

**You are invited to
The Green County
Genealogical Society
Annual Meeting**

Saturday, May 5

10:00 a.m.

**COFFIN SHIP
PROGRAM**

By Glenn Borreson

AND

Sandy Wille's

2017 Trip to Norway

**Monroe (WI) Public Library Second Floor
Meeting Room**

925 16th Ave. Monroe, WI

Schedule

9:45 a.m. - Light Refreshments

10:00 a.m. - Annual Meeting

Summary of 2017

Awards

11:00 a.m. - Member Sandy Wille Talk

"My 2017 Trip to Norway"

Noon - Lunch: Sandwich Buffet

**(Pre-registration and payment of
\$10 required by April 28 for lunch)**

1:00 p.m. - Glenn Borreson Program -

**"The Coffin Ships: Death on the Ocean
Crossing and One Family's Story"**

All Day - Norwegian Displays

Provided by Sons of Norway

Lunch to include:

Make Your Own Sandwich:

(Variety of Meat, Cheeses, and Breads)

Salads, Desserts, and Beverages.



**THE COFFIN SHIPS: Death on the Ocean
Crossing and One Family's Story**

Imagine yourself a child boarding a ship in Norway with your family, only to arrive weeks later in an American port city without your mother. She died on the ocean crossing and was buried at sea. What does that mean for you and your family? Will you have a home again? Can America still be "the golden land of opportunity?" This program is about the Norwegian immigrant experience crossing the Atlantic Ocean on a "coffin ship," and specifically the story of one of Glenn's ancestor families and their struggle to begin a new life in America.

Their journey would have been similar to most other immigrants of that period.

The Coffin Ships: Death on the Ocean Crossing and One Family's Story



Glenn Borreson is a retired Lutheran pastor, ordained in 1971 in North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, rural Ettrick, Wisconsin. A graduate of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, he has served congregations in Decorah, Iowa, and South Wayne, Elroy, Mauston, and Holmen, Wisconsin. After he retired, he began researching his family history, a move that led to preparing and presenting programs on his Norwegian-American heritage. The *Wisconsin Magazine of History* published his article on the history of ski jumping in western Wisconsin, and his book on Trempealeau County ski jumping, ***Look Out Below***, came off the press the summer of 2016. Besides doing historic research, he also enjoys woodworking and reads too many mysteries. He and his wife Mary live in Holmen, Wisconsin.

2017 Trip to Norway



GCGS charter member Sandy Wille is Norwegian on her father's side. He came over from Norway about 1918. Sandy has been married for 46 years to her husband, Dave, and they have three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. She graduated from Milton High School and raised her family in Janesville, WI.

"I have started giving my grandchildren stories once a month to add to the family binders I gave them. These stories are about my childhood, and how we celebrated holidays and special occasions."

Sandy visited Norway in 2017 and already has bought tickets to go again in August to do family genealogy. Sandy lives in Necedah, Wisconsin and is an active member of our society and others.

\$10.00 Pre-payment and registration required for lunch

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment may be made at the April 7 meeting or mailed to: GCGS, 925 16th Av., Monroe, WI 53566 by April 28, 2018.

GCGS Membership: ____\$15 (includes email newsletter) or \$22 (for mailing hard copy)