icelandic horses.

Saturday, June 25 3:00 pm: Rededication of the Icelandic Memorial Monument.

- At 440 South 800 East in Spanish Fork.
- The Wall of Honor, to remember and honor the 410 known immigrants who left Iceland to settle in Utah.

Sunday, June 26, 7:00 pm: Evening Devotional

- At 1006 East 200 South in Spanish Fork.
- Music
- Spoken messages by prominent guests from Iceland and Utah.

Beard-Growing Contest

Do you have a great beard? Can you grow one by June 25? Does your friend or neighbor have head-turning whiskers?

A beard-growing contest is part of the 150-year fun. So come out for the contest. Judging is at 1:00 pm on the 25th, part of the Picnic in the Park.

Art Contest

The Association is sponsoring an art contest for the following age groups:

- 0-11
- 12-18
- 19 +

The art can be in any medium (watercolor, oil, pencil, photography....)

The entry fee is \$5.00 per person. Prizes will be awarded at 1:00 pm, during the Awards time slot.

Registration 2005
Sesquicentennial Celebration of Icelanders in Utah

Date (when you complete the registration form):

Registrants:

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

OR

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country (if outside the US): _____

e-mail address:

| Quantity | Event | Cost | Subtotal |
|-----------|--|---------------|----------|
| | Golf Tournament Saturday, June 18, 7:00 am | \$45.00 USD | |
| | Western Barbecue Thursday, June 23, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm | \$17.50 USD | |
| | Presentations plus box lunch: Friday, June 24, 10:00 am-3:00 pm | \$10.00 USD | |
| | Gala Dinner Friday, June 24, 7:00 – 10:00 pm | \$22.00 USD | |
| | All events on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday Western barbecue, presentation, gala dinner, evening devotional, a souvenir program | \$45.00 USD | |
| | Fun Run Saturday, June 25 7:00 am | \$15.00 USD | |
| NA | Iceland Days Picnic in the Park Saturday, June 25, 11:00 am – 2:30 pm Pay for food and wares as you purchase them on the 25 th . | NA | |
| No charge | Icelandic Memorial Monument Saturday, June 25, 3:00 pm | No charge | |
| No Charge | Evening Devotional Sunday, June 26, 7:00 – 9:00 pm | No charge | |
| | Souvenir program | \$3.00 USD | |
| | Annual Membership – Family | \$15.00 USD | |
| | Annual Membership – Individual | \$10.00 USD | |
| | | Total: | |

Make checks payable and mail registrations to:

Icelandic Association of Utah, Inc.
P.O. Box 874
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Places to Stay

If you are attending the Icelandic Association of Utah Sesquicentennial Celebration and need hotel accommodations, contact one of the following motels. Discounted rates are available at the following hotel properties in Spanish Fork and Springville:

| Hotel | Address | Rate | Number to Call |
|--|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Western Inn | 632 East Kirby Lane Spanish Fork, UT 84660 | \$54.00 + tax (std. rooms) | (801) 798-9400 (888) 700-5335 |
| Best Western CottonTree Inn--Springville | 1455 North 1750 West Springville, UT 84663 | \$59.00 + tax (std. rooms) | (801) 489-3641 (800) 662-6886 |

To get the discounted group rate:

- Mention that you are with the "Icelandic Celebration".
- Make reservations before Wednesday, June 1, 2005.

Make reservations soon because rooms are subject to availability and may fill quickly.

For more information on local events, restaurants, and shopping throughout the Utah Valley area, visit www.utahvalley.com.

At Home in Sauðhúsvöllur

Sandra and Dean Bristow of Payson, Utah “went home” last summer. To Iceland. To the family farm, Sauðhúsvöllur.

For years, Sandra had longed to visit Iceland and walk on the land where her ancestors had lived and labored. That dream came true when she and Dean went on the summer 2004 tour to Icelandic, sponsored by the Icelandic Association of Utah.

“It was absolutely beautiful there. I felt at home as soon as I arrived,” Sandra recalled. She and Dean visited the 200-foot-high Skógarfoss waterfall, watched the Strokkur geyser erupt, and tracked a dozen orcas that played about the chartered boat as it circled Westmann Islands. They walked on lava on the Eldfell volcano and peeked into Myvatn’s “community bakery,” where bread loaves baked in geothermal-heated holes in the ground. They viewed Dettifoss, the largest and most powerful waterfall in Europe. And ever-so-much more.



Sandra’s great-grandfather Guðmundur Guðmundson, her grandmother Jóhanna Guðmundsdóttir, and her grandmother Marie left Iceland in 1886. They settled in Utah. Sandra recalls living in Orem, just two houses away from her Icelandic grandmother. “She was fairly tall and gray-haired, a hard worker,” and mother of 13 children.

What was Sandra’s best-loved experience in Iceland? “Westmann Islands, where my grandmother was born. And standing on the old family farm. It was all special. I’d go back. I loved it.”

President Olafur Grimsson Is Coming

President Olafur Grimsson, President of Iceland, plans to attend two days of the Sesquicentennial Celebration: Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25. Many western Icelanders remember listening to President Grimsson when he visited Spanish Fork during Iceland Days in 1997. A treat. You won’t want to miss his 2005 visit.

Poetry Corner

Here's an Icelandic folksong.

Gekk ég upp á hólinn,
Horfði ég ofan í dalinn.
Sé ég hvar hún langhala
Lék sér við sauðinn.
Kýr keifadi,
Kálfur baulaði,
Hestur hneggjaði,
Hundur geyjaði,
Og hannin gól
Fyrir midja morgunsól.

I walked to the top of the hill,
I looked down into the valley.
I saw where a longtailed fox
Was playing with the sheep.
A cow was mooing,
A calf was bawling,
A horse was neighing,
A dog was yapping,
And a rooster crowed
Before the midmorning sun.

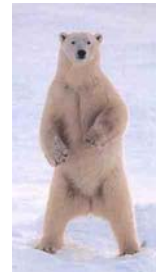
The song is enjoyable to listen to and sing. It's on the CD *Vísnaplatn*, copyrighted by Steinsnar. You can purchase the CD on the Internet.

Current Events

Superburgers are now available in Iceland, at the Mangógrill restaurant in a suburb of Reykjavík. Each burger is 8 ¾ inches in diameter and has 1.1 pounds of beef, 6 slices of cheese, bacon, tomatoes, onion, and iceberg lettuce on a specially baked bun. Only 2,000 calories, not counting the fries and soda.

Bobby Fischer, a former world champion of chess, is looking for an apartment to buy in Iceland. He's now a citizen of Iceland. Because he doesn't have a driver's license, he wants an apartment close to shops and services.

Icebergs drift from Greenland to Iceland's coastal waters. Occasionally, an iceberg will carry a **polar bear**. Iceland's coastguard recently flew over the icebergs. No polar bears in sight this time. That's good news for Icelanders because the traveling, displaced bears are rather hungry by the time they reach Iceland's coast. (This image came from <http://www.polarbearsalive.org/pb5.php>.)



To find out more about current events in Iceland, go to www.icelandreview.com.

Information and Input

Need information or have recommendations? Let us know how to make the Association and newsletter more useful and rewarding.

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