NORWEGIAN CABIN

History

Norwegian immigration derived from economic concerns. (For the Norse record, the Norwegians, not the Icelandic, were the first Europeans to reach America in 1000 AD, far ahead of Columbus in 1492.) In the 1800s, compounded by crop failures, Norwegian agriculture was unable to keep up with population growth while in the US the Homestead Act promised fertile flat land. With the exception of Ireland, no single country contributed a larger percentage of its population to the United States than did Norway. In the Pacific Northwest, the 2 largest Norwegian communities were in Ballard and Stanwood. If you are curious to learn more, we are a supporter of Ballard's Nordic Museum and encourage you to visit their spectacular new facility!

Stanwood was a fishing and farming town, ships were built there and large sailing ships visited and dumped their ballast overboard or traded it to the City for use on their streets. All the original Stanwood streets were made of ships' ballast (bricks). Replaced over the years, some English kiln bricks still survive.





The Distribution of Norwegian Americans according to the 2000 census.

The spar camp and mill at Utsalady Point was in operation before the Civil War. These sailing ships are loading lut wharf sometime in the late 1860s. The ship in the distance is loading oats at the granary dock; the grain was grown Skagit delta and brought to Utsalady by score. **Principropher*** Chalamon (PSAL)** **Principropher*** Chalamon (PSAL)** **Principropher*** Chalamon (PSAL)** **Principropher*** Chalamon (PSAL)** **Principropher** Chalamon (PSAL)** **Principropher** **Principropher*** Chalamon (PSAL)** **Principropher** **Principropher**

Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

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Legends & Lessons

The old chapel across the road speaks across the generations. Its worship area's 3 archs are dimensioned to match an altar given to it by its sister church.







First used in Milltown's temporary church building, when the altar was no longer needed, it was given to Freeborn Lutheran. Milltown was "rich" but is now gone, just 1 window remains and is found in the SW corner of Bohoeffer Hall. The Milltown congregation favored the "square" while Freeborn favored the "triangle" (even the pews differed). The Old Chapel exists today, exactly as it was in 1905 although men no longer sit to the right, women to the left. Many visitors walk through, often to look at the altar and its gold leafed Dano-Norwegian (Matthew 7:7):

Beder, saa stal Eder gives

"Pray (or ask) and you shall receive."

Freeborn Church may have been the last place on earth where Dano-Norwegian was spoken until the mid-1930s. In 1905 Norway adopted a new language when it gained its independence from Sweden.